Review of: "High-Quality Genome Assembly of the Endemic, Threatened White-Bellied Sholakili Sholicola albiventris (Muscicapidae: Blanford, 1868) From the Shola Sky Islands, India"

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Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

The authors have successfully assembled a high-quality genome of the white-bellied Sholakili (*Sholicola albiventris*) using a combination of long-read (Nanopore) and short-read (Illumina) sequencing data. This genome resource will be instrumental in advancing landscape and conservation genetics in bird species. The manuscript is well-structured, clear, and employs state-of-the-art analytical methods. However, I believe addressing the following points could enhance its appeal to a broader audience:

1. Could the authors elaborate on how the genome size was estimated? Was this based on flow cytometry or inferred from a closely related bird species?

2. Including a table in the supplementary data to showcase the improvements in assembly metrics after each round of polishing would provide valuable insights.

3. For comparative synteny analysis, incorporating additional bird genomes and presenting the phylogenetic placement (using phylogenomics) of Sholakili within this broader context would significantly make the study more interesting. I am somewhat disappointed by the absence of population genomics analyses, such as gene flow assessments, especially given the compelling introduction that discusses how landscapes have restricted gene flow and genetic diversity in this important bird species.