

A leucistic House Sparrow from West Bengal, India

House Sparrow *Passer domesticus* is a small member of the family Passeridae and commonly found in many parts of the world (Ali & Ripley 1987; Grimmett et al. 1999). On 21 November 2019, while birding at Howrah, West Bengal, India (22.5694° N & 88.3128° E), we observed a House Sparrow perching on a cable wire.



Leucistic House Sparrow *Passer domesticus*. © Anish Bera.

The individual was not normally coloured male, it was a partial leucistic individual with the following characters: the crown was white with some brown regular patches; the greater coverts in the wings are with white patches and the end portion of the wings are partially normal; median and lesser coverts covered with fluffy white hair; the under parts with white feathers all over; eyes and beak normal coloured; and body partially white in colour.

It clearly indicates that the bird we observed during our birding was partially leucistic. This kind of

colouration is due to the partial or complete lack of melanin in the individual (Grouw 2006). The unusual abnormal colouration has been seen in this species but the proportion and distribution of abnormally coloured individuals is not well known for this species (Grouw 2012).

References

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