

## Leucism in Black Drongo from West Bengal, India

On 12 July 2020, while birding in the agricultural fields of Purulia, West Bengal, India (23.1931°N, 86.0539°E), we spotted a partially leucistic Black Drongo *Dicrurus macrocercus*. It possessed distinct black coloration of the body with white feathers on its crown and a white beak. But the patch did not extend down to the body. It also had one white nail/talon on its right leg and some small white patches on its body. A closer examination of the bird in the photograph revealed that it was a partially leucistic individual because the pigments were only seen on the head portion and some parts of the body and talon.

In the avifaunal world, different types of colour aberrations are seen (Grouw 2006) and leucism is the most common type (Guay et al. 2012). Basically, Black Drongo comes under the family Dicruridae which are small passerine birds commonly resident to tropical southern Asian parts, with body measuring about



Partially leucistic Black Drongo *Dicrurus macrocercus* from Purulia, West Bengal. © Adarsha Mukherjee.

28cm with a forked tail; it commonly feed on insects (Ali & Ripley 1987; Grimmett et al. 1999). This is probably the first instance of partially leucistic Black Drongo being reported from West Bengal, India.

### References

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