

Observation of Hair-crested Drongo in Salem District, Tamil Nadu

The Hair-crested Drongo *Dicrurus hottentottus* also called Spangled Drongo, a resident bird from the Indian subcontinent belongs to the family Dicruridae (Grimmett et al. 2011). It has a broad tail with upward twisted corners and a long down-curved bill. The previous observation of Hair-crested Drongo report the bird to primarily feed on nectar (Pandey 1991), insects (Wang & Qian 1989; Zhao 2001). Zhao (2001) and Rocamora & Yeatman-Berthelot (2009) provided an anecdotal report that Hair-crested Drongos may eat snakes and small lizards. The IUCN Red List has categorized and evaluated the species as 'Least Concern'.

The Hair-crested Drongo was observed from Danishpet village (11.830907 N & 78.129174 E; elevation 368.52 m) in Salem District, Tamil Nadu on 18 December 2021 at 10.00 AM. While birding, we noticed a black colour bird on a Eucalyptus tree. We first thought it was a Bronzed Drongo because of its beak



Hair-crested Drongo (Spangled Drongo) recorded in Salem District, Tamil Nadu.

and the colour. But the feathers had a glossy sheen, and the tail feathers curled upwards and the bird also looked slimmer and we came to conclude that it is a Hair-crested Drongo by observing their tail structure over a record shot of the bird flying. The Hair-crested Drongo was observed and recorded for the first time in the Salem District as there are no previous documentary records for the bird in the region. The closest record of the species previously observed and reported is from Sulur Lake in Coimbatore District (The Hindu).

References

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