

First record of albinistic Plain Prinia observed near Sathyamangalam in Erode district Tamil Nadu, India.

The Plain Prinia *Prinia inornata* is a monogamous bird that comes under the family Cisticolidae and order Passeriformes. It is a resident breeder from India and Pakistan to southern China and southeastern Asia, typically found in wet lowland grassland, open woodland, scrub, and sometimes gardens.

Albinism is characterized by the lack of colour pigment, birds are often pure white, and in some cases, they might have yellow and dark patches on feathers and tail. Abnormally coloured birds have reduced chances of survival and mating success compared to normal coloured birds (Forrest & Naveen 2000; Guay et al. 2012).

On 16 January 2022 during the field trip, we observed a Plain Prinia in a farmland near

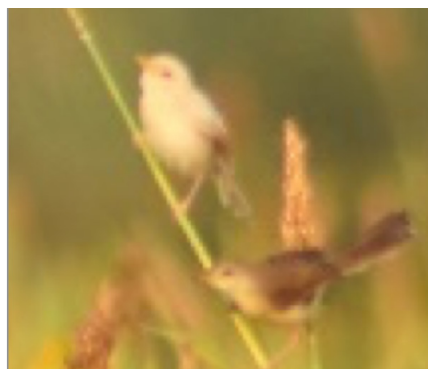
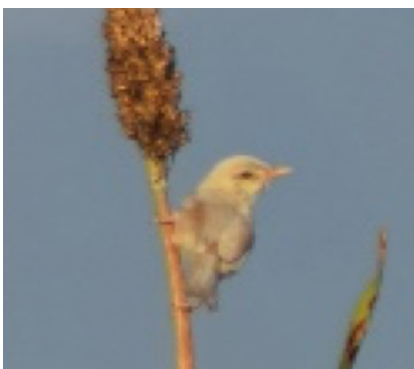


Albinistic Plain Prinia observed in Sathyamangalam. © Kishore M.

Sathyamangalam (11.5235 N, 77.2451 E, 239 m). A small passerine bird was spotted with a white morph in the whole body, feathers and tail in the group. It is not common, and we closely observed the bird and found that it was an albinistic Plain Prinia. It was a chick that was fed by its parents. The Plain Prinia usually has a black bill, grey-brown upperparts, and whitish underparts (Grimmett et al. 2011). However, in this observation, the bird is fully white and has yellowish beak.

Based on the literature a partially leucistic Plain Prinia was observed at Thane district,

Maharashtra (Kasambe & Kasambe 2020). Here we describe the first record of albinistic Plain Prinia from Tamil Nadu, India. Further research is needed for the abnormal plumage occurrence, which likely to affect their survival and breeding.



Normal Plain Prinia and albinistic Plain Prinia. © Kishore M.

References

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