

Occurrence of luicistic Jungle Babbler *Turdoides striatus* at Nagpur

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On 25th June 2005 at 1130 hrs. when we were birding near the durgah on Amravati road, we located a luicistic Jungle Babbler *Turdoides striatus* among a flock of normal Jungle Babblers. All the feathers on the body including wings were total white. The bill and legs were yellow in colour. The iris was also white and the pupil was black. Only there was a light shade of brown on the face. The bird behaved just like all its brethren. Probably this is the first record of a luicistic Jungle Babbler.

Albinism is an uncommon phenomenon and has been reported in several species. An albino House Crow was secured by Mr. P. G. H. Stent at Kodamendhi, Nagpur (D'Abreu, 1923). The book "Birds of Western Ghats, Kokan and Malabar" (Pande et. al. 2003) has photographs of albino species including Red-vented Bulbul *Pycnonotus cafer* (pp.231), House Crow *Corvus splendens* (pp.326), Grey Francolin *Francolinus pondicerianus* (pp. 80), Common Peafowl *Pavo cristatus* (pp.89) and Indian Robin *Saxicoloides fulicata* (pp. 249).

Albinism has also been observed in Asian Pied Starling (*Sturnus contra*)(Sharma A. 2001), Common Myna (*Acridotheres tristis*) (Salunkhe P.S. 2003), Common Kingfisher (*Alcido atthis*) (Photo by Mr. Kamal Sahai at Bharatpur, 1992) (Grewal, 2000) and other species. Albinism is caused by a mutant gene in a species. But albinism or luicistism has not been reported in Jungle Babblers. Hence it is reported here with photographic evidence.

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