



Naman Goyal

69. Photograph of the White-rumped Shama showing the noted aberration.

Although the White-rumped Shama is sexually dimorphic, this particular individual had brownish wings and black body which created confusion in determining its sex. Nonetheless, it had a prominent white rump and rufous vent, which is typical for the species, along with the long tail, clinching the bird's specific identity. We are not aware of any instance of colour aberration in this species from India (Mahabal et al. 2016). We reviewed the literature post that paper, as well as online citizen science platforms (eBird 2020; Oriental Bird Images 2020) from India, and found no record of the observed plumage.

## References

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## Leucism in Brahminy Starling *Sturnia pagodarum*

On 15 April 2020, while I was sitting at a window of my home in Shevgaon (19.35°N, 75.22°E), Ahmednagar District, Maharashtra, at 0930 h, I saw this unusual bird that I photographed [70]. The plumage defied me and I could not immediately identify it though, from the behavior and calls, it resembled other Brahminy Starlings *Sturnia pagodarum* that accompanied it. The bird has been a regular visitor since then till 05 June 2020. When I shared these pictures with other birding friends, they suggested an

albino Brahminy Starling. However, further research led me to the conclusion that this was, more likely, leucism, as the eyes of the bird are normal in colour (van Grouw 2013). This is probably the first instance of leucism reported in this species from India (Mahabal et al. 2016).



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70. Leucistic Brahminy Starling.

## References

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## Sighting of the White-capped Bunting *Emberiza stewarti* in West Bengal, India

On the afternoon of Sunday, 24 November 2018 we were birding at Brindabanpur (22.30°N, 86.97°E), Jhargram District, West Bengal. The area had rocky slopes interspersed with grass. We watched Rosy Starlings *Pastor roseus*, Brahminy Starlings *Sturnia pagodarum*, Jungle Babblers *Turdoides striata*, Black Drongos *Dicrurus macrocercus*, and Blue-throated Barbets *Megalaima asiatica*. Suddenly we noticed a small bird in a tree that looked a little different. From a distance it looked like a warbler, but when BM, who first photographed it [71], realized that it was a bunting; subsequently others also photographed it. It had a grey head, black eye-stripe and throat, chestnut breast-band, and chestnut rump, and it uttered a sharp 'tzi-tzi-tzi-tzi' while perched. All these features helped AD identify it as a male White-capped Bunting *Emberiza stewarti*.



Biswarup Mandal

71. White-capped Bunting in Jhargram District, West Bengal.