

in south-eastern Siberia, eastern China, Korea, and Japan, and winters mainly from the Malay Peninsula to the Greater Sundas, Sulawesi, and Philippines (Martínez-Vilalta et al. 2020). The only reference to this species in regional books is in the *Ripley Guide* (Rasmussen & Anderton 2012) where it is mentioned as possible in the northeastern parts of South Asia.

Schrenck's Bittern is a passage migrant through Hong Kong, the Malay Peninsula, and Thailand while it is a vagrant in Myanmar. There are only two exceptional cases of its vagrancy to Germany (in mid 1890s) and Italy (1912) though only the latter has been accepted as a genuine vagrant (Martínez-Vilalta et al. 2020). The presence of this bird in Sri Lanka during mid-winter, outside its migration period, is truly exceptional as the bird might have spent its entire winter in the reserve.

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A colour aberrant White-throated Fantail *Rhipidura albicollis* in Jalpaiguri town, West Bengal

On 09 June 2020, 1743 h, while passing through the lanes of the Mashkalaibari area (26.52°N, 88.73°E), a well-wooded suburban region in Jalpaiguri town, West Bengal, I saw a small white bird that came and perched on a short mango *Mangifera indica*, and later on a neem *Melia azedarach* tree that was c.2 m high, in a small plot covered with some trees, creepers, ferns, etc. From its Japanese hand fan-shaped tail, slightly lowered wings, its characteristic behaviour, and unique call, I identified it as a White-throated Fantail *Rhipidura albicollis*; one which had abnormal

colours. On that day I had no camera with me, so I returned the next day to search for the bird and was able to photograph it between 1730 and 1820 h [100]. Residents told me that they were noticing the bird since a few days. On the next day, I saw a bird that had the normal plumage of the species, chasing the colour aberrant one. Though I used to pass by this area every day till 13 June, I did not spot this individual again.



100. Caption.

From the picture it is clear that the bird is completely white in plumage except some black near one eye. Feet and bill are pink. The colour of eyes appear to be dark. Based on the eye colour and the lack of total white colouration, I concluded that this is a case of leucism.

A neighbour informed me about a colour aberrant White-throated Fantail that he observed in the middle of April 2020, in his backyard, near Ananda Chandra College campus, one kilometer from my sighting. He did not keep notes of his observation, except that the bird was often seen around 1100 h. Though I visited that area on 19 and 20 April, I did not see the bird. Based on his video, it appears to be the same individual due to the presence of the black near the eye.

This appears to be the first instance of leucism in this species, from India, as I could not find any such cases in any of the online sites nor is it included in Mahabal et al. (2016) who reviewed this topic for India.

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Conflict between nesting Shikras *Accipiter badius* and Sri Lanka Grey Hornbills *Ocyrceros gingalensis*

On three occasions in May 2020, I observed a pair of nesting Shikras *Accipiter badius* attack Sri Lanka Grey Hornbills *Ocyrceros gingalensis* in mid-air. The incidents happened on 15th, 20th, and 22nd of the month, and were observed from my elevated balcony overlooking a wooded area in the outskirts of Matara (Southern Province), Sri Lanka. In the first and the last incidents, the Shikra dived at the hornbill from above but the hornbill made evasive maneuvers and escaped. On the 20th, however, the attack resulted in physical contact. The Accipiter lightly struck the