



Shyamal Saikia

50. Dark-sided thrush *Zoothera marginata* feeding on a frog (belonging to Dicroglossidae family).

## References

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## Reports of melanistic Indian Paradise-flycatcher *Terpsiphone paradisi* from India

On 30 June 2017, while birding in Pawalgarh Conservation Reserve, Nainital, Uttarakhand (29.46°N, 79.20°E), PK spotted a bird that we thought was a Black-naped Monarch *Hypothymis azurea*, moving very quickly inside the bushes. However, after closer inspection, the bird's appearance seemed rather unusual for a Monarch. When we got a better view, we saw a black bird with white underparts and iridescent purplish black upperparts. Like an Indian Paradise-flycatcher *Terpsiphone paradisi*, it also had blue eyes.

PK took a few photographs [51], which were later used to identify the bird. While searching the Internet, the initial hypothesis was that it was a Japanese Paradise Flycatcher *T. atrocaudata* because it closely resembled the bird in the photograph. However, during later discussions over several social media groups (Ask ID of Indian Birds, Indian Birds), we realised that it was a melanistic Indian Paradise Flycatcher.



Prashant Kumar

51. Aberrant coloured Indian Paradise-flycatcher in Nainital, Uttarakhand.

NB reported seeing a melanistic Indian Paradise-flycatcher on 6 March 2022, in the Union Territory of Puducherry (11.95°N, 79.64°E). This bird shared many traits with the bird seen by PK in 2017. NB was able to capture some images of the bird [52] and gave them to PK for additional identification. We deduced that it was also a melanistic Indian Paradise-flycatcher because all of the ID pointers coincided with the bird that PK photographed.



N. Balamurugan

52. Aberrant coloured Indian Paradise-flycatcher in Puducherry.

Mahabal et al. (2016) did not report any kind of colour aberrations for the Indian Paradise-flycatcher. Hence, this is the first report of colour-aberrant Indian Paradise-flycatchers for the country.

## References

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## The Common Shelduck *Tadorna tadorna* in Patna, Bihar

The Common Shelduck *Tadorna tadorna* breeds in parts of Europe, the Mediterranean, Central Asia, through eastern Siberia, Mongolia, and Tibet (Ali & Ripley 1987). During winter, it is seen in northern Africa, Iran, the Indian Subcontinent, coastal China, south-western Korea, Japan, and Taiwan (Ali & Ripley 1987). In India, it is an uncommon visitor to the northern parts of peninsular India (Rahmani & Islam 2008).

We conducted a survey during November 2021–January 2022, to document the avian diversity along the 40 km stretch of the banks of the Ganges, from Danapur (25.64°N, 85.04°E) to Fatuha (25.51°N, 85.30°E) in Patna. This survey included 33 ghats between Danapur and Fatuha. We covered the study area on foot and by boat along the banks of the Ganges.

On 20 and 21 January 2021 we documented three Common Shelducks *Tadorna tadorna* near Bans Ghat (25.64°N, 85.14°E), Patna, (Bihar, India) [53]. The birds were identified with the help of Ali & Ripley (1983) and Grimmett et al. (2011). On 17 January 2022, Arvind Mishra sighted Common Shelduck at Vikramshila Dolphin Sanctuary (25.17° N, 86.55° E) (Arvind Mishra pers.