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Research Paper

Rescue of Black Drongo *Dicrurus macrocercus albirictus* Hodgson, 1836 (Passeriformes: Dicruridae) at Banda, Sagar district, Madhya Pradesh (India), with its systematic account and distributional range, and other aspects

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Abstract: The present study deals with the rescue, treatment and release of an abandoned juvenile *Dicrurus macrocercus albirictus* Hodgson, 1836, the Himalayan Black Drongo, found in the campus of Shri Rajiv Gandhi Government College, Banda, Sagar district, Madhya Pradesh (India), which was unable to fly as looked very weak and under-fed, with its systematic account and distributional range and a detailed account on various aspects of the species (*D. macrocercus*) as a whole for general information.

Keywords: Rescue, Black Drongo, Banda, Madhya Pradesh.

Introduction:

The avian fauna of India has been attracted and worked out well. In this context, good research on various aspects of *Dicrurus macrocercus*, the Black Drongo, belonging to family Dicruridae under order Passeriformes, has been dealt by various workers during the past (Vieillot, 1817; Blyth, 1846, 1849; Gray, 1849; Horsfield and Moore, 1856-1858; Jerdon, 1862; MacMaster, 1871; Blanford and Oates, 1889; Osmaston, 1922; Fischer, 1923; Baker, 1924; Vaurie, 1949; Whistler, 1949; Neelakantan, 1962; Serrao, 1971; Shukkur and Joseph, 1978, 1980; Sood and Khan, 1978; De, 1979; Sharma (I. K.), 1980; Bhargava, 1981; Chari et al., 1982; Ali and Ripley, 1983; Jamadar, 1983; Mundkur, 1985; Duggal and Gupta, 1986, 1987; Sridharan and Sivasubramanian, 1987; Raju and Raju, 1989; Nameer, 1990; Sharma (S. K.), 1991; Hore et al., 1994; Parasharya et al., 1994, 1996; Nair, 1995; Tak, 1995; Anonymous, 1998; Grimmett et al., 1998; Pasha et al., 2004; Mahabal, 1989, 2004, 2005, 2006; Kumar et al., 2005; Mahabal et al., 2011; Khan et al., 2013; Joshi et al.,

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2014; Mize et al., 2014; Raghvendra et al., 2014; Kushwaha et al., 2015; IUCN, 2016; Grewal et al., 2017; Jaiswal, 2017; Chaube et al., 2018; Kaur and Kler, 2018; Sharma et al., 2018; Mazumder and Khan, 2020; Mishra et al., 2020; Rawat and Rao, 2020, 2021; Rajput et al., 2021; Yashmita-Ulman and Singh, 2021; Bhattacharjee and Adhikari, 2022; Shivhare et al., 2022; Dulera and Nayi, 2023; Tiwari et al., 2023; Gajbhiye et al., 2024; Kichloo et al., 2024; Kumar et al., 2024; Kumawat and Chishty, 2024; Pratik et al., 2024; en.wikipedia.org; www.iucnredlist.org).

Recently a juvenile of Black Drongo, was found abandoned in the campus of Shri Rajiv Gandhi Government College, Banda, district Sagar, Madhya Pradesh (India) which was unable to fly as looked very weak and under-fed. It was checked for any injury /ectoparasites at first, then fed on some insects and little water and kept under observation for some time, later when able to move and fly, was released to nearby garden from where it flew back with likely parents/companions, which gathered around, chirping with happiness.

It belonged to *Dicrurus macrocercus albirictus* as per the distributional range by Vaurie (1949).

Besides this rescue work, a detailed account on various aspects of the species (*D. macrocercus*) as a whole has been provided here for general information at one place.

STUDY SITE: Shri Rajiv Gandhi Government College Campus, Banda, District Sagar, Madhya Pradesh (India): Refer Husain and Dubey (2025) for details.

SYSTEMATIC ACCOUNT AND OTHER ASPECTS

***Dicrurus macrocercus albirictus* Hodgson, 1836**

Synonymy including record references:

Bhuchanga albirictus Hodgson, 1836. *India Rev.*, 1 (8): 326 (type-locality: Nepal).

Dicrurus macrocercus Vieillot, 1817. *Nouveau dictinionnaire d'histoire naturelle*, nouvelle edition, 9: 588, pl. 74 (type-locality restricted to Orissa by Baker, 1924, changed to Madras city by Vaurie, 1949); Blyth, 1846. *Journal of Asiatic Society of Bengal*, 15: 298 (in part); Blyth, 1849. *Catalogue of the birds in the Museum Asiatic Society*: 202 (in part, includes *D. m. albirictus*); Gray, 1849. *The genera of Birds*, 1: 287 (in part); Hodgson, 1846. *Catalogue of the specimens and drawings of Mammalia and Birds of Nepal and Thibet*. Section 5: 98 (in part, includes *D. m. albirictus*); Horsfield and Moore, 1856-1858. *A catalogue of the birds in Indian Museum of the Hon. East India Company*, 1: 149-152 (in part); Jerdon, 1862. *The Birds of India: Being a natural history of all the birds known to inhabit continental India*, 1: 427-429 (in part, includes *D. m. albirictus*); MacMaster, 1871. *Journal of the Asiatic Society of Bengal*, 40 (2): 210; Duggal and Gupta 1986. *Acta Parasitologica Polonica***,** (1-12): 1-5; Duggal and Gupta 1987. *Rivista di Parassitologia*, 48 (1): 89-92; Mahabal, 2004. Aves. In: Fauna of Pench National Park (Maharashtra). *Conservaation Area Series*, 20: 16; Pasha et al., 2004. *Newsletter of Ornithologists*, 1 (1-2): 8; Kumar et al., 2005. *J. Exp. Zool. India*, 28 (2): 1235; Mahabal, 2005. *Aves. In: Fauna of Western Himalaya* (*Part -2*), *Himachal Pradesh* :310; Mahabal, 2006. Aves. In: Fauna of Tadoba-Andhari Tiger Reserve (Maharashtra). *Conservaation Area Series*, 25: 96; Palma and Price, 2006. *New Zealand Journal of Zoology*, 33: 7-8; Pasquet et al., 2007. *Molecular Phylogenetics and Evolution*, 45 (1): 160 (from Pakistan); Mahabal et al., 2011. Aves. In: Fauna of

Maharashtra. *State Fauna Series*, 20 (1): 184; Khan et al., 2013. *Journal of Threatened Taxa*, 5 (12): 4720; Joshi et al., 2014. *Archives of Applied Science Research*, 6 (5): 118; Mize et al., 2014. *The Ecosean*, 8 (1-2): 80; Raghvendra et al., 2014. *Indian Streams Research Journal*, 4 (5): 9; Kushwaha et al., 2015. *Discovery Nature*, 9 (20): 26; Jaiswal, 2017. *Naveen Shodh Sansar* (International Refereed/Peer Review Research Journal), 2: 46; Chaube et al., 2018. *Journal on Biological Reports*, 7 (2): 85; Kaur and Kler, 2018. *Journal of Entomology and Zoology Studies*, 6 (5): 2142-2147; Acharjee and Islam, 2019. *Bangladesh J. Zool*., 47 (1): 159-171; Mazumder and Khan, 2020. *International Journal of Fauna and Biological Studies*, 7 (2): 21; Rawat & Rao. 2020. *Uttar Pradesh Journal of Zoology*, 41 (1): 5; Rajput et al., 2021. *International Journal of Applied Research*, 7 (8): 186; Rawat and Rao. 2021. *Asian Journal of Advances in Research*, 11 (4): 266; Yashmita-Ulman and Singh, 2021. *Journal of Threatened Taxa*, 13 (8): 19019; Bhattacharjee and Adhikari, 2022. *Journal of Threatened Taxa*, 14 (5): 20995; Bhattacharjee & Adhikari, 2022. *Journal of Threatened Taxa*, 14 (5): 20996; Shivhare et al., 2022. *Flora and Fauna*, 28 (2):287; Dulera and Nayi, 2023. *The Pharma Innovation Journal*, 12 (4): 1224; Tiwari et al., 2023. *Journal of Emerging Technologies and Innovative Research*, 10 (6): 386; Kichloo et al., 2024. *Indian Birds*, 19 (6): 170; Kumar et al., 2024. *Journal of Threatened Taxa*, 16 (4): 25076; Kumawat & Chishty, 2024. *Bioinfolet- A Quarterly Journal of Life Sciences*, 21 (2): 187-189; Pratik et al., 2024. *Biosc. Biotech. Res. Comm*., 17 (2) (all belong to *D. m. macrocercus* or *D. m. albirictus*, depending on their distribution according to Vaurie, 1849).

Dicrurus ater, Blanford and Oates, 1889. *Faun. Brit. India*, 1: 312-314 (part, includes *D. m. albirictus*).

Dicrurus macrocercus macrocercus, Osmaston, 1922 (nec. Vieillot, 1817). *J. Bombay nat. Hist. Soc.*, 28 (2): 546 (= *D. m. albirictus* as per distribution in Dehra Dun, by Vaurie, 1949); De, 1979 (nec. Vieillot, 1817). *Folia Parasitologica*, 26: 73-76 (= *D. m. albirictus* Hodgson, 1836, as per distribution in W. Bengal by Vaurie, 1849).

Dicrurus macrocercus albirictus, Baker, 1924. *Faun. Brit. India*, Birds, 2: 357-359; Vaurie, 1949. *Bull. American Mus., Nat. Hist*., 93: 236-237.

Dicrurus adsimilis (nec. Bechstein, 1794), Serrao, 1971. *Newsletter for Birdwatchers*, 11 (7): 10; Sood and Kalia, 1978. *Rivista di Parassitologia*, 39: 23-25; Sharma, 1980. *Newsletter for Birdwatchers*, 20 (5): 6; Bhargava, 1981. *Newsletter for Birdwatchers*. 21 (12): 18–19; Chari et al., 1982. *Indian Journal of Experimental Biology*. 20: 894-896; Jamadar, 1983. *J. Bombay nat. Hist. Soc.*, 80: 218; Mundkur, 1985. *J. Bombay nat. Hist. Soc.*, 82: 411; Sridharan and Sivasubramanian, 1987. *J. Bombay nat. Hist. Soc.*, 83 (Supplement): 212-213; Raju and Raju, 1989. *J. Bombay nat. Hist. Soc*., 86 (3): 449–450; Nameer, 1990. *Newsletter for Birdwatchers*, 30 (7-8): 9; Sharma, 1991. *Newsletter for Birdwatchers*. 31 (3-4): 8; Hore et al., 1994. *Funct. Dev. Morphol*., 4 (1):21-4; Parasharya et al., 1994. *Journal of Biosciences*, 19 (4): 381-389; Nair, 1995. *J. Bombay nat. Hist. Soc*., 92: 266; Parasharya et al., 1996. *Pavo*., 34 (1-2): 33-38; Mishra, 2020. *Pakistan J. Zool*., 52 (1): 250; Mishra et al., 2020. *Pakistan J. Zool*., 52 (1): 250; Kumar, 2020.Gajbhiye et al., 2024. *Journal of Entomology and Zoology Studies*, 12 (2): 49 (= *D. m. albirictus*, as per recent

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distribution by Vaurie, 1849; further *adsimilis* is an African form).

Dicrurus adsimilis macrocercus, Mahabal, 1989. *Rec. zool. Surv. India*, 85 (4): 600 (= *D. m. macrocercus*, as per distribution by Vaurie, 1849).

Dicrurus adsimilis albirictus, Tak, 1995. Aves. In: Fauna of Western Himalaya (Part-1), Uttar Pradesh. *Himalayan Ecosystem Series*: 184 (= *D. m. albirictus*, in view of per present assessment as *adsimilis* is an African form).

Edolius macrocercus, Sharma et al., 2018. *Journal of Threatened Taxa*, 10 (7): 11878 (= *D. m. albirictus,* as per distribution by Vaurie, 1849).

Common Names: Black Drongo, Common Drongo-Shrike, Himalayan Black Drongo, Himalayan King Crow, King Crow or King Drongo.

Vernacular Names: *Dhenchu-sorai*, *Phenchu*, *Phesu* (Assamese), *Finga* or *Finge* (Bengali), *Kaliyo-koshi*, *Kalo-koshi*, *Kosita* (Gujarati), *Bhujanga*, *Bojanga*, *Buchanga*, *Kalkalachi*, *Karanjunga*, *Kolsa*, *Kotwal*, *Thampal* (Hindi), *Kalkanchh*, *Kanchh* (Kutchi), *Kari-bhujanga* (Kannada), *Anaranji*, *Kakka-tampuratti* (Malayalam), *Charoi*, *Cheiroi* (Manipuri), *Ghosia*, *Kolsa*, *Kotwal*, (Marathi), *Kajalapati* (Oriya), *Chepu*, *Japal-kalchit*, *Kalkalichi* (Punjabi), *Erettai-valan*, *Kari- kuruvi*, Karuman, *Karri-karru-mak*, *Karung-karichaan*, *Karuvattu-vali*, *Kotwal*, *Kurri-kurrumah*, *Kuruvi* (Tamil), *Bara-dwa-jam*, *Nalla-aitrinta*, *Passala-poli-gadu*, *Yeti-inta* (Telugu), *Kalkolachi*, *Kunich* (Sindhi) and *Kalu-kauda*, *Kawuda* (Sinhalese) (Blyth, 1846, 1849; Jerdon, 1862; Blanford and Oates, 1889; Baker, 1924; Anonymous, 1998).

Classification: Class Aves Linnaeus, 1758, order Passeriformes Linnaeus, 1758, superfamily Corvoidea Leach, 1820, family Dicruridae Vigors, 1825, subfamily: Dicrurinae, genus *Dicrurus* Vieillot, 1816.

Specimen examined: 1 example (juvenile); Shri Rajiv Gandhi Government College Campus, Banda (24.04^{o}N, 78.96^{o}E; av elevation 508 m), Madhya Pradesh; 16.vii.2025; by 2ndst author (AKD).

Description:

Juvenile: Body plumage brownish, lacking glossy black and iridescent sheen of adults, with vague pale scales or white-tipped feathers on breast, belly and vent and showing white fringe on inner flight feathers, a distinctive white rictal spot at the base of beak gape absent; iris dark brown; tail comparatively shorter with less pronounced fork than in adults.

Adult: Glossy dark black plumage with steel-blue iridescent sheen; diagnostic whitish rictal spot, close to angle of gape, very conspicuous; inner webs of primaries grayish-brown, darkening at tips; lining of pale silvery-brown; bill moderately keeled; iris red or crimson; bill, legs, feet and claws black; tail distinctive wide, deeply forked; sexes alike.

Size: Length 12, extent 16, wing 5.75, tail 6.25, bill at front 0.87, tarsus 0.9, 4th quill longest, 3rd and 5th nearly equal inches; weight 1.5 oz. (Jerdon, 1862); length about 12.5, tail 6-7, wing up to 6, tarsus 0.85, bill from gape 1.1.5 inches (as *D. ater*, Blanford & Oates, 1889); wing 140-155 mm, av. 149.1 mm; tail 140-184 mm, av. 159.5 mm; tarsus about 22 mm; culmen 23-24 mm (Baker, 1924); length of bill male 24.5-29.0 and female 25.0-28.0, wings male 146.0-159.0, female 148.0-150.0 mm (Vaurie, 1949; *D. m. albirictus*); 31 cm (Grewal et al. 2017); 28 cm in length (en.wikipedia.org).

Altitudinal Range (*D. macrocercus*): Up to 5,000 ft in Himalayas or even more (as *Dicrurus ater*, Blanford and Oates, 1889); Himalayas up to 7,000 ft., Shimla (Baker,

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1924); 400-2100 m (Mahabal, 2005); 1,525 m (IUCN, 2016); up to about 1,800 m in outer Indian Himalaya (Grewal et al. 2017).

DISTRIBUTION: Common resident across a wide area of tropical southern Asia, from Iran to Southeast Asia and southern China.

***As Dicrurus macrocercus albirictus*:** Along Himalaya from eastern Afghanistan to eastern Assam and from foothills to plains of Ganges; south of river down to about latitude 20° N: Assam (Bag-o-Bahar, Cachar district; Dibrugarh); Bihar (Darbhangah; Madhubani); Himachal Pradesh (Kangra-Bhadwar; Kolung Lahaul, Lahaul and Spiti district), Kashmir; Uttarakhand (Dehra Dun); Uttar Pradesh (Aligarh; Gorakhpur; Kalnahi; Lucknow- Bohdshawar); West Bengal (Haldibari, Cooch Behar district; Siliguri); Afghanistan (Akhudikhel; Mamakhel); Bangladesh) (Dacca); Iran (Rud-e-Bampur); Myanmar (Mt. Victoria, Kyundaw; Arakan); Nepal (Thankot, Kathmandu district; Hetauda); Pakistan (Peshawar) (Vaurie, 1949). Regarding the identity of specimens, from Agra (Uttar Pradesh), Chikhli, Navsari district (Gujarat), Bhedaghat, Jabalpur district; Gwalior (Madhya Pradesh), Sambhar (Rajasthan), Khinjar Lake and Sukkur (Sind, Pakistan), he (op. cit.) mentioned uncertain as might be intermediate between *albirictus* and *macrocercus*, also intergrades with *cathoecus* in north Myanmar and in western Myanmar down into Arakan.

Throughout Himalayas to East Assam, Manipur and Nothrern Bengal (India), Chattagong (Bangladesh) North Chin Hills, North Kachin Hills and North Shan State (Myanmar) (Baker, 1924).

Maharashtra records by MacMaster, 1871 (Nagpore- 21.1458°N & Kamptee- 21.2243°N, Chikhaldara- 21.4030°N & Akola- 20.700°N, likely *D. m. albirictus* ae per latitude).

***As Dicrurus macrocercus macrocercus*:** Whole of peninsular India, from latitude 20°N southwards: Andhra Pradesh (Cuddapah/ Kadapa; Sidhout/ Siddavatam); Karnataka (Bellarey/ Balari; Bangalore/ Bengaluru; Mysore/ Mysuru); Kerala (Calicut/ Kozhikode; Thiruvananthapuram/ Trivandrum); Maharashtra (Chanda/ Chandrapur- 19.9615°N); Puducherry; Tamil Nadu (Coimbatore; Cuddalore; Erode; Kumbakonam; Madras/ Chennai; Salem; Tinnevelly/ Tirunelvei; Vellore); Western Ghats (Nilgiri Hills).

***As Dicrurus macrocercus*:** India in General records- Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Chandigarh, Chhattisgarh, Goa, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Manipur, Odisha, Punjab, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Telangana, Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal (refs. as in Introduction).

Elsewhere in General: Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Borneo (north-western), Cambodia, China (central, eastern and south), Guam (U.S. Island territory in Micronesia, Western Pacific), Hong Kong, Indo-China (northern), Indonesia (Bali, Java and Sumatra), Iran (south-western), Japan (accidental visitor), Korea DPR, Republic of Korea, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar (southern), Nepal, Northern Marina Islands, Oman, Pakistan, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Taiwan, Thailand (southern), United Arab Emirates and Vietnam (southern) (Hodgson, 1846; Jerdon, 1862; Waite, 1920; Ansari,1955, 1956; Gupta, 1960; Pasquet et al., 2007; Palma and Price, 2006; IUCN, 2016; Acharjee and Islam, 2019; others).

Habitat: various open environments like agricultural or cultivation fields, grasslands, gardens, orchards, human residential areas (as seen perching on electric or telephone wires), meadows and light forest, commonly

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seen during rail or road travel and riding atop grazing cattle and following cattle in field, ploughing tractors in fields or grass cutters in vast lawns.

Their short legs help sitting upright on bushes, bare branches, bars, electricity wires or fences (Whistler, 1949).

Food and Feeding: Feeds on vast numbers of insects (ants, bees/rock bees, beetles, grasshoppers, cacadas, centepedes, crickets, dragonflies, moths, scorpions, termites, wasps etc.) catching on flight or drops to ground to capture prey as capable of fast manoeuveres, sometimes seen congregating in fields being ploughed, picking up exposed caterpillars and beetle grubs, also sometimes seen persuing palm squirrels and fishing by splashing on water; predating on small birds (like *Zosterops palpebrosus*, the Indian White-eye, *Prinia*, *Aegithina*, *Hirundo fluvicola*- the Indian Cliff Swallow) also observed; nocturnal feeding also recorded (Jerdon, 1862; MacMaster, 1871; Blanford and Oates, 1889; Osmaston, 1922; Fischer, 1923; Baker, 1924; Serrao, 1971; Sharma (I. K.), 1980; Bhargava, 1981; Chari et al., 1982; Ali and Ripley, 1983; Mundkur, 1985; Sridharan and Sivasubramanian, 1987; Nameer, 1990; Sharma (S. K.), 1991.

Breeding: Builds shallow cup-shaped nest made of sticks, twigs or roots, lined with finer roots or animal hair, placed in a fork of branch of trees or electric poles by both male and female during early summer, female lays 2-4 pale creamy or reddish and spotted eggs, measuring about 25x19 mm, incubated by both parents which hatch in about two weeks' time, brooding done till chicks become self-contained; parents feed for about a month, after that if young birds beg for food ignored or chased away (Jerdon, 1862; Blanford and Oates, 1889; Baker, 1924; Shukkur and Joseph, 1978; Raju and Raju, 1989). Neelakantan (1962) studied its courtship and mating behaviour.

Behaviour: Usually solitary, sometimes in small group; bold and aggressive towards larger birds like crows etc. invading their territories but happily accommodate smaller birds (like babblers, bulbuls, doves, orioles, pigeons etc.) for nesting; attacking Spotted Owl (*Athene brama*), perching on a wire at night; flight and play behaviour study (Waite, 1920; Shukkur and Joseph, 1980; Chari et al., 1982; Jamadar, 1983; Nair, 1995).

Parasitization: Infected by endoparasites, Nematodes (*Viguiera adsimilisai* and *V. majumdari*) (Sood and Kalia, 1978; De, 1979), Cestodes (*Notopentorchis kherai* and *Paruterina dicruri*) (Gupta, 1960; Duggal and Gupta, 1986, 1987; Sychra et al., 2011). Acharjee and Islam (2019) found it infested with four species of helminths viz. *Notopentorchis* sp. (Cestoda), *Diplotriaena bargusinica* and *Viguiera dicrurusi* (Nematoda), *Eumegacetes triangularis* (Trematoda) and an unidentified pleurocercoid larva.

The identity of the record of *Philopterus kalkalichi* (Chewing louse) by Ansari (1955, 1956) has been doubted by Palma and Price (2006). Sychra et al. (2011) found their material consistent with that of Ansari's in important characters (shape of head, dorsal anterior head plate and male genitalia) and redescribed it.

Life-span: 2.8 years in general (www.iucnredlist.org).

Conservation Status: IUCN Red List- Least Concern.

Potential Pest Controller: As they feed on insect pests (like *Helicoverpa armigera*, *Holotrichia* sp), some farmers attract them to their fields using artificial perches to feed on them to suppress (Parasharya et al., 1994, 1996; Dulera and Nayi, 2023).

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Threat to Apiary: AS the prey on honey bees' bee-keepers at apiary face great loss (Mundkur, 1985).

Remarks:

Earlier it (*Dicrurus macrocercus*) was considered a subspecies of the Fork-tailed Drongo (*Dicrurus adsimilis*), a close relative, has been diverged and the two are now considered distinct species, with *Dicrurus adsimilis* restricted to Africa and *Dicrurus macrocercus*, the Black Drongo, to Asian range (en.wikipedia.org). Many authors (ref. synonymy), being unaware of this treatment, considered Asian population as *Dicrurus adsimilis* which is not valid as per present assessment.

Dicrurus macrocercus has been divided into seven subspecies as per some differences and the geographic range by Vaurie (1949) viz. **(1)** *Dicrurus macrocercus albirictus* (Hodgson, 1836)- rictal spot conspicuous, fork deep: south-eastern Iran to Afghanistan, northern Baluchistan and northern India, south of river Ganges down to about latitude 20^{o} N.; **(2)** *D. macrocercus macrocercus* Vieillot, 1817- rictal spot conspicuous, fork medium: peninsular India, from latitude 20^{o} N southwards; **(3)** *D. macrocercus minor* Blyth, 1854- rictal spot conspicuous, fork shallow: Sri Lanka; **(4)** *D. macrocercus cathoecus* Swinhoe, 1871, the Chinese Black Drongo- rictal spot hidden, fork shallow, wing medium: China [south, central and eastern], Hong Kong, Malaysia, northern Myanmar, northern Indochina and Thailand, north-western Borneo and Sumatra; **(5)** *D. macrocercus harterti* Baker, 1918- rictal spot hidden, fork shallow, wing long: Taiwan; **(6)** *D. macrocercus javanus* Kloss, 1921- rictal spot lacking, fork deep: Islands of Bali and Java; **(7)** *D. macrocercus thai* Kloss, 1921- rictal spot hidden or lacking, fork deep: southern Myanmar, southern Thailand and southern Vietnam) and mentioned under *D. m. albirictus* that the specimens from paragraph B [northern and central India] are uncertain and may be intergrades between *albirictus* and *macrocercus*. However, in view of the distributional range as mentioned by him, the present specimen from Banda (Sagar district), located south of river Ganges down to about latitude 20^{o} N., belongs to *D. m. albirictus.*

Osmaston (1922) identified Black Drongo from Dehra Dun as *D. macrocercus macrocercus* which should have been *D. macrocercus albirictus*, a Himalayan form. Later, Tak (1995) while dealing with Fauna of Western Himalayan (U.P., now Uttarakhand) reported *Didrurus adsimilis albirictus* which needs correction to *D. macrocercus albirictus* in view of present assessment as *adsimilis* is an African form. Surprisingly, Mandal et al. (2018) didn't record any *D. macrocercus* from Indian Himalaya (but *D. aeneus*, *annectens*, *caerulescens*, *hottentotus*, *leucophaeus*, *paradiseus* and *remifer*) though other authors (Osmaston, 1922; Vaurie, 1949; Tak, 1995; Mahabal, 2005; Sharma et al., 2018 (as *Edolius macrocercus*, an older scientific name for *D. macrocercus*); Kichloo et al., 2024) recorded it from there.

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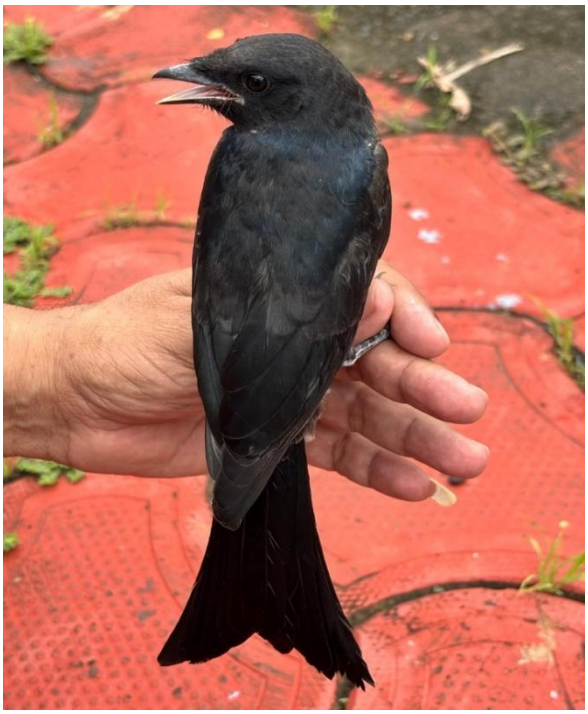

Figure 1. Black Drongo, juvenile (full pic.)

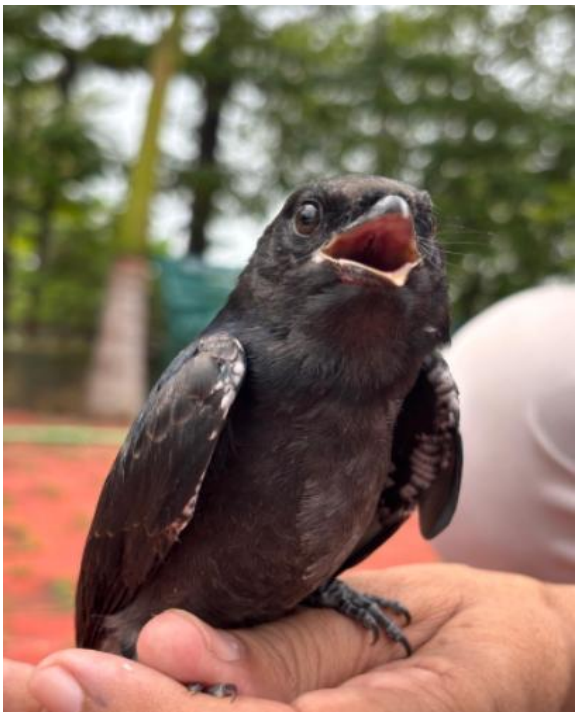

Figure 3. Black Drongo, juvenile (front)

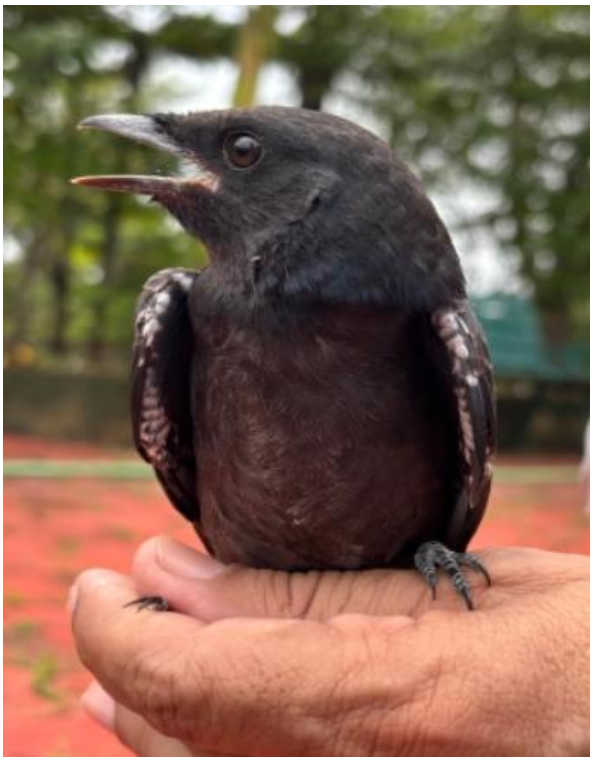

Figure 2. Black Drongo, juvenile (side)

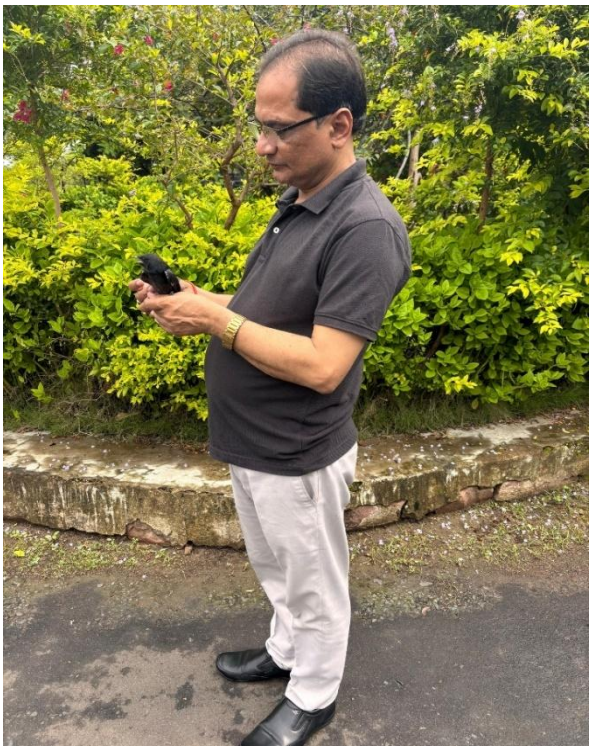

Figure 4. Black Drongo, juvenile (injury/ectoparasite check, if any)