



Photographic Record of Complete Leucistic Jungle Babbler *Turdoides striata*

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On 05. Viii. 2022 at 10:30hrs, we located a complete leucistic Jungle Babbler *Turdoides striata* on compound wall of a house among a flock of normal Jungle Babblers in Jatharpeth, (20°43'00.3"N 77°01'02.1"E) Akola. (Maharashtra state, India). Identification from photographs was confirmed with the help of Grimmet et al. (2011). All the feathers on its body, including the wings were completely white. The bill and legs were yellow in colour. The iris was also white and pupil was black. The behaviour of bird is just like all its brethren. Previously on 11.i.2021 at 05.30hrs the same bird was also spotted in the same city by Shri. Arun Mehandre and me.



Albinism is genetic disorder that inhibits the formation of tyrosinase, an enzyme that causes the synthesis of melanin, a dark pigment. Albinism is a recessive genetic characteristic, and generally quite rare in birds. It's been estimated that only 0.5% to 1.0% of all birds display any sign of albinism- partial or complete. Though albinism was reported by many ornithologists also in *Turdoides striata* has been reported earlier by Sani and Kasambe in 2005. This may be first photographic record of Albino Jungle Babbler from Akola District and second reporting in Indian subcontinent after Sani and Kasambe(2007).

References:

- Grimmet, R., C. Inskipp & T. Inskipp. 2011. Birds of the Indian Subcontinent. 2nd ed. Oxford University Press & Christopher Helm, London. 528 pp.
- Sani, T. & Kasambe, R. 2007. Photographic record of leucistic Jungle Babbler *Turdoides striata*. Indian Birds 3 (3): 112.