



Sighting of Partial albino Common House Crow *Corvus splendens* from central Aravalli foothills, Ajmer, Rajasthan, India

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| Received: 22 June 2015 | Accepted: 11 August 2015 |

ABSTRACT

Albinism is not a common occurrence in animals, some of how it occurs as complete or partial in various species. Present note is a description of a partial albino case of common house crow from Central Aravalli Foothills, Ajmer, Rajasthan.

Key Words: Partial Albino, Central Aravalli Foothills, Common House Crow

The phenomenon of heterochrosis or colour variation in the plumage of birds is the most fascinating issue among the ornithologists. Colour variations in birds categorized in four main groups' Albinism, Xanthism, Erythrism and Melanism. From the aesthetic point of view the beauty of many of these aberrant birds is quite remarkable, but there are also a number of practical ways in which the field ornithologists may be affected. An obvious one is the matter of miss-identification (Lee and Keeler, 1951). Albinism is known in several bird species since very long but it is a rare occurrence especially in a crows. Albinism is characterized as a genetic disorder due to deficient synthesis of melanin regulative gene (Spritz, 1994). Albinism is classified in four different degrees total or pure, incomplete, imperfect and partial albinism (Chowdhury *et al.*, 2013). Sighting of birds with such unusual plumage often attracts birdwatchers,

especially for those cases which show strange white markings. Such instances are often eye catching in the dark coloured species.

The coloration of the common house crow *Corvus splendens* is normally dark black alongwith streaks on throat and breast (Ali and Ripley, 2001). In October, 2013 (19. 10. 2013), during the routine avian diversity survey an individual of common house crow with unusual plumage was recorded. That individual of common house crow having partial albinism was sighted by the authors at the central Aravalli foothills, Ajmer near the Anasagar wetland (26^o 28' 22" N and 74^o 37' 33" E). The individual was lacking the normal coloration and the throat region alongwith upper parts of head near the beak, shoulder region (edges of flying feathers) and the claws were seen white (albino) which is normally absent (Fig. 1).



Fig 1. Partial Albino Common House Crow *Corvus splendens* from Central Aravalli Foothills, Ajmer Rajasthan, India.

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