

# Sighting of Rare Colour Intermediacy in an Indian Paradise Flycatcher in Uttarakhand

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## Commentary

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## ABSTRACT

Tasteful worth of nature is one of the preeminent attractions for people groups all throughout the planet which expanding the nature the travel industry. Nature is albeit an informative interaction which fills the hole among people groups and nature yet somehow or another due to unmanaged squander the executives and reckless conduct of vacationers cause danger to wild creatures.

## ABOUT THE STUDY

The Indian paradise flycatcher (Terpsiphone paradise), a forest-living bird species, is native to Asia and widely distributed in the Indian subcontinent. Earlier the Paradise flycatchers used to be classified with Old World flycatcher family Muscicapidae, but now it is placed in the family Monarchidae along with monarch flycatcher [1]. The species show sexual plumage dimorphism, males have elongated central tail feathers, and a black and rufous plumage in some populations, while others have white plumage. Females are short-tailed with rufous wings and a black head. However, some rufous-coloured males do not have long central feathers and resembles like females. Young males look very much like females but males have black throat and blue-ringed eyes. Adult males can be easily identified by blue eye rings. In June 2019 while observing birds on the main road near Rathuwadhab village, in the outskirts of North Zone boundary of the Corbett Tiger Reserve, Uttarakhand, India, early in the morning we came across of a rare coloration of a male Indian paradise flycatcher. Along with this rare colour male we also found three other different phenetic males from the same location (Figures 1

and 2) [2].



**Figure 1.** White male.



**Figure 2.** Short tailed rufous male.

Observations of previous studies have shown that along with rufous and white colours of Indian paradise flycatcher there are some intermediate colour pattern as well. These intermediate colour variants are broadly divided into eight different types, as mentioned hereunder [3,4].

1. Predominantly rufous birds with some white in wings and tail, recorded in Turkestan, Kashmir, northern India, Punjab, Maharashtra, Sikkim and in Sri Lanka.
2. Predominantly rufous birds with some white in wings, recorded in Iran, Afghanistan, Baluchistan, Punjab, Kashmir, northern and central India, Rajasthan, Maharashtra, Bihar and Nepal.
3. Predominantly rufous birds with some white in tail, recorded in Punjab, northern and central India, Kolkata, Sri Lanka and in the Upper Yangtze Valley in China.
4. Predominantly white birds with some rufous in tail and wings, recorded in Kashmir, Maharashtra, Sichuana and North China.
5. Predominantly white birds with some rufous in tail, recorded in Maharashtra and Fuzhou, China.
6. Predominantly white birds with back partly rufous recorded in Punjab and Chennai.
7. Predominantly white birds with wings and tail washed with rufous in places recorded in Alor island and Sumba.
8. Moulting from rufous into white plumage, recorded in North Bihar.

The recorded Indian paradise flycatcher is different from all other previously reported intermediates colorations. It is a new colour variant, male predominantly rufous with totally white elongated central tail feather. Based on literature review and interactions with experts this is the first record of such a colouration of Indian paradise flycatcher.

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