

***Motacilla alba leucopsis* Gould, 1838 (Aves: Passeriformes: Motacillidae) – New Record for Odisha**

Amaresh Sarangi¹, T.K.S. Thathachari², Siba Prasad Parida^{*3}, Ashis Kumar Mohanty⁴ and Swetashree Purohit⁵

White wagtails are known for their racial variation as various morphs of them exist and hence they are categorized into several subspecies. Out of these, six are found in India (resident and non-resident) and only one (*Motacilla alba dukhunensis*) was detected in Odisha (Ali and Ripley, 1973; Grimmett, *et al*, 1998). *Motacilla alba leucopsis* a black-backed race of White Wagtail (*Motacilla alba*). It is a common winter visitor and has been reported from north east India, West Bengal through Bihar to eastern Uttar Pradesh (Ali and Ripley, 1973; Grimmett, *et al*, 1998; Alstrom *et al*, 2003).

M. a. leucopsis race possesses a white face with a black isolated breast patch or bib (Ali and Ripley, 1973; Grimmett, *et al*, 1998; Alstrom and Mild, 2003; Rasmussen *et al*, 2005; Addinall, 2010; Rowlands, 2010). Black of bib is interrupted by white sides of neck (Ali and Ripley, 1973; Grimmett *et al*, 1998; Alstrom *et al*, 2003; Rasmussen and Anderton, 2005; Addinall, 2010; Rowlands, 2010).

During a bird survey at Ekamra Kanan, RPRC Bhubaneswar, Odisha (20° 18' 5"N & 85° 48' 0"E) a wagtail was seen in proximity to the small water body on 27 September 2014. After few observations through binoculars, it was found to be distinctively different from White-browed Wagtail (*Motacilla madaraspatensis*) and it was photographed with Nikon Coolpix P500 in daylight conditions. The bird possessed jet black upper parts contrasted with white areas of the body. Chin and upper throat were white. Upper breast was black in the shape of a bib. The black bib did not join with the black of nape. It was interrupted by white sides of neck. The bird was observed over a period of one and a half months with two visits every week between 6 - 7.30 am.

The bird always perched on round carved stones, which went midway through the pool connecting its two sides. The bird never directly interacted with water. It walked over the grass surrounding the pool on one side. It occasionally flew over to the trees nearby, but returned to the pool within few seconds and was never seen perching on any nearby trees. It was also seen perching over the iron boundaries bordering the pool.

The features and the behaviour of the bird confirmed it to be of *Motacilla alba leucopsis* (Ali and Ripley, 1973; Grimmett *et al*, 1998; Alstrom *et al*, 2003; Rasmussen *et al*, 2005; Addinall, 2010; Rowlands, 2010).



White-browed Wagtail perching on round carved stones



View of the bird showing wing coverts and rump

Ekamra Kanan is a botanical garden with a small pond which is situated in the heart of Bhubaneswar. It is one of the few green covers left in the city and harbours a variety of migratory birds in winters. Although it has been reported from the neighbouring state of West Bengal, there are no reports of the bird from Odisha. Thus this is a new report of Amur

Abbreviations: RPRC – Regional Plant Resource Centre

^{1,2&4}Department of Zoology, College of Basic Science and Humanities, OUAT, Bhubaneswar, Odisha. Emails:

¹a.sarangi@gmail.com, ²tksthathachari@gmail.com and ⁴ashisanjali@gmail.com

³Regional Museum of Natural History, Bhubaneswar, Odisha. Email: paridasp@gmail.com (*Corresponding author)

⁵Centre for Biodiversity and Conservation of Natural Resources, Central University of Orissa, Koraput, Odisha. Email: swetashree.purohit@gmail.com

Wagtail (*M.a.leucopsis*) from Odisha. Whether this is a chance visit or *M.a.leucopsis* is a regular visitor to the state can only be confirmed after observations in subsequent migratory seasons.

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Erratum

Striped Keelback in the diet of White-throated kingfisher.
Dishant Parasharya, Janki Teli and B.M. Parasharya
Zoo's Print Vol. XXXI, No. 5, May 2016, Pp. 19-20

Page 19, 2nd paragraph, last line, Read as 'Buff striped keelback (*Amphiesma stolatum*)' instead of 'Striped Keelback (*Xenochrophis vittatus* (Linnaeus 1758))'.