

SHORT COMMUNICATIONS

**PARTIAL ALBINISM IN A SPECIMEN OF THE CROW-PHEASANT,  
*CENTROPUS SINENSIS SINENSIS* (STEPHENS)**

In the course of a faunistic survey in the Tarai region of Uttar Pradesh, three female examples of the Crow-Pheasant, *Centropus sinensis sinensis* (Stephens), were procured by one of the authors (R.K.G.) at Gola and Bhira in January 1985 and January 1986. While studying the material an interesting abnormality was noticed in one of the specimens collected at Gola and is recorded here.

There is a prominent white patch of c 55 mm in length in the distal part of the tibial region of both the legs of this specimen (Pl. 1). Other taxonomical characters such as clumsy, glossy black colour with conspicuous chestnut wing and long, broad, black, graduated tail, etc. are present as in the normal specimens.

Measurement :	Head & body	Wing	Tail	Bill	Tarsus
Albinistic female (Gola : 24 Jan, 1985)	482	234	278	46	61
Normal female (Bhira : 2 Jan, 1986)	472	242	284	44	60
Normal female (Gola : 7 Jan, 1986)	462	227	266	43	61

In total three species of Crow-Pheasants, namely, *sinensis*, *toulou* and *chlororhynchus* occur in the Indian subcontinent. Occurrence of similar white patches in distal part of the tibial region in any of these three species is yet unrecorded in literature so far available. It is presumed that such bilaterally symmetrical albinism in the specimen mentioned above might have developed due to genetic mutation.

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