

Hair-crested Drongo

Prelims: Current events of national and international importance | Species

Why in News?

Recently, a hair-crested drongo was sighted for the first time at the foothills of Manjamalai near Palamedu in Madurai district, Tamil Nadu.

- **Scientific name - Dicrurus hottentottus**
- **Family - Dicruridae** (Drongos)
- **Habitat - It is a terrestrial landbird that inhabits broadleaf evergreen and moist deciduous forests.**
- It also exhibits forest edges, secondary growth, thick scrub, degraded forests and plantations.
- **Distribution -** Very large range across India, South & Southeast Asia, such as India, Nepal, Bhutan, Bangladesh, Myanmar, Thailand, China, Cambodia, Laos, Vietnam, Malaysia, Indonesia, Philippines, Brunei.
 - **Indian Range -** Peninsular India (Western & Eastern Ghats, northern Tamil Nadu), Himalayan foothills, Northeast India.
- **Characteristics - Colour -** Glossy black body with metallic blue/green spangles.
- **Tail -** Unlike other drongos, its tail is rectangular/lyre-shaped with upward curls, rather than deeply forked.
- **Diet - Omnivorous; primarily feeds on insects (often caught in flight) and nectar.**
- **Conservation Status -**
 - **IUCN Red List -** Least Concern.
 - **Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 -** Schedule II
- **Behaviour -** It is partially migratory within India.
- Known for being highly vocal and a brilliant mimic.
- They often move in small flocks or follow other species to catch insects disturbed by them.
- **Uniqueness -** Hair-like crest feathers on the forehead and deeply forked tail make it easily distinguishable.
- **Threats -** Forest loss due to logging, agriculture, mining and road construction, habitat degradation, and trapping for the songbird trade.
- **Ecological Significance - Pollinator -** Visits flowers for nectar, aiding in pollination.
- **Biological pest controller -** Feeds on insects, helping control agricultural and forest pests naturally.



References

1. [TH | Hair-crested Drongo](#)
2. [BirdLife Data Zone | Hair-crested Drongo](#)



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