

## 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](#)