



- The following pages have some identification markers for each of the Drongos found in India
- To know more on these birds you can visit <http://ogaclicks.com/drongo/>
- If you are interested in Coming on any of my tours or workshops please share your email id. I will keep you updated
- Mail me at ogaclicks@gmail.com
- You can also call me on (91)9840119078 ,
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List of Drongos found in India

Sno.	Name	<i>Binomial Name</i>
1	Andaman Drongo	<i>Dicrurus andamanensis</i>
2	Ashy Drongo	<i>Dicrurus leucophaeus</i>
3	Black Drongo	<i>Dicrurus macrocercus</i>
4	Bronzed Drongo	<i>Dicrurus aeneus</i>
5	Crow-billed Drongo	<i>Dicrurus annectans</i>
6	Drongo Cuckoo	<i>Surniculus lugubris</i>
7	Greater Racket-tailed Drongo	<i>Dicrurus paradiseus</i>
8	Lesser Racket-tailed Drongo	<i>Dicrurus remifer</i>
9	Spangled Drongo	<i>Dicrurus hottentottus</i>
10	White-bellied Drongo	<i>Dicrurus caerulescens</i>

Andaman Drongo Identification Tips

Andaman Drongo : *Dicrurus andamanensis* : Resident of Andaman islands in India

Black forehead with prominent bristles

Iris is deep brown/blackish

Large black bill with sharply hooked upper mandible

Black crown

Elongated neck feathers

Chin ,throat & breast are black glossed green on feather tips giving a spangled look

Black Upperparts with green gloss

Black wings with Brownish primaries

Velvety black abdomen are under parts

Legs are black

Long black tail, deeply forked, outer pair feathers pointed and strongly curved upwards



Ashy Drongo Identification Tips-D. I. longicaudatus

Ashy Drongo : *Dicrurus leucophaeus*: Breeds in Himalayas & North east India; Widespread winter visitor (except West India & UT of Jammu -Kashmir & Ladhak)

Slaty blue-grey crown

Iris is bright red

Small black bill large at gape, slightly hooked at tip

Chin ,throat & breast are black

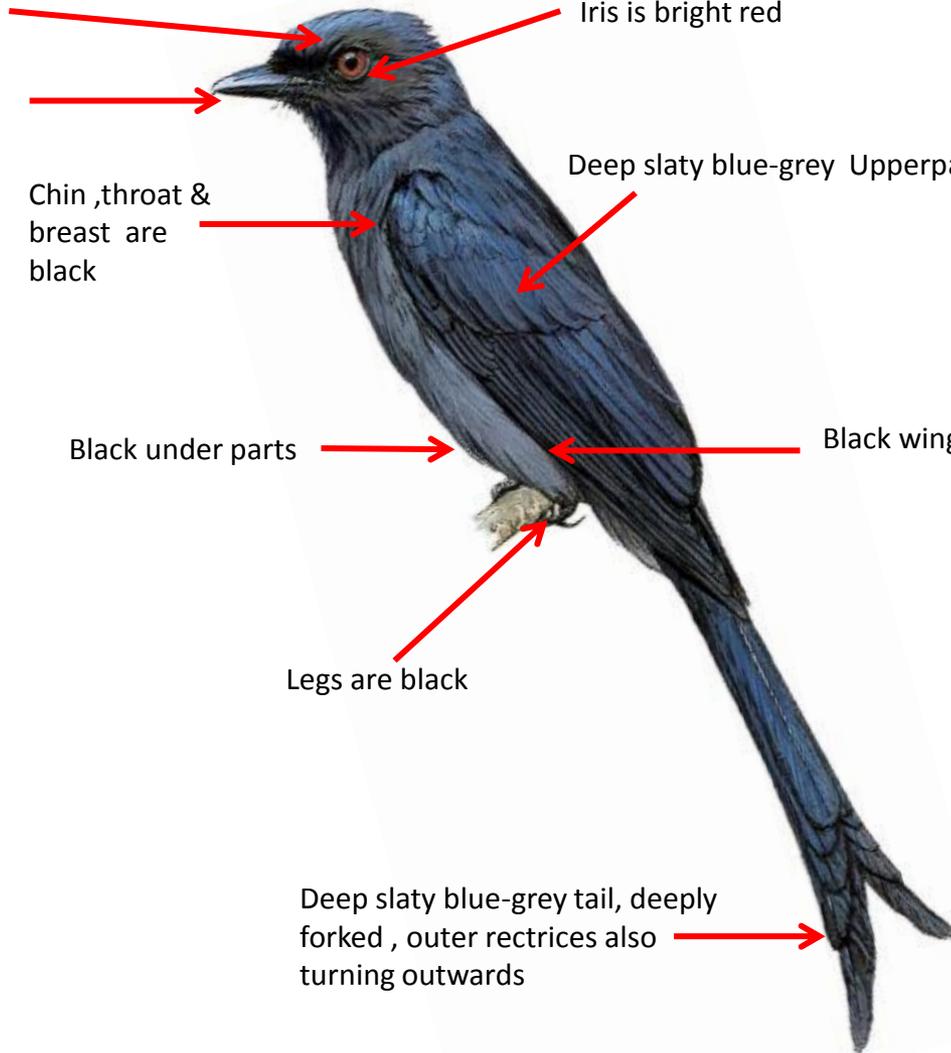
Deep slaty blue-grey Upperparts

Black under parts

Black wings

Legs are black

Deep slaty blue-grey tail, deeply forked , outer rectrices also turning outwards



Black Drongo Identification Tips-D. I. longicaudatus

Black Drongo : *Dicrurus macrocercus* : Widespread resident in India(except UT of Jammu -Kashmir & Ladhak)

Matt black lores, forehead and forecrown

Deeply lustrous black Crown glossed with dull steel-blue

Iris is blood-red to deep crimson

Bill is black , broad and short, upper mandible curved and slightly hooked

White rictal spot at gape

Deeply lustrous black Upperparts glossed with dull steel-blue

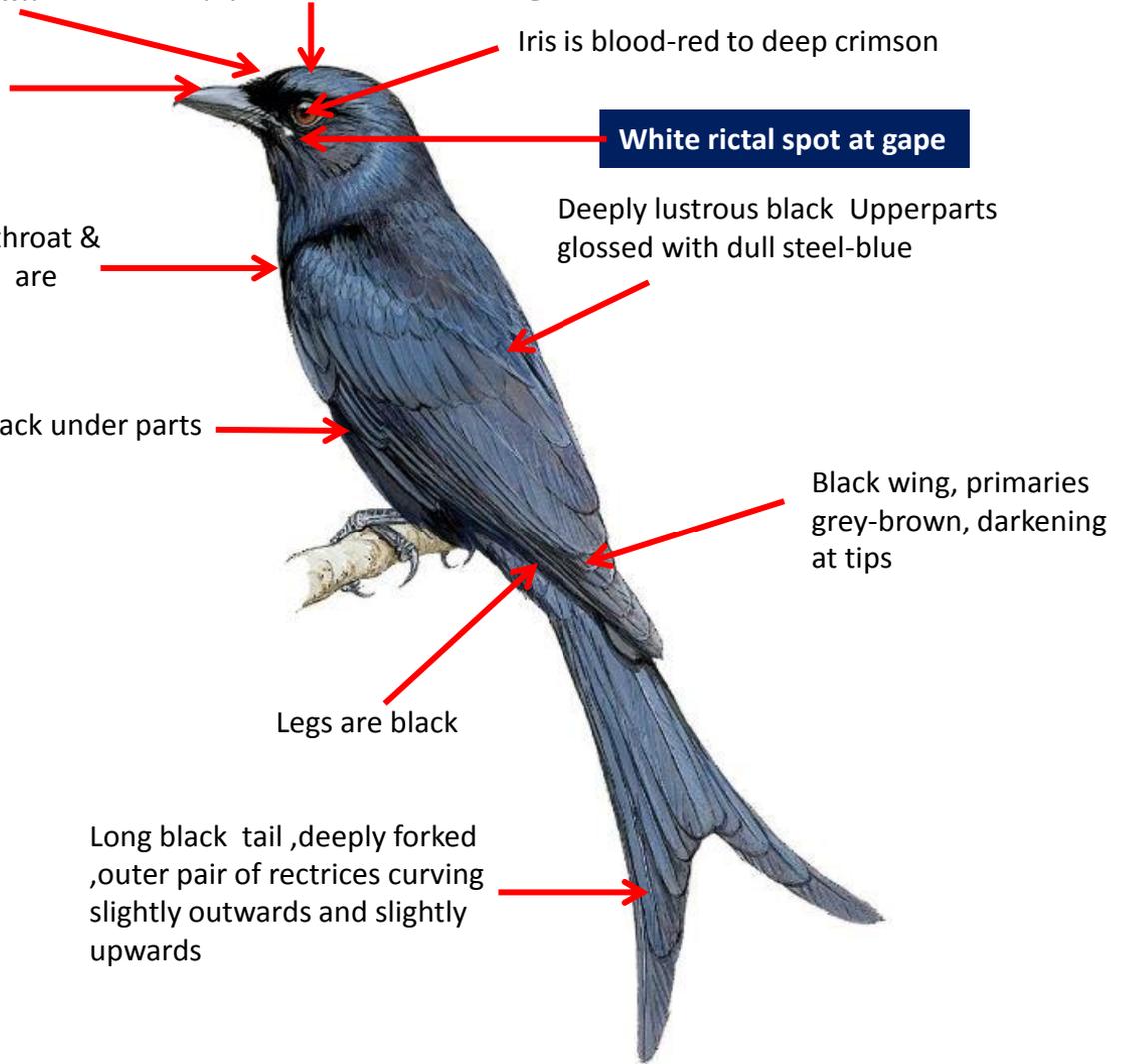
Chin ,throat & breast are black

Black under parts

Black wing, primaries grey-brown, darkening at tips

Legs are black

Long black tail ,deeply forked ,outer pair of rectrices curving slightly outwards and slightly upwards



Bronzed Drongo Identification Tips-D. I. longicaudatus

Bronzed Drongo : *Dicrurus aeneus* : Resident of Himalayan foothills, Western Ghats , Eastern Ghats, hills of Tamilnadu, West Bengal & North East India,



Matt black lores, forehead and forecrown

Bill is black

Throat & breast are black , with elongated feathers with glossed metallic blue-green or purple limited to tips (spangled look)

Deep matt black under parts



Black Crown glossed metallic blue-green or purple

Iris is dark reddish-brown or crimson

Black cheek & ear-coverts

Black nape glossed metallic blue-green /purple

Black Upperparts glossed metallic blue-green /purple

Black wing, primaries grey-brown, darkening at tips

Slender tail ,central feathers black, glossed green, outer feathers black

Legs are black

Important id point

**Reference : Birds of Indian Subcontinent
Inskipp and Grimmett
www.HBW.com**

Crow-billed Drongo Identification Tips

Crow-billed Drongo : *Dicrurus annectans* : Summer visitor/ resident in foothills of Himalayas & North East India

Matt black lores, & forehead

Black Crown glossed with dull steel-blue

Bill is thick with equal width and depth at nostril level, covered at base by dense short feathers (partially concealing nostrils)

Iris is blood-red

Black cheek & ear-coverts

Black nape glossed with dull steel-blue

Chin, throat & breast are black with elongated feathers

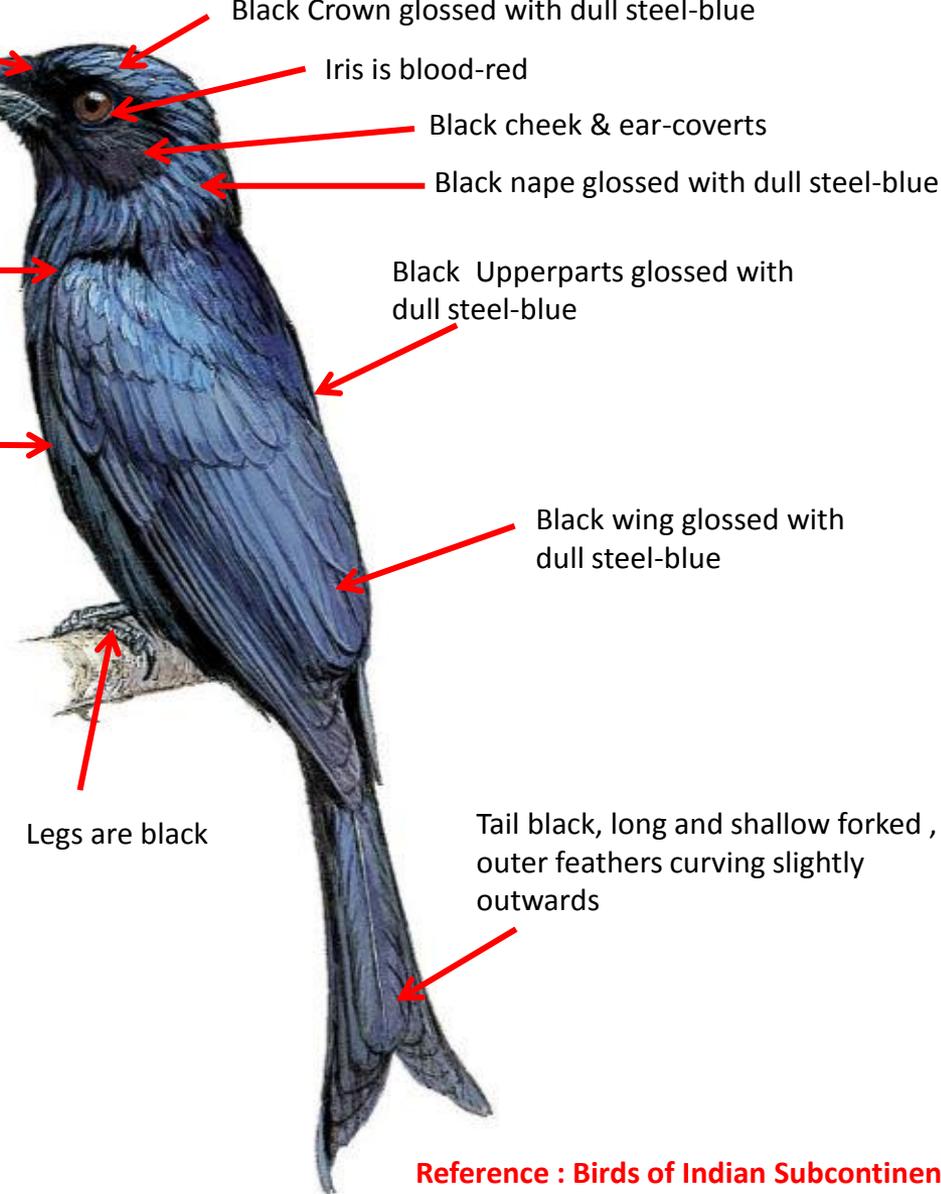
Black Upperparts glossed with dull steel-blue

Black under parts with white spots

Black wing glossed with dull steel-blue

Legs are black

Tail black, long and shallow forked, outer feathers curving slightly outwards



Drongo Cuckoo Identification Tips

Drongo Cuckoo : *Surniculus lugubris*: Resident in hills of Central & South West India; summer visitor
Himalayan foothills & North east India

Black Crown

Yellow eyes

Iris is skin around eye blackish /dark bluish grey, iris brown to dark grey

Black cheek & ear-coverts

Black Upperparts glossed with dull steel-blue

Greener coverts glossed blue-black

Wings glossed blue-black and greener

Tail black, square or slightly forked, white bands on undertail-coverts

Legs are dark grey.

Difference from Male

Important id point

**Reference : Birds of Indian Subcontinent
Inskipp and Grimmett
www.HBW.com**

Bill is black with pale yellow mouth lining

Chin ,throat are Black

Brownish tinge to black breast

Black under parts with brown tinge



Greater Racket-tailed Drongo Identification Tips- *D.p.grandis*

Greater Racket-tailed Drongo : *Dicrurus paradiseus grandis*: Widespread resident in India

Black backward-curving tuft /crest on forehead

Crown black with fairly strong metallic blue or greenish-blue gloss

Iris is blood-red

Bill is black

Black nape glossed metallic blue-green /purple

Chin ,throat & breast are black glossed metallic blue-green /purple with elongated feathers

Feathers around neck, form glossy cape covering shoulders

Upperparts black with fairly strong metallic blue or greenish-blue gloss

Black under parts

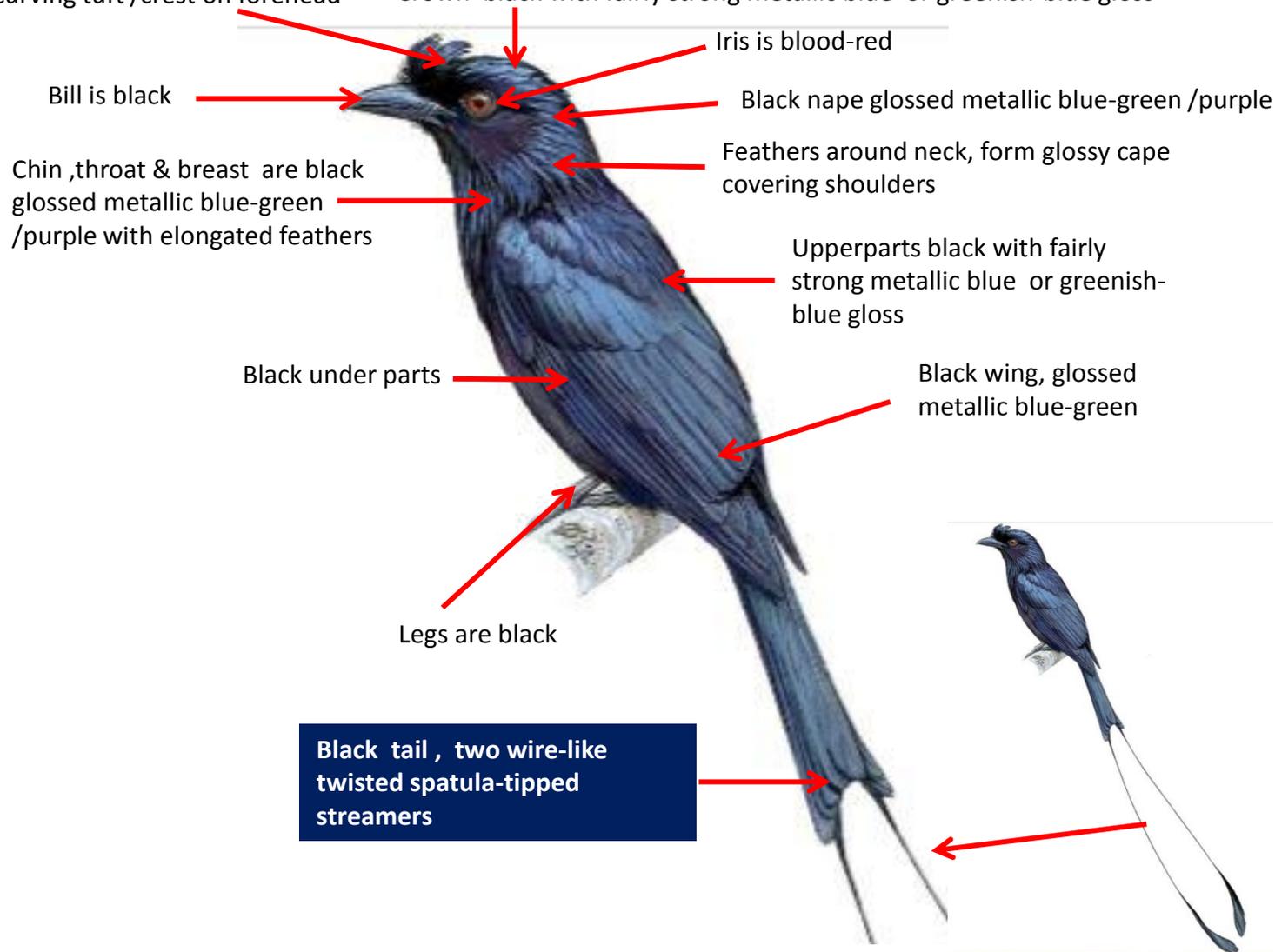
Black wing, glossed metallic blue-green

Legs are black

Black tail , two wire-like twisted spatula-tipped streamers



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Important id point

Reference : Birds of Indian Subcontinent
Inskipp and Grimmett
www.HBW.com

Lesser Racket-tailed Drongo Identification Tips- *D.r.tectirostris*

Lesser Racket-tailed Drongo : *Dicrurus remifer tectirostris* : Resident foothills of Himalayas & North East India

Tuft of frontal feathers very dense and brush-like, projecting forwards to cover greater part of bill

Crown black with fairly strong metallic blue or greenish-blue gloss

Iris is red or brownish-crimson

Bill is black

Black nape glossed metallic blue-green /purple

Velvety black cheek & ear-coverts

Throat & breast are black, glossed metallic blue-green /purple ,highly spangled

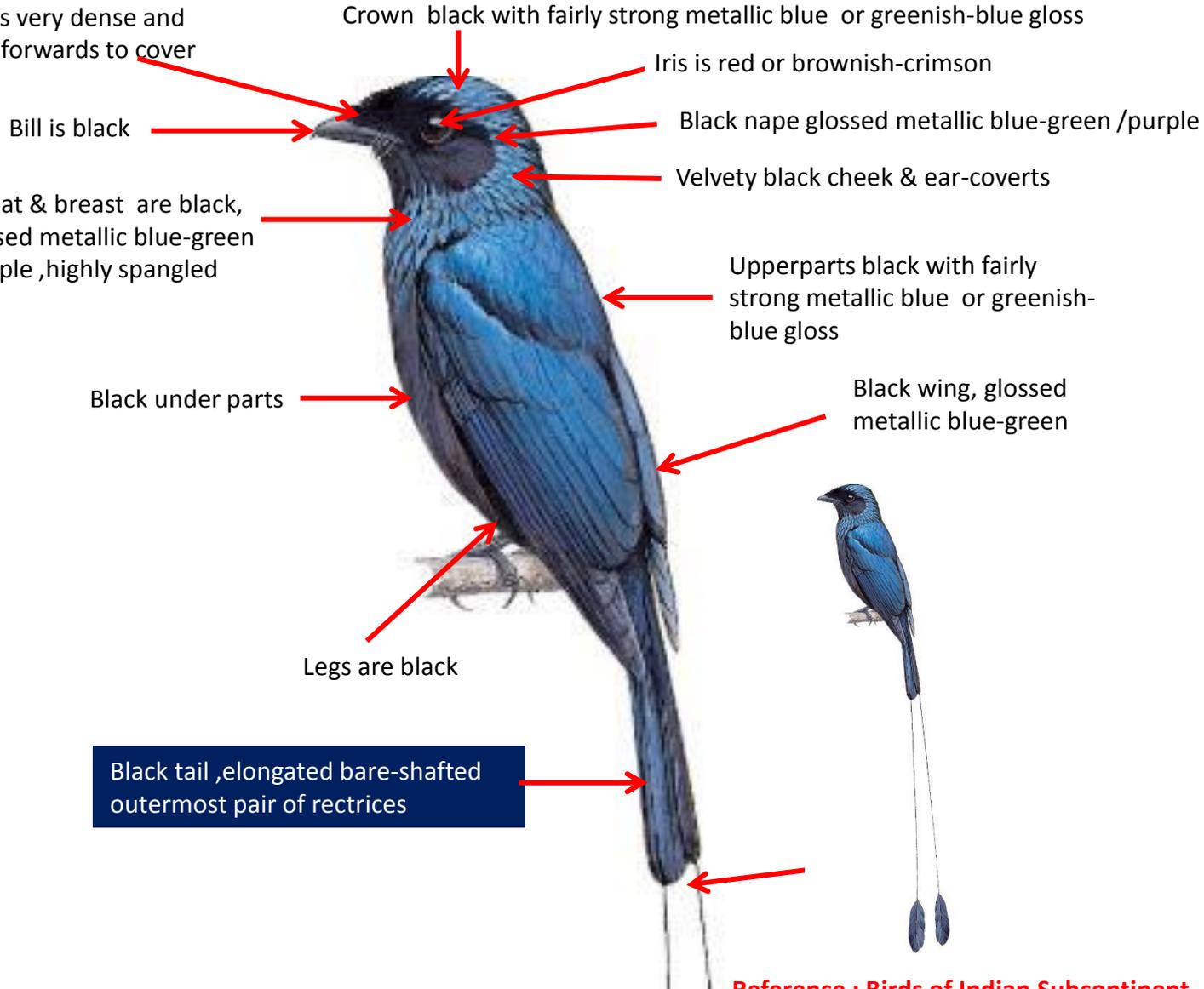
Upperparts black with fairly strong metallic blue or greenish-blue gloss

Black under parts

Black wing, glossed metallic blue-green

Legs are black

Black tail ,elongated bare-shafted outermost pair of rectrices



Spangled Drongo Identification Tips

Spangled Drongo : *Dicrurus hottentottus* : Resident foothills of Himalayas , Western Ghats , Easter Ghats & North East India

Matt black lores, forehead and forecrown

Black Crown glossed with metallic green

Iris is bright red

Hefty and slightly hooked bill, numerous thick rictal bristles covering nostrils

Black glossy metallic green feathers on side of neck elongated, forming lanceolate hackles

Throat and upper breast have sharply defined oval or pointed spangles

Velvety black Mantle

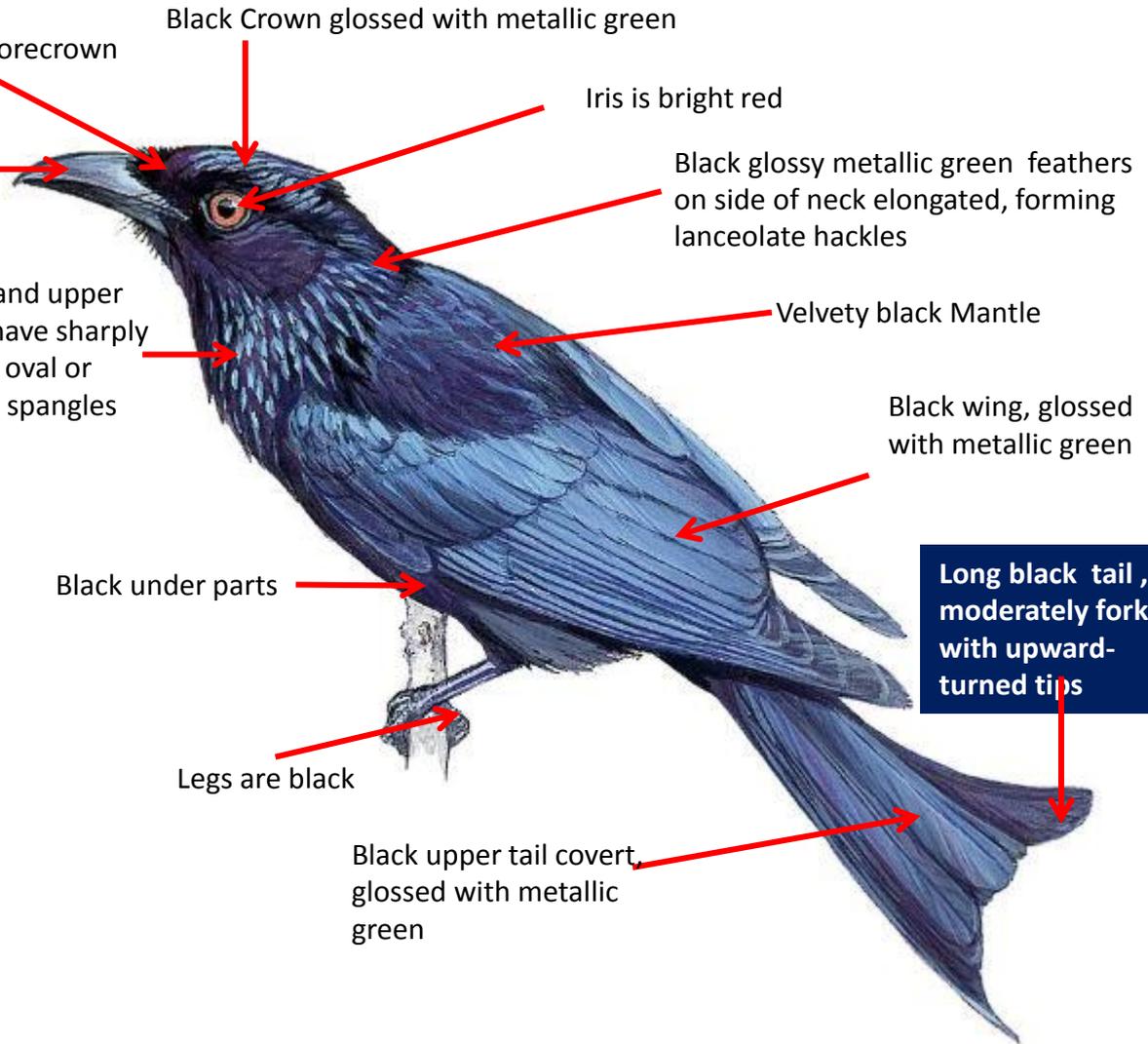
Black wing, glossed with metallic green

Black under parts

Long black tail , moderately forked with upward-turned tips

Legs are black

Black upper tail covert, glossed with metallic green



White-bellied Drongo Identification Tips

White-bellied Drongo : *Dicrurus caeruleus* : Widespread resident in India (Except Rajasthan ,Punjab, Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh, UT of Jammu-Kashmir,& Ladhak, East & North East India)

