

Second Record of Asian Pied Starling (*Gracupica contra contra*) from Peshawar, KP, Pakistan

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Abstract

The present research highlighted the second observation of Asian Pied Starling (*Gracupica contra contra*) from Peshawar, KP, Pakistan. It was first recorded at Peshawar Golf club, Peshawar, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Pakistan in March 2014, and was the first document recorded from the Peshawar valley. This specie was recorded second time from Pakistan Forest Institute Peshawar in June 2022, sighted on electric poles and Alstonia tree species in front of M.Sc Forestry Hostel. The Pied Myna (*Strunus contora*) was first recorded from Pakistan by Pro. Z.B. Mirza in 1982 in Shahdara in district Sheikhpura. Its dispersal from India advanced to Lahore, Kasur, Changa Manga, Balloki, Nankana sahib. In early 2000's it was seen at Kalar Kahar, Dina. And on 9th February 2012 it was seen at Chashma Barrage by Prof Z.B Mirza.

Keywords:

Asian Pied Starling, Alstonia, Z.B. Mirza, Peshawar, Second observation, Chashma barrage.

Introduction

There are indications that population of *G.c. contra* is expanding its western distribution range (Feare and Craig, 1998). Population of this subspecies were previously established in Rajkot (22° 18'34.54 NL, 70° 49'32.71E) by Raol (1966) and in Bombay (19° 4'34.37 NL, 72° 53'39.55oE) by George (1971). The westward extension of its distribution range into Rajasthan (27° 1'25.70 NL, 74° 13'456 E) has been ascribed to changes in irrigation and farming pattern (Sharma,2004). The Pied Starling, and also called as Pied Mynah *Gracupica contra* is a member of the order Passeriformes, family Sturnidae, Genus *Sturnus*. Some references treat this species as Asian Pied Starling, under the scientific name *Gracupica contra* (George, 1979). This species also dealt with by some references as *Sturnus contra*. The species was first described by Linnaeus at 1758(Ali and Ripley, 1986). The mynas taxa include cluster of species are often included in the *Acridotheres mynas*, including the current species (*sturnus contra*)(Zuccon et al., 2008); (Lovette et al., 2008). Like the case with Common My-nah *Acridotherestrictis* (Linnaeus, 1766), the current population trend of these two least Concern bird species are "increasing" based on their new expansions around their natural/original area of distribution (Salim and Abed, 2017).

Method and Material

Digital Camera Nikon was used for observing and recording the birds. The specie was confirmed from wildlife experts of the Pakistan Mr. Z.B. Mirza and Mr. Safdar Ali shah Additional Director General Pakistan Forest Institute, Peshawar.

Study Area

The study area is situated in the North western Pakistan (Peshawar: 34.020359° latitude and 71.486515° longitude. 34.0181° latitude and 71.4876° longitude).



Result and Discussion

The Pied Myna (*Strunus contora*) was first recorded from Pakistan by Pro. Z.B. Mirza in 1982 in Shahdara in district Sheikhpura. Its dispersal from India advanced to Lahore, Kasur, Changa Manga, Balloki, Nankana sahib. In early 2000's it was seen at Kalar Kahar, Dina. And on 9th February 2012 it was seen at Chashma barrage by Prof.Z.B.Mirza. For the second time this species was recorded at Pakistan Forest Institute Peshawar in June 2022. It was Sighted on electric poles and *Alstonia* tree species front of M.Sc Forestry Hostel. Few other birds like Common mayna also compete in their nests.

Asian Pied starling plays significant role as biocontrol in management of pest, and there is dire need of study to know the foraging association of Asian Pied starling with other birds. The roosting tree species may be identified as a part of regular survey may be conducted. Observation should be made to see this species in Cages/bird dealer shops at Peshawar. The nesting Cycle and Nest building behavior of this species should be studied in urban area and agricultural ecosystem. The nest characteristics should be studied.

Field Observations



(Roosting structures electrical wires used by Asian Pied Starling at Pakistan Forest Institute Peshawar near M.Sc Forestry Hostel)



(Roosting structure tree Astonia used by Asian Pied Starling at Pakistan Forest Institute Peshawar near M.Sc Forestry Hostel)



Roosting structures electrical poles used by Asian Pied Starling at Pakistan ForestInstitute Peshawar near M.Sc Forestry Hostel



(Asian Pied Starling first documented recorded from Peshawar valley)

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