



SIGHTING OF BALD PIED STARLING (*GRACUPICA CONTRA*) - A CASE REPORT FROM NALGONDA DISTRICT, TELANGANA

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<p>Article Info Received 03/11/2014 Revised 12/11/2014 Accepted 18/11/2014</p> <p>Key words: <i>Gracupica contra</i>, bald head, First report, Telangana, India.</p>	<p>ABSTRACT The Asian pied starling is a winter migrant species to Nalgonda district. In this paper we are reporting the bald Pied starling for the first time from India. This species was sighted near at Sherpally (Ganyathand) village area, Nalgonda District, Telangana State.</p>
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INTRODUCTION

The pied myna or Asian pied starling found mainly in the plains, which areas access with to open water and in the foothills up to about 700m above sea level. In India distribution of this species mostly occur in Gangetic plains, and now extending up to South to Krishna River. Since 1953 range is increasing, with noteworthy population is establishing in Pakistan, Rajkot and Bombay [1-4]. Identification of this species; strikingly marked in black and white and has a yellowish bill with a reddish bill base. The bare skin around the eye is reddish, the upper body, throat and breast are black while the cheek, lores, wing coverts and rump are contrastingly white and both the sexes are similar in plumage but young birds have dark brown in place of black [5].

OBSERVATIONS AND CONCLUSIONS

On 18th August 2012, we was noted an interesting observation on Pied starling, two individuals of Pied starlings feeding on the ground near Ganyathanda (16.76261111 N 78.8856389 E). Among them one individual was had a bald head. Finally we confirmed it is

a bald head Pied starling having without feathers on neck region (Fig. 1). For future references we took photograph by using Nikon P500 Coolpix camera. This observation was made on during the project work entitled “Base line studies on flora & fauna of Sherepally area of Nalgonda district, Telangana- proposed site for uranium projects”, funded by BRNS (Board of Research Nuclear sciences) Bombay. The sighting records available on baldness birds from India mostly in Rose-ringed Parakeets and Common Myna, reported from Sukhana Lake (Chandigar) Varsoli near Alibag (Maharashtra), Kandivali East and near Kille Gaothan Fort (Mumbai) [6]. Some reports on baldness Common Myna, in Tamil Nadu from Jambu Kandi (11.108°N 76.779°E) near Anaikatty, Coimbatore [7] and at Moyar village (11°36.220' N and 76°41.707' E), Nilgiri District [8].

In India baldness birds has been reported in Rose-ringed Parakeet and Common Myna only, we are reporting for the first time in Pied starling. The causing of baldness in the Rose-ringed Parakeet and Common Myna species could be a due to moulting, fighting, genetic problems or



hormonal imbalance and nutritional deficiencies mites or lice as it had a featherless underside besides the bald head and neck [6-8]. Moreover this is the first report from

Telangana, India on the bald head Pied staling, further research is needed to determine the exact causes of baldness in Pied starling and other bird species in India.

Figure 1. A bald *Gracupica contra*



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