

lacked darker vermiculations. A prominent white bar across the primaries was obvious in flight. Bill pale.

It was identified as a Northern Shrike *L. excubitor* and the pale bill indicates that it was *L. e. pallidirostris* rather than *L. e. bianchii* or *L. e. mollis* which have been recorded in Japan. The similar Chinese Grey Shrike *L. sphenocercus* was eliminated because that species lacks the large white wing patch and has a grey rump.

D.A.D. saw the bird on the following day and concurred with the identification. However, it was not seen subsequently.

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## Japanese Night-Heron *Gorsachius goisagi*, a species new to Borneo

JEN A. ELKIN

Mann (1988) reported a sighting of a Malayan Night-Heron *Gorsachius melanolophus*, feeding in daylight on swampy ground bordering a garden, at Panaga, Brunei on 28 October 1985. The bird had been identified by Clive F. Mann from photographs taken by the author. There was some doubt about the identification because the bird did not exactly fit descriptions of *melanolophus*, but it was assumed to be an undescribed plumage of that species. Other photographs of the bird, showing some features more clearly, were subsequently sent to Jeff Davies (Australia), P. D. Round (Thailand), D. S. Melville (Hong Kong) and D. R. Wells (Malaysia).

Davies (pers. comm.) concluded that the bird was a Japanese Night-Heron *G. goisagi*, based on the following characters: cap not black, unmarked; face, neck and wings dull brown richer rufous-brown in *melanolophus*; subtle pale centres to feathers on the sides of the neck (uniform in *melanolophus*); the feathers of the belly each with brown webs and a central white chevron emphasised by a blackish mark down each side (in *melanolophus* the belly feathers have a central black streak, a rufous outer web and, particularly on the central feathers, an entirely white inner web); lores yellowish (blue in *melanolophus*).

Round (pers. comm.) concurred with this diagnosis, stating that the 'plumage and bare parts quite wrong for *melanolophus*'.

Melville (pers. comm.) also agreed, stating, however, that *goisagi* has blue facial skin when breeding (shown by one individual in Hong Kong), and greenish-yellow the rest of the year. He suggested that the pale spotting on the neck indicated that it was an immature *goisagi*.

Wells (pers. comm. to C. F. Mann and the author) thought that the pattern of the underparts could be matched by immature *melanolophus*, but the pale, indistinctly vermiculated upperparts were wrong for that species. He felt that the bare parts coloration was inconclusive but agreed that bird must have been *goisagi*.

The species breeds in southern Japan, migrating to eastern China, Taiwan, the Philippines and Sulawesi; vagrants have reached Sakhalin, Hokkaido and Korea.

I would like to thank C. F. Mann for help in preparing this note.

### REFERENCE

Mann, C. F. (1988) Bird report for Brunei Darussalam 1986-88. *Brunei Mus. J.* 6(4): 88-111.

## Black-collared Starling *Sturnus nigricollis*, a species new to Borneo and the Sundas

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At about 08h00 on 4 October 1991 a large starling was seen flying about 10 m above a fallow paddyfield at Wasan Rice Scheme, Brunei. Its large size (almost that of a Hill Myna *Gracula religiosa*) and pied appearance indicated that it was not one of the starling species regularly occurring in Borneo. It dropped on a path about 300 m away and was eventually relocated with flocks of egrets *Egretta* and *Bubulcus* and terns *Chlidonias* following a plough. It was observed at close quarters with both binoculars and a telescope and the following points were noted:

Size of Common Myna *Acridotheres tristis*, or slightly larger. Bill and legs pale. Back, wings, mantle and tail blackish-brown or black; a white bar on primaries, particularly noticeable in flight; rump and tips of tail feathers white. Head, neck and chin to breast greyish-brown to buffish-brown, streaked whitish and palest on the throat.