

Analysis of the remains found near the roost indicated that the owl had recently been feeding on at least two Woolly Flying Squirrels *Eupetaurus cinereus*, as the remains included four femora, three tibiae, and two complete or almost complete tails. This nocturnal cliff dweller is the largest squirrel in the world, reaching about 1-1.2 m in total length (Zahler 1996). Also found at the site was the left hind foot of an adult Brown Hare *Lepus capensis*. Analysis of the pellet showed remains of a young hare.

Little is known of the Eurasian Eagle Owl in the Western Himalayas (Roberts 1991, Voous 1988), and our observations help to fill some of the gaps in knowledge concerning this species in this part of the world. We detected no other evidence of this species of owl in four summers of field work in northern Pakistan, and local villagers are unanimous in stating that the owl is uncommon in the area.

Unfortunately, Sai and its neighbouring valleys are under extreme pressure from logging operations.

Deforestation will probably completely eliminate conifers from these valleys within 10 years. This activity, combined with overgrazing that is also having a strong negative effect on vegetation in these mountains, will undoubtedly have an effect on the Eurasian Eagle Owl and its prey base.

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Vinous-breasted Starling *Sturnus burmannicus*: a new species for Malaysia

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On 12 April 1993, at 17h30, we were birding along the river near the village of Kuala Selangor in Peninsular Malaysia. A large flock of mynas, feeding on the river bank and on the nearby lawns, drew our attention. On inspecting this flock, EV found a bird which he immediately recognised as a Vinous-breasted Starling *Sturnus burmannicus*. We watched this confiding bird at close range for a couple of minutes, after which it flew off with a flock of Jungle Mynas *Acridotheres fuscus*.

Its uniformly pale underparts (lacking dark throat or breast band), dark upperparts and wings with a white patch at the base of the primaries, and its whitish head and hindneck with an obvious black patch through the eye, made identification straightforward.

We were both familiar with Vinous-breasted Starling, since we had seen several in central Thailand less than two months previously.

This is apparently the first record for Malaysia, and possibly the most southern one ever. Unfortunately, it is impossible to determine whether this bird was a genuine vagrant or an escaped cage-bird. Vinous-breasted Starling is a South-East Asian endemic, occurring in Myanmar, SW, NE, central and SE Thailand, Cambodia, Vietnam (Cochinchina and South Annam), and South and Central Laos (King *et al.* 1975).

REFERENCE

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