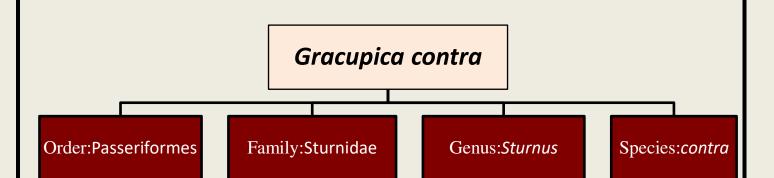
Indian Pied Starling (Myna)





STATUS

Resident/ Common

MORPHOLOGY

- Size: Slightly smaller than the Common Myna.
- Field Characters: An obvious myna of pied--black and white—plumage, with a bright orange-red and yellow bill. Sexes alike. Flocks about open cultivation

DISTRIBUTION

• India east of a line from Ambala to Hyderabad (Deccan), Assam and Burma. Four races are recognised on depth and other details of colouration, viz., the India-Assam race contra, the doubtful dehrae, the Burma race superciliaris and the Siamese floweri. The last may just cross over into our boundary in South Tenasserim

HABITS

- This species inhabits cultivated country and is rarely met with away from human habitations.
- Unlike the Common Myna, however, it does not appropriate dwelling houses though often entering gardens and compounds to hunt grasshoppers or dig up earth- worms on a flooded lawn, or to roost amongst groves of large trees.
- It is essentially a ground feeder and much more insectivorous in its diet.
- It keeps in flocks— often associated with other mynas in the neighbourhood of villages and towns, feeding at the refuse dumps on their outskirts or attending on grazing cattle on the moist grassy margins of village tanks.
- In Calcutta, particularly large flocks may be seen about the brackish lakes and in the sewage outflow locality.
- It has a number of pleasant musical notes, some of them rather like snatches from the flight-song of the Finch-Larks.

NESTING

- The season ranges between March and September and often two successive broods are raised.
- The nest is very different from that of the other mynas, being a large untidy globular structure of twigs, leaves, grass and rubbish.
- It is placed on an outhanging
- branch of a mango or similar large tree near cultivation, 15 to 30 feet from the ground.
- The birds do not nest in colonies as such, but it is not unusual to find 3 or 4 nests on the same tree.
- The eggs four or five in number are a glossy blue, without markings. Both sexes share in building and care of the young