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NOTE

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Sai Sein Lin Oo, Myint Kyaw, Nay Myo Hlaing & Swen C. Renner

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New to Myanmar: the Rosy Starling *Pastor roseus* (Aves: Passeriformes: Sturnidae) in the Hkakabo Razi Landscape

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Rosy Starlings *Pastor roseus* primarily breed in Europe and central Asia (Diniarsih et al. 2016) and winter mainly in India and Sri Lanka (BirdLife International 2019), but small numbers regularly reach the Thai-Malay Peninsula (Wells 2010), mainly between October and February (Diniarsih et al. 2016). Additionally, reports show single records from Java and Bali (Diniarsih et al. 2016), but not yet from Myanmar. The species is also a rare, but more or less annual, non-breeding visitor to Thailand (Treesucon & Limparungpatthanakij 2018).

On 20 September 2018, we observed a distinct looking starling (Image 1) in the afternoon in Naung Mung, Kachin State, Myanmar. Although the crest of this bird is not prominent in the picture, its head, hood, wings, and tail are black and the remaining plumage is pale pink. The eye is black while the bill is thick, pale orange with a pale yellow base and a grey culmen. We identified it as a Rosy Starling individual with adult plumage (Image 1) and recorded the species, probably the same individual, two more times at the same place until 26 September 2018 (Figure 1). We recorded an individual of the same species in February 2017, but were unable to take a photographic record during this

previous observation. The place where we observed the Rosy Starling is on the outskirts of Naung Mung Village, an open and flat area with bushes and a few trees in the riparian area along a small creek (elevation is approximately 540m). The climatic condition of Naung Mung is tropical to subtropical and the average temperature is around 15°C (6–35 °C) while the annual rainfall is 1,700mm (Du Sar No pers. com). The bird rested on a power cable in Naung Mung and foraged in Taw Gway (Hog Plum, *Spondias pinnata*) and Minbaw trees (Fish Tail Palm, *Caryota* sp.). The Rosy Starling accompanied a mixed-species flock of Vinous-breasted Myna *Acridotheres burmannicus* and Red-vented Bulbul *Pycnonotus cafer*.

Our observation is the first record of *P. roseus* for Myanmar and confirms that this species occurs in the Hkakabo Razi Landscape, Myanmar (Figure 1). Although many ornithological expeditions were conducted previously by us and others to the Hkakabo Razi Landscape since 2001, and the occurrence of this species has been postulated, Rosy Starlings were not mentioned or recorded so far (Dumbacher et al. 2011; Rappole et al. 2011; Rasmussen et al. 2011; Renner &

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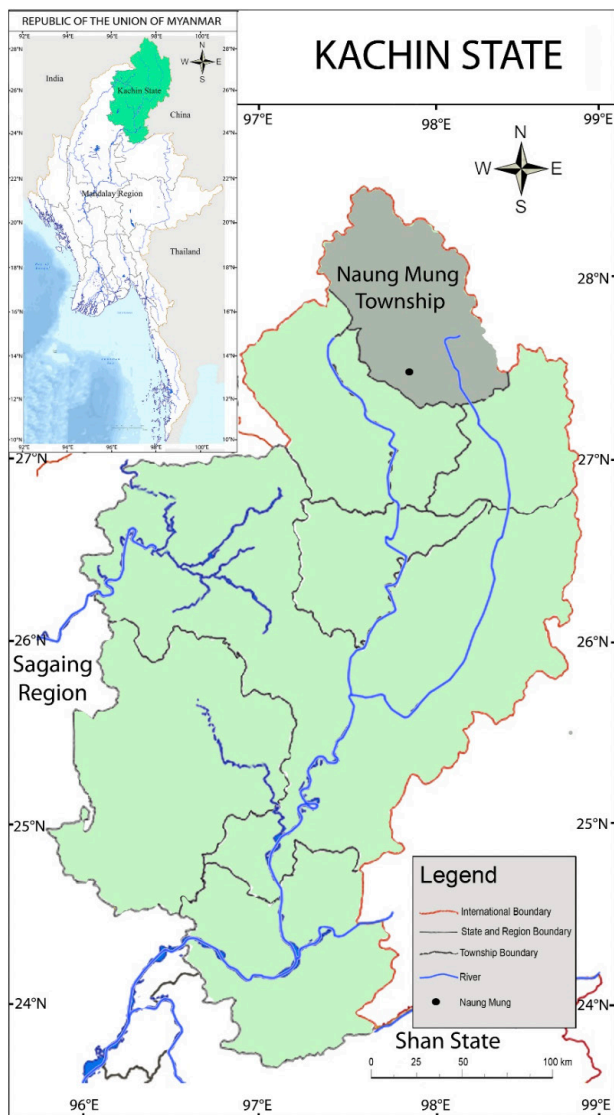


Figure 1. Naung Mung, Kachin State where the Rosy Starling was recorded. Map by Nay Myo Hlaing.

Rappole 2011; Renner et al. 2015, 2018; Suarez-Rubio et al. 2016). Rosy Starlings typically move in flocks or large aggregations, but we have only observed individuals of this species twice in the Hkakabo Razi Landscape. We therefore, suggest that *P. roseus* be added as a passage or vagrant species to Myanmar's bird species list.

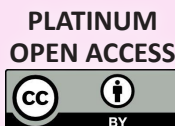
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Image 1. Rosy Starling *Pastor roseus* resting on a tree in Naung Mung Village, Kachin State, Myanmar, 20 September 2018.

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Conservation Application

Do wildlife crimes against less charismatic species go unnoticed? A case study of Golden Jackal *Canis aureus* Linnaeus, 1758 poaching and trade in India

– Malaika Mathew Chawla, Arjun Srivathsa, Priya Singh, Iravatee Majgaonkar, Sushma Sharma, Girish Punjabi & Aditya Banerjee, Pp. 15407–15413

Review

Hazards of wind turbines on avifauna - a preliminary appraisal within the Indian context

– Himika Deb, Tanmay Sanyal, Anilava Kaviraj & Subrata Saha, Pp. 15414–15425

Communications

Analysis of stereotypic behaviour and enhanced management in captive Northern Giraffe *Giraffa camelopardalis* housed at Zoological Garden Alipore, Kolkata

– Tushar Pramod Kulkarni, Pp. 15426–15435

A new species of shieldtail snake (Reptilia: Squamata: Uropeltidae) from Kolli Hill complex, southern Eastern Ghats, peninsular India

– S.R. Ganesh & N.S. Achyuthan, Pp. 15436–15442

The insect fauna of Tenompok Forest Reserve in Sabah, Malaysia

– Arthur Y.C. Chung, Viviannye Paul & Steven Bosuang, Pp. 15443–15459

Tiger beetles (Coleoptera: Cicindelinae) of Davao Region, Mindanao, Philippines

– Milton Norman Medina, Analyn Cabras, Harlene Ramillano & Reagan Joseph Villanueva, Pp. 15460–15467

An assessment of the conservation status of a presumed extinct tree species *Wendlandia angustifolia* Wight ex. Hook.f. in southern Western Ghats, India

– Chellam Muthumperumal, Paramasivam Balasubramanian & Ladan Rasingam, Pp. 15468–15474

Short Communications

Additional morphological notes on the male of *Icius alboterminus* (Caleb, 2014) (Aranei: Salticidae) with new distribution records from India

– Dhruv A. Prajapati & R.D. Kamboj, Pp. 15475–15480

Three moss families (Bryopsida: Calymperaceae, Hyopertygiaceae, & Pterobryaceae): new distribution records to bryoflora of Andhra Pradesh, India

– Ananthaneni Sreenath, Midigesi Anil Kumar, Paradesi Anjaneyulu & Boyina Ravi Prasad Rao, Pp. 15481–15488

Notes

Mating behavior of the Yellow-throated Marten *Martes flavigula* (Mammalia: Carnivora: Mustelidae)

– Abinash Parida, Meesala Krishna Murthy & G.S. Solanki, Pp. 15489–15492

New to Myanmar: the Rosy Starling *Pastor roseus* (Aves: Passeriformes: Sturnidae) in the Hkakabo Razi Landscape

– Sai Sein Lin Oo, Myint Kyaw, Nay Myo Hlaing & Swen C. Renner, Pp. 15493–15494

New records of *Heloderma alvarezii* (Wiegmann, 1829) (Sauria: Helodermatidae) on the coast of Oaxaca and increases to its distribution in Mexico

– Jesús García-Grajales, Rodrigo Arrazola Bohórquez, María Arely Pengüilly Macías & Alejandra Buenrostro Silva, Pp. 15495–15498

Description of a new subspecies of the genus *Microcerotermes* Silvestri, 1901 (Amitermitinae: Termitidae: Isoptera) and the first record of another termite species from Meghalaya, India

– Khirud Sankar Das & Sudipta Choudhury, Pp. 15499–15502

A new record of the hoverfly genus *Dasysyrphus* Enderlein, 1938 (Insecta: Diptera: Syrphidae) from India

– Jayita Sengupta, Atanu Naskar, Aniruddha Maity, Panchanan Parui, Sumit Homchaudhuri & Dhriti Banerjee, Pp. 15503–15506

First record of Banded Lineblue *Prosotas aluta* Druce, 1873 (Insecta: Lepidoptera: Lycaenidae) from Bangladesh

– Rajib Dey, Ibrahim Khalil Al Haidar, Sajib Rudra & M. Rafiqul Islam, Pp. 15507–15509

Notes on *Ptilomera agriodes* (Hemiptera: Heteroptera: Gerridae) from Eastern Ghats, India

– J. Deepa, A. Narahari, M. Karuthapandi, S. Jadhav & C. Shiva Shankar, Pp. 15510–15513

***Didymocarpus bhutanicus* W.T. Wang (Gesneriaceae): a new addition to the herbs of India**

– Subhajit Lahiri, Sudhansu Sekhar Dash, Monalisa Das & Bipin Kumar Sinha, Pp. 15514–15517

Rediscovery of *Epilobium trichophyllum* Hausskn.: a rare and endemic plant from Sikkim Himalaya, India

– David L. Biate & Dinesh K. Agrawala, Pp. 15518–15521

Additions of woody climbers (Lianas) to the flora of Manipur, India

– Longjam Malemnganbee Chanu & Debjoyoti Bhattacharyya, Pp. 15522–15529

Molecular characterization of stinkhorn fungus *Aseroë coccinea* Imazeki et Yoshimi ex Kasuya 2007 (Basidiomycota: Agaricomycetes: Phallales) from India

– Vivek Bobade & Neelesh Dahanukar, Pp. 15530–15534

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