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Asian Glossy Starling *Aplonis panayensis*: first record for Nepal

BADRI CHOUDHARY

At 08h15 on the morning of 18 May 2003 I was birdwatching at Koshi Camp garden (26°35'N 87°05'E) when I heard an unusual call from a bird c.10 metres away. At this point I was joined by Raju Tamang and Anish Timsina. We observed the bird feeding with Common Mynas *Acridotheres tristis* and a Chestnut-tailed Starling *Sturnus malabaricus* in a coconut tree. We observed the bird from 5–15 m using 8x42 and 10x50 binoculars. After 30 minutes the flock flew towards the Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve and was lost from view.

The bird appeared slightly larger than Chestnut-tailed Starling, and behaved similarly. It had dark glossy green upperparts and underparts, with no marking on the back, a stout dark bill and distinct red eyes. There was a small amount of pale glossy streaking on the breast. The legs were dark.

The bird was identified in the field as Asian Glossy Starling *Aplonis panayensis* using Grimmett *et al.* (1998). Later reference to Lekagul and Round (1991), and Ali and Ripley (1989) and discussion with several experts suggested that it was probably a subadult male.

The species ranges from the Philippines through Sulawesi, Borneo, Bali and the Greater Sundas, into continental South-East Asia in Indochina, Myanmar, and eastern India, where it is resident in the Nicobar

and Andaman Islands and is a breeding visitor to Assam. It has also been recorded in Meghalaya, Tripura and Bangladesh (Feare and Craig 1998, Grimmett *et al.* 1998). This constitutes the first record for Nepal.

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