

Black-headed Ibis....

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Records of Nesting of Indian Pied Myna *Gracupica contra* on silk cotton *Bombax ceiba* tree in Jambuvai, Vadodara

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Photos: Sugandha Pandit

Photo 1: Asian Pied Starling collecting nesting material from garbage

Indian pied myna (*Gracupica contra*) is a residential insectivorous species of Indian Subcontinent (Ali and Ripley 1987, BirdLife International, 2023). Pied Myna breeds from late February to August and huge dome made of materials such as thin twigs, stems, grasses, creepers and even cellophane wrappers, paper pieces, etc., with a cavity in it. The pair mixes with the flock once the breeding ends (Tyagi & Lamba 1984: Kumari et al. 2018).

As a part of a Sarus crane survey, Jambuvai village (22° 20' 08.04N; 73° 19' 12.30E) was visited on 15th May 2021. Jambuvai village is located about 2.25km south of Nimeta, Waghodia tahsil of



Photo 2: Nest of Indian Pied Myna on Silk cotton tree.

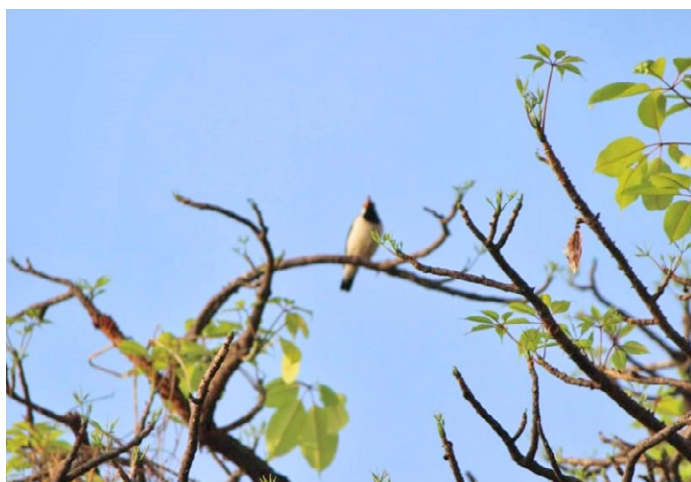


Photo 3: Indian Pied Myna perching on a Cotton silk tree.

Vadodara district. It has a pond of about 0.22 sq. km area. A Pied Myna caught our attention at the bank of the pond, among the few local bird species. It was searching for nesting material among the garbage (Photo 1). It started pulling the thread from the grain bag made of plastic and flew towards a tree. Careful observation revealed a nest in its initial stage of construction on a branch of a silk cotton tree (*Bombax ceiba*) where another bird was perching (Photos 2 & 3). The nest was about 5 m in height from the ground.

Pied mynas are commonly seen in various places of Vadodara district viz. Timbi, Vadhwana and surrounding places (Thakker 2022). It has been recorded nesting at Timbi in Vadodara district (Vyas & Upadhyay 2022). We bring into the notice of their presence and nesting a few kilometers away from the previously recorded sites by Vyas & Upadhyay (2022). Neem (*Azadirachta indica*), Beri (*Zizyphus mauratiana*), Kikar/Baval (*Acacia nilotica*), Peepal (*Ficus religiosa*), Banayan (*Ficus benghalensis*), Mulberry (*Morus alba*), Poplar (*Populus nigra*), Mango (*Mangifera indica*), Guava (*Psidium guajava*),

Jamun (*Syzygium cumini*), Nilgiri (*Eucalyptus* sp.), Dhrek (*Melia azedarach*), Kadam (*Neolamarckia cadamba*), Siris (*Albizia lebbek*) etc. (Sharma 2004, Kumari et al 2018, Vyas & Upadhyay 2022). However, in our observation they were found nesting on a Silk cotton tree, which is not reported in earlier studies.

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