

Biodiversity Record: Crested goshawk preying on Javan mynah

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Subjects: Crested goshawk, *Accipiter trivirgatus* (Aves: Accipitriformes: Accipitridae);
Javan mynah, *Acridotheres javanicus* (Aves: Passeriformes: Sturnidae).

Subjects identified by: Kelvin K. P. Lim.

Location, date and time: Singapore Island, Kent Ridge, National University of Singapore campus, Conservatory Drive outside the building of the Lee Kong Chian Natural History Museum; 1 June 2022; around 1245 hrs.

Habitat: Urban parkland, in carpark next to a concrete building.

Observers: Jose C. Mendoza and Wei Song Hwang.

Observation: After entering the carpark, the observers noted a crested goshawk on the ground standing on a Javan mynah. One of the observers (JCE Mendoza), who was driving, stopped the car next to the hawk and about 3.5 m from it, and proceeded to record the scene with his cellphone camera. The hawk, about 40 cm in length, was grasping the side of the immobile and apparently dead mynah with its right foot (Fig. 1). Loose feathers on the floor around them and on the hawk's beak indicate that the hawk was plucking feathers from the mynah before it was filmed. The hawk hesitated, looked around (Figs. 2 & 3), and turned with its back facing the observers (Figs. 4 & 5). It then took to the air with the mynah in its talons (Fig. 6) and promptly disappeared from the observers' view. The 44 second video can be viewed at <https://youtu.be/kL2ws92j7do>.

Remarks: In Singapore, the crested goshawk is regarded as an uncommon resident that is widespread over much of the main island (Yong et al., 2017). At least one of these raptors was reported in November 2018 at West Coast Park (Tan & Koh, 2018), which is less than 1.5 km from the location featured here. The crested goshawk is known to feed on small birds and mammals, and this rare footage shows that it is one of the predators of the Javan mynah, which is non-native, and seems to be the most abundant bird species in Singapore (Yong et al., 2017). It is not known if the mynah was attacked while it was on the ground, or if it was struck by the hawk in mid-air. It can be inferred from the feather plucking behaviour that the hawk would have proceeded to feed on the mynah on the ground if it had not been disturbed by the close proximity of the observers.



Fig. 1 & 2. Crested goshawk standing on the apparently dead Javan mynah in the carpark. Note the loose feathers on the ground that suggest that the hawk was about to feed on its prey. (Screenshots from video by JCE Mendoza)



Fig. 3. The hawk looking around. Fig. 4 & 5. The hawk turned its body with its back to the observers. Fig. 6. The hawk taking to the air with the mynah in its talons. (Screengrabs from video by JCE Mendoza)

Literature cited:

Tan HH & Koh LL (2018) A crested goshawk at West Coast Park. Singapore Biodiversity Records, 2018: 131–132.
Yong DL, Lim KC & Lee TK (2017) A Naturalist's Guide to the Birds of Singapore. 3rd edition. John Beaufoy Publishing Limited, Oxford, England, 176 pp.