

An albino Javan myna at Yew Tee

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Subjects: Javan myna, *Acridotheres javanicus* (Aves: Passeriformes: Sturnidae).

Subjects identified by: Contributors.

Location, date and time: Singapore Island, Choa Chu Kang, Yew Tee housing estate; 9 December 2018, around 1230 hrs.

Habitat: Urban parkland in a high-rise residential area.

Observers: Contributors.

Observation: Two Javan mynas were initially seen at the lower level of a multi-storey car park. One of the birds is an albino. It has pink eyes and its plumage is white except for faint grey on the back of its head and body. The bird wandered outside to a grass patch (Fig. 1), then to a bus stop by the road (Fig. 2), before flying off.

Remarks: The Javan myna is a very common non-native bird in Singapore that has become a nuisance as it nests in the hundreds in residential areas, creating noise and fecal pollution (Lim, 2009). On the contrary, it is regarded as globally vulnerable and scarce in its native Java due to extensive collection for the pet trade (Yong et al., 2017). Albino and leucistic Javan mynas have previously been recorded in Singapore at the Nanyang Technological University campus at Jalan Bahar, Bukit Batok MRT station and Tengah Air Base (Lim, 2009 as 'white-vented myna').

References:

- Lim K. S., 2009. *The Avifauna of Singapore*. Nature Society (Singapore) Bird Group Records Committee. 611 pp.
- Yong D. L., K. C. Lim & T. K. Lee, 2017. *A Naturalist's Guide to the Birds of Singapore*. 3rd edition. John Beaufoy Publishing Limited, Oxford, England. 176 pp.



Fig. 1. Albino myna on grass patch.



Fig. 2. Albino myna on the roadside next to a bus stop.

Photographs by Tan Heok Hui