

## Photographic record of Golden-crested Myna from NERIST Campus, Arunachal Pradesh

On 16 October 2022, our team conducted a bird watching survey inside the North Eastern Regional Institute of Science and Technology (NERIST) campus, located at Nirjuli, Papum Pare district, 30 km from the capital complex of Itanagar, Arunachal Pradesh. The campus covers an area of 67 ha and lies between 27.1305 N & 93.7409 E. The campus comprises of a major forest habitat including muddy shrubland, grassland, and small streams. It is also home to many species of flora and fauna.

During the birding period, a small flock of Great Myna *Acridotheres grandis* and Chestnut-tailed Starling *Sturnia malabarica* perched on a tree was sighted. Among the flocks, an individual Myna species with a distinct feature was observed having a golden-yellow forehead, crown and yellow throat and a dash of bright yellow spot in the wing. At first, we thought it could be a juvenile of Jungle Myna or Great Myna. However,



A. Golden-crested Myna *Ampeliceps coronatus* and B. Golden-crested Myna with Great Myna and Chestnut-tailed Starlings. © Aribam Rocky Sharma.

after complete observation of body plumage and size of the species, we later identified it as the Golden-crested Myna *Ampeliceps coronatus*. Photographs were

also obtained during the observation.

Golden-crested Myna is a species of Starling or Myna which belongs to the family



Map showing the sighting location inside the NERIST campus.

Sturnidae. Confusion prevailed as the species is distributed in Myanmar region and there were few photographic records found from Arunachal Pradesh and the species is poorly known in India. The previous record of the species was from Namdapha National Park and Tiger Reserve, Miao (Srinivasan et al. 2010; Craig & Feare 2018), and also an old record from Barak River in western Manipur (Ali & Ripley 1987; Rasmussen & Anderton 2012). A total of 32 records were found from India including Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Mizoram and West Bengal (Ismavel & Gassah 2018). This documentation is the most recent photographic record.

## References

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