

A "Mottled" Jungle Crow *Corvus Macrorhynchus*

A Jungle Crow *Corvus macrorhynchus* with "mottled" plumage was seen at Dusit Zoo, Bangkok on 22 March 1978. The bird, which was with a group of free-flying Jungle Crows in the grounds of the zoo and behaved normally, had distinct buff bars across the upper wing coverts and appeared similar to a specimen of the Rook *Corvus frugilegus* shown in Plate 1 of SAGE (1956a). It was not possible to determine the age of the bird, the only difference between adults and juveniles being that the latter have 'a less lustrous body plumage of a woollier texture' (GOODWIN, 1976).

"Mottled" plumage has been recorded in Rooks in France (MAYAND, 1950) and England (e.g. J. M. HARRISON, 1949), and in the Carrion Crow *Corvus corone* and Jackdaw *Corvus monedula* in England (SAGE, 1965b, 1957). The present record appears to be the first for this plumage variation in the Jungle Crow and, indeed, for any *Corvus* species in the Far East. Extensive white wing-bars have been recorded in the Rook and Carrion Crow in England (J. M. HARRISON, 1957) and the Common Crow *Corvus brachyrhynchos* in the U.S.A. (SHORT & LAYBOURNE, 1967). The origin of "mottling" in *Corvus* species is uncertain, C.J.O. HARRISON (1963a) considered that it is due to an inadequate diet, but SAGE (1964) argued that it is genetic.

Other plumage variants recorded in the Jungle Crow by C.J.O. HARRISON (1963b) were a bird with 'dilute' blackish-brown plumage and one with fawn plumage.

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