

## Common Starling (*Sturnus vulgaris*) in Chaiyaphum Province: the First Record for Thailand

While birding alongside a large marshy area at Nong Lahan, Chaturat District, Chaiyaphum Province (ca. 15° 37'N; 101° 55'E) on 2 January 1984, I came across a Common Starling *Sturnus vulgaris* perched in a small tree about 20 m distant. Since I could not recall having seen the species in the then-available field guide (LEKAGUL & CRONIN, 1974) I thought that it might be a new species of bird for Thailand. I considered, therefore, that I should take a good look at it and note the details. I watched it preening in the tree and roughly one hour later saw it feeding along the edge of the water. I was unable to relocate it when I later returned with G.J. Speight, K. Foundation, J. Cattle and P. Kennerley.

**Description:** Size and shape typical for most starlings. Underparts, mantle and wings blackish with small whitish spots. Rump and tail looking slightly greyer. Called with a wheezy *scrark* typical for the species.

I am very familiar with this species which is widespread and abundant in the United Kingdom.

The Common Starling is extremely common across western Eurasia eastwards to Lake Baikal. Northern populations are migratory and it is the commonest starling in northern India in winter (ALI & RIPLEY, 1987). It has also been recorded in both north-east Burma and Hong Kong (KING, 1975) so its occurrence in Thailand was not surprising.

### REFERENCES

- ALI, S. AND S.D. RIPLEY. 1987. *Compact Handbook of the Birds of India and Pakistan*, second edition. Oxford University Press, Delhi. xlii + 737 pp.
- KING, B.F., E.C. DICKINSON AND M.W. WOODCOCK. 1975. *A Field Guide to the Birds of South-East Asia*. Collins, London. 480 pp.
- LEKAGUL, B. AND E.W. CRONIN, Jr. 1974. *Bird Guide of Thailand*, second edition. Association for the Conservation of Wildlife, Bangkok. 316 pp.

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