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SHORT NOTE

A MYNA MATTER

Dhondt (1976, *Notornis* 23 (1): 29-43) gave notes on bird observations made in Western Samoa during 1973-74. He reported the breeding of a recent arrival — the Common Myna (*Acridotheres tristis*) — which had been established in Upolu since at least 1972.

During a brief visit to Western Samoa in January 1978, no observations of the Common Myna were made, despite extensive travelling on Upolu. However, in several localities the Jungle Myna (*A. fuscus*) was observed. It was not common, localised small flocks being seen in the suburbs and environs of Apia, generally in association with cattle or horses or on pasture or playing fields.

Two aggressive interactions with the Samoan Starling (*Aplonis atrifuscus*) were seen, the latter being victorious on both occasions. There appears to be scope for competition between the two species and it will be interesting to see if the Hill Myna is able to flourish on Upolu as it has in Fiji. *A. fuscus* was introduced into Fiji at the turn of the century to combat armyworm (Mercer 1964, *Field Guide to Fiji Birds*, Suva) and both it and the Common Myna (*A. tristis*) are abundant on the main islands of the Fiji group (Watling 1975, *Notornis* 22 (1): 37-53).

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