

Submission to Bird Australia Rarities Committee

Species: Rosy Starlings *Pastor roseus*
Location: West Island, Cocos (Keeling) Islands, Indian Ocean
Observation Dates: 14 April 2018
Submission number: 1135
Submitted by: Geof Christie, Pam Jones & David James

Circumstances

On 14 April 2018 GC found and photographed a Rosy Starling at the Quarantine Station on West Island in the Cocos (Keeling) Islands. Soon after GC left the CKI and the bird was not recorded again.

Description and Identification

Refer to the photographs in Figures 1 and 2. The bold pink-and-black pattern of the formative and adult plumages is distinctive (e.g. Menkhorst et al. 2017; Rasmussen & Anderton 2005; Beaman & Madge 1998). The brownish tinge to the scapulars, back and breast suggest the bird has not acquired full breeding aspect yet, which is acquired through wear (Cramp & Perrins 1994).

Status

BARC has accepted five records of Rosy Starling from Australia: from WA (case 437), NSW (cases 520 and 1077), NT (case 979) and the Cocos (Keeling) Islands (case 474) in November to December 2005. This would be the fourth record from the CKI. We are concurrently submitting five records from the CKI including this one (Table 2).

Table 2. Records we are now submitting to BARC for Rosy Starling from CKI

Location(s)	Date(s)	Submission No.
West Island town	9 November 2011	1133
West Island airstrip	November to December 2016	1134
Home Island tip	24 January 2017	
West I Quarantine Station	14 April 2018	1135
West Island town	24 to 26 December 2018	1136
West I Quarantine Station	11 September 2019	1137

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Contributions and Acknowledgments

GC and PJ saw and photographed the birds, and documented them in their monthly bird report newsletters. DJ compiled the submission. Thanks to Ian McAllan for comments on this submission and information about the status of birds on the Cocos (Keeling) Islands.

References

- Beaman, M. & Madge, S. (1998). *The Handbook of Bird Identification for Europe and the Western Palearctic*. Princeton University Press, Princeton NJ.
- Cramp, S. & Perrins, C.M. (eds) (1994). *Handbook of the Birds of Europe, the Middle East and North Africa: The Birds of the Western Palearctic, Vol. VIII, Crows to Finches*. Oxford University Press, Oxford UK.
- Howell, S.N.G. (2010). *Peterson Reference Guide to Molt in North American Birds*. Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, New York.
- Menkhorst, P. Rogers, D., Clarke, R., Davies, J., Marsack, P. & Franklin, K. (2017). *The Australian Bird Guide*. CSIRO Publishing, Melbourne.
- Rasmussen, P. & Anderton, J.C. (2005). *Birds of South Asia: The Ripley Guide*. Smithsonian Institution, Washington D.C.



Figure 1. Rosy Starling in adult plumage at the Quarantine Station on West Island, on 14 April 2018. Photo by Geof Christie.



Figure 2. Rosy Starling in adult plumage at the Quarantine Station on West Island, on 14 April 2018. Photo by Geof Christie.