

## Ashy Starling *Lamprotornis unicolor* a new host for Greater Honeyguide *Indicator indicator*

Magambua (5°09'S, 35°18'E at 1300m) is a small rural community on the road east-southeast of Singida, 15km northwest of Kwa Mtoro, and 20km due west of Swaga Swaga Game Reserve, Tanzania. The natural habitat is dominated by baobabs *Adansonia digitate* and *Acacia tortilis*, although miombo woodland dominates Swaga Swaga Game Reserve and the escarpments closer to Singida.

In April of 2013, my husband Jon and I observed a pair of Ashy Starlings *Lamprotornis unicolor* that were active in a nearby tree hole about 1.5m from the ground in the main trunk of a miombo tree *Brachystegia* sp. They were obviously feeding young. We could clearly hear chirping from within the nest hole while standing a metre away. On April 24, I succeeded in photographing the young. Imagine my surprise when I realized that the single chick was not an Ashy Starling. At first I thought it was a Great Spotted Cuckoo *Clamator glandarius*, but it was later confirmed to be a Greater Honeyguide *Indicator indicator* by Neil Baker and Adam Scott Kennedy, by the distinctive shape of the nostrils. About a month later, I photographed a juvenile Greater Honeyguide in a nearby tree, possibly the same one raised by the Ashy Starlings.



Juvenile Greater Honeyguide *Indicator indicator* in an Ashy Starling nest (photo: Melissa Eager).

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