

# Superb Starling

*Lamprotornis superbus*

**Class:** *Aves*

**Order:** *Passeriformes*

**Family:** *Sturnidae*

## Characteristics:

A small bird with distinctive plumage of metallic blues and greens on the chest and back, a duller black head, a chestnut body and white under the wings and tail and white eyes.

## Behavior:

A gregarious species, the superb starling feeds in groups on the ground. They prefer to live in close proximity to human habitation ([Utah's Hogle Zoo](#)).

## Reproduction:

Breeding season varies depending on the location of the colony. The male performs a courtship dance for the female and both sexes share the responsibility of building the nest, incubation, and feeding the young. An average of four greenish blue eggs are laid in a nest of grass and twigs lined with feathers. Usually the nest is located in a low thorny bush, tree, or cliff hollow.

## Diet:

Wild: Insects, berries, human scraps

Zoo: Parrot pellets, fruits and veggies, mealworms, Insectivore diet, dog food, feline diet and hardboiled eggs

## Conservation:

Superb starlings are not a listed species so are listed as Least Concern in IUCN.

## FYI:

Superb starlings are in the starling family which includes mynah birds and oxpeckers found predominately in Asia and Africa. The common starling, native to Europe, was introduced to the United States.



## **Range & Habitat:**

Woodlands, bush and acacia areas of Northeast Africa



**Lifespan:** up to 15 years in captivity, 10 years in the wild.

**Special Adaptations:** A loud, raucous bird that has a [series of different calls](#). They're also known to mimic other birds and sounds.

## **IUCN Conservation Status:**

Least Concern

