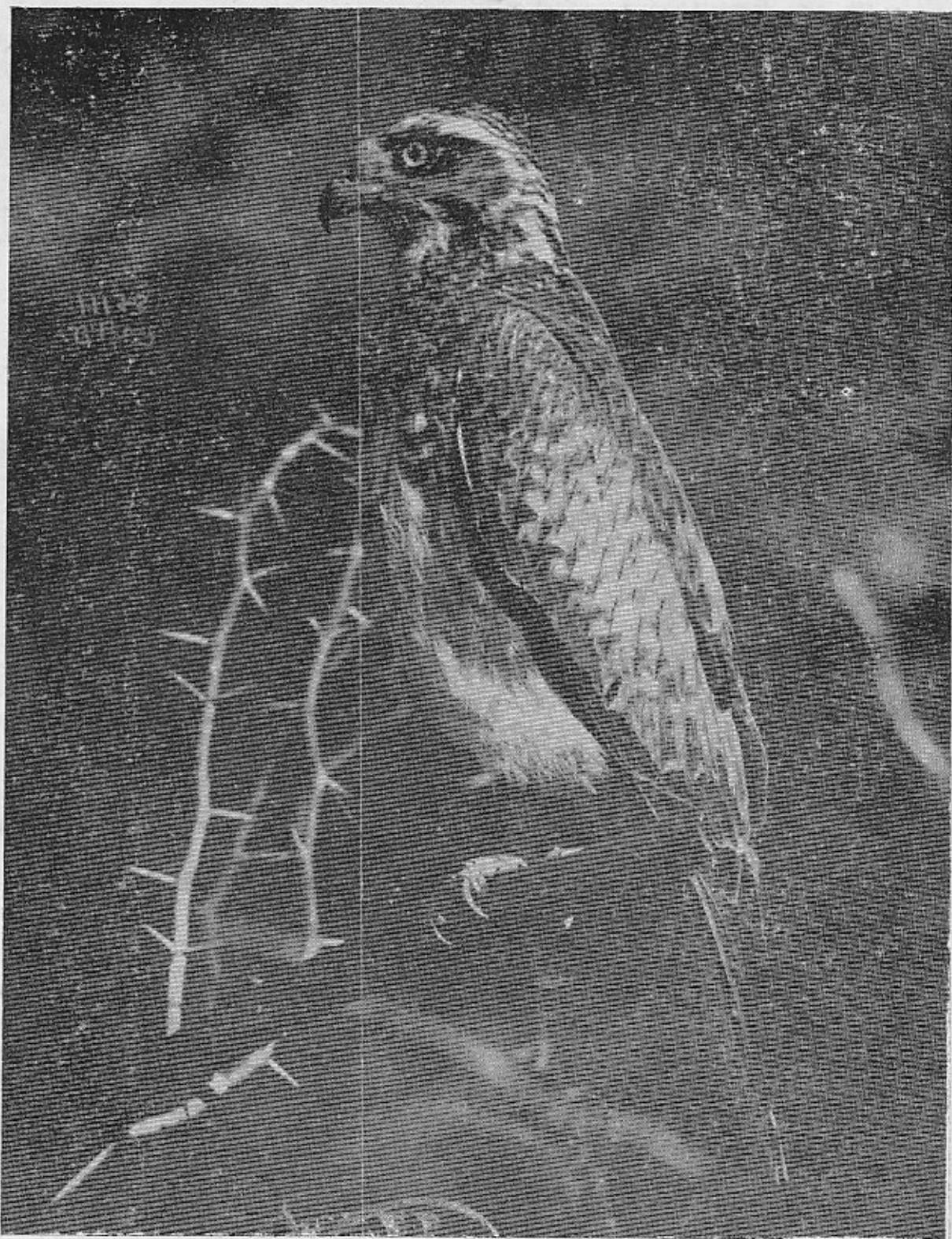


Newsletter for Birdwatchers

VOL. XXVIII NO. 3 & 4 MAR. - APR. 1988



ಪ್ರಗತಿಯ ಪಂಚವರ್ಷ

ಸಾಧನೆ ತಂದ ಸಂತಸ

ಪ್ರಸ್ತುತ ಸರ್ಕಾರಕ್ಕೆ ಐದು ವರ್ಷ ತುಂಬಿತು. ಕಳೆದ ಐದು ವರ್ಷಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಕ್ರಿಯಾಶೀಲ, ರಚನಾತ್ಮಕ ನೀತಿಯಿಂದ ಜನಸಾಮಾನ್ಯರ ಜೀವನದಲ್ಲಿ ಗಣನೀಯ ಪ್ರಮಾಣದ ಪರಿವರ್ತನೆ. ಅಧಿಕಾರ ಪಹಿಸಿಕೊಂಡಂದಿನಿಂದಲೂ ರಾಜ್ಯದಲ್ಲಿ ಸತತವಾಗಿ ಬರ ಪರಿಸ್ಥಿತಿ. ಆದರೂ ಸರ್ಕಾರ ಜನತೆಗೆ ನೀಡಿದ್ದ ಭರವಸೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಬಹುಪಾಲು ಈಡೇರಿವೆ. ಪರಿಣಾಮವಾಗಿ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಎಲ್ಲಾ ವಿಧಗಳಲ್ಲೂ ರಾಷ್ಟ್ರದ ಇತರ ರಾಜ್ಯಗಳಿಗೆ ಮಾದರಿ.

ಕಡು ಬಡವರ ಜೀವನ ಸುಧಾರಣೆಗೆ ನಿರ್ದಿಷ್ಟ ಗುರಿಯ ಹತ್ತೆಂಟು ಕಾರ್ಯಕ್ರಮ. ಅನಂಘಟಿತ ಕಾರ್ಮಿಕರ ನೆರವಿಗೆ 'ಆಶಾಕಿರಣ' ರಿಯಾಯಿತಿ ದರದಲ್ಲಿ ಆಹಾರ ಧಾನ್ಯ ಪಡೆಯಲು 'ಹಸಿರು ಕಾರ್ಡ್'. ಶಾಲಾ ಮಕ್ಕಳಿಗೆ ಉಚಿತ ಪಠ್ಯ ಪುಸ್ತಕ. ಸಮವಸ್ತ್ರ, ಅನಾಥ ವಿಧವೆಯರಿಗೆ ಮಾಸಾಶನ, ಕಾರ್ಮಿಕ ಗರ್ಭಿಣಿ ಸ್ತ್ರೀಯರಿಗೆ ಹೆರಿಗೆ ಭತ್ಯೆ, ಬಡವರು ಮದುವೆ ಮಾಡಲು ತಾಳಿಭಾಗ್ಯ, ಸ್ವಚ್ಛ ವಕ್ಷ ಆಡಳಿತಕ್ಕಾಗಿ ಲೋಕಾಯುಕ್ತ, ಪರಿಶಿಷ್ಟ ವರ್ಗದ ರೈತರಿಗೆ ಗಂಗಾ ಕಲ್ಯಾಣ, ಗ್ರಾಮೀಣ ಸಂಪರ್ಕ ಕಲ್ಪಿಸಲು, 'ಹಳ್ಳಿ ಹೆದ್ದಾರಿ' ಸೇತು ಬಂಧನ' ಬರ ಪರಿಸ್ಥಿತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ದನಕರುಗಳ ರಕ್ಷಣೆಗೆ ಗೋಶಾಲೆ. ನಿತ್ಯದ ಅಗತ್ಯ ಪೂರೈಕೆಗೆ ಸಾಮಾಜಿಕ ಅರಣ್ಯ, ಹಳ್ಳಿ ಹಳ್ಳಿಗೂ 'ಕುಡಿಯುವ ನೀರು' ಮುಂತಾದ ಕಾರ್ಯಕ್ರಮಗಳ ಅನುಷ್ಠಾನ.

ಈ ವಿವಿಧ ಕಾರ್ಯಕ್ರಮಗಳನ್ವಯ 1986-87ರಲ್ಲಿ ನೆರವು ಪಡೆದವರ ವಿವರ ಇಂತಿವೆ :—

ಯೋಜನೆ	ಫಲಾನುಭವಿಗಳು
ಹಸಿರು ಕಾರ್ಡ್	31,13,000
ಕೇಸರಿ ಮತ್ತು ಕಂದು ಬಣ್ಣದ ಕಾರ್ಡ್‌ಗಳು	49,97,000
ಉಚಿತ ಪಠ್ಯ ಪುಸ್ತಕ, ಸಮವಸ್ತ್ರ	70,00,070
ವಿಧವಾ ಮಾಸಾಶನ	3,64,000
ಕಾರ್ಮಿಕ ಗರ್ಭಿಣಿ ಸ್ತ್ರೀಯರಿಗೆ ಹೆರಿಗೆ ಭತ್ಯೆ	2,09,000

ರೈತ ಸಮುದಾಯಕ್ಕೆ ನೂರು ಕೋಟಿ ರೂಪಾಯಿಗಳ ಹೆಚ್ಚು ರಿಯಾಯಿತಿ, ಒಣ ಬೇಸಾಯ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ, ಕೈಗಾರಿಕೆಗಳ ಬೆಳವಣಿಗೆ ಹೊಸ ನೀತಿ, ತೀವ್ರ ಗ್ರಾಮೀಣಾಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿಯ ಕಾರ್ಯಪ್ರಗತಿಗೆ ಯೋಜನಾ ಆಯೋಗದಿಂದ ಪ್ರಶಂಸೆ.

ಮಹಾತ್ಮ ಗಾಂಧೀಯ ನಲ್ಮೆಯ ಕನಸಾದ ಪಂಚಾಯಿತಿ ರಾಜ್ಯ ವ್ಯವಸ್ಥೆಯನ್ನು ಕಾರ್ಯರೂಪಕ್ಕೆ ತಂದ ಶ್ರೇಯಸ್ಸು, ಹಳ್ಳಿ ಹಳ್ಳಿಗೆ ಅಧಿಕಾರದ ವಿಸ್ತರಣೆ. ಮತದಾನದ ವಯೋಮಿತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಇಳಿತ. ಯುವ ಶಕ್ತಿಗೆ ಹೊಸ ಚಾಲನೆ. ಮಹಿಳೆಯರು, ದಲಿತ ವರ್ಗಕ್ಕೆ ವಿಶೇಷ ಪ್ರಾತಿನಿಧ್ಯ. ಪ್ರಗತಿಪರ ಕಾರ್ಯಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಜನತೆಯ ಸದಭಾಗಿತ್ವದ ಸುಮರ್ಣ ಯುಗ. ಕರ್ನಾಟಕದ ರಾಜಕೀಯ ಇತಿಹಾಸದಲ್ಲಿ ಹೊಸ ಅಧ್ಯಾಯ. ನಗರ ಮತ್ತು ಗ್ರಾಮೀಣ ಪ್ರದೇಶಗಳಿಗೆ ರಾಜ್ಯದ ಸಂಪತ್ತಿನ ಸಮಾನ ವಿತರಣೆಗೆ ಸೂಕ್ತ ಅವಕಾಶ.

ಪ್ರಕೃತಿಯ ಪ್ರಕೋಪದ ನಡುವೆಯೂ ಉತ್ತಮ ಜೀವನ ನಿರ್ಮಾಣಕ್ಕಾಗಿ
ನಿಷ್ಠೆಯ ನಿರಂತರ ಪ್ರಯತ್ನ :

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ನಾರ್ತೆ

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Editorial

Birds of Kutch

The article by M.K. Himmatsinhji about the birds seen in his garden since 1953, is valuable for obvious reasons, and provides a guideline for the kind of notes which should be maintained over a period of time.

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Birds in a Cardamom Estate

The article in the last issue which was unsigned, was by Ittyavira Abraham, Mylikakunnel, Mallikassery P.O., Kerala - 686 577.

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Western Horned Tragopan

Mr. Rathin Mukherjee has sent in an interesting cutting from the Hindustan Times of 28th January 1988, about the western horned tragopan. The note says:

" Western horned tragopan, locally known as 'jaji' or 'Jajju rane', is a rare bird and its total population according to the 'red data' book of the International Union for Conservation of Natural Resources, is estimated around 500.

Four birds of this species were sighted for the first time 10 years ago in the forest adjacent to Drang Ghati sanctuary area of Shimla district. The birds were also seen in the 'Saho' area in Chamba district, in September last year by a party of the Geological Survey of India. "

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Reclaiming the Duck's Habitat

Aamir Ali, whose article on Mallards appears in this issue, has sent in a clipping from the International Herald Tribune of February 11th 1988. The article on reclaiming the duck's habitat says:

"Washington - Alarmed by a steep decline in the number of ducks and other waterfowl in North America, the United States and Canada, are embarking on a last-ditch effort to rebuild the flocks of migratory birds.....

The goal, which the planners hope to achieve by the year 2000, is to restore the continent's waterfowl populations to the levels of a decade ago..... The plan, therefore, will focus on protecting and improving the remaining wetlands and grasslands that ducks, geese and swans need for breeding, nesting and migrating.....

Not long ago, as nature keeps time, the North American prairies were an earthly paradise for waterfowl. The land was speckled with potholes, marshes and similar wetlands ideal for feeding and breeding, and a sea of grass provided nourishment and nesting grounds concealed from predators.

In 1955, the first year that formal estimates were published by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the breeding populations of the 10 most common duck species stood at 42.7 million. By 1987 the breeding population of these 10 species had dwindled to 30.3 million....."

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Wildlife Societies

There has been a surprising number of wildlife societies which have sprung up in the last decade. In a response to our query in the last Newsletter, Mr. Theodore Baskaran says: "The Wildlife Preservation Society, 219 Main Road, Mettupalayam, Tamil Nadu - 641 301, is a group that has been conducting bird counts for the past few years. They have been trying to get a few waterfowl refuges protected also. They had taken part in the last two Asian Waterfowl Counts. They are doing good work for ecological awareness in rural areas."

I have just received a copy of Corsonat, Vol. II Nos.3 & 4, The Magazine of the Corbett Society of Naturalists, 342 Shivaji Road, Meerut - 250 001. The Editor, Y.M. Rai, has for many years been promoting the cause of the Hastinapur Sanctuary, and detailed inventories have been made of its fauna and flora. Such an exercise is very useful for impressing on the authorities the necessity of saving a natural area.

The Madras Naturalists' Society, 36 Fourth Main Road, Raja Annamalaipuram, Madras - 600 008, is well known for its various activities. The bulletin, Vol. X No.3 of March 1988, gives the welcome news that Wildlife Wardens have been appointed for Guindy National Park. The close association between the authorities and N.G.Os is the only way to ensure the protection of our flora and fauna.

Apart from these Wildlife Societies, there are a number of Tourist Organisations specialising in visits to Sanctuaries. One of these is the Whispering Winds Tours & Travels, 413 "RAMA", 1st Block, R.T. Nagar, Bangalore - 560 032.

Another is Indian Adventures, 257 S.V. Road, Bandra, Bombay - 400 050. Their announcement says: "Our Kanha Resort at Kanha National Park in Madhya Pradesh (Central India), is superbly situated on the bank of Banjar river, lush forest surrounds the neat rustic cottages, a beautiful thatched dining and recreational room perched on the edge of the river, overlooks a thickly forested landscape.

We have qualified naturalists who conduct jungle tours on jeeps and on elephant back with audio-visual presentations. Facilities are also available for boating, swimming and fishing.

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A Black Stork in Karnataka

The article on the black stork in Karnataka by Stig Toft Madsen in this issue, is noteworthy.

because this bird is not found so far in the South

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Birds and Eucalyptus

There is no doubt that eucalyptus plantations harbour very few birds compared to wooded areas consisting of our indigenous trees. However, reports have now come in to show that eucalyptus is not entirely bereft of birds, and in that respect the article by H.N. Mathur and D. Chakraborty is useful. Reports of birds sighted in eucalyptus plantations would be welcome.

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Articles

Birds in my Garden by M.K. Himmatsinhji, Jubilee Ground, Bhuj, Kutch - 370 001

I had not realised till I prepared the script for this account that I had seen so many birds in my own compound. When I came to live in my present house I had about 15 acres of land surrounding it, and except for a playing ground and two houses in the immediate vicinity to the north, there was fallow land with light scrub on all sides. The birds mentioned below have been observed by me from the year 1953 upto the present time. I am starting with the residents first, and would go on to deal with the migrants afterwards. Over the years the number of species seen, as also the number of individuals, has steadily decreased. The reasons for this are not far to seek. First of all human habitations have come up on much of the land that was vacant, then habitat destruction and liberal use of pesticides, herbicides and so on all over Kutch are greatly responsible for the reduction of populations of various species of birds indigenous to this area. The migrants have not escaped either, for similar conditions prevail not only in this sub-continent, but also in large areas of Central Asia through which they have to pass. Thus this humble attempt on my part to list and describe the birds seen in my grounds could also serve as an illustration of how we in this country have neglected our ecosystems.

Little Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax niger*)

This is the most unlikely and unusual visitor. Owing to the severe drought prevalent in the district most dams and jheels are empty and so very few sources for food of water birds are available. So while flying over my compound two or three cormorants must have espied the storage tank through which I irrigate my farm. They came down and settled on the parapet of the open tank from where it was a simple matter for them to spot the frogs and Guppy that I have introduced to help keep down the population of mosquitoes. Thereafter the cormorants plunged into the tank to have a good surfeit of fish and frogs who became easy victims for their predators in the confined space of the water tank. It took me and my staff a couple of days to scare away the peculiar visitors!

Pond Heron (*Ardeola grayii*)

Once in a while an odd bird comes to the above-mentioned tank, but cannot do much damage to the fish and frogs as the water is not shallow enough to suit this bird's method of obtaining food.

Cattle Egret (Bubulcus ibis)

From three to over a dozen birds always present throughout the year. They are here from early mornings to just before dusk when they go to roost. Fewer egrets come during the breeding season. They roam all over feeding in vegetable and green fodder beds as also among my cattle, doing useful work for me picking up all manner of insect life, ticks and flies from the cattle. I have the opportunity of watching them at close quarters. Apart from getting to know their habits etc. it is also interesting to see them get into their nuptial plumage gradually in the beginning of spring when the golden colour appears on their foreheads first and then spreading downwards to the rest of the upper body. Similarly the reverse process begins after their breeding is over which (change in colour) starts by shedding the plumes and feathers.

Black Ibis (Pseudibis papillosa)

A pair comes into my grounds almost every year. They come in the mornings and evenings and after feeding for some time fly away. Their arrival is announced through their loud and distinct calls. I hear them calling in the compound of a house across the playing ground where I suspect they breed. At times only the male ibis comes, perhaps leaving his spouse on the nest incubating eggs. They disappear in May or June to come back again the next season.

Blackwinged Kite (Elanus caeruleus)

This kite used to be seen by me circling overhead some years ago, and once they built a nest and bred on a neem tree situated in a remote place just inside my boundary wall. It was remarkable the way this pair defended their nest. They gave chase to any crow or other birds which approached the tree with their nest. They successfully raised a brood of two young which I saw being fed after they left the nest. The Blackwinged Kite no longer comes to my grounds. It is hard to find it even elsewhere in Kutch.

Honey Buzzard (Pernis ptilorhynchus)

A pair of these buzzards is always to be seen in my compound, specially in the cold season. It is uncanny the way they spot even a well concealed beehive. I have observed more than once one of these birds come down to the ground to eat whiteants (termites). It settles near the nest hole of the insects and after exposing the termites by removing the dust or sand covering, with sideways movements of its bill it starts eating them.

Pariah Kite (Milvus migrans)

I have never seen this kite alight anywhere in my grounds, but have observed them circling above or flying across. In recent years the population of this bird has considerably decreased. To what extent rat poisons used by people, and pesticides sprinkled by the municipalities of towns and cities are responsible for this decrease in numbers of the Pariah Kite, is well worth investigating.

Shikra (Accipiter badius)

I do not know to what age this bird of prey reaches in the wild, but there has been a pair in my garden since some years which to me appear to be the same I see year after year. However, this season I have seen the female alone who keeps on flying here and there calling all the time. So it appears that either the male bird has flown away somewhere or is dead. As I type this, I hear the answering call of another Shikra, so it appears she has at last been able to attract a mate by her constant calling. They nest regularly and raise two chicks who when mature are chased by the parents and driven away. The main diet of these hawks are garden lizards, squirrels, other rodents and reptiles and small birds. They also make constant attempts to catch partridge chicks. These attempts fail more often than not owing to the spirited defence put up by the parent partridges. On two occasions I have observed the Shikra eating winged termites. One morning some years ago we had a shower of rain when winged termites started emerging from underground all over my compound and were being caught on the wing as they flew up by crows, drongos, bee-eaters and other birds. Whereas a shikra came down on to the drive leading to my house and started picking up these termites and eating them. It even walked about a little with an awkward gait picking up the insects as they crawled on the road. Then last year in the hot weather one shikra, I think the same bird, settled on my lawn and ate the winged whiteants as they came out.

White-eyed Buzzard-Eagle (Butastur teesa)

A regular visitor about twenty years ago now not seen at all. It used to perch atop the old windmill on the big well from which lookout post it could espy its prey. The buzzard would then go down to the top of one of the trees, and from this vantage point would swoop on its victim which it rarely missed. Nowadays this bird is hardly seen even elsewhere in the countryside.

Vultures: Indian Longbilled Vulture (Gyps indicus) & Indian Whitebacked Vulture (Gyps bengalensis)

The former is less common than the latter. Both of them have been seen by me flying across or soaring above my grounds; and at times they settle on the roof of my house or on an outlying tree whenever there is a carcass of an animal lying in the neighbourhood.

Short-toed Eagle (Circaetus gallicus)

One juvenile bird was chased and pecked at by House Crows who eventually brought it down to the ground just outside my compound from where it was rescued by a passerby. He brought it to me and I placed it in one of my small chicken coops. When I felt it had recovered from the shock of its traumatic predicament I released it and it flew happily away.

Grey Partridge (Francolinus pondicerianus)

One of the permanent residents of my grounds who though at times wander out, eventually return. There are four or five covies consisting of from two to six birds in each, making a total number of 20 birds. I have studied this

bird more than any other, so instead of compressing all the facts about them in one paragraph it would be better if I prepare a separate account about them later.

Blackbreasted or Rain Quail (*Coturnix coromandelica*)

A decade and a half ago this quail used to be a regular visitor to my grounds during the rainy seasons in which the rainfall was moderate to good. I used to hear one or two males calling in the mornings and evenings, and sometimes even in the night. Now they no longer come, and I have neither seen nor heard them even elsewhere in Kutch. It is likely their numbers in this country as a whole have decreased like that of the Floriken. This is mainly due to habitat destruction and to some extent through trapping of these birds in nets and shooting by trigger-happy so-called 'sportsmen'. If examination of their ecosystems in which they live, their breeding biology and so on, is not undertaken in time, this beautiful quail may in future be as dead as the Dodo!

Rock Bush Quail (*Pardicula argoondah*)

A flock of these used to wander in and stay for some days; but this quail too has not been seen by me since long. They have perhaps walked into a trapper's net or imbedded pesticides.

Common Bustard-Quail (*Turnix susciator*)

Again not come into my grounds since long. This little three-toed polyandrous quail whose female is brighter coloured than the male, used to advertise her presence in my grounds by her drumming call during the rainy season. It is often found in cultivated green fodder crops in farms where it is bound to be a victim of insecticides and herbicides so liberally sprayed by farmers these days. This mode of accidental destruction of our wild life can only be prevented if the government could control or ban the use of harmful substances in pesticides by legislation (as done in some countries).

Stone Curlew (*Burhinus oedicnemus*)

It is more likely than not, these birds have deserted my neighbourhood because of the fast mushrooming steel and concrete jungle. They often used to be seen in my compound, and once or twice they laid eggs; but the ever present and vigilant crow robbed them before they could hatch. The late Dr. Salim Ali has very rightly mentioned in the 'Birds of Kutch' that the House Crow is the biggest menace in Kutch to nesting birds.

(To be continued)

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Blacknecked Stork by Asad R. Rahmani, Project Scientist, Endangered Birds Project,
Bombay Natural History Society, Hornbill House, Bombay - 400 023

The Blacknecked Stork (*Ephippiorhynchus asiaticus*) is one of the largest storks in the world. Apart from India, it is found in Sri Lanka, Nepal, Bangladesh, Burma, east to Vietnam, south to peninsular Thailand, Irian Jaya and Australia. Except in Australia nowhere else is it common. According to the 'Handbook', it is widespread in India but sporadic, and nowhere abundant.

The present status of the blacknecked stork is largely unknown. During the 1987 first wetland and waterfowl census, only 50 blacknecked storks were seen in India, and none in Nepal, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka. This figure of 50 birds is also erroneous because 20 storks were reported from Sakhya Sagar in the Madhav National Park in Shivpuri district of Madhya Pradesh, where not more than two are found. During my six years of stay at the Karera Bustard Sanctuary in the same district, I must have visited Madhav at least 20-25 times, and I never saw more than two blacknecked storks. There is just not enough space for 20 storks in Sakhya Sagar because these storks are highly territorial and generally only a pair is found in a jheel. Therefore, I think it was a typing error and instead of 20, only two storks were seen in Sakhya Sagar. After correcting the data, we get a surprisingly low figure of 32 storks seen in the whole country during the waterfowl census in 1987. The population of the storks may not be so low because all the wetlands of India were not surveyed but the number seen is certainly too low to be overlooked by conservationists.

In January 1988, during the second annual waterfowl census, we visited nine jheels in Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh and saw blacknecked storks (a pair) only in one area. I still do not have the all-India waterfowl census figures of 1988 at the time of writing this article. I think the blacknecked stork is disappearing at an alarming rate and needs attention from bird lovers.

Shooting may not be the main cause for the disappearance of the blacknecked stork because its flesh being quite fishy is not good to eat. I think there are two main causes for the increasing rarity of this species, (1) destruction of wetlands, and (2) trapping for Zoos.

1) Destruction of wetlands: The blacknecked stork requires large undisturbed marshes for foraging, and large big tree for nesting. Most of our big marshes have been drained for cultivation or they are highly disturbed by human activities. Being mainly a fish eater, the blacknecked stork is greatly affected by the expansion of fishing activities. For example, in the huge Pyagpur jheel in Bahraich district in U.P., we did not see a single blacknecked stork though the habitat is perfectly suitable. The main reason was that extensive fishing occurs there throughout the year. In a much smaller Sitadwar jheel in the same district, where fishing is restricted, we saw one stork, in addition to a large number of waterfowl. Such comparative examples can be given from many parts of India.

2) Trapping for Zoos: Unfortunately, the blacknecked stork is still not in Schedule I of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, and there is apparently no control on its capture for zoos. The species is too well represented in our zoos. For instance, six are present in a small cage in Bombay Zoo, and 13 in Lucknow. Why should they need 13 individuals of an uncommon species for

exhibition? As far as I know, these storks do not breed easily in captivity. All the birds in Lucknow Zoo were caught in the wild.

In order to get a clearer picture of the status and the population trend of the blacknecked stork in India, I am trying to collect data from different areas. As I cannot visit all the wetlands of India, I request your readers to write to me at the address given above, if they have seen this species in recent years. I am also interested to know the number of these storks present in different zoos of India. All help will be appreciated and acknowledged.

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Birds in Dodda-Gubbi by Zafar Futehally, Dodda Gubbi Post, Bangalore - 562 134

On the evening of 18th February, at about 5.30 p.m. when the slanting rays of the sun makes every feature of the landscape so pleasant and clear, I saw a group of purplerumped sunbirds on a Tabubia tree. Once in a while the deep yellow on the breast of the male bird matched the shade of the flower so closely that the bird and the flower seemed to be one unit. I have often found that with the approach of summer, groups of these sunbirds indulge in a kind of communal merry making which may be connected with the approach of their principal breeding season. In between this group there was a single male purple sunbird in full nuptial splendour. What pleased me was the sight of a magpie robbin, a bird I have longed to see in our Bangalore garden after being so familiar with it in Bombay. This is only the third occasion I have seen it here and I hope it will decide to stay on and give us the pleasure of listening to its melodious singing. Birdwatchers have commented on the depletion of magpie robins in the Bangalore area.

Every evening a flock of about fifty night herons fly overhead towards the lake nearby, feed there the whole night, and fly back to their roosts early morning and sleep and doze until it is dinner time. I had not realised that the birds had changed their traditional roost some distance away from our house and come next door. As I passed a large tamarind tree in our neighbour's compound, I heard the unmistakable Kwark of this heron. When I went closer on a tour of inspection, the whole flock rose up, and circled high up above the tree, returning to the tree only when they were reassured that I was not a hunter. This colony will be worth watching during the breeding season from May onwards, but I am told that the clamouring of the chicks for food can be as disturbing as the cry of our own species.

There were several other birds that evening, whose sight and movements lifted the spirit. A pair of pied kingfisher dived repeatedly into a pond formed by quarrying. The presence of two dozen women splashing clothes on the rocks disturbed them not in the least. Whenever the dive was successful they flew with the fish between their beaks to their rock perch and swallowed the victim. When the effort was a failure the birds dived again after hovering in the air for the few seconds they needed to sight the quarry and take aim. These hunting activities provided one of the prettier sights of the avian world. There are a few golden orioles who have not yet started to

call and that is why their presence has not been noticed. In another month they will be whistling loudly and by then their colours too will brighten to match the beauty of their outpourings.

On the way to the lake I saw drongos, blue jays, whitethroated munias, common and redrumped swallows, roseringed parakeets, pied bush chats. A group of tree pies called JAI DEEP JAI DEEP in their very metallic manner, and crow pheasants, hoopoes, spotted doves kept reminding one how much life was around, and how well integrated in the natural setting.

On the lake there were blackwinged stilts, common sandpiper, greenshanks. A pair of the migrant white wagtails (*Motacilla alba*), together with our resident large pied wagtails. Blackbreasted finch larks flew up from the grassy foreshore and indulged in the aerial antics of which they are such masters. The single hoot of the mottled wood owl was a great thrill. These birds can treat you to an eerie chilling performance as we know from our experience with them in a woodland of Maharashtra.

All this was great fun but it was on the morning of the 23rd that I saw a sight which made my day. I saw a bird fluttering high up which looked like a kestrel. It was soon set upon by a jungle crow and then as it raced towards me I found that it was a blackwinged kite. It is a fine sight to see this beautiful grey and white bird hover in the air, even cumbrously, and then parachute down with wings held at an angle above the body. But now it was busy eluding the crow, and I was amazed how easily it could side slip and be yards away in a split second from the persistent pursuer. The crow gave up after a while, but then a king crow unable to resist displaying its own superiority over the jungle crow started to attack it, pecking it strongly on the back a few times.

Another bird that provided some excitement was a red turtle dove (*Streptopelia tranque barica*). The light was good and there was no mistaking its identity by the hind neck collar and its call GRU-GURR-GOO, GRU-GURR-GOO. I have never seen this species of dove in this locality in all these years.

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Some Birds in the Marine and Estuarine Systems of Uttara Kannada, Karnataka,
by Stig Toft Madsen, I.D.F.P., Gokarn - 581 326, (N.K.), Karnataka.

Since April 1987 I have had the opportunity to live near the small city of Gokarn in North Kanara district of Karnataka. For birding I have found the sea coast and the estuarine system of Aganashini River particularly rewarding. This river bends north near Kumta. Along the river there is an extensive system of canals and some brackish water areas known as gajni in which rice is cultivated after the monsoon. Later these areas are used for extensive shrimp cultivation. Closer to the sea the salt works in Sanikatta and Madangiri afford a very interesting habitat. There are also patches of mangrove along the river.

I have been watching seabirds from the shore near Gokarn. Probably, many of the birds I have observed could have been seen elsewhere along the coast. In fact, while in Goa I saw one Booby sp. on July 11, two on July 14, and several Sooty Terns during these four days from hotel Fort Aguada. In contrast, the Aganashini Creek is, probably, superior to the neighbouring estuaries.

Seabirds

From the Gokarn beach, or even better from the Ramtirth temple or the Umamaheshwar temple, seabirds can be observed. During the monsoon rarer species are blown closer to the shore. On July 5, after a month of rain, a Frigate bird sp. was seen on July 19 flying north. It was probably a Masked Booby, but confusion with the Red-Footed could not be ruled out.

Possibly the most noticeable observations from the coast were 50 skuas seen between September 6 and January 17 with a peak of 22 on November 15. Two birds were identified as Arctic Skuas (*Stercorarius parasiticus*). The rest were probably also Arctic. A note on these skuas has been submitted to the JENHS for publication.

Gulls and terns are common over the sea. During the monsoon a few terns were strongly suspected of being Sooty Terns, but unlike in Goa no positive identification was made.

After the monsoon lighter coloured terns abounded. Their pattern(s) of migration, as well as their identity, have proved difficult to unravel. I hope another season will dispel some of my doubts.

Among other birds observed along the coast the following may be mentioned: Cormorant sp. 7 flying south on September 6; an Osprey seen on the same spot on November 22 and December 25; a Turnstone on November 5; and a Curlew Sandpiper on December 25.

Birds of the Tidal Zones

Four Chestnut Bitterns were seen on July 26 at Sanikatta. Nearby, at Moodangi, 6 adult Night Herons and probably a juvenile were seen on December 20.

On November 29, three or four Whitenecked Storks were seen in Madangiri Salt Works. Perhaps, the same three birds were seen again on December 6 and 15. On December 13, three Black Storks (*Ciconia nigra*) visited a field near the entry road to the Salt Works. I returned in the afternoon to take a photo, but they were already gone. Instead, a single Whitenecked Stork was seen flying.

Two Spoonbills appeared in Madangiri on December 1. On January 15, Mr. Ranjit Daniels and I saw 5 in Sanikatta. Ducks were seen from October 2 onwards when about 200 Bluewinged Teals and 7 Pintails had arrived in Madangiri. About a month later large flocks of Pintails were seen resting on the river from Tadri: 2500 on 3/11, 1500 on 6/11, 3000 on 7/11. They disappeared from there too, but on December 6 they were rediscovered upstream near Masur where at least 5000 Pintails were seen in a gajni area. Ranjit Daniels and I saw at least 3500 in the same area on January 16. Male Pintails seemed much more numerous than the females.

A flock of 12 or 13 Ruddy Shelducks was seen in Sanikatta on December 5. The following day the flock consisted of 12 birds. This bird is recently reported from Point Calimere (JBNHS 84(I): 206), but is otherwise rare in South India.

The identification of shorebirds is as challenging as that of seabirds. During low tide shorebirds seek food on sandbanks in the river, sometimes at considerable distance from land. Elsewhere, a close approach is possible. For example, on September 20, seven Terek Sandpipers were actively feeding on such a sandbank near Tadri while three or four were seen at close range by Daniels and I upstream at Hegde on January 16 and 17.

Whimbrels were noted on August 2 when 9 birds were seen near Tadri and later, but their number was never more than ten. Curlews were first noted October 2: 6 birds. Later their number increased. Thus, 57 were seen near Tadri on December 18.

Stilts are not absent from the area as the map in the Handbook (2:330) seem to indicate. At least one adult bird was seen on August 12, and others regularly thereafter, but not in groups of more than eleven.

Avocets were first noted on December 1 at Madangiri when eleven birds were counted. On December 13, 25 Avocets were seen in the same area. Daniels and I saw about 20 on January 15.

Other shorebirds observed include Godwit sp. one on 30/8, Ruff and Reeve 25 on 26/9 and 40 on 5/12, Snipe sp. 5 on 8/11, and Marsh Sandpiper 3 on 26/9. Daniels and I also saw around 7 Small Indian Pratincoles and one Osprey on January 16 near Masur.

Some of the species recorded by me have also been observed by Ranjit Daniels who surveyed the area in the "winter" 86-87. Ruddy Shelducks, for example, were seen by him practically on the same spot. Thus, his observations when published will throw further light on the avian species of this area

Addition:

As already mentioned, 3 Black Storks were observed on December 13. They did not turn up again till I finished typing the article on January 26, 1988. In the late afternoon the threesome flew in over Madangiri Salt Works and landed on a harvested field. I did not look much at them, but tried to get close enough for photographs. They were somewhat weary, but I think the photos will confirm the record, if nothing else.

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A Mallard Explosion: Continued, by Amir Ali, 14 Chemin de la Tourelle, 1209 Geneva, Switzerland.

In your Newsletter of September-October 1986, you were good enough to publish my account of the mallard explosion on our small mountain lake of Champex, 1400 m. up in the Swiss Alps. I said then that there were 19 mallards in three families.

The saga continued during 1987. On 17 April, I saw three couples although most of the lake was still frozen. Even the open water of the lake got a thin coating of ice at night. It had been a late winter with heavy snowfalls in spring.

The ice was melting and every day the area of water grew. The three couples were restricted to the open water and so we saw them often.

On 30 May, I saw an incident such as Shakespeare must have recalled when he wrote of Antony's flight from battle, chasing after Cleopatra:

The noble ruin of her magic, Antony,
Claps on his sea-wing and (like a doting mallard),
Leaving the fight in height, flies after her;
I never saw an action of such shame;
Experience, manhood, honour, ne'er before
Did violate so itself.

There were two male mallards together at the eastern end of the lake when a female came flying by. One male, her Antony, immediately took off after her. She landed on the water, he landed beside her. She flew off, he chased. She landed on shore and crossed the road, he pursuing. Back in the water, he too. He must have read his Shakespeare well. There were two soldiers on the shore in camouflage suits - it was the season for compulsory military service - who were enjoying the poor doting mallard's pursuit with uproarious laughter. What a tale to tell in the barracks that evening!

According to a local friend there were seven couples, not three, on the lake, but a fisherman on the lakeside next day assured us that there were only three. On 19 June I saw three adult males and a female with 10 ducklings following obediently behind her. They were very small, perhaps only a few days old. During the next few days, we saw this family frequently. The weather, I might add, remained exceptionally cold and rainy.

On 22 June we saw a female with six ducklings. Was this another family or the same one having lost four ducklings to some fearful accident?

Because, once, as they sailed by not far from the shore, we had seen the black cat of the tea room Le Cabanon watching them silently, his tail just twitching slightly. And on another occasion we had seen an Alsatian dog jump noisily into the water and chase a flock of ducklings; they swam disdainfully off and left the dog looking very foolish.

Over the next few days, we saw female mallards sometimes with five, sometimes with ten and sometimes with nine (these were definitely larger than the others) in confusing variations. Finally, on 6 July I thought I had solved the problem of how many and whom because within a few minutes I saw three broods in charge of their respective mothers: one with nine ducklings, one with five (originally six, I suspect) and one with ten. And here and there, were seven other adults.

This meant that there were ten adults presumably in five couples, and 24 ducklings in three broods: a total of 34 birds.

All accounted for now and neatly recorded in my little book.

But five days later, on 11 July, we saw a mother with two ducklings, very young and obviously a new batch. So this was family No.4, and the total was now raised to 36.

Perhaps there was a fifth batch as well but I never saw them. The ducklings were growing up and becoming more independent so that one no longer always saw them in groups or recognisable numbers. Not very thoughtful of the youngsters but then that's what youngsters are like these days.

Occasionally, in the early morning or in the dewy evening, when the hustle and bustle on the lake had ceased and the waters were still, you could see a flotilla sedately crossing the lake with mother in the lead and the youngsters following. And by counting the number of wakes in the water - 11 or 10 or 6 - one recognised which family was on the move.

Twoards the end of August the youngsters were almost as big as the adults and it was difficult to tell them apart.

Having spent much time watching this mallard explosion I thought I had better read something about them. Paul Geroudet, Geneva's foremost ornithologist, has just published a new book on the Birds of Lake Lemán and the following information is culled from it.

There are two sorts of mallards on Lake Lemán (or the Lake of Geneva as it is commonly called): resident and semi-tame; and the winter visitors from the north which are much wilder. About 25 years ago some (misguided) do-gooders released lots of mallards - perhaps as many as a thousand - which had been raised domestically, into the lake. This and interbreeding tamed the local population even more and led to many strange colourings.

Till 1973 the numbers of mallards, mostly wild, varied between 1100 and 2500, though in 1955-56 the population approached 3000 and in 1962-63 exceeded 3500. Since 1974, the effect of the newly released population and the various bans on hunting had their effect. In 1977 there were 4400 and in 1982 there were 8800. Geroudet estimates that the wild mallards constitute between 25 and 50 per cent of the total. These come to winter here from Germany, Poland, Finland and Russia.

The mallards in Champex must belong to the tame variety or at least have been thoroughly tamed during their stay. Visitors feed them and the ducks have no hesitation in rushing up whenever they spot a tourist ready to throw his bread on the water

Will the population continue to grow every year?

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Correspondence:

Chinese Ring on a Barheaded Goose by Dr. J.C. Uttangi, Retd. Principal (K.S.C.D.),
56/1 Mission Compound, Dharwad - 580 001

A brass metal 'Ring' supposed to have been banded at China was recovered from a goose by a local fisherman near Haveri about 100 kilometres away from Dharwad in the month of November 1986. Fortunately the fisherman had kept it in his safe custody. On the 10th January 1988 when I had been to Haveri for the Asian Midwinter Waterfowl census work, the excited fisherman handed over the ring to me expressing curiosity and wonder. From the description of the bird given by him it appears it was a barheaded goose (*Anser indicus*?). However, the species needs confirmation. The inscription embossed on the ring revealed as follows:- MOO-3981-BJ.POB.1928 PRC-NBBC. The ring has been sent to Mr. S.A. Hussain of the BNHS, Bombay, for further study and recording. A letter has been sent by the BNHS to the banding station located in China. The detailed findings may help immensely in the study of migratory birds on the Indian sub-continent.

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More Birds in a Developing Colony by Prof. H. Daniel Wesley, 126 Ramalinga
Nagar South, Tiruchirapalli - 620 17

I should like to draw your attention to a mistake I have made in the specific name of the Grey Wagtail. It should be cineria and not flava.

Among the birds of prey in the colony the common ones are the Brahminy kite (*Haliastur indus*), only a pair in the area, the juvenile appearing in September and February each year; the common Pariah kite (*Milvus migrans*); the Blackwinged kite (*Elanus caeruleus*) in the summer months; and the Shikra (*Accipiter badius*) both the sexes of which hunted lizards and the nestlings of the reventured bulbul from the fences. The common koel (*Eudynamys scolopacea*) advertises its presence vociferously from the neighbouring area about 200 metres away. Only once, November 1986, did a juvenile koel come to my house fence of prosopis and lay hidden, wings half spread on the twigs. The Roseringed parakeet (*Psittacula krameri*) would eat the prosopis fruits and also clip off the ripe ready-to-be-harvested paddies to be eaten at leisure on the overhanging electric wires. Flocks of munias (*Lonchura punctulata*) and (*L. Malacca*) would infest the paddies during the early stages of earing. The Blue jay (*Coracias benghalensis*), believed to be the State bird of Tamil Nadu, is a common bird on the T.V. antennas in the colony where it spends the late evenings on collecting insects in aerial sallies against the orange western sky. It does not remain in the colony, however, for the night. A golden backed woodpecker (*Dinopium benghalense*) with a young was foraging on the Prosopis trunks on a day in October 1986, and has not been seen since though heard from outside the colony. A male Magpie robin made its debut on 29 February 1988, but has not been seen since. Three of the four coral trees cut down and Syzygium jambolanum (the jambu tree) in flower buds, changed the bird activities it is presumed.

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First Calls of the Common Hawk Cuckoo by Thomas Gay, 122/4-4 Erandavane,
Pune - 411 004

Are there any rules laid down regarding the earliest date on which the Common Hawk Cuckoo is allowed to warn us against Brain Fever? Salim Ali says, "Mostly silent during winter, becomes increasingly obstreperous with the advance of the hot weather." This year I heard its first calls on 9 February, from one of the shady trees in our office compound, here in a western suburb of Poona. The maximum and minimum temperatures, that day, were 32.4 and 8.7, so that it might fairly be claimed that winter was still in force and summer was yet to set in. Have any fellow-readers of the Newsletter noted so early a date, or even an earlier one, for the Brain Fever Bird's first calls?

Our local specimen called for only a brief period, on 9th and 10th. On 11th February, he was silent, having perhaps realised that he had to some extent "jumped the gun". Since then, he has called on only one or two days, and for only a few times. Apparently, not too sure of himself!

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Birds in Eucalyptus at Agartala by H.N. Mathur and Debashish Chakraborty,
Tripura Rehabilitation Plantation Corporation Ltd., Bijoy Kumar Chowmuhani,
P.O. Agartala - 799 001, Tripura West

One of the many objections against growing eucalyptus species is that these trees do not attract birds. Absence or lack of recorded observations on plant/animal relations in general and more so on exotic species like Eucalyptus, Poplars, Pines, etc. has led to the above expression. Since eucalyptus has been planted on a large scale in the country it has also become one of the most controversial and talked about tree species in the recent past. Mathur (1980) had earlier reported observing a number of Baya nests on eucalyptus hybrid trees at Mezzafarabad (Saharanpur District), U.P. and Selakui Research Farm of the Central Soil and Water Conservation Research and Training Institute, Dehra Dun. Mathur (1985) had also reported observing a flock of redvented bulbuls at Agartala regularly visiting eucalyptus during December 1984 to February 1985. In the ensuing paras are reported observations on eucalyptus/birds relationship at Agartala between October to December 15, 1986. The observations relate to about 15 eucalyptus trees aged 18-19 years and 14 species of birds

The Study Area

The study area lies within the municipal limits of Agartala and is bounded by Raj Bhavan on the north, Assam Rifles Complex on the west, Circuit House on the south, and a group of bungalows on the east. The trees are growing in a single row on the boundary of a murrami hillock known as 'Khanna Park' with sparse vegetation.

The Bird Visitors

The following birds have been observed during October, November and upto 15th December 1986:

Birds in flocks (5 to 20 or even more): grey headed myna, red whiskered bulbul, redvented bulbul, sunbirds, common bee eater.

Birds - single or in two's or threes: common myna, pied myna, spotted dove, jungle crow, blackheaded oriole, magpie robin, yellow fronted pied woodpecker, roseringed parakeet, drongo, barbet.

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Where Have They Gone? by Sumant R. Shah, A-20 Shakti Sadan, Lamington Road, Bombay - 400 007

Since 1980, I happen to go to Ahmedabad every January and for 4 or 5 Sundays go to lakes Goblej, Narda, Pariaj, Kanewal, Nal and Thor for birding. The lakes are about 20, 60, 65, 80, 65 and 40 Kms. respectively from Ahmedabad. Narda, Pariaj and Kanewal are canal fed hence always full of water. Narda, Goblej and Thor being "not big" are very rewarding for watching waterfowl. Nal is huge. One has to go in a boat, but as the boat approaches the birds they fly away farther and farther. Pariaj and Kanewal are very big. No boats exist. The waterfowl float far away. The sightings (by binoculars) have to be augmented by your conjectured vision.

It is impossible to count all the waders and waterfowl for "census" unless four or five score of birdwatchers are posted at several points in the case of Pariaj, Kanewal and Nal.

Nal, Thor and Goblej were as dry as a desert due to three years' continuous drought in 1987 and 1988.

I find that in 1987 and 1988, the waterfowl population at Narda, Pariaj and Kanewal - the permanent water lakes, has not increased compared to what I saw in 1980, 81, 83, 84, 85, 86. This is a very clear and strong impression. I did not do any actual counting. But the Coot population had very visibly increased, and my query is why the increase only in Coots. Where did the ducks go from Nal and Thor, because apparently the duck population (including pelicans and flamingoes) at permanent water lakes had not increased.

My other queries are: (1) On 9.3.83 I saw more than a lac of Godwits perched in mudflats (without leaving an inch of space between two of them) - on both the sides of the approach road of about one km. at Nal, compared to about a couple of scores in 1981, 84, 85. Can anyone enlighten me?

(2) In January 1983, I saw about a thousand Avocets at Thor compared to hardly a score or two seen in 1981, 84, 85. I have a feeling that if Coots at Pariaj and Kanewal (January 1988) were counted, the figure would approximate in five digits almost touching six digits. Why this abnormal increase?

About census of waterfowl and waders at wet and marsh lands, a specific directive is necessary about what should be termed marshes and wetlands. Can a village pond of about two hectarea, where not a reed or a blade of grass grows, and which completely dries up in about June, fall in the category of marshes and

wetlands? I even wonder if barren beaches and sea coasts can come under this category. Another "MUST" should be that every year for the next consecutive three or more years, the same marsh and wetland should be censused, if possible by the same birdwatcher.

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Lions and Pelicans by Ravi Chellam, Gir Lion Project, Sasan - 362 135

The following information might be of interest to you. I have recorded two instances of predation by lions on rosy pelicans and one of it carried a ring. I have already written to BNHS in this regard and they are following up on this.

The pelican was killed in the largely dry Kamaleshwar reservoir in western Gir where there are some 200 pelicans. It was probably killed on 14.02.88. I recovered the ring on 16.02.88 and the legend read: MOSKWA KK 0163.

Earlier on 29.01.88 I had observed a sub-adult male lion make repeated attempts at catching pelicans. These seemed rather half hearted attempts and more a form of play rather than a serious hunting attempt.

Early in the morning the flocks of pelicans tend to rest on the exposed land at the water edge. The fully fed lion was repeatedly rushing out and charging at these large birds, causing them to take to flight. This he did at least on 3 or 4 occasions. If it was a serious hunting attempt I would have expected the lion to be more careful in using all available cover and to be much more swift while charging. On the contrary he just seemed to delight in gambolling up to the flock and at scattering them. The other fact that has to be borne in mind is that he was fully fed, having killed a sambar the previous night.

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Koels and Crows by Niraj Joshi - Extract from CEE News, Ahmedabad - 380 054

Though the crow is generally believed to be a shrewd operator, all its cunning comes to nought against the koel. In outwitting the crow both the male and female koels work in unison, their strategy being as follows. The male starts singing near a crow's nest while the female stays hidden nearby. From its past experiences the crow considers the koel its enemy and both male and female crows give chase to the bird, leaving their nest unguarded. Though the koel is a swift flier, he deliberately flies slowly, so as to lure the crows away from their nest.

Meanwhile, the female koel quickly flies to the crow's nest and lays her eggs in it. Quite often, she throws away the crow's eggs before laying her own. This is perhaps nature's way of checking the crow population. The koel's eggs are very similar to the crow's eggs, but slightly smaller. The

resemblance is striking enough to fool the crows which incubates the koel's eggs as well as their own, and when the chicks hatch, they feed them and look after them. Strangely enough, the juvenile koel is like the male (black) instead of the female, contrary to the normal rule in birds. Though koels are very much there even after spring has gone, we rarely notice them at other seasons of the year as they are silent at these times. (CHEE-NPS).

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A New Source of Food for Cattle Egrets by T.V. Jose

Some cattle egrets appear to have found out a new source of food though it is only for a short period. For the last two years I have been observing these birds on some mango trees when they are in their blossom. They first appeared to be sunning there. But longer observation convinced me they were not. The other possibility for suspicion was that these birds were there in connection with building their nests. Both the years I found them during late January or early February, which is not the time of their nesting activities. I did not see them active that way, either.

I noticed further that they were pecking at something and gulping it down. The manner in which they did so (typical egret way) indicated that the food was not inactive but rather able to escape if proper care and speed were not employed. Where inflorescence was remarkably profuse, the number of birds was proportionately large. Again, where there was no inflorescence there was none. Strangely, I have not seen cattle egrets frequent any mango trees in flower elsewhere.

My guess is that these birds have found it easier to jab at certain insects such as honey bees and blue bottles and some other ones that visit these flowers to sip the sweet nectar and to devour the pollen. The distance between me and these birds was long enough to prevent identification of their food items.

It will be interesting to know if anybody else has observed such activities of cattle egret, a bird which has adapted itself to find its food in terrestrial conditions.

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Regional Crane Workshop by Prakash Gole, Ecological Society, 1B Abhimanshree Society, Pashan Road, Pune - 411 008

You will remember that during the International Crane Workshop held in China, it was agreed that a regional workshop would be convened in India to discuss crane research and cooperation among countries of west, north and south Asia. I am, therefore, glad to inform you that we have taken the initiative to organise the regional workshop which will be held in India in late December 1988 or early January 1989.

The programme, venue and other hospitality details about the workshop will be announced in the next circular.

It is proposed to hold discussions on the following topics during the workshop :

Numbers and distribution of cranes in the region; their routes and pattern of migration; conservation of crane habitat; cooperative research and conservation projects to be considered in the region; ideas and projects relating to education and creation of public awareness; laws governing crane conservation among participating countries and other matters arising out of the common goal of crane conservation.

Crane scientists, researchers, conservation workers, persons working in environmental education and related fields and in media are invited to contribute papers, notes, posters, slide presentations, etc. relating to cranes of the region and concerning especially the topics suggested above.

It is proposed to invite delegates from Afghanistan, Bangla Desh, Bhutan, China, India, Iran, Nepal, Pakistan and USSR. Observers from other countries and conservation organisations will also be invited.

At this stage please indicate whether it will be possible for you to participate in the workshop. This will enable us to send you the next circular.

We will require your firm decision by mid-August 1988.

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DEVELOPMENT ALTERNATIVES

- a non-profit society

22, Palam Marg, New Delhi - 110 057

In his quest for a better life, man has come a long way. He has probed and solved many mysteries of the universe - of time and space, of matter and mind, of life and death. He has conquered long dreaded diseases, built complex systems and miraculous machines, extended his reach into the most inhospitable corners of this planet.

Development

Science and technology have given him now the ability to choose a future and design new paths of development; the ability to be a master of his destiny to a degree inconceivable only a few generations ago.

For Whom?

Yet one half of the world's people live in poverty. And everywhere, the environment, on which our and our children's well-being so heavily depends, is rapidly deteriorating.

Science and Technology

Science and technology offer the knowledge and tools to fashion a just and long term development - one which improves the quality of life for all without destroying the resources which will sustain future generations. The challenge is to translate the scientific knowledge and technological tools into products for the welfare of the people.

How?

This technology must be relevant, adaptable and in tune with local resources, skills and needs. In other words, Appropriate Technology. Technology that is usable, affordable, renewable. Technology which opens the doors to opportunities, work satisfaction and material rewards that never existed before. A cooperative effort in which everyone gains and no one loses.

- * A technology where man is the master, not the slave.
- * A technology which enhances man's spirit without cramping his mind.
- * A technology which generates sustained benefits rather than temporary relief.
- * A technology that conserves resources and respects the limits of the environment.
- * A technology which creates wealth for the community and not merely money for the few.
- * A technology that is economically viable, and widely available.
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