

# MISTNET



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Cover photograph: Black-necked Crane  
*Grus nigricollis* by Otto Pfister

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## From the Editor...



IT HAS been four years since the Indian Bird Conservation Network (IBCN) was established. Since then, the IBCN has been actively conserving birds and their habitats throughout the country. The Network involves local people, and participates in their campaigns for the long-term survival of globally threatened birds and site protection. Many of the IBCN members regularly monitor birds in critical habitats (IBAs) and have succeeded in making the layman and policy makers aware of the importance of bird conservation in their areas. Mr. B. Raha (IBCN Maharashtra State Coordinator) along with his team in Nashik, and with the help of local stake-holders, has been conducting awareness programmes to conserve habitats of many threatened and common birds in Maharashtra, see “Local stake-holders conserve Gangapur grassland”. Similarly, in the southern states of India, IBCN partners regularly monitor birds and share their information with other members. Mr. P.O. Nameer (IBCN Kerala State Coordinator) has emphasized this in his article “Overview of IBAs in Kerala”. Dr. Otto Pfister’s article emphasizes “Black-necked Crane conservation and IBAs in Ladakh”. The importance of IBAs for long-term conservation of the Spot-bill Pelican (a globally threatened bird) is explained in “The mighty pelican needs protection”. Interesting notes on Khasi Hills Swift and Mrs. Hume’s Pheasant, little known birds of north-east India, is emphasized by Mr. Firoz Ahmed and Dr. Anwaruddin Choudhury (Coordinators of Assam and North Eastern States). The Network greatly helps conservation. Through this network, we share our experiences, ideas and resources.

Zafar-ul Islam (Project Manager IBA-IBCN)

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## RESEARCH TO CONSERVATION...

## Status of Black-necked Crane and IBAs in Ladakh

Ladakh is located at an altitude between 2700-7000 m in the north / northwest of remote Trans-Himalayan India. The great Himalayan massif dominates its south-western and western topography with chiefly rugged, deep and steep terrain. Wildlife, dominated by typical high-mountain mammals and birds, is also influenced from neighboring Kashmir Valley. Ladakh's eastern and north-eastern territories, forming the most westerly extension of the vast Tibetan Plateau, are dominated by dry, desert-like, lofty uplands, soft rolling hills and wider open valleys. Once covered with an extensive lake system, this region today shows only some vestiges, primarily located in the Rupchu and Changtang plains at elevations between 4000 and 5000 m. Such wetlands consist of large and medium sized lakes such as Pangong-Tso, Tsomoriri, Tso-Kar, Yoye-Tso, Tsigul-Tso and expansive marshes near Hanle, Chumur and Staglung (Chushul) which are fed by rivers and brooks carrying water from the melting snow or the very limited rainfall (annual precipitation hardly exceeds 100 mm in this sector). All rivers sooner or later drain into the Indus basin which flows in to Pakistan in south-east north-west axis.

Principal ecosystems surrounding Ladakh wetlands consist of meadows, dry steppes and sandy boulder strewn slopes bordered by hills and snow-capped mountains. Lakes and marshes, therefore form a most significant water-reservoir network within a bleak wind-swept high-altitude wilderness where arctic-like conditions prevail. The region's sparse human population is predominantly concentrated along the Indus.

Ladakh, superficially recognized as a 'high-altitude desert', is surprisingly rich in biodiversity. Apart from a specialized adapted flora, its diverse fauna includes amongst others a multitude of mammals (exceeding 35 larger species), birds, reptiles, fish, crustaceans, invertebrates, insects and mollusks. Located on the borderline between the Palearctic, and the Indo-Malayan zoogeographic zones, Ladakh is inhabited by animal species typical of both zones and characteristic Tibetan mammals and birds extend their home ranges into its eastern territory. In addition, the same area represents the last or first accessible staging place for important aggregations of birds on spring and autumn

migration while crossing the vast Himalayan range. During the dry sunny summer season, the resident bird population is greatly increased by a multitude of summer-visitors and breeders. These diverse influences make Ladakh a real ornithological melting pot, resulting in an impressive total exceeding 300 species recorded so far.

Recognizing the importance Ladakh plays for a rich diversity of resident, summer-breeding and migratory birds including threatened and restricted range species (e.g. Bar-headed Goose *Anser indicus*, Ferruginous Pochard *Aythya nyroca*, Black-necked Crane *Grus nigricollis*, Pallas's Fish Eagle *Haliaeetus leucoryphus* or Greater Spotted Eagle



*Aquila clanga* to name a few) various locations are in a process to be declared as IBAs. These sites are mainly found in the Changtang and Rupchu regions in eastern Ladakh near the China/Tibet political borders. The need to mark such sites in remote and sparsely human populated areas arises largely due to increased pressure on ecosystems mainly by the local nomadic population with growing unsustainable animal husbandry activities (expansion in predominantly goat and sheep rearing provoking serious overgrazing of pastures and increased pressure on wetlands), extended access to high-altitude regions by unwitting tourists with their vehicles causing disturbance and damage to an extremely fragile environment, but also due to local infrastructure developments and other human activities including high-altitude agriculture (conversion of ecosystems and diverting

water courses for irrigation).

The first encouraging signs of a positive predisposition towards conservation of one of Ladakh most important flag-ship species, the Black-necked Crane has been seen in since recent years :

The Black-necked Crane was the last of the world's existing 14 crane species to be discovered. Not surprisingly, since its distribution is restricted to the most difficult politically and physically accessible areas - the high-altitude Tibetan Plateau. The species was first recorded in 1876 when the famous Russian naturalist-explorer C. Przewalski sighted this crane near Lake Koko-Nor in northeastern Tibet. Even after this first record, the bird remained poorly known and



mysterious for another hundred years, with hardly any studies conducted, but during the last 20 years, some studies have been conducted in India and China.

The total world population of the Black-necked Crane is estimated to be between 5600-6000 individuals. The species is protected worldwide and listed by both, IUCN in their revised Red List Categories and BirdLife International (2001) as 'Vulnerable', and under 'Schedule I' in India's Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.

Ladakh, situated in the extreme western zone of recognized Black-necked Crane distribution range hosts the only breeding grounds of the species in Indian territory apart from (unconfirmed reports of a single breeding observation in northern Sikkim). The cranes migrate in small flocks into Ladakh by late April/early May and remain till late October when they move back to their winter quarters in somewhat lower regions of Tibet and neighboring Bhutan. The species was not reported from Ladakh to the outside world until June 1919 when the naturalist-explorer F. Ludlow observed three birds in Tso-Kar. However, the Black-necked Crane is known and represents an important cultural symbol to the Ladakhies since historical times as ancient *thanka* and mural paintings confirm. After India's Independence, Ladakh remained closed to outsiders till the 1970s and subsequent study on the species did not pick up before the 1980s when in average about 12-15 birds were counted in Ladakh's eastern territories. Successive observation reported a more or less a stable Black-necked Crane population in the region, when Indian security forces along the frontier lines, in the past frequently blamed for poaching wildlife, changed attitude to conservation. Another reason was the prosecution of poachers in the 1990s. This coincided with intensified research on the cranes and ensuing reports showed a steady increase in the summering population,

growth in number of breeding pairs and successfully fledged chicks. Today, the number of Black-necked Cranes observed in the Changtang and Rupchu regions of eastern Ladakh reach about 50 individuals, consisting of about 15 breeding pairs and about 20 unpaired birds.

Three major factors, however, hamper continuous smooth crane-population increase. The uncontrolled threat by roaming semi-feral dogs certainly represents the most severe restriction ('released' former army pet-dogs, form packs and prey amongst other smaller wildlife species heavily).

Up to 50% of crane eggs and chicks are lost to these pests every year. Human and livestock disturbance and loss of habitat due to conversion of marshes for high-altitude agriculture and pasture are other long-term problems.

IBAs in Ladakh, chiefly located in eastern Ladakh near and within the 'Changtang Cold Desert Sanctuary', fulfill various purposes: they encompass numerous breeding areas of the endangered Black-necked Crane (e.g. Chushul, Fuktche, Hanle, Chumur or Tso-Kar), they hold important staging sites/bottlenecks for large congregation of birds on migration (e.g. Tso-Kar, Tsomoriri, Hanle) or show significant accumulation of restricted range and Biome-5 name biome? species.

Declaration of IBAs in Ladakh and especially creation of related education and awareness campaigns will subsequently allow the local population and visiting tourists to become more conscious about the environmental impacts of by their activities. There will therefore not only be positive benefits for birds but all local wildlife and the ecosystems it inhabits.



Otto Pfister has lived in India and Nepal for over 12 years. While travelling extensively in the Indian subcontinent he maintained a special interest on the Himalayas and Trans-Himalayan regions. He conducted extensive wildlife studies in Ladakh with emphasis on the distribution, behaviour and conservation of the endangered Black-necked Crane. Findings from his research were compiled in a thesis on 'The breeding ecology and conservation of the Black-necked Crane in Ladakh'. *Text and photographs: Otto Pfister*

## RESEARCH AND CONSERVATION...

## The mighty pelican needs protection

A vain symbol is used as a charge in armorial bearings. Heraldry is a form of hereditary personal symbolism in which the basic medium for the display of the devices used is the shield. The pelican as a type of Christ is popular in the heraldry of ecclesiastics. In early heraldry it is often drawn more like an eagle, and is almost invariably depicted 'in her piety'. A well-known example of the pelican in heraldry occurs in the arms of Richard Fox, Bishop of Winchester, 'Azure of pelican wings elevated and addorsed or vulving itself proper'.

Charming to the historical perspective of pelicans has been known for so long that the very derivation of their name is lost in antiquity. Greeks and Romans called them Pelicans or Pelecans, and so have all Europeans since, except the Spanish and Portuguese, who call them "alcatraz" (pelicans once lived on the rocky island in San Francisco Bay that bears this Spanish name). Strangest of all the ancient beliefs about these large, grotesque birds was one, common in the middle ages, that pelicans fed their young on their own blood, obtained by puncturing their breasts with their beaks. This legend may have originated from the bare gular pouch of the Dalmatian Pelican, which is blood red in colour during the breeding season.

Such a heraldic and renowned bird now faces decline all over the world. There are seven living species of pelicans in the world: Australian Pelican, American White Pelican, Spot-billed Pelican, Dalmatian Pelican, Great White Pelican, Pink-backed Pelican and the Brown Pelican. In India, we have three species. The Spot-billed Pelican is breeding resident, and locally wanders to the freshwater lakes, estuaries and lagoons, where as the Dalmatian and the Great White Pelican are largely winter visitors to India.

According to the recent assessment of Birdlife International (2001), nearly 130 species in India are of



conservation concern. The Spot-billed Pelican is listed as 'Threatened'. The Spot-billed Pelican was formerly common across much of South Asia, and has been reported from China, Pakistan, India, Nepal, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Myanmar, Vietnam, Laos, Thailand, Malaysia, Cambodia, Philippines and Indonesia, with unconfirmed reports from the Maldives, Hong Kong and Taiwan. It has undergone a widespread decline in the recent past, and in 1997, its population was estimated at 11,500 birds. Populations in India were estimated to be around 1000-2000 birds, of which only 10% breed regularly (Neelakantan 1980, Nagulu 1983).

In India, the strongholds of the species are in Assam and south India (Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu). However, in the non-breeding season it is found almost throughout India. Some of these records, especially for the northwestern states (Haryana, Delhi, Rajasthan and Gujarat) are suspected to be wrong identification or taxonomic and nomenclatural confusion with the Dalmatian Pelican (Ali & Ripley 1987, BirdLife International 2001, Parasharya 2002).

The Spot-billed Pelican is listed under Schedule IV of the Indian Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, which obviously requires change. BirdLife International has classified it as a *Globally Threatened* species under the category *Vulnerable* (Birdlife International 2001). Identified threats to pelicans are over-fishing, pollution, destruction of its wetland habitat, and disturbance or destruction of nesting sites. Many of the remaining habitats for the pelican in India are in areas where local communities protect the birds (especially nesting sites) or in wildlife or bird sanctuaries.

During a just concluded project on the Spot-billed Pelican of the BNHS, funded by the Ministry of Environment and Forests, surveys were carried out of pelican sites in southern India. Of the 61 known pelican sites in southern India (Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka and Kerala),

## RESEARCH AND CONSERVATION...

*continued from page 5...*

10 sites (Pulicat Lake, Nelapattu, Uppalapadu and Telineelapuram in Andhra Pradesh; Kokkare-Bellur and Karanji Tank in Karnataka; and Vedanthangal, Koonthangulam, Kullur Sandai Dam and Great Vedaranyam Swamp in Tamil Nadu) were identified as important conservation sites for the species during the project. Except for Pulicat Lake, Kullur Sandai Dam and the Great Vedaranyam Swamp, which are major foraging grounds for the species, the rest are breeding sites. An important record was the sighting of 1670 pelicans in Kullur Santhai Dam, Virudunagar district, Tamil Nadu, which is about the population estimate of the species in India. Other high counts of adult pelicans during the surveys were 472 birds in Pulicat Lake-Nelapattu, 290 in Uppalapadu, 92 in Telineelapuram, 192 in Kokkare-Bellur and 452 in Koonthangulam. These counts show that the population estimate in the 1980s by Neelakantan (1980) and Nagulu (1983) is either an underestimate or the population has seen a rise over the years due to conservation measures or other unknown factors.

On the other side of the picture is the case of the loss of the Kolleru Pelicanry in Andhra Pradesh, the breeding site of around 400 pelicans till the 1960s. Some of the pelican breeding sites in southern India are very old. For example, the Koonthangulam pelicanry is about 200 years old, and the Kokkare-Bellur Pelicanry is alluded to be the same site

visited by Jerdon in 1877. A vital factor in the existence and survival of many of the pelicanries in southern India has been the traditional support of local communities. And, of concern, is the change in attitude of locals support to pelicanries in some areas due to increasing human related pressures and other reasons. This has resulted in disinterest in protection of the species, loss of nesting trees and over-exploitation of foraging grounds affecting pelicans. A combination of these and other factors was found to be responsible for the abandonment of the Kolleru Pelicanry.

Under the Important Bird Areas (IBA) programme of BirdLife International, with BNHS as the designate partner, a tentative list of 22 sites of the Spot-billed Pelican have been identified for declaration as IBA sites in India, 8 of which are in southern India. Declaration of these sites as IBA sites could help in the conservation of the species in future. Additionally, measures could also be undertaken through the IBCN programme of the BNHS with the cooperation of local conservation organizations for the conservation of the species.

*Written by V. Kannan and Ranjit Manakadan*



**V. Kannan**, (Research Scholar), BNHS doing Research on Spot-billed Pelican at Pulicat Lake - Nelapattu, Andhra Pradesh.

*Photographs: V. Kannan*

## A status and distribution update of Khasi Hill Swift

The Khasi Hill Swift (Dark-rumped Swift) *Apus acuticauda*, a Red Data Book species, (BirdLife International, 2001) was observed in September 2000 in Cherrapunjee (*Mistnet* Vol. 2, No. 1). Subsequently, I thoroughly surveyed Meghalaya and Mizoram (funded by BNHS-IBA) and found it in Meghalaya, Mizoram and Nagaland (recent sighting). It has been recently sighted in Bhutan and Thailand outside India. Between 325 to 350 birds were seen around Cherrapunji (Meghalaya), and 20-25 birds in Mizoram. The breeding population of the species



has been found in the cliffs of Mawiir, Mawiew and Nohka-likai in Cherrapunjee (25° 15' N, 91° 44' E, 1350 m), in the Blue Mountain National Park (22° 40' N, 93° 02' E, 2165 m) and near Twai WLS, about 2 km from Tlungvel village (23° 35.932 N, 92° 51.154' E, 1170 m change in to minutes?), which has largest population of Dark-rumped Swift in Mizoram. And recently (10 April 2003), another breeding colony of 10-12 birds has been discovered at Khonoma Nature Conservation and Trogon Sanctuary, Nagaland (a community initiated conservation area). In all these places, breeding habitats looked similar, i.e. deep gorges separating the undulating plateau with steep cliffs. Crevices on a perpendicular cliff seems to be the primary habitat requirement of this species.

Hunting of the Khasi Hill Swift is apparently nil. However, the loss of evergreen forest around the cliffs due to *jhum* cultivation, and open cast granite stone mining could cause problems to the habitat in a near future. The breeding colony (10-15 birds) near Twai WLS is facing imminent danger due to the construction and widening of the only National Highway to south of Mizoram.

**Firoz Ahmed**

(IBCN State Coordinator of Assam)

*Text and photographs: Firoz Ahmed*

## RESEARCH AND CONSERVATION...

## Mrs. Hume's Pheasant in the Indian IBA

Mrs Hume's Pheasant *Syrmaticus humiae* is a globally threatened bird and has been listed as 'vulnerable' by the BirdLife International. A bird of the hills and mountains, it is threatened by habitat loss and hunting. It is thinly distributed in the hill tracts of northeastern (NE) India, northern and western Myanmar, south-western China and northern Thailand. In 2002, I have done a survey in NE India to find out the current distribution, status and threats. This survey discovered 20 new sites for this species with additional 24 unconfirmed sites, totalling 44, whereas in *Threatened Birds of Asia* only eight sites were mapped, so this would be additional information.

This Pheasant is recorded from Phek and Tuensang districts in Nagaland. There were reports from Mon district. Might still occur in Kohima district (extreme eastern and southern areas) while there is also possibility of occurrence in Zunheboto district. However, it is absent or very rare in Barail Range while in the Saramati area, sparse due to dense primary forest.

In Manipur, still occurs in Ukhrul, Senapati and Churachandpur districts while there were unconfirmed reports from Chandel district. It is very rare in Barail Range and sparsely distributed in the higher hills of Churachandpur, Chandel and Tamenglong districts.

In Mizoram, it occurs mainly in Champhai and Saiha districts with possibility in Lunglei and Serchhip districts. Except for Murlen and Phawngpui, others were new localities for this species. In Arunachal Pradesh, its general distribution indicates that it should occur in Patkai Range and Mishmi Hills (eastern areas). There is only one report from Namdapha National Park.

The habitat where the bird occurs is hilly and mountainous. The vegetation ranged from secondary and degraded jungle with scattered trees and grass, tropical evergreen and subtropical broadleaf forests, also coniferous with good grass cover. Recorded from c. 1000 to 2700 m elevation. The total potential habitat of *humiae* in Nagaland, Manipur and Mizoram is approximately 1600 km<sup>2</sup>, 1700 km<sup>2</sup> and 1300 km<sup>2</sup> respectively.

It is extremely difficult to make any population estimate of a bird such as *humiae*. Even a guess work is impossible with the existing information. Moreover, due to shooting and snaring, it is generally shy all over. The global population has been estimated at "a few thousand individuals", and the subspecies *humiae* may number as few as 1,000 by Phillip McGowan and P. K. Garson published in 1995. Studies in China gave some idea about possible density, at least in areas



Courtesy: BNHS

where they were 'not uncommon'. Li Xiangtao (In 1996 published in 'The gamebirds of China: their distribution and status') had estimated densities that ranged from 10 to 33 individuals per sq km. Even if we consider only 10% or 460 km<sup>2</sup> of the potential habitat in NE India as their 'best' areas, then there may be at least 4000 birds (taking the lowest density of the Chinese studies, i.e., 8.9 per sq km) with some more in other areas.

If we talk about the conservation of this bird and its habitat, then the major threat is habitat loss faced by *S. humiae*. However, destruction of dense forest may not have significant impact on the status of this species although it indicates the magnitude of overall loss of habitat. The destruction of forest is mainly through felling of trees and *jhum* (slash-and-burn shifting cultivation) and clearance for human settlement, encroachment and developmental activities such as construction of roads. The ultimate cause

is, however, the very rapid growth of human population, which doubles in every two decades!

Trapping with crude snares and shooting with guns are major threats to Hume's Pheasant in NE India.

At present only four protected areas are there in the entire range of Hume's Pheasant in Nagaland (Fakim Sanctuary - very rare) and Mizoram (Murlen and Phawngpui National Parks, and Lengteng Sanctuary) covering a very insignificant, 6.5% of the total potential habitat.

I would recommend that the new protected areas (Saramati-Fakim, 500 km<sup>2</sup> and Mt Ziphu, 50 km<sup>2</sup> in Nagaland; Shiroy, 50 km<sup>2</sup> and Anko Range, 400 km<sup>2</sup> in Manipur) and small sanctuaries (< 10 km<sup>2</sup> with support from local communities [e.g., Khonoma Tragopan Sanctuary in Nagaland] should be established near Chizami-Luzaphemi and Reguri-Lepthori in Nagaland, near Kamjong and Jessami in Manipur, and near Ngur, North Diltlang and Artlang in Mizoram); extension of existing protected areas; further survey; population estimate and monitoring; control of poaching; adequate protection measures in existing sanctuaries; check of *jhum* and fire; and awareness and motivation of fringe villagers eco-tourism, better infrastructural facilities, research on ecology and behaviour, and massive population (human) control measures in the fringe areas.



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## CONSERVATION AND ADVOCACY...

### Overview of Important Bird Areas in Kerala

The Important Bird Area (IBA) programme tries to identify, document and protect a network of sites critical for the long-term conservation of wild birds. IBA's are sites of international significance for bird conservation. A set of standard and quantifiable criteria are used for identifying an IBA. The four important criteria to determine an IBA are,

- Sites that support any threatened bird species
- Sites that support any endemic bird species
- Sites where large congregations of birds gather
- Sites that are representative of a distinct biome

Out of the 78 species of threatened birds of the country, 12 are seen in Kerala. The threatened birds of Kerala are, White-rumped Vulture *Gyps bengalensis* (Critically Endangered), Rufous-breasted Laughingthrush *Garrulax cachinnans* (Endangered), Spot-billed Pelican *Pelecanus philippensis* (Vulnerable), Lesser Adjutant *Leptoptilos javanicus* (Vulnerable), Greater Spotted Eagle *Aquila clanga* (Vulnerable), Lesser Kestrel *Falco naumanni* (Vulnerable), Wood Snipe *Gallinago nemoricola* (Vulnerable), Spoon-billed Sandpiper *Eurynorhynchus pygmeus* (Vulnerable), Nilgiri Wood-pigeon *Columba elphinstonii* (Vulnerable), Yellow-throated Bulbul *Pycnonotus xantholaemus*



Pic: Zafar-ul Islam

#### Shola grasslands

(Vulnerable), White-bellied Shortwing *Brachypteryx major* (Vulnerable), Broad-tailed Grassbird *Schoenicola platyura* (Vulnerable). The threatened birds of Kerala belong to the IUCN Red List categories such as Critically Endangered (one), Endangered (one) and Vulnerable (ten) (after Birdlife International, 2001).

Sixteen species of endemic birds are seen in Kerala, which incidentally include all the endemic birds of Western Ghats. The endemic birds of Kerala are, Nilgiri Wood-Pigeon

*Columba elphinstonii*, Blue-winged Parakeet *Psittacula columboides*, Malabar Grey Hornbill *Ocyrceros griseus*, Grey-headed Bulbul *Pycnonotus priocephalus*, White-bellied Treepie *Dendrocitta leucogastra*, White-bellied Shortwing *Brachypteryx major*, Wynaad Laughingthrush *Garrulax delesserti*, Nilgiri Laughingthrush *Garrulax cachinnans*, Grey-breasted Laughingthrush *Garrulax jerdoni*, Rufous Babbler *Turdoides subrufus*, Broad-tailed Grassbird *Schoenicola platyura*, Black-and-Orange Flycatcher *Ficedula nigrorufa*, Nilgiri Flycatcher *Eumyias albicaudata*, White-bellied Blue-Flycatcher *Cyornis pallipes*, Small Sunbird *Nectarinia minima*, Nilgiri Pipit *Anthus nilghiriensis* (after Stattersfield *et al.*, 1998)

Based on the above listed criteria 33 Important Bird Area's have been identified for the state of Kerala. The IBAs of Kerala can be divided into three categories such as protected areas, reserved forests and wetlands. Out of the 33 IBA's of Kerala, 14 are protected areas, another 14 are reserved forests and five are wetlands. A prioritised list of IBA's of Kerala is given in the Table.

Silent Valley National Park asupports for threatened species and 15 endemic species. Silent Valley also is the only place in Kerala from where the *Endangered* Rufous-breasted (Nilgiri) Laughingthrush is reported. The Rufous-bellied subspecies of Shortwing (*Brachypteryx major major*) is also known only from Silent Valley in Kerala.

**Table: Prioritised list of Important Bird areas of Kerala**

Name of the Important Bird Areas	# of RDBs	# of RRS
<b>A. Protected areas</b>		
1. Silent Valley National Park, Palakkad, dt.	4	15
2. Chinnar Wildlife Sanctuary, Idukki, dt.	4	13
3. Wynaad Wildlife Sanctuary, Wynaad, dt.	4	9
4. Parambikulam Wildlife Sanctuary, Palakkad, dt.	3	13
5. Periyar Tiger Reserve, Idukki, dt.	2	12
6. Eravikulam National Park, Idukki, dt.	2	9
7. Aralam Wildlife Sanctuary, Kannur, dt.	1	11
8. Thattekkad Bird Sanctuary, Ernakulam, dt.	1	10
9. Chimmony Wildlife Sanctuary, Thrissur, dt.	1	10
10. Peechi-Vazhani Wildlife Sanctuary, Thrissur, dt.	1	10
11. Idukki Wildlife Sanctuary, Idukki, dt.	1	10
12. Shendurney Wildlife Sanctuary, Kollam, dt.	0	8
13. Neyyar Wildlife Sanctuary, Thiruvananthapuram, dt.	0	9
14. Peppara Wildlife Sanctuary, Thiruvananthapuram, dt.	0	9
<b>B. Reserved forests</b>		
15. New Amarambalam reserve forests, Malappuram, dt.	2	10
16. Kottiyoor reserve forests, Kannur, dt.	1	10
17. Palode reserve forests, Thiruvananthapuram, dt.		6
18. Kulathupuzha reserve forests, Kollam, dt.		6
19. Achankovil reserve forests, Kollam, dt.		6
20. Goodrical reserve forests, Pathanamthitta, dt.		6
21. Ranni & Konni reserve forests, Pathanamthitta, dt.		6
22. Malayattur reserve forests, Ernakulam, dt.		6
23. Pooyamkutty reserve forests, Ernakulam, dt.		6
24. Anamudi reserve forests, Idukki, dt.		6
25. Vazhachal reserve forests, Thrissur, dt.		6
26. Tirunelly reserve forests, Wynaad, dt.		6
27. Nelliampathies reserve forests, Palakkad, dt.		5
28. Siruvani reserve forests, Palakkad, dt.		5
<b>C. Wetlands</b>		
29. Kole wetlands, Thrissur, dt.	3	Congregation
30. Kadalundi, Kozhikode, dt.	3	
31. Kattampally, Kannur, dt.	2	Congregation
32. Vembanad lake, Kottayam, Alapuzha, dt.	1	Congregation
33. Bharatapuzha estuary, Malappuram, dt.	1	



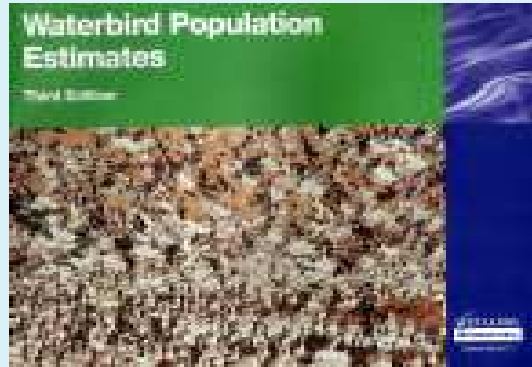
## RESEARCH AND ADVOCACY...

## Waterbird Population Estimates

Wetlands International. 2002. Waterbird Population Estimates - Third Edition. Wetlands International Global Series No. 12, Wageningen, The Netherlands. The report components can be downloaded from <http://www.wetlands.org/pubs&/WPE.htm> in PDF format. You can also order the hardcopy report from the Natural History Book Service.

### Summary

- Identifies 2,271 biogeographical populations of all 868 species recognised as waterbirds occurring throughout the world.
- Provides estimates of the numerical abundance of 1,725 of these populations.
- Estimates population trends (whether declining, stable or increasing) for 1,138 of these populations.
- Sets 1% levels for identification of wetlands of international importance under the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands.
- Provides information fundamental to the conservation of waterbirds under regional inter-governmental initiatives, for example, the African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbird Agreement (AEWA) under the Bonn Convention.
- Provides information for the identification of internationally important sites and conservation of migratory waterbirds under international cooperative initiatives, for example, the Asia-Pacific Migratory Waterbird Conservation Strategy, coordinated by Wetlands International.
- Identifies gaps in knowledge of populations, species and geographical regions
- Full colour throughout; viii + 226 pages, 840 maps, 63 colour photographs, 4 tables, 2 figures



## Global Flyways Conference 3-4 April 2004 in UK

Waterbirds Around the World is jointly hosted by the Governments of the United Kingdom and The Netherlands, with support from the Convention on Migratory Species, The Convention on Wetlands, BirdLife International, US Fish and Wildlife Service, North American Waterbird Conservation Plan, CIC, FACE, Waterbird Society, CAFF, Pacific Seabird Group and many other national and international organisations.

This conference will focus on all major themes and developments related to the global conservation of waterbird

flyways during their full annual cycle: breeding areas, stop-over sites and wintering areas, harvest of waterbirds, site networks, flyway monitoring, flyway management plans, climate change and flyways, nomadic migration and many more. It will address achievements of the last 40 years and formulate gaps and needs for initiatives to stimulate future conservation of the world's flyways and the species and habitats involved.

For more information visit website at:  
<http://www.wetlands.org/GFC/Default.htm>

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Chinnar and Wynaad Wildlife Sanctuaries are two other places that support four threatened species of birds each. The Critically Endangered White-rumped Vulture is reported only from Chinnar and Wynaad Wildlife Sanctuaries in Kerala. Chinnar incidentally is the only place in Kerala from where the Vulnerable Yellow-throated Bulbul is known to occur.

Parambikulam Wildlife Sanctuary has three species of threatened birds, while Periyar Tiger Reserve and Eravikulam National Park have two threatened species each. Idukki, Thattekkad, Peechi-Vazhani, Chimmony and Aralam Wildlife Sanctuaries have one species each of threatened birds. Among the protected areas Neyyar, Peppara and Shendurney Wildlife Sanctuaries have no threatened species, however they all support about eight to nine species of endemic birds.

All the 14 reserved forests listed in Table 3 are potential IBA's. However, all, except Kulathupuzha, Vazhachal, Nelliampathies, New Amarambalam and Kottiyoor are Data Deficient sites as no organised bird surveys / studies were done in these sites. Among these Kulathupuzha and Kottiyoor were studied as part of IBA / IBCN project. Though the rest nine reserved forests remain Data Deficient sites, it is presumed that these sites support the endemic

bird species as listed in the Table.

Only five wetlands of the State support threatened species of birds, three of which also support large bird congregations. Kerala has three Ramsar Sites. Kole wetlands and Vembanad Lake, though two distinct wetlands, are considered as a single entity by the Ramsar bureau. Kole-Vembanad complex is one of the three Ramsar Sites of Kerala.

The Important Bird Areas form a network throughout the species's ranges. This network is essential to make sure that species survive across their ranges, particularly if they suffer from habitat loss. The proposed IBAs of Kerala, it is hoped that will go a long way in conserving the birdlife of this exceptionally bird rich state.



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## ADVOCACY...

### Smoke-less fires in Mukurthi IBA!

Fire was a landmark discovery in the evolutionary history of human civilization. The same fire is being used as a tool by the present day man for zooming out the survival chances of cohabiting life forms from the face of earth. Fire has emerged to become a major challenge in the already scarce protected areas of India. Its direct and indirect effects on the biodiversity values besides hydrology and micro and macroclimate are well documented.

Mukurthi National Park located in the Nilgiri hills is one of the best grassland areas left in the Western Ghats. Because of its diverse avifaunal composition, the Bombay Natural History Society and BirdLife International recently has declared it as Important Bird Area (IBA). Primarily a grassland area, this national park was accorded protection mainly for the conservation of endangered Nilgiri Tahr *Hemitragus hylocricus*. However, The variety of orchids, balsams and grassland dwelling bird species make this, one of the finest grasslands left in the region. However, the rampant fires every dry season pose a big ecological question about the long term fate of the grassland biodiversity. Fires are reportedly lit by people on the south and southwestern sides of Mukurthi NP, from Kerala state's Silent Valley and Neelambur Forest Division, for luring the Sambar *Cervus unicolor* and Nilgiri Tahr to their domain with tender grasses during the growth season for easy poaching. The poachers camp on the Tamil Nadu and Kerala border in makeshift shelters, bag their target and go off unchecked. Years after years, a history of lawlessness!

Among the birds found in the region, Nilgiri Pipit *Anthus nilghiriensis*, a near threatened species thriving mainly in these remnant and pristine grasslands is the worst indirect sufferer because of these fires. For an instance, five major fires broke out in the area south of Bangitabal Valley between February and June 2003, burning approximately 20% of this 78 sq. km Park. Once lit, the fires sweep across the whole landscape regardless of management barriers, "firebreaks"! Natural barriers such as streams work at times in arresting the spread of fire. Of the five fires in 2003, the first three coincided with the breeding season of Nilgiri Pipit. The consequences are not difficult to visualize. Besides their impact on several rare and endemic species of balsams and orchids that grow in the shade of the bunch forming



Fig: G. Maheswaran

grasses should also not be ignored. Reportedly, the grassland area burnt has been increasing over the years, leading to several ecological problems. One such grave but least recognized problem resulting from such fires is that they pave a way for the establishment of alien invasives (weeds), such as Scotch Broom *Cytisus scoparius*. Seeds of this aggressive invasive find a favorite site in the burnt grassland and once seedlings are established, they lead to the successive elimination of native grass cover once and forever. Recent, and much debated, research findings highlight the greater vulnerability of more biodiversity rich tropical ecosystems to invasion threats.

Expectedly these fires should have raised alarm bells from the management circles or conservation organizations, but ironically they go unnoticed. I wonder if they are smokeless! Fires of such magnitude should unarguably be viewed as an ecological disaster and necessary steps should be taken to curb this deep-rooted annual practice. Perhaps we need more site based research on the firebreak design. During the dry season manned look out posts should be placed on the state borders and strict vigil should be increased in fire prone areas. Otherwise, in the wake of the present trend, the ecological uniqueness of this National Park and an Important Bird Area (IBA) may be reduced to mere ashes.

Ashfaq Ahmed Zarri, is a senior researcher fellow at BNHS and is working for his Ph. D. on the ecology of Nilgiri Laughingthrush *Garrulax cachinnans*.

#### Search in 2,700 trip reports

There is a new web site, constructed as an Internet portal which makes it possible to search among more than 2,700 birding trip reports from web sites worldwide. The site is basically a search tool which will look up and list all available trip reports from your desired destination. Furthermore, you can choose to search for reports covering only a specific time of the year.

Try out this new search tool at:  
<http://www.eurobirding.com/>

#### Bird Links the world-Global Links

This website provides an updated checklist of each countries and related information on birds and birding. This website is designed and maintained by Denis Lepage, and hosted by Bird Studies Canada, which is a co-partner of Birdlife International.

[http://www.bsc-eoc.org/links/links.jsp?page=g\\_1](http://www.bsc-eoc.org/links/links.jsp?page=g_1)

## NEW RELEASE ON BIRDS...

### Ferruginous Duck (Pochard): From Research to Conservation

The Ferruginous Duck *Aythya nyroca* is classified as Near Threatened with declining populations over parts of its range. Despite the increased amount of research carried out in the last years, there are still significant gaps in our knowledge on the species's distribution, status, numbers and ecology. BirdLife International and its partner organization in Bulgaria – Bulgarian Society for the Protection of Birds (BSPB), in cooperation with the Threatened Waterfowl Specialist Group, are leading an initiative supported by the Convention of Migratory Species (CMS) and African-Eurasian Migratory (Waterbird) Agreement (AEWA) aimed at updating our knowledge on the species and at elaborating the Global Species Action Plan under the AEWA framework.

The experts and conservationists that met in Sofia in 2002 began this process and in this book we have collated all recent knowledge on the Ferruginous Duck's distribution and ecology. Website for this bird: [www.bspb.org/nyroca](http://www.bspb.org/nyroca)

The Ferruginous Duck breeds in Europe, Asia (east to mainland China and south to India) and north Africa, with the wintering range overlapping with the breeding range. An estimate for North Africa and Asia of 10,000 individuals in 1991 appears too low. The key threat is the loss of its wetland habitat, of well vegetated shallow pools, including extensively managed fishpond, although hunting is also serious threat (BirdLife International, 2001; Islam, M. Z. and Rahmani, A. R. 2002. *Threatened Birds of India*. Buceros Vol. 7. No. 1 & 2).

In India, it is an uncommon winter visitor but widely distributed. We request to all the IBCN members to kindly count this bird and send us the information along with the site information. Thank you. Project Manager IBA/IBCN.



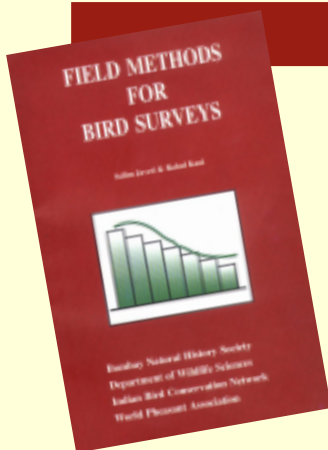
### Field Methods for Bird Surveys

By Sálím Javed and Rahul Kaul, published by the Bombay Natural History Society. Pp 64, size 14.5 x 22.5 cm, paperback. Price Rs. 150/-, postage and packing on inquiry.

This book introduces the reader to the necessity for a scientific approach to census methods for bird habitats and populations. Giving examples from their own experience in the field, the authors explain in detail the merits and demerits of the known techniques, statistical methods and software available.

This will enable you to derive the maximum benefit from your logistic and intellectual inputs in field surveys. The book is jointly published by the BNHS, Indian Bird Conservation Network, Department of Wildlife Sciences, Aligarh Muslim University and World Pheasant Association.

Available only with BNHS/IBCN



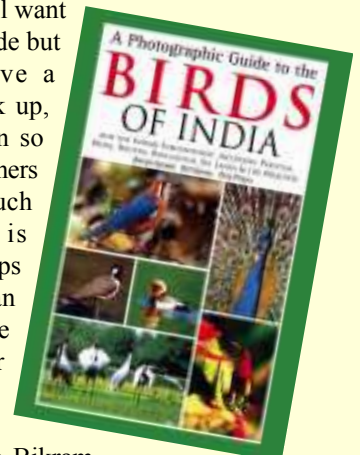
### A Photographic Guide to the Birds of India

by Bikram Grewal, Bill Harvey and Otto Pfister

This Guide, which also covers Pakistan, Nepal, Bhutan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and the Maldives, is the third in the series of innovative photographic guides produced by Singapore publishers, Periplus. It is by far the largest with 512 pages and over 1000 photographs illustrating 806 species and distinct sub species. Many have more than one photograph to include flight shots and different plumages. Over 100 other species are mentioned in the texts. In addition it has an extensive introduction covering such issues as regional ornithology, habitats and threats and tips on bird watching. There is also an extensive bibliography and a fully up-to-date checklist.

The unique format allows for a great deal of original information on each species to be recorded covering description, voice, habits (including habitat) and distribution. The indicative maps and the colour coding help birders assess the likelihood of a sighting at a glance.

Most serious birders will want to own an illustrated field guide but it is always useful to have a photographic guide as a back up, particularly one that packs in so much information. Many beginners find photographic guides much easier to use. The Guide is available in all good bookshops for Rs 995. Indian birders can purchase it at the special price of Rs 695 (plus Rs 30 for postage) while stocks last. Cheques should be made out to Nikhil Devasar and sent to Bikram Grewal at C 533 Triveni Apartments, IInd Floor, Sheikh Sarai 1, New Delhi 110017



## ADVOCACY...

## Awareness campaign for Sheikha Jheel (IBA) in Aligarh

Under its approach to conserve birds and their habitats the IBA program has identified a network of several sites critical for the protection of wild avifauna. One such site, which has the status of an IBA, is the 150-year-old Sheikha Jheel situated off the Grand Trunk road 17 km from Aligarh District in Uttar Pradesh. It came into existence in 1875 when during the construction of the Upper Ganga Canal a depression was created along its two sides and filled with seepage from the canal water. Its water supply being augmented by the North-West monsoons, this perennial wetland acts as refuge to thousands of migratory waterfowl and is home to many other resident species.

The wetland attracts the attention of conservationists due to its strategic location, near Bharatpur, and being along the roadside makes it a soft target for poachers. Keeping this in mind an advocacy-based project was designed to enhance conservation awareness and local participation for the Jheel under the IBA program. The implementing agency was the Department of Wildlife Sciences (DWS) of the Aligarh Muslim University, which has been constantly monitoring the biodiversity of the Jheel for the past fifteen years.

The main target group chosen for the campaign was students of VIII standard selected from various schools of the city and the villages near the lake. We contacted the school authorities a month in advance and familiarized them with the aims and activities of the project through discussions and provision of a reference file that contained all the relevant information. Four schools from the town assorted a contingent of a hundred students who were taken for an excursion to the Sheikha Jheel on 25th and 26th Feb respectively in batches of fifty. Their teachers and a team of volunteers from the DWS accompanied them. On each day 25 students from the local village schools were also involved in the campaign along with their teachers. The children were given a brief orientation on migration and importance of birds by Prof. H S A Yahya, Chairman DWS and then taken on a birding trek on the trails in and around the Jheel where volunteers helped them



Project team telling about the bird conservation to school children

identify birds and understand their importance. The children seemed particularly amused by the bright hues of the ducks, the majestic Sarus Cranes and the minutely different species of egrets. At the end a feedback was taken from them through informal discussions and filling a questionnaire. A slogan competition was also organized amongst the village children where they expressed their pride and concern for the Jheel. All village students were given a copy of the Hindi translation of the book '*Common Birds*' by Salim Ali and Laiq Futehally as a participatory gift.



Picture: Asad R. Rahmani

Birds congregates more than 20,000 at Sheikha Jheel

The campaign culminated in the Valedictory Function organized on 24th March. All the participants and two hundred other local guests were invited to attend the function. These were delegates from the District Administration, Forest Department, Environmental NGOs, faculty members from the AMU who have an environmental interest, local press and the villagers of Sheikha. After the inaugural speech by Prof. Yahya the keynote address was delivered by Mr. Bill Harvey, eminent bird watcher. The secretarial report was presented by the project coordinator and prizes were distributed by Mr. Vivek Bansal the city MLA. All the school children were given a copy of *Common Birds* as gift so that they can continue their interest aroused in bird conservation.

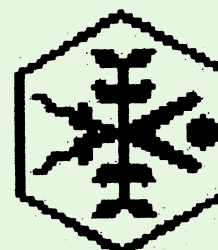
A feed back from the visitors was taken by making them comment in a visitor's book. A public outreach desk was also installed where volunteers briefed the visitors about the nature of IBA and were invited to become members. They were all given brochures of IBA, some publicity material and a short report of the activities of the Project. More such programs in future will help better achieve the aims of IBA.

**Faiza Abbasi**, Senior Research Scholar, at Department of Wildlife Sciences, Aligarh Muslim University, want to acknowledge to IBA-IBCN officials for funding this project and Prof. H S A Yahya, Ms. Sangeeta Singh and Mr. Najam-ul Islam the co-coordinators of the Project and the staff of the DWS.

## PARTNER FACT FILE...

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#### Aims and Objectives

Envirosearch was started in May 2000 with the purpose of carrying out research in developmental and conservation issues. Envirosearch is constituted as a partnership organization between Mr. Jayant Kulkarni and Dr. Prachi Mehta.

Envirosearch is based at Pune, Maharashtra. The logo as well as the motto of the company indicates our basic work philosophy that is equal importance to wildlife, forests and people.

All aspects of living forms including human beings are interrelated and interdependent, and therefore environmental conservation cannot be carried out in isolation. At Envirosearch we understand and acknowledge this fully. By adopting this holistic approach, we study with an in-depth analysis and insight of the particular issue or problem, obtained by exhaustive investigation of the various factors that are at play.

Envirosearch is primarily interested in carrying out field oriented wildlife research and taking the results of the study at implementing stages. Apart from wildlife research, Envirosearch is keenly interested in carrying out relevant work in the field of afforestation, environment education and awareness.

#### Some of the major projects of Envirosearch

**Study of Impact of Non Timber Forest Produce (NTFP) extraction:** This study was carried out in 3 WLS in UP and UA. The study involved quantification of NTFP removal and its impact on the vegetation and economy of the area. Based on the results, recommendation were given on the future management of NTFP extraction and policy concerning NTFP extraction.

**Study of Tourism Impact:** This study was also carried out 3 popular tourist areas in WLS of UP and UA. The status and impact of tourism was studied in each WLS. The study also assessed the potential of ecotourism in each site and gave site-specific recommendation for management of tourists.

**Study of Elephant- Man Conflict in Kodagu District, Karnataka:** This is an ongoing project where the causes of invasion of elephants in agriculture fields in Kodagu district is being studied.

**Study of Man-Leopard conflict in Junnar District, Maharashtra :** This is an on-going project in area where regular leopard attacks have been taking place in the last 3 years. Currently the study is being carried out in Bhimashankar Sanctuary.

**Estimating Prey density and Tiger abundance in Melghat Tiger Reserve, Maharashtra:** This is an on-going project in association with CWS, Bangalore. Tiger density is calculated using a camera trap method. Estimation of prey density is carried out using the line transect technique.

**Afforestation Projects:** Envirosearch has carried out a number of evaluation projects for the National Afforestation and Ecodevelopment Board. In our studies we have evaluated various aspects of the afforestation projects including technical aspects such as plantation techniques, choice of species, site suitability and nursery techniques, and community participation through Joint Forest Management (JFM).

**Evaluation of JFM:** This component was carried out by examining the entry point programmes and eco-development activities in each village and holding group discussions with the villagers. These evaluation studies were carried out in Madhya Pradesh, Manipur, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu.

**Social Impact Evaluation Studies:** Envirosearch also has experience of working on evaluation of developmental projects for the Ministry of Rural Development including rural developmental projects as well as watershed development projects for the state of Maharashtra. A study was carried out on evaluation of Rural Development Scheme in Chandrapur District. Another study was carried out to evaluate watershed Development programme in Six districts of Maharashtra.

ENVIROSEARCH has a well-qualified and experienced team of advisors who are experts in various fields. This proves to be very useful in providing insights in varied areas of research.

## YOUNG CONSERVATIONISTS...

### Flamingo Watch at IBA in Mumbai



Pic: Zafar-ul Islam

**O**n 17 May 2003, Flamingo Watch was organized by the Bombay Natural History Society and Bombay Port Trust (BPT) with the sponsorship of the Indian Bird Conservation Network (IBCN) at Sewree-Mahul mud flats (IBA site) near Mumbai. The Flamingo Watch attracted tremendous public support. More than a thousand people gathered. The BNHS scientists estimate that about 15,000 flamingos of two species gather in these mudflats.

The Sewree-Mahul is an unprotected site though some areas declared as a prohibited area under BPT and Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC) notification. The site is located along the Arabian Sea between Trombay and Sewri, is about 10 km long and 3km wide and is open mud flat of dominated by mangroves all along the coast.

The area is not open to the for general public but Bombay Port Trust permitted BNHS to organize Flamingo Watch there. The area is a winter refuge for more than 20,000 migratory birds, including sandpipers, plovers, gulls, terns and flamingos. Out of five species of flamingos in the world, this IBA site has two species i.e., Greater Flamingo

(*Phoenicopterus ruber*) and Lesser Flamingo (*P. minor*). Besides flamingos, numerous waders in breeding plumage enthralled the birdwatchers.

The IBCN and the BNHS printed a colour leaflet giving basic information on the two species of flamingos. Information on IBCN and BNHS was also given to the participants. The Flamingo Watch was extensively covered by the media.

Most participants showed great interest to participate in such birdwatching events in other IBAs. The IBCN/BNHS is planning to organize similar bird festivals in other parts of the country to make people aware about birds and their habitat conservation.

There are more than 450 Important Bird Areas (IBAs) in India and around 100 of these sites have been identified on the basis of large congregation of birds. One of the sites is Sewree-Mahul for congregation of Flamingos and other waders. The IBCN has already started advocacy programme to conserve all the IBAs through community participation, awareness and publicity programmes. The IBCN members are enthusiastic about these programmes, as they generate interest towards bird conservation.



Pic: Mohit Kadra

### Local stake-holders conserve Gangapur grassland

**G**angapur grassland surrounding Gangapur Dam has always been a good breeding ground for many grassland bird species, i.e., courser, larks, partridges, quails and lapwings. Nature Conservation Society (IBCN partner) has been conducting education programmes and slide shows all along the water front in order to protect the grassland from being destroyed and educate for the past six years the local people to protect the grassland birds.



Last year a big chunk of grassland measuring 20 acres was converted into agricultural land, Bull Dozers and earth moving machines turned the soil upside down and a regular nesting site used by the grassland birds i.e., Indian Courser, Yellow-wattled Lapwings, partridges and quails was destroyed. Na-

ture Conservation Society of Nashik seeing this was perturbed as grasslands are rapidly diminishing due to such activities and little could be done about private land. However, as this was substantial piece of grassland (2 sq. km.) Further south was the best hope for these grassland birds.

Finally eight pairs of Yellow-wattled Lapwings arrived in the 2<sup>nd</sup> week of March to breed. They also saw that their regular breeding grounds were up-rooted and decided to move to the 2 sq. km. grassland plot further south. Immediately the villagers living around this plot and shepherds who come here to graze their sheep and cattle were taken into confidence and maximum protection was given to the lapwings. The villagers assured us they would minimize any disturbance and children in the area were told not to play in this area for the long-term conservation of the IBA site.

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(Text and photograph: B. Raha)

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## IBCN ORGANISATIONAL PARTNERSHIP...



70 organisations are partners of IBCN but all do not have logos

**The IBA programme** will produce inventories of internationally recognised sites vital for the conservation of birds. These sites will be identified using a set of four standard global criteria: (a) presence of globally threatened species (b) restricted range or endemic birds, (c) biome restricted assemblages and (d) sites having large congregations of birds. These criteria are designed by BirdLife International to select representative areas of the most important bird habitats, particularly those which are under the most severe pressure. Given that birds are good indicators of overall biological diversity, most IBAs will be important for other species as well.

**What is the IBCN:** It is a Network of Indian organisations and individuals who have agreed to collaborate to promote the conservation of birds in India and through them, the conservation of biological diversity as a whole. IBCN is one of the leading membership networks of India, with more than 700 individuals and 70 organizations as members. It publishes a quarterly newsletter 'Mistnet' for its members.

**IBCN Membership:** Join and become important links in the IBCN. Annual membership fee is Rs. 100/- payable through Demand Draft in favour of 'Bombay Natural History Society', in case of outstation cheques add Rs. 25/-.

Kindly contact for membership form

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