



# P I T T A

## Bulletin of the Birdwatcher's Society of Andhra Pradesh HYDERABAD

No.2

FEB 1988

### EDITORIAL

Some of our members participated in this years' Asian Waterfowl Census and the Society sent a consolidated report alongwith their individual report cards to the national coordinator, Dr S A Hussain of the Bombay Natural History Society. The importance of this exercise according to the compiler of the report ASIAN WATERFOWL 1987, Joost van der Ven, "is to get a certain impression about the size of the population of several species. Especially those species that winter in large concentrations. Species like Moorhen and Redwattled Lapwing are included to get a certain impression about the numbers observed. . . On the other hand, these counts also give an impression about the wetlands and their importance for birds in the different countries. Regular counts can really support this knowledge." Coming to the section of reports from India he states, "the distribution of waterfowl in a particular season generally reflects the vagries of the monsoon in India. It is uncommon that monsoon rains are evenly distributed all over the country. Usually rains fall in certain regions leading to dry lakes and river-beds while other regions experience soil erosion and damage to property due to floods. Birds adjust to these conditions and shift to areas where they are congenial."

### PROGRAMME FOR FEBRUARY 1988

1) INDOOR MEETING :- 15th : Film Show.

Venue:- The CCF's office opposite the Reserve Bank of India, Saifabad, Hyderabad, at 6.00 p.m.

2) FIELD TRIPS :- We meet in front of Kamat Hotel in Koti, at 7.00 a.m. Transport will be arranged by the Society and the AP Forest Department.

i) 7th : MANJIRA BARRAGE, Medak District.

This will be a full day trip and members are requested to carry lunch boxes with them. An added benefit of this trip is the journey further on to Singur Project where last year members were enthralled by 6000 Demoiselle Cranes! Manjira itself harbours a good variety of ducks including the beautiful Wigeon. At another point on this trip one may see different types of waders and marsh birds including Blacktailed Godwit and Glossy Ibis!

ii) 28th : NARSAPUR RESERVE FOREST, Medak District.

Another day long trip. Please bring lunch. 35 kms from the city is this patch of truly beautiful deciduous jungle. Lush greenery, a small brook with many a quiet pool, fresh clean lungfulls of air and abundant birding. The atmosphere reverberates with the mimicry of Chloropsises. At least 5 species of cuckoos have been seen here in a day! The Whitethroated Ground Thrush and the Blackbacked Woodpecker are

bonus attractions.

## NEWS

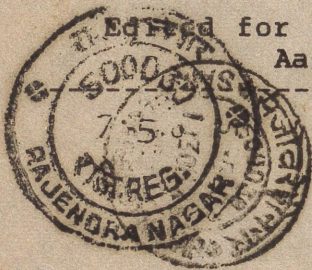
\* Asian Waterfowl Census:- Given below is a list of members who participated in the Asian Waterfowl Census between 10th January and 1st February this year and, the areas they covered.

- 1) Siraj Taher, Humayun Taher, Suhail Quader and Vijay Kumar - Manjira Barrage in Medak District.
- 2) Aasheesh Pittie - ICRISAT complex in Medak District.
- 3) Rajeev Mathew - Pocharam Lake in Medak District.
- 4) Siraj Taher - Himayat Sagar, Osman Sagar and Gangaram Lake, which latter is in Ranga Reddy District.
- 5) K N Sudhir Rao - Ibrahimpatan and Ghatkesar.
- 6) Kaushal Gangakhedkar - Hussain Sagar and Pedda and Chinna Balanagar Ceruvu.
- 7) M S Kulkarni and H R Vidyashankar - Shamirpet and Fox Sagar.
- 8) Siraj Taher, Humayun Taher, Maj. A A Aziz and E Narsimlu - Nellapattu and Pulicat Bird Sanctuaries and Sriharikota Island in Nellore District.
- 9) E Narsimlu - Vederepettu and Varagali lakes also in Nellore District.

\* On 18-1-88 Binod Choudhury gave a talk on the mangrove forests of Guntur District which he visited in Decmber 1987. Supplemented with maps of creeks and slides of the habitat, BC emphasised that this 100 sq. km. mangrove in the Krishna estuary is of prime quality and much importance on the east coast of India. Residents told him what good natural barriers mangroves make against cyclonic storms! Pelican nesting and large concentrations of Reef Herons, Curlews, Blackwinged Stilts and various other waders in this area was of interest to members. He also reported sea turtle nesting on the sea shore side of the False Divi-Point towards Nizampatnam. Slides of shore-crabs, reef herons and a Blackcapped Kingfisher in flight on a backdrop of mangrove vegetation made everyone envious of BC visiting such exotic places. But many changed their mind after seeing slides of him walking in waist deep mud!

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Edited for the Birdwatcher's Society of Andhra Pradesh by  
Aasheesh Pittie and P Balkoteswar Rao.



**PITTA**

Bulletin of the Birdwatcher's Society of Andhra Pradesh

**BOOK-POST**

Printed Matter

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# P I T T A

## Bulletin of the Birdwatcher's Society of Andhra Pradesh HYDERABAD

No.3 & 4

MAR & APR 1988

### EDITORIAL

Bharat Bhushan, that young scientist of the Bombay Natural History Society, who has done so much in the recent past for the ornithology of Andhra Pradesh, was in the city recently. In an informal and impromptu meeting with some Society members he mooted the idea of a CONSERVATION ACTION GROUP OF ANDHRA PRADESH. This would be a body of individuals who are deeply interested in the health of the environment and its continued well-being. At the outset, members of the group would be required to gather data of environmental or conservational significance, and forward it to a data bank being maintained at the Bombay Natural History Society. Data will be varied to the extreme and members have to keep themselves sharp. Proposals for irrigation/thermal projects, extent of reserve forest areas and their actual status today, birdwatching lists, animals seen in districts, parks, etc., notifications/tenders for beedi-leaf collections, grassland cutting, proposals for the creation of new parks, sanctuaries, etc., information on forest plantation and allied forestry programmes -- all of which can be collected easily through local media, on field trips and through discussions with governmental officials. Once this data base gets under way, services of the Action Group will begin to broaden. Conservation project proposals within the Groups' area will be sent to it for comments and criticisms. Members can create a forum for or against government projects and give suitable suggestions towards better implementation of a project or its side effects - like the translocation of tribals. The possibilities are unlimited. For participation, please write to Aasheesh Pittie, 14-7-370 Begum Bazar, HYDERABAD - 500 012 or directly to Bharat Bhushan, C/o Bombay Natural History Society, Hornbill House, Shahid Bhagat Singh Road, BOMBAY - 400 023. There will be no membership fee. There might be a better, healthier, more aware Andhra Pradesh.

### PROGRAMME FOR MARCH & APRIL 1988

1) INDOOR MEETINGS :- Venue: The CCF's office opposite the Reserve Bank of India, Saifabad, Hyderabad, at 6.00 p.m.

i) 21/3 : Film Show.

ii) 11/4 : Siraj Taher gives an audio-visual presentation on his recent visit to Pulicat and Nellapattu Bird Sanctuaries.

iii) 25/4 : Talk by Suhail Quader on his short stay at Narsapur.

2) FIELD TRIPS :- We meet in front of Kamat Hotel in Koti, at 7.00 a.m. Transport will be arranged by the Society and the AP Forest Department. As in every earlier year, field trips will be restricted to one a month from April upto September.

i) 13/3 : Destination - surprise!

ii) 27/3 : MAHAVIR HARIN VANASTHALI.

The place for bounding Blackbuck! Typical scrub and dry

deciduous vegetation of the deccan. On an early morning walk through this deer park one might be lucky in spotting a sounder of Wild Boar with 7-8 striped young frisking along behind in single file. Twice members have observed the Short-toed Eagle nesting here on the topmost branch of a Butea tree. Nests of the Black Drongo and Little Minivet have also been seen. Vanasthali has a municipal dump behind it where hundreds of Whitebacked, Longbilled and Egyptian Vultures can be observed either sunning themselves or soaring overhead. This will be a half day trip.

iii) 17/4 : NEHRU ZOOLOGICAL PARK.

On this half day trip, members will be taken for a walk through the Lion Safari Park, before the lions are released for the day! This one place is worth the whole trip as the less disturbed area harbours many an avian delight. On the whole, the mix of habitats makes the zoo one of the best and most exciting areas around Hyderabad for birding. You just might get a peek into the Nocturnal House too!

### NEWS

\* COMPARATIVE STATEMENT OF ASIAN WATERFOWL COUNTS BY MEMBERS OF  
BSAP IN ANDHRA PRADESH FOR 1987 & 1988

GROUP	1987 (10 sites)	1988 (19 sites)
Grebes	507	108
Cormorants	269	2107
Egrets, Herons	752	3130
Storks	440	464
Ibises, Spoonbills	163	212
Flamingos	7	2238
Geese	671	31
Ducks	14502	13922
Cranes	511	5705
Rails, Coots, etc.	442	1727
Waders	1931	1961
Gulls, Terns	44	425
Totals	20239	32030

Comment:- 10,000+ ducks and 16,000 - 18,000 waders were observed in Nellore District this year. The huge concentration and observer-bird distance prevented correct identification of individual species. A more detailed article will be printed in the Society's journal MAYURA, subsequently.

\* Dr Asad Rahmani, the Great Indian Bustard man of Bombay Natural History Society, was in the city on 22nd February and an impromptu meeting of the Society was called. About thirty members attended his very well made audio-visual presentation on the GIB in India, steps being taken to ascertain its survival in the wild and the problems being faced by scientists and governmental organisations in achieving these objectives. The 1500 - 2000 birds which survive in India today have to contend with rapid loss of habitat. Grassy plains which the bustard inhabits, are brought under cultivation at an incredibly fast rate by the exploding human population. Ironically, the bird is protected - but not its home! To counter this, state governments have created 8 sanctuaries in the country. Regarding future management priorities, Dr. Rahmani said that grassland plots of not less than 100 hectares should be developed in the distributional range of the bustard to allow undisturbed breeding grounds. Also an all-India project on the pattern of Project

Tiger should be evolved for the Great Indian Bustard.

\* The Newsletter for Birdwatchers is a primary publication for birdwatchers. Edited by one of India's foremost conservationists, Zafar Futehally, it is now in its 28th year of publication. For a donation of Rs. 20/-, interested persons may subscribe to this bi-monthly. Write to Mr Zafar Futehally, Editor, Newsletter for Birdwatchers, 17/1 Victoria Road, BANGALORE - 560 047.

### CHECKLIST

\* The following is a checklist of birds seen in the Mahavir Harin Vanasthali, compiled from the Society's records.

S.No.	English Name	Scientific Name
1	Pond Heron	<i>Ardeola grayii</i>
2	Cattle Egret	<i>Bubulcus ibis</i>
3	Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>
4	Blackwinged Kite	<i>Elanus caeruleus</i>
5	Pariah Kite	<i>Milvus migrans</i>
6	Shikra	<i>Accipiter badius</i>
7	Longlegged Buzzard	<i>Buteo rufinus</i>
8	White-eyed Buzzard-Eagle	<i>Butastur teesa</i>
9	Tawny Eagle	<i>Aquila rapax</i>
10	Greater Spotted Eagle	<i>Aquila clanga</i>
11	Longbilled Vulture	<i>Gyps indicus</i>
12	Indian Whitebacked Vulture	<i>Gyps bengalensis</i>
13	Scavenger Vulture	<i>Neophron percnopterus</i>
14	Pale Harrier	<i>Circus macrourus</i>
15	Montagu's Harrier	<i>Circus pygargus</i>
16	Marsh Harrier	<i>Circus aeruginosus</i>
17	Short-toed Eagle	<i>Circaetus gallicus</i>
18	Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>
19	Painted Partridge	<i>Francolinus pictus</i>
20	Grey Partridge	<i>Francolinus pondicerianus</i>
21	Rain Quail	<i>Coturnix coromandelica</i>
22	Redwattled Lapwing	<i>Vanellus indicus</i>
23	Yellow-wattled Lapwing	<i>Vanellus malabaricus</i>
24	Stone Curlew	<i>Burhinus oedicnemus</i>
25	Blue Rock Pigeon	<i>Columba livia</i>
26	Ring Dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>
27	Red Turtle Dove	<i>S. tranquebarica</i>
28	Spotted Dove	<i>Streptopelia chinensis</i>
29	Little Brown Dove	<i>Streptopelia senegalensis</i>
30	Roseringed Parakeet	<i>Psittacula krameri</i>
31	Pied Crested Cuckoo	<i>Clamator jacobinus</i>
32	Indian Hawk Cuckoo	<i>Cuculus varius</i>
33	Plaintive Cuckoo	<i>Cacomantis passerinus</i>
34	Koel	<i>Eudynamys scolopacea</i>
35	Small Greenbilled Malkoha	<i>Rhopodytes viridirostris</i>
36	Sirkeer Cuckoo	<i>Taccocua leschenaultii</i>
37	Crow-Pheasant	<i>Centropus sinensis</i>
38	Palm Swift	<i>Cypsiurus parvus</i>
39	Whitebreasted Kingfisher	<i>Halcyon smyrnensis</i>
40	Bluetailed Bee Eater	<i>Merops philippinus</i>
41	Small Green Bee Eater	<i>Merops orientalis</i>
42	Indian Roller	<i>Coracias benghalensis</i>
43	Hoopoe	<i>Upupa epops</i>
44	Blackbacked Woodpecker	<i>Chrysocolaptes festivus</i>
45	Singing Bush Lark	<i>Mirafra javanica</i>
46	Redwinged Bush Lark	<i>Mirafra erythroptera</i>
47	Ashycrowned Finch-Lark	<i>Eremopterix grisea</i>
48	Short-toed Lark	<i>Calandrella cinerea</i>
49	Indian Small Skylark	<i>Alauda gulgula</i>
50	Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>

51	Wiretailed Swallow	<i>Hirundo smithii</i>
52	Redrumped Swallow	<i>Hirundo daurica</i>
53	Grey Shrike	<i>Lanius excubitor</i>
54	Baybacked Shrike	<i>Lanius vittatus</i>
55	Rufousbacked Shrike	<i>Lanius schach</i>
56	Brown Shrike	<i>Lanius cristatus</i>
57	Golden Oriole	<i>Oriolus oriolus</i>
58	Black Drongo	<i>Dicrurus adsimilis</i>
59	Whitebellied Drongo	<i>Dicrurus caerulescens</i>
60	Ashy Swallow-Shrike	<i>Artamus fuscus</i>
61	Greyheaded Myna	<i>Sturnus malabaricus</i>
62	Blackheaded Myna	<i>Sturnus pagodarum</i>
63	Rosy Pastor	<i>Sturnus roseus</i>
64	Common Myna	<i>Acridotheres tristis</i>
65	Indian Tree Pie	<i>Dendrocitta vagabunda</i>
66	House Crow	<i>Corvus splendens</i>
67	Jungle Crow	<i>Corvus macrorhynchos</i>
68	Common Wood Shrike	<i>Tephrodornis pondicerianus</i>
69	Large Cuckoo-Shrike	<i>Coracina novaehollandiae</i>
70	Little Minivet	<i>Pericrocotus cinnamomeus</i>
71	Iora	<i>Aegithina tiphia</i>
72	Redvented Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus cafer</i>
73	Whitebrowed Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus luteolus</i>
74	Rufousbellied Babbler	<i>Dumetia hyperythra</i>
75	Yellow-eyed Babbler	<i>Chrysomma sinense</i>
76	Common Babbler	<i>Turdoides caudatus</i>
77	Large Grey Babbler	<i>Turdoides malcolmi</i>
78	Jungle Babbler	<i>Turdoides striatus</i>
79	Brown Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa latirostris</i>
80	Streaked Fantail Warbler	<i>Cisticola juncidis</i>
81	Franklin's Wren-Warbler	<i>Prinia hodgsonii</i>
82	Indian Wren-Warbler	<i>Prinia subflava</i>
83	Ashy Wren-Warbler	<i>Prinia socialis</i>
84	Tailor Bird	<i>Orthotomus sutorius</i>
85	Blyth's Reed Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus dumetorum</i>
86	Booted Warbler	<i>Hippolais caligata</i>
87	Orphean Warbler	<i>Sylvia hortensis</i>
88	Lesser Whitethroat	<i>Sylvia curruca</i>
89	Magpie-Robin	<i>Copsychus saularis</i>
90	Black Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus ochruros</i>
91	Pied Bushchat	<i>Saxicola caprata</i>
92	Indian Robin	<i>Saxicoloides fulicata</i>
93	Tree Pipit	<i>Anthus trivialis</i>
94	Tickell's Flowerpecker	<i>Dicaeum erythrorhynchos</i>
95	Purplerumped Sunbird	<i>Nectarinia zeylonica</i>
96	Purple Sunbird	<i>Nectarinia asiatica</i>
97	Baya	<i>Ploceus philippinus</i>
98	Whitethroated Munia	<i>Lonchura malabarica</i>
99	Spotted Munia	<i>Lonchura punctulata</i>

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# P I T T A

## Bulletin of the Birdwatcher's Society of Andhra Pradesh HYDERABAD

No.5

MAY 1988

### EDITORIAL

Is it not frustrating in the field, many a time when you want to look up some identification pointers on that pipit, perched on a mound of upturned earth and, you are not able to find the 'pipits-page' in your field guide in a jiffy? Why just a pipit, this is the case with quite a few species - and almost all field guides! In a recent issue of BIRDWATCHER'S DIGEST a reader has suggested a way out. He has thumb-indexed his field guides. With the guide closed, he has marked solid horizontal bars across the book's page edges, beginning from the left edge on the front of the field guide as you open it - to the page where the bird species is illustrated inside. Next he has written the name of the bird group above this bar! If you carefully divide the length of the guide into so many indices, you will be able to get in most of the groups easily. The result is quite satisfactory and effective. For ducks, just put your thumb to the end of the bar marked 'Ducks' and open the book. There you are!

### PROGRAMME FOR MAY 1988

1) INDOOR MEETINGS :- Venue: The CCF's office opposite the Reserve Bank of India, Saifabad, Hyderabad, at 6.00 p.m.

i) 9th : M S Kulkarni will relate his experiences on his trip in March, to Periyar National Park and Mudumalai Sanctuary.

ii) 23rd : P Balu speaks on his recent tour of some north Indian states, on which he and a friend visited many sanctuaries and covered more than 4000 kilometers on a motorcycle!

2) FIELD TRIP :- We meet in front of Kamat Hotel in Koti, at 7.00 a.m. Transport will be arranged by the Society and the AP Forest Department.

i) 29th : CHILKUR DEER PARK.

This field trip has been shifted to the end of the month purposely. The chairman suggested that at this time, members might see the monsoon bird (Pied Crested Cuckoo)! Chilkur is situated between the two reservoirs near Hyderabad - Osman Sagar and Himayat Sagar. This has some advantages for the birder in Chilkur. Besides being able to hit 3 birding areas with one trip (!), from within the deer park itself, an alert birdwatcher might see various water birds flying overhead! Though turning one's head skyward is necessary for this bird, grousing around is not, for this! The habitat is scrub jungle. It will be a half day trip.

### NEWS

\* In 1984, a cyclonic storm off the east coast of Andhra Pradesh had devastated the Nellapattu Bird Sanctuary. Siraj Taher said in his talk in April that he had witnessed that catastrophe but

was extremely glad and proud of the wonderful work that the state forest department had done to restore normalcy of habitat in this sanctuary. In Pulicat Bird Sanctuary he stated, the water had receded considerably this year. Even though species diversity in these two sanctuaries cannot be compared with Bharatpur, the sheer numbers of birds is beyond comprehension. Censusing is a nightmare! Among the clouds of waders he could identify only those feeding on the margins of the congregations. His most exciting sightings were of the rafts of Gullbilled and Caspian Terns. This talk was illustrated by slides taken by B C Choudhury on an earlier trip.

\* In his talk on 25th April, Suhel Quader spoke of his visit to Narsapur Reserve Forest and the observations he made there. Most of his observations were around flowering Flame of the Forest and Red and Yellow Silk Cotton trees. On one Red Silk Cotton tree he observed 49 species of birds within the short span of 2 1/2 hours! Notable among which were the Crested Hawk-Eagle, Small Greenbilled Malkoha, both the Large Grey and Blackheaded Cuckoo-Shrikes, a displaying Roller and Yellowthroated Sparrows. Near a small stream he saw a Grey Hornbill and Whitespotted Fantail Flycatchers. He also saw a small species of deer which he could not exactly identify.

\* In a recent news item, the Minister for Forests, Mr G Muddukrishnama Naidu stated that the A P government proposed to develop the Nagarjuna Sagar-Srisailem Sanctuary and the Venkateswara Sanctuary into national parks. He also said that the two reserve forest areas where the endangered Great Indian Bustard and Jerdon's Courser are found, Rollapadu and Lanka Malleswaram respectively - would be developed into Sanctuaries! (NEWSTIME 20-4-1988).

\* Reducing bird numbers on airport runways:- A new approach to controlling avian traffic - long a major hazard at airports - is being tested by Japan's All-Nippon Airways. In a year-long experiment, the airline tried painting huge eyes on the turbines of 26 of its Boeing 747s and 767s. The result has been a dramatic decline in bird-aircraft collisions, with an average of only one strike per plane occurring with the test aircraft. (In contrast there was an average of nine strikes per aircraft on unpainted 747s and 22 strikes per aircraft on unpainted 767s.) Apparently the painted eyes deceive the birds into believing that the air-plane is a huge predator, causing them to disperse in fright. All-Nippon Airways now plans to have eyes painted on all its aircraft. (From INTERNATIONAL WILDLIFE, The National Wildlife Federation.)

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# P I T T A

## Bulletin of the Birdwatcher's Society of Andhra Pradesh HYDERABAD

No.6

JUNE 1988

### EDITORIAL

The following is an instructive extract from Stuart Smith's (1945) 'How To Study Birds'. "An interesting exercise for the student is to construct charts showing the times of the year during which the different species of birds may be heard singing, at the same time noting weather conditions, wind, temperature and so on. There are many ways in which data for such charts may be collected, and for the observer who cannot make continuous observations there are several pitfalls to be avoided. Thus if one can only go out once a day at variable times in relation to sunrise and sunset, the results are obviously not going to have the significance of a similar set of data collected twice a day at fixed times in relation to sunrise and sunset. One observer chose two separate routes or walks, each of which took him about 25 min. to traverse. One was through an area with some cultivated land and gardens, the other taking him through a large wood. He divided the months into 3 equal periods of 10 days each and decided to do 6 counts on one route and 6 on the other for each 10 day period. For each of the two groups of 6 counts, three were done at 8 a.m. and 3 at 6 p.m. He thus got a dozen counts for each 10 day period, 6 on each of the 2 routes. His method of recording was to count the total numbers of each species heard singing during his walks. This gave him not only the distribution of song of any one particular species over a period of the year, but also a measure of the amount of that song. It also gives us a comparison of the amount of song in the morning compared with that in the evening."

### PROGRAMME FOR JUNE 1988

1) INDOOR MEETINGS :- Venue: The CCF's office opposite the Reserve Bank of India, Saifabad, Hyderabad, at 6.00 p.m.

i) 13th : A slide show on the flora and fauna of Mahavir Harin Vanasthali, by Aasheesh Pittie.

ii) 27th : Surprise!

2) FIELD TRIP :- We meet in front of Kamat Hotel in Koti, at 7.00 a.m. Transport will be arranged by the Society and the AP Forest Department.

1) 19th : RAJENDRANAGAR FOREST NURSERY.

Situated adjacent to the famous Kidwai Cottage, this quaint little place has given a lot of joy to birders in the past. Good for suburban forest and field birds! A half-day trip.

### RECENT REPORTS

These are reports of recent bird sightings in Andhra Pradesh, which hold some topical interest, eg., early sightings/late departure of migrants, sightings of rare/abberant species, local migrants, etc.

1) Blackheaded Oriole on Yellow Silk Cotton in Narsapur Reserve

- 2) A pair of Pied Crested Cuckoos near the Miralam Tank, calling to each other - 3.5.1988 (B C Choudhury).  
3) A Forest Wagtail in tangled undergrowth in Mahavir Harin Vanasthall - 1.5.1988 (Aasheesh Pittie).

### NEWS

\* The Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Amendment Bill, 1988 was introduced in the Lok Sabha on 12/5/88 - to provide for the constitution of central and state pollution control boards. Some important provisions are: the Central board will be empowered to exercise the powers of a state board, if the latter fails to act and comply with the directions issued by the former body. It will become obligatory on the part of a person to obtain the consent of the relevant board for establishing any industry, operation or process which is likely to cause pollution of water. The boards will also have authority to limit their consents for specified periods so as to enable them to monitor the compliance of the prescribed conditions. (NEWSTIME: 13/5/88.)

\* In the 8th session of the State Wildlife Advisory Board, the forest minister announced that a proposal was ready to declare two more potentially good wildlife areas. Goondla Brahmeswaram Mitta in Kurnool Dist. would be an extension of the Nagarjuna Sagar - Srisailam Tiger Reserve. The Gudem-Marripakala area in Vishakhapatnam lies in the Eastern Ghats with moist deciduous and semi-evergreen forest cover. This would be the only sanctuary in the Eastern Ghats in Andhra Pradesh. The third area is the Sri Lanka Malleswaram region in Cuddapah district where the Jerdon's Courser was sighted recently. He also said that the ban on shooting of all animals and birds, which has been in force from 1973, has been continued by the Government till December 1992. (INDIAN EXPRESS: 6/5/88.)

\* Did you hear of the vampire-like activities of the Small Sharp-beaked Ground Finch (*Geospiza difficilis*)? In the 1980s a television camera team visited the remote Galapagos Islands where, on Wolf Island they found the bird drinking blood from holes which it had pecked in the wings of nesting Masked Boobies (*Sula dactylatra*), which do not seem particularly bothered by this. For their part, the finches not only gain extra food but also valuable moisture in the very arid environment. Normally seed eaters, the finches have also learnt to exploit the boobies by rolling their eggs away so that they crash apart on the rocks and provide further food! (WORLD BIRDS by Brian P. Martin).

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## Bulletin of the Birdwatcher's Society of Andhra Pradesh HYDERABAD

No.7

JULY 1988

### EDITORIAL

We have prepared a sheet for the identification of the commoner egrets in the field. The distinguishing pointers have been taken from 3 to 4 field-guides, all of which might not be available to members. There are times when these common birds leave one with an uncomfortable kink in the neck. Members are requested to use this sheet with their Pictorial Guides (Ali & Ripley), for facility of identification and write back to us with suggestions, criticisms and guidelines. We plan to bring out similar sheets in future issues of the PITTA, for other bird groups like sandpipers, plovers, pipits, etc., commonly found in the Hyderabad environs.

### PROGRAMME FOR JULY 1988

1) INDOOR MEETINGS :- Venue: The CCF's office opposite the Reserve Bank of India, Saifabad, Hyderabad, at 7.00 p.m.

i) 11th : Film show and discussion on the proposed 'ROOSTING SITES' project of the Society.

ii) 25th or 26th : Bakrid is on either of these days. On the day it is not, we meet!

2) FIELD TRIP :- We meet in front of Kamat Hotel in Koti, at 7.00 a.m. Transport will be arranged by the Society and the AP Forest Department.

i) 17th : RRL Campus or NIRD Campus.

### NEWS

\* The Society's field trip to Chilkur Deer Park on 29th May saw a handful of members brave it out on a hot and humid day. A pair of red-rumped swallows had constructed a "retort-shaped" nest on the window-sill of one of the observation huts. The 'uncommon' common babbler, a resident here, the rufous-bellied and the yellow-eyed babbler were notable species observed. Droppings of the Indian wolf were visible at frequent intervals on the outer trail. A flowering *Albizia amara* impregnated the surrounding air with an hennaed aroma.

\* About 23 members visited the Forest Nursery in Rajendranagar on 19th June. It was a pleasant, overcast day. A barred jungle owlet, spotted by Varaprasad, was the most notable avian sighting that day. The beginning of its haunting, eerie call was heard later. A redvented bulbul was seen carrying nesting material and a couple of black drongos had constructed a seemingly precarious nest on a bracket on a telegraph pole! A large tamarind tree was smothered in flowers and new leaf.

\* The relatively better attended indoor meeting in May featured a talk by Mukund on his trip to Periyar. In June Aasheesh gave an AVP on the Mahavir Harin Vanasthali, emphasising the lesser

forms of life like small monsoonal ephemeral plants, smaller lizards, etc. Sarath also gave an AVP on his motorcycle tour with Balu - in Gujarat and Rajasthan. They visited Gir National Park where they saw a leopard, the Little Rann Sanctuary, famous for the wild ass and the Marine National Park. In Rajasthan they visited the Desert National Park and saw 4 indian bustards, to the envy of many a birder in the audience, and also Sariska Tiger Reserve where late at night, from a watchtower, they saw a male tiger quenching itself at a waterhole!

\* NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE BIRDWATCHER'S SOCIETY OF ANDHRA PRADESH WILL BE HELD ON 8TH AUGUST 1988, AT 6.30 P.M. IN THE OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSERVATOR OF FORESTS, ANDHRA PRADESH, A.P. FOREST DEPARTMENT, OPPOSITE RESERVE BANK OF INDIA, SAIFABAD, HYDERABAD. MEMBERS MAY PLEASE TREAT THIS AS AN INDIVIDUAL NOTICE AS PER RULE 24 OF THE BYE-LAWS OF THE SOCIETY.

\* Under its bird-migration study programme, the Bombay Natural History Society (BNHS) has proposed establishing bird-ringing stations in Andhra Pradesh. The proposal is to have a permanent ringing station at Pulicat Lake and winter and summer ringing stations in the Eastern Ghats (Vizag area) and the Tirupati area. They also propose annual waterfowl counts throughout the state. It is very heartening to note that the state forest department has responded positively to this project. Initially the BNHS along with the AP Forest Dept., will conduct orientation/training camps at the above two places. They are both keen on involving local conservation oriented NGOs, universities, colleges and BNHS members. When this programme gets going, it will be a good opportunity for BSAP members to learn mist-netting, bird-banding and field identification techniques.

\* The blacknecked stork (*Ephippiorhynchus asiaticus*) seems to be disappearing at an alarming rate. In the Asian Waterfowl Census of 1987, just 32 blacknecked storks were reported from the whole of India. The population of this stork may not be so low, because all the wetlands of India were not surveyed - but the number is certainly too low to be overlooked. Hunting may not be the main cause of the decline, as it is not good to eat. There may be two main causes for the increasing rarity of this species; a) destruction of wetlands and b) trapping for zoos. Causes for its habitat destruction may be understood, but the fact that it is not in Schedule I of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, allows zoos to capture it without any hindrance. Bombay zoo has 6 birds, Lucknow, 13! The Hyderabad Zoo has 2 birds. Dr Asad R. Rahmani, Project Scientist, Endangered Birds Project, Bombay Natural History Society, Hornbill House, Shahid Bhagat Singh Rd., Bombay-400023 - is interested in data about this species including their numbers in zoos, from all over India.

\* Dr Kumar D. Ghorpade has proposed to compile a Directory & Guide of Indian Birdwatchers. This book will help birders contact colleagues or birding societies in different states for birdwatching information, trips, etc. Readers who are interested in having their names included in the Directory, may please write to Dr Ghorpade, P.O. Box 2564, 123 Brigade Rd., Bangalore 560 025, at their earliest. A few copies of the questionnaire are available with the Hon. Sec. of BSAP.

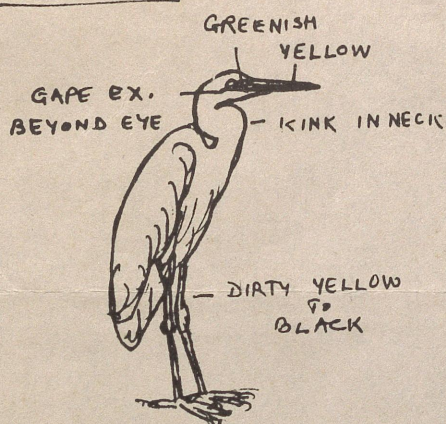
\* Errata: In PITTA 6/88, the first item under RECENT REPORTS should read "Blackheaded Oriole on Yellow Silk Cotton in Narsapur Reserve Forest - 25.4.1988 (Suhel Quader)."

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Edited for the Birdwatcher's Society of Andhra Pradesh by  
Aasheesh Pittie.

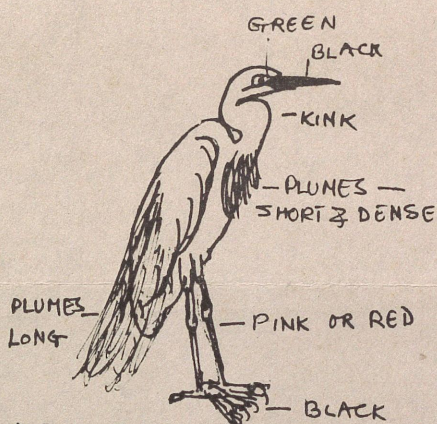
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PLUMAGES:- NON-BREEDING  
LARGE EGRET:-



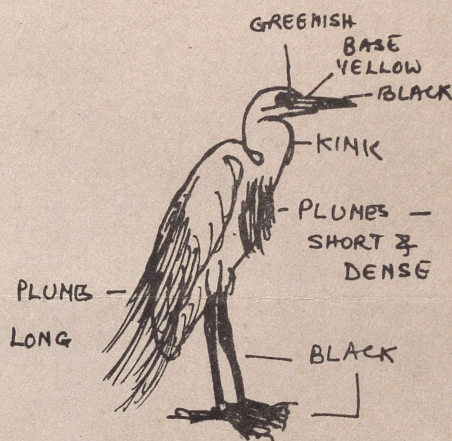
\* GENERALLY KINKED NECK

COURTSHIP

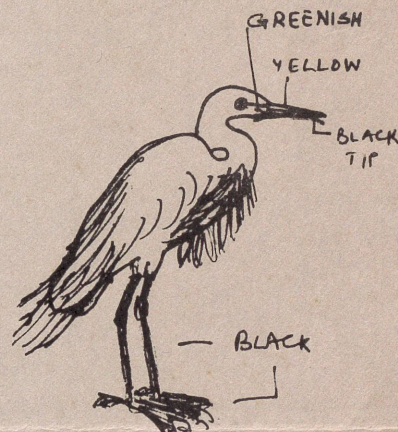
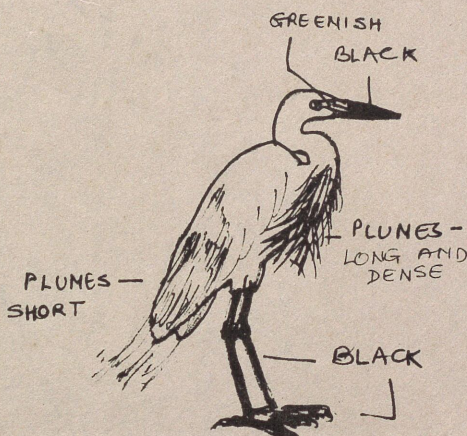
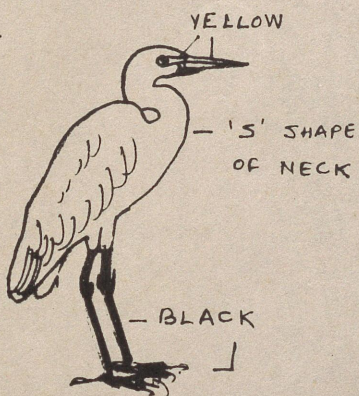


\* GAPE EXTENDS BEYOND EYE.

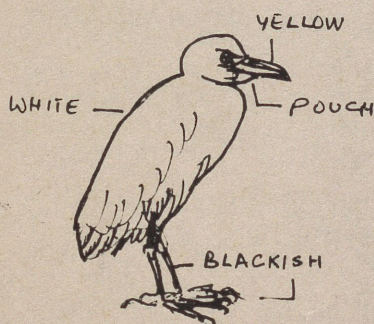
BREEDING



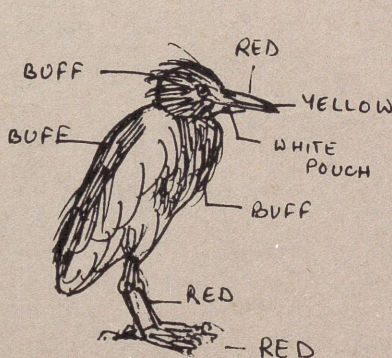
MEDIAN EGRET:-



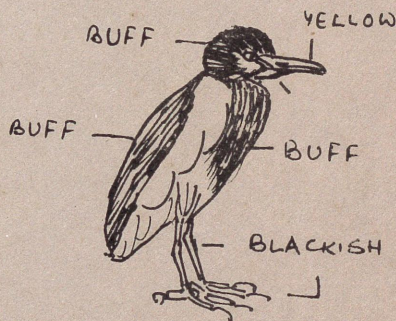
CATTLE EGRET:-



\* HUNCHED STANCE.  
 \* UPPER MANDIBLE DOWN-CURVED.  
 \* PUFFED THROAT.

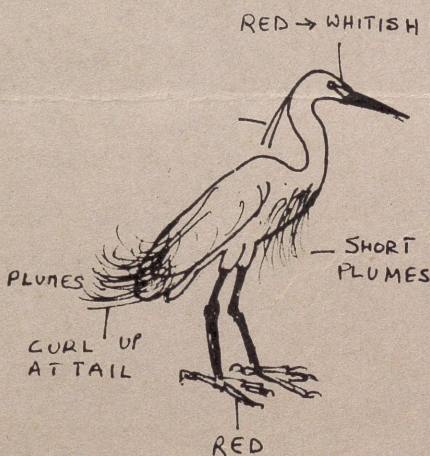


\* HUNCHED STANCE.



\* PUFFED THROAT.

LITTLE EGRET:-





# P I T T A

## Bulletin of the Birdwatcher's Society of Andhra Pradesh HYDERABAD

No.8

August 1988

### EDITORIAL

The relationship between birds and paper might seem a bit like the story of the house that Jack built. But I am convinced that conservation oriented organisations like ours and the members which comprise them, should be wise paper managers. Pause a moment and ponder on the paper you use everyday. How much of it could have been avoided? How much was unnecessary? In India, major paper mills use bamboo and wood (on an approximate 60:30 ratio) as raw material to manufacture paper. Birds need woods and bamboo too! The control of such wood/bamboo utilisation through the promotion and use of recycled paper would be a tremendous achievement for conservation-oriented bodies in India. As a beginning, we should print journals, bulletins, reports, etc., on either recycled paper or on paper manufactured from agricultural residues (like rice and wheat straw), cotton rags, hemp, jute cuttings, grass, etc. Small paper mills use 55% agricultural residues, 40% waste paper, 5% purchased pulp and also cotton liners and rags. Using both sides of a white sheet for typewritten documents, letters, memos, etc., will reduce paper consumption by 50% automatically. Rough work can be done on empty envelopes. Newspapers, magazines, publicity material, etc., should not be thrown away but sold to waste-paper dealers who re-sell them to paper-bag and paper-board manufacturers and paper recycling units. We reiterate that being PAPER WISE is supporting conservation and sowing seeds for environmental health. All of which helps make a better habitat for birds!

### PROGRAMME FOR AUGUST 1988

1) INDOOR MEETINGS :- Venue: The CCF's office opposite the Reserve Bank of India, Saifabad, Hyderabad, at 7.00 p.m.

i) 8th : Film show and discussion on the proposed 'ROOSTING SITES' project of the Society.

ii) 22nd : ANNUAL GENERAL BODY MEETING OF THE SOCIETY.

2) FIELD TRIP :- We meet in front of Kamat Hotel in Koti, at 7.00 a.m. Transport will be arranged by the Society and the AP Forest Department.

1) 14th : Mahavir Harin Vanasthali and Kothapet.

### NEWS

\* MEMBERS PLEASE NOTE THAT THE AGM OF THE BSAP, ANNOUNCED IN THE LAST BULLETIN TO BE HELD ON 18TH AUGUST, HAS BEEN POSTPONED TO 22ND AUGUST, THE VENUE AND TIMING REMAINING AS BEFORE. THIS MAY BE TREATED AS INDIVIDUAL NOTICE TO MEMBERS.

\* Last month's bulletin carried news regarding Dr Ghorpade's DIRECTORY AND GUIDE FOR INDIAN BIRDWATCHERS. He had sent us a few copies of a questionnaire he wants birdwatchers to answer and return to him. Mr J V D Murthy has kindly cyclostyled this

questionnaire and we are able to send out a copy with this bulletin. Do fill and mail it to Dr Ghorpade.

\* Members are familiar with the Asian Waterfowl Census conducted in India under the aegis of the BNHS and the IWRB in 1986 and 1987. Those members who have not yet participated in these censuses, but would like to, in the 1988 census, may write to S A Hussain, National Coordinator, Asian Waterfowl Counts, Bombay Natural History Society, Hornbill House, Shahid Bhagat Singh Road, Bombay - 400023. The BNHS has also brought out a small booklet written by S A Hussain and Carl D'Silva, illustrating 78 species of waterfowl in colour, to aid identification in the field. It can be purchased for Rs. 10/- per copy (postage and packing extra) directly from the above address, or an order can be placed with the Hon. Sec. of the BSAP.

\* "We had allowed tall wild grasses to grow up on land in front of our house, and as the seed heads matured, indigo buntings showed up to feed on them. We noticed that a single bunting would fly up to the top of a grass stem, then flutter back down, bending the stem to the ground as he descended. As he stood on the stem, he and other flock members fed on the seeds. The technique saved energy and allowed flock members to benefit from the efforts of an individual." (Lloyd Engdahl in BIRDWATCHER'S DIGEST Jul/Aug 1987.)

\* Did you know that AVADAVAT, another name of the Red Munia (*Estrilda amandava*) is a corruption of 'Ahmadabad'?! This bird was first taken to Europe from Ahmedabad (Gujarat). Van Twist (1648) writes, "The capital (of Guzerat) lies in the interior of the country and is named 'Hamed-Ewat' i.e., the City of King Hamed who built it; nowadays they call it 'Amadavar' or AMADABAT." James Forbes (1813) states in his Oriental Memoirs (I;47) "...AMADAVATS, and other songsters are brought thither (Bombay) from Surat and different countries".

\* Do birds use electromagnetism in flocking manouvres? West German zoologist Ulrich Warnke, of the University of Saarbrucken believes that if a flock must change direction within milliseconds, birds may communicate by means of electromagnetism. Acoustic signals are thought to take too long, and visual signals are improbable because not all the birds in a formation can see the leader, so researchers have decided to examine the possibility that electromagnetic signals coordinate flight plans. Since the signals travel at the speed of light, theoretically they would be able to reach all the birds in a flock at virtually the same time. The electromagnetic fields that have been detected in flocks of birds are believed to occur as a result of the electrostatic charging of each bird's body surface during flight. Warnke has proved the existence of these fields by using an oscillograph to measure electromagnetic fluctuations in flocks. He is convinced that there is a link between these fields and the birds' rapid coordination of flight manouvres. It now remains for scientists to discover how birds can detect and decode magnetic field changes. (BIRDWATCHER'S DIGEST Jul/Aug 1987.)

\* ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:- We are grateful to Maj A A Aziz for having met the printing cost of this bulletin and Mr DLN Rau for donating a whole bundle of paper which shall last for quite a few issues. Thanks are also due to Mr Tim Galbraith for donating journals of the Birdwatchers Society of Australia, with a promise to donate future issues too!

\* Errata: In PITTA 7/88, in the 7th NEWS item, it was wrongly mentioned that the Hyderabad Zoo has 2 blacknecked storks, when actually it has 3.

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This issue is printed on paper made from agricultural residues.

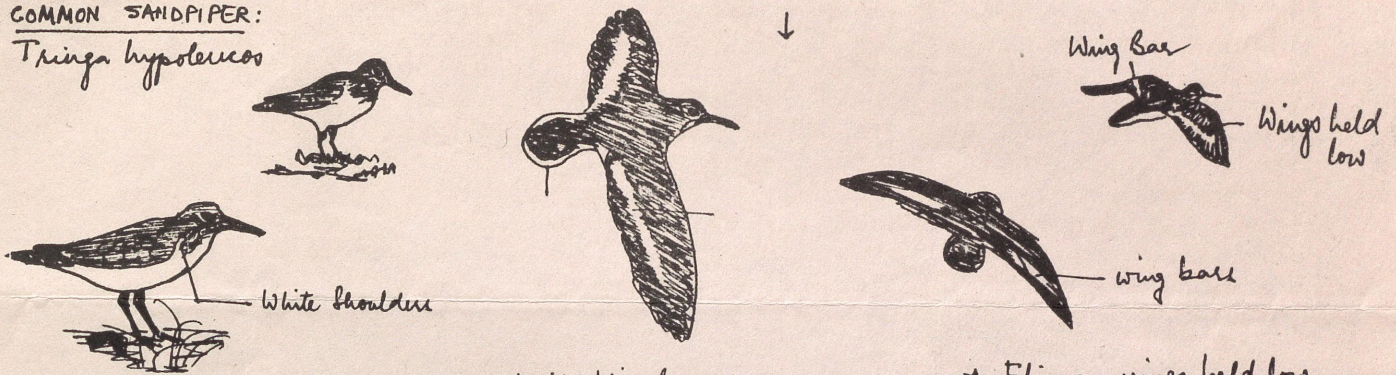
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Edited for the Birdwatcher's Society of Andhra Pradesh by  
Aasheesh Pittie.

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COMMON SANDPIPER:

*Tringa hypoleucos*

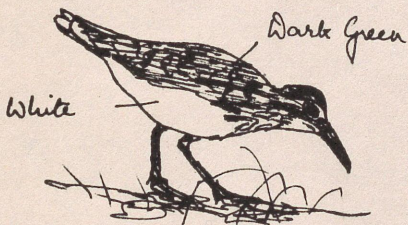


- \* Bobbing walk.
- \* Forward bent stance.

- \* White wingbar.
- \* Whitish outer tail feathers.

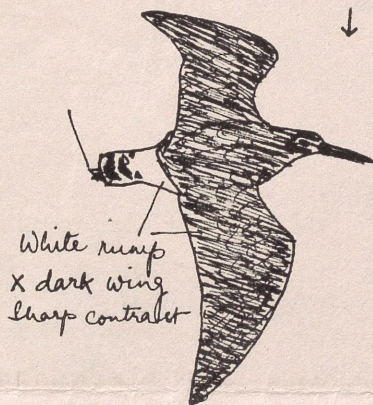
- \* Flies on wings held low, alternately vibrating them and gliding - skimming over surface.

GREEN SANDPIPER:



- \* Dark mantle contrasts with white belly.

- \* Legs shorter than Spotted sandpiper.

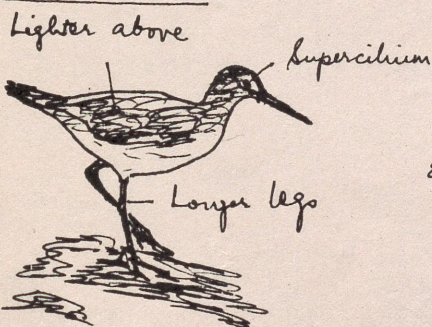


- \* Floppy, swipe-like flight.
- \* legs do not project much beyond tail.

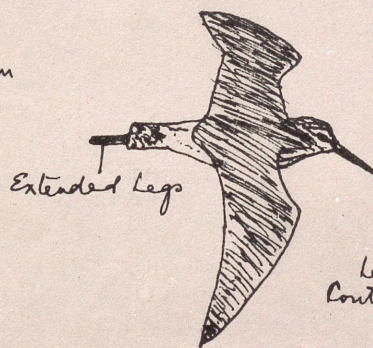


- \* From below high contrast between white belly and dark under-wings.

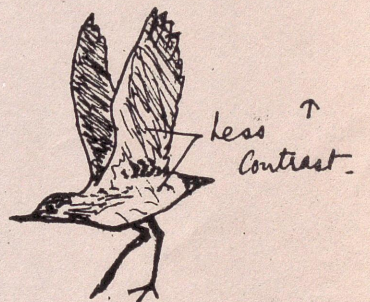
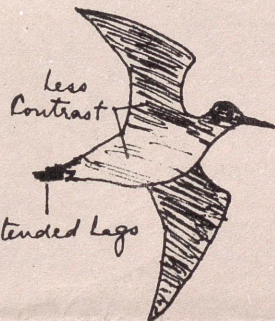
WOOD SANDPIPER:



- \* Lighter mantle.
- \* Longer legged.
- \* Conspicuous supercilium.



- \* Legs project well beyond tail.



- \* Much paler under-wings than Green. Less contrast with belly.

ILLUSTRATIONS AFTER:- HAYMAN, et al, AND JOHNSON

BY:- SMRITI PITTIE & AASHEESH PITTIE.

REFERENCES:- 1) SHOREBIRDS: P. Hayman, J. Marchant and T. Proter.

2) BIRDS OF SEA & COAST: L. Johnson.

PITTA: Bulletin of the Birdwatcher's Society of A.P. No. 8.. August 1988.



# P I T T A

## Bulletin of the Birdwatcher's Society of Andhra Pradesh HYDERABAD

No. 9

September 1988

### EDITORIAL

#### The Joy of Birding

Is that lump of earth which springs forth into the blue to lark on blurred wings and unfold a tale in such sweet a tenor that the world becomes music.

It is the arcing scythe of swifts, measuring immeasurable distances with mind boggling casualness, embodying mastery of mind and matter - bordering on true bliss. Or is it daredevilry?

It is the pure, sibilant gold pouring from darkening depths of closed foliage in dusk-y gardens - murmured, lisped, twittered. Like a promise of something intangible emerging from chasms beyond the comprehension of words like flycatcher or thrush.

It is the shivery, slippery, wet joy of sunbirds bathing in dew on leaves within that magical span of time known as dawn.

It is the "mya lit on your window-sill", the quarrelsome sparrow dust-bathing on the road side, the jaunty crow with all its pretensions.

It is something much more than tick-lists, names, rarities, life-birds, Anthropoides virgo and Dicaeum erythrorhynchos. Simply stated it is

The Joy of Birding!

### PROGRAMME FOR SEPTEMBER 1988

1) INDOOR MEETING :- Venue: The CCF's office opposite the Reserve Bank of India, Saifabad, Hyderabad, at 7.00 p.m.

1) 12th : Discussions and a film show.

2) FIELD TRIPS :- We meet in front of Kamat Hotel in Koti, at 7.00 a.m. Transport will be arranged by the Society and the AP Forest Department.

1) 4th : SHAMIRPET.

This will be a half day trip. Shamirpet has a small deer park and a lake which should be quite full now - as Hyderabad regions have had good rains. The army have got a permanent camp on one side of the lake, which has disturbed the waterfowl quite a bit. Greynecked Buntings are relatively rare species which can be seen here during the migration season, besides a horde of other avian delights!

ii) 18th : The destination is a surprise. We might go to an area from where the Great Indian Bustard has been reported a couple of years ago. Another half day trip!

### NEWS

\* The 6th Annual General Meeting of the Society was held on 22/8/1988 at the CCF's Office, Forest Dept., Saifabad. The President, Mr Pushp Kumar and the Hon. Secretary, Mr Siraj Taher

addressed the gathering. The Hon. Treasurer, Mr M S Kulkarni presented a statement of accounts for 1986 and 1987. Mrs G S Plumber was made pro-tem president for election of members to the Committee for the 1988-89 year. The following are highlights of an open discussion after the committee was elected.

- In an effort to publicise the Society, Mr Tim Galbraith volunteered to print 1000 information/publicity brochures free of cost.

- On a proposal by Mr Bharat Bhushan, it was resolved to form an Advisory Committee for the BSAP.

The following were elected, by a show of hands, to the committee for the year 1988-89.

#### BSAP BOARD

PRESIDENT:	Mr Pushp Kumar IFS	Ph: 230561
VICE-PRESIDENTS:	Maj. A A Aziz	Ph: 520755
	Mrs G S Plumber	Ph: 232520
EX-OFFICIO:	Chief Wildlife Warden, Govt. of A. P.	
HON. SECRETARY:	Mr Siraj Taher	Ph: 37252
JT. HON. SECRETARY:	Mr Sushil Kapadia	Ph: 33834
HON. TREASURER:	Mr M S Kulkarni	Ph: 65205
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:	Mr Aasheesh Pittie	Ph: 43263
	Mr C Sarath	Ph: 35454
	Mr Tim Galbraith	Ph: 232982
	Mr Sudhir Rao	
	Mr P Kanniah	

\* Biologists Charles R Brown and Mary B Brown, Yale University, have discovered that colonial cliff swallows not only lay eggs in other cliff swallow nests, but also transfer eggs between nests after the eggs are laid. "Egg transfers can occur at any time after an egg is laid and before it hatches and may represent a strategy by which an individual distributes its eggs in several nests to ensure some surviving offspring in the event of nesting failures. Sneaky transfer of eggs between nests represents a previously unknown form of reproductive parasitism in birds." In two instances a bird left its own nest with an intact egg between its mandibles and flew to a neighboring nest. In one case, the owner of the neighboring nest was not present, and the intruder entered, deposited the egg in the nest, and returned to its own nest. In another case one owner of a nest was present; a fight ensued when the intruder was evicted, but the egg remained in the nest. What might be the benefits of such egg transfer? "It might increase the chances of fledging at least some offspring in a risky environment. In their ancestral nesting habitat - rocky cliffs and canyons - cliff swallows are often affected by inclement weather and rock slides that can destroy many nests. Spreading a clutch of eggs around more than one nest could ensure against nesting failure." (From ECOLOGY, January 1988.)

\* Good news for Indian birders! Photophone India have come out with a pair of 8x35 power binoculars, which will be marketed shortly. Priced around Rs. 1200/- for a pair, they will be available to members of WWF-I at a discount. We hope to bring a sample piece for the members to use on one of our field trips this month!

\*The sketches in PITTA No. 8 and also in this issue are of wintering birds in India. The scientific names (in the sketches with No. 8) of the Green and the Wood Sandpiper were inadvertently omitted. They are TRINGA OCHROPUS and TRINGA GLAREOLA respectively.

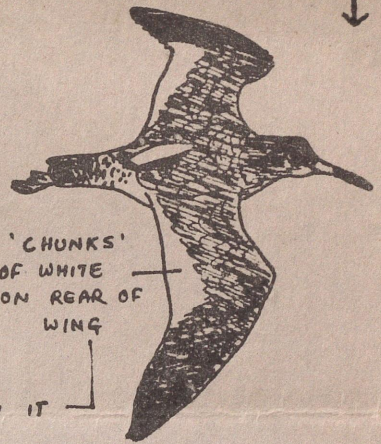
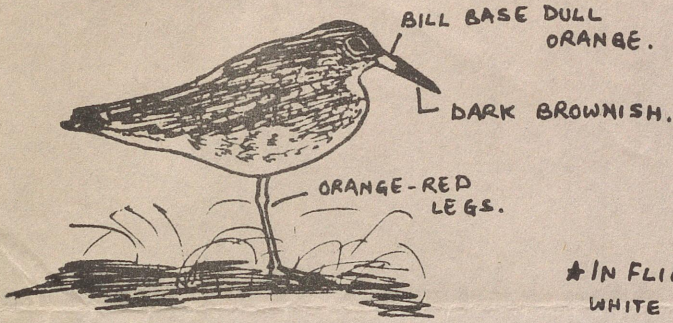
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REDSHANK:

*Tringa totanus*



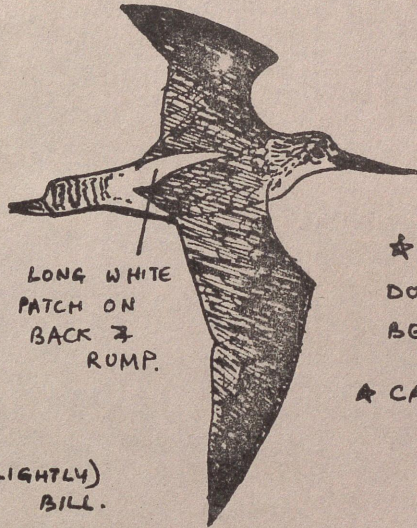
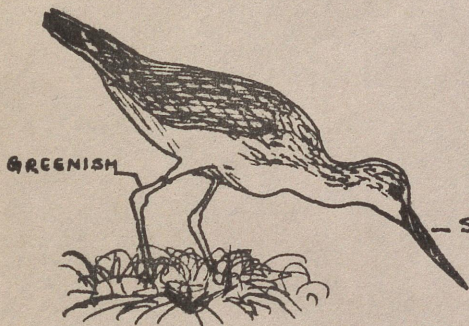
- \* DUSKY PRIMARIES.
- \* UNDERWING ALL WHITE.
- \* IN FLIGHT ENTIRE WHITE SECONDARIES EASILY IDENTIFY IT

\* CLEAR WHITE EYE-RING (OFTEN).

\* CALL: BI-SYLLABIC.

GREENSHANK:

*Tringa nebularia*



\* WHITE BREAST

- STOUTISH, UPTURNED (SLIGHTLY) BILL.

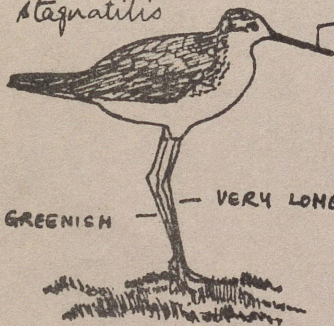
\* IN FLIGHT THE LEGS DO NOT PROTRUDE MUCH BEYOND TAIL.

\* CALL: TRI-SYLLABIC.

\* LARGER SIZE & STOUTER BUILD THAN MARSH SANDPIPER.

MARSH SANDPIPER:

*Tringa stagnatilis*



LONG, VERY FINE BILL.

GREENISH - VERY LONG LEGS

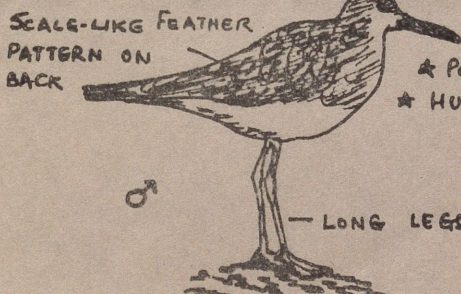
TOES PROTRUDE WELL BEYOND TAIL TIP.



\* DIFFERENTIATED FROM GREENSHANK BY BEING MARKEDLY LIGHTER IN COLOR, WITH MORE WHITES.

RUFF:

*Philomachus pugnax*



- \* SMALL HEAD.
- \* SHORTISH DECURVED BILL.
- \* LONGISH NECK.

- \* POT BELLY.
- \* HUMP BACK.

\* MALE LARGER THAN FEMALE.

CLEAR WHITE OVALS ON EITHER SIDE OF TAIL.

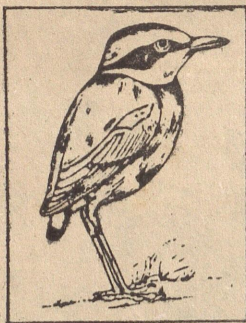
NARROW WHITE WING-BAR.

\* MANY ♂♂ IN WINTER HAVE WHITE HEADS. RARELY THE WHITE EXTENDS TO BACK & BELLY.

Illustrations After :- P. Hayman, J. Marchant & T. Prater (SHOREBIRDS: 1986: Croom Helm).

By: Sumriti & Anshu Pittie.

Encl. with :- PITTA: Bull. of the Birdwatcher's Soc. of A.P. No. 9 Sept. 1988



# P I T T A

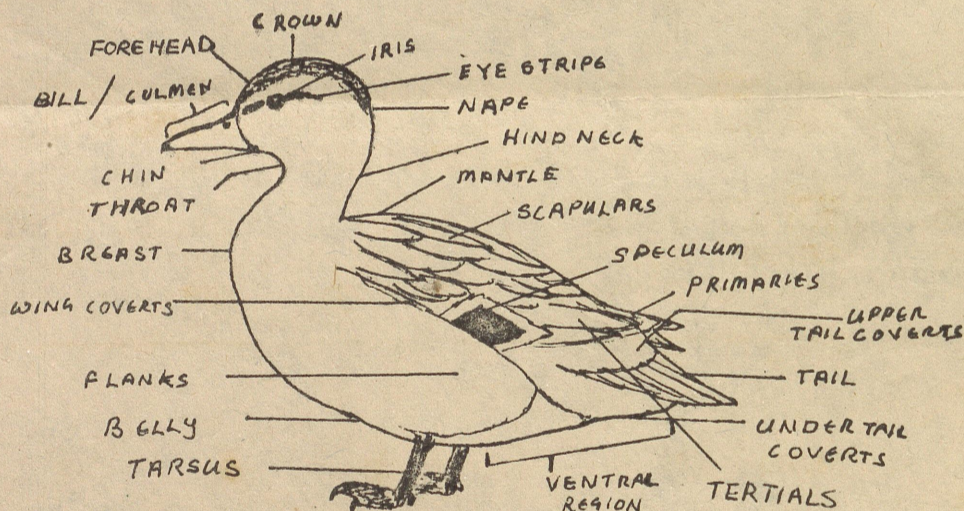
## Bulletin of the Birdwatcher's Society of Andhra Pradesh HYDERABAD

No.11

NOVEMBER 1988

### EDITORIAL

Since we began illustrating the PITTA with outline sketches for easier field identification - many members have come forward with raised superciliums, enquiring the meaning of words like 'carpal joint' and 'speculum'. It should have been our primary goal to prevent such speculation. Having underestimated the importance of bird-topography initially, we try with this issue to clear some doubts. Of course, the more one learns, the more one wants to learn. And who can question the birder who speaks of wing bars and tertials? None can dig him in the flanks. With these illustrations we hope you are able to take that distant dab of brown and white by its hindneck or nape, mantle or flank, chin or throat and haul it onto your notebooks. No covert glances please. Lets go and hurdle the eye-stripe!



### PROGRAMME FOR NOVEMBER 1988

1) INDOOR MEETING :- Venue: The CCF's office opposite the Reserve Bank of India, Saifabad, Hyderabad, at 7.00 p.m.

i) 15th : The programme will be intimated on the field trip of the 13th.

ii) 28th : Film show.

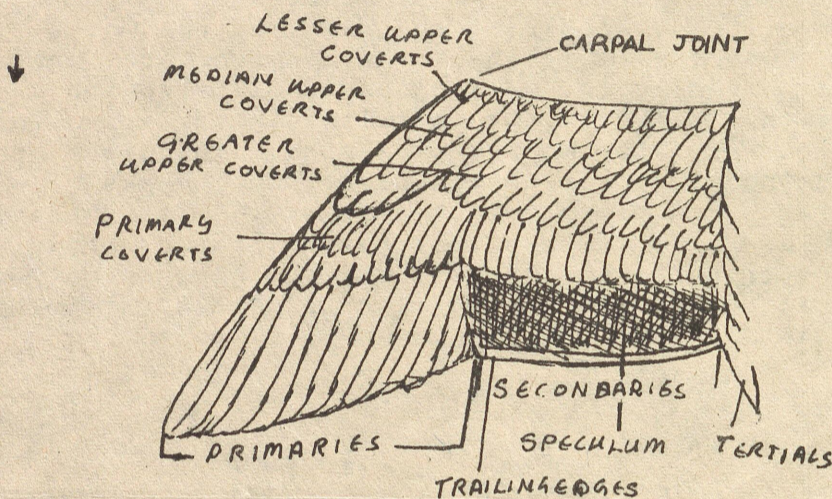
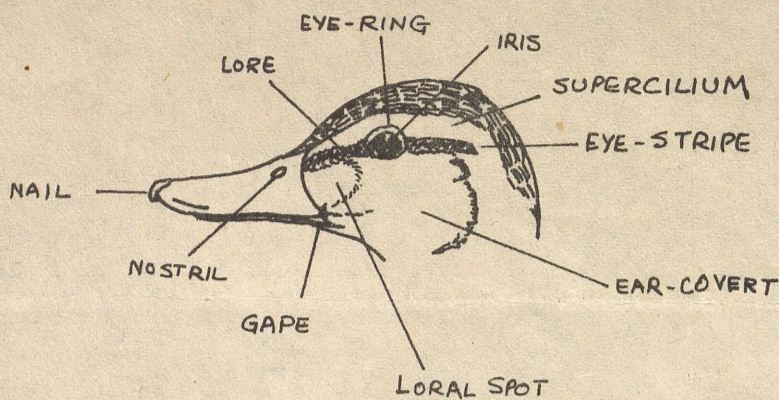
2) FIELD TRIPS :- We meet in front of Kamat Hotel in Koti, at 7.00 a.m. Transport will be arranged by the Society and the AP Forest Department.

i) 13th : A half day trip to MAHAVIR HARIN VANASTHALI.

ii) 20TH : AMANGALU LAKE ; MAHBUBNAGAR DISTRICT.

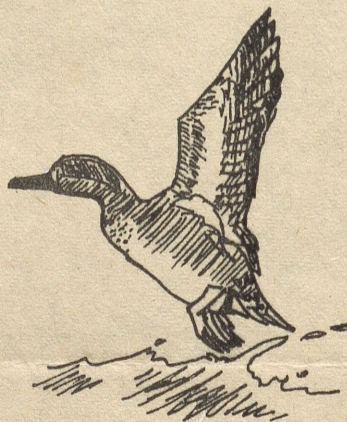
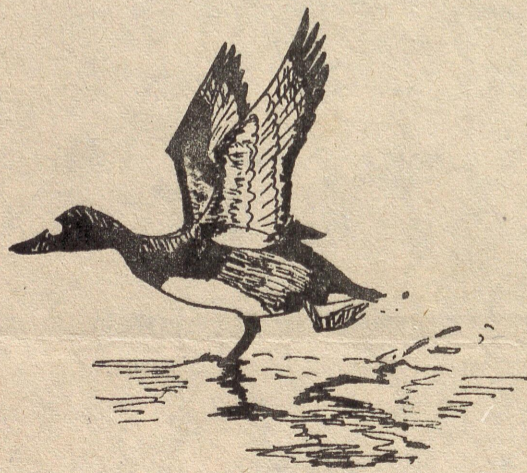
As this trip was cancelled last month, we will visit the lake on this day. Members are requested to carry lunch as the trip will be a full day outing.

DUCK MAKE-UP BY A QUACK



★ Diving ducks patter along the water for a short distance before take-off

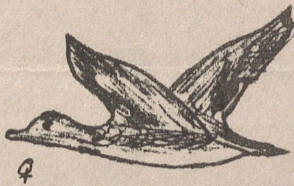
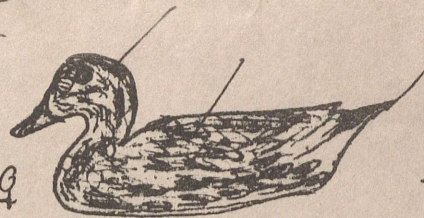
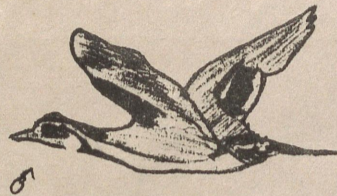
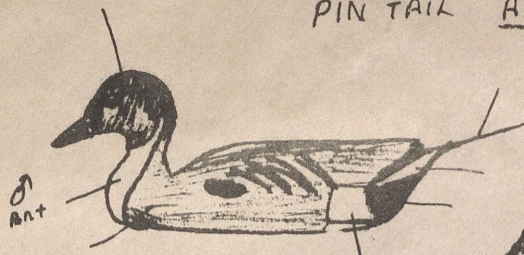
★ Most surface feeding ducks rise from the water abruptly, steeply.



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 Pittie.  
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PIN TAIL ANAS ACUTA

MIGRANT DUCKS.



♂ (BR) WHITE BREAST - DARK BROWN HEAD, GREY BODY, DARK REAR AND ALONG TAIL.

♂ (BR-) GREYER THAN ♀ WITH WINGS OF THE ♀ AT M.

♀ MOTTLED & SCALLOPED BREAST AND FLANKS POINTED TAIL. WHITISH BELLY.

♂ (FL) DARK BROWN HEAD WHITE THROAT BREAST & BELLY. LONG TAIL BLACK VENTRALS GREY BODY GREEN SPECULUM.

♀ (FL) GREY UNDER WING GREEN SPECULUM REST AS (♀)

(♀)

SHOVELER ANAS CLYPEATA



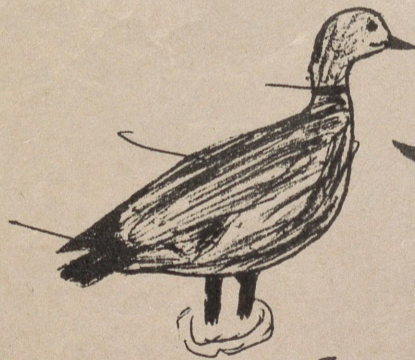
♂ HUGE BILL - DARK HEAD WHITE BREAST CHESTNUT FLANKS

♀ MOTTLED FLANKS HUGE BILL.

♂ (FL) HUGE BILL DARK HEAD CHESTNUT FLANKS WHITE ON UNDERWING (FUR) BLUE UPPER FOREWING.

♂ MOTTLED APPEARANCE - WHITE UNDERWING HUGE BILL.

BRAHMIN DUCK TADORNA FERRUGINEA



♂ ♀ A GOOSE SIZED AND SHAPED DUCK - BLACK LEGS CINNAMON LIVERED ♂ HAS DARK COLLAR. BLACK TAIL & PRIMARIES IN BOTH SEXES.

♂ ♀ (FL) CINNAMON BODY CONTRASTING WITH WHITE FOREWING AND DARK PRIMARIES & SECONDARIES. LOWER WING WHITE FOREWING WITH GREEN SPECULUM AND BLACK PRIMARIES

BAR-HEADED GOOSE ANSER INDICUS



♂ ♀ YELLOW BILL WHITE FACE GREY BODY TWO BARS ON HEAD WHITE VENTRALS.

♂ ♀ (FL) GREY BODY - WHITE FACE WHITE VENTRALS GREY FOREWING DARKER PRIMARIES & SECONDARIES.



ILLUSTRATIONS AFTER:- STEVE MADGE & HILARY BURN

[WILD FOWL - AN IDENTIFICATION GUIDE] CHRISTOPHER HELM 1986

BY RAJEEV MATHEW.