

## —In the news—

Compiled by Prashanth N. S.

### From the field

A Bar-headed Goose *Anser indicus* with collar band 'C7' was reported from Kaggalipura tank (Mysore district, Karnataka) on 4th January 2009 by Sahana and team (Bngbirds). In December 2007 M. Niranjana had reported a bird with collar band 'E6' from the same tank. There were two more records on 4th January 2009 of Bar-headed Geese—Manu and his team reported a sighting from Maralli tank in Mysore district and over 300 were seen on the backwaters of Cauvery River near Krishnaraj Sagar dam by M. K. Vishwanath. Karthik Thambihalli reported another collared individual (V9) from Somnathapura, Mysore district in January 2009 while Tarun Balpande photographed one (Collar marked 'NU') from Paradgaon Lake in Nagpur, Maharashtra on 18th March 2009 (Nagpurbirds). Martin Gilbert, of the Wildlife Conservation Society, while confirming that these birds were banded as a part of a project in Mongolia in July 2008, reiterated the importance of these two wetlands where these birds seem to be returning year after year in large groups (Bngbirds). Mike Prince reported nest-building Tawny Eagles *Aquila rapax*, Yellow-throated Bulbul *Pycnonotus xantholaemus* and Hume's Leafwarbler *Phylloscopus humei* from Nandi Hills in early January 2009 (Bngbirds). On 15th March 2009, P. C. Rajeevan reported a pipit with a reddish throat and streaks on the flanks from Paanavayal, a wetland north of Pazhayangadi in Kannur district, Kerala, which was later identified as a Red-throated Pipit *Anthus cervinus*, and photographed by K. V. Uthaman (Keralabirder). Praveen J. clarified that this might be only the third record of the bird in southern India, the most recent one being the three successive winter records and photographs of the bird from Hesaraghatta, Bangalore by Mike Prince. Vinay Das reported an inland record of a Black-capped Kingfisher *Halcyon pileata* between Bannur and Somnathpur in Mysore district (Bngbirds). In the January edition of his 'Mysore birding diary', A. Shivaprakash recorded, among several other things, over 7,000 Black-tailed Godwit *Limosa limosa* and about 300 Whiskered Tern *Chlidonias hybridus*. In February, he reported the Indian Spotted Eagle's *Aquila hasata* nesting activity in the outskirts of Mysore, and an inland Western Reef Heron *Egretta gularis* from Mysore city's drainages. Sachin Shurpali reported seven Baillon's Crakes *Porzana pusilla* and six Pin-tailed Snipes *Gallinago stenura* from Ramapura lake near Bangalore (Bngbirds). Puttaraju photographed a Lesser Adjutant *Leptoptilos javanicus* near Kaiga town in Uttara Kannada district of Karnataka. Another one was reported soaring over thermals above Kulgi Nature Camp in Dandeli Wildlife Sanctuary (Karnataka) by K. S. Seshadri and others (Bngbirds). Sqn. Ldr. S. S. Mahesh sighted hundreds of Barn Swallows *Hirundo rustica* performing ritual flights over their roost in a sugarcane field near Hajipur lake in Bareilly (please give state). He recorded the same behaviour among Red-rumped Swallows *H. daurica* in Bidar, Karnataka. Kiran Poonacha photographed a Short-eared Owl *Asio flammeus* in Bangalore (INW), which is close to its southern limit in India, and later

reported about 20 Golden Plover *Pluvialis fulva* from a dry lakebed on the outskirts of Bangalore (INW). Muthunarayanan reported the arrival of over one hundred Greater Flamingo *Phoenicopterus roseus* in Tuticorin, Tamil Nadu (Tamilbirds). The Field Ornithology Group of Sri Lanka (FOGSL) reported the first sighting of Grey-necked Bunting *Emberiza burchanani* from the island nation in December 2008 (Orientalbirding). V. Santharam reported a Marshall's Iora *Aegithina nigrolutea* from Rishi Valley, Chittoor district, Andhra Pradesh (Tamilbirds). Bhaskar Das reported a Large-billed Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus orinus* from a dry mangrove bed at Koikhali in West Bengal (Birdphotoindia). N. Shivakumar reported 162 Spot-billed Pelicans *Pelecanus philippensis* from Kolleru wetland in Andhra Pradesh. C. Sashi Kumar and team reported 300 species of birds including several Western Ghats endemics like Wyanad Laughingthrush *Garrulax delesserti* as a part of their survey, which retraces areas visited in Kerala by Salim Ali 75 years ago. Other records from their survey include courting Lesser Fish Eagle *Ichthyophaga humilis* at Thattekad, Scaly Thrush *Zoothera dauma* at Pambadum Shola, a group of Lesser Kestrels *Falco naumanni* at Periyar Tiger Reserve and several Broad-tailed Grassbird *Schoenicola platyura*. Rajesh Sachdev recorded a Pied Harrier *Circus melanoleucos* from Uran (Maharashtra) during the 5th HSBC Mumbai Bird Race.

### 100 volumes of JBNHS in a DVD

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### Coimbatore forest division website and Birds of Coimbatore

The website of the Coimbatore Forest Division [<http://www.coimbatoreforests.org>] provides useful information about the conservation and management activities of the department as well as information for visitors and tourists to the protected areas in the region. The website carries recent news as well as notes on human-elephant conflict and its management. It also documents the flora and fauna of Coimbatore's forests. Coimbatore is strategically located near several important protected areas of the Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve as well as the Anamalai Hills and contiguous hill ranges. Senthilmurugan, a wildlife biologist working in the department, announced the release of a book on the email group, Tamilbirds—entitled Birds of Coimbatore and priced at Rs. 150/-, it contains information about the birds in the forests in and around Coimbatore. It can be obtained from the District Forest Officer, Coimbatore (Ph: 0422-2302925).