

to seasonal movements involving hundreds of miles within the country, about which we know practically nothing. The ringing of these birds on a large scale should provide useful data concerning their local migrations, as well as about other facets of their biology which cannot be studied without individual recognition of the birds. The catches, moreover, provided the VRC investigators with opportunities of examining large samples of resident birds, in addition to the migrants, and of obtaining useful data on tick infestation and the problem of dissemination of arthropod-borne viruses through bird agency..."

The next piece, by K. S. Lavkumar, described a swallow roost (Common and Wire-tailed Swallows, Sand Martins) near Rajkot. Apparently here the mist nets were not too successful, and Lavkumar writes: "We tried using mist nets in what appeared to be a truly ingenious manner but caught

only six birds and even these almost got away. It was all very disappointing but we did learn the limitations of mist nets in trapping birds. The swallows are close roosters and do not fly off easily. They have to be almost shoved off their niches. We hope therefore, to try out a modified Butterfly Net Trap in scooping the sleeping birds up for ringing."

Justice S. G. Patwardhan and his wife reported seeing a massive migration of Rosy Pastors on the evening of 17 March 1961. The birds were coming from the East and going towards the West. They came in batches and the flow was intermittent. The procession was first noticed at 19:15hrs and continued for about half an hour. They were sure that the number exceeded several thousands.

In the 'Notes and comments' section there was a discussion about standardising Hindi and English names of birds. With

regard to the English names, the following was proposed:

1. When the name is a compound of two bird names, capitalise both with a hyphen between thus: Crow-Pheasant, Bustard-Quail, Hawk-Eagle and Tit-Babbler.
2. When the first half of the name is descriptive of the bird or its habits or habitat, capitalise both without the hyphen thus: Bush Quail, Rock Sparrow, Leaf Warbler, and House Crow.
3. Except where convention is established otherwise, thus: Junglefowl, Spurfowl, and Sandgrouse.

I see that the BNHS continues to follow this practice, but in other books there are other patterns. The recent practice of using the *lower case* for common names seems to be a convenient one if it is followed by the scientific name.

## Reviews

**Birds of Nashik.** By: B. Raha, N. Bhure, and D. Ugaonkar. (Eds.) 2004. Nashik: Nature Conservation Society of Nashik. Paperback. (10.5 x 19.0cm, with illus. cover), pp. 1-24, 10 col. photos (cover by; Uddhav Thackeray. Others by; B. Raha), 1 map (fold., back endpapers). Price: Not mentioned.

**Contents:** Imprint (fold-out, front endpapers); Foreword (front endpapers, by; Asad R. Rahmani); About us (p. 1); Mission (p. 1); Ongoing activities (p. 2); Introduction (pp. 3-5); Checklist of the birds of Nashik (pp. 6-23); Bird observation notes (pp. 22-24).

A checklist of 325 species found in Nashik District, Maharashtra, India, with abbreviated annotations. The list is arranged in tabular format. Various columns give the following information: English, scientific, and Marathi names, size, frequency of sighting (e.g. common, rare, etc.), residential status, direction of possible sighting with Nashik town as centre (east of Nashik, etc.), habitat in which the species is found and plate numbers, from Grimmitt, Inskipp and Inskipp's *Pocket guide to the birds of the Indian subcontinent*, on which the species is depicted. Threatened and Near-threatened species are marked before their English names with a red or black asterisk respectively. Areas around Nashik, with different types of habitats like grasslands, waterbodies, forest, groves, are given in a table on p. 5.

Modern DNA-based studies are revealing new relationships among taxa and authors of new works would do well to keep themselves updated on these, for change is the order of the day and old sequences, names, relationships, etc., are in flux. A case in point is the entry "Lesser Spotted-Eagle *Aquila pomarina*" (p. 8). It is now widely known that this taxon has been split and the sedentary species in India is the Indian Spotted Eagle *Aquila hastata*. The authors have listed only those species that they have themselves seen on their birding trips (Raha, *pers. comm.*). No historical data is included, which could have resulted in at least some species being left out. The authors have got the sequence of the Sylviinae (p. 18) mixed up. These are minor blemishes that can be easily cleared in the next edition. The authors need to be complimented for creating and publishing this checklist, a database for future work. Compiling and publishing district checklists like the one under review should now be the priority for Indian birdwatchers.

—Aasheesh Pittie

**A checklist of the birds of Gujarat.** By: B. M. Parasharya, C. K. Borad, and D. N. Rank. (Eds.) 2004. 1<sup>st</sup> ed. Gujarat: Bird Conservation Society. Pbk. (28.5cm x 21.0cm), 2 pr. ll., pp. 1-27+1. Price: Rs 30/- (postage extra).

**Contents:** Title, imprint, contents (preliminary leaves); Preface (p. 1, by; B.M.

Parasharya, C.K. Borad and D.N. Rank, dated 16.ix.2004); Introduction (p. 2); checklist (pp. 3-25); References (p. 26).

This is a bare checklist of 526 taxa (species and sub-species) from the state of Gujarat, India. Gujarati names and abbreviated status of taxa are also given.

The following errors were noted: *Rallus aquaticus* is listed under Gruidae instead of Rallidae (p. 8); "Phalaropidae" should be 'Phalaropopidae' (p. 10); *Treron pompadora* is listed under Pteroclididae instead of Columbidae (p. 12); "Broadbills: Eurylaimidae" should read 'Pittas: Pittidae' (p. 15); several species under Sylviinae and Monarchinae are interchanged (p. 20); "*Sylvia blythi*" should read *Sylvia curruca* (p. 21); the family Paridae is missing though its members are listed under "Turridae" (p. 23). The inclusion of *Ardeola bacchus* (p. 3) seems to be an error, for most records from India are from the north-east.

For a checklist, the size of this publication is a bit odd for it cannot be taken out conveniently into the field. These glitches notwithstanding, the checklist is a valuable addition to the literature of the region.

—Aasheesh Pittie