

achievements. Its greatest strength has been its ability to mobilise large networks of volunteers to undertake the census work. However, there have also been challenges, typical of the problems in many developing Asian countries. Major issues are the lack of adequate census capacity, equipment and financial support, and changes in levels of volunteer interest, resulting in inconsistent site coverage and data quality. The strategy is intended to function as a guide, not only for Wetlands International and the organisations that coordinate the AWC in the region but also for each individual who participates, supports or expresses interest in the AWC. It is highly recommended that AWC volunteers have a look at the strategy document at <http://www.wetlands.org>.

### **White Stork—an emblem for Indo-Russian relations**

A European White Stork *Ciconia ciconia* pictured with the colours of Indian and Russian national flags have been chosen as the emblem for Year of Russia in India. Twelve works were on the short-list for the emblem. Nikolai Kiselev, 24, an artist from Novosibirsk, won. His sketch was also named the best by Kanwal Sibal, then Indian Ambassador to Russia, at the gala on the 60th anniversary of bilateral diplomatic relations.

“Storks spend the winter in India to fly to Russia for the warm season. These birds of passage build air-bridges between the two countries,” said Anzhelika Zhukova, chief executive officer of IMA Dialogue and contest organiser.

The jury thinks the stork will also make a good emblem for the reciprocal Year of India in Russia, scheduled for 2009. “The bird flies right to left in the Year of Russia emblem. It needs only to reverse direction a year later,” Ms. Zhukova said.

Read the full story at: <http://www.hindu.com/2007/12/07/stories/2007120755682400.htm>.

### **State birds of India**

Since the news item of announcing the new state bird for Himachal Pradesh appeared in Jul-Aug issue of Indian Birds, Digambar Gadgil from Nashik requested for the complete list of state birds of India. Thanks to Wikipedia and Google, a complete list of state birds for all the Indian states is available and reproduced in Table 1. It is interesting to note that Indian Roller, Great Hornbill, Hill Myna, Green Imperial Pigeon and Mrs. Hume’s Pheasant are state birds of multiple Indian states.

Table 1. State birds of India

State	Species	State	Species
Andhra Pradesh	Indian Roller <i>Coracias benghalensis</i>	Maharashtra	Green Imperial Pigeon <i>Ducula aenea</i>
Arunachal Pradesh	Great Hornbill <i>Buceros bicornis</i>	Manipur	Mrs.Hume ’s Pheasant <i>Syrmaticus humiae</i>
Assam	White-winged Duck <i>Cairina scutulata</i>	Mizoram	Mrs.Hume ’s Pheasant <i>S.humiae</i>
Bihar	Indian Roller <i>C.benghalensis</i>	Nagaland	Blyth ’s Tragopan <i>Tragopan blythii</i>
Chhattisgarh	Common Hill Myna <i>Gracula religiosa</i>	Orissa	Indian Peafowl <i>Pavo cristatus</i>
Goa	Black-crested bulbul <i>Pycnonotus gularis</i>	Punjab	Northern Goshawk <i>Accipiter gentilis</i>
Gujarat	Greater Flamingo <i>Phoenicopterus roseus</i>	Rajasthan	Great Indian Bustard <i>Ardeotis nigriceps</i>
Haryana	Black Francolin <i>Francolinus francolinus</i>	Sikkim	Blood Pheasant <i>Ithaginis cruentus</i>
Himachal Pradesh	Western Tragopan <i>Tragopan melanocephalus</i>	Tamil Nadu	Emerald Dove <i>Chalcophaps indica</i>
Jammu & Kashmir	Black-necked Crane <i>Grus nigricollis</i>	Tripura	Green Imperial Pigeon <i>D. aenea</i>
Jharkhand	Asian Koel <i>Eudynamys scolopacea</i>	Uttarakhand	Himalayan Monal <i>Lophophorus impejanus</i>
Karnataka	Indian Roller <i>C.benghalensis</i>	Uttar Pradesh	Sarus Crane <i>Grus antigone</i>
Kerala	Great Hornbill <i>B.bicornis</i>	West Bengal	White-breasted Kingfisher <i>Halcyon smyrnensis</i>
Meghalaya	Common Hill Myna <i>G. religiosa</i>		
Madhya Pradesh	Asian Paradise Flycatcher <i>Terpsiphone paradisi</i>		

## —Correspondence—

In *Indian Birds* 3 (3): 109 there was a report of Lesser Golden-backed Woodpeckers *Dinopium benghalense* feeding on rice put out for them. In context to this, please record in the next issue—a male Lesser Golden-backed Woodpecker joining Red-vented Bulbuls *Pycnonotus cafer*, Jungle Babblers *Turdoides striata*, Common *Acridotheres tristis* and Brahminy *Sturnus pagodarum* Mynas and House Sparrows *Passer domesticus* along with squirrels *Funambulus* sp., to feed on bread pieces and uncooked rice put out for birds in a Chandigarh (India) garden. Sitting out in the sun on the morning of 22nd December 2007 with my host, I was pleasantly surprised to see this woodpecker join the other birds to glean rice and later fly to a bowl of water for a drink. Apparently he has been a regular visitor for quite some time.

—Lavkumar Khachar  
23rd December 2007