

Manipur, Nagaland, Meghalaya, Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, the Jalpaiguri duars, most of Bangladesh, the Bhutan foothills, and eastern Nepal (Ali & Ripley 1999). The species is also known for its vagrancy; it has occurred as far west as Sweden, in October 2011 (Anonymous 2011), and on Fair Isle, Shetland, in October 2004 (Shaw 2004), in the Western Palearctic.

*E. f. arcuata* breeds in the Himalayas, from Pakistan, eastwards to western Nepal and southern China (north Yunnan). It winters at lower altitudes in the western Himalayas (del Hoyo *et al.* 2011). Extraliminally it has occurred in Mt. Victoria, Myanmar, and twice from the north-eastern part of that country (Smythies 1986); Yunnan, Sichuan, and Kweichow (Ali & Ripley 1999).

However, its occurrence in Jaipur (27.53°N, 76.42°E), during four successive winters, and the fact that it was there in small flocks, does point to the birds wintering regularly here, and not being vagrants to the region. It probably occurs in the area, but was overlooked as they move in small parties, and are highly cryptic, and thus inconspicuous. Moreover, females, and juveniles are tricky to identify. Their call too comprises 'very high, thin, sharp single notes' and is often not identifiable in the field, besides being inaudible to many (Rasmussen & Anderton 2012). Thus they are difficult to separate from other female, and juvenile buntings in the area.

Thus it seems logical to conclude that birders elsewhere in north-western India do need to consider this species when faced with an unfamiliar bunting. Chestnut-eared Bunting can be notoriously furtive species on wintering grounds.

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## Editorial

We are ten years old! It's a satisfying, and a sobering moment. We are happy we've been able to provide this platform for Indian ornithology, and that birders have found it worthy of publishing their notes in. We are aware of our responsibility, both, to handhold people who are writing on birds for the first time, to whet all manuscripts rigorously, and to bring meaningful content to readers. To celebrate, we've designed a cover that carries all the covers of *Indian BIRDS* from the last ten years. It is our way of thanking all those who have contributed the photographs, or artwork that adorned our covers.

I am often asked whether *Indian BIRDS* is a journal, or a popular magazine? What is the audience it caters to? How scholarly, or serious is it? These questions are spot on, as *Indian BIRDS* is a specialist publication of the birds of South Asia, and that restricted field has only so many people interested in it; either specialists, or generalists. I would not like to cast *Indian BIRDS* into a slot. Rather, I would judge its role by its utility. The question that I ask myself, about it, is whether what it publishes is reliable? I introspect about its strengths often, and here is what comes to my mind: Manuscripts are rigorously peer-reviewed; authors are, more often than not, handheld to improve their manuscripts; science is simplified for readers; both, professional ornithologists, and serious amateurs read it; manuscript submissions are from a wide spectrum of contributors; it is widely cited; and, it covers a vast oeuvre of topics (at least 20).

The ultimate feather in a publication's cap is how and where it is cited. It is a great joy to learn that the online edition of the *Handbook of the birds of the world*, (HBW Alive!) has listed no less than 128 references from *Indian BIRDS*, amongst the highest for a publication from South Asia [[http://www.hbw.com/reference/all?title=&author=&year=&journal=India+n+Birds&sort\\_by=title&sort\\_order=ASC](http://www.hbw.com/reference/all?title=&author=&year=&journal=India+n+Birds&sort_by=title&sort_order=ASC)].

A large number of birders, who send manuscripts to us, are writing

something of this sort for the first time. They require guidance in this art. Our large base of peer reviewers, and members of the editorial board have supported us in this endeavor. The result is that people continue to send us manuscripts after the first one is published. It's reassuring; we must be doing something right.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the editorial team of *Indian BIRDS* and, all those who have helped us referee manuscripts in 2015: Adesh Shivkar, Asad R. Rahmani, Avin Deen, Chris Bowden, Christian Cederroth, Dipu Karuthedathu, Girish Jathar, Gobind Sagar Bhardwaj, Hans Larsson, Mohammed Dilawar, Neha Sinha, Nigel Collar, Oscar Campbell, Pamela Rasmussen, Peroth Balakrishnan, P. O. Nameer, Pramod Padmanabhan, Raju Kasambe, Raman Kumar, S. Prasanth Narayanan, Samir Kumar Mishra, Sreekar R., Sumit K. Sen, Tarquie Sani, T. R. Shankar Raman, and Umesh Srinivasan.

I would also like to thank P. Rambabu, and K. Jayaram, who have worked behind the scenes for the past ten years: the former managing subscriptions, and the latter formatting the *Indian BIRDS* issues; and Prakash Patel, and Krishna Nagarajan who helped with our website.

2015 has also seen a major change at *Indian BIRDS*. Praveen J has voluntarily taken over the management of all manuscripts, till they are ready for copy-editing, and finalising. He liaises with authors, referees, etc., till a manuscript goes to print. The energy, and efficiency that he's brought to the process has speeded it up considerably.

In the current issue, Prasad Ganpule tackles the complexities of the Great Grey Shrike—its variation, identification, and status. This is a path-breaking paper for us, and a rarity amongst the literature on Indian ornithology; Justin Jansen informs us about a collector from the eighteenth century; and Sharma & Singh document aspects of breeding of the Spectacled Finch.

We will continue bringing to you, interesting write-ups in 2016 too. We wish you a year filled with great birding.

— Aasheesh Pittie