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The Woolly-necked Stork *Ciconia episcopus* re-using an old Grey Heron *Ardea cinerea* nest

A pair of Woolly-necked Stork *Ciconia episcopus* was seen nesting in July 2016 on a *Eucalyptus* sp. tree at Bhindawas Wildlife Sanctuary (28.532°N, 76.551°E; 212 m asl; [225]), the largest wetland of Haryana, India. The nest was 11 m above the ground, and was an abandoned, two-year-old nest of a Grey Heron *Ardea cinerea*. The nest was built in the fork of the lower branches of the tree. The pair occupied the nest in the second week of July and by third week the birds were incubating eggs. The eggs hatched in the last week of August and three nestlings were first observed on 01 September 2016. An incubation period of about 40 days was recorded. Both adults participated in all the nidification activities, like nest building, incubation, and feeding the nestlings. The nestlings fledged during the second week of October.

In India, only a few species of birds have been recorded nesting on eucalyptus trees: Darter *Anhinga melanogaster* (Niangthianhoi & Khudsar 2015), and the Indian Spotted Eagle *Clanga hastata* (Sharma *et al.* 2010)—because of its pattern of branching. Therefore, it was quite interesting to see a big bird like the Woolly-necked Stork selecting the eucalyptus tree as a nesting site, and nest successfully. The species is known to breed in large leafy trees like *Salmalia* sp. (Ali & Ripley 1987), *Mitragyna parvifolia*, and *Dalbergia sissoo* (Ishtiaq *et al.* 2004), which have strong branches and forks that provide a stable nesting platform. Some nesting records of the species are also on mobile phone towers (Vaghela *et al.* 2015), and on rock cliffs (Rahmani *et al.* 1996), which are also strong and sturdy nesting sites. The observations of its nesting on an eucalyptus tree appears very interesting as it is very different from the strong and sturdy nesting sites of tall and strong native trees, mobile towers and rocky cliffs. Agricultural fields surround the Bhindawas Wildlife Sanctuary and the peripheral embankment of the wetland is demarcated by *Eucalyptus* sp., *Acacia* sp., *Azadirachta* sp., and *Zizyphus* sp. Thus, may be the absence of tall leafy native trees in this area forced the bird to select the eucalyptus tree as nesting site.

Although, the reuse of its own nests has been recorded (Ali & Ripley 1987), this pair had occupied an abandoned nest of the Grey Heron. I have not come across any reference in the literature, of this species re-using the nest of another species. However, quite a few large birds are known to occupy the nests of smaller species, especially amongst raptors (Newton 1979;

Collias *et al.* 1984; Fernández *et al.* 1991). The re-using of the nest was, perhaps, an opportunistic behavioral strategy of the Woolly-necked Stork pair, as it was a readily available, and suitable to their purpose, in a habitat that was otherwise not conducive to nesting.

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A Greater Flamingo *Phoenicopterus roseus* rescued from Godda district of Jharkhand, India

On 01 April 2017, a few people of Chanda village captured a Greater Flamingo *Phoenicopterus roseus* [226] from a waterbody (25.15°N, 87.45°E) in Godda District, Jharkhand (India). The waterbody is adjacent to agricultural land, and its water is less than five meters deep, with partial algal growth. The highway patrol police registered a case of poaching and seized the bird, later handing it to the Boarjior range officer of Godda forest division. We visited all surrounding waterbodies to check for flamingos, but did not find any. The captive bird was taken to Bhagawan Birsa Biological Park (Ranchi Zoo) on 02 April 2017, where it died the next day. A post mortem showed the cause of death due to an internal injury.

A formal state checklist does not exist for Jharkhand (Rahmani *et al.* 2016: 850–851). Avibase (<http://avibase.bsc-eoc.org/checklist.jsp?region=IN&list=howardmoore>) lists 436 species



225. Woolly-necked Stork nesting in an abandoned Grey Heron nest, in an eucalyptus tree.