

and occasionally assumed a more upright stance, folding its wings in the normal manner. After a long and tiring day plodding through the mud, and with sundown approaching, I did not feel in the least like hunting for eggs or a fledgling which might after all be purely imaginary. I had just resolved to walk on when I looked down and saw three eggs in the sand at my feet.

These were a matt khaki, blotched all over with sepia, the blotches a trifle denser at the broader ends. In shape they resembled chicken's eggs, the one I measured was approximately 32 by 22 cm in size. They lay with their narrow ends inwards and downwards in a hollow in the sand about four inches in diameter, lined and surrounded by an untidy array of bits of broken shell. I saw no sign of an attempt to cover the eggs with fragments of shell and mud, such as Henry

describes. A few tufts of grass grew round about the depression, but offered no protection to the nest in any way. The nest was 33 feet from the high-water line.

Throughout my examination of this nest the adult bird was silent, and I did not see it again; nor, it will be realized, did I see it approach or sit on the nest, but the chances of the eggs belonging to a different bird or species are, I believe, very remote. The eggs were warmer to the touch than pieces of mollusc shell lying near them and a sitting bird had clearly left them only a moment before I found them.

Calimere is a mere thirty miles from the end of the Jaffna peninsula, and it is possible that the birds there are *seebohmi*. What seems odd is the early date. Henry wrote, 'The breeding season lasts from about March till August, but June and July appear to be the favourite months'.

## Correspondence

### A correction

In 'Correspondence' [*Indian Birds* 2 (3): 78] there is a location error; in the fourth paragraph 'Ladakh' should be replaced by 'Lahoul' so that the sentence reads, "I have seen a flock years ago in Lahoul, besides the track beyond Sissoo."

"Do be more selective of drawings you use—the find drawing of the Black-necked Stork is quite out of place since the text around it is of flycatchers, woodpeckers and other woodland birds. *Fillings* for the sake of obliterating blanks are welcome but need to fit in to a reader's understanding of what he is looking at."

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### Black Stork *Ciconia nigra* in Konkan, Maharashtra

On the morning of 10.x.2005 we spotted and photographed (enclosed) one immature Black Stork *Ciconia nigra* in a small wetland in Chiplun city (17°31'N 73°31'E), Ratnagiri district

(Maharashtra, India). This might be a first record of the species from the Konkan region. Other birds at the wetland were Painted Stork *Mycteria leucocephala*, Asian Openbill-Stork *Anastomus oscitans*, White-necked Stork *Ciconia episcopus*, Eurasian Spoonbill *Platalea leucorodia* and Gadwall *Anas strepera*.

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**European Roller *Coracias garrulus* in Nagpur, Maharashtra**  
My friends (Pranav Chahande and Ketan Khamgaonkar) and I would like to report the sighting of a European Roller *Coracias garrulus* on 5.vi.2005 at Ambazari lake in the city of Nagpur (Maharashtra, India). The bird is still present on 10.vi.2005 and has been photographed by Pranav (photo enclosed).

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## Editorial

The evolution of a periodical publication results from the interaction between its editors and readers. Both adjust to each other's needs and styles. From its inception, all material published in *Indian Birds* has been peer-reviewed to ensure its relevance and accuracy. We strongly believe that as a forum that caters to the publishing needs of amateur and professional South Asian ornithologists, *Indian Birds* should provide well researched, dependable data and information.

We receive various types of contributions from our readers. Some are scientific in their style, others popular. Some are checklists of birds seen in an area, some observations of a single species while a few are casual observations at a point in time. Correspondence from members are always welcome and a delight to publish for they are the consequence of thoughtful perusal and the need of the reader to correspond with an author or other readers. We believe that more than

being a scientific ornithological publication we would like to be rigorous about our ornithology.

In this issue, we bring you the first scientific description of a new species for the Indian avifauna and for science. The discovery of the spectacular Bugun Liocichla, in Arunachal Pradesh (India) is cause for joyous celebration for at least two reasons. One, in an age of accelerated extinctions primarily due to habitat destruction, there still exist regions of the earth where 'be dragons'. Two, the strong and immense presence and contribution of amateurs to ornithology—for Ramana Athreya is an astronomer by profession!

Anwaruddin Choudhury, another untiring cataloguer of north-east India's fauna, writes about the birds of Dibru-Saikhwa National Park and Biosphere Reserve and Taej Mundkur updates readers on the present situation of the avian virus in wild birds.