

The male Crimson Sunbirds *Aethopyga siparaja* were as striking as one expects from the illustrations in the above books. I saw these birds visiting hibiscus flowers a number of times at close quarters. Curiously, I could never see the yellow rump shown prominently in the plates. I think that the yellow rump is not easily visible in the field, and birdwatchers should be aware of that fact.

References

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Errata

Indian Birds 2 (5) September–October 2006.

Page 126: Text in the column 'Comments' for serial number 42 'Brown Dipper' are meant for serial number 43 'Alpine Accentor'.
Page 132, column one, line 13: "his 18th century ornithological journal" should read, "his 19th century ornithological journal."

Inside back cover and back cover: The following photographs were taken by Harkirat S. Sangha and not by R. Naoroji. 'Lady with Rufous-necked Hornbill head-dress', 'White-throated Redstart' and 'Collared Owlet'.

Editorial

This has been a signal year for *Indian Birds*. The icing on the cake being, the publication of Ramana Athreya's paper describing a new species for science, the exquisite Bugun Liocichla *Liocichla bugunorum*. For a fledgling publication, that was a big step indeed. In some ways, it was a leap of faith for Ramana, who was adamant from the outset to publish his astounding discovery in an Indian publication. When he chose *Indian Birds*, we had two main concerns. One, that the paper be rigorously refereed and two that it is given the publicity it deserved. We sent it for review to Edward C. Dickinson, Pamela Rasmussen and Jochen Martens, all of who responded rapidly to our requests. BirdLife International's Richard Thomas handled publicity with unbelievable efficiency. The results of his untiring efforts being published in over 130 English (and other languages) newspapers and magazines, in hard copy and on the Internet. Some of these included the *New York Times*, *Time*, the popular *Sun*, besides media coverage in Russian, Finnish, Chinese, etc. Our own website (www.indianbirds.in) saw an unprecedented 78,000 hits during the month. Ramana's paper was hit over 17,000 times (and perhaps downloaded too!). For this, we thank O. C. Naveein and his team, who handle our website, for uploading the paper in time to meet the press deadlines.

Another first for *Indian Birds* was the reprint of a paper on taxonomy in its May–June 2006 issue. The ready cooperation of the authors and the editor of *British Birds* made this possible.

As an editor, I am generally concerned about two or three aspects of *Indian Birds*. The first is a good stock of manuscripts, which really feels like a solid bank balance, the factual paucity of hard currency for printing *Indian Birds* notwithstanding. We are well provisioned at the moment, in that department, and are in the process of increasing the number of pages to accommodate more notes. The second is the quality of

manuscripts that arrive for publication. The rare, well-written one, which follows our 'instructions to authors' explicitly, is a joy to receive. The third is the cost of publication and postage! Now that we've switched over to glossy paper and colour, costs have soared free of any restrictive budgetary gravitational force. We birders are a passionate lot and I am sure that with your support *Indian Birds* will not only endure but also thrive.

During 2006 we published 79 papers, short notes, opinions, articles, reviews and letters to the editor.

Beginning with this issue, we take the pleasure of welcoming the veteran ornithologist, Lavkumar Khacher's column, "A flight down memory lane". In his own inimitable style he distills the experiences of several decades' involvement with birds in India—hindsight to benefit contemporary and future Indian ornithology.

Several persons helped in producing *Indian Birds* in 2006 and it is with great pleasure that I acknowledge their behind-the-scenes contributions—whether as sponsors, layout experts, referees, photographers, artists, or office help—here: Ramana Athreya, Maan Barua, Anwaruddin Choudhury, Edward Dickinson, Nicolas Fernandez, G.B.K. Charitable Trust, Ganesh, Anwar Hussain, Jairam, R. Jayapal, Jochen Martens, Taej Mundkur, Rishad Naoroji, B. M. Parasharya, Pitti Laminations Ltd., Suhel Quader, S. Ramakrishnan, P. Rambabu, Pamela Rasmussen, V. Santharam, Sumit Sen, The Serenity Trust, L. Shyamal, S. Subramanya, K. Gopi Sundar, and Suresh V. I would also like to thank here all our authors and subscribers for supporting *Indian Birds* and my colleagues at New Orns Foundation for allowing me a free hand with *Indian Birds*.

As *Indian Birds* steps into its third year, I wish you days full of birds and the joy they unknowingly bring to our lives.

—Aasheesh Pittie