

## IN THE ISSUE

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- Padma Bhushan award to Shri H.S. Panwar

## Next Issue

- XXXIV PG Diploma in Advanced Wildlife Management
- Regional Steering Committee Meeting on conservation of Vultures



Arundhati Chatterjee

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Tricarinate Hill Turtle *Melanochelys tricarinata*

## Current Protected Area Network of India

Position as on February 27, 2013

National Parks: 102; Area 40074.78 sq km, (1.22%)  
Wildlife Sanctuaries: 520; Area 122867.34 sq km, (3.74%)  
Conservation Reserves\*: 57; Area 2017.94 sq km, (0.06%)  
Community Reserves: 4; Area 20.69 sq km, (0.0%)  
Total Protected Areas: 683; Area 164980.75 sq km, (5.02%)

\*New Conservation Reserve in Rajasthan:

### Jawai Bandh

(Total Area 19.79 sq km;)

Significance: Presence of Crocodiles (around 288 as per the 2011 wildlife census)

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## Around the Campus

### XXVIII Certificate Course in Wildlife Management concluded

The Certificate Course is a regular training programme of the Institute. The XXVIII Certificate Course in Wildlife Management commenced on November 1, 2012. In all, 10 candidates joined this course, of which 8 foreign nationals (2 each from Malaysia and Bhutan and one each from Lao PDR, Vietnam, Nepal and Thailand) and 2 Indian candidates from Madhya Pradesh Forest Department. This year, Global Tiger Forum supported 5 candidates for the course.

Theory inputs in class room sessions at the Institute allowed the trainee officers to equip them with concepts and approaches relevant to principles of wildlife biology, ecology, wildlife management, and management planning, captive management, GIS and remote sensing, wildlife health, conservation education, nature interpretation, wildlife tourism and eco-development for biodiversity conservation. During their stay at WII, they were asked to collect 5 plant specimens' everyday and get them identified.

Trainee officers were taken to various protected areas in West Bengal, such as Mahananda Sanctuary, Senchal Sanctuary, Gorumara National Park, Jaldapara Wildlife Sanctuary and Buxa Tiger Reserve and Darjeeling Zoo for their management tour during January 11-25, 2013. The focus of field visits and interaction was on habitat fragmentation; elephant and other wild animal conflict with human societies; management of grasslands and plantations; population management, especially of rhino in Gorumara and Jaldapara and tiger monitoring in

Buxa; conservation breeding of red panda, snow leopard and vulture conservation breeding programmes; weed management; protection strategies; staff deployment and amenities and involvement of local communities in conservation. In the later half of the management tour, officer trainees were taken to various protected areas and Ramsar sites at Bhitarkanika and Chilika. A visit to Nandankanan Zoological Park was made to learn about conservation breeding and zoo management.

In addition to lectures there were practical sessions and short visits in the campus, trainees were taken for a day's trip to Haridwar to see the cultural heritage, socio-economic status and biodiversity wealth of India through 'Science Express - Biodiversity Special' (SEBS) train. They were taken to Dhanaulti where they learnt about the eco-tourism practices and interacted with the villagers, changes in vegetation patterns along an altitudinal gradient and visited Rajaji National Park.

The course concluded on January 31, 2013. All the officer trainees have successfully completed the course. Ms. Thinley Choden was awarded the Wildlife Conservation Gold Medal for securing highest aggregate marks including viva-voce and Institute's Silver Medal for Best All Round Wildlifer for obtaining highest marks in techniques, management and viva voce. Shri Devesh Kharadi bagged Institute's Silver Medal for Wildlife Management and Conservation for securing highest marks in management theory papers in all six sub-modules.

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Vinod Verma



Vinod Verma



One-week compulsory training course on “Illegal Trade in Wildlife and its Protection Strategies: Intelligence Gathering, Anti-poaching Strategies and the Role of Wildlife Forensics in dealing with Wildlife Crimes”, Dehradun, January 14-18, 2013. The course was conducted at the Institute for IFS Officers nominated by Ministry of Environment & Forests, Govt. of India. There were 19 participants from different States in the country, who participated in this course. The objective of the course was to understand the status and extent of illegal trade in wildlife and the protection strategies adopted by the State governments. Case laws on wildlife and appreciating the role of wildlife forensics in dealing with wildlife crime were also covered in this course. There were several distinguished and eminent resource persons from the country with expertise in wildlife law, investigation of wildlife crime and identification of wildlife products, who gave inputs in this course. The course was very useful and the participants appreciated the strategy developed for successful prosecution of offenders and felt that this should be emulated in their states. The inputs given by the resource person from Wildlife Crime Control Bureau and Central Bureau of Investigation on wildlife case investigation and forensics was very much appreciated.



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Attachment of Probationers of Indian Revenue Service (Customs & Central Excise) Group-A 63<sup>rd</sup> Batch with Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun, January 21 - February 1, 2013 and February 4-15, 2013. The training module basically aimed at sensitizing the young Probationers of Indian Revenue Service towards wildlife trade in the country and their role in checking it. The course was attended by a large group of 111 probationers in two groups.

Various inputs included introduction on importance of biodiversity and its conservation, status of endangered species including flagship species like tiger and its monitoring and special inputs on illegal trade in wildlife articles including butterflies, shahtoosh, rhino horn, skins and tiger bones. Inputs were also given on importance of plant taxonomy and trade in medicinal plants. Inputs were given on the role of wildlife forensics in dealing with wildlife cases. Officers were also given basic information on the implementation of Wildlife Protection Act, 1972, CITES and other international conventions.




The probationers were provided an opportunity to interact with the IFS probationers at Indira Gandhi National Forest Academy to improve inter-service coordination. Apart from providing classroom inputs, the officers were taken to Rajaji National Park and Corbett Tiger Reserve for field exposure. Jungle safaris in the Dhikala and Bijrani area of Corbett Tiger Reserve sensitized them towards flagship and keystone species. The young and enthusiastic probationers had the privilege of interacting with the top officials of the Tiger Reserve. All the young probationers of Indian Revenue Service took a keen interest in understanding various aspects of wildlife conservation both during classroom and field activities.

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# Around the Campus

## Congratulations Sir...

**Padma Bhushan**



**Shri Hemendra Singh Panwar**

Shri Hemendra Singh Panwar, Indian Forest Service Officer, who retired as Director Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun in 1995, is recognized as the leading pioneer in the Indian wildlife sector within the country and globally.

2. Born on March 22, 1937, Shri Panwar scientifically planned and executed management of a prime national park, Kanha, in Madhya Pradesh with excellence for over a decade, directed successfully the growth of prestigious Project Tiger on a national scale for four years and founded and fostered over nine years the premier national institution Wildlife Institute of India. It was Shri Panwar's imaginative management plan that Kanha was adjudged as the best managed park of the country in 1976. The star species of the Kanha Park was the Central Indian Barasingha. When it was on the brink of extinction with just 66 heads left in Kanha, Shri Panwar gave priority to anti-poaching, enlarging and ameliorating the habitat for Barasingha and other herbivores as well as eliminating villagers' woe of crop and livestock damage. He planned relocation of 22 interior villages. Using his persuasive skills, he prevailed upon villagers to move out with a participative rehabilitation package. These helped Barasingha numbers to steadily grow to over 250 by 1981 and over 400 now. The tigers have also grown to over 150 now from a little over 30 in 1972.
3. Shri Panwar served in the Ministry of Environment and Forests and headed Project Tiger from 1981 to 1985. He was behind adding seven more tiger reserves and employed his Kanha experience to improve their management. This, aided by higher outlays and human resource steadily boosted conservation and protection of tiger and country's tiger population recorded a steady rise to over 3000 in late 1980s from under 1900 in early 1970s. Project Tiger in its 10th anniversary in 1983 was hailed globally as world's most successful wildlife conservation effort with tiger as the 'flagship'.
4. After selection by UPSC in 1985, Shri Panwar was appointed as Founder Director of the newly set up Wildlife Institute of India. The Institute flowered under his able leadership and remains the main provider of trained park managers and wildlife researchers. These graduates, alongside the science of conservation, reflect a good understanding of the socioeconomic dependence of forest dwellers. This speaks volumes of the broad base of the fabric of research, education and training entrenched by Shri Panwar in the Wildlife Institute's programme milieu.
5. Shri Panwar's work has been copiously recognized inland and overseas. He won the first ever Gold Medal by Madhya Pradesh in 1981 and a memento by the Prime Minister in 1992 for his Project Tiger. In 1992, he was conferred with World Conservation Union's (WCA-IUCN) Tree of Learning and in 1996 again by WCA with Fred M Packard International Parks Merit Award. In 1999, he was the first recipient of Rajiv Gandhi Wildlife conservation Award for lifetime achievements. In 2002, he was recognized by WWF-International through the Duke of Edinburgh Conservation Medal for his vision and conservation leadership in India.

*Shri Hemendra Singh Panwar, Former Director of Wildlife Institute of India was awarded the prestigious Padma Bhushan Award. WII family members congratulate him for this achievement, which is another feather in his cap. The citation presented to Shri Panwar in the award ceremony is self explanatory about his career and personality.*



**'Threatened Birds of India- Their Conservation Requirements'  
Dr. Asad R. Rahmani**

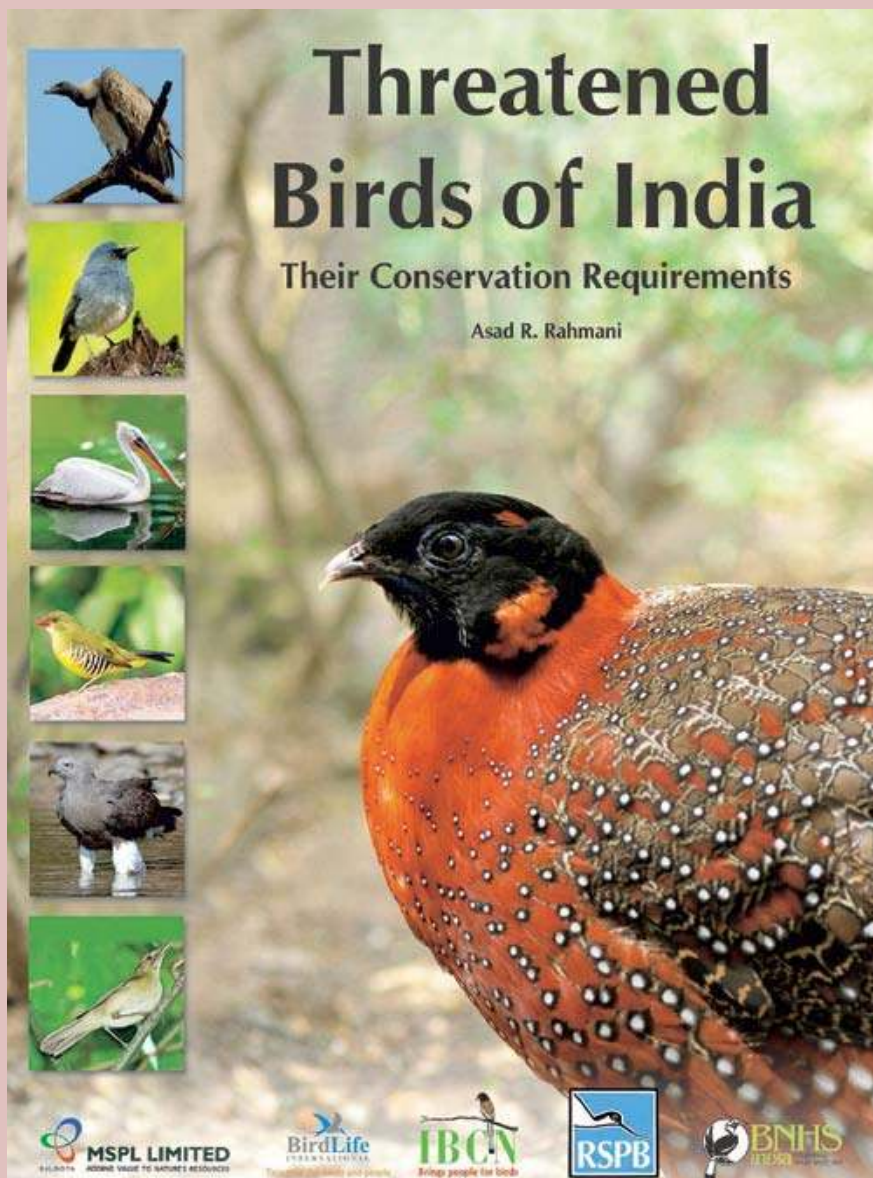
**BOOK REVIEW**

Red lists have always been very important starting points for biodiversity conservation in the world. While these have been often used to highlight the importance of areas, which house them, leading to their better protection and management, these lists do not often directly help the species themselves since the listing fails to provide the much required details for conservation action. We may have many areas in the form of protected areas and more recently important bird areas (IBAs) but species recovery plans are still very rare. The monumental

work 'Threatened Birds of India' by the most learned and dedicated bird conservationist and the most prolific writer on the subject has finally filled this major information void and should take conservation of birds in India to new echelons.

The book describes 82 globally threatened, 66 globally near threatened, 2 data deficient and 3 additional candidate bird species, which occur in India to great details. The individual chapters on these 153 birds requiring maximum conservation

attention begin with sufficient description of the field characters of the bird. However, the section where a lot of effort has been made is the one on geographical distribution since this is very important for channelizing the conservation action to the right areas. Practically all recent publications have been sifted in order to get an updated distribution and the same has also been provided on very well made maps. Full advantage of the recent surge in ornithological observation has thus been made in drawing up a true picture of the status and distribution of the species. The section on ecology provides critical information, including that of breeding requirement for resident species, which is vital for its conservation. The last three sections namely threats, conservation action and recommendations are the key sections of direct value to conservation practitioners. Since most of the threatened birds are increasingly getting confined to a few pockets, details of site specific issues provide framework for conservation action by policy makers and field managers. It can be said that the chapters are like concise species recovery action plans, which can straightaway put to conservation action without any further loss of time. Small box items on taxonomy and etymology



Pp. xvi+864,

Price Rs. 3000/-;

Indian Bird Conservation Network: Bombay Natural History Society, Royal Society for the Protection of Birds and Birdlife International.  
Oxford University Press.

give interesting information, which is not easily available for most threatened birds. Each chapter has a meaningful collection of photographs covering not only the bird, but also its habitat and threats with apt captions. Layout and design deserve special appreciation.

Such a monumental work could not have been possible without wide ranging consultations and Dr. Rahmani, painstakingly reached out to all the important bird people of India to take this book to such levels of fine information. The zeal and perseverance with which he approached the long list of people given in the book left them with no option but to contribute enthusiastically to this great effort.

Wildlife researchers in India are keen to undertake research, which directly benefits conservation of threatened species and the book provides a long list of species specific research gaps. The list of birds for which India should be playing the role of 'guardian country' is the starting point for the selection of species for conservation research, while the species accounts provide the possible areas for research.

The book does not begin abruptly on the vital information on individual threatened birds of India, instead has a collection of eight nicely written articles by experts including the very informative introduction covering various facets of bird conservation issues in India for which the author needs to be complimented. It would have been desirable to include similar articles on conservation issues pertaining to birds of Himalayas and Western Ghats, two of the global biodiversity hotspots in India, which I am confident, would be covered in subsequent editions of the book. The author could have considered splitting the book into two volumes to improve its portability and ease of use by the practitioner.

*Reviewer: Dr. Dhananjai Mohan,  
Scientist 'F', Wildlife Institute of India*

## Rifle shooting silver medal to Dr. Manoj Agarwal

The 20<sup>th</sup> All India Forest Sports & Games Meet 2013 was conducted by the Forest Department, Haryana during February 8-12, 2013 at Panchkula, Haryana. The Institute's contingent of 26 players participated in the Meet in various events viz. Cricket, Rifle shooting, Billiards, Lawn Tennis, Table Tennis, Golf, Chess and Carom.

Dr. Manoj Agarwal of Wildlife Institute of India bagged the Silver Medal in .22 prone 50 meters rifle shooting event. He secured the medal position consecutively for the third time.

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*"Animals don't hate, and we're supposed to be better than them."*

*— Elvis Presley*