

CORRESPONDENCE

of *P. juliflora*, talking of a single tree in terms of nesting substrate for birds is somewhat meaningless. Also, it has to be borne in mind that birds have enormous plasticity and adaptability when it comes to utilizing resources for living and opportunistically using nesting substrates. That is why heronry birds tend to build nests wherever they can find suitable substrates and protection, even in urban ponds. For the past 50 years, Painted Stork (*Mycteria leucocephala*) has been regularly nesting on clumps of *P. juliflora* in the ponds of Delhi Zoo². In Upalapaddu, Andhra Pradesh, pelican and Painted Stork have started nesting on metal structures erected in ponds by the local forest department. Birds like Black ibis (*Pseudibis papillosa*) have been recorded building nests on electricity pylons³, about 10–11 m above the ground.

Invasive species like *P. juliflora* are certainly a nuisance and create ecological havoc due to a number of reasons⁴. Being an aggressive species, it is known to compete with local species and drive them to extinction and this is by far its most negative feature. However, as far as the note of Chandrasekaran *et al.* is concerned, by presuming first and foremost that an invasive species is bound to have negative impacts on nesting birds, and

basing their conclusion on only one set of observations, is like putting the cart before the horse.

1. Chandrasekaran, S., Saraswathy, K., Saravanan, S., Kamaladhasan, N. and Arun Nagendran, N., *Curr. Sci.*, 2014, **106**, 676–678.
2. Urfi, A. J., *The Painted Stork Ecology and Conservation*, Springer, New York, 2011.
3. Sangha, H. S., *Indian Birds*, 2013, **8/1**, 10–11.
4. *Prosopis juliflora (Prosopis or Mesquite)*, Fact Sheet Bio NET EAFARINET; [http://keys.lucidcentral.org/keys/v3/eafrinet/weeds/key/weeds/Media/Html/Prosopis_juliflora_\(Prosopis_or_Mesquite\).htm](http://keys.lucidcentral.org/keys/v3/eafrinet/weeds/key/weeds/Media/Html/Prosopis_juliflora_(Prosopis_or_Mesquite).htm) (accessed on 5 February 2015).

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Response:

Even a small human movement inside the Sanctuary will lead to greater mortality of juveniles/eggs due to vigorous movement of the birds. Therefore, it is difficult to collect fine details such as species-wise fallen eggs and chicks from the study sites. Our statement regarding the possibility of sliding eggs and chicks from the nest of *Prosopis juliflora* and *Acacia nilotica* is based on the observations from the banks of the Sanctuary. A long-term study currently undertaken by us on the exotic plants–birds interaction will give more insight on the topic in the future.

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