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## NESTING OF BLACK IBIS (*PSEUDIBIS PAPILLOSA*) IN THAR DESERT OF RAJASTHAN

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During several visits to the Thar Desert of Rajasthan, I saw six nests of Black Ibis (*Pseudibis papillosa*), out of which three nests were reported on a big Pipal (*Ficus religiosa*) tree in Mukam Village of Bikaner District. Two nests were seen on Pipal tree in Godra villages of Nagpur District and a single nest was located in Rajasthan Agriculture University Campus, Beechwal, Bikaner, again on a Pipal tree.

All nests were present for quite a long time and the local people claimed that the birds use the same tree for nesting every year. Previously, there were no reports of any nesting from this region. Interestingly I observed all nesting trees to be *Ficus religiosa*. Nair and Vyas (2003) reported its nesting on *Ficus bengalensis*. Information on the selection of trees especially *Ficus* for nesting by these birds is not known.

Ali and Ripley (1978) reported that the Black Ibis breed in northern India, later in Gujarat, the Deccan and in the south. Nair and Vyas (2003) reported a nesting pair in Udupuria Village of Kota District. The localities where I observed nesting are quite far from Kota. All new nesting sites are in the Thar Desert of Rajasthan, hence noteworthy.

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