

# Tiger on the run sneaks into birds' paradise

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**JAIPUR:** Now there is a cat among the pigeons and myriad other bird species nesting and breeding in the world famous Keoladeo National Park bird sanctuary near Bharatpur in Rajasthan. The intruder in the birds' paradise, a fugitive tiger on the run after attacking and injuring more than half a dozen persons last week near the Mathura Oil Refinery in the neighbouring State of Uttar Pradesh, seemingly sneaked into the park this past Sunday.

The animal, identified as T-7 of Ranthambhore National Park in Rajasthan, was photographed with the help of a camera trap laid on Monday night. The camera trap was laid as the authorities sensed the presence of a big predator in the predominantly herbivore habitat after the carcass of a big Blue bull was found on Sunday evening with its rump portion eaten.

"This is the same tiger which had made an appearance in Mathura. Our staff, with the support of the Divisional Forest Officer Mathura, have been tracking it ever since," said Anoop K.R., Field Director of Keoladeo National Park, speaking to *The Hindu* on Wednesday.

"After the October 4 incident in Mathura it moved along the villages of Sajadpur-Gujjar, Soothi, Ikran and Achera for the next four days before vanishing without leaving a trail. However,



**THE TIGER ON THE RUN:** *The tiger from Ranthambhore National Park whose photo was taken by the Keoladeo National Park authorities using a camera trap.*

when on October 10 our staff reported the killing of a blue bull we just made an intelligent guess about the likely suspect," Mr. Anoop noted.

This is the second time in the past decade a tiger makes its way into the 29 sq km sanctuary, once the wintering ground for Siberian cranes and a UNESCO World Heritage site. Back in 1999 a young tigress had entered the park and remained there till 2005 spending six long years till she died. She had a peaceful co-existence with birds and the visitors to the park, smugly feeding on the abundant supply of deer and feral cattle.

"This is an interesting development. It also eases the worries about the tiger wandering along the Rajasthan-UP border," said Parikshit Gautam, Director, Freshwa-

ter and Wetlands Programme, WWF.

"This tiger too can co-exist as the female tiger in the past. After a while the authorities in Rajasthan can consider the options, including shifting it to Sariska Tiger Reserve if they think it is needed," said Dr. Gautam, who was in Jodhpur to attend the two-day desert bio-diversity meet. The staff of National Park, keeping a round-the-clock watch on the big cat, could not spot it with their own eyes yet.

"His presence is evident as he made two kills the other day."

This is an unusual feat considering that predators make one kill and desist from hunting till they consume the flesh," informed Mr. Anoop on Wednesday.