

Mr Humayun Abdulali
75 Abdul Rehman Street
Bombay 400003.

11th January, 1984.

Dear Abdulali Sahab,

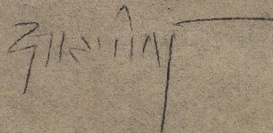
I am enclosing a field-list of the commoner birds of Hyderabad, brought out by the Birdwatchers' Society of Andhra Pradesh. It has been designed by us, for sale to birdwatchers of this area, keeping in mind bird Families. We have tried to arrange the birds in alphabetical order within their Families. The four columns have been provided for 'tick-marks' on four field-trips. It is left to the user's discretion whether to use one card for one place or for four different places. I personally feel that the use of all the four columns of one card should be for the same place. It is not only convenient, but one has the gist of four trips to a place right there, on the card. But I would like to have your opinion of the card.

Siraj Sahab had gone to Madras recently, and there visited the Guindy Deer Park. He says that it is full of Grey Drongos. Perhaps one sees one or two Black Drongos in a day, but there are Grey Drongos and Grey Drongos. As soon as he said this, I thought of you and the theory of the Grey Drongos in Borivili. I do not think that this similarity between the two places could be the result of a coincidence. Could it be due to the rather similar habitat? Both places are full of densely grown trees. But are the resident Black Drongos of Guindy spreading out into the city of Madras? like those of Borivili are going to Bombay and other areas?

The heavy monsoon of this year has been very good for the birds, but not too good for the birdwatchers. All the tanks and lakes are brimming and so bird populations seem to have spread over all of them. I have not seen the congregations of waterbirds of last year. The Pied Harrier has been seen again near the city! Rest is all fine here. I am eagerly waiting for your comments on the card.

Regards to Mrs Abdulali.

Yours sincerely



HUMAYUN ABDULALI
75, Abdul Rehman Street,
BOMBAY-400 003.

BOMBAY-400 003.
75, Abdul Rehman Street,
BOMBAY-400 003.

[Faint handwritten text, likely bleed-through from the reverse side of the card]

First fold here

INLAND CERTIFICATE OF POSTAGE
अन्तर्देशीय पत्र कार्ड
INLAND LETTER CARD



Shri Rakesh Pittie,
14-7-370 Begumpet,
Hyderabad,
500012 A.P.

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भेजने वाले का नाम और पता- Sender's name and address:-

HUMAYUN ABDULALI

75, Abdul Rehman Street,

BOMBAY-400 003.



इस पत्र में अटैचमेंट्स नहीं रखिये

No enclosures allowed

To open cut here

A ROCKET® PRODUCT

HUMAYUN ABDULALI

Telegram : FAIZCOY

Telephone : 321724

Res. : 533006

75, Abdul Rehman Street,
BOMBAY-400 003.

19th January 84

My dear Rasheesh,

Thank you for your letter of 11th inst and the card which is an excellent effort. However there ^{are} some points which could be improved upon 1) the list is not complete, and I think you should make it like a check-list, covering all noted by you & others including all published records. If you make an attempt, I'll be glad to help in such manner as I can. As regards migrants you should include those which have been found in the neighbourhood, particularly south, for the only reason for their exclusion would be somebody's failure to see them.

2) The abbreviations are not satisfactory - you must get the whole name in - It would need quite an effort to ascertain what is a dark RWB

3) The interest is in the rarer & not the common birds.

4) How many have you had printed & when do you expect to plan the second edition. And for my private information, how many have you got & at what cost?

5) You list only one weaver bird. I have had correspondence with one of your "Hyderabad" re. 3 in one area, and I think you have published this in Osagea. I am writing this at home which my correspondence is at my office, so bits of this may be disconnected.

6) I think that two or three of you should write a joint note for the Bombay journal adding to all that is missing in Salim Blue B. of Hyd. and/or what has not been separately published. In all species about which remarks there, you should refer to the characters on which you make the differences.

The remarks re. the Grey Dragons are interesting. Why should the experience in Guindy Park be a coincidence. The same factors (the Grey dragons) would create the same effect, the dispersal of the Black. And incidentally the birds do not move into Bombay City, but into the open country on the outskirts of the forested area. Somebody nearer to the Guindy Park, should keep detailed notes, together with dates, to permit comparison.

All the best,
H. Abdulali

Mr Humayan Abdulali
75 Abdul Rehman Street
Bombay - 400 003.

25th January, 1984.

Dear Abdulali Sahab,

I have read your letter after returning from Calcutta yesterday. I am grateful to you for the prompt reply and the advice. But permit me to state our case a little more carefully and clearly.

- 1) This card has been designed, as i said earlier, with the local birdwatcher in mind. It is ~~for~~ him to take out into the field and use as he birdwatches. We were working within a limit of space so that the card could be slipped into a shirt-pocket and thus be carried easily into the field. All the birds have not been included for the simple reason that the card is comprising of the COMMON birds of Hyderabad region. Though, as you mention, there are several more species found in the area covered, they are not commonly found, and so have not been included. Regarding your point about a checklist, i might say that we have been considering it all along and work in this regard is in progress. What we are waiting for is time. We want our record to be as straight as possible the first, and so have been collecting data for close to three years now. It goes without saying that we are not only grateful for your generous offer of help in the preparation of a checklist, but we would want it quite a bit. Thankyou once again.
- 2) You point out that the abbreviations are not satisfactory. I again say that the size of the card was of primary importance and so we had to use those abbreviations, only.
- 3) Though i personally would have loved to include even the rarer birds into the list, opinion in the Society favoured the commoner birds. Some of us are conservative and would not like to face ridicule or criticism for a howler in the rarer bird sphere. A sound record should be established first before it is made public, is the line of thought!
- 4) We have had 2000 cards printed and each card has cost us 27p. About Rs 550/- for the lot. We think it is a good bargain and have put a price of Rs 5/- per set of 10 cards. We have not thought of a second edition yet, but i guess we should start once $\frac{1}{2}$ of the whole lot is sold. What would you suggest, being more experienced?
- 5) We have listed 2 weaver birds in the list and not 1 as you mention in the letter. The third, (Blackthroated Weaver Bird), is not common. We have seen it in just one area of the city. The two birds listed are BAYA and WEAVER BIRD, S (streaked).

- :2: -

FR
* not easily seen

25th January, 1984.

6) The suggestion you make about three or four of us writing a piece for the Journal, on the birds of Hyderabad - adding to all that is missing in Salim Ali's Birds of Hyderabad - is excellent. But one big drawback would be the fact that the latter covered the entire HYDERABAD STATE, while we have been watching the birdlife of Hyderabad city only. What do you suggest for this situation? Should we base our notes in reference to those birds which Dr Salim Ali found within the limits of our work?? And add such species which he has not listed for the area?

Abdulali Sahab, our Society is planning a Habitat Survey of certain habitats found in and around the city. What we have in mind is a rather amateurish attempt at conducting an ecological study of the bird-fauna of these habitats. We plan to record the monthly changes in the habitat, like the flowering of certain trees, and other such floral changes; the effect of these changes on the local bird populations; what they feed on and when; what time of the year they begin to nest and whether changes in the floral cycle starts off the avian cycle and if possible to find out which floral cycle stimulates which species of bird/s. We will also be recording the weather changes and any changes occurring in the immediate habitat itself. Like the drying/filling up of ponds, cutting up of reeds, breaking down of rocks for granite, etc. We shall try to correlate this data with the bird-life too. We have planned some record cards for this project too, and i shall mail you a set as soon as they are ready, for your comment. In the meantime, would you please tell me what you think about the above project and how we can improve upon it, keeping in mind that it has to be simple.?

A piece of good news for you is our plan to have a more comprehensive list of birds of this region, in the future. But i cannot say how near this future is going to be. But i think that this list will also be a 'tick list' rather than a 'checklist'.

In mid March, the local branch of WWF is planning a snake show and an evening of films of wildlife for the wildlifers in the city. Srinath of Madras will bring his snakes for the show. We are gearing up for it now.

Hoping to hear from you soon. And wishing you the best

Sincerely
A
Srinath

HUMAYUN ABDULALI

Telegram : FAIZCOY
Telephone 3 2 1 7 2 4
Res.: 5 3 3 0 0 6

75, Abdul Rehman Street,
BOMBAY-400 003.

6th February, 1984.

Dear Aasheesh,

I have your letter of 25th ^{ult.} inst. While I am sure that it is not much use corresponding indefinitely about the same matters, I think I would like to clarify some of my points of view just to make sure that there is no misunderstanding:-

(1 & 3). The purpose of a card of this kind is to let the birdwatcher know what he should look for. One of the important points of birdwatching is to obtain new records and a list for A.P. is incomplete without reference to Jerdon's Courser and the Pinkheaded Duck. Unless you give them the names, the observers, if any, will fail to identify what he has seen. It is also not necessary to publish every sight-record reported and if you look at the foreign journals, you will see that each sight-record is accompanied by a list of the points on which the identification is based, and which permits separation from an associated species. It may also be accompanied by an editorial note indicating why the reason the report is suspect. The next observer will have to override this difficulty.

(2). Upon looking at the card more carefully, I see that you could in many cases have inserted the whole name and where this is not possible, it would be better to have a heading for groups e.g. eagles when only this word need be abbreviated e.g. Crested Serpent E. rather than C.S. Eagle.

You cannot have very small areas for the distribution of birds which can fly 30/50 miles in a few hours. When you are referring to resident birds like larks and if a suitable biotope exists, you can include them even if they are found in the surrounding countryside on all sides and not in the area under study itself.

(4). The programme is good but from my experience this may take a long time.

(5) The two Bayas are separated by several ~~Munias~~ and I missed one.

(6/7) A habitat (ecological) survey is very interesting but the difficulty is that there are few, if any, people in this country who are competent to undertake or guide such

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HUMAYUN ABDULALI

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75, Abdul Rehman Street,
BOMBAY-400 003.

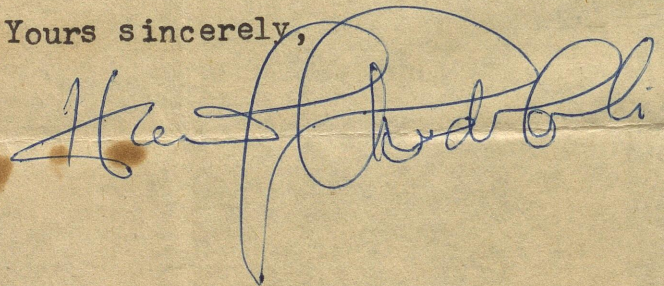
Telegram : FAIZCOY
Telephone 321724
Res. : 533006

6th February, 1984.

surveys. You can only start with specific single species projects e.g. what is the difference in habitat between the two Bayas or of any birds of two or more species found in the same area. Once you can determine the reasons why 2 species of the same genus are found in the same or different areas, you can apply similar reasons to other species and then link them with other aspects of the biotope, plants, soil, etc. Many attempts have been made of large scale overall work of this kind, but I have not seen any successful results.

Please do not think that I am trying to discourage your work. I am only trying to draw attention to the difficulties which you are bound to experience.

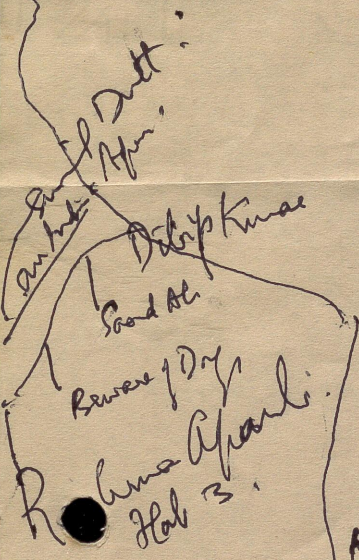
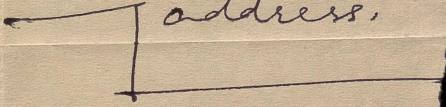
Yours sincerely,



Mr. A. Pittie,
14-7-370 Begum Bazar,
Hyderabad-500 012. (A.P.)

N

Mr. H. Abdulali's
address.



Back rd. of Pali Hill.

28/9/74

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Pali
Bazar

BY AIR MAIL
PAR AVION
हवाई पत्र
AÉROGRAMME



Mr. Ashish Peter.

14-7-370

Begun Bazar

*Hyderabad, A.P.
500072*

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Sender's name and address :-

Bombay Natural History Society

Hornbill House, Dr. Salim Ali Chowk,

Shaheed Bhagat Singh Road,

BOMBAY-400 023 (INDIA)



इस पत्र के अन्दर कुछ न रखिये

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Bombay Natural History Society

Regd. under Societies Registration Act. No. XX1 of 1860 [No. 448 dt. 14-3-1928]
Regd. under Bombay Public Trusts Act, 1950 [No. F 244 (Bom) dt. 6-7-1953]
HORNBILL HOUSE, DR. SALIM ALI CHOWK,
SHAHEED BHAGAT SINGH ROAD,
BOMBAY 400 023

7/5
194

4th May 1934.

My dear Arthur,

Though we will be applying for permission I will no doubt be able to get a permit in due course. But there is the time to get hold of all the birds lying in different parts of the country, and no doubt deteriorating & also making a staggered collection.

I understand that the birds collected by Salim Ali in the course of his survey of Hyderabad State are lying somewhere in Hyderabad. Can you trace it & let me know where we can convene negotiations for taking the whole lot over for BNHS?

Please let me have all the available data and also what steps are to be taken to go ahead. Many thanks,

Have no news from you for a long time. I hope all is well with you and yours.

Kindest regards,

H. S. G. S.

AASHEESH PITTIE

14-7-370 Begum Bazaar, Hyderabad - 500 012. India. Phone : R:35683 / O:43264.

REF: Your: Dt. 4.5.94.

May 8, 1994

Mr. Humayun Abdulali
C/o Bombay Natural History Society
Hornbill House
Dr. Salim Ali Chowk
Shaheed Bhagat Singh Road
BOMBAY - 400 023

Dear Abdulali Sahab,

Your above letter was a wonderful surprise!

Dr. Salim Ali's collection of birds from the erstwhile Hyderabad State is with the Zoology Department of the Osmania University, here.

There are very few specimens in the collection and almost all have seen pretty rough weather.

The correct person to contact would be Dr. V. Nagulu, Head of Department, Department of Zoology, Osmania University, Hyderabad. His residential address is 9-1/5 Dwarakanagar, New Dilsukhnagar, Hyderabad - 500 660.

If there is anything else I can do in the above matter, please do not hesitate to write.

I hope all is well with you and Mrs. Abdulali. We are all well here. Smriti and the kids have gone to Bangalore for the summer and I shall join them at the end of May. We are planning a 3-4 days trip to Munnar in the High Range hills of Kerala.

Wishing you and Mrs. Abdulali all the very best,

Yours sincerely,

