

Major-General H. Williams, CB, CBE.

CONFIDENTIAL

Kashmir House,  
New Delhi.

13 October 1955.

Dear *M<sup>r</sup> Salim Ali,*

*an Indian*

I have been asked by a learned Society of International reputation to get particulars about you with a view to your name being put forward for Fellowship. It is an institution of considerable standing, but I believe that in honouring you it would be honouring itself.

I should be very glad if you would send me full details of the following so that I may pass them to your proposer :-

Name in full :

Place of Residence :

Qualifications : Under this heading would you please give me a list of your published works and if you have reprints of a few of the more learned papers which you have published it would be very helpful. Please give me as full information as possible, for I can always omit anything which does not appear relevant.

Would you kindly treat this information as Confidential. I have no doubt that before your name goes forward you will finally be informed.

As I shall be leaving for Roorkee on 16th October would you please send your reply on the following address :-

c/o Central Building Research Institute,  
Roorkee. (U.P.)

With best wishes.

Yours

Salim Ali, Esq.,  
c/o Bombay Natural History Society,  
114, Apollo Street,  
BOMBAY -1.

*W. Williams*

15 October 1955

Dear General Williams,

Thank you for your letter of the 13th. My 'qualifications' (such as they are) are as follows. I am glad you will omit anything that appears irrelevant when passing the details on to the proposer. (I fear you may have to omit most of them!)

Name: Salim Moizuddin Abdul Ali

Place of Residence: 33 Lali Hill, Bandra, Bombay 20

1. Did B.A.(Hons.) course of Bombay University in Zoology (1918) while engaged in business, in order to give a proper scientific background to my interest in ornithology. (Not for a Degree)
2. Trained in Germany under Prof. Erwin Stresemann of the Berlin University Zoological Museum, in Systematic Ornithology (1927)

Publications:

1. The Book of Indian Birds (now in the 5th edition) I.N.H.S.
2. Indian Hill Birds (Oxford University Press)
3. Birds of Kutch (C.U.P.)
4. Birds of Travancore & Cochin (C.U.P.)
5. Birds of Sikkim (under preparation for Sikkim Govt. and C.U.P.)

A large number of papers on Indian birds, mostly in the Journal of the Bombay Natural History Society, since 1927, chiefly of a regional nature (reports of field surveys undertaken), dealing with systematics, ecology and bionomics. Many of these were published serially. I am sorry the reprints remaining with me are only odd parts or broken series. Therefore not sent.

Recognitions:

Elected

- Corresponding Member Deutsches Ornithologen-Gesellschaft
- do- British Ornithologists' Union
- do- Zoological Society, London
- Corresponding Fellow, American Ornithologists' Union.
- Member, Permanent Executive Committee International Ornithological Congress (1954)

Awarded

- Joy Gobinda Law Memorial Medal of the Asiatic Society for Researches in Asiatic Zoology. (1953)
- Seessel Zoological Research Fellowship of Yale University U.S.A. (1953)

I am so sorry you couldnt come to Bharatpur. It is many years since I saw the heronry in such a flourishing condition. Together with Ranganathan, the Inspector-General of Forests, and certain officials of the Rajasthan Government who met in Bharatpur, we have been able to formulate certain proposals to the Rajasthan Govt. for the regular supply of water to ~~the~~ 1000 acres of the Ghana soon after the rains commence. 700 acres could be drained off for agricultural irrigation in November after the birds have finished breeding and the balance 300 acres would suffice for the wintering ducks and geese, and for the Maharaja's shooting. The forest in the Ghana area was to be strictly preserved, and all the animals therein except an occasional pig, panther or blackbuck which may be shot by the Maharaja or a guest of his. This is admittedly a compromise, but the best we could agree upon. If acted upon in the right spirit, it should assure permanence to the Ghana as a breeding ground for water birds, which is in fact its chief attraction.

I trust you will find the work in Roorkee congenial, and that it will leave you time for your other interests such as birds and mountains.

With best wishes,

Yours sincerely,

*Salim*  
(Salim Ali)

Major-General H. Williams, C.B., C.B.E.  
c/o Central Building Research Institute  
Roorkee, U.P.