

CENTRE OF WILDLIFE & ORNITHOLOGY
ALIGARH MUSLIM UNIVERSITY, ALIGARH-202 002

Ref.54/93/Grass.
To
Mr. Ashish Pittie
14-7-370 Begun Bazar,
Hyderabad - 500 012

38/1
183

Aligarh
21 Jan. 1992

Dear Aashish,

Thank you very much for your lovely new year greeting card which I received yesterday. I also wish you, Smriti, Prakriti and Preshast a very happy new year.

In a few days I will go on one month survey to search a very rare, endemic and unknown bird called Stoliczka's Whinchat *Saxicola macrorhyncha*. Nothing is known about this species, except that it was very localized. This survey is funded by OBC. There are many species like *macrorhyncha* which are disappearing but no one has bothered to look at them.

Did you read my article on the waterfowl counts in 'Newsletter for Birdwatchers'? I hope in future we will not do similar mistakes of publishing absurd data. Once a wrong information is published, it is not easy to get rid of it.

In your next letter, kindly write your phone number.

With good wishes,

Yours sincerely,

Asad Rahmani
Asad R. Rahmani

P.S. Kindly give the enclosed circular to Suroy. I think, I forgot to enclose it in my letter to him. Thanks.

CENTRE OF WILDLIFE & ORNITHOLOGY
ALIGARH MUSLIM UNIVERSITY, ALIGARH-202 002

Ref. 230/93/GEP

11/5
93

Mr. Aashish Pittie
14-7-370, Begum Bazar
Hyderabad - 500 012.

6 May 1993

My dear Aashish,

I am writing to you after very long. You are doing a wonderful job by indexing the papers/articles of 'Newsletter'.

Ranjit wrote to me that Rajeev Methew told him that some relatives of Siraj Taher shot 6 bustards near Billasy. Ofcourse, it does not reflect on Siraj's commitment to conservation. But I want to know more detail. Do you know any thing. Can you contact Siraj and find out the truth.

I have written to Siraj few letters but could not get any reply. Has he changed the house? Will you write his new address. I was told Humayun has gone to Kenya.

Most likely I will come to A.P. and Rollapadu in July.

With good wishes,

Yours sincerely,

Asad Rahmani
Asad R. Rahmani

AASHEESH PITTIE

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

REF: Your: 230/93/GEP dt. 6.5.93.

May 13, 1993

Dr. A.R. Rahmani
Centre of Wildlife & Ornithology
Aligarh Muslim University
ALIGARH - 202 002

Dear Dr. Rahmani,

It was indeed a very pleasant surprise to receive your letter. I hope you are in good health.

I have spoken to Siraj Sahab about your query and he has promised to write back to you post haste.

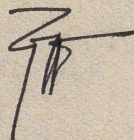
It is true that Humayun Taher has gone to Zambia (not Kenya) for greener pastures (if I may call it that).

If you do not mind and keep me informed about your Rollapadu visit in July (or whenever) I would love to drop in and see two birds in one visit! I look forward to it eagerly.

What is your opinion about the new DNA classification of birds by Sibley & Monroe? You must have read about our booklet in the Newsletter containing the new names and the new order. I would like to hear your comments.

Wishing you all the best,

Yours sincerely,



CENTRE OF WILDLIFE & ORNITHOLOGY

ALIGARH MUSLIM UNIVERSITY, ALIGARH-202 002

Ref. 253/93/GEP

Mr. Aashish Pittie
14-7-370 Begum Bazar
Hyderabad-500 012

6/6
93

27 May 1993

Dear Aashish,

Thanks for your letter of 13 May which I saw on return from Dudwa. Till today I have not received any letter from Siraj.

I will write to you whenever I will come to Hyderabad.

Kindly send me your booklet about new names and the new orders. Please also send the bill.

With good wishes,

Yours sincerely,

Asad Rahmani

Asad R. Rahmani

AASHEESH PITTIE

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

REF: Your: nil.

July 6, 1993

Dr. Asad R. Rahmani
Centre of Wildlife & Ornithology
Aligarh Muslim University
ALIGARH - 202 002

Dear Dr. Rahmani,

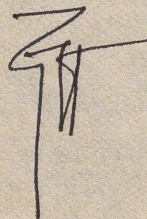
Your paper in the OBC Bulletin No. 17 LITTLE-KNOWN BIRD : WHITE-BROWED BUSHCHAT, has a reference which I would like to go through and keep in my library. It is

van den Berg, A.B., Bosman, C.A.W. and Rozendaal, F.G. (1981):
Records of Stoliczka's Whinchat in Rajasthan, India in August 1978. DUTCH BIRDING. 3:20-21.

Please could you send me a Xerox of this paper? I am planning to attend a Workshop being arranged by SACON and Birdlife International (formerly ICBP) at Coimbatore in the first week of August and then on to Top Slip for a couple of days' birding. I hope you too come to Coimbatore.

Hoping to see you there!

Sincerely,



CENTRE OF WILDLIFE & ORNITHOLOGY
ALIGARH MUSLIM UNIVERSITY, ALIGARH-202 002

15/7
93

Ref. 394/93/G.E.P.
To
Aasheesh Pittie
14-7-370 Begum Bazar,
Hyderabad 500 012

10 July 1993

My dear Aasheesh,

Thanks for your letter dated 6 July. I am enclosing the following article requested by you:

van der Berg, A. B. Bosman, C. A. W. and Rozendaal, F. G.
1981. Records of Stoliczka's Whinchat in Rajasthan, India in
August 1978. DUTCH BIRDING 3 : 20-21.

I will try my best to attend Avian Conservation Workshop at Coimbatore. Tomorrow I am going on one month survey of the Thar desert. From the field I will come to Coimbatore for three days. I think this workshop is very important so I have to leave my field work.

Siraj has not replied to my query about poaching of six bustards. Will you remind him. Why has he suddenly become so silent ?

Rest on meeting in Coimbatore.

Yours sincerely,

Asad R. Rahmani

Asad R. Rahmani

Enclosure

AASHEESH PITTIE

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

REF: Your: 394/93/G.E.P.

July 16, 1993

Dr. A.R. Rahmani
Centre of Wildlife & Ornithology
Aligarh Muslim University
ALIGARH - 202 002

Dear Dr. Rahmani,

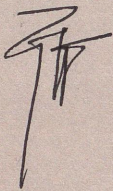
Thank you very much for the above letter and the enclosed Xerox from DUTCH BIRDING. I respect the promptness of your response. I wish other naturalists had it in them too!

I had mentioned to Mr. Taher about your queries. He has been rather pre-occupied of recent and is now going away for almost a year to the U.S. Will tell more in Coimbatore.

It is good news to me that you will try and attend the Coimbatore conference. Hoping to meet you then and thanking you for the paper once again,

With warm regards,

Sincerely,



[1/1]

REF: Your: nil.

September 1, 1993

Dr. Asad R. Rahmani
Centre of Wildlife & Ornithology
Aligarh Muslim University
ALIGARH - 202 002

Dear Dr. Rahmani,

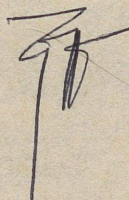
I have been going through some old journals of the BNHS recently and have read your paper BIRDS OF THE KARERA BUSTARD SANCTUARY, MADHYA PRADESH with much interest. Mainly since it is based on the type of birdwatching I indulge in generally. As usual, I am requesting you for Xerox prints of the following papers. Please send me copies if possible.

1. *Rahmani, A.R. (1988): Dihaila Jheel: A new candidate for Ramsar Convention. ORYX. 22:211-215.*
2. *Rahmani, A.R. (1988): Protection to the Great Indian Bustard in Karera Bustard Sanctuary. BIOL. CONSERV. 46:2:135-144.*

I am enclosing a list of references for Madhya Pradesh, which I have on the computer, for your information and reference. This will also give you an idea of what the database that I am building up, is capable of doing. Lists can be taken out for a species, for an author, for a place, etc. I hope it is of use to you.

Thanking You

Yours sincerely



encl: as above.

CENTRE OF WILDLIFE & ORNITHOLOGY
ALIGARH MUSLIM UNIVERSITY, ALIGARH-202 002 (India)

Ref. 475/93/GEP

ASAD R. RAHMANI, Ph.D.

Mr. Aashish Pittie
14-7-370 Begum Bazaar
Hyderabad - 500 012.

14 Sept., 1993

18/9
193

Dear Aashish,

Thanks for your letter of 1 September. I am enclosing the two papers requested by you.

Your data base is very useful. Can you send me the references on the birds of U.P. I am working on the checklist of birds of U.P., in line with your checklist of A.P.

I am planning to go to Bangalore with my full team. These days I am preparing my paper for Bangalore Conference.

With good wishes,

Yours sincerely,

Asad Rahmani

Asad R. Rahmani

Encl.: 2 reprints.

[1/1]

REF: Your: 475/93/GEP dt. 14/9/93.

September 19, 1993

Dr. Asad R. Rahmani
Centre of Wildlife & Ornithology
Aligarh Muslim University
ALIGARH - 202 002

Dear Dr. Rahmani,

Thank you very much for your above and the enclosures with it. I am indeed grateful.

Enclosed is a list of references from U.P. (comprising of 11 pages) on my database. They are by no means complete. But the JBNHS has been indexed from vol. 22 upto date and the NLBW from vol. 20 upto date. I hope it is of some use in your work.

Looking forward to meeting you in Bangalore, and thanking you once again,

with best wishes,

Sincerely,

encl: as above.

BIRDWATCHERS' SOCIETY OF ANDHRA PRADESH
AN APPEAL

The Birdwatchers' Society of Andhra Pradesh is a non-governmental, non-profit organisation formed by a small group of enthusiasts in 1980, with the object of spreading the message of bird conservation in Andhra Pradesh. We organise field trips, lectures, audio-visual programmes, film shows, nature camps, waterfowl counts, bird-ringing etc., for our members. We also publish a monthly bulletin and a bi-annual newsletter.

To mark the decennial of the Society we would like to organise a Seminar on the **ROLE OF BIRDS IN THE ENVIRONMENT AND THEIR CONSERVATION**, on 7th & 8th February 1990, in Hyderabad. We have invited experts in this field from all over India and abroad, to read papers on this occasion. It is proposed to publish the proceedings of the Seminar later, as a comprehensive volume of information on the subject.

To help raise funds for this venture, we wish to publish a Commemorative Souvenir on the occasion. This shall be a special volume for birdwatchers and nature enthusiasts as it will contain interesting articles by leading ornithologists of yesteryear. This Souvenir will be sent to various organisations and institutions in India and abroad as a reference manual for their libraries, besides being distributed widely to individuals in India. The publication of this work will make it a collectors item without doubt and a runaway success.

We request you to generously support this cause by advertising in our Souvenir and help us make the project a grand success.

TECHNICAL DETAILS:-

RATES:-	Back Cover:	Rs. 5,000/-	DIMENSIONS:-	Full Page:	22cm x 17cm
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	Full Page:	Rs. 500/-			
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Special Page: Rs. 1,000/- - - - - CUT HERE - - - - -

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To,
The Honorary Secretary
BIRDWATCHERS' SOCIETY OF ANDHRA PRADESH
6-3-249/3 Road No 1,
Banjara Hills
HYDERABAD - 500 034

I/we want to book _____ advertisement-space in the BIRDWATCHERS'
SOCIETY OF ANDHRA PRADESH Souvenir. A Cheque/Demand Draft for Rs. _____
_____ is enclosed herewith in full payment.

The advertisement material is enclosed/will be sent separately.

NAME:

DESIGNATION:

ADDRESS:

Date:

Signature

Crossed Cheques / Demand Drafts should be made payable to BIRDWATCHERS' SOCIETY OF ANDHRA PRADESH.

CENTRE OF WILDLIFE & ORNITHOLOGY

ALIGARH MUSLIM UNIVERSITY, ALIGARH-202 002 (India)

Ref. 526/93/GEP

ASAD R. RAHMANI, Ph.D.

Mr. Aasheesh Pittie
14-7-370 Begum Bazaar
Hyderabad - 500 012.

30 Sept., 1993

Dear Aasheesh,

Thank you very much for sending me the reference on birds of U.P. I have also entered my reprints in Dbase but I find it difficult to segregate them according to key words. Sometimes a paper comes under various heading such as Behaviour, Community, Population Structure, etc. I have made one column for Key words. The computer segregate the paper only on the basis of first word.

I want to know how you have done it. Have you made many columns for key words. Which programme do you use: Dbase or Foxbase or any other programme.

You have done a wonderful work. I am going to pester you for more references.

See you in Bangalore.

With good wishes,

Yours sincerely,

Asad R. Rahmani

Asad R. Rahmani

CENTRE OF WILDLIFE & ORNITHOLOGY
ALIGARH MUSLIM UNIVERSITY, ALIGARH-202 002 (India)

ASAD R. RAHMANI, Ph.D.

Ref. 544/93/GEP

11x
93

Aasheesh Pittie
14-7-370, Begum Bazaar,
Hyderabad - 500 012.

7 October 1993

Dear Aasheesh,

I am keeping my promise to disturb you for references. I am planning to do a small project on Green Munia to know its status and distribution. Can you send me references on this species from you data base. Thanks.

With good wishes,

Yours sincerely,

Asad Rahmani

Asad R. Rahmani

[1/1]

REF: Your: 544/93/GEP dt. 7.10.93.

October 12, 1993

Dr Asad R Rahmani
Centre of Wildlife & Ornithology
Aligarh Muslim University
ALIGARH - 202 002

Dear Dr Rahmani,

Enclosed are the references you require as per the above letter.

You will be surprised at the lack of info. about this bird. Here also, a weakness of sorts in the database is reflected. I am sure there have been many more reports about *Estrilda formosa* as part of larger papers or lists of birds seen in regions of India. But they do not get indexed as the main subject of the paper is not this bird. (the strength of a chain is its weakest link!). To enter all such records into a database is no small task and I for one am neither equipped nor prepared to do it.

What is your suggestion here. Is there any such consolidated index from anywhere at all? Personally I think we have to refer to the indexes at the end of journals for more references.

My attending the B'lore seminar is under a cloud as it falls on the three Diwali days. You know how important they are for marwari businessmen! I have not yet taken a decision about attending.

With best wishes,

Yours sincerely,



encl: as above.

10/11/93

REFERENCES TO THE ORNITHOLOGY OF THE INDIAN SUB-CONTINENT
INDEXED ACCORDING TO SPECIES

INDEX PREPARED BY : AASHEESH PITTIE
14-7-370 BEGUM BAZAAR, HYDERABAD - 500 012. INDIA.

ESTRILDA FORMOSA

1. CURRIE, A J (1916): THE OCCURRENCE OF THE GREEN MUNIA *STICTOSPIZA FORMOSA* AT LAHORE. JBNHS. 24:3:594.
2. GASTON, A J & MACKRELL, J (1980): GREEN MUNIA *ESTRILDA FORMOSA* AT DELHI, AND OTHER INTERESTING RECORDS FOR 1978. JBNHS. 77/1/144-5.

-----the end-----

29/11/94

Indian Bustard Group

Dear... *Aasheerh*

22 Nov. 1994

Four species of bustards are found in our country, and all of them are highly endangered. The Great Indian Bustard is declining in most of its range. The Bengal Florican is confined to a few isolated pockets of the *terai* grasslands in the north and northeast. Probably less than 500 survives in the world. The fate of Lesser Florican is intimately connected with its grassland habitat. Everywhere grasslands are under tremendous pressures of overgrazing and spread of cultivation. The migratory Houbara Bustard is hunted in thousands in Pakistan by the rich Arabs, and many are killed by poachers in our country also. Most of the bustard sanctuaries are badly managed or inadequately protected.

Objectives:

Looking into the critical situation of Indian bustards, we must convince our government to take adequate conservation measures. We have to speak on behalf of our bustards (and other wildlife). I think, there is a need to start an Indian Bustard Group, with the following main objectives:

- a) to highlight the plight of Indian bustards
- b) to form a pressure group to force government to take adequate conservation measures.
- c) to educate people through various media
- d) to convince the government to start Project Bustards, on the lines of the Project Tiger and Project Elephant
- e) to bring together all the people working/interested in bustards and their habitats
- f) to create general awareness about bustards and grassland conservation.

Initially, people who are interested in bustards will be brought together under the informal IBG. Depending upon the response, the IBG will be registered as an Indian Bustard Trust. It is also planned to publish a 6-monthly 'Newsletter' through which the plight of Indian bustards will be highlighted. Members will be encouraged to send notes on bustards to the Newsletter. Mr J. C. Daniel, the former Curator of the Bombay Natural History Society, has very kindly agreed to edit the Newsletter, and help the Group in many other ways.

In order to cover the cost of correspondence, printing of the Newsletter, publicity material, etc., funds will be required. It is proposed that the membership of the IBG will be Rs. 100/annum. Copies of Newsletter will be sent to all the members.

This is the first circular and a sort of a personal letter to you. I will be happy to receive your comments on my proposal. Kindly send your suggestions within two weeks. Kindly circulate this letter among your friends and well-wishers of Indian bustards. Thank you.

Yours sincerely,

Asad R. Rahmani

Asad R. Rahmani

Centre of Wildlife & Ornithology,
A.M.U., Aligarh 202 002,
INDIA

54 (115) COMB DUCK 1 2 3 R U
 (Sarkidiornis melanotos melanotos)
 Local Names: T: Juttu chilwa.
 H: Naktat.

HAWKS ; VULTURES : ACCIPITRIDAE

- 55 (124) BLACKWINGED KITE 1 2 3 R C
 (Elanus caeruleus vociferus)
 Local Names: T: Adavi ramadasu.
 H: Sufaid cheel*.
- 56 (127) INDIAN BLACKCRESTED BAZA 1
 (Aviceda leuphotes)
 Local Names: T: -
 H: -
- 57 (130) CRESTED HONEY BUZZARD 1 2 3 R U
 (Pernis ptilorhynchus ruficollis)
 Local Names: T: Tenu gedda.
 H: Shahutela.
- 58 (133) PARIAN KITE 1 2 3 R C
 (Milvus migrans govinda)
 Local Names: T: Malla gedda.
 H: Cheel*.
- 59 (134) BLACKEARED KITE 3 M U
 (Milvus migrans) *ssp?*
 Local Names: T: *ibid. Malla gedda*
 H: *ibid. Cheel.*
- 60 (135) BRAHMINY KITE 1 2 3 R O
 (Haliastur indus indus)
 Local Names: T: Garuda lwwa, Garuda mantaru.
 H: Shirazi cheel*,
- 61 (138) INDIAN SHIKRA 1 2 3 R C
 (Accipiter badius dussumieri)
 Local Names: T: Jali dega.
 H: Shikra*,
- 62 (144) NORTH INDIAN CRESTED GOSHAWK 2
 (Accipiter trivirgatus indicus)
 Local Names: T: Kokila dega.
 H: Manik besra.
- 63 (145) SOUTH INDIAN CRESTED GOSHAWK 1 2
 (Accipiter trivirgatus peninsulae)
 Local Names: T: *ibid. Kokila dega*
 H: *ibid. Manik besra*
- 64 (152) EASTERN SPARROW-HAWK 1
 (Accipiter virgatus gularis)
 Local Names: T: Vaishtapa dega.
 H: Badshah*.
- 65 (153) LONGLEGGED BUZZARD 3 M X
 (Buteo rufinus rufinus)

Ref.: Yours: Dated 22.11.94.

30 November, 1994

Dr. Asad R. Rahmani
Centre of Wildlife & Ornithology
Aligarh Muslim University
ALIGARH - 202 002

Dear Dr. Rahmani,

Your above letter was a very pleasant surprise indeed. At the outset, let me congratulate you on assuming charge of the Centre of Wildlife & Ornithology. Able hands are at the helm of that organisation again!

The idea of an Indian Bustard Group is great. You have been talking about it for some time now, and I am glad that it is taking shape. I am completely behind it. I am making some suggestions below, but they notwithstanding, the IBG, as mentioned in your letter, is a good goal in itself.

The bustards are a key species of the grasslands, certainly. Like the tiger, they could be used to protect entire chunks of grassland habitat. Keeping this in view, why not have the entire grassland habitat as the wider arena to work in and for. The 'Newsletter' you propose, would be more meaningful if it became the vehicle of papers on grassland ecology. Not just on bustards. This will also help you to get more articles/papers/contributions, for the Newsletter. Though a biannual periodicity is very safe. Will we be missing the wood for the trees if we call the organisation the Indian Grassland Group, and have the bustards as the keynote species or the mascot, as such? Will the focus of work change or become ungainly? Perhaps these things have already been worked out by you!

The AWB census is drawing close and I am sure you are up drawing plans to cover some waterbodies. Recently, Rajeev Mathew was in Kerala, where he saw a colony of 80-90 Oriental Darters!

Hoping to hear from you regarding the IBG. Count me in and write when the membership fees is to be sent.

With best wishes,

Yours sincerely,



Please return this after correction/additions. Thanks

Pittie, A. 1983-1984 Recordings of first and last sightings of annual migrants in and around Hyderabad with notes on general distribution. Mayura 4: ?; 5: ?.
(Species) ??
(Subject) List Mig.
(Region) Deccan Hyderabad
(State, Country) AP, India

Pittie, A. (1985) Some interesting bird sightings from Hyderabad and surrounds. Mayura 6: 1-4, 7-8.
??
List
Deccan Hyderabad
AP India

Pittie, A. (1987) Occurrence of the Little Pied Flycatcher *Muscicapa westermanni* in Narsapur, Medak District, Andhra Pradesh. JBNHS 83: 665-666.
Muscicapa westermanni Little Pied Flycatcher
Dist.
Deccan Medak
AP India

Pittie, A. (1988) The occurrence of the House Crow (*Corvus splendens*) in Port Blair, South Andaman Island. JBNHS 85:430.
Corvus splendens House Crow
Dist.
Andaman Port Blair
Andaman India

Pittie, A. (1990a) Recordings of first and last sightings of annual (winter) migrants in and around Hyderabad for the seasons of 1983-84; 1984-85; 1985-86. Mayura 7 & 8: 23-29.
??
List Mig.
Deccan Hyderabad
AP India

Pittie, A. (1990b) Gape color of Dusky Crag Martin *Hirundo concolor* nestlings. Mayura 7 & 8: 53-54.
Hirundo concolor Dusky Crag Martin
Young Morphol.
??
?? India

Pittie, A. (1992) Comments. NLBW 32(11 & 12): 17.
??
??
??
?? India

Pittie, A. and Taher, S. A (1985) Blackbreasted Weaver Bird (*Ploceus benghalensis*) observed in Hyderabad. JBNHS 82: 206-207.
Ploceus benghalensis Blackbreasted Weaver Bird Dist.
Deccan Hyderabad
AP India