

21. September 1931.

Recd. 10 Oct.
Oct 23

Dear Mr. Salim A. Ali,
I have received your letter about the details of an expedition to Nepal and the approximate expenses I gave the necessary information to Dr. Sanford who was anxious to know them, as he expected to interest some rich man in the project. I have been waiting until now without getting any reply from him in connection with this proposition, and I fear that his man lost some money in the world's crisis and is not prepared to spend now such a considerable sum. I also had written to Dr. Barbour in Cambridge, with regard to your journey to Nepal, but he replied: "I am sorry to say, that just now it is impossible for us to consider doing anything about Mr. Ali's proposed trip, much as I should like to. The very simple reason is, that we have no money just now to spend on anything and times are bad and we can't get any help outside, so we have to forget about any trips or extra expenses". As you will see from this I did my best to bring you in touch with the dollar, but the present time is apparently too bad for such enterprises. All your publications make me feel certain, that you would be excellently well prepared for such a trip, and therefore I shall not lay aside this plan.

My dear Salim,

After having received your letter about the details of an expedition to Nepal and the approximate expenses I gave the necessary information to Dr. Sanford who was anxious to know them, as he expected to interest some rich man in the project. I have been waiting until now without getting any reply from him in connection with this proposition, and I fear that his man lost some money in the world's crisis and is not prepared to spend now such a considerable sum. I also had written to Dr. Barbour in Cambridge, with regard to your journey to Nepal, but he replied: "I am sorry to say, that just now it is impossible for us to consider doing anything about Mr. Ali's proposed trip, much as I should like to. The very simple reason is, that we have no money just now to spend on anything and times are bad and we can't get any help outside, so we have to forget about any trips or extra expenses". As you will see from this I did my best to bring you in touch with the dollar, but the present time is apparently too bad for such enterprises. All your publications make me feel certain, that you would be excellently well prepared for such a trip, and therefore I shall not lay aside this plan.

Your thorough investigation on the feeding habits of Indian Di- caeidae and the role the Nectariniidae play in fertilizing the flowers of Loranthus came some days ago and Dr. Desselberger has reviewed it in detail at the meeting of the Deutsche Ornithologische Gesellschaft.

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This is just the kind of work we need, and I hope you will be able,
to add many more contributions on similar lines.

Desselberger is working on the intestinal tract of flowerbirds,
while Dr. Scharke is continuing his studies on their tongues. But
all this anatomical work needs badly the cooperation of the biologist
and so ~~I think~~, we will both gain much profit from mutual help.

With kindest regards

My dear Salim,

yours as always

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written to Dr. Scharke in Cambridge, with regard to your journey to Nepal, but he replied: "I am sorry to say, but now it is impossible for us to make that journey. The proposed trip, much as I should like to, the very slight reason that we have no money left now to fund our journey and since we can't get any help outside, we have to forget about any other extra expenses."

As you will see from this I did my best to bring you in touch with the dollar, but the present time is not a good one for such enterprises. All your anticipations make me feel sorry that you would be excitedly prepared for such a trip, and therefore I shall not say anything more.

Your thorough investigation on the weather conditions in the Himalayas and the establishment of a permanent station in the Himalayas is a very important work and we are very glad to hear of it. I shall be very glad to hear of the results of your work.

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Berlin, d. 10. VIII. 37

The Secretary,

Federal Public Service Commission

Simla

India

Dear Sir,

I have been informed by Mr. Salim Ali that he is applying for the post of Assistant Superintendent in the Zoological Survey of India, and that he has cited me as one of his referees.

I am acquainted with Mr. Ali and his work since 1930, the year he came to Berlin in order to do some research work at the University Zoological Museum and chiefly in the Ornithological Department. During the 3 or 4 months he spent here I came in personal contact with Mr. Ali almost every day, and had ample opportunity of getting an impression of his scientific ability and of his character. After that time, I have remained in touch with Mr. Ali by correspondence, having for long been interested myself in his further scientific development and in the studies he carried on since his return to India.

The many contributions to Indian Ornithology Mr. Ali has published, as a result of his field work combined with literary studies, since 1930, have been ample testimony of his untiring zeal, his excellent gifts as an observer and scientific interpreter of animal life, and of his good training in the field of technics. Never satisfied by merely stating facts, Mr. Ali always endeavoured to reach a well founded understanding of their biological background and by this truly scientific attitude made his papers well know and often quoted by a large circle of ornithologists all over the world.

He was elected a Corresponding Member of the Deutschej Ornitholo-
gische Gesellschaft in 1936, an honour only bestowed upon 20 orni-
thologists of foreign countries.

I feel convinced that Mr. Salim Ali would prove to be excel-
lently qualified for the post of Assistant Superintendent, and that
his outstanding gifts as a research worker and his thorough trai-
ning in modern Museums work (at Berlin as well as at the British
Museum and other places) could not be used in any better way. I
really do not know of any other vertebrate Zoologist who could be
recommended for this post with equal fervour. Mr. Ali made good
friends here and in England - the best proof of his sincere charac-
ter and his engaging personality.

Yours faithfully

Curator of Birds, Zool. Mus. Berlin.

Berlin, d. 10. August 1937

Mr. Salim A. Ali Esq.
c/o the Bombay Natural History Society
6 Apollo Street
B o m b a y
Indien.

My dear Salim,

Recd. 17/8/37
Recd. 19/8/37

I hurried to write by some air mail to Simla "what I know and think about you and your work", and am sending you a copy of what I hope will prove to help you getting the post for which you are so amply qualified. Good luck and write me again about the outcome.

Too late today to answer ~~for~~ your long letter received the same day as fully as it would deserve. Be content, therefore, with the short phrase "more soon", added by Mücke's most emphatic thanks. The crown jewels of the Maharadjah of Hyderabad would not have excited him half as much as these romantic stamps, which give such large wings to fancy!

I hope to return from New York with an *Afropavo congensis* in my bag! Chapin wrote me by airmail from Anguma that he had succeeded in collecting 6 skins of his magnificent discovery, and you will see that I would rather jump down from the top floor of the Empire State Building than be back empty handed!

Most sincerely yours

