

Zafar Futehally

Flat 3305 Oakwood II,
Jakkasandra,
Koramangala 8th Main,
BANGALORE - 560 034

Tele.No: 5533684

10th January 1994

Mr. M.G. Muthanna,
19 Gibbon Road,
BANGALORE - 560 001

24

My dear Juggen, *Jagan*

Thank you for sending me a copy of your Note to the Secretary Horticulture. The proposals you have made are excellent and I hope that the authorities will respond.

With regard to our discussion about centralising the accounts of the Ornithological Society and the Newsletter, I enclose a copy of a Note from Aashesh Pittie. Perhaps you would like to discuss this with Sridhar and through correspondence with Asha Sachlani and finalise the procedure. I would be very grateful if you could have this done early so that the accounts for the current year could be properly maintained.

Sridhar said that it might be more practical to keep the accounts of the Newsletter and the OSI separate, and this is something which the three of you should decide and finalise.

With all good wishes.

Yours sincerely,

Z

Zafar Futehally

c.c. Mr. S. Sridhar.

c.c. Mrs. Asha Sachlani.

with Aashesh Pittie's note.

14-7-370 Begum
Boza
AP 500012

FINANCIAL PLAN FOR REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVES (RR)

A. MEMBERSHIP MATTERS:-

1. The RR should open an account with a bank (preferably the bankers of the OSI secretariat, which bank should be a nationalized bank).
2. The RR has the authority to collect monies and deposit these in the Bank.
3. Cheques/Demand Drafts/Money Orders, etc., should be made in the name of ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF INDIA, ANDHRA PRADESH CHAPTER or OSI, AP CHAPTER, etc.
4. RR issues receipts to members on behalf of the OSI.
5. Individuals who wish to become members directly through the OSI secretariat, should be informed that they should pay to the respective RR only. Alternatively, enrollments at the OSI secretariat should be intimated to the respective RRs and all records sent to the RRs.
6. OSI secretariat should print common stationery with postal addresses of all RRs on all pertinent items (eg., letter-heads, publicity pamphlets, membership forms, receipts, etc.) and send them to the RRs.
7. Initially the RRs should reimburse 80% of their collections to the OSI secretariat on a monthly basis and also send an account copy of receipts and expenses to the Hon. Treasurer at the OSI secretariat.
 - 7.1 This amount is to meet the expenses of the secretariat for the Newsletter (presumed cost Rs. 40/-) and other overheads.
 - 7.2 It is recommended to increase the membership fee or reduce the reimbursement percentage to the OSI after a year or so to enable the RRs to have more financial freedom.
 - 7.3 It is also recommended that other categories of memberships be created to widen the financial resources for the OSI. Corporate memberships, Life memberships, Institution memberships, etc.
 - 7.4 RRs should have the freedom to raise finances from other sources and should be allowed to retain 50% of such collections for their use, the rest being forwarded to the OSI secretariat.
8. A copy of the Rules and Regulations or Bye-Laws of the OSI (if drawn up), along with a copy of the Certificate of Registration, should be sent to all RRs. If not, they should be drawn up as soon as possible.

B. NEWSLETTER:-

1. The Newsletter should be mailed directly to all members from the printers.
2. RRs should provide a list of members to the secretariat and subsequently, additions to the list, on a monthly basis, with information regarding date of joining, receipt number, membership category, etc.
3. A few extra copies can be sent to RRs for publicity purposes.
4. Some suggestions for the Newsletter.
 - 4.1 Information about the OSI should always be published in the front inside cover in each issue, in a brief manner (as is done in almost all journals).
 - 4.2 A membership form/card should always be included in the Newsletter, similar to the type being sent to RRs.

ZAFAR FUTEHALLY

25/1/84

Flat No 2205, Oakwood,
8th Main, III Block,
Koramangala,
BANGALORE-560 034.

Phone : 5533684

January 22, 1994

Dr. Walter J. Bock,
Columbia University
In the City of New York,
Box No 37, Schermerhorn Hall,
New York, NY 10027,
U.S.A.

Dear Dr. Walter Bock,

Thank you very much for your letter of 7th January, 1994, which came a couple of days ago. Let me also wish you a very happy new year. I know that this is an important year for you because of the International Ornithological Congress in Austria.

Your letter needs a very careful reply and for the moment I am sending copies to Asha Saklani and to the Regional Secretaries of the Ornithological Society of India. By a copy of this letter I am requesting them to send me a detailed reply on the various points you have raised relating to the possibility of holding a Congress in India, where facilities for 2000 people would be required. It is certainly a daunting task, but in view of the great interest which has developed in Ornithology in this Country, perhaps, a suitable venue with the necessary facilities can be arranged. Perhaps this could be held in a large city. Bombay, Bangalore or Delhi. However, I will write to you again after I have heard from the Regional Secretaries.

With all good wishes,

Yours sincerely,

Zafar Futehally
(ZAFAR FUTEHALLY)

c.c. : Dr. Asha Chandola Saklani
c.c. : Aasheesh Pittie ✓
c.c. : Abdul Jamil Urfi
c.c. : Abraham Verghese
c.c. : M.K. Himmat Sinji
c.c. : Lavkumar Khachar
c.c. : Prakash Gole
c.c. : Rishad Naoroji
c.c. : Asad Rahmani
c.c. : S. Sridhar

COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY in the City of New York | *New York, NY 10027, U.S.A.*
DEPARTMENT OF BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES

WALTER J. BOCK, BOX 37, SCHERMERHORN HALL
Tel. 1-212-854-4487 Fax. 1-212-865-8246

7 January 1994

Mr. Zafar Futehally
Flat 2205, Oakwood Apartments
Jakkasandra Layout
Koramangala, 3rd Block, 8th Main
Bangalore 560-034, INDIA

Dear Mr. Futehally:

First of all I would like to wish you all the best for a happy and successful 1994.

I still regret not being able to attend the ornithological meeting in Bangalore. But I was able to complete my manuscript (over 120 pages) on Professor Mayr's contributions to systematics and evolutionary biology, read the proofs of my contribution to the J.B.S. Haldane memorial volume being published in Calcutta, and attend a meeting in Oxford on planning for the 1994 ornithological congress in Vienna.

But I am still concerned about the possibility of an invitation from the Indian ornithologists for a future congress. One of the main reasons why I regret missing the Bangalore meeting is that I am anxious that the momentum for this invitation is not stopped. I would like to ask you whether this idea was discussed at the Bangalore meeting, and if so, what progress has been made. Important to me is to know which persons are central to developing an invitation for an ornithological congress in India, and for planning and running such a congress. And I am interested in knowing which cities in India have been discussed as possible congress sites. Is Bangalore a possibility for a site of such a congress? Are the facilities available for a congress of between 1500 and 2000 members? And I would appreciate learning from you the names of those ornithologists with whom I should remain in closest contact.

Most important are the ideas of possible nominations for the position of the Secretary-General. This person is totally central to all planning and running of a congress. The Secretary-General must be a person with excellent organizational, leadership and communication skills. The person does not have to be a leading scientist, but must be respected by the ornithological community. And it is not necessary for the Secretary-General to be an older senior person. Many aspects of policy, scientific and other, can be decided by the national committee of the host

country. It is best for the Secretary-General to reside in the city where the congress will be held.

In addition to the Secretary-General, another important position is the chairperson of the National Committee. For this position, it is best to have an older senior person who is highly respected by the ornithological community of the host country. This person should be someone who can interact well with the Secretary-General, and serve as an intermediate between the President and Secretary of the IOC and the Secretary-General in the case of problems in the planning of the congress. The chairperson of the National Committee generally does not have much direct work in the planning and organization of the congress, but serves mainly as an overseer of policy and of the general planning. We have found that it is very valuable to have a second avenue of contact between the officers of the IOC and the Secretary-General in the case of problems developing with the Secretary-General and/or the planning of the congress. This has happened in the past and there have been some difficult problems in the absence of a strong person as the chair of the National Committee.

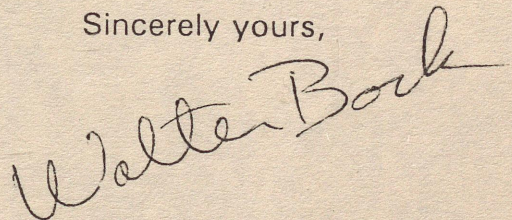
I hope to have a long discussion with all members of the Indian delegation to the Vienna Congress, and to be able to visit India as soon as possible. There are still many things for me to learn about Indian ornithology and Indian ornithologists which are best done during a visit to India. And I am certain that there are many fascinating things for me to learn, and many ornithologists, including you, to meet.

Lastly, I would like to congratulate you and all other Indian ornithologists on the founding of the Ornithological Society of India. I would appreciate learning more about this society and information about becoming a member.

I hope that you will be able to take part in the Vienna congress, as I am anxious to meet you. In not, I look forward to meeting you on my next visit to India.

With my very best regards.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Walter Bock". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the typed name and title.

Walter Bock
Secretary, IOC

Zafar Futehally
President O.S.I.

11/3
/94

Flat 2205 Oakwood II
Jakkasandra
Koramangala 8th Main
BANGALORE - 560 034

Tel. No : 5533684

2nd March 1994

All Regional Secretaries of the
Ornithological Society of India.

Dear *Aashresh*

The time has come to decide on the activities and responsibilities of the Regional Secretaries. To arrive at a clear picture we will have to do some back and forth correspondence. It does not matter if we delay finalising the structure of the OSI. I believe that much of the ground work has already been done by Asha Sakhlani, but I have not yet received a clear picture from her regarding the bye-laws, membership fees, benefits from being a member of the OSI, etc. The slowness of the post, and the long distances in India are going to be a problem to which we have to reconcile ourselves.

For the moment, may I suggest that you think about undertaking the following activities :-

- 1) Prepare a list of the existing and potential members of the OSI in your region.
- 2) Establishing contact with the development agencies in your region, whether it be the Head of the Panchayat, the Collector of the District, or the Secretary of the Department of Environment of the State. Try and keep an eye on the projects which have been planned with a view to finding out whether they are likely to damage the natural environment, and the manner in which these projects can be modified or diverted. For example, a road planned through a forest often has a deleterious effect because it provides access for poaching. A wetland which is planned to be drained is of course something to be strongly resisted.
- 3) The use of pesticides must be slowly replaced with bio-control agents. The extension of agriculture into unsuitable areas is ecologically damaging. For one thing, crops cannot grow successfully in places where the top soil has vanished. On the other hand these marginal scrub lands play a valuable role as habitats for birds and smaller animals.
- 4) Identify serious birdwatchers who can be assigned projects. If they need financial assistance, this can be considered.
- 5) Create a Data Base of ecological information pertaining to bird life from your own area through newspaper and magazine cuttings, radio broadcasts, discussions with officials and non-officials, etc.
- 6) Consider a project for identification of Ficus trees in your region and having them numbered with a suitable plaque of the OSI on it.

These are a few thoughts to enable you to clear up your own ideas about what you should do as a Regional Secretary, and I would greatly value your response at your convenience.

AASHRESH PITTIE
500 012

I will be away
from Bangalore
till early June
but your letters
will be re-directed to me in Kalyan Bawli

Yours sincerely,

Zafar
Regards

Zafar Futehally

with a hope you will reply

I am hereby closing this letter

Thanking you.

Yours faithfully

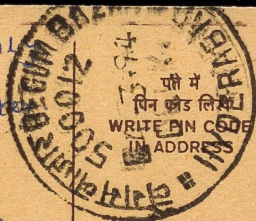
T.V.B.

T.V.B. Krishna Rao

11/661, Robert Street,

Machilipatnam, Krishna Dt.,

A.P., Pin - 521001



43/84



To,

Aa sheesh pittie

14-7-370, Begum Bazar,

Hyderabad

पिन PIN

5 2 1 0 0 1 2

1/8/94

Dear Sir,

Congrats on being appointed
a Regional Secretary to ornithological
Society of India. Sir, I am student
of B.Sc (B.Z.C) IInd year, studying at
Hindu College Machilipatnam. Sir,
I want become a member of O.S.I,
So, for the Purpose kindly send me a
Subscription form, along with the
facilities available to me as a member
of O.S.I to the below written address
at your earliest. I have a keen interest
in Bird watching and Bird Surveying.
So, I want to do something in this
field. So, kindly send me required
forms at your earliest.

AASHEESH PITTIE

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

REF: Your: Dt. 1.3.94.

April 24, 1994

Mr. T V B Krishna Rao
11/661 Robertson Pet
MACHILIPATNAM - 521 001
Krishna District
ANDHRA PRADESH

Dear Mr Krishna Rao,

At the outset let me apologise for the delay in replying to your above referred letter, enquiring details of membership of the Ornithological Society of India.

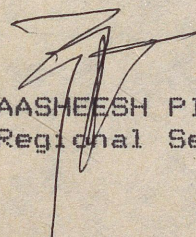
If you are a reader of the Newsletter, you will realise how new the OSI is and that it will take some more time for it to begin functioning as an organisation which encompasses the entire country.

I shall get in touch with you no sooner membership forms are received from the OSI Secretariat. In the meantime, I will be glad to be of any other assistance to you in the field of bird-watching.

You must be aware of the Birdwatcher's Society of A.P., which had its AGM recently and will begin to function with a new executive committee, soon. I will send you the membership form of the BSAP and some of its old publications. It would be good if you became a member of this society.

Happy birdwatching!

For ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF INDIA


AASHEESH PITTIE
Regional Secretary - AP

गढ़वाल विश्वविद्यालय, श्रीनगर (गढ़वाल)

Dr. Asha Chandola-Saklani FA Sc
Professor in Zoology



Handwritten initials 'AS' and the year '84'.

Post Box 45
Garhwal University
Srinagar, Garhwal U.P.
246 174 India
Ph. (01388) 2407 Off
2215 Res

Fax 01388 2174

Dear *Ashish,*

19.5.1994

Greetings from the Himalaya ! Please find enclosed herewith the proceedings of the (biannual) meeting of General Body of Ornithological Society of India. As you will notice the ad hoc decisions taken by Zafar and me have been regularised and confusions clarified. You will also note that despite having organised one international and one national seminar (no mean achievement!) within a span of two years, the size of the membership remains dismally poor. Obviously conducting meetings and other affairs has taken more of our time than it should have ! As Secretary General I take full responsibility for this lapse and assure you to more than make up for it.

As a first step I request you to become a member yourself using the enclosed form. Till formal brochures are available from the press I will send you a pack printed on our P.C. so that you can enlist members in your area. Needless to say and as Zafar has frequently emphasized you ^{FRS} have a completely free hand - to form your own committee - to decide the mode of action etc. So do get going please - a good starting point would be Zafar's recent letter addressed to you (did you get it?). And, ofcourse, do keep the dialogue with the Secretariat alive - feeding in informations, suggestions, comments etc. to ensure constant enrichment and growth of the Society. Am most grateful for Ashish Pittie's suggestions. I am working on a possibility to get all Executive Members (EMs) and Regional Representatives (RRs) at one place in the next six months solely to discuss OSI. If any of you are in a position to do so let me know immediately please. I went to Bangalore Seminar hoping to establish direct contact with you all but was disappointed since only a numbered few could attend (although I must admit that the encounter with these delightful personalities more than made up !). I would also like to find out how many of you are hoping to attend the Vienna Congress in August. Do let me know immediately please so that we may try to organise a subsidised group fare and also fix a meeting of Indian delegates at the Congress. Looking forward to hearing from you.

With warm regards.

Sincerely yours

AS
Prof. Asha Chandola-Saklani

P.S. I shall be in Delhi on 30th and 31st May whole day at CSIR (c/o Dr. N.R. Rajagopal, Head, HRD Group, CSIR Complex, Dr. K.S. Krishnan Marg, Pusa, N. Delhi, Ph. 5788704). Should you be passing by Delhi around these dates it would be a pleasure to meet you and discuss OSI.

Copy to all EMs and RRs.

x

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PROCEEDINGS OF THE MEETING OF GENERAL BODY OF ORNITHOLOGICAL
SOCIETY OF INDIA (OSI) HELD IN SRINAGAR GARHWAL ON 2.5.1994 AT
10:00 A.M.

Following members of the OSI were present

Prof. Asha Chandola-Saklani
Dr. Manjit Dhindsa
Dr. Pramesh Lakhera
Dr. Dinesh Kumar Sharma
Dr. Vinod Kumar
Dr. Dinesh Bhatt
Dr. Kanchan Pant
Dr. Harjeet K. Saini
Dr. Jaswinder Singh Sandhu
Dr. Gopu Kumar Nair
Dr. M. S. Bisht
Sri. B. K. Choudhary
Sri. Umed Singh Rauthan
Miss. Suman Rawat

Minutes of the meeting of General Body (GB) of OSI held on 25 May 1992 were confirmed.

Following decisions were taken:

1. In view of the apparent confusion regarding the structure of OSI reflected from reports published in recent issues of News Letter for Bird Watchers (NLBW) it was resolved as desired by the adhoc President Sri Zafar Futehally, the recent correspondence regarding these matters be circulated among all Regional Representatives (RRs) and Executive Members (EMs) (Enclosure I & II)
2. a. It was noted that all matters pertaining to objectives, membership fees, Executive committee etc. had been decided when the society papers were submitted for registration way back in 1991/92 in accordance with Indian Registration Act 1860.
b. It was also decided that the membership fees should be kept as resolved earlier (Rs. 500 = Life member, Rs. 50 = Ordinary member, Rs. 25 = Student membership, with an admission fee of Rs. 10) for the Indian subcontinent (vide OSI bye-laws). This does not include the subscription to NLBW.

House was informed by the ad-hoc Secretary General that Membership forms with the requisite information (objectives, membership fees, names of the ad-hoc executive committee etc) were sent in May 1992 to Zafar Futehally for publication in NLBW

(see reference to it NLBW vol. 32 No. 9 & 10 pp. 1) although not yet published).

3. House was apprised of a meeting held by the ad-hoc President and ad-hoc Secretary General with a group of Ornithologists in Bangalore on July 23, 1992 in which the ad-hoc Secretary General informed the Bangalore group about the registration of the OSI, its objectives, membership fees etc. Zafar Futehally who is also the editor of NLBW informed in this meeting that NLBW will serve as the News letter of the OSI. In this meeting the ad hoc President in consultation with ad hoc Secretary General suggested that RRs be appointed in order to provide a wider network. These decisions were now approved by the GB.
4. It was noted that the status of RRs and EMs needs to be clarified. EMs are those who were nominated by the Founder Members (FMs) to run the affairs of the Society till general elections are held (with Zafar Futehally and Asha Chandola-Saklani as President and Secretart General of the ad hoc body). Whereas RRs were nominated later by the President in consultation with the Secretary General of the ad-hoc executive committee thus formed.

Unfortunately through some error the Executive committee members and RRs got clubbed together and appeared as Executive committee of the OSI (BWNL vol.34 No. 1 pp. 1 & 2)

The house has now approved the Executive Committee, RRs & Financial Advisor as follows till the general elections:

Executive members (As per bye-laws number not to exceed 15 ordinarily)

Zafar Futehally (President)
Asha Chandola-Saklani (General Secretary)
Dinesh Kumar Sharma (Treasurer)
S. Sridhar
Asad Rahmani
R.K. Bhatnagar
Boney Piloo
Pardeshi Lal
Manjit Dhindsa
B.M Parasharya
Rishad Naoroji
Ashish Pittie
R. N. Saxena
S. Subramanya
Vinod Kumar

Regional Representatives

Ashish Pittie - Andhra Pradesh
Abraham Verghese - Bangalore
Abdul Jamil Urfi - Delhi
Asad Rahmani - Aligarh
Dinesh Kumar Sharma - Himachal, Garhwal & Kumaon
Himmat Sinhji - Gujarat
Lavkumar Kachar - Gujarat
Manjit Dhindsa - Punjab
Prakash Gole - Pune
P. K. Saikia - Assam
Rishad Naoroji - Bombay
K. K. Sharma - Eastern U.P. & Bihar
C. Shashi Kumar - Kerala
Ranjit Daniels - Madras

Financial Advisor to OSI : M. G. Muthanna

5. It was resolved that the RRs and EMs who have not yet become members of the OSI, do so at the earliest.
6. Honouring the repeated requests of the President Zafar Futehally (through personal letters and NLBW) the house resolved that suggestions for an alternative President be invited from all Executive members (including ZF) & RRs. (Zafar Futehally ofcourse shall continue to be on the executive & the guardian angel of the society).
7. It was also resolved that biodata (curriculum vitae & contribution to Ornithology) of all EMs and RRs be invited for records of the Society.
8. The statement of OSI accounts was presented. Hence:

	Rs.
Earnings from membership fees	= 4,580/-
Expenditure	= Nil
Balance	= 4,580/-

It was resolved that an auditor be identified for periodic auditing of OSI accounts.

The meeting concluded with a vote of thanks to the Chair.

2 January, 1994

Mr. Zafar Futehally
Editor
Bird Watchers News letter
Bangalore

Dear Zafar,

I was very disappointed at not having been able to see you before leaving Bangalore during the OSI meeting. I was very sad that the promised meeting (to finalise OSI) was postponed to 14th Nov. I came specifically for that purpose and had I known about it I would have come on 14th morning and not on 12th. Anyway, I got together and talked to A. Vergheese, Sridhar and Chakraborty. All four of us have a good rapport and we felt with our similar views and attitudes we could work together very well.

In the meanwhile I have received your letter informing me of the appointment of the regional secretaries etc. It is all very well and I am happy that something that started in the confined environs of these mountains is spreading so beautifully. However, I have a few reservations:

1. In the present framework the Founder members who actually founded the society as well as Executive members have been totally ignored. (If you recall the Founder members had nominated an interim Executive committee which elected you and me the President and Secretary-General respectively of this committee to look after the affairs of the society temporarily). This is not what I had envisaged. When we founded the society we wanted it to be a forum for all including conservationists, naturalists and scientists.

I would like the executive committee members who are good representatives of studies going on Avian Biology and Ecology in the country, to continue to play a vital role in OSI.

2. OSI will continue to organise seminars in different parts of the country as it did recently in Bangalore but the Head office will not change with every conference. The society was started in Srinagar and the head office according to the registration certificate is at Srinagar with the secretary and treasurer based there. You can have a suboffice at Bangalore and open a Regional branch of OSI & have your own treasurer.

3. Let the Bangalore branch collect the money for the Bird Watcher's News Letter independently as you had suggested in the beginning. Membership fee can be sent to the Head office. Subscriber of BWNL need not necessarily be a member of OSI and vice-versa. On the other hand let the OSI members send the total membership fee to Srinagar Office and we send you a draft (à Rs 40/- per BWNL subscriber) to cover the BWNL subscription.
4. The objective of the OSI as they appeared on the Bangalore conference brochure were not the same as agreed upon earlier (see enc.). They are heavily skewed towards ornithologists from one walk of bird life.

I shall be grateful to you if you read this letter carefully and respond at the earliest, In any case I request you not to publish the decisions you took on 14th November before finalising the points raised by me in this letter. As I see it there is absolutely no problem if atleast some of the founder members and executive committee members are taken care of. As for membership fee I had already discussed with Sridhar et al and they agreed that the money could be sent periodically from here to cover BWNL charges. They had also agreed on the OSI objectives as had appeared earlier in BWNL. Somehow you have got the impression that I don't have much time for OSI. If I was not very active concerning the Bangalore conference it was because I did not want to impose on the local organisers who I believe should be free to choose their own theme and conduct the whole affair. I am very much interested in the OSI and I want it to be as "all encompassing" as possible. However, if you do not agree with me and want a society minus us (us means the scientific community including me from different parts of the country as represented on the executive) you can go ahead but in that case I will have no recourse but to withdraw and function separately. I do not want this to happen. I entreat you to consider the points raised during all my conversations with you and in this letter. For me it was, shall ever be, ever so beautiful to see something that started in remote mountaines of Himalaya spread up to Nilgiris. All can work under one umbrella with you as the figure head (for heaven sake donot exclude the so called avian scientists who have earned a name for themselves)

I await your response eagerly. Please write soon because I have to call a meeting of the founder members who nominated the executive (in accordance with the bye laws of the Society)and send a report to the Registrar of Societies as required by the Society Act.

With warm regards and love to you both.

Asha Chandola-Saklani

ZAFAR FUTEHALLY

2205, Oakwood, 8th Main,
3rd Block, Koramangala,
Bangalore - 560 034.

PHONE : 5533684

January 12, 1994

My dear Asha,

Thank you for your letter of 2nd January, which as per your advice I have read carefully twice over. I agree with almost everything you say, and if it is necessary, I would like to repeat that I, and everyone here, are very conscious of your valuable contribution to Indian Ornithology through the Srinagar Seminar in November, 1991, when you established the OSI.

We have been asking you for copies of the Registration Certificate, the Bye-Laws etc. for sometime, but not having received these. We are not aware of what legal formalities are involved, who are the first members of the Executive Committee, etc.

Since you are keen to have the Head Quarters and Treasurer of the OSI in Srinagar and are prepared to undertake the keeping of accounts, etc. I suggest you go ahead in the way you wish.

You say that I should not publicise the decisions taken in the 14th November meeting. This may create unnecessary confusion. The decision taken were in the Plenary Session of the OSI, and I have reported these in the Newsletter of Nov/Dec.1993, which has been delayed in the Press, but which should be mailed next week.

There is nothing sacrosant about these decisions. All that is really now necessary is that the Regional Secretaries from the North should be added on and that the Treasurer should be in Srinagar. Since it was agreed that the "Power Centre" should be in the Regions, the Regional Secretaries will keep Srinagar informed about their activities, funds, etc.

Will you therefore circulate your letter of January 2nd, and this reply to all Regional Secretaries, and the members of the AD HOC Ex. Committee you had formed, and then arrive at a decision about membership fees, Executive Committee, Regional Representatives, Letterheads and all other details.

Please also decide on the new President in consultation with your Executive Committee and the Regional Secretaries and let me know about it soon, so that I can formally step down. If you wish, I will remain on the Executive Committee.

.... /2

All these matters were settled when the bye laws were submitted for Registration in 1991/92. I read out the bye laws at the meeting in 92. I read out the bye laws at Bangalore in 1992. I read out the bye laws at Bangalore in 1992. I read out the bye laws at Bangalore in 1992. I read out the bye laws at Bangalore in 1992.

being in Hindi. The of the write-up on objectives, names of executive members I sent you & membership form in You even refer to it in BWNL (Vol M.)

WE LOVE YOU!

→ This also I had suggested.

Finally, for the moment, we will not mix up the accounts of the Newsletter for Birdwatchers with the membership of OSI. For the NLBW, the annual subscription of Rs.40/- should be sent to S.Sridhar as is being done hitherto.

Wishing you every happiness that an Ornithologist could hope for in our interesting Country.

^{very}
Yours sincerely,

Zafar

(ZAFAR FUTEHALLY)

To,

Dr. Asha Chandola-Saklani FASC
P.B. No. 45,
Garhwal University
Srinagar,
GARTHVAL U.P

Fax Copy sent on March 17 '94.

ZAFAR FUTEHALLY
NO. 2205, OAKWOOD APARTMENTS
JAKKASANDRA LAYOUT, KORAMANGALA 3rd BLOCK
8th MAIN, BANGALORE 560 034.

ZAFAR,

GOT YOUR TELEGRAM CONFIRMATION (BUT NOT THE TELEGRAM !).
INFORMATION DESIRED IS BEING GIVEN:

NAMES OF ADDITIONAL RRs :

DINESH KUMAR (HIMACHAL, GARHWAL, KUMAON)
MANJIT DHINDSA (PUNJAB)
K. K. SHARMA (EASTERN UP & BIHAR)

EXISTING EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

ZAFAR FUTEHALLY	
ASHA CHANDOLA-SAKLANI	REPRODUCN, BEHAVRL-ECOL, CONSERV.
S. SUBRAMANYA (B'LORE)	ECOLOGY, AGRI ORNITHOLOGY
B. M. PARASHARYA (ANNAND)	IOC SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBER, ECOLOGY, ECON. ORNITHOL.
S. SRIDHAR (B'LORE)	CONSERVATION, BEHAVIOUR
MANJIT DHINDSA (LUDHIANA)	IOC MEMBER, AGRI ORNITHOL
R.N. SAXENA (DELHI)	FNA-AVIAN BIOLOGY & PHYSIOLOGY
DINESH KUMAR (GARHWAL)	FIELD ORNITHOL, CONSERVN
ASAD RAHMANI (ALIGARH)	CONSERVATION
P. LAL (IMPHAL)	REPRODUCTION, ECOLOGY
VINOD KUMAR (LUCKNOW)	BEHAVIOUR

- * ASHISH PITTIE
- * RISHAD NAOROJI
- * BONEY PILOO (BARODA) EDITOR PAVO, REPRO & BEHAVR.
- * R. K. BHATNAGAR (ICAR, DELHI) ECONOMIC ORNITHOL.

* ADDED LATER. THERE WAS PROVISION FOR 15 BUT WE CAN ALWAYS
AMEND & ENLARGE OR RESTRICT OR REVISE IF YOU WISH.

LOVE

ASHA
RETURN FAX 01388 2407

PS SHALL RESPOND TO YOUR LETTER SOON.

Ornithological Society of India

First National Seminar on



Bangalore

12 - 14 November 1993

Please Reply to :

Seminar Liaison Officer
No. 10, 'Vishnu Chittam', Sirur Park
'B' Street, Seshadripuram
BANGALORE - 560 020

President

Zafar Futehally

Secretary General

Asha Chandola Saklani

Regional Secretary

Abraham Verghese

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Mid Seminar Field Trip Committee

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Seminar Liaison Office

No. 10 'Vishnu Chittam'

Sirur Park 'B' Street, Seshadripuram

Bangalore 560 020

Phone : 080-364142 or 080-364682

Fax : 080-563953 or 080-332634

Date : 3rd Sept. 1994

Mr Noritaka Ichida
Wild Bird Society of Japan
Aoyama Flower Building,
1-1-4, Shibuya, Shibuya-ku
TOKYO 150, JAPAN

Dear Mr Ichida,

We immensely thank you for the Demand Draft No. 188926 dated 30.09.94 for Rs. 15,500/- (RS. FIFTEEN THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED ONLY) on Vijaya Bank, Bangalore in favour of OSI Seminar 1993 account, being the amount towards Publication of 'Bird Conservation Strategies for the Nineties and Beyond' during the Seminar held in Nov'93, sent through Dr S A Hussain.

We enclose herewith the receipt of the same.

We thank you once again for your kind and invaluable help.

Yours sincerely,

(OSI Liaison Officer)

Copy to : 1) Dr S A Hussain, No. 5, Jalan
9/5D, 46000 Petaling Jaya
Selangor D.E., MALAYSIA

2) Mr Aasheesh Pittie
8-2-545, 'Prem Parvat', Road No. 7
Banjara Hills, HYDERABAD - 500 034

Encl : 1 receipt.

/ss/

DEPARTMENT OF ZOOLOGY, H N B GARHWAL UNIVERSITY
SRINAGAR GARHWAL, UP 246 174

Asha Chandola-Saklani, Box 45,
Tel. 01388-2407 (0), 2215 (R), Fax 01388-2407

13/12
1994

6 December 1994

Dear Asheesh,

I have just been wondering if you at all received my letter which was sent to you with the minutes of the last meeting of the members of OSI. As promised I also sent a few OSI brochures last month with a personal note. But as you may have heard this area has been undergoing considerable agitation against 27% reservation for the so-called OBC(which constitute less than 2% of the population here) and a separate state. With the post offices banks etc closed for long periods we have evidence of our mail going astray- so please let me know. The offices, university is closed even now and the PO. Bank are allowed to function only thrice a week. Zafar once wrote to me that I must write atleast one letter every month to the Regional representatives. I may not have been so good but I did write the above mentioned two letters to the Exec. members and the RRs.

There are several aspects I wanted to discuss.

- 1) First, to ensure better communication please provide me with your telephone numbers (both office and residence) and fax. Due to the current closure of the university the earlier No. is not accessible so please use the one given above and highlighted here also (01388 - 2407, if you fax during the day before 19:00 hrs you will first have to ask for the fax tone since the machine is connected to my laboratory phone. After that no problem.)
 - 2) We must now start thinking of the next conference of OSI (when we shall also have the meeting of the executive committee and the regional representatives - **money is not all what counts but you MUST become a valid member atleast before that !**) Any suggestions for the venue ? Time would be around Durga puja/Dussehra holidays. I have written to some members and several possible venues are indicated. More suggestions from the executive members and regional representatives are yet to come but considering the ornithological activity my preference would be Gujarat. In case you would like to host it please let me know. Srinagar is ofcourse always open but we already had the first meeting here. I regret very much your absence then. We missed you at the Bangalore meeting also (or is it you arrived after I left ?). I would have liked very much to meet you and, OSI apart, find out more about your work and tell you of our interests. Apart from our pure scientific researches on birds(ecology and ecophysiology of the seasonal phenomena e.g. reproduction, migration, molting) we are very much involved with Himalayan pheasants and their conservation. In fact that was one of the reasons why I chucked my plum job at Banaras Hindu University and came to the wilderness of mountains some eleven years ago. Please do keep some time free in Oct/Nov when we hope to have the OSI symposium wherever it may be held. You must come please and deliver a special invited lecture on nomenclature or whatever you like. Apart from that I envisage a much greater role for the Exec. members in the organisation of the academic program by way of organising specific sessions, by giving ideas and suggestions as to the format, themes, invited speakers etc. This will maintain a continuity despite the change in, and preferred themes (if any) of, the local organisation. So please start thinking about it and also let me know if you would like to host the next meeting (1997) if not this one.
- Thanks.

3) Zafar wanted me to write about how I envisage the future of OSI. OSI was started with the chief aim of bringing together people working in different fields of Ornithology. Through interaction and a joint effort we can promote much better the interest of birds, and, our interest in birds and also project better the image of Indian ornithology at international fora. The idea was OSI would provide this platform without interfering with the individual activities of the respective people, groups and fora working with and for Birds. I am convinced we can achieve it especially as we have discovered so many wonderful people through it - very specially, dedicated people. Together we can work wonders. I am very very optimistic now. Through the Srinagar Symposium we have identified the Avian Biologists chiefly (including the Agricultural Ornithologists whose work was greatly highlighted). Through the Bangalore Symposium we have identified a majority of folks working on Applied Ornithology chiefly Conservationists and Agricultural Ornithologists. The interaction and interest and good feelings generated among ornithologists through these symposia is no mean achievement. The best thing is we have got to know about the existence of the "other" ornithologists ! Through interaction we shall keep evolving constantly. The best way would be to identify and assign tasks among ourselves.

There was some confusion about the Exec. members and RRs which I hope must be clear from the minutes I sent earlier. You see, initially when the society was registered, as in any other society vide the statutes there was provision for executive members who would help run the society. The idea of a networking through Regional Representatives came up later which we find very attractive, and, would ensure actual action and would be very useful in attaining the chief goal of OSI (which is to bring all ornithologists of the country together thus giving them more strength - which is very very important today considering the insensible exploitation of nature's biodiversity). The executive body may keep getting restructured periodically. RRs are people who have been identified with a special purpose and are envisaged to provide greater stability, and of course action, thus playing a vital role. The necessary amendments shall be made in the statutes in due course. What is important is action - it is immaterial who works where in what capacity. Lets just get going.

4) The Secretariat is in the process of preparing an inventory of all ornithologists in the country. It will be the forerunner of a Directory/Handbook of Ornithologists to be published by OSI with short biographical sketches. I shall circulate a copy of the list to all Exec. members and Regional representatives, as soon as ready, for additions and comments before we can print it. **In the meanwhile I shall request you to identify the people you know working in your field of interest / in your area and send me a list.** Thank you very much. The network of RRs is going to be most helpful in this direction identifying active ornithologists in their respective regions. As I see it, broadly speaking we can identify three directions along which ornithology is progressing in India. (And all are well represented on the Executive, which is a sprinkling of all disciplines, and on the Network of Regional representatives which in addition is location-based). Your comments are most welcome. Please write directly to me.

a) There is a strong group of Avian Biologists who, although spread all over the country, can trace their origin to Indian Universities (Banaras Hindu Univ, UP, and M.S. and Saurashtra Universities in Gujarat) which were and continue to be great centres of Ornithological activity. Calcutta University is also known for the Ornithologists it produced. This group is characterised by folks like late A.B. Misra who laid the foundation of Avian biology in India and his coworkers at BHU, J.P. Thapliyal (retd. ex chairman Zoology dept. BHU, Academy Fellow & father of exptl. ornithology in India.), J.C. George, late R.M. Naik (FAOU), Asok Ghosh (retd. Chairman Zool, Calcutta Univ. & Academy Fellow), V.C. Shah, R.N. Saxena (present Chairman, Dept. Zool., Delhi Univ. Academy Fellow), P.D. Tewary (Chairman, Dept. Zool., Ban. Hindu Univ.), Bonny Pilo (Chairman Zool. and Editor PAVO the only Indian Ornithol. journal- running in its 32nd yr), R.

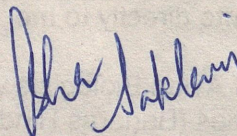
Subbaraj (MKU), B.N. Bhattacharya (ecomorphology, Calcutta), Vinod Kumar (a prolific youngster at Lucknow Univ), C.M. Chaturvedi, C. Haldar, P. Lal, D. Bhatt, etc.etc. This category was not aware of the vast ornithologist community of the country with the exception of perhaps Salim Ali and Zafar Futehally, and perhaps even of their own status as ornithologists ! Thank heavens through OSI many have already changed their outlook. b) There is another strong group working on Agricultural Ornithology and Ecology spread all over the country characterised by M.S.Dhindsa, Sandhu and their large group, B.M. Parasharaya, S.Subramanya, R.K. Bhatnagar (President, Socy Applied Ornithology), S.S. Rao (AICRP, Hyderabad), Priya Davidar (Director, Salim Ali Centre for Ecology, Pondicherry), Abraham Verghese, A.K. Chakravarthy etc. This group I find appreciates good science as well as amateur ornithology. c) Then there is the strong group of fulltime or part-time Conservationists/ Ecologists - characterised by you, Rishad Naoroji, S. Sridhar, Zafar Futehally, L.K. Khacher, Madhava Gadgil, Himmatsinh ji, Prakash Gole, R. Daniels, Asad Rahmani, A.J. Urfi, V.S.Vijayan, Madhyastha etc. etc. and a host of enthusiastic amateurs. Many in this category, I found at Bangalore meeting, to be extremely wary of biologists (Ha Ha!).

I am simply rattling off established names which come to my mind and the list will be exhaustive ofcourse. Dr. R.M. Naik had at one moment written to me about wanting to formulate one such inventory and I have already enlisted Bonny Pilo's help in the matter. I look forward to your list. Just provide the name, area of special interest in Ornithology, and address if possible, please. Thank you very much indeed.

4) At the International Ornithological Congress, Vienna, I explored further the possibility of one of the future congresses being held in India which was met with great enthusiasm by the executive committee. For this to happen we must prepare an invitation and bid at the next IOC in Durban, South Africa, in 1998. The preparation, first for the bid and then for the event, must be a collective effort on the part of the Indian ornithologists and we must identify as many resource persons as possible, from within OSI and without, - to act as think-tanks, to give suggestions and above all to play an important role in making this possibility come true. This will constitute an important point on the agenda of our meeting in Oct/Nov. You would be one of the ideal resource persons. And IOC will certainly be represented by one of its executive members to help us develop plans. So please do make sure you attend the meeting. Thanks.

I look forward to an early response from you. And please don't forget to tell me if you did or did not receive the OSI brochures I sent. If you did, please go ahead and enlist members (the membership collection from your region can be allocated to your region after partial discount to allow subsidy on Registration fees for the biannual conference). With warm regards,

Sincerely,



Asha Chandola-Saklani

ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF INDIA

Application form for Membership

Name. Prof./Dr./Mr./ Miss

Designation.....

Interested in Birds as a Biologist / Conservationist / Naturalist / Bird Watcher

Address for Correspondence

.....

Country..... Pin Code.....

Tel..... Fax..... Telex.....

MEMBERSHIP FEE:

Life Member	Ordinary Member	Student Member
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Rs. 500/-	Rs. 50/- per year	Rs. 25/- per year
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Admission Fee : Rs. 10.00

I would like to become a life / ordinary / student member of the Ornithological Society of India. A draft for Rs..... No..... dated..... in favor of Ornithological Society of India drawn at State Bank of India, Srinagar Garhwal (Code 3181) is enclosed herewith (kindly include admission fee Rs. 10.00 with the membership fee).

Date

Signature

Please mail this form with bank draft (no cheques please) to : -

PROF. ASHA CHANDOLA-SAKLANI, SECY-GENERAL OSI,
POST BOX 45, SRINAGAR, GARHWAL, 246 174, U.P. INDIA
FAX (01388) 2174/ TEL. (01388) 2407 & 2215

2407

ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF INDIA

(Registration No. 116/1860 UP)

13/12
1994

Ornithological activity in India has a long history. The earliest descriptions of birds and their behavior date back to Vedic literature (Athar veda about 3,000 B.C.) followed by the formulation of first ever game laws by Kautilya (4th century B.C.) and seasonal descriptions of birds by Kalidasa in (6th century A.d.). The Indian mythological literature and the great epics are replete with allusions to birds. The writings & paintings of the Medieval period contain material which is clearly Ornithological in nature. Tuzuk-i-Jahangiri by emperor Jahangir is one among them. The foundation of Avian studies in modern India were laid by British workers - Jerdon, Hume, Baker, Whistler and numerous other enthusiastic birdwatchers. Then came Salim Ali & Dillon Ripley. When Salim Ali at BNHS was compiling his notes for the handbook of Indian birds scores of other naturalists consumed with the desire to observe birds in their natural habitats were roaming the country and biologists in two Indian universities had begun to unfold the mysteries of avian world - one at Banaras Hindu University Varanasi in early thirties led by A.B. Misra and subsequently J.P. Thapliyal and other at M.S. University, Baroda in early fifties led by J.C. George and subsequently R.M. Naik. These movements soon spread & took roots in virtually every part of the country maturing into the current day awareness for conservation and a tremendous wealth of information on Indian birds. Thus significant contributions have been made nationally and internationally on the one hand by avian biologists basically dealing with ecophysiological, ecological, morphological & agricultural aspects and on the other hand by the naturalists, conservationists bird watchers. India (Calcutta 1977) had the honour to host the 1st International Symposium on Avian Endocrinology, held every four years in different parts of the world, followed by another international meeting on birds (Environment & Hormones, Srinagar Garhwal 1983). Furthermore Ornithology constitutes an important part of the undergraduate and postgraduate curricula and research programs in a number of Universities and Institutions of the country. Apart from the Journal of the BNHS and Hornbill (BNHS, Bombay) a very popular newsletter for Bird watchers (NLBW edited by Zafar Futehally, Bangalore) and PAVO a journal of Ornithology (edited by Bonny Pilo, Baroda) has completed 3 decades of publication.

Taking cognizance of the diverse ramifications of ornithological activity in India a small enthusiastic group of avian biologists and conservationists met in the Himalayan mountains (Srinagar Garhwal) in the summer of 1991 and laid the foundation of Ornithological Society of India (OSI) with the intention of gathering all the categories of Ornithologists on a single platform.

Objectives of the Society :

- to provide a forum for people interested in every aspect of Ornithology, basic and applied.
- to establish a platform for exchange of ideas between ornithologists in India and abroad and organise national and international symposia from time to time providing impetus to ornithological researches in India.
- to bring together naturalists, scientists, conservationists, managers, policy makers and the general public to evolve strategies for effective conservation and management of avifauna in the Indian sub-continent.
- to generate interest in birds & their habitat with a view to promote consciousness of the remarkable biodiversity of the Indian sub-continent. And to act as a watchdog for important habitats and rare habitat specific species.
- to strengthen the hands of other organisations working for birds and nature.

Achievements :

- An International Symposium on Environmental & Hormonal Approaches to Ornithology was organised at Srinagar, Garhwal (Nov. 27-1 Dec. 1991) sponsored by OSI and funded by UGC, CSIR, INSA & Garhwal University. Abstracts of the proceedings were published at the time of the Symposium and selected scientific reviews have appeared in a special issue of J. Biosciences, Indian Academy of Sciences, Bangalore, (Guest editors Asha Chandola-Saklani & Walter Bock)
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Newsletter : NLBW shall serve as the newsletter of the society.

Secretariat :

POST BOX 45, SRINAGAR GARHWAL, 246174 U.P. INDIA
FAX 01388 2174/ TEL 01388 2407 & 2215

2407

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Bhatnagar R.K.
President, Society for Applied Ornithology
Indian Agricultural Research Institute, Delhi

Chandola-Saklani A. (Secy-General),
HNB Garhwal University, Srinagar

Dhindsa Manjit.
Punjab Agricultural University, Ludhiana

Futehally Zafar. (President)
Editor, Newsletter for Bird watchers, Bangalore

Kumar Vinod.
Lucknow University, Lucknow

Lal Pardeshi.
Manipur University, Imphal

Naoroji Rishad.
Bombay

Pittie Asheesh
Hyderabad,

Parasharya B.M.
Gujarat Agricultural University, Anand

Pilo Bonny.
Editor, PAVO, M.S. University, Baroda

Rahmani Asad.
Aligarh Muslim University, Aligarh

Sharma Dinesh Kumar. (Treasurer),
HNB Garhwal University, Srinagar

Saxena R.N.
Delhi University, Delhi

Sridhar S.
Rishi Valley Project, Bangalore

Subramanya S.
GKVK Agricultural University, Bangalore

REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVES

Asheesh Pittie	-	Andhra Pradesh
Abraham Verghese	-	Bangalore
Abdul Jamil Urfi	-	Delhi
Asad Rahmani	-	Western U.P.
Dinesh Kumar Sharma	-	Himachal, Garhwal & Kumaon
Himmat Sinhji	-	Gujarat
Lavkumar Kacher	-	Gujarat
Manjit Dhindsa	-	Punjab
Prakash Gole	-	Pune
P.K. Saikia	-	Assam
Rishad Naoroji	-	Bombay
K.K. Sharma	-	Eastern U.P. & Bihar
C. Shashi Kumar	-	Kerala
Ranjit Daniels	-	Madras

Financial Advisor : M.G. Muthanna

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P.T.O.

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Designation.

Interested in Birds as a Biologist / Conservationist / Naturalist / Bird Watcher

Address for Correspondence

Country Pin Code

Tel Fax Telex

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Life Member	Ordinary Member	Student Member
Rs. 500/-	Rs. 50/- per year	Rs. 25/- per year

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FAX (01388) 2174 / 2407 TEL. (01388) 2407 & 2215

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Chandola- Saklani A. (Secy. General)	<i>HNB Garhwal University, Srinagar</i>
Dhindsa Manjit Futehally Zafar (President)	<i>Punjab Agricultural University, Ludhiana Editor, Newsletter for Birdwatchers, Bangalore</i>
Kumar Vinod Lal Pardeshi Naoroji Rishad Pittie Aasheesh Parasharya B.M. Pilo Bonny Rahmani Asad Sharma Dinesh Kumar (Treasurer)	<i>Lucknow University, Lucknow Manipur University, Imphal Bombay Hyderabad Gujarat Agricultural University, Anand Editor, PAVO, M.S. University, Baroda Aligarh Muslim University, Aligarh HNB Garhwal University, Srinagar</i>
Saxena R.N. Subramanya S.	<i>Delhi University, Delhi GKVK Agricultural University, Bangalore</i>

reviews have appeared in a special issue of J. Biosciences, Indian Academy of Sciences, Bangalore, (Guest editors Asha Chandola-Saklani & Walter Bock)

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Secretariat :

Post Box 45, Srinagar Garhwal, 246174 U.P. INDIA
Fax : 01388 2174/2407 Tel : 01388 2407 & 2215

Regional Representatives

Asheesh Pittie Abraham Verghese Abdul Jamil Urfi Asad Rahmani Dinesh Kumar Sharma Himmat Sinhji Lavkumar Kacher Manjit Dhindsa Prakash Gole P.K. Saikia Rishad Naoroji K.K. Sharma C. Shashi Kumar Ranjit Daniels	Andhra Pradesh Bangalore Delhi Western U.P. Himachal, Garhwal & Kumaon Gujarat Gujarat Punjab Pune Assam Bombay Eastern U.P. & Bihar Kerala Madras M.G. Muthanna
Financial Advisor	

ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF INDIA
Box 45, Srinagar Garhwal, UP 246 174

From the desk of the Secy-General : Asha Chandola-Saklani
Tel. 01388-2407(O), 2215(R), Fax 01388-2407

26/12
94

14 December 1994

Dear colleague,

I am sorry that my last missive to you inadvertently carried on top the name of my department and not of the society. Also through an oversight the addresses of the RRs have been left out in the OSI brochures I sent you. The error is regretted (these are only photocopies of computer - printed stuff, we soon hope to get regular brochures). As desired by Sri Zafar I have just completed writing about the OSI, its aspirations, functioning and future- to appear in the NLBW. I reproduce some relevant chunks (enclosed here with). But first I share with you some thoughts I had about the kind of activities we can undertake with the participation of RRs. Please understand I am just rambling on and in no way it imposes on you any restrictions. You may evolve your own working strategies and let us benefit from them.

Please add to and/or improve upon the following [★] and send back with a comment on feasibility. If you are real short on time just scribble your notes on the space provided in front of each item and return the paper. I shall send the final version to you after getting feed back from all the RRs in any case. Thanks.

1. First identification and formation of a working group of ornithologists in your area / a regional committee of your own.
2. Ask the group to prepare an inventory of ornithologists active in the present and past with special area of interest and address.
3. Enlist OSI members. (read the enclosed paper for membership benefits etc.) and NLBW subscriptions.
4. Prepare an inventory of check-lists of birds available for your area. If not available get your group started on it with the help of all ornithologists (mentioning sighting dates, no. of sightings / unit time, no. of individuals sighted / sighting, habitat where sighted)
5. Think of ways to identify overused and threatened habitats and threatened species, through an organised network (you could enlist the help of PG students of local college/institutions but doing

★ Any of these activities as per convenience.

this kind of thing for the last several years it is my experience you might find it exceedingly difficult to get students involved in wildlife programs for long stretches of time. But you may be lucky)

6. Organise birdwatching treks with atleast one experienced birdwatcher and stimulate the WG and other ornithologists to do the same in their vicinity.

7. Organise and stimulate the WG to organise special bird treks to introduce youngsters to the pleasure of birdwatching and the great outdoors.

8. Contact schools and organise lectures/ slide shows of topical interest (experienced ornithologists in the vicinity can act as resource persons). May be you/WG could start a club or something at a nominal fee.

9. On 5 June the Environment day organise debates, essay competitions, exhibitions etc promoting bird interests

10. In association with the Exec member if any from your region contact yourself or through WG local libraries/ college libraries and ascertain information on available literature on birds.

11. If you or those in your committee or WG are associated with a school/College/University make efforts to introduce topics in Ornithology (or Ornithology as full paper or as specialisation in case of post graduates) in the syllabus. Give small projects to students which involve watching birds and learning about their behaviors and interactions with the environment -starting from single day simple observations to more complex longer duration observations as you go higher with class/age. You may devise scores of projects. When I have little time I shall also prepare a list at a later date. Take them on periodic bird-watching treks (This in my experience has been most rewarding and fulfilling)

12. Submit suggestions for the organisation of each biannual conference of the society as to the themes, sessions, speakers, venue etc. etc. after duely involving ornithologists in your area. Should the event occur in your area play an important role in its organisation. The Secretariat

shall forward your applications for funds for the conference to various agencies e.g. DoEn, ICAR, DST, CSIR, INSA etc. Proforma are obtainable from the Secretariat.

13. Play an important role in giving ideas for developing an invitation to bid for one of the future International Congresses to be held in India. And in the event of a successful bid play a very important role in making it a success and provide the expertise on the pre-/ post- congress bird watching excursions arranged in or around your area.

14. Fund raising. Part of the OSI membership fees from your region may be used by you. You are totally independent to generate funds and to open bank accounts. Devise methods. Also apply to your State DoEn for funds who usually have funds for NGOs for extension programs.

15. Any other ideas.



Now a word about functioning and how we propose to go about achieving our objectives.

The OSI has its Secretariat in the Himalayan mountains (Srinagar, Garhwal) and the Liaison Office in Bangalore. While the former looks after the infrastructural aspects, paper work, feed backs, the latter takes care of publications and Liaison (NLBW serves as the newsletter for the society). These offices work in harmony to evolve strategies and modes of functioning backed by the Executive committee and a body of dedicated Regional representatives which constitute a sprinkling of all ornithological disciplines in addition to being location-based. Central to the functioning is a Networking through Regional Representatives which would ensure actual action and would be very useful in attaining the goals of OSI. The executive body may keep getting restructured periodically. RRs are people who have been identified with a special purpose and are envisaged to provide greater stability, and ofcourse action, thus playing a vital role. RRs are completely independent to formulate strategies /working groups /committees / fund raisings /and whatever. What is important is action - it is immaterial who works where in what capacity. And we believe in it.

A membership will not only strengthen OSI morally but also help achieve its objectives. It, therefore, welcomes various categories of memberships (Life- Rs 500 consolidated, Full- 50/annum, Student -25/a. Corporate also available). But I admit we have been rather tardy on this front as we have been on projecting an appropriate LOGO (all my fault). I am sorry, due to unavoidable circumstances, we have not been able to print the membership forms in the NLBW. But these can be had from the Secretariat and the Liaison office. Membership dues become effective from January or July. The members are entitled to a discount on the Registration fees for the biannual conference, a discount on all birding trips/ treks / group activities / slide shows as may be periodically organised by the respective Regional representatives or arranged through the Secretariat / Liaison office, a discount on NLBW in the second year of OSI membership in good standing, discount on OSI publications, access to bird literature available with the Exec. members/RRs, access to bird literature in libraries of various universities (arranged through special request). OSI membership provides you with a unique opportunity periodically to mingle and exchange ideas face to face with ornithologists with different interests from different parts of the

country and even abroad. Above all the membership of OSI gives you the satisfaction of supporting bird projects, conservation programs and biodiversity awareness camps (students) to be undertaken by OSI.

Needless to say that as the society grows the benefits to members will also grow. In due course with the availability of an 'on-line' network at the OSI we hope to have built a computerised database of our own and disseminate information on latest developments in various fields of ornithology as well as on the activities of various bird societies within India and abroad through the NLBW. We also hope to make available existing check-lists of various regions at nominal price. Someone wanted thrown in the deal a (nice shiny) membership card also - duly signed by the dear glorious President himself ! Pray that our fund raising efforts are successful and you will get it ! Also please start thinking about a LOGO entry for the society which will soon be advertised in the newsletter.

Immediate plans.

The OSI is in the process of evolving methodically programs/activities to be undertaken by the RRs on their own and with the help of the Secretariat or Liaison office and these are expected to be announced from time to time through the newsletter.

Right now the OSI is preparing an inventory of all active ornithologists in the country. It will be the forerunner of a Directory/Handbook of Ornithologists to be published by OSI with short biographical sketches. A number of universities and institutions running courses related to ornithology, libraries, are being contacted with a view to build a location-wise database on available bird literature (books, journals, newsletters) for the benefit of all members.

Also the next conference of OSI is due in 1995. Around Durga puja/Dussehra holidays. Consultations for a venue are going on within the OSI and several possibilities are indicated. Should any readers of NLBW wish to host the meeting they are most welcome. Please send a proposal to the Secretariat, preferably within a fortnight of this announcement, giving a brief description of the conference facilities (upto 200-300 people), and accommodation available for the purpose. The Secretariat with the help of Exec. members will aid the local organisers in developing the academic program, e.g. by way of organising specific sessions, by giving ideas and suggestions as to the format, themes, invited speakers etc. This will maintain a continuity despite the change in, and preferred themes (if any) of, the local organisation. We must ensure that while maintaining a standard the conference caters to all ornithological tastes and the technical papers must be presented in simple straightforward way with a general audience in mind. Funding agencies like DST, INSA, ICAR, DOEn, CSIR may be approached through the Society.

The Future ? The OSI may not be rich in monetary terms but has at its disposal the necessary infrastructure, a battery of skilled ornithologists with well conceptualised ideas, and, above all, loads of enthusiasm and a tremendous amount of goodwill. We just want to GET going and KEEP going we shall, without being embroiled in mundane intricacies of life. That is future. Happy New Year to you all also !