

S. SUBRAMANYA

S.S.
16/7
1996

231, Chitramala Apts.
Byrasandra
Bangalore 560 011

March 11, 1995

Aasheesh Pittie
8-2-545, "Prem Parvat"
Road No. 7
Banjara Hills
Hyderabad 500 034.

Dear Aasheesh,

Thanks for your recent letter, copy of the field notes of Brian Gee and the heronry info from Dr. Vasu. I have already written to Dr. Vasu, thanking him for the contribution.

Regarding the co-operation between us to work on bird projects, here are my views:

Initially we can work, as you suggested, on the checklist of the birds of Southern India (AP, Karnataka, Kerala and Tamil Nadu) which at a later date can be upgraded into an annotated checklist/book and it can be a good update on the H.R. Baker and C.M. Inglis's book 'The birds of southern India'. While preparing the species accounts (annotations), we can incorporate the current status of knowledge on the species status, distribution, breeding, etc. No need to include species identification. For the checklist we can split the work between us: while you work on the AP portion of it, Prasad and myself will take care of Karnataka, Kerala and Tamil Nadu. If necessary, we can *rope-in* Santharam also, to contribute on Tamil Nadu and Kerala birds. We may have to depend on your good offices to get those unpublished British works on the birds of Kerala.

On the other hand, I feel that initially, it would be better if we try to compile and organise the information on our birds that's already available in such a way that information on different aspects and studies is made available to people interested in South Indian birds. For example, an annotated bibliography with an extensive index on every available (published) aspect on each species would be most welcome. Once we start the work on the checklist, annotated checklist and the annotated bibliography, we should be able to identify the gap areas where work is needed and can come up with projects to bridge these gaps. I may sound very ambitious, but I feel it is the most logical thing to do.

We can probably call ourselves as UOWSI (Unit for Ornithological Works on South India). We should also be able to provide information support to people studying birds in South India. I am not trying to sound as a competitor to SACON or any group. Of course we should not end up with any duplication. Ours will be a voluntary working arrangement and if necessary, we can invite others to join us, but we three for the time being, will remain as a core group. At the same time, we can have our own individual projects and collaborative projects among any two of us also. The core group will help in every possible way in such situations. Whatever we publish should be useful to a large section of birdwatchers and ornithologists or should help to understand the species better. Since all of us have access to computers, we can exchange soft copies of the portions of collaborative works, if necessary.

Right now, I can't think of any field projects, though a conservation strategy for saving the pelicans can be developed for Telineelapuram based on our experience at Kokkare

Bellur (see *Hornbill* 1996 (2)). Even if we take up any field projects involving our collaborations, it would be better to concentrate on the red data species.

Well, these are purely my thoughts and they may seem far fetched. I am quite open to criticism, suggestions and corrections. Feel free to put in your ideas as to, how best we can work together. I have discussed this with Prasad and he seem to like it. Before we plunge our efforts in, I suggest we agree upon common working modalities.

Now to other aspects. Recently, I submitted an article (Distribution, Status and Conservation of Indian Heronries) to the Salim Ali Centenary issue of JBNHS as per the request of J.C. Daniel. Now I am planning to work on an article on the Heronries of Andhra Pradesh for *Mayura*. I would welcome any old published info on heronries. Here, I need a favour, I would be grateful if you can you help me get info on the following heronries:

1. Salim Ali (1934) makes a reference to Davidson and Wenden account of White Ibis breeding in AP. Can you check their article(?) in *Stray Feathers* (Vol: vii, page? 92) and please send me a copy of the same, if there is any details on the site.
2. Salim Ali (1934) also makes a reference to a heronry of Large Egret, Pond Herons, visited by Col. Sparrow at Navipet on 10-8-1914. Do you have any details on this sites from the info you collected on the colonel?
3. Major-General E.F. Burton in his book, *Reminiscences of Sport in India*, published in about 1885, mentions about a heronry of Grey Herons close to a small village en route from Hanumakonda to Parkal (Pakhal?), seen in Feb. 1847. Do you have the book? If no, can you suggest me ^{where} I can get hold of the same or the info from it?

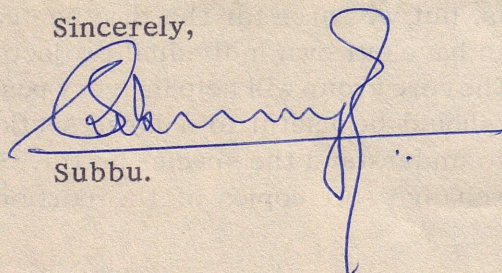
Last week I happen to visit Thirumala Hills. As you may have guessed, I managed to sight a pair of Yellowthroated Bulbuls in a vegetated rocky cove on the partially denuded southern slope. With this and other sightings, I am thinking of writing a note on Yellowthroated Bulbuls in Andhra Pradesh to, yes, *Mayura*, but will need some time.

Lastly,... I have been asked to send whatever info I have on birds and heronries of Andhra Pradesh by none other than, as you may have guessed, Riaz Uddin as he is writing his *magnum opus* - 'A tribute to the birds of Andhra Pradesh'!!! Did you receive a similar request?

It was nice meeting you here at Bangalore.

Warm regards,

Sincerely,



Subbu.

16 July, 1996

Dr. S. Subramanya
231 Chitramala Apts.,
Byrasandra
Bangalore 560011

My Dear Subbu,

Thanks a lot for yours of 11-3-1995 (!?) which I received on 16-7-1996 ! Prasad was here last week and we played hide-and-seek on a working day till he got me on the phone from the airport ! About the many exciting thoughts in your letter.

Initially let us not form into any body with a name. The loose association of which you speak, where both of you and I will work for a project/projects, should be OK as a beginning. If things work out well, as visualized by all 3 of us, then we can formalize our group later. I think that authorship of works will be a ticklish issue. This can be solved if we call our publications as 'Occasional Publication No.', or 'Report No. #'. If one goes alphabetically, then it is not fair, neither can there be a senior author for something like the following proposal for a checklist where we are all contributing equally !

The first project can be the South Indian checklist. I suggest that Sasikumar be included from Kerala and Santharam "roped-in" from T.N. What do you say? This will help when we want to expand the checklist into an annotated one and things begin to become heavy on our hands.

I agree on the bare-checklist and annotated-checklist as a follow-up, from among your proposals, and would not like to work on an annotated bibliography primarily because Rahmani is already well ahead in that work. As you suggest, he has multiple key-words. We should perhaps help him strengthen his database and use it to our advantage. I am open here, to suggestions and/or experiences !

I had mentioned to Prasad about a nesting bird project and also a project as an extension of the AWB count, which though executed separately by the AP and KAR. groups, could have their data published jointly. Briefly, the former involves keeping nesting cards for nests seen over a period of say one or two years and then analyze the data. For this I have the BTO guide and also a whole lot of cards already printed. A sample is enclosed. The latter was suggested by a friend, Suhel Quader, who suggested that the census not be restricted to the winter months only. If it could be done for each of our seasons, then we would have data for each waterbody during the breeding and also the non-migratory periods ! Perhaps 4 counts each year could be tried. I think this is a worthwhile project. What about both of you ??

Am thrilled about your proposed papers for *Mayura* and will extend all help possible. Have no info. about Navipet. The papers I received from Carol Inskipp did not have detailed notes taken by Col. Sparrow. The Davidson & Wenden paper from *Stray Feathers* cannot be Xeroxed as the volume is very thick and the Xerox not very clear. But below is what they say about the White Ibis.

"*Ibis melanocephala*, Lath.: Not rare. D., (Davidson) having observed them this year on the Bhima from October until about the middle of July, concludes that they probably breed in the district."

Most of the paper is for areas within present day Maharashtra, along the Bhima river valley. It does not have anything from present day AP at all.

I too got a royal decree from Riyazuddin but gave him a piece of my mind in return. Wonder whether anything will chastise him !

With warm and sincere best wishes,



Emil: afa

M
S. SUBRAMANYA

231, Chitramala Apts.
Byrasandra
Bangalore 560 011
27/7
56

July 24, 1996

Dear Aasheesh,

Thanks for your letter of July 16, 1996 and the Nest Record Card (NRC).

I do agree with you in keep working as a loose group to begin with, taking up the South Indian checklist as our first project and leave the 'bibliography' to Rahmani. I see your point on the authorship issue. We can resolve it later. I am quite amicable to any suggested order. Lets work towards having the material on hand first.

In 1993, I did try to bring up the issue of taking up nesting bird census (though it was biased towards colonial nesters) through an article to the NLBW. It probably ended up as a lining to Sridhar's waste paper basket! ZF told me later that Sridhar was opposed to publishing it, as he feared that it would confuse birdwatchers and jeopardise their interest in AWB count. I did not pursue the idea further, as in the meantime we birdwatchers in Bangalore started a campaign against nest photography. We decided to leave the nests alone, as there is considerable evidence indicating that locating and regular visits to nests would escalate human induced predation and desertion of nests. Well, if we are to start the NRC project, we need to impose strict *code of conduct* for all the participants - like for example, the nests should not be *handled* at any cost, not to get close to nests and as little time as possible be spent at the nests.

NRC is nothing new to me. I used a modified BTO card to gather info on birds nesting in paddy fields, as a part of my Ph.D. work. In all (i.e. including other species also), I have a little over 300 cards on some 25 species, collected between 1982-1987. I used the data to construct partial life-tables for two species (see enclosed). Also, between 1989-92, I helped a student, to work on the nesting patterns of birds for his Ph.D., and he has 1243 cards on 53 land-bird species. Now belatedly, I realise that I may have been the cause for the loss of a great number of nests. Of late, I beat a hasty retreat, if I come across any active nest.

Starting nesting waterbird survey seems O.K. to me, if the census is limited to spying a nest from a distant with

binoculars and collecting auxiliary information that would indicate nesting activity, like displaying adults, parents carrying nest material or food, presence of nestlings with parents (good indicators for coots, grebes & rails), etc. Based on the stage of nesting activity, in most of the cases, we should be able to work backwards to approximately determine the commencement of nesting with the help of published information (e.g. Baker's *Nidification*..). I shall talk to Prasad and see how best we can take it up.

Prasad and myself have agreed to meet every Friday evening to take stock of weekly progress and 'finish-off' unfinished works for publication. Already, we have started working on the Karnataka Checklist. Parallely, we intend to prepare a 'working draft-checklist' for TN and Kerala. Once the working draft-checklist for South India is on hand, we all can go through the same and then invite Santharam and Sasikumar to put their expertise into it.

Talking about Sasikumar, I did not really find that 'thrill' of meeting a birdwatcher, when I ran into him during the recent BNHS Seminar. He appeared a kind of evasive. It was just a brief handshake, a word of pleasantries and he melted away. Over the recent years, I have pestered quite a few including him, and have made myself known by my requests for info on heronries. Birdwatchers have been kind enough to remember me, if not for anything, but as a 'heronry pest'. He was the strangest of them all.

I am enclosing a copy of my article on the Pelican Project at Kokkare Bellur. Is it possible to initiate similar work at Telineelapuram? If the Forest Department or any nature group is interested, I can give a working plan for the site, as the nesting condition appears to be similar to that of Bellur.

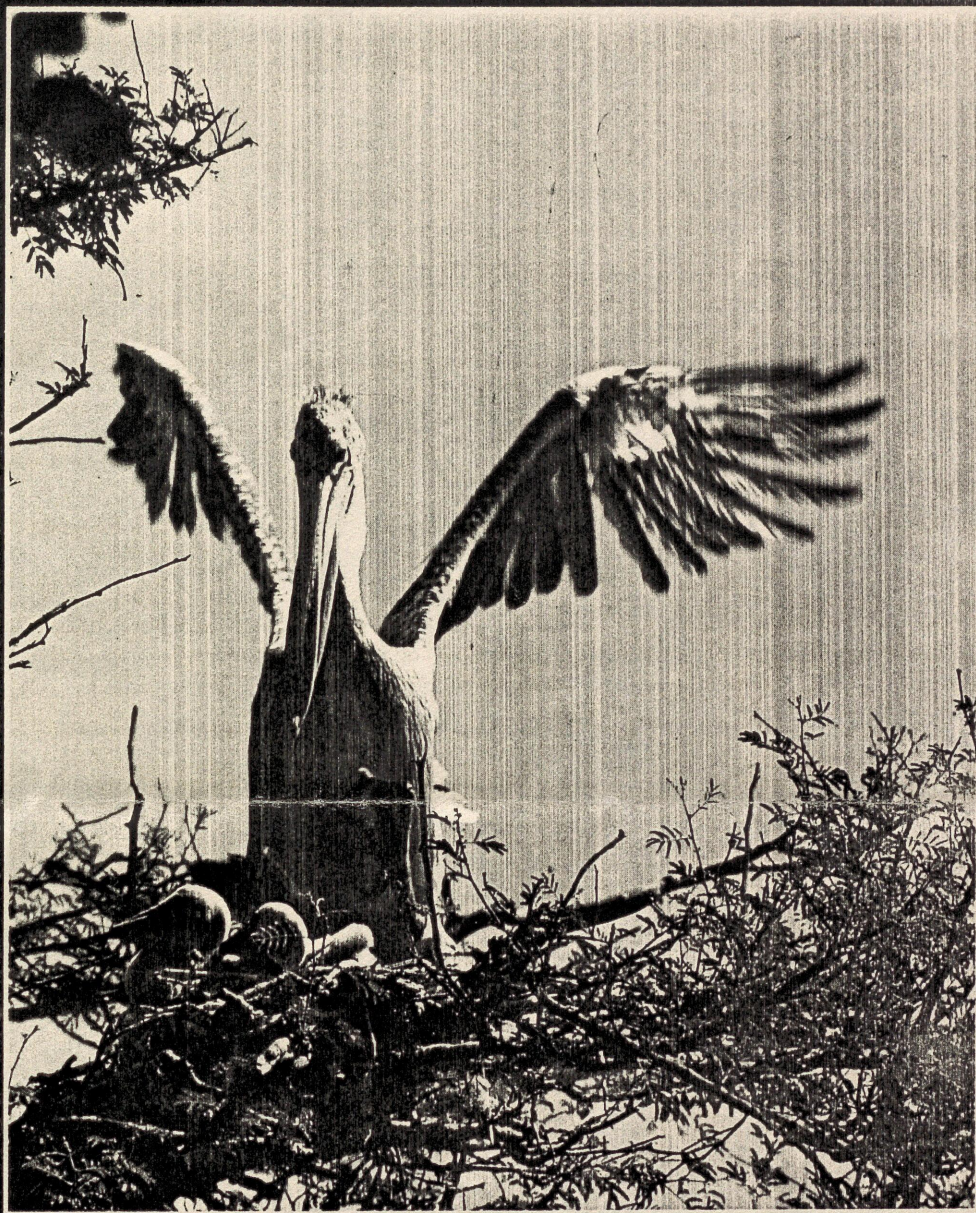
I shall send the articles to *Mayura*, once I have them ready.

Sincerely,

Subbu.

HORNBILL

1996, No. 2



BOMBAY NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY



One of the pelican nestlings at the nursery — an uncertain future?

Saving the Spotbilled Pelican

A SUCCESSFUL EXPERIMENT

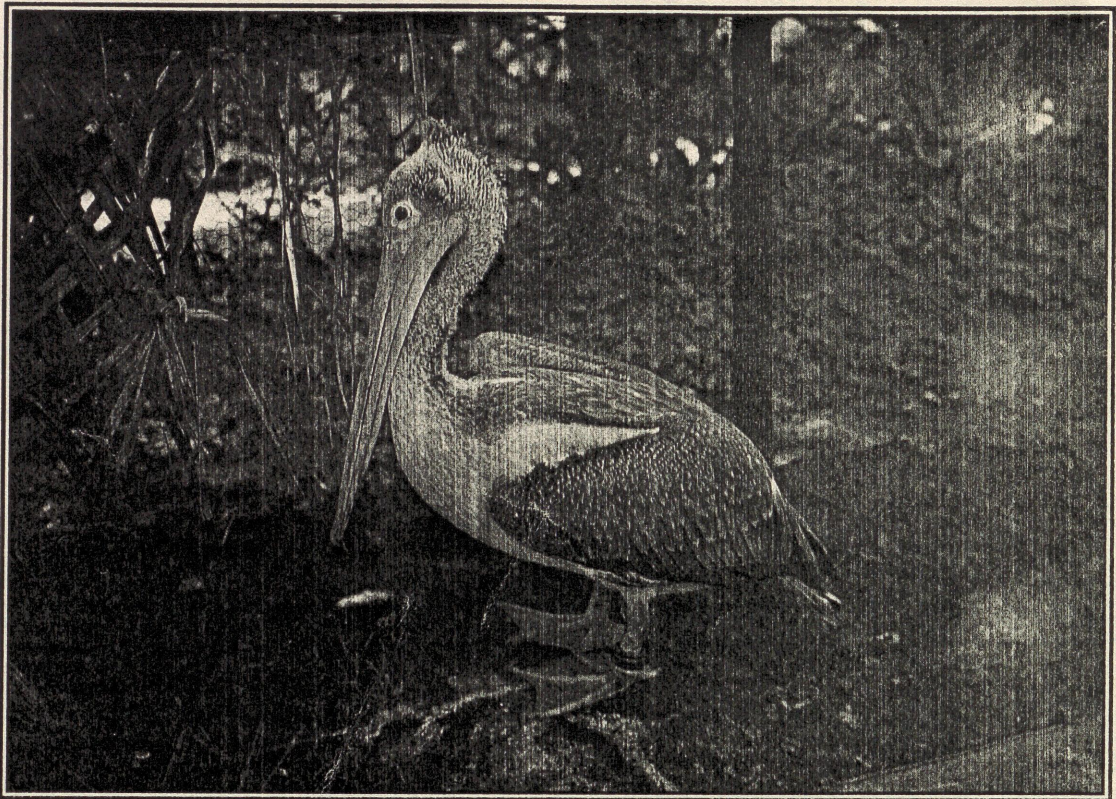
S. Subramanya & K. Manu

THE spotbilled pelican (*Pelecanus philippensis*) is one of the endangered bird species which has suffered a rapid decline in its population in the last 70 years. From over a million pelicans around the 1920s, the world population of this species has crashed to an

estimated population of less than 13,000 birds in the wild today. Once distributed all over south and southeast Asia, the bulk of its population is now found only in India and Sri Lanka. In India, the species breeds in about 10 sites. Over the last 100 years, about seven

nesting sites have been lost in India. For the ensured survival of this species, continued nesting of the birds at these breeding sites is crucial.

In Karnataka the pelicans, along with painted storks (*Mycteria leucocephala*), breed at Kokkare Bellur in Mandya



S. SUBRAMANYA

A grown up nestling ready to fly out to a life in the wild.

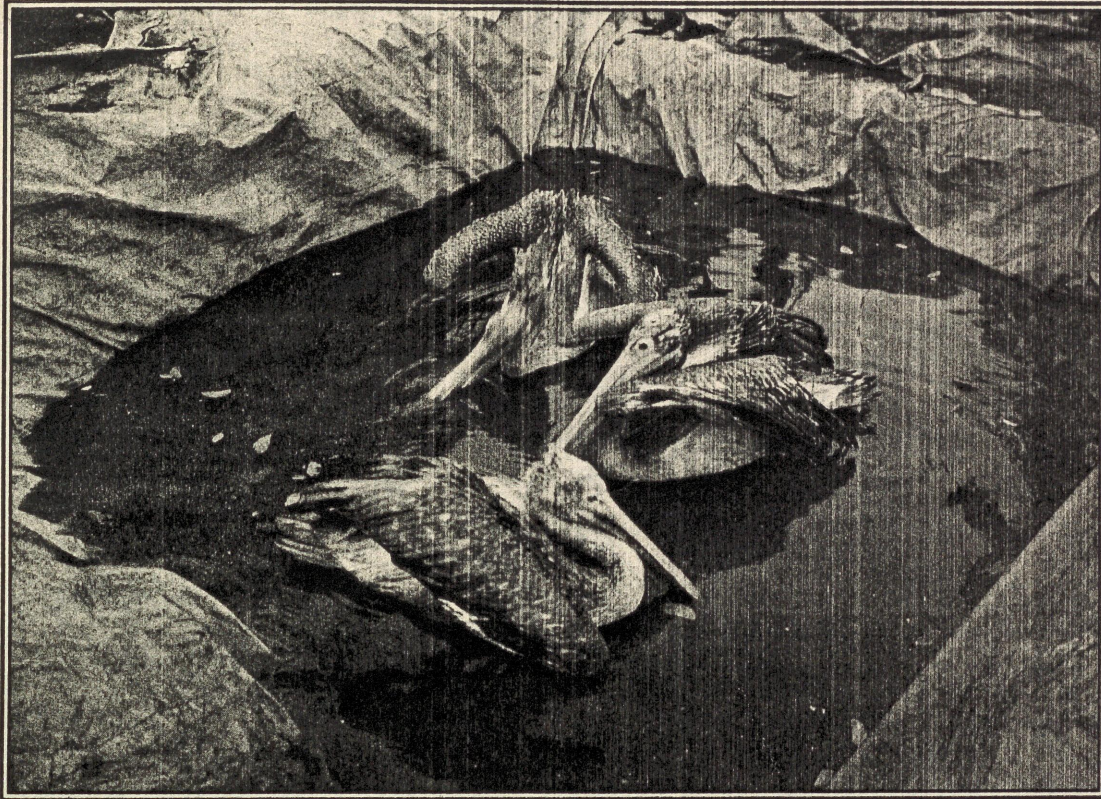
district, located about 80 km from Bangalore. Though published records indicate only that this pelicany was in existence in 1864, the colony may well have been over 500 years old. At this site, the pelicans along with painted storks nest on trees found amidst houses in the village. Over the years, this pelicany has also experienced a dramatic decrease in the number of pelicans. From a population of well over 2000 breeding birds about 30 years ago, the numbers have dwindled to a mere 330 nesting birds today.

The two main factors contri-

buting to this alarming population decline at Kokkare Bellur are the loss of preferred trees and damage to existing trees used for nesting by the birds and the loss of nestlings which fall down from their nests due to overcrowding. These nestlings which are unable to fly and take care of themselves either die out of starvation or fall prey to dogs in the village. Every year, over 100 nestlings are lost at Kokkare Bellur due to this problem.

Between March and August 1995, a programme was started by a voluntary group of birdwatchers from Bangalore and Mysore, and with partial

assistance from the State Forest Department, to care for such nestlings as their parents take no interest in them after their fateful fall from the nest. All the fallen nestlings were collected and raised in an open-air nursery constructed for the purpose. The nestlings were fed with fish (their staple diet) till they were able to fly. The nestlings, being voracious feeders, require well over a kilo of fish per bird per day. The fish required to feed the nestlings had to be purchased by the project team each day from fishermen at tanks located about 10-25 kms away. To enable



S. SUBRAMANYA

A fish pond has been built within the nursery for training pelican nestlings to capture fish.

individual identification, each nestling raised in the nursery was colour ringed.

Even as the nestlings were being cared for in the nursery, the programme was faced with two problems typically associated with the rehabilitation of captive-reared wild species: that of teaching the nestlings how to catch fish in water and to let them know where to find the fish they feed on. To solve the first problem, a fish pond was constructed within the nursery and was stocked with fish brought from nearby tanks. Within a short time, the nestlings learnt to grab

fish from the water and could practice their fishing technique. By the time the nestlings flew out of the nursery they were feeding from the water like any wild adults of their species.

The solution to the second problem came far more easily than we expected. The nursery had been deliberately located in the midst of the village where the nestlings could easily watch adults of their species, perching and nesting on the trees, and also flying and soaring around the village. Once the nestlings were able to fly, they flew out of the nursery to perch on trees close by. Soon they started mingling

with the wild pelicans in the village. Even though the nestlings that *fledged* out of the nursery often returned during feeding time, they were conspicuous by their absence from the village for over a week at a time. The first clue to their survival in the wild came when one of the nestlings was photographed by a wildlife enthusiast at a tank about 80 km away from Kokkare Bellur. We wondered how the nestling, with no prior experience, managed to reach a tank located so far away. Later, it was found that the nestlings simply followed the wild birds to the feeding grounds.



S. SUBRAMANYA

A view of the open-air nursery built for raising pelican nestlings at Bellur.

At Bellur, right through the day, pelicans and painted storks keep soaring in small to large flocks to rise high up in the air before they glide down to their feeding grounds, the tanks located within a radius of about 80 km. Observations revealed that the nestlings after wandering in the village for some days, started joining these flocks of soaring birds, to head towards the feeding grounds. Subsequently, other nestlings were observed by the project team at tanks where fish was being procured for the nursery. By the time the problem of loss of nestlings was realized, well

over 50 nestlings had fallen prey to cats and dogs. Through the nursery programme which was started in March 1995, we saved a total of 24 pelican nestlings. Of these, 21 nestlings have flown out and successfully joined the wild population of pelicans. The three nestlings that continued to stay at the nursery even after the nesting season was long over at the village, were shifted to a large aviary at the Bannerghatta National Park close to Bangalore. In addition to the pelicans, over 35 nestlings of painted storks were also cared for in the nursery.

The pelican nursery programme at Bellur necessitated that

one of us (KM) from the Mysore Amateur Naturalists Club, live in the village right through the project period and live like any villager under trying circumstances, attending to the day-to-day problems and developing a rapport with the village folk. The work became much easier once he was accepted by the community. Nevertheless, the task was easier said than done.

While pondering over the problem of pelican nestling loss at the nest trees, we soon realized that the causes lay at the grassroots level. At Bellur, the pelicans, the people and their cattle share the same resource,

that is, the trees. Pelicans are very choosy and nest mainly on *Ficus* trees. The branches of these trees are regularly lopped by villagers to provide fodder to their goats and buffaloes whose populations are sizeable. The bare branches that remain are dried and used by the villagers as fuel for cooking. Interestingly, pelicans prefer to place their nests on top of these lopped branches as they provide very good anchorage. Unfortunately, such trees being devoid of their densely branched natural canopy cannot help in preventing the nestlings that slip out of the nests from falling. Keeping this in view, nearly 700 saplings of preferred trees were planted during the monsoon of 1995. Once these saplings grow, they are expected to ensure the availability of trees for nesting by birds and also a surplus of trees to meet the fodder and fuel requirements of the villagers in the future.

Though the villagers at Bellur were co-operative, they were not receptive to our ideas of conservation. The majority of the villagers, being poor, look for benefits in our programmes. Considering this, several community development programmes under the banner of 'Pelican Project' are being started to try and improve the quality of life of the villagers. Dr. Madhusudan, a physician from Bangalore, who is part of the project team, runs a clinic at Bellur every Sunday to provide free medical aid to the villagers. Also, wherever possible, we have been trying to generate local employment by engaging village labour.

Villagers and the students of the local school are being actively involved in the programmes, so that local expertise is built-up for the care of the nestlings and pelican conservation at Bellur in future. The greatest break-

through in our efforts to involve local people has been the formation of a local Pelican Conservation Group comprising of village youth, school children and ourselves.

Saving the nestlings of the spotbilled pelican, which would otherwise die each year, improving the habitat conditions and tackling problems at the grassroots level are essential for the survival of these birds at Kokkare Bellur. Of this, the nursery programme will be one of the most important conservation measures towards saving the species. It is intended to continue this nestling feeding programme for the next few years until the pelicanry, with the involvement of the local populace, becomes self-sustaining. □

Dr. S. Subramanya, a BNHS member, is now working at the University of Agricultural Sciences, Bangalore. Dr. K. Manu is a member of the Mysore Amateur Naturalists.

SAVE THE SPOTBILLED PELICAN – CONTRIBUTE TO THE PELICAN FUND

This success achieved at Bellur would never have been possible, but for the assistance and cooperation of several committed people and two nature groups namely, Mysore Amateur Naturalists, Mysore and the Merlin Nature Club, Bangalore. The latter group willingly took on the task of collecting small contributions and donations that were needed to keep the project going. Initially, the Forest Department provided logistic support to run the nursery. The help and official support given by Mr. A.N. Yellappa Reddy, former Special Secretary, Department of Ecology and Environment, GoK and Mr. B. Venkatesh, former ACF, Wildlife Division, Mysore were invaluable. Recently, the Rotary Club, Bangalore Metro, has shown keen interest in supporting our cause.

The nursery programme at Kokkare Bellur to save 24 fallen pelican and over 35 painted stork nestlings was carried out under trying conditions and from the money raised from birdwatchers and nature lovers as contributions. Funds and contributions for the 1996 programme and for the future are welcome from all concerned.

Please send donations to: Merlin Nature Club, # 13, 8th Cross, 30th Main, J.P. Nagar I phase, Bangalore 560 078. India. Tel: 080-6644682.

APPENDIX I : NEST RECORD CARD

S. Subramanya

SPECIES

YEAR
19

No. SAC No.

DATE
Day | Month

TIME

EGGS

YNG.

OBSERVATIONS

LOCALITY

ALTITUDE above sea level.....

HABITAT (Rural/Suburban/Urban)

NEST SITE

Height above ground..... ft.

NEST:

Shape :

Size :

Entrance :

Material :

Because evidence for or against success is inconclusive []
 Because observation on nest were not continued []
 Young capable of leaving nest when last seen [] Young seen leaving naturally [] left when approached []
 Young seen and heard near nest [] Parent birds [] giving alarm, calls [] carrying food []
 In nest : hatched shells [] feather scale [] droppings []
 NEST : empty [] damaged [] fallen [] flooded [] removed [] EGGS : damaged [] deserted []
 all infertile or added [] YOUNG : all dead, uninjured [] all dead, 1 or more injured []
 Any other evidence (e.g. type of weather causing failure, species of predator if seen etc):-

OUTCOME
 UNKNOWN
 EVIDENCE
 FOR
 SUCCESS
 EVIDENCE
 FOR
 FAILURE

Table 18. Partial life-table for Streaked Fantail Warblers nesting in rice fields of Bangalore (October 1982 - June 1984)

Age interval	$1x^a$	D x F Mortality factor	dx^b	$100qx^c$	$100rx^d$
Eggs	428	Addled or infertile	14	3.27	3.27
		Abandoned	16	3.74	3.74
		Structural deformity of nest	8	1.87	1.87
		Lodging of nest bearing plant	5	1.17	1.17
		Predation	17	3.97	3.97
		Harvesting	35	8.18	8.18
		Total	95	22.20	22.20
Nestlings 1 - 6 days	333	Predation	21	6.31	4.91
		Harvesting	12	3.60	3.60
		Total	33	9.91	7.71
Nestlings 7 - 12 days	300	Predation	35	11.67	8.18
		Harvesting	39	13.00	9.11
		Total	74	24.67	17.29
Fledglings	226				
% Fledged	52.80 %	%Total Mortality:			47.29

a_{1x} = Number alive at the beginning of x

b_{dx} = Number dying during x

c_{100x} = dx as a percentage of $1x$, apparent mortality

d_{100rx} = as a percentage of the number at the beginning (eggs), real mortality.

Table 19. Partial life-table for Indian Wren-warbler in rice fields of Bangalore (October 1982 - June 1984)

Age interval	$1x^a$	D x F Mortality factor	dx^b	$100qx^c$	$100rx^d$
Eggs	40	Addled or infertile	1	2.50	2.50
		Predation	4	10.00	10.00
		Harvesting	13	32.50	32.50
		Total	18	45.00	45.00
Nestlings 1 - 6 days	22		-	-	-
		Total	-	-	-
Nestlings 1 - 7 days	22		-	-	-
		Total	-	-	-
Fledgings	22				
% Fledged	55	% Total Mortality			45%

a_{1x} = Number alive at the beginning of x

b_{dx} = Number dying during x

c_{100x} = dx as a percentage of $1x$, apparent mortality

d_{100rx} = dx as a percentage of the number at the beginning (eggs), real mortality.

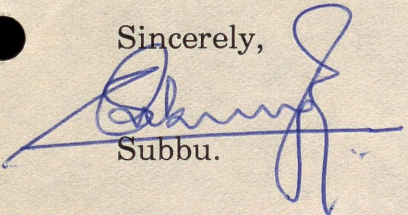
Dear Aasheesh,

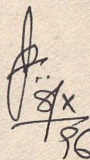
Recently, Sridhar called a meeting of birdwatchers to criticize Dr. Vijayan for the shifting venue of the Pan asian Congress to Coimbatore. He circulated a Fax message sent to Richard Grimmett (copy enclosed) in which, he has named you as the person who let Sridhar know of the shift in venue. Since your name was brought up, I thought that you should get to know about it. Later in the meeting, a resolution, condemning Dr. Vijayan's move, was circulated for signing by those who attended the meeting. Well, from the beginning, I was not involved in this 'hangama' and I declined to sign it.

From what was said by Sridhar, Grimmett and Hussain were unhappy about this shift (both of them were supposed to have wept over the phone about this issue, when contacted !!). I really do not know what is happening, but I would like to keep away from it all. It make no difference for me whether the congress is held in Bangalore or Coimbatore.

I look forward to seeing you in Coimbatore.
Best wishes,

Sincerely,


Subbu.



Dated 17th September 1996.

To,
Dr. Richard Grimmett,
Programme Officer,
BirdLife International, UK.

By E-Mail

Dear Dr. Richard,

Sub: BirdLife meeting and PAOC Conference

This morning I got the disturbing confirmation from Mr. S.A. Hussain that Dr. Vijayan is shifting the venue of the conference from Bangalore to Coimbatore. We got the first inkling of this shift from Mr. Aashish Pitte when he called up last month to check with us about the proposed change in the venue. It appears that he got the news from a senior member attending a meeting at Bombay which was also attended by Dr. Vijayan.

I called up SACON during the last week of August and spoke to Dr. Lalitha Vijayan (Dr. Vijayan was not available). Dr. LV had no knowledge of the proposed shift, on the contrary she confirmed that the invitations to the Chinese delegates had been sent for the Bangalore conference. Regarding Invitations to other foreign delegates and approval of Second Circular and the Conference letterheads for printing, she said that action will be taken only after the funds are received from MOEF.

Dr. Vijayan called up on the 3rd Sept. to inform me that since CES is not agreeing to house the Secretariat in their department, it might be difficult for him to get the funds from MoEF. I implored him to recollect the meeting we had in Feb. 1996, wherein CES had agreed to get the Conference venue at 40% concession, and also provide three additional rooms for workshops. In addition they had agreed to try and arrange accommodation for around fifty sponsored delegates. CES had very clearly indicated that they will not be in a position to spare CES personnel or provide other facilities of CES. Therefore it was clearly agreed during the meeting in February that Mr. Hussain will arrive in Bangalore four months in advance and stay until November to coordinate the arrangements for the conference, and I had agreed to house the secretariat in our office and provide telephone, Fax and E-mail facilities. The Birdwatchers group from Bangalore had agreed to bring in as many volunteers as needed. Dr. Vijayan had agreed to send his accountant well in advance to procure quotations and monitor the expenses relating to catering, transport and accommodation, since the required amount was sanctioned by the MOEF in favour of SACON. This has been evidently recorded in the minutes of the meeting prepared by you. We have not involved CES with any organisational work right from the beginning. All the correspondence relating to the seminar has been between SACON, BLI, WBSJ, Hussain and myself. None of the copies of correspondence were sent to CES, except for one letter from SACON one dated 8th April 1996, Ref.233/47.1/1996, accepting the concessional rates and confirming the booking of the venue and requesting for time for advance payment due to delay in releasing funds from MoEF.

Therefore the role of CES has been marginal, right from the beginning and Dr. Vijayan, Mr. Hussain, Mr. Ichida, and yourself are aware of the limited role of the CES. Later during your visit to Bangalore

in August, you paid an advance of Rs 65,000/- towards the venue, in consultation with Dr. Vijayan. I don't know how the ridiculous idea of non-cooperation from CES is being floated as a pretext to shift the venue from Bangalore to Coimbatore. We have already made the preliminary arrangements for the conference at Bangalore after you paid the advance of Rs 65,000/- in consultations with Dr. Vijayan. Actually we were very much looking forward to Dr. Vijayan's visit to Bangalore to finalise many key issues. But he preferred to stay-put in Coimbatore, even during your visit to Bangalore all the way from Europe, as also during the visit of Mr. Hussain, who had come all the way from Malaysia, to finalise the second circular, the conference programme and other arrangements.

Dr. Vijayan preferred to maintain a reserved silence throughout and his standard reply to frantic messages from us as well as all other participants on Fax, phone, and E-mails, was that he would act only after receiving the funds from MoEF. When I telephoned on the 5th September to check with him regarding the approval of Second Circular and the printing of the letterheads, he advised me to wait till the clearance of the MOEF.

He had promised to contact me on the 6th or 7th from N. Delhi after talking to the Secretary of the MoEF, but sadly I am yet to hear from him. Mr. Hussain called me up soon after his arrival at Madras on the 10th. He has also expressed his unhappiness about the turn of the events and has since confirmed that there has been no back tracking what so ever from the Bangalore group or the CES.

Bangalore group or CES do not have the faintest idea of the names and addresses of persons who have responded to the first circular, (except for a few E-mails copied by the participants to our Bangalore address). Nor do we have the abstracts on hand till date. Our repeated requests have been turned down by SACON, under the pretext that they will act only after receiving the funds from MoEF. This being the case where is the question of non-cooperation or collaboration from CES or the Bangalore Group. We have been kept in the dark right from the beginning, we don't know the real reasons for shifting the venue at this juncture.

On behalf of the Birdwatchers group from Bangalore, I request you to kindly send copies of your correspondence with SACON, especially the reasons given by them for changing the venue.

Thanking you and looking forward to your immediate reply,

With regards, I remain

Yours Sincerely,

S. Sridhar.

S. Sridhar.

Copy to : N. Ichida

CHECK LIST of CORRESPONDENCE Between

- 1) Salim Ali Centre for Ornithology and Natural History (SACON)
(Dr. V S Vijayan)
- 2) BirdLife International
(Dr Richard Grimmett)
- 3) Newsletter for Birdwatchers
(Mr. S Sridhar)
- 4) Wild Bird Society of Japan
(Mr Ichida / Ms. Simba Chan)
- 5) Dr S A Hussain, Malaysia

Regarding the Organisation of the Pan-Asian Ornithological Conference and Birdlife Asia Meet at Bangalore, November 1996.

Sl.	Date	From	To	Subject
A)	24.02.96	Dr V S V	Mr S S	Draft of Brochure approved.
B)	20.03.96	Dr V S V	Mr S S	Booking of N S S C at IISc. payment will be made by 31.03.96.
C)	20.03.96	Dr Hussain	Dr V S V	Urging him to approve conferenc Letterhead.
D)	22.03.96	Dr Richard	Mr S S	Minutes of meeting in Feb'96 (CES not involved in any Organisational work).
E)	08.04.96	Dr V S V	Prof M G	Delay in sending advance (This is the only correspondence between SACON & CES)
F)	10.06.96	Dr Hussain	Dr V S V	Sridhar and Bangalore Group is doing a good job.
G)	14.06.96	Dr V S V	Mr S S	Wait for MOEF Funds before printing the second Circular.
H)	21.06.96	Dr Hussain	Mr S S	about reimbursement towards fax phone, e-mail and printing charges.

Cont'd.....

- I) 08.07.96 Dr V S V Mr S S To ensure that the reservation of the Halls are not cancelled (no copy to CES).
- J) 11.07.96 Dr Hussain To all Home page message in W W W about the conference - (No mention of CES).
- K) 01.08.96 Dr Hussain Mr Dave Confirming the MOEF Sanction, copies to all (except CES).
- L) 08.08.96 Dr Hussain to all in Netscape on Internet/WWW contact address of others, (CES address not included).
- M) 08.08.96 Dr Richard Prof M G advance of Rs. 65,000/= to the Conference Venue.
- N) 09.08.96 Dr Richard Dr V S V Request for delegation of local organisational tasks to Mr Sridhar and others.
- O) 15.08.96 Dr Hussain to all S A H to be in overall charge of co-ordination (no role for CES).
- P) 16.08.96 Dr Hussain To all except CES.
- Q) 17.08.96 Dr Hussain Mr S S Confirming he is taking full charge by 1st week of September '96. Therefore, no role for CES.
- R) 17.09.96 Mr S S Dr Richards Surprise to learn about shifting the venue by Dr V S V.
- S) 19.09.96 Dr Richards Mr S S Deeply regrets the situation He and Hussain attach no blame whatsoever to the Bangalore Group.
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Aasheesh Pittie
8-2-545 "Prem Parvat", Road No. 7, Banjara Hills, Hyderabad 500034. India.
Phone: Off: Tel: 040-3320269 Fax: 040-314064 Res: 040-315683

23 November, 1996

Dr. S Subramanya
231 Chitramala Apts.,
Byrasandra
BANGALORE 560011

Dear Subbu,

What a pleasure meeting you in Coimbatore!

I promised to send you details of the bird-note recording and distribution mapping software which I am using. Well, I have a couple of pamphlets for the former, but for the latter, just the address. Perhaps you could write to him for further details. His particulars are

Dr. Alan J Morton
Blackthorn Cottage
Chawridge Lane
Winkfield
Windsor SL4 4QR
UNITED KINGDOM

Phone: 0044-1344-883929
Fax: 0044-1344-294339
E-mail: ajmorton@dmap.co.uk
Internet: <http://www.dmap.co.uk/>

I do not remember promising to send you anything else. If I am forgetting something, please write and remind me.

With best wishes,



Encl: 0/0

23 November, 1996

Page 1

S. Subramanya

231, Chitramala Apts.
Byrasandra
Bangalore 560 065

November 30, 1996

2/11/86

Aasheesh Pittie
8-2-545, Road No. 7
Banjara Hills
Hyderabad 500 034
Andhra Pradesh

Dear Aasheesh,

Thank you very much for your letter of November 23, 1996, the pamphlets and the address of D-MAP source. I have already sent an E-mail to Alan Morton giving my requirements. It was very nice meeting you at Coimbatore, but I feel bad that I could not spend much time with you.

The other request that I made to you at Coimbatore was about getting photocopies of three theses at Usmania University. The details are as follows:

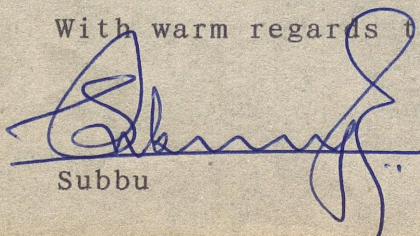
1. Madhav, B.R., 1988. Ecobiological studies of survival value to the Grey Pelican during winter sojourn at Nelapattu in Andhra Pradesh. Ph.D. thesis. Usmania University, Hyderabad, Andhra Pradesh.
2. Nagulu, V. 1983. Feeding and Breeding biology of Grey Pelican at Nelapattu Bird Sanctuary in Andhra Pradesh. Ph.D. thesis. Usmania University, Hyderabad, Andhra Pradesh.
3. Shivram, S.V.N. 1995. Comparative ecological studies on Pelecaniformes at Nelapattu Bird Sanctuary. Ph.D. thesis study in progress. Usmania University, Hyderabad, Andhra Pradesh.

I am not sure if the last thesis has been submitted. If it is, I would like to have a copy of it as well.

In making this request, I really do not know the trouble I am causing you, with all the bureaucratic barriers at the university. These three theses are the main gaps I have on the information on Spotbilled Pelicans in India, and I would very much appreciate your help. I would pay whatever cost it takes to photocopy them. Please send the material to my office address, if you manage to get them photocopied.

I talked about this to Siraj also at Coimbatore and he said that it should not be difficult get them photocopied. I am marking a copy of this request to him also.

With warm regards to you and your wife,


Subbu