

4 March, 1996

Dr Asad R Rahmani
Centre for Ornithology & Wildlife
Aligarh Muslim University
ALIGARH 202002

Dear Dr. Rahmani,

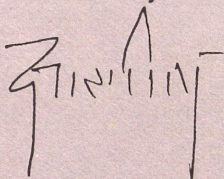
This is in reply to yours of 4.x.1995 regarding **Bibliography of Indian Avifauna**.

I regret that I was not able to reply earlier due to various commitments which I had then. I am enclosing a list of papers and popular articles authored by me and published in journals and newspapers, etc., for your reference.

Kindly let me know if there is anything more I can do in this regard. If there is anything more I can do to help with your above work, please do not hesitate to ~~ask~~ write .

With best wishes,

Yours sincerely



encl: as above.

AASHEESH PITTIE8-2-545, "PREM PARVAT", ROAD NO. 7,
BANJARA HILLS, HYDERABAD 500 034. INDIA

LIST OF PAPERS AND POPULAR ARTICLES PUBLISHED:

- 1979a Extracts from my bird diary. BLACK BUCK. (Hyd. Nat. Club). 1/3.
1979b Inside Indira Park. BLACK BUCK. (HNC). 1:4:2-3.
1980a Dissection of a Blue Rock Pigeon's nest. BLACK BUCK. (HNC). 2:4:9.
1980b How birds help us. BLACK BUCK. (HNC). 2:1:5-7.
1980c Conservation - Why? BLACK BUCK (HNC). 2:2:6-9.
1980d Conservation - What & How? BLACK BUCK. (HNC). 2:3:5-7.
1980e Birding at Manjira. NLBW. 20:6:8-9.
1980f Reactions of the *Corvus splendens*, *Columba livia* and *Passer domesticus* to preliminary monsoon showers. NLBW. 20:7:14-15.
1981a Nests of Lapwings. NLBW. 21:1:6.
1981b A checklist of the birds of the Nehru Zoological Park. BLACK BUCK. (HNC). 3:1:1-5.
1981c At home with birds. BLACK BUCK. (HNC). 3:2:4-6.
1981d Birds seen along the Musi river. BLACK BUCK. (HNC). 3:3:6-7. (with B C Choudhury).
1981e Behaviour of a Rock Pigeon. NLBW. 6:5:16.
1982a Birding at Vanasthali with Birdwatcher's Club of Andhra Pradesh. MAYURA. 3:1-2:4-5. (with B C Choudhury).
1982b Birds seen on a trek down the Musi. MAYURA. 3:1-2:5-6.
1982c Birdwatching at Manjira with Birdwatcher's Club of Andhra Pradesh. MAYURA. 3:3-4:5-6. (with B C Choudhury).
1982d Birdwatching at Shamirpet by the members. MAYURA. 3:3-4:6-7.
1982e Need for a directory of birdwatchers. NLBW. 22:7-8:13.
1983a Birdwatching at Etumagaram Wildlife Sanctuary - Warangal District. MAYURA. 4:2:8-11.
1983b The Blackthroated Weaver Bird *Ploceus bengalensis* on the Musi river, Hyderabad. MAYURA. 4:2:15. (with Siraj Taher).
1983c Aggressive behaviour of the Indian Moorhen *Gallinula chloropus*. MAYURA. 4:4:12-13.
1983d On the nesting of birds and flowering of trees. MAYURA. 4:1:17-19; 4:2:15-17; 4:3:22-23.
1983e The song of the Iora. SUNDAY CHRONICLE. 11.12.1983.
1983f Master of the urban skies. SUNDAY CHRONICLE. 25.12.1983.
1983-84 Recording of first and last sightings of annual migrants in and around Hyderabad, with notes on general distribution. Parts 1-4. MAYURA. 4:3:8-11; 4:4:5-8; 5:1:8-9; 5:2:36-7.
1984a On the nesting of birds and flowering of trees. MAYURA. 5:1:17-19; 5:2:40-45; 5:3:57-61. (with N Shiva Kumar).
1984b Some observations at the nest of an Indian Tree Pie *Dendrocitta vagabunda*. MAYURA. 5:1:26-28.
1984c Tale of a long-tailed small bird. SUNDAY CHRONICLE. 6.2.1984.
1984d Disappearing Dabchicks. WEEKEND NEWSTIME. 10.6.1984.
1984e Friends from wingdom. WEEKEND NEWSTIME. 5.8.1984.
1984f The relationship between Typha reeds *Typha latifolia* and some birds. MAYURA. 5:3:53-55.
1984g Roseringed Parakeets *Psittacula krameri* pecking salt. MAYURA. 5:3:61.
1984h Tickell's Flowerpecker *Dicaeum erythrorhynchos* sipping nectar from *Loranthus longiflorus* flowers - an observation. MAYURA. 5:3:64-65.
★ 1984i Bloodsucker that sucks no blood. WEEKEND NEWSTIME. 16.12.1984.
1985a Blackbreasted Weaver Bird *Ploceus bengalensis* observed in Hyderabad. JBNHS. 82:1:206-8. (with Siraj Taher).
★ 1985b A blaze of bounding Blackbuck. WEEKEND NEWSTIME. 10.3.1985.
1985c Additions to the birds of Ethipothala Falls, Nagarjunasagar Dam (MAYURA 5:2). MAYURA. 6:1-4:5.
1985d Some interesting bird sightings from Hyderabad and surrounds. MAYURA. 6:1-4:7-8.
1985e Courting behaviour of the Crimsonbreasted Barbet *Megalaima haemacephala* or Coppersmith. MAYURA. 6:1-4:20-21.
1985f Whitethroated Munias *Lonchura malabarica* pecking salt. MAYURA. 5:1:28.

- 1985g A note on the aerial display of the Shikra *Accipiter badius*. MAYURA. 6:1-4:29.
- * 1985h Nehru Zoological Park: Menagerie Magnificent. WEEKEND NEWSTIME. 14.7.1985.
- 1986a Birdwatching in Port Blair (S. Andaman Island) and surrounding areas. BLACK BUCK (Madras Naturalists' Society: MNS). 2:3:18-29.
- * 1986b Giant Wood Spider: Weaving a silken trap of death. WEEKEND NEWSTIME. 30.3.1986.
- 1986c Occurrence of the Little Pied Flycatcher *Muscicapa westermanni* in Narsapur, Medak District, Andhra Pradesh. JBNHS. 83:3:665-6.
- 1987a Birdwatching in the Nilgiris District, Tamil Nadu (with brief notes on the altitudinal distribution of a few species of birds). BLACK BUCK. (MNS). 3:2:16-21.
- 1987b One, Two, Three...Ten, Twenty, Thirty. HORNBILL. Apr-Jun 1987:(2):7-9.
- 1988a The occurrence of the House Crow *Corvus splendens* in Port Blair, South Andaman Island. JBNHS. 85:2:430.
- 1988b Vulture culture: not all that 'offal'. EXPRESS WEEKEND. 25.6.1988.
- 1990a Recordings of first and last sightings of annual (winter) migrants in and around Hyderabad for the seasons of 1983-84: 1984-85 : 1985-86. MAYURA. 7&8/1-4/23-9.
- 1990b Gape colour of Dusky Crag Martin *Hirundo concolor* nestlings. MAYURA. 7&8/1-4/53-4.
- 1990c More notes on birds of Nilgiris. BLACKBUCK. (MNS). 5/4/28-30.
- 1990d Checklists - the birds of Andhra Pradesh. HORNBILL. 1990/2/4-7.
- 1993 Index for vol. 32 (1992) of the *Newsletter for Birdwatchers*. NLBW. 33(1): 10-18.
- 1994a Iris colour in breeding Median Egrets *Egretta intermedia*. MAYURA. 9:20-21 (with Rajiv Mathew & Sushil Kapadia).
- 1994b Index for vols. 20-31 (1980-1991) of the *Newsletter for Birdwatchers*. NLBW. 34(3): 41-71.
- 1994c An incident between a Koel and a Golden Oriole. NLBW. 34(5): 114.
- 1994d Occurrence of the Hobby and observations on Little Grebe in Hyderabad, Andhra Pradesh. NLBW. 34(5): 117.
- 1995 A birding trip to Rollapadu Bustard Sanctuary. MAYURA. 10:5-9.

* = Not related to birds.

13 June, 1996

Dr. Asad R Rahmani
Director
Centre of Wildlife & Ornithology
Aligarh Muslim University
Aligarh 202002

Dear Dr. Rahmani,

Many thanks for the list of references for the Red Data Book species which I am supposed to cover.

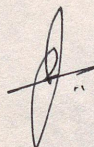
One of the citations was not complete, which I was able to do so from the Smithsonian *Bibliography*, and is given below.

Koelz, W. (1954b): Ornithological studies. III. The validity of *Galerida malabarica propinqua* Koelz. Contributions from the Institute for Regional Exploration 1: 33. ["Responds to Vaurie 1951 (*Bull. Am. Mus. Nat. Hist.* 97: 435-526). Argues that subspecies is valid"].

Thanking you once again,

With best wishes,

Yours sincerely



CENTRE OF WILDLIFE & ORNITHOLOGY
ALIGARH MUSLIM UNIVERSITY, ALIGARH-202002

Aligarh
18/6
36
14 June 1976

Dear Aarbeen,

Thank you for arranging my talk, for your company and also for your lovely dinner.

Please let me know if you need references on any other subject.

I have written to Vyayan about the conference. I have not heard anything about it.

Kindly send me the clippings about my lecture.

Thank you again for everything.

Yours sincerely
Aad Kalamani

CENTRE OF WILDLIFE & ORNITHOLOGY

ALIGARH MUSLIM UNIVERSITY, ALIGARH-202002 (India)

Ref. No. 351/96/SP

Mr. S. Riyazuddin
15/296, Bandlamitta Street,
Cuddapali - 576 001

25 June, 1996

Dear Riyazuddin,

I have your post card of 20 June. I am happy that you are planning to write a book on the birds of A.P. Before writing any thing scientific, you have to do lots of research.

I suggest you contact Mr. Aasheesh Pittie, 8-2-545, "Prem Parvat", Road No. 7, Banjara Hills, Hyderabad - 500 034 (A.P.) who is an expert on the birds of A.P. Whenever you go to Hyderabad, meet Mr. Pittie after taking proper appointment. Once you (and others) are convinced that you can write a book, then take up this project. We all will help you.

I could not fully understand your handwriting. Please write clearly.

With best wishes,

Yours sincerely,

Asad R. Rahmani

✓
c.c.: Mr. Aasheesh Pittie.

CENTRE OF WILDLIFE & ORNITHOLOGY
ALIGARH MUSLIM UNIVERSITY, ALIGARH-202002 (India)

Ref. No. 350/96/SP

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

29/6
96

25 June, 1996

Dear Aasheesh,

I have a "bad" habit of replying to each letter, especially from youngsters. I also encourage them which some time, backfires. Riyazuddin is one case. Ever since I wrote some replies to him, a few years ago, encouraging him in his studies of birds, he keeps on pestering me to send books on birds. Once he wrote to me to send all my bird books to him !!

Recently he has written that he is planning to write a book on birds of A.P. I am transferring my problem to you. A copy of my letter addressed to him is enclosed.

Thank you for sending me the clippings.

With good wishes,

Yours sincerely,



Asad R. Rahmani

Enclosure.

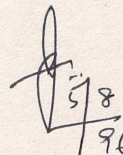
CENTRE OF WILDLIFE & ORNITHOLOGY
ALIGARH MUSLIM UNIVERSITY, ALIGARH-202002 (India)

Ref. No. 471/96/SP

REGISTERED

Mr. Aasheesh Pittie,
8-2-545 Rd. No. 7,
Banjara Hills,
Hyderabad - 500 034.

1 August, 1996


5/8
96

Dear Aasheesh,

Hope you are fine. Recently I wrote to R. Kannan to start using new names of Sibley & Monroe. He broadcasted my personal view in internet. He has sent some of the responses, which I want to share with you. Unfortunately, the printout is very dull so I could not get photocopy so I am sending the originals. **Please return them by registered post after reading.**

November is approaching fast but there is very little communication with Dr. Vijayan. I also do not know anything about BildLife conference. Richard has not replied. I heard BirdLife is also in turmoil after the resignation of Christoph Inboden.

With good wishes,

Yours sincerely,

Asad Rahmani

Asad R. Rahmani

Enclosure.

6 August, 1996

Ref: Yours: 471/96/SP Dated 1-8-1996.

BY REGISTERED POST

Dr. Asad R. Rahmani
Director
Centre of Wildlife & Ornithology
Aligarh Muslim University
Aligarh 202002

Dear Dr. Rahmani,

Your above letter was a pleasant surprise indeed ! I hope you are keeping good health.

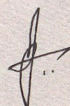
Thank you for the interesting comments by experts on the DNA-DNA work by Sibley & Monroe. If you notice, there is not even one reply by any Britisher. Their work has been accepted wholeheartedly by the English and almost rejected by the Americans ! Amazing. I suppose a wait and watch attitude is the best bet for people like me. Not that taxonomy interests me such a lot. I am returning the papers as requested.

You'll be surprised to know that Richard is in India, as I write this. I accidentally found out when I called up S. Sridhar's office yesterday. He is obviously pursuing the November conference, and mentioned to me over the phone that things are looking up and the schedule for the Pan-Asian should be as planned. He is in India for only 4 days I believe and was uncertain about plans to visit Dr. Vijayan at Coimbatore. Dr. Vijayan had written me a couple of months ago that he was awaiting clearance of funding from the central government for the conference !

I hope you are getting *Pitta* regularly. What do you think of the new 'Book of Indian Birds'?

With best wishes,

Yours sincerely



Encl: a/a.

CENTRE OF WILDLIFE & ORNITHOLOGY
ALIGARH MUSLIM UNIVERSITY, ALIGARH—202002 (India)

Ref. No. 512/96/SP

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

A.
28/8
/96

23 August, 1996

Dear Aasheesh,

Thank you for promptly returning the comments on Sibley & Monroe's classification. I will send the comments to Mr. Daniel for his reaction. I will let you know if something interesting is received. I think, we have to take a stand, but let us see how BNHS reacts.

Recently I was in Bombay where I talked with Dr. Vijayan on phone. The money has not been sanctioned, so I think, the Pan-Asian conference will not be held. I am waiting for an official reply from Vijayan. Very little time is left to organize this workshop.

I was surprized to know that Richard was in India. He must be here in connection with the BirdLife Asian meeting.

Thank you for regularly sending Pitta which I read with great interest. I also want to bring out newsletter of Indian Bustard Group, but do not get time to do useful things. This chairmanship takes away all my time.

With good wishes,

Yours sincerely,

Asad R. Rahmani

Asad R. Rahmani

Ref: Your: Dated 23-8-1996.

Dr. Asad R. Rahmani
Centre of Wildlife & Ornithology
Aligarh Muslim University
ALIGARH 202002

Dear Dr. Rahmani,

Many thanks for your above.

Post your letter, I happened to speak to Sridhar at Bangalore, and was informed that the Congress may still be on as Birdlife International was arranging some funding. Perhaps the reason, or a fall-out of the visit made by Richard Grimmett. The scene is quite hazy.

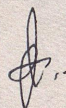
I wish you could write something for the *Pitta*. A letter, a thought, an observation, etc. But am glad you receive it regularly and make time to go through it.

P. benghalensis

Recently we were birding at ICRISAT and came upon a nesting colony of blackthroated (blackbreasted) weavers. Their range extension was reported in the Journal via a paper by Mr. Taher and myself, and this (breeding) adds on to that information. What was intriguing was the fact that all the males had white faces, contrary to the brown faces described and illustrated in all the books (including T J Robert's). Only the *Fauna* mentioned that old males sometimes became white in the face ! What could this be ?? We plan to send pics., to the BNHS and later, if required, specimens. What do you think ?? Have you seen such plumaged birds anywhere ??

With best wishes,

Yours sincerely



5 October, 1996

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

Dear Dr. Rahmani,

In my last letter to you I had mentioned about the Blackbreasted Weaver *Ploceus benghalensis* which we observed at ICRISAT. These birds have white cheeks and ear coverts vis-a-vis brown as illustrated in the bird books. Some 2 or 3 very old records, Jerdon, Oates, etc., give this plumage. The question is why later works (Fauna & Handbook) have ignored it.

We were able to get some birds and send them to the BNHS where Mr. Abdulali has seen them and says he requires some time to work things out. Meanwhile good skins have been made of the birds and kept in the bird room.

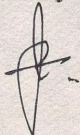
I would like to know 2 things from you. Can you describe to me the birds in N. India where you have banded a good deal? I really doubt that the 'new' plumage is a breeding change. The second is that if required, will you be able to catch a male or two and have their DNA pattern made? I am just thinking aloud about possibilities.

Perhaps it is just that the plumages of this bird have to be worked out in greater detail. Perhaps it could be something more. *P. benghalensis* does not have a sub-species !!

Hope to hear from you soon.

With best wishes,

Sincerely



CENTRE OF WILDLIFE & ORNITHOLOGY
ALIGARH MUSLIM UNIVERSITY, ALIGARH-202002 (India)

25/3
97

Ref. No. 180/97

Mr. Aasheesh Pittie
8-2-545 Rd. No. 7,
Banjara Hills,
Hyderabad - 500 034
A.P.

22 March, 1997

Dear Aasheesh,

Just now saw new Pitta (No. 71) and Riyazuddin's note on sighting of 50 bustards. Please do not give the names of exact areas where bustards are sighted. This is for their safety.

Recently Riyazuddin wrote to me in the same place 150 bustards were seen on 16 February on a ground ~~nest~~ ^{not} field. I am writing to him not to disclose this place to everyone.

Please inform the A.P. Forest Department and Mr. Pushp Kumar. I will send some one next month or in May. I am too far from this place.

I will join BNHS definitely on 1 May. After that I will have more time to go around for field work.

With good wishes,

Yours sincerely,

Asad R. Rahmani

Asad R. Rahmani