

Aasheesh Pittie

From: Krys Kazmierczak <krys@krys.net>
To: Aasheesh Pittie <aasheesh@hd1.vsnl.net.in>
Sent: Sunday, June 11, 2000 3:58 PM
Subject: Hi!

Hi Aasheesh!

How are things?

As you may know, the field guide is finally out. I had asked the publishers to send you a review copy for the Newsletter. I don't know if you have received that? If not, I will arrange for another copy to be sent.

Raj Singh was asking me to find out what the very best hotel in Hyderabad is now. Do you happen to know if it is the Taj Krishna (formerly Oberoi Krishna) or the Kakatiya (? not sure about name/spelling).

The latest Bulletin of the BOC has an article on races of Isabelline Shrike, which is relevant to India. I will send a photocopy.

All the best

Krys

Krys Kazmierczak
krys@krys.net

6/23/00

BIRD TRADE

The Government of India banned the trade and trapping of wild birds in 1991. Any such activity is totally illegal today. But the trade thrives. Birds are bought and sold for at least 7 different purposes. None of these is beneficial to any bird. In fact the rate of mortality among traded birds is shockingly high. Therefore a large number have to be captured so that the few that survive can be sold.

We keep birds as pets. We eat them. We use them in medicine. We display them in zoos. We pit them one against the other and call it sport. We dupe each other using birds as vehicles of black magic and voodoo. We release captive birds and bask in the satisfaction of a good deed done.

There are many issues here, but I would like to touch upon two that form a large part of the bird trade in our country.

Compassion and welfare of birds are the last things on a bird-trader's mind. Parakeets are debeaked by rubbing the points of their beaks in gravel and sand, so that their bite does not hurt hands. Sometimes their lower mandible is dislocated for the same reason. The gullible customer does not know that in a day or two his dear pet will die of starvation. These are just two examples of what birds suffer at the hands of men. For every bird sold, ten would have died, if not more, before they reach the markets. Birds are transported in the most despicable conditions. Many have their wing feathers pulled out so they do not fly. The trauma and stress that these birds undergo is unimaginable. How can a true bird fancier ever be happy when he looks at a caged bird?

To release a captive bird and deem it as a good deed—is intrinsically wrong. It is self-delusive in nature and looks at just one angle of a problem. The trader gets his business, the releaser his happiness and the birds keep on dying. If the proud owner of a pet has a conscience, these deaths should prick it. It is his purchase that keeps the trade alive. It's a vicious circle that can only be broken by us when we realize the futility of our deeds. To end the misery of the birds we have to stop buying them. We have to learn to step out of our houses and enjoy the thrill that a bird gets from its freedom. To appreciate and understand this is the best thing we can do for the bird. For this, we have to think deep and answer our conscience. Are birds the true beneficiaries of our actions?

Ladies and gentlemen, I sincerely wish this workshop all success and thank you for giving me this opportunity to share my views with you. I hope that this animal welfare workshop brings forth many active people who are for animals.

Aasheesh Pittie

From: Aasheesh Pittie <aasheesh@hd1.vsnl.net.in>
To: <krys@krys.net>
Sent: Friday, June 23, 2000 12:53 PM
Subject: Hi!

Dear Krys, CONGRATULATIONS!

I've been in and out of Hyd'bad and the internet connection's not been too good. But hope this reaches you properly and things will be better in future!

I saw a copy of your book rather hurriedly in the BNHS. Wonderful job. Will write more in detail after I get the review copy you're promising. No, I've not received it yet!

The Kakatiya Sheraton is by far the best hotel in Hyderabad today.

Thanks for the Xerox from BBOC.

I want your advice on this matter. I've written to a few societies and other addresses abroad about my database and enquiring whether they'd be interested in buying it. A couple of people have replied and are interested to know my price. This is the problem. What do you think it should be? I've got over 12,000 references on it. I was thinking in terms of 2 USD per reference. Please tell me if this is the wrong way to look at it. How would one price such a database? I trust this will be in total confidence. Thanks! And yes, do you yourself have any one, person or organization, that would be interested in such a database? I await your early response.

Best wishes and regards!

Aasheesh Pittie
8-2-545 Road No 7, Banjara Hills, Hyderabad 500034, INDIA.
PHONES: Work: 91-40-3352269 / Res: 91-40-3350683 / Fax: 91-40-3356064
E-MAIL: AASHEESH@HD1.VSNL.NET.IN

6/25/00

Aasheesh Pittie

From: Aasheesh Pittie <aasheesh@hd1.vsnl.net.in>
To: <krys@krys.net>
Sent: Saturday, June 24, 2000 2:20 PM
Subject: Hi

Krys,

I would like a copy (paperback if possible) of the following book. Please could you send it to me? If something remains to be paid by me, I'll do so at a future date.

Bird Census Techniques by CJ Bibby, DA Hill and ND Burgess. I think Academic Press are the publishers.

I'd appreciate a line of confirmation from you. Thanks!

Best wishes and regards!

Aasheesh Pittie
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6/25/00

From: Krys Kazmierczak <krys@krys.net>
To: Aasheesh Pittie <aasheesh@hd1.vsnl.net.in>
Subject: Re: Hi!
Date: Saturday, June 24, 2000 3:36 PM

Dear Aasheesh

Many thanks for your email.

>

> I saw a copy of your book rather hurriedly in the BNHS. Wonderful > job.

I am very glad you like the book at first glance. No such work is ever perfect, but I hope it will prove a useful tool in the field and that it can be improved on in future editions.

I would certainly welcome any comments, corrections and suggestions for improvements to the distribution maps or any other aspect of the book.

> Will write more in detail after I get the review copy you're> promising. No, I've not received it yet!

I'll try to make sure you get one soon.

>

> The Kakatiya Sheraton is by far the best hotel in Hyderabad> today.

Thanks. I'll pass the information on.

> I want your advice on this matter. I've written to a few> societies and other addresses abroad about my database and> enquiring whether they'd be interested in buying it. A couple of> people have replied and are interested to know my price. This is> the problem. What do you think it should be? I've got over 12,000 > references on it. I was thinking in terms of 2 USD per reference.> Please tell me if this is the wrong way to look at it. How would> one price such a database?

To be perfectly frank and honest I have no idea. USD 24,000 seems like an awful lot of money to me (more than my entire earnings over the last five years), but if you can find someone willing to pay that, then good luck to you. I guess you could try it as an opening shot, but say the price is negotiable. Personally, I would probably try half that or less. What will they do with the database? Publish it in book form, on CD-ROM, or just use it? If it is to be published then they will probably be thinking in commercial terms. To put that into perspective: the print run for my field guide is 7000. Of those 2000 were sold to OM Publishing for distribution in India below cost price! Hence, the UK publisher makes nothing out of those and I receive nothing, or next to nothing, in the way of royalties for them.

The remaining 5000 will, hopefully, for the most part sell at full price. I get about USD 1.50 per copy. The publisher probably gets somewhat more out of it. Do you think they would sell that many of your database to be able to pay you the price you demand? I guess it may only be an institution such as the Smithsonian, who could afford to pay anything like that, since they are not working on a commercial basis.

> I trust this will be in total> confidence.

Of course.

> Thanks! And yes, do you yourself have any one, person> or organization, that would be interested in such a database? I> await your early response.

Can't think of anyone or anything who has that kind of money to spare. Even the Bird Section of the Natural History Museum at Tring can't afford to subscribe to JBNHS these days. You probably need to go Stateside.

Sorry I can't be of more help.

All the best

Krys

Krys Kazmierczak
krys@krys.net

From: Krys Kazmierczak <krys@krys.net>
To: Aasheesh Pittie <aasheesh@hdl.vsnl.net.in>
Subject: Re: Hi
Date: Saturday, June 24, 2000 4:04 PM

Aasheesh

Will order a copy for you, if it's still available, and will ask them to send it direct.

All the best

Krys

Krys Kazmierczak
krys@krys.net

Krys Kazmierczak
krys@krys.net

Krys
On 24 Jun 00, at 14:20, Aasheesh Pittie wrote:

Krys

Cheers

Apparently there is a new 2nd edition of this book coming out. Currently it is due in September (but may be delayed) in hardback, 250 pages, Academic Press, price GBP25 plus p&p. Would you like me to order this, or should I try to find a copy of the old edition which may be unavailable now?

Dear Aasheesh

From: Krys Kazmierczak <krys@krys.net>
To: Aasheesh Pittie <aasheesh@hdl.vsnl.net.in>
Subject: Re: Hi
Date: Saturday, June 24, 2000 4:52 PM

Aasheesh Pittie

From: Aasheesh Pittie <aasheesh@hd1.vsnl.net.in>
To: Krys Kazmierczak <krys@krys.net>
Sent: Saturday, June 24, 2000 8:11 PM
Subject: Re: Hi

Krys,

The old edition is fine by me. I don't know what more they will add to it. Perhaps on the old edition, if it is still available, I can get a good discount! ;-)

----- Original Message -----

From: Krys Kazmierczak <krys@krys.net>
To: Aasheesh Pittie <aasheesh@hd1.vsnl.net.in>
Sent: Saturday, June 24, 2000 5:03 PM
Subject: Re: Hi

> Dear Aasheesh

>

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> hardback, 250 pages, Academic Press, price GBP25 plus

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> copy of the old edition which may be unavailable now?

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> Cheers

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> Krys

>

> On 24 Jun 00, at 14:20, Aasheesh Pittie wrote:

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>> Krys,

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>> I would like a copy (paperback if possible) of the following

>> book. Please could you send it to me? If something remains to be

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>> I'd appreciate a line of confirmation from you. Thanks!

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>> Best wishes and regards!

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>> Aasheesh Pittie

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>

> Krys

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