

28 February, 1996

Mr. Krys Kazmierczak
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UNITED KINGDOM

Dear Krys,

At last I have joined the select band of birders who have added the Jerdon's Courser to their list !

On the night of 21st Feb 1996, along with Mr. Richard Grimmett of Birdlife International and 2 other friends, I went to Reddipalle and was shown the bird by Aitanna. Wow !

The reason for this letter is a fallout of that trip and I suggest you consider the following seriously.

I do not think you should include the detailed map of this area, which you had sent me earlier, in your forthcoming book. The paucity of sightings of the bird and thus its totally uncertain status, the fragility of the environment, combined with the extreme innocence of the villagers - could actually be disastrous for the bird if too many foreign birding tours descend upon Reddipalle. I entreat you to reconsider.

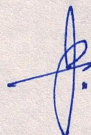
We also spent an evening and a morning at Rollapadu, where within a span of 10 minutes before sunset, we could estimate nearly 500 harriers coming in to roost. And their incoming stream had not ended when we left ! A BNHS researcher some days ago, I believe, counted close to a thousand harriers here !

I do not know whether you are in India or England. But my earlier letter is still unanswered.

Hope to hear from you soon.

With best wishes,

Sincerely



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96

9 April 1996

Dear Aasheesh,

I must indeed apologise for having been out of touch for so long. I just returned yesterday from a fairly successful two month trip to India which, apart from a few days at Nainital and a short trip to Bharatpur to update the logistic information for *A Birdwatchers' Guide to India*, concentrated mainly on Assam and Meghalaya. Saw some pretty good birds including White-winged Duck, Pale-capped Pigeon, Pale-headed Woodpecker, Dark-rumped Swift, Grey Sibia, Jerdon's Bushchat, Marsh Spotted Babbler, Chestnut-backed Laughingthrush, Pied Falconet and quite a number of others that I hadn't seen before.

My excuse for not writing earlier is that I was waiting for the letter that you had mentioned on the phone. Unfortunately, it hadn't arrived by the time I left for India on February 9 and indeed it still hasn't turned up. In the meantime I am in receipt of your letter of February 28 and your latest long-awaited achievement in the shape of your *Bibliographic Index* for which I thank you most warmly. It really is a most useful tool and I know I will be using it often when I am looking for information on particular species or sites. There will, no doubt, be a few typographical errors and suchlike here and there. Please inform me if you would like me to let you know of any I may find for correction in a possible future edition.

I'm glad you finally got to see the Jerdon's Courser. It always seemed to me that as one of the compilers of the Andhra Pradesh Checklist you should be among those privileged to have seen the bird. It is rather special. I have also received a letter from Richard Grimmett asking me not to publish the exact locality of the Courser site and I do understand your concern. You may remember that it was only after consulting you that I decided to include a section on Sri Lankamalleswara at all. I must admit I would be reluctant to remove the section completely now but I will certainly try to be less specific about its exact whereabouts, include a stronger warning about not attempting to visit without permission and perhaps remove the map. I will give Richard a call and have a chat with him about it. Reddi Palle is, however, already shown on the map provided in the recent OBC *Indian Birding Itineraries* which, unfortunately, also gives the impression that permission to visit can be obtained at Cuddapah. I don't think that we can stop the birding tours arriving there, as most of these have the same Indian ground agent, who organized the Birdquest tour that went there last year.

Many thanks for the continued sending of *Sanctuary* magazine which is much appreciated. I find it a good mix of informative, well-written articles with at times excellent photographic illustrations. Alas the same cannot always be said for the *Newsletter*, but it still remains essential reading. I'll have to do something about the *JBNHS*. I may have previously told you that I took out life membership some years ago and gave my address c/o P.S. Sivaprasad, the idea being that he could read the journal and then post it on to me. Unfortunately, I have not heard from him for almost a year now and it has been at least two years since he sent me any of the journals. I will have to visit the British Library to read the latest issues soon.

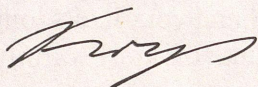
Volunteer to send.

Under separate cover I'm sending you a copy of my *Checklist of Indian Birds*. Not that you really need it, but I know you like to collect anything to do with Indian ornithology. I tried using it on my trip this time but found it a little too unwieldy. It would be much more useful to have regional field checklists dividing the country say into North, Northeast, West, Central and South. Some time ago Sivaprasad began compiling a *Field Checklist of the Birds of South India* which was to be published by WWF but I don't know what has happened to it. I don't think that I will have the time to undertake such a project myself on my own in the near future but if you have nothing else in mind you might like to give it a thought.

I think that will have to be all for this letter. I'm sorry I can't answer the points from your non-arrived letter. Maybe you've still got it in your computer and can send me another copy. I hope to be getting a modem and E-mail box fairly soon. Something which should speed up communications somewhat. Have you considered it for yourself?

All the best.

Yours

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'K. Roy', is written in dark ink on the paper.

23 April, 1996

Mr. Krys Kazmierczak
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Dear Krys,

Am I glad to receive yours of 9th instant ! So you have been to India after all. Good that you were able to do solid work for your book. *And for the other one which I heard about from Richard Grimmett !!* My very best for this one too !

I am enclosing a photocopy of my letter which you did not receive.

The Bibliographic Index, as you mention, does have quite a few typos and other (more serious) mistakes which will have to be weeded out in another edition. I would be extremely glad if you could jot down corrections as you use the book, and send me a list of corrections for a future edition. I shall be all too glad to acknowledge your help. I have received one nasty letter which stated that I was trying to foist this rather incomplete work on users (from someone who, I suppose, wanted to bring out something similar and was beaten to the tape!)! But generally it has been well received here. A small (friendly) review has appeared in *Birdwatcher's Digest* (published from the USA). I had sent review copies to *Ibis*, *British Birds*, *Birding World* and *OBC*. Please send me a photocopy if it is reviewed in the former two journals.

It is rather unfortunate that *OBC* have printed a map of the Jerdon's Courser area in their birding itinerary booklet. We are going to write them from the BSAP regarding this. The AP forest department has also been alerted that the area should not be unnecessarily disturbed. Thanks however, for volunteering changes in your book.

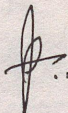
I am going to start a subscription in your name, for the *Journal of the BNHS*.

Thanks for the *Checklist of Indian Birds*. I have received 2 copies from you, and have given one to Mr. Siraj Taher. At present I am working on Part II of the *Bibliographic Index*, and so will not have time for a field checklist of the birds of South India, though the idea is good and perhaps persueable in the future.

I have a modem on my computer, but not an E-mail connection. It is still very expensive in India. But I am toying with the idea, though I am a devout fan of the printed word, the smell of printed words and the feel of well-thumbed volumes !

Am planning to go in search of the Grass Bird from 27-30 of this month. Richard pointed out that Salim Ali had seen it around Mulug in Warangal District in February 1937 ! We have a saying in India which translates approximately to "the chicken in the house is equal to *dhal* (lentils)". This is such a case. It was reported from our very backyard, and we haven't yet gone to search for it !! Well, perhaps I will have some news for you in my next letter !!

With best wishes,



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15 May 1996

A.
25/5
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Dear Aasheesh,

It was good to hear from you again and to receive copies of your letters of 11 November and 25 December, neither of which I had received as you correctly surmised. This disappearing mail is a little worrying as one doesn't know what else has gotten lost en route. Many thanks also for the latest copy of Sanctuary which arrived by the same post. In the meantime the 'missing' issue of Sanctuary has also turned up.

I'll try to answer all your points one after another.

I'm glad you like *Birding World*. As you say the identification articles are very useful and I had also now for some time been thinking it would be a good idea to do something similar for Indian birds. I don't wish to put you off, but I'm not entirely sure that Mayura would be the best vehicle for such articles, as I think its audience is not wide enough. I was thinking more in terms of the *BNHS Journal*, the *Newsletter* or *Sanctuary*. None of these, however, have a tradition of publishing such articles. I suspect that the *JBNHS* would consider itself to be too "scientific" though they did publish a very useful article on raptor identification not so long ago. The current delays associated with its publication also make it a little unattractive in this respect. I think in many ways the *Newsletter* would be a good forum, but for the fact that they are not able to include the necessary colour plates unless they upgrade the overall quality of the publication which may prove too costly for them. *Sanctuary Magazine* could obviously cope with colour plates but bird identification articles may be a little too specialised for them. I had also been thinking of approaching the OBC with the idea of putting some i.d. articles in the Bulletin. The drawback with this is that it doesn't have a very wide circulation in the subcontinent. Anyway, these are just a few thoughts for you to consider. I certainly don't mind checking over any such articles for you, though I'm no expert. For some groups of birds I do know one or two people who might be able to help, but I know that Richard Grimmett and the Inskipps have a much better network of connections than I. The other problem is that a lot of the 'experts' are very busy and may not have time to devote to such things. This shouldn't stop you as it is something that definitely needs doing.

There are quite a few groups of birds that spring to mind that would deserve treatment in i.d. articles: the "white" egrets, all of the warbler groups including the prinias, several groups of raptors, gulls, terns, larks and pipits, not to mention quite a few species pairs such as the ioras, Black-and-Yellow / Collared Grosbeak, Fulvous-breasted / Stripe-breasted Woodpecker, Brown-capped / Grey-capped Pygmy Woodpeckers, Blue-winged / Gold-fronted Chloropsis, etc. etc.

I'm sorry I'd forgotten in my previous letter to mention my latest project, provisionally entitled *A Pocket Guide to the Birds of the Indian Subcontinent*. I was approached to do this by Pica Press last year in September and unfortunately didn't have the good sense to say no. It really is proving to be quite a lot of work and the fact that I still haven't finished the first book doesn't help. The publisher had asked to keep the project under wraps for a while and it was only shortly before I left for India that I was allowed to tell anyone. Both the other field guides currently in preparation are going to be fairly bulky detailed volumes. The idea of this one is, as the title says, to produce a pocketable guide in which all of the birds are illustrated in colour and with enough text to make identification of all of them, or nearly all of them possible. We aim to produce something affordable and of a size not much bigger than the Collins Handguide.

You seem to have solved the problem of distribution and pricing of your *Bibliographic Index* abroad as I see it is in the latest edition of the NHBS catalogue. I will certainly start making a list of typos and suggestions for you. Personally, I think a CD-ROM version would be very useful as it would enable searches to be made on other key words. It would be particularly good if both parts I and II would fit on the one CD-ROM. I don't know if it would be commercially viable, however. The bookshop at In Focus in London (formerly called the Bird and Wildlife Bookshop) have only sold two copies of my *Checklist* in the past five months, so the demand for more obscure literature is not great.

I do have a copy of the Smithsonian *Bibliography of Indian Ornithology*. The production itself is quite good in slightly less than A4 format with a couple of nice cover illustrations by John Anderton. The whole thing runs to 330 pages, the bulk (308 pages) being taken up by a list of 5758 entries listed alphabetically by senior author with a short description of the subject matter of each. This brief description is certainly a useful feature in cases where the subject matter is not entirely clear from the title. What is a little disappointing is the single alphabetical index where birds are listed by genus and family only, not down to specific level. Their geographical listings also appear to be less detailed than yours. I am sending you photocopies of samples of the book for you to see for yourself.

I still haven't got a modem though I am at the moment trying to find out which is the best one to get. I do, however, doubt if many or any of the journals like *Auk*, *Sea Swallow* and so on are yet available on the Net. I have only at the beginning of this year myself started receiving copies of *Ibis* and the *Bulletin of the BOC*. If you like I will send you photocopies of any articles relevant to Indian Ornithology. In the issues I have received so far there has only been one such article which I am enclosing with this letter.

I haven't as yet seen any reviews of your *Bibliographic Index* anywhere but will certainly send you a copy if I do.

I will get hold of a copy of Brian Gee's trip report for you. I have been meaning to give him a call anyway, so this is a good excuse. I don't get *Dutch Birding* myself but I will obtain a copy of the Dick Forsman paper for you.

I had not intended that you start a subscription for the BNHS Journal for me as I already have a life subscription paid for! What I wasn't quite bold enough to request in the last letter was if you wouldn't mind forwarding the Journals on to me if I gave them your address rather than Sivaprasad's. I would certainly reimburse you for postage etc., perhaps squaring up when we see each other again as you mentioned in your letter. To this end I am enclosing a letter to the BNHS for them to change the mailing address. Please read it through and if this arrangement is okay with you perhaps you would be so kind as to forward it on to them.

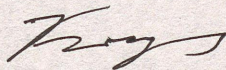
Let me know how you are finding the *Bird Recorder for Windows 2*. I don't feel I need it at the moment but I may be persuaded otherwise.

I hope you have been lucky with the Grassbird. (I assume you mean Bristled and not Broad-tailed.) It would give me an added incentive to come back to your neck of the woods again. For the foreseeable future I am more likely to devote my Indian trips to exploring the northeast in greater depth. There are just so many interesting and difficult species there. The problem is that it's almost impossible to make any definite plans at the moment, as I'm tied up as a tour leader for a trip to Taiwan in October, one to Nepal in November and one to Sri Lanka at Xmas and New Year. The chances are that one or all of them will be cancelled but the decision isn't actually taken until four weeks before the beginning of each tour. If they all run then I probably won't have the time to do a trip of my own. I need the time for working on the *Pocket Guide*.

I have had a couple of letters from a friend of yours, J.V.D. Moorty currently in the U.K. I think I was able to help him with a couple of queries in my answering letter. He did say he might come to see me when he visited his sister, who only lives five minutes drive from here, but he did not show up and I didn't have her address.

Hope you and the family are keeping well.

All the best

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Tony S', written in dark ink.

20 May, 1996

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Dear Krys,

Yours of 15th May has just arrived and am sitting down to reply almost immediately.

I.D. articles would be best published in the Newsletter, as it has perhaps the highest amateur birder readership. I am sure they can be persuaded to include colour plates through courtesy some sponsor if the articles are of a good and high standard.

You seem to have found a good niche in the race for books on the birds of India. Others, as far as I know, are going to be bulky and will require a bag / haversack to carry them. A pocket-guide should be very welcome. Bikram Grewal has brought out a slim, thin booklet with photographs which I just glanced through and so cannot comment upon critically.

I'd be grateful (once again) if you do "certainly start making a list of typos and suggestions (for me)". I have also been thinking of a CD-Rom, but am lying low about it. I was in Bombay last week, indexing the old journals in the library of the BNHS and realised what a huge, whale of a task this is going to be. But I am enjoying it. If you could send me photocopies of papers, notes, etc., on the ornithology of the Indian region, from *The Ibis* and *Bulletin of the BOC*, I'd be delighted. I have however, indexed *The Ibis* upto the 2nd issue of 1996, except for the volumes of the first 50 years of its existence. Whatever you do send, should be from an issue published after the above. Thanks for the photocopy of Daniels' paper.

I was able to obtain a copy of the Smithsonian's Index. Thanks for the photocopies though, I will put them to good use.

Don't send me a copy of Brian Gee's report, if you have not already done so. Richard has sent me one. But if you have, I will send it on to Ravi Sankaran, who works on Andaman birds and will certainly find it very useful.

No success with the Bristled Grassbird. No suitable habitat seems to be left in that region.

By the way, while in Bombay, I did take out a life-subscription in Smriti's name, thinking I'd send you the literature. But its ok. I am forwarding your letter for change of address to them, and will send you the journals, etc., whenever they arrive. Would somebody in England be interested in the BNHS's publications on an exchange basis for something I need? Do let me know.

Bird Recorder for Windows 2 is ok. But I cannot get reports the way I want and consultation is too far away. But I continue to feed in the data and am able to obtain decent trip reports and checklists, etc. All-in-all, it does have some limitations.

I sincerely request that you be 'bold enough' and do ask for things from here. I feel it is the best way to work together and the worst that can happen is that I may not be able to help you and vice versa. But let us put aside such stumbling blocks.

With best wishes,

Sincerely



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7/6
96

25 May 1996

Dear Aasheesh,

I am enclosing the photocopies of the Forsman article as requested. I have sent the Brian Gee report under separate cover a couple of days ago. Hope you find them useful.

In return could I possibly ask you for a photocopy of Futehally's *Checklist of Birds of Aligarh and Gir* from the *Newsletter* 22:7-8:3.

Best regards



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11 June, 1996

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Dear Krys,

Many thanks for yours of 23.5.96 and the enclosed Forsman paper. It is marvellous. I was away for a short holiday to Coorg and have returned a few days ago, hence the delay. Stayed there at a coffee estate which was wonderful, though I fell ill with fever. Still managed to squeeze in some hours of birding each day, thrilled with such as rufous babbler, lorikeets, bluetailed parakeets, spotted babbler (in full-throated song!), a banded bay cuckoo and a pair of scimitar babblers half way up a pepper creeper, duetting and preening - at eye level !!

Enclosed is an issue of *Pitta* in which your endemic bird list was printed, after due modification for AP birds. This has landed in some controversy with at least one reader with a highly scientific and critical bent of mind - Dr. Kumar Ghorpade. Two major blunders which I made were the inclusion of the malabar crested lark and the whitecheeked barbet (both Western Ghats endemics) in the AP list. This is unpardonable and I have requested Kumar to write a small letter/note which can be published in the next issue of *Pitta*, correcting me. I am sorting it out the best I can, using your *Checklist* as it contains the latest information. If people here want the *Checklist*, could I photocopy it for them, or would you like to sell them copies? I'll prefer the latter and request you suggest how they can get it from you. Kumar has sort of agreed to write a piece for *Mayura* on endemic birds of the Indian region or at least Peninsular India.

Futehally's *Checklist of Birds of Aligarh and Gir* from the *Newsletter* 22(7-8): 3, photocopies of which you request, is actually an editorial note that these are available with him (compiled by J Urfi and some other birders) at a price and interested persons may procure them. I am however, writing to them separately for copies. I may be able to get Urfi's list for Aligarh, but am quite doubtful about the Gir list.

Per Alström has written me recently, requesting information on the Syke's crested lark and the *assamica* race of the redwinged bushlark. It is for a 'Shorebirds' type of book for Croom Helm, on the larks, etc., which he is co-authoring with 2 other people. I remember you taking quite a few notes at Shamirpet and wonder if you would like to share them with him. If you like, I could write him asking him to contact you. I'll await your response.

Rest is fine. With best wishes,



Encl: as above.

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3/7/96

23 June 1996

Dear Aasheesh,

I am in receipt of your letters dated May 20 and June 11 and the enclosed copies of the bulletin *Pitta*, for which many thanks.

Many thanks for being so considerate as to take out another life-subscription for the BNHS publications. I am currently doing my best to find someone who would like to arrange an exchange with you and may be in luck, but it's not definite yet. I will let you know as soon as something concrete develops.

Sorry to hear of your fever in Coorg. I hope it wasn't too serious and that you are fully recovered now. I have never been to Coorg, though I have always had it at the back of my mind to make a trip sometime. Perhaps one day when I have finished the books and been on one or two more trips to the Northeast and am missing the birds of the South.

Yes, it was a little bit unfortunate that the article in *Pitta* was phrased in such a way as to make it appear that I had compiled the list of endemics that are found in AP, but I don't think it's a great tragedy. I liked the extract from Mark Twain. I hadn't come across it before.

Regarding my *Checklist*, I am not sure what would be the best thing to do. On the one hand, I don't think it should be distributed entirely free of charge. On the other hand, I fear the expense of producing and posting it from here to interested parties in India would make the cost somewhat too high for the average pocket. I would suggest, if it's not too much trouble for you, that you arrange for copies for those that want, and make a charge that you deem suitable while putting any surplus towards costs of subscriptions or whatever. There is, by the way, an addition to be made to the *Checklist* since the publication of Pam Rasmussen's article in the latest *Forktail*. Buff-throated Warbler *Phylloscopus subaffinis* has been reinstated to the Indian Avifauna (page 20 of the *Checklist*) on the strength of a specimen from Mawphlang, Meghalaya. I nearly went there while I was in Shillong earlier this year but opted to spend the day catching up on some writing while my companion birded the sacred grove there on his own. He's not sure but he thinks he may have recorded its song somewhere.

Many thanks also for your efforts on my behalf regarding the checklists for Aligarh and Gir, but don't worry too much if they prove difficult to come by.

I have already sent details of Sykes's Crested Lark to Per Alström some time ago and am otherwise in contact with him fairly regularly. In fact, I think it might have been me that gave him your address.

I have been too busy here having to help out with my sister's business in the last couple of weeks to get much other work done, though I have started going up to Tring once or twice a week to go through the amazing bird collections there. It seems very strange at times being able to handle skins of such legendary species as Ward's Trogon, or examine in detail a Yellow-throated Bulbul or almost any bird that takes one's fancy. All in all I prefer to see them live though.

Wishing you the best of health and birding.

Krys

23 November, 1996

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Dear Krys,

Thanks a lot for the photocopies of papers from *Ibis*, especially the little review of the *Bibliography*. I saw them on my return from Coimbatore, where the Pan-Asian Ornithological Congress was held. In one session a great deal of noise was made about the new nomenclature and especially the proposed changes in common names. The latter being totally rejected by all Indian bird-fanciers present!

How are you, and how are your books coming along? A friend, Dr. Kumar Ghorpade, wants a copy of your *Checklist*. Should I make a photocopy and give it to him? Am enclosing a copy of the latest issue of *Mayura*.

I would like to know which issues of *Hornbill* and *JBNHS* you have received from me, after your membership address was diverted to mine. If I have missed sending any issue, I could do so now. Also, as mentioned earlier, I have an extra life membership of the BNHS, so publications could be exchanged with someone in the U.K. for perhaps *Dutch Birding*?!

Did some birding in the Top Slip and Siruvani areas near Coimbatore. Got magnificent views of the Rufousbellied Hawk-Eagle, Black Eagle, Rubythroated Blackheaded Bulbul, etc. Also saw the Liontailed Macaque!

Rest is fine. Hope to hear from you soon.

With best wishes for a happy and eventful 1997!



encl: *Mayura* vol. 11.

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96

8 December 1996

Dear Aasheesh,

I was very glad to receive your letter a couple of days ago, as it had been on my mind to write to you again during the last couple of weeks and now I can respond to some of the points you have mentioned. Many thanks also for the copy of *Mayura* 11 which I am enjoying dipping into here and there between bouts of work. I'm afraid I have not yet received any copies of the *JBNHS* from you though issues 1 and 2 of *Hornbill* arrived some time ago which was great. I don't seem to have much luck with the *JBNHS*. I think I started my membership about five or six years ago and only ever got two or three issues. I bought the missing ones when I was last in Bombay which means the last issue I have is Vol. 91, No.2. Have you been receiving all the issues of *Birding World* okay? I have been asking a few people if they would be interested in an exchange for the *BNHS* life membership but so far without any success. I will keep trying.

I'm rather sorry I didn't manage to get to PASOC as it would have been nice to see you and the many others who attended. There have, however, been a couple of interesting events here in the last couple of days with lectures by Drs. Chris Perrins, Tim and Carol Inskipp in celebration of Salim Ali's birth centenary at the Nehru Centre on Friday and the OBC AGM yesterday. Tim and Carol also reported a little of their experience at PASOC but when I asked them about the reaction to the new nomenclature they weren't very forthcoming, only really saying there had been too little time to explain and discuss the issue.

At the AGM there were a couple of particularly good slide shows by Tim Loseby on the *Birds of the Western Ghats* and Otto Pfister on *Birds of Ladakh and the Little Rann of Kutch*. The other major success was the long-awaited arrival of the *OBC Checklist* which came hot off the presses the previous day. It appears, on a first look through, to have come out quite well and I haven't found any major errors yet. Interesting to note is the statement that the English names used are not proposed to be adopted on a world-wide basis but are only an interim solution awaiting the final decision of the IOC, which may take some years yet. Nevertheless, I shall largely be following the *OBC Checklist* taxonomy and nomenclature in both my books while retaining a more traditional order of families, the latter partly at least at the insistence of the publisher for the field guide. I think people will ultimately get used to the new names soon enough after the new field guides come out though I can't really see that happening before the end of 1997 at the absolute earliest.

I assume you will have ordered yourself a copy of the *Checklist* at the pre-publication price and it should soon arrive by airmail, it now being policy to send all OBC literature in this way. I now have quite a lot of work before me with revising everything in the light of this new list. I should also revise my *Checklist* but it is not particularly high on my list of priorities at the moment, so if you want to make a copy of the present one for your friend Dr. Ghorpade please go ahead.

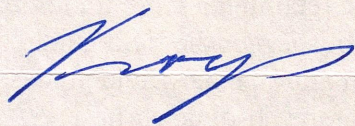
Progress on both my books is, as ever, very slow. I spend too much time writing letters! I thought you might like to check through the section on *Useful addresses* for me. Bikram Grewal thought it a good idea to include your address and that of Siraj Taher as contact addresses. I don't know if you want that and I thought you had said that Siraj had moved away anyway but I have included them for the moment subject to your approval. If you have any suggestions for other addresses to be included or any updates or comments or corrections, or can fill in any gaps, please let me know.

I also have another large request – for a photograph, or preferably several photographs from different angles, of Sykes's (Crested) Lark. I haven't been able to trace one anywhere and I thought you might know someone with a reasonably long camera lens who might be interested in trying to capture this interesting species on film, preferably colour prints. It shouldn't be too difficult given a little patience and a team of three. The photographer should try to position himself behind a suitable bush while the other two members of the team try to very gently and slowly chivvy the bird in the direction of the cameraman. This is what I did once for Tom Schultz so that he could photograph Malabar (Crested) Lark at Mudumalai. I only need the photos for reference purposes so that my artist can get the illustration right but I know Per Alström is also desperately looking for photos of this species for his *Holarctic Larks* as is Roy Hargreaves for a book on *Larks of the World* in the Helm series. Thus if you do feel like undertaking this small project it would be nice if I could be sent three sets of copies so that I could forward a set to each of the others. Acknowledgement in the book would, of course, be included and I'd be happy to pay for costs. This is a fairly urgent request as the illustrator has nearly finished the plates. It might also be possible to do a short article or Photo Spot for the *OBC Bulletin* if the photos are good enough. If you happen to know anyone with a tape recorder and a good directional microphone it would also be useful to tape record its call and song.

Sounds like you had a good time at Top Slip. I haven't written that section yet but when I have I'd like to send you a copy for your comments, if I may. For myself the situation looks rather desperate as I have far too much work with the books to contemplate getting away in the coming months.

I think I've probably given you enough to do for a while. Many thanks again for everything.

Wishing you, Smriti and the children all the best of health and happiness for the coming new year.



USEFUL ADDRESSES, CLUBS, SOCIETIES AND MAGAZINES

(The telephone code for India is 0091)

Bihang Institute for Ornithology and Mass Education (BIOME)

is a voluntary organization with the broad objectives of: research on conservation and biodiversity; mass education and interpretation; ecologically sound wildlife tourism and recreation; and consultancy.

Contact address: Dr. U.N. Dev, B-6/11, Unit 9, Bhubaneswar 751007.

☎ 0674-51414; Fax: 0674-52889

BirdLife International (formerly ICBP) - Asia Division

International Head Office: Wellbrook Court, Girton Road, Cambridge, CB3 0NA, U.K.

☎ 01223-277318 Fax: 01223-277200

Birdwatcher's Society of Andhra Pradesh

was founded in 1980 with the object of spreading the message of bird conservation. It organises field trips, lectures, camps etc.

Honorary Secretary (6-3-249/3 Road # 1, Banjara Hills, Hyderabad - 500 034.)

Other contact addresses:

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

☎ 040-3320269(O), 315683(R) Fax: 314064

Siraj A. Taher, (6-3-912/1, Kapadia Lane, Somajiguda, Hyderabad 500482 ☎ 040-310721)

The Bombay Natural History Society (BNHS)

was founded in 1883 and is still one of the leading organizations of its kind in Asia. It promotes research, conservation and education in all aspects of Indian flora and fauna. The Journal of the BNHS is published three times a year and is recognized as one of the most important sources of information on the natural history of the sub-continent.

Address: Hornbill House, Dr Salim Ali Chowk, Opp. Lion Gate, Shahid Bhagat Singh Road, Bombay 400 023.

☎ 022-2843869/2843421 Fax: 2837615

Centre of Wildlife & Ornithology

c/o Aligarh Muslim University, Aligarh - 202 002.

The Delhi Bird Club (DBC)

was started as an informal organisation in 1996 and organises regular birdwatching trips in and around Delhi. An up-to-date checklist of the birds of the Delhi region is being prepared and interesting records are welcomed. If you wish to join the club contact one of the following:

Bikram Grewal, 101/4 Kaushalya Park, Hauz Khas, New Delhi 110016 ☎ 011-660607/6961520 Fax: 6864614

Email: biks@giasdl01.vsnl.net.in

Ravi Singh, EG 1/6 Garden Estate Vil., Sikandarpur, Khosi Gurgaon, Haryana ☎ 011-3736557 (office)

8353553 (home)

If specific information on birds or sites is required then you should write well in advance.

Foreign Bird Reports and Information Service (FBRIS):

Address: 6 Skipton Crescent, Berkeley, Pendesham, Worcestershire, WR4 0LG, UK.

☎ 01905-454541

Greenpeace - India

Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage (INTACH) - Andamans & Nicobars Chapter

is the local conservation organisation for the Bay Islands and welcomes visits and information for its database from serious birders.

c/o Tarangs, Middle Point, Port Blair 744 101, South Andaman.

Kalpavriksh

is a youth environmental action group based in Delhi. Among other activities it organises birdwatching trips and a Bird Count twice a year. It also publishes books and brochures on environmental issues.

Kalpavriksh, C17/A Munirka, New Delhi - 110 067.

The **Library of Natural Sounds** has a collection of bird and wildlife recordings from all over the world including India
Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology, 159 Sapsucker Woods, Ithaca, New York 14850, USA
☎ 607-254-BIRD Web Site: <http://www.ornith.cornell.edu/>

Madras Naturalists Society

Secretary, M.Ragu Rahman, 8 Janaki Ave, Abhirampuram, Madras 18

Map Sales Office

Eastern Circle, Survey of India, 13 Wood St., Calcutta.

Merlin Nature Club

No.13, 8th Cross, 30th Main, J.P.Nagar, 1 Phase, Bangalore 560 078.

The **National Sound Archive, Wildlife Section**, (formerly British Library of Wildlife Sounds or BLOWS) gathers wildlife recordings from around the world and has recordings of most of the Indian species in its database. It welcomes further contributions to its collection and can provide copies of recordings as well as information on any aspect of wildlife recording.

29 Exhibition Road, London, SW7 2AS, UK

☎ 0171-412-7402/3

Fax: 0171-412-7441

Email: nsa-wildlife@bl.uk

Natraj Publishers

have a good selection of books and literature of all kinds on natural history and related topics.

The Green Bookshop, Rajpur Road, Dehra Dun - 248 001, Uttar Pradesh.

Newsletter For Birdwatchers

appears ⁶several times a year and carries an interesting selection of news, bird surveys etc. Applications for subscriptions should be addressed to:

S. Sridhar, Navbharat Enterprises, No. 10 Sirur Park 'B' Street, Seshadripuram, Bangalore 560 020.

Futehally's address should come here.

Nilgiri Wildlife Association

Ootacamund, Tamil Nadu 643 001.

Oriental Bird Club (OBC)

aims to encourage an interest in the birds of the Oriental region (including India) and their conservation; liaise with and promote the work of existing regional societies; collate and publish material on Oriental birds. Members receive two bulletins and a journal, *Forktail*, annually. There is an information officer who can help with trip reports and putting you in touch with the right person if you have a particular query.

Address:

c/o The Lodge, Sandy, Bedfordshire, SG19 2DL, U.K

The Indian representative is Bikram Grewal and local membership queries and payments should be addressed to him at:

101/4 Kaushalya Park, Hauz Khas, New Delhi 110016

☎ 011-660607/6961520 Fax: 6864614 Email: biks@viasdl01.vsnl.net.in

If you have a computer with a connection to the Internet you can check out the Web Site at

<http://www.gold.net/users/dj10/obchome.html>

Ornithological Society of India (OSI)

was founded with the aim of bringing together all those interested in Indian birds. Its magazine is the Newsletter for Birdwatchers (see above). The President is

Zafar Futehally, No. 205, Oakwood Appartments, Jakkasandra Layout,

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

????? Bikram Grewal says 'This is a bit dubious. Nothing happening there after the last meeting. Very controversial and probably defunct by now. Best dropped.' ?????

Salim Ali Centre for Ornithology and Natural History (SACON)

is a relatively new government agency which is to act as a focus for research and conservation. It is in the process of building up a good library.

SACON, Kalamalayam PO, Coimbatore 641 010, Tamil Nadu

☎ 0422-807973/807983

Fax: 807952

Email: centre@sacon.ernet.in

*Suggest
to conf. in
his hang
on this
issue*

Sanctuary Magazine

appears every two months carrying well-written and illustrated articles on many wildlife and conservation topics.
602, Maker Chambers V, Nariman Point, Bombay - 400 021

The **South Asian Natural History Discussion Group** is a useful Internet forum for those with email facilities on a computer. To join the group send an email to Listproc@lists.princeton.edu leaving the 'subject' heading blank. In the body of the message you should write "subscribe nathistory-india" without the quotation marks, giving your email address, first name and last name on the second line.

THANAL - Conservation, Action and Information Network

is an association working on ecosystem studies and conservation education - active mainly in Kerala.
THANAL, P.B.No.815, Kawdiar, Trivandrum 695 003 or 9, Subhash Nagar, Kannur 670 002

Tourism & Wildlife Society of India (TWSI)

is an active conservation group which, among other things, organizes avifaunal studies, environmental workshops and political pressure groups to defend national parks.
TWSI, C-158A, Dayanand Marg, Tilak Nagar, Jaipur 302 004.

Wetlands International (formerly Asian Wetlands Bureau) - Indian Section

c/o WWF - India (see below)????

Wildlife Institute of India (WII)

P.O.Box No.18, Chandrabani, Dehra Dun 248 001, Uttar Pradesh
☎ 0135-620912 to 620915 Fax: 0135 - 620 217 Email: wii@giasdl01.vsnl.net.in

Wildlife Preservation Society of India, Dehra Dun ????

Wildlife Protection Society of India (WPSI)

Thapar House, 124 Janpath, New Delhi - 110 001
☎ 011 - 332 0573, 332 8332 (ext. 556) Fax: 011 - 332 7729

World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) - India

is one of the world's leading conservation organisations and is very active in India, being the primary force behind many important wildlife protection projects, as well as doing much work in the fields of education and research. Members are sent regular newsletters. It has quite a number of regional offices whose addresses can be obtained from the head office. Some of the state offices are listed below.

WWF -India, Head Office, 172B - Lodi Estate, New Delhi 110003 ☎011-4633473, 4627586
Andhra Pradesh State Office, (624/1 Road No.10, Banjara Hills, Hyderabad 500 034)
Eastern Region Office, Tata Centre, 5th Floor, 43 Chowringhee, Calcutta 700 071
Gujarat State Office, c/o Jyoti Ltd., 5 Impala House, Vishwas Colony, Baroda 390 005
Karnataka State Office, 'Hamsini' 1, 12th Cross, Rajamahal Vilas Extension, Bangalore 560 080
Kerala State Office, T.C. No. 5/1725, Kawdiar, Trivandrum 695 003
Maharashtra & Goa State Office, 2nd Floor, 204 National Insurance Building, Dr.D.N.Road, Fort,
Bombay 400 023.

PAVO, The Indian Journal of Ornithology
The Soc. of Animal Morphologists & Physiologists
90 sept of zoology, Faculty of Science
M.S. University of Baroda
Baroda 390 002
PAVO in its 34th volume!

A-22, A-Block, G-2-1 View Towers, Lakdi-ka-pul
Hyd 500 004

Ph: 224398

Aasheesh Pittie
8-2-545 "Prem Parvat", Road No. 7, Banjara Hills, Hyderabad 500 034. India.
Phone: Off: 040-3320269 Fax : 040-314064 Res: 040-315683

9 December, 1996

Mr. Krys Kazmierczak
c/o 9 Norwich Road
Northwood
Middlesex HA6 1ND
United Kingdom

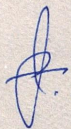
Dear Krys,

Enclosed are the latest publications from the *BNHS*.

1. *Hornbill* 1996 No. 3.
2. *Journal of the Bombay Natural History Society* Vol. 93 No. 2.

Hope you have received mine of 23-11-1996.

With best wishes,



Encl: as above.

9 December, 1996

Page 1

R. P. 54 (a)

Administration des postes de l'INDE

Postal Administration of India

AVIS de reception/de paiement/d'inscription

ADVICE of delivery/of payment/of entry

C 5

Service des Postes

On Postal service
Timbre du bureau
renvoyant l'avis

A remplir par le Bureau d'origine

To be filled in by the office of origin

Bureau de depot

Office of posting

No.

Date de depot

Date of posting

Stamp of the office
returning the adviceA renvoyer par la voie la plus rapide
(aerienne ou de surface), a decouvert
at en franchise de port.To be returned by the quickest
route (air or surface mail), a
decouvert and post free.

Renvoyer a (a remplir par l'expediteur)

Return to (to be filled in by the sender)

Nom ou raison sociale/Name

AASHEESH PITTIE

Rue or No./Street and No.

8-2-545
ROAD NO. 7

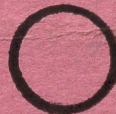
Localite/Locality

BANJARA HILLS

Pays/Country

HYDERABAD - 500034

Andhrapradesh INDIA

4689
10/12No. 34110 S.P.O
HYDERABAD-500034

A remplir par l'expéditeur

To be filled in by sender

Envoi recommande/Registered item

<input type="checkbox"/>	Lettre/Letter	<input type="checkbox"/>	Imprime/Printed paper	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Colis ordinaire Unregistered parcel
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Envoi avec valeur declaree/Insured item

| Valeur declaree insured value

<input type="checkbox"/>	Lettre/Letter	<input type="checkbox"/>	Colis/Parcel
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<input type="checkbox"/>	Mandat de post Postal money order	<input type="checkbox"/>	Mandat de versement in payment M. O.	<input type="checkbox"/>	Cheque d'assignation Out payment Cheque	Montant Amount
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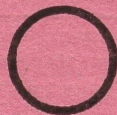
Nom ou raison sociale du destinataire ou intitule du CCP *MRS. KRYS KAZMIERCZAK*
Name of addressee or title of giro account *c/o 9 NORWICH ROAD*

Rue et No./Street and No. *NORWICH ROAD* Localite' et pays/Locality and country *UK*

Cet avis doit etre signe priorite par le destinataire et, si cela n'est pas possible par une autre personne autorisee en vertu des reglements du pays de destination ou si ces reglements le prevoyent, par l'agent du bureau de destination et renvoye par le premier courrier directment a l'expediteur.

Timbre du bureau de destination/stamp of Office of destination

As a matter of priority this advice must be signed by the addressee or, if that is not possible, by another person authorised to do so under the regulations of the country of destination, or if these regulations provide, by the official of the office of destination, and returned by the first mail direct to the sender.



L'envoi mentionne ci-dessus a ete dument/Thh item mentioned above has been duly :

<input type="checkbox"/>	remis/delivered	<input type="checkbox"/>	Paye/Paid	<input type="checkbox"/>	Inscrit en CCP/Credited giro account
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Date et signature du destinataire
Date and signature of the addressee

Signature de l'agent/Signature of the official

A compléter a destination

To be completed at the place of destination

Krys Kazmierczak
9 Norwich Road - Northwood - Middx - HA6 1ND - England
☎ (Fax) +44 1923 825612
E-mail - 106100.3506@compuserve.com

K.K.
27/12
1996

18 December 1996

Dear Aasheesh,

Just a quick note to say that the *JBNHS 93, 2* and *Hornbill 1996, 3* arrived safely this morning, for which I thank you very much indeed. I hope you will by now have received my reply to your letter of November 23 which I sent on December 8. Nothing else new since then except that I have heard the new field guide to Sri Lanka by Gunter Lamsfuss is out in Germany, though I haven't seen it yet.

All the best

Krys

Ref: Yours of 8-12-96

23 December, 1996

Mr. Krys Kaxmierczak
9 Norwich Road
Northwood
Middlesex HA6 1ND
UNITED KINGDOM

Dear Krys,

I would like to add a few comments / addresses to the list you sent with your above letter.

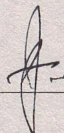
1. **Birdwatcher's Society of A.P.** - the addresses (and phone numbers) of Honorary Secretary and Siraj A. Taher have got inter-changed. Please correct this. Also the latter's phone number is 312607.
2. **Newsletter for Birdwatchers** - It is a bi-monthly (6 issues). I think that Mr. Zafar Futehally's name and address should come here as it's Editor since its inception.
3. **Ornithological Society of India** - I suggest you write to Mr. Futehally and ask his opinion on the status of the OSI and what you propose to write (as you have done in the list you sent me).
4. **WWF-India** - the AP State Office address is - A-22, A-Block, 6-2-1 View Towers, Lakdi-ka-pul, Hyderabad 500004. Phone no. 224398.
5. Would you like to insert **Pavo, The Indian Journal of Ornithology** ? It is a (rather technical) annual journal (now in its 34th volume !), the address being: The Society of Animal Morphologists & Physiologists, c/o Dept. of Zoology, Faculty of Science, M.S. University of Baroda, Baroda 390002.

I suppose you could mention my name and address in the list, though I cannot tell what Mr. Taher thinks. He is away in the US at present and should be back within a month.

At PASOC I attended a session discussing the importance of museum collections of Indian birds (all over the world), in which a part of the discussions were also the new nomenclature and classification of Sibley & Monroe and also the new English names suggested by them. Believe me, the English names were not taken to favourably by any of the Indians (and other sub-continental country participants) at all ! Some scientist die-hards quarrelled about the veracity of the methods of S&M (that abbreviation doesn't look good !). But the statement you've quoted from the *OBC Checklist* is a good and diplomatic gesture of the authors. [Yes I do have a copy !].

It is surprising about the *JBNHS*. I haven't a record of any issues sent earlier, but one I sent a few days ago and am now keeping a copy of a letter with the details of the enclosures, for record. I hope you receive copies of *Sanctuary* in good shape. I get *Birding World* promptly and use it frequently for tid-bits in *Pitta* !

Wish you all the best of health for your work in the New Year. Do however, take time out and re-charge your batteries with some birding !



XXXXXX
3320269

Fax:314064

23rd December 1996

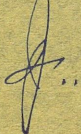
Mr Krys Kazmierczak
C/o 9 Norwich Road
Northwood
Middlesex HA6 1ND
UNITED KINGDOM

Dear Krys,

Enclosed is a copy of **SANCTUARY** Asia Vol.XVI. No.5. 1996.

With best wishes.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be a stylized 'J' or 'K' followed by a period.

Encl: as above.