

While your part of USA is making under drought, India is having excessive rains for a change. Such are the vagaries of nature. Hoping to hear from you soon.

Dear Beth,

I hope you have already received the 2<sup>nd</sup> circular about the Goose workshop in Germany.

I am very glad to tell you that the survey for A. indicus will begin from the middle of September & will culminate in a wetland & crane workshop in Jan. 1989. Though the main focus of the Workshop will be on cranes, a session will be devoted to the geese of the Sub-continent, ~~Morocco~~, as you will see from the program enclosed. I would particularly like to invite you to participate & contribute <sup>to</sup> the session on ~~wetland~~ <sup>wetland</sup> research techniques.

In addition, it would be positively helpful if you can join us in the survey of A. indicus. Please confirm. It would be helpful if you reach India around 10<sup>th</sup> NOV.

I would very much like to invite Dr. Davis of Ohio University for the wetland workshop. Will you please talk to him on my behalf & persuade him to come. Unfortunately I do not have his address. Please send it to me so that I shall write to him. As you know a workshop was mooted during the meeting of the Wetland Management Committee that he addressed in N. Delhi in last June. Please send him the accompanying copy of the programme.

Dear Mr. Austey,

Thank you for your circular letter dated 20.9.88. I shall be glad to examine the section dealing with India about the available information on *Oxyura leucorhynchos*.

In fact I am shortly leaving on a journey through NW & N India to observe Brahmadet geese & shall be in the general area where *O. leucorhynchos* is expected to occur in winter. Any help that your project can provide to carry out some additional field-work is welcome. I can send you a report of my field observations in early January / February 1989.

# Daru Ltd.

ADVISERS FOR ASIA & EASTERN EUROPE

BUSINESS INFORMATION  
FOOD & FOOD PROCESSING  
AGRICULTURE  
NATURE CONSERVATION

drs J A van der Ven  
Daru Ltd  
P O Box 157  
3940 A D Doorn  
The Netherlands

Prakash Gole  
Ecological Society  
1/B Abhimanshree Soc.  
Pune 411 008  
India

To

Date 1-11-97

The Director  
Academy of Sciences  
Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan

Sub.: Conservation of Barheaded Goose (Anser indicus)

Sir,

During the month of June we visited Kyrgyzstan and we had the opportunity together with members of the Academy to visit the breeding sites of Bar-headed geese in Song-kul and the captive-breeding site at Issyk-kul.

The Song-kul area is one of the two known areas where Barheads breed in Kyrgyzstan. (The other is Satur-kul, not visited this time). The latter being more remote, there seems to be little control over human activities and the islands therein also seem to be less suitable for breeding.

Even on Song-kul the breeding sites appear to be limited in number. The geese there breed only on islands. On three small islands ten nests were found out of which two had been abandoned and eight still occupied. The geese had to compete for space on these islands with ducks, Black-headed gulls and Common terns. Severe competition may be the cause for abandoning two nests. Besides the breeding pairs there was a large flock of non-breeding birds numbering more than 50.

Song-kul is a nature reserve so there should not be much difficulty in carrying out the following measures to help the geese:

1. During the breeding season no one should be given access to these islands.
2. It is essential to take care before the breeding starts so that foxes & other predators do not come near the islands.
3. After the breeding season measures may be taken to see that these islands are extended in size and also more islands are created.

HQ DARU  
P.O. BOX 107 OCEANIC HOUSE, GRAND TURK  
TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS

DARU  
P.O. BOX 157 3940 AD DOORN, THE NETHERLANDS  
PHONE/FAX +31 345 532 007 PHONE +31 345 532 646

DARU RUSSIA  
P.O. BOX 27 107005 MOSCOW, RUSSIA  
PHONE/FAX +7.503.232.1426/+7.095.265.8727

LIAISON OFF:  
NLS ASIA PTE. LTD. 12 AMBER GARDENS \* 07-08 SINGAPORE  
PHONE/FAX +65.345.2628

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Scientific guidelines should be prepared for the captive-breeding programme. At present there is a lot of enthusiasm for this but the birds are in constant company of human beings, are likely to be imprinted on them and must have lost all fear of man. This makes it very difficult for them to live as wild birds. They will fall an easy victim for hunters.

They therefore, should not be released on Song-kul but should stay around their breeding location at Issyk-kul. If some "escape" from there, it will be interesting to see what happens. Some may join the wild birds or they may form a non-migrating flock at Issyk-kul.

To increase the captive-bred flock eggs should not be collected from Song-kul nor should these captive birds be released there.

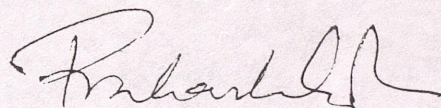
There should be good cooperation between the Academy scientists and those engaged in captive-breeding. As the Academy is recognized as the ringing station for Kyrgyzstan, ringing should be done only by them.

Rare birds such as the Bar-headed goose need special measures of protection and also international cooperation. Kyrgyzstan after signing the Ramsar Convention ( and perhaps nominating both Song-kul and Satur-kul as Ramsar sites ) and becoming a member of Wetlands International (Headquarters Wageningen, Netherlands) should look for international cooperation.

In giving these comments our aim is to help Bar-headed goose and other waterfowl conservation efforts and not to criticize any one. We are always willing to support these and will be in fact looking for broader support.



Joost van der Ven  
Former Asstt. Director  
International Waterfowl  
& Wetlands Research Bureau



Prakash Gole  
Co-ordinator, Research  
on Bar-headed Goose,  
Wetlands International

*Sent in Russian to Kyrgyzstan.  
Copies to Wetlands International - Wageningen  
Kuala Lumpur*