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12 January, 1997

Mr. Humayun Abdulali
3, New Reshma Apartment
13, Pali Hill
Bandra (W)
MUMBAI 400050

Dear Abdulali Sahab

Thank you very much for your thoughtful New Year Gift - a 1997 desk calendar!

Another mystery! This time its a race of *Motacilla alba*!

Today, with 2 other friends, I went birdwatching at Pocharam Lake, Medak Dt., A.P. There were two wagtails of the above species which had a **black back, black cap, white forehead, white sides of head and neck (including the lores region) and a black bib**. I have a sketch (done on the spot) in by field note-book.

The only 2 races (Handbook: vol. 9 p. 288) which have a *black back* are *alboides* and *leucopsis*. The former has *black ear-coverts*, while the latter, *white ear-coverts*. The birds we saw certainly **did not have black ear-coverts**.

Though all this concerns a sub-species of *M. alba*, I think it is interesting. This race, *leucopsis*, is reported from N.E. India, with the western-most record from E. Uttar Pradesh. Also Andaman Islands (*ibid.* p. 294). I have gone through the plumage descriptions of the other sub-species of *M. alba*, but cannot find a solution - to the distribution question. Could it be that this sub-species is more widespread in India, than actually recorded in literature? And which geographical limit is actually 'restricted' by the lack of *enough* specimens in our museum collections?

We also saw a specimen of *M. a. dukhunensis*. Or could it be *baicalensis*? The two being undistinguishable in winter, whereas in summer the former has a black chin! Again, distribution (or rather, a lack of enough specimens) seems to be a stumbling block. The BNHS collection has a specimen of the former from Cumbum Valley, Kurnool Dt. (*JBNHS* 92(3): 354). [I don't think there is a Cumbum in Kurnool Dt., but there is one in Ongole Dt. (or Prakasam Dt., as it is also called!) approx. 15° 6'N 79° 1'E. This information is given on the strength of *All India Directory of Postal Index Numbers*. Dept. of Posts, India, 1992 (fallible!)]. There is another specimen (Female) collected by N. Majumdar, from Birsaipet, Adilabad Dt. 16 Feb 1978. [Majumdar, N. (1984): Records of the ZSI. Miscellaneous Publication Occasional Paper No. 65. *On a collection of birds from Adilabad District, Andhra Pradesh*. ZSI. pps. 1-63.]

At least this species of *Motacilla* has some decorum about plumage! I would not want to differentiate wintering races of *flava*!

With best wishes for the New Year to you and Mrs. Abdulali!

Yours sincerely



12 January, 1997

Page 1

Humayun Abdulali

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3, New Reshma Apartment,
13, Pali Hill, Bandra (W),
Mumbai - 400 050.

*Ali, S B Abdulali, H (1945):

Some recent records of the
Griffon Vulture Gyps fulvus fulvescens (Hume)
in Peninsular India: A Correction
IBMS. 45(2): 236-237.

3 Dec 1997

My dear Ashesh,

While I'd thank you for the wastail inquiry (12th Jan) ^{concern} I'm afraid that I've admitted this group and you will advise that the Calabgar part is by Dr Amin then alone - I bet the coverage will try to see whether she can do anything?

Have you got any results re. the Boga??

And while I'd thank you for the itazma with Nadir's Dictionary, I advise, I think an error in the list of Hyderabad birds - Gyps fulvus All the records from peninsular India should be G. indicus. I think he's said so in my note correcting Salim & my records from Bombay, Hyderabad also Koel's from Kanara. These mistakes have the unfortunate habit of turning up again & again - the only remedy is: "Don't wake them"

And do you have any arrangement whereby you send itazma ^{to those anybody in Bombay who would not have the set & pay I would pay?} I suppose it is necessary that we have a sub. I think you have sent me an odd copy now & then, but not a member and it would be good business to become a life ^{member} now Can you suggest some means whereby we can achieve this now? Your annual subscription is not mentioned anywhere on itazma. Or ^{have} ~~it~~ overlooked it? Please try & solve this

With all good wishes to you both,

Yours sincerely,

Sen. Ashesh Pittai,
8-2-545 Prem Navat,
Road No 7, Banjara Hill,
Hyderabad 500034
India.

अन्तर्वेदीय पत्र कार्ड
INLAND LETTER CARD



Mr Akhesh Patil
8-2-545 Preeti Pawab,
Road No 7,
Banjara Hills,
Hyderabad
500034
India

SENDER'S NAME & ADDRESS

H. Abubakr
13 Pali Hill,
Bandra,
Mumbai,
400050
India



NO ENCLOSURES ALLOWED

Shri. Akhesh Patil

[Faint handwritten text, likely bleed-through from the reverse side of the card]

17, Laxmi Hill, Bandra (W)
New Feature Available
Tel: 022-2606
Apparel: 400 030

6 February, 1997

Mr. Humayun Abdulali
3 New Reshma Apartment
13 Pali Hill, Bandra (W)
MUMBAI 400 050

Dear Abdulali Sahab,

Greetings and thanks for yours of 3rd instant!

The deeper one gets into the study of birds, their complexity (confusion ?!) increases! Wagtails, pipits, larks! Anyway, I hope Dr. Unnithan can throw some 'light' on these birds.

Will write shortly about the Baya.

The record of *Gyps fulvus*, in *Mayura*, included in the list of birds from Andhra Pradesh, besides being a citation of various sources (which notwithstanding), is also based on a sight record by me. I enclose a photocopy of the pertinent page from my field-notes, wherein a spot sketch of the bird was done. Could it be possible that this bird extends the term 'vagile' to its limits? As you will note, just one bird was noted in a flock of 65+, which was grouped together on the ground. I sat in my car, across the road from them, c. 100ft.-125ft. away, and watched with a good pair of binoculars. I saw another bird the next day.

We feel privileged to send a copy of *Mayura* to you and receive your comments. Please do not think of membership of the BSAP, etc., for the copies are "with compliments" of the Society. We send a copy of *Mayura* to the library and the Hon. Secretary of the BNHS, but have not written to the latter for an arrangement to exchange the *Journal* for a copy of *Mayura*. Perhaps we will do something to this effect soon.

With best wishes to you and Mrs. Abdulali,

Yours sincerely



encl: photocopy of field-note.

Humayun Abdulali

3, New Reshma Apartment,
13, Pali Hill, Bandra (W),
Mumbai - 400 050.

Tel. : 648 3006

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28th August '97

Dear Ashresh,

What happened about the Bajos? Or have you got mixed up in ^{some} phawole business? I hope not...

Is the single eyelid common in your area? I find that I'd asked Raja -? some years ago about the colour of the eyelid eyes! But have not recd. any reply - not even an acknowledgement. If it is regularly seen will you pl. let me have the information. As many as possible, and in different months of the year.

Hope that all is well with you and yours...

Sincerely,

Hu

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Shri Ashwath Pithe,
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3 Reshma Apt. 13 Pali Hill,
Bandra, Bombay
400050.



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[Faint, mostly illegible handwritten text on the left side of the envelope, possibly bleed-through from the reverse side.]

Ref: Yours of 28/8/1997

2 September, 1997

Mr Humayun Abdulali
3, New Reshma Apartment
13, Pali Hill
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MUMBAI 400 050

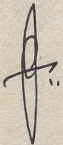
Dear Abdulali Sahab, Greetings !

The Jungle Myna is not found around Hyderabad. I will keep your enquiry in mind and get back to you whenever there is news of the bird from Andhra Pradesh.

The Blackthroated Weaver Birds have bred again this year, in 3-4 colonies. Large flocks of 300-400 birds were also seen, almost all the males sporting the *white face* plumage we saw last year. I am writing a note for the Journal and though it is quite incomplete, I am enclosing it for your perusal. I am waiting for information from some birdwatchers in north India which I hope will throw more light on this rather mysterious issue. I hope they send the info. soon.

With best wishes and regards,

Yours sincerely



Encl: Rough manuscript of Note on Blackthroated Weaver Bird.

Humayun Abdulali

3, New Reshma Apartment,
13, Pali Hill, Bandra (W),
Mumbai - 400 050.

Tel. : 648 3006

4/12/97

27th November '97

Dear ~~Shah~~ Shah,

With little work to do - at least the capacity to work actively - We been turning over old papers and see your note on Pleasures of /subsp. - If the matter has not progressed further I'd now suggest that you publish a short note in Pitra or HSNHS - otherwise it will get lost for another 50/100 years.

And does Lufo (?) Ahmed Aziz exist? Haven't heard from him for ages - Do let us know.

All good wishes,

Sincerely,

Hu

With the closure of all strikes, what are things like? Has ^{wild life} ~~it~~ benefited in any manner? or has the proacher thrived? Ask some strike friend or a local gunsmith - re. sales of ammunition.

अन्तर्देशीय पत्र कार्ड
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Mr. Ashish Pittie,
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SENDER'S NAME & ADDRESS

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Ref: Yours of 27-11-1997

11 December, 1997

Mr Humayun Abdulali
3, New Reshma Apartment
13, Pali Hill
Bandra (W)
MUMBAI 400050

Dear Abdulali Sahab,

We have written a paper on the Blackthroated Weaver Bird *Ploceus benghalensis*, and submitted it for the JOURNAL vide BNHS receipt # 428 dated 4-11-1997.

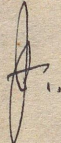
Maj. Ahmed Abdul Aziz is away in Madras (Chennai!) at present. I will convey your message to him no sooner he returns.

Shikar is banned only on paper. It goes by the name of poaching now. Tigers are on the decline everywhere. Wildfowl numbers are largely not monitored, but many reports come in about hunting parties. Wild boar and blackbuck numbers seem to have grown considerably. One villager, assuming we'd come to shoot them, promised to gather a band of beaters in half an hour! He was apparently sick of them destroying his groundnut fields! I will however give you a better account shortly.

Hope you are keeping well, as also Mrs Abdulali.

With best wishes and regards

Yours sincerely



(I hope you do not mind the recycled paper!)

BIRDWATCHER'S SOCIETY OF ANDHRA PRADESH

P.O. Box 45, Banjara Hills Post Office, Hyderabad 500034. India.

1 December, 1997

Dear Birdwatcher,

Greetings!

The Birdwatcher's Society of Andhra Pradesh has entered its 17th year of functioning as an apex NGO, working for the conservation of birds, in Andhra Pradesh. It has been a long and eventful period which has seen the Society

- a) encourage enthusiasts into ^{ing}become proficient in the art of bird identification,
- b) ~~participate~~ participate in various bird- and wildlife-related conservation activities (Asian Waterfowl Census, tiger census, *rookery camps,* etc.), and
- c) publish regularly, the Society's newsletter, MAYURA and bulletin, PITTA.

l.c. This would not have been possible without your encouragement and active involvement. Members are the pillars of strength for Societies like ~~its~~ and their contributions make such Societies ~~pro~~ and achieve their Aims and Objectives. Your vital support has been instrumental in promoting the Society into its present position of national and international recognition as the premier *ornithological* NGO of the State. *l.c.*