Princeton University
Program in Ecology, Evolution and Behavior
Department of Biology
Princeton, New Jersey 08544

Mr. R.J. Ranjit Daniels
Centre for Ecological Sciences
Indian Institute of Science
Bangalore 560 012
INDIA

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Dear Mr. Daniels:

I have just been talking with Prof. Gadgil who is visiting Princeton this week. He has told me there is some possibility you might be able to obtain a fellowship that would allow you to come the the U.S. for a postdoctoral year. At the time you wrote me before, I was not aware of such a possibility.

In the light of these improved prospects, I would like to invite you to join my group at Duke University for the period of your fellowship. I can offer you office space and whatever research facilities that may be available to me. Since I have not yet moved to Duke, I must be a little vague about details, though I am sure you would have access to a personal computer as needed.

My own research, as I know you are aware, is directed toward the ecology of tropical forests. Much of my work is carried out at a small research station in the Manu National Park of Peru. If you were to join me at Duke, you would also be welcome of spend part of the year at the Manu research station. I am normally there between August and November which coincides with the main peak in avian breeding activity.

For quite a few years I have been studying the community ecology of birds at this site. A major objective of this work has been to provide a quantitative record of the distribution and abundance of each species in an undisturbed Amazonian landscape. Two of my current graduate students are now building upon the foundation contained in this record in their own conservation oriented studies of avian community ecology. Our goal is to be able to predict the consequences of various types of habitat modification on avian diversity and community structure. Such an ability could be helpful in guiding future plans for devoping the Peruvian Amazonian region which is now largely covered by primary tropical forest. Given your experience and interest, your work could fit in well with this programme.

I sincerely hope your efforts to obtain a fellowship are successful. I shall be looking forward to hearing more from you in the near future.

Yours sincerely,

John Terborgh