

Date: Fri, 2 Jan 1998 14:58:32 -0500

**Subject: Andrew Robertson**

**Sender: kryz <kryz@compuserve.com>**

To: "INTERNET:aasheesh@hdl.vsnl.net.in" <aasheesh@hdl.vsnl.net.in>

Hi Aasheesh,

The last I heard Andrew had given up on the Western Ghats Newsletter due to lack of enthusiasm on the part of the people who were to edit it etc. That is if I understood him correctly.

He doesn't yet have email though I have been trying to persuade him to get it.

I'll look forward to the JBNHS when it arrives.

All the best

Kryz

Date: Fri, 02 Jan 1998 17:17:28 -0800  
From: Aasheesh Pittie <aasheesh@hdl.vsnl.net.in>  
**To: Krys Kazmierczak <krys@compuserve.com>**  
Subject: Andrew Robertson

Dear Krys, Hi!

Someone wants to know the status of the Western Ghats Newsletter which Andrew was planning some time ago. Any news? D'you think you could enquire from Andrew? Does he have an e-mail address?

You must be wondering about BNHS Journal, etc. Sorry, but I haven't got around to sending them yet. Will do definitely this month.

Best wishes & regards

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Aasheesh Pittie <aasheesh@hdl.vsnl.net.in>  
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Date: Fri, 16 Jan 1998 22:06:52 -0800  
From: Aasheesh Pittie <aasheesh@hd1.vsnl.net.in>  
To: kryes <kryes@compuserve.com>  
Subject: Re: Pitta 81 & Newsletter 37 (5)

kryes wrote:

Hi Aasheesh,

Many thanks for sending the extract from Pitta 81. Who is behind the initials VS (Chennai)? I'll have to go to Guindy again sometime to look for the Ashy Minivet. Paul Holt saw one a few weeks ago in Goa. I guess they are not as scarce as the Handbook would suggest.

I must admit I would have liked the full version of Pitta. I suppose it would be a good idea if I actually became a member of the BSAP. Could you do that for me? I could send you whatever it costs in sterling or dollars, though I might try to set up an Indian Rupee bank account in India one of these days.

This morning I received Newsletter 37 (5) and must confess to feeling a little irritated. I sent my article on Dibru-Saikhowa to the Newsletter in response to a request from Sridhar. I tried to keep the introductory section short as I thought the checklist was of more interest in this particular case and then Futehally decides to leave it out. I was actually even more disappointed that he had omitted most of the checklist of the Palakkad Hills. I think it is a great shame not to include full checklists which give us a more complete picture of the state of the avifauna of a particular area and helps show us which areas are in most need of protection. Publishing a full checklist of the birds of a rubber plantation with its depauperate avifauna I find less worthwhile, though doubtless salutary as Subin G. Nair, the author, himself points out. Part of the idea of having a publication like this is to disseminate information to as many interested parties as possible and not have to send out checklists etc individually. As for the final nonsense item claiming that the cormorants shown in the previous issue of the Newsletter are *Phalacrocorax capillatus*, I was flabbergasted. No wonder Indian ornithology is full of errors if rubbish like that is put in print. Of course the birds are *Phalacrocorax carbo* and the amount of white on the head is within the range of variation found in that species. Maybe you would like to have a word with Futehally. I don't feel I can be diplomatic enough to do it myself.

All the best

Kryes

PS - If you would like a copy of my Dibru-Saikhowa list I'd be happy to email it to you.

Dear Kryes, Hi!

When I received the Newsletter in question, I too got quite irritated and let-down, even though my note was published. The reason was the same as yours. I immediately shot off a letter to Mr Futehally, parts of which I give below.

"I still feel that checklists should be printed in full. I have said this earlier too and am sorry to repeat it. But it is something I feel strongly about. I think that a lot of space is left unused on pages where checklists are printed. Why is there a need for all those spaces? The Newsletter is a large format publication and checklists could easily be printed in 3 columns along with the scientific names (if provided by authors). Published checklists are records which become available to readers of the Newsletter. Don't you think that readers are denied when a part of an article is printed and for the rest of it they are asked to contact the author directly! And the authors are requested to be prepared to send their lists on request?! With a little judicious use of space, the checklists can be printed in the Newsletter. I request you to give this a re-think."

His replay "Regarding the importance of having full checklists, I will certainly attempt to have them included in future by, as you suggest, re-aligning the matter."

I will write him again, stating your point of view.

Do not yet subscribe to Pitta. I have put your e-mail address along with some others into a folder and try to send it to these. Only it is not possible due to some hitch in the system. I have already e-mailed it to you separately. Please let me know whether you've received it.

Try to plan a trip to Hyderabad this time - though I have a suspicion you might take a shot at the Blewitt's!

Best wishes and regards,

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Aasheesh Pittie <aasheesh@hd1.vsnl.net.in>  
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Date: Fri, 16 Jan 1998 21:54:23 -0800

From: Aasheesh Pittie <aasheesh@hdl.vsnl.net.in>

To: **Krys Kazmierczak** <krys@compuserve.com>

**Subject: Pitta 81**

Sending Pitta as attachment. I had done this 2 days ago, along with a whole bunch of other e-mails. Something must have gone wrong, as obviously it has not reached you. VS is V. Santharam.

Best wishes

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Aasheesh Pittie <aasheesh@hdl.vsnl.net.in>  
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Date: Fri, 16 Jan 1998 22:09:54 -0800  
From: Aasheesh Pittie <aasheesh@hdl.vsnl.net.in>  
**To: Krys Kazmierczak <krys@compuserve.com>**  
Subject: : )

Krys,

It just struck me that if you open an Indian rupee account in India, I might use it very frequently by asking you to send me books and paying you here in India! Wow that sounds wonderful!!

Best wishes

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Aasheesh Pittie <aasheesh@hdl.vsnl.net.in>  
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Date: Sat, 17 Jan 1998 08:48:06 -0800  
From: Aasheesh Pittie <aasheesh@hd1.vsnl.net.in>  
**To: Krys Kazmierczak <krys@compuserve.com>**  
**Subject: Dibru-Saikhowa**

Krys, I would love to have a copy of your Dibru-Saikhowa list. Please e-mail it to me.  
Best wishes!

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Aasheesh Pittie <aasheesh@hd1.vsnl.net.in>  
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Date: Sat, 17 Jan 1998 21:27:52 -0800  
From: Aasheesh Pittie <aasheesh@hd1.vsnl.net.in>  
**To: Krys Kazmierczak <krys@compuserve.com>**  
**Subject: Dibru...**

Hi Krys, Thanks for the file!

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Aasheesh Pittie <aasheesh@hd1.vsnl.net.in>  
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Date: Sun, 1 Feb 1998 04:02:44 -0500

Subject: :)

Sender: krys <krys@compuserve.com>

To: "INTERNET.aasheesh@hdl.vsnl.net.in" <aasheesh@hdl.vsnl.net.in>

Hi Aasheesh

*In trying to streamline the BIRDING NOTES column and give as much clarity to contributors, I thought it would be a good idea if we could define "breeding birds" more precisely. I believe that in 'The Atlas of Breeding Birds in Britain and Ireland', this area is divided into 3 parts namely, "possible breeding, probable breeding, and confirmed breeding." This is still a bit vague. But these 3 splits have some 20 clues under each to allow an observer to focus more carefully. Do you think you could lay your hands on these behavioural clues and e-mail them to me? e.g. A bird in the right habitat during breeding time could be "possibly breeding". 2 birds billing & cooing could be "probably breeding". A bird carrying nesting material would be "confirmed breeding".*

I don't have the latest edition but in my 1976 book the codes are as follows:

Possible breeding:

- 1 Species observed in breeding season in possible nesting habitat
- 2 Singing male(s) present (or breeding calls heard) in breeding season

Probable breeding:

- 3 Pair observed in suitable nesting habitat in breeding season
- 4 permanent territory presumed through registration of territorial behaviour (sog etc.) on at least two different days a week or more apart at same place
- 5 Courtship and display
- 6 Visiting probable nest-site
- 7 Agitated behaviour or anxiety calls from adults
- 8 Brood patch on adult examined in the hand
- 9 Nest-building or excavating of nest-hole

Confirmed breeding:

- 10 Distraction-display or injury-feigning
- 11 Used nest or eggshells found (occupied or laid within period of survey)
- 12 Recently fledged young (nidicolous species) or downy young (nidifugous species)
- 13 Adults entering or leaving nest-site in circumstances indicating occupied nest (including high nests or nest-holes, the contents of which cannot be seen) or adult seen incubating
- 14 Adult carrying faecal sac or food for young
- 15 Nest containing eggs
- 16 Nest with young seen or heard

Hope this is of some help

Cheers

Krys

PS - Did you have any thoughts on what I wrote in a previous email?

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I suspect it is not very easy for a foreigner to open a bank account in India. If you would like me to send you some books I'm sure we could come to some arrangement whereby you could return the favour by paying some more subscriptions for me. I suggest we just keep account of moneys paid out on behalf of each other and then square up every now and then. For example, my Newsletter subscription is coming up for renewal soon.

Have you come across a magazine called Environ? I was given a copy of their special Northeast India issue recently and found the quality of the production and photography excellent, although the editing was not as good as in Sanctuary Magazine. I was thinking of subscribing to that too.

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I wasn't suggesting that you mail them for me, too, but I'd have them sent directly.

Date: Sun, 01 Feb 1998 06:09:55 -0800  
From: Aasheesh Pittie <aasheesh@hdl.vsnl.net.in>  
To: Krys Kazmierczak <krys@compuserve.com>  
Subject: :)

Hi Krys!

Thanks a lot for your help with information for the BIRDING NOTES column. These criteria should do amply for some time!

It struck me the other day that you are paying UKP 49 i.e. Rs 3000 for the BIRDING WORLD subscription to me! This is a great deal more than I am spending!

What is the mailing or e-mail address of this new magazine ENVIRON? I'll make enquiries. I will also renew your subscription to the NLBW. Don't bother about it.

I suggested to Vivek Tiwari of the Nat-history India mailing list, to include checklists from India, posted on various other sites on the Internet, into his home page. But I think a better idea would be to post the addresses of such sites directly to the mailing service so that they are immediately available to members and are also retrieveable as the mailing list is archived!

Best wishes & regards

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Aasheesh Pittie <aasheesh@hdl.vsnl.net.in>  
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Date: Tue, 03 Feb 1998 09:36:05 -0800  
From: Aasheesh Pittie <aasheesh@hdl.vsnl.net.in>  
To: Krys Kazmierczak <krys@compuserve.com>  
Subject: :]]

Hi Krys!

Spoke to Sridhar today and confirm will pay NLBW subscription for the coming year.

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Aasheesh Pittie <aasheesh@hdl.vsnl.net.in>  
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Date: Wed, 4 Feb 1998 03:41:23 -0500  
Subject: Ibis  
Sender: kryz <kryz@compuserve.com>  
To: Aasheesh Pittie <aasheesh@hd1.vsnl.net.in>

Hi Aasheesh!

Thanks a lot for the subscription. Will square up with you sometime. The latest issue of Ibis has arrived but there is nothing relevant to the Indian Subcontinent.

Cheers and thanks again

Kryz

Date: Thu, 12 Feb 1998 12:20:48 -0500  
From: krys <krys@compuserve.com>  
Subject: magazines  
To: Aasheesh Pittie <aasheesh@hdl.vsnl.net.in>

Dear Aasheesh

Just a quick big thankyou for sending all the BNHS Journals etc which arrived in three packets this morning. Much appreciated but I won't have time to read them before May.

All the best

Krys

Date: Sat, 14 Feb 1998 07:16:36 -0500  
From: kryz <kryz@compuserve.com>  
Subject: absence

To: Per Alstrom <per.alstrom@liszt.zool.gu.se>,  
"Ramana M. Athreya" <athreya@iap.fr>,  
Phil Benstead <philip.benstead@rspb.org.uk>,  
Geoff Carey <gjc@netvigator.com>,  
Eskil Dabringhausen-Nils <eskil.dabringhausen@isis.se>,  
Edward Dickinson <E@asiaorn.ftech.co.uk>,  
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Bikram Grewal <biks@giasdl01.vsnl.net.in>,  
John Hewitt <John.Hewitt@colorado.edu>,  
Carol & Tim Inskipp <tc.inskipp@which.net>,  
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Jamie McMillan <travelnat@lds.co.uk>,  
Otto Pfister <delhisdc@giasdl01.vsnl.net.in>,  
Otto Pfister <O.Pfister@biosci.hull.ac.uk>,  
Aasheesh Pittie <aasheesh@hdl.vsnl.net.in>,  
"J.N. Prasad" <avian@giasbg.vsnl.net.in>,  
Pam Rasmussen <rasmussen.pamela@nsmnh.si.edu>,  
Pam Rasmussen <MNHVZ102@SIVM.SI.EDU>,  
Geoff Sample <geoff@gsam.demon.co.uk>,  
Kumaran Sathasivam <Kumaran@kis.ernet.in>,  
Armin Schultz <Armin.Schultz@t-online.de>,  
Pratap Singh <wii@giasdl01.vsnl.net.in>,  
"S. Subramanya" <subbu@birdlife.org.uk>,  
Richard Thomas <THOMASR@rsc.org>,  
Vivek Tiwari <vtiwari@scdt.intel.com>

Hi Folks

Just to let you know that I'll be away in Northeast India and will not be able to answer any emails until May.

Best Wishes

Kryz

~~~~~  
Kryz Kazmierczak  
9 Norwich Road  
Northwood  
Middx  
HA6 1ND  
England

Tel: 01923-825612  
email: kryz@compuserve.com  
~~~~~

Date: Tue, 28 Apr 1998 06:25:51 -0400  
From: kryz <kryz@compuserve.com>  
Subject: Pitta # 85  
To: "INTERNET:aasheesh@hd1.vsnl.net.in" <aasheesh@hd1.vsnl.net.in>

Hi Aasheesh

I just got back from India nad Bhutan yesterday evening and have started working through my mail and email. Many thanks for Pitta 84 but I can't say the same about Pitta 85! I opened the file in Word and immediately lost the cursor, so that the whole system locked and I had to restart the computer 2E I then tried checking the file with Dr. Solomon's anti-virus program which reported all clear. On opening the file again, however, I had the same problem again. I hope it's not a virus. I have now deleted the file. You might want to check yours and send it to me again if it is okay.

I hope things are okay otherwise.

My trip was excellent. More details in due course.

All the best.

Kryz

Date: Wed, 29 Apr 1998 09:36:59 -0400  
From: kryz <kryz@compuserve.com>  
Subject: Pitta 85  
To: Aasheesh Pittie <aasheesh@hd1.vsnl.net.in>

Hi Aasheesh

Thanks for sending Pitta 85 again. Regrettably, exactly the same problem occurs. I can open the file okay but once in it everything hangs and I have to use Control+Alt+Delete to get out of it.

Here's something I got from my cousin which is perhaps not inappropriate in the circumstances.

- > At a recent computer expo (COMDEX), Bill Gates> reportedly compared the computer industry with the
- > auto industry and stated "If GM had kept up with> technology like the computer industry has, we would
- > all be driving twenty-five dollar cars that got 1000> mi./gal."
  
- > Recently General Motors addressed this comment by> releasing the statement: "Yes, but would you want your> car
- > to crash twice a day?"> And...
- > 1. Every time they repainted the lines on the road> you would have to buy a new car.
- > 2. Occasionally your car would die on the freeway for> no reason, and you would just accept this, restart and> drive on.
- > 3. Occasionally, executing a maneuver would cause your> car to stop and fail and you would have to re-install> the engine.
- > 4. You could only have one person in the car at a> time, unless you bought "Car95" or "CarNT". But, then> you would have to buy more seats.
- > 5. Macintosh would make a car that was powered by the> sun, was reliable, five times as fast, twice as easy> to drive, but would only run on five percent of the> roads.
- > 6. The Macintosh car owners would get expensive> Microsoft upgrades to their cars, which would make
- > their cars run much slower.
- > 7. The oil, gas and alternator warning lights would be> replaced by a single "general car default" warning
- > light.
- > 8. New seats would force everyone to have the same> size butt.
- > 10. The airbag system would say "are you sure?"> before going off.
- > 11. If you were involved in a crash, you would have no> idea what happened.

My trip to eastern Assam, Arunachal, Mizoram and Bhutan went pretty well and I ended up seeing about 40 new species, which is pretty good going for me these days. Highlights in Arunachal included Beautiful Nuthatch, Collared Treepie and Blue-naped Pitta.

Got very poor, untickable views of Blue-fronted Robin in Bhutan but this was made up for by a lot of other good stuff including superb close up views of both male and female Ward's Trogon, ditto Blyth's Kingfisher, not to mention Asian Emerald Cuckoo, Slender-billed Oriole, Russet Bush Warbler, Rufous-throated Wren Babbler, Brown, Great and oatesi Lesser Rufous-headed Parrotbills among others.

Mizoram was pretty hard work with a lot of time wasted on logistics. The rough roads didn't help my back which i had hurt in an accident at Namdapha but I seem to be basically okay now with just the odd twinge around the ribs and some nerve pains at the back of my neck/shoulder. Superb but slow birding in the Blue Mtns . Spent an hour-and-a-half watching Purple Cochoa and saw another a couple of days later at the same place where I spent nearly two hours trying to get a look at a calling Green Cochoa. Unfortunately, we were on our way back and Harkirat and our local guide finally dragged me away, on the grounds that we still had a ways to trek.

They both had had good views while I was trying to trawl it out with the tape. Close-ups of Long-tailed Wren Babbler, Striped Laughingthrush and Bamboo Mtn Partridge were nice and there were a couple of mystery birds too. Not that I'm usually one to dwell on those but views were good enough to be intriguing. Blyth's Tragopan weren't yet vocal but heard one calling way down below the cliffs on the last morning. Managed also to confirm the presence of Dark-rumped Swift in Mizoram. We saw a few in Bhutan, too.

All the best

Kryz

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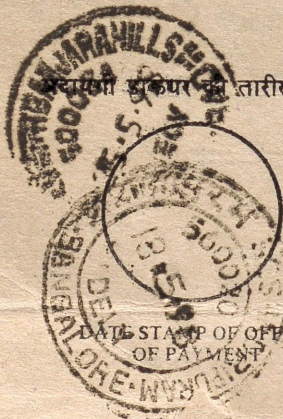
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