

Ashvish Pittie

8-2-545 "Prem Parvat", Road No.7, Banjara Hills, Hyderabad - 500 034, India.
Phone: Off:040-591991 Res: 040-315683

2 January, 1995

Ms. Asha Chandola-Saklani
Secretary General
Ornithological Society of India
Box 45, Srinagar
GARHWAL
UTTAR PRADESH - 246 174

Dear Secretary General,

I have received your letter's and enclosures therein.

I write primarily to say that I am finding less and less time for birding activities and would like to reserve the little leisure I have, for what was started by us in Hyderabad, over a decade ago. The Birdwatcher's Society of Andhra Pradesh. Unfortunately this Society suffers if some of us founder members do not take keen interest in it's activities.

I also have other commitments which demand and consume my time. I will not be able to do any justice whatsoever, if I continue as OSI's regional representative in Andhra Pradesh, and would not like to be that without working for OSI.

I feel sorry that I am letting down Mr. Futehally, who had proposed me as the RR for AP. I had accepted whole-heartedly at that point of time, without giving due thought to increased involvement with business, family, etc. But I am writing to him separately about this.

I hope you find someone who will work for OSI in AP, soon, and so prevent any lapse in its working, now that you are getting to go in earnest.

With all best wishes and a Happy New Year!

Yours sincerely,

Ashvish Pittie

Zafar Futehally

2205, Oakwood, 8th Main,
3rd Block, Koramangala,
BANGALORE - 560 034

Tele.No: 5533684

14th February 1995

Mrs. Asha Chandola Seklani,
Secretary General, O.S.I.,
P.C. Box 45,
Gharwal University,
SRINAGAR - 246 174
U. P.

My dear Asha,

I have just returned from Coimbatore, where SACON organised a meeting for the production of RED DATA Books on India.

Since many Regional Representatives of OSI and other well wishers of the organisation were present, we took the opportunity to discuss the future of the OSI. Those present included Asad Rehmani, Prakash Gole, V.S. Vijayan, S.A. Hussain, Aasheesh Pittie, Lavkumar Khacher, S. Sridhar, Rishad Naoroji, Ranjit Daniels, Abdul Jamil Urfi, S. Subramanya, and several others.

Everyone felt that your decision to keep the H.Q.s. in Garhwal has made communication/interaction very difficult. They are also disappointed that as the Founder of the organisation you have not given the Regional Chapters any concrete guidelines about what they should be doing. There is also a feeling that the Ex-Committee of the OSI is more interested in laboratory work than in conservation in the field.

Be that as it may, there is a proposal to establish an Ornithological Council, which among other things, would produce a scientific journal on ornithology. As most of the Regional Secretaries of OSI would be involved in the Council, I am afraid they cannot be expected to do much for the OSI.

My views are well known to you. I tried to persuade the group to make use of the existing structure of OSI to undertake whatever they had in mind - but I was overruled. A further embarrassment for me is that they propose to nominate me as their President - a move I do not welcome.

Since you nominated me President of OSI, I thought I might make my position clear to you, so that you do not have the mistaken impression that I have been disloyal to you or the OSI. We will have to do some re-thinking about the structure of our organisation and our policies, and I will write to you again after I am in a position to suggest a specific role for OSI.

Yours sincerely,

B. K. Rosario
B. Zafar Futehally

Zafar Futehally

2205, Oakwood, 8th Main,
3rd Block, Koramangala,
BANGALORE - 560 034

Tele.No: 5533684

14th February 1995

8/19/2
7/95

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Secretary General, O.S.I.,
P.O. Box 45,
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Yours sincerely,

B. K. Sarin
for Zafar Futehally

c.c. Mr. Aasheesh Pittie ✓

Letter to Asha Chandola Seklani, Secy. General, OSI. dated 14.2.95.

Copies sent to:

1. Mr. Asad Rahmani, Centre of Wildlife & Ornithology, Aligarh Muslim University, Aligarh - 202 002.
2. Mr. Prakash Gole, Ecological Society, 1B Abhimanshree Society, Pashan Road, Pune - 411 008.
3. Mr. V.S. Vijayan, Director, Salim Ali Centre for Ornithology & Natural History, Kalampalayam P.O., Coimbatore - 641 010.
4. Mr. S.A. Hussain, Vice Chairman, Asian Continental Sect. ICEP ANE, University of Malaya, Limbah Pantai, 59100 Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.
5. Mr. Aasheesh Pittie, 8-2-545, "Prem Parvat", Road No.7, Banjara Hills, Hyderabad - 500 034.
6. Mr. Lavkumar Khacher, 646 Vastunirman, Gandhinagar - 382 022.
7. Mr. S, Sridhar, C/o Navbharath Enterprises, Seshadripuram, Bangalore - 560 020.
8. Mr. Rishad Naoroji, Godrej Bhawan, Home Street, Bombay - 400 001.
9. Mr. Ranjit Daniels, C/o Madras Snake Park, Guindy, Madras - 603 104.
10. Mr. Abdul Jamil Urfi, A/270 Jamia Nagar, Okhla, Delhi - 110 025.
11. Mr. S. Subramanya, HPHT Scheme, 'J' Block, GKVK, University of Agricultural Sciences, Bangalore - 560 065.

* * * * *

22/3
95

Ornithological Society of India

OSI Liaison Office,
No. 10, "Vishnu Chittam",
Sirur Park 'B' Street,
Seshadripuram,
BANGALORE-560 020



President
Zafar Futehally

Secretary General
Asha Chandola Saklani

Regional Secretary
Abraham Verghese

Seminar Executive Committees

Executive Committee Chairman
A N Yellappa Reddy

Reception Committee Chairman
K A Bhoja Shetty

Programme Committee Chairman
Joseph George

Souvenir Committee Chairman
M G Muthanna

Exhibition Committee Chairmen
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VS Ramachandran

**Catering, Transport and
Accommodation Committee Chairman**
DS Ravindran

Press & Publicity Committee Chairmen
Zafar Futehally
A N Yellappa Reddy

**Mid Seminar Field Trip Committee
Chairman**
Abraham Verghese

Seminar Liaison Office
No. 10 'Vishnu Chittam'
Sirur Park 'B' Street, Seshadripuram
Bangalore 560 020
Phone : 080-364142 or 080-364682
Fax : 080-563953 or 080-332634

Date : 16.08.95

Dr.R.J. Ranjit Daniels,
M.S. Swaminathan Research Foundation,
3rd Cross, Taramani Institution Area,
MADRAS - 600 113.

Dear Sir,

Sub : Discussion on OSI, etc at SACON meeting in
Coimbatore-Reg.

This has reference to your complaint at Coimbatore
that you were not aware of the OSI Seminar being
conducted at Bangalore (12-14 November, 1993) and
that you were not invited to the Seminar.

We have personally verified the records and noticed
that your name and address, was included as the
Regional Secretary not only in the first
announcement published in the Newsletter for
Birdwatchers (Vol.33-No. 1&2, Jan-Feb'93 issue) and
also in the second announcement and call for papers
booklet that was distributed in May 1993 to all
the Regional Secretaries and Subscribers of
Newsletter. Twenty Five copies each of the second
announcement and call for papers Booklets were also
mailed to you and other Regional Secretaries by
Registered Post for local distribution. This is
for your kind information.

Thanking you,

Yours faithfully,

SEMINAR LIASON OFFICER.

Encl : Xerox copy of Registration Certificate.

xerox copy of First Announcement (Vol.33, No.1
January - February 1993 (NLBW)

Copy to : Mr. Asheesh Pittie

बीमा नहीं NOT INSURED

क्रमांक No.

2076

बताये गये डाक टिकटों का मूल्य रु० 13 प०

Amount of Stamps affixed Rs. 13 P.

एक रजिस्ट्री RSP प्राप्त किया

Received a Registered

तारीख महीना
Date Stamp

पानेवाले का नाम

Addressed to

पानेवाले अधिकारी के हस्ताक्षर
Signature of Receiving Officer

बीमा नहीं NOT INSURED

क्रमांक No.

2077

बताये गये डाक टिकटों का मूल्य रु० 14 प०

Amount of Stamps affixed Rs. 14 P.

एक रजिस्ट्री RSP प्राप्त किया

Received a Registered

तारीख महीना
Date Stamp

पानेवाले का नाम

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2078

बताये गये डाक टिकटों का मूल्य रु० 13 प०

Amount of Stamps affixed Rs. 13 P.

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Received a Registered

तारीख महीना
Date Stamp

पानेवाले का नाम

Addressed to

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Signature of Receiving Officer

बीमा नहीं NOT INSURED

क्रमांक No.

2079

बताये गये डाक टिकटों का मूल्य रु० 13 प०

Amount of Stamps affixed Rs. 13 P.

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Received a Registered

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Date Stamp

पानेवाले का नाम

Addressed to

पानेवाले अधिकारी के हस्ताक्षर
Signature of Receiving Officer

बीमा नहीं NOT INSURED

क्रमांक No.

2080

बताये गये डाक टिकटों का मूल्य रु० 14 प०

Amount of Stamps affixed Rs. 14 P.

एक रजिस्ट्री RSP प्राप्त किया

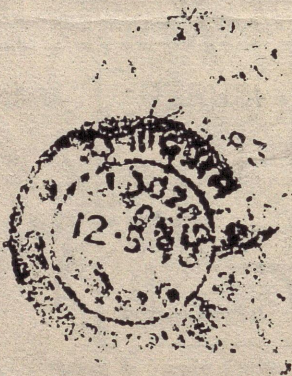
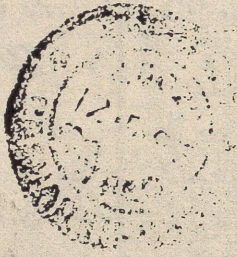
Received a Registered

तारीख महीना
Date Stamp

पानेवाले का नाम

Addressed to

पानेवाले अधिकारी के हस्ताक्षर
Signature of Receiving Officer



Vol. 33

No. 1

January - February 1993 (CILBW)

ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF INDIA

President

Zafar Futehally
No. 2205, Oakwood Apartments
Jakkasandra Layout, Koramangala 3rd Block
8th Main, Bangalore 560 034
Phone : 533 684

Secretary General

Asha Chandola Saklani
P. Box 45, Gharwal University
Srinagar, U.P. 246 174

Regional Secretaries

Aasheesh Pittie
14-7-370, Begum Bazar,
Hyderabad 500012

Abdul Jamil Urfi
A/270, Jamia Nagar, Okhla,
Delhi 110025

Abraham Verghese
139, 2nd Main, Domlur 2nd Stage
Bangalore - 560 071

M K Himmat Sinji
Jubilee Ground, Bhuj, Kutch,
Gujarat 370001

Lavkumar Khachar
646, Vastunirman, Gandhinagar,
Gujarat 382 022

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Ecological Society, 1B,
Abhimanshree Housing Society,
Off. Pashan Road,
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R J Ranjit Daniels
Madras Crocodile Bank,
Perur P.O.,
Mahablipuram Road,
Madras - 603 104

Rishad Naoroji
Godrej Bhavan,
4A Home Street,
Fort
Bombay 400001

National Seminar on
**'CHANGING SCENARIO OF BIRD ECOLOGY AND
CONSERVATION IN INDIA'**
November 13 & 14, 1993 Bangalore

First Announcement

It is proposed to hold a National Seminar on **Changing Scenario of Bird Ecology and Conservation in India** in Bangalore on 13th & 14th November 1993. The venue will be announced later.

The Seminar is intended to give a momentum to the growing interest in ornithology in the country and to provide an opportunity to serious birdwatchers to exchange ideas and be encouraged by contact with like minded people.

The Second Announcement of this Seminar will be made in the April/May issue of Newsletter for Birdwatchers after getting a response from the Regional Secretaries of OSI about topics and participants. Please take the trouble to write to the nearest regional secretary, along with a copy to the Secretary General and offer your suggestions for the Seminar.

ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF INDIA,
Box 45, Srinagar Garhwal, UP 246 174

127/3
195

From the desk of the Secy-General: Asha Chandola-Saklani
Tel. 01388-2407(O), 2215(R), Fax 01388-2407

21 March 1995

Dear Zafar,

Thank you very much for your letter of 14 February. I am sorry I did not respond immediately because it has taken sometime for your letter to register. And when it did register I did not feel like writing. OSI was established with the chief aim of bringing together ornithologists from different walks - not to break them apart. We had barely begun and there crops up all this talk of divisiveness which is totally alien to my way of thinking and my experiences in life so far. Life is too short, Zafar, I'd rather concentrate on the present than being bothered too much about the thoughts of future.

And now to answer the charges one by one and then to take up other points raised by you :

1. I really do not know what to make of all this talk about my keeping the H Qrs in Garhwal. Garhwal is merely the Secretariat - from where you do the paper work. I continue to call the fountainhead at Bangalore the Liaison Office ever since it was conceived at the time of the Seminar. The society is registered with its office at Garhwal - even if in that sense it can be called the H Qrs I don't quite see why we are so hit up about it especially as OSI was envisaged as a loose flexible structure with real action in the regions.

As for communication / interaction with me in Garhwal being difficult, I am surprised. I have been in constant touch through letters and / or phone with the RRs and most have responded, often with warmth, giving frank ideas and constructive suggestions (with the exception of Ranjit Daniels whose address changed twice, and Subramanya who, I came to know only very recently, was back from his sojourn abroad) .

As for communication with Garhwal - pardon me if it sounds like showing off but sitting in this wilderness we have successfully convened symposia and Round-tables on birds in Toronto, Edinburgh and Vienna not to speak of two international symposia right here in the heart of this wilderness - and all this when there was no STD and ISD. Now with the fax machines (and very shortly e-mail) life is much easier. So I suspect it is the will to communicate rather than the means of communication which is at fault !

2. As for the disappointment that as a "Founder of the Organisation" (I do not like this title) I have not given concrete guidelines to RRs- as I mentioned in the letter you asked me to write some 3-4 months back about the aspirations and working of the OSI (which unfortunately never appeared in the NLBW) central to the functioning of OSI is a networking through RRs who are completely independent and are expected to establish their own working group (WG), and decide upon the course of action on their own and network with other NGOs where these may be active. Anyway it always helps if someone puts some ideas on paper and, therefore, I sent a long choice of possible tasks that could be undertaken by RRs according to the conditions existing in their respective areas which would vary from place to place. And I am quite encouraged with the warm response I have got from them (including some of those present at this meeting you refer to). In fact an office of OSI has also been opened by one of the RRs. And many have promised to send the desired information on the active ornithologists in their area for the proposed "Directory of Indian Ornithologists" being compiled at the Secretariat - a forerunner of a more detailed version to appear later with short biographical sketches (see the letter for the newsletter dtd 1st week Dec and copy of my letter to RRs - dtd 14 December). Right now I thought we were in the process of methodically evolving ideas / programs / activities through feedback.

But I must say I am very sorry if I fall short of expectations. Personally speaking I am quite pleased with the ground we have covered in the short span of 3 - 3 1/2 years. It does fill in a long-felt void. As envisaged in its objectives, OSI has provided a forum for people interested in every aspect of ornithology. Its members range from scientists, conservationists, naturalists, managers, to general public - it is for the lack of this kind of interaction that most wildlife management plans in the country have suffered. Most important, OSI is attracting youngsters - whose interest in birds and in nature through birds - augers well for the future. It is in the process of preparing an inventory of Indian ornithologists. It has already established through the two symposia (a bi-annual feature) a good platform for exchange of ideas between ornithologists within India & abroad. To me the interaction, the knowledge & interest and above all the good feelings generated among ornithologists through these symposia and the response of people from different parts of the country to the OSI is no small achievement. You cannot expect of a body to become a watchdog overnight.

3. As for the feeling that Exec. committee is more interested in lab work than in conservation in the field - it is totally incomprehensible. **We are in OSI basically to promote interest in birds.** And we can achieve it much better if our voices are together no matter where we are sitting - in the mountains, on the coast, in the offices, in the laboratories or in the field. If there are lab scientists on the committee - so what. I am a hard boiled scientist myself - boiled to the core in the past 25 years - but that does not prevent me from sitting on the banks of Alaknanda enjoying under the blue sky for hours the frolics of *Plombes* redstart flitting from boulder to boulder. Or from admiring the elegant black of the white collared thrushes in a thick maple forest feeding in patches illuminated by the declining sun. Or designing ways to enhance the population of pheasants in the wild. That notwithstanding, we can not ignore the contributions of the so-called lab scientists to ornithology - in the past 20 years as many as 4 Fellows have been elected (for their work on birds) to the Academy - the greatest honour that a country can bestow on its academia and two Fellows to the American Ornithologists Union. I don't see why we should object to their presence on the executive or as RRs. It is another matter that privately we may express our concern at the possibility of "being pickled by these serious looking guys in bottles" (the process has gone much farther in these days of hi-tech science - they bleed you and hybridise your genes at high temperatures and run them through all sorts of columns to find out the generations of breeding that have gone into making what you are today! Ha Ha!). But that adds spice to the interaction! And watch out, there may be some of us who mourn the supreme sacrifice of poor *Gallus gallus* (along with its ancestors distributed all over the peninsular and continental India) which, so meticulously anointed and soaked for hours in a bath of chilly garlic ginger coriander and curd, roasted over slow ~ fire, reaches the lavish table only to find it surrounded by ornithologists - all ready to gobble it up! Jokes apart, I believe in diversity for that is the essence of evolution - evolution of life, evolution of ideas, evolution of our personalities, through interaction with diversity we get better insight into our own selves (Isn't that what Lord Krishna was saying to Arjun?!). A homogenous Interaction would not only be so terribly boring but would lead to death of ideas through inbreeding. We talk of conserving biodiversity which is a global concern today and we raise eyebrows over a little diversity amongst ourselves!

And now about the proposal to establish an Ornithological Council. What is there in a name? But everybody is free to form whatever they want. And why not? As for OSI *vis-a-vis* this body, Objective 5 of OSI is "to strengthen the hands of other organisations working for birds and nature". So no problem there. We are already networking with other organisations. For an example, Dinesh Kumar Sharma (Treasurer & RR for Garhwal & Kumaon) is monitoring for the OSI the WWF Protected Area Network Program in Kedarnath Sanctuary, Garhwal Himalaya.

As for the scientific journal by this body - I admit there is a desperate need for it. This was discussed at Srinagar meeting and again in one of the informal meetings you had organised at Bangalore Club. As I pointed out then the problem is it is very easy to start a journal but to keep it alive and maintain the good standard a very very difficult task. It will require a lot of time and full

commitment of those who serve as editors and will need a strong editorial board with **critical refereeship** which is central to a scientific journal. That is why I had suggested that we promote the existing journals like PAVO or JBNHS and concentrate our efforts in making atleast one of them real impact journals of international standard. It would take a lot less in terms of time, energy and money if we strengthen what already exists rather than venturing afresh. But perhaps there are people who can venture into a new journal. And why not. Good luck !

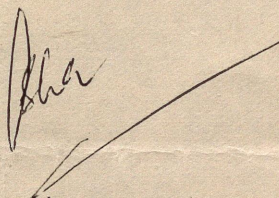
As for the RRs not being expected to do much for the OSI because of their involvement with this body - if the RRs who were present there **really** feel so I understand their difficulty and can only hope that in spirit atleast they will cooperate and respond to the calls of OSI when given once in a blue moon. Many of them did not know me in the first place and I am grateful that they bore with me so long. But I'd appreciate if they drop me a line to the effect so that I may not thoughtlessly intrude upon their time.

OSI, however, will continue. There are folks who have faith in and expectations of OSI. Furthermore, thanks to the flyer in the BWNL (though it took two yrs to appear !) we have had a great response and people, wonderful people, are ever so willing. A region-wise list will be sent to RRs on hearing from them. The most delightful member is a class five student who wants me to send her pictures and magazines! There is even a student who has opted to be a life member! I am seriously thinking of creating a special cell for these youngsters in our OSI and am even thinking of organising a special birding trek for them in the mountains here this summer. But I need a clear happy state of mind for all that - For heaven's sake, please lets act rather than sit and gossip. It deviates folks from what they are doing.

One final word. Not meaning to be disrespectful, and despite our chagrin for technicalities in the light of the present development it must be said, only a very few of those present at the meeting you refer to have actually become valid members of OSI despite my calls to the effect time and again. Therefore, technically speaking the views aired at this meeting you refer to need not necessarily be the views of the core of the OSI. The notice for a formal meeting of the executive members and the RRs scheduled for November 95 had been sent to all (except Ranjeet and Subramanya) several months back. All that needs to be discussed and decided about OSI shall be discussed then. I shall send firm dates, venue and an agenda much in advance and those who can not participate personally can write their views which will be tabled.

I don't see the sudden need to rethink about our policies. Restructuring, yes, that in any case has to happen every four years, but we do have well conceptualised ideas & clearly defined objectives. OSI does not have the pretensions of being a great institution. It is a purely voluntary NGO which gives a sense of belonging to bird-folks from all walks of life. Let it grow slowly and steadily.

With warm and very fond regards,



I am sending copies of this letter to all the RRs mentioned by you. I notice you have sent copies of your letter to me to S. A. Hussain and V.S. Vijayan also. I shall do the same with mine. I am thinking how very right dear Husain Saheb was while sharing with me some pearls of his wisdom gained in the far-east, when we flew back together from Vienna. Vijayan I hope to see on 6 April in a meeting in Delhi.

P.S.
Mr. P. P. P.
I shall write to you shortly.
Regards
Ranjit

ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF INDIA

O S I

FIRST NOTICE

Biannual Conference

THE ENVIRONMENT & BIRDS

Delhi, 14 - 16 November, 1995

OSI Secretariat

Box 45, Srinagar, Garhwal, UP 246 174
Ph 01388-2407,2058,2215 Fax 01388-2407

OSI Liaison Office

10 Sirur Park, Seshadripuram, Bangalore
Phone 364142,364682 Fax 563953,332634

The biannual conference of OSI shall be held in Delhi from 14 -16 November 1995. We have the pleasure to invite you to participate in this conference which provides a unique forum for ornithologists working in all fields. The theme of the conference will be Environment & Birds highlighting the contribution of birds to science and society. Topics shall address the following questions :

1. How the environment influences various aspects of birdlife (avian habitats, distribution & abundance, avian ecology, physiology, behavior and breeding)
2. How the birds influence their environment (agriculture, pests, scavengers, birdstrikes,etc)
3. What can be done to promote interest in and protect birdlife (conservation and management) and to maximise avian contribution to our lives (economic ornithology and aesthetics)

Presentations will constitute invited state-of-art lectures on selected topics followed by short communications in the form of oral and poster presentations, and, round tables. A special session organised and conducted by school / college students is also envisaged.

Registration fees:

OSI members Rs 200 (includes free accommodation for 3 nights, 2 lunches, 2 dinners, Tea/coffee between sessions and conference material)

OSI Student-members Rs 150 (same as above)

Non-members Rs 300 (conference material, Tea/coffee between sessions)

Local members Rs 100 (conference material, Tea/coffee between sessions)

Zafar Futehally
President OSI

Asha Chandola-Saklani
Secretary-General OSI

Preliminary Application for Registration (Please send to the Secretariat)

Name (Block letters).....

Address (Block letters).....

Phone

Fax

I will present a state-of-the-art paper/ short paper on : avian habitats / ecology / physiology / behavior/ breeding/ evolution/ endangered species / management/ conservation in scientific session/ general session

I will organise a general / scientific session on.....

.....with
> 5 / > 10 speakers.

I will organise a Round Table on.....

I will participate in discussion only.....

I will exhibit.....

The organisers of specific sessions and round tables are requested to submit to the Secretariat the list of prospective speakers with titles and a short introduction of the theme.

Deadlines :

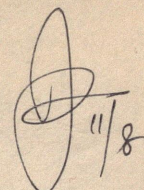
Preliminary registration	15 May 1995
Registration	15 June 1995
Extended Abstract	15 June 1995
Proposal for organising Session or Round table	15 June 1995

ENVIRONMENT AND BIRDS

14-16 November 1995, Delhi

Biannual Conference of the Ornithological Society of India

Secretariat: Box 45, Srinagar Garhwal UP 246174; Liaison Office: 10 Sirur Park, Seshadripuram, Bangalore 560020

 11/8

President
Zafar Futehally

2205 Oakwood, 8th Main,
3rd Block, Koramangala,
BANGALORE - 560 034

Tel: 5533684

7th August 1995

Mrs. Asha Chandola Saklani,
Secretary General,
Ornithological Society of India,
P. Box 45,
Garhwal University,
SRINAGAR - 246 174
U.P.

My dear Asha,

I was very sorry to have learnt from your letter of 27th July, that your mother has a serious ailment. I hope the operation will be successful and that she will recover soon.

Thank you for sending me the letterheads, I will now get going on the November meeting. As I told you in my earlier letter, Laeeq and I intend to come to Delhi on 13th November, and my daughter has already fixed our accommodation in the India International Centre.

I will make some attempts to collect funds from individuals and industrialists, but this may not amount to very much. I intend to ask BPL, Bharat Electronics, Bharuka Steel, Godrej and a few other friends. I will keep you informed, but don't expect too much.

I agree that its a good idea to hold the meeting in Pusa where the conference and accommodation facilities are available at minimum cost. We could have asked WWF to provide us with the facilities but Lodi Road is an expensive place and accommodation in the hotels nearby would also be very expensive. So I hope that everything has been arranged at Pusa.

Regarding inviting people for the Inaugural, I suggest that you do this rather than me, otherwise there may be confusion. Would you like to ask Dr. Zahoor Qasim of the Planning Commission, to speak on the role of Government in the promotion of ornithology? Alternatively, he could speak on protecting our oceanic birds. Qasim was for many years the head of the Oceanic Research Institute ? and also led the first expedition to Antarctica. He was for some time the Secretary of the National Committee for Environmental Planning & Coordination. Qasim has agreed to be President of the Asian Ornithological Meeting proposed to be held in India in the 4th quarter of 1996.

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The other person you could invite is Dr. Kishore Rao who is in the Ministry of Environment, and acts as a coordinator for some of the IUCN Committees like SSC and CNPPA.

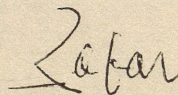
Would you like to ask Samar Singh of WWF to provide a speaker on any topic that he wishes.

Regarding publicity, I will of course include a note about this meeting in the July/August and September/October Newsletters. Aside from that I don't think I can do very much.

I am copying this letter to the Regional Secretaries and some others for information.

All good wishes.

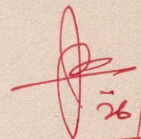
Yours sincerely,



Zafar Futehally

c.c. Aasheesh Pillie ✓

DEPARTMENT OF ZOOLOGY, H N B GARHWAL UNIVERSITY
BOX 45, SRINAGAR GARHWAL, UP 246 174


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Asha Chandola-Saklani
Professor & Head of the Department. Co-ordinator, SAP (DRS) -UGC
Box 45; Phone 01388 - 2058 (O), 2215(R) Fax 01388 - 2407

16 December, 1995.

Sri. Aaheesh Pittie
8-2-545, "Prem Parvat"
Road No. 7, Banjara Hills
Hyderabad
Andhra Pradesh-500 034.

Dear Sri. Pittie,

This has reference to the discussions held at Delhi during the conference last month regarding the invitation bid to International Ornithological Committee. Since then I also talked to Director BNHS, SACON and several other people who were not present.

As you may know, International Ornithological Committee (IOC) is the oldest International scientific body. It holds every 4 years the International Ornithological Congress. For some years now I have been holding discussions within the IOC to bring this prestigious congress to India - the first ever in Asia. I have been asked by the executive council of the IOC to prepare an invitation for the XXIII International Ornithological Congress to be held in the year 2002 and to identify resource persons to help develop this invitation who will also take various responsibilities for the event later. This was discussed at the Delhi conference also last week. The preparation, first for the bid and then for the event, must be a collective effort on the part of the Indian Ornithologists. The bid invitation should go from several Universities, Institutions, The Science Academies, BNHS, SACON, WWF and other NGOs.

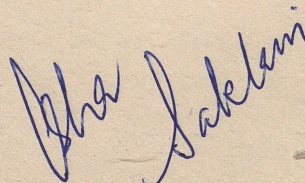
We have a good majority of ornithologists in the country who have made a mark nationally and internationally, working in various universities, institutions and NGOs or free lance. The first step in this direction would be the formation of committees - National and Local. We will need to make several other committees also like for fund raising and sponsorship, pre- and post- congress tours etc. etc. Ofcourse we shall not be directly involved in the nitty gritty of the organisation which will be given in the care of some competent professional conference organisers. But that will come later. Following discussions with eminent ornithologists a tentative list of resource persons has been prepared. This is being enclosed herewith for your kind perusal. I have just heard that Israel also plans to bid for the 2002 Congress. We must get going !

The format of the Scientific Program of the Congress is entirely the responsibility of the Scientific Program Committee of the IOC constituted under its statutes and by-laws. And we are concerned in it only in that the work of the Indian Ornithologists must be projected as much as possible. In general the Congress constitutes daily plenary lectures attended by every participant followed by several symposia running parallel; again followed by several simultaneous Round Tables. The bid invitation must include the venue. For the venue selection essential features, as envisaged by the IOC, to be considered are :

1. A very large hall for the opening session which will hold all members of the congress plus accompanying persons. This can be a hall in building quite separate from the other congress activities.
2. A large hall, possibly the same one as under "1", which will serve for plenary sessions (lectures) of the congress. It is best to have a single large hall that can accommodate the congress membership during the plenary lectures, as the system of having primary hall plus an overflow hall with the lecture carried by closed-circuit television does not always work well.
3. A number (5-7) of smaller rooms holding between 200 to 500 persons for the symposia. If the congress has 1500 members, then at least 5 concurrent symposia will be needed and hence five large lecture rooms.
4. A larger number of smaller rooms suitable for concurrent Round Table Discussions. Round Table Discussions are the core of the technical discussions by specialists during the congress. They are best scheduled at times other than the plenary lectures and the symposia, and it is best to arrange these in the evening or late afternoon so that they can be open-ended. There may be as many as ten concurrent RTD per time slot. These should hold between 20 and 75 persons, and have facilities for blackboards, slide and overhead projection, etc.
5. Space for poster sessions. This should be large as one can expect at least 500 posters for a congress. This space can be combined with other space if possible.
6. Space for commercial display such as book publishers, manufacturers of equipment useful for ornithologists, and other commercial displays not closely associated with ornithological activity. This space can be rented and hence serve as a means of raising funds for the congress.

Expected number of delegates would be upto 1800 to 2000. I have been making enquiries. Although a massive convention complex is to come up in Bombay in the next three four years at the moment Delhi is the only place in the country where facility exists for seating such a big number in a single hall along with several rooms in the same complex. Now we must look for the earliest opportunity to meet and develop the invitation. I have enquired and some of us will be going to the BNHS conference at Bombay which could be the ideal venue for meeting for the purpose. Please let me know your views.

With warm regards,



Asha Chandola-Saklani
Fellow of the American Ornithologists Union
Exec. Councillor Internatl. Ornithol. Committee

Resource Persons :

J.P. Thapliyal, Retd Professor, Fellow Academy, Varanasi
Zafar Futehally, President OSI, Bangalore (member IOC)
Asok Ghosh, Retd Professor, Fellow Academy, Calcutta University, Calcutta

] Senior Ornithologists

Prakash Gole, Ecology Society, Pune
Rishad Naoroji, Bombay
P.C. Bhattacharjee, Professor, Gauhati University, Guwahati
R. Subbaraj, Professor, Madurai Kamaraj University, Madurai
R.N. Saxena, Professor, Fellow Academy, Delhi University, Delhi
Asad Rahmani, Assoc. Professor, Aligarh Muslim University, Aligarh
P. Lal, Sr. Reader, Manipur University, Imphal
B.M. Parasharya, Sr. Reader, Gujarat Agricultural University,
Bonny Pilo, Professor, M.S. University, Editor PAVO, Baroda
Manjit Dhindsa, Assoc. Professor, Punjab Agriculture University, Ludhiana (member IOC)
V.S. Vijayan, Director SACON, Coimbatore
Priya Davidar, Director SACEES, Pondicherry
Tapan Kumar Ghosh, Reader in Zoology, Bhagalpur University
S. Subramanya, Agriculture University, Bangalore
Abraham Verghese, Agricultural University, Bangalore
Madhav Gadgil, Fellow Academy, IISc, Bangalore
Asha Chandola-Saklani, Fellow Academy, Garhwal University, Garhwal (member IOC executive)

Bikram Grewal, Bird Publisher, Delhi
Bittu Sehgal, Editor Sanctuary Magazine, Bombay
Ashok Kumar, Chairman, Wildlife Protection Society India, Delhi
Thakur Daleep Singh, Bird Photographer, Bangalore
Ashish Kothari, Kalpa Vriksha (NGO), Delhi
A.J. Urfi, Delhi University, Delhi
Divya Bhanu Singh, Conservationist, Delhi
Asheesh Pittie, Hyderabad
P.O. Nameer, Forestry College, Kerala
S. Thirumurthi, Professor, Forest College, Tamil Nadu
Arvind Misra, Mandar Nature Club, Bhagalpur
Bibhab Talukdar, Aranyak Nature Club, Guwahati
Satpal Gandhi, Dept. of Tourism, U.P. Govt, Dehradun
Chandana Haldar, Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi
Chandramohini Chaturvedi, Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi
P.S. Rao, Agricultural University, Hyderabad
D.K. Sharma, Garhwal University, Srinagar Garhwal
Ashish Thapliyal, Garhwal University, Srinagar Garhwal
Rahul Kaul, WWF, Delhi
R. K. Bhatnagar, IARI, Delhi
Dinesh Bhatt, Gurukul Kangri University, Hardwar
Vibhu Prakash, BNHS, Bombay
S. Sridhar, Bangalore
etc etc etc

Suggested Advisory Members

President WWF (M. S. Swaminathan)
Seceratory General WWF (Samar Singh)
Director General CAPART (M.K. Ranjit Sinhji)
DOEn Secretary
Director BNHS (Jay S. Samant)
Secretary DST
President INSA, IASc
Director General CSIR, ICAR
Director IARI (R.B. Singh)

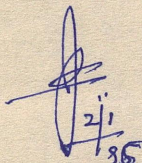
Ornithological Society of India

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Zafar Futehally
Bangalore

Secy-General
Asha Chandola-Saklani
Srinagar Garhwal

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Abdul Jamil Urfi, Delhi
DK Sharma, Garhwal Kumaon
Himmat Sinhji, Gujarat
Lavkumar Kachar, Gujarat
Manjit Singh Dhindsa, Punjab
Prakash Gole, Pune
Prasanta Kumar Saikia, Assam
Rishad Naoroji, Bombay
KK Sharma, Eastern UP Bihar
C Shashi Kumar, Kerala



Please reply to:

Zafar Futehally,
2205 Oakwood, 8th Main,
3rd Block, Koramangala,
BANGALORE - 560 034

Tele.No: 5533684

20th December 1995

Mrs. Asha Chandola Sakhlani,
Secretary General, OSI,
Post Box 45,
Srinagar,
GARHWAL - 246 174
U. P.

My dear Asha,

You said over the telephone that you are going to send me some material for the Newsletter on the basis of which I should write a report on our Conference in November. I have not received anything from you and I have only given a very general account of what happened in Delhi in the November/December issue of the Newsletter which should be out next week.

In the Jan/Feb issue I would like to give a somewhat detailed account of what is happening to the OSI - its present position and future plans. This could go in the form of The President's Letter, to all members of the OSI. Can you send me a list of the present membership with the addresses? Thanks. We have also to decide on the structural connection between the Newsletter and OSI. Because Sridhar is subsidising this to a considerable extent through Navbharath Press, he would prefer, I think, to keep it as a separate entity as far as finance is concerned. But could it in some way be designated as the official mouthpiece of OSI? Quite frankly, apart from the biannual conferences which you have arranged and which, I presume, you are going to organise in future, for the ordinary member of OSI the Newsletter would be the only means of keeping him in touch with the OSI. Have you any plans for producing a separate Newsletter of your own? I think we must take a decision on this soon.

What are the various projects which you are thinking about? Can you give me a list of what our membership should be attempting to do? I am following up on my suggestion about investigating opportunities for ornithologists and conservationists in this country. I will have to write to the various State Governments, other public and private sector Companies, Universities and others. This will be a slow process and perhaps by the next biannual conference I may have something to present.

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What I am rather concerned about is the status of our Regional Secretaries. Who, according to you, are firmly committed to act as Regional Secretaries of OSI and who have written to you confirming this? Please let me know. There are people like Asad Rahmani who are not, for one reason or other, keen to act as Regional Secretaries but who nevertheless would like to support us in any manner they can. We must have a list of such people also.

I would be grateful if you will sit down for a couple of hours and write to me in detail about the points I have raised.

I am taking the liberty of copying this letter to some of our friends whose comments would be welcome and valuable.

Wishing you and your family every happiness in
the New Year.

Yours affectionately,

B. Shauq
Zafar Futehally

c.c. Mr. Ashesh Pillai