

MADRAS NATURALISTS' SOCIETY

(REGD. No. 189/79)

8, Janaki Avenue, Abhiramapuram, Madras-600 018. Phone : 4997614

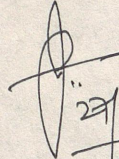
President :

C. RAMAKRISHNA
20, Sathyanarayana Avenue,
Near Boat Club, R. A. Puram,
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M. RAGHURAMAN,
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Abhiramapuram, Madras - 600 018.
Phone : 4997614


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Date..... Dec. 24, 1996.

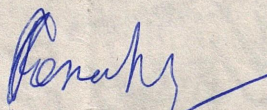
Mr. Aasheesh Pittie,
8-2-545 "Prem Parvat",
Road No.7, Banjara Hills,
HYDERABAD - 500 034.

Dear Aasheesh,

I was in Hyderabad last month and tried to contact you and Mr. Taher, but both of you were away at Coimbatore. How did the meeting go?

On going through the files, I find that you had written a letter dt.15.11.'95 that you were one of the Co-ordinators for the Red Data Book on Birds. Could you please let me know whether the Project is still continuing and if so what can the M.N.S. do.

Yours sincerely,


(C. RAMAKRISHNA)
President.

psa

Ref: Yours of 24-12-1996.

28 December, 1996

Mr. C. Ramakrishna
20, Sathyanarayana Avenue
Near Boat Club
R. A. Puram
MADRAS 600028

Dear Mr. Ramakrishna

Thank you for your above letter.

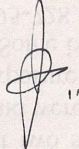
The Red Data Book (RDB) Project is still on and I am involved with it for compiling notes on a handful of candidate-species. However, you could write to Dr. V S Vijayan, Director, Salim Ali Center for Ornithology & Natural History, Coimbatore, for the complete list.

MNS could certainly help. What is required is upto-date information on the candidate-species, so that the species compilers have current information and data and do not rely on dated, published literature. If members of the MNS could send their observations for the species, in the prescribed format to Dr. Vijayan, he will send the data to pertinent species-compilers, for their use. Perhaps a reminder (about this project) to members through the MNS monthly bulletin will help. In fact, consultation with V Santharam is recommended, as he is also involved with the project.

Hope this answers you query. If I can help further, please do not hesitate to ask.

With best wishes for the New Year,

Yours sincerely



28 December, 1996

Page 1

most convenient perch and the birds made full use of it, taking the liquid as it flowed down the chute. I have seen several species do this, and on one occasion I saw a Tickell's Flowerpecker fluttering a few inches below a gutter to which no bowl was attached, and catching the drops of liquid as they fell. In all, I have seen the following species at the liquid: Jungle Crow, Jungle Babbler, Red-vented Bulbul, Red-whiskered Bulbul, Black Drongo, Tailor Bird, Common Myna, Jungle Myna, Pied Myna, Grey-headed Myna, Tickell's Flowerpecker, Golden-backed Woodpecker, Mahrata Woodpecker (The last two species were not seen to drink the liquid, and were probably after the insects attracted by the exposure of the sweet liquid)". [Lister, M.D. (1951): Some bird associations of Bengal. *JBNHS* 49(4): 695-728.]

The much awaited book, on the art front, *Salim Ali's India* was released in Mumbai recently, by eminent environmentalist and industrialist, Soli Godrej. Speaking on the occasion, Mr. Godrej described this attempt a tribute to the renowned ornithologist, Dr. Salim Ali. The book is a collection of 52 fine reproductions of antique colour plates from rare books compiled by Dr. Ashok Kothari and Dr. B.F. Chhappgar of the Bombay Natural History Society. It also carries lithographs from earlier works of renowned painters and also a description of old Mumbai. Some of Ali's works are as rare as the birds, the book describes. The function also saw the auction of the painting by Mr. J.P. Irani called *Bhorghat*, which was bought by Mr. Godrej himself. [Newspaper clipping contributed by M.S. Kulkarni].

The European Court of Justice ruled recently that economic requirements need not be considered while allocating and defining the boundaries of an environmental special protection area. The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB), UK, had challenged the UK environment secretary's decision to designate the Medway estuary and marshes in Kent as a special protection area excluding a mud-flat saying that its economic value exceeded its conservation value. The RSPB argued that the secretary was not entitled to take account of economic considerations when classifying a special protection area. [*Down to Earth* 5(12): 11.]

On his way back home, after the Pan-Asian Ornithological Conference at Coimbatore in November, Jonathan C Eames (Coordinator, BirdLife International Vietnam Programme), and a colleague visited Rollapadu Great Indian Bustard Sanctuary where they saw 6 Great Indian Bustards *Ardeotis nigripes* "and had good views of 2 males displaying just outside the reserve. In addition, we had very good views of a female Lesser Florican *Sypheotides indica* and saw groups of up to four Wolves *Canis lupus* daily. The harrier (*Circus* sp.) roost was magnificent with up to 500 birds roosting daily. They included mainly Montague's Harriers *Circus pygargus* but also included Pallid *C. macrourus* and a few Marsh Harriers *C. aeruginosus*." They also saw Spoonbill *Platalea leucorodia*, Lesser Spotted Eagle *Aquila pomarina*, Long-billed Vulture *Gyps indicus*, Dunlin *Calidris alpina*, Little Pratincole *Glareola lactea*, Indian Nightjar *Caprimulgus asiaticus* and Wryneck *Jynx torquilla*. They also visited Horsley Hills where they saw the Yellow-browed Bulbul *Pycnonotus xantholaemus*. Their luck held in the Sri Lankamalleswar Wildlife Sanctuary where they were able to locate a single specimen of the enigmatic nocturnal Jerdon's Courser *Cursorius bitorquatus* and also a pack of 9 Dhole *Cuon alpinus* !

HAVE YOU RENEWED YOUR MEMBERSHIP FOR 1997 ?

DO SO NOW !

Please send your cash/cheques/demand drafts favoring 'Birdwatcher's Society of Andhra Pradesh' to Mr. Rajiv Mathew, the Honorary Secretary at the address given at the end of this bulletin.

**We wish all our readers a
very Happy & Bird-filled
1997 !**