

28 February, 1996

Shri K. Jaganmohan Rao, I.F.S.
Chief Conservator of Forests
Office of the Principal C.C.F.
A.P. Forest Department
Saifabad
HYDERABAD

Dear Sir,

I would like to thank you for the assistance provided by you and your staff, especially Mr. Malhotra, during our visit to Cuddapah and Nellore, recently.

I am happy to report that we were very lucky in sighting one Jerdon's Courser *Rhinoptilus bitorquatus* on the night of 21.2.96 at approx. 2220 hours. Mr. Richard Grimmett presumed it to be a young bird based upon the colour of its plumage. The ability of Mr. Aitanna in spotting the bird and his willingness to show it to enthusiasts like us, are truly commendable. What is truly remarkable is his concern for the bird. He would not let us stay for more than 5 minutes, saying that the light will disturb it, at the site and took us away from it in a gradual manner !

At Rollapadu also we had full cooperation of the staff and were able to see almost 500 harriers *Circus* spp. coming in to roost within a matter of 10 minutes before sunset, on 22.2.96. Five Great Indian Bustards *Choriotis nigriceps* were also sighted.

Thanking You

Yours sincerely

