

Zafar Futehally

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

Tele.No: 5533684

28th January 1997

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

Dear Aasheesh,

You may like to read or re-read  
the article by Salim Ali on his visit to  
Mount Kailash in this issue.

Yours sincerely,

*B. S. Rao*  
Zafar Futehally

Encl: 'Resonance'.

Aasheesh Pittie

8-2-545 "Prem Parvat", Road No. 7, Banjara Hills, Hyderabad 500034. India.

Phone: Off: Tel : 040-3320269 Fax : 040-314064 Res: 040-315683

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5 February, 1997

Mr. Zafar Futehally  
# 2205 Oakwood, 8th Main  
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BANGALORE 560 034

Dear Mr. Futehally,

Many thanks for yours of 28/1/97 and the enclosed copy of *Resonance* (vol. 2 no. 1), with material on Dr. Salim Ali, in it! Makes interesting reading and a valuable addition to the library and database!

Thank you too for publishing the review of the Sultanpur booklet, wherein the major flaw, on my part, was the incomplete title to Abdulali & Panday's Delhi checklist. Thanks also for reviewing *Mayura* in your editorial.

With best wishes,

Yours sincerely



Aasheesh Pittie

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24 April, 1997

Mr Zafar Futehally  
# 2205 Oakwood Apartments  
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3rd Block, 8th Main  
Bangalore 560034

Dear Mr. Futehally,

At the outset, Congratulations on being presented the Salim Ali International Award for Nature Conservation!

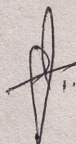
In the last issue of *Pitta* (# 72), I mentioned in the editorial about a Haircrested Drongo *Dicrurus hottentottus* which came into my garden miraculously one morning, and was seen sipping nectar from a flowering coral tree. I thought (and wrote as much) that if birdwatchers from across the country kept (or have been keeping) notes of the arrival and departure dates of their sightings of this particular species and also notes on the flowering of *Erythrina* and silk cotton trees, we could perhaps draw an interesting picture about not just the distribution of this bird but also establish the relationship between it and the flowering trees, thereby understanding its local movements better.

I was pleasantly surprised when I received a letter from Mr. J C Daniel (Hon. Sec., B.N.H.S.) a few days ago, commenting upon this part of my editorial, with a list of areas and dates on which specimens (of the haircrested drongo) in the Society's collection, were collected.

I think that a small and very interesting project for the readers of the *Newsletter* could be started on the same theme. Readers should send their observations of the haircrested drongo – date of observation, situation of bird, presence/absence of any species of flowering trees in the vicinity of the observation and the behaviour of the bird *vis-à-vis* the flowering trees. If we receive observations from across the country, a very interesting pattern could emerge. Perhaps a reader would like to volunteer the coordination and compilation of this data. His/her address should be published in the subsequent issue of the *Newsletter* to facilitate communication between the observer and the coordinator. Findings would be published in the *Newsletter* after a year.

With best wishes,

Yours sincerely



*Aasheesh Pittie*

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29 April, 1997

Mr Zafar Futehally  
# 2205 Oakwood Apartments  
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3rd Block, 8th Main  
Bangalore 560 034

Dear Mr Futehally,

*Anthropomorphic*

I enclose a small piece which I fear is more emotional than scientific in content. But yet, since I wrote it, I thought I'd send it to you, if not fit for publication, at least to read and tell me whether it deserves to be published anywhere (Hornbill ?). Or whether I should file it as one should such pieces since they satisfy an urge to write more than any thing else and above all things ? Do let me know your frank view.

With best wishes,

Yours sincerely



Encl: Mss. 'Owl Therapy'.

**Aasheesh Pittie**

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Ref: Mine of 29-4-1997

15 May, 1997

Mr Zafar Futehally  
# 2205 Oakwood Apartments  
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3rd Block, 8th Main  
Bangalore 560 034

Dear Mr Futehally,

In retrospection, I feel that the article which I sent with my letter of 29-4-97, is not quite right for the *Newsletter*. (I had called your house on 13th May—to discuss this with you—but was informed you were away in Bombay). It is more of a 'magazine' type of piece. I am sending a slightly modified version to the editors of *Hornbill*. Lets see what their opinion is. One does not generally read such type of 'personal' articles in our journals!

With best wishes



Zafar Futehally

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30th May 1997

*J.F.*  
6/97

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

My dear Aasheesh,

I have just come back to Bangalore  
after 2 1/2 month, and I find various  
letters from you.

'Owl Therapy' - This requires  
some meditation and I will write back  
to you after a few days.

Yours sincerely,

*Zafar*

Zafar Futehally

Zafar Futehally

2205 Oakwood, 8th Main,  
3rd Block, Koramangala,  
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Tele.No: 5533684

2nd July 1997

Dear *Rasheesh*

THE BIRDS OF COORG

Air Marshal K.C. Cariappa (Retd), President of the Coorg Wildlife Society, is anxious to produce an illustrated book describing the birds of Coorg. He asked for my suggestions and I told him I would first write to a few friends to get their advice on how to proceed with this project, collate the information I received, and then write to him. I would be grateful if you could let me have your comments on the following modus operandi for accomplishing this objective.

- 1) The general format should be like that of the Birds of Periyar by Robertson & Jackson. The short description of each Family followed by a brief account on each species is a useful arrangement for the novice and the expert alike.
- 2) Coloured plates of the common species like the red-vented and red-whiskered bulbul are unnecessary as they are widely known and can be identified with ease. Coloured plates should be of those birds which are somewhat rare and where a picture is a help in identification. From the viewpoint of identification there is little need in having a crow depicted in colour. But a fairy bluebird or a scarlet minivet in colour would help identification apart from making the book attractive.
- 3) Much of the information is available in articles in the journals of the BNHS and in books. It is largely a matter of putting this information in the format suggested above.
- 4) However, it is important to include information about the present status of species which are suffering from habitat changes, and at the same time make suggestions for their protection. This will be an important part of the book and should provide guidelines for the Administrators of Coorg.

...../2.

① There should be a chapter on how estate owners can protect & indeed enhance bird fauna on their estates.

② A chapter on where to watch birds in Coorg.

③

- 5) To achieve this objective the first need is to select an editor who can be given the facilities to stay in Coorg for about a month in May/June to get a feel of the resident birds, and then again in December/January to get a n idea of the migrant population.
- 6) I believe the Air Marshal would ensure that proper facilities and a suitable honorarium would be provided to the editor for pursuing the task. He is anxious that the book should be ready within two years from now.

I will be most grateful if you will take the trouble to write to me fairly soon (within a fortnight ?), about what your views are about this proposal, Any ideas you may have about a possible editor and the overall cost of the project would help greatly in finalising this plan.

Yours sincerely,

Zafar

Zafar Futehally

AASHEESH PITTIE  
HYDERABAD

.. would welcome your advice  
very much.

Missed you at the bird walk  
in Bangalore mid-June

Hope all well  
Z.

Ref: Yours of 2-7-1997.

7 July, 1997

Mr Zafar Futehally  
2205 Oakwood, 8th Main  
3rd Block, Koramangala  
Bangalore 560 034

Dear Mr Futehally,

Thanks for your above, which I received today. What a wonderful idea to publish a book on the birds of Coorg! It will be almost 50 years since Betts' paper in the *Journal*, too!

Your points regarding the *modus operandi* seem comprehensive enough, though a major emphasis has to be on notes from contemporary birders, however few they may be.

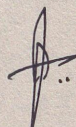
I am able to think of the following few points at this instant, but will write if any thing more strikes me in the future.

1. As estates are such an integral part of Coorg, there should be a chapter on how estate owners can protect and indeed enhance bird-fauna on their estates, thus ensuring avifaunal diversity. Restricting unnecessary lopping on estates, allowing dead and decaying trees to remain, using minimum chemicals, etc.
2. A chapter on where to watch birds in Coorg would also be welcome.
3. A few areas could be recommended for protected status to the state forest department.

I am sorry about not coming to the bird-walk in mid-June in Bangalore. Our program to visit Chettinad was preponed all of a sudden, and we left a day before that Sunday.

With best wishes,

Yours sincerely



Aasheesh Pittie

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19 August, 1997

Mr Zafar Futehally  
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Jakkasandra Layout  
Koramangala 3rd Block, 8th Main  
Bangalore 560 034

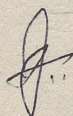
Dear Mr Futehally,

This is with reference to "Project: Haircrested Drongo" [N.L.B.W. 37(3): 48], and my proposal that someone volunteer to collect and compile observations of readers from across the country. Apparently, since my letter to you, a similar request was made by Mr J C Daniel, to members of the Bombay Natural History Society, through the Secretary's Letter to them. In this he mentioned that I will collect and compile the information. I have since received data from a couple of BNHS members.

I think it will be appropriate if you could carry a note to this effect and perhaps ask readers to send their observations to me directly. Or if they do send them to you, you could forward them to me.

With best wishes and regards,

Sincerely



19 August, 1997

Mr Zafar Futehally  
#2205 Oakwood Apartments  
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Koramangala  
3rd Block, 8th Main  
Bangalore 560 034

Dear Mr Futehally,

In *Newsletter for Birdwatchers* vol. 37 no 3, on page 45, Dr. Asad R. Rahmani gives an example of how names of birds get changed between the title of a note and the text. He refers to an "article" authored by me [NLBW 36(6): 115] on *Ploceus benghalensis*.

To set the record straight, I would like to call your attention to the fact that the "article" under consideration was actually part of a letter, dated 27 October 1996, I had written to you and that the title of the "article" was not provided by me.

I would be grateful if you could somehow rectify this 'technicality' in a future issue of the *Newsletter*.

Thanking you, with best wishes and regards,

Yours sincerely



cc: Dr Asad R Rahmani, Director, BNHS, Hornbill House, Dr Salim Ali Chowk, Shaheed Bhagat Singh Road, Mumbai 500 023.

Zafar Futehally

27/8  
97

2205 Oakwood, 8th Main,  
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BANGALORE - 560 034

Tele.No: 5533684

22nd August 1997

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

\* Ask 24 for address of AINH & details  
of their publications for indexing.

My dear Aasheesh,

I am perhaps being a nuisance and if so, ignore this letter.

I have to write a section on Birds for the Handbook of the Anglade Institute of Natural History, Shembagnur, Kodaikanal. I do not know whether you have seen this publication which is edited by Fr. K.M. Matthew SJ. He is well known for his flora of South India and is generally a very competent naturalist.

During my four years' stay in Kodaikanal from 1989-92, I wrote an occasional piece on the birds of the area for the Newsletter. Is it easy for you on your computer to retrieve these pieces? Is it possible to send me a list of the bird species arranged according to families, from the following articles :

→ NLBW  
34/3  
May-June 94

- 1) Article by Rev. A. Navaro SJ, on Birding in Kodaikanal. Newsletter for Birdwatchers, Vol.14, August 1974.
- 2) List from the three articles by T.V. Narayana, NLBW, Vol.19, Nos.10, 11 & 12.
- 3) Article by Sahabuddin Gazala, BNHS Journal, April 1997.

I repeat that if this involves you in too much trouble, just let me know and drop it,

I will include your Note about Bird Lists together with a facsimile from PITTA in the Sept/Oct. issue.

Yours sincerely,

*Zafar Futehally*  
Zafar Futehally

Ref: Yours dated 22-8-1997.

29 August, 1997

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

Dear Mr Futehally,

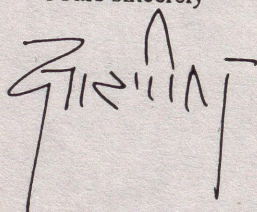
1. I enclose, a list of birds found in the Kodaikanal and Palni Hills regions. I hope it is in order.
2. Also enclosed is a list of the species' English names, arranged in alphabetical order, as they appear in the various texts I have referred to. I'm afraid I have not used any capitals in this list, primarily to increase typing speed!
3. I have inserted a "?" mark against some species—either against their common or their scientific name. This indicates that either I have not understood the common name and so could not pin-point its scientific name; or that there might be some doubt about the very record itself. I suggest you scrutinize the list from this angle, once.
4. I have kept both lists on my computer, and will continue to do so till I hear from you that what is enclosed is useful. Only on receipt of your letter will I erase them.
5. I draw your attention to *Newsletter for Birdwatchers* vol. 34 no 3 (May-June 1994), which carried my index for the period 1980-1991. I have taken the liberty to refer papers/notes which are listed in this issue under Tamil Nadu / Kodaikanal, and have included birds from them also. I hope this is ok.

If the Anglade Institute of Natural History, Shembagnur, Kodaikanal publishes an occasional journal which contains articles / papers on birds, it would be worthwhile indexing it into my database. Could you please send me the address of this Institute, so that I may write to them for details. Would it be in order if I used your name as reference?

If I could do anything else, please do not hesitate to write.

With best wishes and regards,

Yours sincerely



Encl: as above.

BIRDS OF KODAIKANAL AND PALNI REGION

FAMILY	ENGLISH NAME	SCIENTIFIC NAME
Ardeidae	Intermediate Egret	<i>Egretta intermedia</i>
	Malay Bittern	<i>Gorsachius melanolophus</i>
Accipitridae	Chestnut Bittern	<i>Ixobrychus cinnamomeus</i>
	Blackwinged Kite	<i>Elanus caeruleus</i>
	Honey Buzzard	<i>Pernis ptilorhynchus</i>
	Pariah Kite	<i>Milvus migrans</i>
	Shikra	<i>Accipiter badius</i>
	Crested Goshawk	<i>A. trivirgatus</i>
	Sparrow-Hawk	<i>A. nisus</i>
	Besra Sparrow-Hawk	<i>A. virgatus</i>
	Buzzard	<i>Buteo buteo</i>
	Mountain Hawk-Eagle	<i>Spizaetus nipalensis</i>
	Crested Hawk-Eagle	<i>S. cirrhatus</i>
	Black Eagle	<i>Ictinaetus malayensis</i>
	Pale Harrier	<i>Circus macrourus</i>
	Crested Serpent Eagle	<i>Spilornis cheela</i>
Falconidae	Lesser Kestrel	<i>Falco naumanni</i>
	Kestrel	<i>F. tinnunculus</i>
Phasianidae	Painted Bush Quail	<i>Perdica erythrorhyncha</i>
	Red Spurfowl	<i>Galloperdix spadicea</i>
Turnicidae	Grey Junglefowl	<i>Gallus sonneratii</i>
Rallidae	Yellowlegged Button Quail	<i>Turnix tanki</i>
Charadriidae	Whitebreasted Waterhen	<i>Amaurornis phoenicurus</i>
	Redwattled Lapwing	<i>Vanellus indicus</i>
Columbidae	Wood Snipe	<i>Gallinago nemoricola</i>
	Woodcock	<i>Scolopax rusticola</i>
	Greyfronted Imperial Pigeon	? <i>Treron pompadora</i>
	Jerdon's Imperial Pigeon	?
	Nilgiri Wood Pigeon	<i>Columba elphinstonii</i>
	Spotted Dove	<i>Streptopelia chinensis</i>
Psittacidae	Emerald Dove	<i>Chalcephaps indica</i>
	Roseringed Parakeet	<i>Psittacula krameri</i>
	Blossomheaded Parakeet	<i>P. cyanocephala</i>
	Bluewinged Parakeet	<i>P. columboides</i>
	Indian Lorikeet	<i>Loriculus vernalis</i>
	Pied Crested Cuckoo	<i>Clamator jacobinus</i>
Cuculidae	Common Hawk-Cuckoo	<i>Cuculus varius</i>
	Indian Cuckoo	<i>C. micropterus</i>
	Plaintive Cuckoo	<i>Cacomantius passerinus</i>
	Koel	<i>Eudynamys scolopacea</i>
	Small Greenbilled Malkoha	<i>Rhopodytes viridirostris</i>
	Crow-Pheasant	<i>Centropus sinensis</i>
	Barn Owl	<i>Tyto alba</i>
	Collared Scops Owl	<i>Otus bakkamoena</i>
	Forest Eagle-Owl	<i>Bubo nipalensis</i>
	Brown Fish Owl	<i>B. zeylonensis</i>
Strigidae	Mottled Wood Owl	<i>Strix ocellata</i>
	Edible Nest Swiftlet	<i>Collocalia unicolor</i>
	Large Brownthroated Spinetail	<i>Chaetura gigantea</i>
	Swift	
Apodidae	Alpine Swift	<i>Apus melba</i>

BIRDS OF KODAIKANAL AND PALNI REGION

FAMILY	ENGLISH NAME	SCIENTIFIC NAME
Trogonidae	Crested Tree Swift	<i>Hemiprocne longipennis</i>
	Malabar Trogon	<i>Harpactes fasciatus</i>
Alcedinidae	Common Kingfisher	<i>Alcedo atthis</i>
	Whitebreasted Kingfisher	<i>Halcyon smyrnensis</i>
Meropidae	Chestnutheaded Bee-Eater	<i>Merops leschenaulti</i>
	Bluetailed Bee-Eater	<i>M. philippinus</i>
	Green Bee-Eater	<i>M. orientalis</i>
	Bluebearded Bee-Eater	<i>Nyctornis athertoni</i>
Upupidae	Hoopoe	<i>Upupa epops</i>
Bucerotidae	Common Grey Hornbill	<i>Tockus birostris</i>
	Malabar Grey Hornbill	<i>T. griseus</i>
	Malabar Pied Hornbill	<i>Anthracoceros coronatus</i>
	Great Pied Hornbill	<i>Buceros bicornis</i>
Capitonidae	? Large Green Barbet	<i>Megalaima zeylanica</i>
	Small Green Barbet	<i>M. viridis</i>
	Coppersmith Barbet	<i>M. haemacephala</i>
Picidae	Speckled Piculet	<i>Picumnus innominatus</i>
	Little Scalybellied Green Woodpecker	<i>Picus myrmecophoneus</i>
	Small Yellownaped Woodpecker	<i>Picus chlorolophus</i>
	Lesser Goldenbacked Woodpecker	<i>Dinopium benghalense</i>
	Goldenbacked Threetoed Woodpecker	<i>D. javanense</i>
	Yellowfronted Pied Woodpecker	<i>Picoides mahrattensis</i>
	Larger Goldenbacked Woodpecker	<i>Chrysocolaptes lucidus</i>
	Indian Pitta	<i>Pitta brachyura</i>
	Malabar Crested Lark	<i>Galerida malabarica</i>
	Eastern Skylark	<i>Alauda gulgula</i>
	? Ceylon Bush Lark	
	Hirundinidae	Dusky Crag Martin
House Swallow		<i>H. tahitica</i>
Laniidae	Redrumped Swallow	<i>H. daurica</i>
	Baybacked Shrike	<i>Lanius vittatus</i>
	Rufousbacked Shrike	<i>L. schach</i>
Oriolidae	Brown Shrike	<i>L. cristatus</i>
	Blackheaded Oriole	<i>Oriolus xanthornus</i>
Dicruridae	Grey Drongo	<i>Dicrurus leucophaeus</i>
	Whitebellied Drongo	<i>D. caerulescens</i>
	Bronzed Drongo	<i>D. aeneus</i>
	Greater Racket-tailed Drongo	<i>D. paradiseus</i>
Artamidae	Ashy Swallow-Shrike	<i>Artamus fuscus</i>
Sturnidae	Common Myna	<i>Acridotheres tristis</i>
	Jungle Myna	<i>A. fuscus</i>
	Hill Myna	<i>Gracula religiosa</i>
Corvidae	Indian Tree Pie	<i>Dendrocitta vagabunda</i>
	? House Crow	<i>Corvus splendens</i>
	Jungle Crow	<i>C. levaillantii</i>
Campephagidae	*Large Wood Shrike	<i>Tephrodornis virgatus</i>
	Large Cuckoo-Shrike	<i>Coracina novaehollandiae</i>
	Blackheaded Cuckoo-Shrike	<i>C. melanoptera</i>

\* Pied Flycatcher-Shrike *Hemipus picatus*

BIRDS OF KODAIKANAL AND PALNI REGION

FAMILY	ENGLISH NAME	SCIENTIFIC NAME
Irenidae	Scarlet Minivet	<i>Pericrocotus flammeus</i>
	Small Minivet	<i>P. cinnamomeus</i>
	Common Iora	<i>Aegithina tiphia</i>
Pycnonotidae	Goldenfronted Chloropsis	<i>Chloropsis aurifrons</i>
	Fairy Bluebird	<i>Irena puella</i>
	Greyheaded Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus priocephalus</i>
	Rubythroated Yellow Bulbul	<i>P. melanicterus gularis</i>
	Redwhiskered Bulbul	<i>P. jocosus</i>
	Whitecheeked Bulbul	<i>P. leucogenys</i>
	Redvented Bulbul	<i>P. cafer</i>
	Whitebrowed Bulbul	<i>P. luteolus</i>
	Yellowbrowed Bulbul	<i>Hypsipetes indicus</i>
	Black Bulbul	<i>Hypsipetes madagascariensis</i>
Muscicapidae	Spotted Babbler	<i>Pellornium ruficeps</i>
	Slatyheaded Scimitar Babbler	<i>Pomatorhinus horsfieldii</i>
	Blackheaded Babbler	<i>Rhopocichla atriceps</i>
	Common Babbler	<i>Turdoides caudatus</i>
	Rufous Babbler	<i>T. subrufus</i>
	Jungle Babbler	<i>T. striatus</i>
	? Whitethroated Babbler	
	Yellowbreasted Laughing Thrush	<i>Garrulax delesserti</i>
	Whitebreasted Laughing Thrush	<i>G. jerdoni</i>
	Quaker Babbler	<i>Alcippe poioicephala</i>
	? Whitethroated Babbler	
	Redbreasted Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa parva</i>
	Whitebrowed Blue Flycatcher	<i>M. superciliaris</i>
	Black-and-Orange Flycatcher	<i>M. nigrorufa</i>
	Whitebellied Blue Flycatcher	<i>M. pallipes</i>
	Tickell's Blue Flycatcher	<i>M. tickelliae</i>
	Verditer Flycatcher	<i>M. thalassina</i>
	Nilgiri Flycatcher	<i>M. albicaudata</i>
	Greyheaded Flycatcher	<i>Culicicapa ceylonensis</i>
	Whitespotted Fantail Flycatcher	<i>Rhipidura albicollis</i>
	Paradise Flycatcher	<i>Terpsiphone paradisi</i>
	Blacknaped Flycatcher	<i>Hypothymis azurea</i>
	Streaked Fantail Warbler	<i>Cisticola juncidis</i>
	Plain Wren Warbler	<i>Prinia subflava</i>
	Ashy Wren Warbler	<i>P. socialis</i>
	Tailorbird	<i>Orthotomus sutorius</i>
	Chiffchaff	<i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>
	? Green Willow Warbler	
	? Coorg Wren Warbler	
	? Redheaded Fantail Warbler	
Whitebellied Shortwing	<i>? Brachypteryx major</i>	
Blue Chat	<i>Erithacus brunneus</i>	
Maggie-Robin	<i>Copsychus saularis</i>	
Pied Bush Chat	<i>Saxicola caprata</i>	
Indian Robin	<i>Saxicoloides fulicata</i>	
Blueheaded Rock Thrush	<i>Monticola cinclorhynchus</i>	
Malabar Whistling Thrush	<i>Myiophonus horsfieldii</i>	
Orangeheaded Ground Thrush	<i>Zoothera citrina citrina</i>	
Whitethroated Ground Thrush	<i>Z. c. cyanotus</i>	

**BIRDS OF KODAIKANAL AND PALNI REGION**

<b>FAMILY</b>	<b>ENGLISH NAME</b>	<b>SCIENTIFIC NAME</b>
<b>Paridae</b>	Grey Tit	<i>Parus major</i>
	Yellowcheeked Tit	<i>P. xanthogenys</i>
<b>Sittidae</b>	Velvetfronted Nuthatch	<i>Sitta frontalis</i>
	Spotted Grey Creeper	<i>Salpornis spilonotos</i>
<b>Motacillidae</b>	Tree Pipit	<i>Anthus trivialis</i>
	Nilgiri Pipit	<i>A. nilghiriensis</i>
	Yellow Wagtail	<i>Motacilla flava</i>
	Grey Wagtail	<i>M. cinerea</i>
<b>Dicaeidae</b>	Thickbilled Flowerpecker	<i>Dicaeum agile</i>
	Plaincoloured Flowerpecker	<i>D. concolor</i>
<b>Nectariniidae</b>	Purplerumped Sunbird	<i>Nectarinia zeylonica</i>
	Small Sunbird	<i>N. minima</i>
	Purple Sunbird	<i>N. asiatica</i>
	Little Spiderhunted	<i>Arachnothera longirostris</i>
<b>Zosteropidae</b>	White-eye	<i>Zosterops palpebrosa</i>
<b>Ploceidae</b>	House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>
	Baya	<i>Ploceus philippinus</i>
	Whitebacked Munia	<i>Lonchura striata</i>
	Spotted Munia	<i>L. punctulata</i>
	Blackheaded Munia	<i>L. malacca</i>
<b>Fringillidae</b>	Common Rosefinch	<i>Carpodacus erythrinus</i>

babbler, blackheaded	crow-pheasant	hawk, besra sparrow-
babbler, common	cuckoo, common hawk-	hoopoe
babbler, jungle	cuckoo, indian	hornbill, great indian
babbler, quaker	cuckoo, pied crested	hornbill, grey
babbler, rufous	cuckoo, plaintive	hornbill, malabar grey
babbler, slatyheaded scimitar	cuckoo-shrike, blackheaded	hornbill, malabar pied
babbler, spotted	cuckoo-shrike, large	iora
babbler, white throated	dove, emerald	junglefowl, grey
barbet, crimsonbreasted	dove, spotted	kestrel, european
barbet, large	drongo, bronzed	kestrel, indian
barbet, small green	drongo, grey	kingfisher, common
baya, indian	drongo, large racket tailed	kingfisher, whitebreasted
bee-eater, blue bearded	drongo, whitebellied	kite, black (?)
bee-eater, bluetailed	eagle, black	kite, blackwinged
bee-eater, chestnutheaded	eagle, crested hawk-	kite, pariah
bee-eater, green	eagle, crested serpent	koel
bittern, chestnut	eagle, mountain hawk-	lapwing, redwattled
bittern, malay	egret, intermediate	lark, ceylon bush
bluebird, fairy	flowerpecker, nilgiri	lark, malabar crested
bulbul, black	flowerpecker, plaincoloured	lorikeet, indian
bulbul, greyheaded	flowerpecker, thickbilled	malkoha, greenbilled
bulbul, redvented	flycatcher, black and orange	martin, dusky crag
bulbul, redwhiskered	flycatcher, blacknaped blue	minivet, orange
bulbul, rubythroated	flycatcher, greyheaded	minivet, small
bulbul, rubythroated yellow	flycatcher, nilgiri blue	munia, blackheaded
bulbul, whitebrowed	flycatcher, nilgiri verditer	munia, spotted
bulbul, whitecheeked	flycatcher, paradise	munia, whitebacked
bulbul, yellow-browed	flycatcher, redbreasted	myna, common
buzzard, common	flycatcher, spotted fantail	myna, hill
buzzard, honey	flycatcher, tickell's	myna, jungle
chat, indian blue	flycatcher, whitebellied	nuthatch, velvetfronted
chat, pied bush	flycatcher, whitebrowed	oriole, blackheaded
chloropsis, gold fronted	fantail	owl, barn
creeper, spotted grey	flycatcher-shrike, pied	owl, brown fish
crow, house (?)	goshawk, crested	owl, collared scops
crow, jungle	harrier, pale	owl, forest eagle

owl, mottled wood  
parakeet, blossom headed  
parakeet, bluewinged  
parakeet, roseringed  
piculet, speckled  
pigeon, greyfronted imperial  
pigeon, jerdon's imperial  
pigeon, nilgiri wood  
pipit, nilgiri  
pipit, yunan tree  
pitta, indian  
quail, painted bush  
quail, yellowlegged button  
robin, indian  
robin, magpie-  
rosefinch, indian  
shikra  
shortwing, whitebellied  
shrike, baybacked  
shrike, brown  
shrike, malabar wood  
shrike, rufousbacked  
skylark, small  
sparrow, house  
sparrowhawk  
spiderhunter, little  
spurfowl, red  
sunbird, purple  
sunbird, purplerumped  
sunbird, small  
swallow, nilgiri  
swallow, nilgiri house  
swallow, striated  
swallow-shrike, ashy  
swift, alpine  
swift, brownthroated spinetail

swift, crested  
swiftlet, edible nest  
tailorbird  
thrush, blueheaded rock  
thrush, orangeheaded ground  
thrush, palni hills laughing  
thrush, palni white-breasted  
                  laughing  
thrush, whistling  
thrush, whitethroated ground  
thrush, wynaad laughing  
tit, grey  
tit, yellow cheeked  
treepie, indian  
trogon, ~~malabar~~ malabar  
wagtail, grey  
wagtail, yellow  
warbler, ashy wren  
warbler, brown leaf  
warbler, coorg wren-  
warbler, green willow  
warbler, plain wren-  
warbler, redheaded fantail  
warbler, streaked fantail  
waterhen, whitebreasted  
white eye, nilgiri  
woodcock  
woodpecker, larger  
                  goldenbacked  
woodpecker, little  
                  scalybellied green  
woodpecker, malherbe's  
                  goldenbacked  
woodpecker, pied  
woodpecker, threetoed  
                  goldenbacked

woodpecker, yellowfronted  
                  pied  
woodpecker, yellownaped  
woodshrike, large  
woodsnipe

~~Babbler, Common~~ (?)

- ~~babbler, blackheaded~~
- ~~babbler, jungle~~
- ~~\* babbler, quaker~~
- ~~babbler, rufous~~
- ~~babbler, slatyheaded scimitar~~
- ~~babbler, spotted~~
- ~~\* babbler, white throated~~
- ~~barbet, crimsonbreasted~~
- ~~(large also) barbet, small green~~
- ~~baya, indian~~
- ~~bee-eater, blue bearded~~
- ~~bee-eater, bluetailed~~
- ~~bee-eater, chestnutheaded~~
- ~~bee-eater, green~~
- ~~bittern, chestnut~~
- ~~bittern, malay~~
- ~~bluebird, fairy~~
- ~~bulbul, black~~
- ~~bulbul, greyheaded~~
- ~~bulbul, redvented~~
- ~~bulbul, redwhiskered~~
- ~~bulbul, rubythroated~~
- ~~bulbul, rubythroated yellow~~
- ~~bulbul, whitebrowed~~
- ~~bulbul, whitecheeked~~
- ~~bulbul, yellow-browed~~
- ~~? buzzard, common~~
- ~~buzzard, honey~~
- ~~chat, indian blue~~
- ~~chat, pied bush~~
- ~~chloropsis, gold fronted~~
- ~~crow, house (?)~~
- ~~crow, jungle~~
- ~~crow-pheasant~~
- ~~cuckoo, common hawk~~
- ~~cuckoo, indian~~

~~Keuper, Spotted Gray~~

~~Asian, piedcrested~~

- ~~cuckoo, plaintive~~
- ~~cuckoo-shrike, blackheaded~~
- ~~cuckoo-shrike, large~~
- ~~dove, emerald~~
- ~~dove, spotted~~
- ~~drongo, bronzed~~
- ~~drongo, grey~~
- ~~drongo, large racket tailed~~
- ~~drongo, whitebellied~~
- ~~eagle, black~~
- ~~eagle, crested hawk~~
- ~~eagle, crested serpent~~
- ~~eagle, mountain hawk~~
- ~~egret, intermediate~~
- ~~flowerpecker, nilgiri~~
- ~~flowerpecker, plaine coloured~~
- ~~flowerpecker, thickbilled~~
- ~~flycatcher, black and orange~~
- ~~flycatcher, blacknaped blue~~
- ~~flycatcher, greyheaded~~
- ~~flycatcher, nilgiri blue~~
- ~~flycatcher, nilgiri verditer~~
- ~~flycatcher, paradise~~
- ~~flycatcher, redbreasted~~
- ~~flycatcher, spotted fantail~~
- ~~flycatcher, tickell's~~
- ~~flycatcher, whitebellied~~
- ~~flycatcher, whitebrowed~~
- ~~fantail~~
- ~~\* flycatcher-shrike, pied~~
- ~~goshawk, crested~~
- ~~harrier, pale~~
- ~~hawk, besra sparrow~~
- ~~hoopoe~~
- ~~hornbill, great indian~~
- ~~hornbill, grey~~

- ~~hornbill, malabar grey~~
- ~~hornbill, malabar pied~~
- ~~iora~~
- ~~junglefowl, grey~~
- ~~kestrel, european~~
- ~~kestrel, indian~~
- ~~kingfisher, common~~
- ~~kingfisher, whitebreasted~~
- ~~kite, black (?)~~
- ~~kite, blackwinged~~
- ~~kite, pariah~~
- ~~koel~~
- ~~\* lapwing, redwattled~~
- ~~lark, ceylon bush~~
- ~~lark, malabar crested~~
- ~~lorikeet, indian~~
- ~~\* malkoha, greenbilled~~
- ~~martin, dusky crag~~
- ~~minivet, orange~~
- ~~minivet, small~~
- ~~munia, blackheaded~~
- ~~munia, spotted~~
- ~~munia, whitebacked~~
- ~~myna, hill~~
- ~~myna, jungle~~
- ~~nuthatch, velvetfronted~~
- ~~oriole, blackheaded~~
- ~~owl, barn~~
- ~~owl, brown fish~~
- ~~owl, collared scops~~
- ~~owl, forest eagle~~
- ~~owl, mottled wood~~
- ~~parakeet, blossom headed~~
- ~~parakeet, bluewinged~~
- ~~parakeet, roseringed~~
- ~~piculet, speckled~~

~~Myna, Common~~

<del>pigeon, greyfronted imperial</del>	<del>thrush, palni hills laughing</del>
<del>pigeon, jerdon's imperial</del>	<del>thrush, palni white-breasted</del>
<del>pigeon, nilgiri wood</del>	<del>laughing</del>
<del>pipit, nilgiri</del>	<del>thrush, whistling</del>
<del>pipit, yunan tree</del>	<del>thrush, whitethroated ground</del>
<del>pitta, indian</del>	<del>thrush, wynaad laughing</del>
<del>quail, painted bush</del>	<del>tit, grey</del>
<del>quail, yellowlegged button</del>	<del>tit, yellow-cheeked</del>
<del>robin, indian</del>	<del>treepie, indian</del>
<del>robin, magpie</del>	<del>trogon, malabar</del>
<del>★ rosefinch, indian</del>	<del>wagtail, grey</del>
<del>shikra</del>	<del>wagtail, yellow</del>
<del>shortwing, whitebellied</del>	<del>warbler, ashy wren</del>
<del>shrike, baybacked</del>	<del>warbler, brown leaf</del>
<del>shrike, brown</del>	<del>? warbler, coorg wren</del>
<del>shrike, malabar wood</del>	<del>warbler, green willow</del>
<del>shrike, rufousbacked</del>	<del>warbler, plain wren</del>
<del>★ skylark, small</del>	<del>? warbler, redheaded fantail</del>
<del>sparrow, house</del>	<del>warbler, streaked fantail</del>
<del>sparrowhawk</del>	<del>waterhen, whitebreasted</del>
<del>spiderhunter, little</del>	<del>white eye, nilgiri</del>
<del>spurfowl, red</del>	<del>woodcock</del>
<del>sunbird, purple</del>	<del>woodpecker, larger</del>
<del>sunbird, purplerrumped</del>	<del>goldenbacked</del>
<del>sunbird, small</del>	<del>woodpecker, little</del>
<del>swallow, nilgiri</del>	<del>scalybellied green</del>
<del>swallow, nilgiri house</del>	<del>woodpecker, malherbe's</del>
<del>swallow, striated</del>	<del>goldenbacked</del>
<del>swallow-shrike, ashy</del>	<del>woodpecker, pied</del>
<del>swift, alpine</del>	<del>woodpecker, threetoed</del>
<del>swift, brownthroated spinetail</del>	<del>goldenbacked</del>
<del>★ swift, crested</del>	<del>woodpecker, yellowfronted</del>
<del>swiflet, edible nest</del>	<del>pied</del>
<del>★ tailorbird</del>	<del>woodpecker, yellownaped</del>
<del>thrush, blueheaded rock</del>	<del>woodshrike, large</del>
<del>thrush, orangeheaded ground</del>	<del>woodsnipe</del>

Zafar Futehally



*Zafar*  
2-9-97  
3/9  
/97

My dear Aasheesh,

Your speed and helpfulness ~~deserves~~ deserves to be acknowledged, and I do so with gratitude.

Now that I have got the checklist of Kodai and the Palnis, I can proceed with my commitment to Fr. Matthew. I am posting you the Handbook of the Anglade Institute.

I have mailed you some letters for your Bird List in Pitta. Will place a note in the NLBW that interesting sightings should be sent to you.

Hope to see you on the 7th.

Aasheesh Pittie  
Hyderabad, A.P.

*Zafar*  
Zafar Futehally

2205, Oakwood Apartments, 8th Main, 3rd Block,  
Koramangala, Bangalore-560 034. Phone : 5533684

Z Futehally

560034

*A.*  
25/9  
/27  
17-9-97

My dear Aasheesh,

In the list which you have sent there are a few surprising omissions. For example : Brahminy Kite , Large Pied Wagtail. Are these birds not mentioned in the articles which you covered in the NLBW and BNHS?

I also find that Edward Nichols: The Kodaikanal Birds and how to name them (BNHS) has listed a whole lot of warblers which are not mentioned by you.

I find reconciliation between the various articles very difficult because of the change in names and transfer of Generas to other Families.

I would be grateful for your comments

How was the Coimbatore meeting ? Would you care to write a note for the Sept/ct NL ?

Thanks again

*Zohar*

STATE LIBRARY  
COIMBATORE

10  
10/10/10



Aasheesh Pittie

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Ref: Yours of 17-9-1997.

20 September, 1997

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

Dear Mr Futehally,

I think I have listed all the birds <sup>from</sup> listed in the various papers, etc., I have in my library. I am sure that the common birds which you mention as missing from the list, e.g., Brahminy Kite, Large Pied Wagtail, etc., were not in the sources referred. However, specimens of these 2 birds at least, are available in the collection of the Anglade Institute, as listed in the *Handbook* which you so kindly sent me. If you haven't got a copy or a Xerox of the bird related info. pages, do let me know and I will photocopy them for you. So you know which specimens exist in the collection of the Institute.

Edward Nichols' paper from the BNHS is not available with me and was not consulted when I prepared the list I sent you. I do not have the particular Journal in my library, though I do have numbers 1-3 of the same volume!

The easiest way to reconcile changes of names (presumably English names?) would be to take the *Synopsis* and do some cross-checking. Regarding classification, perhaps you should retain Ripley's order of Genera and Families. You could insert pencil notes into my list and then make a final list when you are satisfied with the result. I am sorry I cannot help you much here.

You refer to a Coimbatore meeting in your letter. I think you mean the Bangalore one. I think it is best left out of the *Newsletter* as it was inconclusive. The exercise was to gather NGO opinion about a BirdLife Partner in India, and most of those present, (especially myself!), proposed the BNHS as the logical candidate institution. I strongly believe that a joint effort between SACON and BNHS will not work and that responsibility should be given to one and only one organization which should have the ability to sustain the work load. One positive message which we did give the visiting team, on behalf of the NGOs, was that in the Charter of Agreement which is drawn up between an Indian BirdLife Partner and BirdLife International, it should be recorded that local NGOs should be involved in any regional work, wherever the latter exist and are capable of assisting. Their capabilities should be assessed by the BLI Partner in India.

When I met you in Bangalore, you mentioned about some notes for our new column *Birding Notes*, which you had forwarded to me. I have not received these and request you to expedite them as we are in the final stages of the next issue of *Pitta* and I would like to include them there.

If there is anything else I can do, please let me know.

Thanking you, with best wishes and regards,

Yours sincerely



Zafar Futehally

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

Tele.No: 5533684

7th October 1997

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

My dear Aasheesh,

In your last letter you said that you will keep material on the Kody birds on your computer until you hear from me. I have found your list most useful and I hope I will be able to produce a suitable article for the Anglade Handbook. I am afraid I find it very difficult to relate ~~to~~ the new scientific names with the old ones, but I hope I do not make too many mistakes.

I believe you telephoned to me once in my absence and I tried to ring you back without success. Has there been a change in your office and residential numbers?

Yours sincerely,

Zafar

Zafar Futehally

Aasheesh Pittie

8-2-545 "Prem Parvat", Road No. 7, Banjara Hills, Hyderabad 500 034. India.

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15 October, 1997

Mr Zafar Futehally  
Editor, *Newsletter For Birdwatchers*  
# 2205 Oakwood  
8th Main, 3rd Block  
Koramangala  
BANGALORE 500 034

Dear Mr Futehally,

I am enclosing a small note for the *Newsletter*, requesting readers for information on the Red Data Book species for which I have to compile information. Their cooperation will ensure that each compilation contains upto date information.

I hope you will be able to publish it in the forthcoming issue of the *Newsletter*.

With best wishes and regards,

Yours sincerely

Encl: a/a.

INFORMATION REQUESTED ON RED DATA BOOK SPECIES

Aasheesh Pittie

Readers of the *Newsletter* are aware that work on the compilation of a Red Data Book for Asia is under way, for which the cut-off date is March 1999. Various persons in India have been entrusted to write up accounts on candidate species. The most important part of these compilations will be the current status of these birds. Extracting information from published sources is easy but will be incomplete without inputs on their contemporary status from birdwatchers and ornithologists of India.

I am compiling the species account for the following birds, and I request you to send information on these birds to me at the earliest at the following address: Aasheesh Pittie, 8-2-545 Road No 7, Banjara Hills, Hyderabad 500 034. *Every contributor will be credited in the published Red Data Book.* I will be able to incorporate your notes into Species Account, if I receive them before the end of January 1998. Your whole-hearted and early cooperation is requested to make the project a success.

1. FOREST OWLET *Athene blewitti*
2. SYKES'S CRESTED LARK (or TAWNY LARK) *Galerida deva*
3. MALABAR CRESTED LARK *Galerida malabarica*
4. BROAD-TAILED GRASS WARBLER (GRASSBIRD) *Schoenicola platyura*
5. BROWNWINGED KINGFISHER *Pelargopsis amauropterus*
6. BROWNBREASTED FLYCATCHER *Muscicapa muttui*



*Aasheesh Pittie*

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22 October, 1997

Mr Zafar Futehally  
# 2205 Oakwood  
Jakkasandra Layout  
3rd Block, 8th Main  
Koramangala  
Bangalore 560 034

Dear Mr Futehally,

While indexing the *Newsletters* I came across a note where there seems to be some confusion between the title of the note and the contents under it. In question is

“Black storks in Kerala” by Anand Prasad. [NLBW 37(4): 65.

Do you think that instead of “Kerala” it should read Tamil Nadu?

Will correct in my Index after receiving your reply. By the way, all *Newsletters* (except a few which I do not have) have been indexed and are on the computer. They are in the same style as we had published earlier!

With best wishes and regards,

Yours sincerely



Aasheesh Pittie

8-2-545 Road No. 7, Banjara Hills, Hyderabad 500 034. India.

Phone: Off: 040-3352269 Fax: 040-3356064 Res: 040-3350683 E-mail: aasheesh@hd1.vsnl.net.in

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2 November, 1997

Mr Zafar Futehally  
2205 Oakwood Apartment  
8th Main 3rd Block  
Koramangala  
BANGALORE 560034

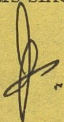
Dear Mr Futehally,

I enclose the manuscript of a short note entitled **Sighting of Rufoustailed Flycatcher *Muscicapa ruficauda* in and around Hyderabad, Andhra Pradesh**, co-authored with Rajeev Mathew, for publication in *Newsletter for Birdwatchers*, if found suitable.

I would be grateful to receive an acknowledgement of this letter and the enclosed note.

Thanking You

Yours sincerely



Encl: a/a

cc: Mr Rajeev Mathew.

**SIGHTING OF RUFOUSTAILED FLYCATCHER *MUSCICAPA RUFICAUDA* IN AND AROUND  
HYDERABAD, ANDHRA PRADESH**

**AASHEESH PITTIE & RAJEEV MATHEW**

While watching a feeding party in my (A.P.) garden in Hyderabad, on 24 October 1997—comprising of 4 Verditer Flycatchers *Eumyias thalassina*, 1 Brownbreasted Flycatcher *Muscicapa muttui*, 1 Redbreasted Flycatcher *Ficedula parva*, 1 Tickell's Blue Flycatcher *Cyornis tickelliae*, Purple *Nectarinia asiatica* and Purplerumped *N. zeylonica* Sunbirds, 2 Dull Green Leaf Warblers *Phylloscopus trochiloides* and 1 Blyth's Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus dumetorum*—I spotted a bird of the 'brown flycatcher' variety, but sporting a rufous tail. It was feeding *within* the middle and upper canopy of dense foliage trees like mango and neem. Not once did I see it sally in pursuit of prey from the top of a tree, as is the wont of some of its tribe. I had pretty good sightings of this bird, as it was quite confiding and I could get into almost eye-level position with it. The plumage was brown above, dirty white below, with a rufous rump and tail. The tail was notched. It had a prominent black eye with a thin white eye-ring. The legs were blackish. Once when it was disturbed by my presence (being just 15' away from me), it flicked open-and-shut its wings, above its body, uttering a muted "tchurr-tchurr". It was a Rufostailed Flycatcher *Muscicapa ruficauda*.

This same bird was also seen (by R.M.) on 12 October 1997 and again on the 14th, in another part of the city, where it perched in some trees on a small overgrown patch of land, for a considerable time (1 hour).

On 19 October 1997, members of the Birdwatcher's Society of Andhra Pradesh visited Anantgiri, Rangareddi District, Andhra Pradesh (approx. 80 km from Hyderabad), where they had a fleeting glimpse of a "brown flycatcher" type of bird, matching the description of the Rufostailed Flycatcher. Though it could not be identified positively on the spot, its rufous tail was seen when it emerged momentarily from dense foliage onto an exposed perch. In retrospect, we think it was this same bird. Another *Muscicapa* sp., flycatcher with a rufous tail was seen by C. Tom Hash at ICRISAT Campus, Patancheru, Medak District, Andhra Pradesh (approx. 35 km from Hyderabad), on 12 October 1997.

These sightings are significant as there are only 2 previously documented records of this bird from Andhra Pradesh. Jerdon (1862) 'obtained one specimen at Nellore in the Carnatic in March.' Price (1980) mentions of "a single passage record of a bird trapped on the 4th April".

**REFERENCES**

- Jerdon, T C (1862): *Birds of India*. vol. 1, p. 461.
- Price, T D (1980): The seasonality and occurrence of birds in the Eastern Ghats of Andhra Pradesh. *JBNHS* 76(3): 379-422.

Zafar Futehally

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BANGALORE - 560 034

Tele.No: 5533684

11th November 1997

Mr. Aasheesh Pittie,  
5-1-545 Road No,7,  
Banjara Hills,  
HYDERABAD - 500 034

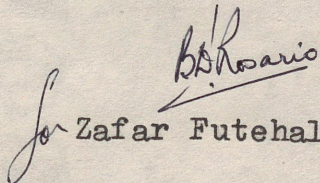
My dear Aasheesh,

Thank you for your two letters of  
22nd October and 2 November 1997.

Yes, I think the heading should  
be "Black Storks in Tamil Nadu".

I will include the note on the  
Rufoustailed Flycatcher in a forthcoming  
issue of the Newsletter.

Yours sincerely,

  
Zafar Futehally

Aasheesh Pittie

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18 December, 1997

Mr Zafar Futehally  
No. 2205 Oakwood Apartments  
Jakkasandra Layout  
Koramangala 3rd Block, 8th Main  
BANGALORE 560034

Dear Mr Futehally,

I received the Sept./Oct. 1997 issue of the *Newsletter* last week and thank you for carrying my piece on birding lists in it. I had posted this same article on the internet and received some good response. I hope you go through the copies of *Pitta* we send you, especially this column. Please send your comments on it.

In your editorial you speak about checklists. 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.

Some small printer's devils which I spotted, and thoughts on what I read...

1. p. 74 - no. 15 Koel's scientific name is incorrectly printed.
2. p. 75 - no. 63 Greyheaded Myna is the commoner name. Blyth's is that of a sub-species.
3. Abbreviations in the checklist of birds from Valley School are not at all user-friendly (this is no printer's devil though!).
4. Doesn't Lt. Gen. Baljit Singh write well? I hope he writes more often for the *Newsletter*.

Mr Futehally, this letter is "For your eyes only!" It need not be printed at all. I know I can feel free and write you my thoughts frankly.

With best wishes and regards to you and Mrs Futehally.

Yours sincerely

Zafar Futehally

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BANGALORE - 560 034

Tele.No: 5533684

30th December 1997

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

*f.* 2/1/98

My dear Aasheesh,

Thank you for your letter of 18th December. All your comments are always very valuable and I appreciate the trouble you take in reading the Newsletter carefully and pointing out the mistakes. I have noted the errors in the last issue.

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

A few days ago I had written to Nazir Latif to subscribe to PITTA. Before my letter reached him he had already done so having been impressed by your article in our Newsletter.

Regarding the typing mistakes, I am afraid this will continue in view of the quality or lack of quality of the typists in Sridhar's office. The Newsletter usually goes through three drafts before the final print and this is the best I can do. However, I will keep trying to make it error free.

I do hope you will have a very prosperous and happy 1998.

With all good wishes from me and my wife.

Yours sincerely,

*Zafar Futehally*  
Zafar Futehally

Rashid Patti

Here is the full list.

Happy New Year

31-12-97

Zafar

1/9  
A. S. 1/1998

CHECKLIST OF BIRDS OF PALAKKAD HILLS

PODICIPEDIDAE

- 1 Little Grebe *Podiceps ruficollis*

PHALACROCORACIDAE

- 2 Large Cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo*  
3 Little Cormorant *Phalacrocorax niger*  
4 Darter *Anhinga rufa*

ARDEIDAE

- 5 Grey Heron *Ardea cinerea*  
6 Purple Heron *Ardea purpurea*  
7 Large Egret *Ardea alba*  
8 Little Green Heron *Ardeola striatus*  
9 Pond Heron *Ardeola grayii*  
10 Cattle Egret *Bubulcus ibis*  
11 Smaller Egret *Egretta intermedia*  
12 Little Egret *Egretta garzetta*  
13 Indian Reef Heron *Egretta gularis*  
14 Night Heron *Nycticorax nycticorax*  
15 Chestnut Bittern *Ixobrychus cinnamomeus*  
16 Black Bittern *Ixobrychus flavicollis*

CICONIIDAE

- 17 Painted Stork *Mycteria leucocephala*  
18 Openbill Stork *Anastomus oscitans*  
19 Whitenecked Stork *Ciconia episcopus*  
20 White Stork *Ciconia ciconia*  
21 Black Stork *Ciconia nigra*

THRESKIORNITHIDAE

- 22 White Ibis *Threskiornis aethiopica*

ANATIDAE

- 23 Lesser Whistling Teal *Dendrocygna javanica*  
24 Pintail *Anas acuta*  
25 Spotbill Duck *Anas poecilorhyncha*  
26 Garganey *Anas querquedula*  
27 Cotton Teal *Nettapus coromandelianus*

ACCIPITRIDAE

- 28 Blackwinged Kite *Elanus caeruleus*  
29 Crested Honey Buzzard *Pernis ptilorhyncus*  
30 Pariah Kite *Milvus migrans*

- |    |                       |                       |
|----|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| 31 | Brahminy Kite         | Haliastur indus       |
| 32 | Shikra                | Accipiter badius      |
| 33 | Besra Sparrow -Hawk   | Accipiter virgatus    |
| 34 | Crested Hawk -Eagle   | Spizaetus cirrhatus   |
| 35 | Booted Eagle          | Hieraaetus pennatus   |
| 36 | Rufousbellied Eagle   | Hieraaetus kienerii   |
| 37 | Black Eagle           | Ictinaetus malayensis |
| 38 | Pale Harrier          | Circus macrourus      |
| 39 | Montagu's Harrier     | Circus pygargus       |
| 40 | Marsh Harrier         | Circus aeruginosus    |
| 41 | Crested Serpent Eagle | Spilornis cheela      |
| 42 | Osprey                | Pandion haliaetus     |

FALCONIDAE

- |    |                  |                    |
|----|------------------|--------------------|
| 43 | Shahin Falcon    | Falco perigrinator |
| 44 | Peregrine Falcon | Falco japonensis   |
| 45 | Kestrel          | Falco tinnunculus  |

PHASIANIDAE

- |    |                |                           |
|----|----------------|---------------------------|
| 46 | Grey Partridge | Francolinus pondicerianus |
| 47 | Bush Quail spp | Perdicula spp             |
| 48 | Red Spur Fowl  | Galloperdix spadicea      |

- |    |                  |                      |
|----|------------------|----------------------|
| 49 | Painted Spurfowl | Galloperdix lunulata |
| 50 | Grey Junglefowl  | Gallus sonneratii    |
| 51 | Common Peafowl   | Pavo cristatus       |

TURNICIDAE

- |    |                      |                 |
|----|----------------------|-----------------|
| 52 | Common Bustard-Quail | Turnix sultator |
|----|----------------------|-----------------|

RALIDAE

- |    |                        |                        |
|----|------------------------|------------------------|
| 53 | Whitebreasted Waterhen | Amaurornis phoenicurus |
|----|------------------------|------------------------|

JACANIDAE

- |    |                        |                          |
|----|------------------------|--------------------------|
| 54 | Pheasant-tailed Jacana | Hydrophasianus chirurgus |
| 55 | Bronzewinged Jacana    | Metopidius indicus       |

ROSTRATULIDAE

- |    |               |                         |
|----|---------------|-------------------------|
| 56 | Painted Snipe | Rostratula benghalensis |
|----|---------------|-------------------------|

RECURVIROSTRIDAE

- |    |                   |                       |
|----|-------------------|-----------------------|
| 57 | Blackwinged Stilt | Himantopus himantopus |
|----|-------------------|-----------------------|

GLAREOLIDAE

- |    |                         |                 |
|----|-------------------------|-----------------|
| 58 | Small Indian Pratincole | Glareola lactea |
|----|-------------------------|-----------------|

## CHARADRIIDAE

59	Redwattled Lapwing	Vanellus indicu
60	Yellow-Wattled Lapwing	Vanellus malabaricus
61	Little Ringed Plover	Charadrius dubius
62	Kentish Plover	Charadrius alexandrinus
63	Red Shank	Tringa totanus
64	Green Shank	Tringa nebularia
65	Green Sandpiper	Tringa ochropus
66	Wood Sandpiper	Tringa glareola
67	Common Sandpiper	Tringa hypoleucos
68	Snipes	Gallinago spp
69	Little Stint	Calidris minuta
70	Temminck's Stint	Calidris temminckii
71	Ruff	Philomachus pugnax

## LARIDAE

72	Whiskered Tern	Childonias hybrida
73	River Tern	Sterna aurantia

## COLUMBIDAE

74	Greyfronted Green Pigeon	Treron pompadora
75	Jerdon's Imperial Pigeon	Ducula badia
76	Blue Rock Pigeon	Columba livia
77	Spotted Dove	Streptopelia chinensis
78	Emerald Dove	Chalcophaps indica

## PSITTACIDAE

79	Roseringed Parakeet	Psittacula krameri
80	Blossomheaded Parakeet	Psittacula cyanocephala
81	Bluewinged Parakeet	Psittacula columboides
82	Indian Lorikeet	Loriculus vernalis

## CUCULIDAE

83	Pied Crested Cuckoo	Clamator jacobinus
84	Common Hawk-Cuckoo	Cuculus varius
85	Indian Plaintive Cuckoo	Cacomantis passerinus
86	Koel	Eudynamys scolopacea
87	Small Greenbilled Malkoha	Rhopodytes viridirostris
88	Crow-Pheasant	Centropus sinensis

## STRIGIDAE

89	Great Horned Owl	Bubu bubo
90	Brown Fish Owl	Bubo zeylonensis
91	Jungle Owlet	Glaucidium radiatum
92	Spotted Owlet	Athene brama
93	Mottled Wood Owl	Strix ocellata

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PODARGIDAE

94 Ceylon Frogmouth *Batrachostomus moniliger*

CAPRIMULGIDAE

95 Common Indian Nightjar *Caprimulgus asiaticus*

APODIDAE

96 Indian Edible-Nest Swiftlet *Collocalia unicolor*  
97 Brownthroated Spinetail *Chaetura gigantea*  
98 Whiterumped Spinetail *Chaetura sylvatica*  
99 Alpine Swift *Apus melba*  
100 House Swift *Apus affinis*  
101 Palm Swift *Cypsiurus parvus*  
102 Crested Tree Swift *Hemiprocne longipennis*

TROGONIDAE

103 Malabar Trogon *Harpactes fasciatus*

ALCEDINIDAE

104 Travancore Pied Kingfisher *Ceryle rudis*  
105 Common Kingfisher *Alcedo atthis*  
106 Threetoed Kingfisher *Ceyx erithacus*  
107 Storkbilled Kingfisher *Pelargopsis capensis*  
108 Whitebreasted Kingfisher *Halcyon smyrnensis*

MEROPIIDAE

109 Chestnutheaded Bee-eater *Merops leschenaulti*  
110 Bluetailed Bee-eater *Merops philippinus*  
111 Green Bee-eater *Merops orientalis*  
112 Bluebearded Bee-eater *Nyctyornis athertoni*

CORACIIDAE

113 Indian Roller *Coracias benghalensis*

UPUPIDAE

114 Hoopoe *Upupa epops*

BUCEROTIDAE

115 Common Grey Hornbill *Tockus birostris*  
116 Malabar Grey Hornbill *Tockus griseus*  
117 Great Pied Hornbill *Buceros bicornis*

## CAPITONIDAE

118 Ceylon Green Barbet	<i>Megalima zeylanica</i>
119 Small Green Barbet	<i>Megalaima viridis</i>
120 Crimsonthroated Barbet	<i>Megalaima rubricapilla</i>
121 Crimsonbreasted Barbet	<i>Megalaima haemacephala</i>

## PICIDAE

122 Speckled Piculet	<i>Picumnus innominatus</i>
123 Rufous Woodpecker	<i>Micropternus brachyurus</i>
124 Small Yellownape	<i>Picus chlorolophus</i>
125 Lesser Goldenback	<i>Dinopium benghalense</i>
126 Threetoed Goldenback	<i>Dinopium javanese</i>
127 Mahratta Woodpecker	<i>Picoides mahrattensis</i>
128 Pigmy Woodpecker	<i>Picoides nanus</i>
129 Heartspotted Woodpecker	<i>Hemicirus canente</i>
130 Blackbacked Woodpecker	<i>Chrysocolaptes festivus</i>
131 Larger Goldenback	<i>Chrysocolaptes lucidus</i>

## PITTIDAE

132 Indian Pitta	<i>Pitta brachyura</i>
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## ALAUDIDAE

133 Ceylon Bush Lark	<i>Mirafra assamica</i>
134 Ashycrowned Finch-Lark	<i>Eremopterix grisea</i>
135 Rufoustailed Finch-Lark	<i>Ammomanes phoenicurus</i>
* 136 Syke's Crested Lark	<i>Galerida deva</i>
137 Eastern Skylark	<i>Alauda gulgula</i>

## HIRUNDINIDAE

138 Dusky Crag Martin	<i>Hirundo concolor</i>
139 Eastern Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>
140 Striated Swallow	<i>Hirundo daurica</i>

## LANIIDAE

141 Baybacked Shrike	<i>Lanius vittatus</i>
142 Brown Shrike	<i>Lanius cristatus</i>
143 Rufousbacked Shrike	<i>Lanius schach</i>

## ORIOOLIDAE

144 Golden Oriole	<i>Oriolus oriolus</i>
145 Blackheaded Oriole	<i>Oriolus xanthornus</i>

## DICRURIDAE

146 Black Drongo	<i>Dicrurus adsimilis</i>
147 Grey Drongo	<i>Dicrurus leucophaeus</i>
148 Whiebellied Drongo	<i>Dicrurus caerulescens</i>

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149 Bronzed Drongo  
150 Haircrested Drongo  
151 Greater Racket-tailed Drongo

Dicrurus aeneus  
Dicrurus hottentottus  
Dicrurus paradiseus

ARTAMIDAE

152 Ashy Swallow-Shrike

Artamus fuscus

STURNIDAE

153 Greyheaded Myna  
154 Brahminy Myna  
155 Common Myna  
156 Hill Myna

Sturnus malabaricus  
Sturnus pagodarum  
Acridotheres tristis  
Gracula religiosa

CORVIDAE

157 Indian Tree Pie  
158 Southern Tree Pie  
159 House Crow  
160 Jungle Crow

Dendrocitta vagabunda  
Dendrocitta leucogastra  
Corvus splendens  
Corvus macrorhynchos

CAMPEPHAGIDAE

161 Malabar Wood Shrike  
162 Common Wood-Shrike  
163 Large Cuckoo-Shrike  
164 Blackheaded Cuckoo-Shrike  
165 Orange Minivet  
166 Small Minivet

Tephrodornis virgatus  
Tephrodornis pondicerianus  
Coracina novaehollandiae  
Coracina melanoptera  
Pericrocotus flammeus  
Pericrocotus cinnamomeus

IRENIDAE

167 Common Iora  
168 Goldfronted Chloropsis  
169 Goldmantled Chloropsis  
170 Fairy Bluebird

Aegithina tiphia  
Chloropsis aurifrons  
Chloropsis cochinchinensis  
Irena puella

PYCNONOTIDAE

171 Rubythroated Bulbul  
172 Redwhiskered Bulbul  
173 Redvented Bulbul  
174 Whitebrowed Bulbul  
175 Yellowbrowed Bulbul  
176 Black Bulbul

Pycnonotus melanicterus  
Pycnonotus jocosus  
Pycnonotus cafer  
Pycnonotus luteolus  
Hypsipetes indicus  
Hypsipetes madagascariensis

MUSCICAPIDAE

177 Spotted Babbler  
178 Slatyheaded Scimitar Babbler  
179 Whitethroated Babbler  
180 Blackheaded Babbler  
181 Yelloweyed Babbler  
182 Rufous Babbler

Pellorneum ruficeps  
Pomatorhinus horsfieldii  
Dumetia hyperythra  
Rhopocichla atriceps  
Chrysomma sinense  
Turdoides subrufus

183 Jungle Babbler	<i>Turdoides striatus</i>
184 Whiteheaded Babbler	<i>Turdoides affinis</i>
185 Wynad Laughing Thrush	<i>Garrulax delesserti</i>
186 Quaker Babbler	<i>Alcippe poioicephala</i>
187 Brown Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa latirostris</i>
188 Layerd's Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa muttui</i>
189 Rufoustailed Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa ruficauda</i>
190 Redbreasted Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa parva</i>
191 Bluethroated Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa rubeculoides</i>
192 Tickell's Blue Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa tickelliae</i>
193 Verditer Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa thalassina</i>
194 Paradise Flycatcher	<i>Terpsiphone paradisi</i>
195 Blacknaped Flycatcher	<i>Hypothymis azurea</i>
196 Streaked Fantail Warbler	<i>Cisticola juncidis</i>
197 Franklin's Wren-Warbler	<i>Prinia hodgsoni</i>
198 Plain Wren-Warbler	<i>Prinia subflava</i>
199 Ashy Wren-Warbler	<i>Prinia socialis</i>
200 Tailor Bird	<i>Orthotomus sutorius</i>
201 Blyth's Reed Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus dumetorum</i>
202 Greenish Leaf Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus trochiloides</i>
203 Blue Chat	<i>Erithacus brunneus</i>
204 Desert Wheather	<i>Oenanthe deserti</i>
205 Magpie-Robin	<i>Copsychus saularis</i>
206 Pied Bush Chat	<i>Saxicola caprata</i>
207 Indian Robin	<i>Saxicoloides fulicata</i>
208 Blueheaded Rock Thrush	<i>Monticola cinclorhynchus</i>
209 Malabar Whistling Thrush	<i>Myiophonus horsfieldii</i>
210 Whitethroated Ground Thrush	<i>Zoothera citrina</i>
211 Blackcapped Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula nigropileus</i>

## PARIDAE

212 Grey tit	<i>Parus major</i>
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## SITTIDAE

213 Velvetfronted Nuthatch	<i>Sitta frontalis</i>
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## MOTACILLIDAE

214 Richard's Pipit	<i>Anthus richardi</i>
215 Paddyfield Pipit	<i>Anthus novaeseelandiae</i>
216 Forest Wagtail	<i>Motacilla indica</i>
217 Yellow Wagtail	<i>Motacilla flava</i>
218 Grey Wagtail	<i>Motacilla cinerea</i>
219 White Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba</i>
220 Large Pied Wagtail	<i>Motacilla maderaspatensis</i>

## DICAIEIDAE

221 Thickbilled Flowerpecker	<i>Dicaeum agile</i>
222 Tickell's Flowerpecker	<i>Dicaeum erythrorhynchus</i>
223 Nilgiri Flowerpecker	<i>Dicaeum concolor</i>

NECTARINIIDAE

- |                          |                           |
|--------------------------|---------------------------|
| 224 Purplerumped Sunbird | Nectarinia zeylonica      |
| 225 Small Sunbird        | Nectarinia minima         |
| 226 Loten's Sunbird      | Nectarinia lotenia        |
| 227 Purple Sunbird       | Nectarinia asiatica       |
| 228 Little Spiderhunter  | Arachnothera longirostris |

ZOSTEROPIDAE

- |                       |                      |
|-----------------------|----------------------|
| 229 Nilgiri White-eye | Zosterops palpebrosa |
|-----------------------|----------------------|

PLOCEIDAE

- |                            |                       |
|----------------------------|-----------------------|
| 230 House Sparrow          | Passer domesticus     |
| 231 Yellowthroated Sparrow | Petronia xanthocollis |
| 232 Travancore Baya        | Ploceus philippinus   |
| 233 Whitebacked Munia      | Lonchura striata      |
| 234 Rufousbellied Munia    | Lonchura kelaarti     |
| 235 Spotted Munia          | Lonchura punctulata   |
| 236 Blackheaded Munia      | Lonchura malacca      |
| 237 Whitethroated Munia    | Lonchura malabarica   |

Apart from the birds in the checklist, there has been certain species which we refrain from adding into it presumably due to the singularity and doubtfulness of those records. Anyway, some of these records are mentioned here, so that it might aid future studies.

A still unconfirmed record of Indian Curser (*Cursorius coromandelicus*) on 8-1-94 in the meadows of Walayar reservoir is one such. A raptor with field features very close to Blackeared kite (*Milvus lineatus*) was spotted on 14-1-95 in the same place. There has been a couple of sightings of Great Black Woodpecker (*Dryocopus javensis*) from the Walayar jungles, but considering the status of this bird, we resolved to include it only after getting some strong evidence of its existence. Also, there has been some doubtful reports of the presence of Broad billed Roller (*Eurystomus orientalis*) in the Walayar semievergreens and Greyheaded Bulbuls (*Pycnonotus priocephalus*) in Kawa and Dhoni hills. A Wiretailed Swallow (*Hirundo smithii*) with tail streamers was spotted once in Walayar reservoir. The non-existence of records from Central and South Kerala induce the reticence in including it to the list. And finally to indicate the extent of vagrancy, a Frigate bird was observed by one of us (SVG) on 18-7-94, with its white on breast extending as in inverted 'V' on to the flanks. Though this could well have been a female *Fregata minor* we decline to make it a record considering its oddity.

Scope for future studies

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It is saddening to note that there has been no long term authentic ecological studies in the Palakkad hills. Being the widest gap in the Sahyadris; the effect is highly

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pronounced and its significance need not be pointed out further. So is the case with Nelliampathies at the southern tip; though at present in an ecologically pathetic state, there is ample scope for serious studies.

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PRAVEEN, J & MANEESH KUMAR  
XIV / 779 (2) "AMBADI"  
K. MEDU, P.O.  
PALAKKAD  
KERALA

and

SANJU VARGHESE GEORGE  
C 9 MCL TOWNSHIP  
WALAYAR  
PALAKKAD DT  
KERALA