

Subject: HI!

Date: Mon, 01 Mar 1999 22:48:17 +0530

From: Aasheesh Pittie <AASHEESH@HD1.VSNI.NET.IN>

To: Krus Kazmierczak <krus@compuserve.com>

Krus,

I slipped up regarding Kunte's (1980b) record. He does not even imply that it is a frigate bird. I presumed wrongly.

Kunte simply mentions of a bird he could not identify in Rameshwaram. By his description it seems to be a Tropic Bird (*Phaethon* sp.). Perhaps *lepturus*. But that is my guess.

Cheers!

--

Best wishes and regards!

Aasheesh Pittie

R-2-545 Road No 7, Banjara Hills, Hyderabad 500034, INDIA

PHONES: Work: 01 40 3352260 / Res: 01 40 3350693 / Fax: 01 40 3356064

E MAIL: AASHEESH@HD1.VSNI.NET.IN

Kunte simply mentions of a bird he could not identify in Rameshwaram. By his description of it seems to be a Tropic Bird (*Phaethon* sp.). Perhaps *lepturus*. But that is my guess.

Hi!

**Subject: Hi!**

**Date: Tue, 2 Mar 1999 04:26:46 -0500**

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

**To: Aasheesh Pittie <AASHEESH@hd1.vsnl.net.in>**

Thanks, Aasheesh!

I do know how easy it is to slip up. I've done it too often myself.

Do you happen to know exactly where Saleswar Beel in Assam might be?

BTW, if you come accross any obvious errors in Tim's maps, please let me know. I've managed 75 maps in the past week and am hoping to be producing about 100 a week as I become more proficient. It would be nice to spend hours researching each map but I just can't afford to do that. The more I look at it, the more I realise how little we really know about the distributions of some of these birds. Perhaps one day there will be an atlas project to map Indian bird distributions. You could begin with Andhra Pradesh!

All the best

Kryz

**Subject:** G m

**Date:** Tue, 2 Mar 1999 19:17:11 -0500

**From:** krys <krys@compuserve.com>

**To:** Aasheesh Pittie <aasheesh@hd1.vsnl.net.in>

Dear Aasheesh!

Could you please check the following for the date of *Gorsachius melanolophus*.

Santharam, V. (1981b) Some new records from Madras city. Newsletter for Birdwatchers 21(3-4): 4-8. [12.12.80]

Satyamurti, S. T. (1970a) A record of the Tiger Bittern, *Gorsachius melanolophus* (Raffles) from Karaikudi, Ramanathapuram district, Tamil Nadu. J. Bombay Nat. Hist. Soc. 67: 107-108. [7.12.1967]

Thanks

Krys

Hi!

**Subject:** Hi!

**Date:** Wed, 03 Mar 1999 08:15:47 +0530

**From:** Aasheesh Pittie <AASHEESH@HD1.VSNL.NET.IN>

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

Krys,

Regarding G. melanolophus:

Santharam's record: 12-12-1980; Satyamurti's record: 7-12-1967.

I do not know where Saleswar Beel is in Assam. Is there a paper I could follow as a thread?

I will try and go through the maps in Tim's book. It will take some time, as I am off to Bombay the day after. Might get a chance to go and see the Forest Spotted Owlet! Returning on 11th.

An atlas project for A.P. would be wonderful, except that we do not have enough birdwatchers! I am however in the process of compiling a distribution atlas from printed records. I have entered a lot of the information already. Perhaps by the end of this year we'll have something definite!

--

Best wishes and regards!

Aasheesh Pittie

8-2-545 Road No 7, Banjara Hills, Hyderabad 500034, INDIA.

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E-MAIL: AASHEESH@HD1.VSNL.NET.IN

Message-ID: <19990301123847.785.qmail@hotmail.com>

From: "Kumar Ghorrade" <ghorradek@hotmail.com>

To: aashesh@ndi.vsnl.net.in

Subject: Pitta Letter # 23

Date: Mon, 01 Mar 1999 04:38:30 PST

Hi Aashesh !

As promised, here is another attachment of my Letter # 23 for Pitta 93 (March 1999). This has ALL the corrections and modifications made and you can go ahead and use it 'blindfolded' (!). I will also mail you a print-out of this by post tomorrow (Tuesday) so if necessary you can even scan it (sorry ! 'scan it') and then complete formalities for your printer. The next one or two Letters will continue with this analysis of the bird Orders in our area, and their endemics. This time no figures but next time a map, I think. The Mayura volume had interesting bird drawings but most birds looked unusually well fed !

Your PITTA is certainly improving and it is a fine piece of work -- short but very sweet ! I will continue to be critical of shortcomings though, whether you like it or not. Your "News of new species!" section was very informative (taken from BIRDING WORLD), but perhaps you MISSED OUR ANOTHER RAIL (?) that was described as new from New Guinea (?) in the latest FORKTAIL of 1998, which I hurriedly browsed through in Priva Davidar's room at Pondy University. And, when you note new species you must give AUTHOR'S NAMES as well ! More info on the locations of little known places and islands would also be clever and understanding of an editor : Give me a little more data on the Scops Owl that I would have named "Abdulali's Scops Owl", and will, now ! Is it the same as one of the subspecies of Otus sunia from the Nicobars later thought to be Otus magicus by Ripley & Beehler in their interesting paper on the Andaman & Nicobar avifauna published in the Journal of Biogeography recently ? The scientific name is also badly selected -- I would have used Otus abdulalii to honour this grand old man (whom I recently met in Bombay, and who told me that Rasmussen was naming a bird after him), our last real native bird taxonomist, who has done so much work on these Bay Islands. Nowadays these young 'taxonomists' curiously dislike patronyms, which I think is very silly and not at all honourable. Lousy Yanks !

The "LITERARY RENDITION" (not "renditions") was poorly translated I think. Check with an Urdu (or Persian) scholar. The last part of the sonnet (?) should be "You are the Hunter, make your home on the peaks of mountains". What a fascinating language Urdu is and also Persian -- Most of our gardens not created by the British were a legacy of Persian influence brought in by the Moghuls, who also brought in different culture and refinement not existant in the native "Indians" resident here, before these invasions.

Alwidaah, my friend .....

KUMAR

Date: Wed, 3 Mar 1999 18:35:46 -0500  
From: krys <krys@compuserve.com>  
Subject: Hi!  
To: Aasheesh Pittie <AASHEESH@hdl.vsnl.net.in>  
Message-ID: <199903031835\_MC2-6CA3-DB@compuserve.com>

Hi Aasheesh!

>Regarding G. melanolophus:  
Santharam's record: 12-12-1980; Satyamurti's record: 7-12-1967.<

Thanks for that.

> I do not know where Saleswar Beel is in Assam. Is there a paper I could follow as a thread?<

I don't know if it will help but the ref is:  
Saikia, P. and Bhattacharjee, P. C. (1990f) New records of waders in Assam. Newsletter for Birdwatchers 30(11 & 12): 7-8. [Ardea goliath]

> I will try and go through the maps in Tim's book.<

I wasn't suggesting you do that, as it's an awful lot of work, but I just thought that you might let me know if you happened to notice any errors. I expect Tim would be grateful for the same.

> It will take some time, as I am off to Bombay the day after. Might get a chance to go and see the Forest Spotted Owlet! Returning on 11th.<

Good luck with that, but I don't know if it's worth your while to try for the Forest Owlet. You're supposed to get permission from the Chief Wildlife Warden in Nagpur. It takes a full day to get to the site from Bombay and you need to allow three or four days there to look for it. We had one full day and one morning and failed.

> An atlas project for A.P. would be wonderful, except that we do not have enough birdwatchers! I am however in the process of compiling a distribution atlas from printed records. I have entered a lot of the information already. Perhaps by the end of this year we'll have something definite!<

Sounds great! Maybe one day there will be enough birdwatchers. Hopefully, there will still be enough birds left then.

All the best,

Krys

**Subject: Saleswar Beel**

**Date:** Wed, 17 Mar 1999 23:27:51 +0530

**From:** Aasheesh Pittie <AASHEESH@HD1.VSNL.NET.IN>

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

Krys,

I don't know whether you're still interested in the location of Saleswar Beel. When in Bombay recently, I enquired and was informed that

it is near Dhubri Town in Dhubri district.

Was not able to go and see H. blewitti. They are breeding I was told.

--

Best wishes and regards!

Aasheesh Pittie

8-2-545 Road No 7, Banjara Hills, Hyderabad 500034, INDIA.

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E-MAIL: AASHEESH@HD1.VSNL.NET.IN

**Subject: Saleswar Beel**

**Date:** Thu, 18 Mar 1999 05:23:38 -0500

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

**To:** Aasheesh Pittie <AASHEESH@hd1.vsnl.net.in>

Hi Aasheesh

> *I don't know whether you're still interested in the location of Saleswar Beel. When in Bombay recently, I enquired and was informed that it is near Dhubri Town in Dhubri district.*<

That's useful thanks.

> *Was not able to go and see H. blewitti.*<

That's a shame.

>*They are breeding I was told.*<

Excellent news.

I have a couple more queries regarding references if you have time:  
Bhat, H. R. and Sreenivasan, M. A. (1972) Observations on the nesting habit of a Banded Crane, *Rallina eurizonoides amauroptera* (Jerdon). Newsletter for Birdwatchers 12(1): 5-7. ||

Where? Was breeding regular or just a one off?

Lavkumar, K. S. (1968c) The status of the Watercock in Saurashtra. Newsletter for Birdwatchers 8(8): 1-2. [*Gallicrex cinerea*, Gujarat]

What is status?

Progress on maps is slow. I haven't reached 100 per week yet.

Cheers

Kryz

Date: Thu, 18 Mar 1999 19:56:55 -0500  
From: kryz <kryz@compuserve.com>  
Subject: Kattampalli  
To: Aasheesh Pittie <aasheesh@hdl.vsnl.net.in>  
Message-ID: <199903181957\_MC2-6E88-EEB5@compuserve.com>

Hi again, Aasheesh!

Any idea where Kattampalli in Kerala might be? It's mentioned under  
Glareola maldivarum in Neelakantan's Kerala Birds.

Cheers

Kryz

*Cannanore Dist 670015*

**Subject: Rallina**

**Date:** Fri, 19 Mar 1999 08:00:05 +0530

**From:** Aasheesh Pittie <AASHEESH@HD1.VSNL.NET.IN>

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

Dear Krys,

The reference for *Rallina eurizonoides amauroptera* (Jerdon) is 12(11): 5-7.

It was recorded breeding in "Kyasanur Forest disease area, Shimoga district, Mysore State." Breeding was in August (perhaps 1972). Authors describe one nest. The adult was captured and identified, measured and released.

I do not have NLBW 8(8): 1-2. Sorry.

--

Best wishes and regards!

Aasheesh Pittie

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E-MAIL: AASHEESH@HD1.VSNL.NET.IN

**Subject: Kattampalli**

**Date:** Fri, 19 Mar 1999 09:17:26 +0530

**From:** Aasheesh Pittie <AASHEESH@HD1.VSNL.NET.IN>

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

Dear Krys,

Kattampalli is in Cannanore district & its pin code is 670015. That's as close as I could get to the place.

--

Best wishes and regards!

Aasheesh Pittie

8-2-545 Road No 7, Banjara Hills, Hyderabad 500034, INDIA.

PHONES: Work: 91-40-3352269 / Res: 91-40-3350683 / Fax: 91-40-3356064

E-MAIL: AASHEESH@HD1.VSNL.NET.IN

**Subject: Kattampalli**

**Date:** Fri, 19 Mar 1999 18:11:52 -0500

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

**To:** Aasheesh Pittie <AASHEESH@hd1.vsnl.net.in>

Message text written by Aasheesh Pittie  
>Kattampalli is in Cannanore district & its pin code is 670015. That's  
as close as I could get to the place.<

Dear Aasheesh,

The district is all I need, many thanks - at the small size of maps I am producing that is approaching the best degree of accuracy that can be achieved. I can generally track down all the districts on the maps I have, although name changes are sometimes confusing, e.g. Cannanore = Kannur.

Thanks a lot also for the other Shimoga ref. There aren't many records of Rallina eurizonoides as you can see from Tim Inskipp's map. Have you ever seen it anywhere? Still no records from Andhra?

All the best

Kryz

**Subject: Madsen**

**Date:** Wed, 24 Mar 1999 07:05:49 -0500

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

**To:** Aasheesh Pittie <aasheesh@hd1.vsnl.net.in>

Hi Aasheesh!

How are things going?

Another query for you: are there any significant records in the article Madsen, S. T. (1988) Some birds in the marine and estuarine systems of Uttara Kannada, Karnataka. Newsletter for Birdwatchers 28(3 & 4): 10-12.?

Cheers

Kryz

**Subject: Madsen**

**Date:** Thu, 25 Mar 1999 06:57:25 +0530

**From:** Aasheesh Pittie <AASHEESH@HD1.VSNL.NET.IN>

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

Hi Krys,

Madsen's records:

A Frigate bird sp. .. probably a Masked Booby, but confusion with the Red-footed not ruled out.

50 skuas. 2 were identified as Arctic Skuas (*Stercorarius parasiticus*). The rest were probably Arctic.

Sooty Terns strongly suspected but positive id not made.

Other birds seen were: Osprey, Turnstone, Curlew Sandpiper, Chestnut Bittern, WN Stork, Black Stork, Spoonbill, Garganey, Pintail, Ruddy Shelduck, Terek Sandpiper, Whimbrel, Curlew, BW Stilt, Avocet, Ruff, Small Indian Pratincole.

--

Best wishes and regards!

Aasheesh Pittie

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E-MAIL: AASHEESH@HD1.VSNL.NET.IN

**Subject:** Madsen

**Date:** Fri, 26 Mar 1999 03:25:08 -0500

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

**To:** Aasheesh Pittie <AASHEESH@hd1.vsnl.net.in>

Many thanks, Aasheesh!

I knew about Madsen's Skuas from JBNHS and the 'probables' would have been interesting if they had been 'definites'.

BOC Bulletin just arrived but there is nothing relevant to S Asia.

Cheers

Kryz

cuckoo

**Subject:** cuckoo

**Date:** Mon, 29 Mar 1999 05:49:05 -0500

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

**To:** Aasheesh Pittie <aasheesh@hd1.vsnl.net.in>

Hi Aasheesh!

Any idea of the location of the following?:

Gupte, A., Kapur, S., Kapur, S. K. and Gupta, A. (1978) Rearing of the Common Cuckoo by Rufousbacked Shrikes. Newsletter for Birdwatchers 18(12): 8-10. [Cuculus canorus, Lanius schach, Madhya Pradesh]

Cheers

Kryz

**Subject: Cuckoo & Shrike**

**Date:** Tue, 30 Mar 1999 07:15:46 +0530

**From:** Aasheesh Pittie <AASHEESH@HD1.VSNL.NET.IN>

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

Krys,

Both are from Hoshangabad district in MP.

--

Best wishes and regards!

Aasheesh Pittie

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E-MAIL: AASHEESH@HD1.VSNL.NET.IN

Date: Tue, 30 Mar 1999 17:01:06 -0500  
From: kryz <kryz@compuserve.com>  
Subject: Cuckoo & Shrike  
To: Aasheesh Pittie <AASHEESH@hdl.vsnl.net.in>  
Message-ID: <199903301701\_MC2-7001-35C0@compuserve.com>

Thanks Aasheesh!

If you have tiome the location and status of the following in  
Ara, J. (1963a) Cuckoos in Bihar. Newsletter for Birdwatchers 3(1): 4-5.  
would be helpful:

Cuculus canorus — Moughys, Hazaribagh & Ranchi — pair drop. at Kalimati 6 km from Ranchi. <sup>author</sup>  
C. saturatus — quotes Ranchi's record.  
Surniculus lugubris — Moughys, Hazaribagh & Singhbhum.  
Clamator coromandus — Baker in Chotanagpur & Jyotis from Darbhanga Dist.  
Phaenicophaeus tristis

All the best

Kryz

**Subject: Cuckoos**

**Date:** Wed, 31 Mar 1999 11:03:13 +0530

**From:** Aasheesh Pittie <AASHEESH@HD1.VSNL.NET.IN>

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

Krys,

Most of the records are historical in nature.

C. canorus - Monghyr, Hazaribagh, Ranchi. Author seen pair displaying at Kalimati, 16 miles from Ranchi.

C. saturatus - quotes Baker's record.

S. lugubris - Monghyr, Hazaribagh & Singhbhum.

Clamator coromandus - Baker in Chotanagpur & Inglis from Darbhanga dist.

P. tristis - Ranchi, Singhbhum, Manbhum.

--

Best wishes and regards!

Aasheesh Pittie

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E-MAIL: AASHEESH@HD1.VSNL.NET.IN

**Subject:** Borabhúm and Dholbhúm

**Date:** Fri, 2 Apr 1999 10:04:29 -0500

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

**To:** Aasheesh Pittie <aasheesh@hd1.vsnl.net.in>

Hi again!

I'm not on ICQ. Having wasted so much time with upgrading and getting the system up and running again, I am now avoiding messing around with any more new software for a while.

Any idea where in Bihar Borabhúm and Dholbhúm are, as in Tickell, S. R. (1833) List of birds, collected in the jungles of Borabhúm and Dholbhúm. J. Asiatic Soc. Bengal 2: 569-583. ?

Kryz

**Subject:** Hi!

**Date:** Mon, 05 Apr 1999 15:52:07 +0530

**From:** Aasheesh Pittie <AASHEESH@HD1.VSNL.NET.IN>

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

Krys,  
Sorry for the delay!

Borabhum=Barabhum. It is above Jamshedpur (Bihar), in the Purulia district of West Bengal. Just outside Bihar now.

Dholbhum=Dhalabhum. Below Jamshedpur, in Singhbhum district of Bihar.

I am going down to chittoor district, Rishi Valley, as a resource person for a Field Course in Ornithology, which their Bird Study Department is holding from 7th instant. Will be away from this evening to 11th morning.

Then there are plans to visit Kanha around 14th! Will keep you posted.

--

Best wishes and regards!

Aasheesh Pittie

8-2-545 Road No 7, Banjara Hills, Hyderabad 500034, INDIA.

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E-MAIL: AASHEESH@HD1.VSNL.NET.IN

Hi

**Subject:** Hi

**Date:** Fri, 30 Apr 1999 03:46:23 -0400

**From:** krys <krys@compuserve.com>

**To:** Aasheesh Pittie <AASHEESH@hd1.vsnl.net.in>

Message text written by Aasheesh Pittie

>I'm back from a couple of holidays and also back on the net. My account had expired while I was away. Did you send anything for me in the interim?<

Hi Aasheesh,

I had indeed tried to email you a few times. Here is the last one I sent:

>Hi Aasheesh!

Just thought I'd try emailing you again, though you may still be at Kanha. The last few emails I sent kept bouncing back marked "address unknown".

Basically to say thanks for the last lot of info and yes, I have now received the latest NLBW. Many thanks again for writing such a thorough review.

Small question:

Chowdhury, D. and Biswas, S. (1984) Observations on Pied Myna (*Sturnus contra*) at Hind Motor. Mayura 5: 64.

Where and when? What is status of *S. contra* in and around Hyderabad?<

I'll be in touch again later.

Cheers

Krys

Not seen in & around Hyd  
The nearest keep

32km from Calcutta  
3rd week of Feb 1984

Eturnagarum Warangal  
Nankul - Warangal  
Ramappa - "  
Kakinada - E. Godavari  
Bapatla seashore  
Kolleru - Krishna dist.