



Recd 8/2/2000

Institute of Bird Studies and Natural History

RISHI VALLEY EDUCATION CENTRE

Krishnamurti Foundation India

Rishi Valley - 517 352, Chittoor District, A.P. Fax / Tel. 08571 - 62037

S. Rangaswami
Director

Mr. Asheesh Pillre.
Birdwatchers' Society of Andhra Pradesh
P.O. Box No 45. Banjara Hills Postoffice
HYDERABAD - 500 034

Rishi Valley
01 Feb 2000

Dear Mr. Asheesh

I am enclosing Waleford Census Report given by
Dr. Sankaran to be passed on to you.

I am also sending herewith a cheque for Rs. 115/-
(inclusive of collection charges for information classes) towards my
subscription for his year 2000.

Rishi Valley had not, atleast in the recent past,
experienced such drought conditions as during the current
season. The water levels in the wells that sustain us and our
agricultural activities are alarmingly low. Above all, ours is a
residential school and we have started two months before the school
closes. The question of carrying out Waleford Census in the tanks
we used to cover like PTM and the water bores - medium & small -
does not arise because the tanks are all dry.

I am sending a copy of his translated and edited version
of an article on Rishi Valley which had appeared in his magazine
in Spanish of - Planeta HUMANO - subletter from Madrid. It is a
pretty long article covering a wide variety of rural educational
activities and the like. This printout has only the portions relating
to me. There are four photographs of me in colour - three on the
Editorial page being a full page one nearly. I thought it might
interest you.

Kindly drop a line and acknowledge.
Regards

Yours
S. Rangaswami

A GARDEN OF KNOWLEDGE

Nuria Verde

Planeta HUMANO No.18 - August 1999
Madrid Spain

“Ideas That Change The World”

Translated from Spanish (abridged and edited)

Mr Rangaswami, Padmanabha Rao, Rama Rao and Mr Naidu have planted the seed of knowledge and life in an impoverished valley in the interior of South India. Green cover has been restored over a large area.

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Mr Rangaswami could be a character from a Garcia Marquez novel - his life is pure magical realism. He is a sage who speaks with birds and trees. Each afternoon, he goes out walking, with binoculars around his neck, to talk with his creatures. Rama says: “Rangaswami feels a real passion for birds. One day I was talking to him and he told me a story in which I couldn’t identify the characters. He spoke of “he” and “she” - who were they? Finally I realised he was talking about birds, as if they were human beings.” Rangaswami is eighty years old and full of enthusiasm, overflowing with energy, and he has never lost the capacity for amazement. His themes of conversation run from imitating the love-songs of birds to talking about Socrates and Schopenhauer. He is an expert on birds and also supervises the gardeners. His sense of design and feeling for beauty has been instrumental in the greening of the school campus.

We go walking with him, his forehead high and his white hair brushed back. He is a very tall man wearing a polo sweater, the colour of red earth. We make our way through the lianas of a banana plantation in a late afternoon air scented with warmth and serenity. Suddenly his eyes open wide: “Look! - a beautiful kingfisher”. He peers through the binoculars. “And over there the white egret has returned. He had to come back here.”

We keep walking, and we hear a whistle. “That is a courtship call. A pair of spotted doves are declaring their love. Listen. The male speaks first and then the females answer him. Wait a minute - what’s this? Another male. There are going to be problems”, he announces. We walk amongst calendulas, bougainvillea, hibiscus, wild roses, sinfonas and aromatic sandalwood trees. Then he stops and says, “My enthusiasm in my eightieth year is the same as when I was a boy. I still have the same love of life, the same curiosity. My mind is intact and that’s a blessing. There is so much work I still want to do at Rishi Valley.”

When we return to the campus, the sky is like black silk with a few golden threads. Night falls suddenly and it is already dangerous to walk the paths in case one crosses a cobra, a viper or a wildcat. “Did you hear that? It’s a wood owl. He’s the lord of

the night and he says to the other birds: "Now I'm in charge. My kingdom starts here. All of you go to sleep". Rangaswami makes an impetuous gesture with his arms as if he himself was motivating the birds to fly to their nests. The strange thing is that they seem to be obeying him because suddenly a band of birds make the night vibrate. They are going to sleep. The wood-owl hoots again, satisfied.

"I'll tell you a story, about something that happened to me at the beginning of the 1970s. We were building a new dormitory for students and in the plans we saw that one of the lines invaded the area around a tree, this same tree which you see in front of you. It is called a silk-cotton tree. It had to be cut down. I didn't want it to happen but I kept quiet. The night before it was to be cut, I dreamt that the silk-cotton tree spoke to me. 'Why are you going to kill me? I don't want to die.' Its voice was so sad. Next morning I got up at dawn. I put myself in front of the tree with my arms wide, and told my colleagues. 'This tree is not for cutting.' They complained a lot but they let it stand. With cotton from this tree I made a pillow which I sleep on every night."

S. Rangaswami was born into one of the highest castes in India, that of Vishnu devotees who shave their heads but keep one long tuft of hair as a symbol of orthodoxy. When he was young Rangaswami cut off his tuft. At college he studied biology, and spent his nights reading philosophical books. He was moved by the teachings of Mahatma Gandhi, who fought all his life against the concept of untouchability. To give a single example: "untouchables" were not allowed to enter Hindu temples because they could contaminate them. Thanks to his religious influence, he succeeded in allowing them entrance to the temples. "But he did much more: he called the untouchables Harijans, which means 'sons of God'. He said that we were all equal sons of God who live in the same world. Rangaswami never paid attention to caste distinctions. One of the persons he most admires, and of whom he often speaks, is an old illiterate woman who cultivates the nursery in Rishi Valley. "She has an extraordinary talent for flowers and trees."

In Rangaswami's house we find fresh limes scattered on the table amidst a chaos of papers and books. "Forgive the mess. It's because I live alone", he apologises. There is also a large photo of a woman with a sweet expression looking compassionately at the disorder in which Rangaswami lives. He becomes quietly sad when looking at that photograph, of his late wife. What have I learned in this life? Always look with your inner eye - that's what I have learned."

Rishi Valley is so-called after the legend of a Rishi (wise man), who is said to have lived on top of one of the nearby hills. In Rishi Valley we always think in terms of **Before** and **Now**, an invisible frontier separating a devastated past and a promising future. Rayalseema, as the surrounding region is called, is a chronic drought area where ancient granite rocks lie desolate on rugged brown hills. Now only three kilometers towards the interior there is a forest where calendulas, wild roses, jacaranda and rhododendrons flourish.

Before, the soil was arid and hard. The only thing that grew was a shrub which even the goats wouldn't eat. **Now**, the same soil supports hundreds of species of plants many of them with medicinal properties. Each tree has been planted by a child or an adult. Before, there were no birds, and now there are more than two hundred species. In 1991 Rishi Valley was designated as a Bird Preserve. Before, there were few butterflies and now more than fifty species flutter around, including a particularly beautiful one with black silk wings and splashes of vermilion. Before, there was no

water and now there is water in abundance, with a "percolation tank" that collects rain water from the hills. The water table has been recharged for miles around.

In 1980 the State Government leased one hundred and fifty acres of hillside land to Rishi Valley School for reforestation on a larger scale. The first thing they did was to harvest the monsoon rains which before only caused soil erosion. In order to achieve this, they built small check-dams on the hill and then channeled the water to an artificial pond. They made nurseries for all sorts of local plants and trees. Everyone in the school and in the nearby villages took part. Initially there was much resentment from local shepherds when a wall was built to prevent grazing on the hillside. But later they were permitted to cut grass for their goats and sheep, and this became a valuable resource for them during the drought seasons.

Rangaswami remembers the experience in this way. "Each year more than twenty thousand saplings were planted on the hillside. Students went up the hill with spades and bags full of seeds in their hands. The older ones dug pits for the saplings. Tanks of water were brought on tractors to the foot of the hill. From there the students carried up water in buckets to an irrigation channel that snaked around the hill". The artificial lake on the southern hill was called "Lost Lake" because of the little water that had collected there. In 1988 a much larger pond was constructed for harvesting rainwater. Mr Naidu was in charge of that project. He shows us his plantation of mango trees, papaya, palms and bananas. "From the smallest seeds, if you know how to cultivate them, you can grow the biggest trees," says Mr Naidu by way of farewell whilst he walks away in search of mangoes for the Dining Hall. A large white umbrella protects him from the intense afternoon sun.

In Rishi Valley, from parched land a splendid forest has grown; in a miserable climate; warm hearts and newly-awakened young minds are developing. Before looking for the last time at Rishi Konda, the hill which dominates the valley where Krishnamurti decided to build his school, we captured a rare moment of intimacy. In the freshness of the dawn, children are running enthusiastically, in a film of dust on the road leading to their school. In front of her hut, a village mother sends her daughter to school. She strokes her hair in a gesture heavy with tenderness. The girl picks up an old rustic book bag crossed with patches. In one hand she holds a tiffin tin with her lunch for the day. In her other hand she grips a small writing slate. Her mother embraces her, and lets her go for a moment to check the contents of the tiffin once again. The girl is impatient to go to school and looks nervously at her little friends. At last the mother lets go and she runs to her friends, animated and excited. The mother watches the road for a long time, even after she has lost sight of her daughter. She waits a few seconds and then goes back to the fields to work. An expression incandescent with both lightness and darkness remains on her face.

The inhabitants of the Valley watch the sky and ask themselves if it will rain or not. An angry Sun wounds the fields. It is the rainy season and the swollen dark belly of monsoon clouds still hasn't made its annual appearance. But people don't seem very worried. They know how to make learning joyful and they know how to make life spring forth from degraded land.

A GARDEN OF KNOWLEDGE

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23/2/2001

Institute of Bird Studies and Natural History

RISHI VALLEY EDUCATION CENTRE

Krishnamurti Foundation India

Rishi Valley - 517 352, Chittoor District, A.P. Fax / Tel. 08571 - 62037

S. Rangaswami
Director

Rishi Valley
19 Feb 2001

Dear Mr. Aameer

D cheque for Rs 1257: is enclosed. This is towards Annual subscription expiring on 31.3.2001. and bank collection charges.

A booklet recently brought out is enclosed. This is a continuation of the 'Introduction' included in the 3rd revised and enlarged edition of the Study Material printed recently. We print only 300 to 400 sets at a time. Sometime in early April I will send you a set purely for your perusal. You are a member of the faculty. I have added a few paragraphs on 'Feather Care'. Earlier it had been treated in a cursory manner. Lessons on Conservation Biology, Biodiversity Protection etc have been updated. The lesson 'Saving the Birds' has also been revised to add some more details about the Forest Owllet, the Conser etc. I want to go through carefully to locate errors in print, improve a couple of sentences which though syntactically correct, have a jarring effect etc and prepare the Errata to be sent along with the material. It has till now been a one-man effort from the conception of such a course, designing the course content, authoring the lessons, single handed (barring the lesson on Biodiversity and Deep Ecology) and attending to the routine of mailing the prospectus followed by despatching lessons till the certificates are sent after evaluation. Throughout, in as many cases as possible I have tried to maintain personal contact with the students. It has been a wonderful experience. The underlying and moulding ideas are

to learn for birds more friends and equip them with a scientific knowledge of their biology and ecology and a sense of appreciation and admiration for certain aspects of their life which will ever remain mysterious and evoke in the eyes and mind of the beholder, a sense of awe bordering on reverence. Birdwatchers are no mere birdwatchers as they were known to a couple of decades back - mere listers - low field ornithologists. Hard-boiled ornithologists may not take to this idle knobby but keen who knows. As a branch of study the prime motto "Seek and ye shall find" is relevant. I wouldn't like to make this letter needlessly long.

I had a mild heart attack on 25th June last. ^{venture work} Even though ^{my} the symptoms disappeared within 48 hours, on medical advice I had to be in bed rest for a month. I moved to Pune for convalescence. My son-in-law is the Chief of Teles's Car project and the Campus is a beautiful and heavily wooded one with two large water bodies (specially created) with adjoining marmes. For days together I would be face to face with an Osprey from 10 till 11 am. I returned in mid-Nov after an absence of 5 months. With the vesical changes in life-style I am almost normal. I will be back in Pune during the whole of March and return to BV in early April. My keen avists will appear and I will be able to attend to enrolments, queries etc.

I don't think a Newsletter of comparable standard to that of PITTA has ever been produced in the country. I am assiduously collecting all the issues, put them in special folders and choose material to be extracted from them to publish as lesson 25 of the study material for the Home Study Course. I shall give the details and seek formally BSAP's permission for printing them. The source and authorship will be acknowledged. This is to give a kind of permanence to such material. Also I intend advising students to become members of BSAP. This is one of the tasks I intend doing while in Pune. I do here only to keep the promise I made to my daughter that I will spend a month here during March/April next.

Though I will be giving all my time and attention to the course, I intend leaving the responsibility to DVVS. From Feb 1981 Mrs Lakshmi Sankaran has been made Administrative Officer of the Institute with an honorarium. This is a huge job. Shall keep in touch.

With affectionate good wishes,
Shankar Sankaran

P.S. You needn't feel any concern about my health. After all I have survived 80
Quitting head-~~to~~ foot a mild asthma. I have had full bed rest for
Rough for food a new notebook in 20. Hypo is still low. No reports at all. etc.

23/2/2001

The Doon School,
Dehradun 248001,
Uttar Pradesh.

December 29th, 1999

S. Rangaswami
Head, Department of Bird Studies,
Rishivalley Education Centre,
Rishivalley 517352,
Chittoor District,
Andhra Pradesh.

Dear Sir,

Find enclosed my completed mid course
Test and final examination scripts of
the Home Study Course in Ornithology.

I have greatly enjoyed doing this course.
It has been a great learning experience
for me. I now plan to recommend it
to my friends, some of whom share my interest
in ornithology. Salim Ali's books on birds,
a small diary, and a pencil and a pair
of binoculars have become my travelling
companions.

Dehradun is a lovely place to watch birds.
If you ever happy to be there abouts feel
free to visit us. Our phone, fax, e-mail is

as follows:

phone : 0135-752973

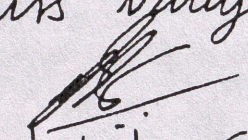
fax : 0135-632793

e-mail: yoganga@vsnl.com

Let me also take this opportunity to wish you a happy new year.

Thanking you,

Yours truly,


Nachiket Chanchani
Registration number : 384

I have many such letters including one from a head of dept of Zoology in a college, a veteranian with Ph.D from Vijayawala etc. etc.

To be engaged on such an elevating task in the evening of my life on a purely honorary basis is a Blessing - not trust upon me - but one for which I have striven with clearightedness and singleness of purpose in a spirit of TAPAS all my life.

I am saying all these in a spirit of humility since you have the perspicacity to understand things which are subtle and sublime too.



INSTITUTE OF BIRD STUDIES AND NATURAL HISTORY
RISHI VALLEY EDUCATION CENTRE
Krishnamurti Foundation India
RISHI VALLEY - 517 352, Chittoor Dist., A.P.

HOME STUDY COURSE IN ORNITHOLOGY

STATE-WISE ENROLMENTS
APRIL 1997 TO DECEMBER 2000

| | |
|------------------|----|
| Andamans | 1 |
| Andhra Pradesh | 38 |
| Assam | 4 |
| Bihar | 1 |
| Chandigarh | 1 |
| Delhi | 29 |
| Goa | 7 |
| Gujarat | 42 |
| Haryana | 6 |
| Himachal Pradesh | 2 |
| Jammu & Kashmir | 5 |
| Karnataka | 62 |
| Kerala | 17 |
| Madhya Pradesh | 12 |
| Maharashtra | 56 |
| Manipur | 1 |
| Meghalaya | 1 |
| Orissa | 1 |
| Pondicherry | 5 |
| Punjab | 1 |
| Rajasthan | 16 |
| Sikkim | 1 |
| Tamilnadu | 74 |
| Uttar Pradesh | 24 |
| West Bengal | 15 |
| A P O (Defence) | 8 |
| N R I | 1 |

Total

431

Institute of Bird Studies and Natural History
Rishi Valley Education Centre
Krishnamurti Foundation India
Rishi Valley 517352, Chittoor Dist., A.P.

HOME STUDY COURSE IN ORNITHOLOGY
STATE-WISE ENROLLMENTS
NEW SCHEME
(MAY 1998 TO DECEMBER 1999)

| | |
|-----------------------------------|-------|
| Andhra Pradesh | 28 |
| Assam | 3 |
| Bihar | .. |
| Chandigarh | 1 |
| Delhi | 18 |
| Goa | 6 |
| Gujarat | 26 |
| Haryana | 4 |
| Himachal Pradesh | 1 |
| Jammu & Kashmir | 4 |
| Karnataka | 39 |
| Kerala | 12 |
| Madhya Pradesh | 9 |
| Maharashtra | 36 |
| Manipur | 1 |
| Meghalaya | 1 |
| Pondicherry | 3 |
| Rajasthan | 11 |
| Tamil Nadu | 43 |
| Uttar Pradesh | 20 |
| West Bengal | 11 |
| A P O (Defence) | 6 |
| N.R.I | 1 |
| | <hr/> |
| | 284 |
| Old Scheme (April 97 to April 98) | 70 |
| | <hr/> |
| Total : (Dec. 99) | 354 |
| | <hr/> |

The Doon School,
Dehradun 248001,
Uttar Pradesh.

December 29th, 1999

S. Rangaswami
Head, Department of Bird Studies,
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I have greatly enjoyed doing this course. It has been a great learning experience for me. I now plan to recommend it to my friends, some of whom share my interest in ornithology. Salim Ali's books on birds, a small diary, and a pencil and a pair of binoculars have become my travelling companions.

Dehradun is a lovely place to watch birds. If you ever happy to be thereabouts feel free to visit us. Our phone, fax, e-mail is

as follows:

phone : 0135-752973

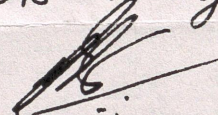
fax : 0135-632793

e-mail: yoganga@vsnl.com

Let me also take this opportunity to
wish you a happy new year.

Thanking you,

Yours truly,


Nachiket Chanchani
Registration number : 384

375

5-A Sukhi apartments, 17 Rhenius Street,
Richmond Town, Bangalore -560025

Dear Dr. Rangaswami,

Thank you for the kind words you said about and to me. They gave me cheer and confidence that I could complete the Home Study course in Ornithology.

I am submitting herewith my answers to the Final Examination Paper. I am sorry I was unable to write the answers in my own hand, my writing is so bad that even I cannot decipher some of it when I revise it! So much for disadvantages of age. I am grateful to my friend Mrs. V. Das for writing out my first paper, and to my daughter-in-law, Brinda for making a computer print out of my answers to the final examination.

I thank you and all involved in making this course possible. I have enjoyed it and am richer in my knowledge.

With best wishes,

Yours Sincerely

Sushila Bai Adige

(Sushila Bai Adige)

Bangalore
28. 10.1999

I wish you many more years of fruitful
studies and pursuits of birds. Do you have an
E. Mail?
S. Adige

This lady (77 yrs old) joined the Home Study Course saying
she was tempted by the Scholarship Scheme and that though she had
done birdwatching with late Mr. Salim Ali, she knew very little about
birds apart from identifying a few. Considering her age, she
exempted her from the project involving field study under part Two
of the final exam and instead asked her to send me a brief narrative
on her birdwatching experiences with Salim Ali. This is his offspring & her.
She was a student of Don School. These along with the state-wide
enrollments across the country gives some idea of the profusion made possible.
Poor financially, it is a tight situation. We are managing because
I am doing honorary work since 1990 and I pay minimal part-time
salaries to those who help I seek no other. Yes, it is a profoundly
satisfying experience. J.R.

Reg.No., 375

Part II

Dr. Salim Ali and I

"See that small olive brown bird skulking in the tea bushes? That is a spotted babbler."
"Look at that slender built uncrested eagle, dark brown above and white below, it is a Bonelli's Hawk Eagle." "See that smart little fellow strikingly coloured? He is the Black and Orange Fly Catcher. He is usually seen singly but often has his mate nearby". These and other nuggets of information on flora and fauna were told to me by the late Dr. Salim Ali.

Dr. Salim ali was a simple, lovable person, full of humour. I hosted him twice in Conoor in the Niligirs where he had come to supervise his student Reza Khan, who was doing his thesis for Ph.d on the Black and Orange FlyCatcher. When Dr. Salim Ali knew that I was a keen bird and nature watcher, he took me with him on his trips to various sholas and jungles. Two other students- Sugathan and Daniel also came from time to time, to work with Salim Ali. On one of the walks in a shola, Sugathan was busy collecting whatever was live and putting it in his specimen bag. One of these was a small snake. The three men admired it, identified it, stroked it, saying, how nice it was. They then offered it to me for admiration and stroking. I, who had a healthy repulsion for snakes, found myself with three smirking men who were sure I would not touch it. Finally, after much urging and screwing-up courage, I touched it gingerly with one finger and found it was not slimy and I enjoyed touching it!

Dr. Salim Ali stayed with my son Narayan in Munnar. Of course, I was there. We went to see and photograph Ibex and the Eravikulam Wildlife Sanctuary, reached by a seven mile narrow track, wet with the rain. We saw Saddlebacks, Sambar and flora like Drosera.

We met him last at his house in Bombay in 1978. It was a great privilege and pleasure knowing Dr. Salim Ali.

Aasheesh Pittie

8-2-545 Road # 7, Banjara Hills, Hyderabad 500034, India.

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

July 17, 2001

Shri S. Rangaswami
Director
Rishi Valley ~~Education Centre~~ *Bird Preserve*
Krishnamurti Foundation India
Rishi Valley 517352
Chittoor District
Andhra Pradesh

Dear Mr Rangaswami,

Smriti and I cannot convey in words what a wonderful time we had in Rishi Valley and how much we enjoyed your hospitality. Thank you for having invited us to this wonderful, magical place. We shall cherish the memories forever.

The Banyan Tree, which you so lovingly take care of, is indeed a symbol of continuity and renewal. Both aspects are so essential in the running of a school. Those who study or for that matter teach within its gentle shadow must certainly engender these subtle feelings in their hearts and understand their deeper meaning.

In having declared the Rishi Valley area as a Bird Preserve, the trustees of the Education Centre have ensured that those who tread this tract of land shall go gently upon its soil. To have a synthesis of nature education and a formal academic curriculum that is so essential in the development of a complete human being, commingled below one piece of starry sky is the work of truly sentient beings. No wonder it provides rich humus for the reverence of Mother Earth so beautifully described in the *vedas*.

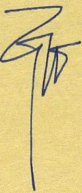
*Samudrah mekhale devi
Parvatah sthana mandale
Vishnu-patni-shch Namastubhyam
Padah sparsham kshamaswamay*

The Tree looks robust on the eastern side and I am sure, with the renewed attention that it is getting from Mr Ravindran and with your firm backing, it will gain health on its western side too.

Thanking you once again,

With best wishes and regards,

Yours truly,



Shri S. Rangaswami
Rishi Valley Education Centre
Rishi Valley
Chittoor District, A.P.

Date 9. xi. 2001

Dear Shri Rangaswami,

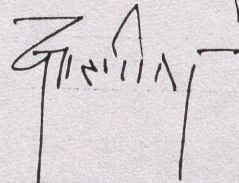
When your forest watcher, Subbanna (?) took us to the Big Banyan, he did so from the east, along the dirt track that reaches it from the main entrance to Rishi Valley. He couldn't have timed it better. All the members of our little group had gone on ahead and as is my wont at times, I lingered a moment. Great shafts of golden sunlight shone through the giant limbs, falling upon the halved earth beneath it. I wonder how many people have walked that way blind to such momentous joy. You have indeed done a wonderful thing in opening up the eastern side of the tree. How else would I have entered the glorious cathedral of nature that evening? The light had an exceptional quality of lightness and brilliant, golden purity.

Thank you Sir, for your hospitality. All members were terribly impressed with Rishi Valley's green cover. One or two also evinced an interest in the Course. I think they will get in touch with you directly.

I await your communication regarding the physical implementation of the Field Study Course.

With best wishes and regards,

Yours sincerely



Ansheesh Pittie
8-2-545 Road No 7
Bayara Hills
Hyderabad 500034.

Institute of Bird Studies and Natural History

Krishnamurti Foundation India

Rishi Valley - 517 352, Chittoor District, Andhra Pradesh

Tel. : 08571-68622, 68582 Tel/Fax : 08571-26037



S. Rangaswami
Director

Reg. No. _____

Dr. V. Santharam
Joint Director

Home Study Course in Ornithology

We are glad you have joined the course. It is our hope that you will benefit from it and feel drawn closer to birds and to Nature of which we are a part. We also hope that your involvement with the movement for bird protection and conservation of Nature and Natural Resources will be a lifelong commitment.

Please note the following :

Course Duration : _____
Date for receipt of — : _____
Mid-term test answers : _____
Final test answers : _____

The dates indicated are to be strictly adhered to. Also, you have to ensure that a part of your spare time is devoted for going through the study material with diligence and understanding. One of the themes for the project under Part Two of the final test is bird identification and brief description of each of the species included. This calls for field study along scientific lines. The lesson on 'Field Ornithology' will be of much practical help. However, the choice of theme is left to you depending on your interest and inclination. Please ensure that you retain a photo copy of your answers for future use, if necessary.

Please do not hesitate to write to us in case you need any special guidance. All correspondence must be addressed to The Director of the Institute, clearly indicating your roll number and full address with pincode.

With good wishes

Yours sincerely

Director / Jt. Director

INSTITUTE OF BIRD STUDIES AND NATURAL HISTORY

RISHI VALLEY EDUCATION CENTRE

Krishnamurti Foundation India

RISHI VALLEY - 517 352, Chittoor Dist., A.P.

HOME STUDY COURSE IN ORNITHOLOGY

STATE-WISE ENROLMENTS

APRIL 1997 TO FEBRUARY 2001

| | |
|----------------------|-----|
| Andamans | 1 |
| Andhra Pradesh | 41 |
| Assam | 4 |
| Bihar | 1 |
| Chandigarh | 1 |
| Delhi | 29 |
| Goa | 7 |
| Gujarat | 43 |
| Haryana | 6 |
| Himachal Pradesh | 2 |
| Jammu & Kashmir | 5 |
| Karnataka | 62 |
| Kerala | 18 |
| Madhya Pradesh | 12 |
| Maharashtra | 57 |
| Manipur | 1 |
| Meghalaya | 1 |
| Mizoram | 1 |
| Orissa | 2 |
| Pondicherry | 6 |
| Punjab | 1 |
| Rajasthan | 16 |
| Sikkim | 1 |
| Tamilnadu | 83 |
| Uttar Pradesh | 26 |
| West Bengal | 15 |
| A P O (Defence) | 8 |
| N R Is/Outside India | 3 |
| Total | 453 |

*It is 476 (477) as on 22/6 - yet to be incorporated
Make use for the additional 24.*

*We could have had many more if only we spent more
on advertisements. Don't want to go slow & conservative.
We may have to lower fee concision by 1/3 not 1/2 as at present. Don't see*

S. RANGASWAMI

M.A., B.Sc., M.Ed.

'Hoopoe House'

Rishi Valley - 517 352

Chittoor Dist. A. P.

Phone : 08571-Fax-Tel-26037

68622, 68582



What I spent, I had !
What I saved, I lost !!
What I gave, I have !!!


f. 28/6/2001



RV 22/6

Dear Mr. Sarvesh

The letter enclosed speaks for itself.
VS hasn't received your letter so far. Perhaps today's
mail has carried it. I don't know. Pl. But seriously
thought to my suggestion that you attend the gathering
on 14th or 15th with your wife.

You may come across some reservations here
and there. Take a  tolerant view. I have made
sure that the corrections necessary have been
incorporated in the text stored in the computer. While
bringing out the recent one - Section Three - yet to be
released - I wanted to give a thorough scrutiny to the
handwritten proof - though it had been checked earlier.
I was on the verge of collapse due to overstraining myself -
especially in view of the episode that had made me
alter my life style totally. I gave up the attempt. I
have made sure that the errors have been corrected
in the computer. Remote control from RV of work in
Pune is yet another disconcerting factor. I have prepared
the Enata for all the Resolutions. Before finalising
it I will give a final look during my forthcoming stay of
two months in Pune - mid July to Sep. end and then
print it.

Please go through the Afterword at the end of
Section Three. 'Friend and yet more friends'
is literally so. Everyone who enrolls for the course
become so - or made to become so by exhibiting testimony

in his letter confirming his endorsement. A specimen copy
of his letter is also sent herewith.

I have taken enough of your time. It will be
unfair of me to demand more of it.

With best wishes

Sincerely Yours
K. Rangaswami

After Hoskote drive straight
not via Chintamani
via
Kolar to Rishi Valley



28/6
2001

Institute of Bird Studies and Natural History

RISHI VALLEY EDUCATION CENTRE

Krishnamurti Foundation India

Rishi Valley - 517 352, Chittoor District, A.P. Fax / Tel. 08571 - 62037-26037-6858212

Fax/Tel

68622

S. Rangaswami
Director

RV 21/6

Dear Mr. Aameer,

Just three more days are to pass for completion of one year after the mild heart attack I had while in Pilani (25.6.00). Even I received from the Governor of Karnataka the Air Force's Oshapenallan memento. I had a couple of months to go (Sept) to attain 80 yrs but the presentation is made in mid-year for those who have an completed or will be completing 80 yrs during the year. Only a few weeks are left to enter the 82nd. Birds or the Essence of Birdsness - which dominates the 'software' in me may choose to keep me going for some more time I presume. But I have radically altered my life style so as not to motor the allotted span. The rest is in the hands of destiny.

I am sending through Anandanandan a set of the revised and enlarged edition of the lessons for the Home Study Course. There are some additions like 'Feather Care' - more in the nature of elaboration, updating especially in matters like population - I mean 'human' in the lesson on 'Conservation' etc. I had to be away from RV due to the setback in health from June to November and only on my return could I give my attention to the task of revision. From the time the project was launched in April 1997 till this day it has been a 'one-man-job' from designing the syllabus to writing the lessons (barring these on Bird Photography & Deep Ecology where too the introductory part is my contribution), to proof reading to supervising printing to looking and despatching lessons. If VS has been looking after the course matters in my absence but, being an interteaching staff, he is totally preoccupied with his writing and it will be unworkable of me to burden him with my responsibilities. I went to Pune to spend a month with my elder daughter here. Her husband is the chief (vice President) of Telco's Car Project. My stay in Pimpri which is an ecological paradise. In here recently built Bangalore

There is an exclusively built room for me. When I was here in March last, it occurred to me the very night I reached here and I don't say whether it was a thought sequence or a dream sequence - but more birds - not individually but as groups should find place in the tenon to give a sense of fullness or adequacy. I think I heard the birds as groups clamouring for it. The very next morning I started preparing the outlines of a new tenon and also long enough like a section by itself. On my return I gave shape to the tenon and the result is the enclosed book Section Three. Also I wanted to observe the 10 anniversary of the Bird Preserve primarily for withdrawing from all responsibilities and lead the life of a recluse attending to the needs of the Poig Banyan Tree here. Some clue can be had about its eminence from what is printed beneath its picture.

As the printing was going on I could not help including in the Section some pictures from the latest issue of Mayura (Please pages 362 & 374) - duly acknowledged of course with the certainty that you would be gracious enough to permit it. The copy was received by Mr. Srinivas just then. Earlier I had included a few lines from earlier issues of PITTA about botulism in White Pelicans (P. 312) and Mr. Rajiv Mahesh's comments on the longevity of his Parakeet (P. 373). In page 381 you will find details of PITTA. (under 'For Reference & Further Study - Journals / General magazines on birds etc.') I hope you will have no objection.

I have nothing but admiration for the high standard of PITTA & Mayura all due to the devoted labours of Mr. S. Taker, you and possibly one or two colleagues of yours. At a later date I intend bringing out a booklet containing collection of what appears under the title Fieldcraft, why not give them a serial number including to what has appeared so far. They are very useful. The Institute can even be paid for the payment you suggest but with all rights resting with BSA. Please think over it.

It will be desirable for you to attend the 10th Anniversary Gathering. Though the actual date is 27th July, I am arranging it on 14th/15th. The gathering is on 14th. You can come along with your wife. Mr. Srinivas & VSJG knew, the better. You can arrive on 14th morning & leave on 15th evening. If you can arrive on 13th itself it will be fine. Pl. let us know so that we can reserve accommodation. I have a telephone in the house but it is mostly out of order. You can inform the office. Mr. Varesimhan & Nat will do. I believe you have written to VS. I have not met him today. I may know tomorrow. Also remember with conveyance to rest. Thanks for many kind notes. It is safe with me, and will be returned carefully packed very likely through some reliable person known to us. With warm regards & good wishes, Yours, Ramesh



Institute of Bird Studies and Natural History

RISHI VALLEY EDUCATION CENTRE

Krishnamurti Foundation India

16/VII
2003

Prof. S. Rangaswami M.A., B.Sc., M.Ed.

Hony Director Institute of Bird Studies and Natural History

Hony Chief Warden Rishi Valley Bird Preserve

Hony Visiting Professor MSSRF Chennai (Gulf of Mannar Project)

RV 9/7/03

Dear Mr Sarheem

I have been under the impression that Dr Sambaram has already conveyed our desire to have you (and Mrs Sarheem as well) in our midst during 25th to 27th July for the events being arranged on the occasion of the 12th anniversary of RV Bird Preserve. I decided to go into these events the day - in fact the moment - I received Mr Shekar Dattatru's letter - in which he had agreed to be in RV and screen his film on the Olive Ridgely - an award winning film. I have known him from his boyhood days in Chennai (1977-87). I immediately reserved accommodation for you and Mr Sridhar covering 25th to 27th July. This was on 22nd May and when Dr VS returned to RV on the 26th or so I informed him of these facts. I also told him to send an e-mail giving these details.

Only this evening I came to know from Mr Pravesimohan that you are unaware of these developments. I spoke to Dr VS over the phone and he said he had only casually mentioned about these arrangements when you were with him for a few minutes only. Anyway, past is past and in the light of all that I have written, please find it possible to be with us from noon of 25th July. It is going to be very informal night

Brough. Shekhar is expected by early afternoon of
25th - Friday July. That night, after usual dinner
Shekhar will meet his Seniors and a few members of his
staff in the Mezzanine Hall of his library and interact with
the participants. On 26th (Saturday) he will talk to the
students of the Junior School during the forenoon. Guests
will have Tea at Radhikaji's place at 4 PM. There will be
a Special Dinner at 7.30 pm. No film made on Turtles
Conservation will be from 8.30 pm onwards. On 27th
a field study in Horsley is being planned during the forenoon.
Visitors may leave anytime after lunch and rest.

I have given you an idea of what is being planned.
As visiting faculty of the Institute, you need no invitation.
But I attach special significance to your presence and
I am sure you will oblige. Please inform Mrs. Sa. Meek
about our desire that we should accompany you.

It is enough if you acknowledge by e-mail.
to DVRS. Please don't bother yourself about replying
to the letter in any formal sense. Your presence
implies the participation of BSAP as well.

With fond wishes and Regards

S. Rangarajan