

Aasheesh Pittie

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11 September, 1997

Mr Adrian Long
Asia Programme Manager
BirdLife International
Wellbrook Court
Girton Road
Cambridge CB3 0NA
UNITED KINGDOM

Dear Adrian,

It was a pleasure meeting you in Bangalore on 6th and 7th September 1997.

Further to all that was discussed in the 2 meetings held on 7th instant, I would like to reiterate a few points which I feel strongly about.

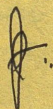
1. We (Indian NGOs) cannot blame the BNHS for not working with us, as this was never their mandate. They have always been a Society which collects specimens and data about Indian natural history. The question of co-operation with NGOs as a policy, has raised its head rather recently in its history and the BNHS may not have responded as positively and quickly as some NGOs expected precisely because the latter didn't turn the screw enough. A BLI/RSPB partnership could prove to be the catalyst for a positive reaction!
2. The BNHS is a membership-based Society whose executive committee is elected by a democratic process. This has its strengths and weaknesses, which we have already discussed.
3. The surest way of ensuring co-operation between a BLI/RSPB Indian Partner and any local NGO is to include responsibilities of the Indian Partner towards local NGOs—within the Charter of Agreement between BLI/RSPB and its Indian Partner, thus ensuring co-operation.
4. A major criteria for such co-operation will definitely be the capability of the NGO to rise to expectations of the Indian Partner. I suppose the Indian Partner will have to devise its own methods of screening and selection of NGOs.

Anyway, by the time you receive this letter, you'd have met members of both BNHS and SACON and been apprised of their points of view. I hope the result of these meetings will make your job of choosing an Indian Partner easier!

Both Siraj Taher and I appreciate your volunteering to help with specimen of the Blackthroated Weaver *Ploceus benghalensis* in the collections of the British Museum of Natural History. I hope something exciting comes out of this exercise after all.

With best wishes and regards,

Yours sincerely



Personal

Date: Fri, 05 Jun 1998 03:45:02 -0700
From: Aasheesh Pittie <aasheesh@hd1.vsnl.net.in>
To: Adrian Long <adrian.long@birdlife.org.uk>
Subject: Re: Forest Owlet

Adrian Long wrote:

>
> Dear Aasheesh
> Hello, how are you?
> This is just a quick message to see if this is the correct email address.> Also there was an article in Living
Bird recently a magazine which I do not> think is readily available, so I would like to send you a copy of the
> article. can you give me your address too.
> best wishes
> adrian

Dear Adrian,

Great to hear from you after a long time. My address is correct. I am replying after some days as the telephone lines were broken by a toppling dead palm in my garden! They've just been repaired today.

Thanks a lot for wanting to send me a copy of LIVING BIRD. My postal address is given below.

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Best wishes and regards,

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India		E-mail: <AASHEESH@HD1.VSNL.NET.IN>

Hi!

Subject: Hi!

Date: Thu, 11 Mar 1999 00:57:10 +0530

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

To: Adrian Long <adrian.long@birdlife.org.uk>

Dear Adrian,

I hope this letter finds you in good health and spirit! I am well and so is the Birdwatchers' Soc. of A.P.

Pete Wood is here in India, and at the end of last week I participated in a workshop in Mumbai, which tried to concretize procedures for the functioning of the BNHS-BLI partnership vis-a-vis a BNHS-Indian NGO partnership. The latter was christened "Indian Bird Conservation Network" and it is to have a logo of the Indian Tree Pie! Its reputation as a raucous tyrant of the Indian environment notwithstanding! Things seem to be taking shape and we might just have the skeleton of a good thing going. There are still quite a few wrinkles needing a hot iron. Time might be the tool here. But a vital link in the network - that of a good network coordinator - hasn't been put in place. If only there were snap-finger solutions for such things!

I write to ask a favour. At Mumbai I happened to see the following book doing the rounds. It seems quite interesting and I would be very grateful if you could send me a copy. It is, I was given to understand, a BLI book and is called:

EXPEDITION FIELD TECHNIQUES BIRD SURVEYS

By: C. Bibby, M. Jones & S. Marsden

ISBN 0-907649-79-3

Publisher: Expedition Advisory Centre, Royal Geographical Society, 1 Kensington Gose, London SW7 2AR, U.K.

I hope this is not too much trouble.

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Best wishes and regards!

Aasheesh Pittie

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