

From: kryz <kryz@compuserve.com>

Subject: Ibis 141(1)

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

Message-ID: <199901040737\_MC2-6568-E769@compuserve.com>

Dear Aasheesh

I have just received the latest issue of Ibis and there is an article relevant to the subcontinent this time:

Rasmussen, P.C. and Collar, N.J. (1999) Major specimen fraud of the Forest Owlet *Heteroglaux* (*Athene* auct.) *blewitti*. *Ibis* 141(1): 11-21.

Note that, as expected, they have reinstated it in its original genus. I will send photocopies by snail mail.

All the best for 99.

Kryz

Hi!

**Subject:** Hi!

**Date:** Wed, 06 Jan 1999 17:29:54 +0530

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

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

Dear Krys

Thanks for your message re paper in Ibis. I look forward to receiving it through s-mail.

Had gone to Hampi (Karnataka) with my family and a few friends, on a short holiday. Marvellous ruins and splendid birding. Landscape like around Hyderabad. Bouldery. The Tungabhadra makes the land fertile. YTBs present on the hillocks! Huge flocks of redheaded and blackheaded buntings in dry paddies.

Attaching PITTA # 93.

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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



9301.zip

**Name:** 9301.zip

**Type:** WinZip File (application/x-unknown-content-type-WinZip)

**Encoding:** base64

Hi!

**Subject:** Hi!

**Date:** Wed, 6 Jan 1999 11:08:10 -0500

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

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

Hi Aasheesh!

Hampi sounds interesting. Another place i must visit, for the ruins as much as anything else. Glad to hear that there are still Red-headed and Black-headed Buntings around somewhere. They seem to have become a lot rarer in recent years.

Unfortunately, only the title of Pitta 93 came through. Any chance of sending it again in Word 6?

Thanks.

Cheers

Kryz

**Subject: Pitta #93**

**Date:** Thu, 07 Jan 1999 07:19:44 +0530

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

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

Hi Krys,

Attaching Pitta #93 once again. Let me know if it does not work again.

--


Best wishes and regards!

Aasheesh Pittie

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

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 [pitta9301.zip](#)

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**Encoding:** base64

**Subject: Pitta #93**

**Date:** Thu, 07 Jan 1999 07:21:21 +0530

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

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

Krys,

In this issue of Pitta, there is a gap after the banner, for an illustration. Please scroll the document for the text.

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Best wishes and regards!

Aasheesh Pittie

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

**Subject: Review Draft**

**Date:** Sat, 09 Jan 1999 14:31:41 +0530

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

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

Dear Krys,

Am attaching a draft of the review I've written of your Guide. It is too much info., for me to review and somehow I feel incapable of doing a good job of it. Another tour-guide would give you the best and most useful feed-back. I will lend this copy to Hashim Tyabji and ask him to email his comments to you directly. I hope that's ok!

What I would be grateful for is if you could go through the review and make suggestions. Is there something I've missed out, that needs to be highlighted in particular? Have I covered the Guide properly? Would you like me to add something to make it a complete review?

Please be frank with your comments and correct any mistakes I've made.

I plan to email you separately and later, a list of typos which I have observed. This will take time as I need to read the entire text! I hope you do not mind my forthright attitude. I think the book should become a polished gem! Here goes..

--

Best wishes and regards!

Aasheesh Pittie

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**Name:** krysreviewdraft.doc

**Type:** Winword File (application/msword)

**Encoding:** base64

**Subject: Review Draft**

**Date:** Sat, 9 Jan 1999 07:16:32 -0500

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

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

Dear Aasheesh

Many thanks for sending me the draft review of my book to comment on. Much appreciated. I am entirely in agreement with your being frank and honest with your views and I hope you don't mind if I am equally forthright in my replies. I found the review extremely well written and I don't have much to say regarding style.

A few comments and replies to points you made:

1) I think the word "now" at the very end of the sentence in the first paragraph, third sentence is superfluous and looks oddly widowed after the parentheses.

2) One dictionary definition of an appendix is "an addition to a book, containing matter explanatory, but not essential to its completeness." An appendix does not necessarily have to contain the word appendix in its heading. To my mind the sections at the end of the book form the appendix (or appendices) and I don't really think it worthwhile your mentioning this, though I would probably reword the offending sentences in the next edition just for you.

3) I deliberately omitted mentioning "A Field Guide to the Birds of Sri Lanka by S. Kotagama and P. Fernando (1994)" as I don't really consider the book worthy of it. The same applies to the Ranjit Daniels book. I think you might do well to leave this out too.

4) Your statement that "Bharat Bhushan, et al." are wrongly credited with authoring Field Guide to Asian Waterbirds." is not quite correct. They are credited as the authors on the front cover, though I had indeed in the meantime discovered that the correct reference is 'Sonobe, K. & Usui, S. (editors)'. You may wish to either reword this section or omit it.

5) Regarding the Glossary - in English yoghurt can also be written yoghurt or yaoghurt, but I have certainly been inconsistent.

Talab is sometimes also written talar or talao. Then there seem to be umpteen ways of writing other words such as nallah. Should one strive to include them all? Are you sure that chalo ji and rukho ji are unacceptable? Those were the phrases I was taught and Raj Singh also checked over and okayed the glossary.

*Have I heard this word.*

*→ We are only speaking of the printed word!*

*these are rather authoritative. → Not unacceptable but*

*foreigners or Indians?*

6) I'll try to explain the inexplicable! I think 'inexplicable' is possibly not the best word to use here. Most people are in fact still more familiar with the older systematic order and find it easier to navigate their way around it. It was an explicit condition of Pica Press that we keep to the older order of families for my field guide. I'm not sure what Pam Rasmussen is using for the Smithsonian. When I once asked her about it, she said her hands were to some extent tied by the fact that Ripley was the senior author. Hence you might want to revise your sentence about the new field guides probably following the Inskipp et al sequence. The Grimmett/Inskipp book certainly does; mine certainly doesn't. You may wish to ask Pam about hers. Or perhaps you know already. In case you don't have it, her email address is rasmussen.pamela@nmnh.si.edu. Since my field guide is retaining the older order I think it is not unreasonable or inexplicable that I follow the same order in the site guide. I have in fact had quite a few people say they are glad we are doing that, as they find it difficult following the Sibley/Monroe order. Inevitably, opinion will be divided on the matter.

7) The index is a problem. It has been a policy of the whole series not to include a species index. To some extent the Selective Bird List functions

as an index by indicating under which sites particular species are listed. I was constantly under pressure to reduce the length of the book. It was indeed cut by almost 20 percent from the original. Adding a full index would have contributed quite a number of pages. I had actually wanted to put a species index in, but David Fisher and Chris Harbard were against it. I guess if enough reviews mention this drawback, they may be persuaded otherwise. I did, at least, manage to get a site index included.

8) Including the sentence "In the Bibliography, the author of A Field Guide to the Waterbirds of Asia is wrong (see above)." is I think unnecessary repetition.

9) Might be worth mentioning in your final paragraph that a more affordable Indian edition is planned, though we haven't yet really negotiated one yet. The UK publishers have to recoup some of their investment by selling over here at full price first. My aim would be to try and get it out by the end of the year, though how much updating and correcting I will be able to do for that edition I am not sure. It may have to be more-or-less a straight reprint from the technical/financial point of view. We are thinking of using either OUP India or Natraj Publishers. I had thought of Sridhar but since he never replied to any of my letters or emails in the past you may understand why I have ruled him out.

It is, of course, entirely up to you how much of the above you wish to take note of. I hope it will, at least, be of some interest.

Do you happen to know what has happened to Guindy NP in Madras? I have heard reports that it is now closed, but I don't know the reason and whether or not this is permanent, and whether or not one can get permission somewhere, and if so how and where?

I would indeed greatly appreciate your sending me corrections, typos, updates etc. As you yourself know, it is impossible to produce any kind of larger factual work entirely free of error but one strives to do one's best. Errors seem to creep in at all kinds of stages. I am keeping a file of all the things that need correcting and updating. I'm not going to tell you all of them, otherwise you'll put them all in the review!

Many thanks once again.

With very best wishes.

Krys

BTW - I'm not too hopeful of hearing anything from Hashim Tyabji. I did send him the section on Bandhavgarh for his comments after I had written it, but received no reply, though it is possible that something went astray in the postal system.

**Subject: Review Draft**

**Date:** Sat, 9 Jan 1999 18:47:08 -0500

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

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

Dear Aasheesh,

Many thanks for being so generous once again as to allow me to review the review of my own book.

One or two other points you might like to consider:

- 1) 'Select Bibliography' at the end of the fourth paragraph should actually read 'Selected Bibliography'
- 2) You may care to revise the sentence "The other, by Kryz Kazmierczak, and under preparation, will follow Ripley's sequence and the third, (also under preparation) and to be published by the Smithsonian Institution, may also be weighted towards Ripley's sequence, as S.D. Ripley is its senior author." to "The second, by Kryz Kazmierczak and Ber van Perlo, due to be published in the next few months, will follow Ripley's sequence and the third, (also under preparation) and to be published by the Smithsonian Institution, may also be weighted towards Ripley's sequence, as S.D. Ripley is its senior author."
- 3) To avoid repetition you might want to shorten the sentence in the last paragraph from "With the advent of this book and the 3 new field-guides-of which 1 has been recently published and the other 2 are under preparation-bird-watching literature for India enters a new and exciting phase." to "With the advent of this book and the 3 new field-guides, bird-watching literature for India enters a new and exciting phase."
- 4) You might prefer to alter the final sentence to "Dr Kumar Ghorpadé, the bird is now in your garden!"
- 5) I don't know if you want to mention that the book, as far as I know, is not actually available for sale anywhere in India, though the publishers Prion, Raj and I have given away over 100 copies so far! The distribution details are:

Distributed by:

NHBS  
2 Wills Road  
Totnes  
Devon  
TQ9 5XN  
UK

Tel: ++44 -(0)1803-865913

Fax: ++44 -(0)1803-865280

View on the website at [www.nhbs.com](http://www.nhbs.com)  
or order by email at [nhbs@nhbs.co.uk](mailto:nhbs@nhbs.co.uk)

Unfortunately, mailing costs from the UK are very high. If I send a copy to India, it costs me well over 6 pounds and I expect NHBS charge more than that.

I don't really know what will happen with the Smithsonian book. With Ripley now unable to look after his own affairs or even communicate, I don't know how far his original wishes will be respected. Must be a difficult situation for Pam and everyone else concerned.

I know you are probably overworked, but if you do have a little spare time

and would care to check over the Glossary and Further Reading sections for the field guide, I'm sure that you would bring to light some errors which may otherwise go unnoticed. Please let me know if you would like to do that but don't feel obliged if you are too busy. The sections aren't very long as I'm concerned to keep the book to a manageable size.

Huge thanks again for taking all the time and trouble to write such a careful and enthusiastic review, and for allowing me to furnish corrections and added information.

All the very best

Krys

PS - I really hope that one of these days I will find time to learn a little bit more than just a smattering of a few words of Hindi, so that I can appreciate the nuances.

**Subject: Review Draft**

**Date:** Sun, 10 Jan 1999 00:15:12 +0530

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

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

Dear Krys,

Thanks for your inputs. I think almost all are valid and I have incorporated them in the Review. A copy of the final copy is attached. Will send onward to Zafar after your ok.

With reference to the points from your Glossary: I have not come across 'Talar' for lake. 'Chalo ji' and the other word are not actually unacceptable, but sound authoritative. 'Chaliye' is a politer form.

I'll try and find out about Guindy, but am at sea at the moment.  
Best wishes!

--

Best wishes and regards!

Aasheesh Pittie

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

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[krysreviewdraftw6.doc](#)

**Name:** krysreviewdraftw6.doc

**Type:** Winword File (application/msword)

**Encoding:** base64

Hi!

**Subject:** Hi!

**Date:** Wed, 20 Jan 1999 17:48:32 -0500

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

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

Hi Aasheesh!

The citation you require is:

Rasmussen, P. C. (1998) A new Scops-owl from Great Nicobar Island. Bull. B.O.C. 118(3): 141-153.

I'll send you photocopies in the next day or two. I must admit I hadn't thought to monitor the Bull. B.O.C. for you. I always check Ibis when it comes, perhaps I should also check Bull. B.O.C., too?

I'm glad Birding World is reaching you so rapidly. I only received my copy of the latest one on Friday.

Thanks again for the Review. I hope Mr. Futehally doesn't cut it too much.

All the best

Kryz

Hi!

**Subject: Hi!**

**Date:** Wed, 20 Jan 1999 23:52:07 +0530

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

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

Dear Krys,

Thanks for the Xerox of Pam, et al's paper on the forest owlet, which I received a couple of days ago! May I give you some more trouble? The latest copy of BIRDING WORLD [11(2): 458] mentions of a paper in BULL. BOC 118: 141-153, about the discovery of a new species of owl from Great Nicobar Island. Could you please send me a copy of this (including the full citation)? Thanks!

Spoke to Mr Futehally this evening. He's received the Review and seems to have liked it!

--

Best wishes and regards!

Aasheesh Pittie

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

Hi!

**Subject: Hi!**

**Date:** Thu, 28 Jan 1999 01:11:35 +0530

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

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

Dear Krys,

I received the 'Owl' paper by Pam, today. Thanks!

Am just back from a wonderful trip to Kolleru Lake for the Asian Waterfowl Census. Its an amazing place! 50000+ lesser whistling teals, 4000+ openbill storks, 5000+ egrets, 1000s of terns, 3000+ glossy ibis! Sadly 80% of it is encroached by fish ponds. We had a smashing trip.

--

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

Re: Hi!

**Subject: Re: Hi!**

**Date:** Thu, 28 Jan 1999 22:19:25 +0530

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

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

Kryz,

An Indian edition will be superb. Just hope OUP do not demand too much as their pound of flesh! All the best for this deal! OBC Bulletin has not yet arrived.

kryz wrote:

> Hi Aasheesh!  
>  
> Hornbill arrived safely this morning, many thanks.  
>  
> Glad you enjoyed Kolleru. I've not been but it sounds good.  
>  
> Some good news in that Prion, the site guide publishers, have decided that  
> work on the Indian edition should go ahead as soon as possible. Raj is  
> meeting OUP India next week to try to begin arranging a deal.  
>  
> No sign of latest OBC Bull so far, I guess.  
>  
> All the best  
>  
> Kryz

--

Best wishes and regards!

Aasheesh Pittie

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

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