

Date: Sat, 07 Mar 1998 21:15:36 -0800
From: Aasheesh Pittie <aasheesh@hd1.vsnl.net.in>
To: S Subramanya <subbu@birdlife.org.uk>
Subject: Re: What's up?

S Subramanya wrote:

>
> Hi Aasheesh,
>
> Is something wrong? I sent two mails and not a word in response from you.
> Hope everything is alright.
>
> Cheers,
>
> Subbu.
>
> S. Subramanya
> Asia Division
> BirdLife International
> Wellbrook Court
> Girton Road
> Cambridge
> CB3 0NA
> UK
>
> Tel: +44(0)1223 277318
> Fax: +44(0)1223 277200
> Email: subbu@birdlife.org.uk

Dear Subbu,

Everything is fine. Just very busy with this being the last month of the financial year plus bringing out PITTA, etc. Also over excited about going to Kanha Nat. Park from 15-3-98 to 22-3-98! Thanks for the mails, will reply shortly.

--

Best wishes and regards,

Aasheesh Pittie <aasheesh@hd1.vsnl.net.in>

Date: Sun, 08 Mar 1998 16:58:55 -0800
From: Aasheesh Pittie <aasheesh@hd1.vsnl.net.in>
To: Dr S Subramaniam <subbu@birdlife.org.uk>
Subject: Hi!

Dear Subbu, Hi!

Details of Col. R Sparrow's egg collection from India, could form a nice follow-up article to the earlier one. Would you like to do it for a future issue of the MAYURA? You could also send us the details and we will compile a paper. Please let me know.

You must have read my post to BIRDCHAT regarding the education of children of classes 6,7,8. I got a few helpful replies which suggest some books. Do you think you could help by sending them over? We will settle when you return. When are you returning by the way??? Request a frank YES or NO, as such things should be!

--

Best wishes and regards,

Aasheesh Pittie <aasheesh@hd1.vsnl.net.in>

Date: Mon, 9 Mar 1998 13:12:10 GMT
To: aasheesh@hd1.vsnl.net.in
From: S Subramanya <subbu@birdlife.org.uk>
Subject: Re: Hi!

Hi Aasheesh,

I would love to do that article on Col. Sparrow's egg collection together with you, provided I am able to extract the details of his collection when I go to Tring next. I may go to Tring next week, and I shall try my best to do what I can.

Regarding the education of children, I am not trying to be rude, but I do not have time to go looking for books or any other material. As I am leaving this place on June 3rd, I am up against a deadline that's too much to work with, despite working for six days a week and 10-14 hrs a day. You could send me the list, but I can not promise. It's a NO, for all the right reasons, but I can still try.

Cheers,

Subbu

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Tel: +44(0)1223 277318
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Email: subbu@birdlife.org.uk

Date: Sun, 08 Mar 1998 18:14:53 -0800
From: Aasheesh Pittie <aasheesh@hdl.vsnl.net.in>
To: Dr S Subramaniam <subbu@birdlife.org.uk>
Subject: Hi!

Hi Subbu!

Its just fine about the books and you don't have to think about it again. Looking forward to welcoming you back to India!

--

Best wishes and regards,

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

Date: Mon, 16 Mar 1998 15:27:22 GMT
To: avian@giasbga.vsnl.net.in
From: S Subramanya <subbu@birdlife.org.uk>
Subject: Finding co-ordinates of localities on Internet
Cc: aasheesh@hdl.vsnl.net.in, vijay@firlht.ernet.in

Yo,

Did you know that we can find co-ordinates for 'most' of the localities any where in the world on internet?

Check out this Geonet website: <http://164.214.2.59/gns/html/index.com> or <http://164.214.2.59/gns> and hit the button: Access geonet. The rest is user friendly. By using wild-card (*) search, you can download details on up to 1000 localities at a time!

BTW if you know of any other/better sources, please do let me know.

Cheers,

Subbu/Subbi (take your pick).

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carried Pitta #84

Date: Thu, 02 Apr 1998 20:51:50 -0800
From: Aasheesh Pittie <aasheesh@hd1.vsnl.net.in>
To: Dr S Subramaniam <subbu@birdlife.org.uk>
Subject: Hi!

Dear Subbu,

Thanks for your e-mail. Frankly I am waiting for you to get back and hear what you've been up to there. Perhaps your point of view might differ slightly, what with the wonderful working condition, collections, literature, libraries, etc., etc. I suppose if one does not see and experience these things, one doesn't miss it either!

Looking forward to the note on Col. Sparrow's eggs! Thanks for the ref. Will get a Xerox from the BNHS library.

--

Best wishes and regards,
Aasheesh Pittie
Hyderabad, India
<AASHEESH@HD1.VSNL.NET.IN>

Date: Mon, 6 Apr 1998 20:42:28 +0100
To: aasheesh@hd1.vsnl.net.in
From: S Subramanya <subbu@birdlife.org.uk>
Subject: Columba punicea

Hi Aasheesh,

Two things:

1. The Purple Wood Pigeon, *Columba punicea* is listed in AP checklist as being recorded in Eastern Ghats. But it was not met with by my most obvious bets, both the Hyderabad and Vernay surveys. Can you please let me know who has recorded it in AP and give me the locality, date, # of birds and the reference of this record? I haven't been able to get hold of Mooney's note yet.
2. I have been trying to get in touch with the 'Bird Recorder' software people here, but they do not return my call or answer my electronic or normal mails. You were the one who put me on to them soon after PASOC. Can you please let me know its features and as to how you got to buy a copy of it and how much it costs anyway?

Thanks-n-Cheers,

Subbu.

Date: Tue, 07 Apr 1998 06:50:46 -0700
From: Aasheesh Pittie <aasheesh@hd1.vsnl.net.in>
To: Dr S Subramaniam <subbu@birdlife.org.uk>
Subject: Columba punicea

Hi Subbu!

The reference for Purple Wood Pigeon *Columba punicea* is as follows: Ripley, S. D., et al (1986): Birds of the Vishakhapatnam Ghats, Andhra Pradesh. JBNHS. 84:552. Specimen: 1 male & 1 female - 24-2-1985 - Jyotimamidi. Am looking up the Birdrecorder information and will call back shortly.

--

Date: Tue, 07 Apr 1998 07:09:47 -0700
From: Aasheesh Pittie <aasheesh@hd1.vsnl.net.in>
To: Dr S Subramaniam <subbu@birdlife.org.uk>
Subject: Wildlife Computing

Dear Subbu!

First, your 2nd post was quite unnecessary. I am happy and thankful that our friendship is strong enough to make such thoughts immaterial. I am sure you feel the same.

WILDLIFE COMPUTING (the people who have designed BIRD RECORDER) have a web page at <http://www.wildlife.co.uk>. A Feb 97 letterhead of their company has the following information:
Telephone: 1206 298345 & 348867; Fax: 1206 298345; Email: support@wildlife.co.uk

There is an advertisement in OBC Bulletin # 26, November 1997 on page 78. Perhaps you should try one of these leads. If still unsuccessful, I'll send you what their brochure says. Their latest version however, is called BIRD RECORDER 32 for Windows 95 and Windows NT. Happy hunting!

--

Best wishes and regards,
Aasheesh Pittie
Hyderabad, India
<AASHEESH@HDI.VSNL.NET.IN>

Date: Wed, 8 Apr 1998 19:26:34 +0100
To: aasheesh@hdl.vsnl.net.in
From: S Subramanya <subbu@birdlife.org.uk>
Subject: FC imagery for Bangalore.
Cc: jnprasad@hotmail.com

Dear Aasheesh,

Do you have any contact with ISRO/NRRMS people in Hyderabad or know about how to obtain a false colour imagery (say, a 60x40cm colour print or similar) for Bangalore developed for about 25-30km radius spread? I do know that they have a sale outlet in Hyderabad. I would be grateful if you can phone and find out.

Prasad and myself are planning to put our heads together to solve our Sparrow puzzle. I strongly feel that the growing city is edging the bird out to marginal areas. To start with, we are planning to map its roosts across the city and over-lay their distribution with that of Bangalore's urban habitat (built-up areas, both old and new, and others).

Thanks for the Vizag reference.

Subbu

Date: Thu, 16 Apr 1998 19:33:07 +0100
To: aasheesh@hdl.vsnl.net.in
From: S Subramanya <subbu@birdlife.org.uk>
Subject: Re: R Grimmett

Hi Aasheesh,

Here are RG's addresses:

Richard Grimmett <richardg@indo.net.id>

RG, P.O. Box 310/Boo, Bogor 16003, Indonesia.

Cheers,

Subbu.

At 21:45 16/04/98 -0700, you wrote:

>Dear Subbu, Hi!

> Could you please send me Richard's email address & postal address if >possible? >Many thanks!

Date: Tue, 26 May 1998 10:39:57 +0100
To: aasheesh@hdl.vsnl.net.in
From: S Subramanya <subbu@birdlife.org.uk>
Subject: My last days in Cambridge

Dear all,

This is just to let you all know that my time here at BirdLife is up. I will be back in Bangalore from June 3rd onwards. May 29th will be my last day in the office and you can contact me here if you need to till then or at home by phone till May 30th. Also, please do not forget to delete my e-mail ID <subbu@birdlife.org.uk> from your lists after May 30th.

Till I get my own e-mail ID, I may be contacted at PHT Scheme, 'J' Block, University of Agricultural Sciences, Bangalore 560 065, India or by phone +91-80-6658489 (H).

Cheers,

Subbu.

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Date: Sat, 22 Aug 1998 16:07:41 -0700
From: Aasheesh Pittie <aasheesh@hd1.vsnl.net.in>
To: Dr S Subramanya <MEENASM@inf.com>
Subject: (no subject)

Subbu,

I have a proposal for making the BIBLIOGRAPHIC INDEX available to users, at a cost. I am spelling it out below and would like your frank opinion on its practicality.

I announce on various mailing lists that this database is available to those who send in an annual membership. Once a person becomes a member, he/she can send a search query to me by e-mail. I will search the database and create a file of the relevant data, which will be forwarded to the party via e-mail. I propose the cost of an annual membership as US \$100. I think there could be a differential amount for members from SAARC countries.

I hope you realise that this figure is just out of my hat. If you think that \$10 or \$50, or any other figure for that matter, is more relevant, please do tell me. The idea is that the database should be available to as many people as possible but at an affordable price.

If you would like further clarifications, please send your queries. I wait for your advice!

--

Best wishes and regards,

Aasheesh Pittie		Tel: Off: 040-3352269
8-2-545 Road No 7		Res: 040-3350683
Banjara Hills		Fax: 040-3356064
Hyderabad 500034		
India		E-mail: <AASHEESH@HD1.VSNL.NET.IN>

From: SUBBU: MEENASM <MEENASM@inf.com>
To: "Aasheesh Pittie" <aasheesh@hd1.vsnl.net.in>
Date: Sun, 30 Aug 1998 23:22:51 -0700

Dear aasheesh,

Thanks for your message. Your idea of making the BIBLIOGRAPHIC INDEX available to users is a wonderful idea. While working on the RDB drafts at BirdLife, one aspect that stood out while reading through the drafts sent by a majority of the species compilers was that, most of them did not have a good idea about published literature on the species they worked on. I do not blame them. With the kind of difficulty/access we have for literature, it would be impossible for everyone to have a complete picture of the bibliographic status on a given bird species or locality within India. Your offer may well plug this gap and help alleviate the ornithological bibliographic drought we have for field workers in India and give an easy access to regional bibliography to foreign ornithologists. In fact, Tim Inskipp and myself did discuss this issue. From quite sometime Tim has been sending out lists of references on different species to those who have contacted him for help. Your offer to provide a similar service is most welcome.

However, I would like to differ with you on fixing the cost of providing such a service. If I were to do it, I would offer this service free-of-cost to workers from within India, levy a nominal charge to those from SAARC countries and demand a reasonable service charge from those from developed countries - each time, on a 'per job' basis. Also, I do not foresee people readily taking up annual subscription, as the requirement for a bibliographic search may be need-based, either based on the project they are working on or in connection with a paper that one may be writing up. A charge of 10-20 or 50 dollars may be in order (for workers from developed countries) based on the number of references that you are able to access or on the size of the document that you would e-mail ultimately. Based on the size of the list (say if more than a page or two), you can even demand a nominal fee from workers within India also.

Well, these are my initial thoughts. I may well be wrong in voicing this opinion, as I do not any idea on the extent of trouble that you have taken in building this database, which may well deserve an adequate compensation. The scheme that you propose and the amount that you speak off may well be in order too.

I am sorry, I have not replied to your queries on Col. Sparrow egg collection article. Right now my time is divided between several things. I shall get back to you soon about it.

Cheers,

Subbu

From: MEENASM <MEENASM@inf.com>
To: "Aasheesh Pittie" <aasheesh@hd1.vsnl.net.in>
Date: Tue, 1 Sep 1998 04:17:10 -0700

Dear Aasheesh,

This is just to let you know that I have been invited to the BNHS Workshop. Will you be there? We can meet and plan to discuss things, if we can set out to do so. One of the things that can be decided is on how to go about writing-up Col. Sparrow's egg collection (I do not have a copy of your article on his bird records, I would love to have a copy of the same). Lets list out our agenda, that's if its OK with you.

BTW, can you please get me soft copies of all the Pitta Birding Notes. Unfortunately, I have not saved any of them. Also, a (word document) copy of my article on Heronries of AP. I still have some problem in opening the unzipped document. Word 97 is unable to open it!

I look forward to hear from you on this,

Cheers,

Subbu.

1. Col. Sparrow's paper in Mayura. 11
2. Soft Copies of Pitta's BIRDING NOTES.
3. Heronries' article on floppy.

Date: Tue, 01 Sep 1998 03:51:06 -0700
From: Aasheesh Pittie <aasheesh@hd1.vsnl.net.in>
To: Dr S Subramanya <MEENASM@inf.com>
Subject: BNHS Workshop, etc

Subbu,

I am also attending the Workshop; reaching Mumbai on 15/9 and returning on 20/9. Great to know that we will meet there after quite a long time!

We can discuss the Sparrow problem! I too do not have soft copies of all BIRDING NOTES, but these can be downloaded from the NatHistory Index quite easily. Will you do that or do you want me to do it and get them for you? I could however, bring all the hardcopies, ie., copies of PITTAs for your records. Let me know which. Will bring a MSWord document file of your paper.

We should discuss on how BIRDING NOTES can be made more useful. I discussed with Prasad, etc., about compiling a year's BIRDING NOTES into a comprehensive article to be published once a year in MAYURA. Please give this some thought.

See you soon in Mumbai!

--

Best wishes and regards,

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Fax: 040-3356064

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

From: MEENASM <MEENASM@inf.com>

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

Date: Thu, 3 Sep 1998 02:53:32 -0700

Dear Aasheesh,

I am very glad that we can meet at Mumbai and can get together to work out several things.

I do not have access to the net. VSNL has stopped giving new e-mail/Internet connections in Bangalore and I am waiting to get my own ever since I returned. If you can bring the copies of PITTA, that will be just fine with me.

I should be in Mumbai on the 15th and leave on the 19th or 20th. See you there.

Cheers,

Subbu

From: MEENASM <MEENASM@inf.com>

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

Date: Wed, 21 Oct 1998 01:58:34 -0700

Hi Aasheesh,

Hope your e-mail is OK by now. We still need to resolve how we are going to do the write-up of Col. Sparrow's eggs. Hope you received my earlier e-mail wherein I had sent a draft format. Please do react to it. If you haven't received it, let me know. I shall send it to you again.

Spent a week travelling to and from IIT Kharagpur. Have some bird records from TN, AP and Orissa for the Birding Notes. Will send it soon.

I am still unable to open the word files that you gave me! I really do not know what the problem is. 'MS Word 97' gives message about them being corrupted! Don't know what to do.

Aasheesh, do you have a report on your trip to Kabini/Karapur area in Karnataka? If you have written a trip report, can you please send me a copy of it for my atlas work? Thanks.

Cheers,

Subbu

Subject: Hi! News of YTB!

Date: Mon, 23 Nov 1998 06:48:49 +0530

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

To: "S. Subramanya" <meenasm@inf.com>

Dear Subbu,

News regarding the YTB! Members of BSAP visited Uma Maheshwaram Temple yesterday (22-11-1998), about 150 km SE of Hyderabad. It is an area which begins the start of the Srisailam forest and comes within the sanctuary limits. It is an old Shiva temple on a ledge on a sheer rock face of approx. 600-700 ft height. A road goes up to the top. There is a perennial source of water here, which drips constantly from the top, onto the ledge where the temple is built. This has resulted in a micro habitat of ferns, etc., which thrive on the constant presence of moisture. Creating a habitat of moist-deciduous forest.

Here we saw the YTB, which seems quite common. We were puzzled quite a bit by some marked difference in plumage between various individuals. One type was with the belly suffused with grey, and a small portion white. Pale yellow under tail feathers, olive grey crown, head, mantle and tail. The other bird looked sleeker and had a completely yellow throat, sides of head and crown. The chest and belly (underside) was a clean white and the under tail coverts were also yellow. In one position the bird seemed to have a yellow rump! [On referring to the HB, once I got back, I see this is not possible!] Why would there be such a difference? For quite some time I firmly believed we were watching the "Yellowheaded Bulbul" till I realized that such a name was a figment of my imagination. Then I switched attention to the Yelowbrowed Bulbul H. indicus. But saw immediately that this fellow is supposed to have a yellow belly (underparts) - which none of 'our' birds had. They might all turn out to be the YTB. But what have you to say? I must now go through all the references, especially what you have written, on this bird.

There were other surprises in store for us. An Emerald Dove, Yellowcheeked Tit, Grey Junglefowl, Blueheaded Rock Thrush are some of them.

--

Best wishes and regards!

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Hi! (fwd)msg

Subject: Hi! (fwd)msg

Date: Sat, 28 Nov 1998 09:38:26 +0530 (IST)

From: delta rap-inc <deltarap@bgl.vsnl.net.in>

To: Dr S SUBRAMANYA <subbus@bgl.vsnl.net.in>

CC: Meena Subramanya <meenasm@inf.com>, Aasheesh Pittie <aasheesh@hd1.vsnl.net.in>

Dear Meena and Subbi

Hi Thanks for your reply but unable to read your html format message so pls avoid sending such msg to me as I have not html text viewer. Here is an msg from aasheesh pls reply to him directly.

To Aashees

Subbi has now got a direct email id at home as above you may contact him
bye
prasad

----- Forwarded message -----

Date: Wed, 25 Nov 1998 06:18:54 +0530

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

To: JN Prasad <deltarap@bgl.vsnl.net.in>

Subject: Hi!

Dear Prasad,

I'm not able to send the following e-mail to subbu since yesterday.
Could you help?
Thanks!

Dear Subbu,

Have you ever noticed any variation in plumage of the YTB?

Will this be the northern most record of the bird? Uma Maheshwaram is almost due south of Hyderabad, not southeast, as mentioned in my earlier e-mail.

--

Best wishes and regards!

Aasheesh Pittie
8-2-545 Road No 7
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Res: 91-40-3350683

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

Subject: YTB; My new E-mail ID!

Date: Wed, 02 Dec 1998 02:03:31 +0500

From: subbus <subbus@bgl.vsnl.net.in>

To: aasheesh@hd1.vsnl.net.in

Dear Aasheesh,

Glad to see your message and thrilled to see the details on YTB sighted at Uma Maheshwaram Temple by BSAP members.

This is not the first time that I have heard about the variation in the plumage of YTB. The birds seen by Eric Lott in lower Palanis are known to have yellow heads! Even some of the skins in the BMNH show slight variations in their plumage, but Pamela told me they could well be due to aging of the skins.

Our observations indicate that YTB is a species with a very poor dispersal capability and thus appear to be land-locked to its hill habitat. Further, its populations are getting isolated due to degradation of the forests between hills. Personally, I believe that such isolated populations of YTB could well be developing variations in plumage. I shall get back to you again on this.

BTW did you get my message of Sep 24th on how to write-up Col. Sparrow's egg data? I have copied it below, in case you did not receive it.

Dear Aasheesh,

It was really great meeting you at Mumbai. Here is a sample of the text for our article on Col. Sparrow's 'egg poaching records' (!) If you do not like including the 'e' next to the number of eggs, we can put it in bold to indicate the same. Also, we need to indicate the common name and the recent scientific name. We can put the old Sci. name used by Col. Sparrow in parenthesis right next to the new one. If we can agree on this, then I can go ahead and work on the first draft for which you can add the recent nesting information. I shall also try to work-up an introduction by gleaning the info from his obituaries.

1. *Podiceps ruficollis capensis*, Trimulgherry: 6e, 23-8-1912; 6e, 9-9-1912.
2. *Ardeola grayii*, Basar, Deccan: 4e, 10-8-1914; 3e, 10-8-1914.
3. *Bubulcus ibis*(*Casmerodeus albus*), unspecified locality, Deccan: 2e, 5-2-1915.
4. *Dendrocygna javanica*, Madaram, Deccan: 1e, 2-9-1914.
5. *Gyps indicus*, Trimulgherry: 1e, 21-1-1912; 1e, 4-2-1912.
6. *Neophron percnopterus ginginianus*, Badusaipet, 3, 4-3-1912; Masaipet, Deccan: 1e, 15-3-1912; Trimulgherry: 1e, 18-3-1912; Eswanteraopet: 2e, 2e, 2e, 1e, 29-3-1912; 1e, 15-4-1913; Marh, India: 2e, undated.

Can you please send your comments on this?

Cheers,

Subbu.

Hi!

Subject: Hi!

Date: Thu, 10 Dec 1998 07:18:10 +0530

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

To: "Dr S. Subramanya" <subbus@bgl.vsnl.net.in>

Dear Subbu,

Your format for presenting Col. Sparrow's oology collection seems fine. What if we drop the 'e' completely and qualify in the text what the first number stands for? eg., 6, 23-8-1912; 6, 9-9-1912.

This may look better, though either way its ok with me. You decide.

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Best wishes and regards!

Aasheesh Pittie

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

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