

कार.क्र.-R.V.R.P.-34

भारतीय-स्टीकर्स (रसीद) / पोस्टकार्ड / ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

16/8
1990

• रसीद / पत्र/पोस्टकार्ड/पिक्चर/पार्सल प्राप्त हुआ

बिमा

क्रमांक

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MR ZAFAR FUTEHALLY

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Addressed to (name)

MOITAKAN, BEAR SHOLA RD

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KODAIKANAL - 624 101

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Zafar Futehally

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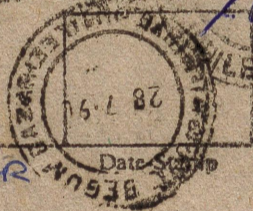
AASHEESH PITTIE

14-7-370 BEGUM BAZAR

HYDERABAD

Re 438
तारीख-संख्या

कार्यालय-संख्या



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500012

10th August 1990

Mr Zafar Futehally
' Moitaka''
Bear Shola Road
KODAIKANAL - 624 101

Dear Mr Futehally,

Thank you for your kind letter of 3rd instant.

Enclosed is a list of the common names of birds used in the text of my chapter on A.P., with their scientific names at their side. I think ~~is~~ is better to arrange them alphabetically like this, rather than as they appear, page-wise. However, if you think you would still like it that way, please let me know.

Also enclosed is my bio-data.

If there is anything else you require me to do, kindly let me know.

Thanking You

Yours sincerely



Encl: as above.

9/8/90

ALPHABETICAL LIST OF BIRDS' COMMON NAMES USED IN THE TEXT WITH
THEIR SCIENTIFIC NAMES

COMMON NAME

SCIENTIFIC NAME

Babbler, Common	<i>Turdoides caudatus</i>
, Jungle	<i>T. striatus</i>
, Large Grey	<i>T. malcolmi</i>
, Whiteheaded	<i>T. affinis</i>
Baza, Blyth's	<i>Aviceda jerdoni</i>
Bee-Eater, Bluebearded	<i>Nyctiornis athertoni</i>
, Small Green	<i>Merops orientalis</i>
Bustard, Great Indian	<i>Ardeotis nigriceps</i>
Cursorer, Jerdon's or Doublebanded	<i>Cursorius bitorquatus</i>
Cuckoo, Common Hawk-	<i>Cuculus varius</i>
, Indian	<i>C. micropterus</i>
, Pied Crested	<i>Clamator jacobinus</i>
, Plaintive	<i>Cacomantis passerinus</i>
Drongo, Black	<i>Dicrurus adsimilis</i>
, Whitebellied	<i>D. caerulescens</i>
Duck, Pinkheaded	<i>Rhodonessa caryophyllacea</i>
Eagle, Whitebellied Sea	<i>Haliaeetus leucogaster</i>
Flamingo	<i>Phoenicopterus roseus</i>
Florican, Lesser	<i>Sypheotides indica</i>
Goose, Barheaded	<i>Anser indicus</i>
Goshawk, Crested	<i>Accipiter trivirgatus</i>
Harrier, Marsh	<i>Circus aeruginosus</i>
Kingfisher, Blue-eared	<i>Alcedo meninting</i>
Kite, Brahminy	<i>Haliastur indus</i>
Koel	<i>Eudynamys scolopacea</i>
Lark, Ashycrowned Finch-	<i>Eremopterix grisea</i>
, Rufostailed Finch-	<i>Ammodramus phoenicurus</i>
, Redwinged Bush	<i>Mirafra erythroptera</i>
, Short-toed	<i>Calandrella cinerea</i>
, Sykes Crested	<i>Galerida deva</i>
Malkoha, Large Greenbilled	<i>Rhopodytes tristis</i>
Minivet, Small	<i>Pericrocotus cinnamomeus</i>
Myna, Hill	<i>Gracula religiosa</i>
Partridge, Grey	<i>Francolinus pondicerianus</i>
, Painted	<i>F. pictus</i>
Pelican, Grey or Spottedbilled	<i>Pelecanus philippensis</i>
Pigeon, Purple Wood	<i>Columba punicea</i>
Pintail	<i>Anas acuta</i>
Pitta, Indian	<i>Pitta brachyura</i>
Roller, Indian	<i>Coracias benghalensis</i>
Rubycheek	<i>Anthreptes singalensis</i>

.... contd. 2...

FT

COMMON NAME

SCIENTIFIC NAME

Shag, Indian
 Shelduck, Common
 , Ruddy
 Shoveller
 Skylark, Small
~~Sparrowhawk~~
 Sparrow-Hawk, Besra
 Spiderhunter, Little
 Sunbird, Yellowbacked
 Tailor Bird
 Teal, Bluewinged
 , Common
 Tit, Grey
 Tree Pie, Himalayan
 Tropic Bird, Longtailed
 Warbler, Streaked Fantail
 White-eye
 Wigeon
 Woodpecker, Great Black
 , Pigmy
 Wood-Shrike, Common
 , Large
 Wren-Warbler, Ashy
 , Franklin's
 , Rufousfronted

Phalacrocorax fuscicollis
 Tadorna tadorna
 T. ferruginea
 Anas clypeata
 Alauda gulgula
 Accipiter virgatus
 Arachnothera longirostris
 Aythya siparaja
 Orthotomus sutorius
 Anas querquedula
 A. crecca
 Parus major
 Dendrocitta formosae
 Phaethon lepturus
 Cisticola jundidis
 Zosterops palpebrosa
 Anas penelope
 Dryocopus javensis
 Picoides nanus
 Tephrodornis pondicerianus
 T. virgatus
 Prinia socialis
 P. hodgsoni
 P. buchanani

FCS

77

Zafar Futehally

'Moitaka'
Bear Shola Road,
KODAIKANAL - 624 101

13/3

9th March 1990

Dear

Aasheesh Pittie

I am glad to report that I had a meeting with David Davidar and Khushwant Singh, editors and publishers of Penguin Books India Ltd. in Delhi recently. They are interested in publishing a book with the title India Through Her Birds. The book will aim to describe the birds as well as their habitat in some detail so that it provides a good idea of the various ecological zones of the country.

The book can be from 60,000 to 80,000 words, and will have between 60 to 80 photographs. There will be a map in the beginning, and maps before each chapter indicating the area described. Each chapter will be of about 3000 words and will cover the more important species of the region. It is obviously not possible or desirable to refer to every bird in the region, but the dominant ones should be mentioned, and detailed descriptions should be given of the birds that the authors are familiar with, so that they can be adequately dealt with.

The regions which I can think of are the following :-

- 1 * The Western Ghats
- 2 * The Western Coast of India
- 3 * The Eastern Coast of India
- 4 * The Semi Arid Zone (Gujarat and Rajasthan)
- 5 * The Wetlands of the Indo-Gangetic Plain.
- 6 * The Himalayas and their Foothills.
- 7 * North East India.
- 8 * The Deccan Plateau (Andhra and Karnataka)
- 9 * Birds of our Urban Areas.
- 10 * Birds of our Sanctuaries
- 11 Indigen Sea Birds

There will be an overlap of the birds described in some of the regions which the editor will have to deal with.

?? Chapters on ??

- A) History of Ornithology in India
- B) Types on Birds
- C) Birding Hotspots in each habitat
- D) Biographies of Prominent B.Ws.

E) Prominent NGOs in
...../2. each region/state.

Since you have written such excellent pieces for the Newsletter, I thought you could write about the birds of *

The time frame for this effort is as follows :-

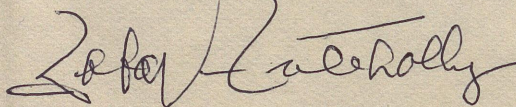
- 1) I would like to know from you before the end of March whether you agree to write a piece of approximately 3000 words on the region I have mentioned.
- 2) That you agree to let me have the complete manuscript by the end of July.
- 3) That you will accept a modest honorarium of Rs.1000/- for writing this piece.

I would, of course, welcome any suggestions that you may have to make on this proposal. Some time by the middle of April, I will send a detailed reply to the editors of Penguin, after I hear from the various contributors.

I do hope we can all cooperate to make this into an exciting book.

Looking forward to your reply.

Yours sincerely,



Zafar Futehally

AASHEESH PITTIE
BEGUM BAZAR
HYDERABAD

* ANDHRA PRADESH

I am sure you will enjoy writing about the birds of your home state which you know so well

Zafar

18th March 1990

Mr Zafar Futehally
' Moitaka '
Bear Shola Road
KODAIKANAL - 624 101

Dear Mr Futehally,

Thank you very much for your letter of 9th instant. Thank you also for the opportunity to write a chapter about the birds of Andhra Pradesh in Penguin's new title INDIA THROUGH HER BIRDS. Since your letter arrived, i have been ^{giving} the subject some thought, hence the delay in replying, and think i will do it.

Your letter indicates briefly what is expected to be written. But i request you to send me a more detailed plan. This will be a first-time job for me and i'd be grateful if you could advice me in detail about it. Some of my queries are;

- 1) Who will be the targeted purchaser?
- 2) How scientific / general should the piece be?
- 3) If i write on A.P. (Deccan Plateau), how do i handle the Eastern Ghats and the Eastern Coast which are a part of AP?
- 4) Do i cover other subjects like geography, agriculture, forestry, etc., briefly?
- 5) What exactly do you mean by "detailed descriptions should be given of the birds that the authors are familiar with"?

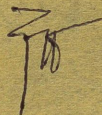
I suppose the list can go on, but these queries should answer a majority of my doubts. I feel that if the following topics are also covered by this book, it will become more comprehensive.

1. History of ornithology in India.
2. Tips on birdwatching in India.
3. Birding hotspots of India.
4. Short biographies of prominent Indian ornithologists.
5. Prominent NGOs in each region/state - a list.

Kindly let me know your feelings about this.

Thanking You

Yours sincerely



for some other chapters, let us await response from the other 17 contributors to whom I have written. I will send the list to each contributor in due course.

I hope that by mid April I can give you the signal to go ahead.

I am so sorry about not having attended your Seminar in February.

Betsy Warkes
Zafar *Zafar*

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INLAND LETTER CARD

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AASHEESH PITIE

14-7-370 BEGUM BAZAR

HYDERABAD

ANDHRA PRADESH पिन PIN

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तीसरा मोड़ THIRD FOLD

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28/3

MOITAKA, BEAR SHAOLA Rd
KODAIKANAL
624 101

Tel = 706

23-3-90

Dear Ansheesh Pithe

I was relieved to get your letter and learn that you agree to write the chapter on Andhra Pradesh. I had heard that you were unwell. Regarding your questions

- i) The likely purchasers, apart from serious birdwatchers, will be the general public who are now getting interested in the general environment
- ii) The writing should be easy to read and essentially convey the joy of birdwatching
- iii) There is bound to be some overlap between contributions but that does not matter too much.

In fact writing about the same species in differing habitats is also interesting and valuable.

(iv) Yes, a bit of geography, forestry and related subjects would be useful in giving a clear picture of the habitat of the species.

v) Regarding "detailed descriptions" of certain species, I envisage that each chapter will consist of a general description of the birds of the area, but some species which the writer is specially attracted could be picked out for elaborate treatment. Everyone has some favourites, and one can write about them with some feeling.

Regarding your suggestions

28/4
1990

Newsletter for Birdwatchers

Editor :
Zafar Futehally

'Moitaka'
Bear Shola Road
Kodaikanal-624 101 Tamilnadu

REF : India through her Birds

DATE : 21.4.90

Dear *Aashish Pittie*

I refer to our correspondence regarding "India through her Birds".

PENGUINS have confirmed that they are interested in publishing this book and they would like to have the manuscript as soon as possible. I hope you can send your chapter to me by 31st July 90.

If you will let me know what photographs you require to illustrate your text I will try and procure them from E.Henumanthe Rao, S.Sridhar, T.N.Perumal, Peter Jackson and others. A map indicating the area about which you write, and sketches of birds to be accomodated in the margins of the pages will add to the quality of the book.

I will be away from Kodaikanal during May, but when I return here at the end of May, I would greatly appreciate the presence of a letter, fonfirming that your text will be in my hands by 31.7.90.

With kind regards,

Yours sincerely,
Zafar Futehally
(Zafar Futehally)

If you need assistance for the map you could contact John David, Data Centre for Natural Resources, WWF-India, Spencer Rd, Fraser Town, Bangalore 560 005. Tel 566 506.

I am most grateful to you for a copy of Saleem Rli's HYDERABAD SURVEY. It will be a fine addition to my library.

Zafar
21-4-90

इस फोल्ड को खोलने के लिए यहाँ से काटें TO OPEN CUT HERE

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AASHEESH PITTIE
14-7-370 BEGUM BAZAR

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तीसरा मोड़ THIRD FOLD

दूसरा मोड़ SECOND FOLD

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1977
90

Moritaka, Bear Shola Rd,
Kodaikanal
624 101
4-7-90

My dear Rasheesh Pittie,

I am sure you have
been working on your chapter
on the Birds of Andhra Pradesh,
for the book by Penguins.

I am greatly looking forward
to receiving it by the end of
this month. Penguins seem
to be keen on producing
an attractive publication,

and I hope it will catch
the public eye.

Will you supply photographs
and sketches, and perhaps
a map of A.P. inset
within India. I am not
sure about the design
and format of the book
as the publishers want
to have the material in
first, before deciding on
these details.

I look forward to a
line in reply

Zafar Zulehally

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Mr. Tapan Chatterjee
Koder Karnaal - 624101

क्रमांक

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Signature of Receiving Officer



27th July 1990

Mr Zafar Futehally
'Moitaka'
Bear Shola Road
KODAIKANAL - 624 101

Dear Mr Futehally,

Enclosed are 2 copies of my manuscript for the chapter on birds of Andhra Pradesh - for the Penguin book "India Through Her Birds".

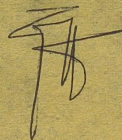
I have tried to cover the ornithology of the state in general, with notes on the past studies and the present status. All the birds could not be described in detail naturally, and as you had pointed out in an earlier letter would not be possible. I have selected the 3 major biomes and have spoken at length about them in general and about the birdlife of their critical (from the conservation point of view) areas. The Deccan Plateau region has been dealt with in a little more detail.

As mentioned earlier, this is a first-time assignment for me - and I might have gone wrong in some places or maybe considerably. If the editors feel that some editing will make do for a bad job, let them go ahead. If the content and style is totally against or contrary to what you had in mind, please advise me what I can do, if anything at all.

I am also enclosing a map of AP with the district boundaries and their names and the names of the sanctuaries (underlined).

Thank you very much for this opportunity. I await your reply eagerly.

Yours sincerely



Encl: as above.

Andhra Pradesh lies on the south-eastern coast of India, covering an area of 277,000 sq. kms. On the ~~ornithological~~ ^{avian} map of India, this state has its own distinctions. ~~First, it has a word from the local dialect, Telugu/ dialect, PITTA,~~ ^{The first point of interest is that} ~~has been~~ ^{It has lent the word PITTA to ornithology.} In Telugu, ^{in which is} the local dialect, 'Pitta' means a 'little bird'. It was first used ~~to describe~~ ^{in 1713} in ornithology when a specimen of the Indian Pitta was sent ~~to England, in 1713~~ ^{From Madras} describing it by its native name 'Ponnunky pitta'. In 1816, Vieillot latinised it as the name of a ~~genus of group of~~ birds, remarkable for their great beauty, under the genus of ~~Pittidae~~ ^{eminence} Pittidae. Another ~~distinct~~ reason for AP's ~~importance~~ ^{importance} is the presence of and endangered the endemic ~~Jerdon's~~ ^{Jerdon's} Courser, within its political boundaries only, and nowhere else in the country; ^{or the world!} ~~There are other many various~~ reasons too, as you will discern as you proceed through this chapter. ~~Some will be important~~ ^{cases} But these are just two exceptional ~~distinctions.~~

AP is populated by a diverse and varied avian populace occupying innumerable ecological niches. Of the 77 bird families reported from the sub-continent, representatives of 58 families (75%) are found in here. A checklist of the state has 446 species of birds listed for the area. To the birdwatcher, hungry for rarities, AP offers ~~the special~~ ^{not just} Jerdon's Courser, but also the Great Indian Bustard and the Spottedbilled ~~Pelican~~ Pelican. Water-birds in their thousands are attracted to ~~the~~ ^{hundreds of} ~~in many~~ wetlands spread throughout the state. ~~Many especially~~ ~~to the vast deltas of the Godavary and Krishna~~

* In Telugu, Pitta means 'a small bird'.

Birds of Tropical Thorn Forest

1. Grey Partridge
 2. Lesser Florican
 3. J's Courser
 4. Small Green & (Bluecheeked) Bee E.
 5. Ashycrowned Finch Lark
 6. Sykes' Crested Lark
 7. Yellowthroated Bulbul
- Turdoides babbler
5. Aruna buchanani
 - 6.

Babblers
Warblers

Cuckoos; Orioles;
Tongues; Lora

Feeding Parties
~~White-eye~~
Sunbirds



Redwinged Bushlarks, Rufoustailed Finch-larks,
Sykes Crested Larks, Short-toed Larks
and Small Skylarks - ~~the~~ populate "all
the earth & air with thy voice is loud."

Other birds ^{too} play their part on these plains
~~subtle changes in~~

As the vegetation changes ~~with~~ from grassland to
scrubland with ^{almost casual} subtlety, birdlife changes

too. Warblers and Babblers can be heard and
seen often. The Streaked Fantailed Warbler, which
displayed on the kamhas with a rapid rising
& falling act while uttering its "snip-snip"

scissor sound - is gradually replaced by
a variety of Wren-Warblers like
the Ashy ~~Wren Warbler~~, Franklin's ~~Wren Warbler~~,
& Rufousfronted ~~Wren Warbler~~, Plain Indian. ~~Wren~~

Of these, the Rufousfronted is an ~~an~~ arid-zone
specialist. The Tailor Bird is another common warbler,
frequenting the moister areas, ~~was~~ quite common
in city gardens also - where one constantly
hears its double-noted whistle.

Invariably, when near a patch of trees on the
scrubland, one hears a raucous, ~~loud~~ loud
'kay-kay-kay' - the call of the large Grey
Babbler. ~~It is a~~ ^{It is a} highly gregarious
member of the Turdoides ~~sp.~~ family -
~~it is a~~ which form 'sisterhoods' comprising 7-12
birds. They ~~feed~~ move around together, feeding,
preening, even nesting in a highly social atmosphere.

HERONS ; EGRETS ; BITTERNS : ARDEIDAE

10. (36) GREY HERON 1 3 R C
 (*Ardea cinerea* ^{ssp?})
Local Names: Telugu: Narayana pakshi.
 Urdu H: Anjan*.
11. (37) ^{EASTERN} PURPLE HERON 1 2 3 R U
 (*Ardea purpurea* ^{manilensis})
Local Names: Telugu: Yerra narayana pakshi.
 Urdu H: Lal anjan.
12. (38) LITTLE GREEN HERON 3 R X
 (*Butorides striatus* ^{javanicus})
Local Names: Telugu: Dosi kongga.
 Urdu H: Kancha bagla.
13. (42) POND HERON 1 2 3 R C
 (*Ardeola grayii* ^{ssp?})
Local Names: Telugu: Guddi kongga.
 Urdu H: Angdha bagla*.
14. (44) CATTLE EGRET 1 2 3 R C
 (*Bubulcus ibis coromandus*)
Local Names: Telugu: Samti kongga.
 Urdu H: Gai bagla*.
15. (46) ^{EASTERN} LARGE EGRET 1 3 R C
 (*Ardea alba modesta*)
Local Names: Telugu: Pedda tella kongga.
 Urdu H: Bada bagla*.
16. (47/48) MEDIAN EGRET 1 2 3 R C
 (*Egretta intermedia intermedia*)
Local Names: Telugu: Tella kongga.
 Urdu H: Patangkha bagla*.
17. (49) LITTLE EGRET 1 2 3 R C
 (*Egretta garzetta garzetta*)
Local Names: Telugu: Chinna tella kongga.
 Urdu H: Chota bagla*.
18. (50) INDIAN REEF HERON 1 3 ~~X~~ ~~X~~ ~~X~~
 (*Egretta gularis schistacea*)
Local Names: Telugu: Theerapu kongga.
 Urdu H: Kala bagla (dark phase)*.
19. (52) NIGHT HERON 1 3 R O
 (*Nycticorax nycticorax nycticorax*)
Local Names: Telugu: Chinta wakha.
 Urdu H: Waaq*.
20. (56) CHESTNUT BITTERN 3 R U
 (*Ixobrychus cinnamomeus*)
Local Names: Telugu: -
 Urdu H: Lal bagla*.
21. (57) YELLOW BITTERN 1 3 R U
 (*Ixobrychus sinensis*)

(111)

There are 3 other species which can be found here of this family, The Common, jungle and whiteheaded. They are strong-footed terrestrial feeders - hopping on the ground, flicking aside leaves and twigs in search of insect prey. Weak ~~fliers~~ fliers, they generally prefer climbing to the top of a tree to from whence they sail - with a few rapid wing beats - to another patch of forest floor. Each has its own distinct "babble" - which is used with great effect against predators, like snakes, when they the climb they create ~~like~~ literally mobs it away! ~~with their din~~.

Some insectivorous birds like the Roller, ^{Black} ~~Drongo~~ ^{Drongo} & ⁶⁴ Bee-Eater have endeared themselves to the agriculturists as destroyers of ^{insect} pests. The Roller is ~~has been declared as~~ the State Bird for this very reason! Perched atop bushes, trees or even telegraph wires, these birds keep a sharp eye for their prey. Rollers invariably ~~hunting on the ground~~ pouncing on ~~it~~ prey on the ground, ~~the Drongo~~ Bee Eaters chasing them in the air and Drongos being adept at both ^{forms} of hunting!

In the more densely vegetated areas of the plateau, the day-deciduous forest ~~biomes~~ habitats, birdlife is more ~~varied~~ heterogeneous. Pigeons & doves, parakeets, cuckoos, woodpeckers ~~predominated by perching birds.~~ ^{Drongos}

CHECKLIST OF THE BIRDS OF ANDHRA PRADESH

GREBES : PODICIPEDIDAE

1. (3) GREAT CRESTED GREBE . 2
 (Podiceps cristatus cristatus)
Local Names: Telugu^T: -
 Urdu^H: -
2. (5) LITTLE GREBE 1 3 R C
 (Podiceps ruficollis capensis)
Local Names: Telugu^T: Munu-gudi-Kodi.
 Urdu^H: Pandubi.

TROPIC-BIRDS : PHAETHONTIDAE

3. (19) LONGTAILED TROPIC BIRD 1
 (Phaethon lepturus)
Local Names: Telugu^T: -
 Urdu^H: -

PELECANUS : PELECANIDAE

4. (20) ROSY PELICAN 1
 (Pelecanus onocrotalus)
Local Names: Telugu^T: Chinkabatu.
 Urdu^H: Hawasil.
5. (21) SPOTTEDBILLED PELICAN 1 2
 (Pelecanus philippensis philippensis)
Local Names: Telugu^T: Chinkabatu.
 Urdu^H: Hawasil. Jahaz*.

CORMORANTS ; DARTERS : PHALACROCORACIDAE

6. (26) LARGE CORMORANT 1 3 R U
 (Phalacrocorax carbo sinensis)
Local Names: Telugu^T: Bontakaki.
 Urdu^H: Pan kawwa*.
7. (27) INDIAN SHAG 1 3 R X
 (Phalacrocorax fuscicollis)
Local Names: Telugu^T: Chinna-bontakaki. Neeti kaki
 Urdu^H: Gheta Pan Kawwa.
8. (28) LITTLE CORMORANT 1 3 R C
 (Phalacrocorax niger)
Local Names: Telugu^T: Neeti kaki.
 Urdu^H: Pan kawwa.
9. (29) DARTER 1 3 R X
 (Anhinga rufa melanogaster)
Local Names: Telugu^T: Pamubatu.
 Urdu^H: Banbe*.

(16)

~~Are~~ drongos, starlings & mynas, tree-pies,
Cuckoo-shrikes, minivets, Ioras, ~~Chloropsis~~
bulbuls, flycatchers, babblers, warblers,
thrushes, tits, antthrushes, flowerpeckers,
sunbirds, whiteeyes, etc. Some feed alone,
while others cooperate and work the forest
together, probing every niche ^{for food} as they move
along in mixed feeding parties. ~~A typical~~
~~group of such would comprise~~ white-eyes,
Grey Tits, Small Minivets, Whitebellied Drongo,
Common Wood Shrike, Pinyon Woodpecker, sunbirds,
flowerpeckers and ^{fantail} flycatchers are the ~~common~~
typical members of such groups.

The parasitic

Pelicans

Kolleru

heronry. The birds at Nelapattu are purported to be their the survivors of Kolleru. This small sanctuary houses an active heronry on 14-15 barringtonia trees inhabited by ibises, shags, night herons and of course the 450-500 pelicans. Besides the pelicans, the number of shags found here (250-300) is of interest.

other wetlands

also Pulicat Lake in East Godavari Dist

The other major wetlands of A.P. in this region (mentioned earlier) have their populations of waterfowl and waders, which fluctuating with the seasons, depending on the habitat and area. The probably extinct Pinkheaded Duck was reported from Kondakarla Lake in Vishakhapatnam District. Among rare, storm blown pelagic birds, is the Longtailed Tropic Bird, seen in Vishakhapatnam. This coastal region of AP lies between the important wetlands of Chilka Lake and in Orissa and Point Calimere in TN. Both are important junctions on the migratory routes of global avian travellers. I am certain that the coast of AP like the hills of the Eastern Ghats, has many surprises awaiting the inquisitive birdwatcher.

Tamil Nadu

DECCAN PLATEAU:

The Eastern Ghats and the coastal plains do have their own unique avifauna. But if one would like to know about the common birds of AP, he would surely find his subject on the Deccan Plateau west of the ghats. Here the terrain offers the birds, and the bird-watcher, almost every type of habitat present in AP. There are riverine ecosystems, dry and moist deciduous forests, innumerable natural and man-made wetlands, dry and arid scrubland, vast stretches of grasslands and ofcourse the various private gardens and municipal parks created by man, for human recreations.

very common
To understand the birds of the Deccan Plateau better
I will take you on a birdwatching trip during an

3
35
7
45
250
35
285

280

Reserve Forests

avian-year. We shall keep Hyderabad as our base and shall cover various eco-zones within a hundred kilometers of this city. We will visit representative habitat types of the urban garden at Nehru Zoological and Sanjivayya Park; of cultivation and smaller wetlands at Patancheru and Fox Sagar; of dry deciduous forest at Narsapur and Anantgiri R.^{l.}; of major wetlands at Manjira and Singur Barrages and of scrub and grassland at Mahavir Harin Vanasthali and ^{the} ~~other~~ ^{open} ~~unprotected~~ ^{side} ~~country~~. The seasonality and occurrence of birds at the various places shall guide our wanderings. We will begin with the monsoon - a season of abundance and procreation; of magical ephemeral flowerings and sudden avian music; of ^a ~~the~~ ^h sweetly maddening aroma rising from moist earth. This sudden boost for vegetation and insect life stirs the genes of many birds to commence nesting activities in this season.

The parasitic cuckoos are a family whose members almost collectively ring in the wet season. Like Keat's Nightingale whose ^{voice was also heard} ~~"voice i hear this passing night was heard"~~

"In ancient days by emperor and clown"

the songs of ~~members~~ the cuckoo family have seeped ~~the~~ Indian folklore with fascinating anthropomorphic stories. ^{harbinger of rain,} The Pied Crested Cuckoo ^h arrives from ~~Africa, ahead of the rain-bearing clouds, a harbinger~~ ~~of their arrival here.~~ In its suit of black and white, with a pointed black crest on its head, ^{shrilling} ~~it~~ ^h shrills its call from the tops of ^{stumps} ~~branches~~ and trees and also while in flight. Populating all sorts of habitats where its hosts, the babblers, breed, it remains in the country almost till Nov-Dec.

* Narsapur RF is the place for cuckoo buffs. On a ^{different} ~~different~~ good drizzly day one can see upto 6 ^{species here!} ~~species here!~~ **

Most abundant are the Common Hawk-Cuckoo or Brainfever Bird - whose obstreperous shrieks, repeated ad nauseum, all day and night, have earned it the alias

~~rivers on the eastern coast.~~ The eastern ghat
ranges harbour relictual species ~~from distant~~
~~habitats,~~ which are of considerable interest
to the biogeographer. The plains of the
Deccan Plateau offer their own unique avifauna
~~of scrub which has mastered the art of survival~~
~~on grassland and scrubland~~
of ~~in dry and arid climatic zones, with their~~
~~typical flxxxx vegetation.~~

Despite the rich avian heritage of the state,
very little ornithological work has been done
here. Indeed, the first ~~xxx~~ serious survey
was conducted by the late Dr Salim Ali from
1930-32, when the nizam's government sanctioned
a sum of Rs 3,000 for 3 months of field work! It was to
be the first of Dr Ali's many such surveys for
the various princely states of India. Working
in extremely ~~xxx~~ difficult conditions, in ~~xxx~~
remote areas totally lacking in communication
facilities, which could be reached only by
wooden ~~o~~ carts drawn by bullocks along rough
jungle tracks - Dr Ali pioneered a style of
working which stood him well for the subsequent
surveys he undertook. This was perhaps the
first time that such a survey, besides collecting
specimens of birds, also emphasised the study
of bird ecology. Patiently and dilligently,
Salim Ali observed and ~~noted~~ the behaviour of
birds ~~in detail~~ wherever he camped for collecting
~~the~~ museum specimens. His ^{copious,} meticulously recorded
observations formed the backbone of his magnum
opus, the Handbook. This survey resulted in a
lengthy and detailed paper in the Journal of
the Bombay Natural History entitled The Hyderabad
State Ornithological Survey in 5 parts!

*Mention about 'Eo-Dentith'
& the state bird - Roller &
obvious references*

Co-authored with Dr SDR.

461. (1885) INDIAN WHITE WAGTAIL 2 3 M C
 (Motacilla alba dukhunensis)
 Local Names: T: -
 H: Choti dhoban*.
462. (1891) LARGE PIED WAGTAIL 1 2 3 R C
 (Motacilla maderaspatensis)
 Local Names: T: Sakala sarela gadu.
 H: Badi dhoban*.

FLOWERPECKERS : DICAETIDAE

463. (1892,1894) INDIAN THICKBILLED FLOWERPECKER 2 3 R 0
 (Dicaeum agile agile)
 Local Names: T: Chittu jitta.
 H: Phool sungni*.
464. (1899) TICKELL'S FLOWERPECKER 1 2 3 R C
 (Dicaeum erythrorhynchos erythrorhynchos)
 Local Names: T: -
 H: Phool sungni*.

SUNBIRDS : NECTARINIDAE

465. (1907) INDIAN PURPLERUMPED SUNBIRD 1 2 3 R C
 (Nectarinia zeylonica flaviventris)
 Local Names: T: -
 H: Shakar qora*.
466. (1911) LOTEN'S SUNBIRD 2
 (Nectarinia lotenia hindustanica)
 Local Names: T: -
 H: -
467. (1917) INDIAN PURPLE SUNBIRD 1 2 3 R C
 (Nectarinia asiatica asiatica)
 Local Names: T: Thena pitta.
 H: Kala shakar qora*.
468. (1918) ASSAM PURPLE SUNBIRD 2
 (Nectarinia asiatica intermedia)
 Local Names: T: -
 H: -
469. (1927) INDIAN YELLOWBACKED SUNBIRD 2
 (Aethopyga siparaja seheriae)
 Local Names: T: -
 H: -
470. (1931) LITTLE SPIDERHUNTER 1 2
 (Aracnothera longirostris longirostris)
 Local Names: T: -
 H: -

In the meantime, another ornithological survey was being conducted ~~by~~ in the northern Eastern Ghats. Known as the Vernay Scientific Survey of the Eastern Ghats after a generous grant from Mr A S Vernay, a Vice-Patron of the BNHS, this survey was ~~conducted~~ led by Mr V S LaPersonne, who collected birds in Cuddapah, Kurnool, Godavari and Vizagapatam Districts. The collections were worked over by Mr N B Kinnear and Mr H Whistler, and their findings published in the Journal of the BNHS. Till very recently, the Eastern Ghats in the north~~er~~-east of the state have held fascination for most serious ~~wokkers~~ ^{workers} in the state. /Abdulali followed the above surveys a decade later with his study on the birds of Vizag. Of recent, studies on bird populations their seasonality and occurrence and their use ^{of} and adaptations to man-disturbed areas in the eastern ghats have been ~~the~~ done by Dr S D Ripley, B M Beehler, K S R Krishna Raju, Shahid Ali, S A Hussain and N Majumdar. Besides the work in these areas, two important discoveries were made in the eighties. Working on leads given by Mr Pushp Kumar of the AP Forest Department, Dr Asad Rahmani found a healthy population of 35 great indian bustards on the rolling grasslands of Kurnool, near Nandikotkur village in 1983. Two years later, Bharat Bhushan of the BNHS was able to locate the Jerdon's Courser in the Pennar River Valley in Cuddapah district!

These studies are only the begining of the unravelment of the ornithology of AP. The rich ^{one} topography of the state assures/of good ornithological harvests. A P can be divided into 3 major zones based on physical characteristics.

The Eastern Ghats, The Eastern Coastal Plains & The Deccan Plateau

Handwritten calculations in red ink:

$$\begin{array}{r} 1680 \\ 2140 \\ \hline 820 \\ 2560 \\ \hline 2920 \end{array}$$

Handwritten calculations in red ink:

$$\begin{array}{r} 2280 \\ 3 \\ \hline 840 \\ 20 \\ \hline 1080 \end{array}$$

448. (1854) EUROPEAN TREE PIPIT 2 3 M X
 (Anthus trivialis trivialis)
 Local Names: T: -
 H: -
449. (1855) WITHERBY'S TREE PIPIT 3
 (Anthus trivialis haringtoni)
 Local Names: T: Likku jitta.
 H: Musarichi.
450. (1857) RICHARD'S PIPIT 3 M U
 (Anthus novaeseelandiae richardi)
 Local Names: T: Gurapa modi pitta.
 H: Charchari.
451. (1859) INDIAN PADDYFIELD PIPIT 2 3 R IM C
 (Anthus novaeseelandiae rufulus)
 Local Names: T: Gurapa modi pitta.
 H: Charchari.
452. (1861) TAWNY PIPIT 2 3 M O
 (Anthus campestris campestris)
 Local Names: T: -
 H: Chillu.
453. (1863) BLYTH'S PIPIT 2 3
 (Anthus campestris godlewskii)
 Local Names: T: Gurapa modi pitta.
 H: Chillu.
454. (1874) FOREST WAGTAIL 1 2 3
 (Motacilla indica)
 Local Names: T: Uzhalla jitta.
 H: -
455. (1875) GREYHEADED YELLOW WAGTAIL 3 M O
 (Motacilla flava thunbergi)
 Local Names: T: -
 H: Peeli dhoban*.
456. (1876) BLUEHEADED YELLOW WAGTAIL 1 3 M O
 (Motacilla flava beema)
 Local Names: T: -
 H: ~~Pilla~~ Peeli dhoban*.
457. (1878) BLACKHEADED YELLOW WAGTAIL 3 M X
 (Motacilla flava melanogrisea)
 Local Names: T: -
 H: Peeli dhoban*.
458. (1881) NORTHERN YELLOWHEADED WAGTAIL 1
 (Motacilla citreola citreola)
 Local Names: T: -
 H: ^{Pila} Dhoban*.
459. (1882) WESTERN YELLOWHEADED WAGTAIL 3 M X
 (Motacilla citreola werae)
 Local Names: T: -
 H: ^{Pila} Dhoban*.
460. (1884) GREY WAGTAIL 1 2 3 M C
 (Motacilla cinerea cinerea)
 Local Names: T: Muddi tippudu jitta.
 H: ^{Pila} Dhoban*.

9

The terrain of the Deccan Plateau offers the birds and the birdwatcher, almost every type of habitat present in A.P. There are riverine ecosystems, dry deciduous forests, innumerable natural and man-made wetlands, dry and arid scrub and thorn forest, vast stretches of grasslands and of course the various private gardens and municipal parks created by man for recreation in cities.

Among the ~~Some~~ ^{rare} typical birds of this region are the ~~gimm~~ glamorous Great Indian Bustard and ~~the~~ Lesser Florican. Specialists inhabiting flat and rolling grasslands, these birds have long been prosecuted by man for sport and the pot. Infrequent reports ~~about~~ ^{of} their existence in A.P. ~~have been~~ ^{though always in small nos,} are found ~~scattered through~~ ⁱⁿ literature, but ~~always the records were of few birds.~~

Their rarity

This is graphically illustrated by the fact that a successful falconer would be given an ^{entire village as} 'inam' ~~of an entire village~~ for bringing down a bustard!

AP ~~has~~ gained prominence on the Distribution map of the Great Indian Bustard in 1984 when 38 birds were sighted by Forest Dept. officials on the grasslands around Rollapadu village near Nandikotkur town in Kurnool district. The GIB is mainly a breeding visitor here, with two distinct breeding seasons in the year. A small season during May-June and a longer one from August to December. The sight of the alpha male displaying on his slightly raised mound, booming his resonant call across verdure grasslands, ~~is~~ visible from nearly a kilometer, cannot be easily forgotten. ~~During this period only he and his~~

~~has~~ The FD have done a good job of protecting this ~~bird~~ bird by declaring 800 acres as the Rollapadu Great Indian Bustard Sanctuary

426. (1700) NORTHERN PIED BUSH CHAT 2 3 M U
 (*Saxicola caprata bicolor*)
 Local Names: T: Kumpa nalanchi.
 H: Kala pidda.
427. (1701) BURMESE PIED BUSH CHAT 2 3 R C
 (*Saxicola caprata burmanica*)
 Local Names: T: Kumpa nalanchi.
 H: Hussaini pidda*.
428. (1710) DESERT WHEATEAR 3
 (*Oenanthe deserti ssp?*)
 Local Names: T: -
 H: -
429. (1719) DECCAN BLACK ROBIN 1 2 3 R C
 (*Saxicoloides fulvicata intermedia*)
 Local Names: T: Nalanchi.
 H: Kali chudi*.
430. (1720) BLACKBACKED INDIAN ROBIN 3 R C
 (*Saxicoloides fulvicata fulvicata*)
 Local Names: T: Nalanchi.
 H: Kali chudi*.
431. (1723) BLUEHEADED ROCK THRUSH 2
 (*Monticola cinclorhynchus*)
 Local Names: T: -
 H: -
432. (1726) INDIAN BLUE ROCK THRUSH 1 2 3 M O
 (*Monticola solitarius pandoo*)
 Local Names: T: Podakachi pitta.
 H: -
433. (1728) MALABAR WHISTLING THRUSH 2
 (*Monticola horsfieldii horsfieldii*)
 Local Names: T: Singala karewe.
 H: Bhangraj.
434. (1731) PIED GROUND THRUSH 2
 (*Zoothera wardii*)
 Local Names: T: -
 H: -
435. (1733) ORANGEHEADED GROUND THRUSH 2
 (*Zoothera citrina citrina*)
 Local Names: T: -
 H: -
436. (1734) WHITETHROATED GROUND THRUSH 2 3 R X
 (*Zoothera citrina cyanotus*)
 Local Names: T: -
 H: -
437. (1741) SMALLBILLED MOUNTAIN THRUSH 2
 (*Zoothera dauma ssp?*)
 Local Names: T: -
 H: -

b

and designing effective trench-cum-mound boundaries to prevent disturbance by man and cattle. The grasslands of Rollapadu are surrounded by fields of groundnut, sorghum, sunflower, etc., all re-lished by the GIB. Rollapadu also has a high concentration of grasshoppers, a staple of this bird and ~~the~~ its ^{elusive} ~~lesser known~~ cousin the Lesser Florican ~~or~~ ~~kikk~~. Reports of this latter bird are also not forthcoming. Unfortunately in India, the number of shikaris ~~is~~ far exceeds ~~that~~ of birdwatchers, and when a bird is on Schedule I of the Wildlife Act, being totally protected with ^a heavy penalty for killing ^{it} ~~one~~, those taken illegally are not reported at all. ~~Rollapadu also plays an important part in the~~ Rollapadu is also a major roosting spot for Harriers: ~~which flock to it in large numbers of 400-500~~ Large ~~in~~ congregations of 400-500 birds have been observed here during ~~the~~ winter; ~~when the harriers migrate~~

Grass- and open scrub-lands are under great threat from human use for agriculture and / or grazing of cattle. Also known as 'Kanchas', the grasslands are especially susceptible as they produce the fodder which is so important to the Indian pastoralist. ~~Among lesser known species than~~

the GIB, ~~who have made this habitat their home~~ ^{& open scrubland are the} ~~Grasslands provide~~ ^{XXX} ~~XXX~~ ^{XXX} ~~Grasslands provide~~ refuge ~~of~~ a large variety of birds besides ~~the~~ bustards. Their presence

or absence is the gauge of environmental well-being. Common among ~~the Galliformes~~ ^{are} the Grey & Painted Partridges. Evolved ~~to~~ withstand aridity, ~~this bird can be found~~ far away from water. ~~It heralds the dawn~~ with ~~its~~ ^a high-pitched 'ka-tutur, ka-tutur' call, and is answered by others of its flock, ~~or perhaps a~~

414. (1602) WESTERN GREENISH LEAF WARBLER 2
 (*Phylloscopus trochiloides viridanus*)
 Local Names: T: -
 H: -
415. (1603) BALTISTAN GREENISH LEAF WARBLER 2 3 M 0
 (*Phylloscopus trochiloides ludlowi*)
 Local Names: T: -
 H: -
416. (1606) LARGE CROWNED LEAF WARBLER 2
 (*Phylloscopus occipitalis occipitalis*)
 Local Names: T: -
 H: -
417. (1614) WESTERN BLACKBROWED FLYCATCHER-WARBLER 2
 (*Seicercus burkii whistleri*)
 Local Names: T: -
 H: -

CHATS ; THRUSHES ; Turdinae

418. (1643) RUBYTHROAT 1 2
 (*Erithacus calliope*)
 Local Names: T: -
 H: -
419. (1644) NORTHERN BLUETHROAT 2 3
 (*Erithacus svecicus svecicus*)
 Local Names: T: -
 H: Hussaini pidda.
420. (1650,1651) INDIAN BLUE CHAT 2
 (*Erithacus brunneus brunneus*)
 Local Names: T: -
 H: -
421. (1661,1663) INDIAN MAGPIE-ROBIN 1 2 3 R C
 (*Copsychus saularis saularis*)
 Local Names: T: Pedda nalanchi.
 H: Dhaiyal.
422. (1665) MALABAR SHAMA 2 3
 (*Copsychus malabaricus malabaricus*)
 Local Names: T: -
 H: Shama*.
423. (1667) INDIAN SHAMA ? ? ?
 (*Copsychus malabaricus ssp?*)
 Local Names: T: Tonka nalanchi.
 H: Shama.
424. (1672) EASTERN REDSTART 1 2 3 M C
 (*Phoenicurus ochruros rufiventris*)
 Local Names: T: Nune bundi gadu.
 H: Thirthira.
425. (1697) INDIAN COLLARED BUSH CHAT 2 3 M 0
 (*Saxicola torquata indica*)
 Local Names: T: Adavi campa jitta.
 H: -

Farther out, where the water is slightly deeper, are the ducks. Raft upon raft upon raft of them. Like low islands ^{in lagoon they} ~~over the water,~~ exploding with the flurry of a thousands ~~of~~ wings when threatened by a sea eagle. Pintails by far, outnumber all other species of waterfowl here. Great skiens can be seen 'V'ing their way across the lagoon early in the morning. Glimpses of ~~other species~~ ^{& bluewinged} can be had too. Wigeon, common teal, gadwals, ~~bluewinged teals~~ and shovellers are spattered ^{rising to 100s} ~~over the waters~~ ^{in particularly good years,} in tens and twenties, ~~intermingling with~~ ^{& barheaded Geese} one another often. Though ruddy shelducks ^{frequently} ~~have been recorded here~~ ^{often,} a few common shelduck were sighted in 1989!

Sometimes while glassing over all ~~this~~ activity, one sees a line of shimmering pink in ~~the~~ ^{the} distance. The excitement of avian busibodies closer at hand makes one gloss over this fact till some nagging distant bell brings to mind the flamingo. Stirring the squelchy soup, bent over double in their unique feeding methodology, they tread water like a long line of exotic ballerinas. Their ancient Oligocene ^{gene-bank has} ~~genes have~~ still retained an aura of mystery around these creatures, as their abrupt movements ^{across} ~~around~~ the country continue to puzzle scientists. Another bird of great antiquity, the Spottedbilled or Grey Pelican, is also found here. Riding high on the water like a compact little fishing boat, the pelican trawls the ^{Lagoon} ~~water~~ with its cavernous pouchy beak, carrying the fish nearly _____ kms. overland to Nelapattu where it nests. ~~The~~ Nelapattu Bird Sanctuary is the last stronghold of the grey pelican today. A much larger pelecany used to exist at Kolleru where 1500 nests were counted in 1960. This number decreased alarmingly over the following decade and the colony was totally deserted by 1974. Human disturbance, fishing and pesticides have been attributed as reasons for the birds abandoning ~~this~~

Pulicat Lake is a shallow, brackish lagoon separated from the Bay of Bengal by the long sandy island of Sriharikota and some other sandbanks. The Pulicat Sanctuary covers an area of 600 sq. km. Its shallow salty waters are the home of innumerable taxa of arthropods which attract crowds of resident and migratory waterbirds and waterfowls. Pelicans, cormorants, darters, herons, egrets, bitterns, storks, ibises, spoonbills, flamingos, ducks, geese, rails, coots, plovers, sandpipers, snipe and stilts, are all found here. The best way to birdwatch is to drive ^{on} ~~up and down~~ the 18 km. road from the mainland to Sriharikota Island, stopping at promising congregations of birds on the extensive mud-flats interspersed with shallow pools of water, on either side.

When stopped and unwound and equipped one gazes towards the distant birds, it takes a moment or two before the teeming smaller waders, closer at hand, penetrate the dazed mind. Busily they feed, almost ant-like in their single-minded concentration, accumulating fat for the long and hazardous journeys northward as winter ends. Some probe for food into the squelch, some pick off a tidbit from the surface, some sweep the waters to disturb hidden prey while some run a few steps, stop and tap sharply on the ground with their foot to startle a subterranean skulker from its shallow seaside burrow! Their constant bickering sounds like background music for the occasional ^{flutey} flutey notes of the larger sandpipers. They have ^{their} ~~their~~ little altercations when invisible feeding lines are crossed. Protocol demands certain restraint from the defender who gyrates through the movements of passive negotiations. When this fails, the intruder is chased out vigorously. When they take off, panicking in the shadow of a marsh harrier or the larger, handsomer brahminy kite or ^{perhaps} the awesome whitebellied sea eagle, ^{like} a mass of moving specks over the surface of the water, an ageless genetic dynamo ^{strength} powers their fragile, frightened feathers into unbelievable feats of close-formation aerobatics. Farth

fine-tuned to the instinct of a
"strength in numbers" strategy,

fine-tuned to the instinct of a ~~defence~~ ^{strength} in nos. 8.

compared with the biology of its congeners in Africa. It was largely nocturnal! The local shikari who jumped the bird while it was bedazzled by his battery-operated head-lamp - had the outrageous gall to exclaim, "but i have been ^{seeing} ~~seeing~~ this bird occasionally for so many years and have had it pickled with my food!!" Only a few scientists of the BNHS have ^{observed} ~~seen~~ ^{watched} the bird in the field. Suitable habitats do ^{in surrounding areas} occur, but whether the Doublebanded Courser exists on them is debatable - for they have not been surveyed properly. The fact that it is a complete endemic of A.P. state ~~only~~, not being found anywhere else in the world is reason enough to extend complete protection to the bird. But politics and politicians disagree. An artificial canal of the 'Telugu Ganga' project is to pass so close to the area where this courser was re-discovered that ^{work on the canal} ~~its work~~ might ~~totally~~ and finally drive it to ^{total} extinction.

COASTAL PLAINS ←

When one gets off the ghats, onto the fertile alluvial plains of the Coromandel coast, the avifauna changes completely. The common birds of the major dry deciduous habitat exist too, no doubt, as they do over most of the state. But here are found ~~the~~ waders and other wetland birds, inhabiting the margins of the land where it meets the sea, deriving sustenance from the products of this antediluvian spring-board of life onto ^{terra firma} ~~land~~ ^{aqueous}. The abundant fauna of this magical zone - of shoal, sandbar, sandbank, of mangrove, lagoon, creek, of floodpool, floodplain, floodtide - attracts hordes and hordes of feathered bipeds. The restricted nature of the habitat concentrates massive bird populations in small areas. No wonder then that all the bird sanctuaries of A.P. (except one) are situated here. Pulicat and Nelapattu, just ^{60km} north of Madras, and Kolleru, higher up the coast, near Vijayawada. Here too are the mangrove swamps and coastal lagoons of Coringa, ~~the~~ ^{other} ~~another~~ patch of mangroves ~~are~~ at the mouths of the Krishna. Estuary.

The largest of these islands retain the largest

such forests their home. Once widespread, being part of a larger South Asian humid forest biota, these woods have become much ^{reduced & desiccated} ~~desiccated~~ over the centuries, with representative ^{forest} islands remaining today between ^{increasingly} larger tracts of dry and dry-deciduous flora. At least 22 species of birds found here are relictual - ~~bird species whose restricted populations in the eastern ghats, due to the limited habitat,~~ showing ^a ~~show~~ close affinity to populations in the Western Ghats, the Himalayan foothills or Burma and South-east Asia, where such habitats also occur. Living under constant threat of habitat destruction by human encroachment are the rare and crepuscular blyth's baza, the sedentary and parochial crested goshawk and the bird-eating besra sparrow-hawk, purple wood pigeon, large greenbilled malkoha, blue-eared kingfisher, bluebearded bee eater, 5 species of woodpeckers including the great black woodpecker, hill myna, himalayan tree pie, large wood shrike, 3 species of babblers, 2 bejewelled sunbirds, the rubycheek and the yellowbacked sunbird, and the enigmatic little spiderhunter, also...

populate these humid hill forests. As man-induced forest destruction speeds up in these hills - whether for coffee plantations or resettlement of tribals who bring with them their slash-and-burn shifting agricultural methods - it becomes increasingly imperative that parts of the hill-top forest be preserved for posterity.

The southern drier zone of the Eastern Ghats also have their rarities. The Yellowthroated Bulbul and the endangered Jerdon's Courser. The former inhabits dry thorny scrub interspersed with big trees among broken hilly terrain and has been reported from Horselykonda in ~~Choot~~ Chittoor district. The Jerdon's Courser, that (enigmatic, endangered) nocturnal wanderer of the (Lankamalai) foothills was rediscovered recently after nearly 86 years! Intermittent search-parties combed the areas over the years unsuccessfully, till one vital factor of the birds ecology was discovered when

its range being restricted to the drier parts of eastern Karnataka to Northern T.N. - therefore making it an endemic of this region.

should it be? Penner river valleys
Yes

Vegetation

generally

Vegetation in Andhra Pradesh is seasonal, dry and arid. Twenty three percent of the land is under forests though good tree cover is spread over just 9.22%! Dry deciduous forests with tree communities of teak and Terminalia sp. forming unevenly closed canopies, predominate ~~over~~ 45% of the forest land, over the Deccan Plateau, north of the Krishna. Thick clumps of bamboo also grow in these forests. ^{northern sub-} The hilly regions of the Eastern Ghats and those areas receiving moisture above 900 mm are covered with moist deciduous forests and a small transition zone of semi-evergreens. This zone covers 25% of the forested land and has many endemic ^{and relic} floral and faunal (~~Red Sanders and Golden Gecko to name just two~~) species. South of the Krishna and in the semi-arid areas bordering Maharashtra and Karnataka are found the dry thorn forests comprising mainly of Acacia, Albizia and Hardwickia sps. Large tracts of this scrub and grasslands have been converted into agricultural land. The strip of low coastal land on the eastern coast is vegetated with ^{littoral forest with} dry evergreen forest and other littoral flora. ~~Once forming a low canopy of 9 - 12 m. high,~~ ^{the original climax flora.} most of this forest has now fallen to the axe or has been browsed through so that thorny and unpalatable species have displaced ~~them~~.

mention presence of Red Sanders

The South ~~Seshachalam~~ Seshachalam Ghats are much drier than the northern ranges & have dry deciduous & dry thorn forests covering ~~them~~

very small patches of

Birds of AP

This geological tapestry of Andhra Pradesh is inhabited by a diverse and varied avian populace occupying innumerable ecological niches. Of the 77 bird families reported from the sub-continent, representatives of 58 families (75%) are found in A.P. A checklist of the state has 446 species of birds listed for the area.

EASTERN GHATS

Biologically the bird-fauna of the eastern ghats, is very interesting as ^{these hills} the ghats support the last tracts of remnant humid forests in Peninsular India, ~~and so act as~~ refuges for those types of flora and fauna which make

forming

TOPOGRAPHY

Andhra Pradesh lies on the south-eastern coast of India. Spread over 277,000 sq. km., it encompasses varied geographical features within its boundaries. However, ^{state AP.} the land can be divided into three major bio-geographic zones based on ^{its} physical ^{characteristics} features.

A series of hills, ^{ranges} comprising the central zone, running parallel to the eastern coast of India, rise like protruberances of an aged, tellurian spine to form the Eastern Ghat Ranges. Though ^{crumbly, broken, scattered and} lacking the altitudinal magnificence of the Western Ghats + ^{crumbly, broken, scattered}

scattered - they are denuded relics of a more distinguished and ancient mountain chain. In their discontinuous slant from NE to SW, they divide A.P. into two other distinct zones. - The Deccan Plateau on their west and a narrow coastal plain on the east, bordered by the Bay of Bengal. Two mighty rivers, originating in the Sahayadris, flow across the state, ^{They} cutting deep gorges through the Eastern Ghats, forming extensive fertile deltas on the East Coast before entering the Bay of Bengal.

The Deccan Plateau is highly dissected and broken by many ^{rocky} ~~and~~ outcrops and river valleys, forming a landscape of small hills with wide shallow depressions, conducive to human settlements. Precipitation comes to this area in ^{the} the form of the southwest monsoon from June to September. Eighty percent of the annual rainfall of 500 mm - 1100 mm is received during this period. When the monsoon winds turn around and return from the north-east, more rain falls in November and December.

The eastern coastal plains receive most of their ^{moisture} ~~rain~~ ^{precipitation} from these ^{during the} north-east monsoonal showers. The wet season is followed by a short spell of cool weather (av. temp. 12°C) from November to February, by the end of which the mercury begins to rise (av. 42°C), ^{peaking} in May (av. 42°C)

Note: Should the 3 zones be listed first & then described?

The E Ghats are a series of ^{hills} ~~crumbly, broken & scattered~~ ^{hill} ranges, lacking the alt. mag. of the W. G. They are the ^{Aravallis} ~~crumbly, broken, scattered and~~ ^{crumbly, broken, scattered and} ~~the~~ ^{crumbly, broken, scattered and} ~~land, divide the Ghats into~~ ^{crumbly, broken, scattered and} ~~a northern & a southern sub-zone. The latter is also known as Seshachallam range. Both~~ ^{crumbly, broken, scattered and} ~~contemporaneous of the Aravallis.~~ ^{crumbly, broken, scattered and}

the rivers form extensive & fertile deltas on the eastern coast, before entering the Bay of Bengal. The Deccan Plateau

dividing them in the process into a northern & a southern sub-zone,

The Southern Eastern Ghats are more popularly known as the Seshachalam Ranges.

RAINFALL

reaching its peak.

Single

The ~~singularly~~ outstanding difference between
forest ~~songbirds~~ ^{songbirds} of a ~~wood~~ and those of
the grasslands ~~are~~ is one of visibility.

Sweet Melancholia pours forth from the throat
* forest. of ~~bird~~ ~~an~~ ~~invisible~~ thrush! But the
back!


"Hail to thee, blithe spirit!

Bird thou never west,
That from heaven, or near it,
Lowest thy full heart

In profuse strains of ~~thy~~ unpremeditated
art."

~~Sparrows~~

The ~~plump~~ little Ashy-crowned Finch-lark,
sparrow-like — ^{both} aerial & terrestrial — is the
commonest. ~~A~~ male's sleepy ascending,
descending whistle belies its spectacular
courtship dance — From a clod it takes
off vertically, into the air & moving around
in loose circles ~~performs~~ singing its ~~own~~ vibrant
song — returning to earth in the most
breathtaking spectacular, dive-bomber fashion, pulling
out of its reckless dives ~~at the last~~



~~to~~ ~~moments~~ to ascend & dip
down again — all movements calculated
to a hair's breath of stalling!

And it has cousins a-plenty, with
a variety of musical talent.

ventriloquially

- and the Indian Cuckoo, whose resonating note rings through the trees, ~~rather ventriloquially~~, ^{**} To walk through the forest on a rainy day, birding entirely by ear, listening to the calls of lusty cuckoos, is a truly unique experience.] Faintly, through the din of these three species, one hears the lament of another. The Plaintive Cuckoo is the smallest of the lot, but like the others calls with drooping wings and humped back! It parasitises warblers and ~~and~~ around Hyderabad has attained a remarkable degree of adaptiveness in its egg coloration which resembles those of the Ashy Wren-Warbler ^{its} host in the city, and the slightly different ones of the Tailor Bird, the host, outside the city! The sexually dimorphic Koel can also be heard, though it prefers the more open areas around human habitations, where its ~~hosts~~ ^{canny} the ~~crow~~ ^{breed}. ~~One i have also heard the "two-fold shout" of the "blithexxxxx" "blithe new-comer"! This Cuckoo came to perch upon a tree near which we were having a snack!~~

Deccan Plateau Areas

Rollapadu - GIB LF

Narsapur & Anantagiri

ICRISAT

NZP

(I)

Birdwatching in this countryside is truly pleasurable. The morning begins with the heralding calls of the Grey Partridge, as they strut ~~to~~ along ^{the margins of} dirt tracks and game trails in their search for sundry seeds and insects, where dew is available, they can do without water for long periods!

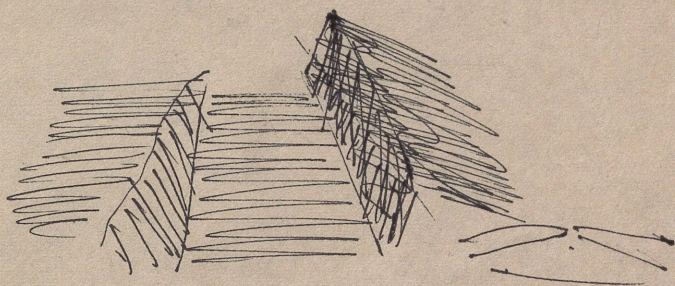
Their cousin, the Painted Partridge is found in slightly ~~wetter~~ ^{less dry} ~~moister~~ ^{facies} terrain with and has a ~~3-note~~ ^{vocal} tri-syllabic, sore-throated, challenging call. If one ~~is~~ ^{settles} down quietly near some bush, and allows the wilderness to breathe again, one is treated to the most exhilarating performances of avian music & dance.

India through her birds: Andhra Pradesh

- 1 birds of AP
- 2 Ornithologists / survey work done in the state
- 3 Topography
- 4 Important birding biomes vis-a-vis birds
- 5 Important conservation areas
- 6 organisations & people to contact

Importance

- ① A) word "PITTA"
- B) Jerdon's Courses
- C) Varied Topography
- D) Spottedbilled Pelican

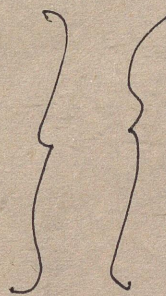


③ Ornithologists

- A. Salim Ali
- B. Munay Sur
- C. Abdulali
- D. Rahmani
- E. Krishna Raju
- F. Ripley
- G. B. Bhushan.

③ Topography + ④

- E. Ghats
- Coast
- D. Plateau
- Rivers
- Forests



⑤ Conservation Areas

(specific areas in the BIOMES)

1. Lollapadu
2. Pulicat
3. Nellopattu
4. Lankeamalai
5. Northern E. Ghats (Anantagiri area)

- ⑥ BSAP
- APNHS
- APPD

rise like protruberances of an aged, tellurian spine to form

The Eastern Ghats/~~are~~ a series of crumbly, broken and scattered hill ranges/. Lacking the altitudinal magnificence of the Western Ghats, they are the denuded relics of a more distinguished and ancient

mountain chain, contemporaneous of the Aravallis.

Draining across the land, the Godavary and Krishna Rivers
~~The two rivers, which drain across the land, and~~

divide the Ghats into ⁹~~the~~ northern and ⁹~~the~~ southern sub-zones. The latter is also known as Sesa-

chalam range. Both the rivers form extensive and fertile deltas on the eastern coast, before entering the Bay of Bengal. The Deccan Plateau is highly dissected and broken by many rocky outcrops and river valleys, forming a landscape of small hills with wide shallow depressions, conducive to human settlements.

Precipitation. . .

Vegetation . . .

Partially

~~HA~~

438. (1748) TICKELL'S THRUSH 2
 (Turdus unicolor)
 Local Names: T: -
 H: Desi pawai.
439. (1753) BLACKCAPPED BLACKBIRD 2 3
 (Turdus merula nigropileus)
 Local Names: T: Poda palisa.
 H: Kasturi*.
440. (1754) EASTERN GHATS BLACKBIRD 2
 (Turdus merula spencei)
 Local Names: T: Poda palisa.
 H: -

TITS : PARIDAE

441. (1795) CEYLON GREY TIT 2 3 R U
 (Parus major mahrattarum)
 Local Names: T: -
 H: -
442. (1798) WHITEWINGED BLACK TIT 2
 (Parus nuchalis)
 Local Names: T: Nalla patsa jitta.
 H: -
443. (1810) CENTRAL INDIAN YELLOWCHEEKED TIT 2 3
 (Parus xanthogenys aplonotus)
 Local Names: T: -
 H: -

NUTHATCHES : SITTIDAE

444. (1830) PENINSULAR CHESTNUTBELLIED NUTHATCH 2 3
 (Sitta castanea castanea)
 Local Names: T: -
 H: Siri.
445. (1831) EASTERN GHATS CHESTNUTBELLIED NUTHATCH 2
 (Sitta castanea prateri)
 Local Names: T: -
 H: Siri.
446. (1838) VELVETFRONTED NUTHATCH 2
 (Sitta frontalis frontalis)
 Local Names: T: -
 H: -

PIPITS ; WAGTAILS : MOTACILLIDAE

447. (1852) TREE PIPIT 2 3 M X
 (Anthus hodgsoni ssp?)
 Local Names: T: Likku jitta.
 H: Musarichi.

Newsletter for Birdwatchers

718
1990

Editor :
Zafar Futehally

'Moitaka'
Bear Shola Road
Kodaikanal-624 101 Tamilnadu

REF :

DATE : 3-8-90

Dear Aasheesh Pittie,

I was very pleased to get your chapter on Andhra Pradesh for the Penguin book. It makes interesting reading, and the style is appropriate for a book meant for the general reader. There is also an authentic ring about your statements. I am glad that you have spent some words on the geography of A.P. , something which the others have not done for their respective chapters. Your map is useful.

I think only minor editing will be necessary for your piece. I prefer the word relict to relictual. The last para could perhaps be removed.

*
Would it be possible for you to send me a list of the scientific names of the birds referred to, page-wise? I do not yet know whether the list will be used , at the end of your chapter , but I would like to have the option.

Also , please send me a brief biographical note of yourself.

I have received chapters from Aamir Ali, K S Lavkumar, Risa^h Naoroji, Prakash Gole, Ranjit Daniels, Asad Rahmani, and myself. I am hoping , any minute, to receive material from S Subramanya, Mk Himmatsinhji, Asha Saklani. Unfortunately KK Neelak^gntan is ill and will not be sending his piece.

Aasheesh Pittie
Hyderabad

Yours sincerely

Zafar Futehally
Zafar Futehally

* Pto

- Indian Pitta - *Pitta brachyura*
- Jerdon's Courser - *Cursorius bitorquatus*
- G.I.B. - *Ardeotis nigripes*
- Spotted-billed Pelican - *Pelecanus philippensis*
- 5) ~~Styler's Baza~~ - *Aviceda jerdoni*
- Crested Goshawk - *Accipiter trivirgatus*
- Bush Sparrow-Hawk - *A. virgatus*
- Purple Wood Pigeon - *Columba punicea*
- L. Green-billed Malkoha - *R. tristis*
- 10) Blue-eared Kingfisher - *A. meninting*
- Bluebearded Bee-eater - *N. aethiopi*
- Great Black Woodpecker - *Dryocopus javensis*
- Hill Myna - *Gracula religiosa*
- Himalayan Tree Pie - *D. formosae*
- 15) Large Wood Shrike - *Tephrodornis virgatus*
- Rubycheek - ~~*Anthracoceros*~~ *singalensis*
- Yellowbacked Sunbird - *Aythya siparaja*
- Little Spiderhunter - *Brachyotus longirostris*
- Marsh Harrier - *Circus aeruginosus*
- 20) Brahminy Kite - *Haliaeetus indus*
- Whitebellied Sea Eagle - *Haliaeetus leucogaster*
- Pintail - *Anas acuta*
- Widgeon - *Anas penelope*
- Common Teal - *Anas crecca*
- 25) Bluewinged Teal - *A. querquedula*
- Gadwall - *A. strepera*
- Shoveller - *A. clypeata*
- Ruddy Shelduck - *Tadorna ferruginea*
- Bar-headed Goose - *Anser indicus*
- 30) Common Shelduck - *Tadorna tadorna*
- Flamingo - *Phoenicopterus roseus*
- Pink-headed Duck - *Rhodonessa caryophyllacea*
- Longtailed Tropic Bird - *Phaethon lepturus*
- Lesser Frigatebird - *Syphobates indicus*
- 35) Grey Partridge - *Fringilla pondichiana*
- Painted - *F. pictus*
- Ash-crowned Finch-Lark - *Eumyias grisea*

- Redwinged Bushlark - *Mirafra erythroptera*
- Rufous-tailed Finch-Lark - *Ammonomanes phoeniceus*
- 40) ~~Syber's Crested Lark~~ - *Galerida deva*
- Short-tailed Lark - *Calandrella cinerea*
- Small Shrike - *Alauda gulqulq*
- Streaked Fantail Warbler - *Cisticola juncidis*
- Ashy Wren Warbler - *Phinia socialis*
- 45) ~~Franklin's Wren Warbler~~ - *P. hageni*
- Rufous-fronted Wren Warbler - *P. buchanani*
- Fan-tail Bird - *Oetholoma suturina*
- Large Grey Babbler - *Turdoides malabarica*
- Common Babbler - *T. caudatus*
- 50) ~~Jungle~~ - *E. strictus*
- White-headed - *T. affinis*
- Roller - *Coracias benghalensis*
- Drongo - *Dicrurus adsimilis*
- Small Green Bee-eater - *Merops orientalis*
- 55) ~~White-eye~~ - *Zosterops palpebrosus*
- Grey Tit - *Parus major*
- Small Minivet - *Pterocarpus cinnamomeus*
- Whitebellied Drongo - *Dicrurus caeruleus*
- Common Wood Shrike - *T. pondichiana*
- 60) ~~Pegomy Woodpecker~~ - *Picoides nanus*
- Red-crested Cuckoo - *Clamator jacobinus*
- Common Hawk-cuckoo - *Catantus varius*
- Indian Cuckoo - *Cuculus micropterus*
- Plaintive Cuckoo - *Cacomantis merulinus*
- 65) ~~Koel~~ - *Eudynamis orientalis*
- ~~Shear~~ - *Phalacrocorax fuscicollis*

Newsletter for Birdwatchers

Editor :
Zafar Futehally

REF :

17/9
1990

'Moitaka'
Bear Shola Road
Kodaikanal-624 101 Tamilnadu

DATE : 10-9-90

Dear Sir/ Madam

I am glad to report that I have , today, sent all the material for India through her Birds to Penguins India Ltd. I hope they will do a good job, and not take too long over it. I hope you will receive your modest honararium of Rs. 1000/- before long- though publishers are known for delays. However, thank you again for the trouble you have taken.

The only piece which has not come yet is on Garhwal, by Asha Saklani, and I hope this circular will spur her into action.

The real purpose of this letter is to request all of you to send me suggestions for a short bibliography , and also a brief(20-30 word) biodata of yourself. Aasheesh Pittie and MK Himatsinhji have already sent the biodata.

Yours sincerely

Zafar Futehally
Zafar Futehally

AASHEESH PITTIE
HYDERABAD.

Please send a short biodata
of your main interests

Newsletter for Birdwatchers

Editor :
Zafar Futehally

REF : INDIA THROUGH HER BIRDS

16/2
1991

'Moitaka'
Bear Shola Road
Kodaikanal-624 101 Tamilnadu

DATE : 12-2-91

Dear *Aashish Pittie*

I believe I wrote to you sometime ago that after the rejection of the manuscript by Penguins, I had sent it on to Ravi Dayal who was formerly with the Oxford University Press, and now publishing on his own. I am glad to report that Ravi likes the text and the photos, and is now engaged on the details of costing and production.

He feels, however, that there are some gaps in the areas covered and some additional material may have to be provided. I will keep you informed about developments.

✓
Cc to all contributors
Cc Ravi Dayal

Yours sincerely

Zafar Futehally
Zafar Futehally

Penguin Books India Ltd.

B4 246 Safdarjung Enclave
New Delhi-110 029

Tel : (011) 673538
Fax : (011) 6875611
Tlx : 62062 PENG IN



Mr. Aasheesh Pittie
I4-7-370 Begum Bazar
Hyderabad - 500 012

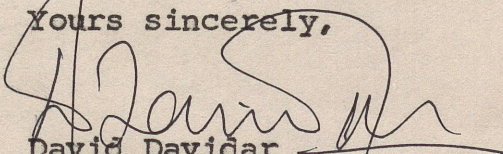
11 April 1991

1574
1991

Dear Mr. Pittie,

We are pleased to enclose a cheque for Rs.250 as a
reject fee for the article you wrote for the proposed book
India Through Her Birds. We are sorry we couldn't publish
the book as planned.

Yours sincerely,


David Davidar
Editor & Publisher

with compliments

35-30/338
08.2.00/190
CRT

Laeq Futehally

Tel (04542) 4306

2/7
82

'Moitaka'
Bear Shola Road
Kodaikanal
Tamil Nadu - 624 101
28-6-92

Dear *Aasheesh Pithe*

INDIA THROUGH HER BIRDS

As you know Ravi Dayal is publishing this book in Delhi. I have just heard that it is going to press next week. Let us hope that it will be out before the end of this year

Zafar Futehally
Zafar Futehally

Newsletter for Birdwatchers

Editor :
Zafar Futehally

'Moitaka'
Bear Shola Road
Kodaikanal-624 101 Tamilnadu

REF : Tel(04542) 706

DATE : 5-9-91

Dear *Asheesh Pithe*

9/9
91

INDIA THROUGH OUR BIRDS

I am glad to report that Ravi Dayal has now taken the manuscript in hand, and hopes that a book will emerge in about six months time.

With regard to the illustrations, Ravi intends to ask permission from the Oxford University Press to use the drawings of the Handbook. He is working on the text to iron out the wide variation in the style of writing.

He has not yet been able to decide about the price of the book, but he has offered me a royalty of ten percent. This is not likely to amount to very much, but I will share it with the contributors.

Yours sincerely

Zafar Futehally
Zafar Futehally

To all contributors.

Zafar Futehally

"Moitaka" Bear Shola Road,
Tel (04542) 4306

Kodaikanal, 624101

11-8-92

11/18.
82

Dear Aasheesh Pittie,

I hope that India Through her Birds is now in the press, and that it will emerge before the end of the year.

You were good enough to produce the subscribers list for the Newsletter some years ago. Is there any possibility of producing a limited index for the current year? The index for 92 could be included in the Jan/Feb issue of 93. In course of time we could catch up with the past issues. Would greatly appreciate your comments.

Aasheesh Pittie
Begum Bazar
Hyderabad

Yours sincerely

Zafar Futehally
Zafar Futehally

In your letter of 11-6-88 you said that you have "a mania for indexes". I hope this attitude still exists.

Zafar Futehally

[Handwritten signature]
21/12/95

2205 Oakwood, 8th Main,
3rd Block, Koramangala,
BANGALORE - 560 034

Tele.No: 5533684

20th December 1995

Mr. Aasheesh Pittie,
8-2-545 "Prem Parvat",
Road No.7,
Banjara Hills,
HYDERABAD - 500 034

Dear Contributor,

I am glad to say that 'India Through Its Birds' is not dead but is likely to surface some time by the middle of 1996. This is the latest information I have received from the publisher, Ravi Dayal, in Delhi. I do hope that there will be no further delays.

Could you kindly send me a few lines about your bio-data which could be included in the book?

Wishing you every happiness in the New Year.

Yours sincerely,

[Handwritten signature]
Zafar Futehally

Zafar Futehally

2205 Oakwood, 8th Main,
3rd Block, Koramangala,
BANGALORE - 560 034

[Handwritten signature]
86

Tel.No: 5533684

12th February 1996

Mr. Aasheesh Pittie,
8-2-545 "Prem Parvat",
Road No.7,
Banjara Hills,
HYDERABAD - 500 034

Dear Aasheesh,

Please send me a couple of lines of your bio-data which I can send on to Ravi Dayal which can be included below your chapter in 'India Through our Birds'.

I have just returned from Bombay and will start looking for the missing numbers of the Newsletter so that you and Kumar Ghorpade can deal with them.

I hope you will have a very happy 1996.

Yours sincerely,

[Handwritten signature]
Zafar Futehally

Aashesh Pittie

8-2-545 "Prem Parvat", Road No.7, Banjara Hills, Hyderabad - 500 034. India.

Phone: Off: 040-~~591997~~ Res: 040-315683 Fax: 314064
3320269

23 January, 1996

Mr Zafar Futehally
2205 Oakwood, 8th Main
3rd Block, Koramangala
BANGALORE 560034

Dear Mr Futehally,

Given below are a few lines by way of 'bio-data' for inclusion in "India Through Our Birds". I hope it is ok. If you require any changes, do let me know.

"Has been enjoying the company of birds since 18 years. Edits the publications of the Birdwatcher's Society of Andhra Pradesh. Has co-authored **A Checklist of the Birds of Andhra Pradesh** and **Nomenclature of Birds of The Indian Sub-continent, a Review of Some Changes Taking Place**. Recently he has compiled **A Bibliographic Index to the Ornithology of the Indian Region, Part I**, covering volumes 1-90 of the *Journal of the Bombay Natural History Society* and all volumes of *Stray Feathers*."

Received the latest Newsletter and was *delighted* with a gremlin "Orphan Warbler" (p. 102). Though overall quality and presentation have improved tremendously, spellings remain a weak point. Glad to see that line drawings are of familiar birds at last. I think Santharam's article should have been carried *in toto* as notes from the Andamans are quite scarce.

Thank you for the old copies of the *Newsletter*. Will return them no sooner I've finished with them.

With best wishes to you and Mrs. Futehally,

Yours sincerely,

