

2nd September 1990

Mr P T Thomas
500 C M H Road
1st Stage Indiranagar
BANGALORE - 560 038

Dear Sir,

This is in response to your advertisement in NEWSLETTER FOR BIRDWATCHERS (July-August 1990), regarding the sale of old issues of the Journal of the BNHS, nature books, etc.

I am definitely interested in the Journals and am enclosing a list of those issues which are in my library. I want the missing numbers. Kindly send me a list of journals which you have (you could mark them in my list and return it) and of the bird books - along with their prices. I will be grateful if you could oblige me at the earliest.

Thanking You

Yours sincerely



Encl: as above.

Tel: 540384

Dr P.T. Thomas
500 CMH Road
1st Stage Indiranagar
Bangalore 560 038

13/9
1990

8/9/90

Dear Mr Pittie

Thank you for your enquiry about the books and journals. Several local nature enthusiasts got in touch with me on the very day the notice appeared in the Newsletter and bought many of the books and all available backnumbers of the Hornbill, so I am afraid there aren't many left now. I have one complete set of all backnumbers of the Journal of the BNHS from Vol 72 to Vol 84 (1975 to 1987) except No 2 (Aug 1980) of Vol 80 and Nos 1, 2 and 3 of Vol 83 (1986). Additionally I also have stray Numbers of some of the older Volumes.

I enclose a list of the books available as of today, and also details of backnumbers of the JBNHS. Prices expected for the books and journals are mentioned in the respective lists.

Prices quoted for the journals may seem high, but I hear that the BNHS themselves have run out of *most* backnumbers so it is likely that they are not easy to come by, so they have a rarity value besides their value as scientific and reference material for natural history students, researchers and nature clubs. Do feel free to write and say what your interests are and how much you are prepared to pay. The books and journals are all in very good condition. I expect the journal backnumbers may be of more interest to college libraries and nature societies than to individuals.

You seem to be already in possession of many more BNHS backnumbers than I have. Perhaps the only no. I have & you don't have is

Yours sincerely,

P.T. Thomas

P.T. Thomas

Encl: lists

V81 41. No. 3. Part 41 (1) and 41 (3) contain Parts I & II of "Birds of Central India" so the two must go together. Anyway, please check if there is anything of interest to you.
P.T.

LIST OF NATURAL HISTORY BOOKS AVAILABLE FOR SALEAS ON 27 AUGUST 1990

(All books are in excellent condition unless otherwise stated)

BIRDS

1. The Oxford book of Birds by Bruce Campbell and Donald Watson (OUP 1964, xvi+207 pp. hb.) Rs 100.00
2. A Synopsis of the Birds of Indian and Pakistan (together with those of Nepal, Bhutan, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka) by Dillon Ripley (Bombay, BNHS 2nd ed 1982, xx+652 pp. hb.)
The most authoritative reference source to date *Rs. 200.00*
3. Handbook of the birds of India and Pakistan, vol. X, by Salim Ali and Dillon Ripley (Bombay, BNHS 1974) - Flower Peckers to Buntings, xx+334 pp. hb. Rs 150.00
4. Encyclopaedia of Bird Pictures, ed by Edward van Rensselear: Over 5,000 spp illustr in bl and wh. Rs 150.00
5. Wildfowl of ~~Europe~~ Europe by Myrfin, foreword by Sir Peter Scott. colour plates by Hilary Burn (London, Macmillan 1977), large size, 256 pp. hb. Rs 300.00

ORNITHOLOGY, BIRDWATCHING

6. Ornithology (from Aristotle to the Present) by Edwin Stressemann Trans. by Cathleen Epstein (Harvard Univ 1975) xii+432 pp. hb. Rs 150.00
- ~~7. How to Study Birds by Stuart Smith (London, Collins 1946) 192 pp. hb. illustrated Rs 40.00~~
- ~~8. How to Watch Birds by John Gooders (London, Andre Deutsch 1975) illustr by David Thelwell, 155 pp. hb. Rs 75.00~~
- ~~9. Watching Birds by James Fisher and Jim Flegg (GB. T&A Poyser) 159 pp. hb. Illustrated. Rs 80.00~~
10. Birdwatching - The Complete Outfit and Source Book for Birdwatching by Michael Scofield (US: Great Outdoors Books 1978) large size, 193 pp. hb. Rs 150.00
11. Birdwatching by Arthur Gilpin (GB. EP Publishing Ltd 1977) Illustr. 40 pp. softbound. Rs 15.00

NATURAL HISTORY (GENERAL)

12. Life on Earth by David Attenborough (Fontana/Collins 1981), Illustr in colour, 319 pp. softbound Rs 120.00
13. The Naturalist in Britain: A Social History by David Belliston Allen (Penguin 1978) 292 pp. Rs 40.00
14. The Natural History of Selbourne by Gilbert White (Penguin 1981, first pub. 1788-89), 284 pp. pb. Rs 60.00
15. Inside the Animal World, An Encyclo of Animal Behaviour, by Maurice and Robert Burton (London: Macmillan 1977) Illustr. 316 pp. hb. Rs 200.00
16. A Century of Natural History, ed J.C. Daniel (Bombay, BNHS 1983) An Anthology of articles in the Journal of the BNHS, 1883-1983, 698 pp. hb. Rs 200.00
17. A Manual of Wildlife Conservation, ed Richard Teague, (Dehra Dun, Natraj Publications), 206 pp. softbound Rs 50.00
18. The State of India's Environment (New Delhi, Centre for Science and Environment, 1982), illustr. 192 pp. hb. Rs 50.00
19. Wild Alaska (A Time-Life book), illustr. large size. 134 pp. hb. Beautiful book on Alaskan landscape & fauna Rs 80.00

PTO
for BNHS
book numbers

hb = hard-bound

8.8.90

27.8.90

BACK NUMBERS OF JOURNALS OF THE BNHS

<u>Vol.</u>	<u>Numbers Available</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>Cost Price Per No.</u>	<u>Selling Price Per No.</u>	<u>Remarks</u>
> 51	No. 1	Dec 52	Rs 15.00	Rs 50.00	2 cc available
> 52	" 1	Apr 54	" 15.00	" 50.00	
> 53	" 4	Aug 56	" 15.00	" 50.00	
> 71	" 3	Dec 74	" 18.00	" 75.00	Festschrift No. in honour of Dr Salim Ali on his 75th bd
72	" 1,2,3	1975	" 35.00	" 50.00	
73	" 1,2,3	1976	" 35.00	" 50.00	
74	" 1,2,3, Sup.	1977	" 35.00	" 50.00	Sup ≠ Supplement
75	" 1,2,3, Sup.	1978	" 35.00	" 50.00	2 cc each available
"	" 3	"	" 40.00	" 60.00	
76	" 1,2,3	1979	" 35.00	" 50.00	
77	" 1,2,3	1980	" 35.00	" 50.00	
78	" 1,2,3	1981	" 35.00	" 50.00	
79	" 1,2,3	1982	" 45.00	" 60.00	
80	" 1 - 3	1983	" 45.00	" 60.00	No.2 missing
81	" 1,2,3	1984	" 45.00	" 60.00	
82	" 1,2,3	1985	" 90.00	" 90.00	
83	" -----	1986	-----	-----	All Nos missing
84	" 1,2,3	1987	" 90.00	" 90.00	

Some additional rare Numbers

> 50	" 4	Aug 1952	" 20.00	" 100.00	Special BNHS 50th Anniversary number containing histories of Indian Mammalogy and Ornithology, and of bird Photography in India, and of Shikar in India, Herpetology, butterfly collecting etc
41	" 1	Aug 1939	" 10.00	" 150.00	Containing, among others, "birds of Central India" by Salim Ali and Hugh Whistler, Part I
41	" 3	Apr 1940	" 10.00	" 150.00	" " " " II (concluding Part)

- Note: (1) 15% discount to those who buy the entire lot;
- (2) Buyers must arrange to take delivery at Bangalore at the address given overleaf;
- (3) Preference to libraries and natural history clubs, societies etc.

13th September 1990

Dr P T Thomas
500 CMI Road
1st Stage Indiranagar
BANGALORE - 560 038

Dear Dr Thomas,

Thank you for yours of 8th instant, which I received today.

From the Journals of the BNHS, as pointed out by you, I am interested in vol. 41 (3) only. I can offer you a price of Rs 30/- for it.

The other book that I am interested in is No. 18 on your list - The State of India's Environment (New Delhi, Centre for Science and Environment, 1982), illustr. 192 pp. hb. for Rs 50/-.

Kindly confirm by return post whether the latter is still available, and if so, kindly reserve it for me.

If the price for the former is acceptable, then the same holds good for it too.

On receiving your confirmation, I will send you the payment immediately and have the books collected in Bangalore.

Thanking You

Yours sincerely



P.T. Thomas

500 CMH Road
1st Stage Indiranagar
Bangalore 560 038

Tel: 540384

22.9.90

Mr Aasheesh Pittie
14-7-370 Begum Bazar
Hyderabad 500 012

26/9
1990

Dear Mr Pittie,

I am so sorry that this answer to your letter of 13 Sept has been delayed by nearly a week. Too many unexpected things intervened. Never mind, though: The State of India's Environment (1982) has been reserved for you. You may arrange to take delivery of it at any time convenient to you, except that I will be away in Delhi from 26 Sept to 9 Oct., so it has to be some time on or after 10 Oct. I hope this doesn't inconvenience you.

As regards the JBNHS 41(3), I would want to sell 41(1) and 41(3) together for a reason which I am sure you will appreciate: these two contain Parts I and II respectively of "Birds of Central India" by Salim Ali and Hugh Whistler. I would like to find a buyer who will take both because one of the two by itself will be incomplete as far as this famous Central India ornithological report is concerned. I hope you understand. Believe me it is not a question of the price at all. In fact my prices for the JBNHS backnumbers have been high, so x 30/- (which you have offered) is perhaps nearer the correct price than the 150/- I have asked. (I had sent up the list to an old friend of mine in the BNHS and asked him to tell me what he thought of my prices; he said my prices for the journals are exorbitant. I trust him, not only because he is a good old friend but because he knows what he is talking about, so, you see, it is not a question of the price at all; I had surely over-estimated the rarity value of the old backnumbers.)

One book I found in my library the other day, and which missed being listed in the list, is Environmental Conservation and Development by Dr B.P. Pal, with a foreword by Dr M.S. Swaminathan, (Indian Environmental Society, 1982, pp 100) - original price Rs 45/-, now ~~selling~~ offered at 20/-. Since you appear to be concerned about the environment question, I thought you might be interested.

I have the impression that you are a discerning book-collector besides a naturalist-scholar. I expect you know of "EHA" (E.H. Aitken of the ICS in the last decades of the last century) whose observations on life and nature in India are among our natural history classics both for the accuracy of the observations and their hilarious humour. I happen to have a reasonably undamaged copy - not a page missing, but the pages have come somewhat loose at the spine - of Behind the Bungalow, 5th ed. 1895. (pp 159+40). This has been purposely omitted from my list because I thought I would keep it, being such a treasure. But I am not sure that those who come after me will care to treasure the book, so it might be better if I offer it for sale to someone who has better facilities for treasuring it than I have. I have no idea how much a thing like that is worth now, but I think I will put it up for 100/-. I also have - but unlisted again - vols I and II of Handbook of the Birds of Europe, the Middle-East and North Africa by Stanley Cramp, Chief Ed., OUP 1978, each over 700 pp with maps, coloured plates and descriptive text. Vol I treats Ostrich to Ducks, and Vol II Hawks to Bustards. These volumes - to be completed in seven volumes, I don't know how many of the seven are already published, are a sequel to Witherby's Handbook of the British Birds. The original price (1978) is £25.00. The two vols I have are in perfect condition, being practically unused. I think they will be of value to Nature Societies, ~~and~~ research institutions and college libraries. I am offering them for Rs 600/- each. They were unlisted because a young local enthusiast was interested in them, but I doubt if he can afford ~~to pay~~ the price, being presently a young college lecturer.

I am pleased to have had some correspondence with you. I think I did hear your name some years ago but have no recollection where and in what connection.

Yours sincerely,


P.T. Thomas

Ref: Mine of 13/9.
Yours of 22/9.

27th September 1990

Dr P T Thomas
500 CMH Road
1st Stage Indiranagar
BANGALORE - 560 038

Dear Dr Thomas,

Thank you for yours of the 22nd instant, which I received yesterday. You have used kind and rather flattering words in it, which I do not think I deserve. I believe that this is the only hobby (ie., the study of natural history) in the world which is not second-hand, or man-oriented. Nothing that a naturalist deals with has been created by man (unlike a philatelist, a numismatist, etc), except of course the studies on the subject itself! There in lies the great joy. To go into the field, and find out for oneself. Discover the wonder that exists. The satisfaction is tremendous!!

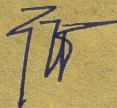
Anyway,

I had asked for the JBNHS 41 (3) because i had a selfish reason. I am making an index of printed literature for the Indian Sub-continent under the heads SPECIES and PLACES. It has not been done before, and i realise that it is an unending task. But i have made a beginning and i would like to see it through. I would like to create such a databank that any birdwatcher/scientist working on Indian birds, should be able to get all the published literature (references) for an area or for a species within minutes and from one single source. Can you imagine how much time he/she will be saving? I realise that it is ambitious and mind-boggling. Perhaps it is also a little foolish!

Thank you for reserving THE STATE OF INDIA'S ENVIRONMENT (1982) for me and also for informing me of the other books. I will take EHA's for the price quoted. ~~xxxxxx~~ At present I am interested most in literature for the Indian region, and so the other books are not so attractive. I will send the money by M.O. in your name, to your address and request my relatives in Bangalore to call you on the Tel. no. given to enquire where to collect the books and when.

Thank you for your help and consideration and I hope we have more opportunities to correspond in the future.

Yours sincerely



M. O. Receipt No. 5286

Amount
Rs. P.

Comm.
Rs. P.

Amount (Rs.) *one hundred fifty*

150 -

8 -

Payee *P. T. Thomas*

Place *Indira Nagar*

T. O. (for T.M.O.) Rs. *Bengaluru*
5000 28

M. O. Clerk

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M. O. Stamp
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5.

दिनांक

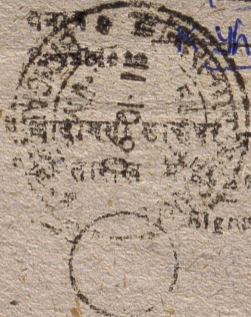
को प्राप्त किया

Recd. Rs.

150.00

On

11/10/70



Thomas for P.T. Thomas

१०५३०५३०५३०

17/1
1990

मददाहारी के पूरे इस्ताफर (मददाही) का अरूडा निबन्दा
Signature (In ink) or thumb impression of payee

Date Stamp of
office of
Payment

मददाही के इस्ताफर

Signature of witness

यहां से मोड़िय Fold Here

19th October 1990

Mr Amitabh Poddar
137/7 6th 'A' Cross
R M V Extension
BANGALORE - 560 080

Dear Amitabh,

I hope this letter finds you in good health and spirit.

I am writing for a small favour. Could you have 2 books collected for me from the address of Dr P T Thomas, given below? He had announced a sale through a bird-journal, and i chose these 2 books;

- 1) The State of India's Environment (1982)
- 2) Behind The Bungalow, 5th ed., (1895) - by - E H Aitken


Just have them collected and keep them with you. They are paid for. I will take them whenever i come to Bangalore next. The address is,

Dr P T Thomas
500 C M H Road
1st Stage Indiranagar
BANGALORE - 560 038

He has a phone no., 540384, which i suggest you call and fix-up a time and also maybe enquire directions to his place.

Please convey our Pranams to all the elders. And, thank you very much!

Yours sincerely



Tel: 540384

500 CMH Rd, 1st Stage Indiranagar
Bangalore 560 038

24 x 90

Mr Aasheesh Pittie
14-7-370 Begum Bazar
Hyderabad 500 012

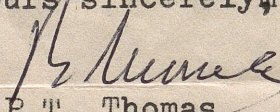
28/7
1990

Dear Mr Pittie,

Thank you for your letter of 27 Sept and the MO for Rs 150/- which followed. Do you mind if I change my mind about EHA's Behind the Bungalow, mainly for two reasons: (1) Being nearly a hundred years old, the ~~pages~~ paper has become brittle, and I notice that some of them have broken into halves and need some mending. The pages have completely come off the spine of the cover; the book cannot be handled with reasonable ease unless it has received the careful attention of some good binder. I wouldn't feel too pleased about passing the book on to a trusted friend for as much as Rs 100/-. (2) Before I part with the book I think I ought to have a chance to make sure that I have the complete rights over it, and this may take a little time. Let me at least defer the sale, so in the meantime I would like to return the Rs 100/. I enclose a DD for the amount. Sorry about this.

As regards the JBNHS 41 (3), since it is possibly a useful reference for you for your work on indexing printed literature on birds of the Indian sub-continent, I would be happy to lend it to you so that you can use it for your purpose and then when you have done with it you can return it to me. Is this any use? I will be happy to send it along with your relation who will come to collect the other book, but do let me know about it. No one has contacted me so far. It will be best to telephone and come so I can make sure that I am available when he comes.

Yours sincerely


P. T. Thomas

Encl. DD for Rs 100/-