

Date: Mon, 29 Dec 1997 11:21:32 -0500 (EST)  
From: JOHN MATHEW <jxm400g@mail.odu.edu>  
To: Aasheesh Pittie <aasheesh@hdl.vsnl.net.in>  
Subject: Re: Book on Papua New Guinea

On Tue, 16 Dec 1997, Aasheesh Pittie wrote:

*JOHN MATHEW* wrote:

*Dear Aasheesh,*

*Your letter concerning Rom's and Zai's new book was very interesting. I have been out of the loop in India for a bit and am curious if a rapprochement between the once estranged authors has occurred. On another note, I do not know what the status of the newsletter edited by Andrew Robertson (with whom I believe you have extensively collaborated) on the Western Ghats, is? I'd be grateful if you could advise me on these counts. Thank you.*

*Yours sincerely,  
John*

*John Mathew,  
Ph.D. Programme in Ecology,  
Dept. of Biological Sciences,  
Old Dominion University,  
Norfolk, VA 23508.*

*Dear John,*

*Thanks for your above. I do not know anything about the Whitakers' personal life. I wish them the best though!*

*Andrew is a good friend of mine, but we haven't spoken much, if at all, about the newsletter he was planning on the Western Ghats. I'll have to write him and find out, if you are keen!*

*Good to hear from you!*

*Best wishes*

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*Aasheesh Pittie  
aasheesh@hdl.vsnl.net.in*

*Dear Aasheesh,*

*This comes to wish you the very best for the year ahead. Thank you so much for writing in and yes, I would be most grateful if you could arrange to determine the status of the newsletter. You must be quite excited about the rediscovery of the Forest Owlet. Has your taxonomic scheme met with growing acceptance in Indian circles? I do know there were murmurs of discontent at the First Ornithological Conference at Bangalore by those of us weaned on Salim Ali's classification, but again, that was five years ago.*

*All the very best.*

*Yours sincerely,*

*John*

Date: Sat, 03 Jan 1998 08:17:00 -0800  
From: Aasheesh Pittie <aasheesh@hdl.vsnl.net.in>  
To: jxm400g@mail.odu.edu  
Subject: Andrew Robertson

Dear John,

Greetings for the New Year!

Andrew's Newsletter has been dropped due to lack of enthusiasm from would-be editors. I have this from Krys, not Andrew himself. Andrew does not have an edress yet.

The nomenclatural changes due to Sibley & Monroe's DNA work are being resisted by a large part of the birding world. Everything seems to be in turmoil and the proverbial light at the end of this tunnel seems distant. So many scientists have to agree on so many issues! Now even the English names of birds as proposed by them are a point of contention. I am not complaining! These matters were not thrashed-out well enough before they were presented to the world.

Our nomenclature booklet was a review of these changes with relation to the Indian sub-continent, and though I am dubiously accused of creating a lot of "gadbad" in the Indian birding world, (as though it was I who concocted the whole brew!), I consider that the booklet was an eye-opener to most and has now woken them from their slumber! Thank goodness BNHS has taken up the matter now!

The Forest Owlet is a standing example of what proper planning can result in on a survey of areas! Hats-off to these guys!!

Nice to hear from you!

Best wishes and regards,

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