

Chris Anthony

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HOME

Welcome

I am Chris Anthony
Emeritus Professor of Biochemistry,
School of Biological Sciences,
University of Southampton, UK

And Cellist in the
City of Southampton Orchestra



For larger screen or pictures Click Ctl with + sign [for smaller screen Ctl with - sign]; For Full screen click F11

To Navigate: The links in the left hand column were set up many years ago but they are still a good way to start. Now I have added a table below of links to new pages and more convenient routes to the main pages.

NOTE: Many of my pages are available as searchable and printable PDFs.
This provides an easy alternative if hunting for something. To use this [CLICK HERE](#)
BUT if the links do not open then right click; choose *Copy link address* and paste into your browser.

Index to my new pages and more convenient routes to main pages

All My Personal pages (including photos, holidays, biography). Also some new pages			
My science and education pages	All my India pages		
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Some personal pages. Some of these pages can be also accessed from the main menu on left hand side.			
Index page to my photos including overseas visits to France, Italy, China, Japan, Pakistan, India	India videos page		
My Autobiographical Bits 1939-1970	Christmas letters 2005 - 2025	My Recent Calendar pictures	My Videos
Our UK Campsite guide	Camping holiday pictures	Our Camper vans	Bikes and cars
Programme notes for CSO concerts	My Cervetto biography	My Forster cello	Friends' websites

Wreck of Boldrewood	My Music page	New History page	Music history	
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Indian news article claiming I have discovered 130 new species of Indian bird				
University of Southampton plans for North East Quadrant; Building 75; Burgess Road, Broadlands Road and University f				

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My regular external links. Mainly for my use:

Amazon Smile	Google Maps	Bing Maps	YouTube	Facebook
Instructions	Sunday Times Wine Club	Periodic table	ResearchGate	LinkedIn
City of Southampton Orchestra	emailOutlook	Local radio	Newsbiscuit	Private Eye
BBC Sounds	BBC News	BBC radio 3	BBC radio 4	BBC iPlayer
Gumtree	ebay	IMBD	Namesco	Dropoff
Clear sky forecast	The Times	Justwatch (Movies)	Dreamweaver instructions	
Calendar	Open University		World Time Zones	World clock
Train enquiries [Nat. Rail]	Southampton roadworks	Unilink buses	Bluestar buses	National Ex coaches
Roy Romsey's Travel Tales	Google analytics	Google + Storage		

[TwoSetviolin](#) Wonderful Australian /Chinese violinists Youtube performances, extracting everything funny from the life of classical musicians

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Updates

New page of links to all my pdf files
Explaining Map projections
New page of music history with biographies of composers
University of Southampton plans for North East Quadrant; Building 75; Burgess Road, Broadlands Road and University Road
Some Mathematical bits
New page on advice on astronomical telescopes for beginners

New History page
Updated and improved music page
New page for City of Southampton Orchestra
My Bad Science page dealing with alternative medicien, nutritional fallacies and cheats
My Favourites page
Music (CSO section)
PQQ page. New page with everything about PQQ in microbial enzymes and as a functional component of human metabolism and as a possible nutrional supplement
My UK campsite guide
New astronomy books (in Natural World and Science under Astronomy heading)
NEW PAGE Music Appreciation Guide
My 1986 visit to Shanghai, Beijing and JuiZhaigou in China
My 1991 visit to Japan for 2nd International Symposium on PQQ and Quinoproteins
New page of my Travel Diaries (at present only India, Russia and Japan)
Addition of Christmas letters for 2024 and 2025
Complete re-organisation of my research pages (especially PQQ etc)
Summary of my research career with pictures of research students
My visit to Madurai, South India in 1985 for Biomembranes conference
NEW page giving links to all my photos
Complete revamp of book pages
New book sections;
Books on my science interests including conference publications, and some old classic microbiolgy texts
History of Science

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Interview with me published in The New Indian Express.
For full story [Click here](#)



[Map of Boldrewood site Southampton University](#)

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Interviewed by C.P. Balasubramanyam

CITY EXPRESS



NOT A MYTH ANYMORE

City Express breaks the most common exercise myths that women believe in **PAGE 10**



FUN WITH TESTS

Social media sites have a number of interesting tests. We list some of those popular ones that have been trending lately. **PAGE 10**



MAKING OF A CLASSIC

Fashion designer-turned-actress, Pernia Qureshi talks about working in *Jaanisagar* **PAGE 4**



A Multi-Faceted Bird-Watcher

Chris Anthony discovers 131 species of birds in and around Tirupati

special indigenous birds found here?

A: I do not know about this as I do not know about the rest of India. I think it is unlikely. There is one species that, according to the books, does not belong here. This is the Forest Wagtail. I had seen a pair of these regularly every year.

Q: What is the right place and time for bird-watching here?

A: I know only this area and the period from November- February end is the best for bird-watching here. There are fewer birds seen in the afternoon or in very hot weather. Of course, they are present but not active.

Q: Who were all helpful to you in Tirupati to take up the work?

A: As far as the birds are concerned I had never met anyone with much knowledge of or interest in them. I had encouraged the boys in Mallepal/Thumulgunta to be observant and one of them had become enthusiastic to take pictures with my camera. Of course, on the biochemical side, I had great enthusiastic support.

Q: Can you explain the qualities that are required for someone who loves to take up ornithological photography?

A: The first requirement is enthusiasm which drives the work that is necessary. Patience is needed and a willingness to stand still for a long time. I had been told that I was lucky with some pictures but this luck came from walk-

can be used, and I have it on continuous mode (3 frames per second). Of course, this produces too many pictures so it is best to remove most of them, leaving only special ones, so that the memory card is not filled.

Q: Did you face any difficulty during the course of your stay here?

A: The only difficulty was small irritations. On several occasions when I was about to take the perfect picture some person would stop by and ask me what I was doing. I would then abandon my attempt and show him/her my pictures on the screen.



Dr Chris Anthony

capability to protect all the bird varieties found here without human intervention?

A: No. The great majority of birds that I have seen here are fairly widely distributed in peninsular India. Their numbers and variety have diminished because of loss of habitat due to building of roads and residential buildings, dwindling agricultural land, and cutting of shrubs and small trees. I saw no evidence of pollution being a problem here. The decreasing numbers of some birds such as the Munias was because of the decrease of the extent of agricultural land.

Chris Anthony The large campus, especially the residential parts, has a great variety of trees attracting a wide range of birds. However, the non-availability of water seems to have limited the number of birds visiting the place. There were some places where a leaking pipe or a small stream always proved a good place to watch the birds. There was a small stream where I have seen some of

the less common birds (Forest Wagtails, Orange-Headed Thrush, Fantails, Tickell's Flycatcher and Paradise Flycatcher). Provision of water in gardens would be welcomed by so many of the smaller birds on campus.

Q: Tell me some interesting anecdotes, if any, that you came across during the days of photography in Tirupati.

A: I'm not sure if any of this is interesting to anyone except me. On one of my earlier visits, I discovered the village Mallapalle/Thumalagunta where I was offered coffee. When I accepted the offer, one boy went running off to get coffee and another to get biscuits wrapped in a newspaper and tied with fine white string. I spoke (almost) no Telugu and they spoke no English but I had an inspiration and asked if I could take their photos (pointing to the camera). The six women who were there at the time rushed out chattering only to return a few minutes later dressed in their best saris for the photos. On my return to the UK, I printed the picture and posted them. Two years later I was wandering in the paddy fields when a little girl hailed me shouting 'Uncle Uncle'. She then came and led me by hand to the village where at the tea shop the photos were taken down from the top of a cupboard, all carefully wrapped in sheets of newspaper. After showing the photos to me, the people there urged me to click more photos. And so obliged them. Thus, I became the village photographer over the years, being adopted by the boys who led me round

Teacher of Biochemistry, Virology, Microbiology and Biotechnology; lover of nature, bird-watcher and photographer. These are some of the attributes of Dr Chris Anthony, a resident of London and a Professor at the University of Southampton. If it was his expertise in the subjects that had brought the septuagenarian to the temple town as a visiting faculty of Sri Venkateswara University for over two decades, it was his passion for bird-watching that had led him to discover 131 species of birds here and in the nearby areas and photograph most of them during his frequent visits. In an email interview, Chris opens up to Express on how it all had started.

Q: You had taken photographs of birds for over two decades, during every visit to Tirupati. What

phy and playing the cello in big orchestras.

Q: Were you able to record their patterns of singing, flight and migration?

A: Not really as I did not keep careful records and I was in Tirupati only for 5 weeks every year. I was eventually able to recognise the more common birds by their songs and I noticed variations in the time of the day when they were likely to be singing but I made no serious study of that.

Q: How many varieties of birds did you find here?

A: I have just added them up. As many as 131 species, 118 of them around Tirupati; of these, 8 were seen only once or two times and 10 I have not seen them in the last 5 years.

Q: Do you think you have clicked the pictures of all the birds?

gave you the impetus to do that?

A: One of the most exciting things that I found on my first visit to this city was the birds – even the most common ones among them were new discoveries for me. That motivated me to walk daily in the local areas, identifying the birds. The main areas for this were the local dairy farm, the university campus, the forest area west and north of the university campus and the agricultural area around Mallepalle/Thumulagunta/Upurapalle to the south and west of the campus.

Q: Are you an amateur ornithologist?

A: My main (non-professional) activities are watching birds, photographing for two to three hours every day. So my pictures are a result of walking more than 2,000 km over the last 12 years.

Q: Which camera would you pick for this profession?

A: There is no doubt that a digital single lens reflex camera produces the best pictures, especially one with a big lens. However, unless one aims to publish the photos professionally it is best to start with a 'bridge camera'. These usually have image stabilization facility which is necessary if a zoom lens is used. A high optical zoom is essential. My Canon camera has a custom facility, which I set to go automatically to 30x zoom (this can expand to 50 times when the subject has been located). I set it to 800 ISO so that short exposure times

A: No. Of the Tirupati birds, I have good pictures of only 89 species.

Q: How were you able to find out the names of bird varieties? Or were you already aware of them?

A: First, I used Martin Woodcock's small book of 'Birds of the Indian Sub-continent' (published by Collins). Later, I also used a comprehensive and an excellent book with the same name by Richar Grimmett, Carol Inskipp and Tim Inskipp (published by Christopher Helm). When visiting India, I used the pocket version of this book.

Q: Are there any exotic birds visiting Tirupati? Are there any

the village. Of course, with my digital camera I could take far more photos and I had to cope with their demand to see the photos as soon as they were taken.

During a visit to the place two years back, an auto driver told me: "This is no Thumulagunta, it is a bad place called Mallepalle". Then an English-speaking friend of mine there told me: "Yes, it is part of Thumulagunta, but separated from the main village by a cart track; it is also called Mallepalle or SC Colony". So it appears that my dearest friends were all living in the separate low-cast village. But nowhere else, have I experienced so much warmth and affection as at this place.

– CP Balasubramanyam

Sat, 25 July 2015

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Kompozer stuff

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