



SACON NEWS



Vol. 16 (4) October - December 2019

SACON News

October to December, 2019

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Tiny grass blue butterfly



© Paul Antony

Grey-headed Canary Flycatcher



© Zainab Khan

Crested Serpent Eagle



© Zainab Khan

Oriental White-eye



© A. Kaja Maideen

Spotted Owl



© Zainab Khan

Jungle Prinia



© Paul Antony

Blue-faced Malkoha

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Front Cover

Verditer Flycatcher © Paul Antony

Back Cover

Butterfly Mud puddling © Sri Sowmya M.



From the Director's Desk

First and foremost, I would like to extend a very warm New Year's greetings for 2020 to all the readers. This October to December 2019 issue of SACON's newsletter covers various institutional activities and participations during the third quarter of the financial year 2019-2020.

In the preceding quarter, SACON steered a series of events and hosted representatives of several organizations. The commencement of the third quarter was marked with the celebration of Wildlife Week 2019, observed every first week of October. SACON also signed an MoU with Coimbatore Institute of Technology (CIT) to develop appropriate software for Centre's National Ornithological Data Bank Cell, Avian Forensic Laboratory and Avian Acoustics. SACON along with GIZ-India organized a one-day workshop of Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) on Human-Gaur conflict mitigation in India and discussed an overall approach for working towards the guidelines. Two new facilities came up in SACON including one Microscopy Laboratory with high-definition instruments, and a gym facility for the recreation of the on-campus researchers and students. Training programmes for IFS probationers, trainees and other officials from Central Academy for State Forest Service Officers (CASFOS), Indira Gandhi National Forest Academy (IGNFA), and Singareni Collieries Co. Ltd (SCCL), took place at SACON during the quarter. This year, India witnessed mass mortality of migratory birds at Sambhar Lake, Rajasthan for which SACON deputed a research team at the site to investigate the cause for the mass mortality.

In the academic front, SACON had the pleasure of hosting Dr. Ragupathy Kannan, Professor, University of Arkansas, USA as a Fulbright Specialist for six weeks. He copiously interacted with our faculty, researchers and students and also reviewed SACON's nascent M.Sc. curriculum to make it more field-oriented and climate change focused. SACON also hosted Dr. John E. Mylroie, Emeritus Professor, Department of Geosciences, Mississippi State University, who delivered a talk on "Caves on Islands: How Geology Controls Habitat". The M.Sc. Students of SACON also undertook field training under the "Human-Wildlife Conflict Management" module of their curriculum, and with the end of their third semester in December, proceeded to undertake their dissertation field work across various parts of the country. The faculty and researchers of SACON also participated in events including Bird Festival, Symposium on Avian Biology and Tamil Birders' meet during this quarter.

With this, I once again wish all our faculty, staff, researchers and students a very prosperous New Year 2020 and anticipate to see SACON steadily enhancing its efforts towards the conservation of avian diversity of the country in the years to come, under the MoEF&CC.

Dr. K. Sankar, Director



Institutional events

Wildlife Week 2019

Wildlife Week is celebrated every year in India in the first week of October with the aim to create awareness and promote conservation and protection of wildlife among common people. The theme of the Wildlife Week 2019 was “Life Below Water: For People and Planet”. SACON ENVIS team visited schools around Anaikatty, Coimbatore, and celebrated Wildlife Week 2019 by sensitizing students from local communities. The team interacted with the students and disseminated information pertaining to the threats faced by wild animals and birds due to human activities, encroachment, illegal provision of food by tourists, deforestation, forest exploitation, habitat loss, illegal poaching and wildlife trade. SACON ENVIS team designed awareness material including notebook labels containing flora and fauna with their respective common name in English and Tamil and distributed them to over 400 students across the following seven schools:

1. Panchayat Union Middle School, Kondanur Village, Anaikatty, Coimbatore.
2. Panchayat Union Elementary School, Panapalli Village, Anaikatty, Coimbatore.
3. Panchayat Union Elementary School, Chinna Jambu Kandi, Anaikatty, Coimbatore.
4. Vidya Vanam School, Thuvaipathy Road, Anaikatty, Coimbatore.
5. Indian Kindergarten and Elementary School, Anaikatty, Coimbatore.
6. Government Aboriginal Welfare Elementary School, Anaikatty, Coimbatore.
7. Government Aboriginal Welfare High School, Anaikatty, Coimbatore.



Guest Lectures on “Human-Wildlife Conflict Management”

As part of 3rd-semester M.Sc. Ornithology and Conservation Biology course, Human-Wildlife Conflict Management module, Dr. P. Ramesh Kumar, IFS and Dr. M. Malathi Priya, IFS, Deputy Conservator of Forests from Bellary Territorial Forest Division, Karnataka delivered guest lectures on Human-wildlife conflict management and Protected Area Management, respectively to SACON M.Sc. students on 3rd and 4th October 2019. Mr. Boominathan, Western Ghats Co-ordinator, WWF-India program, delivered a lecture on human-elephant conflict management in South India on 1st October 2019 to SACON M.Sc. students.



Field Training on “Human-Wildlife Conflict Management”

SACON faculty members, Dr. T. Ramesh and Dr. Mahendiran, conducted “Field training on Human-Wildlife Conflict Management” at Sathyamangalam Tiger Reserve (STR) on 9th and 10th of October 2019 for the 1st batch of SACON M.Sc. Ornithology and Conservation Biology students. Mr. Arunlal, IFS, Divisional Forest Officer, delivered a talk on STR Management indicating ground level conservation issues to students in wildlife management.

Dr. Asokan, Veterinarian, STR facilitated training on the use of various types of equipment and explained how animals ranging from elephants to snakes are rescued and rehabilitated in the wild. The students interacted with Mr. Arulraj, Field Range Officer of STR, who shared his field experiences and explained human-elephant and human-carnivore conflicts in the park. The students were taken to different tribal settlements in the human-wildlife interface areas such as Bhavani Sagar, Thalamalai, Thengumarahada and Vilamundy, and were explained about the “Human-Wildlife Conflict Management” issues and various mitigation measures employed by the Forest Department and locals to protect crops and livestock. The students interacted with locals and conducted a questionnaire to understand the experience of the locals in managing wildlife.



Analytical Instrumentation Workshop



SACON organized a one-day Analytical Instrumentation Workshop for 40 Students of B.Sc. (Biotechnology), Nehru Arts and Science College, Coimbatore on 11th October 2019 at SACON to give them theoretical and practical exposure to the various analytical tools towards qualifying and quantifying inorganic and organic constituents in a variety of biological and non-

biological matrixes. The students keenly interacted with Dr. Muralidharan, Sr. Principal Scientist, Ecotoxicology Division; and Dr. K. Nambirajan, Project Associate and Mr. A. Kaja Maideen, Research personnel, co-ordinated during the practical sessions.



Memorandum of Understanding signed with Coimbatore Institute of Technology

SACON and Coimbatore Institute of Technology (CIT) signed an Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on 11th October 2019 for setting up collaboration in the development of scientific, educational and training programmes in the areas of common interests that will be beneficial for the professional development and institutional missions of the respective organizations. Currently, SACON is working with CIT to develop appropriate software for National Ornithological Data Bank Cell, Avian Forensic Laboratory and Avian Acoustics.



Meeting of Standard Operating Procedure on Human-Gaur Conflict Mitigation in India

Under the support of Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Govt. of India and GIZ – India, SACON, organized a one-day meeting of coordinators and authors of the Gaur Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) group at SACON on 29th October 2019, under the Chairmanship of Dr. K. Sankar, Director, SACON. The meeting focused on consolidating the existing outlines of SOP on Human-Gaur conflict mitigation in India, and an overall approach for working towards the guidelines.



The meeting had participants from the national technical group, coordinators, authors and stakeholders of the group responsible for the development of SOP for mitigating Human-Gaur conflict, namely (1) Dr. Anwaruddin Choudhary, Commissioner IAS (Retd.), Govt. of Assam; (2) Sh. P.C. Tyagi, IFS, Chief Wildlife Warden, Tamil Nadu, (Retd.) and Senior Professional Fellow, WII, (3) Sh. I. Anwardeen, Addl. PCCF and Director, Tamil Nadu Forest Academy, Coimbatore, (4) Sh. Subhankar Sengupta, IFS, Chief Conservator of Forests & Field Director, Buxa Tiger Reserve, West Bengal Forest Department, (5) Sh. D. Guruswamy, Sumesh Soman & D. Venkatesh, District Forest Officers of Nilgiris, Gudalur and Coimbatore respectively, Tamil Nadu Forest Department, (6) Dr. N. S. Manoharan, Additional Director of Veterinary Services, Govt. of Tamil Nadu, (7) Dr. T. Ramesh, Scientist, SACON, (8) Dr. B. Navaneethan, Research Officer, VNC-Coimbatore, (9) Ms. Indira – Former M.Sc. Student, WII, (10) Sh. Ajay Desai, Consultant, WWF, (11) Sh. Vimarsh Sharma, Jr. Technical Expert, GIZ, (12) Sh. D. Boominathan, WWF, Landscape Coordinator, Coimbatore, and (13) Sh. T. Panneer Selvam, Range Officer (Retd.), Tamil Nadu Forest Department.



New Microscopy Laboratory at SACON



A new Microscopy Laboratory facility was set up in Room No. 7 of the Old Laboratory building of SACON to undertake the microscopic analysis of specimens, photo-micrography, and food habits studies of mammals and birds. The lab is equipped with Binocular inclined microscope Magnus ML x B7, Trinocular microscope BXL TR, Trinocular microscope with a 'mic' eyepiece camera AR – HD, Binocular Stereo Zoom microscope and a Digital Polarizing Microscope RPL – 55T and 5MP CMOS camera with 1/100mm calibration slide.



New Indoor Gym Facility at SACON



A new indoor gym facility was created on 1st October 2019 in the Guest House of SACON. Dr. G. Umapathy, Principal Scientist, Laboratory for the Conservation of Endangered Species, Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology, Hyderabad, inaugurated the new Gym. The Gym is equipped with Home-gym weight set-50 Kg, Double spring tummy trimmer, Push-up bars, Abs roller wheel, Pull-up bars and Exercise cycles. Dr. K. Sankar, Director, SACON also donated a elliptical trainer to the facility.



► Field Exercise for CASFOS Officer Trainees

Road Alignment Field Exercise for State Forest Service Officer Trainees of 2018-2020 Batch-II was conducted by the Central Academy for State Forest Service (CASFOS), Coimbatore from 5th to 7th November 2019 at SACON Campus.

► Field Exposure in Ornithology for Graduates

A total of 50 B.Sc., students (2nd year) of Forest College and Research Institute, Mettupalayam visited SACON on 18th November 2019 for a field exposure on Ornithological Science and its practical applications. Dr. P. Pramod, Principal Scientist, SACON facilitated the entire programme.

► Visit of State Forest Service Officers

In-service SFS Officers of the State Forest Departments visited SACON on 19th November 2019 for Field Exercise and case study on "Bird Conservation and Wildlife Forensics" as part of the Workshop conducted by the Central Academy for State Forest Service (CASFOS), Coimbatore. During the visit, Dr. Shomita Mukherjee, Senior Principal Scientist, SACON delivered a talk on 'The role of genetics in biodiversity conservation'; and Dr. S. Muralidharan, Senior Principal Scientist, SACON, spoke about 'Ecotoxicology and its role in bird conservation'.



Sambhar Lake Bird Mortality

During the second week of November 2019, mass mortality of water birds was reported from Sambhar Lake, Rajasthan. SACON deputed a team comprising of Dr. S. Muralidharan, Senior Principal Scientist, Ms. V. Kirubhanandhini, Ms. Kiran Rajaram Dalvi and Mr. Siddhesh Sitaram Bhor, Research Scholars, SACON to investigate the cause of mortality of birds at Sambhar Lake. In the context of understanding the role of contaminants, the team collected samples of dead birds belonging to the following species;

1. Black-winged stilt *Himantopus himantopus*
2. Northern pintail *Anas acuta*
3. Northern shoveler *Anas clypeata*
4. Kentish plover *Charadrius alexandrinus*
5. Marsh sandpiper *Tringa stagnatilis*
6. Common coot *Fulica atra*
7. Lesser flamingo *Phoenicopterus minor*
8. Ruddy shelduck *Tadorna ferruginea*
9. Common teal *Anas crecca*
10. Grey Plover *Pluvialis squatarola*



After performing the postmortem in the field, the tissues of the birds were transported by air to the National Centre for Avian Ecotoxicology Laboratory at SACON. Tissues, namely brain, liver, kidney, muscle, and the gut contents were processed following the established protocols for a set



of toxic pesticides. The extracts were screened for residues of the following pesticides in LC-MS/MS (Shimadzu Nexera UHPLC with 8045 LCMS); Acephate, Dimethoate, Monocrotophos, Phosphamidon, Malathion, Triazophos, Quinalphos, Phorate, Profenofos, Ethion, Chlorpyrifos, Pirimiphos-methyl, Phosalone, Fenthion, Temephos, Phenthoate, Carbofuran, Carbaryl, Propoxur, Carboxin, Carbosulfan, Fenobucarb, Indoxacarb, Thiodicarb, Fenobucarb, Methomyl, Alachlor, Butachlor, Pretilachlor, Pendimethalin, Propanil, Atrazine, Metribuzin, Propargite and Fipronil and legendary chemicals such as Hexachlorocyclohexane (α -HCH, β -HCH, γ -HCH and δ -HCH), Dichlorodiphenyltrichloroethane (p,p'-DDT, p,p'-DDE, and p,p'-DDD),

Dicofol, Endosulfan (α -endosulfan, β -endosulfan and endosulfan sulfate), Heptachlor, Dieldrin and Mirex in GC-ECD (Agilent 7890B Gas Chromatograph equipped with Ni63 Micro Electron Capture Detector (μ ECD)).

Based on the analyses carried out, it was evident that the levels of the referred chemicals were below the detection limit in the tissues of all the species of birds investigated. Hence, it could be inferred that the large-scale mortality of birds in Sambhar Lake during November 2019 was not due to pesticide poisoning.



Remote Area Lecture at Government Tribal Residential High School, Kargudi, Mudumalai Tiger Reserve, Tamil Nadu

A remote area lecture was conducted by Dr. T. Ramesh, Scientist, SACON and Dr. Dinesh, Assistant Professor, IIT, Palakad on 22nd November 2019 at Government Tribal Residential High School, Kargudi, Mudumalai Tiger Reserve, Nilgiris District, Tamil Nadu. This school is located in one of the remotest parts of Tamil Nadu particularly in the Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve, and it is represented by students from various ethnic tribal communities such as Kattunaickers, Paniyas, Kurumbas, and Irulas. The remote lecture was attended by around 100 students from 6th – 10th standards. The densely forested area supports the world's largest population of Asian elephant and tiger. The students from this tribal school spot elephants, tigers and other wild animals almost every week and often encounter wild elephants on their way to school. Dr. Ramesh delivered a lecture on "Wildlife, and Science Opportunities". His talk was largely on the opportunities for school students during their present curriculum and even higher studies, and the importance of conserving wildlife and forest for human well-being. Dr. Dinesh delivered a talk which emphasized on applying learning to solve problems in society. The students from every class were asked to come up with the most important social problem for which science can find solutions. The students were extremely interactive and queried several questions. The lecture session was facilitated by the School's Head Master, Mrs. Kalavathy and other teachers, Mr. Iyyappan, Mr. Marimuthu, Mrs. Kaushalia, Mr. Manikandan and Mr. Dinesh.



Training Programme for Singareni Collieries Co. Ltd., Officials

M/s Singareni Collieries Co. Ltd., (SCCL), a Government Company, is carrying out coal mining in 06 districts of Telangana. Certain degraded Reserve Forest (RF) areas are being diverted for the mining purposes, wherein the MoEFCC has accorded permission to SCCL for diversion of RF land subject to the condition: "Prepare a scheme to create and maintain alternative habitat/home for avifauna, whose nesting trees are to be cleared for the project. Bird nests artificially made out of eco-friendly materials shall be arranged in surrounding areas including perching stands, adjoining to forest areas". In order to implement the scheme and in compliance with the MoEFCC advise, SCCL requested SACON to conduct a training programme on "Improving habitat and nesting behaviour of Avifauna in RF areas". In this regard, 12 SCCL officials involved in the project implementation, visited SACON on 12th and 13th December 2019 to undertake the training programme.



Professor Emeritus, Mississippi State University visit to SACON

Dr. John E. Mylroie, Emeritus Professor, Department of Geosciences, Mississippi State University visited SACON on 13th December 2019 and delivered a talk on "Caves on Islands: How Geology Controls Habitat".





Hosting of a Fulbright Specialist at SACON

Dr. Ragupathy Kannan, Professor, University of Arkansas, USA was hosted at SACON as a Fulbright Specialist for six weeks starting from 15th December 2019. During this period, Dr. Kannan interacted with our faculty colleagues and research fellows; paved a way forward for a prospective MoU between SACON and University of Arkansas, USA in collaborative research, faculty and student's exchange programmes; abetted SACON in conduct of National Ornithology Symposium to be held on 17th January 2020; and helped SACON in revising the M.Sc. Syllabus and suggested the inclusion of climate change biology and/or a wildlife biology course with an emphasis on the impact of climate change.



Professor Kannan in his own words...

“

I am a Professor of Biology at the University of Arkansas - Fort Smith, USA. I was fortunate to get a Fulbright Specialist award to be at SACON for 6 weeks in December-January 2019-2020. Being immersed in one of India's leading research and conservation institutions, surrounded by rolling hills and scrub forests, was a dream come true for me.

My time in SACON was largely spent advising students and researchers in career development, especially in exploring opportunities for them in Arkansas, my home state. My dream is to establish long-term collaborations between Arkansas and SACON, both in teaching and research. I also spent a considerable amount of my time working with my SACON colleague Dr. Rajah Jayapal, reviewing the citizen science data on the birdlife of the campus in eBird, Cornell University's world-wide online repository of bird records.

With the climate crisis at the forefront of the world's consciousness these days, I did a series of lectures in SACON and in regional institutions on the urgency of the current anthropogenic climate change and steps to mitigate it. My talks were well-received and spawned other such programs. I also reviewed SACON's nascent M.Sc. curriculum to make it more field-oriented and climate focused.

Working in SACON amidst such idyllic settings and amongst India's best and brightest was an honor. I am thankful for the Director (and my long-time friend) Dr. K. Sankar for hosting me.

”

Visit of Forestry Students from the College of Horticulture and Forestry, Jhansi to SACON

A batch of B.Sc. Forestry including 12 students & 02 Faculty Members from the College of Horticulture and Forestry, Rani Lakshmi Bai Central Agricultural University, Jhansi, visited SACON on 30th December 2019, as part of their course curriculum. During the visit, Dr. R.P. Singh, Senior Scientist, SACON delivered a lecture on illegal trafficking of animals and the role of the forest department in curbing these issues. The lecture was followed by a Lab visit for an exposure on Avian Forensic Research being undertaken in SACON.



IFS Probationers from Indira Gandhi National Forest Academy visited SACON

The First Batch of (2018 - 2020) 39 Indian Forest Service (IFS) Probationers from Indira Gandhi National Forest Academy (IGNFA), Dehra Dun, Uttarakhand visited SACON on 31st December 2019. During the visit, Dr. S. Muralidharan, Senior Principal Scientist and Dr. R.P. Singh, Senior Scientist delivered lectures on (1) Eco-toxicological Research that SACON is currently undertaking and the involvement of forest department in assisting such research, and (2) Issues related to illegal trafficking of birds and animals and the role of forest department in curbing these issues, respectively. Further, the IFS Probationers visited SACON facilities including National Centre for Avian Ecotoxicology and National Avian Forensic Laboratory to get an exposure to the research activities that are being undertaken in SACON.





SACON's Participation in other events

Bird Festival and 2nd National Symposium on Avian Biology, IISER Tirupati

The Tirupati Bird Festival was organized by the Indian Institute of Science Education and Research (IISER) Tirupati on 6th December 2019. This was a fun and learning event for birders and those who wished to be initiated into the birders' community. The day-long event included guided bird tours, workshops for children and beginners and popular talks on bird conservation and birding. The workshops were, “Be a citizen birder” which was an initiation into bird watching, monitoring and the E-bird initiative for teachers; “Paper Chirrup – Bird art” conducted by Niharika Rajput, a practicing wildlife artist and conservationist who taught children how to make paper birds; and “Listening to birds” which was a workshop on bird call recording by Viral Joshi from IISER Tirupati. The event also had a series of seven thought-provoking talks.

The Bird Festival was followed by the 2nd National Symposium on Avian Biology between 7th and 10th December 2019. I attended the symposium and presented results from SACON's ongoing Forest Owlet project in a talk titled “The enigmatic Forest Owlet – how rare is it?”. A poster emanating from the project was also exhibited during the symposium. The symposium had three plenaries, one on each morning, delivered by Prof. Vinod Kumar, Delhi University, Dr. Suhel Quader, Nature Conservation Foundation and Dr. Farah Ishtiaq, Tata Institute of Genetics & Society, Bengaluru. There were over 150 participants and topics covered in the symposium included, Biogeography, Birds Among Humans, Integrating Ecology and Conservation, Birds and Landuse Change, Bioacoustics, Bird Ecology, Bird Behaviour, Bird Evolution, Bird Physiology & Photoperiod, Threats and Threatened Birds and Emerging Topics in Ornithology. A brainstorming discussion on Indian Ornithology where plans for holding workshops for capacity development in the future and goals of the Association of Avian Biologists in India (AABI) was held on one of the days of the symposium.

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Participation in the National Symposium on Avian Biology at IISER, Tirupati

C. Divyapriya, Ph.D. student, Ornithology Division, SACON made an oral presentation on, “Ornithophony in the soundscape of Anaikatty hills, Coimbatore” at the National symposium on Avian Biology held at Science, Education and Research (IISER), Tirupati between 7th and 10th December 2019. The program was inaugurated by Mr. M. Nagarjuna Reddy, DFO, Wildlife Management, Tirupati forest division, along with the Chief Conservator of Forests, Tirupati forest division, Dr. Suresh Jain, Dean, IIT Tirupati, Dr. Dinesh Bhatt, Head, Association of Avian Biologists of India, and Project Coordinator, Regional Science Centre, Tirupati. The inaugural talks encompassed themes including “Introduction to birds, Bird Art and conservation, On Salim Ali's Trail: a personal journey, The first big year in India, and Citizen Science at IIT, Sri City and IISER”.

There were eminent speakers from various institutions like SACON, IISER, Pune, IISER Mohali, IISER Tirupati, Nature Conservation Foundation (NCF), Delhi University, Lucknow University, Wildlife Institute of India (WII),



Wildlife Research & Conservation Society (WRCS), Centre for Ecology, Development and Research (CEDAR), Princeton University, Mizoram University, and North-Eastern Hill University (NEHU) among few others. There were three plenary talks and twelve technical sessions, wherein the speakers including scientists and students covered wide range of topics viz., Birds and Landuse Change, Animal behaviour, Bird evolution, Threats and Threatened birds, Citizen science, Bird Biogeography, Bird Acoustics, Bird Physiology & photoperiod, Emerging topics in Ornithology, Integrating ecology and conservation and Bird Ecology. The poster session had covered fields such as ecology, biogeography, conservation, animal behaviour and bird acoustics'. The talks covered studies on bird communities of Sikkim Himalayas, Himalayan Oak Forests, Northern Bihar, National Chambal Sanctuary, Thar Desert, Central India, Shillong, Western Ghats Shola sky islands, WG Montane grasslands, Wayanad, Anaikatty hills, Plovers across the globe, Agricultural landscapes of Tiruchirapalli and Urban ecosystem of Guwahati, Aizawl and Kerala. Species-specific studies that dealt with Malabar Grey Hornbill, Red-headed Bunting, Forest Owlet, Indian Skimmer, Lesser Adjutant, Pied Bushchat, Common Myna, Sholakili, Tree Sparrow, Spotted Munia, Narcondam Hornbill, Amur Falcon, Spot-billed Pelican and Rufous-bellied Woodpecker were among the topics addressed. The first day of the symposium had a parallel session on bird song recording, bird monitoring and ebird, paper sculpting workshops. A bird-watching field trip to Mamandur was arranged on December 9 for the first 20 registered participants. The symposium congregation had students, researchers and scientists working on diverse topics of Avian biology.

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Participation in 6th Tamil Birders' meet 2019

C. Divyapriya, Ph.D. student, Ornithology Division and Ms. Sri Sowmiya M., Nature Education Assistant, SACON, participated in the sixth 'Tamil Birders' meet held at Sri Adi Chunchanagiri Women's College in Cumbum on 14th & 15th December 2019. 'Tamil Birders' meet was held in association with Bird Count India. C. Divyapriya gave a presentation on 'Bird call recording, processing and uploading tips into eBird platform' along with a fellow eBirder Mr. K. Selvaganesh.

About 200 birdwatchers, nature enthusiasts, school children and college students had participated from all around Tamil Nadu for this annual event. Talks covered pet trade, bird photography, updated checklists of birds of Tamil Nadu, vulture conservation in South India and Thamirabarani Waterbird Count. Topic including Tamil bird names and bird educator's meetings were discussed in the proceedings. A road map for the upcoming Asian Waterbird Census and Pongal Bird Count 2020 was discussed during this event. Parallel sessions covered sketching of birds; basics of eBird; tips for identifying pipits, waders, larks; introduction to birding and basics on submitting a good checklist on eBird platform. Participants visited nearby wetlands of Cumbam and Gudalur for bird watching. Local school students also participated in flashcard games on common birds of India and the participants exhibited their bird images and art during this two-day event.

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“
*The woods would be very silent if no birds
sang there except those that sang best*”

Henry Van Dyke





Editorial Board

Dr. Aditi Mukherjee, Dr. T. Ramesh & Mr. R. Jayakumar

Views expressed in this newsletter are not necessarily those of the Editors or the Sálím Ali Centre for Ornithology and Natural History.

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To

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