

SACON News

Vol. 19 (2) April—June 2022



SACON News

April—June, 2022

CONTENTS



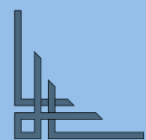
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INSTITUTIONAL EVENTS

Visit of Zoology Students from Avinashilingam University	1
Visit of Biochemistry Students from NGP College of Arts & Science	1
Faculty Development Programme for the Professors, Bishop Heber College	1
Visit of NCC Cadets from PSG iTech	1
CASFOS Officer Trainees visit	1
Visit of Biotech Students from CMS College of Science and Commerce	1
Visit of Biotech Students from KG College of Arts & Science College	2
Countdown to #46DaystoIDY	2
World Migratory Bird Day	2
Visit of Biotech Students from Karpagam Academy of Higher Education	2
International Day for Biological Diversity 2022	3
World Environment Day & SACON's Foundation Day	5
Visit of Commerce Students from KGISL Institute of Technology	7
Talk by SACON Faculty at Maharshi Dayanand College of Arts, Science & Commerce	7
Visit of Env. Sc. Student of Tamil Nadu Agricultural University	7
International Yoga Day 2022	8

Front Cover
Orange-headed Thrush
©Mandar Chowkekar

Back Cover
Danaid Eggfly (Female) Art Work
©Sanyukta Kasbekar



From the Director's Desk



Dr. S. Muralidharan
Director in charge



I am delighted to present the 'April to June 2022' issue of SACON News for the second quarter of the financial year 2022-2023. This issue covers various activities, green-day celebrations, and institutional visits of school/college students, NCC cadets, and Forest officials to SACON. In coordination with MOEFCC, SACON celebrated 'Countdown to #46Days' of International Yoga Day and 'Yoga Day' on the theme "Yoga for wellbeing" by conducting Yoga sessions, competitions, and awareness talks for the SACON members and the public. SACON along with ENVIS Resource Partner, celebrated World Fish Migration Day and International day of Biological Diversity 2022 by organizing an event with the Eco club members and Students of Minerva Educational Institute. In addition, SACON also participated in the National event of 'International Day for Biological Diversity' organized by The National Biodiversity Authority, Government of India, Chennai. In the event SACON exhibited on the theme of "Nutritional Security and Human wellbeing". This quarter, SACON also jointly celebrated World Environment Day and its Foundation Day on June 5. A total of 180 people, including the general public, school children, faculty, staff, and researchers, participated in the celebration. Furthermore, this issue also includes other SACON activities, such as talks by SACON faculty and outreach activities.



INSTITUTIONAL EVENTS

Visit of Zoology Students from Avinashilingam University

On April 5, 2022, 24 Students from the Zoology department of Avinashilingam University, Coimbatore, visited SACON. They had a session with Dr. Aditi Mukherjee, Scientist, about SACON's past/ongoing activities and discussed their career options. They also had a session on "Birds and Bird Watching" by Ms. Sri Sowmiya, Nature Education Assistant. Researchers Ms. Angel Joy, Mr. Ashiq PP, Dr. S. Jeevith, and Ms. Sri Sowmiya also took them on SACON's nature trail for some field experience.



Visit of Biochemistry Students from NGP College of Arts & Science

On April 11, 2022, 14 Students from the Biochemistry department of NGP College of Arts and Science, Coimbatore, visited SACON. They had a one-day programme comprising talks, visits to SACON's facilities and a walk on the Nature trail with Ms. Sri Sowmiya M., Nature Education Assistant, and Mr. Siddhesh Bhor, JRB. They visited the eco-toxicology laboratory, wherein Dr. Nambirajan, Project Scientist, explained the types of equipment in the laboratory. The visit concluded with a screening of a documentary about SACON.



Faculty Development Programme for the Professors, Bishop Heber College

On April 12, 2022, 13 faculty members from the Department of Zoology, Bishop Heber College, visited SACON for a one-day faculty development programme. They had a session on SACON's research activities with Dr. Aditi Mukherjee, Scientist, followed by a lecture on 'Birds as Indicators of Environmental Health' by Dr. Muralidharan, Director-in-Charge. They also visited SACON's facilities, including Eco-toxicology, Avian Physiology and Genetics laboratories, and the Library, followed by a walk on SACON's nature trail with Ms. Sri Sowmiya, Nature Education Assistant.



Visit of NCC Cadets from PSG iTech

On April 13, 2022, NCC cadets of PSG iTech visited SACON for a one-day nature awareness programme. They had a session on SACON's research activity and discussion with Dr. P. Pramod, Senior Principal Scientist. They went birding on the campus's Nature trail with Ms. Sri Sowmiya M, Nature Education Assistant, and Mr. Siddhesh Bhor, JRB. They also had a presentation on 'Introduction to Birds and Bird Watching', followed by a Wildlife movie screening.



CASFOS Officer Trainees visit

On April 19, 2022, a batch of Central Academy for State Forest Service Officer Trainees (ACF Level, 2022-2024) visited SACON. Dr. Aditi Mukherjee, Scientist, gave introduction on SACON's research activities, followed by talks on 'Wildlife Trade and Forensic' with Dr. Ashutosh Singh, Scientist, and 'Conserving our Freshwater Biodiversity' with Dr. Vidyadhar Atkore, Scientist. They also visited the Eco-toxicology and Avian Physiology & Genetics Laboratories. The officers went birding on the campus's Nature trails, accompanied by researchers Ms. Angel Joy, Mr. Arun George, Mr. Siddhesh Bhor, and Ms. Sri Sowmiya M.



Visit of Biotech Students from CMS College of Science and Commerce

Undergraduate and Postgraduate Biotechnology students from CMS College of Science and Commerce, Coimbatore, visited SACON on April 20, 2022, for laboratory experience. Dr. Nambirajan, Project Scientist, explained practical tools and techniques in the Eco-toxicology laboratory. Researchers Mr. Kunal Mohobiya and Mr. Surendra T. described the tools and techniques used in the Avian Physiology and Genetics laboratory. They also had a session on the research activities of SACON and went on a nature trail with Ms. Sri Sowmiya, Nature Education Assistant.



INSTITUTIONAL EVENTS

Visit of Biotech Students from KG College of Arts & Science College

On April 29, 2022, 54 Students from KG College of Arts & Science College, Coimbatore, came for an exposure visit to SACON. Ms. Sri Sowmiya, Nature Education Assistant, briefed them on the research activities of SACON. They went to the SACON Library, Eco-toxicology, and Avian Physiology and Genetics laboratories to understand the practical technique and tools.



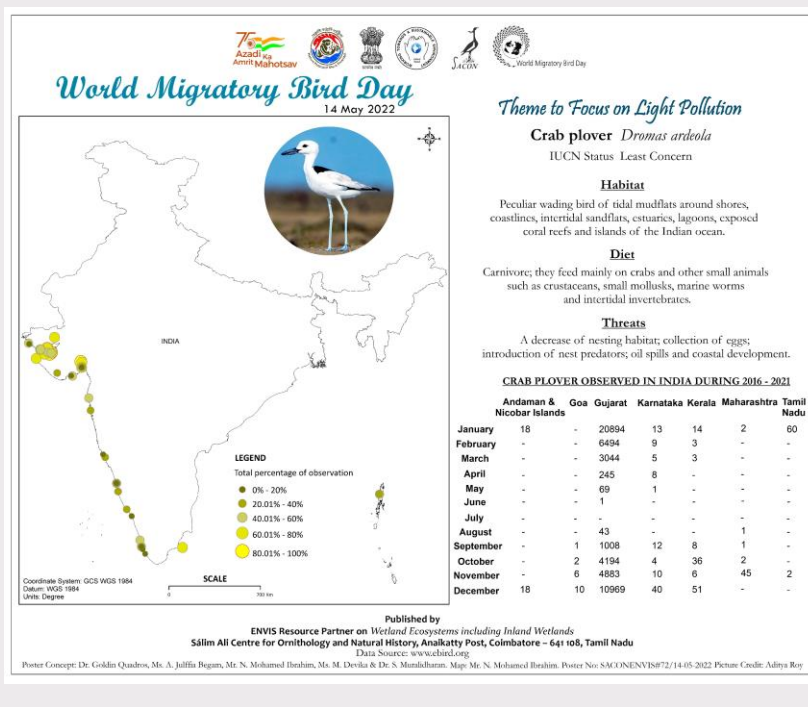
Countdown to #46DaystoIDY

On May 6, 2022, SACON conducted a Yoga session to mark the countdown of 46 days to International Yoga Day on the theme "Yoga for wellbeing" in sync with MoEFCC. A total of 80 people, including SACON's faculty, staff, and researchers, participated in the programme. Yoga Masters Ms. Selva Lakshmi and Mr. Senthil Kumar from Isha Foundation, Coimbatore, lead the Yoga Sessions



World Migratory Bird Day

To commemorate World Migratory day 2022 (May 14, 2022), SACON ENVIS Resource Partner released a special publication on Crab plover observed in India during 2016–2021. The impact of Light Pollution on migratory birds was the focus of this year's campaign.



Visit of Biotech Students from Karpagam Academy of Higher Education

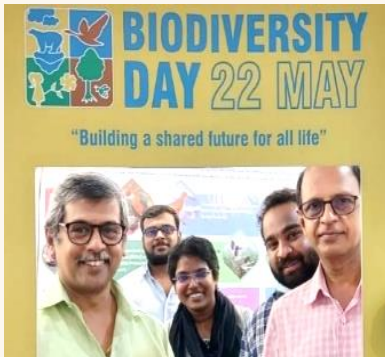
On May 30, 2022, 14 students from the Department of Biotechnology, Karpagam Academy of Higher Education College, Coimbatore, visited SACON. Ms. Sri Sowmiya, Nature Education Assistant, introduced them to SACON's research activities. The participants got experience with practical tools and techniques at the Eco-toxicology under Dr. K. Nambirajan, Project Scientist, and at the Avian Physiology and Genetics Laboratories under Mr. Kunal Mohobiya, Junior Research Biologist.



INSTITUTIONAL EVENTS

International Day for Biological Diversity 2022

Exhibition on the International Day for Biological Diversity, Chennai



The National Biodiversity Authority, Government of India, organized a national-level event to commemorate the International Day for Biological Diversity 2022 (IBD 2022) on the theme of "Nutritional Security and Human wellbeing" in Chennai. The program was inaugurated by Hon'ble MEF&CC, Shri Bhupender Yadav, on May 22, 2022. SACON's team participated and exhibited SACON's past/ongoing research activities and publications at the event's exhibition.



Hon'ble MEF&CC, Shri Bhupender Yadav, visiting SACON's Exhibition Stall at Chennai.

Celebrations of IBD 2022 at SACON Campus, Coimbatore

To jointly celebrate World Fish Migration Day (May 21) and International Day for Biological Diversity (May 22), SACON organized an event with the Eco club members and Students of Minerva Educational Institute, Coimbatore. All the programme participants, including SACON's Researchers, Faculty and Staff, pledged to Conserve, Protect and Preserve our Biodiversity under Dr. S. Muralidharan, Director in charge. Dr. Vidyadhar Atkore, Scientist, delivered a talk on "Fish Migration Stories" to mark the celebrations of "World Fish Migration Day". A Plantation drive followed this under the guidance of Dr. P.V. Karunakaran, Senior Principal Scientist, who explained the medicinal values of the plant saplings (Neem, Tamarind, Jamun, Wild Guava, Pongamia). Students and faculty members of SACON and Minerva institute planted the samplings at the SACON campus. This was followed by a clean-up drive along the sides of the streams in and around the campus led by Dr. Mahendiran Mylsamy, Senior Scientist, and Dr. Vidyadhar Atkore. All the participants of the events received appreciation certificates.



Publications by SACON ENVIS RP on IBD 2022



INSTITUTIONAL EVENTS

International Day for Biological Diversity 2022

cont.

Talk by SACON Faculty on IBD 2022



On May 22, an invited lecture was organised by the Biological Research Cell, Department of Zoology, Carmel College of Arts, Science and Commerce for Women, Goa, in collaboration with SACON.

Dr. Manchi Shirish, Principal Scientist and Head of Conservation Ecology Division, delivered a lecture on "Wonders of Cave Ecosystem."



Photo Contest for the Online Audience

A photo contest related to one of the actions for biodiversity by the Convention on Biological Diversity, "Let's take pictures, not samples", was conducted online through social media handles. Of the 17 entries received, the following three were declared winners.



First prize: Mr. Arun George

Caption: Sharing the Filth

Description: Adjutant stork and Human at a dump yard in Assam. This bird is locally called "Hargila" meaning bone swallower. Due to habitat destruction, draining of wetlands and other human disturbances, the IUCN status of this species is Endangered. This picture speaks how they are sharing space and exiting with humans in the human filth.



Second Prize: Mr. Ramana Appavu

Caption: Love is in the air

Description: Mating pair of Great Hornbill in the forest of Nelliampathy. These Hornbills are known for their nesting rituals. The female Hornbill seals herself in a hollow space of a tree after mating. She lays eggs, moults her feathers and remains imprisoned until the hatchlings can come out from the cavity nest. During this breeding time, the female completely depends on the male to bring their food with all its trust, hope, and love.



Third prize: Mr. Jeevith S.

Caption: Scavenging Butterfly

Description: Common Nawab from Nilgiris feeding on a dead Scorpion. On several occasions, we might have seen butterflies consuming nectars from flowers. In this photograph, it's a butterfly feeding on a dead Scorpion.

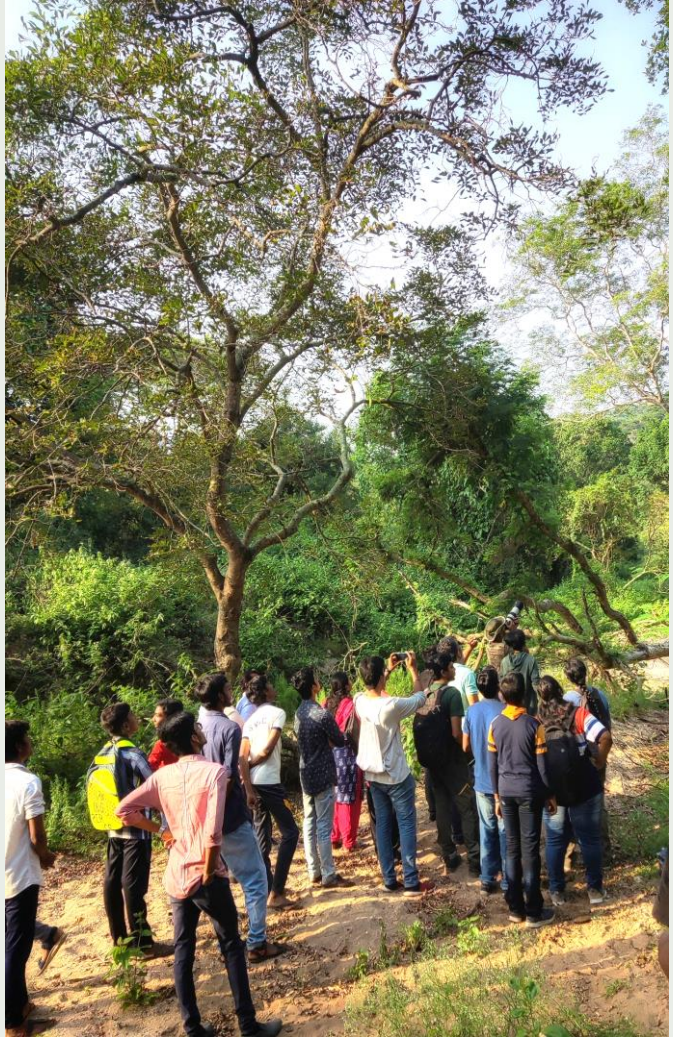
Butterflies require sodium and calcium for mating and reproduction, and nectar alone does not provide enough of these nutrients. As a result, they eat animal faeces and decaying bodies, including that of humans, attracted by the fishy odour of Ammonia Nitrate.

INSTITUTIONAL EVENTS

World Environment Day & SACON's Foundation Day

The 50th World Environment Day and the 32nd Foundation of the Sálim Ali Centre for Ornithology and Natural History (SACON) were commemorated at SACON's Anaikatty campus, Coimbatore. The theme of the celebration, as directed by the MoEFCC was "#ONLYONEEARTH." The event was open to the general public, children, members of Sálim Ali Naturalist Forum (SANF) and Coimbatore Nature Society (CNS), and employees and researchers of SACON. The visitors were able to brush up on their knowledge about the environment and conservation issues by participating in different activities organised by the Research Institute under the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change, Government of India. A total of 180 people participated in the event.

The programme began early in the morning with a walk around SACON's Nature Trails, led by Dr. Rajah Jayapal, Senior Principal Scientist, Dr. Mahendran, Senior Scientist, and Dr. C.R. Jaya Prakash, Professor, PSG College of Arts & Science, along with the researchers of SACON. The SACON ENVIS Team created posters with the hashtag #onlyoneearth to raise awareness about "Living Sustainably in Harmony with Nature." Dr. S. Muralidharan, Director in charge, Faculty, ENVIS Team, and participants representing the general public, unveiled the posters. Children also participated in a bird identification quiz competition, which drew an enthusiastic crowd. Mr. J. Anandaraj, a well-known ventriloquist and puppeteer who teaches art at Government Higher Secondary School, Vilankurichi, Coimbatore, and his crew also put on a delightful puppet performance with a message on the significance of celebrating the World Environment Day. For the first time, SACON researchers performed musicals for the audience and marked the environment day celebrations.



Puppet show by ventriloquist and puppeteer J. Anandaraj and team spreading the message of World Environment Day significance



INSTITUTIONAL EVENTS

World Environment Day & SACON's Foundation Day

cont.

The day also happened to be SACON's 32nd Foundation Day, and Director in Charge, Dr. Muralidharan, addressed the audience about SACON's journey in the past 32 years. This event also served as a forum for promoting the International Day of Yoga to be celebrated on June 21, 2022. Members of the Isha Foundation and Yoga experts, Mr. Palani and Ms. Durga, spoke at the event, emphasising the significance of yoga and meditation and encouraging the audience to participate in the next International Day of Yoga on June 21, 2022. The event concluded with the Prize Distribution Ceremony for the winners of the quiz competition.



"Spot the Bird" quiz competition winner Mugilan V, Age 11 being felicitated by Dr. S. Muralidharan, Director in charge, SACON



Poster release commemorating 50th World Environment Day and SACON's 32nd Foundation Day celebrations

Publications by SACON ENVIS RP on IBD 2022

#OnlyOneEarth

WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY 2022

UN 50th anniversary

SPEAK UP FOR THOSE WHO HAVE NO VOICE

The 2022 World Environment Day campaign #OnlyOneEarth calls for collective, transformative action on a global scale to celebrate, protect and restore our planet.

Sálim Ali Centre for Ornithology and Natural History
(Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of India)
Avalitaky, Coimbatore - 641 108, Tamil Nadu

World Environment Day & SACON's 32nd Foundation Day
June 5, 2022

Glimpses of SACON

Help conserve India's Biodiversity and its sustainable use through Research, Education and People's participation with Birds at its Centre Stage

ENVIS Resource Partner on Wetland Ecosystems including Inland Wetlands
Sálim Ali Centre for Ornithology and Natural History
(Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Govt. of India)
Avalitaky, Coimbatore - 641 108, Tamil Nadu

In the universe are billions of galaxies,
In our galaxy are billions of planets,
But there is **Only One Earth**.

Celebrate our Earth through collective actions to address one or more aspects of the triple planetary emergency:
CLIMATE CHANGE, BIODIVERSITY & NATURE LOSS, POLLUTION AND WASTE.

By making some small changes to our lifestyle, we can help ensure that this unique and beautiful **PLANET** remains a comfortable home for humanity.

World Environment Day
June 5, 2022

Live Sustainably in Harmony with Nature

We have **#OnlyOneEarth**.



Let's take care of it.

INSTITUTIONAL EVENTS

Visit of Commerce Students from KGISL Institute of Technology

On June 8, 2022, 20 Students from the Photography Club of KGISL Institute of Technology, Coimbatore, visited SACON to learn about birds and to experiment with wildlife photography. Ms. Sri Sowmiya, Nature Education Assistant, briefed them regarding the institution and took them to the nature trails of SACON, accompanied by SACON researchers, Ms. Harshitha Prakash, Mr. Divya Prakash, Ms. Shriya Auradkar, Ms. Santhosini R.



Talk by SACON Faculty at Maharshi Dayanand College of Arts, Science & Commerce

Maharshi Dayanand College of Arts, Science & Commerce, University of Mumbai, in collaboration with SACON ENVIS Resource Partner, invited Dr. Aditi Mukherjee, Scientist, SACON, as a Resource person for a Talk Series 'The Women of Matter', as a part of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav. Dr. Aditi had an engaging session on the topic "Life Under Earth." This session on June 8, 2022, was part of Environment Week's celebrations.



Visit of Env. Sc. Student of Tamil Nadu Agricultural University

On June 17, 2022, 10 Environmental Science Department students of Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Coimbatore, visited SACON. Ms. Sri Sowmiya, Nature Education Assistant, took them on a Nature trail inside the campus. Following this, Dr. Aditi Mukherjee, Scientist, gave them a talk about the past/ongoing activities and research of SACON. The students then visited the eco-toxicology laboratory and had sessions with Dr. S. Muralidharan, Director-in charge, and Dr. K. Nambirajan, Project Scientist, explaining the equipment used and the functioning of the laboratory.



INSTITUTIONAL EVENTS

International Yoga Day 2022

SACON celebrated India's 8th International Yoga Day 2022 (June 21) with its faculty, staff, researchers, and students from different Schools. Mr. Thiyagarajan, Yoga Master, Former faculty, Vidya Vanam School, Anaikatty, Coimbatore, was the Chief Guest for the event. To mark the celebrations and to raise awareness, a yoga competition and a quiz competition on yoga were also conducted for school students of Coimbatore.



Winners of Yoga competition

- 1st prize – Ms. Sai Srinithi K, 8th grade, GD Matriculation Higher Secondary School
- 2nd prize – Ms. Rajvanthi, 9th grade, PSG Sarvajana Higher Secondary School
- 3rd prize – Ms. Kirthika T, 10th grade, Vidya Vanam

Winners of Yoga Quiz

- Team 1 – Ms. Nidhi Vijay, Dhruvi V, 9th grade, GD Matriculation Higher Secondary School
- Team 2 – Ms. Sai Srinithi K, Sahaana PR, 8th grade, GD Matriculation Higher Secondary School
- Team 3 – Ms. Shamita S R, Vanika P, 12th grade, Yuva Bharathi Matriculation School



“The famous balance of nature is the most extraordinary of all cybernetic systems. Left to itself, it is always self-regulated.”

— Joseph Wood Krutch
author, critic, and naturalist

सालिम अली पक्षिविज्ञान एवं प्रकृतिविज्ञान केन्द्र
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Views expressed in this newsletter are not necessarily those of the Editors or the Sálim Ali Centre for Ornithology and Natural History.

To

April-June 2022

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