

BCSG Events

HERONRY WATCH 2015



A one-day program on “Sarus and Heronry Watch” in Matar-Tarapur area was organized on 6 August 2015, aimed at understanding nesting behavior of colonial nesters and Sarus Crane.

More than 50 participants attended the event, which started with morning tea and a briefing by Dr. B. M. Parsharya. Each participant was given data sheets to record data related to

nesting birds. The form included number of nests counted, species name and other observations. Participants were taken to Limbasi, Vastana, Chanor and Pariej. The trip ended at Pariej, where everyone enjoyed lunch and shared their experiences.

Post-lunch session included a talk by Dr. Parasharya, who discussed the importance of heronries in ecology, and behavior and nesting pattern of resident water birds. He also talked briefly about Sarus and the threats faced by it in recent years in Gujarat. He introduced the students to Dr. K. S. Gopi Sundar, Scientist, Crane and Wetlands, and a member of International Crane Foundation. Dr. Gopi shared details on Sarus distribution in India and major threats to Crane species across the world.

A talk on Vultures by Anil Patel of Kadi, and Kartik Shastri of Ahmedabad, added to the event. An hour long talk about Vultures by Anil Patel highlighted the challenges faced in conservation activities and how one could handle them. Anil Patel and Kartik Shastri shared their past experiences with the participants. The session ended with certificate distribution and by giving flyers on vulture conservation.

BIRDING IN KUTCH – PASSAGE MIGRANT WATCH



The event was organized on 11-13 September 2015, with the aim of introducing the participants to the avian diversity of Kachchh, which supports varied habitats, and to get a rare view of the passage migrants occurring here, which are seen only for a period of a month or so. Center for Desert and Ocean, Moti-Virani, near Nakhatrana, led by eminent ecologist Jugal Kishor Tiwari, and prominent birdwatcher Shantilal Varu played host to the event.

Places visited during the program were – Jethavera forest, Kiro hill, Chhari dhand, Banni grassland, Phot mahadev, Pat river bed, Naliya grassland, Pingleshwar, Modhva (Mandvi) beach.

Some special birds seen during program were: Spotted Flycatcher, Red-backed Shrike, Lesser and Greater White-throat, Variable Wheater, Isabelline Wheater, Marshall's Iora, Rufous-tailed Scrub Robin, Red-tailed Wheatear, Striolated Bunting, Eurasian Wryneck, Indian Eagle Owl, Grey-necked Bunting, Laggar Falcon, Booted Eagle (pale morph), Black-necked Stork, Eurasian Curlew, Ruddy Turnstone, various Sandpipers, Pallas's Gull, Black Francolin and Greater Flamingo.

The 3 day session made participants understand the rich diversity of Kachchh, and conservation issues prevailing in recent times. BCSG intends to re-organise such events at Kachchh.



HARRIER COUNT 2015



Manoj Dholakia

The much awaited bird census – Harrier count 2015, was conducted on 7-8 October 2015, at Velavadar Blackbuck National Park, considered as the World's largest roosting site of harriers. The harrier count was organized by Gujarat Forest Department in collaboration with BCSG, and witnessed participants from different corners of the state (participation was limited to 30 seats, on first cum first serve basis).

Attending participants were briefed about counting techniques by Dr Indra Gadhvi and the in-charge RFO. The harrier count was divided into two phases i.e. an evening count on 7 Oct. and a morning count on 8 Oct. A Total of 24 teams were positioned at 24 points, covering the circumference of the national park. Each team, consisting of 2 members, was instructed to count harriers entering the grassland area from their right side.



Harrier species sighted during counting included Marsh Harrier, Montagu's Harrier and Pallid Harrier. Other raptors observed during the two day event were Eurasian hobby, Greater Spotted Eagle, White-eyed Buzzard, Shikra, Common Kestrel, Short-toed Snake Eagle, Black-winged kite, and Steppe Eagle. The 'Endangered' Lesser Florican was also sighted during the 2 day count by 5 teams. The harrier count gave an opportunity to the participants to learn how to identify harriers and also to understand their behavior, migration pattern, and habitat preferences. □