

BCSG Events

Plant identification and its conservation

Bird Conservation Society, Gujarat on the occasion of World Forest Day (21 March) and World Water Day (22 March) organized a programme dedicated to plants and its conservation. The programme aimed at understanding the basics of plant-life, identification skills and its importance to environment.

The Serenity library and botanical garden a home to hundreds of indigenous species was selected as the programme venue. The library offers good collection of books on wildlife and conservation, and the botanical garden –an abode to hundreds of native trees planted over the years. The variety of tree species and equally maintained habitat was a perfect location for conducting this programme.



A presentation by a botanist Dr. Haresh Dhaduk from Anand Agriculture University on the topic – ‘Plant Identification and its Conservation’ included description of anatomical features of plants and basic skills required for their identification.

The Second presentation by a landscape designer Sh. Girish Adesara emphasized on the importance of indigenous plants, its valuable attributes and efficient uses in urban landscape designing. The interactive session highlighted the efficient use of native species as road dividers, for hedges and topiary, for designing groves and as road avenues.



Practical demonstration on field identification of trees was given by Dr. Santosh Yadav. Santosh helped participants identify few indigenous tree and plant species with reference to their physiological communication with other life forms and also cited examples highlighting intelligence system in trees, its evolution with the time and how trees efficiently use it during pollination and germination.

The programme concluded with a documentary watch - “Forest Man – Jadav Payeng” on life of a man who with his determination has recreated a forest and has now himself has become an epitome of conservation. It motivated the participants to protect the tree-life and contribute to conservation by planting trees.

Training Workshop on ebirding



eBird - A real-time, online checklist programme has revolutionized the way the birding community reports and accesses information about birds. A programme launched by the Cornell Lab of Ornithology and National Audubon Society, is promoted by NCBS, Bangalore in India.

BCSG, a partner to NCBS, Bangalore conducted an event at Van Chetna Kendra, Ahmedabad, on 8 Feb 2015, educating birdwatchers on using eBird.

The aims of eBird programme were:

1. To introduce birders to eBird, showing various features (e.g, maps, seasonality, exploring birds at a location), how to upload



“A vigorous life needs to be exposed to the elemental vagaries of wind, rain and snow.”



lists and embed photos, and how to use it to maintain one's own birding records.

2. To discuss how birding groups could run a variety of projects through the eBird platform; like documentation and monitoring of birds from some specific location or region (could be the State as a whole).

The presentation by T R Shankar Raman, from NCBS was on 'Introduction to eBirding, why list birds and use eBird?' "The presentation highlighted the common problems faced by bird-watchers world around – maintaining diaries of checklists,

issues faced while searching records, unavailability of analytical tools and common identification issues. Shankar described the concept of eBird and its reason for origination, how the website can be effectively used for maintaining records and how efficiently data is used by Scientists and researchers world across. He mentioned that the Citizen Science Project invites bird-watchers to seriously consider uploading data online on eBird, which will further contribute in studying the avian diversity of different locations, the migration patterns in birds, breeding behavior, habitat study and further need for conservation.

The next session included a live demonstration by Sh. Rohit Chakravarty of NCBS on using eBird and its features, about how to submit the checklist, find species, uploading species count, mentioning breeding code (if any) and an option for entering remarks. He also showed audience the analytical tools available online which can be of great help to practicing scientists and students.

Both presentations concluded with the importance of uploading data on eBird platform which will benefit the birders' society world across.

Scientific Approach to Bird Watching with special emphasis on Monitoring Bird Population



The lush green, beautiful campus of the Gujarat Forests Rangers College, Gujarat Forest Department at Rajpipla was the venue of this 4 Day event (25-28 Dec 2014). The programme was designed to educate wildlife enthusiasts on the various scientific techniques useful during monitoring avian diversity and population. The session included not just bird-watcher members of the Society but also invited trainees from the State Forest Department. The event generated a checklist of more than 200 bird species sighted at various locations during the programme.

On the first day in his presentation Sh. Uday Vora C.F. and Principal, Forest Rangers College, discussed out various scientific methods commonly used for recording bird data. He shared his experiences on the subject and briefed various problems that one may encounter in the field during the exercise.

The post lunch session was equally interesting with Mr. I. R. Gadhvi, explaining the basics of bird watching including do's and don'ts of birdwatching and also the field ethics.

This was followed by Dr. Maulik Varu's introduction to eBird: a website for maintaining online checklist. He explained how to



Parenthood is an onward process directed one way and any anticipation of return benefits negates basis biological dictates.

record data, maintain personal checklist, share it with others and download data for research purpose.

The second day began with a field trip to Sagai forest, in the Shoolpaneshwar Sanctuary, Narmada Dist. The group was divided into small teams and each team was given a different route for a 'line transect'. A similar exercise was again carried out after lunch with 'spot counting' method. Thus the participants got an opportunity to actually practice both the methods that they studied on the first day. The programme also helped forest department trainees improve their skill on bird-watching and identifying birds with their common English names. On the other hand regular participants learnt more about plant identification from the rangers.

On the third day, beautiful and enchanting Ninai Falls was the location for bird watching. The place is very rich in flora and fauna and so a birders' paradise.

On the last day, the focus shifted to Wadhvana Lake, where the group was divided into teams and each of the teams was assigned a different block on the lake for bird count. This was the official bird census done for the Forest Department. Here participants got a firsthand experience of bird estimation on a wetland.

In the end, data and experiences were shared in the group and with the forest dept. staff.

BCSG Participation in Community Science Fair-2015, At NCSC-GNFC, Bharuch



Narmadanagar Community Science Center (NCSC-GNFC) is organizing annual science fair cum exhibition for students of Bharuch district. NCSC is inviting BCSG for participation since last 5 years and BCSG is arranging an exhibition stall every year. Our purpose of exhibition is to spread awareness regarding importance of nature education and conservation among students and also awareness about society's activities.

Last year we arranged a workshop on making a nest-box and a bird-feeder here.

BCSG Exhibition was visited by more than 3000 people. Visitors were students, teachers, parents and common citizens of Bharuch. We received good response from the visitors.

During five years of BCSG's participation in annual science fair by GNFC, we have got following benefits directly or indirectly.

- Now many people in Bharuch have started taking interest in birding.
- Many photographers from '18mm - Bharuch' have become good birders and have started photographing and identifying many local birds.
- Majority visitors at the exhibition have started keeping self made nest boxes, bird feeders and water baths in their gardens.
- We inspired some organizations like Rotary Corps of Bharuch, Dahej Industrial Association, NCSC etc for free distribution of Sparrow nests.
- A regular watch on population of peacock at Narmadanagar Township has been started by GNFC employees. At present more than 200 peacocks are residing in the complex. □



There will never be absolute perfection and it is continually aiming for the perfection alone that will get us to improve.