

BCSG Events

“BIRDING BY EAR” KEVDI ECO CAMP SITE, 24-25 SEPTEMBER 2016

As it is said, " A true birder sees more birds with the ears than with the eyes, as art of hearing can take one to every corner of the forest even during the darkest hours of night. 'Birding by ear', a training programme was organized by BCSG at Kevdi reserved forest - a dry deciduous forest near Ratanmal Sloth Bear Sanctuary in Dahod Dist.- on 24-25 September 2016.

Recognizing birds through their calls is a skill and its fun train one's ears for the same. Viral Joshi from Amreli who has done lot of work in the field of recording, preserving and deciphering bird calls was our resource person. After his audio-visual presentation on the subject, participants were taken on different birding treks. They were instructed to prepare a check-list of birds by listening to their calls. During field visits birders found it very interesting to learn and experience mimicking skills of the Leafbirds.

Presentation was attended and appreciated by DCF in-charge Sh. P. P. Vihol. The programme was nicely executed by Ghanshyam Solanki and Nilam Patel of Sanskar Adventure Club, Dahod.



BIRDING AT TULSISHYAM : 8-10 JULY 2016

Tulsishyam temple, inside Gir National Park, was selected for the BCSG monsoon birding camp held on 8-10 July, 2016. The three day program was witnessed by quintessential rainfall, which had transformed the dry deciduous forest to lustrous green.

The first day's trek started from Tulsishyam temple, going approx 6-7 km from inside the forest region. The trek delighted the bird watchers when they got a chance to see 12 Indian Vultures soaring near the temple top and to hear the continuous calls of Cuckoos. On the second day, participants were awoken by the sound of torrential rains and birds in the vicinity. The day included a trek near Raval Dam, Sarnikhodiyar temple and Nandivela hill base via Kothariya village. For the Kothariya village trek, we were accompanied by ACF in-charge Shri M. M. Muni and Forest guard I. A. Pathan, who shared their knowledge of Gir. The final day's birding trek for Khajuri Ness included a visit to a maldhari abode (cattle herders of Gir Forest).

The show stealer for the program were the Cuckoos, which were sighted in umpteen numbers. Some of the species seen were Asian Koel, Grey-bellied Cuckoo, Drongo Cuckoo, Common Hawk Cuckoo, and Common Cuckoo.

BCSG is indebted to the Forest Department, especially Dr. A. P. Singh, CCF in-charge, Junagadh Wildlife Circle, for his permission and generous support.

Execution of the programme was managed by Bhanubhai Acharya and Ajit Bhatt. □



“

"I think, as a matter of course, in a hot country like ours; every road should be in deep shade. If it is broad, then trees on either side of the road and also along the center. If the road is narrow, then smaller trees perhaps alternating on either side. But, there would need to be a proper group of men who prune these trees to keep them within the space available - removing old and dangerous branches, and above all, the huge leaf fall should be carefully collected and sent to centers where high grade humus is produced..... not just being dumped with other solid waste. As for the species of trees to be planted, it is here that we should have public involvement and committees formed by concerned citizens. I have for long been thinking of writing something on replacing the huge lawns down the middle of Gandhinagar with a dense grove of evergreen trees. Similarly replacing all the twiggy deciduous trees along the avenues by great shade trees..."

If there are good surroundings, birds and smaller creatures will be around. The problem is of people and the haphazard use of space. This has to be regulated and the property owners abutting these spaces should be involved. It is simply a matter of having clear concepts specially by those who are in the administration. I would like to draw your attention to the fact that in crowded slum areas, we see more of our indigenous trees because these trees provide shade. It is in the better-class housing areas where we have problems and it is these who need to be made to see the right way: by example, by ridicule, and by very strict punishment!"

”

- Lavkumar Khachar

(Source: In conversation with Pranav Trivedi)

