

Flamingo

Newsletter of the Bird Conservation Society, Gujarat



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Bird Conservation Society, Gujarat (BCSG) was founded in 2000 with the objective of conservation of birds of the State through field research, documentation, training, awareness activities, networking with like-minded NGOs; and lobbying for protection of birds and their habitats. It is the only statewide network of bird-watchers, ornithologists and conservationists of Gujarat striving to achieve the above goal.

BCSG brings out a quarterly newsletter – 'Flamingo'. Articles, notes on bird-life of Gujarat, interesting bird sightings, knowledge about important bird areas, information / appeal regarding conservation issues, reports on society's events and activities are published in 'Flamingo'. For publication of articles/notes in the Flamingo, both the common English and scientific names must be given when a bird species is mentioned for the first time and later references, common English name only. Common English and scientific names should follow Richard Grimmett, Carol Inskipp and Tim Inskipp (2011), Birds of Indian Subcontinent, Second edition. Oxford University Press, New Delhi. If the nomenclature is adopted from other source, full reference should be given.

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Editorial.... (by invitation)

Asian Waterbird Census 2017 to Highlight Coastal Count

Asian Waterbird Census - an international waterbird census programme initiated in by Wetland International in 1987 completed its journey of 30 years in last January. The Asian Waterbird Census (AWC) forms part of the global International Waterbird Census that marked its 50th count in 2016.

Over the last half century, the IWC has evolved into the largest coordinated biodiversity monitoring programme on Earth expanding from a small number of Western Palearctic countries to cover over 100 countries worldwide. All counters and national coordinators can be really proud of what the IWC has helped to achieve. Over five million square kilometres of wetlands have been identified as being internationally important and 1 million square kilometres are designated as Ramsar Sites worldwide. The IWC data has also helped detect population declines in time and triggered adequate management actions both at site and at flyway level. Thus, the IWC is an essential element of the toolbox of waterbird and wetland conservation.

Gujarat is on the top amongst all the participating states in AWC programme with reference to number of wetlands counted, total bird count as well as number of participants. Every year about one hundred sites across the state are covered by the birdwatchers of Gujarat. During all these years, the sites being covered were large fresh water body. Very few coastal sites were covered due to various reasons. This year in January 2017, the emphasis of Asian Waterbird Census is on 'Indian Ocean coastal counts'. The objective is to identify important coastal wetland sites supporting higher number of bird species for conservation purpose. The Bird Conservation Society, Gujarat (BCSG) has planned coastal bird census during upcoming AWC 2017. Members of BCSG are conducting waterbird census since its inception in 1987. Dr. B. M. Parasharya – a State Coordinator of this programme and vice president of the society said that total twenty teams are identified to cover important sites on the entire coastal area of our state. Gujarat has 1650 km long coastal line with some difficult areas to approach. The society aims to cover at least 50 important coastal sites in January 2017. In fact, several coastal sites in Gulf of Khambhat and Gulf of Kachchh qualify as 'Ramsar Site'- a wetland site of International importance. Dr. Bakul Trivedi, Secretary of BCSG said that such important sites can be highlighted only through such special drives.

The recommended dates for the AWC 2017 are Saturday 7 to Sunday 22, January 2017, covering 2 weeks and three weekends, when we should encourage birdwatchers of the state to count waterbirds. These dates are for guidance only and counts from any date in January are very much welcome.

- Bhavbhuti Parasharya