



iNaturewatch Foundation
Annual Report (May 2016-March 2017)



April 2017

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iNaturewatch Foundation

ANNUAL REPORT (May 2016- Mar 2017)

1. SUMMARY

The iNaturewatch Foundation Activity Report summarizes the activities conducted by the Foundation in from May 2016 to March 2017. To fulfill the organization's aim of developing environmentally sensitive citizens by engaging them with environment iNaturewatch had conducted a diverse range of innovative activities including projects, programs & online courses. With these activities, we have steadily increased our reach from the city of Kharghar to the entire country.

This year iNaturewatch Foundation conducted seven walks, two camps, two talks, four online courses and 24 mangrove awareness sessions successfully reaching out to 1285 people in the process.. Geographically we have reached out to cities like Navi Mumbai, Mumbai, Bangalore, Kolkata and many other cities. By the end of the year Rs.13, 692/-was generated as surplus.

2. PROJECTS

iNaturewatch has three main projects under its belt:

- **Urban iNaturewatch Challenge**

A lecture was delivered for the students of SIES College of Science & Commerce, Nerul on 7th October, 2016 to explain Urban iNaturewatch Challenge which they would adopt as their environmental science project.



- **Urban Wildlife Habitats Recognition Program**

The successful recognition of our first 'Urban Wildlife Habitat' as Great Wildlife Habitat created by Mr. Madhusudhan Shukla at Bangalore was indeed a milestone for the foundation. Incidentally, Mr. Madhusudan is a former student of our Gardening for Wildlife course.



▪ **Shorekeepers of Mumbai-Mangrove awareness program (Nov'16-Mar'17)**

iNaturewatch Foundation is currently acting as knowledge partner for United Way of Mumbai's 'Mission Mangrove' initiative. The Shorekeepers of Mumbai program includes talks and quiz based on mangroves. The awareness session is conducted free of cost for schools, colleges and community groups in Mumbai, Thane and Navi Mumbai. Till now, we have conducted 24 sessions for various schools, colleges and community groups and have successfully reached more than 1000 people.

3. PROGRAMMES

A total of seven walks & two camps were organized for nature enthusiasts, children & citizens to educate them about their immediate environment. For the walks we visited places in Mumbai & around Navi Mumbai like the Green Valley Park, Belapur, Talawe wetland, Nagla Block of SGNP, Kharghar Hills and Sewri. The insect tourism camp was held at Bheemashankar while the day camp for young birders included visiting three locations namely Green Valley Park, Urban Haat & Kharghar Hills. (See Annexure 1 for photos and Annexure 2 for no. of participants.



4. MODULES AND EDUCATION MATERIALS

This year we developed two education modules (*See Annexure 3*)

- **Program module for schools and colleges**

We developed a program module for students in school/ colleges that could be incorporated in their syllabus. The module consists of a list of activities like talks, walks, workshops and camps that can aid in their environment education.

- **Education material for Bird camp**

A booklet about birds for children participating in the camp was made. The booklet contained information about bird anatomy and tips on bird identification. Besides the education modules, a presentation for the Mangrove Awareness Program was developed. The presentation is an illustrative guide to basic information about Mumbai's mangroves and their biodiversity.

5. ONLINE COURSES

The online courses seem to have found a connection with most of the nature enthusiasts. We developed 4 courses this year. Each course has tenure of 3 months, in which six chapters, six chat sessions with experts in the respective field, online assignments, field work assignments and project work is incorporated. The field assignments and project work are voluntary exercises guided by us. The participants are given choice to audit the course or opt for credit.

- **Bugs for Beginners (Oct-Dec'16)**

It is one of the first from our online courses series. We have received a great response from enthusiastic insect lovers from all over India & got 8 students enrolled into the course. We have Dr. Shubhalaxmi, Mr. Isaac Kehimkar, Dr. Unniyal, Dr. George Mathew and Dr. Kakkassery as experts in this course.



- **Gardening for Wildlife (Oct-Dec'16) and (Feb- Apr'17)**

We had two batches of this course that teaches participants to transform their garden to wildlife havens. We had 3 students enrolled into the course. Dr. Urmila Rajadhyaksha and Mr. Isaac Kehimkar guide the students as experts.



- **Birds for Beginners (Dec'16-Feb'17) and (Mar-May'17)**

This course received an immense response and was conducted in two batches. We had 15 participants enrolling from all over India and have received positive feedback from all of them. Two renowned ornithology experts Dr. Asad Rahmani and Dr. Parvish Pandya acted as experts for the course. Besides, for the chat session we have experts like Dr. Balachandran, Neha Sinha and Dr. Ketki Marthak.



- **Botany for Beginners (Feb- Apr'17)**

This was the last course to be developed. We had 4 plant enthusiasts enrolled into the course. Experts like Dr. Rajendra Shinde, Ms. Renee Vyas, Mr. Isaac Kehimkar and Dr. H.M Pandit were part of this course.



6. OUR TARGET AUDIENCE

So far, we have been able to reach a varied audience including students, nature enthusiasts & citizens. Though, the number of audience attending the programs is still less, the number of audience that we have been able to engage & persuade to register for events is 1285. Also, we have partnered with United Way of Mumbai which is an international NGO.

Table 1: List of Programmes and Participants

	Online Courses	Walks	Camps	Mangrove Awareness Programmes
Mumbai	6	77	1	699
Navi Mumbai	1	42	5	400
Thane	1	6	-	29
Delhi	5		-	-
Bangalore	8	-	-	-
Chennai	1	-	-	-
Kolkata	1	-	-	-
Others(Thane, Pune, Kolahpur, Udaipur)	3	-	-	-
Total	26	125	6	1128
Outreach	1285			



Table 2: List of Organizations

Sr. No.	List of organizations
1	IES School, Bhandup
2	Umedbhai Patel School, Malad
3	Yashawantrao Dode School
4	Vishwajyot School Kharghar
5	Vidyalankar College , Wadala
6	Sai Baba path Mumbai Public School, Parel
7	Raghunath Vihar Army CHS, Kharghar
8	Vakola Muncipal School, santakruz
9	Goldcrest High
10	Nadkarni Public School, Wadala
11	Sacred Heart School, Vashi
12	Rajiv Gandhi High School, Mulund
13	Vidya Prabodhini English School,Gokhale road, Opp Ganesh Talkies, Mulund east, Mumbai – 400081
14	I .D.Uttari Bharati Sabha Hindi-English High School, Station Road, Bhandup West
15	Urban Biodiversity Conservation Group, Thane (w)
16	Pillai’s Institute of Information Technology
17	SIES College, Nerul

7. FEEDBACK (See Annexure 4)

We have received a positive feedback from all our programs especially the online courses.

8. MEDIA COVERAGE (See Annexure 5)

- Insect Watch at CBD Valley Park, 18 Aug Midday issue, page 27
- The Naturalist Training Program, 11 Aug Midday issue
- An article written by Mr. Vikram Jit Singh, based on our Insect pilgrimage to Bheemashankar & Dr.V Shubhalaxmi undying interest in entomology was published in Hindustan Times.
- Our event 'Creekwatch for Birds' featured in 7th March's Mid-day Mumbai issue, page 7

9. ORGANIZATION TEAM

The organization has three staff members;

- Ms. Krutika Dalvi, Projects Officer
- Ms. Pradnya Dalvi, Programmes Officer
- Ms. Priti Choghale, Projects Manager (part time)

Krutika Dalvi attended a social media session, “Twitter workshop for NGOs’ on 27th September, 2016 that was hosted by the US Consulate, Twitter India and Safecity.

10. STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS

Since its inception, the foundation generated income (including Trustee’s donation) of Rs. **3,25,415**
The surplus at the year end is **Rs.13,692/-**. SME BOTS are handling the accounting work.



11. FUTURE PLANS

The Mangrove awareness project with the United Way of Mumbai was extended to have 20 more sessions till the month of June. Also, new batches of the online courses will begin in the month of June, 2017. Similarly, one walk will be conducted every month and workshops/ camps will be planned every 2-3 months. Besides we are also planning to offer free environmental audits for housing societies and competitions for school students. *(See Annexure 7 for Annual Event Calendar for 2017-18)*

12. CONCLUSION

iNaturewatch Foundation began with a mission to build capacities of local communities for nature conservation and climate change through citizen science in India and with every passing month it is closer to achieving its mission. The months of May- March 2017 have provided leverage to the upcoming events of iNaturewatch Foundation.

ANNEXURE 1: PROGRAMME PHOTOGRAPHS

- *Monsoon Flora Walk at Kharghar Valley*



- *Insect watch at Valley Park, CBD Belapur*



- *Karvi Flowers Trail to Nagla block on 18th September, 2016*



- *Butterfly Watch At Green Valley Park, Belapur CBD on 23rd October, 2016*



- *Insect Pilgrimage to Bheemashankar Wildlife Sanctuary*



- *Bird camp for Young Birders on 12th November, 2016.*



- *Be a Bird Scientist Program on 13th November, 2016*



- *Bird watching at Kharghar Hills, on 4th December, 2016*



- *Rendezvous with Flamingos at Sewri, 29th January 2017*





ANNEXURE 2: LIST PROGRAMME PARTICIPANTS

▪ Walks

Date	Event	Number of participants
31 July	Monsoon Flora Walk at Kharghar Valley	10
21 August	Insect watch at Valley Park, CBD Belapur	18
18 September	Karvi Flowers Trail to Nagla block	4
23 October	Butterfly Watch At Green Valley Park, Belapur CBD	13
13 November	Be a Bird Scientist Program	25
4 December	Bird Watching at Kharghar Hills	19
29 January	Rendezvous with Flamingos	72

▪ Camps

Date	Event	Number of participants
28-30 October	Insect Pilgrimage to Bheemashankar Wildlife Sanctuary	2
12 November	Bird Camp for Young Birders	3

▪ Online Courses

Name of Course	Batches	Number of Participants
Bugs For Beginners	Batch 1 (Oct - Dec 2016)	7
Gardening for Wildlife	Batch 1 (Oct - Dec 2016)	2
	Batch 2 (Feb - May 2017)	1
Bird for Beginners	Batch 1 (Dec - Feb 2017)	12
	Batch 2 (Mar - Jun 2017)	4
Botany For Beginners	Batch 1 (Feb - April 2017)	4



▪ **Mangrove Awareness Programme**

Date	Name of School / Collage	Number of participants
26 November 2016	IES School, Bhandup	35
6 December 2016	Umedbhai Patel School, Malad	43
7 December 2016	Umedbhai Patel School, Malad	34
8 December 2016	Umedbhai Patel School, Malad	39
9 December 2016	Umedbhai Patel School, Malad	42
14 December 2016	Yashawantrao Dode School	67
20 December 2016	Vishwajyot School Kharghar	59
20 December 2016	Vishwajyot School Kharghar	54
21 December 2016	Vishwajyot School Kharghar	59
21 December 2016	Vishwajyot School Kharghar	57
22 December 2016	Vishwajyot School Kharghar	54
26 December 2016	Vidyalankar College , Wadala	85
05 January 2017	Sai Baba path Mumbai Public School, Parel	30
06 January 2017	Raghunath Vihar Army CHS, Kharghar	22
12 January 2017	Vakola Muncipal School, santakruz	22
13 January 2017	Goldcrest High	42
17 January 2017	Nadkarni Public School, Wadala	33
17 January 2017	Nadkarni Public School, Wadala	35
19 January 2017	Sacred Heart School, Vashi	53
06 February 2017	Vidyalankar College , Wadala	49
13 February 2017	Rajiv Gandhi High School, Mulund	63
13 February 2017	Vidya Prabodhini English School,Gokhale road, Opp Ganesh Talkies, Mulund east, Mumbai - 400081	63
28 February 2017	I .D.Uttari Bharati Sabha Hindi-English High School, Station Road, Bhandup West	59
18 March 2017	Community Group, Thane (w)	29
	Total	1128



ANNEXURE 3: EDUCATION MODULES AND MATERIALS: Program Modules

Sr No	Activity	Duration (hours)	Topics	Activities Include	Fees
INDOOR ACTIVITIES					
1	Environmental Talks	2	Insects Life Plant life, Bird Life, Marine Life, Our Environment, Waste Management, Climate change, Gardening for Wildlife, Animal Classification, Plant Classification, Animal Architecture, Plant-Animal Interaction, Adaptations in Nature	Talks by experts on subject chosen along with a quiz session.	Rs.2000/- per session (AV projector, screen and laptop to be provided by the institution)
2	Workshops	3	Making of Birds homes, Making of Insect homes. Kitchen Gardening, Gardening for Wildlife Eco-friendly Lifestyles	The participants will be guided by our expert & hands-on-training will be given.	Rs.1000/- per head (excludes materials required for the participants)
OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES					
4	Day Field Camps in Navi Mumbai	8	Summer Camp/Winter Camp/Monsoon Camp	The camp will include a combination of indoor activities & trails to educate children about the flora & fauna of the region	1200/- per head (includes, travel, food and certificate)
			Bird Camp, Butterfly Camp and Tree Camp	The camp will include a combination of indoor activities: quiz session, lecture & outdoor activities like trails, field technique demonstration,	
5	Nature Walks in Navi Mumbai	2	Butterfly Walk/Bird Walk/ Tree Walk/Wildflowers Walk/Monsoon Walk/Winter Ecology Walk	The walks can be held at the following locations according to the season: Kharghar Driving Range, Kharghar Hills, Valley Park, Artiste Village, Devi Saddle, Talave Wetlands, Vashi Mini Seashore, Karnala Bird Sanctuary.	(5-15 years): 150/- per Child Rs. 250/- per Adult



Bird Camp Booklet



Bird Camp for Young Birders

(12 November 2016)



By



iNaturewatch Foundation

2, Mandar CHS, Plot A-23,
Sector-12, Kharghar,
Navi Mumbai- 410210
9987013144

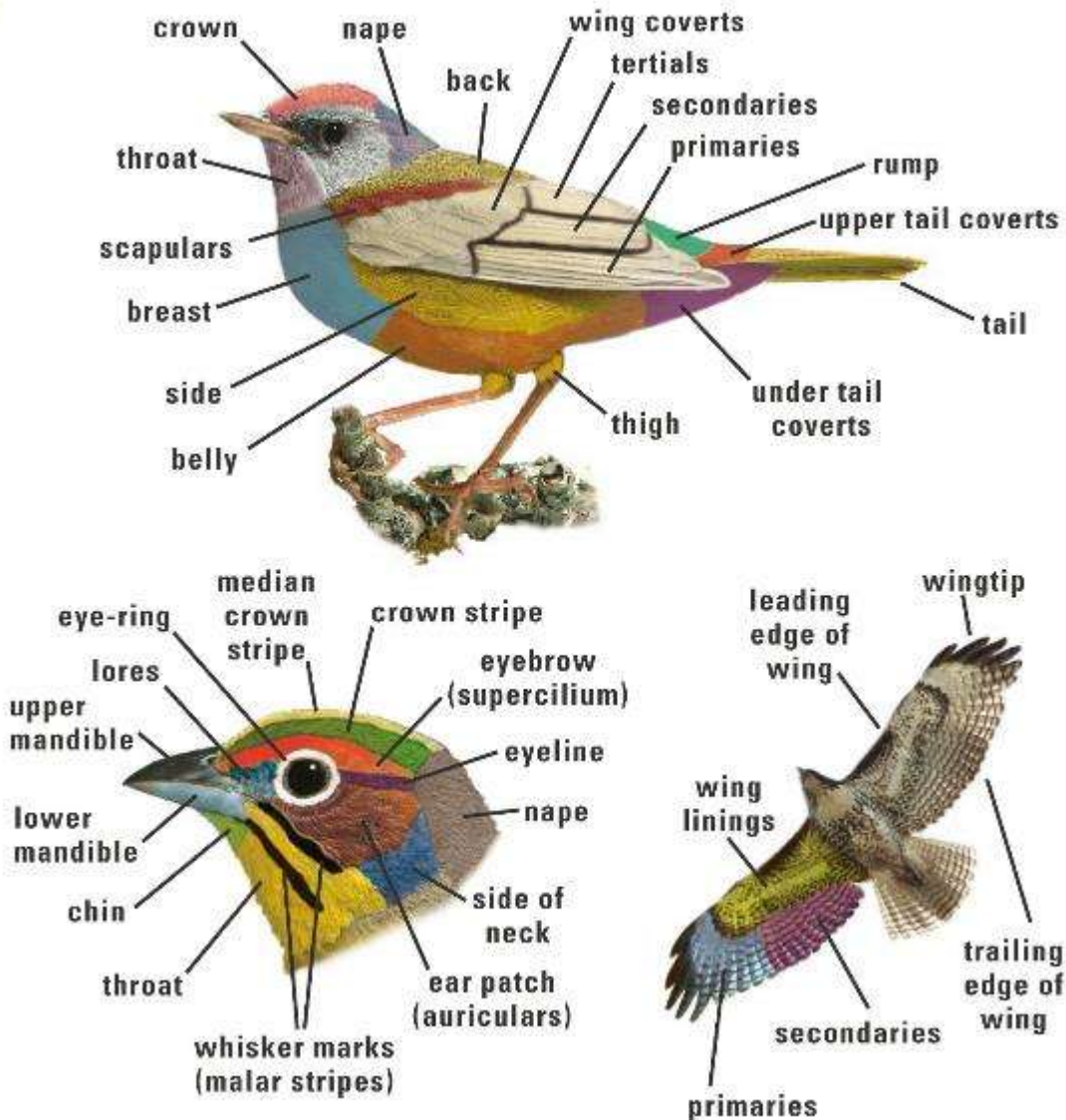


What is a Bird?

Birds or Aves are described as a feathered biped (two-legged animals). They are warm-blooded vertebrates (animals with backbones) that always give birth through eggs. Bats may be confused with birds but bats are mammals (animals that feed their young with milk) and have fur on their body.

Birds can maintain their body temperatures like we do; therefore they are referred to as warm-blooded. The body temperature is up to 43.5 °C which is highest among all animals. Feathers being bad conductors of heat help in maintaining a constant body temperature. In spite of having wings, many birds such as Penguins and Ostrich, do not fly. India has no flightless birds.

Birds have evolved into a staggering range of body sizes and colors. They are found all over between polar ice caps and tropical rain forests. World over there are 9,934 bird species and in India there are about 1300 + bird species including the migratory birds. The study of birds is called as Ornithology and people who study them are called as Ornithologists.

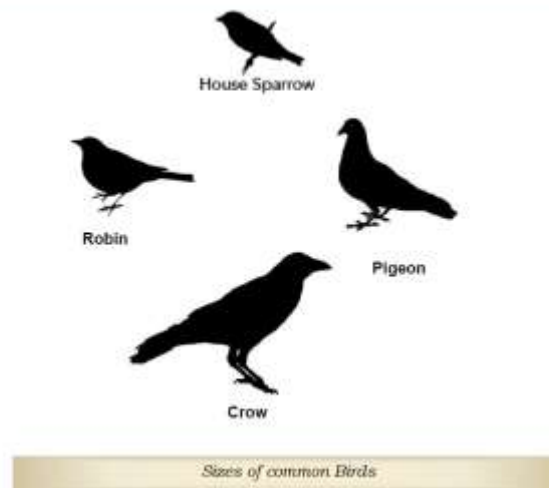


Bird body parts

Identification of Birds

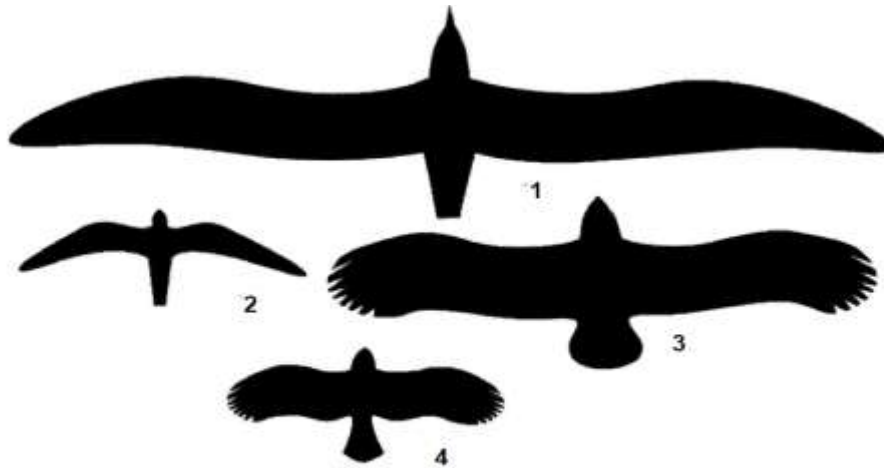
For the identification of the greater majority of birds, only some important characteristic, be it posture, shape, action or some other behavior, and, not to forget, habitat preference, are vital clues. The very first step of bird watching is to go out and observe birds. The second step is to lookout for any of the eight below described characteristics, either physical or behavioral, to finally help pin down the accurate identity of your feathered sighting. Let's discuss these eight routes

(i) Identification By Size:



(ii) Identification By Colour: Like size, colour is yet another very obvious feature, and especially with birds.

(iii) Identification by Shape: Often a birder can manage to recognize a bird in dim light, even against the light, merely by its silhouette appearance. All birds have distinctive shapes (call it structuring) and the way they present themselves. Shape is essentially a mix of posture, build, head, beak, wings, legs and tail. Together, these constitute the form and shape of any bird.



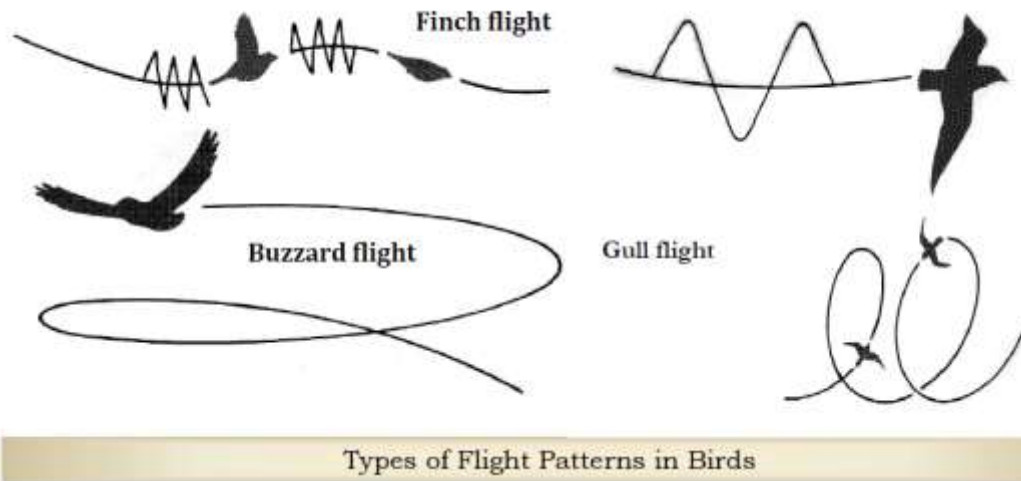
1. Slow gliding/ Soaring Wings: High aspect ratio and pointed wing tips. E.g. Albatross, 2. High speed flight: Pointed, long wing. E.g. Falcon, 3. Gliding: Low aspect ratio and slotted wings. E.g. Eagle, 4. Agile flight E.g. Crow

(iv) Looking for other Field-marks/Patterns: Besides the general colour scheme on these field-marks can help distinguish between species, and even between sexes of certain species. These field-marks can

take the form of such developments as streaks on upper and/or under-bodies, eye-stripes, crown-stripes, wing-bars, tail-bands, neck-stripes, white or pale rumps, or actual physical modifications, bare, unfeathered skin about the face etc. or some peculiar development of certain feathers, perhaps in the tail or of the crest.

(v) Identification by Behavior/Actions: Every species has a certain distinctive peculiarity about itself, the way it behaves — its mannerism. A woodpecker can be recognized not just by its shape and preference for moving on tree-stems and branches, but also its demeanor; a flycatcher can be instantly told by its habit of making frequent, short sallies after winged insects and returning to its perch; a sparrow by its hopping movement whilst larks and pipits by their walk, swifts and swallow by their almost-constant flying about, but again, the swallows can perch on wires and thin branches whilst swifts cannot. Like these, the greater majority of birds have characteristic styles that tell one from the other.

(vi) Flight as an Identification Clue:



(vii) Habitat Preference & Time/Season: All birds are creatures of a certain habitat, a particular kind of environment. As far as possible most birds prefer to stick in their familiar surroundings, many of them remaining even outside their breeding season. In a forest, you can always expect to see certain kinds of birds in the various storeys. In the upper, leafy branches are purely arboreal birds such as barbets, orioles and minivets; the stems and branches are home to woodpeckers; the upper-middle and lower storeys hold various drongos, bulbuls, babblers; the lower bush and scrub has yet other kinds of babblers, bulbuls, doves.

(viii) Calls & Song in Field Identification

Bird call Mnemonics

- I will beat you- Spotted Babbler
- Did you do it- Red wattled Lapwing
- Brain Fever – Common Hawk Cuckoo
- Pateela Patella – Grey francolin
- Jimmy, Jimmy, Jimmy, Jimmy- Ashy Prinia



Importance of Birds

Birds as a Food Resource: Birds are the prime source of food for humans. They produce eggs and also meat. There are many types of birds used for meat purposes like turkey, hen, ducks, geese, quails etc. The meat of birds is consumed as daily food in many countries depending on the type of bird available.

Pest Controllers: Birds rely on insects and their larva to feed themselves and their babies. So during crop season, there is wide growth of insect population due to favorable conditions. Birds keep the growth under control and help the crop from pest attack.



Rodent Controllers: Unlike insects, rodents are a big problem to crops. Rodents eat away the yield of the crop. Birds like eagles keep an eye on these rodents and carry away for consumption. Thus they keep the rodent growth under control which in-turn helps the farmers.

Scavengers: We might have come across birds circled around a dead corpse of animals. Even in forest, once an animal is left out by lions and tigers, the rest is consumed by birds. Birds are natural scavengers. They help keep the nature clean of dead and decay matter. Vulture, Crows, Kites are good scavengers.



Pollinators: Birds help in cross pollination. And cross pollination helps in formation of healthy seeds.

Seed Dispersers: Birds are the key in seed dispersal. Hence we see plants growing spontaneously at different places on the soil. The birds eat the fruit or seeds of the plants. Some of them remain undigested and get excreted as such. When these seeds reach the soil, they can germinate in favorable conditions. Thus birds helps in natural seed dispersal and plant propagation.

enhances the fertility.

Guano Providers: Birds excreta is rich in uric acid which can readily convert to ammonia which is a fertile manure to plants. The birds around the farm may contribute less to the manure. But the waste from poultry if added to the soil, it greatly

Facts on Bird Architecture

All birds need to lay eggs and incubate them with their own body heat. A **bird nest** is a place where a bird lays its eggs. The nest protects the eggs and the incubating bird from predators. There are all kinds of nests, from cup nests to digging holes in the ground to simply stuffing some cotton in leaves. They are in all kinds of sizes: some can be as big and heavy as a car, like an old eagle's nest, while some can be tiny as a coin, like the nest of a Bee Hummingbird.

Ground nest: Lapwing, Jungle fowls, shore and sea birds, Nightjars and Larks nest on ground, usually with pad of grass. The eggs are well camouflaged with the surroundings.



Tree nest: A large number of birds such as Crows, Kites, Doves, Vultures, Storks, Cormorants build their nests on Tree using twigs for platform with depression in centre, lined with soft material like feathers and grass. Woodpeckers, Hornbills, Owls nest in tree holes excavated in living or decayed wood.



Mud nest: Whistling Thrush, Swallows, Flamingo make nest using mud which is hardened using their saliva. The Flamingo nest are found in hundred close to one another in a compact expansive city.



Pendant Nest: The weaver bird build Pendant nest. The weaver bird weaves nest out of grass and fiber which has entrance like a vertical tunnel restricted only to small birds.

Nest of Leaves: Tailor birds use their sharp beaks as needles and cobwebs as threads.

Nest made out of birds own saliva: Edible nest Swiftlets breed in large colonies, construct half saucer shaped nest out of their saliva which may or may not be reinforced by straws and feathers, attached to the walls of grottos or caves.



Floating nests: The jacanas build the skimpy pad of twisted weed stem on floating lily leaves. The bird can easily stride on these leaves using its disproportionately long feet. Biscuit



Mystery of Migration

Why do birds Migrate?

Birds migrate during winter when food becomes scarce. Many migrate from colder climate, temperate countries to tropical countries. There are local migrants (e.g. Indian Pitta, Paradise flycatcher, etc.) as well as international migrants (e.g. Siberian Crane). When mountain birds such as Monal Pheasant descend down escape the cold, it is known as altitudinal migration.

Preparing for the Journey:

Besides laying down fat reserves, migrating birds also need to eat a lot sometimes double their weight to fuel their regular feather moults. Their feathers must be in tip-top condition for their long trips.

How do birds migrate?

Migration puts tremendous pressure on a bird's body system. Bird save energy by flying in formation of "V" or long staggering lines. The leading bird faces the greatest air resistance; the followers in formation face lesser resistance. They use variety of techniques and instincts to navigate precisely. Visual memories of flyways, large landmarks at stopping and resting sites, relative position of sun in day and constellation at night might be helping them.

The longest Migration: The longest migration is undertaken by the Arctic Tern. It breeds in the Arctic North in the summer, then flies all the way to the other pole to spend winter on the Antarctic ice pack.



Some birds fly at amazing heights- upto 20,000ft to cross the tallest mountains like the Himalayas and the Andes. Penguins swim to migrate while some migrate partially by walk.



Bird Facts

- The largest bird of the world is North African Ostrich (125 kg) and smallest is Bee Humming bird (1.6 g).
- Amongst Indian birds the largest is the Sarus Crane (1.56 m tall), smallest is Tickell's Flower Pecker (8 cm)
- Lammergeyer has longest wingspan is (2.40m).
- The Peregrine Falcon is the world's fastest bird. They can dive at 280 kmph
- The largest living bird, the ostrich, lays an egg which is 4500 times heavier (1.4 kg) than that of the smallest, a humming bird (0.35 gm).
- An arctic tern ringed in Russia in July 1955 was found 22,400 kms away in Australia, less than one year later.
- The barn owl's night vision is 100 times better we human beings!
- Cave-dwelling Swiftlets are the only birds to use sonar in maneuvering through darkness. Its sonar consists of clicking sounds at frequencies of 1,500 to 5,500 hertz — audible to the human ear. Not only can they navigate in total darkness, but they can find their own individual nest among hundreds of others.
- A group of owls is called a parliament and a group of ravens is called a murder.
- Unlike other birds that incubate eggs by their body warmth, Megapode of the Nicobar Islands buries its eggs in a large mound of scraped-up sand and leaves them to be incubated by the heat generated within by fermentation of humus. The chicks on emergence are self-reliant and able to fly and fend for themselves.
- The hill myna and the Racket-tailed Drongo are two known bird mimics that have fantastic repertoire of whistles, wails, shrieks, gurgles, groans and squeaks. Each individual uses 3 to 13 such calls, none of which are shared with its mate, but many which are shared with its neighbours. However the hill myna never imitates other birds in wild. That is the specialty of the racket-tailed Drongos.
- Ducks like the shoveller migrate to breed, but their journeys are usually shorter than those of geese and their flight faster. A migrating duck can travel up to 1600 km in a single day, averaging nearly 70 kmph.
- Members of the crow family, such as the raven, are the acknowledged intellectuals of the bird world.

ANNEXURE 4: FEEDBACK FROM ONLINE COURSES

- Online course on Bugs for Beginners

A vertical stack of four feedback cards, each with a circular profile picture on the left and a text box on the right. The cards are colored red, orange, yellow, and green from top to bottom. The text in each card is italicized.

*Because of this course, my point of view towards insects has changed. I now approach them in a scientific way. It is surprising to know the diverse insects in my neighborhood.*
-Atita Taware, Thane

*Excellent course to start with if you are keen about learning insects from scratch. How far you go with your interest is dependent on you, but this course gives you a solid foundation.*
-Shashank Birla, Mumbai

*This course is one of its kind with loads of knowledge about the insect world. Thank you inaturewatch team for such a wonderful course.*
-Barun Raj, Kolkatta

*I would recommend this course to adults both lay people and students interested in entomology as it lays a good foundation.*
-Rama Rane, Bangalore

Source: Inaturewatch

- **Online course on Birds for Beginners**

Here's what some of our course participants of Batch I - Online course on Birds for Beginners had to say about the course...



Participant 1: 
"The subject was covered in depth. I have learned the technique of identifying birds. It has also helped me learn about analyzing birds in a structured-documented manner; especially about bird diversity and seasonality. If you are looking to learn more about birds, beyond a good photograph, this is certainly the course to join. Thank you team for being supportive and encouraging us!"
- Deepam Yogi, Mumbai

Participant 2: 
"Great course for any budding bird watcher. lot of useful information and ideas."
- Divya Ramji, Chennai

Participant 3: 
"The course helped me structure my observations and learning. Over the course of 3 months I observed more than 30 species which I had never seen before. The techniques of observation shared also greatly helped - it taught me where to look and what to look for, and how to identify a bird once I sighted it. It also taught me the virtue of being patient!"
-Subramanyam Ramamatham, Bangalore

Participant 4: 
"It was a very meaningful course for me as I was looking for something like this to understand my environment better and plan my farm."
- Rama Rane, Bangalore

ANNEXURE 4: PHOTO GALLERY MEDIA COVERAGE

- Insect Watch at CBD Valley Park, 18 Aug Midday issue, page 27

mid·day
Thursday, August 18, 2016, Mumbai, web: www.mid-day.com, twitter: @mid_day

the guide

Spot a jewel in the wild

This week, attend an insect walk to discover colourful bugs, and rid yourself of entomophobia

sign up

WHILE you may dislike those whirring grasshoppers, have you spotted a beautiful cobalt blue-yellow Painted Grasshopper or for that matter, a gold-tinged Jewel Bug? If not, sign up for Insect Walk, the first insect nature trail organised by (Naturewatch Foundation, a charitable trust established in 2014. "The idea is to spread awareness about insects. While most nature trails focus on butterflies, there are many other insects which are as elegant and colourful," says Priti Choghale, projects manager at the foundation.

The trail, to be held this Sunday at Valley Park in CBD Belapur, will be conducted by Dr V Shubhalaxmi, an entomologist, who has worked with Bombay Natural History Society (BNHS) for 21 years. She currently heads a social enterprise, Ladybird Environmental Consulting. "Valley Park is a 50-hectare, thickly-wooded, wilderness expanse that



Painted Grasshopper

makes it an insect hub during monsoon. Besides, CIDCO has plans to develop it into a nature park, so we chose it as a venue for the trail," says Dr Shubhalaxmi, also known as the Moth Lady for she holds a doctoral degree on moths and conducts moth researches across the country. Besides butterflies, you can spot Painted Grasshopper, Bagworm Moth, Jewel Bug, Carpenter Bee, Spittlebug along with dragonflies, damselflies and stink bugs.

ON August 21, 8 am to 11 am AT Valley Park, near ONGC Colony, Sector 9, CBD Belapur (meeting point: entrance gate of the park). COST ₹150 CALL 9987013144

— Krutika Behrawala




Jewel Bug

- The Naturalist Training Program, 11 Aug Midday

mid·day Thursday, August 11, 2016, Mumbai, web www.mid-day.com, twitter @mid_day

the guide

Mumbai eye Trails around the city



NATURE TRAINING

ON August 13 to 15, 9 am to 4 pm
AT Nature Information Centre, Sanjay Gandhi National Park, Borivali (E). **FEE** ₹4,500 (includes training, trail fees, study material, certificate, tea and lunch)
CALL 9987013144 **EMAIL** inaturewatch@gmail.com
LAST DATE TO APPLY Today (On the spot registrations may be available depending on the availability of seats)

Learn to become an urban naturalist and conduct your own nature trails in a three-day programme offered by iNatureWatch Foundation. It is open to all nature lovers (from standard 10 onwards) even without a science background and will be conducted by Dr V Shubhalaxmi and Priti Choghale of Ladybird Environmental Consulting. Participants can also sign up for an apprenticeship with iNatureWatch post the programme.

- An article written by Mr. Vikram Jit Singh, based on our Insect pilgrimage to Bheemashankar & Dr.V Shubhalaxmi undying interest in entomology was published in Hindustan Times.

Wild Buzz | Of light in the forest, and painting mating leopards

Vikram Jit Singh, Hindustan Times, Chandigarh | Updated: Nov 01, 2016 00:26 IST



Moths flock to a light lure at a Sikkim forest rest house. (Photo: Dr Shubhalaxmi Vaylure)

DIYE JALTE HAIN

Could there be a finer articulation of a Green Diwali than observing moths flocking to a light lure on the night of the new moon? Away from the hurtful glare of city lights and the infernal din of crackers, Dr Shubhalaxmi Vaylure has planned Diwali night in a remote forest rest house at Bheemashankar in Maharashtra to lure these 'flying diyas'. An expert on moths and an environment educator, Dr Vaylure waits patiently as darkness engulfs the forest and moths flock to the light lure in the verandah, some decked in the daintiest of colours and patterns, others drab as only moths can be. Fireflies in the courtyard add to the Diwali ambience, as do the stars that twinkle fiercely, freed of the moon's dominance. Emerging from a netherworld that daylight hides, these are moths most humans will not have seen in a lifetime. When the sheet is bedecked with para-dropping moths, it evokes the imagination of a printed saree gracefully shrouding the night. Just last week, she was in Sikkim luring moths.

So mystical is her tryst with moths that Dr Vaylure has penned verses in anticipation of Diwali night: "Kali amavas Ki raat ho, Ek mercury bulb mere pass ho, Uspar Atlas moth ka saath ho, Uff phir kya baat ho, Din dugni raat choguni ho, Moths ki barsaat ho, Es Diwali alaam-e-khaas ho!"

When moths are collected for research using a light lure, the chosen specimens are picked off the sheet and killed in a poison jar. The residual moths are left to bats, lizards, monkeys, cats and birds to mop up as researchers do not turn off the lights through the night. But Vaylure switches off the light lure at midnight so that moths can fly back into the refuge of darkness. She would not want to turn this spectacle of Diwali lights into a "free breakfast" for lazy, holidaying predators in the dawn after Diwali.

- 'Creekwatch for Birds' featured in 7th March's Mid-day Mumbai issue, page 7



Stories from the creeks

Spend the long weekend with flamingos and herons, during a three-day bird-watching trail

SIGN UP

IF YOU love birds or are keen to spot the migratory flamingos before they leave the city, sign up for a three-day birding trail this weekend. Organised by iNaturewatch Foundation, a city-based charitable trust, the Creekwatch For Birds trail will be conducted at three locations. On Friday, head to Talawe Wetlands in Nerul, to soak in the view of the Panvel Creek.

"It's one of the few spots in Navi Mumbai that presents a wonderful opportunity to spot birds in their natural habitat," shares project officer Krutika Dalvi, who will conduct the trail. Here, you can spot waders or long-legged shore birds found on the coastal belt, including beaches, mudflats and wetlands. These include storks, flamingos, curlews or herons. "Owing to the minute differences between most wader species,

these birds often pose an identification challenge to amateur birders," shares Dalvi, who will help identify the birds using binoculars and spotting scope. In the following two days, visit Bhandup Pumping Station and Sewri Mudflats to spot Lesser and Greater Flamingos. "Guests will learn about their migratory patterns and get to spot forest birds like barbets and orioles. We will also spread awareness on the importance of mangroves," she adds.

ON March 11, 7.30 am to 10.30 am

AT Talawe Wetlands, Nerul, Navi Mumbai.

ON March 12, 8 am to 11 am

AT Bhandup Pumping Station, off Eastern Express Highway.

ON March 13, 4 pm to 6 pm **AT** Sewri Mudflats **COST** ₹250 (per day), ₹650 (three days) **CALL** 9987013144

The Guide Team





ANNEXURE 6: ANNUAL EVENT CALENDAR (MAY'17-MAR'18)

Month	Date	Event	Venue
May'17	5-7	Nature Modelling Workshop	Urban Haat, Belapur
	13-14	Nature Photography and Film Making Workshop	Urban Haat, Belapur
	19-21	Camp Woods for Seniors	Urban Haat, Belapur
	22	People's Biodiversity Register workshop	Don Bosco School
	26-28	Young Naturalists program	Urban Haat, Belapur
	28	Kitchen Gardening workshop	Urban Haat, Belapur
	28	Marine biodiversity walk	Girgaon beach
June	1	Launch of Online course on Botany	Online
	1	Launch of Online course on Bugs for beginners	Online
	1	Launch Online course on Kitchen Gardening	Online
	5	Environmental Audit for Housing Societies	Online
	11	Marine Walk to Celebrate World Ocean Day	Girgaon beach
	18	Special Event: Lovely Lilies	Urban Haat, Belapur
July	1	Van Mahotsav Slogan Competition for Schools	
	23	Special Event: Bugs Night	
	23	World Mangroves Day Walk	Airoli
August	6	Insect Watch	Driving range
	24	Special Event: Beautiful Bugs	Urban Haat, Belapur
September	1	Launch of online course: Birds for beginners	Online
	1	Launch of online course: Bugs for beginners	Online
	1	Launch of Gardening for Wildlife	Online
	3	Wildflowers Walk	Kharghar hills
	17	Special Event: Moth Magic	Urban Haat, Belapur
October	1	Wildlife Week Photography Competition	Online
	8	Butterfly Watching	Urban Haat, Belapur
	15-17	Winter Camp for Children	Urban Haat, Belapur
	22	Special Event: Bewitching Butterflies	Urban Haat
November	12	Bird Walk for Dr. Salim Ali	Talawe wetlands
	26	Workshop on Gardening for Wildlife	Online
December	1	Online course Birds for Beginners	Online
	1	Online course Botany for Beginners	Online
	3	Mangrove Walk	Airoli Mangroves
	22-24	Winter Camps for Children 2	Urban Haat, Belapur



January'18	7	Special Event: Breathtaking Birds	Urban Haat, Belapur
	21	Mangrove walk	Bhandup Pumping Station
February	2	Wetland Photography Competition	
	4	Flamingo watching- 2 walks	Sewri
	18	Special Event: Tantalizing Trees	Urban Haat, Belapur
March	4	Summer Blooms Walk	Central park Kharghar
	18	Kitchen Gardening workshop	Urban Haat, Belapur