

Eco Tour to Koonthangulam Bird Sanctuary

On 24 February 2018 the winners of Environment Day competitions 40 students representing 15 schools and the National Green Corps Coordinator of respective schools were taken to Koonthangulam Bird Sanctuary as part of “Wild Walk Day”. The forest department staff flagged off the event at Tirunelveli and addressed to the students about the importance of protecting the forests and its wealth – the plants and the wild animals. Further they stated that how forests are helpful to human-being, how they develop interest on wildlife by visiting sanctuaries, study them and taking part in animal census and trekking etc.,

Vijayalakshmi, Dist. Environment Awareness Coordinator, Tenkasi shared the students about the importance of the sanctuary in protecting birds. She asked the students to develop passion towards birds and do research projects on birds in your higher studies.

Selvin Samuel, District Environment Coordinator, Tirunelveli explained about the art of ‘Bird Watching’ and how to watch the birds without disturbing them, the bird trail and always maintain a bird notebook to note down whatever they see. Then the students were taken around the sanctuary to watch the birds. They were happy to see the trees with full of birds, nests, large pelicans flew over their head with fishes held at their long beaks.

Paul Pandian, Forest Bird Watcher shared his experience with the students. Then he told them some interesting facts about different birds and number of birds (339) visited this year. He sang a song related to bird characteristics which describes its colour, wing, leg, beak size, nature of nesting on ground and trees. Students enjoyed the song very much.

After bird watching, Rani Kirubairaj taught the students about Pangolins using ZOO materials and followed by quiz, song with folk dance “Kolattam” and took a pledge to save the animal.

Sudhakar Issac, S., Associate Professor, Dept. of Zoology, St. Johns College, Palayamkottai



Eco tour students participated in Pangolin quiz



Eco tour participants at Koonthangulam

gave a talk about ‘Bats’. He talked about the role of bats in the forest formation, development and sustenance. Zoo Outreach Organization’s ‘Bat Count’ pamphlets were given to all the participants. Students interacted with him by asking more questions on bats.

Forest Range Officer Palanisamy and Muniandi did all the arrangements.



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