

## International Vulture Awareness Day celebrated by Lucknow University, UP



**Poster competition among students**

The International Vulture Awareness Day is celebrated each year on the first Saturday of September. Biodiversity and Wildlife Conservation Lab, Department of Zoology and Institute for Wildlife Sciences, University of Lucknow in collaboration with U.P. State Biodiversity Board and Regional Science City, Lucknow, like every year this year also celebrated this day with great enthusiasm with social activities among school students as well as field work on vultures in different districts of Uttar Pradesh.

Activities related to vulture conservation such as painting and quiz were conducted. Around 300 students participated in it. Prof. Amita Kanaujia, vulture expert gave very informative ppt on vultures to the gathering. Winners of the competitions were felicitated with prizes of books of wildlife and vulture.

Moreover, the Research Scholars and volunteers spread awareness regarding the importance of vultures, their role in food cycle and the causes and consequences of their decline globally as well as at regional level in the local mass and school students of remote areas.



**Distribution of awareness materials among students**

An outreach vulture conservation programme was conducted at Primary school of Bhukapur, Lucknow. Students were encouraged to think about nature and nature's incinerators. The role of vultures in the food chain and thereby in maintenance of ecological balance has been explained to students.

**Submitted by: Amita Kanaujia & Shivangi Mishra, Dept. of Zoology, Lucknow, U.P.**  
**Email: [kanaujia.amita@gmail.com](mailto:kanaujia.amita@gmail.com)**

## Wildlife Week celebration at Anaikatty TRP School, The Nilgiris

On 7 October 2017, wildlife week was celebrated at Government Tribal Residential Primary School, Anaikatty, Udhagamandalam in collaboration with The Nature Trust, Chennai. The objective of the programme was to inculcate conservation of wildlife among the school children.

Dr. B. Ramakrishnan, talked about “Role of Elephants in the Ecosystem”. In his talk he talked about many interesting facts on elephants and its role maintaining the ecosystems in which they live on such as digging water in dry seasons for its own and other animals use, making gap in dense forest vegetation for other animals easy movement and seed dispersal through dung thereby helping forest regeneration.

KVRK. Thirunaranan, gave a talk on “Role of Tigers in the Ecosystem”. In his talk he told that tiger is a unique animal which plays a pivotal role as an indicator species in the health and diversity of an ecosystem and it positioned as top predator which is at the apex of the food chain and keeps the population of wild



**KVRK Thirunaranan talk**

ungulates in check, thereby maintaining the balance between herbivores and the vegetation upon which they feed.

A. Samson spoke on “Role of vultures in the Ecosystem”. He shared that vultures play a vital role as scavengers and keep the ecosystem clean by consuming dead animals. By ridding the dead animals, vultures prevent diseases such as anthrax, botulinum toxins, rabies, and hog cholera from spreading to humans and other animals.

J. Ladha, teacher shared “Role of Birds in the Ecosystem”. She stressed that birds are pollinators and play an important role in seed

dispersal and control the insect population. After each talk, the students were given ample time to raise their questions and they interacted very well.

KVRK. Thirunaranan donated sports kits and education materials to the school students. B. Prabhavathi, teacher gave vote of thanks

**Submitted by: A. Samson, B. Ramakrishnan, Mammalogy and Forest Ecology wing, Department of Zoology and Wildlife Biology, Government Arts College, Udhagamandalam, The Nilgiris. and KVRK. Thirunaranan, Founder, The Nature Trust, Chennai. Email: kingvulture1786@gmail.com**



## 63rd Wildlife Week celebrated by Assam University, Silchar



**Wildlife Week celebration at Saraswati Sisu Niketan**

To celebrate the 63rd Wildlife week, a couple of programmes were taken up by the Department of Ecology and Environmental Science, Assam University, Silchar in the first week of October, 2017. Awareness Programmes were held among the school goers in two different high schools, both located in the forest fringe areas, one in the Saraswati Sisu Niketan, Daloo, Cachar (situated at the foothills of Barail Wildlife Sanctuary) while the other at Kendriya Vidyalaya, Assam University campus (located in the fringe area of Inner-line Reserve Forest, Assam). Students of lower classes were given the task of drawing pictures of locally available various wild fauna and matching type of question/answers, while the senior students were asked to write essays on the 'Need of Wildlife Conservation' and quiz competitions were also organized. In both the places, video documentary on various aspects of wildlife were shown, which evoked enormous enthusiasm among the blooming minds of the students. In each of the category (pictorial identification/ matching type/quiz/essay writing), first, second and third prizes were given to the winners separately in both the schools. Headed by Prof Parthankar Choudhury, others who were involved in organising the programmes were Mr Biswajit Singha, Dr Anisur Rahman (both research scholars) and Mr Siddhartha Sen, an enthusiast staff of the Dept of Ecology and Environmental Science, Assam University, Silchar.

***Submitted by: Parthankar Choudhury, Head, Department of Ecology and Environmental Science, Assam University, Silchar. Email: [parthankar@rediffmail.com](mailto:parthankar@rediffmail.com); [auseesc@gmail.com](mailto:auseesc@gmail.com)***

## Wildlife Week report by WWF



**WWF staff addressing students during wildlife week at Coimbatore**

Western Ghats Nilgiris Landscape Office (WGNL) celebrated Wildlife Week 2017 in the Landscape at various locations. The main objectives of the programme was

To educate and impart knowledge on wildlife and conservation issues among the various stakeholders in the Western Ghats Nilgiri Landscape areas. To motivate and involve school and college students for wildlife conservation action. To impart knowledge and facts on various snake species and their habits among the forest (front line) staff at Sathyamangalam Tiger Reserve. To provide practical demonstration to the department staff to handle and rescue the snakes from the forest fringe/ urban and semi urban areas.

The following activities were conducted.

### **Wildlife awareness programme at Coimbatore**

On 4 October 2017, organized an awareness

programme in association with Kongunadu Arts and Science College, Coimbatore for college students on their campus. The programme consisted of a guest lecture and wildlife quiz competition for students of various departments. A total of 250 students from biology, arts, literature and computer science departments participated with a lot of enthusiasm. Dr. Venkitachalam, from ATREE addressed the students on Vultures Conservation in India. The winners of the quiz received prizes from Dr. C. A. Vasuki, Secretary and Director, Kongunadu Arts and Science College, Coimbatore.

### **Snake rescue and handling training for forest staff**

Frontline forest staff are often called to rescue snakes and other reptiles from homes and residential areas. However, not many of them have the knowledge and skills to handle such operations, placing them at risk. On 5th and 6th October 2017, organised “Snake Bite





**APW forest member handling snakes at STR**

Awareness, Rescue and Handling Techniques” for forest department frontline staff of Sathyamangalam Tiger Reserve in partnership with Madras Crocodile Park Trust (MCPT), Chennai, and association with Sathyamangalam Tiger Reserve authorities. The main objective of this training programme was to impart knowledge on venomous and non-venomous snakes, snake handling, rescue and release and first aid.

A total of 200 forest frontline staff (Anti-poaching Watchers), forest guards, foresters and rangers participated in the camps at Bhavanisagar and Hasanur. Mr. Ajay Karthick, Assistant Curator, Madras Crocodile Park Trust, trained the forest staff on snake species, habitat, distribution and venom. Following this, various documentaries on snake ecology and behaviour were screened.

Finally, he demonstrated the rescue techniques and handling procedures to the participants. The two-day training programme was well received by forest staff and officials and the knowledge and skills gained should help them in future rescue operations.

## **Nature camp at Attakatti**

A two-day nature awareness camp was

organised for students of R G Matriculation Higher Secondary School, Udumalpet on 7th and 8th October 2017 at Attakatti Training Centre camp site. The camp included various activities like orientation to Anamalai Tiger Reserve and its biodiversity, hiking, bird watching, and fun filled activities and games. Mrs Mullai Pandian and Mr. Saravanan from WWF-India, WGNL Office along with forest department staff from Attakatti conducted the camp for the students.



**WWF volunteer interacting with students in the nature camp at Attakatti**

*Submitted by: Saravanan, WWF-India, Western Ghats Nilgiris Landscape Office, Coimbatore.  
Email: wwftnso@gmail.com*