

Bird Watching Day Celebrated to welcome the winter visitors in Lalitpur district of Uttar Pradesh

In order to create awareness amongst the people particularly the students, it is important to organize events that include field visits. Practical knowledge has much more and long lasting impact on the participants. Keeping this in mind, Bird Watching Day was celebrated on 23 December 2018 to welcome the winter visitors in Lalitpur district of Uttar Pradesh. The event was a joint endeavor of Manav Organization, Indian Biodiversity Conservation Society and Bharat Scout Guide. The site for bird watching was Govind Sagar Dam that is located in close proximity to Lalitpur city. Govind Sagar dam is known to support

excellent bird diversity (166 bird species) according to a study conducted in 2014-2016 by Indian Biodiversity Conservation Society. Students from Nehru P.G.College, P.G. Girls Degree College, Sri Varni Jain Inter College, Government Inter College, Siddhi Sagar Academy, Agarsen Public School and St.Dominic Savio School took part in the event. A painting competition was also organized for the students on 22 December

2018 through which they rendered the message of protecting the migratory birds. On 23 December, the participants, volunteers and the organizers gathered at Govind Sagar Reservoir around 6 AM. The participants were shown the birds using spotting scope and binoculars. They were also provided with the bird posters for identification. Around 80 bird species were recorded in 3 hours including the water and terrestrial. Most



Participants watching the birds



easily sighted birds included Common Coot, Lesser Whistling Ducks, Northern Pintail, Red-headed Pochard, Common Pochard, Gadwall, Black-headed Gull, Cormorant species, egret species, kingfishers, herons, Sarus cranes and many more.

The program focused on avifauna and the interface between birds and human well-being. This conservation education shared many goals with the broader field of environmental education. These included giving learners opportunities for awareness so as to acquire sensitivity to the birds and the benefits associated with them. They gained knowledge by variety of experiences in and acquired

a basic understanding of the wetland birds and the problems associated with their conservation. The emerging problem of habitat destruction, agricultural intensification, unmanaged fishing, hunting of waterbirds, water pollution, climatic changes and anthropogenic disturbances along with their influence on the arrival of the winter migrants was discussed with the young generation. Continuous mismanagement of wetlands in conclusion will lead to the complete absence of biodiversity around them; creating ecological imbalances. The participants attained a set of values and feelings of concern for the feathered bipeds and the motivation for actively participating in their habitat improvement

and protection. The event encouraged the citizens to use their knowledge to become actively involved at all levels in working towards the resolution of bird conservation. The participants were felicitated with certificates. The event was a big success with the enthusiasm of volunteers like Devendra Kumar, Swatantra Vyas, Shudhakar Tiwari, Rajesh Pathak, Rishi, Sachin, Shurabh, Gaurav, Balram and many more.

Submitted by: Pushpendra Singh Chauhan, Sonika Kushwaha, Akhilesh Kumar and Rajeev Niranjana, Manav Organisation, Indian Biodiversity Conservation Society, Nehru P.G.College. E-mail: ibcsforall@gmail.com

Students felicitated with participation certificate

