

Green Skill Development Programme: A Course on Basic Ornithology and Bird Identification

A one-month course, on Basic Ornithology and Bird Identification was developed and conducted by ENVIS-RP Institute of Wildlife Sciences, University of Lucknow. This programme was funded by MoEF&CC, New Delhi. The course was conducted from 5 February to 5 March at Institute for Wildlife Sciences, ONGC Centre for Advanced Studies University of University that was attended by participants all over India.

Objectives of the GSDP Course:

- Develop an understanding about Ornithology.
- To generate qualified students who can directly get jobs in the allied fields of Ornithology.
- To generate qualified certificate holders who can be part professional organizations working in the field of conservation.
- To generate a team of field experts who can take up jobs related to the environment in educational institutions.
- Enhance learning and understanding of Birds behaviour.

The course was structured in a way where learners get opportunity for:

- Field visits to demonstrate what is learnt in the subjects.
- Expert interactions to deepen the knowledge.
- Activities show a hands-on approach to conservation.
- Peer interaction for sharing of knowledge.

About the Module

Module was envisaged to be done in two parts where one part took place at ENVIS-RP, Institute of Wildlife Sciences, University of Lucknow as teaching hub and other part was visit to Wildlife Sanctuaries, Kukrail Reserve Forests, Kudiaghat, Janeshwar Misr Park, Ram Manohar Lohia Park, Gomti River for the field exposure. At Lucknow, course was conducted at ENVIS-RP, University of Lucknow campus.

Focus of this multidisciplinary course was:

- To understand birds, conservation and management challenges at urban and rural level and how it is managed.
- To understand sustainability of birds' areas in context of habitat and management.
- To understand Global criterion and how education can be key driver for achieving goals.
- To observe Indian ornithology through various field visits and interaction with teachers and naturalists, conservationists.
- To interact with bird conservation communities in urban, rural and conserved area in Lucknow for understanding ornithology issues.
- To observe bird's status and challenges faced with conservation in the IBA around Wildlife Sanctuaries and forests areas.

The first course of GSDP was inaugurated at ENVIS-RP, University of Lucknow by the chief guest Hon'ble Vice Chancellor Prof.

Alok Kumar Rai, University of Lucknow and Director Prof. U.N. Dwivedi, ONGC Centre for Advanced Studies, University of Lucknow by enlighten the lamp and Sarasvati vandana. The inaugural lecture was delivered by Dr. Asad R. Rahmani on Basic Bird Identification and Dr. Rajat Bhargava BNHS.



Inauguration of Course by Chief Guest Hon'ble Vice Chancellor Prof. Alok Kumar Rai, University of Lucknow.

Some of the major topics covered in the course are: bird migration, ringing and breeding of birds, Food and Foraging, Census methods (at Kudiaghat Gomti River, Lucknow), creating checklist of water birds, Bird photography and basics of camera, binocular, GIS remote sensing, avian mating and social behaviour, bird population, vocal behaviour and habitat ecology of birds, habitats and bird communities, taxonomy,

The course also included field trips to Gomtinagr River bank, kudiyaghat, Janeshwar Mishr Park, Ram Manohar Lohia, Lucknow Zoo, Nawabganj Bird Sanctuary and Kukrail Reserve Forests, and also to villages adjacent to the protected areas



Participants during the field activity and survey.

to interact with the local communities.

At last day all the participants presented their field related works and reports. The participants were facilitated by certificates by chief guest Mrs. Preeti Gangwar, IFS. Prof. A.K. Pandey, Scientist

NBFGFR, Dr. V.P. Singh, IITR, Prof. A.K. Sharma, Prof. Madhu Tripathi and Prof. Padma Saxena from Department of Zoology were also present. Participants were shared their experiences and knowledge which was gained the course.

Submitted by: Amita Kanaujia & Adesh Kumar, University of Lucknow, Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh. Email: adesh.science@gmail.com