

Workshop on International Vulture Awareness Day Hari Mohan Meena*

A half a day workshop on International Vulture Awareness Day was held at Aryan Public School, Bhadasui, Baran, Rajasthan on 06 September, 2014 to highlight vulture conservation and awareness. It was organised by Jagaar Sansthan, Baran in collaboration with Zoo Outreach Organization, Coimbatore. Mr. Manoj Meena, Principal, Aryan Public School inaugurated the event and Mr. Hari Mohan Meena welcomed the participants. Mr. Manoj Meena and Mr. Pramod Kumar Jangid spoke about vulture conservation. Mr. Jangid said that once vultures were very common in our villages but now the population of vulture has declined due to habitat loss, usage of veterinary medicine *diclofenac* and its effect and environmental pressure etc.

Dr. Krishnendra Singh Nama, Research Supervisor, CPU, Kota gave more information related to vultures. He said that vultures provide a range of ecological, economic and cultural services. Vultures are the only documented obligate scavengers and they are uniquely adapted to a scavenging lifestyle. Vultures are the major scavenger in India; they play an important role in keeping the environment clean by scavenging on animal carcasses, municipal dumps and thus checking the outbreaks of endemic diseases. Vultures are classified in two groups as Old World and New World vultures. All over the world there are 23 species of vultures, of these nine species are found in India. Out of nine vulture species, six has been facing problem of existence and therefore declared as Threatened. Of these, three species are endemic to south Asia viz. the White-backed vulture, Long-billed vulture and Slender-billed vulture are at high risk of global extinction and are listed as Critically Endangered because of



Vulture drawing competition

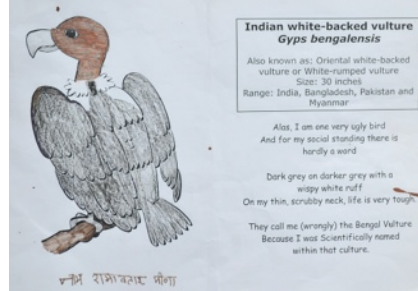
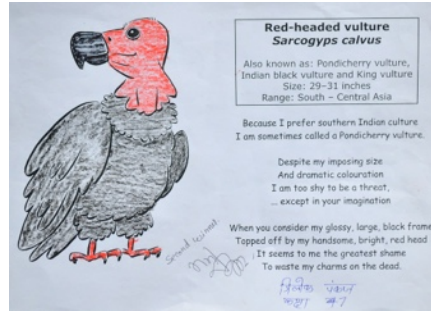
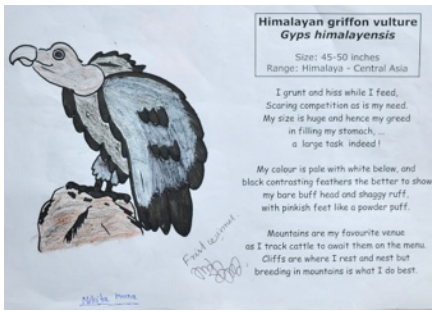


A shield for the best drawing

rapid population decline in the subcontinent. Slender-billed Vulture is the most Critically Endangered vulture in the world. In Rajasthan seven species of vultures are found viz. Long-billed vulture, White-backed vulture, Redheaded vulture/ King Vulture, Egyptian vulture, Himalayan griffon, Eurasian griffon and Cinereous vulture.

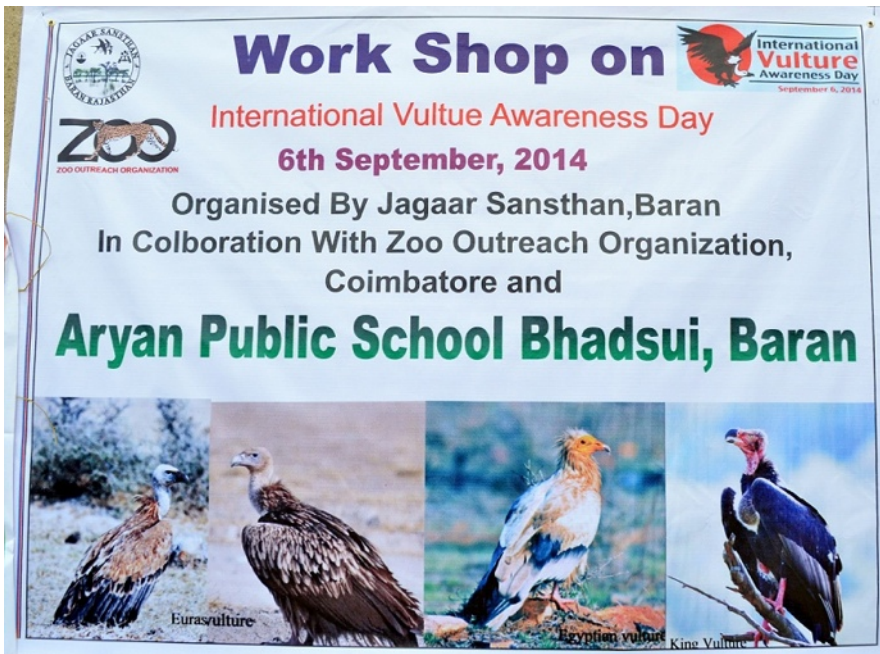
Mr. Hari Mohan Meena, organiser of the programme talked about vulture distribution in Rajasthan, out of the seven species found in Rajasthan six species are found in the Baran district. He shared his vulture research in this district and

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Students coloured vulture drawings

of class 7-10 participated. From ZOO's vulture flash cards the six species of vultures are found in Baran were photocopied and given to the students for colouring. The drawing made by students was very beautiful and two best drawings were chosen and winners awarded with prizes. Thanks a lot for Zoo Outreach Organization, Coimbatore for providing vulture education kit soft copies and Aryan Public School for support.



Workshop banner



Participation Certificate

also main factors responsible for the vulture population decline such as poisoning, habitat loss, pesticide intoxication, calcium deficiency, infectious disease or a viral disease. Finally he made the students to understand that if vultures extinct from the world then many diseases affect human health.

The students were explained about Zoo Outreach Organisation's vulture education kits. Then drawing competition was conducted. Thirty-three students



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