
Whispering Wings®

Newsletter of the Chandigarh Bird Club®



Volume 3 - 2nd Edition

October - December 2017

From the Editor's Desk

And above, in the light
Of the star-lit night,
Swift birds of passage wing their flight
Through the dewy atmosphere.
I hear the beat
Of their pinions fleet,
As from the land of snow and sleet
They seek a southern lea.
~Birds of Passage by Henry W Longfellow

The birds of passage are here but in lesser numbers. We are really making it hard for them by taking up their winter homes in the insatiable hunger for development...Jawaharpur has fallen victim to sand mining, Alamgir to community pisciculture and Motemajra to water chestnut cultivation. Where will the poor birds go if we take up all their habitat. I think as a club we have to think about a concerted effort, may be legal or other-wise. It becomes imperative that we start a series of essays on this habitat destruction of both resident and migrant species in social media as well as press. This can be used as a pressure tactic and in certain extreme cases legal recourse can be thought of.

It is with pride we can say that club has been very busy with numerous projects and many members have been appointed Punjab Wildlife Board Members or Honorary Wildlife Wardens. Yet other members are working with Punjab Forest Department in their eco-tourism endeavour. Some members are working hard to have certain areas declared as community reserves in Haryana. The last quarter has seen a lot of good work, a matter to be proud of, come out of the efforts of CBC members.

Like earlier years, this year again some new species of birds have been found to have taken up residence in ISCR or recorded as first time migrants. The increased number of eyes and keen approach have borne good results.

There is how ever a word of caution, some times our over enthusiastic approach scares the birds away...

May you always hear the bird song!

Mitinderpal Singh Sekhon

Secretary's Report

This quarter, with the arrival of winters, there have been many new arrivals in the ISCR. Jawaharpur, and Sukhna Lake threw up some unique species.

Long-eared Owl, Black-headed Bunting, Eurasian Skylark, Tawny Pipit, and Upland Pipit, arrived at Jawaharpur through the Summer and Winter. In Sukhna, Lesser Fish Eagle, Black-necked Grebe, Brownish-flanked Bush Warbler, Greater White-fronted Goose, Great Bittern, and Tawny-bellied Babbler, were seen.

Within ISCR, there have been sightings of Hume's Short-toed Lark, Dunlin, Alpine Swift, Little Swift, Grasshopper Warbler, Siberian Ruby-throat, Asian Brown Flycatcher, Chestnut-headed Tesia, and Taiga Flycatcher.

Many members of the Club are training seven youth in Mirzapur as bird guides in collaboration with Punjab Forest Department. Number of presentations and bird walks have been conducted for the seven. It is a part of the Eco-tourism initiative of the Government of Punjab.

CBC conducted a Waterfowl and Species Count at Sukhna Lake and its adjoining areas on 12th November 2017 to commemorate the 121st Birth Anniversary of Dr Salim Ali. The celebrations were rounded off by the annual dinner which was attended by almost all the members along with their families.

CBC was invited by Forest Division, Patiala and local environmentalists to conduct a bird species count in Moti Bags Bir at Patiala. Twelve members went to Patiala and conducted the survey.

The press has been covering the events organised by CBC. This is helping educate people about birds, their habits, habitat destruction and changes in bird populations. It is also encouraging people to take up birdwatching and stand up for environmental protection. Last quarter saw a very large press coverage of CBC events.

Rima Dhillon

Sukhna Lake Waterfowl and Species Count

On 12th of November 2017, Chandigarh Bird Club organised Sukhna Lake Waterfowl and Species Count. The objective of this count was to ascertain the number of waterfowl and arboreal species present in the Lake. This event was in celebration of the 121st Birth Anniversary of Dr. Salim Ali, ornithologist and bird conservationist, who is considered the Bird Man of India. A total of sixteen members of the Club were present. For this count, we divided the lake area into three sectors;

1. The first sector was Samriti Van. This team was led by Sarbjeet Kaur, and included Aprajita Lobana, Bindoo Nangia, Simranjeet Singh, Vikas Sharma, and Sukhwinder Singh.
2. The second sector was Lake Reserve Forest. This team was led by Rima Dhillon, and included Shobana Venkatraman, Jaideep Singh Grewal, Saiyam Nagar, Samrath Singh, and Pranav Sharma.
3. The third sector was the Lake Jogging Track. This team was led by Mitinderpal Singh Sekhon, and included Parveen Malhotra, Mahesh Garg, and I.



WATERFOWL CENSUS

1	Coot, Eurasian	148
2	Cormorant, Great	19
3	Cormorant, Indian	2
4	Cormorant, Little	11
5	Duck, Comb	1
6	Duck, Indian Spot-billed	31
7	Duck, Tufted	5
8	Gadwall	7
9	Goose, Bar-headed	8
10	Grebe, Great Crested	1
11	Grebe, Little	3
12	Gull, Black-headed	15
13	Gull, Brown-headed	8
14	Kingfisher, Common	1
15	Kingfisher, Pied	1
16	Kingfisher, White-throated	10
17	Lapwing, Red-wattled	15
18	Moorhen, Common	16
19	Osprey	2
20	Pintail, Northern	8
21	Pochard, Common	185
22	Pochard, Ferruginous	2
23	Pochard, Red-crested	61
24	Sandpiper, Green	5
25	Shelduck, Ruddy	92
26	Shoveller, Northern	14
27	Stilt, Black-winged	25
28	Waterhen, White-breasted	21

Total Number of Species seen = 91

Total Number of waterfowl seen = 717

SPECIES COUNT

Sr. No.	Specie Name
1	Babbler, Jungle
2	Babbler, Tawny-bellied
3	Barbet, Brown-headed
4	Bee-eater, Green
5	Bulbul, Himalayan
6	Bulbul, Red-vented
7	Bushchat, Grey
8	Bushchat, Pied
9	Chiffchaff, Common
10	Coucal, Greater
11	Crow, House
12	Cuckoo, Common Hawk
13	Dove, Eurasian Collared
14	Dove, Laughing
15	Dove, Spotted
16	Drongo, Ashy
17	Drongo, Black
18	Drongo, Hair-crested
19	Eagle, Crested Serpent
20	Egret, Cattle
21	Egret, Great
22	Egret, Intermediate
23	Egret, Little
24	Falcon, Peregrine
25	Fantail, White-throated
26	Flycatcher, Red-throated
27	Flycatcher, Verditer
28	Heron, Black-crowned Night
29	Heron, Grey
30	Heron, Indian Pond
31	Heron, Purple
32	Honey-buzzard, Oriental

33	Hornbill, Indian Grey	
34	Iora, Common	
35	Junglefowl, Red	
36	Kite, Black	
37	Koel, Asian	
38	Minivet, Long-tailed	
39	Myna, Bank	
40	Myna, Common	
41	Myna, Jungle	
42	Owlet, Spotted	
43	Parakeet, Rose-ringed	
44	Peafowl, Indian	
45	Pigeon, Common/Rock	
46	Pigeon, Yellow-footed Green	
47	Pipit, Tree	
48	Prinia, Ashy	
49	Redstart, Black	
50	Robin, Indian	
51	Robin, Oriental Magpie	
52	Shikra	
53	Sunbird, Purple	
54	Tailorbird, Common	
55	Thrush, Black-throated	
56	Thrush, Blue Whistling	
57	Tit, Cinereous	
58	Treepie, Rufous	
59	Wagtail, White	
60	Warbler, Hume's Leaf	
61	White-eye, Oriental	
62	Whitethroat, Lesser	
63	Woodpecker, Golden Flameback	
Total Number of Non-waterfowl Species		63

जि शहर के जलमय में अधिक गिरावट न आना भी एक बराह बना हुआ है। लेकिन स्मॉग के कारण हुए वायु प्रदूषण को भी एक मुख्य कारण माना जाए तो गड़बड़ नहीं होगा।



● ਵੇਰਵੇਦਾਰ ਘਰਾ ਕਲਿੱਧ ਦੇ ਸਿੱਧਾ ਲਖਣਾ ਹੋਣ 'ਤੇ ਜਾ ਪਹੁੰਚੀ ਦੀ ਨਿਗਰਾਨੀ ਕਰਦੇ ਹੋਏ। ਅਮਰਿੰਦਰ ਸਿੰਘ

ਰਾਜਧਾਨੀ 'ਚ ਪ੍ਰਵਾਸੀ ਪੰਛੀਆਂ ਦੀ ਆਮਦ ਸ਼ੁਰੂ

ਸਖਨਾ ਝੀਲ 'ਤੇ ਪੁੱਜੇ 91 ਕਿਸਮਾਂ ਦੇ 729 ਜਲ ਪੰਛੀ

ਚੰਡੀਗੜ੍ਹ, 12 ਨਵੰਬਰ (ਪੰਜਾਬ ਟ੍ਰਿਬਿਊਨ) — ਚੰਡੀਗੜ੍ਹ ਦੇ ਸੁਖਨਾ ਝੀਲ 'ਤੇ 91 ਕਿਸਮਾਂ ਦੇ 729 ਜਲ ਪੰਛੀਆਂ ਦੀ ਆਮਦ ਸ਼ੁਰੂ ਹੋ ਗਈ ਹੈ। ਇਹ ਗੱਲ ਚੰਡੀਗੜ੍ਹ ਦੇ ਸੁਖਨਾ ਝੀਲ 'ਤੇ ਪੁੱਜੇ 91 ਕਿਸਮਾਂ ਦੇ 729 ਜਲ ਪੰਛੀਆਂ ਦੀ ਆਮਦ ਸ਼ੁਰੂ ਹੋ ਗਈ ਹੈ। ਇਹ ਗੱਲ ਚੰਡੀਗੜ੍ਹ ਦੇ ਸੁਖਨਾ ਝੀਲ 'ਤੇ ਪੁੱਜੇ 91 ਕਿਸਮਾਂ ਦੇ 729 ਜਲ ਪੰਛੀਆਂ ਦੀ ਆਮਦ ਸ਼ੁਰੂ ਹੋ ਗਈ ਹੈ।

ਕੈਨੇਡਾ
C/E/S/G/NO IELTS
2021 / 2022 / 2023 / 2024
USA STUDY VISA
21 • 2021 • 2022 • 2023 • 2024

Fall in number of winged visitors at Sukhna

91 Species Recorded In Census
Times News Network

Chandigarh: There has been a marked fall in the number of some or more species at the Sukhna lake this year. This is what the 91st census found on Sunday in the species count and water level census. They recorded a total of 91 species.

Organized by the Chandigarh Bird Club to commemorate the 91st birth anniversary of Dr Salim Ali, the species count and water level census at the Sukhna and its surrounding areas is an annual event. This is the third year when it has been organized.

Giving details, the members of the club shared that the number of water fowl is comparatively less than earlier years. Only four pairs of ruddy ducks were seen, which are normally found in fair numbers. Gadwalls were also few in number as were the bar-headed geese. "The num-



The bird count was done to mark the birth anniversary of Dr Salim Ali, popularly known as 'Birdman of India'.

ber could be higher tomorrow in northern latitudes or the same, but nothing could be said with certainty," said Minister Sukhna, one of the leaders.

The total number of species at 91 is very encouraging keeping in mind the fact that many migrational migrants from Himalayas are yet to come in. Vikas Sharma also said that the number of Indian rock pygmy in Sukhna was 10 and 10.

The group members had divided themselves into three teams and went to different spots to spot and count birds from Ram Nagar, Sukhna accompanied by a team of Punjab Forest Department headed by Kanwarjit Singh, IFS, counted the water fowl in the main lake. Talking about his experience, Manish Garg, a birdersaid, "It is a great initiative and what better way can be there to welcome the migratory guests."

THE BIRD COUNT

Birds found in high nos	91	Total number of species recorded
185 Common pochard	696	Total number of water fowl
143 Faintest crane		
92 Ruddy shelduck		
61 Red crested pochard		
31 Indian spot-billed duck		
25 Black winged stilt		
Birds found in low nos		
1 Cinnamon duck	1 Pied kingfisher	
1 Great egret	1 Intermediate egret	
1 Great crested grebe	2 Indian cormorant	
1 Common kingfisher	2 Ferruginous pochard	
	2 Osprey	

The rare species	
➤ Osprey A migratory fish eating eagle, found only near water bodies, has rare and large claws mostly for fishing	➤ Crested serpent eagle The resident bird number is decreasing due to depleting trees. Only 2-3 pairs can be spotted in the city
➤ Peregrine falcon Migrates from Europe and central Asia. Fast flying falcon it can kill a bird twice its size. It is decreasing in number. Only passes through Chandigarh	➤ Northern lapwings Passes through Chandigarh. Migrates from Himalayas and goes down to Rajasthan, Gujarat in winters.

Fall in number of winged visitors at Sukhna

91 Species Recorded In Census

Times News Network

Chandigarh: There has been a marked fall in the number of some of the bird species at the Sukhna lake this year. This is what the 'travelling' birders found on Sunday in the species count and waterfowl census. They recorded a total of 91 species.

Organised by the Chandigarh Bird Club to commemorate the 111st birth anniversary of Dr Salim Ali, the species count and waterfowl census at the Sukhna and its surrounding areas is an annual event. This is the third year when it has been organised.

Giving details, the members of the club shared that the number of waterfowl is comparatively less than earlier years. Only four pairs of mallard ducks were seen, which are normally found in fair numbers. Gadwals were also few in number as were the bar-headed geese. "The reason could be higher temperatures in northern latitudes or the snow, but nothing could be said with certainty," said Mithun Sekhon, one of the birders.



The bird count was done to mark the birth anniversary of Dr Salim Ali, popularly known as 'Birdman of India'.

"The total number of species at 91 is very encouraging keeping in mind the fact that many altitudinal migrants from Himalayas are yet to come in. Vikas Sharma also spotted and photographed an Indian rock python in Smriti Van," he added.

The group members had divided themselves into three teams and were around on different routes to spot and count birds from Ram onwards. Sekhon accompanied by a team of Punjab Forest Department headed by Kamwardoop Singh, IPS, counted the waterfowl in the main lake. Talking about his experience, Mahesh Garg, a birder said, "It is a great initiative and what better way can be there to welcome the migratory species."

THE BIRD COUNT

Birds found in high nos

- 185 | Common pochard
- 148 | Eurasian coot
- 92 | Ruddy shelduck
- 51 | Red-capped pochard
- 31 | Indian spot-billed duck
- 25 | Black-winged stilt

Birds found in low nos

- 1 | Common duck
- 1 | Great egret
- 1 | Great-crested grebe
- 1 | Common kingfisher

91 Total number of species recorded

696 Total number of waterfowl



- 1 | Pied kingfisher
- 2 | Intermediate egret
- 2 | Indian cormorant
- 2 | Ferruginous pochard
- 2 | Osprey

The rare species

> **Osprey** | A migratory fish-eating eagle, fondly near waterbodies, has rare and large claws modified for fishing.

> **Peregrine falcon** | Migrates from Europe and central Asia. Fast flying falcon. It can kill a bird twice its size. It is decreasing in number. Only passes through Chandigarh.

> **Crested serpent eagle** | The resident bird number is decreasing due to deforestation. Only 2-3 pairs can be spotted in the city.

> **Northern lapwings** | Passes through Chandigarh. Migrates from Himalayas and goes down to Rajasthan, Gujarat in winters.

Chandigarh Newsline

The Indian EXPRESS

VOL 29, NO 29, MONDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 2017

WWW.EXPRESS.COM | TEL: 011-2619 1234 | FAX: 011-2619 1234 | CHANDIGARH



BIRD COUNT



Migratory birds are found in large numbers at Sukhna Lake. (First row) Bar-headed geese, birds are found in large numbers at Sukhna Lake. (Second row) Red-capped pochard and common kingfisher. (Third row) Indian cormorant and common kingfisher. (Fourth row) Indian cormorant and common kingfisher.

The count began at half past six and ended at about ten. The highlights of the day were Crested Serpent Eagle, Bar-headed Geese, Osprey, and Great Crested Grebe. The species number was 91, and total count was 717. The detailed list of all species can be found below.

Amandeep Singh Channa

बड़ती लहर सुखना लेक में कैमरों से विलक की गई पक्षियों की प्रजातियां, इस बार 154 पक्षी कम मिले

सुखना में कम पहुंचे पक्षी, कहीं एयर पॉल्यूशन तो नहीं कारण

सिटीएक्सप्रेस | चंडीगढ़

सुखना लेक में हुए खान निजले मास के मुकाबले कम पक्षी पहुंचे हैं। एयरपोर्ट को मांफ तो इतना एक कारण एयर पॉल्यूशन हो सकता है लेकिन दुसरी बात केयर भी इसका एक कारण हो सकता है। लक पैस ऑफ इंडिया क्लोम अर्ली की वर्ष एनोसपरी के मौके पर बरत कलक ने बड़ती की होसरे के साथ यहां पर ताप जोंसो के साथ 4 घंटे सुखा में शिनों में लिफाट लिखा। बाई कलाह कि रेजिडेंट एयरपोर्ट के सुखना हो सकता है कि एयर पॉल्यूशन को बड़ती से बड़ती की संख्या में पक्षी आई हो, लेकिन इसकी कई दुसरी वजह हो हो सकती है। खासकर ये ली बड़ती बड़ती की सुखना लेक में

सुखना में कम पहुंचे पक्षी, कहीं एयर पॉल्यूशन

• कैमरों में लिफाट
मिशन टैलेस के सुखना लेक में 10 बड़ती का वीडियो क्लिप एनोसपरी में बड़ती की फोटो क्लिप ली। सुखना लेक, सुखना

• एयर पॉल्यूशन भी काज
एयरपोर्ट कीर की एयर लिफाट का एयर पॉल्यूशन है। एयरपोर्ट एनोसपरी की सने होसरे का सुखना में आंधिर लक लीजकलर बड़ती सुखना लेक में पहुंची है।

इसने इनमें से कितने बड़ती होसरे का और कितने एनोसपरी है इसका अलग से खरा लेफा क्लिप जता है।

CHANDIGARH BIRD CLUB

Census, species count tomorrow

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
CHANDIGARH, NOVEMBER 10

THE CHANDIGARH Bird Club will organise a Water Fowl Census and a Species Count in the Sukhna Lake, Sukhna Forest and Smriti Van area on Sunday.

A statement by the club said on Friday that the objective of the census is to list the species of birds and also count the total number of waterfowl, both resident and migrant to compare with earlier years and know the changes.

"This is a very important indicator of the health of the biome as increase in numbers means improving health and vice versa. More numbers of species or greater variety of types also means improving health, while any decrease points at biotope attenuation," the statement said.

The club also conducts a similar census in the month of Feb, when the migratory waterfowl population is at its highest.

For the Sunday's census, members of the Club have been divided into 3 teams and all teams will start the census at 6 am.

"At 10 am, they shall meet and compile the lists and results. The members shall endeavour to photograph any rare or unusual species they come across as records," the statement said, adding that the census is conducted in the Sukhna area because it is a very important wetland of the region surrounded by a thick forest which provides an ideal wintering home to migrating birds.

Dr Salim Ali

The Bird Man of India

Salim Ali, one of the greatest ornithologists and naturalists of all time, is also known as the 'Bird Man of India'. He was one of the very first scientists to carry out systematic bird surveys in India and abroad. His research work is considered highly influential in the development of ornithology.

ਸੁਖਨਾ ਝੀਲ 'ਤੇ ਪੰਛੀਆਂ ਦੀ ਔਜ ਕੀਤੀ ਜਾਏਗੀ ਗਿਣਤੀ

ਚੰਡੀਗੜ੍ਹ, 11 ਨਵੰਬਰ (ਮਨਜੋਤ ਸਿੰਘ ਜੌਤ)।— ਚੰਡੀਗੜ੍ਹ ਖ਼ਬਰ ਕਲੱਬ ਵਲੋਂ ਵਿਸ਼ਵ ਪ੍ਰਸਿੱਧ ਪੰਛੀ ਵਿਗਿਆਨੀ ਡਾ. ਸਲੀਮ ਅਲੀ ਦੇ 121ਵੇਂ ਜਨਮ ਦਿਨ ਮੌਕੇ ਸੁਖਨਾ ਝੀਲ 'ਤੇ ਪੰਛੀਆਂ ਦੀ ਗਿਣਤੀ ਔਜ ਕੀਤੀ ਜਾਵੇਗੀ। ਜਿਸ ਤਹਿਤ ਕਲੱਬ ਵਲੋਂ ਸੁਖਨਾ ਝੀਲ ਅਤੇ ਨਾਲ ਲੱਗਦਾ ਜੰਗਲੀ ਇਲਾਕਾ ਅਤੇ ਸਮਰਿਤੀ ਵਨ ਇਲਾਕੇ ਵਿਚ ਪੰਛੀਆਂ ਦੀ ਗਿਣਤੀ ਕੀਤੀ ਜਾਵੇਗੀ। ਕਲੱਬ ਵਲੋਂ ਪਾਣੀ ਦੇ ਪੰਛੀਆਂ, ਮਹਿਮਾਨ ਪੰਛੀਆਂ ਅਤੇ ਸਥਾਨਕ ਪੰਛੀਆਂ ਬਾਰੇ ਜਾਣਕਾਰੀ ਹਾਸਲ ਕੀਤੀ ਜਾਵੇਗੀ। ਇਸ ਨੂੰ ਲੈ ਕੇ ਕਲੱਬ ਵਲੋਂ ਤਿੰਨ ਟੀਮਾਂ ਦਾ ਗਠਨ ਕੀਤਾ ਗਿਆ ਹੈ। ਟੀਮਾਂ ਵਲੋਂ ਸਵੇਰੇ 10 ਵਜੇ ਗਿਣਤੀ ਦਾ ਕੰਮ ਸ਼ੁਰੂ ਕੀਤਾ ਜਾਵੇਗਾ। ਕਲੱਬ ਦੇ ਮੈਂਬਰ ਡਾ. ਮਨਜੋਤ ਸਿੰਘ ਸੇਖੋਂ ਨੇ ਦੱਸਿਆ ਕਿ ਮਹਾਨ ਪੰਛੀ ਵਿਗਿਆਨੀ ਡਾ. ਸਲੀਮ ਅਲੀ ਜਿਨ੍ਹਾਂ ਨੂੰ ਭਾਰਤ ਦਾ ਬਰਡਮੈਨ ਵੀ ਕਿਹਾ ਜਾਂਦਾ ਹੈ, ਉਨ੍ਹਾਂ ਦੀ ਯਾਦ ਵਿਚ ਹਰ ਸਾਲ ਪੰਛੀਆਂ ਦੀ ਗਿਣਤੀ ਕਰਵਾਈ ਜਾਂਦੀ ਹੈ, ਇਸੇ ਕੜੀ ਤਹਿਤ ਔਜ ਦੀ ਸੁਖਨਾ ਝੀਲ 'ਤੇ ਸਵੇਰੇ 6 ਵਜੇ ਗਿਣਤੀ ਦਾ ਕੰਮ ਸ਼ੁਰੂ ਕੀਤਾ ਜਾਵੇਗਾ।

Early Life:

As a 10-year-old, Salim once noticed a flying bird and shot it down. Tender at heart, he instantly ran and picked it up. It appeared like a house sparrow but had a strange yellowish shade on the throat. Curious, he showed the sparrow to his uncle Amiruddin and questioned him about the bird's kind. Unable to answer, his uncle took him to W.S. Millard, the Honorary Secretary of the Bombay Natural History Society. Amazed at the unusual interest of the young boy, Millard took him to see many stuffed birds. When Salim finally saw a bird similar to the child's bird he got very excited. After that, the young Salim started visiting the place frequently.

Salim Moizuddin Abdul Ali was born on 12th November 1896. He attended college but did not receive any university degree. To assist his brothers in Wolfram mining, Salim went to Burma but spent most of his time looking for birds. Soon, he returned to Bombay.



Contributions and Achievements:

As soon as Salim returned, he studied zoology and secured a position of a guide at the museum of the Bombay Natural History Society. Only 20 years old, he conducted the visitors and instructed them about the preserved birds. His interest in the living conditions of birds grew even more. Therefore, Salim visited Germany and saw Dr Irvin Strassman. He came back to India after one year, but his post in the museum had been removed for financial reasons.

Salim Ali, as a married man, required money to make a living, so he joined the museum as a clerk. The job allowed him to carry on with his research. His wife's house at Kihim, a small village near Mumbai, was a tranquil place surrounded by trees, where Salim would spend most of his time researching about the activities of the weaver bird.

He published a research paper discussing the nature and activities of the weaver bird in 1930. The piece made him famous and established his name in the field of ornithology. Salim also travelled from place to place to find out more about different species of the birds.

From what he had collected, he published 'The book of Indian Birds' in 1941 in which he discussed the kinds and habits of Indian birds. The book sold very well for some years. He also collaborated with S. Dillon Ripley, a world-famous ornithologist, in 1948. The collaboration resulted in 'Handbook of the Birds of India and Pakistan' (10 Volume Set); a comprehensive book that describes the birds of the subcontinent, their appearance, habitat, breeding habits, migration etc. Salim also published other books. His work 'The Fall of Sparrow' included many incidents from his real life.

बर्ड मैन ऑफ इंडिया की बर्थ एनिवर्सरी पर सुखना कैचमेंट एरिया में बर्ड रेस आज सलीम अली पहले भारतीय, जिन्होंने देश में किया बर्ड सर्वे

हिंदी रिपोर्टर चंडीगढ़

बर्ड मैन ऑफ इंडिया सलीम अली की 121वीं बर्थ एनिवर्सरी रविवार को है। इस मौके पर चंडीगढ़ में बर्ड रेस करवाई जा रही है। सलीम अली पहले भारतीय थे, जिन्होंने भारत और बाहर नॉन सिस्टेमैटिक बर्ड सर्वे किया, ब्रिस्क बर्ड्स पर कई किताबें भी लिखीं। 12 नवंबर 1896 को पैदा हुए सलीम की इस बर्थ एनिवर्सरी पर चंडीगढ़ बर्ड क्लब सुखना वाइल्ड लाइफ सेंक्युरी में ये बर्ड रेस करवाने जा रहा है। इसमें सुखना लोक का एरिया, सुखना लोक के सामने का फॉरेस्ट, नगर वन, स्मृति उपवन और आसपास का फॉरेस्ट एरिया शामिल होगा।



बर्ड्स के बारे में जानकारी देना मकसद: रेस करवाने का मकसद ये जानकारी देना है कि इस एरिया में कितनी प्रजातियों के पक्षी हैं, इस वक़्त कितने माइग्रेटरी बर्ड्स पहुंच चुके हैं। बर्ड्स के बिहेवियर को जानने और उनके रहन-सहन में कितना चेंज आया है, इस बारे में भी जानकारी मिल पाएगी। दरअसल इस वक़्त सुखना लोक में माइग्रेटरी बर्ड्स भी पहुंच चुके हैं।

ऐसे में इससे ये भी पता चल पाएगा कि कितनी तरह के माइग्रेटरी बर्ड्स कहाँ-कहाँ से यहाँ पहुंचे हैं।

सुबह 6 बजे शुरू होगी रेस क्लब की तरफ से कम्पाई जा रही बर्ड रेस सुबह 6 बजे शुरू होगी। रेस में पार्टिसिपेट कर रहे मैक्स की तीन टीमें बनाई गई हैं। रेस पूरा करने का टाइम सुबह 10 बजे तक का रखा गया है और इसके बाद सभी टीमों ने जितनी तरह के बर्ड्स को क्लिक किया होगा, ये उसकी लिस्ट तैयार करेंगी और जिस टीम ने जितनी ज्यादा प्रजातियों के फोटो क्लिक किए होंगे, उस टीम को विजेता घोषित किया जाएगा और पुरस्कृत किया जाएगा।

Later Life and Death:

Salim not only researched about birds but also contributed to the area of protection of nature. For his extraordinary efforts, he was given an international award of INR 5 lacs, but he donated all the money to Bombay Natural History Society. The Government of India honoured him with Padma Vibhushan in 1983. This genius man died at the age of 90 on 20th June 1987.

Mitinderpal Singh Sekhon

Owls in Jawaharpur

On 27th of November 2017, Rima Dhillon, Sarbjeet Kaur, Onkar Singh, Shobana Venkatraman, her sister, and I went to Jawaharpur. The reason for our visit was to see the parliament of Short-eared and Long-eared Owls that were passing through on their way to the Rann of Kutch and had decided to rest in Jawaharpur. Sarabjit Randhawa and Rajive Das had seen the Short-eared Owl in Jawaharpur on the previous Saturday and then again on Sunday and counted ten owls in the area. We were completely unaware of the presence of Long-eared Owl.



The Short-eared and the Long-eared Owls are ground foraging owls. They have a big wingspan, with wings longer than their bodies. They do not show dimorphism, the only difference between the male and female is that the latter is darker in colour than the former. They are extremely shy and, being one of the owls who can see in the day; one cannot approach them at close quarters without alerting them. One has to crouch and crawl one's way to them, as we did.

We arrived in Jawaharpur at seven. The way to the quarried land was inaccessible by cars, so we walked the rest of the way. The first bird we encountered was a Short-eared Owl, flying out of a bush immediately to our left. From then on, we kept a close eye on the ground and talked in whispers. Suddenly they were disturbed by our movement, and they flew off. We counted at least nine owls and later added three more, making it a parliament of 12 Short-eared Owls.

We split up, the others disturbing them and making them fly, Sarbjeet ma'am and I was clicking lots of photographs of them in flight. After a round of tea and biscuits, we again circled back to see the owls once more. Again we split, Rima ma'am and I went into the quarry next to the track, and the others went to the quarry next to a field. This time both groups saw the owls sitting. Rima ma'am and I found a hide and crouched and crawled our way as close to the owl as we could get without scaring it off and clicked some lovely photographs. It was some days later, when Narbir sir went and clicked a Long-eared Owl, I found out that I had photographed both the owls and added to my list of species.

Amandeep Singh Channa

A Bird Walk with a Difference

On 14th of December 2017, Chandigarh Bird Club organised a special bird walk for patients of Chandigarh Spinal Rehab Centre. The members of the club took the wheelchair-bound, with their attendants, to the Observation Point of the Lake.

There were Bar-headed Geese, Eurasian Coots, Little Grebes, Great Cormorants, Little Cormorants, Red-crested Pochard, Common Pochards, Northern Pintails, Grey Heron, White-throated Kingfisher, Pied Kingfisher, and Tufted Ducks among others.

The following members of the Club were present:

1. Amandeep Singh Channa
2. Mitinderpal Singh Sekhon
3. Mohit Kohli
4. Munish Jauhar
5. Rima Dhillon
6. Saiyam Nagar
7. Samrath Singh
8. Sarbjeet Kaur





चंडीगढ़ की सुखना लेक पर बर्ड वॉचिंग करने पहुंचे फिजीकली चैलेंज्ड वक्ते। अमर उजाला

स्पाइन के मरीजों ने की बर्ड वॉचिंग

व्हीलचेयर के सहारे चंडीगढ़ बर्ड्स क्लब की मदद से पहुंचे सुखना लेक

अमर उजाला ब्यूरो
चंडीगढ़

व्हीलचेयर के सहारे चलने वाले मरीजों ने वीरवार को बर्ड वॉचिंग का लुत्फ उठाया। ये अनुभव मरीजों के लिए काफी रोमांच भरा रहा। चंडीगढ़ बर्ड्स क्लब के सदस्यों की मदद से सेक्टर 28 स्थित स्नाइल

रिलीफ सेंटर के मरीज सुखना लेक स्थित बर्ड वॉचिंग प्वाइंट पहुंचे। बाढ़ पर क्लब के सदस्यों ने मरीजों को प्रवासी पक्षियों के बारे में विस्तार से जानकारी दी। उन्होंने मरीजों को प्रवासी पक्षियों के रंग, हाव भाव, उनके खाने की आदतों के बारे में बताया। कैमरे और बायनाकुलर की मदद से उन्हें प्रवासी पक्षियों के बारे में जानकारी

भी दी। इस दौरान मरीज के अलावा सेंटर का चरित्रिक स्टाफ, मरीज के परिजन व डाक्टर भी मौजूद रहे। इस मौके पर चंडीगढ़ बर्ड्स क्लब के सदस्यों में प्रेसिडेंट एनएस सेखी, सखजीत कौर, मुनीष जोहर, संका नागर, मोहित कोहली, अमनदीप राणा और सनम सिंह मौजूद रहे।

Differently-abled's day out with winged visitors

Arsh, Sena@timesgroup.com

Chandigarh: Battling the cold with sparkling enthusiasm, as many as nine differently-abled members of the Chandigarh Spinal Rehabilitation Centre went for a bird walk excursion to a bird watching spot located at the Sukhna lake, along with members of the Chandigarh Bird Club here on Thursday afternoon.

With most of the indoor patients of the facility belonging to age group of 24 and above, the excursion was conceived as part of an annual visit organised under the aegis of M S Sekhon, head of department of geography, DAV College, Sector 10, and president, Chandigarh Bird Club.

The bird walk that began from the regulatory end of the lake, commenced from the par-



Differently-abled members of Chandigarh Rehab Centre enjoy birdwatching at the Sukhna lake

king area, beyond the Nature Interpretation Centre.

Pooping through the specially designed binoculars, As-

hish (25), a paraplegic patient at the facility said, "I had seen these birds last year as well. They were nice. The weather

was the same though. It was the same kind of cold." Kausalya, one of the indoor patients at the rehab facility said,

"I love coming here. I love nature and I am enthusiastic about a lot of things like swimming."

Numerous senior members of the Chandigarh Bird Club, an eight-year-old group of the city comprising young officers, bureaucrats and teachers among others, educated the differently-abled individuals about the different species of birds. "I have love being a part of this group because I am a nature lover and this lets me explore that side of me while also appreciating Chandigarh as a city" said Anandeev, a club member.

Premjit Singh, a physiotherapist at the facility said, "Most of these patients have been living in our facility for a few months now. They also have their family members here with us as well. They are from all over the country."

जारी, चंडीगढ़ : सैलेज जो कभी सुखना लेक पर पाइलो बार का रहा था, आज बड़े ताजुम्ब में था उसने कभी दूरबीन से पक्षियों को नहीं देखा था। आज तो उसे वैसे भी प्रवासी पक्षी देखने को मिले थे। उसकी खुशी उसके सैलनी से झलकती थी। यीरवार को इसी तरह से चंडीगढ़ नई कलन के सदस्यों ने दिव्यीय लोगों को प्रवासी पक्षी दिखाकर एक अलग अनुभव दिलाया। इसमें चंडीगढ़ स्पेसल रीहबिलिटेशन सेंटर-28 के 9 दिव्यीय मरीजों को सुखान लेक में प्रवासी पक्षियों के बारे में बताया गया।

प्रवासी पक्षियों में देखी उम्मीद की उड़ान

आउटिंग के लिए आयोजित की बॉक

वर्ड पॉन्टर एमएस सेडो ने कहा कि ये वॉक हम हम साल दिव्यांग लोगों के लिए रखते हैं, जो इसी सेंटर में दाखिल हैं। इसके साथ उन्हें बाहर आने और बाजरीत करने का मौका मिलता है। हम न केवल उनके पक्षियों के बारे में बताते

हैं बल्कि उनके साथ साथ काफी भी पीछे हैं। तब के 10 सदस्य खुद इन दिव्यांगों को सेंटर से सुखना लेक तक अपनी गाड़ियों में लेकर पहुंचे और डेढ़ घंटे तक उन्हें प्रवासी पक्षियों को दिखाते हुए उनके बारे में जानकारी देते रहे।



चंडीगढ़ : सुखना लेक पर वीरवार को प्रवासी पक्षी देखने चंडीगढ़ स्पेसल रीहबिलिटेशन सेंटर-28 के दिव्यांग लोग आए



Differently abled persons return after watching birds at Sukhna Lake. MANOJ MAHAJAN



The Club members and the Forest and Wildlife Department of Chandigarh provided the visitors with many pairs of binoculars and a spotting scope. Members of the press covered the event and talked to the visitors.

Amandeep Singh Channa

Long and the Short of Owl's Ears

While birding in village Mukandpur tehsil Derabassi, Punjab, close to Chandigarh on 3rd December 2017, we were looking for Short-eared Owls (*Asio Flammeus*), without much success. At 10 am we were ready to pack up and leave. I spotted an Owl flying in the distance, I called my birding partner and we set off in pursuit of this owl. In the trees surrounding a seasonal stream we came across a few Short-eared Owls and when we were trying to get a clear image of these birds we came across another interesting Owl. The bird appeared rather slim, it was sitting in a stunted acacia tree and I could not see the full face. Realising it had been spotted it decided to show itself in all its splendour and sat out in the open, The 7 D Mark II did its job and we recorded the bird before it decided to disappear into the Scrub.



Short-eared Owl

On closer examination of the picture we realised that while the bird was about the size of the Short-eared Owl, ear tufts did not fit the description of a Short-eared (as pointed out by Mr. Saiyam Nagar a fellow birder), nor did the facial markings as a black band was running vertically on both sides of the white feathers surrounding



Short-eared Owl



Mature Male Short-eared Owl

the beak, the breast and belly were heavily streaked , but belly was not barred, field guides were consulted and Mr H.S. Hondal (birding partner) and I realised we had actually ended up recording a rather rare Long-eared Owl.(*Asio otus*)

There have been sporadic records from other parts of India of this species , Harike is where Per Undeland recorded it on 27th March 1997, and on 7th Feb 1998, Mr.Ben King recorded six birds in 1999 at Harike, ten birds were recorded by Mr. Harkirat Sangha and Per Undeland on 18th December 2016.



Long-eared Owl

The first photographic record from India was from Naliya grasslands on 11th March 2012, by Mr.Ramki Sreenivasan, other images have been recorded since by Mr. Dibyendu Ash and others, 3rd Feb, 2015 and 20th April 2015 from Mishmi Hills Arunachal and by Mr.Bikash Kalita and Mr. Room Bhutan 25th February 2017, Pangolakha, Sikkim, there have been sightings reported from Delhi as well. It is every birders dream to see this rarity and I feel blessed to have been graced by its presence.

Narbir Kahlon

New Visitor to The Lake

This year Chandigarh Birders have been blessed with some new and interesting bird species visiting Inter State Capital Region (ISCR), and we all enjoyed every new sighting reported by fellow birders with binoculars and cameras in our hands, and Sukhna Lake was at the centre of this excitement. Though the water in the lake this time is far more than last year which has resulted in lesser gathering of birds, on the other hand, some new species did turn up, more water brought more food in the form of fish and along came these new species. One such bird was Lesser Fish Eagle, recorded for the first time in ISCR, a rare fish eating eagle mostly found in the Himalayan foothills.

After a couple of futile efforts, Vikas Sharma managed to take a photograph of this stealthy raptor and next day the news broke out in the newspaper resulting in flocks of birders turning up at the Lake just to get a glimpse of this elusive bird. But the search had already been begun a few weeks earlier, when on Sunday, November 5th, a fellow birder Sukhwinder called me at 8 a.m. to go birding at the lake which is quite late a time for birding, still I woke up with a shine in my eyes. After an unsuccessful attempt last evening to convince fellow birders for a birding session at monthly CBC meeting, this is a ray of hope for me.

We reached Sukhna Lake at 9 a.m. and started birding by walking through the forest nature trail. Nothing happening, no calls, no birds singing, a complete silence in the forest apart from a Cinereous Tit and a Grey-hooded Warbler on a lone tree and a Rufous Treepie showing up at every 20 meters. We walked and soon reached the rowing channel of the Sukhna Lake, where most of the migratory birds are seen during winters. Though, the rowing had been barred from this channel to accommodate the winter guests, a good move by Chandigarh Administration. Also, this area has been cut off from the main walking area of the lake during this time to avoid disturbance and unnecessary ruckus created by Selfy Brigade.

The first waterfowl we saw was Great Crested Grebe trying to catch a fish, a rare visitor; a single bird was seen last year too at Lake. We took some hundred photographs each, much to our satisfaction we walked further. Few meters ahead we saw this whitish raptor hovering in the sky, what is this thing we asked each other. It was quite white compared to the usual black kite. I was stunned when I saw it through the binoculars. It was an Osprey, a lifer. I was birding for last three years and always been curious to see an Osprey. It made my day, "A lifer a day, keeps the doctor away". Lifer can give you tonnes of happiness which can result in the pumping of fresh blood by your happy heart. Every birder can relate to that.

As I was thanking Sukhwinder for waking me up today, I heard this loud cry which sounded like a distress call from an animal. It was coming at regular intervals from a nearby location. We moved further towards it. After some fifty steps we saw this raptor flying through a gap in the tall reeds, and in excitement, we lost track of the call. Gliding low above the flock of Ruddy Shelducks under the canopy of trees just 4 feet above the water. I looked through the binoculars and asked Sukhi to click the photograph, but he couldn't click because of the little window in the reeds, and

this raptor was fairly quick. We lost the sight of the raptor, couldn't figure out where it went.

I recalled my sighting through the binoculars; it was sandy grey with a white belly and vent. What was it? We went further in search through the reed forest but froze after few steps; a 10-foot Python was waiting for us in the reeds. It was big and scary, and we decided to turn around with this nagging question, what was that raptor? And again that alarming call started, breaking the silence of the jungle and we chased, and we met this raptor perched on a tree branch few feet above the water. Within a second of seeing us, it flew again leaving us unceremoniously with a big question mark.

A first: Rare fish-hunting eagle spotted at Sukhna

Vikram Jit Singh | TNN

Vikas Salil Sharma

Chandigarh: Migratory waterfowl have not descended in high numbers at Sukhna Lake this winter but raptors or birds of prey do not seem to have given the Tricity's premier wetland a major miss. Late on Saturday afternoon, the Lesser Fish Eagle was photographed at the rowing canal of the lake and constitutes the first record of this near-threatened species from the Inter-State Capital Region (ISCR), which encompasses a vast and diverse area falling within a radius of 50km from the City Beautiful.

The first record of the eagle takes the number of bird



A Lesser Fish Eagle soars above the Sukhna's waters on Saturday

species observed in the ISCR to an estimated 416 species, give or take a few. Other raptors sighted at the lake in recent weeks include the Shaheen falcon, Osprey, Crested

Serpent Eagle, Black Kite, Shikra, Western Marsh Harrier and White-eyed Buzzard.

► Continued on P 5

I opened the field guide on my phone, and there were two birds that can be closely related to what I saw, they were Lesser Fish Eagle and Grey-headed Fish Eagle. Both the eagles were new to me and our region, but I settled with Lesser Fish Eagle as the size was smaller and I didn't see any rufous on the upper belly. After a productive birding, we went back to our regular lives. Osprey was a great find and

was much appreciated by Birders of Chandigarh Bird Club on the Whatsapp group. We also saw a Crested Serpent Eagle on the way back, a beautiful Raptor.

Next day I woke up with that question in my head and took out the greatest work of Mr Rishad Naoroji “Birds of Prey of Indian Subcontinent”. The book is amazing, with thorough information on Raptors. It helped me further clearing my doubt and convinced me that the one I saw was Lesser Fish Eagle. I decided to go to Sukhna again to get a photograph but before that let’s hear the call first. I opened this website with recorded calls of birds around the world and to my surprise, what I heard was the same distress call that I heard at Lake yesterday. Oh boy, it was not a distress call. It was a call of the Lesser fish Eagle. I was now 90% convinced. I whatsapped the call recording to Sukhwinder, and he was convinced too. We decided to go again in few days at the same time. Sukhwinder got stuck in his official work, so I went there 3-4 times with Vikas Sharma but in vain. After few days, to our much delight, Vikas managed to get the photograph clearing all the doubts in my head and leaving me with a sense of joy. A new entry into the ISCR Bird List, WOW! It was one of the happiest moment of my three-year-old birding life.



**Lesser Fish Eagle, at
Sukhna Lake**

Photo by Jaideep Grewal

Sukhna has always been a great place to see new birds and this year it is packed with new surprises. I am sure there are many more surprises waiting for us in the thick cover of reeds, through the shallow trunk of trees, perching in the dense canopy where the Himalayan fish reaps.

Saiyam Nagar

Hume's Short-toed Lark

First Record of Hume's Short-toed Lark (*Calandrella acutirostris*) from Chandigarh ISCR Region

On 3rd May, 2017 at around 17:00 hours I spotted and photographed a solitary Hume's Short-toed Lark (*Calandrella acutirostris*) at Sukhna Lake (30.7421° N, 76.8188° E), Chandigarh, along with a large flock of Common Sandpipers (*Actitis hypoleucos*). I took a few pictures and was unsure about the exact identity as the Greater Short-toed Lark (*Calandrella brachydactyla*) had been spotted in the same



area around a month back and both species are quite similar in appearance. I had put up the pictures for confirmation of identity on a popular forum on Facebook wherein it was identified as Hume's Short-toed Lark (*Calandrella acutirostris*) and post that I sought an opinion from leading expert Tim Inskipp who also confirmed the identity **“based on the dark patch on the lores, the uniform ear-coverts, weakly streaked crown and dark ridge on bill”**.



The Hume's Lark is a migratory bird which may have stopped here on its way back from Pakistan and NW India where it winters to Baluchistan and the Himalayas. There are no reports of this species till date from the Chandigarh ISCR although it is shown to migrate through Punjab (Ali & Ripley 1987; Grimmett et al. 2011; Rasmussen & Anderton 2012).

Munish Jauhar

Tawny-bellied Babbler

Tawny-bellied Babbler (*Dumetia hyperythra*): A New Addition to Chandigarh Bird List

While looking for the recently sighted Lesser Fish eagle and the Black-necked Grebe at Sukhna Lake, I saw a small flock of 5-6 of these Babblers moving around in the reeds along with a flock of Yellow-eyed Babblers. At the very first sight, I could make out that these were the Tawny-bellied Babblers as I had seen them at Nahan many times. The distribution maps don't show them to be found here, and the nearest place to Chandigarh where they have been recorded is at Nahan. This is a new addition to the ever-growing bird list of Chandigarh.



Tawny-bellied Babbler is a small (13cm including the tail) rufous- coloured babbler with a long tail. It is a skulker and loves to forage in groups in low scrub forests. It is listed as “Least-Concern” by IUCN, but its population over South Asia is believed to be declining due to habitat loss. Also, rapid fragmentation of its population has been observed over a period. This may be one of the reasons of this resident bird being sighted for the first time in Chandigarh.

There are 04 subspecies of Tawny-bellied Babbler recognised in South Asia. Three of them have white throat while one sub-species viz., *D.h. hyperythra* found in East peninsular India has a throat which has orange-buff and is same as that of underparts. The sub-species *D.h. phillipsi* is found in Sri Lanka.

Rajive Das

Bird Survey

Moti Bagh Bir, Patiala

On 17th December 2017, members of Chandigarh Bird Club participated in a bird survey of Moti Bagh Bir in Patiala, Punjab, on the request of the local Forest Department Officials and nature enthusiasts.

Twelve members of the club:

1. Alpana NP Singh
2. Amandeep Singh Channa
3. Aprajita Lobana
4. Bindoo Nangia
5. Gajinder Bains
6. Mohit Kohli
7. Rima Dhillon
8. Saiyam Nagar
9. Samrath Singh
10. Sarbjeet Kaur
11. Shobana Venkatraman
12. Simerpreet Singh Cheema



We reached Patiala at about half-past seven. We were greeted at the Bir, which is also the Patiala Zoo, by Forest Department officials and local nature enthusiasts; Dr Jagga, a surgeon, Dr Harmanjit Singh, palaeontologist and snake expert, and Mr Sanjayinder Chahal, Rima ma'am's brother. The zoo itself was a sight to see, and what with it being closed that day, we were able to see the black bucks, hog deer, emus, crocodile, and silver pheasants without much trouble.



The members and the welcoming party bundled us in cars and went into the forest. The area is in dire need of reforestation in a planned manner. The plantation includes, for the most part, maskat and eucalyptus, the former has rendered the fort without any undergrowth, and the latter has dried up the area. It is towards the eastern end of the forest area that there is a marginal variety of trees, and some birds as well. The forest needs more native flowering and fruiting trees, for more bird and wildlife, both of which are scanty in the area. The second area we visited was the Sanour Bir, which is a nursery and a forest. This forest is a complete contrast to the Moti Bagh Bir.

Sr. No.	Species		
1	Babbler, Jungle	20	Parakeet, Rose-ringed
2	Bluethroat	21	Peafowl, Indian
3	Bulbul, Red-vented	22	Prinia, Ashy
4	Chiffchaff, Common	23	Redstart, Black
5	Crow, House	24	Robin, Indian
6	Eagle, Crested Serpent	25	Robin, Oriental Magpie
7	Egret, Cattle	26	Sandpiper, Green
8	Egret, Little	27	Sparrow, House
9	Flameback, Black-rumped	28	Stilt, Black-winged
10	Flycatcher, Red-breasted	29	Sunbird, Purple
11	Francolin, Grey	30	Teal, Common
12	Hornbill, Indian Grey	31	Treepie, Rufous
13	Kingfisher, White-throated	32	Wagtail, White
14	Kite, Black	33	Warbler, Grey-headed
15	Lapwing, Red-wattled	34	Warbler, Hume's Leaf
16	Myna, Bank	35	White-eye, Oriental
17	Myna, Common	36	Whitethroat, Lesser
18	Owlet, Spotted		Total species = 36
19	Parakeet, Alexandrine		

We ended the survey at about twelve and retreated to the residence of Mr Chahal. He provided us with refreshments and a delicious lunch. After a round of talks interspersed with Dr Jagga's wit and humour, we left for Chandigarh.

Amandeep Singh Channa

New Species Recored in TSCR



Grasshopper Warbler, R. Das



Upland Pipit, R. Das



Black-headed Bunting, R. Das



Eurasian Skylark, R. Das



Little Swift, R. Das



Alpine Swift, R. Das



Dunlin, R. Das



Tawny Pipit, R. Das

Photo Gallery



Mallard (male) and Spot-billed Duck, at Dhanas Lake, Chandigarh

By Manbir Singh



Osprey, at Sukhna, by Vikas Sharma



Black-necked Grebe, at Sukhna, by Vikas Sharma

DIVING CHAMPS

The region's birding community has reason to cheer this winter courtesy those dauntless divers, the grebes. On Thursday, six Slavonian or horned grebes were observed at the famous Dighai wetland in Jhajjar, Haryana, by Eaksh Ahlawat of the Nature Conservation Foundation. Authentic records from India of this migratory grebe are very rare and include two from Harik in February 2003 by Anand Prasad. Grebes are birds that dive, and then seem to disappear forever like the Loch Ness monster!

A vulnerable species, the Slavonian grebe is difficult to differentiate from its migratory cousin, the black-necked grebe, when both are in the non-breeding or winter plumage. A fair comparison in the field of the two very similar grebes is on offer this winter. As luck would have it, a single black-necked grebe landed at the Sukhna lake recently, the first record for the species in the inter-state capital region spanning a 50-km radius from Chandigarh.

Now please don't ask what features differentiate the two grebes as it would consume most of my column space!

• www.digmal.com



• (Top) A Slavonian grebe at Dighai, and a black-necked grebe at Sukhna Lake. PHOTOS: SUNDER SANGHATTA, VIKAS SHARMA

Winged delight



Black-necked Grebe flew almost 6,000 km to reach Chandigarh this winter. Identifying the migratory bird, city bird watchers Vikas Sharma, Sarabjit Kaur and Mitinder Solhoni claimed that it was a new entrant to the Inter-State Capital Region (ISCR) list of migratory birds this year.

ये हैं शहर के बर्ड वॉचर

हफ्ते में दो बार बर्ड वॉचिंग को जाते हैं

सेक्टर-46 के रहने वाले संभव नागर ने तो बर्ड वॉचिंग के लिए अपनी कुलट बेच दी थी। कैमरा खरीदने के लिए अपनी फ्लैट हाथ से दी थी। उन्होंने कुलट बेचकर कैमरा खरीदा। वे अब तक 300 से ज्यादा पक्षियों की अवलोकन प्रजाति को देख चुके हैं। संभव ने बताया कि उनके चचेरे भाई सिद्धार्थ भी बर्ड वॉचर हैं। उनसे देखने-देखते उन्हें भी बर्ड वॉचिंग का चक्का लग गया। बर्ड वॉचिंग से उन्हें फोटोग्राफी भी आ गई। पहले तो फायरफ्लाई से पक्षी को दिखाते थे। फिर उन्हें पक्षियों के रंग और उनके हावभाव को कैमरे में कैद करने का शौक पड़ा। अब वे इनकी अच्छी फोटोग्राफी करते हैं कि लोग उनसे पूछते हैं कि अगर फोटो कैमरे खोले हैं। अब जब भी उन्हें समय मिलता है तो वे जंगल की ओर निकल पड़ते हैं। हफ्ते में दो बार वे बर्ड वॉचिंग के लिए ट्राइसटी के किसी भी स्पॉट पर पहुंच जाते हैं।



कौमोईरा

ये आया है जिंग्गी में बदलाव

संभव बताते हैं कि जब से बर्ड वॉचिंग शुरू की है तब से नेचर व जीव-जंतुओं के प्रति सम्मान बढ़ गया है। उनके कथित जाने पर अब अचानक पक्षिणि आती है। साथ ही धीरे-धीरे सोचने के नज़रिया में बदलाव आया है।

क्या होती है बर्ड वॉचिंग

चंडीगढ़ बर्ड्स क्लब के प्रेसिडेंट एमएस सेखों ने बताया कि बर्ड वॉचिंग के अंतर्गत पक्षियों को देखना, उनकी प्रजातियों की पहचान करना, उनके रंग-रस-संग के बारे में जानना ये सब कुछ बर्ड वॉचिंग में आता है। यदि पक्षियों का रिकार्ड करना हो तो उसकी तस्वीरें खींची जाती हैं। ये भी बर्ड वॉचिंग का एक हिस्सा है।

आप भी बन सकते हैं बर्ड वॉचर

प्रो. सेखों के मुताबिक बर्ड वॉचिंग को सीखना मुश्किल नहीं है। इसके लिए किसी पक्षी विशेषज्ञ के सहाय होना जरूरी है। वो अच्छी तरह से बता सकेंगा कि पक्षी की पहचान कैसे की जाए। इसके लिए सामान्य-सा एक बनावतुर लेना होगा। कैमरे को कोई आवरणकाली नहीं है। यदि कोई बर्ड वॉचिंग करना चाहता है तो चंडीगढ़ बर्ड्स क्लब की टीम उनकी मदद कर सकती है। सूचना लेक, सिरसा, डेम्, मोह, माजरा, मोरनी, चन्नीको मोह जैसी अन्य जगहों पर बर्ड वॉचिंग कर सकते हैं।

चंडीगढ़ को पक्षियों की पनाहाह माना जाता है। यहां 415 से ज्यादा पक्षियों की प्रजातियां पाई जाती हैं। लेकिन, इस बार सर्दियों में पक्षियों की संख्या में जबरदस्त इजाफा हुआ है। शहर में अबसर इन पक्षियों को कुछ लोग निहारते रहते हैं। जिन्हें बर्ड वॉचर कहा जाता है। इनकी अपनी दुनिया है, जो जंगल और एकांत की ओर ले जाती है। ये सिर्फ बर्ड वॉचर नहीं, बल्कि पक्षियों के रक्षक भी हैं। जब भी चिड़ियां के घोंसलों पर कोई प्रहार करता है या उन्हें ज़ाड़ने की कोशिश करता है तो वे दीवार बनकर खड़े हो जाते हैं। बर्ड वॉचरों के अनुभवों और उनके जीवन में आए बदलावों को विस्तार से बता रहे हैं अमर उजाला संवाददाता आशीष वर्मा।

परिंदों के दीवाने

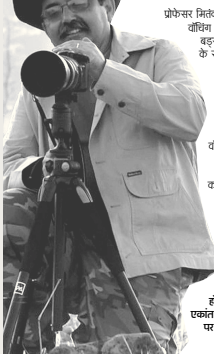
सबसे सीनियर बर्ड वॉचर, हौसला ऐसा कि युवा भी छूट जाएं पीछे : सरबजीत

सरबजीत कौर को उम्र करीब 68 साल है, मगर बर्ड वॉचिंग के प्रति उनका जुनून और जवाब किसी युवा से कम नहीं है। वे चंडीगढ़ बर्ड्स क्लब की सबसे वीरियर बर्ड वॉचर हैं। उनके दो बेटे और एक बेटी हैं। बेटे विदेश में रहते हैं और बेटी कसौली में। तीनों बच्चों से मिलने के लिए वे अक्सर जाती रहती हैं। मगर जब भी उन्हें मौका मिलता है विदेशों को निहारने पहुंच जाती हैं। उन्हें जो गिट मिलता तो भी अविनाश पक्षियों से संलग्न रहते हैं। कभी कितना तो कभी कैमरे। उन्हें विदेशी पक्षियों के बारे में जानकारी भी काफी अच्छी खारी है। चंडीगढ़ प्रशासन की ओर से आयोजित होने वाली ट्रेकिंग में भी वे अक्सर हिस्सा लेती हैं। उन्होंने बताया कि साल 2013 में उनके पुत्रों ने कानी बर्ड जंगल का। पौनीधर में दिवंगम तो कुछ परमास्थान बने। उसे पक्षी किंवदंती बर्ड्स को देखने के लिए पहाड़ी में चढ़ना और उतरना जारी रहा। इससे 99 प्रतिशत तक पुत्रों की गंगा। लोग कहते थे कि सखी करण लाल, मगर इसकी जरूरत नहीं पड़ी।



ये आया है बदलाव : सरबजीत बताती हैं कि बर्ड वॉचिंग का उनके जीवन में काफी प्रभाव है। उनके बच्चे बाहर रहते हैं। ऐसे में इस उम्र में अकेलापन और डिप्रेशन हावी होने लगता है। मगर बर्ड वॉचिंग की वजह से ये सब बीमारियां उनसे दूर रही। पक्षियों की मरु भूभाग, उनकी आवाज़ ने कभी बोर नहीं होने दिया। उनके मुताबिक जब आप नेचर के करीब जाते हैं तो आपको बहुत सारी दुआएं मिलती हैं। ये दुआ कि किसी की भी हो सकती है।

बर्ड वॉचिंग जंगल और एकांत की ओर ले जाती है : प्रोफेसर सेखों



प्रोफेसर मिर्जरपाल सिंह सेखी 1983 से लगातार बर्ड वॉचिंग कर रहे हैं। वे भारत की ओर से उजाड़ बर्ड्स की प्रजातियों को देख चुके हैं। पक्षियों के सबसे बड़े सफ्टवेयर डॉ. सैमिअल अली का साल 1980 में उन्होंने एक लेक्चर सुना था। ये इतने प्रभावित हुए कि तीन साल बाद उन्होंने बर्ड वॉचिंग शुरू कर दी। डीपी सेक्टर दस में प्रोफेसर के घर पर निवास सेखी चंडीगढ़ बर्ड्स क्लब के प्रेसिडेंट भी हैं। उनके मुताबिक बर्ड वॉचिंग के लिए धैर्य का होना बहुत जरूरी है। एक बार वे शिकारी पक्षी मॉनिंग को देखने बीकानेर के जंगलघर गए। वहां कई घंटे तक सीढ़ी सॉलिंग सॉलिंग करी जाती है। उन्हें धैर्य से मालूम लीटना पड़ा। कुछ दिनों बाद वे बीकानेर से बीकानेर पहुंचे, मगर मायूसी ही हाव लगी। तीसरी बार गए तो मॉनिंग कैमरे में कैद हो पाए।

जिंग्गी में ये आया बदलाव
उनका कहना है कि बर्ड वॉचिंग से उनके अंदर धैर्य बढ़ गया है। तनाव दूर होता है। ये एक ऐसी हॉबी है, जो जंगल और एकांत की ओर ले जाती है। प्रकृति के संपर्क में रहने पर एक अलग ही सुकून मिलता है। उनके घर पर पक्षियों के घोंसले बने हुए हैं।

मेडिटेशन की तरह है बर्ड वॉचिंग

चंडीगढ़ फूड सेफ्टी विंग में डेजिगनेटड ऑफिशर सुखविंदर सिंह चाहे जितनी बिनी ही, लेकिन पक्षियों के लिए वे वक्त निकाल लेते हैं। पक्षियों के प्रति दीवानगी ऐसी है कि जब भी वे बाहर जाते हैं तो अपने साथ कैमरा लेकर निकल जाते हैं। सप्तर के बीच सरबजीत की उन्हें खुशनुमा पक्षी दिखा जाए तो उसे निहारने के लिए वे रुक जाते हैं और जब तक उनकी फोटो कैमरे में उतर न लें तब तक उन्हें चैन नहीं आता। ये अब तक 200 से ज्यादा पक्षियों की प्रजातियों को



आपने कैमरे में उतार चुके हैं। उन्हें बचपन से ही फोटोग्राफी का शौक था। यही शौक उन्हें बर्ड वॉचिंग में ले आया। ट्राइसटी के अलावा उतरनागढ़, भरतपुर,

आवाज से पक्षियों को पहचान जाते हैं



एक या दो बार आवाज है तो उनके बारे में उन्होंने किताबी, इंग्लिश और हिन्दी में से खोजना शुरू किया। जैसे-जैसे जानकारी बढ़ती गई, मूखी का बर्ड वॉचिंग पर जुनून और कड़क बनने लगा। अब वे पक्षियों की आवाज से उन्हें पहचानने लगे हैं। कहीं भी जाते हैं तो उनकी नज़रें आसमान और वृक्षों पर रहती हैं। कैमरा भी अबसर साथ रहता है।

ये आया है बदलाव : बर्ड वॉचिंग का न सिर्फ मूखी के जीवन पर असर पड़ा है। बल्कि उनके बच्चों पर भी काफी सॉफ्टिवा असर पड़ा है। एक बेटा 11 साल की और दूसरी भ्रातृ सलामी की। दोनों बच्चे जब भी पक्षी देखते हैं तो इसकी जानकारी अपने पापा को देते हैं और उसके पक्षियों के बारे में पूछते हैं। मूखी ने बताया कि जब से बर्ड वॉचिंग से रुक गई है, तब से उन्हें जिंग्गी, भूगोल और प्रकृति के प्रति जानकारी और संवेदनशीलता बढ़ी है।

सेक्टर-17 स्थित आर्टी कंपन प्रेसल टेक्नोलॉजी के मालिक मनीष जोहर जितने टेक्नोलॉजी में महिर हैं, उतने ही वे पक्षीवर्ग प्रेमी हैं। वे बताते हैं कि एक बार वे अपने पिता के साथ सुखना लेक पर फोटोग्राफी के लिए गए थे। पिता का स्टूडियो होने के कारण उन्हें फोटोग्राफी के बारे में थोड़ा बहुत ज्ञान पहले से था। पहले ही दिन उन्होंने सुखना पर स्टूडियो किंगफिशर को अपने कैमरे में कैद किया। किंगफिशर को यह प्रजाति बहुत ही कम चंडीगढ़ में दिखती है। जब उन्हें पता चला कि यह पक्षी साल में एक बार आती है तो उन्होंने फोटोग्राफी के लिए जाने का फैसला कर लिया।

एक या दो बार आवाज है तो उनके बारे में उन्होंने किताबी, इंग्लिश और हिन्दी में से खोजना शुरू किया। जैसे-जैसे जानकारी बढ़ती गई, मूखी का बर्ड वॉचिंग पर जुनून और कड़क बनने लगा। अब वे पक्षियों की आवाज से उन्हें पहचानने लगे हैं। कहीं भी जाते हैं तो उनकी नज़रें आसमान और वृक्षों पर रहती हैं। कैमरा भी अबसर साथ रहता है।

एक या दो बार आवाज है तो उनके बारे में उन्होंने किताबी, इंग्लिश और हिन्दी में से खोजना शुरू किया। जैसे-जैसे जानकारी बढ़ती गई, मूखी का बर्ड वॉचिंग पर जुनून और कड़क बनने लगा। अब वे पक्षियों की आवाज से उन्हें पहचानने लगे हैं। कहीं भी जाते हैं तो उनकी नज़रें आसमान और वृक्षों पर रहती हैं। कैमरा भी अबसर साथ रहता है।

एक या दो बार आवाज है तो उनके बारे में उन्होंने किताबी, इंग्लिश और हिन्दी में से खोजना शुरू किया। जैसे-जैसे जानकारी बढ़ती गई, मूखी का बर्ड वॉचिंग पर जुनून और कड़क बनने लगा। अब वे पक्षियों की आवाज से उन्हें पहचानने लगे हैं। कहीं भी जाते हैं तो उनकी नज़रें आसमान और वृक्षों पर रहती हैं। कैमरा भी अबसर साथ रहता है।

एक या दो बार आवाज है तो उनके बारे में उन्होंने किताबी, इंग्लिश और हिन्दी में से खोजना शुरू किया। जैसे-जैसे जानकारी बढ़ती गई, मूखी का बर्ड वॉचिंग पर जुनून और कड़क बनने लगा। अब वे पक्षियों की आवाज से उन्हें पहचानने लगे हैं। कहीं भी जाते हैं तो उनकी नज़रें आसमान और वृक्षों पर रहती हैं। कैमरा भी अबसर साथ रहता है।

ये आया है बदलाव

सुखविंदर सिंह कहते हैं कि जब से बर्ड वॉचिंग शुरू की है, तब से एकदम और पक्षिक बड़ा है। प्रकृति के करीब आया है। वे एकदम से पक्षीवर्ग प्रेमी हैं। मेडिटेशन का काम करते हैं। बर्ड्स की एक अलग दुनिया है, जो हमें बहुत कुछ सिखाती है। हर इंसान को इससे सीखना चाहिए।



रुई रोस डक

कोई जंगल की तरफ शहर से आया होगा

गौर चूं ही न पक्षियों ने पचाया होगा कोई जंगल की तरफ शहर से आया होगा पेड़ काटने वालों को ये मालूम तो था जिसम जल जाएंगे जब सर पे न साया होगा बानी-ए-जून-ए-बहारों ने ये सोचा भी नहीं किस ने काटों को लहू अपना पिलाया होगा बिजली के तार पे बैठा हुआ इंसता पंछी सोचता है कि वो जंगल तो पराया होगा अपने जंगल से जो घबरा के उड़े ये घबरा हर सबाब उन को समुंदर नज़र आया होगा -रोफे आरमोनी



सारी थकान छू मंतर हो जाती है : गगनदीप

पेजे से बिकनेसेमन गगनदीप ने बात हुई तो पता चला कि वे भाग प्रदेश स्थित काका टाइटल रिजर्व में गए हुए हैं। अमर उजाला से फोन पर उन्होंने बताया कि उन्हें पहले टाइटल को देखने और उनकी फोटो खींचने का बहुत ज्यादा शौक था। चंडीगढ़ के आसपास तो बड़े टाइटल रिजर्व हैं नहीं और हर बार शहर के बाहर जाना पड़ता है। ऐसे में धीरे-धीरे थकान बर्ड वॉचिंग की ओर आ गया। वीकेंड में जब भी उन्हें समय मिलता है तो वे टाइटल के बर्ड वॉचर के लिए निकल पड़ते हैं। वे भी रिजर्व पंच साल से चंडीगढ़ में बर्ड वॉचर कर रहे हैं। उनका कहना है कि अगरबूच से लेकर मार्च महीने तक बर्ड वॉचिंग के लिए सुखना सबसे बेस्ट स्पॉट है।

जीवन में ये आया बदलाव : गगनदीप ने बताया कि प्रकृति के करीब रहने से न सिर्फ उन्हें बल्कि उनके बच्चों में बदलाव देखने को मिला है। छोटी सी उम्र में बच्चे पक्षी, पेड़ और प्रकृति के बारे में बात करते हैं। जंगलों से लौटकर जब वे आसपास पर जाते हैं तो बच्चे पूछते हैं कि कौन से पक्षी की फोटो खींची। बर्ड वॉचिंग से रील गड्डी की पोलिंग आती है। काम की सारी व्यक्त पु मंत्र रहते हैं।



सुखविंदर सिंह

Whispering Wings®

Newsletter of the Chandigarh
Bird Club



Incepted in 2008, the Chandigarh Bird Club dedicated itself to its goal of protecting the environment.

The Club owes its existence to those few dedicated and expert members, who started this Club in the Chandigarh Boat Club, namely Navjit Singh, Narbir Kahlon, Vikramjit Singh, Mrs Rima Dhillon, Mrs Sarbjeet Kaur, and Mrs Geeta Goswami.

The fundamental objectives of Chandigarh Bird Club continue to be to:

1. Bring people, especially the younger generation closer to nature, through birding and help them to enjoy the outdoors while making out a fun activity.
2. To make individuals and government more sensitive towards the environment to create a dynamic database for analysis to focus on conservation efforts.
3. To create a forum for birders to share information and discuss issues related to this activity.

Editors: -

Mitinderpal Singh Sekhon

Amandeep Singh Channa

- **President - Mitinderpal Singh Sekhon**
- **Vice President - Narbir Singh Kahlon**
- **Secretary - Rima Dhillon**
- **Joint Secretary - Sarbjeet Kaur**
- **Treasurer - Mahesh Garg**