
Whispering Wings®

Newsletter of the Chandigarh Bird Club®



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July - September 2018

From the Editor's Desk

Soaring High
Birds of sky
You know your way
Across continents
No maps
No compasses
Just the seasons
To guide you directly
To warmer climes!

— **Sandra Martyres**

The rains have been almost normal and most of the waterbodies are brimming full. We wait for our annual winged guests with bated breath. Will they alight in the lakes and ponds awash with waters or fly to some distant places? Some of the passage and early migrants are already here.

The Club's calendar also brims full with new commitments, activities and endeavours. Another bird race is on the cards while the Annual Census and Dr Salim Ali Birthday Celebrations add to the charm of the winter.

Nagar Van Bird Walks mentored by CBC members are not only a great success but much in demand too. Nagar Van has not stopped throwing surprises as newer species, not recorded earlier from this belt, have been seen and photographed. The hide has resulted in more than fantastic photos by members and non-members.

The Bird Picture exhibition organised by UT Forest Department and Chandigarh Bird Club at Sukhna, as a part of the Wildlife Week Celebrations saw a huge footfall adding another feather to the Club's cap!

The concerted efforts of members have resulted in a much better exposure of the club amongst public in general and wildlife enthusiasts in particular.

Let us wait and watch as the winter progresses — and enjoy every scene as the drama unfolds!

May you always hear the bird song!

Mitinderpal Singh Sekhon

Secretary's Report

Good Day fellow Birders,

Once more the e-journal of Chandigarh Bird Club is ready for your perusal. Our collective gratitude goes to the two-man team of Mitinderpal Singh Sekhon and Amandeep Singh Channa for working so tirelessly towards the success of this venture.

I am happy to announce that the Club family is steadily growing with new members joining us. This augurs well for all future programs that the club might undertake as the members coming from diverse backgrounds bring in fresh ideas for conducting these events. We hope more people will come forward to volunteer for the various events planned for the winter.

The monthly field trips for the months of July, August and September were enthusiastically attended at Jungeshu, Jawaharpur and Chhaparchiri

We are conducting a survey of Mohali parks for the District Administration in order to sensitise the visitors towards the avifauna present there during different seasons.

A birdwalk is held every third Sunday of the month in the newly developed Nagarvan in Chandigarh. This programme is organised by the Chandigarh Forest & Wildlife Department and mentored by Club members for residents of the city.

Exhibition and Competition of Photographs of Birds and Animals of Chandigarh Tricity area was held on 7th October 2018 at Sukhna Lake, to mark the celebrations of Wildlife Week.

Winter is a busy period for the Birders. Bird counts and census are held by Punjab Wildlife Department in the wetlands of Punjab to keep records of the migrating waterfowl populations. Chandigarh Bird Club members volunteer to help at Harike, Nangal, Ropar, Shailapattan in Punjab and also help out in Pong Wetland in Himachal Pradesh.

November is the month of Salim Ali's birth anniversary. The Club will celebrate this occasion by conducting the annual bird count on the Sukhna lake.

It is heartening to see the enthusiasm of the members and we look forward to a wonderful winter of birdwatching.

May we always hear the bird chorus.

Rima Dhillon

Different, not Better

The master of candid photography, Henry Cartier-Bresson had described the camera as a sketchbook, an instrument of intuition and spontaneity. This emphasises the need to understand our photography gear, know its strengths and weaknesses so as to master its operation.

Before buying the digital single lens reflex (DSLR) camera, many photo enthusiasts keep questioning which way to go. Full frame or crop sensor and now their attention is also drawn by the mirrorless camera. I think it's better not to discuss the mirrorless for the time being as for many of the choice is already confusing.

The terms crop-sensor and full-frame refer only to the size of the imaging sensor inside a camera. The full-frame sensor is of the same size of a piece of 35mm film, the 24mm x 36mm format. On the other hand, any size of sensor, less than 24x36mm is called crop-sensor. It is also known as the APS-C (Advanced Photo System). For instance, Nikon's full-frame sensor is of 24x36mm and the camera is categorised as FX. Its crop sensor (camera body categorized as DX) is of the size of about 24 X 16 mm. The crop factor is 1.5 x. Canon's cameras are also of full frame and those of crop sensor have crop factor of 1.3x and 1.6x. Other camera manufacturers also make crop sensor cameras, but their sizes differ.

Both the crop-sensor and full-frame cameras have their own advantages and disadvantages. For instance, in case of a crop-sensor camera of Nikon, the angle of view of a 50 mm lens will be 75 mm whereas on full frame sensor its effective focal length will remain unchanged. Today, the high-end crop sensor cameras have the potential to provide image quality similar to that of a full frame. But it's very difficult to point out the difference because it is simply negligible. Thanks to the improved sensor and processor technology.

While most of the sports and wildlife photographers as well as photojournalists prefer crop-sensor camera to get an extra reach, the landscape and architecture photographers opt for full frame because of its potential to cover wide area. A crop-sensor camera can achieve similar wide view with a wide angle lens made for a crop sensor camera.

The question is, if now the gap between the image quality of both kind of cameras is negligible, why the photographers still feel they would upgrade to a full

frame camera. It was in early 2000s that DSLRs began to replace film based Single Lens Reflex (SLR) cameras. The initial DSLRs used to have cropped sensor as it was not easy to make full frame sensor because of its high cost. Later on some camera manufacturers began to manufacture full frame cameras based on the standard 35 mm film format. We have among us many photographers who have enjoyed making images with medium format or large format cameras and the availability of full-frame camera is a boon for them. The crop sensor being smaller than the standard 35 mm film format, was considered as an a downgrade.

Practical Implications

Size-The basic difference between the two is of the size of the sensor as a result of which the camera body size also differs. The crop sensor camera is smaller in size and lighter in weight whereas the full frame camera is bigger and comparatively heavier. Its not that the bigger sensor increases the weight of the camera, but the sensor size increases the dimensions of the camera body and so makes it comparatively bigger and expensive. The lenses of the full frame camera are also bigger, heavier and expensive.

The size of the camera sensor makes interesting effect on various aspects like ISO, depth of field, apparent focal length of lenses and dynamic range, but this does not make us judge how good or bad a camera is. They are different.

ISO : Higher the number of ISO, greater is the sensitivity of sensor. However, all digital cameras have base ISO which can be 50 or 100 or 200. Today, most of the crop-sensor cameras significantly outshine their forebears from just a few years ago when people did not like to shoot even at ISO 800 or 1600. The facility of Auto ISO is a remarkable addition.

A full frame sensor provides high ISO and better low light performance, a broader dynamic range and yields a higher quality image as compared to that of a crop sensor. Thanks to the ongoing improvement in technology as nowadays even some of the latest crop sensor cameras are capable of high ISO performance.

Depth of Field: Remember the bigger is not always better. Depth of field is defined as the zone of acceptable sharpness, which is in front and back of the subject in focus. It can be shallow or deep. The sensor size affects apparent depth of field. When shooting full-frame we get the benefit of a shallower depth of field, which is often liked by the portrait photographers. Those engaged in architecture and

landscape photography also prefer full-frame cameras because that gives them wider field of view.

Focal Length: It is not a measure of how long or short a lens is physically, but it is the distance in millimeters from the optical centre of a lens to the imaging sensor when the lens is focused at infinity.

If a full frame and a crop-sensor DSLR take the same image from the same distance, with the same lens and point of view, the crop sensor camera will capture a tighter field of view than the full-frame camera. The focal length measurements of lenses being based on 35 mm standard, a crop sensor crops out the edges of the frame, which effectively increases the focal length.

Dynamic Range- It is the range of value between light and dark areas. We see wide range of intensity levels in real scene ranging from direct sunlight to shadows. Because of larger pixels, full-frame cameras have a broader dynamic range in general, making them better equipped to capture the full brightness range of a scene that features both extreme areas of dark shadows and bright highlights, as well as mid tones.

Many photographers like to shoot landscapes with a full frame camera because they need maximum wide area in the frame, leave aside other factors. However, when one is to choose between the two for landscape photography, the answer is, "It's your choice." Just to ponder over the issue, if one wants to have maximum depth of field for landscapes, it can be achieved with a crop-sensor camera. Also, while shooting at the same angle of view, on a crop-sensor and full-frame cameras, if the aperture is f/11 on crop-sensor one may have to use f/16 on a full-frame to ensure sharpness from foreground to background.

All said and done, no doubt the full frame camera will yield images of higher resolution and would have better low-light performance, but at a considerable price. On the other hand, the crop-sensor camera will help in achieving extra reach at a comparatively low cost. As Nikon has retained "F" mount for its lenses for both kind of cameras, the full-frame lenses will work properly on crop-sensor cameras, but the reverse has limitations.

Today, many photo-enthusiasts remain keen to upgrade to full-frame with the hope to improve their image quality. But this assumption is not necessarily true. As said earlier, advancement in technology has narrowed the gap between the image quality and noise levels between full-frame and crop-sensor cameras.

In full frame cameras, the sensor space is used to make each pixel bigger. For example, a full-frame camera with 24 megapixels has bigger pixels spread over a larger sensor area than a crop-frame camera with an equal number of megapixels. Bigger pixels absorb more light photons, which increases dynamic range in the photo. Greater dynamic range means there will be somewhat more detail visible in dark areas, and less noise. Therefore, better performance in low light.

Here a word of caution. Its not only the high cost, size and weight of the full-frame camera that matters, but also the care with which the images are made. Resolution of most full-frame sensors is so high that it exposes any shortcoming in technique and clarity of image. Thanks to the advancement in technology, none of the full-frame or crop-sensor camera is better, they are different.

Now the camera manufacturers are competing with each other in adding more pixels to their megapixel cameras. Is it a marketing gimmick or do we really need so many pixels. Its high time for the photographers to be conscious of possible compromises, if any.

Subhash Sapru



**Rufous-necked Snowfinch,
by B K Goyal, at Gurudongmar, Sikkim**

Indian Grey Hornbill

Indian Gray Hornbill (*Ocyrceros birostris*) is nominated the state bird for the Union territory of Chandigarh.

A large grey bird with a flapping, gliding flight and an ungainly way of landing on its perch. As they fly from one eucalyptus treetop to the next, following the leader, they make screeching, pleading sounds.



These hornbills have a healthy population in Chandigarh owing to the abundance of various species of ficuses which are the favourite food for them. Peepal, Banyan Figs and Pilkhan line the roads in Chandigarh so there is no dearth of berries.

It has been observed that in their non-breeding period Hornbills prefer a larger percentage of fruit in their diet with a small amount of animal matter like insects and lizards etc. but in the breeding season, along with fruit, the juveniles are fed insects, lizards, skinks and even chicks of other birds like parakeets.

They are seen to eat leaves of various trees like the Papaya. Leaves of Papaya are rich in many enzymes, multivitamins, beta carotids and carpaine. The bird may need carpaine to fight skin problems and for healthy feathers.

Hornbills nest in hollows in old trees which may be natural or those excavated by other species like barbets and woodpeckers. Though large and tough looking they are actually quite meek, as often, they are relieved of their nest by the more aggressive Common Mynas and Parakeets.

Once the eggs are laid the female spends the first three days to seal herself in with a mixture of fruit and her own excrement, leaving just a narrow slit through which the male will feed her and the chicks for the next few weeks.



Initially the to and fro feeding trips are not so numerous as only the mother has to be fed but once the fledglings arrive the father is worked off his wings trying to cater to the hungry mouths. Then along with fruit, large quantities of animal matter have to be provided too. And of course the poor breadwinner has to eat to keep his own energy and spirits up or else he could very easily become a victim of postpartum stress!

Mama Hornbill is a no nonsense mum and the chicks are potty trained so all fecal matter is immediately removed from the nest cavity and it is kept clean and disease free.

Hornbills tend to stick around a specific area and families can be seen moving together while foraging or roosting. Hornbills are usually seen in trees but they do come down to the ground for mud-baths and often a small flock of three to four bird may be seen indulging in this ritual together.

Although at first glance there is very little difference between the male and female hornbill it is observed that the male has a larger casque (horn), more yellow on the beak and the iris is red/orange while the circumorbital skin (eye ring/fleshy



part around eye) is dark. In females the casque is small, less yellow on the beak and the iris is dark while the circumorbital skin is reddish.

Another school of thought regarding the difference in colours of the iris and circumorbital skin is that it could be the result of endocrinal secretions during the emotional state of the female. The excitement of courtship could bring about this change. Courtship rituals can include grappling beaks and feeding of food by the male to the female in order to woo her!

Happily there are plenty of Indian Grey Hornbills to be seen throughout their range so they are on the IUCN list as of Least Concern.

Rima Dhillon



Sibling Rivalry, Jacobin Cuckoo with its foster sibling....Jungle Babbler —

Brood Parasitism

By Rima Dhillon, at Nagar Van

Ethics of Bird Watching

During a club meeting some months ago, the conversation was directed to ethics of bird photography, especially those involving nesting birds and nests. It got me thinking about ethics of birdwatching and bird photography. Using the Internet, I read some articles; Audubon and Birdlife International; I gathered some valuable points on ethics, which members of the club should pay heed to.

Support the protection of birds in the habitat

It is important for birders to recognise their role in insuring their favourite birds are still around to be appreciated by future generations. By respecting, supporting, and advocating for the protection of good habitat, birders play an essential part in the ongoing survival of bird species.

Avoid stressing birds or exposing them to danger

Birders should keep an appropriate distance from all birds they observe. Where possible, stay on marked trails and avoid entering restricted areas, no matter how tempting it may be to venture closer. Disturbing the bird's feeding area or nesting sites can cause stress and fear that may drive the bird to an area where it is more vulnerable to predators.

Exercise restraint and caution during observation, photography, sound recording or filming. Limit the use of recordings and other methods of attracting birds and avoid using such methods in heavily birded areas or for attracting any species listed as threatened or known to be rare in your local area. Keep well back from nests and nesting colonies, roosts, display areas, and important feeding sites. In such sensitive areas, if there is an intention of extended observations, photography, filming or recording, try to use a blind or hide, and take advantage of natural cover.

There are many useful birding tools that can bring birders close to the species they observe without interacting with the birds. Zoom camera lenses, binoculars, and spotting scopes are useful options. A bit of patience on part of the birder will help the birds feel more secure about the birder's presence and it may venture closer on its own.

Call Playback

The use of call playback can distress some species and may disrupt feeding and/or breeding activity. As a general rule, you should not use or support the use of call playback for the purposes of bird observation. However, if artificial bird calls are to be used, they should be used for limited periods and be played at a volume lower than that of the target bird. It should not be used during target bird's breeding season.

The use of such devices should always be kept to a minimum, particularly in areas of high visitation by birders where call playback by other birders may have occurred in the recent past. Responsible use of call playback can be valuable in locating cryptic birds without causing serious harm; however, it is a skilled activity and should not be taken lightly. If in doubt, avoid using call playback, particularly during nesting season when birds may be called off incubation duties, or even abandon the nest all together.

Flushing

While any interaction with birds runs the risk they will occasionally startle and fly off, it is unacceptable to deliberately flush birds in order to get a good view of the underwing or any of the parts of the body not usually seen. Repeatedly flushing birds can mean they use of vital energy needed for other activities such as feeding and can place the bird under undue stress.

Avoid handling birds

Birders should never physically touch a bird without extreme cause. While it may be necessary to move an injured bird to a safe location or to help re-locate fledgelings that fell from the nest, it is always best to avoid touching birds. If it is necessary to touch or move birds in dangerous situations or birds that have sustained injuries, they should be handled as little as possible. Wear gloves to limit the risk of bacterial or viral contamination and quickly put the bird in the safe, calm area where they can recuperate naturally.

Rare bird sightings

It is natural for birders to want to share the exciting discovery of a new nest, a rare bird species or an unknown birding site, but doing so could result in increased stress to the birds.

The location of nesting sites of rare species or species of conservation significance should only be divulged to relevant conservation authorities.

You should carefully consider the consequences of attracting large numbers of birders to sensitive areas. Birds are naturally shy and can easily be disturbed by a sudden increase in human presence, even if birders practice good birding ethics.

Habitat disturbance

Avoid leaving litter along birding trails, and do not move dead branches, bush or tree limbs in order to see birds more clearly — move your body instead to find a better observational angle. Stay on the roads, tracks, and paths where they exist; and otherwise keep habitat disturbance to a minimum.

The ethics of bird photography

Avoid causing unnecessary disturbance or stress to birds.

- Use a telephoto lens on the bird for close up shots. If your approach causes a bird to flush or change its behaviour, you are too close.
- Some birds may “freeze” in place rather than flying away, or hunch into a protective, aggressive, or pre-flight stance. Watch for changes in posture indicating that the birds are stressed, and if you see these, back away.
- Never advance on the bird with the intention of making it fly.
- Use flash sparingly (if at all), as a supplement to natural light. Avoid the use of flash on nocturnal birds at night, as it may temporarily limit their ability to hunt for food.
- Before sharing location of specific birds with other photographers or birders, think carefully about potential impact to the birds or their habitats.
- Concern for birds’ habitat is also essential. Be aware of your surroundings. Avoid trampling sensitive vegetation or disturbing other wildlife.

Nesting birds are particularly vulnerable and need special consideration

- Keep a respectful distance from the nest. If you are using a macro lens on including the nest as a focal point instead of a wide-angle lens, even if you are operating the camera remotely, you are probably too close. Telephoto lenses are recommended.
- Avoid flushing the adults, scaring the young, or doing anything to draw the attention of predators to the nest. For example, repeatedly walking to the nest can leave both a foot trail and a scent trail for the predators.

- Not move or remove anything around the nest, as it may be providing both essential camouflage and protection from the elements.
- Never use drones to photograph nests, as they can cause injury and stress with the nestlings and parents

Luring birds closer for photography is often possible but should be done in a responsible way

- Bird feeding stations, whether or not they are used for photography, should be kept clean, stocked only with appropriate food items, and positioned with the bird safety in mind.
- Never lure hawks and owls with live bait, or with decoys such as artificial or dead mouse. Baiting can change the behaviour of these predatory birds in ways that are harmful for them.
- Playback of bird voices to lure them close for photography should be used sparingly, and not at all in the case of endangered birds, or birds at critical points in their nesting cycle.

(This information has been taken from Birdlife Australia and Audubon Society)

Compiled by:

Amandeep Singh Channa



Jungle Babbler

By Amandeep Singh Channa, at Thapli

Reminiscing the Holy Trip to Gurudongmar

A visit to North Sikkim would be so incomplete without a trip to the holy Gurudongmar lake! Located at an altitude of 17800 ft (5190m), this lake remained completely frozen through the winter, leaving no source for water for the villagers who lived nearby. Till the Gurus (Padmasambhava and/or Nanak) passed by, and upon request of the villagers, blessed one part of the lake to remain free flowing and provide water to the villagers through the year. Nestled in majestic snow-clad Tibetan ranges, the beautiful blue lake indeed provides a sight to behold!



I happened to be in North Sikkim last year to visit a friend posted to a Field Hospital of the Army at Chungthang. We went to the Lachung axis first day to visit the Valley of Flowers at Yumthang. It was quite a touristy destination, lots of momos and thukpa stalls serving piping hot stuff, a few regular birds of that habitat but hardly any flowers to justify the name. The drive to Yumthang, however, was certainly very interesting with hundreds of waterfalls along the way, spraying us with their mist and flowing into the Lachung stream.

Next day, we were scheduled for the Lachen axis. I had no inputs about the avifauna of the region save for a picture of "grandala tree" from Lachen that I had seen on Indian Birds. I hoped like hell that I would see the grandalas there. As we started our ascent along the river, we came across a number of regular birds like the bar-throated sivas, coal tits, sunbirds and yuhinas. Further up at about 10000ft elevation, across the river on the far bank, I saw what looked like a dipper. I stopped the vehicle and looked carefully through the binocs. Whoa! It was the white-throated

dipper!! Notwithstanding the distance, quickly snapped up a few pics with my 200-500 lens, before moving on.



Bar-throated Siva



White-throated Dipper

The climb became more steep and we crossed Lachen, a small hilly hamlet surrounded by lush green meadows. No grandalas to be seen, much to my dismay.

Soon we crossed Thangu and reached a military post where all visitors to Gurudongmar are screened for their fitness for the last leg of the journey. Being from the Army, we were given some very special chai with hot pakoras, that was very very timely considering the temperature had dropped considerably by now. We were at an elevation of around 14500 ft. A young medico from my very own Army Medical Corps was checking everyone's oxygen level in the blood before clearing them for further travel. I was shocked to find that my oxygen level was mere 75%! (Against a normal of 95-98% in the plains that I was used to.) He quickly reassured me that 75% was very good for 15000ft altitude and that I was good to go further.



Snow Pigeon



Groundpecker



Hill Pigeon

I looked around for birds near the military post and I was in for a windfall! The snow pigeons were foraging in a garbage pile like common mynas and were as unmindful of our presence as the mynas. When I looked up in the other direction, I

found a flock of a larger version of sparrow type birds - with much longer beaks. And then they did what they did and in an instant I knew what I was seeing ... groundpeckers! From a mere ten feet distance!! Captured them securely in the camera and moved on, satisfied. As we moved further, I was surprised to find a common pigeon by the side of the road at this altitude! Closer scrutiny showed a white band in the tail and I knew it was the hill pigeon. Another lifer.

After another couple of kilometres, the climb became very gentle and the road almost like the road in plains. We were on the Tibetan plateau. There was a pair of good looking larks on a flat stretch of land, close to the road and I stopped to examine them. They had tiny black horns and I later discovered that I had seen the horned larks.



Horned Lark

A few kilometres of the car traveling at nearly 100 kmph on the beautifully metalled road and we reached the base of the lake. The altitude was nearly 17500 ft now and we were obviously concerned whether rapid ascent from 6000 ft to this height is going to make us breathless. It didn't, fortunately. After we reached the road head, we started the last climb on foot, very tentatively, and soon we were on top! With the frozen expanse of the beautiful blue lake right in front of our eyes with snow clad mountains providing a perfect backdrop and the chilling winds piercing even through our well-covered bodies. There was a small shrine dedicated to both Guru Nanak and Guru Padmasambhava, next to the edge of the lake. As I went round the shrine, I found a number of birds, all unfamiliar, feasting on the grains that the caretakers of the shrine had placed for them. I got into a good position to click each of these species from close quarters and discovered later that I had added Brandt's mountain finch, robin accentor and rufous-necked snowfinch to my life list. Soon we



Rufous-necked Snowfinch



Robin Accentor



Brandt's Mountain Finch

also had a lammergeier, the bearded vulture, giving us wily looks with its menacing eyes, flying overhead.

Done with all the birds, it was now time to look at the lake. As we had been told, the lake was all frozen, except where it had been blessed by the Gurus, where



Lammergeier/Bearded Vulture

the clear blue water flowed into the mountain stream that would eventually become the Teestha River. The landscape was so ethereal and calming.



Alpine Chough

A wonderful trip, indeed! had returned home after Shanti Kunj (she too lives in Sector-16). Here, our only interesting sighting was of a peacock. We ended our day there at about 0900 hours.

Bhupesh Kumar Goyal

Birds of my area

I live in Sector-70, Mohali, adjacent to the new airport road. The surroundings is lush with trees, that I have endeavoured to prevent from being cut. The road, too, is bordered by trees, lining the outer wall of my housing complex. The entire green cover is suitable for the birds. On the other side of my house is a park, with grown trees. On the roof I keep two water pots for the birds.



over the years, many birds have started to visit my locality. It began with the pigeons, omnipresent as they are, and crows, equally everywhere. Then came the Indian Chat, followed by Red-vented Bulbuls and Himalayan Bulbuls. After them, Eurasian Hoopoe too came to my park. One day, a Shikra was waiting on the railing of my balcony and then came regularly, either to my roof, or to the shady tree across the car park. A couple of years back, a pair of Rufous Treepies had started building a nest in the tree just below my balcony. They have been resident ever since. Asian Koel can be heard for almost as long as I have been here, but I have only put a name to it recently. A solitary Indian Grey Hornbill was also here, but I have not seen it since. The eucalyptus across the airport road are home to Black Kites. Recent rains have also brought a single Brown-headed Barbet to my locality, and has been here since.

The following birds are commonly seen in my locality:

1. Rock Pigeon
2. Indian Chat
3. Red-vented Bulbul
4. Himalayan Bulbul
5. Eurasian Hoopoe



Eurasian Hoopoe

6. Shikra
7. Rufous Treepie
8. Asian Koel



Shikra

- 9. Indian Grey Hornbill
- 10. Black Kite
- 11. Brown-headed Barbet
- 12. Common Tailorbird
- 13. Purple Sunbird
- 14. Ashy Drongo



Rufous Treepie

- 15. Greater Coucal
- 16. Common Myna
- 17. Jungle Babbler



Rock Pigeon



Brown-headed Barbet

18. House Crow

19. Wire-tailed Swallow

20. Laughing Dove



Eurasian Collared Dove

21. Eurasian Collared Dove

Amandeep Singh Channa

Chandigarh Forest Department and Chandigarh Bird Club Nagar Van Bird Walk - August 19, 2018

Members of Chandigarh Bird Club

1. Mitinderpal Singh Sekhon
2. Sarbjeet Kaur
3. Rima Dhillon
4. Rajive Das
5. Harbhajan Singh Pathania
6. Karandeep Singh
7. Narbir Kahlon
8. Aprajita Lobana
9. Bindoo Nangia
10. Amandeep Singh Channa

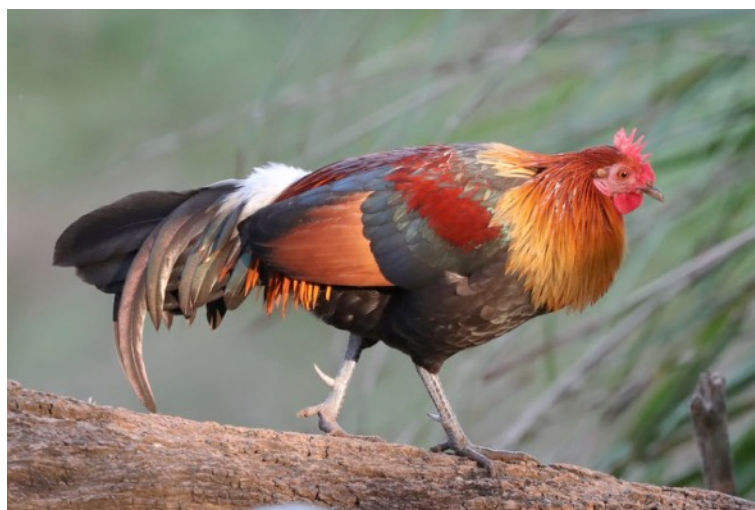


Birds seen

1. Common Myna
2. Red Junglefowl
3. Jungle Babbler
4. Indian Pond Heron
5. Black Kite
6. Indian Peafowl
7. Black-rumped Flameback
8. Indian Spot-billed Duck
9. Shikra
10. Plain Prinia
11. Black Drongo
12. Indian Grey Hornbill
13. Rose-ringed Parakeet
14. Common Moorhen
15. Jacobin Cuckoo
16. Coppersmith Barbet
17. Brown-headed Barbet
18. House Crow
19. Ashy Prinia
20. Scaly-breasted Munia
21. Blythe's Reed Warbler
22. Spotted Dove
23. Lesser Whistling Duck
24. Blue-tailed Bee-eater

25. White-breasted Waterhen
26. Indian Silverbill
27. White-throated Kingfisher
28. Common Hawk Cuckoo
29. Little Cormorant
30. White-eyed Buzzard
31. Greater Coucal
32. Spotted Owlet
33. Rufous Treepie
34. Jungle Myna
35. Red-vented Bulbul
36. Cattle Egret
37. Purple heron
38. Jungle Prinia
39. Green Bee-eater
40. Eurasian Cuckoo
41. Syriated Prinia
42. Oriental Turtle Dove
43. Oriental Honeybuzzard
44. Jungle Owlet (heard)
45. Yellow-eyed Babbler
46. Asian Koel
47. Eurasian Collared Dove
48. Laughing Dove
49. Knob-billed Duck

- 50. Pied Bushchat
- 51. Indian Robin
- 52. Common Tailorbird
- 53. Purple Sunbird
- 54. Long-tailed Shrike
- 55. Wire-tailed Swallow
- 56. Crimson Sunbird
- 57. Chestnut-tailed Starling
- 58. Large-billed Crow
- 59. Plain Martin
- 60. Oriental Magpie Robin
- 61. Crested Serpent Eagle
- 62. Zitting Cisticola
- 63. Indian Scops Owl



Red Junglefowl
By Narbir Kahlon, at Nagar Van

Chandigarh Forest Department and Chandigarh Bird Club Nagar Van Bird Walk - September 16, 2018

Members of Chandigarh Bird Club

1. Mahesh Garg
2. Sarbjeet Kaur
3. Mohit Kohli
4. Saiyam Nagar
5. Narbir Kahlon
6. Samrath Singh
7. Harbhajan Singh Pathania
8. Aprajita Lobana
9. Amandeep Singh Channa



Birds seen

1. Jungle Babbler
2. Black Drongo
3. Rufous Treepie
4. Ashy Prinia
5. Jacobin Cuckoo
6. Green Bee-eater
7. Brown-headed Barbet
8. Eurasian Wryneck
9. Common Moorhen
10. Black Kite
11. Black-crowned Night Heron
12. Brahminy Starling
13. Eurasian Hoopoe
14. Indian Spot-billed Duck
15. Indian Pond Heron
16. White-breasted Waterhen
17. Shikra
18. Red-wattled Lapwing
19. Indian Grey Hornbill
20. Rose-ringed Parakeet
21. Common Myna
22. Asian Koel
23. Little Cormorant
24. Black-rumped Flameback

25. Indian Peafowl
26. Red Junglefowl
27. Cattle Egret
28. Coppersmith Barbet
29. Lesser Whistling Duck
30. House Crow
31. Grey Francolin
32. Scaly-breasted Munia
33. White-breasted Waterhen
34. Wire-tailed Swallow
35. Jungle Babbler
36. Blue-tailed Bee-eater
37. Rock Pigeon
38. Paddyfield Pipit
39. Purple Sunbird
40. Black Francolin
41. Ashy Drongo
42. Large-billed Crow
43. Chestnut-tailed Starling
44. Plain Prinia
45. Streak-throated Swallow
46. Zitting Cisticola
47. Long-tailed Shrike
48. Common Rosefinch
49. Crested Bunting

- 50. Indian Robin
- 51. Common Hawk Cuckoo
- 52. Spotted Dove
- 53. Eurasian Collared Dove
- 54. Hume's Leaf Warbler
- 55. Oriental Magpie Robin
- 56. Large Grey Babbler
- 57. Yellow-eyed Babbler
- 58. Plum-headed Parakeet
- 59. Red Avadavat
- 60. Indian Silverbill
- 61. Purple Heron
- 62. Little Egret
- 63. Lesser Whitethroat



Woolly-necked Stork
By Pranav Kumar, near Zirakpur

September Field Trip

The field trip for the month of September was held on 9th September 2018 to Chhappar Chhirri. In attendance were, Mohit Kohli, Saiyam Nagar, Sarbjeet Kaur, and Amandeep Singh Channa.

The day began at 0630 hrs, when we crossed over into the tall sarkanda-lined road. Of the many species seen, Cinnamon Bittern was lifer for many of us; we also saw a dead bittern as well. Another highlight Common Hawk Cuckoo. We ended the day at 0915 hrs, due to rising sun and lowering bird activity.

The following species were seen:

1. Indian Spot-billed Duck
2. Black Francolin
3. Grey Francolin
4. Rock Pigeon
5. Eurasian Collared Dove
6. Laughing Dove
7. Greater Coucal
8. Jacobin Cuckoo
9. Asian Koel
10. Common Hawk Cuckoo
11. White-breasted Waterhen
12. Black-winged Stilt
13. Red-wattled Lapwing
14. Common Sandpiper
15. Little Cormorant
16. Cinnamon Bittern
17. Purple Heron

18. Intermediate Egret
19. Cattle Egret
20. Indian Pond Heron
21. Red-naped Ibis
22. Black Kite
23. Eurasian Hoopoe
24. Green Bee-eater
25. Rose-ringed Parakeet
26. Long-tailed Shrike
27. Black Drongo
28. House Crow
29. Crested Lark
30. Wire-tailed Swallow
31. Red-vented Bulbul
32. Ashy Prinia
33. Plain Prinia
34. Striated Babbler
35. Jungle Babbler
36. Pied Bushchat
37. Indian Chat
38. Asian Pied Starling
39. Chestnut-tailed Starling
40. Common Myna
41. Bank Myna
42. Jungle Myna

- 43. Citrine Wagtail
- 44. Paddyfield Pipit
- 45. House Sparrow
- 46. Red Avadavat
- 47. Indian Silverbill
- 48. Scaly-breasted Munia

Amandeep Singh Channa



Common Woodshrike
By Amandeep Singh Channa, at Morni



White-crested Laughingthrush
By Mitinderpal Singh Sekhon, at
Chakki ka Mor

Chhappar Chhirri Bird List

Members: Gagandeep Matharoo, Ranbir Matharoo, Sukhwinder Singh & Vikas Sharma.

Date - 02.09.2018

Time - 11.30 to 4.15



Cattle Egret

Little Egret



Red Collared Dove

Eurasian Collared Dove



Green Bee-eater



Indian Silverbill

Red Avadavat

Scaly-breasted Munia
Black Francolin
Grey Francolin
Indian Peafowl
Lesser Whistling Duck
Red-naped Ibis
Cinnamon Bittern
Indian Pond Heron
Purple Heron
Red Avadavat
Scaly-breasted Munia
Little Cormorant
White-breasted Waterhen
Black-winged Stilt



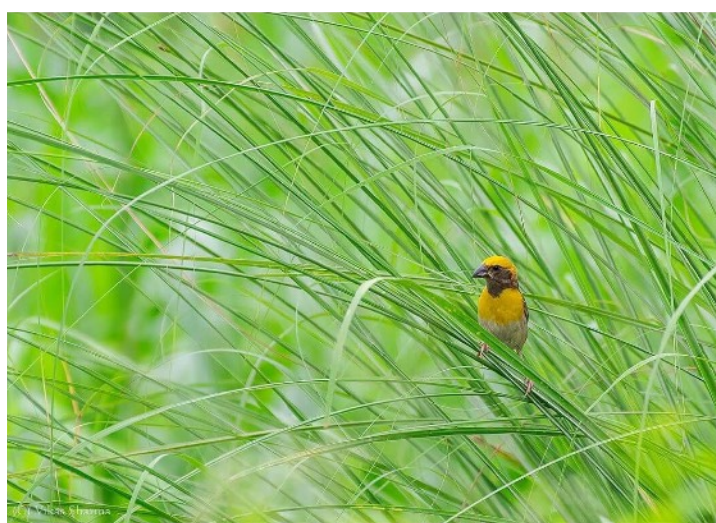
Wire-tailed Swallow

Red-wattled Lapwing

Small Pranticole

Rose-ringed Parakeet

Greater Coucal
Common Hoopoe
Black Kite
Shikra
Indian Roller
White-throated Kingfisher
Indian Grey Hornbill



Baya Weaver
House Crow
Red-vented Bulbul
Ashy Prinia
Plain Prinia
Striated Babbler
Jungle Babbler
Bank Myna
Common Myna
Pied Myna
Siberian Stonechat

Pied Bushchat
Indian Chat
Paddyfield Pipit
Long-billed Pipit
Bengal Bushlark
Indian Lark
Black Drongo
Blyth's Reed Warbler
Zitting Cisticola

Vikas Sharma



White-browed Wagtail
By Rick Toor

Press Coverage of the Club

बर्ड वॉक : देखने वाले लोग भी बढ़े और पक्षियों की संख्या भी...

नगर वन में पर्यावरण डिपार्टमेंट की ओर से आयोजित की गई वॉक, 65 से ज्यादा लोग पहुंचे और करीब 64 पक्षियों को देखा

अमर उजाला न्यूज़

ये पक्षी देखने को मिले

चंडीगढ़। पर्यावरण विभाग ने चंडीगढ़ बर्ड्स क्लब के सहयोग से रविवार को सुखना लेक के समीप नगर वन में बर्ड वॉक का आयोजन किया। इस दौरान 65 से ज्यादा लोग पहुंचे और करीब 64 से ज्यादा पक्षियों को प्रजातियों को देखा। पिछली बार 60 लोग आए थे और करीब 63 प्रजातियों को देखा था।

इस बार पक्षियों की संख्या भी बढ़ी है और लोग भी। इस दौरान बर्ड वॉचरों ने आए लोगों को पक्षियों के बारे में विस्तार से जानकारी दी। यहां आए लोगों का अनुभव काफी बेहतरीन रहा। पहली बार उन्हें पक्षियों को काफी करीब से देखने का मौका मिला। इस दौरान उन्हें उनके हवन-सहन, खान-पान और उनके आदतों के बारे में समझा। आए लोगों को बर्ड्स के बारे में जानकारी देने की जिम्मेदारी चंडीगढ़ बर्ड्स

फॉरेस्ट डिपार्टमेंट के मुलुबिक वॉक के दौरान स्नात जंगली भुर्गो, रातनेक, ब्लैक ड्रॉगो, लेजर विलिंग डक, बर्सा, पपीहा, लालमुनिया, रिक गुर, पपेल हेरन, शिकारा, छोटा पाखड़ा सहित करीब 64 प्रजाति देखने को मिली। पिछली बार बर्ड वॉचरों को पक्षियों की 63 प्रजाति देखने को मिली थी।

क्लब के सदस्यों पर भी। पक्षियों के प्रति जागरूकता बढ़ाने के लिए पर्यावरण डिपार्टमेंट की ओर से बर्ड वॉक का आयोजन किया गया है। इस दौरान बर्ड वॉचर सरवजीत कौर, नरबीर, अमनदीप, एचएस पटानिया, मोहित, डा. अपराजिता, सिम्मी, संयम, महेश सहित अन्य लोग मौजूद रहे।

बर्ड वॉचर सरवजीत कौर ने बताया कि प्रजातियों की संख्या में ज्यादा अंतर नहीं है। हालांकि अब इनकी संख्या में बढ़ोतरी होगी।



नगर वन में पक्षियों की संख्या बढ़ रही है। आने वाले दिनों में इनकी संख्या और बढ़ सकती है। लोग इसका काफी लुफ्त उठा रहे हैं। धीरे-धीरे इसके बारे में जागरूकता भी बढ़ रही है।

प्रदीप गुल्लिब, रोज फॉरेस्ट ऑफिसर

अनुसूचर से माइग्रेट बर्ड्स का आना शुरू हो जाता है। उस वक़्त पक्षियों की प्रजातियां दौगुनी पहुंच जाएंगी। सुखना लेक पर स्थित नगर वन में पक्षियों को लाने के लिए बसेरा बनाया गया है। पक्षियों के लिए घोंसले, घने व फलदार पेड़, पानी सहित कई प्रकृतिक चीजें बनाई गईं। इस वजह से यहां पर पक्षियों का आना बढ़ रहा है। कुछ ने अपना बसेरा तक बना दिया है। इन्हें देखने के लिए विशेष तौर पर लकड़ी के हाइड्स बनाए गए। जिनमें छिपकर पक्षी को देखा जाता है।



सिटी फॉरेस्ट में आयोजित बर्ड वॉक के दौरान बर्ड वॉचर। अमर उजाला

Amar Ujala, September 17, 2018

Try to spot species at city forest on August 19

CHANDIGARH: Birdwatchers have reason to cheer as the forest department is organising a walk for them on August 19 at the city forest.



■ Indian grey hornbill

There are around 325 bird species in Chandigarh and over 60 species have been spotted at the forest. These include the peacock, Indian grey hornbill, kingfisher, parrot, bulbul, cuckoo, owl, house sparrow, oriental pied hornbill, jungle owlet, barbet, cuckoos and red jungle fowl.

Officers from the UT forest department have said that after August 19, bird walks will be organised every third Saturday of the month. Experts will accompany walkers on a round of the forest and educate them about different species of birds, their specialities and the habitat.

City Forest was inaugurated by UT administrator VP Singh Badnore a few months back.

Hindustan Times, August 18, 2018

Spread over 100 hectares, it was developed at a cost of ₹2 crore. So far, initiatives have been taken by the UT forest department to make the place a suitable habitat for birds.

More fruit trees have been planted, food grains, papaya and other food items have been kept at various places along with water pots. Additional plants were grown in select spots for thicker growth. HOW TO APPLY

FOR THE WALK

Details of the bird walk will be uploaded on the website of the forest department and all those who are interested can apply online.

Officials of the environment department have also said that participants will have to apply for the walk through the Chandigarh Forest website.

They will be received at the entrance of the City Forest by expert birders with binoculars who will take them on the tour.

The purpose of this initiative is to make people more sensitive about the birds and their habitats, to generate love for nature and appreciate various species.

Tricity's birders capture Pacific plover on cameras midst of it's transit flight

Vikram Jit Singh | TNN

Chandigarh: The Pacific Golden plover, a passage migrant from North-east Siberia, was suspected to have halted in the Tricity hinterland since ages, but no evidence had surfaced. In the space of less than four months, the energetic tribe of Tricity birders has photo-recorded two instances of the Pacific Golden plover in transit flight — on May 25 as a north-bound migrant pair to summer breeding grounds and again on September 2 as south-heading travellers to coastal regions ahead of the freeze setting in the Arctic Tundra.

The first record ever of the plover came on May 25 when keen birder and organic farmer, Manbir Singh, photographed a pair resting in a maize field at village Rehmapur (Mohali), 8km from Chandigarh. On September 2, Haryana Govern-



A Pacific Golden plover near Derabassi

ment Undersecretary, Sanjeev K Verma, his wife, Kamlesh, and son, Sohail, chanced upon a single plover amid a flock of resident Red-wattled lapwings near Derabassi. The Chandigarh-based Vermas, including three sons, are all keen birders and possess five Nikon cameras and a dozen lenses to capture birds in varying moods and situations. The Vermas were delighted upon

MIGRANTS |
The plover is one of the world's longest non-stop, transoceanic flight migrants and a one-way migration journey ranges between 5,000 to 13,000km

capturing the plover as a gorgeous rarity for the family bird album.

Dr S Balachandran, a co-author of the seminal volume, 'Indian Bird Migration Atlas', BNHS deputy director and head of the BNHS Bird Migration Study Project, said, "The plover (photographed by Verma) is an adult bird but with partial breeding plumage. It is on a southward movement from Arctic breeding grounds in North-east Siberia. It may

not have come as solitary bird and the companion may be spread over a larger area. At night, when it is time to roost, the plovers on migration may congregate together at a safer place. Some plovers can migrate to the southern tip of India and terminate the journey if they don't have enough fat reserves to migrate further. Plovers can travel further south (as far as New Zealand) after building adequate body mass," Dr Balachandran told TOI.

Revealing fascinating aspects of the autumn journeys, Dr Balachandran said, "The plover from Derabassi does not have a full breeding plumage and could be a second-year bird that did not breed and hence left prior to the other adults which bred successfully. The first migrants to arrive in India either did not breed in summer or may have lost their chicks or may be immature birds

which reached here early without having attained breeding maturity. On the other hand, adult plovers which have bred successfully in Siberia leave the last after having sent their chicks down south to warmer climes."

Plovers are shorebirds, sticking to the waterline for feeding and foraging in the wake of receding tides when they migrate to coastal regions. The plover is one of the world's longest non-stop, transoceanic flight migrants and a one-way migration journey ranges between 5,000-13,000km. Despite such long flights to and fro from breeding grounds in the tundra, the species shows a high degree of nest-site fidelity and will return to the same nest cup or to within 100m of nest-site of previous year. It breeds on inland Arctic habitats including shrub tundra, montane tundra and stony well-drained uplands with mosses and lichens.

Times of India, September 9, 2018

बर्ड्स को देखने के लिए इस बार 65 लोगों ने की सिटी फॉरेस्ट में वॉक

सिटी रिपोर्टर | चंडीगढ़

बर्ड वॉचिंग का शौक रखने वालों के लिए बर्ड पार्क डेवलप किया गया है। यहां पर करीब 60 से ज्यादा अलग अलग प्रजातियों के पक्षी हैं जिनको आप देख सकते हैं। रविवार को फॉरेस्ट एंड वाइल्ड लाइफ डिपार्टमेंट की तरफ से रविवार को दूसरी बर्ड वॉक इस पार्क में करवाई गई। इसके लिए पहले ही लोगों को रजिस्ट्रेशन करवानी होती है और इस बार की वॉक के लिए 65 लोगों ने रजिस्ट्रेशन करवाई थी जो रविवार सुबह करीब 5 बजे ही यहां पार्क में पहुंच गए थे। यहां पर एक्सपर्ट की टीम मौजूद थी और वॉक के लिए आए लोगों के छोटे-छोटे ग्रुप्स बनाकर ये वॉक पूरी की गई।

चंडीगढ़ के प्रशासक वीपी सिंह बदनोर ने ही इस तरह का पार्क डेवलप करने को लेकर निर्देश दिए थे जिसके बाद इस पार्क का ये पहला



पानी साफ करने के लिए लगेंगे सोलर प्लांट

सिटी फॉरेस्ट में ही एक तरफ के गंदे पानी को साफ करने के लिए पानी को डायवर्ट किया गया है। इस पानी को साफ रखने के लिए अब यहां पर तीन फ्लोटिंग सोलर फाउंटेन लगाए जाएंगे। चंडीगढ़ सिव्वाअल एनर्जी एंड साइंस एंड टेक्नोलॉजी प्रमोशन सोसाइटी की तरफ से ये फाउंटेन लगाए जाएंगे ताकि पानी को साफ रखा जा सके।

फेज तैयार किया गया है। इसके बाद यहीं पर एक बर्ड एवियरी भी डेवलप की जानी है। इस पार्क को डेवलप करने के लिए करीब डेढ़ करोड़ रुपए का बजट प्रशासन से फॉरेस्ट एंड

वाइल्ड लाइफ डिपार्टमेंट की तरफ से मांगा गया है। इसको रेगुलर इवेंट प्रशासन बनाना चाहता है जिसके लिए फिलहाल प्रत्येक महीने के तीसरे रविवार को ये वॉक करवाई जाती है।

Dainik Bhaskar, September 17, 2018

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**