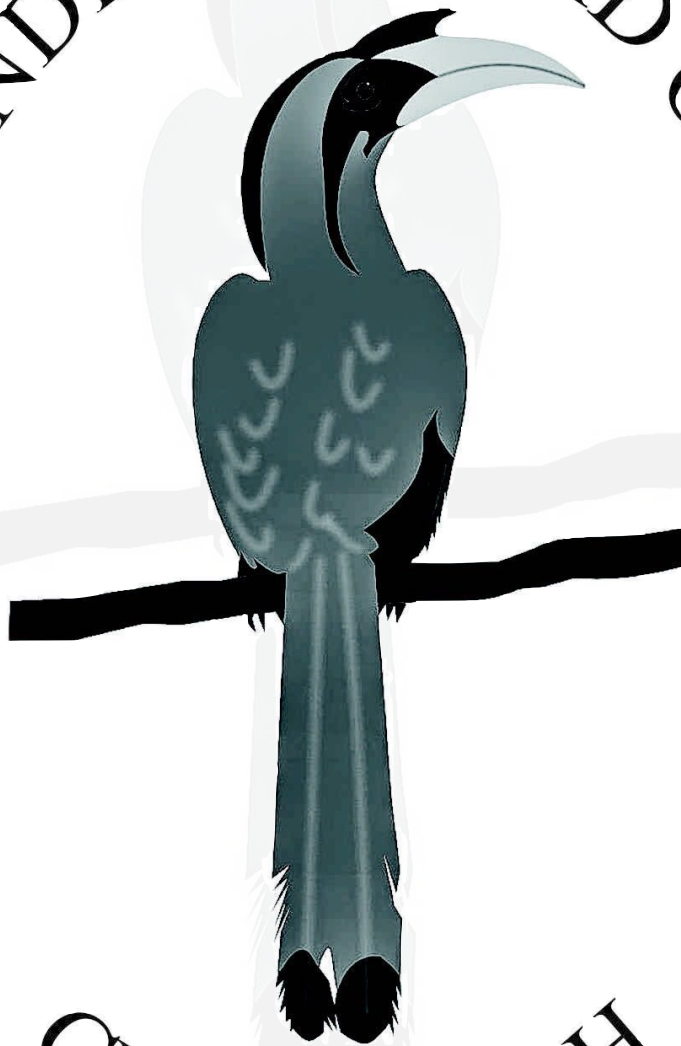

Whispering Wings®

Newsletter of the Chandigarh Bird Club®

CHANDIGARH BIRD CLUB



CHANDIGARH

Volume 7 - 2nd Edition

October - December 2021

From the Editor's Desk

*Be through my lips to the unawaken'd earth,
The trumpet of prophecy! O Wind,
If Winter comes, can Spring be far behind.*

~ P B Shelley

At the onset, I wish all members a wonderful, birdfull New Year. May the pandemic end and we be free to bird around...

Peak winters is also the best time for birders of our region, as all altitudinal and latitudinal migrants are here. Despite the pandemic and restrictions in place due to it, members have been out and recorded large number of species. The records, new places and long list have been the hallmark of this winter. Let the spring also throw in its surprises...

The Indian Express E paper has been carrying a weekly write up by members on migrant waterfowl . They are helping us reach our objective of disseminating information about birds to general public.

February Waterfowl count and the HSBC Chandigarh Bird Race, the two major events in CBC's calendar are around the corner. The club is abuzz with activity and I hope, wish, and endeavour to work so that this year's event is better than the last.

May you always hear the bird song!

Mitinderpal Singh Sekhon



**Rose-ringed Parakeet, Leisure Valley,
Sec-10, Chandigarh, December 2021
By Mitinderpal Singh Sekhon**

Secretary's Report

In the last quarter of 2021 the club did not see too much group activity. With pandemic restrictions still very much in place, club meetings took place online.

Members, however, did go out in small numbers, or individually, to keep track of the migrants coming into the region. With the warm weather continuing well into October, the waterfowl migration seemed to be delayed as not many ducks were seen in the waterbodies around Chandigarh till towards the second half of November.

The annual Sukhna Lake census was conducted in mid November to coincide with the birth anniversary of Salim Ali. This time, the water bodies at Dhanas, Mirzapur Dam, Siswan Dam and Motemajra were included in the census. The count from all the areas, however, was quite low.

Sukhna Lake has been witnessing a low turnout in numbers of waterfowl for the past several years.

Nagarvan, in the Sukhna WLS has been shut to public during the pandemic and when it finally opened up its gates it was with the addition of a walk in aviary attracting hundreds of visitors. It is yet to be seen how this will impact the populations of resident breeders and migrants to this area.

With a hope and a prayer we look forward to the new year bringing relief from these strange times and getting life as we knew it, back on track.

Happy New Year and Happy Birding!

Rima Dhillon



**Black Redstart, Leisure Valley, Sec-10,
Chandigarh, December 2021
By Mitinderpal Singh Sekhon**

Wildlife Week and Chandigarh Bird Club

Chandigarh Forest and Wildlife Department celebrates Wildlife Week every year from 2nd October to 9th October. As always, on 3rd October, 2021, Chandigarh Bird Club put up an exhibition of photographs of birds clicked in and around Chandigarh.



Annual Dr Salim Ali Birth Anniversary Waterfowl Census and Species Count



Team Ghaggar

In keeping with our calendar even through the pandemic, our annual event to count the waterfowl in and around Chandigarh was held on Sunday, 14th November 2021. This year, we added Siswan and Mirzapur to the list of locations, which, with Sukhna Lake, Dhanas, Ghaggar, and Motemajra, brings the total to six.



Team Sukhna Lake Front

We set up six teams — Sukhna Lake Front led by Mitinderpal Singh Sekhon; Sukhna Lake Back led by Manjot Singh; Dhanas led by Nitin Singh; Motemajra led by Gurdip Singh Boparai; Siswan led by Rima Dhillon, and joined by Alpana N P Singh, Aprajita Lobana, Simmi Waraich, Mani Bhullar, and Pushkar Bali; Mirzapur led by Narbir Kahlon, and joined by Navjit Singh, Rick Toor, Gajinder Bains, Lalit Mohan Bansal, and Geetika Kalha; and Ghaggar led by Sarbjeet Kaur, and joined by



Team Mirzapur

Amandeep Singh Channa, Karandeep Singh, Saiyam Nagar, Gagan and Abhishek Nain. The day ended with a lunch hosted by Narbir Kahlon at his residence where everyone gathered at around 1300 hrs to collect and assess the data.



Team Siswan

This year Chandigarh area had a total of 441 waterfowl of 30 different species, while the entire surveyed region had 2040 waterfowl of 53 species. The most waterfowl (911) were recorded from Ghaggar. The results are in the following tables:

Sr No	Waterfowl Species	Motemajra	Sukhna Lake	Ghaggar	Dhanas	Total
1	Coot, Eurasian	35	8	1	7	51
2	Cormorant, Great	10	14		1	25
3	Cormorant, Indian	13				13
4	Cormorant, Little	15	2	1	1	19
5	Duck, Brahminy	1	52	21		74
6	Duck, Indian Spot-billed	10	32	26	11	79
7	Duck, Knob-billed/Comb	6	1			7
8	Duck, Tufted				12	12
9	Egret, Cattle	4		21		25
10	Egret, Great	1				1
11	Egret, Intermediate		4			4
12	Gadwall	2	64	50		116
13	Garganey	35				35
14	Goose, Bar-headed	60				60
15	Goose, Greylag	3				3
16	Grebe, Great Crested		2			2
17	Grebe, Little	2	1	1	5	9
18	Greenshank, Common			1		1
19	Heron, Black-crowned Night	2	11			13
20	Heron, Grey	1	2	10		13
21	Heron, Indian Pond	4	1		2	7
22	Heron, Purple	1				1
23	Ibis, Black-headed	1				1
24	Ibis, Red-naped	5		8		13
25	Jacana, Pheasant-tailed	1				1
26	Kingfisher, Common		1			1
27	Kingfisher, White-throated	1	2			3
28	Lapwing, Red-wattled	6		22	8	36

Sr No	Waterfowl Species	Motemajra	Sukhna Lake	Ghaggar	Dhanas	Total
29	Lapwing, White-tailed	2		2		4
30	Moorhen, Eurasian	25	6	30	2	63
31	Pintail, Northern	50	42			92
32	Pochard, Common	20	60		19	99
33	Pochard, Ferruginous	2	14			16
34	Pochard, Red-crested		1			1
35	Redshank, Common			1		1
36	Redshank, Spotted			1		1
37	Ruff			1		1
38	Sandpiper, Common		1	2	2	5
39	Sandpiper, Green	3		1		4
40	Sandpiper, Wood	1		4		5
41	Shoveler, Northern	200	36	24		260
42	Stilt, Black-winged	22		255	3	280
43	Stint, Temminck's			4		4
44	Stork, Asian Openbill			3		3
45	Stork, Painted			1		1
46	Swamphen, Purple	12	2			14
47	Teal, Common	80	2	405		487
48	Wagtail, Citrine			2		2
49	Wagtail, Grey		3	1		4
50	Wagtail, White	15		2		17
51	Wagtail, Yellow			2		2
52	Waterhen, White-breasted	7	2	8		17
53	Wigeon, Eurasian	30	2			32
	Total	688	368	911	73	2040

Sr No	Arboreal Species	Sr No	Arboreal Species
1	Avadavat, Red	24	Myna, Common
2	Babbler, Black-chinned	25	Myna/Starling, Asian Pied
3	Babbler, Jungle	26	Parakeet, Alexandrine
4	Babbler, Yellow-eyed	27	Parakeet, Rose-ringed
5	Barbet, Brown-headed	28	Peafowl, Indian
6	Bee-eater, Green	29	Pigeon, Feral Rock
7	Bulbul, Red-vented	30	Pigeon, Yellow-footed Green
8	Chat, Indian	31	Pipit, Paddyfield
9	Chiffchaff, Common	32	Prinia, Ashy
10	Coucal, Greater	33	Prinia, Graceful
11	Crow, House	34	Prinia, Plain
12	Dove, Eurasian Collared	35	Robin, Oriental Magpie
13	Dove, Laughing	36	Roller, Indian
14	Dove, Red-collared	37	Shikra
15	Dove, Spotted	38	Shrike, Long-tailed
16	Drongo, Black	39	Sparrow, House
17	Fantail, White-throated	40	Sparrow, Sind
18	Francolin, Black	41	Sunbird, Purple
19	Francolin, Grey	42	Treecreeper, Bar-tailed
20	Junglefowl, Red	43	Treepie, Rufous
21	Kite, Black	44	Warbler, Hume's
22	Martin, Common House	45	Whitethroat, Lesser
23	Minivet, Long-tailed	46	Woodpecker, Black-rumped Flameback



Ruff, Ghaggar River behind Chattbir Zoo, 14th November 2021

By Amandeep Singh Channa



Common Hoopoe, Leisure Valley, 14th November 2021

By Amandeep Singh Channa



Small Niltava, Siswan, 17th November 2021
By Amandeep Singh Channa



Rufous-bellied Niltava, Siswan, 17th November 2021
By Amandeep Singh Channa



**White-browed Bulbul, Carambolim Lake, Goa, 9th
December 2021
By Amandeep Singh Channa**



**Jerdon's Leafbird, Carambolim Lake, Goa, 9th December
2021
By Amandeep Singh Channa**

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