

Editorial

Esteemed Readers,

This quarter, the Prakriti Bus was inaugurated at Faizabad District. The event was organized in Forest Conservator Office, Uttar Pradesh as on 03 November 2015. Shri Rajendra Kumar Pandey DIOS, Faizabad appreciated the efforts of UPSBB, CEE and Lucknow University for this very important initiative and asked to take Prakriti Bus in all Schools of Faizabad District. Shri Ravi Singh, DFO and Shri Rajendra Kumar Pandey, DIOS Flagged-off the Prakriti bus. After the welcome event of Prakriti Bus in Faizabad District, the mobile bus started moving in schools of the district. 49019 footfalls were recorded during the month of October 2015 to December 2015.

The Wildlife Week was also celebrated during 01 – 07 October, 2015 in collaboration with Department of Zoology, University of Lucknow, Regional Science City, Lucknow and South Asian Network of the International Zoo Educators Association, Coimbatore Tamil Nadu. The programme aimed at creating awareness among the youth to have a passionate heart for the biodiversity around them. Several competitions for students were organized to raise consciousness in favour of wildlife preservation. The details of the events organized are

We hope that you will find this Newsletter both interesting and informative.

Regards,

– Editor



Rangoli Competition (Group B)
First prize Komal Tiwari, Class 9th, HAL

Contents

1. Aromatic Plant Species of Some Districts of Central Uttar Pradesh	2-3
2. Journey of Prakriti Bus Phase II (Oct. –Dec. 2015)	4-6
3. Wildlife Week (1st -7th October 2015)	7-21
4. Newspaper Clippings	22-27
i) International News	22
ii) National News	24
iii) State News	26

“We should preserve every scrap of biodiversity as priceless while we learn to use it and come to understand what it means to humanity.”

– E. O. Wilson

1-Aromatic Plant Species of Some Districts of Central Uttar Pradesh

Birendra Kumar, Govind Ram, Ekta Gupta, Himanshi Mali, Richa Yadav and SC Singh

CSIR-Central Institute of Medicinal and Aromatic Plants,
P.O. CIMAP, Lucknow-226015, India

India is the ancient home of medicinal and aromatic plants because of its diverse nature of climate ranging from temperate to tropical with wide variety of soil which supports the enormous plant wealth. Of the 18,000 flowering species found in India, approximately 10 percent species are known to have odoriferous principles but only about 65 of them have large and consistent demand in the world trade. Owing to vast diversity of edapho-climatic condition prevailed in India, a large number of aromatic flora occur in wild habitats. Only a limited number of commercially valued plants both from its rich natural forest vegetation and cultivation are produced.

A preliminary survey of aromatic plant species was carried out in five districts viz. Lucknow, Barabanki, Raibareilly, Amethi and Sultanpur of Central U.P. during January-December 2013. These districts lie between the parallels of 26°- 27° N latitude and 80°- 81° E longitude. The climate of the studied area is subtropical monsoon type and the vegetation cover is very poor and can be styled as agrarian. The average annual rainfall in these districts is c.1000 mm. The relative humidity is maximum (c.95%) during monsoon period and decrease up to 40 % during summer. The temperature rises up to 45° during summer and falls to 20 during winters. Approximately following thirty wild and naturalized aromatic species were collected from these districts:

1. *Ageratum conyzoides* L. (Asteraceae): Dochunti
2. *Alstonia scholaris* R.Br. (Apocynaceae): Saptaparni
3. *Anethum graveolens* L. (Apiaceae): Sowa
4. *Anisomeles indica* Ktze. (Lamiaceae)
5. *Blumea lacera* DC. (Asteraceae): Kukraundha
6. *Caesulia axillaris* Roxb. (Asteraceae)
7. *Chenopodium ambrosioides* L. (Chenopodiaceae)
8. *Cleome viscosa* L. (Cleomaceae): Hurhur
9. *Cleome gynandra* L. (Cleomaceae): Hurhur
10. *Clerodendrum viscosum* Vent. (Verbenaceae): Bhand
11. *Cyperus rotundus* L. (Cyperaceae): Motha
12. *Hyptis suaveolens* Poit. (Lamiaceae)
13. *Lantana camara* var. *aculeata* Mold. (Verbenaceae)
14. *Leonotis nepetifolia* R.Br. (Lamiaceae)
15. *Leucas aspera* Link. (Lamiaceae): Guma, Dronpushpi
16. *Leucas cephalotes* Spreng. (Lamiaceae): Guma, Dronpushpi
17. *Limonia acidissima* L. (Rutaceae): Kaith
18. *Lippia javanica* Spreng. (Verbenaceae)

19. *Nepeta hindostana* Haines (Lamiaceae)
20. *Ocimum americanum* L.(Lamiaceae)
21. *Ocimum basilicum* L. (Lamiaceae)
22. *Ocimum tenuiflorum* L. (Lamiaceae)
23. *Pogostemon benghalense* Ktze. (Lamiaceae)
24. *Pentanema vestitum* Ling (Asteraceae)
25. *Salvia plebeia* R.Br.(Lamiaceae)
26. *Sphaeranthus indicus* L. (Asteraceae): Gorakhmundi
27. *Syzygium cumini* Skeels (Myrtaceae): Jamun.
28. *Tagetes erecta* L.(Asteraceae): Genda, Marigold
29. *Vetiveria zizanioides* Nash (Poaceae) Khus, Vetiver
30. *Vitex negundo* L. (Verbenaceae): Nirgundi

Conclusion

The perusal of literature shows that above mentioned aromatic plant species are having valuable and industrially high demanding aromachemicals viz. neral, geranial, limonene, camphor, myrcene, sabinene, eugenol, thujene, patchouli alcohol, etc. which are used in perfumery and cosmetic industries. Many of them exhibited anti-microbial and other biological activities which are used for the treatment of some dreaded diseases.

Acknowledgements

Authors are grateful to the Director, CSIR-CIMAP, Lucknow for providing necessary facilities and UPSBB, Lucknow for financial assistance.

References

- Duthie, J.F. 1903-1922. Flora of upper Gangetic plain and the adjacent Siwalik and sub-Himalayan tract (2 Vols.), Calcutta.
- Hooker, J.D. 1872-1879. Flora of British India (7 Vols), London.
- Singh, S.C. and Khanuja, S.P.S. 2006. Lucknow Flora- the plant wealth of the region. CSIR-CIMAP, Lucknow.

2 - Journey of Prakriti Bus Phase II (Oct. -Dec. 2015)

After the successful visit of Kanpur, the Prakriti Bus was inaugurated at Faizabad District. The event was organized in Forest Conservator Office, Uttar Pradesh as on 03 November 2015. The programme started at 11:00 am with welcome of the guests.

Chief Guest of the Programme Mr. Ravi Kumar Singh, Divisional Forest Officer, Faizabad District, along with Shri Rajendra Kumar Pandey, District Inspector of Schools, Faizabad District welcomed the Bus by cutting the ribbon. Prior to the ribbon cutting ceremony, CEE Representative Ms. Neha Singh briefed about the Prakriti Bus.

Followed by the formal welcome, all the guests visualized the Prakriti Bus. DFO, Shri Ravi Kumar Singh also interacted with the communicators and appreciated the efforts of UPSBB, CEE and Lucknow University.

DFO Ravi Kumar Singh addressed the Visitors and told many important things related with Biodiversity and Environment. He told many facts related with Agricultural diversity found in U P State and difference between Tarai and Bhabhar areas found in UP. He also told that 'Kala Namak Dhan' is very rich in iodine and cultivated in nearby areas of Faizabad District.

Shri Rajendra Kumar Pandey DIOS, Faizabad appreciated the efforts of UPSBB, CEE and Lucknow University for this very important initiative and asked to take Prakriti Bus in all Schools of Faizabad District. Shri Ravi Singh, DFO and Shri Rajendra Kumar Pandey, DIOS Flagged-off the Prakriti bus.

During the event around 80 staff members got benefited from the biodiversity exhibition. The programme was concluded by vote of thanks.

Glimpses of Prakriti Bus at Faizabad District, U.P.



After the welcome event of Prakriti Bus in Faizabad District, the mobile bus started moving in schools of the district. The visit details are enclosed below showing the place visited and number of footfalls from October 2015 to December 2015.

Month wise School Visit Details of Prakriti Bus from October 2015 to December 2015

Month of October 2015

1.	01.10.2015	Purva Madhyamic, Semara, Lucknow	90
2.	05.10.2015	Purva Madhyamic, Unai, Bkt, Lucknow	112
3.	06.10.2015	Community Visit To Lucknow Zoo	450
4.	07.10.2015	Bappa Sri Narayan Vocational Boys Inter College, Charbagh, Lucknow	1165
5.	08.10.2015	Urban Public School, Jagpal Kheda, Gomtinagar Chinhut, Lucknow	314
6.	09.10.15	Bappa Sri Narayan Vocational Girls Inter College, Charbagh, Lucknow	376
7.	09.10.2015	Bappa Sri Narayan Vocational Junior High School, Charbagh, Lucknow	272
8.	12.10.2015	Surya Public School, Sultanpur Road, Lucknow	1255
9.	13.10.2015	Community Visit to Rumi Gate, Chauk, Lucknow	250
10.	14.10.2015	Prakash Bal Vidhya Mandir Inter College, Vishal Khand-1, Gomti nagar, Lucknow	155
11.	15.10.2015	Urban Public School, Malhwar Station, Chinhut, Lucknow	239
12.	19.10.2015	Baba Kunha Das Bal Vidhya Mandir, Bharti Puram, Tiwariganj, Chinnhut, Lucknow	545
13.	20.10.2015	Prathamik Vidyalaya-I, Dhedhemau, Malihabad, Lucknow	81
14.	20.10.2015	Prathamik Vidyalaya-II, Dhedhemau, Malihabad, Lucknow	80
15.	20.10.2015	Purva Madhyamik Vidhyalaya, Dhedhemau, Malihabad, Lucknow	68
16.	21.10.2015	Community visit to Samajik Sathal, Gomtinagar, Lucknow	80
17.	23.10.2015	Shyam Sundar Yamuna deen Inter College, Faizulaganj, Lucknow	1038
18.	26.10.2015	Prakash Bal Vidhya Mandir, Kathutha Jheel, Chinnhut, Lucknow	275
19.	28.10.2015	Jai Shubash Public School, Vishal Khand-4, Gomti nagar, Lucknow	666
20.	29.10.2015	Shahid Chandra Shekhar Ajad Sikhsha Niktan Inter College, Vikas Khand-5, Gomti Nagar, Lucknow	950
21.	30.10.2015	Maharani Ahilyabai, Holkar, Vidhyalaya, Vishal khand-4, Gomtinagar, Lucknow	423
Total			8,884

Month of November 2015

01.	02.11.2015	R.B.M Inter College, Lonapur, Gomtinagar, Lucknow	425
02.	03.11.2015	Jingle Bells, Academy, Gaddopur, Faizabad	295
03.	04.11.2015	Jingle Bells, Academy, Gaddopur, Faizabad	1099
04.	04.11.2015	Jingle bells School, Gaddopur, Faizabad	1367
05.	04.11.2015	Community visit to Book Fair, Faizabad	500
06.	05.11.2015	Guru Nanak Academy Girls Inter College, Ursu, Faizabad	1677
07.	06.11.2015	Army public School, Cantt. Area, Faizabad	1580

08.	09.11.2015	Dabble College, Sector-19, Indira nagar, Lucknow	544
09.	16.11.2015	Little Hearts Academy, Khojanpur, Faizabad	471
10.	17.11.2015	Kendriya Vidyalaya, Cantt, Area, Faizabad	1128
11.	18.11.2015	Government Inter College, Faizabad	1690
12.	19.11.2015	Tiny Tots Senior Secondary School, Sahadatganj, Faizabad	890
13.	23.11.2015	Jingle Bells, Academy, Gaddopur, Faizabad	560
14.	24.12.2015	Primary Junior High School, Cantonment Board, Faizabad	507
15.	25.11.2015	Community Visit to Guptar ghat, Faizabad	800
16.	26.11.2015	M.L.M.L. Inter College, Rikabganj, Faizabad	1054
17	27.11.2015	Purva Madhyamik Vidhyalaya, Kudrauli, Faizabad	107
Total			14,694

Month of December 2015

01.	04.12.2015	Up Bird Festival 2015, Jarar Chambal, Agra	300
02.	05.12.2015	Up Bird Festival 2015, Jarar Chambal, Agra	400
03.	06.12.2015	Up Bird Festival 2015, Jarar Chambal, Agra	600
04.	07.12.2015	Smt. Vimla Devi Inter College, Kuberpur, Agra616	
05.	08.12.2015	G.S Inter College, kuber pur, Agra	820
06.	09.12.2015	Smt. Sringari Bai Girls Inter College, Baluganj, Agra	899
07.	10.12.2015	B.D. Jain Girls Inter College, Baluganj, Agra	1973
08.	11.12.2015	Agra Public School, Artoni, Agra	1060
09.	12.12.2015	St. Mark's Public School, Bhagupur, Kuberpur, Agra	739
10.	14.12.2015	K.R. Educational Institute, Runakata, Agra	920
11.	15.12.2015	St. George's College, Baluganj, Agra	3950
12.	16.12.2015	St. Merry Inter College, Bai Ka Bazar, Sikandra, Agra	792
13.	17.12.2015	Shivalik Chambrige College, Avas Vikas, Bodla, Agra	4095
14.	18.12.2015	Shivalik Public School, Bichpuri, Agra	1578
15.	19.12.2015	St. Anthony Jr. College, Baluganj, Agra	3105
16.	21.12.2015	Dr. MPS World School, Sikandra, Agra	1055
17.	22.12.2015	Shri Ratan Muni Jain Inter College, Loha Mandi, Agra	1289
18.	23.12.2015	Agra Public School, Old Vijay Nagar, Agra	1250
Total			25,441

3 - Wildlife Week

(1st -7th October 2015)

The U.P. State Biodiversity Board, Lucknow celebrated Wildlife Week from 01 - 07 October, 2015 in collaboration with Department of Zoology, University of Lucknow, Regional Science City, Lucknow and South Asian Network of the International Zoo Educators Association, Coimbatore Tamil Nadu.

The programme aimed at creating awareness among the youth to have a passionate heart for the biodiversity around them. During the celebration, several competitions for students were organized to raise consciousness in favour of wildlife preservation. The details of the events are furnished below:



save our wildlife

1st October 2015

The 7 days programme for Wildlife Week started from 1st October 2015 at Regional Science City involving participants from more than 100 schools and Colleges of Lucknow. The students of different colleges acted Street Drama based on stories of Panchtantra promoting Wildlife Conservation. Around 40 students took part in Nukkad Natak competition on the first day of Wildlife week 2015. The winners are as follows:-

Nukkad Natak

Group B (9th - 12th)

Prize	Name	Class	School/ Institution
First	Anurag Kumar Sharma	11th	H.A.L. School
	Anjali Tiwari	11th	H.A.L. School
	Shubham Barti	11th	H.A.L. School
	Akash Singh	11th	H.A.L. School
	Rahul Yadav	11th	H.A.L. School
Second	Debarka Das	10th	Rajkumar Academy
	Kaif Khan	11th	Rajkumar Academy
	Ayush Soni	11th	Rajkumar Academy
	Abhishek Srivastava	9th	Rajkumar Academy
	Mayank Joshi	9th	Rajkumar Academy

Group C (Mixed Group)

First	Aditya Trivedi	B.Sc. IIIrd	National P.G College
	Avantika Singh	LLB IVth	University of Lucknow
	Ravi Shakhya	B.Sc. IIInd	Lucknow Christian College
	Shipra Sharma	M.Sc. Ist	University of Lucknow
	Asif Ahmad Siddiqui		University of Lucknow
Second	Priyanka Pandey	M.Sc IIInd	University of Lucknow
	Kanishka Singh	M.Sc IIInd	University of Lucknow
	Kavita Verma	M.Sc IIInd	University of Lucknow
	Preeti Pandey	M.Sc IIInd	University of Lucknow

2nd October 2015

2nd October, the second day of the wildlife week program included several events such as quiz competition on Wildlife" followed by the Debate Hindi/English on the topic "Ecotourism is Boon or Bane" and then the poem recitation competition on the topic, "Butterflies". The concerned judges were Prof. R.C Tripathi for Hindi Debate and Dr. Sanjay Pandey for English Debate the students participated with zest in the competitions showing concern for the Wildlife. There was a lecture by a Prof. A.K Sharma, Department of Zoology, University of Lucknow on Biodiversity of Protozoans. The judges for Hindi poem recitation were Prof. Padma Saxena and Archana Shukla and Dr. Monisha Banerjee and Dr. Ashish Kumar for English recitation. Approximately 200 students participated in the competitions exploring their knowledge about Wildlife.

Winners of different events held on 2nd October

WILDLIFE QUIZ CONTEST

Group B (9th - 12th)

Prize	Name	Class	School/ Institution
First	AbhudaiTiwari	11th B	St. Joseph Inter College
First	ShreyaMaurya	11th	HAL School
Second	Satyendra Km. Maurya	9th	Rajkumar Academy
Second	ShivankSrivastava	11thB	St. Joseph Inter College
Second	ShreyamTiwari	11thB	St. Joseph Inter College
Third	Saumya Singh	12th	HAL School
Third	AditiGahlot	12th	HAL School
Third	HimanshuOjha	11th	St. Joseph Inter College

HINDI DEBATE (Ecotourism is Boon or Bane)

First	Anshika Chaudhary	-	New Way Senior Secondary
-------	-------------------	---	--------------------------

Group B (9th - 12th)

First	Shatakshi Dixit	-	Rajkumar Academy
Second	ShivankSrivastava	-	St. Joseph Inter College
Third	ShreyaMaurya	-	H.A.L
Consolation	Aman Singh	-	H.A.L

Group C (Under Graduate & Post Graduate)

First	Supriya Gupta	B.Sc. IIIrd	NavyugMahavidyalaya
Second	PriyankaPandey	M.Sc. IIrd	University of Lucknow

ENGLISH DEBATE (Ecotourism is Boon or Bane)

Date :- 02-10-15

Group B (9th - 12th)

Prize	Name	Class	School/ Institution
First	Saurabh Sharma	11th	Central Academy
Second	ArifaUsmani	11th	H.A.L
Third	Devtanya	11th	Rajkumar Academy
Consolation	RaghavRatanBakshi	10th	Rajkumar Academy

Group C (Under Graduate & Post Graduate)

First	Saumya Sharma	B.Sc. Ist	University of Lucknow
Second	Anupama Roy	-	University of Lucknow
Third	AdityaTrivedi	B.Sc. Illrd	National P.G College
Consolation	AdityaTiwari	B.Sc. IInd	University of Lucknow

HINDI POEM COMPETITION**Group A (5th - 8th)**

First	AtulitPandey	4th	Dr. Virendra Swaroop Public School
Second	SwekshaAgnihotri	6th	Loreto Convent
Third	ShivanshuPrajapati	5th	Bright Way College
Consolation	Swastika Tripathi	5th	St. Joseph Inter College

Group B (9th - 12th)

First	Noopur Chandra	9th	H.A.L School
Second	Abhishek Km. Shukla	9th	H.A.L School
Third	AbhudaiTiwari	9th	St. Joseph Inter College

Group C (Undergraduate & Postgraduate)

First	Ravi Shakya	B.Sc. IInd	Lucknow Christian College
Second	RuchiPandey	M.Sc. IInd	Lucknow University
Third	Prabal Gupta	BCA Ist	UPTEC
Consolation	Ramila Mira	B.A IInd	Maniben Nainavati Women's College

ENGLISH POEM COMPETITION**Group A (5th - 8th)**

First	Suhani Singh	5th	La -martiniere
Second	Riddhi Chaudhary	5th	CMS
Third	Riddhma Mehrotra	4th	CMS
Consolation	Sarthak	4th	CMS

Group B (9th - 12th)

First	Pratiksha Rajput	11th	HAL
Second	Anjali Rajput	11th	HAL
Third	ShivankSrivastava	11th	St. Joseph Inter College
Consolation	Sakshi Singh	11th	HAL

Group C (Undergraduate & Postgraduate)

First	AdityaTiwari	B.Sc. IInd	Lucknow University
Second	VishwaVyas	B.And	NNW, Mumbai
Third	PriyankaPandey	M.Sc. IInd	Lucknow University
Consolation	Shivani Bhosle	B.A	NNW, Mumbai

3rd October 2015

3rd October, the third day of the wildlife week program includes several events. Approximately 150 students from various schools/colleges participated in these events awakening people to "Restore Wildlife". The events of the third day include Poster/Painting competition on "Wetlands Ecosystem" followed by the Collage competition on the topic "Plants in Indian Mythology" and Greeting card making competition on the topic "Wild Flowers". The concerned judges were Prof. Padma Saxena, Prof. Madhu Tripathi Head Department of Zoology for all the three competitions and Prof. Vineet Pandey, Dr. Ratan Kumar and Dr. Ravi Kant Pandey respectively. The students participated enthusiastically in the competitions showing concern for the Wildlife. In the array of the competitions, the students participated in Face painting competition on the topic "Face of Animals" and last bit not the least Mimicry competition on the topic "Indicating voice of Animals". The judges were Dr. Suchit Swaroop for both competitions and Mr. K.K. Chatterjee and Mr. Ram Kumar respectively. Hundreds of students participated in the competitions of winning and losing and exploring their knowledge about Wildlife.

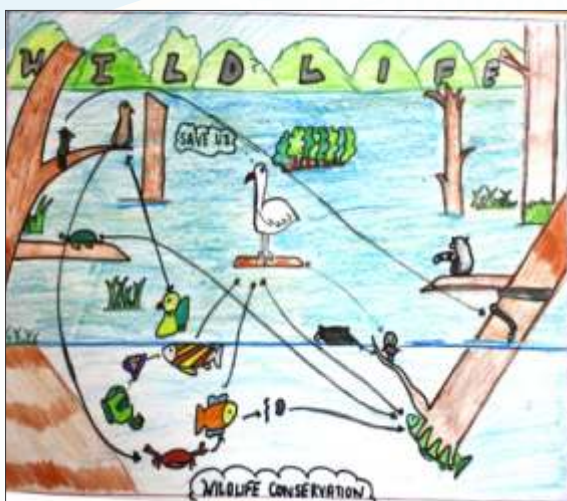
Poster/Painting competition



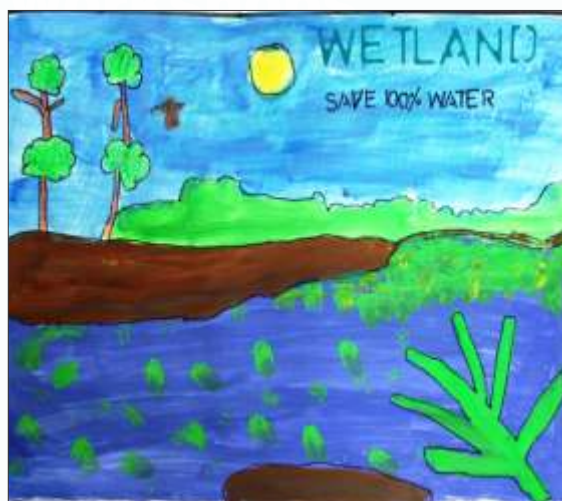
Group A, First Prize: Anishaa Pandey,
Class 7th, St. Paul's College



Group A, Second Prize: Ananya Singh,
Class 5th, C.M.S.



Group A, Third Prize: Aradhya Dixit,
Class 5th, C.M.S.



Group A, Consolation: Jahanvi Shukla,
Class 5th, L.M.G.C



Group B, First Prize: Navika Srivastava,
Class 11th, M.V.M.P School



Group B, Second Prize: Anchal Mehrotra,
Class 10th, M.V.M.P School



Group B, Third Prize: Adarsh Srivastava,
Class 11th, Swarnima Public School



Group B, Consolation: Pooja Kumari,
Class 11th, HAL



Group C, First Prize: Archana,
Class B.Sc. IIIrd, Lucknow University



Group C, Second Prize: Jyoti Bala,
Class B.Sc. IIInd, National P.G College



Group C, Third Prize: Poonam Kumari Pathak,
Class B.Sc. IVth, National P.G College



Group C, Consolation: Aditya Awasthi,
Class B.Sc. IIInd, Lucknow Christian College

Collage Competition



Group A, First Prize: Shambhari Gupta,
Class 7th, Rajkumar Academy



Group A, Second Prize: Khushi Sahu,
Class 8th, Rajkumar Academy



Group A, Third Prize: Ananya Chaudhary,
Class 5th, CMS



Group A, Consolation: Umara Khatoon,
Class 4th, CMS



Group B, First Prize: Divyansha Gupta,
Class 11th , HAL



Group B, Second Prize: Jyotsana Bajpai,
Class 11th , Rajkumar Academy



Group B, Third Prize: Vansh Shukla,
Class 10th , Montfort Inter College



Group B, Consolation: Sandhybharti,
Class 11th , HAL



Group C, First Prize: Amna Akhlaq,
Class B.Sc. IIIrd, National P.G College



Group C, Second Prize: Tulika Khare,
Class B.Sc. IIIrd , National P.G College



Group C, Third Prize: Shalini Prajapati,
Class M.Sc. Ist , Lucknow University



Group C, Consolation: Archana,
Class B.Sc. IIIrd, Lucknow University

Results of Greeting Card Competition



Group A, First Prize: Suhani Singh,
Class 5th, La Mart Girls' College



Group A, Second Prize: Syed Ramsha,
Class 7th , Rajkumar Academy



Group A, Third Prize: Divansh Mishra,
Class 6th , New Way School



Group A, Consolation: Khushi Tewari,
Class 7th , St. Paul's College



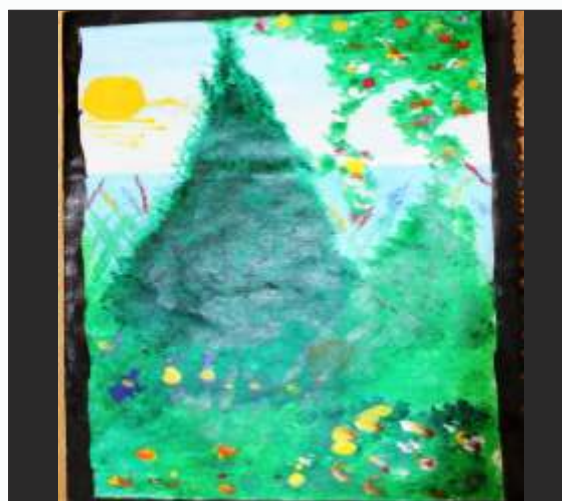
Group B, First Prize: Harsh Gupta,
Class 11th , Rajkumar Academy



Group B, Second Prize: Rupanshi Mishra,
Class 10th , Loreto Convent



Group B, Third Prize: Shivank Srivastava,
Class 11th , St. Joseph Inter College



Group B, Consolation: Adarsh Srivastava,
Class 11th, Swarnima Public School



Group C, First Prize: Anshu Sahu,
B.Sc., National P.G College



Group C, Second Prize: Swati Tripathi,
B.Sc. IIIrd , National P.G College



Group C, Third Prize: Tulika Khare,
B.Sc. IIIrd , National P.G. College



Group C, Consolation: Swati Singh Yadav,
B.Sc. IIIrd, Bhartiya Vidya Bhawan Girl's Degree College

Results of Face painting Competition

Group B

Prize	Name	Class	School/ Institution
First	Harsh Gupta	11th	Rajkumar Academy
Second	Sonalisha Srivastava	11th	HAL School
Third	Sakshi Singh	11th	HAL School
Consolation	Anand Mishra	12th	St. Merry's School

Group C (Under Graduate & Post Graduate)

First	Nutan Pandey	M.Sc. Ist	University of Lucknow
Second	Sheetal Dhanker	B.Sc. IIst	University of Lucknow
Third	Harsh Kaushik	M.Sc. Ist	Shia P.G College
Consolation	Shipra Sharma	M.Sc. Ist	University of Lucknow

Results of Mimicry Competition

Group B (9th – 12th)

Prize	Name	Class	School/ Institution
First	Gurdeep Kanaujia	12th	HAL School
Second	Subranshu	12th	HAL School

Group C (Under Graduate & Post Graduate)

First	Ruchi Pandey	M.Sc. (M.C)	University of Lucknow
Second	Harsh Kaushik	M.Sc. Ist	Shia P.G College
Third	Ravi Shakya	B.Sc. IInd	Lucknow Christian College
Consolation	Aditya Tiwari	B.Sc. IInd	University of Lucknow

4th October 2015

On day 4th day of Wildlife Week two programs were conducted- Power Point Presentation and Slogan Writing. The topic of Power Point Presentation was **"Importance of green corridors in wildlife conservation"** and that of Slogan Writing was **"Wildlife and its conservation"**. Different schools had participated in different programs. Schools such as CMS, Loreto Convent, HAL School, Maharishi V.M.P.S, Rajkumar Academy, Montfort Inter College, HAL, La Martiniere G. College and colleges such as Bhartiya Vidya Bhawan Girls College, National P.G Collge, Maharaja Bijli Pasi Govt. PG College, Lucknow Christian College, and University of Lucknow had won the prizes. In Power Point Presentation only group B and C took part while In Slogan Writing all the three groups A, B and C had participated. **Dr. Ram Jee Srivastava, Dr. Sanjay Pandey, Dr. Diksha Sharma** were the judges of Power Point Presentation. **Prof. A.K. Sharma, Dr. Archana Shukla, Dr.Rekha Rani** were the judges of Slogan Writing.

Winners of Power Point competition:

POWER POINT PRESENTATION

Group A (5th - 8th)

Prize	Name	Class	School/ Institution
First	Sparsh Sumani	5th	CMS

Group B (9th - 12th)

First	Rupanshi Mishra	10th	Loreto Convent
Second	Aishwarya Srivastava	12th	HAL School
Third	Shivam Kumar	10th	Maharishi V.M.P.S
Consolation	Saksham Sahu	11th	Rajkumar Academy

Group C (Under Graduate & Post Graduate)

First	Shipra Sharma	M.Sc. Ist	University of Lucknow
Second	Nitya Dubey	B.Sc. IIIrd	Bhartiya Vidya Bhawan Girls College
Third	Aditya Awasthi	B.Sc. IInd	Lucknow Christian College
Consolation	Shilpa Singh	B.Sc.Vth	National P.G College



Students participating in Mimicry Competition

Winners of Slogan writing competition:

SLOGAN WRITING COMPETITION

Group A (5th - 8th)

Prize	Name	Class	School/ Institution
First	Riddhi Chaudhary	5th	CMS
Second	Sweksha Agnihotri	6th B	Loreto Convent
Third	Suhani Singh	5th B	La Martiniere G. College
Consolation	Natalia	5th E	CMS

Group B (9th - 12th)

First	Abhishek Km. Shukla	11th	HAL
Second	Anshul Singh	10th	Montfort Inter College
Third	Shirish Parashar	10th	Montfort Inter College
Consolation	Harsh Gupta	11th	Rajkumar Academy

Group C (Under Graduate & Post Graduate)

First	Ravi Shakya	B.Sc. IInd	Lucknow Christian College
Second	Shipra Sharma	M.Sc. Ist	University of Lucknow
Third	Shalini Prajapati	M.Sc. Ist	University of Lucknow
Consolation	Durga Pandey	B.Sc. IIIrd	Maharaja Bijli Pasi Govt. PG College

5th October 2015

On 5th day of Wildlife Week 2015, the students presented their devotion for nature through colors by participating in the first event of a day i.e. "Rangoli Competition". Around 200 participants with full enthusiasm took part in "Rangoli" competition on the topic "Forest Biodiversity". After Rangoli competition Mr. Sachin Vaishampayan, Marine Biologist gave presentation on Marine Biodiversity. Then there was Pictorial Quiz on Wildlife. Around 100 students actively took part in Quiz competition. Finally it was the judgment day of photography competition which started from the very first day of Wildlife Week. Students from different colleges very enthusiastically took part in photography competition and pasted the photographs clicked by them on the board. The winners of different competitions of 5th October 2015 are as follows:-

6th October 2015

On 6th day, All the winners along with teachers and volunteers went to Nawabganj bird sanctuary, Unnao for Nature trail to promote and encourage the participants regarding conservation of fauna and flora. Prof. Amita Kanaujia and Prof. Padma Saxena awared students about Water birds (like Cattle egret, Intermediate egret, Pond Heron, Black Headed Ibis, Peacock Indian roller, White breasted King fisher Red wattled Lapwing, Butterflies such as Plain tiger, Common Jay Blue tiger, Common jezebel (Common jay), dragon fly (Ditch jewel), monkeys and many wild plants. Students enthusiastically walked miles in order to explore the wildlife present there. Finally at the end of the day all the students, volunteers and teachers returned back.

7th October 2015

The commencement of the Wildlife Week started with full enthusiasm and zeal same way, the closing ceremony was held. The valedictory function was scheduled on the last day of Wildlife Week, the ceremony was inaugurated by the chief guest the Officiating Vice Chancellor of University of Lucknow Prof. U.N Dwivedi. The other guests welcomed were Prof Nirupama Agarawal, Dean Faculty of Science and Prof. Madhu Tripathi, Head, Dept. of Zoology, Mr. Soumen Ghosh, Curator, Regional Science City. On this special occasion Prof. Padma saxena, Prof. A.m. saxena, Dr. Suchit Swaroop, Dr. Rana mam as well as teachers and students of different collages/ schools also present. Prof. Amita Kanaujia welcomed all the guests and Chief guest by tying wildlife rakhi. On this day, the prizes were distributed to the winners of various competitions that were held during the Wildlife Week. The students from different schools and colleges actively participated in different events in Wildlife Week 2015. Invitation was sent to more than 250 schools and colleges of Lucknow. The students from different schools such as HAL, Rajkumar Academy, Mahila Degree College, Shia PG College, and St. Pauls' College etc actively participated. Under the supervision of Prof. Amita Kanaujia, Department of Zoology, University of Lucknow, Mr. Adesh Kumar, Shivangi Mishra, Daya Shanker Sharma, Akansha Sinha, Ankit Sinha, Ruby Yadav, Vandana Dhiman, Jyoti Yadav, Kamran Warsi, Aman Singh, Kapil Verma have done painstakingly work to conduct the Wildlife Week successfully this year.

Glimpses of Wildlife Week



Tying of Wildlife Rakhi to the Guest and Chief Guest



Speech by Vice Chancellor, Prof. S.B. Nimse



Lightening of Lamp



Memento presented to Respected Vice-Chancellor



Tying of Wild life Rakhi to Madhu Tripathi,
Head, Dept. of Zoology



Welcome speech by Prof Madhu Tripathi

Awareness materials distributed during Wildlife Week



Awareness Pamphlets



Awareness Pamphlets

Prizes and Certificate: Distributed to Winners



7. Newspaper Clippings

(i) International News

12 Oct 2015 : The Hindu

Climate change clips wings of migratory birds

KRYNICA MORSKA (POLAND): It takes the dexterity of a lace-maker to remove the tiny bird caught in nets strung between pine trees on Poland's Baltic coast, a veritable paradise for dozens of migratory species.

Polish ornithologist Jaroslaw Nowakowski delicately unravels the Goldcrest, among Europe's smallest bird species, placing it inside a muslin bag before moving it to a make-shift laboratory in a tent for measuring and tagging with rings.

The hulking professor says studies by the University of Gdansk over the last 55 years show a disturbing trend in the wings of certain species.

"Pointed wings better adapted to travelling long distances are giving way to more rounded ones that work better on shorter trips," Nowakowski said, blaming "global warming, urbanisation and deforestation" for the change.

"Thanks to our extensive records, we have solid proof of the change and have raised the alarm, but generally to no avail."

"Climate change is nothing new, but today humans are triggering very rapid changes and certain species aren't able to adapt - that's the greatest risk."

Migratory birds face a myriad of other man-made threats. Hundreds of thousands, if not millions, end up on dinner plates around the Mediterranean.

At the crossroads

The colourful Goldcrest that Nowakowski has just removed from the net is tiny, yet mighty. Weighing in at just 4.5 grams, it can easily fly across the Baltic.

"It can weigh up to six grammes, but then we'd say it's a bit obese," he chuckles.

After weighing it and measuring its wings and tail, Nowakowski fastens a numbered ring around one of the legs of a Goldcrest which will help track its winter migration south or west.

Fifteen volunteers including pensioners, engineers and bank employees help Nowakowski and fellow ornithologist Michal Redlinskiak check 50 nets for new birds

around the clock. Any delay in removing them could prove fatal.

Volunteers on the night shift wear head-lamps as they wander the forests like ghosts checking the nets for freshly snared birds.

"Some days our nets catch just 30 birds, while on others there are 1,000 to 2,000. We don't really sleep much. Without the volunteers, our research would be impossible," says Nowakowski.

Ornithologists have been studying birds annually on Poland's Vistula Spit using the same methods and measurements for the last 55 years, creating an unparalleled treasure trove of data. "This is how we managed to create the world's largest and most comprehensive continuous data base of measurements," he said.

At 96 kilometres long and two kilometres wide, the spit located on Poland's Baltic sea coast just east of Gdansk is considered one of the world's most important habitats for migratory birds, alongside Gibraltar and the Bosphorus strait. — AFP

THE TIMES OF INDIA, LUCKNOW
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 31, 2015

31 Oct. 2015 : The Times of India

El Nino covers arid Atacama desert in flowers

Copiap (Chile): Here's a softer side to the disruptive weather phenomenon known as El Nino: an enormous blanket of colorful flowers has carpeted Chile's Atacama desert, the most arid in the world.

The cyclical warming of the central Pacific may be causing droughts and floods in various parts of the world, but in the vast desert of northern Chile it has also caused a vibrant explosion of thousands of species of flowers with an intensity not seen in decades.

Yellows, reds, purples and

whites have covered the normally stark landscapes of the Atacama, where temperatures top 40° Celsius this time of year. From violet-and-white Chilean bell flowers, or 'country-side sighs' (*Nolana paradoxa*), to red 'lion claws' (*Bomarea ovalle*), to yellow 'Rhodophiala rhodolirion', they have filled the usually pale desert valleys with rivers of colour.

"This year has been particularly special, because the amount of rainfall has made this perhaps the most spectacular of the past 40 or 50 years," said Raul Cespedes, a desert specialist at the University of Atacama. El Nino wreaks havoc on world weather patterns every two to seven years and has hit particularly hard this year, causing unusually heavy rainfall in the world's driest desert. That has caused dormant flower bulbs and rhizomes underground stem that grow horizontally to germinate. "It is so unusual, yet so real," said British tourist Edward Zannahand, who made special stop in Atacama on his trip around the world. — AFP



DESERT BLOOM: Flowers bloom in the Huasco region in Atacama desert

Newspaper Clippings

9th Nov. 2015 : The Hindu

Decoding the colours on a butterfly

ROBERT M. RILL

For the wildlife enthusiast, the bright colours, rings, spots and stripes on the wing of the butterfly represent the placards of nature's beauty. However, how does a predator — a bird or a larger insect — view the wing ornamentation and the rings? Does it fit the balance in favour of the butterfly in this millennia-old battle of survival in the evolutionary war that is described by biologist Richard Dawkins as the 'Great Red Herring on Earth'?



Butterflies are under intense natural selection to be very good mimics.

— PHOTO: SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

A study by scientists from the National Centre for Biological Sciences (NCBS), Bangalore and the National University of Singapore (NUS) investigate how well butterfly mimics resemble their 'models', and thus the complexities that drive the evolution of mimicry.

Researchers studied over 200 specimens from the leaf, Western Ganga forests of 'mimic' butterflies that serve as models to 'mimic' butterflies. For instance, the Daphnis chrysipus (yellow tiger) in African rainforest butterflies protects itself from predators by imitating unpalatable species from parts during the larval stage. This protection from predators allows it to fly 'leisurely' without threat of the predator. It

The lower surface of the wing shows better mimicry than the upper

seems to have affected its ability to mimic, and in many species the under look completely different from the upper. In their offspring — which inherit genes of mimicry as well as colours of sexual advantage — see their offspring struggle to mimic? Surprisingly, on the study finds that evolutionary models mimic any genetic distance. Another surprising result thrown up is that the lower surface of the wing shows better mimicry than the upper surface which is seen in a butterfly's flight path. This, says Mr. Kame, could be because the butterfly is more vulnerable at rest when its folded wings display the lower surface than at flight.

seems to have affected its ability to mimic, and in many species the under look completely different from the upper. In their offspring — which inherit genes of mimicry as well as colours of sexual advantage — see their offspring struggle to mimic? Surprisingly, on the study finds that evolutionary models mimic any genetic distance. Another surprising result thrown up is that the lower surface of the wing shows better mimicry than the upper surface which is seen in a butterfly's flight path. This, says Mr. Kame, could be because the butterfly is more vulnerable at rest when its folded wings display the lower surface than at flight.

22nd Nov. 2015 : The Hindu

It may be slimy...

...but small caviar is becoming increasingly popular among food buffs in Europe



Asperse Mutter Madras snails on a farm near Palermi. Slithy (right) Escargot pearls, courtesy with a license administration

It has an earthy taste with hints of grass and mushroom, fresh caviar is a growing trend in Europe, the delicate white eggs provided an overpowering free sample to food critics and tastemakers. But, while the production system at other organic companies from Italy to France and Spain has not yet taken off, one Italian start-up has not the time taken to start its own. Their name? Caviar.

"We had the baby snails a not-approved diet of cumin, carrots and vitamins which

means they grow much more quickly than they do eating leaves," says Davide Merlino, one of L'Asperse Madras company's co-founders. Merlino says they had received numerous letters for an eco-friendly process. Egg collection is a painstaking business, but a rewarding one. A 50-year-old snail can lay 90 eggs (800). Italian are no strangers to eating snails. They have been introduced since Roman times, with white and naturalized Hug

the Elder eating about snails featured on Italy's milk and wine. The delivery became highly popular among the wealthy, leading to the creation of the first snail farms in France. Italian also an estimated 40,000 tonnes of snails in 2014, ahead of France where annual consumption is around 30,000 tonnes. And snail caviar, which made a first commercial appearance in the 1980s, is also winning over European taste buds.

—BIP

27th Nov. 2015 : The Hindu

5th Dec. 2015 : The Hindu

AROUND THE WORLD



US President Barack Obama performs the National Thanksgiving turkey at the White House on Wednesday

French headscarf ban in hospital job upheld

UNESCO's top human rights court is upholding France's headscarf ban in the case of a Muslim social worker who lost her hospital job because she would not remove her scarf. The case decided on Thursday dates to 2000, when Christine Strohriegl was working in the psychiatry department at a hospital in Normandy. She claimed her contract would not be renewed because patients had complained about her refusal to remove headscarf.

Woman reports 'dynamite' text, 4 flyers grounded: Four passengers were removed from a Chicago-bound flight at

Baltimore's international airport last week after a fellow passenger said she saw one of them receive a text with the word 'dynamite' and the code for an airport in India, according to a police report. No such message was heard by officers on the passenger's phone, Jonathan Gibbs, spokesman for the Maryland Transportation Authority police, said on Thursday.

US 'facebook killer' guilty of murdering wife: A Miami man who killed his wife and then splashed a photo of her bloodied body on Facebook has been found guilty of second-degree murder. Derek Medina, 31, who remained impassive after the jury delivered its verdict on Wednesday, could be jailed for life for shooting Jennifer Alvarez in

August 2013 in their home.

Arrests in Chicago, NY at protests over cop killings: Multiple arrests were made overnight in Chicago and New York during protests over police shootings of two black males, US media reported. Social tensions flared in Chicago after officers released a graphic video on Thursday of police officer Jason Van Dyke shooting a black teen, Laquan McDonald, 36 times.

Iran diplomat missing since haj found dead: Iran says a senior diplomat missing since the Saudi hijab clambered in September has been found dead. Tehran had accused Saudi Arabia of kidnapping Qasimfar Rahmatabadi because he previously held sensitive positions for the government.

Tourist photographs Australian scene of croc vs croc

CANBERRA: Australian Tourist Sandra Bell was poised to photograph a nature scene of two crocodiles sunning themselves at the edge of an Australian waterhole when the picture unexpectedly exploded into violence.

Ms. Bell was startled but managed to snap around 20 graphic photos as a 5-metre estuarine croc tore apart and devoured a far lighter 1.5-metre croc over 15 minutes. "It was super amazing but pretty terrifying as well," Ms. Bell said on Friday. "It looked like it was pretty much dead pretty quickly."

She later told an expert's opinion that the croc appeared long dead before the attack could be correct. Ms. Bell said she didn't detect much movement when she first saw the smaller croc partially submerged.

The extraordinary pictures were taken on October 26 at Catfish Waterhole in the R



A saltwater crocodile (left) throws another crocodile in the air before eating it at the Rayner (Lakefield) National Park located in northern Queensland, Australia. —PHOTO: REUTERS/LAURA BELL

mylin National Park, where Bell had been camping with her 14-year-old son in north Queensland State. The mother and son, from Shark Bay in Western Australia, went on a year-long vacation driving

around the country. Without warning, the large croc suddenly clamped its jaws around the other's tail and, flung the smaller croc's entire body repeatedly through the air and into the water. Al-

though Bell was 30 metres (100 feet) away from the action on the opposite bank she found herself backing away from fear as she continued to take photos. "I had no idea how fearful

and powerful it was," she said. "There were waves and splashes going everywhere and you could hear the little croc getting clamped into the water."

Crocodile expert Graham Wells said the pale colour of the smaller croc in some photos suggested it was decomposing. He suspected it had been killed by a croc before Bell reached the scene.

The violent throwing of the smaller croc was an attempt to tear away body parts in water, Mr. Wells said. Cannibalism was common among crocs, although humans rarely witness such attacks in the Australian wilderness, he said.

While birds and fish preyed on hatchlings, the only predator a larger croc feared was another croc. "Once a croc gets to 1-to-2 years old, its survival depends on how many big crocs are around," Wells said. —AP

Newspaper Clippings

(ii) National News

1st Oct. 2015 : The Hindu

Conserve indigenous species: NGT

Akashdeep Jais

NEW DELHI: As cattle in India continue to be an abused lot with even dairy cattle being subjected to forced impregnation for commercial gains, the National Green Tribunal on Wednesday sought the Centre's response on a plea seeking conservation of indigenous species of livestock and ban on slaughtering of native cattle of indigenous breeds.



A plea asks the Centre to ensure that promotion of cross-breeding in India is regulated.

THE TRIBUNAL HAS NOW SOUGHT A RESPONSE FROM THE CENTRE

A Bench headed by Justice U.S. Srikanth has asked the Centre to ensure that promotion of cross-breeding in India is regulated.

The plea, filed by environmentalists and lawyers, also sought ban on slaughter of indigenous cattle, resulting in extinction of many high quality cattle.

Advocate Suresh Sethi, who also appeared for the cause, said the petitioner has demanded the Centre to take steps to save and conserve critically endangered indigenous species of livestock and contain the decline of indigenous breeds.

The petition seeks Centre to ensure that promotion of cross-breeding and breeding with

exotic breeds of cattle in India is regulated with minimum interference and disease exposure risk to the indigenous species of cattle, and to take necessary steps to ensure that native cattle of indigenous breeds are not slaughtered.

Emphasising on how cross-breeding of indigenous species with European breeds has led to destruction of high quality genes and disease resistance in cattle, the petitioner cited the example of Indian cow from Kerala which is now almost extinct with their number less than 100.

"Up till 1960, Vecher cattle were very popular and abundant in Kottayam, Ernakulam and Malappuram districts of Kerala. There is a government programme of crossbreeding of native cows with exotic bulls for higher milk yield was launched and implemented aggressively since 1960. Maintaining productive, indigenous bulls was prohibited

by the newly married Kerala Livestock Act, 1960.

As a result, the number of indigenous cattle gradually dwindled and by the 1980s the Vecher cattle became almost extinct," it said.

Its cows are being crossbred with exotic breeds like Jersey, Friesian etc. The milk as produced contains A1 protein which is linked with many health conditions like type 1 diabetes, cardiovascular disease, autism, schizophrenia etc. while the natives have healthier A2 protein.

It is to be noted that the National Academy of Agricultural Sciences had may back in 2001 issued a conservation Red Sheet. Subsequently, larger groups Pannuram, Red Kanthari, Vecher, Marathi, Desani, Lakshmi, Bungal, Chikanga Red, Neralakshmi, Kuchiko SAI, Sani, Lakshmi, Sankesherry and Sankeshri are genetic resources.

5th Oct. 2015 : The Hindu

BACKYARD POULTRY FARMING A LOW COST ENTERPRISE

A new variety of chicks for rural community

Rajasri birds are less susceptible to diseases by virtue of having desi fowl inheritance

R. M. Manoj

Backyard poultry farming is an age-old practice in rural India. It is a low cost enterprise which does not require much time and labour while ensuring high economic return and nutritional security among rural poor. But, indigenous birds which are reared by the rural households are low productive.

However, the Poultry Research Station (PRS) of Sri V. Varma Rao Telangana State University for Veterinary, Animal and Fisheries Sciences, CHANNarayana, Rajendranagar, Hyderabad, has developed a promising backyard poultry variety, Rajasri for the rural farming community.

The new variety is quite suitable for backyard poultry farming as it is hardy, attractive with multi-coloured plumage, capable of self-propagation, have good body conformation with capacity to escape from predators, a good scavenger and less susceptible to diseases, says M. Geeta Prakash, Professor, Department of Animal Genetics, College of Veterinary Science, SPVNTHUVAS.

The bird would produce nearly



The Rajasri variety of chicken

150 eggs a year, attain a body weight of about 1.5 kg by 16 weeks of age, and start laying eggs in 16-18 weeks. Dr. Geeta Prakash, who is also the officer in charge of the PRS, adds, "Marketing of the variety would be easy with the concept of organic farming. These birds are reared mostly in rural backyards where there is no stress to the birds, no much medication and these are raised in natural pollution free environs of rural settings. Moreover, their multi-coloured plumage, resembling to desi birds, which fetch almost double the price when compared to hybrid chicken. Eggs being freely shelled will also fetch more price when compared to commercial white shelled eggs, he says.

Rajasri chicks can be produced by the farmer on his own. For this, the farmer has to maintain male and female birds to allow fertilisation. The fertile eggs produced by the hens can be put to rotate hen for incubation. Each hen will incubate 10-12 eggs and hatch 12-13 chicks. Alternatively, the chicks can be procured from the Station, which produces the chicks on a large scale by using machine incubation. Generally, elaborate housing is not required for backyard poultry farming. If they are grown on commercial scale under intensive system, then a conventional shed constructed with locally available material will do.

Feeding charges alone constitute 70 per cent of total expenditure in poultry production. But in backyard

poultry, the feed cost is minimised to be minimum as birds are grown on scavenging and they thrive on insects, leftover grains, and household wastes. However, if more number of birds are grown, scavenging will not be sufficient and things like broken rice, groundnut straw, wheat grain, and rice bran need to be given. If the roosting turns out to be on commercial lines, balanced ration may be formulated with locally available feed ingredients or commercial feed may be provided.

Though 'Rajasri' birds are less susceptible to diseases by virtue of having desi fowl inheritance, it is recommended to follow routine vaccination against the common viral diseases. Besides, periodic deworming needs to be done to ward off parasitic infections.

A farmer can earn an average additional income of Rs.4,200 annually from a backyard small scale poultry unit of 50 birds. Whereas, if it is done on a commercial scale, a farmer can earn nearly Rs. 7,200 a month with a unit of 1,000 birds. Since this activity does not demand full time of the farmer and it can be managed with the help of family members or even school going children, Dr. Geeta Prakash says.

For more details readers can contact Prof. M. Geeta Prakash, Officer Incharge (Mobile:9440662001) or Dr. D. Krishna, Farm Manager (Mobile:9440660010).

myvjv@svvnvhs.ac.in

25th Oct. 2015 : The Hindu

Four new crab species found in Kerala

T. Nandakumar

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM: Researchers at the Department of Aquatic Biology and Fisheries, University of Kerala, have reported the discovery of four new species of crab from the Kerala coast, highlighting the crustacean diversity in the State.

The discovery of three hermit crabs has been recorded as part of a collaborative research project by A. Biju Kumar, head of the department; R. Reshmi, research scholar, and Tomoyuki Komai of the Natural History Museum and Institute, Chiba, Japan. The findings have been published in *Zootaxa*, the international journal of taxonomy.

The first of the new hermit crab species named *Paguristes luculentus* was collected off the coast of Kollam. It represents the ninth of the genus known from Indian waters. The species name *luculentus* (meaning colourful) refers to the vivid living colour of the crustacean.



(From Left) Afropinnotheres ratnakara, Diogenes canaliculatus, Paguristes luculentus, Pagurus spinosior

The second species *Diogenes canaliculatus* is light brown or tan and named after the longitudinal furrows on the outer surface of the arm of the left chelate leg.

The narrow bodied animal lives inside a shell shaped like an elephant tusk. Both the hermit crabs belong to the family Diogenidae, which are left handed hermits because the left claw is larger.

Collected from Neendakara, Kollam, the third species *Pagurus spinosior* belongs to another hermit crab family Paguridae known as right handed crabs and is tan in colour. The name *spinosior* refers to the strong armature on the clawed

legs of the species.

A new species of pinnotherid crab, *Afropinnotheres ratnakara* was found inside the brown mussel (*Perna perna*) at Kovalam. The species was named *ratnakara* which means Indian Ocean in Sanskrit, as the genus was reported for the first time from the Indian Ocean.

Ubiquitous animals

Hermit crabs are ubiquitous animals often not considered to be 'true' crabs as they lack an external shell on their soft abdomen which leaves them vulnerable to predators. To protect themselves, they live in abandoned gastropod

(snail) shells and often select larger shells as they grow up. Their last two pairs of legs are small and modified and, along with their uropods (appendages at the end of the abdomen), are used to clamp onto the internal whorls of the shell.

More than 40 species of hermit crabs were documented from the Kerala coast during the research project.

The University of Kerala is finalising a memorandum of agreement with Prof. Peter Ng Kee Lin, Head of the Lee Kong Chian Natural History Museum, Singapore, for a detailed study of the biogeography of crustaceans of Indian coastal waters.

Newspaper Clippings

4th Nov. 2015 : The Hindu

Dracula ant discovered in Western Ghats

SARATH BABU GEORGE

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM: A group of citizen scientists have obtained the first photographic record of the *Dracula* ant from Kerala. They believe that their find may be a new species belonging to the *Stigmatomma* group of predaceous ants.



The newly found *Dracula* ant devouring a centipede.

The ant was identified by Manoj Vembayam, Kalesh Sadasivan and Vinay Krishnan, members of the TNHS Ant Research Group, a wing of the Travancore Natural History Society. The amateur researchers have found the ant from the Western Ghats region of the State.

Dr. Sadasivan, Senior Resident (Non Academic), Department of Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery, Government Medical College, Thiruvananthapuram, said three *Dracula* ant species had been discovered in the past in the country from Kol-

kata, Himachal Pradesh, and Karnataka. "While there are unconfirmed reports of a fourth discovery from Peerumade during the 1970s, there have been no published records or photographic record to prove its veracity," he said.

Dr. Sadasivan said the *Stigmatomma* group was commonly referred to as *Dracula* ant because at times of scarcity, they puncture the bodies of their own larvae and drink the hemolymph. The subterranean ants, nearly 1 cm long, have poor vision and feed on centipedes.

New species of tree frog discovered

E. M. MANOJ

KALPETTA: A new species of tree frog was discovered and another species of bush frog was rediscovered by a team of researchers during their recent exploration in the Western Ghats.

The discovery, published in the latest issue of International Taxonomic Journal *Zootaxa*, is a joint effort by a team comprised Robin Abraham, a researcher from the University of Kansas, USA; Anil Zachariah, a batrachologist from Wayanad and Vivek Philip Cyriac, a researcher, of the Indian Institute of Science Education and Research, Thiruvananthapuram.

The team discovered a new species of Rhacophoridae tree frog of the genus *Ghatixalus*. The new species is named *Ghatixalus magnus* after its large size making it the big-



Ghatixalus magnus and *Raorchestes flaviventris*



gest known tree frog from the Western Ghats.

Elusive species

The team has also rediscovered a frog that had been evading for the past many decades. *Raorchestes flaviventris*, a species of rhacophoridae bush frog described from the Western Ghats by George Albert Boulenger in 1882, had never been reported from the region since its description. The team members have found this elusive frog from the High Ranges of Idukki district in Kerala. The discovery of this frog after

around 132 years was published in International Journal *Zootaxa*.

Interestingly, both these frogs were discovered from Kadalar in the high ranges of Idukki district, a place which has yielded several new species of amphibians in the past, indicating the need to focus conservation efforts. The discovery of a new species of tree frog despite its large size stresses the need for further explorations even in areas which seem to be well studied, which is necessary to focus conservation efforts, says Dr. Anil Zachariah.

7th Oct. 2015 : Hindustan (Hindi)

राज्यनामा: अरुणाचल प्रदेश पांगी घाटी में मिली तितलियों की 50 से ज्यादा प्रजाति



ईटानगर। अरुणाचल प्रदेश के लोअर सुबंसिरी जिले की पांगी घाटी में तितलियों की 50 से ज्यादा प्रजातियां नजर आयी। तीन दिवसीय जिये बटरफ्लाई मीट के दूसरे संस्करण के दौरान भागीदारों ने भूटान ग्लोरी जैसी दुर्लभ किस्म की तितलियों की प्रजातियों की तस्वीरें उतारीं। कई अन्य भागीदारों ने भी भिन्न-भिन्न जगहों पर इन तितलियों की तस्वीरें उतारी। इसे महत्वपूर्ण माना जा रहा क्योंकि वर्ष के इस समय मौसम को देखते हुए जिये घाटी में तितलियों का यह अंतिम काल हो जाता है। गैर सरकारी संगठन एनगुनूजीरो के आयोजन में इस साल नगालैंड, असम और सिक्किम के भागीदारों ने हिस्सा लिया। जीरो घाटी में तितलियों को खोजने वाले उत्साही लोगों का जमावड़ा लगता है। पिछले साल पहली जिये बटरफ्लाई मीट के दौरान कैसर ए हिंद प्रजाति की तितलियों की तस्वीरें उतारी गयीं। यहाँ कैसर-ए-हिंद, भूटान ग्लोरी और ब्राउन गोसोन जैसी दुर्लभ किस्म की तितलियां मंडरती हैं। इन तीनों तितलियों की प्रजातियों की मांग सबसे अधिक है

और इनमें मूल्यवान तितलियों की प्रजातियों की श्रेणी में रखा गया है। जीरो तितलियों के संरक्षण के लिए अरुणाचल प्रदेश वन्य विभाग के अधिकारियों ने स्थानीय लोगों के बीच जागरूक अभियान की शुरुआत भी की है। इसका उद्देश्य तितली की प्रजातियों को संरक्षण देने के साथ राज्य में पर्यटन को बढ़ाना भी है।

पहले भी खोजी गई तितलियों की कई प्रजातियां

तितली की एक छोटी प्रजाति बैडेड टिट (हाइपोलासीकेनिया नारदा) की खोज अरुणाचल प्रदेश स्थित चांगलांग जिले के हरित वनों में की गयी। बैडेड टिट का निवास स्थान चांगलांग सदाबहार वन है तथा इसका जीवन चक्र भी थोड़ा अलग है। इस प्रजाति की व्यस्क तितलियां केवल मार्च में लगभग दो सप्ताह के लिए ही जीवित रह पाती हैं। यह पता नहीं चल पाया है कि यह वर्ष का अधिकतर भाग निष्क्रिय रूप से लार्वा चरण में व्यतीत करती है या नहीं।

Newspaper Clippings

04 Dec. 2015 : Times of India

30 Dec. 2015 : Hindustan Times

UP to hold world's largest bird fest?

Ishita.Mishra@timesgroup.com

Agra: After setting a world record in planting the most number of trees in one go on Samajwadi Party supremo Mulayam Singh Yadav's birthday in Saffai on November 21, the SP government is all set to make a new record during the three-day bird festival, to be organized in Baah from December 4.

Talking to TOI, Prashant Verma, media in-charge of the bird festival, said the state would attempt to set a world record during the event on December 4 by attracting the largest number of birdwatchers at a given time across multiple locations in the state.

"To make the record, au-



SET FOR THE BIG OCCASION

thorities in all districts having wetlands have been directed to bring people from all walks of life to the identified spots. Places like zoos and other areas where birds arrive in large numbers are chosen by the respective districts.

The district administrations have also been asked to arrange binoculars and bird guides to inform birdwatchers about the spe-

cies of birds they see," said Prashant Verma.

The event will be recorded through Google Maps. Around 10 lakh people are expected to watch birds at various locations across the state. Mainpuri in Agra division will organize the bird festival on December 4 at most places in the state, i.e., four spots. "In Mainpuri, bird watching will be held at Sahan village in

Karhal, Kinbawar village in Bhogaon, Saman bird sanctuary and Markandeya lake," said Sanjeev Kumar, DFO, Mainpuri.

"Earlier, the largest number of birdwatchers in India that had gathered to see the avian species across India was 5,000 on Big Bird Day. This is a record so far and we will attempt to make a new record during the coming bird festival in UP. The event will start at 6 am on Friday," said Verma. Big Bird Day is an annual event (started by the Delhi bird group) to celebrate the joy of bird watching. The day is dedicated to bird watching and enumerating the avian species seen at a chosen location.

Endangered black-necked stork breeds in UP now

AGRA: An endangered avian species in many parts of India, the black-necked stork is thriving in the agricultural fields of Agra and Etawah. Once a migratory bird, the black-necked stork is slowly becoming a native in the state.

According to expert, Dr. RS Gupta, various colonies of the bird were found in the agricultural fields of Agra and Etawah, during a recent survey. "This species of the stork is native to Ladakh and used to visit the plains of Ganga and Yamuna during the winter season," he added.

On a visit to Etawah, if anyone wanted to see the black-necked stork, they had to visit from the area like the Kachhwa National Park, Sauri Sauri Bird Sanctuary, Saman Sanctuary, National Chambal Sanctuary or Gajpuri Bird Sanctuary. But now the bird can be seen in agricultural fields and even around the temporary ponds in the villages of Agra, Mainpuri and Etawah.

Turning this as an indicator of healthier farming lands in Agra, Gupta said, "People claim that chemical pollution in fields is increasing but if the population of endangered species is growing here then it shows that farmers in Agra and nearby areas are adopting more sustainable methods of farming."



A black-necked stork seen in a field in Agra. *istockphoto*

He said that the survey conducted in Agra, showed that colonies of the black-necked stork were expanding in various places in UP. "The bird usually builds its nest deep in trees that make the semi-arid forest, which is found in abundance near Agra," he said.

Talking about how UP was providing a supportive habitat for various avian species, Gupta added, "Apart from the black-necked stork, various other birds like a variety of waterfowl, waders, and other birds are also found here. We are positive that the increase of these birds is also increasing in various parts of the state. These birds are also a big indicator, which shows that their presence shows that the habitat is healthy for them and hence to flourish."

MADHURA BHARGAVA

05 Dec. 2015 : Times of India

Thousands Of Birds Spotted On UP Birdwatching Day; State Attempts To Set A World Record

UP hosts winged guests with elan

Priyanka Agarwal
@timesgroup.com

Bareilly: On the first Uttar Pradesh Bird Festival on Friday which was celebrated as Birdwatching Day across 75 districts, a total of 5,861 birds of 85 species were spotted in six forest divisions of Moradabad. Similarly, a total number of 642 birds belonging to 80 species were seen by enthusiasts in Bareilly district. Experts, however, said that the number of migratory birds would have gone up by more than 50 times if this survey was conducted in January.

Festival officials had said that the state would attempt to set a world record on Friday by attracting the largest number of birdwatchers at a given time across multiple locations. Moradabad division forest conservator Kamlesh Kumar said, "Many migratory birds arrive



Of the 5,000-odd birds spotted, more than half were migratory

either in the last week of December or first week of January because winter is at its peak then. If we had conducted the survey next month, their count would have been increased by at least 50 times."

Out of total 5,861 birds spotted at 23 spots in six forest divisions of Moradabad, Sambhal, Rampur, Amroha, social forestry in Bijnor and Nazibabad forest division in Bijnor, around 1,800 were migratory

birds belonging to about 35 species. A total of 1,000 birdwatchers were present in six forest divisions of Moradabad.

The main birds sighted in the region included Lesser Whistling Duck, Gadwall Northern Pintail, Indian Pond Heron, Little Grebe, Pied Avocet, Asian Pied Starling, White Wagtail, Black-winged Stilt, Red-wattled Lapwing, Hoopoe, Pied Kingfisher, Brown-headed Barbet and Yellow Wagtail.

Enthusiasts flock Meerut, Bijnor

Sandeep Rai@timesgroup.com

Meerut: Strong focus is needed on common birds which are on the brink of extinction, said ornithologist Rajar Bhargava, on the first day of UP Bird Festival that witnessed participants coming out in hordes to spot birds in parks and green habitat.

Close to 500 school students assembled at Gandhi Park located in the Cantt at 6 am for birdwatching. They later witnessed a photo exhibition on birds organized by the forest department.

Bhargava said, "Students asked intriguing questions and showed enthusiasm. Most of their questions centred around common birds like house sparrow, pigeon, etc. They seemed that these common birds were gradually becoming endangered due to shrinking natural habitat for them owing to rapid urbanization."

A similar activity was conducted in Bijnor which houses



Close to 500 school kids took part in spotting birds

Amangarh tiger reserve and part of Hastinapur wildlife sanctuary. Divisional forest officer Sali Shukla said, "A total of 250 bird enthusiasts participated in the birdwatching activity and identified 30 species. Bijnor has a conducive environment for avian species because of 12 rivers, many lakes and forest reserves in the region. We are in the process of developing a portion of Amangarh forest reserve as bird sanctuary."

(With inputs from Harvinder Dabas)

'Festival to bring focus to Chambal'

Continued from P1

The state government also plans to send the book to heads of states of different countries, central ministers, CMs of all states, chief secretaries, Indian embassies and ambassadors of other countries in India.

To a query regarding selection of Chambal for organizing the event, Saran said the Chambal provides sanctuary to gharials and dolphins besides different species of birds and despite being close to Agra, the area has remained neglected so far. "The festival would help bring focus back to the area and promote eco-tourism," he said. As many as 25 experts from 14 countries and 50 from India are participating in the bird festival. Field trips to National Chambal Sanctuary, Saran Crane wetlands in Etawah and blackback safari in Panna block of Agra were organized for the birdwatchers and experts in the morning hours.

Talking to TOI, state forest minister Pawan Pandey said, "More such bird festivals would be organized in future. It is an initiative being taken for conservation of birds. It is also a stepping stone in creating awareness about birding and importance of avian species to sustain natural habitat." Earlier in the day, Appleton inaugurated a photo exhibition which displayed indigenous as well as migratory birds found in UP. Akhilesh Yadav is expected to arrive here on Saturday and address a gathering.

'Rare birds a good sign for environment'

Times News Network

Lucknow: The bird-watching activity in Lucknow found some rare birds living in forest patches within the city on Friday. Common kestrel, a rare bird of the falcon family, and orange-headed thrush which lives in well-wooded, damp and shady area, were sighted in the thickets. Both kestrel and orange-headed thrush are winter migratory birds.

A pair of Indian eagle owl sighted near SGPGI campus is a good sign, said experts. Though it is a resident bird, its presence proves that the forest is thriving.

More than 1,500 birds were spotted at reserve forest areas of Kujrauli, Mounabagh and forest block, Hastapur Khauria, near SGPGI campus during the bird-watching activity organised as part of the bird festival.

Perching birds warblers



Over 2.3 lakh birds were spotted all over the state

and babbler were spotted in huge number in Lucknow's forest blocks. Rufous treepie, golden oriole and black head-



ed oriole were the other species seen. "We will try to protect these birds. Their presence is a healthy sign for the environment," said conservator, Awadh, Eva Sharma.

In all things of nature there is something
of the marvelous. ~ Aristotle



Published by:

Uttar Pradesh State Biodiversity Board,
East wing, IIIrd Floor, A Block, PICUP Bhawan,
Gomti Nagar, Lucknow

Phone : 0522-2306491, 4006746
Email: upstatebiodiversityboard@gmail.com
Url: <http://www.upsbdb.org>

Editorial Board

Pawan Kumar, IFS, UPSBB, Lucknow;
Dr. Somesh Gupta, UPSBB, Lucknow;
K. K. Tiwari, UPSBB, Lucknow.