

GULARIS

Bi-Annual Newsletter



Vol. I

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www.gbcn.in

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Cover Image :

Flame-throated Bulbul
(*Pycnonotus gularis*) Gould,
1836.

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GBCN
For Goa's Birds!

Vol. I Issue No. 1 April 2020

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Join us to be the voice of Birds !



<https://www.gbcn.in/membership-form>

About Goa Bird Conservation Network :



Goa Bird Conservation Network (GBCN) that exists today was a result of an informal group formed in 2006 by a group of bird watchers under the umbrella of Indian Bird Conservation Network (IBCN). The group, then headed by Late. Carl D'Silva, was formed to provide a platform for all bird enthusiasts from the State of Goa to exchange information related to birds in the State. It was realized that in order to have an impact the group would need to be formalized and hence what started out as an informal group was registered as Goa Bird Conservation Network in 2015 under the Societies Registration Act, 1860.

GBCN is a non-profit society committed to work for the welfare of birds in the State of Goa through scientific documentation and citizen science approach, and advocating protection of their habitats by liaising with different government departments. To further the goal of the organization GBCN conducts various activities for its members and general public to create awareness about birds.

One of our flagship programs is the monthly birdwalk which are conducted on the first Sunday of every month wherein a dedicated team from GBCN is present with binoculars and spotting scopes to help people experience the joys of watching birds as well as help the novice birders polish their skills. Till date GBCN has conducted 65 birdwalks. GBCN also organizes the annual Carl D'Silva Memorial Lecture in the memory of eminent wildlife artist Late. Carl D'Silva wherein a guest speaker of repute is invited that provides an opportunity for local bird watchers to interact with important personalities in the field of wildlife and conservation.

GBCN has collaborated with the Forest Department to conduct a three season survey of Cotigao Wildlife Sanctuary and our members are currently assisting the forest department in their monthly birdwalks. GBCN has also pioneered systematic surveys off the coast of Goa for the very elusive seabirds. Till date six surveys have been conducted. Members of GBCN regularly conducts indoor sessions as well as field visits for students of various schools and colleges in the State through which students are introduced to the world of birds and what significance they hold for us.

GBCN has also recently started a series of workshops to help people better understand the different aspects of birds, their behaviour and habitat while also helping them understand the need for systematically documenting and monitoring birds. The workshops not only aim at helping people identify birds but also show how collectively we all can work towards protecting birds and their habitats.

GBCN is an official partner of Wetlands International, Indian Bird Conservation Network and BirdCount India Consortium. Members of GBCN are State Co-ordinators of the Wetlands International's Asian Waterbird Census, India Bird Conservation Network- Goa Chapter and reviewers/ editors of eBird, an online repository of bird data maintained by Cornell University.

GBCN has been successful in identifying, surveying and proposing several habitats as Important bird and biodiversity areas and have been successful in declaring seven IBBA's.

Team GBCN.

Snapshot of 2019 through eBIRD :



[Kindly click on the highlighted Bird names to open the eBIRD link]

The year of 2019 has been a mixed bag for birding in Goa with many rarities sighted through the year. This year saw 338 species being reported from the state on eBird from 1925 checklists. The year began with the sighting of the [White-tailed Lapwing](#), at its regular haunt at Santa Cruze Wetland in the outskirts of Panjim, followed by the sighting of [Isabelline Wheatear](#) and [Eurasian Widgeon](#). As the winter drew close, a rare '[Legges Hawk-Eagle](#)' was reported from Bondla Wildlife Sanctuary. Monsoons brought the regular [Rain Quails](#) from Divar Island and the [Yellow, Cinnamon Bitterns](#) from Shirgao. The winter of 2019 began with the surprising sighting of [Common Ringed Plover](#) from the fields of Nagoa followed by the report of [Black Redstart](#) at Chicalim. Call of the elusive-resident [Spot-bellied Eagle Owl](#) was recorded from the Surla region of Sancordem.

Due to an extended monsoon this year, most of the migrants came [in late](#) and sightings were reported only from mid and late September. The passage migrants- [European Roller](#) came in during late October while the charismatic [Amur Falcon](#) was reported from November.

GBCN Workshops :



After four years since inception of Goa Bird Conservation Network, the Executive Committee thought of initiating a series of workshops to train beginner or amateur birders. The workshops were planned in such a way that they would contain variety of subjects such as basics of bird watching, citizen science initiatives such as eBird and survey techniques used for bird surveys. These workshops will be spread out throughout the year and details will be put up GBCN's website and Facebook page.

The first workshop of the series took place on 24th November in Bondla Wildlife Sanctuary with topic 'Basics of Bird watching and Identification'. Omkar Dharwadkar, president of GBCN, told attendees about key identification methods based on a bird's habitat, size and shape, colour patterns and its behavior. He also explained the ethics one should follow so that any bird being observed is not disturbed. Instruments used during bird watching, like binoculars, scopes and field guides, were explained and used by all.

The second workshop dealt with identification of wetland birds which was a precursor to the All Goa Waterbird Count that happens in January every year. The workshop was conducted by Mr. Pronoy Baidya who is

the Goa state coordinator for the Asian Waterbird Count. Through the workshop data from the previously conducted waterbird counts were shared with the attendees as also the different trends that we get to see in the wetland bird populations across years. Keys to identification of some important as well as similar looking species were explained to better understand the species which would further aid in documenting them during the AGWC.

Starting from our backyard to sanctuaries, it is very much possible for anyone to start bird watching if you have been trained thoroughly with GBCN's workshops. Keep an eye out for next one!



Best bird images of 2019 :



Barn Swallow



Legge's Hawk Eagle



Isabelline Wheatear



Oriental Dwarf Kingfisher



Wilson's Storm Petrel



Speckled Piculet

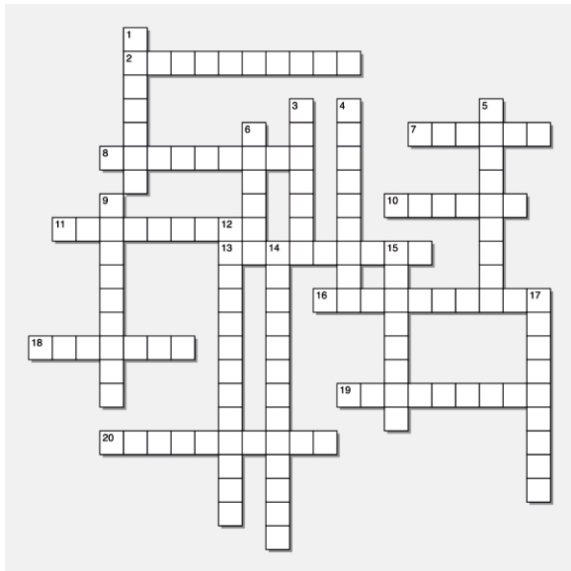
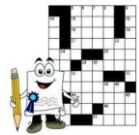


Blue-eared Kingfisher



Indian Thicknee

The Birders Puzzle :



Across :

- 2) Bird known for its remarkable habit of leading humans to beehives. (10)
- 7) Harry Potter's Snowy Owl. (6)
- 8) The National Bird of the United States of America. (4,5)
- 10) Nickname by which the Australian bowler Glen McGrath was known. (6)
- 11) Another name for the Oriental Darter. (9)
- 13) Wildlife sanctuary in Arunachal Pradesh named after a raptor's residence. (9)
- 16) Bird in the roller family that gets its name because of the coin-shaped spots on its wings. (10)
- 18) The "blithe spirit" of Percy Bysshe Shelley's famous poem. (7)
- 19) James Bond film that shares its name with ducks of the Bucephala genus. (9)
- 20) Veterinary drug responsible for the catastrophic decline in vulture populations in India. (10)

Down :

- 1) A column of rising air used by soaring birds to stay aloft for long periods of time. (7) 3) The currency of Guatemala, named after a bird in the trogon family. (7)
- 4) Online repository of bird sounds from around the world. (4,5)
- 5) Austrian producer of crystal jewellery that has a swan as its logo. (9)
- 6) The Grey-Crowned Crane features on the flag of this African country. (6)
- 9) Two _____ make up the beak of a bird. (9)
- 12) The wild ancestor of the domestic chicken. (3,10)
- 14) The mascot of the Bombay Natural History Society. (5,8)
- 15) His autobiography is titled 'The Fall of a Sparrow'. (5,3)
- 17) Mnemonic to remember the call of a Red-Wattled Lapwing. (3,2,2,2)