



BOMBAY NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY NEWSLETTER



JULY, 2025

CONSERVATION NEWSLETTER

FROM THE DIRECTOR DESK



Dear Members,

It was a sweltering first week of July in New Delhi when I arrived to attend a crucial meeting at the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC). The ministry had convened the meeting to discuss the growing threat of free-ranging dogs in critical wildlife habitats, ranging from the high-altitude wetlands of Ladakh to the arid grasslands of Rajasthan. Chief Wildlife Wardens from several affected states attended and highlighted the severity of the issue. We hope the MoEF&CC will soon issue state-specific guidelines to mitigate this problem.

The Annual Research Seminar (ARS) continues to be a much-anticipated event for BNHS scientists. It brings together new and seasoned researchers to present their findings, exchange ideas, discuss challenges, and foster collaboration. This year, our President – also the Former Member of the Capacity Building Commission of India – suggested a special team-building session led by an external expert to strengthen staff capabilities and motivation.

The seminar was held at the Bamboo Nature Conservancy in Gothangaon, near the Umred Karhandla Wildlife Sanctuary. In addition to insightful discussions and knowledge-sharing, staff enjoyed birdwatching – and the sightings of tigers and wild dogs, which proved to be the icing on the cake.

This year, MoEF&CC supported BNHS in organizing two workshops for veterinarians – one at the Vulture Conservation Breeding Centre (VCBC) in Pinjore, Haryana, and the other in VCBC Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh. Veterinarians from nine states participated and gained valuable insights into how their expertise can enhance conservation breeding programmes for endangered species. We extend our sincere thanks to MoEF&CC and to Dr Kazveen Umrigar, BNHS's conservation breeding specialist, along with her team for making these workshops a success.

A heartfelt thank you to our BNHS members who actively respond on WhatsApp groups to strengthen our programmes. One such instance was during the garbage collection drive led by the CEC team at Film City, Mumbai. As Film City borders the Sanjay Gandhi National Park (SGNP), litter from visitors poses a risk to wildlife straying into the area. It is disheartening that others' waste must be cleaned by someone else. The CEC team is now working with Film City authorities to explore the possibility of employing locals for clean-up activities by collecting a 'nuisance fee' from littering visitors.

Mumbai continues to grapple with respiratory illnesses linked to pigeon overpopulation. The issue recently reached the Maharashtra State Assembly, prompting a government directive to take action against kabutarkhanas – feeding stations where pigeons are lured and allowed to congregate, fuelling their population explosion.

In response, animal rights activists moved to the High Court, challenging the action. (Is it really the pigeon's 'right' to be fed by humans?) BNHS foresaw this problem in its 2017 study and warned of its potential consequences. We hope the High Court will consider the health and welfare of urban citizens not just in Mumbai, but across other cities where kabutarkhanas exist. For more, see the Conservation Notes section in the *Hornbill* (Apr-Jun, 2025).

The BNHS Blog (<http://blog.bnhs.org>), voluntarily created and managed by member Oishimaya Sen, is gaining popularity. We invite members to contribute in any language. As BNHS continues to lead in conservation breeding – most notably with vultures – several state governments have sought our assistance in replicating similar programmes. Recently, our scientists visited the Gorewada Zoo in Nagpur, Maharashtra, as part of a new agreement with the Zoo (and WRTC too) to run breeding programmes for key species. We will keep you updated as this initiative progresses. In a promising development, genomics experts from the renowned Wellcome Sanger Institute (Cambridge, UK) visited Hornbill House this month to explore opportunities for capacity-building in modern genomics. We hope to integrate cutting-edge science into BNHS's core areas of expertise.

On July 29, Global Tiger Day, BNHS shared its work on tiger conservation in a webinar hosted by the UK-based Born Free Foundation. The session received an overwhelmingly positive response from a global audience of millions. Be sure to check out the 'Systema naturae' section in the latest issue of *Hornbill* magazine. We welcome your contributions as part of the BNHS 150-Year Omnibus Collection.

If you have not yet completed the Yearbook form for Life Members, please do so here: <https://forms.gle/12gPTSyTs9P2khue7>
For assistance, please reach out to the relevant departments:

Central Marketing: cmd@bnhs.org; Membership: membership@bnhs.org; Programmes: programmes@bnhs.org; Conservation Education Centre: cec-mumbai@bnhs.org

For event reservations and content submissions, send your photos and write-ups to Mr Gopi Naidu at g.naidu@bnhs.org.

Thank you for staying connected with us. For any suggestions or queries, I am always available at director@bnhs.org.

Kishor Rithe, Director,
Bombay Natural History Society

Bombay High Court Cracks Down on Pigeon Feeding at Kabutarkhanas

On July 30, 2025, in a significant ruling, the Bombay High Court has directed the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) to register FIRs against individuals who continue feeding pigeons at kabutarkhanas, in defiance of civic bans and without interim relief from the court.

A division bench comprising Justices Girish Kulkarni and Arif Doctor termed the practice a 'public nuisance' and a health hazard. Citing medical reports submitted by the BMC and pulmonologist Dr Sujit Rajan of Bombay Hospital, the bench highlighted the irreversible health damage caused by pigeon droppings.

Labeling civic authorities as 'custodians of the rights of citizens', the court emphasized the duty of the BMC and the Maharashtra state government to safeguard public health from such risks. ■



Shokaliya Proposed as Biodiversity Heritage Site for Lesser Florican

The Bombay Natural History Society (BNHS), in collaboration with the Rajasthan State Biodiversity Board (RSBB), has formally initiated the proposal to designate Shokaliya as a Biodiversity Heritage Site (BHS). As a key breeding site for the lesser florican *Sypheotides indicus* and a landscape of agro-ecological value, BHS status would confer legal protection while empowering local Gram Panchayats and communities to participate in long-term conservation efforts. ■

BREAKING NEWS

st इंडिया NEWS

Date: 18/07/2025

Jaipur: अजमेर के सौखलिया में खरमोर संरक्षण प्रोजेक्ट

बीएनएस और जैव विविधता बोर्ड में अनुबंध, राजस्थान जैव विविधता बोर्ड और बॉम्बे नेचुरल हिस्ट्री सोसाइटी (BNHS) के बीच समझौता, संरक्षण कार्यों के लिए बीएनएस को 10 लाख का अनुदान देगा जैव विविधता बोर्ड, खरमोर बस्टर्ड प्रजाति का दुर्लभ पक्षी, वर्षा ऋतु में अजमेर क्षेत्र में होता है सक्रिय, खेतों में अंडे देने वाला यह पक्षी किसानों का मित्र, कीड़े-टिड्डे खाकर करता है मदद, घास के मैदानों में कमी, रसायन व मशीनों के उपयोग से घट रही संख्या, बीएनएस दो वर्षों में सर्वे, जनजागरण, प्रशिक्षण और संरक्षण योजना बनाएगा, सौखलिया को "बायोडायवर्सिटी हेरिटेज क्षेत्र" घोषित कराने की भी होगी पहल, जैव विविधता बोर्ड के मुख्य प्रबंधक मुकेश कुमार तिवारी ने साझा की जानकारी

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First Breeding Male Lesser Florican of 2025 Spotted in Ajmer

On July 14, the BNHS field team recorded its first male lesser florican of the 2025 breeding season performing its characteristic aerial display in Ajmer's agricultural fields. Farmers hosting the bird were engaged through the 'Kharmor Mitra' outreach programme, which encourages florican-friendly farming practices and community-led monitoring. Once numbering 39 breeding males in 2019, the lesser florican population has declined alarmingly, with only five males recorded in 2024. As of the end of July 2025, just one breeding male has been spotted this season, raising serious concerns. The lesser florican, known for its spectacular breeding display and elusive nature, is more than just a rare bird – it is considered a sentinel species for India's grasslands. Its decline signals broader ecosystem degradation, threatening not only biodiversity but also the livelihoods of rural communities dependent on healthy grassland ecosystems. ■



Agriculture Department and BNHS discuss Florican-Friendly Farming in Bidar

In a promising step toward conservation-oriented agriculture, the BNHS lesser florican team met Ms Devika, Joint Director of the Department of Agriculture, Bidar, Karnataka. The meeting focused on integrating biodiversity-sensitive practices to protect the critically endangered lesser florican while enhancing the livelihoods of agro-pastoral communities. The Agriculture Department expressed strong interest in supporting conservation-aligned farming models, signalling the beginning of a valuable institutional partnership. ■



Mahanadi Skimmer Field Season 2025: Encouraging Breeding Outcomes in Odisha

The 2025 field season has yielded promising results for the breeding of the Indian skimmer *Rynchops albicollis* and black-bellied tern *Sterna acuticauda* along the lower stretch of the Mahanadi River in Odisha. Field monitoring commenced in early January, with researchers documenting early nesting activity on several mid-channel islands. Indian skimmer nests were recorded at seven sites between Kantilo and Cuttack, with an estimated 400 adult birds observed at the start of the season. In total, approximately 182 nests were monitored, with Sanpur emerging as the most active site, hosting 44 nests.

Nesting occurred in small colonies on key sandbar habitats. Regular monitoring indicated good hatching success and chick survival across several locations. However, the breeding season was not without challenges. Fluctuating water levels, especially near hatching sites, posed ongoing threats. Water releases from upstream and downstream reservoirs adversely affected nesting success at critical sites such as Mundali, Berhampur, and Subarnapur.



By mid-July, most chicks had successfully fledged. Bird numbers on the islands began to decline as flocks were observed roosting on sandbars, with many fledglings seen flying alongside adult birds.

This year's findings underscore the continued significance of the lower Mahanadi as a vital breeding ground for riverine bird species. The results also highlight the need for sustained monitoring, habitat conservation, and local community collaboration to ensure the protection and long-term survival of these vulnerable birds. ■

BNHS and MP Forest Department Launch Joint Grassland Surveys



Systematic grassland surveys have been initiated across Sardarpur, Sailana, and other critical areas in western Madhya Pradesh through a joint effort between BNHS and the Madhya Pradesh Forest Department. While the initial phase yielded no lesser florican sightings, field teams identified promising microhabitats. Engagements with local pastoralist communities are underway to understand land-use pressures and revive traditional practices that support habitat restoration. ■

Veterinarians Empowered to Lead Vulture Conservation at National Workshop in Pinjore

A workshop titled 'A Veterinarian's Role in Vulture Conservation' was held from July 1–3, 2025, at the Red Bishop Tourist Complex, Panchkula, to equip veterinarians with skills vital to conserving India's endangered vultures.

Organized by BNHS in collaboration with the Haryana Forest and Wildlife Department, and supported by the MoEF&CC, the event brought together 25 veterinary professionals from Haryana, Punjab, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, and Uttar Pradesh. The workshop opened with an address by the Chief Wildlife Warden, Haryana, and was followed by technical sessions led by experts, including Sachin Ranade, Dr Shravan Singh Rathore, Hemant Bajpai, Dr Karikalan Mathesh, and others. Topics covered included:

- Vulture population decline and its causes
- Rescue, treatment, and rehabilitation of sick and injured vultures
- Captive vulture care, husbandry, and post-mortem protocols
- Field sampling and disease surveillance methods

On the second day, participants visited the Jatayu Conservation Breeding Centre (JCBC), Pinjore, for practical training on bird handling, blood sampling, morphometric measurements, microchipping, and bird ringing. A key session on 'Vulture Safe Zones', led by Arindam



Aditya, underlined the importance of creating NSAID-free landscapes and involving local communities. Participants also discussed innovative approaches such as establishing vulture restaurants in gaushalas and using Animal Birth Control (ABC) programmes to manage feral dog populations at carcass sites.

The workshop concluded with a valedictory address by Dr Ranjit Jadon, Deputy Director, Animal Husbandry & Dairying Department, Panchkula, who distributed certificates and encouraged continued collaboration across sectors. This intensive training reaffirmed the pivotal role veterinarians play in India's vulture conservation landscape – from field monitoring and clinical care to grassroots awareness and sustainable solutions. ■

BNHS Documentaries and Vulture Campaign Spark Dialogue at Green Hub Festival, Bhopal

The 4th Edition of the Green Hub Festival 2025 (Central India) was successfully held on July 12–13, at Ravindra Bhawan, Bhopal, bringing together environmental educators, filmmakers conservationists, and youth from across the region. The festival celebrated ecological awareness through storytelling, film screenings, and community engagement.

As part of this vibrant gathering, BNHS premiered two powerful documentaries spotlighting India's vanishing grassland birds. The films, focused on the great Indian bustard in Rajasthan's Pokhran region and the lesser florican in Ajmer, captured both ecological challenges and grassroots conservation initiatives, highlighting BNHS's ongoing conservation efforts. The screenings evoked engaging discussions, underscoring the effectiveness of visual storytelling in raising awareness for endangered species and fragile habitats.

In parallel, the BNHS-Vulture Conservation Breeding Centre (VCBC), Bhopal organized a Vulture Awareness Campaign to draw public attention to the critical role vultures play in ecosystems and the urgent need for their protection. Informative pamphlets were distributed, covering key topics such as:

- The impact of NSAIDs (Non-Steroidal Anti-Inflammatory Drugs), especially diclofenac, on vulture populations
- The role of VCBC in breeding and recovery of critically endangered vulture species



- The process of reintroducing captive-bred vultures into the wild and their ongoing monitoring
- Broader conservation messages and practical actions the public can take to support vulture protection

Over 200 participants, including students, educators, researchers, and local citizens, engaged with the campaign. The initiative helped foster meaningful dialogue on avian conservation and encouraged active public involvement. ■

Vulture Guardians' Workshop Concludes in Bhopal with National Participation

The three-day national workshop titled 'Vulture Guardians: Rescue, Rehabilitation, and Conservation' concluded successfully at the Seven & Seven Hotel & Resort, Bawadiya Kalan, Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh. Held from July 14–16, 2025, the workshop brought together wildlife veterinarians and field biologists from Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Karnataka, Rajasthan, and Uttarakhand.

Jointly organized by the BNHS, the Madhya Pradesh Forest Department, and Van Vihar National Park and Zoo, the workshop was sponsored by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC), Government of India.

The workshop commenced with a ceremonial lamp-lighting, signifying collective commitment to vulture conservation. Shri Vijay Kumar, IFS, Field Director, Van Vihar National Park, addressed the gathering, emphasizing the ecological significance of vultures and the urgency of coordinated rescue and rehabilitation initiatives. Dr Sujit Narwade, Deputy Director, BNHS, delivered the welcome address, highlighting the importance of scientific research, public awareness, and inter-agency collaboration in safeguarding India's critically endangered vulture species.

The first day featured participant introductions and sessions on species identification, rescue protocols, rehabilitation strategies, and field case studies. The following days focused on state-wise assessments of vulture populations, veterinary practices, food availability, the impact of banned NSAIDs, and state-specific challenges and solutions. A visit to the Vulture Conservation Breeding Centre was also organized, where participants observed conservation practices and exchanged knowledge aimed at strengthening national-level coordination efforts.

The workshop culminated in a valedictory session presided over by Shri Shubharanjan Sen, IFS, Principal Chief Conservator of Forests



(Wildlife), Madhya Pradesh, who appreciated the collaborative efforts of BNHS and distributed participation certificates. The event marked a significant step in creating a well-informed and motivated network of vulture conservation professionals across India. ■

BNHS Expert Delivers Guest Lectures at WII

Dr Rajat Bhargava, Senior Ornithologist at BNHS, delivered guest lectures from July 14–17, as part of the "Conservation Breeding and Wildlife Utilization" module of the M.Sc. (Wildlife Science) programme at the Wildlife Institute of India (WII), Dehradun. Dr Bhargava spoke on 'Current Global Trends in Sustainable Utilization of Avifauna' and 'Birds, People and Laws in India.' A veteran guest faculty at WII since 1994, Dr Bhargava's sessions drew on decades of field and policy experience to guide the next generation of wildlife scientists. The inaugural lecture was delivered by Dr B.C. Chaudhary, ex-faculty, WII, on 'Policy, Principle, Protocols and Guidelines for setting up of Conservation Breeding Facility'. ■



The inaugural lecture was delivered by Dr B.C. Chaudhary

Invasive Bird Species Discussed at National Roundtable in Bhopal

At a national roundtable on legal and policy reforms for invasive species management, held on July 17–18, 2025, in Bhopal, Dr Rajat Bhargava delivered a talk titled 'Invasive Species of Birds'. Hosted by the Vidhi Centre for Legal Policy and the School of Planning and Architecture (SPA) with support from Rainmatter Foundation and IISER Bhopal, the event brought together experts from across India. Dr Bhargava addressed the rise of synanthropic species such as the common myna, red-vented bulbul, rose-ringed parakeet, blue rock pigeon, and house crow, questioning whether such species could dominate future urban wildlife. Drawing from a recent BNHS documentary and past editorial insights by Dr Asad Rahmani, he also cautioned against bird feeding and the release of exotic species into the wild. ■



BNHS Contributes to 'Sahjeevan Samvaad' in Deoria, Uttar Pradesh

BNHS joined a two-day grassroots dialogue, 'Sahjeevan Samvaad', held in Deoria, Uttar Pradesh on July 26–27, 2025. Organized by Jagriti Enterprise Centre, Vidhi Centre for Legal Policy, Wildlife Trust of India, and the ClimateRISE Alliance, the event addressed growing human-wildlife conflict in agricultural landscapes. Dr Rajat Bhargava shared insights from western Uttar Pradesh, particularly concerning conflicts with nilgai and rhesus macaques. Also in attendance was Dr Asad Rahmani, former



Director of BNHS, who emphasized balancing ecological integrity with rural resilience. The workshop, chaired by MP Shri Shashank Mani and attended by DFO Gorakhpur Vikas Yadav, brought together farmers, legal experts, forest officials, and conservationists to co-develop district-level strategies for coexistence and sustainable land-use. ■

Global Tiger Day Celebrated with Focus on Central India's Conservation Success

Global Tiger Day, observed annually on July 29, was commemorated this year with a special spotlight on India's tiger conservation achievements, particularly in the central Indian landscape.

BNHS has played a pivotal role in establishing the Satpuda Landscape Tiger Partnership (SLTP) –formerly known as the Satpuda Landscape Tiger Programme – a pioneering network dedicated to tiger conservation in central India. Launched in 2004, when India's tiger population had dwindled to just 1,411, the SLTP brought together local communities, government agencies, and NGOs in a collaborative effort to reverse the decline.

Today, thanks to sustained conservation efforts, India is home to an estimated 3,682 tigers, according to the National Tiger Conservation Authority. The central Indian landscape alone contributes around 800 tigers to this national count. In celebration of Global Tiger Day, UK-based wildlife charity Born Free, which has financially supported SLTP over the past two decades, hosted a special webinar titled 'Turn the Tide for Tigers'. The event highlighted India's conservation successes and featured compelling talks by SLTP partners and prominent wildlife conservationists including Kishor Rithe (Director, BNHS), Poonam Dhanwatey, and Dr Anish Andheria, among others. Anchored by Born Free CEO Will Travers, the webinar offered fascinating insights into the two-decade journey of the SLTP, its ground-level conservation projects, and the exciting plans ahead. It served as a tribute to the dedication and impact of those working tirelessly to protect India's iconic big cat.

BNHS members and wildlife enthusiasts can view the recorded webinar at the following link: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1XRNEAGpS9PZbPD4USw8VZFTijGpjVPGz/view?usp=sharing>





BNHS Hosts Genomics Discussion with Wellcome Sanger Institute, UK and TEVA Pharmaceutical Company

A high-level meeting was held at Hornbill House between BNHS, representatives of the Wellcome Sanger Institute, UK, and TEVA Pharmaceutical Company to discuss collaborative research opportunities in avian genomics. The meeting focused on integrating genomic tools for conservation science and long-term biodiversity monitoring. ■

PA to Union Law Minister with member of BNHS

Mr Ravi Aggarwal, Personal Assistant to the Union Minister of Law, along with BNHS Life Member Mr Satishram Kumar Goyal visited BNHS headquarters on July 22, for a detailed interaction with senior scientists and leadership. Discussions ranged from wildlife conservation policy to BNHS's on-ground community engagement models. ■



CZA Audit Committee visits BNHS VCBC, Bhopal

A three-member Audit Committee from the Central Zoo Authority (CZA) conducted an official visit to the BNHS-Vulture Conservation Breeding Centre (VCBC) in Bhopal on July 31 to review ongoing conservation breeding efforts.



A comprehensive presentation was delivered to the Committee, outlining the centre's key milestones, major achievements, and notable contributions to the conservation of critically endangered vulture species – particularly the white-rumped vulture *Gyps bengalensis* and the long-billed vulture *Gyps indicus*.

Following the presentation, the Committee was given a guided tour of the facility. The visit included an overview of the centre's



infrastructure, comprising: the Artificial Incubation Centre, a range of specialized aviaries, including Colony, Breeding, Holding, Nursery, and Hospital Aviaries and other operational areas supporting breeding and husbandry activities.

During the visit, the centre's team also presented several infrastructure and operational requirements essential for scaling up conservation efforts. The CZA committee expressed appreciation for the dedication and progress demonstrated by the BNHS and VCBC teams. They conveyed satisfaction with the centre's achievements and acknowledged its critical role in advancing vulture conservation at the national level. ■

Empowering Frontline Staff in Avian Conservation

As part of its ongoing training programme for frontline forest department personnel, the State Forest Training Institute (SFTI) in Gaya, Bihar, hosted a special two-day session on bird conservation. The event was organized by the Department of Environment, Forests, and Climate Change, Government of Bihar, in collaboration with the Bihar-based team of the BNHS.

The training aimed to enhance the scientific bird monitoring skills of forest guards and empower them to play a more active role in the conservation of wetlands and migratory bird species across the state. A total of 63 forest guards participated in the programme.

The sessions covered key topics including bird identification, the ecological significance of avian species, and major conservation concerns. Special emphasis was placed on the Asian Waterbird Census



(AWC), bird census methodologies, and the study of bird migration, with a focus on the Central Asian Flyway.

A highlight of the programme was a live bird-ringing demonstration, providing hands-on experience in monitoring techniques. Through this initiative, the department seeks to build a knowledgeable and skilled cadre of frontline staff dedicated to avian and wetland conservation in Bihar. ■



Sarus Crane Conservation Efforts Gain Momentum in Vidarbha Region

The BNHS team recently met with Mr Prajit Nair, IAS, District Collector of Gondia, to discuss ongoing efforts for the conservation of the Sarus Crane in the Vidarbha region, Maharashtra.

During the meeting, Mr Nair informed the team that 56 wetlands have already been restored within the district, as part of a broader initiative aimed at rejuvenating approximately 1,800 wetlands in total. He expressed strong support for the conservation drive and agreed to convene a meeting with all relevant stakeholder departments in the second week of August to deliberate on Sarus Crane conservation challenges and formulate key recommendations. ■

BNHS Experts Visit Gorewada Zoo for Site Assessments

On July 22, a team of experts from the Bombay Natural History Society (BNHS) recently visited the Balasaheb Thackeray Gorewada International Zoological Park, in Nagpur district, Maharashtra to initiate site assessments for upcoming conservation breeding programmes. Among the proposed initiatives is a breeding center for the critically endangered Bengal florican species. ■



Transit Treatment Centre: A Sanctuary for Injured Wildlife



A BNHS team visited the Transit Treatment Centre located in Seminary Hills, Nagpur – a facility established in 2015 to address the need for wildlife rescue and rehabilitation.

Nestled in the serene landscape of Seminary Hills, the centre has become a critical hub for the treatment and recovery of injured and displaced animals. Equipped with a dedicated rescue team, experienced veterinary staff, and advanced medical tools – including X-ray and ultrasound machines, surgical units, and an intensive care unit – the centre provides life-saving care to wildlife that might otherwise be neglected. The final stage in the rescue process is rehabilitation. Animals deemed fit for release are carefully reintroduced into suitable natural habitats. Those unable to return to the wild due to permanent injuries are given long-term care at sanctuaries. ■

BNHS Inaugurates New Office at Dr Sálim Ali's Residence in Kihim



BNHS has inaugurated a new office at the residence of Dr Sálim Ali in Kihim, Raigad district, Maharashtra. This strategic initiative underscores BNHS's long-term commitment to ecological conservation and community engagement in the region. The newly established centre will spearhead a range of activities, including the ecological restoration of Kihim Lake, development of the Kihim Mangrove Park, and enhancement of the Dr Sálim Ali Nature Interpretation Centre (NIC). It will also facilitate bird guide training programmes for local youth, undertake socio-economic studies, and promote solid waste management through community participation.

Additionally, the centre will organize awareness programmes in nearby schools and colleges, and explore partnerships to strengthen environmental education and outreach. The project is led by Project In-charge Mr Nandkishor Dudhe and Project Associate Mr Rohan Chavan.

This initiative marks a significant step in preserving local biodiversity while fostering environmental stewardship. BNHS encourages its members and nature enthusiasts to visit the new office and explore the ecological richness of Kihim and its surroundings. ■



BNHS-ARS 2025 concluded at Gothangaon, Maharashtra

The BNHS Annual Research Symposium (BNHS-ARS) 2025 was held at the serene Bamboo Nature Conservancy, Gothangaon, near the Umred-Pauni-Karhandla Wildlife Sanctuary in Maharashtra. This year's symposium brought together BNHS scientists, field researchers, and support staff from across India to share research, field experiences, and conservation strategies – reflecting BNHS's enduring commitment to science-based action, education, and public engagement.

Presentations highlighted BNHS's flagship species recovery programs, including vulture conservation, vulture-safe zones, and wetland bird monitoring along the Central Asian Flyway, with a special focus on the great Indian bustard, lesser florican, and Indian skimmer. These efforts exemplify BNHS's mission to conserve threatened species and habitats through rigorous field research and collaborative action.

The BNHS publications team outlined their plans for multilingual field guides and outreach materials designed to make science accessible to diverse audiences, from policymakers to schoolchildren. Sessions on nature education showcased innovative approaches to connect young people with local ecosystems through storytelling, field trails, and participatory learning – reinforcing BNHS's vision of intergenerational stewardship.

BNHS's ongoing nature camps, citizen science initiatives, and guided nature trails were discussed as powerful tools for experiential learning. Field educators from the Conservation Education Centre (CEC) shared insights from camps held across varied Indian landscapes, where participants – from students to urban nature enthusiasts – engaged directly with biodiversity and conservation challenges. These immersive experiences continue to nurture curiosity, empathy, and action.

A deeply resonant moment came during a motivational team-building exercise led by Chetan Rao from Training Sideways. Participants reflected on their journeys, celebrated quiet victories, and renewed their commitment to conservation. The session fostered resilience, camaraderie, and a shared sense of purpose—reminding all that conservation is not just a profession, but a calling.

BNHS-ARS 2025 reaffirmed the strength of BNHS as a national institution where scientific excellence



meets grassroots wisdom, and where every field station – from Ladakh, Assam, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, and Pokhara to Point Calimere – contributes to a shared vision of people living in harmony with nature.

The seminar concluded with renewed energy, deeper bonds, and a collective resolve to protect India's natural heritage. ■

BNHS Signs MoU with Tadoba-Andhari Tiger Reserve for School Outreach in Buffer Villages

The Bombay Natural History Society (BNHS) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Tadoba-Andhari Tiger Reserve (TATR) to implement a school awareness programme in villages located within the TATR buffer zone. This initiative aims to foster environmental consciousness among students through experiential learning and biodiversity-focused educational activities. ■



Mangrove Conservation Day Celebrated with Students in Alibag



On July 26, 2025, BNHS commemorated International Day for the Conservation of the Mangrove Ecosystem by engaging over 120 students of S.M. Vadake English Medium School and Junior College, Kihim Village, Alibag. Programme Officer Mr Nandkishor Dudhe led a session on bird identification and ecology, while Project Associate Mr Rohan Chavan discussed the local mangrove species. The event saw participation from RFO Mr Kuldeep Patkar (Mangrove Foundation) and Principal Ms Purva Gharat, who emphasized the importance of youth engagement in ecosystem preservation. Educational materials including BUCEROS and bird posters were distributed to students. ■

Bird Seminar Held at King's David CBSE School, Kihim

On July 24, 2025, BNHS conducted a bird identification seminar titled 'Birds Around Us – Kihim' at King's David English Medium (CBSE) School. This event marked the start of a collaborative outreach programme. Principal Mrs Sharmila Khamkar welcomed the initiative and expressed interest in hosting a series of future lectures and a student-led nature trail. BNHS also distributed BUCEROS and bird posters, now prominently displayed on the school's notice board. ■



Snake Awareness Seminar Held on the Occasion of Nag Panchami

To mark the auspicious occasion of Nag Panchami, the BNHS conducted a Snake Awareness Seminar at S.M. Vadake Marathi Medium Primary School, in Kihim on July 29.



The event aimed to educate young minds about snakes and promote awareness about their ecological and cultural significance. Over 240 students and eight teachers, including the school's Principal, Mr Sandeep Patil, participated in the seminar. BNHS Project Associate Mr Rohan Chavan delivered an informative session on the different species of snakes, identification techniques, and debunking common myths associated with them.

Following his talk, volunteer Assistant Professor Aditya Karve highlighted the cultural importance of Nag Panchami and provided essential guidance on first aid and treatment procedures for snake bites. The seminar was met with enthusiastic participation and positive feedback. Principal Patil expressed his gratitude to BNHS and conveyed keen interest in organizing similar awareness sessions in the future. ■

Awareness Meeting with South Guwahati Range Office Staff



On July 1, 2025, VCBC Rani conducted an awareness programme and training session for staff at the South Guwahati Range Office. Mr Ghanashyam Gogoi and Mr Gitartha Borah led the session, highlighting the ecological significance of vultures, the threats they face, and the need for active participation in their conservation. ■

Training Programme for Gauhati University Students at VCBC



On July 11, 2025, students from Gauhati University visited VCBC Rani as part of their summer internship Programme. Ms Aneena Lakshmanan briefed the students on the major threats faced by vultures and the ongoing conservation efforts led by the BNHS. ■

Awareness Programme at District Veterinary Office, Goalpara, Assam



An awareness session was held on July 3, 2025, at the District Veterinary Office in Goalpara. Ms Aneena Lakshmanan delivered a presentation on the major threats to vultures, followed by Dr Krishna Mohan, who elaborated on the impact of harmful and safe NSAIDs on the species. The event was attended by Dr Chand Mohammad (DVO, Goalpara), Dr Kushal Rabha (VO), Mr Kalyan Kalita (RFO, Goalpara), veterinary doctors, field assistants, and students from Goalpara College. ■

Awareness Meeting at District Veterinary Office, Biswanath, Assam

An awareness meeting was conducted at the District Veterinary Office, Biswanath, on July 11, 2025. The session, led by Mr Ghanashyam Gogoi and Mr Gitartha Borah with support from local forest staff, focused on the effects of NSAIDs on vultures and introduced participants to the conservation efforts of VCBC and BNHS. ■



Community Meeting and Student Felicitation at Belguri Village, Assam

VBCB organized a community outreach programme on July 19, 2025, at Belguri village, Assam. Mr Sachin Ranade spoke on the vulture conservation initiatives undertaken by BNHS. The event included a screening of a documentary on vultures and a felicitation ceremony for students who excelled in the recent 10th-grade examinations.

Chief guests included Shri Ramendra Narayan Kalita (MLA, Guwahati West) and Shri Hemanga Takuria (MLA, Palashbari). Other dignitaries present were Ms Lina Hazarika (BDO, Rani Chayani Block), Shri Sathyaram Rabha (President, Dakshin Bholagaon GP), Shri Rukun Rabha (President, Anchalik Panchayat), Shri Kamleswar Rabha (Member, Rabha Hasong Autonomous Council), and Shri Pabitra Kalita (Joint Director, Panchayat & Rural Development, Kamrup). ■



Community Meeting at Kulsi Range, Assam



On July 22, 2025, a community awareness meeting on vulture conservation was held at Kulsi village in collaboration with the Kulsi Range Forest Office. Mr Sachin Ranade and Mr Jayanta Rabha emphasized the need for establishing a Vulture Restaurant to support local vulture populations.

The meeting was graced by Mr Kankan Jyoti Kaushik (RFO, Kulsi Range) and Mr Nayan Jyoti Das (RFO, Loharghat Range), who urged community leaders and forest staff to support the initiative. ■

Vulture Handling and Awareness Training Conducted in Assam

A Vulture Handling and Awareness Programme was organized by the BNHS Vulture Safe Zone team in Sonari Forest Range, Charaideo district, Assam, on July 24, 2025. Conducted by Forest Ranger Mr Hanse Moran, the training focused on safe handling techniques during poisoning incidents and first aid procedures for rescued vultures. The session also included an overview of ongoing vulture conservation efforts in the state. ■



Advocacy Meetings at Manas National Park and Parbatjhora Division

On July 24, 2025, Mr Sachin Ranade and Mr Aniket Pawar held advocacy meetings with Dr C. Ramesh (IFS, Director, Manas National Park) and Mr Abinash Basumatary (AFS, DFO, Parbatjhora).

The discussions centered on the regular monitoring of vulture colonies in the Parbatjhora Division. Both officials pledged support from the Forest Department for future colony monitoring efforts. ■

Students Visit BNHS Bird Migration Study Centre, Point Calimere

On June 5, 2025, 111 students from Grades 6 and 7 of Brilliant Matriculation Higher Secondary School, Muthupet, Tamil Nadu, visited the BNHS Bird Migration Study Centre (BMSC) at Point Calimere. Accompanied by Principal Mr S. Selvaraj and 11 teachers, the students engaged in an educational tour focusing on bird migration and habitat conservation.

BNHS researchers Paul Antony B. and Rose Francis briefed the students on the rich biodiversity and ecological importance of the Point Calimere region. The session included demonstrations of bird ringing techniques and migration tracking methods, followed by an interactive Q&A session. Mr T. Elanchezhian, Forester, Vedaranyam Forest Division, addressed the gathering, urging the students to take an active interest in conserving the region's unique ecosystems. ■



Green Classroom Teacher Training Programme Conducted at CEC-Mumbai

On July 2, 2025, over 30 educators joined BNHS's Green Classroom Teacher Training Programme at the Conservation Education Centre (CEC), Goregaon, Mumbai. The session began with a guided biodiversity trail led by Education Officer Mr Shardul Bajikar and Field Assistant Mr Dilip Giri.

Naturalists Meehir Pawar and Gaurang Tawde showcased butterfly and moth anatomy under Mr Bajikar's guidance, followed by group-based activities where educators brainstormed ways to integrate environmental education into school curricula. The programme was smoothly coordinated by Senior Education Officer Ms Aqsa Majgaonkar and received enthusiastic participation. ■



BNHS Naturalist Leadership Workshop Inspires Future Conservationists



The second session of the BNHS Naturalist Training and Leadership Workshop concluded on July 6, 2025 with hands-on

experiences and expert-led discussions. Mycologist Dr Shashirekha Iyer guided participants through spore-print collection of local fungi, while Dr Sunayana Sarkar delivered an engaging talk on soil ecosystems.

On Saturday night, naturalist Saurabh Sawant conducted a night walk revealing fascinating species such as Bamboo Pit Vipers, Fungoid Frogs, and Deccan Banded Geckos. The final morning trail was led by Dr Anish Andheria, President of Wildlife Conservation Trust, alongside naturalists Yogesh Patel and Gaurang Tawde. An interactive session on conservation challenges and solutions followed. Education Officer Mr Shardul Bajikar closed the workshop with a session on storytelling for conservation, encouraging participants to continue their journey as nature advocates. ■

Massive Community Clean-up Drive at Vihar Lake



Responding to BNHS's call for action, more than 200 volunteers participated in a large-scale clean-up drive around Vihar Lake inside Sanjay Gandhi National Park (SGNP) on July 6, 2025. In partnership with Film City authorities, who provided transportation and security, participants collected over 400 kilograms of waste, including plastic, glass, and metal debris. School and college students, corporate employees, and local residents united for the cause, with SGNP staff assisting in waste collection and disposal. ■

BNHS Participates in Plastic Cleanup Drive at Point Calimere

On July 19, 2025, BNHS staff, including researcher Paul Antony B., actively took part in a plastic cleanup drive at the Point Calimere Wildlife Sanctuary (Kodiyakarai). The initiative, led by the Tamil Nadu Forest Department, focused on removing plastic waste from ecologically sensitive habitats and water bodies. The drive witnessed participation from NGOs, students, volunteers, and local panchayat members. BNHS expressed pride in supporting the collective action toward protecting wildlife and preserving the sanctuary's environmental integrity. ■



BNHS Exhibition at HDFC Ltd. on World Nature Conservation Day



In celebration of World Nature Conservation Day, on July 28, BNHS successfully organized an exhibition at HDFC Ltd., Lower Parel. The event served as an excellent platform to showcase and promote the activities of the Society, including our publications and merchandise. The exhibition received an enthusiastic response, engaging nearly 250 to 300 HDFC employees. Through this initiative, the marketing team was able to raise awareness about nature conservation and strengthen outreach among the corporate community. ■

Citizen Scientists Record 45 Bird Species During July Bird Count at SGNP and Tungareshwar



More than 43 enthusiastic volunteers participated in the July bird count conducted at Sanjay Gandhi National Park (SGNP) and Tungareshwar Wildlife Sanctuary, documenting a total of 45 bird species. The event is part of an ongoing citizen science initiative aimed at monitoring bird diversity and evaluating the health of local ecosystems. These regular bird counts play a crucial role in supporting long-term conservation strategies while encouraging public involvement in nature and wildlife observation. The data collected serves as a valuable resource for avian research and habitat preservation.

Those interested in participating in future bird counts or learning more about BNHS programmes are encouraged to visit www.bnhs.org or contact programmes@bnhs.org. ■

Nature Trail for S.P. Jain College, Mumbai



On July 5 2025, the BNHS Conservation Education Centre (CEC), Mumbai, conducted a nature trail for students of S.P. Jain College, focusing on sustainable CSR practices and the importance of nature conservation.

The event commenced with a welcome address and orientation session led by Ms Priyadarshini Supekar, Education Officer at CEC. Participants were briefed on safety protocols and forest etiquette before being divided into smaller groups for a guided walk through the 33-acre BNHS Nature Reserve. Each group was accompanied

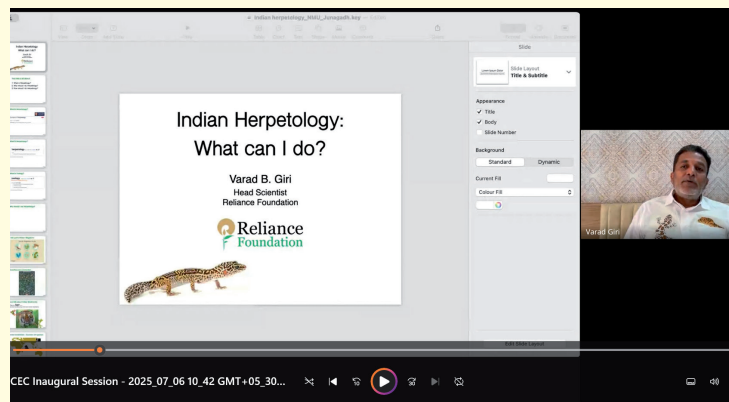
by BNHS naturalists, who provided expert insights into the diverse flora and fauna of Mumbai's forest ecosystem.

Students engaged enthusiastically with their surroundings, observing various ecological interactions and species. The trail concluded with an engaging audio-visual presentation showcasing biodiversity-themed videos that further enhanced the participants' understanding of forest life. A total of 34 students and two faculty members participated in this enriching and educational experience. ■

Inaugural Session of Online-Hybrid Courses – July 6, 2025

CEC-Mumbai launched two online-hybrid courses – Leadership Course in Biodiversity Conservation and Basic Course in Herpetology – on July 6, 2025. The inaugural session featured an insightful webinar on herpetofauna and its conservation, delivered by eminent herpetologist Dr Varad Giri.

Participants from across India attended the session, gaining valuable insights into the fascinating world of amphibians and reptiles. Dr Giri emphasized the significance of meticulous field observation and encouraged even amateur naturalists to contribute meaningfully to the field of biodiversity conservation. His talk inspired participants to approach nature with curiosity and commitment, reinforcing the idea that impactful contributions are not limited by formal education. These beginner-friendly courses



are aimed at nature enthusiasts looking to explore and understand India's biodiversity, serving as a launchpad into the world of wildlife conservation. ■

Field Camp at Amboli – July 25 to 27, 2025



From July 25–27, 2025, CEC-Mumbai organized a field camp at Amboli, Maharashtra, for participants of the Leadership Course in Biodiversity Conservation and the Basic Course in Herpetology. Led by Ms Priyadarshini Supekar, the camp featured expert guidance from Mr Mrugank Prabhu and local support from veteran naturalist Mr Kaka Bhise. The programme focused on studying the herpetofauna of the Amboli region, offering participants hands-on experience in identifying and observing amphibians and reptiles in their natural habitat.

Notable amphibian sightings included the Malabar gliding frog, Amboli toad (tiger toad), common Indian toad, Amboli leaping frog, and the narrow-mouthed frog. Reptilian highlights featured the forest calotes, Malabar pit viper, common cat snake, northern vine snake, and the remarkable



Giri's bronzeback tree snake, which captivated participants as a highlight of the trip.

The camp began with an orientation session, followed by structured field activities and post-trail discussions designed to consolidate learning. These discussions encouraged knowledge sharing and reflection on field observations, promoting a deeper understanding of species ecology and behaviour. Located in the heart of the Western Ghats – a global biodiversity hotspot – Amboli provided an ideal backdrop for immersive learning. The region's dense forests, cascading waterfalls, and cool monsoon atmosphere added to the transformative experience.

This field camp marked a crucial step in the participants' conservation journey, offering both scientific insights and a profound appreciation for India's lesser-known wildlife. ■

BNHS Launches School Bird Clubs to Promote Conservation Near Point Calimere

The BNHS, with support from Buimerc India Foundation, has launched a School Bird Club initiative in ten government aided schools near Point Calimere Wildlife Sanctuary and the Great Vedaranyam Swamp – an ecologically important Ramsar site. This cadre-building programme addresses the growing need to raise environmental awareness among students, particularly regarding the region's significance as a wintering and feeding ground for numerous migratory and resident bird species, including several globally threatened ones.

Each year, the programme aims to train 200 students (20 from each school, Grades 8 and 9) through a series of classroom sessions, birdwatching activities in and around schools, and field visits to Point Calimere. Students will learn about bird ecology, conservation challenges, citizen science, and careers in biodiversity, with the goal of developing young bird conservation ambassadors.

To kick off the initiative, BNHS organized a one-day orientation for teacher coordinators on July 31, 2025 at its Bird Migration Study Centre, Point Calimere. The session introduced BNHS's conservation legacy, the objectives of the Bird Club programme, and the role of teachers and students in promoting bird conservation. Educators



were also familiarized with birdwatching tools and the year-round activity calendar, including crafts, fieldwork, and monitoring exercises. More than 10 enthusiastic teachers participated in the event, which included presentations, interactive discussions, and a guided birdwatching walk.

The initiative aims to nurture a generation of environmentally conscious citizens committed to preserving their local natural heritage. ■

BNHS Hosts Insect Walk as Part of Monsoon Biodiversity Series



On July 13, 2025, as part of its ongoing monsoon biodiversity series, the BNHS Conservation Education Centre organized a thematic insect walk to highlight the ecological importance of arthropods. The walk, attended by 14 participants, was facilitated by naturalist Mr Gaurang Tawde.

The session introduced participants to the diversity of insect life found in the forested areas of the CEC. With the aid of field tools such

as hand lenses and macro lenses, the group observed beetles, stick insects, and other arthropods in their natural habitats. Discussions focused on the roles of insects in pollination, decomposition, and trophic dynamics. Interactive segments, including guided observation and interpretive games, allowed participants to gain a deeper understanding of insect morphology, behaviour, mimicry, and seasonal variation. ■

Nature Trail to Sálim Ali Point at CEC-Mumbai

On July 6, 2025 CEC-Mumbai conducted a guided nature trail to Sálim Ali Point at the BNHS reserve, located within the SGNP. The trail, held on Sunday morning, saw the participation of 11 individuals with an interest in ecology and biodiversity. Led by naturalist Mr Sumrit Lahot, the trail offered participants an opportunity to observe the monsoon-driven transformations of the forest ecosystem. The group examined native plant species,

studied forest-edge ecology, and discussed the ecological relevance of Sálim Ali Point.

Participants observed various bird species and seasonal flora while engaging in discussions on conservation and habitat interdependence. The event aimed to deepen public understanding of urban biodiversity and encourage mindful interaction with natural spaces. ■

Internship Program at VCBC, Rani

We extend our best wishes for a bright and successful future to Ms. Himakshi Saud and Ms. Trishnita Saikia, who successfully submitted their M.Sc. dissertation theses in

June 2025. Both students completed their research work as interns at the Vulture Conservation Breeding Centre (VCBC), Rani, Assam.



Ms Himakshi Saud conducted her dissertation titled 'Perch Preference in White-rumped Vulture and Slender-billed Vulture at the Vulture Conservation Breeding Centre, Assam', as part of her M.Sc. program at Gauhati University, Assam.



Ms Trishnita Saikia completed her dissertation on 'Feeding Behaviour and Perch Preference of Rescued Himalayan Griffon Gyps himalayensis in Captivity', for her M.Sc. program at the University of Science and Technology, Meghalaya. ■

BNHS Library Resumes Operations

We are pleased to inform you that the BNHS Library has reopened on July 10, 2025, following the successful completion of essential repair work.

Operating Hours

Monday to Friday: 9:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.



We appreciate your patience and understanding during the closure period and apologize for any inconvenience caused. We look forward to welcoming you back and hope you continue to enjoy the resources and services we offer.

For any reference-related queries, please feel free to contact us via email.

Thank you for your continued support.

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We are thrilled to welcome our newest Corporate Members Maharashtra Hybrid Seeds Company Pvt Ltd. (Gold Category) and Tata Power Company Ltd. (Gold Category) into the Bombay Natural History Society community — partners in conservation, champions of sustainability, and true stewards of nature.

Together, we will work towards restoring vital ecosystems and inspiring communities through action and education.

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Let us protect species, restore habitats, and build a greener tomorrow – together.

Get in touch

Asif Khan: 98195 70758 | Sandesh Kadam: 9930 150531
membership@bnhs.org | cmd@bnhs.org



BASIC COURSE IN FIELD ORNITHOLOGY AND BIRD MIGRATION STUDIES



Join us in learning the art and science of bird migration monitoring.
Be part of India's growing network of citizen scientists protecting migratory birds across
the Central Asian Flyway. Enroll Now:

BNHS's Basic Course in Field Ornithology and Bird Migration Studies (Oct 2025 – Jan 2026)

The Bombay Natural History Society (BNHS) is pleased to announce six batches of its Basic Course in Field Ornithology and Bird Migration Studies, to be held between October 2025 and January 2026 at the BNHS Bird Migration Study Centre, located in Point Calimere, Tamil Nadu - a globally significant migratory hotspot.

About the Course: This specialized field-based course is designed to provide hands-on training in bird monitoring and migration studies, while fostering a network of birders and citizen scientists along the Central Asian Flyway.

Why Join?

- ❖ Field-based learning at one of India's most important migratory bird sites
- ❖ Practical sessions on bird identification, census techniques, and demonstration of bird ringing
- ❖ Classroom lectures on bird migration, monitoring tools, and data collection methods
- ❖ Focus on both shorebirds and migratory landbirds

Location: BNHS Bird Migration Study Centre, Point Calimere (Kodiyakarai), Tamil Nadu

Located at the southeastern tip of India, Point Calimere is a biodiversity-rich site, home to:

Endangered shorebirds like the Great Knot. Near Threatened species including Eurasian Curlew, Bar-tailed Godwit, and Spot-billed Pelican, Spectacular Greater Flamingos, Eurasian Spoonbills, and large wader congregations. Rare sightings such as Sanderlings, Dunlins, Whimbrels, Pacific Golden Plovers, and more Migratory landbirds such as the Asian Brown Flycatcher, Indian Pitta, Paradise Flycatcher, Forest Wagtail, and leaf warblers. This rich diversity makes Point Calimere the perfect live classroom for bird migration studies.

Who Should Attend?

- Birdwatchers and nature enthusiasts
- Students of ecology, wildlife, or environmental science
- Aspiring ornithologists
- Researchers and conservation volunteers

Course Duration: Six batches from October 2025 to January 2026

Venue : BNHS Bird Migration Study Centre,
Point Calimere, Tamil Nadu

Field trips : Great Vedaranyam Swamp;
Point Calimere Wildlife Sanctuary;
Beach, Siruthalaikadu mudflats.

Registration Fee (per person): Rs. 5,000/- (for BNHS Members); Rs. 6,500/- (for non-Members)

Fee includes tent accommodation -Two person per tent; Facilities: cots, fan, charging points, pillow and blankets

Other expenses: Rs. 4,500/- (includes food, field visits, entry fee etc.);

Eligibility: No prior field experience is required – just a passion for birds and conservation.

Registration closes 7 days before start date of each batch

The payment details will be shared once the enquiry form is filled and confirmed the registration.

Resource Persons: Dr P. Sathiyaselvam, Mr Sivakumar S., Ms Parveen Shaikh, Mr Paul Antony B., Ms Rose Francis

For More information: Mr S. Sivakumar- s.swaminathan@bnhs.org; 94088 72745; Mr Paul Antony B.- p.antony@bnhs.org

Schedule for 2025-2026:

Batch I	October	17 - 19	Batch IV	December	19 - 21
Batch II	November	28 - 30	Batch V	January	9 - 11
Batch III	December	12 - 14	Batch VI	January	23 - 25

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Help us Preserve a Literary Treasure: Adopt a Rare Book

Introduction and Background

The BNHS Library holds a remarkable collection of rare books—treasures that house the wisdom of great thinkers from the past. These rare books are not just relics; they are a priceless heritage for humankind, preserving facts, ideas, and evidence on Natural History. These valuable resources are indispensable for present and future generations. Unfortunately, these literary gems face threats of deterioration due to climatic, physical, chemical, and biological factors. The loss of such irreplaceable materials would be devastating.

These rare books also contain crucial information about endangered flora and fauna, making them an important resource for students conducting research. The beautifully illustrated plates can be used for exhibitions in schools and colleges, and the wild stories in these books are excellent teaching aids for educators. By digitising these rare resources, we can make them more accessible for educational purposes and conservation awareness.

Why Your Support Matters

Preservation: Rare books are delicate and require expert conservation to prevent deterioration. Your donation will fund state-of-the-art techniques to preserve these literary treasures.

Accessibility: By adopting a rare book, you help make it accessible to scholars, students, and the public, ensuring its knowledge continues to inspire and educate.

Legacy: Your support ensures that these irreplaceable works will be preserved for future generations, keeping their historical and cultural significance alive.

How You Can Help

Adopt a Book: By contributing 1 lakh (for five years), you can adopt one of our rare books and support its preservation. Your donation will directly fund conservation efforts and ensure these books remain accessible for years to come.

Acknowledgement: Donors will receive an 80G tax-saving certificate, acknowledgement in our annual report, and recognition on the inner page of the book's front cover.

Books Available for Adoption

- 1. **Nests and Eggs of Indian Birds (Vol. I, II, & III) by Allan O. Hume (1889–1908)**
This invaluable work, authored by Allan Hume, a pioneer in Indian ornithology, is a rare gem, especially significant because the BNHS houses a unique collection of bird eggs.
- 2. **Indian Ducks & Their Allies by E.C. Stuart Baker (1908)**
This first publication of the BNHS features beautiful illustrations and holds great historical significance. It's essential to preserve this foundational book of our institution.

Thank you for considering this opportunity to make a meaningful impact.
For more information on how you can contribute to preserving these literary treasures,
please feel free to contact us at library@bnhs.org

Book Donations to the BNHS Library

The Bombay Natural History Society (BNHS) warmly invites individuals and organizations to contribute to the enrichment of our Library through the donation of books and relevant literature. Your generosity plays a vital role in expanding our knowledge base and supporting our mission to promote the conservation of nature and natural resources.

Over the years, donations – from rare, historic volumes to the latest publications – have significantly enhanced our collection, all in alignment with the Vision and Mission of BNHS. We remain deeply grateful to all who have supported us in this endeavour.

To help us manage donations efficiently, we kindly request you to follow the guidelines:

Submission Guidelines:

If you are considering a donation, please email a list of the books or literature you wish to contribute to library@bnhs.org and director@bnhs.org.

Please Note:

- Donors will not receive goods or services in exchange for their contributions.
- All accepted books will be catalogued in the Library’s accession register at the earliest possible opportunity.
- Due to space and operational constraints, donated materials will be incorporated into the main Library and Archives and will not be housed in a separate collection.

We sincerely thank you for considering a donation to the BNHS Library. Your support makes a lasting difference.

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Vision: Premier independent scientific organization with a broad-based constituency, excelling in the conservation of threatened species and habitats.

Mission: Conservation of nature, primarily biological diversity, through action based on research, education and public awareness.

CONTACT US

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