



Report tagged birds through android application

BNHS launches a mobile app 'Bird Band Sighting'

Mumbai: 6th June: Studying the patterns of migration of birds has been a continued effort since long time across the globe. BNHS has been engaging in bird migration studies using bird banding techniques since 1927. Over the decades, a lot of data has been generated in turn helping in establishing links between migration of birds and other related details about birds and their preferences. BNHS launched a mobile application 'Bird Band Sighting' with the Mangrove and Marine Biodiversity Conservation Foundation at an event to mark the World Environment Day yesterday in the presence of Shri.Sudhir Mungantiwar, Minister of Finance & Planning and Forests, Maharashtra. Birders can now easily report birds with bands through this mobile application which will be available on the BNHS website shortly.

The fast-evolving technologies are proving to be a boon for wildlife as well by enhancing the wildlife science to track movement of wildlife even in difficult terrains. The 'Bird Band Sighting' mobile application developed by BNHS is an example of the ease and increased accessibility towards tracking birds with colour bands and tags. This will also provide a better scope to involve enthusiastic birdwatchers, volunteers, academicians and scientists to report and channelize their potential in tracking migratory birds and their movements. This application will also help the contributor with maintaining their own tag sighting list. The application can be downloaded from the BNHS website www.bnhs.org where it will soon be uploaded.

The nine-decade long BNHS study on bird migration by using different bird banding techniques has revealed enormous information on the movement pattern of migratory birds, age, sex, morphometric details along with their trend. This study has also yielded over 3000 ringed bird recoveries spanning 29 countries over five continents. The data generated through these studies has helped in establishing a linkage between spatially distant areas through ringing recoveries and marking the boundaries of the Asian flyways.

In addition to metal rings, BNHS has adopted the more recent methods of tagging birds with colour bands, colour-flags and neck-collars for tracking the routes of the birds and important habitats utilized by them. In recent years, the birdwatchers and bird photographers have contributed greatly by reporting these colour banded birds leading to interesting results on waterbird movements and documenting links between various habitats utilized by the migratory birds during their annual cycle. Compiling these tagged bird sighting records will shed more light on the population dynamics and seasonality of movement of migratory birds.

BNHS appreciates the contribution of all the birdwatchers and urges them to continue to keep reporting the sighting of tagged birds through this mobile application. For queries, one can reach us through email on bands@bnhs.org.

--- Bilwada Kale-Baxi,
Consultant Public Relations Officer