

Event Summary: Introduction to Birdwatching at Dayananda Sagar College of Arts, Science and Commerce

Date: 11 March 2025

Venue: DSCASC Campus

The Introduction to Birdwatching session at DSCASC marked a successful and enthusiastic kick-off for birding activities on campus! The session witnessed an engaging and interactive atmosphere throughout. A total of 250 students from diverse disciplines—including BSc., BCom., BBA, BCA, MCA, MCom.—participated with great enthusiasm.

Students from DSCASC hosted the program, which commenced with a spiritual note through a song sung by one of the students, followed by the traditional lighting of the lamp by the Principal, Vice Principal, Ataavi team, and the resource persons.

The session then continued with a video presentation showcasing Dayananda Sagar Institution, setting the tone for the event. Dignitaries were invited onto the stage for a formal felicitation, and the Principal delivered an inspiring speech on the significance of birdwatching and conservation.

Following this, I presented an overview of the Ataavi College Chapter initiative and the various activities planned under the Ataavi Birders Club. This was followed by an insightful presentation by Reena Philips on Introducing Birds and Their Amazing World, highlighting the fascinating adaptations and behaviors of different avian species. Harindra Baraiya then captivated the audience with stories on Birdwatching and Bird Conservation, sharing inspiring anecdotes and real-world conservation efforts.

During the session, binoculars were distributed among the participants, allowing them to get hands-on experience on how to properly use them—a skill they would later apply during the birdwatching walk. A Bird Quiz was then conducted, engaging the students and testing their new found knowledge. Three winners emerged victorious and were presented with certificates.

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After the quiz, participants took a refreshment break, followed by lunch. Post-lunch, an exciting birdwatching session was conducted, where 30 selected students explored the campus and its unique biodiversity. Within an hour, both teams recorded a total of 26 bird species and 156 individual birds. Some of the highlights included five active nests of Black Kite, Shikra, Barn Swallow, Indian Pond-Heron, and the Tickell's Blue Flycatcher, a migratory species that was an exciting find for many participants.

The Dayananda Sagar College of Arts, Science and Commerce campus is a thriving green space that supports a variety of flora and fauna. The campus is home to diverse micro-habitats, including old-growth fig trees, well-maintained parks, small forest patches, rocky boulder areas, and urban structures that supports various bird species. This rich habitat fosters an impressive avian diversity, making it an ideal location for birdwatching and conservation activities.

The event concluded with a vibrant group photo session, capturing the enthusiasm and camaraderie of the participants. The session not only introduced students to the wonderful world of birds but also laid the foundation for continued birding activities at DSCASC, fostering a growing community of passionate birdwatchers and conservationists.

Table 1: List of bird species and their abundance recorded during birding session (14:40 to 15:40)

S.No.	Bird Species	No. of birds
1	Rock Pigeon	39
2	Spotted Dove	2
3	Black Kite (5 nests)	26
4	Brahminy Kite	2
5	White-cheeked Barbet	13
6	Rose-ringed Parakeet	4
7	House Crow	2
8	Large-billed Crow	10
9	Asian Tit	2

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10	Common Tailorbird	5
11	Booted Warbler	1
12	Red-whiskered Bulbul	9
13	Indian White Eye	2
14	Common Myna	11
15	Jungle Myna	3
16	Indian Robin	3
17	Oriental Magpie Robin	1
18	Pale-billed Flowerpecker	2
19	Purple-rumped Sunbird	4
20	Purple Sunbird	7
21	Greater Coucal (southern)	2
22	Asian Koel	1
23	Indian Pond Heron	1
24	Shikra	1
25	Barn Swallow	4
26	Tickell's Blue Flycatcher	1

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