



WHAT'S BUZZING AT THE DEPARTMENT...

FACULTY & STUDENT PARTICIPATION

Ms. Filomena Pereira and Ms. Neeha Sinai Borker, Assistant Professors, Department of Zoology actively participated in bird trails as a part of the Goa Bird Atlas Initiative organised by Arranya Environment Research Organisation (AERO) for Salcete and Tiswadi Taluka for the dry season in February 2024 and updated 34 checklists on e-bird as an effort towards the initiative.



Ms. Neeha Sinai Borker, Assistant Professor, Department of Zoology, attended an Online Webinar on “Beyond the Backyard: All About the Great Backyard Bird Count” organised by Cornell Lab of Ornithology on 14th Feb 2024. It highlighted the protocols for participating in the Great Backyard Bird Count and explored fun ways to involve kids in this experience.

Ms. Filomena Pereira and Ms. Neeha Sinai Borker, Assistant Professors along with the students of Department of Zoology participated in the Great Backyard Bird Count held on 18th February 2024 at Raia Wetland Complex, Goa. A total of 75 species were recorded, including rare sightings of Eurasian Wigeon and Bar-tailed Godwit.

Ms. Shalma Mascarenhas, Asst Professor, Department of Zoology was a resource person for the students of St. Thereza’s Convent High School, Ganapoga Raia Goa on 19th Feb 2024. The topic for the session was “Wonders of Wildlife” and the same was conducted as a part of the “Vidnyan Dhara” a mega science series programme organised by the Directorate of Higher Education (DHE) and Goa State Higher Education Council (GSHEC).



“Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world”.

-Nelson Mandela

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Ms. Neeha Sinai Borker, Assistant Professor, Department of Zoology delivered a hands-on training session for the SY and TY students of Department of Zoology on 16th February 2024 on the topic "Designing study area map using QGIS software".



Ms. Neeha Sinai Borker, Assistant Professor, Department of Zoology attended an online National-level Webinar titled "Scientific Manuscript & Research Grant writing" organised by the PG Department of Conservation Biology and Internal Quality Assurance Cell (IQAC) of the Durgapur Government College, West Bengal, India on 28th February 2024.

Ms. Neeha Sinai Borker, Assistant Professor, Department of Zoology actively participated in 98th GBCN Bird walk, organised by Goa Bird Conservation Network held at Maitollem lake, Curtorim on 3rd March 2024. A total of 51 species of birds were documented, including few rarities like Knob-billed duck, Pacific Golden-Plover, Green-winged Teal and Temminck's stint.



Ms. Neeha Sinai Borker, Assistant Professor, Department of Zoology along with three students Mr. Om Kurpaskar, Ms. Mannat Seth and Mr. Anush Naik participated in the 04th Goa Bird Race 2024 hosted by Goa Bird Conservation Network, an event organised by India Bird Races team and sponsored by HSBC on 10th March 2024.

Ms. Neeha Sinai Borker, Assistant Professor, Department of Zoology attended an International webinar on "QGIS for Ecological Field Survey" organised by TGIS on 16th March 2024 under the guidance of resource person Mr. Abhinav Mehta.

Ms. Neeha Sinai Borker, Assistant Professor, Department of Zoology is now a full member of the IUCN Species Survival Commission Otter Specialist Group (IUCN SSC Otter specialist Group). It is the leading global otter conservation group since 1974.

HEY COLLEGE CREW, DID YOU KNOW?

- **Puffer fish have the ability to inflate their bodies into ball when threatened**
- **Many species carry potent toxin called tetrodotoxin**
- **Some cultures consider puffer fish a delicacy despite toxins**
- **In Japanese culture, the fugu (puffer fish) is associated with luck, prosperity and longevity**
- **Puffer fish are considered indicator species**
- **There are more than 120 species of puffer fish**

STUDENT PARTICIPATION

Mr. Om Kurpaskar and Ms. Mannat Seth, students of S.Y.B.Sc., Department of Zoology participated in a three days hands-on workshop on "Herpetology" organized by Goa University from 07th to 09th February 2024.

Students of Department of Zoology participated in the bird trails as a part of Goa Bird Atlas Initiative organized by Arranya Environment Research Organization in February 2024. The bird species were documented and submitted on e-bird platform as a contribution towards the atlas.



Students of the Department of Zoology participated and won an intercollegiate event 'EREMOS 2024' organised by the Department of Zoology, Carmel College of Arts, Science and Commerce for Women, Nuvem in collaboration with the Goa Forest Department, Wildlife and Ecotourism, South Division, Margao on 13th March 2024.



Students of T.Y. visited to the infertility clinic and the anatomy museum of the Goa Medical College, Bambolim on 26th March 2024. The purpose of the visit was to provide students with firsthand insights into the clinical aspects of infertility management and Assisted Reproductive Techniques (ART).

EXPIRENTIAL SHARING

In mid-October, I received a photo from my mother of lizard eggs in our backyard, likely belonging to the oriental garden lizard. Usually, the mother lizard digs up a hole in the ground, lays eggs and covers it with soil to safeguard them. The mother lizard, in this case, left the eggs exposed because our dog, Simba, frightened it. Worried our dog might disturb them, I relocated the clutch to a container filled with loose soil. Over the next 53 days, I monitored the eggs, performing occasional candling. Despite one egg succumbing to fungus, six healthy lizards hatched on December 7th. Regrettably, two were lost to ant attacks. After briefly introducing them to our dog, Simba, I released the hatchlings back into the wild, concluding this exciting experience of incubating lizard eggs for the first time.



-Mr. Om Kurpaskar,
S.Y.B.Sc. student



DEPARTMENT ACTIVITY

Chowgule's Birders Club (CBC), Department of Zoology organized bird trails in the College campus as a part of the Campus Bird Count, a sub-set of Great Backyard Bird Count global Initiative organised by Cornell Lab of Ornithology from 16th to 19th February 2024. The objective of the global event was to document avian diversity across the globe, compare the diversity across years and study the impact of environmental factors on avifauna.



Department of Zoology organized Industry-Academia Lecture series on 23rd, 24th February and 2nd March 2024 with the aim to create awareness and educate the students on career opportunities in Zoology. Sessions were on Careers in Food, Cage culture, Advances in Forensic Science and Research in Wildlife Biology.



DEPARTMENT ACTIVITY

Department of Zoology organized a two days workshop on "Fish Taxonomy: Understanding Diversity of Aquatic Life" on 6th and 7th of March 2024 at Parvatibai Chowgule College of Arts and Science (Autonomous), Margao Goa and Fishery Survey of India, Mormugao Base, Vasco. The workshop was continued as a field trip to Fishery Survey of India on 7th March to observe fish specimens, gears and crafts used for fishing.



Department of Zoology organised a Field trip to Netravali wildlife Sanctuary for the 22 students of T.Y class on 14th March 2024 as a part of the practical component of the courses 'Wildlife Biology' and 'Basic and Applied Entomology'.



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