

Birds and Bird Watching

Date: 20/08/2018

Venue: AV Room

Time: 2.00 pm

Resource Person: Mr. Ravindra Sathaye

The lecture was attended by about 90 students of TYBSc (15), SYBSc (30) and FYBSc (45). The resource person was arranged by Mahyur Shah (Alumnus), President of Lions Club, Mulund. He was accompanied by Pranjal Shah and Harsh Malia, President and Secretary respectively of Leo Club (Youth Wing Of Lions Club).

Resource person was ably assisted by Mr. Uday, an avid bird watcher. Mr. Ravindra started the lecture by explaining the evolution and characteristics of birds. Major differences in birds are reflected in their toes and beaks. He went on to stress the role of birds in the food chain and the usefulness of birds as pollinators, seed dispersers and pest controllers. He focused next on bird statistics – 10,000+ species globally, more than 1300spp nationally, more than 550 spp. in the state and more than 300 spp. in Mumbai. He followed it with anatomical adaptations in birds like absence of teeth, presence of gizzard and grinding stones, hollow bones, feathers, air sacs, sharp eyesight, locking grip mechanism while perching etc. he explained bird courtship behavior, nest building, territorial behavior, reasons for, preparation, navigation and hazards during bird migration and types of migration. He shared interesting bird facts like Amur Falcon conservation in Nagaland, the concept of different feeding niches and mixed hunting groups, the peculiar reversible toes of osprey, sleeping behavior of Arctic terns during flight, endemism in birds and critically endangered birds in India (Great Indian Bustard). He regaled the students with short video clipping of each concept.

Bird watching: Mr. Sathaye began with bird identification techniques:

- Size estimation is done by comparing with a standard common bird for example, sparrow plus or sparrow minus if sparrow is used as standard.
- Identification by observing striking features
- Identification by listening to bird call
- Identification by observing habitat and behavior
- Using tree as a clock to locate the bird like referring to position of the clock needle to indicate the location of the bird

Dos and don'ts :

- Wear dull clothes, protective head and foot gear
- Carry binoculars, notebook and pen
- Do not make noise and sudden movements which scare away the birds.

SPARROW CLUB INAUGURATION



The Sparrow Club of the Department, initiated by Dr. Meenakshi Kumaraguru in the last academic year, was inaugurated on **29/07/2016** by a young talented woman Scientist A from **Bombay Natural History Society (BNHS)**, **Ms. Parveen Shaikh**, who regaled the students with her personal experiences in the field of bird conservation in Mumbai. The students are now enthused to take up ornithology.





INTERACTION BETWEEN STUDENTS & GUEST SPEAKER



SPARROW HOUSE & FEEDER MADE BY S.Y.B.B.SC STUDENTS