

## “Celebrating 25 years of Action for Biodiversity” at Deogarh in Lalitpur, Uttar Pradesh

Indian Biodiversity Conservation Society celebrated the International Day for Biological Diversity on May 22nd 2018 in collaboration with Forest Department Lalitpur and Deogarh, Manav Organization from Lalitpur, Bharat Scout Guide, Sarthak Pragati Prayaash Society from Jhansi, Wild Geo Excursion from Tikamgarh, Paryavaran Jeev Seva Sansthan from Gonda and Society for Scientific Research from Barabanki. This year’s theme was “Celebrating 25 Years of Action for Biodiversity”

We together arranged a Bird watching event at Deogarh. The program was well publicized in press and social media. This had resulted more participation



**Students enjoying bird watching**

of around 200 persons including the students, local people, forest department staff and NGO members. Eight teams were formed with 25 participants including two bird experts. The event started at 5:30 am and ended at 11:30 am.

The main aim of this event was to bring the people

closer to the nature and its biodiversity that is simply miraculous. Most of the participants had never experienced such a field activity before. They were of full of enthusiasm and amused to see the bird diversity. Generally bird watching is considered as an activity that is carried out during the winters, but bird watching in summer is altogether a different experience where we get to see more raptors and summer migrants as well. We also focused on terrestrial birds apart from the water birds.



**Team members looking out for bird species with the experts**

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**Rescue of a fledgling of Long-billed vulture (*Gyps indicus*)**

The checklist prepared included more than 80 bird species that is reasonably excellent for the summer bird watching. The participants were in extremely high spirits to get the glimpses of the master scavengers i.e. the vultures during the bird watching. The other raptors seen included, collared scop's owl, spotted owlets, shikra, osprey, Bonelli's eagle, crested serpent eagle, barn owl. Besides the raptors, other beauties included small pratincole, river tern, painted



**Bird expert preparing the checklist simultaneously**

spurfowl, tawny-bellied babbler, dusky crag martin, paradise flycatcher, painted stork and other common birds. The event was concluded with the distribution of participant certificates.

The event was marked by the rescue of a fledgling of long-billed vulture (*Gyps indicus*)



**Participation certificate distribution**

that had fallen down from the cliffs while learning to fly. It was found lying on the rocks with an injured wing, and it was taken to the Deogarh forest office. After first aid it was shifted to Lalitpur facility for further treatment.

Mr. Abhishek Namdev, Mr. Pushpendra Singh Chauhan, Mr. Devendra Kumar, Dr. Rajeev Kumar Niranjana, Mr. S.D. Pal, Mr. Patel, Mr. Shivam Yadav and Mr. Feroz made the event successful with their dedicated efforts.