

Minutes of Tamil Birders Meet- 2015.

Day 1. 24.10.2015. Tamil Nadu Agriculture University (TNAU), Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu.

10.20-10.30: Welcome address by Dr. T. Badrinarayanan. He stressed the need for formation of district level committees which will network to form state level federation. This will help to collectively present issues to decision makers. Tamil Birders meet should be conducted in a new district every year. The conduct of the meet should be planned well in advance.

10.30-10.40: Self Introduction by participants.

10.40-10.42: Introduction to the two day event by P. Jeganathan

10.42-10.50: Dr. V. Santharam spoke about the aims of the event. Also about compiling and release of checklist of birds of Tamil Nadu, Pongal bird count and monitoring IBA's in Tamil Nadu.



10.50-11.02: Response of participants as to what should be outcome of the meeting.

Mr. G. Parameshwaran - Small sustainable group should be formed to develop scientific ethics and systematic data collection for many years. Dr. T. Badrinarayanan - Whatsapp or facebook group for Tamil Birders Group. Dr. G. Christopher - Collation of information from people who have worked for a long time on birds from Tamil Nadu.



11.03-11.18: Mr. I. Anwardeen Conservator of Forests Coimbatore Circle spoke about the need to conserve biodiversity.



11.20-11.40: Mr. Chandrasekaran and C. Sasikumar presented their rapid raptor survey in Moyar valley. They chose 12 points for the survey. They estimate that are 100 breeding pairs of White-backed Vultures. No breeding of Red-headed Vulture.



11.40-11.42: Felicitation for Mr. K. Ratnam who wrote Birds of Tamil Nadu in Tamil by Mr. I. Anwardeen.



11.45-12.00: Tea

12.00-12.30: Dr. Philip Sridhar spoke about the birds in agricultural ecosystems. Birds act as predators, pollinators and pest in agri ecosystems. Baya Weaver and Munias destroy grains. Rose-ringed Parakeets cause extensive damage to Sunflower and some birds attack stored grains. Peacocks damage onion and ladies finger and also cocoa fruits. Grapes are destroyed by bulbul and myna. Extent of crop damage varies by area. There is a necessity to develop ecofriendly methods to scare away birds. Some of the techniques currently employed are nets, visual scares, catapult, ultrasonic repellers, spikes, repellent gel, tapes and crackers. There is a constant battle with birds to scare them away from eating crops.

12.30-1.20: Dr. Raju Kasambe of Bombay Natural History (BNHS) spoke about the history of BNHS, its mission, programmes and publications. He said that Megamalai, Melagiris and Pitchavaram has been included as IBA's in Tamil Nadu. For areas which do not meet the IBA criteria local level conservation measures should be emphasized.



1.20-2.00: Lunch

2.05-2.53: Ms. Neha Sinha, Advocacy officer, BNHS spoke about how advocacy helps to conserve IBA's. She pointed out the case of NH-7 through Pench-Kanha Tiger Reserve, Sewri mudflats in Mumbai and Tawang valley (wintering ground for Black-necked Cranes). She said that BNHS can provide legal advise to individuals and organizations to protect IBA sites. She also spoke about the efforts to protect Pulicat lake from a port and about Amur falcon campaign.

2.55-3.45: Expectations for 2016 meet

Mr. Mohammed Saleem, Environment Conservation Group, Coimbatore emphasized a network of bird watchers to prevent poaching. Dr. Santharam spoke about why the yahoo group was set up. Dr. Patrick David spoke about a theme based 2016 meet. Dr. T. Badrinarayan said that there must papers presented by individuals after a selection process. Dr. Suhel Quader spoke about the Maharashtra and Kerala model of organizing birders meet and how a social platform can facilitate work on the ground. Mr. Pazijat, Central Bank of India, Coimbatore stressed that birders must also take conservation oriented action in addition to counting birds. Mr. Bharathidasan, Arulagam Trust, said that it we should recommend that every Forest Division should conduct regular bird census in areas under their jurisdiction. Dr. Christopher, Mahatma Gandhi University, Kottayam said that bird lovers should be allowed to make presentation. Second day can be dedicated to expert talks. Dr. Relton has proposed that that Bishop Heber College, Trichy can host the meet next year.

3.45-4.00: Tea

4.00-4.45: Ms. Neha Sinha gave a talk on policy for bird conservation. She also spoke about the proposed changes in environmental and wildlife laws in recent times in India.



5.00-5.20: Dr. B. Ramakrishnan, Government Arts College. Udthagamandalam and Mr. Samson spoke about their survey on Vultures in Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve. They proposed Sigur plateau to be announced as an IBA.

End of Day 1

Minutes of Tamil Birders Meet- 2015.

Day 2. 25.10.2015. Tamil Nadu Agriculture University (TNAU), Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu.

10.00-11.00: Releasing the first draft of the checklist of birds of Tamil

Dr. Santharam released the first draft of the checklist of birds of Tamil Nadu. Totally 515 species have been included in the Tamil Nadu list. Doubtful records have been added at the end. Six people worked hard to compile and bring out the checklist. The checklist will be uploaded in yahoo groups and is open to comments.

Comments on the checklist by participants:

P. Jeganathan suggested that the checklist should be published either in Indian Birds or Journal of the Bombay Natural History Society. Dr. Raju kasambe said that a special issue of BUCEROS can be brought out to publish the checklist and he also added that nomenclature should follow Handbook of the birds of the world. However Mr. J. Praveen intervened and said that Howard and Moore is more appropriate. P. Jeganathan stressed that a distribution map should be brought out at the Taluk level. However it was agreed that it was not possible and district level maps are feasible and appropriate. Suhel Quader said that status such as common and uncommon should also be included. Mr. Kumaran Sathasivam added that a website should be developed for the purpose. Dr. T. Badrinarayanan queried if records without dates and photos will be accepted.



Mr. J. Praveen answered that records are scrutinized case by case and are added to the list. George Tom of Kenneth Anderson Nature Society (KANS) said that Tamil Names should be

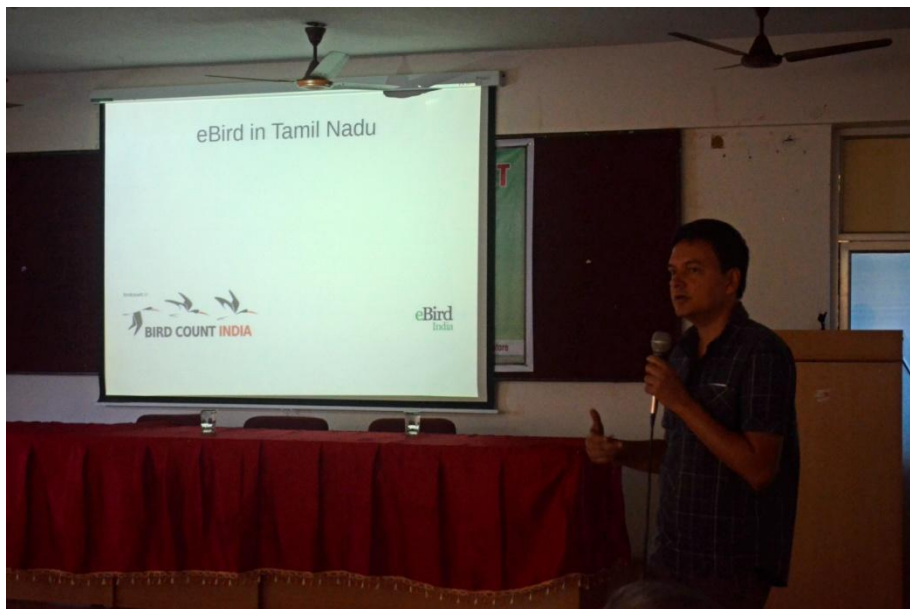
included. Dr. Pramod said that Tamil names should be standardized. P. Jeganathan answered that Tamil names will be compiled from literature and standardized names will be released in the next meet. Raju Kasambe said that in Maharashtra more than one name used even if it is standardized.

11.00-11.35: Presentation on eBird in Tamil by P. Jeganathan

Participants were introduced to eBird through a presentation in Tamil. Aspects such as how to create an account, data collection, entering data in the eBird and analyse the information which was collected. The English and Tamil version of presentation on Introduction to eBird is available at birdcount.in

11.35-11.55: Tea

12.00-1.00: Presentation on eBird in Tamil Nadu by Dr. Suhel Quader



Dr. Suhel Quader updated participants about use of ebird by birders in Tamil Nadu. Total number of participants is 790. There are 10,000 uploads and 2.4 lakh observations have been submitted from Tamil Nadu till date, which is 10% of total Indian observations. The highest records have come from Coimbatore and Kancheepuram. Records are not uniform across seasons. Till now 490 species have been reported for Tamil Nadu. Filters are used to check unusual records at the level of the state and filters have now been established separately for Western Ghats, plains and the east coast.

After the presentation ideas were asked from participants about various bird counts in Tamil Nadu. The following ideas were proposed:

1) Surveys in poorly birded sites, **2)** Survey at key sites, **3)** Pelagic survey, **4)** Heronry count, **5)** Bird count along the road, **6)** Dry land bird survey, **7)** Surveys around small hillocks south of river Cauvery

1.00-1.45: Preparation for Pongal Bird Count 2016 by P. Jeganathan

The dates of the Pongal bird count 2016 are 15-18 January. Some district co-ordinators were selected and the database created. November 1st week district co-ordinators will be finalised. By November end co-ordinators should have identified volunteers and materials should be prepared and also existing materials can be downloaded from birdcount.in. In the first week of January the co-ordinators must organised a training programme for volunteers on eBird and about Pongal Bird Count

1.45-2.20: Lunch

2.30-3.30: Final session

Mr. Sasikumar spoke about his experience of conducting heronry counts in Kerala and proposed a same for Tamil Nadu. Others added their inputs on protocols and problems associated with herony count. Mr. Kumaran Sathasivam suggested photography as a tool to count bird nest.

Then Dr. T. Badrinarayanan shared his experience and the results of Megamalai bird count. Participants provided their feedback on the meet and the need to get many volunteers for Pongal Bird Count. Finally Mr. Chandru Sekar proposed the vote of thanks.

Other activities during the meet:

Poster Presentations

Two posters were presented during this Tamil Birders Meet.

Dr. J. Patrick David presented his work on birds of Eastern Ghats under the title “Bird Survey in the Eastern Ghats of Tamil Nadu”.

Bird Survey in the Eastern Ghats of Tamil Nadu

J. Patrick David, Independent Researcher, APES Trust, Madurai

Introduction

The Eastern Ghats of Tamil Nadu (EGTN, Fig.1) has been poorly surveyed for birds. The last best known survey was by Whistler and Kinnear in the late 1920's. Hence there was an urgent need to document avian diversity of the region and identify priority sites for conservation.

The survey was done staggeredly from March 2012-February 2015. In total, nine districts covering sixteen forest divisions and forty seven forest ranges were surveyed.

Methods

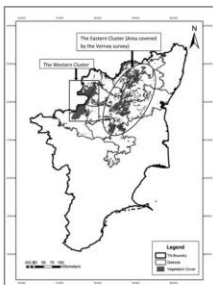
To document avian diversity, existing trails in each forest range were walked and bird species encountered were noted down. In addition, waterbird species were also recorded. Species abundance was estimated based on number of records.

To record crepuscular and nocturnal birds, we sat silently in village-forest edges or in clearings within the forests and listened to bird calls, if there were no calls, we played bird calls using a mobile phone and speaker to elicit response. Nocturnal species were also recorded from their day time roost.

Results

- In total, 262 species were recorded during the present survey.
- If the Vemay survey records and records from smaller surveys are also considered, the list for the entire EGTN stands at 306 species.
- The top five abundant species were Red-vented Bulbul *Pycnonotus cafer*, White-browed Bulbul *Pycnonotus luteolus*, Red-whiskered Bulbul *Pycnonotus jocosus*, Common Iora *Aegithina tithia* and Purple-rumped Sunbird *Leptocoma zeylonica*.
- Nine RET (Rare, Endangered and Threatened) species were recorded during the survey (Table 1).
- The Vaniyar riparian tract in Shevroys with its mix of moist and dry forest birds is a birding hotspot in EGTN and a potential bird conservation site.

Fig 1. Eastern Ghats of Tamil Nadu



1- Kolli, 2- Pachamalai, 3- Shevroys, 4- Chitheri, 5- Kalrayan 6- Gingee, 7- Velagiri, 8- Javvadu

Table 1. List of Rare, Endemic and Threatened (RET) species recorded during the survey

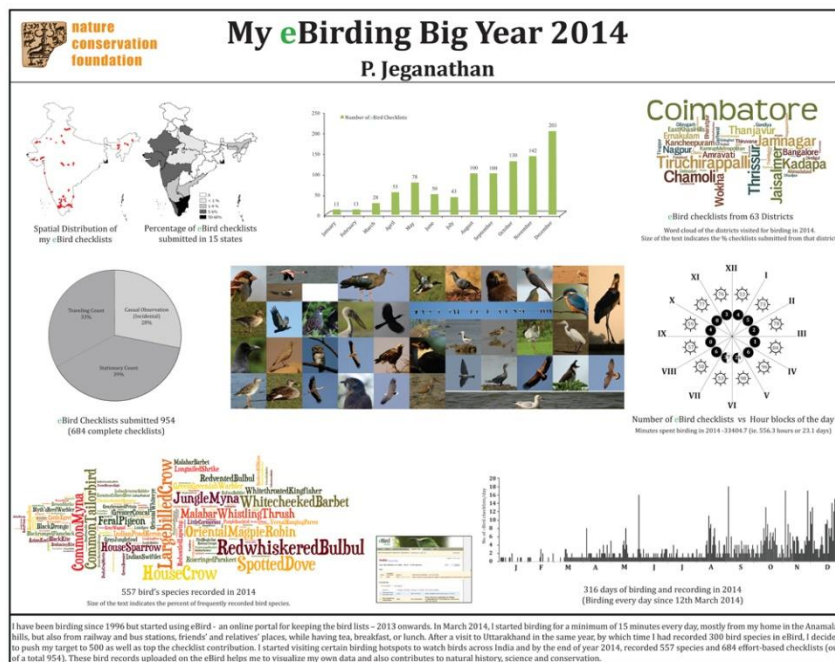
Common Name	Scientific name	IUCN Status
Grey-headed Fishing Eagle	<i>Ichthyophaga ichthyovora</i>	Near Threatened
Lesser Fish Eagle	<i>Ichthyophaga humilis</i>	Near Threatened
White-rumped Vulture	<i>Osry bengalensis</i>	Critically endangered
Egyptian Vulture	<i>Neophron percnopterus</i>	Endangered
Nilgiri Wood Pigeon	<i>Columba elphinstoni</i>	Vulnerable
Nilgiri Pipit (Doubtful record)	<i>Eremophila alpestris</i>	Near Threatened
Yellow-throated Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus xantholaemus</i>	Vulnerable
Grey-headed Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus prinos</i>	Near Threatened
Great Hornbill	<i>Buceros bicornis</i>	Near Threatened

Acknowledgements

We thank the Tamil Nadu Forest Department for granting us permission to undertake the survey in EGTN and help in field. Late Dr. Mayilvahanan and Mr. Saravanan helped us with our survey in Shevroys. Dr. Ravirajasingh and KANS society were of great help in the Melagiris.

TAMIL BIRDERS MEET, 24th and 25th OCTOBER 2015
TAMIL NADU AGRICULTURAL UNIVERSITY,
COIMBATORE

P. Jeganathan presented the summary of his ebirding experience in 2014 under the title “My eBirding big year 2014”.



Apart from this Arulagam Trust displayed several bilingual posters (Tamil and English) on Vultures and their threats in Tamil Nadu, and different species of vultures of occurs in Tamil Nadu. All these posters were displayed at the venue for both the days of the meet.

Vulture Game

Arulagam Trust presented a game to sensitize the participants on vulture conservation and the impact of diclofenac on Vultures. This game was based on the “snakes and ladders” however there were no snakes in it!

Birding at TNAU Campus

An informal birding was organized on 25th November 2015 in and around the TNAU Campus. Few groups were formed and various participants took part in this morning birding activity.

Media Coverage

This event was covered by both Tamil and English news daily's.

The New Indian Express 25th October 2015 Coimbatore edition



The Hindu 25th October 2015

10/31/2015

Book on birds released - TAMIL NADU - The Hindu

THE HINDU

» TODAY'S PAPER » TAMIL NADU

Published: October 25, 2015 00:00 IST | Updated: October 25, 2015 05:36 IST COIMBATORE, October 25, 2015

Book on birds released

- Special Correspondent

A compilation of the birds of Tamil Nadu documented by Tamil birds Yahoo group members was released at the second Tamil birders network meeting that began at Farmers Residency in TNAU on Saturday.

The two-day event was inaugurated by I. Anwardeen, Conservator of Forests, Coimbatore circle.

About 60 birdwatchers, bird researchers, students, and nature enthusiasts from various parts of Tamil Nadu, and Kerala are participating in the meeting. The Yahoo group, tamilbirds (tamilbirds@yahoo.co.in) formed in 2006 is moderated by V. Santharam, Tamil Nadu State coordinator of the Indian Bird Conservation Network.

Workshops on documenting and listing of birds through www.ebird.org and monitoring the important bird areas of Tamil Nadu were discussed at the meeting.

To increase the awareness on birds, and to encourage bird watching as a meaningful hobby, it has been decided to conduct a Pongal Bird Count.

More details on this will be published in Bird Count India website www.birdcount.in. For details, contact phone: 090033 59400.

Printable version | Oct 31, 2015 7:48:23 PM | <http://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-national/tp-tamilnadu/book-on-birds-released/article7801634.ece>

© The Hindu

<http://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-national/tp-tamilnadu/book-on-birds-released/article7801634.ece?cm=print>

Tamil Birders Meet 2015 Participants *



* Photo taken on day 2 (25th October 2015). See the full list of participants below:

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS - TAMIL BIRDERS MEET (24-25 October 2015)

Sl. No.	Name & Address	Mobile Number & E-mail ID
1	S. Abeebe Rahman Government art college, Coimbatore	abeebur@gmail.com
2	R. Aram Sivakumar Saravanampatti	aram.sivakumar@gmail.com
3	S. Anand Plot No 4, Parktown 1 st Street Semparuthi St, Arunachaleswarar Nagar Madurai- 17	vkasalanand@yahoo.com
4	A. Bhoopathy Kotagiri Wildlife Society 4/100 Sackatha, Aravenn 643 201, Nilgiris	cavemannilgiris@gmail.com
5	P.B. Balaji Coimbatore Nature Society 2/17, Palladam Puliampatti, Karadivali, Coimbatore – 641 658	balaji@chandrauspoultry.com
6	S. Bharathidasan, Secretary Arulagam, 62, G.V Residency Coimbatore – 28	arulagamindia@gmail.com
7	Dr. T. Badri Narayanan 262, II Main Road, Gondhapuram Madurai	badmnarayanant@gmail.com
8	Dr. G. Christopher Associate Professor ACESSD M G University, Kottayam, Kerala.	christog@gmail.com
9	R. Carlton Assistant Professor Department of Environmental Science Bishop Heber College, Trichy	carltonjune@gmail.com
10	C. Dinesh Babu 8/20, East Street, Avellodu – 624 307.	
11	Frudhivi Gali Keystone Foundation, Kotagiri Nature Educator, Nilgiri Natural History Society	contact@hhns.in
12	G. Griffith Michael Pt, Church colony, Trichy – 17. AVC College	griffith@gmail.com
13	Ganashwar S.V 60/25, Court Road, Manakkadu, Salem – 7	

14	George Tom J1504, ajmena Infinity, Neeladui Road, Electronics city Phose – 1 Bangalore – 560 100	georgetom@gmail.com
15	Hopeland No.1, Andal Avenue Gandhi Road, Velachery, Chennai – 42	hopeland@outlook.com
16	A. Indrajith Kotagiri Wildlife Society, 4/100 Sackatha Aravenn 643 201, Nilgiris	indrajithteddy@gmail.com
17	J. Jeyaseelan 8/P4 church colony, Trichy – 17	jeyaseelan@gmail.com
18	P. Jeganathan Nature Conservation Foundation 8/364, Cooperative colony, Valparai – 642 127	
19	S. Kalidass, Accountant 44, Nanjiampalayam Street, Pudhur, Poolavadi Rd, Dharapuram – 638 656	skalidass@hotmail.com
20	A. Kalaimani, Thiruvannamalai	manikalai@gmail.com
21	Kirubakaran. R, Reporter (The Hindu) 39C/ Kalveerampalayam, Coimbatore – 46	kk@gmail.com
22	Kumaran Sathasivam 29 Jakamuni Koil Street, Madurai – 625 001	k_sathasivam@yahoo.co.in
23	K. Kalidasan OSAI, 70-A, Raju Road, Sivanadha Colony Coimbatore – 641 012	- pasumaaiosai@yahoo.com
24	C. Kannan 17, Mahalakshmi Nagar N.K. Palayam, Singanallur, Coimbatore - 33	cspkannan@gmail.com
25	R.M. Meera Jay, Member, PHNHS 2/268m, Varatharaj nagar, Allamarathupatti (pt) N.Panjampatti (via) Dindigul.	meeranandhini@gmail.com
26	P. Muthuselvam Member, PHNHS, 150/93 Kovilpatti, Kovilpatti.	muthuselvamp@gmail.com
27	K. Murugeswari President, PHNHS, Varatharaj Nagar, Alamarathupatti, Dindigul – 624 007.	muges@gmail.com
28	R. Mohammed Saleem 103, N.H. Road Opp. Naaz Theatre, Coimbatore - 641 001 Environment Conservation Group	ecgwild@gmail.com

29	Mani Raj Char. Environment – Yound India Salim ali Natural Forum	prmani@gmail.com
30	Mohan Prasath. P Assistant Professor in Social Work No. 42, Nethaji Nagar, Kovai Pudur, Near Shivau Kudil, Coimbatore – 641 042.	grdmohan@gmail.com
31	Neha Sinha BNHS	nehabnhs@gmail.com
32	R. Nandhakumar Saravanampatti	che.nandha@gmail.com
33	G. Prakash Member, CNS(Coimbatore Nature Society) 2-G-1, Martin's Daison's Residency 190, Perur Main Road, Selvapuram Coimbatore – 641 026.	cnsnature@gmail.com
34	J. Patrick David 59/12, SBI Colony I, Madurai – 10 Independent Researcher	patdavid@gmail.com
35	K. Priyadarshini Saravanampatti	pkdarshini@gmail.com
36	A. Pavendhan 8, AKG Nagar, 3 rd Street Uppilipalayam, Coimbatore – 15	pave67620@yahoo.co.in
37	Pradeepkumar V. B 57, Bharathidasan Nagar, Ramanathapuram, Coimbatore – 641 045 Coimbatore Nature Society	ybkvmr@gmail.com
38	Pazijat A403 Shriram, Vijaya Hydr Park Apartment Peelamedu Coimbatore Banking Professional	pazijatsingn.sbp@gmail.com
39	G. Parameswaran 438/11 Mayflower Apts, 130, Vivekanda Road, Ramnagar, Coimbatore – 641 009	
40	M. Prema Arulagam	saguprema@gmail.com
41	J. Praveen Bangalore	paintedstork@gmail.com
42	Pronoy Baidya T.B.B Centre for Ecological Sciences Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore	pronoybaidya@hotmail.com

43	Pramod SACON , Anaikatti, Coimbatore	neosacon@gmail.com
44	A. Relton Nature Club, Bishop Heber College, Trichy	reltona@gmail.com
45	M. Rameshwaran Secretary PHNHS 15-370, Alagar petal, Ayyam palayam Athoor Tk. Dindigul – 624 204	ayilaihoopoe@gmail.com
46	K. Renga 95/4 Sabari Nagar, Oormetchikulam, Samayanallur, Madurai – 625 402.	krenga@gmail.com
47	N. Raveendran 61, Ramachandra thadage street, Thirumangalam, Madurai – 625 706 Iragukal Madurai	nraveend@gmail.com iragukal.na@gmail.com
48	K. Rajini Kanth 1 Paul Harris Nagar, Sowripalayam Coimbatore CMS	rajinikanth@rsmautokast.com
49	Dr. S. Raja Assistant Professor in Zoology Kongunadu Arts & Science College G.N. Mills, Coimbatore	Rajaselvaraju@gmail.com
50	Dr. Raju Kasambe Bombay Natural History Society, S.B.B. Road, Mumbai – 400 001	ibabnhs@gmail.com raju.bnhs@gmail.com
51	Dr. Ramakrishnan Asst. Professor, Wildlife Biology, Government Arts College. Udthagamandalam 643 002.	
52	Sobhans 8/78. Kanuvar SanthalaDevi	
53	Sethumadhavan Lakshmi Nivas, Koottala, Mankara.P.O Palakkad, 678613. Kerala	smavittam@gmail.com sm.avittam@gmail.com
54	T. Sakthivel (SEWA) 89, TVK. Nagar, IInd Street New Teacher Colony Erode – 638 011.	t.sakthy@gmail.com t_sakthy@yahoo.com
55	S. Saravanan WWF – Indian Chennai	sdnithish@gmail.com

56	Sharang Satish, Architect RVCA Bangalore	
57	K. Selvaganesh Saravanampatti	selvaganesh@gmail.com
58	T. Siva Senior Research Fellow Nehru Memorial College, Trichy	sivanaturewild@gmail.com
59	C. Sashikumar 3E, Conno, SRM Green Pearlapti, Potheri, Chennai – 603 203	csashikumar@gmail.com
60	Dr. R. Subbaraju M.S 541 Gandhi Road, Sivakasi – 626 123, Surgeon	dr.subbarajums@yahoo.com
61	S. Soundraraj c-103 Srivari Mansarova, Perhs Arch Road, Coimbatore – 641 015, CNS	soundar@ymail.com
62	Dr. V. Santharam Institute of Bird Studies & Natural History Rishi valley Education centre, Rishi Valley P.O – 517 352	santharam.v@gmail.com
63	R. Saraswathi B-2 Sree sai kirupaa Apartment Ellai Thottam Road, Peelamedu Coimbatore- 4	ramaswamy.saraswathi@gmail.com
64	P. R. Selvaraj Nature Society, 62, Doraisamy layout, Peelamedu Coimbatore – 4	arkeyess@rediffmail.com
65	P. Sumathi No.3, Devi nagar, Near Prumelal Bearings, P.N. Pudur, Coimbatore – 41	sumathi.narasimhan@gmail.com
66	R. Sudharasan Babu Dinamalar, Coimbatore	newsmanbaboo@gmail.com
67	Sarayu Ramakrishnan Sreevatsa Residency G.N mills, Coimbatore CNS	shamisarayu@gmail.com
68	Saravanan B 26, Harisingh Road, R, S Puram, Coimbatore – 641 002	
69	Suhel Quader Nature Conservation Foundation, Mysore	
70	N. Sheeba Assistant Professor, Govt. Arts College for Women, Pudukottai	nsheebu@gmail.com
71	T. R. Shankar Raman NCF Rainforest Research Station 8/364 Cooperative colony, Valparai – 642 127	trsr@ncf.india.org

72	P. Saradha HM Pups, Kuppepalayam, Thondamuthur, Coimbatore – 641 109	amss@gmail.com
73	Shriranjani Coimbatore	shriranjani@gmail.com
74	Samson M.Sc. Student Wildlife Biology, Government Arts College. Udhagamandalam 643 002.	
75	S. Vishnu Sankar, Accountant Raja's College 486, Thiruvanathapuram Street, Rajapalayam – 626 117.	vishnusankar@gmail.com
76	S. Chandrasekaran, Central Bank of India	hkinneri@gmail.com
77	G. V. Vinoba Software Engineer, 1H/595, Millerpuram Tuticorin – 628 008.	gvvinoba.anand@gmail.com
78	R. Venkitachalam 124, Jamdhar Street, Coimbatore – 641 001 ATREE – Bangalore	pogithvenkat@gmail.com
79	M. Yoganathan ATREE TRUST, 107, Thirumalai Sang Street New Sidha pudhur, Coimbatore - 44	yogutree@gmail.com www.yogutrees.com