

**Report**

**of**

**Bird Festival @**

**Purna wildlife sanctuary- Dang Visit**

**From 5-03-2021 to 7-03-2021**

**Submitted by**

**Students of**

**(M.Sc. Zoology, Semester-IV)**

**Report compiled with inputs and guidance from**

**Dr. Rupal Vasant and Prof. Ujjval Trivedi**

**Submitted to**

**P.G. Department of Biosciences**

**Sardar Patel University**

**Vallabh Vidyanagar**

Dang Bird Festival was organized by Gujarat Forest Department at *Mahal Eco-tourism campsite* located in *Purna Wildlife Sanctuary- Dang* for the fifth consecutive year. Dang was always popular amongst students and nature lovers because of higher density and diversity. We had registered, fortunately we got selected and had an opportunity to participate in this mega birding event.

### **Mahal Eco-tourism Campsite**



We began our voyage from early morning on 5<sup>th</sup> march 2021 by boarding **Karnavati Express** at 5:50 a.m. from Anand and reached surat at 8:00 a.m. From there we boarded a bus for Ahwa.

We reached Ahwa station at 1:15 p.m., all were pretty much tired and to counter this tiredness we had a glass of sugarcane juice. We faced an obstacle to reach our campsite as there were no buses going toward campsite. Luckily the Bus Depot Manager was kind enough to provide us a bus as we requested him and explained about our problem.

We then boarded on our final bus towards our final destination. We had some fun sessions on our way and all thoroughly enjoyed the journey and view from the windows as the brownish belt of deciduous Forest was mesmerizing. This gave us assurance that our visit is going to be very beneficial.

We reached Mahal Campsite at 3:00 p.m. to embarrass some beautiful sceneries that was sufficient enough to remove our tiredness.







**Dangi Hut**



The vehicles of Forest Department came to receive us and took us to Campsite. We reached campsite at 3:40p.m. Then our respective 'DANGI HUTS' were allotted to us.

We were delighted to meet expert ornithologists and interacted with them during tea time.

We were then divided into different teams with names of after some exotic birds of Purna wildlife sanctuary i.e., Heart spotted woodpeckers, Orange Minivets, Racket Tailed Drongos, etc. with one Bird Expert for each team. Then we were called for Inauguration ceremony at 5:00 p.m. where Forest Officials including CCF and DCF gave us various information about Dang Bird Festival and various Floral and Faunal Biodiversity that we were about to explore for 3 days. They provided information even on methodologies to conduct the bird survey, observation, data collection and interpretation. After the inaugural session, Dang Tribal Cultural program was arranged followed by dinner at 8:00 p.m.

Post dinner session, we made ourselves ready for the next two days by discussing various tracks, sites and methods that we would employ.

Next morning, we began our birding into the forest with our respective teams, experts and Forest Guards. That Birding experience was very fruitful for all of us as we had the opportunity to observe some rare and uncommon birds.

We had also observed various arthropods, reptiles and other animals besides birds. One interesting thing that we learnt was to identify birds based on certain indirect evidences like their calls, excretory patterns, feathers etc. Field experts and forest guards were accompanying us throughout and they even helped in making us understand about floral diversity and their various uses and importance.



Bird Drawing by Team Black Hooded Orioles

We returned back to Mahal Campsite after having an amazing Birding experience of morning session. Then we shared our observations and compiled the obtained data. Post lunch session, we were given some activities based on our morning birding session including drawing of birds, making calls, etc.

All the teams were supposed to share the views and opinions from our morning birding activity followed by the guidance cum instructions sessions for night observation of avifaunal diversity of Dangs. Late evening and night session had the clear sky with major calls from Night Jars.

On our way, we also learnt the significance of bamboo and its relevance in forest ecosystem.

Later we visited Deer Breeding Centre wherein forest guards gave us information about deer rearing and breeding methods. Once deer attains adulthood, they are released into wild to learn about their natural wild habits for food and survival. Different grass and other related feeding materials for deer is cultivated in the forest sites itself.



Upon returning to campsite, we shared our observations and experiences of night birding event.

On the third day, thrilling experience continued as we witnessed some rare birds that were not observed in previous two days with some interesting aspects about different trees and creepers. After the morning session, lunch was taken followed by feedback cum valedictory session. We had presented our daily and compiled observations in a teamwise manner and expressed gratitude towards forest department officials for successful organization of bird festivals.

We left for our respective places after completing the camp at 3:30 p.m. Forest Department made arrangements till Ahwa station, from there we boarded a bus for Surat and connecting train for Anand.

These three days' camp proved to be very beneficial for us in improving our field study skills. We met few of the expert ornithologists and learnt about bird identification techniques from their calls and other indirect evidences. We got insight about various field study methodologies and ethics of field.





Jerdons Leafbird



Brown Hawk Owl



Jungle Owlet



Brown Wood Owl



Western Crowned warbler



Heart spotted Woodpecker

**ARACHNIDS SIGHTED**



Signature Spider



Striped Lynx Spider





Spitting spider



Funnel Web Spider



**Forest trails visited**





## Dangi Culture



Tribal Fishing Net



Tribal Cultural Knife





In this camp we sighted some of very rare and uncommon birds as listed below:

Pale Billed Flowerpecker	Thick-Billed Flowerpecker	
Lesser flame back woodpecker	Greater flame back woodpecker	
Brown capped pygmy woodpecker	Yellow Crowned woodpeckers	
White Bellied woodpecker	Rufous Woodpecker	
Plum headed parakeets	Black hooded oriole	
White Eye Buzzard	Brown headed Barbet	
Asian Paradise Flycatcher	Common Emerald Dove	
Asian Palm Swift	Tawny Bellied Warbler	
Tickles Thrush	Painted Spurfowl	Jungle Night Jar
Orange Minivet	Small Minivet	Malabar Trogons
Heart Spotted Woodpeckers	Racket Tailed Drongo	White Bellied Drongo
Ashy Drongo	Brown Cheeked Fulvetta	Indian Blackbird
Malabar Whistling Thrush	Indian Scimitar Babbler	Jordon's Leafbird
Great tit	Cinerous Tit	Forest Owlet
Jungle Owlet	Mottled wood owl	Indian Scops Owl
Brown hawk Owl	Brown Wood Owl	Spotted Owlet
Large cuckoo shrike	Black Napped Monarch	Greenish Warbler
Black Redstart	Vigor's Sunbird	Purple Rumped Sunbird
Verditer Flycatcher	Tickles Blue Flycatcher	Crested Treeswift
Golden Fronted Leafbird	Chesnutt Shouldered Petronila	Alexandrine Parakeets
Golden Cheeked Warbler	Tyga Flycatcher	Oriental Dwarf Kingfisher
Common Rose's finch	Dusky crag Martin	Sulfur Bellied Warbler

**Report Submitted by**

Anaswara P

Ankita Barad

Bhargavi Rohit

Brahmakshi Patel

Chandresh Dholariya

Darshan Sapariya

Dipti Khunt

Elis Parmar

Khushbu Patel

Mital Vasava

Mohit Patel

Nitin Sankhat

Priya Vala

Ronak Maradiya

Rushita Devani

Shaital Vasava

Swati Umretiya

Tahir Multani