



Updated list of standardized bird names in Marathi published

11 new names added to the List released in the 29th Maharashtra Pakshimitra Sammelan

Mumbai: 25th January: Sawantwadi in the district of Sindhudurg was the host for the 29th Maharashtra Pakshimitra Sammelan this year. The updated list of bird names in Marathi compiled by Dr Raju Kasambe, Program Manager – IBA, BNHS-India was released in the presence of Shri Bhau Katdare, President, Maharashtra Pakshimitra Sanghatna, Rajmata of Sawantwadi, Her Highness Sattwashiladevi Bhosle, Chairman of the Sammelan Shri Sharad Apte and Dr Raju Kasambe in the 29th Maharashtra Pakshimitra Sammelan at Sawantwadi on January 23rd. This revised list has eleven new entries.

Need for standardized names

India has a rich diversity of not only birds but also other components of wildlife. We observe a variety of local names for birds, animals and plants owing to the cultural and regional diversity arising out of rich natural biodiversity in India. The compiled list published today is an attempt to establish standardized names of birds in Marathi in order to lessen the confusion of researchers, scholars and birdwatchers spread across regions.

Process of finalizing the list

A detailed discussion over having standardized Marathi names for birds was held at the 28th Pakshimitra Sammelan organised at Pune last year. Preliminary list was then published and everyone was encouraged to give their suggestions, changes and opinions to improvise the list. All the suggestions and changes received over the past year were considered and the new list was sent to the executive committee of Pakshimitra Sanghatna. Post their approval, the list was published in the form a booklet during the Sammelan this year.

Highlights of the list

The updated list has a total of 577 species including the additions of recent sighting records in Maharashtra. Red-throated Diver, Eurasian (Great) Bittern, Lesser White-fronted Goose, Red-necked Phalarope, Red Phalarope, Orange-breasted Green Pigeon, Red-breasted Parakeet, Chestnut-winged Cuckoo, Oriental Scops-owl, Asian Desert Warbler and Blue-and-white Flycatcher have been newly included in the list. Standardizing bird names in Marathi will encourage and enhance the dissemination of knowledge to masses which can in turn help generate more interest in bird watching. It will also ensure wider reach to people from different arenas. A number of rules were followed while compiling and finalizing the list, like firstly deciding the genus name then choosing the Marathi name on the basis of the bird's scientific name and logic. An effort was made to ensure the names to possibly be simple. Few of the famous names were left untouched.

“To promote love for birds, we need to talk to people in the language they understand. We need to have simple, logical names for birds which we can even relate to the English names with ease. This is an attempt by BNHS-India and Maharashtra Pakshimitra to popularize study of birds using Marathi language as a tool,” said Dr Raju Kasambe, Program Manager – Important Bird Areas, BNHS-India. The list is available on the below link –

http://bnhs.org/bnhs/files/Final_Marathi_Bird_Name_21-1-2016.pdf

For more information, Dr Raju Kasambe can be contacted on the email address raju.bnhs@gmail.com or on the mobile number 09004924731.

Particulars of the Sammelan

The 29th Sammelan was organized by Wild Konkan and Nisarg Premi Mandal – Sawantwadi, in association with Chiplun-based Maharashtra Pakshimitra and hosted by Sawantwadi Nagarparishad. “Birds and tourism” was the theme of the two-day conclave which took place on 23rd and 24th January. The Sammelan had talks and presentations by ornithologists on subjects such as bird tourism, threatened species of Western Ghats, treatment of injured birds, techniques of bird watching, legal aspects of conservation and migratory birds. On the eve of the conclave, bird photography and bird documentary making competitions were organized. Award winning entries were displayed / screened during the conclave. A souvenir magazine was also released during the conclave. An optional bird watching visit has been arranged on 25th January.

--- Atul Sathe, Assistant Director – Education & Communication, BNHS-India

--- Bilwada Kale, Assistant PRO, BNHS-India