

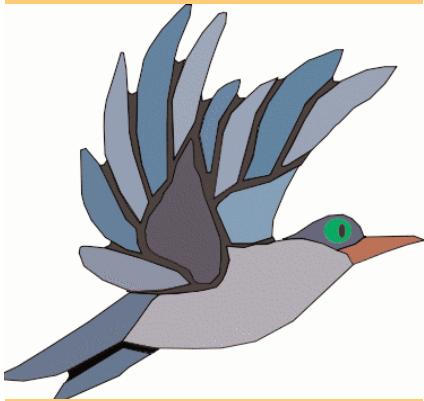
December 2007

GobarTimes

Green Schools Network

ACTIVITY SHEET

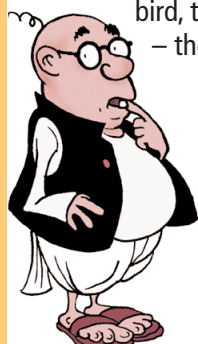
Why talk about birds?



Because aren't they lovely, just fluttering around and singing melodiously. And ecologically, they are such an important link eating away small insects, which are there in plenty.

But do we know, what types of birds are there around us or are we happy just knowing the name of a few and naming our clubs by the same name – Delhi Eagles and what not. Although we have driven out most of the terrestrial animals from our cities, a lot of the birds are still there. Even in rural areas some of them are disappearing.

Should we just read about bird conservation in our books or can we do something in our day to day lives. Lets find out.



Name.....

School Name

Class..... Date.....

Gobar Gyan: Watching birds can be a very exciting thing to do. Just watching their colours and antics can be an engaging thing even if you don't know the name of the bird. You can go on bird watching tours organized by a number of clubs and groups across India. And this can be done in any part of India. Did you know India had nearly 1250 species of birds (almost 14% percent of the world). So what are you waiting for, go join a club nearby. Check out the following websites for more information:

www.kolkatabirds.com – it has a section on 'bird watching for beginners – that would be just right for you.

www.indiabirdwatching.com – it can tell you a lot

Visit www.delhibird.net for bird watching in Delhi
A google search would give you contacts of a lot of bird clubs in India.

But before you go for a club, just try bird watching in your neighbourhood.

Activity: Go to a nearby park or just sit quietly on the roof of your house. Take a notebook along with. Without making any movements or noise, keep a lookout on the trees on buildings around for birds. The best time to do this would be in the morning or early evening. List down the birds that you saw. If you were not able to identify a bird, then write a description of the same. In fact, its fun giving a name to unknown bird – the red headed naughty fellow or some weird names like that:



Hi! I am Pandit Gobar Ganesh.

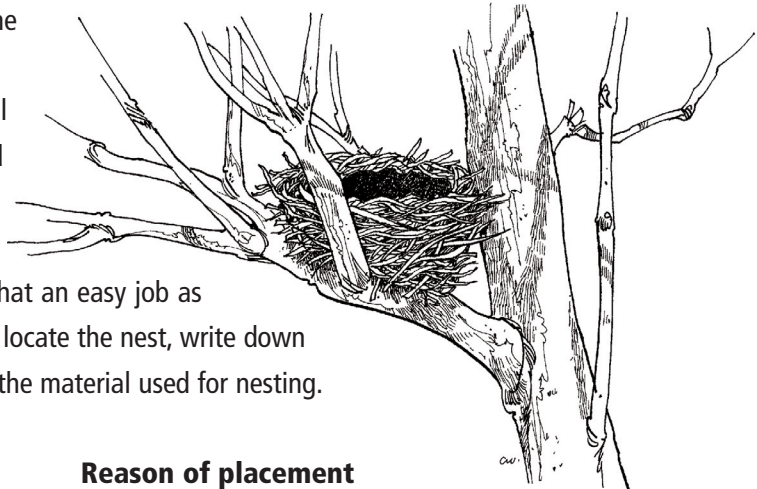
You will find me in Gobar Times—a magazine that tells you how your everyday life is linked to the world around you. Hooked, huh? If you want to know more about me and GobarTimes visit us at

www.gobartimes.org

Bird's Name

Description

- If you have a good hand at drawing, try and draw the birds. Or you may also click photographs of some.
- Try and do the same in your school by reaching school early one morning. Put up the names of the birds and their description on the notice board.
- If you are really excited about it, spend some time finding out the place where the birds nest is. It is not that an easy job as you think. What are the places where you were able to locate the nest, write down here (Also find the reason of nesting at that place and the material used for nesting).



Nesting place

Nesting Material

Reason of placement

Are all the nests same or do they differ? Why?

GOBAR GYAN: Did you know that a lot of the urban birds are now disappearing. As the birds no longer find appropriate food and nesting space, the average population has dwindled and some species are hard to find. Moreover, some of the smarter species of birds like crows has taken over the available space and food, making the other species vulnerable. The common household sparrow is now uncommon to find.

One tragic story is the disappearance of vultures. Vultures of late had been dying. The scientists found out that the reason was the drug diclofenac. Diclofenac is administered on ill cattle, some of which die. When vultures consume the carcass of such animals, the drug enters their systems, which hampers the hatching of their young ones. But fortunately this drug has now been banned.

To get more information on the issue of disappearing birds, read Gobar Times of 31 October 2005 or visit <http://www.gobartimes.org/20051031/20051031.htm>

Activity: Catch hold of any senior person in your family, grand parents or your parents and ask them if there are any birds, which were common during their times, which are not to be found now. Write their names and the possible reason of their disappearance:

Name of the person interviewed: _____

Birds name

Reason of disappearance

GOBAR GYAN: Did you know birds are covered under the Wildlife Protection Act (WPA) 1972 making it illegal to catch, keep, kill, buy / sell birds or damage their nests. All indigenous bird species are covered under this Act.

Hence, if you find anyone keeping or selling birds, inform the same to the police. Discourage your friends or relatives to engage in the trade of birds.

Activity: There are still many places in our city, where you would find the sale of birds. Try and find a few and write their names here:

Name of the place

Types of birds sold

- Remember, there is no point writing names of places here until you inform the authorities about this illegal trade.
- Also, try and talk to people, who buy birds at such places and ask them why do they want to do so. Try and find out the reasons – why people engage in this practice.
- Organise a team of friends, who would like to take up the cause of 'stopping bird trade'. Make some posters and do some awareness activities around the issue. Visit www.petaindia.com

Be a true bird lover:

- Take any tumbler pour some water in it and keep it on your terrace. You can have a nice time watching birds drink water. Some of them even take bath in the water.
- Try and grow some shrubs around your house where the birds can nest. Alternatively, put up some old cardboard or wooden boxes on inapproachable places. If you are luck a bird would nest in the boxes and you can have a gala time watching a bird nest and bring up its young ones.
- If you don't want to get into either of the above. Just go to the kitchen, take out a handful of rice or any other cereal and throw it on your terrace. Birds would be there in no time. If you do it daily, you would even find your friends waiting for you.



If you found the activity sheet interesting, E-mail us at eeu@cseindia.org or write to:
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New Delhi-110062 or Call 29955124 Extension 219