



PANNA TIGER RESERVE, PANNA, MP.

NEWSLETTER

Summer Bird Survey (9th to 12 June, 2022)

'Summer Bird Survey' was organized for the first time in Panna Tiger Reserve (PTR) from 9th to 12th June, 2022. The month of June is the breeding month for many birds and one can hear continuous long calls of different birds in PTR. Along with native birds, PTR receives many summer visitor birds days before Monsoon.

Winter and pre-Monsoon are important seasons to have better understanding about birds, their habitats and migration pattern. Hence a decision was taken by PTR management to conduct both, winter as well as summer bird survey so as to record winter and summer visitor birds along with all the native birds of PTR.

More than 200 applications from 15 Indian States were received for summer bird survey. 40 participants from 7 States were selected and 16 teams were formed to cover whole PTR. One local guide was attached with each team. PTR management efforts in encouraging local guides to take up bird watching is showing results as many guides now have become good bird watchers and are learning continuously.



Total 195 species of birds have been recorded during this summer bird survey. Out of this, 12 bird species are listed in IUCN 'Endangered' category. There are 3-4 rare bird species which have been reported by participants. After receiving supporting documents regarding their presence from the participants, these will also be added in the total list. 22 bird species recorded in this survey, were not recorded in March bird survey done in PTR. These birds coming to PTR during summer or pre-Monsoon, are widely spread throughout the PTR. 6 types

of Cuckoo – Common Hawk, Pied, Common, Indian, Grey bellied and Banded Bay Cuckoo, were seen during the survey. The colorful bird Indian Pitta, also known as “Navranga”, made its presence felt by its sweet calls and beautiful colors at all the places.



Amongst the rare bird species, Slaty-legged Crake, Black breasted Weaver, Striated Grassbird, Oriental pied Hornbill, Small Buttonquail and Tricolored Munia have been recorded.

Slaty-legged Crake is a very rare bird for MP and it goes to the credit of PTR that it has been recorded for the first time on eBird in MP during this bird survey. Also, Black breasted Weaver which has its presence in very few places in MP, has been seen preparing nests along with Baya Weaver at many places in PTR.

River Ken which is flowing for nearly 55 km inside PTR is not only important for animals but also provide habitat for many bird species. Striated Grassbird, Brown Crake, yellow Bittern and Cinnamon Bittern have been found in good numbers along the riverine belt.

PTR management is committed to improve the eco-system for birds and making efforts for the same. Knowledge of spread of bird species in different seasons and in different habitats in PTR is an important step in this direction. In future, PTR will continue its efforts in this endeavor.

PS: PTR had invited participants to share their experience of summer bird survey. We have received one write up by Shri Shivaditya Singh from Panna, MP. Attaching this write up in this Newsletter.

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS
Summer Bird Survey (9th June to 12 June, 2022)
Panna Tiger Reserve, MP.

S NO.	Name
1	Anupam khare
2	Abey Francis
3	Jaipal Singh
4	Nitish gupta
5	Rohit Kokil
6	Praveen Baddi
7	Prakruthi GM
8	Sujith VS
9	Praveen L Bennur
10	Deepali Yogesh Watve
11	Ayan Yogesh Watve
12	Ajay Amaria
13	Vivek Verma
14	Gaurav Shonik
15	Chandrasen Kori
16	Lokendra yadav
17	Shivaditya Singh
18	Sudip Simha Alilughatta Ramaswamy
19	Shivukumar M Sinnur
20	Srijan Vaishnav
21	Raghuraman R
22	Anjali Bhaskar
23	Rupesh Dalaldhan Kukade
24	Maria Fernandes
25	Sahana M
26	Sanket Raut
27	Naman Doshi
28	Sangram Vilas Govardhane
29	Rajpalsingh Rajpoot
30	Shrikant Dhoble
31	Dr Chetana Ugale
32	Abhijeet Sharma
33	Ravi Naidu
34	Rishabh Shivhare
35	Devendra rai
36	Khalid Khan
37	Dr Archana Shukla
38	Swami Raikwar
39	Bopanna
40	Dipu Sasi

My experience at the Panna summer bird survey.

(9th to 12th of June 2022)

By- SHIVADITYA SINGH PANNA

The heart of India, which is embellished with the sumptuous gems, is doing something which inspires humankind and motivates them to be an active part of the Verdant nature. Madhya Pradesh, the state which suspends a green-medal on its proud chest and is a champion of forest-keeping from decades, is now has become a stalwart of Bird surveys in India. Well, the land of central India is now another home to the volunteers from across the nation whose love for these tiny creatures compel them to fly and station at various hotspots every now and then. The famed tiger reserves of the state is doing a tremendous job in making these counties a great and productive success but Panna, with due acknowledgement to others, is indeed a league in itself. Panna tiger reserve is a rich piece of biodiversity and its management is an esteemed reputed institute. To put it straight across the table, the department has bagged a bundle of laurels in Wildlife conservation and forest management and its successful drive of the tiger reintroduction, in the past years, sculpt it into the finest model to be paraphrased by others. Words are less to garland the exploits of the foot soldiers, who day and night, even putting their life into danger, guard the territorial integrity and stand fenced between the threat and the green cover. On this note, as one of the volunteers of the recently organised Panna summer bird survey, I, on behalf of every participant, extend a warm thanks and congratulate the team-Panna for being this hardworking and courageous and one of a kind in lodging and cementing the communities and Wildlife-enthusiasts with the forest. It'll be incomplete and ethically discouraging if I don't talk and miss out on the experiences I had during my three days stay in PTR. So yes, here is to my experiences and the lovely squad I was accompanied with.

Before I go ahead and get excited, I would like to mention that I'm a localite from the town of Panna itself and the very tiger reserve is no new place to me as my father, who see forest as his second home, enjoyed take me, alongside my siblings, to the forests since my childhood. I was introduced to these gorgeous landscapes when I was a mere child and speaking truly, that has truly set a tone for me to be a part of this sphere. Coming back to what has to be celebrated here, I have never been this excited for any stay or work the way I was for this bird survey and there is a reason why. The first bird survey of Panna, which was organised in the month of March of the same year and luckily I was one of the participants, overwhelmed me to be a part of this summer bird survey as well.

As usual, we were notified about the planning of the bird survey almost a month ago and were asked to confirm our availability. From then onwards, my count began and I was desperately looking forward to hugging the 9th of June 2022 tightly. Yes, it was the official date to start the survey and to my good fortune, the days really rolled fast and smoothly to register my presence at Karnavati interpretation centre on 9th June. My local friend and all time company to any of the green drives I participate in, Mr. Anupam khare was also one of the participants and joined me on late morning of the 9th to board the bus which took us and others straight to the venue. After reporting, we had breakfast after which I met my other musketeers and profound bird watchers namely Mr. Nitish Gupta of Rajnagar and Mr. Vivek Verma of Gwalior. Both of them are dedicated wildlifers and speaking personally, I learn a lot from them and from their sincerity towards the Wildlife. We had lunch together after which we were asked to report to the conference room. Believe me, each one of us, people who attended the last survey and knew that this call is for the allocation of the area and the co-partner, were zealously excited. Mr. Pravar Maurya, the organiser and the coordinator of the bird survey, slowly and one by one informed us about every detail and later, I was given the Karnawati centre as my primary camp for this bird survey. I was partnered with two fantastic, full of life and dedication folks namely, Mr. Swami Railwar of Madla Panna and Mr. Sanket Raut of Raigarh Maharashtra. Alongside the partners, we were teamed with our guide and trail-leader Mr. Manoj Dwivedi, who in itself is an award winning guide and a man of stories and laughter. Once the gipsies departed for their respective locations, we placed our luggage in the dormitory of the centre and quickly left for the bird survey on the bank of the mighty river Ken. We started our survey with different species of birds, such as green bee-eater, blackhooded oriole, jerdon lead bird, paddy field pipit, lesser whistling duck etc making to our checklists on the Ebird app. Mr. Swami, as we fondly called him swamiji, helped us during our trail on the bank as he is an experienced boat-driver and a fisherman and knows the area around the river Ken quite well. We enlisted many bird species both territorial and water birds and were done for the day. At night we had supper and went to bed quickly so that we could start our survey in the early hours. In the morning, we were joined by Mr. Manoj, to whom we fondly called Maharaj and this time we were aiming to walk towards the Raipura region sticking to the river course itself. Again, we were lucky enough to spot various raptor species such as peregrine falcon, honey buzzard etc and to my best, I was happy to spot the ancient remains of Raipua from a distance. The

evening birding also went well and we were quite satisfied with the kind of drills we were undertaking. Next day we were directed to cover the area near the famous Hathi-camp which is not more than five kilometres from the Madla gate. All four of us were asked to be a little sincere and alert since we were on foot and were accessing the marked territory of the tigress-151 and her two full grown cubs. We were appointed a chowkidar with an axe to guard us while we kept reporting the avians. It was thrilling to be honest but at the same time I learned to be alert with all the senses I have. We reached the Madla gate on foot and there we were escorted back to Karnawati. Usually in the evening, we dine outdoors together with great talks and experiences making us rejuvenated and pacified. Sometimes, I and Mr.Sanket used to walk to the river point and talk about various stuff related to each other's life and had a really great time spotting nocturnal birds. Next day we were lucky to meet Mr.Shukla ji, beat guard of the Hathi camp, as he was and is full of life and energy. He is a retired army personnel and is full of ethics and discipline towards his assigned job. I was happy to be in his company as I learned new things from him and his ways of working were truly inspiring. We were invited by him to stay back at his camp and sleepover for which we happily accepted his invitation and decided to stay at Hathi camp. I forgot to mention that we saw the tigress-151 and her two full grown daughters a day before on our way to the chaukan. It was an overwhelming sight and I was really happy since it was after a long while.as usual, On 12th morning, we woke up around 4:30 in the morning and started our promised work. Since it was the last day of the survey, none of us were happy leaving the jungle. After completing some of the checklists, we left the Hathi camp with a heavy heart and reported to Karnawati. The centre was already packed with chirping of all the bird lovers as they too have reported back from their camps and guest houses. After eating our breakfast, we were called for the concluding session in which the field director of the tiger reserve Mr. Uttam kumar sharma, asked for our inputs and was quite open to all sorts of feedback. It was during this session that he asked the participants to voluntarily write two to Three pages of experiences one had during his or stay with the PTR. Thank You Prayer sir for considering me, a local participant for this historic survey. Thanku team Panna tiger reserve for being a bridge of integration between the wildlifers and the Wildlife itself. Thanks for being this fantastic. Looking forward to returning for the next survey super-soon.