

ANNUAL REPORT

FY 2023-24



WILDLIFE INFORMATION & NATURE
GUIDE SOCIETY

Registration No. S0005627 OF 2019-2020

Email: wildwingsbengal@gmail.com

Website: <https://wildwingsindia.in/>



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Patrons Message

I am delighted to hear that the Wildlife Information & Nature Guide Society (WINGS) will soon publish its annual book. I extend my heartfelt thanks to everyone involved in its planning and production, and I sincerely hope this publication will achieve its important objectives.

We live in an age of unprecedented comfort and luxury for many, yet this progress comes with a heavy toll on our natural environment. Our drive toward global consumerism has led to excessive consumption, significantly increasing our carbon footprint. For instance, the average carbon footprint in America is approximately 16 tons per person. This escalation in environmental impact is contributing to species extinction rates that are 100 times higher than they would be without human interference.

The disruption of nature is bound to result in severe consequences. Unfortunately, many choose to remain unaware or indifferent to these issues, and current conservation and management efforts remain insufficient. The time to address this crisis is rapidly running out.

We must reevaluate our relationship with nature. Though we are born from dust and will return to it, a shift towards greater empathy and responsibility can improve the living conditions for all life forms on our planet. Let us unite for a greener, cleaner future where resources are sufficient for everyone. WINGS is making significant strides in this direction, and the dedication of its volunteers is truly commendable. Support from various sectors of society will undoubtedly inspire the young minds of WINGS to expand their efforts and benefit the broader community.

With Regards,
Anupam Khan
Divisional Forest Officer
Durgapur Forest Division, WBFD



Message from the President



Life on Earth has evolved over billions of years, witnessing five mass extinction events, with a potential sixth driven by human activities. The tropics, the most biodiverse regions on our planet, are home to 20 megadiverse nations, including India, which boasts four biodiversity hotspots. As our demand for resources and economic development grows, particularly in Industrialization is essential to meet growing human demands and develop our economy. Forests, grasslands, wetlands, and other ecosystems are disappearing, pushing many species toward extinction.

The importance of conserving biodiversity cannot be overstated. Nature provides essential, free services that no factory can replicate at the same cost. Forests generate oxygen, insects pollinate our crops, and the Sundarbans shield us from cyclones. Each species is part of a complex web of life, where the loss of one can have far-reaching consequences for many others.

The Wildlife Information and Nature Guide Society, based in Rarh Bengal – a region once rich in dense forests – is dedicated to reversing this trend. Many of our members, mostly under 30, have witnessed firsthand the rapid disappearance of these vital habitats and may not fully grasp their significance. Our mission is to protect our environment from the adverse effects of human greed.

Raising awareness about wildlife conservation is crucial. Without understanding the reasons behind protecting nature, people are less likely to act. I am proud of our members' dedication to creating a greener world and grateful to our governmental and non-governmental partners. Together, we strive to ensure a sustainable, cleaner environment for future generations.

Let us unite in our efforts to safeguard biodiversity. By valuing and protecting the natural world, we can ensure a thriving planet for ourselves and for those who come after us.

Thanks & Regards
Saptarshi Mukherjee

President, WINGS

ABOUT THE SOCIETY



The Wildlife Information and Nature Guide Society, affectionately known as WINGS (<https://wildwingsindia.in/>), took its formal shape on April 12th, 2018, and received official recognition on July 17th, 2019. This passionate group of young individuals came together with the shared objective of conserving biodiversity in Durgapur and the surrounding areas. They aimed to unite their efforts toward a common goal while simultaneously enhancing awareness about biodiversity conservation.

WINGS offers a range of services, including Wildlife Monitoring and Survey, Ecological Impact Assessment (EIA), development of Wildlife Management Plans (WMP), environmental and wildlife awareness initiatives, and citizen science projects.

The organization's roots can be traced back to 2013 when a group of birdwatchers initiated the "Birding Durgapur" group and website to foster interest in avian life within the city. As citizen involvement grew, the group expanded its focus to encompass the entire Paschim Bardhaman district's biodiversity, leading to its renaming as "Biodiversity of Paschim Bardhaman" in 2016. In late 2016, some members of the group initiated a "Barrage Cleaning Campaign" to preserve the Durgapur Barrage's ecosystem by combating pollution caused by irresponsible picnickers.

On April 12th, 2018, participants from the campaign as mentioned above gathered at Chaturanga Maidan and laid the foundation stone for WINGS. The organization is deeply grateful to individuals such as Dr. Utpal Singha Roy (Assistant Professor, Durgapur Govt. College), Mr. Milan Kanti Mandal (Former Divisional Forest Officer, Durgapur Forest Division), Late Mr. Subhra Lahiri (Former Head of Department, HR, NHIT), Mr. Ashit Kumar Ghosh (President, NHIT), Mr. Abhijeet Sett (Lecturer, KG Engineering Institute, Bishnupur), Dr. Sudipta Das (Associate Professor, Durgapur Govt. College), Dr. Moitreyee Chakraborty (Assistant Professor, Durgapur Govt. College), and Amar Nayak (Assistant Teacher) for their unwavering support.

WINGS received invaluable guidance during its early stages from the late Shubhra Lahiri, which laid the foundation for the organization's evolution into a mature, positive, enthusiastic, and democratic entity. Within a year of

its official registration, WINGS made a significant impact on biodiversity conservation in Eastern India. Its academic influence has extended beyond West Bengal, reaching states like Assam and Jharkhand, as well as neighboring Bangladesh.

A notable achievement for WINGS was the establishment of the Green Picnic Mission as a statewide movement. This initiative aimed to encourage widespread citizen participation in scientific innovations, bridging the gap between theoretical knowledge and practical application for every citizen of the country.

While facing various challenges, WINGS has displayed immense determination, overcoming obstacles with unwavering willpower. The organization remains steadfast in its commitment to reaching new heights and looks forward to accomplishing even more in the future.

INTERNSHIP AND RESEARCH PUBLICATIONS



The WINGS Internship Programme was initiated with an urge to instill the zeal for scientific research in budding biologists and ecologists. While the internships of a few students from 2022-23 were extended into the 2023-24 session, they were later discontinued due to their lack of consistency of dedication in their projects. Among the 13 new interns enrolled in the 2023-24 session after scrutiny from a list of 180 interested applicants, a few of them also had to unfortunately discontinue their internships due to their other commitments. Late into the session, three interns were further enrolled for the dedicated purpose of renovating our Biodiversity of West Bengal website.

The following projects have been completed through the 2023-24 session as part of the WINGS Internship Programme.

- **Checklist of Lepidopteran host plants of Central Rarh - by Moulina Chatterjee**, supervised by Subhajit Roy from July 2023 to March 2024.

A tedious job of compiling the list of host plants of 516 species of moths and butterflies found in the central Rarh region (Bankura, Paschim Bardhaman, and Birbhum districts) of West Bengal, primarily from secondary data sources such as citizen science portals, social media platforms, and published literature was done for 9 months. As many as 1976 unique plant-Lepidopteran host interactions (463 for butterflies and the rest for moths) were enlisted.

- **Influence of diversified plant usage on phenotypic variations in polyphagous moths: a review - by Nivedita Pattanaik**, supervised by Md. Jahir Rayhan and Subhajit Roy during May 2023 to April 2024.

A pilot review study of host plant diet-induced polyphenism in polyphagous moths was carried out through a thorough literature survey.

This study can guide future researchers about the role of host plants in phenotypic plasticity.

"Biodiversity of West Bengal" is a web application launched in 2019, marking the first-ever initiative to document the state's incredible biodiversity in a comprehensive web database. It includes audio, video, images, descriptions, local names in various languages, common names, scientific names, IUCN status, and WPA status. However, the original technology stack became outdated, so we brought in interns to redesign and redevelop the website using an advanced technology stack. Below are the interns involved:

- **Front-end development of the Biodiversity of West Bengal website - by Priyanka Chauhan**, supervised by Saikat Adhurya and Soumitra Chauhan from October 2023 to April 2024.
- **Back-end development of Biodiversity of West Bengal website - by Aditya Chauhan**, supervised by Saikat Adhurya and Soumitra Chauhan from October 2023 to April 2024.
- **Front-end development of the Biodiversity of West Bengal website - by Nishi Chauhan**, supervised by Saikat Adhurya and Soumitra Chauhan from December 2023 to April 2024.

PROJECTS AND EVENTS



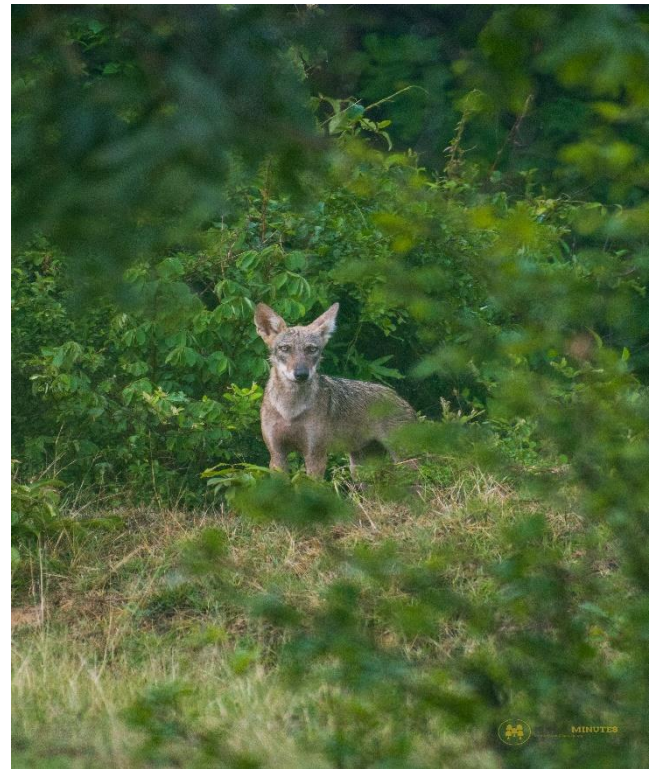
● Mitigation of Human-Wolf Conflict in Madhaiganj Village, Durgapur, West Bengal (Project funded by Wildlife Trust of India (WTI) under Rapid Action Project (RAP))

Indian Grey Wolf (*Canis lupus pallipes*) is an apex predator in dry deciduous forests and open forest plain areas in eastern India. Due to their presence in mostly non-protected areas near human habitations and their shrinking habitat and prey base, their increasing dependency on livestock for food often leads to human-wolf conflicts.



- **Study Area:** Madhaiganj village, located in Paschim Bardhaman district of West Bengal, spans 757.02 hectares and has a population of 1,194 (2011 census), with a significant proportion belonging to Scheduled Caste (26.8%) and Scheduled Tribe (29.98%) communities. Around 35% of villagers are employed, most engaging in marginal work. The study area, about 5 km², includes Madhaiganj and nearby dry deciduous forests, predominantly Acacia plantations and Sal trees, grasslands, barren land, and agricultural fields.
- **Duration:** The present study was conducted from April 2023 through November 2023.
- **Methodology:** The study used various methods to estimate wolf abundance in the area, including sampling, sign, depredation, camera trap, and questionnaire surveys.

- **Sampling surveys** involved direct and indirect observations along 4 transects, with data collected on sightings, pugmarks, and scats. **Sign surveys** focused on collecting pugmarks and scat samples due to wolves' nocturnal behavior and low visibility, while **depredation surveys** gathered information from locals on wolf attacks. **Camera traps** were placed in 9 strategic locations, especially near water sources, to improve detection.



Nonlethal deterrents, like **fladry**, were installed around livestock enclosures to prevent wolf attacks. **Awareness campaigns** were conducted to educate villagers on the wolves' ecological role and discourage retaliatory hunting, targeting school students and villagers. Finally, **questionnaire surveys** assessed the impact of awareness programs and the effectiveness of nonlethal deterrents.

- **Results:** The study identified a pack of 10 wolves, including three adults, two sub-adults, and three juveniles, primarily sighted during dawn and dusk. Wolves relied on domestic livestock, especially goats, poultry, and nomadic sheep, with group hunting often occurring at dusk. Camera traps captured 58 wolf images, mostly near water sources, and photos of prey species like wild boar and peacocks.



Pre-awareness surveys showed that 97% of villagers confirmed wolf presence, only 5% understood their ecological role, and 56% had

experienced livestock loss due to wolf attacks. Post-awareness surveys revealed increased knowledge, with 82% recognizing wolves' ecological role and 93% aware of nonlethal deterrents like fladry. However, only 24% believed fladry effectively reduced livestock losses. Despite uncertainties, 75% thought the project would help conserve wolves.

- **Conservation Threats:** Wolves in southern West Bengal, primarily living near human settlements outside protected areas, face significant challenges compared to other apex predators. Choudhury et al. (2019) study in the Asansol-Durgapur region revealed increased settlements (9.01% in 1993 to 19.94% in 2015) and a decline in dense and scattered vegetation, contributing to wolf habitat loss. Critical threats include habitat destruction, conversion of grasslands to agricultural fields, and disturbances from mining activities. Poaching, especially by local tribes, also endangers the ecosystem, though no retaliatory killings have been recorded. Additionally, genetic inbreeding due to isolated populations poses a risk of local extinction.
- **Future Directions:** A long-term study on wolves near human habitations is crucial. Future research could focus on non-invasive DNA techniques for accurate population estimates, identifying prey base composition, including livestock, and managing natural prey to reduce economic loss. Tagging wolves with collar tags could help study their movement patterns and habitat range. Increased awareness and involvement from organizations are needed to promote coexistence and conservation. Extending this research to other parts of Paschim Bardhaman, where human-wolf conflicts occur, could create safer habitats for Indian Grey Wolves across the district.

● Mega-awareness Campaign for Wolf Awareness



This event was conducted as a part of the Rapid Action Project funded by the Wildlife Trust of India (WTI). In August, a significant awareness campaign was held at Laudoha KTB Institution, targeting nearly 200 students from grades nine to twelve. The event aimed to educate students about the conservation of wolves and the effectiveness of nonlethal deterrents like fladry in reducing human-wolf conflict.



Prominent forest officials were in attendance, including the Divisional Forest Officer of Durgapur, the Chief Conservator of Forests (South-East Circle, West Bengal), and the Ex-Additional Principal Conservator of Forests (West Bengal). Members of the local Gram Panchayat, such as the Pradhan and Upapradhan of Laudoha Gram Panchayat, and local police officers were also present, reflecting strong local government support. All members advocated for wolf protection in these human-dominated areas of Paschim Bardhaman district.

The campaign's primary focus was the students because they could effectively spread awareness within their communities. The event emphasized the importance of using nonlethal methods to manage human-wolf conflicts and safeguard the ecological balance.



Wildlife Management Plans and Soil Moisture Conservation Plans for Diversion of Forest Lands



Our organization prepared comprehensive wildlife management and soil moisture conservation plans for Essar Oil and Gas Exploration Private Limited (EOGEPL), Eastern Coalfields Limited (ECL), and Shyam Sel and Power Limited (SSPL). Timely delivery of these plans is central to our mission. The importance of managing wildlife habitats and populations cannot be overstated, as landscape alterations have significantly reduced the carrying capacity for many species. Habitat loss, fragmentation, pollution, and human disturbance have decreased species diversity and abundance. Wildlife Conservation or Management Plans (WCP/WLCP) are vital, especially in areas near development projects. These plans safeguard biodiversity and promote sustainable management practices, involving local communities in conservation efforts.

Traditionally, management plans focused on game species and recreational activities, but today they encompass broader concerns such as endangered species protection, overall biodiversity, and habitat quality. In regions like southwest Bengal, where soil erosion is a severe problem, soil and water conservation measures are critical for forest sustainability. Erosion removes nutrient-rich topsoil essential for tree growth, and relying on external fertilizers is neither economical nor sustainable. Addressing these issues helps maintain forest health and tree stability, allowing ecosystems to thrive.

The wildlife management and soil moisture conservation plan for EOGEPL has received the necessary approvals from the Principal Conservator of Forests (Wildlife) and the Chief Wildlife Warden of West Bengal, while the other two plans are in the final stages of approval by the concerned authorities. We also received the project completion certificate from EOGEPL.

● Winter Bird Count Census - 2023



Over the past few years, WINGS has actively participated in the Annual Winter Bird Count organized by the Forest Department in the Durgapur, Jhargram, and Purulia divisions. This vital event is key for monitoring both local and migratory bird populations during the winter months, a time when many species migrate or shift habitats.

The Winter Bird Count offers essential data on the health and status of bird populations in these regions. By focusing particularly on migratory birds, which travel immense distances and rely on specific stopover sites to rest, feed, and refuel, we can gain crucial insights into their needs and challenges.

The information gathered through these counts is instrumental in developing targeted conservation strategies. Our dedicated volunteers conduct thorough field surveys, accurately identify and record various bird species, and assist in analysing the data. Their commitment ensures that the information collected is both comprehensive and precise, which is vital for effective conservation planning.

This count also highlights the pressing issues faced by migratory birds, particularly the degradation of water bodies. As natural habitats are lost and water quality declines, migratory birds struggle to find suitable resting and feeding sites. We have brought these concerns to the attention of relevant authorities, emphasizing the urgent need for conservation measures to safeguard these crucial ecosystems.

The collaboration between WINGS and the Forest Department is a testament to the importance of addressing environmental degradation and protecting biodiversity. This partnership not only fosters effective conservation efforts but also raises public awareness about the necessity of preserving water bodies and the habitats they provide for migratory birds. Together, our efforts help ensure a sustainable future for these remarkable species and the ecosystems they depend on.

PASCHIM BARDHAMAN:

The survey was conducted from the 11th of January to the 16th of February in various locations such as Mudir Bandh (Laudoha, **Site 1**), Vaska (Mango Garden, **Site 2**), Gunjan Ecological Park (**Site 3**), Chittaranjan (**Site 4**), Hadla(**Site 5**), Sarkuri(**Site 6**), Damodar Riverbed and Park trails(**Site 7**), Burnpur Aerodrome(**Site 8**), and Riverside Grassland (Burnpur, **Site 9**).



TEAM MEMBERS:

Ajoy Kumar Dawn
Debasish Chatterjee
Sankha Misra
Saptarshi Mukherjee
Saikat Adhurya
Manish Kumar Chattopadhyay

CHECKLIST

PASCHIM BARDHAMAN									
Species Name	Species Abundance								
	Site 1	Site 2	Site 3	Site 4	Site 5	Site 6	Site 7	Site 8	Site 9
Alexandrine Parakeet							6	4	3
Ashy Drongo					1				
Ashy Prinia							4	7	4
Ashy Woodswallow							4	3	
Ashy-crowned Sparrowlark							6	9	7
Asian Green Bee-eater	5	6	1		7	4	6	7	3
Asian Koel					2	1	5	3	5
Asian Openbill Stork				4				5	7
Asian Palm Swift	8	14			8	8	9	8	11

Barn Owl							1		
Barn Swallow	4	14		30			6	7	
Bengal Bushlark		2							3
Bengal Bushlark								2	
Black Drongo	5	2			7	4	6	6	3
Black hooded Oriole			2		4		6	4	5
Black Kite					6	3	5	5	6
Black-headed Cuckooshrike							1		
Black-headed Ibis				8			3		
Black-naped Oriole					1				
Black-rumped Flameback					1	2		2	
Black-winged Cuckooshrike							1		
Black-Winged Kite							2	2	
Bluethroat							1	1	1
Blyth's Pipit									2
Blyth's Reed Warbler							2	2	3
Booted Eagle							1		
Booted Warbler								1	2
Brahminy Starling			2			4	6		4
Bronze-winged Jacana	2	4	2	5			7	4	6
Brown Shrike	2	1			2		2	2	3
Chestnut-tailed Starling						2	5	3	
Citrine Wagtail						2		4	5
Clamorous Reed Warbler									1
Common Babbler									2
Common Chiffchaff					2		2	2	2
Common Hawk Cuckoo	1						2	1	1
Common Iora							4	4	
Common Kingfisher						2	2	2	3
Common Myna	7		12		6	8	8		8
Common Pochard					6				
Common Sandpiper					1		2	3	3

Common Snipe								2	
Common Tailorbird	1		2			4	4	3	3
Coppersmith Barbet						2	4	4	4
Cotton Pygmy Goose	48	28	3				4		
Eastern Cattle Egret	5				6	8	14	12	12
Eastern Yellow Wagtail						3		6	6
Eurasian Collared Dove		9			9	4	7	9	10
Eurasian Hoopoe	2	2	1		2	2	1	4	2
Eurasian Kestrel	2							1	
Eurasian Moorhen	8	8		6			6	5	
Gadwall		71		6			10		
Gray Francolin					6			4	4
Gray heron				2			2	2	3
Gray-breasted Prinia						3	2		1
Gray-headed Canary Flycatcher						1			
Gray-headed Lapwing							4		
Gray-headed Swamphen				3			4	3	7
Great Cormorant				9	2	2			150
Great Crested Grebe					2		1	2	
Greater Coucal	1	1			2	2	3		3
Green Sandpiper							1	1	3
Green Warbler					1				
Greenish Warbler					3	2	2	3	3
Green-winged Teal		2							
Hair Crested Drongo							2		
House Crow				1	9	9	9	7	6
House Sparrow						7		6	
Indian Golden Oriole							2	2	1
Indian Paradise Flycatcher					2				
Indian Pied Starling	5				5	7	7		7

Indian Pond Heron	2	1	2			6	4	5	7
Indian Robin	2	5			2	6	2	5	2
Indian Silverbill								5	2
Jungle Babbler	7	11	27	3	22	14	8	9	8
Kentish Plover								5	
Large Cuckooshrike							2		
Laughing Dove							8		1
Lesser Whistling Duck	280			555			22		
Lineated Barbet				1			3		
Little Cormorant		2		5	6	5	9	5	5
Little Egret					3	4	2	4	4
Little Grebe	4	4		3	5		8		2
Little Ringed Plover								4	
Long-tailed Shrike	1								
Medium Egret				1					2
Northern Pintail							8		
Olive-backed Pipit	2		8				6	3	3
Oriental Honey-buzzard	1						1	1	1
Oriental Magpie-Robin	1	2			4	4	4	6	4
Osprey								1	1
Paddyfield Pipit	13				4	5	3	5	6
Paddyfield Warbler							1		2
Pale-billed Flowerpecker						2			
Peregrine Falcon		1							
Pheasant-tailed Jacana	3	2		2				2	
Pied Kingfisher								2	
Plain Prinia						3	5	7	
Purple Heron	1	1						1	
Purple Sunbird					4	3	5	4	4
Purple-rumped Sunbird								2	
Red Collared-Dove							1		
Red Crested Pochard	18	22	4				18		
Red Naped Ibis						4	4		5

JHARGRAM:

The survey was conducted from the 26th of January to the 29th of January in various locations such as Jhilli Pakhiralay, Hatibari Range (**Site 1**), Khandarani Dam, Belpahari Range (**Site 2**), Ketki Jharna, Bhulabheda Range (**Site 3**) and Rajbandh Wetlands, Jhargram range (**Site 4**).



TEAM MEMBERS:

Dr. Arkajyoti Mukherjee
Subhadeep Saha

CHECKLIST:

JHARGRAM				
Species name	Species Abundance			
	Site 1	Site 2	Site 3	Site 4
Asian Openbill Stork		2		
Bank Myna		4		22
Common Kingfisher	2	1		
Common Sandpiper	2			2
Cotton Pygmy Goose	2	32		120
Eastern Cattle Egret	35	5	5	5
Eurasian Moorhen	22			2
Gadwall	45	9		9
Gray-headed Lapwing				455
Great Cormorant	2	2		5

Great Egret	1			
Green-winged Teal	4			
Indian Pond Heron	11	3	2	6
Indian Spot-billed Duck	1			
Lesser Whistling Duck	4885	2100		10
Little Cormorant	32	12	9	13
Little Egret	12	8	2	
Little Grebe	24	70	1	25
Northern Pintail	1	1		1
Purple Heron	1			
Stork-billed Kingfisher				1
White-breasted Waterhen	2			
White-throated Kingfisher	1	1		

PURULIA:

The survey was conducted from the 21st of January in various locations such as Purulia Saheb Bandh (**Site 1**) and Adra Saheb Bandh (**Site 2**).

TEAM MEMBERS:

Antara Pal
Diptesh Goswami
Tarun Das



CHECKLIST:

PURULIA		
Species name	Species Abundance	
	Site 1	Site 2
Asian Green Bee-Eater	8	
Asian Koel	3	
Bank Myna	5	
Barn Swallow		3
Black Drongo	7	
Bronze Winged Jacana		6
Common Kingfisher	1	2
Common Myna	2	
Coppersmith Barbet	1	
Cotton Pygmy Goose		10
Eurasian Collared Dove	6	
Eurasian Coot		1
Eurasian Moorhen	4	
Gray Francolin		2
Great Crested Grebe		2
Indian Pied Starling	8	

Indian Pond Heron	4	12
Jungle Babbler	14	26
Lesser Whistling Teal	160	113
Little Grebe		10
Little Cormorant	1	
Little Ringed Plover		2
Osprey		1
Pheasant-tailed jacana		6
Pin tailed snipe		1
Purple Heron		1
Purple Rumped Sunbird		2
Red Crested Pochard		9
Red Vented Bulbul	6	14
Red Whiskered Bulbul	8	13
Richard's Pipit		1
Rose Ringed Parakeet	9	2
Rufous Treepie	9	3
White-breasted Waterhen		1
White-throated Kingfisher		2
Yellow throated Sparrow		1
Yellow Wattled Lapwing		7
Zitting Cisticola		3

10 Years of Durgapur Barrage Bird Walk



The Durgapur Barrage Bird Walk is an annual event by WINGS (Wildlife Information and Nature Guide Society), celebrated every year on the 3rd Sunday of February on the occasion of the global event Great Backyard Bird Count since 2015. The goal of this event is: (1) to keep track on how many species are there and their abundance by

Inviting you all to...

10th Durgapur Barrage Bird Walk

An annual event on the occasion of Great Backyard Bird Count since 2015

- On-field introduction to Bird watching
- Get familiar with birds and birding communities
- Participate to get an international certificate from Cornell Lab of Ornithology
- Free and open to all!

**18th February, Sunday
7:30 AM**



Wildlife Information and Nature
Guide Society (WINGS)
[Govt Regd.]



Kindly register at:
www.wildwingsindia.in/dbbw.php



obtaining a yearly snapshot, (2) to introduce newcomers to bird watching, and (3) to spread awareness about birds and their habitat.

This year, we obtained 888 individuals belonging to 72 species, six species less than the last year. The number of sandpipers and ducks dropped drastically at Durgapur Barrage. Many common species like Ruddy Shelduck, Coot, Moorhen, Gadwall, Kentish Plover are not observed this year. The good point is Temminck's stint has started to appear again at Durgapur Barrage, which has disappeared in the last 2 years. Some common species like little stint, Wood Sandpiper are absent



in the last five years.



The habitat of the Durgapur Barrage is changed a lot in the last few years.

The Bankura side habitat is affected by construction of a park, that lead to decrease in the bird number in that sides.

- **Venue:** Durgapur Barrage
- **Date:** 18 February 2024
- **Checklist link:** [eBird Checklist - 18 Feb 2024 - Durgapur Barrage - 72 species](#)
- **Person attended:**
 - 1.Dr. Sagar Adhurya
 - 2.Abhishek Gupta
 - 3.Dr. Shiladitya Pujari
 - 4.Sanchali Ray
 - 5.Subhadeep Saha
 - 6.Baharuddin Sk
 - 7.Nirjhar Banerjee
 - 8.Subhra Acharya.

Great Backyard Bird Count and Campus Bird Count - 2023



WINGS is successful completed of the Great Backyard Bird Count and the Campus Bird Count Census for 2023 at Durgapur Government College in 17th February'2023. These events, organized with great enthusiasm and precision, have provided invaluable data on bird populations and their habitats.

The Great Backyard Bird Count invited participants from across the community to contribute



observations from their own backyards, offering a unique and personal perspective on local avian life. Meanwhile, the Campus Bird Count Census



focused on monitoring bird species within educational institutions, engaging students and staff in meaningful conservation efforts.

These initiatives have not only enriched our understanding of bird populations but also fostered a deeper connection between

individuals and their natural surroundings. We extend our heartfelt thanks to all volunteers and participants for their dedication and support, which have been instrumental in the success of these events. Your contributions play a crucial role in advancing our knowledge of bird species and promoting biodiversity.

We look forward to continuing these efforts and building upon this year's achievements to further support avian conservation and education.

- **Venue:** Durgapur Government College
- **Date:** 17 February 2024
- **Checklist link:** [17 Feb 2024 - Durgapur Government College - 41 species - eBird](#)
- **Person attended:**
 1. Dr. Sagar Adhurya
 2. Manish Kumar Chattopadhyay
 3. Dr. Moitreyee Chakrabarty
 4. Dr. Tapajit Bhattacharya
 5. Dr. Rajib Biswas
 6. Kishor Kumar Das
 7. Sanchari Sarkar
 8. Sayandip Das
 9. Manoj Pal
 10. Rima Mondal
 11. Neha Dey
 12. Sneha Nandi
 13. Tufan Gayen

● Small Mammals Survey-2023



Exploring the diverse world of small mammals has always been a source of inspiration for WINGS. Recently, we had the honor of participating in a comprehensive Small Mammal Survey in collaboration with the Kangsabati South and Purulia Division. This opportunity was extended to us by the Forest Department, recognizing WINGS' expertise and dedication to wildlife conservation.



The survey was meticulously designed to monitor and document the small mammal

populations inhabiting the rich and biodiverse forests of Kangsabati South and Purulia Division. WINGS played a critical role in this endeavor with its team of skilled experts and researchers. Our responsibilities included the setup of trapping mechanisms, continuous monitoring, and detailed data recording.

Throughout the survey, our team applied its species identification and habitat analysis expertise. We collaborated closely with the Forest Department to



ensure that the survey adhered to the highest scientific rigor and precision standards. This collaborative approach was instrumental in capturing accurate data and gaining meaningful insights into the small mammal populations.

Our efforts led to the documentation of a wide variety of small

mammals, from the agile Indian small mongoose to the distinctive Indian crested porcupine. Each observation not only deepened our understanding of these species but also reinforced the crucial need to protect their habitats.

The data collected during this survey will serve as a cornerstone for future conservation initiatives. By pinpointing key habitats and understanding the

population dynamics of these small mammals, the Forest Department and WINGS can develop more effective and targeted conservation strategies. These strategies will play a vital role in the long-term preservation of the biodiversity within Kangsabati South and Purulia Division.

This collaboration exemplifies the power of combining expertise and resources to advance wildlife research and conservation. The outcomes of this survey will contribute significantly to the ongoing efforts to safeguard and sustain the region's rich ecological heritage.

India Butterfly Web



Big Butterfly Month is a citizen science initiative that takes place every September to celebrate butterflies and their role in the environment. The month-long event aims to unite people to contribute data that helps

scientists better understand butterflies and their role in nature and for humans. Butterflies are sensitive to environmental changes and are key indicators of biodiversity,

so their numbers have declined sharply and they are under threat. While webinars, observation uploading (to BWW website) fests were previously organized by WINGS as part of Big Butterfly Month observation, in 2023 we organized IndiaButterflyWeb: an initiative to map the interactions of butterflies with other biotic (species) and abiotic elements of the environment to cover up the Eltonian shortfall. The first of its kind initiative across India, was organised through very short duration planning and was conducted for a week. In the last week of September, records of interactions of butterflies throughout India were invited to be submitted in Google Form. 34 interaction observations were garnered, covering 11 states of our country of 26 species of butterflies. Arnab Kumar Samanta of Namkhana was the top contributor of interaction data in this festival.



There will be a gift token for contributing more than 100 valid interactions



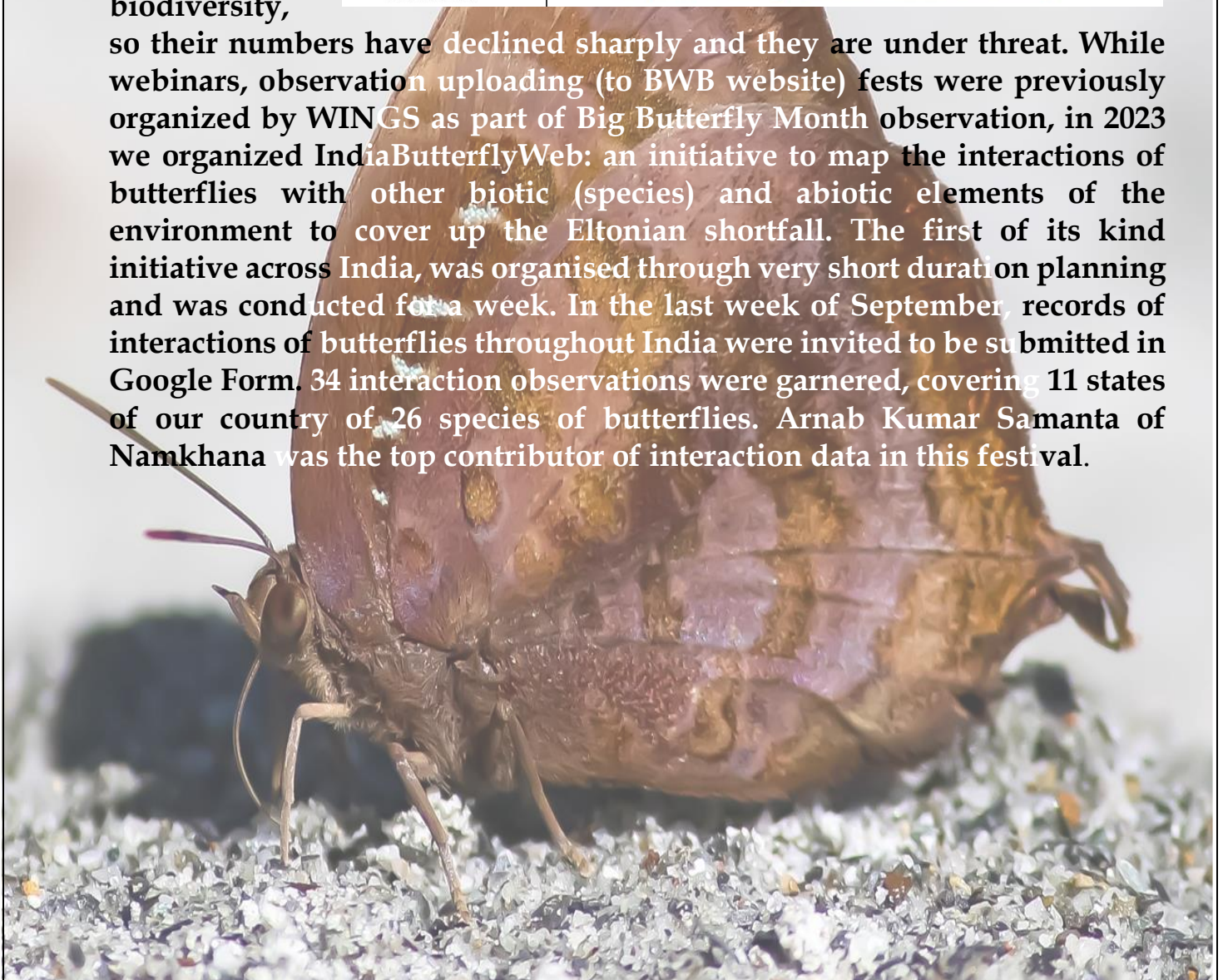
India Butterfly Web

Marathon to document interactions of Indian Butterflies



Date: 24-30 September | Contact: wildwingsbengal@gmail.com

Link: <https://forms.gle/G18a8EuudxdV1YPn7>



● Citizen Science with Social Media

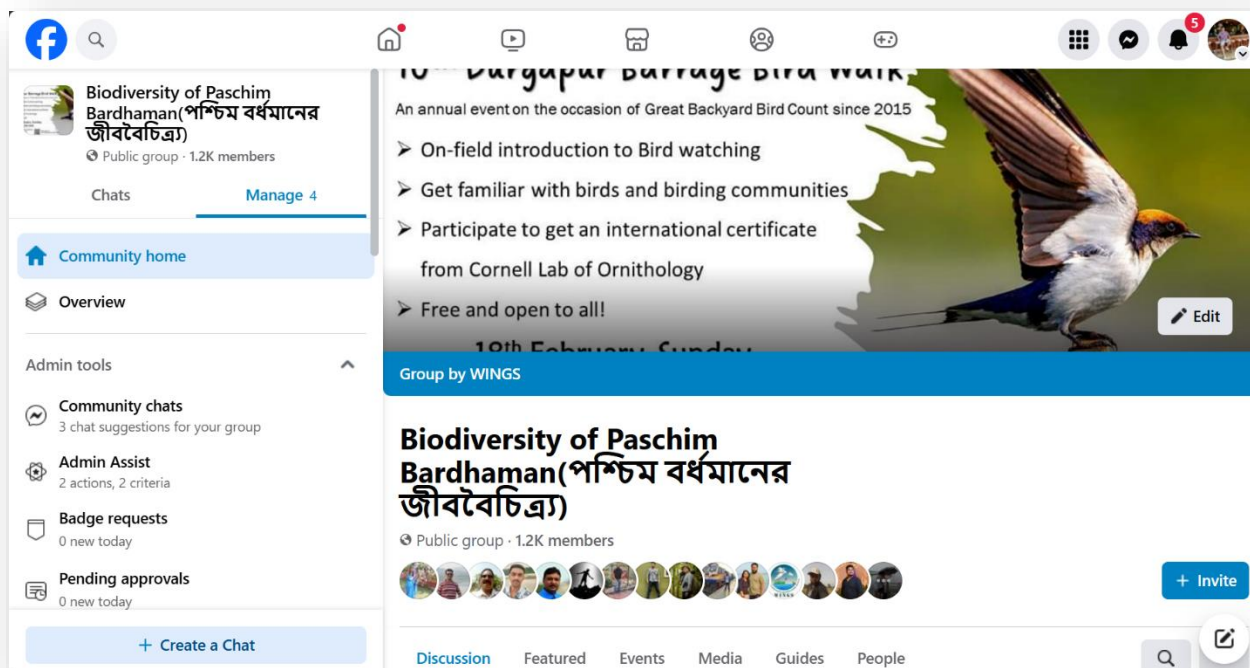


Facebook groups

Biodiversity of Paschim Bardhaman

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/wildwestbardhaman>

Originally created to document the birds of Durgapur with citizen science effort with the name 'Birding Durgapur' in 2013. Later the name of this group changed to the present name in 2017 with aim to document all kinds of living organisms found in Paschim Bardhaman district.

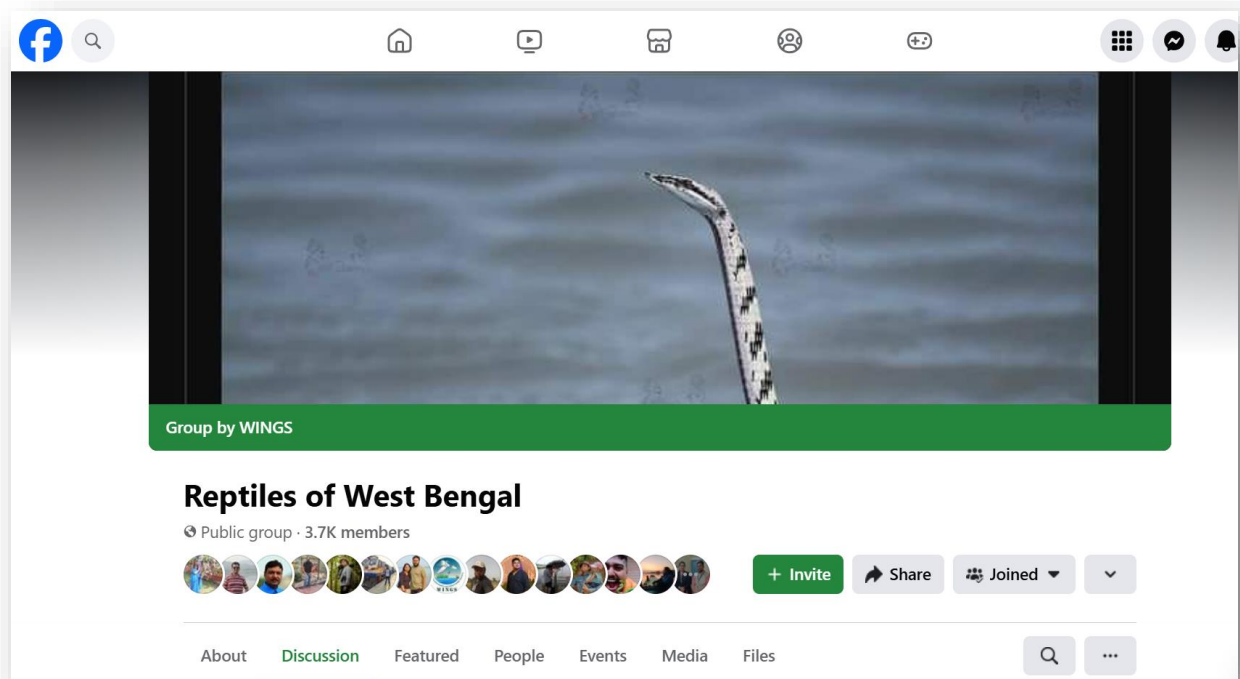


Reptiles of West Bengal

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/169683851040605>

The "Reptiles of West Bengal" Facebook group is dedicated to exploring, understanding, and conserving the diverse reptilian species in West Bengal. Our community brings together enthusiasts, experts, and nature lovers to share knowledge and promote reptile conservation.

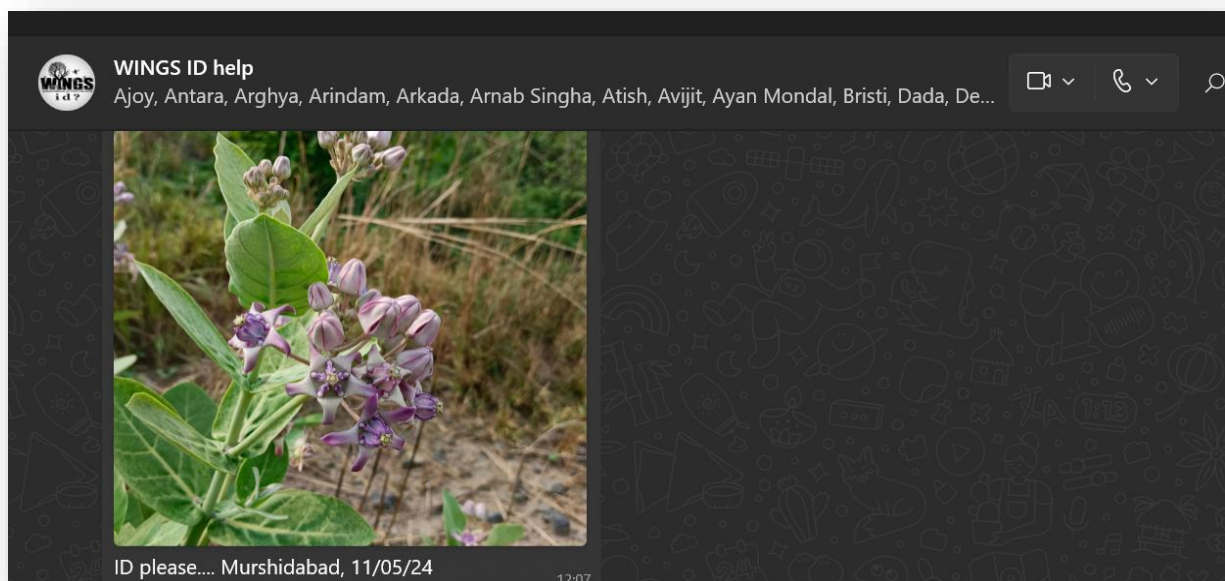
The group's primary goal is to document and raise awareness about the reptiles of West Bengal. Through active engagement, educational posts, and field observations, we aim to highlight the importance of these species and their roles in our ecosystems.



WhatsApp groups

WINGS ID help

This group focuses on identifying various species of flora and fauna. Despite limited expertise among members, the collective efforts aim to enhance knowledge and understanding of biodiversity.



<https://chat.whatsapp.com/KuWdzy4wSrhD8CqaSgTQ7Y>

ELECTED NEW GOVERNING BODY



NAME	DESIGNATION
SAPTARSHI MUKHERJEE	President
SUBHADEEP SAHA	Vice President
DIPTESH GOSWAMI	Vice President
DR. ARKAJYOTI MUKHERJEE	Secretary
SAIKAT ADHURYA	Joint Secretary
SANKHA MISRA	Joint Secretary
DR. SAGAR ADHURYA	Treasurer
MANISH KUMAR CHATTOPADHYAY	Assistant Treasurer
SNIGDHA MUKHERJEE	Assistant Treasurer

Know more about governing body members at:
https://wildwingsindia.in/governing_body.php

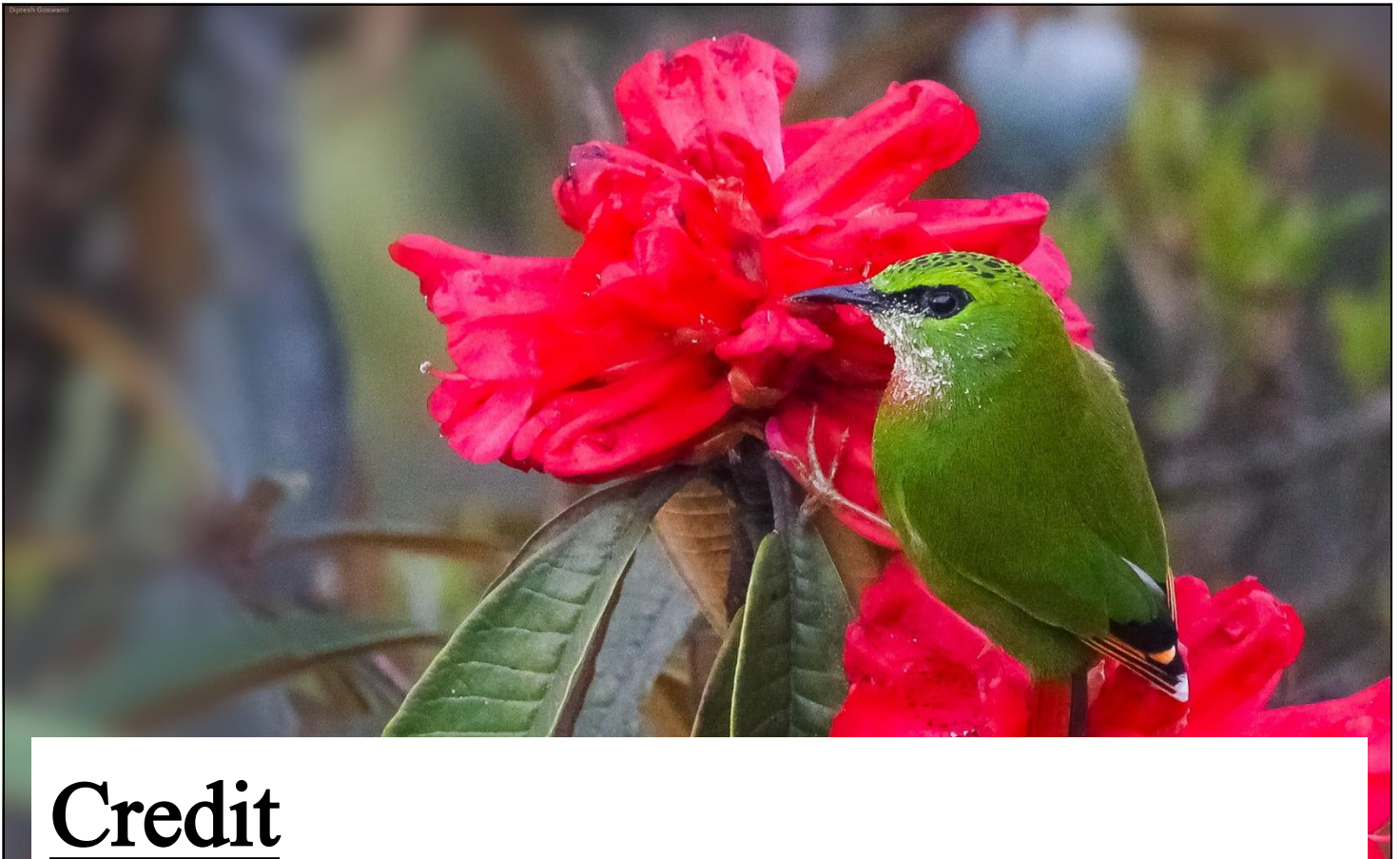


WINGS MEMBERSHIP

Membership Benefits

- Opportunity to protect the future of nature.
- Opportunity to participate in Conservation Work with field training.
- Quarterly Nature walks with experts from different fields of wildlife.
- Free entries in events conducted by WINGS.
- Opportunity to attend Webinars by experts
- Opportunity to participate in our online portal Biodiversity of West Bengal events.
- Opportunity to perform project and research works.
- Enhances creativity.

CATEGORY	FOR 12 MONTHS
EARNING MEMBER	Rs. 1200 Rs. 1100
COLLEGE/UNIVERSITY STUDENT (UPTO POST-GRADUATE)	Rs. 360 Rs. 330
SCHOOL STUDENT	Rs. 20



Credit

Edited by: Diptesh Goswami

Write-ups and Image Credits: Dr. Arkajyoti Mukherjee, Dr. Sagar Adhurya, Saikat Adhurya, Subhajit Roy, Manish Kumar Chattopadhyay, Diptesh Goswami, Subhadeep Saha

Front Cover: Manish Kumar Chattopadhyay

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Office Address: House no. M/6, Bidhan Park, sec-1, Durgapur-713206, Paschim Bardhaman, West Bengal

