

PRESS RELEASE

Birdwatching and Conservation Adda at Khambrennga Beel

Guwahati, February 2: A remarkable 46 species were recorded in a single day in Khambrennga Beel located near Chandrapur, Kamrup Metropolitan District of Assam during a programme on 'Birdwatching and Conservation Adda' organised by Aaranyak with support from several other organisations celebrating the World Wetlands Day.

The experience of birding and nature exploration in the wetland by a group of bird experts accompanied by a group local school students led to important observations that have reinforced the ecological value of Khambrennga Beel as an excellent habitat for varied avian species.

Aaranyak organised the event on February 1, as part of the WeForNature programme in cooperation with the Assam Forest Department's Kamrup East Division, Chandrapur High School, Thakurkuchi ME School, and Khambrennga Eco Camp. The purpose of the event was to draw attention to the region's abundant bird diversity and the urgent need to conserve wetlands.

Some of the species of birds recorded during the event include Cotton Pygmy-Goose, Northern Shoveller, Gadwall, Ferruginous Duck, Lesser Whistling-Duck etc.

Students from Thakurkuchi ME School, Chandrapur High School, Gauhati University as well as members of the local community and conservation enthusiasts, participated in the morning's immersive birdwatching session, which was led by Udayan Borthakur, a senior scientist at Aaranyak, and other birdwatchers including Atanu Kumar Chowdhury, Arif Hussain, Partha Pratim Das, Chinmoy Swargiary, Mousumi Parbin and Samiran Goswami.

Experts, officials, and community leaders gathered at Khambrennga Eco Camp for an awareness gathering after the birdwatching session. Aaranyak's senior scientist Dr. Partha Jyoti Das gave a keynote speech on the value of wetlands, stressing their critical role in maintaining community livelihoods, regulating the climate, and conserving biodiversity. The purpose of his address was to raise awareness about the pressing need to save wetlands such as Khambrennga Beel.

Atanu Kumar Choudhury and Udayan Borthakur also discussed the ecological significance of Khambrengea Beel's avian diversity. Along with village leaders and senior community members, the discussion included Mukul Chandra Goswami, a teacher at Chandrapur High School; A.K. Dev Choudhury, the Divisional Forest Officer of Kamrup East Division and Dr. Pranjal Gogoi, a range officer. They talked about ecological issues, looked into ways to boost ecotourism in the area, and offered insightful historical perspectives on Khambrengea Beel.

The WeForNature programme of Aaranyak was supported by Zeiss India, which played a crucial role in facilitating the birdwatching activities. By engaging students, experts and local communities, the event successfully fostered awareness and a sense of collective responsibility towards the conservation of the Khambrengea Beel.

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