

# **GUJARAT ARTS AND SCIENCE COLLEGE, AHMEDABAD**

## **Educational Tour Report**

### **SUBJECT :- ZOOLOGY**

**PLACE :- A Detailed Ornithological and Botanical Exploration of Thol Bird Sanctuary (08-01-2023 to 09-01-2023)**

#### **Introduction**

Universities play a vital role in bridging the gap between theoretical knowledge and practical experience in scientific disciplines. This report details a two-day educational tour undertaken by a group of 52, of which 49 students of semester-3 accompanied by three professors from Zoology and Botany) of Gujarat Arts and Science College, Ahmedabad to the Thol Bird Sanctuary, Gujarat, India, from January 8th to 9th, 2023. The primary objective of this trip was to immerse students in the rich avian biodiversity and unique wetland ecology of the sanctuary, fostering a deeper understanding of ornithology and botany through first-hand observation and interaction.

#### **Location and Significance**

Thol Bird Sanctuary, situated in the Gandhinagar district of Gujarat, encompasses a sprawling 6.5 square kilometres of freshwater wetland ecosystem. This Ramsar Site of International Importance (recognized for its significance in supporting wetland birds) boasts a remarkable variety of resident and migratory bird species. The sanctuary serves as a critical breeding and wintering ground for numerous avian populations, making it a prime location for ornithological studies. Additionally, the diverse plant life thriving within the wetland contributes significantly to the overall ecological balance of the region.

#### **Activities:**

##### **Day 1 (January 8th, 2023):**

##### **□ Departure and Introduction (8:00 AM - 10:00 AM):**

The group departed from Ahmedabad at 8:00 AM, reaching the Thol Bird Sanctuary by 10:00 AM. Upon arrival, an introductory session was conducted by a park official. This session provided crucial background information on the history, geography, and ecological significance of the sanctuary. Students gained valuable insights into the wetland's role in flood control, water purification, and as a vital habitat for diverse flora and fauna.

##### **□ Guided Birdwatching Tour (10:00 AM - 12:00 PM):**

Following the introduction, students embarked on a guided birdwatching tour led by experienced birdwatchers. Equipped with binoculars and field guides, students actively participated in identifying various bird species.

The tour leaders employed a blend of visual identification techniques, calls and songs recognition, and behavioral observations to introduce students to the rich avian diversity of the sanctuary.

□ **Documentation and Interactive Sessions (12:00 PM - 4:00 PM):**

After a lunch break, students actively documented their bird sightings through detailed notes, sketches, and photographs. This documentation process fostered meticulous observation skills and a deeper appreciation for the unique physical characteristics and behaviors of the observed birds. The afternoon involved interactive sessions led by the professors, focusing on various aspects of avian biology. These sessions delved into topics like avian adaptations for flight, feeding strategies, breeding behaviors, and the delicate balance between birdlife and the wetland ecosystem.

□ **Camp Setup (4:00 PM - 5:00 PM):**

As dusk approached, students, under the guidance of the professors, set up camp within the designated campsite. This experience fostered a sense of camaraderie and teamwork among the participants.

**Day 2 (January 9th, 2023):**

□ **Early Morning Birdwatching (6:00 AM - 8:00 AM):**

To witness the vibrant dawn chorus and observe birds during their peak activity period, an early morning birdwatching session was conducted. This session provided students with the opportunity to document bird activity unseen during the previous day's observations.

□ **Botanical Exploration (8:00 AM - 10:00 AM):**

Following breakfast, students embarked on a short trek along the designated trails bordering the wetland. Led by the Botany professor, this exploration focused on the diverse plant communities thriving within the sanctuary. Students documented various plant species, including wetland grasses, reeds, emergent aquatic plants, and flowering shrubs. The professor provided insights into the adaptations of these plants to the wetland environment and their ecological interactions with the resident birdlife.

□ **Concluding Session and Feedback (10:00 AM - 11:00 AM):**

The final session of the tour involved a group discussion and feedback exchange. Students actively participated, sharing their observations, learnings, and newfound appreciation for the Thol Bird Sanctuary's ecological significance. The professors addressed any remaining questions and encouraged students to reflect on their experiences through written reports or presentations.

□ **Departure (11:00 AM - 2:00 PM):**

Following the concluding session, the group departed from the sanctuary by noon, reaching Ahmedabad by 2:00 PM.

## **Observed Avian Diversity**

The birdwatching sessions at Thol Bird Sanctuary yielded a diverse range of bird sightings, providing students with a firsthand glimpse into the rich avian biodiversity of the region. Some notable observations

## **Learning Outcomes of the Educational Tour to Thol Bird Sanctuary**

The two-day educational tour to Thol Bird Sanctuary proved to be a valuable learning experience for the participating semester 3 students. Here's a breakdown of the key learning outcomes achieved:

### **Ornithological Knowledge:**

- **Enhanced Bird Identification Skills:** Students gained practical experience in identifying bird species through visual observation, calls and songs recognition, and behavior analysis. This solidified their understanding of key field identification techniques.
- **Expanded Knowledge of Avian Adaptations:** Interactive sessions explored avian adaptations for flight, feeding strategies, and breeding behaviors. Students gained deeper insights into how birds have evolved to thrive in their wetland habitat.
- **Appreciation for Bird-Habitat Relationship:** Through observation and discussions, students developed an understanding of the delicate balance between birdlife and the Thol Bird Sanctuary ecosystem. They learned how specific plants provide food and shelter for various bird species.
- **Exposure to Diverse Avian Groups:** The tour exposed students to a wide range of bird families like flamingos, cranes, peafowls, ibises, and doves. This broadened their ornithological knowledge beyond textbook descriptions.

### **Field Skills and Scientific Inquiry:**

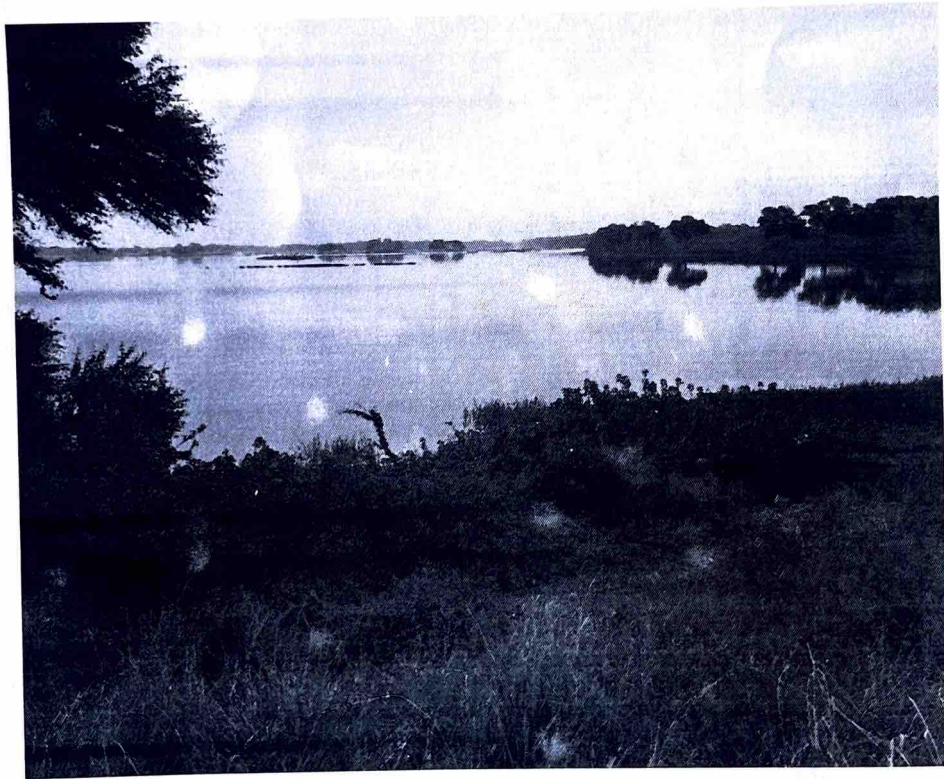
- **Developed Observation Skills:** Active participation in birdwatching and botanical exploration honed students' ability to observe details, document sightings meticulously, and record data using field guides and note-taking.
- **Enhanced Field Documentation Techniques:** Students practiced sketching bird sightings and photographing them using appropriate techniques. This fostered a deeper engagement with their observations.
- **Scientific Curiosity and Inquiry:** The interactive sessions and firsthand experience sparked scientific curiosity among students. They actively asked questions about bird behavior, adaptations, and conservation efforts.
- **Teamwork and Collaboration:** Setting up camp and participating in group discussions promoted teamwork and collaboration skills, fostering a sense of shared learning and discovery.

### **Environmental Awareness and Conservation Values:**

- **Importance of Wetland Ecosystems:** The tour highlighted the critical role wetlands like Thol Bird Sanctuary play in supporting biodiversity, flood control, and water purification. Students gained an appreciation for the ecological value of these unique habitats.

- **Understanding of Conservation Challenges:** Discussions about threats to bird populations and the importance of conservation efforts fostered a sense of environmental responsibility in students. They learned about the importance of protecting habitats and promoting sustainable practices.
- **Increased Value for Biodiversity:** Students gained a firsthand appreciation for the beauty and complexity of avian biodiversity. This experience may inspire them to become future stewards of the environment.
- **Promoting Responsible Tourism:** The tour provided a model for responsible eco-tourism. Students learned to observe wildlife respectfully, minimizing disruption to the sanctuary's delicate ecosystem.

**Overall, the educational tour to Thol Bird Sanctuary proved to be a successful blend of theoretical knowledge application and practical experience. The learnings gained by the students will contribute significantly to their understanding of ornithology, the importance of wetland ecosystems, and the need for environmental conservation**






List of Students (Zoology-Botany sem 3) for Study Tour Date:08/01/2023 TO  
09/01/2023

Sr. No	Gender	Name of Student
1	F	CHAUDHARI NIKITABEN BHALABHAI
2	M	CHAUDHARY HEMANGKUMAR MOHANBHAI
3	M	CHAVDA NIRAJ RAMSHIBHAI
4	F	CHHARA JANVI RAMESHBHAI
5	M	DABHI ROHITBHAI GORADHANBHAI
6	M	DESAI KULDEEP LALUBHAI
7	F	JADAUN KRISHNA INDRAKUMAR SINGH
8	M	JADAV DIPAKBHAI MANSANGBHAI
9	F	JOSHI AAGNABEN JAYESHKUMAR
10	M	KATARA AJAYKUMAR MAHESHBHAI
11	M	MALIK ABDURREHMAN MAKSUDKHANJI
12	M	MER PRANAV MANSUKHBHAI
13	F	MISTRY DEVESHREE JAYESHKUMAR
14	M	PANCHAL VAIDIKKUMAR MANHARBHAI
15	M	PARIKH JATINKUMAR JITENDRAKUMAR
16	M	PARMAR VIRENDRAKUMAR DINUBHAI
17	M	PRAJAPATI ASISH BIRBAL

18	F	RAJPUT HETALKUMARI BHIMSINGH
19	F	RAVAT SHITALBEN KAILASHBHAI
20	F	SAHANI SHREYA CHANDRABHUSHAN
21	M	SENMA HARSH PRAKASHKUMAR
22	M	SHRIMALI DEV PANKAJBHAI
23	M	SOLANKI SUMIT RAMESHBHAI
24	F	THAKOR DEVALDE JITUBHAI
25	M	BHEDI JANAKBHAI SARDARSINH
26	M	BHURIYA JIGARKUMAR KARANBHAI
27	F	BUMBADIYA SONALBEN KARANABHAI
28	M	CHARPOT RAHULKUMAR RASIKLAL
29	M	CHAUDHARY HARSH MALABHAI
30	M	CHAUDHARY PIYUSH JETABHAI
31	M	DANI MAHAMADSHAHANAVAJ G.
32	M	DARJI ANKIT MANUBHAI
33	M	DAVE YASH SANJAYKUMAR
34	F	DUBE RIYA VEDPRAKASH
35	M	GAMETI GAURAVKUMAR RAMJIBHAI
36	M	GIRI ANAND SUBHASH
37	M	GUPTA SHIV SANTOSHKUMAR
38	M	HATHILA SUKHLALKUMAR DILIPBHAI
39	M	KHARADI AMANKUMAR FORNIYARBHAI
40	F	KHER RIDDHIBEN PRAKASHBHAI
41	F	MENAPARA DEVANGIBEN GOVINDBHAI
42	F	MUNIYA MANASVI BAPUSINH
43	M	NAKUM SAGAR DEGADBHAI
44	F	PANDYA DEVANSHI VISHNUPRASAD
45	F	PARMAR HETVI KANUBHAI
46	F	SHARMA AKRITI RAJESHKUMAR
47	F	SHARMA PARUL HEMANTBHAI
48	M	SOLANKI JAIMIN BHUPENDRAKUMAR
49	M	TADVI HARDIKBHAI RAJESHBHAI
		Staff List
1	M	Mr.R.M.Gohel
2	F	Dr.Sneha Panchal
3	M	Mr.Milind Nandotriya

  
**Head**  
**Department of Biology**  
**Gujarat Arts & Science College**  
**Ahmedabad**