

Narora
Bird
Marathon
2012



NARORA BIRD Marathon 2012

Flash
Report



A Collaborative Effort of





Flash Report on

Narora Bird Marathon 2012

An event on Winter Bird Counting at Narora IBA:IN-UP-10

N.K.Pushpakar

Maintenance Superintendent,
Secretary, Environment Stewardship Programme
Narora Atomic Power Station, NPCIL

P.D.Mishra

FM/B Operations,
Member, Environment Stewardship Programme
Narora Atomic Power Station, NPCIL
Executive Member, Wild Bird Protection Society,
Member, Indian Bird Conservation Network

Raja Mandal

FM/A Operations,
Member, Environment Stewardship Programme
Narora Atomic Power Station, NPCIL
Executive Member, Wild Bird Protection Society,
Member, Indian Bird Conservation Network

A Collaborative effort of:

**Narora Atomic Power Station
Punjab National Bank- Narora Branch,
World Wide Fund For Nature- INDIA
Indian Bird Conservation Network,
Wild Bird Protection Society,
Raghuneel Blooming Buds School- Narora
Premi Caterers - Aligarh**

Photographs contributed by:

Satpal Singh-Wild life photographer- Lakhimpur-Khiri. U.P.

Sarthak Gaur -freelance photojournalist- NAPS T/Ship Narora

Rajeev Kumar -Member, Environment Stewardship Programme- NAPS

Introduction:

Narora is a small place on the banks of river Ganges in the district of Bulandshahr, Uttar-Pradesh. There is a Barrage on the river Ganges which has created good water catchments, resulting in large congregation of water birds during winters. Narora is an important bird area (IN UP-10). Also, the water stretch from Brijghat to Narora Barrage has been declared RAMSAR site (wet land of international importance) in the year 2005 (Site Number 1574). The Site lies in Indo-Gangetic alluvium bordered on the North by the Siwalik foothills. (Refer Map-1).

Due to human pressure the habitat has suffered losses resulting in lesser numbers of birds visiting this area; but to make this statement or ask this question, we must know, for sure, how much is the decline? And what was the earlier status?

In order to accomplish this, we needed a base line data from which to compare. In the year 2005, this area was surveyed and a bird species checklist was prepared, based on two-days trip report of Dr. Asad R Rahmani (Director, Bombay Natural History Society)

which included 117 species of birds. When the authors started observing the birds, it was felt, that, in fact, many species, which are present, do not figure in the preliminary Checklist. So, in the year 2011 first Narora Bird Marathon was conducted to count the birds. Solely, Narora Atomic Power Station under Environment Stewardship Program organized this event.

Marathon basically is a Length indicator of around 42.2 Km. As the bird counting exercise was taken around the river Ganges and its associated wetlands at Narora covering a total distance of 42.2 km, the name Marathon was given to the event. This exercise was a huge success and the Species Checklist grew to 183 from original 117. In a single day 11940 individual birds were counted.

On 11th February 2012, second Narora Bird Marathon was conducted in collaboration with Punjab National Bank, Raghuneel Blooming Buds School- Narora and Premi Caterers, Aligarh under community partnership. The program was jointly organized by renowned NGOs like Wild Bird Protection Society, WWF-India under Nuclear Power Corporation of India Limited's Environment Stewardship Programme.



For any conservation action to be planned and executed one must know for whom and for how many?
That is, we need the numbers.

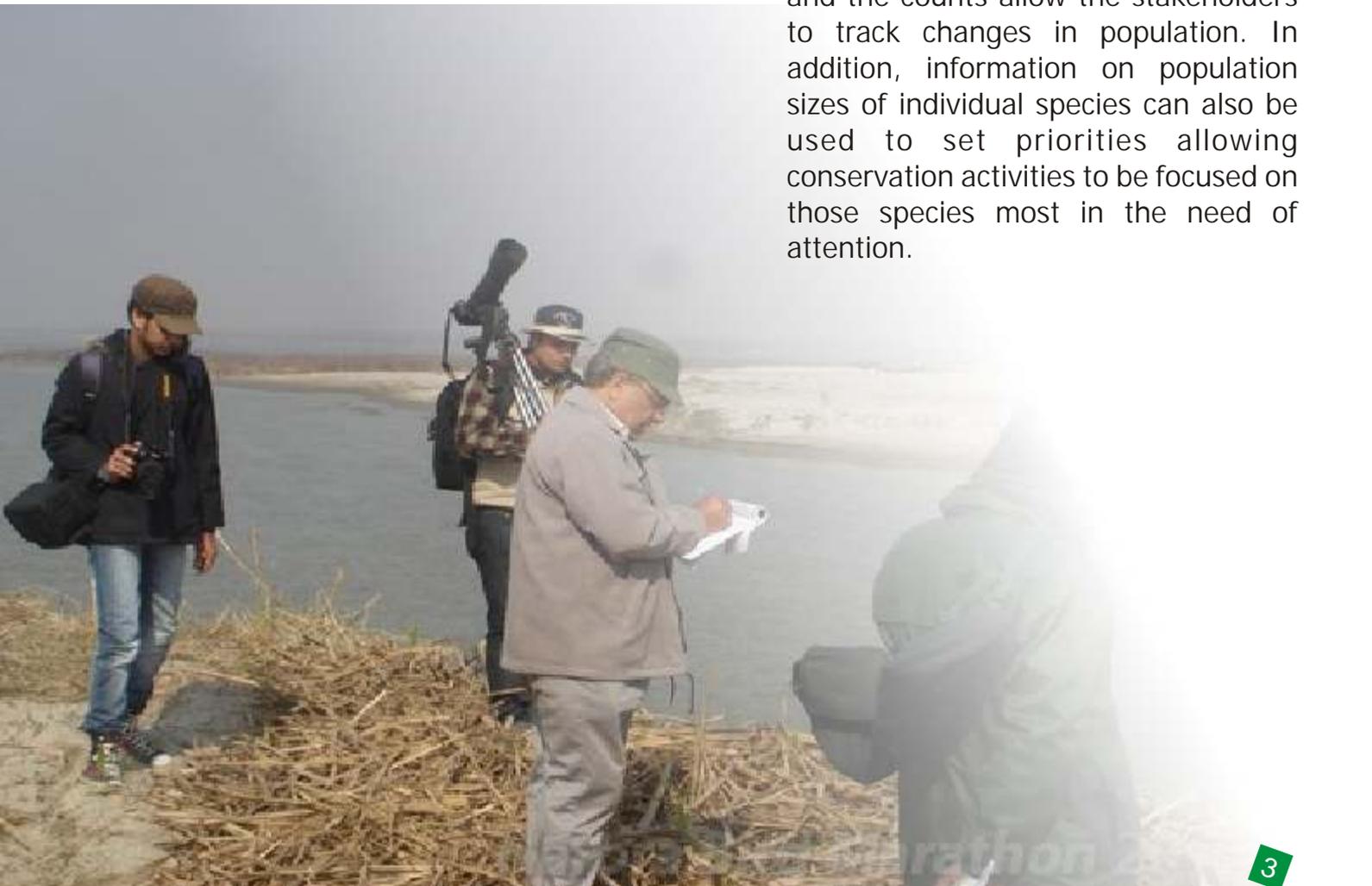
Bird Census methodologies:

Different methodologies exist for bird census. Whereas, the term census means 100 % counting of birds and being nearly not possible, distance methodology is normally adopted to get bird densities and abundance as a small-scale method. Point count and Line transect being the popular methods. The data so obtained is fed into the software "Distance" and based upon various criteria like AIC (Akaike Information Criteria) suitable selection of model is done and bird densities and/or total abundance is calculated. This method is purely scientific and needs trained personnel for data analysis.

Another very popular method, which can be done anywhere, on the lines of "Christmas Bird Count" is General Bird Count. Audubon



Society, USA started Christmas bird count in the year 1900 and the birds are counted for around three weeks near the Christmas. The survey in this method is undertaken in 15 mile diameter count circle. Different sections of the circle are given to different groups, which in turn submit their data to a data compiler. This activity is repeated at regular intervals and the counts allow the stakeholders to track changes in population. In addition, information on population sizes of individual species can also be used to set priorities allowing conservation activities to be focused on those species most in the need of attention.



Methodology adopted in Narora Bird Marathon:

The methodology adopted at Narora was quite simple. It was adopted with a little variation of the "Christmas Bird Count". Here, instead of a circle of 15-mile diameter the organizers planned for a survey near the river Ganges and its adjoining water bodies at Narora. Other birds, which were sighted in these areas, too were recorded. The total area around the Nuclear Power Station and river Ganges was divided into eight sections (Called Transects, each of around 5.3 Km Length) as given in Table-1. In order to cover the area eight teams were formed. Each team comprised of four to five people headed by an experienced bird watcher/field biologist (having adequate knowledge in identifying the birds). Each team had a person with camera, a person with Datasheet and another person with a Binocular and bird guidebook. The birdwatcher was expected to identify the birds and count them and subsequently ask the person with data sheet under peer review to record the data. The team, which was deputed in Narora Atomic Power Station (NAPS) Exclusion zone, which is forested area having 1.6 Km radius around NAPS was the home team.

The teams were flagged off by the

Station Director of Narora Atomic Power Station Shri B.B. Mithal in presence of Sh. Neeraj Srivastav (State Co-ordinator Indian Bird Conservation Network) and Dr. Sandeep Behera (Associate Director, WWF-India). Other dignitaries present were Sh. D.S.Choudhary (Chief Superintendent-NAPS), Sh. Brij Mohan (Operation Superintendent-NAPS) Sh. N.K.Pushpkar (Maintenance Superintendent, Secretary, NAPS- ESP). The teams were dropped at their starting locations by jeep in the morning hours of 11/02/2012. At around 15:00 hrs the teams were picked from their end locations.

The data was finally presented to IBCN state coordinators Shri Neeraj Srivastava and Dr. Sandeep Behera Associate Director (WWF-India). Who were present at Narora on the day of the event as observers.

The event was blessed by the presence of Shri P.S. Chauhan (Circle Head-Punjab National Bank, Bulandshahr) and Ms Rita Kaul, AGM, Bulandshahr. Mr. P.S. Chauhan presented souvenirs to the participants of the event after completion of the event.



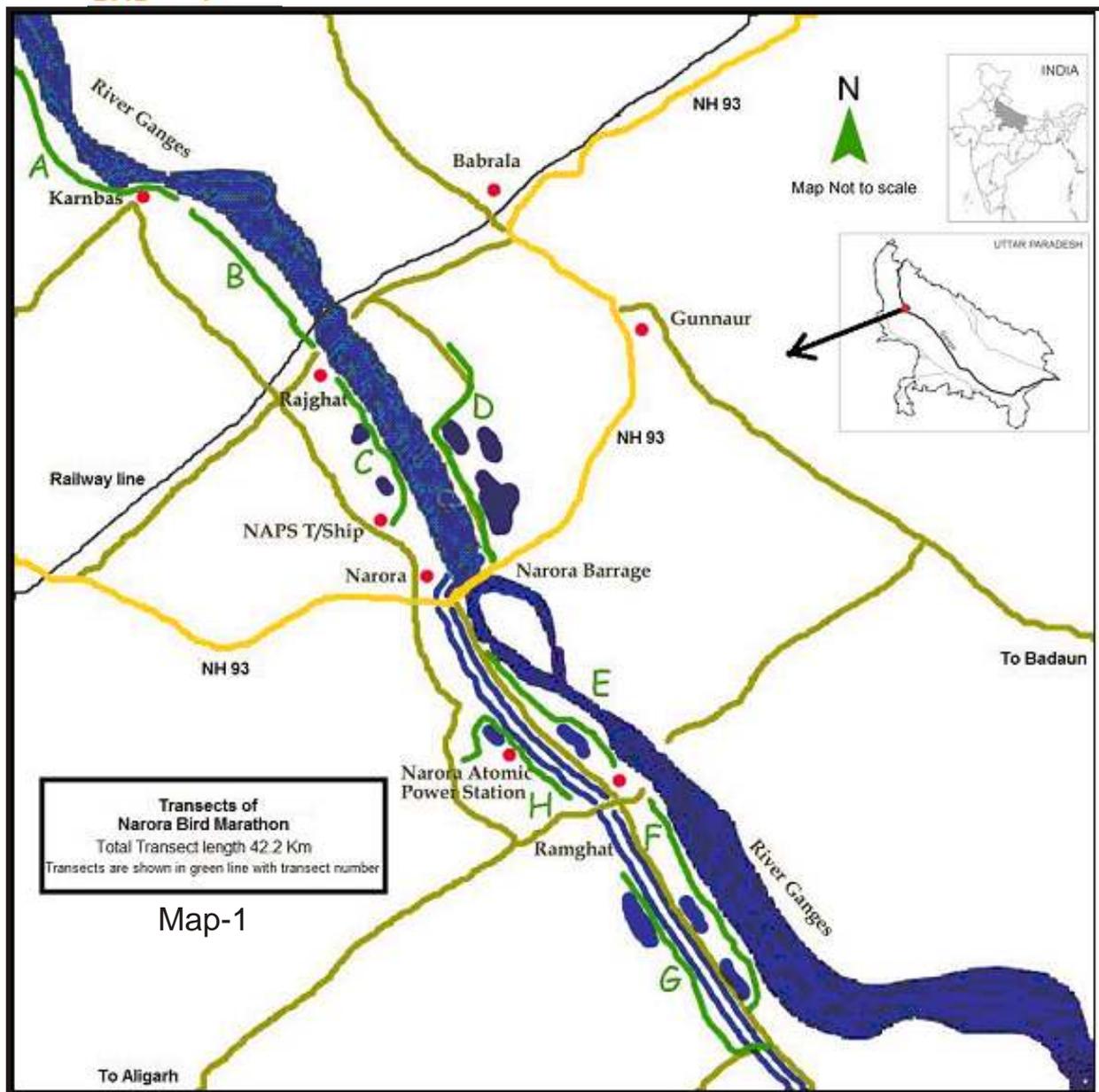


Table-1

Name of transect	Transect		Habitat type
	From	To	
A	BHERIA	KARNABAS	Grassland, scrubland, river island, River, wetland
B	KARNABAS	RAJGHAT	Farmland, River island, river
C	RAJGHAT	NARWAR	River, farmland, isolated wetland
D	GUMATI TALAB	GANGABAS	River, farmland, isolated wetland
E	BARRAGE	RAMGHAT	River low flow zone, River islands, farmland
F	GOKULPUR	RAMGHAT	River, scrubland, farmland
G	DINAPUR BRIDGE	UNCHAGAON	Grassland, scrubland, canal, farmland
H	NAPS (EZ)	Exclusion Zone	forest, isolated wet land



Discussion and results:

The Total specie count was 177 in a single day of observation. Total individual count was 15947 as against 11940 of last year. The new specie added were 15 in number. The result is tabulated in table 2. Detailed analysis is under progress.

Table-2

Transect	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
Species count	55	56	110	96	82	62	77	93
Birds Count	1487	1403	3266	4080	1338	1466	949	1958



This method is quite effective in getting bird count in a larger area in a short span of time, with lesser possibility of repeat counts. Other biases which are present normally in these type of bird surveys are eliminated with repetition in a longer run and give a suitable data for population monitoring. By repeated counts the specie richness curve can be plotted and diversity indices can be calculated.

It should be an endeavor by the people living in the vicinity of the IBAs (Important Bird Areas) to undertake this activity to assess the bird abundance/specie richness. The data so collected may be submitted to IBCN/BNHS. The activity may be undertaken preferably in presence of State Coordinators of IBCN who will

validate the data. Every birder should strive to get the bird abundance at every IBA at least once in a year. This will help in maintaining a nationwide database of all the IBAs and will certainly help in policy formulation and creation of base line data. Adoption of this method may be continued at every IBA for at least five consecutive years. This will facilitate the formation of specie richness curve and determination of specie abundance at a particular site. Different habitats may utilize a separate transect resulting in stratification of the area. This will increase the confidence on the data.



Acknowledgement:

The authors highly appreciate the Management of Narora Atomic Power Station for their all round support. Nuclear Power Corporation of India Limited under which all the nuclear power plants operate is a BNHS partner and is quite proactive in Nature Conservation activities. The authors are thankful to Shri Neeraj Srivastava (IBCN, State coordinators for the state of Uttar Pradesh) and Dr Sandeep Behera for their presence in the program as observers. The authors also acknowledge with great sense of appreciation the love and affection shown by Wild Bird Protection Society, Lucknow by agreeing to organize this event in community partnership.

The authors are very much thankful to Shri P.S. Chauhan Circle Head, Punjab National Bank, and Ms Rita Kaul, AGM, Punjab National Bank who motivated the participants by their presence in the event. In fact without the help of this esteemed bank this event could not have been successful. We are thankful to Shri Mukesh Kumar , Branch Manager Punjab National Bank , Narora who believed in us and got our project approved. We appreciate the help rendered by Raghuneel Blooming Buds School Narora and Premi Caterers-Aligarh. We wish to place on record and thank all the participants of Narora Bird Marathon who collected the data facing all odds; without their dedication and commitment, this event could not have been successful.

References:

- R.D.Bhatt, Raja Mandal and P.D. Mishra Narora Bird Marathon-2011- Report, NPCIL
- Ali, Salim.2002.The book of Indian birds, BNHS-Oxford University press.
- Islam, M.Z. & A.R.Rahmani.2004. IBAs in India: Priority Sites for Conservation- IBCN-BNHS-Birdlife International.
- NK Pushpakar, Nipu Phukan, Raja Mandal & PD Mishra -Narora Peafowl Census 2011- Report, NPCIL



In the News



बर्ड्स की संख्या बढ़ाने को हैबीटेट दुरुस्त रखना आवश्यक

शैली | हमारे वातावरण

विश्व प्रकृति विराट-भारत के पर्यावरण उपरकारा राष्ट्रीय दिवस ने बर्ड्स दिवस 2012 परंपरा में काफ़ी महत्व दिया है जो बर्ड्स की संख्या में वृद्धि के लिए है। इनके हैबीटेट में इन्होंने संरक्षण कार्य में बर्ड्स को संरक्षित करने की है। वर्षा ऋतु में 1988 के दौरान बर्ड्स को संरक्षित किया गया। लेकिन कुछ इन्होंने अब देश में बर्ड्स की संख्या में वृद्धि के लिए हैबीटेट में वृद्धि के लिए हैबीटेट को दुरुस्त रखना आवश्यक है।

वर्तमान में बर्ड्स की संख्या में वृद्धि के लिए हैबीटेट को दुरुस्त रखना आवश्यक है। वर्षा ऋतु में 1988 के दौरान बर्ड्स को संरक्षित किया गया। लेकिन कुछ इन्होंने अब देश में बर्ड्स की संख्या में वृद्धि के लिए हैबीटेट में वृद्धि के लिए हैबीटेट को दुरुस्त रखना आवश्यक है।

घटती संख्या

- वर्ष 2011 में 5500 के बर्ड्स की संख्या में वृद्धि के लिए हैबीटेट को दुरुस्त रखना आवश्यक है।
- बर्ड्स की संख्या में वृद्धि के लिए हैबीटेट को दुरुस्त रखना आवश्यक है।

वर्तमान में बर्ड्स की संख्या में वृद्धि के लिए हैबीटेट को दुरुस्त रखना आवश्यक है। वर्षा ऋतु में 1988 के दौरान बर्ड्स को संरक्षित किया गया। लेकिन कुछ इन्होंने अब देश में बर्ड्स की संख्या में वृद्धि के लिए हैबीटेट में वृद्धि के लिए हैबीटेट को दुरुस्त रखना आवश्यक है।



नीरज ने बर्ड्स की संख्या में वृद्धि के लिए हैबीटेट को दुरुस्त रखना आवश्यक है।

इंडियन बर्ड कंजर्वेशन नेटवर्क के प्रदेश समन्वयक नीरज बोले बर्ड्स हैबीटेट संरक्षण जरूरी

अमर उजाला ब्यूरो

नरौरा। नरौरा परमाणु ऊर्जा संयंत्र के तत्वावधान में इंडियन बर्ड कंजर्वेशन नेटवर्क और चाइल्ड बर्ड प्रोटेक्शन सोसायटी द्वारा आयोजित बर्ड्स मैराथन संयोजन होने पर गणना को गैर टोर्में के लीटर पर शनिवार की देर शाम अणु विहार कॉलोनी में आयोजित कार्यक्रम में इंडियन बर्ड्स कंजर्वेशन नेटवर्क के प्रदेश कोऑर्डिनेटर नीरज श्रीवास्तव ने कहा कि प्रदेश में बर्ड्स की 550-600 प्रजातियां मिलती हैं। जो कि अन्य प्रदेशों की तुलना में कम हैं। बर्ड्स हैबीटेट में मानवीय गतिविधियों का बढ़ना इनकी घटती संख्या के लिए जिम्मेदार है। बर्ड्स मैराथन जैसे कार्यक्रमों में पक्षियों की गणना के साथ इनके प्रति लोगों में जागरूकता बढ़ेगी। विश्व प्रकृति दिवस के डॉ. संदीप बेहरा ने कहा कि पूर्व में नरौरा के आसपास के हैबीटेट में पक्षियों की संख्या काफी अधिक थी। इसमें हैबीटेट के आसपास कृषि में अत्यधिक रसायनिक खादों के प्रयोग और गंगा नदी में औद्योगिक कचरे को प्रदूषित पानी आने तथा मानवीय गतिविधियों के बढ़ने से कुछ प्रजातियों की बर्ड्स वहां नहीं



नरौरा में बर्ड्स मैराथन के बाद हुए सम्मेलन में बोलते नीरज।

आ रही हैं। उन्होंने कहा कि बर्ड्स मैराथन 2011 में गंगा बेसिन में 183 प्रजातियों की बर्ड्स की उपस्थिति मिलना अच्छा है। मैराथन में सहयोगी पीएनबी के मंडल प्रमुख पीएस चौहान ने कहा कि पक्षी इकोलोजिकल संतुलन बनाने में महत्वपूर्ण स्थान रखते हैं। पीएनबी की एजीएम रीता कौल ने कहा कि बैंक बिजनेस के साथ ही सोसायटी से जुड़कर अपनी कमर्श का कुछ हिस्सा समाज के उत्थान कार्य में भी लगा रहा है। एनएपीएस के प्रबंधक पुरान सिंह तोमर ने अतिथियों का स्वागत करने के साथ ही बर्ड्स मैराथन 2011 की रिपोर्ट ओपन की। मैराथन में हरिद्वार से दोनापुर तक गंगा बेसिन में बर्ड्स की संख्या एवं उनकी प्रजाति की विशेषताओं ने गणना की। पीएनबी के मंडल प्रमुख ने मैराथन में भाग लेने वाली टीमों के लीडर पक्षी विशेषज्ञ नीरज श्रीवास्तव, सतपाल सिंह, स्वचिन गौड़, राजा मंडल, कानल दास गुप्ता, हरी सिंह, गौरव परिहार और आसिफ इकबाल और उनके टीम मेंबर्स को मोमेंटो भेंट किए। इसमें विश्व प्रकृति दिवस भारत, रघुनील ज्युनिंग बर्ड्स एवं प्रेमी कैंटर्स का सहयोग रहा। इसमें प्रमुख रूप से सत्यप्रकाश कोहली, कुलदीप सिंह राणा, मुकेश बच्चू, उमेश सिंह, शिवेंद्र प्रेमी, राजेश कुमार, दिनेश शर्मा आदि रहे। संचालन एंके गौड़ ने किया।