

## MAPS EZ home to over 100 species of birds

More than 100 species of birds, both resident and migratory birds, have been sighted in the Exclusion Zone of Madras Atomic Power Station (MAPS) during a rapid survey of birds conducted recently here. The study has been organised by MAPS as a part of NPCIL's Environment Stewardship Programme (ESP) to monitor the wetlands and birds in and around Kalpakkam.

A team of naturalists, comprising experts from Bombay Natural History Society and Madras Naturalists Society, and members of NPCIL's ESP, which done the survey had spotted a variety of water birds and forest birds inside the EZ. The two freshwater lakes of the EZ host mainly migratory ducks like Eurasian Wigeon and Northern Pintails which are winter migrants from Central Siberia. More than 3000 individuals of such ducks were seen here by the team. The saline water canal that runs inside the EZ has several shorebirds like sandpipers, redshanks and plovers. Sighting of Black-tailed Godwit, a migrant from Central Asia, was notable. What is remarkable was the sighting of a big flock of Grey-headed Lapwing which had migrated from Russia and China, which was spotted for the first time in the EZ.

Besides waterbirds, several forestbirds were seen, too. Shrikes, woodpeckers, cuckoos and barbets are abundant here. The EZ of MAPS is also a nesting site for birds, like Grey Heron, Night Heron, Cattle Egret and Little Egret, which were spotted with their nests.



*View of Edayur Lake, one of the freshwater lakes located inside the MAPS EZ, with migratory ducks*



*Shri. T J Kotteeswaran, Station Director of MAPS(extreme right) and Shri. Mohannayar, TS, MAPS(front) with the members of ESP during the bird survey*



*A group of Asianopenbill*



*A flock of Black-winged Stilt*

## Glimpses of the MAPS Exclusion Zone



*Garganey, a winter migrant, in the Kunnathur Lake inside EZ*



*Grey-headed Lapwing, a migrant from Russia*



*Brown-headed Gull*



*Spot-billed Pelicans*



*A flock of migratory ducks in the Edayur Lake*



*Snake bird and a flock of Cormorants*