

## **Kaiga Bird Marathon – 2012**

(Press Release)

Kaiga – Mallapur 5<sup>th</sup> March 2012

Kaiga Generating Station (KGS) organized a "Kaiga Bird Marathon – 2012, on 4<sup>th</sup> March, 2012, as a part of NPCIL's Environment Stewardship Program (ESP). Sixty Eight Bird watchers from Hubli, Kadra, Sirsi, Raichur and Kaiga, took part in the marathon. The teams were mix of older and new faces. Six teams were formed to identify and count the birds around Kaiga. Each team had an expert ornithologist as leader and a coordinator from Kaiga.

The participants were informed of about the rules and regulations, were advised for making all their efforts in identifying the birds in a scientific manner for authentic data collection. Shri T J Kotteeswaran, SD, KGS-3&4, took the pledge from the participants to keep the area clean during the event and not to damage any part of the nature. Shri H N Bhat, SD, KGS-1&2 flagged off the marathon at 6:10 AM.

The area, in and around Kaiga was divided into six transects. Each team had traveled through their allotted transect of about 6-7 km distance and recorded aquatic and land birds sighted by them. A total distance of about 42 km, typical length of a marathon, was covered during the event around Kaiga.

All the data collected by these teams has been compiled and analyzed by the organizers. 152 species of birds were identified during the event. During the Bird Marathon, for the first time in North Karnataka region, birders sited Gray Headed Lapwing (*Vanellus Cinereus*), which normally breeds in North East China and Japan. Last year 143 species had been identified during Kaiga Bird Marathon – 2011, held on 20th Feb 2011.

Besides this birders also spotted birds endemic to this region like Laughing Dove (*Stigmatopelia Senegalensis*), Indian Silver Bill (*Euodice Malabarica*), Jungle Owlet (*Glaucidium Radiatum*), White Rumped Shama (*Copsychus Malabaricus*), White Bellied Sea Eagle (*Haliaeetus Leucogaster*), Malabar Pied

Hornbill (*Anthracoseros Coronatus*). Etc. and other winter migrants like Forest Wagtail (*Dendronanthus indicus*), Osprey (*Pandion haliaetu*) and Brown Shrike (*Lanius cristatus*) etc. Birders from NKBN (North Karnataka Birders Network) and students from Forestry College, Sirsi also took part in the Kaiga Bird Marathon.

The results of the study will be helpful, in doing better conservation of birds, to understand the population of migratory and resident birds, and ultimately to create awareness among the local population to protect our mother nature. The president of North Kannada Birders Network, Shri G N Desai also participated in the marathon and appreciated the efforts put in by NPCIL, Kaiga. He thanked all the organizers and requested to continue the efforts in future also.

At the end of about six hours of Marathon counting and identification, data was analyzed and results were declared. Team-E was declared winner, as the team could identified as many as 92 species in their area. All the participants were given mementoes for their active participation and winners were awarded prizes, by Shri Bhat and Shri Kotteeswaran. On the occasion Station Directors congratulated the participants for this great achievement and wished them to continue the efforts of nature conservation all round the year. The organizers; Shri K K Bajaj, Convener of the NPCILs Environment Stewardship Program at Kaiga, Shri K V Rajeev, an active Bird Watcher, Shri K Sriram and others, thanked Shri J P Gupta, Site Director, Kaiga Site, and the Plant management, for providing active guidance and support for making this event a grand Success.

**(K.K. BAJAJ)**

TSS, KGS-3&4 & Convener ESP, Kaiga



Inaugurating the "Kaiga Bird Marathon - 2012"



Participants of "Kaiga Bird Marathon - 2012" during Inauguration



Pied Bush Chat



Crimson Throated Barbet

- Photographed by Shri K. Harish



Intermediate Egret



Pond Heron

- Photographed by Shri K. K. Bajaj



Gray Headed Lapwing



Green Sandpiper

- Photographed by Shri P. Malemath