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Digest



OF UZBEKISTAN SOCIETY FOR THE PROTECTION OF BIRDS



International Bird Day 2018:

the most artistic and colourful in UzSPB history!

**STARTING THIS YEAR,
INTERNATIONAL BIRD
DAY WILL BE A
PROFESSIONAL HOLIDAY
FOR UzSPB SUPPORTERS**

This year's Bird Day turned out to be the most artistic in its 11-year history in our country! Bird counts took place in five regions of Uzbekistan, along with stage presentations, exhibitions, workshops, games, quizzes and scientific seminars that brought together more than 900 people! The event was chiefly aimed at children and was attended by around 300 students from seven schools, together with some from the 'Barkamol Avlod' children centres.

In a packed Bird Day programme held in Tashkent Botanical Garden there were games such as 'Who knows the most birds?', 'The migration of Sociable Lapwings' and 'Little bird house'. Among the workshops was the traditional drawing of birds on paper and origami sessions. Particularly appealing to 90 young people who took part in the International Bird Day event

was a new workshop on quilling – the art form that involves the use of strips of paper that are rolled, shaped and glued together to create decorative designs. Under the guidance of a professional



teacher in applied art, N.A. Ignatova, young participants made handicrafts of Swallows and Kingfishers. For the first time in this event's history in Tashkent,

there was an exhibition of decorative and exotic birds.

As well as in Tashkent, Bird Day was also celebrated in Karakalpak State University. The event was organised by members of the 'Otus' student club and consisted of three parts. During the first, students and teachers from the Faculty of Natural Sciences gave presentations on spring bird species and spoke about globally threatened Lesser White-fronted Goose, which has been chosen as Bird of the Year 2018 in Uzbekistan.

The second part held outside the University building involved a drawing competition, 'puzzle mania' games and '100 birds of Uzbekistan', as well as a display of museum bird exhibits. Members of the 'Otus' student club and University lecturer, I. Arepbaev, built more than 30 bird houses. The day ended with a bird trip on Lake Achikulon to the outskirts of Nukus.

The International Bird Day was also celebrated by students and teachers of the Faculty of Natural Sciences at Bukhara State University. The event entitled 'Birds as an integral component of biodiversity' was



organised by members of 'Ivolga' club led by Assistant Professor, M.M. Turaev, in which 35 students and teachers took part, together with representatives from Bukhara regional department of the Committee on Ecology and Environmental Protection, Sh.S.Pardaev and A. Erdonov.

However, the day was not all about reports. In order to make their stories about migrating birds more interesting, students put on a costume show! Students from the Faculty led by the teacher, B. Doniyorov, took part in a practical birdwatching exercise on the University's experimental agro-site.

Traditional educational events in Samarkand dedicated to migratory birds led by senior lecturer, L.E. Belyalova, and members of 'Flamingo' student club were held in several Faculties at Samarkand State University. First-year History Faculty students designed crosswords and puzzles as well as prepared a colourful poster and gave a presentation on the 'Class of Birds'.

Fourth-year students from the Faculty of Philology learned about bird survey methods and ran an 'origami' workshop for making Cranes, Swallows, Ravens and Parrots. First-year students gave a presentation on birds and practised identifying species by their calls and appearance.

Third-year students of the Faculty of Biology and Chemistry at Samarkand State University divided



into teams and gave presentations, species were recorded. Those who made colourful posters with puzzles and sayings about birds, read poems, held competitions and even performed songs as a choir! A contest was also held at Samarkand State University's Faculty of Geography and Ecology for the best bird photograph in which students from other faculties also took part.

Two UzSPB members, N.V. Marmazinskaya, and B.K. Mardonov, celebrated the International Bird Day in a natural area by conducting bird surveys on the Karasu Reservoir and Chelek fish farm in Jizzakh region during which 45 bird

This was the story of the International Bird Day 2018 in Uzbekistan. It is particularly pleasing to note that the popularity of this event continues to grow each year with organisers and participants alike. Members and supporters of the UzSPB have become so interested and committed to our work that they are willing to act as trainers for our workshops, as well as providing all kinds of organisational support. We hope this continues to be the case in future.



THE NUMBER OF MIGRATORY BIRDS HAS DECLINED BY 50% WITH ONE IN EIGHT SPECIES NOW ON THE EDGE OF EXTINCTION!

Members of environmental organisations in more than 80 countries worldwide once again took part in the World Migratory Bird Day (WMBD) held on 12-13 May, organising events and campaigns to raise awareness of the difficulties faced by migratory birds.

This year's WMBD theme was 'Unifying our Voices for Bird Conservation!' In support for this call to action, UzSPB and its student clubs organised a series of events in five regions of Uzbekistan in which more than 270 people took part!

According to the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources of the Philippines, one of WMBD organisers, 20% of 11,000 global bird species are migratory with one in every eight species on the verge of extinction! This is why it is so important to tell those living within natural areas and State environmental organisation staff about problems that endangered migratory birds and their habitats face.

Due to its position at the intersection of bird migratory routes, Uzbekistan is of vital importance for 117 migratory bird species, many of which are rare. Consequently, the focus of this year's WMBD events in our country was the Lesser White-fronted Goose, which is an extremely rare species that migrates across our country. In order to raise awareness of the need to protect this species, Lesser White-fronted Goose has been chosen



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Unifying our voices for bird conservation!

as the Bird of the Year 2018 in Uzbekistan.

The WMBD events in our country began on 21 April with a meeting on IBA 'Dalverzin State Forestry and Hunting Management Area' in Tashkent region in which 27 people took part, including representatives of Dalverzin administration, students from Biology Faculty of the National University of Uzbekistan, staff from the Institute of Zoology at Uzbekistan Academy of Sciences, and Uzbek Hunting and Sports Angling Associations.

The Dalverzin Hunting Management area is an important territory for biodiversity conservation with over 15,000 birds on migration. At the meeting, members of 'Phasianus' student club explained results of independent observations of biome bird species that inhabit this site. As the

Lesser White-fronted Goose has already been seen on Dalverzin, club members were able to explain to hunters the differences between this globally threatened species and its close relative, the White-fronted Goose, which is a common hunting species.

WMBD was celebrated most extensively in Samarkand region. Events organised by supervisor of 'Flamingo' student club L.E. Belyalova, were held simultaneously in three faculties within Samarkand State University and in 'Zarafshan' National Nature Park. Students from Faculties of Biology and Chemistry, Russian Philology and History at Samarkand University gave presentations on migratory birds. During a trip to the



Nature Park, students saw species such as Shikra, Turkestan Tit, White-crowned Penduline Tit and White-winged Woodpecker.

Members of 'Ivolga' student club and its supervisor, M.M. Turaev, organised a meeting at the Faculty of Natural Sciences of Bukhara State University to discuss World Migratory Bird Day related issues which involved staff of the Bioinspection at the State Committee on Ecology and Environmental Protection of Uzbekistan. Following the meeting, those who took part visited Tudakul Reservoir, an important biodiversity area where the Lesser White-fronted Goose has been seen. Members of 'Ivolga' club also carried out a survey of nesting water birds on Tudakul water reservoir and saw Glossy Ibis, Eurasian Spoonbill and Herons.

Migratory Bird Day events were also organised by the Faculties of Biology and Ecology at the Karakalpak State University and involved professors and teachers including G. Serikova, G. Bekdullaeva, G. Toremuratova and S. Khayitboeva. Students gave reports and presentations.

S. Zhumasheva spoke about birds that migrate to distant countries; the theme of M. Zaripova's report was 'Birds listed in the Red Data Book'; A. Kadirov spoke about rare birds that are found in Karakalpakstan; F. Kurbanov gave a report on the 'Sudochoye Ornithological Sanctuary'. The speakers ran a quiz after each



presentation where participants had to guess the names of the birds depicted on the '100 birds of Uzbekistan' poster. The rules were that as well as correctly identifying the bird species, the participants had to explain their importance to nature and to people's lives.

Around 40 students were involved in the World Migratory Bird Day held on the Faculty of Natural Sciences at Namangan State University. The dean of the Faculty A. Batashev, leader of 'EcoBirds' student club and faculty teachers took part in this event. In his welcoming speech, A. Batashev explained that the 'EcoBirds' club plays an active role in environmental events of the university.

'EcoBirds' club supervisor, E. Ikromov, spoke about importance of birds to the biosphere as well as the World Migratory Bird Day. Students, S. Dzhabboralyeva and M. Mirzakhmedov, gave some interesting facts in their presentations about a number of migratory bird species.

N.N. Numonkhodzhaev spoke about globally threatened Lesser White-fronted Goose. N. Ismanov also covered this topic in his presentation in English. A student of group 203, M. Kakhkhorova, organised an interesting quiz for those taking part in this event.

This is the story of the World Migratory Bird Day 2018, which was the most wide-ranging and topical in the history of this event in Uzbekistan.

100 BIRDS IN A NEW FORMAT!

+99871 2890968





THE THEME OF THE WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY THIS YEAR 'BEAT PLASTIC POLLUTION' WAS A CALL TO UNITE ALL OF US IN THE FIGHT AGAINST PLASTIC WASTE

In early June, Uzbekistan once again joined in the celebration for one of the most important events in the calendar, called the World Environment Day. On this day, more than 3,500 events aimed at changing people's attitudes to natural resources were held around the world.

The theme of this year's World Environment Day 'Beat Plastic Pollution' called on everyone to come together in the fight against plastic waste, one of the greatest environmental challenges of our time. Almost all natural areas are contaminated by plastic, which principally affects people's health and biodiversity. The annual use of 500 billion plastic bags results in 83% of tap water containing plastic particles! UzSPB activists told those taking part in two events held in early June in Tashkent and Karakalpakstan about how plastics left in the environment find their way into the bodies of humans and wild animals and the consequences that result.

The lake Urungoch in Tashkent region was the chosen venue for a day of activity as part of the second year of UzSPB's high-profile 'Clean up Urungoch!' campaign. On Sunday, 3 June, UzSPB volunteers from 'Phasianus' club talked to 95 holidaymakers heading to the lake

through Karabulak border post. They told them that litter left on the shoreline would go straight into the River Urungoch, which flows into the River Pskem. The Pskem, in turn, runs into the Charvak Reservoir whose water flows daily from our taps. This is how plastics left on the shores of Urungoch enter our bodies!

Plastics not only cause irreparable harm to humans as discarded litter also affects animals. Organisers of our day of action therefore told holidaymakers about the rare animals that are found around the lake and which are disappearing due to the human pressure.

Many of those tourists who were taking part in the campaign for the first time heard about species such as Egyptian Vulture, Black Stork, Union of Uzbekistan, teachers from Cinereous Vulture, the Tian-Shan Karakalpak State University, 'Otus'

new season
Brown Bear and Snow Leopard. What our UzSPB volunteers had to say certainly made the holidaymakers think. Nearly all those taking part on the day took their rubbish away with them in special bags provided by the UzSPB. Brightly coloured posters called on visitors to take their litter home with them!

The World Environment Day was marked on 5 June by a scientific conference in the city of Nukus and a celebratory event which took place at the 'Istiklol' children's health centre. The conference was attended by representatives from Karakalpak State Committee on Ecology and Environmental Protection, the Youth Union of Uzbekistan, teachers from Karakalpak State University, 'Otus'





student club members, talented students and the media. This was an extremely high-level event that eventually turned into a festival. Artist performances, national and contemporary dancing left an unforgettable impression on everyone there.

During the Nukusevent, members of 'Otus' club demonstrated birds from the collection of the Zoological Museum at the Faculty of Natural



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The 25th volume of the Zoological Yearbook of Kazakhstan and Central Asia, 'Selevinia', has been published.

This publication was established back in 1993 and is published in Almaty in the Republic of Kazakhstan. It is well known to many zoologists and regularly publishes works on theoretical and applied zoological issues. Priority is given to studies that specifically relate to Kazakhstan and Central Asian region.

Information is published on scientific conferences, seminars, meetings, expeditions, commemorative events, as well as published zoological works. Manuscripts on the results of research carried out by foreign authors in Kazakhstan and Central Asia, or related to animal species living in Kazakhstan and its surrounding area, are also accepted.

By agreement with the Editor-in-Chief, Professor A.F. Kovshar, two copies of 'Selevinia' are being given free of charge to the Main Library of the Academy of Sciences of Uzbekistan and to the Central Library of the National University of Uzbekistan.

You can see the content of the latest 'Selevinia' volume in the 'News' section on www.uzspb.uz.

