

## **BIRD CENUS REPORT**

Birds are good bio-indicators and useful models for studying a variety of environmental problems. Trends in water bird population could be the indicator of ecological change. Bird watching or birding is a form of wildlife observation in which the observation of birds is a recreational activity or citizen science. It can be done with the naked eye, through a visual enhancement device like binoculars and telescopes, by listening for bird sounds. **Dr. A. S. Santhalakshmi**, Assistant Professor in zoology Department, with five final year B.Sc., Zoology students participated in bird's census program at **Peikulam wetland of Thoothukudi District** on 12.01.2020. This year the birds' counting was organized by **Ashoka Trust For Research In Ecology And The Environment's (ATREE) Agasthyamalai Community Conservation Centre, St., John's College, Palayamkottai, Pearl City Nature Society, Thoothukudi, and Nellai Nature Club, Tirunelveli**, in coordination with Tamil Nadu Forest Department, Tirunelveli division. During that period the students used Binoculars, Telescope and field guide to accurately describe a bird, to match it to a family and a genus then a species. Students observed that flow of water from forests in the Western Ghats into streams and rivers feed a large network of tanks in these districts and supports over 100 species of waterbirds and many of them are migratory species. Irrigation tanks are full of water this year due to good rain and some tanks are very clean and hold more water this time than last year. During the study period a total of 10,000 numbers of birds belonging to 88 species and 35 families were recorded from the Peikulam wetland of Thoothukudi District by the students.