

### Visit to Uppalapadu Bird Sanctuary (In situ bird conservation centre) on 24-09-2024

#### Objectives of the Visit:

1. To bring awareness among the students on conservation of biodiversity
2. To learn about the migratory patterns of birds that visit the sanctuary, particularly pelicans, painted storks, and other species that travel from distant regions.
3. Understand the challenges faced by migratory birds and how sanctuaries like Uppalapadu provide essential resting and breeding grounds.
4. Encourage critical thinking on how classroom concepts apply to the conservation challenges faced by sanctuaries.

**Description of the Visit:** As a part of their course curriculum, III-year B.Sc. (Hons.) students of KL College of Agriculture, Vaddeswaram has registered Environmental Studies and Disaster Management (CPHY-361) course in I semester. In this course they have studied about conservation of biodiversity. The uppalapadu bird sanctuary visit was planned to bring awareness among the students on conservation of biodiversity. After reaching the bird sanctuary at 10.15 AM on 24<sup>th</sup> September 2024, students were taken to several viewing platforms around the lake, from where they could observe the birds up close without disturbing their habitat. Armed with binoculars, they enthusiastically spotted numerous species such as **spot-billed pelicans, painted storks, egrets, ibises, and herons**. The large, graceful pelicans floating on the water and diving for fish captivated everyone's attention.

As they moved along the pathways, the guide explained that Uppalapadu Bird Sanctuary is particularly famous for hosting migratory birds from places as far as **Siberia and Northern Asia**. The students were fascinated to learn about the incredible journeys these birds undertake, traveling thousands of kilometers to find suitable feeding and nesting grounds. The guide emphasized the importance of these wetlands in supporting the life cycle of these migratory species. The students were thrilled to observe the nesting habits of birds, particularly the **spot-billed pelicans** and **painted storks**. They saw nests perched high in the trees, filled with young chicks, and watched as parent birds flew back and forth, feeding their young. This close observation of bird life gave the students a real-time understanding of the delicate balance of ecosystems and how birds rely on specific habitats for survival.

One of the key takeaways for the students was learning about the conservation efforts in place to protect this vital bird sanctuary. The guide explained how local authorities work to maintain water levels in the lake, create artificial islands for birds to nest, and ensure the sanctuary remains a safe haven for endangered and migratory species. The students were particularly moved to learn that some

of the birds they saw, such as the **spot-billed pelican**, are considered near-threatened, highlighting the importance of conserving their habitats.

### Outcomes of the visit:

- Students gained firsthand knowledge of the diversity of bird species, especially migratory birds, understanding their role in maintaining ecosystem balance.
- They learned to identify different bird species and observed how various species interact with their environment.
- The visit gave students a clear understanding of the migratory behavior of birds, including the challenges they face during migration and the importance of sanctuaries in supporting them.
- They learned about local conservation efforts, such as creating artificial nesting islands, and how human interventions can help protect biodiversity.
- They left with a deeper understanding of the impact of human activities on ecosystems and the importance of adopting sustainable practices.

### Photographs



**Group photo**



**Staff of Bird Sanctuary explaining about the centre**