

## Maha Paskhi Census- 2013 Report

This year's Maha Pakshi Ganana got more participation than normal expectations. It was held across the Maharashtra in the period from 22<sup>nd</sup> to 29<sup>th</sup> January 2012 with a tremendous support from all the ages of people with equal zest. In addition to carrying out a census of the various bird species in the state, the aim was to introduce importance, current status and the behavior of birds to a common man.

A total number of 1,30,400 birds of 266 species were surveyed from various habitats including grasslands, across the streams and rivers, within the dam areas, coastlines, Mangrove forests, cities and villages. Maximum number of birds were surveyed from Jalgaon district 59,688 followed by Solapur 30,496 and Bhusawal 23,580. Hantoor Dam was reported as diversified area for bird species because accounting different types of 149 birds. Hipparaga was the place where greatest number of birds 24,531 were censused among all the places.

Maharashtra's avian diversity was displayed through 14 districts which were represented by more than 300 enthusiastic individuals, 12 Nature clubs and organizations with 3 Zilha Parishad schools. With participation of 138 students from Ahmadnagar's Z.P school shown interest in this census with great efforts by Mr. Jayaram Satpute and they stood first among all 3 schools. First time participated Mr. and Ms. Gadgil were the best for perfect and time to time reporting of bird census without considering their old age. In individual category Mr. Shivakumar Vaghumbare surveyed and reported maximum count of 466 birds. Enlisting more species and highest count of birds i.e. 183 and 30,476 respectively, Jalgaon's Vanyajiv Sarakshan Sanstha achieved first number.

There was not a single sighting of an endangered vulture species across the listed districts, which is giving an opportunity to the conservationists to explore the cause behind this. The vulnerable Ferrugineous Pochard and Black-headed Ibis were accounted in Bhusawal district. Kashmir Flycatcher and Painted Stork with Pallied Harrier were sighted in Jalgaon and Solapur Districts respectively.

The Maha Pakshi Ganana was organized by Maharashtra Pakshi Mitra with the coordination and compiling by Mr. Sharad Apte. Peoples from all the communities and stages got incredible knowledge about the birds from this program. They also came to know about various facts of avian family and flied away with the happiness by putting strength in their wings. It is hoped that by involving larger numbers through such kind of activities, we will be able to effectively work towards the conservation of not just our avian friends but also the entire environment.