



भारतीय वन्यजीव संस्थान
Wildlife Institute of India

W.I.I. Newsletter

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Monsoon 2010 (July - September)

News : Training Programme and Workshops

XXXII Advanced Postgraduate Diploma in Wildlife Management commenced

The 10-month Advanced Postgraduate Diploma Course commenced on September 1, 2010. This is the first Diploma Course with the increased duration of 10 months from the earlier duration of nine months. A total of 20 Officer Trainees of Assistant Conservator of Forests/Deputy Conservator of Forests & equivalent, including 19 from India and one from Nepal joined the course. The officer trainees from the following States are represented in the course:

State/ Country	No. of Trainees	Sponsored by
Haryana	2	MoEF
Punjab	1	MoEF
Uttarakhand	1	MoEF
Rajasthan	2	MoEF
Madhya Pradesh	2	MoEF
Maharashtra	2	MoEF
Jammu & Kashmir	1	MoEF
Gujarat	2	MoEF
Orissa	1	MoEF
Assam	2	MoEF
West Bengal	1	MoEF
Himachal Pradesh	1	MoEF
Kerala	1	MoEF
Nepal	1	GTF

(MoEF - Ministry of Environment & Forests; GTF - Global Tiger Forum;)



This is the first Diploma Course when seven IFS Probationers have joined directly after completing their training at the Indira Gandhi National Forest Academy, Dehradun as 'Hari Singh Fellows'.

After the inaugural session, the officer trainees were taken to a bird-watching trip around the WII Campus by Dr. Dhananjai Mohan. It was followed by a visit to the Rajaji National Park with Dr. AJT Johnsingh.

The orientation tour took place during September 25-30, 2010 at Chilla in the Rajaji National Park. It familiarized the officer trainees to the Shiwalik landscape and issues related to corridor management, people-park interface, 'Gujjar' relocation and mass tourism

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VI-Internal Annual Research Seminar (IARS), September 13-14, 2010 and XXIV Annual Research Seminar (ARS) of WII, Dehradun, September 15-16, 2010. The VI Internal Annual Research Seminar (IARS) was chaired by Shri V.B. Sawarkar, Chairman, Training, Research and Academic Council (TRAC). During the IARS, a total of 22 presentations were made in five sessions viz. Vegetation Ecology, Community Ecology, Species Distribution and Habitat Use, Abundance Estimation and Monitoring, and Human-Wildlife Interface. The presentations were based on recently initiated and ongoing research studies and were made by research fellows and faculty members of the Institute. The presentations were evaluated by a panel of judges. Five presentations were adjudged as the 'five best presentations' and the concerned research personnel were awarded the book prizes each worth Rs. 1500/- (see box on next page).

The XXIV Annual Research Seminar of the Institute was also chaired by Shri V.B. Sawarkar, Chairman, TRAC. The following publications were released in the inaugural session of the ARS: (i) ENVIS Bulletin on Freshwater Turtles and Tortoises of India; (ii) Power Fence Manual; and (iii) Amphibians and Reptiles of Uttarakhand.



Officer trainees in the field.



Shri V.B. Sawarkar, Chairman, TRAC, chaired the Internal Annual Research Seminar.



Publications being released by Shri H.S. Panwar, Former Director, WII; and Shri S.C. Dey, Former Secretary General, GTF.



Shri V.B. Sawarkar, Chairman; Shri P.R. Sinha, Director; and Dr. V.B. Mathur, Dean, FWS with the Best Presentation Award Winners and their Principal Investigators.



A total of 23, presentations were made in six technical sessions viz. Animal Ecology: Mammals, Vegetation Ecology, Human-Wildlife Interface, Tools and Techniques, Conservation Genetics and Captive Management. These included studies on large and small carnivores, avifaunal studies, molecular genetics and forensic studies, studies on coastal and marine biodiversity, herpetofauna and small mammals. The presentations were based on the ongoing research studies and were made by research fellows and faculty members of the Institute.

About 300 delegates/participants attended the ARS. A panel including eminent scientists, academicians,

conservationists and wildlife managers adjudicated the relevance and quality of research by the presentations made. The presentations made by the following researchers on the topics cited were adjudged the 'best five presentations' made during the XXIV Annual Research Seminar of the Institute (see box). All five researchers were given book awards, each worth Rs.1500/-.

In the concluding session, comments on the ARS were made by senior officials, policy makers, conservationists, member of the Governing Body-WII and the Chairman, TRAC. The significant enhancement in quality of the presentations in terms of visuals, graphics and scientific content was appreciated.

A photography competition was also held during the ARS and the winners were awarded with book prizes. **Contact:** sankark@wii.gov.in

On the Move

National Level Inter DPS Table Tennis Championships for Boys (Under-14), Ranipur, July 15-17, 2010. Shri H.C.S. Rajwar provided expertise to the Delhi Public School Society as an official umpire for the National Level Inter DPS Table Tennis Championships for Boys (Under-14), which was organized by the Delhi Public School, Ranipur, Uttarakhand. **Contact:** rajwarhcs@wii.gov.in

Book Awards for Best Presentations

VI – Annual Internal Research Seminar

Rank	Name	Topic of Presentation
I	S. Harikrishnan	Survey of herpetofaunal diversity in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands.
II	Salvador Lyngdoh	Socio-economic and wildlife conflict status in western Arunachal Pradesh with special reference to Asiatic wild dog: preliminary findings.
III	Shazia Quasin	Pattern of spider assemblages along altitudinal gradient in Nanda Devi Biosphere Reserve, Uttarakhand.
IV	Krishnendu Mondal	Ranging pattern and survivorship of leopard in semi-arid landscape of Sariska Tiger Reserve, Rajasthan.
V	Dipanjan Naha	Population estimation and ranging pattern of tiger in Sundarban Tiger Reserve, West Bengal.

Book Awards for Best Presentations

XXIV – Annual Research Seminar

Rank	Name	Topic of presentation
I	Abishek Harihar	Population viability of tiger in their North-Western range limit, Terai-Arc landscape.
II	Mousumi Ghosh	Comparison of prey availability and altitudinal distribution of breeding leaf warblers in the east and west Himalayas.
III	Merwyn Fernandes	Distribution and genetic diversity of red junglefowl in India.
IV	Sutirtha Dutta	Population monitoring, habitat relationships and conservation of endangered bustards.
V	K.R. Saravanan	Prioritisation of important coastal and marine biodiversity areas along the coastline of India.

Spiders: Bio-Indicators for Monitoring Biodiversity

- V.P. Uniyal and Shazia Quasin

Spiders are one of the most ubiquitous groups of predators in the animal kingdom commonly found in all terrestrial and many aquatic ecosystems. From marine intertidal zones to tundra and rocky peaks, the ardent arachnologist is always close to a wealth of species richness of great intrinsic and biological interest. Spiders are found on ground to underground caves and also top of the mountains. Among all known organisms, spiders are the seventh largest order. Furthermost, spiders are most diverse, female dominated and entirely predatory group of arthropod. Spiders are

the key components of all ecosystems in which they live.

Broadly, spiders are two types, web builders and hunting spiders. Few species can even remain underwater for some time. Spiders are well studied worldwide. There are about 41, 000 species known from the world belonging to 3,802 genera under 109 families. From Indian subcontinent, there are 1,520 species belonging to 377 genera under 60 families. Spiders are important as they form an integral part of biodiversity, as they play important roles as predators as well as sources of food for other animals.

Spiders are amongst the most species rich group of invertebrates that exploit a wide variety of niches, and occur in all the Earth's biomes. As generalist predators

and with diverse relationships with the environment, they are recently gaining importance as biological control agents in pest management. A spider kills as much as 50 times the prey it actually consumes, thus it limits the initial exponential growth of the pest population. Spiders are also extremely sensitive to minor changes in the environment. As such, conservation of their biodiversity on an appropriate regional scale is necessary. Because of their high diversity and richness, they are gaining importance as ecological indicators and useful conservational tools for biological control agents in ecosystems.

In recent times, both spider silk and venom are being used in material sciences, medical and insecticidal research. In India, however the knowledge on diversity and distribution of spiders is sparse as compared to other regions of the world. Although they are relatively difficult group taxonomically, where suitable taxonomic skills are available they serve as ecological indicators and may be effective in assessment and monitoring of the ecosystem.



Oxyopes javanus



Neoscona mukherjee



Araneus sp.



Hamalatiwa sp.

About the publications released during the ARS

Freshwater Turtles and Tortoises of India

Turtles and Tortoises occur worldwide and are represented by 460 species out of which ten have gone extinct in the recent past. This Bulletin on Freshwater Turtles and Tortoises contains 19 articles and two box summaries, that have been arranged into four sections on 'Taxonomy', 'Ecology and Distribution', 'Conservation' and 'Bibliography'. The articles provide the much needed annotated baseline information on the taxonomy and ecology of freshwater turtles and tortoises occurring within the country. ENVIS Bulletin is also available on the Internet at WII Website: <http://www.wii.gov.in/envhome/eindex>. **Contact: envis@wii.gov.in**



(ISSN 0972-088X)

Manual on Power Fencing for Wild Animals



The power fencing system is a psychological barrier, increasingly being used mainly for containment of wildlife-related problems in and around wildlife habitats. Species-specific fences are also used around crop fields, orchards, nurseries, storehouses and human settlements. Over a period of time, there has been significant improvement in the quality and performance of power fence equipment, and concomitantly a wide range of fence patterns and designs has evolved. This manual embodies the experience gained from the operation of power fences in the country and elsewhere. It has also integrated insights into the technical aspects. Based on the comprehensive range of ground conditions evaluated, the manual has made a series of practical recommendations for users and would-be users. **Contact: npsc@wii.gov.in**

Amphibians and Reptiles of Uttarakhand, India

This book covers 66 species of amphibians and reptiles found in the hill state of Uttarakhand, India. With attractive photographs, the book provides its readers with an insight into the lives of these intriguing and lesser known creatures. This book dwells on their life cycles, behavior, habits, habitats and a host of other interesting details. **Contact: karthik@wii.gov.in**



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Welcome Guests

- ◆ 10 trainees from Central Academy for State Forest Service Academy, Dehradun, on July 7, 2010.
- ◆ 39 trainees (2010-2012 session) from Central Academy for State Forest Service Academy, Dehradun, on July 8, 2010.
- ◆ 16 trainees from Central Academy for State Forest Service Academy, Dehradun, on July 28, 2010.
- ◆ A team of 30 cadets accompanied by two masters from RIMC, Garhi Cantt, Dehra Dun on July 30, 2010.
- ◆ A group of five P.G. Diploma and M. Tech Officer trainees (2010-11 batch) accompanied by Dr. S. Nandy, Scientist `SC' from the Indian Institute of Remote Sensing, Dehra Dun on August 13, 2010.
- ◆ A group of 45 trainees of Foresters Training Course (2010-11) and Uttarakhand Forest Guards Training Course (3rd Batch) accompanied by their two instructors from Training Circle, Haryana, Pinjore on September 27, 2010. **Contact: acell@wii.gov.in**



A group of 24 in-service SFS Officers undergoing a training workshop on Wildlife Management from SFS College, Dehradun on September 8, 2010.

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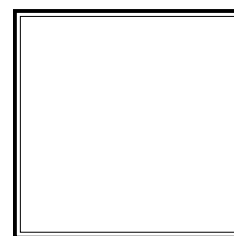
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The views expressed in this newsletter are not necessarily those of the Editors or of the Wildlife Institute of India.

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