



# REFLECTIONS

**(A news Letter from Yelahanka Puttenahalli Lake and Bird Conservation Trust)**

Join us on Facebook : <https://www.facebook.com/YPLBCT>

E-Mail : [yplbct@gmail.com](mailto:yplbct@gmail.com)

Vol 2 No.1

JULY-2017

With the support of Forest Department and constant guidance from Indian Institute of Science ensuring us a better lake. we are making progress. The trust is making positive move to meet its objective and I am sure one day we can declare with pride as residents of Yelahanka that we are “Next to Puttenahalli Lake & Bird Reserve”.

– YPLBCT Team



The YPLBCT was formed in 2013 to create a shared sense of environmental consciousness, connectedness and action oriented approach towards lake conservation initiatives from among different segments of the community, by fostering a feeling of ownership of the lake by the local residents. We have created a program called ‘Be a Citizen Scientist for a Day’ for college students by conducting Training Programs with a focus on four key aspects of Environmental Education, namely Biodiversity Education, engaging people in Freshwater Research, Tree Inventory and Monitoring of Ecosystem Services at the lake.

The Trust has planned many activities other than rejuvenation of the lake. Please join your hands with the trust to bring about the change and preserve nature at Puttenahalli Lake. On 16th April, a meeting was organized at Indian Institute of Science by Yelahanka Puttenahalli Lake Bird conservation trust, inviting all the lake custodians and the NGOs. Prof Chanakya gave a clear picture of the reasons for pollution in lakes and the method of solving the same using natural resources. He also explained the process of how we are going to implement at Yelahanka Puttenahalli lake. Many participants had raised questions on different types of water purification.

A bird watching session was arranged on 20th of Sept 2016 and many college students participated in the program. Dr.S.Subramanya conducted the program. As many as 40 students took part in the same. It was also covered by DD.



We conducted a session for the children from the surrounding area on 25th April. They were very curious to know why more birds come here rather than near their homes We were thrilled to know that



they are more eco conscious than elders. They had a good time and carried some home work too. Citizens of the local community brought to our notice that there some activities happening which was polluting the lake. This was informed to the pollution control board and the forest department which is the custodian of the lake. Subsequently the chairman of pollution control board visited the lake and asked the BWSSB to take action. Unfortunately, BWSSB instead of removing the pipe ,laid a cement pipe line on the bed of the lake. Not that alone, they have even constructed a man hole well inside the lake. By this action they have destroyed some part of lake and bird



habitats. The picture shows the path cleared and man hole. This may become one of the world's wonders!

Let us talk about the past glory of the lake with nostalgia. We need to look at the past to correct s of the mistakes made by our community to nature so that we will not repeat the same. Below are few pictures of the lake in 2004.





Prior to 2005, the Yelahanka Puttenahalli Lake was a veritable bird paradise, the like of which had not been seen in the past 200 years of ornithological history of Bangalore. The lake and its surrounds once supported more than 126 bird species belonging to 50 bird families, indicating that the site supports over 30 per cent of the 340-bird species recorded in Bangalore. Ten large water birds (Little Cormorant, Great Cormorant, Darter, Little Egret, Grey Heron, Purple Heron, Cattle Egret, Indian Pond-Heron, Black-crowned Night-Heron, Painted Stork,) once nested on the trees growing on the two islands created by the KSFD. The nesting of Darter and Painted Storks at the site are the first ever records for Bangalore. Prior to 2005, over 5000 birds including egrets, herons, cormorants, ibises and storks regularly roosted on the trees growing on the islands in the evenings, right through the year. The water birds that gather to roost at the site had been observed flying in from over 10km. Nearly 30 migrants species were once recorded at the lake, some migrating from as far as Central Asia.

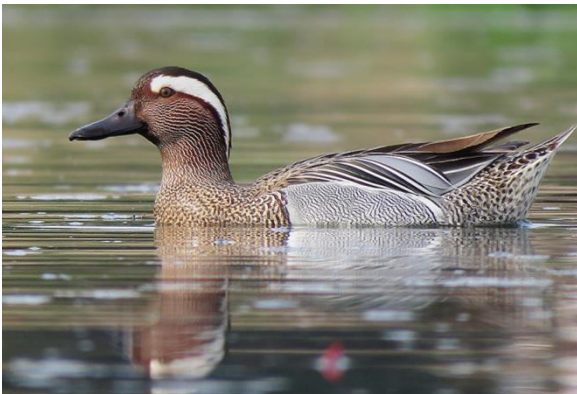
However, today over 50 % of the birds that were once seen do not appear mainly due to effects of sewage inflow and the spread of invasive aquatic weeds that have completely covered the open water surface of the lake. Some of the most significant among these bird species that cannot be seen are the Spot-billed Pelican, Painted Stork. Many of the migrant species cannot be seen anymore at the site. The large flock of birds that used to roost on the islands once, do not roost anymore and have totally disappeared. We are sure that we will bring back the old glory once this lake is developed without disturbing the existing islands and stopping the sewage inflow. Hope we will fulfill our dreams with support of the community that cherish nature.



**Northern Shoveller**



**Northern Pintail**



**Garganey**



**Common Teal**



**Black-tailed Godwit**



**Black-winged Stilt**