

# REFLECTIONS



PHOTO BY PRAJWAL DEEP

## TRICOLOURED MUNIA

### LONCHURA MALACCA

*This native small finchlike birds common name comes from its boldly tricolored plumage. It has chestnut-brown wings, back and tail, black hood and belly, white underparts and a bill that is pale blue or whitish colour, scaling just 11-12 cm in all. Inhabits various habitats like grassland, wet and marshy areas, scrub and gardens.*

*Forage in pairs and small groups and sometimes in small or large flocks, especially in the non-breeding season. Finding munias at our Yelahanka Puttenahalli lake is very common especially Scaly-breasted Munia (*Lonchura punctulata*) and Indian Silverbill (*Euodice malabarica*) but the Tricoloured ones are very rare. They were recently spotted on the typha along the concrete channel.*

## BUTTERFLY WALK with ASHOK SENGUPTA

*An insightful and interactive walk to spot, identify and learn more about the butterflies at our lake that was conducted on the 25th of June, 2023.*



# LET'S COUNT THE LEGS

An article by SRIKANTH G

The next time when looking at the tiny little creature in front of you and if you are unable to decide what it is, counting the legs can help. This is because what you might be seeing can be an insect, a bug, a worm or even a spider.

An insect has six legs and this is the sure way to differentiate an insect from say a spider which must have eight legs. So what you get to know is that spiders and insects are different. Spiders are not considered insects because they have no antenna or wings and have a different body compared to insects.



An insect like a fly or an ant are supposed to have three parts as its body. The head followed by the middle segment called thorax and finally the abdomen. The head has the eyes, mouth, antenna, etc. The thorax has all the six legs and wings (if any) connected to it and the abdomen the last part usually mistaken as a tail for example in a dragonfly. The spiders have the first two parts fused.

A bug too differs similarly though it goes well with the saying that all bugs are insects but not all insects are bugs although having six legs their bodies look more singularly fused. So are beetles that are similar but appear more hard with thick shell like covering. Both bugs and beetles can fly but are differentiated from their mouth parts and life cycle though both qualify as insects. Worms like caterpillars are usually just a phase in the life cycle of an insect (having both the false prolegs and likewise their true legs) so needn't worry about where to fit them. So the next time take some time to consider what you are seeing beginning especially with the legs.



PHOTOGRAPHS BY PRAJWAL DEEP

# NATURE JOURNALING

with SUBATH SENAN



My journey of nature journaling began when I discovered the YPLBCT group, dedicated to conserving and enhancing the biodiversity of Yelahanka Puttenahalli Lake. It all started on a lazy Sunday morning, this summer, when I joined the enlightening walk organised by Mr. Prajwal and Ms. Soumya which sparked my curiosity about birds and the lake's beauty. Nature journaling became the perfect way to document the wealth of knowledge and capture the lake's magnificence.

The walk not only provided a wealth of information but also raised awareness about birds, insects, plants, butterflies, damselflies, and more. I'm grateful for starting this journaling practice as it has allowed me to identify various species and develop a deep appreciation for nature's wonders, keeping me connected to the natural world.



# ANNUAL TREE PLANTING

Over the last few years, we have been observing an increase in the bird population at the Yelahanka Puttenahalli Lake. More recently we have been noticing an increase in the number of territorial fights for the limited ideal roosting space in the various micro habitats like the islands and wooded area.

In order to give some relief to the various birds looking to reside at our lake, we decided to delve deeper into enriching these areas with specific native vegetation that will provide more food, roosting space and ideal nesting zones for the birds.



## PLANT SPECIES PLANNED FOR VARIOUS MICROHABITATS.

**ISLAND 1 & 2:** Trees like *Terminalia arjuna*, *Acacia nilotica*, *Phoenix sylvestris*, *Ficus racemose*, *Ficus benghalensis* and *Tamarindus indica* that aid in nesting and roosting for birds like Heron, Ibis, etc have been procured to be planted at the island shortly.

**ALONG DODDABALLAPUR ROAD:** We anticipate higher levels of noise and light pollution once the planned flyover comes up on the Doddaballapura Main Road. Keeping that in mind we have planned for tall trees like *mellingtonia hortensis* and bamboo that will act as noise and light barriers.

### SPECIAL THANKS TO :

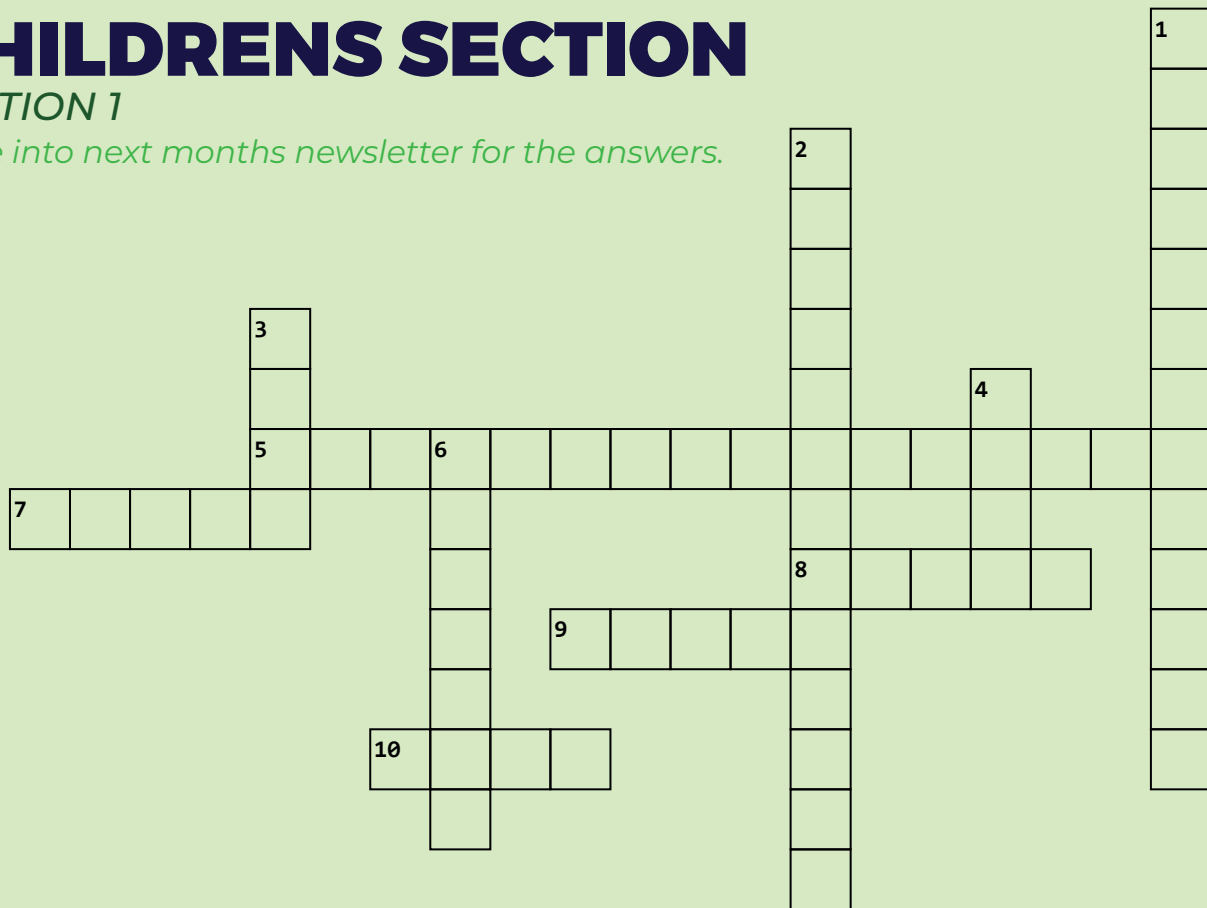
NSS, REVA UNIVERSITY  
NSS, PRESIDENCY  
UNIVERSITY  
RINKU NAREN and  
KARTHIK KODAVATIGANTI  
for providing us with  
the saplings for planting



# CHILDRENS SECTION

## EDITION 1

Tune into next months newsletter for the answers.



### Across

5. The bird featured in this months newsletter
7. The only animal with feathers
8. \_ are the longest living organisms on earth
9. The green god in hindu mythology
10. The greek goddess of nature

### Down

1. The gradual increase of the earths temperature
2. Cutting down trees over a large area
3. \_ can carry up to 50 times their own weight
4. The environment month
6. The worlds largest lake

## STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

Here is Sauhardya Sengupta, a student of Srishti Manipal Institute.

Sauhardya recently completed a project based on the community around the Yelahanka Puttenahalli Lake. The key intention of this project was to document, archive and communicate ongoing efforts of conservation, its effects, the pros and cons, and possible future of sustaining the current standard of the Lake - presenting it in the form of a documentary film that also highlights the significance of this lake as a bird reserve.

The idea was to cater to a non-specialist group of people by communicating information in a way of leisurely consumption, so that more people can inform themselves about the climate and non-human habitats in a bid to expand our collective consciousness about the habitats that we live in.

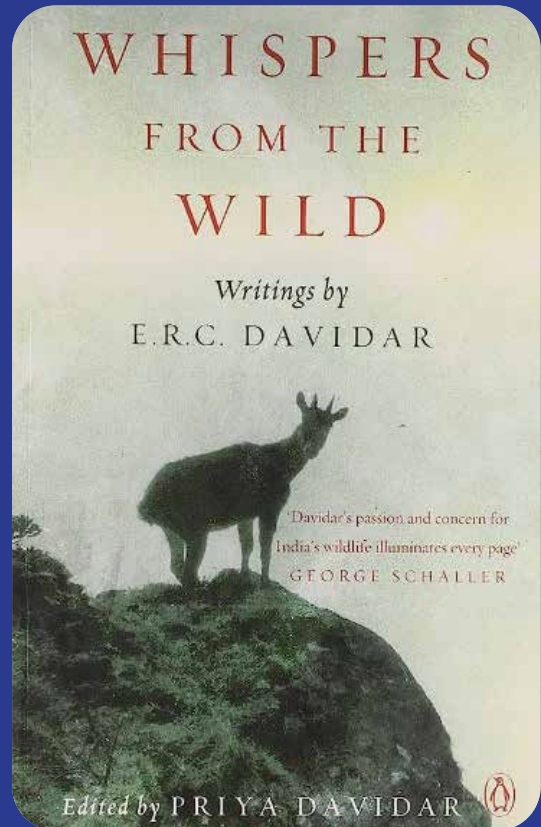


# YPLBCT BOOK CLUB

We have now started a Book Club where members can share recommended reads with other members. Get in touch with the number at the end of the newsletter to know how to borrow this book for 2 weeks. Also, do let us know if you have a book that you would like to share with the other members.

## REVIEW OF THE FEATURED BOOK:

A brilliant piece of wildlife writing. Davidar's experiences, are fascinating and his transformation is what makes this an inspiring read.



## UPCOMING EVENTS

Here are some of the events to look forward to:

Anti Invasives Drive

Biodiversity Walk

Nature Journaling Workshop



## YELAHANKA PUTTENAHALLI BIRD CONSERVATION TRUST

Volunteer for our activities and be part of our lake and habitat conservation efforts.

Contact: 9480897490 | [yplbct@gmail.com](mailto:yplbct@gmail.com)

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