

**CELEBRATIONS OF MIGRATORY BIRD DAY 2011  
CIWC-SUKKUR 14<sup>TH</sup> May, 2011**

**Exposure visit of School Children to Lungh Lake**



Group Photo of Students at Bird Information Centre of Sind Wildlife near the Lungh Lake

## **OBJECTIVES**

World Migratory Bird Day was celebrated with the following objectives;

- To raise awareness among people regarding the importance of our wetlands that provides grounds for migratory birds.
- To provide an opportunity of healthy activity to local schools/students.
- To mobilize the local community about birds conservation.

## **PARTNERS OF ACTIVITY**

More than 40 persons including 25 students participated this activity. This activity was organized together with following partners:

- APWA School Sukkur
- Sind Wildlife Department
- WWF-IRDGP
- Pakistan Wetlands Program

## **PROGRAM EVENTS**

**Arrival of the participants:** All the school children and teachers arrived at dolphin centre in the morning hours and were briefed on discipline, route and nature of activity.

**Travel to the Lungh Lake:** A vehicle was hired to transport the School Children to Lungh Lake and departed from dolphin centre after initial briefing. It was about two hours travel to the lake site.



**Bird Centre of Sind Wildlife near the Lung Lake**

**Arrival at Lung Lake and Presentation:** Sind Wild life staff at the Lung Lake received the participants and gave a welcome address. Deputy Conservator Sind Wildlife Mr. Taj Muhammad Sheikh and Umer Waqas gave a detail presentation to participants on:-

- History of Lung Lake
- Present status of Lung Lake
- Conservation Initiatives of Sind Wildlife and WWF Pakistan
- Objectives of celebrating Migratory Birds Day
- Migration of Birds
- Importance of Birds
- Importance of Lung Lake as Migratory Birds site.



**Welcome Address and Briefing by Deputy Conservator Wildlife**



**Displays and Information dissemination at centre**



**Visit to Lake Site:** Later all the participants were taken to Lungl Lake at some distance near the centre. The students were briefed on principles including different methods and techniques of bird watch at the lake. There are 5 bird watch hide towers around the lake where children were given practical exercise to watch the lake with binoculars. Students were also briefed on different components of wetlands and some dead shells were also collected from dried lake area.



Students enjoy their visit at Lungl Lake



Students learning to watch the birds with binoculars from inside the bird watch hide located at the edge of lake

### **Delivery of International Migratory Bird Day message**

Following message was delivered to students at lake for their awareness:

*Flying thousands of kilometres each year, migratory birds have a unique perspective of the Earth. Unfortunately, this unrivalled view also enables them to notice the dramatic changes which are currently threatening many of our planet's ecosystems. Each year more and more of the sites migratory birds depend on during their journeys disappear. As these ecosystems change, there is no guarantee that the habitats migratory birds need along their migration path, will be there the next time they return. The majority of these changes are caused by human use of land and have a direct impact on migratory bird populations, which are particularly sensitive to any interference to the sites they use throughout their migratory cycle. Many aspects of human land use are extremely damaging to the birds' habitats. For example, urbanization and intensive agriculture can fragment and replace complex networks of habitats needed by the birds. Deforestation and mineral extraction can damage entire regions used along the birds' annual migration paths. In addition, land reclamation and bio fuel production remove or degrade crucial wetlands and other habitats for many migratory bird species. While human survival depends on these transformations of natural areas, a sustainable use of land is vital to reduce the impacts on our natural resources, such as water, soil, nutrients, plants and animals – including migratory birds.*

***This year's theme for World Migratory Bird Day is "Land use changes from a bird's-eye view". We want to raise awareness on the dramatic effects human land use has on migratory birds and the ecosystems upon which they depend.***

*World Migratory Bird Day is a global, annual awareness campaign to promote the conservation of migratory birds and their habitats worldwide. It is organized by the African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbird Agreement (AEWA) and the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS) – two international wildlife treaties administered by The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).*