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# Say 'hi' when feathered friends fly high

## Tamil Guide To Help Amateur Birdwatchers

MT Saju | TNN

Chennai: As bird lovers across the world gear for a mammoth bird count, avian experts in Tamil Nadu are a step ahead. Wildlife scientist P Jeganathan has prepared a guide in Tamil to help those who wish to participate in the global bird counting exercise from February 14 to 17.

An insightful collective, the Great Backyard Bird Count (GBBC) is coordinated by Cornell University, expecting participants from across the globe. Its website says, 'Anyone anywhere in the world can count birds for at least 15 minutes on one or more days and enter their sightings at [www.bird.org](http://www.bird.org)'.

Time to count your birds	
<p>▶ In 2013, participants from 110 countries were part of the Great Backyard Bird Count and recorded more than 34.5 million birds &amp; 3,610 species</p> <p>▶ In India, 202 participants</p>	<p>counted 80,283 birds and 544 bird species across the country</p> <p>▶ Apart from the usually spotted birds, rare species like Great Indian bustard and lesser adjutant stork were sighted</p>



Lesser adjutant stork



Great Indian bustard

A beginner's guide on the website will provide all the necessary details about how to go about counting the birds.

Jeganathan, who conducted an orientation programme on the GBBC for the public in Chennai recently, said he prepared a guide in Tamil for those who can't understand English. "If bird lovers want to record sightings near their residence, they can go through the guide that I have posted on my blog ([uyi-ri.wordpress.com](http://uyi-ri.wordpress.com)).

I have given basic information about the common birds found across Tamil Nadu in Tamil. It also provides links if anyone is in doubt," said Jeganathan, a scientist at the NCF Rainforest Research Station, Valparai.

In its debut global initiative in 2013, the GBBC recorded birds from all seven continents, including 110 countries and independent territories. Participants re-

corded more than 34.5 million birds and 3,610 species. "In India, 202 participants counted 80,283 birds and 537 bird species from various parts," said a source in the GBBC. The common myna, house crow, black kite, feral pigeon, red-vented bulbul, rose-ringed parakeet and black drongo were the most common birds found in the list.

The GBBC is an annual birding and listing event, organised by the Laboratory of Ornithology at Cornell University. It's now become a global event with birders across the world curious to know more about the avian biodiversity. "Though we watch many birds every day, we don't make a record of it. The GBBC will help maintain a record of our birds across the world. This is not only an event for birdwatchers, even a layman can participate in it. I want more people to join this initiative," he said.