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H.P. FOREST DEPARTMENT, ARANAYA BHAWAN, TALLAND, SHIMLA-171001

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To:

All CCFs/CFs/DFOs (Territorial & Wildlife),
in Himachal Pradesh.

Subject: Participation in Great Backyard Bird Count Day 2022 to be
celebrated from 18th to 21st February, 2022-regarding.....

Memo:

The Wildlife Wing, HPFD encourages bird-watchers of the department and across the state to take part in the upcoming Great Backyard Bird Count 2021 (9th edition). Great Backyard Bird Count (GBBC) is a citizen science project in ornithology. As this is a citizen science initiative, it allows public to document bird data and further contribute to bird conservation. This also presents a great opportunity to reach out to people and spread conservation awareness about birds.

Himachal Pradesh has a consistent presence in GBBC participation. During 2021 GBBC, 347 bird species were recorded in 12 districts across the state (nearly 58% of the total bird species found in HP). Birding locations included wildlife sanctuaries, national parks, conservation reserves, villages and urban areas. Since 2017, the Wildlife Wing inspired its staff and birders in the state to take part in the event. The annual snapshots of bird populations collected during these annual events help answer a variety of important bird conservation questions, including how birds are distributed across the state, how they are affected by changes in habitat and weather, and whether populations and distributions might be changing from year to year. The aims for 2022 GBBC are:

→ To use GBBC 2022 as a tool to promote birding/bird-watching by the staff of the forest department.

- To use GBBC 2022 to connect with people (urban, rural, schools, colleges and other academic institutions) to spread awareness about birds and its conservation in HP
- To promote use of citizen science platforms to collect large-scale data in HP

The following activities could be planned as part of the 2022 GBBC:

1. **Birding/Bird-watching by staff of FD during GBBC days** – Forest staff can form groups and conduct bird-watching sessions (at least for 30 minutes) in nearby urban areas, rural area, forest and protected areas.
2. **Involvement of local people** – Interactions with Panchayats, local villagers can be arranged to introduce them to birds of their locality and explaining them their role in the nature.
3. **Outreach programs for children and youngsters** – Children and youngsters (e.g. from schools, colleges etc.) can be involved and taken for short nature walks during which they can be introduced to bird-watching. Talks can be given in schools about the importance of birds in our ecosystem.
4. **Bird Race** – Day long events which involves bird-watching coupled with nature awareness can be organized.
5. **Bird census in protected areas/forests** – Using GBBC as a potential opportunity, front-line wildlife staff can be encouraged to conduct bird census/surveys in their respective beats/ranges.

In 2022, GBBC will be held from **February 18 to 21, 2022** Participation in GBBC is free, open-to-all and voluntary. A general practice during the GBBC is to record bird observations using e-Bird. E-Bird, managed by Cornell Ornithology Laboratory (a highly reputed institute focusing on bird research and conservation), is a digital platform for recording bird observations.

Broad instructions for taking part in GBBC are:

1. Go birding for at least **15 minutes**, listing and counting all the species you see and can identify.
2. **Submit your observations to e-Bird.**
3. Either **one or more** lists can be uploaded every day.

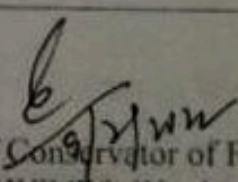
4. Leave out the birds which you cannot identify. One could also take photographs of the birds for aid in identification at a later stage.
5. Repeat as often as convenient through the day, being sure to make a separate list for each location you visit. If possible, continue birding even after dusk as many crepuscular and nocturnal birds like owls and nightjars become active and vocal then.
6. Please share the uploaded checklist with **HP Birders (Group Account)** for compilation of the results (Sharing instructions are provided at the end).
7. In case you cannot access a computer or mobile, a photograph of the birding notes (listing species and counts) can be emailed to anil.thakur.ifs@gmail.com & santoshwlg@gmail.com or even sent on Whatsapp to 94184-57800 and 94185-38303

Following is the list of coordinators and participants who are requested to extend their support for the event. The participants are not restricted to the tracks given below, they may do bird watching at any place in the State and more participants can be added by coordinators.

S. N.	Participants in the Team	Preferred/Recommended sites for birding during GBBC 2022
Overall coordinator Mr. Anil Thakur, Addl. Pr. CCF (Wildlife), O/o PCCF (WL), Himachal Pradesh. State coordinators Mr. NPS Dhaulta DFO Hqr, Mr Ravi Shankar, IFS (DFO) WL Shimla , Mr. Anish Sharma IFS DFO Publicity, Dr. Karan Segal Vet. Officer and Mr. Santosh Kumar Thakur (Forest Guard)		
1	Team:- I Smt. Anita Bhardwaj , Mr. Akshay Kumar Fgd. Coordinators. Mr. Satish Sharma, Miss Diksha Sharma, Dr. Anil Thakur, Mr. Hem Singh Thakur, Smt. Seena, Mr. Daleep Sharma, Mr. Kamal Kishor, Mr. Pramod Gupta, Ms. Veena, Ms. Rachna , Miss Neha Sharma, Mr. Rakesh Kumar, Mr. Arvin Ishwar Singh, Mr Virender Sharma, Mr. Parmod Kumar, WL Expert, Mr Santosh Kurmar Thakur Fgd.	Track No: 1 SWC Gate to Sheog Track No. 2 SWC Gate to Churat area Track No. 3 Mehli Shoghi Bypass Track No. 4 Summerhill to Potterhill. Track No. 5 Taradevi to Anandpur Track No. 6 Tutikandi area Track No. 7 Churdhar WLS Track No.8 Talra WLS Track No. 9 Majathal Wildlife Sanctuary Track No. 10 Bird Park Chaura - Maidan to H.P. University. Track no 11 Hail Himalayas
2	Team No. II Mr. Deep Ram Fgd. - Coordinator Mr. Dharam Chand, Mr. Ravinder Kanwar Fgd. Mr. Satish Kumar Fgd. & others	Track No. I: Chinibangla to Mundaghat Track No. II: Chinibangla to Mahasu Peak.

3	Team No.III Mr. Mohit Data Joint Director FTI Chail Coordinator:- Mr. Bhupander Kumar, Fgd. Mr. Sanjiv Kumar, Mr. Vikash, Mr. Vinod Kumar Arun Bhardawaj & others.	Track No. I Chail to Khadiyun Track No. II Chail to Sakori Track No. III Janedghat to Ranital
4	Team IV Smt. Sarita Divadi CF Nanah IFS, Mr. Kunal Agrish Mr. Ankit Vikrant - Coordinators Mr. Sidharth Bhardwaj, Miss Pooja Thakur, Smt. Kamlesh Sharma, Mr. Kanwar Singh, Mr. Virender, Ankush Chauhan & others.	Tracks: Renuka Ji Wildlife Sanctuary Sherjung National Park & Nahan Area
5	Team V Mr. Dharamveer Meena, Mr. Vinkesh Chauhan- Coordinators Mr. Harish Hudden, Mr Ram Dass, Mr Bhadur Singh, Mr. Nish Raj, Smt Kajal Joshi, Mr. Prashant Negi, and others.	Tracks :- Daranghatti Wildlife Sanctuary Rupibhaba Wildlife Sanctuary Lippa Assarang Wildlife Sanctuary Sarahan Wildlife Sanctuary and other parts of Kinnour
6	Team VI Mr. Satpal Dhiman - Coordinator Smt. Aarti Gupta WWF, Smt. Sarika, Mr. Abhishek Thakur, Ankush Thakur & Others.	Tracks- Khalini to Talland area FRH Khalini to Dhanudevta Temple Victory Tannel Fagli Chaura Maidan
7	Team VII Mr. Vasu Doegar, Dr. Abhinav Chaudhary and Mr. Bhagat Ram :- Coordinator Mr. Joginder Singh, Mr Mirginder Joshi, Mr. Jivan Singh Patiyal and Mr. Chottu Yadav Mr. Sunil Saklani, Mr. Anu, Mr. NK Chahuan Mr. Bhagat Ram WL expert & others.	Tracks - Khaliyar to Dhansi Mata temple Barot area of Mandi Jogindamagar area of Mandi district. Gaggal area of Mandi District.
8	Team VIII Mr. Rahul Rohane, Mr. D.S. Dhadwal - Coordinators Mr. Surjeet Pathania, Smt. Ritu Patiyal, Miss Neha Thakur, Miss Anita Bhatia, Mr. Sonu, Mr. Sunil Kumar, Smt Sarita Kundal, Miss Sarita, Mr. Suresh Kumar, Smt. Rajni, Mr. Sachin Sirmouri, Mr. Ankush Dhiman & others.	Tracks: Sastar area of Hamirpur Pong Dam Wildlife Sanctuary .Dhauladhar Wildlife Sanctuary Gopalpur Zoo and Area
9	Team IX Ms Meera Sharma, Mr. Nishant Mandhotra Coordinator Mr. Hans Raj RFO, Mr. Puvender Singh, Mr. Kavinder Singh, Mr. Vinay Kumar, Mr. Om Prakash, Mr. Manoj Kumar, Smt. Usha. & others	Track :- Great Himalayan National Park

10	Team X Mr. Rakesh Kumar, DFO (WL) Kullu - Coordinator Mr. Chaman Thakur RFO, Mr. Ritesh Suri, Mr. Vijay, Mr. Rakesh, Mr. Rin Kumar, Mr. Sunil Kumar, Mr. Narayan, Mr. Kamaljeet Rana, Miss Reena & others.	Tracks :- Manali Wildlife Sanctuary Bandli Wildlife Sanctuary Nargu Wildlife Sanctuary Shikari Devi Wildlife Sanctuary Kias Wildlife Sanctuary Kanawar Wildlife Sanctuary Khokhan Wildlife Sanctuary
11	Team XII Mr. Shiv Kumar - Coordinator Miss Tinkle Bhatt, Mr. Ashwni Kumar, Mr. Mahesh Kumar Mr. Amir Jaspa, Guru Rana WL expert & others	Tracks :- Lahaul Spiti
12	Team XIII Mr. Rajiv Kumar, DFO (WL) Chamba - Coordinator Mr. Rajneesh, Mr. Raj Kumar, Mr. Suraj, Mr. Gajender verma, Mr. Mohinder Singh, Mr. Suraj Kumar, Mr. Ravinder Kishwaria, Mr. Rahul, Mr. Ashok, Mr. Abhishek Mr. Vishal Ahuja, Mr. Deepak Garg, Mr. Jagdeep & others.	Tracks:-Khajjiyar Wildlife Sanctuary Kugti Wildlife Sanctuary Tundah Wildlife Sanctuary Gangul Siyabahi Wildlife Sanctuary.
13	Team XIV Miss Goldy Rajput - Coordinator and others	Tracks : Gobindsagar lake Bilaspur
14	Team XV Smt. Unasana Patival- Coordinator, Dr. Avhinav Chaudhary ornithologist. Mr. Sanjiv Kumar, Mr. Vijay Guleria & others.	Tracks - Dhramshala area
15	Team XVI Mr. E Vikaram IFS CF Solan, Mr. Shrasthanand, DFO Solan, Praveen Thakur Coordinator Smt. Avtar Kaur, Mr. Mohit Gautam, Ankur Gupta & others	Tracks- Solan to Shilli Chakki Mod
16	Team XVII Mr. Hardev Negi and others	Tracks - Kibber Wildlife Sanctuary Pin Valley National Park.
17	Team XIX Smt. Shashi Kiran Thakur – Coordinator Smt. Babita Sharma, Smt. Sunita, Smt Sarita & others.	Track :Hamirpur area .


 Pr. Chief Conservator of Forests (WL),
 and Chief Wildlife Warden, Shimla, HP

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 8/2/22

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