

November 20, 2018

G. Parameswaran  
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130, Vivekananda Road  
Ramnagar, Coimbatore  
Tamil Nadu 641009  
India

SEATTLE  
AUDUBON



Dear Mr. Parameswaran:

I would like to extend my hearty congratulations on the article written by you and R. Sivashankar that was recently published in the Journal of Threatened Taxa, titled: "*The Composition and Status of Waterbirds of Perur Lake in Tamil Nadu, India*" (26 October 2018). This peer-reviewed article represents a significant level of diligent effort, and has resulted in valuable documentation of the annual cycle of avian representation at Perur Lake. This accomplishment is all the more impressive given that it is based not on formal academic research, but instead on citizen science; that is, the efforts of committed and trained citizens to engage in rigorous scientific study.

These types of citizen science endeavors have direct benefits to long-term conservation goals, by helping provide crucial and otherwise lacking information on status and trends of avian species or other ecological variables. Such an analysis is particularly important in places where an ecosystem varies throughout the year, such as with the seasonal wetlands that you analyzed. Absent such careful, extended surveys, decision makers can overlook the true ecological values of such an area. Such surveys can also point to particularly sensitive times for managing or avoiding the area, such as when water levels should be maintained to support key ecological events, including migration or nesting. It can also serve as a template or benchmark for similar surveys at other sites. As you suggested in the paper, it would be very valuable to conduct synchronous surveys of neighboring wetlands to provide a more complete picture of the overall ecosystem.

Seattle Audubon is proud to have played a part in your accomplishment, in the fact that you are a graduate of our Master Birder program, which is specifically designed to build sophisticated bird identification and observation skills among recreational birders. Your work is a clear example of how – working together – both scientists and citizens can advance the cause of bird conservation.

I want to also take this opportunity to commend you for the depth of your volunteer leadership at Seattle Audubon while you lived in Seattle. Among other notable accomplishments, we deeply appreciate that you and Herb Curl started the monthly bird count at the Washington Park Arboretum, that you were a leader for many years of one of the sectors for the Christmas Bird Count, and that you provided steady and thoughtful leadership on the Conservation Committee for many years. We are grateful that you are continuing to lead conservation and science efforts on behalf of birds in India, and we wish you the best success in your ongoing endeavors.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "John Brosnan", written over the word "Sincerely,".

John Brosnan  
Executive Director, Seattle Audubon Society