

# Nilgiri Natural History Society



Annual Report 2017-18

# OVERVIEW

Nilgiri Natural History Society endeavours to redefine life, nature and humanity through an ecologically sound and socially responsible value system. It aims to permeate manifestations of actions and thought processes across all walks of life. Inspiration and imagination are core to the Society.

The Society was started in 2010 by a group who have been working in the region of the Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve for 20 years and are part of Keystone Foundation. The society was launched to include people who believe that ecological societies are possible, where people and biodiversity coexist. The Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve is a region, which is alive with these examples, and the society seeks to understand and learn from them.

# ACTIVITIES DURING THE YEAR 2017-18

Nilgiris Natural History Society conducted a variety of events in the year 2017-18. We had talks, as well as treks and an outreach session with a visiting school. Organizationally, we had a change in our outreach personnel with Gali Prudhvi leaving us in June 2017 and Anandhi Chandran taking over the reins for a brief time between October 2017-Jan 2018.

The list of activities undertaken in the last year:

## Talks

- Conversation on Conservation.

On July 28, 2017 we had a talk by the Field Director of Mudumalai Tiger Reserve, Mr. Srinivas R. Reddy, IFS, at the Place to Bee restaurant in Ooty.

Towards celebrating World Tiger Day NNHS celebrated a day early with a talk by Mr. Srinivas R. Reddy, the Project Director of Mudumalai Tiger Reserve. The talk covered in broad terms the four aspects of Tiger Reserve activities namely, Protection, Habitat development, Ecotourism activities and Tribal Welfare. He also talked about the Captive Elephant Management program at the Reserve. It was a very informative talk on the efforts by the Forest Department in the Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve.

- Indian Dogs

On August 27, 2018, a talk by Dr. Theodore Bhaskaran, nature writer on Indian Dog species was held at Keystone Campus. A history of Indian dog species, their current status were all discussed.

- Todas and Other cultures

On January 2, 2018, a talk by renowned anthropologist and sociologist Dr. Anthony Walker, one of the foremost anthropologists on Toda culture spoke about his experiences in working in the Nilgiri landscape as well as other tribal cultures he has studied.

- World Water Day

On March 22, 2018 NNHS and Keystone Foundation participated in Ootopia organised by the Ooty Administration and Good Shepherd International school students at the Ooty Boat Lake. Students from 17 schools participated

## Trails

- Grassland Trail in Sholur

On July 30, 2017 a trail was conducted for our members to the montane grasslands of the Sholur bluff overlooking Masinagudi. Malabar crested lark and Nilgiri pipit were sighted. *Anaphalis neelgerryana* a small herbaceous plant belonging to Asteraceae, endemic to the Nilgiris, were also observed.

- Birding at Kokkal

On October 29, 2017 a birding trip was organised to Kokkal. Flowering Rhododendrons, grassland meadows and Toda buffaloes also accompanied this grassland trail. *Nilgiri sholakilli* was sighted on this trail.

- Birding in Masinagudi

On December 16, 2017, Birding for waterfowl at the waterholes of Masinagudi was conducted. Australian ibises, pied kingfishers, were observed.

- Bikkapathy Mund

On January 16, 2018 saw a trek up to the Toda Mund in Bikkapathy Mund. This site had stunning 360 degree views and also some birding spots. This trail also allowed participants to see Toda culture first hand

- School Visits

During December 2017, an exposure visit to the Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve was done for a group of 30 students and 3 teachers from The School, Chennai.

- Natural History Notes

- Natural History Notes from Dunsandle Estate, Sholur

Dear NNHS,

I have written a short note about the HSPV that we found in Dunsandle:

One morning we were informed about a snake seen in the tea estate where we work. We rushed to the spot, but unfortunately by the time we got there it had been killed. It was a Horseshoe Pit Viper (*Trimeresurus strigatus*) a snake endemic to the Southern Western Ghats. It looked like the snake was either gravid or had eaten something. As this snake gives birth to live young we dissected it and were surprised to find that it had eaten a Striped Narrow-headed snake or Perrotet's Wood snake (*Xylophis perroteti*). Later some herpetologists, who saw these photos, said that it was an important record as very little is known about the feeding habits of this rare and elusive snake.

Prashanth Aiyappa & Smaran Somanna, Members

# Membership and Governance

Membership is invited under the following categories:

- **STUDENT MEMBERSHIP** - All those who are in the age group of 10-17 years, and identify with and are willing to contribute to the vision and objects of the society would be eligible for this. They would be eligible to attend the General Body Meetings and enjoy such privileges as may be notified by the Executive Committee from time to time. The student members would not have any voting right in the Society. The membership fee is INR 100 per year.
- **ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP** - All those above 17 years of age, who identify with and are willing to contribute to the vision and objectives of the society would be eligible for this. They would be eligible to attend the General Body Meetings and enjoy such privileges as may be notified by the Executive Committee from time to time. The associate members would not have any voting right in the Society. The membership fee is INR 100 per year.
- **INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIP** – Any individual who identifies with and is willing to contribute to the vision and objects of the society is eligible to apply for membership of the Society by submitting the duly filled in membership form of the Society along with the prevailing annual or life membership fee. The applicant may become a member of the Society upon approval by the Executive Committee. The decision of the Executive Committee shall be final. The annual membership fee for individuals is INR 250 per year and the Life membership fee is INR 2,000.
- **INSTITUTIONAL MEMBERSHIP** - Any institution which identifies with and is willing to contribute to the vision and of the society is eligible to apply for membership of the Society by submitting the duly filled in membership form of the Society along with the prevailing annual or life membership fee. The applicant institution may become a member of the Society upon approval by the Executive Committee. The decision of the Executive Committee shall be final. The annual membership fee for institutions is INR 2,000 per year and the Life membership fee is INR 10,000.

## Executive Committee/Office bearers

Anita Varghese (President), Meenakshi Venkataraman (Secretary)

Sumin George Thomas (Treasurer), Robert Leo, Pratim Roy, Tina Jagatbir Singh,

Staff: Gali Prudhvi, Nature Educator; Anandhi Chandran – NNHS Coordinator

The bylaws and registration documents of the Society are available online at <http://nnhs.in>

# Financial Report 2017-18

## NILGIRI NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY, OOTY, THE NILGIRIS RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31.03.2018

RECEIPTS	Rs.P	Rs.P	PAYMENTS	Rs.P	Rs.P
To Opening Balances			By Administrative expenses		1,950.50
Cash in Hand	1,719.65		By Bank charges		3,587.85
			By Audit fees		900.00
Cash at bank			By Conservation education		1,070.00
- Axis bank	5,832.50		By Conveyance		13,053.00
- HDFC bank	1,26,615.57	1,34,167.72	By Meeting expenses		5,904.00
			By Printing and stationary		4,095.00
			By Postage and Telephone		5,771.00
To Bank Interest		5,218.00	By Salary		94,000.00
To Books and Subscriptions		295.00	By Travelling Expenses		17,990.00
To Donation		10,000.00	By Exposure visits		1,47,233.00
To Membership Fees Annual		250.00	By TDS		7,187.00
To Consultancy Income		35,000.00	By Fixed Deposits made		2,55,000.00
To Advance recovered		10,000.00	By Audit fees payable		5,000.00
To Reimbursement of Expenses		1,84,350.00	By Closing balances:		
To Life membership fees		8,000.00	Cash in Hand	2,670.65	
To FD Matured		1,75,000.00	Cash at Bank		
To TDS Receivable received		45,000.00	- Axis bank	2,397.65	
To Interest on TDS refund		3,150.00	- HDFC bank	42,621.07	47,689.37
		<b>6,10,430.72</b>			<b>6,10,430.72</b>

per our report of even date for J. Mathew & Co.

Anita Varghese, President  
24.08.2018

John Mathew C.M

NILGIRI NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY, OOTY, THE NILGIRIS  
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31.03.2018

EXPENDITURE	Rs.P	INCOME	Rs.P
To Administrative expenses	1,950.50	By Bank interest	5,218.00
To Bank charges	3,587.85	By Books and subscriptions	295.00
To Audit fees	900.00	By Donation	10,000.00
To Conservation education	1,070.00	By Membership fees annual	250.00
To Conveyance	13,053.00	By Consultancy income	35,000.00
To Meeting Expenses	5,904.00	By Exposure visits	37,117.00
To Printing and stationery	4,095.00	By Interest on TDS refund	3,150.00
To Postage and Telephone	5,771.00	By Excess Expenditure over income	57,801.75
To Salary	94,000.00		
To Travelling Expenses	17,990.00		
To Depreciation	510.40		
	<b>1,48,831.75</b>		<b>1,48,831.75</b>

per our report of even date for J. Mathew & Co.

Anita Varghese, President  
24.08.2018

John Mathew C.M

# Organisational Information

Nilgiri Natural History Society is registered under the Tamil Nadu Societies Registration Act, 1975 (Tamil Nadu Act 27 of 1975)

Registration No. 54/2010

## REGISTERED & MAILING ADDRESS

Nilgiri Natural History Society  
144-A, Sargan Villa, Club Road,  
Opp. Hill Bunk, Udhamandalam - 643 001,  
The Nilgiris, Tamil Nadu  
Ph: +914232-2441340/+919442619577

## WEBSITE

[www.nnhs.in](http://www.nnhs.in)

## SOCIAL MEDIA

<https://www.facebook.com/nilgirinaturalhistorysociety/>

<https://nilgirinaturalhistorysociety.wordpress.com/>

## E-MAIL

[contact@nnhs.in](mailto:contact@nnhs.in)

## AUDITORS

J Mathew & Co., Udhamandalam

