Name of the interviewer: Keerthana Subhadra Karthik

Name of person interviewed: Shantha Ravikumar

1. Good morning. It is wonderful to have this interview with you. Thank you for taking the time. So how long have you been bird watching in the Nilgiris?

I started bird watching in 1985 when we had moved had Nilgiris. One day I saw a small bright orange minovet(it was called scarlet minovet those days). That is how I started. It has been 38 years. It is a lifetime hobby. It has been a wonderful experience just going on birdwatching trips.

1. What are the common migratory birds that come to visit?

Kashmiri Flycatcher

Grey Wagtail

Common Rosefinch

Northern Pintail

Mallard

Nilgiri Wood Pigeon(travels from lower to higher elevation)

Red whiskered bulbul

Peacocks

Wooly necked storks

Koels

1. When do you see a lot of migratory birds there?

Winters (September to March)

4. Have the numbers of migratory birds declined and is there any threat to these birds? I don’t think there has been any specific bird count. During Covid there was a lot more wildlife and birds were really thriving without being disturbed. Increase of monkey and peacock population is dangerous for endemic birds.

5. What are the ways the people can help these birds survive when deforestation and loss of habitat and pollution are threats to their existence? Is there anything the government or the people have done to combat these? There has been a plastic free Nilgiris campaign but all plastic has not been eliminated. Milk packets and plastic wrappers and broken bottles are still very prevalent. Most people blame the tourists but they are not only to blame. Your generation is much more aware and understand that prevention is better than cure. Be a leader and spread awareness especially to older generation on what they are doing wrong. Thank you for this. It was wonderful speaking with you on this topic. Have a great year.

