

Karthik Thrikkadeeri

SENIOR RESEARCH ASSISTANT

Nature Conservation Foundation, India

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Personal Information

DATE OF BIRTH 24 March 1999 Sex Male (he/him)

NATIONALITY Indian
MARITAL STATUS Unmarried

DRIVING LICENCE LMV & MCWG (India)

LANGUAGES English, Malayalam (native), Hindi

INTERESTS Ecological research (community ecology, migration, biogeography)

Quantitative data analysis and visualisation (fun data projects)

Birdwatching (eBird profile)

Poetry and creative non-fiction writing

Hip-hop

Education

DEGREES

University of South Bohemia in České Budějovice

České Budějovice, CZ

MSc in Ecology 2019–2021

Thesis: "Habitat selection in post-breeding temperate forest birds"
Supervisor: Katerina Sam

Christ University Bengaluru, IN

BSc in Biotechnology, Chemistry, Zoology 2016–2019

Courses/Workshops

Azim Premji University

Bengaluru, IN

INTRODUCTION TO REMOTE SENSING USING QGIS

21-25 Nov 2022

• Basic principles of remote sensing, characterising different features of land surface, generating maps with land cover statistics

Skills

FIELD

- Point counts, line transects, all-out/opportunistic search
- Sound recording (birds), telephoto photography (birds), macro photography
- Camera trapping, PCQ vegetation sampling, radio telemetry
- Extensive field experience in diverse and challenging landscapes, habitats and terrains
- Excellent sight and sound ID of birds (India, Europe)

TECHNICAL

- Quantitative ecology (particularly community and macroecology) and research design
- Data curation, management, processing and wrangling
- Reproducibility and transparency in research workflows
- Editing and proofreading of written material (English)

SOFTWARE

- R, R Markdown & allies, Git/GitHub, QGIS
- · ChatGPT, Bard
- · Audacity, MS Office, Google Suite, Canva, ImageJ

PERSONAL QUALITIES

Ambitious, patient, persistent, self-motivated, time management skills

Certifications_

2023 All-India Topper: Ecology and Evolution (EY) | Graduate Aptitude Test in Engeering (GATE) 2023

Marks: 84.33; Score: 1000

2018 English CEFR C2: IELTS 2018 (Academic)

Listening: 9.0; Reading: 9.0; Writing: 7.0; Speaking: 8.0; Overall Band Score: 8.5

Work Experience

Nature Conservation Foundation

Bengaluru, IN

SENIOR RESEARCH ASSISTANT

Apr 2023-present

- SoIB 2023: Contributed to analysis, visualisation and writing for two chapters (large-scale trends, systematic monitoring) of report, and also produced website-specific outputs
- SoIB 2023: Unified various analyses into pipeline framework, and functionised/parametrised scripts and added annotations, to improve accessibility to team as well as others
- SoIB 2023: Cleaned, structured and organised GitHub repository to archive
- · SoIB 2023: Contributed to editing and proofreading as well as bibliography management for the full report
- Created a GitHub repository to collate functions used repeatedly when working with eBird data in R—to potentially be converted into a package
- Created a GitHub repository to collate mapping data useful for eBird data analysis in the Indian context—mostly contains open shapefiles of administrative units

Nature Conservation Foundation

Bengaluru, IN

RESEARCH ASSISTANT

Aug 2021–Mar 2023

- Analysed the effect of the COVID-19 pandemic on birdwatching and eBird data in India, and its implications for research using this data; wrote
 up and submitted manuscript to a peer-reviewed journal
- · Established a version control (Git/GitHub) workflow for Bird Count India analyses to enable reproducibility as well as transparency
- Created a periodic analysis framework to identify and track regions in India that are most underrepresented in eBird data, in order to identify
 regions of priority where concerted action (strategised from these metrics) is required
- Created eBirding point maps for the country as well as for each state in India, made easily accessible to users and updated monthly
- Automated several periodically occurring data analysis tasks of Bird Count India (tracking metrics, results of challenges & birding events [post-hoc from EBD and also live summaries using eBird API and R], etc.)
- · Improved eBird data quality in India by creating updated and more fine-scale (district-wise) filters for Tripura state
- · Assisted birders with their queries regarding eBird data and how to analyse it for their own studies

Biology Centre of the Czech Academy of Sciences

České Budějovice, CZ

PART-TIME EMPLOYEE

Dec 2020-Feb 2021

· Collated Katerina Sam's Papua New Guinea bird datasets spanning c. 4 years and uploaded to eBird

Biology Centre of the Czech Academy of Sciences

České Budějovice, CZ

PART-TIME EMPLOYEE

Oct 2020

Calculated herbivory damage from images of collected leaves from Cameroon using ImageJ software

Centre for Ecology Development and Research (CEDAR Himalaya)

Kumaon, IN

RESEARCH INTERN

Apr 2018-May 2018

• Studied butterfly diversity patterns across a land-use intensification gradient in oak-pine forests of Kumaon Himalayas

Agumbe Rainforest Research Station (ARRS)

Agumbe, IN

RESEARCH VOLUNTEER

Apr 2017-May 2017

Assisted in field work and data entry for a project on breeding ecology of the Yellow-wattled Lapwing
 Additionally, learned basics of camera trapping, scale counting for snakes and PCQ vegetation survey

Publications

RESEARCH ARTICLES

1. L Schillé, ..., **K Thrikkadeeri** et al. (2023). Latitudinal gradient in avian insectivory: complementary effects of climate, habitat and bird diversity. Preprint at *BioArxiv*: https://doi.org/10.1101/2023.01.19.524212.

2. J Praveen, ..., **K Thrikkadeeri** et al. (2022). Kerala Bird Atlas 2015—20: features, outcomes and implications of a citizen-science project. *Current Science* 122(3).

REPORTS

1. **SolB 2023**. State of India's Birds, 2023: Range, trends, and conservation status. The SolB Partnership. Pp. 119.

Воокѕ

1. PU Antony, ..., **K Thrikkadeeri** et al. (2018). *Butterflies of Christ University Main Campus—A Pictorial Guide*. Centre for Publications, Christ University, Bangalore, India.

IN PIPELINE

- 1. **K Thrikkadeeri** and A Viswanathan (*rejected*, *in revision*). Effects of COVID-19 pandemic on birding in India, and implications for citizen science inference.
- 2. **K Thrikkadeeri**, ..., A Viswanathan *(under review)*. Occurrence of West Himalayan Bush Warbler (*Locustella kashmirensis*) in Eastern Himalaya Terai.
- 3. **K Thrikkadeeri**, R Chanda, RD Kishore and RP Singh *(under review)*. Sighting of the Jungle Cat in an urban hotspot in Bengaluru city, Karnataka, India.
- 4. A Viswanathan, ..., **K Thrikkadeeri** et al. (*in prep.*). State of India's Birds 2023: Background and Methodology.
- 5. **K Thrikkadeeri**, I Freiberga, LR Jorge, K Sam *(in prep.)*. Habitat selection in post-breeding temperate forest birds
- 6. **K Thrikkadeeri**, ..., G Shahabuddin (*in prep.*). A checklist of butterflies from a land-use intensification gradient in Kumaon Himalayas.

Presentations

CONTRIBUTED

2023 **Talk**: Citizen Science at NCF Field Sites. Presented with Mittal Gala.

NCF Annual Meet 2023, Mysuru, IN.

2022 **Talk**: The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on birding and birds in India.

NCF Annual Meet 2022, Mysuru, IN. (See slides or code)

2022 **Talk**: The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on birding and birds in India. International Ornithological Congress 2022, online. (See slides or code)

2022 **Poster**: *The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on bird monitoring in India*. Bird Monitoring Symposium 2022, online.

Talk: Inventory of butterfly species along a land-use intensification gradient in moist temperate forest biome in Kumaon Himalayas.

Ecology Seminar, University of South Bohemia, CZ.

2018 **Talk**: A study on avian diversity in an industrial area of the Palghat Gap.

National Seminar on Development and Ecological Sustainability: Issues in Emerging India (DESIEI) 2018,
Bengaluru, IN.

Workshops_

Analysing eBird data with R

Thrissur, IN

KERALA BIRD MONITORING MEET (KBMM) 2023

Jun 2023

• Led workshop for c. 20 participants (birders) with assistance from Praveen J

Introduction to Merlin and eBird tools

Silchar, IN

ASSAM UNIVERSITY, SILCHAR

May 2022

- Assisted Mittal Gala in short outdoor training session for eight MSc Physics students
- Introduced features of Merlin Bird ID and eBird Mobile, and demonstrated practical usage
- · Interacted with students on general queries about birds and birding

Bird monitoring and eBird

Lembucherra, IN

COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE, LEMBUCHERRA

May 2022

- Assisted Mittal Gala in indoor workshop for c. 40 participants (students and local birders)
- Provided technical assistance, coordination support, and ad-hoc engagement with audience

Field Activities

Bird Surveys IN

VOLUNTEER DATA COLLECTOR 2019-present

- Periyar Bird Survey (Jan 2023) in Periyar Tiger Reserve, Kerala (team lead)
- Attappady Bird Survey (Dec 2022) in Attappady, Kerala (team lead)
- Panna Bird Survey (Mar 2022) in Panna Tiger Reserve, Madhya Pradesh (team lead)
- Wet Season Survey of Kerala Bird Atlas (Jul 2019) in Silent Valley National Park, Kerala

Field research Dudhwa, IN

TEAM MEMBER Apr 2023

· Contributed to data collection and discussions during the Bengal Florican survey (part of the grassland monitoring project of The Habitats Trust) in Dudhwa-Pilibhit landscape, Uttar Pradesh

Expeditions Betul, IN

Feb 2023 **EXPEDITION MEMBER**

· Joined mini-expedition to survey the birds of Betul, an underbirded district in Madhya Pradesh

Other Activities

ORGANISATIONAL

North Wayanad Forest Division Bird Survey 2023

North Wayanad, IN

Mar 2023 ORGANISER

Helped formulate survey methodology, and managed technical logistics (eBird as a tool) and data quality

National Seminar DESIEI 2018 Bengaluru, IN

ORGANISER, EDITOR Dec 2018

- · Member of symposium's Organising Committee
- Led editorial work including editing, proofreading, typesetting, and publishing of Abstracts book

VOLUNTEERING

eBird data analysis consultation, Bird Count India

Online

OFFICE HOURS Dec 2022-present

· Offered office hours consultation for individuals or groups on how to analyse eBird data (see https://birdcount.in/analysis-consultation/)

eBird data quality Online

REGIONAL REVIEWER & HOTSPOT EDITOR May 2022-present

• Regional Reviewer for Tripura, IN; Hotspot Editor for Tripura, In & Meghalaya, IN

Bird Monitoring Symposium Online

VOLUNTEER Mar 2023

· Managed session talks, Q&As and comments on Discord, as well as assisted participants with queries

NCF Annual Meet Mysuru, IN

VOLUNTEER Oct 2022

• MCd a session of talks

Bird Monitoring Symposium Online

VOLUNTEER Apr 2022

· Managed session talks, Q&As and comments on Slack, as well as assisted participants with queries

ADMINISTRATIVE

High-performance server administration

Bengaluru, IN

COORDINATOR 2022-present

· Coordinated usage of NCF High Altitude Programme's high-end server among various interested parties, as well as its maintenance

Mentoring

Vyom Vyas Assisted in designing a behavioural study on the breeding ecology of Purple Sunbird

Referees

Dr Ashwin Viswanathan

Research Associate, Education and Public Engagement Nature Conservation Foundation, Mysuru, India Email: ashwinv@ncf-india.org

DR SUHEL QUADER

Scientist, Education and Public Engagement Nature Conservation Foundation, Mysuru, India Email: suhelq@ncf-india.org

PRAVEEN J

Scientist, Education and Public Engagement Nature Conservation Foundation, Mysuru, India Email: praveen.j@ncf-india.org

MGR KATERINA SAM, PHD

Head, Laboratory of Multitrophic Interactions Biology Centre of the Czech Academy of Sciences, České Budějovice, Czech Republic Email: katerinatvardikova@gmail.com

DR PU ANTONY

Retired Professor, Department of Zoology Christ University, Bengaluru, India Email: antony.pu@christuniversity.in