



**School of Lifesciences
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**Report on the Visit of Ms. Anushka Gurung for Citizen Science Awareness
Program in Ornithology**

Date: 28th April, 2026

Organized by: Department of Zoology & Botany along with Zoological & Botanical Society of Sikkim Alpine University, School of Life Sciences, Sikkim Alpine University, Kamrang, Namchi – 737126

A special citizen science awareness program in Ornithology was organized by the School of Life Sciences, Sikkim Alpine University, featuring **Ms. Anushka Gurung, SAGE Fellow, The Echo Network**, currently pursuing her Ph.D. at ATREE, Bengaluru. The program was conducted for the students of the Departments of Zoology and Botany, with active participation from the **Zoological Society and Botanical Society of Sikkim Alpine University**.

The session commenced with a warm welcome extended by the faculty members of the Department of Zoology. The gathering highlighted the university's continued efforts to promote interdisciplinary learning and community-oriented scientific engagement among students.

During her session, Ms. Gurung shared her valuable experiences in the field of ornithology, emphasizing the importance of integrating scientific research with citizen science approaches. She elaborated on how citizen participation can significantly contribute to understanding bird diversity, distribution, and conservation, particularly in ecologically rich regions like Sikkim.

A key highlight of the program was the hands-on training session conducted by Ms. Gurung, where she introduced students to widely used citizen science tools such as the eBird platform and the Merlin Bird ID application. Students were guided on how to document bird observations, identify species, and contribute data to global biodiversity databases. This practical exposure provided students with essential skills for real-time field-based learning and research.

Furthermore, Ms. Gurung discussed potential career pathways in ornithology and related fields, encouraging students to pursue research, conservation, and community-based environmental initiatives. The session concluded with an engaging question-and-answer segment, where students actively interacted with the speaker and clarified their queries regarding bird research, citizen science tools, and career opportunities.

The program ended with a formal vote of thanks delivered by **Dr. Aditya Moktan Tamang, HoD (In-Charge), Department of Zoology**, who expressed gratitude to Ms. Gurung for her insightful session and acknowledged the enthusiasm shown by the students and faculty.

Overall, the program was highly informative and served as an important step towards promoting citizen science and biodiversity awareness among students.

This report is submitted for kind information and record.



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