

Certificate Course in Birding (CCB)

Department of Environmental Science,
Maharshi Dayanand Saraswati
University, Ajmer



Certificate Course in Birding (CCB)

Duration: 6 months (October to March / or as decided by the department) To accommodate the period of arrival of Migratory Birds

Seats: 20

Eligibility: Pass in class XII

(Admission on the basis of Merit and personal interview)

Venue: Environmental Science Department, Charak Bhawan , M.D.S. University, Ajmer

Scheme:

Paper	Nomenclature	Internal Evaluation	External Evaluation	Total
Paper – I	Basics of Birding	50	50	100
Paper – II	Basics of Ornithology	50	50	100
Paper – III	Assignment / Field Report	50	50	100

The Internal Evaluation per paper would be based on two seminars of 10 Marks each, two class tests of 10 Marks each and 10 marks for contribution to Bird Fair/Exhibition.

Paper III

Assignment / Field Report 100

- Short Term Project/ projects 50
- Assignment / Field Report 50 (Internal Evaluation only)
- For evaluation of Project work, the candidate has to give a presentation before the External Examiner. Marks for the Field report will be awarded by the internal faculty. The students are required to secure minimum 20 marks (pass marks) separately in Project work and Field report for passing.
- The students are required to secure the marks as below:
 - Pass marks 40% in each Paper

- II Division 48% and above in aggregate
- I Division 60% and above in aggregate
- Each paper (except Assignment / Field Report) shall contain TEN questions having two questions from each unit. The candidates are required to attempt FIVE questions in all selecting at least one question from each unit.
- An education tour may be organised to important places of interest within or outside the State under the supervision of faculty. The expenses shall be borne by the participating student. However, the university can provide train/bus travel concessions as per necessity and University rules.

Curriculum for Certificate course in Birding

Paper –I Basics of Birding

There are five units in all. Two questions will be set up from each unit and the candidates are required to attempt five questions by selecting at least one question from each unit.

Time 3 hours

Maximum Marks 50

Unit –I

Nature and Scope of Ornithology, Importance of birds, Tools for Bird Watching, Principles of Birding Ethics

Unit –II

Bird Names, Common Birds of India, Bird Sanctuaries of India, Bird Census, Methods of counting birds, The Asian Waterfowl Census

Unit –III

Life of Salim Ali –The great ornithologist of India, Books written by Salim Ali - Fall of the Sparrow, Ornithological studies in historical times in India. Societies, NGOs and other organizations concerned with birds. Online repository of information about the science of ornithology.

Unit –IV

Photographing Birds, Understanding Camera basics & lenses & light conditions, photographing water birds, Small perching birds, Birds in Dark Forest, Seabirds & Shorebird, Birds in urban setting, Nesting birds.

Unit –V

Bird Conservation and Action – Endemic species, Threats to bird populations, Conservation Status of birds. IUCN Threat Categories

Paper –II Basics of Ornithology

There are five units in all. Two questions will be set up from each unit and the candidates are required to attempt five questions by selecting at least one question from each unit.

Time 3 hours

Maximum Marks 50

Unit –I

Nesting and Breeding, Breeding Seasons, Breeding display, Nesting and care for the young ones. Variety of nests, Mating patterns, Eggs, Incubation.

Unit –II

Flight Adaptation in Birds, Modes of Flight: Gliding or skimming, Soaring or sailing, Flapping and Hovering.

Unit –III

Birds Routine Activities: Flying, Walking, Feeding, Perching on trees or wires, Drinking water, Singing, Nesting, Preening, Moulting, Bathing, Dust bath, Flocking, Roosting etc

Unit –IV

Bird Features and Morphology, Bird Beaks and their uses, Types of feathers, Bird vocalizations, Bird Habitats, types of Feet or Claws in Birds

Unit –V

Migration of Birds, Definition of migration, Migratory and resident birds, Catching and ringing birds, Studying migration by radio-tracking and satellites. Bird Migration Studies in India and abroad. Threats to Migration.

Paper –III Project Work / Field Report

- 4 to 6 Field trips for bird study. The trip will be day trips
- Project would be assigned by Faculty may be either one or few small assignments
- Two to Three days camp for study of birds and their habitats
- Web Surfing about birds.
- Preparing Checklists.
- Philately – Stamps on Birds