
AvayeBoom Bird Conservation Society

2021
ANNUAL
REPORT

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Overcoming Challenges and Expanding Horizons

Message from the CEO

The COVID-19 pandemic persisted last year, posing significant challenges to our activities. Economic pressures reduced our volunteer resources, yet we adapted our efforts to the circumstances.

Amid quarantine and movement restrictions, we seized the opportunity to raise public awareness about birds. People had more time to engage with our online workshops and webinars. We also launched a book and encouraged public participation in building bird nests, using the pandemic to boost awareness. Field and research activities continued despite the pandemic.

We initiated extensive bird population estimation activities in Hormozgan province, enhancing our understanding of southern Iran's habitats. Additionally, we launched Iran's first major project to manage conflicts between beekeepers and European Bee-eater birds. Despite the challenges, AvayeBoom made significant progress thanks to our dedicated volunteers and supporters who helped preserve Iran's bird population.

IMAN EBRAHIMI
CEO





Controlling the Conflict Between Beekeepers and Bee-Eaters

Beekeepers in Iran have reported that European Bee-eater birds are damaging their beehives and honeybees. A single European Bee-eater bird can destroy many bees in a day. When these birds encounter honey production hives during their migration in groups, they can cause significant damage to beekeepers. Unfortunately, this has led to widespread conflict between the birds and beekeepers. To address this problem, beekeepers have resorted to using poisoned bait, with various poisons such as Diazinon being commonly used.

Ecological Impact of Poison Use

The use of poison to kill bees harms the bees and affects other wildlife, especially the European Bee-eater birds. When these birds consume the poisoned bees, they, too, die in large numbers. This results in the loss of a valuable species of birds and also has ecological consequences. The toxins from the poisoned birds then enter the food chain and can harm other wildlife. This exacerbates chemical pollution in natural environments and increases hazardous contaminants throughout the food web.

Education and Research Initiatives

In 2021, the AvayeBoom Bird Conservation Society conducted a specialized study and designed a catalog for teaching beekeepers. The catalog includes information about species of bee-eaters, their importance in nature, and methods to control conflicts between these birds and beekeepers in Iran and worldwide. The project was implemented in western Esfahan and southern Fars pilot locations. Surveys were conducted to collect beekeepers' opinions and suggestions. Two questionnaires were prepared for beekeepers to answer questions about the methods before and after training. After presenting the data and gathering insights from beekeepers, the project's biodiversity expert analyzed the information. Based on the findings, they created educational and research content. The AvayeBoom Bird Conservation Society conducted this project with funding from Nazre Tabiat Society, which supported us through public donations.



Installation of Nest Boxes on Mount Sofeh, Esfahan



The Esfahan Municipality and AvayeBoom collaborated to install 100 nest boxes in the Mount Sofeh area of Esfahan. AvayeBoom designed the nest boxes and located the installation sites, while the municipality constructed and installed the nest boxes in the field. We have recorded the locations of all installed nest boxes to track the progress of this project. Moving forward, our team of AvayeBoom experts will regularly inspect these nest boxes over the next few years. These boxes were specifically designed and placed to attract Passeriformes birds like the House Sparrow, educate the public, and foster a closer relationship between humans and urban birds.



Rodent Population Control Through the Attraction of Birds of Prey

The AvayeBoom Bird Conservation Society, in collaboration with the Varzaneh Municipality, the Varzaneh Association of Cultural and Natural Heritage Lovers, and the Esfahan Department of Environmental Protection Agency, has taken a step towards preserving the birds and the environment. AvayeBoom set up multiple artificial raptor nesting sites in the Taghazar region of Varzaneh. Varzaneh is a town located in eastern Esfahan Province, southwest of Nayin city, near the Gavkhouni wetland. Unfortunately, the town has been facing issues with the Cutaneous leishmaniasis disease. This disease is known to be carried by rodents, including the great gerbil in this area. Therefore, various measures are taken in the affected areas every year to control the spread of the disease.

These measures include pesticide spraying, destroying the nest of rodents, bait placement, and sanitary landfilling.

The AvayeBoom Bird Conservation Society launched and executed this research project to diminish the environmental hazards of using chemical poisons for rodent control, prevent bird poisoning, and ultimately reduce the incidence of Cutaneous leishmaniasis disease.

The nesting sites were designed with heights suitable for resident predatory birds. These sites will be protected by Varzaneh Department of Environmental Agency. The monitoring and recording of potential changes will start concurrently with the installation of the nesting sites. Currently, the project is still in the testing and monitoring phase.



Ringling and Cnesus of Breeding Birds on Shidvar Island

Small, uninhabited islands around the world serve as safe and suitable breeding grounds for many waterbird and shorebird species. Monitoring and protecting these areas are crucial for ensuring the survival of these species. In Iran, several uninhabited islands in the Persian Gulf have been protected by the Department of Environment for decades. Shidvar Island, one of these small, uninhabited islands in the Persian Gulf, is particularly important for the breeding of several bird species, especially terns. The Hormozgan Department of Environment regularly monitors this island to assess the breeding status of its bird populations and identify potential threats to their survival. The AvayeBoom Bird Conservation Society, financially supported by the Hormozgan Department of Environment, conducted a breeding bird population survey on Shidvar Island. The survey aimed to monitor the breeding status of bird species on the island and identify



threats to their survival. Four breeding bird species are present on this island: Western Reef Heron, Bridled Tern, Lesser Crested Tern, and White-cheeked Tern. Results indicated the presence of 78,116 Bridled Terns, 28,846 White-cheeked Terns, and 4 Lesser Crested Terns, highlighting the island's critical role in the breeding of these species. Despite the high breeding numbers, the ongoing threats emphasize the need for enhanced protection measures for Shidvar Island.



Waterbird Census in Esfahan Province

The AvayeBoom Bird Conservation Society was entrusted with conducting the mid-winter waterbird census 2021 in Esfahan Province. The bird census was conducted by the AvayeBoom Bird Conservation Society with funding from the Esfahan Department of Environmental Protection. We utilized the expertise of volunteer birdwatchers to carry out the project at various sites. Every year, from mid-September to late winter, several rare species of migratory birds migrate from the north to the southern regions, and Iran's land hosts them.

Sites and Locations

The project conducted at 12 different wetlands located across Esfahan Province. These sites included the Hana Dam, Qarah Qach Dam, Zayandeh Rood Dam, ponds of Shahid Montazeri Refinery in Esfahan, the international Gavkhouni wetlands, Golpayegan Dam, the biological water treatment facility of Esfahan Steel Company, the boating lake of Esfahan Steel Company, and the regulatory dam of Zayandeh Rood



The Decline in Biodiversity of Waterbirds Compared to 2020

The project data revealed a decrease in the diversity of waterbird species in the province, possibly due to multiple factors. The prolonged droughts affecting the wetlands in the area could be the primary reason, alongside other factors such as the timing of the census and the quality of equipment used. To better understand the reason behind the decline in waterbird numbers, each habitat needs to be analyzed individually, compared to one another and the wetlands of the entire country. .During the 2021 census, the Zayandeh Rood River in Esfahan was dry, and no waterbirds were observed in this area. Therefore, the census was not conducted at this location. It is worth noting that this site had been monitored during the 2020 census.



"Boom Negar" Bird Photography Contest

Last year, AvayeBoom Bird Conservation Society organized a photography contest called "Boom Negar" to promote public awareness about the bird biodiversity of Iran. This contest aimed to showcase the beauty of birds in Iran and contribute to their conservation efforts. Exhibiting the winning photographs through photo exhibitions can also raise awareness about the importance of protecting these magnificent creatures. Last year, AvayeBoom Bird Conservation Society organized a photography contest called "Boom Negar" to promote public awareness about the bird biodiversity of Iran. This contest aimed to showcase the beauty of birds in Iran and contribute to their conservation efforts. Exhibiting the winning photographs through photo exhibitions can also raise awareness about the importance of protecting these magnificent creatures.





The jury, composed of specialists and experts in wildlife photography evaluated the entries.

After three steps of evaluating, the winners have been selected. There are six photos that have been chosen, and they have been introduced in four different categories:

- Three winners in the Art and Technique of Photography
- One winner in the Best Narrative Photography
- One winner in the Endangered Species
- One winner in the best bird Behavior Record

News

Attracting Birds to the Women's Garden in Esfahan



AvayeBoom experts and volunteers collaborated with the management of the Women's Garden in Esfahan to design and implement a program to attract more birds to the park. The program lasted several months, from 2020 to 2021 and this involved installing nest boxes and bird feeders, planting of native grass species and improving the condition of the water pond to make it more bird-friendly. These efforts were intended to attract birds and educate visitors about them.

Start a campaign to stop illegal wildlife trading

Reports and observations from the Sheypoor website indicated that wildlife traffickers were actively conducting illegal transactions. In response, AvayeBoom launched a campaign to urge the Sheypoor website to halt wildlife trafficking. With the cooperation of environmental enthusiasts, society members, and the Sheypoor site, the campaign successfully almost stopped wildlife trafficking on the Sheypoor site.



Bird Information Boards in Flower Garden, Esfahan



The bird information boards at Golha Garden in Esfahan was created in partnership with AvayeBoom and the of Parks and Green Spaces Organization in Esfahan. AvayeBoom designed and prepared the board while the municipality installed it in the garden. The board is divided into three categories: native birds, winter migrants, and summer migrants. Images and descriptions accompany each species to help citizens learn more about their characteristics. In addition, there is a section dedicated to introduction of bird-watching and related instructions.

Publishing of the Book "Bird Migration and Migratory Birds of Iran"

The book "Bird Migration and Migratory Birds of Iran" describes worldwide bird migration patterns and the current survival status of migratory birds in Iran. This work enhances our knowledge about migratory birds, encouraging us to enjoy watching them more and to strive for their protection consciously. To better understand the content and improve the enjoyment of reading it, the book includes images from 23 professional wildlife photographers from Iran. The author of this work is Iman Ebrahimi, the co-founder and CEO of the AvayeBoom Bird Conservation Society in Esfahan.



Education and Training

The initial step towards preserving the environment is to raise awareness and understanding about the subject matter. AvayeBoom Society follows this principle by continuously educating and enhancing the knowledge level of its members and enthusiasts, irrespective of the circumstances. With increased knowledge, taking more practical steps towards conservation of birds and protecting the environment becomes more accessible.

The titles of these programs included:

- "Symbolic Reflection of Birds in Iranian Culture and Literature" webinar
- "Birds of Iran and Their Role in Agriculture" webinar
- "Evolution of Birds" webinar
- "Familiarization with the Sounds and Flight of Birds" online workshop.

پرندگان ایران و نقش آن‌ها در کشاورزی

حمید جباری
متخصص کشاورزی و پرندنگر

یکشنبه
۲۴ مرداد ۱۴۰۰

ساعت ۲۰ تا ۲۲

برای شرکت در این دوره آموزشی در Lms.golvani.ir ثبت‌نام کنید.

بازتاب نمادین پرندگان در فرهنگ و ادبیات ایران

جلسه دوم

مهدی نامداری
ترشحی ارشد مدیریت گردشگری
رهبران گردشگری
مدیر و دوره‌های تخصصی

هزینه ثبت نام در وبینار:
عموم: ۵۰۰۰۰ تومان
اعضا: ۳۰۰۰۰ تومان
اعضای ویژه: ۳۰۰۰۰ تومان

دوشنبه، ۶ دی
ساعت ۱۹:۳۰

برای اطلاعات بیشتر با شماره ۰۲۱-۹۰۰۹۰۰۰۰ تماس بگیرید.

آشنایی با آواز و پرواز پرندگان

به مناسبت روز جهانی پرندگان مهاجر برگزار می‌شود:
وبینار آموزشی (تک‌گانه) با موضوع:

زمان: یکشنبه ۱۹ اردیبهشت ۱۴۰۰
۲۰:۰۰ الی ۲۱:۰۰ در بستر استکای روم
مدرس: دکتر آرش حبیبی آزاد
ثبت نام، تماس با ۰۹۳۰۹۰۸۵۳۸۸

از خزنده تا پرنده

بررسی اجمالی روند تکامل
از خزندگان تا پرندگان

بهرام بیهقی
پژوهشگر دوربین‌ستان و خزندگان

یک جلسه
سه‌شنبه ۲۹ تیر
ساعت ۲۰ تا ۲۲

ویژه نوجوان تا بزرگسال

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Bird-Watching Training for Teachers of Human and Environmental Studies

In February 2021, AvayeBoom Bird Conservation Society, Chaharmahal, and Bakhtiari Department of Environmental collaborated with the Education Department Of the province to organize a training course for teachers of Human and Environmental Studies. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the course was conducted online. More than 65 teachers from the region participated in the course, and Iman Ebrahimi, the CEO of the AvayeBoom Society, trained on birds and bird-watching to the attending teachers.

During the webinar, the presenter discussed the differences between domestic and wild birds, their nesting behaviors, and anatomical features. The session also covered recreational bird-watching activities and introduced bird-related games for children. To enhance the discussion, several captivating species of birds from Chaharmahal and Bakhtiari Province, such as Bearded vulture, Eurasian Scops Owl, Cuckoo, European Turtle Dove and others, were presented to the teachers, providing an opportunity for students to learn about these birds.

Empowering Women for Bird Conservation in Qamishlo National Park

In collaboration with the Isfahan Environmental Agency, AvayeBoom Bird Conservation Society conducted an environmental education program for women from villages around Qamishlo National Park. Led by three environmental education experts, the program took place at the ranger station in the heart of the national park and aimed to increase awareness and participation in bird conservation among local women.

The program included both indoor and outdoor sessions, focusing on the importance of birds in the ecosystem and how women can contribute to their conservation. Participants engaged in hands-on activities, birdwatching excursions, and interactive discussions, empowering them to play a proactive role in protecting their natural environment.



Bird-Watching Club

One of the ongoing programs of the AvayeBoom Bird Conservation Society is to organize bird-watching tours in various parts of Esfahan city and wetlands in other provinces. These tours, conducted with the guidance of society experts, provide information about birds, their identification, and behaviors. Participants also observe the birds and simultaneously absorb the information being shared. The diverse bird population in Esfahan ensures that each tour provides the opportunity to observe various native and migratory bird species.





the opportunity to observe various native and migratory bird species. Last year, AvayeBoom organized bird-watching tours to celebrate various occasions in different areas. These tours were attended by members, volunteers, and enthusiasts in the field. Some of the programs included:



- A bird-watching tour in Javan Garden on Earth Day
- A bird-watching tour in Najvan Park on World Endangered Species Day
- A bird-watching tour in Javan Garden at the start of autumn to observe waterbird migratory birds
- A bird-watching tour in Meyghan Wetland on National Crane Day



Rescue and Rehabilitation



Since its establishment in 2015, the AvayeBoom Bird Conservation Society has been actively involved in the rescue, treatment, and release of injured wild birds. As the only rehab center in Esfahan Province for these purposes, AvayeBoom has become the primary authority for handling injured wild birds. Over the years, AvayeBoom has maintained continuous cooperation with the Esfahan Department of Environmental and several local

environmental offices, including those in Khomeinishahr, Falavarjan, Esfahan, Nain, Shahinshahr, Natanz, and Varzaneh.

Guideline for Release of Rehabbed Wild Birds

Capturing, rescuing, treating, and rehabilitating wild birds are specialized aspects of wildlife conservation and management that are consistently challenging. One critical issue is adhering to the principles and standards for releasing treated birds back into the wild. To address this, AvayeBoom created a guideline booklet covering the basic principles of returning birds to their natural habitat.



Statistics on Received and Released Birds

In 2021, AvayeBoom handled a variety of bird species. These included 12 eagles, 10 owls, 11 aquatic and migratory birds, 11 buzzards, 2 kites, 2 Levant sparrowhawks, 25 kestrels, and other species such as Egyptian nightjars, swifts, hoopoes, and chukar partridges. Notably, two rare Saker falcons were rescued from poachers. Throughout the year, AvayeBoom successfully released many birds back into their natural habitats, including 7 eagles, 18 kestrels, and several other species. Some birds with permanent injuries, such as one steppe eagle and two Eurasian eagle-owls, remain at the AvayeBoom facility.





Thank You

We deeply appreciate the support from our members, collaborators, and volunteers. Your contributions have been essential to our success. Together, we will continue our vital work for the well-being of birds and their habitats. Thank you for being part of our journey.



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