



## Book Review

### A Review of '*Guhanagari*'- A Book on Urban Wildlife at Christ University, Bengaluru

Ganesh S \*

**Sathya Chandra Sagar and H S, Pradeep Hegde**, *Guhanagari'- A Book on Urban Wildlife at Christ University, Bengaluru*, Christ University, Bengaluru, 2016, 156 pp; ISBN 978-93-82305-93-4

The fast modern world is entangled and caught up in a crisis where there is a lack of time to ponder into the serenity of life around us. The world is now governed by the demon 'need' obviously to catch up with the pace of the city, which is engulfed in pollution, adulteration and what not.

*Guhanagari* is an apt response to this madness of anthropogenic activities like urbanization and modern lifestyle. It is an earnest initiative by the authors to stop, think and appreciate the bounty of nature and the wild biodiversity thriving amidst us in the city's concrete jungle.

*Guhanagari*, in fact has brought out the staggering number of plants and animals existing in the microenvironment of Christ University's 25 acre campus in Bengaluru. It is astonishing to note that this urban landscape amidst the honking of the traffic around can still support a great number of birds, insects and other animals to observe and cherish.

The authors have done a good job to express their observations to the students community in the form of a guide so that they could understand and appreciate the wildlife surrounding them at Christ

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University campus. Beyond that it is also a testimony to a friendship lived through a shared love for wildlife and nature. This book also invokes a sense of hope, responsibility, respect and admiration for the life around despite being at the height of an ecological crisis.

This book also inspires the future stake holders of the institution to love nature without any expectations and preserve it just to keep it beautiful and also save it for their posterity.

Excellent work has gone with the photo plates. Photos of all the species given in the checklist would have enhanced the curiosity and awareness among the non-science students of the institution.

More details including classification of each species and their role in the ecosystem could have been given if only the sizes of the pictures were reduced. .

Colour plates of 82 species of trees which were identified are included. However, the book could have given more information about the trees of the campus and highlight it as the very reason why so many birds and other animal species exists in Christ University campus. Another avenue of research that could have enhanced the value of the book would be the exploration of the symbolic relationship between the trees and birds in the University.

The fact that there is a burgeoning of medicinal plants in Christ University could have been highlighted. For a book that is published in 2016, the authors could have adopted a form that is different from earlier books of this kind.

Overall, *Guhanagari* is an earnest attempt by the authors to express their avid love for nature and it's ever cherishing wilderness in a lucid form that is easy for a lay person to understand.