SATURDAY 21 NOVEMBER 2026

Getting to know local birds through photos and bird calls

Took part	11 to 20	Where	aikyam space, Fort Kochi
Run by	Olimalar Foundation and George P J	Facilitated by	George P J

Audience
Curiosity Clubat aikyam space, children aged 9 to 14.

Steps
George set out the materials before 2 p.m.

Children arrived at 2 p.m. George told them the afternoon was about the birds of Kochi.

Children talked about the birds they see near home, at school and around Kochi.

George went through the birds one at a time. He covered what each bird eats and how it catches its food. He also covered where it lays its eggs. He told them where he took each photo. He also told them how long he waited and why. Then he played the bird's call.

In a sound game, George showed four birds and played one call. Children named the bird it belonged to.

George talked about caring for birds, like leaving water out on hot days and picking up plastic.

Children made their own paper flying birds. They cut out and coloured them.

Each child named one bird to look out for, or one way to help. George then asked what they thought of the session. We finished at 4:30 p.m.

Response
The children listened closely to each call. In the feedback round, they all said they liked the session a lot.

Materials
We used 12 of George's own photographs of local birds. We made a slide deck with each bird's Malayalam name and notes. The deck plays each bird's call. The calls came from xeno-canto, a free online library of bird sounds.

We photocopied the bird photos larger and cut around the outline of each bird. We clipped them onto artificial green leaves to decorate the space next to the screen.

For the craft, we adapted the RSPB "Build a Bird" template for our 12 birds. We made 20 photocopies, one for each child expected. We gave children scissors, crayons, sketch pens, colour pencils, erasers, glue and paper clips.

Other outputs
18 paper flying birds. We also made one slide deck with photos, Malayalam names and calls. We also made a set of Build a Bird templates for 12 local birds.

Evidence
At the start, children said they had already seen 4 or 5 of George's birds. By the sound game, most could match a call to the right bird. One or two mixed up calls that sound alike. At the end, each child named a bird to look out for or a way to help. It is too early to say whether they will notice these birds more at home.

We observed this.

Evidence
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People told us this.

Learnings
Children paid attention to George's stories about how he photographed each bird. The sound game worked because children had heard each call while learning about the bird. Cutting out the birds took longer than planned. We also ran out of scissors. Children did not get to test-fly their birds.

Kind of learning: went well

What we would do differently
Check all materials the day before, including enough scissors for every child.

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