

## RITOBROTO CHANDA

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### EDUCATION:

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#### **MSc Wildlife Conservation Action**

**Bharati Vidyapeeth Institute of Environment Education and Research (BVIEER),  
Pune, India.**

*2018-present*

**Thesis title:** The Effect of Exotic Plantations on the Occurrence and Abundance of Understory  
Birds in the Shola Sky Islands of Palani Hills, Tamil Nadu.

**Advisors:** Dr Kranti Yardi (BVIEER, Pune); Dr VV Robin (IISER Tirupati)

#### **BSc Chemistry, Botany and Zoology**

**Christ University, Bengaluru, India.**

*2014-2017*

**Thesis title (Zoology)** (Advisor: Dr Antony PU, Christ University): Avifaunal Diversity of  
Two Sites Along an Elevational Gradient in North Bengal, India.

**Thesis title (Botany)** (Advisor: Fr Jobi Xavier, Christ University): Pollination success  
and threshold capacity of Nectarless flowers

### RESEARCH EXPERIENCES:

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- Masters thesis project at the **Indian Institute of Science Education and Research, Tirupati** with **Dr. VV Robin**. Ongoing project on understanding the **effect of landscape change on birds in Shola Sky Islands of Southern Western Ghats (May 2019 onwards)**.
- Research Intern at the **Centre for Ecology Development and Research (CEDAR)** with **Dr. Ghazala Shahabuddin**. Carried out a project on understanding the **Habitat utilization, foraging behaviour and niche partitioning of woodpeckers (Picidae) in Oak forests of Kumaon, Uttarakhand from September 2017 to June 2018**. Also involved in the creation of awareness materials and sustainable ecotourism ventures by the promotion of bird watching and training local youth as bird guides.
- Internship at **Centre for Ecological Sciences, Indian Institute of Science (IISc)**, Bangalore in **Dr. Vishwesh Guttal Lab**. Carried out a short project **investigating collective trail formation in ants found on IISc campus from 1st July 2017 to 1st September 2017**.
- Volunteered with **Dr. Trevor Price and Dr. K Supriya**, University of Chicago/ Arizona State University, for research work involving **arthropod sampling, assessment of bird diet and bird surveys** carried out in **Sikkim and North Bengal** from **23rd April 2017 to 21st May 2017**.
- Volunteered for a Project on **“Human-Leopard Interactions in Himachal Pradesh”** by **Ms. Shweta Shivakumar and Dr. Vidya Athreya**, **Wildlife Conservation Society-India Program** in collaboration with **Himachal Pradesh Forest Department** from **15th October 2016 to 13th November 2016**. Carried out leopard scat collection in human-use landscapes, camera trapping and sensitive data collection about leopard attacks on humans and livestock.

- Volunteered with **Dr. K Supriya**, Arizona State University, during her PhD project titled “**Effect of ants on elevational patterns of bird species diversity in the Eastern Himalayas**” from **7th May 2016 to 7th June 2016**. Assisted in fieldwork involving mist-netting, camera trapping and nest box monitoring.
- Internship at **ATREE** (Ashoka Trust for Research in Ecology and the Environment) from **1st June to 30th October 2015**. Assisted **Dr. Vidyadhar Atkore** by carrying out fish morphometrics and species identification and cataloguing for his PhD project, titled “**Drivers of fish diversity and turnover across multiple-spatial scales: Implications for conservation in the Western Ghats, India**”.
- Volunteered at **ARRS** (Agumbe Rainforest Research Station) from **5th April 2015 to 1st May 2015**. Assisted in a Project titled “**Documentation of development stages of tadpoles of Torrent frog (*Micrixalus saxicola*)**”, researchers during **Human-Snake Conflict Mitigation**, Fieldwork for project titled “**Ecology of Yellow-wattled lapwing (*Vanellus malabaricus*)**”, A taxonomic study on **Gunther's supple skink (*Lygosoma guentheri*)**, study on **spatial vision in honey bees**.

## **PUBLICATIONS:**

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### **Scientific Publications:**

- Shahabuddin G., Menon T., **Chanda R.**, Goswami R. (2018). Ecology of Rufous-bellied Woodpecker (*Dendrocopos hyperythrus*) in Himalayan oak forests. *Forktail* 34: 58-64.

### **Books/ Awareness Materials:**

- **The Birds of Christ University-Main Campus – A Pictorial Guide**. (2016). Centre for Publications, Christ University. ISBN No. 978-93-82305-88-0.
- **The Butterflies of Christ University-Main Campus – A Pictorial Guide**. (2017). Centre for Publications, Christ University. ISBN No. 978-93-82305-98-9.
- **Ritobroto Chanda**, Tarun Menon and Ghazala Shahabuddin. Pamphlet on **Birds of Mukteshwar**. (2018). (CEDAR, Dehradun; Uttarakhand Forest Department; G B Pant High Altitude Zoo, Nainital; Titli Trust, Dehradun).

### **Popular Science Article:**

- **Ritobroto Chanda**. (2017). Phantom of the Mountains: The leopards of Himalayas. Saevus Blog. <http://www.saevus.in/newblog/phantom-mountains-leopards-himalayas/>

## **SCHOLARSHIPS:**

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- DAAD scholarship for summer school on “Sustainable City Development” at University of Cologne, Germany. (October 2019)

## **PRESENTATIONS:**

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- Student talk at National Symposium on Avian Biology, IISER Tirupati, December 2019.  
Talk Title: How do understorey frugivorous birds occupy regions invaded by exotic trees in the Shola Sky Islands

of Palani Hills?

- Student talk at Dwindling wetlands- Impacts on livelihoods and ecosystem services (DWILES), Christ University, Bengaluru, January 2017.

Talk Title: The Biodiversity of *Myristica* Swamp forests of Uttara Kannada, Karnataka: Implications for Conservation.

- Poster Presentation at Student Conference on Conservation Sciences (SCCS), J N Tata Auditorium, Bengaluru, September 2017.

Poster Title: Avifaunal Diversity and Implications for Conservation of Two Sites Along an Elevational Gradient in North Bengal, India.

### **PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES:**

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- Reviewer, Current Science

### **ADDITIONAL EXPERIENCES:**

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- Attended a **workshop on Rainforest Ecology** at Agumbe Rainforest Research Station(ARRS) from 16th July 2015 to 19th July 2015. Learnt about life in the rainforest ecosystem, scale counting techniques for reptile identification etc.

### **MEMBERSHIPS:**

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- **GREEN ARMY**, Christ University, Bengaluru - A student movement for conservation *since 2014*

### **SKILLS:**

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- Basic knowledge on usage of R, MATLAB, ArcGIS and QGIS.

- **Field skills:** Mist-netting, bird banding, bird morphology measurements; handling birds, fishes, arachnids and reptiles; fish and reptile morphology measurements; Usage of Camera traps, GPS and Rangefinder; Arthropod trapping techniques including Pitfall traps and Winkler traps.