

V. V. ROBIN

ASSISTANT PROFESSOR

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Profile

My research interests broadly cover understanding patterns and processes in ecology, biogeography and evolutionary ecology using island systems. I contribute to conservation through my research initiatives and by involving various stakeholders. Much of my research is collaborative and multi-disciplinary and whenever possible, uses technological advances to aid research.

Honours

- National Geographic Explorer - Research & Exploration (2012, & 2019)
- Fulbright Fellow (2008)
- Salim Ali - Lok wan Tho Ornithological Fellow (1999)

Positions held

- May 2016 to present: Assistant Professor, Indian Institute of Science Education and Research (IISER) Tirupati, India
- December 2011 to April 2016: Fellow, National Centre for Biological Sciences, Tata Institute of Fundamental Research, Bangalore, India
- May 2011 to October 2011: Post-doctoral fellow, Loyola University, Chicago, Illinois, USA
- January 2011 to May 2011: Post-doctoral fellow, Uma Ramakrishnan Lab, National Centre for Biological Sciences, Tata Institute of Fundamental Research, Bangalore, India
- August 2008 to April 2009: Fulbright Fellow, California State University - Fresno, USA
- August 2008 to December 2008: Visiting Scholar at Geoff Hill and Stephen Dobson labs, Auburn University, Alabama, USA
- May and June 2007: Visiting Research Scholar, Department of Biology, California State University, Fresno, California, USA.
- June 4th to 14th 2007: Visiting Scientist, Patuxent Wildlife Research Centre, U.S. Geological Survey, U.S. Department of the Interior, Laurel, Maryland, USA
- 2002 November to December: Visitor, Laboratoire d'Ecologie, Ecole Normale Supérieure, Paris, France
- Dec 2000 to August 2002: Visiting Scholar, Centre for Ecological Sciences, Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore, India

Education

- Ph.D. National Institute of Advanced Studies, Indian Institute of Science Campus, Bangalore (Manipal University). May 2007 - Dec 2010.
- MS Ecology, Salim Ali School of Ecology and Environmental Science, Pondicherry University, India. 1998 - 2000.
- B.Sc. Zoology, P.S.G.College of Arts and Science (Bharathiar University), Coimbatore, India. 1995 - 1998

Research papers

- Gupta P, Vishnudas CK, Ramakrishnan U, ***Robin V. V.** , *Dharmarajan G. 2019. Geographical and host species barriers differentially affect generalist and specialist parasite community structure in a tropical sky-island archipelago. Proc. R. Soc. B 20190439. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1098/rspb.2019.0439> . *Equal authors

- Arigela RK, Singh RKR, Kabeer KAA, GVS Murthy, and **V. V Robin**. Phytodiversity Inventorisation and Mapping of Shola grasslands of Kodaikanal Wildlife Sanctuary, Western Ghats, India. *Indian Forester*, 145 (3) : 214-226, 2019
- Koparde P, Mehta P, Mukherjee S, **Robin V. V.** Quaternary climatic fluctuations and resulting climatically suitable areas for Eurasian owlets. *Ecology & Evolution*. 2019;00:1–11. <https://doi.org/10.1002/ece3.5086>
- Arasumani M., Danish Khan, C.K. Vishnudas, M. Muthukumar, Milind Bunyan*, **V.V. Robin***. 2019. Invasion compounds and ecosystem-wide loss to afforestation in the tropical grasslands of the Shola Sky Island. *Biological Conservation*. 230 (2019) 141-150. 10.1016/j.biocon.2018.12.019. *Equal authors
- Buxton R. T., Agnihotri S., **Robin V. V.**, Goel A., and Balakrishnan R. 2018. Acoustic indices as rapid indicators of avian diversity in different land-use types in an Indian biodiversity hotspot. *Journal of Ecoacoustics*. 2: #GWPZVD. <https://doi.org/10.22261/JEA.GWPZVD>
- Koparde, P., Prachi Mehta, Sushma Reddy, Uma Ramakrishnan, Shomita Mukherjee* and **V. V. Robin***. 2018. The critically endangered forest owlet *Heteroglaux blewitti* is nested within the currently recognized *Athene* clade: A century-old debate addressed. *PLoS ONE* <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0192359>. *Equal authors
- Arasumani M., Danish Khan, Arundhati Das, Ian Lockwood, Robert Stewart, Ravi A Kiran, M. Muthukumar, Milind Bunyan*, **V.V. Robin***. 2018. Not seeing the grass for the trees: Timber plantations and agriculture shrink tropical montane grassland by two-thirds over four decades in the Palani Hills, a Western Ghats Sky Island. *PLoS ONE* 10.1371/journal.pone.0190003
- Wickramasinghe N, **Robin V. V.**, Ramakrishnan U, Reddy S, Seneviratne SS. 2017. Non-sister Sri Lankan white-eyes (genus *Zosterops*) are a result of independent colonizations. *PLoS ONE* 12(8): e0181441. <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0181441>
- **V.V. Robin**, C.K. Vishnudas, P. Gupta, F.E. Rheindt, D. Hooper, U. Ramakrishnan and S. Reddy. 2017. Two new avian genera of songbirds represent endemic radiations from the Shola Sky Islands of the Western Ghats, India. *BMC Evolutionary Biology*. 17:31. DOI 10.1186/s12862-017-0882-6 <http://rdcu.be/oKUS>
- Chetana Purushottam and **V.V. Robin**. 2016. Sky Island bird populations isolated by ancient genetic barriers are characterized by different song traits than those isolated by recent deforestation. *Ecology and Evolution*. 6: 7334–7343. DOI: 10.1002/ece3.2475
- Ramachandran, V*, **V.V. Robin***, Krishnapriya Tamma and U. Ramakrishnan. 2016. Climatic and geographic barriers drive distributional patterns of bird phenotypes within peninsular India. *Journal of Avian Biology*. DOI: 10.1111/jav.01278
- **V.V. Robin**, C.K. Vishnudas, P. Gupta and U. Ramakrishnan. 2015. Deep and wide valleys drive nested phylogeographic patterns across a montane bird community. *Proceedings of the Royal Society of Biology - B*. 1810 (282). <http://dx.doi.org/10.1098/rspb.2015.0861>
- **V.V. Robin**, P. Gupta, Thatte, P., and U. Ramakrishnan. 2015. Islands with islands: Two montane paleo-endemic birds impacted by recent anthropogenic fragmentation. *Molecular Ecology*. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1111/mec.13266>
- Varma, V., Jayashree Ratnam, Vinatha Viswanathan, Anand M. Osuri, Jacobus C. Biesmeijer, M.D. Madhusudan, Mahesh Sankaran, Meghna Krishnadas, Deepak Barua, Megha Budruk, Kavita Isvaran, Rajah Jayapal, Jahnvi Joshi, Krithi K. Karanth, Jagdish Krishnaswamy, Raman Kumar, Shomita Mukherjee, Harini Nagendra, Madhura Niphadkar, Nisha Owen, Navendu Page, Soumya Prasad, Suhel Quader, R. Nandini, **V.V. Robin**, Steven M. Sait, Manzoor A. Shah, Hema Somanathan, Umesh Srinivasan, Bharath Sundaram. 2015. Perceptions of priority issues in the conservation of biodiversity and ecosystems in India. *Biological Conservation*. 187 (2015): 201-211
- **V.V. Robin**, C.K. Vishnudas and Uma Ramakrishnan. 2014. Reassessment of the distribution and threat status of the Western Ghat endemic bird, Nilgiri Pipit *Anthus nilghiriensis*. *Current Science*. 107 (4): 622-630.
- **V.V. Robin** and R. Nandini. 2012. Shola habitats on sky islands: status of research on montane forests and grasslands in southern India. *Current Science*. 103 (12): 1427-1437.

- Sridhar, H., U. Srinivasan, R.A. Askins, J.C. Canales-Delgadillo, C. Chen, D.N. Ewert, G.A. Gale, E. Goodale, W.K. Gram, P.J. Hart, K.A. Hobson, R.L. Hutto, S.W. Kotagama, J.L. Knowlton, T.M. Lee, C.A. Munn, S. Nimnuan, B.Z. Nizam, G. Peron, **V.V. Robin**, A.D. Rodewald, P.G. Rodewald, R.L. Thomson, P. Trivedi, S.L. Van Wilgenburg and K. Shanker. 2012. Positive Relationships between Association Strength and Phenotypic Similarity Characterize the Assembly of Mixed-Species Bird Flocks Worldwide. *The American Naturalist*. 180 (6): 777-790
- **V.V. Robin** and S. Rao. 2012. Notes on two migratory cuckoos from the Western Ghats, Tamil Nadu, southern India. *Indian Birds (an international, peer reviewed newsletter)*. Vol. 7, No.5: 145-146.
- **V.V. Robin**. 2011. Plumage description of the juvenile White-bellied Shortwing *Brachypteryx albiventris*, and a note on its phenology. *Indian Birds*. Vol. 7, No.5: 115-116.
- **V.V. Robin**, A. Sinha and U. Ramakrishnan. 2011. A view from the past: shortwings and sky islands of the Western Ghats. *Indian Birds* Vol. 7. 30-33.
- **V.V. Robin**, U. Ramakrishnan and A. Sinha. 2011. Determining the sex of a monomorphic, threatened, endemic passerine, the White-bellied Shortwing in the sky islands of southern India. *Current Science*. Vol. 101, No.5: 1-4.
- **V.V. Robin**, M. Katti and A. Sinha. 2011. Singing from the skies: Geographic and individual variation of bird song in a threatened, endemic bird on the sky islands of southern India. *Animal Behaviour*. doi:10.1016/j.anbehav.2011.05.03
- **V.V. Robin**, A. Sinha and U. Ramakrishnan. 2010. Ancient geographical gaps and paleo-climate shape the phylogeography of an endemic bird in the sky islands of southern India. *PLoS ONE* 5, e13321.
- Eben Goodale, B. Z. Nizam, **V. V. Robin**, Hari Sridhar, Pranav Trivedi, S. W. Kotagama, U. K. G. K. Padmalal, Rahula Perera, P. Pramod and Lalitha Vijayan. 2009. Regional variation in the composition and structure of mixed-species bird flocks in the Western Ghats and Sri Lanka. *Current Science*. Vol. 97 No.5:1-16.
- **V.V. Robin**, R. Sukumar and Jean-Marc Thiollay. 2006. Status and distribution of the White-bellied Shortwing *Brachypteryx major* in Karnataka and Goa, India. *Bird Conservation International*. 16:345-351
- **V.V. Robin**. 2005. A record of a Sooty Tern from the Valparai plateau, south India. *Indian Birds*. Vol. 1. No.6. pp 142-143
- **V.V. Robin**. 2005. A note on the breeding biology of the White-bellied Shortwing *Brachypteryx major* from the Western Ghats, South India. *Indian Birds*. Vol. 1. No.6. pp 145-146
- **V.V. Robin** and R. Sukumar. 2002. Status and habitat utilisation of a threatened bird, White-bellied Shortwing *Brachypteryx major* in the Western Ghats (Kerala and Tamil Nadu), India. *Bird Conservation International*. *Bird Conservation International*, Vol. 12, Issue 04. pp335-351.
- **V. V. Robin** and Priya Davidar. 2002. Vertical stratification of birds in mixed-species foraging flocks in Parambikulam, South India: A comparison between two habitats. *Journal of Bombay Natural History Society*. Volume 99, Issue 3. pp 389-399.

Book Chapter

- 2014. Birds of Kodaikanal. In Pradeep Chakravarthy, Anil Choudhry, Jayashree Kumar, Girija Viraraghavan eds. *Kodaikanal : Vanishing Heritage of an Island in the sky*. Niyogi Books. ISBN-10: 9383098562
- V.V. Robin and A. Sinha. (2013) Short-sighted about the Shortwing? Research and conservation on a threatened, endemic bird on the sky islands of southern India. N. Singaravelan (eds). *Rare animals of India*. Bentham Publishers. Chapter 8, pp 145-160.

Book Reviews

- V.V. Robin and R. Nandini. 2007. *Birds of Two Worlds: The Ecology and Evolution of Migration*. Russell Greenberg and Peter P. Marra (eds). The John Hopkins University Press. 466 pp. *Current Science*. Vol. 92, No. 5. 692-693.
- V.V. Robin and Anindya Sinha. 2007. *Birds beyond watching*. Abdul Jamal Urfi. Universities Press. 214pp. *Current Science – Vol. 92, No.6*. 840-841.

Grants

- 2019: Dhuleep Mathai Nature Conservation Trust grant for restoration and management of Shola habitat (Co-PI CK Vishnudas)
- 2019: Dhuleep Mathai Nature Conservation Trust grant for citizen science, bird atlas project in Tirupati. (Co-PI Nandini Rajamani)
- 2019: Kodaikanal Wildlife Sanctuary TANII Grant for research in Kodaikanal
- 2019: Indo-US Science and Technology Forum grant for training in Bioacoustics with Cornell University
- 2019: National Geographic Explorer Award.
- 2018: CoPI on National Geographic Young Explorer grant to Abhimanyu Lele to study the status and distribution of Nilgiri Pipit, a montane, endemic bird.
- 2017: Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change grant on conservation biology of the critically endangered bird Forest Owlet. PI with Shomita Mukherjee & Rajah Jayapal (Grant administered through SACON).
- 2017: Dhuleep Mathai Nature Conservation Trust grant for research on Nilgiri Pipit occupancy and grassland mapping, PI with CK Vishnudas and Milind Bunyan
- 2017: Dhuleep Mathai Nature Conservation Trust grant to support session on Rivers and Biogeography, at the International Biogeography Society India meeting. Co-authored with Nachiket Khelkar
- 2016: DST SERB Early Career Grant for project on biogeography of peninsular Indian bird
- 2016: DST SERB Grant (Co-PI) Grant for automated bird song recording and identification
- 2016: Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage grant to study landscape change in the Palani Hills (with INTACH Kodaikanal, lead investigator in grant co-authored with 6 other investigators)
- 2015: National Geographic Committee for Research and Exploration Grant. Using Music To Create Awareness Of Threatened Birds Of Western Ghats: Beatbox And Bird Songs.
- 2015: Indian Bird Conservation Network (IBCN). Using Music To Create Awareness Of Threatened Birds Of Western Ghats: Beatbox And Bird Songs
- 2015: International Biogeographic Society (IBS) Travel grant to attend the IBS meeting in Germany. January 2015.
- 2013: International Biogeographic Society (IBS) Early Career Biogeographers Committee grant to attend the IBS meeting in Miami. January 2013.
- 2012: National Geographic Committee for Research and Exploration grant. January 2012 - August 2013.
- 2011: International Biogeographical Society. Travel Grant to present an invited oral presentation on behalf of U Ramakrishnan at 5th International Biogeographical Society Conference, Crete, Greece. January 2011.
- 2010: Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF). February 2011 - January 2011. (co-authored grant with Dr. Anil Prabhakar, IIT Chennai)
- 2010: International Ornithological Congress Travel Support Committee. Travel Grant to attend the 25th International Ornithological Congress at Brazil.
- 2009: Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR). October 2009 to September 2011 (co-authored grant with Dr. Uma Ramakrishnan, NCBS Bangalore)
- 2009: Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF). August 2009 to February 2011.
- 2008: Fulbright Doctoral and Research Fellowship for research (August 2008 to April 2009).
- 2008: International Society for Behavioral Ecology, Travel Grant
- 2008: American Ornithological Union, Travel Grant
- 2007: Patuxent Research Centre, USGS, Maryland USA, supported travel and accommodation at PRC.
- 2007: International Activities Program of the College of Science & Mathematics Grant, California State University, Fresno USA.
- 2006: International Ornithological Congress, Germany. Travel Grant.

- 2006: Department of Science and Technology, Government of India- Travel Grant to attend International Ornithological Congress, Germany.
- 2006: Sir Dorabji Tata Trust- Education and Travel Grant – supported visit to museums of Natural History at London, Berlin and Frankfurt
- 2006: Department of Science and Technology, Government of India. Grant towards International Tree and Flying Squirrel Colloquia held at Periyar, March 2006
- 2006: World Wide Fund for Nature – India. Grant towards International Tree and Flying Squirrel Colloquia held at Periyar, March 2006 and site workshops on nocturnal mammals.
- 2006: Ministry of Environment and Forests. Grant towards International Tree and Flying Squirrel Colloquia held at Periyar, March 2006.
- 2006: Wildlife Conservation Society, India Program. Small Grant towards International Tree and Flying Squirrel Colloquia held at Periyar, March 2006
- 2006: Ashoka Trust for Research in Ecology and Environment (ATREE). Small Grant towards International Tree and Flying Squirrel Colloquia
- 2005: Indo-US Science and Technology Forum. Grant towards travel of five American plenary speakers for International Tree and Flying Squirrel Colloquia held at Periyar, March 2006.
- 2005: Wildlife Conservation Society, India Program. Small Grant
- 2004: Ministry of Environment and Forests, Eastern Ghats – Western Ghats committee. Research Grant
- 2003: Nityata Foundation. Vehicle granted as support towards Shortwing Conservation Biology project.
- 2002: Lufthansa Travel Grant for training at Ecole Normale Supérieure, Paris.
- 2002: Asian Nature Conservation Fund
- 2002: Nityata Foundation. Research Grant.
- 2001: Salim Ali Conservation Fund- Bombay Natural History Society
- 2000: Wildlife Conservation Society, India Program. Small Grant
- 1999: Salim Ali- Lok wan Tho Ornithological Fellowship- Bombay Natural History Society

Sponsorship

- 2009: Raised funds for Narendra Babu Memorial Fund to sponsor the first Narendra Babu Memorial Lecture and high tea held at Young Ecologists Talk and Interact (YETI) 2009 meeting of over 350 students from all over India.
- 2005: 60% sponsorship of accommodation costs supported by Kerala Tourism and Development Corporation towards the International Tree and Flying Squirrel Colloquia held at Periyar, March 2006
- 2005: Banquet dinner and audio visual equipment sponsored by Muthoot Cardamom County towards the International Tree and Flying Squirrel Colloquia held at Periyar, March 2006

Other Positions and visitorships

- November 2011 to September 2013: Fellow, Nature Conservation Foundation, Mysore and Bangalore, India
- January 2011 to May 2014: Research Associate, National Institute of Advanced Studies, Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore, India
- July 2009 to December 2010: Senior visiting research student. National Centre for Biological Sciences, Tata Institute of Fundamental Research, Bangalore, India

Presentations (International Conferences)

- **V. V. Robin** and Purushottam. 2018. Using bird songs to understand impacts of isolation across biogeographic and anthropogenic barriers in a Sky Island system of the Western Ghats. Invited talk. 13th Western Pacific Conference on Acoustics (WESPAC 2018). 11-15 Nov 2018.

- **V. V. Robin** and Purushottam. 2017. Bird song variation across biogeographic and anthropogenic barriers in a Sky Island system. Oral presentation. XXVI International Bioacoustics Conference. 8-13 October 2017. Haridwar, India.
- **V. V. Robin**, C.K. Vishnudas, P Gupta and Ramakrishnan, U. 2015. Deepest, widest valleys cause largest phylogeographic impact across a montane bird community. Lightning talk and poster presentation at the International Biogeography conference, Bayreuth, Germany. Jan 2015.
- **V. V. Robin**, P Gupta and Ramakrishnan, U. 2013. Comparative phylogeography of the entire understory bird community in a sky island reveals differential impacts of island structure on population structure. Oral presentation at the International Biogeography conference, Miami, USA. Jan 2013.
- **V. V. Robin**, A Nyari, P Gupta, Ramakrishnan, U and Reddy, S. 2012. Bridges and islands in the sky. Do speciation patterns in Shortwings on Western Ghats sky islands correspond to ecological breaks? Poster presentation at the conference Evolution, Ottawa, Canada, July 2012.
- **V. V. Robin**, Gupta, P, Reddy, S, Sinha, A, Ramakrishnan, U. 2011. The role of ancient geographical gaps on the evolution of birds on sky islands of the Western Ghats, southern India. Oral presentation at the conference Evolution, Norman, Oklahoma, USA, June 2011.
- **V. V. Robin** and U. Ramakrishnan. 2011. A phylogeographic paradigm for India? Invited oral presentation delivered on behalf of U Ramakrishnan at the 5th International Biogeographical Society Conference, Crete, Greece. January 2011.
- **V. V. Robin**, M. Katti, U. Ramakrishnan and A. Sinha. 2010. Singing from the skies: Bird song structure and individual variation on genetically different “sky-islands” of southern India. Research paper orally presented at the 25th International Ornithological Congress, Brazil. August 2010.
- **V. V. Robin**. 2008. The influence of core species on the presence and behaviour of associated species in mixed-species foraging flocks of birds. Research paper orally presented at 12th International Society for Behavioral Ecology Congress, Cornell University, Ithaca, USA. August 2008.
- **V. V. Robin**, A. Sinha and U. Ramakrishnan. 2008. Mountain gaps determine population structure of a threatened, endemic bird in the montane forests of Western Ghats, India. Research paper orally presented at 125th American Ornithological Union, Portland, Oregon USA. August 2008.
- M. Katti and **V. V. Robin**. 2008. Of species lost and found: A synthetic perspective on recent ornithological findings from north-eastern India. Research paper orally presented by M. Katti at 125th American Ornithological Union, Portland, Oregon USA. August 2008.
- **V. V. Robin**, J-M Thiollay, A. Sinha and A. Sancheti. 2006. Population isolation in a naturally fragmented landscape: the White-bellied Shortwing in the montane evergreen forests of the Western Ghats, southern India. *Journal of Ornithology*. Vol 147-(5)-1: 100. – Research paper orally presented at 24th International Ornithological Congress, Hamburg, Germany. August 2006.
- **V. V. Robin** and Priya Davidar. 2001. Species composition and association of birds in mixed-species foraging flocks at Parambikulam Wildlife Sanctuary, South India.- Research Paper presented orally at the International Conference of Tropical Ecosystems: Structure, Diversity and Human Welfare organised by the Association for Tropical Biology (ATB), Bangalore, India. July 2001.

Invited seminars

- 21 January 2019 How can we use bird songs and genetics to understand the biology of birds? Lessons from Shola Sky Island birds. Invited talk at SACON, Coimbatore.
- 3 December 2018 - Western Ghats Sky Islands: What are they, how are species formed, and how do they go extinct? Invited Plenary talk at National Research Scholars Meeting 2018. ACTREC
- 14 September 2018 - What are Sky Islands? An introduction to Palani Sky Islands. Talk at the opening of INTACH museum on People of Palani Hills, at Kodaikanal

- 18 October 2017 - Mountain Topography & Sky Island Bird Evolution: using genetics and birdsongs (with engineering solutions) to uncover patterns. Invited lecture IIT Tirupati.
- 4 October 2017 - Using genetics and bird songs to understand biogeographic patterns of Western Ghats Sky Islands. Invited lecture and chief guest at Wildlife Week Celebration of Pondicherry University.
- 2 February 2017 - Impacts of landscape connectivity at different spatial and time scales on bird population. Invited talk & co-chair at National Conference on Geospatial Technologies for Rural Development (NCGARD 2017), to be held on 2nd & 3rd February 2017 at the Gandhigram Rural Institute – Deemed University, Gandhigram
- 5-7 January 2017 - Sky Islands of the Western Ghats. Invited talk and chair of a session at Young Ecologists Meet and Interact YETI 2107 at Tezpur University, Assam.
- 4-6 October, 2017 - Genetic and bird song differentiation across natural and anthropogenic barriers on Western Ghat Shola Sky Islands. Invited talk at Landscape Ecology and Wildlife Conservation meeting organized jointly by Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun, US Fish & Wildlife Service and Pondicherry University.
- 23-24 March 2017 - Biodiversity conservation and integrative research: Case studies from the Western Ghats. Invited talk at the Capacity Building Workshop on Animal Taxonomy for the Post Graduate students and Young Researchers organized by The Department of Aquatic Biology and Fisheries, University of Kerala, in association with Kerala State Council for Science, Technology and Environment (KSCSTE).
- Careers in Conservation – Chaired and moderated session at Student Conference on Conservation Science Bengaluru. International Conference. 23 September 2016, Indian Institute of Science
- Invited to chair a session at the Annual Research Seminar of the Salim Ali Centre for Ornithology and Natural History (SACON), Ministry of Environment & Forests. 25 May 2016
- May 26, 2015 - Phylogeography and evolution of Shola Sky Island birds. Invited talk at Kerala Forest Research Institute (KFRI), Trichur, Kerala, India.
- February 6, 2015 - Islands within islands: Ecology, genetics and bird songs reveal differing effects of deforestation on isolated bird populations on sky islands of Western Ghats. Guest Talk at CES Annual in-house symposium. Centre for Ecological Science, Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore, India
- July 17, 2013 - Bridges and gaps across the sky islands of Western Ghats. Centre for Ecological Science, Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore, India
- September 7, 2011 - Phylogeography, song and conservation of a threatened, endemic bird in the Western Ghats, southern India. The Field Museum A. Watson Armour Research Seminar Series. Field Museum of Natural History, Chicago, USA.
- January 25, 2011 - Ecology, behaviour and evolution of an endemic bird in the sky islands of southern India. Ecology department, Indian Institute of Science Education and Research, Pune, India
- March 13, 2009 - Conservation biology of the White-bellied Shortwing, Biology Department Seminar, California State University, Fresno, California, USA

Teaching experience

- Ecology lab (BIO212) course lead at IISER Tirupati, Monsoon semester
- Ecology theory course (BIO211) co-taught at IISER Tirupati, Monsoon semester.
- Taught Ecology in the Basic Biology course for PhD students at National Centre for Biological Science. Dec 2015. Course co-ordinator Dr. Sanjay Sane.
- Faculty in the 3rd DST SERB School in Avian Biology, organized by the Department of Zoology, North-East Hill University (NEHU), Shillong. September 27-October 11 2015. Taught one module on biogeography and one on population genetics. Co-taught (with Dr. Shirish Manchi, SACON) a module on conservation biology, co-taught (with Dr. Shirish Manchi, SACON) a field ornithology module, co-taught (with Dr. Scott Edwards, Harvard) a lab module of phylogeography.

- Guest Faculty in the 2nd SERB School in Avian Biology, organized by the Department of Zoology & Environmental Science, Gurukula Kangri University, Haridwar, Uttarakhand. March, 08-21, 2015.
- Co-taught module on Ecology in the Basic Biology course for PhD students at National Centre for Biological Science. Nov 2014. Course co-ordinator Dr. Sanjay Sane.
- Lecture on phylogenetic trees to understand sky island bird diversity at Workshop on Phylogenetic methods conducted by Dr. Praveen Karanth, Centre for Ecological Sciences, Bangalore. 2 August 2014
- Lecture on using phylogenetic trees for ecological research in a workshop on conservation genetics at International Conference on Indian Ornithology at Salim Ali Centre for Ornithology, Coimbatore, India. 19 November 2011
- Guest lecture on bird song at “UGC-NRCBS Summer School on BIOACOUSTICS 2011” at Madurai Kamaraj University, Madurai, India. 26 March 2011
- Guest lecture on Shortwing research as part of a multi-disciplinary Foundation Course for NIAS Ph.D. students. October 2010.
- Invited talks as resource person at the Department of Science and Technology (Govt. of India) sponsored workshop on wildlife research initiatives in north east India. Guwahati University, Guwahati - 781014, India. 21-25 October 2009.
- Guest lecture on phylogenetics for biology graduate students at California State University, Fresno, USA. March 2009.
- Guest lecture on phylogeography for biology graduate students at California State University, Fresno, USA. March 2009.
- ‘Training programme on wildlife techniques’ conducted for Bhutan Forest Department Officers by Nature Conservation Foundation, India. Lectures and field sessions on mark-recapture methods to estimate population densities and survival rates of populations. Jan 2007.

Administrative and organizational experience

Organizing International Conferences

2017: One of the four core organisers of the International Biogeographic Society India meeting with about 400 participants.

2012 - 2014: One of the four core organizers of the Student Conference in Conservation Science SCCS-Bangalore www.sccs-bng.org, a sister conference to the ones in Cambridge and New York. Responsibilities included raising funds, planning content - capacity building workshops, and other organizational aspects of this conference that brings together 400-450 people from South, South-East Asia and Africa.

2009-2011: One of the core student organizers of the Young Ecologists Talk and Interact (YETI) meeting of over 400 young students from all over India www.meetyeti.in. Responsibilities included fund raising, planning content and logistics.

2006: One of the three core organizers of the six day International Tree and Flying Squirrel Colloquia with over 100 participants from 16 countries held at Periyar Tiger Reserve, March 2006. Responsibilities included administering and organizing all the logistics and fundraising for the conference.

Research Grant Administering

2007 - 2010: One of the three members of the executive board administering a research initiative grant Narendra Babu Ecological Research Initiative Grant. Responsibilities with other members of the executive board included raising the corpus for the grant, formulating rules and regulations for disbursing the grant, sending proposals for peer review, compiling reviewer feedback, encouraging grantees to improve and re-submit proposals and organizing annual lectures.

Other talks

1. 14 Mar 2019. Research on Sky Islands, highlights. Talk at Bioacoustics mini symposium, IISER Tirupati
2. 9 Feb 2019. Sky Islands. Karnataka Bird Festival, Bidar
3. 5 Jan 2019. Research Advisory Committee meeting, Aranya Bhavan, Karnataka Forest Department
4. April 12, 2018. Gandhigram Rural University, Invited talk at Centre for Geoinformatics.
5. Feb 5, 2018. Sky Islands, evolution and bird songs - what do we understand of our biodiversity? Talk as resource person at DST Inspire camp for students. Government Arts College, Ooty.
6. May 27, 2015. Evolution of Shola Sky Island birds. Talk to senior Kerala Forest Department officials. Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala.
7. December 17, 2014. Overview of research on sky islands. Talk for Tibetan Scientific Society students organized by IndiaBioscience, Bangalore.
8. December 15, 2011. Bridges and islands in the sky: Speciation patterns in Shortwings of Western Ghats. Oral presentation at Young Ecologists Talk and Interact - YETI 2010
9. March 7, 2011. Phylogeography and song variation in populations of the White-bellied Shortwing. Talk given to graduate students at M.E.S. Mampad College, Mallapuram, Kerala.
10. November 12, 2010. Combining nature education with biodiversity monitoring. An introductory talk to teachers of about 250 schools at the launch of SeasonWatch, a citizen science program of National Centre for Biological Sciences, Wipro and Mathrubhumi newspaper at Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala.
11. November 10, 2010. Combining nature education with biodiversity monitoring. An introductory talk to teachers of about 300 schools at the launch of SeasonWatch, a citizen science program of National Centre for Biological Sciences, Wipro and Mathrubhumi newspaper at Kochi, Kerala.
12. October 5, 2010. Bustling airports or graveyards? The role of disturbed forests in the demography of the threatened White-bellied Shortwing. Young Ecologists Talk and Interact - YETI 2010. Oral presentation. Bangalore, India.
13. October 5, 2010. Exploring landscape connectivity through automated bird song monitoring. Young Ecologists Talk and Interact - YETI 2010. Poster and speed-talk presentation. Bangalore, India.
14. October 5, 2010. Open Ecology: A model for archiving data and sharing. Short presentation on a collaborative initiative at National Centre for Biological Sciences, Bangalore. Young Ecologists Talk and Interact - YETI 2010.
15. October 5, 2010. Field gear: A quick review of field gear, requirements and trouble-shooting for young field ecologists. Oral presentation. Young Ecologists Talk and Interact - YETI 2010.
16. April 21, 2010 - Evolutionary biology and ecology of an endemic bird in the 'sky-islands' of southern India. French Institute of Pondicherry.
17. November 27, 2009 - Evolutionary biology and ecology of an endemic bird in the 'sky-islands' of southern India. National Institute of Advanced Studies student colloquium.
18. October 22, 2009 - Estimating bird abundances: the basics of line-transects, point-counts and mark-recapture. Talk at Guwahati University, Guwahati, as resource person at the Department of Science and Technology (Govt. of India) sponsored workshop on wildlife research initiatives in north east India.
19. October 22, 2009 - Studying bird song and effects of habitat fragmentation. Lessons from research in the sky-islands of Western Ghats. Talk at Guwahati University, Guwahati, as resource person at the Department of Science and Technology (Govt. of India) sponsored workshop on wildlife research initiatives in north east India.
20. September 25, 2009 - Singing in the sky: Bird song structure and individual variation on "sky-islands" of southern India. Young Ecologists Talk and Interact - YETI 2009. Oral presentation. Bangalore, India.
21. September 24, 2009 - Did we start the fire or was it always burning? Reconstructing the evolution of Shola habitat and the role of fire through comparative phylogeography and paleo-

- cology. Young Ecologists Talk and Interact - YETI 2009. Speed talk and poster. Bangalore, India.
22. April 17, 2009 - Islands in the sky: Science and conservation challenges in montane forests of India. Faculty Seminar Series - Spring 2009. College of Agricultural Sciences and Technology. California State University, Fresno.
 23. April 6, 2009 - Islands in the sky: Science and conservation in the montane forests of India. Café Scientifique talk at Fresno, California, USA
 24. December 10, 2008 - Conservation biology of the White-bellied Shortwing, Presentation at Hill Lab, Auburn University, Alabama, USA
 25. December 5, 2008 - Conservation biology of the White-bellied Shortwing, Presentation for Biology Department, Auburn University, Alabama, USA
 26. April 16, 2008 - 'Mind the Gap': Geographical gaps in the Western Ghats affect montane bird population structure - NIAS Wednesday talk, National Institute of Advanced Studies, Bangalore, India
 27. June 2006 - Experiences from organizing the International Tree and Flying Squirrel Conference at Periyar, India. NIAS Wednesday talk to faculty and students co-delivered with R. Nandini.
 28. January 2006 - Shortwing population and conservation in Anamalai hills. Management of forests in India for Biological Diversity and Forest Productivity – A new Perspective. WII-USA Forest Service Collaborative Project. Site Level Workshop – Anamalai Conservation Area.
 29. December 2002 - Conservation Biology of the White-bellied Shortwing. Presentation of research proposal. Museum Nationale d'Histoire Naturelle, Paris.
 30. August 2002 - Conservation Biology of the White-bellied Shortwing. Survey results and proposed work. NITYATA talk at CEDT, Indian Institute of Science.
 31. July 2002 - Conservation Biology of the White-bellied Shortwing. Some results and proposed work. NIAS Wednesday talk. National Institute of Advanced Studies.
 32. August 2001 - Species composition and associations of birds in mixed-species flocks at Parambikulam Wildlife Sanctuary, Western Ghats, India. Research talk at Centre for Ecological Sciences, Indian Institute of Science.
 33. June 2001 - Species composition and associations of birds in mixed-species flocks at Parambikulam Wildlife Sanctuary, Western Ghats, India. Research seminar at Ashoka Trust for Research in Ecology and Environment (ATREE).

Personal information

Date of birth: 17 December 1977

Marital status: Married