

# UNIVERSITY OF LADAKH

## DEPARTMENT OF ZOOLOGY

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### Press Release

#### 6-day Zoological tour to Nubra Valley, organised by Department of Zoology Leh campus University of Ladakh

Leh, Nov 17: Department of Zoology University of Ladakh successfully conducted a 6-day Zoological tour from 11-11-2022 to 16-11-2022, to Nubra Valley, for M.Sc. 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> semester students. Registrar University of Ladakh, Prof Ashok Kumar Sharma had flagged off the 45-member touring contingent from the university head office at 9:30am on 11/11/2022. Speaking on this occasion Prof Ashok Kumar Sharma had advised the students to appreciate the unique faunal and floristic composition of that Trans-Himalayan region of the country. Zoology being an experimental science, he had acknowledged the importance of field visits as an indispensable part of curriculum as to expose the students to the uniqueness of natural habitats of endemic fauna and flora of Ladakh. After exploring the Faunal diversity of Nubra valley for 6 days, the touring contingent returning to the campus at 05:10pm on 16/11/2022.

The stretch of Nubra valley from Turtuk Thang in the south to Panamic to the north was scanned during this tour. Students observed the unique mammalian, avian and insect fauna in their natural habitats and learned about their behavioral prospects. They were also acquainted with the floristic composition of this Trans-Himalayan region of the country. Because of freezing temperature no herpeto fauna and other cold-blooded animals were observed. Nevertheless, large number of mammalian and avian species were sighted during this tour. The mammalian species observed were Blue Sheep (*Pseudois nayaur*), Siberian Ibex (*Capra Sibirica*), Mountain Weasel (*Mustela altaica*), Yak (*Bos grunniens*), Changra (*Capra aegagrus*), Dzo (domestic-hybrid between Yak and Cattle), Double Hump Camel (*Camelus bactrianus*) and Ladakhi Breed of Cattle (domestic).

Avian species recorded, were Robin Accentor (*Prunella rubeculoides*), White Winged Red Start (*Phoenicurus erythrogastus*), Red Billed Chough (*Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax*), Yellow Billed Chough (*Pyrrhocorax Graculus*), Bearded Vulture (*Gypaetus barbatus*), Mallard Duck (*Anas platyrhynchos*), Moorhen (*Gallinula chloropus*), Blue Whistling Thrush (*Myophonus caeruleus*), Laughing Thrush (*Garrulax leucolophus*), Chukar partridge (*Electris chukar*), Scaly Bellied Wood-Pecker (*Picus squamatus*), Brown Accentor (*Prunella fulvescens*), Eurasian

Wren (*Troglodytes troglodytes*), Eurasian Magpie (*Pica pica*), Himalayan buzzard (*Buteo burmanicus*), House Sparrow (*Passer domesticus*), Crow (*Corvus corax*), Rock pigeon (*Columba levia*), Hill Pigeon (*Columba rupestris*). Some insect species such as Yellow Jacked Wasp (*Vespa* sp.), Carpenter Bee (*Xylocopa* sp.), *Caliphora vicina*, and a Bug species (unidentified).

The touring contingent consisted 33 girls, 8 boys, 1 lady staff and 3 faculty members. For travel and transportation SRTC Ladakh has deputed one A-class bus on subsidized rates for which the department is highly thankful to the Corporation. We are also highly thankful to the university administration, particularly Hon'ble Vice Chancellor and Registrar, University of Ladakh for sanctioning the tour and logistic support to conduct the tour. The contingent was led by Dr. Mohd Hussain as the tour in-charge.

Dr Mohd Hussain  
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