

# Newsletter

Zoological Students' Association

Department of Zoology/UOJ

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Red-wattled Lapwing  
*Vanellus indicus*



It is the commonest and the most widespread wading bird in Sri Lanka.





## Editor's Notes

Welcome to the first issue in the 6<sup>th</sup> volume of the ZSA newsletter.

This issue offers the information regarding the performance and achievements of our team, their contribution and leadership in each event where the effort brought them to a successful end.

I would like to thank our patron, Dr. Mrs. Abyerami Sivaruban for his support and giving us opportunities to make the events happen, senior treasurer, Dr. Mrs. Thulasitha William Shanthakumar for her precious support and immense coordination, and all the members for their new ideas, guidance and support which made each and every event a success.

It's is pleasure to release this newsletter on behalf of the ZSA.



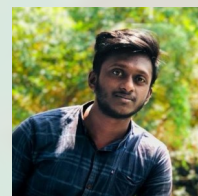
Editors: M. N. Rafeedh and R. Nirujan

## New Committee

New committee of Zoological Students Association (ZSA) had been selected. Dr. Mrs. T. W. Shanthakumar was proposed as the senior treasurer.

Executive Committee members are:

- R. Nirujan (President)
- M. A. Azmanul Haq (Vice President)
- W.M.Y.D. Wanasinghe (Secretary)
- S. Gobika (Vice Secretary)
- C. Thadshayini (Junior treasurer)
- M.N. Rafeedh (Editor)
- Y. Abiraami (Ex. Member-3M)
- Senaka Pushpakumara (Ex. Member-3G)
- B. Baarathy (Ex. Member-2G)
- U.R. Pemal Ransika (Ex. Member-1G)

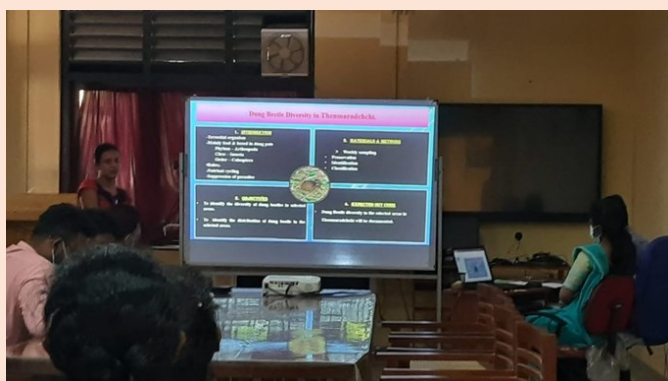
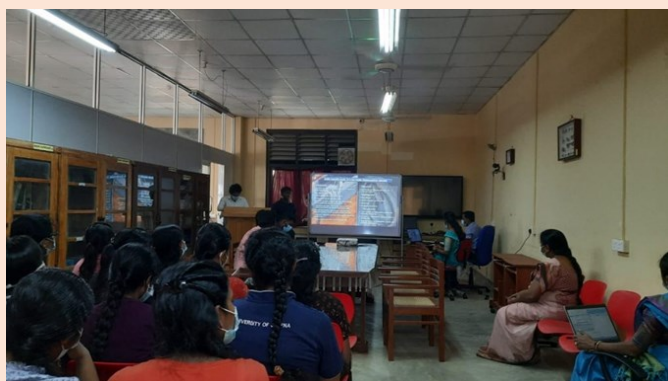


**Dr. Mrs. T. W. Shanthakumar**  
Senior treasurer



## Three Minute Research challenge competition (3MR - 2021)

A Three Minute Thesis (3MT) challenge was conducted by the Zoological Students' Association on 23<sup>rd</sup> December of 2021. The event was organized as a part of an effort to develop presentation skills among zoology undergraduates. 10 students took part in the challenge. **Ms. S. Kokularathai** won the first prize. Mr. S. Arthiyan, Mr. A. Tharsan and Mr. D. Naruwan G. Dayananda have helped the event as judges. All other participants received a certificate for the participation including 1st runner up and 2nd runner up.



**Winner**  
**Ms. S. Kokularathai**  
**4M**

## Visit to Kawtharimunai,

Our ZSA representatives and Senior Treasurer visited to Kawtharimunai community center to do project presentations at on UNDP representatives and discuss about further project improvement and preparation for the project presentation to Sri Lankan coordinator of UNDP Mr. at on. Mannar coordinators of UNDP.



ZSA Gave green chilli and brinjal plants by planting at department premises for home gardening people.



Mr. R. Nirujan and Mr. M. N. Rafeedh did a picture presentation about the project work.



We designed and printed a banner which is included price list of palmayrah product they make and we handed it over to community peoples.



## Webinar on “Molecular diagnosis of COVID19 – Sri Lankan Perspectives”

A ZSA Webinar was organized by ZSA on ‘MOLECULAR DIAGNOSIS- COVID19 SRILANKAN PERSPECTIVES’ held in the seminar hall, Department of Zoology, Faculty of science, University of Jaffna. We are grateful to Mr. P.J. Tibutius Thanesh for serving as a resource person via online. Our Head Of the Department (Dept. Of Zoology), Senior Treasurer (ZSA), Demonstrators, and students participated in this webinar.



## Multi-stakeholders meeting at District Secretariat Mannar

ZSA participated in the Multi Stakeholder Meeting – Mannar Landscaping project co-ordinated by the ZSA with the help of UNDP, at the District Secretariat- Mannar on 18<sup>th</sup> February 2022.



Mr. R. Nirujan, Mr. M.N. Rafeedh and Miss. C. Thadshayini attended to present about the activities done by ZSA in past years.



## National youth dialogue programme

ZSA participated in the training programme organized by United Nations’ Development Project (UNDP) for 2 days in Kowtharimunai, Pooneryn and in Vankalai, Mannar from 22 - 23 March 2022. Participants of the ZSA received certificates. The major topics covered include: Palmyrah based entrepreneurship, Mangrove conservation, Naturally forming sand dunes, Migratory birds and ornithology at bird watching center Vankalai, Mannar, Conservation of wildlife and sanctuary ecosystems, Disaster risk reduction – early warning systems in Malwathu Oya bridge at Mannar and Climate smart agriculture and home gardening.





## Second Research Symposium for Biological Science Students - 2022

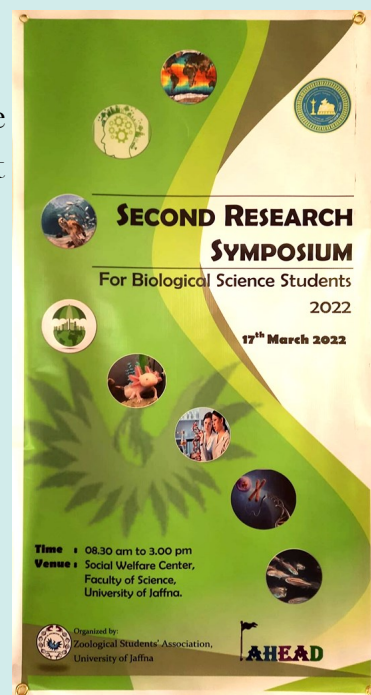
The ZSA organized a research symposium taking the initiative to build up a platform for the Biological Science students to publish and present their undergraduate researches for the second time of the University of Jaffna on 17<sup>th</sup> March of 2022 at the Social Welfare Centre of the Faculty of Science from 9:00HRS to 16:00HRS.

Professor S. Srisathkunarajah (Vice Chancellor, University of Jaffna) and Professor. P. Ravirajan (Dean, Faculty of Science) graced the event as Chief guest and Special guest respectively. Also, Dr (Mrs). A. Sivaruban (Patron-ZSA and Head, Dept. of Zoology), Senior Professor S.N. Surendren, Professor (Mrs.) R. Gnaneswaran, Prof. (Mrs) M.Senthilnathan, Prof K. Gajapathi, Mrs.R.Nithyagowri, Mrs.S.Piratheepa, Mrs.S.Kokila, Mrs.G.Parthuran, Mr.A.Tharshan, demonstrators, assistant lecturers of the Department of Zoology graced the occasion as dignitaries.



Dr. N. Umasuthan (Research Scientist, Aqua Bounty Canada) delivered the keynote speech on “Molecular and Biotechnological tools in Aquaculture Industry: Usage in Fish Immunology and Fish health” via online streaming.

There were 12 abstracts presented by undergraduates of the department at this symposium. Awards were given for best abstract (Ms. C. Thadshayini) and best presentation (Mr. R. Nirujan).





## Empowering Youth for Conservation

The workshop on 'Empowering youth for conservation' for the undergraduate students and staff of the Faculty of Science was conducted on 06<sup>th</sup> April 2022 from 8.30 am to 4.30 pm at the B1 Lecture Hall, Natural Science Block-I, Faculty of Science in collaboration with Zoological Students Association (ZSA) of the Department of Zoology, University of Jaffna and Department of Wildlife conservation of Sri Lanka.



The Vice-Chancellor Prof. S. Srisatkunarajah graced the event as Chief Guest.



A group of eminent conservationist of national and international reputation has served voluntarily as resource persons in this workshop. The topics covered by resource persons are as follows,

1. Mr. Marasinge (Director Operations at the Department of Wildlife Conservation): Conservation mandate of the Department of Wildlife Conservation'.
2. Prof. Sampath Senevirathne (Research Scientist & Professor in Zoology, University of Colombo): Migratory Birds & Important breeding grounds in North & Conservation.
3. Mr. Dilum Alagiawanna (Director/ Producer, Wildlife Documentary Filmmaker, Nature Photographer): Award winning documentary film 'The great elephant gathering of Asia' on Mimmeriya Elephant Gathering.
4. Mr. Chaminda Jayasekara (Resident Naturalist at Jetwing Vil Uyana: An inspirational story "Slender Loris Conservation project'.
5. Dr. S. Wijeyamohan (Research Scientist & Senior Lecturer, Department of Biology, University of Vavuniya): Sri Lankan Elephant, Habitat, behaviour & great elephant gathering.
6. Dr. Sumith Pilapitiya (Research Scientist, Former Director General-Department of Wildlife Conservation, Sri Lanka): Human-Elephant Conflict & mitigation challenges.
7. Dr. Mrs. Abyerami Sivaruban (Senior Lecturer & Head, Department of Zoology, University of Jaffna): Reptiles & Amphibians and their conservation in Jaffna Peninsula.
8. Mr. Riznar Hussain (Naturalist/ Nature Photographer): Inspiring story: How to become a wildlife photographer cum conservationist.

