

## Project Update: February 2017

The project was started quite earlier than it was mentioned. Official permission from the Department of Forest has been taken for the implementation for the project. Preliminary discussion with Laxman Poudyal, ecologist of Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation, staff of Bird conservation Nepal and other local level organisations has been done. Potential sites has been identified through preliminary survey that included field visits and information from secondary data. During preliminary visits, discussions with community forest user group, farmers, local people, local birders and conservationists were done to understand people's sensitivity towards Asian woolly neck and presence/absence of Asian woolly neck in wetlands and adjacent farmlands. As Asian waterfowl census was undertaking, we have conducted two "Bird identification and guide training" in Jagadishpur reservoir Kapilvastu and Lumbini, Rupandehi.



**Upper:** Conservation banner placed in "Butwal trade fair" & Researcher speaking about conservation of Asian woolly Neck in Bird guide training

**Lower:** Preliminary Field visit with local farmers & our team member exploring farmland

In each training session, 25 youths were selected including include homestay owners, unemployed youth, undergraduate students, women and people from different communities. Field-based intensive training was conducted in Lumbini and Jagadishpur Reservoir for a week. These trainees have been involved in Asian Waterfowl Census 2017. They are conducting weekly bird watching programme. Founder and President of Pokhara Bird Society Mr Manshanta Ghimire was chief trainer. District forest officer of Kapilvastu and officer of Lumbini development

trust were chief guests to encourage youth trainees. Journalist of national newspaper Mr. Manoj Poudel has also participated in the programme to motivate local youth. Local journalists and conservationists have coordinated and supported throughout the programme. Bird guide training was conducted by mobilising Community based Organizations (CBOs) such as Green youth of Lumbini, Niglihawa youth club and Jagadishpur Reservoir janasarokar manch. District forest office has coordinated with us and very pleased to help and support this research and conservation program in their area. Birdlife partner of Nepal, Bird Conservation Nepal (BCN), is continuously supporting the task. A conservation banner was placed in “Butwal trade fair” which was visited by more than 10,000 visitors daily for 10 days.



Photo 2: Field training by the Manshanta Ghimire (Founder, President) of Pokhara Bird Society in Jagadishpur reservoir