

## **MEM Seminar Series**

Friday, 3 February 2017, 6.00pm, LR425 SDE3

National University of Singapore

Free Admission. Please register here [MEMSS06](#)

# **Where have all the Birds Gone? Avian Survival and Extinction in Human-Dominated Landscapes of India**

*Dr Ghazala Shahabuddin, Senior Fellow, Centre for Ecology, Development and Research (CEDAR), India*

## **The Speaker**

Ghazala Shahabuddin (PhD, Duke University, 1998) is an ecologist and environmental scholar working on issues at the interface of human society and biodiversity in India. She has published extensively in the areas of conservation biology, ornithology and wildlife policy. Her book 'Conservation at the Crossroads: Science, Society and the Future of India's Wildlife' (Permanent Black, 2010) examines the science and politics of nature conservation in India with a multidisciplinary perspective. She is currently working as a Senior Fellow with Centre for Ecology, Development and Research (CEDAR), Delhi on issues of community-based conservation, urban ecology and biodiversity-land use linkages.

## **Synopsis**



In a mega-diversity country such as India, with high human population density and rapidly expanding economy and infrastructure, surprising bird diversity continues to survive. The speaker takes you on a photographic tour of the rich natural habitats of India where some bird species coexist cheek-by-jowl with human settlements, while others gradually disappear due to intensification of habitat use. Her talk then focuses on an analysis of the ecological and life-history factors of bird species that either help them survive and adapt to changing ecosystems or predispose them to local extinction in the face of land use change and habitat modification. Her lecture draws on more than ten years of bird research in human-impacted ecosystems across India from Himalayan oak forests to tropical scrub forests of the peninsula.