

BIRDS OF MYSORE AND ITS ENVIRON

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MYSORE DISTRICT - ENVIRONMENT

Assemblage of birds found in any region is governed by environmental conditions stretching across the territory. The topography, climate and type of vegetation which is directly or indirectly influenced by climate give rise to varied habitats in the environment. Their conditions are further modified by seasonal changes which trigger various natural phenomenon like flowering, winter leaf-fall, bursting forth of new leaves, breeding activity, migration, emergence of insects, and abundance of birds. An overview of the part of the region that constitutes Mysore District will give us a broad perspective against which the birdlife can be observed. It will also help in understanding ecological relations of the birds.

Even within the natural settings human pressure is increasing and the landscape is undergoing slow and gradual change. Some of the original landscapes which constituted well wooded areas a few centuries back have all but vanished. The earlier reports mentioned about the most magnificent forests that existed around Begur & Kakankot. The forests in these areas have been overexploited for teak and rosewood.

In some places the forests stand as vestiges at the edge of man made environment. In places forests have shrunk giving rise to newer landscapes called scrub with stunted trees intermingled with thorny thickets. The afforested areas with newer species have created totally different conditions in the protected areas. Return to the natural flora may be taking place gradually. Inci-

dentially the birds have not totally shied away from these newer environments. However the species composition will not be the same and change according to availability of food, cover, and availability of breeding places. Many have taken refuge in parks and gardens in urban areas which more or less present woodland scenarios.

Geographically Mysore district (co ordinates $11^{\circ} .36' - 13^{\circ} .35'$ North, $75^{\circ} .55' - 77^{\circ} .20'$ East) is situated at the southern tip of Deccan Plateau. The southern plateau stretches from the foothills of the Western Ghats to the broken chain of Eastern Ghats with average elevation of 800 mt. and covers an area of $16,00\text{ KM}^2$. It is an elevated table land broken up by rocky hills and scored by deep ravines and extends upto foothills of Nilgiri in south. On the Southern side we find Gopalaswamy Hills while Billigirirangan hills stretch on South eastern side. Malai Mahadeshwara Hills extends towards Eastern Ghats.

The area between the hill region is a rolling plain called in Kannada Bayalusime. The river Cauvery flows across the eastern side of the district and the Southern border is delimited by Moyar river which courses through the thickly wooded jungles. The river Kabbini drains northwards across the Southern Plateau and joins Cauvery at T.Narsipur.

The forest belt runs through West Hunsur Taluk and spreads into Southern region around the hill ranges which include the famous Nagarhole and Bandipur. Very dense tropical forests surround the extreme south along the Moyar river. In the Southwest

region the semi-evergreen and deciduous forests give way to scrub jungles. Such jungles are seen on the lower elevation of Chamundi Hills, Yelwal, area surrounding Sargur, Arekankadu (on way to Bandipur) and at the foot of major hill ranges.

The further degradation of the scrub jungles is seen in areas close to human habitation where these regions are converted into barren landscapes (28%). The total forested area in Southern part of the district is 1,18,220 hectare, which is above 5% of the total geographical area. About 48% of land lying in lower elevation is cultivated. The central portion of the district is intensively farmed. The Irrigation channels run through this portion. There are a large number of shallow irrigation tanks. The total water spread including reservoirs is 29,800 hectares. The wetlands including reservoirs, tanks, rivers, irrigational channels are about 1% of the total area.

Natural Vegetation

The vegetation forms major habitats. The habitats and their sub-divisions will ultimately form specific niches. Birds show fine adaptations to the niche. Niche could be considered as a kind of address ^{of} bird.

In the Mysore District we may differentiate vegetation in three major types.

- 1) Moist Deciduous Forests
- 2) Dry Deciduous Forests
- 3) Thorn Scrub Forests

Moist Deciduous Forest are seen between Kakanakote and Kerala borders, higher slopes of B.R. Hills and M.M. Hills. Tree layers are with open canopy. In this area the timber trees like Nandi, Teak, Matti are dominant. Thick climbers and epiphytic orchids dot some trees. Due to open canopy shrub layer grows underneath and is made up predominantly by Bodin gida and Koda-size.

Dry Deciduous Forests are adapted to long dry period. The trees are shorter and often protected by thorns and prickles. Thorny thickets form undergrowth. Climbers are wiry and often with latex. Xerophytes are not uncommon. Dinduga, Alule and Taremara form principle broad leaved trees. The forest looks resplendent with yellow flowers of Arsina burges during dry months. Such areas are found in the forest of Nagarhole, Bandipur, Nugu and lower parts of B.R. Hills.

Thorn Scrub Forests : As trees thin the woodlands are turned into wood savanah landscape. With further degradations only isolated thickets dot the country side ultimately giving way to scrub. These stages are seen between Gundalpet and GopalaSwamy Betta. Thorn scrub type plant cover is usually found in low rainfall areas. The trees are slow growing, twisted and stunted and armed. The hardy species like Ane, Gobli, Kudussage, Chigare abound here. Shrubs are wiry and thorny and form impenetrable undergrowth. This is very well seen in Chikkanhalli forest and along Chamundi Hills.

Besides these principle vegetation and divisions, sholas are found in B.R. Hills at 1400 - 1800 m. Along the principle river are seen the typical riverine forests. In the innumerable wetlands are seen waterplants like nymphaea, nelumbo, aaponogeton, potamogeton and submerged plants like hydrilla, hydrophylla and other pond weeds. Many water bodies are covered with waterhyacinth. The emergents like bulrushes and phragmites border along the marshes. These can be seen along the shallow regions in Kukarahallikere, Dadahalli, Mugunhundikere.

A large number of trees are planted in open fields on the borders of arable lands, in village topes and along roadside. Besides large tracts of barren wasteland and hilly areas have been afforested with mainly eucalyptus species. One can even see a regenerated forest at Chikkanahalli near Mysore. This background will serve as a framework for understanding ecological relationship of birds. It is a virgin field and every bird watcher can

contribute towards the knowledge of bird ecology. One can also enhance the pleasure of bird watching by sharing his experience with others.

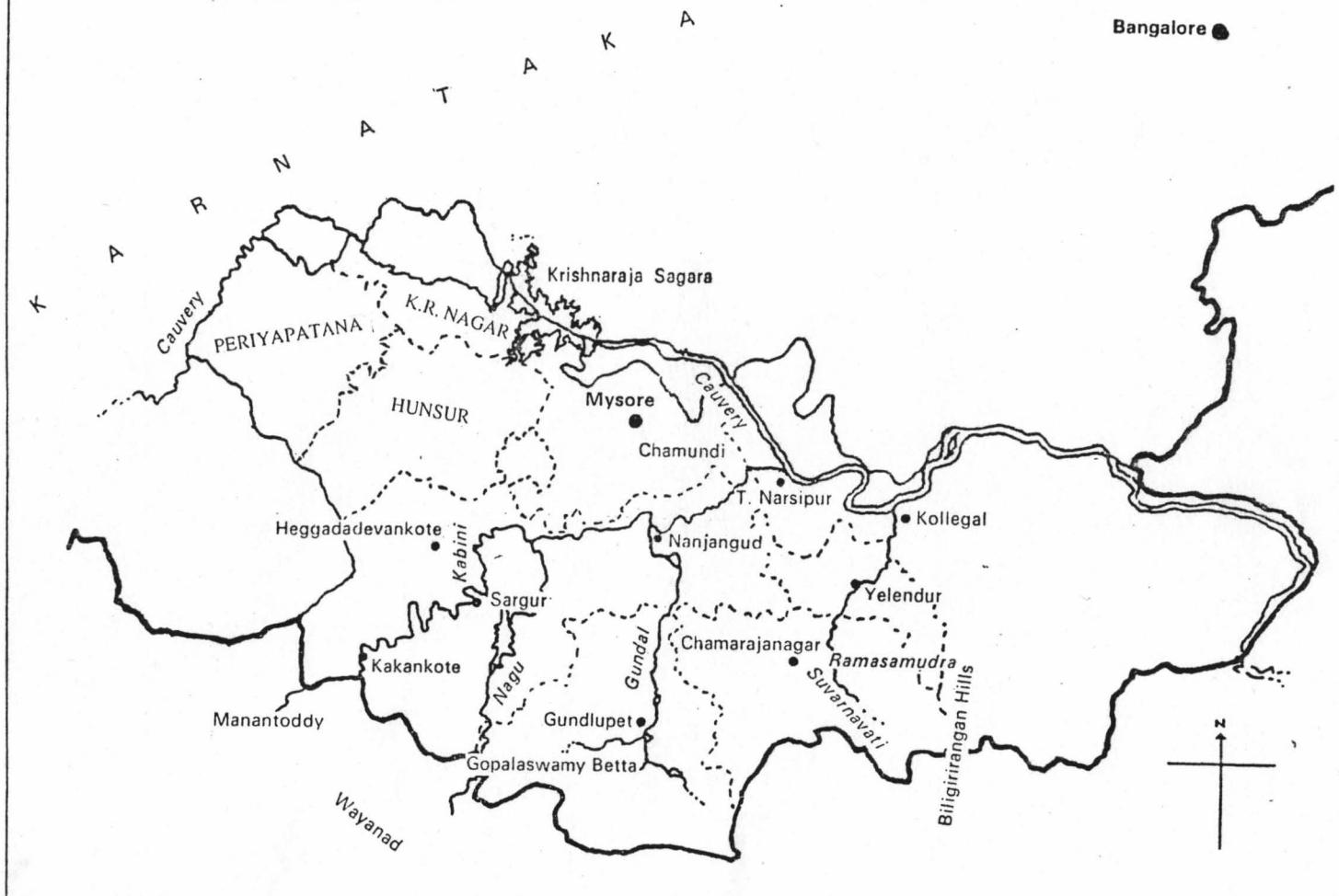
Distribution of birds in the region

The humid hills of Kerala, Wynad, part of Mysore, Bandipur, Nagarahole, Madhumalai form a contiguous sub region of Western Ghats. The bird life in this area is very characteristic and resembles species which occur in the North East India and Burma. Besides climate and availability of food, the other factors like height of the trees, open or closed canopy, secondary growth nesting material, open spaces and roads are important factors in the distribution of birds. The broad leaves trees in the dry deciduous forest provide habitats for large number of birds. Hence highest number of species are recorded in dry deciduous forest. Similarly large number of species are found where man has altered the landscape by selection of trees species and the distribution of the trees. It is usually mixed with natural growth . This gives rise to variety of covers in parks, campuses, gardens. The diversity of environment is artificially high and it attracts large number of birds. In degraded forests the number of species gradually diminish. In open country and agricultural lands the number of birds is usually sparse. Most birds come for foraging. On the other hand in wetlands the avifauna depends on richness and diversity of microhabitats.

The list of birds found in the major habitats is appended. The list will serve as guidance. There may be many important omissions and the list can be augmented by sharing information with other bird watchers. Some birds will be common to all habitats. Many times birds from adjacent area also listed. Some birds

are equally restricted to specific habitats. There is a lot of overlap seen as in nature, there are no clearcut demarkations or zones. Not all birds seen are found frequently. One will be able to make new discoveries in the course of his observations. All this makes bird watching an exciting hobby.

Mysore District —physical features



Appendix I

Check list of Birds of CFTRI campus.

S1. No.	Common Name	Status
1.	Babbler large grey	R
2.	Barbet large green	R
3.	Barbet small green	R
4.	Baya	
5.	Bee eater, Bluetailed	
6.	Bee eater, Chestnut headed	
7.	Bee eater, Small green	
8.	Bulbul Redwhiskered	R
9.	Coppersmith	R
10.	Crow, House	R
11.	Crow, jungle	R
12.	Crow, pheasant	R
13.	Dove, Ring	
14.	Dove, Spotted	
15.	Drongo, black	R
16.	Egret, cattle	L
17.	Egret, little	L
18.	Flowerpecker, Thickbilled	
19.	Flowerpecker, Tickell's	
20.	Heron, Pond	L
21.	Hoopoe	R
22.	Hornbill, Common Grey	R
23.	Iora, Common	R
24.	Kingfisher, Small Blue	R
25.	Kingfisher, Whitebreasted	R
26.	Kite, Pariah	R
27.	Koel	R
28.	Lapwing Redwattled	R
29.	Lark creasted	
30.	Minivet small	R
31.	Munia, spotted	
32.	Myna common	R
33.	Oriole Golden	R
34.	Owlet, spotted	R
35.	Parakeet Roseringed	L
36.	Parakeet blossomheaded	L
37.	Pigeon, Blue Rock	
38.	Robin, Magpie	
39.	Roller, Indian	
40.	Shikra	R
41.	Shrike, Brown	R
42.	Shrike, Baybacked	R
43.	Sunbird, Purple	
44.	Sunbird, Purplerumped	

R - Resident, L - Local Migratory

S1. No.	Common Name	Status
45.	Swift, House	R
46.	Tailorbird	
47.	Titi, Grey	
48.	Vulture, (Scavenger) E	L
49.	Wren Warbler, Ashy	
50.	Whitebreasted Waterhen	
51.	Woodpecker, Golden backed	R
52.	Blue throated barbet	
53.	Ibises, Black	

R - Resident, L - Local Migratory

Appendix II

Birds of Kukarahallikere

S1. No.	Common Name
1.	Barbet, Small Green
2.	Bee-eater, Bluetailed
3.	Bee-eater, Small Green
4.	Coot
5.	Coppersmith
6.	Cormorant, Large
7.	Crow, House
8.	Crow, Jungle
9.	Crow-Pheasant or Coucal
10.	Darter or Snake-bird
11.	Dove, Spotted
12.	Drongo, Black
13.	Duck, Spotbilled
14.	Egret, Cattle
15.	Egret, Little
16.	Egret, Median
17.	Flowerpecker, Thickbilled
18.	Flycatcher, Redbreasted
19.	Garganey or Bluewinged Teal
20.	Grebe, Little
21.	Harrier, Marsh
22.	Heron, Grey
23.	Heron, Pond
24.	Hoopoe
25.	Hornbill, COMMON Grey
26.	Jacana, Bronzewing
27.	Kingfisher, Whitebreasted
28.	Kite, Brahminy
29.	Kite, Pariah
30.	Koel
31.	Lapwing, Redwattled
32.	Minivet, Small
33.	Moorthen, Indian
34.	Moorthen, Purple
35.	Munia, Spotted
36.	Myna, Indian or Common
37.	Myna, Jungle
38.	Oriole, Golden
39.	Robin, Magpie
40.	Sandpiper, Common
41.	Sandpiper, Green
42.	Sandpiper, Wood or Spotted
43.	Shoveller
44.	Stone Curlew
45.	Sunbird, Purple
46.	Sunbird, Purplerumped

S1. No. Common Name

- 47. Tailor Bird
- 48. Teal, Cotton
- 49. Teal, Lesser Whistling
- 50. Tit, Grey
- 51. Wagtail, Grey
- 52. Wagtail, Large Pied
- 53. Warbler, Blyth's Reed
- 54. Wren-Warbler, Ashy
- 55. Waterhen, Whitebreasted

Appendix III

Birds of Semi-deciduous Forest of Naganpur

S1. No.	Common Name
1.	Babbler, Jungle Greyheaded
2.	Barbet, Large Green
3.	Bulbul, Redvented
4.	Bulbul, Redwhiskered
5.	Chat, Pied Bush
6.	Coppersmith
7.	Crow, House
8.	Crow-Pheasant or Coucal
9.	Cuckoo-Shrike, Large
10.	Dove, Ring
11.	Dove, Spotted
12.	Drongo, Black
13.	Drongo, Whitebellied
14.	Flowerpecker, Tickell's
15.	Flycatcher, Redbreasted
16.	Flycatcher, Whitebrowed Fantail
17.	Paradise Flycatcher
18.	Hoopoe
19.	Iora, Common
20.	Kestrel
21.	Kingfisher, Whitebreasted
22.	Lapwing, Redwattled
23.	Lapwing, Yellow-wattled
24.	Minivet, Scarlet
25.	Minivet, Small
26.	Myna, Brahminy
27.	Myna, Indian or Common
28.	Myna, Jungle
29.	Myna, Greyheaded
30.	Oriole, Blackheaded
31.	Oriole, Golden
32.	Parakeet, Blossomheaded
33.	Parakeet, roseringed
34.	Partridge, Grey
35.	Peafowl, Common
36.	Pigeon, Common or Yellowlegged Green
37.	Robin, Indian
38.	Roller, Indian
39.	Shrike, Baybacked
40.	Sunbird, Purple
41.	Sunbird, Purplerumpe
42.	Swallow, Common
43.	Tailor Bird
44.	Tit, Grey
45.	Tree Pie, Indian
46.	Warbler, Blyth's Reed
47.	Warbler, Streaked Fantail
48.	Wren-Warbler, Ashy
49.	Woodpecker, Lesser Goldenbacked

Appendix IV

List of Birds found in Scrub Jungle Chakanhalli Forest

No.	Common Name
1.	Babbler, Large Grey
2.	Barbet, Large Green
3.	Bee-eater, Chestnutheaded
4.	Bee-eater, Small Green
5.	Bulbul, Redwhiskered
6.	Coppersmith
7.	Crow, House
8.	Crow, Jungle
9.	Dove, Ring
10.	Dove, Spotted
11.	Egret, Cattle
12.	Hoopoe
13.	Hornbill, Common Grey
14.	Iora, Common
15.	Kingfisher, Whitebreasted
16.	Koel
17.	Lapwing, Redwattled
18.	Lark, Crested
19.	Minivet, Small
20.	Munia, Spotted
21.	Myna, Indian or Common
22.	Parakeet, Roseringed
23.	Pigeon, Blue Rock
24.	Robin, Magpie
25.	Roller, Indian
26.	Shikra
27.	Sunbird, Puple
28.	Sunbird, Purplerumped
29.	Tailor Bird
30.	Waterhen, Whitebreasted

Appendix V

Birds of Bandipur Forest

S1. No.	Birds Name
1.	Pea fowl
2.	Grey Jungle Fowl
3.	Hoopoe
4.	Common Kite
5.	Brahminy Kite
6.	Painted PArtridge
7.	Grey Partridge
8.	Red Wattled Lapwing
9.	Green Pigeon
10.	Spotted Dove
11.	Roseringed Parakeet
12.	Koel
13.	Crow-Pheasant
14.	Indian Great
15.	Horned Owl
16.	Indian Roller
17.	Small Green Bee-eater
19.	Golden Backed Woodpecker
20.	Yellow Fronted Pied Woodpecker
21.	Black Drongo
22.	Racquet Tailed Drongo
23.	Golden Oriole
24.	Indian Myna
25.	Hill myna
26.	House Crow
27.	Jungle Crow
28.	Red Whiskered Bulbul
29.	Paradaise Flycatcher
30.	Indian Robin
31.	Purple Sunbird
32.	White eye
33.	White throated Munia
34.	Crested Hawk Eagle
35.	Crested Serpent Eagle
36.	Lorikeyet
37.	Jungle Myna
38.	Jungle Babbler
39.	Large Pied Wagtail
40.	Red Munia
41.	Tree Pie
42.	Great Tit
43.	Yellow Cheeked Tit
44.	Chestnut Bellied nuthatch
45.	Velvet Fronted Nuthatch
46.	Large Grey Babbler
47.	Common Babbler
48.	Rufous Bellied Babbler

S1. No.	Birds Name
49.	Yellow-eyed Babbler
50.	Slaty Headed Scimitar Babbler
51.	Gold fronted Chloropsis
52.	Gold mantled Chloropsis
53.	Red Vented Bulbul
54.	White browed Bulbul
55.	Pied Bushchat
56.	Collared Bushchat
57.	Magpie Robin
58.	Shama
59.	Blackbird
60.	Blue rock Thrush
61.	Malbar Whistling Thrush
62.	Paradise Flycatcher
63.	Nilgiri Verditer Flycatcher
64.	White Browed FAntail Flycatcher
65.	Tickell's Blue Flycatcher
66.	Gery Shrike
67.	Bay backed Shrike
68.	Rufous Backed Shrike
69.	Common Wood Shrike
70.	Small minivet
71.	Scarlet Minivet
72.	Large Cuckoo Shrike
73.	Black Headed Cuckoo Shrike
74.	Ashy Swallow Shrike
75.	Black Drongo
76.	White Bellied Drongo
77.	Tailor Bird
78.	Streaked Fantail Warbler
79.	Black Headed Oriole
80.	Indian Myna
81.	Brahminy Myna
82.	Grey Headed Myna
83.	Baya
84.	Streaked Weaver Bird
85.	White Backed Munia
86.	Spotted Munia
87.	House Sparrow
88.	Yellow Throated Sparrow
89.	Black Headed Bunting
90.	Red Headed Bunting
91.	Rosefinch
92.	Crag Martin
93.	Common Swallow
94.	Wire tailed Swallow
95.	Red Ramped swallow
96.	Indian Cliff Swallow
97.	Grey Wagtail
98.	Large Pied Wagtail
99.	White Wagtail

S1. No.	Birds Name
100.	Yellow Headed Wagtail
101.	Yellow Wagtail
102.	Indian Pipit
103.	Small Indian Skylark
104.	Crested Lark
105.	Purple Sunbird
106.	Purplerumped Sunbird
107.	Yellow Backed Sunbird
108.	Tickell's Flower pecker
109.	Fire Breasted Flower pecker
110.	Indian Pitta
111.	Pigmy Woodpecker
112.	Rufous Woodpecker
113.	Crimson Breasted Barbet
114.	Chestnut Headed Bee-eater
115.	Blue tailed Bee-eater
116.	Common Hawk Cuckoo
117.	Pied Crested Cuckoo
118.	Small Blue Kingfisher
119.	Pied Kingfisher
120.	White Breasted Kingfisher
121.	Common Grey Hornbill
122.	Malbar Pied Hornbill
123.	House Swift
124.	Common Indian Night Jar
125.	Barn Owl
126.	Brown Fish Owl
127.	Osprey
128.	Indian White Backed Vulture
129.	White Scavenger Vulture
130.	Tawny Eagle
131.	Short Toed Eagle
132.	White Eyed Buzzard
133.	Pariah Kite
134.	Shikra
135.	Laggar Falcon
136.	Blue Rock Pigeon
137.	Red Turtle Dove
138.	Emerald Dove
139.	Grey Jungle Fowl
140.	Red Spur Fowl
141.	Common or Grey Quail
142.	Jungle or Bush Quail
143.	Alexandrine Parakeet
144.	Common Busted Quail
145.	White Breasted Waterhen
146.	Purple Moorhen
147.	Indian Moorhen
148.	Coot
149.	Bronzewinged Jacana
150.	Red Wattled Lapwing

Sl. No.	Birds Name
151.	Little wing Plover
152.	Black winged Stilt
153.	Avocet
154.	Little Cormorant Darter
155.	White Ibis
156.	Black Ibis
157.	Spoon Bill
158.	Open Bill Stork
159.	Little Egret
160.	Cattle Egret
161.	Large Egret
162.	Median Egret
163.	Pond Heron
164.	Night Heron
165.	Cotton Teal
166.	Lesser Whistling Teal
167.	Common Teal
168.	White eyed Pochard
169.	White necked Stork
170.	Black necked Stork
171.	Iora
172.	Painted Stork
173.	King Vulture
174.	Malabar Great Black Wood pecker
175.	Malabar Trogan
176.	Large Green Barbet
177.	Crested Hawk Eagle
178.	Indian Cuckoo
179.	Hawk Cuckoo
180.	Pheasant tailed Jacana
181.	Red Start
182.	Ring Dove
183.	Golden Oriole

Excerpted from Status Report on Project Tiger 1973 - 1993.

Appendix VI

List of Wetland birds found in large numbers in Mysore district.

Major Species

S1. No.	Common Name	Status
1.	Little Grebe	
2.	Little Cormorant	
3.	Intermediate Egret	
4.	Little Egret	
5.	Cattle Egret	
6.	Indian Pond Heron	
7.	Blackheaded White Ibis	
8.	Lesser Whistling DUCK	
9.	Barheaded Goose	
10.	Wigeon	
11.	Falcated Teal	M
12.	Green Winged Teal	M
13.	Spotbilled Duck	LM
14.	Garganey	M
15.	Northern Pintail	M
16.	Northern Shoveller	M
17.	Pochard	M
18.	Damoiselle Crane	M
19.	Purple Swamphen	
20.	Common Coot	
21.	Pheasant Tailed Jacana	
22.	Blackwinged Stilts	M
23.	Redwattled Lapwing	
24.	Little Ringed Plover	
25.	Green Sandpiper	M
26.	Wood Sandpiper	M
27.	Common Sandpiper	M
28.	Pintail Snipe	M
29.	Little Stint	M
30.	Whiskered Tern	

M - Migratory, LM - Local Migratory

Species of wetland birds - 147
Important in Karnataka - 30