

COLOURS & FEATHERS

OF

PALANI HILLS

**REPORT  
SUBMITTED BY:**

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## SIRUVATTUKKADU KOMBAL

This enclave is located on the North Eastern Slopes of the Palani Hills in the Parappalar watershed above oddanchatram. The terrain type of this place is rugged, gentle to steep slopes ranging from 90m to 1052m. The tallest of the Hills is the Koppukarudu with a height of 1052m. The mean temperature is the range of 28-31°C. The forest type is a combination of tropical dry and tropical moist deciduous forest with prominent shola patches. Most of the forest covering of the area, have been cleared for lemon plantations. The only patches of forests remaining are the sholas, confined only to the valleys, which provide an ideal habitat for innumerable number of Birds. Animals like Indian Bison and endangered Nilgiri tahr are known to exist in these patches of sholas, but their numbers have been drastically reduced due to deforestation and other activities of man.

The bird diversity is immense in these patches of sholas. One can see birds of different sizes and colours. A brief study was made in there area between 21st May to 30th May 1996 and the following checklist was prepared.

CHECKLIST OF BIRDS OF SIRAVATTUKADU KOMBAL

**FAMILY ARDEIDAE:**

**Scientific Name**

01. 042 Pond Heron or Paddy Bird

*Ardeola grayii*

**FAMILY ACCIPITRIDAE:**

02. 124 Black winged kite

*Elanus caeruleus*

03. 130 Honey Buzzard

*Pernis ptilorhynchos*

04. 147 Sparrow Hawk

*Accipiter nisus melaschistos*

05. 156 Japanese Buzzard

*Buteo buteo japonicus*

06. 196 Crested Serpent Eagle

*Spilornis cheela*

**FAMILY COLUMBIDAE:**

07. 534 Indian Ring Dove

*Streptopelia decaocto*

08. 537 Spotted Dove

*Streptopelia chinensis*

09. 542 Emerald or Bronze Winged Dove

*Chalcophaps indica*

**FAMILY PSITTACIDAE:**

10. 558 Blossom headed Parakeet

*Psittacula cyanocephala*

11. 564 Blue winged parakeet

*Psittacula columboides*

12. 566 Indian Lorikeet

*Loriculus vernalis*

**FAMILY CUCULIDAE:**

13. 573 Gomron Hawk-cuckoo or Brainfever Bird

*Cuculus rarius*

14. 590 Koel

*Eudynamis scolopacea*

15. 600 Crow Pheasant or Coucal

*Centropus sinensis*

**FAMILY APODIDAE:**

16. 693 Alpine Swift

*Apes melba*

17. 707 Palm Swift

*Cypselurus curvirostris*

**FAMILY ALCEDINIDAE:**

18. 735 White breasted Kingfisher

*Halcyon smyrnenensis*

**FAMILY MEROPIDAE:**

19. 744 Chestnut Headed Bee eater

*Merops leschenaulti*

**FAMILY CORACIIDAE:**

20. 755 Indian Roller or Blue-Jay

*Coracias benghalensis*

**FAMILY CAPITONIDAE:**

21. 782 Large Green Barbet

*Megalaima zeylanica*

- |     |     |  |                        |
|-----|-----|--|------------------------|
| 22. | 785 | Small Green Barbet                     | Megalaima viridis      |
| 23. | 795 | Crimson breasted Barbet or coppersmith | Megalaima haemacephala |

**FAMILY PICIDAE:**

- |     |     |                                 |                        |
|-----|-----|---------------------------------|------------------------|
| 24. | 819 | Lesser Golden backed Woodpecker | Dinopium benghalense   |
| 25. | 847 | Yellow fronted pied Woodpecker  | Picoides maharattensis |
| 26. | 861 | Larger Golden backed Woodpecker | Chysocolaptes lucidus  |

**FAMILY ORIOLIDAE:**

- |     |     |                    |                            |
|-----|-----|--------------------|----------------------------|
| 27. | 952 | Golden Oriole      | Oriolus oriolus            |
| 28. | 954 | Blacknaped Oriole  | Oriolus chinensis diffusus |
| 29. | 958 | Blackheaded Oriole | Oriolus xanthornus         |

**FAMILY DICRURIDAE:**

- |     |     |                              |                       |
|-----|-----|------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 30. | 963 | Black Drongo or kingcrow     | Dicrurus adsimilus    |
| 31. | 965 | Grey or Ashy Drongo          | Dicrurus leucophaeus  |
| 32. | 967 | Whitebellied Drongo          | Dicrurus caerulescens |
| 33. | 971 | Bronzed Drongo               | Dicrurus aeneus       |
| 34. | 977 | Greater Racket tailed Drongo | Dicrurus paradiseus   |

**FAMILY STURNIDAE:**

- |     |      |             |                      |
|-----|------|-------------|----------------------|
| 35. | 1006 | Common Myna | Acridotheres tristis |
| 36. | 1009 | Jungle Myna | Acridotheres fuscus  |
| 37. | 1015 | Hill Myna   | Gracula religiosa    |

**FAMILY CORVIDAE:**

- |     |      |                |                       |
|-----|------|----------------|-----------------------|
| 38. | 1032 | Indian Treepie | Dendrocitta vagabunda |
| 39. | 1049 | House Crow     | Corvus splendens      |
| 40. | 1054 | Jungle Crow    | Corvus macrorhynchos  |

**FAMILY CAMPEPHAGIDAE:**

- |     |      |                 |                          |
|-----|------|-----------------|--------------------------|
| 41. | 1081 | Scarlet Minivet | Pericrocotus flammeus    |
| 42. | 1093 | Small Minivet   | Pericrocotus cinnamomeus |

**FAMILY IRENIDAE:**

- |     |      |                                     |                           |
|-----|------|-------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 43. | 1103 | Goldfronted chloropsis or leaf Bird | Chloropsis aurifrons      |
| 44. | 1108 | Goldmantled chloropsis or leaf Bird | Chloropsis choinchirensis |
| 45. | 1109 | Fairy Blue Bird                     | Irena puella              |

**FAMILY PYCNONOTIDAE:**

- |     |      |                            |                                |
|-----|------|----------------------------|--------------------------------|
|     |      |                            | <b>Scientific Name</b>         |
| 46. | 1117 | Blackcapped yellow Bulbul  | Pycnonotus melanicterus        |
| 47. | 116  | Rubythroated yellow Bulbul | Pycnonotus melanicterusgularis |
| 48. | 1120 | Redwhiskered Bulbul        | Pycnonotus jocosus             |
| 49. | 1128 | Redvented Bulbul           | Pycnonotus cafer               |

- |     |      |                           |   |
|-----|------|---------------------------|---|
| 50. | 1155 | Blackheaded yellow Bulbul | <i>Pycnonotus melanicterus</i><br><i>flaviventris</i> |
| 51. | 1138 | Whitebrowed Bulbul        | <i>Pycnonotus luteolus</i>                            |
| 52. | 1148 | Black Bulbul              | <i>Hypsipetus madagascariensis</i>                    |
| 53. | 1144 | Yellowbrowed Bulbul       | <i>Hypsipetus indicus</i>                             |

**FAMILY MUSCICAPIDAE:**

- |     |      |                     |                            |
|-----|------|---------------------|----------------------------|
| 54. | 1265 | Jungle Babbler      | <i>Turdoides striatus</i>  |
| 55. | 1267 | Whiteheaded Babbler | <i>Turdoides rufescens</i> |

**SUBFAMILY MUSCICAPINAE:**

- |     |      |                     |                             |
|-----|------|---------------------|-----------------------------|
| 56. | 1461 | Paradise Flycatcher | <i>Terpsiphone paradisi</i> |
|-----|------|---------------------|-----------------------------|

**SUBFAMILY SYLVIINAE:**

- |     |      |                      |                               |
|-----|------|----------------------|-------------------------------|
| 57. | 1538 | Tailor Bird          | <i>Orthotorvus sutorius</i>   |
| 58. | 1556 | Blyth's Reed warbler | <i>Acrocephalus dumetorum</i> |

**SUBFAMILY TURDINAE:**

- |     |      |                       |  |
|-----|------|-----------------------|--|
| 59. | 1661 | Magpie Robin or Dhyal | <i>Copsychus saularis</i>                          |
| 60. | 1665 | Shama                 | <i>Copsychus malabaricus</i><br><i>malabaricus</i> |
| 61. | 1700 | Pied Bushchat         | <i>Saxicola caprata</i>                            |

**FAMILY PARIDAE:**

- |     |      |          |                    |
|-----|------|----------|--------------------|
| 62. | 1794 | Grey tit | <i>Parus major</i> |
|-----|------|----------|--------------------|

**FAMILY MOTACILLIDAE:**

- |     |      |                  |                               |
|-----|------|------------------|-------------------------------|
| 63. | 1858 | Paddyfield pipit | <i>Anthus novaeseelandiae</i> |
|-----|------|------------------|-------------------------------|

**FAMILY DICAEDIDAE:**

- |     |      |                          |                                |
|-----|------|--------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 64. | 1892 | Thickbilled Flowerpecker | <i>Dicaeum agile</i>           |
| 65. | 1899 | Tickell's Flowerpecker   | <i>Dicaeum erythrorhynchos</i> |

**FAMILY NECTATRINIDAE:**

- |     |      |                       |                            |
|-----|------|-----------------------|----------------------------|
| 66. | 1908 | Purple rumped sunbird | <i>Nectarinia zeylonia</i> |
| 67. | 1912 | Loten's Sunbird       | <i>Nectarinia lotenia</i>  |
| 68. | 1917 | Purple Sunbird        | <i>Nectarinia asiatica</i> |

**FAMILY PLOCEIDAE**

**SUBFAMILY ESTRILDINAE:**

- |     |      |                                  |                            |
|-----|------|----------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 69. | 1979 | Nutmeg Mannikin or Spotted Munia | <i>Lonchura punctulata</i> |
|-----|------|----------------------------------|----------------------------|

Note: The number indicated represents the catalogue number of the bird as mentioned in the pictorial guide to the Birds of Indian Subcontinent.

## THADIYAN KUDISAI

THADIYAN KUDISAI, is situated in the middle palanis at an attitude of about 1098 msl. Most of the forest area have been cleared for plantations like coffee, cardamom and pepper. There are two Government Research Station- Horti Culture Research Station belonging to the TNAU and Indian Cardamom Research Institute of the spices Board. Most of the Estates grow coffee arabica an imported species of coffee from Brazil, South America. The only patches of shola left in these area are confined to the valleys forming the RIPARIAN FOREST type. The tall trees of the Estates, attracts many frugivores, most common being Hill Myna, Bluewinged parakeet and Lorikeets. This habitat of tall trees in the estates, provides an ideal place to look for Hornbills. Though, there are claims by people, seeing the Great Indian Hornbill, the fact is yet to be established to make this area an "Hornbill Country". However one is sure to see the most common Hornbill- Malabar grey Hornbill.

The following study was done during the first two weeks of the June. The checklist given below represents the Avian Species seen during the study.

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The following study was done during the first two weeks of the June. The checklist given below represents the Avian Species seen during the study.



## CHECKLIST OF BIRDS OF THADIYANKUDISAI

### **FAMILY ARDEIDAE:**

			Scientific Name
1.	42	Pond Heron or Paddy Bird	<i>Ardeola grayii</i>
2.	56	Chesnut Bittern	<i>Ixobrychus cinnamo meus</i>

### **FAMILY ACCIPITRIDAE:**

3.	130	Honey Buzzard	<i>Pernis ptilorhyncus</i>
4.	139	Shikra	<i>Accipiter badius</i>
5.	147	Sparrow-Hawk	<i>Accipiter nisus melaschistus</i>
6.	196	Crested Serpent Eagle	<i>Spilornis cheela.</i>

### **FAMILY PHASIANIDAE:**

7.	275	Red Spurfowl	<i>Galloperdix spadicea</i>
8.	299	Red jungle Fowl	<i>Gallus gallus</i>

### **FAMILY COLUMBIDAE:**

9.	534	Indian Ring Dove	<i>Streptopelia orientalis</i>
10.	537	Spotted Dove	<i>Streptopelia chinensis</i>
11.	542	Emerald or Bronzewinged Dove	<i>Chalcophaps indica</i>

### **FAMILY PSITTACIDAE:**

12.	564	Bluewinged parakeet	<i>Psittacula columboides</i>
13.	566	Indian Lorikeet	<i>Loriculus vernalis</i>
14.	558	Blossom headed parakeet	<i>Psittacula cyanocephala</i>

### **FAMILY CUCULIDAE:**

15.	573	Common Hawk-cuckoo or Brainfever Bird	<i>Cuculus varius</i>
16.	600	Crowpheasant or coucal	<i>Centrogus sinensis</i>

### **FAMILY STRIGIDAE:**

17.	657	Mottled Wood owl	<i>Strix ocellata</i>
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### **FAMILY APODIDAE:**

18.	693	Alpine Swift	<i>Apus melba</i>
19.	707	Palm Swift	<i>Cypsiurus parvus</i>

### **FAMILY ALCEDINIDAE:**

20.	722	Common Kingfisher	<i>Alcedo atthis</i>
21.	730	Storkbilled Kingfisher	<i>Pelargopsis capensis</i>
22.	735	Whitebreasted Kingfisher	<i>Halcyon smyrnensis</i>

**FAMILY MEROPIDAE:**

23. 744 Chestnut headed Bee-eater *Merops leschenaulti*

**FAMILY UPUPIDAE:**

24. 763 Hoopoe *Upupa epops*

**FAMILY BUCEROTIDAE:**

25. 768 Malabar Grey Hornbill *Tockus griseus*

**FAMILY CAPITONIDAE:**

26. 782 Large Green Barbet *Megalaima zeylanica*  
 27. 785 Small Green Barbet *Megalaima vividis*  
 28. 792 Crimson breasted BarbetCoppersmith *Megalaima haemocephala*

**FAMILY PICIDAE:**

29. 861 Larger Goldenbacked Woodpecker *Chrysocolaptes lucidus*

**FAMILY HIRUNDINIDAE:**

30. 914 Dusky Crag Martin *Hirundo concolor*  
 31. 923 Striated or Redrumped Swallow *Hirundo daurica*

**FAMILY LANIDAE:**

33. 963 BlackDrongo or King Crow *Dicurus adsimilis*  
 34. 965 Grey or Ashy Drongo *Dicurus leucophaeus*  
 35. 971 Bronzed Drongo *Dicurus aeneus*  
 36. 977 Greater Racket tailed Drongo *Dicurus paradiseus*

**FAMILY STURNIDAE:**

37. 1009 Jungle Myna *Acridotheres fuscus*  
 38. 1015 Grackle or Hill Myna *Gracula religiosa*  
 39. 1006 Indian Myna *Acridotheres tristis*

**FAMILY CORVIDAE:**

40. 1032 Indian Treepie *Dendrocitta vagabunda*  
 41. 1049 House crow *Corvus splendens*  
 42. 1054 Jungle crow *Corvus macrorhynchos*

**FAMILY CAMPEPHAGIDAE:**

43. 1081 Scarlet Minivet *Pericrocotus flammeus*

**FAMILY IRENIDAE:**

			Scientific Name
44.	1103	Goldenfronted chloropsis or leaf Bird	Chloropsis aurifrons
45.	1109	Fairy Blue bird	Irena puella

**FAMILY PYCNONOTIDAE:**

46.	1128	Redvented Bulbul	Pycnonotus cafer
47.	1120	Redwhiskered Bulbul	Pycnonotus jocosus
48.	1144	Yellow browed Bulbul	Hypsipetes indicus

**FAMILY MUSCIPIDAE****SUB FAMILY TIMALINAE:**

49.	1267	Whiteheaded Babbler	Turdoides affinis
50.	1224	Blackheaded Babbler	Rhopodicula affriceps

**SUB FAMILY MUSCICAPINAE:**

51.	1449	Greyheaded Flycatcher	Culicicapa ceylonensis
52.	1442	Tickell's Blue Flycatcher	Muscicapa banyumas

**SUB FAMILY SYLVIINAE:**

53.	1517	Ashy wren warbler	Prinia socialis
54.	1550	Indian Great Reed warbler	Aerocephalus stentoreus
55.	1538	Tailor Bird	Orthotomus sutorius

**SUB FAMILY TURDINAE:**

56.	1661	Magpie Robin or Dhyal	Copsychus saularis
57.	1728	Malabar Whistling thrush	Myiophonus horsfieldii
58.	1734	Orange headed Ground thrush	Zoothera citrina cyanotus

**FAMILY PARIDAE:**

59.	1794	Grey tit	Parus major
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**FAMILY SITTIDAE:**

60.	1838	Velvet fronted Nuthatch	Sitta frontalis
61.	1841	Spotted Grey creeper	Salpornis spilonotos

**FAMILY DICAIDAE:**

62.	1892	Thickbilled Flowerpecker	Dicaeum agile
63.	1899	Thickell's Flowerpecker	Dicaeum erythro rhynchos

**FAMILY NECTARINIIDAE:**

64.	1908	Purplerumped Sunbird	Nectarinia zeylonica
65.	1912	Loten's sunbird	Nectarinia lotenia
66.	1917	Purple sunbird	Nectarinia asiatica

**FAMILY ZOSTEROPIDAE:**

67. 1933 White Eye *Zosterops palpebrosa*

**FAMILY PLOCEIDAE**

**SUB FAMILY PASSERINAE:**

68. 1938 House sparrow *Passer domesticus*  
69. 1973 Rufousbellied Munia *Lonchura kelaarti*

**FAMILY LANIIDAE:**

70. 946 Rufousbacked Shrike *Lanius schach*

Note: The number indicated represents the catalogue number of the bird as mentioned in the pictorial guide to the Birds of Indian Subcontinent.

## KUDRAIYAR

Kudraiyyar, named after the river Kudraiyyar is located in the Andipatty Village of Palani Taluk. It is located at about 378 msl. The average annual rainfall and temperature is about 984.0 cms and 23-27.°c respectively. With the total area of about 780.21 Hectares of dry deciduous and scrub jungles, kudraiyyar provides an ideal habitat for Flora and Fauna. The rich diversity of fauna in Kudraiyyar, is due to the presence of famous Indira Gandhi wildlife sanctuary nearby, at about 10 kms from Kudraiyyar. Asian Elephants, Indian Bisons, Wild boars, Malabar and grizzled Giant squirrel, in addition to many forest birds are a common sight in these dry deciduous forests. The presence of the Kudraiyyar dam, also provides an ideal habitat for migratory birds, which comes in large numbers to spend the winter here. This mixed type of habitat like aquatic, dry deciduous, and scrub jungles, makes Kudraiyyar an ornithologist's paradise.

The following checklist gives an idea of the rich Birds diversity of the area.

## CHECKLIST OF BIRDS AT KUDRAIYAR

### **FAMILY PODICIPEDIDAE:**

- |    |    |              | Scientific Name     |
|----|----|--------------|---------------------|
| 1. | 05 | Little Grebe | Podiceps ruficolis. |

### **FAMILY PHALACROCORACIDAE:**

- |    |    |                  |                     |
|----|----|------------------|---------------------|
| 2. | 26 | Cormorant        | Phalacrocorax carbo |
| 3. | 28 | Little Cormorant | Phalacrocorax niger |
| 4. | 29 | Darter           | Anhinga rufa.       |

### **FAMILY ARDEIDAE:**

- |    |    |                    |                    |
|----|----|--------------------|--------------------|
| 5. | 38 | Little Green Heron | Ardeola striatus   |
| 6. | 42 | Pond Heron         | Ardeola grayii     |
| 7. | 47 | Smaller Egret      | Egretta intermedia |
| 8. | 49 | Little Egret       | Egretta garzetta   |

### **FAMILY ANATIDAE:**

- |    |    |                 |                     |
|----|----|-----------------|---------------------|
| 9. | 97 | Spotbilled duck | Anas poecilorhyncha |
|----|----|-----------------|---------------------|

### **FAMILY ACCIPITRIDAE:**

- |     |     |                       |                  |
|-----|-----|-----------------------|------------------|
| 10. | 124 | Blackwinged Kite      | Elanus caeruleus |
| 11. | 135 | Brahminy Kite         | Haliastur indus  |
| 12. | 196 | Crested Serpent Eagle | Spilornis cheela |

### **FAMILY COLUMBIDAE:**

- |     |     |                       |                         |
|-----|-----|-----------------------|-------------------------|
| 13. | 506 | Green Imperial Pigeon | Ducula aenea            |
| 14. | 516 | Blue rock Pigeon      | Columba livia           |
| 15. | 534 | Indian Ring Dove      | Streptopelia decaocto   |
| 16. | 537 | Spotted Dove          | Streptopelia chinensis. |

### **FAMILY CUCULIDAE:**

- |     |     |                         |                      |
|-----|-----|-------------------------|----------------------|
| 17. | 590 | Koel                    | Eudynamys scolopacea |
| 18. | 600 | Crow pheasant or coucal | Centropus sinensis   |

### **FAMILY APODIDAE:**

- |     |     |              |                  |
|-----|-----|--------------|------------------|
| 19. | 693 | Alpine swift | Apus melba       |
| 20. | 707 | Palm swift   | Cypsiurus parvus |

### **FAMILY CHARADRIIDAE:**

- |     |     |                    |                  |
|-----|-----|--------------------|------------------|
| 21. | 366 | Redwattled lapwing | Vanellus indicus |
|-----|-----|--------------------|------------------|

**FAMILY ALCEDINIDAE:**

			Scientific Name
21.	719	Lesser pied kingfisher	Ceryle rudis
22.	722	Common Kingfisher	Alcedo atthis
23.	735	White breasted Kingfisher	Halcyon smyrenensis

**FAMILY MEROPIDAE:**

24.	750	Green Bee-eater	Merops orientalis
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**FAMILY CAPITONIDAE:**

25.	782	Large Green Barbet	Megalaima zeylonica
26.	785	Small Green Barbet	Megalaima viridis
27.	792	Crimson breasted Barbet or coppersmith	Megalaima haemacephala

**FAMILY PICIDAE:**

28.	761	Larger Goldenbacked Woodpecker	Chrysocolaptes lucidus
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**FAMILY ALAUDIDAE:**

29.	877	Redwinged Bushlark	Mirafra erythroptera
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**FAMILY HIRUNDINIDAE:**

30.	914	Dusky crag martin	Hirundo concolour
31.	923	Redrumped or straited swallow	Hirundo daurica

**FAMILY ORIOLIDAE:**

32.	958	Black headed oriole	Oridus xanthorus
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**FAMILY DICRURIDAE:**

33.	963	Black Drongo	Dicrurus adsimilis
34.	965	Grey or Ashy Drongo	Dicrurus leucophaeus
35.	967	Whitebellied Drongo	Dicrurus caerulescens

**FAMILY STURNIDAE:**

36.	1006	Common Myna	Acridotheres tristis
37.	1009	Jungle Myna	Acridotheres fuscus

**FAMILY CORVIDAE:**

38.	1049	House Crow	Corvus splendens
39.	1054	Jungle crow	Corvus macrorhynchos

**FAMILY CAMPEPHAGIDAE:**

40.	1081	Scarlet Minivet	Pericrocotus flammeus
41.	1093	Small Minivet	Pericrocotus cinnamomeus

**FAMILY IRENIDAE:**

- |     |      |                                       |                                |
|-----|------|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 42. | 1108 | Goldenmantled chloropsis or leaf bird | <i>Chloropsis chochinensis</i> |
| 43. | 1109 | Fairy Blue bird                       | <i>Irena puella</i>            |

**FAMILY PYCNONOTIDAE:**

- |     |      |                            |  |
|-----|------|----------------------------|--|
| 44. | 1116 | Rubythroated yellow Bulbul | <i>Pycnonotus melanicterus gularis</i> |
| 45. | 1120 | Redwhiskered Bulbul        | <i>Pycnonotus jocosus</i>              |
| 46. | 1128 | Redvented Bulbul           | <i>Pycnonotus cafer</i>                |
| 47. | 1138 | Whitebrowed Bulbul         | <i>Pycnonotus luteolus</i>             |

**FAMILY MUSCICAPIDAE: SUB FAMILY: TIMALINAE:**

- |     |      |                     |                          |
|-----|------|---------------------|--------------------------|
| 48. | 1267 | Whiteheaded Babbler | <i>Turdoides affinis</i> |
|-----|------|---------------------|--------------------------|

**SUBFAMILY TURDINAE:**

- |     |      |                |  |
|-----|------|----------------|--|
| 49. | 1665 | Shama          | <i>Copsychus malabaricus malabaricus</i> |
| 50. | 1700 | Pied Bush Chat | <i>Saxicola caprata</i>                  |
| 51. | 1720 | Indian Robin   | <i>Saxicoloides Fulicata</i>             |

**FAMILY PARIDAE:**

- |     |      |          |                    |
|-----|------|----------|--------------------|
| 52. | 1794 | Grey tit | <i>Parus major</i> |
|-----|------|----------|--------------------|

**FAMILY MOTACILLIDAE:**

- |     |      |                   |                                  |
|-----|------|-------------------|----------------------------------|
| 53. | 1858 | Paddyfield pipit  | <i>Anthus pratensis</i>          |
| 54. | 1891 | Largepied Wagtail | <i>Motacilla maderaspatensis</i> |

**FAMILY DICAERIDAE:**

- |     |      |                          |                                |
|-----|------|--------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 55. | 1892 | Thickbilled Flowerpecker | <i>Dicaeum agile</i>           |
| 56. | 1899 | Tickell's Flowerpecker   | <i>Dicaeum erythrorhynchos</i> |

**FAMILY NECTARINIDAE:**

- |     |      |                      |                            |
|-----|------|----------------------|----------------------------|
| 57. | 1908 | Purplerumped sunbird | <i>Nectarina zeylonica</i> |
| 58. | 1917 | Purple sunbird       | <i>Nectarina asiatica</i>  |

**FAMILY PLOCEIDAE: SUBFAMILY: PASSERINAE:**

- |     |      |                 |                          |
|-----|------|-----------------|--------------------------|
| 59. | 1938 | House sparrow   | <i>Passer domesticus</i> |
| 60. | 1962 | Streaked Weaver | <i>Ploceus manyar</i>    |

**SUBFAMILY: ESTRILIDINAE**

- |     |      |                   |                         |
|-----|------|-------------------|-------------------------|
| 61. | 1968 | Whitebacked Munia | <i>Lonchura striata</i> |
|-----|------|-------------------|-------------------------|

Note: The number indicated represents the catalogue number of the bird as mentioned in the pictorial guide to the Birds of Indian Subcontinent.



## KODAIKANAL

Kodaikanal, popularly known as the land of white clouds is located at about 10°12' and 10°15'N and 77°26' and 77°33'E in the Palani Hill range. It lies at an altitude of 2100 msl. Due to influx of tourists to these areas, the thick patches of many sholas is fastely getting degraded. Many of these sholas have been cleared for resorts and restaurants. What little remains are the Tiger shola, Bear shola and the Bombay shola, which acts as the lungs of Kodaikanal.

Kodaikanal, which once had a rich diversity of Flora and Fauna, had always attracted many naturalists throughout time, but now the research activities are only confined to the remaining sholas, which still harbours the lost glory of Flora and Fauna in Kodaikanal.

This study was done at the Bombay shola. Due to bad weather, the study was limited to just one day and the following checklist gives the Birds seen in the Bombay shola.

## CHECKLIST OF BIRDS OF UPPER PALANIS (KODAIKANAL)

### **FAMILY ARDEIDAE:**

### **Scientific Name**

1. 42 Pond Heron or paddy bird

*Ardeola grayii*

### **FAMILY ACCIPITRIDAE:**

2. 135 Brahminy Kite

*Haliastur indus*

### **FAMILY COLUMBIDAE:**

3. 534 Indian Ring Dove

*Streptopelia orientalis*

4. 537 Spotted Dove

*Streptopelia chinensis*

### **FAMILY APODIDAE:**

5. 693 Alpine swift

*Apus melba*

6. 707 Palm swift

*Cypsiurus parvus*

### **FAMILY ALCEDINIDAE:**

7. 722 Common Kingfisher

*Alcedo atthis*

8. 735 Whitebreasted Kingfisher

*Halcyon smyrnensis*

### **FAMILY CAPITONIDAE:**

9. 782 Large Green Barbet

*Megalaima zeylanica*

### **FAMILY HIRUNDINIDAE:**

10. 914 Dusky Crag Martin

*Hirundo concolor*

### **FAMILY LANIIDAE:**

11. 946 Rufusbacked shrike

*Lanius schach*

### **FAMILY STURNIDAE:**

12. 1009 Jungle Myna

*Acridotheres fuscus*

13. 1006 Indian Myna

*Acridotheres tristis*

### **FAMILY CORVIDAE:**

14. 1049 House Crow

*Corvus splendens*

15. 1054 Jungle Crow

*Corvus macrorhynchos*

### **FAMILY IRENIDAE:**

16. 1109 Fairy Bluebird

*Irena puella*

**FAMILY PYCNONOTIDAE:**

17. 1120 Redwhiskered Bulbul  
 18. 1128 Redvented Bulbul  
 19. 1132 Black Bulbul

**Scientific Name**

- Pycnonotus jacosus*  
*Pycnonotus cafer*  
*Hypsipetes madagascariensis*

**FAMILY PARIDAE:**

20. 1794 Grey tit

*Parus major*

**FAMILY MUSCICAPIDAE****SUBFAMILY: MUSCICAPINAL**

21. 1449 Grey headed Flycatcher  
 22. -- Black & Orange Flycatcher  
 23. 1442 Tickell's Blue Flycatcher

*Cudicapa Ceylonensis*  
*Muscicapa thalassina*  
*Muscicapa banyumas*

**SUBFAMILY TURDINAE:**

24. 1661 Magpie Robin or Dhyal  
 25. 1728 Malabar Whistling thrush  
 26. -- Black bird  
 27. 1700 Pied Bush chat

*Copsychus saularis*  
*Myophorus horsfieldii*  
*Turdus merula maximus*  
*Saxicola caprata*

**SUBFAMILY TIMALINAE:**

28. Wynaad laughing thrush

*Garnulux jerdoni*

**FAMILY DICAIEIDAE:**

29. 1892 Thickbilled Flowerpecker  
 30. 1899 Tickell's Flowerpecker

*Dicaeum agile*  
*Dicaeum erythrorhynchos*

**FAMILY NECTARINIIDAE:**

31. 1908 Purplerumped sunbird  
 32. 1917 Purple sunbird

*Nectarinia zeylonica*  
*Nectarinia asiatica*

**FAMILY ZOSTEROPIDAE:**

33. 1933 White eye

*Zosterops palpebrosa*

**FAMILY MOTACILLIDAE:**

34. 1891 Large pied wagtail

*Motacilla alba*

Note: The number indicated represents the catalogue number of the bird as mentioned in the pictorial guide to the Birds of Indian Subcontinent.

**MASTER CHECKLIST OF THE BIRDS OF PALANI HILLS**

**FAMILY PODICIPEDIDAE:**

**SI TA KU KO**

1.	little Grebe	Podiceps ruficolis	-	-	+	-
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**FAMILY PHALA CROCORACIDAE:**

2.	Cormorant	Phalacrocorax carbo	-	-	+	-
3.	Little cormorant	Phalacrocorax niger	-	-	+	-
4.	Darter	Anhinga rufa	-	-	+	-

**FAMILY ARDEIDAE:**

5.	Little Green Heron	Ardeola striatus	-	-	+	-
6.	Pond Heron	Ardeola grayii	+	+	+	+
7.	Smaller Egret	Egretta intermedia	-	-	+	-
8.	Little Egret	Egretta garzetta	-	-	+	-
9.	Chestnut Bitter	Ixobrychus cinnamomeus	-	+	-	-

**FAMILY ANATIDAE:**

10.	Spot billed duck	Anas Poecilorhyncha	-	-	+	-
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**FAMILY ACCIPITRIDAE:**

11.	Blackwinged Kite	Elanus Caeruleus	-	-	+	-
12.	Honey Buzzard	Pernis ptilorhynas	+	+	-	-
13.	Brähminy Kite	Haliastur indus	-	-	+	+
14.	Sparrow Hawk	Accipiternisus melaschistis	+	+	-	-
15.	Japanese Buzzard	Buteobuteo japonicus	+	-	-	-
16.	Crested Serpent Eagle	Spilornis cheela	+	+	+	-
17.	Shikra	Accipiter badius	-	+	-	-

**FAMILY COLUMBIDAE:**

18.	Green Imperial Pigeon	Ducula aenea	-	-	+	-
19.	Blue rock Pigeon	Columba livia	-	-	+	-
20.	Indian ring Dove	Streptopelia decaocto	+	+	+	+
21.	Spotted Dove	Streptopelia chinensis	+	+	+	+
22.	Emerald or Bronze winged Dove	Chaleophaps indica	+	+	-	-

**FAMILY PSITTACIDAE:**

23.	Blossom headed parakeet	Psittacula cyanocephala	+	+	-	-
24.	Blue winged Parakeet	Psittacula columboides	+	+	-	-
25.	Indian Lorikeet	Loriculus vernalis	+	+	-	-

**FAMILY CUCULIDAE:**

26.	Common Hawk cuckoo or Brainfever Bird	Cuculus Varius	+	+	-	-
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27.	Koel	<i>Eudynamys scalopacea</i>	+	-	+	-
28.	Crow pheasant or Coucal	<i>Centopus sinensis</i>	+	+	+	-

**FAMILY PHASINIDAE:**

29.	Red Spur Fowl	<i>Galloperdix spadicea</i>	-	+	-	-
30.	Red Jungle Fowl	<i>Gallus gallus</i>	-	+	-	-

**FAMILY APODIDAE:**

31.	Alpine Swift	<i>Apus melba</i>	+	+	+	+
32.	Palm Swift	<i>Cypsiurus parvus</i>	+	+	+	+

**FAMILY STRIGIDAE:**

33.	Mottled Wood owl	<i>Strix ocellata</i>	-	+	-	-
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**FAMILY CHARADRIIDAE:**

34.	Red Wattled lapwing	<i>Vanellus indicus</i>	-	-	+	-
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**FAMILY ALCEDINIDAE:**

35.	Lesser Pied Kingfisher	<i>Ceryle rudis</i>	-	-	+	-
36.	Common Kingfisher	<i>Alcedo atthis</i>	-	+	+	+
37.	Whitebreasted Kingfisher	<i>Halcyon smyrensis</i>	+	+	+	+
38.	Storkbilled Kingfisher	<i>Pelargopsis capensis</i>	-	+	-	-

**FAMILY MEROPIDAE:**

39.	Chestnutheaded Bee-eater	<i>Merops leschenaulti</i>	+	+	-	-
40.	Green Bee-eater	<i>Merops orientalis</i>	-	-	+	-

**FAMILY UPUPIDAE:**

41.	Hoopoe	<i>Upupa epops</i>	-	+	-	-
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**FAMILY BUCEROTIDAE:**

42.	Malabar Grey Hornbill	<i>Tockus griseus</i>	-	+	-	-
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**FAMILY CORACIIDAE:**

43.	Indian Roller or Blue jay	<i>Coracias benghalensis</i>	+	-	-	-
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**FAMILY CAPITONIDAE:**

44.	Large Green Barbet	<i>Megalaima zeylanica</i>	+	+	+	-
45.	Small Green Barbet	<i>Megalaima viridis</i>	+	+	+	-
46.	Crimson breasted Barbet or Coppersmith	<i>Megalaima haemocephala</i>	+	+	+	-

**FAMILY PICIDAE:**

47.	Larger Golden backed Woodpecker	<i>Chrysocolaptes lucidus</i>	+	+	+	-
48.	Lesser Golden backed Woodpecker	<i>Dinopium benghalense</i>	+	+	+	-
49.	Yellow Fronted pied Woodpecker	<i>Picoides mahrattensis</i>	+	-	-	-

**FAMILY HIRUNDINIDAE:**

50.	Dusky crag Martin	<i>Hirundo concolor</i>	-	+	+	+
51.	Striated or redrumped Swallow	<i>Hirundo daurica</i>	-	+	+	-

**FAMILY ALAUDIDAE:**

52.	Redwinged Bush lark	<i>Mirafra erythroptera</i>	-	-	+	-
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**FAMILY LANIIDAE:**

53.	Rufousbacked shrike	<i>Lanius schach</i>	-	+	-	+
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**FAMILY ORIOLIDAE:**

54.	Golden Oriole	<i>Oriolus oriolus</i>	+	-	-	-
55.	Blacknaped Oriole	<i>Oriolus chinensis diffusus</i>	+	-	-	-
56.	Blackheaded Oriole	<i>Oriolus xanthornus</i>	+	-	+	-

**FAMILY DICRURIDAE:**

57.	Black Drongo or King crow	<i>Dicrurus adsimilis</i>	+	+	+	-
58.	Grey or Ashy Drongo	<i>Dicrurus leucophaeus</i>	+	+	+	-
59.	White bellied Drongo	<i>Dicrurus caerelescens</i>	+	-	+	-
60.	Bronzed Drongo	<i>Dicrurus aeneus</i>	+	+	-	-
61.	Greater Racket tailed Drongo	<i>Dicrurus paradiseus</i>	+	+	-	-

**FAMILY STURNIDAE:**

62.	Common Myna	<i>Acridotheres tristis</i>	+	+	+	+
63.	Jungle Myna	<i>Acridotheres fuscus</i>	+	+	+	+
64.	Hill Myna	<i>Gracula religiosa</i>	+	+	-	-

**FAMILY CORVIDAE:**

65.	Indian treepie	<i>Dendrocitta vagabunda</i>	+	+	-	-
66.	House crow	<i>Corvus splendens</i>	+	+	+	+
67.	Jungle crow	<i>Corvus macrorhynchos</i>	+	+	+	+

**FAMILY CAMPEPHAGIDAE:**

68.	Scarlet Minivet	<i>Pericrocotus flammeus</i>	+	+	+	-
69.	Small Minivet	<i>Pericrocotus cinnamomeus</i>	+	-	+	-

**FAMILY IRENIDAE:**

70.	Gold fronted chloropsis or leaf bird	<i>Chloropsis aurifrons</i>	+	+	-	-
71.	Gold mantled chloropsis or leaf bird	<i>Chloropsis chochinchinensis</i>	+	-	+	-
72.	Fairy blue bird	<i>Irena puella</i>	+	+	+	+

**FAMILY PYCNONOTIDAE:**

73.	Ruby throated yellow Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus melanicterus</i> <i>gularis</i>	+	-	+	-
74.	Black capped yellow Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus melanicterus</i> <i>melanicterus</i>	+	-	-	-
75.	Red whiskered Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus jacosus</i>	+	+	+	+
76.	Red vented Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus cafer</i>	+	+	+	+
77.	Black headed yellow Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus melanicterus</i> <i>flaviventris</i>	+	-	-	-
78.	White browed Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus luteolus</i>	+	-	+	-
79.	Black Bulbul	<i>Hypsipetus madagascariensis</i>	+	-	-	+
80.	Yellow browed Bulbul	<i>Hypsipetus indicus</i>	+	+	-	-

**FAMILY MUSCICAPIDAE:****SUB FAMILY: TIMALINAE**

81.	Jungle Babbler	<i>Turdoides striatus</i>	+	-	-	-
82.	Whiteheaded Babbler	<i>Turdoides rufescens</i>	+	+	+	-
83.	Blackheaded Babbler	<i>Rhopocicula atriceps</i>	-	+	-	-

**SUB FAMILY MUSCICAPINAE:**

84.	Paradise Flycatcher	<i>Terpsiphone paradisi</i>	+	-	-	-
85.	Greyheaded Flycatcher	<i>Culicicapa ceylonensis</i>	-	+	-	+
86.	Tickell's Blue Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa banyumas</i>	-	+	-	+
87.	Black and Orange Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa thalassima</i>	-	-	-	+

**SUB FAMILY SYLVIINAE:**

88.	Indian Great Reed Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus steutoreus</i>	-	+	-	-
89.	Tailor Bird	<i>Orthotorvus sutorius</i>	+	+	-	-
90.	Blyth's Reed Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus dumentorum</i>	+	-	-	-
91.	Ashy Wren Warbler	<i>Prinia socialis</i>	-	+	-	-

**SUB FAMILY TURDINAE:**

92.	Magpie Robin or Dhyal	<i>Copsychus saularis</i>	+	+	-	+
93.	Shama	<i>Copsychus malabaricus</i>	+	-	+	-
94.	Pied Bushchat	<i>Saxicola caprata</i>	+	-	+	+
95.	Indian Robin	<i>Saxicolaides ofulicata</i>	-	-	+	-
96.	Malabar Whistling thrush	<i>Myiophorus horsfieldii</i>	-	+	-	+
97.	Black Bird	<i>Turdus merula maximus</i>	-	-	-	+
98.	Orange Headed Ground thrush	<i>Zoothera citrina cyanotus</i>	-	+	-	-

**SUB FAMILY TIMALINAE:**

99. Wynaad Laughing thrush *Garnulux jerdoni* - - - +

**PARIDAE:**

100. Grey tit *Parus major* + + + +

**FAMILY SITTIDAE:**

101. Velvet fronted Nuthatch *Sitta frontalis* - + - -  
 102. Spotted Grey Creeper *Salpornis spilonotos* - + - -

**FAMILY MOTACILLIDAE:**

103. Paddyfield pipit *Anthus pratensis* + - + -  
 104. Large pied Wagtail *Motacilla maderaspatensis* - - + +

**FAMILY DICADIDAE:**

105. Thickbilled Flowerpecker *Dicaeum agile* + + + +  
 106. Tickell's Flowerpecker *Dicaeum erythrorhynchos* + + + +

**FAMILY NECTARINIIDAE:**

107. Purple rumped Sunbird *Nectarinia zeylonica* + + + +  
 108. Loten's Sunbird *Nectarinia lotenia* + + - -  
 109. Purple Sunbird *Nectarinia asiatica* + + + +

**FAMILY ZOSTEDOPIIDAE:**

110. White Eye *Zosterops palpebrosa* - + - +

**FAMILY PLOCEIDAE:**

**SUB FAMILY ESTRILDINAE:**

111. Nutmeg Manikin or Spotted Munia *Lonchura punctulata* + - - -  
 112. Whitebacked Munia *Lonchura striata* - - + -

**SUB FAMILY PASSERINAE:**

113. House Sparrow *Passer domesticus* - + - -  
 114. Rufousbellied Munia *Lonchura kelaarti* - + - -  
 115. Streaked Wearer *Ploceus manyar* - - + -



Key for ABBREVIATIONS:

SI	—	SIRUVATTUKADU KOMBAL
TA	—	THADIYAN KUDISAI
KU	—	KUDRIYAR
KO	—	KODAIKANAL
+	—	indicates present
-	—	indicates not present

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