

# THATTEKKAD BIRD SANCTUARY



## A RARE ABODE OF BIRDS

The one and only one Sanctuary of its kind in Kerala, the Thattakkad Bird Sanctuary was constituted in 1983. Situated in the Kothamangalam Taluk of Ernakulam District, this Bird Sanctuary is a feast to the eyes and music to the ears. Several kinds of birds usually found in South India are seen here. The famous ornithologist, Dr. Salim Ali, was the architect of this Sanctuary. He is reported to have identified 167 birds. The Bombay Natural History Society has identified 253 kinds of birds. Dr. Sugathan, student of Dr. Salim Ali and renowned Ornithologist has identified 270 species of birds from Thattakkad Bird Sanctuary. Spread over an extent of 25.16 sq.km, Thattakkad attracts nature lovers from far and wide.

## TOPOGRAPHY

The terrain is undulating and elevation ranges between 35m and 523m. The tallest point is the Njayappilly peak (523m above MSL)



ASIAN OPENBILL



DARTER

## LOCATION

Latitude : 76° 40' - 76° 45' N  
 Longitude : 10° 7' - 11° E  
 Rainfall : 2500mm (average)  
 Lake : the sanctuary is the catchment area of Bhoothathankettu Dam

## BIRDS

Indian Roller, Cuckoo, Common Snipe, Crow Pheasant, Nighthjar, Kite, Drongo, Malabar Trogon, Woodpecker, Wagtail, Baya, Grey Jungle Fowl, Myna, Magpie Robin, Babbler, Darter, Cormorant, Egret, Heron, Kingfisher, Flycatcher, Bittern, Stork, Eagle, Jacana, Lapwing, Pigeon, Parakeet, Owl, Owlet, Swift, Swallow, Bee Eater, Malabar Grey Hornbill, Barbet, Oriole, Tree Pie, Minivet, Chloropsis, Bulbul, Thrush, Warbler, Shama, Sunbird, Munia etc.



HILL MYNA



WHITE THROATED KINGFISHER

## FOREST TYPE

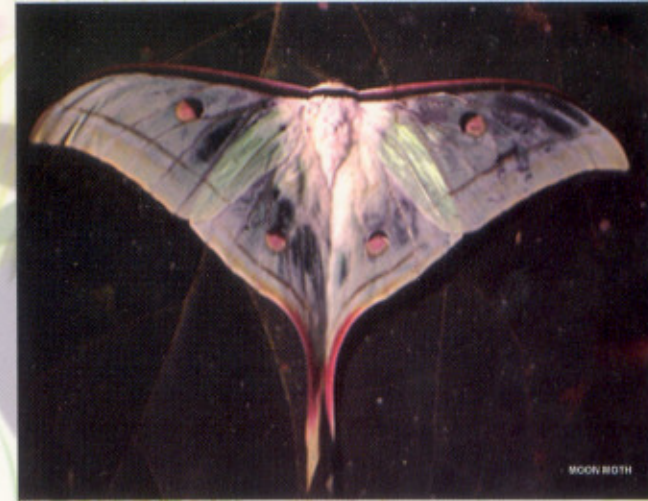
Major Forest types include Tropical Evergreen Forests, Tropical Semi - Evergreen Forests and Tropical Moist Deciduous Forests and plantations of Teak and Mahogany. There are patches of grasslands also



SRI LANKA FROGMOUTH

## FLORA

Tropical Evergreen forests harbour Vellapine (*Vateria indica*), Bhadraksham (*Eleocharis tuberculatus*), Cheeni (*Tetrameles nudiflora*), Thambakom (*Hopea parviflora*), Nedunar (*Polyalthia fragrans*) etc. Tropical Semi - Evergreen Forests harbour Anjily (*Antrocarpus hirsuta*), Rosewood (*Dalbergia latifolia*), Venga (*Pterocarpus marsupium*), Elavu (*Bombax ceiba*) etc. The major tree species of Moist Deciduous Forests include Teak (*Tectona grandis*), Maruthi (*Terminalia paniculata*), Thembavu (*Terminalia tomentosa*), Venteak (*Lagerstroemia lanceolata*) etc.



MOON MOTH

## FAUNA

The Elephant is an occasional visitor. Other wild animals found in the Sanctuary are Leopard, Sloth Bear, Porcupine, Wild Pig, Giant Squirrel, Flying Squirrel, Pangolin, Toddy Cat, Small Indian Civet, Jungle Cat, Mongoose, Slender Loris, Bonnet Macaque, Wild Dog, Sambar Deer, Barking Deer, Mouse Deer, Turtle, Monitor Lizard, Python, Cobra etc.



SLENDER LORIS

## PRECAUTIONS IN THE JUNGLE

### Do's and Don'ts

1. Do not expect to see animals as a matter of routine
2. Silence and discipline pay
3. Small groups are ideal.
4. Early mornings and late afternoons are best suited to bird watching and visiting forests.
5. Do not travel alone, especially in Elephant Reserves.
6. Do not wear colourful clothes and avoid perfumes.
7. Carry drinking water, tea/coffee, snacks etc.
8. Seek the assistance of a Guide while going in to the forests.
9. Do not disturb or tease animals
10. Avoid smoking.
11. Radios and Tape recorders are better left behind.
12. Do not throw litter around including food.
13. Respect animals and their customs.
14. Do not take away anything from the sanctuary.
15. Carry a note book & road map.
16. Do not swim in unfamiliar waters.
17. Be careful during a boat ride. Don't bend to touch the water.
18. Travel light, and do not carry any valuables except cameras or binoculars.



BLACK CAPPED KINGFISHER

### RARE BIRDS

Crimson-throated Barbet, Bee-eater, Sunbird; Shrike, Fairy Blue bird, Grey headed Fishing Eagle, Black winged Kite, Night Heron, Grey Heron, Shama, Malabar Grey Hornbill, Pheasant tailed Jacana, Nilgiri Wood Pigeon, Peninsular Bay Owl, Broadbilled Roller, Ceylon Frogmouth, Malabar Trogon, Black capped Kingfisher, Blacknapped Oriole, Hill Myna, White bellied Tree Pie, Wynaad Laughing Thrush, Velvet fronted Nuthatch.

### ADMINISTRATION

The Wildlife Warden, who is in charge of the Idukki Wildlife Division, with Head quarters at Vellappara, Idukki is responsible for the management of the sanctuary. The day-to-day administration is in the hands of the Assistant Wildlife Warden whose head quarters is at Thattekkad.



BROAD BILLED ROLLER



SPOTTED OWL

### TOURISM

The Sanctuary is 13 Kms North-East of Kothamangalam along the Pooyamkutty road. The nearest railway station is Aluva, at a distance of 48kms. Nedumbassery (Cochin), the nearest airport, is 42 kms from Thattekkad

### ACCOMODATION

Inspection Bungalow- Thattekkad, Dormitory- Thattekkad, Watch Tower inside forest, Tree top House-inside the Sanctuary on the River bank at Ovumkal and View Tower are the facilities available for accommodation within the Sanctuary. Private lodges are available at Kothamangalam.

### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, CONTACT;

1. The Chief Conservator of Forests (Wildlife)  
Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala-695014,  
Phone: 0471-2322217.
2. The Field Director (Project Tiger)  
S.H. Mount P.O.  
Kottayam,  
Phone: 0481-2311740
3. The Wildlife Warden,  
Idukki Wildlife Division, Vellappara, Painavu P.O.  
Idukki District-685 603, Phone: 04862-232271.
4. The Assistant Wildlife Warden,  
Thattekkad Bird Sanctuary  
Njayappilly P.O., Kothamangalam (via) Kerala.  
Phone: 0485-2588302.

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