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## Pelican deaths: Expert team to visit Kokkarebellur

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Pelican deaths have caused concern among residents of Kokkarebellur Bird sanctuary. The people take great care of the birds. dh file photo

The deputy conservator of forests, Yedukondalu, on Monday, said that ornithologists and scientists will visit Kokkarebellur Bird Sanctuary on February 14 and 15, following a series of death of pelicans, here.

An eight-member team, including Dr Saketh from Delhi, Dr Brij Gopal and Dr Asad Rehmani from the Natural History Society of Bombay, T V Ramachandra from the Indian Institute of Science, and Dr Muralidhar from the Indian Veterinary Institute, will visit the sanctuary, said Yedukondalu.

Scientists from the Institute of Animal Health and Veterinary Biologicals had issued the second medical report related to pelican deaths on January 28, citing worm infection as the cause, said Dr H Hanumegowda, assistant director for Animal Husbandry.

Meanwhile, the pelican deaths have continued at Kokkarebellur. While five birds took ill on Sunday, four of them died on Monday. With this, the number of pelican deaths has increased to 32.