



# DIVERSITY OF WATERBIRDS IN KAIGA REGION, UTTAR KANNADA

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# INTRODUCTION

- Birds contribute most significantly to the diversity of terrestrial vertebrates, and they play a vital role in ecosystem balance. Birds are one of the most threatened species due to various anthropological activities such as deforestation, pollution, urbanization, industrialization etc
- Kaiga, a rich source of Biodiversity in Western ghats region, is located between 14° 51' 00" N lat and 74° 26' 00" E in Uttar Kannada district, Karnataka.
- This study was designed to form a baseline data on the water bird diversity of Kaiga region.
- Survey was held in a total of 18 sampling sites.

- Worldwide several birds have become extinct and many are enlisted under endangered category.
- Ornithological studies indicate that of 2060 taxa known from the Indian subcontinent about 350 are migrants that include both terrestrial and water birds.
- The most abundant and spectacular winter migrants to the Indian subcontinent are the ducks and geese (anatidae).
- During recent years bird lovers have been expressing concern over the increasing threat to the waterbirds. the birds have always fascinated man for their exquisite colouration.
- They have their functional role in the ecosystem as potential pollinators and scavengers, indeed rightly called bio indicators.
- India being a mega diversity centre, harbors more than 1200 species of birds which amounts to 13% of the bird species of the world (Ali and Ripley, 1983).



Kaiga's water bodies rivers, wetlands and it's lush green area is home to a large number of birds and other forms of biodiversity.



By seeing this image of kaiga you cannot believe that this mesmerizing beauty of picturesque landscape of the lush green forest with rich water body..... Definitely rivals any tourist spot!



Photo : Puttaraju .K

# MIRROR IMAGE ON THE RIVER BANK OF KALI



Photo : Puttaraju .K

# METHODOLOGY

- Study period : Two years, from November 2007 to October 2009.
- Method : Line transect
- Observation time : From 7 A.M. to 9 A.M.
- Field materials : Binoculars, Digital camera and identification key books
- Key books : The Book of Indian Birds – Salim Ali

# RICH WETLAND OF KAIGA



Photo : Puttaraju .K

# SAMPLING SITES

- Kuchegar
- Virje
- Hartuga
- Irpage
- Mallapur
- Kadra
- Devkar
- Devlamakki
- Halga
- Ulga
- Katne
- Baire
- Hapkarni
- Sakli
- Keravadi
- Kaiga plant site
- Bare
- Haroor

It will not be a surprise, perhaps if our Kaiga nuclear plant in future will also become thriving bird sanctuary.



- Kaiga plant site have several strengths once it comes to biodiversity.
- Nuclear power do not produce obnoxious gases, particulates or soot that makes the environment unhealthy.
- Nuclear power plant use water for cooling purposes and therefore all power plants are located near water bodies like rivers, lakes, reservoir and sea.
- These conditions makes various zones of Kaiga a preferred choice for birds.
- In Kaiga nature is preserved in it's pristine form. The Exclusion zone is one of our biggest strength. Because it's a no man's land, guarded by CISF Commandos.
- Kaiga nuclear power plant plush with bio diversity have become more richer after made it as a no man's land and are safe heaven for the flying guest.

A large congregation of local migrants in monsoon and winter migrants visit our plant site and we wait anxiously for their arrival.





# RESULTS

- Recorded No. of species : 48
- Recorded No. of families : 9
- Migratory species : 5
- Endemic species : 3

Sl.No.	Family	Species	IUCN Status
1	Phalacrocoracidae	Great Cormorant	LC
		Indian Shag	LC
		Little Cormorant	LC
		Indian Cormorant	LC
		Imperial Shag	LC
2	Ahningidae	Darter	NT
3	Ardeidae	Grey Heron	LC
		Purple Heron	LC
		Little green heron	LC
		Indian Pond heron	LC
		Cattle egret	LC
		Large egret	LC
		Western reef egret	LC
		Black Bittern	LC
		Yellow Bittern	LC
		Black crowned night heron	LC
4	Ciconiidae	Painted Stork	NT
		Asian Openbill Stork	LC
		White necked Stork	NT
		Lesser Adjutant Stork	VU

5	Anatidae	Lesser Whistling Duck	LC
		Northern Teal	VU
		Common Teal	LC
		White winged Duck	EN
6	Motacillidae	Large pied Wagtail	LC
		White Wagtail	LC
		Grey Wagtail	LC
		Yellow Wagtail	LC
		Oriental Tree Pipit	LC
		Forest Wagtail	LC
7	Alcenidae	Lesser Pied Kingfisher	LC
		Small Blue Kingfisher	LC
		Stork hived Kingfisher	LC
		White breasted Kingfisher	CR

8	Laridae	River Tern	NT
		Common Tern	LC
		Pallas's Gull	LC
		Black headed Gull	LC
		Whiskered Tern	LC
		Little Tern	EN
9	Rallidae	White breasted Waterhen	LC
		Common Moorhen	LC
		Purple Moorhen	LC

LC – Least Concern, EN – Endangered, NT – Near Threatened, CR – Critically Endangered



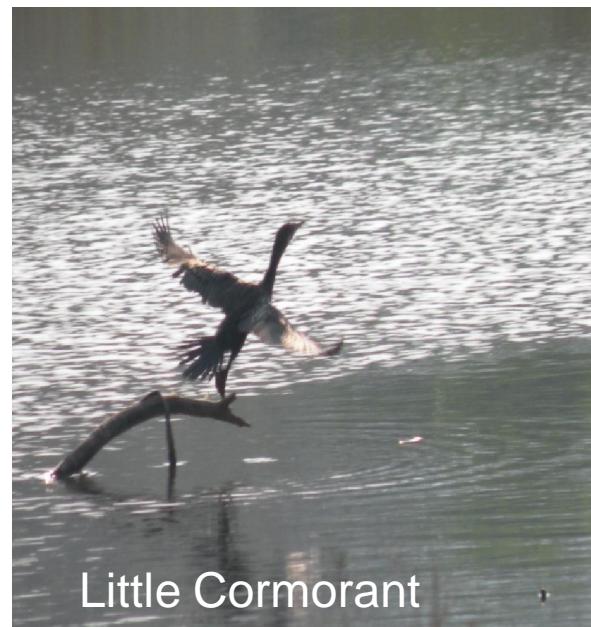
Lesser Whistling Duck



Median Egret



Little Egret



Little Cormorant



Small Blue Kingfisher



Common Sandpiper



Bronze backed Jacana



Purple Heron



Pond heron



Grey Heron



Night Heron



Pied Kingfisher



Asian Openbill Stork



Darter



# PICTURESQUE - PADDY FIELD OF KAIGA



Photo : Puttaraju .K

# BLACK WINGED STILT



Photo : Puttaraju .K

# INDIAN SHAG



Photo : Puttaraju .K







**THANK YOU**