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Indeed, the presence of birds is a sign of a healthy ecosystem. They help control the population of insects, help in pollination and seed dispersal. This apart, the presence of birds makes for a happy environment. The growing popularity of birdwatching as a hobby is a testament to our fascination with these winged wonders. Bangalore, in particular, offers a haven for bird enthusiasts, boasting a diverse array of resident species and welcoming migratory visitors. For those eager to immerse themselves in this avian paradise, here are some renowned spots for birdwatching in and around the city...

Lalbagh Botanical Gardens

One of the larger lung spaces of Bangalore, Lalbagh is one of the best places to see a variety of birds. The manmade lake within the sprawling space is also a great place to see many species. Pelicans, Grey Herons, Egrets, Little Grebes, Spotted Owlets, Black Kits, Brahminy Kites, Purple Moorhens, Greater Coucal, Asian Koel, Mottled Wood Owl and in the season, you can also see the Booted Eagle. There is a guided bird walk that happens on the second Sunday of each month at 7.30 am, here that is a great starting point to learn about the species here.

Valley School

A path that is adjacent to the Valley School is a great birding spot for the sheer number of species that you can see. To enter you will need to sign a register at the entrance of the school block. Black-headed Cuckoo shrike, Blue-bearded Bee-eater, Cattle Egret, Cinereous Tit, Common Iora, Common Wood shrike, Indian Gray Hornbill, Eurasian Cuckoo, Pale-billed Flowerpecker, Peacock, Shikra and more are some of the species you can sight here. Make sure that you go with someone who knows the space if you are visiting for the first time. There are wooded trails that you need to tread with caution. Also do note that the mobile network is patchy inside.

Bannerghatta National Park

The biological park adjoining Bannerghatta National Park is a great place to see birds. There are usually guided walks that you can sign up for here. Spotted Dove, Red-Wattled Lapwing, Pond Heron, White Throated Kingfisher, Pied Kingfisher, Rose Ringed Parakeets,

Asian Green Bee Eater, Little Cormorant, Indian Paradise Flycatcher, and Pied Bush Chat are some of the species you can see here. As this is part of a protected reserve, you will need to accompany guides on your bird walk here. The topography can

BIRDING BLISS

Dive into the avian wonderland of Bangalore as we unveil the city's top birdwatching destinations, teeming with diverse species and beauty

TIPS FOR BIRDWATCHING

- Keep a notebook and pen handy to jot down the names of the species.
- Carry a pair of binoculars.
- Wear dull coloured clothes like greens, greys, and browns that merge with nature and will not scare birds.
- Ensure you are wearing good walking shoes.
- Do not use bird calls from your mobile phone to attract birds as this disturbs them.
- Watch with your eyes first and then photograph birds.
- Be as silent as possible and do not disturb the birds.



DRONGO

PURPLE SUNBIRD



POND HERON



INDIAN GREY HORNBILL

the Yellow-throated bulbuls. It is best visited on weekdays in the morning as weekends are very crowded and can get chaotic. Indian paradise flycatcher, Blue-capped rock thrush, Pied thrush, Indian white-eye, White-cheeked barbet, Verditer flycatcher, Indian blue robin, Tickell's blue flycatcher and Ashy drongo, among others, are some of the

Nandi Hills

Located on the outskirts of the city, Nandi hills is a birding hotspot that has some unique sightings including

OTHER BIRDING SPORTS IN CITY

- Cubbon Park • Hessaraghatta Kere • GKVK Campus
- Jakkur Lake • Turahalli park • Yedyur Lake
- Madiwala Lake • Hebbal Lake • Puttenahalli Lake
- Agara Lake • Sankey Tank



SPOTTED OWLET

ROSE RINGED PARAKEET

other species that are widely seen here. You can also head to Nandi Hills using a local train that has a stop here.

Kaikondrahalli Lake

About 2 km in circumference, Kaikondrahalli Lake is spread over 48 acres off Sarjapur Main Road. This is a lake that was once a dumping yard and is a thriving ecosystem after rejuvenation work by BBMP. There are several large apartment complexes around the lake and you will see several walkers here. Great Cormorant, Indian Cormorant, Darter, Black-crowned Night-Heron, Spot-billed Pelican, Purple Heron, Grey Heron, Little Grebe, Ashy Prinia, Common Tailorbird, and Pied Bush Chat are seen in the vicinity of this lake. Post August, the lake has several Spot Billed pelicans, Painted storks and Open-billed storks as well.

Saul Kere

Located close to the Kaikondrahalli Lake is another thriving ecosystem, the Saul Kere, meaning "clay of the lake". A 2.8 km dirt track flanked by dense vegetation skirts the side of the lake. Oriental Magpie-robin, Indian Roller, Pale-billed Flowerpecker, Plain Prinia and many other species are seen here. Paradise flycatchers, Asian Brown Flycatchers, sandpipers, shovelers and garganey are seen during the winter season. This place is a wetland that is also one of the richest biodiversity areas in the city. You are bound to see different kinds of species based on the season you come here.

If you are an amateur birder or even someone who wants to learn more about birds, you must sign up for Early Bird's upcoming launch of a new online course "The Wonder of Birds". Watch a promo to the course and stay updated on the launch by dropping your email ID here: bit.ly/twob5.