

The List of Bird Species found at the Gurukula Botanical Sanctuary, arranged according to observed habitat preferences.

This list is an adaptation of that compiled by Alan H. Morley which is based on his sightings and recordings made during his regular winter visits to GBS of the last 13 years.

In addition field observations and recordings of bird sightings by sanctuary staff have been carried out both generally over time and more specifically in 2 short monsoon studies and one in late winter (see ref). The information gathered is summarised on the following table in which species have been arranged in according to their observed habitat preference and notes have been included to describe their status at the sanctuary.

The land under care of GBS has been classified into the following rough habitat types: Old Forest; Young Forest; Orchard; Marsh; River; Lemongrass (shrub); Shrub; Disused Tea Plantation; and Garden (see map).

The nomenclature and order is used according to the recent publication by the Bombay Natural History Society of Manakadan and Pittie's 'Standardized English and Scientific Names of the Birds of the Indian Subcontinent' (see references).

For identification purposes and where additional information was required Inskipp et al's 'Birds of the Indian Subcontinent' was referred to.

Old Forest	
Species	Notes
1. Black Baza <i>Aviceda leuphotes</i>	Rare, resident. Seen on edges of reserve forest.
2. Oriental Honey-Buzzard <i>Pernis ptilorhynchus</i>	Uncommon, resident. Occasional sightings in flight
3. Crested Serpent-Eagle <i>Spilornis cheela</i> .	Common, resident. Seen and heard daily. Usually near water source
4. Crested Goshawk <i>Accipiter trivirgatus</i>	Common (small numbers), breeding, resident. Often found roosting near lower Crenita pond
5. Besra Sparrowhawk <i>Accipiter virgatus</i>	Common, resident. Occasional sightings
6. Black Eagle <i>Ictinaetus malayensis</i>	Uncommon, resident. Occasional sightings in flight
7. Rufous-bellied Eagle <i>Hieraetus kienerii</i>	Rare. One period of sightings in 2000

8. Mountain Hawk-Eagle <i>Spizaetus nipalensis</i>	Rare. Only two sightings
9. Eurasian Hobby <i>Falco subbuteo</i>	Rare, winter visitor
10. Grey Junglefowl <i>Gallus sonneratii</i>	Common, breeding, resident. Often heard in forest
11. Eurasian Woodcock <i>Scolopax rusticola</i>	Rare, winter visitor. Very few sightings in marshy forest areas
12. Nilgiri Wood Pigeon. <i>Columba elphinstonii</i>	Uncommon
13. Pompadour Green-Pigeon <i>Treron pompadora</i>	Common, resident. Seen on tree-tops near river
14. Yellow-legged Green-Pigeon <i>Treron phoenicoptera</i>	Uncommon.
15. Green Imperial Pigeon <i>Ducula aenea</i>	Uncommon, resident. Heard more than seen
16. Mountain Imperial Pigeon <i>Ducula badia</i>	Common, resident. Seen in tall forest only
17. Alexandrine Parakeet <i>Psittacula eupatria</i>	Rare, resident. Occasional sightings
18. Rose-ringed Parakeet <i>Psittacula krameri</i>	Rare, resident. Occasional sightings
19. Blue-winged Parakeet <i>Psittacula columboides</i>	Common, resident. Often sighted and heard flying over or feeding on erythrina
20. Pied Cuckoo <i>Clamator jacobinus</i>	Rare. Infrequent sightings
21. Large Hawk-Cuckoo <i>Hierococcyx sparverioides</i>	Uncommon, winter visitor. Few sightings only
22. Indian Cuckoo <i>Cuculus micropterus</i>	Rare. Few winter sightings
23. Banded Bay Cuckoo <i>Cacomantis sonnerati</i>	Rare. Few winter sightings
24. Indian Plaintive Cuckoo <i>Cacomantis passerinus</i>	As above
25. Forest Eagle-Owl <i>Bubo nipalensis</i>	Rarely seen. Few records
26. Jungle Owlet <i>Glaucidium radiatum</i>	Often heard at night. Distinctive call
27. Brown Hawk-Owl <i>Ninox scutulata</i>	Resident. Occasional sightings by river

28. Ceylon Frogmouth <i>Batrachostomus moniliger</i>	Common, resident. Hard to see but heard daily at dusk
29. White-rumped Needletail-Swift <i>Zoonavena sylvatica</i>	Infrequent sightings
30. Brown-backed Needletail-Swift <i>Hirundapus giganteus</i>	Several sightings early 2000
31. Malabar Trogon <i>Harpactes fasciatus</i>	Resident. Small numbers. Shy & usually only heard
32. Oriental Broad-billed Roller <i>Eurystomus orientalis</i>	Rare. Single birds sighted infrequently
33. Malabar Grey Hornbill <i>Ocyceros griseus</i>	Common, resident. Distinctive call & often seen
34. Malabar Pied Hornbill <i>Anthracoceros coronatus</i>	Rare. One sighting in forest
35. Crimson-throated Barbet <i>Megalaima rubricapillus</i>	Common, resident. Often heard but hard to see. Call is a Poop poop poop... from tree-tops
36. Great Black Woodpecker <i>Dryocopus javensis</i>	Uncommon, resident. Small population, occasional sightings
37. Common Golden-backed Woodpecker <i>Dinopium javanense</i>	Rare, resident. Few sightings
38. Greater Golden-backed Woodpecker <i>Chrysocolaptes lucidus</i>	Common, resident. Regularly heard & seen
39. Forest Wagtail <i>Dendronanthus indicus</i>	Rare, resident. Hard to find
40. White-bellied Minivet <i>Pericrocotus erythropygius</i>	Rare. Infrequent sightings
41. Scarlet Minivet <i>Pericrocotus flammeus</i>	Common, resident, breeding. Often seen.
42. Large Woodshrike <i>Tephrodornis gularis</i>	Common, resident.
43. Grey-headed Bulbul <i>Pycnonotus priocephalus</i>	Common, resident, breeding. Shy & hard to see. Usually found near river
44. Yellow-browed Bulbul <i>Iole indica</i>	Common, resident, breeding. Seen daily.
45. Asian Fairy Bluebird <i>Irena puella</i>	Common, resident. Heard more than seen.
46. Blue-headed Rock-Thrush <i>Monticola cinclorhynchus</i>	Rare. Winter visitor. Occasional sightings

47. Malabar Whistling Thrush <i>Myiophonus horsfieldii</i>	Common, resident. Located by call. Found near to ground in forest
48. Pied Thrush <i>Zoothera wardii</i>	Rare. Winter visitor. Very few sightings
49. Orange-headed Thrush <i>Zoothera citrina cyanotus</i>	Common, resident. Racial variant.
50. Scaly Thrush <i>Zoothera dauma</i>	Rare. Very few sightings
51. Eurasian Blackbird <i>Turdus merula</i>	Common, winter visitor
52. Dark-throated Thrush <i>Turdus ruficollis ruficollis</i>	Very rare. One sighting
53. White-bellied Shortwing <i>Brachypteryx major</i>	Uncommon. Few sightings each year
54. White-rumped Shama <i>Copsychus malabaricus</i>	Rare. Only a few sightings
55. Wynaad Laughingthrush <i>Garrulax delesserti</i>	Uncommon, resident. Usually only heard
56. Spotted Babbler <i>Pellorneum ruficeps</i>	Common, resident, breeding. Skulks on ground. Heard daily
57. Black-headed Babbler <i>Rhopocichla atriceps</i>	Common, resident, breeding. Seen daily in small chattering parties in undergrowth
58. Quaker Tit-Babbler <i>Alcippe poioicephala</i>	Resident. Small numbers. Usually seen near river
59. Greenish Leaf-Warbler <i>Phylloscopus trochiloides</i>	Small numbers, winter visitor.
60. Western Crowned Warbler <i>Phylloscopus occipitalis</i>	As above
61. Asian Brown Flycatcher <i>Muscicapa dauurica</i>	Common, resident, breeding.
62. Rusty-tailed Flycatcher <i>Muscicapa ruficauda</i>	Small numbers, winter visitor
63. Brown-breasted Flycatcher <i>Muscicapa muttui</i>	As above. Non-descript brown colouration. Hunts from low down perches. Usually near river
64. Verditer Flycatcher <i>Eumyias thalassina</i>	Uncommon, winter visitor. Seen in trees on edge of forest
65. Nilgiri Flycatcher <i>Eumyias albicaudata</i>	Uncommon, resident. Endemic. Hunts from tree canopy usually near river

66. White-bellied Blue Flycatcher <i>Cyornis pallipes</i>	Common, resident, probably breeding. Endemic. Found in understory of forested lower garden
67. Asian Paradise Flycatcher <i>Terpsiphone paradisi</i>	Partial migrant. Small numbers in winter. Very active. Seen in shady riverside, wooded vegetation
68. White-throated Fantail <i>Rhipidura albicollis</i>	Rare. Few sightings only.
69. Chestnut-bellied Nuthatch <i>Sitta castanea</i>	Uncommon, resident. Small population. Occasional sightings .
70. Velvet-fronted Nuthatch <i>Sitta frontalis</i>	As above
71. Thick-billed Flowerpecker <i>Dicaeum agile</i>	Common, resident, breeding.
72. Tickell's Flowerpecker <i>Dicaeum erythrorhynchos</i>	Common, resident.
73. Plain Flowerpecker <i>Dicaeum concolor</i>	As above. Hard to distinguish between flowerpeckers. Often seen in tree-tops near river
74. Oriental White-eye <i>Zosterops palpebrosus</i>	Common, resident, breeding. Large groups seen and heard regularly
75. Grey-headed Starling <i>Sturnus malabaricus</i>	Uncommon. Small parties seen occasionally. Seen in tall trees near river
76. Jungle Myna <i>Acridotheres fuscus</i>	Common, resident. Feeding parties often seen around Manicherry marsh
77. Hill Myna <i>Gracula religiosa</i>	Common, resident. Often seen and heard in tree-tops around sanctuary
78. Black-naped Oriole <i>Oriolus chinensis</i>	Uncommon, winter visitor. Occasional sightings.
79. Black-headed Oriole <i>Oriolus xanthornis</i>	Rare. Few sightings only
80. Ashy Drongo <i>Dicrurus leucophaeus</i>	Uncommon. Infrequent sightings
81. White-bellied Drongo <i>Dicurus caerulescens</i>	Rare. Few sightings only
82. Bronzed Drongo <i>Dicurus aeneus</i>	Common, resident, breeding. Seen daily around the sanctuary
83. Greater Racket-tailed Drongo <i>Dicurus paradiseus</i>	Common, resident, breeding. Very active, noisy bird. Seen and heard daily around sanctuary

84. White-bellied Treepie <i>Dencrocitta leucogastra</i>	Common, resident, breeding. Stays mainly in the most wooded areas
Young Forest	
Species	Notes
1. Shikra <i>Accipiter badius</i>	Resident. Small numbers. Can be seen hunting in the Shola
2. Eurasian Sparrowhawk <i>Accipiter nisus</i>	Uncommon, winter visitor.
3. Red Spurfowl <i>Galloperdix spadicea</i>	Common, resident, breeding. Very shy but can be heard and seen scratching in leaf-litter
4. Indian Jungle Nightjar <i>Caprimulgus indicus</i>	Very few sightings. Hard to observe and identify resident Nightjars due to time of activity
5. Speckled Piculet <i>Picumnus innominatus</i>	Uncommon. Very few sightings.
6. Brown-capped Pygmy Woodpecker <i>Dendrocopos nanus</i>	Rare. Few sightings only
7. Rufous Woodpecker <i>Celeus brachyurus</i>	Uncommon, resident. Occasional sightings
8. Heart-spotted Woodpecker <i>Hemicircus canente</i>	Common, resident, breeding. Often seen in small parties around sanctuary
9. Black-headed Cuckoo-Shrike <i>Coracina melanoptera</i>	Rare. Few sightings only in tree-tops
10. Black-crested Bulbul <i>Pycnonotus melanicterus gularis</i>	Common, resident, breeding. Racial variant found here – ‘Ruby-throated Bulbul’
11. Jerdon’s Chloropsis <i>Chloropsis cochinchinensis</i>	Uncommon, resident. Occasional sightings
12. Rufous-backed Shrike <i>Lanius schach</i>	Rare. Two sightings only
13. Blue Rock-Thrush <i>Monticola solitarius</i>	Rare, winter visitor. Very few sightings
14. Indian Scimitar Babbler <i>Pomatorhinus horsfieldii</i>	Common, resident. Shy skulker, but distinctive call identifies it. Heard daily
15. Large-billed Leaf Warbler <i>Phylloscopus magnirostris</i>	Common, winter visitor.
16. Brahminy Starling <i>Sturnus pagodarum</i>	Uncommon, resident. Occasional sightings of small parties
Orchard	

Species	Notes
1. Spotted Dove <i>Streptopelia chinensis</i>	Common, resident, breeding. Tame and often found near the kitchen
2. Emerald Dove <i>Chalcophaps indica</i>	Common, local migration, breeding. Shy, fast-flying bird, often seen in Manicherry orchard
3. Indian Hanging-Parrot <i>Loriculus vernalis</i>	Common, resident. Seen and heard daily (Call is a Tsip-tsip in flight) around sanctuary
4. Brainfever Bird <i>Hierococcyx varius</i>	Uncommon, resident. Occasional sightings in Manicherry orchard. Hawk-like appearance
5. Asian Koel <i>Eudynamys scolopacea</i>	Uncommon, resident. Occasionally heard and seen.
6. Small Bee-Eater <i>Merops orientalis</i>	Uncommon, resident, local movements. Small parties seen in Manicherry valley occasionally
7. Blue-tailed Bee-Eater <i>Merops philippinus</i>	As above
8. Chestnut-headed Bee-Eater <i>Merops leschenaulti</i>	As above
9. Indian Roller <i>Coracias benghalensis</i>	Rare. Very few sightings
10. Common Hoopoe <i>Upupa epops</i>	Very Rare. One record only
11. White-cheeked Barbet <i>Megalaima viridis</i>	Common (abundant), resident, breeding. Seen and heard daily. Unmistakable repetitive call.
12. Small Yellow-naped Woodpecker <i>Picus chlorolophus</i>	Uncommon, resident. Occasional sightings
13. Large Cuckoo-Shrike <i>Coracina macei</i>	Rare, resident. Infrequent sightings. Hard to find
14. Black-winged Cuckoo-Shrike <i>Coracina melaschistos</i>	Very rare. One record only.
15. Ashy Minivet <i>Pericrocotus divaricatus</i>	Rare, resident. Few sightings in tree-tops
16. Pied Flycatcher-Shrike <i>Hemipus picatus</i>	Common, resident, breeding. Can be seen around sanctuary
17. Red-vented Bulbul <i>Pycnonotus cafer</i>	Uncommon, resident, breeding. Very small numbers. Can be found in orchard near river

18. Black Bulbul <i>Hypsipetes leucocephalus</i>	Uncommon, resident, breeding. Infrequent sightings in Manicherry orchard near river
19. Common Iora <i>Aegithina tiphia</i>	Common, resident, breeding. Can be seen and heard daily around sanctuary
20. Gold-fronted Chloropsis <i>Chloropsis aurifrons</i>	As above
21. Oriental Magpie Robin <i>Copsychus saularis</i>	Small, resident population. Can be found mostly by at Manicherry
22. Common Tailorbird <i>Orthotomus sutorius</i>	Common (but small population), resident, breeding. Hard to see but noisy call.
23. Yellow-browed Warbler <i>Phylloscopus inornatus</i>	Small numbers, winter visitor.
24. Blue-throated Flycatcher <i>Cyornis rubesuloides</i>	Uncommon, winter visitor.
25. Tickell's Blue-Flycatcher <i>Cyornis tickelliae</i>	Common, resident. Can often be found in the Orchard around paddyfield
26. Black-naped Monarch-Flycatcher <i>Hypothymis azurea</i>	Common, resident. Most commonly seen flycatcher around sanctuary
27. Black-lored Yellow Tit <i>Parus Xanthogenys</i>	Uncommon (small numbers), altitudinal movements.
28. Loten's Sunbird <i>Nectarinia lotenia</i>	Uncommon, resident. Occasional sightings
29. Common Myna <i>Acridotheres tristis</i>	Uncommon. Seen infrequently in mixed Myna feeding parties
30. Eurasian Golden Oriole <i>Oriolus oriolus</i>	Common, winter visitor. Seen daily in dry season
31. Black Drongo <i>Dicrurus macrocercus</i>	Common, resident. Seen around sanctuary
32. Ashy Woodswallow <i>Artamus fuscus</i>	Uncommon, resident. Periodic small parties seen above trees
33. Indian Treepie <i>Dendrocitta vagabunda</i>	Rare, occasional visitor
34. Jungle Crow <i>Corvus macrorhynchos</i>	Common, resident. Seen daily around sanctuary

Marsh

Species	Notes
1. Large Egret <i>Casmerodius albus</i>	Uncommon, resident. Few sightings only in Manicherry marsh
2. Median Egret <i>Mesophyx intermedia</i>	Uncommon, resident. Occasional sightings in Manicherry marsh

2. Median Egret <i>Mesophyx intermedia</i>	Common, resident. Always to be found accompanying cattle in Manicherry
4. Indian Pond Heron <i>Ardeola grayii</i>	Common, resident. Can always be seen in paddyfield
5. Western Marsh-Harrier <i>Circus aeruginosus</i>	Rare. Few sightings only
6. Brown Crake <i>Amaurornis akool</i>	Very rare. One sighting
7. White-breasted Waterhen <i>Amaurornis phoenicurus</i>	Common (small population), resident. Seen regularly in marsh areas
8. Ruddy-breasted Crake <i>Porzana fusca</i>	Rare. One sighting only in paddyfield
9. Red-wattled Lapwing <i>Vanellus indicus</i>	Common (small numbers), resident. Seen daily in Manicherry
10. Pintail Snipe <i>Gallinago stenura</i>	Uncommon, winter visitor. Flushed from marsh areas on occasion
12. Jack Snipe <i>Lymnocyptes minimus</i>	Uncommon, winter visitor. Occasional sightings
13. Common Greenshank <i>Tringa nebularia</i>	Rare, winter visitor.
14. Green Sandpiper <i>Tringa ochropus</i>	Uncommon, winter visitor.
15. Wood Sandpiper <i>Tringa glareola</i>	Rare, passage migrant. Few sightings only
16. Common Sandpiper <i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>	Rare, winter visitor. Few sightings only
17. White-breasted Kingfisher <i>Halcyon smyrnensis</i>	Common (small numbers), resident. Most commonly seen kingfisher around sanctuary
18. Brown Shrike <i>Lanius cristatus</i>	Small numbers, winter visitor. Regular sightings in marsh areas
19. Paddyfield Pipit <i>Anthus rufulus</i>	Uncommon, resident. Occasional sightings
20. Paddyfield Warbler <i>Acrocephalus agricola</i>	Uncommon (small numbers), winter visitor.
21. Bank Myna <i>Acridotheres ginginianus</i>	Rare. Occasionally seen in mixed Myna feeding parties
River	
Species	Notes

1. Little Cormorant <i>Phalacrocorax niger</i>	Uncommon, resident. Occasional sightings along the river
2. Little Egret <i>Egretta garzetta</i>	Common, resident. Regular sightings along river
3. Purple Heron <i>Ardea purpurea</i>	Rare. Very few sightings
4. Black Bittern <i>Dupetor flavicollis</i>	Rare. Very few sightings on river bank
5. Spot-billed Duck <i>Anas poecilorhyncha</i>	Rare. One sighting only
6. Brown Fish-Owl <i>Ketupa zeylonensis</i>	Common (small numbers), resident, breeding. Regular sightings at river
7. Small Blue Kingfisher <i>Alcedo atthis</i>	Uncommon, resident.
8. Blue-eared Kingfisher <i>Alcedo meninting</i>	Rare. Very few sightings only
9. Oriental Dwarf Kingfisher <i>Ceyx erithaca</i>	Uncommon, resident. Occasional sightings
10. Stork-billed Kingfisher <i>Halcyon capensis</i>	Common (small numbers), resident. Frequent sightings at river
11. Black-capped Kingfisher <i>Halcyon pileata</i>	Uncommon, resident. Occasional sightings
12. Lesser Pied Kingfisher <i>Ceryle rudis</i>	Rare. Very few sightings
13. Grey Wagtail <i>Motacilla cinerea</i>	Uncommon, winter visitor. Occasional sightings on exposed rocks in river and in paddyfield
14. Large Pied Wagtail <i>Motacilla maderaspatensis</i>	Uncommon (small numbers), resident.
15. Blyth's Reed-Warbler <i>Acrocephalus dumetorum</i>	Small numbers, winter visitor. Mainly by river
16. Indian Great Reed-Warbler <i>Acrocephalus stentoreus</i>	One record only
17. Thick-billed Warbler <i>Acrocephalus aedon</i>	Small numbers, winter visitor. Mainly by river

Lemongrass (Shrub)

Species	Notes
1. Black-shouldered Kite <i>Elanus caeruleus</i>	Uncommon (small numbers), resident. Occasionally seen hovering or hunting from perch over lemongrass field

2. Pied Harrier <i>Circus melanoleucos</i>	Rare, winter visitor. Occasional sightings flying low over lemongrass
3. Grey Francolin <i>Francolinus pondicerianus</i>	Uncommon (small population), resident. Hard to find
4. Rain Quail <i>Coturnix coromandelica</i>	Small numbers, resident. Infrequent sightings
5. Blue-breasted Quail <i>Coturnix chinensis</i>	Two sightings only
6. Singing Bush-Lark <i>Mirafra cantillans</i>	Rare, resident. Very few sightings
7. Eastern Skylark <i>Alauda gulgula</i>	Rare, resident (local movements). Irregular sightings
8. Brown Rock Pipit <i>Anthus similis</i>	Uncommon, resident. Few sightings only
9. Rufous-bellied Babbler <i>Dumetia hyperythra</i>	Uncommon, resident, breeding. Occasional sightings of parties
10. Indian Rufous Babbler <i>Turdoides subrufus</i>	Common (small numbers), resident, breeding. Often seen in noisy parties in lemongrass
11. Golden-headed Fantail-Warbler <i>Cisticola exilis</i>	Small numbers, resident. Occasional sightings
12. Jungle Prinia <i>Prinia sylvatica</i>	Uncommon, resident. Infrequent sightings
13. Ashy Prinia <i>Prinia socialis</i>	Uncommon, resident. Irregular sightings
14. Pale Grasshopper-Warbler <i>Locustella naevia</i>	New record. No information
15. Broad-tailed Grass-Warbler <i>Schoenicola platyura</i>	Uncommon, resident. Endemic to Western Ghats
16. Crested Bunting <i>Melophus lathami</i>	Rare. Two records
17. Common Rosefinch <i>Carpodacus erythrinus</i>	Uncommon (small numbers), winter visitor.
18. Red Munia <i>Amandava amandava</i>	Common, resident. Small flocks often seen
19. Green Munia <i>Amandava formosa</i>	Very rare. Passing migrants in late winter months.
20. White-rumped Munia <i>Lonchura striata</i>	Common, resident, breeding. Seen often in flocks around the sanctuary
21. Black-throated Munia <i>Lonchura kelaarti</i>	Uncommon, resident. Occasionally seen amongst White-rumped Munias

Shrub	
Species	Notes
1. Greater Coucal <i>Centropus sinensis</i>	Common (small numbers), resident, breeding. Unmistakable call heard daily around sanctuary
2. Red-whiskered Bulbul <i>Pycnonotus jocosus</i>	Common, resident, breeding. Seen daily (most common bird)
3. Grey-breasted Laughingthrush <i>Garrulax jerdoni</i>	Rare. Few sightings only
4. Booted Warbler <i>Hippolais caligata</i>	Rare, winter visitor. Few sightings only
5. Orphean Warbler <i>Sylvia hortensis</i>	Rare. Two sightings only
6. White-rumped Shama <i>Copsychus malabaricus</i>	Rare. Few records only
7. Isabelline Wheatear <i>Oenanthe isabellina</i>	Very rare. One record only
8. Pied Tit <i>Parus nuchalis</i>	Rare. Two sightings only
Disused Tea Plantation	
species	notes
1. Pallid Harrier <i>Circus macrourus</i>	Uncommon, winter visitor. Occasional sightings
2. White-eyed Buzzard <i>Butastur Teesa</i>	Uncommon, resident. Occasional sightings
3. Common Kestrel <i>Falco tinnunculus</i>	Rare. Two records only
4. Indian Robin <i>Saxicoloides fulicata</i>	Rare. Few sightings only
5. Pied Bushchat <i>Saxicola caprata</i>	Common (small numbers), resident breeding. Usually seen from tower road
6. Franklin's Prinia <i>Prinia hodgsonii</i>	Uncommon (fluctuating numbers), resident. Occasional sightings of small flocks
7. Spotted Munia <i>Lonchura punctulata</i>	Uncommon, resident. Small flocks seen at times and often part of mixed Munia parties
Garden	

Species	notes
1. Indian Pitta <i>Pitta brachyura</i>	Common (small numbers), winter visitor. Shy and hard to find. Seen scratching leaf-litter
2. Indian Blue Robin <i>Luscinia brunnea</i>	Uncommon, resident. Occasional sightings on ground by Crenita ponds at dusk
3. Purple-rumped Sunbird <i>Nectarinia zeylonica</i>	Common, resident, breeding. Seen around flowering plants in garden
4. Small Sunbird <i>Nectarinia minima</i>	As above. Endemic to Western Ghats
5. Purple Sunbird <i>Nectarinia asiatica</i>	Common, resident (local movements), breeding.
6. Crimson Sunbird <i>Aethopyga siparaja</i>	Rare. Very few sightings
7. Little Spiderhunter <i>Arachnothera longirostra</i>	Common, resident, breeding. Seen and heard daily around garden

Further information

Not all the species that have been sighted here have been included in the list such as those that are only seen in flight and those about which not enough is known.

It is important to acknowledge that most birds move about freely and are not restricted to a particular location on this scale, so ‘cross-overs’ between the habitat types are always likely. Certain species resident here such as the effervescent Red-whiskered Bulbul can be found in all areas. Other species are more specific in their requirements such as the White-bellied Blue-Flycatcher which stays predominantly in the understory of the most wooded areas. Even sitting in the inhabited and garden area of the sanctuary one can see significant proportion of all the birds found here particularly when an action-packed ‘hunting party’ passes by, and thus the limitations of such a list become clear. With this in mind one should see the list only for the guideline it is intended to be, as more detailed studies could be conducted to reveal the extent to which a species is dependent on (or not) a habitat type. Also, the list is on the whole particular to the sanctuary so the groupings may not be the same elsewhere.

The best places to watch and enjoy the diverse bird life here are down by the river near Manicherry, the orchards and the wooded garden areas.

References

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Vijay's Monsoon bird study
Sandy's Monsoon bird study
Tom and Vijay's observations on habitat preferences of April-May 2003