

Pictorial Guide to the BIRDS of RANGAMALAI ORGANIC FARMS, Karur



www.manvasanai.in & www.sof-life.org

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Rangamalai Organic Farms – an introduction

Rangamalai Organic Farms is a fully integrated self-sustainable organic farm located in the foothills of Rangamalai, Vellayampatti, Aravakurichi taluk, Karur, Tamil Nadu, India.

We are an agricultural producer company involved in cultivation and production of poison free good quality food which includes all native varieties of crops, vegetables, native seeds, manure and other value added farm produce. Apart from agriculture production and value-added products, we are also involved in other related farming services such as **Natural farming awareness and education, Farm Internship Program, Community Farming, Community Seed Bank, Ecological Conservation activities** and **Farming consultation services**.

We practice traditional farming method combined with latest farming technology such as micro irrigation and farm automation to address modern farming challenges and show farming as one of the noble and profitable business on earth. It is also aimed at bringing the younger generations into farming. As a farmer, we sell all our farm produce and value added farm products directly to the consumer and eliminating middlemen through our registered brand name “**Manvasanai**.”

We also document and publish all our natural farming activities to create awareness about natural self-sustainable farming in our Facebook page: [RangamalaiOrganics](#).

Pradeep Kumar Manickam,
Founder and Director, ROF.

Rangamalai Organic Farms – Vision and Goals

Our Vision

“To bring back the ecological balance and lead a self-sufficient and self-sustainable farming & living”

Our Goals

“Practice Indigenous Natural farming methods and best practices to produce Good Quality Food”

“Bridge Farmers directly to consumers establishing a Win – Win State”

“Provide Good Food to all at affordable Cost”

“Cultivate and propagate native varieties of Crops & Vegetables. No Hybrids & No GMO Seeds”

Pradeep Kumar Manickam,
Founder and Director, ROF.

SAVE RANGAMALAI & KARUMALAI

“**Rangamalai** and **Karumalai** are important mountain ranges located in the border of Dindigul and Karur district of Tamil Nadu. This is a reserve forest range with an altitude of 3,500 feet and has the Malleshwarar Temple on top. People across the state come here during Maha Shivaratri, seeking the blessings of the Almighty. Villagers say that the British identified gold deposits here and it was known as Thangamalai initially. Since then this mountain range has been under radar of different agencies scanning it for mineral deposits. Rangamalai which is hardly explored or monitored, is also home to some rare medicinal plants and a rich diversity of flora and fauna. Documentation and awareness are the first steps towards conservation. ROF is consistently working on both the aspects.

The mighty mountains are the major source for having good ground water to the surrounding villages. Disturbing the ecological balance of Rangamalai and Karumalai in any form will not only affect the wildlife but would also deplete the aquifers for hundreds of kilometres. Hence, it is our duty to conserve such beautiful natural treasures to give a greener and healthier living space for our future generations.” —Pradeep Kumar Manickam, Director, ROF.



Birds of Rangamalai Organic Farms – an overview

This Pictorial guide to the **Birds of Rangamalai Organic Farms—Manvasanai**, Karur, Tamil Nadu, India covers 68* different species including 63 **resident birds**, 3 **partial migrant/inland migrants** and 2 **migrants** from other countries. With such diversity, the Farm is listed as one of the eBird Hotspots for birds in the region.

The **Chestnut-tailed Starling**, **Barn Swallow** and **Blue-tailed Bee-eater** were the partial migrants recorded. They migrate from other parts of India to the peninsular region in winter. Migratory birds from other countries were **Booted Eagle** and **Brown Shrike**. After our departure from the internship (*Oct 2019) several other migratory birds such as the Blyth's Reed Warbler would have visited the Farm by now.

ROF is also home to different species of butterflies, dragonflies and damselflies, snakes, chameleons and other reptiles, frogs, squirrels and macaques. One of the major factors for such rich biodiversity is due to the **environment-friendly farming practices** carried out here.

Despite the amazing bird life, Karur still remains as one of the least birded districts in Tamil Nadu. We hope this pictorial guide will provide the beginning spark to the people of Karur, especially to children and students to take up birding, have fun and enjoy and through that into caring for the natural world. The right time is now. Look out for birds around your home and start birding today!

For the ease of reference, the species have been sorted into Wetland birds, Birds of prey, Nocturnal birds, Ground feeding birds, Aerial feeding birds and Arboreal birds.

WETLAND BIRDS

RED-WATTLED LAPWING செம்மூக்கு ஆள்காட்டி



Photo: Arulvelan Thillainayagam

LITTLE CORMORANT சிறிய நீர்க்காகம்



Photo: Ganeshwar SV

Photo: Vivek Puliyeri

CATTLE EGRET உண்ணிக் கொக்கு

Breeding plumage



Photo: Vivek Puliyeri

Non-breeding plumage



Photo: Selvaganesh K

INDIAN POND-HERON മലയാളം



Photo: Polen/Wiki Commons



Photo: Vijayalakshmi Rao

WHITE-THROATED KINGFISHER வெண்மார்பு மீன்கொத்தி



Photo: Ganeshwar SV

BIRDS OF PREY

SHIKRA வல்லூறு

ADULT



Photo: Vijayalakshmi Rao

JUVENILE



Photo: Aravind Amirtharaj

BOOTED EAGLE வெண்தோள் கழுஞ்சூ



Both Pale morph & Dark morph together in flight

Photo: Selvaganesh K



PALE MORPH

Dark morph may look similar to Black Kite but is differentiated by the square-ended tail. Black Kite has forked or V-tail.

Photo: Dr P Jeganathan



White shoulder patch known as 'landing lights'

DARK MORPH

Photo: Angeline Mano

BONELLI'S EAGLE வெண்முதுகு கழுகு



Adult in flight



Photo: Ganeshwar SV

Young in flight



Photo: Selvagesh K

Photo: Vadivukkarasi A

BLACK-WINGED KITE கருந்தோள் பருந்து



Photo: Senthil Kumar S/Vasen S



Photo: David Raju/Wiki Commons

WHITE-EYED BUZZARD வெள்ளைக்கண் வைரி



Photo: JM GardgWiki Commons

Photo: Melvin Jaison

In flight, white throat with a line in middle is distinctive on the underside.

BLACK KITE கரும்பருந்து



The forked or V-tail is a diagnostic feature to identify Black Kites in flight



Often mistaken as a Eagle, the Black Kite is a common bird in the cities



Photo: Muyakhghose/Wiki Commons



NOCTURNAL BIRDS

INDIAN SCOPS-OWL கவைமுக ஆந்தை



Photo: Elavarasan M



Photos: Dr P Jeganathan

INDIAN EAGLE-OWL ໂຄາມ்பன் ອູນໄທ



Photo: Senthil Kumar S/Vasen Suli

SPOTTED OWLET புள்ளி ஆந்தை



Photo: Angeline Mano

INDIAN NIGHTJAR சின்ன இராப்பாடி

Extremely difficult to see but easily heard “chuk...chuk...chuk...chukutrrrr” during dawn and dusk



GROUND FEEDING BIRDS

INDIAN PEAFOWL மயில்



© Ganeshwar SV

GREY FRANCOLIN கவுதாரி



Photo: Kalyan Varma

ROCK-PIGEON (FERAL PIGEON) மடப்டறா



Photo: Surendhar Boobalan

EURASIAN COLLARED-DOVE கள்ளிப் புறா



Photo: Subramania Siva

SPOTTED DOVE மணிப்புறா



LAUGHING DOVE தவிட்டுப் புறா



GREATER COUCAL செண்பகம்



Photo: Arulvelan Thillainayagam

INDIAN THICK-KNEE பெருங்கண்ணி



Photo: Dr M Ravi (Vet)

YELLOW-WATTLED LAPWING மஞ்சள் மூக்கு ஆள்காட்டி



Photo: Subramania Siva

HOUSE CROW காகம்



Photo: Ganeshwar SV

LARGE-BILLED CROW அண்டங்காக்கை



Photo: Ganeshwar SV

INDIAN ROLLER பனங்காடை



Photo: Angeline Mano

Photo: Kalaiselvan V

BROWN SHRIKE பழுப்புக் கீச்சான்



Photo: JM Garg/Wiki Commons



Photo: JJ Harrison/Wiki Commons

BAY-BACKED SHRIKE சின்னக் கீச்சான்



Photo: Selvaganesh K

EURASIAN HOOPOE கொண்டலாத்தி



Photo: Ganeshwar SV



Photo: Vijayalakshmi Rao

JERDON'S BUSHLARK தெற்கத்தி புதர்பாடி



Photo: Vivek Puliyeri

LARGE GREY BABBLER சாம்பல் சிலம்பன்



Photo: Selvaganesh K

YELLOW-BILLED BABBLER தவிட்டுக்குருவி



COMMON MYNA ശൈലി



© Divya Subramani

CHESTNUT-TAILED STARLING சாம்பல்தலை மைனா



Photo: Jaydalal/Wiki Commons

INDIAN ROBIN கருஞ்சிட்டு



FEMALE

PIED BUSHCHAT புதர்ச்சிட்டு

Photo: Ganeshwar SV

MALE displaying white wing feathers



Photo: Subramania Siva

FEMALE



Photo: Karthikeyan R



INDIAN SILVERBILL வெண்தொண்டை சில்லை



Photo: Sharang Satish

HOUSE SPARROW சிட்டுக்குருவி

There is a wide misconception that sparrows and other birds are declining due to radiation from mobile towers. So far, there is no scientific evidence to prove it.



Photo: Vijayalakshmi Rao

WHITE-BROWED WAGTAIL வெண்பருவ வாலாட்டி



PADDYFIELD PIPIT வயல் நெட்டைக்காலி



Photo: Ganeshwar SV

AERIAL FEEDING BIRDS

ASIAN PALM-SWIFT பனை உழ்வாரன்



Photo: Surendhar Boobalan



Photo: Rama Neelamegam

ASHY WOODSWALLOW சாம்பல் தகைவிலான்



Photo: JM Garg/Wiki Commons

Photo: Selvaganesh K

BARN SWALLOW தகைவிலான்



Photo: Vivek Puliyeri



Photo: Sharang Satish

Photo: Venkatesh S

RED-RUMPED SWALLOW செம்முதுகு தகைவிலான்



Photo: Dr M Ravi (Vet)



Photos: Karthikeyan R

LITTLE SWIFT நூட்டு உழவாரன்



ARBOREAL BIRDS

PIED CUCKOO கடைலைக் குயில்



Photo: Dr M Ravi (Vet)

ASIAN KOEL குயில்

FEMALE



Photo: Angeline Mano



Photo: Ganeshwar SV

COMMON HAWK-CUCKOO அக்கா குயில்



Photo: Vijayalakshmi Rao

GREEN BEE-EATER சிறிய பஞ்சுருட்டான்



Photo: Selvaganesh K

Young bird without
central tail feather



Photo: Melvin Jaison



BLUE-TAILED BEE-EATER நீலவால் பஞ்சுருட்டான்



Photo: Sharang Satish

Photo: Surendhar Boobalan

BLACK-RUMPED FLAMEBACK ஊர் மரங்கொத்தி



Photo: Aravind Amirtharaj

ROSE-RINGED PARAKEET பச்சைக்கிளி



Photo: Vijayalakshmi Rao

COMMON WOODSHRIKE காட்டுக் கீச்சான்



Photo: David Raju/Wiki Commons

BLACK DRONGO கரிச்சான்



Photo: Selvaganesh K



Photo: Angeline Mano

INDIAN PARADISE-FLYCATCHER வேதிவால் குருவி

MALE – white morph



FEMALE with shorter tail & greyish throat



Photo: Karthikeyan R

MALE – rufous morph



Photo: Santhosh Ramakrishnan

Photo: Selvaganesh K

RUFOUS TREEPIE வால்காக்கை



Photo: Angeline Mano



Photo: Rama Neelamegam

COMMON TAILORBIRD தையல்சிட்டு



Photo: Rama Neelamegam

ASHY PRINIA சாம்பல் கதிர்க்குருவி



Photo: Aravind Amirtharaj

Photo: Selvaganesh K

PLAIN PRINIA கதிர்க்குருவி



Photo: Senthil Kumar S/Vasen Suli

Photo: Surendhar Boobalan

JUNGLE PRINIA கட்டுக் கதிர்க்குருவி

Very similar to Plain Prinia and can be very easily confused. Better and easier way to identify is by their calls which are different.



ZITTING CISTICOLA விசிறிவால் கதிர்க்குருவி



Photos: Selvaganesh K

RED-VENTED BULBUL சின்னான்



Photo: Selvaganesh K

WHITE-BROWED BULBUL வெண்பருவ சின்னான்



Photo: Ganeshwar SV

PALE-BILLED FLOWERPECKER செவ்வலகு பூஞ்சிட்டு



Photo: Kalaiselvan V

PURPLE-RUMPED SUNBIRD ஊர்த் தேன்சிட்டு



FEMALE



Photo: Ganeshwar SV

Photo: Vivek Puliyeri

PURPLE SUNBIRD ஊதா தேன்சிட்டு



Photo: Sharang Satish



LOTEN'S SUNBIRD பெரிய தேன்சாட்டு

Very similar to Purple Sunbird and can be easily confused. However Loten's Sunbirds have longer and curved beaks and calls are different.



FEMALE

BIRD WATCHING

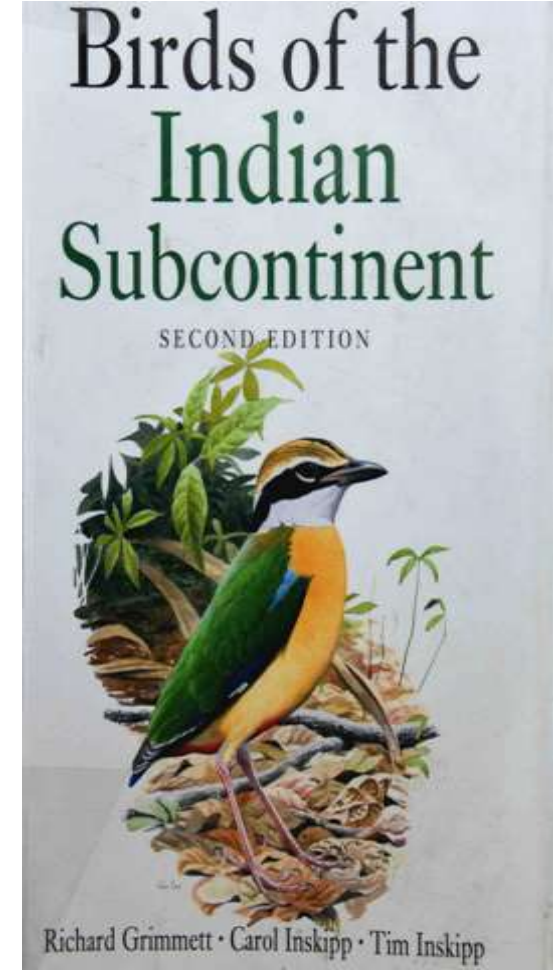
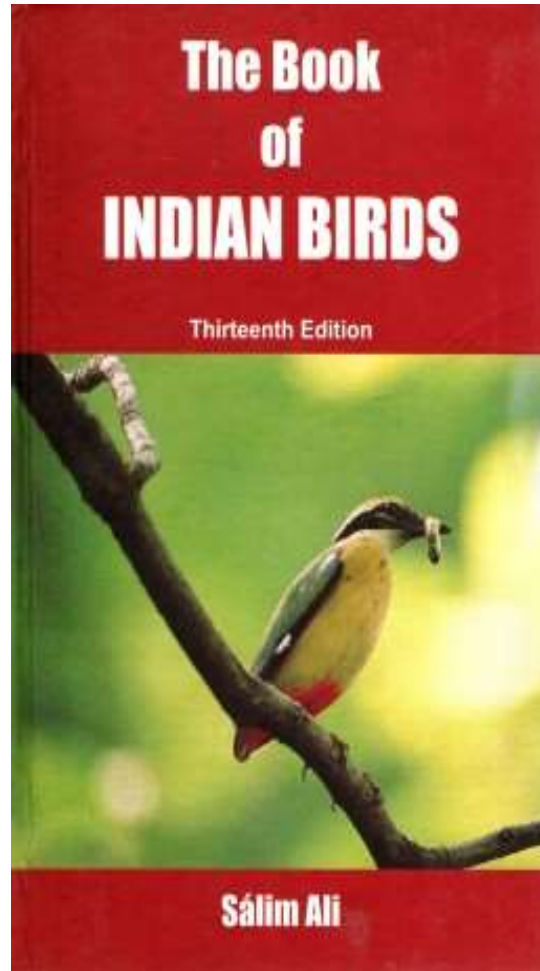
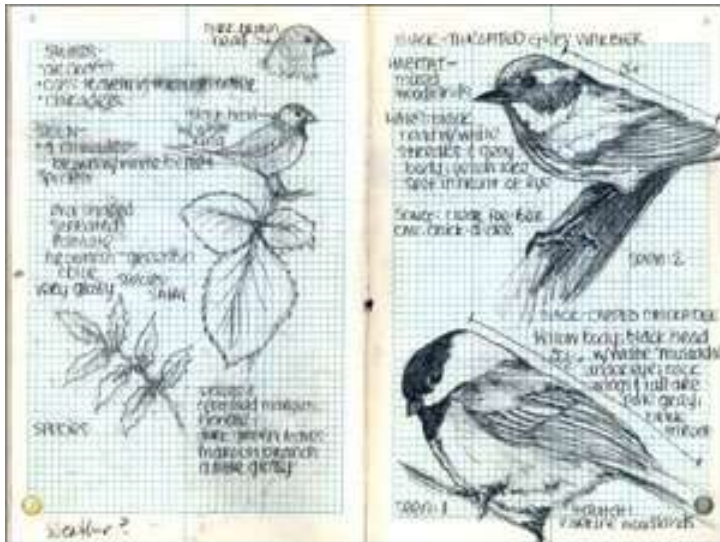
Why watch Birds?

- Colorful and lively creatures- chirp, whistle and sing
- All around us, even in cities!
- No specialized equipment required- only **your interest, a pen and a notebook**
- **Helps to develop eye—ear coordination**
- **Keeps us stress free and happy**
- **Proven to improve our mental health**



Essentials of Birding

Both the books available in online stores



Binoculars are necessary but not compulsory. Interest is all one needs to start birding. Always have a note and pen to write the birds you see and books to refer new birds!

தமிழில் சில புத்தகங்கள்...

அறிமுகக் கையேடு

பறவைகள்



ப. ஜெகநாதன்
ஆசை

தமிழில் பறவைப்
பெயர்கள்



சுடலைக் குயில் (191)

டாக்டர் க. ரத்னம்



“அதோ அந்த
பறவை
போல”



ச. முகமது அலி

மழைக்காலமும்
குயிலோசையும்

மா. கிருஷ்ணன்
இயற்கையியல் கட்டுரைகள்



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க. தயலோ பாலகாள்

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Birds of Tamil Nadu

To buy this pocket guide, visit

www.early-bird.in



தமிழகத்தில் உள்ள 138 பொதுப்பறவைகளின் குறுங்கையேடு a pocket guide to 138 familiar birds

Also available in several other regional languages

What can WE do to conserve Birds?

- In addition to planting trees, keeping water bowls in terraces and other important activities, there is also another way to contribute to the conservation of birds.
- Despite the growth of birdwatchers in India, we still lack basic understanding of most of our common birds!

Citizen Science – an important solution!

- The distance between 'bird watching' and 'bird monitoring' is of just one step. The bridge that connects the two is 'Citizen Science'. In this concept, citizens act as scientists by collecting information through their regular bird watching trips and upload their sightings on a common platform. As thousands of birdwatchers from all over the country participate in such an exercise, a lot of data is gathered; at least 20 times more than any ornithologist can collect on his own!
- That common platform is **eBird (India)**! Bird distribution and abundance is generated from these lists and also disseminates this information for public and scientific use. Not only that, it is also a useful resource to keep a permanent copy of all your birding records!
- Lastly, today's world is a human-modified world. Thus it becomes important to know how our local birds will be affected by development. Citizen science platforms like eBird will help to understand them better.

eBird India – a citizen science program

An international, internet-based checklist program

- for gathering observations of birds
- for birders to maintain their personal records

In this way, eBird

- gathers baseline data on bird distribution and abundance
- disseminates information for public and scientific use

www.ebird.org/india

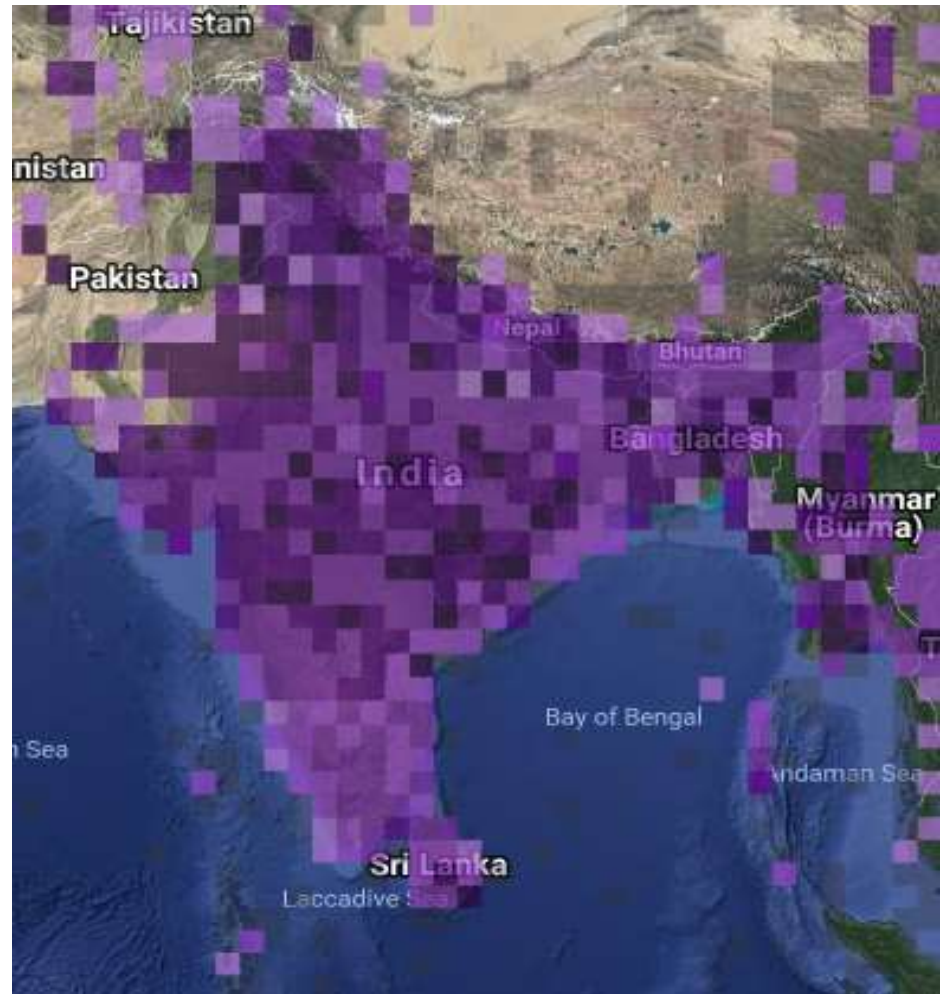
eBird
India



E.g. Distribution & Abundance map of House Sparrow in India



The bird sightings which we submit in **eBird** can be projected to know the distribution and abundance of every species in India. This will help us to understand the increase or decrease in bird population in the long run and we can take necessary steps to protect them!



It is interesting to note that House Sparrow is less common in South India than in North India—an information that one does not get in a conventional field guide map. This is completely based on the data contributed by bird watchers, not scientists! Hence, we'd like to encourage you to use **eBird** to save Birds!

Bird Counting & Monitoring Events

- **National level Monthly eBirding challenges (www.birdcount.in)**
- Bird Atlases
- Asian Waterbird Census
- Pongal Bird Count (during Pongal festival)
- **2nd week of every February: Great Backyard Bird Count**
- Campus Bird Count (a sub-event of GBBC)
- Great Sparrow Count
- Baya Weaver Count
- Endemic Bird Day
- Common Bird Monitoring Programme
- Sálim Ali Bird Count

Note: The exact date for GBBC is not always the same. To participate in the future years, please check www.birdcount.in or www.gbhc.birdcount.org.

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Other useful resources

- Bird watching and monitoring: www.ebird.org/india and www.birdcount.in
- Reference images of birds: www.ebird.org/india and www.macaulaylibrary.org
- Bird calls and songs: www.macaulaylibrary.org and www.xeno-canto.org
- Blogs: www.uyiri.wordpress.com (for Nature writings in Tamil)

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published by Salem Ornithological Foundation

www.sof-life.org

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To learn more about organic and natural farming, please mail to

info@manvasanai.in or call +91-8660974096.



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