

Karimpuzha Wildlife Sanctuary

Prelims: Current events of national and international importance | Environment

Why in News?

Recently, a faunal survey in Karimpuzha Wildlife Sanctuary recorded several species for the first time, significantly enriching its biodiversity profile.

- It is **Kerala's youngest wildlife sanctuary**, known for its rich and diverse fauna.
- **Declared in** - 2020.
- **Declared under** - The Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.
- **Location** - Located in the Nilambur Forest Division, Malappuram district, Kerala.
- Lies on the western slopes of the Nilgiris.
- **River** - Named after the **Karimpuzha River, a tributary of the Chaliyar River.**
- **Habitat** - Ranges from low-elevation forests to montane ecosystems, contributing to high species diversity.
- **Topography** - Sharp elevation gradient characterised by steep hills, deep valleys, marshy lands, grasslands, and hillocks.
- **Recent survey Findings** -

Category	Key Species
New Bird Records	• Grey heron, Grey-headed fish eagle, Tawny-bellied babbler, blue rock thrush, yellow wagtail, Eurasian hoopoe, Common hawk cuckoo, Barn owl.

New Butterfly Additions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Noteworthy records included the - <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Black angle, - Common grass dart, - Indian dartlet, - Giant red-eye, Moore's ace, - Malabar flash, - White-tipped lineblue, - Red admiral, - Yellow jack sailor, - Small leopard, - Common sailor, - Black rajah, - Small grass yellow.
New Odonate Records	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Odonata is an order of flying insects that includes the dragonflies and damselflies. • New species recorded include - <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Merogomphus tamaracherriensis</i>, - <i>Potamarcha congener</i>, - <i>Rhodothemis rufa</i>, - <i>Tetrathemis platyptera</i>, - <i>Urothemis signata</i>, - <i>Ceriagrion coromandelianum</i>, - <i>Ceriagrion rubiae</i>
New Ecological Observation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First-time observation of <i>altitudinal migration of butterflies</i> (Examples - Common albatross, Lesser albatross, Plain puffin).

- **Protected Forests** - The sanctuary will comprise the new Amarambalam reserve forest and Vadakkekotta vested forest.
 - **Exception** - The *Manjeri colony of the primitive Cholanaikar tribes* has been exempted from the sanctuary.
- **Ecological Significance** - Forms a critical ecological landscape between Kerala and Tamil Nadu.
- **Wildlife Connectivity** - It borders the *Mukurthi National Park to the south and the Silent Valley National Park* buffer zone to the northeast.

References

1. [TH | Karimpuzha Wildlife Sanctuary](#)
2. [The Hindu | Karimpuzha sanctuary comes into being](#)



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