

## 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
<b>New Bird Records</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Grey heron, Grey-headed fish eagle, Tawny-bellied babbler, blue rock thrush, yellow wagtail, Eurasian hoopoe, Common hawk cuckoo, Barn owl.</li></ul>

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

- **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](#)

