

## Dawn Chorus and Captured Gems: Birdwatching Bonanza at People's Trust Campus



*Red Rumped Swallow*



*Small Minivet Female*

As the first rays of dawn paint the sky, a hush falls over the verdant campus of Sai Shankar Vidyashala near Bangalore. But beneath the stillness, a symphony erupts. Trees come alive with the melodious chirps and calls of feathered friends, welcoming the day with a chorus of vibrant life. And amidst this avian orchestra, two passionate birdwatchers stand mesmerized, their cameras poised to capture the fleeting beauty of this winged spectacle. Meet Mr. Selvarajan and Mr. Karthik, seasoned environmentalists and avid birdwatchers, who have made Sai Shankar Vidyashala their regular pilgrimage. This winter morning, their anticipation is palpable. Whispers of exceptional sightings have been circulating, and the air itself hums with the promise of feathered jewels. And indeed, their patience is rewarded. As the sun climbs higher, casting long shadows across the sprawling 10-acre campus, the list of avian encounters grows longer. The majestic Indian Peafowl struts across the manicured lawns, its iridescent plumage shimmering in the golden light. A Gray Francolin, camouflaged against the earthen ground, bursts into flight, its wings flashing like silver. The Spotted Dove, a symbol of peace and tranquility, cooes softly from the branches of a banyan tree, its gentle melody a balm to the soul. But the true magic unfolds with the arrival of the migratory birds. The Greater Coucal, a skulking predator with a haunting cry, emerges from the undergrowth, sending shivers down the spines of smaller birds. The Asian Koel, a notorious brood parasite, perches on a branch, its melodious song masking its cunning intent. Above the canopy, a majestic Indian Pond-Heron soars, its long legs trailing gracefully behind, while the Eastern Cattle Egret gracefully stalks the grass for unsuspecting insects. The Shikra, a fierce raptor, stands sentinel on a dead branch, its keen eyes scanning the landscape for prey. Black Kites and Brahminy Kites wheel overhead, their intricate aerial dances a testament to their mastery of the skies. And then, there are the jewels of the forest – the colorful residents who add a splash of vibrancy to the scene. The White-throated Kingfisher, a tiny flash of turquoise and white, darts through the air, its impossibly long beak poised to strike. The Asian Green Bee-eater, a shimmering emerald acrobat, catches insects mid-flight with breathtaking agility. The Coppersmith Barbet, with its golden breast and crimson cap, drums a rhythmic tattoo on a hollow branch, its call echoing through the trees. The list goes on: White-cheeked Barbets chattering in the sunlight, Rose-ringed Parakeets flocking in noisy clouds, Small Minivets flitting between leaves like living jewels, and the Indian Golden Oriole, a fiery beacon against the green canvas. Each sighting is a moment of pure joy, a connection with the wild that transcends words. But the beauty of Sai Shankar Vidyashala extends beyond the birds themselves.

It's a testament to the power of conservation, a haven for feathered friends where they can thrive amidst a tapestry of lush greenery. The People's Trust, the organization behind the school, has created a sanctuary where environmental education and ecological harmony go hand in hand. As the sun dips below the horizon, casting long shadows across the campus, Mr. Selvarajan and Mr. Karthik pack their cameras, their hearts brimming with the joy of discovery. They've witnessed a spectacle that few can claim, a testament to the beauty and fragility of nature. And they know that tomorrow, when the dawn breaks once more, the chorus will begin anew, beckoning them back to this verdant paradise, where the wings of wonder paint the sky with life. So, if you ever find yourself near Bangalore, and a yearning for the wild stirs within your soul, take a walk through the grounds of Sai Shankar Vidyashala. Listen to the dawn chorus, marvel at the dazzling wings, and let the magic of this avian haven fill your heart with wonder. You might just become a birdwatcher yourself, forever captivated by the symphony of life that unfolds beneath the emerald canopy.

-- Deepthi



*Spotted Dove*



*Small Minivet Male*



*Rose Ringed Parakeet*



*Purple Sun Bird*



*Magpie Robin*



*Golden Oriole*



*Coppersmith Barbet*



*Cattle Egret*