

## Winged beauties

# Fifteen new bird species photo recorded at Kaiga

**KAIGA (UTTARA KANNADA DISTRICT):** As many as 15 new bird species, including Amur falcon, Ruddy Breasted Crane, Indian Thick Knee, were photo recorded for the first time in and around Kaiga nuclear power plant during the Kaiga Bird Marathon-2017 that was held recently.

The new recording has meant that, in last seven years, the organiser— Nuclear Power Corporation of India Limited, under its Environment Stewardship Programme— has photo recorded nearly 279 species of birds in the vicinity of Kaiga, which houses Karnataka's only nuclear power plant.

More than 115 bird enthusiasts from Bengaluru, Hubballi-Dharwad, Goa, Tamil Nadu including students of Sirsi Forestry College and other parts of the country combed the forests of Kaiga to record various species of birds in the region. The 2017 Marathon saw recording of more than 50% of the total birds that are found in the Western Ghats.

The programme is being organised for the last seven years to create awareness among people regarding 'harmlessness' of the nuclear power plant in the region. Birds are the first to feel any changes in the environment and desert the places if they find place harmful, said organisers.

"There has been a steady in-

## New avian arrivals light up Kaiga

- Amur falcon
- Ruddy breasted crane
- Indian thick knee
- Common teal
- Eurasian coot
- Eurasian wigeon
- Gadwall
- Garganey
- Indian spot billed duck
- Whiskered tern
- Green warbler
- Mottled wood owl
- Indian night jar
- Striated heron
- Pallid harrier



**Clockwise from top: Karnataka's State bird Indian Roller (Neelakanta), Plum headed Parakeets on the flames of the forest, Common Kestrel and Amur Falcon.** DH PHOTOS BY KUSHAL ADAKI & DR SATISH HALLIKERI

crease in the new bird species arriving to the thick forests of Kaiga, and this itself confirms that the presence of nuclear plant has not had much im-

pact on the lives of native and migratory bird species," said Suneel Barkur, one of co-ordinators of the programme. Inaugurating the Bird

marathon, Site Director of Kaiga plant H N Bhat said year-on-year, there is not just increase in number of birds, but also bird lovers participat-

ing in the marathon, which is happy development and shows the popularity of the programme.

**DH News Service**