

Kanger Valley National Park

December 5, 2022

In news– Bird watchers and forest department officials counted 200 types of birds in Chhattisgarh's first-ever inter-state bird survey conducted in the Kanger Valley National Park recently.

Findings of the survey-

- **Nine species of owls** (including the spot-bellied eagle-owl), 10 birds of prey, 11 species of woodpeckers (including white-bellied woodpecker, the largest woodpecker in peninsular India), and many other species were documented during the survey, according to a press statement.
- **The survey was organised by the forest department of and birders from Chhattisgarh, in collaboration with non-profits Birds & Wildlife of Chhattisgarh and Bird Count India.**
- The survey revealed that the landscape of Kanger Valley can potentially host species found in the Himalayas, the Northeast, the Eastern and Western Ghats.
- For instance, the **Malabar trogon and white-bellied woodpecker** are thought to be birds of the Western Ghats. **Many species of flycatchers and warblers from temperate Eurasia visit the region during the winter.**
- Both of these birds – **piebald wheatear and northern lapwing** – **are new birds for Chhattisgarh**, with the piebald wheatear having never before been observed in Central India.
- **All observations have been uploaded to eBird** – an online platform to record bird observations – through the eBird Mobile App.

About the Kanger Valley(Ghati) National Park-

- **The name of this National Park is derived from the Kangar river**, which flows in its length. Kanger Valley

is spread over 200 square kilometers.

- Kanger Valley **got the status of a national park in the year 1982.**
- Valley National Park is a **typical mixed humid deciduous type of forest**, in which the Sal, Saugaun, teak and bamboo trees are available in abundance.
- **The most popular species in this area is Bastar Maina** which enchants everyone with their human voice .
- **The state bird, Bastar Maina**, is a type of Hill maina (gruncula Dhariosoa), which is capable of emulating the human voices. The forest is home to migrant and resident birds.
- Apart from wildlife and plants, this **National Park is home to three exceptional caves – famous for their amazing geological structures of Kutumbasar, Kailash and Dandak- Stalagmites and Stalactitees.**
- National Park is known for the **presence of underground limestone caves with dripstone and floston.** The stalagmites and stalactite formation is still increasing.
- Caves in the National Park provide shelter for various species of wildlife.
- In the eastern part of the National Park, the **Bhainsadhara** is located where one can see the sandy beaches where **crocodiles** (crocodylus palustris) mostly found.
- **Tirathgarh Waterfall** is located in Kanger Valley National Park.