

# A Preliminary report on The butterflies Of Nelapattu Bird Sanctuary, Andhra Pradesh, India

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Nelapattu Bird Sanctuary is the biggest pelicanary in Southeast Asia, located in Nellore district of Andhra Pradesh. The sanctuary is about 458.92 ha, comprising Kalluru Reserve Forest of 376.37 ha and Nelapattu tank of 82.56 ha. The sanctuary receives an annual rainfall of about 1000 mm.

The temperature ranges from 27–35°C. In peak summer, the mercury rises up to 45°C. With dominance of *Barringtonia acutangula* trees and very few *Prosopis juliflora* thorny plants which grow in the water body where the birds roost, the tank portion has 'Barringtonia Swamp Forest' while the Reserve Forest portion has 'Southern Dry Evergreen Scrub' type of forest with species like *Manilkara hexandra*, *Maba buxifolia*, *Memecylon edule*, *Buchnania angustifolia*, *Terminalia bellerica*, *Zizyphus xylopyrus*, *Acacia leucophloea*, etc.

Very few works have been done on the fauna, especially birds in tank portion, but there is no research work in the reserve forest area. Preliminary survey was conducted to identify area with large population of butterflies, while conducting bird census studies on the Nelapattu bird sanctuary, from November 2008 to December 2009. Mostly photographic documentation was done. Some species which are difficult to identify, were caught by hand net and released after identification. The butterflies observed were segregated into categories such as Common (C), Uncommon (UC) and Rare (R) based on their occurrence during the survey.

A total of 44 species of butterflies were recorded under five families (Table 1). The families Nymphalidae and Pieridae were found dominated with (18 and 12) species respectively, followed by Lycaenidae (7 species),

**Table 1: Checklist of the butterflies of Nelapattu Bird Sanctuary**

Sl. no	Common name	Scientific name	Family	Status
1	Lemon Pansy	<i>Junonia lemonias</i> Linnaeus	Nymphalidae	C
2	Peacock Pansy	<i>Junonia almana</i> Linnaeus	Nymphalidae	C
3	Grey Pansy	<i>Junonia atlites</i> Linnaeus	Nymphalidae	UC
4	Blue Pansy	<i>Junonia orithya</i> Linnaeus	Nymphalidae	C
5	Yellow Pansy	<i>Junonia hierta</i> Fabricius	Nymphalidae	C
6	Angled Castor	<i>Ariadne ariadne</i> Linnaeus	Nymphalidae	UC
7	Common Nawab	<i>Polyura athamas</i> Drury	Nymphalidae	UC
8	Common Evening Brown	<i>Melanitis leda</i> Linnaeus	Nymphalidae	UC
9	Common Bushbrown	<i>Mycalesis perseus</i> Fabricius	Nymphalidae	UC
10	Tawny Coster	<i>Acraea violae</i> Fabricius	Nymphalidae	C
11	Common Leopard	<i>Phalanta phalantha</i> Drury	Nymphalidae	UC
12	Common Sailer	<i>Neptis hylas</i> Linnaeus	Nymphalidae	C
13	Danaid Eggfly	<i>Hypolimnas misippus</i> Linnaeus	Nymphalidae	C
14	Great Eggfly	<i>Hypolimnas bolina</i> Linnaeus	Nymphalidae	C
15	Blue Tiger	<i>Tirumala limniace</i> Cramer	Nymphalidae	C
16	Plain Tiger	<i>Danaus chrysippus</i> Linnaeus	Nymphalidae	C
17	Striped Tiger	<i>Danaus genutia</i> Cramer	Nymphalidae	UC
18	Common Indian Crow	<i>Euploea core</i> Cramer	Nymphalidae	C
19	Common Rose	<i>Pachliopta aristolochiae</i> Fabricius	Papilionidae	C
20	Crimson Rose	<i>Pachliopta hector</i> Linnaeus	Papilionidae	UC
21	Lime Butterfly	<i>Papilio demoleus</i> Linnaeus	Papilionidae	C
22	Common Mormon	<i>Papilio polytes</i> Linnaeus	Papilionidae	C
23	White Orange Tip	<i>Ixias marianne</i> Cramer	Pieridae	C
24	Yellow Orange Tip	<i>Ixias pyrene</i> Linnaeus	Pieridae	UC
25	Plain Orange Tip	<i>Colotis eucharis</i> Fabricius	Pieridae	C
26	Crimson Tip	<i>Colotis danae</i> Fabricius	Pieridae	UC
27	Common Grass Yellow	<i>Eurema hecabe</i> Linnaeus	Pieridae	C
28	Small Grass Yellow	<i>Eurema brigitta</i> Stoll	Pieridae	C
29	Common Jezebel	<i>Delias eucharis</i> Drury	Pieridae	UC
30	Common Gull	<i>Cepora nerissa</i> Fabricius	Pieridae	C

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Sl. no	Common name	Scientific name	Family	Status
31	Pioneer or Caper White	<i>Anaphaeis aurota</i> Fabricius	Pieridae	C
32	Small Salmon Arab	<i>Colotis amata</i> Fabricius	Pieridae	R
33	Common Emigrant	<i>Catopsilia pomona</i> Fabricius	Pieridae	R
34	Mottled Emigrant	<i>Catopsilia pyranthe</i> Linnaeus	Pieridae	C
35	Yellow-spot Swift	<i>Polytremis eltola</i> Hewitson	Hesperiidae	C
36	Indian Palm Bob	<i>Suastus gremius</i> Fabricius	Hesperiidae	UC
37	Indian Skipper	<i>Spialia galba</i> Fabricius	Hesperiidae	C
38	Zebra Blue	<i>Leptotes plinius</i> Fabricius	Lycaenidae	C
39	Lesser Grass Blue	<i>Zizina otis</i> Fabricius	Lycaenidae	C
40	Leaf Blue	<i>Amblypodia anita</i> Hewitson	Lycaenidae	C
41	Bright Sunbeam	<i>Curetis bulis</i> Doubleday & Hewitson	Lycaenidae	UC
42	Common Pierrot	<i>Castalius rosimon</i> Fabricius	Lycaenidae	C
43	Rounded Pierrot	<i>Tarucus nara</i> Kollar	Lycaenidae	UC
44	Common Cerulean	<i>Jamides celeno</i> Cramer	Lycaenidae	C

Papilionidae (4 species) and three species from the family Hesperidae. Most of the species observed were common and widely distributed. The butterflies were identified following Wynter-Blyth (1957), Antram (2002), Evans (1932), Gunathilagaraj *et.al* (1998), Haribal (1992) and Kunte (2000).

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