

## Protective tactics of the Red-wattled Lapwing

**WILD BITE**

The Red-wattled Lapwing *Vanellus indicus* (Aves: Charadriiformes: Charadriidae) (Image 1) is an Asian Lapwing or Large Plover (about 35cm long) found in small groups around water bodies, agricultural fields, and dry land. It is distinctly marked with a black breast & throat and a red bill with a black tip. It is a ground bird incapable of perching. Its characteristic loud alarm call 'did-you-do-it' indicates human or animal movements. It is usually found in small groups around water bodies, agricultural fields, and dry land.

Around our office in Coimbatore, there is a good diversity of birds, butterflies and odonates I have been capturing on camera since 2017. I observed a pair of Red-wattled Lapwing (RwL) living in an open agricultural land opposite the office. On 27 April 2019, I observed two chicks and an adult but after two days only one chick was observed (Image 2). On 29 April, when an adult Peafowl *Pavo cristatus* came closer to the mound where the chick was, the parent RwL displayed an awesome protective tactic by opening its wings, making loud calls, and attacking the Peafowl with rapid agile flight until the Peafowl moved away ([Video 1](#)).

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Photo (Red-wattled Lapwing) by B. Ravichandran