

BIRDS OF KANHA NATIONAL PARK

This checklist is based on the one compiled by Eric D'Cunha, which in turn was based on the one published in the Journal of the BNHS (Dec. 1986) by P Newton, S Breedon and G Norman. Additional sightings by Rahul Rao, Raja Purohit and Rashid Ali
R=Resident S=Summer W=Winter () Old Names

ORDER: GALLIFORMES

Family: Phasianidae

Black Francolin (Black Partridge) R *Francolinus francolinus*
Painted Francolin (Painted Partridge) R *Francolinus pictus*
Grey Francolin (Grey Partridge) R *Francolinus pondicerianus*
Rain Quail (Black-breasted Quail) R *Coturnix coromandelica*
Blue-breasted Quail R *Coturnix chinensis*
Jungle Bush Quail R *Perdicula asiatica*
Red Spurfowl R *Galloperdix spadicea*
Red Junglefowl R *Gallus gallus*
Indian Peafowl R *Pavo cristatus*
(Common Peafowl , Blue Peafowl)

ORDER: ANSERIFORMES

Family: Dendrocygnidae

Lesser Whistling-duck R *Dendrocygna javanica*
(Lesser Whistling-teal, Lesser Treeduck)

Family: Anatidae

Anserini

Greylag Goose W *Anser anser*
Ruddy Shelduck (Ruddy Sheldrake) W *Tadorna ferruginea*
Comb Duck R *Sarkidiornis melanotos*
Cotton Pygmy-goose (Cotton Teal) R *Nettapus coromandelianus*

Anatini

Eurasian Wigeon (Wigeon) W *Anas penelope*
Mallard W *Anas platyrhynchos*
Spot-billed Duck R *Anas poecilorhyncha*
(Spotbil Duck , Spotbill)
Northern Shoveler W *Anas clypeata*
(Shoveller)
Northern Pintail W *Anas acuta*
(Common Pintail, Pintail)
Garganey W *Anas querquedula*
Common Teal
W *Anas crecca*

ORDER: TURNICIFORMES

Family: Turnicidae

Small Buttonquail R *Turnix sylvatica*
(Little Bustardquail, Little Buttonquail)
Yellow-legged Buttonquail R *Turnix tanki*
(Button Quail)
Barred Buttonquail R *Turnix suscitator*
(Common Bustardquail)

ORDER: PICIFORMES

Family: Picidae

Brown-capped Pygmy Woodpecker R *Dendrocopos nanus*
(Brown-crowned Pigmy Woodpecker)
Yellow-crowned Woodpecker R *Dendrocopos mahrattensis*
(Yellow-fronted Woodpecker)
Rufous Woodpecker R *Celeus brachyurus*
Lesser Yellownape R *Picus chlorolophus*
(Lesser Yellow-naped Woodpecker)
Streak-throated Woodpecker R *Picus xanthopygaeus*
(Little Scaly-bellied Green Woodpecker)
Black-rumped Flameback R *Dinopium benghalense*
(Lesser Golden-backed Woodpecker)
Greater Flameback R *Chrysocolaptes lucidus*
(Larger Golden-backed Woodpecker,)
White-naped Woodpecker R *Chrysocolaptes festivus*
(Black-backed Woodpecker)
Heart-spotted Woodpecker R *Hemicircus canente*

Family: Megalaimidae

Brown-headed Barbet (Green Barbet) R *Megalaima zeylanica*
Coppersmith Barbet R *Megalaima haemacephala*
(Crimson-breasted Barbet)

ORDER: BUCEROTIFORMES

Family: Bucerotidae

Indian Grey Hornbill R *Ocyrceros birostris*
(Common Grey Hornbill, Gray Hornbill)
Malabar Pied Hornbill R *Anthracoceros coronatus*

ORDER: UPUPIFORMES

Family: Upupidae

Common Hoopoe (Hoopoe) R *Upupa epops*

ORDER: CORACIIFORMES

Family: Coraciidae

Indian Roller R *Coracias benghalensis*

Family: Alcedinidae

Common Kingfisher R *Alcedo atthis*
(Small Blue Kingfisher, Eurasian Kingfisher)

Family: Halcyonidae

Stork-billed Kingfisher R *Halcyon capensis*
White-throated Kingfisher R *Halcyon smyrnensis*
(White-breasted Kingfisher, Smyrna Kingfisher)
Black-capped Kingfisher R *Halcyon pileata*
(Black-capped Purple Kingfisher)

Family: Cerylidae

Pied Kingfisher R *Ceryle rudis*
(Lesser Pied Kingfisher, Small-pied Kingfisher)

Family: Meropidae

Blue-bearded Bee-eater R *Nyctornis athertoni*
Green Bee-eater R *Merops orientalis*
(Little Green Bee-eater)
Blue-tailed Bee-eater R *Merops philippinus*
Chestnut-headed Bee-eater R *Merops leschenaulti*

ORDER: CUCULIFORMES

Family: Cuculidae

Pied Cuckoo S *Clamator jacobinus*
(Pied Crested Cuckoo, Jacobin Cuckoo)
Common Hawk Cuckoo R *Hierococcyx varius*
Indian Cuckoo R *Cuculus micropterus*
Eurasian Cuckoo R *Cuculus canorus*
(The Cuckoo, Common Cuckoo)
Banded Bay Cuckoo R *Cacomantis sonneratii*
(Indian Banded Bay Cuckoo)
Grey-bellied Cuckoo R *Cacomantis passerinus*
(Indian Plaintive Cuckoo)
Asian Koel R *Eudynamys scolopacea*
(Koel)
Sirkeer Malkoha R *Phaenicophaeus leschenaultii*
(Sirkeer Cuckoo, Sirkeer)

Family: Centropodidae

Greater Coucal R *Centropus sinensis*
(Crow-pheasant)

ORDER: PSITTACIFORMES

Family: Psittacidae

Alexandrine Parakeet R *Psittacula eupatria*
(Large Indian Parakeet)
Rose-ringed Parakeet R *Psittacula krameri*
Plum-headed Parakeet R *Psittacula cyanocephala*

(Blossom-headed Parakeet)

ORDER: APODIFORMES

Family: Apodidae

White-rumped Needletail R *Zoonavena sylvatica*
(White-rumped Spinetail)
House Swift (Little Swift) R *Apus affinis*

Family: Hemiprocnidae

Crested Treeswift (Crested Swift) R *Hemiproctne coronata*

ORDER: STRIGIFORMES

Family: Tytonidae

Barn Owl R *Tyto alba*

Family: Strigidae

Eurasian Scops Owl W *Otus scops*
(European Scops Owl)
Collared Scops Owl R *Otus bakkamoena*
Rock Eagle Owl R *Bubo bubo bengalensis*
Spot-bellied Eagle Owl R *Bubo nipalensis*
(Forest Eagle Owl)
Brown Fish Owl R *Ketupa zeylonensis*
Mottled Wood Owl R *Strix ocellata*
Jungle Owlet R *Glaucidium radiatum*
(Barred Jungle Owlet)
Spotted Owlet R *Athene brama*
Brown Hawk Owl (Brown Boobook) R *Ninox scutulata*
Short-eared Owl W *Asio flammeus*

Family: Caprimulgidae

Grey Nightjar R *Caprimulgus indicus*
(Indian Jungle Nightjar)
Indian Nightjar R *Caprimulgus asiaticus*
(Common Indian Nightjar)
Savanna Nightjar (Franklin's) R *Caprimulgus affinis*

ORDER: COLUMBIFORMES

Family: Columbidae

Rock Pigeon (Blue Rock Pigeon) R *Columba livia*
Oriental Turtle Dove R *Streptopelia orientalis*
(Rufous Turtle Dove)
Laughing Dove (Little Brown) R *Streptopelia senegalensis*
Spotted Dove R *Streptopelia chinensis*
Red Collared Dove (Red Turtle) R *Streptopelia tranquebarica*
Eurasian Collared Dove (Indian Ring) R *Streptopelia decaocto*

Emerald Dove R *Chalcophaps indica*
(Bronze-winged Dove)
Yellow-footed Green Pigeon R *Treron phoenicoptera*
(Yellow-legged Green or Bengal)

ORDER: GRUIFORMES

Family: Otidae

Lesser Frigatebird (Likh) R *Sypheotides indica*

Family: Gruidae

Sarus Crane
R *Grus antigone*
Family: Rallidae

Slaty-breasted Rail R *Gallirallus striatus*
(Blue-breasted Banded Rail)
Brown Crake R *Amaurornis akool*
White-breasted Waterhen R *Amaurornis phoenicurus*
Baillon's Crake W *Porzana pusilla*
Common Moorhen R *Gallinula chloropus*
(Moorhen, Waterhen, Indian Gallinule)

ORDER: CICONIIFORMES

Family: Scolopacidae

Scolopacinae

Common Snipe (Fantail Snipe) W *Gallinago gallinago*

Tringinae

Spotted Redshank W *Tringa erythropus*
Common Redshank (Redshank) W *Tringa totanus*
Marsh Sandpiper W *Tringa stagnatilis*
Common Greenshank (Greenshank) W *Tringa nebularia*
Green Sandpiper W *Tringa ochropus*
Wood Sandpiper W *Tringa glareola*
Common Sandpiper W *Actitis hypoleucos*

Family: Rostratulidae

Greater Painted-snipe R *Rostratula benghalensis*
(Painted Snipe)

Family: Jacanidae

Pheasant-tailed Jacana R *Hydrophasianus chirurgus*
Bronze-winged Jacana R *Metopidius indicus*

Family: Burhinidae

Eurasian Thick-knee R *Burhinus oedicephalus*

(Stone-curlew, Stone-Plover)
Great Thick-knee R *Esacus recurvirostris*
(Great Stone Plover)

Family: Charadriidae

Black-winged Stilt R *Himantopus himantopus*

Charadriinae

Little Ringed Plover W *Charadrius dubius*
(Little Plover, Little Ring Plover)
Yellow-wattled Lapwing R *Vanellus malarbaricus*
Red-wattled Lapwing R *Vanellus indicus*

Family: Glareolidae

Glareolinae

Small Pratincole R *Glareola lactea*
(Small Indian Pratincole, Little Pratincole)

Family: Laridae

Sternini

River Tern R *Sterna aurantia*
(Indian River Tern)
Family: Accipitridae

Pandioninae

Osprey W *Pandion haliaetus*

Accipitrinae

Oriental Honey-buzzard R *Pernis ptilorhynchus*
(Crested Honey Buzzard, Honey Kite)
Black-shouldered Kite R *Elanus caeruleus*
(Black-winged Kite)
Black Kite R *Milvus migrans*
(Pariah Kite, Dark Kite, Black-eared Kite)
Grey-headed Fish Eagle R *Ichthyophaga ichthyaetus*
(Himalayan, Grey-headed Fishing Eagle)
Egyptian Vulture R *Neophron percnopterus*
(Small White, Scavenger)
White-rumped Vulture R *Gyps bengalensis*
(Indian White-backed Vulture)
Indian Vulture R *Gyps indicus*
(Indian Long-billed, Indian Griffon)
Red-headed Vulture R *Sarcogyps calvus*
(King Vulture, Black Vulture)
Crested Serpent Eagle R *Spilornis cheela*
Eurasian Marsh Harrier W *Circus aeruginosus*
(Western Marsh Harrier)
Pallid Harrier W *Circus macrourus*

(Pale Harrier)
Pied Harrier W *Circus melanoleucos*
Shikra R *Accipiter badius*
White-eyed Buzzard R *Butastur teesa*
(White-eyed Buzzard Eagle)
Bonelli's Eagle R *Hieraaetus fasciatus*
(Bonelli's Hawk Eagle)
Booted Eagle W *Hieraaetus pennatus*
(Booted Hawk Eagle)
Changeable Hawk Eagle R *Spizaetus cirrhatus*
(Crested Hawk Eagle)

Family: Falconidae

Common Kestrel W *Falco tinnunculus*
(Kestrel, Eurasian Kestrel)
Laggar Falcon R *Falco jugger*
Peregrine Falcon W *Falco peregrinus*
(Red-capped Falcon, Barbary Falcon)

Family: Podicipedidae

Little Grebe R *Tachybaptus ruficollis*

Family: Anhingidae

Darter R *Anhinga melanogaster*
(Indian Darter, Oriental Darter, Snakebird)

Family: Phalacrocoracidae

Little Cormorant R *Phalacrocorax niger*
Indian Cormorant (Shag) R *Phalacrocorax fuscicollis*
Great Cormorant R *Phalacrocorax carbo*
(Cormorant, Large Cormorant)

Family: Ardeidae

Little Egret R *Egretta garzetta*
Grey Heron R *Ardea cinerea*
Purple Heron R *Ardea purpurea*
Great Egret (Large Egret) R *Casmerodius albus*
Intermediate Egret R *Mesophoyx intermedia*
(Smaller Egret, Median Egret)
Cattle Egret R *Bubulcus ibis*
Indian Pond Heron R *Ardeola grayii*
Little Heron R *Butorides striatus*
(Little Green Heron, Striated Heron)
Black-crowned Night Heron R *Nycticorax nycticorax*
(Night Heron)

Family: Threskiornithidae

Black-headed Ibis R *Threskiornis melanocephalus*
(White Ibis, Oriental White Ibis)

Black Ibis R *Pseudibis papillosa*
(Red-naped Ibis)
Eurasian Spoonbill R *Platalea leucorodia*
(Spoonbill, White Spoonbill)

Family: Ciconiidae

Painted Stork R *Mycteria leucocephala*
Asian Openbill R *Anastomus oscitans*
(Open-billed Stork)
Black Stork W *Ciconia nigra*
Woolly-necked Stork (White-necked) R *Ciconia episcopus*
Lesser Adjutant R *Leptoptilos javanicus*
(Lesser Adjutant Stork)

ORDER: PASSERIFORMES

Family: Pittidae

Indian Pitta S *Pitta brachyura*

Family: Irenidae

Blue-winged Leafbird R *Chloropsis cochinchinensis*
(Gold-mantled /Jerdon's Chloropsis)
Golden-fronted Leafbird (Chloropsis) R *Chloropsis aurifrons*

Family: Laniidae

Brown Shrike W *Lanius cristatus*
Bay-backed Shrike R *Lanius vittatus*
Long-tailed Shrike R *Lanius schach*
(Rufous-backed Shrike)
Great Grey Shrike R *Lanius excubitor*

Family: Corvidae

Corvini

Rufous Treepie (Indian Treepie) R *Dendrocitta vagabunda*
House Crow R *Corvus splendens*
Large-billed Crow (Jungle) R *Corvus macrorhynchos*

Artamini

Ashy Woodswallow R *Artamus fuscus*
(Ashy Swallow-shrike)

Oriolini

Eurasian Golden Oriole R *Oriolus oriolus*
(Golden Oriole)
Black-hooded Oriole (Black-headed) R *Oriolus xanthornus*

Large Cuckooshrike R *Coracina macei*
Bar-bellied Cuckooshrike (Barred) R *Coracina striata*
Black-winged Cuckooshrike R *Coracina melaschistos*
(Smaller Grey/Dark Cuckooshrike)
Black-headed Cuckooshrike R *Coracina melanoptera*
Rosy Minivet R *Pericrocotus roseus*
Small Minivet (Little Minivet) R *Pericrocotus cinnamomeus*
Scarlet Minivet R *Pericrocotus flammeus*
(Orange Minivet)
Bar-winged Flycatcher-shrike R *Hemipus picatus*
(Pied Flycatcher-shrike)

Dicrurinae

Rhipidurini

Yellow-bellied Fantail R *Rhipidura hypoxantha*
(Yellow-bellied Fantail Flycatcher)
White-throated Fantail R *Rhipidura albicollis*
(White-throated Fantail Flycatcher)
White-browed Fantail (Flycatcher) R *Rhipidura aureola*
(White-breasted Fantail Flycatcher)

Dicrurini

Black Drongo R *Dicrurus macrocercus*
Ashy Drongo (Grey) R *Dicrurus leucophaeus*
White-bellied Drongo R *Dicrurus caerulescens*
(White-vented Drongo)
Spangled Drongo (Hair-crested) R *Dicrurus hottentottus*
Greater Racket-tailed Drongo R *Dicrurus paradiseus*
(Large Racket-tailed Drongo)

Monarchini

Black-naped Monarch R *Hypothymis azurea*
(Black-naped Flycatcher, Azure Flycatcher)
Asian Paradise-flycatcher R *Terpsiphone paradisi*
(Paradise-flycatcher)

Aegithininae

Common Iora (Iora)
R *Aegithina tiphia*
Malaconotinae

Common Woodshrike R *Tephrodornis pondicerianus*
(Woodshrike, Lesser Wood-shrike)

Family: Muscicapidae

Turdinae

Blue-capped Rock Thrush R *Monticola cinclorhynchus*
(Blue-headed Rock Thrush)

Blue Rock Thrush R *Monticola solitarius*
White-throated Thrush R *Zoothera citrina cyanotus*
(Orange-headed Ground Thrush)
Eurasian Blackbird R *Turdus merula*

Muscicapinae

Muscicapini

Brown-chested Jungle Flycatcher W *Rhinomyias brunneata*
(Olive Flycatcher, Brown-chested Flycatcher)
Asian Brown Flycatcher W *Muscicapa dauurica*
(Brown Flycatcher)
Brown-breasted Flycatcher (Layard's) W *Muscicapa muttui*
Red-throated Flycatcher W *Ficedula parva*
(Red-breasted Flycatcher)
Ultramarine Flycatcher W *Ficedula supercilialis*
(White-browed Blue Flycatcher)
Verditer Flycatcher W *Eumyias thalassina*
Tickell's Blue Flycatcher R *Cyornis tickelliae*
(Orange-breasted Blue Flycatcher)
Grey-headed Canary Flycatcher R *Culicicapa ceylonensis*
(Grey-headed Flycatcher)

Saxicolini

Bluethroat W *Luscinia svecica*
Oriental Magpie Robin R *Copsychus saularis*
(Magpie Robin, Asian Magpie Robin, Robin Dayal)
White-rumped Shama(Shama) R *Copsychus malabaricus*
Indian Robin R *Saxicoloides fulicata*
(Black Robin, Indian Chat)
Black Redstart W *Phoenicurus ochruros*
Common Stonechat W *Saxicola torquata*
(Collared Bushchat, Siberian Stonechat)
Pied Bushchat R *Saxicola caprata*
(Pied Stone-chat)
Grey Bushchat W *Saxicola ferrea*
(Dark-grey Bushchat)
Variable Wheatear W *Oenanthe picata pictata*
(Pied Chat, Pied Wheatear)

Family: Sturnidae

Chestnut-tailed Starling R *Sturnus malabaricus*
(Grey-headed Myna)
Brahminy Starling R *Sturnus pagodarum*
(Black-headed /Brahminy Myna)
Asian Pied Starling R *Sturnus contra*
(Pied Myna)
Common Myna(Mynah) R *Acridotheres tristis*
Bank Myna R *Acridotheres ginginianus*
Jungle Myna R *Acridotheres fuscus*

Family: Sittidae

Sittinae

Chestnut-bellied Nuthatch R *Sitta castanea*
Velvet-fronted Nuthatch R *Sitta frontalis*
(Velvet-fronted Blue Nuthatch)

Family: Paridae

Parinae

Great Tit (Grey Tit) R *Parus major*
Black-lored Tit R *Parus xanthogenys*
(Yellow-cheeked Tit)

Family: Hirundinidae

Dusky Crag Martin R *Hirundo concolor*
Barn Swallow W *Hirundo rustica*
(Swallow, Common Swallow)
Wire-tailed Swallow R *Hirundo smithii*
Red-rumped Swallow (Striated) R *Hirundo daurica*
Striated Swallow (Larger Striated) R *Hirundo striolata*
Streak-throated Swallow R *Hirundo fluvicola*
(Indian Cliff Swallow)
Northern House Martin W *Delichon urbica*
(House Martin)

Family: Pycnonotidae

Red-whiskered Bulbul R *Pycnonotus jocosus*
Red-vented Bulbul R *Pycnonotus cafer*

Family: Cisticolidae

Zitting Cisticola R *Cisticola juncidis*
(Streaked Fantail Warbler)
Grey-breasted Prinia R *Prinia hodgsonii*
(Franklin's Wren Warbler, Franklin's Prinia)
Jungle Prinia R *Prinia sylvatica*
(Jungle Wren-Warbler, Large Prinia)
Ashy Prinia R *Prinia socialis*
(Ashy Wren Warbler)
Plain Prinia R *Prinia inornata*
(Plain Wren-Warbler, White-browed Prinia)

Family: Zosteropidae

Oriental White-eye R *Zosterops palpebrosus*
(White-eye, Small White-eye)

Family: Sylviidae
Acrocephalinae

Common Tailorbird (Tailorbird) R *Orthotomus sutorius*
Common Chiffchaff W *Phylloscopus collybita*
(Brown Leaf Warbler, Chiffchaff)

Tickell's Leaf Warbler W *Phylloscopus affinis*
(Tickell's Warbler)
Greenish Warbler W *Phylloscopus trochiloides*
(Dull Green Leaf Warbler)

Sylviinae

Timaliini

Puff-throated Babbler R *Pellorneum ruficeps*
(Spotted Babbler)
Indian Scimitar Babbler R *Pomatorhinus horsfieldii*
Tawny-bellied Babbler R *Dumetia hyperythra*
(Rufous-bellied Babbler, White-throated Babbler)
Yellow-eyed Babbler R *Chrysomma sinense*
Large Grey Babbler R *Turdoides malcolmi*
Jungle Babbler R *Turdoides striatus*
Brown-cheeked Fulvetta R *Alcippe poiocephala*
(Quaker Babbler)

Sylviini

Lesser Whitethroat W *Sylvia curruca blythi*

Family: Alaudidae

Bengal Bushlark R *Mirafra assamica*
Ashy-crowned Sparrow Lark R *Eremopterix grisea*
(Ashy-crowned Finch Lark)
Rufous-tailed Lark R *Ammomanes phoenicurus*
(Rufous-tailed Finch Lark)
Greater Short-toed Lark *Calandrella brachydactyla*
Oriental Skylark R *Alauda gulgula*
(Eastern Skylark, Oriental Lark)

Family: Nectariniidae

Nectariniinae

Dicaeini

Thick-billed Flowerpecker R *Dicaeum agile*
Pale-billed Flowerpecker R *Dicaeum erythrorhynchos*
(Tickell's / Small Flowerpecker)

Nectariniini

Purple Sunbird R *Nectarinia asiatica*
Crimson Sunbird R *Aethopyga siparaja*
(Yellow-backed Sunbird)

Family: Passeridae

Passerinae

House Sparrow R *Passer domesticus*

Chestnut-shouldered Petronia R *Petronia xanthocollis*
(Yellow-throated Sparrow)

Motacillinae

White Wagtail (Pied Wagtail) W *Motacilla alba personata*
White Wagtail (Pied Wagtail) W *Motacilla alba alboides*
White Wagtail (Pied Wagtail) W *Motacilla alba dukhunensis*
White-browed Wagtail R *Motacilla maderaspatensis*
(Large Pied Wagtail)
Citrine Wagtail W *Motacilla citreola citreola*
(Yellow-headed/hooded Wagtail)
Citrine Wagtail W *Motacilla citreola calcarata*
Yellow Wagtail W *Motacilla flava*
Grey Wagtail W *Motacilla cinerea*
Richard's Pipit W *Anthus richardi*
Paddyfield Pipit R *Anthus rufulus*
(Indian Pipit)
Tawny Pipit W *Anthus campestris*
Blyth's Pipit W *Anthus godlewskii*
Olive-backed Pipit W *Anthus hodgsoni*
(Indian Tree Pipit)

Ploceinae

Baya Weaver (Baya)
R *Ploceus philippinus*
Estrildinae

Red Avadavat (Red Munia) R *Amandava amandava*
Green Avadavat (Green Munia) R *Amandava formosa*
White-rumped Munia R *Lonchura striata*
(White-backed Munia)
Scaly-breasted Munia R *Lonchura punctulata*
(Spotted Munia, Nutmeg Mannikin)
Black-headed Munia R *Lonchura malacca*
(Chestnut Munia)

Family: Fringillidae

Carduelini

Common Rosefinch W *Carpodacus erythrinus*

Emberizinae

Crested Bunting R *Melophus lathamii*
Grey-necked Bunting W *Emberiza buchanani*

Flora & Funa

Kanha's sal and bamboo forests, rolling grasslands and meandering streams stretch over 940 sq km in dramatic natural splendour. This is original Kipling country, of which he wrote so vividly in his *Jungle Book*. The same abundance of wildlife species exists today in Kanha National Park, which forms the core of the Kanha Tiger Reserve created in 1974 under Project Tiger. The park is the only habitat of the rare hardground barasingha (*Cervus Duvaceli Branderi*).

In the 1930s, the Kanha area was divided into two sanctuaries: Hallon and Banjar, of 250 sq km and 300 sq km each. Though one of these was subsequently disbanded, the area remained a protected one until 1947. Depletion of the tiger population in the years that followed led to the area being made an absolute sanctuary in 1952.

By a special statute in 1955, Kanha National Park came into being. Since then, a series of stringent conservation programmes for the protection of the park's flora and fauna has given Kanha its deserved reputation for being one of the finest and best administered National Parks in Asia, an irresistible attraction for all wildlife lovers and a true haven for its animal and avian population.

Kanha's flora, or plant life, is the underpinning of the park's entire ecosystem. Tigers could not live here without prey, such as chital, sambar, wild boar, and barasingha. These animals, in turn, could not subsist without the forage that the plant life furnishes them. Langurs, sloth bears, and birds depend on fruits, flowers, nectar, and forbs for survival. Insects, spiders, and trees have a complex,

5. Grassland: Chital, barasingha, blackbuck, chowsingha (on plateaux), wild boar, langur, tiger, wild dog.

6. Habitation: Used by species accustomed to humans.

The sal tree (*Shorea robusta*) and various species of bamboo (especially *Dendrocalamus strictus*) are the most prominent features of Kanha's extensive flora. These species have complex, distinctive flowering patterns, with sal blooming annually over a period of several months and deciduous throughout the year, and many bamboo species flowering only once during an extremely long life cycle that may span several decades. Officials have estimated that Kanha is home to more than 600 species of flowering plants. A list of 50 water plants was included in the Kanha Management Plan of 1988-89 (Kotwal and Parihar, 1989). Aquatic plants such as water lilies are of considerable importance to the barasingha.