

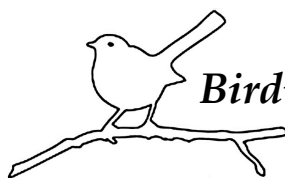


The Wanderer's Guide to the Birds of Kashmir

Printable Birding Guide

vagrantbirder@gmail.com

www.kashmirnetwork.com/birds/



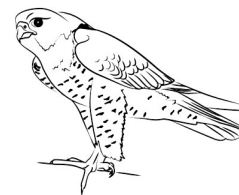
Birding in Srinagar

Very few (read none) birding groups or organisations exist in Kashmir and organised birding and wildlife activities in the Valley are virtually non-existent so you will have to improvise.

The most likely place for visitors to stay would be in a houseboat on the Dal Lake or at a hotel in the nearby tourist areas. Mornings and evenings in and around the the Dal Lake are good for spotting aquatic birds.

A walk up the Shankracharya Hill should be interesting especially along the well-defined mountain trails connecting the central viewpoint. (Maybe you can spot the elusive Orange Bullfinch)

Good birding spots like the Nehru Botanical Garden or Royal Springs Golf Course (restricted entry) at the foothills of the Zabarvan Range are within walking distance of the Dal Lake. The Mughal Gardens are well worth a visit.



BIRDING BEYOND SRINAGAR

Dachigam National Park is less than one hours drive from Dal Lake.

(Note: Official permission is required from Wildlife/Tourism Department for Dachigam)

An overnight trip to Pahalgam and the Overa-Aru Sanctuary in the Himalayan foothills should be very good for birding.

You are sure to see high-altitude species if you include Sonamarg on the Ladakh highway in your itinerary.

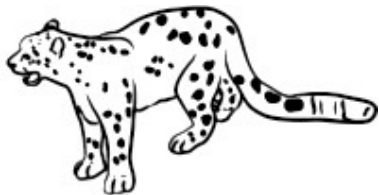
A trip to to Gulmarg can include the Hokersar wetland which is on the same highway. Gulmarg is in the Pir Panjal range which adjoins the Indian plains and the bird life may vary from the Himalayan valleys.

(Note: Official permission required from Wildlife Department for Hokersar)



THE BIRDS OF KASHMIR LOGO DEPICTS THE BLACK-NECKED CRANE, ONE OF THE WORLD'S MOST ENDANGERED CRANES, IN FLIGHT. IT WAS THE OFFICIAL STATE BIRD OF THE ERSTWHILE STATE OF JAMMU & KASHMIR.

THE TSO MORARI LAKE IN LADAKH IS THE ONLY BREEDING GROUND FOR THE BLACK-NECKED CRANE OUTSIDE CHINA.
[HTTPS://BIT.LY/2EXZJBD](https://bit.ly/2EXZJBD)



LADAKH MAY ALSO OFFER A GLIMPSE OF THE ELUSIVE SNOW LEOPARD.

LINKS

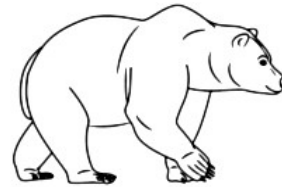
Confirmed checklist of Birds of Kashmir
<http://www.kashmirnetwork.com/birds/list.html>

Birds listed by Month/Season
<http://www.kashmirnetwork.com/birds/seasonal.html>

Quick Visual Identification Guide
<http://www.kashmirnetwork.com/birds/visual/folio/>

Wildlife Guide
<http://www.kashmirnetwork.com/wildlife/>

Tips



- Beware of bears and leopards in the wild.
- Waterproof jackets and warmers are mandatory for Kashmir in any season.
- I use Birds of Northern India by Grimmett & Inskipp as my go-to field guide.
- If Ladakh is on your itinerary, Birds and Mammals of Ladakh by Otto Pfister should be quite useful. It is available in bookstores in Leh.

How To Get There

Sonamarg, Pahalgam, Dachigam and Hokersar/Gulmarg require hired taxis.

Srinagar to Pahalgam
<https://bit.ly/2ek3rPu>

Srinagar to Hokersar
<https://bit.ly/2eHW6et>

Srinagar to Gulmarg
<https://bit.ly/2uvRXnN>

Srinagar to Dachigam
<https://bit.ly/2dYP6so>

Srinagar to Sonamarg
<http://bit.ly/2f4C537>

BONUS !

My secret spot for the Kashmir Nathatch

<https://bit.ly/2fhFfA9>

Happy Birding!



JEHANIGAR