

Dussehra Roller Count

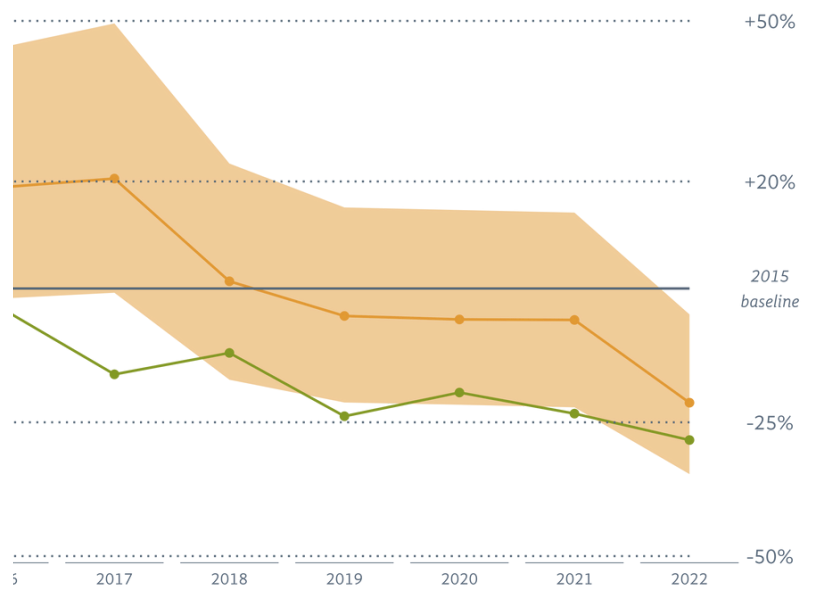
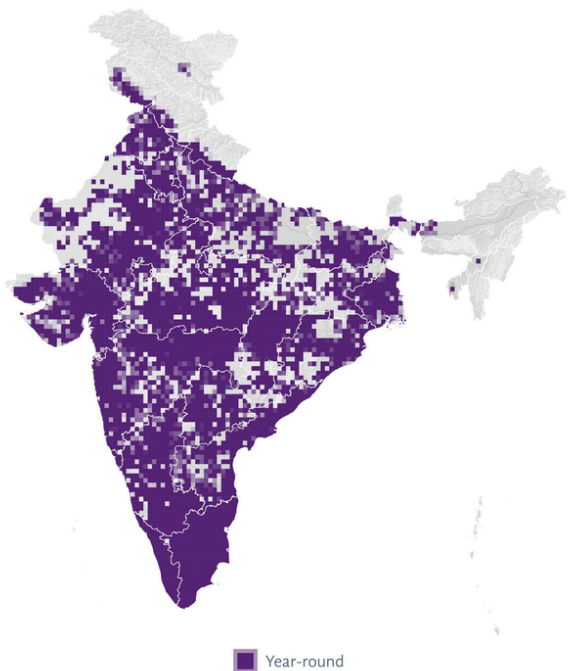
October 2nd to 12th 2024



Indian Roller

The Indian Roller (*Coracias benghalensis*), a vibrant bird known for its striking blue plumage and captivating aerial displays, is widely regarded as a symbol of beauty in Indian culture. Found across the subcontinent, it thrives in open woodlands, farmlands, and urban areas. However, in recent years, its population has shown signs of decline due to habitat loss, urbanization, and pesticide use, which have reduced its feeding and nesting grounds. Additionally, the bird faces threats from poaching and use in religious rituals. Conservation efforts, such as awareness campaigns and habitat restoration, are crucial to ensure the survival of this iconic species.

State of Indian Roller



The State of Indian Birds report indicates that the Indian Roller population is continuously declining. Compared to the national trends and the trend within Andhra Pradesh, the rate of decline is significantly steeper.

Outreach

DUSSEHRA ROLLER COUNT & BIRDING

13 October Sunday 2024
At 7:00 am to 12:00am

Join us for the Nature walk and Birding and Trekking near Doddaballapur forest patch

Join us
Roller Bird count - 2024
Doddaballapur forest patch
WhatsApp group

Doddaballapura forest patch

Contact number: +91 98862 86681 (Guru Prasad)

DUSSEHRA ROLLER COUNT

Join us for the first-ever Indian Roller Count across four Indian states! Now at GKVK, Bengaluru

Sunday
6 October 2024
At 6:30 AM

Mahatmagandhi Botanical Garden, GKVK, Bengaluru

eBird

eBird India
CHECKLIST S198285387

Fri 11 Oct 2024 6:14 AM

Aivarakhandapura Kere
Bengaluru Urban County, Karnataka, India

Mittal Gala
Krishna Murthy

Traveling Complete

2 1 hr, 1 min 1.06 km

Roller Count
Submitted from eBird for Android, version 3.1.2

71 Species Observed

- 2 Lesser Whistling-Duck *Dendrocygna javanica*
- 4 Indian Peafowl *Pavo cristatus*

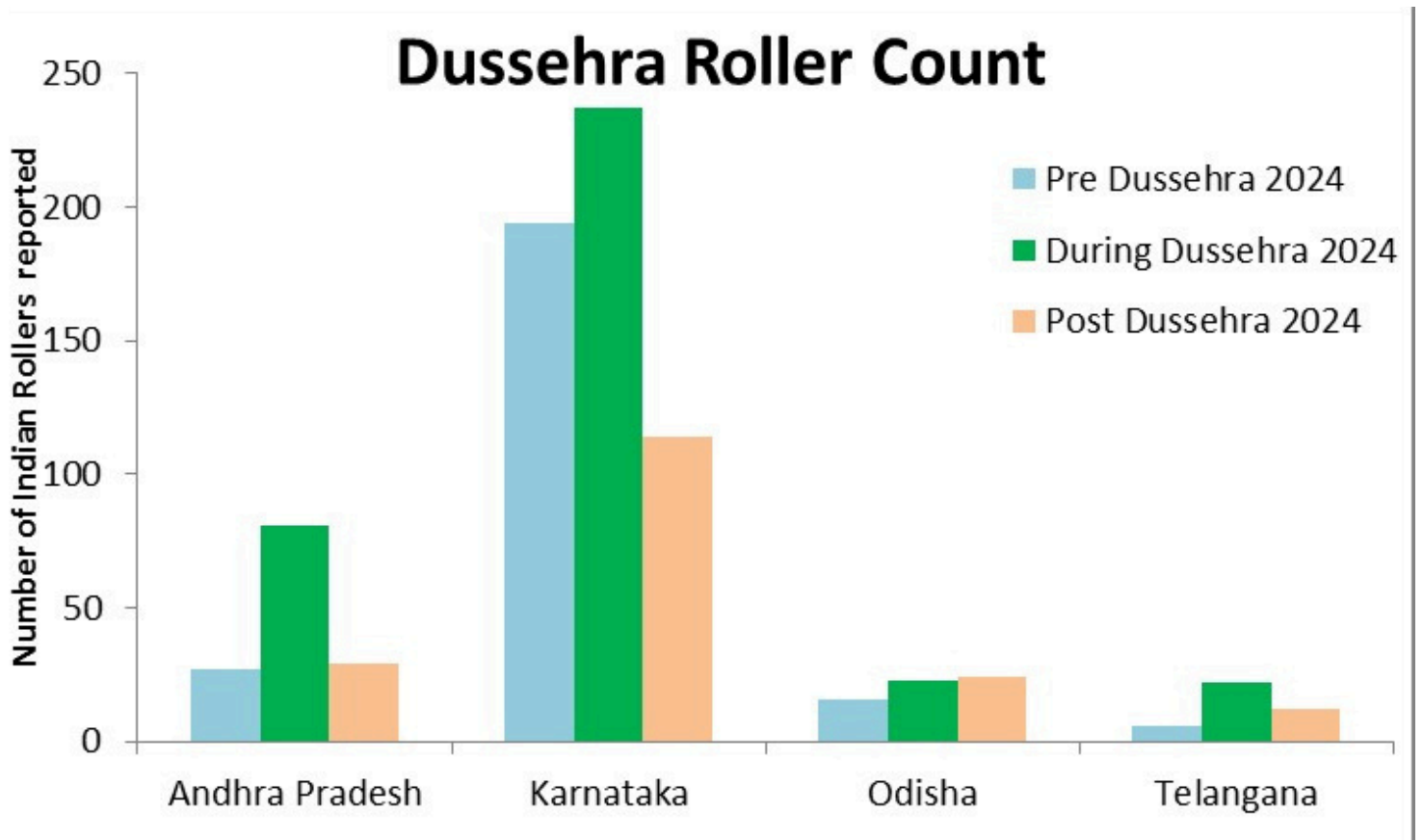


Impact of outreach

Although the reports of Rollers during the Dussehra period in 2024 were notably higher than on adjacent days, highlighting the success of our efforts, there have been other years with comparably high records.

To better understand the impact of this drive, we conducted an analysis of the 2024 data by comparing Roller sightings during the Dussehra period to the background reporting frequency in the days preceding and following this timeframe. Furthermore, we evaluated the effectiveness of this initiative by comparing these results with data from previous years, providing a broader context for the observed trends.

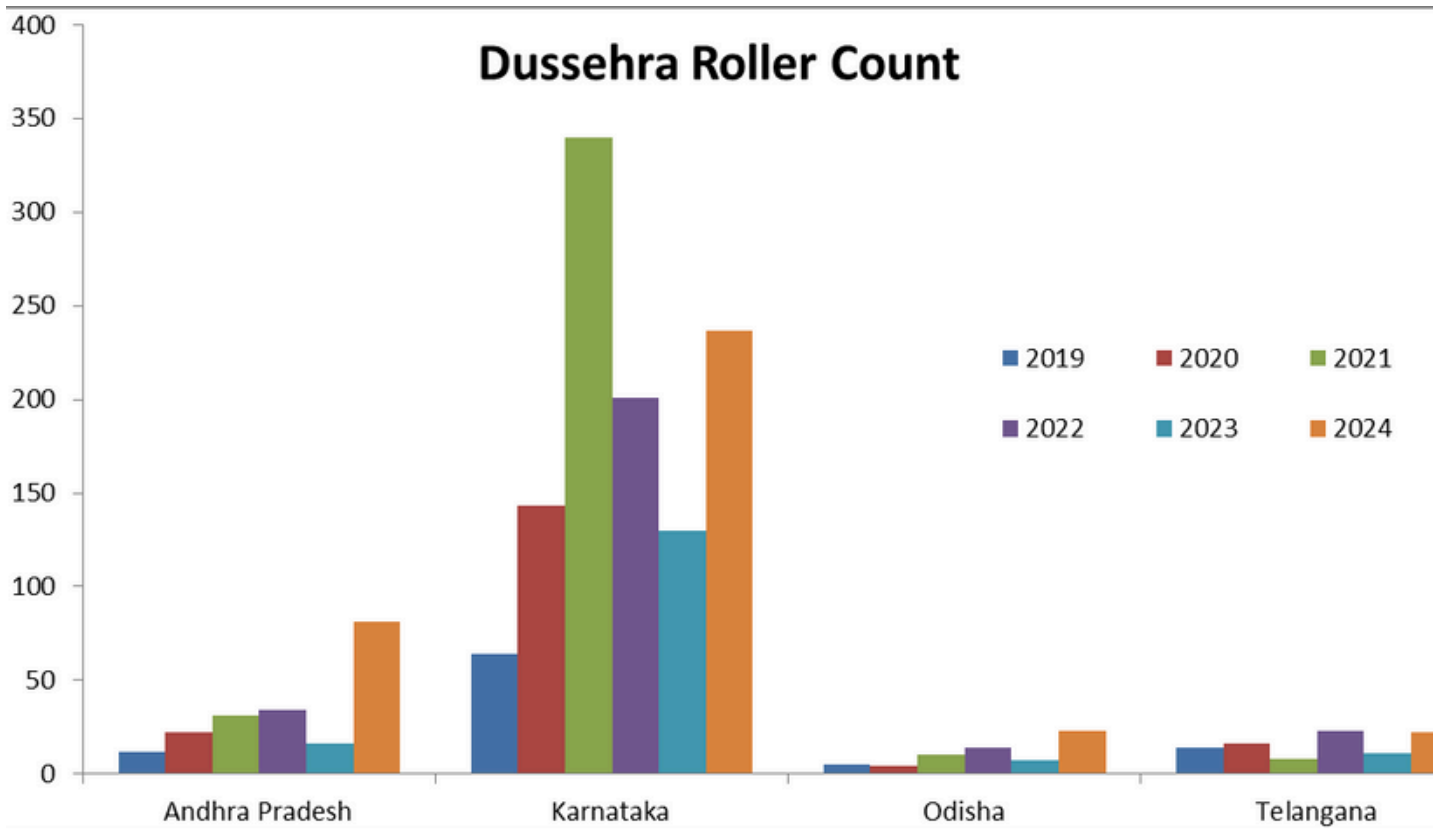




Indian Rollers were reported across four states—Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Odisha, and Telangana, during three periods, each consisting of 11 days: pre-Dussehra, during Dussehra, and post-Dussehra in 2024.

In Andhra Pradesh, it is observed that pre- and post-Dussehra reports were significantly lower compared to the during-Dussehra observations. A similar trend was seen in the other states as well.

Among these four states, the peak number of observations reported from Karnataka could be attributed to a higher number of active eBird reports from the state.



The number of Rollers reported in 2024 during the Dussehra Roller Count (from October 2nd to October 12th) across the four states, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Odisha, and Telangana was notably high. This was the first year the Dussehra Count took place in these states. A comparison with the past five years reveals a significant increase in Roller sightings in 2024.

Interestingly, in Karnataka, the highest count was recorded during the COVID-19 lockdown period, when people became more connected to nature, and many resumed birdwatching, leading to an increase in new birders. Apart from Karnataka, a clear pattern of high Roller counts emerged during the 2024 Dussehra period in all other states.

This clearly emphasizes the importance of such events.

Acknowledgment

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to all our partner organizations and contributors for making this endeavour a success. Special thanks are due to the Tirupati Nature Society, Krea University, IIT-Tirupati, and Bird Count India. We sincerely appreciate the dedication of the Dussehra Roller Count state coordinators and the volunteers from IISER, IIT-Tirupati, and GKVK-Bangalore, whose efforts were instrumental in digital outreach. Finally, we are immensely grateful to all the volunteers who generously dedicated their time and effort to collect and share valuable data in eBird. Photo credits go to Pixabay and eBird volunteer contributors.



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Prepared by,

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