



# Heronries of Kerala 2015

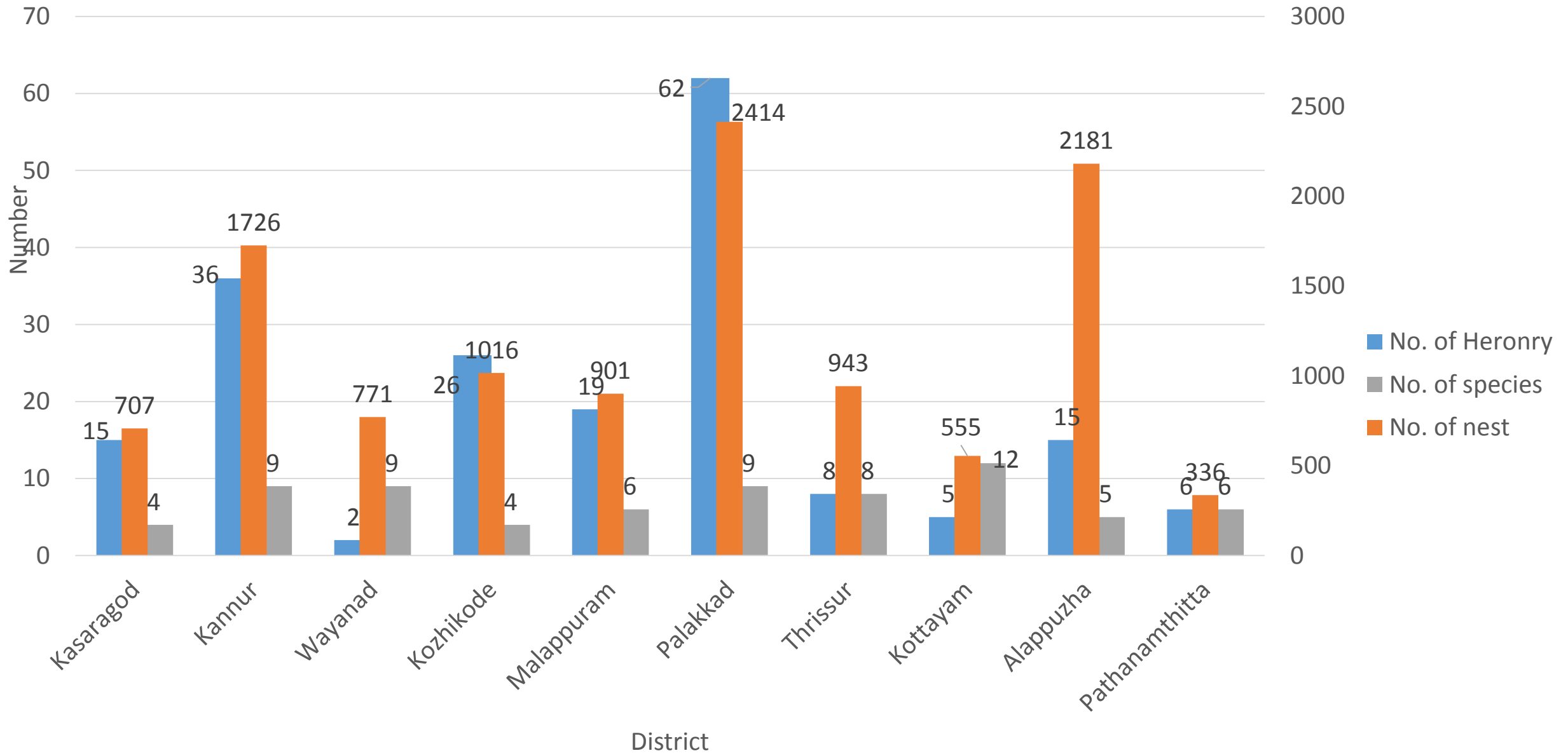
## An Overview

# Summary

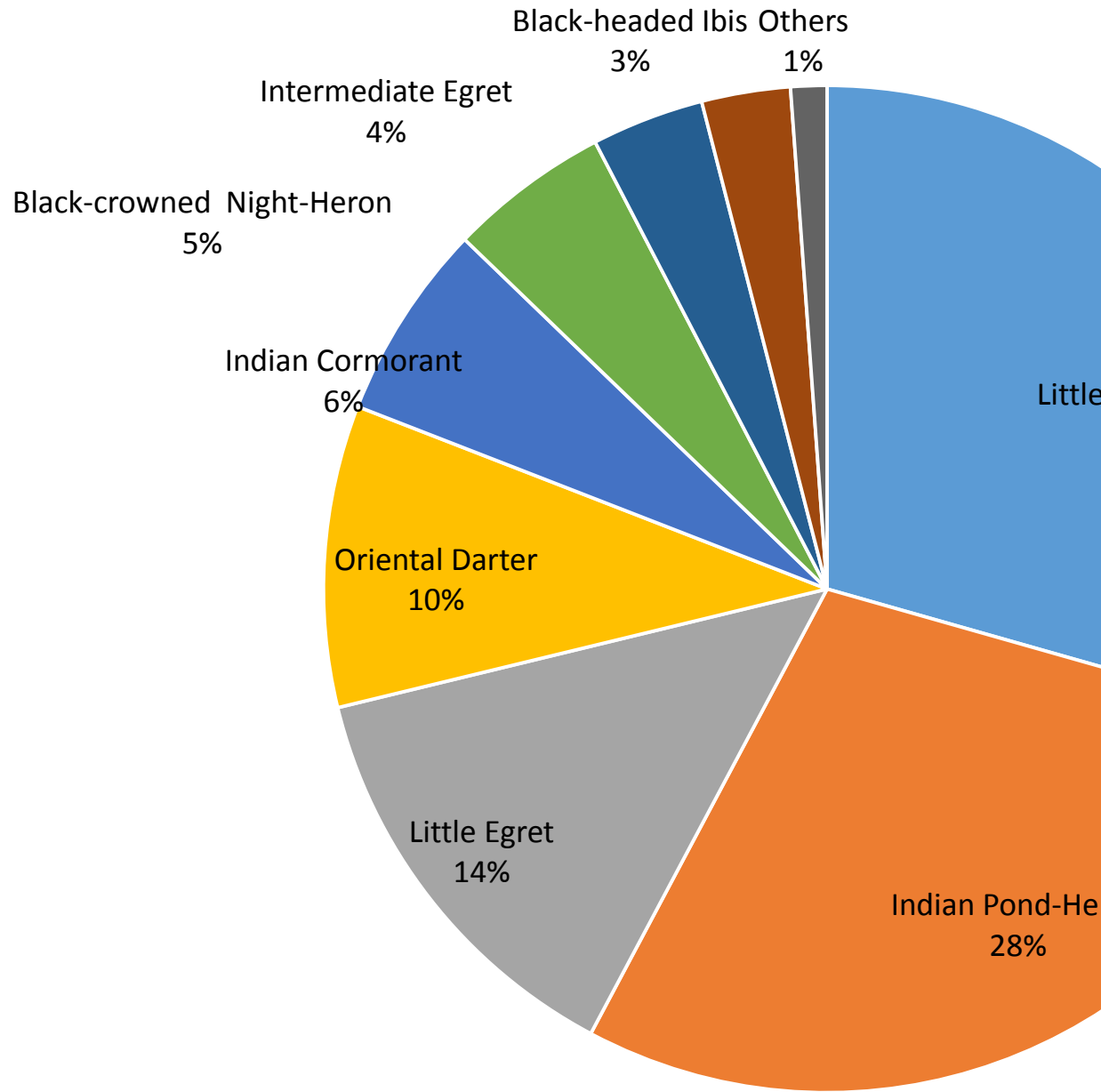
- A total of 11,550 nests belonging to 16 species of waterbirds from 194 sites were counted during the survey in 10 districts of Kerala.
- No information available on heronries from Thiruvananthapuram, Kollam, Ernakulam and Idukki districts.

	2014	2015	Difference
No of nests	10380	11550	+1170
No of sites	157	194	+37
No of species	14	16	+2
District covered	11	10	-1

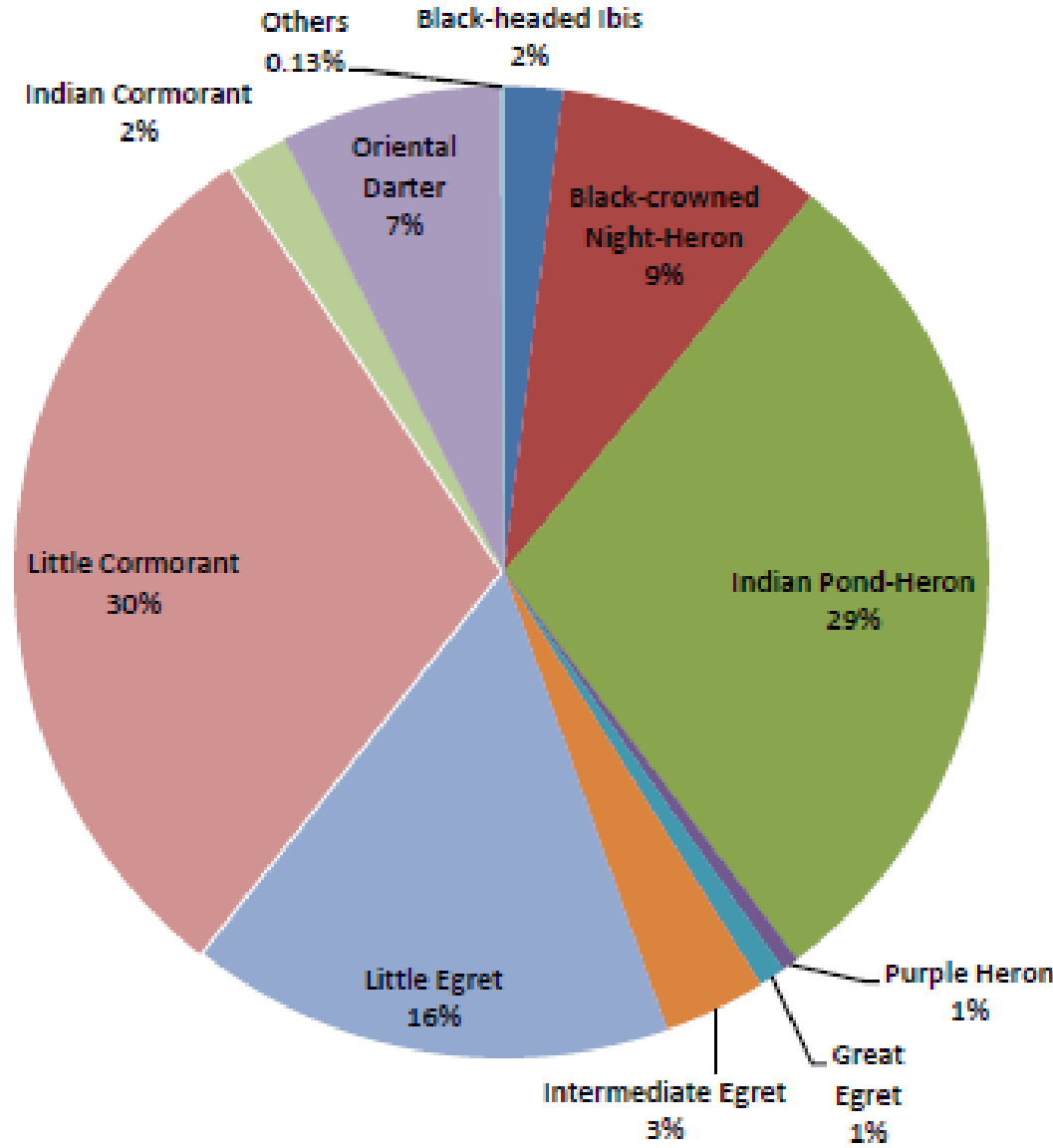
## Number of Heronries, Species and Nests in the 10 Districts, 2015



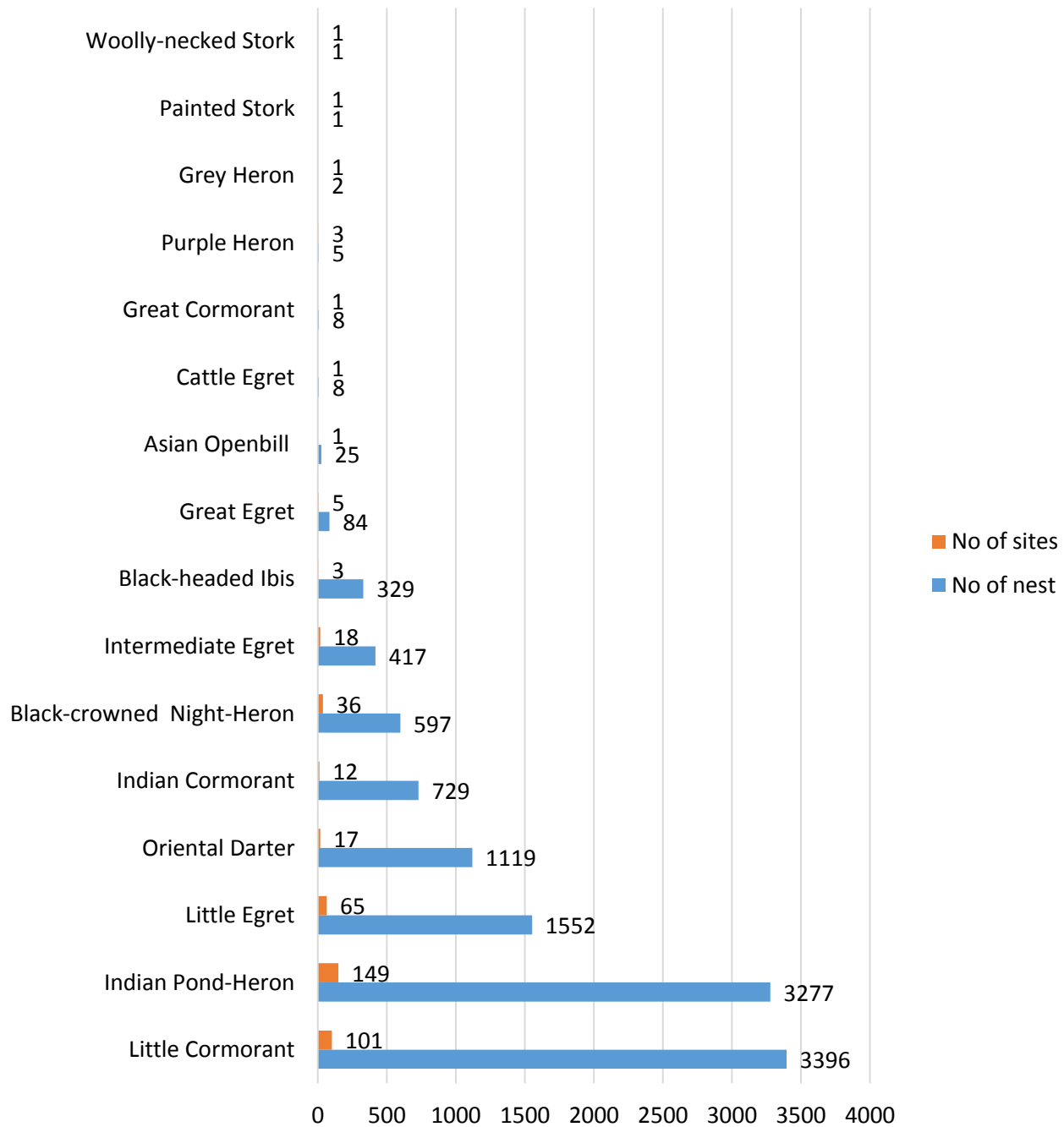
**Percentage of the breeding birds**



**Share of the breeding birds**



### Number of nest and heronries, 2015

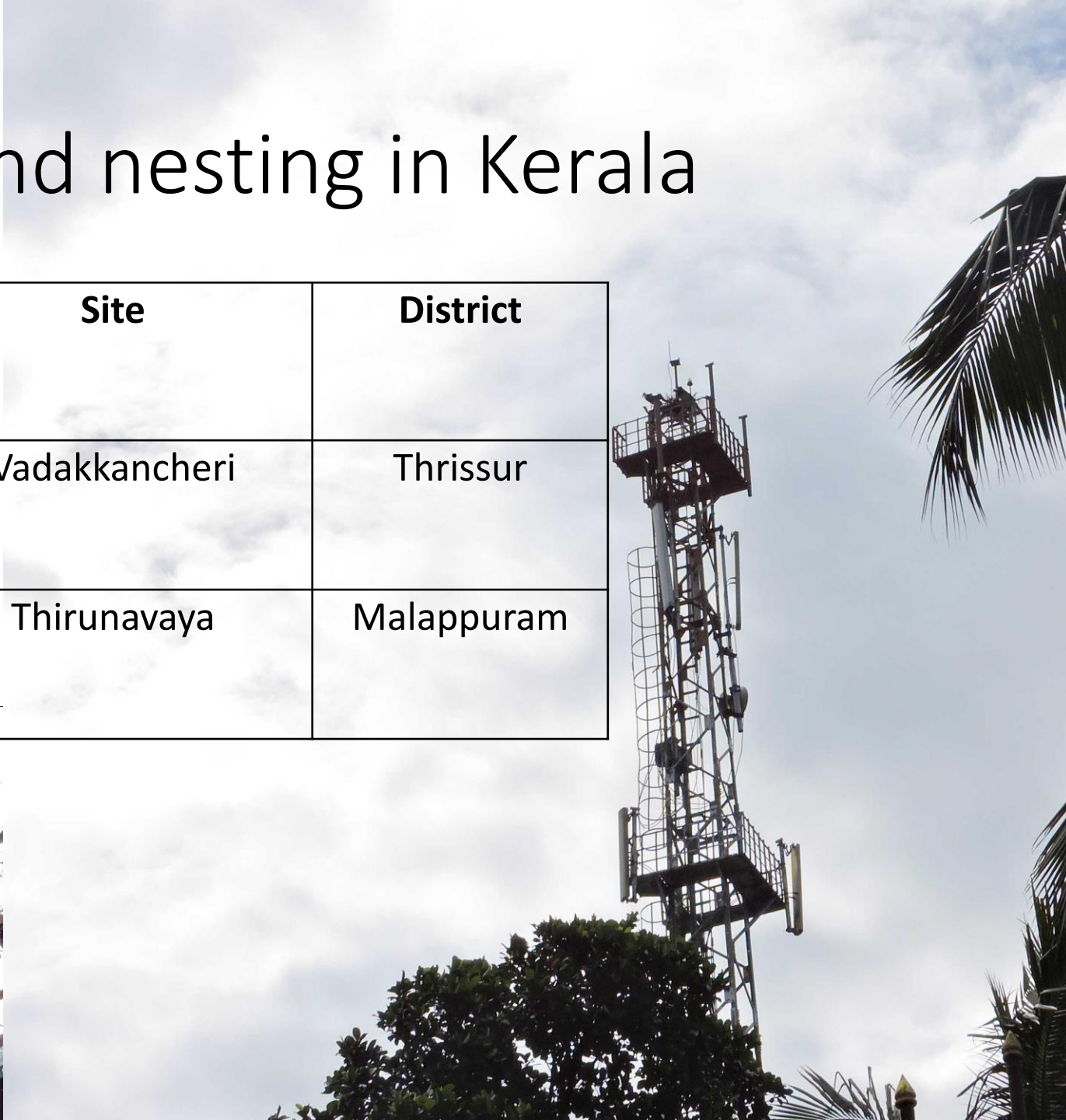
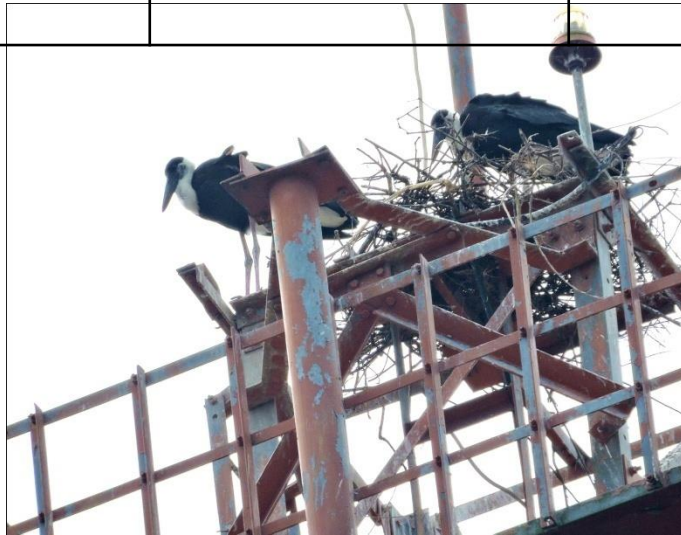


# Top ten heronries in Kerala, 2015

Sites	No of nests
Panamaram (Wayanad)	648
Vadakanal north (Alappuzha )	610
Ennakkad (Alappuzha)	448
Kallettumkara (Railway station compound, Thrissur)	443
Mahe	265
Pallippad puncha (Alapuzha )	258
Naniyoor mangrove (Kannur)	237
Pittupeedika (Palakkad)	237
Nagampadom (Kottayam)	218
Valapattanam mangrove (Kannur)	218

# Two new species found nesting in Kerala

Species	No of nests	Site	District
Woolly-necked Stork	1	Vadakkancheri	Thrissur
Asian Openbill Stork	25	Thirunavaya	Malappuram



# Heronries of Kerala Concerns and Conservation?



# MINUTES 2015

## Heronry Conservation

- Installing *Pandal* (Marquee) in heronries should still be proposed. However, list of large (top ten) heronries where it can happen is required. Action: Coordinators, Roshnath

A) Sites were identified but no funds for creating pandal

- Propose to KFD installation of platforms in wetlands for nesting waterbirds as a pilot. Action: P.O.Nameer

- A) PON ?

- Propose use of nets on trees as pilot in public places where heronry nuisance if major.

- Identify the heronries where this has to be done. Action: Roshnath.

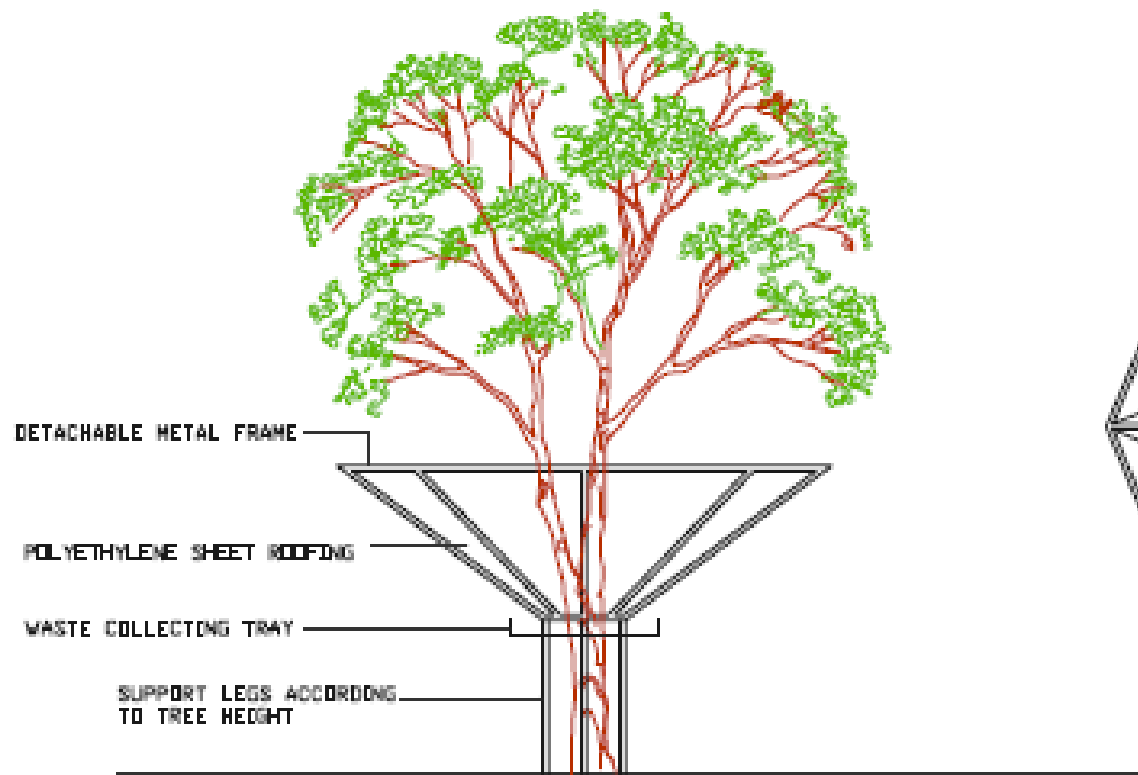
- Propose the list to KFD. Action: P.O.Nameer

A) Coordinators of each district are requested to list the sites and forward.

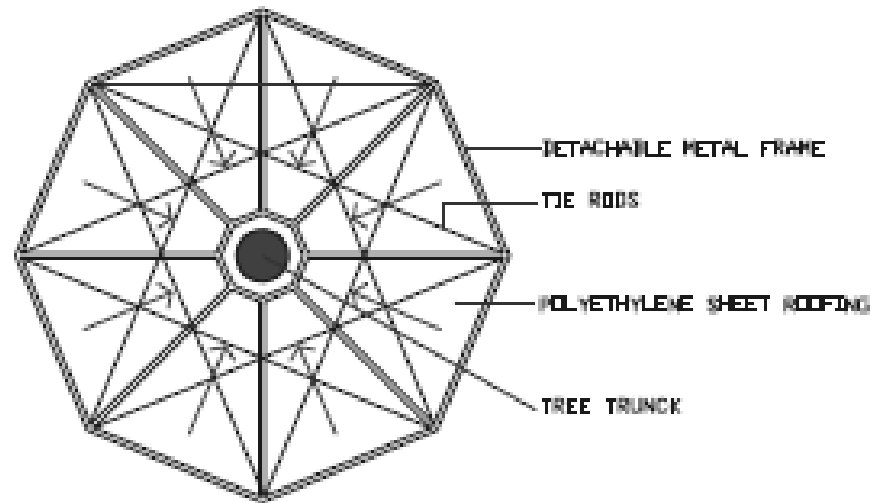
- Note: Heronry conservation is not aimed at protecting all heronries. It is aimed at reducing animosity of people towards the birds, avoid felling of trees and attempt to move the heronries away from human settlements.

## Recommendations (From Heronry Census Report, 2014)

- The heronries should be visited by the local forest department officials periodically during the breeding season.
- With the help of the local birdwatchers, conservation groups should be created locally similar to the Eco Development Committees (EDC) or Vana Samrakshana Samithis (VSS). These groups should monitor the heronries, create awareness in the general public and protect the heronry from possible threats. Some members of these groups could be trained and utilised for data collection.
- In the case of large heronries, watchers should be appointed for the season.
- In case of heronries in public places where the local people complain of nuisance caused by droppings etc., tarpaulin sheets should be placed below the nest trees. At some appropriate sites, “heronry guards” (this was designed by Praveen Mohandas. For details, see Appendix 2) can be tried out and if found successful, can be implemented in other places also.



ELEVATION



PLAN

# Clarification about the role of KFD in heronry survey and conservation

- Support for heronry survey (Logistics? Funds?): absolute necessity in districts with a large number of heronries; e.g. Palakkad.
- Notifying heronry sites as protected area?
- In Kannur, the Social Forestry Division, KFD has promised all help for conducting the survey. They are also planning to put up sign boards at the major heronries, highlighting the protection status of the nesting birds and their ecological importance. They have requested for suggestions from the birdwatchers on how to implement this proposal effectively.

# List of participants in the 2015 Heronry Survey

District	Participants	mail id			
Kasaragod	Roshnath R.	roshnath.r@gmail.com	Palakkad	Raju S	rajukavil@gmail.com
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	Dipu Karuthedathu			Unnikrishnan	
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	Manoj K,			Ananthakrishnan	
	Arya Vinod			Lithesh	
	Rafi Kallettumkara			Sajin Seethi. S	

*Thank you*

