

**SRI V.S.SIVALINGAM CHETTIAR
GOVERNMENT DEGREE COLLEGE, (A)**

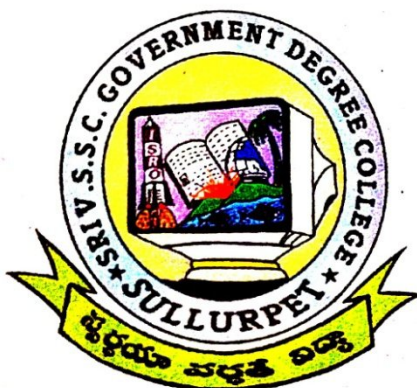
SULLURPETA, TIRUPATI (Dt), ANDHRA PRADESH

DEPARTMENT OF ZOOLOGY

**PROVIDING WATER TO PREVENT WATER
STARVATION IN BIRDS DURING SUMMER**

BEST PRACTICE

2025-2026



SRI V.S.SIVALINGAM CHETTIAR GOVERNMENT DEGREE COLLEGE, (A)

SULLURPETA, TIRUPATI DISTRICT, ANDHRA PRADESH

AN ISO 9001: 2015 CERTIFIED INSTITUTE

www.gdcsullurpet.edu.in, sullurpet.jkc@gmail.com

SRI V.S.SIVALINGAM CHETTIAR GOVERNMENT DEGREE COLLEGE

SULLURPET, TIRUPATI DISTRICT, ANDHRA PRADESH

DEPARTMENT OF ZOOLOGY

BEST PRACTICE: 2025-2026

The Zoology department of Sri VSSC Government degree college (A), planned a best practice of the department for the academic year 2025 – 2026 is providing water to the birds to prevent the water starvation during summer. In this activity the department purchased saucer like pots and hang them to the trees in and around the college by wool threads. After that we regularly put the water in the pots continuously. The program was launched in the college by the principal Dr.SLB.Sankara Sarma. Vice –Principal Dr.P.Victoria Rani, Zoology lecturer Sri.S.Srinivas, other staff members and students participated in this activity. Biology students and staff regularly observing the hanging water pots and maintain the pure water in the pots. We observed that slowly birds are coming to take the water from the pots and also we observed that the number of birds coming near to the pots to take the water and the number increasing day by day.

Providing water to birds during summer is crucial for preventing dehydration, as high temperatures dry up natural water sources. Set up shallow, shaded bowls or birdbaths filled with fresh water on balconies, roofs, or trees, refreshing them daily. This simple act aids bird conservation, as many small birds struggle and can perish without accessible water.

Key Tips for Providing Water:

1. **Keep it Shallow:** Use shallow containers (e.g., saucers) as water should be no deeper than 2 inches, allowing smaller birds to stand in it without drowning.
2. **Maintain Freshness:** Replace water daily to prevent mosquitoes and bacteria buildup.
3. **Keep it Cool/Shaded:** Place containers in shady, open areas to prevent water from becoming too hot and to provide security.
4. **Safe Location:** Position water sources near bushes or trees so birds have a safe, quick place to perch and escape predators.
5. **Clean Regularly:** Scrub the container every few days to prevent algae and bacteria buildup.
6. **Avoid Over-cleaning:** Do not use harsh soaps, simply use water and a brush, or a safe solution like water and vinegar.
7. Put water where you can watch the activity as you're not going to want to miss anything!

8. Use a specially made bird bath, or just a bowl on the floor – you'll attract different creatures to different settings.
9. Place water for birds near a shrub or tree as they like to approach from a place of safety.

During hot summer weather, it is important to have plenty of water for animals and birds to drink and bathe in. But don't stop there! It is also important to keep the water topped up during the chilly winter months as sources of water can become frozen and more difficult to find.

Providing water and feed to thirsty birds and animals during hot days is essential for their survival. All animals need water to survive and by providing a water source in your garden, you can invite in a whole menagerie! Water is essential for wildlife to thrive, but it isn't just for drinking. Amphibians like newts, frogs and toads use water as shelter and breeding grounds. Butterflies get valuable minerals and salts from slightly muddy water, and birds use water to bathe and remove parasites.

Why is it important to provide water for birds during summer?

Unlike mammals, birds don't sweat, but they still need to regulate their body temperature - and staying hydrated helps them do this efficiently. A constant source of clean water allows them to replace what's lost throughout the day, keeping them healthy and active.

Why do birds need water?

Just like all living creatures, birds need water to survive. But in summer, their need for water goes beyond simple hydration. It plays a crucial role in their daily routines, from drinking to bathing and even cooling down.

1. Hydration

Birds lose water through respiration and excretion, and in hot weather, this happens even faster. Unlike mammals, birds don't sweat, but they still need to regulate their body temperature - and staying hydrated helps them do this efficiently. A constant source of clean water allows them to replace what's lost throughout the day, keeping them healthy and active.

2. Bathing

You've probably seen birds splashing around in shallow water. This isn't just for fun (though they do seem to enjoy it!). Bathing helps birds keep their feathers clean and in good condition. Clean feathers insulate better and make flight more efficient - two essentials for survival. Dust, dirt, and parasites can build up quickly in warm weather, so a good bath is a vital part of a bird's grooming routine.

3.Feeding Chicks

During the breeding season, which stretches into early summer, adult birds work tirelessly to feed their hungry chicks. This means more flying, more exertion, and a greater need for water. Some species even bring water back to the nest in their feathers or bills to help their young stay hydrated.

Who might visit?

wood pigeon on bird bath

If you provide water consistently, you'll be surprised by the variety of visitors you'll attract. In addition to the usual garden favourites - robins, sparrows, blue tits, and blackbirds - you might see summer migrants like swallows or house martins stopping by for a drink mid-flight. Even non-songbirds like wood pigeons and jackdaws appreciate a dip on a hot day. And it's not just birds that benefit. A water source can also support pollinators like bees and butterflies, and even small mammals such as hedgehogs.















