AVIFAUNA

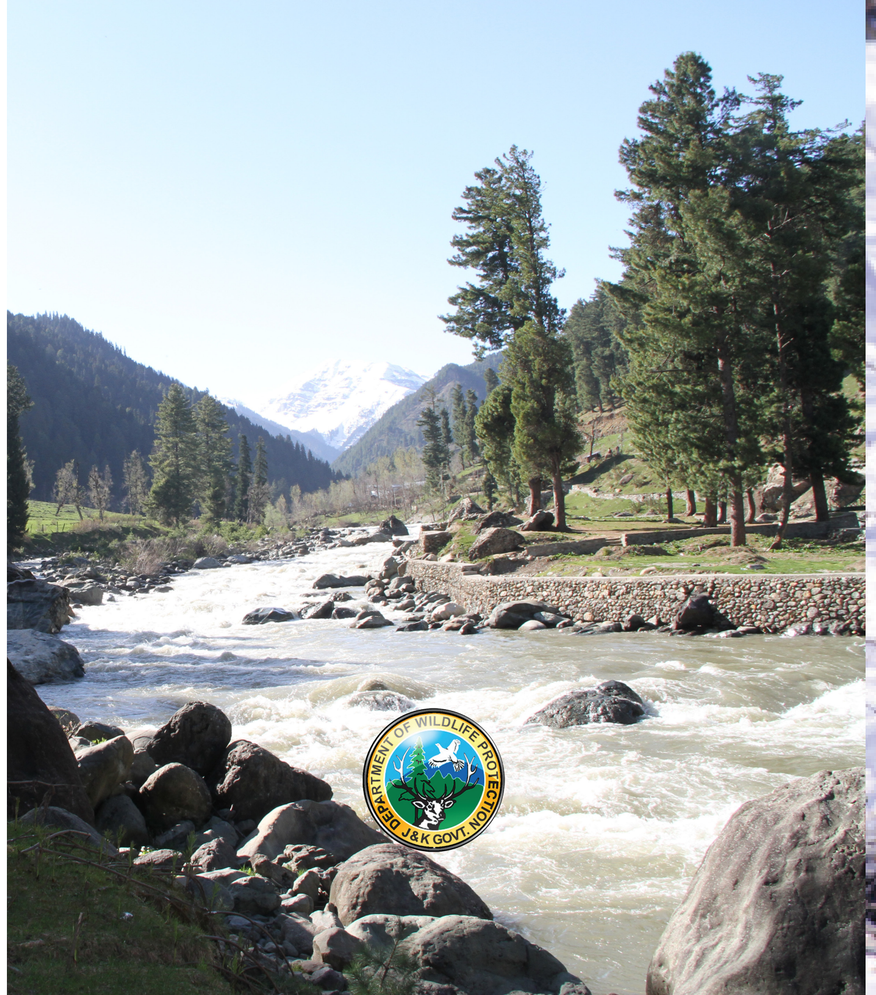
Overa-Aru Wildlife Sanctuary is an Important Bird Area (IBA) (now re-named as Important Bio-diversity Area). It is home to 120 species of birds including one 'endangered', one 'vulnerable' and two 'near threatened' species. The area is home to around 200 species of birds. The key species include:






Phasianidae	
Himalayan Snowcock	Tetraogallus imalayensis
Chukar Partridge	Alectoris chukar
Koklass Pheasant	Pucrasia macrolopha
Himalayan Monal	Lophophorus impejanus
Falconidae	
Common Kestrel	Falco tinnunculus
Eurasian Hobby	Falco subbuteo
Accipitridae	
Black Kite	Milvus migrans
Bearded Vulture/ Lammergeier	Gypaetus barbatus
Himalayan Griffon	Gyps himalayensis
Eurasian Sparrowhawk	Accipiter nisus
Golden Eagle	Aquila chrysaetos
Columbidae	
Rock Pigeon	Columba livia
Snow Pigeon	Columba leuconota
Oriental Turtle Dove	Streptopelia orientalis
Eurasian Collared Dove	Streptopelia decaocto
Cuculidae	
Eurasian Cuckoo	Cuculus canorus
Tytonidae	
Barn Owl	Tyto alba

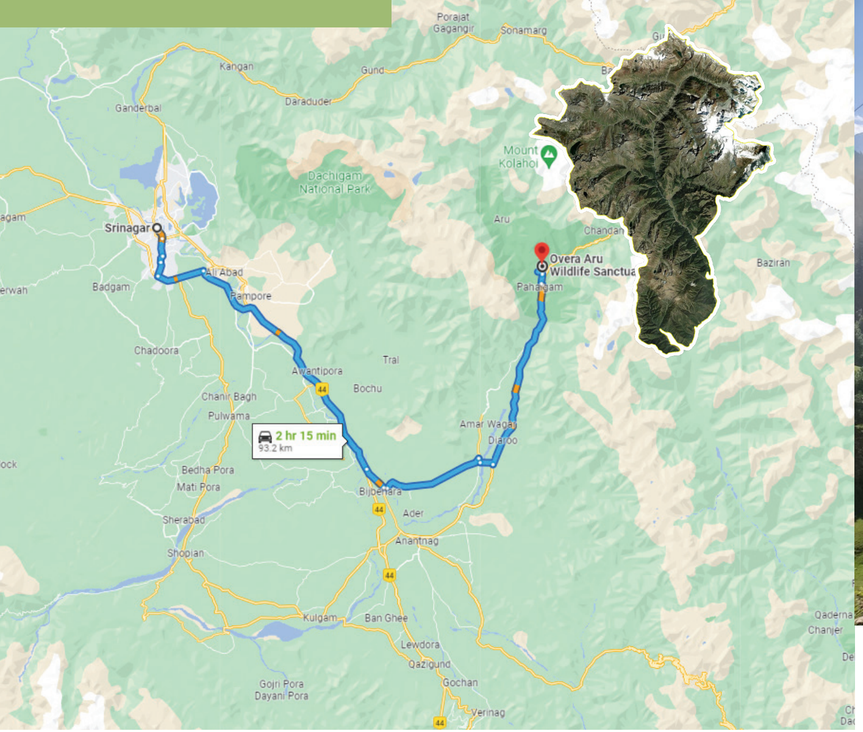
Coraciidae	
European Roller	Coracias garrulus
Alcedinidae	
White-throated Kingfisher	Halcyon smyrnensis
Common Kingfisher	Alcedo atthis
Pied Kingfisher	Ceryle rudis
Upupidae	
Common Hoopoe	Upupa epops
Picidae	
Himalayan Woodpecker	Dendrocopos imalayensis
Scaly-bellied Woodpecker	Picus squamatus
Campephagidae	
Long-tailed Minivet	Pericrocotus ethologus
Laniidae	
Long-tailed Shrike	Lanius schach
Oriolidae	
Eurasian Golden Oriole	Oriolus oriolus
Dicruridae	
Ashy Drongo	Dicrurus leucophaeus
Monarchidae	
Paradise-flycatcher	Terpsiphone paradisi





OVERA ARU

WILDLIFE SANCTUARY



Distance
76 km east of Srinagar

Area
511 sq km

Nearest Airport
Srinagar International Airport

Nearest Railhead
Anatnag

Longitude
75.2267° or 75° 13’ 36” east

Latitude
34.0917° or 34° 5’ 30” north



The Overa Aru Wildlife Sanctuary is a protected area in Aru Valley near Pahalgam in Jammu and Kashmir. It was declared a game reserve in 1945 under the Dogra Rule and later upgraded to a sanctuary in 1981.

It is on the periphery of the two villages of Overa and Aru. The Overa Aru Wildlife Sanctuary lies in the Lidder Forest Division in Anantnag district of Jammu and Kashmir. It is bordered to the north by Sind Valley and to the west by Dachigam National Park.

The Overa Aru Wildlife Sanctuary is a catchment area of the Lidder, a tributary of River Jhelum and forms an important source of irrigation and drinking water. Geographical features of the sanctuary include lakes, glaciers, and mountain peaks. The most notable are the Tarsar Lake and the Kolahoi with a peak elevation of 5425 metres (17,800 ft). It is also the highest point of the sanctuary. The Overa Aru Wildlife Sanctuary has a temperate climate, it is out of the reach of the monsoon. The precipitation in the form of snowfall is heavy in winter.

The Overa Aru Wildlife Sanctury forms a part of the Dachigam-Overa-Thajwas Conglomerate that is spread over major catchment areas of River Lidder. The villages Overa, Laddi, Dahwatoo, Khelan, Veersiran, Mamal, Mandlan, and Aru are located on the fringes.

A host of biogeographic hot spots including lakes, glaciers, and peaks are located within the sanctuary area. These include Tarsar, Handilsar, Dodhsar, Chhumnaisar, and Kolhai Glacier.

SIGNIFICANCE

It forms a catchment of Lidder River, a major tributary of Jehlum, which is an important source of irrigation and drinking water for entire Anantnag district.
A repository of rich bio-diversity, it is home to 15 mammal species, 120 bird species, 20 butterfly species and is distributory range of Kashmir Red Deer or Hangul and breeding ground of eight species of Leaf Warblers.

FLORA

The type of vegetation is broadly Himalayan Moist Temperate and Himalayan Dry Temperate.

- Riverian Vegetation: (1600-2300m ASL) Blue Pine (Pinus Wallichiana), Horse Chestnut (Aesculus indica), Witch Hazel (Parratiopsis jacquemontiana)
- Coniferous Forest: (1600-2300m ASL) Blue Pine (Pinus Wallichiana), Fir (Abies pindrow), Spruce (Picea smithiana)
- Alpine Scrubs and Pastures: (Beyond 3000-3500m ASL) Birch (Betula utilis), Juniper (Juniperous recuvra), Rhododendron, Shrubs Viburnum, Lonicera , Primula, Stachya sericea, Sieversia elata, Veronica






FAUNA

Overa Aru Wildlife Sanctuary as a unit is the home of many common, rare and endangered mammalian species which are listed as






Name of Animal	Scientific Name
Kashmir Red Deer (Hangul)	*Cervus hanglu**
Kashmir Muskdeer	*Moschus cupreus*
Himalayan Serow	*Capricornis sumatraesis*
Royalis Pika	*Ochotona roylii*
Yellow throated Martin	*Martes flavigula*
Himalayan Brown Bear	*Ursus arctos*
Asiatic Black Bear	*Ursus thibetanus*
Red Fox	*Vulpus montana*
Jackal	*Canis aurcus*
Small Indian Mongoose	*Herpestes auropunctatus*
Leopard Cat	*Felis bengalensis*
Common Leopard	*Panthera pardus*
Kashmiri Gray Langur	*Presbytis ajax*
Rhesus Macaque	*Macaca mulata*