

## The bird watch

Nov 2014.

The campus is a paradise for lovers of animals and birds. The kind of close encounters you can have with them are quite legendary. Take the case of birds. Not only do you have the opportunity of identifying birds by their calls and colors, but also by the falls and colors...their droppings. This kind of physical evidence in plenty makes the life of an amateur bird watcher very easy. This daily bombardment by the avian force puts the WWII exploits of any Air force to shame. Our citizens try to develop a true sixth sense in predicting the drop zones; they almost do, but never enough. Anyone who wasn't receiving the good fortune of these droppings in person can probably never claim the hallowed membership of the Institute. After the initial excitement in attaining this membership, things can indeed get to one's nerves. But then what do you do? Do you request the United Nations to strictly apply its convention on biological weapons to the Institute? Shouldn't we prohibit aerial assaults that use viral and bacterial munitions with no concern to non-combatants, women and children? Talking about combatants, one has to witness the fratricidal war among the 'Triads'; I mean the birds, the monkeys and the dogs. Anyone who underestimates the humble house crow has to see this simultaneous two-front war (the Chinese and Pakistanis are excused here). 'Holding the post' takes new meanings in this fight for the right to trash cans. One can evidently see the working of the theory of evolution and the resulting survival of the fittest. In this fight for survival of species, you get monkeys that bark, dogs that climb and the crows that...well, that can caw but also hunt as groups and apply strategies of modern warfare. Whoever thought open defecation is not a problem in this part of Bangalore please wake up to smell the coffee (and bird droppings).