

Kinta Nature Park Biodiversity Day 2026

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The Perak State Parks Corporation held a Biodiversity Day at Kinta Nature Park, Perak, Malaysia on 06 June 2026. The programme aimed to:

1. Increase public awareness of the importance of biodiversity and nature conservation.
2. Foster community involvement in conservation efforts of sensitive areas and natural habitats.
3. Introduce the uniqueness of biodiversity and conservation values.
4. Promote the CEPA (Communication, Education & Public Awareness) approach in conservation area management.



The event was officiated by Loh Sze Yee, chairman of the Perak State Tourism, Industry, Investment and Corridor Development Committee, and attended by Orang Besar Jajahan Kampar, Azman bin Dato' Seri Yeop Junior. It was supported by a number of government agencies and organisations including Forest Research Institute Malaysia Incorporated, University of Malaya, Nature Educational Society (NEST), Stewards of Environmentally Aware Development (SEAD), Malaysia Nature Society (MNS), Malaysian Bird Report (MBR) and industry players. Birdwatchers from Perak and NEST supported the event.

Activities for the public included an interactive birdwatching walk, DIY organic composting session, exhibition booths (including birds) and talks on biodiversity and conservation of bird species in Malaysia, habitat planting and enrichment projects, etc.



Plate 1: Guided birdwatching with the VIPs, Biodiversity Day, Kinta Nature Park, 06 Jun 2026



Plate 2: Bird photography exhibition, Biodiversity Day. Kinta Nature Park, 06 Jun 2026

Some of the birds shown to visitors during the Biodiversity Day include:

1. Grey Heron *Ardea cinerea*
2. Purple Heron *Ardea purpurea*
3. Black-crowned Night Heron *Nycticorax nycticorax*
4. Little Cormorant *Microcarbo niger*
5. Eastern Cattle Egret *Bubulcus coromandus*
6. Oriental Darter *Anhinga melanogaster*
7. Asian Openbill *Anastomus oscitans*
8. Grey-headed Swamphen *Porphyrio poliocephalus*
9. White-breasted Waterhen *Amaurornis phoenicurus*
10. Javan Myna *Acridotheres javanicus*
11. Spotted Dove *Spilopelia chinensis*
12. Oriental Magpie-Robin *Copsychus saularis*
13. White-throated Kingfisher *Halcyon smyrnensis*
14. Asian Glossy Starling *Aplonis panayensis*
15. Chestnut-headed Bee-eater *Merops leschenaulti*
16. Blue-tailed Bee-eater *Merops philippinus*
17. Blue-throated Bee-eater *Merops viridis*
18. Pacific Swallow *Hirundo tahitica*
19. Baya Weaver *Ploceus philippinus*

Kinta Nature Park (aka Taman Alam Kinta) came into being due to advocacy from the Perak Branch of the MNS. In 1998 MNS Perak proposed to the authorities that an area of ex-mining land should be set aside as a nature park. This idea was keenly supported by the then Kinta District Officer. In 2001, Kinta Nature Park came into being in an area just outside Batu Gajah and more than half a million ringgit was spent on basic infrastructure, including a viewing tower, toilets and rest huts. The KNP Technical Committee that was set up made plans to survey and map the site for the purpose of gazettment. However, as changes in the posting of key government officers resulted in a lack of follow-up and waning interest in the project.

The development and management plans provided by MNS Perak were not acted on and the project foundered, with facilities falling into disrepair.

Fortunately, Kinta Nature Park was finally gazetted as a state park on 12 January 2018 with public facilities rebuilt and personnel assigned to safeguard and maintain the area. It has now come under the care of the Perak State Parks Corporation.



Plate 3: Aerial view of part of Kinta Nature Park, Perak, Malaysia.



Plate 4: Smooth-coated Otters *Lutrogale perspicillata* can be seen at Kinta Nature Park.

Kinta Nature Park is a key ecotourism destination in Perak. The gazetted park comprises close to 400 hectares (within a larger ~900 ha of former mining lands) and is a rich, biodiverse wetland habitat for a wide variety of flora and fauna. The park is a shared ecosystem for birds, mammals, reptiles, amphibians, fishes and butterflies. This remarkable biodiversity demonstrates that areas damaged by human activities, such as ex-mining lands, when left to recover, can eventually become habitats for wildlife.

The eBird checklist documents 137 resident and migratory bird species observed at the park (as of June 2026). It is of particular importance as a protected nesting site for wetland birds like the Oriental Darter *Anhinga melanogaster* and the Little Cormorant *Microcarbo niger*. It is considered one of the largest heronries in Malaysia for the Grey Heron *Ardea cinerea*, Black-crowned Night Heron *Nycticorax nycticorax*, Purple Heron *Ardea purpurea*, as well as other heron and egret species.



Plate 5: A small segment of the many nesting birds. Kinta Nature Park, Perak, Malaysia.

Kinta Nature Park has a four-level bird observation tower to aid birdwatching. As the key nesting site (heronry) is located on an island (see Plate 3) it is advisable to have a spotting scope or long lens for viewing or photographing the birds. However, many birds can be seen in the trees and aquatic vegetation around the park. It is worth checking out the old trees for wood-owls, woodpeckers and broadbills.



Plate 6: A few of the many iconic birds that can be seen at Kinta Nature Park, Perak, Malaysia.

Kinta Nature Park is open daily between 8am and 5pm.
GPS Coordinates: N 04° 25.444' E101° 03.567'.

It is best accessed by car by the back road via Gopeng and Kota Bharu, Perak. Aim for Masjid Jamek Kota Bharu and then on to Taman Alam Kinta, Batu Gajah. Note that Google Maps does not show this route but Waze does (see Plate 7).



Plate 7: Waze directions from Ipoh to Kinta Nature Park, Perak, Malaysia.