

AVIFAUNA OF SIRSATWADI RESERVOIR FROM PATHARDI TAHSIL, DIST: AHMEDNAGAR (M. S.), INDIA.

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ABSTRACT

The avifauna recorded at the reservoir Sirsatwadi located in southern part of (19° 9' N, 75° 10' E) Pathardi Tahasil, District: Ahmednagar, Maharashtra, India, is presented in this paper. Out of seventy-nine families of Indian birds, twenty-two are represented in study area. Thirty avifauna species have been identified and recorded. The majority of the birds from the checklist are residents of the area studied. This study demonstrates the ornithological importance of this region.

Figure:00

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Table:01

KEY WORDS: Ecology, Reservoir, Avifauna.

Introduction

As elsewhere in the world, birds have great significance in many Indian cultures. The sublime imprint of birds in Indian culture is since *Vedic* time. Melody of their song, majesty of their flight and magic of their color, has symbolized the infinite spirit of happiness and freedom. Our noble tradition teaches us to accept with humility. The humankind is a part of natural heritage and not its master. Several avifaunal species have silently vanished. Wetland birds are threatened because of drainage of marshes and pollution of river system.

Water body birds in villages are threatened because of deforestation, agriculture runoff and pesticide. Birds are good indicators of the state of our environment, spatial bio-diversity and consequently sustainability. Birds are an important source of revenue through bird watching tourism. Birds also provide an excellent means to create awareness of nature and the environment among young people. Moreover, places where a wide variety of birds are found tend to have a wide variety of other forms of life. Birds are thus good indicators of diversity of plants and animals. How effectively we are conserving the world birds is a means of assessing how successful we are in safeguarding ecosystem's function and bio-diversity as a whole the world's ecospace. The present study is the attempt to understand the avifauna of this region.

Materials and Methods

The present study has been carried out on water body Sirsatwadi located in southern

part of (19° 9' N, 75° 10' E) Pathardi Tahasil, fall in Agargaon range of Balaghat, District Ahmednagar, Maharashtra, India. The Shirsatwadi reservoir is PT (Percolation Tank) type reservoir. It was constructed during the year 1974 having height of 12.63 meter The catchment area is 5.28 square miles, which stores 30.00 mcft water and indirectly area irrigated is 450 acres, which is a hilly area with draught conditions. The village Shirsathwadi is situated in command area of reservoir. The dug wells and bore wells in command area are used for drinking water source and agriculture are depending on this reservoir. The villagers use this reservoir for bathing, cloths washing, vehicle washing, cattle wading, pisciculture and other domestic activities.

The agriculture runoff and deforestation are major sources of pollution. The Agargaon range (locally called Garbhgiri), the part of Balaghat in the Tahasil forms the main watershed between Godawari and Bhima tributaries^{3,4}. The hilly area region falls in semi-arid zone. In this section, the hills have a varied and picturesque aspect, several of the minor valleys are well wooded. The water body under study is also well wooded. Numbers of small water bodies are also present in area; therefore numbers of birds are seen in this area. Many of trees are used by birds as nesting sites, as they are tall enough and leafy. The mixed vegetation, flowering shrubs and bushes, open area and neighboring water reservoirs provide a healthy environment to the birds and hence variety of birds can be observed. The birds were

observed by seasonal frequent visit to study area Sirsatwadi reservoir during period June 2007 to May 2014. Identification of different species was carried out with the help of references^{1,2,6}.

Results and Discussion

Table 1 is the checklist of birds recorded at study area. The nomenclature and taxonomic arrangement follows the convention^{1,2,6}. The list includes only those birds that were seen by the author.

TABLE -1: Avifauna of study area.

Family	S. N. Families	S. N. Species	Common Name	Scientific Name
Alaudidae	5	8	Crested Lark	<i>Galerida cristata</i>
Anatidae	3	4	Pochard	<i>Aythya nyroca</i>
		5	Spot-Billed Duck	<i>Anas poecilorhyncha</i>
		6	Wigeon	<i>Anas penelope</i>
Apodidae	18	25	White-Breasted Kingfisher	<i>Halcyon smyrnensis</i>
Ardeidae	1	1	Cattle Egret	<i>Bubulcus ibis</i>
Charadriidae	15	22	Red Wattled Lapwing	<i>Vanellus indicus</i>
Columbidae	11	17	Rock Pigeon	<i>Columba livia</i>
		18	Red Turtle Dove	<i>Streptopelia orientalis</i>
Corvidae	8	12	House Crow	<i>Corvus splendens</i>
		13	Jungle Crow	<i>Corvus macrorhynchos</i>
Cuculidae	20	27	Greater Coucal	<i>Centropus sinensis</i>
		28	Indian Plaintive Cuckoo	<i>Cacomantis passerinus</i>
Hirundinidae	6	9	Common Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>
Laridae	14	21	River Tern	<i>Sterna auroantia</i>
Meropidae	17	24	Green Bee-Eater	<i>Meropidae orientalis</i>
Motacillidae	13	20	Yellow Wagtail	<i>Motacilla flava</i>
Muscicapidae	19	26	Ashy Prinia	<i>Prinia socialis</i>
Picidae	22	30	Yellow-Fronted Pied Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos maharajensis</i>
Ploceidae	9	14	House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>
		15	Baya Weaver	<i>Ploceus philippinus</i>
Podicipedidae	16	23	Little Grebe	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>
Psittacidae	21	29	Rose Ringed Parakeet	<i>Psittacula krameri</i>
Pycnonotidae	10	16	Red-Vented Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus cafer</i>
Recurvirostridae	4	7	Black-Winged Stilt	<i>Himantopus himantopus</i>
Scolopacidae	12	19	Sand Piper	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>
Sturnidae	7	10	Brahminy Myna	<i>Sturnus pagodarum</i>
		11	Common Myna	<i>Acridotheres tristis</i>
Threskiornithidae	2	2	Spoonbill	<i>Platalea leucorodia</i>
		3	White Ibis	<i>Threkiornis melanoleucus</i>

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