



Avifaunal diversity of Junona Lake District Chandrapur, Maharashtra

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Abstract

Junona lake is a fresh water and historical lake of Chandrapur district. The lake is surrounded by dense Chichpalli forest and contains rich treasure of flora and fauna. It harbours varieties of birds including migratory birds. The avifaunal survey of lake and its surrounded area was carried out by field observations during 2006-2007. Total 19 species were observed, among which 07 species were of Order Ciconiiformes, 4 of Charadriiformes, 3 of Gruiformes, 2 of Falconiformes and one each of Pelicaniformes, Anseriformes and Cuculiformes. A good congregation of Black ibis, Little cormorant and Kingfisher observed and regularly found in the surroundings of the lake.

Keywords:- Avifauna, Junona lake, Migratory

Introduction

The Junona lake is 7.00 km away from Chandrapur city. Basically, it was constructed by Gond Raja in his regime for the purpose of hunting. The lake is situated 676.00 feet above MSL and is at 79° 23' E longitude and 19° 55' N latitude. Birds play major role in ecosystem as potential pollinators and scavengers and are rightly called as bioindicators. Birds are the part of the natural habitat of the Indian sub-continent. In India, there is no off season for birds. India harbours 1200 sp. of birds (Ali and Repley (1983). In India birds have extensively studied by Ali (1939, 1940), Majumdar (1984), Ghoshal (1995), Yardi *et al.* (2004) and Kulkarni *et al.* (2005).

Materials and Method

Monthly survey and identification of birds were done in morning hours, i.e. 6.00 to 9.00 AM. Birds were observed by using binocular, photographed by using Digital Camera Pentax with Tele lense. The identification was done with the help of standard text of Ali and Ripley (1983) and Ali (1996).

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Results and Discussion

In the present study, total 19 species of birds were identified belonging to 7 Orders and 13 Families (Table-1). Among which 4 were resident, occasional; 8 were of resident, common; 3 were of resident, uncommon; one each of winter visitor, common; winter visitor, occasional; resident, winter visitor, uncommon and one was residential.

Prakash (1999) described 12 species of aquatic birds from Bahadur Sagar (Jhabua, M.P.). Kumar and Bohra (2002) recorded 103 species of birds belonging to 43 Families and 13 Orders from Udhwa lake, Jharkhand. Yardi *et al.* (2004) reported 64 species of birds in Salim Ali lake, Aurangabad. Kulkarni *et al.* (2005) reported 151 species of birds in and around Nanded city in Maharashtra. Kulkarni *et al.* (2006) recorded 93 species of birds belonging to 39 Families and 16 Orders among which 51 species are of resident, 32 species resident migrant, 11 species winter migrant, 7 species migrant, 01 species breeding migrant and 02 species passage migrant from Shikhachi Wadi Reservoir District Nanded, Maharashtra.

In the present investigation, Saras Crane is found to be residential and considered as a special feature of the lake surrounding. The birds like Indian pond Heron, Asian open bill stork, Black ibis, Black shouldered kite, Common coot, Pheasant tailed Jacana, Red wattled lapwing and Asian Koel were common in all the seasons of the study.

Table-1: Avifaunal diversity of Junona lake, Distt. Chandrapur

Name of the Species	Common Name	Order	Family
<i>Phalacrocoraxmiger</i> (Vieillot)	Little Cornorant	Pelecaniformes	Phalacrocoracidae
<i>Ardea cinerea</i> (Linnaeus)	Grey Heron	Ciconiiformes	Ardeidae
<i>Casmerodius albus</i> (Linnaeus)	Eastern Large Egret	Ciconiiformes	Ardeidae
<i>Ardeola grajii</i> (Sykes)	Indian pond-Heron	Ciconiiformes	Ardeidae
<i>Anastomus oscitans</i> (Boddaert)	Asian open bill stork	Ciconiiformes	Ciconiidae
<i>Threskiornis melanocephalus</i>	Oriental white Ibis	Ciconiiformes	Threskiornithidae
<i>Pseudibis papillosa</i> (Temminck)	Black Ibis	Ciconiiformes	Threskiornithidae
<i>Platalea leucorodia</i> (Linnaeus)	Eurasian spoon bill	Ciconiiformes	Threskiornithidae
<i>Dendrocygna javanica</i> (Horsfield)	Lesser whistling- Duck	Anseriformes	Anatidae
Eagle species	-	Falconiformes	Accipitridae
<i>Elanus caeruleus</i> (desfontaines)	Black shouldered kite	Falconiformes	Accipitridae
<i>Grus antigone</i> (Linnaeus)	Saras crane	Gruiformes	Gruidae
<i>Porphyrio porphyrio</i> (Linnaeus)	Purple moorhen	Gruiformes	Rallidae
<i>Fulica atra eti</i> (Linnaeus)	Common coot	Gruiformes	Rallidae
<i>Hydrophasianus chirurgus</i> (Scopoli)	Pheasant-tailed Jacane	Charadriiformes	Jacaniidae
<i>Vanellus indicus</i> (Boddaert)	Red-wattled lapwing	Charadriiformes	Charadriidae
<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i> (Linnaeus)	Common sandpiper	Charadriiformes	Scolopacidae
<i>Himantopus himantopus</i> (Linnaeus)	Black-winged still	Charadriiformes	Recurvirostridae
<i>Eudynamys scolopacea</i> (Linnaeus)	Asian Koel	Cuculiformes	Cuculidae

Little cormorant, Gray Heron, Purple Moorhen, Black winged still are occasionally observed during the study period. Oriental white ibis, Eurasian spoon bill, Common sandpiper were observed during winter season. In the present study, good congregation of Black ibis, Black shoulder kite, Common coot, Asian Koel and Kingfisher observed and regularly found in surrounding of the lake.

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