

BIRDS IN AND AROUND SRI VENKATESWARA WILDLIFE SANCTUARY, ANDHRA PRADESH

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Abstract

A study of the bird fauna of Sri Venkateshwara Wildlife Sanctuary, Tirupathi, Andhra Pradesh revealed a total of 178 species. The study was conducted over three years in different forest types such as wooded forests, dry deciduous forests, wet lands, open scrub jungle and adjoining agricultural fields.

Keywords

Birds, inventory, Sri Venkateshwara Wildlife Sanctuary, occurrence, habitat

Introduction

Very little information is available on the avifaunal resources of Andhra Pradesh through the work done by Whistler and Kinner (1930-37) on the Vernay Scientific survey of the Eastern Ghats and the Hyderabad State Ornithological Survey (Ali, 1933-34). Later works were done by Abdulali (1945-53), S.A. Hussain (1976) Shahid Ali (1976-83), K.S.R. Krishnam Raju (1971-85), N. Majumder (1978), Trevor Price (1976-83), S.D. Ripley (1975-88), B.M. Beehler (1985) etc. They are mostly restricted to the northern Eastern Ghats in Andhra Pradesh and a few other patches in the state. In its earlier study, the Bombay Natural History Society (BNHS) had field stations at Mamandur (Chittoor District), Guvvalacheruvu and Ontimetta (Cuddapah District). The BNHS monitored the field stations from time to time for avifaunal resources. No specific complete checklist of birds of Sri Venkateswara Wildlife Sanctuary was prepared by any agency except, the reference of some common birds of the districts in the District Forest Working Plans and checklist of birds in certain divisions. In the present study, the checklist and the status of avifauna of Sri Venkateswara Wildlife Sanctuary and its adjoining areas is prepared.

Study area

The area of study was 525 sq.km. + 50 sq.km. which included Sri

Venkateswara Wildlife Sanctuary, Tirupathi and its adjoins. The Sanctuary lies between 13°38'N and 13°55'N latitude; 79°11'20" E and 79°29'10" longitude. The elevation of the area ranges from 150 to 1129 m. Terrain is undulating. Average rainfall 900 mm. Bulk of rainfall is from the North-East monsoon in addition to the scanty South-West monsoon. The area has 1500 vascular plant species belonging to 174 families, of which nine are endemic. Sri Venkateswara Wildlife Sanctuary is situated in the southern Eastern Ghats of Andhra Pradesh. The Sanctuary was established in 1985. Parts of the Sanctuary is in Chittoor and Cuddapah districts.

Materials and methods

From August 1991 to August 1994, the following field stations were monitored for avifauna. 1. Tirumala (Well wooded forest); 2. Talakona (Well wooded forest); 3. Chamala (Dry deciduous forest); 4. Mamandur (Dry deciduous forest. This also includes Anjancyapuram and Mamandur Village tanks, which come under wet lands); 5. Balapally (Dry deciduous forest. This also includes Settigunta Village tank, which comes under wet lands); 6. Tirupathi (Open scrub forest); and 7. Srivarimettu (Open scrub forest).

For the purpose of this study, adjoining wetlands and village fields approximately to an extent of another 50 sq.km. was also included in the study area, as the ecological boundaries of certain bird species were overlapping with the adjoining areas. Thus the study area was 575 sq.km. in all. For the purpose of the study, the vegetation and the approximate extent of the area was marked as well wooded (WW 9%), dry deciduous (DD 63%), open scrub (OS 20%) and wet land area (WL 8%).

Based on the frequency of sightings in the field visits, the following four categories were made on their occurrence.

Common: Observed through out the study in fairly good numbers and abundant in a particular locality. In general, if the percentage of recordings were more than 50 times they were grouped in this category.

Received on 31 March 1999

Accepted on 14 August 2000

Occasional: Sightings were less than 50 per cent and more than 20 per cent.

Uncommon: Found in small numbers and with less frequency. Sightings were less than 20 per cent and more than five per cent. Mostly the seasonal migratory birds of the wet lands belong to this category.

Rare: Seen in very small numbers and their frequency of sightings were less than five per cent.

Results and Discussion

During the study period, 178 species of birds were recorded in the area. Taking account of the frequency of habitat preference, each species was assigned to one of the categories. For the purpose of assigning habitat preference, certain species like Blue Rock Pigeon, which occurs in the rocky ledges of the hills, were combined with the well wooded forests and species like Yellow Wagtail, Grey Wagtail, Large Pied Wagtail were assigned to wet land habitat, since they prefer stream banks and other wet land/marshy area associated species like Baya were also assigned in the wet land category according to their habitat

preference. The details of categorization of the total recorded bird species of the study area, according to their occurrence and habitat preference are given in Table 1.

The present study recorded 178 species of birds, belonging to 49 families. Nearly 40 species of wet land birds are migratory winter visitors. The main season for winter visitors is from September to February. There are 15 species of raptors. Osprey is a winter visitor found in the area from September to February. Yellow-browed Bulbul which is found in the Western Ghats is found rarely in the well wooded semi evergreen riparian forests in the study area. Details of occurrence and habitat preference of each species are given in Table 2. The scientific names and taxonomic classification of birds listed in table 1 follow Inskipp *et al.* (1996). The common names follows Manakadan *et al.* (1998).

Acknowledgements

The author is thankful to the Andhra Pradesh Forest Department for providing the opportunity to work in the area; to Prof. Rama Murthy, Former Vice-Chancellor, S.V. University, Tirupathi for his encouragement.

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Table 1. The occurrence and habitat preference of birds in Sri Venkateswara Wildlife Sanctuary

Occurrence	Habitat preference				Total
	Well Wooded	Dry Deciduous	Open Scrub	Wet Land	
Common	5	13	30	6	54
Occasional	1	5	8	6	20
Uncommon	11	16	27	37	91
Rare	3	3	1	6	13
Total	20	37	66	55	178

Table 2. Birds in and around Sri Venkateswara Wildlife Sanctuary.

Sl.#	Common Name	Scientific Name	Occurrence	Habitat	Sl.#	Common Name	Scientific Name	Occurrence	Habitat
<u>Podicipedidae</u>					31.	Tawny Eagle	<i>Aquila vindhiana</i>	UC	WL
1.	Little Grebe	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>	UC	WL	32.	Short-toed Snake Eagle	<i>Circaetus gallicus</i>	UC	OS
<u>Phalacrocoracidae</u>					33.	Pallid Harrier	<i>Circus macrourus</i>	UC	WL
2.	Little Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax niger</i>	UC	WL	34.	Black-shouldered Kite	<i>Elanus caeruleus</i>	UC	WW
<u>Anhingidae</u>					35.	Common Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>	C	DD
3.	Darter or Snake-bird	<i>Anhinga melanogaster</i>	UC	WL	36.	Indian Long-billed Vulture	<i>Gyps indicus</i>	UC	WL
<u>Ardeidae</u>					37.	Brahminy Kite	<i>Haliastur indus</i>	C	WL
4.	Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>	UC	WL	38.	Bonelli's Eagle	<i>Hieraaetus fasciatus</i>	R	WL
5.	Paddy Bird or Indian Pond Heron	<i>Ardeola grayii</i>	C	WL	39.	Black Eagle	<i>Ictinaetus malayensis</i>	UC	WL
6.	Little Green Heron	<i>Ardeola striatus</i>	O	WL	40.	Black Kite	<i>Milvus migrans</i>	C	WL
7.	Cattle Egret	<i>Bubulcus ibis</i>	C	WL	41.	Egyptian Vulture	<i>Neophron percnopterus</i>	UC	OS
8.	Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>	C	WL	42.	Osprey	<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>	R	WL
9.	Intermediate Egret	<i>Mesophoyx intermedia</i>	UC	WL	43.	Crested Serpent Eagle	<i>Spilornis cheela</i>	R	WL
10.	Black-crowned Night Heron	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>	C	WL	44.	Changeable Hawk-Eagle	<i>Spizaetus cirrhatus</i>	C	WL
<u>Ciconiidae</u>					<u>Phasianidae</u>				
11.	Asian Openbill Stork	<i>Anastomus oscitans</i>	R	WL	45.	Black-breasted or Rain quail	<i>Coturnix coromandelica</i>	O	OS
12.	White Stork	<i>Ciconia ciconia</i>	R	WL	46.	Grey Partridge	<i>Francolinus pondicerianus</i>	C	OS
13.	White-necked Stork	<i>Ciconia episcopus</i>	UC	WL	47.	Red Spurfowl	<i>Galloperdix spadicea</i>	O	DD
14.	Black Stork	<i>Ciconia nigra</i>	R	WL	48.	Grey Junglefowl	<i>Gallus sonneratii</i>	O	DD
15.	Black-necked Stork	<i>Ephippiorhynchus asiaticus</i>	R	WL	49.	Common/Indian Peafowl	<i>Pavo cristatus</i>	O	DD
16.	Painted Stork	<i>Mycteria leucocephala</i>	UC	WL	50.	Jungle Bush Quail	<i>Perdicula asiatica</i>	C	OS
<u>Threskiornithidae</u>					<u>Tumidae</u>				
17.	Black Ibis	<i>Pseudibis papillosa</i>	R	WL	51.	Barred Button Quail	<i>Turnix suscitator</i>	C	OS
<u>Anatidae</u>					<u>Rallidae</u>				
18.	Northern Pintail	<i>Anas acuta</i>	UC	WL	52.	Coot	<i>Fulica atra</i>	UC	WL
19.	Northern Shoveller	<i>Anas clypeata</i>	UC	WL	53.	Common Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>	UC	WL
20.	Common Teal	<i>Anas crecca</i>	UC	WL	54.	Purple Swampphen	<i>Porphyrio porphyrio</i>	UC	WL
21.	Erasian Wigeon	<i>Anas penelope</i>	UC	WL	<u>Jacaniidae</u>				
22.	Spotbilled Duck	<i>Anas poecilorhyncha</i>	UC	WL	55.	Pheasant-tailed Jacana	<i>Hydrophasianus chirurgus</i>	UC	WL
23.	Bar-headed Goose	<i>Anser indicus</i>	UC	WL	56.	Bronze-winged Jacana	<i>Metopidius indicus</i>	UC	WL
24.	Common Pochard	<i>Aythya ferina</i>	UC	WL	<u>Rostratulidae</u>				
25.	Tufted Pochard	<i>Aythya fuligula</i>	UC	WL	57.	Greater Painted Snipe	<i>Rostratula benghalensis</i>	UC	WL
26.	Ferruginous Pochard	<i>Aythya nyroca</i>	UC	WL	<u>Charadriidae</u>				
27.	Cotton Pygmy-Goose	<i>Nettapus coromandelianus</i>	UC	WL	58.	Black-winged Stilt	<i>Himantopus himantopus</i>	UC	WL
28.	Nakta or Comb duck	<i>Sarkidiornis melanotos</i>	UC	WL	59.	Avocet	<i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i>	UC	WL
29.	Ruddy Shelduck Duck	<i>Tadorna ferruginea</i>	UC	WL	<u>Burhinidae</u>				
<u>Accipitridae</u>					60.	Stone Curlew	<i>Burhinus oedicnemus</i>	C	OS
30.	Shikra	<i>Accipiter badius</i>	UC	WL	61.	Great Thick-Knee	<i>Esacus recurvirostris</i>	UC	OS

Sl.#	Common Name	Scientific Name	Occurence	Habitat	Sl.#	Common Name	Scientific Name	Occurence	Habitat
<u>Charadriidae</u>					<u>Apodidae</u>				
62.	Little Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius dubius</i>	O	WL	92.	House Swift	<i>Apus affinis</i>	C	OS
63.	Red-wattled Lapwing	<i>Vanellus indicus</i>	C	WL	93.	Palm Swift	<i>Cypsiurus balasiensis</i>	C	OS
64.	Yellow-wattled Lapwing	<i>Vanellus malabaricus</i>	C	WL	94.	Alpine Swift	<i>Tachymarpis melba</i>	C	OS
<u>Scolopacidae</u>					<u>Hemiprocnidae</u>				
65.	Common Snipe	<i>Gallinago gallinago</i>	UC	WL	95.	Crested Tree Swift	<i>Hemiprocne coronata</i>	O	DD
66.	Pintail Snipe	<i>Gallinago stenura</i>	UC	WL	<u>Trogonidae</u>				
67.	Eurasian Curlew	<i>Numenius arquata</i>	O	WL	96.	Southern Trogon	<i>Harpactes fasciatus</i>	R	DD
68.	Common Sandpiper	<i>Tringa hypoleucos</i>	UC	WL	<u>Cerylidae</u>				
69.	Green Shank	<i>Tringa nebularia</i>	UC	WL	97.	Pied Kingfisher	<i>Ceryle rudis</i>	UC	WL
70.	Green Sandpiper	<i>Tringa ochropus</i>	UC	WL	<u>Alcedinidae</u>				
71.	Marsh Sandpiper	<i>Tringa stagnatilis</i>	UC	WL	98.	Common Kingfisher	<i>Alcedo atthis</i>	O	WL
<u>Pteroclididae</u>					<u>Meropidae</u>				
72.	Chestnut-bellied Sandgrouse	<i>Pterocles exustus</i>	C	OS	99.	Green Bee-eater	<i>Merops orientalis</i>	C	OS
73.	Painted Sandgrouse	<i>Pterocles indicus</i>	O	DD	100.	Blue-tailed Bee-eater	<i>Merops philippinus</i>	O	OS
<u>Columbidae</u>					<u>Coraciidae</u>				
74.	Emerald Dove	<i>Chalcophaps indica</i>	C	DD	101.	Indian Roller or Blue Jay	<i>Coracias benghalensis</i>	C	OS
75.	Blue Rock Pigeon	<i>Columba livia</i>	UC	WW	<u>Upupidae</u>				
76.	Spotted Dove	<i>Streptopelia chinensis</i>	C	OS	102.	Common Hoopoe	<i>Upupa epops</i>	UC	DD
77.	Eurasian collared Dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>	C	OS	<u>Bucerotidae</u>				
78.	Laughing Dove	<i>Streptopelia senegalensis</i>	C	OS	103.	Common Grey Hornbill	<i>Ocyrceros birostris</i>	UC	WW
79.	Yellow legged Green Pigeon	<i>Treron phoenicoptera</i>	O	WW	<u>Megalaimidae</u>				
<u>Psittacidae</u>					104.	Blue-throated Barbet	<i>Megalaima asiatica</i>	UC	DD
80.	Blossom-headed Parakeet	<i>Psittacula cyanocephala</i>	UC	DD	105.	Coppersmith Barbet	<i>Megalaima haemacephala</i>	UC	DD
81.	Rose-ringed Parakeet	<i>Psittacula krameri</i>	C	DD	106.	Brown-headed Barbet	<i>Megalaima zeylanica</i>	UC	DD
<u>Cuculidae</u>					<u>Picidae</u>				
82.	Pied Cuckoo	<i>Clamator jacobinus</i>	C	WW	107.	Rufous Woodpecker	<i>Celeus brachyurus</i>	UC	DD
83.	Asian Koel	<i>Eudynamis scolopacea</i>	C	DD	108.	Yellow-crowned Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos maharattensis</i>	UC	OS
84.	Indian Hawk-Cuckoo	<i>Heiropoccyx varius</i>	C	DD	109.	Black-rumped Flamebacked Woodpecker	<i>Dinopium benghalense</i>	UC	OS
85.	Small Blue faced Malkoha	<i>Phaenicophaeus viridirostris</i>	C	WW	<u>Pittidae</u>				
86.	Indian Drongo Cuckoo	<i>Sumiculus lugubris</i>	C	DD	110.	Indian Pitta	<i>Pitta brachyura</i>	UC	WW
<u>Centropodidae</u>					<u>Alaudidae</u>				
87.	Greater Coucal	<i>Centropus sinensis</i>	C	DD	111.	Bar-tailed Finch Lark	<i>Ammomanes phoenicurus</i>	UC	OS
<u>Strigidae</u>					112.	Ashy crowned Finch Lark	<i>Eremopterix grisea</i>	UC	OS
88.	Spotted Owlet	<i>Athene brama</i>	C	DD	113.	Rufous-winged Bush Lark	<i>Mirafra assamica</i>	UC	OS
89.	Eurasian Eagle-Owl	<i>Bubo bubo</i>	C	WW	114.	Red-winged Bush lark	<i>Mirafra erythroptera</i>	UC	OS
<u>Caprimulgidae</u>									
90.	Common Indian Nightjar	<i>Caprimulgus asiaticus</i>	C	OS					
91.	Grey Nightjar	<i>Caprimulgus indicus</i>	C	DD					

Sl.#	Common Name	Scientific Name	Occurance	Habitat	Sl.#	Common Name	Scientific Name	Occurance	Habitat
<u>Hirundinidae</u>					147.	Yellow-eyed Babbler	<i>Chrysomma sinense</i>	UC	OS
115.	Dusky Crag Martin	<i>Hirundo concolor</i>	UC	OS	148.	Tawny-bellied Babbler	<i>Dumetia hyperythra</i>	UC	OS
116.	Streak-throated Swallow	<i>Hirundo fluvicola</i>	C	OS	149.	Common Tailor Bird	<i>Orthotomus sutorius</i>	UC	OS
117.	Wire-tailed swallow	<i>Hirundo smithii</i>	C	WW	150.	Indian Scimitar Babbler	<i>Pomatorhinus horsfieldii</i>	UC	DD
<u>Lanidae</u>					151.	Lesser Whitethroat	<i>Sylvia curruca</i>	UC	OS
118.	Brown Shrike	<i>Lanius cristatus</i>	UC	DD	152.	Orphean Warbler	<i>Sylvia hortensis</i>	UC	OS
119.	Long-tailed Shrike	<i>Lanius schach</i>	UC	DD	153.	Pale-capped Babbler	<i>Turdoides affinis</i>	UC	OS
120.	Bay-backed Shrike	<i>Lanius vittatus</i>	UC	OS	154.	Common Babbler	<i>Turdoides caudatus</i>	C	OS
<u>Corvidae</u>					155.	Large Grey Babbler	<i>Turdoides malcolmi</i>	UC	OS
121.	Iora	<i>Aegithina tiphia</i>	C	OS	156.	Jungle Babbler	<i>Turdoides striatus</i>	C	OS
122.	Ashy Swallow Shrike	<i>Artamus fuscus</i>	UC	OS	<u>Cisticolidae</u>				
123.	Jungle Crow	<i>Corvus macrorhynchos</i>	C	OS	157.	Zitting cisticola	<i>Cisticola juncidis</i>	UC	OS
124.	House Crow	<i>Corvus splendens</i>	C	OS	158.	Plain Prinia	<i>Prinia inornata</i>	UC	OS
125.	Tree Pie	<i>Dendrocitta vagabunda</i>	C	DD	159.	Ashy Prinia	<i>Prinia socialis</i>	UC	OS
126.	White-bellied Drongo	<i>Dicrurus caerulescens</i>	C	DD	<u>Muscicapidae</u>				
127.	Grey or Ashy Drongo	<i>Dicrurus leucophaeus</i>	UC	WW	160.	Shama	<i>Copsychus malabaricus</i>	UC	DD
128.	Black Drongo or King Crow	<i>Dicrurus macrocercus</i>	C	OS	161.	Magpie-Robin	<i>Copsychus saularis</i>	C	OS
129.	Greater Racket-tailed Drongo	<i>Dicrurus paradiseus</i>	UC	WW	162.	Grey-headed Flycatcher	<i>Culicicapa ceylonensis</i>	UC	WW
130.	Eurasian Golden Oriole	<i>Oriolus oriolus</i>	UC	WW	163.	Tickell's Blue Flycatcher	<i>Cyornis tickelliae</i>	UC	DD
131.	Black-hooded Oriole	<i>Oriolus xanthornus</i>	UC	WW	164.	Pied Bushchat	<i>Saxicola caprata</i>	UC	OS
132.	Small Minivet	<i>Pericrocotus cinnamomeus</i>	C	OS	165.	Indian Robin	<i>Saxicoloides fulcata</i>	C	OS
133.	White-throated Fantail	<i>Rhipidura albicollis</i>	R	DD	166.	Indian Black Bird	<i>Turdus merula</i>	UC	WW
134.	White-browed Fantail	<i>Rhipidura aureola</i>	R	DD	<u>Passeriidae</u>				
135.	Lesser Wood Shrike	<i>Tephrodornis pondicerianus</i>	C	DD	167.	Black-headed Munia	<i>Lonchura malacca</i>	C	WL
136.	Asian Paradise Flycatcher	<i>Terpsiphone paradisi</i>	UC	WW	168.	Scaly-breasted Munia	<i>Lonchura punctulata</i>	C	OS
<u>Sturnidae</u>					169.	White-rumped Munia	<i>Lonchura striata</i>	C	OS
137.	Jungle Myna	<i>Acridotheres fuscus</i>	UC	DD	170.	Grey Wagtail	<i>Motacilla cinerea</i>	UC	WL
138.	Common Myna	<i>Acridotheres tristis</i>	C	OS	171.	Yellow Wagtail	<i>Motacilla flava</i>	UC	WL
139.	Brahminy Starling	<i>Sturnus pagodarum</i>	R	OS	172.	Large Pied Wagtail	<i>Motacilla maderaspatensis</i>	UC	WL
<u>Irenidae</u>					173.	House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	C	OS
140.	Gold-fronted Leafbird	<i>Chloropsis aurifrons</i>	C	DD	174.	Baya Weaver Bird	<i>Ploceus philippinus</i>	C	WL
141.	Jerdon's Leafbird	<i>Chloropsis cochinchinensis</i>	UC	DD	<u>Nectarinidae</u>				
<u>Pycnonotidae</u>					175.	Tickell's Flowerpecker	<i>Dicaeum erythrorhynchos</i>	UC	OS
142.	Yellow-browed Bulbul	<i>Iole indica</i>	R	WW	176.	Purple Sunbird	<i>Nectarinia asiatica</i>	C	OS
143.	Red-vented Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus cafer</i>	C	OS	177.	Purple-rumped Sunbird	<i>Nectarinia zeylonica</i>	UC	OS
144.	Red-whiskered Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus jocosus</i>	C	OS	<u>Zosteropidae</u>				
145.	White-browed Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus luteolus</i>	UC	OS	178.	Oriental White-eye	<i>Zosterops palpebrosa</i>	O	OS
<u>Sylviidae</u>					Occurrence: Common (C), Occasional (O), Uncommon (UC), Rare (R)				
146.	Blyth's Reed Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus dumetorum</i>	UC	OS	Habitat: Well Wooded (WW), Dry Deciduous (DD), Open Scrub (OS), Wet Land (WL).				