

A CHECKLIST OF BIRDS OF NEW CAMPUS, J.N.V. UNIVERSITY, JODHPUR, RAJASTHAN

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Abstract

Survey of the avifauna of New Campus, J.N.V. University, Jodhpur, Rajasthan revealed the presence of 68 species of birds belonging to 31 families of which 54 species were residents, eight species were resident-migratory and six were migrants.

Keywords

Birds, checklist, new campus, J.N.V. University,
Jodhpur, Rajasthan

Introduction

New Campus, J.N.V. University, Jodhpur is situated at a distance of about 5km south of Jodhpur City. It spreads over an area of about 720 acres overlooking National Highway 65 on two sides and the Air Force residential colony on one side. Temperature in this area varies from 1-48°C. The vegetation found in this area mainly consists of naturally grown trees and shrubs like *Khejari* (*Prosopis cineraria*), *Neem* (*Azadirachta indica*), *Siris* (*Albizia lebbeck*), *Angreji Babul* (*Prosopis chilensis*), *Ker* (*Capparis decidua*), *Aak* (*Calotropis procera*) and *Eucalyptus* sp. among others. *Jowar* (*Sorghum vulgare*) and *Bajra* (*Pennisetum typhoides*) are cultivated during the monsoon in some parts of the campus. During monsoon and until the end of post-monsoon period, i.e. up to October, the large plain areas in the campus are covered with many species of grasses, which remain lush green until September and start drying at the onset of autumn. In summer, these green patches disappear completely.

Materials and Methods

In the present study, observations were made throughout the study area. The time schedule chosen for the study was from 0600 to 1000hr and from 1630 to 1830hr. However, schedule was altered according to the situation and availability of time. Observations were carried out with the aid of 10 x 50 binoculars and field characteristics were noted down on ornithological data

sheet specially made for that. Birds sighted during the study period were categorized according to their presence (month-wise) status as residents (R) or migrants (M). The resident category pertains to birds that have been known to breed in the study area itself and also included local migrants. The birds were also classified into eight categories on basis of their food habits.

To prepare the checklist, the study was carried out regularly from February 2000 to October 2001. Birds were identified with the help of Whistler (1938), Dharmakumarsinhji (1954), Woodcock (1980), Grimmett *et al.* (1999) and, Ali and Ripley (1995). Feeding activities of these birds were also noted. The identified bird species have been listed (Table 1) following Ali and Ripley (1983).

Results and Discussion

In this study period, 68 species of birds belonging to 31 families were encountered. Among the species observed, 14 were migrants or resident migrants as per Ali and Ripley (1995) and 55 were local birds, of which 23 bred in the campus during the study period. Migrant birds were sighted during monsoon and winter months, i.e. September to January.

The study indicated that the typical desert scrub grassland of the New Campus supports a large variety of birds (68 species). In comparison to the 72 bird species sighted in the fairly good rainfall region of the Aravali Hill ranges (Devarshi & Trigunayat, 1989), the New Campus would seem to support a fairly good number of bird species. In Machia Safari Desert Park, 123 species of birds were reported (Bohra & Goyal, 1992), but of these most were water birds. Birds of diverse food habits were observed, viz., insectivores (29 spp.), omnivores (14 spp.), graminivores (9 spp.), frugivores (8 spp.), scavengers (5 spp.), piscivores (4 spp.), predators (2 spp.) and nectarivores (1 sp.).

Table 1. Checklist of birds found in New Campus, J.N.V. University

Common name	Scientific name	S	B	FH	Common name	Scientific name	S	B	FH
Ardeidae					Small Bee-eater (750)	<i>Merops orientalis</i>	R	B	I
Cattle Egret (44) ²	<i>Bubulcus ibis</i>	R		Pi, I	Coraciidae				
Accipitridae					Indian Roller (755)	<i>Coracias benghalensis</i>	R		I
Black-shouldered Kite (124)	<i>Elanus caeruleus</i>	R		S	Upupidae				
Black Kite (133)	<i>Milvus migrans</i>	R	B	S	Common Hoopoe (763)	<i>Upupa epops</i>	R		I
Shikra (139)	<i>Accipiter badius</i>	R		Pr	Capitonidae				
Egyptian Vulture (186)	<i>Neophron percnopterus</i>	R		S	Coppersmith Barbet (792)	<i>Megalaima haemacephala</i>	R		F
Falconidae					Picidae				
Common Kestrel (222)	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>	RM		Pr	Lesser Golden-backed Woodpecker (819)	<i>Dinopium benghlense</i>	R		I
Phasianidae					Yellow-fronted Pied Woodpecker (847)	<i>Dendrocopos maharattensis</i>	R		I
Grey Francolin (246)	<i>Francolinus pondicerianus</i>	R	B	O	Alaudidae				
Jungle Bush-Quail (255)	<i>Perdica asiatica</i>	R		O	Ashy-crowned Sparrow-Lark (878)	<i>Eremopterix grisea</i>	R		G
Indian Peafowl (311)	<i>Pavo cristatus</i>	R	B	O	Rufous-tailed Finch-Lark (882)	<i>Ammomanes phoenicurus</i>	R		G
Recurvirostridae					Common Crested Lark (899)	<i>Galerida cristata</i>	R		I
Black-winged Stilt (430)	<i>Himantopus himantopus</i>	R		Pi	Hirundinidae				
Burhinidae					Dusky Crag-Martin (914)	<i>Hirundo concolor</i>	R		I
Stone-Curlew (436)	<i>Burhinus oedicephalus</i>	R		O	Wire-tailed Swallow (921)	<i>Hirundo smithii</i>	R		I
Charadriidae					Laniidae				
Red-wattled Lapwing (366)	<i>Vanellus indicus</i>	R	B	I	Southern Grey Shrike (933)	<i>Lanius meridionalis</i>	RM		O
Scolopacidae					Bay-backed Shrike (940)	<i>Lanius vittatus</i>	R		O
Common Sandpiper (401)	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>	RM		Pi	Red-backed Shrike (942)	<i>Lanius collurio</i>	RM		O
Columbidae					Rufous-backed Shrike (946)	<i>Lanius schach</i>	R		O
Blue Rock Pigeon (516)	<i>Columba livia</i>	R	B	G	Sturnidae				
Eurasian Collared-Dove (534)	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>	R	B	G	Brahminy Starling (994)	<i>Sturnus pagodarum</i>	R	B	O
Red Collared-Dove (535)	<i>Streptopelia tranquebarica</i>	R	B	G	Rosy Starling (997)	<i>Sturnus roseus</i>	M		F
Little Brown Dove (541)	<i>Streptopelia senegalensis</i>	R	B	G	Common Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	M		F
Psittacidae					Common Myna (1006)	<i>Acridotheres tristis</i>	R	B	O
Rose-ringed Parakeet (550)	<i>Psittacula krameri</i>	R	B	F	Bank Myna (1008)	<i>Acridotheres ginginianus</i>	R		O
Cuculidae					Dicruridae				
Brinfever Bird (573)	<i>Hierococcyx varius</i>	R		F	Black Drongo (963)	<i>Dicrurus macrocercus</i>	R		I
Greater Coucal (600)	<i>Centropus sinensis</i>	R		O	Corvidae				
Strigidae					House Crow (1049)	<i>Corvus splendens</i>	R	B	S
Eurasian Eagle-Owl (627)	<i>Bubo bubo</i>	R		O	Common Raven (1059)	<i>Corvus corax</i>	R		S
Spotted Owlet (652)	<i>Athene brama</i>	R		O	Pycnonotidae				
Apodidae					White-eared Bulbul (1125)	<i>Pycnonotus leucotis</i>	R	B	F
House Swift (703)	<i>Apus affinis</i>	R	B	I	Red-vented Bulbul (1128)	<i>Pycnonotus cafer</i>	R	B	F
Alcedinidae					Muscicapidae				
White-breasted Kingfisher (735)	<i>Halcyon smyrnensis</i>	R		Pi	Common Babbler (1254)	<i>Turdoides caudatus</i>	R	B	I
Meropidae					Larger Grey Babbler (1258)	<i>Turdoides malcolmi</i>	R	B	I
Blue-cheeked Bee-eater (747)	<i>Merops persicus</i>	RM		I					

Common name	Scientific name	S	B	FH
Rufous-fronted Prinia (1506)	<i>Prinia buchanani</i>	R		I
Common Tailor Bird (1538)	<i>Orthotomus sutorius</i>	R	B	I
Common Lesser Whitethroat (1567)	<i>Sylvia curruca</i>	M		I
Rufous-tailed Scrub-Robin (1641)	<i>Cercotrichas galactotes</i>	RM		I
Black Redstart (1671)	<i>Phoenicurus ochruros</i>	RM		I
Indian Chat (1692)	<i>Cercomela fusca</i>	R		I
Pied Bushchat (1700)	<i>Saxicola caprata</i>	R		I
Variable Wheatear (1712a)	<i>Oenanthe picata picata</i>	M		I
Variable Wheatear (1712b)	<i>Oenanthe picata capistrata</i>	M		I
Variable Wheatear (1712c)	<i>Oenanthe picata opistholeuca</i>	M		I
Indian Robin (1720)	<i>Saxicoloides fulicata</i>	R	B	I
Motacillidae				
White Wagtail (1885)	<i>Motacilla alba</i>	RM		I
Nectariniidae				
Purple Sunbird (1917)	<i>Nectarinia asiatica</i>	RM	B	N, F, I
Passeridae				
House Sparrow (1938)	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	R	B	G, I
Baya Weaver (1957)	<i>Ploceus philippinus</i>	R		G
Estrilididae				
White-throated Munia (1966)	<i>Lonchura malabarica</i>	R	B	G

Common names after Manakadan & Pittie (2001)

Numbers mentioned in parenthesis are serial number given Ali & Ripley (1995)

Scientific names after Grimmett *et al.* (1999)

S - Status means Resident (R), Resident migratory (RM) or Migratory (M) birds as per Ali & Ripley (1995)

B - Breeding activities encountered in study area (nests)

FH - Observed food habit: I - Insectivorous; O - Omnivorous; G - Graminivorous;

F - Frugivorous; S - Scavengers; Pi - Piscivorous; Pr - Predators; N -

Nectarivorous

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