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#### NOTE

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### AVIFAUNA OF DESERT REGIONAL STATION, ZOOLOGICAL SURVEY OF INDIA CAMPUS, JODHPUR, RAJASTHAN

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The Great Indian Desert or Thar Desert is biogeographically the easternmost edge of the Saharan-Arabian Desert zone. Located in the northwestern region this desert is the only habitat of its type in the Indian subcontinent. In spite of the harsh climatic conditions this region exhibits a vivid and spectacular biodiversity, with several records of birds.

We recorded 89 species of birds belonging to 38 families from 1999 to 2003 in the campus of the Desert Regional Station of the Zoological Survey of India (Table 1). The campus with an area of 24ha is located 10km away from Jodhpur city. Changanani (2002) had reported 158 species from Jodhpur district. In the present study 84 species recorded in the campus were residents while species like Pied Crested Cuckoo, Common Swallow, Paddyfield Pipit and Yellow Wagtail were local migrants. Trans-continental migrant species namely Dunlin, Cream-coloured Courser, Common Swift, European Nightjar and Grey Wagtail were also recorded.

**Table 1. List of birds recorded in the Desert Regional Station, ZSI.**

Common name	Scientific name	Status*
Family: Phalacrocoracidae Little Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax niger</i>	R
Family: Anatidae Spot-billed Duck	<i>Anas poecilorhyncha</i>	R
Family: Accipitridae Black Kite	<i>Milvus migrans</i>	R
Egyptian Vulture	<i>Neophron percnopterus</i>	R
Indian White-backed Vulture	<i>Gyps bengalensis</i>	R
Tawny Eagle	<i>Aquila rapax</i>	R
Shikra	<i>Accipiter trivirgatus</i>	R
Family: Ardeidae Cattle Egret	<i>Bubulcus ibis</i>	R
Family: Phasianidae Grey Francolin	<i>Francolinus pondicerianus</i>	R
Common Quail	<i>Coturnix coturnix</i>	LM
Indian Peafowl	<i>Pavo cristatus</i>	R
Family: Charadriidae Red-wattled Lapwing	<i>Vanellus indicus</i>	R
Common Snipe	<i>Gallinago gallinago</i>	LM
Dunlin	<i>Calidris alpina</i>	M
Family: Burhinidae Stone Curlew	<i>Burhinus oedicnemus</i>	R
Family: Glareolidae Indian Courser	<i>Cursorius coromandelicus</i>	R
Cream-coloured Courser	<i>Cursorius cursor</i>	M
Family: Laridae River Tern	<i>Sterna aurantia</i>	R
Family: Columbidae Blue Rock Pigeon	<i>Columba livia</i>	R
Eurasian Collared-Dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocta</i>	R
Little Brown Dove	<i>Streptopelia senegalensis</i>	R
Red Collared-Dove	<i>Streptopelia tranquebarica</i>	R
Family: Psittacidae Rose-ringed Parakeet	<i>Psittacula krameri</i>	R
Family: Cuculidae Pied Crested Cuckoo	<i>Clamator jacobinus</i>	LM
Asian Koel	<i>Eudynamys scolopacea</i>	R
Family: Tytonidae Barn Owl	<i>Tyto alba</i>	R
Family: Strigidae Eurasian Eagle Owl	<i>Bubo bubo</i>	R
Tawny Wood-Owl	<i>Strix aluco</i>	R
Spotted Owlet	<i>Athene brama</i>	R
Family: Caprimulgidae European Nightjar	<i>Caprimulgus europaeus</i>	M
Family: Apodidae Common Swift	<i>Apus apus</i>	M
House Swift	<i>Apus affinis</i>	R
White-rumped Needletail-Swiftlet	<i>Zoonavena sylvatica</i>	R
Family: Alcedinidae Lesser Pied Kingfisher	<i>Ceryle rudis</i>	R
Small Blue Kingfisher	<i>Alcedo atthis</i>	R
White-breasted Kingfisher	<i>Halcyon smyrnensis</i>	R

Common name	Scientific name	Status*
Family: Meropidae		
Blue-cheeked Bee-eater	<i>Merops persicus</i>	R
Small Bee-eater	<i>Merops orientalis</i>	R
Chestnut-Headed Bee-eater	<i>Merops leschenaulti</i>	R
Family: Coraciidae		
Indian Roller	<i>Coracias benghalensis</i>	R
Family: Upupidae		
Common Hoopoe	<i>Upupa epops</i>	R
Family: Capitonidae		
Coppersmith Barbet	<i>Megalaima haemacephala</i>	R
Family: Picidae		
Lesser Golden-backed Woodpecker	<i>Dinopium benghalense</i>	R
Brown-capped Pygmy Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopus nanus</i>	R
Family: Alaudidae		
Common Crested Lark	<i>Galerida cristata</i>	R
Family: Hirundinidae		
Common Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	M
Wire-tailed Swallow	<i>Hirundo smithii</i>	R
Dusky Crag Martin	<i>Hirundo concolor</i>	R
Family: Motacillidae		
Paddyfield Pipit	<i>Anthus rufulus</i>	LM
Yellow Wagtail	<i>Motacilla flava</i>	LM
Grey Wagtail	<i>Motacilla cinerea</i>	M
Large Pied Wagtail	<i>Motacilla maderaspatensis</i>	R
Family: Pycnonotidae		
White-cheeked Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus leucogenys</i>	R
Red-vented Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus cafer</i>	R
Family: Irenidae		
Marshall's Iora	<i>Aegithina nigrolutea</i>	R
Family: Turdidae		
Indian Robin	<i>Saxicoloides fulicata</i>	R
Pied Bushchat	<i>Saxicola caprata</i>	R
Desert Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe deserti</i>	M
Indian Chat	<i>Cercomela fusca</i>	R
Black Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus ochruros</i>	M
Family: Timaliidae		
Common Babbler	<i>Turdoides caudatus</i>	R
Jungle Babbler	<i>Turdoides striatus</i>	R
Striated Babbler	<i>Turdoides earlei</i>	R
Large Grey Babbler	<i>Turdoides malcolmi</i>	R
Family: Sylviidae		
Plain Prinia	<i>Prinia inornata</i>	R
Ashy Prinia	<i>Prinia socialis</i>	R
Rufous-fronted Wren-warbler	<i>Prinia buchanani</i>	R
Long-tailed Prinia	<i>Prinia burnesii</i>	R
Jungle Prinia	<i>Prinia sylvatica</i>	R
Graceful Prinia	<i>Prinia gracilis</i>	R
Common Tailor Bird	<i>Orthotomus sutorius</i>	R
Family: Nectariniidae		
Purple Sunbird	<i>Nectarinia asiatica</i>	R
Family: Estrildidae		
White-throated Munia	<i>Lonchura malabarica</i>	R
Spotted Munia	<i>Lonchura punctulata</i>	R
Green Munia	<i>Amandava formosa</i>	R
Family: Passeridae		
House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	R

Common name	Scientific name	Status*
Family: Ploceidae		
Baya Weaver	<i>Ploceus philippinus</i>	R
Streaked Weaver	<i>Ploceus manyar</i>	R
Family: Sturnidae		
Common Myna	<i>Acridotheres tristis</i>	R
Jungle Myna	<i>Acridotheres fuscus</i>	R
Bank Myna	<i>Acridotheres ginginianus</i>	R
Brahminy Starling	<i>Sturnus pagodarum</i>	R
Rosy Starling	<i>Sturnus roseus</i>	M
Family: Dicruridae		
Black Drongo	<i>Dicrurus macrocercus</i>	R
Family: Artamidae		
Ashy Woodswallow	<i>Artamus fuscus</i>	R
Family: Corvidae		
Indian Treepie	<i>Dendrocitta vagabunda</i>	R
House Crow	<i>Corvus splendens</i>	R
Jungle Crow	<i>Corvus macrorhynchos</i>	R
Common Raven	<i>Corvus corax</i>	R

Birds were classified into R - Resident, LM - Local migrant and M - Migrant based on Ali & Ripley (1983). Common and scientific names were adopted following Manakadan & Pittie (2001).

Eurasian Collared-Dove, Blue Rock Pigeon, House Sparrow, Red-wattled Lapwing, Stone Curlew, Red-vented Bulbul, White Cheeked Bulbul, White-throated Munia, Rufous-fronted Wren-warbler, Grey Francolin, Dusky Crag Martin and Indian Peafowl breed in the campus.

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