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NOTE**ZOOS' PRINT JOURNAL 15(11): 362****LARGE CONGREGATION OF ROOSTING HARRIERS IN SECUNDERABAD, ANDHRA PRADESH****Bhargavi Srinivasulu¹ and C. Srinivasulu²**

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On 17 December 1999, at about 1730 hr, while observing roosting harriers in a grassland in northern Secunderabad (c' 17°26' - 17°27' N & 78°27' - 78°28' E) we noted large congregation of 570-730 individuals of four species of harriers (Table 1) in 18 roosting spots. During our regular observation spanning seven years (1993-94 to 1999-2000) such a large congregation was seldom recorded. At the most 200-300 roosting individuals were noted. Altogether, five species of harriers, namely - Eurasian Marsh Harrier (*Circus aeruginosus*), Montagu's Harrier (*Circus*

pygargus), Pallid Harrier (*Circus macrourus*), Pied Harrier (*Circus melanoleucos*) and Hen Harrier (*Circus cyaneus*) have been recorded roosting here (pers. observ.; Kannaiah & Ganesh, 1995). The last species was the rarest, while Kannaiah & Ganesh (1995) reported Pied Harrier to be the rarest during their observation.

The harriers displayed the pre-roost behaviour of flying over the roosting site just before or after sunset (Satheesan & Rao 1990; Ganesh & Kannaiah 1991). Most of the harriers roosted on the ground in tall grass (> 100 cm), while some roosting spots were in areas with short grass (c' 40-60 cm) and on bare patches too.

Rahmani and Manakadan (1986) reported a large roost of harriers near Rollapadu comprising an estimated 800-1000 individuals. The large numbers of harriers indicate that the grassland in northern Secunderabad is an important assembly site for roosting and gathering of harriers over a few days before they finally depart on their migratory journey.

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Table 1. Estimated numbers of individuals of harriers observed roosting in a grassland in northern Secunderabad on 17 December 1999.

Species	Estimated number of individuals	
	Minimum	Maximum
Pallid Harrier (<i>Circus macrurus</i>)	220	280
Montagu's Harrier (<i>Circus pygargus</i>)	180	250
Pied Harrier (<i>Circus melanoleucos</i>)	100	120
Eurasian Marsh Harrier (<i>Circus aeruginosus</i>)	70	80
Total	570	730

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