

A CHECKLIST OF BIRDS IN AND AROUND MANGALORE UNIVERSITY CAMPUS, KARNATAKA

M. Ramitha and K.K. Vijayalaxmi*

Department of Studies and Research in Applied Zoology, Mangalore University, Mangalagangothri, Karnataka 574199, India.

*Corresponding author; Email: kkv@vasnet.co.in

Abstract

Survey of the avifauna present in the Mangalore University Campus, Konaje, Mangalore and in the nearby places revealed the presence of 56 species of birds belonging to 31 families. Of these 48 species were residents and only eight species were migrants.

Keywords

Birds, checklist, Mangalore University Campus

Introduction

The study area included Mangalore University Campus, Mangalagangothri and nearby areas like Pavoor, Assaigoli, Someshwar and Nethravathi bridge area connecting Mangalore and Ullal (Figs. 1, 2). The Campus is situated at a distance of about 20 km south east of the city of Mangalore. It spreads over an area of about 350 acres over looking Arabian Sea on one side and the Western Ghats on the other side (12°75'N and 74°53'E; altitude 80m). Average temperature ranges from 20°C to 35°C. The vegetation found in this area mainly consists of naturally grown trees and shrubs like ficus (*Ficus bengalensis*), alstonia (*Syzygium caryophyllatum*), terminalia (*Terminalia paniculata*), ixora (*Ixora coccinea*), calotropis (*Calotropis gigantia*), etc. Cultivated plants like cashew (*Anacardium occidentale*), mangoes (*Mangifera indica*), banana (*Musa paradisiaca*); food crops like paddy (*Oryza sativa*); plantation crops like coconut (*Cocos nucifera*), arecanut (*Areca catechu*), etc. In addition some areas support monocultures like acacia, eucalyptus and casuarinas planted under social forestry scheme. During monsoon and until the end of post-monsoon period, i.e. up to November, the large, plain areas in the campus are covered with tall grasses, which remain lush green until October and starts drying in November and December. In summer these green patches disappear completely.

Someshwar is a marine water beach area and Pavoor is situated

on the banks of Nethravathi River. Nethravathi bridge area is the estuarine region of river Nethravathi joining the Arabian Sea. All these different areas are situated within about 5-7 km of the main study area, i.e. Mangalore University Campus, Mangalagangothri, Konaje Village.

Materials and Methods

In the present study the observations were made in the selected study area. The time schedule chosen for the study was between 0600 and 1000 hours and between 1630 and 1830 hours. Since the study was carried out as part of M.Sc. dissertation work the time schedule was chosen according to the convenience of the authors. However, during the holidays and mid-term vacation, other timings were also chosen for bird watching. Observations were carried out with the aid of 8x40 binoculars, and field characteristics noted down according to the guidelines given by Achar and Nayak (2000). Birds sighted during the study period were categorized according to their status as residents (R) and migrants (M). The resident category pertains to the birds that have been known to breed in the study area itself and it also includes local migrants. Migrant birds were sighted occasionally, only during certain months of study period (November and December).

To prepare the checklist of birds, regular bird watching was done from July 1999 to March 2000. Identification of birds was done with the help of key reference books (Grewal, 1993; Ali & Ripley, 1995; Ali, 1996; Grimmett *et al.*, 1999). Feeding activities of these birds were also noted down to get an idea about the food items consumed by these birds and feeding status.

Results and Discussion

A total of 56 species of birds belonging to 31 families were observed in the Mangalore University Campus and surrounding areas.

Out of the total 56 species observed majority of the birds were residents (85.71%), others were migrants (14.28%). A detailed checklist of the avifauna recorded during the study period is

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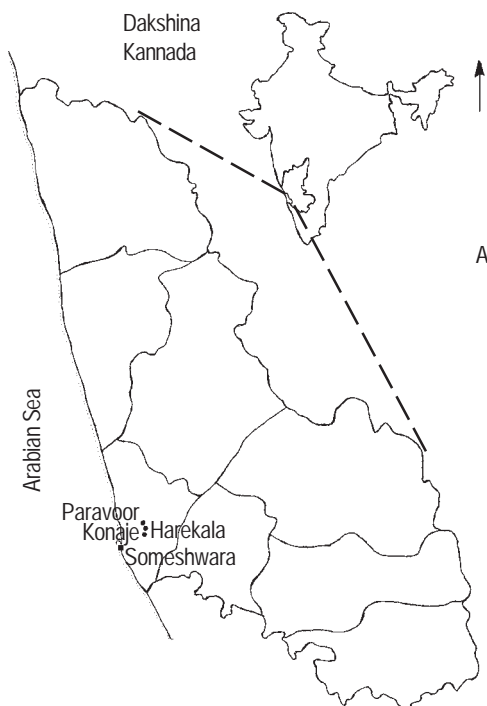


Figure 1. Map of Dakshina Kannada showing locations in Mangalore.

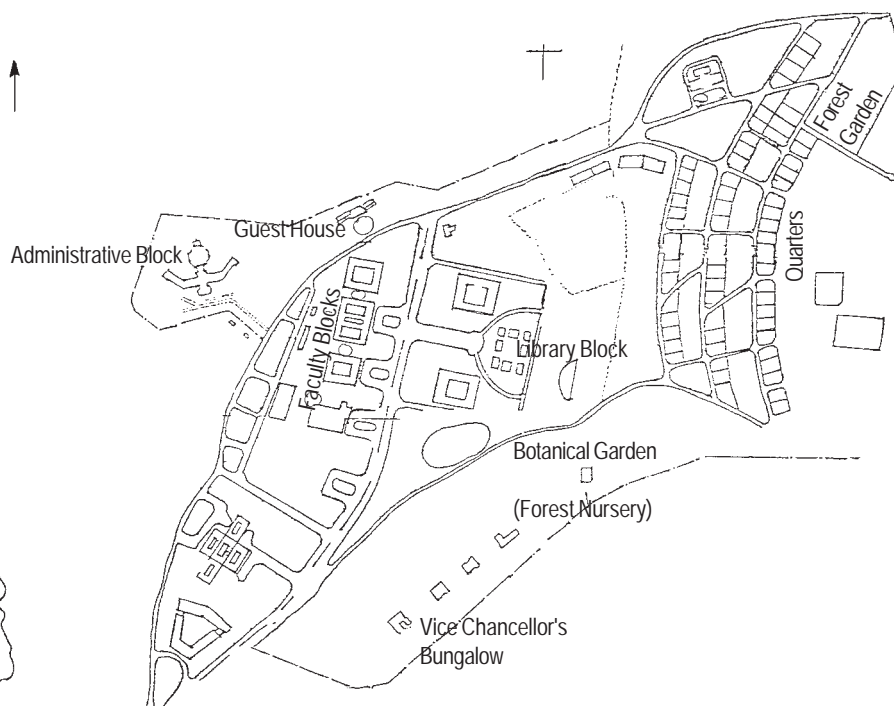


Figure 2. Map of Mangalore University Campus (main study area).

given (Table 1). Achar and Nayak (2000) have prepared a checklist of birds of Dakshina Kannada, where they have listed 366 species of birds. They have taken data for the whole of Dakshina Kannada District, which has a geographic area of about 8436 sq.km. with a coastline of about 140 km. Compared to this, the study area covered by us is very small with a range of about 6-8 km. in which we observed 56 species. Kumar and Bose (1990) have made a checklist of birds covering Attavar Village of Mangalore, which consisted of 76 bird species. In their study they have covered larger areas with different habitats. As far as food preferences of the birds were concerned about 26 species of birds were insectivorous and eight species were frugivorous. Other types included scavengers, predators, piscivorous etc. (Table 2). The classes were defined according to Ali (1993). In our previous studies we have recorded the insect fauna of Mangalore University Campus (unpublished) where we observed large numbers of diverse groups of insects. Availability of large quantities of insects may be a reason for a wider insectivorous bird taxa in the region.

Seasonal and perennial fruit bearing trees and plants are common in this place. Hence, we observed some species of frugivorous birds as residents of this place. In general bird diversity was observed to be directly proportional to plant diversity. More number of birds were observed in areas like gardens, orchards, mixed vegetation areas and in the botanical garden. Diversity of birds was less in monoculture plantation areas such as cashew,

acacia, eucalyptus and casuarinas. No quantitative data has been collected in this regard, but during our continuous bird watching process we made these observations.

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Table 1. Checklist of birds found in and around Mangalore University Campus.

Common name	Scientific name	Habitat	Status	Common name	Scientific name	Habitat	Status
Ardeidae Indian Pond-Heron	<i>Ardeola grayii</i>	Ponds/lakes, paddy fields, cultivation	R	Apodidae House Swift	<i>Apus affinis</i>	Human settlements / habitations	R
Cattle Egret	<i>Bubulcus ibis</i>	Paddy fields, ponds, cultivation	R	Cerylidae Lesser Pied Kingfisher	<i>Ceryle rudis</i>	Ponds, tanks, marshes, rivers, estuaries	R
Accipitridae Black Kite	<i>Milvus migrans</i>	Human settlements	R	Alcedinidae Common Kingfisher	<i>Alcedo atthis</i>	Back waters, ponds, tanks	R
Brahminy Kite	<i>Haliastur indus</i>	Streams, sea-coast, estuaries etc.	R	Dacelonidae White-throated Kingfisher	<i>Halcyon smyrnensis</i>	Ponds, lakes, rivers, plantations, woodlands	R
Falconidae Common Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>	Grassland and open country	M	Meropidae Blue-tailed Bee-eater	<i>Merops philippinus</i>	Ponds, lakes, rivers, streams	M
Phasianidae Grey Junglefowl	<i>Gallus sonneratii</i>	Evergreen, semievergreen forest	R	Green Bee-eater	<i>Merops orientalis</i>	paddy fields, cultivation, open country	R
Indian Peafowl	<i>Pavo cristatus</i>	Cultivation, open land	R	Coraciidae Indian Roller	<i>Coracias benghalensis</i>	Gardens, woodlands, grasslands, open country	R
Charadriidae Red-wattled Lapwing	<i>Vanellus indicus</i>	Paddy fields, cultivation, open land	R	Upupidae Common Hoopoe	<i>Upupa epops</i>	Woodlands, plantations, grassland, open country	R
Yellow-wattled Lapwing	<i>Vanellus malabaricus</i>	Grassland, dry open country	R	Capitonidae Brown-headed Barbet	<i>Megalaima zeylanica</i>	Gardens, orchards, woodlands, open country	R
Little Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius dubius</i>	Streams, marshes, ponds	R	Coppersmith Barbet	<i>Megalaima haemacephala</i>	Gardens, orchards, woodlands, grasslands	R
Scolopacidae Wood Sandpiper	<i>Tringa glareola</i>	River, stream, sea coast	M	Picidae Rufous Woodpecker	<i>Celeus brachyurus</i>	Evergreen, semievergreen forest	R
Common Sandpiper	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>	Sea coast, marshes, ponds	M	Black-rumped Flame-backed Woodpecker	<i>Dinopium benghalense</i>	Gardens, wood lands, forests	R
Laridae Whiskered Tern	<i>Chlidonias hybridus</i>	Sea coast, marshes, reed beds	M	Alaudidae Rufous-winged Bush-Lark	<i>Mirafra assamica</i>	Cultivation, gardens, scrub jungle	R
Little Tern	<i>Sterna albifrons</i>	Back waters, streams, rivers	M	Crested Lark	<i>Galerida cristata</i>	Cultivation, grass lands, open country	R
Columbidae Rock Pigeon	<i>Columba livia</i>	Human settlements / habitations	R	Sturnidae Common Myna	<i>Acridotheres tristis</i>	Paddy fields, cultivation, human settlements	R
Psittacidae Alexandrine Parakeet	<i>Psittacula eupatria</i>	Semi evergreen forest	R				
Rose-ringed Parakeet	<i>Psittacula krameri</i>	Paddy fields, cultivation, scrub jungle, gardens	R				
Plum-headed Parakeet	<i>Psittacula cyanocephala</i>	Paddy fields, cultivation, gardens, grasslands	R				
Cuculidae Asian Koel	<i>Eudynamis scolopacea</i>	Gardens, woodlands, plantations	R				
Centropopidae Greater Coucal	<i>Centropus sinensis</i>	Gardens, plantations, woodlands, scrub jungles	R				
Strigidae Spotted Owlet	<i>Athene brama</i>	Human settlements	R				

Common name	Scientific name	Habitat	Status
Corvidae			
House Crow	<i>Corvus splendens</i>	Human habitations	R
Jungle Crow	<i>Corvus macrorhynchos</i>	Woodlands, forests, human habitations	R
Rufous Treepie	<i>Dendrocitta vagabunda</i>	Gardens, orchards, woodlands	R
Black Drongo	<i>Dicrurus macrocercus</i>	Paddy fields, cultivation, woodlands, forests	R
White-bellied Drongo	<i>Dicrurus caeruleus</i>	Evergreen, semievergreen forests	R
Eurasian Golden Oriole	<i>Oriolus oriolus</i>	Gardens, woodlands, plantations, forests	R
Black-hooded Oriole	<i>Oriolus xanthornus</i>	Cultivation, gardens, woodlands	R
Pycnonotidae			
Red-whiskered Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus jocosus</i>	Gardens, cultivation, woodlands, scrub jungle	R
Red-vented Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus cafer</i>	Scrub jungles, cultivation	R
Sylviidae			
Common Babbler	<i>Turdoides caudatus</i>	Scrub jungle, human habitations	R
Jungle Babbler	<i>Turdoides striatus</i>	Woodlands, plantations, scrub jungle	R
Greenish Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus trochiloides</i>	Gardens, woodlands, plantations	M
Muscicapidae			
Asian Paradise-Flycatcher	<i>Terpsiphone paradisi</i>	Gardens, woodlands, plantations	M
Cisticolidae			
Grey-breasted Prinia	<i>Prinia hodgsonii</i>	Marshes, grasslands	R
Zitting Cisticola	<i>Cisticola juncidis</i>	Marshes, cultivation, grasslands	R
Motacillidae			
Large Pied Wagtail	<i>Motacilla maderaspatensis</i>	Gardens, woodlands, plantations	R
Nectarinidae			
Purple Sunbird	<i>Nectarinia asiatica</i>	Gardens, cultivation, human habitations	R
Passeridae			
House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	Human habitations	R
Baya Weaver	<i>Ploceus philippinus</i>	Paddy fields, cultivation, grassland	R
Black-headed Munia	<i>Lonchura malacca</i>	Cultivations, grasslands, gardens	R

R - Resident; M - Migratory

Common names after Mankadan *et al.* (1998).

Table 2. Classification of observed birds according to their food preference.

Scavengers	Predators	Piscivorous	Insectivorous
Pariah Kite	Kestrel	Pond Heron	Cattle Egret
Brahminy Kite	Owl (Spotted owl ?)	Whiskered Tern	Red-wattled
House Crow		Little Tern	Lapwing
Jungle Crow		Pied Kingfisher	Yellow-wattled
		Common Kingfisher	Lapwing
		White-breasted Kingfisher	House Swift
		Common Sandpiper	Blue-tailed Bee-eater
		Spotted Sandpiper	Blue Jay
			Hoopoe
			Bush Lark
			Crested Lark
			Golden Oriole
			Black-headed Oriole
			Black Drongo
			White-bellied Drongo
			Indian Treepie
			Common Babbler
			Jungle Babbler
			White-throated
			Ground Thrush
			Mag-pie Robin
			Indian Robin
			Ashy Wren Warbler
			Dull Green Leaf
			Warbler
			Paradise flycatcher
			Large Pied Wagtail
			Little Ringed Plover
			Small Green Bee-eater
Nectarivorous	Granivorous	Frugivorous	Omnivorous
Purple Sunbird	Blue Rock Pigeon	Rose-ringed Parakeet	Grey Jungle Fowl
	House Sparrow	Alexandrine Parakeet	Peafowl
	Baya Weaver	Plum-headed Parakeet	Crow Pheasant
	Black-headed Munia	Koel	Common Myna
		Coppersmith	
		Large Green Barbet	
		Red-vented Bulbul	
		Red-whiskered Bulbul	