

## CHECKLIST OF BIRDS FROM AMRAVATI UNIVERSITY CAMPUS, MAHARASHTRA

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Amravati University, Amravati, Maharashtra, is known for its gardens. It is situated about 4 km east from the historic city of Amravati in the Pohara Forest Range. The University has its own water reservoir spread over on an area of 1.613 km<sup>2</sup> with an irrigation capacity of 0.238579 TMC. The reservoir ensures sufficient and continuous water supply for maintaining the gardens and for afforestation programmes.

The reservoir and the trees planted around it have created a very good habitat and source of attraction for many migratory birds. The campus itself is located in a hilly area and is surrounded by three more reservoirs, namely, Indla, Upper Wadali and Lower Wadali.

The soil of the University area is medium black, murum light type and the revenue land surrounding it is saline, ravinous and hilly. At present, the University has two established nurseries with 10,54,098 seedlings. The area of plantation is about 280 ha; 10,41,033 seedlings already planted with a survival rate at 90.5 per cent.

Table 1 shows species of plantations with their planting percentage which has created a typical habitat and several ecological niches for the birds mentioned in Table 2. The vegetation is dominated by grasses, shrubs and bushes.

Because of the suitability of climate, food and vegetation, many winter and summer visitors are seen in the campus. Birds like kingfisher, swifts and kites are always seen flying in separate companies while swallows, babblers and quails are seen in mixed companies. White-browed Fantail Flycatchers and Purple-rumped Sunbirds are particularly alluring and during the migration season the arrival of the Grey Wagtail from as far as Siberia is eagerly awaited.

Out of the 88 species of birds observed during 1996 to January 2000, 67 are residents, four are local migrants, two are resident migrants, six are exclusively winter migrants and nine are

migratory birds which arrive here at different times of the year. The observed birds belong to 37 different families (Table 2). The taxonomy used is as per Ali and Ripley (1983), while the nomenclature is based on Inskipp *et al.* (1996). Most of the migratory birds belong to the family Motacillidae and Anatidae.

Ground nesting species are declining because of fire practices followed during summer season. These practices should be immediately stopped to preserve such species. Thirt-six percent species of birds have been observed to be breeding in the Amravati University Campus. The common names of birds are according to Manakadan *et al.*, (1998).

### References

- Ali, S. and S.D. Ripley (1983). *Handbook of Birds of India and Pakistan*. Compact Edition, Oxford University Press, Bombay.
- Inskipp, T., N. Lindsay and W. Duckworth (1996). *An annotated Checklist of Birds of the Oriental Region*. Oriental Bird Club, UK.
- Manakadan, R., J.C. Daniel, A.R. Rahmani, M. Inamdar and G. Ugra (1998). Standardised English common names of the birds of the Indian Subcontinent - a proposal. *Buceros* 3(2): 55pp. Bombay Natural History Society, Mumbai.

Table 1. Species of plantations in Amravati University campus

Purpose	Common Name	Scientific Name	Planting %
Avenue trees	Ashoka	<i>Polyalthia longifolia</i>	15
	Sausage tree	<i>Kigella africana</i>	
	Sonmohor	<i>Peltophorum pterocarpum</i>	
	Rain tree	<i>Samanea saman</i>	
	Gulmohar	<i>Delonix regia</i>	
	Shirish	<i>Albizia lebbek</i>	
	Karanj	<i>Pongamia pinnata</i>	
	Neem	<i>Azadirachta indica</i>	
	Kashid	<i>Cassia siamea</i>	
	Wild Badam	<i>Terminalia catappa</i>	
	Australian	<i>Acacia meloxylon</i>	
	Cork tree	<i>Millingtonia hortensis</i>	
	Sissoo	<i>Dalbergia sissoo</i>	
	Amaltas	<i>Cassia fistula</i>	
	Kanchan	<i>Bauhinia purpurea</i>	
Bakul	<i>Mimusops elengi</i>		
Kadamb	<i>Neolamarckia cadamba</i>		
Spathodia	<i>Spathodea campanulata</i>		
Ornamental trees	Bottle Brush	<i>Callistemon citralis</i>	05
	Ashoka	<i>Polyalthia longifolia</i> var. <i>pendula</i>	
	Silver oak	<i>Grevillea robusta</i>	
	Jacaranda	<i>Jacaranda mimosaeifolia</i>	
	Spathodia	<i>Spathodea campanulata</i>	
	Tabubia	<i>Tecoma serratifolia</i>	
Chapha	<i>Plumeria alba</i>		
Fuel Wood	Babul	<i>Acacia nilotica</i> ssp. <i>indica</i>	35
	Khair	<i>Acacia catechu</i>	
	Dhawada	<i>Lagerstromia parviflora</i>	
	Behida	<i>Terminalia alata</i>	

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Purpose	Common Name	Scientific Name	Planting %
	Shirish*	<i>Albizzia lebbbeck</i>	
	Apta	<i>Bauhinia tomentosa</i>	
	Hirda	<i>Terminalia chebula</i>	
	Palas	<i>Butea monosperma</i>	
	Pangara	<i>Erythrina variegata</i>	
	Kashid	<i>Cassia siamea</i>	
	Gliricidia	<i>Gliricidia sepium</i>	
	Arjun	<i>Terminalia arjuna</i>	
	Moha	<i>Madhuca longifolia</i> var. <i>latifolia</i>	
	Ritha	<i>Sapindus laurifolius</i>	
	Suru	<i>Casuarina equisetifolia</i>	
	Bakan	<i>Melia azadirach</i>	
Fodder Plantation	Neem	<i>Azadirachta indica</i>	
	Khejari	<i>Prosopis juliflora</i>	
	Babul	<i>Acacia nilotica</i>	
	Shirish*	<i>Albizzia lebbbeck</i>	
	Mulbery	<i>Morus</i> sp.	
	Subabul	<i>Leucaena latisiliqua</i>	
	Hiwar	<i>Acacia leucophloea</i>	
Timber trees	Teak	<i>Tectona grandis</i>	
	Nilgiri	<i>Eucalyptus</i> sp.	
	Sandal wood	<i>Santalum album</i>	
	Sissum	<i>Dalbergia sissoo</i>	
	Bamboo	<i>Bambusa</i> sp.	
	Sisu	<i>Dalbergia latifolia</i>	
	Suru	<i>Casurnia equisetifolia</i>	
Fruit plants	Orange	<i>Citrus reticulata</i>	
	Mosambi	<i>Citrus sinensis</i>	
	Lemon	<i>Citrus aurantifolia</i>	
	Banana	<i>Musa paradisiaca</i> (Hybrid Variety)	
	Coconut	<i>Cocos nucifera</i>	
Dry Land Fruit Crop	Mango	<i>Mangifera indica</i>	
	Jamun	<i>Syzygium cumini</i>	
	Tamarind	<i>Tamarindus indicus</i>	
	Ber	<i>Zizyphus mauritiana</i>	
	Bel	<i>Aegle marmelos</i>	
	Wood apple	<i>Limonia acidissima</i>	
	Aonla	<i>Phyllanthus emblica</i>	
	Sitaphal	<i>Annona squamosa</i>	
	Biba	<i>Semecarpus anacardium</i>	
	Ramphul	<i>Anona reticulata</i>	
	Arc nut	<i>Areca catechu</i>	
	Guava	<i>Psidium guajava</i>	
	Khimi	<i>Manikara hexandra</i>	
	Karaunda	<i>Carissa bispinosa</i>	

\* Used both as fuel and fodder.

Table 2. Checklist of birds from Amravati University Campus.

Common Name	Scientific Name	Status
Podicipitidae		
Little Grebe	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>	RM
Phalacrocoracidae		
Little Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax niger</i>	R
Ardeidae		
Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>	WM
Indian Pond-Heron	<i>Ardeola grayii</i>	R
Cattle Egret	<i>Bubulcus ibis</i>	R
Great Egret	<i>Casmerodius albus</i>	LM
Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>	R
Ciconiidae		
White-necked Stork	<i>Ciconia episcopus</i>	LM
Anatidae		
Ruddy Shelduck	<i>Tadorna ferruginea</i>	WM
Northern Pintail	<i>Anas acuta</i>	WM
Spot-billed Duck	<i>Anas poecilorhyncha</i>	M
Accipitridae		
Black-shouldered Kite	<i>Elanus caeruleus</i>	R
Black Kite	<i>Milvus migrans</i>	R
Shikra	<i>Accipiter budius</i>	R
Phasianidae		
Common Quail	<i>Coturnix coturnix</i>	R
Rain Quail	<i>Coturnix coromandelica</i>	R
Grey Francolin	<i>Francolinus pondicerianus</i>	R
Indian Peafowl	<i>Pavo cristatus</i>	R
Turnicidae		
Small Button Quail	<i>Turnix sylvatica</i>	R
Rallidae		
White-breasted Waterhen	<i>Amauromis phoenicurus</i>	R
Coot	<i>Fulica atra</i>	RM
Charadriidae		
Little Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius dubius</i>	R
Red-wattled Lapwing	<i>Vanellus indicus</i>	R
Yellow-wattled Lapwing	<i>Vanellus malabaricus</i>	R
Black-winged Stilt	<i>Hamantopus himantopus</i>	WM
Columbidae		
Rock Pigeon	<i>Columba livia</i>	R
Eurasian Collared-Dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>	R
Red Collared-Dove	<i>Streptopelia tranquebarica</i>	R
Spotted Dove	<i>Streptopelica chinensis</i>	R
Psittacidae		
Rose-ringed Parakeet	<i>Psittacula krameri</i>	R
Plum-headed Parakeet	<i>Psittacula cyanocephala</i>	R

Common Name	Scientific Name	Status	Common Name	Scientific Name	Status
Cuculidae			Bay-backed Shrike	<i>Lanius vittatus</i>	R
Pied Cuckoo	<i>Clamator jacobinus</i>	M	Great Grey Shrike	<i>Lanius excubitor</i>	LM
Asian Koel	<i>Eudynamys scolopacea</i>	R			
Centropodidae			Sturnidae		
Greater Coucal	<i>Centropus sinensis</i>	R	Brahminy Starling	<i>Sturnus pagodarum</i>	R
			Common Myna	<i>Acridotheres tristis</i>	R
Strigidae			Asian Pied Starling	<i>Sturnus contra</i>	R
Eurasian Eagle-Owl	<i>Bubo bubo</i>	R	Chestnut-tailed Starling	<i>Sturnus malabaricus</i>	M
			Bank Myna	<i>Acridotheres ginginianus</i>	R
Apodidae			Rosy Starling	<i>Sturnus roseus</i>	M
House Swift	<i>Apus affinis</i>	R			
Caprimulgidae			Corvidae		
Indian Nightjar	<i>Caprimulgus asiaticus</i>	R	Black Drongo	<i>Dicrurus adsimilis</i>	R
			Golden Oriole	<i>Oriolus oriolus</i>	R
Alcedinidae			House Crow	<i>Corvus splendens</i>	R
Common Kingfisher	<i>Alcedo atthis</i>	R	Jungle Crow	<i>Corvus macrorhynchos</i>	R
			Rufous Treepie	<i>Dendrocitta vagabunda</i>	R
Cerylidae			Pycnonotide		
Lesser Pied Kingfisher	<i>Ceryle rudis</i>	R	Red-vented Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus cafer</i>	R
Dacelonidae					
White-throated Kingfisher	<i>Halcyon smyrnensis</i>	R	Sylviidae		
			Common Babbler	<i>Turdoides caudatus</i>	R
Meropidae			Jungle Babbler	<i>Turdoides striatus</i>	R
Green Bee-eater	<i>Merops orientalis</i>	LM			
Coraciidae			Muscicapidae		
Indian Roller	<i>Coracias benghalensis</i>	R	White-browed Fantail		
			Flycatcher	<i>Rhipidura aureola</i>	WM
Upupidae			Common Tailor-bird	<i>Orthotomus sutorius</i>	R
Common Hoopoe	<i>Upupa epops</i>	R	Oriental Magpie-Robin	<i>Copsychus saularis</i>	R
			Indian Robin	<i>Saxicoloides fulicata</i>	R
Megalaimidae			Black Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus ochrurus</i>	M
Coppersmith Barbet	<i>Megalaima haemacephala</i>	R	Brown Rock Chat	<i>Cercomela fusca</i>	R
			Pied Bushchat	<i>Saxicola caprata</i>	R
Picidae			Cisticolidae		
Black-rumped Flame-backed			Ashy Prinia	<i>Prinia socialis</i>	R
Woodpecker	<i>Dinopium benghalense</i>	R			
Yellow-crowned			Passeridae		
Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos maharattensis</i>	R	Citrine Wagtail	<i>Motacilla citreola</i>	M
			White Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba</i>	M
Alaudidae			Grey Wagtail	<i>Motacilla cinerea</i>	M
Rufous-tailed Lark	<i>Ammomanes phoenicurus</i>	R	Yellow Wagtail	<i>Motacilla flava</i>	M
Crested Lark	<i>Galerida cristata</i>	R	Paddyfield Pipit	<i>Anthus rufulus</i>	R
Ashy-crowned			House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	R
Sparrow-Lark	<i>Eremopterix grisea</i>	R	Baya Weaver	<i>Ploceus philippinus</i>	R
			Scaly-breasted Munia	<i>Lonchura punctulata</i>	R
Hirundinidae			Plain Munia	<i>Lonchura malabarica</i>	R
Red-rumped Swallow	<i>Hirundo daurica</i>	R	Red Munia	<i>Estrilda amandava</i>	R
Wire-tailed Swallow	<i>Hirundo smithii</i>	R			
			Nectarinidae		
Laniidae			Purple Sunbird	<i>Nectarinia asiatica</i>	R
Long-tailed Shrike	<i>Lanius schach</i>	WM	Purple-rumped Sunbird	<i>Nectarinia zeylonica</i>	R

R - Resident; M - Migrant; WM - Winter Migrant; LM - Local Migrant; RM - Resident Migrant