

No	Species	Comments
1.	Oriental Darter (<i>Anhinga melanogaster</i>)	Listed as local migrant. Infact, it is a resident in Thrissur district nesting in a handful of heronries.
2.	Grey Heron (<i>Ardea cinerea</i>)	Listed as resident. The only known breeding location of this bird in Kerala is in Kannur district (Rajeevan et.al 2004) and hence this bird should be treated as a local migrant.
3.	Western Reef Egret (<i>Egretta gularis</i>)	No breeding records from Kerala. Considered as winter migrant but listed as resident.
4.	Black Ibis (<i>Pseudibis papillosa</i>)	Only a single record of this bird from Kole Wetlands (P O Nameer pers comm.) and the habitats in the state are no longer suitable for this species. Hence this species is a vagrant and not a local migrant as listed in the checklist.
5.	Gadwall (<i>Anas strepera</i>)	A rare winter visitor to Kerala and has only been recorded from Kadalundi (Ravindran. 1994) in Kerala. Details of the sighting from Kole Wetlands requested.
6.	Western Marsh Harrier (<i>Circus aeruginosus</i>)	A migrant raptor and not resident as mentioned in the list.
7.	Osprey (<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>)	A migrant raptor and not resident as mentioned in the list.
8.	Black-winged Stilt (<i>Himantopus himantopus</i>)	This bird sporadically breeds in many places in South Kerala. Hence, it should not be treated as a migrant; should be a local migrant.
9.	Red-headed Vulture (<i>Sarcogyps calvus</i>)	Getting increasingly scarce and hence all sightings of this bird are important. Details of the sightings from Peechi WLS and Chimmony WLS requested.
10.	Great Stone Curlew (<i>Esacus recurvirostris</i>)	There is only a handful of records of this bird from Kerala and none from Thrissur district. Details of the sightings from KAU campus requested.
11.	Black-bellied Tern (<i>Sterna acuticauda</i>)	This near-threatened <i>Sterna</i> breeds in the banks of Bharathapuzha river and should be considered as a resident and not as a migrant.
12.	Eurasian Collared Dove (<i>Streptopelia decaocta</i>)	A species from the dry land habitats of Deccan. Thrissur district does not have the required habitat for this species and it is quite unlikely to be seen at the places it has been reported.
13.	Eurasian Scops Owl (<i>Otus scops</i>)	All records of Otus scops from the Western Ghats in Kerala has been attributed to Oriental Scops Owl (<i>Otus sunia</i>). Hence, so should be this one.
14.	Black-capped Kingfisher (<i>Halcyon pileata</i>)	No breeding reports from Thrissur district or the entire stretch of Kerala. This bird cannot be considered as a resident.
15.	Plain Martin (<i>Riparia paludicola</i>)	This species has been reported from Kole Wetlands and not from Peechi WLS as mentioned in the list. Moreover, it is a migrant and not a resident.
16.	Common Swallow (<i>Hirundo rustica</i>)	One of the commonest migrant birds in the state, wrongly mentioned as resident in the list.
17.	Bengal Bushlark (<i>Mirafra assamica</i>)	Not found in South India (Kazmierczak, 2000). We have Rufous-winged Lark (<i>M. affinis</i>) instead.
18.	Tree Pipit (<i>Anthus trivialis</i>)	No record from Kerala. The recent distribution by Grimmett & Inskipp (1998) or Kazmierczak (2000) does not list Kerala as a wintering habitat. A more likely bird is Olive-backed Pipit (<i>A. hodgsoni</i>).
19.	Forest Wagtail (<i>Dendronanthus indicus</i>)	One of the most erratic of winter visitors. Listed as resident.
20.	Grey Wagtail (<i>Motacilla cinerea</i>)	A migrant species listed as local migrant.
21.	White Wagtail (<i>Motacilla alba</i>)	A migrant species listed as local migrant.
22.	Citrine Wagtail (<i>Motacilla citreola</i>)	A migrant species listed as local migrant.
23.	Yellow Wagtail (<i>Motacilla flava</i>)	A migrant species listed as local migrant.
24.	Bluthroat (<i>Luscinia svecica</i>)	A migrant species listed as local migrant.
25.	Desert Wheatear (<i>Oenanthe deserti</i>)	This is a passage migrant or even can be considered as a vagrant to Kole Wetlands. Definitely not a resident as listed in the list.
26.	Black Redstart (<i>Phoenicurus ochruros</i>)	A migrant species listed as resident.
27.	Blue-headed Rock Thrush (<i>Monticola cinclorhynchus</i>)	A migrant species listed as resident.
28.	Blyth's Reed Warbler (<i>Acrocephalus dumetorum</i>)	A migrant species listed as resident.
29.	Brown-breasted Flycatcher (<i>Muscicapa muttui</i>)	A migrant species listed as resident.
30.	Red-throated Flycatcher (<i>Ficedula parva</i>)	A migrant species listed as resident.
31.	Blue-throated Flycatcher (<i>Cyornis rubeculoides</i>)	A migrant species listed as resident.
32.	White-throated Munia (<i>Lonchura malabarica</i>)	The habitats in Thrissur district are not suitable for this bird. The species is quite unlikely to occur in the sites where it has been listed.
33.	Yellow-throated Sparrow (<i>Petronia xanthocollis</i>)	This is a breeding visitor and not a resident species.
34.	Black-naped Oriole (<i>Oriolus chinensis</i>)	A winter migrant to Kerala listed as resident.
35.	Ashy Drongo (<i>Dicrurus leucophaeus</i>)	A winter migrant to Kerala listed as resident.



RESPONSE ZOOS' PRINT JOURNAL 20(5): 1881-1882

REPLY TO THE COMMENTS BY PRAVEEN ON "AVIFAUNA OF THRISSUR DISTRICT, KERALA, INDIA"

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The status of the each bird species is adopted from Ali, S. and D. Ripley (1983), which take into consideration the Indian Subcontinent as a whole for assessing the status and not the Kole wetlands or Thrissur District or Kerala State as done by

the reader. Following details are given below as requested by the reader. We would like to point out that this paper is a compilation of published and unpublished papers and reports.

Anas strepera: Sighted on 21.xii.1999 from Kanjany by the second author.

Lonchura malabarica: Sighted on 22.iii.99, 30.xi.99, 28.xii.99, 12.xii.00, 19.ii.01 from Kanjany; 08.xii.99, 28.xii.99, 21.i.00 from Enamavu by the second author.

Streptopelia decaocta, Riparia paludicola, Mirafra assamica, Anthus trivialis: Please refer to my reply to comments by Sashikumar (Jayson, this issue).

Otus scops: Reported in Anon. (1992) Birds of Chimmoni Wildlife Sanctuary: A survey report. Nature Education Society, Trichur (NEST)

in Collaboration with Kerala Forest Research Institute, and Kerala Forest Department.

Sarcogyps calvus: Reported in Anon. (1993) Birds of Peechi-Vazhani Wildlife Sanctuary: A survey report. Nature Education Society, Trichur (NEST) in Collaboration with Kerala Forest Research Institute, and Kerala Forest Department.

Esacus recurvirostris: This species is reported from Peechi-Vazhani Wildlife Sanctuary, not from the KAU campus.

Circus aeruginosus*, *Himantopus himantopus*, *Sterna acuticauda*, *Motacilla cinerea* and *Ficedula parva: Many thanks for pointing out the errors in the status of these species.



NOTE

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ANALYSIS OF NESTING MATERIAL IN BIRD NEST BOXES

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Seven wooden nest boxes for birds each of 20x22x25cm dimensions with an opening of 5.6cm diameter were installed on 30 October 2001 on different trees in Punjab Agricultural University Campus, Ludhiana (30°56'N & 70°52'E). The study aimed to understand the acceptance and adoption of wooden nest boxes by birds. Only one of the nest box installed on the Indian Coral tree *Erythrina indica* was occupied by Common Myna *Acridotheres tristis* and Spotted Owllet *Athene brama* at different durations over a period of two years. The nest box was emptied out first on 25 May 2002 and again on 31 March 2003 to examine and weigh the nesting materials gathered by Common Myna and Spotted Owllet after their respective periods of nest box occupation.

The nesting material in the nest box collected by Common Myna could be divided into three types: plant components, synthetic matter and bird feathers. Plant material was the predominant component, as it constituted 310g in weight out of 350g of total nesting material. Plant matter was in the form of small to large-sized dry leaves, grass blades, twigs and seed pods. Dry leaves were identified and were found to be that of *Eucalyptus* sp., *Melia azaderach* and *Callistemon* sp., while the seed pods were of *Albizia* sp. A small quantity of crushed unidentified plant material was also observed. The synthetic material collected from nest box was 36g. It consisted of polythene pieces, paper, plastic, and toffee wrappers. The bird feathers in the nest were of its own. Ali and Ripley (1983) had reported that the Common Myna's nest is a collection of twigs, roots, paper and rubbish in a hole, which is similar to what was

found in the nest during this study.

This nest box was emptied out the second time after nine months occupation by Spotted Owllet and its contents were noted down. Two types of components, animal matter and soil/compost were found in the collected material. Animal matter comprised of animal remains like integuments, shell, wings, limbs, bones etc. The insect remains belonged to the orders Coleoptera, Odonata and Lepidoptera. Other remains were of molluscs (*Lymnaea acuminata*), and of a lizard *Hemidactylus* sp. Live animals included *Camponotus* sp. (Hymenoptera; 8 individuals), *Callosobruchus maculatus* (Coleoptera; 10 individuals) and unidentified spider (Class Arachnida; 6 individuals). Soil/compost (190g in weight) collected from the wooden nest box was dry, dark brown and finely granular with no trace of live worms, parasites or nematodes. The presence of soil/compost in the nest box could not be attributed to the regurgitated pellets, hence it remains to be verified. Kumar (1985), and Jadhav and Parasharya (2003) had not reported any soil/compost in the nest during their study on Spotted Owllets. Ali (1996) had stated that nesting related material of Spotted Owllet consisted of untidy pads of tow or fibres.

REFERENCES

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