

CHECKLIST OF BIRDS AT AND AROUND THE PURANDHAR FORT, DIST: PUNE (M.S.), INDIA.

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Abstract

Avian biodiversity has a unique biological importance, which needs to be studied from varied angles. This paper focuses on the avifaunal diversity of Purandhar Fort. Fort Purandhar is historic place located 47 Km from city of Pune. The rapid growth of urban population and the expansion of urban space at the cost of agricultural land and forested areas lead to environmental problems, habitat loss and deterioration of the quality of animal life. In this context it has become very crucial to study the behavioral adaptation in bird-life including their migration behavior and distribution pattern in general. Avian Biodiversity of Pune District is the age-old heritage and wealth of Western Ghats of India. All of us now agree that there should not be more quantitative economic development but there should be a sustainable and balanced growth. Without considering the participation of nature and ecology in growth, progress of sustainable development cannot be achieved. Purandhar fort is well-known NCC training station. It has rich flora and fauna. Since no data pertaining to avifauna of this region is available it was decided to prepare a checklist of birds along with their approximate population.

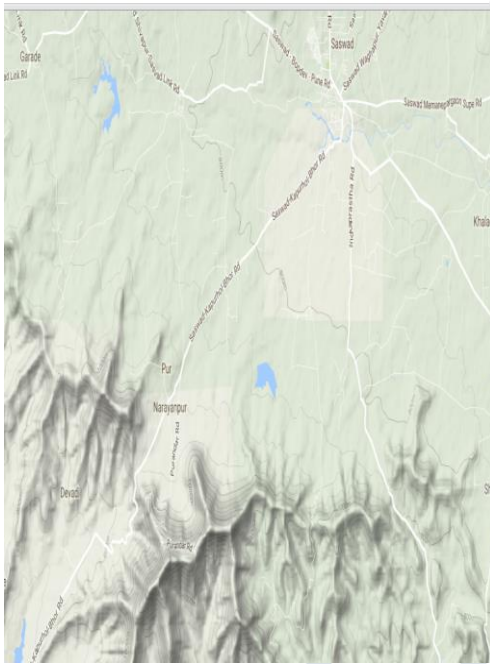
KEYWORDS:- Biodiversity, avi-faunal diversity, flora, fauna, deterioration, adaptation, Western Ghats.

Key words: 200

Introduction:

Purandhar fort is situated between 18^o 17' North latitudes and 73^o 59' East latitudes. Purandhar fort has a National Cadets Core Academy. It is a favorite destination for Para gliders and trekkers

Purandhar fort stands 4,472 ft. above the sea (1,387 m) in the Bhuleshwar range in Western Ghats, India, 50 km southeast of city of Pune, ahead of Saswad village Pune district (M.S.), INDIA. Fort constituted of deciduous forest which comes to less than 13% (1984-85) of the total area of the district. Observations were carried out during 2010-2012. The results show that in 64 birds' species of 16 orders and 36 families were recorded. It is our solemn duty to protect and nurture this precious gift of nature. The surrounding vegetation is typically dry deciduous type. The common vegetation in the form of trees are *Azadirachta indica*, *Acacia nilotica*, *Pithecolobium dulce*, *Delonix regia*, *Tamarindus indica*, *Aegle marmelos*, *Feronilimonia*, *Butea monosperma*, *Emblica officinalis*, *Acacia Arabica* and *Ficus* species. The common shrubs abundantly found in Forests are *Murrayakoenigii*, *Nerium indicum*, *Calotropis procera*, *Lantana camara*, *Ricinus communis*, *Cestrum nocturnum* and *Asparagus* species. Some of aquatic plants species found in water bodies are *Typha*, *Chara*, *Pistia*, *Cyperus*, *Vallesneria* et



C.

Location : 18.2852879,73.9585492, Purandar Fort

18.2765686, 73.9695357

Material and Methods:

The area in and around Purandhar Fort was surveyed twice in a month from February 2010 to January 2014. Observations were carried out with help of binocular and taking photographs and using field guides (ALI & REPLY, 1983, INSKIPP, 1999; Pande Pratibha, BNHS, 2005). The birds' watching was done by selecting six sites. From South west at Bhairavwadi temple from Kaldari Villeg, Kedareshwar Mandir, Devtake 1,2,3 and from north-east at Burj point Saswad side. According to the availability of birds they are categorized as common (C), Less common (LC) and Rare (Ra). And according to food habit birds are categorized as Ca-Carnivorous, I-Insectivorous, P-Picivorous (Fish eater), H-Herbivorous, F-Frutivorous (Fruit eater), G-Grainivorous, O-Omnivorous and N-Nectar eater.

Observations & Results:

In this present study the occurrence of about 94 species of birds belonging -to 16 orders 38 families. Birds like Egret, Hoopoe, Woodpecker and Indian roller are observed at Dhad Naka & Jamroon Khore where plants of *Acacia nilotica*, *Pithecolobium dulce*, *Delonix regia*, *Tamarindus indica*, *Aegle marmelos* are abundant. The birds like Pond heron, Duck, Stork and little Grebe were recorded at Yelgaon Dam, Paldhak Dam & other water bodies.

Observations:

1. *Elanus caer uleus*- Black shouldered Kite- found on thick trees & wires nearby to barren places.-LC & Ca.
2. *Milvus migrans*- Pariah Kite- found on thick trees & wires nearby to barren places- LC & Ca
3. *Accipiter badius*-Shikara- found on thick trees nearby to barren places- LC & Ca.
4. *Pernis ptilor hynchus*- Honey Buzzard -found on thick trees nearby to barren places- LC & Ca.
5. *Circus aeruginosus*- Marsh Harrier- found on thick trees & wires nearby to barren places-

Ra &Ca

6. *Butasturtesa*- White eyed Buzzard Eagle- found on thick trees nearby to barren places.Ra&Ca

7 *Pavo cristatus*- Pea fowl- found on grassland- C & Ca.

8. *Francolinus pondicerianus*- Grey Partridge-found on grassland-LC & Ca.

9. *Treron phoenicoptera*- Common green Pigeon-found on thick trees-C & H.

10. *Columba livia*- Blue rock Pigeon-found on ground in search of grains & food-C & G.

11. *Streptopelia decaocto*- Ring Dove-found on ground in search of grains & food-C & G.

12. *Streptopelia chinensis*- Spotted Dove-found on ground in search of grains & food LC & G.

13. *Streptopelia senegalensis*- Little Brown Dove-found on ground in search of grains & food LC &G .

14. *Treron pompadora*- Grey fronted Green Pigeon-found on trees in search of grains & food. LC & G

15. *Psittacula eupatria*- Alexandrine Parakeet-found on thick trees (fruity)-C & F.

16. *Psittacula krameri*- Rose ringed Parakeet-found on thick trees (fruity)-C & F.

17. *Psittacula cyanocephala*- Blossom headed Parakeet-found on thick trees (fruity)- LC & F.

18. *Clamator jacobinus*- Pied crested Cuckoo-found on thick trees (fruity)- LC & O.

19. *Eudynamys scolopacea*- Koel-found on thick trees (fruity)- C & O.

20. *Centropus sinensis*- Crow pheasant- found on open places and over trees- C & O.

21. *Tockus birosiris*- Common Grey Hornbill-found on thick trees (fruity)- C & F.

22. *Dichoceros cavatus*- Hornbill-found on thick trees (fruity) –LC & F.

23. *Ceryl erudis*- Lesser Pied Kingfisher-found on thick trees nearby to water bodies-C& P.

24. *Aeedo atthis*- Small Blue Kingfisher found on thick trees nearby to water bodies-C & P.

25. *Haeyons myrnensis*- White Breasted Kingfisher found on thick trees nearby to water bodies- C & P.

26. *Coracious benghaensis*- Indian Roller found on thick trees nearby to water bodies- C & P.

27. *Upupa erops*- Hoopoe-found on thick trees- C & I.

28. *Merops orientalis*- Small Green Bee Eater-found on the shrubs-C & I.

29. *Megalaimahae macephaa*- Crimson Breasted Barbet-C & I.

30. *Picoides mahrattensis*- Yellow Fronted Pied Woodpecker-found on thick trees and electric wires-LC & O.

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