



ADDITIONS TO BIRDS DIVERSITY IN SEVEN TALUKA OF YAVATMAL DISTRICT OF MAHARASHTRA, CENTRAL INDIA.

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Abstract-

This paper is based on empirical observations in which the list species were found for the first time in the area between June 2021 and December 2023 or were previously unrecorded in the area to be included in the first published list. Ten bird species were recorded during the study period. Taxonomically these species are belonging into three orders namely Passeriformes, Accipitriformes, Falconiformes, and eight families like Rhipiduridae, Phylloscopidae, Muscicapidae, Motacillidae, Certhiidae, Dicaeidae, Accipitridae and Falconidae. Status wise seven species are Widespread residents (R) and three are Widespread winter visitors (W). As per IUCN category nine species under least concern and one Endangered. In the previous paper bird diversity in the selected habitat was 325 now the addition of 10 unrecorded bird species in the same habitat the diversity has 335. Now it is confirmed that the Bird Diversity in the Seven Taluka of Yavatmal District is 335 including Migratory and Residential species which are categories into species level i.e. passerines, waders and raptors. Search is continuing on decided habitats now in future more areas in the remaining Taluka will be monitored and hope more migratory species and uncommon residential species of birds will be added to the list.

Keywords: Bird Diversity, Seven Taluka, Reservoir, forest, grassland, IUCN status, Rare Records.

Introduction

Birds are a wonderful creature on the earth. They play quite important roles like pest controller, Scavenger, seed dispersal, pollinator, food chain and serve as a food to others these things help for maintaining a healthy environment. Worldwide more than ten thousand species exist out of this approximately 10% i.e. 1300 species are recorded in the Indian subcontinent. Maharashtra has a figure of 556 including migratory and Vidarbha region more than 450. In the last couple of years anthropogenic stressors have affected every habitat including reservoirs, lakes, ponds, rivers, grassland, barrel land and forest areas which has directly affected the population and diversity of residential, migratory species in the region. Bird diversity in the seven Taluka of the Yavatmal district has already been published in relation to this addition of species in this paper.

Materials and Methods

Study area

Yavatmal district lies in the South-Western part of the Wardha Penganga-Waingangā plain in central India. The district lies between 19.26' and 20.42' north latitudes and 77.18' and 79.9' east longitudes. There are over 2500 reservoirs in Yavatmal district including big, medium and small projects. 21 % of land covers the forest area. The district is divided into sixteen Taluka out of which seven Taluka like Yavatmal, Babhulgaon, Kalamb, Ner, Darwha, Ghatanji and Aarni have monitors to find out the bird diversity. Study has focused on 32 reservoirs, 5 rivers, 6 grasslands and 7 forests in the seven Taluka.

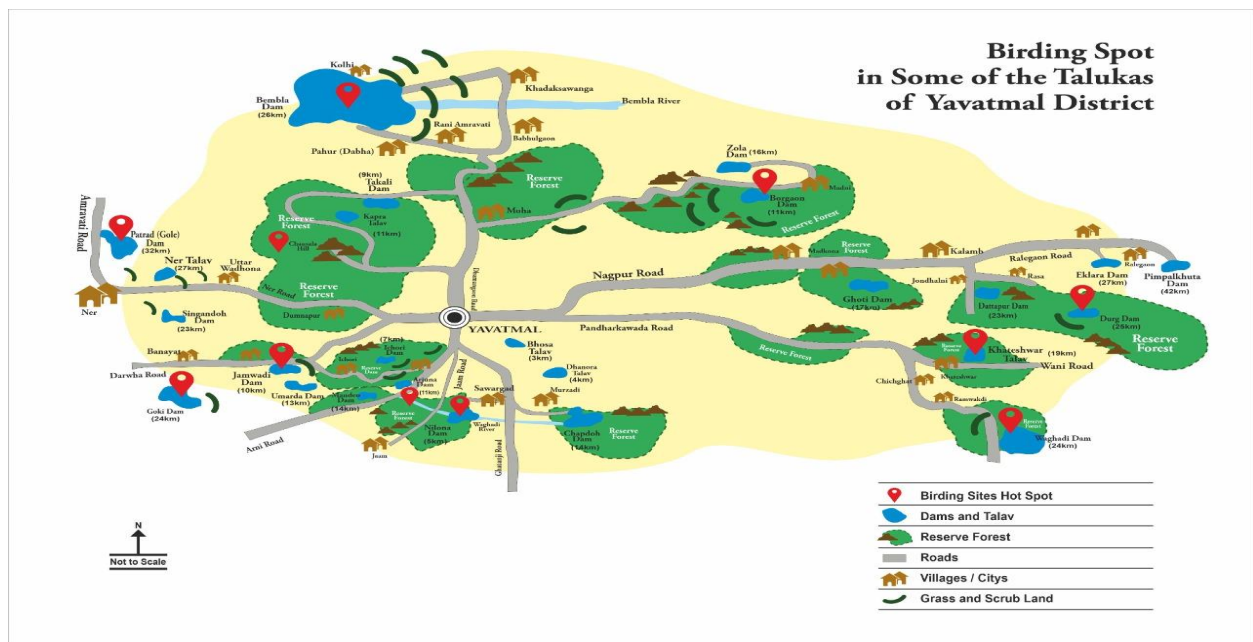


Fig-1 Map indicating all types of bird habitat in the seven Taluka of Yavatmal district



Bird Observations

Basic tools like 10 X 40 Binocular (Nikon) are used for observing long distance areas and monitoring activity of bird species. D 7500 Nikon camera body with 200-500 mm Nikkor lens are used for taking photographs for records. Almost every day visit to anyone's habitat in the morning between 6 to 9.30 am and some time afternoon and evening visits will also be arranged. All identifications of bird species were based on Grewal (2011), Grimmett and Inskipp (2012) and Ali (2012). Nomenclature and taxonomy of birds was assigned according to Birdlife International (2016). Call notes of bird species were also used to locate them (Ali 2012).

Result and Discussion

I am hereby updating a checklist with addition of 10 species belonging to 3 orders Passeriformes, Accipitriformes, Falconiformes and eight families Rhipiduridae, Phylloscopidae, Muscicapidae, Motacillidae, Certhiidae, Dicaeidae, Accipitridae and Falconidae. The Checklist clearly indicates that out 10 species order Passeriformes is dominated with 8 species i.e. White Spotted Fantail, Western Crowned Warbler, Tickell's Leaf Warbler, Brown Breasted Flycatcher, Rusty Tailed Flycatcher, Forest Wagtail, Indian Spotted Creeper and Pale billed FlowerPecker, Accipitriformes with one species Egyptian Vulture and Falconiformes has again one i.e. Peregrine Falcon (Shaheen). Status wise seven species are under widespread resident and the three are under widespread winter visitors. As per IUCN category nine species are Least Concern and one is Endangered (Egyptian Vulture), all their details are mentioned in Table-1.

S.No.	Common English Name	Scientific Name	Status	IUCN CATEGORY
Order : Passeriformes				
Family : Rhipiduridae				
1	White Spotted Fantail	<i>Rhipidura albogularis</i>	R	LC
Family : Phylloscopidae				
2	Western Crowned Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus occipitalis</i>	R	LC
3	Tickell's Leaf Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus affinis</i>	W	LC
Family : Muscicapidae				
4	Brown Breasted Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa muttui</i>	R	LC
5	Rusty Tailed Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa ruficauda</i>	R	LC
Family : Motacillidae				
6	Forest Wagtail	<i>Dendronanthus indicus</i>	W	LC
Family : Certhiidae				
7	Indian Spotted Creeper	<i>Salpornis spilonotus</i>	R	LC
Family : Dicaeidae				
8	Pale billed Flower Pecker	<i>Dicaeum erythrorhynchos</i>	R	LC
Order : Accipitriformes				
Family : Accipitridae				
9	Egyptian Vulture	<i>Neophron percnopterus</i>	R	EN
Order : Falconiformes				
Family : Falconidae				
10	Peregrine Falcon (Shaheen)	<i>Falco peregrinus peregrintor</i>	W	LC

Table-01 LC- Least Concern, NT- Near Threaten, VU- Vulnerable ,EN- Endangered. R- Wide Spread Resident, W- Wide Spread Winter Visitors, PV- Passage Visitor, RM- Residential Migrant, BM- Breeding Migrant, V- Vagrant.

In Previous paper observations and records were taken during the year 2009 to 2021 that time bird count was 325 now the study period would be continued from June 2021 to Dec 2022 in the same habitats and the addition of 10 species the figure has 335. Majority of species including Warbles and Flycatchers were sighted in the Chousala range, wagtail and creeper were found in the karanji forest near karanji village , vulture was recorded near Waghadi dam and Shaheen Falcon was sighted on Bembla reservoir. Considering both the data it is confirmed that Bird diversity in the seven Taluka of the Yavatmal district is 335 species. At present many anthropogenic activities have been noticed in every habitat including Reservoirs, Grassland and forest areas. If things continue there will be a great loss of habitat which directly affects migration, resident birds and overall population. During visits it was observed that day by day the number of residential bird species either declined or migrated and migratory species are very few in numbers relative to species diversity and their population. Government , Local people and bird observers jointly take an initiative to protect the habitats which will automatically help to increase the diversity and population of birds in the region. Regular visits to the existing habitats and visit to a new location to check out the possibilities of unrecorded species in the region.

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