

Studies on Feeding Habits of Birds at Vasant Rao Naik Marathwada Krishi Vidyapeeth Parbhani

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Abstract

Vasant Rao Naik Marathwada Krishi Vidyapeeth Parbhani (V N M K V) is one of four Agricultural Universities in the State of Maharashtra. Birds are fascinating creatures of the ecosystem which attracts to common people, bird watcher and ornithologist. V N M K V Parbhani spreaded over on an area of 250 acres and contains good variety of trees and crops, so harbors sizable quantity of bird diversity. Bird diversity of V N M K V Parbhani was recorded for the period of one year that is from November 2020 to October 2021 on fortnightly basis. Existence of total 68 bird species were recorded belonging to 11 orders and 30 families. Order Passeriformes was recorded as most diversified order with 14 families and 28 species. There were seven orders namely Falconiformes, Galliformes, Gruiformes, Charadriiformes, Columbiformes, Psittaciformes, and Cuculiformes which were represented by single family and single species only. Recorded birds were categorized in six different feeding habits viz., Carnivorous, Piscivorous, Insectivorous, Frugivorous, Granivorous, Nectar Feeding and Omnivorous. Out of these seven feeding habits top position was occupied by Omnivorous type with 23 birds whereas least was with Nectar Feeding and Piscivorous with two birds only. Whereas the other feeding habits viz., Carnivorous, Insectivorous, Granivorous, Frugivorous were represented by 18 species, 13 species, 6 species and 4 species respectively.

Keywords: Bird diversity, feeding habit, VNMKV Parbhani

Introduction

The importance of bird diversity in assessing the ecological quality of habitats cannot be overstated. It is fundamental to comprehend the range and organization of bird communities in order to determine the significance of local or regional landscapes for the conservation of avian populations. Furthermore, seasonal observation is essential to monitor the ever-changing movements of birds in different habitats. (Kumar Gurdeep and Rajan Sharma 2021) [5]. Avifauna play a critical role in the functioning of the ecosystem, as they are scavengers, pollinators, and predators of insects. (Patil and Tijare, 2012) [6]. Vasant Rao Naik Marathwada Krishi Vidyapeeth (VNMKV) is one of the leading agricultural universities in the state of Maharashtra. It was established in 1983 and covers an area of 250 acres. Since VNMKV is home to a large number of birds, we have decided to evaluate the bird diversity of VNMKV and record their feeding habits.

Materials and Methods

Bird diversity of VNMKV Parbhani was observed for the period of one year i.e., from November 2020 to October 2021. In morning and evening hours, observation was carried out by using quality binoculars on fortnightly basis. Recorded birds were identified categorized as per feeding habits by using keys and monographs given by Grimmett *et al.*, (2000) [2] and Ali S. (2002) [1].

Result and Discussion

Studies on Feeding Habits of Birds at Vasant Rao Naik Marathwada Krishi Vidyapeeth Parbhani is carried out for the period of one year i.e., from November 2020 to October 2021 and results are depicted in Table 1. During the present investigation total 68 birds were recorded. Depending on food references recorded 68 birds were categorized into seven different types viz., Omnivorous (23), Carnivorous (18), Insectivorous (13), Granivorous (6), Frugivorous (4), Piscivorous (02), and Nectar Feeding (02). Observed birds were belonged to 11 orders namely Ciconiiformes, Falconiformes, Galliformes, Gruiformes, Charadriiformes, Columbiformes, Psittaciformes, Cuculiformes, Strigiformes, Piciformes and Passeriformes. Order Passeriformes was represented by 14 families and 28 species, followed by Strigiformes with 5 families and 8 species, followed by Ciconiiformes & Piciformes with 2 families whereas remaining orders were represented by single family only. Out of 68 species 40 were recorded as common, 21 as less common and 7 as rare. Harney N V (2014) [3] while assessing the avifaunal diversity of Ghot Nimbala lake near Bhadravati, Chandrapur recorded the existence of total 55 birds species belonging to 13 different orders and 37 families and recorded Passeriformes as most diversified order.

Table 1: Avifauna of Vasantrya Naik Marathwada Krishi Vidyapeeth, Parbhani during November 2020 to October 2021.

Sr. No.	Common Name	Scientific Name	Feeding Habbit	Distributional Status
	Order Ciconiiformes			
	Family Ardeidae			
1	Large Egret	<i>Ardea alba</i>	Ca	Rare
2	Purple Heron	<i>Ardea purpurea</i>	Ca	Rare
3	Grey Herron	<i>Ardea Scinerca</i>	Ca	Rare
4	Indian Pond Heron	<i>Ardeola grayii</i>	Ca	Common
5	Cattle Egret	<i>Bubulcus ibis</i>	Ca	Common
6	Median Egret	<i>Egretta intermedia</i>	Ca	Common
7	Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>	Ca	Common
	Family Ciconiidae			
8	Painted Stork	<i>Mycteria leucocephala</i>	Ca	Less Common
9	Whitenecked Stork	<i>Ciconia episcopus</i>	Ca	Common
10	Black Stork	<i>Ciconia nigra</i>	Ca	Common
11	Blacknecked Stork	<i>Ephippiorhynchus asiaticus</i>	Ca	Less Common
	Order Falconiformes			
	Family Accipitridae			
12	Blackshouldered Kite	<i>Elanus caeruleus</i>	Ca	Less Common
13	Shikra	<i>Accipiter badius</i>	Ca	Common
14	Pallid Harrier	<i>Circus macrourus</i>	Ca	Common
	Order Galliformes			
	Family Phasianidae			
15	Indian Peafowl	<i>Pava cristatus</i>	O	Less Common
	Order Gruiformes			
	Family Rallidae			
16	Whitebreasted Waterhen	<i>Amaurornis phoenicurus</i>	O	Common
17	Common Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>	O	Common
18	Purple Moorhen	<i>Porphyrio porphyrio</i>	O	Common
	Order Charadriiformes			
	Family Charadriidae			
19	Redwattled Lapwing	<i>Vanellus indicus</i>	Ca	Common
	Order Columbiformes			
	Family Columbidae			
20	Orangebreasted Green Pigeon	<i>Treron bicincta</i>	G	Common
21	Blue Rock Pigeon	<i>Columba livia</i>	O	Common
22	Redcoloured Dove	<i>Streptopelia tranquebarica</i>	G	Common
23	Spotted Dove	<i>Streptopelia chinensis</i>	G	Common
24	Little Brown Dove	<i>Streptopelia senegalensis</i>	G	Common
	Order Psittaciformes			
	Family Psittacidae			
25	Roseringed Parakeet	<i>Psittacula krameri</i>	F	Common
26	Alexandrine Parakeet	<i>Psittacula eupatria</i>	F	Rare
27	Plumheaded Parakeet	<i>Psittacula cyanocephala</i>	F	Less Common
	Order Cuculiformes			
	Family Cuculidae			
28	Asian Koel	<i>Eudynamys scolopacea</i>	O	Common
29	Greater Coucal	<i>Centropus sinensis</i>	O	Common
	Order Strigiformes			
	Family Striginae			
30	Eurasian Eagle-owl	<i>Bubo bubo</i>	O	Less Common
31	Spotted Owlet	<i>Athene brama</i>	O	Rare
32	Smallblue Kingfisher	<i>Alcedo atthis</i>	P	Less Common
33	Lesserped Kingfisher	<i>Ceryle rudis</i>	P	Less Common
	Family Meropidae			
34	Small Bee Eater	<i>Merops orientalis</i>	I	Common
	Family Coraciidae			

35	Indian Roller	<i>Coracias benghalensis</i>	I	Common
	Family Upupidae			
36	Common Hoopoe	<i>Upupa epops</i>	I	Common
	Family Bucerotidae			
37	Indiangrey Hornbill	<i>Ocyctetus birostris</i>	O	Common
	Order Piciformes			
	Family Capitonidae			
38	Coppersmith Barbet	<i>Megalaima haemacephala</i>	F	Common
	Family Picidae			
39	Yellowfronted Pied Woodpecker	<i>Picoides mahrattensis</i>	I	Less Common
40	Common Goldenbacked Woodpecker	<i>Dinopium javanense</i>	I	Common
	Order Passeriformes			
	Family Hirundinidae			
41	Wiretailed Swallow	<i>Hirundo smithii</i>	I	Common
	Family Lanidae			
42	Great Grey Shrike	<i>Lanius excubitor</i>	Ca	Less Common
43	Baybacked Shrike	<i>Lanius vittatus</i>	Ca	Common
44	Rufousbacked Shrike	<i>Lanius schach</i>	Ca	Less Common
	Family Oriolidae			
45	Golden Oriole	<i>Oriolus oriolus</i>	O	Rare
	Family Dicruridae			
46	Black Drongo	<i>Dicrurus adsimilis</i>	I	Common
	Family Sturnidae			
47	<i>Brahminy starling</i>	<i>Sturnus pagodrum</i>	O	Common
48	Common Myna	<i>Acridotheres tristis</i>	O	Common
49	Jungle Myna	<i>Acridotheres fuscus</i>	O	Less Common
	Family Corvidae			
50	Indian Tree Pie	<i>Dendrocitta vagabunda</i>	O	Less Common
51	House Crow	<i>Corvus splendens</i>	O	Common
52	Common Raven	<i>Corvus corax</i>	O	Common
53	Jungle Crow	<i>Corvus macrorhynchos</i>	O	Less Common
	Family Pycnonotidae			
54	Redvented Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus cafer</i>	O	Common
	Family Irenidae			
55	Common Iora	<i>Aegithina tiphia</i>	I	Common
	Family Timaliinae			
56	Yelloweyed Babbler	<i>Chrysomma sinense</i>	O	Less Common
57	Largegrey Babbler	<i>Turdoides malcolmi</i>	O	Less Common
58	Jungle Babbler	<i>Turdoidesstriatus</i>	O	Less Common
	Family Muscicapinae			
59	Common Tailorbird	<i>Orthotomus sutorius</i>	I	Less Common
60	Orientalmagpie Robin	<i>Copsychus saularis</i>	I	Less Common
61	Pied Bushchat	<i>Saxicola caprata</i>	I	Rare
62	Indian Robin	<i>Saxicoloides fulvicata</i>	I	Common
	Family Motacillidae			
63	Grey Wagtail	<i>Motacilla cinerea</i>	I	Common
	Family Nectarinidae			
64	Purple Sunbird	<i>Nectarinia asiatica</i>	N	Common
65	Purplerumped Sunbird	<i>Nectarinia zeylonica</i>	N	Less Common
	Family Ploceinae			
66	Baya Weaver	<i>Ploceus phillipinus</i>	O	Common
	Family Estrildinae			
67	Red Munia	<i>Amandavan amandavan</i>	G	Common
68	Spotted Munia	<i>Lonchura punctulata</i>	G	Less Common

Key: Ca = Carnivorous, P = Piscivorous, I = Insectivorous, F = Frugivorous, G = Granivorous, N = Nectar Feeding, O = Omnivorous.

Conclusion

Bird diversity of Vasantrao Naik Marathwada Krishi

Vidyapeeth (V N M K V) Parbhani is much diverse consisted of 11 orders and 30 families. Existence of 68 birds with

different feeding habits viz., Omnivorous, Carnivorous, Insectivorous, Granivorous, Frugivorous, Piscivorous, and Nectar Feeding suggests the existence of variety of trees and crops in the huge campus of V N M K V Parbhani. Out of seven feeding habits Omnivorous was at top position with 23 species followed by Carnivorous with 18 species, Insectivorous with 13 species, Granivorous with six species, Frugivorous with 4 species and Piscivorous & Nectar Feeding with 2 species only. This suggests the existence of variety of food preferences at the V N M K V campus Parbhani. Out of the recorded 68 birds, 40 birds were noted as common, 21 birds as less common and 07 birds as rare. This suggests that the huge campus that is of 250 acres of V N M K V Parbhani is suitable for birds and also can be improved to attract more birds. Since there is no previous record of bird diversity of Vasanttrao Naik Marathwada Krishi Vidyapeeth Parbhani, this work can be worked as baseline for further research work in this line of research.

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