



AVIAN DIVERSITY IN THE PURKABODI RESERVOIR INDISTRICT BHANDARA, MAHARASHTRA,INDIA

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ABSTRACT

The current study's goal was to assess the Purkabodi Reservoir's (in District Bhandara, Maharashtra, India) variation in bird variety. The location of Purkabodi Reservoir is 20°59' 42.31" N latitude and 79 ° 47'39.23" E longitudes. Twelve months of the study were conducted, from December 2022 to November 2023. One typical indication used to evaluate changes in the environment is the variance in bird variety across time and space. Such data was traditionally collected by trained observers, however passively collecting auditory data is emerging as a competitive substitute survey method. Because natural habitation is being destroyed, there is currently a loss in avifaunal diversity. The purpose of the research was to determine the avifaunal variety of Purkabodi Reservoir in District Bhandara. The study was conducted in and around Purkabodi Reservoir between December 2022 and November 2023. 36 different kinds of birds were observed during the current survey in the area of the Purkabodi reservoir. The birds were grouped according to their habitat, which included Residential Common, Winter Visitor and Uncommon species. The categories for the diversity of avifaunal life include migratory winter travelers,internal migrants, external migrants, and external emigrants, depending on where each group is located on their normal migratory habitat.

Keywords: Avian diversity,variation in Avian variety,Purkabodi Reservoir, India.

Introduction

India is one of the top ten mega-diverse countries in the world for the diversity of plants and animals, home to about 10% of all species. India contains 26 biotic provinces and 10 biogeographic zones, according to Singh and Kushwaha (2008). A 6.5% of the world's animal species and 7% of its plant species are found

In order to evaluate the health of the ecosystem, determine conservation priorities, and inform conservation decisionmaking and it is essential to track the status and trends of animal variety as well as the population levels of indicator species. Birds are common monitoring objectives because they can be found in almost any type of habitat and fill almost every niche and these taxa can also be distinguished from other taxa that might be susceptible to similar ecological circumstances. India is home to numerous bird species with two or more distinct geographical, races or subspecies, and the diversity of the bird population there reflects the diversity of the nation's ecosystem. The distribution of birds in India is impacted by several natural elements such as temperature, altitude, food availability, nesting sites, and other noteworthy geographic characteristics. These studies now need to include the human element, or the extent to which humans protect or harm birds and their habitats. Because of the complex interactions between natural and

artificial

factors, the composition and number of birds vary depending on the habitat, with each supporting a unique group of birds.

The avifauna diversity is one of the most crucial ecological indicators for assessing the quality of habitats. Recently avifaunal diversity has been declining as a result of habitat degradation and human disturbances. The primary cause of the reduction in bird foraging habitat and nesting sites is the indiscriminate destruction of natural habitats by chopping down nesting trees and forage plants for commercial usage of forests and lands. As a result, many bird species might be compelled to live in urban areas and be forced to reproduce there. An ecosystem's diversity of birds is crucial for maintaining a trophic level. To safeguard them, it is crucial to conduct in-depth research on the avifauna and their

ecosystem. The uncontrolled destruction of natural habitats caused by the exploitation of forage plants and nesting trees for commercial purposes in forests and lands is the main factor behind the decline in bird nesting sites and foraging habitats. Consequently, a great number of bird species may be pushed to dwell and breed in urban environments. A high trophic level in an ecosystem

depends on the diversity of birds living there. Researching avifauna and their environments in depth is essential to protecting these organisms.

Birds are an important component of biodiversity and one of the most important indicators of healthy living systems. The amount of birds in a particular ecosystem is influenced by seasonal variations, the environment, and the ecosystem's composition. A lot of reservoirs are unique kinds of artificial ecosystems where lentic and fluvial environments coexist with their own unique characteristics. Simmons (2009) states that zooplankton, phytoplankton, beetles, snails, flies, midges, and other large larvae are probably plentiful in reservoirs, along with aquatic insects and the large larvae.

Materials and Methods

Study Areas

Purkabodi Reservoir, which is situated in the eastern part of Maharashtra, India, served as the research area. A tiny inland reservoir in the Bhandara area, Purkabodi Reservoir is located around 45 kilometers southeast of Bhandara. Purkabodi Reservoir's geographic coordinates are latitude 20°59' 42.31" N and longitude 79°47' 39.23" E. This reservoir has a total catchment area of 7.21 square kilometers and a storage capacity of 1.611 million cubic meters



Figure 1: Satellite image of Purkabodi Reservoir.

The amount of food and ideal habitat, the Purkabodi Reservoir was found to be a better site for assessing bird evenness diversity. Binoculars were used for identification, and morning and evening bird watching was done. A top of the line Pentax digital camera with a telephoto lens

was used to take pictures of the birds. The standard texts of Haslem *et al.* (2008) and Natarajan *et al.* (2013) were used to help in identification.

Results and Discussion

The Purkabodi Reservoir region was found to be a very good site for identifying bird communities. The Purkabodi Reservoir is shown in the table and has an extremely high abundance of bird diversity. A total of 36 bird species were identified, of which 31 were common residential visits, 4 were common winter visitors, and 1 was uncommon residential visitors. In the present study the good congregation of *Egretta garzetta*, *Acipiter badius*, *Ardeola grayii*, *Alcedo atthis* and *acridotheres tristis* was observed during day time and regularly found on lake, *Actitis hypoleucos*, Black-winged Stilt, Long-billed Pipit and *pycnonotus luteolus* were noticed during winter season during the survey period. Among the best indicators of the environment are birds. Somewhere, their presence conveys a lot about the environment, including whether or not things are going well. The significance of the region's biodiversity, or more accurately, its biological value, is further demonstrated by the abundance of birds. Birds can be found almost anywhere in the world, at almost any temperature and height. For birds, flying is highly effective. They are good bioindicators for possible scavengers and pollinators. The population of birds is a sensitive indicator of pollution in both terrestrial and aquatic habitats. Many ecologists have studied and interactions between birds and other communities.

The Purkabodi Reservoir's bird population distribution is influenced by a wide range of natural factors, such as elevation, temperature, and precipitation, as well as important geographical features and the accessibility of food and nesting locations. There are variances in the variety and abundance of birds due to the intricate interaction between natural and artificial factors, since

every environment harbors a unique population of birds. Birds are currently becoming extinct due to civilization, which has an immediate impact on their ability to reproduce and build nests (Patil and Tijare, 2012). The many numerous lakes and wetlands serve as a balanced reservoir to support the local animals and vegetation. In the course of the current investigation, 36 different species of birds were identified in the vicinity of Purkabodi Reservoir. The birds were grouped according to their habitat, which included the Residential Common, Winter Visitor, and Uncommon habitats. Thakor *et al.* (2010) discovered 104 different species of birds on or around two reservoirs. According to Baker (1930) claimed that there are twenty-five different species of birds living at Siregoan lake. Kulkarni *et al.* (2006), there are ninety-three species of birds in Shikhachi Wadi, belonging to sixteen orders and 39 families. In the Nanded district of Maharashtra, there is a reservoir called Salim Ali Lake, where Yardi *et al.* (2004) discovered 64 species of birds. According to Kulkarni and Goswami (2008), the increased number of birds in agroecosystems throughout August and December indicated that there were more birds in croplands because of the heavy production of grains and vegetables during this time. At this period, mature grains of sorghum, pearl millet, and maize particularly those of Shikra, Munia, and common Myna, attracted a lot of birds.

The current study found that the highest birds species populations were found during the early monsoon and winter seasons, and the lowest numbers of species were found during the late summer.

Table 1: Avifaunal diversity of Purkabodi Reservoir during December 2022 to November 2023.

SN	Name of the species	Common Name	Status
1	<i>Copsychus saularis</i> (Linnaeus)	Oriental Magpie-Robin	R,C
2	<i>Dendrocygna javanica</i> (Horsfield)	Lesser Whistling-Duck	R,C
3	<i>Acridotheres tristis</i> (Linnaeus)	Common Myna	R,C
4	<i>Mesophoyx intermedia</i> (Wagler)	Median Egret	R,C
5	<i>Nettapus coromandelianus</i>	Cotton Teal	R,C
6	<i>Phalacrocorax niger</i> (Vielillot)	Little Cormorant	R,C
7	<i>Cairina scutulata</i>	White-winged wood duck	EN
8	<i>Aquila hastata</i>	Indian spotted eagle	VU
9	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>	Little egret	R,C
10	<i>Milvus migrans</i> (Boddaert)	Black Kite	R,
11	<i>Streptopelia chinensis</i>	Spotted Dove	R,C
12	<i>Dinopium benghalense</i>	Black-rumped flameback	R,C
13	<i>Dicrurus macrocercus Vieillot</i>	Black Drongo	R,C
14	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i> (Linnaeus)	Common Sandpiper	WV,C
15	<i>Amaurornis phoenicurus</i> (Pennant)	White-breasted Waterhen	R,C
16	<i>Elanus caeruleus</i> (Desfontaines)	Black-shouldered Kite	R,C
17	<i>Vanellus indicus</i> (Boddaert)	Red-wattled Lapwing	R,C
18	<i>Pycnonotus luteolus</i>	White-browed Bulbul	WV,
19	<i>Fulica atra</i> (Linnaeus)	Australian Coot	L,C
20	<i>Eudynamis scolopaceus</i> (Linnaeus)	Asian Koel	L,C
21	<i>Gallus sonneratii</i> (Temminck)	Grey Junglefowl	R,C
22	<i>Turdoides striatus</i>	Jungle Babbler	R,C
23	<i>Alcedo atthis</i> (Linnaeus)	Small Blue Kingfisher	R,C
24	<i>Tactybaptus ruficollis</i> (Pallas)	Little Grebe/Dabchick	R,C
25	<i>Coturnix coromandelica</i> (Gmelin)	Black-breasted Quail or Rain Quail	L,C
26	<i>Bubulcus ibis</i> (Linnaeus)	Cattle Egret	R,C
27	<i>Sphenocichla humei</i>	Wedge-billed wren-babbler	NT
28	<i>Prinia cinereocapilla</i>	Grey-crowned prinia	VU
29	<i>Pycnonotus xantholaemus</i>	Yellow-throated bulbul	VU
30	<i>Ardeola grayii</i> (Sykes)	Indian Pond-Heron	R,C
31	<i>Charadrius dubius</i> Scopoli	Little Ringed Plover	R,C
32	<i>Columba linia</i> (Gmelin)	Blue Rock Pigeon	R,C
33	<i>Spilornis cheela</i> (Latham)	Crested Serpent-Eagle	L,C
34	<i>Seicercus whistleri</i>	Whistler's warbler	LC
35	<i>Tringa guttifer</i>	Nordmann's greenshank	EN
36	<i>Chlamydotis undulata</i>	Houbara bustard	VU

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