

Passeriformes Bird Species as Documented from Conservation Reserve Beed, Jhunjhunu, Rajasthan, India

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Abstract: The passerine or the perching birds belong to the largest order of birds Passeriformes, the dominant avian group on Earth today which includes more than half of all bird species and now occur in abundance on all continents except Antarctica and on most oceanic islands. Various habitat characteristics of area viz., topography, vegetation, water availability, nesting sites and other natural as well as manmade structures decide the avian diversity of the region. The present survey was undertaken in the Conservation Reserve Beed of Jhunjhunu district of Rajasthan, India. In all, 65 bird species belonging to 9 families were recorded from the region.

1. Introduction

The passerine or the perching birds belong to the largest order of birds Passeriformes, the dominant avian group on Earth today which includes more than half of all bird species. These are true perching birds, with four toes, three directed forward and one backward. Considered the most highly evolved of all birds, and now occur in abundance on all continents except Antarctica and on most oceanic islands.

As objects of beauty and interest, passerines have been incorporated into human culture, folklore, poetry, music, sculpture, and painting. Passerines are widely kept as cage birds. Songbirds are economically important in other ways also. Although seldom considered food in economically advanced areas, they are nonetheless important dietary items in many rural or heavily populated countries. Passerines, on the other hand, are serious economic pests. In areas in which one-crop agriculture is extensive, certain bird species have undergone population explosions because of almost unlimited food availability; in turn, their crop depredations can be serious.

As the dominant form of birdlife in virtually all terrestrial environments, the perching birds are a major component of the world's ecosystems. They consume great quantities and varieties of food—grains, fruits, insects and other invertebrates, small amphibians and reptiles, and even small mammals—and in turn serve as food for other animals; they act as hosts for parasites and are occasionally parasitic themselves; they both propagate and distribute plants by pollinating flowers and carrying viable seeds to new locations; and they have the mobility (through migration) to utilize habitats that are available only at certain times of the year.

Various habitat characteristics of area viz., topography, vegetation, water availability, nesting sites and other natural as well as manmade structures decide the avian diversity of the region. The present study was therefore undertaken to document the passerine species status of the recently declared Conservation Reserve at Jhunjhunu district, which would serve as a base line document for future years.

2. Methodology

The Study Area

The present survey was undertaken in the Conservation Reserve Beed of Jhunjhunu district (located between 27°38' and 28°31' N and 75°02' and 76°06' E) of Rajasthan, India.. The total forest area available is about 10.47 sq km and is characterized by tropical thorny vegetation represented by *Prosopis cineraria*, *Acacia leucophloea*, *A. nilotica*, *Salvadoraoleodes*, *Capparis decidua*, *Opuntia sp.*, *Tephrosiapurpuria*, *Cenchrusciliaris* etc.

Materials and Method

The survey was carried out during a complete annual cycle (2014-15) and the observations were taken on alternate days generally between 5 am to 8 am, sometimes depending upon the season, employing point count method. Olympus binoculars (8x40 DPS I) were used and pertinent field guides (Ali & Ripley 1983; Grimmett et al. 2001) were followed for identification.

3. Results and discussion

The passerine birds documented from the Conservation Reserve Beed of Jhunjhunu during the period of survey have been presented in Table 1. In all, 65 bird species belonging to 9 families were recorded. The family Lanidae dominated the group represented by 14 species, closely followed by Passeridae and Muscicapidae, comprising 13 species each, Silvidae including 9 species, while Stumidae, Hirundinidae, Alaudidae, Pycnonotidae and Nectaninidae were represented by 5, 4, 4, 2 and 1 species respectively. Further, of the 65 species documented, 41 were resident, 21 were winter migrant, while, summer and passage migrant were represented by two and one species respectively. One very significant point worth mentioning is that, all the documented species are of Least Concerned (LC) category in the IUCN (2012) Red List. Earlier, Sankar et al. (1993), Shahabuddin (2006) and Sultana (2013) have conducted surveys of the Sariska Tiger Reserve of Rajasthan for bird species.

References

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Table 1: Taxonomic list (along with common names) of Passeriformes bird species as documented from Conservation Reserve Beed, Jhunjhunu, Rajasthan, India

Order: PASSERIFORMES					
1.	Lanidae	<i>Lanius schach</i> (L.)	Long-Tailed Shrike	LC	R
2.		<i>L. meridionalis</i> (L.)	Southern Grey Shrike	LC	R
3.		<i>L. minor</i> (Gmel.)	Lesser Grey Shrike	LC	R
4.		<i>L. vittatus</i> (Val.)	Bay-Backed Shrike	LC	R
5.		<i>Tephrodornis pondicerianus</i> (Gmel.)	Common Woodshrike	LC	R
6.		<i>Terpsiphone paradise</i> (L.)	Asian Paradise Flycatcher	LC	R
7.		<i>Dendrocitta vagabunda</i> (Lath.)	Rufous Treepie	LC	R
8.		<i>Corvus splendens</i> (Vieil.)	House Crow	LC	R
9.		<i>C. corax</i> (Wag.)	Jungle Crow	LC	R
10.		<i>Rhipidura aureola</i> (Less.)	White-Browed Fantail	LC	R
11.		<i>Dicrurus macroerucus</i> (Vieil.)	Black Drongo	LC	R
12.		<i>Aegithina tiphia</i> (L.)	Common Iora	LC	R
13.		<i>Oriolus oriolus</i> (L.)	Eurasian Golden Oriole	LC	SM
14.		<i>Pericrocotus cinnamomeus</i> (L.)	Small Minivet	LC	R
15.	Muscicapidae	<i>Copsychus saularis</i> (L.)	Oriental Magpie Robin	LC	R
16.		<i>Saxicoloides fulicata</i> (Hodg.)	Indian Robin	LC	R
17.		<i>Ficedula parva</i> (Bech.)	Red-Throated Flycatcher	LC	WM
18.		<i>Phoenicurus ochruros</i> (Gmel.)	Black Redstart	LC	WM
19.		<i>Monticola solitarius</i> (L.)	Blue Rockthrush	LC	WM
20.		<i>Zoothera wardii</i> (Bly.)	Pied Thrush	LC	R
21.		<i>Luscinia svecica</i> (L.)	Blue Throat	LC	WM
22.		<i>Cercomela fusca</i> (Bly.)	Brown Rock-Chat	LC	R
23.		<i>Saxicola caprata</i> (L.)	Pied Bushchat	LC	WM
24.		<i>S. torquata</i> (L.)	Common Stonechat	LC	WM
25.		<i>S. macrorhyncha</i>	Stoliczka's Bushchat	LC	R
26.		<i>Oenanthe picata</i> (Bly.)	Variable Wheatear	LC	WM
27.		<i>O. deserti</i> (T.)	Desert Wheatear	LC	WM
28.	Sturnidae	<i>Sturnus pagodarum</i> (Gmel.)	Brahminy Starling	LC	R
29.		<i>S. roseus</i> (L.)	Rosy Starling	LC	PM
30.		<i>S. contra</i> (L.)	Asian Pied Starling	LC	R
31.		<i>Acridothera tristis</i> (L.)	Common Myna	LC	R
32.		<i>A. ginginianus</i> (Lath.)	Bank Myna	LC	R
33.	Hirundinidae	<i>Hirundo rustica</i> (L.)	Barn Swallow	LC	WM
34.		<i>H. daurica</i> (L.)	Red-Rumped Swallow	LC	R
35.		<i>H. fluvicola</i> (Bly.)	Streak-Throated Swallow	LC	R
36.		<i>H. concolor</i> (Skyles)	Dusky Crag Martin	LC	R
37.	Pycnonotidae	<i>Pycnonotus leucotis</i> (G.)	White-Eared Bulbul	LC	R
38.		<i>P. cafer</i> (L.)	Red-Vented Bulbul	LC	R
39.	Silvidae	<i>Prinia sylvatica</i> (Jer.)	Jungle Prinia	LC	R
40.		<i>P. inornata</i> (Gmel.)	Plain Prinia	LC	R
41.		<i>Sylvia curruca</i> (L.)	Lesser White-Throat	LC	WM
42.		<i>Orthotomus sutorius</i> (Penn.)	Common Tailor Bird	LC	R
43.		<i>Phylloscopus humei</i> (Br.)	Hume's Warbler	LC	WM
44.		<i>P. collybita</i> (Vieil.)	Common Chiffchaff	LC	WM
45.		<i>Turdoides caudatus</i> (Dum.)	Common Babbler	LC	R
46.		<i>T. malcolmi</i> (Syk.)	Large Grey Babbler	LC	R
47.	<i>T. striatus</i> (Dum.)	Jungle Babbler	LC	R	
48.	Alaudidae	<i>Calandrella brachydactyla</i> (Leis.)	Greater Short-Toed Lark	LC	WM
49.		<i>Eremopterix grisea</i>	Ashy Crowned Sparrow Lark	LC	R
50.		<i>Ammomanes phoenicurus</i> (Frank.)	Rufous-Tailed Lark	LC	SM
51.		<i>A. deserti</i> (Lich.)	Desert Lark	LC	WM
52.	Nectarinidae	<i>Nectarinia asiatica</i> (Lath.)	Purple Sunbird	LC	R

53.	Passeridae	<i>Passer domesticus</i> (L.)	House Sparrow	LC	R
54.		<i>P. hispaniolensis</i> (Temm.)	Spanish Sparrow	LC	WM
55.		<i>Petronia xanthocollis</i> (Bur.)	Chestnut Shouldered Petronia	LC	R
56.		<i>Motacilla alba</i> (L.)	White Wagtail	LC	WM
57.		<i>M. maderaspatensis</i> (Gmel.)	White-Browed Wagtail	LC	R
58.		<i>M. flava</i> (L.)	Yellow Wagtail	LC	WM
59.		<i>M. citreola</i> (Pall.)	Citrine Wagtail	LC	WM
60.		<i>Anthus rufulus</i> (Viel.)	Paddy-Field Pipit	LC	R
61.		<i>A. trivialis</i> (L.)	Tree-Pipit	LC	WM
62.		<i>A. campestris</i> (L.)	Tawny Pipit	LC	WM
63.		<i>A. Hodgi</i> (Rich.)	Olive-Backed Pipit	LC	WM
64.		<i>Ploceus philippinus</i> (L.)	Baya Weaver	LC	R
65.		<i>Lonchura malabarica</i> (L.)	Indian Silverbill	LC	R

LC= Least Concerned, R= Resident, WM= Winter Migrant, SM= Summer Migrant, PM= Passage Migrant

