

A CHECKLIST OF BIRDS OF CALICUT UNIVERSITY CAMPUS, KERALA

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The University of Calicut campus is situated about 25 km. from the historic city of Calicut (11°25'45" N and 75°45'50" E) in Malappuram District of Kerala. The area is a flat topped laterite hillock, having a campus of about 25 sq. km. The topography of the campus is comparatively plain supporting scrub jungles and cashew plantations in the slopes. The vegetation is dominated by the bushes of *Calicopteris flouribunda*, *Lantana camara*, *Rauwolfia tetraphylla*, *Eupatorium odoratum*, *Clerodendrum infortunatum*, etc, interspersed with tress like *Mangifera indica*, *Macaranga peltata*, *Ficus benghalensis*, *Ficus religiosa*, etc. The campus also has a very large Botanical Garden which attracts many birds.

During our stay, from 1993 to 1996, a total of 124 species of birds were recorded (See-List). Of these fourteen species are migrants, they are Kestrel, Indian Pitta, Short-toed Lark, Common Swallow, Brown Shrike, Golden Oriole, Paradise Flycatcher, Grey Drongo, Greenish Leaf Warbler, Blyths Reed Warbler, Richard's Pipit, Grey Wagtail, White Wagtail, Rose Finch. Some rare birds like the Stone Curlew, Brahminy Myna, Whitebrowed Fantail Flycatcher were breeding within the campus. Raptors such as, Blackwinged Kite, Honey Buzzard, Crested Hawk Eagle, Crested Serpent Eagle, Kestrel were occasionally sighted. Frugivorous birds like Grey-fronted Green Pigeon, Orange-breasted Green Pigeon, Common Green Pigeon, Lorikeet, Crimson-throated Barbet, Crimson-breasted Barbet, Blossom-headed Parakeet congregate on *Ficus benghalensis* tree during the fruiting season. Forest loving species like Chestnut-headed Bee-eater, Heart-spotted Woodpecker, Fairy Blue Bird, Small Sunbird, Rose Finch were observed rarely in the campus.

Eventhough, the avifauna of the campus is rich, the bird habitat is threatened with the unplanned developmental activities like clearing of thickets, construction of buidings and cutting of large trees. In the recent past, the number of ground nesting species like Yellow-wattled Lapwing, Stone Curlew, Larks and Pipits have declined. Planting more indigenous fruiting trees and controlling cattle grazing may save this laterite bird habitat from destruction.

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Checklist of birds of Calicut University campus*

Family : Phalacrocoracidae	
1. Little Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax niger</i>
Family : Ardeidae	
2. Large Egret	<i>Ardea alba</i>
3. Pond Heron	<i>Ardeola grayii</i>
4. Cattle Egret	<i>Bubulcus ibis</i>
5. Smaller Egret	<i>Egretta intermedia</i>
6. Little Egret	<i>E. garzetta</i> .
Family : Accipitridae	
7. Black-winged Kite	<i>Elanus caeruleus</i>
8. Honey Buzzard	<i>Pernis ptilorhynchus</i>
9. Pariah Kite	<i>Milvus migrans</i>
10. Brahminy Kite	<i>Haliastur indus</i>
11. Shikra	<i>Accipiter badius</i>
12. Crested Hawk Eagle	<i>Spizaetus cirrhatu</i>
13. Crested Serpent Eagle	<i>Spilornis cheela</i>
Family : Falconidae	
14. Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>
Family : Phasianidae	
15. Jungle Bush Quail	<i>Perdica asiatica</i>
Family : Burhinidae	
16. Stone Curlew	<i>Burhinus oedicnemus</i>
Family : Charadriidae	
17. Red-wattled Lapwing Vanellus	<i>Vanellus indicus</i>
18. Yellow-wattled Lapwing	<i>V. malabaricus</i>
19. Little Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius dubius</i> .
Family : Columbidae	
20. Grey-fronted Green Pigeon	<i>Treron pompadoa</i> .
21. Orange-breasted Green Pigeon	<i>T. bicincta</i>
22. Common Green Pigeon	<i>T. phoenicoptera</i>
23. Blue Rock Pigeon	<i>Columba livia</i>
24. Spotted Dove	<i>Streptopelia chinensis</i>
25. Emerald Dove	<i>Chalcophaps indica</i>
Family : Psittacidae	
26. Rose-ringed Parakeet	<i>Psittacula krameri</i>
27. Blossom-headed Parakeet	<i>P. cyanocephala</i>
28. Indian Lorikeet	<i>Loriculus vernalis</i>
Family : Cuculidae	
29. Pied Crested Cuckoo	<i>Clamator jacobinus</i>
30. Common Hawk Cuckoo	<i>Cuculus varius</i>

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* After Ripley (1982).

31. Indian Cuckoo	<i>C. micropterus</i>	70. Black-headed Oriole	<i>O. xanthornus</i>
32. Koel	<i>Eudynamys scolopacea</i>	Family : Dicruridae	
33. Crow-Pheasant	<i>Centropus sinensis</i>	71. Black Drongo	<i>Dicrurus adsimilis</i>
Family : Strigidae		72. Ashy Drongo	<i>D. leucophaeus</i>
34. Collared Scops Owl	<i>Otus bakkamoena</i>	73. Greater Racket-tailed Drongo	<i>D. pradius</i>
35. Jungle Owlet	<i>Glaucidium radiatum</i>	Family : Artamidae	
36. Brown Hawk-Owl	<i>Ninox scutulata</i>	74. Ashy Swallow-Shrike	<i>Artamus fuscus</i>
37. Spotted Owlet	<i>Athene brama</i>	Family : Sturnidae	
38. Mottled Wood Owl	<i>Strix ocellata</i>	75. Grey-headed Myna	<i>Sturnus malabaricus</i>
Family : Caprimulgidae		76. White-headed Myna	<i>S. malabaricus blythii</i>
39. Common Indian Nightjar	<i>Caprimulgus asiaticus</i>	77. Brahminy Myna	<i>S. pagodarum</i>
Family : Apodidae		78. Common Myna	<i>Acridotheris tristis</i>
40. Indian Edible-Nest Swiftlet	<i>Collocalia unicolor</i>	79. Jungle Myna	<i>A. fuscus</i>
41. House Swift	<i>Apus affinis</i>	Family : Corvidae	
42. Palm Swift	<i>Cypsiurus parvus</i>	80. Indian Tree Pie	<i>Dendrocitta vagabunda</i>
Family : Alcedinidae		81. House Crow	<i>Corvus splendens</i>
43. Lesser Pied Kingfisher	<i>Ceryle rudis</i>	82. Jungle Crow	<i>C. macrorhynchos</i>
44. Stork-billed kingfisher	<i>Pelargopsis capensis</i>	Family : Campephagidae	
45. White-breasted Kingfisher	<i>Halcyon smyrnensis</i>	83. Malabar Wood Shrike	<i>Tephrodornis virgatus</i>
Family : Meropidae		84. Large Cuckoo-Shrike	<i>Coracina novaehollandiae</i>
46. Chestnut-headed Bee-eater	<i>Merops leschenaulti</i>	85. Black-headed Cuckoo-Shrike	<i>C. melanoptera</i>
47. Blue-tailed Bee-eater	<i>M. philippinus</i>	86. Scarlet Minivet	<i>Pericrocotus flammeus</i>
48. Small Green Bee-eater	<i>M. orientalis</i>	87. Small Minivet	<i>P. cinnamomeus</i>
Family : Coraciidae		Family : Irenidae	
49. Indian Roller	<i>Coracias benghalensis</i>	88. Common Iora	<i>Aegithina tiphia</i>
Family : Upupidae		89. Gold-fronted Chloropsis	<i>Chloropsis aurifrons</i>
50. Hoopoe	<i>Upupa epops</i>	90. Gold-mantled Chloropsis	<i>C. cochinchinensis</i>
Family : Capitonidae		91. Fairy Bluebird	<i>Irena puella</i>
51. Small Green Barbet	<i>Magalaima viridis</i>	Family : Pycnonotidae	
52. Crimson-throated Barbet	<i>M. rubricapilla</i>	92. Red-whiskered Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus jocosus</i>
53. Crimson-breasted Barbet	<i>M. haemacephala</i>	93. Red-vented Bulbul	<i>P. cafer</i>
Family : Picidae		Family : Muscicapidae	
54. Lesser Golden-backed Woodpecker	<i>Dinopium benghalense</i>	94. Jungle Babbler	<i>Turdoides striatus</i>
55. Golden-backed Three-toed Woodpecker	<i>D. javanense</i>	95. White-headed Babbler	<i>T. affinis</i>
56. Yellow-fronted Pied Woodpecker	<i>Picoides maharattensis</i>	96. Brown Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa latirostris</i>
57. Pigmy Woodpecker	<i>P. nanus</i>	97. Paradise Flycatcher	<i>Terpsiphone paradisi</i>
58. Heart-spotted Woodpecker	<i>Hemicircus canente</i>	98. White-browed Fantail Flycatcher	<i>Rhipidura aureola</i>
Family : Pittidae		99. Streaked Fantail Warbler	<i>Cisticola juncidis</i>
59. Indian Pitta	<i>Pitta brachyura</i>	100. Franklins Wren-Warbler	<i>Prinia hodgsonii</i>
Family : Alaudidae		101. Ashy Wren-Warbler	<i>P. socialis</i>
60. Bush Lark	<i>Mirafra assamica</i>	102. Tailor Bird	<i>Orthotomus sutorius</i>
61. Ashy-crowned Finch-Lark	<i>Eremopterix grisea</i>	103. Blyth's Reed Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus dumetorum</i>
62. Short-Toad Lark	<i>Calandrella cinerea</i>	104. Dull Green Leaf Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus trochiloides</i>
63. Eastern Skylark	<i>Alauda gulgula</i>	105. Magpie-Robin	<i>Copsychus saularis</i>
64. Malabar Crested Lark	<i>Galerida malabarica</i>	106. Pied Bush Chat	<i>Saxicola caprata</i>
Family : Hirundinidae		107. Indian Robin	<i>Saxicoloides fulicata</i>
65. Common Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	Family : Motacillidae	
66. Red-rumped Swallow	<i>H. daurica.</i>	108. Richard's Pipit	<i>Anthus novaeseelandiae</i>
Family : Laniidae		richardi	
67. Rufous-backed Shrike	<i>Lanius schach</i>	109. Paddyfield Pipit	<i>A. novaeseelandiae malayensis</i>
68. Brown Shrike	<i>L. cristatus</i>	110. Grey Wagtail	<i>Motacilla cinerea</i>
Family : Oriolidae		111. White Wagtail	<i>M. alba</i>
69. Golden Oriole	<i>Oriolus oriolus</i>	112. Large Pied Wagtail	<i>M. maderaspatensis</i>
		Family : Dicaeidae	
		113. Tickell's Flowerpecker	<i>Dicaeum erythrorhynchos</i>
		114. Thick-billed Flowerpecker	<i>D. agile</i>

Family : Nectariniidae

115. Purple-rumped Sunbird	<i>Nectarinia zeylonica</i>
116. Small Sunbird	<i>N. minima</i>
117. Loten's Sunbird	<i>N. lotenia</i>
118. Purple Sunbird	<i>N. asiatica</i>

Family : Ploceidae

119. Yellow-throated Sparrow	<i>Petronia xanthocollis</i>
120. House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>
121. White-backed Munia	<i>Lonchura striata</i>
122. Black-headed Munia	<i>L. malacca</i>
123. Spotted Munia	<i>L. punctulata</i>

Family : Fringillidae

124. Common Rosefinch	<i>Carpodacus erythrinus</i>
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NOTE**ZOOS' PRINT JOURNAL 15(2): 216****A CASE OF OBSTRUCTIVE ASPHYXIA IN PYTHON (*PYTHON MOLURUS*)****P.K.Mehrotra¹, Sudhir Bhargava², Sheela Chaudhary³ and B.B.L.Mathur⁴**¹Officer Incharge Associate Professor, ²Instructor, ³Assistant Professor, Apex Centre, ARS Campus, Durgapura, Jaipur, Rajasthan, India⁴Veterinary Officer, Zoo, Jaipur, Rajasthan, India

The Apex Centre, Jaipur received a carcass of python in the month of January 1998 from the Zoological Park, Jaipur. With the animal going off-feed during the winter months on account of hibernation, the zoo authorities apparently could not note of the deteriorating health condition of the snake. The general body condition of the carcass was good and the animal measured about 8 feet 6 inch in length. The carcass had no external marks of injury.

All the visceral organs presented white foci of variable size on the exposed surfaces. The gastro-intestinal tract when opened for examination, was found to be totally empty except for the presence of thick mucigenous mass in the posterior part of the intestine. The anterior part of small intestine had numerous round worms attached to the mucosa of the lumen. However, no pathognomonic lesions could be detected in the gastrointestinal tract.

The respiratory tract was explored from mouth to lung through

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trachea. About 6 inches posterior to mouth the lumen of trachea was found completely occluded with a mass of growth (more than 2 inches long). An incision on the mass revealed the presence of thick pus. Abscesses of variable sizes were found scattered throughout the trachea and in the lung. The lung was found to be totally collapsed. Heart was found empty.

The pus samples along with piece of lung and mucus from intestine were collected for further laboratory investigation. Gram's stained smears of the pus and impression smear of lung revealed the presence of Gram negative non-sporulated rods.

The pus sample was inoculated in blood agar medium. The bacterial growth appearing after incubation at 37°C for 24-36 hours was subjected to purification by subculturing and generic identification tests as per usual microbiological techniques of identification (Carter, 1967). The bacterial isolate recovered from pus sample was identified as *Corynebacterium (Actinomyces) pyogenes*.

The mucus sample was inoculated in Mac Conkey and S S agar media. The bacterial growth appearing on the media were identified as *Estreuria coli*, *Proteus* sp. and *Salmonella* sp.

The clinical history, post mortem examinations and laboratory investigation were suggestive of obstructive asphyxia as the cause of death in the Python. Rao *et al.* (1980) reported concomittant occurrence of *Corynebacterium pyogenes* and *Pseudomonas aruginosa* in mouth lesions of cobra. Kaura *et al.* (1972), Sethi *et al.* (1980a&b) and, Mishra and Verma (1981) have also reported the presence of enteric bacteria in python and other snakes.

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