

CHECKLIST OF BIRDS FROM POHARA-MALKHED RESERVE FOREST, DISTRICT AMRAVATI, MAHARASHTRA

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Abstract

Avian fauna of Pohara-Malkhed Reserve of Amravati District (Maharashtra) was studied from 1997 to 2000. Totally 171 bird species from 56 different families were recorded of which 108 residents, 38 winter migrants, four passage migrants, three breeding migrants and 18 resident migrants were observed. The appearance of these birds were found to be positively correlated with the availability of food and roosting places. The reserve is at present undisturbed from human activities and rich in grass forest with ten wetlands. Disappearance of vultures was noted.

Key words

Birds, wetlands, passage migrants, Pohara-Malkhed Reserve, checklist

Introduction

Pohara range of hills in Amravati district is located between 20°57' N and 77°57' E. The total area is about 80km². This includes five protected forests namely, Indla, Pipalkhuta, Lalkhed, Malkhed and Utkhed protected forests. Similarly, there are six reserve forests which includes, Chauramba, Chirodi, Pohra, Wadali, Hatla and Karla reserve forests. This area is bordered on the eastern side by Bhivapur Reserve Forest and from western side by Amravati City. The forest area is encroached by villagers who are mostly small to very small farmers. They mostly graze their sheep and cattle on the available grassland and take annual produce mostly from *Jowar* and *Bajara*. There are 10 reservoirs in this range namely, Indla, Wadali, Chhatri, Pohara, Bhiwapur, Sawanga, Basalapur, Amravati University, Kondeshwar and Ghatkhed reservoir (Fig. 1). The area surrounding the reservoir harbours diverse fauna and flora. The vegetation consists of both natural forest i.e. evergreen, semi-evergreen, dry-deciduous, grassland and teak (*Tectona grandis*), Khair (*Acacia catechu*), Palas (*Butea monosperma*) and *Salai* plantations.

Not much is known about the avian fauna of Pohara range of hills from Amravati District, Maharashtra. Hence, with the intention to know the avian fauna of this region, the present study was undertaken from 1997 to 2000. The avian fauna of Amravati University Reservoir and campus was carried out by Wadatkar (2000).

Material and Methods

Birds were observed by a spotting scope (10x - 45x) or binocular (7 x 50) and identified using physical features with the help of guides and reference books. Observations were made every Sunday throughout the years during 1997 to 2000. i.e. for four years from 0500 to 1700 hours. Bird watching was done from representative areas like all the ten wetlands, grasslands and shrub forests (Fig. 1). Birds were identified up to species level (Ali, 1983; Inskipp *et al.*, 1996; Manakadan, 1998; Grewal, 2000) and their habitats were also recorded. The observed birds were categorised as C - Common / Abundant; U - Uncommon; O - Occasional; L - Rare according to their abundance (Abdulali, 1972).

Status of birds were classified into resident (R), resident migrants (RM), winter migrants (WM), breeding migrants (BM) and passage migrants (PM).

Results and Discussion

During the study span, 171 bird species from 56 different families were observed. Their family-wise list depicting their common as well as scientific names and status is given in Table 1.

Among the 171 birds; 108 birds were residents, 18 resident migrants, 38 winter visitors, four passage migrants and three breeding migrants. Of the three breeding migrants, Pied-crested Cuckoos were found to lay their eggs in the nests of babblers (*Turdoides* spp.), which are abundant in the study region. Open-billed Stork and Black-tailed Godwit were seen during May 2000 when most of the wetlands shrink excessively due to loss of

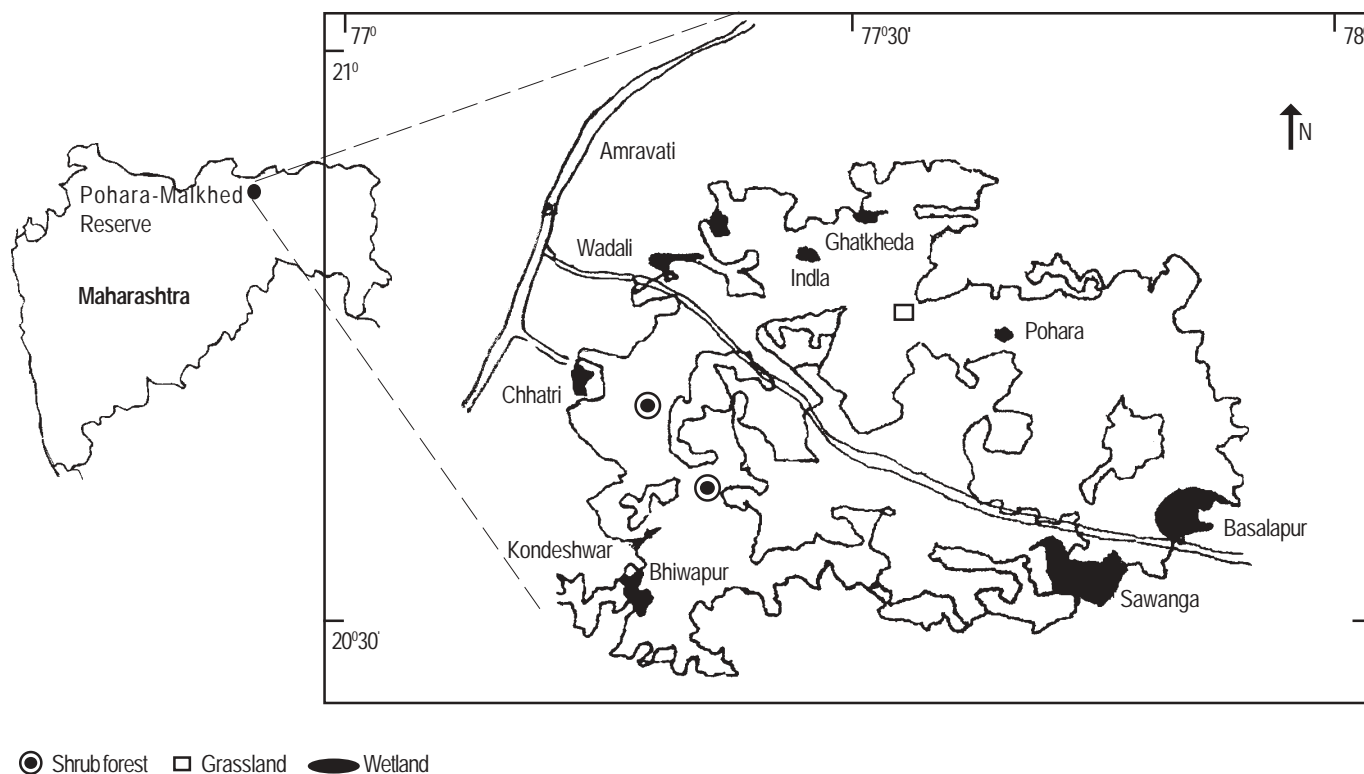


Figure 1. Map of Pohra-Malkhed Reserve Forest showing bird watching spots which include shrub forest, grassland and wetlands

water and expose snails. These birds preferred molluscs for food and were found particularly on the Sawanga Reservoir of this region. Thus the availability of ample food of choice might have made passage migrants like Black-tailed Godwit and Whiskered Tern to stay for some time on this reservoir while migrating from north to south or back. Another passage migrant, Rosy Starling was found everywhere before and after winter season, in flocks. During the months of March their presence coincided with the flowering of plants as these birds mostly feed on the nectar from the Palas (*Butea monosperma*) flowers.

Further, nesting of Lapwings, River terns and Dabchicks were seen in abundance on all the reservoirs. The nestings of Black-winged Stilt, Little Tern and Painted Snipe were observed only on Savanga Reservoir. However, surprisingly, birds like Demoiselle Crane, Common Crane and Bar-headed Goose, which are generally seen on the reservoirs located towards north of Amravati City were not seen / recorded from this area. Painted Storks were also seen in large numbers on the Shevati Reservoir, outside the study area, but in the study area only few numbers were recorded. Another important point to take into consideration is the total absence of White-rumped Vulture and Scavenger Vulture from this area, however, these birds are

included in the checklist of Nature Conservation Society of Amravati (Rithe *et al.*, 1992). The reasons behind the disappearance of vultures from the Pohra-Malkhed Reserve Forest are to be investigated further.

Acknowledgment

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Table 1. Checklist of birds from Pohra-Malkhed Reserve Forest, Amravathi District, Maharashtra

Common name	Scientific name	Status	Common name	Scientific name	Status
Podicipedidae			Pittidae		
Little Grebe	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>	RM C	Indian Pitta	<i>Pitta brachyura</i>	R L
Phalacrocoracidae			Phasianidae		
Little Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax niger</i>	RM C	Grey Francolin	<i>Francolinus pondicerianus</i>	R C
Anhingidae			Common Quail	<i>Coturnix coturnix</i>	R C
Darter	<i>Anhinga melanogaster</i>	WM L	Rain Quail	<i>Coturnix coromandelica</i>	R C
Ardeidae			Indian Peafowl	<i>Pavo cristatus</i>	R C
Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>	R C	Rallidae		
Cattle Egret	<i>Bubulcus ibis</i>	R C	Common Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>	R C
Indian Pond Heron	<i>Ardeola grayii</i>	R C	Common Coot	<i>Fulica atra</i>	RM C
Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>	RM U	Purple Moorhen	<i>Porphyrio porphyrio</i>	R C
Large Egret	<i>Casmerodius albus</i>	R U	White-breasted Waterhen	<i>Amaurornis phoenicurus</i>	R C
Black-crowned Night Heron	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>	R L	Jacaniidae		
Ciconiidae			Pheasant-tailed Jacana	<i>Hydrophasianus chirurgus</i>	R U
Black Stork	<i>Ciconia nigra</i>	WM L	Scolopaciidae		
Painted Stork	<i>Mycteria leucocephala</i>	RM O	Black-tailed Godwit	<i>Limosa limosa</i>	PM L
Asian Open-billed Stork	<i>Anastomus oscitans</i>	RM L	Common Greenshank	<i>Tringa nebularia</i>	WM U
White-necked Stork	<i>Ciconia episcopus</i>	R U	Common Redshank	<i>Tringa totanus</i>	WM U
Threskiornithidae			Eurasian Woodcock	<i>Scolopax rusticola</i>	WM L
Black Ibis	<i>Pseudibis papillosa</i>	R U	Common Snipe	<i>Gallinago gallinago</i>	WM U
Glossy Ibis	<i>Plegadis falcinellus</i>	PM O	Wood Sandpiper	<i>Tringa glareola</i>	WM C
Eurasian Spoonbill	<i>Platalea leucorodia</i>	WM U	Common Sandpiper	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>	WM C
Oriental White Ibis	<i>Threskiornis melanocephalus</i>	RM U	Glareolidae		
Anatidae			Indian Courser	<i>Cursorius coromandelicus</i>	R L
Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	WM U	Small Pratincole	<i>Glareola lactea</i>	RM U
Northern Pintail	<i>Anas acuta</i>	WM C	Recurvirostridae		
Spot-billed Duck	<i>Anas poecilorhyncha</i>	R C	Black-winged Stilt	<i>Himantopus himantopus</i>	WM C
Eurasian Wigeon	<i>Anas penelope</i>	WM C	Charadriidae		
Northern Shoveller	<i>Anas clypeata</i>	WM C	Yellow-wattled Lapwing	<i>Vanellus malabaricus</i>	R C
Common Teal	<i>Anas crecca</i>	WM C	Red-wattled Lapwing	<i>Vanellus indicus</i>	R C
Garganey	<i>Anas querquedula</i>	WM C	Little Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius dubius</i>	WM C
Gadwall	<i>Anas strepera</i>	WM C	Burhinidae		
Brahminy Shelduck	<i>Tadorna ferruginea</i>	WM C	Great Stone Plover	<i>Esacus recurvirostris</i>	WM L
Red-crested Pochard	<i>Rhodonessa rufina</i>	WM C	Rostratulidae		
Common Pochard	<i>Aythya ferina</i>	WM C	Greater Painted-snipe	<i>Rostratula benghalensis</i>	RM C
Tufted Pochard	<i>Aythya fuligula</i>	WM C	Laridae		
Greater Scaup	<i>Aythya marila</i>	WM C	River Tern	<i>Sterna aurantia</i>	RM C
Cotton Teal	<i>Nettapus coromandelianus</i>	R C	Little Tern	<i>Sterna albifrons</i>	BM L
Comb Duck	<i>Sarkidiornis melanotos</i>	RM U	Whiskered Tern	<i>Chlidonias hybridus</i>	PM L
Lesser Whistling Duck	<i>Dendrocygna javanica</i>	R C	Pteroclididae		
Accipitridae			Chestnut-bellied Sandgrouse	<i>Pterocles exustus</i>	R C
Western Marsh Harrier	<i>Circus aeruginosus</i>	WM O	Columbidae		
Crested Serpent Eagle	<i>Spilomis cheela</i>	R L	Blue Rock Pigeon	<i>Columba livia</i>	R C
Short-toed Snake Eagle	<i>Circaetus gallicus</i>	RM L	Yellow-legged Green Pigeon	<i>Treron phoenicoptera</i>	R C
White-eyed Buzzard	<i>Butastur teesa</i>	R L	Eurasian Collared Dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>	R C
Shikra	<i>Accipiter badius</i>	R C	Spotted Dove	<i>Streptopelia chinensis</i>	R C
Eurasian Sparrow Hawk	<i>Accipiter nisus</i>	R C	Oriental Trutle Dove	<i>Streptopelia orientalis</i>	R C
Pallid Harrier	<i>Circus macrourus</i>	WM L	Red-collared Dove	<i>Streptopelia tranquebarica</i>	RM C
Pied Harrier	<i>Circus melanoleucos</i>	WM L	Little Brown Dove	<i>Streptopelia senegalensis</i>	R U
Black Kite	<i>Milvus migrans</i>	R C			

Common name	Scientific name	Status	Common name	Scientific name	Status
Falconidae			Laniidae		
Common Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>	WM O	Great Grey Shrike	<i>Lanius excubitor</i>	RM O
Rose-ringed Parakeet	<i>Psittacula krameri</i>	R C	Bay-backed Shrike	<i>Lanius vittatus</i>	R U
Cuculidae			Brown Shrike	<i>Lanius cristatus</i>	R O
Brainfever Bird	<i>Hierococcyx varius</i>	BM C	Rufous-backed Shrike	<i>Lanius schach</i>	R C
Pied Crested-cuckoo	<i>Clamtor jacobinus</i>	BM C	Sturnidae		
Asian Koel	<i>Eudynamis scolopacea</i>	R C	Grey-headed Starling	<i>Sturnus malabaricus</i>	WM O
Greater Coucal	<i>Centropus sinensis</i>	R C	Brahminy Starling	<i>Sturnus pagodarum</i>	R C
Strigidae			Rosy Starling	<i>Sturnus roseus</i>	PM C
Eurasian Eagle Owl	<i>Bubo bubo</i>	R C	Asian Pied Starling	<i>Sturnus contra</i>	R C
Spotted Owlet	<i>Athene brama</i>	R C	Common Myna	<i>Acridotheres tristis</i>	R C
Tytonidae			Jungle Myna	<i>Acridotheres fuscus</i>	R O
Barn owl	<i>Tyto alba</i>	R U	Pycnonotidae		
Caprimulgidae			Red-vented Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus cafer</i>	R C
Common Indian Nightjar	<i>Caprimulgus asiaticus</i>	R C	Corvidae		
Apodidae			Indian Tree Pie	<i>Dendrocitta vagabunda</i>	R C
House Swift	<i>Apus affinis</i>	R C	House Crow	<i>Corvus splendens</i>	R C
Meropidae			Campephagidae		
Small Bee-eater	<i>Merops orientalis</i>	RM C	Scarlet Minivet	<i>Pericrocotus flammeus</i>	R L
Coraciidae			Small Minivet	<i>Pericrocotus cinnamomeus</i>	R O
Indian Roller	<i>Coracias benghalensis</i>	R C	Large Cuckoo Shrike	<i>Coracina macei</i>	R O
Alcedinidae			Black-headed Cuckoo Shrike	<i>Coracina melanoptera</i>	R O
Lesser Pied Kingfisher	<i>Ceryle rudis</i>	R C	Irenidae		
Small Blue Kingfisher	<i>Alcedo atthis</i>	R C	Common Iora	<i>Aegithina tiphia</i>	R C
White-throated Kingfisher	<i>Halcyon smymensis</i>	R C	Dicruridae		
Upupidae			Black Drongo	<i>Dicrurus macrocercus</i>	R U
Common Hoopoe	<i>Upupa epops</i>	R C	White-bellied Drongo	<i>Dicrurus caerulescens</i>	RM O
Bucerotidae			Paridae		
Indian Grey Hornbill	<i>Ocyrceros birostoris</i>	R U	Great Tit	<i>Parus major</i>	R O
Capitonidae			Black-lored Yellow Tit	<i>Parus xanthogenys</i>	R L
Coppersmith Barbet	<i>Megalaima haemacephala</i>	R C	Sittidae		
Picidae			Chestnut-bellied Nuthatch	<i>Sitta castanea</i>	R L
Lesser Golden-backed Woodpecker	<i>Dinopium benghalense</i>	R C	Timaliinae		
Yellow-fronted Pied Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos mahrattensis</i>	R O	Yellow-eyed Babbler	<i>Chrysomma sinense</i>	R C
Oriolidae			Common Babbler	<i>Turdoides caudatus</i>	R C
Eurasian Golden Oriole	<i>Oriolus oriolus</i>	R C	Jungle Babbler	<i>Turdoides striatus</i>	R C
Alaudidae			Large Grey Babbler	<i>Turdoides malcolmi</i>	R C
Ashy-crowned Sparrow Lark	<i>Eremopterix grisea</i>	R C	Sylviinae		
Syke's Crested Lark	<i>Galerida deva</i>	R C	Ashy Prinia	<i>Prinia socialis</i>	R C
Common Crested Lark	<i>Galerida cristata</i>	R C	Common Tailor Bird	<i>Orthotomus sutorius</i>	R C
Eastern Sky Lark	<i>Alauda gulgula</i>	R U	Indian Great Reed Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus stentoreus</i>	R C
Red-winged Bush Lark	<i>Mirafra erythroptera</i>	R C	Blyth's Reed Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus dumetorum</i>	WM R
Rufus-tailed Finch Lark	<i>Ammomanes phoenicurus</i>	R C	Muscicapidae		
Hirundinidae			Tickell's Blue Flycatcher	<i>Cyornis tickelliae</i>	RM O
Dusky Crag-Martin	<i>Hirundo concolor</i>	R U	Monarchinae		
Common Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	WM U	Asian Paradise Flycatcher	<i>Terpsiphone paradisi</i>	R U
Wire-tailed Swallow	<i>Hirundo smithii</i>	R C	Rhipidurinae		
Red-rumped Swallow	<i>Hirundo daurica</i>	R C	White-browed Fantail	<i>Rhipidura aureola</i>	R U
			Turdinae		
			Blue-rock Thrush	<i>Monticola solitarius</i>	WM L

Common name	Scientific name	Status
Orange-headed Ground Thrush	<i>Zoothra citrina</i>	R L
Blue Thorat	<i>Luscinia svecica</i>	WM L
Black Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus ochruros</i>	WM C
Indian Robin	<i>Saxicoloides fulicata</i>	R C
Oriental Magpie Robin	<i>Copsychus saularis</i>	R C
Indian Chat	<i>Cercomela fusca</i>	R C
Common Stone Chat	<i>Saxicola torquata</i>	RM U
Pied Bush Chat	<i>Saxicola caprata</i>	R C
Eurasian Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>	R L
Motacillidae		
Paddyfield Pipit	<i>Anthuru rufulus</i>	R C
Yellow Wagtail	<i>Motacilla flava</i>	WM C
Large Pied Wagtail	<i>Motacilla maderaspatensis</i>	R C
Grey Wagtail	<i>Motacilla cinerea</i>	WM C
Citrine Wagtail	<i>Motacilla citreola</i>	WM C
Zosteropidae		
Oriental White-eye	<i>Zosterops palpebrosus</i>	R U
Purple-rumped Sunbird	<i>Nectarinia zeylonica</i>	R C
Purple Sunbird	<i>Nectarinia asiatica</i>	R C
Estrildinae		
Red Munia	<i>Amandava amandava</i>	R C
Black-headed Munia	<i>Lonchura malacca</i>	R O

Common name	Scientific name	Status
Spotted Munia	<i>Lonchura punctulata</i>	R U
Black-throated Munia	<i>Lonchura kelaarti</i>	R U
White-throated Munia	<i>Lonchura malabarica</i>	R U
Passeridae		
House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	R C
Ploceinae		
Baya Weaver	<i>Ploceus philippinus</i>	R C
Fringillidae		
Common Rose Finch	<i>Carpodacus erythrinus</i>	WM O

R - resident; RM - resident migrants; WM - winter migrants; BM - breeding migrants; PM - passage migrants; C - common / abundant; U - uncommon; O - occasional; L - rare
 Common names according to Manakadan and Pittie (2001).

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THIRD ANNUAL INTERNATIONAL SEMINAR ON PROTECTED AREA MANAGEMENT

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Application materials should include the following:

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- 2) A short (one or two page) resume;
- 3) A brief description of your job responsibilities; and
- 4) Your reasons for interest in the seminar program.

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Paul Lachapelle, Program Coordinator

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