
SPECIES DIVERSITY OF WETLAND BIRDS OF THRISSUR DISTRICT

Article Particulars

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Abstract

A total about 575 birds including 15 species were recorded during the two month of study period. The following species were found in large numbers Eastern common swallow, Indian whiskered tern, Western marsh Harrier, Yellow wagtail, wood sand piper, Little ringed plover and Nine species of resident birds were observed in that two species were coming under endangered category. Nine micro sites were mainly utilized by the birds of wetlands during the present study.

Keywords: Migratory Birds, Oriental darter, White Ibis, Microsites.

Introduction

The loss of diversity is a global crisis. It occurs when unique habitats or ecosystem are reduced or degraded and also when species become extinct in the wild. Biological extinction has been a natural phenomenon in geological history. The rate of extinction was perhaps one species in 1000 years. But human intervention has speeded up rate of extinction all the more. Between 1600 and 1950, the rate of extinction went up to one species every 10 year. Currently it is perhaps one species every year (Agarwal, 1998). Some famous examples of Indian animal's species that have become extinct are the cheetah and the Pink-headed duck. At least 20 higher plants are also known to have become extinct in India (Bhatt and Deshbandhu, 1994). Wetlands has been called the 'Kidneys of the landscape' because of the role they play in enhancing the quality of water that flows through them. The Ramsar convention held at Ramsar, Iran in 1971 under the auspices of UNESCO, define wetland as the ' Areas of Marsh, Fen, peat land or water whether natural or artificial, Permanent or temporarily with water ie; static or flowing, Fresh brackish or salt including areas of marine water the depth of which at low tide doesn't exceed 6m. Wetland occupies the transitional zone between permanently wetland and deep water bodies and generally dry areas. They exhibit enormous diversity but they are categorized by the presence of wet soils that differ in composition from those that make up the surroundings catchments, and plant

community dominated by water loving plants. Wet lands occupy approximately 6% of the earth's surface and are important system in the tropics.

Methodology

The study was conducted on September and October month and it was mainly based on observational methods. Birds were identified and counted with the help of binocular (12X50). Birds were identified with field guides (Grimmet *et al.*, 1998; Salim ali 2002; Sashikumar *et al.*, 2011). Bird's population counted by total count method (Gaston, 1973) Physical parameters like rainfall and water column depth of Cole land area and temperatures were taken in two months.

Results and Discussion

A total of about 575 birds including 15 species were recorded 9 were Resident bird species and rest as migrant birds. The following species were found in large numbers little cormorant (185) and Eastern common swallow (132). Two endangered species – Oriental darter and Oriental white Ibis were observed (Table 1). Nine microsites were utilized by the birds of wetlands during the study (Table 2). Aerial microsite (32.17%) was most frequently used microsite. Wooden perches (10.26%), Electric lines (6.78%), Trees (3.30%) and Bamboo poles (2.12%) were the microsites used by wetland birds effectively for perching and resting.

Conclusion

The study showed that a good number of globally threatened, Migrants and resident birds. As the wetlands are situated in the 'Central Asian-Indian Fly Way' Route of migratory birds, it is the duty of every citizen and government to protect these wetlands along with these birds, so more and better conservation method should be implemented at the earliest.

References

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Table 1 List of birds showing their Status

Name	Observed number
Resident Birds	
Little cormorant	185
Little egret	70
Median egret	40
Pond heron	20
Oriental darter*	4
Oriental white Ibis*	3
Small bee eater	3
Indian shag	2
Pied kingfisher	1
Migrant birds	
Eastern common swallow	132
Indian whiskered tern	47
Wood sand piper	34
Yellow wag tail	27
Little ringed plover	5
Western marsh Harrier	1
Total	575
*Endangered Species	

Table 2 Count of birds showing their microsities

Microsite	Total Count	% of Occurrence
Aerial	185	32.17
Paddy field	140	24.34
Shallow water	63	10.95
Wooden perch	59	10.26
Electric line	39	6.78
Open water	34	5.91
Bund	24	4.17
Trees	19	3.30
Bamboo pole	12	2.12
Total	575	100.00