

Arrival number of winter migratory wetland birds reduction in Telikunji, Icthapuram mandle, Srikakulam district, Andra Pradesh, 532195, India.

S. Mukunda rao *

Department of Zoology, Andhra University, Visakhapatnam- 500003, Andra Pradesh, India.

*Corresponding Author's Email: mukunda.zoology@gmail.com

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ABSTRACT

The present studies deal with winter migratory birds that arrive in à telikunji wetland in Telikunji Village in Ictchapuram mandal of Srikakulam district, Andra Pradesh. The present study reveals that a total of 36 species of wetland birds belonging to 7 orders and 11 families were observed from these wetlands. Out of these 36 species of wetland birds, 17 species of birds were winter migratory, 6 species were local migratory, 11 species were resident, and 2 species were summer migratory. The present studies hint towards those conditions and reasons which have discouraged birds during my study period i.e. 2012-2014. The familiar migratory birds observed in 2012 includes spot billed pelican, painted stork, asian open bill stork, spot bill duck, comb duck, amongst several other terrestrial ones. However, the birds seen in 2013 declined which continued through 2014. The main reason for this destructive development for the conservation of migratory birds includes the large scale interference with the topography of this wetland. The large part of the wetland has been land filled and encroached upon for the sake doing hackneyed chores by the villagers. This paper attempt to highlight the practice of deliberate destruction of the wetland which have served as good sojourning locations for migratory birds which come from as far away distance like Siberia, Russia, and mid Himalayas since time immemorial. This negative trend if not checked on war footing, the migratory birds' arrival in telikunji wetlands will be in doldrums. The paper urge to take urgent steps to ensure conservation of telikunji wetlands and thus conservation of avian diversity

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Introduction:

The Srikakulam District holds a distinct and unique attraction for these migratory birds, right from Itchapuram to Kandivalasa Gadda. Painted Storks also frequent Etcheria and Manikyapuram near Sompeta, because of the presence of big, suitable bodies of water, riparian networks and enough nesting places. The tanks near the shore planted with Babul attract birds to nest. For hundreds of years Migratory Birds have been coming to these villages in great abundance and in return the villagers appreciate them. The surrounding feeding places, safety from human interference, and the many trees have all drawn huge numbers of birds. Every year nearly 1,500 Pelicans and 2,000 Painted Storks migrate to this area and may leave when their babies grow up with their numbers increased. While the Migratory Bird season of Telinelipuram runs from

August to March, that of Telikunchi runs from May to October. Winter Migratory birds parading in the cold and calm waters of rural ponds, roadside, puddles, dams, barrages and virtually in each and every wetland in srikakulam district, andrapradesh between September and February of each winter season. Merely up to 1980s, the number and rich diversity of these winter migratory birds was astonishing and amusing. However, in the recent years, all these water-fronts have been land filled, polluted, destroyed, altered, transformed towards the worse thus threatening the globally significant and already acutely endangered birds of our world. This paper highlights this on-going destruction process for birds' diversity by actually focusing attention on telikunji wetlands.

Materials and Methods:

The present studies have been carried out in

telikunji wetland (fig1). It is located in Telikunji village of ichthapuram mandalam in srikakulam district during 2012-2014. Avifaunal surveys were carried out at regular intervals during Pre-monsoon, monsoon and Post-monsoon periods of the year, in order to cover migratory and resident species. The study includes identification of different bird's viz., Aquatic, Terrestrial and Water dependent avian species. Observations were made over a period of two years from October 2008-March 2010 with an aid of field binoculars (7x35 and 10x50 m). Identification was based on standard scientific procedures, field identification by direct sightings; photographs were taken whenever feasible and possible by using Nikon 35 mm digital camera with appropriate zoom lens. Indirect observations, signs and vocalizations were also recorded.



Fig: 1. Study Area

Bird survey was conducted, when birds are most active during day from 07:00 to 11:00 hrs and from 16:00 to 19:00 hrs. Field visits have been conducted weekly thrice in all three seasons and habitat wise. Opportunistic observations were made during other timings and species recorded during these observations included in the checklist. The birdlife in the study area were documented by direct observations, random walks and opportunistic encounters following Bibby et al (1992). Identification manuals and field guides by Ali & Ripley (1989), Kazmierczak (2000) and Grimmett et al., (2001) were used during survey. Common and scientific names of the birds following Grimmett et al., (1998& 2001), Mnakadan and Pittie (2001) were adopted. The birds were categorized as Resident (R), Migratory (M), Aquatic (A), Terrestrial (T) as per Grimmett et al., (2001). All the birds species recorded during the present study were tabulated giving their scientific name, family, IUCN status & legal status if any. Abundance of the recorded species are documented based on the total sightings during the study period as common (more than 10 sightings), uncommon (3-5 sightings), and rare (1-2 sightings). The checklist of species with their status was given.

Results and Discussion:

It is evident from presented table that rich varieties of birds used to come in Telikunji village of srikakulam

district. As per my field visits 36 species of wetland birds (table1, images a,b) were observed from telikunji wetland. These are segregated over 7 orders and 11 families. Out of 36 species of wetland birds 17 species of birds were winter migratory, 6 species were local migratory, 11 species resident and 2 species were summer migratory birds.

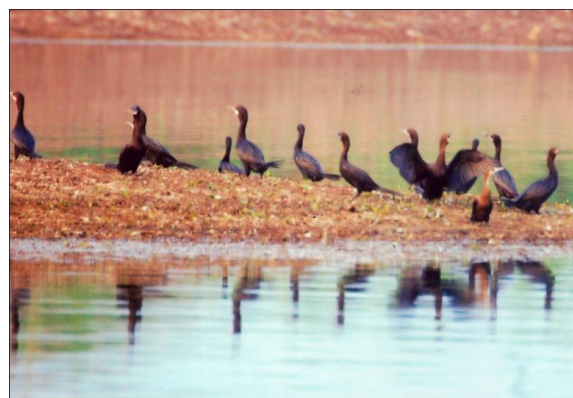


Fig: 2. Little cormorants birds in study area



Fig: 3. Flock of painted storks birds in study area

The most dominant Order charadriiformes is represented by 10 species followed by ansariformes with 8 species, ciconiiformes with 8 species, peliconiformes, gruiformes with 3 species, falconiformes, coraciiformes with 2 species. The family Anatidae, is the most dominant with 8 species respectively followed by ardeidae with 7 species, scolopacidae with 4 species, laridae, charadriidae with 3 species, jacobidae, accipitridae, alcedinidae with 2 species and ciconidae, recurvirostridae with 1 species. The present studies hint towards the fact that the threats to birds in telikunji wetland is a multitude of surmounting irresponsible use of an invaluable natural resource as epitomized by a traditional ponds. To mention few of these; extremely polluted water linked with dumping of each and every discarded item in to the wetland area. Most severe source of polluting the water is the cow-dung carried into the mainstream by the run-off rainy water rendering it into a horrible black soup. The most dangerous adverse circumstance is the result of ever decreasing water capacity of ponds due to siltation, encroachment. An equal level threat is posed

Table: 1. Habitat, Status, Iucn Status, Guild, Iwpa Status of Birds Recorded in Srikakulam Wetlands

S.No	Common Name	Scientific Name	Residential Status
PELECANIFORMES		PHALACROCORACIDAE	
1	Little Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax niger</i> (Vieillot, 1817)	R
2	Great Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)	LM
3	Spot-billed Pelican	<i>Pelecanus philippensis</i>	Lm
CICONIIFORMES		ARDEIDAE	
4	Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>	LM
5	Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>	WM
6	Purple Heron	<i>Ardea purpurea</i>	LM
7	Large Egret	<i>Casmerodius albus</i>	LM
8	Painted stork	<i>Mycteria leucocephala</i>	Wm
9	Cattle Egret	<i>Bubulcus ibis</i>	R
10	Indian Pond-Heron	<i>Ardeola grayii</i>	R
		CICONIIDAE	
11	White-necked Stork	<i>Ciconia episcopus</i>	LM
ANSERIFORMES		ANATIDAE	
12	Bar-headed Goose	<i>Anser indicus</i>	WM
13	Comb Duck	<i>Sarkidiornis melanotos</i>	SM
14	Gadwall	<i>Anas strepera</i>	WM
15	Eurasian Wigeon	<i>Anas penelope</i>	WM
16	Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	WM
17	Spot-billed Duck	<i>Anas poecilorhyncha</i>	WM
18	Common Teal	<i>Anas crecca</i>	WM
19	Common Pochard	<i>Aythya ferina</i>	WM
GRUIFORMES		RALLIDAE	
20	Purple Moorhen	<i>Porphyrio porphyrio</i>	R
21	Common Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>	WM
22	Common Coot	<i>Fulica atra</i> Linnaeus,	WM
CHARADRIIFORMES		JACANIDAE	
23	Pheasant-tailed Jacana	<i>Hydrophasianus chirurgus</i>	SM
24	Bronze-winged Jacana	<i>Metopidius indicus</i>	R
		CHARADRIDAE	
25	Kentish Plover	<i>Charadrius alexandrinus</i>	WM
26	Yellow-wattled Lapwing	<i>Vanellus malabaricus</i>	R
27	Red-wattled Lapwing	<i>Vanellus indicus</i>	R
		SCOLOPACIDAE	
28	Common Redshank	<i>Tringa totanus</i>	WM
29	Common Sandpiper	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>	WM
30	Marsh Sandpiper	<i>Tringa stagnatilis</i>	WM
31	Wood Sandpiper	<i>Tringa glareola</i>	WM
		RECURVIROSTRIDAE	
32	Pied Avocet	<i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i>	WM
FALCONIFORMES		ACCIPITRIDAE	
33	Brahminy Kite	<i>Haliastur indus</i>	R
34	White bellied sea Eagle	<i>Haliaeetus leucogaster</i>	R
CORACIIFORMES		ALCEDINIDAE	
35	Lesser Pied Kingfisher	<i>Ceryle rudis</i>	R
36	White-breasted Kingfisher	<i>Halcyon smyrnensis</i>	R

Abbreviation used:

WM-Winter Migratory; R-Resident;
LM-Local Migratory; SM- Summer Migratory.

by the Fish-Farming practices on modern lines. It is pertinent to mention that the said pond was full of water and every corner was dotted with birds in December-January of the year. gradually the petcheruvu pond was in doldrums with low levels of water and migratory birds.

Threats & Conservation:

There is very heavy poaching by local people that tends to be organized by vested interests for consumption. The birds fetch Rs. 100 to Rs. 300 per bird depending on the size. They are caught in the most pathetic way from primitive weapons to the use of nets. The traps are laid in the evening and in the early morning the hunters go and fetch their catch. These birds are trapped by netting, using nylon nets in the feeding grounds. Poachers from Santhabommali Mandal and from about 15 villages use mainly the spreading of nets to trap the birds. These trapped birds are sold clandestinely in the villages. People also poach by guns. There is no trained protection agents provided by the Forest Department. In any case, the Police and the Forest Department Office are 70 kms away, too far for prompt action, and there is no coordination or communication. The existing trees are diminishing, and no new trees are being planted, making the future very bleak for these Migratory Birds. To stop the thoughtless poaching that is fast depleting the bird population – by local participation, involving the villagers, the authorities and NGO's with an emphasis on villagers being actively engaged in protecting the natural habitat around them. As we explore and widen our scope in the goal of saving all kinds of animals and preventing harm and abuse to them, we come across many valuable wetlands that are still unprotected. These areas need urgent help to stop the illegal trading and poaching that threaten the very existence of the habitats. The present studies highlight the cause for conservation of wetlands and their biodiversity and specially the wetland migratory birds. The urgency is verified due to the international significance of these globally threatened crucial birds of rare importance.

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