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# BIODIVERSITY OF ORNITHOFAUNA FROM LANJI SEEPAGE POND MAHARASHTRA INDIA

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**ABSTRACT :**

*The present study was carried out for finding the biodiversity of avifauna in Lanji seepage pond located at Lanji village Tahsil Ahmedpur district Latur Maharashtra (India) having latitude 18°70' 92" and longitude 76°89' 14". The bird's biodiversity is better understood then the other organisms. The present study is recorded from Marathwada region. The study area falls under drought prone area. The avian fauna found is unique. The present study was carried out from July2011 to June 2013. The study area is characterized by dry lands and small water bodies. The birds found in the Lanji seepage pond are Heron, Little egret, Cattle egret, Spot billed duck, Crow, Sparrow, Indian pond Heron, Indian reef heron, Common myna, Small blue king fisher, Blue rock pigeon, Spotted dove, Indian cuckoo etc. The study of avian life had conducted monthly. In the present study total 41 residential and migratory species of birds were recorded in the study area.*

**KEYWORDS:** *Avian biodiversity, Lanji seepage pond, Migration.*

## INTRODUCTION:

Birds are unique because they can fly. They are the only animals that have feathers, feathers keep a birds body warm and help it to fly. The colorful feathers and musical songs of birds have made them one of the most loved animals. The birds are the precious gift of nature. Birds are the best monitors of environmental changes and have been used to evaluate the environment throughout the history as bio monitors. Expansion of urbanization and increase in the number of buildings has been causing serious effect on the life of the avifauna composition of various regions. The species diversity of an ecosystem is often related to the amount of living and nonliving organic matter present in seepage pond area.Ornithofauna of Lanji seepage pond at Lanji village tehsil Ahmedpur District LaturMaharashtra (India) was observed in order to assess the status of the avifauna.The Lanji seepage pond was located on latitude 18°70'92" and longitude76°89'14" This pond was created for seepageing the water and is used for animal drinking purpose only. Some investigators made the chick list of birds in several ponds, rivers and reservoir (Poornachandrayya 1997, Abdula Ali H. 1981, Balkhande J. V et. al. 2012, Kulkarni A. N. et. al. 2005).

## MATERIAL AND METHODS:

Present study deals with ecological aspects of birds in relation to distribution status, residential status and feeding habits in and around the pond. This pond is constructed by the department of Zilla Parishad on the Lendi nala of Lanji area as shown in figure 1. The present study is focused on not only status but create awareness for the conservation.During the study period these bird communities were investigated using direct count;by using line transact method (Gaston A.J. 1973 ) and application of indices methods as per the occasion demands. The study was conducted during July 2011 to June 2013, with regular intervals of month. Birds were sighted and identified as per guidelines suggested by Ali and Ripley (1983), Ali (1996). The scientific and local names of the identified birds are given as per Manakadan and Pittie (2001)]. Birds sighted during the

study period were recognized according to their status as resident (R) migrant (M), Uncommon (U) and rare (RA).

**Table 1: Table showing record of birds seen in the Lanji seepage pond during July-2011 to June-2013 as Resident, Local migrant, Migratory and Rare birds.**

| Sr. No. | Month | No of Resident Birds | No of Local Migrant | Migratory | Rare | Grand Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | July-2011 | 22 | 04 | | - | 26 |
| 2 | Aug-2011 | 20 | 05 | - | - | 25 |
| 3 | Sept.-2011 | 22 | 06 | - | - | 28 |
| 4 | Oct.-2011 | 27 | 05. | | - | 32 |
| 5 | Nov.-2011 | 26 | 04 | 02 | 01 | 33 |
| 6 | Dec.-2011 | 23 | 06 | 01 | 01 | 31 |
| 7 | Jan.-2012 | 22 | 03 | 03 | - | 28 |
| 8 | Feb.-2012 | 24 | 04 | 02 | - | 30 |
| 9 | Mar.-2012 | 23 | 05 | 02 | - | 30 |
| 10 | April-2012 | 16 | 03 | 01 | 01 | 21 |
| 11 | May-2012 | 15 | 02 | - | 01 | 18 |
| 12 | June-2012 | 17 | 01 | - | - | 18 |
| 13 | July-2012 | 19 | 03 | - | - | 22 |
| 14 | Aug-2012 | 22 | 05 | - | - | 27 |
| 15 | Sept.-2012 | 23 | 02 | - | - | 25 |
| 16 | Oct.-2012 | 23 | 04 | - | - | 27 |
| 17 | Nov.-2012 | 24 | 03 | 03 | - | 30 |
| 18 | Dec.-2012 | 22 | 02 | 03 | 01 | 28 |
| 19 | Jan.-2013 | 21 | 04 | 02 | 02 | 29 |
| 20 | Feb.-2013 | 23 | 03 | 03 | 02 | 31 |
| 21 | Mar.-2013 | 20 | 02 | 02 | - | 24 |
| 22 | April-013 | 17 | - | - | - | 17 |
| 23 | May-2013 | 15 | - | - | - | 15 |
| 24 | June-2013 | 16 | - | - | - | 16 |

**Table 2 : Check list of birds sighted on seepage pond Lanji with their status and abundance.**

| Sr. No. | Family | Common Name | Scientific Name | Status | Abundance |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Ardeidae | Indian pond heron | *Ardeola grayii* | R | Abundant |
| | | Cattle egret | *Bubulcus ibis* | R | Abundant |
| | | Little egret | *Egretta garzetta* | R | Abundant |

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | Purple heron | *Ardea pupurea* | R | Abundant |
| | | Indian reef heron | *Egretta gularis* | R | Abundant |
| | | Black crowned heron | *Nycticorax nycticorax* | R | Abundant |
| 2 | Accipitidae | Pariah kite | *Minvus migrans* | R | Abundant |
| | | Shikra | *Accipiter badius* | R | Occasional |
| 3 | Alccdinidae | Small blue kingfisher | *Alcedo atthis* | R | Abundant |
| | | White breasted kingfisher | *Halcyon smyrnensis* | RA | Rare |
| 4 | Columbidae | Blue rock pigeon | *Collumba livia* | R | Abundant |
| | | Little brown dove | *Streptpelia Senegeganisis* | R | Abundant |
| | | Spotted dove | *Streptpelia chinesis* | R | Abundant |
| 5 | Corvidae | House crow | *Corvus corax* | M | Abundant |
| | | Jungle crow | *Corvus macrorhynhos* | R | Occasional |
| 6 | Cisticolidae | Tailor bird | *Orthotomus sutorius* | R | Occasional |
| 7 | Cuculidae | Indian cuckoo | *Cuculus micropterus* | R | Occasional |
| | | Black winged kite | *Elanus cearuleus* | M | Rare |
| | | Asian koel | *Eudynamys scolopacea* | R | Abundant |
| | | Brain fever bird | *Hierococcyx varius* | M | Occasional |
| | | Crow pheasant | *Centropus sinensis* | R | Abundant |
| 8 | Bucerotidae | Indian grey hornbill | *Ocycerous birostrix* | M | Occasional |
| 9 | Dicruridae | Black drongo | *Dicrurus Macrocer* | R | Abundant |
| 10 | Hirundinidae | Wire tailed swallow | *Hirudno smithii* | M | Occasional |
| | | Common Caucal | *Hirundo rustica* | M | Occasional |
| 11 | Laniidae | Grey shrike | *Lanius exubitor* | R | Abundant |
| 12 | Laridae | Indian river tern | *Sterna aurantia* | R | Abundant |
| 13 | Meropidae | Small bee eater | *Merops orientalis* | R | Abundant |
| 14 | Metacillidae | White wagtail | *Motacill alba* | R | Abundant |
| 15 | Muscicapidae | Common babbler | *Turdoides caudatus* | R | Abundant |
| | | Ashy wren warbler | *Prinia hodgsonil* | R | Abundant |
| 16 | Nectariniidae | Indian purple sunbird | *Nectanira asiatica* | M | Rare |
| 17 | Oriolidae | Indian oriole | *Oriolus kundoo* | R | Occasional |
| 18 | Passeridae | House sparrow | *Passor domesticus* | R | Abundant |
| | | Spotted munia | *Lonchura punctulata* | R | Occasional |
| | | Yellow wagtail | *Motocilla cenereea* | RA | Rare |
| 19 | Sturnidae | Common myna | *Acridotheres tristis* | R | Abundant |
| | | Brahmany myna | *Sturnus pagodarum* | R | Abundant |
| 20 | Picidae | Golden backed woodpecker | *Dinopium benghalense* | R | Occasional |
| 21 | Pyenoridae | Red Vented Bulbul | *Pycnonotus cafer* | R | Occasional |
| 22 | Tridinae | Indian Robbin | *Saxicolodies fulicata* | R | Abundant |

## RESULT AND DISCUSSION:

An attempt was made to prepare check list of bird diversity from study site. The prepared check list is new for this area as earlier reports are not available forms this area. During the study period 41 species of birds belonging to 22 families were recorded. Table1.Shows the total number of birds observed in the pond. Table 2.Shows the birds with the families and the scientific names. The study shows 61 percent species were abundant, 29 percent species were occasional and 10 percent were rare species observed in the study area. Out of these species 17 percent species were local migratory. Out of these species 15 birds were found though out the year. Very few migratory birds are found in winter season and in summer rare birds are very less as one

birds occur.For attracting the birds, natural habitats are required, due to loss of vegetation these birds not visited to these areas. Some birds were observed in last decades are not observedin present period. The probable reason is change in climate and loss of habitat. Surprisingly birds' fauna is decreasing. The rich woody vegetation around this area is lost due to deforestation; hence thereareno enough safe places for roosting and nesting. An availability of adequate food form woody vegetation and plenty of water may be the attraction of birds. It can be also concluded that the maximum number of species of birds were recorded during winter season.The beneficial creatures who entertains the human civilization and beneficial to farmers and now declining very vastly. The main reason behind this is the destruction of their natural habitat. If such vast fauna on earth planet will extinct, ultimate earth planet will be in fell in trouble.It is duty of every one to save these flying creatures for better and balanced ecosystem. Habitat destruction is the major threats to birds' biodiversity. Human can play important role in conservation of endangered species by developing sanctuaries and parks.We must have commitment, passion, respect for environment and nature.

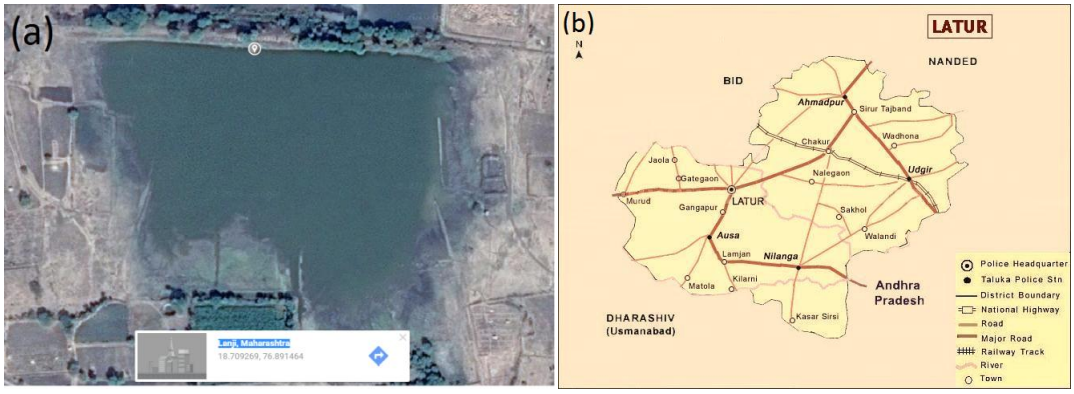


**Figure 1. (a) View of Lanji seepagePond (b) Latur map study district**

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