



Diversity of Parrots – A Case Study in Ganapathi Sachidananda Ashrama of Mysore, Karnataka, India

KEYWORDS

Parrots, Ganapathi Sachidananda Ashrama, Mysore, Karnataka, India

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ABSTRACT

This paper documents a list of parrots of Ganapathi Sachidananda Ashrama of Mysore, Karnataka, India. A total of 27 species of parrots belonging to 5 families were maintained in the study area. Psittacidae dominated the list with 20 species, Cacatuidae with four species; Psittichasiidae, Ramphastidae and Musophagidae have one species each. It is found that 22 parrots are least Concern, three are Vulnerable, one is Near Threatened and one is Critically Endangered.

Introduction

The parrots are a broad order of more than 250 birds. Macaws, Amazons, lorikeets, lovebirds, Cockatoos and many others are all considered as parrots. Those there is great diversity among these birds, there are similarities as well. All parrots have curved beaks and all are zygodactyls, meaning they have four toes on each foot, two pointing forward and two projecting forward. Parrots are found in warm climates all over most of the world. The greatest diversities are in Australasia, Central America and South America. Many parrots are kept as pets. These birds have been popular companions throughout history because they are intelligent, charismatic, colorful and musical parrots are exclusively vegetarian, feeding fruits, nuts, grains, seeds and flowers. They eat citrus fruits, guava, mango and green unripe pecan, almond nuts, acacia pods, acorns as well as buds and flowers (1).

Materials and Methods

Study area

Mysore is a heartland of Karnataka state, located on the banks of river Kaveri. Mysore district forms a distinct land unit, besides being a cultural entity lying between 11° 30' N to 12° 50' N latitudes and 75° 45' E to 77° 45' E longitudes. It covers an area of 6854 sq. km. that is, 3.57% of the state's total geographical area. It holds the sixth place in the state in terms of the area with a population of 2.641 million in 2001. The climatic conditions of the district are favorable to crops like paddy, jowar, ragi, pulses, sugar cane and tobacco. The annual rainfall ranges from 670 mm to 888 mm in dry zones and from about 612 mm to 1054 mm in the transition zone. The temperature ranges from 11°C to 38°C. Thus the climate of the Mysore district is temperate with moderate variations in temperature in different seasons. The northeast monsoon commences on October and ceases by the end of December. Relative

humidity is generally high during the southeast monsoon. Ganapathi Sachidananda Ashrama is located in the quiet city of Mysore; it is a world renowned institution for the social, moral and spiritual welfare of mankind.

Methodology

Parrots were observed and identified. Birds were sighted using binocular of 8x40 magnifications. The key characters used for identification were color pattern. The study was conducted from July to November 2013. Identifications were carried out with the help of various field guides (2-3). The conservation status presented here is as assigned by (1). Conservation status is given by IUCN (2010).

Results and Discussion

During the present study 27 species of parrots belonging to 5 families were recorded (Table 1). More species were sighted in family Psittacidae (22 species), followed by Cacatuidae (4 species). Psittichasiidae, Ramphastidae and Musophagidae were represented by a single species each. Out of 27 species 20 are Least Concern (LC), three are Near Threatened (NT), one is Critically Endangered (CE) and one is Vulnerable (VU). Least Concern parrots include *Aprosmictus erythroptus*, *Alisterus scapularis*, *Lorius lory*, *Pionus chalcopterus*, *Chalcopsitta atra*, *Ara severus*, *Cyanoliseus patagonus*, *Pseudeos fuscata*, *Platycercus eximius*, *Poicephalus gularis*, *Trichoglossus haematodus*, *Deroptyus accipitrinus*, *Aratinga mitrata*, *Pionites melanoccephala*, *Pionus sordidus*, *Amazona autumnalis*, *Poicephalus senegalus*, *Probosciger aterrimus*, *Galah cockatoo*, *Pteroglossus torquatus*, *Tauraco harlaubi* and *Brotogeris cyanoptera*. Vulnerable parrots include *Guaruba guarouba*, *Psittacus erithacus* and *Psittichas fulgidus*. *Cacatua goffiniana* is a Near Threatened parrot. *Cacatua sulphurea* is a Critically Endangered. The parrots in the ashram are very well maintained in cages.

Table 1. List of parrots recorded from the study area

Sl. No.	Scientific name	Common name	Conservation status
Family-Psittacidae			
01	<i>Aprosmictus erythroptus</i> Gmelin, 1788	Red-winged Parrot	LC
02	<i>Alisterus scapularis</i> Lichtenstein, 1818	Australian King Parrot	LC
03	<i>Guaruba guarouba</i> Gmelin, 1788	Golden Parakeet	VU

Sl. No.	Scientific name	Common name	Conservation status
04	Lorius lory Linnaeus, 1758	Black-capped Lory	LC
05	Pionus chalcopterus Fraser, 1841	Bronze-winged Parrot	LC
06	Chalcopsitta atra Scopoli, 1786	Black Lory	LC
07	Ara severus Linnaeus, 1758	Chestnut-fronted Macaw	LC
08	Psittacus erithacus Linnaeus, 1758	African Grey Parrot	VU
09	Cyanoliseus patagonus Vieillot, 1818	Burrowing Parrot	LC
10	Pseudeos fuscata Blyth 1858	Dusky Lory	LC
11	Platycercus eximius Shaw, 1792	Eastern Rosella	LC
12	Poicephalus gulielmi Jardine, 1849	Red-fronted Parrot	LC
13	Trichoglossus haematodus Linnaeus, 1771	Rainbow Lorikeet	LC
14	Deropterus accipitrinus Linnaeus, 1758	Red-fan Parrot	LC
15	Aratinga mitrata Tschudi 1844	Mitred Parakeet	LC
16	Pionites melanocephala Linnaeus, 1758	Black-headed Parrot	LC
17	Pionus sordidus Linnaeus, 1758	Red-billed Parrot	LC
18	Amazona autumnalis Linnaeus, 1758	Red-lored Amazon	LC
19	Poicephalus senegalus Linnaeus, 1766	Senegal Parrot	LC
20	Brotogeris cyanopectera Salvadori, 1891	Cobalt-winged Parakeet	LC
Family- Cacatuidae			
21	Cacatua sulphurea Gmelin, 1788	Yellow-crested Parrot	CR
22	Probosciger aterrimus Gmelin, 1788	Palm Cockatoo	LC
23	Galah cockatoo Vieillot, 1818	Rose-breasted cockatoo	LC
24	Cacatua goffiniana Roselaar & Michels, 2004	Tanimbar Corella	NT
Family-Psittrichasiidae			
25	Psittrichas fulgidus Lesson, 1830	Pesquet's Parrot	VU
Family-Ramphastidae			
26	Pteroglossus torquatus Gmelin, 1788	Collared Aracari	LC
Family- Musophagidae			
27	Tauraco harlaubi Fisher & Reichenow, 1884	Hartlaub's Turaco	LC

LC-Least Concern, CR-Critically Endangered, NT-Near Threatened, VU-Vulnerable



Figure 1. Distribution of Parrots in different families

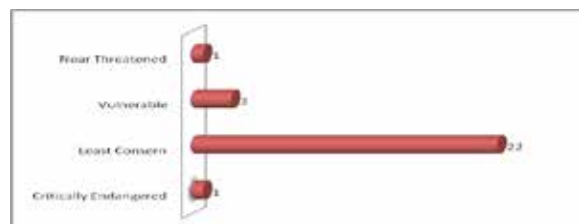


Figure 2. Conservation status of Parrots

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