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Status of Bird Species in Winter and Summer Season at Navegaon National Park in Gondia District (M.S.)

KEYWORDS: Birds species, Navegaon, Status, Summer, Winter

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ABSTRACT *Navegaon National Park is located in the Gondia District of Maharashtra State, India. The present study based on eight months survey i.e. Oct-2012 to May-2013, the status of the bird species as per seasons were focused. As per data, 209 species of birds are recorded in and around Navegaon. The present investigation reveals that 35 species of birds were observed in short study period. Out of these, thirteen species were observed maximum time (more than 50%) in winter season & the same species were rarely seen during summer season. Some species were only seen in the winter but not in summer season. The beauty of the birds with natural environment provides the perfect setting for bird watchers. The search is the continue hope that more species would be observed in the future.*

INTRODUCTION

In India, small water-storage reservoirs or lakes are a distinctive feature which provides important feeding and nesting areas for a wide range of water birds (Grimmett et. al. 2001). Birds are often common denizens of the ecosystems and they have been considered as an indicator species of inhabited areas (Blair, 1999). Wetlands are the most productive and biologically diverse in the world but very fragile ecosystems (Gibbs, 1993). Wetlands and waterbirds are inseparable elements and support a rich array of waterbird communities (Grimmett and Inskipp, 2007).

Navegaon National Park is located 20^0"56'0"N 80^0"10'0"E in the Gondia district of Maharashtra State, India. Navegaon, a popular forest resort in the Vidarbha region 65 KM away from Gondia, the eastern most part of Maharashtra and was built in the 18th century having area 133.88 sq.km (Chitampalli 2010). The picturesque lake set amidst lush green hills at Navegaon, has a watch-tower beside it. One can get a bird's eye view of the surrounding forest and marvel at the exciting wildlife from the watch-tower which consists of a deer park, Dr. Salim Ali bird sanctuary. The Dr. Salim Ali Bird Sanctuary, Navegaon is home to almost 60% of the bird species found in entire Maharashtra. Every winter, flocks of beautiful migratory birds visit the lake—a rare treat for the eyes. Mostly tribal people lives here and this area was under Gond King in the old days. Generally the bird migrates from other areas of country (Chitampalli 2010) comes at Navegaon National Park in the month of October-November. And generally the birds leave the park in the month of April-May due to high temperature. The present study help to prepare the new data which reflect today's status and comparative study in the various seasons of the bird's species.

MATERIALS AND METHODS:

The area has a diverse habitat, morning and evening hours were selected to visit in the National park on half monthly basis from October-2012 to May-2013 (for 16 – Times) and the search around lake, near water holes, trees & the various places. After detection, identified the birds by the help of structure and arrangement of their body, tail, color, and pattern of scale, size and also the shape of its head (Ali S. 2002). Study as per required information and after taking a note and photographs. For identification and comparative study taken a help of a book 'Birds of Indian subcontinetnt' by Bikram Greval; 'Navegaonbandhche Diwas' by Maruti Chitampalli and a data available on internet.

Although Navegaon is better known as a bird sanctuary, a number of wild animals could also be sighted. The vertebrate fauna includes, besides a number of fishes, 209 species of birds, 9 species of reptiles and 26 species of mammals which includes Tiger, Panther, Jungle cat, Small India Civet, Palm Cavet, Wolf, Jackle, Bisons, Sambars, Nilgais, Chitals, Wild boars, Sloth Bears, and Wild Dogs in this national park.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION:

The results are as follows and shown in Table-1

Sr. No.	Common Name of Birds	Zoological Name of Birds	VWS (8)	VSS (8)
1	House Sparrow	Passer domesticus	8	5
2	Asian Koel (Female)	Eudynamys scolopaceus	6	4
3	Lesser Whistling Duck	Amaurornis phoenicurus	6	4
4	House Crow	Corvus splendens	6	4
5	Asian Koel (Male)	Eudynamys scolopaceus	5	2
6	Common Mynah	Acridotheres tristis	5	2
7	Indian Pitta	Pitta brachyuran	4	1
8	Purple Swamp hen	Porphyrio porphyrio	4	2
9	Asian Openbill	Anastomus oscitans	4	2
10	Little Egret	Egretta garzetta	4	1
11	Laughing Dove	Streptopelia chinensis	4	2
12	Red Vented Bulbul	Pycnonotus cafer	4	1
13	Green Bee Eater	Merops orientalis	4	1
14	Asian Pied Starling	Sturnus contra	3	---
15	Brahminy Starling	Sturnus pagodarum	3	1
16	Indian Roller	Coracias benghalensis	3	---
17	Pond Heron	Ardeola grayii	3	1
18	Common Kingfisher	Alcedo atthis	3	1
19	Coppersmith Barbet	Megalaima haemacephala	3	1

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20	Baya Weaver	Ploceus philippinus	3	1
21	White Throated Kingfisher	Halcyno smyrnensis	3	2
22	Eurasian Golden Oriole	Oriolus oriolus	2	----
23	Jungle Babbler	Turdoides striatus	2	---
24	Oriented Magpie Robin	Copsychus saularis	2	---
25	Pied Kingfisher	Ceryle rudis	2	1
26	Purple Sunbird	Nectarinia asiatica	2	---
27	Red Wattled Lapwing	Vanellus indicus	2	---
28	Common Hoopoe	Upupa epops	2	1
29	Greater Coucal	Centropus sinensis	2	1
30	Scaly Breasted Munia	Lonchura punctu-lata	2	---
31	Peacock (Indian Peafowl)	Pavo cristatus	2	---
32	Common Hawk Cuckoo	Hierococcyx varius	2	1
33	Little Cormorant	Phalacrocorax niger	1	---
34	Purple Rumped Sunbird	Leptocoma zey-lonica	1	---
35	Sarus Crane	Grus antigon	1	---

Table -1: List of Bird species observed (VWS = Visited in Winter Season & VSS = Visited in Summer Season)

Total thirty five species of birds are observed during study period i.e. in 8-time visits each season. Out of 35 species, 13 species are seen for maximum time i.e. more than 50% and the remaining species are seen rarely in winter season. Out of 35 species, only 4 species are seen for maximum time in summer season, other species seen rarely and 12 species are not seen in summer.

More species of birds were seen in winter season as compared to summer because of availability of abundant water (artificial water holes), food, good shelter & favorable environmental conditions especially normal temperature. Minimum species of birds were seen in summer season because of less quantity of water (dried artificial water holes), less shelter (dried trees & forest fire), unfavorable environmental conditions especially high temperature and pollution, due to increased cattle grazing and more disturbances by tourists.

Conclusion:

In winter season, the number of birds were found maximum times and their count increased due to the arrival of winter migrant species. In summer season, the numbers of birds were found minimum and their count decreased due to the high temperature. The search is continued and hope the number will be increased in future.

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