



BREEDING SITE OF PHEASANT TAILED JACANA, *HYDROPHANASIANUS CHIRURGUS* IN DHARMAVEER SAMBHAJI TANK, SOLAPUR (M.S.): UNDER THREAT

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ABSTRACT The present paper deals with nesting behavior, incubation of egg, parental care of young ones and threat of loss of breeding site of pheasant tailed of jacana, *Hydrophanasianus chirurgus* in Dharmaveer Sambhaji tank of Solapur city. June to September is breeding period in this bird. Four peg top shaped glossy greenish bronze coloured eggs are laid on a floating nest. Incubation period is of 24 to 26 days. The incubation is carried by male only. Young ones are also fed under the parental care by male bird only. Because of urbanization and human interference and encroachment around the Dharmaveer Sambhaji tank the breeding site of this bird is under threat. The tank is also highly polluted due to domestic activities and hence the breeding activities of this bird are under threat. Kumbhar *et al.*, (2011) studied the breeding behavior of Pheasant tailed Jacana from Kambar lake of Solapur.

KEYWORDS : Pheasant tailed jacana, *Hydrophanasianus chirurgus* Nest, Incubation, Parental care, Young ones, Threat.

INTRODUCTION:

The pheasant tailed of jacana, *Hydrophanasianus chirurgus* is a white and chocolate brown coloured water bird with pointed down curved tail. In breeding season especially the male bird possess a black necklace like line on upper breast and a sickle shaped tail feathers. It is a water bird having spidery long toes. It is resident bird moving locally with the conditions of flood and drought. The bird affects lotus, singara (typha) and water hyacinth. The bird belongs to family, Jacanidae and order, Charadriiformes. This bird is also known as Paan Mor, Jal Mayur, Piyu and Kamal Pakshi in local language. This is grey partridge sized bird with white face and pale silky golden yellow hind neck. The toes of this bird are enormous spidery long that can walk and run easily on aquatic foliage like nymphaea and lotus plants. Sexes are alike but female is slightly larger sized. It feeds on vegetable matter. This bird is habituated in water bodies having the nymphaea and lotus plants in high number.

There are rapid developmental activities of man are going on to increase the income source. Forces like use of machines in farming activities, irrigation facilities, use of fertilizers and pesticides, construction of towers and climate change are responsible for rapid change in natural breeding sites of this bird.

MATERIAL AND METHODS:

Material:

Dharmaveer Sambhaji tank also called as Kambar lake, located at the outskirts of city on the NH No. 13. Because of speedy urbanization now this tank is occupied the mid region of city. This tank is a historical and constructed for the source of water for the grazing animals. Geographically it is situated on 18° - 04' - 0'' N. latitude and 75° - 07' - 0'' E longitudes. Morphologically the tank is divided into three regions. *i.e.* part towards the postal colony, the central part of the tank and the part towards maji sainik nagar. The site for present study is restricted at the third part of tank. In the earlier years this tank was characterized by the abundance habitat of lotus and nymphaea vegetation. But now this tank is disturbed by the human interference. The shallow water of this tank is occupied by the aquatic weeds like typha, eichornia, hyacinth *etc.*

Methods:

The study of breeding biology is carried out according to Ali and Riply (1993). In this bird the breeding period is in the months, June to September, every year. The present study is carried for last five years by regular monitoring the study site.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION:

From the consistence study of this study area for last ten years we noted that, the end of summer and early winter season is the breeding period of this bird. In non breeding period the plumage is chiefly pale brown and white with black necklace on upper breast. The special breeding plumage, sickle shaped tail is absent in non- breeding period. In breeding period the bird possess white and chocolate brown colour and a pointed sickle shaped tail. The voice of male bird is become loud for the call of female. The nest of this bird is pad like and constructed by using raft of grass and weed found in water. The nest is resting partly

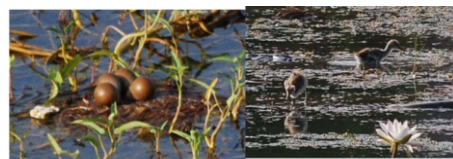
submerged and can move on water surface along the water waves. Usually four peg top shaped and glossy greenish bronze or ruffous brown coloured eggs are laid on the surface of nest. The incubation is done by male. The partly incubation is also carried by the atmospheric temperature. The eggs are incubated for 24 to 26 day. After the hatching the chicks are tends by male bird only.

Conclusion:

Jacana is residential water bird found in floating vegetations covered jeels and ponds. This is a special bird found in the Sambhaji tank since last seventy years. From the present study it is conclude that this breeding site of this beautiful bird is now entirely destructed. The favourable vegetation of this bird found in this tank is now occupied by weeds such as hyacinth and Eichornia. It has been proved by a number of scientists that the global population of wetland birds is declining due to changing agricultural practices and land use pattern. There is a great need to run conservation awareness programs in the society regarding the protection of these breeding sites. The historical Sambhaji tank should be protected from the interference of public activities and domestic use of tanks.

CONSERVATION STRATEGY:

Fencing should be set around the tank that will prevent the anthropological activities. A favourable situation will be made available for the normal breeding of pheasant tailed Jacana by removing the unnecessary water weeds like eichornia and the aquatic plants such as nymphaea and lotus should be artificially grown in the tank on which this bird attracts for its existence.



Eggs of Jacana bird on floating nest

Youngones of Jacana bird



Male Jacana bird incubating the eggs

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