



## A note on occurrence of flamingos (*Phoenicopterus roseus*) in their feeding sites in Palghar, Maharashtra.

<b>Singh R.B</b>	Department of Zoology, S.D.S.M. College, Palghar-401404 (M.S.).
<b>Keni Swapnil J</b>	Department of Zoology, S.D.S.M. College, Palghar-401404 (M.S.).
<b>Narvankar, Suprit S</b>	Department of Zoology, S.D.S.M. College, Palghar-401404 (M.S.).
<b>Desale, Anuja A</b>	Department of Zoology, S.D.S.M. College, Palghar-401404 (M.S.).
<b>Kini, Pooja H</b>	Department of Zoology, S.D.S.M. College, Palghar-401404 (M.S.).
<b>Gupta, Ravindra V</b>	Department of Zoology, S.D.S.M. College, Palghar-401404 (M.S.).

**ABSTRACT** This study was conducted at Palghar and Vasai Talukas of Palghar district between 2nd September 2012 and 4th December 2016. Which provide a better feeding grounds to visiting Flamingos (*Phoenicopterus roseus*). In this paper authors are intending to describe the occurrence of Flamingos and possibility of bird becoming resident.

### KEYWORDS

Flamingos, occurrence, resident

### INTRODUCTION:-

In this paper another are intending to furnish information on the occurrence of flamingos in their feeding grounds in Palghar district of Maharashtra. Flamingos are famous for their bright pink feathers, stilt like leg and S-shaped neck. When a flamingo spots potential dinner- favorite food includes shrimp, snail and plant like water organisms called algae- it plunges its head into the water, twist it upside down, and scoops the fish using its upper beak like a shovel. They are able to "run" on water, thanks to their webbed feet, to gain speed before lifting up into the sky (<http://nationalgeographic.com>).

Flamingo, common name for a large pink or red wading birds, similar to the related herons, stork and spoonbill but with a longer neck, webbed feet, and a unique down-bent bill. Flamingo are tropical birds, although large colonies have been observed high in the Andes. The Americans, or greater, flamingo, *Phoenicopterus ruber*, is now rarely seen in Florida, nesting chiefly in the west Indies (<http://www.livescience.com/>).

Flamingos are pink because the algae they consume are loaded with beta carotene, an organic chemical that contains a reddish-orange pigment. Flamingos eat larva, small insects, blue-green and red algae, mollusks, crustaceans and small fish, (<https://seaworld.org.in>). Their tendency to eat both vegetation and meat makes them omnivores (<http://www.livescience.com/>).

Flamingo is resident, nomadic and locally migratory. Not uncommon, but capricious and sporadic, in W. Pakistan (Sind) and through the Indian Union (Rare in Bengal and Assam), East Pakistan (Bangladesh) and Ceylon. Affects large sheels brackish lakes and lagoons, salt pans estuaries and tidal mudflats on the sea coast. Highly gregarious, normally in small or large flocks and vast congregations at favorite feeding and nesting places. Feeds in shallow water usually brackish and even concentrated brine- with head immersed, Ali and Repley;(2007).

### MATERIAL AND METHODS

#### Study Area

This study was conducted in two Taluka Vasai and Palghar District, which is newly carved District of Maharashtra state. Palghar is situated between Geographic coordinates of 19.6936° N, 72.7655° E. Elevation above sea level 17 m. Palghar lies on the Western Line of the Mumbai Suburban Railway on the busy Mumbai-Ahmadabad rail corridor. Palghar Municipal Council

located about 90 kilometers north of Mumbai. This two Taluka having few wetland areas including salt pans which are giving shelter/ food for the birds.

Palghar and Vasai Taluka are surrounded by Arabian Sea in the west, Dahanu Taluka in the, Wada and Vikramghad Taluka are lying in the east.

#### Methods

The entire observations were conducted by rigorous field surveys all around the wetlands. Observations were recorded by using Nikon Action 10x50 binocular and relevant photographs were taken by Canon 700 D.

Birds were identified with the help of noting, standard methods given by Ali & Ripley (2007).

### RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Flamingos arrived in Mumbai regions during monsoon season because of availability of food and observed till the end of monsoon season from August to September. They were recorded in Vasai to Kelva wetland areas including salt pans. Study was carried from 2nd September 2012 to 4th December 2016. It was recorded on wetland of Vasai, Naigaon, Sanjivani Salt pan and Chinchani. The informations gathered on following dates

02/09/12 – Vasai Wetland (Mumbai Mirror)  
01/08/15 – Vasai Naigaon Estuaries  
08/08/15 – Vasai Wetland  
09/08/16 – Sanjivani Salt pan Kelva  
04/12/16 – Chinchani

During our visit to Sanjivani salt pan Kelva we observed that at afternoon approximately 30-35 flamingos were present. Suddenly within 15-20 minutes one more flock of flamingo arrived at salt pan and the number reached to 100+. Climate was cloudy due to rainy season. Salt pan was full of water. Flamingos landed there to have meal of algae and to play with their young ones. After a meal they flew away towards the S.W. side. This flamingo flock mostly observed in the month of August and September and lately in the month of December. The reason behind this flock in December was the availability of food, algae, the production of which was started from the month of November in Vasai to Palghar area Salt pans, Ali and Ripley; (2007).

Breeding season, in the Great Rann of Kutch, the only known nesting ground within our limits, variable, depending on hydrographic conditions, September/October to March/April, Ali and Ripley;(2007).With the increasing human-driven threat and decrease natural habitat, over 12.4% of birds species worldwide are threatened. Only 19% birds have been been migratory and among them 11% are threatened, Anon (2010). Out of more than 1200 species of birds reported from India nearly 350 species are migratory including very large number of forest birds.



**Fig a)** Flamingo at Sanjivini Salt pan Kelva on



**Fig b)** Flamingo at chinchani on 04/12/16 09/08/16

### CONCLUSION

In our study it was observed that countries and places are not permanent for the migration of flamingos. There is its change according to their food availability and climatic conditions. They have been observed in the month of August and September in this years and in December this year itself. This shows that food availability and climate of Palghar District is good for their survival. We have not observed breeding sites so far in this area though birds are sited in the month of December also which is supposed to be breeding period. So more intensive work is needed.

### ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

We are thankful to Dr. Hemant M. Pednekar, Principal and the Management of S.D.S.M. College, Palghar-401404 Maharashtra, India, for motivation and help during this study.

### REFERENCE:-

1. Ali. S and Ripley S.D. (2007) vol. 8, Handbook of the birds of India and Pakistan.
2. Anon (2010): 11 percent migratory birds under threat: BHNS. News. *webindia* 123.com dated May 8 2010.
3. Websites- (<http://www.livescience.com/>).
4. Websites- (<http://nationalgeographic.com>).