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### Studies on the Abundance and Distribution of Birds in Three Different Habitats of Karur District, South India

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A study of avian species abundance and distribution was conducted during December 2010 to April 2011 in Karur district of Tamil Nadu. The landscape of Karur consists of a broad spectrum of environments ranging from the city forests to highly modified artificial landscapes. Birds were assessed in three selected habitats using line transect method from December 2009 to March 2010. Total of 76 species were recorded belonging to 13 different orders. In Seventy six species recorded from three sites of Karur district, Species richness and the total abundance of birds were significantly greater in Amaravathi river banks (wet land), Uthukarapatty village than Karur town, especially where the Amaravathi river banks zones contained extensive cover of rain forest plants and flowering plants. Similarity in bird species composition between Amaravathi river banks and adjacent Uthukarapatty village was generally low. Karur birds exhibit wide habitat tolerance in narrow geographic areas, which is attributed to a slow development rate of this bird fauna. Less abundance in karur town is due to anthropogenic activities. An annotated checklist of these species is provided with special reference to their distribution in different habitat types. Indian peafowl, Babblers, Common Myna, Herons shows abundance in this region.

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*Keyword:* Line Transect, Abundance, Species Richness, Composition

#### 1. Introduction

Birds occupy a wide range of ecological positions<sup>[1]</sup>. Depending on the taxonomic viewpoint, the number of known living bird species varies anywhere from 9,800 to 10,050<sup>[2]</sup>. In many respects biodiversity, both present and past, is better understood for birds than for any other major group of organisms. One basic approach in generating an indicator of the state of wildlife is to measure diversity through time. Species loss or gain could then be used to gauge the trends in biodiversity<sup>[3]</sup>. The ornithological data is used to indicate the effects of environmental change on biodiversity. Bird indicators are likely to form an important component of sets of indicators for biodiversity and habitats. The present climatic changes also had adverse effects in bird life and ecological balance. So it is necessary at this hour, to save the bird species from the threats in order

to maintain the biodiversity. Biodiversity conservation in urban areas has become significant not only because of increasing human population in urban centers but also because it is one of the innovative ways to conserve biodiversity as suggested by various global environmental conventions<sup>[4]</sup>. Progressive urbanization often leads to biotic homogenization whereby a few widespread and successful species replace a diverse avifauna<sup>[5, 6]</sup>. The present study was undertaken to assess the diversity of birds in three different habitats of Karur district comprising a town, a wetland and a village area.

#### 2. Study Area

Karur District is located center along the Kaveri and Amaravathi rivers in Tamil Nadu, India. The main town in Karur District is the city of Karur. It had a population of 935,686 as of 2001. It is 33.27% urbanized as per Census 2001. The

district has a literacy of 81.74%. Karur District with headquarters at Karur, is the centrally located district of Tamil Nadu. It is bounded by Namakkal district in the north, Dindigul district in the south, Tiruchirapalli district on the east and Erode district on the west. It has an area of 2896 sq.km. Population is 1076588 as per 2011 census.

### 2.1. Climate

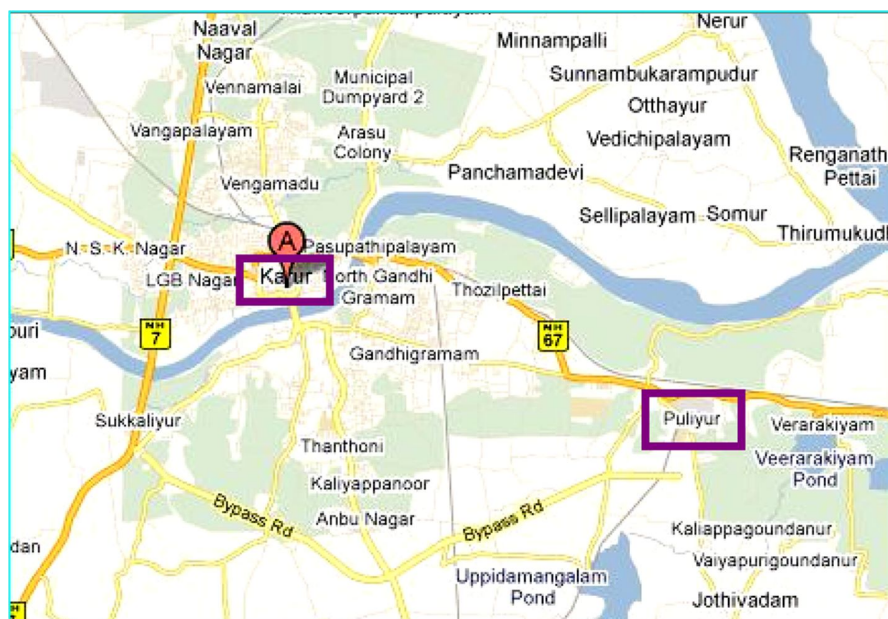
The highest temperature is obtained in early May to early June usually about 34 °C, though it usually exceeds 38 °C for a few days most years. Average daily temperature in Karur during January is around 23 °C, though the temperature rarely falls below 17 °C. The average annual rainfall is about 725 mm. It gets most of its seasonal rainfall from the north-east monsoon winds, from late September to mid November.

### 2.2. Agriculture

Utilization of land area in Karur district is up to 44.59%. 4.76% of the land area remains as other uncultivated land. 2.74% is forest area in Karur district. Black soil is the predominant soil type in this district accounting for 35.51%. The main crops are paddy, banana, sugarcane, battle leaf, grams & pulses, tapioca, kora grass, groundnuts, oilseeds, tropical vegetables, garland flowers, and medicinal herbs.

### 2.3. Land Utilization

The total geographical area of the district was 2256.18 sq.km in 1995-96. Cropped area accounts for about 44.59% of the total area. Forestlands cover about 2.74% of the total land. A major portion (52.67%) of the land falls under the category of 'non available for cultivation', 'fallow lands' and 'other uncultivable land'.



Map showing the three different habitats in the study area.

In order to analyze the bird diversity in varying habitats, I took 3 different regions in the study area namely.

#### a. Karur Town

Karur is the head quarter of Karur taluk and district. Karur, located at 10°57' N 78°4' E has

an average elevation of 122 meters (400 feet). During the last three decades the town emerged as a major textile centre. It is located on the banks of river Amaravathi. The direction of river flow is from southwest to northeast and the total length of river is 160 km [7]. It is a residential area and no abundance space is found.

### b. Amaravathi River Banks (wet land)

The water in the Amaravathi river is seasonal, and is almost fed by the dye effluents and domestic discharges. The area is more open and spacious.

### c. Uthukarapatty Village

Uthukarapatty is a village under Puliur town panchayat, situated 12km from Karur town. It had varying degree of ground cover consisting of coconut orchard; agriculture and plantation of cash crops were also carried out.

## 3. Methods

### 3.1. Block Count Method

'Block' refers to a small area with natural and artificial boundaries which can be easily identified on maps as well as in the field, by one or more people. To conduct this census method the entire area is first divided into counting blocks, and the birds in the blocks were photographed using the technique of afocal photography. Block count census is to count a small area or sample block. This method is making use of direct counting of animals by observers on foot, which is more suitable for use in steep and rugged terrain as well as closed forest.

### 3.2. Point Count Method

Point count is one of the block count methods, which is the simplest method of studying birds. A similar method called an area search, involves searching throughout a fixed area for a set amount of time and recording the number of birds seen <sup>[8]</sup>.

The study of bird species was carried out by random walk, using point count and area search method. The birds flying from behind were also noted. The visiting hours are from 6 a.m. to 6.30 p.m. For this purpose a pair of Seheld binoculars (99990x99980 8m auf 998000m) and digital camera of 16.0 mpx were used. The recorded bird species were identified, followed nomenclature using the books of 'A photographic guide to the BIRDS OF INDIA' by Bikram Grewal, Bill Harvey and Otto Pfister; 'The book of Indian birds' by Salim Ali and websites.

## 4. Results

During the present study, 67 bird species were identified and they showed seasonal trends; 53- widespread resident (R), 4- very local resident(r), 2- widespread winter visitor (W), 5- widespread resident and widespread winter visitor (RW), 2- very local resident and widespread winter visitor (rW), 1- sparse summer visitor and widespread winter visitor (sW) were noted. 51 species only in Uthukarapatty village (U); 3 species only in Karur town (K); 4 species only in and around Amaravathi river (A); 2 species in Karur town and Uthukarapatty village (K,U); 2 species in Amaravathi river and Uthukarapatty village (A,U) and 5 species were found in all the three regions (A,K,U). 31 species were passerines and 36 species were non-passerines. They all belonged to 13 different Orders. Birds were also classified into 6 groups based on their food preference. Among these bird species, many of them are omnivorous and insectivorous. The temperature was maximum level during the month of February and December month showed the maximum rainfall during the study period.

| S.No. | Common Name          | No of Species | Scientific Name              | Status | Tamil Name        | Feeding | Order          | Family       | Habitats Inkarur region |
|-------|----------------------|---------------|------------------------------|--------|-------------------|---------|----------------|--------------|-------------------------|
| 1     | Alexandrine Parakeet | 7             | <i>Psittacula eupatria</i>   | R      | Peria Pachai Kili | F,G     | Psittaciformes | Psittacidae  | U                       |
| 2     | Ashy Drongo          | 23            | <i>Dicrurus leucophaeus</i>  | R      | Karichaan         | I       | Passeriformes  | Dicruridae   | U                       |
| 3     | Asian Koel           | 5             | <i>Eudynamis scolopacea</i>  | R      | Kokilam           | O       | Cuculiformes   | Cuculidae    | A                       |
| 4     | Asian Palm Swift     | 45            | <i>Cypsiurus balasiensis</i> | R      | Panai Uzhavaran   | I       | Apodiformes    | Apodidae     | A,K,U                   |
| 5     | Barn Swallow         | 55            | <i>Hirundo rustica</i>       | RW     | Thagaivilaa n     | I       | Passeriformes  | Hirundinidae | A                       |

|    |                                   |     |                                   |    |                            |     |                                   |                |       |
|----|-----------------------------------|-----|-----------------------------------|----|----------------------------|-----|-----------------------------------|----------------|-------|
| 6  | <b>Baya Weaver</b>                | 42  | <i>Ploceus philippinus</i>        | R  | Tookanag Kuruvi            | O   | Passeriformes                     | Ploceidae      | U     |
| 7  | <b>Black Drongo</b>               | 60  | <i>Dicrurus macrocerus</i>        | R  | Karung Karichaan           | I   | Passeriformes                     | Dicruridae     | U     |
| 8  | <b>Black Headed Cuckoo-Shrike</b> | 8   | <i>Coracina melanoptera</i>       | r  | Karunthalai Kuyil Keechaan | O   | Passeriformes                     | Campephagidae  | U     |
| 9  | <b>Blue Faced Malkoha</b>         | 15  | <i>Rhopodytes viridirostris</i>   | r  | Pachai Vayan               | C   | Cuculiformes                      | Cuculidae      | U     |
| 10 | <b>Blue Rock Pigeon</b>           | 75  | <i>Columba livia</i>              | R  | Mada Pura                  | G   | Columbiformes                     | Columbidae     | K     |
| 11 | <b>Blue-Tailed Bee-Eater</b>      | 75  | <i>Merops philippinus</i>         | R  | Neelawal Panchuruttan      | I   | Coraciiformes                     | Meropidae      | U     |
| 12 | <b>Brahminy Starling</b>          | 40  | <i>Sturnus pagodarum</i>          | R  | Karunkondai Naganavaai     | F,N | Passeriformes                     | Sturnidae      | U     |
| 13 | <b>Bronzed Drongo</b>             | 10  | <i>Dicrurus aeneus</i>            | r  | Karumpachai Karichaan      | I   | Passeriformes                     | Dicruridae     | U     |
| 14 | <b>Cattle Egret</b>               | 300 | <i>Bubulcus ibis</i>              | R  | Unni Kokku                 | C   | Ciconiiformes                     | Ardeidae       | A,U   |
| 15 | <b>Common Babbler</b>             | 30  | <i>Turdoides caudatus</i>         | R  | Thavittu Silamban          | O   | Passeriformes                     | Timaliidae     | U     |
| 16 | <b>Common Hoopoe</b>              | 40  | <i>Upupa epops</i>                | RW | Kondalathi                 | O   | Coraciiformes                     | Upupidae       | U     |
| 17 | <b>Common Kestrel</b>             | 5   | <i>Falco tinnunculus</i>          | RW | Sivappu Valluru            | C   | Falconiformes                     | Falconidae     | U     |
| 18 | <b>Common Mynah</b>               | 200 | <i>Acridotheres tristis</i>       | R  | Naganavaai                 | O   | Passeriformes                     | Sturnidae      | A,K,U |
| 19 | <b>Common Pariah Kite</b>         | 12  | <i>Milvus migrans</i>             | RW | Kalla Parundhu             | C   | Falconiformes (or Accipitiformes) | Accipitridae   | A     |
| 20 | <b>Common Sandpiper</b>           | 30  | <i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>         | sW | Ullan                      | I   | Charadriiformes                   | Scolopacidae   | U     |
| 21 | <b>Common Woodshrike</b>          | 35  | <i>Tephrodornis pondicerianus</i> | R  | Kattu Keechaan             | O   | Passeriformes                     | Prionopidae    | U     |
| 22 | <b>Crested Tree Swift</b>         | 50  | <i>Hemiprocne coronate</i>        | R  | Kondai Uzhavaran           | I   | Apodiformes                       | Hemiprocnidae  | U     |
| 23 | <b>Dull Green Leaf Warbler</b>    | 15  | <i>Phylloscopus trochiloides</i>  | rW | Pachai Kadhirkuruvi        | C   | Passeriformes                     | Phylloscopidae | U     |
| 24 | <b>Eurasian Golden Oriole</b>     | 15  | <i>Oriolus oriolus</i>            | R  | Maangukil                  | O   | Passeriformes                     | Oriolidae      | A     |
| 25 | <b>Green Bee-Eater</b>            | 60  | <i>Merops orientalis</i>          | R  | Pachai Panchuruttan        | I   | Coraciiformes                     | Meropidae      | U     |
| 26 | <b>House Crow</b>                 | 220 | <i>Corvus splendens</i>           | R  | Kakkai                     | O   | Passeriformes                     | Corvidae       | A,K,U |
| 27 | <b>House Sparrow</b>              | 100 | <i>Passer domesticus</i>          | R  | Chittu                     | O   | Passeriformes                     | Passeridae     | A,K,U |
| 28 | <b>House Swift</b>                | 55  | <i>Apus affinis</i>               | R  | Nattu Uzhavaran            | I   | Apodiformes                       | Apodidae       | A     |
| 29 | <b>Indian Cuckoo</b>              | 15  | <i>Cuculus micropterus</i>        | R  | Kuyil                      | I   | Cuculiformes                      | Cuculidae      | U     |
| 30 | <b>Indian Great Reed Warbler</b>  | 20  | <i>Acrocephalus stentoreus</i>    | R  | Naanal Kadhirkuruvi        | I   | Passeriformes                     | Acrocephalidae | U     |
| 31 | <b>Indian Grey Hornbill</b>       | 1   | <i>Ocyrceros birostris</i>        | R  | Saambal Iruvaayan          | O   | Coraciiformes                     | Bucerotidae    | U     |
| 32 | <b>Indian Pond Heron</b>          | 50  | <i>Ardeola grayii</i>             | R  | Kuruttu Kokku              | I   | Ciconiiformes                     | Ardeidae       | U     |
| 33 | <b>Indian Robin</b>               | 45  | <i>Saxicoloides fulicata</i>      | R  | Karunchittu                | C   | Passeriformes                     | Muscicapidae   | U     |
| 34 | <b>Indian Roller</b>              | 42  | <i>Coracias benghalensis</i>      | R  | Panangadai                 | C   | Coraciiformes                     | Coraciidae     | U     |
| 35 | <b>Indian Silver Bill</b>         | 55  | <i>Lonchura Malabarica</i>        | R  | Venthondai Chillai         | O   | Passeriformes                     | Estrildidae    | U     |

|    |                                  |    |                                   |    |                         |     |                  |                   |       |
|----|----------------------------------|----|-----------------------------------|----|-------------------------|-----|------------------|-------------------|-------|
| 36 | <b>Jungle Babbler</b>            | 50 | <i>Turdoides striatus</i>         | R  | Kattu Silamban          | I   | Passeriformes    | Timaliidae        | U     |
| 37 | <b>Large- Billed Crow</b>        | 23 | <i>Corvus macrorhynchos</i>       | R  | Andam Kakkai            | O   | Passeriformes    | Corvidae          | A,K,U |
| 38 | <b>Laughing Dove</b>             | 30 | <i>Streptopelia senegalensis</i>  | R  | Chinna Thavittu Pura    | G   | Columbiformes    | Columbidae        | U     |
| 39 | <b>Lesser Coucal</b>             | 5  | <i>Centropus bengalensis</i>      | R  | Shenbagam               | I   | Cuculiformes     | Cuculidae         | U     |
| 40 | <b>Little Cormorant</b>          | 15 | <i>Phalacrocorax niger</i>        | R  | Chinna Neer Kagam       | C   | Pelecaniformes   | Phalacrocoracidae | U     |
| 41 | <b>Little Egret</b>              | 45 | <i>Egretta garzetta</i>           | R  | Chinna Kokku            | C   | Ciconiiformes    | Ardeidae          | A,U   |
| 42 | <b>Loten's Sunbird</b>           | 20 | <i>Nectarinia loteni-</i>         | R  | Lotun Thenchittu        | O   | Passeriformes    | Nectariniidae     | U     |
| 43 | <b>Marsh Harrier</b>             | 5  | <i>Circus aeruginosus</i>         | W  | Setru Poonai Parundhu   | C   | Falconiformes    | Accipitridae      | U     |
| 44 | <b>Night Heron</b>               | 10 | <i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>      | R  | Erakokku                | C   | Ciconiiformes    | Ardeidae          | U     |
| 45 | <b>Oriental Honey Buzzard</b>    | 4  | <i>Pernis ptilorhynchus</i>       | RW | Then Parundhu           | C   | Accipitriiformes | Accipitridae      | U     |
| 46 | <b>Paddyfield Pipit</b>          | 23 | <i>Anthus rufulus</i>             | R  | Vayal Nettai Kaali      | O   | Passeriformes    | Motacillidae      | U     |
| 47 | <b>Peacock</b>                   | 6  | <i>Pavo cristatus</i>             | R  | Neela Mayil             | O   | Galliformes      | Phasianidae       | U     |
| 48 | <b>Purple Rumped Sunbird</b>     | 50 | <i>Nectarinia zeylonica</i>       | R  | Oodha Pitta Thenchittu  | O   | Passeriformes    | Nectariniidae     | U     |
| 49 | <b>Purple Sunbird</b>            | 35 | <i>Nectarinia asiatica</i>        | R  | Oodha Thenchittu        | O   | Passeriformes    | Nectariniidae     | U     |
| 50 | <b>Red Turtle Dove</b>           | 25 | <i>Streptopelia tranquebarica</i> | R  | Thavittu Pura           | G   | Columbiformes    | Columbidae        | U     |
| 51 | <b>Red- Vented Bulbul</b>        | 85 | <i>Pycnonotus cafer</i>           | R  | Chinnaan                | O   | Passeriformes    | Pycnonotidae      | K,U   |
| 52 | <b>Red Wattled Lapwing</b>       | 65 | <i>Vanellus indicus</i>           | R  | Sivappu Mookku Aalkatti | C   | Charadriiformes  | Charadriidae      | U     |
| 53 | <b>Ring Dove</b>                 | 23 | <i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>      | R  | Kalli Pura              | G   | Columbiformes    | Columbidae        | U     |
| 54 | <b>Rose Ringed Parakeet</b>      | 60 | <i>Psittacula krameri</i>         | R  | Senthaar Pynkili        | F,G | Psittaciformes   | Psittacidae       | U     |
| 55 | <b>Rufous Treepie</b>            | 7  | <i>Dendrocitta vagabunda</i>      | R  | Vaal Kakkai             | O   | Passeriformes    | Corvidae          | U     |
| 56 | <b>Small Minivet</b>             | 10 | <i>Pericrocotus cinnamomeus</i>   | R  | Chinna Min Chittu       | I   | Passeriformes    | Campephagidae     | U     |
| 57 | <b>Spotted Dove</b>              | 45 | <i>Streptopelia chinesis</i>      | R  | Pulli Pura              | G   | Columbiformes    | Columbidae        | K,U   |
| 58 | <b>Spotted Owlet</b>             | 15 | <i>Athene brama</i>               | R  | Pulli Aandhai           | C   | Strigiformes     | Strigidae         | U     |
| 59 | <b>Temminck's Stint</b>          | 15 | <i>Calidris temminckii</i>        | W  | Pachai Kaal Kosu Ullan  | C   | Charadriiformes  | Scolopacidae      | U     |
| 60 | <b>Tickell's Flowerpecker</b>    | 45 | <i>Dicaeum erythrorhynchos</i>    | R  | Tickell Malar Kothi     | O   | Passeriformes    | Dicaeidae         | U     |
| 61 | <b>Verditer Flycatcher</b>       | 3  | <i>Eumyias thalassina</i>         | R  | Eepidipaan Neelameni    | I   | Passeriformes    | Muscicapidae      | U     |
| 62 | <b>White Browed Wagtail</b>      | 30 | <i>Motacilla maderaspatensis</i>  | R  | Karuppu Vellai Vaalatti | I   | Passeriformes    | Motacillidae      | K     |
| 63 | <b>White Headed Babbler</b>      | 60 | <i>Turdoides affinis</i>          | R  | Venthalai Silamban      | I   | Passeriformes    | Timaliidae        | U     |
| 64 | <b>White Throated Kingfisher</b> | 35 | <i>Halcyon smyrnensis</i>         | R  | Venthondai Meenkothi    | C   | Coraciiformes    | Halcyonidae       | U     |
| 65 | <b>White Wagtail</b>             | 25 | <i>Motacilla</i>                  | rW | Vellai                  | C   | Passeriformes    | Motacillidae      | U     |

|    |                        |    |                              |   |                        |   |                 |              |   |
|----|------------------------|----|------------------------------|---|------------------------|---|-----------------|--------------|---|
|    |                        |    | <i>(alba) dukhunensis</i>    |   | Vaalatti               |   |                 |              |   |
| 66 | White-Eyed Buzzard     | 15 | <i>Butastur teesa</i>        | R | Vellaikkann Vairi      | C | Falconiformes   | Accipitridae | U |
| 67 | Yellow Wattled Lapwing | 30 | <i>Vanellus malarbaricus</i> | r | Manjal Mookku Aalkatti | I | Charadriiformes | Charadriidae | U |

R- Widespread resident, r- very local resident, W- widespread winter visitor, s- sparse summer visitor.

A- In and around Amaravathi river, K- Karur town, U- Uthukarapatty village.

C- Carnivore, O- omnivore, F- frugivore, N- nectarivore, G- granivore, I- insectivore.

## 5. Discussion

Diversity of birds in the Karur district was compared with the nearby districts such as Trichy and Dindigul which is included under the Important Bird Areas of Tamil Nadu. A total of 188 species of birds, including 101 migrants, has been identified from Karaivetti lake in Trichy district <sup>[9]</sup>. The Bombay Natural History Society has been conducting bird ringing in the Upper Palani Hills including Berijam, Shola around Kodaikanal, Poomparai and Kukkal in Dindigul district since 1970 and 94 species of birds have been identified <sup>[10]</sup>. The number of bird species recorded in 3 regions of Karur district shows less species richness when compared to the surrounding districts. As the study area lies in the central part of the state, it receives the average rainfall of 725 mm, which may form a decisive factor for the absence of migrant bird species. It results into a non-hostile environment for the birds to stay. The daylight is very severe and sometimes in the months of late April to early June the temperature usually exceeds 38 °C which might result into low species distribution and low sightings in the study area.

It is evident from this study, that insectivorous and omnivorous birds constitute majority of the bird community in the study area. The village area showed the highest species richness, which comprises good mix of native vegetation that provides the sufficient food in the form of flowers and insects. Due to the less availability of the food sources, the town region showed the lowest species richness which comprises many constructions. This indicates that there was more richness and diversity in the undisturbed habitats rather than the disturbed habitat. The species distribution in the other study areas will also be higher, unless the area is not disturbed due to anthropogenic activities.

The bird species that still remain in the study area are habitat specific ones, and some of them are found in abundance and present only in the preferred habitat such as blue rock pigeon in town and red wattled lapwing in village area. Residential areas are likely to provide both greater structural diversity and greater diversity of feeding opportunities <sup>[11]</sup>. In the present study house sparrow was more common in the residential area than the village, because house sparrows primarily use buildings for nesting<sup>[12,13]</sup>. Suggest that retaining old hatched roof building and native building in the city are necessary for sustaining house sparrow population.

Karur town is occupied as a residential area and paves no way for agricultural practices. Moreover, many textiles and dyeing units are there and because of these dyeing units' effluents, which contaminates the environment, large numbers of birds are not available. Uthukarapatty village is an agricultural area, which provides the habitat for many species. The paddy fields which are cultivated with well waters attract birds considerably. In recent times, the land has been encroached upon for human settlements. The flow in the Amaravathi river is seasonal, contributed by the northeast and southwest monsoon seasons <sup>[7]</sup> which starts drying up completely as summer begins.

In Karur district, rural population has been decreased considerably and urban population has been increased maximum which paved way for Karur as a fast growing textile business centre. Therefore the existing industries may go for increase of production which will ultimately result in additional quality of effluent discharge and cause severe pollution <sup>[7]</sup>. Moreover the digging up of sand in the Amaravathi river, for the construction purpose makes it unfit for the stagnation of water. The seasonal water and

anthropogenic disturbances in the surrounding areas made only a limited chance and space for the habitat of bird species.

In order to conserve water, the textiles should have water recyclers and waste water should not be encouraged to mix with the Amaravathi river. Digging up of sand should be banned. Dye effluents should be managed properly. More understanding of the area and its ecology is needed. Problems, which may need management actions, should be evaluated so as to conserve the biological resources. Sampling the same area each year, or on a seasonal basis will allow predictive modeling of bird distribution and populations which will provide inputs for protection of bird habitats.

## 6. Conclusion

The diversity of bird species was studied in the 3 regions of Karur district and 67 different species were noted. The climatic conditions of Karur were noted during the study period. The Uthukarapatty village recorded the large number of bird species among the 3 habitats, since it has the varying ground cover. The bird species belonged to 13 different Orders and Order-Passeriformes recorded the large number of species, because of the well suited climatic conditions and vegetation availability for them. The weather conditions during the study period indicate that December month has the highest rainfall of 92.3mm and February has the maximum temperature of 34 °C. The Amaravathi river which is a seasonal flow, receives the waste discharges from domestic and dye effluents. So the birds are in urge to move to other areas, as summer proceeds. The present study indicates that there was more richness and diversity in the undisturbed habitat rather than the human altered habitats. In order to conserve the bird diversity and to keep the ecology in good condition in Karur district, the problems should be brought to the eyes of management to take immediate action. More understanding of the area is needed.

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