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Ornithological survey of District Karak, KPK, Pakistan

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Abstract

The present research work was conducted from June 2014 to July 2015 on the Birds Biodiversity of District Karak Khyber pakhtunkhwa Pakistan. During the survey total of 32 bird species belonging to 26 families and 11 orders were recorded from different areas of district karak. In the present study highest numbers of the order Passeriformes were recorded. From the obtained studies it may be concluded that district karak have rich fauna of birds belonging to order Passeriformes.

Keywords: Bird's fauna, District Karak, KPK, Pakistan

1. Introduction

Birds are important indicators of the ecosystem of an area. They play a key role in the biological system of the universe. Most birds are voracious feeders of a great variety of insects and thus, constitute one of the most effective natural checks upon insect numbers. If insect population remains unchecked in a biological system the extent of damage they cause is hard to estimate. Hoopoes, mynas, crows, bulbuls, babblers, flycatchers, wagtails and sparrows are well known predators of insects. They are "ecological litmus" and promptly respond to environmental changes [1]. Depending on the taxonomic viewpoint, the number of known living bird species varies anywhere from 9,800 to 10,050 [2]. Birds and their diversity constitute a main part of the natural environment and play a functional role as agents of flower pollination, seed dispersal, source of food chain and agents in breaking seed dormancy [3]. The occurrence of a variety of organisms reflects the biological diversity of that particular expanse. The term "biodiversity" reflects the totality of genes, species, and ecosystems of a region. Species are distinct units of diversity with each having a specific role in an ecosystem. Therefore, checking the loss of species and erosion of the gene pool is a major challenge to the community [4]. The bird species are friends of farmers who believe that bird consumes large numbers of harmful insects, as well as their eggs and larvae, which serve as a biological control agent of insect pests in Pakistan

A large number of birds migrate from central Asian countries and Europe towards wetlands of Pakistan to avoid severe winter. There is seven fly zones all over the world and one zone (Indus fly zone) present in Pakistan. The birds reach Pakistan flying over Karakorum, Suleiman Ranges and Hindu Kush along the Indus River. Falcons, cranes, swans, ducks, flamingos, waders and geese are important migratory birds in host country [5]. There is lack of information in many fields of district karak birds therefore the present studies investigations was in attempt to make sure the people from these agricultural fields and vegetation along the dams, the area is rich in avian fauna. Unfortunately, the people do not have knowledge about the importance of wildlife in ecosystem and shoot them, including some rare bird species, with air guns or sling shot (locally known as karkamna).

2. Material and Methods

Observations were made in the morning and afternoon between the months of June 2014 to July 2015. Surveys were conducted daily basis at different locations like agriculture fields, wetlands and tanks, river banks, road side tree, sericulture research campus, mango orchards, Municipal dumping area. At each sighting birds were counted using a binocular and identified. In case of doubtful identification, photographs were taken and the species is identified later by Consulting experts. The identification of birds was carried out using standard literature of [6, 7].

All observations will be made by using binocular. Photographic documentation was done using Nikon D3200 with lens 55 mm and 200 mm. A wide range of field methods was applied during different stages of the survey. These methods were broadly classified into two categories, 1st direct field observations and 2nd information from the local

community i.e. indirect observations (meetings with the locals) [8-12]. Were consulted for identification and previous distribution of birds of the study area.

3. Results and Discussion

All the birds' Taxonomic position has been shown in table 1.

Table 1: Taxonomic classification of Karak birds.

Phylum	Class	Order	Family	Genus	Species
Chordata	Aves	Columbiformes	Columbidae	<i>Zenaida</i>	<i>Z. macroura</i>
Chordata	Aves	Passeriformes	Paridae	<i>Poecile</i>	<i>P.atricapillus</i>
Chordata	Aves	Passeriformes	Passeridae	Passer	<i>P.domesticus</i>
Chordata	Aves	Passeriformes	icteridae	agelaius	<i>A.phoeniceus</i>
Chordata	Aves	Passeriformes	Hirundinidae	Hirundo	<i>H.rustica</i>
Chordata	Aves	Piciformes	Picidae	Picoides	<i>P.villosus</i>
Chordata	Aves	Passeriformes	Emberizidae	Junco	<i>J.hyemalis</i>
Chordata	Aves	Passeriformes	Motacillidae	<i>Motacilla</i>	<i>M.flava</i>
Chordata	Aves	Passeriformes	Motacillidae	<i>Motacilla</i>	<i>M.alba</i>
Chordata	Aves	Passeriformes	Motacillidae	<i>Anthus</i>	<i>A.similis</i>
Chordata	Aves	Galerida	Alaudidae	<i>Galerida</i>	<i>G.cristata</i>
Chordata	Aves	Passeriformes	Turdidae	<i>Turdus</i>	<i>T.merula</i>
Chordata	Aves	Passeriformes	Alaudidae	<i>Melanocorypha</i>	<i>M.calandra</i>
Chordata	Aves	Passeriformes	Sylviidae	<i>Sylvia</i>	<i>S.communis</i>
Chordata	Aves	Passeriformes	Alaudidae	<i>Alauda</i>	<i>A.arvensis</i>
Chordata	Aves	Strigiformes	Strigidae	<i>Athene</i>	<i>A.noctua</i>
Chordata	Aves	Bucerotiformes	Upupidae	<i>Upupa</i>	<i>U.epops</i>
Chordata	Aves	Columbiformes	Columbidae	<i>Columba</i>	<i>C.trocaz</i>
Chordata	Aves	Galliformes	Phasianidae	<i>Gallus</i>	<i>G.G.domesticus</i>
Chordata	Aves	Galliformes	Phasianidae	<i>Alectoris</i>	<i>A.chukar</i>
Chordata	Aves	Passeriformes	Rhipiduridae	<i>Rhipidura</i>	<i>R.leucophrys</i>
Chordata	Aves	Galliformes	Phasianidae	<i>Coturnix</i>	<i>C.coturnix</i>
Chordata	Aves	Galliformes	Phasianidae	<i>Francolinus</i>	<i>F.pondicerianus</i>
Chordata	Aves	Passeriformes	Pycnonotidae	<i>Pycnonotus</i>	<i>P.leucotis</i>
Chordata	Aves	Passeriformes	Leiotherichidae	<i>Turdoides</i>	<i>T.caudata</i>
Chordata	Aves	Passeriformes	Laniidae	<i>Lanius</i>	<i>L.collurio</i>
Chordata	Aves	Coraciiformes	Halcyonidae	<i>Halcyon</i>	<i>H.smyrnenis</i>
Chordata	Aves	Passeriformes	Pycnonotidae	<i>Pycnonotus</i>	<i>P.cafar</i>
Chordata	Aves	Pelecaniformes	Ardeidae	<i>Bubulcus</i>	<i>B.ibis</i>
Chordata	Aves	Accipitriformes	Accipitridae	<i>Milvus</i>	<i>M.migrans</i>
Chordata	Aves	Passeriformes	Sturnidae	Acridotheres	<i>A.tristis</i>
Chordata	Aves	Coraciiformes	Coraciidae	<i>Coracias</i>	<i>C.benghalensis</i>

Human impacts such as Installation of industrial units, cutting of trees, use of insecticides in agricultural practices are major threats to avian communities. In present study rich diversity of birds was observed in this area. Within one year survey, a total of 32 bird species belonging to 26 families and 11 orders were recorded from different study sites. The highest numbers of the order Passeriformes were recorded. Most dominant birds were House Sparrows; Red vented Bulbuls, Hose crows, common myna. Awan *et al.*, [13], during the survey of Muzaffarabad, Azad Kashmir, Pakistan, a total of (59) species were noted, out of which (24) were resident, (14) were winter visitor, (11) were summer visitor. During present survey maximum population of (32) birds was noted. Irfan, [14] during survey of Changa Manga noted (524) bird's maximum numbers. Food and survival availability play an important role in the diversity and distribution of the avian fauna of area. The flora of the study area was rich and due to the thick flora the study area was bearing rich birds fauna. As the flora of the study area was very thick the myna and house sparrow were found in large numbers as there were many places of shelters for their breeding and other activities.

4. Conclusion

The bird's fauna of the study area was rich because the plants flora was thick. It is concluded from the current study that

hunting and habitat destruction are the major threats to the wildlife. More understanding and documentation of the area is needed.

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