

Journal of Entomology and Zoology Studies

Journal of Entomology and Zoology Studies

Available online at www.entomoljournal.com

E-ISSN: 2320-7078 P-ISSN: 2349-6800

www.entomoljournal.com

JEZS 2022; 10(6): 183-188 © 2022 JEZS Received: 09-08-2022 Accepted: 16-09-2022

Ahbar Alam

Department of Zoology, Patna University, Patna, Bihar, India

Gopal Sharma

Zoological Survey of India, Patna, Bihar, India

Md. Shahbaz

Department of Zoology, Patna University, Patna, Bihar, India

Mohammad Maaz

Department of Zoology, Patna University, Patna, Bihar, India

Shahla Yasmin

Department of Zoology, Patna University, Patna, Bihar, India

Avifauna along Ganges near Patna, Bihar, India

Ahbar Alam, Gopal Sharma, Md. Shahbaz, Mohammad Maaz and Shahla Yasmin

DOI: https://doi.org/10.22271/j.ento.2022.v10.i6c.9117

Abstract

This paper presents data of the survey conducted during November 2021 to January 2022 to document the avian diversity along the 40 km stretch of the Ganges River bank from Danapur (25.638782°N, 85.038070°E) to Fatuha (25.512728°N, 85.304202°E) in Patna, Bihar, India. One hundred and thirty-four (134) species belonging to 49 families and 19 orders of birds were recorded. A new distribution record of Common Shelduck (*Tadorna tadorna*) was documented. Other notable species included Alexandrine parakeet (*Psittacula eupatria*), Painted stork (*Mycteria leucocephala*), and Pallid Harrier (*Circus macrourus*) belonging to Near threatened category and two species, the Pallas's Fish Eagle (*Haliaeetus leucoryphus*) and Steppe eagle (*Aquila nipalensis*) belonging to the Endangered category of the IUCN red list.

Keywords: Ganges, common shelduck, alexandrine parakeet, pallid harrier, pallas's fish eagle, steppe eagle

Introduction

Avifauna diversity is one of the most important ecological indicators for evaluating habitats, both qualitatively and quantitatively ^[1, 2]. Birds serve as useful bio-indicators because they are ecologically versatile, live in different habitats and have different feeding habits as well ^[3]. Water birds have been suggested as excellent environmental indicators as their populations are not only extremely dynamic and sensitive to change but more often reflect land use conditions ^[4].

The river Ganges has drifted five to six kilometres away from Patna city in the last 30 years, due to geogenic as well as anthropogenic activities. The total length of the Ganges along the city is presently 99 kilometers. The geomorphological features in the Ganga River basin provide diverse habitats in the form of mid-channel island, inter-island channel, sand bars, floodplains and a large number of floodplain wetlands that attract local and migratory birds. The Gandak River, a major tributary of the Ganges, is also identified as an Important Bird Area (IBA) site [5]. Movement of rivers may influence the accumulation of birds [6].

A survey was conducted during November 2021 to January 2022 to document the avian diversity along the 40 km stretch of the Ganges River bank from Danapur (25.638782°N, 85.038070°E) to Fatuha (25.512728°N, 85.304202°E) in Patna (Fig 1). The survey area included following ghats Danapur to Fatuha:

Triveni Ghat, Naujar Ghat, Qila Ghat, Kangan Ghat, Bhadr Ghat, Gai Ghat, Loharwa Ghat, Pathri Ghat, Chaudharytola Ghat, Raushan Ghat, Masjid Ghat, Gagha Ghat, Gulbi Ghat, Rani Ghat, Law College Ghat, Baharwa Ghat, Gandhi Ghat, Krishna Ghat, Patna College Ghat, Kali Ghat, Bansi Ghat, Adalat Ghat, Anta Ghat, Collectorate Ghat, Bans Ghat, Pehelwaan Ghat, L.C.T Ghat, Kurji Ghat, Digha Ghat, Janardan Ghat, Shiv Mandir Nahar Ghat, Chai Tola Ghat and Panapur Ghat.

The study area was covered on foot and on boat along the banks of the Ganges. Bird species were observed and recorded using point count method and fixed route monitoring following ^[7]. Birds in flight were also recorded. Birds were identified with the help of Ali and Ripley (1983). Fixed route monitoring method was used in boat surveys. Starting point for the boat survey was NIT Ghat at 7:30 am every Wednesday and our end point was just before Fatuha Shamshan Ghat.

Corresponding Author: Shahla Yasmin

Department of Zoology, Patna University, Patna, Bihar, India

The terrain along the river comprised of sand, soil and crop lands. The vegetation differed from one Ghat to another, the occupied lands were planted with more fruit bearing trees and the isolated areas were covered with different types of grasses and shrubs. The notable trees observed were Bombax ceiba, Ficus religiosa, Ficus benghalensis, Ficus racemosa, Cocos nucifera, Dalbergia sissoo, Terminalia arjuna, Leucaena leucocephala, Saraca asoca, Azadirachta indica, Mangifera indica, Delonix regia and Cassia fistula. Other vegetation included Chenopodium nitrariaceum, Duma florulenta, Saccharum spontaneum, Pennisetum pedicellatum, Setaria faberi, Amaranthus spinosus, Datura stramonium and Lantana camara. The stagnant portions of the river banks had plants such as Hydrilla verticillata, Eichhornia crassipes, Nymphaeaceae (sp), Pistia stratiotes, Azolla filiculoides, Salviniaceae (sp) and Marsilea.

One hundred and thirty-four (134) species belonging to 49 families and 19 orders of birds were recorded. A complete taxonomic checklist of avifauna of River Ganga from Danapur to Fatuha is given in Table 1. The number of families documented was 49. Among these Anatidae and Musicapidae were the most represented families, with 10 species each, while Accipitridae was the second most represented families, with nine species each. Motacillidae was the third most represented family, with eight species. Ardeidae was represented by six species. There were five species in each of the Alaudidae, Cisticolidae and Scolopacidae families. Hirundinidae and Columbidae had species. Corvidae, Pssitaculidae, Phylloscopidae, Meropidae, Phalacrocoracidae and Cuculidae had three species each. Twelve families namely Megalaimidae, Recurvirostridae, Charadridae, Lanidae, Ciconidae, Laridae, Pycnonotidae, Oriolidae, Estrilidae, Falconidae, and Alcedinidae had two species each. Phasianidae, Picidae, Bucerotidae, Upupidae, Coraciidae, Apodidae, Strigidae, Tytonidae, Glariolidae Pandionidae, Threskiornithidae, Podicipedidae, Rhipiduridae, Leiothrichidae Nectariniidae Passeridae, Dicruridae, Zosteropidae, Paridae and Campephagidae had only one species each (Fig 2). The most dominant order was Passeriformes among the other 19 orders. Among these species 46 species were winter visitors, two species were

summer visitors and the others were resident. A new distribution record of Common Shelduck (Tadorna tadorna) (Linnaeus, 1758) was evidenced for the first time Ganga near Bans Ghat (25.638098°N, 85.136434°E), Patna, Bihar, India (Plate 1). Three Common Shelducks was seen near Baans Ghat for two consecutive days. During the month of March this species was also recorded in the Kosi River near Nepal border, which might have migrated from Mongolia. Out of these 134 species three species Alexandrine parakeet (Psittacula eupatria) (Plate 2) Painted stork (Mycteria leucocephala) (Plate 3) and Pallid Harrier (Circus macrourus) belong to Near threatened category and two species, the Pallas's Fish Eagle (Haliaeetus leucoryphus) (Plate 4) and Steppe eagle (Aquila nipalensis) (Plate 5) belong to the Endangered category of the IUCN red list. A big group of Bar-headed Goose (Anser indicus) (Plate 6) were also seen. Most of the migratory species were seen between LCT Ghat and Baans Ghat area. We observed that the water level varied from 5-11ft in these two areas and the water was clean and clear also. Other areas were disturbed due to sand mining

The present study reveals that majestic rivers like Ganges areas support a fairly rich avian diversity near a busy city like Patna, with a representation from 49 families. Field studies like ours provide the baseline data for understanding the basic ecology of individual species or bird communities and the effects of habitat modification on them. Natural habitats are undergoing rapid changes owing to multiple stressors and documentation of information on the wild fauna living in natural versus modified habitats can provide insight for management purpose. The quality of riparian corridors close to cities should be monitored periodically to assess land use changes, biodiversity, and impacts of anthropogenic disturbance and natural disasters, especially flooding; urban planners should incorporate these changes into city plans (regional, development, and master plans) as necessary [9]. This new distribution record of Common Shelduck expands the range map of this species. If these areas are monitored regularly there is a higher possibility of spotting new species or new ranges of species. Moreover, there is a need to assess

the level of biodiversity and health of this river on regular



Fig 1: Map of study area

 Table 1: Taxonomic list of avifauna along River Ganges from Danapur to Fatuha, Patna.

S. No.	Family	Latin name	Common name	Migratory Status	IUCN status	WPA(1972)	
			Order: Galliformes	T	1		
1	Phasianidae	Ortygornis pondicerianus	Grey Francolin	R	LC	Sched.IV	
Order: Anseriformes							
2		Anser indicus	Bar-headed goose	WM	LC	Sched.IV	
3		Tadorna tadorna	Common shelduck	WM	LC	Sched.IV	
4		Tadorna ferruginea	Ruddy shelduck	WM	LC	Sched.IV	
5		Mareca strepera	Gadwall	WM	LC	Sched.IV	
6	Anatidae	Anas crecca	Common teal	WM	LC	Sched.IV	
7		Spatula clypeata	Northern shoveler	WM	LC	Sched.IV	
8		Anas acuta	Northern pintail Eurasian wigeon	WM WM	LC LC	Sched.IV	
		Mareca penelope	<u> </u>	WM		Sched.IV	
10		Spatula querquedula	Garganey	R R	LC LC	Sched.IV Sched.IV	
11		Dendrocygna javanica	Lesser whistling teal Order: Sulfiformes	K	LC	Sched.1v	
12		Phalacrocorax corba	Great cormorant	R	LC	Sched.IV	
13	Phalacrocoracidae	Phalacrocorax fuscicollis	Indian cormorant	R	LC	Sched.IV	
14	Filalaciocoracidae	Microcarbo niger	Little cormorant	R	LC	Sched.IV	
14		Microcurbo niger	Order: Piciformes	K	LC	Sched.iv	
15	Picidae	Dinopium benghalense	Black-rumped flameback	R	LC	Sched.IV	
16	Ticidac	Megalaima haemacephala	Coppersmith barbet	R	LC	Sched.IV	
17	Megalaimidae	Psilopogon zeylanicus	Brown-headed barbet	R	LC	Sched.IV	
1 /	1710 Gaiaitiilaac		Order: Bucerotiformes	ı K	LC	Belleu.I v	
18	Bucerotidae	Ocyceros birostris	Indian grey hornbill	R	LC	Sched.IV	
19	Upupidae	<i>Upupa epops</i>	Eurasian hoopoe	R	LC	Sched.IV	
17	Орирішис		Order: Coraciiformes	K	LC	Belled.1 v	
20	Coraciidae	Coracias benghalensis	Indian roller	R	LC	Sched.IV	
21		Halcyon smyrnensis	White-throated kingfisher	R	LC	Sched.IV	
22	Alcedinidae	Ceryle rudis	Pied kingfisher	R	LC	Sched.IV	
23		Merops orientalis	Asian green bee-eater	R	LC	Sched.IV	
24	Meropidae	Merops philippinus	Blue-tailed bee-eater	R	LC	Sched.IV	
25	•	Merops leschenaulti	Chestnut-headed bee-eater	R	LC	Sched.IV	
,			Order: Cuculiformes		•		
26		Eudynamys scolopaceus	Asian koel	R	LC	Sched.IV	
27	Cuculidae	Hierococcyx varius	Common hawk-cuckoo	R	LC	Sched.IV	
28		Centropus sinensis	Greater coucal	R	LC	Sched.IV	
			Order: Psittaciformes				
29		Psittacula eupatria	Alexandrine parakeet	R	NT	Sched.I	
30	Psittaculidae	Psittacula krameri	Rose-ringed parakeet	R	LC	Sched.IV	
31		Psittacula cyanocephala	Plum-headed parakeet	R	LC	Sched.IV	
			Order: Apodiformes				
32	Apodidae	Cypsiurus balasiensis	Asian palm swift	R	LC	Sched.IV	
			Order: Strigiformes	T	1	1	
33	Tytonidae	Tyto alba	Barn owl	R	LC	Sched.IV	
34	Strigidae	Athene brama	Spotted owlet	R	LC	Sched.IV	
0.5			Order: Columbiformes			0.1.1777	
35		Spilopelia chinensis	Spotted dove	R	LC	Sched.IV	
36	Columbidae	Streptopelia decaocto	Eurasian collared dove	R	LC	Sched.IV	
37		Columba livia domestica	Feral pigeon	R	LC	Sched.IV	
38		Treron phoenicoptera	Yellow-footed green pigeon	R	LC	Sched.IV	
20	1	Amangamia - La - · · · · · · · ·	Order: Gruiformes	D	1.0	Cohod IV	
39	Dall: da -	Amaurornis phoenicurus	White-breasted waterhen	R R	LC LC	Sched.IV	
40	Rallidae	Gallinula chloropus	Common moorhen	R R	LC	Sched.IV	
41		Fulica atra	Common coot rder: Charadriiformes	Л	LC	Sched.IV	
42	1	Calidris minuta	Little stint	WM	LC	Sched.IV	
43		Calidris minuta Calidris temmickii	Temmenick's stint	WM	LC	Sched.IV Sched.IV	
43	Scolopacidae	Tringa ochropus	Green sandpiper	WM	LC	Sched.IV Sched.IV	
45	Scoropacidae	Tringa ochropus Tringa glareola	Wood sandpiper	WM	LC	Sched.IV	
46		Actitis hypoleucos	Common sandpiper	WM	LC	Sched.IV Sched.IV	
47	Recurvirostridae	Himantopus himantopus	Black-winged stilt	WM	LC	Sched.IV	
48		Recurvirostera avosetta	Pied avocet	WM	LC	Sched.IV	
49	Charadriidae	Charadrius dubius	Little ringed plover	WM	LC	Sched.IV	
50		Vanellus indicus	Red-wattled lapwing	R	LC	Sched.IV	
51		Chroicocephalus ridibundus	Black-headed gull	WM	LC	Sched.IV	
52	Laridae	Ichthyaetus ichthyaetus	Palla's gull	WM	LC	Sched.IV	
53	Glareolidae	Glareola lactea	Small pratincole	R	LC	Sched.IV	
		2 60101 100100	pranieore	1 * *		~	

	Entomology and 2001				•	tomorjournar.com
		C	Order: Accipitriformes			
54		Milvus migrans	Black kite	R	LC	Sched.IV
55	Accipitridae	Elanus axillaris	Black-shouldered kite	R	LC	Sched.IV
56		Circus macrourus	Pallid harrier	WM	NT	Sched. I
57		Accipiter badius	Shikra	R	LC	Sched. IV
		•				
58		Haliastur indus	Brahminy kite	R	LC	Sched.IV
59		Buteo rufins	Long-legged buzzard	WM	LC	Sched.IV
60		Haliaeetus leucoryphus	Pallas's fish eagle	WM	EN	Sched. I
61		Aquila nipalensis	Steppe eagle	WM	EN	Sched. I
62	Pandionidae	Pandion haliaetus	Osprey	WM	LC	Sched.IV
			rder: Podicipediformes			
63	Podicipedidae	Podiceps cristatus	Great crested grebe	WM	LC	Sched.IV
0.5	Toulcipedidae		Order: Pelicaniformes	44 141	LC	Sched.i v
<i>C</i> 1				D	LC	0.1.1137
64		Egretta garzetta	Little egret	R	LC	Sched.IV
65		Ardea alba	Great egret	R	LC	Sched.IV
66	Ardeidae	Bubulcus ibis	Cattle egret	R	LC	Sched.IV
67	Alueluae	Ardeola grayii	Indian pond heron	R	LC	Sched.IV
68		Ardea cinerea	Grey heron	R	LC	Sched.IV
69		Ardea purpurea	Purple heron	R	LC	Sched.IV
70	Threskiornithidae	Pseudibis papillosa	Red-naped ibis	R	LC	Sched.IV
70	Tilleskioilliuliuae		Order: Ciconiiformes	K	LC	Sched.i v
71				D	I.C	C -1 1 TV
71	G: "1	Anastomus oscitans	Asian openbill stork	R	LC	Sched.IV
72	Ciconiidae	Mycteria leucocephala	Painted stork	R	NT	Sched. I
			Order: Passeriformes			
73	Laniidae	Lanius cristatus	Brown shrike	WM	LC	Sched.IV
74	Laimuae	Lanius vittatus	Bay backed shrike	R	LC	Sched.IV
75		Dendrocitta vagabunda	Rufous treepie	R	LC	Sched.IV
76	Corvidae	Corvus splendens	House crow	R	LC	Sched.IV
77	Corvidae	Corvus culminates	Large-billed crow	R	LC	Sched.IV
	D1::1:1					
78	Rhipiduridae	Rhipidura albicollis	White-throated fantail	R	LC	Sched.IV
79		Copysychus saularis	Oriental magpie-robin	R	LC	Sched.IV
80		Phoenicurus ochruros	Black redstart	R	LC	Sched.IV
81		Luscinia svecica	Bluethroat	WM	LC	Sched.IV
82		Ceromela fusca	Brown rock chat	R	LC	Sched.IV
83		Saxicola carprata	Pied bush chat	R	LC	Sched.IV
84	Muscicapidae	Saxicola leucurus	White-tailed stonechat	R	LC	Sched.IV
85		Saxicola torquatus	Eurasian stonechat	WM	LC	Sched.IV
86		Eumyias thalassinus	Verditer flycatcher	R	LC	Sched.IV
87		Muscicapa dauurica	Asian brown flycatcher	SM	LC	Sched.IV
88		Ficedula albicilla	Taiga flycatcher	WM	LC	Sched.IV
89		Sturnia pagodarum	Brahminy starling	R	LC	Sched.IV
90	G	Gracupica contra	Indian pied myna	R	LC	Sched.IV
91	Sturnidae	Acridotheres ginginianus	Bank myna	R	LC	Sched.IV
92		Acridotheres tristis	Common myna	R	LC	Sched.IV
				WM		
93		Hirundo rustica	Barn swallow		LC	Sched.IV
94	Hirundinidae	Cecropis daurica	Red-rumped swallow	WM	LC	Sched.IV
95	1111 andimac	Riparia diluta	Pale sand martin	WM	LC	Sched.IV
96		Riparia paludicola	Brown-throated martin	R	LC	Sched.IV
97	Dyananatidaa	Pycnonotus jocosus	Red-whiskered bulbul	R	LC	Sched.IV
98	Pycnonotidae	Pycnonotus cafer	Red-vented bulbul	R	LC	Sched.IV
99		Prinia gracilis	Graceful prinia	R	LC	Sched.IV
100		Prinia socialis	Ashy prinia	R	LC	Sched.IV
101	Cisticolidae	Prinia inornata	Plain prinia	R	LC	Sched.IV
102		Cisticola juncidis	Zitting cisticola	R	LC	Sched.IV
103		Orthotomus sutorius	Common tailorbird	R	LC	Sched.IV
104		Phylloscopos humei	Hume's leaf warbler	WM	LC	Sched.IV
105	Phylloscopidae	Phylloscopus collybita	Common chiffchaff	WM	LC	Sched.IV
106		Phylloscopus trochiloides	Greenish warbler	WM	LC	Sched.IV
107	Leiothrichidae	Turdoides striata	Jungle babbler	R	LC	Sched.IV
108	Nectrainiidae	Cinnyris asiaticus	Purple sunbird	R	LC	Sched.IV
109	Nectrainiidae		•	R	LC	
	Alaudidae	Eremopterix griseus	Ashy-crowned sparrow-lark			Sched.IV
110		Alauda gulgula	Oriental skylark	R	LC	Sched.IV
111		Alaudala raytal	Sand lark	R	LC	Sched.IV
112		Galerida cristata	Crested lark	R	LC	Sched.IV
113		Mirafra erythroptera	Indian bush lark	R	LC	Sched.IV
114	Passeridae	Passer domesticus	House sparrow	R	LC	Sched.IV
115		Motacilla maderaspatensis	White-browed wagtail	R	LC	Sched.IV
116	Motacillidae	Motacilla alba	White wagtail	WM	LC	Sched.IV
110		тошсина ана	winte wagtan	VV IVI	LC	SCHOU.I V

117		Motacilla flava	Western yellow wagtail	WM	LC	Sched.IV	
118		Motacilla cinerea	Grey wagtail	WM	LC	Sched.IV	
119		Motacilla citreola	Citrine wagtail	WM	LC	Sched.IV	
120		Anthus rufulus	Paddyfield pipit	R	LC	Sched.IV	
121		Anthus trivialis	Tree pipit	WM	LC	Sched.IV	
122		Anthus campestris	Tawny pipit	WM	LC	Sched.IV	
123		Anthus richardi	Richard's pipit	WM	LC	Sched.IV	
124		Anthus similis	Long-billed pipit	WM	LC	Sched.IV	
125	0-:-1:4	Oriolus xanthornus	Black-hooded oriole	R	LC	Sched.IV	
126	Oriolidae	Oriolus kundoo	Indian golden oriole	R	LC	Sched.IV	
127	Estrildidae	Lonchura punctulata	Scaly-breasted munia	R	LC	Sched.IV	
128	Estriididae	Lonchura malacca	Tricoloured munia	R	LC	Sched.IV	
129	Dicruridae	Dicrurus macrocercus	Black drongo	R	LC	Sched.IV	
130	Zosteropidae	Zosterops palpebrosus	Indian white-eye	R	LC	Sched.IV	
131	Paridae	Parus cinereus	Cinereous tit	R	LC	Sched.IV	
132	Campephagidae	Lalage melaschistos	Black-winged cuckooshrike	WM	LC	Sched.IV	
Order: Falconiformes							
133	- Falconidae	Falco peregrinus	Peregrine falcon	WM	LC	Sched.IV	
134		Falco tinnunculus	Common kestrel	WM	LC	Sched.IV	

Acronyms; R=Resident, WM= Winter Migrant, SM=Summer Migrant, LC= Least Concerned, NT=Near Threatened, EN=Endangered,

Sched=Schedule, WPA=Wildlife Protection Act

Summary Data; Total Orders: 19, Total Families:49, Total Species:134.

Distribution Status; Resident=87, Winter Migrant=46, Summer Migrant=01

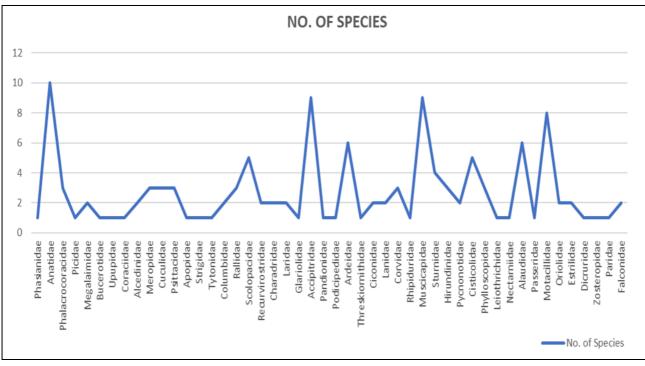


Fig 2: Line graph showing number of species seen among the recorded families



Plate 1: Common Shelduck

Plate 2: Alexandrine Parakeet



Plate 3: Painted Stork

Plate 4: Pallas's Fish eagle



Plate 5: Steppe eagle



Plate 6: Bar headed geese

Conflict of Interest

The authors declare that they have no conflict of interest.

Author contributions

All authors contributed to the study conception and design. Material preparation, data collection and analysis were performed by Ahbar Alam, and Md Shahbaz. The first draft of the manuscript was written by Ahbar Alam and all authors commented on previous versions of the manuscript. Gopal Sharma supervised the work. Shahla Yasmin finally edited the manuscript. All authors read and approved the final manuscript.

References

- 1. Furness RW, Greenwood JJD. Birds as Monitors of Environmental Change. Colon Waterbirds; c1996.
- 2. Newton I. The Contribution of Some Recent Research on Birds to Ecological Understanding. J Anim Ecol; c1995.
- Järvinen O, Väisänen RA. Changes in bird populations as criteria of environmental changes. Ecography (Cop); c1979.
- Galatowitsch SM, Whited DC, Tester JR. Development of community metrics to evaluate recovery of Minnesota wetlands. Journal of Aquatic Ecosystem Stress and Recovery; c1998.
- 5. Islam Z, Rahmani DA. Important Bird and Biodiversity Areas in India Priority sites for conservation. Indian Bird Conserv Netw; c2004.
- 6. Musher LJ, Giakoumis M, Albert J, Del-Rio G, Rego M, Thom G, *et al.* River network rearrangements promote speciation in lowland Amazonian birds. Sci Adv. 2022;8(14):1-16.
- 7. Urfi AJ, Sen M, Kalam A, Meganathan T. Counting birds

- in India: Methodologies and trends. Current Science; c2005.
- 8. Ali S, Ripley SD. Handbook of the birds of India and Pakistan. Compact edition. Oxford Univ Press BNHS, Mumbai; c1983.
- 9. Keten A, Eroglu E, Kaya S, Anderson JT. Bird diversity along a riparian corridor in a moderate urban landscape. Ecol Indic. 2020 Nov 1;118:106751.