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A Short Note on the Avian Fauna of ICAR-KVK Tiptur Campus, Tumkur District, Karnataka

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Abstract

Birds are one of the most fascinating creatures in this world contributing to the agriculture by consuming insect pests thereby managing pest population, aiding in pollination and also in endozoochory. An attempt was made to document the flora and avian fauna species at ICAR-KVK, Tiptur campus, Tumkur district in Karnataka during the month of February, 2022. Observations were made from morning to evening and only diurnal bird species were documented during the short study. The results were found fruitful as twenty-three bird species were documented belonging to twenty families and eight orders. Most of the birds belonged to Passeriformes followed by Cuculiformes and Accipitriformes.

Introduction

Birds are common dwellers of ecosystems and have been considered as environmental bio-indicators of inhabited areas (Blair, 1999). There are approximately 9,990 bird species recorded in our planet and, the Indian subcontinent is home to 1,313 bird species (Grimmett *et al.*, 2011). Of the total avian species found in India, Karnataka accounts for thirty-five percent of it with three major landscapes *viz.*, the Western ghats, Coastline and Deccan plateau (Praveen *et al.*, 2016). Birds are bioindicators, they aid in pest management by consuming larvae of many devastating pests, aids in pollination and also, they play a major role in seed dispersal which ultimately leads to new vegetation. A small study was taken up with this view, to document the avian fauna at ICAR-KVK, Tiptur located at Tumkur district of Karnataka. The methodology, observations and conclusions are presented below.

Methodology

ICAR-KVT, Tiptur is located in Tumkuru district of Karnataka and one kilometre away from Tiptur-Arasikere highway (13.2593° N, 76.4786° E). A short survey was done during the month of February at ICAR-KVK, Tiptur to document the bird species by taking photographs. The species were later identified using the Merlin photo ID app for android mobile developed by The Cornell Lab of Ornithology, New York and also using the field guide for Indian birds.

Results

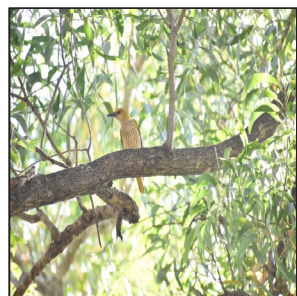
This KVK houses a number of tree species *viz.*, *Ficus benghalensis*, *Ficus religiosa*, *Cocos nucifera*, *Pongamia glabra*, *Muntingiacalabura*, *Eucalyptus globulus*, *Azadirachta indica* and also sorghum and maize fields near the KVK attracts many Passeriformes. The KVK has a rich avian fauna as twenty-three species of birds were recorded belonging to twenty families and seven orders (Table 1).

Passeriformes were found throughout the campus, where rare sightings like blue faced malkoha and golden orioles were also observed. Large grey babblers, pale billed flower-peckers,

bulbuls, tailorbirds were found in large numbers. The campus is surrounded by a number of *Ficus* trees which attracts a number of bird species towards it.

Table 1: Avian fauna of ICAR-KVK, Tiptur during the month of February, 2022

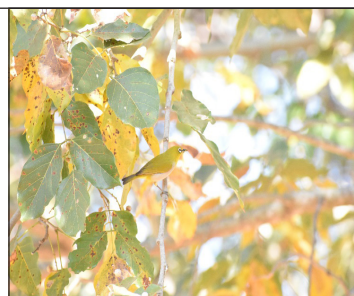
| Sl. No. | Common Name | Scientific Name | Family | Order |
|---------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|----------------|-----------------|
| 1 | Indian Golden Oriole | <i>Oriolus kundoo</i> | Oriolidae | Passeriformes |
| 2 | Purple-rumped Sunbird | <i>Leptocoma zeylonica</i> | Nectariniidae | Passeriformes |
| 3 | Indian White Eye | <i>Zosterops palpebrosus</i> | Zosteropidae | Passeriformes |
| 4 | Scaly-breasted Munia | <i>Lonchura punctulata</i> | Estrildidae | Passeriformes |
| 5 | Jerdon's Leafbird | <i>Chloropsis jerdoni</i> | Chloropseidae | Passeriformes |
| 6 | Pale billed flowerpecker | <i>Dicaeum erythrorhynchos</i> | Dicaeidae | Passeriformes |
| 7 | Indian Silverbill | <i>Euodice malabarica</i> | Estrildidae | Passeriformes |
| 8 | Large Grey Babbler | <i>Turdoides malcolmi</i> | Leiothrichidae | Passeriformes |
| 9 | Common Crow | <i>Corvus splendens</i> | Corvidae | Passeriformes |
| 10 | Indian Myna | <i>Acridotheres tristis</i> | Sturnidae | Passeriformes |
| 11 | Red-vented Bulbul | <i>Pycnonotus cafer</i> | Pycnonotidae | Passeriformes |
| 12 | Red-whiskered Bulbul | <i>Pycnonotus jocosus</i> | Pycnonotidae | Passeriformes |
| 13 | Tailor bird | <i>Orthotomus sutorius</i> | Cisticolidae | Passeriformes |
| 14 | Asian brown flycatcher | <i>Muscica padaurica</i> | Muscicapidae | Passeriformes |
| 15 | Spotted dove | <i>Spilopelia chinensis</i> | Columbidae | Columbiformes |
| 16 | Plum-headed Parakeet | <i>Psittacula cyanocephala</i> | Psittaculidae | Psittaciformes |
| 17 | Green Bee-eater | <i>Merops orientalis</i> | Meropidae | Coraciiformes |
| 18 | Greater Coucal | <i>Centropus sinensis</i> | Cuculidae | Cuculiformes |
| 19 | Blue faced Malkoha | <i>Phaenicophaeus viridirostris</i> | Cuculidae | Cuculiformes |
| 20 | White-cheeked Barbet | <i>Megalaima viridis</i> | Megalaimidae | Piciformes |
| 21 | Black kite | <i>Milvus migrans</i> | Accipitridae | Accipitriformes |
| 22 | Brahminy kite | <i>Haliastur indus</i> | Accipitridae | Accipitriformes |
| 23 | The Indian Roller | <i>Coracias benghalensis</i> | Coraciidae | Coraciiformes |



a) Indian Golden Oriole



b) Purple-rumped Sunbird



c) Indian White-eye



d) Scaly breasted Munia

Figure 1: Continue...



Figure 1: Avian fauna of ICAR-KVK, Tiptur during the month of February, 2022

Conclusion

Tumkur district, Karnataka. Moreover, as Tumkur district is known for its agriculture with huge coconut and arecanut orchards, it is a timely need to document the insectivorous birds, which primarily feeds on the grubs, larvae and even adults of the most coleopterans and lepidopterans and holds an important role in dispersing the seeds and also aids in pollination. The documentation was done only during the month of February, for which twenty-three species were recorded; however, a prolonged survey will be highly helpful to understand the available bird species and the role they play in agricultural ecology.

Acknowledgments

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