Survey of Avifauna of Bahula Dam and its Nearby Areas of Pachora, Jalgaon, Maharashtra, India

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Received: 21st December, 2021; Accepted: 20th January, 2022; Published online: 29th January, 2022

https://doi.org/10.33745/ijzi.2022.v08i01.021

Abstract: Birds play a significant role in many ecosystems by providing a variety of ecological services. Birds eat pests, pollinate flowers, disperse seeds, scavenge carrion, cycle nutrients, and change the environment for the benefit of other species. In this study attempt has been made to record bird diversity at Bahula Dam and its nearby area during January 2020 to June 2021. This is the first avifauna report of Bahula dam and its nearby area. In the survey study total 108 species including water and the land birds were recorded belonging to 16 avifaunal orders and 46 families. Order Passeriformes is dominant in the study area, including 23 families and 44 species (40%), followed by Ciconiformes with 3 families and 11 species (10%), Ansariformes with 1 family and 9 species (8%), Coraciiformes with 4 families and 7 species (6%), Charadriformes with 4 families and 6 species (5%), This survey study represents that species diversity is abundant in spite of many anthropogenic activities. More studies are required to make a complete list of available bird species of this area.

Keywords: Bird diversity, Bahula Dam Pachora, Jalgaon, Passeriformes, Ciconiformes, Ansariformes, Coraciiformes, Charadriformes

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Introduction

Birds fulfil many ecological functions in their habitats. For instance, they are bioindicators of healthy ecosystems (Slabbe Koorn and Ripmeester, 2008). Occurrence of birds, their diversity and population serves as an important tool to study the health of an area and to assess habitat alterations (Kuruvilla and Maria, 2017). The superficial open water and marshy area supports a variety of aquatic and semi-aquatic vegetation that offers an adequate food spectrum and good habitation for the living of the wetland birds (Arya et al., 2014).

Biodiversity of a particular place is an indicator of the availability of the environmental resources, their distribution and consumption by the organisms in that habitat. The availability, distribution and reach to the bio-physical resources of a particular habitat are major factors for the species variety and their existence in that region (Kumar and Sahu, 2020). Assessment of bird community has become an important tool for conservation of biodiversity of any area with high anthropogenic pressure (Ko-shelev et al., 2019).
Birds are also important in plant pollination as proven by sunbirds, which participate in crossbreeding of flowering plants, especially those with bird-pollination syndrome (Judd, 2008). 117 species of birds belonging to 42 families reported by Roy et al., (2011) from Neora Valley National Park, West Bengal, India. 183 species belonging to 15 orders and 48 families reported by Raje et al. (2013) from Chiplun Town (M.S.).

As documentation of avifaunal diversity in Bahula Dam and its nearby areas is lacking. Thus, an attempt has been made in the present study focussing on documentation of avifaunal diversity in Bahula Dam and its nearby areas. The present study provided significant bird records in the study site and provided a baseline data for future study with reference to conservation in Bahula Dam and its nearby areas.

**Materials and Methods**

The Bahula Dam (Fig. 1) is an earth-fill dam build on the Bahula River near Pachora, Jalgaon (20° 41′ 36.94″ N, 75° 23′ 47.74″ E), Maharashtra, India.

![Fig. 1: Map of Bahula Dam and its nearby areas, Pachora, Jalgaon, Maharashtra, India.](image)

Nikon Aculon A211, 10 x 50 Binocular was used for close observation of birds. For photography, Nikon Coolpix B700 camera was used. The photo sampling was done between 6.30 to 11.00 h and 16.30 to 18.30 h during January 2020 to June 2021. Regular field visits were made throughout this period. Bird specimens were not collected, and the study was based on observations, photographs, video and audio recordings. Internet Birds database and other relevant literature (Ali, 2002; Grimmett et al., 2011) were used for identification of birds.

Birds are categorised as Resident (R) and Winter Migrant (WM) based on their ecological status (Fig. 2). The avifauna was also categorised as per the IUCN status as LC = Least Concern species; NT = Near Threatened species; VU = Vulnerable species; T = Threatened species; EN = Endangered species; CR = critically endangered species; EX = Extinct species. In the present survey study, four species were found (NT), one species (VU) and the majority of species were of LC status.

![Fig. 2: Migratory status of Avifauna of Bahula Dam.](image)

According to IUCN norms, no species from the EN and CR category were found. For enlisting common English name and scientific names of Birds from the Indian Subcontinent (Mankadan and Pittie, 2004) were used.

**Results and Discussion**

In the present avifaunal diversity study various habitats especially the water bodies of River Bhuala and its nearby area were observed for sighting the birds. In the survey study total 108 species (Table 1; Fig. 3) including water and the land birds were recorded belonging to 16 avifaunal orders and 46 families. Order Passeriformes was dominant in the study area, including 23 families and 44 species (41%), followed by Ciconiformes with 3 families and 11 species (10%), Ansariformes with 1 family and 9 species (8%), Coraciiformes with 4 families and 7 species (6%), Charadriiformes with 4 families and 6 species (6%), Falconiformes with 1 family and
Table 1: Avifaunal diversity of Bahula Dam and its nearby areas, Pachora, Jalgaon, Maharashtra, India

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>S. No.</th>
<th>Request and Family</th>
<th>Common Name</th>
<th>Scientific Name</th>
<th>Ecological Status</th>
<th>IUCN Status</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>Podicipediformes</td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>Podicipedidae</td>
<td>1. Little Grebe</td>
<td><em>Tachybaptus ruficollis</em> (Pallas, 1764)</td>
<td>WM</td>
<td>LC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>Ciconiformes</td>
<td>2. Indian Pond Heron</td>
<td><em>Ardeola grayii</em> (Sykes, 1832)</td>
<td>R</td>
<td>LC</td>
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<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td></td>
<td>3. Grey Heron</td>
<td><em>Ardea cinerea</em> (Linnaeus, 1758)</td>
<td>WM</td>
<td>LC</td>
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<tr>
<td>4.</td>
<td></td>
<td>4. Median Egret</td>
<td><em>Mesophoyx intermedia</em> (Wagler, 1829)</td>
<td>R</td>
<td>LC</td>
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<tr>
<td>5.</td>
<td></td>
<td>5. Large Egret</td>
<td><em>Casmerodius albus</em> (Linnaeus, 1758)</td>
<td>R</td>
<td>LC</td>
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<tr>
<td>6.</td>
<td></td>
<td>6. Little Egret</td>
<td><em>Egretta garzetta</em> (Linnaeus, 1766)</td>
<td>R</td>
<td>LC</td>
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<td>7.</td>
<td></td>
<td>7. Cattle Egret</td>
<td><em>Bubulcus ibis</em> (Linnaeus, 1758)</td>
<td>R</td>
<td>LC</td>
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<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td></td>
<td>8. Asian Open bill Stork</td>
<td><em>Anastomus oscitans</em> (Boddaert, 1783)</td>
<td>R</td>
<td>LC</td>
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<tr>
<td>9.</td>
<td></td>
<td>9. Black Necked Stork</td>
<td><em>Ephippiorhynchus asiaticus</em> (Linn.,1790)</td>
<td>WM</td>
<td>NT</td>
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<td>10.</td>
<td></td>
<td>10. painted stork</td>
<td><em>Mycteria leucocephala</em></td>
<td>WM</td>
<td>NT</td>
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<td>4.</td>
<td>Threskiornithidae</td>
<td>11. Indian Black Ibis</td>
<td><em>Pseudibis papillosa</em> (Temminck, 1824)</td>
<td>WM</td>
<td>LC</td>
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<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td></td>
<td>12. Black Headed Ibis</td>
<td><em>Threskiornis melanoccephalus</em> (Latham, 1790)</td>
<td>R</td>
<td>NT</td>
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<tr>
<td>5.</td>
<td>Ansariformes</td>
<td>13. Northern Pintail</td>
<td><em>Anas acuta</em> (Linnaeus, 1758)</td>
<td>WM</td>
<td>LC</td>
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<tr>
<td>15.</td>
<td></td>
<td>15. Lesser whistling duck</td>
<td><em>Dendrocygna javanica</em> (Horsfield, 1821)</td>
<td>WM</td>
<td>LC</td>
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<td>16.</td>
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<td>16. Gadwall</td>
<td><em>Mareca strepera</em> (Linnaeus, 1758)</td>
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<td>LC</td>
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<td>17.</td>
<td></td>
<td>17. Tufted duck</td>
<td><em>Aythya fuligula</em> (Linnaeus, 1758)</td>
<td>WM</td>
<td>LC</td>
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<td>18.</td>
<td></td>
<td>18. Rosy Shelduck</td>
<td><em>Tadorna ferruginea</em> (Pallas, 1764)</td>
<td>WM</td>
<td>LC</td>
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<tr>
<td>19.</td>
<td></td>
<td>19. Spot Billed Duck</td>
<td><em>Anas poicilorhyncha</em> (Forster JR,1781)</td>
<td>R</td>
<td>LC</td>
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<tr>
<td>20.</td>
<td></td>
<td>20. Red Crested Pochard</td>
<td><em>Netta rufina</em> (Pallas, 1773)</td>
<td>WM</td>
<td>LC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Gruiformes</td>
<td>23. Shikra</td>
<td><em>Accipiter badius</em> (Gmelin, 1788)</td>
<td>R</td>
<td>LC</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. Rallidae</td>
<td>24. Purple Moorhen</td>
<td><em>Porphyrio porphyrio</em> (Linnaeus, 1758)</td>
<td>R</td>
<td>LC</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>25. Common Moorhen</td>
<td><em>Gallinula chloropus</em> (Linnaeus, 1758)</td>
<td>R</td>
<td>LC</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>27. White Breasted Waterhen</td>
<td><em>Amaurornis phoenicurus</em> (Pennant, 1769)</td>
<td>R</td>
<td>LC</td>
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<tr>
<td>8 Phalacrocoraciidae</td>
<td>28. Greater Cormorant</td>
<td><em>Phalacrocorax carbo</em> (Vieillot, 1817)</td>
<td>R</td>
<td>LC</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>29. Red-naped Ibis</td>
<td><em>Pseudibis papillosa</em> (Temminck, 1824)</td>
<td>R</td>
<td>LC</td>
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<td></td>
<td>30. Indian Cormorant</td>
<td><em>Phalacrocorax fuscicollis</em> (Stephans, 1826)</td>
<td>R</td>
<td>LC</td>
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<td>31. Little Cormorant</td>
<td><em>Phalacrocorax niger</em> (Vieillot, 1817)</td>
<td>R</td>
<td>LC</td>
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<tr>
<td>9. Anhingidae</td>
<td>32. Darter</td>
<td><em>Anhinga melanogaster</em> (Flag, 1769)</td>
<td>R</td>
<td>NT</td>
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<td></td>
<td>11. Charadriidae</td>
<td>34. Little ringed plover</td>
<td><em>Charadrius dubius</em> (Scopoti, 1786)</td>
<td>WM</td>
<td>LC</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>35. Red Wattled Lapwing</td>
<td><em>Venellus indicus</em> (Linnaeus, 1758)</td>
<td>R</td>
<td>LC</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
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<td>37. Wood Sandpiper</td>
<td><em>Tringa glareola</em> (Linnaeus, 1758)</td>
<td>WM</td>
<td>LC</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>13. Sternidae</td>
<td>38. Indian river tern</td>
<td><em>Sterna aurantia</em> (J.E. Grey, 1831)</td>
<td>R</td>
<td>UV</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>40. Common Kingfisher</td>
<td><em>Alcedo atthis</em> (Linnaeus, 1758)</td>
<td>R</td>
<td>LC</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>41. White Breasted Kingfisher</td>
<td><em>Halcyon smyrnensis</em> (Linnaeus, 1758)</td>
<td>R</td>
<td>LC</td>
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<td></td>
<td>15. Meropidae</td>
<td>42. Little Green Bee eater</td>
<td><em>Merops orientalis</em> (Latham, 1801)</td>
<td>R</td>
<td>LC</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>43. Blue tail Beater</td>
<td><em>Coracias benghalensis</em> (Linnaeus, 1758)</td>
<td>WM</td>
<td>LC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>16. Coraciidae</td>
<td>44. Indian Roller</td>
<td><em>Coracias benghalensis</em> (Linnaeus, 1758)</td>
<td>R</td>
<td>LC</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>17. Upupidae</td>
<td>45. Common hoopoe</td>
<td><em>Upupa epops</em> (Linnaeus, 1758)</td>
<td>R</td>
<td>LC</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>47. Spotted Dove</td>
<td><em>Streptopelis chinensis</em> (Scopoli, 1786)</td>
<td>R</td>
<td>LC</td>
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<tr>
<td>19. Psittacidae</td>
<td>49. Rose Ringed Parakeet <em>Psittacula krameri</em> (Scopoli, 1769)</td>
<td>R</td>
<td>LC</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>50. Blossom Headed Parakeet <em>Psittacula roseate</em> (Biswas, 1952)</td>
<td>R</td>
<td>LC</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>11. Cuculiformes</td>
<td>51. Plum-headed Parakeet <em>Psittacula cyanocephala</em> (Linnaeus, 1766)</td>
<td>R</td>
<td>LC</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>20. Cuculidae</td>
<td>52. Pied Cuckoo <em>Clamator jacobinus</em> (Boddaert, 1783)</td>
<td>R</td>
<td>LC</td>
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<td></td>
<td>53. Greater Coucal <em>Centropus sinensis</em> (Stephens, 1815)</td>
<td>R</td>
<td>LC</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>54. Common Cuckoo <em>Cuculus canorus</em> (Linnaeus, 1758)</td>
<td>R</td>
<td>LC</td>
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<td></td>
<td>55. Asian Koel <em>Eudynamys scolopaceus</em> (Linnaeus, 1758)</td>
<td>R</td>
<td>LC</td>
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<td></td>
<td>56. Grey-bellied Cuckoo <em>Cacomantis passerinus</em></td>
<td>R</td>
<td>LC</td>
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<td></td>
<td>57. Common Hawk-Cuckoo <em>Hierococcyx varius</em> (Vahl, 1797)</td>
<td>R</td>
<td>LC</td>
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<tr>
<td>12. Apodiformes</td>
<td>58. Little Swift <em>Apus affinis</em> (J. E. Dim, 1830)</td>
<td>R</td>
<td>LC</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>13. Strigiformes</td>
<td>60. Asian Palm Quick <em>Cypsiurus balasinesis</em> (J.E. Gray, 1829)</td>
<td>R</td>
<td>LC</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>22. Strigidae</td>
<td>61. Spotted Owlet <em>Athene brama</em> (Temminck, 1821)</td>
<td>R</td>
<td>LC</td>
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<tr>
<td>23. Bucerotidae</td>
<td>63. Coppersmith Barbet <em>Psilopogon haemacephalus</em> (Statius Müller, 1776)</td>
<td>R</td>
<td>LC</td>
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<tr>
<td>15. Piciformes</td>
<td>64. Black Drongo <em>Dicrurus macrocercus</em> (Vieillot, 1817)</td>
<td>R</td>
<td>LC</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>67. Common Myna <em>Acridotheres tristis</em> (Linnaeus, 1766)</td>
<td>R</td>
<td>LC</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>68. Rosy Starling <em>Pastor roseus</em> (Linnaeus, 1758)</td>
<td>R</td>
<td>LC</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>70. House Crow <em>Corvus splendens</em> (Vieillot, 1817)</td>
<td>R</td>
<td>LC</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>28. Pycnonotidae</td>
<td>71. Rufous treepie</td>
<td><em>Dendrocitta vagabunda</em> (Latham, 1790)</td>
<td>R</td>
<td>LC</td>
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<tr>
<td>29 Timaliidae</td>
<td>72. Red-Vented Bulbul</td>
<td><em>Pycnonotus cafer</em> (Linnaeus, 1766)</td>
<td>R</td>
<td>LC</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>73. Black headed bulbul</td>
<td><em>Pycnonotus atriceps</em> (Temminck, 1822)</td>
<td>WM</td>
<td>LC</td>
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<td></td>
<td>74. Jungle Babbler</td>
<td><em>Turdoides striatus</em> (Dumont de Sainte Croix, 1823)</td>
<td>R</td>
<td>LC</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>75. Large Gray Babbler</td>
<td><em>Turdoides malcolmi</em> (Sykes, 1832)</td>
<td>R</td>
<td>LC</td>
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<td>76. Yellow Eyed Babbler</td>
<td><em>Chrysomma sinense</em> (Gmelin, 1789)</td>
<td>R</td>
<td>LC</td>
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<td>30. Sylviinae</td>
<td>77. Ashy Wren Prinia</td>
<td><em>Prinia socialis</em> (Sykes, 1832)</td>
<td>R</td>
<td>LC</td>
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<td>78. Plain Prinia</td>
<td><em>Prinia inornata</em> (Sykes, 1832)</td>
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<tr>
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<td>79. Grey breasted Prinia</td>
<td><em>Prinia hodgsonii</em> (Blyth, 1844)</td>
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<td>LC</td>
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<td>81. Indian Robin</td>
<td><em>Saxicoloïdes fulicata</em> (Linnaeus, 1776)</td>
<td>R</td>
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<td>82. Pied Bushchat</td>
<td><em>Saxicola caprata</em> (Linnaeus, 1766)</td>
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<td>32. Motacillidae</td>
<td>83. Yellow wagtail</td>
<td><em>Motacilla flava</em> (Linnaeus, 1758)</td>
<td>WM</td>
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<td>84. White Wagtail</td>
<td><em>Motacilla alba</em> (Linnaeus, 1758) (J F, Gmelin, 1789)</td>
<td>WM</td>
<td>LC</td>
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<td>85. White browed wagtail</td>
<td><em>Motacilla aderaspatensis</em> (J. F, Gmelin, 1789)</td>
<td>WM</td>
<td>LC</td>
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<td>33. Nectariniidae</td>
<td>86. Grey Wagtail</td>
<td><em>Motacilla cinerea</em> (Tunstal, 1771)</td>
<td>WM</td>
<td>LC</td>
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<td></td>
<td>87. Yellow wagtail</td>
<td><em>Motacilla flava</em> (Linnaeus, 1758)</td>
<td>WM</td>
<td>LC</td>
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<td>88. Crimson Sunbird</td>
<td><em>Nectarina minima</em> (Sykes, 1832)</td>
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<td>89. Purple Rumped sunbird</td>
<td><em>Leptocoma zeylonica</em> (Linnaeus, 1766)</td>
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<td>34. Passeridae</td>
<td>90. House Sparrow</td>
<td><em>Passer domesticus</em> (Linnaeus, 1758)</td>
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<td>35. Ploceidae</td>
<td>91. Baya weaver</td>
<td><em>Ploceus philippinus</em> (Linnaeus, 1766)</td>
<td>R</td>
<td>LC</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>36. Estrildidae</td>
<td>92. Chestnut Munia</td>
<td><em>Lonchura atricapila</em> (Vieillot, 1807)</td>
<td>WM</td>
<td>LC</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
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<td></td>
<td>93. White throated Munia</td>
<td><em>Lonchura malabarica</em> (Linnaeus, 1758)</td>
<td>R</td>
<td>LC</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>94. Textured Breasted Munia</td>
<td><em>Lonchura punctulata</em> (Linnaeus, 1758)</td>
<td>R</td>
<td>LC</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>37. Laniidae</td>
<td>95. Black Throated Munia</td>
<td><em>Lonchura kelaarti</em> (Jerdon, 1863)</td>
<td>R</td>
<td>LC</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>96. Long tailed Shrike</td>
<td><em>Lanius schach</em> (Linnaeus, 1758)</td>
<td>WM</td>
<td>LC</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>38. Muscicapidae</td>
<td>97. Black redstart</td>
<td><em>Phoenicurus ochruros rufiventris</em> (S. G. Gmelin, 1774)</td>
<td>WM</td>
<td>LC</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>98. Tickell's Blue Flycatcher</td>
<td><em>Cyornis tickelliae</em> (Blyth, 1843)</td>
<td>R</td>
<td>LC</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
1 species, Gruiformes with 1 family and 4 species, Pelecaniformes with 1 family and 4 species, Columbiformes with 1 family and 3 species, Psittaciformes with 1 family and 3 species, Cuculiformes with 1 family and 6 species, Apodiformes with 1 family and 3 species, Strigiformes with 1 family and 1 species, Bucerotiformes with 1 family and 1 species, Piciformes with 1 family and 1 species and Podicipediformes with 1 family and 1 species.

Darter species (Anhinga melanogaster) was observed searching food near dry weed in shallow water during afternoon. Black Necked Stork (Ephippiorhynchus asiaticus) and painted stork (Mycteria leucocephala), are a species of stork which is under NT status, was observed during searching food. Black Headed Ibis (Threskiornis melanocephalus) were observed which is also under near threatened (NT) category. Indian River tern (Sterna aurantia) was observed which are under the vulnerable (UV) category of IUCN status. During entire observation period the tern species was flying close to stagnant water pool in river for a while and resting by sitting in coastal sand together with common egrets whistling ducks and cormorants. During the late March evening hour 17.00 h. and early morning 7.00 to 9.00 h, Asian open bill were observed in shallow water.
Plate 1: Water and land birds with their common English names and Zoological names recorded in Bahula Dam and its nearby areas.
were finding bivalve in the shallow water using their long bill and one foot at the same time.

Bahula Dam have a shallow water in their backflow, because of that it provide good environment for growth of freshwater creatures, and ultimately it provides good food for winter migratory birds as well as its adjacent areas provides good food for resident birds. Passerine birds showed a broad range of feeding habits both in agricultural fields and grassland areas; hence they were less prone to habitat destruction and anthropogenic activities. The present bird diversity has been reported by capturing the quality photographs, 40 photographs of water and land birds (Plate 1) with their common English names and Zoological names. In the present study effort has been made to make bird diversity of Bahula Dam and its nearby areas more scientific by providing the photographs. But still there is a need of more surveys and observation to produce photographic evidences for few.

Conclusion

The present study of avifaunal diversity of Bahula Dam and its nearby areas, Pachora, Jalgaon, Maharashtra, India, provided that the site as suitable habitat for the residential and migratory birds. But the bird habitats of this area are affected by anthropogenic disturbances, and pollution due to spraying of insecticides on the crops, if such activities will continues in future the bird population of this area may decline.

Acknowledgements

The author is thankful to village peoples of nearby areas of Bahula dam for their valuable support during the field work.

References