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ANATIDAE OF JAIKWADI BIRD SANCTUARY: AN IMPORTANT WINTERING GROUND FROM CENTRAL MAHARASHTRA (INDIA)

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ABSTRACT

17 Anatidae species are reported from the Jaikwadi Bird Sanctuary. The seventeen Anatidae members include 13 dabbling ducks and 4 diving ducks. Among reported Anatidae two species are with R/WM status, four are with R/LM status and eleven are with WM status. Almost all recorded Anatidae are mentioned Scheduled IV of Wildlife (Protection) Act 1972, while one species (Comb Duck *Sarkidiornis melanotos*) is mentioned in Appendix II of The Convention on International Trade of Endangered Species (CITES).

Figure : 01

References : 03

Table : 01

KEY WORDS : Anatidae, Ducks, Jaikwadi Bird Sanctuary, Maharashtra.

Introduction

The family Anatidae (Order: Anseriformes) comprises of Ducks, Geese and Swans. It is a group of water birds which vary in size, larger than a vulture (Swan) to about that of a pigeon (Cotton Teal). The majority species of Anatidae are migratory, originating from the Palaeratic region¹.

At global level family Anatidae comprises of 3 subfamilies, 13 tribes, 43 genera and 148 species². Among this, forty-eight Anatidae taxa are globally threatened (27 vulnerable, 12 endangered, 9 critically endangered) and 7 have gone extinct in recent years. At the global level, the Anatidae is facing various threats, among which habitat loss is the most important affecting 73% of taxa, hunting affects 48% taxa and exotic introduction affects 31% taxa³.

Material and Methods

In Asia, wetland habitats are particularly important since 20% of threatened bird's species inhabit it. However, many bird species are on the verge of extinction because of anthropogenic pressures and/or loss of habitat (e.g. Pink-headed Duck). It is therefore, of foremost importance to understand the status, population and habitat preference of Indian water birds to formulate appropriate conservation strategies.

Thus considering all above facts, the present study was undertaken to investigate diversity of Anatidae members at Jaikwadi Bird Sanctuary (Taluka: Paithan, District: Aurangabad, Maharashtra) which is an important staging and wintering ground for migratory birds in Central Maharashtra (Map 1). The river Godavari, rising in Western Ghats

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ANATIDAE OF JAIKWADI BIRD SANCTUARY: AN IMPORTANT WINTERING GROUND FROM CENTRAL MAHARASHTRA (INDIA) 73

TABLE-1: Anatidae of Jaikwadi Bird Sanctuary

Sr. No.	Common and Scientific Name of Anatidae	Residential Status	Conservation Status
1	Bar-headed Goose <i>Anser indicus</i>	WM	Sch. IV
2	Brahminy Shelduck <i>Tadorna ferruginea</i>	R/WM	Sch. IV
3	Comb Duck <i>Sarkidiornis melanotos</i>	R/LM	CITES II, Sch. IV
4	Common Pochard <i>Aythya ferina</i>	WM	Sch. IV
5	Common Teal <i>Anas crecca</i>	WM	Sch. IV
6	Cotton Teal <i>Nettapus coromandelianus</i>	R/LM	Sch. IV
7	Eurasian Wigeon <i>Anas penelope</i>	WM	Sch. IV
8	Ferruginous Pochard <i>Aythya nyroca</i>	WM	Sch. IV
9	Gadwall <i>Anas strepera</i>	WM	Sch. IV
10	Garganey <i>Anas querquedula</i>	WM	Sch. IV
11	Lesser Whistling-Duck <i>Dendrocygna javanica</i>	LM	Sch. IV
12	Mallard <i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	R/WM	Sch. IV
13	Northern Pintail <i>Anas acuta</i>	WM	Sch. IV
14	Northern Shoveller <i>Anas clypeata</i>	WM	Sch. IV
15	Red-crested Pochard <i>Rhodonessa rufina</i>	WM	Sch. IV
16	Spot-billed Duck <i>Anas poecilorhyncha</i>	R/LM	Sch. IV
17	Tufted Pochard <i>Aythya fuligula</i>	WM	Sch. IV

Where;

R/LM-Resident with local movement, **R/WM** -Resident with winter influx, **WM** - Winter migrant,

Sch IV - Scheduled IV species according to Wildlife (Protection) Act 1972. **CITES II** – Species mentioned in Appendix II of Convention on International Trade of Endangered Species (CITES)

northwest of Nashik and flowing southeast, is impounded at Jaikwadi, near Paithan. This earthen dam has created a wetland which is one of the important water fowl habitat (IBA site code – IN – MH -05) identified by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN). The wetland qualify IBA criteria A1 (threatened species), A4i (> 1% biogeographic population), A4iii (> 20,000 water birds) and A4iv (at least 20,000 storks pass regularly). It is the only IBA site of Maharashtra qualifying A4i criteria and thus a prime candidate for Ramsar site in Maharashtra.

Result and Discussion

The Anatidae were recorded in winter season of investigating period (November 2010 to March 2015) at the Jaikwadi Bird Sanctuary. The field data were collected scientifically on diversity, population and habitat preference of Anatidae at different habitats of the wetland. The Anatidae were identified and counted by combinations of methods; total count, direct count and estimation counts.

During winters of the investigating period, 17 Anatidae members were reported at the Jaikwadi Bird Sanctuary (Table 1). The seventeen Anatidae

members include, 13 dabbling ducks among which ; Northern Pintail, Spot-billed Duck, Gadwall, Common Teal and Garganey are common and 4 diving ducks; Brahminy Shelduck , Common Pochard, Ferruginous Pochard and Tufted Pochard. Among reported Anatidae two species are with R/ WM status, four are with R/LM status and eleven are with WM status. Almost all recorded Anatidae

are mentioned Scheduled IV of Wildlife (Protection) Act 1972, while one species (Comb Duck *Sarkidiornis melanotos*) is mentioned in Appendix II of The Convention on International Trade of Endangered Species (CITES). The investigating period includes three total counts, in which many Anatidae members complete 1 % biogeographic population criteria established by IUCN.

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