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PRELIMINARY CHECKLIST OF AVIAN FAUNA OF RAJOURI, JAMMU AND KASHMIR

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ABSTRACT

Present article is preliminary information about the avian diversity occurring in Rajouri district of Jammu region from Jammu and Kashmir province. It is based on random surveys conducted during the various field trials. Overall 81 avian species were identified and only confined to the terrestrial species excluding the water birds or birds of wetland.

Figure : 01

References : 06

Table : 01

KEY WORDS : Avian fauna, Jammu, Militant issues, Tourists.

Introduction

Jammu is situated in northernmost part of India. This area is known for its scenic beauty and its magnificent biodiversity. As this area is having certain political and militant issues there is no major industrial setup available; the major income is based on agricultural practices and tourism sector. Several tourist places are already identified and regularly visited by Indian and foreign tourists. But due to the militancy problem the number of tourists greatly fluctuates, and most of time the income is nearly negligible to fulfil the basic needs of local inhabitants. The biodiversity documentation is still having several research gaps due to above mentioned problems and that is why this area provides great possibility to explore the biodiversity mainly of birds, butterflies and mammals. If proper biodiversity documentation is done, we can initiate a new era of ecotourism at this place that could be helpful to generate income for the local inhabitants and provide enormous job opportunities. This sustainable approach of ecotourism would also add on to the conservation of various floral and faunal diversity of this area. The present article is a preliminary approach to fulfil the research gap of

documentation of avian diversity of Rajouri district of Jammu and Kashmir and explores a new job sector for the local inhabitants by promoting the ecotourism sector.

Methodology

For achieving the goals of the present study this is a primary step of documentation of avian diversity of Rajouri district of Jammu and Kashmir. Random Ad hoc surveys were carried out during January 2013 to June 2015 along with the visual encounter and road transect survey protocols. Distribution pattern along with abundance and recent threats faced by the avian species were also listed out. For the proper and authentic documentation photographs of observed species were taken out whenever possible. The species were identified by the help of various field guides and diagnostic keys¹⁻⁵ and earlier classification was followed⁶.

Study Area:

Rajouri is a district of Jammu and Kashmir province situated at 33° 23' N to 33° 88' N and 74° 18' E to 74° 3'E bounded with the Punch in north, Pakistan (LOC) in west and south by Chaab. Rajouri

district is subdivided into six tehsils namely Darhaal, Sundarbani, Noshera, Thanamandi, Kalakot and Kotkhna (Fig. 1).

Observation and Result

Overall 81 species of birds were identified during the present study. The study was mainly confined to the terrestrial species; during the present manuscript we have not considered water birds or birds of wetland. The climatic conditions and the weather contribute to a great extent in the biodiversity of this area. There is a possibility of reporting many more species in our further species documentation.

Due to increasing militancy and other factors

people are gradually becoming less interested in visiting this area. We suggest that if an angle of biodiversity and bird watching is added in the tourism it would probably generate more tourists especially the ones who are interested in floral and faunal diversity.

For this we suggest that the local people should be trained in identifying the animal species. The local people being more familiar with the places would be able to guide the tourists in a much more convincing manner. It would be a delight to observe these animals in their natural habitat and the best part is it would open a new gateway for employment opportunities to the local peoples.

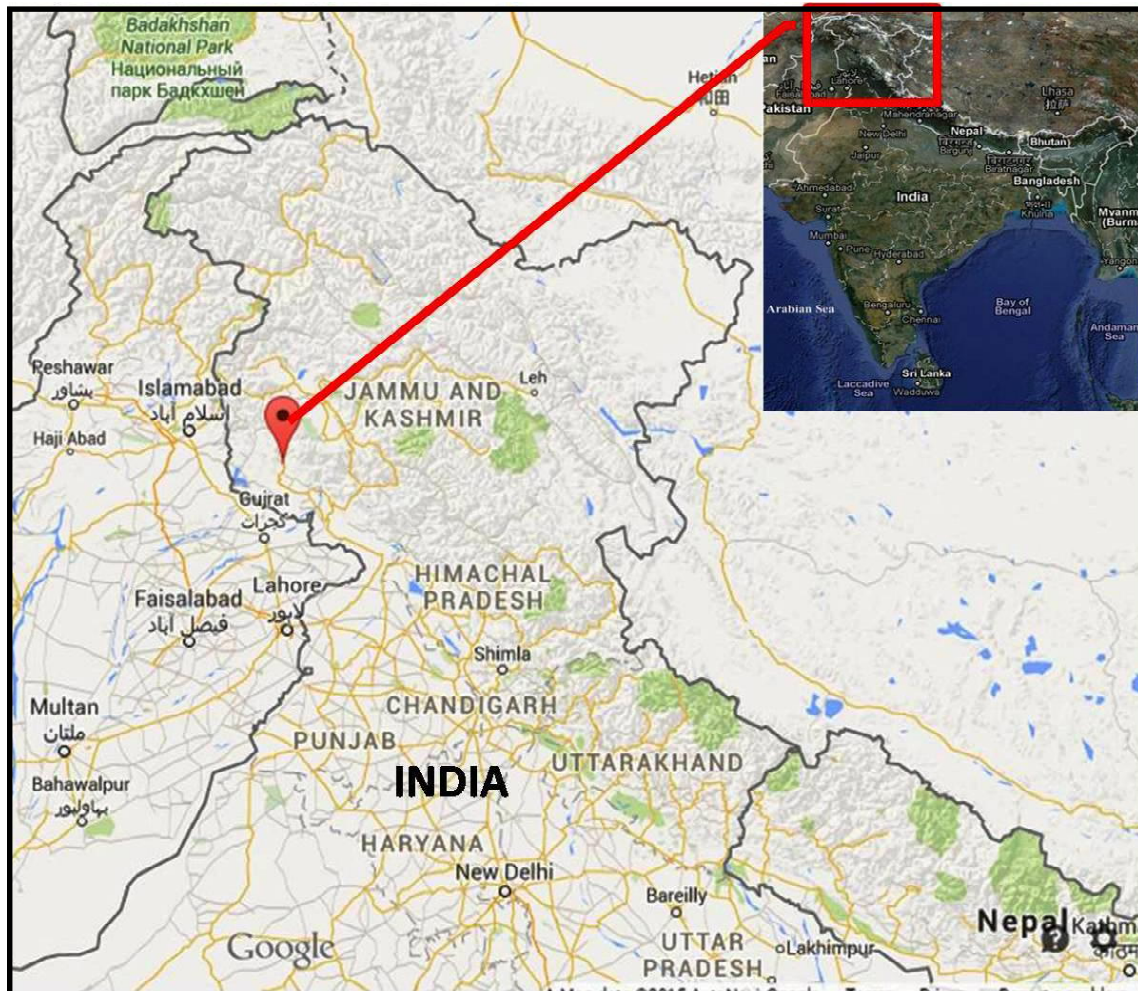


Fig. 1: Map showing the Study area (Rajouri district-Jammu and Kashmir) highlighted

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TABLE-1: Avian fauna of Rajouri, Jammu and Kashmir

S. No.	Common Name	Scientific Name	S. No.	Common Name	Scientific Name
1	Asian Barred Owlet	<i>Glaucidium cuculoides</i>	20	Citrine Wagtail	<i>Motacilla citreola</i>
2	Asian Koel	<i>Eudynamis scolopaceus</i>	21	Common Babbler	<i>Turdoides caudate</i>
3	Asian Paradise Flycatcher	<i>Terpsiphone paradise</i>	22	Common Hoopoe	<i>Upupa epops</i>
4	Bank Myna	<i>Acridotherus ginginianus</i>	23	Common Kingfisher	<i>Alcedo atthis</i>
5	Bar tailed Tree creeper	<i>Certhia himalayana</i>	24	Common Myna	<i>Acridotherus tristis</i>
6	Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	25	Common Rock Pigeon	<i>Columba livia</i>
7	Bay Backed Shrike	<i>Lanius vittatus</i>	26	Common Sandpiper	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>
8	Black Bulbul	<i>Hypsipetes leucocephalus</i>	27	Copper Smith Barbet	<i>Mwgalima haemacephala</i>
9	Black Drongo	<i>Dicrurus macrocercus</i>	28	Common Stone Chat	<i>Saxicola torquata</i>
10	Black Francoline	<i>Francolinus francolinus</i>	29	Egyptian Vulture	<i>Neophron percnopterus</i>
11	Black Kite	<i>Milvus migrans</i>	30	Eurasian Collared Dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>
12	Black Red Start	<i>Phoenicurus ochruros</i>	31	Eurasian Jackdaw	<i>Corvus monedula</i>
13	Black Winged Stilt	<i>Himantopus himantopus</i>	32	Great Barbet	<i>Megalima virens</i>
14	Blue Throated Barbet	<i>Megalina asiatica</i>	33	Great Tit	<i>Parus major</i>
15	Blue Whistling Thrush	<i>Myophonus caeruleus</i>	34	Green backed Tit	<i>Parus monticolus</i>
16	Brahminy Starling	<i>Sturinus pagodarum</i>	35	Green Bee Eater	<i>Merops orientalis</i>
17	Cattle Egret	<i>Bubulcus ibis</i>	36	Green Sandpiper	<i>Tringa ochropus</i>
18	Chestnut Shouldered Petronia	<i>Gymnoris xanthocollis</i>	37	Grey Headed Canary Flycatcher	<i>Culicicapa ceylonensis</i>
19	Chukar Partridge	<i>Alectoris chukar</i>	38	Grey Hooded Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus xanthoschistos</i>
			39	Himalayan Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus leucogenys</i>

S. No.	Common Name	Scientific Name	S. No.	Common Name	Scientific Name
40	Himalayan Griffon	<i>Gyps himalayensis</i>	62	Purple Sunbird	<i>Cinnyris asiaticus</i>
41	House Crow	<i>Corvus splendense</i>	63	Red Breasted Flycatcher	<i>Ficedula parva</i>
42	House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	64	Red-rumped Swallow	<i>Hirundo daurica</i>
45	Indian Pea Fowl	<i>Pavo cristatus</i>	65	Red Vented Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus cafer</i>
46	Indian Pond Heron	<i>Ardeola grayii</i>	66	Red Wattled Lapwing	<i>Venellus indicus</i>
47	Indian Robin	<i>Saxicoloides fulicatus</i>	67	Rose Ringed Parakeet	<i>Psittacula krameri</i>
48	Indian Roller	<i>Coracias benghalensis</i>	68	Russet Sparrow	<i>Passer rutilans</i>
49	Indian Silver bill	<i>Euodice malabarica</i>	69	Scaly-bellied Woodpecker	<i>Picus squamatus</i>
50	Jungle Babbler	<i>Turdoides striata</i>	70	Scaly Breasted Munia	<i>Lonchura punctulata</i>
51	Jungle Myna	<i>Acridotherus fuscus</i>	71	Shikra	<i>Accipiter badius</i>
52	Jungle Owlet	<i>Glaucidium radiatum</i>	72	Spotted Dove	<i>Streptopelia chinensis</i>
53	Large billed Crow	<i>Corvus macrorhynchos</i>	73	Steppe Eagle	<i>Aquila nipalensis</i>
54	Lesser White Throat	<i>Sylvia curruca</i>	74	Streaked Laughing Thrush	<i>Garrulex lineatus</i>
55	Little Grebe	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>	75	Verditer Flycatcher	<i>Eumyias thalassinus</i>
56	Long Tailed Shrike	<i>Lanius schach</i>	76	White throated Fantail	<i>Rhipidura albicollis</i>
57	Oriental Magpie Robin	<i>Copsychus saularis</i>	77	White Throated Kingfisher	<i>Halcyon smyrensis</i>
58	Oriental White Eye	<i>Zeterops palpebrosus</i>	78	White Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba</i>
59	Paddy Field Pipit	<i>Anthus rufulus</i>	79	Wire Tailed Swallow	<i>Hirundo smithii</i>
60	Pied Bush Chat	<i>Saxicola caprata</i>	80	Yellow Billed Blue Magpie	<i>Urocissa flavirostris</i>
61	Plum Headed Parakeet	<i>Psittacula cyanocephala</i>	81	Yellow Eyed Babbler	<i>Chrysomma sinense</i>

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