



# Birds faunal study from village ponds of Salekasa tehsil in Gondia District, Maharashtra State, India

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## ABSTRACT

The present study includes a checklist of the bird species inhabiting in and around the three village ponds namely village Tirkhedi (site-I), village Joshitola (site-II) and village Halbitola (site-III) near Salekasa from Gondia District of Maharashtra State, India. As these habitats having enriched aquatic fauna and flora as a food source surrounded by farmland and forestland, hence the birds visit to these beautiful areas throughout the year. The survey was conducted for one year from February 2021 to January 2022. The observation of the birds done by the help of binocular from the study area. In this checklist 44 species of birds were observed from 27 families as actually sighted. As per residential status, 40 species were local residents, 02 species were winter visitors and 02 species were summer visitors.

**Keywords:** Birds fauna, Village ponds, Salekasa, Gondia.

## INTRODUCTION

Generally, the birds use the wetlands with farmlands and forestlands as the habitats. The smaller lakes known as the ponds also acts as the good habitats for the birds as there is presence of the food sources in the form of aquatic fauna and flora. Birds are the vertebrates which play important role in the maintenance of the ecosystem on the earth. The geographic location of a wetland may determine how and when birds will use it or use adjacent habitat. The birds use wetlands only for some of their needs or they might use both wetland and upland habitats (Manikannan, 2011). Avian community is an important component of forest and water ecosystems. Gondia is called as district of lakes as there are many lakes and other smaller water bodies like ponds in the district.

The ponds being a part of aquatic ecosystem having great vegetation with farmlands and forestlands which attracts the birds and other fauna. Now a days the anthropogenic activities in and around the village ponds affect the biodiversity. Hence, the three ponds of village Tirkhedi, village Joshitola and village Halbitola from Salekasa tehsil of Gondia District of Maharashtra State were selected for the study of

the birds fauna. This would be helpful in providing information on the effects of anthropogenic activities on the terrestrial and water-dependent birds (Kaur *et al.*, 2018).

## MATERIAL AND METHODS

The present investigation was undertaken in and around the three village ponds namely Tirkhedi village (latitude 21°27'66"N and longitude 80°48'85"E) as site-I, village Joshitola (latitude 21°28'06"N and longitude 80°48'86"E) as site-II and village Halbitola (latitude 21°28'92"N and longitude 80°50'12"E) as site-III from Salekasa tehsil of Gondia District of Maharashtra State, India. Tirkhedi village pond (site-I) was 2.8 km. from Salekasa tehsil whereas Joshitola village pond (site-II) was 2.5 km. and Halbitola village pond (site-III) was situated at a distance of 1.6 km. All these three selected study sites were lie within the 7.0 sq. km. area.

The present study was conducted during February 2021 to January 2022 aims to prepare a checklist of

the bird species from the selected study area. The bird surveys were undertaken weekly from the ponds by the direct observation method at morning time. The observation of the birds was done by Olympus binocular and were photographed by using Nikon camera. The identification of the observed bird species was done by using Helm field guides (Grimmett *et al.*, 2011) and the field guide (Manakadan *et al.*, 2011).

The present study provides the checklist on the recent sightings of the bird species in and around the selected village ponds. A checklist of the observed bird species was done by using HBW and BirdLife International (2022). The residential status of the bird species was categorized on the basis of the actual observations of the author and available referred literature (Koli, 2014; Shekhawat and Bhatnagar, 2014). The birds which encountered regularly (including local migrants) in study area were considered residents (R), the birds visited only in winter season were considered winter visitors (WV) and the birds visited only in summer season were considered summer visitors (SV).



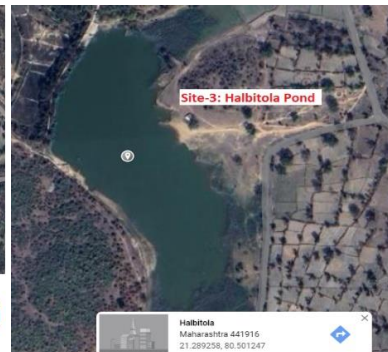
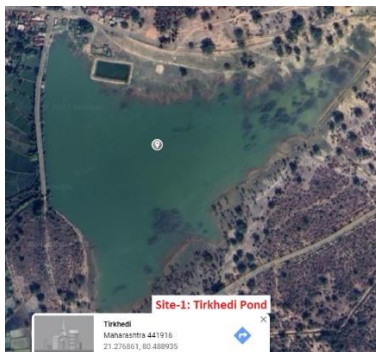
Site-1: Tirkhedi Pond



Site-2: Joshitola Pond



Site-3: Halbitola Pond



## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

A checklist of observed bird species from study area is given in the table-1. In this checklist 44 species of birds were observed from 27 families as actually sighted. As per residential status, 40 species (90%) were local residents, 02 species (05%) were winter visitors and

02 species (05%) were summer visitors. Among the encountered bird species, 43 species were occurred at Tirkhedi pond (site-I), 34 species were occurred at Joshitola pond (site-II) and 32 species were occurred at Halbitola pond (site-III). The most abundant species found in and around the study area were Cattle Egret, Indian Pond Heron, Jungle Babbler, Red vented Bulbul,

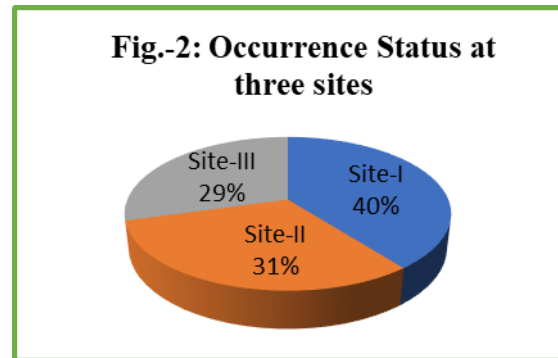
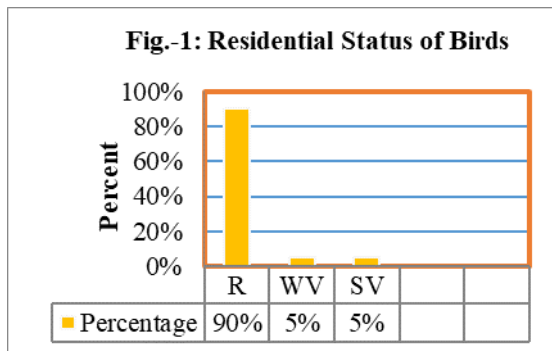
**Table-1: A checklist of the bird species from three village ponds near Salekasa tehsil of Gondia District, Maharashtra State, India**

Family	Sp. Sr. No.	Scientific Names	Common Names	*Status	#Occurrence Site
1) Anatidae	1	<i>Dendrocygna javanica</i>	Lesser Whistling Duck	SV	I, II
	2	<i>Tadorna ferruginea</i>	Ruddy Shelduck	WV	I
	3	<i>Nettapus coromandelianus</i>	Cotton Pygmy-goose	R	I, II
	4	<i>Anas acuta</i>	Northern Pintail	WV	I, II
2) Podicipedidae	5	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>	Little Grebe	R	I
3) Ciconiidae	6	<i>Anastomus oscitans</i>	Asian Openbill	R	I, II, III
4) Threskiornithidae	7	<i>Threskiornis melanocephalus</i>	Black-headed Ibis	SV	II
	8	<i>Pseudibis papillosa</i>	Red-naped Ibis	R	I, II
5) Ardeidae	9	<i>Ardeola grayii</i>	Indian Pond Heron	R	I, II, III
	10	<i>Ardea purpurea</i>	Purple Heron	R	I, II
	11	<i>Bubulcus ibis</i>	Cattle Egret	R	I, II, III
	12	<i>Casmerodius albus</i>	Great Egret	R	I, II, III
	13	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>	Little Egret	R	I, II, III
6) Phalacrocoracidae	14	<i>Phalacrocorax niger</i>	Little Cormorant	R	I, II, III
7) Rallidae	15	<i>Porphyrio porphyrio</i>	Purple Swamphen	R	I
	16	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>	Common Moorhen	R	I
8) Recurvirostridae	17	<i>Himantopus himantopus</i>	Black-winged Stilt	R	I, III
9) Charadriidae	18	<i>Vanellus indicus</i>	Red-wattled Lapwing	R	I, II, III
10) Jacanidae	19	<i>Hydrophasianus chirurgus</i>	Pheasant-tailed Jacana	R	I
	20	<i>Metopidius indicus</i>	Bronze-winged Jacana	R	I
11) Columbidae	21	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>	Eurasian Collared Dove	R	I, II, III
	22	<i>Stigmatopelia chinensis</i>	Spotted Dove	R	I, II, III
12) Psittacidae	23	<i>Psittacula krameri</i>	Rose-ringed Parakeet	R	I, II, III
	24	<i>Eudynamys scolopaceus</i>	Asian Koel	R	I, II, III
	25	<i>Centropus sinensis</i>	Greater Coucal	R	I, II, III
13) Alcedinidae	26	<i>Halcyon smyrnensis</i>	White-throated Kingfisher	R	I, II, III
	27	<i>Ceryle rudis</i>	Pied Kingfisher	R	I, II, III
14) Meropidae	28	<i>Merops orientalis</i>	Little Green Bee-eater	R	I, II, III
15) Upupidae	29	<i>Upupa epops</i>	Common Hoopoe	R	I, II, III
16) Bucerotidae	30	<i>Ocyrceros birostris</i>	Indian grey Hornbill	R	I, II, III
17) Ramphastidae	31	<i>Megalaima haemacephala</i>	Coppersmith Barbet	R	I, II, III
18) Picidae	32	<i>Chrysocolaptes festivus</i>	White-naped Woodpecker	R	I, II, III
19) Dicruridae	33	<i>Dicrurus macrocercus</i>	Black Drongo	R	I, II, III

20) Carvidae	34	<i>Corvus culminatus</i>	Indian Jungle Crow	R	I, II, III
	35	<i>Corvus splendens</i>	House Crow	R	I, II, III
21) Pycnonotidae	36	<i>Pycnonotus cafer</i>	Red-vented Bulbul	R	I, II, III
22) Tamaliidae	37	<i>Turdoides striata</i>	Jungle Babbler	R	I, II, III
23) Sturnidae	38	<i>Acridotheres tristis</i>	Common Myna	R	I, II, III
	39	<i>Sturnus contra</i>	Asian Pied Starling	R	I, III
	40	<i>Sturnus pagodarum</i>	Brahminy Starling	R	I, III
24) Muscicapidae	41	<i>Copsychus saularis</i>	Oriental Magpie Robin	R	I, II, III
25) Nectariniidae	42	<i>Nectarinia zeylonica</i>	Purple-rumped Sunbird	R	I, II, III
26) Ploceidae	43	<i>Ploceus philippinus</i>	Baya Weaver	R	I, III
27) Motacillidae	44	<i>Anthus rufulus</i>	Paddyfield Pipit	R	I, II, III

\*Status: R = Resident, WV = Winter visitor, SV = Summer visitor.

#Occurrence Sites: Site-I = Tirkhedi village pond, Site-II = Joshitola village pond, Site-III = Halbitola village pond.



Little Egret, Little Cormorant and Asian Openbill in decreasing order. Occurrence of more species at site-I because of availability of sufficient food source for the birds as compared to the other two sites.

Some authors like Tere and Parasharya (2013) recorded 66 species from ponds for water-birds in semi-arid zone of Gujarat, Puri (2015) reported 27 species from Zaliya lake near Salekasa in Gondia district of Maharashtra, Kaur *et al.* (2018) recorded 66 species from village ponds of Barnala district from Punjab, Paliwal (2021) recorded 312 species from Navegaon National Park from Gondia district of Maharashtra State. With reference to these different research areas, only 44 species were observed from the selected study area because of the disturbance of anthropogenic activities and ill-management of these village ponds.

## CONCLUSION

Biodiversity declines in agricultural landscapes represent a major conservation challenge. As there was availability of food sources including aquatic fauna and flora as well as the farmlands and forestlands near the selected ponds, hence these bird species attracting these sites. But due to disturbances of anthropogenic activities, the bird diversity declines as these ponds are very close to the villages. In point of conservation view of the birds, there is need of proper management of these village ponds.

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**Conflict of Interest:**

None of the authors have any conflicts of interest to disclose. All the authors approved the final version of the manuscript.

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