

Diversity of Bird in Upper Morna Reservoir, Medshi, Dist-Washim (M.S.) India

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ABSTRACT

Upper Morna Reservoir is Medshi located in Malegaon Taluka Dist- Washim in Maharashtra state (India). Diversity of bird in specific area is depend on food requirement, breeding season, water body and many more factors. Some birds live territorially and some make huge flocks or groups. The avian fauna are also attractive features of water body of Upper Morna Reservoir along with the local resident's terrestrial fauna of birds locally available water fowls are accompanied by certain migratory avian fauna. The occasionally observed avian fauna incorporated were *Anas poicilorhyncha* (Spotbilled duck), (*Egretta intermedia*) Little Egret, *Ardeola grayii* (Pond heron), *Tadorna tadorna* (Ruddy Shelduck), *Ciconia episcopus* (Bishop Bird), *Phalacrocorax niger* (Little Cormorant), Cattle Egret, the Black-headed Ibis or Oriental White Ibis (*Threskiornis melanocephalus*). During study period total eight species of birds were found in Upper Morna Reservoir, Medshi.

Keyword: Diversity, Bird, Upper Morna Reservoir, Medshi, Aquatic fauna

INTRODUCTION

In the aquatic ecosystem along with zooplankton, phytoplankton and fishes number of aquatic fauna and flora are present. Aquatic fauna includes many micro invertebrates including insects; amphibians like frog, birds, reptiles and many more are present. Diversity of bird in specific area is depend on food requirement, breeding season and water body and many more factors. Some birds live territorially and some make huge flocks or groups. The avian fauna are also attractive features of water body of Upper Morna Reservoir along with the local resident's terrestrial fauna of birds locally available water fowls are accompanied by certain migratory avian fauna. The present investigation was conducted to study diversity of bird near the upper morna reservoir in village Medshi. In and around the reservoir most of the local and migratory species were found which attract the people. From the present study habit- habitat, their ecological status feeding habit, migration of bird was studied.

MATERIAL & METHODS

Site description:

The Upper Morna reservoir is located (18°36'44"N and 76°56'33.61"E) at Medshi, Malegaon Taluka in Washim district of Maharashtra. It is constructed on the Upper stretch of the Morna River, one of the minor rivers of Vidarbha region of Maharashtra and one of the tributaries of the Purna River. The Morna River originates from the village Nagzari located in Washim district & meet the river Purna in Akola district at Andura. The main aim of construction of this reservoir was to save Akola city from the flood conditions, which was generally being occurring in the rainy seasons. Beside this the reservoir is used for irrigations, fishing activities & drinking purposes by the people residing around reservoir.

The diversity of birds was carried out during study period October 2014- October 2015. The observation of bird carried out during morning from 6-10 am and in the evening from 5-7pm by using binoculars. The photographs of bird were carried out by using cannon **HS 60 camera**. The identification of bird was carried out by using literature of Grimmet *et al.* (2004) the book of Indian bird by Salim Ali (1996). Observation of bird carried out by their ecological status, migration, abundance and habit habitat and then it identified and recorded.

RESULTS

The avian fauna are also attractive features of water body of Upper Morna Reservoir along with the local resident's terrestrial fauna of birds locally available water fowls are accompanied by certain migratory avian fauna. The occasionally observed avian fauna incorporated were *Anas poicilorhyncha* (Spotbilled duck), (*Egretta intermedia*) Little Egret, *Ardeola grayii* (Pond heron), *Tadorna tadorna* (Ruddy Shelduck), *Ciconia episcopus* (Bishop Bird), *Phalacrocorax niger* (Little Cormorant), Cattle Egret, the Black-headed Ibis or Oriental White Ibis (*Threskiornis melanocephalus*) in given Photo plate.

De Zoysa and Sundarabarathy (2007) were recorded some similar avian flora like Indian Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax niger*), little Egret, Pond-heron (*Ardeola grayii*), The Black-headed Ibis (*Threskiornis melanocephalus*) and many others 15 species were found by them. Pawar *et al.*, (2005) reported 74 species of birds in and around Yedshi lake, Mangrulpir, Washim District (M.S.) Kulkarni *et al.*, (2006) reported 93 species of birds from Shikhachwadi reservoir of Nanded district(M.S.). Narwade and Fartade (2011) recorded 165 species of birds of Osmanabad district(M.S.), Patil *et al.* (2018) reported 134 species of birds belonging to 16 orders from Ajanti Dam area of Hinganghat (Wardha), Central India.

Photoplate 1



Anas poicilorhyncha (Spotbilled duck)



Egretta intermedia (Little Egret)



Ardeola grayii (Pond heron)



Tadorna tadorna (Ruddy Shelduck)



Ciconia episcopus (Bishop Bird)



Phalacrocorax niger (Little Cormorant)



Bubulcus ibis (Cattle egret)



Threskiornis melanocephalus
(The Black-headed Ibis or Oriental White Ibis)

Harpreet Singh *et al.* (2018) total of 61 aquatic species were identified during the whole studied period. A total of 61 aquatic species of 16 families were observed during study. The maximum number of bird species 57 were recorded at Menar Lake followed by Bhatewar Lake with 48 Species then FatehSagar with 32 different species and least species 28 recorded at Vallabh Nagar dam. Shelke in 2020 reported total 75 species, including water and land bird species, belonging to 11 orders and 31 families were recorded during November 2018 to February 2019 in Varthan Dam and its adjacent areas showed good avian diversity. Parwale in 2020 gave diversity of birds in local ecosystem Lakhani in Bhandara district Maharashtra he reported 51 species of birds, and his topic also included the birds are sensitive indicators of biological richness and environmental trends and play key role in ecological functions. Rathod in 2021 was recorded of migratory birds was prepared from June 2020 to Dec. 2020. More than 34 species of migratory birds were observed, out of which 14 species were found to be migratory birds in true sense and remaining 20 species were also from the category of migratory birds but they were found to have become residential.

Conflicts of interest: The authors stated that no conflicts of interest.

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