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Study of Diversity of Avifauna from Khanapur Dam Ajara, Dist:-Kolhapur (M. S.)

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Abstract: ***Study on biodiversity of avifauna was done from Khanapur dam Ajara, District Kolhapur of Maharashtra. Frequent visits were arranged to observe the birds from this reservoir. Observation of birds was done for a period of one year from January 2021 to December 2021. The observation shows that Birds from this reservoir represents ten orders like Piciformes, Anseriformes, Charadriiformes, Falconiformes, Gruiformes, Coraciiformes, Coraciiformes, Galliformes, Ciconiiformes, Ciconiiformes. About 50 species were documented during study period which could be treated as a good state of biodiversity. This is correlated with physico-chemical properties of water and aquatic vegetation found in these reservoirs.***

Keywords: Birds, Khanapur, Reservoir, Anseriformes, Anatidae, Ciconiiformes

1. Introduction

Khanapur dam is constructed at village Khanapur which is about 8 km west from Ajara city. Ecological studies, of reservoirs generally involves analysis of physico-chemical parameters and diversity of micro fauna, fish fauna and avian fauna. A birds has been described as “feathered biped” (Ali Salim, 1992). These are endothermic vertebrate animals, which lay eggs. There are around 10, 000 living species found throughout the world. They inhabit ecosystems throughout the world. Birds mostly found in vicinity of water reservoirs. The reservoir provides food, nesting ground and mating ground for the birds. Population of birds always high where ecosystem is highly developed. Present study helps to find out population of birds and productivity of the dam.

2. Study Area

The study area selected for the observation of birds was Khanapur dam Ajara, kolhapur district. Particularly wetland and forest area surrounding the reservoir was taken for observation.

Table 1: Salient features of Khanapur Dam (Source: *India waris wiki, Water resource Information of India*)

1	Name of the Dam	Khanapur (Kolhapur) dam
2	River	Lokal Nallah
3	Nearest City	Ajara Mahal
4	District	Kolhapur
5	State	Maharashtra
6	Basin	Krishna
7	Purpose of Dam	Irrigation
8	Year of Completion	1988
9	Operating and maintenance agency	WRD, GOM
10	Seismic Zone	Seismic Zone-III
11	Type of Dam	Earthen
12	Length of Dam	240 m
13	Maximum height above foundation	21.35 m
14	Total volume content	95 TCM
15	Spillway capacity	36 cumec

3. Materials and Methods

Several types of birds are found everywhere in the world. Generally, birds are the flying animals. They can’t remain at one place for more time. So for this purpose frequent visits were arranged to the study area where birds may found. Bird observations were carried out during period January 2021 to December 2021. Frequent visits to the dams and surrounding forest were made for observing birds. All observations are made by using binocular having lens (8 X 40). Immediately characters of birds were noted, like size, colour, sound etc. As soon as bird was seen peculiar character was noted down. The identification of birds was done by using book “Indian Birds” by Salim Ali (2001).

4. Result and Discussion

Foiling is the checklist of Birds observed during study period.

Table 1: Checklist of Birds

Sr. No.	*Order*	*Family*	*Scientific Name*	*Common Name*
1.	Anseriformes	Anatidae	*1) Tadorna ferruginea*	Ruddy Shelduck
			2) Sarkidiornis melanotos	Knob-billed Duck
			3) Dendrocygna javanica	Lesser Whistling-Duck
			4) Anas acuta	Northern Pintail
			5) Anas crecca	Eurasian Teal
			6) Anas poecilorhyncha	Spot-billed Duck
			7) Anas strepera	Gadwall
			8) Anas Penelope	Eurasian Wigeon
			9) Anas clypeata	Northern Shoveler
			10) Anas querquedula	Garganey
			11) Ayth Nettapus	Common Pochard

			12) coromandelianus yaferina	Cotton Pygmy-goose
2.	Ciconiiformes	Ardeidae	*1) Ardea insignis*	White-bellied Heron
			2) Ardea goliath	Goliath Heron
			3) Ardea cinerea	Grey Heron
			4) Ardea alba	Great Egret
			5) Ardea purpurea	Purple Heron
			6) Egretta intermedia	Intermediate Egret
			7) Egretta garzetta	Little Egret
			8) Bubulcus ibis	Cattle Egret
			9) Nycticorax nycticorax	Black-crowned Night-Heron
			10) Ardeola grayii	Indian Pond-Heron
3.	Charadriiformes	Charadriidae	*1) Vanellus indicus*	Red-wattled Lapwing
			2) Vanellus malabaricus	Yellow-wattled Lapwing
			3) Charadrius dubius	Little Ringed Plover
		Scolopacidae	*1) Calidris minuta*	Little Stint
			2) Limosa limosa	Black-tailed Godwit
			3) Gallinago gallinago	Common Snipe
			4) Actitis hypoleucos	Common Sandpiper
		Accipitridae	*1) Haliastur Indus*	Brahminy Kite
			2) Circus aeruginosus	Western Marsh Harrier
4.	Falconiformes	Rallidae	*1) Amaurornis phoenicurun*	White breasted Waterhean
5.	Gruiformes	Gruidae	*1) Grus grus*	Common Crane
6.	Coraciiformes	Alcedinidae	*1) Alcedo atthis*	Common Kingfisher
			2) Ceryle lugubris	Crested Kingfisher
			3) Halcyon smyrnensis	White-throated Kingfisher
7.	Coraciiformes	Bucerotidae	*1) Ocyceros birostris*	Indian Grey Hornbill
			2) Anorrhinus austeni	Brown Hornbill
8.	Piciformes	Capitonidae	*1) Megalaima virens*	Great Barbet
			2) Megalaima asiatica	Blue-throated Barbet
		Picidae	*1) Dendrocopos nanus*	Brown-capped Woodpecker
			2) Dendrocopos mahrattensis	Yellow-crowned Woodpecker
		Meropidae	*1) Merops orientalis*	Green Bee-eater
			2) Merops philippinus	Blue-tailed Bee-eater
9.	Galliformes	Phasianidae	*1) Pavo cristatus*	Indian Peafowl
			2) Gallus gallus	Red Jungle fowl
10.	Ciconiiformes	Threskiornithidae	*1) Pseudibis papillosa*	Black Ibis
		Ciconiidae	*1) Ephippiorhynchus asiaticus*	Black-necked Stork
			2) Mycteria leucocephala	Painted Stork
			3) Ciconia ciconia	White Stork

5. Conclusion

After going through the check list and observations, it is evident that birds from this reservoir belongs to the ten orders, fifteen families and fifty species which could be treated as a good state of biodiversity. It is correlated with physicochemical properties of water from this reservoir. It is also correlated with aquatic vegetation and surrounding forest which provides abundant food for the birds. During observation maximum species were recorded in winter. In summer water level goes very low and because of this low number of species were recorded in summer. Further studies are required to understand the avian diversity and to know any migratory foreign bird visit this dam.

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