



AMBIENT APPRAISAL

Additional Avian Species of Wetland Cluster at Gidhwa and Selected Wetlands, Chhattisgarh, India

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Study Area: Bemetara, Chhattisgarh, India

Coordinates: 81.7870 N, 21.8538 E

Key words: Birds, Avifauna, Additional species, Chhattisgarh

Introduction:

Wetlands are biologically very productive and provide feeding grounds for a diverse range of resident and migratory waterbirds, in particular for migratory species, which in some cases arrive from long distances and it is of paramount importance to identify such wetlands for ornithological studies and conservation issues. Lakes, wetlands and water bodies provide valuable ecosystem services and act as a repository for biological diversity. They perform important ecological functions and contribute to landscape heterogeneity; support unique aquatic floral and faunal species by providing crucial habitat (Engelhardt & Ritchie, 2001). Birds perform a crucial function in the maintenance of wetland ecosystems (Gregory *et al.*, 2005). Various factors like availability of food, wetland size (Paracuellos, 2006) and abiotic changes in wetlands (Lagos *et al.*, 2008) affect bird assemblages. In the past century, many wetlands have been lost, and many are degrading due to adverse human activities (Fraser & Keddy, 2005). This becomes more pertinent in light of the fact that the wetlands are used for multipurpose activities by humans. The provision of feeding and the roosting ground is particularly very important for migratory species. It is of paramount importance to identify such wetlands for ornithological studies and conservation issues. The islands, mudflats and shallow water, emergent sedges, rushes and grassy bank areas, and deep open water are frequented by

Abstract

The Gidhwa cluster comprising four wetlands is an important site for avian study in Chhattisgarh, India. Though the site has been regularly visited by bird-watchers over the past ten years, but only one documentation enlisting 133 avian species is available. In order to fill this gap, the authors undertook this study in 2013 and encountered 53 new species in addition to the 133 previously documented. Thus, a total of 186 species, both resident 131 and migratory 55 have been recorded in a cluster. It includes nine species belonging to Threatened species as classified by IUCN 2021. Apart from this three species of significance were found. This cluster deserves to be notified as Community Conservation Reserve, the matter is in conduit. There is sufficient scope for adding to the species enlisted so far, which would be the baseline data for more intensive ornithological studies in future.

avians at any wetland. With these parameters in mind, this study was undertaken from February 2013 to March 2020. Visits were paid intermittently mostly in winter months when migratory and resident species are present and the birds' observations were documented. Identification was confirmed by following standard literature Ali & Ripley (1987), Grimmett *et al.* (1998, 2014), Rahmani & Zafar-ul Islam (2008) and Rasmussen & Anderton (2012) and enlisted following the order designed by Praveen *et al.* (2016).

Methodology:

Study area: The study area comprised of a cluster of the following four wetlands within a 5 km radius, situated in the Bemetara district of Chhattisgarh (Table -1).

Our survey: During study of avian from February 2013 to March 2014 a total of 133 species, belonging to 56 families were recorded at Gidhwa, Parsada and surrounding (Sharma *et al.*, 2014). In subsequent visits by us more species have been recorded and tabulated in Table-2. No site specific studies are available but D'Abreu (1931, 1935), Hewetson (1956), Chandra & Singh (2004) have recorded avian of central India, which constituted of present states of Madhya Pradesh including Chhattisgarh. Ali & Ripley (1987), Grimmett *et al.* (1998, 2014), Rahmani (2008) and Rasmussen & Anderton (2012) in their monumental studies have mentioned the birds found in these areas. These

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Table – 1 Description of Sites

Name of wetland	Coordinates	Approximate surface area	Purpose	Vegetation cover
Gidhwa dam	81.7870 N, 21.8538 E	27.32 Ha	Irrigation and human use	Vegetation inside and on water edges about 25% and Cultivation in surroundings
Parsada dam	81.8205 N, 21.8518 E	8.78 Ha	Irrigation and human use	Vegetation inside and on water edges about 15% and Cultivation in surroundings
Nagda dam	81.8085 N, 21.8586 E	4.19 Ha	Irrigation and human use	Cultivation Vegetation inside and on water edges ~ 30% & Cultivation in surroundings
Emamshahi dam	82.3144 N, 22.0761 E	3.59 Ha	Irrigation and human use	Vegetation inside and on water edges ~ 35% , Cultivation in surroundings & human settlement

(Source: A Report on Water body Inventory in Chhattisgarh by Chhattisgarh Council of Science and Technology, Raipur 2012.)

studies have been referred to confirm occurrence in our study area of Gidhwa cluster. The birds were observed using direct sighting method (Bibby *et al.*, 2000).

Results and Discussion

Our study revealed present of total of 53 species belonging to 9 order and 45 families. While comparative status between studies has been given in Table-2

Table-2: Description /Comparison of species in studies

Studies	Or.	Fam.	Spp.	Dominant families with No of species
Sharma <i>et al.</i> (2014)	12	56	133	Anatidae-16, Accipitridae-13, Ardeidae-12, Scolopacidae-13,
This Study	9	45	53	Scolopacidae-5, Accipitridae-7, Muscicapidae-9
Total in cluster	20	27	186	Anatidae-16, Ardeidae-12, S c o l o p a c i d a e - 1 2 , Accipitridae-13

The encountered 186 species were also classified in residential status as Resident (R) and Migratory (M), and found as R-131 and M-55.

The analysis of the species found shows 9 species under different Threatened categories (Table-3) as classified by Birdlife International- IUCN (Rahmani, 2012 & Rahmani *et al.*, 2018).

Tabl3:, Threatened species, Birdlife International-IUCN

Categories	Name of Species
Brief	
Endangered	Egyptian Vulture <i>Neophron percnopterus</i> Recorded in vicinity of cluster (Rahmani <i>et al.</i> , 2018)
Vulnerable	Common Pochard <i>Aythya ferina</i> , Woolly necked Stork <i>Ciconia episcopus</i> , Indian Spotted Eagle <i>Clanga hastata</i> Recorded within cluster (Rahmani <i>et al.</i> , 2018)
Near Threatened	Ferruginous Duck <i>Aythya nyroca</i> (Bharos 2015), Black-headed Ibis <i>Threskiornis melanocephalus</i> , River Lapwing <i>Vanellus duvaucii</i> , Red-headed Falcon <i>Falco chicquera</i> Black-tailed Godwit <i>Limosa limo</i> Recorded within cluster (Rahmani <i>et al.</i> , 2018)

Apart from the Threatened species we also recorded

following species of significance, Table-4.

Table-4: Notable Species

Name of Species	Observation and status
Barbary Falcon (<i>Falco pelegrinoides</i>)	Sighting on 6 November 2017 at location Nagda, is the first record of state in recent years. The occurrence of this winter migrant species has been mentioned at Raipur Chhattisgarh by Ali & Ripley (1987)
Demoiselle Crane (<i>Grus virgo</i>)	Uncommon in state, A solitary bird arrived in 2017 and spent the winter at Gidhwa, which is the first record for this cluster. In subsequent years it was absent
Eurasian Spoonbill (<i>Platalea leucorodia</i>)	Un common in state, A flock of 5 birds arrived in 2015 and 2017 and spent the winter at Gidhwa, which is the first record for this cluster. In subsequent years it was absent

The possible attributed reason of occurrence of the species mentioned in Table-2, 3 and 4 is abundance of food availability and suitable habitats. It can also be attributed to specific adaptation which enables the birds to exploit availability of particular niches within a wetland and limit direct competition with each other.

In this study authors attempted to describe the additional species found at this cluster but there is still sufficient scope for addition to our list. This study will become the baseline data for future ornithological study of avifauna at this potential cluster, which has been proposed as the Community Conservation Reserve and is in pipeline.

Acknowledgement

Our sincere gratitude to Arvind Bharos, Yash Shukla, Rupesh Yadav, Shailesh Verma, Sushil Mutha, Ravi Naidu and members of Chhattisgarh Wildlife Society for sharing their observations and field assistance.

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Annexure-1: Birds Of Gidhwa Wetland Cluster Dist: Bemetara, Chhattisgarh

#	Order	Family	English name	Scientific name	Species by a b	IUCN Status
1	Anseriformes	Anatidae	Lesser Whistling Duck	<i>Dendrocygna javanica</i>	R	LC
2			Fulvous Whistling Duck	<i>Dendrocygna bicolor</i>	R	LC
3			Ruddy Shelduck	<i>Tadorna Ferruginea</i>	M	LC
4			Red-crested Pochard	<i>Netta rufina</i>	M	LC
5			Common Pochard	<i>Aythya ferina</i>	M	VU
6			Ferruginous Duck	<i>Aythya nyroca</i>	M	NT
7			Tufted Duck	<i>Aythya fuligula</i>		LC
8			Garganey	<i>Spatula querquedula</i>	M	LC
9			Northern Shoveler	<i>Spatula clypeata</i>	M	LC
10			Gadwall	<i>Mareca strepera</i>	M	LC
11			Indian Spot-billed Duck	<i>Anas poecilorhyncha</i>	R	LC
12			Northern Pintail	<i>Anas acuta</i>	M	LC
13			Common Teal	<i>Anas crecca</i>	M	LC
14			Comb Duck	<i>Sarkidiornis melanotos</i>	R	LC
15			Eurasian Wigeon	<i>Anas Penelope</i>	M	LC
16			Cotton Teal	<i>Nettapus coromandelianus</i>	R	LC
17	Galliformes	Phasianidae	Rain Quail	<i>Coturnix coromandelica</i>	R	LC
18			Grey Francolin	<i>Francolinus pondicerianus</i>		LC
19	Phoenicopteriformes	Podicipedidae	Little Grebe	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>	R	LC
20			Great Crested Grebe	<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>	R	LC
21	Columbiformes	Columbidae	Rock Pigeon	<i>Columba livia</i>	R	LC
22			Oriental Turtle Dove	<i>Streptopelia orientalis</i>	R	LC
23			Eurasian Collared Dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>	R	LC
24			Red Collared Dove/Red Turtle-Dove	<i>Streptopelia tranquebarica</i>	R	LC
25			Spotted Dove	<i>Streptopelia chinensis</i>	R	LC
26			Laughing Dove	<i>Streptopelia senegalensis</i>	R	LC
27	Caprimulgiformes	Caprimulgidae	Indian Nightjar	<i>Caprimulgus asiaticus</i>	R	LC
28			Indian House Swift	<i>Apus affinis</i>	R	LC
29	Cuculiformes	Cuculidae	Pied Cuckoo	<i>Clamator jacobinus</i>	R	LC
30			Asian Koel	<i>Eudynamys scolopaceus</i>		LC
31			Common Hawk Cuckoo	<i>Hierococcyx varius</i>	R	LC

#	Order	Family	English name	Scientific name	Species by a b	IUCN Status
32	Gruiformes	Rallidae	Brown Crake	<i>Zapornia akool</i>	R	LC
33			White-breasted Waterhen	<i>Amaurornis phoenicurus</i>	R	LC
34			Purple Swampphen	<i>Porphyrio porphyrio</i>	R	LC
35			Eurasian Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>	R	LC
36			Common Coot	<i>Fulica atra</i>	R	LC
37		Gruidae	Demoiselle Crane	<i>Grus virgo</i>		M LC
38	Ciconiiformes	Ciconiidae	Asian Openbill	<i>Anastomus oscitans</i>	R	LC
39			Eurasian Spoonbill	<i>Platalea leucorodia</i>		M LC
40			Woolly-necked Stork	<i>Ciconia episcopus</i>	R	VU
41		Ardeidae	Little Bittern	<i>Ixobrychus munistus</i>	R	LC
42			Yellow Bittern	<i>Ixobrychus sinensis</i>	R	LC
43			Cinnamon Bittern	<i>Ixobrychus cinnamomeus</i>	R	LC
44			Black Bittern	<i>Ixobrychus flavicollis</i>	R	LC
45			Black-crowned Night Heron	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>	R	LC
46			Indian Pond Heron	<i>Ardeola grayii</i>	R	LC
47			Cattle Egret	<i>Bubulcus ibis</i>	R	LC
48			Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>	R	LC
49			Purple Heron	<i>Ardea purpurea</i>	R	LC
50			Great Egret	<i>Ardea alba</i>	R	LC
51			Intermediate Egret	<i>Ardea intermedia</i>	R	LC
52			Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>	R	LC
53		Threskiornithidae	Black-headed Ibis	<i>Threskiornis melanocephalus</i>	R	NT
54			Eurasian Spoonbill	<i>Platalea leucorodia</i>		M LC
55			Indian Black Ibis	<i>Pseudibis papillosa</i>	R	LC
56			Glossy Ibis	<i>Plegadis faccinellus</i>	R	LC
57		Phalacrocoracidae	Little Cormorant	<i>Microcarbo niger</i>	R	LC
58			Great Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>	R	LC
59			Indian Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax fuscicollis</i>		R LC
60	Charadriiformes	Recurvirostridae	Black-winged Stilt	<i>Himantopus himantopus</i>	R	LC
61		Charadriidae	Little Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius dubius</i>	R	LC
62			Kentish Plover	<i>Charadrius alexandrinus</i>	R	LC
63			River Lapwing	<i>Vanellus duvaucii</i>	R	NT
64			Yellow-wattled Lapwing	<i>Vanellus malarbaricus</i>	R	LC
65			Red-wattled Lapwing	<i>Vanellus indicus</i>	R	LC
66		Rostratulidae	Greater Painted-snipe	<i>Rostratula benghalensis</i>		R LC
67		Jacanidae	Pheasant-tailed Jacana	<i>Hydrophasianus chirurgus</i>	R	LC
68			Bronze-winged Jacana	<i>Metopidius indicus</i>	R	LC
69		Scolopacidae	Ruff	<i>Calidris pugnax</i>		M LC
70			Temminck's Stint	<i>Calidris temminckii</i>		M LC
71			Dunlin	<i>Calidris alpina</i>	M	LC
72			Little Stint	<i>Calidris minuta</i>	M	LC
73			Common Snipe	<i>Gallinago gallinago</i>		M LC
74			Common Sandpiper	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>	M	LC
75			Green Sandpiper	<i>Tringa ochropus</i>		M LC
76			Spotted Redshank	<i>Tringa erythropus</i>		M LC
77			Common Greenshank	<i>Tringa nebularia</i>	M	LC
78			Common Redshank	<i>Tringa totanus</i>	M	LC
79			Wood Sandpiper	<i>Tringa glareola</i>	M	LC
80			Marsh Sandpiper	<i>Tringa stagnatilis</i>	M	LC
81	Accipitriformes	Glareolidae	Black-tailed Godwit	<i>Limosa limosa</i>		M LC
82			Indian Courser	<i>Cursorius coromandelicus</i>	R	LC
83			Little Pratincole	<i>Glareola lactea</i>	R	LC
84		Accipitridae	Black-winged Kite	<i>Elanus caeruleus</i>	R	LC
85			Egyptian Vulture	<i>Neophron percnopterus</i>		R LC
86			Indian Spotted Eagle	<i>Clanga hastata</i>		M VU
87			Grater Spotted Eagle	<i>Aquila clanga</i>	M	LC
88			Booted Eagle	<i>Hieraetus pennatus</i>		R LC
89			Eastern Marsh Harrier	<i>Circus spilonotus</i>		M LC
90			Shikra	<i>Accipiter badius</i>	R	LC
91			Black Kite	<i>Milvus migrans</i>	R	LC
92			White-eyed Buzzard	<i>Butastur teesa</i>	R	LC
93			Oriental Honey-buzzard	<i>Pernis ptilorhynchus</i>		M LC
94			Perigrine Falcon	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>		R LC
95			Barbary Falcon	<i>Falco (pelegrinoides) babylonicus</i>		M LC
96			Steppe Eagle	<i>Aquila Nipalensis</i>	R	LC

#	Order	Family	English name	Scientific name	Species by a b	IUCN Status
97		Strigidae	Mottled Wood Owl	<i>Strix ocellata</i>	R	LC
98	Bucerotiformes	Bucerotidae	Indian Grey Hornbill	<i>Ocyrceros birostris</i>	R	LC
99		Upupidae	Common Hoopoe	<i>Upupa epops</i>	R	LC
100		Megalaimidae	Coppersmith Barbet	<i>Psilopogon haemacephalus</i>	R	LC
101	Coraciiformes	Meropidae	Green Bee-eater	<i>Merops orientalis</i>	R	LC
102		Coraciidae	Indian Roller	<i>Coracias benghalensis</i>	R	LC
103		Alcedinidae	Common Kingfisher	<i>Alcedo atthis</i>	R	LC
104			Pied Kingfisher	<i>Ceryle rudis</i>	R	LC
105			White-throated Kingfisher	<i>Halcyon smyrnensis</i>	R	LC
106	Falconiformes	Falconidae	Common Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>	M	LC
107			Red-necked Falcon	<i>Falco chicquera</i>	M	LC
108	Passeriformes	Psittaculidae	Plum-headed Parakeet	<i>Psittacula cyanocephala</i>	R	LC
109			Rose-ringed Parakeet	<i>Psittacula krameri</i>	R	LC
110		Picidae	Black-rumped Flameback	<i>Dinopium benghalense</i>	R	LC
			Lesser Golden backed Woodpecker			
111			Grater Flameback	<i>Chrysocolaptes lucidus</i>	R	LC
112		Oriolidae	Black Hooded Oriole	<i>Oriolus xanthornus</i>	R	LC
113			Eurasian Golden Oriole	<i>Oriolus oriolus</i>	R	LC
114		Paridae	Indian Yellow Tit	<i>Macholophus aplonotus</i>	R	LC
115		Dicruridae	Ashy Drongo	<i>Dicrurus leucophaeus</i>	R	LC
116			Black Drongo	<i>Dicrurus macrocercus</i>	R	LC
117			Greater Racket-tailed Drongo	<i>Dicrurus paradiseus</i>	R	LC
118		Rhipiduridae	White Browed Fantail	<i>Rhipidura aureola</i>	R	LC
119		Laniidae	Brown Shrike	<i>Lanius cristatus</i>	M	LC
120			Bay-backed Shrike	<i>Lanius vittatus</i>	R	LC
121			Long-tailed Shrike	<i>Lanius schach</i>	R	LC
122		Corvidae	House Crow	<i>Corvus splendens</i>	R	LC
123			Large-billed Crow	<i>Corvus macrorhynchos</i>	R	LC
124		Monarchidae	Indian Paradise-flycatcher	<i>Terpsiphone paradisi</i>	R	LC
125		Nectariniidae	Purple Sunbird	<i>Cinnyris asiaticus</i>	R	LC
126		Dicaeidae	Thick-billed Flowerpecker	<i>Dicaeum agile</i>	R	LC
127			Blue winged Leafbird	<i>Chloropsis cochinchinensis</i>	R	LC
128			Golden-fronted Leafbird	<i>Chloropsis aurifrons</i>	R	LC
			Golden-fronted Chloropsis			
129		Ploceidae	Baya Weaver	<i>Ploceus philippinus</i>	R	LC
130		Estrildidae	Red Munia	<i>Amandava amandava</i>	R	LC
131			Indian Silverbill	<i>Euodice malabarica</i>	R	LC
132			Scaly-breasted Munia	<i>Lonchura punctulata</i>	R	LC
133		Passeridae	Black-headed Munia	<i>Lonchura malacca</i>	R	LC
134			House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	R	LC
135			Yellow-throated Sparrow	<i>Gymnoris xanthocollis</i>	R	LC
			Chestnut-shouldered Petronia			
136		Motacillidae	Paddyfield Pipit	<i>Anthus rufulus</i>	R	LC
137			Water Pipit	<i>Anthus spinoletta</i>	M	LC
138			Olive-backed Pipit	<i>Anthus hodgsoni</i>	R	LC
139			Tawny Pipit	<i>Anthus campestris</i>	M	LC
140			Western Yellow Wagtail	<i>Motacilla flava</i>	R	LC
141			Grey Wagtail	<i>Motacilla cinerea</i>	R	LC
142			Citrine Wagtail	<i>Motacilla citreola</i>	R	LC
143			White-browed Wagtail	<i>Motacilla maderaspatensis</i>	R	LC
144			White Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba</i>	R	LC
145			Common Rosefinch	<i>Erythrura erythrura</i>	M	LC
146		Alaudidae	Rufous-tailed Lark	<i>Ammomanes phoenicurus</i>	R	LC
147			Ashy-crowned Sparrow Lark	<i>Eremopterix griseus</i>	R	LC
148			Singing Bushlark	<i>Mirafra cantillans</i>	R	LC
149			Indian Bushlark	<i>Mirafra erythroptera</i>	R	LC
150			Jerdon's Bushlark	<i>Mirafra affinis</i>	R	LC
151			Greater Short-toed Lark	<i>Calandrella brachydactyla</i>	M	LC
152			Eurasian Skylark	<i>Alauda arvensis</i>	R	LC
153			Ashy Prinia	<i>Prinia socialis</i>	R	LC
154			Plain Prinia	<i>Prinia inornata</i>	R	LC
155			Common Tailorbird	<i>Orthotomus sutorius</i>	R	LC
156		Acrocephalidae	Booted Warbler	<i>Iduna caligata</i>	M	LC
157			Blyth's Reed Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus dumetorum</i>	M	LC

#	Order	Family	English name	Scientific name	Species by a b	IUCN Status
158			Paddyfield Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus agricola</i>	R	LC
159			Clamorous Reed Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus stentoreus</i>	M	LC
160		Hirundinidae	Striated Swallow	<i>Cecropis striolata</i>	M	LC
161			Streak-throated Swallow	<i>Petrochelidon fluvicola</i>	M	LC
162			Red-rumped Swallow	<i>Cecropis daurica</i>	R	LC
163			Wire-tailed Swallow	<i>Hirundo smithii</i>	R	LC
164			Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	M	LC
165		Pycnonotidae	Red-vented Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus cafer</i>	R	LC
166		Sylviidae	Lesser Whitethroat	<i>Curruca curruca</i>	M	LC
167		Phylloscopidae	Common Chiffchaff	<i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>	M	LC
168			Greenish Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus trochiloides</i>	M	LC
169		Phylloscopidae	Hume's Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus humei</i>	M	LC
170		Leiothrichidae	Jungle Babbler	<i>Turdoides striata</i>	R	LC
171		Sylviidae	Yellow-eyed Babbler	<i>Chrysomma sinense</i>	R	LC
172		Leiothrichidae	Large Grey Babbler	<i>Argya malcolmi</i>	R	LC
173			Common Babbler	<i>Argya caudata</i>	R	LC
174		Sturnidae	Rosy Starling	<i>Pastor roseus</i>	M	LC
175			Asian Pied Starling	<i>Gracupica contra</i>	R	LC
176			Brahminy Starling	<i>Sturnia pagodarum</i>	R	LC
177			Common Myna	<i>Acridotheres tristis</i>	R	LC
178		Muscicapidae	Indian Robin	<i>Saxicoloides fulicatus</i>	R	LC
179			Oriental Magpie Robin	<i>Copsychus saularis</i>	R	LC
180			Asian Brown Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa dauurica</i>	R	LC
181			Bluethroat	<i>Luscinia svecica</i>	R	LC
182			Black Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus ochruros</i>	M	LC
183			Siberian Stonechat	<i>Saxicola maurus</i>	M	LC
184			Variable Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe picata</i>	M	LC
185			Desert Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe deserti</i>	M	LC
186			Pied Bushchat	<i>Saxicola caprata</i>	R	LC

Species Observed: (a- Sharma et. al. 2014; b-Additional/New Species) Resident Status- R- Resident M- Migratory
IUCN Categories- EN – Endangered, VU- Vulnerable, NT- Near Threatened, LC- Least Concern

