

## OBSERVATIONS ON THE AVIFAUNA OF MOUNT HARRIETT NATIONAL PARK, SOUTH ANDAMAN (A & N ISLANDS)

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### Introduction

Mount Harriett National Park is one of the eight national parks so far declared in the Union Territory of Andaman and Nicobar Islands. The park is situated in South Andaman at 38 km from Port Blair. It lies between 10°43'57" to 11°51'55"N latitudes and 92°43'41" to 92°47'11" E longitudes. The park possesses various hill ranges like Mt. Warden, Mt. Hext, Mt. Koyob, Mt. Goodridge and Mt. Carpenter. The highest peak of Mount Harriett National Park is 450 m above sea level. Area of the park is about 46.62 km<sup>2</sup> with a proposal to extend the area by another 1700 ha to include the adjacent hill ranges. The park is covered with thick green vegetation, comprising of Andaman tropical evergreen, Andaman moist-deciduous and Andaman semi-evergreen forests. On the east coast, the seashore indented and stretches from old Madhuban to Baruatong beach. The beaches are mostly rocky and sandy at a few places. The park also possesses few water streams, arising from the Mount Harriett range and draining into the sea on the east coast.

Adequate work has been carried out on avifauna of Andaman and Nicobar Islands by the various workers like Abdulali (1964, 1965, 1967), Ali and Ripley (1968-1974), Dasgupta (1976) and Tikader (1984). But, there is no comprehensive information on

the avifauna occurring in this national park. Only few birds were recorded by Abdulali (1965, 1967). Hence, an attempt has been made to give a complete list of birds occurring in the Mount Harriett National Park. The present observation was made during the faunal exploration of National Park from June 1993 to May 1995. In all, 88 species of birds belonging to 68 genera representing 32 families were observed from different localities as mentioned in the list of species (Table 1). We have followed the taxonomic account upto the species level, inspite of prominent variation at sub-species level. We also feel that an intensive survey of the national park is quite to likely reveal the existence of more number of bird species.

While exploring the faunal diversity of Mount Harriett National Park, it was observed that the nearby inhabitants and settlers were entering to the national park for hunting the birds. Birds like Andaman Wood-pigeon, Grey fronted-green pigeon, Green imperial pigeon, Red turtle dove, Emerald dove and White breasted water hen were the main target of poachers. The above mentioned birds are not included in Schedule I of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, hence, there is no strict legal protection for the conservation of these birds, which warrants immediate attention of the concerned authorities for necessary action in the matter.

**Table 1**  
*List of Birds recorded from Mount Harriett National Park*

Species	Natural sightings	Occurrence
1	2	3
<i>Ardeola grayii</i> (Sykes)	II, IV	C
<i>Bulbulus ibis</i> (Linnaeus)	II, IV	C
<i>Egretta sacra</i> (Gmelin)	II, IV	C
<i>Ixobrychus sinensis</i> (Gmelin)	II	R
<i>Aviceda leuphotes</i> (Dumont)	III	VR
<i>Accipiter virgatus</i> (Temminck)	I, II, IV	C
<i>Spizaetus cirrhatus</i> (Gmelin)	I, II, III	C
<i>Haliaeetus leucogaster</i> (Gmelin)	I, II, IV	C
<i>Circus Macrourus</i> (S.G. Gmelin)	II, IV	C
<i>Spilornis cheela</i> (Latham)	II, III, IV	C
<i>Spilornis elgini</i> (Blyth)	II, IV	C
<i>Rallus canningi</i> (Blyth)	II, IV	C
<i>Amaurornis phoenicurus</i> (Pennant)	I, II, III	C
<i>Gallicrex cinerea</i> (Gmelin)	I, II, III	C
<i>Gallinula chloropus</i> (Linnaeus)	II, IV	C
<i>Dromas ardeola</i> (Paykull)	II, IV	A
<i>Esacus magnirostris</i> (Vieillot)	II, IV	A
<i>Pluvialis dominica</i> (P.L.S. Muller)	II, IV	C
<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i> (Linnaeus)	II, IV	C
<i>Charadrius asiaticus</i> (Pallas)	II	C
<i>Charadrius dubius</i> (Scopoli)	II, IV	C
<i>Charadrius leschenaulti</i> (Lesson)	II, IV	C
<i>Charadrius mongolus</i> (Pallas)	II, IV	C
<i>Tringa hypoleucos</i> (Linnaeus)	II, IV	C
<i>Tringa totanus</i> (Linnaeus)	II	R
<i>Sterna sumatrana</i> (Raffles)	II, IV	C
<i>Treron pompadora</i> (Gmelin)	I, II, III	A
<i>Ducula aenea</i> (Linnaeus)	I, II, III, IV	A
<i>Columba palumboides</i> (Hume)	I, II, III	A
<i>Macropygia rufipennis</i> (Blyth)	I, II	C
<i>Streptopelia tranquebarica</i> (Hermann)	I, III	C
<i>Chalcophaps indica</i> (Linnaeus)	I, II, III	C
<i>Pasttacula alexandri</i> (Linnaeus)	I, II, III	A
<i>Psittacula eupatria</i> (Linnaeus)	I, III	C
<i>Psittacula longicauda</i> (Boddaert)	I, II, III, IV	A
<i>Loriculus vernalis</i> (Sparrman)	I, II, III	A
<i>Cuculus micropterus</i> (Gould)	I, III, IV	C
<i>Eudynamis scolopacea</i> (Linnaeus)	I, II, III, IV	A
<i>Centropus andamanensis</i> (Beavan)	I, II, III, IV	A
<i>Otus balli</i> (Hume)	I, II	C
<i>Ninox affinis</i> (Beavan)	I, II, III	C

Contd...

1	2	3
<i>Ninox scutulata</i> (Reffles)	I, III	C
<i>Caprimulgus macrurus</i> (Horsfield)	I	R
<i>Collocalia brevirostris</i> (Horsfield)	I, II	C
<i>Collocalia esculenta</i> (Linnaeus)	I, II, III, IV	A
<i>Collocalia fuciphaga</i> (Thunberg)	I, II, IV	A
<i>Chaetura gigantea</i> (Temminck)	I, II, IV	C
<i>Apus apus</i> (Linnaeus)	I, II, IV	C
<i>Alcedo althis</i> (Linnaeus)	II, IV	C
<i>Alcedo meninting</i> (Horsfield)	II, IV	C
<i>Ceyx erithacus</i> (Linnaeus)	I, II, IV	C
<i>Halcyon smyrnensis</i> (Linnaeus)	II, IV	C
<i>Merops leschenaulti</i> (Vieillot)	I, II, IV	C
<i>Merops philippinus</i> (Linnaeus)	I, II, IV	C
<i>Eurystomus orientalis</i> (Linnaeus)	I, III	C
<i>Dryocopus javensis</i> (Horsfield)	I, III	C
<i>Picoides macei</i> (Vieillot)	I, II, III, IV	C
<i>Hirundo tahitica</i> (Gmelin)	I, II	C
<i>Lanius cristatus</i> (Linnaeus)	I, III	C
<i>Oriolus chinensis</i> (Linnaeus)	I, II, III, IV	A
<i>Oriolus xanthornus</i> (Linnaeus)	I, II, III, IV	A
<i>Dicrurus andamanensis</i> (Tytler)	I, II, III	A
<i>Dicrurus paradiseus</i> (Linnaeus)	I, II, III	A
<i>Artamus leucorhynchus</i> (Linnaeus)	I, III	C
<i>Sturnus erythropygius</i> (Blyth)	I, III	C
<i>Acridotheres tristis</i> (Linnaeus)	I	C
<i>Gracula religiosa</i> (Linnaeus)	I, II, III	A
<i>Dendrocitta bayleyi</i> (Tytler)	I, II, III	A
<i>Corvus macrorhynchos</i> (Wagler)	I, II, III, IV	A
<i>Coracina nigra</i> (Kloss)	IV	R
<i>Coracina novaehollandiae</i> (Gmelin)	I, III	C
<i>Coracina striata</i> (Boddaert)	I, III	C
<i>Pericrocotus cinnamomeus</i> (Linnaeus)	I, III	C
<i>Pericrocotus flammeus</i> (Forster)	I, II, III	C
<i>Irena puella</i> (Latham)	I, III	C
<i>Pycnonotus atriceps</i> (Temminck)	I, II, IV	A
<i>Pycnonotus jocosus</i> (Linnaeus)	I, II, III	A
<i>Muscicapa latirostris</i> (Raffles)	II, IV	C
<i>Hypothymis azurea</i> (Boddaert)	II, IV	C
<i>Cettia pallidipes</i> (Blanford)	I, II, III	C
<i>Phylloscopus trochiloides</i> (Sundevall)	I, II, III	C
<i>Copsychus malabaricus</i> (Scopoli)	III	R
<i>Copsychus saularis</i> (Linnaeus)	I, II, III, IV	A
<i>Zoothera citrina</i> (Latham)	II, IV	C
<i>Dicaeum concolor</i> (Jerdon)	I, II, III	C
<i>Nectarinia jugularis</i> (Linnaeus)	I, II, III	A
<i>Zosterops palpebrosa</i> (Temminck)	I, III	A
<i>Emberiza pusilla</i> (Pallas)	I, III	C

I = Mt. Carpenter, II = Madhuban, III = Mt. Hext, IV = Bhoji Nala, A = Abundant, C = Common, R = Rare, VR = Very Rare.

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### SUMMARY

The present paper reports the occurrence of 88 species of birds from different localities of Mount Harriett National Park, South Andamans.

माऊंट हेरियट राष्ट्रीय उद्यान (अंडमान) के पक्षियों का अवलोकन

कैलाश चन्द्र व पी०टी० राजन

सारांश

प्रस्तुत अभिपत्र में माऊंट हेरियट राष्ट्रीय उद्यान (अंडमान) के विभिन्न आवासों में पाये जाने वाले पक्षियों की प्रजातियों को प्रस्तुत किया गया है ।

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