

(III)

A PRELIMINARY SURVEY OF SUMMER BIRDS IN MANIPUR UNIVERSITY CAMPUS, IMPHAL

Imphal west encompasses geographic area of 559 km² with moderate forest cover (29%) and open degraded forest (28%), which is about 0.10% of total land cover in the Imphal west (FSI, 2011). The climatic season is moderate with annual rainfall of 108.5 to 143.4 cm and daily temperature goes up to 30.4°C to 33.2°C. Manipur University (MU) is located in the heart of the city, a historical site established by Maharaja Gambhir Singh in 1827 just after the liberation of Manipur from the Burmese annexation, regarded as the old palatial kingdom of Manipur. The university spreads over an area of 287 acres (1.16 km²) and is the only university in the whole state. The campus is good enough for the avifauna diversity and very little information exists on the avifauna of Manipur University campus. The floral diversity inside the campus mainly consists of *Delonix regia*, *Jackrinda mimosifolia*, *Eucalyptus lanceolatus*, *Embllica officinalis*, *Ziziphus jujuba*, *Litsea monopetala*, *Quercus serrata*, *Callistemon lanceolatus*, *Schleichera oleosa*, *Melia azadirach*, *Gmelina arborea*, *Mangifera indica*, *Plumeria rubra*, *Arundo donax*, *Bambusa bamboos* with different varieties of shrubs (*Citrus*, *Datura*, *Rosa*), and herb (*Cynodon*, *Leucas*, *Ageratum*, *Cardamine*) species which make possible for the avifauna society to feed, roost or nest.

Birds are ideal bio indicators and useful models for studying a variety of environmental problems and the importance of local landscapes for avian conservation can only be understood by knowing the structure of the bird community of that region. Birds play a major role in the ecosystem services as well as to the human environment. They are of great ecological value in population controlled and maintaining of different species of insects and pests.

They help in the pollination pattern and dispersal of seeds for better synchronization in the flowers family. They are helpful to provide rich food for mankind and are known to mankind since ages laid the foundation of ornithology which promotes the scientific study of avian species.

Surveys were conducted within campus randomly in various habitats. The main locations include Life Science Department, Library colony, garden, fish farm, natural water bodies (Chandranadi River) and roadways inside the campus field. Regular visit is required for regular sighting at regular interval of time. Birds were sighted twice a day at morning and evening time for 3 hours for four consecutive months (March to July, 2013). Specific species were identified on the spot either by binocular or by taking picture, using the standard field guide book, the birds that are identified and confirmed are recorded in this paper. The bird's checklist is shortlisted in table 1.

The status of the bird is recognized as Residential (R), Local movement (L), Winter visitor (W), Migrant (M). Abundance of birds was categorized as common (C), uncommon (U), rare (R) and occasional (O).

At the end of the survey study, 12 specific species of birds were confirmed as shown in the table 1. The most common bird in the campus is the House sparrow with maximum number of occupancy followed by barn swallow. Black drongo population comes third in position while lesser racket tail drongo are evening flyers inside the garden side. Cattle egret is also a common bird with in campus. Purple sun bird is sighted early in the morning same as the Spotted dove while Red whiskered bulbul is adapted to the library area. Heart spotted wood pecker are popular in tall trees and not very commonly seen inside the campus. It is found that the species is specific to a

Table 1: The occurrence of species in different types of habitat is also given in the check list.

Sl. No.	Family	Common name	Scientific name	Status and abundance
1.	Passerinae	House sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	RC
2.	Hirundinidae	Barn swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	RWC
3.	Dicruridae	Black drongo	<i>Dicrurus macrocercus</i>	RC
4.	Dicruridae	Lesser racket tailed drongo	<i>Dicrurus remifer</i>	RC
5.	Sturnidae	Common myna	<i>Gracula religiosa</i>	RC
6.	Nectariniidae	Purple rumped sun bird	<i>Cinnyris asiaticus</i>	RLC
7.	Columbidae	Spotted dove	<i>Streptopelia chinensis</i>	RC
8.	Pycnonotidae	Red whiskered Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus jacusus</i>	RC
9.	Alcedinidae	White throated King fisher	<i>Halcyon smyrnensis</i>	RC
10.	Picidae	Heartspotted woodpecker	<i>Hemicircus canente</i>	RC
11.	Ardeidae	Cattle egret	<i>Bulbulcus ibis</i>	RC
12.	Upupidae	Common hoopoe	<i>Upupa epops</i>	RU

RC-Residential common, RU-Residential Uncommon, RLC-Residential local common, RWC-Residential winter common

particular habitat but in most of the cases, some overlap was found in utilization of habitat by different species of birds. White throated kingfisher is like a migrant bird seeing all around the campus. Common hoopoe or Chongna laba is the rarest bird inside the campus as it is considered, a major treat in continued trapping for curing medicinal purposes, the population appears to wipe out in many areas while Common mynas are the colorful birds

adding colors to the environment and controlling insect population. The status of the particular species of birds was assigned on the basis of number of sighting. Many authors have documented and reported the same species of birds from other parts of Manipur as well. Choudhury identified more than 400 species of birds all over Manipur state. He also reported threatened species of Manipur apart from the commonly occurring birds.

References

FSI (2011). The state of the forest report, 2011, Dehradun, Forest Survey of India, Ministry of Environment and Forests.

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