

BEHAVIOURAL STUDIES ON ANDAMAN GREEN IMPERIAL PIGEON IN CAPTIVITY

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Introduction

This is one of the most beautiful pigeons found endemic to these Islands especially the Andaman group of Islands. It is grouped with other pigeons and doves under family Columbidae.

Description

Green Imperial Pigeon : Ducula aenea andamanica Abdulali.

Size : 40-50 cm.

A large heavy pigeon with ashy head, neck and underparts and bright metallic green saddle, wings and tail. A tree haunting species with a peculiar resonant call.

Habits : A forest-haunting bird, found in many types of forest both heavy and light evergreen and deciduous, it also visits low scrub. It goes about as a rule singly or in pairs or occasionally in small parties of 3 or 4 birds but after the breeding season and in the neighbourhood of plentiful supplies of food it collects into flocks comprising upto thirty individuals or even more. These flocks have regular roosting places and may travel miles to their feeding grounds.

Food : Food items specifically recorded are large yellow flowers and fruits of

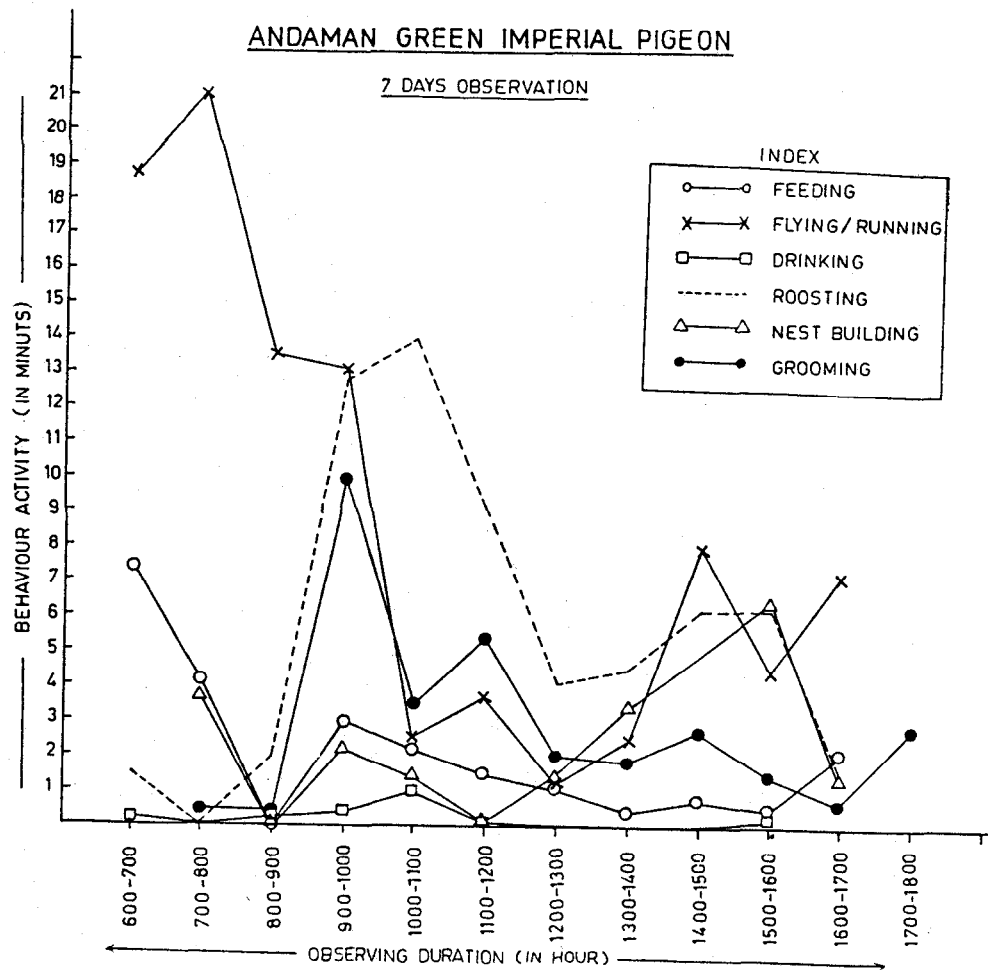
Sideroylon longipetiolatum, *Myristica andamanica*, *Calamus* spp., *Ficus* spp.

Breeding : Breeding season is from February to April with local variations. The nest is built at a height of some 3 to 4 m from the ground in trees.

Clutch size - 1 or 2; egg is broad, oval and white in colour.

Methodology : Its distribution is only to Andaman group of Islands and as such the species becomes endangered and hence kept under Schedule I of Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972. It was thought to give them utmost protection in natural environment as well as they were kept in Zoo at Port Blair for Wildlife education/extension and also for captive breeding programmes. For the first time, they (5 No.) were captured in Zoo complex itself on 6th August, 1980, again 4 were captured on 8th August, 1980. Further in the year 1984 on 5th August, 1984, 2 were captured from same area. Again on 7th October 1984, 2 were captured from similar locality. Rest all were Zoo born.

Observations : The observations on various behaviours in captivity can be summarised as given under. They are although not conclusive but presents a trend in this endemic and endangered bird.



The maximum time spent during the day hours is in exhibition of flying/running behaviour and minimum time for drinking.

0600 hrs to 0700 hrs : Maximum time spent in exhibition of flying/running behaviour that is for 18 minutes and 42 seconds and minimum in drinking (12 seconds only).

0700 hrs to 0800 hrs : Maximum time in flying and minimum in preening behaviour.

0800 hrs to 0900 hrs : Maximum flying/running behaviour and minimum drinking behaviour.

0900 hrs to 1000 hrs : Maximum time is spent in flying/running and minimum in drinking.

1000 hrs to 1100 hrs : Maximum time in preening behaviour and minimum in drinking.

1100 hrs to 1200 hrs : Maximum preening behaviour and least drinking behaviour.

1200 hrs to 1300 hrs : Maximum in preening behaviour and minimum feeding behaviour.

1300 hrs to 1400 hrs : Maximum in nest building behaviour and minimum feeding behaviour.

1400 hrs to 1500 hrs : Maximum in flying/running behaviour and minimum feeding behaviour.

1500 hrs to 1600 hrs : Maximum time spent is in exhibition of nest building behaviour and minimum drinking behaviour.

1600 hrs to 1700 hrs : Maximum in flying/running behaviour and minimum preening behaviour.

1700 hrs to 1800 hrs : Preening behaviour was more.

Discussion

(a) *Feeding behaviour* : It is more in the morning, less during noon hours and again increases during evening.

(b) *Flying/running behaviour* : This behaviour is exhibited maximum during 0700 hours to 0800 hours with a minimum during 1200 hours to 1300 hours and evening hours again increases.

(c) *Drinking behaviour* : The time spent in exhibiting this behaviour is quite less and that shows that birds meet their requirement with juicy fruits etc.

(d) *Nest building behaviour* : It is maximum during evening hours.

(e) *Preening behaviour* : Its quite significant and more during fore-noon hours.

(f) *Courtship behaviour* : Not observed.

SUMMARY

Andaman green imperial pigeon is endemic to Andaman group of Islands and is kept under Schedule-I of Wildlife (Protection Act), 1972. Study has been made on its feeding behaviour, flying behaviour, drinking behaviour, nest building behaviour and preening behaviour.

बंदी अवस्था में अंडमान के हरे राजकपोत के व्यवहार का अध्ययन

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सारांश

अंडमान का हरा राज कबूतर केवल अंडमान द्वीप समूह में ही मिलता है तथा वन्य प्राणी (सुरक्षा) अधिनियम 1972 में इसे अनुसूची 1 में रखा गया है। इस कपोत के भोजन करने, उड़ने, पानी पीने, नीड बनाने और घंघु साधन व्यवहार का अध्ययन किया गया है।

Reference

Ali, Salim and Riply Dillon. (). *Handbook of the Birds of India and Pakistan.*