

AVIAN DIVERSITY IN SOME AREAS OF NORTH DUM DUM MUNICIPALITY, KOLKATA

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Diversity of birds has been studied at two wards (ward no. 24 and 34) of North Dum Dum Municipality, during the period of October 2012 to May 2014. Ward no. 24 is semi-urban area having some small water body, very little grassland and some small orchard, whereas ward no. 34 has rural landscape with larger water bodies, crop fields, grazing fields and some large orchard. Observation were done in the dawn between 6.00 A. M. to 9.30 A. M. and in the dusk between 04.00 P. M. to 06.00 P. M. and sometimes in the night. Identification of birds has been done as per Ali (2002) and

Grimmett et al. (2011).

A total of 33 species of birds belonging to 21 families were recorded during the entire study period (Table 1). Based on the frequency of observation, birds are classified as abundant (observed more than 75%), regular (30% to <75%) and rare (< 30%). It has been observed that avian diversity is much higher at ward no. 34 than that of ward no. 24. From the present study it can be concluded that diverse vegetation supports better avian diversity. But rapid urbanization in this area leads to habitat destruction which will have adverse impact on avian diversity.

References

- Ali, S. 2002. *The Book of Indian Birds* (13th ed. revised). Bombay Natural History Society & Oxford University Press, Mumbai : lvii + 326 pp.
- Grimmett, R., Inskipp, C. & Inskipp, T. 2011. *Birds of the Indian Subcontinent*. (Helm Field Guides). Oxford University Press, Mumbai : 528 pp.

Table 1. Avian diversity of North Dum Dum Municipality, Kolkata.

Common Name	Scientific Name	Family	Habitat	Status	Ward No.24	Ward No.34
1. House Crow	<i>Corvus splendens</i>	Corvidae	Human habitation	Abundant	+	+
2. Jungle Crow	<i>Corvus macrorhynchos</i>	Corvidae	Human habitation, orchard	Rare	-	+
3. Indian Tree-pie	<i>Dendrocitta vagabunda</i>	Corvidae	Orchard	Regular	+	+
4. Common Myna	<i>Acridotheres tristis</i>	Sturnidae	Human habitation	Abundant	+	+
5. Pied Myna	<i>Gracupica contra</i>	Sturnidae	Human habitation, grassland	Abundant	+	+
6. Jungle Myna	<i>Acridotheres fuscus</i>	Sturnidae	Human habitation, grassland	Rare	-	+
7. Indian Pond Heron	<i>Ardeola grayii</i>	Ardeidae	Water body	Abundant	+	+
8. Cattle Egret	<i>Bubulcus ibis</i>	Ardeidae	Grassland	Abundant	+	+
9. Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>	Ardeidae	Water body	Regular	-	+
10. Lesser Goldenbacked Woodpecker	<i>Dinopium benghalense</i>	Picidae	Orchard	Abundant	+	+
11. White-breasted Kingfisher	<i>Halcyon smyrnensis</i>	Alcedinidae	Water body	Abundant	+	+
12. Small blue Kingfisher	<i>Alcedo atthis</i>	Alcedinidae	Water body	Rare	-	+

13. Red-vented Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus cafer</i>	Pycnonotidae	Human habitation, orchard	Abundant	+	+
14. Asian Koel	<i>Eudynamys scolopacea</i>	Cuculidae	Orchard	Abundant	+	+
15. Brainfever Bird	<i>Hierococyx varius</i>	Cuculidae	Orchard	Rare	-	+
16. Greater Coucal	<i>Centropus sinensis</i>	Cuculidae	Orchard	Regular	-	+
17. Small Bee-eater	<i>Merops orientalis</i>	Meropidae	Human habitation, orchard	Rare	-	+
18. Rose-ringed Parakeet	<i>Psittacula krameri</i>	Psittacidae	Orchard	Regular	+	+
19. House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	Ploceidae	Human habitation	Rare	+	+
20. Black Drongo	<i>Dicrurus macrocerus</i>	Dicruridae	Human habitation, orchard	Regular	+	+
21. Common Tailorbird	<i>Orthotomus sutorius</i>	Muscicapidae	Orchard	Abundant	+	+
22. Oriental Magpie Robin	<i>Copsychus saularis</i>	Muscicapidae	Human habitation, orchard	Regular	+	+
23. Jungle Babbler	<i>Turdoides striatus</i>	Muscicapidae	Orchard	Regular	-	+
24. Spotted Dove	<i>Streptopelia chinensis</i>	Columbidae	Human habitation, orchard	Abundant	+	+
25. Blue rock Pigeon	<i>Columba livia</i>	Columbidae	Human habitation	Abundant	+	+
26. Coppersmith Barbet	<i>Megalaima haemacephala</i>	Capitonidae	Orchard	Rare	-	+
27. Brown Shrike	<i>Lanius cristatus</i>	Laniidae	Orchard	Rare	-	+
28. White-breasted Waterhen	<i>Amaurornis phoenicurus</i>	Rallidae	Water body	Regular	-	+
29. Black Kite	<i>Milvus migrans</i>	Accipitridae	Human habitation	Rare	+	+
30. Purple Sunbird	<i>Nectarinia asiatica</i>	Nectariniidae	Orchard	Rare	-	+
31. Black-headed Oriole	<i>Oriolus xanthornus</i>	Oriolidae	Orchard	Regular	-	+
32. White wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba</i>	Motacillidae	Grassland	Rare	-	+
33. Little cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax niger</i>	Phalacrocoracidae	Water body	Regular	-	+

Anthropocene: The Age of Humans

People are changing Earth so much, warming and polluting it, that many scientists are turning to a new way to describe the time we live in. They're calling it the Anthropocene—the age of humans.

Though most non-experts don't realize it, science calls

the past 12,000 years the Holocene, Greek for "entirely recent." But the way humans and their industries are altering the planet, especially its climate, has caused an increasing number of scientists to use the word "Anthropocene" to better describe it.