

**147. Survey of Avifauna in the Gorai mangroves of Western Mumbai, Maharashtra**

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**ABSTRACT**

The study was done during June 2017 to May 2018 to understand the occurrence and diversity of avifauna in the Gorai Creek region. During this period of study, 75 species belonging to 28 families from 15 orders of both terrestrial and aquatic birds were identified in the region which included residents, migrants, common, uncommon and rare species. Out of these, 60 species were resident birds, 8 migrants, 16 local migrants, 30 uncommon, 20 common and 10 rarely occurring species. The most commonly encountered bird species were from the families- Anatidae, Ardeidae, Cuculidae, Accipitridae, Passeridae, Corvidae and Rallidae. All the birds around the creek were dependent on the thick mangrove cover of the area. Interventions of the ferry system to Gorai village as well as the Essel World Park were seen to slightly disturb the nesting of the birds. The seasonal fluctuations also influenced the population of the birds in the area. Anthropogenic disturbances are comparatively less in the area which signify the reduction in pollution in the locality.

**Keywords:** families, locality, nesting, occurrence, pollution.