



CHECKLIST OF BIRD SPECIES IN THE KOTTAPUZHA ESTUARY, KERALA, INDIA

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ABSTRACT

Between June 2018 and June 2019, a survey was conducted in the Kottapuzha basin in Kerala's Kozhikode region, India. There were 50 winter migrants, 36 residents, 18 local migrants, and 8 vagrants among the 112 bird species observed. The Darter (*Anhinga melanogaster*), the Oriental White Ibis (*Threskiornis melanocephalus*), and the Black-bellied Tern (*Sterna acuticauda*) are Near Threatened among the bird species documented from the region. The region deserves a substantial conservation grade due to the diversity, richness, and taxa of ecological importance it sustains. The region's rich and unaltered avian population was evident from an assessment of the ecosystem. In-depth research must be undertaken to comprehend the complex mangrove environment.

Keywords: Kottapuzha estuary; *Threskiornis melanocephalus*; Darter; mangroves