

A STUDY OF AVIFAUNA IN THE KADALUNDY COMMUNITY RESERVE OF KOZHIKODE DT., KERALA, INDIA

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Abstract: The study was done during June 2015 to May 2016 to understand the occurrence and diversity of avifauna including the migratory birds in the Kadalundy Community Reserve area which is considered as a Bird Sanctuary due to its rich diversity of birds surviving in the estuarine environment. During this period of study, 116 species belonging to 31 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, 64 species were resident birds, 58 migrants, 42 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, Laridae, Passeridae, Phalacrocoracidae, Scolopacidae and Rallidae. Among others, the migratory species encountered included the *Numenius phaeopus*; *Ichthyaetus ichthyaetus* and *Chlidonias niger*. *Threskiornis melanocephalus* was spotted in large numbers along with *Haliastur indus* in flocks. The seasonal fluctuations are comparatively large as the locale is an estuary where the River Kadalundy is meeting the Arabian Sea. The area has been recently well-known for the beauty of its scenery and hence tourism disturbances have been increasing. The Indian Railway has a strong network and the Southern Railway operates quite a large number of trains in the route running right amidst the Kadalundy Community Reserve area. This regular train movements shall have a negative impact on the nesting and foraging behavior of these birds. There has been a comparative decline in the number of species surviving in the area during the course of time due to many such aspects which requires monitoring and conservation.

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