

## **Avifaunal Diversity in the Mallathahalli Lake of Bangalore Urban District, Karnataka, India**

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**Abstract :** The study was conducted from July 2015 to July 2017 to determine and understand the occurrence, frequency and diversity of avifauna in the Mallathahalli Lake of Bangalore Urban district. During the study period, 46 species of both terrestrial, as well as, aquatic birds belonging to 30 families were identified out of which 9 families were aquatic birds and 21 families were terrestrial birds. There were 4 species of migratory birds out of 46, showing diurnal migration. There was a significant reduce in the number of bird species both terrestrial and aquatic during the summer season and also varied greatly during winters and monsoon. Of the total 24 species of aquatic birds, *Fulica atra* and *Tachybaptus ruficolis* were the most common with 100% frequency and the least frequent species with 3.02% frequency was identified as *Threskiornis melanocephalus*. Among the 22 species of terrestrial birds, *Acridotheres tristis* had a frequency of 89% and the least frequent was *Pycnonotus cafer* (4.45%). The most commonly encountered bird species were from the families- Anatidae, Podicipedidae, Ardeidae, Phalacrocoracidae, Rallidae, Accipitridae, Scolopacidae, Charadriidae, Laridae, Meropidae, Hirudinidae. All the birds surviving around the area are dependent on the wetland and crop vegetation surrounding the lake, which are deteriorating due to anthropogenic interventions and urbanization which are rising to its peak gradually causing the decline in the avifaunal diversity.

**Keywords :** Avifaunal diversity, Mallathahalli lake, seasonal migration, urbanization

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