

**STRUCTURE OF AVIAN SPECIES-ASSEMBLAGE AND DEPENDENT BIRD
SPECIES IN THE MANGROVES OF MAHE TOWN, TERRITORY OF
PONDICHERRY, INDIA**

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Abstract: A study was conducted from January 2018 to December 2019 at the estuarine region of Mahe River. Study was conducted to learn the diversity, density, and habitat use of birds in the regions associated with Mahe river mangroves to understand the influence of patch-size habitats and the floristic composition on the mangrove bird assemblages. Birds were surveyed using line transects in 7 mangrove patches. A total of 96 species were encountered, with a mean density of 9.2 individuals ha⁻¹ including 42 mangrove-dependent species. It was noted that there was no density-area relationship, which implies that assemblages are not saturated with species and that species interactions do not determine the assemblage structure. It can be concluded that avian assemblage structure in the mangroves is determined by the type and diversity of mangrove zones, the timing of mangrove flowering, and the nature of the matrix surrounding mangroves.

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