

**MIGRATORY WETLAND BIRD STATUS, DISTRIBUTION, AND
CONSERVATION IN KADALUNDY BIRD SANCTUARY, KOZHIKODE DISTRICT,
KERALA, INDIA**

**Vidya PADMAKUMAR
Shine P JOSEPH**

Department of Studies and Research in Biosciences, Mangalore University, Mangalagangotri,
Mangalore, Dakshina Kannada, Karnataka, India

ABSTRACT

A record of 39 marsh bird taxa ranging in 11 groups was discovered at the Kadalundy Bird Sanctuary in the Kozhikode District of Kerala, as per the survey. Scolopacidae topped the list with ten species, followed by Anatidae with nine, and Laridae, Gruidae, Rallidae, and Recurvirostridae with one species. The Demoiselle Crane, Lesser-whistling Duck, Ruddy Shelduck, Black-headed Ibis, Spot-billed Duck, and Eurasian Coot were determined to be the leading species among the total birds identified based on distribution and richness. The study also discovered that the area is a fragile wetland with a large number of resident birds but very few migratory species. The Black-headed Ibis (*Threskiornis melanocephalus*), Painted Stork (*Mycteria leucocephala*), Black-tailed Godwit (*Limosa limosa*), and River Tern (*Sterna aurantia*) are four globally critically endangered which are designated under Schedule IV of the Indian Wildlife Protection Act, 1972. The impact of anthropogenic change on ecosystems in the community reserve area is also posing significant conservation issues at the current research location.

Keywords: Wetland Ecology, Migration Studies, Threatened Species, Migratory Birds, Demoiselle Crane, Kadalundy Bird Sanctuary.