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## Checklist of avian fauna of Dhaka University Campus, Bangladesh

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### Abstract

The study was conducted to identify the status of birds from January 2012 to June 2014 in Dhaka University campus. It was done on regular basis with quality materials such as binocular, camera, and related books to identify birds. During this study period, a total number of 78 species of birds were found which belong to 11 orders, 39 families and 64 genera. Highest number of species and genera is passerine (41 species, 32 genera) of which the most abundant number of species are from Sturnidae family. Among the non-passerine, maximum numbers of species are under Cuculidae family. Conservation awareness of human might have raised the number of these avian creatures to a blessed level.

**Keywords:** Bird's status, Habitat, University of Dhaka, Bird's of Dhaka, Bird's checklist.

### 1. Introduction

Bird watching is one of the most expanding branches of ecotourism in the world [1]. Birdwatchers are the group of animal observers that has gathered more followers on the planet nowadays [2]. Birds play an important role in ecosystem by being as a part of the food web. They are potential pollinators and bio-indicators [3, 4]. Birds inhabit in wetlands and use the area for feeding, roosting, nesting and rearing young [4, 5, 6].

Diversification of birds plays a very important role in the health of an ecosystem. They occupy various types of habitats, from open field to forest, desert to High Mountain and even in ice zone where it is quite tough for a human or other animals to live. Bangladesh has about 650 species of birds which harbors the total area of the country, 1, 47,570 sq km of which two species have already been extinct and 47 species of birds are falling different categories of threats to extinction [7]. According to Siddique *et al.* (2008), 143 species are to be vagrant and 477 species are regularly seen, in regularly seen species 302 species resident and 176 seasonal visitors. Unfortunately because of having poor conservation knowledge and scientific monitoring idea of these very precious resource areas considered as the main factors which directly affects their existence. Dhaka University campus is inhabited by a quite good number of wild animals among which the avifauna is the most significant and well furnished with regard to its diversity. Because of the destruction of the habitat, food scarcity and other unavoidable circumstances, very few species of birds are dominants in a Dhaka city that are thought to be certain good number of bird species.

### 2. Methods and Materials

#### 2.1 Study area

The present report is prepared on the basis of field studies, bird watching and some conservation efforts which were conducted during a period from January 2012 to June 2014. As bird watching is not an easy task and need some instrument to identify the respective birds accurately various instruments including a digital camera (Sony DSC W560 Cybershot), a semi SLR camera (Canon Powershot SX 510 HS) and a pair of binoculars for bird watching and taking photographs of that particular species were used.

During bird watching the birds were photographed several times to identify them exactly and their habitats were also studied. In addition, call and morphs of those birds which vary seasonally, age and reproductive phases, were also recorded. A routine bird watching at Dhaka University campus was carried throughout the study period and it is still continuing to modify the list. With an exception in rainy morning, a regular visit made in different areas of this campus. On summer day's bird watching started around 5.30 am and in the winter, it was started from 6.30 am.

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Sometimes short visits were made in an hour. No study was carried at night. While walking in the Dhaka University campus premises at any time, looking for birds were continued randomly. Whenever a bird's call, or flight, or any movements were observed, photographs were taken wherever possible. All the bird species which are presented in this report were photographed during the study period. The birds were then identified with the help of different essential books. [8, 9, 10, 11, 12]

### 3. Results and Discussion

During the study period of thirty months, 78 species of 11

orders of 39 families were observed which were in 64 genera. Among the presently recorded bird species on the University of Dhaka campus, passerine (41 species, 21 families and 1 order) and non-passerine (37 species, 18 families and 10 orders) birds were almost fifty-fifty. Of the recorded passerine species, most of them are residential and few are migrants. In case of non-passerine birds, pond heron, little cormorant and lesser whistling duck are winter visitor. Some of them were passage migrants.

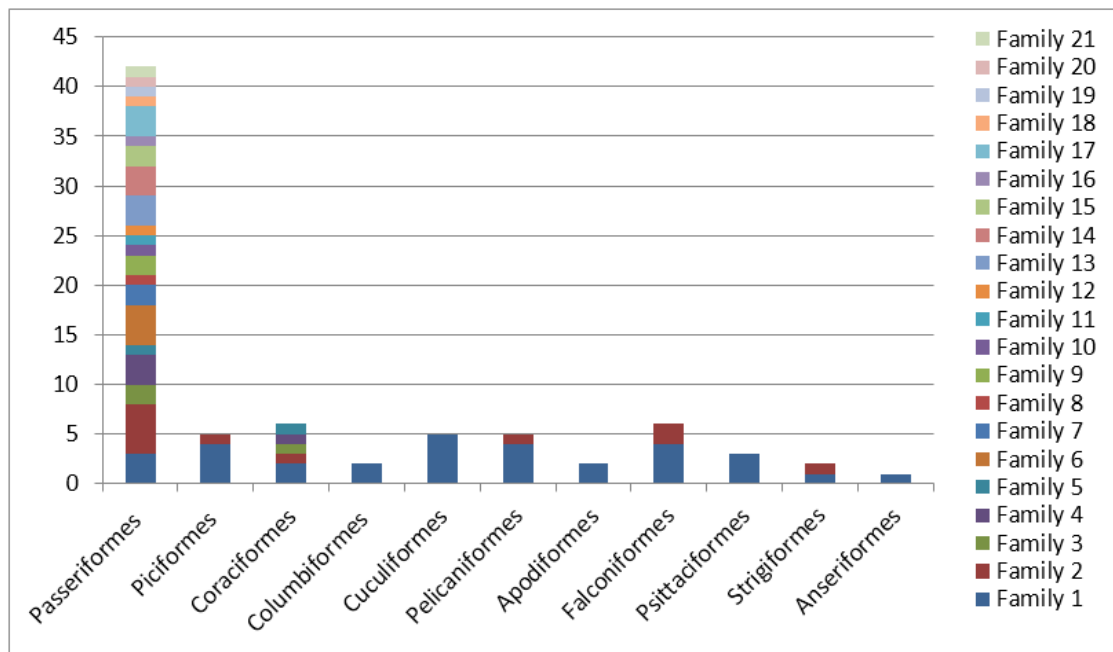
**Table:** The list of bird species observed in Dhaka University campus throughout the study period:

Order	Family	Scientific name	English name	Local name	Status
Passeriformes	Corvidae	<i>Corvus macrorhynchos</i>	Jungle Crow	Dar Kak	C
		<i>Corvus splendens</i>	House Crow	Pati kak	VC
		<i>Dendrocitta vagabunda</i>	Rufous Treepie	Hari chacha	C
	Sturnidae	<i>Acridotheres tristis</i>	Common Myna	Bhat-shalik	VC
		<i>Sturnus contra</i>	Pied Myna	Go-shalik	C
		<i>Acridotheres ginginianus</i>	Bank Myna	Gang-shalik	R
		<i>Acridotheres fuscus</i>	Jungle Myna	Jhuti-shalik	F
		<i>Sturnia malabarica</i>	Chestnut Tailed Starling	Khoyralej-shalik	C
	Dicuridae	<i>Dicrurus macrocercus</i>	Black Drongo	Kala-fingey	C
		<i>Dicrurus leucophaeus</i>	Ashy Drongo	Mete-fingey	F
	Laniidae	<i>Lanius schach</i>	Long Tailed Shrike	Lyanja Lyatorra	R
		<i>Lanius cristatus</i>	Brown Shrike	Khoyra Lyatorra	F
		<i>Lanius tephronotus</i>	Grey Backed Shrike	Mete-pith Lyatorra	F
	Passeridae	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	House Sparrow	Pati Chorui	VC
	Muscicapidae	<i>Copsychus saularis</i>	Oriental Magpie Robin	Doel	VC
		<i>Ficedula albicilla</i>	Taiga Flycatcher	Taiga Chutki	F
		<i>Phoenicurus ochruros</i>	Black Redstart	Kala Girdi	R
		<i>Luscinia brunnea</i>	Indian Blue Robin	Deshi-Nil Robin	R
	Pycnonotidae	<i>Pycnonotus cafer</i>	Red Vented Bulbul	Bangla Bulbul	VC
		<i>Pycnonotus jocosus</i>	Red Whiskered Bulbul	Sipahi Bulbul	R
	Cisticolidae	<i>Orthotomus sutorius</i>	Common Tailor Bird	Tuntuni	C
	Acrocephalidae	<i>Acrocephalus dumetorum</i>	Blyth's Reed Warbler	Blayther Futki	F
		<i>Acrocephalus stentoreus</i>	Clamorous Reed Warbler	Bachal Nolfutki	F
	Paridae	<i>Parus major</i>	Great Tit	Boro Tit	F
	Phylloscopidae	<i>Phylloscopus fuscatus</i>	Dusky Warbler	Kalche Futki	F
	Dicaeidae	<i>Dicaeum erythrorhynchos</i>	Pale Billed Flowerpecker	Mete-thot Fuljhuri	FC
	Nectariniidae	<i>Cinnyris asiaticus</i>	Purple Sunbird	Beguni moutushi	C
		<i>Leptocoma zeylonica</i>	Purple Rumped Sunbird	Beguni komor Moutushi	FC
		<i>Aethopyga gouldiae</i>	Mrs Gould's Sunbird	Begum Goulder Moutushi	F
	Estrildidae	<i>Lonchura malabarica</i>	Indian Silverbill	Deshi Chadithot	F
<i>Lonchura</i>		Black Headed	Kalo-matha	F	

		<i>atricapilla</i>	Munia	Munia	
		<i>Lonchura punctulata</i>	Scaly Breasted Munia	Tila Munia	F
	Turdidae	<i>Zoothera dauma</i>	Scaly Thrush	Ashte Dama	F
		<i>Geokichla citrina</i>	Orange Headed Thrush	Komola Dama	F
	Aegithinidae	<i>Aegithina tiphia</i>	Common Iora	Pati Fotikjol	F
	Motacillidae	<i>Anthus rufulus</i>	Paddy Field Pipit	Dhani Tulika	F
		<i>Motacilla maderaspatensis</i>	White Browed Wagtail	Dhola-bhru Khonjon	F
		<i>Motacilla alba</i>	White Wagtail	Dhola Khonjon	F
	Oriolidae	<i>Oriolus xanthornus</i>	Black Hooded Oriole	Kalomatha Benebou	FC
	Ploceidae	<i>Ploceus philippinus</i>	Baya Weaver	Babui	F
Hirudinidae	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	Barn swallow	Pati Ababil	F	
Campephagidae	<i>Pericrocotus roseus</i>	Rosy Minivet	Golapi Shoheli	F	
Piciformes	Picidae	<i>Dinopium benghalense</i>	Black Rumped Flameback	Bangla Kaththokra	C
		<i>Dendrocopos macei</i>	Fulvous Breasted Woodpecker	Batabi Kathkuruli	FC
		<i>Micropternus brachyurus</i>	Rufous Woodpecker	Khoyra Kathkuruli	R
		<i>Jynx torquilla</i>	Eurasian Wryneck	Eureshio Gharbyatha	F
	Capitonidae	<i>Megalaima haemacephala</i>	Copper-smith Barbet	Basanta Bauri	FC
Coraciiformes	Halcyonidae	<i>Halcyon smyrnensis</i>	White Throated Kingfisher	Dhola-gola Machranga	C
		<i>Pelargopsis capensis</i>	Stork Billed Kingfisher	Megghou Machranga	R
	Alcedinidae	<i>Alcedo atthis</i>	Common Kingfisher	Pati Machranga	FC
	Coracidae	<i>Coracias bengalensis</i>	Indian Roller	Bangla nilakanto	R
	Upupidae	<i>Upupa epops</i>	Common Hoopoe	Pati Hudhud	R
	Meropidae	<i>Merops orientalis</i>	Green Bee Eater	Shobuj Shuichora	FC
Columbiformes	Columbidae	<i>Columba livia</i>	Rock Pigeon	Jalali Kobutor	C
		<i>Streptopelia chinensis</i>	Spotted Dove	Tila ghughu	VC
Cuculiformes	Cuculidae	<i>Eudynamys scolopaceas</i>	Asian Koel	Kokil	C
		<i>Clamator jacobinus</i>	Pied Cuckoo	Pakra Papia	F
		<i>Cacomantis merulinus</i>	Plaintive Cuckoo	Korun Papia	F
		<i>Centropus sinensis</i>	Greater Coucal	Boro Kubo	F
		<i>Hierococcyx varius</i>	Common Hawk Cuckoo	Pati Chokhgelo	F
Pelicaniformes	Ardeidae	<i>Ardeola grayii</i>	Pond Heron	Deshi Kani Bok	F
		<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>	Black Crowned Night Heron	Kala-matha Nishi Bok	R
		<i>Egretta grazetta</i>	Little Egret	Choto Boga	R
	Phalacrocoracidae	<i>Phalacrocorax niger</i>	Little Cormorant	Pan kawri	R
Apodiformes	Apodidae	<i>Cypsiurus balasiensis</i>	Asian Palm Swift	Eshiyu Talbatashi	VC
		<i>Apus nipalensis</i>	House Swift	Deshi Talbatashi	VC
Falconiformes	Accipitridae	<i>Milvus migrans</i>	Black Kite	Bhubon Cheel	VC
		<i>Haliester indus</i>	Brahminy Kite	Shongkho Cheel	F
		<i>Gyps bengalensis</i>	White Rumped Vulture	Bangla Shokun	R
		<i>Gyps himalayensis</i>	Himalayan Griffon	Himaloyi Gridhini	R
	Falconidae	<i>Falco chicquera</i>	Red Necked Falcon	Lal-ghar Shahin	R
		<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>	Common Kestrel	Pati Kestrel	R

Psittaciformes	Psittaculidae	<i>Psittacula krameri</i>	Rose Ringed Parakeet	Shobuj tia	VC
		<i>Psittacula eupatria</i>	Alexandrian Parakeet	Chondona Tia	FC
		<i>Psittacula alexandri</i>	Red Breasted Parakeet	Modna Lotkon Tia	F
Strigiformes	Strigidae	<i>Athene brama</i>	Spotted Owlet	Khurule Pecha	FC
	Tytonidae	<i>Tyto alba</i>	Barn Owl	Lokkhi Pecha	F
Anseriformes	Anatidae	<i>Dendrocygna javanica</i>	Lesser Whistling Duck	Pati Shorali Hash	R

Birds were categorized into several groups based on their abundance viz. R=Rare (1-5 individuals, scarcely visited), F=Few (6-15 individuals, hardly visited), FC=Fairly Common (16-30 individuals, fairly visited), C=Common (31-50 individuals, regularly visited), VC = Very Common (more than 50 individuals, most time visited).



**Fig:** In this column chart, various orders of bird species lie horizontally. Vertically it shows the number of species abundance along with the column; different color showing different families of bird.

Of those 78 species of birds, House Sparrow, Common Myna, Pied Myna, House Crow, Oriental Magpie Robin, Red Vented Bulbul, Spotted Dove, Asian Palm Swift, House Swift and Rose Ringed Parakeet were more common as they were seen several times in most of the day. Whereas, White Rumped Vulture, Himalayan Griffon, Stork Billed Kingfisher, Common Hoopoe, Little Cormorant, Indian Blue Robin and Indian Roller were seen only once in the thirty month study period. This study provides a baseline data of the avian diversity of Dhaka University campus and therefore emphasizing on better management of the habitat and conservation of its rich avifaunal diversity. Further study on species richness with habitat preferences of species are needed for better orientation of management policies.

**4. Conclusion**

Present study illustrates the importance of the area as a good habitat for avifauna. Seventy eight species of birds, belonging to thirty nine families, were recorded during the study. Control of habitat destruction, exploitation of its wilderness, human interference and pollution by visitors and students can be helpful in conservation of these winged beauties.

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