

Journal of Bioresource Management

Volume 4 | Issue 1

Article 4

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Madeeha Manzoor

Center for Bioresource Research

Adila Nazli

Center for Bioresource Research, adilanazli42@gmail.com

Sabiha Shamim

Center for Bioresource Research

Fida Muhammad Khan

Center for Bioresource Research

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Recommended Citation

Manzoor, M., Nazli, A., Shamim, S., & Khan, F. M. (2017). A Study on Avifauna Present in Different Zones of Chitral Districts, *Journal of Bioresource Management*, 4 (1).

DOI: 10.35691/JBM.5102.0067

ISSN: 2309-3854 online

(Received: May 29, 2019; Accepted: May 29, 2019; Published: Jan 1, 2017)

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Erratum

Added the complete list of author names

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A STUDY ON AVIFAUNA PRESENT IN DIFFERENT ZONES OF CHITRAL DISTRICTS

Madeeha Manzoor, * Adila Nazli, Sabiha Shamim, Fida Muhammad Khan
Center for Bioresource Research, Pakistan
*adilnazli43@gmail.com

ABSTRACT

Chitral is a unique division of Pakistan in North western extremes of the country lies in the Hindukush range. Because of its isolation from other adjacent areas, its ecology is least disturbed and also lacks the proper scientific checklist of its flora and fauna. This study is designed to explore its various regions to gather the data of both Passerines and Non- passerines currently present in the region. Several visits will be made, birds will be searched, pictures will be taken and after identification checklist will be formulated and its comparison with existing data will be reported.

INTRODUCTION

Avifauna means “the bird fauna” i-e the Community (Species) of bird found in given geographic region (Perlo, 2000). Birds are warm blooded egg laying vertebrates characterized by the feathers and forelimbs modified as wings (www.nonpasserine bird definition of non passerine bird by the Free Online Dictionary, Thesaurus and Encyclopedia.htm). Class Aves is divided into two categories i-e Passerine and Non-passerine. Passerine birds are song birds mostly small to medium size. Non-passerine birds are mainly arboreal especially of the Order Coraciiform (Kazmierczak and Perlo, 2000).

Chitral is a district of Malakand division in North West Frontier Province of Pakistan. It is bounded on three sides’ i-e north, south and west by Afghanistan. A narrow territory of Wakhan separates it from Tajikistan while Hunza area separates it from China. It is at an elevation of 1,128m (Atlas, 1997). Altitude of this region is 35⁰50’ N and Longitude is 77⁰47’ E (Roberts, 1991). The study of Avifauna was carried out in this region with the following objectives.

1. To collect data about Passerine and Non-passerines from the study area.
2. To formulate a checklist from previous literature of the birds.
3. To compile a new checklist of the birds on the basis of collected information.
4. To compare new checklist with the previous literature.
5. To enlist new birds (if any) formally not reported.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Chitral was my target area. Target area for the study of Avifauna was divided into different zone. In each zone, appropriate points were selected for the observation of birds. Birds were observed through naked eye and pair of binocular providing least disturbance to them. During visits photographs were taken with the help of digital camera and field notes were prepared by the observation of characteristics features and different posture of the birds such as perching, flying etc. Photographs have been identified by means of field notes and identification keys of Ali and Ripley (1971) and Roberts (1991 and 1992). A checklist

has been piled up from the collected data and it was compared with the previous

literature which has provided new information.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The following birds have been reported in Chitral by Roberts (1991, 1992).

Tadorna ferruginea (**Ruddy Shelduck**) has not been seen in the study area during our visits.

Milvus migrans (**Black Kite**) has been found in the study area during our visits.

Aquila chrysaetos (**Golden Eagle**) has not been found in Chitral during our visits.

Tetragallus himalayensis (**Ram Chukar**) has been noted in the study area during our visits.

Hieraaetus pennatus (**Booted Eagle**) has not been seen in the study area.

Pucrasia maculosa biddulphi (**Koklas Pheasant**) has not been seen in Chitral.

Vanellus gregarious (**Sociable lapwing**) has not been reported in the study area.

Actitis hypoleucos (**Common sand piper**) has not been found in the study area.

Columba leuconota (**Snow Pigeon**) has not been reported in the study area.

Streptopelia orientalis (**Turtle Dove**) has not been seen in the study area.

Jynx torquilla (**Eurasian Wryneck**) has not been seen in the study area.

Otus scops (**Eurasian Scops Owl**) has not been found in Chitral.

Jynx torquilla (**Eurasian Wryneck**) has been seen in Chitral.

Anthus similis (**Persian Rock Pipit**) has been observed in Chitral.

Troglodytes troglodytes (**Wren**) has been found in the study area.



Fig 1: Black Redstart (*Phoenicurus ochruros*)



Fig 2: Citrine Wagtail (*Motacilla citreola*)

Galerida cristata (**Crested Lark**) has been seen in the study area.

Tetragallus himalayensis (**Ram Chukar**) has been noted in Northern Mountain of Chitral.

Gypetus barbatus (**Bearded Vulture**) has been noted in the study area and it has also reported by Roberts (1991), Hasan (2001) and Grewal et al. (2002).

Gyps himalayensis (**Griffon Vulture**) has been found in Chitral and also confirmed by Roberts (1991), Mirza (1998) and Grewal et al (2002).

Gyps Fulvous (**Eurasian Griffon**) has been seen in the study area and also been reported by Grewal et al.(2002).

Buteo rufinus (**Long Legged Buzzard**) has been reported and also noted by Hasan (2001), Grewal et al. (2002).

Falco Tinnunculus (**Eurasian Kestrel**) has been noted in the study area and also

reported by Robert (1991), Mirza (1998) and Grewal et al. (2002).

Alectoris chukar (**Cukar or Rock Partridge**) has been seen in Chitral Valley and also reported by Roberts (1991) and Mirza (1998).

Tringa ochropus (**Green sand piper**) has been noted in Shandur pass (Gilgit/Chitral) and also reported by Roberts (1991) and Ali (2001).

Columba rupestris (**Hill pigeon, Eastern Rock dove**) has been seen in Northern Chitral and also confirmed by Roberts (1991) and Grewal et al, (2002).

Bubo bubo (**Northern Eagle Owl**) has been confirmed as a resident bird of Chitral and also confirmed by Robert (1991), Ali (2001), Mirza (1998), Hasan (2001) and Grewal et al, (2002).



Fig 3: Common Myna (*Acridotheres tristis*)



Fig 4: Long-tailed Shrike (*Lanius schach*)

Upupa epops (**Hoopoe**) has been seen and also reported by Roberts (1991), Ali (2001), Grewal et al, (2002).

Picus squanatus (**Scaly billed green woodpecker**) has been observed and also confirmed by Ali and Ripley (1970), Roberts (1991), Ali (2001) and Grewal et al.(2002).

Motacilla citreola (**Citrine Wagtail**) has been seen and also reported by Ali and Ripley (1973).

Motacilla citreola (**Yellow headed wagtail**) has been seen in the study area and also reported by Ali and Ripley (1973), Roberts (1992) and Ali (2001).

Motacilla alba (**White Wagtail**) has been found in study area and also reported by Ali and Ripley (1973).

Motacilla flava (**Yellow Wagtail**) has been observed in the study area and also reported by Ali and Ripley (1973).

Acridotheres tristis (**Common Myna**) has been found in Chitral and also confirmed by Grewal et al, (2002).

Prunella fulvescens (**Brown Accentor**) has been noted in the study area and confirmed by Grewal et al, (2002).

Saxicola torquata (**Stone Chat**) has been observed in Chitral and also seen by Ali and Ripley (1973), Roberts (1992) and Grewal et al, (2002).

Phoenicurus ochruros (**Black Red Start**) has been seen in the main valley of Chitral and also observed by Ali and Ripley (1973) and Hasan (2001).

Phoenicurus erythrogaster (**Guldenstadt Red Start**) has been noted and also reported by Ali and Ripley (1973) and Hasan (2001).



Fig 5: Russet Sparrow (*Passer rutilans*)



Fig 6: Southern Grey Shrike (*Lanius meridionalis*)

Oenanthe pleschanka (**Pied Weatear**) has been seen in Shandur pass and also observed by Roberts (1992), Ali (2001) and Grewal et al, (2002).

Monticola cinclorhyncha (**Blue headed rock Thrush**) has been observed in the study area and also reported by Roberts (1992), Ali (2001) and Grewal et al, (2002).

Monticola solitarius (**Blue rock Thrush**) has been noted in the study area and also confirmed by Ali and Ripley (1973), Roberts (1992) and Ali (2001).

Turdus viscivorus (**Mistle Thrush**) has been noted in Chitral and also observed by Ali and Ripley (1973), Roberts (1992) and Grewal et al, (2002).

Parus rufonuchalis (**Simla or black Crested Tit**) has been seen and also confirmed by Ali and Ripley (1973) and Roberts (1992).

Parus major (**Great Tit**) has been noted in Southern part of Chitral and also observed by Ali and Ripley (1973), Roberts (1992) and Hasan (2001).

Oriolus oriolus (**Golden Oriole**) has been noted and also reported by Roberts (1992) and Grewal *et al.*, (2002).

Lanius schach (**Long tailed Shrike**) has been noted in Chitral region and also confirmed by Roberts (1992) and Grewal *et al.*, (2002).

Corvus macrorhynchos (**Jungle Crow**) has been reported in study area and also reported by Roberts (1992) and Hasan (2001).

Sturnus pagodarum (**Black headed Myna**) has been noted in lower part of Garm-Chashma in Chitral town and also reported by Roberts (1992).



Fig 7: White Wagtail (*Motacilla alba*)



Fig 8: White-browed Wagtail (*Motacilla maderaspatensis*)



Fig 9: Yellow Wagtail (*Motacilla flava*)

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