

Avian Diversity in Agricultural Landscapes of District Panipat, Haryana, India

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ABSTRACT

Agricultural landscapes provide a variety of habitats and support rich diversity of avifauna. Field surveys were conducted from April 2015 to March 2016, following point-transect and direct observations to document diversity and temporal variation of avifauna in agricultural landscapes of Panipat district of Haryana. A total of 99 bird species under 44 families and 15 orders were recorded, of which 79 were residents, 14 were winter migrants and 6 were summer migrants. Bird species richness was highest for the order Passeriformes (46), followed by Pelecaniformes (15) and rest 13 orders. Ardeidae was the most diverse family in the study area. Most bird species were insectivorous (34) followed by carnivorous (26), omnivorous (24), granivorous (9), frugivorous (5) and nectarivorous (1). Species richness, abundance, diversity and evenness differed significantly ($P < 0.05$) between seasons as well as among habitats. Four species are listed as Near Threatened in IUCN Red List. Moreover, five species having a globally declining population trends were frequently observed in the study area. This emphasizes that study sites are crucial habitat for bird species of conservation priorities. The present study is expected to provide a baseline for future research on management and conservation of existing avian species in agricultural landscapes.

Key words: Avian, diversity, species richness, agricultural landscape, conservation