

**Research Article**

## **Species diversity and abundance of birds in ber (*Zizyphus mauritiana*) crop**

**Kiran Yodha<sup>1\*</sup>, Dharambir Singh<sup>1</sup>, Amit Kour<sup>1</sup>, Renu Yadav<sup>1</sup>, Rahul Kumar<sup>2</sup>**

<sup>1</sup>*Department of Zoology, CCS Haryana Agricultural University, Hisar 125004, Haryana, India*

<sup>2</sup>*Assistant Professor (Zoology), CCS Haryana Agricultural University, College of Agriculture, Bawal-123501, Rewari, Haryana, India*

*Corresponding Author's E-mail: kiranyodha3@gmail.com*

(Received: October 5, 2023; Revised: March 3, 2024; Accepted: March 3, 2024)

### **ABSTRACT**

The present study was conducted to record birds species assemblage in ber crop from September, 2019 to March, 2020 and September, 2020 to March, 2021 at experimental orchard of HAU and village Salemgarh of district Hisar. A total of 33 species from 23 families and 11 orders were recorded during the study period. Passeriformes was the most predominant order at both locations. Avian species were classified based on migratory status, 30 species were resident and 3 species were winter migratory. According to the IUCN Red list, 32 species were under the category of least concern and only one species (Alexandrine parakeet) has been enlisted as near threatened. The most dominant species was Rose-ringed Parakeet with maximum relative abundance (97.47%) in the ripening stage. Insectivores (27.27%) birds were most abundant followed by omnivores (21.21%), carnivores (15.15%), granivores (12.12%), frugivores (9.09%), insectivores/frugivores (6.06%), frugivores/granivores (6.06%) and nectarivores (3.03%). Insectivores, omnivores and carnivores birds were observed to feed exclusively on insects and soil invertebrates and act as biocontrol agents. Thus, ber crop is a pivotal bird habitat. This underscores the importance of these study sites as crucial habitats for the conservation of precedence bird species and dominance of insectivores species helps in regulation of insect pest of ber crop.

**Key words:** Agriculture, Avian, Conservation, Passeriformes, Richness

