

The Flame of the Forest (*Butea monosperma*) and its Mutualistic Interaction with Birds in Summer from Jamkhed Tahsil, Dist. Ahmednagar.

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Abstract: The flame of the forest (*Butea monosperma*), a species native to the Indian subcontinent, play a vital role in supporting biodiversity, particularly in its interactions with avian species in rural and semi-arid areas like Jamkhed tahsil in Ahmednagar district, Maharashtra. This study aims to explore the avian fauna of Jamkhed and the importance of *butea monosperma* in sustaining bird populations during summer season. We emphasize conservation efforts and ecological singnificance by highlighting the relationships between the region's flora and fauna through this investigation. Field surveys were conducted during early morning and late afternoon from February-April 2024.Total 56 bird species was recorded. Through field observation explores the *butea monosperma* role as a food source, nesting and roosting habitat for birds. Result highlight that *Butea monosperma* is a keystone species in supporting avian population by providing nector during the dry season, shelter for nesting and promoting ecological balance through bird-mediated pollination. Birds contribute to the genetic diversity of *Butea monosperma* by facilitating cross-pollination between individual trees. This interaction ensures the tree's reproductive success and enhances its ability to regenerate and persist in the ecosystem.

Keywords: Birds, *Butea monosperma*, Mutualistic interactions, Jamkhed