

Avifaunal Diversity of Petgaon Lake of Chandrapur District (M.S.), India.

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Abstract: *Birds constitute an important component of natural ecosystems and are distributed across a wide range of habitats, including wetlands, agricultural landscapes, forests and grasslands. They play significant ecological roles in food chains, insect control, seed dispersal and pollination. Therefore, documentation of avifaunal diversity is important for understanding the ecological significance of local habitats and supporting their conservation.*

The present study was conducted to document the avifaunal diversity of Petgaon Lake near Petgaon village, Sindewahi Tehsil, District Chandrapur, Maharashtra. The study site is located approximately 10 km from Sindewahi town, while the lake is situated close to the southern side of Petgaon village. The study was carried out for a period of one year, From December 2025 to January 2026 during which 83 bird species belonging to 16 orders and 44 families were recorded. Both resident and migratory bird species were observed during the study period, highlighting the importance of the lake and its surrounding agricultural landscape as a local habitat for birds. The present study provides baseline information on the avifaunal composition of Petgaon Lake and contributes to the understanding of local bird diversity in the Sindewahi region.

Keywords: Avifauna, Petgaon lake, avifaunal

I. INTRODUCTION

Birds belong to the class Aves and are among the most diverse and widely distributed groups of vertebrates. They are well adapted to an aerial mode of life, with characteristic features such as feathers, wings, a lightweight skeleton, a beak and a high metabolic rate. Birds inhabit a wide variety of ecosystems, including forests, grasslands, agricultural landscapes, wetlands, lakes and ponds.

Freshwater bodies such as lakes and ponds provide essential resources for birds, including food, water, shelter, nesting and breeding sites. Agricultural landscapes surrounding these water bodies further enhance habitat availability by providing feeding and resting areas. Hence, documenting avifaunal diversity is important for understanding the ecological significance and biodiversity of local freshwater ecosystems.

The present study was conducted at a water body of Petgaon Lake locally known as “Mama Talav”, situated near Petgaon village in Sindewahi Tehsil, Chandrapur District, Maharashtra, India. Petgaon is located approximately 10 km south of Sindewahi town, and the study site lies in the southern part of the tehsil. The study site is situated at 20.193878° N latitude and 79.642526° E longitude, on the southwestern side of Petgaon village, approximately 0.6 km from the village

Several researchers have documented avifaunal diversity associated with aquatic habitats in India, including Singh (1929), Ali (1932), Kannon (1980), Davidar (1985), Jhingran (1988), Ghoshal (1995), Harney *et al.*, (2013), Joshi (2022), Patel and Gadhihar (2025). These studies highlight the ecological importance of water bodies in supporting diverse bird communities. However, information on avifaunal diversity of many small and locally important water bodies remains limited.

Aquatic vegetation and the availability of insects, crustaceans, molluscs and other aquatic organisms provide important food resources for birds, while open water and surrounding vegetation offer suitable feeding, resting and sheltering

habitats. Therefore, such water bodies can support a diverse avifaunal community throughout the year. Considering this ecological significance, the present study was undertaken to document the avifaunal diversity of Petgaon Lake near Petgaon, Sindewahi Tehsil, Chandrapur District, Maharashtra.

II. MATERIAL AND METHODS

Avian fauna including resident as well as resident migratory and winter visitors birds were recorded during the period of present study. The observation were usually undertaken early in the morning between 6 a.m. to 8 a.m. and in the evening between 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. Birds were observed with the help of a Binocular (10×15 magnification) and photographed using Canon EOS 200D Camera. Identification of avian fauna was done according to the keys given by Woodcock (1980), Ali and Ripley (1995).

III. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Petgaon is a village situated in the Sindewahi tehsil of Chandrapur district, Maharashtra. It is located approximately 10 km from the tehsil headquarters in Sindewahi and around 65 km from the district headquarters in Chandrapur. Petgaon village is a designated Village Panchayat.

Results of this study are valuable, as they serve as baseline information in the development of measures and strategies that will safeguard the wetland from destruction. Likewise, results of this study will also enable us to be aware of the ecological condition of our environment, as birds are important ecological indicators responsive to changes in the environment.

During the present investigation, a total of 83 birds species belonging to 16 different orders and 44 families were recorded from this lake. A total of 83 bird species belonging to 16 orders were recorded from the study area. Among these, Passeriformes was the most represented order with 29 species, followed by Charadriiformes with 11 species, Ciconiiformes with 8 species, Coraciiformes with 6 species, Columbiformes and Cuculiformes with 5 species each, Anseriformes with 4 species, Gruiformes with 3 species, Pelecaniformes, Falconiformes, Galliformes and Psittaciformes with 2 species each, while Podicipediformes, Piciformes, Strigiformes and Apodiformes were represented by 1 species each.

A total of 44 families were represented among the recorded birds. Scolopacidae was the most represented family with 7 species, followed by Anatidae and Muscicapidae with 6 species each; Ardeidae, Columbidae and Cuculidae with 5 species each; Corvidae with 3 species; Phalacrocoracidae, Charadriidae, Gruidae, Psittacidae, Alcedinidae, Sturnidae, Passeridae, Campephagidae and Estrildidae with 2 species each. The families represented by 1 species each were Rhipiduridae, Rallidae, Podicipedidae, Ciconidae, Threskiornithidae, Recurvirostridae, Ciconiidae, Phasianidae, Glareolidae, Meropidae, Coraciidae, Upupidae, Bucerotidae, Lanidae, Dicrodidae, Pycnonotidae, Necatarinidae, Hirudinidae, Sylviidae, Zosteropidae, Phasianidae, Picidae, Strigidae, Apodidae, Oriolidae, Passerinae, Ploceinae and Alaudidae.

Depending on different scientific classifications, as of today there are over 9000 birds species and more than 1250 in India, with almost 150 having become extinct after the arrival of Humans. 25 to 30 avian orders are recognized depending on the taxonomists. According to Osmaston (1922) studied 135 species of birds from Pachmari (M.P.), Ali (1939, 1940) published a list of 278 species of birds from central India, Mujumdar (1984) studied the collection from Baster district (M.P.), Newton *et al.*, (1986) have listed the birds of Kanha Tiger Reserve (M.P.), Ghosal (1995) have listed 231 Species of birds in Kanha Tiger Reserve (M.P.), Wadtkar and Kasambe (2002) reported 171 species of birds at Pohara-Malkhed forest reservoir of Amravati district (M.S.), Yardi *et al.*, (2004) reported 64 species of birds in Salim Ali lake, Aurangabad (M.S.), Kedar and Patil (2005) recorded 60 birds species from Rishi lake Karanja (Lad) of Washim district (M.S.), Pawar *et al.*, (2005) reported 74 species of birds in and around Yedshi lake, Mangrulpir, Washim district (M.S.), Kulkarni *et al.*, (2005) reported 151 species of birds in and around Nanded city (M.S.), Kulkarni and Kanwate (2006) reported 18 species of birds in Dongarkhed irrigation of Hingoli district. (M.S.), Kulkarni *et al.*, (2006) reported 93 species of birds from Shikhachwadi reservoir of Nanded district (M.S.), Kedar *et al.*,

(2008) recorded 74 species of birds in Rishi and Zedshi lake of Washim district (M.S.), Kanwate and Jadhao (2010) recorded 10 species of birds in Bhokar tahsil of Nanded district (M.S.), Kulkarni and Kanwate (2010) reported 62 species of birds of Jaldhara forest of Kinwat of Nanded district (M.S.), Thakor. *et al.*, (2010) reported 104 species of birds from two reservoirs of Khed district, Gujrat, India. Kurhade, Sudhakar (2010) reported 208 species of birds in Jaikwadi reservoirs near Ahmadnagar (M.S.), Narwade *et al.*, (2011) recorded 165 species of birds of Osmanabad district (M.S.), Rasal and Chavan (2011) reported 61 species of birds in local ecosystem of Aurangabad (M.S.), Kukade *et al.*, (2011) recorded 68 birds species of Chhatri lake of Amravati district (M.S.), Harney *et al.*, (2012) recorded 37 species of birds from Kanhala pond of Bhadrawati, District Chandrapur (M.S.), Joshi *et al.*, (2012) reported 64 species of birds in Tawa reservoir of Hoshangabad district (M.P.), Hippargi. *et al.*, (2012) recorded 65 species of birds in a highly fragmented grassland patch near Solapur, Maharashtra and Patel *et al.*, (2012) recorded 70 species of birds of Mahi canal site of Nadiad (Gujrat state), Harney *et al.*, (2013) recorded 37 species of birds from Kanhala pond with preference to feeding habits of Bhadrawati, District Chandrapur (M.S.) and Natarajan Mariappan *et al.*, (2013) recorded 92 species of birds from Different Habitats of Agricultural Ecosystem of Pollachi (T.N.), Harney and Bhute (2014) Diversity of avifauna in and around Chalbardi (Rai) lake near Bhadrawati, Distt. Chandrapur (M.S.), India, Harney (2015) Recorded 99 Species of Birds in Avifaunal diversity of Junona lake near Chandrapur (M.S.), India, Mahajan and Harney (2016) Recorded 55 Species in Avifaunal diversity of Mohabala lake near Bhadrawati, District- Chandrapur (M.S.), India, Shelekar and Harney (2017) Recorded 59 Species in Avifaunal diversity of Gorja lake near Bhadrawati, District- Chandrapur (M.S.), India, Bhute and Harney (2018) Documented 45 Species Spanning 16 Orders and 25 Families in Avifaunal diversity of Nagrala lake of Bhadrawati tehsil in Chandrapur District, Maharashtra State, India, Shelekar and Harney (2020) Listed 71 Species Represents 15 Order and 33 Families in Avifaunal diversity of Jutpani lake of Dharni (Melghat), District- Amravati (M.S.), India, Bansod and Harney (2021) documented 25 Species 11 Orders and 27 families in Avifaunal diversity of Ghotnimbala lake near Bhadrawati, Chandrapur (MS), India, Harney (2022) recorded 108 Species of Birds in Avifaunal diversity of Fly Ash pond of Chandrapur (MS), India. The birds present in and around the Petgaon lake are affected by many factors such as organic pollution, distribution by human activities and lack of maintenance of lake and construction activities, yet the avifauna of Petgaon lake is diverse. Keeping in view the varied avifauna recorded, steps should be taken to do proper maintenance and beautification of the lakes.

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Table 1 Birds species in Sonegaon tukum Lake

Sr. No.	Order/Family	Scientific name	Common name	Habit
1	Rhipiduridae Rhipiduridae	<i>Rhipidura aureola</i>	White Browed Fantail	R
2	Anseriformes Anatidae	<i>Anser indicus</i>	Bar Headed Goose	M
3	Anseriformes Anatidae	<i>Tadorna ferruginea</i>	Brahminy shelduck	M
4	Gruiformes Rallidae	<i>Amaurornis phoenicurus</i>	White-breasted Waterhen	R
5	Podicipediformes Podicipedidae	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>	Little Grebe	RM
6	Ciconiformes Ardeidae	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>	Grey Heron	RM

7	Ciconiformes Ardeidae	<i>Aredeola grayii</i>	Indian Pond Heron	R
8	Ciconiformes Ardeidae	<i>Bubulcus ibis</i>	Cattle Egret	R
9	Ciconiformes Ciconiidae	<i>Ephippiorhyrchos asiaticus</i>	Black Necked Stork	M
10	Ciconiformes Threskiornithidae	<i>Pseudibis papillosa</i>	Black Ibis	RM
11	Ciconiformes Scolopacidae	<i>Gallinago gallinago</i>	Common Snipe	R
12	Pelecaniformes Phalacrocoracidae	<i>Phalacrocorax niger</i>	Little Cormorant	RM
13	Charadriiformes Recurvirostridae	<i>Himantopus himantopus</i>	Black Winged Stilt	R
14	Charadriiformes Charadriidae	<i>Vanellus indicus</i>	Red wattle Lapwing	R
15	Charadriiformes Scolopacidae	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>	Common Sandpiper	RM
16	Ciconiformes Ardeidae	<i>Mesophoyx intermedia</i>	Intermediate Egret	R
17	Ciconiformes Ciconiidae	<i>Mycteria leucocephala</i>	Painted Stork	M
18	Ciconiformes Ardeidae	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>	Little Egret	R
19	Anciriformes Anatidae	<i>Anas poecilorhyncha</i>	Spot Bill Duck	RM
20	Anciriformes Anatidae	<i>Nettapus coromandelianus</i>	Cotton Teal	M
21	Falconiformes Anatidae	<i>Elanus caeruleus</i>	Black Winged Kite	R
22	Falconiformes Anatidae	<i>Milvus migrans</i>	Black Kite	R
23	Galliformes Phasianidae	<i>Fracolinus pondicerianus</i>	Grey Francolin	R
24	Galliformes Gruidae	<i>Porphyrio porphyrio</i>	Purple Moorhen	R
25	Galliformes Gruidae	<i>Fulica atra</i>	Common Coot	M
26	Charadriiformes Glareolidae	<i>Cursorius coromandelicus</i>	Indian Courser	R
27	Charadriiformes Scolopacidae	<i>Tringa nebularia</i>	Common Greenshank	RM
28	Charadriiformes Scolopacidae	<i>Tringa ochropus</i>	Green Sandpiper	M
29	Charadriiformes Scolopacidae	<i>Tringa glareola</i>	Wood Sandpiper	R

30	Charadriiformes Scolopacidae	<i>Tringa totanus</i>	Common Redshank	RM
31	Charadriiformes Scolopacidae	<i>Limosa limosa</i>	Black Tailed Godwit	RM
32	Charadriiformes Charadriidae	<i>Charadrius dubius</i>	Little Ringe Plover	R
33	Columbiformes Columbidae	<i>Stigmatopelia senegalensis</i>	Little Brown Dove	R
34	Columbiformes Columbidae	<i>Treron phoenicopterus</i>	Yellow Footed Green Pigeon	R
35	Columbiformes Columbidae	<i>Columba livia</i>	Rock (Blue) Pigeon	R
36	Columbiformes Columbidae	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>	Eurasian Collared (Indian Ring) Dove	R
37	Columbiformes Columbidae	<i>Streptopelia chinensis</i>	Spotted Dove	R
38	Psittaciformes Psittacidae	<i>Psittacula krameri</i>	Rose Ringed Parakeet	R
39	Psittaciformes Cuculidae	<i>Eudynamys scolopaceus</i>	Asian Koel	R
40	Psittaciformes Cuculidae	<i>Centropus sinensis</i>	Greater Coucul	R
41	Psittaciformes Psittacidae	<i>Psittacula cyanocephala</i>	Plum Headed Parakeet	R
42	Coraciiformes Alcedinidae	<i>Alcedo atthis</i>	Small Blue Kingfisher	RM
43	Coraciiformes Meropidae	<i>Merops orientalis</i>	Small Green Bee Eater	R
44	Coraciiformes Coraciidae	<i>Coracias benghalensis</i>	Indian Roller	RM
45	Coraciiformes Upupidae	<i>Upupa epops</i>	Common Hoopoe	RM
46	Coraciiformes Bucerotidae	<i>Ocyrceros birostris</i>	Indian Grey Hornbill	R
47	Coraciformes Alcedinidae	<i>Ceryle rudis</i>	Pied Kingfisher	R
48	Passeriformes Lanidae	<i>Lanius schach</i>	Rufousbacked Shrike	R
49	Passeriformes Dicruididae	<i>Dicrurus macrocercus</i>	Black Drongo	R
50	Passeriformes Sturnidae	<i>Acridotheres tristis</i>	Common Myna	R
51	Passeriformes Pycnonotidae	<i>Pycnonotus cafer</i>	Red Vented Bulbul	R
52	Passeriformes	<i>Turdoides striat</i>	Jungal Babbler	R

	Muscicapidae			
53	Passeriformes Muscicapidae	<i>Saxicolodius fulicatus</i>	Indian Robin	R
54	Passeriformes Nectarinidae	<i>Cinnyris asiaticus</i>	Purple Sunbird	R
55	Passeriformes Passeridae	<i>Hydrophasianus chirurgus</i>	Pheasant Tailed Jacana	R
56	Passeriformes Hirudinidae	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	Common Swallow	RM
57	Passeriformes Sturnidae	<i>Sturnus contra</i>	Pied Myna	R
58	Passeriformes Corvidae	<i>Corvus splendens</i>	House Crow	R
59	Passeriformes Corvidae	<i>Corvus macrorhynchos</i>	Jungal Crow	R
60	Passeriformes Sylviidae	<i>Chrysomma sinense</i>	Yellow Eyed Babbler	R
61	Passeriformes Muscicapidae	<i>Culicicapa ceylonensis</i>	Grey Headed Canary Flycatcher	RM
62	Passeriformes Muscicapidae	<i>Terpsiphone paradisi</i>	Asian Paradise Flycatcher	RM
63	Passeriformes Muscicapidae	<i>Copsychus saularis</i>	Oriental Magpie Robin	R
64	Passeriformes Campephagidae	<i>Tephrodornis pondicerianus</i>	Common Woodshrike	R
65	Passeriformes Muscicapidae	<i>Saxicola caprata</i>	Pied Bushchat	R
66	Passeriformes Campephagidae	<i>Pericrocotus cinnaoeus</i>	Small Minivet	R
67	Passeriformes Zosteropidae	<i>Zosterops palpebrosus</i>	Oriental White Eye	R
68	Passeriformes Passeridae	<i>Anthus rufulus</i>	Paddy field Pipit	R
69	Galconiformes Phasianidae	<i>Pavo cristatus</i>	Indian Peafowl	R
70	Piciformes Picidae	<i>Dendrocopus mahrattensis</i>	Yellow-Crowned Woodpecker	R
71	Cuculiformes Cuculidae	<i>Clamator jacobinus</i>	Pied Cuckoo	R
72	Cuculiformes Cuculidae	<i>Cuculus canorus</i>	Common Cuckoo	R
73	Cuculiformes Cuculidae	<i>Centropus parroti</i>	Southern Coucal	RM
74	Strigiformes Strigidae	<i>Athene brama</i>	Spotted Owlet	R
75	Apodiformes	<i>Apus affinis</i>	House swift	R

	Apodidae			
76	Pelecaniformes Phalacrocoracidae	<i>Phalacrocorax fuscicollis</i>	Indian Cormorant	R
77	Motacillidae Oriolidae	<i>Oriolus oriolus</i>	Eurasian Golden Oriole	R
78	Passeridae Corvidae	<i>Dendrocitta vagabunda</i>	Rufous (Indian) Treepie	R
79	Passeridae Passerinae	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	House Sparrow	R
80	Passeridae Ploceinae	<i>Ploceus philippinus</i>	Baya Weaver	R
81	Passeriformes Alaudidae	<i>Ereopterix grisea</i>	Ashy Crowned Sparrow Lark	R
82	Passeriformes Estrildidae	<i>Amandava amandava</i>	Red Aavadavat	R
83	Passeriformes Estrildidae	<i>Lonchura malabarica</i>	Indian Silverbill	R

R = Residential

M = Migratory

RM = Residential Migratory

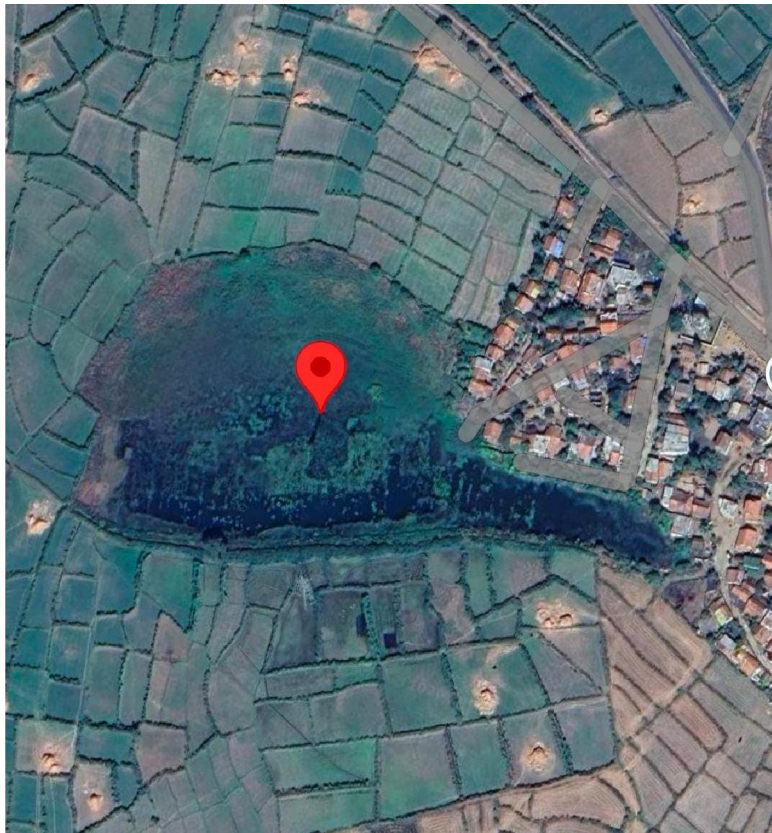


Fig. Satellite image of Petgaon lake.

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