BIRDS IN AND AROUND MACFAST CAMPUS, THIRUVALLA, KERALA

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ABSTRACT

Avifaunal diversity of MACFAST campus and adjoining areas were carried out during March 2016 to June 2017. Ponds, grasslands, rooftops of buildings, playground and paddy fields were the major microhabitats of the study area. Birds were observed using Bushnell binocular (10 x 50), spotting scope (10x- 45x) and identified using physical features with the help of field guides and reference books. A total of 88 species from 12 orders and 38 families were recorded during the study and among these, Passeriformes and Pelicaniformes, dominated the list with 31 and 14 species, respectively. Three species of Near Threatened category (Mycteridae leucocephala, Anhinga melanogaster, Threskiornis melanocephalus) and Ciconia episcopus from Vulnerable category were also recorded. Pompadour Green Pigeon Treron pompadora, Lesser coucal Centropus bengalensis, Pied Cuckoo Clamator jacobinus, Baillon's Crake Zapornia pusilla, White-browed Wagtail Motacilla maderaspatensis, Chestnut-tailed Starling Sturnia malabarica and Indian Paradise-flycatcher Terpsiphone paradise were the important sightings during the survey. The presence of indigenous fruiting trees along with large trees as roosting sites, attract more birds to the campus.

KEYWORDS: Birds-Diversity- Macfast Campus-Thiruvalla-Kerala

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