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Updated Avian Checklist from Dodabetta peak, The Nilgiris, Tamil Nadu

Ratheesh B
Department of Zoology & Wildlife Biology, Government Arts College, Udhagamandalam , The Nilgiris 643002, Tamil Nadu

Abstract: ***The diversity of the birds are recorded by the Avian Biologist with utmost importance inorder to understand migrations patterns, which are the effects of the climate change. The present study was conducted at Doddabeta, the Nilgiris. The study invoves the motioring of avaian diversity for an year. Previous studies reported 189 birds in the upper Nilgiris among this 49 birds in the list were observed by us at Doddabeta. However, 11 species were recorded from Doddabetta are not reported by them. These birds are Bay backed shrike (Lanius vittatus), Black drongo (Dicrurus macrocercus), Common flame back wood pecker (Dinopium javanense), Fire breasted flower pecker (Dicaeum ignipuctus), Indian Edible nest swiftlet (Aerodramus unicolor), Lesser Caucal (Centropus bengalensis), Little spider hunter (Arachnothera longirostra), Loten's sunbird (Nectarinia lotenia), Nilgiri flower pecker (Dicaeum concolor), Tickell's flower pecker (Dicaeum erythrorynchos) and White wagtail (Motacilla alba).They also reported that Asian brown flycatcher (Muscicapa latirostris), Yellow wag tail (Motacilla flava) and Forest wag tail (Dendronanthus indicus) as winter visitors but we observed it as a local migrant within Nilgiris.***
Keywords: Birds, Biodiversity, Doddabetta, Nilgiris

I. INTRODUCTION

Among the twenty eight endemic birds reported from the Western Ghats (Rasmussen & Anderton 2012), eight birds observed to be present in Dodabetta. This includes Nilgiri Wood Pigeon (Columba elphinstonii), Nilgiri Pipit (Anthus nilghiriensis), Nilgiri Laughing Thrush (Garrulux cachinnans), Black and Orange Flycatcher (Ficedula nigrorufa), Nilgiri Flycatcher (Eumyias albicaudatus), White Cheeked Barbet (Megalaima viridis), Small Sun Bird (Leptocoma minima) and the Nilgiri Flower Pecker (Dicaeum concolor). These birds may be considered as residents of Dodabetta peak, hence it was observed to be present in Dodabetta throughout the year. Among the eight endemic birds observed, two birds are flycatchers. The Nilgiri Flycatcher and the Black and Orange Flycatcher, which are considered as nearly threatened according to IUCN. The Nilgiri Wood Pigeon and Nilgiri Pipit are considered as vulnerable as per IUCN red list. The migratory birds observed are the Common Buzzard (Buteo buteo) and Greenish Warbler (Phylloscopus trochiloides). Zarri and Rahmani (2005) reported 189 birds in the upper Nilgiris among this 49 birds in the list were observed by us at Doddabeta. However, 11 species were recorded from Doddabetta are not reported by them. These birds are Bay backed shrike (Lanius vittatus), Black drongo (Dicrurus macrocercus), Common flame back wood pecker (Dinopium javanense), Fire breasted flower pecker (Dicaeum ignipuctus), Indian Edible nest swiftlet (Aerodramus unicolor), Lesser Caucal (Centropus bengalensis), Little spider hunter (Arachnothera longirostra), Loten's sunbird (Nectarinia lotenia), Nilgiri flower pecker (Dicaeum concolor), Tickell's flower pecker (Dicaeum erythrorynchos) and White wagtail (Motacilla alba).They also reported that Asian brown flycatcher (Muscicapa latirostris), Yellow wag tail (Motacilla flava) and Forest wag tail (Dendronanthus indicus) as winter visitors but we observed it as a local migrant within Nilgiris.

1) *Nilgiri Wood Pigeon (Columba Elphinstonii):* This endemic bird species is a resident of Nilgiris. It is now considered as vulnerable as per IUCN status due to its habitat loss (Rasmussen &Anderton, 2012).
2) *Nilgiri Pipit (Anthus Nilghiriensis):* Nilgiri Pipit is another endemic bird (Rasmussen &Anderton, 2012) seen in Dodabetta throughout the year and it is also considered as vulnerable according to IUCN red list.
3) *Common Buzzard (Buteo Buteo):* This bird is distributed throughout the Indian subcontinent (Ali, 2002). It breeds in the Himalayas and migrates to the South of Peninsular India. The bird is seen during the winter months in the Dodabetta and its surroundings.
4) *Greenish Warbler (Phylloscopus Trochiloides):* Breeds in the Himalayasand visits Peninsular India during winter season (Ali, 2002). It is seen in the Dodabetta peak during winter months.
5) *Asian Paradise Flycatcher (Terpsiphone Paradisi):* The Asian Paradise Flycatcher is resident to some places of Indian subcontinent and is also considered to be a migrant in some places(Ali, 2002). The bird is present in Dodabetta only from the month of November to March and hence considered to be a local migrant.

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6) *Alpine Swift (Tachymarptis Melba):* According to Ali (2002), the Alpine Swift is distributed throughout the Indian Union. In Dodabetta the bird is observed to be present from the month of November to March and is migrating to lower elevations (local migrant).
7) *Asian Brown Flycatcher (Muscicapa Latirostris):* Asian brown flycatcher is resident bird of Western Ghats (Ali, 2002) and is considered as a winter visitor to upper Nilgiris (Zarri & Rahmani, 2005). This bird is observed in Dodabetta and its surrounding foot hills during winter and it seems to be migrating to Upper Nilgiris by the end of winter.
8) *Forest Wagtail (Dendronanthus Indicus):* Ali (2002), stated that the Forest Wagtail is sparselydistributed in the Western Ghats and is observed to be a winter visitor by Zarri and Rahmani (2005). This bird is observed in Dodabetta during the months from September to May and seems to be migrating towards foot hills by the end of May. Hence it can be considered as a local migration.

Table 1: Check list of Birds observed from Dodabetta:

S.NO.	Name of the Birds	Scientific Names	Residential Status
1	Alpine Swift	Tachymarptis melba	LM
2	Ashy Prinia	Prinia socialis	R
3	Asian Brown Flycatcher	Muscicapa latirostris	LM
4	Asian Paradise Flycatcher	Terpsiphone paradise	M/W
5	Bay Backed Shrike	Lanius vittatus	R
6	Black and Orange Flycatcher**(Plate 1)	Ficedula nigrorufa	R
7	Black Drongo	Dicrurus macrocercus	R
8	Black Eagle	Ictinaetus malayensis	R
9	Black-Lored Yellow Tit	Parus xanthogenys	R
10	Blue Rock Pigeon	Columba livia	R
11	Common Buzzard	Buteo buteo	M
12	Common Flame Back Woodpecker	Dinopium javanense	R
13	Common Hill Myna	Gracula religiosa	R
14	Common Rosefinch	Carpodacus erythrinus	R
15	Emerald Dove	Chaleophas indica	R
16	Eurasian Black Bird(Plate 2)	Turdus merula	R
17	Fire Breasted Flower Pecker	Dicaeum ignipuctus	R
18	Forest Wagtail	Dendronanthus indicus	LM
19	Great Tit(Plate 3)	Parus major	R
20	Greenish Warbler	Phylloscopus trochiloides	M/W
21	Grey Headed Canary Flycatcher(Plate 4)	Culicicapa ceylonensis	R
22	Grey jungle Fowl	Gallus sonneratii	R
23	Hoopoe	Upupa epops	R
24	House crow	Corvus splendens	R
25	House Sparrow	Passer domesticus	R
26	Indian Edible Nest Swiftlet	Aerodramus unicolor	R
27	Indian Scimitar Babbler	Pomatorhinus horsfieldii	R
28	Indian Shikra	Accipiter badius	R
29	Jungle Crow	Corvus macrohynchos	R
30	Jungle Myna	Acridotheres fuscus	R
31	Large Pied Wagtail	Motacilla maderaspatensis	R
32	Lesser Caucal	Centropus bengalensis	R
33	Little Spider Hunter	Arachnothera longirostra	R
34	Loten's Sunbird	Nectarinia lotenia	R

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35	Nilgiri Flower Pecker	Dicaeum concolor	R
36	Nilgiri Flycatcher**(Plate 5)	Eumyias albicaudatus	R
37	Nilgiri Laughing Thrush┼(Plate 6)	Garrulux cachinnans	R
38	Nilgiri Pipit***	Anthus nilghiriensis	R
39	Nilgiri Wood Pigeon***(Plate 7)	Columba elphinstonii	R
40	Oriental Magpie Robin	Copsychus saularis	R
41	Oriental White Eye	Zosterops palpebrosus	R
42	Pied Bush Chat	Saxicola caprata	R
43	Plain Prinia	Prinia inornata	R
44	Purple Sun Bird	Nectarinia asiatica	R
45	Red-rumped Swallow	Hirundo daurica	R
46	Red-vented Bulbul	Pycnonotus cafer	R
47	Red-whiskered Bulbul	Pycnonotus jocosus	R
48	Scaly-breasted Munia(Plate 8)	Lonchura punctulata	R
49	Small Blue Kingfisher(Plate 9)	Alcedo atthis	R
50	Small Sunbird	Leptocoma minima	R
51	Spotted Dove	Streptopelia chinensis	R
52	Tickell's Blue Flycatcher(Plate 10)	Cyornis tickelliae	R
53	Tickell's Flower Pecker	Dicaeum erythrorynchos	R
54	Velvet-fronted Nuthach	Sitta frontalis	R
55	Verditer Flycatcher	Eumyias thalassinus	R
56	White Cheeked Barbet	Megalaima viridis	R
57	White-bellied Short Wing┼(Plate 11)	Brachypteryx major	R
58	White-Browed Fantail(Plate 12)	Rhipidura aureola	R
59	White Wagtail	Motacilla alba	R
60	Yellow Wagtail	Motacilla flava	R

A. Status Code

R – Resident
M – Migrant
LM – Local Migrant
M/W – Migrant/Winter visitor

** - Near threatened
*** - Vulnerable
┼ - Endangered

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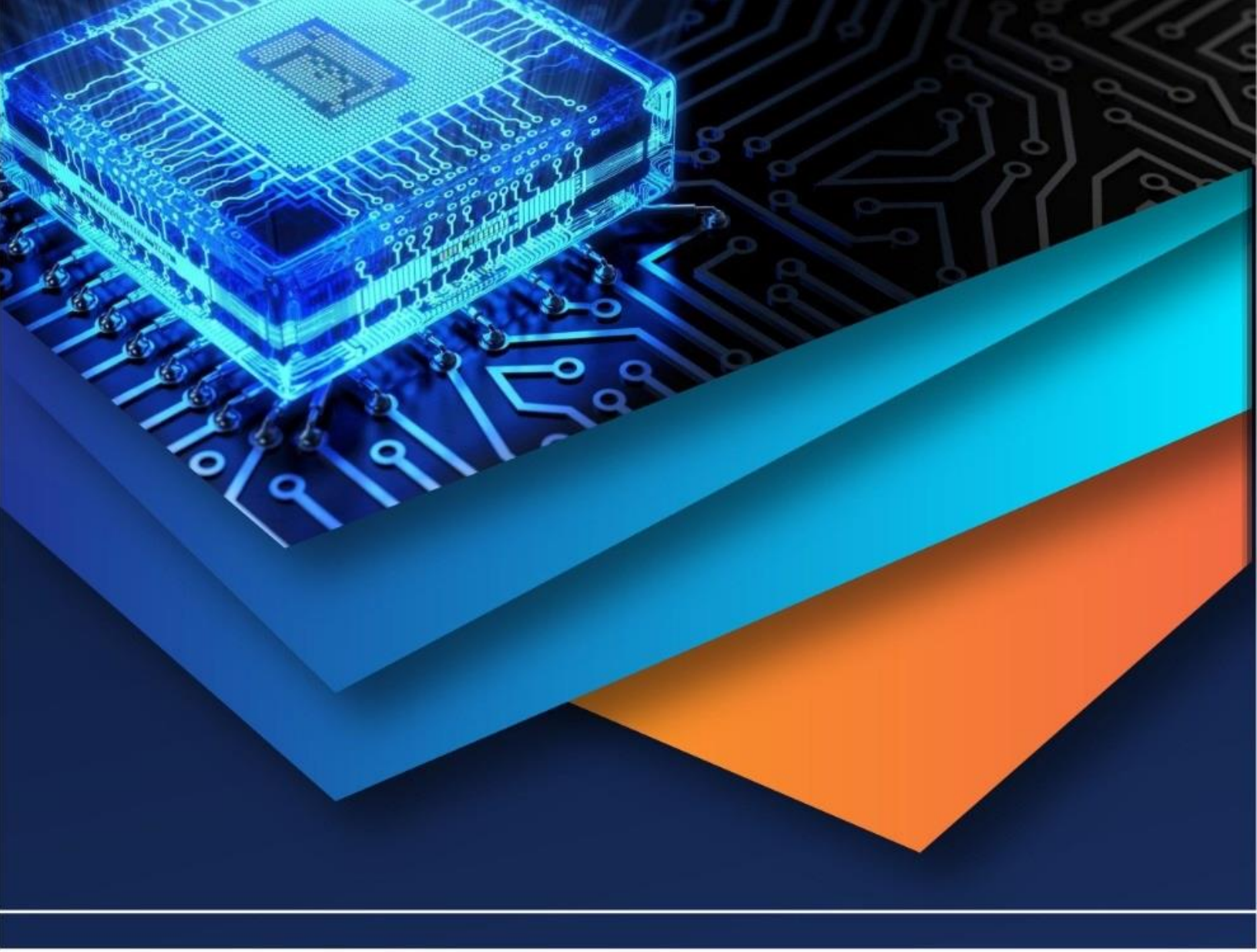

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