

**Bird Diversity in Tamarind Grove, Village- Nallur,
Taluk -Devanahalli, District -Bangalore**

Investigator

Harish Bhat

Co-Investigator

Manjunath P



Published by

KARNATAKA BIODIVERSITY BOARD



(Department of Forests, Ecology and Environment)

Ground Floor, Vanavikas, 18th Cross, Malleshwaram,

Bangalore-03 Ph: 080-23448783, Fax: 080-23440535

E-mail:kbb.kar@gmail.com Website.www.kbbindia.org

2008

Bird diversity study with special reference to Owls **and other raptors at Nallur Tamarind Grove**

Preamble:

From Devanahalli, on the highway to Hosur, a right diversion that is a little over a kilometre leads to Nallur. The nearest town, Vijayapura, is just 12 kms away. The entire stretch starting from Venkatapura used to be an army stronghold in the days of yore. Nallur is a very old settlement (800 years), going by the contours of the land and an extensive patch that was probably demarcated as the royal area. It had a fort ruled by the powerful Paleygars, of whom Choudaraya was the most valiant. The treachery by his daughter in making known the secret underground passage that brought water to the city saw the fall of this fort.

Richness:

The location is known as Nallur Chintalu. This entire area harbours unique tamarind grove spanning to an area of 30 acres, situated at Ballepura of Devanahalli Taluk, Bangalore Rural District. There are about 130 old tamarind trees, aging to about 600 – 800 years! The largest tree is having the circumference of 20 feet and a height of about 30 feet. All these old trees have artistic warty markings on the stem. The yield from these tamarind trees is auctioned every year by the forest department. Some of the plants commonly found in this area are :Wood Apple (*Ferronia elephantum*), Banyan (*Ficus benghalensis*) Neem (*Azadirachta indica*), Jagalganti (*Diospyrus montana*), Uppi gida (*Balanitis roxburghii*), Taggi gida (*Gmelina asiatica*) and Bore hannu (*Zizyphus jujube*). Some of the animals and snakes spotted here are: Jackals, Porcupine, Black napped Hare, Pangolin and Slender Loris and snakes like Russell's Viper, Cobra, Saw Scaled Viper, Rat Snake.

Owls that were roosting on these trees on NH7, have now made there home at Nallur Tamrind Groove which is very suitable to them. From our last observation made, calls of Short Eared Owl (*Asio flammeus*) which is a migratory bird which migrates from Tundra and Artic Region was heard. This needs to be look at in detail

and proper study need to be conducted. This tamarind grove, no doubt is quite rich with avifauna, specially the raptors, requires proper protection of their roosting places. Owls in particular prefer tall and old trees for roosting and breeding.

Methodology:

1. Hour count survey to assess the bird diversity of the study area
2. All out search method to get over all list of the birds in that area
3. Identify the roosting trees of owls and study the feeding pattern and behaviour of them during dusk (6 pm to 8 pm) and during dawn (6 am to 8 am).

Study team:

Manjunath P., Harish Bhat, Pramod Subbarao, Nitin S., Vinay K.

Findings:

Phase I: Study was carried out from 14th July 2007 to 24th November 2007 during early morning and evening hours to find out the bird diversity of the region by the above methods and also to study the distribution of Owl species in the study area along with their behavioral ecology. The half yearly data proves that the owl diversity is quite richer when compared to other raptors in the study area. Apart from these, there are totally about 76 species of birds that were enlisted during the study (Please see Annexure1 - 3). Surveyed season being monsoon and pre winter, the study reveals quite good number of raptors and other birds. As of now, the trees at Nallur Tamarind grove harbors about 6 species of owls, proving to be a perfect habitat for owls. The food available could also be one of the contributing factors for the owls to reside. Other bird species are quite large numbers that depend this habitat. After all season survey, the report can address the objectives and discuss on the same.

Future work to be carried out till June 2008:

Phase two will be carried out in next 6 months which will be winter, post winter and summer. There might be a change in the diversity of raptors and other birds, which needs more surveys as carried till now.

Annexure: 1

Owl diversity and sighting according to season and timings:

Month	Morning/Evening	Owl Species
Early July	Morning	Found only three spotted owlet and few tamarind trees were chopped.

July end	Evening	Found 7 Spotted Owlets, 1 Barn Owl, 1 Eurasian Eagle Owl & Heard Call of Eurasian Scops Owl.
Early August	Morning	Found only two spotted owlets
August end	Evening	Only calls of spotted owlets were heard
Early September	Morning	Spotted only five spotted owlet
September end	Evening	Found seven spotted owlet and a Barn Owl
Early October	Morning hours	Spotted Oriental Scops Owl and Spotted Owlet
Late October	Evening	Mottled Wood Owl and Spotted Owlet
Early November	Morning hours	Eurasian Eagle Owl. Mottled Wood Owl and Spotted Owlet
Late November	Evening	Oriental Scops Owl, Mottled Wood Owl and Spotted Owlet

Annexure: 2

Other raptors sighted during the survey:

Month of July Early morning:

1. Black Kite (*Milvus migrans*)
2. Brahminy Kite (*Haliastur indus*)

Month of July Evening:

1. Black Kite (*Milvus migrans*)

Month of August Early morning:

1. Black Kite (*Milvus migrans*)
2. Brahminy Kite (*Haliastur indus*)
3. Shikra (*Accipiter badius*)

Month of August Evening:

1. Black Kite (*Milvus migrans*)

Month of September Early morning:

1. Black Kite (*Milvus migrans*)
2. Brahminy Kite (*Haliastur indus*)
3. Common Woodshrike (*Tephrodornis pondicerianus*)

Month of September Evening:

1. Black Kite (*Milvus migrans*)
2. Brahminy Kite (*Haliastur indus*)

Month of October Early morning:

1. Black Kite (*Milvus migrans*)
2. Shikra (*Accipiter badius*)

Month of October Evening

1. Black Kite (*Milvus migrans*)

Month of November Early morning;

1. Black Kite (*Milvus migrans*)
2. Brahminy Kite (*Haliastur indus*)
3. Shikra (*Accipiter badius*)
4. Common Woodshrike (*Tephrodornis pondicerianus*)

Month of November Evening:

1. Black Kite (*Milvus migrans*)
2. Brahminy Kite (*Haliastur indus*)
3. Shikra (*Accipiter badius*)

Annexure: 3

Other Birds spotted during the survey period:

1. Ashy Prinia (*Prinia socialis*)
2. Ashy Woodswallow (*Artamus fuscus*)
3. Asian Koel (*Eudynamys scolopacea*)
4. Asian Paradise-Flycatcher (*Terpsiphone paradisi*)
5. Barn Owl (*Tyto alba*)
6. Baya Weaver (*Ploceus philippinus*)
7. Black Kite (*Milvus migrans*)
8. Black Redstart (*Phoenicurus ochruros*)
9. Blue Rock Pigeon (*Columba livia*)
10. Blue-headed Rock Thrush (*Monticola cinclorhynchus*)
11. Blyth's Reed-Warbler (*Acrocephalus dumetorum*)
12. Booted Warbler (*Hippolais caligata*)
13. Brahminy Kite (*Haliastur indus*)
14. Brahminy Starling (*Sturnus pagodarum*)
15. Cattle Egret (*Bubulcus ibis*)

16. Common Cuckoo (*Cuculus canorus*)
17. Common Golden-backed Woodpecker (*Dinopium javanense*)
18. Common Hawk Cuckoo (*Hierococcyx varius*)
19. Common Hoopoe (*Upupa epops*)
20. Common Iora (*Aegithina tiphia*)
21. Common Myna (*Acridotheres tristis*)
22. Common Sandpiper (*Actitis hypoleucos*)
23. Common Stonechat (*Saxicola torquata*)
24. Common Swallow (*Hirundo rustica*)
25. Common Tailorbird (*Orthotomus sutorius*)
26. Common Woodshrike (*Tephrodornis pondicerianus*)
27. Coppersmith Barbet (*Megalaima haemacephala*)
28. Dusky Crag Martin (*Hirundo concolor*)
29. Eurasian Eagle Owl (*Bubo bubo*)
30. Eurasian Golden Oriole (*Oriolus oriolus*)
31. Eurasian Scops Owl (*Otus scops*)
32. Great Tit (*Parus major*)
33. Greater Coucal (*Centropus sinensis*)
34. Greenish Leaf-Warbler (*Phylloscopus trochiloides*)
35. Grey Francolin (*Francolinus pondicerianus*)
36. House Swift (*Apus affinis*)
37. Indian Pond Heron (*Ardeola grayii*)
38. Indian Roller (*Coracias benghalensis*)
39. Indian Treepie (*Dendrocitta vagabunda*)
40. Jerdon's Chloropsis (*Chloropsis cochinchinensis*)
41. Jungle Babbler (*Turdoides striatus*)
42. Jungle Bush-Quail (*Perdicula asiatica*)
43. Jungle Crow (*Corvus macrorhynchos*)
44. Jungle Myna (*Acridotheres fuscus*)
45. Large Cuckoo-Shrike (*Coracina macei*)
46. Large Pied Wagtail (*Motacilla maderaspatensis*)
47. Little Brown Dove (*Streptopelia senegalensis*)
48. Mottled Wood Owl (*Strix ocellata*)
49. Oriental Magpie Robin (*Copsychus saularis*)
50. Oriental Scops Owl (*Otus sunia*)
51. Oriental White-eye (*Zosterops palpebrosus*)
52. Pied Bushchat (*Saxicola caprata*)
53. Purple Sunbird (*Nectarinia asiatica*)
54. Red Munia (*Amandava amandava*)
55. Red-vented Bulbul (*Pycnonotus cafer*)
56. Red-wattled Lapwing (*Vanellus indicus*)
57. Red-whiskered Bulbul (*Pycnonotus jocosus*)
58. Red-winged Bushlark (*Mirafra erythroptera*)
59. Rose-ringed Parakeet (*Psittacula krameri*)
60. Rosy Starling (*Sturnus roseus*)
61. Shikra (*Accipiter badius*)
62. Small Bee-eater (*Merops orientalis*)
63. Small Green-billed Malkoha (*Phaenicophaeus viridirostris*)
64. Small Minivet (*Pericrocotus cinnamomeus*)
65. Spotted Dove (*Streptopelia chinensis*)
66. Spotted Munia (*Lonchura punctulata*)
67. Spotted Owlet (*Athene brama*)
68. Sykes's Crested Lark (*Galerida deva*)

69. Tickell's Flowerpecker (*Dicaeum erythrorhynchos*)
70. Verditer Flycatcher (*Eumyias thalassina*)
71. White-breasted Kingfisher (*Halcyon smyrnensis*)
72. White-breasted Waterhen (*Amaurornis phoenicurus*)
73. White-browed Bulbul (*Pycnonotus luteolus*)
74. White-cheeked Barbet (*Megalaima viridis*)
75. White-headed Babbler (*Turdoides affinis*)
76. White-throated Munia (*Lonchura malabarica*)