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# A COMPARATIVE STUDY OF ABUNDANCE AND DIVERSITY OF WATER BIRD ASSEMBLAGES IN AND AROUND JUNAGADH, GUJARAT, INDIA

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# **ABSTRACT-**

The present study was designed to look into the abundance and trophic groups of birds inhabiting in and around the ponds of Dhandhusar Village (location I The golden lake) and Junagadh city (location II Narsinh Mehta Talav) of district Junagadh, Gujarat from January to December, 2022. The study results revealed a total bird count of 4108 individuals of 35 bird species belonging to 13 orders at location I and 2284 individuals of 24 bird species belonging to 8 orders at location II. The relative abundance (%) of water dependent birds was 70.44% and 37.30% at location I and II respectively. Detailed analysis showed significant difference between the water dependent birds at both



the locations (Student's t-test, t = 2.66, P = 0.05). The higher tree diversity and absence of weeds in and around the ponds at location I seemed to support higher avian species richness and abundance. Involvement of local community might help to check the anthropogenic activities for pond management and water bird conservation.

KEYWORDS: Abundance, Village ponds, Water birds, Pelecaniformes, Gruiformes, Passeriformes.

# INTRODUCTION

Water birds stand out of open and researchers in view of their excellence, overflow, perceivability and social way of behaving. They address various societies and can be utilized as marks of ecological changes. Out of 1340 bird species found in India, 310 species are known to rely upon various water bodies. Kler recorded 14 types of water birds out of tested 51 species having a place with 25 families in 13 orders. Water bodies like stream, lakes, channels and so on are the principal rummaging regions for these water bird species and are viewed as used broadly for settling and perching. Their high efficiency decides concurrence of a few animal types. Water birds involve a huge gathering of animal groups including Anseriformes, Charadriiformes, Ciconiiformes, Gruiformes, Gaviformes, Pelecaniformes and Procellariformes. Town lakes structure a fundamental piece of rustic India which is essentially built for reaping precipitation water and washing of homegrown livestock. They have been generally utilized as a monetarily proficient method for holding water for water system. Town lakes are visited by homegrown steers and furthermore get homegrown waste from town families. Water bird gathering on these lakes relies on states of the lake. Lakes support huge number of transitory and inhabitant bird species because of high dietary benefit. The birds secure

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significant supplements by benefiting from benthic fauna and microscopic fishes. Expanded release of waste water from families, combined with a low invasion rate has immersed these lakes. Numerous lakes have been lost and remaining face expanding strain because of farming area seepage, contamination and metropolitan turn of events. The current review was intended to investigate the species variety of birds occupying in the lakes of Junagadh city and Dhandhusar town in Gujarat state, India. This would be useful in giving data on the impacts of anthropogenic exercises on the earthbound and water-subordinate birds.

# METHOD:

# **STUDY AREA:**

The current examination was embraced in the lakes of two locales specifically Brilliant lake, Dhandhusar town (scope 21.540N and longitude 70.360E) as area I and Narsinh Mehta Talav, Junagadh (scope 21.510N and longitude 70.450E) as area II of region Junagadh, Gujarat, India. The perceptions were required in the months from January to December, 2022. The distance between two areas was 12.2 kilometers. Area I contained open-shade lakes liberated from water weeds arranged inside the neighborhood. The encompassing area of lake was larger part covered by congress grass (Parthenium hysterophorus), and some blossom plants. There were a few nine types of trees to be specific baval (Acacia nilotica), neem (Azadirachta indica), peepal (Ficus religiosa), eucalyptus (Eucalyptus slanted), banyan (Ficus benghalensis), palash (Butea monosperma), ber (Zizipus maurtiana) at area I. The lake at area II, arranged close to human settlement, was to some degree covered by drifting oceanic vegetation and the encompassing region had comparable kind of vegetation as area I. The tree ranch of the area comprises of neem (Azadirachta indica), kikar (Acacia nilotica), peepal (Ficus religiosa), banyan (Ficus benghalensis) and eucalyptus (Eucalyptus slanted)..



The observations were taken once in a week in the morning and evening time. During each visit, bird census was carried out. The point transect method was used to study the bird assemblage in the selected ponds. Identification of birds inhabiting and visiting the study area was done on the basis of visual observations on their morphological characters by using binocular (10 x 47). The movements of the birds was noted as precisely as possible so as to avoid pseudo replication. Bird photography was

also done using Canon powershot SX 70 HS digital camera. Birds were identified on the basis of keys described by Ali. The checklist was prepared using standardized common and scientific names of the birds following. Data collected on occurrences and abundance of bird was subjected to relative abundance as per Shannon-Wieners Index. The bird species were divided into different trophic groups based on their food type: P- feeds on plant material; V/I- feeds on both vertebrates and invertebrates; I-invertebrates; and P/I- on both plants and invertebrates. The trophic groups were represented according to the proportion of number of individuals as well as number of species at both the locations.

# **STATISTICAL ANALYSIS**

Spearman rank correlation analysis was used to compare the number of individuals at both the locations. Mann-Whitney test was used to find significant variation among the number of individuals at both the locations. Student's t-test was carried out to find any significant difference between the numbers of individuals of water dependent birds at both the locations.

# RESULTS

A total of 36 species of birds belonging to 24 families distributed in 13 orders were recorded from the study area. There were counted 4108 birds belonging to 35 species at location I. Out of this, 15 species of birds were water dependent and 20 were terrestrial bird species. At location II, a total of 2284 birds were observed belonging to 24 species, out of which 9 species were water dependent and the rest were terrestrial bird species. There were twelve bird species exclusive to location I as compared to only one species exclusive to location II. Six water-dependent bird species were recorded only at location I. The bird species found at both the locations belonged to orders Charadriiformes, Gruiformes, Pelecaniformes, Anseriformes, Coraciiformes, Apodiformes and Piciformes (Table 1). All the thirteen orders were present in the avian fauna of location I but only 8 orders were represented in the avian fauna of location II. Order Apodiformes, Strigiformes, Anseriformes, Anseriformes, Mareiformes, Strigiformes, II. Order Apodiformes, Strigiformes, Anseriformes, Podicipediformes, Podicipediformes and Piciformes and

S. No	Name of the species	Scientific names	Order	Trophic level	
1.	Black-winged Stilt	Himantopus himantopus	Charadriiformes		
2.	Red-wattled Lapwing	Vanellus indicus	Charadriiformes	l	
3.	Cattle Egret	Bulbulcus ibis	Pelecaniformes	V/I	
4.	Smaller Egret	Egreta garzetta	Pelecaniformes	V/I	
5.	Larger Egret	Casmerodius albus	Pelecaniformes	V/I	
6.	White-breasted Waterhen	Amaurornis phoenicurus	Gruiformes	P/I	
7.	White-breasted Kingfisher	Halcyon smyrensis	Coraciformes	V/I	
8.	Indian Pond Heron	Ardeola grayii	Pelecaniformes	V/I	
9.	Common Red Shank	Tringa tetanus	Charadriiformes		
10.	Common Moorhen	Gallinula chloropus	Gruiformes	P/I	
11.	Purple Moorhen	Porphyrio porphyrio	Gruiformes	P/I	
12.	Spot-billed Duck	Anas poecilorhyncha	Anseriformes	Р	
13.	Little Grebe	Tachybaptus ruficollis	Podicipediformes		
14.	Common Coot	Fulica atra	Gruiformes	P/I	
15.	Oriental White Ibis	Threskiornis melanocephalus	Pelecaniformes	P/I	
16.	Black Ibis	Pseudibis papillosa	Pelecaniformes	P/I	
17.	Asian Pied Starling	Sturnus contra	Passeriformes	P/I	
18.	Common Myna	Acridotheres tristis	Passeriformes	P/I	
19.	Bank Myna	Acridotheres ginginianus	Passeriformes	P/I	
20.	House Crow	Corvus splendens	Passeriformes	P/I	

## Table 1: Bird species composition observed at The golden lake, Dhandhusar village

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S. No	Name of the species	Scientific names	Order	Trophic level
21.	Rose-ringed Parakeet	Psittacula krameri	Psittaciformes	Р
22.	Yellow-legged Green	Treron phoenicoptera	Columbiformes	Р
	Pigeon			
23.	Eurasian Collared Dove	Streptopelia decaocto	Columbiformes	Р
24.	Blue Rock Pigeon	Columbia livia	Columbiformes	Р
25.	Little Green Bee-eater	Merops orientalis	Coraciformes	I
26.	Red-vented Bulbul	Pycnonotus cafer	Passeriformes	P/I
27.	Spotted Owlet	Athene brama	Strigiformes	V/I
28.	Indian Robin	Saxicoloides fulicata	Passeriformes	I
29.	Purple Sunbird	Nectarinia asiatica	Passeriformes	P/I
30.	Black Drongo	Dicrurus macrocercus	Passeriformes	P/I
31.	Greater Coucal	Centropus sinensis	Cuculiformes	V/I
32.	Indian Chat	Cercomela fusca	Passeriformes	I
33.	House Swallow	Hirundo tahitica	Passeriformes	I
34.	House Swift	Apus affinis	Apodiformes	I
35.	Golden-backed Woodpecker	Dinopium javanense	Piciformes	I
36.	Asian Koel	Endynamys scolopacea	Cuculiformes	P/I

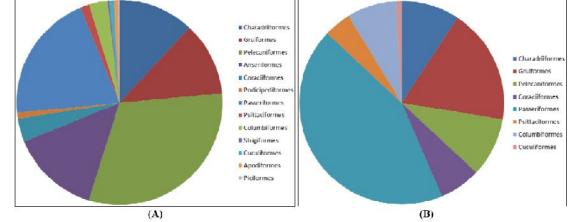
The general wealth of most various species nearby the lakes of area I was Spot-charged Duck (13.97%), Normal Moorhen (13.49%), White-breasted Waterhen (11.51%), Dairy cattle Egret (6.81%) and House Crow were having normal relative bundance of 6.11%. While among the most un-bountiful species were Yellow-legged Green Pigeon (0.19%) and Brilliant supported Woodpecker (0.19%). Purple Moorhen with relative wealth of 8.98%, House Crow (8.84%), Steers Egret (7.31%), Minimal Green Honey bee eater (6.26%) and Normal Myna (5.56%) were the predominant species at area II. More noteworthy Coucal and White-breasted Kingfisher were the most un-plentiful (Table 2).

Table 2: Characterstics of bird species composition observed at Narsinh Mehta Talav,
Junagadh and The Golden Lake, Dhandhusar.

S.	S. Name of the Scientific names D			husar	Narsinh Mehta Talav	
No	species		No. of	Dominance	No. of	Dominance
			individuals		individuals	
1.	Black-winged Stilt	Himantopus himantopus	234	5.70	126	5.52
2.	Red-wattled Lapwing	Vanellus indicus	153	3.72	84	3.68
3.	Cattle Egret	Bulbulcus ibis	280	6.82	167	7.31
4.	Smaller Egret	Egreta garzetta	38	0.93	0	0.00
5.	Larger Egret	Casmerodius albus	31	0.75	0	0.00
6.	White-breasted	Amaurornis	473	11.51	118	5.17
	Waterhen	phoenicurus				
7.	White-breasted Kingfisher	Halcyon smyrensis	30	0.73	7	0.31
8.	Indian Pond Heron	Ardeola grayii	119	2.90	14	0.61
9.	Common Red Shank	Tringa tetanus	102	2.48	0	0.00
10.	Common Moorhen	Gallinula chloropus	554	13.49	97	4.25
11.	Purple Moorhen	Porphyrio porphyrio	214	5.21	205	8.98
12.	Spot-billed Duck	Anas poecilorhyncha	574	13.97	0	0.00
13.	Little Grebe	Tachybaptus ruficollis	38	0.93	0	0.00
14.	Common Coot	Fulica atra	43	1.05	0	0.00

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S. Name of the		Scientific names	ic names Dhandh		husar Narsinh Mehta Talav	
No	species		No. of	Dominance	No. of	Dominance
	-		individuals		individuals	
15.	Oriental White Ibis	Threskiornis	0	0.00	34	1.49
		melanocephalus				
16.	Black Ibis	Pseudibis papillosa	11	0.27	0	0.00
17.	Asian Pied Starling	Sturnus contra	69	1.68	71	3.11
18.	Common Myna	Acridotheres tristis	186	4.53	127	5.56
19.	Bank Myna	Acridotheres	57	1.39	121	5.30
		ginginianus				
	House Crow	Corvus splendens	251	6.11	202	8.84
21.	Rose-ringed	Psittacula krameri	57	1.39	98	4.29
	Parakeet					
22.	Yellow-legged	Treron phoenicoptera	8	0.19	0	0.00
	Green Pigeon					
23.		Streptopelia decaocto	76	1.85	97	4.25
	Dove					
	Blue Rock Pigeon	Columbia livia	35	0.85	81	3.55
25.		Merops orientalis	122	2.97	143	6.26
	eater					
	Red-vented Bulbul	Pycnonotus cafer	50	1.22	118	5.17
	Spotted Owlet	Athene brama	10	0.24	0	0.00
	Indian Robin	Saxicoloides fulicata	52	1.27	100	4.38
	Purple Sunbird	Nectarinia asiatica	56	1.36	89	3.90
	Black Drongo	Dicrurus macrocercus	71	1.73	100	4.38
	Greater Coucal	Centropus sinensis	10	0.24	8	0.35
	Indian Chat	Cercomela fusca	35	0.85	65	2.85
	House Swallow	Hirundo tahitica	12	0.29	0	0.00
	House Swift	Apus affinis	28	0.68	0	0.00
35.	Golden-backed Woodpecker	Dinopium javanense	8	0.19	0	0.00
36.	Asian Koel	Endynamys	21	0.51	12	0.53
		scolopacea				
			4108	100	2284	100



There was a noticeable contrast in the general wealth of water-subordinate birds at both the areas. The relative overflow (%) of water subordinate birds was 70.44% and 37.30% at area I and II

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separately while the overall wealth of earthly birds was 29.56% and 62.70% at area I and II separately. Definite examination showed massive distinction between the water-subordinate birds at both the areas (Understudy's t-test, t = 2.66, P = 0.05).

Gruiformes had all the earmarks of being the most jam-packed request with relative wealth of 31.26% at area I and Passeriformes with relative overflow of 43.48% at area II. This was trailed constantly most bountiful request Passeriformes (20.42%) at area I and request Gruiformes (18.39%) at area II. Presence of plentiful open-shelter lakes, nonattendance of weeds and higher tree variety appeared to lean toward the Gruiformes at area I.

Correlation between the quantities of people of just those species which were available at both the areas was completed. Connection was viewed as critical at 1% degree of importance (Spearman relationship, N=22, p=0.527) (Table 3). There was no huge variety among the quantity of people at both the chose areas at 5% degree of importance (Mann-Whitney Test, Z=0.957).

## Table 3: Results of Spearman rank correlation analysis among Number of individuals observed at The Golden lake, Dhandhusar and Narsinh Mehta Talav, Junagadh.

			Dhandhusar	Narsinh Mehta Talav
Spearman's	The Golden Lake	Correlation coefficient N	1.000 22	0.527** 22
rho	Narsinh Mehta Talav	Correlation coefficient N	0.527** 22	1.000 22

\*\* Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level of significance (2-tailed)

The extent of species and people at both the areas from different trophic gatherings of birds is addressed graphically. Plants and spineless creatures (P/I) feeders were the predominant followed by spineless creatures (I) feeders at both the areas. The wealth of bird people benefiting from plants and spineless creatures (P/I) was 50.05% and 56.65%; overflow of people benefiting from spineless creatures was 19.08% and 22.68% at area I and II separately. The extent of species benefiting from plants and spineless creatures (P/I) was 37.14% and 50.00% at area I and II separately while the extent of species benefiting from spineless creatures was 28.57% and 20.83% at area I and area II individually.

## **DISCUSSION:**

The current review had uncovered that the quantity of water-subordinate bird species, populace count and bird orders were higher in open-covering and oversaw lakes at area I when contrasted with weed filled lakes at area II. Gibbard et al. found that the unpolluted wetland kept up with higher water bird thickness and variety than dirtied ones. It was additionally referenced by him that anthropogenic exercises impacted environment construction of an area which thusly impacted normal property for crazy water, wetland and biodiversity. Kler had tracked down decrease in number of town lakes because of normal or man-made factors during a field overview directed in town lakes. Various laborers had expressed that the water birds being by and large at or close to the highest point of most wetland well established pecking orders were profoundly vulnerable to territory aggravations and thusly viewed as great signs of general state of oceanic environments. Briggs and Holmes noticed decline in water level and filling of the town lakes had adversely impacted the species lavishness and the species creation. Factors like precipitation, temperature stickiness and darkness had impacted the thickness and variety of water-subordinate birds.

In the current review, higher tree variety and nonattendance of weeds at area I appeared to give an assortment of food assets, cover from hunters, perching and settling locales and security from earthbound hunters. Creature squanders unloaded close to the lakes gave an extra and elective nourishment rich eating regimen for the meeting birds. As per Safran et al., the biology of water birds have been firmly connected with the appropriation and wealth of food assets and for some types of water birds benthic spineless creatures were significant dietary parts that impacted environment determination.

Anthropogenic exercises, lesser tree variety and vicinity to street public thruway appeared to be the elements working adversely and brought about lesser overflow, variety and extravagance of birds at area II. Porte and Gupta expressed comparable discoveries and referenced that the unsettling influence because of different exercises like change of horticultural practices and anthropogenic practices by human settlement, trash unloading and so forth impacted avian fauna at lakes. Mohan and Gaur tracked down that extreme human exercises in and around lakes were one of the elements upsetting the water birds in the lakes. Manikannan et al. additionally found that the water bird extravagance and overflow had genuinely declined because of different biological and anthropogenic variables. The current review showed appropriate circumstances for Purple Moorhen at area II benefiting from trash loads. While the lakes at area I appeared to offer better circumstances for Spot-charged Duck, Normal Moorhen and White-breasted Water hen. Comparative outcomes were seen by Kumar et al. He recorded Purple Moorhen just in the lakes with water hyacinth as they gave reasonable perching and settling destinations.

The misfortune and debasement of natural surroundings had been expressed to be the best danger to the drawn out endurance of water birds. Danger to the lakes because of filling, release of sewerage, tossing of homegrown trash, deliberate/accidental presentation of weeds like water hyacinth were the potential variables answerable for decrease in the avian local area in different lakes/water bodies. As per Gupta et al, the very dirtied water connected with unloading of every single disposed of thing in the lakes had been perceived as danger to the water birds. The lakes that needed human obstruction with less contamination alongside giving essential necessities for example food and asylum were found to have higher bird species. Kupekar et al. expressed that the significant danger influencing bird populace was the unlimited living space misfortune and debasement of sea-going encompassing because of human exercises.

The current review stressed the requirement for the restoration of town lakes, their administration, and upkeep of living space heterogeneity as vital piece of bird preservation projects to actually take a look at the downfall of water subordinate bird species in the farmlands of Gujarat. Public support ought to be given its expected significance in agrarian and natural strategies both for provincial restoration yet in addition for protection of water subordinate avian variety.

# **CONCLUSION:**

It very well may be closed from the current review that the town lakes are a fundamental natural surroundings for the water birds giving them settling, taking care of and rearing locales. In this way, a viable method for saving these birds is to save their living spaces. The anthropogenic exercises like trash unloading, filling of lakes and release of sewage have adversely impacted the bird populace. The weed filled lakes alongside lower tree variety had lesser bird consider contrasted with open shade lakes. The review showed tremendous distinction between the water subordinate bird species at both the areas. The current review accentuated the requirement for the restoration of town lakes, their administration, and support of territory heterogeneity as basic piece of bird protection projects to really look at the downfall of water subordinate bird species in the farmlands of Gujarat. Public support ought to be given its expected significance in agrarian and natural approaches both for rustic revival yet additionally for preservation of water subordinate avian variety.

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