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Exploration of Avian Fauna of Faridkot, Punjab, India

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Abstract
A total of 48 Avian species belonging to 37 families are recorded during the years 2019 to 2022 from Faridkot, Punjab, India. Twenty (20) species were documented as dominant, 21 medium and 7 were as rare species form the study area. Anthropogenic factors are responsible for this variations in the diversity of birds. This database about the bird diversity of the region will be useful for ornithologists, biologists, scientists for identification of species and development of conservation strategies of some rare species.

Keywords: Aves, birds, biology, Fauna, Faridkot, Punjab

Introduction
Birds are the important part of ecosystem and generally considered as indicators of human disturbance, pollution, eutrophication in wetlands *etc*. (Singh and Brraich, 2022) [14]. Generally birds also represents the beauty of nature and also take part in many ecological services such as pollination, seed dispersal *etc*. According to Nagya *et al* (2017) [12] birds maintains the health of an ecosystem. Due to insectivores food habit of some birds they also acts as a controller of diseases (Gatesire *et al*., 2014) [4].
Urbanizations and industrializations directly affects the bird diversity. Because these practices of humans responsible for destruction of habitats and due to this some species are threatened, near extinction or some are extinct. Documentation of bird diversity of the regions is need of the hour because it provides information about structure of community and relationships (Kattan and Franco, 2004 [8]; Chettri, 2010 [3]; Singh *et al*., 2013 [15]). Keeping this in view, present study was planned for inventrorizaions of avian diversity of Faridkot, Punjab, India.

Materials and Methods
Present study was conducted in Faridkot during the years 2019 to 2022. Faridkot district is present in south-western part of the state of Punjab, India. Birds were documented from road sides, trees, crops, gardens, homes *etc*. Morphological features such as colour, shape, beak, leg, tail, voice *etc*. were considered for identification of species. Available literature (Ali *et al*., 1994 [1]; Manakadan and Pitte,2001 [10]; Grimmett *et al*., 2009 [7]; Grewal, 2010 [5]; Grimmett *et al*., 2011 [6]; Arlott *et al*., 2014 [2]) also accessed for authentication of species. Photographs of documented species were also clicked using mobile or digital camera.

Results and Discussion
During present study, total 48 bird species member 37 families were documented from Faridkot, Punjab, India during the years 2019 to 2022 (Table.1.). Out of 37 families, Sturnidae is dominant family represented with 3 species followed by Accipiteridae, Anatidae, Ardeidae, Charadriidae, Corvidae, Cuculidae, Leiothrichidae and Muscicapidae with two species each. Rest of the families are monotypic i.e. with one specie each. Out of 48 species, 20 species are abundant, 21 are medium and 7 are rare in the study area. The richness and rareness of species is due to inferences of human in natural habitats of organisms.
Okosodo (2015) [13] documented 77 bird species belonging to 28 families from Nigeria Institute for Oil Palm Research. They observed that some species are directly affected by anthropogenic activities. They suggested birds are responsible for stability of environment and documentation of avian diversity is need of the hour for examination of ecological balancing.
Similar study was also conducted by Mosvi *et al*. (2019) [11] from Langh Lake, Sindh, Pakistan and documented 131 species. They observed human practices are responsible for reduction of birds. They further suggested that it is need of reduction of human activities for conservation of rare bird species.

Table 1: List of Bird species with Zoological Name, family, local name and occurance.

S. No.	Zoological Name	Family	Local Name	Occurrence
1.	*Accipiter badius*	Accipitridae	Shikra	M
2.	*Acridotheres tristis*	Sturnidae	Myna	A
3.	*Ardea cinerea*	Ardeidae	Grey Heron	A
4.	*Ardeola grayii*	Leiothrichidae	Jungle Babbler	R
5.	*Argya affinis*	Leiothrichidae	Yellow billed babbler	R
6.	*Aythya fuligula*	Anatidae	Tufted duck	M
7.	*Bubulcus ibis*	Ardeidae	Cattle Egret	A
8.	*Buceros bicornis*	Bucerotidae	Hornbill	A

9.	*Cacomantis passerinus*	Cuculidae	Grey bellied cuckoo	M
10.	*Centropus sinensis*	Cuculidae	Common Crow Pheasant or Coucal	M
11.	*Ciconia nigra*	Ciconidae	Black strok	M
12.	*Cinnyris asiaticus*	Nectariniidae	Purple sun bird	A
13.	*Columba livia*	Columbidae	Rock Dove or Blue Rock Pigeon	A
14.	*Copsychus saularis*	Muscicapidae	Oriental magpie-robin	A
15.	*Coracias benghalensis*	Coraciidae	Indian roller	M
16.	*Corvis corax*	Corvinae	Crow	M
17.	*Culicicapa ceylonensis*	Stenostiridae	Grey headed canary flycatcher	M
18.	*Cyanocotta cristata*	Corvidae	Blue jay	M
19.	*Dicrurus macrocercus*	Dicruridae	Black drongo	A
20.	*Eudynamys scolopacea*	Cuculidae	Indian Koel	A
21.	*Gallinula chloropus*	Rallidae	Moorhen	A
22.	*Glaucidium cuculoides*	Strigidae	Asian barred owlet	R
23.	*Gracupica contra*	Sturnidae	Asian pied starling	M
24.	*Gyps indicus*	Accipitridae	Vulture	R
25.	*Himantopus himantopus*	Recurvirostridae	Black winged Stilt	M
26.	*Hirundo smithii*	Hirundinidae	Wire tailed swallow	M
27.	*Horornis fortipes*	Cettidae	Browinish flanked bush warbler	M
28.	*Hypsipetes amaurotis*	Pycnonotidae	Bulbul	A
29.	*Jynx torquilla*	Picidae	Wryneck	M
30.	*Lonchura punctulata*	Estrildidae	Scaly breasted munia	A
31.	*Merops orientalis*	Meropidae	Green Bee-Eater	M
32.	*Motacillia alba*	Motacillidae	White wagtail	R
33.	*Oenanthe fusca*	Muscicapidae	Brown rock chat	R
34.	*Oriolus kundoo*	Oriolidae	Indian golden oriole	M
35.	*Passer domesticus*	Passeridae	House sparrow	A
36.	*Pavo cristatus*	Phasianidae	Indian Pea Fowl	M
37.	*Phoeniculus purpureus*	Phoeniculidae	Wood hoopoe	A
38.	*Ploceus velatus*	Ploceidae	Weaver Bird	A
39.	*Prinia inornata*	Cisticolidae	Plain prinia	M
40.	*Psilopogon haemacephalus*	Megalaimidae	Copper Smith Barbet	M
41.	*Psittacula krameri*	Psittaculidae	Northern Roseringed Parakeet	A
42.	*Sturnia pagodarum*	Sturnidae	Brahminy starling	A
43.	*Tadorna ferruginea*	Anatidae	Rubby Shelduck	R
44.	*Turdus bouloul*	Turdidae	Grey winged Black bird	A
45.	*Tyto alba*	Tytonidae	Barn owl	A
46.	*Upupa epops*	Upupidae	European Hoopoe	M
47.	*Vanellus indicus*	Charadriidae	Red- wattled Lapwing	M
48.	*Vanellus malabaricus*	Charadriidae	Yellow wattled lapwing	A

Conclusion

Birds are directly related to the ecological balance of any region. This study provides a preliminary information about occurrence of avian species. It also informs about rare and dominant birds of the study area.

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