



VERTEBRATE FAUNA OF SAGAR ISLAND OF SUNDERBAN, WEST BENGAL

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INTRODUCTION

Sunderban is one of the largest mangrove and a wetland ecosystem with reverien areas, comprises number of rivers, rivulets and creeks. It starts from river Hughly in the west to river Meghna in the east. It lies between $87^{\circ}51' - 92^{\circ}30'$ east longitudes and $21^{\circ}31' - 22^{\circ}30'$ north latitudes. Out of the total forest area only 4264 sq/km are persist within the Indian limit and the rest is in Bangladesh. It harbors variety of fauna and flora in its unique habitat. It is a feeding and breeding site for estuarine crocodile, water monitor and a landing site for olive ridley turtle.

The comprehensive surveys on vertebrate fauna in Sunderban had not been conducted until Mandal and Nandi (1989) reported whole fauna of Sunderbans and Chowdhury and Vyas (2005) listed 41 species of Reptiles in Sunderbans in their study. The present study is an outcome of one survey conducted to Sagar Island area of Sunderban for ten days and encountered five species of fishes, three species of amphibia, six species of reptiles, 25 species of birds and 2 species of mammals. The objectives of the present study are (i) To document vertebrate fauna in Sagar Island of Sunderbans and (ii) To provide a consolidated report on vertebrate fauna in Sagar Island.

STUDY AREA

The study was carried out at different habitats in and around Sagar Island including fresh water ponds, forest, river, paddy field and human inhabited area.

Conditions of present topography of the area

- (i) *Physical features:* In Sunderban tides have influence on water quality and water movement caused by surface and bottom currents. The circulation of water is of very importance in maintaining the population of sessile or benthic organism. Salinity is an important factor in influencing the distribution and biology of the living organisms. The depth and width of the estuary is varied with season and place depends upon influence of fresh water and distance from the sea. Turbidity is high during monsoon and low during winter.
- (ii) *Climate:* The seasons can be classified mainly into three types namely monsoon during which the rain fall is heavy and it starts from July and ends up to October with occasional rain throughout the year. Post-monsoon is characterized by cold weather and starts from November and ends around February. Pre-monsoon is predominated by dry weather with thunder storm, it starts from March and ends in June.
- (iii) *Humidity:* In Sunderban humidity is as high as 80% on average due to the proximity of the Bay of Bengal.
- (iv) *Temperature:* Mean annual maximum and minimum recorded at the latter was 34 degrees Celsius ($^{\circ}\text{C}$) and 20°C , respectively.

METHODOLOGY

The survey was made randomly, selected habitat sites were surveyed by foot and visually searched the prospective habitats. The fauna was searched at deeply shaded forest, inside the soil, fresh water ponds, paddy field, tree trunks, tree holes and bushes. Different species of vertebrate were identified based on the morphological features using field guide and reference books (Grimmett *et al.*, 1999; Kazmierczak and Perlo, 2000; Whitaker and Captain, 2004). The habit and habitat was recorded based on the field observations.

SYSTEMATIC LIST OF THE SPECIES

Phylum CHORDATA
Sub Phylum VERTEBRATA
Class PISCES
Order CYPRINIFORMES
Family CYPRINIDAE

1. *Cirrhinus mrigala* (Hamilton, 1822)
2. *Labeo bata* (Hamilton, 1822)
3. *Crossocheilus latius* (Hamilton, 1822)
4. *Labeo rohita* (Hamilton, 1822)

Order PERCIFORMES
Family OSPHRONEMIDAE

5. *Trichogaster chuna* (Hamilton, 1822)

Class AMPHIBIA
Order ANURA
Family DICROGLOSSIDAE
Subfamily DICROGLOSSINAE
Genus *Euphlyctis*

6. *Euphlyctis cyanophlyctis* (Schneider, 1799)

Genus *Fejervarya*

7. *Fejervarya limnocharius* (Gravenhorst, 1829)

Genus *Hoplobatrachus*

8. *Hoplobatrachus tigerinus* (Daudin, 1803)

Class REPTILIA
Order SQUAMATA
Family GEKKONIDAE
Genus *Hemidactylus*

9. *Hemidactylus brooki* (Gray, 1845)

Family AGAMIDAE
Genus *Calotes*

10. *Calotes versicolor* (Daudin, 1802)

Family CHAEMAELEONIDAE
Genus *Chaemaeleon*

11. *Chaemaeleon zeylanicus* (Linnaeus, 1768)

Family SCINCIDAE
Genus *Mabuya*

12. *Mabuya carinata* (Schneider, 1801)

Family VARANIDAE
Genus *Varanus*

13. *Varanus salvator* (Daudin, 1820)

Family COLUBRIDAE
Genus *Amphiesma*

14. *Amphiesma stolatum* (Linnaeus, 1758)

Genus *Xenochrophis*

15. *Xenochrophis piscator* (Schneider, 1799)

Class AVES
Order CICONIFORMES
Family ARDEIDAE

16. *Egretta garzetta* (Linnaeus, 1766)

17. *Anastonus oscitans* (Boddaert, 1783)

Order ANSERIFORMES
Family ANATIDAE

18. *Tadorna ferruginea* (Pallas, 1764)

19. *Aythya marila* (Linnaeus, 1761)

Order Falconiformes
Family Falconidae

20. *Falco peregrines* (Tunstall, 1771)

Family ACCIPITRIDAE

21. *Gyps bengalensis* (Gmelin, 1788)

22. *Ichthyophaga ichthyaetus* (Horsfield, 1821)

Order CHARADRIFORMES
Family LARIDAE

23. *Larus ridibundus* (Linnaeus, 1766)

24. *Larus argentatus* (Pontoppidan, 1763)

Order COLUMBIFORMES
Family COLUMBIDAE

25. *Streptopelia decaocta* (Frisvaldszky, 1838)

26. *Streptopelia chinensis*.

Order CUCULIFORMES
Family CUCULIDAE

27. *Clamator jacobinus* (Boddaert, 1783)

Order CORACIIFORMES
Family ALCEDINIDAE

28. *Halycon smyrnensis* (Linnaeus, 1758)

Family HALCYONIDAE

29. *Todiarampus chloris* (Boddaert, 1783)

Order PICIFORMES
Family PICIDAE

30. *Dinopium bengalensis* (Linnaeus, 1758)

31. *Chrysocolaptes lucidus* (Scopoli, 1786)

Order PASSERIFORMES
Family PASSERIDAE

32. *Passer domesticus* (Linnaeus, 1758)

Family ESTRILDIDAE

33. *Lonchura striata* (Linnaeus, 1766)

Family PYCNONOTIDAE

34. *Pycnonotus cafer* (Linnaeus, 1766)

Common Name: Red Vented Bulbul
Family STURNIDAE

35. *Sturnus malabarica* (Gmelin, 1789)

Family SYLVIIDAE

36. *Acrocephalus Agricola* (Jerdon, 1845)

Family CORVIDAE

37. *Corvus macrorhynchos* (Wagler, 1827)

38. *Acridotheres fuscus* (Wagler, 1827)

39. *Acridotheres tristis* (Linnaeus, 1766)

Class MAMMALIA
Order RODENTIA
Family MURINAE
Genus *Bandicota*

40. *Bandicota bengalensis* (Gray, 1835)

Genus *Mus*

41. *Mus booduga* (Gray, 1837)

SYSTEMATIC ACCOUNT

Phylum CHORDATA
Sub Phylum VERTEBRATA
Class PISCES
Order CYPRINIFORMES
Family CYPRINIDAE

1. *Cirrhinus mrigala* (Hamilton, 1822)

Common Name: Mrigal

Materials examined: Observed in the field.

Sighting record: Sighted at Ashram pond, Sagar Island; Date: 13th and 15th . 10.2009; time: 9:20 a.m and 12:10.p.m; No of exs. 04.

Notable character in the field: It has bilaterally symmetrical and streamlined body with cycloid scales, usually dark grey above, silvery below. Head without scales. broad mouth with single pair of short rostral barbells.

Habit and habitat: It is found in rivers and tanks.

Food and feeding habit: It is bottom feeder and feeds on decaying vegetation.

Distribution: Northern India.

Conservation status: Least Concern (LC)

2. *Labeo bata* (Hamilton, 1822)

Common Name: Bata

Materials examined: Observed in the field.

Sighting record: Ramakrishnapur area, Sagar Island; Date:16.10.2009; time: 11:10.a.m. No. of exs. 12.

Notable character in the field : It has elongated body, dorsally bluish and ventrally silvery with orange opercle. It has bluntly pointed snout.

Habit and habitat: It is benthopelagic and inhabits rivers.

Food and feeding habit: It is herbivorous and feeds on plant vegetation.

Distribution: West Bengal.

Conservation status: Least Concern (LC)

3. *Crossocheilus latius* (Hamilton, 1822)

Common Name: Gangetic latia

Materials examined: Observed in the field.

Sighting record: Sighted at Kapil Muni Ashram pond, Sagar Island; Date:15.10.2009; time: 12:10.p.m; No. of exs. 06.

Notable character in the field: It is characterised by possessing 8 branched dorsal fin rays, immobile rostral lobes and lacking a dorsal spine.

Habit and habitat: It is found in streams, rivers and lakes.

Distribution: Ganga, Brahmaputra in North India, Mahanadi river of Orissa, Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Mizoram, Meghalaya and Tripura.

Conservation status: Least Concern (LC)

4. *Labeo rohita* (Hamilton, 1822)

Common Name: Rohu

Materials examined: Observed in the field.

Sighting record: Ramakrishnapur area, Sagar Island; Date:15.10.2009; time: 1:10.p.m; No. of exs. 08.

Notable character in the field; It is bilaterally symmetrical, bluish dorsally and silvery ventrally, moderately elongate, eyes dorso-lateral in position, dorsal fin rays three or four, lateral line distinct, complete and running along median line of the caudal peduncle.

Habit and habitat: It is found in fresh water rivers and lakes.

Food and feeding habit: It is herbivorous and feeds on phytoplankton and submerged vegetation.

Distribution; Northern and Central India.

Conservation status: Least Concern (LC)

Order PERCIFORMES
Family OSPHRONEMIDAE

5. *Trichogaster chuna* (Hamilton, 1822)

Common Name: Honey Gourami

Materials examined: Observed in the field.

Sighting record: Ashram pond, Sagar Island; Date:16.10.2009; time: 12:50.p.m; No. of exs. 12.

Notable character in the field; It has compressed body, slightly narrower and ventral fins are threadlike. Dorsally silvery gray to light yellow with a light brown horizontal band in mid body. The belly is bluish black and has a labyrinth organ.

Habit and habitat: It is found in pools, ditches, inundated paddy field, ponds, rivers and lakes covered with vegetation.

Food and feeding habit: It is omnivorous and feeds on white worms, blood worms, brine shrimp, etc.

Distribution: Gangetic province, Assam and Manipur.

Conservation status: Least Concern (LC)

Class AMPHIBIA
Order ANURA Fischer
Family DICROGLOSSIDAE
SubFamily DICROGLOSSINAE
Genus *Euphlyctis*

1. *Euphlyctis cyanophlyctis* (Schneider, 1799)

Common Name: Skipper Frog

Materials examined: Observed in the field.

Sighting record: Kapil Muni Ashram pond, Sagar Island; Date:13, 16 and 19.10.2009; time: 9:20 a. m, 11:10.a.m. and 1:20 p.m; No. of exs. 12.

Notable character in the field; It has darker irregular spot marks all over body and legs. The hind limbs are completely webbed and seen floating on water surface.

Habit and Habitat: It is found in ponds and skips on the water surface.

It is a variations feeling feeds on aquatic insects, beetle, grass hopper was also butterflies.

Food and feeding habit:

Distribution: It occurs throughout India.

Conservation status: Least Concern (LC)

Genus *Fejervarya*

2. *Fejervarya limnocharius* (Gravenhorst, 1829)

Common Name: Paddy Field frog

Materials examined: Observed in the field.

Sighting record: Sighted at Tetultala, Sagar Island; Date:14, 16 and 19.10.2009; time: 11:10.a.m, 12:10 and 4:10 p. m; No. of exs. 06.

Notable character in the field; It has black spots and a pale stripe on its back. It is brown in color, there is a pointed snout and numerous warts on the back.

Habit and habitat: It inhabits vicinity of tanks, water streams and paddy field.

Food and Feeding Habit: It feeds on insects and worms.

Distribution: It occurs throughout India.

Conservation status: Least Concern (LC)

Genus *Hoplobatrachus*3. *Hoplobatrachus tigerinus* (Daudin, 1803)

Common Name: Indian Bull frog

Materials examined: Observed in the field.

Sighting record: Sighted at Ramakrishna Mission, Sagar Island; Date:13, 16, 17, and 18. 10.2009; time: 11.10.a.m; No. of exs. 08

Notable character in the field: It is dorsally brown with darker spots on the body and a pale stripe running along the side of the body. Ventrally yellowish in color.

Habit and habitat: It is aquatic in nature and inhabits wells, tanks and ponds throughout the year.

Food and Feeding Habit: It feeds on insects and worms.

Distribution: It is found throughout India.

Conservation status: Least Concern (LC)

Class REPTILIA

Order SQUAMATA

Family GEKKONIDAE

Genus *Hemidactylus*1. *Hemidactylus brooki* (Gray, 1845)

Common Name: Spotted Indian House gecko

Materials examined: Observed in the field.

Sighting record: Sighted at Kamalapur, Sagar Island; Date:16.10.2009; time: 11.10.a.m; No. of exs. 04.

Notable character in the field: It has series of black spots on its back and brown in color

Habit and habitat: It is terrestrial, inhabits open forest, bark of tree trunks and abandoned buildings.

Food and Feeding Habit: It is insectivorous and feeds on insects and spiders.

Distribution: It is found all over India.

Conservation Status: Least Concern (LC)

Family AGAMIDAE

Genus *Calotes*2. *Calotes versicolor* (Daudin, 1801)

Common Name: Indian Garden lizard

Materials examined: Observed in the field.

Sighting record: Sighted at Bemankhali, Sagar Island; Date: 14, 16 and 18.10.2009; time: 11:10. a.m, 1:50 p.m and 3:20 p.m; No. of exs. 04.

Notable character in the field: It is a greyish brown lizard with swollen head and a series of spines extends from head along its body.

Habit and habitat: It is arboreal in habit and inhabits bushy, shrub and plain areas.

Food and Feeding Habit: It is insectivorous and feeds on insects, spiders and centipedes.

Distribution: It is found all over India.

Conservation Status: Least Concern (LC).

Family CHAEMAELEONIDAE

Genus *Chaemaeleon*3. *Chaemaeleon zeylanicus* (Linnaeus, 1768)

Common Name: Indian chaemaeleon

Materials examined: Observed in the field.

Sighting record: Sighted at Kamalapur, Sagar Island; Date 15 and 20.10.2009 time: 12:35 p.m and 3.10.p.m; No. of exs. 06.

Notable character in the field: It has a long tongue, feet that are shaped into bifid claspers, a prehensile tail, independent eye movement and the ability to change skin colour.

Habit and habitat: It is an arboreal lizard, always moving from one tree to another.

Food and Feeding Habit: It is insectivorous, feeds on insects and spiders.

Distribution: It is found all over India.

Conservation Status: Least Concern (LC)

Family SCINCIDAE

Genus *Mabuya*4. *Mabuya carinata* (Schneider, 1801)

Common Name: Common skink

Materials examined: Observed in the field.

Sighting record: Sighted at Sagar Light House, Sagar Island; Date:17.10.2009; time: 1.10.p.m. No. of exs. 03.

Notable character in the field; It is dorsally brown with small black spots and a light dorso-

lateral band begins at supra ciliary, whereas ventrally yellowish. It has moderate snout, scaly eyelid and no postnasal. A pair of nuchals also present.

Habit and habitat: It is terrestrial, diurnal and inhabits bushy area.

Food and Feeding Habit: It is insectivorous and feeds on insects.

Distribution: Penninsular India, Assam and West Bengal.

Conservation Status: Least Concern (LC)

Family VARANIDAE

Genus *Varanus*

5. *Varanus salvator* (Daudin, 1820)

Common Name: Indian Water monitor.

Materials examined: Observed in the field.

Sighting record: Sighted at Bemankhali, Sagar Island; Date:17.10.2009; time: 12; 40 p. m.; No. of exs. 01.

Notable character in the field: It has muscular body with a long, powerful and laterally compressed tail.

Habit and habitat: It is aquatic, inhabits wet, marshy and humid forest, banks of rivers, estuarine forest and also paddy field flooded with water.

Food and Feeding Habit: It is carnivorous and feeds on bird eggs and fishes.

Distribution: It is found all over India.

Conservation Status: Protected species under Schedule I, IWPA, 1972 and is at risk throughout its range.

Family COLUBRIDAE

Genus *Amphiesma*

6. *Amphiesma stolatum* (Linnaeus, 1758)

Common Name: Striped snake

Materials examined: Observed in the field.

Sighting record: Sighted at Sagar Mela, Sagar Island; Date: 18 and 21.10.2009 time: 8:10 and 10:20.a.m.No. of exs. 03.

Notable character in the field: It is brown in color, has two yellowish stripes running all along

the body and dorsally has black rectangular marks.

Habit and habitat: It is found in moist grassy area, under stones, logs, under leaves, on trees and also in gardens.

Food and Feeding Habit: It feeds on frogs, toads, lizards and also small mammals.

Distribution: It is found all over India.

Conservation Status: Least Concern (LC)

Genus *Xenochrophis*

7. *Xenochrophis piscator* (Schneider, 1799)

Common Name: Checkered keelback

Materials examined: Observed in the field.

Sighting record: Sighted at Ashram Pond, Sagar Island; 16 and 19.10.2009; time: 11.10.a.m.and 12:30p.m.No of exs. 02.

Notable character in the field; It is a olive brown snake has black spots along the body and rounded pupils with black lines running from eye to lips.

Habit and habitat: It is found in marshy area, pools, ditches, canals and shallow edge of rivers covered with vegetation.

Food and Feeding Habit: It feeds on small fishes and frogs.

Distribution: It is found all over India.

Conservation Status: Protected species under Appendix III of CITES.

Class AVES

Order CICONIFORMES

Family ARDEIDAE

1. *Egretta garzetta* (Linnaeus, 1766)

Common Name: Little Egret

Materials examined: Observed in the field.

Sighting record: Sighted at Sagar Light house, Sagar Island; Date:16 and 17.10.2009 time: 11:15.a.m and 12:35 p. m.No of exs. 03.

Notable character in the field : It is pure white with black bill and legs. It has yellow feet and filamentous ornamental feathers

Habit and habitat: It is found in flocks, more gregarious roosts communally on trees and

inhabits marshes, jheels, lakes, rivers, paddy fields and mudflats.

Food and feeding habit: It feeds on fishes, frogs, crustaceans and aquatic insects.

Distribution: It is found throughout India up to 900 m, except NW and NE.

Conservation status: Least Concern (LC)

Family CICONIDAE

2. *Anastonus oscitans* (Boddaert, 1783)

Common Name: Open Billed stork

Materials examined: Observed in the field.

Sighting record: Sighted at Sagar Mission, Sagar Island; Date: 16 and 17.10.2009; time: 11:10.a.m. and 4:30 p.m.; No of exs. 06.

Notable character in the field : It has small stork with white plumage, greenish black wings and tail, greenish horny bill with arching mandibles.

Habit and habitat: It is found singly or in flocks, congregates at the time of nesting and inhabits jheels, marshes, shallow wetlands, paddy fields and river beds.

Food and feeding habit: It feeds on mollusca, frogs and fishes.

Distribution: Widely distributed in India.

Conservation status: Least Concern (LC)

Order ANSERIFORMES

Family ANATIDAE

3. *Tadorna ferruginea* (Pallas, 1764)

Common Name: Brahminy duck

Materials examined: Observed in the field.

Sighting record: Sighted at Sagar Light house, Sagar Island; Date: 15 and 19.10.2009; time: 12:40 p.m and 4:50 p.m. No of exs. 12.

Notable character in the field : It has pale buff head and neck with black feet, beak and tail. It has white wings with prominent metallic green speculum.

Habit and habitat: It is found in pairs or flocks, congregates in lakes, reservoirs and inhabits large open lakes with extensive single banks and mudflats.

Food and feeding habit: It is omnivorous and feeds on grains, aquatic plants, algae and some invertebrates.

Distribution: It is found throughout India.

Conservation status: Least Concern (LC)

4. *Aythya marila* (Linnaeus, 1761)

Common Name: Scaup Duck

Materials examined: Observed in the field.

Sighting record: Sighted at Sagar Light house, Sagar Island; Date:19 and 20.10.2009; time: 4:10p.m and 5:20 p.m.; No of exs; 06.

Notable character in the field: It wholly looks black in color except abdomen looks white. It has blue bill with black tip and greyish yellow legs and feet.

Habit and habitat: It is a gregarious bird, inhabits coastal areas, fresh water lakes and rivers.

Food and feeding habit: It feeds on aquatic mollusca, invertebrates and also seed plants.

Distribution: It is found in Kashmir to Maharashtra, East India.

Conservation status: Least Concern (LC)

Order FALCONIFORMES

Family FALCONIDAE

5. *Falco peregrines* (Tunstall, 1771)

Common Name: Peregrine falcon

Materials examined: Observed in the field.

Sighting record: Sighted at Sagar Mission, Sagar Island; Date:16 and 17.10.2009 time: 3:20 p.m. and 4:10 p.m. No of exs; 06.

Notable character in the field : It has slaty black head and grey under parts barred with blackish marks. It has black cheek stripes contrasting with white chin and throat

Habit and habitat: It is seen in single or in pairs and inhabits near large lakes, rivers and marshes.

Food and feeding habit: It feeds on water fowl, pigeons, partridges and other birds.

Distribution: Widely distributed in India.

Conservation status: Least Concern (LC)

Family ACCIPITRIDAE

6. *Gyps bengalensis* (Gmelin, 1788)

Common Name: White Rumped vulture

Materials examined: Observed in the field.

Sighting record: Sighted at Kamalapur, Sagar Island; Date; 17.10.2009; time: 12.10.p.m. No. of exs. 03.

Notable character in the field : It has an unfeathered head and neck, with broad wings and short tail feathers. The head is tinged in pink and bill is silvery with dark ceres.

Habit and habitat: It builds nest on tall trees often near human habitations and forms roost colonies. It often moves in flocks.

Food and feeding habit: It is a scavenger, feeding mostly on carcasses of dead animals.

Distribution: It is a resident species.

Conservation status: Critically Endangered.

7. *Ichthyophaga ichthyaetus* (Horsfield, 1821)

Common Name: Grey headed fish eagle

Materials examined: Observed in the field.

Sighting record: Sighted at Sagar mela, Sagar Island: Date; 16 and 18.10.2009; time: 11:10.a.m and 3:20 p.m. No. of exs. 03.

Notable character in the field : It has grey breast and upper mantle uniform brown in color, maroon brown breast contrast to grey head.

Habit and habitat: It builds stick nest on trees near water and lays two to four eggs.

Food and feeding habit: It is a fish eater and hunts in lakes, lagoons and large rivers for fishes.

Distribution: Widely distributed in India.

Conservation status: Near Threatened (LR/nt).

Order CHARADRIFORMES

Family LARIDAE

8. *Larus ridibundus* (Linnaeus, 1766)

Common Name: Black Headed gull

Materials examined: Observed in the field.

Sighting record: Sighted at Bemankhali, Sagar Island; Date 19 and 20.10.2009; time: 11:30.a.m. and 2:30 p.m.

Notable character in the field: It has white leading edges to wings and deep red bill, legs and feet.

Habit and habitat: It is gregarious, found along with brown headed gull, scavenger on sea, and inhabits seacoasts, estuaries, large rivers, inland jheels and lakes.

Food and feeding habit: It is carnivorous and feeds on fishes, prawns, crabs, sea birds and insects.

Distribution: It is a winter migrant along coasts of India and common in Western coast.

Conservation status: Least Concern (LC)

9. *Larus argentatus* (Pontoppidan, 1763)

Common Name: European Herring Gull

Materials examined: Observed in the field.

Sighting record: Sighted at Light house, Sagar Island; Date: 16 and 17.10.2009 time: 10:10.a.m and 3:25 p.m.. No of exs. 04.

Notable character in the field : It has grey black plumage and upper wings with white head and under parts. The bill is yellow with a red spot and there is a ring of bare yellow skin around the pale eye.

Habit and habitat: It inhabits sea shores and inland garbage dumps.

Food and feeding habit: It is omnivores and opportunistic feeder. It scavenges from garbage dumps, landfill sites and sewage outflows. It also steals the eggs and young of other birds and seeking small prey in fields, on the coast or in urban areas, or robbing or lapwings of their catches. It also dive from the surface of the water or engage in plunge diving in the pursuit of aquatic prey.

Conservation status: Least Concern (LC)

Order COLUMBIFORMES

Family COLUMBIDAE

10. *Streptopelia decaocta* (Frivaldszky, 1838)

Common Name: Eurasian Collared Dove

Materials examined: Observed in the field.

Sighting record: Sighted at Sagar Mission,

Sagar Island; Date:15 and 16.10.2009; time: 11:15.a.m. and 2: 15 p.m. No of exs. 03.

Notable character in the field: It is grey-buff to pinkish-grey, a little darker above than below. It has a black half-collar edged with white on its nape from which it gets its name. The legs are short and red with a black bill.

Habit and habitat: It is a gregarious species and sizable winter flocks were form where there are food supplies.

Food and feeding habit: It feeds on grain as well as seeds, shoots and insects.

Distribution: It is a migratory species.

Conservation status: Least Concern (LC)

11. *Streptopelia chinensis*

Common Name: Spotted dove

Materials examined: Observed in the field.

Sighting record: Sighted at Chemaguri, Sagar Island; Date:14 and 16.10.2009; time: 10.50.a.m and 6:00 p.m. No of exs. 04.

Notable character in the field : It has long-tail, wings and tail are pale brown and buff. During flight, it shows blackish flight feathers bordered on the inner edge with pale grey

Habit and habitat: It is usually alone or in pairs and calm, but leery of humans and other animals. It builds a very simple stick nest and lays two white, glossy eggs.

Food and feeding habit: It feeds on grass, seeds, and other vegetation.

Distribution: It is a resident species.

Conservation status: Least Concern (LC)

Order CUCULIFORMES

Family CUCULIDAE

12. *Clamator jacobinus* (Boddaert, 1783)

Common Name: Pied Crested cuckoo/ Jacobin cuckoo

Materials examined: Observed in the field.

Sighting record: Sighted at Ramakrishnapur, Sagar Island; Date: 15 and 17 .10.2009; time: 3:20 p. m and 5:10 p. m; No. of exs. 06.

Notable character in the field : It is slim black and white cuckoo with a crest. The white wing patch on the black wing and the pattern make it unmistakable even during flight

Habit and habitat: It inhabits light and densely wooded forests. It was seen singly or in pairs in the wild and also seen in flocks.

Food and feeding habit: It was seen hunting for food within the tree foliage and feeds on insects such as butterflies, bees, wasps, locusts and ants.

Distribution: It is seasonal migratory in the south of Himalayas.

Conservation status: Least Concern (LC)

Order CORACIFORMES

Family ALCEDINIDAE

13. *Halycon smyrnensis* (Linnaeus, 1758)

Common Name: White Breasted Kingfisher

Materials examined: Observed in the field.

Sighting record: Sighted at Lot No. 5, Sagar Island; Date: 16, 19 and 21.10.2009; time: 3:10 p. m, 4:00 p. m and 4:30 p.m; No. of exs. 12.

Notable character in the field: It has large red bill, brown head and under parts with white throat. The rump and tail are brilliant blue color.

Habit and habitat: It is a bold and noisy bird found on telephone wires, poles, branches and inhabits streams, rivers, canals and tanks.

Food and feeding habit: It feeds on fishes, crabs, beetles, grasshopper and other insects.

Distribution: Commonly found in India.

Conservation status: Least Concern (LC)

Family HALCYONIDAE

14. *Todiramphus chloris* (Boddaert, 1783)

Common Name: White Collard Kingfisher

Materials examined: Observed in the field.

Sighting record: Sighted at Lot No. 5, Sagar Island 16 and 17.10.2009; time: 11:40.a.m and 3:20 p.m.; No of exs. 04.

Notable character in the field : It is blue to green above and under parts white with a white collar around the neck giving its name.

Habit and habitat: It is found either single or in pairs and abundance at open plantation.

Food and feeding habit: It feeds on large insects, small lizards, occasionally takes small fish over the reef at low tide.

Distribution: Andaman Nicobar Islands.

Conservation status: Least Concern (LC)

Order PICIFORMES

Family PICIDAE

15. *Dinopium bengalensis* (Linnaeus, 1758)

Common Name: Rumped Golden Flameback

Materials examined: Observed in the field.

Sighting record: Sighted at Tetultala, Sagar Island; Date; 18.10.2009; time: 12:10.p.m; No. of exs. 03.

Notable character in the field : It has black rump. The black throat finely marked with white differentiates it from other golden backed woodpeckers. The head is whitish with a black nape and throat.

Habit and habitat: It is found mainly on the plains going up to an elevation of about 1200m.

Food and feeding habit: It feeds on insects mainly beetle larvae from under the bark, visit termite mounds and sometimes feeds on nectar.

Distribution: It is widely distributed in India, South of the Himalayas and East till the Western Assam valley and Meghalaya.

Conservation status: Least Concern (LC)

16. *Chrysocolaptes lucidus* (Scopoli, 1786)

Common Name: Greater flameback

Materials examined: Observed in the field.

Sighting record: Sighted at Lot No. 5, Sagar Island: 13 and 16.10.2009; time: 10:50 a.m and 1:30p.m; No of exs. 03.

Notable character in the field: It has an erect crest and a long neck. The head is whitish with a black pattern and a straight pointed, long bill. The rump is red and the tail is black.

Habit and habitat: It is found in the foothills of the Himalayas and also inhabits mangrove forest.

Food and feeding habit: It feeds on small invertebrates and the adults drink nectar. They nest in tree holes, laying three or four white eggs.

Distribution: Widely distributed and quite common in parts of its range,

Conservation status: Least Concern (LC)

Order PASSERIFORMES

Family PASSERIDAE

17. *Passer domesticus* (Linnaeus, 1758)

Common Name: House sparrow

Materials examined: Observed in the field.

Sighting record: Sighted at Lot No. 5, Sagar Island; Date: 13, 16 and 17.10.2009; time: 11:10.a.m, 12:30 p.m and 1:40 p.m.. No of exs. 12.

Notable character in the field : It has a large rounded head, short tail and a stout bill.

Habit and habitat: It inhabits nearby human habitation and cultivation lands.

Food and feeding habit: It is an opportunistic feeder and feeds on seeds of grains and weeds.

Distribution: Widely distributed in India.

Conservation status: Least Concern (LC)

Family ESTRILDIDAE

18. *Lonchura striata* (Linnaeus, 1766)

Common Name: White Rumped Munia

Materials examined: Observed in the field.

Sighting record: Sighted at Sagar Light house, Sagar Island; Date: 16, 17 and 19.10.2009; time: 12:10, 2:30 and 4:15 p.m; No. of exs. 06.

Notable character in the field : It has a stubby grey bill and a long black pointed tail. The adults are brown above on the breast, lighter below and the rump is white

Habit and habitat: It occurs in open woodland, grassland and scrub. It also forms nest in a large domed grass structure in a tree, bush or grass.

Food and feeding habit: It is a gregarious bird and feeds on seeds.

Distribution: It is native species.

Conservation status: Least Concern (LC)

Family PYCNONOTIDAE

19. *Pycnonotus cafer* (Linnaeus, 1766)

Common Name: Red Vented Bulbul

Materials examined: Observed in the field.

Sighting record: Sighted at Bemankhali, Sagar Island; Date; 13 and 16.10.2009; time: 10:50 and 11:10 a.m. No. of exs. 04.

Notable character in the field : It has short crest giving the head a squarish appearance and body is dark brown with a scaly pattern while the head is darker or black. The rump is white. Tail is black and tipped in white.

Habit and habitat: It inhabits dry scrub, open forest, plains and cultivated lands.

Food and feeding habit: It feeds mainly on fruits, petals of flowers, nectar, insects and occasionally geckos.

Distribution: In its native range it is rarely found in mature forests.

Conservation status: Least Concern (LC)

Family STURNIDAE

20. *Sturnus malabarica* (Gmelin, 1789)

Common Name: Chestnut-tailed starling (Myna)

Materials examined: Observed in the field.

Sighting record: Sighted at Lot No. 5, Sagar Island; Date: 13, 16 and 17.10.2009; time: 10:20 a.m, 10:30 a.m and 1:10 p.m. No. of exs. 04.

Notable character in the field : Its head and chest are white, underparts are grey with blackish remiges. Bills are yellow with pale blue base.

Habit and habitat: It is found in open woodland and cultivation lands. It builds a nest in hole and lays 3-5 eggs in a clutch.

Food and feeding habit: It is omnivorous and feeds on fruits, nectar and insects.

Distribution: North-east India, Wetsern Ghats.

Conservation status: Least Concern (LC)

Family SYLVIIDAE

21. *Acrocephalus Agricola* (Jerdon, 1845)

Common Name: Paddyfield Warbler

Materials examined: Observed in the field.

Sighting record: Sighted at Kamalapur, Sagar Island; Date 14 and 16.10.2009; time: 10:50 a. m and 12:10.p.m; No. of exs. 05.

Notable character in the field: It has shorter bill and wingspan, clear whitish supercilium. The bill is short and pointed

Habit and habitat: It is found in low vegetation such as long grass, reeds and rice. It lays 4-5 eggs in a nest in grass.

Food and feeding habit: It is insectivorous and feeds on insects and worms.

Distribution: It is a migratory species.

Conservation status: Least Concern (LC)

Family CORVIDAE

22. *Corvus macrorhynchos* (Wagler, 1827)

Common Name: Jungle Crow (Long Billed Crow)

Materials examined: Observed in the field.

Sighting record: Sighted at Bemankhali, Sagar Island; Date: 15 and 16.10.2009; time: 10:20 a.m and 12.10.p.m. No. of exs. 06.

Notable character in the field : It has dark greyish plumage from back of the head, neck and lower body with wings, tail, face and throat glossy black. It has long bill with upper one is thick and arched.

Habit and habitat: It occurs in woodland, parks, gardens, cultivated lands and also on trees.

Food and feeding habit: It is versatile in feeding ranging from ground or in trees. It feeds on a wide range of items and will attempt to feed on anything appearing edible, alive or dead, plant or animal. It is well known for its regular habit of killing domestic chickens, more so than any other species of crow.

Distribution: It is quite common in the south of its range.

Conservation status: Least Concern (LC)

23. *Acridotheres fuscus* (Wagler, 1827)

Common Name: Jungle Myna

Materials examined: Observed in the field.

Sighting record: Sighted at Chemaguri, Sagar Island; Date : 13 and 16.10.2009 time: 11:10.a.m and 3:20 p.m; No. of exs. 03.

Notable character in the field : It has grey plumage, darker on the head and wings. There are large white wing patches obvious during flight and a white tail tip

Habit and habitat: It is commonly found in forest and cultivation land. It builds a nest in hole and lays normal clutch of 3-6 eggs.

Food and feeding habit: It is omnivorous and feeds on fruit, grain and insects.

Distribution: It is a resident species.

Conservation status: Least Concern (LC)

24. *Acridotheres tristis* (Linnaeus, 1766)

Common Name: Common Myna

Materials examined: Observed in the field.

Sighting record: Sighted at Bemankhali, Sagar Island; Date: 16 and 19.10.2009; time: 11:10.a.m and 12:30 p.m No. of exs. 06.

Notable character in the field : It has brown body, black hooded head and the bare yellow patch behind the eye. The bill and legs are bright yellow.

Habit and habitat: It is found in pairs and inhabits open woodland, cultivation and around habitation.

Food and feeding habit: It is omnivorous and feeds on insects, arachnids, crustaceans, reptiles, small mammals, seeds, grain and fruits and discarded waste from human habitation.

Distribution: It is a native species.

Conservation status: Least Concern (LC).

Class MAMMALIA
Order RODENTIA
Family MURINAE
Genus BANDICOTA

1. *Bandicota bengalensis* (Gray, 1835)

Common Name: Lesser Bandicoot rat

Materials examined: Observed in the field.

Sighting record: Sighted at Bemankhali, Sagar Island; 13, 15, 19 and 20.10.2009; time: 10:05 a.m, 11:10.a.m, 12:30 p.m. 2:10 p.m; No. of exs. 12.

Notable character in the field : It has greyish brown to blackish above and dark grey below with short tail. It is short and harsh.

Habit and habitat: It is nocturnal, fossorial and inhabits burrows in the cultivated fields. It is one of the crop pests in India and stores large quantity of grains in its burrow during harvest season.

Food and Feeding Habit: It feeds on vegetable matter.

Distribution: It is found throughout India.

Conservation status: Least Concern (LC).

Genus Mus

2. *Mus booduga* (Gray, 1837)

Common Name: Field Mouse.

Materials examined: Observed in the field.

Sighting record: Sighted at Chemaguri area of Sagar Island; 16 and 18.10.2009 time: 12:10.p.m and 6:10 p.m; No of exs. 03.

Notable character in the field : It is light sandy, dark grey in color and rusty brown above and white below. The fur is soft. The head and body are bicolored.

Habit and habitat: It is nocturnal, fossorial and inhabits irrigated fields, thorn scrub on edges of cultivation.

Food and Feeding Habit: It feeds on vegetable matter and occasionally feeds on insects.

Distribution: It is found throughout India.

Conservation status: Least Concern (LC).

SUMMARY

The present study deals with five species of fishes, three species of amphibia, seven species of reptiles, twenty four species of birds and two species of mammals. The habit and habitat and description were also given for each species studied. The conservation status as per the IUCN, 2011 was also given for all the species studied.

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