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Avifaunal Diversity of Talwara Lake in Hanumangarh District, Rajasthan

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Abstract: Talwara Lake, located in the Hanumangarh district of Rajasthan, serves as a crucial wetland habitat supporting diverse avian species. This study documents the avifaunal diversity based on surveys conducted from February 2019 to January 2021 using point counts and direct observations. A total of 53 bird species belonging to 12 orders and 29 families were recorded, with Passeriformes being the most dominant order (36.96% RDI). Among families, Muscicapidae showed the highest representation (9.43% RDI), followed by Columbidae (7.55% RDI) and Alcedinidae (5.66% RDI). The lake supports a mix of resident (60%), migratory (30%), and residential migrant (10%) species, with varying IUCN conservation statuses (80% Least Concern, 10% Near Threatened, 4% Vulnerable). The study highlights the ecological significance of Talwara Lake for both aquatic (34% of species) and terrestrial birds while emphasizing the need for conservation efforts to protect threatened species, particularly the Near Threatened Black-headed Ibis (Threskiornis melanocephalus) and Vulnerable Greater Coucal (Centropus sinensis).

Keywords: Talwara Lake, avifaunal diversity, Hanumangarh, RDI, IUCN

