

Impact of the Corona Virus Pandemic on Wetland Avifauna Diversity of JAT Region

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Abstract: *Coronavirus pandemic affected not only humans, but also it was affected to the avian biodiversity of Jath region. One of the reasons of decreasing avifauna of wetland birds is human anthropogenic activities. During Pandemic the lockdown was done by government that showed positive effect on the biodiversity. The Tippehalli reservoir is nearer to the sugar factory, the loud voice of siren, the human activities decreased the avifauna. Due to lockdown the sugar factory was closed, that duration some species of birds quickly respond to the lower levels of human activities. Lockdown plays positive effect to the avifauna biodiversity.*

Keywords: Anthropogenic, Siren, Lockdown, Diversity, etc.

I. INTRODUCTION

The corona virus was firstly detected in China Wuhan, this virus was spread in India. The first patient was detected in Kerala (India Today, 2020a) while the first confirmed case of corona virus in Maharashtra was reported on 9 March 2020 in Pune. As the covid spike was largest, and on highest peak not only in world but also in all India. Maharashtra was the hotspot of corona virus (CoVs), It is a group of viruses which affects human beings through zoonotic transmission. (Snehal Lokhandwala and Pratibha Gautam). The corona virus was declared as pandemic due to the spreading honourable prime minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi on March 24, 2020 declared a complete lockdown.

During that period various state governments ruled various restrictions (GOI). Due to the lockdown the environmental pollution was decreased, which affect the positive effect on the flora and fauna diversity. The reduction of nesting sites destruction of avifaunal habitat for the construction purposes declining the number of avifauna (Lad and Patil, 2015). Chilke Arun (2012) reported 58 bird species belonging to 29 families and 9 orders in and order Bamanwala lake of Rajura District Chandrapur (Maharashtra). The Industrial progress of city is one of threat to avian fauna of that area.

II. MATERIALS AND METHODS

The study area of Jath reservoir was visited twice in week during March 2019 to April 2021 during early morning 6.00 to 9.30 am and evening 5.00 to 7.00 pm.

Material

For the better study & for identification the binocular Nikon Aculon A 211 is used. For the photography the camera Nikon 3200 [lense – 50 -150 mm] and zoom camera Nikon P900 is used. Birds were identified on the field using guides by Ali (2002) and Grimmet and Inskipp (2015). During visit the below piscivorous avifauna was spotted in this area.

Study Area

Jath taluka is arid prone but well-developed agricultural area. The landscape of taluka is dotted with many minor and major irrigation reservoir. Geographical the reservoir shows agriculture, human civilisation. The area is surrounded mostly grassland the big trees are less. The area is surrounded mostly grassland the big trees are less. Total area of Jath is 2,258 Km². In agriculture mostly bajra & matki is cultivated in this area commercial fishery is not done in the Kosari reservoir, due to less fishes the piscivorous birds was affected the water is used for household, drinking, washing, farming and fishery.

Photo Plate



Women's washing clothes in wetland



Fishing in Birnal Wetland



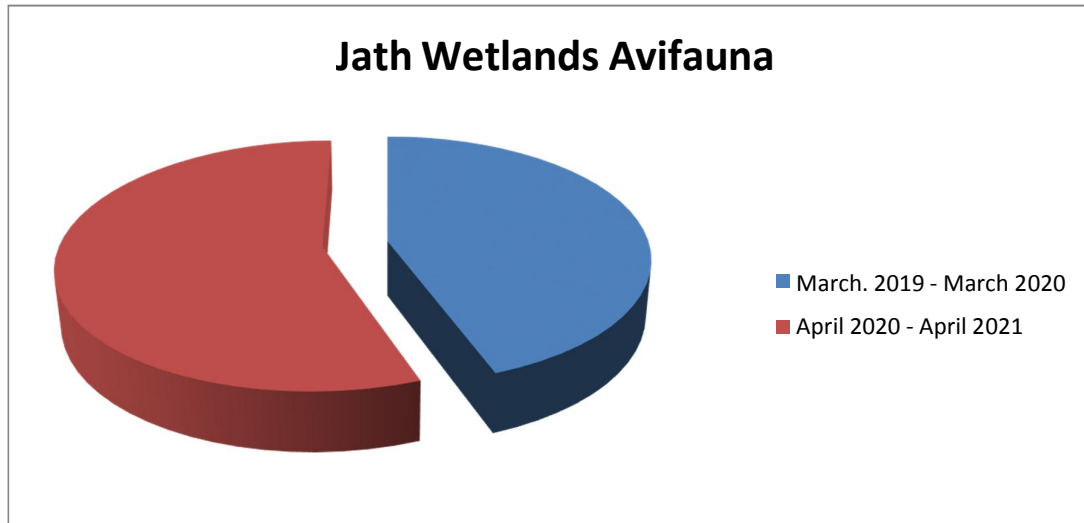
Grazing Animals Near Pratappur Wetland



Vehicles Washing Near Tiphphalli Wetland

III. RESULT

The study was conducted March 2019 to April 2021, before the corona virus spreading, the vehicles pollution, industrialization pollution, human anthropogenic activities, the Tiphphalli reservoir is nearer to the sugar factory, the loud voice of siren, the human activities decreased the avifauna. Due to lockdown the sugar factory was closed, tourism etc. affected the avifauna diversity. But during the spreading of pandemic corona viruses, the National lockdown was declared by Government of India and the whole Maharashtra was also lockdown by following various rules due to that the tourist was restricted, industries were also closed, the vehicle pollution, as well as on restriction on human being to visit outside was strictly restricted due to that the avifauna diversity was increased as well as in various regions the wild animals were seen freely on street. Before lockdown near wetland of Jath about 45 families were observed but during the lockdown 49 families and 126 species were observed. Due to lockdown the sugar factory near Tiphphalli was closed, that duration some species of birds quickly respond to the lower levels of human activities. Lockdown plays a positive effect to the avifauna biodiversity.



IV. CONCLUSION

The pollution, human activities, anthropogenic activities, Industrialisation, grazing animals, affects the nesting, breeding ground and avifauna diversity disturbs the avifauna, after Lockdown the avifauna diversity shows positive effect to the avifauna biodiversity.

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