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An Attempt to Update a Checklist and Some Other Aspects of Murree Hills' Avifauna

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AN ATTEMPT TO UPDATE A CHECKLIST AND SOME OTHER ASPECTS OF MURREE HILLS' AVIFAUNA

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ABSTRACT

Birds are vital component of biodiversity as they are playing a significant role in an ecosystem. Increasing human interference might have affected previously reported diversity of birds. This study was designed to collect information about birds check list data of Murree hills. Area was surveyed at different times of day and different months of season. During visits, pictures of birds were taken and identification as well as preparation of list was carried out. Comparison of new checklist with previous literature was done in order to get revised checklist of existing species.

Key words: Biodiversity, Avifauna, Murree Hills

INTROUCTION

The variety of living organisms in an ecosystem is called biodiversity (Miller and Harley, nd). The birds of specific area or period are called Avifauna (Martin and woodcock, 1980). Birds select habitat where opportunities of successful breeding are suitable e.g. plover builds nest on open beaches and small sandy land (Alcock, 1942). Birds are specialized for their habitat in many regions and the presence of other animals, parasites, predators and competitors may deter birds from another habitat e.g. saddleback is now only restricted to tint island (Forshaw, 1993). The selection of habitat is also related with food shelter from enemies e.g. great spotted woodpecker major of Eurasian forest dwelling bark, gleaning and probing insect (Ford, 1993).

Pakistan, biological diversity is unique from nearly rainless desert to rainiest place on earth, from hot climate areas to snow clad and vast areas of oceans shores, from large lakes to high mountain ranges. Pakistan lies at trijunction of three important biological regions i.e. Ethiopian, Paleartic and Oriental as a result its bird's life has element from all three regions (Guar, 1993). The North West of Pakistan possess good climate with large ranges and sub-tropical rain forests therefore, these areas are rich in bird's biodiversity (Robert, 1991). Undertaken study was intended to prepare a checklist of existing species of the birds after visiting the Murree Hills' and comparing the new checklist from the

previously reported species to observe changes.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Study area was divided into different zones. In each zone, specific points were selected from where maximum visibility of the birds was possible. During visits, materials used in study area are as followed: a note book for making field notes, a pair of binoculars to view birds, digital camera of 700 X for making photographs of birds, a field guide of the birds.

Target areas were visited at different times of the day and different days of the week. During visits photographs of the birds were taken and field notes were prepared by noting date, time and location of birds and by sketching shape, color, size and different postures i-e sitting, flying of the birds. Pictures of the birds were identified with the help of field guides and after identification a checklist was prepared.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Family *Aluadiade*

Eremophila alpepstris (Horned Lark) has been seen in study area and also reported by Roberts (1991), White head (1914).

Family *Acciptriodae*

Gypes fulvus (Eurasian graffian vulture) has not been seen in study area while reported by Roberts (1991), Mirza (1965). *Aqula rapax* (Tawny eagle) has not been observed in study area while reported by Mirza (1965). *Gypes himalayansis* (Himalayan Graffian Vulture) has not been seen in study area while reported by Roberts (1991).

Family *Aegithalidae*

Aegithalos coneinnus (Western red headed tit). It has been seen in study area and also reported by Ali and Ripley (1974), Mirza (1965).

Family *Campiphagadae*

Pericrocotus ethologus (Long tail minivits) has been observed in study area and also reported by Mirza (1965). *Precocohus roseus* (Rosy minivit) has been seen in study area and also reported by Mirza (1965).

Family *Colmbidae*

Streptoplia orientalis (orientalis turtle dove) has been seen in study area and also reported by Mirza (1965). *Strewptoplia chinensis* (spotted Dove) has been observed in study area and also reported by Mirza (1965).

Family *Corvidae*

Corvis macroryncus (Jungle crow) has been seen in study area and also reported by Roberts (1992) and Mirza (1965). *Dandrocitta vagabonda* (Indian tree pies) has been seen in study area and also reported by Roberts (1992) , White head (1910).

Family *Cuculidae*

Cuculus saturatus (Himalayan cukoo) has been seen in study area and also reported by Mirza (1965).

Family *Emberizidae*

Emberiza stewerarti (White capped bunting) has been seen in study area and also reported by Ali and Riply (1974) and Mirza (1965).

Family *Enicurinae*

Enicurs Scouleri (Little fork tail) has not been seen in study area while reported by Mirza (1965).

Family *Falconidae*

Falco subbuteo (Northern Hobby) has not been observed in study area while reported by Roberts (1991) and Buchanan (1903). *Falco pegrinator* (Black shaheen) has not been seen in study area while reported by Roberts (1991) and Whistler (1930).

Family *Fringillade*

Capodalus erythrinus (Himalayan red menteled rose finch) has not been found in study area while reported by Mirza (1965). *Ppyrrhalua aurataca* (Oranged billed finch) has been observed in study area and also reported by Ali and Riply (1974).

Family *Hriundinidae*

Ptyonoprogne rupestris (Crag Martin) has been seen in study area and also reported by Roberts (1991). *Hirundo rustica* (Barn swallow) has been seen in study area and also reported by Roberts (1991), Mirza (1965) and Whistiler (1930). *Hirundo daurica* (red rumped swallow) has been observed in study area and also reported by Roberts (1991) and Mirza (1965). *Delichon daypus* (Kashmir house Martin) has been found in study area and also reported by Roberts (1991) and Mirza (1965).

Family *Motacillidae*

Authus simils (Persion rock pipits) has been observed in study area and also reported by Roberts (1992) and Perreau (1910). *Authus sylvamus* (Uptald pipit) has not been found in study area while reported by Roberts (1991), Mirza (1965) and Whistiler (1930).

Family *Mergalaimidae*

Megalaima asiatica (Blue-throated Barbet) has been notified in study area (Figure 1) that was previously notified by Awan (2012).

Family *Pycontidae*

Hypsipetes madagosoarinsi (blackl bulbul) has been observed in study area and also reported by Mirza (1965).

Figure 1: Blue-throated Barbet *(Megalaima asiatica)*

Family *Picidae*

Denrocopeas himalayensis (Himalayan pied woodpecker) has been seen in study area and also reported by Mirza (1965). *Picus canus sanguiniceps* (Black napped green woodpecker) has not been found in study area while reported by Mirza (1965).

Family *Paridae*

Parus majora (Great tit) has been seen in study area and also reported by Roberts (1992). *Parus monticule* (Green backed tit) has been obsereved in study area and also reported by Mirza (1965), Ali and Ripley (1973). *Parus melanolophus* (Crested backed tit). It has not been obsereved in study area while reported by Mirza (1965), Ali and Riply (1971). *Parus Xanthogenys* (Northeren Yellow checked tit) has not been obsereved in study area while reported by Mirza (1965)., Ali and Riply (1970).

Family *Passeridae*

Passer montonus (Afghan tree sparrow) has been observed in study area and also reported by Mirza (1965), Ali and Riply (1974) and Rattary (1930). *Passer*

rutilans (Common tree sparrow) has been seen in study area and also reported by

Figure 2: Male House Sparrow (*Passer domesticus*)

Mirza (1965), Ali and Ripley (1974). *Passer domesticus* (Male House Sparrow) has also been seen in study area (Figure 2) that was previousl;y notified by Awan (2000).

Family *Phasinndae*

Pucrasia macrolopha biddulphi (Koklass pheasant) has been found in study area and also reported by Roberts (1991) and Mirza (1965). *Lophours impjanus* (Himalayan pheasant) has not been found in study area while reported by Mirza (1965) Roberts (1991).

Family *Psittadae*

Psittacula himalayans (Slaty headed parakeet) has been observed in study area and also reported by Mirza (1965). *Psittacula cyanocephala* (Blossom headed parakeet) has been observed in study area and also reported by Mirza (1965).

Family *Sturnidae*

Acridotheres tristis (Commen myna) has been seen in study area and also reported by Roberts (1992). *Acridotheres fuscus* (Jungle myna) has been seen in study area and also reported by Mirza (1965). *Acridotheres tristis* (Common or Indian

Figure 3: Common or Indian Myna (*Acridotheres tristis*)

Myna*)* was seen in study area (Figure 3) and it was previously reported by Ayesha Imtiaz (2011).

Family *Trglodytidae*

Troglodytes troglodys (Wern) has not been seen in study area while reported by Mirza (1965).

Family *Turdidae*

Zoothera cirina (orange headed ground thrushe) has been seen in study area and also reported by Ali and Ripley (1974). *Zoothera dauma*(Small billed mountain thrush). It has not been seen in study area while reported by Ali and Ripley (1974). *Turdus albocinelus* (White collard black bird) has not been observed in study area while reported by Ali and Ripley (1974) and Mirza (1965). *Turdus boalbo* (Grey winged black bird) has not been seen in study area while reported by Ali and Ripley (1974) and Mirza (1965).

Family *Dicruridae*

Dicrurus macrocerus (Black drogo)

has been seen in study area and also reported by Roberts (1992).

Family *Alcedinidae*

Haleyon smyrnensis (White throated kingfisher) has been seen in study area and also reported by Roberts (1992).

Family *Upupidae*

Upupa epops (Hoopoa) has not been seen in study area while reported by Roberts (1992).

Family *Meropidae*

Merops orientalis (Green bee eater) has been seen in study area and also reported by Roberts (1992).

CONCLUSION

Increasing human interference has affected the previously reported diversity of birds. Many species that were previously observed in Murree Hills have not been observed during current study. Therefore, human interference should be minimized in order to conserve the biodiversity of Murree Hills.

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