

Biodiversity of Birds at Girzani Back Water in Lockdown and its Importance as an Emerging Wetland

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ABSTRACT:

The paper deals with study of Girzani wetland in Malshiras tahsil. The research site falls under semi-draught area. In last 10 decade due to fast climatic change the numbers of species destroy from earth. This is indication of environmental destruction. Birds are bio-indicators & useful model for studying variety of environmental problems. So need to conserve them. Increasing global warming increases the temperature & disrupts an ecosystem as well as natural balance. In last 3 years about 20-25 species of birds are noticed on Girzani wetland while in the last two month lockdown period, we noticed that increasing the number of birds & species visited to Girzani wetland due to calm & pleasant area without disturbances of human being.

KEYWORDS: Avian birds, Wetland & conservation, Lockdown covid-19.

INTRODUCTION:

The Girzani backwater reservoir is about 1Km away from our Shriram Shikshan Sanstha, Paniv. The stream of backwater is passing from our college also. Our Sanstha area reach in bio-diversity, due to this backwater and green as well as pleasant zone of our campus the number of birds visits daily to our campus and because of this we attracted towards study of Ornithology. Normally birds were disturbs by peoples and other interference but from last two months due to lockdown they relief from that disturbances. In the period of lockdown we noticed that the birds not only spend their time in the wetland but also they visited to the urban areas. Lockdown provide calm & pleasant area to birds so without afraid they migrate anywhere. We noticed that some birds stay at tree of our home also & start to make nest. E.g. Purple sunbird, Yellow sunbird, Crow & humming bird makes nest on tree. Lockdown also help to keep control on ecobalance. It decreases the different types of pollution. It is suitable time to birds for breeding purpose. We were hearing various types of whistling sound of various birds in lockdown which not heard in regular time. Overall we want to show that lockdown provide a naturally fresh air, clean water, protective shelter to the birds & suitable breeding place.

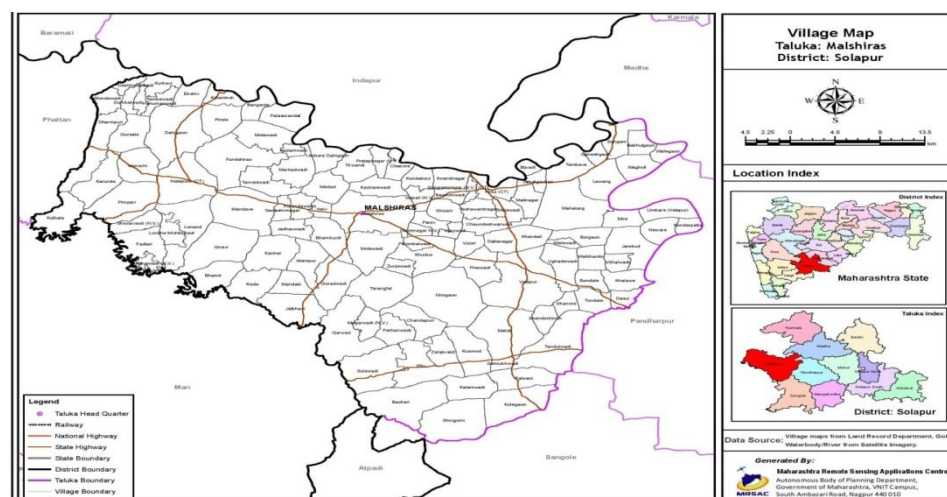
OBJECTIVE: - To Study Biodiversity of Birds at Girzani Back Water in Lockdown and its Importance as an Emerging Wetland.

STUDY AREA:

Malshiras is one of the 11 blocks of Solapur district and it extends approximately between latitudes 17° 36' North and 18° 2' north and between longitudes 74° 41' east and 76°

18' east. The block is on the western side of the district. Malshiras tahsil is situated on the west fringe of Solapur district and lies entirely in Nira basins. The tahsil is bounded on the north by Indapur tahsil (Pune district) on the north-east Madha tahsil, on east by Pandharpur tahsil, on south by Sangola, on west by Man tahsil (Satara district) and north-west side Phaltan (Satara district). In the west part of Malshiras taluka Mahadeo hilly range pass north to south for a few kilometres and Sulakai (715m) is height pick in Malshiras tahsil and few scattered hills in Malshiras tahsil. The tahsil in general has flat or undulating Nira terrain. Girzani is located Centre part in Malshiras tahsil its extension between latitude 17.8617351 and longitude 74.9661153,5677 as per as per Census total population of Girzani village 3,405.

Study Area Map



Bird counting programs are arranged to identify, document and advocate protection and management of birds as well as wetland. It also helps in the development of national conservation strategies. Last two months lockdown helps to increase the biodiversity. Count of wetland birds were arranged as per guidelines of BHNS and Asian Waterfall Census (AWC) at Girzani wetland. The bird population at wetland site under the study area to be majorly noticed. In this site a number of residential as well as migratory birds are observed by bird watcher. Girzani wetland is suitable for breeding purpose to birds.

On this reservoir a 25 species of residential birds as well as 5 species of migratory birds are visited regularly. The residential birds such as Pond heron, Warbler, Green Bee Eater, Drongo, Sparrow, Purple & Yellow Sunbird, Coot, Duck, Geese, Indian Mayana, Parrot, Kingfisher as like this about 25 species of birds visited regularly to wetland but in lockdown this number increases up to 40 types of species due to no disturbance of human population & noise pollution of vehicle.

Besides that the some migratory birds also visited to Girzani wetland such as Flamingo, white Ibis, Black Ibis, Brahmni duck, Siberian crane & spoon billed duck etc. These migratory birds come in winter season (October to March) in India for breeding

purpose & return with their young ones in late summer. About different 100 species of migratory bird comes in Mumbai from other country as well as from Rajasthan & Gujarat. Then visits to Bhigwan bird sanctuary & then comes to small reservoir like Girzani.

There are various types of flamingoes .They are as follows:

- 1) Lesser flamingo: It is also occurs in Africa & Europe.
- 2) Andean flamingo: It is occurs in southern, Peru, Argentina, Bolivia.
- 3) Caribbean flamingo: It is occur in South America, Cuba & Galapagos Island.
- 4) Chilean flamingo: These are also occurs in South America.
- 5) James's flamingo : It is occurs in America ,Europe, Peru Cuba
- 6) Greater flamingo: It is also known as American flamingo. It is occurs in Northwest India, In Africa on the Indian subcontinent, East & South Europe & Siberia, Southern part of America.

Greater flamingos:

These are noisy birds & they live in big groups known as flocks. These are wading birds. These are always occurs in lake. Adults are Pink in colour & young ones or baby flamingos are Grey in colour. These are handsome & pleasant bird. Flamingoes are very tall bird & have long legs. They have curved bill which is used for mud probing & find the food. The weight of flamingo is up to 4 Kg & height up to 145 Cm. The life span of flamingo is about 47Yrs. They were flying up to height of 4.5 Km. Baby flamingos known as Chicks or Sparks. Egg shell is Brown or White with Yellow or Orange yolk. The pink colour of flamingo is due to beta & alpha carotenoid pigments.

The food of flamingo is invertebrates & green algae from saline water & shallow water. Flamingos are powerful& strong fliers but not good swimmers. They migrate from Africa & the Indian subcontinent area to Mumbai. They are travelling about thousand miles of distance from Africa to India. They travels about 375 miles (600 Km) distance in one night while rarely migrate in daylight due to bad climatic condition & predators such as a Eagle. Flamingos migrate to warmer climate due to water converted into snow by fall in temperature. They fly between best food source & nesting ground. They are migrating in summer as well as winter. Eggs are edible as well as meat & tongue is nutritive. Hence the hunting of bird can be takes place in large amount. It mostly visited to Kutch, Gujarat& Mumbai. The occurrence of migratory birds on Girzani reservoir is very rare because of unprotective area.

Here need to ban on human activities such as farming, grazing & hunting as well as protect the reservoir as wetland. So need to conserve this reservoir as small sanctuary.

Covid-19 is curse to man but boon to the birds. It provide food, shelter, clean water & protective environment to nesting & breeding for the bird .It help to increase the number of

birds & species of birds. All the birds help to keep ecobalance, pollination, food chain, food web. Hence need to avoid human disturbance & noise at reservoir & protect the wetland of Girzani From Destruction. So Conserve This Area For Breeding & Nursery Bed To The Birds.

CONCLUSION:

After two months lockdown period in case of birds, we conclude that, Girzani wetland is suitable to birds as breeding ground .It help to grassland ecosystem as well as pond ecosystem .It provide food, shelter, & nursery bed to the brooders. Lockdown help to increase the rate of visitor birds on Girzani wetland .It also help for pollination. Here, need of conservation of Girzani wetland area as small bird sanctuary.

SUGGESTION:

- To avoid destructions of biodiversity at Girzani wetland.
- To conserve endangered species of birds.
- To avoid grazing, farming & hunting type of human activities.
- To protect & preserve this Girzani backwater reservoir as small bird sanctuary.

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