

# A Preliminary Checklist of Birds in Azmat Abad Village Thanna Mandi District Rajouri of Jammu and Kashmir

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## Research Article

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## ABSTRACT

Birds play an important role in the ecosystem as long-distance pollinators, scavengers as well as bio control agents of various crop pests and thus to be considered as bio-indicators. Different birds have different habitats, some are aerial, some are terrestrial, some are aquatic, some lives near the bank of the reservoir. In this survey, the bird diversity has been recorded for the first time as a preliminary checklist purpose of Azmat Abad Village of Thelsil Thanna Mandi of District Rajouri of J and K The Field survey was done from August to October 2020. Total 9 species of terrestrial Birds have been recorded. The preliminary checklist is provided for the undertaking of future research and conservation as well as management on the bird's diversity of Azmat Abad village.

## INTRODUCTION

Birds are 'warm-blooded' vertebrates, with fore-limbs modified to wings, and skins covered with feathers. Vertebrates are characterised by having a spinal column and a skull. 'Warm blooded' or homoiothermic (constant temperature) means that their body temperature is kept more or less constant and above that of their surroundings [1]. Typically, the forelimbs as wings give birds the power of flight although there are some flightless birds. In some cases (e.g. penguins and puffins) the wings are used for swimming under water.

All birds reproduce by laying eggs which are fertilised internally before laying. The skull and lower jaw are extended forward into mandibles which make a beak. The bird's legs and toes are covered with overlapping scales. Birds possess a third, transparent eyelid, the nictitating membrane, which can move across the eye [2]. The birds rich Union territory of Jammu and Kashmir with 28 important bird areas (Islam and Rahmani, 2012) is home to 12 globally threatened bird species and six near-threatened species. Many researchers, young birders and enthusiasts have contributed to the avian baseline for the Union territory [3]. The current study has been done for the exploration of bird diversity, and their conservation status in the Azmat Abad village area of district Rajouri of J and K. By knowing the bird diversity in this area, help the future researchers to know about bird conservation and their proper management policies in this region.

## MATERIALS AND METHODS

In order to study the bird diversity uniformly throughout the study area 2 transects were laid covering most of the study area. The length of transect varies from 3 km to 6 km and width depends upon the terrain of the transect, which usually varies from few meters to 400 m.

**Transect 1:** Azmat to Dhanna : The habitat of the transect was that of a mixed forest type in which dominant tree species was churu, pyrius pashai and the whole area was covered with *Arisaema* sp., *Iris cashmeriana*. and *Digitalis purpurea*. Length of transect was 2 km.

**Transect 2:** Saghri 9 Dhoke to sukhsar: The habitat of the transect was that of mixed forest type in which dominant tree species were *Pinus wallichiana*, *Cedrus deodara* and *Quercus* sp. Length of transect was 6 km

### Species Identification

The field observations were made with the naked eyes, binocular and the images were photographed with Nikon DSLR D54000 filed camera [4]. The species identification and authentication were carried by consulting the field Guides. The online bird identification was done on Indian Birds, Ask id's of Indian Birds, iNaturalist app etc. proved quite handy in bird identification.

### Study area

Azmat abad village of thaana mandi district Rajouri , Jammu and Kashmir, India is situated at a distance of 26 km from district headquarters and is stretched between 33°56,501 lat- and 74°56'12" longitudes. The altitude of the study area ranges from 1668 m. Azmat Abad village is also connect to Mughal road. The upper reaches of the study area receive heavy snowfall from Dec-April and winter is severe there, whereas the lower reaches have a pleasant season throughout the year [5-8]. The basic floristic composition of the study area varies from that of a sub-tropical to sub-temperate forest with 4 distinct seasons a year, Spring (March May), Summer (June-August), Autumn (September November) and Winter (December-February) [9,10]. The study area is dominated by coniferous forests, although broad leaved, mixed forest and alpine pastures are also found in some higher reaches like D.KG , rattan peer, sukh sar etc.,

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

A total of 9 species of birds was recorded first time in Azmat Abad village. The field observation and data collected in Azmat abad village in first phase area shows that the area is supporting good bird diversity (Figures 1 and 2).

Figure 1: *Urocissa flavirostris*.



Figure 2: *Urocissa flavirostris*.



## CONCLUSION

The study proves that the area is having healthy fauna and thus Government needs to take the serious steps for further conservation to conserve the habitat of avian fauna so as to protect the future loss of their habitats. Government should take necessary action.

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