

Building evidence for conservation globally

Journal of Threatened TAXA



10.11609/jott.2024.16.12.26187-26330

www.threatenedtaxa.org

26 December 2024 (Online & Print)

16(12): 26187-26330

ISSN 0974-7907 (Online)

ISSN 0974-7893 (Print)

Open Access





Publisher

Wildlife Information Liaison Development Societywww.wild.zooreach.org

Host

Zoo Outreach Organizationwww.zooreach.org

Srivari Illam, No. 61, Karthik Nagar, 10th Street, Saravanampatti, Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu 641035, India
Registered Office: 3A2 Varadarajulu Nagar, FCI Road, Ganapathy, Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu 641006, India
Ph: +91 9385339863 | www.threatenedtaxa.org
Email: sanjay@threatenedtaxa.org

EDITORS

Founder & Chief Editor

Dr. Sanjay Molur

Wildlife Information Liaison Development (WILD) Society & Zoo Outreach Organization (ZOO), Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu 641006, India

Deputy Chief Editor

Dr. Neelesh Dahanukar

Noida, Uttar Pradesh, India

Assistant Editor

Dr. Chaithra Shree J., WILD/ZOO, Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu 641006, India

Managing Editor

Mr. B. Ravichandran, WILD/ZOO, Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu 641006, India

Associate Editors

Dr. Mandar Paingankar, Government Science College Gadchiroli, Maharashtra 442605, India**Dr. Ulrike Streicher**, Wildlife Veterinarian, Eugene, Oregon, USA**Ms. Priyanka Iyer**, ZOO/WILD, Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu 641006, India

Editorial Board

Dr. Russel Mittermeier

Executive Vice Chair, Conservation International, Arlington, Virginia 22202, USA

Prof. Mewa Singh Ph.D., FASc, FNA, FNAsc, FNAPsy

Ramanna Fellow and Life-Long Distinguished Professor, Biopsychology Laboratory, and Institute of Excellence, University of Mysore, Mysuru, Karnataka 570006, India; Honorary Professor, Jawaharlal Nehru Centre for Advanced Scientific Research, Bangalore; and Adjunct Professor, National Institute of Advanced Studies, Bangalore

Stephen D. Nash

Scientific Illustrator, Conservation International, Dept. of Anatomical Sciences, Health Sciences Center, T-8, Room 045, Stony Brook University, Stony Brook, NY 11794-8081, USA

Dr. Fred Pluthero

Toronto, Canada

Dr. Priya Davidar

Sigur Nature Trust, Chadapatti, Mavinhalla PO, Nilgiris, Tamil Nadu 643223, India

Dr. John Fellowes

Honorary Assistant Professor, The Kadoorie Institute, 8/F, T.T. Tsui Building, The University of Hong Kong, Pokfulam Road, Hong Kong

Prof. Dr. Mirco Solé

Universidade Estadual de Santa Cruz, Departamento de Ciências Biológicas, Vice-coordenador do Programa de Pós-Graduação em Zoologia, Rodovia Ilhéus/Itabuna, Km 16 (45662-000) Salobrinho, Ilhéus - Bahia - Brasil

Dr. Rajeev Raghavan

Professor of Taxonomy, Kerala University of Fisheries & Ocean Studies, Kochi, Kerala, India

English Editors

Mrs. Mira Bhojwani, Pune, India**Dr. Fred Pluthero**, Toronto, Canada**Mr. P. Ilangovan**, Chennai, India**Ms. Sindhu Stothra Bhashyam**, Hyderabad, India

Web Development

Mrs. Latha G. Ravikumar, ZOO/WILD, Coimbatore, India

Typesetting

Mrs. Radhika, ZOO, Coimbatore, India**Mrs. Geetha**, ZOO, Coimbatore India

Fundraising/Communications

Mrs. Payal B. Molur, Coimbatore, India

Subject Editors 2021–2023

Fungi

Dr. B. Shivaraju, Bengaluru, Karnataka, India

Dr. R.K. Verma, Tropical Forest Research Institute, Jabalpur, India

Dr. Vatsavaya S. Raju, Kakatiya University, Warangal, Andhra Pradesh, India

Dr. M. Krishnappa, Jnana Sahyadri, Kuvenpu University, Shimoga, Karnataka, India

Dr. K.R. Sridhar, Mangalore University, Mangalagangotri, Mangalore, Karnataka, India

Dr. Gunjan Biswas, Vidyasagar University, Midnapore, West Bengal, India

Dr. Kiran Ramchandra Ranadive, Annasaheb Magar Mahavidyalaya, Maharashtra, India

Plants

Dr. G.P. Sinha, Botanical Survey of India, Allahabad, India

Dr. N.P. Balakrishnan, Ret. Joint Director, BSI, Coimbatore, India

Dr. Shonil Bhagwat, Open University and University of Oxford, UK

Prof. D.J. Bhat, Retd. Professor, Goa University, Goa, India

Dr. Ferdinand Boero, Università del Salento, Lecce, Italy

Dr. Dale R. Calder, Royal Ontario Museum, Toronto, Ontario, Canada

Dr. Cleofas Cervancia, Univ. of Philippines Los Baños College Laguna, Philippines

Dr. F.B. Vincent Florens, University of Mauritius, Mauritius

Dr. Merlin Franco, Curtin University, Malaysia

Dr. V. Irudayaraj, St. Xavier's College, Palayamkottai, Tamil Nadu, India

Dr. B.S. Kholia, Botanical Survey of India, Gangtok, Sikkim, India

Dr. Pankaj Kumar, Department of Plant and Soil Science, Texas Tech University, Lubbock, Texas, USA

Dr. V. Sampath Kumar, Botanical Survey of India, Howrah, West Bengal, India

Dr. A.J. Solomon Raju, Andhra University, Visakhapatnam, India

Dr. Vijayasankar Raman, University of Mississippi, USA

Dr. B. Ravi Prasad Rao, Sri Krishnadevaraya University, Anantapur, India

Dr. K. Ravikumar, FRLHT, Bengaluru, Karnataka, India

Dr. Aparna Watve, Pune, Maharashtra, India

Dr. Qiang Liu, Xishuangbanna Tropical Botanical Garden, Yunnan, China

Dr. Noor Azhar Mohamed Shazili, Universiti Malaysia Terengganu, Kuala Terengganu, Malaysia

Dr. M.K. Vasudeva Rao, Shiv Ranjan Housing Society, Pune, Maharashtra, India

Prof. A.J. Solomon Raju, Andhra University, Visakhapatnam, India

Dr. Manda Datar, Agharkar Research Institute, Pune, Maharashtra, India

Dr. M.K. Janarthanam, Goa University, Goa, India

Dr. K. Karthigeyan, Botanical Survey of India, India

Dr. Errol Vela, University of Montpellier, Montpellier, France

Dr. P. Lakshminarasiham, Botanical Survey of India, Howrah, India

Dr. Larry R. Noblick, Montgomery Botanical Center, Miami, USA

Dr. K. Haridasan, Pallavur, Palakkad District, Kerala, India

Dr. Analinda Manila-Fajard, University of the Philippines Los Banos, Laguna, Philippines

Dr. P.A. Siru, Central University of Kerala, Kasaragod, Kerala, India

Dr. Afroz Alam, Banasthali Vidyapith (accredited A grade by NAAC), Rajasthan, India

Dr. K.P. Rajesh, Zamorin's Guruvayurappan College, GA College PO, Kozhikode, Kerala, India

Dr. David E. Boufford, Harvard University Herbaria, Cambridge, MA 02138-2020, USA

Dr. Ritesh Kumar Choudhary, Agharkar Research Institute, Pune, Maharashtra, India

Dr. A.G. Pandurangan, Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala, India

Dr. Navendu Page, Wildlife Institute of India, Chandrabani, Dehradun, Uttarakhand, India

Dr. Kannan C.S. Warrier, Institute of Forest Genetics and Tree Breeding, Tamil Nadu, India

Invertebrates

Dr. R.K. Avasthi, Rohtak University, Haryana, India

Dr. D.B. Bastawade, Maharashtra, India

Dr. Partha Pratim Bhattacharjee, Tripura University, Suryamaninagar, India

Dr. Kailash Chandra, Zoological Survey of India, Jabalpur, Madhya Pradesh, India

Dr. Ansie Dippenaar-Schoeman, University of Pretoria, Queenswood, South Africa

Dr. Rory Dow, National Museum of natural History Naturalis, The Netherlands

Dr. Brian Fisher, California Academy of Sciences, USA

Dr. Richard Gallon, Llandudno, North Wales, LL30 1UP

Dr. Hemant V. Ghate, Modern College, Pune, India

Dr. M. Monwar Hossain, Jahangirnagar University, Dhaka, Bangladesh

For Focus, Scope, Aims, and Policies, visit https://threatenedtaxa.org/index.php/JoTT/aims_scopeFor Article Submission Guidelines, visit <https://threatenedtaxa.org/index.php/JoTT/about/submissions>For Policies against Scientific Misconduct, visit https://threatenedtaxa.org/index.php/JoTT/policies_various

continued on the back inside cover

Cover: Life and death in one night - wolf hunting the hare. Mixed media—gouache, acrylics, pen & colour pencils. © Dupati Poojitha.



Avifaunal diversity and conservation significance of coastal ecosystems on Rameswaram Island, Tamil Nadu, India

H. Byju¹ , H. Maitreyi² , S. Ravichandran³  & N. Raveendran⁴ 

^{1,2,3} Centre of Advanced Study in Marine Biology, Annamalai University, Parangipettai, Tamil Nadu 608502, India.

³ Department of Zoology, Government Arts and Science College, Nagercoil, Tamil Nadu 629004, India.

⁴ Iragukal Amritha Nature Trust, 61, Ramachandra Thadaga Street, Thirumangalam, Madurai, Tamil Nadu 625706, India.

¹byjuhi@gmail.com (corresponding author), ²maithgd@gmail.com, ³sravicas@gmail.com, ⁴iantravee@gmail.com

Abstract: Biodiversity-rich areas tied to heritage, religious tourism, and ecotourism, often face changes to their landscapes due to infrastructure development. Such activities may threaten the species survival and disrupt the delicate ecosystems in these regions. Hence it becomes imperative to build up baseline species data from such areas for biodiversity conservation and management interventions. Towards achieving this objective, avifaunal inventories were documented from Kothandaramar Lagoon, Dhanushkodi Lagoon, and the Arichalmunai beach in Rameswaram Island, Ramanathapuram District, Tamil Nadu, which is an important site for winter migrants. A total of 147 avian species belonging to 17 orders and 45 families from August 2021 to July 2023 were recorded. Order-wise, Charadriiformes (52 species) dominated the area, followed by Passeriformes (27 species) and Pelecaniformes (21 species). According to the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species, 11 'Near Threatened', three 'Vulnerable', two 'Endangered' (Great Knot *Calidris tenuirostris* and Siberian Sandplover *Anarhynchus mongolus*), and one unassessed species (Hanuman Plover *Charadrius seebohmi*) were recorded. The relative abundance based on the frequency of observations indicated that 61% (90 species) were common, 22% (32 species) were uncommon, and 17% (25 species) were rare. Winter visitors constituted 42% (62 species) and one was a passage migrant (Rosy Starling *Pastor roseus*). Coastal lagoons of this region comprise diverse habitats that play a vital role for birds, which provide places for nesting, roosting, and foraging. This baseline data emphasizes the importance of Dhanushkodi Lagoon along with adjacent areas as an important wintering site on the southeastern coast of India for migratory shorebirds as well as highlights the importance of adjoining small forested patches thus required to be declared as a protected area.

Keywords: Bird migration, Central Asian Flyway, Gulf of Mannar, Hanuman Plover breeding, over-summering, shorebirds, waterbirds, winter visitors.

Editor: Anil Kumar, Zoological Survey of India, Patna, India.

Date of publication: 26 December 2024 (online & print)

Citation: Byju, H., H. Maitreyi, S. Ravichandran & N. Raveendran (2024). Avifaunal diversity and conservation significance of coastal ecosystems on Rameswaram Island, Tamil Nadu, India. *Journal of Threatened Taxa* 16(12): 26198-26212. <https://doi.org/10.11609/jott.9248.16.12.26198-26212>

Copyright: © Byju et al. 2024. Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International License. JoTT allows unrestricted use, reproduction, and distribution of this article in any medium by providing adequate credit to the author(s) and the source of publication.

Funding: The Integrated Development of Wildlife habitats during 2023–2024 in Wildlife division, Ramanathapuram forest division.

Competing interests: The authors declare no competing interests.

Author details: BYJU, H., has worked on the shorebirds and waterbirds in the Gulf of Mannar region for a decade and at present a member of the biodiversity panel of five bird sanctuaries including two Ramsar sites and the Gulf of Mannar Biosphere Reserve. MAITREYI, H., is a research scholar working on seabirds in the region. RAVEENDRAN, N., is a naturalist with a decade of experience in birds and awareness education and serves as a biodiversity member in the bird sanctuaries and Gulf of Mannar Biosphere Reserve. RAVICHANDRAN, S., is a professor with three decades of experience in marine ecology and oceanography.

Author contributions: BH—conceptualization, writing, editing and supervision, MH—writing, editing, data management and maps, RN—data curation; SR—editing and overall supervision.

Acknowledgements: We are grateful to the Integrated Development of Wildlife habitats during 2023–2024 in Wildlife division, Ramanathapuram for partially funding this project particularly to the chairman of Gulf of Mannar Biosphere Trust and wildlife warden, Gulf of Mannar Biosphere Reserve Mr. Bakan Jagdish Sudhakar, I.F.S. for his valuable suggestions & cooperation in implementing the project. We also thank Mr. Mahendran, range officer and his support staff including foresters, guards, and the APWs of the Mandapam Range for their support in helping the field works including hospitality & logistics during several occasions. We appreciate the help rendered by the administrative staff of Ramanathapuram Wildlife Warden Office.



INTRODUCTION

India is home to numerous biodiversity hotspots including those designated as Ramsar sites (Sandilyan 2017). Wetlands including coastal lagoons, characterized by shallow water bodies separated by natural barriers like sandbars or coral reefs support diverse avifauna, both migratory and resident (Chandana et al. 2012; Silva et al. 2013). Coastal lagoons are critical habitats for migratory shorebirds such as mudflats, beaches, or mangroves (Alfaro & Clara 2007). Migratory shorebirds are a global indicator species for habitat changes (Piersma & Lindstrom 2004). As India experiences a massive economic boom, many unprotected areas are under severe strain on landscape changes and biodiversity loss, and many of these areas lack biodiversity documentation to understand the actual loss. Documentation of avifaunal diversity and distribution in India (Ali & Ripley 1987) has played a pivotal role in assessing long-term landscape changes (Rika & Santosa 2007). Bird surveys represent a valuable tool in gathering pertinent information and aid in identifying priority conservation sites (Peterson et al. 2000) as the structural composition of bird communities within an area provides invaluable insights into landscape changes over time (Kattan & Franco 2004). This comprehensive understanding has facilitated ecological assessments and conservation planning efforts (Kati & Sekercioglu 2006), leading to the development of management strategies and interventions (Paul & Cooper 2005).

The Ramanathapuram District in Tamil Nadu harbours five bird sanctuaries, including two Ramsar sites and the Gulf of Mannar (GoM) Biosphere Reserve, an Important Bird and Biodiversity Area (IBA). Recent records of an Arctic Skua *Stercorarius parasiticus* (Byju & Raveendran 2022a) and an uncommon sighting of a Light-mantled Albatross *Phoebetria palpebrata* (Byju & Raveendran 2022b) underscore the importance of bird monitoring efforts in the island. It also highlights the necessity of conducting field surveys to establish bird population data in new or adjoining areas of well-established bird congregation sites (Llanos et al. 2011). Extensive research and conservation interventions will help manage threats like pollution, habitat loss, hunting, disturbance, or impact of climate change. Several reports emphasized that habitat destruction is one of the vital reasons for the decline of waterbirds (Brooks et al. 2002; Sandilyan et al. 2010). Coastal wetlands of tropical countries including India, face impounding anthropogenic pressures, leading to the rapid loss of these ecosystems. Most of such pressures are related to the conversion of the

coastal wetlands for agriculture, aquaculture, tourism, transport, construction, and disposal of industrial wastes and untreated sewage (Prasad et al. 2002; Bassi et al. 2014). Avifaunal updates from the district include documentation from the 21 islands within the GoM (Byju et al. 2023a) and identification of a new wintering sites within the Karangadu Mangroves (Byju et al. 2023b) and Valinokkam Lagoon (Byju et al. 2023c). Through intensive monitoring, three breeding sites of the new taxon, i.e., Hanuman Plover *Charadrius seebohmi* from the Kentish Plover subspecies *Charadrius alexandrinus seebohmi* have been discovered in the district (Byju et al. 2023d), which encompasses the current study area.

The mentioned findings from the region underscore the importance of gathering baseline data from previously unexplored regions to designate areas of conservation significance. Consequently, the present study on the Kothandaramar Lagoon, Dhanushkodi Lagoon, and Arichalmunai Beach in Rameswaram Island was devised to compile an avifaunal checklist since this is an important bird congregation place for long distant migrant shorebirds on the GoM region in the Central Asian Flyway (CAF) (Rashiba et al. 2022) and the findings will contribute to declare it as a protected area. Additionally, our additional objectives of the study include the impact of tourism on the coastal areas by vehicles and plastic waste disposal by the visitors (religious, heritage, and ecotourism initiatives).

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Study Area

The study area extended from the Rameswaram Reserve Forest up to Arichalmunai Beach encompassing the 15 km long Dhanushkodi Lagoon (Image 1). It consists of the Kothandaramar Lagoon, Dhanushkodi Lagoon, and Arichalmunai Beach, which hereafter is referred to as Dhanushkodi Lagoon (9.15–9.27 N & 79.32–79.44 E). This area includes zones that are muddy and flooded with rain water during winter months like Kothandaramar Lagoon which is surrounded by the Bay of Bengal and GoM, having saline water which leads to plenty of phytoplankton including diatoms, dinoflagellates, and blue green algae. It provides a foraging ground for flamingos. The Arichalmunai part is exclusively marine earlier with sandy beaches but some muddy substratum of late becoming sandier; the central part near Mukundarayar Chatram and Dhanushkodi is a mixture of sandy clay and thus intermediate between the other two zones.

Field Surveys

In Dhanushkodi Lagoon, field surveys were conducted monthly from August 2021 to July 2023. The surveys focused on observing bird activity during the peak hours, at 0600–1000 h and 1600–1800 h. The methodology employed a combination of block count and direct visual count methods (Howes & Bakewell 1989; Bibby et al. 2000). Eleven vantage points (Image 1) were identified along the entire stretch of the lagoon considering the consistent water availability and congregation patterns, with distances ranging 600–1,500 m starting from the forested patch. Observations were conducted using Nikon binoculars (10 x 50) and photographs were taken with a Canon camera with 100–400 mm lens and later identified with the help of field guides (Grimmett et al. 2011; Hayman et al. 2011). Since this is a 15-km long stretch with different tidal variations, survey were conducted during low tides when the maximum bird activity was there, mainly for waterbirds. A 5-min setting period was observed at each vantage point to allow the waterbirds to settle down to the human presence. Land birds were recorded as and when it was observed at each vantage point for 15 min. The observations recorded while moving from one vantage point to another were

entered as incidental records. The residential status of the birds was grouped as resident (R), resident/ non-breeding (R/NB), passage migrant (PM), and winter visitor (WV) depending on their timing and duration of occurrence (Grimmett et al. 2011). The common name, scientific name, and IUCN Red List status are followed (IUCN 2024). The relative abundance of species was based on the frequency of observation as common (C): frequently observed in the study area (encountered on most visits 6–8/10 visits); uncommon (UC): spotted on multiple occasions but not as frequently as in the case of common (encountered less than 3–5/10 visits); rare (R): less frequently encountered in the entire study period (encountered 1–2/10 visits) (Mackinnon & Philips 1993).

To understand the impact on the number of tourists visiting the Arichalmunai region of the island, the number of tourist vehicles and the local vehicles plying on the road were counted, with the help of the forest department from the forest check post exclusively for plastic usage deterrence in the area. An average of 300 tourist vehicles plies were found along with 200 local vehicles to Kothandaramar Temple (religious tourism) and beyond to Arichalmunai (beach drive) every weekday (Image 12). This increased up to 700

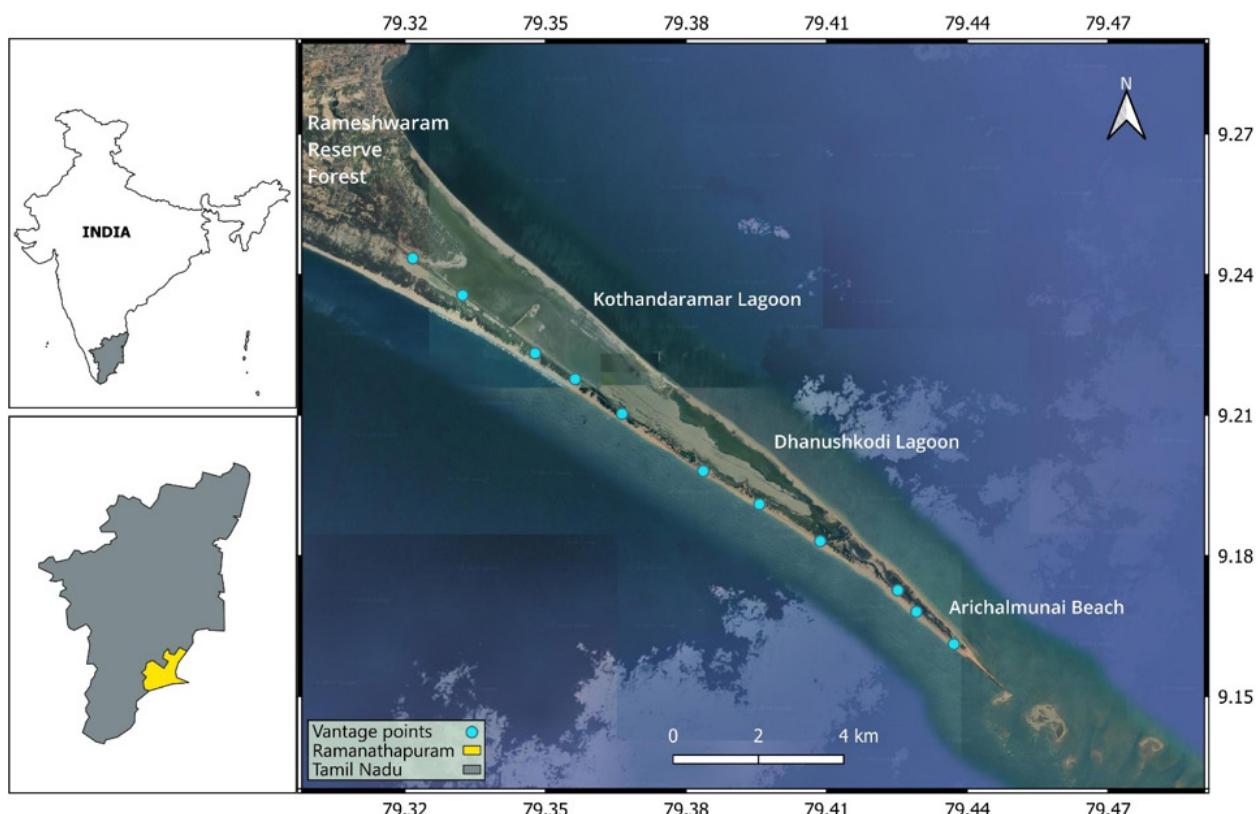


Image 1. Study area showing the vantage points in Dhanushkodi Lagoon.

during weekends with 300 local vehicles (total 1,000). Assuming a vehicle can accommodate an average of four people (a tourist van can hold up to 15), the number of tourists could be 2,000–4,000 individuals per day/week and up to 800,000/year. The area is restricted for tourists after 1800h and a few fishermen community stay there overnight, for fishing purposes.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

A total of 147 avian species across 17 orders and 45 families from the study area (Table 1) (Images 2–8) were recorded. Order Charadriiformes was the most dominant (52 species), represented by families of Scolopacidae (25 species), Laridae (17 species), and Charadriidae (10 species). The other major representation of orders was Passeriformes (27 species), Pelecaniformes (21 species), and Accipitriformes (10 species) (Figure 1). The residential status of the birds revealed that winter visitors (WV) constituted 42% (62 species) and one (i.e., Rosy Starling *Pastor roseus*) was passage migrant (PM). Three species of local migrants (LM) recorded, were Western Reef Egret *Egretta gularis*, White-bellied Sea Eagle *Icthyophaga leucogaster*, and Oriental Honey Buzzard *Pernis ptilorhynchus*. Among the avifauna

recorded, 54 species constituted 36.7% of residents (R), and 26 species (17.6%) were residents but non-breeding (R/NB). The relative abundance based on the frequency of observation indicated that 90 species (61.2%) were common, 32 species (21.7%) were uncommon, and 25 species (17%) were rare.

The arrival of migrants usually begins in the first week of August and departure of migrants extend till the last week of April to the first week of May. Family Stercorariidae with two exclusive seabirds, Arctic Skua *Stercorarius parasiticus* and Pomarine Skua *Stercorarius pomarinus*; rare seabirds like Flesh-footed Shearwater *Ardenna carneipes*; and rare shorebirds like Red-necked Phalarope *Phalaropus lobatus* were recorded during the migratory period. Among the Laridae family, Bridled Tern *Onychoprion anaethetus*, Sooty Tern *Onychoprion fuscatus*, and White-winged Tern *Chlidonias leucopterus* are the highlighted (rare) species from the study area. Eleven 'Near Threatened' (NT) species were documented during the study period, all of which are waterbirds or shorebirds: Bar-tailed Godwit *Limosa lapponica*, Black-tailed Godwit *Limosa limosa*, Ruddy Turnstone *Arenaria interpres*, Dunlin *Calidris alpina*, Eurasian Curlew *Numenius arquata*, Great Stone-curlew *Esacus recurvirostris*, Red-necked Stint *Calidris ruficollis*, Red Knot *Calidris canutus*, Spot-billed

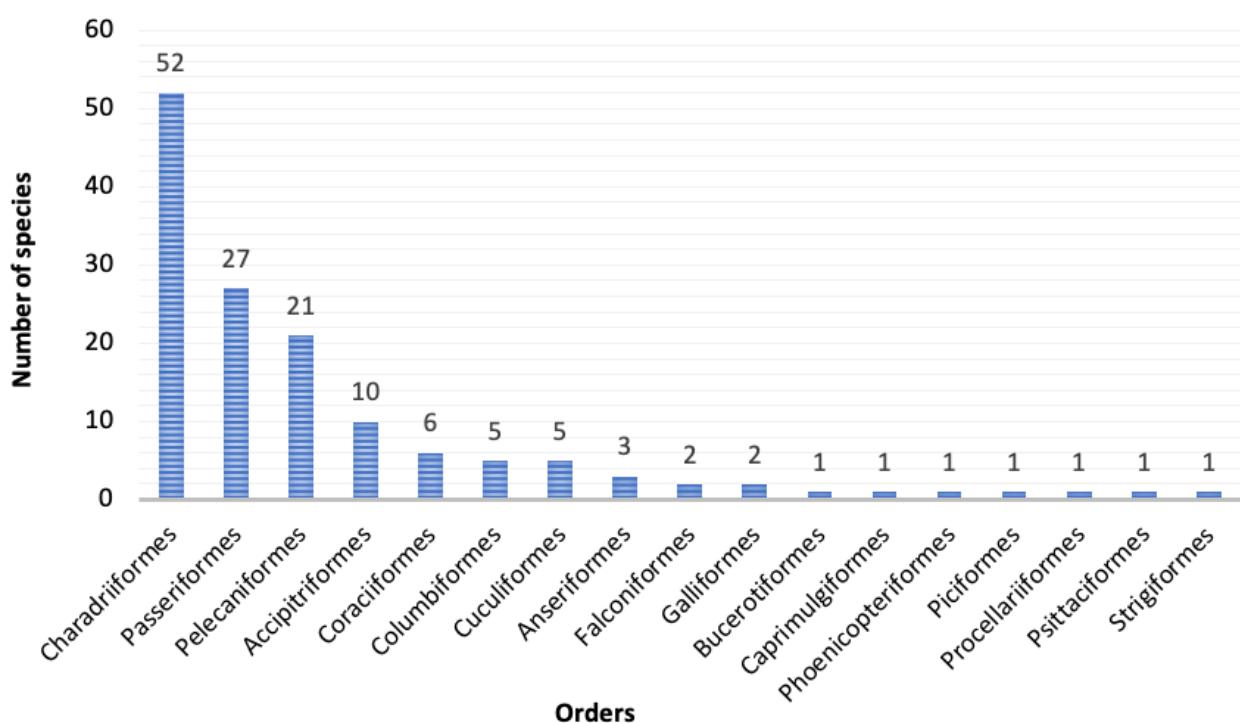


Figure 1. Order-wise representation of bird species at Dhanushkodi Lagoon.

Table 1. Avifaunal checklist of Dhanushkodi Lagoon of Ramanathapuram, Tamil Nadu, India

	Order/Family/Common name	Scientific name	Global IUCN Red List status	Resident status	Relative abundance
Anseriformes: Anatidae					
1	Knob-billed Duck	<i>Sarkidiornis melanotos</i>	LC	R/NB	Ra
2	Indian Spot-billed Duck	<i>Anas poecilorhyncha</i>	LC	R/NB	Ra
3	Northern Pintail	<i>Anas acuta</i>	LC	WV	Ra
Phoenicopteriformes: Phoenicopteridae					
4	Greater Flamingo	<i>Phoenicopterus roseus</i>	LC	R/NB	C
Columbiformes: Columbidae					
5	Rock Pigeon	<i>Columba livia</i>	LC	R	C
6	Spotted Dove	<i>Spilopelia chinensis</i>	LC	R	C
7	Eurasian collared Dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>	LC	R	C
8	Laughing Dove	<i>Spilopelia senegalensis</i>	LC	R	C
9	Red Collared Dove	<i>Streptopelia tranquebarica</i>	LC	R	UC
Caprimulgiformes: Apodidae					
10	Asian Palm Swift	<i>Cypsiurus balasiensis</i>	LC	R	C
Cuculiformes: Cuculidae					
11	Asian Koel	<i>Eudynamys scolopaceus</i>	LC	R	C
12	Grey-bellied Cuckoo	<i>Cacomantis passerinus</i>	LC	R	Ra
13	Greater Coucal	<i>Centropus sinensis</i>	LC	R	C
14	Blue-faced Malkoha	<i>Phaenicophaeus viridirostris</i>	LC	R	C
15	Pied Crested Cuckoo	<i>Clamator jacobinus</i>	LC	R/NB	C
Galliformes: Phasianidae					
16	Grey Francolin	<i>Ortygornis pondicerianus</i>	LC	R	C
17	Indian Peafowl	<i>Pavo cristatus</i>	LC	R	C
Pelecaniformes: Ciconiidae					
18	Asian Openbill	<i>Anastomus oscitans</i>	LC	R/NB	C
19	Painted Stork	<i>Mycteria leucocephala</i>	LC	R/NB	C
Pelecanidae					
20	Spot-billed Pelican	<i>Pelecanus philippensis</i>	NT	R/NB	C
Ardeidae					
21	Black-crowned Night Heron	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>	LC	R/NB	C
22	Eastern Cattle Egret	<i>Bubulcus coromandus</i>	LC	R/NB	C
23	Purple Heron	<i>Ardea purpurea</i>	LC	R/NB	UC
24	Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>	LC	R/NB	C
25	Indian Pond Heron	<i>Ardeola grayii</i>	LC	R/NB	C
26	Intermediate Egret	<i>Ardea intermedia</i>	LC	R/NB	C
27	Great Egret	<i>Ardea alba</i>	LC	R/NB	C
28	Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>	LC	R/NB	C
29	Striated Heron	<i>Butorides striata</i>	LC	R/NB	C
30	Western Reef Egret	<i>Egretta gularis</i>	LC	LM	UC
Threskiornithidae					
31	Black-headed Ibis	<i>Threskiornis melanocephalus</i>	LC	R/NB	UC
32	Red-naped Ibis	<i>Pseudibis papillosa</i>	LC	R/NB	UC
33	Eurasian Spoonbill	<i>Platalea leucorodia</i>	LC	R/NB	C
34	Glossy Ibis	<i>Plegadis falcinellus</i>	LC	R/NB	C

	Order/Family/Common name	Scientific name	Global IUCN Red List status	Resident status	Relative abundance
Phalacrocoracidae					
35	Great Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>	LC	R/NB	UC
36	Indian Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax fuscicollis</i>	LC	R/NB	C
37	Little Cormorant	<i>Microcarbo niger</i>	LC	R/NB	C
Anhingidae					
38	Oriental Darter	<i>Anhinga melanogaster</i>	LC	R/NB	UC
Charadriiformes: Recurvirostridae					
39	Black-winged Stilt	<i>Himantopus himantopus</i>	LC	R	C
Burhinidae					
40	Indian Stone-curlew	<i>Burhinus indicus</i>	LC	R	C
41	Great Stone-curlew	<i>Esacus recurvirostris</i>	NT	R	C
42	Beach Stone-curlew	<i>Esacus magnirostris</i>	NT	R	Ra
Charadriidae					
43	Black-bellied Plover	<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>	VU	WV	C
44	Pacific Golden Plover	<i>Pluvialis fulva</i>	LC	WV	UC
45	Siberian Sandplover	<i>Anarhynchus mongolus</i>	EN	WV	C
46	Greater Sandplover	<i>Anarhynchus leschenaultii</i>	LC	WV	C
47	Kentish Plover	<i>Anarhyncus alexandrinus</i>	LC	WV	C
48	Common Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>	LC	WV	UC
49	Hanuman Plover	<i>Charadrius seethomi</i>	NA	R	C
50	Little-ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius dubius</i>	LC	WV	C
51	Red-wattled Lapwing	<i>Vanellus indicus</i>	LC	R	C
52	Yellow-wattled Lapwing	<i>Vanellus malabaricus</i>	LC	R	UC
Scolopacidae					
53	Black-tailed Godwit	<i>Limosa limosa</i>	NT	WV	UC
54	Bar-tailed Godwit	<i>Limosa lapponica</i>	NT	WV	UC
55	Whimbrel	<i>Numenius phaeopus</i>	LC	WV	C
56	Red-necked Phalarope	<i>Phalaropus lobatus</i>	LC	WV	Ra
57	Eurasian Curlew	<i>Numenius arquata</i>	NT	WV	C
58	Temminck's Stint	<i>Calidris temminckii</i>	LC	WV	UC
59	Little Stint	<i>Calidris minuta</i>	LC	WV	C
60	Ruff	<i>Calidris pugnax</i>	LC	WV	UC
61	Curlew Sandpiper	<i>Calidris ferruginea</i>	VU	WV	C
62	Dunlin	<i>Calidris alpina</i>	NT	WV	Ra
63	Red-necked Stint	<i>Calidris ruficollis</i>	NT	WV	Ra
64	Common Sandpiper	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>	LC	WV	UC
65	Ruddy Turnstone	<i>Arenaria interpres</i>	NT	WV	C
66	Green Sandpiper	<i>Tringa ochropus</i>	LC	WV	C
67	Marsh Sandpiper	<i>Tringa stagnatilis</i>	LC	WV	UC
68	Wood Sandpiper	<i>Tringa glareola</i>	LC	WV	UC
69	Common Greenshank	<i>Tringa nebularia</i>	LC	WV	C
70	Common Redshank	<i>Tringa totanus</i>	LC	WV	C
71	Terek Sandpiper	<i>Xenus cinereus</i>	LC	WV	C
72	Broad-billed Sandpiper	<i>Calidris falcinellus</i>	VU	WV	C
73	Sanderling	<i>Calidris alba</i>	LC	WV	C

	Order/Family/Common name	Scientific name	Global IUCN Red List status	Resident status	Relative abundance
74	Great Knot	<i>Calidris tenuirostris</i>	EN	WV	UC
75	Red Knot	<i>Calidris canutus</i>	NT	WV	UC
76	Common Snipe	<i>Gallinago gallinago</i>	LC	WV	UC
77	Pin-tailed Snipe	<i>Gallinago stenura</i>	LC	WV	Ra
Rostratulidae					
78	Greater Painted Snipe	<i>Rostratula benghalensis</i>	LC	R/NB	Ra
Laridae					
79	Slender-billed Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus genei</i>	LC	WV	C
80	Black-headed Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>	LC	WV	C
81	Brown-headed Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus brunnicephalus</i>	LC	WV	C
82	Pallas's Gull	<i>Ichthyaetus ichthyaetus</i>	LC	WV	C
83	Lesser Black-backed Gull	<i>Larus fuscus</i>	LC	WV	C
84	Steppe Gull	<i>Larus fuscus barabensis</i>	LC	WV	Ra
85	Common Tern	<i>Sterna hirundo</i>	LC	WV	UC
86	Little Tern	<i>Sternula albifrons</i>	LC	WV	UC
87	Caspian Tern	<i>Hydroprogne caspia</i>	LC	WV	C
88	Great Crested Tern	<i>Thalasseus bergii</i>	LC	R/B	C
89	Lesser Crested Tern	<i>Thalasseus bengalensis</i>	LC	WV	C
90	Sandwich Tern	<i>Thalasseus sandvicensis</i>	LC	WV	Ra
91	Gull-billed Tern	<i>Gelochelidon nilotica</i>	LC	WV	C
92	Whiskered Tern	<i>Chlidonias hybrida</i>	LC	WV	UC
93	White-winged Tern	<i>Chlidonias leucopterus</i>	LC	WV	Ra
94	Bridled Tern	<i>Onychoprion anaethetus</i>	LC	WV	Ra
95	Sooty Tern	<i>Onychoprion fuscatus</i>	LC	WV	Ra
Stercorariidae					
96	Arctic Skua	<i>Stercorarius parasiticus</i>	LC	WV	Ra
97	Pomarine Skua	<i>Stercorarius pomarinus</i>	LC	WV	Ra
Procellariiformes: Procellariidae					
98	Flesh-footed Shearwater	<i>Ardenna carneipes</i>	NT	WV	Ra
Accipitriformes: Pandionidae					
99	Osprey	<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>	LC	WV	Ra
Accipitridae					
100	Booted Eagle	<i>Hieraetus pennatus</i>	LC	WV	UC
101	Black Kite	<i>Milvus migrans</i>	LC	R	C
102	Black-winged Kite	<i>Elanus caeruleus</i>	LC	R	C
103	Brahminy Kite	<i>Haliastur indus</i>	LC	R	C
104	Shikra	<i>Accipiter badius</i>	LC	R	C
105	Eurasian Marsh Harrier	<i>Circus aeruginosus</i>	LC	WV	Ra
106	Monatgu's Harrier	<i>Circus pygargus</i>	LC	WV	Ra
107	Oriental Honey-buzzard	<i>Pernis ptilorhynchus</i>	LC	LM	UC
108	White-bellied Sea Eagle	<i>Icthyophaga leucogaster</i>	LC	LM	C
Strigiformes: Strigidae					
109	Spotted Owlet	<i>Athene brama</i>	LC	R	C
Bucerotiformes: Upupidae					
110	Common Hoopoe	<i>Upupa epops</i>	LC	R	C

	Order/Family/Common name	Scientific name	Global IUCN Red List status	Resident status	Relative abundance
Piciformes: Picidae					
111	Black-rumped Flameback	<i>Dinopium benghalense</i>	LC	R	C
Coraciiformes: Meropidae					
112	Blue-tailed Bee-eater	<i>Merops philippinus</i>	LC	R	C
113	Green Bee-eater	<i>Merops orientalis</i>	LC	R	C
Coraciidae					
114	Indian Roller	<i>Coracias benghalensis</i>	LC	R	C
Alcedinidae					
116	Pied Kingfisher	<i>Ceryle rudis</i>	LC	R	C
117	Common Kingfisher	<i>Alcedo atthis</i>	LC	R	C
118	White-throated Kingfisher	<i>Halcyon smyrnensis</i>	LC	R	C
Falconiformes: Falconidae					
118	Peregrine Falcon	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>	LC	WV	Ra
119	Eurasian Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>	LC	R	C
Psittaciformes: Psittacidae					
120	Rose-ringed Parakeet	<i>Psittacula krameri</i>	LC	R	C
Passeriformes: Dicruridae					
121	Black Drongo	<i>Dicrurus macrocercus</i>	LC	R	C
Laniidae					
122	Brown Shrike	<i>Lanius cristatus</i>	LC	WV	UC
Corvidae					
123	House Crow	<i>Corvus splendens</i>	LC	R	C
124	Rufous Treepie	<i>Dendrocitta vagabunda</i>	LC	R	UC
125	Large-billed Crow	<i>Corvus macrorhynchos</i>	LC	R	C
Nectariniidae					
26	Purple-rumped Sunbird	<i>Leptocoma zeylonica</i>	LC	R	C
127	Purple Sunbird	<i>Cinnyris asiaticus</i>	LC	R	C
Estrildidae					
128	Indian Silverbill	<i>Euodice malabarica</i>	LC	R	UC
Passeridae					
129	House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	LC	R	C
Motacillidae					
130	Paddy Field Pipit	<i>Anthus rufulus</i>	LC	R	C
31	White-browed Wagtail	<i>Motacilla maderaspatensis</i>	LC	R	C
132	Western Yellow Wagtail	<i>Motacilla flava</i>	LC	WV	Ra
Alaudidae					
133	Jerdons Bushlark	<i>Mirafra affinis</i>	LC	R	C
134	Oriental Skylark	<i>Alauda gulgula</i>	LC	R	C
135	Skyes's Short-toed Lark	<i>Calandrella dukhunensis</i>	LC	WV	UC
Cisticolidae					
136	Common Tailorbird	<i>Orthotomus sutorius</i>	LC	R	C
137	Plain Prinia	<i>Prinia inornata</i>	LC	R	C
138	Ashy Prinia	<i>Prinia socialis</i>	LC	R	C
Leiotrichidae					
139	Yellow-billed Babbler	<i>Argya affinis</i>	LC	R	C

	Order/Family/Common name	Scientific name	Global IUCN Red List status	Resident status	Relative abundance
Acrocephalidae					
140	Blyth's Reed Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus dumetorum</i>	LC	WV	UC
141	Booted Warbler	<i>Iduna caligata</i>	LC	R/NB	Ra
Hirundinidae					
142	Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	LC	WV	Ra
Pycnonotidae					
143	Red-vented Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus cafer</i>	LC	R	C
Sturnidae					
144	Brahminy Starling	<i>Sturnus pagodarum</i>	LC	R	UC
145	Common Myna	<i>Acridotheres tristis</i>	LC	R	C
146	Rosy Starling	<i>Pastor roseus</i>	LC	PM	UC
Muscicapidae					
147	Indian Robin	<i>Copsychus fulicatus</i>	LC	R	C

IUCN Red list status: LC—Least Concern | NT—Near Threatened | VU—Vulnerable | EN—Endangered | NA—Not assessed | Resident status: WV—Winter Visitor | LM—Local Migrant | R—Resident | R/NB—Resident/Non-Breeding | Relative abundance: C—Common | UC—Uncommon | Ra—Rare.

Pelican *Pelecanus philippensis*, Flesh-footed Shearwater *Ardenna carneipes*, and Beach Stone- Curlew *Esacus magnirostri*; three 'Vulnerable' species Curlew Sandpiper *Calidris ferruginea*, Broad-billed Sandpiper *Calidris falcinellus*, and Black-bellied Plover *Pluvialis squatarola*; two 'Endangered' (EN) Great Knot *Calidris tenuirostris* and Siberian Sandplover *Anarhynchus mongolus*; one unassessed Hanuman Plover; and the rest of 130 species were in the 'Least Concern' (LC) category according to the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species.

It is evident from the study that 62 species of winter migrants visited or occupied the area during the migratory period. This is one of the best waterbird congregation sites during the migratory season in the Gulf of Mannar region (Rashiba et al. 2022). Similar studies on the eastern coast of India were recorded in Valinokkam Lagoon (Byju et al. 2023c) with 154 species of birds, of which 35 were shorebirds and 58 species were winter visitors, and, Karangadu mangroves (Byju et al. 2023b) with 107 species of birds, of which 18 were shorebirds and 15 species were winter visitors. Findings from Pulicat Lagoon by Alam et al. (2023), the second-largest brackish water lagoon on the east coast of India, also complement these findings with the record of 52 species of winter visitors. The maximum counts as one-time peak counts of a few species of shorebirds, gulls, and terns were recorded during the study period (Table 2), along with the global population size and population trend of each species for a better understanding.

From the observations, the following are the shorebird species that were dominant in the region:

Siberian Sandplover *Anarhynchus mongolus*, Curlew Sandpiper *Calidris ferruginea*, Greater Sandplover *Anarhynchus leschenaultii*, and Kentish Plover *Anarhynchus alexandrinus*. This is in line with previous studies carried out on the eastern coast of India at Point Calimere (Balachandran 2006), Chilika (Balachandran et al. 2020), and Valinokkam (Byju et al. 2023c). A study by Balachandran (1998) showed that Greater Sandplover is found in abundance only in GoM on the eastern coast compared to the western coast of India. Byju et al (2023e) observed Siberian Sandplover, Curlew Sandpiper, and Little Stint as the most abundant shorebirds on the Manoli Island of GoM.

Family Laridae was represented by six species of gulls and 11 species of terns. The gull species recorded are Slender-billed Gull *Chroicocephalus genei*, Black-headed Gull *Chroicocephalus ridibundus*, Brown-headed Gull *Chroicocephalus brunnicephalus*, Pallas's Gull *Ichthyaetus ichthyaetus*, Steppe Gull *Larus barabensis*, and Lesser Black-backed Gull *Larus fuscus*. Of these, the most dominant ones were Brown-headed and Black-headed gulls. The tern species include, Little Tern *Sternula albifrons*, Gull-billed Tern *Gelochelidon nilotica*, Caspian Tern *Hydroprogne caspia*, Whiskered Tern *Chlidonias hybrida*, Common Tern *Sterna hirundo*, Greater Crested Tern *Thalasseus bergii*, Lesser Crested Tern *Thalasseus bengalensis*, Sandwich Tern *Thalasseus sandvicensis*, White-winged Tern *Chlidonias leucopterus*, Bridled Tern *Onychoprion anaethetus*, and Sooty Tern *Onychoprion fuscatus*. Lesser Crested Tern and Greater Crested Tern, the breeding residents of

Table 2. One-time peak count of a few important waterbirds with global population trends.

Species	One-time peak count	Month and Year of observation	Global population trend (BirdLife International 2024)	Global population size (number of mature individuals) (BirdLife International 2024)
<i>Numenius phaeopus</i>	34	February 2023	Decreasing	Unknown
<i>Limosa lapponica</i>	6	August 2022	Decreasing	Unknown
<i>Limosa limosa</i>	9	August 2022	Decreasing	Unknown
<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>	206	April 2023	Decreasing	490,000–630,000
<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>	2	October 2023	Decreasing	Unknown
<i>Pluvialis fulva</i>	7	April 2022	Decreasing	Unknown
<i>Anarhynchus leschenaultii</i>	2,998	April 2023	Decreasing	100,000–225,000
<i>Charadrius dubius</i>	50	March 2022	Stable	Unknown
<i>Anarhynchus mongolus</i>	4,006	March 2022	Decreasing	18,000–50,000
<i>Charadrius seebohmi</i>	25	October 2023	Not assessed	Unknown
<i>Anarhynchus alexandrinus</i>	1,402	March 2022	Decreasing	100,000–499,999
<i>Esacus magnirostris</i>	8	June 2022	Decreasing	4,000
<i>Numenius arquata</i>	47	February 2022	Decreasing	Unknown
<i>Esacus recurvirostris</i>	3	January 2023	Decreasing	Unknown
<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>	21	August 2022	Decreasing	Unknown
<i>Tringa stagnatilis</i>	304	February 2022	Decreasing	Unknown
<i>Tringa ochropus</i>	151	October 2023	Increasing	Unknown
<i>Xenus cinereus</i>	95	August 2022	Decreasing	Unknown
<i>Calidris ferruginea</i>	3,498	September 2023	Decreasing	Unknown
<i>Tringa glareola</i>	27	February 2023	Stable	Unknown
<i>Calidris falcinellus</i>	40	February 2023	Decreasing	Unknown
<i>Tringa nebularia</i>	86	August 2022	Stable	Unknown
<i>Tringa totanus</i>	352	September 2022	Unknown	Unknown
<i>Calidris alpina</i>	10	February 2022	Decreasing	Unknown
<i>Calidris ruficollis</i>	2	September 2023	Decreasing	Unknown
<i>Calidris temminckii</i>	50	February 2022	Unknown	110,000–850,000
<i>Calidris minuta</i>	710	February 2022	Increasing	1,000,000–1,100,000
<i>Calidris tenuirostris</i>	102	March 2022	Decreasing	Unknown
<i>Arenaria interpres</i>	520	April 2023	Decreasing	300,000–500,000
<i>Calidris alba</i>	80	February 2022	Unknown	Unknown
<i>Calidris pugnax</i>	2	March 2023	Decreasing	Unknown
<i>Phalaropus lobatus</i>	2	January 2023	Decreasing	Unknown
<i>Himantopus himantopus</i>	45	December 2021	Increasing	Unknown
<i>Sterna hirundo</i>	202	March 2021	Unknown	Unknown
<i>Gelochelidon nilotica</i>	80	February 2021	Decreasing	Unknown
<i>Hydropogone caspia</i>	301	November 2020	Increasing	Unknown
<i>Thalasseus bergii</i>	2007	March 2021	Stable	Unknown
<i>Thalasseus bengalensis</i>	2996	March 2021	Stable	Unknown
<i>Sternula albifrons</i>	509	March 2021	Decreasing	Unknown
<i>Chlidonias hybrida</i>	4	July 2022	Stable	Unknown
<i>Ichthyaetus ichthyaetus</i>	15	March 2021	Increasing	Unknown
<i>Chroicocephalus brunnicephalus</i>	814	March 2022	Stable	Unknown
<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>	308	January 2021	Unknown	Unknown
<i>Chroicocephalus genei</i>	260	December 2022	Unknown	180,000–230,000
<i>Larus barabensis</i>	55	February 2021	Data not available	Data not available
<i>Larus fuscus</i>	170	November 2022	Increasing	Unknown
<i>Phoenicopterus roseus</i>	1409	February 2021	Increasing	Unknown

this area, were the most prevalent tern species during the study period, followed by Little Tern and Common Tern. Among other large waterbirds, Greater Flamingo *Phoenicopterus roseus* was seen mostly restricted to the Kothandaramar Lagoon compared to other study areas but rarely in the Dhanushkodi region only few in numbers. Although 50% of the species for which one-time peak count was mentioned are 'Least Concern' on the IUCN Red List, global population analysis shows a decreasing trend (BirdLife International 2024). Notably, the global population size of 76% of these listed species is unknown (Table 2).

Most land birds are recorded from the lagoon peripheries or the Rameswaram Reserve Forest areas. Some ground-nesting land birds such as Oriental Skylark *Alauda gulgula* used the grassy patches in Dhanushkodi areas as breeding ground emphasizing the need for avifaunal diversity assessments in lagoon regions, besides waterbirds. The new breeding records of Hanuman Plover from the study areas in Dhanushkodi emphasize the need to conserve these unprotected habitats as a significant part of the CAF (Byju et al. 2023d).

For long-distance migratory shorebirds, stop-over sites are essential along with breeding and wintering locations (Boere et al. 2006). Waterbirds, particularly shorebirds, mudflats, and shallow lagoons provide pivotal habitat (Sandilyan et al. 2010) which is evident in the study where shorebirds constituted 35.3% (52 species) of the total avifauna. Therefore, it is important to perform extensive investigations to identify all crucial stopover sites, seasons, and ecosystems along the Indian east coast (Rao et al. 2022) that are not hitherto done. The present study area along with Valinokkam Lagoon (Byju et al. 2023c), Karangadu Mangrove ecosystem (Byju et al. 2023b) will fill up the gap in bird studies on the east coast in the Ramanathapuram region.

Potential Threats and Conservation Suggestions

The newly proposed railway line work (Image 9) for Dhanushkodi from Rameswaram and concretization in the region by building roads that have been extended up to Arichalmunai from Dhanushkodi will impact the habitat in the future as new soil will be brought to the area for construction activities impacting the feeding activity of the shorebirds. Seepage of hard soil from these structures may result in the hardening of the substrate in the long run. This may lead to the disappearance of the natural habitat for invertebrates, like molluscs, nereis worms, and crustaceans like crabs, the food for these migratory birds (Byju et al. 2023a). Many studies have proven that shorebird diversity, abundance, and

dispersion are influenced by food availability, substrate type, water quality, and other factors (Skagen & Knopf 1993; Manikannan et al. 2012).

Other threats include invasive plant species like *Neltuma juliflora* which is profusely taking over the mudflats and lagoon edges in Dhanushkodi region (Image 10). According to Murugan et al. (2020), invasive species modify ecosystems by impacting the dynamics of soil organic carbon and nutrients. Disturbance may also be a major issue during the breeding season, as the presence of humans may scare away adults and allow predators to take eggs and young ones (Martínez-Abráin et al. 2010; Tobajas et al. 2022). It was also observed that domestic dogs are becoming a source of disturbance to migratory birds (Mundkur & Langendoen 2019) and breeding birds (Byju et al. 2023d), and disturbance can have severe consequences for migratory shorebirds that forage and roost in the coastal mudflats (Das et al. 2022).

Tourism is a major industry based on coastal wetlands of India (Jayappa & Deepika 2018) including Rameswaram Island due to the importance of religious belief and beach drives. Tourists may unintentionally disturb shorebirds by walking too close to their nesting sites, driving vehicles on beaches, or engaging in activities such as kite flying or dog walking, all of which can disrupt the birds' normal activities and lead to negative consequences (Mundkar et al. 2023). One of the major impacts is the religious (heritage) tourism in Rameswaram, Kothandaramar temple area, and the Dhanushkodi region. The amount of waste like used clothes which is a religious custom to throw the used ones after taking a holy dip on the beaches and plastics (mostly from packed foods and water bottles) is having a long-term impact on the habitat utilization of the shorebirds in the area (Images 11 & 12). Microplastics were found in the corals of GoM and tourism was found to be the source of these (Krishnakumar et al. 2021). Several species are vulnerable to the effects of plastic pollution including the consumption of microplastics even by juveniles (Athira et al. 2024).

The impact of the tourist vehicles and visitors includes the leftovers of food, plastics, and used clothes. This has increased the dog population which is again a major threat to shorebirds and the nesting of Olive Ridley Turtle *Lepidochelys olivacea* (Image 13). Restricting the number of vehicles to 200–250 per day or restricting private vehicles after a certain point in Rameswaram and introducing public transport facilities through local vehicles involving local communities in the fragile area could be some of the steps towards a management solution to the threats. This would also help in boosting



© N. Raveendran

Image 2. Arctic Skua.



© N. Raveendran

Image 3. Beach Stone-curlew.



© Byju H

Image 4. Hanuman Plover.



© N. Raveendran

Image 5. Lesser Noddy.



© N. Raveendran

Image 6. Bridled Tern.



© N. Raveendran

Image 7. Sooty Tern.



© N. Raveendran

Image 8. Red-necked Phalarope.



© Byju H

Image 9. Red Pillar stone laid for proposed railway line acquisition on the beach.



© Byju H

Image 10. *Neltuma juliflora* overgrowing to the edge of mudflats.

© Byju H

Image 11. Remnants on religious practices as garbage on the edge of the foraging area.



Shot on OnePlus

© Byju H

Image 12. Overcrowding of tourist carrying vehicles and vendors in Arichalmunai.



© Byju H

Image 13. Feral dog feeding on dead Olive Ridley Turtle in Dhanushkodi.

the local economy. The plastic check post started by the forest department with the assistance of the local community towards the entry to these regions had collected around one tonne of plastic bottles, five tonnes of plastic covers, and small throw-away items in one year during our study period. The estimations are

that uncollected plastic items are around four tonnes in the area during the same period. The interactions with the local administration exposed the lack of garbage collection staff and improper disposal methods. Hence the resolution of this issue needs the collaborative efforts of all local stakeholders.

Coastal wetlands are in a critical state and essential to maintain them for shorebird migration routes worldwide. Although GoM is a protected area and an IBA, the adjacent sites often suffer from management issues like the invading exotic species (Gan et al. 2009). In a nutshell, both the designation of new reserves and the improved management of existing reserves are essential in this case.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, prioritizing the creation of new protected areas is crucial to preserving locations of global significance for waterbirds including migratory shorebirds and breeding studies of unassessed Hanuman Plovers on the selected sites in Arichalmunai and Dhanushkodi of the Rameswaram Island. Unchecked tourism remains a major threat to the Dhanushkodi region, which can have adverse impact on shorebirds, including habitat loss, disturbance, and pollution. These impacts can lead to reduced reproductive success, decreased survival rates, and overall population decline. Some steps can be taken to mitigate these impacts, such as implementing strict regulations on coastal development, establishing protected areas for shorebirds, educating tourists about the importance of minimizing their impact on wildlife, and investing in sustainable tourism practices as suggested. By adopting some of the suggestions, it can be ensured that shorebirds will continue to thrive in coastal environments, while also benefiting tourism.

REFERENCES

Athira, T.R., K.M. Aarif, A.T. Jeniffer, S.A. Abdulaziz, B.M. Sabir, N. Aymen, R. R. Omer, T. Jobiraj & P. Thejass (2024). The threat of microplastics: exploring pollution in coastal ecosystems and migratory shorebirds along the west coast of India. *Marine Pollution Bulletin* 198: 115912. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.marpolbul.2023.115912>

Alam, I., A. Majumder, A. Naskar & G. Maheswaran (2023). Bird observations from Pulicat Lake Bird Sanctuary and the adjoining areas in India. *Records of the Zoological Survey of India* 123(3): 233–249.

Alfaro, M. & M. Clara (2007). Assemblage of shorebirds and seabirds on Rocha Lagoon sandbar, Uruguay. *Ornithologia Neotropical* 18: 421–434.

Ali, S. & S.D. Ripley (1987). *Compact Handbook of the Birds of India and Pakistan Together with those of Bangladesh, Nepal, Bhutan, and Sri Lanka*. Oxford University Press, Delhi, India, 737 pp.

Balachandran, S. (1998). Bird Migration Studies in India (1980–1992). Phase I: Population structure and movement of Indian avifauna (1980–1986), Phase II: Bird migration (1987–1992). Final Report. Bombay Natural History Society, Mumbai, 177 pp.

Balachandran, S. (2006). The decline in wader populations along the east coast of India with special reference to Point Calimere, south-east India, pp. 296–301. In: Boere, G., C. Galbraith & D. Stroud (eds). *Waterbirds Around the World*. The Stationery Office, Edinburgh, UK, 940 pp.

Balachandran, S., A.K. Pattnaik, P. Gangaiamaran & T. Katti (2020). Avifauna of Chilika, Odisha: Assessment of Spatial and Temporal Changes, pp. 335–363. In: Finlayson, C., G. Rastogi, D. Mishra & A. Patnaik (eds.). *Ecology, Conservation, and Restoration of Chilika Lagoon, India. Wetlands: Ecology, Conservation and Management*, Vol 6. Springer, Cham, XX + 438 pp. https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-030-33424-6_13

Bassi, N., M.D. Kumar, A. Sharma, P. Pardha-Saradhi (2014). Status of wetlands in India: a review of extent, ecosystem benefits, threats and management strategies. *Journal of Hydrology* 2: 1–19.

Bibby, C.J., N.D. Burgess, D.A. Hill & S. Mustoe (2000). *Bird Census Techniques*. Academia Press, Belgium, 302 pp.

Bird Life International (2024). Data Zone. Available at <https://datazone.birdlife.org/species/search>. Accessed on 23 June 2024.

Boere, G.C., C.A. Galbraith & D.A. Stroud (2006). *Waterbirds Around the World*. The Stationery Office, Edinburgh, UK, 960 pp.

Brooks, T.M., R.A. Mittermeir, C.G. Mittermeir, G.A.B. Fonseca, A.B. Rylands, W.R. Konstant, P. Flick, J. Pilgrim, S. Oldfield, G. Magin & C. Hilton-Taylor (2002). Habitat loss and extinction in the hotspots of biodiversity. *Conservation Biology* 16(40): 909–923.

Byju, H. & N. Raveendran (2022a). First record of Arctic Skua from Rameswaram Island, the southeastern coast of India. *Zoo's Print* 37(9): 39–40.

Byju, H. & N. Raveendran (2022b). First Asian record of Light-mantled Albatross *Phoebetria palpebrata* (Foster, 1785) from Rameswaram Island, Tamil Nadu, India. *Journal of Threatened Taxa* 14(7): 21473–21475. <https://doi.org/10.11609/jott.7992.14.7.21473-21475>

Byju, H., N. Raveendran & S. Ravichandran (2023a). Distribution of avifauna on twenty-one islands of the Gulf of Mannar Biosphere Reserve, India. *Journal of Threatened Taxa* 15(2): 22574–22585. <https://doi.org/10.11609/jott.8112.15.2.22574-22585>

Byju, H., N. Raveendran, S. Ravichandran & R. Kishore (2023b). An annotated checklist of the avifauna of Karangadu Mangrove Forest, Ramanathapuram, Tamil Nadu, with notes on the site's importance for waterbird conservation. *Journal of Threatened Taxa* 15(3): 22813–22822. <https://doi.org/10.11609/jott.8356.15.3.22813-22822>

Byju, H., N. Raveendran, S. Ravichandran & R. Kishore (2023c). Importance of conserving a critical wintering ground for shorebirds in the Valinokkam Lagoon—a first study of the avifaunal distribution of the southeastern coast of India. *Journal of Threatened Taxa* 15(8): 23696–23709. <https://doi.org/10.11609/jott.8494.15.8.23696-23709>

Byju, H., N. Raveendran, S. Ravichandran & R. Kishore (2023d). Additional breeding records of Hanuman Plover *Charadrius seebohmi*, Hartert & A.C. Jackson, 1915 (Aves: Charadriiformes: Charadriidae) from southeastern coast of India. *Journal of Threatened Taxa* 15(4): 23114–23118. <https://doi.org/10.11609/jott.8317.15.4.23114-23118>

Byju, H., S. Balachandran & S. Ravichandran (2023e). Long-term population trends of migratory shorebirds: a case study from Manoli Island, the Gulf of Mannar Biosphere Reserve, India. *Advances in Zoology and Botany* 11(6): 443–453. <https://doi.org/10.13189/azb.2023.110605>

Chandana, E.P.S., N.D.S. Amarasinghe & L.A. Samayawardhena (2012). Factors affecting the avifaunal distribution in the three lagoons (Malala, Embillakala and Bundala Lewaya) of Bundala National Park (A Ramsar Wetland) in Sri Lanka. *Ruhuna Journal of Science* 3: 34–43.

Das, D.K., N. Khandakar, I. Sultana, S. Islam, M.S. Ali, A.J. Galib, M. Shamsuddoha & T. Piersma (2022). Site use by non-breeding Black-tailed Godwits at Nijhum Dweep National Park, Bangladesh. *Wader Study* 129(1): 14–21. <https://doi.org/10.18194/ws.00264>

Gan, X., Y. Cai, C. Choi, Z. Ma, J. Chen & B. Li (2009). Potential impacts of invasive *Spartina alterniflora* on spring bird communities at Chongming Dongtan, a Chinese wetland of international

importance. *Estuarine, Coastal and Shelf Science* 83(2): 211–218.

Grimmett, R., C. Inskip & T. Inskip (2011). *Birds of India, Pakistan, Nepal, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Sri Lanka, and the Maldives*. Princeton University Press, New Jersey, 528 pp.

Hayman, P., J. Marchant & T. Prater (2011). *Shorebirds: An Identification Guide to the Waders of the World*. Christopher Helm Publishers, London, 413 pp.

Howes, J.G. & D. Bakewell (1989). *Shorebird Studies Manual*. Asian Wetland Bureau, Publications No. 55, Kuala Lumpur, 362 pp.

IUCN (2024). The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species. Version 2024-2. Available at <https://www.iucnredlist.org/species/230027154/234712764>. Accessed on 5 November 2024.

Jayappa, K.S. & B. Deepika (2018). Impacts of coastal erosion, anthropogenic activities and their management on tourism and coastal ecosystems: a study with reference to Karnataka coast, India, pp. 421–440. In: Botero, C., O. Cervantes & C. Finkl (eds.). *Beach Management Tools - Concepts, Methodologies and Case Studies*. Coastal Research Library, Vol 24. Springer, 960 pp. https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-319-58304-4_21

Kattan, G.H. & P. Franco (2004). Bird diversity along elevational gradients in the Andes of Colombia: area and mass effects. *Global Ecology and Biogeography* 13: 451–458.

Kati, V. & C.H. Sekercioglu (2006). Diversity, ecological structure, and conservation of the landbird community of a Greek reserve. *Diversity & Distributions* 12: 620–629.

Krishnakumar, S., S. Anbalagan, S.M. Hussain, R. Bharani, P.S. Godson & S. Srinivasalu (2021). Coral annual growth band impregnated microplastics (*Porites* sp.): a first investigation report. *Wetland Ecology and Management* 29: 677–687. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11273-021-09786-9>

Llanos, F.A., M. Failla, G.J. García, P.M. Giovine, M. Carbajal, P.M. González, D.P. Barreto, P. Quillfeldt & J.F. Masello (2011). Birds from the endangered Monte, the Steppes, and Coastal biomes of the province of Río Negro, northern Patagonia, Argentina. *Checklist* 7(6): 782–797.

MacKinnon, J. & K. Phillipps (1993). *A Field Guide to the Birds of Borneo, Sumatra, Java and Bali*. Oxford University Press, Oxford, 391 pp.

Manikannan, R., S. Asokan & A.M.S. Ali (2012). Abundance and factors affecting population characteristics of waders (Charadriiformes) in the Great Vedaranyam Swamp of Point Calimere Wildlife Sanctuary, south-east coast of India. *International Journal of Ecosystem* 2: 6–14.

Martínez-Abraín, A., D. Oro, J. Jiménez, G. Stewart & A. Pullin (2010). A systematic review of the effects of recreational activities on nesting birds of prey. *Basic and Applied Ecology* 11(4): 312–319.

Mundkar, T., A. Azhar, C. Anand, E. Mike, J. Yifei, K. Alyona & Ramesh (2023). Report on Central Asian Flyway – Situation Analysis: The status of migratory birds and their habitats and recommendations for their conservation, BirdLife International, Cambridge, 215 pp.

Mundkar, T. & T. Langendoen (2019). Analysis of the AWC 2019 Wetland and Waterbird Assessment Questionnaire. *Asian Waterbird Census Newsletter*. <https://us3.campaign-archive.com>

Murugan, R., F. Beggi, N. Prabakaran, S. Maqsood & R.G. Joergensen (2020). Changes in plant community and soil ecological indicators in response to *Prosopis juliflora* and *Acacia mearnsii* invasion and removal in two biodiversity hotspots in southern India. *Soil Ecology Letters* 2(1): 61–72.

Paul, E. & R.J. Cooper (2005). New opportunities for bird conservation research. In: Ralph, C., R. John & D. Terrel (eds.). *Bird Conservation Implementation and Integration in the Americas: Proceedings of the Third International Partners in Flight Conference*, Asilomar, California, Vol. 2. US Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, Pacific Southwest Research Station, 191: 1008–1017.

Peterson, A.T., L.G. Ball & K.W. Brady (2000). Distribution of the birds of the Philippines: biogeography and conservation priorities. *Bird Conservation International* 10(2): 149–167.

Piersma, T. & Åke Lindstrom (2004). Migrating shorebirds as integrative sentinels of global environmental change. *Ibis* (Suppl.1): 61–69.

Prasad, S.N., T.V. Ramachandra, N. Ahalya, T. Sengupta, A. Kumar, A.K. Tiwari, V.S. Vijayan & L. Vijayan L (2002). Conservation of wetlands of India—a review. *Tropical Ecology* 43(1): 173–186.

Rao, B., B. Santhanakrishnan & G. Quadros (2022). Spatial and temporal patterns of shorebird assemblages in select estuaries along India's west coast. *Ornithology Science* 21: 199–213.

Rashiba, A.P., K. Jishnu, H. Byju, C.T. Shifa, J. Anand, K. Vichithra, Y. Xu, A. Nefla, S.B. Muzaffar, K.M. Aarif & K.A. Rubeena (2022). The paradox of shorebird diversity and abundance in the west coast and east coast of India: a comparative analysis. *Diversity* 14: 885. <https://doi.org/10.3390/d1410085>

Rika, S.D. & Y. Santosa (2007). Diversity of bird species at some habitat types in Ciremai Mountain National Park. *Conservation Media* 12(3): 1–3.

Sandilyan, S., K. Thiayagesan, R. Nagarajan (2010). Major decline in species-richness of waterbirds in the Pichavaram Mangrove wetlands, southern India. *Wader Study Group Bulletin* 117: 91–98.

Sandilyan, S. (2017). A preliminary assessment on the role of abandoned shrimp farms on supporting waterbirds in Pichavaram Mangrove, Tamil Nadu, southern India. *Journal of Coastal Conservation* 21: 255–263.

Skagen, S.K. & F.L. Knopf (1993). Toward conservation of Midcontinental Shorebird migrations. *Conservation Biology* 7: 533–541.

Silva, E.I.L., J. Katupotha, O. Amarasinghe, H. Manthrithilake & R. Ariyaratna (2013). *Lagoons of Sri Lanka: from the Origins to the Present*. Colombo, Sri Lanka. International Water Management Institute (IWMI), 122 pp. <https://doi.org/10.5337/2013.215>

Tobajas, J., F. Guil & A. Margalida (2022). Effects of free-flight activities on wildlife: a poorly understood issue in conservation. *Environmental Conservation* 49(1): 8–16. <https://doi.org/10.1017/S0376892921000412>

Mr. Jatishwor Singh Irungbam, Biology Centre CAS, Branišovská, Czech Republic.
Dr. Ian J. Kitching, Natural History Museum, Cromwell Road, UK
Dr. George Mathew, Kerala Forest Research Institute, Peechi, India
Dr. John Noyes, Natural History Museum, London, UK
Dr. Albert G. Orr, Griffith University, Nathan, Australia
Dr. Sameer Padhye, Katholieke Universiteit Leuven, Belgium
Dr. Nancy van der Poorten, Toronto, Canada
Dr. Karen Schnabel, NIWA, Wellington, New Zealand
Dr. R.M. Sharma, (Retd.) Scientist, Zoological Survey of India, Pune, India
Dr. Manju Siliwal, WILD, Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu, India
Dr. G.P. Sinha, Botanical Survey of India, Allahabad, India
Dr. K.A. Subramanian, Zoological Survey of India, New Alipore, Kolkata, India
Dr. P.M. Sureshan, Zoological Survey of India, Kozhikode, Kerala, India
Dr. R. Varatharajan, Manipur University, Imphal, Manipur, India
Dr. Eduard Vives, Museu de Ciències Naturals de Barcelona, Terrassa, Spain
Dr. James Young, Hong Kong Lepidopterists' Society, Hong Kong
Dr. R. Sundararaj, Institute of Wood Science & Technology, Bengaluru, India
Dr. M. Nithyanandan, Environmental Department, La Al Kuwait Real Estate. Co. K.S.C., Kuwait
Dr. Himender Bharti, Punjabi University, Punjab, India
Mr. Purnendu Roy, London, UK
Dr. Saito Motoki, The Butterfly Society of Japan, Tokyo, Japan
Dr. Sanjay Sondhi, TITLI TRUST, Kalpavriksh, Dehradun, India
Dr. Nguyen Thi Phuong Lien, Vietnam Academy of Science and Technology, Hanoi, Vietnam
Dr. Nitin Kulkarni, Tropical Research Institute, Jabalpur, India
Dr. Robin Wen Jiang Ngiam, National Parks Board, Singapore
Dr. Lional Monod, Natural History Museum of Geneva, Genève, Switzerland.
Dr. Asheesh Shivam, Nehru Gram Bharti University, Allahabad, India
Dr. Rosana Moreira da Rocha, Universidade Federal do Paraná, Curitiba, Brasil
Dr. Kurt R. Arnold, North Dakota State University, Saxony, Germany
Dr. James M. Carpenter, American Museum of Natural History, New York, USA
Dr. David M. Claborn, Missouri State University, Springfield, USA
Dr. Karen Schnabel, Marine Biologist, Wellington, New Zealand
Dr. Amazonas Chagas Júnior, Universidade Federal de Mato Grosso, Cuiabá, Brasil
Mr. Monsoon Jyoti Gogoi, Assam University, Silchar, Assam, India
Dr. Heo Chong Chin, Universiti Teknologi MARA (UiTM), Selangor, Malaysia
Dr. R.J. Shiel, University of Adelaide, SA 5005, Australia
Dr. Siddharth Kulkarni, The George Washington University, Washington, USA
Dr. Priyadarshan Dharma Rajan, ATREE, Bengaluru, India
Dr. Phil Alderslade, CSIRO Marine And Atmospheric Research, Hobart, Australia
Dr. John E.N. Veron, Coral Reef Research, Townsville, Australia
Dr. Daniel Whitmore, State Museum of Natural History Stuttgart, Rosenstein, Germany.
Dr. Yu-Feng Hsu, National Taiwan Normal University, Taipei City, Taiwan
Dr. Keith V. Wolfe, Antioch, California, USA
Dr. Siddharth Kulkarni, The Hormiga Lab, The George Washington University, Washington, D.C., USA
Dr. Tomas Ditrich, Faculty of Education, University of South Bohemia in Ceske Budejovice, Czech Republic
Dr. Mihaly Foldvari, Natural History Museum, University of Oslo, Norway
Dr. V.P. Uniyal, Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun, Uttarakhand 248001, India
Dr. John T.D. Caleb, Zoological Survey of India, Kolkata, West Bengal, India
Dr. Priyadarshan Dharma Rajan, Ashoka Trust for Research in Ecology and the Environment (ATREE), Royal Enclave, Bangalore, Karnataka, India

Fishes

Dr. Neelesh Dahanukar, IISER, Pune, Maharashtra, India
Dr. Topiltzin Contreras MacBeath, Universidad Autónoma del estado de Morelos, México
Dr. Heok Hee Ng, National University of Singapore, Science Drive, Singapore
Dr. Rajeev Raghavan, St. Albert's College, Kochi, Kerala, India
Dr. Robert D. Sluka, Chiltern Gateway Project, A Rocha UK, Southall, Middlesex, UK
Dr. E. Vivekanandan, Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute, Chennai, India
Dr. Davor Zanella, University of Zagreb, Zagreb, Croatia
Dr. A. Biju Kumar, University of Kerala, Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala, India
Dr. Akhilesh K.V., ICAR-Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute, Mumbai Research Centre, Mumbai, Maharashtra, India
Dr. J.A. Johnson, Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun, Uttarakhand, India
Dr. R. Ravinesh, Gujarat Institute of Desert Ecology, Gujarat, India

Amphibians

Dr. Sushil K. Dutta, Indian Institute of Science, Bengaluru, Karnataka, India
Dr. Annemarie Ohler, Muséum national d'Histoire naturelle, Paris, France

Reptiles

Dr. Gernot Vogel, Heidelberg, Germany
Dr. Raju Vyas, Vadodara, Gujarat, India
Dr. Pritpal S. Soorae, Environment Agency, Abu Dhabi, UAE.
Prof. Dr. Wayne J. Fuller, Near East University, Mersin, Turkey
Prof. Chandrashekher U. Rironker, Goa University, Taleigao Plateau, Goa, India
Dr. S.R. Ganesh, Chennai Snake Park, Chennai, Tamil Nadu, India
Dr. Himansu Sekhar Das, Terrestrial & Marine Biodiversity, Abu Dhabi, UAE

Journal of Threatened Taxa is indexed/abstracted in Bibliography of Systematic Mycology, Biological Abstracts, BIOSIS Previews, CAB Abstracts, EBSCO, Google Scholar, Index Copernicus, Index Fungorum, JournalSeek, National Academy of Agricultural Sciences, NewJour, OCLC WorldCat, SCOPUS, Stanford University Libraries, Virtual Library of Biology, Zoological Records.

NAAS rating (India) 5.64

Birds

Dr. Hem Sagar Baral, Charles Sturt University, NSW Australia
Mr. H. Biju, Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu, India
Dr. Chris Bowden, Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, Sandy, UK
Dr. Priya Davidar, Pondicherry University, Kalapet, Puducherry, India
Dr. J.W. Duckworth, IUCN SSC, Bath, UK
Dr. Rajah Jayopal, SACON, Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu, India
Dr. Rajiv S. Kalsi, M.L.N. College, Yamuna Nagar, Haryana, India
Dr. V. Santharam, Rishi Valley Education Centre, Chittoor Dt., Andhra Pradesh, India
Dr. S. Balachandran, Bombay Natural History Society, Mumbai, India
Mr. J. Praveen, Bengaluru, India
Dr. C. Srinivasulu, Osmania University, Hyderabad, India
Dr. K.S. Gopi Sundar, International Crane Foundation, Baraboo, USA
Dr. Gombobaatar Sundev, Professor of Ornithology, Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia
Prof. Reuven Yosef, International Birding & Research Centre, Eilat, Israel
Dr. Taej Mundkur, Wetlands International, Wageningen, The Netherlands
Dr. Carol Inskip, Bishop Auckland Co., Durham, UK
Dr. Tim Inskip, Bishop Auckland Co., Durham, UK
Dr. V. Gokula, National College, Tiruchirappalli, Tamil Nadu, India
Dr. Arkady Lelej, Russian Academy of Sciences, Vladivostok, Russia
Dr. Simon Dowell, Science Director, Chester Zoo, UK
Dr. Mário Gabriel Santiago dos Santos, Universidade de Trás-os-Montes e Alto Douro, Quinta de Prados, Vila Real, Portugal
Dr. Grant Connette, Smithsonian Institution, Royal, VA, USA
Dr. P.A. Azeez, Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu, India

Mammals

Dr. Giovanni Amori, CNR - Institute of Ecosystem Studies, Rome, Italy
Dr. Anwaruddin Chowdhury, Guwahati, India
Dr. David Mallon, Zoological Society of London, UK
Dr. Shomita Mukherjee, SACON, Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu, India
Dr. Angie Appel, Wild Cat Network, Germany
Dr. P.O. Nameer, Kerala Agricultural University, Thrissur, Kerala, India
Dr. Ian Redmond, UNEP Convention on Migratory Species, Lansdown, UK
Dr. Heidi S. Riddle, Riddle's Elephant and Wildlife Sanctuary, Arkansas, USA
Dr. Karin Schwartz, George Mason University, Fairfax, Virginia.
Dr. Lala A.K. Singh, Bhubaneswar, Orissa, India
Dr. Mewa Singh, Mysore University, Mysore, India
Dr. Paul Racey, University of Exeter, Devon, UK
Dr. Honnavalli N. Kumara, SACON, Anaikatty P.O., Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu, India
Dr. Nishith Dharaiya, HNG University, Patan, Gujarat, India
Dr. Spartaco Gippoliti, Socio Onorario Società Italiana per la Storia della Fauna "Giuseppe Altobello", Rome, Italy
Dr. Justus Joshua, Green Future Foundation, Tiruchirappalli, Tamil Nadu, India
Dr. H. Raghuram, The American College, Madurai, Tamil Nadu, India
Dr. Paul Bates, Harison Institute, Kent, UK
Dr. Jim Sanderson, Small Wild Cat Conservation Foundation, Hartford, USA
Dr. Dan Challender, University of Kent, Canterbury, UK
Dr. David Mallon, Manchester Metropolitan University, Derbyshire, UK
Dr. Brian L. Cypher, California State University-Stanislaus, Bakersfield, CA
Dr. S.S. Talmale, Zoological Survey of India, Pune, Maharashtra, India
Prof. Karan Bahadur Shah, Budhanilkantha Municipality, Kathmandu, Nepal
Dr. Susan Cheyne, Borneo Nature Foundation International, Palangkaraya, Indonesia
Dr. Hemanta Kafley, Wildlife Sciences, Tarleton State University, Texas, USA

Other Disciplines

Dr. Aniruddha Belsare, Columbia MO 65203, USA (Veterinary)
Dr. Mandar S. Paingankar, University of Pune, Pune, Maharashtra, India (Molecular)
Dr. Jack Tordoff, Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund, Arlington, USA (Communities)
Dr. Ulrike Streicher, University of Oregon, Eugene, USA (Veterinary)
Dr. Hari Balasubramanian, EcoAdvisors, Nova Scotia, Canada (Communities)
Dr. Rayanna Helleni Santos Bezerra, Universidade Federal de Sergipe, São Cristóvão, Brazil
Dr. Jamie R. Wood, Landcare Research, Canterbury, New Zealand
Dr. Wendy Collinson-Jonker, Endangered Wildlife Trust, Gauteng, South Africa
Dr. Rajeshkumar G. Jani, Anand Agricultural University, Anand, Gujarat, India
Dr. O.N. Tiwari, Senior Scientist, ICAR-Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI), New Delhi, India
Dr. L.D. Singla, Guru Angad Dev Veterinary and Animal Sciences University, Ludhiana, India
Dr. Rupika S. Rajakaruna, University of Peradeniya, Peradeniya, Sri Lanka
Dr. Bharat Baviskar, Wild-CER, Nagpur, Maharashtra 440013, India

Reviewers 2021–2023

Due to paucity of space, the list of reviewers for 2021–2023 is available online.

The opinions expressed by the authors do not reflect the views of the Journal of Threatened Taxa, Wildlife Information Liaison Development Society, Zoo Outreach Organization, or any of the partners. The journal, the publisher, the host, and the partners are not responsible for the accuracy of the political boundaries shown in the maps by the authors.

Print copies of the Journal are available at cost. Write to:
The Managing Editor, JoTT,
c/o Wildlife Information Liaison Development Society,
3A2 Varadarajulu Nagar, FCI Road, Ganapathy, Coimbatore,
Tamil Nadu 641006, India
ravi@threatenedtaxa.org & ravi@zooreach.org



OPEN ACCESS



The Journal of Threatened Taxa (JoTT) is dedicated to building evidence for conservation globally by publishing peer-reviewed articles online every month at a reasonably rapid rate at www.threatenedtaxa.org. All articles published in JoTT are registered under [Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International License](#) unless otherwise mentioned. JoTT allows unrestricted use, reproduction, and distribution of articles in any medium by providing adequate credit to the author(s) and the source of publication.

www.threatenedtaxa.org

Articles

Negative interaction or coexistence? Livestock predation and conservation of wild carnivores in Kazinag National Park and adjacent region in the Kashmir Himalaya, India
– Uzma Dawood & Bilal A. Bhat, Pp. 26187–26197

Avifaunal diversity and conservation significance of coastal ecosystems on Rameswaram Island, Tamil Nadu, India
– H. Byju, H. Maitreyi, S. Ravichandran & N. Raveendran, Pp. 26198–26212

Conservation of sea turtles on the beach areas from Sonadia Island to Saint Martin's Island in the Bay of Bengal in Bangladesh
– M. Farid Ahsan, Shital Kumar Nath & Ashim Barua, Pp. 26213–26224

Noteworthy records of vascular plants from the West Bank, occupied Palestinian territories
– Banan Al-Sheikh, Mazin B. Qumsiyeh & Abdel-Salam Hubbieh, Pp. 26225–26233

Communications

Citizen science conservation: a case study using two threatened large aquatic American salamanders (Amphibia: Urodela), the Common Mudpuppy *Necturus maculosus* (Proteidae) and the Eastern Hellbender *Cryptobranchus alleganiensis* (Cryptobranchidae) observations on iNaturalist
– Shem Unger, Pp. 26234–26239

A preliminary study of odonate fauna in the high ranges of Munnar, southern Western Ghats, India
– T.S. Krishnanunni, Nazar Neha, R. Arya & P.O. Nameer, Pp. 26240–26250

A new species of *Arctodiaptomus* Kiefer, 1932 (Copepoda: Diaptomidae) from the Kumaun Himalaya of India
– Shaikhom Inaotombi & Debajit Sarma, Pp. 26251–26263

Morpho-anatomical characterization and conservation status of the Whisk Fern *Psilotum nudum* (L.) P.Beauv. (Polypodiopsida: Psilotaceae) from Cooch Behar District of West Bengal, India
– Aninda Mandal, Pp. 26264–26271

Six new reports of corticioid fungi from India
– Poonam, Avneet Pal Singh & Gurpaul Singh Dhingra, Pp. 26272–26282

On the *Maravalia echinulata* (Niessl ex Rabenh.) Ono (Pucciniales: Chaconiaceae) with reference to its host range and distribution
– Sayantan Jash & Asit Baran De, Pp. 26283–26290

Short Communications

A rare low elevation photographic record of Himalayan Serow *Capricornis sumatraensis* ssp. *thar* (Hodgson, 1831) from Nameri National Park, Assam, India
– B. Piraisoodan, Asish Immanuel Baglary, Saumitro Das & Debasish Buragohain, Pp. 26291–26295

Sightings of Red Goral *Nemorhaedus baileyi* in the community forest of the Upper Siang region, Arunachal Pradesh: an insight into its conservation challenges and implications within a tribal-managed landscape

– Takhe Bamin, Kishon Tekseng & Daniel Mize, Pp. 26296–26300

New record of *Sapria himalayana* Griff. (Rafflesiaceae) from Eaglenest Wildlife Sanctuary, Arunachal Pradesh, India

– Anisha Mandal, Aman Bishwakarma, Dibi Soma Monpa, Kabir Pradhan, Karma Wangdi Monpa & Rohit Rai, Pp. 26301–26305

***Pinnatella limbata* (Bryophyta: Neckeraceae): reassessment of conservation status based on recent findings**

– O.M. Sruthi, C.N. Manju, K.P. Rajesh & J. Enroth, Pp. 26306–26311

Additions of two genera of liverworts (Marchantiophyta) to the bryoflora of Nagaland, India

– Kazhuhrii Eshuo, Kholi Kaini & S.K. Chaturvedi, Pp. 26312–26316

***Phycolepidozia indica* (Marchantiophyta: Jungermanniales) an endemic leafless liverwort from Kerala part of Western Ghats, India**

– T. Krishnendhu, C.N. Manju, Ravi Athira & K.P. Rajesh, Pp. 26317–26321

Notes

First photographic documentation of avian egg predation by Common Palm Civet *Paradoxurus hermaphroditus* (Pallas, 1777) (Mammalia: Carnivora: Viverridae)

– Aritra Bhattacharya, B.N. Achyutha, Nandini Iyer, Somaiah Sundarapandian & Kuppusamy Sivakumar, Pp. 26322–26324

First record of Eurasian Crag Martin *Ptyonoprogne rupestris* (Scopoli, 1769) (Aves: Passeriformes: Hirundinidae) from Tamil Nadu, India

– S. Naveenkumar, Pp. 26325–26327

***Megachile vera* Nurse, 1901 (Insecta: Hymenoptera: Megachilidae): a new record of leaf cutter bee from Kerala, India**

– Anju Sara Prakash & C. Bijoy, Pp. 26328–26330

Publisher & Host



Threatened Taxa