

Seasonal variations and migration phenology of the avifauna of Mandothi wetlands, India

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Abstract The Mandothi wetlands, a lesser-known but ecologically significant ecosystem in Haryana, India, serve as an excellent habitat for diverse flora and fauna. This wetland plays a vital role in groundwater recharge, flood control, and climate regulation while supporting livelihood for local communities. Using scan sampling and point-cum-line transect techniques, the region was surveyed fortnightly from April 2022 to March 2024. A total of 79 migratory bird species were identified, classified into 12 orders, 25 families, and 48 genera. Out of these, 20 species were summer migrants and 59 were winter migrants. The order Charadriiformes exhibits the highest diversity of avian fauna with 24 migratory species. Among all guilds, insectivores were the most prevalent, according to the classification into feeding guilds. As per the IUCN Red List criteria, 71 species were classified as Least Concern (LC) whereas five species were classified as Near Threatened (NT) [Ferruginous Duck (*Aythya nyroca*), Black-tailed Godwit (*Limosa limosa*), Eurasian Curlew (*Numenius arquata*), Curlew Sandpiper (*Calidris ferruginea*), Black-necked Stork (*Ephippiorhynchus asiaticus*) and three species were classified as Vulnerable (VU) such as Eastern Imperial Eagle (*Aquila heliaca*), Greater Spotted Eagle (*Clanga clanga*) and Common Pochard (*Aythya ferina*)]. The study area plays a significant role in sustaining the diversity of birds and facing various stress factors, thus, it needs to be conserved effectively.

Keywords: ecological interactions, habitat preferences, population dynamics, summer migrant, winter migrant

Összefoglalás A Mandothi vizes élőhely-rendszer, mely India Haryana tartományának kevéssé ismert, de ökológiai értelemben jelentős ökoszisztémája, változatos növény- és állatvilág számára ad otthont. Ez a vizes élőhely-rendszer kulcsfontosságú szerepet játszik a talajvíz megőrzésében, az áradások szabályzásában és a klímaregulációban, valamint hozzájárul helyi közösségek létfenntartásához. Szkeneléses és pont-transzekt számlálásos felmérési módszerek alkalmazásával a térség madárvilágát mintáztuk 2022 áprilisa és 2024 márciusa között. Ebben az időszakban 79 madárfaj jelenlétét rögzítettük, melyek 12 rendbe, 25 családba és 48 nembe tartoztak. Ezek közül 20 faj nyári vonuló, 59 faj téli vonuló. A Charadriiformes rend volt a legnagyobb fajszámmal jelen, 24 vonuló fajjal. Az összes táplálkozási guild közül a rovarevők alkották a legnagyobb halmazt. Az IUCN Vörös Listájának kritériumrendszere szerint 71 faj volt Nem Fenyegetett (LC), míg öt faj bizonyult Közel Veszélyeztetettnek (NT), mint a cigányréce (*Aythya nyroca*), nagy goda (*Limosa limosa*), nagy póling (*Numenius arquata*), sárlós partfutó (*Calidris ferruginea*), fekete nyakú gólya (*Ephippiorhynchus asiaticus*); emellett három faj tartozott a Sérülékeny (VU) kategóriába: parlagi sas (*Aquila heliaca*), fekete sas (*Clanga clanga*) és barátréce (*Aythya ferina*).

Kulcsszavak: élőhelypreferencia, nyári vonuló, ökológiai interakciók, populációdinamika, téli vonuló

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Introduction

India's biodiversity is vast and multifaceted, largely due to the heterogeneity of its physical features, distinctive ecological history, and extreme eco-climatic variations (Chakraborty *et al.* 2023). It is one of the world's 17 mega-bio-diverse countries, with abundant biodiversity and distinctive environments. Preserving avian diversity requires resources like wetlands, which are home to a variety of bird species as well as a wide variety of animals, plants and invertebrates (Weller 1999). Wetlands are complex ecosystems that integrate aquatic and terrestrial environments (Torell *et al.* 2001, Zedler & Kercher 2005, Kumar *et al.* 2006). Birds also use wetlands as a source of drinking water and habitats for feeding, resting, shelter and social interactions (Stewart 2001). Wetlands are defined as "an area of fen, marsh, peat land or water, either natural or artificial, temporary or permanent, static or flowing fresh, marine, brackish or saltwater along with a depth of six meters at low tide", according to the Ramsar Convention Secretariat (2013). According to Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC 2024), India harbours 1,309 wetlands in total; 91 Ramsar sites, 110 significant wetlands and 1,108 other wetlands.

Birds classified as migratory are those that make regular, seasonal, large-scale, long-distance movement of a population between a designated breeding area and a fixed non-breeding area (Lack 1954, 1968, Sutherland 1998, Alerstam *et al.* 2003, Greenberg & Marra 2005, Somveille 2016, Tapia Harris 2022). Since migratory birds occupy multiple trophic levels in the wetland food web, they constitute an important biotic component of the ecosystem (Rai *et al.* 2017). A number of bird species migrate seasonally and regularly throughout the globe. Approximately 200 migratory species are currently considered globally threatened, and more than 40% of them are on the verge of decline (Rai *et al.* 2017). The sites of key conservation concern which are important for migratory avifauna needs to be managed adequately. Ornithological surveys are frequently utilized as archives of fundamental data, and they also function as a biodiversity catalogue for species presence, distribution, ecological condition, conservation status and adaptations to climate change (Gardner *et al.* 2011, Rai & Vanita 2022, Rai & Yadav 2023).

However, due to paucity of research data, the present study aims to address the diversity assessment, seasonal variations and migration phenology of the avifauna of Mandothi wetlands, India. Furthermore, the research highlights the need for integrating role of local communities and various stakeholders in conservation initiatives to ensure the long-term protection of such wetlands.

Material and Methods

Study area

The study was carried out in the Mandothi wetlands in District Jhajjar, Haryana, India, located between the latitudes of 28°22'49" N and the longitudes of 76°18'59" E (Figure 1). A section of the Indo-Gangetic Plain is represented by the district Jhajjar. Village Mandothi,

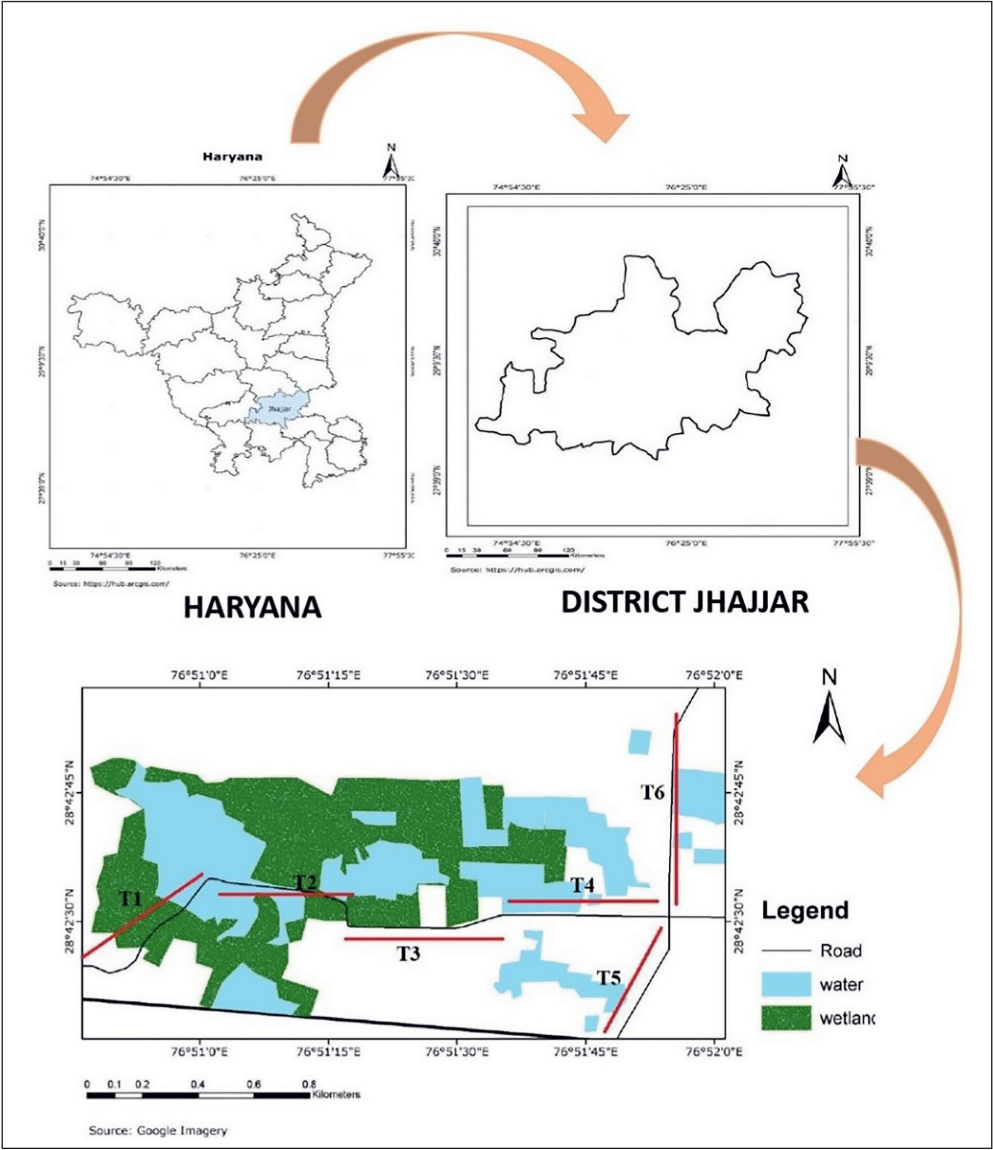


Figure 1. Map showing the location of Mandothi wetlands, Haryana
1. ábra A Haryana-beli Mandothi wetlands földrajzi elhelyezkedése

located at 28°70'585" N and 76°81'225" E, is situated on the NH-9 in the Bahadurgarh assembly and Rohtak parliamentary constituencies. The region experiences extreme climatic conditions, typical of northwestern India, with hot summers (temperature often exceeding 40 °C) and cool winters (temperature dropping to around 5 °C) (Yadav & Rai 2024). A total of 6 transects with different habitats were selected in the study area (Table 1). This area acts as a catchment for rainwater and supports local groundwater recharge.

Table 1. Selected transects with different lengths and habitats of Mandothi wetlands, India
1. táblázat Az indiai Mandothi wetlands területén kiválasztott transzektek, illetve ezek hossza és élőhelytípusa

S. N.	Transects	Transects length (km)	Coordinates	Habitats observed nearby at transect
1.	Transect T1	2.3	28.7262° N, 76.8470° E	Aquatic, Littoral Zone, Roadside railing, Fallow land
2.	Transect T2	1.2	28.7141° N, 76.8485° E	Aquatic, Littoral zone, Agricultural fields
3.	Transect T3	1.3	28.7096° N, 76.8513° E	Aquatic, Littoral zone, Roadside Plantation, Agricultural fields
4.	Transect T4	1.0	28.7080° N, 76.8502° E	Littoral zone, Roadside Plantation, Industrial area, Fallow land
5.	Transect T5	1.1	28.7016° N, 76.8501° E	Agricultural fields, Industrial area, Fallow land
	Transect T6	2.0	28.7105° N, 76.8643° E	Industrial area, Roadside Plantation, Fallow land

Field methods

From April 2022 to March 2024, fortnightly periodic visits were made at the study site using various techniques such as scan sampling and point-cum-line transect (Altmann 1974, Gaston 1975, Sutherland *et al.* 2005). Migratory status of the reported avian species was assigned as per Rai and Yadav (2023) (Table 2). Equipment such as binoculars and Nikon COOLPIX P1000 were used to observe the diversity of avian fauna. Merlin Bird ID and field guides such as Grimmett *et al.* (2015), Arlott (2015), Grimmett and Inskipp (2019), Kalsi *et al.* (2019) were used to identify the birds. Using Praveen *et al.* (2019), Praveen and Jayapal (2022), and IUCN (2024), a checklist of reported bird species was made and categorized based on common name, scientific name, order, family and genus. Evaluation of the species, conservation status and population trends (increasing ↑, decreasing ↓, stable →, and unknown?) were done with the help of IWPA (1972), CITES (2012) and IUCN (2024). Based on in-depth research and literature (Ali & Ripley 1987, Grimmett *et al.* 1999), avian feeding guilds were divided into seven groups: carnivores, insectivores, omnivores, herbivores, frugivores, granivores and piscivores. The Percent occurrence of reported avian orders and Relative Diversity index (RDi) of bird families was assessed using the following formulas:

$$Percent\ occurence = \frac{Number\ of\ bird\ species\ in\ an\ order}{Total\ number\ of\ bird\ species} \times 100$$
$$RDi = \frac{Number\ of\ bird\ species\ in\ a\ family}{Total\ number\ of\ bird\ species} \times 100$$

Table 2. Criteria for status of migratory avian species (Rai & Yadav 2023)

2. táblázat A vonuló madárfajok státuszának kritériumai (Rai & Yadav 2023)

Residential status	Consideration criteria
Summer Migratory (SM)	Reports of species over the summer only (April–September)
Winter Migratory (WM)	Species seen in the winter months only (October–March)
Along with the migratory status, the tentative schedule including arrival and departure of the migratory avian species will also be recorded in selected area.	

Results and Discussion

The Mandothi wetlands located in the state of Haryana, India, are well-known for their remarkable bird diversity (Rai & Yadav 2023). The present two-year study documented 79 migratory bird species including 59 winter and 20 summer migratory species classified into 48 genera, 25 families and 12 orders (from April 2022 to March 2024) in selected transects of Mandothi wetlands, Haryana. A checklist of recorded avian species with their taxonomy and IUCN status is presented in *Table 3*. Findings of the study also revealed that during the first year (April 2022 – March 2023), a total of 65 migratory species were reported in which 49 species were winter migrants and 16 species were summer migrants, and during the second year (April 2023 – March 2024), out of total reported 66 migratory species, 51 species were winter migrants and 15 species were summer migrants, respectively. Along with these, 8 winter and 5 summer migrant species were different in the first year of the study period whereas 10 winter and 4 summer migrant species were different during the second year of the study (*Table 4*).

Results of the study revealed that order Charadriiformes dominate the current study area consisting of 24 species and 7 families with 15 genera, followed by Passeriformes (17 species, 7 families and 12 genera), Anseriformes (15 species, 1 family and 8 genera), Accipitriformes and Pelecaniformes (5 species each; 2 and 1 families respectively and 5 genera each), Coraciiformes and Cuculiformes (3 species, 1 family and 1 genera each), Podicipediformes and Suliformes (consist of 2 species each and both with single family and genera), whereas Ciconiiformes, Gruiformes and Piciformes with one species, single family and genera (*Table 5*). Among the 25 families, the maximum number of species were recorded in the Scolopacidae with 16 species followed by Anatidae with 15 species, Motacillidae (7 species), Ardeidae (5 species), Accipitridae (4 species), Meropidae, Cuculidae, Alaudidae and Muscicapidae (3 species each), Charadriidae, Laridae, Podicipedidae and Phalacrocoracidae consist of 2 species each, while families like Pandionidae, Recurvirostridae, Jacanidae, Rostratulidae, Glareolidae, Ciconiidae, Rallidae, Laniidae, Oriolidae, Phylloscopidae, Sylviidae, Picidae observed with one species each.

During the study, it was observed that insectivores were the dominant feeding guilds with 41% of the species, whereas carnivores were the second dominant with 25%, followed by omnivores (22%) and herbivores (13%). To maximise food sources and extend their lifespan, birds employ a range of feeding techniques (Nudds & Bowlby 1984). Since the wetlands offer a wet climate and a wide variety of plants, the existence of a significant percentage of

Table 3. List and status of migratory avifauna recorded in Mandothi wetlands, India
 3. táblázat Az indiai Mandothi wetlands területén megfigyelt madárfajok listája és státusza

S. No.	Order/ Family/ Common name	Scientific name with Authority	Feeding guild	IUCN Global population trends	Conservation status			Migratory Status	Local Abundance Status
					IUCN (2022)	CITES (2012)	IWPA (1972)		
1. ORDER ANSERIFORMES (No. of species = 15, No. of family = 1, Percent occurrence = 18.99)									
1.1. Family Anatidae (No. of species = 15, RDi value = 18.99)									
1.	Bar-headed Goose	<i>Anser indicus</i> (Latham, 1790)	H	↓	LC	-	IV	WM	A
2.	Greylag Goose	<i>Anser anser</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)	H	↑	LC	-	IV	WM	A
3.	Greater White-fronted Goose	<i>Anser albifrons</i> (Scopoli, 1769)	O	?	LC	-	IV	WM	RA
4.	Common Pochard	<i>Aythya ferina</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)	O	↓	VU	-	IV	WM	C
5.	Tufted Duck	<i>Aythya fuligula</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)	H	→	LC	-	IV	WM	RA
6.	Ferruginous Duck	<i>Aythya nyroca</i> (Güldenstädt, 1770)	O	↓	NT	-	IV	WM	FC
7.	Eurasian Wigeon	<i>Mareca penelope</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)	H	↓	LC	-	IV	WM	C
8.	Gadwall	<i>Mareca strepera</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)	H	↑	LC	-	IV	WM	C
9.	Garganey	<i>Spatula querquedula</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)	H	↓	LC	-	IV	WM	A
10.	Northern Shoveler	<i>Spatula clypeata</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)	O	↓	LC	-	IV	WM	A
11.	Common Teal	<i>Anas crecca</i> Linnaeus, 1758	O	?	LC	-	IV	WM	C
12.	Northern Pintail	<i>Anas acuta</i> Linnaeus, 1758	Cv	↓	LC	-	IV	WM	A
13.	Lesser Whistling- Duck	<i>Dendrocygna javanica</i> (Horsfield, 1821)	O	↓	LC	-	IV	SM	FC
14.	Ruddy Shelduck	<i>Tadorna ferruginea</i> (Pallas, 1764)	O	?	LC	-	IV	WM	C
15.	Cotton Pygmy-goose	<i>Nettapus coromandelianus</i> (Gmelin, JF, 1789)	O	→	LC	-	IV	WM	RA

S. No.	Order/ Family/ Common name	Scientific name with Authority	Feeding guild	IUCN Global population trends	Conservation status			Migratory Status	Local Abundance Status
					IUCN (2022)	CITES (2012)	IWPA (1972)		
2. ORDER CUCULIFORMES (No. of species = 3, No. of family=1, Percent occurrence = 3.80)									
2.1. Family Cuculidae (No. of species = 3, RDi value = 3.80)									
16.	Western Koel	<i>Eudynamys scolopaceus</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)	O	→	LC	-	IV	SM	C
17.	Common Hawk Cuckoo	<i>Hierococcyx varius</i> (Vahl, 1797)	In	→	LC	-	IV	SM	FC
18.	Jacobin Cuckoo	<i>Clamator jacobinus</i> (Boddaert, 1783)	In	→	LC	-	IV	SM	C
3. ORDER GRUIFORMES (No. of species = 1, No. of family = 1, Percent occurrence = 1.27)									
3.1. Family Rallidae (No. of species = 1), RDi value = 1.27									
19.	Eurasian Coot	<i>Fulica atra</i> Linnaeus, 1758	H	↑	LC	-	IV	WM	A
4. ORDER PODICIPEDIFORMES (No. of species = 2, No. of family = 1, Percent occurrence = 2.53)									
4.1. Family Podicipedidae (No. of species = 2, RDi value = 2.53)									
20.	Great Crested Grebe	<i>Podiceps cristatus</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)	Cv	?	LC	-	IV	WM	RA
21.	Black-necked Grebe	<i>Podiceps nigricollis</i> Brehm, CL, 1831	Cv	?	LC	-	IV	WM	RA
5. ORDER CHARADRIIFORMES (No. of species = 24, No. of families = 7, Percent occurrence = 30.38)									
5.1 Family Scolopacidae (No. of species = 16, RDi value = 20.25)									
22.	Black-tailed Godwit	<i>Limosa limosa</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)	In	↓	NT	-	IV	WM	FC
23.	Common Greenshank	<i>Tringa nebularia</i> (Gunnerus, 1767)	Cv	→	LC	-	IV	WM	FC
24.	Common Redshank	<i>Tringa totanus</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)	In	?	LC	-	IV	WM	FC
25.	Spotted Redshank	<i>Tringa erythropus</i> (Pallas, 1764)	In	→	LC	-	IV	WM	FC
26.	Green Sandpiper	<i>Tringa ochropus</i> Linnaeus, 1758	In	↑	LC	-	IV	WM	C
27.	Wood Sandpiper	<i>Tringa glareola</i> Linnaeus, 1758	In	→	LC	-	IV	WM	C
28.	Marsh Sandpiper	<i>Tringa stagnatilis</i> (Bechstein, 1803)	In	↓	LC	-	IV	WM	C
29.	Ruff	<i>Calidris pugnax</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)	In	↓	LC	-	IV	WM	FC

S. No.	Order/ Family/ Common name	Scientific name with Authority	Feeding guild	IUCN Global population trends	Conservation status			Migratory Status	Local Abundance Status
					IUCN (2022)	CITES (2012)	IWPA (1972)		
30.	Temminck's Stint	<i>Calidris temminckii</i> (Leisler, 1812)	In	?	LC	-	IV	WM	FC
31.	Little Stint	<i>Calidris minuta</i> (Leisler, 1812)	In	↑	LC	-	IV	WM	FC
32.	Curlew Sandpiper	<i>Calidris ferruginea</i> (Pontoppidan, 1763)	In	↓	NT	-	IV	WM	RA
33.	Common Sandpiper	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)	In	↓	LC	-	IV	WM	C
34.	Common Snipe	<i>Gallinago gallinago</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)	Cv	↓	LC	-	IV	WM	RA
35.	Eurasian Curlew	<i>Numenius arquata</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)	In	↓	NT	-	IV	WM	RA
36.	Jack Snipe	<i>Lymnocyrtus minimus</i> (Brünnich, 1764)	Cv	→	LC	-	IV	WM	RA
37.	Ruddy Turnstone	<i>Arenaria interpres</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)	In	↓	LC	-	IV	SM	RA
5.2. Family Recurvirostridae (No. of species = 1, RDi value = 1.27)									
38.	Pied Avocet	<i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i> Linnaeus, 1758	Cv	?	LC	-	IV	WM	C
5.3. Family Jacanidae (No. of species = 1, RDi value = 1.27)									
39.	Pheasant-tailed Jacana	<i>Hydrophasianus chirurgus</i> (Scopoli, 1786)	O	↓	LC	-	IV	SM	C
5.4. Family Rostratulidae (No. of species = 1, RDi value = 1.27)									
40.	Greater Painted-snipe	<i>Rostratula benghalensis</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)	O	↓	LC	-	IV	SM	FC
5.5. Family Glareolidae (No. of species = 1, RDi value = 1.27)									
41.	Oriental Pratincole	<i>Glareola maldivarum</i> J.R. Forster, 1795	In	↓	LC	-	IV	SM	FC
5.6. Family Charadriidae (No. of species = 2, RDi value = 2.53)									
42.	Pacific Golden Plover	<i>Pluvialis fulva</i> (Gmelin, JF, 1789)	Cv	↓	LC	-	IV	SM	FC
43.	White-tailed Lapwing	<i>Vanellus leucurus</i> (M.H.C. Lichtenstein, 1823)	Cv	?	LC	-	IV	WM	C

S. No.	Order/ Family/ Common name	Scientific name with Authority	Feeding guild	IUCN Global population trends	Conservation status			Migratory Status	Local Abundance Status
					IUCN (2022)	CITES (2012)	IWPA (1972)		
5.7 Family Laridae (No. of species = 2, RDi value = 2.53)									
44.	Brown-headed Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus brunnicephalus</i> (Jerdon, 1840)	Cv	→	LC	-	IV	WM	RA
45.	Black-headed Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i> (Linnaeus, 1766)	Cv	?	LC	-	IV	WM	RA
6. ORDER CICONIIFORMES (No. of species = 1, No. of family = 1, Percent occurrence = 1.27)									
6.1. Family Ciconiidae (No. of species = 1, RDi value = 1.27)									
46.	Black-necked Stork	<i>Ephippiorhynchus asiaticus</i> (Latham, 1790)	Cv	↓	NT	-	IV	WM	C
7. ORDER SULIFORMES (No. of species = 2, No. of family = 1, Percent occurrence = 2.53)									
7.1. Family Phalacrocoracidae (No. of species = 2, RDi value = 2.53)									
47.	Great Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)	Cv	↑	LC	-	IV	WM	C
48.	Indian Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax fuscicollis</i> Stephens, 1826	Cv	?	LC	-	IV	WM	C
8. ORDER PELECANIFORMES (No. of species = 5, No. of families = 1, Percent occurrence = 6.33)									
8.1. Family Ardeidae (No. of species = 5, RDi value = 6.33)									
49.	Western Reef Egret	<i>Egretta gularis</i> (Bosc, 1792)	Cv	→	LC	-	IV	WM	RA
50.	Black Bittern	<i>Ixobrychus flavicollis</i> (Latham, 1790)	Cv	↓	LC	-	IV	SM	RA
51.	Cinnamon Bittern	<i>Ixobrychus cinnamomeus</i> (Gmelin, JF, 1789)	Cv	→	LC	-	IV	SM	RA
52.	Yellow Bittern	<i>Ixobrychus sinensis</i> (Gmelin, JF, 1789)	Cv	?	LC	-	IV	SM	RA
53.	Common Little Bittern	<i>Ixobrychus minutus</i> (Linnaeus, 1766)	Cv	↓	LC	-	IV	SM	FC
9. ORDER ACCIPITRIFORMES (No. of species = 5, No. of family = 2, Percent occurrence = 6.33)									
9.1. Family Accipitridae (No. of species = 4, RDi value = 5.06)									
54.	Brahminy Kite	<i>Haliastur indus</i> (Boddaert, 1783)	Cv	↓	LC	II	I	WM	RA

S. No.	Order/ Family/ Common name	Scientific name with Authority	Feeding guild	IUCN Global population trends	Conservation status			Migratory Status	Local Abundance Status
					IUCN (2022)	CITES (2012)	IWPA (1972)		
55.	Eastern Imperial Eagle	<i>Aquila heliaca</i> Savigny, 1809	Cv	↓	VU	I	I	WM	RA
56.	Western Marsh Harrier	<i>Circus aeruginosus</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)	Cv	→	LC	II	I	WM	FC
57.	Greater Spotted Eagle	<i>Clanga clanga</i> (Pallas, 1811)	Cv	↓	VU	II	I	WM	RA
9.2. Family Pandionidae (No. of species = 1, RDi value = 1.27)									
58.	Osprey	<i>Pandion haliaetus</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)	Cv	↑	LC	II	I	WM	FC
10. ORDER CORACIIFORMES (No. of species = 3, No. of families = 1, Percent occurrence = 3.80)									
10.1. Family Meropidae (No. of species = 3, RDi value = 3.80)									
59.	Asian Green Bee-eater	<i>Merops orientalis</i> Latham, 1801	In	↑	LC	-	IV	SM	A
60.	Blue- cheeked Bee-eater	<i>Merops persicus</i> Pallas, 1773	In	→	LC	-	IV	SM	FC
61.	Blue-tailed Bee-eater	<i>Merops philippinus</i> Linnaeus, 1767	In	→	LC	-	IV	SM	FC
11. ORDER PICIFORMES (No. of species = 1, No. of families = 1, Percent occurrence = 1.27)									
11.1. Family Picidae (No. of species = 1, RDi value = 1.27)									
62.	Eurasian Wryneck	<i>Jynx torquilla</i> Linnaeus, 1758	In	↓	LC	-	IV	WM	RA
12. ORDER PASSERIFORMES (No. of species = 17, No. of families = 7, Percent occurrence = 21.52)									
12.1. Family Alaudidae (No. of species = 3, RDi value = 3.80)									
63.	Ashy- crowned Sparrow-lark	<i>Eremopterix griseus</i> (Scopoli, 1786)	O	→	LC	-	IV	SM	FC
64.	Bengal Bushlark	<i>Mirafra assamica</i> Horsfield, 1840	O	→	LC	-	IV	SM	FC
65.	Sand Lark	<i>Alaudala raytal</i> (Blyth, 1845)	O	→	LC	-	IV	SM	FC
12.2. Family Laniidae (No. of species = 1, RDi value = 1.27)									
66.	Isabelline Shrike	<i>Lanius isabellinus</i> Hemprich & Ehrenberg, 1833	In	→	LC	-	IV	WM	RA

S. No.	Order/ Family/ Common name	Scientific name with Authority	Feeding guild	IUCN Global population trends	Conservation status			Migratory Status	Local Abundance Status
					IUCN (2022)	CITES (2012)	IWPA (1972)		
12.3. Family Motacillidae (No. of species = 7, RDi value = 8.86)									
67.	Western Yellow Wagtail	<i>Motacilla flava</i> Linnaeus, 1758	In	↓	LC	-	IV	WM	C
68.	White Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba</i> Linnaeus, 1758	In	→	LC	-	IV	WM	A
69.	Grey Wagtail	<i>Motacilla cinerea</i> Tunstall, 1771	In	→	LC	-	IV	WM	C
70.	Citrine Wagtail	<i>Motacilla citreola</i> Pallas, 1776	In	↑	LC	-	IV	WM	C
71.	Eastern Yellow Wagtail	<i>Motacilla tschutschensis</i> Gmelin, JF, 1789	In	↓	LC	-	IV	WM	FC
72.	Tawny Pipit	<i>Anthus campestris</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)	In	→	LC	-	IV	WM	FC
73.	Tree Pipit	<i>Anthus trivialis</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)	In	↓	LC	-	IV	WM	C
12.4. Family Oriolidae (No. of species = 1, RDi value = 1.27)									
74.	Indian Golden Oriole	<i>Oriolus kundoo</i> Sykes, 1832	O	?	LC	-	IV	SM	RA
12.5. Family Phylloscopidae (No. of species = 1, RDi value = 1.27)									
75.	Common Chiffchaff	<i>Phylloscopus collybita</i> (Vieillot, 1817)	In	↑	LC	-	IV	WM	FC
12.6. Family Sylviidae (No. of species = 1, RDi value = 1.27)									
76.	Lesser Whitethroat	<i>Curruca curruca</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)	O	→	LC	-	IV	WM	FC
12.7. Family Muscicapidae (No. of species = 3, RDi value = 3.80)									
77.	Bluethroat	<i>Luscinia svecica</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)	In	→	LC	III	IV	WM	C
78.	Red-breasted Flycatcher	<i>Ficedula parva</i> (Bechstein, 1792)	In	↑	LC	III	IV	WM	RA
79.	Siberian Stonechat	<i>Saxicola maurus</i> (Pallas, 1773)	In	→	LC	-	IV	WM	FC

Abbreviations: **Feeding guilds:** H- Herbivore/ O-Omnivore/ In-Insectivor/ Cv-Carnivore/ G-Grainivore/ F-Frugivore/ P-Piscivore/ In/N-Insectivore/Nectarivore;

Conservation status: LC- Least Concern/ NT- Near threatened/ VU-Vulnerable;

Population trends: ↑ – Increasing/ ↓ – Decreasing/ → Stable/ ?- Unknown;

CITES – Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora;

IWPA – Indian Wildlife Protection Act/ I- Schedule I of IWPA (highly preferred species)/ IV- Schedule IV of IWPA (moderately preferred species);

M status: Migratory status: WM-Winter Migrant/ SM-Summer Migrant;

LA status-Local Abundance status: A-Abundant/ C-Common/ FC-Fairly Common/ RA-Rare.

Table 4. Variations in the number of seasonal migrant species at Mandothi wetlands, India from April, 2022 to March, 2024

4. táblázat Az indiai Mandothi wetlands területén megfigyelt szezonálisan vonuló madárfajok száma

Mandothi wetlands			
Migratory Status	April 2022–March 2023	April 2023–March 2024	Total Richness
Winter Migrants	49 (8)	51 (10)	59
Summer Migrants	16 (5)	15 (4)	20
Overall reported migratory avian species from April 2022–March 2024			79

Table 5. Number of Species, families, genera per reported avian order of Mandothi wetlands, India from April, 2022 to March, 2024

5. táblázat Az indiai Mandothi wetlands területén 2022 áprilisa és 2024 márciusa között megfigyelt madárrendek faj-, család- és nemszáma

S. No.	Order Name	Number of Species/ Order	Number of Families/ Order	Number of Genera/ Order
1.	Charadriiformes	24	7	15
2.	Passeriformes	17	7	12
3.	Anseriformes	15	1	8
4.	Accipitriformes	5	2	5
5.	Pelecaniformes	5	1	5
6.	Coraciiformes	3	1	1
7.	Cuculiformes	3	1	1
8.	Podicipediformes	2	1	1
9.	Suliformes	2	1	1
10.	Ciconiiformes	1	1	1
11.	Gruiformes	1	1	1
12.	Piciformes	1	1	1

insectivorous birds in the area suggests that the insect assemblage is diverse (Gregory *et al.* 2001, Sohil & Sharma 2020, Rai & Vanita 2023). Insectivores were shown to be prevalent across all guilds based on the feeding guild study similarly to the results of Rai and Vanita (2023). As per the IUCN Red List criteria (IUCN 2024) 71 species were classified as Least Concern (LC), whereas 5 species were classified as Near Threatened (NT) i.e. Ferruginous Duck (*Aythya nyroca*), Black-tailed Godwit (*Limosa limosa*), Eurasian Curlew (*Numenius arquata*), Curlew Sandpiper (*Calidris ferruginea*), Black-necked Stork (*Ephippiorhynchus asiaticus*), and 3 species were classified as Vulnerable (VU) such as Eastern Imperial Eagle (*Aquila heliaca*), Greater Spotted Eagle (*Clanga clanga*), Common Pochard (*Aythya ferina*) in the study area. The IUCN Red List (IUCN 2024) of recorded avian species indicates that 11 species have an increasing trend, 30 species have decreasing trend, 25 species have stable trend, and the trend of 13 species is unknown.

The relationship between the documented bird species' local abundance and their migratory status at the study site shows the ecological significance of this habitat, as it supports migrants

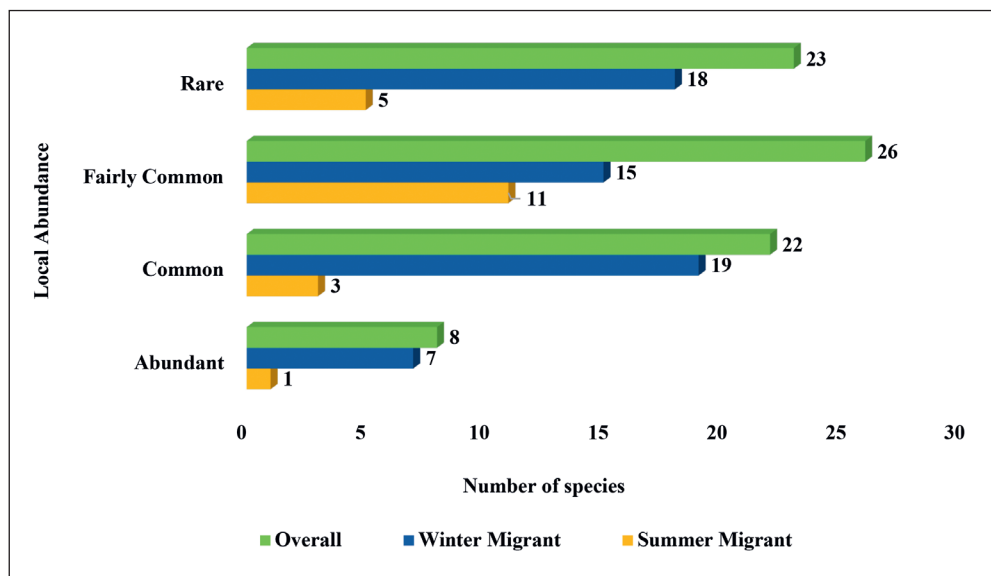


Figure 2. Relationship between documented bird species' local abundance and migratory status at Mandothi wetlands, India from April 2022 to March 2024

2. ábra Az indiai Mandothi Wetlands területén 2022 áprilisa és 2024 márciusa között megfigyelt madárfajok lokális abundanciája és vonulási stratégiája közötti kapcsolat

from both seasons. Out of the total summer migrants, 25% species were rare, 55% species were fairly common, 15% species were common and 5% species was abundant. Similarly, for winter migrants, 30.5% species were rare, 25.4% species were fairly common, 32.2% species were common and 11.9% species were abundant (Figure 2).

The IUCN global population trends of avian species provide valuable insights into their conservation status and vulnerability, which can be linked to their local abundance at the study site. Out of the total avifauna with increasing population trend, 27.3% species were abundant, 36.4% were common, 27.3% were fairly common and 9.1% were rare. Out of species with decreasing population trend, 13.3% species were abundant, 26.7% were common, 30.0% were fairly common and 30.0% were rare. Out of species with stable population trends, 4.0% species were abundant, 20.0% were common, 48.0% were fairly common and 28.0% were rare. Similarly, out of species with unknown population trends, 38.5% were common, 15.4% were fairly common and 46.2% were rare (Figure 3).

Unlike resident or wintering birds, passage migrants do not remain in one location for extended periods, instead, they use such stopover sites as resting and refuelling stations to recover energy for the next part of their journey (Beauchamp 2024). The Mandothi wetlands serve as an important stopover site for passage migrant birds, which use the area during their seasonal migrations. These birds pause at the study site to rest and refuel before continuing their long journeys between breeding and wintering grounds. Some species are passage migrants often include shorebirds, waders and waterfowl, whose presence highlights the wetlands' role in supporting migratory routes and maintaining avian biodiversity. Species like Cotton Pygmy-goose (*Nettapus coromandelianus*) (Anseriformes), Jacobin Cuckoo (*Clamator*

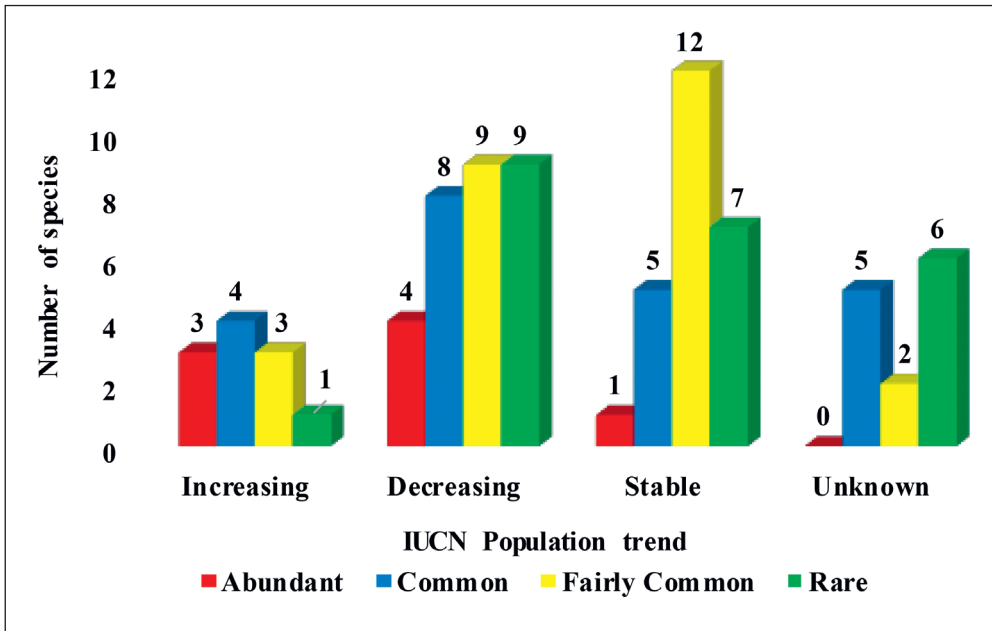


Figure 3. IUCN population trend and its relationship with local abundance status of reported avian species at Mandothi wetlands, India from April 2022 to March 2024

3. ábra Az indiai Mandothi wetlands területén 2022 áprilisa és 2024 márciusa között megfigyelt madárfajok lokális abundanciája és IUCN-alapú populációs trendjei közötti kapcsolat

jacobinus), Common Hawk Cuckoo (*Hierococcyx varius*) (Cuculiformes), Black-necked Grebe (*Podiceps nigricollis*) (Podicipediformes), Curlew Sandpiper (*Calidris ferruginea*), Eurasian Curlew (*Numenius arquata*), Jack Snipe (*Limnocryptes minimus*), Brown-headed Gull (*Chroicocephalus brunnicephalus*), Black-headed Gull (*Chroicocephalus ridibundus*) (Charadriiformes), Western Reef Egret (*Egretta gularis*), Cinnamon Bittern (*Ixobrychus cinnamomeus*) (Pelecaniformes), Osprey (*Pandion haliaetus*) (Accipitriformes), Eurasian Wryneck (*Jynx torquilla*) (Piciformes), Bengal Bushlark (*Mirafra assamica*), Sand Lark (*Alaudala raytal*), Indian Golden Oriole (*Oriolus kundoo*), Lesser Whitethroat (*Curruca curruca*) (Passeriformes) are significant passage migrants in the study area (Table 6).

Monitoring these species provides insights into migration patterns and ecosystem health, emphasizing the need for conservation measures to protect this vital habitat. Further monitoring is also recommended for migratory patterns and to assess the area's ability to sustain its avifauna in the long-term conservation initiatives. Other researchers also reported variable number of migratory avian species from other studied locations of the state of Haryana (Table 7).

Table 6. Monthly migration phenology of avian species reported at Mandothi wetlands, India from April, 2022 to March, 2024

6. táblázat Az indiai Mandothi wetlands területén 2022 áprilisa és 2024 márciusa között megfigyelt madárfajok havi vonulási fenológiája

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

S. No.	Common Name	Y/M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	J	F	M
76.	Lesser Whitethroat	1 st												
		2 nd												
77.	Bluethroat	1 st												
		2 nd												
78.	Red-breasted Flycatcher	1 st												
		2 nd												
79.	Siberian Stonechat	1 st												
		2 nd												

Table 7. Number of migratory bird species reported at various locations of Haryana, India by various researchers in different studies

7. táblázat India Haryana tartományában megfigyelt vonuló madárfajok száma és ezek irodalmi hivatkozása

Author	Study location	Number of migratory bird species reported
Gupta <i>et al.</i> 2012	Khaparwas Wildlife Sanctuary, Haryana	50
Chopra <i>et al.</i> 2017	Bhindwas Wildlife Sanctuary, Haryana	37
Rai <i>et al.</i> 2017	Basai Wetlands, Haryana	49
Rai <i>et al.</i> 2019	Basai Wetlands, Haryana	62
Parul & Kumar 2023	Dighal Wetlands, Haryana	70
Rai & Vanita 2023	Ottu Lake, Sirsa, Haryana	46
Rai & Yadav 2023	Mandothi Wetlands, Haryana	51
Yadav & Rai 2024	Mandothi Wetlands, Haryana	54
Vanita & Kumar 2024	District Rewari, Haryana	56

Conclusion

The study site provides an ideal environment for migratory as well as passage migrant avian species due to abundant food resources, freshwater availability, and safe roosting areas. This information can be used as an important point for evaluating suitable management strategies for preserving wetlands and their sustainable use. So, long-term monitoring is required, to assess the consequences of anthropogenic pressures and other stress factors and execute conservation plans for the area’s avifaunal diversity.

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