



AVIFAUNAL DIVERSITY OF SATHYAMANGALAM TIGER RESERVE, ERODE DISTRICT TAMIL NADU, INDIA: BASED ON A SURVEY TOUR

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ABSTRACT: The present paper comprises a checklist of birds from Sathyamangalam Tiger Reserve. A total of 76 species of birds belonging to 15 orders, 61 genera under 37 families were photographed and identified by the authors during a fifteen days faunistic survey tour from 27-07-2023 to 10-08-2023. Passeriformes were the most dominant order with a representation of 34 species belonging to 25 genera under 18 families. Two species of hornbills viz.. *Ocyrceros griseus* (Malabar grey horn bill) and the *Ocyrceros birostris* (Indian grey hornbill) were also sighted during the survey.

Keywords: Faunistic survey, hornbill, Passeriformes, Sathyamangalam Tiger Reserve, species

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INTRODUCTION

The Avifauna of Indian subcontinent is diverse with 1300 bird species (Grimmet *et al.*, 2016). There is checklist of bird species for lakes, wetlands, wildlife sanctuaries published by various authors (Robertson and Jackson, 1992; Sivaperuman and Jayson, 2000; Mahabal, 2000). The present survey was undertaken at Sathyamangalam Tiger Reserve, Erode district which is the junction point of Eastern and Western Ghats in Tamil Nadu. Sathyamangalam Tiger Reserve located along the area stranding both Western and Eastern Ghats of India, situated in the Erode district of Tamil Nadu is a protected area and a tiger reserve. The co-ordinates of the

reserve are 11° 38' 24" N, 77° 13' 34" E, covering an area of 1,408.6 km² (543.9 sq. mi) with an elevation of 1790 m. It is the largest Wildlife Sanctuary in Tamil Nadu. On 18th March, 2013, the Government of India order declared that the Sathyamangalam Wildlife Sanctuary will be the fourth tiger reserve in the state. It is also a genetic link between the five protected areas such as Billigiriranga Swamy Temple Wildlife Sanctuary, Sigur plateau, Mudumalai National Park, Bandipur National Park and the Cauvery Wildlife Sanctuary. The animals photographed were subjected to identification by referring standard references and confirmed in consultation with experts of that particular groups. The present paper comprises a