



STUDY ON AVIFAUNAL DIVERSITY OF GANGULPARA REGION OF DISTRICT BALAGHAT, MADHYA PRADESH

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ABSTRACT: A healthy ecosystem depends on the diversity of its avian inhabitants, which also serves as a reliable indication of environmental changes. The current study aimed to describe the richness, habitat strata, migratory patterns, and conservation status of the avifauna in the Gangulpara waterfall and forest areas of the Balaghat region. Between December 2020 and July 2021, 121 bird species from 20 orders and 54 families were identified as part of this study. The 121 bird species were identified into 114 residents (R), 4 winter migrants (WM), and 3 summer migrants (SM) species. On the IUCN Red List 3.1, out of 121 species, 116 bird species were listed as Least Concern (LC), 4 as Near Threatened (NT), and 1 as Vulnerable (VU).

Keywords: Avifaunal diversity, Balaghat, ecosystem, IUCN, Gangulpara

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INTRODUCTION

Birds are one of the most fascinating creatures on earth. As significant and conspicuous components, birds play a crucial role in the ecosystem. They are important for Pollination, Seed Dispersal, Pest Control, Scavengers, and Decomposers. They are an integral part of the food chain and food web (Bradford *et al.*, 1998; Dunning *et al.*, 1992; Vyas *et al.*, 2002). They are widely admired animals because of their easily identifying characters, melodious calls, and fabulous colours. Birds also have cultural and aesthetic significance. Their beauty, songs, and

behaviour have inspired art, literature, and traditions across different cultures, enriching our human connection to nature. Their presence attracts nature enthusiasts, birdwatchers, and ecotourists, promoting conservation efforts and providing economic benefits to local communities through birding tourism. Gangulpara is a popular, delightful tourist attraction located in Balaghat, Madhya Pradesh, India. There is a water reservoir and waterfall located 14 km from Balaghat. It is a place of attraction for tourists for its stunning beauty and greenery. Many species of birds have been found here. The diverse habitats