

Bio Geography of Indian Pond heron, Dhule City, Maharashtra, India.

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Abstract –

Indian pond heron are distributed near pond, river, lakes, pools, puddles, coastal areas of sea. These beautiful birds belong to Family Ardeidae distributed throughout the India. Male and females are different from each other with colours and, sizes and plumage patterns during monsoon season.

Introduction-

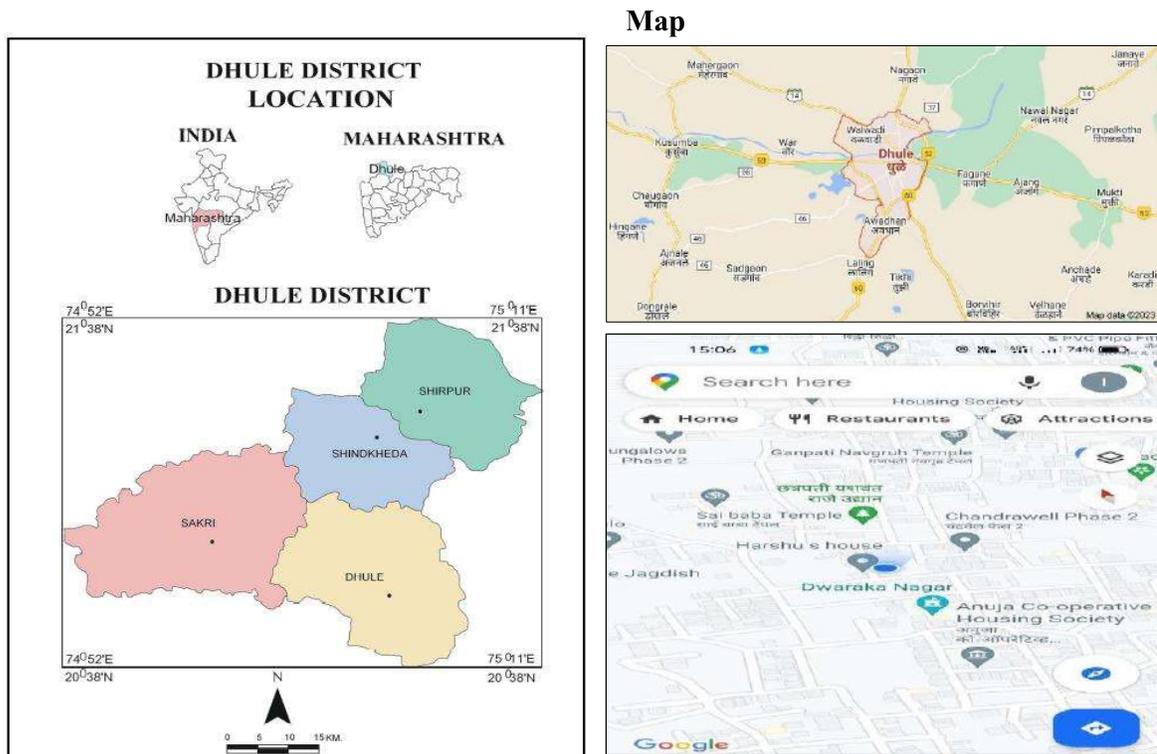
Indian pond heron species is the small in family Ardeidae distributed throughout the India. During breeding season heron may acquires maroon hair like plumage patterns on back and a long occipital crest.(Ali,2001). Most of the birds changes the hair plumes during breeding season. In herons during breeding season, it varies extensively during courtship (Mock,1976,1978) , this colour variations play an important role in mate selection process. During heron survey in Kannur District (R.Roshnath et.al 2013), (Ahirrao,July2023), in Deopur, Dhule district Maharashtra, India.

Heron with two different colours in Dhule district Maharashtra, India were observed as cattle white herons, During monsoon season in month of July 2023, Heron with maroon colour hair plumes was observed in backyard of my house in tree plantation area in Dwarka Nagar near Chandrawel phase 2 Kishor Appa Malla Nakane road Deopur Dhule district Maharashtra India. In empty plot area with pond water where frogs, and insects are abundantly found. It was observed through the GPS location.

Geographical study area

Dhule is located at 20.9°N 74.78°E.It has an average elevation of 250 metres (787 feet). Dhule lies in the Khandesh region, which forms the northwest corner of the Deccan Plateau. Dhule City is Headquarter of Dhule District which is part of Khandesh region.

The Dhule district is bordered in the west by the Gujarat State and in the north by Madhya Pradesh along with Nandurbar district, and in the south and east by Nashik district and Jalgaon District respectively. It is situated in a valley of the Tapi River along the banks of the Panzara River.



Discussion :

These are common and one of the abundantly found water birds , around the domestic animals, wetlands in various areas throughout the India.(Yediur,2007-08) observed around Bangalore, Red pink legs, that a few of the pond heron possess . Last 15 years, only thrice , Yediur,Anekal, and Kagglipura.

Reports of Red legged Pond Heron –

These are rarely found widespread in India. History report were observed from State like Gujrat, Uttar Pradesh, Kerala, and some rarely from Orissa, West-Bengal, and Bangalore Karnataka,(Gopi Sundar 2005) .

Therefore, red legged pond heron are not restricted to any particular geographical area.(Sundar 2005) further suggests that red legs are observed in congen (Maldivian,Madgascarians, Chinese species).

Observation and results-

here are many different types of Indian pond heron are observed in backyard and around different areas of our country. They are observed in backyard and around different pond ecosystem levels.

Biodiversity of Indian Herons as follows –

1).Grey Herons (Photo)

Scientific name – *Ardea cinerea*

Length - 90-98 cms.

Common name – *Sileti Anjan*

Habits and Habitats – often seen near river, lakes, pools, puddles during day time. These are more active at dawn and dusk waiting in shallow water steadily for prey, seizing prey quickly.

Food – It feeds on fish, frogs, crabs and small reptiles.

Ecological status- Found widespread as a resident and winter visitors.

2) Purple Herons- (photos)

Scientific name – *Ardea purpurea*

Length- 78-90 cms.

Common name – **Navi Anjan**

Habit and habitat – The purple Herons not easily seen, preferring to hunt and or prey in more secluded areas. Croaks making noise and flies off when disturbed.

Food- It feeds on fish, frogs, crabs, and small reptiles.

Ecological status- A widespread breeding resident, not found in far North.

3) **Little Egret – (photos)**

Scientific name- *Egretta garzetta*.

Length- 55-65 cms.

Common name – **Karchia Bagla**.

Habit and habitat- Little egret has a black beak and legs with yellow feet, occur in groups that prefer areas where there is enough surface water to provide food.

Food - It feeds on insects, fish, frogs, and other small reptiles.

Ecological status- A widespread breeding resident.

4) **Great Egret –(photo)**

Scientific name- *Casmerodius albus* .

Length- 65- 72 cms.

Common name- **Malang Bagla**.

Habit and Habitat- A more solitary than other Egret family birds, lives and hunts in deeper water. A crick in the neck a distinct features is the gape extending behind the eyes.

Food – It feeds on fish, frogs, crabs and small creature.

Ecological status- A widespread resident and occasional winter visitors Absent in far North.

4) **Intermediate Egret-** (photo)

Scientific name – *Mesophoyx intermedia*.

Length - 65- 72 cms.

Common name – **Patokha Bagla**.

Habit and habitat- The **feathery aigrette** in this species hangs only from front and back, distinguishing it from others who also sport a delicate **tuft of hair hanging** from their **neck** that was once much sought after by milliners. It makes **stick nests** in **mixed colonies** and hunt with an erect posture. **Black beak with black feet**.

Food - It feeds on fish, frogs, and small reptiles making prey senseless before devouring it.

Ecological status- A widespread breeding resident.

6) **Cattle Egret-** (photo)

Scientific name – *Bubulcus ibis*

Length- 48-53 cms.

Common name- **Gai Bagla**.

Habit and Habitat- It occur at and around the feeding cattle in the grazing fields. The plumage patterns is largely white but changes during breeding season. Two subspecies of cattle Egret are observed as- 1) Western,2) Eastern .

Food- It feeds on, insects, houseflies, grasshopper and other creatures in grazing fields near cattle.

Ecological status- A widespread breeding resident.

7) **Indian Pond heron – (photo)**

Scientific name – *Ardeola grayii* .

Length – 42- 45 cms.

Common name – **Andha Bagla**.

Habit and Habitat- It is rather extraordinary looking beautiful birds found near river, lakes, pools puddles, near coastal areas. In flight, it looks like muted mottled colour give way to the white of it's wings. Emits harsh croaks when flushed. It builds nests on bushes and trees.

Food - Can stand for hours for feeding sources like insects, fish, frogs and small reptiles.

Ecological status- A widespread breeding resident.

8) Black Crowned Night Herons – (photo)

Scientific name- *Nycticorax nycticorax*.

Length- 58- 65 cms.

Common name- Waak Bagla

Habit and Habitat- During day time it lives in small colonies birds gather in oft – frequented roosts and only really come out of the life during the night. Can be seen at evening, flying out to hunting grounds like pond and river, lakes pools puddles. It makes a call like* weck * or* kwock * made when flying.

Food – It feeds on, insects, fish, frogs, crabs and smaller creatures.

Photographs of Indian pond Herons



There are other members of family Ardeidae distributed throughout the India. These are also short red legs (Red flush) in breeding season, Called as red flush plumage.(Daniel, Wesley, 1993) . Red legged organisms have been observed to pair with other red legged as well as green legged organisms and the colour is not restricted to just one of the sexes .(Roshnath and Jose 2014, Sundar 2005).

Conclusion-

It is observed that from various reports common water birds around different types of Indian Herons found in around different locations in the form of white-herons, Grey Herons, but Red legged, pink legged organisms, green legged organisms have been observed in occasional or rarely ecological status found in bushes and trees.

Role of Pond Herons as Biological Controllers :

- 1) All The pond Heron food material consists of insect – harmful species like house flies causes more than 300+ diseases on the medical grounds to humans and his domestic organisms hence insects are eaten by cattle egret (White Pond Herons) .
- 2) Crabs : like field species of crab causing damage to rice or paddy fields are eaten by pond herons
- 3) Snails: Giant Species of snails are eaten by pond herons which is pest of many plants

- 4) Fishes : harmful fish species are eaten by the pond herons which are not act as food for human

Hence all the above species of pond herons are useful for human being and act as biological controllers.

Acknowledgement –

I am very much thankful to our Management of SSVPS'S,LKDr..P.R.Ghogrey Science College, Dhule, Maharashtra, India and Principal Dr. M. V. Patil, . Very thankful to all organizer, PG Department of Zoology and 4th Maharashtra Pakshi Mitra Samiti, Dhule district Maharashtra, India and KBCNMU Jalgaon.

The Egglogue .

Which came first? The chicken or the egg ?

Many find this question unanswerable assuming that the egg referred must be a chicken' s egg ! In fact, chickens have been around only for thousands of years----- the egg has been around for millions of years before the arrival of the first birds about 150 millions of years ago ! Dinosaurs from whom birds have evolved laid eggs.

So the answer is The Egg !

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