

# A Preliminary Checklist of Avian Fauna from Raimona National Park of Assam, India

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**Abstract** Birds play very essential ecological functions such as pest control, pollination, seed dispersal as well as nutrient dynamics and they are very good indicators of the ecosystem health in a landscape. Biodiversity inventory and their conservation including ecosystem restoration at landscape level has recently emerged as a global priority for effective management planning to ensure ecosystem stability and ecological functionality. This study aims to create a baseline database of avifaunal assemblages from the recently recognized Raimona National Park in the state of Assam, India. This new protected area is located in the *Bhabar* belt covering 422 km² area under the Kachugaon forest division of the state. The systematic grid-based line transect method was followed from November 2020 to April 2021 and confirmed the presence of total 227 avian species from the study area among which 7 species were globally threatened. The area also harbours the suitable habitat of critically endangered White-bellied heron (*Ardea insignis* Hume, 1878). Extensive research and long-term monitoring will be very crucial in the near future for the inventory of more avian fauna along with their conservation in the Raimona National Park.

Keywords: bird status, ripu reserve forest, kachugaon sal forest, raimona, avian conservation

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# 1. Introduction

Birds play very essential ecological functions such as pest control, pollination, seed dispersal as well as nutrient dynamics and they are very good indicators of the ecosystem health in a landscape [1,2,3]. As north eastern part of India holds unique environmental conditions and diversified habitat types due to its geographical position have helped to flourish more than 950 avian species which around 77% of the avifauna recorded from India [4,5,6]. Assam harbours a total 850 avifauna including a few doubtful species which are likely to occur in the state [7,8]. But, at present our global avian diversity is under tremendous pressure of anthropogenic factors like encroachment, deforestation and over exploitation of biological resources that adversely affected the ecosystem functionalities [9,10,11,12,13]. Biodiversity inventory and their conservation including ecosystem restoration at landscape level has recently emerged as a global priority for effective management planning to ensure ecosystem stability and ecological functionality [14,15].

The Ripu Reserve Forest (RF) under Kachugaon forest division of Kokrajhar district in Assam was one of the best managed forests since the late 19<sup>th</sup> century in the country [16]. The area was well known for huge stretches of sal (Shorea robusta) forest, which were systematically extracted and transported by the colonial authority for making railway sleeper [17,18]. This landscape is one of the Important Bird and Biodiversity Areas (IBA Site; IN-AS-37) of the country [19]. The unsustainable trend of forest products extraction and exploitation in the late 20th century resulted severe deterioration of wildlife habitats and major part of the Ripu RF on its southern side has been decimated altogether converting to agricultural land and homestead settlement [20]. To arrest this trend of suicidal destruction of such century old managed natural forest, a larger part (422 km<sup>2</sup>) of Ripu RF has included in the protected area network and notified as "Raimona National Park" vide Govt. Notification No. FRW.02/2021/27 dated 9<sup>th</sup> June, 2021 for long term conservation of its wildlife and their habitats in the landscape [13]. No detailed study on the avifauna has been conducted in the landscape yet. The main aim of this inventory survey was to create the baseline of

avian fauna found in the Raimona National Park of Assam, India.

#### 2. Materials and Methods

## 2.1. Study Area

The survey was carried out in the Raimona National Park (NP) spanning across 422 km² area that falls under Kachugaon forest division in the north-western most part of Assam, India (Figure 1). The Indo-Bhutan International border forms the northern boundary from the Sonkosh river on the west to Saralbhanga river on the east. The Buxa Tiger Reserve (TR) of West Bengal is located on the west and the Phipsoo Wild Life Sanctuary (WLS) of Bhutan is located on the north which are contiguous with the study area.

The study area falls under typical *Bhabar* belt intersected by numerous water courses. The ground is gently sloping towards south with elevation varies from 85-240m above mean sea level. The soil over the bulk of *Bhabar* area is dry sandy loam superimposed on a bed of pebbles with only a very thin humus layer. Surface stones are fairly frequent [13,21]. Climate of the study area is moist tropical monsoon type with temperature varies from 7°C to 34°C and with annual average rainfall ranges from 2000mm to 3000mm [19]. Due to its unique geographical location and geology, as many as twelve different types and sub-types from the very moist sal forests, sub-Himalayan high alluvial semi-evergreen forests, moist-mixed deciduous forests, savannah forests, riparian

fringing forests to khoir-sisoo forests including the wide river beds classified by Champion and Seth [22].

#### 2.2. Methods

The study area was divided into 104 grids of size 4 km<sup>2</sup> each (2km x 2km). A total 85 sampling grids were selected randomly for the study those were accessible and representative of the entire landscape. In each grid three line transects of length 1km were laid for conducting the field survey [23]. The survey was carried out following the line transect method by a team consisting of two biologists and two local frontline staffs of forest department during day-time in two sessions i.e., in the morning (06h30-10h30) and in the afternoon (15h00-17h00) during winter and pre-monsoon season for six months from November 2020 to April 2021. Opportunistic observations were also taken into consideration so that every species sighted during the survey period had been well recorded. The birds were observed by the aid of binoculars (Vortex 8X42, Zeiss 8X42) and photographed using digital camera (Nikon Coolpix P900, Canon sx600) whenever possible. GPS data were collected with help of Garmin eTrex 30. For some shy and elusive birds call playback method was also used with help of standard sound recorders (Zoom H6). The recorded avian species were identified in field with the help of standard field guidebook [24]. The identifications of avian fauna were also confirmed with the help of guide book by Ali and Ripley [25]. Broad habitat types, migratory status and conservation status were assigned to the species' based on the field observation [26,27].

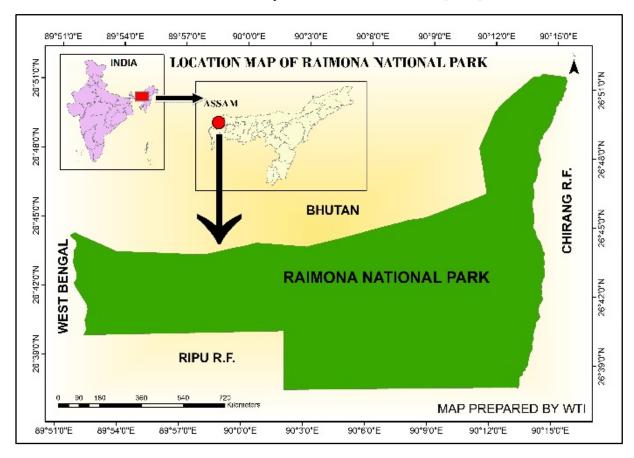


Figure 1. Location map of Raimona National Park in Assam, India

## 3. Results

During the six months period of survey in winter and pre-monsoon season, a total 267 km walked in transects following the existing forest paths and animal trails in 89 sampling grids in 11 forest blocks of the study area. This survey revealed the presence of total 227 avian species belonging to 19 orders and 58 families distributed throughout different habitat types of the Raimona National Park (Table 1). Out of all the orders, Passeriformes holds around 116 species (51%) making it the dominant

order in terms of species richness followed by order Accipitriformes (18 species), Piciformes (14 species), Coraciiformes (11 species), Columbiformes (9 species), Charadriiformes (9 species), Strigiformes (7 species), Cuculiformes (7 species), Bucerotiformes (5 specie), Falconiformes (5 species), Pelecaniformes (5 species), Gruiformes (5 species), Galliformes (4 species), Psittaciformes (3 species), Anseriformes (3 species), Ciconiiformes (2 species), Suliformes (2 species), Caprimulgiformes, (1 species), and Trogoniformes (1 species) (Figure 2).

Table 1. Avian Fauna Recorded from November 2020 to April 2021 in Raimona NP, Assam

Order/Family/Common Name	Scientific Name	MI	_					Pl		Sn	Bm	At	CS	MS	Ht
Order: Anseriformes	Scientific Ivanic	1411	JII	KII	кр	1 1	GII	11	111	SII	Dilli	Αι	CB	1410	111
Family: Anatidae															
•	Anas crecca				,					,					
Common Teal	(Linnaeus, 1758)	X	X	X	√	X	X	X	X	√	X	X	LC	M	Aq
Indian spot-billed Duck	Anas poecilorhyncha	X	X	X	<b>√</b>	X	X	X	X	<b>√</b>	X	X	LC	R	Aq
mutan spot-office Duck	(Forster, 1781)	Λ	71	Λ.	`	Λ.	Λ.	71	Λ	ľ	Λ	21	LC		лч
Ruddy Shelduck	Tadorna ferruginea (Pallas, 1764)	√	X	√	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	LC	M	Aq
Order: Suliformes															
Family: Phalacrocoracidae														<u> </u>	
Great Cormorant	Phalacrocorax carbo (Linnaeus, 1758)	√	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	$\checkmark$	X	X	LC	M	Aq
Little Cormorant	Microcarbo niger (Vieillot, 1817)	√	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	√	X	X	LC	R	Aq
Order: Charadriiformes															
Family: Burhinidae															
Indian Thik-nee	Burhinus indicus (Salvadori, 1865)	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	√	X	X	X	LC	R	Aq
Great Thik-nee	Esacus recurvirostris (Cuvier, 1829)	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	<b>V</b>	X	X	X	NT	M	Aq
Family: Charadriidae															
Little ringed Plover	Charadrius dubius (Scopoli, 1786)	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	<b>V</b>	X	X	X	LC	M	Aq
Long-billed Plover	Charadrius placidus (Gray & Gray, 1863)	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	<b>V</b>	X	X	X	LC	M	Aq
Red-wattled Lapwing	Vanellus indicus (Boddaert, 1783)	√	1	<b>V</b>	<b>√</b>	<b>V</b>	<b>V</b>	<b>V</b>	<b>V</b>	<b>V</b>	<b>V</b>	1	LC	R	Aq
River Lapwing	Vanellus duvaucelii (Lesson, 1826)												NT	M	Aq
Family: Scolopacidae															
Common Sandpiper	Actitis hypoleucos (Linnaeus, 1758)	√	1	X	X	<b>V</b>	X	X	X	<b>V</b>	X	X	LC	M	Aq
Green Sandpiper	Tringa ochropus (Linnaeus, 1758)	√	1	X	X	1	X	X	X	<b>V</b>	X	X	LC	M	Aq
Wood Sandpiper	Tringa glareola (Linnaeus, 1758)	√	1	X	X	<b>V</b>	X	X	X	<b>V</b>	X	X	LC	M	Aq
Order: Ciconiiformes															
Family: Ciconiidae															
Black Stork	Ciconia nigra (Linnaeus, 1758)	X	√	X	X	X	X	X	√	X	X	X	LC	R	Aq
Lesser Adjutant	Leptoptilos javanicus (Horsfield, 1821)	X	1	X	X	X	X	X	<b>V</b>	X	X	X	VU	R	Aq
Order: Pelecaniformes															
Family: Ardeidae															
Black Bittern	Ixobrychus flavicollis (Latham, 1790)	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	<b>√</b>	X	X	X	LC	R	Aq
Cattle Egret	Bubulcus ibis (Linnaeus, 1758)	√	1	<b>V</b>	<b>√</b>	1	√	1	<b>V</b>	<b>V</b>	<b>V</b>	1	LC	R	Aq
Indian Pond Heron	Ardeola grayii (Sykes, 1832)	√	1	<b>V</b>	<b>V</b>	1	<b>V</b>	1	1	1	<b>V</b>	1	LC	R	Aq
Interediate Egret	Ardea intermedia (Wagler, 1827)	√	X	X	X	X	X	X	1	1	X	X	LC	R	Aq

Order/Family/Common Name	Scientific Name	Ml	Jn	Rn	Rp	Pk	Gn	Pl	Hl	Sn	Bm	At	CS	MS	Ht
Striated Heron	Butorides striata (Linnaeus, 1758)	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	√	√	X	X	LC	R	Aq
Order: Gruiformes															
Family: Rallidae							,								
White-breasted Waterhen	Amaurornis phoenicurus	X	X	X	X	X	1	X	X	X	X	X	LC	R	Aq
Slaty-breasted Rail	Lewinia striata	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	√	X	X	X	LC	M	Aq
Brown cheeked Rail	Rallus indicus	X	√	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	LC	R	Aq
Rudy breasted Crake	Zapornia fusca	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	√	X	X	LC	R	Aq
Black-tailed Crake	Zapornia bicolor	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	√	X	X	LC	R	Aq
Order: Accipitriformes															
Family: Accipitridae															
Back Eagle	Ictinaetus malaiensis (Temminck, 1822)	X	X	$\sqrt{}$	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	LC	R	Tr
Changeable Hawk-Eagle	Nisaetus cirrhatus (Gmelin, 1788)	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	LC	R	Tr
Crested Serpent Eagle	Spilornis cheela (Latham, 1790)	√	1	<b>V</b>	<b>V</b>	<b>√</b>	<b>√</b>	<b>V</b>	<b>V</b>	<b>V</b>	<b>V</b>	1	LC	R	Tr
Himalayan Griffon Vulture	Gyps himalayensis (Hume, 1869)	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	<b>V</b>	X	X	X	NT	R	Tr
White-rumped Vulture	Gyps bengalensis (Gmelin, 1788)	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	<b>V</b>	1	CR	R	Tr
Slender-billed Vulture	Gyps tenuirostris (Gray, 1844)	X	X	X	X	1	X	X	X	X	X	X	CR	R	Tr
Greater spotted Eagle	Clanga clanga (Pallas, 1811)	√	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	VU	M	Tr
Indian Spotted Eagle	Clanga hastate (Lesson, 1834)	√	X	<b>V</b>	<b>V</b>	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	LC	R	Tr
Oriental Honey Buzzard	Pernis ptilorhynchus (Temminck, 1821)	X	1	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	LC	R	Tr
Himalayan Buzzard	Buteo refectus (Portenko, 1935)	X	X	X	X	X	<b>√</b>	X	X	X	X	X	LC	R	Tr
Booted Eagle	Hieraaetus pennatus (Gmelin, 1788)	X	X	X	X	<b>V</b>	X	X	X	X	X	X	LC	M	Tr
Rufous-bellied Eagle	Lophotriorchis kienerii (G. de Sparre, 1835)	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	1	X	X	X	NT	R	Tr
Gray-headed Fish Eagle	Haliaeetus ichthyaetus (Horsfield, 1821)	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	1	X	X	NT	R	Tr
Hen Harrier	Circus cyaneus (Linnaeus, 1766)	X	1	X	X	X	<b>V</b>	X	X	X	X	X	LC	M	Tr
Eurasian Marsh-Harrier	Circus aeruginosus (Linnaeus, 1758)	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	1	X	X	LC	M	Tr
Black Kite	Milvus migrans (Boddaert, 1783)	√	X	<b>√</b>	<b>V</b>	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	LC	R	Tr
Black-winged Kite	Elanus caeruleus (Desfontaines, 1789)	X	1	X	X	X	<b>√</b>	X	X	1	X	X	LC	R	Tr
Order: Falconiformes															
Family: Falconidae															
Collared Falconet	Microhierax caerulescens (Linnaeus, 1758)	X	X	√	X	√	X	7	X	X	X	X	LC	R	Tr
Pied falconet	Microhierax melanoleucos (Blyth, 1843)	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	1	X	X	LC	R	Tr
Common Kestrel	Falco tinnunculus (Linnaeus, 1758)	X	1	X	X	1	X	<b>V</b>	X	X	X	X	LC	R	Tr
Red-necked Falcon	Falco chicquera (Daudin, 1800)	X	X	X	X	1	X	X	X	X	X	X	LC	M	Tr
Peregrine Falcon	Falco peregrinus (Tunstall, 1771)	X	X	<b>V</b>	X	1	X	X	X	X	X	X	LC	M	Tr
Family: Pandionidae	-														
Osprey	Pandion haliaetus (Linnaeus, 1758)	X	X	X	<b>V</b>	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	LC	M	Aq
Order: Bucerotiformes	*														
Family: Bucerotidae															
Great Indian Hornbill	Buceros bicornis (Linnaeus, 1758)	X	<b>V</b>	X	X	X	X	<b>V</b>	X	X	X	X	VU	R	Tr

Order/Family/Common Name	Scientific Name	Ml	Jn	Rn	Rp	Pk	Gn	Pl	Hl	Sn	Bm	At	CS	MS	Ht
Oriental Pied Hornbill	Anthracoceros albirostris (Shaw & Nodder, 1807)	X	√	X	X	$\checkmark$	X	√	X	X	X	X	LC	R	Tr
Wreathed Hornbill	Rhyticeros undulates (Shaw, 1811)	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	1	X	X	VU	R	Tr
Rufous-necked Hornbill	Aceros nipalensis (Hodgson, 1829)	X	X	√	X	X	X	1	X	X	X	X	VU	R	Tr
Family: Upupidae															
Eurasian Hoopoe	<i>Upupa epops</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)	√	X	√	√	X	X	X	X	X	X	1	LC	M	Tr
Order: Caprimulgiformes															
Family: Caprimulgidae															
Long Tailed Nightjar	Caprimulgus climacurus (Vieillot, 1825)	X	X	X	X	X	√	X	X	X	X	X	LC	R	Tr
Order: Columbiformes															
Family: Columbidae															
Emerald Dove	Chalcophaps indica (Linnaeus, 1758)	√	X	√	√	X	X	X	√	√	X	√	LC	R	Tr
Green Imperial Pigeon	Ducula aenea (Linnaeus, 1766)	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	√	X	X	LC	R	Tr
Mountain Imperial-Pigeon	Ducula badia (Raffles, 1822)	X	X	X	X	X	X	√	X	X	X	X	LC	R	Tr
Oriental Turtle Dove	Streptopelia orientalis (Latham, 1790)	√	X	√	<b>√</b>	√	X	X	√	√	X	√	LC	R	Tr
Spotted Dove	Spilopelia chinensis (Scopoli, 1768)	1	X	X	<b>√</b>	X	X	X	<b>V</b>	<b>V</b>	X	1	LC	R	Tr
Thick-billed Green-Pigeon	Treron curvirostra (Gmelin, 1789)	X	X	<b>V</b>	X	X	X	<b>V</b>	X	X	X	X	LC	R	Tr
Pin-tailed Green Pigeon	Treron apicauda (Blyth, 1846)	X	X	X	X	X	X	<b>V</b>	X	X	X	X	LC	R	Tr
Yellow Footed Green Pigeon	Treron phoenicoptera (Latham, 1790)	√	X	X	<b>√</b>	X	X	X	<b>V</b>	X	X	X	LC	R	Tr
Orange-breasted Green-Pigeon	Treron bicinctus (Jerdon, 1840)	X	X	<b>V</b>	X	X	X	X	X	<b>V</b>	X	X	LC	R	Tr
Order: Coraciiformes															
Family: Alcedinidae															
Common Kingfisher	Alcedo atthis (Linnaeus, 1758)	<b>√</b>	<b>V</b>	<b>V</b>	<b>√</b>	<b>V</b>	X	<b>V</b>	<b>V</b>	<b>V</b>	<b>V</b>	X	LC	R	Aq
Crested Kingfisher	Megaceryle lugubris (Temminck, 1834)	<b>V</b>	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	LC	R	Aq
White Throated Kingfisher	Halcyon smyrnensis (Linnaeus, 1758)	<b>V</b>	X	X	<b>V</b>	X	X	<b>V</b>	<b>V</b>	X	X	X	LC	R	Aq
Ruddy Kingfisher	Halcyon coromanda (Latham, 1790)	√	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	<b>V</b>	X	X	LC	R	Aq
Black-backed Dwarf-Kingfisher	Ceyx erithaca (Linnaeus, 1758)	<b>√</b>	X	X	X	<b>V</b>	X	X	<b>V</b>	X	X	X	LC	M	Aq
Family: Coraciidae															
Indochinese Roller	Coracias affinis (Horsfield, 1840)	√	√	√	√	√	X	√	√	X	√	X	LC	R	Tr
Oriental Dollar Bird	Eurystomus orientalis (Linnaeus, 1766)	√	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	LC	R	Tr
Family: Meropidae															
Blue-bearded Bee-eater	Nyctyornis athertoni (Jardine & Selby, 1830)	√	X	√	X	X	X	X	X	√	X	X	LC	R	Tr
Chestnut Headed Bee-Eater	<i>Merops leschenaultia</i> (Vieillot, 1817)	X	X	X	X	X	<b>V</b>	X	X	X	X	X	LC	R	Tr
Blue-tailed Bee-eater	Merops philippinus (Linnaeus, 1766)	X	X	X	<b>√</b>	X	X	X	1	X	X	X	LC	M	Tr
Green Bee-Eater	Merops orientalis (Latham, 1801)	√	X	X	X	1	X	X	X	X	X	1	LC	R	Tr
Order: Cuculiformes	·														
Family: Cuculidae															
Asian Emerald Cukoo	Chrysococcyx maculatus (Gmelin, 1788)	1	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	LC	М	Tr
Violet Cuckoo	Chrysococcyx xenorhyncus (Horsfield, 1821)	X	X	<b>V</b>	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	LC	М	Tr
Common Hawk-Cuckoo	Hierococcyx varius (Vahl, 1797)	X	X	X	X	X	X	1	X	X	X	1	LC	R	Tr

Order/Family/Common Name	Scientific Name	Ml	Jn	Rn	Rp	Pk	Gn	Pl	Hl	Sn	Bm	At	CS	MS	Ht
Common Cuckoo	Cuculus canorus (Linnaeus, 1758)	X		X	X	√	X	X	X	X	√	X	LC	M	Tr
Green Billed Malkoha	Phaenicophaeus tristis (Lesson, 1830)	√	X	X	√	X	X	X	X	1	X	√	LC	R	Tr
Greater Coucal	Centropus sinensis (Stephens, 1815)	X	X	1	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	LC	R	Tr
Lesser Coucal	Centropus bengalensis (Gmelin, 1788)	X	1	X	X	X	<b>V</b>	X	X	X	<b>V</b>	X	LC	R	Tr
Order: Galliformes															
Family: Phasianidae	D														<u> </u>
Indian Peafowl	Pavo cristatus (Linnaeus, 1758)	√	1	X	X	X	√	X	1	1	X	X	LC	R	Tr
Kalij Pheasant	Lophura leucomelanos (Latham, 1790)	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	LC	R	Tr
Red Jungle Fowl	Gallus gallus (Linnaeus, 1758)	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	LC	R	Tr
Gray Peacock-Pheasant	Polyplectron bicalcaratum (Linnaeus, 1758)	X	X	√	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	LC	R	Tr
Order: Passeriformes															<u> </u>
Family: Aegithinidae	Aegithina tiphia													_	
Common Iora	(Linnaeus, 1758)	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	V	X	X	X	LC	R	Tr
Family: Artamidae															
Ashy Woodswallow	Artamus fuscus (Vieillot, 1817)	X	X	X	X	X	X	<b>~</b>	X	X	X	X	LC	R	Tr
Family: Campephagidae															
Black-winged Cuckooshrike	Lalage melaschistos (Hodgson, 1836)	X	X	X	√	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	LC	R	Tr
Large Cuckooshrike	Coracina macei (Lesson, 1830)	X	X	X	X	X	X	√	X	X	X	X	LC	R	Tr
Long Tailed Minivet	Pericrocotus ethologus (Bangs & Phillips, 1914)	X	√	X	X	√	X	X	X	X	X	X	LC	R	Tr
Scarlet Minivet	Pericrocotus speciosus (Latham, 1790)	√	X	X	√	X	X	X	√	X	X	X	LC	R	Tr
Rosy Minivet	Pericrocotus roseus (Vieillot, 1818)	X	X	X	X	√	X	X	X	X	X	X	LC	R	Tr
Small Minivet	Pericrocotus cinnamomeus (Linnaeus, 1766)	X	√	X	√	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	LC	R	Tr
Family: Cettiidae															
Chestnut Headed Tesia	Cettia castaneocoronata (Burton, 1836)	X	X	X	X	X	X	√	X	X	X	X	LC	R	Tr
Grey Bellied Tesia	Tesia cyaniventer (Hodgson, 1837)	X	X	X	X	√	X	X	X	X	X	X	LC	R	Tr
Slatty-Bellied Tesia	<i>Tesia olivea</i> (McClelland, 1840)	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	√	X	X	LC	R	Tr
Family: Chloropseidae															
Golden Fronted Leafbird	Chloropsis aurifrons (Temminck, 1829)	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	LC	R	Tr
Orange-bellied Leafbird	Chloropsis hardwickii (Jardine & Selby, 1830)	X	X	X	X	√	X	X	X	X	X	X	LC	R	Tr
Blue-winged Leafbird	Chloropsis moluccensis (Gray, 1831)	X	X	√	√	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	LC	R	Tr
Family: Cisticolidae	Out .											$\vdash$		$\vdash$	<u> </u>
Common Tailorbird	Orthotomus sutorius (Pennant, 1769)	1	X	X	√	X	√	X	X	√	X	√	LC	R	Tr
Dark necked Tailorbird	Orthotomus atrogularis (Temminck, 1836)	X	X	√	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	LC	R	Tr
Rufescent Prinia	Prinia rufescens (Blyth, 1847)	X	X	X	X	√	X	X	X	X	X	X	LC	R	Tr
Family: Corvidae	<i>C</i> : 1: :											<u> </u>		<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Common Green Magpie	Cissa chinensis (Boddaert, 1783)	X	X	√	X	√	X	X	X	X	X	X	LC	R	Tr
Eastern Jungle Crow	Corvus levaillantii (Lesson, 1831)	√	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	LC	R	Tr
							i		ı	1	i	1 '	Ì	1	1
Grey Treepie	Dendrocitta formosae (R. Swinhoe, 1863) Dendrocitta vagabunda	X	X	X	X	X	X	√	X	X	X	X	LC	R	Tr

Order/Family/Common Name	Scientific Name	Ml	Jn	Rn	Rp	Pk	Gn	Pl	Hl	Sn	Bm	At	CS	MS	Ht
Family: Dicaeidae	Dicaeum cruentatum							,						_	_
Scarlet-backed Flowerpecker	(Linnaeus, 1758)	X	X	X	X	X	X	√	X	X	X	X	LC	R	Tr
Family: Dicruridae	Dicrurus leucophaeus														<u> </u>
Ashy Drongo	(Vieillot, 1817)	X	X	V	X	<b>√</b>	X	X	X	<b>V</b>	X	X	LC	R	Tr
Black Drongo	Dicrurus macrocercus (Vieillot, 1817)	X	√	X	X	√	X	X	√	X	X	√	LC	R	Tr
Bronzed Drongo	Dicrurus aeneus (Vieillot, 1817)	√	X	X	√	X	X	√	X	√	X	X	LC	R	Tr
Greater Racket-tailed Drongo	<i>Dicrurus paradiseus</i> (Linnaeus, 1766)	√	X	X	X	√	X	X	X	X	X	1	LC	R	Tr
Lesser Racket-tailed Drongo	Dicrurus remifer (Temminck, 1823)	X	√	X	X	<b>V</b>	X	X	X	X	√	X	LC	R	Tr
Spangled Drongo	Dicrurus bracteatus (Gould, 1843)	X	X	<b>V</b>	X	X	X	X	<b>√</b>	X	X	X	LC	R	Tr
Family: Estrildidae															
Scaly-breasted Munia	Lonchura punctulata (Linnaeus, 1758)	X	X	X	X	X	√	X	X	X	X	X	LC	R	Tr
Family: Hirundinidae															
Barn Swallow	Hirundo rustica (Linnaeus, 1758)	X	√	X	X	X	X	X	√	X	X	X	LC	R	Aq
Striated Swallow	Cecropis striolata (Temminck & Schlegel, 1847)	X	X	X	X	X	<b>V</b>	X	X	X	X	X	LC	R	Aq
Grey-throated Martin	Riparia chinensis (J. E. Gray, 1830)	X	X	X	√	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	LC	R	Aq
Family: Irenidae															
Asian Fairy Bluebird	Irena puella (Latham, 1790)	X	X	X	√	√	X	X	X	X	X	X	LC	R	Tr
Family: Laniidae															
Brown Shrike	Lanius cristatus (Linnaeus, 1758)	X	X	√	√	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	LC	M	Tr
Grey-backed Shrike	Lanius tephronotus (Vigors, 1831)	X	X	X	X	1	X	X	X	X	X	X	LC	R	Tr
Long Tailed Shrike	Lanius schach (Linnaeus, 1758)	X	√	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	LC	M	Tr
Family: Leiothrichidae															
Blue-winged Minla	Actinodura cyanouroptera (Hodgson, 1837)	X	X	X	√	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	LC	R	Tr
Greater Necklaced Laughing thrush	Pterorhinus pectoralis (Gould, 1836)	X	X	X	X	1	X	X	X	X	X	X	LC	R	Tr
Lesser Necklaced Laughing Thrush	Garrulax monileger (Hodgson, 1836)	X	X	√	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	LC	R	Tr
Jungle Babbler	Argya striata (Dumont, 1823)	√	1	X	X	1	X	X	1	X	X	1	LC	R	Tr
Striated Babbler	<i>Argya earlei</i> (Blyth, 1844)	X	1	X	X	√	X	X	X	X	√	X	LC	R	Tr
Red Tailed Minla	Minla ignotincta (Hodgson, 1837)	X	X	X	X	X	X	<b>√</b>	X	X	X	X	LC	R	Tr
Silver Eared Mesia	Leiothrix argentauris (Hodgson, 1837)	X	X	X	<b>√</b>	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	LC	R	Tr
Family: Monarchidae	-														
Black Naped Monarch	Hypothymis azurea (Boddaert, 1783)	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	√	X	X	LC	R	Tr
Family: Motacillidae															lacksquare
Olive Backed Pipit	Anthus hodgsoni (Blackwelder, 1907)	X	X	X	X	X	X	√	X	X	X	X	LC	M	Tr
Paddy-field Pipit	Anthus rufulus (Vieillot, 1818)	X	X	X	X	X	√	X	X	X	X	X	LC	M	Aq
White Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)	X	V	X	X	1	X	X	X	1	X	X	LC	M	Aq
Citrine Wagtail	<i>Motacilla citreola</i> (Pallas, 1776)	√	X	X	X	1	X	<b>V</b>	X	1	X	X	LC	M	Aq
Eastern Yellow Wagtail	Motacilla tschutschensis (JF Gmelin, 1789)	X	X	X	X	X	<b>V</b>	X	X	X	X	X	LC	М	Aq

Order/Family/Common Name	Scientific Name	Ml	Jn	Rn	Rp	Pk	Gn	Pl	Hl	Sn	Bm	At	CS	MS	Ht
Family: Muscicapidae  Black-backed Forktail	Enicurus immaculatus (Hodgson, 1836)	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	√	X	X	LC	R	Aq
Slaty-Backed Forktail	Enicurus schistaceus (Hodgson, 1836)	Х	X	X	X	X	X	X	<b>√</b>	<b>√</b>	X	X	LC	R	Aq
Blue Rock Thrush	Monticola solitaries (Linnaeus, 1758)	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	1	X	X	LC	M	Tr
Blue Whistling Thrush	Myophonus caeruleus (Scopoli, 1786)	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	1	X	X	LC	М	Tr
Black-breasted Thrush	Turdus dissimilis (Blyth, 1847)	X	X	X	X	X	X	<b>V</b>	X	X	X	X	LC	M	Tr
Scaly Thrush	Zoothera dauma (Latham, 1790)	X	X	X	X	X	<b>√</b>	√	X	X	X	X	LC	M	Tr
Little Pied Flycatcher	Ficedula westermanni (Sharpe, 1888)	X	1	X	X	1	X	X	X	X	X	X	LC	R	Tr
Oriental Magpie Robin	Copsychus saularis (Linnaeus, 1758)	√	X	<b>V</b>	X	X	X	X	<b>V</b>	X	X	<b>V</b>	LC	R	Tr
Pale Blue Flycatcher	Cyornis unicolor (Blyth, 1843)	X	X	X	1	X	X	X	X	X	<b>√</b>	X	LC	R	Tr
Pale-Chinned Blue-Flycatcher	Cyornis poliogenys (Brooks, 1879)	X	1	X	X	1	X	X	X	X	X	X	LC	R	Tr
Plumbeous Water Redstart	Phoenicurus fuliginosus (Vigors, 1831)	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	1	X	X	LC	R	Aq
Daurian Redstart	Phoenicurus auroreus (Pallas, 1776)	X	X	√	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	LC	M	Aq
Hodgson's Redstart	Phoenicurus hodgsoni (Moore, F, 1854)	X	X	X	X	√	X	X	X	X	X	X	LC	M	Aq
White-capped Redstart	Phoenicurus leucocephalus (Vigors, 1831)	X	X	X	X	X	X	√	X	√	X	X	LC	R	Aq
Rufous Bellied Niltava	Niltava sundara (Hodgson, 1837)	X	X	X	√	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	LC	R	Tr
Small Niltava	Niltava macgrigoriae (Burton, 1836)	√	X	√	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	LC	R	Tr
Grey Bushchat	Saxicola ferreus (Gray & Gray, 1847)	X	√	X	X	√	X	X	X	√	X	X	LC	M	Tr
Siberian Stonechat	Saxicola maurus (Pallas, 1773)	X	X	X	X	1	X	X	X	X	X	X	LC	M	Tr
Pied Bushchat	Saxicola caprata (Linnaeus, 1766)	X	X	√	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	LC	M	Tr
Taiga Flycatcher	Ficedula albicilla (Pallas, 1811)	X	X	X	X	X	X	√	X	X	X	X	LC	M	Tr
Verditer Flycatcher	Eumyias thalassinus (Swainson, 1838)	X	X	X	√	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	LC	R	Tr
Asian Brown Flycatcher	Muscicapa dauurica (Pallas, 1811)	X	1	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	LC	M	Tr
Dark-sided Flycatcher	Muscicapa sibirica (Gmelin, 1789)	X	X	X	X	X	X	√	X	√	X	X	LC	M	Tr
White-rumped Shama	Copsychus malabaricus (Scopoli, 1788)	X	V	X	X	1	X	X	1	X	X	X	LC	R	Tr
Lesser Shortwing	Brachypteryx leucophris (Temminck, 1827)	X	X	X	X	X	X	√	X	X	√	X	LC	R	Tr
Family: Pnoepygidae	D														
Pygmy Cupwing	Pnoepyga pusilla (Hodgson, 1845)	X	X	X	X	X	X	√	X	X	X	X	LC	R	Tr
Family: Nectariniidae	A. J														
Crimson Sunbird	Aethopyga siparaja (Raffles, 1822)	√	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	LC	R	Tr
Purple Sunbird	Cinnyris asiaticus (Latham, 1790)	X	√	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	LC	R	Tr
Ruby-cheeked Sunbird	Chalcoparia singalensis (Gmelin, 1788)	X	X	X	X	X	X	√	X	X	X	X	LC	R	Tr
Little Spiderhunter	Arachnothera longirostra (Latham, 1790)	X	X	X	X	1	X	X	X	X	X	X	LC	R	Tr
Streaked Spiderhunter	Arachnothera magna (Hodgson, 1837)	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	1	LC	R	Tr
Family: Oriolidae														<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Black Hooded Oriole	Oriolus xanthornus ((Linnaeus, 1758)	X	$\checkmark$	X	X	√	X	X	X	√	X	X	LC	R	Tr

Order/Family/Common Name	Scientific Name	Ml	Jn	Rn	Rp	Pk	Gn	Pl	Hl	Sn	Bm	At	CS	MS	Ht
Black-naped Oriole	Oriolus chinensis (Linnaeus, 1766)	X	X	X	X	1	X	X	X	X	X	X	LC	M	Tr
Maroon Oriole	Oriolus traillii	Х	<b>√</b>	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	LC	R	Tr
Family: Paridae	(Vigors, 1832)														-
Great Tit	Parus major	X	X	X	X	X	X	1	X	X	V	X	LC	R	Tr
	(Linnaeus, 1758)  Melanochlora sultanea	<del>-   ,</del>													
Sultan Tit  Family: Passeridae	(Hodgson, 1837)	√	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	LC	R	Tr
	Passer montanus					,						,			<u> </u>
Eurasian Tree Sparrow	(Linnaeus, 1758)  Passer domesticus	X	X	X	X	√	X	X	X	X	X	√	LC	R	Tr
House Sparrow	(Linnaeus, 1758)	X	X	√	X	X	√	X	X	X	X	X	LC	R	Tr
Family: Pellorneidae															L
Abbott's Babbler	<i>Malacocincla abbotti</i> (Blyth, 1845)	X	X	X	√	X	X	X	√	X	X	X	LC	R	Tr
Puff-Throated Babbler	Pellorneum ruficeps (Swainson, 1832)	X	X	X	X	X	<b>V</b>	X	<b>V</b>	X	X	X	LC	R	Tr
Gray-throated Babbler	Stachyris nigriceps (Blyth, 1844)	X	X	X	X	√	X	X	X	X	X	X	LC	R	Tr
Family: Phylloscopidae															
Blyth's Leaf Warbler	Phylloscopus reguloides (Blyth, 1842)	X	X	X	X	X	X	<b>V</b>	X	X	X	X	LC	R	Tr
Dusky Warbler	Phylloscopus fuscatus (Blyth, 1842)	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	<b>V</b>	X	X	LC	R	Tr
Greenish Warbler	Phylloscopus trochiloides (Sundevall, 1837)	X	X	<b>V</b>	X	X	X	X	<b>V</b>	X	X	X	LC	R	Tr
Tickell's Leaf Warbler	Phylloscopus affinis (Tickell, 1833)	X	X	X	<b>V</b>	X	X	X	<b>V</b>	X	X	X	LC	R	Tr
Whistler's Warbler	Phylloscopus whistleri (Ticehurst, 1925)	X	X	X	X	<b>V</b>	X	X	X	X	<b>V</b>	X	LC	R	Tr
Ashy-throated Warbler	Phylloscopus maculipennis (Blyth, 1867)	X	X	X	X	X	X	<b>V</b>	X	X	X	X	LC	R	Tr
Gray-hooded Warbler	Phylloscopus xanthoschistos (Gray & Gray, 1846)	X	X	X	<b>V</b>	X	X	X	X	X	<b>V</b>	X	LC	R	Tr
Family: Pycnonotidae															
Ashy Bulbul	Hemixos flavala (Blyth, 1845)	√	X	X	√	X	X	√	X	X	X	X	LC	R	Tr
Black-crested Bulbul	Rubigula flaviventris (Tickell, 1833)	X	X	X	X	<b>V</b>	X	X	X	X	X	X	LC	R	Tr
Red-vented Bulbul	Pycnonotus cafer (Linnaeus, 1766)	√	<b>V</b>	X	1	LC	R	Tr							
Red-whiskered Bulbul	Pycnonotus jocosus (Linnaeus, 1758)	X	<b>V</b>	X	X	<b>V</b>	X	X	<b>V</b>	X	X	X	LC	R	Tr
White-throated Bulbul	Alophoixus flaveolus (Gould, 1836)	√	X	X	<b>V</b>	X	X	<b>V</b>	X	X	X	<b>V</b>	LC	R	Tr
Family: Rhipiduridae															
White-browed Fantail	Rhipidura aureola (Lesson, 1830)	X	X	<b>V</b>	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	LC	R	Tr
Family: Sittidae															
Chestnut-bellied Nuthatch	Sitta cinnamoventris (Blyth, 1842)	X	X	X	X	√	X	X	X	X	X	X	LC	R	Tr
Family: Stenostiridae															
Grey-headed Canary Flycatcher	Culicicapa ceylonensis (Swainson, 1820)	X	X	X	X	X	X	<b>V</b>	X	X	X	X	LC	R	Tr
Family: Sturnidae															
Asian Pied Starling	Gracupica contra (Linnaeus, 1758)	√	X	X	<b>V</b>	X	<b>V</b>	<b>V</b>	X	X	X	1	LC	R	Tr
Chestnut-tailed Starling	Sturnia malabarica (Gmelin, 1789)	X	1	X	X	<b>V</b>	X	1	X	X	X	1	LC	R	Tr
Common Hill Myna	Gracula religiosa (Linnaeus, 1758)	X	X	X	<b>V</b>	X	X	X	1	X	X	X	LC	R	Tr
Common Myna	Acridotheres tristis (Linnaeus, 1766)	X	X	<b>V</b>	X	1	<b>V</b>	X	X	X	X	X	LC	R	Tr
Great Myna	Acridotheres grandis (Moore, F, 1858)	X	X	X	√	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	LC	R	Tr

Order/Family/Common Name	Scientific Name	Ml	Jn	Rn	Rp	Pk	Gn	Pl	Hl	Sn	Bm	At	CS	MS	Ht
Jungle Myna	Acridotheres fuscus (Wagler, 1827)	X	<b>V</b>	X	X	<b>√</b>	X	X	<b>√</b>	X	X	X	LC	R	Tr
Family: Timaliidae															
Pin-striped Tit-Babbler	Mixornis gularis (Horsfield, 1822)	X	X	X	X	X	X	<b>V</b>	X	X	1	X	LC	R	Tr
Family: Vangidae															
Common Woodshrike	Tephrodornis pondicerianus (Gmelin, 1789)	X	√	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	LC	R	Tr
Large Woodshrike	Tephrodornis virgatus (Temminck, 1824)	X	X	X	X	<b>V</b>	X	X	X	<b>V</b>	X	X	LC	R	Tr
Family: Vireonidae															
White-bellied Erpornis	Erpornis zantholeuca (Blyth, 1844)	X	X	<b>V</b>	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	LC	R	Tr
Family: Zosteropidae															
Indian White-eye	Zosterops palpebrosus (Temminck, 1824)	X	X	X	X	X	√	X	X	X	√	X	LC	R	Tr
Order: Piciformes															
Family: Megalaimidae															
Blue-throated Barbet	Psilopogon asiaticus (Latham, 1790)	X	X	√	X	√	√	X	X	√	X	X	LC	R	Tr
Coppersmith Barbet	Psilopogon haemacephalus (Statius Müller, 1776)	√	X	X	√	X	√	√	X	X	X	√	LC	R	Tr
Great Barbet	Psilopogon virens (Boddaert, 1783)	X	X	X	X	X	X	7	X	X	X	X	LC	R	Tr
Lineated Barbet	Psilopogon lineatus (Vieillot, 1816)	<b>V</b>	X	X	<b>V</b>	X	~	<b>V</b>	X	X	X	√	LC	R	Tr
Family: Picidae															
Fulvous-breasted Woodpecker	Dendrocopos macei (Vieillot, 1818)	X	X	<b>V</b>	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	LC	R	Tr
Great Slaty Woodpecker	Mulleripicus pulverulentus (Temminck, 1826)	X	X	X	X	X	1	X	X	X	X	X	LC	R	Tr
Greater Flameback	Chrysocolaptes guttacristatus (Tickell, 1833)	X	X	X	√	X	√	X	X	X	X	X	LC	R	Tr
Greater Yellownape	Chrysophlegma flavinucha (Gould, 1834)	X	√	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	LC	R	Tr
Grey-headed Woodpecker	Picus canus (Gmelin, 1788)	X	X	X	X	√	X	X	X	X	X	X	LC	R	Tr
Grey-capped Pigmy Woodpecker	Yungipicus canicapillus (Blyth, 1845)	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	<b>V</b>	X	X	X	LC	R	Tr
Lesser Goldenback	Dinopium benghalense (Linnaeus, 1758)	X	X	X	X	<b>V</b>	X	X	X	X	X	<b>V</b>	LC	R	Tr
Lesser Yellownape	Picus chlorolophus (Vieillot, 1818)	X	X	<b>V</b>	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	LC	R	Tr
Rufous Woodpecker	Micropternus brachyurus (Vieillot, 1818)	X	X	X	X	X	<b>√</b>	X	X	X	X	X	LC	R	Tr
Streak-breasted Woodpecker	Picus viridanus (Blyth, 1843)	X	X	X	<b>V</b>	X	X	X	X	<b>V</b>	X	X	LC	R	Tr
Order: Psittaciformes															
Family: Psittaculidae	Date I				-										-
Alexandrine Parakeet	Psittacula eupatria (Linnaeus, 1766)	√	√	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	NT	R	Tr
Red-breasted Parakeet	Psittacula alexandri (Linnaeus, 1758)	X	X	X	√	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	NT	R	Tr
Rose-ringed Parakeet	Psittacula krameri (Scopoli, 1769)	X	X	√	X	X	X	√	X	X	X	X	LC	R	Tr
Order: Strigiformes															
Family: Strigidae	Cl. : I: 1 · 1														
Asian Barred-Owlet	Glaucidium cuculoides (Vigors, 1831)	X	X	√	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	LC	R	Tr
Brown Hawk-Owl	Ninox scutulata	X	X	X	X	V	X	X	X	X	X	X	LC	R	Tr
Barn Owl	Tyto alba (Scopoli, 1769)	X	√	X	X	X	X	√	X	X	X	X	LC	R	Tr
Collared Owlet	Taenioptynx brodiei (Burton, 1836)	X	X	X	X	X	√	X	X	X	X	X	LC	R	Tr
Collared Scops-Owl	Otus lettia (Hodgson, 1836)	X	X	X	√	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	LC	R	Tr
Mountain Scops-Owl	Otus spilocephalus (Blyth, 1846)	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	<b>V</b>	1	LC	R	Tr

Order/Family/Common Name	Scientific Name	Ml	Jn	Rn	Rp	Pk	Gn	Pl	Hl	Sn	Bm	At	CS	MS	Ht
Spotted Owlet	Athene brama (Temminck, 1821)	<b>V</b>	X	X	√	X	√	<b>V</b>	X	X	X	~	LC	R	Tr
Order: Trogoniformes															
Family: Trogonidae															
Red-headed Trogon	Harpactes erythrocephalus (Gould, 1834)	X	X	X	X	<b>√</b>	X	X	X	X	X	X	LC	R	Tr

Abbreviations: FB=Forest Block, Maula=Ml, Janali=Jn, Ranga=Rn, Ripu=Rp, Pekua=Pk, =Gn=Gangia, Pl=Polo, Hl=Hel, Sn=Singimajuli, Bm=Bamba, At=Athiabari, CS=Conservation Status, LC=Least Concern, NT=Near Threatened, VU=Vulnerable, CR= Critically Endangered, MS=Migratory Status, M=Migratory, R=Resident, Ht=Habitat, Aq=Aquatic, Tr=Terrestrial, \( \sqrt{=} Recorded, \times Not Recorded. \)

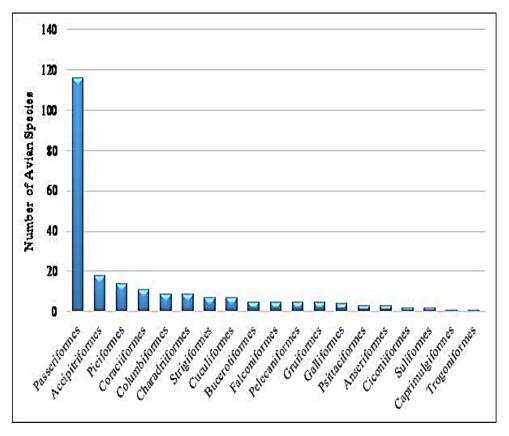
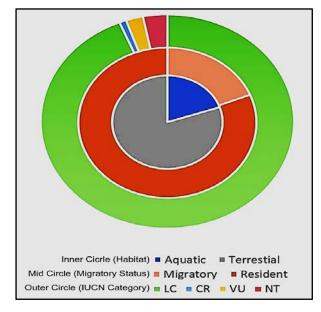


Figure 2. Order wise distribution of avian fauna in Raimona NP

Among all the recorded avian fauna, Black-crested bulbul (Rubigula flaviventris Tickell, 1833), Black drongo (Dicrurus macrocercus Vieillot, 1817) and Goldenfronted leafbird (Chloropsis aurifrons Temminck, 1829) were respectively three highly dominant species found in all the habitat types of Raimona National Park. There were total 7 globally threatened avian species found in the study area, out of which two species were critically endangered such as White-rumped vulture (Gyps bengalensis Gmelin, 1788) and Slender-billed vulture (Gyps tenuirostris Gray, 1844); five vulnerable viz., Greater spotted eagle (Clanga clanga Pallas, 1811), Great hornbill (Buceros bicornis Linn, 1758), Wreathed hornbill (Rhyticeros undulates Shaw, 1811), Rufous-necked hornbill (Aceros nipalensis Hodgson, 1829), Lesser adjutant (Leptoptilos javanicus Horsfield, 1821) as well as seven near threatened species. Amongst these, there were a total 43 migratory bird species and 184 were residential bird species as per Choudhury (2000). These includes a total 45 species of aquatic birds and 182 species of terrestrial birds as observed in the field and described by Grimmett et al. (2016) (Figure 3).



**Figure 3.** Composite pie diagram for habitat types, migratory status and IUCN category of recorded avian fauna of Raimona NP (LC: Least Concern, CR: Critically Endangered, VU: Vulnerable, NT: Near Threatened)

## 4. Discussion

This short-term inventory survey revealed the presence of total 227 species of avian fauna in the Raimona National Park of Assam which signifies the conservation importance and shows equally important like Buxa Tiger Reserve of West Bengal on its west and Phipsoo Wildlife Sanctaury of Bhutan on its north. A total 284 species of avian fauna recorded from the Buxa Tiger Reserve [28] and total 177 species of avian fauna from the Phipsoo Wildlife Sanctuary [29]. A preliminary survey conducted between Sankosh river in the west and Aie river in the east

had recorded a total 270 avian species from the area which was slightly more than our findings [30]. A few notable woodlands avian fauna viz., Pygmy flycatcher (Ficedula hodgsoni), Bay woodpecker (Blythipicus pyrrhotis), Short-billed minivet (Pericrocotus brevirostris), Rufousnecked laughingthrush (Pterorhinus ruficollis) and Greater adjutant (Leptoptilos dubius) were also reported to be present in this IBA site [19]; but our survey couldn't record their presence in the study area. Short survey period and detection difficulty in dense vegetation cover including some inaccessible locations or terrain like Bamba Forest block along with the northernmost part of Pekua and Polo Forest blocks may have partly resulted the slightly lower number of avian species in the study area. Extensive research and long-term monitoring will be very crucial in near future for the inventory of more avian fauna along with their conservation in the Raimona National Park.

The dominance of order Passeriformes having 116 species of avian fauna indicates the presence of heterogenous habitat types in the study area [30]. The avian fauna of Passeriformes are also known as songbirds because of their excellent singing abilities. The area is a home for around 30 species of predatory bird which include diurnal raptors belonging to order Accipitriformes and Falconiformes and nocturnal predatory birds of order Strigiformes. Raptors plays significant roles as apex predators of an ecosystem and their presence indicates a healthy ecosystem health [31]. The presence of 7 globally threatened avian fauna is an indication that the area needs utmost protection for the conservation of these threatened species. The largest frugivorous forest birds such as Great Indian hornbill, Wreathed hornbill and Rufous-necked hornbill were recorded from the deep forest habitats in the study area which proves that the forest is still pristine at least in some parts but they are sensitive too to the selective logging especially their roosting and nesting trees along with other human disturbances [32]. Presence of Swamp francolin (Francolinus gularis) and Bengal florican (Houbaropsis bengalensis) are also suspected to be present the grassland habitats, but we couldn't record these birds during our survey period. The recent records of critically endangered White-bellied heron (Ardea insignis Hume, 1878) from Phipsoo Wildlife Sanctuary of Bhutan as well as from Jamduar and Pepsu area of Raimona is an important indication of the fact that the study area holds suitable habitat for this highly threatened bird species [29].

#### 5. Conclusion

The present study is the first of its kind and forms the baseline data in terms avian fauna in the Raimona National Park of Assam, India. Confirmed presence of minimum 227 avian species that includes 7 globally threatened avian fauna is very significant for the area. Extensive research and long-term monitoring in all the habitat types covering all the seasons of the year will be very crucial in near future for the inventory of more avian fauna along with their conservation in the Raimona National Park of Assam, India.

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