

Distribution pattern of birds in Banni Grassland of Kachchh district, Gujarat, India

Authors:

Mukesh H. Koladiya¹,
ArunKumar Roy Mahato¹,
Nikunj B. Gajera¹ and
Yatin S. Patel²

Institution:

1. Gujarat Institute of Desert Ecology, Bhuj, Kachchh-370001, Gujarat.
2. Samarth Organization Trust, Vijapur, Mehsana-382870, Gujarat.

Corresponding author:

Mukesh H. Koladiya

ABSTRACT:

Birds are interesting group of animals which are distributed in all major types habitat. Banni is one of the large grassland of India invaded by *Prosopis juliflora*, an alien plant species. Invasion of this species and some other natural and anthropogenic factor leads the grassland converted into a mixture of heterogeneous habitats. A study was attempted to understand the distribution of birds in this heterogeneous grassland. The habitats were identified based on dominant species of plants. The population estimates of birds were surveyed using line transects method and point count census method.

A total of 91 species were recorded during the survey in the various habitats of this grassland. Among the seven habitats, sparse *Prosopis* was the most diverse habitat for bird species whereas *Prosopis-Capparis* was the least diverse habitat for bird species. The highest mean population density of birds were recorded in *Prosopis-Capparis* (15.9 individuals/km²), while lowest recorded in sparse *Prosopis* habitat (9 individuals/km²). It was found that, *Prosopis-Salvadora* (23.10±9.47) was the most dense and *Prosopis-Capperis* (8.84±5.26) was the least dense habitat for common birds of Banni grassland. In conclusion, bird species diversity and their population density estimates were varied among the various heterogeneous habitats of Banni grassland both in time and space gradients.

Keywords:

Bird distribution, Density, Habitat, Banni grassland, Kachchh.