

# New Destination to Kuldiha- an interesting Bird watching spot in West Bengal, India

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**Abstract-** *Birds are unique creatures of god for their potential importance in ecologically diverse habitats as they directly and indirectly act and play a crucial role for productivity of ecosystem; they play a vital role to balance the ecosystem also. In this communication a new spot of Paschim Medinipur has been placed for rapid dispersion of interest to the bird watchers and nature lovers. It also helpful to do work in research and extension for new generation learners who believe realistic meaning of birding through amusement which could be a realm about birds and their interactions in the ecosystem. Some migratory as well as indigenous birds have been studied as preliminary one. Hope that ornithologists and zoologists will come soon to high light the spot well being for further study and research on different aspects of birds as the spot is small but diverse as well as not remote because the communication is very good.*

**Keywords-** Kuldiha-Bird conservatory, Peoples' participation-Role of Govt-Our duty

## I. INTRODUCTION

Birds are the best gift of the nature as they stood high position for their genius value. The uniqueness is due to their colour, behaviour, role in the ecosystem including indirect significance. The amazing entities make the environment clean, green and eco-friendly as there are so many evidences on the diverse mutuality befitted component in the environment. We know better that a bird plays a role for different activities, the best known as owl that significantly controls the pests (rats and mice) to protect paddy, wheat and other important crops in our periphery. So, if we protect birds automatically they will protect pests over the globe. Crows and vultures collect dead carcasses and clean the environment pollution free. The impact of the birds in the environment not only economical but it gives us valuable episode regarding charming and removes the monotony from baby to old aged persons. Good example is mini zoo, zoo, botanic garden, sanctuary and specific bird watching site or birding field. Our environment is our but the impact is more distant from other who gives us various activities by singing, chirpings and to make a melodious knowledge time to time even seasonally diverse situations. Therefore each and every sate nay country

selected some birds as their state or national birds. We always awake up in the dawn from bed through chirping sounds made by our neighbours and stop to play and back to home in the dusk. So, a component and the plea of their conservation is essential to protect the environment eco-friendly.

Kuldiha is a village under Salboni block in Paschim Medinipur District of West Bengal, India. The village is situated on the metallic road Midnapore-Bhadutala to Lalgarh of Binpur-I Community Development block. It is flooded by a large number of vegetation but no patch of sal (*Shorea robusta*) dominated forest nearby though situated in between Bhadutal forest in one hand and other Jhitka of Lalgarh. The remaining sides are distantly covered by paddy field and some water bodies. It is a site with big bushy Tamarind (*Tamarindus* sp.) tree and Ficus tree. Forest species like Kusum (*Schleichera* sp.), Kelikadam (*Myrtagyna* sp.), Challa (*Holoptelia* sp.) etc. are found with locally available tree species like Palmyra palm and date palm. Bamboos are found as thicket which boosts a large number of water fowls like white breasted water hen and purple moorhen. Common Myna, Parakeet, Rock pigeon, Heron including pond heron are common though bat is found during winter to summer. During monsoon to post monsoon huge migratory birds like Open bill storks are available. Little Cormorant, Night heron, Indian Roller, King fisher, Sparrow, Scaly Munia, Dove, Mourning Dove, and Starling are available when there are sufficient available food found in the field. A fresh water reservoir is a permanent water resource that attracts large number of birds time to time. Therefore, it may be a new horizon for birding that love birds and love environment.

A report in Aanadabazar Patrika, West Bengal (Beng.-Version) broadcasts a report that Kuldiha now protecting birds by the special activity i.e. non-usage of pesticide and acting as a non-pesticide Village. The gathering of birds is due to supply of food items and grains to the birds daily as per the suggestions made by local people headed by Sri Budheswar Mahato. But the fact is that villagers are applying and using dangerous pesticides in their cultivated field every day to get better production argued by local shopkeepers. At the same time they opined that no disturbances caused by local people as well as by others to

make the environment eco-friendly and keeping the bird's in-situ environment. The other cause of conservation of these birds is due to presence of naturally settled big trees, ponds and also local peoples participation to flourish bird diversity and ecosystem pristine. Our opinion supported the same arguments and rejected the report of AnandaBazar Patrika's report through a critical study and monitoring regularly like Kendua of Jamboni Block under proposed Jhargram District, West Bengal, India. Keeping the theme in mind the present report has been made to broadcasts the natural habitat as New destination of birding and develop a eco-tourism centre in near future in West Bengal. We can introduce 'A home stay concept' to promote birding and develop economy without hampering the natural beauty and natural resource to protect the environment clean, green and eco-friendly. In this way we can conserve the real habitats of birds and their veg. and non-veg. Resources of food.

## INTRODUCTION

Birds are ready visitors that visit frequently from place to place even from continent to continent. A good number of birds visit different sites due to change of environment particularly for their feed and reproduction. As the site is not homogenous for their easy life period so they need movement from one place to other. A good example of Birds of migratory kind in our West Bengal is Storks and Siberian Cranes even and in Lake Chilka of Odisha a large number of Pelicans and Flamingos. They come to thrive there for a temporary period to hatch eggs and carry a good number of offspring during their back journey. Whatever true for those mentioned above other always move from the local area regionally for their nesting, roosting and for acquisition of feed. The supply of feed from natural reservoir is not plenty so they search their ready or new habitat to collect their needful one. For roosting and nesting they take a shelter for their own which is protected from any kind of enemy in the said habitat. Big trees, shrubberies, jungle, garden shrubs, river bank, stone caves, rock caves, monuments, barrage, rail station premises (Shed, rail crashed), forests, margin of lakes, temple and church, old buildings are the habitat for bird nesting and roosting. They come out during dawn and come back in dusk. Round the day they move here and there and collect their daily feed and carry valuable things to make their nests. Some birds are so common that they harbour in buildings and in cottage of men and collect food grains from villagers' premises. Good examples are pigeon (Rock pigeon) and Sparrows (House). Common dove (Spotted dove or ground dove) found nearer to locality and move nearby round the day and roosting on shed of buildings and in the branches of trees. Passerine birds like blue magpie robin, tailor bird are commonly found in the locality from dawn to dusk. Indian Cuckoos (Kokil) are nicely

sings and move faster from one habitat to another habitat. Jungle babblers are common and are found in a group which collect insects from the environment. Birds are useful to human beings. A good example is the Crows (*Corvus splendens*) who pick the dirty bio-garbage that are fallen on the road, dust bins, drains or dirty places as it find their feeds and also clean our environment. It is a clever bird. Birds are also intelligent. A good example is the weaver birds once built its nest then they keep fire flies inside the nest, which lighted the nest. Cuckoos are very clever but lazy. They do not build their nest but lays their eggs in the nests of Crows which looks same.

## II. AREA UNDER STUDY

The area was at Kuldiha Village under Salboni Block of Paschim Medinipur District, West Bengal, India. Nearby agricultural land, ponds, canals, trenches, top of the huts, houses, , cemented pillars, holes of trees and crop fields were taken to study and record the ecology including behaviour study of the birds. Study was conducted with local people for socio-structure of their daily-activities and even the scenario of cultivation practice. Study at forest was also conducted to know the migratory behaviour of some forest species including interactions of bird species for roosting and nesting.

## III. MATERIALS AND METHODS

Method of bird studying was divided in to 6 aspects but first three aspects used were to study the birds of Kuldiha in west Bengal and to record the behaviour in natural habitats. Photographs were taken from field by ordinary digital Canon and Nikon Cameras. Altimeter, Abenys Level, Temperature meter, GPS, Lux meter, Tape, and Stand of Camera including Binoculars were carried out in field during bird watching. Generally dawn and dusk were selected for each day visit in field with local map of the area though more or less regular watching of birds was made to know the situation thereby. General list of the plants and about the pattern of vegetation record floras were consulted. A check list has also been prepared about the common birds available in West Bengal. Some Bird sanctuaries of West Bengal and local preservation plots were selected to study and record the photography day by day to make an inference. All the characters from field and from the photographs were taken from some common books on birds and treatise made by Zoological Survey of India (ZSI) published time to time. Interesting micro bird habitats were marked for general study of watching and roosting of bird including nesting. Some net work resource was also studied well to know better about the bird watching. These are: (i) British trust for Ornithology, (ii) Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, (iii) American Birding Association and

(iv) Cornell laboratory of Ornithology at Ithaca, New York, North America. Other literature and resource was consulted was Wildlife Rescue & Rehabilitation centre (WRRC), Bangalore, India.

#### IV. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

In the present study some common birds were watched regularly but specific study was conducted on the basis of relationship of birds with an old Tamarind and a Ficus tree. Study revealed 40 birds were present in the surrounding

of Kuldiha (Fig. 1-16) with 70 plant species for the interactions of the same. The study also revealed that 20 common birds visited regularly at Kuldiha from nearby to the Tamarind and Ficus tree for roosting, sitting and touching (Table 1) it. All the birds presented in the table were our neighbouring birds but not of migratory kind. Sunbirds, doves, kingfisher and crows were important because they act as pollinating agent, settlement of weeds, and scavenger birds respectively. More or less all birds were important in the ecosystem for dispersal of fruits and seeds and onset of plants to grow vegetation and keep environment sound.

Table1. List of common birds in and around Kuldiha on a single Tamarind and Ficus tree

SL. No.	English name	Bengali Name	Scientific Name
1.	Common Myna	Shalik	<i>Acredotheres tristis</i>
2.	Pond Heron	Koch Bok	<i>Ardeola grayii</i>
3.	Greater Flameback	Kaththokra	<i>Chysocolaptes lucidus</i>
4.	Yellow bellied Sunbird	Holde Moutusi	<i>Cinnyris jugularis</i>
5.	Oriental magpie robin	Doyel	<i>Copsychus saularis</i>
6.	Crow	Kak	<i>Corvus splendens</i>
7.	Drongo	Finge	<i>Dicrurus macrocerus</i>
8.	Asian Koel	Kokil	<i>Eudynamys scolopacea</i>
9.	Blue-Throated barbet	Bara Basanta Bouri	<i>Megalaima asiatica</i>
10.	Coppersmith Barbet	Basanta Bouri	<i>Megalaima haemacephala</i>
11.	Green bee-eater	Banspati	<i>Meropus orientalis</i>
12.	Purple Sun bird	Moutusi	<i>Nectariana asiatica</i>
13.	Black-hooded oriole	Halde boni	<i>Oriolus xanthornus</i>
14.	Tailor bird	Tuntuni/Durga tuntuni	<i>Orthotomus sutorius</i>
15.	Red-vented bulbul	Bulbuli	<i>Pycnonotus cafer</i>
16.	Red-whiskered Bulbul	Bulbuli	<i>Pycnonotus jocosus</i>
17.	Spotted dove	Ghugu	<i>Streptopelia chinensis</i>
18.	Asian Pied Starling	Gue Shalik	<i>Sturnus contra</i>
19.	Chestnut-tailed Starling	Not Known	<i>Sturnus malabaricus</i>
20.	Jungle Babler	Chatare/Stabhai	<i>Turdoides striatus</i>

#### V. CONCLUSION

We should be very logical to conserve the biodiversity and to protect our environment. We should not create any illegal behaviour to disturb the environment and their components specially flora and fauna. We should be very realistic to access the environment and can provide some time to see the natural beauty and ecosystem component to enhance our knowledge and refresh mind. As the environmental studies included in the general degree course syllabus under Indian Universities so teachers should include field or project study on birds and surroundings that may be included as bird watching and study rather than research on the eco-habitats specially on Kuldiha as a local habitat. Effects of chemical pesticides and insecticides on birds may be studied to access

the real status of the environment and to draw a conclusion on birds and the local environment. Social study should also be included in near future to develop the people's participation. Hope that Government will take some initiatives to protect the eco-habitat and conserve the nature.

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**PHOTOPLATES OF SOME BIRDS OF KULDIHA**



Fig. 1-2 Night heron on Tamarind tree (*Tamarindis* sp.),



Fig. 3-4 Open bill stork, Gliding



Fig. 5 Mourning dove,



Fig. 6 Spotted dove,



Fig. 7 Scaly breasted Munia,



Fig. 8 White breasted Kingfisher or white throated Kingfisher (State bird of West Bengal)



Fig. 9 White breasted hen,



Fig. 10 Crow,



Fig. 11 Blue magpie robin



Fig. 12 Parakeet





Fig. 13 Asian starling,



Fig. 14 Common Myna,



Fig. 15 Harichacha or Lejjhola, Fig. 16 Indian Roller



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