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FLORAL & AVIFAUNAL DIVERSITY OF ANSHUPA LAKE

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ABSTRACT

Biodiversity is the term used to describe the variety of life found on earth. Floral and faunal diversity is the elite integrant of biological diversity. But due to uncontrolled anthropogenic and ecological activities, the green cover is depleting day by day. Ansupa, the largest fresh water lake of Odisha owns reputation for its rich biodiversity. The present study reports the biowealth available in and around Ansupa Lake. About 300 Flora species were enumerated. The recorded avifauna includes about 71 species of birds. But in due course of time the vegetation of the lake would come to a very miserable state. So, in this condition, many species might be in the verge of extinction.

INTRODUCTION

Odisha harbours a rich and diverse wealth of flora and fauna due to its topography and geography. Among all the vegetation, wetland biowealth is very rich. Out of the two important natural lakes of Odisha, *i.e.*, Chilika and Ansupa, the later is the largest fresh water lake and has unique floral and faunal diversity. This water body in fact looks like a horse shoe. The moist deciduous forest around the lake supports both aquatic and terrestrial faunal habitat. Shadowed under the presence of the world famous Chilika Lake, this water body is home to about 9 species of submerged, 12

and 26 species of floating and emergent aquatic plants along with about 33 species of fish, 3 species of prawns, 10 species of reptiles and about 50 species of migrant and resident birds.

STUDY AREA

The study area comprises in and around Ansupa Lake (**Figure 1**). The lake is situated in Banki block of Cuttack district under Athgarh Forest Division (Pradhan et al. 2013; Sarkar et al. 2015; Panda et al. 2018;). The length of the lake is approximately 5.2 km and breadth is 2 km. The lake is surrounded by two hills, one is Saranda hill on its western side and Bishnupur hill on its north-eastern side. It is connected with the Mahanadi on its southern side through Kabula Nala/Channel. Another channel named Haluhula Channel which transverse through the borders of some village.

METHODOLOGY

The floristic studies were carried out from 2018 to 2019 in and around the lake. The plants have been identified by Dr. Sanjeet Kumar. The species are arranged under their respective families and families are arranged after the modified Bentham and Hooker's system of classification. Avifauna of the Ansupa lake and adjacent areas were surveyed from 2018 to 2019 during morning and evening. Birds were sighted and identification was done by Dr. Sanjeet Kumar. Based on the number of sighting and occurrence the status of the bird species was assigned as common, uncommon and rare (Mahanti and Kumar 2016)

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

The study found occurrence of wide habitat variability that helped in the occurrence of different group of plants including aquatic, semi-aquatic vascular macrophytes and higher plants in and around the lake. Species composition is heterogenous. The present observations reveal 300 species belonging to 76 families. Out of them 1 species was in the list of Endangered (EN) and 1 species in the list of near threatened categories. The dominant species in this type of habitat were –*Lagerstroemia parviflora, Azadirachta indica, Anacardium occidentale, Lippia javanica* (**Plate 1.2**), *Dalbergia sissoo, Artocarpus heterophyllus, Tectona grandis, Mangifera indica, Acacia auriculiformis, Pongamia pinnata.* The forest floor is very rich in herbaceous species like *Caesalpinia bunduc, Cassia occidentalis, Cassia tora, Cleome viscose* (**Plate 1.1**), *Lipia javanica, Mimosa pudica, Evolvulus alsinoides, Glycosmic pentaphyla, Indigofera sp, Bahunia sp, Calotropis gigantia and Calotropis gigantia* var *alba. Bambusa arundinaceae* is most commonly found around the lake. Climbers include *Diascorea sp., Coccinia grandis, Tinospora cordifolia* etc. Only parasitic plant *Cuscuta reflexa* occur as pure formations throughout the area. The catchment area of the lake is fully covered with Elephant grass (*Pennisetum purpureum*). High infestation of *Nelumbo nucifera, Eichhornia crassipes, Salvinia molesta, Ceratophyllum demersum, Hydrilla verticillata, Ipomoea aquatic, Hymenachne amplexicaulis, Nymphaea pubescens, N. nouchelli, Monochoria vaginalis, M. hastate, Pistia stratiotes,* T*ypha angustifolia,* other grasses and

marshy vegetation were found largely in the lake resulting in the ecological condition of the habitat(Panda et al 2018). All 6 pteridophyte species are aquatic and belongs to 2 families *i.e.*, Marsileaceae and Salviniaceae. Riccia, the simplest bryophyte belonging to family Ricciaceae is also found growing abundantly near the catchment area of the lake. *Gloriosa superb*,near threatened species and *Trapa natans*, an endangered species has been recorded from the shoreline areas of the lake. Excluding all these due to the low vegetational coverage, Forest department has done plantations of *Tectona grandis and Eucalyptus globulus* in patches (**Table 1**).

Study of avifauna provides a base line data of the avian diversity of Ansupa lake and is useful for identifying priority areas for better management and conservation. The climatic variations and diverse landscapes provided diverse habitat for birds (Mahanti and Kumar 2016). The present observations reveal 71 species belonging to 37 families. Out of them 67 species were in the list of least concern (LC) and 4 species in the list of near threatened categories. Out of total avifaunal diversity, it was observed that the most common birds in these areas were – Purple swamp hen (*Porphyrio porphyrio*), Common Snipe (*Gallinago gallinago*), Greater Coucal (*Centropus sinensis)*, Bronzed-winged Jacana (*Metopidius indicus)*, different types of egrets (Middle Egret, Little Egret, Cattle Egret), Purple Sunbird (*Cinmyris asiatica*), Paddyfield Pipit (*Anthus rufulus)*, Baya Weaver (*Ploceus philippinus)*, Asian Openbill (*Anastomus oscitans)*, Common Crow (*Corvus splendens)*, Little Cormorant (*Phalacorax niger)*, White-throated Kingfisher (*Halcyon gularis*), Indian Robin (*Saxicoloides fulicatus)*, Rock Pigeon(*Columba livia)*, Indian roller (*Coracias benghalensis)*, Black Drongo (*Dicrurus macrocercus)*, Asian Pied Starling (*Gracupica contra)*, Red wattled Lapwing (*Vanellus indicus*, **Plate 1.3**), Oriental Magpie-robin (*Copsychus saularis)*, Red-vented Bulbul (*Pycnonotus cafer)*, Little grebe (*Tachybaptus ruficollis)*, Lesser Whistling-duck (*Dendrocygna javaniva)*, Green Bee-eater (*Merops orientalis)*, Pied cuckoo (*Clamator jacobinus*), Spotted Dove (*Spilopelia chinensis*) *etc.* Among all, River Lapwing (**Plate 1.3**) is a near threatened species found around Ansupa lake (**Table 2**).

CONCLUSION

The lake harbours a rich vegetation but due attention should given for exploration, conservation and restoration of the lake. Although the Forest Department has done some plantation in patches which is negligible considering the vast area. So large scale plantation should be done in the peripheral areas of the lake to check soil erosion. Application of geospatial remote sensing techniques, monitoring of changes in floristic composition, maintaining required depth, reducing fertilizer uses in nearby agricultural fields can save native biota. Moreover, the biowealth of Ansupa Lake is vanishing rapidly (Mahanty et al 2016). Thus, providing a huge challenge for scientific populace.

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Figure 1: Geographical location of study area

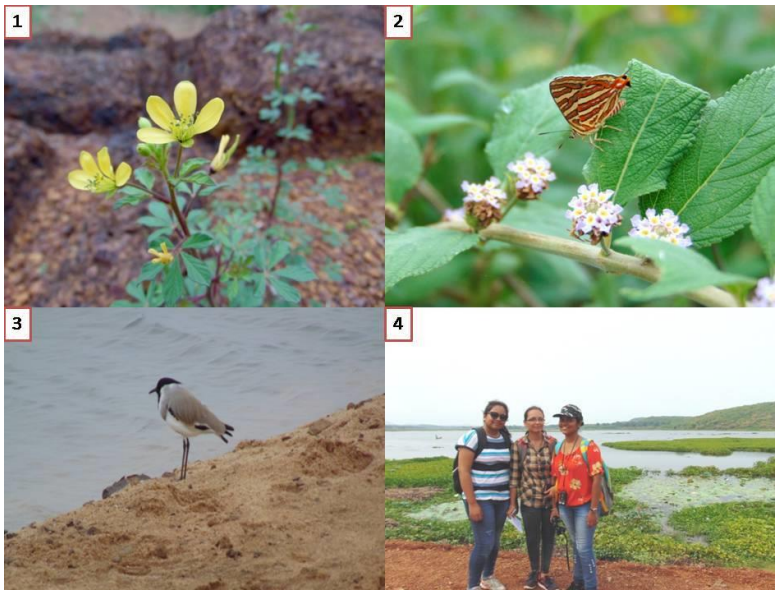

Plate 1: Survey work at Ansupa lake; 1) *Cleome viscosa*, 2) *Lippia javanica*, 3) River L*apwing (Vanellus duvaucelii) 4*) Research team

Table 1: Checklist of flora in and around Ansupa lake

SCIENTIFIC NAME	FAMILY	IUCN STATUS
Andrographis paniculata	Acanthaceae	LC
Hygrophila auriculata		LC
Hygrophila schulli		LC
Justica diffusa		LC
Ruellia tuberose		LC
Trianthema portulacastrum	Aizoaceae	LC
Alisma plantago-aquatica	Alismataceae	LC
Limnophyton obtusifolium		LC
Sagittaria sagittifolia		LC
Sagittaria guayanensis		LC
Sagitaria trifolia		LC
Achyranthes aspera	Amaranthaceae	LC
Aerva lanata		LC
Alternanthera paronychioides		LC
Alternanthera philoxeroides		LC
Alternanthera sessilis		LC
Amaranthus spinosus		LC
Amaranthus viridis		LC
Allmania nodiflora		LC
Celosia argentea		LC
Gomphrena celosioides		LC
Crinum latifolium	Amaryllidaceae	LC
Crinum viviparum		LC

Mangifera indica	Anacardiaceae	LC
Anacardium occidentale		LC
Polyalthia longifolia	Annonaceae	LC
Centella asiatica	Apiaceae	LC
Hydrocotyle modesta		LC
Carisa spinarum	Apocynaceae	LC
Ichnocarpus frutiscens		LC
Aponogeton natans	Aponogetonaceae	LC
Alocasia indica		LC
Colocasia esculenta	Araceae	LC
Pistia stratiotes		LC
Calotropis gigantia	Asclepiadaceae	LC
Calotropis gigantia var. alba		LC
Ageratum conyzoides	Asteraceae	LC
Blumea lacera		LC
Caesulia axillaris		LC
Chromolaena odorata		LC
Cyanthillium cinereum		LC
Eclipta alba		LC
Eclipta prostrate		LC
Enydra fluctuans		LC
Emilia sonchifolia		LC
Parthenium hirustum		LC
Grangea maderaspatana		LC
Sphaeranthus indicus		LC
Spilanthes paniculata		LC

Synedrella nodiflora	Asteraceae	LC
Xanthium strumarium		LC
Bombax ceiba	Bombaceae	LC
Coldenia procumbens	Boraginaceae	LC
Heliotropium indicum		LC
Bahunia accumulate	Caesalpiniaceae	LC
Caesalpinia pulcherrima		LC
Cassia absus		LC
Cassia occidentalis		LC
Cassia tora		LC
Delonix regia		LC
Peltophorum pterocarpum		LC
Tamarindus indica		LC
Sphenoclea zeylanica	Campanulaceae	LC
Cleome monophylla	Capparaceae	LC
Cleome viscose		LC
Polycarpon prostratum	Cariophyaceae	LC
Ceratophyllum demersum	Ceratophyllaceae	LC
Gloriosa superb	Colchicaceae	TH
Anogeissus acuminate	Combretaceae	LC
Terminalia arjuna		LC
Commelina benghalensis	Commelinaceae	LC
Commelina erecta		LC
Commelina longifolia		LC

Cyanotis axillaris	Commelinaceae	LC
Evolvulus alsinoides		LC
Murdannia nudiflora		LC
Murdannia spirata		LC
Evolvulus alsinoides	Convolvulaceae	LC
Evolvulus nummularius		LC
Ipomoea aquatic		LC
Ipomoea carnea		LC
Ipomoea pes-tigridis		LC
Merremia tridentate		LC
Costus speciosus	Costaceae	LC
Bryophyllum calycinum	Crassulaceae	LC
Mukia maderaspatana	Cucurbitaceae	LC
Coccinia grandis		LC
Cucumis melo		LC
Cyperus alopecuroides	Cyperaceae	LC
Cyperus cephalotes		LC
Cyperus compactus		LC
Cyperus compressus		LC
Cyperus corymbosus		LC
Cyperus difformis		LC
Cyperus haspan		LC
Cyperus imbricatus		LC
Cyperus iria		LC
Cyperus platystylis		LC
Cyperus polystachyos		LC

Cyperus rotundus	Cyperaceae	LC
Cyperus strigosus		LC
Eleocharis acutangula		LC
Echinochloa crus-galli		LC
Eleocharis dulcis		LC
Fimbristylis dipsacea		LC
Fimbristylis ferruginea		LC
Fimbristylis littoralis		LC
Fimbristylis miliacea		LC
Fuirena ciliaris		LC
Kyllinga tenuifolia		LC
Lipocarpha chinensis		LC
Pycreus pumilus		LC
Schoenoplectus articulates		LC
Schoenoplectus grossus		LC
Schoenoplectiella supinus		LC
Diascorea pentaphyla	Diascoreaceae	LC
Dillenia indica	Dilleniaceae	LC
Bergia ammannioides	Elatinaceae	LC
Bergia capensis		LC
Eriocaulon quinquangulare	Eriocaulaceae	LC
Acalypha indica	Euphorbiaceae	LC
Croton bonplandianus		LC
Euphorbia hirta		LC
Euphorbia prostrate	Euphorbiaceae	LC

Jatropha gossypiifolia		LC
Phyllanthus tenellus		LC
Ricinus communis		LC
Phylanthus reticulates		LC
Aeschynomene aspera	Fabaceae	LC
Aeschynomene indica		LC
Alysicarpus vaginalis		LC
Bahunia purpurea		LC
Cassia tora		LC
Crotalaria pallid		LC
Crotalaria prostrate		LC
Crotalaria quinquefolia		LC
Dalbergia sissoo		LC
Pterocaroum pentaphylum		LC
Zornia diphylla		LC
Senna obtusifolia		LC
Senna occidentalis		LC
Sesbania bispinosa		LC
Indigofera linnaei		LC
Pongamia pinnata		LC
Hoppea dichotoma	Gentianaceae	LC
Myriophyllum tetrandrum	Haloragaceae	LC
Myriophyllum aquaticum		LC
Myriophyllum verticillatum		LC
Blyxa echinosperma	Hydrocharitaceae	LC
Hydrilla verticillata		LC

Nechamandra alternifolia		LC
Ottelia alismoides		LC
Vallisneria natans	Hydrocharitaceae	LC
Hydrolea zeylanica	Hydrophyllaceae	LC
Anisomeles indica	Lamiaceae	LC
Hiptis salvanaceae		LC
Leucas aspera		LC
Pogostemon quadrifolius		LC
Spirodela polyrrhiza	Lemnaceae	LC
Lemna gibba		LC
Lemna aequinoctialis		LC
Wolffia globosa		LC
Utricularia aurea	Lentibulariaceae	LC
Lindernia crustacean	Linderniaceae	LC
Ammannia baccifera	Lythraceae	LC
Ammannia multiflora		LC
Ammannia octandra		LC
Rotala densiflora		LC
Rotala indica		LC
Lagerstomium reginae		LC
Abutilon indicum	Malvaceae	LC
Corchorus aestuans		LC
Sida cordifolia		LC
Urena lobata		LC
Marsilea minuta	Marsileaceae	LC
Marsilea quadrifolia		LC

Martynia annua	Martyniaceae	LC
Melia azedarach	Meliaceae	LC
Tinospora cordifolia	Menispermaceae	LC
Nymphoides hydrophylla	Menyanthaceae	LC
Nymphoides indica		LC
Acacia auriculoformis	Mimosaceae	LC
Mimosa pudica		LC
Neptunia oleracea		LC
Neptunia plena		LC
Samanea saman		LC
Glinus oppositifolius	Molluginaceae	LC
Mollugo pentaphylla		LC
Artocarpus heterophyllus	Moraceae	LC
Najas faveolata	Najadaceae	LC
Najas indica		LC
Najas marina		LC
Nelumbo nucifera	Nelumbonaceae	LC
Boerhavia diffusa	Nyctaginaceae	LC
Boerhavia repens		LC
Euryale ferox	Nymphaeaceae	LC
Nymphaea nouchali		LC
Nymphaea pubescens		LC
Nymphaea rubra		LC
Ludwigia prostrate	Onagraceae	LC
Ludwigia adscendens		LC

Ludwigia octovalvis		LC
Ludwigia perennis		LC
Oxalis corniculata	Oxalidaceae	LC
Scoparia dulcis	Plantaginaceae	LC
Apluda mutica	Poaceae	LC
Arundinella pumila		LC
Axonopus compressus		LC
Brachiaria deflexa		LC
Brachiaria mutica		LC
Brachiaria ramose		LC
Brachiaria reptans		LC
Chloris barbata		LC
Cyrtococcum longipes		LC
Cynodon dactylon		LC
Dactyloctenium aegyptium		LC
Dendrocalamus strictus		LC
Dichanthelium sp.		LC
Echinochloa colona		LC
Echinochloa crus-galli		LC
Echinochloa stagnina		LC
Eleusine indica		LC
Elytrophorus spicatus		LC
Eragrostis ciliaris		LC
Eragrostis gangetica		LC
Eragrostis japonica		LC
Eragrostis pilosa		LC

Eragrostis tenella	Poaceae	LC
Hygroryza aristata		LC
Hymenachne amplexicaulis		LC
Panicum sumatrense		LC
Paspalum dilatatum		LC
Paspalum distichum		LC
Paspalum vaginatum		LC
Setaria pumila		LC
Saccharum spontaneum		LC
Setaria glauca		LC
Sporobolus coromandelianus		LC
Persicaria glabrum	Polygonaceae	LC
Polygonum barbatum		LC
Polygonum plebeium		LC
Rumex maritimus		LC
Eichhornia crassipes	Pontederiaceae	LC
Monochoria hastala		LC
Monochoria vaginalis		LC
Portulaca oleraceae	Portulacaceae	LC
Potamogeton nodosus	Potamogetonaceae	LC
Stuckenia pectinata		LC
Ziziphus mauritiana	Rhamnaceae	LC
Ziziphus oenoplia		LC
Ziziphus xylopyrus		LC
Canthium dicoccum	Rubiaceae	LC
Dentella repens		LC

Oldenlandia diffusa		LC
Mitracarpus hirtus		LC
Oldenlandia corymbosa		LC
Aegle marmelous	Rutaceae	LC
Azolla *microphylla*	Salviniaceae	LC
Azolla pinnata		LC
Salvinia minima		LC
Salvinia molesta		LC
Bacopa monnieri	Scrophulariaceae	LC
Dopatrium junceum		LC
Limnophila aquatic		LC
Limnophila heterophylla		LC
Limnophila indica		LC
Limnophila sessiliflora		LC
Lindernia anagallis		LC
Lindernia antipoda		LC
Lindernia parviflora		LC
Mecardonia procumbens		LC
Scoparia dulcis		LC
Verbascum chinense		LC
Physalis minima	Solanaceae	LC
Melochia corchorifolia	Sterculiaceae	LC
Trapa natans	Trapaceae	EN
Typha angustata	Typhaceae	LC
Lantana camara	Verbenaceae	LC
Lippia javanica		LC

Phyla nodiflora		LC
Stachytarpheta jamaicensis		LC
Tectona grandis		LC
Hybanthus enneaspermus	Violaceae	LC

Table 2: Checklist of birds of Anshupa lake, Odisha

Common Name	Scientific Name	Family	IUCN Status	First sight count
Cotton Pygmy-goose	*Nettapus coromandelianus*	Anatidae	LC	2
Lesser Whistling-duck	*Dendrocygna javanica*		LC	18
Brahminy Duck	*Tadorna ferruginea*		LC	4
Black-crowded Night-heron	*Nycticorax nycticorax*	Ardeidae	LC	1
Black Bittern	*Dupetor flavicollis*		LC	1
Cattle Egret	*Bubulcus ibis*		LC	6
Cinnamon Bittern	*Ixobrychus cinnamomeus*		LC	1
Grey Heron	*Ardea cinerea*		LC	4
Intermediate Egret	*Ardea intermedia*		LC	2
Little Egret	*Egretta garzetta*		LC	6
Indian Pond-heron	*Ardeola grayii*		LC	8
Purple Heron	*Ardea purpurea*		LC	1
Asian Openbill	*Anastomus oscitans*	Ciconidae	LC	6
Painted Stork	*Mycteria leucocephala*		NT	2
River Lapwing	*Vanellus duvaucelli*	Charadriidae	NT	4
Yellow-wattled Lapwing	*Vanellus malabaricus*		LC	2
Red wattled Lapwing	*Vanellus indicus*		LC	8
Common Kingfisher	*Alcedo atthis*	Alcedinidae	LC	1
Pied Kingfisher	*Ceryle rudis*		LC	2
White-throated Kingfisher	*Halcyon gularis*		LC	2
Pheasant-tailed Jacana	*Hydrophasianus chirurgus*	Jacanidae	LC	2
Bronzed-winged Jacana	*Metopidius indicus*		LC	4
Purple Swamphen	*Porphyrio porphyrio*	Rallidae	LC	6
Common Moorhen	*Gallinula chloropus*		LC	2
White-breasted Waterhen	*Amaurornis phoenicurus*		LC	3
Common Coot	*Fulica atra*		LC	1

Little Cormorant	*Phalacrocorax niger*	Phalacrocoracidae	LC	4
Black-winged Stilt	*Himantopus himantopus*	Recurvirostridae	LC	2
Common Sandpiper	*Actitis hypoleucos*	Scolopacidae	LC	1
Common Snipe	*Gallinago gallinago*		LC	1
Common Greenshank	*Tringa nebularia*		LC	1
Red Avadavat	*Amandava amandava*	Estrildidae	LC	6
White-rumped Munia	*Lonchura striata*		LC	12
River Tern	*Sterna aurantia*	Laridae	NT	2
Black Kite	*Milvus migrans*	Accipitridae	LC	2
Black-winged Kite	*Elanus caeruleus*		LC	1
Black Drongo	*Dicrurus macrocercus*	Dicruridae	LC	2
Purple Sunbird	*Cinmyris asiatica*	Nectariniidae	LC	1
Purple-rumped Sunbird	*Leptocoma zeylonica*		LC	2
Rosy Starling	*Pastor roseus*	Sturnidae	LC	12
Common Myna	*Acridotheres tristis*		LC	2
Asian Pied Starling	*Gracupica contra*		LC	6
Jungle Myna	*Acridotheres fuscus*		LC	2
Brahminy Starling	*Sturnia pagodarum*		LC	8
Pied Bushchat	*Saxicola caprata*	Muscicapidae	LC	1
Indian Robin	*Saxicoloides fulicatus*		LC	1
Oriental Magpie-robin	*Copsychus saularis*		LC	1
Jungle Babbler	*Turdoides striata*	Tamiliidae	LC	7
Green Bee-eater	*Merops orientalis*	Meropidae	LC	2
Blue-tailed Bee-eater	*Merops philippinus*		LC	8
Red-whiskered Bulbul	*Pycnonotus jocosus*		LC	4
Red-vented Bulbul	*Pycnonotus cafer*	Pycnonotidae	LC	8
Spotted Owlet	*Athene brama*	Strigidae	LC	1
Brown-headed Barbet	*Megalaima zeylanica*	Ramphastidae	LC	2
Common Crow	*Corvus splendens*	Corvidae	LC	2
Paddyfield Pipit	*Anthus rufulus*	Motacillidae	LC	2
Alexandrine Parakeet	*Psittacula eupatria*	Psittaculidae	NT	4
Greater Coucal	*Centropus sinensis*	Cuculidae	LC	1
Baya Weaver	*Ploceus philippinus*	Ploceidae	LC	4
Black-hooded Oriole	*Oriolus xanthornus*	Oriolidae	LC	2
Long-tailed Shrike	*Lanius schach*	Laniidae	LC	1
Brown Shrike	*Lanius cristatus*		LC	1
Plain Prinia	*Prinia inornata*	Cisticolidae	LC	1
Common Tailorbird	*Orthotomus sutorius*		LC	2
Coppersmith Barbet	*Psilopogon haemacephalus*	Megalaimidae	LC	2
Common Hoopoe	*Upupa epops*	Upupidae	LC	1
Indian Roller	*Coracias benghalensis*	Coraciidae	LC	1
Little Grebe	*Tachybaptus ruficollis*	Podicipeddidae	LC	4

Pacific Golden Plover	*Pluvialis fulva*	Charadriidae	LC	6
Rufous Treepie	*Dendrocitta vagabunda*	Corvidae	LC	1
Shikra	*Accipiter badius*	Accipitridae	LC	1