

AVIFAUNA OF SHOLAPUR DISTRICT (MAHARASHTRA)
—A SEMI-ARID BIOTOPE

By

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INTRODUCTION

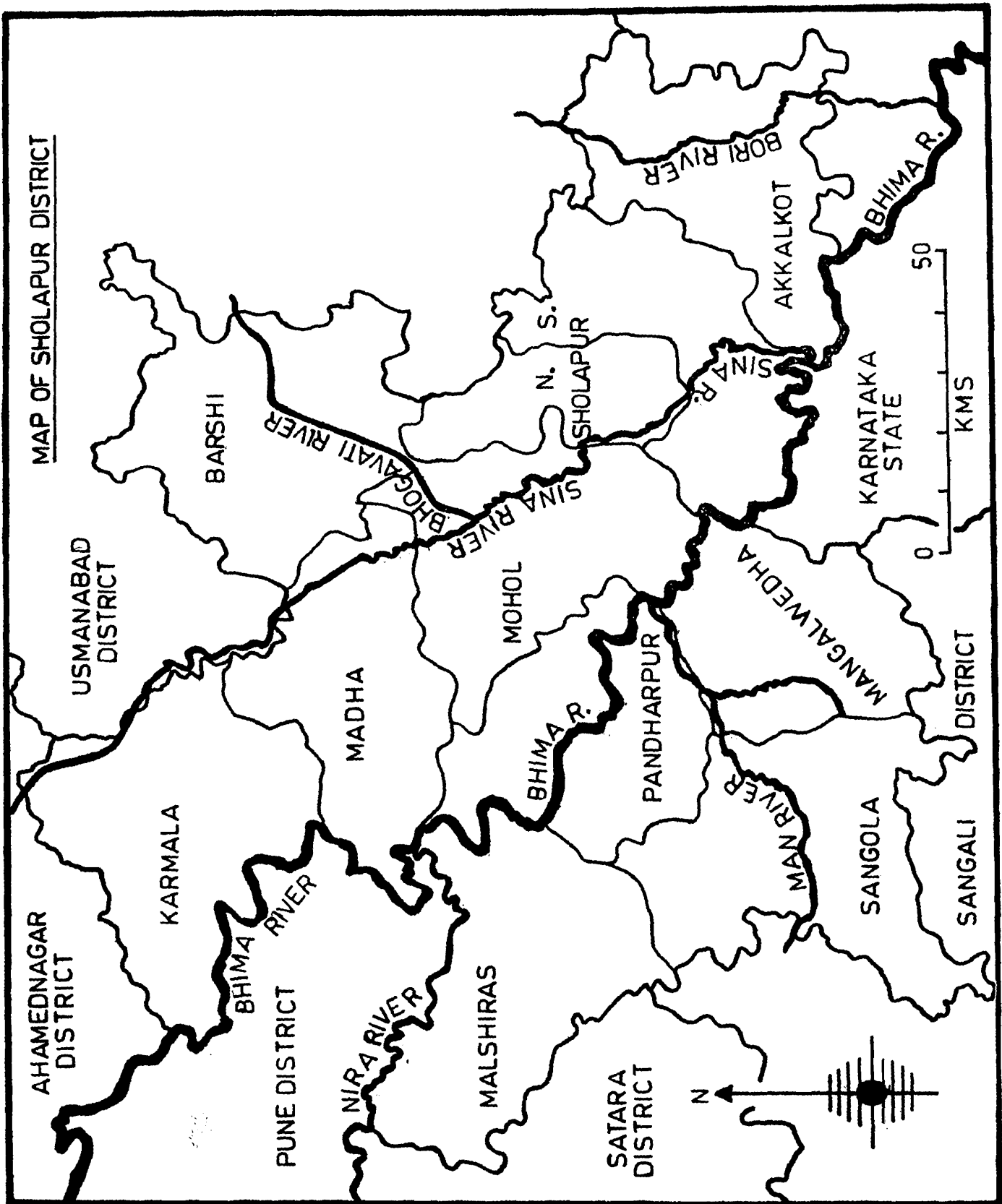
A survey of avifauna of Sholapur District (Maharashtra) was under-taken in the years 1978 (November,) 1980 (January-February) and 1983 (August-September). During this survey occurrence of different species of birds was recorded with special reference to their abundance in the 10 talukas of this district (Map 1). Besides, 16 species of birds were collected and deposited in the collections of the Zoological Survey of India, Western Regional Station, Pune. For each taluka, observation and collection spots were randomly selected—such as hilly area, plain barren land, agricultural field, road side, shrub forest, water bodies, streams, rivers and combination of these.

TOPOGRAPHY, CLIMATE AND VEGETATION

District Sholapur is situated in the northeastern part of Maharashtra State (17° 10'N & 18° 32'N latitude and 74° 42'E & 76° 15'E longitude). It lies entirely in the basins of the Nira, Bhima, Sina, Man and Bhogawati rivers and their tributaries. The district terrain is formed of gently undulating plains which are generally 450 to 500 meters above the sea level. Some areas are hilly rising upto 600 meters.

The climate of the district is characterised by general dryness in the major part of the year. The cold season is from December to middle of February, followed by the hot

season which lasts upto May. June to September is the south-west monsoon season. The maximum day temperature varies from 25°C in winter to 40.5°C in summer. The average



Map 1.

annual precipitation varies from 300 mm to 600 mm and its distribution is unpredictable. During the hot season, all the rivers are fordable. Even the main river Bhima breaks into a number of stagnant pools of water just ankle-deep. However, during the peak of monsoon, not only the rivers but also the seasonal feeder streams are flooded, though for a short span of time.

The district lies in the semi-arid tract of the Deccan Plateau. It is barren and deficient in the tree growth except a few sheltered pockets of negligible dimension having some vegetation. Sholapur district occupies 230 sq km of forested area which constitutes only 0.94% of the total area of the district. Vast areas of Karmala taluka have scattered and scanty grass. At present, the forest growth is mainly observed in Malshiras, Sangola and Bershi talukas on the hill slopes and depressions. The district has four types of vegetation—dry thorny, dry deciduous, shrub and grassland. The main trees, shrubs and grasses observed are as follows :—

Bauhinia racemosa (Apta), *Acacia arabica* (Babhul), *Acacia catechu* (Khair) *cordia* sp. (Bhokar), *Zizyphus jujuba* (Bor), *Tamarindus indica* (Tamarind), *Pongamia glabra* (Karanj), *Azadirachta indica* (Neem), *Butea frondosa* (Palas), *Ficus bengalensis* (Banyan), *Albizia lebeck* (Shirish), *Dalbergia sissoo* (Shiasum), *Aegle marmelos* (Bel), *Terminalia crenulata* (Ain), *Anogeissus latifolia* (Dhavda), *Ficus religiosa* (Pimpal), *Phyllanthus emblica* (Awla), *Vitex negundo* (Nirgudi), *Lantana camera* (Ghaneri), *Agave vivipara* (Ghypat), *Carrissa carandus* (Karwand), *Cassia auriculata* (Tarvad), *Euphorbia nerifolia* (Nivdung) and grasses like *Anthistiria ciliata* (Bongruat), *Andropogon* Sp., *Heteropogon* sp., *Ischaemum* sp., and *Eragrostis* sp. (Scientific and common names mentioned from Maharashtra State Gazetteers-Sholapur District, 1977).

OBSERVATION AND RESULTS

A list of 148 bird species in the district with their regionwise abundance and status is given in Table-1. In general, the birds were found to be concentrating in

particular localities on the bank of rivers Bhima, Sina, Man, Bori and Bhogawati. Except Bhima, other rivers get dried up outside the rainy season to number of small ponds where different bird species were noticed. Besides these, better bird life was found in the vicinity of 'pazar tanks' (percolation tanks) like Hipparga lake near Sholapur city, Pathardi tank near Barshi town and Chincholi tank near Sangola village. At Bhimangar, a newly developed colony near Ujani Dam, more than 30 different bird species were seen feeding during day time and many of them roosting at night time (Mahabal, 1986).

Besides the common species of birds like Cattle Egret, Pariah Kite, Blue Rock Pigeon, Roseringed Parakeet, Indian Myna, House Crow, Jungle Crow and House Sparrow other species of birds such as Pond Heron, Indian Shikra, Indian Peafowl, Spotted Dove, Indian Koel, Spotted Owlet, Small Green Bee-eater, Redvented Bulbul and Indian Robin were found in good numbers all over the district. Ashycrowned Finch-Lark and Rufoustailed Finch-Lark were commonly seen occurring throughout the district, particularly at roadsides and on open barren land. The predatory bird species were found comparatively in better number in the district, of which the Red headed Merlin was abundant in Barshi taluka.

The Indian Courser and the Indian Sandgrouse are especially the birds of semi-arid biotope. They are found in fair population all over the district except in Madha, Malshiras and Pandharpur talukas. It is interesting to note that wherever a flock of Indian Sandgrouse was noticed, scattered flocks of Indian Courser were also observed nearby or vice-versa. The other birds of semi-arid biotope like Sociable Lapwing, Grey Shrike, Booted Tree Warbler and Desert Wheatear were seen occasionally or rarely in various talukas.

An important bird species of this semi-arid district is the Great Indian Bustard which has been declared as in 'endangered species' under the 'wildlife (Protection) Act 1972' (vide schedule I, part III : Birds). This bird was noticed

TABLE-1 : A systematic list of birds of Sholapur district showing regionwise abundance and status.

(+++)—Common, (++)—Occasional, (+)—Rare and (—)—Not observed
(R)—Resident, (LM)—Local Migratory and (WM)—Winter Migratory

Sl. No.	Species	Common Name	Taluka										Status
			Kar-mala	Mad-dha	Mal-shiras	Pandh-arpur	Sang-ola	Mangal-vedha	Mo-hol	Bar-shi	Shola-pur	Akkal-kot	
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)	(11)	(12)	(13)	(14)
Order : PODICPEDIFORMES													
Family : PODICIPEDIDAE													
1.	<i>Podiceps ruficollis</i> (Pallas)	Little Grebe	+	++	+	+++	-	-	+	++	++	++	R
Order : PELECANIFORMES													
Family : PHALACROCORACIDAE													
2.	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i> (Shaw)	Large Cormorant	-	+	-	++	-	-	-	-	-	-	R
3.	<i>Phalacrocorax niger</i> (Vieillot)	Little Cormorant	-	+	-	++	-	-	-	-	-	-	R
Order : CICONIIFORMES													
Family : ARDEIDAE													
4.	<i>Ardea cinerea</i> Linnaeus	Grey Heron	-	+	-	+	+	-	-	-	-	-	R/LM
*5.	<i>Ardeola grayii</i> (Sykes)	Pond Heron	++	++	++	+++	+	++	++	+++	+++	+++	R
6.	<i>Bubulcus ibis</i> (Linnaeus)	Cattle Egret	++	++	++	+++	+	+	++	+++	+++	+++	R
7.	<i>Egretta intermedia</i> (Wagler)	Median Egret	+	+	-	++	-	-	+	+	-	+	R
8.	<i>Egretta garzetta</i> (Linnaeus)	Little Egret	+	+	+	++	-	+	+	+	+	++	R
9.	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i> (Linnaeus)	Night Heron	-	+	-	+	+	-	-	+	+	+	R
10.	<i>Ixobrychus sinensis</i> (Gmelin)	Yellow Bittern	-	+	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	+	R
Family : CICONIIDAE													
11.	<i>Ibis leucocephalus</i> (Pennant)	Painted Stork	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	+	-	-	R/LM
12.	<i>Anastomus oscitans</i> (Boddaert)	Openbill Stork	-	+	-	+	-	-	-	-	+	-	R
13.	<i>Ciconia episcopus</i> (Boddaert)	Whitenecked Stork	+	-	-	+	-	-	-	+	-	-	R
14.	<i>Xenorhynchus asiaticus</i> (Latham)	Blacknecked Stork	-	+	-	+	+	-	-	-	-	-	R/LM

- Table-1 (Contd.)

Sl. No.	Species	Common Name	Taluka										Status
			Kar-mala	Mad-dha	Mal-shiras	Pandh-arpur	Sang-ola	Mangal-vedha	Mo-hol	Bar-shi	Shola-pur	Akkal-kot	
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)	(11)	(12)	(13)	(14)
Family : THRESKIORNITHIDAE													
15.	<i>Threskiornis melanocephala</i> (Latham)	White Ibis	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	R/LM
16.	<i>Pseudibis papillosa</i> (Temminck)	Black Ibis	+	-	-	++	+	-	-	+	-	+	R
17.	<i>Platalea leucorodia</i> Linnaeus	Spoonbill	-	+	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	R/LM
Order : ANSERIFORMES													
Family : ANATIDAE													
18.	<i>Tadorna ferruginea</i> (Pallas)	Brahminy Duck	-	+	-	++	-	-	+	+++	+	++	WM
19.	<i>Anas acuta</i> Linnaeus	Pintail	-	+	-	++	+	-	+	++	++	-	WM
20.	<i>Anas crecca</i> Linnaeus	Common Teal	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	++	+	-	WM
21.	<i>Anas poecilorhyncha</i> J.R.Forstor	Spotbill or Grey Duck	+	+	-	+	+	-	+	++	++	+	R
22.	<i>Anas querquedula</i> Linnaeus	Garganey Teal	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	+	+	-	WM
23.	<i>Anas clypeata</i> Linnaeus	Shoveller	-	-	-	+	+	-	-	+	+	-	WM
24.	<i>Nettapus coromandelianus</i> (Gmelin)	Cotton Teal	-	+	-	+	+	-	-	++	+	-	R
Order : FALCONIFORMES													
Family : ACCIPITRIDAE													
*25.	<i>Elanus caeruleus vociferus</i> (Latham)	Blackwinged Kite	++	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	+++	++	R/LM
26.	<i>Milvus migrans</i> (Boddaert)	Pariah Kite	++	+++	++	+++	+	++	++	+++	+++	+++	R
27.	<i>Haliastur indus</i> Boddaert	Brahminy Kite	-	-	+	+	-	-	-	-	+	+	R
*28.	<i>Accipiter badius dussumieri</i> (Temminck)	Indian Shikra	++	+	++	++	+	+	+	+++	++	+++	R
29.	<i>Butastur teesa</i> (Franklin)	White-eyed Buzzard	+	-	+	+	+	-	+	+	+	++	R/LM
30.	<i>Spizaetus cirrhatus</i> (Gmelin)	Crested Hawk-Eagle	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	+	-	R
31.	<i>Hieraaetus fasciatus</i> (Vieillot)	Bonelli's Hawk-Eagle	+	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	+	+	R
32.	<i>Hieraaetus pennatus</i> (Gmelin)	Booted Hawk-Eagle	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	+	-	WM

Table-1 (Contd.)

Sl. No.	Species	Common Name	Taluka										Status
			Kar-mala	Ma-ddha	Mal-shi-ras	Pan-dhar-pur	Sang-ola	Man-gal-vedha	Mohol Bar-shi	Shola-pur	Akkal-kot		
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)	(11)	(12)	(13)	(14)
33.	<i>Aquila rapax</i> (Temminck)	Twany Eagle	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	+	++	+	LM
34.	<i>Torgos calvus</i> (Scopoli)	King Vulture	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	R
35.	<i>Gyps indicus</i> (Scopoli)	Longbilled Vulture	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	R
36.	<i>Gyps bengalensis</i> (Gmelin)	Whitebacked Vulture	+	+	++	++	-	+	+	++	++	++	R
37.	<i>Neophron percnopterus</i> (Linnaeus)	White Scavenger Vulture	-	-	+	+	-	-	-	++	+	++	R
38.	<i>Circus macrourus</i> (S.G. Gmelin)	Pale Harrier	+	+	++	-	+	-	-	+	+	++	WM
39.	<i>Spilornis cheela</i> (Latham)	Crested Serpent Eagle	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	+	+	++	R
Family : FALCONIDAE													
*40.	<i>Falco chicquera</i> Daudin	Redheaded Merlin	-	-	-	+	-	+	+	+++	++	+	R
*41.	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i> Linnaeus	Kestrel	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	++	++	WM
Order : GALLIFORMES													
Family : PHASIANIDAE													
42.	<i>Francolinus pondicerianus</i> (Gmelin)	Grey Partridge	-	+	-	+	-	+	+	+	+	+	R
43.	<i>Perdicula argoondah</i> (Sykes)	Rock Bush Quail	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	R
44.	<i>Gallus sonneratii</i> Temminck	Grey Junglefowl	-	+	-	+	-	-	-	+	-	+	R
45.	<i>Pavo cristatus</i> Linnaeus	Indian Peafowl	+	++	-	++	-	+	++	++	+	++	R
Order : GRUIFORMES													
Family : RALLIDAE													
46.	<i>Amaurornis phoenicurus</i> (Pennant)	White-breasted Waterhen	+	+	-	++	+	-	+	+	+	++	R
47.	<i>Porphyrio porphyrio</i> (Linnaeus)	Purple Moorhen	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	+	-	+	R
48.	<i>Fulica atra</i> Linnaeus	Coot	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	++	-	-	WM

Table-1 (Contd.)

Sl. No.	Species	Common name	Taluka										Status
			Kar-mala	Mad-dha	Mal-shi-ras	Pan-dhar-pur	Sang-ola	Man-gal-vedha	Mohol	Bar-shi	Shola-pur	Akkal-kot	
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)	(11)	(12)	(13)	(14)
Family : OTIDIDAE													
49.	<i>Ardeotis nigriceps</i> (Vigors)	Great Indian Bustard	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	++	-	-	R/LM
Order : CHARADRIIFORMES													
Family : JACANIDAE													
50.	<i>Hydrophasianus chirurgus</i> (Scopoli)	Pheasant-tailed Jacana	-	+	-	+	-	-	-	+	+	+	R
Family : CHARADRIIDAE													
Sub-family : CHARADRIINAE													
51.	<i>Vanellus gregarius</i> (Pallas)	Sociable Lapwing	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	+	WM
52.	<i>Vanellus indicus</i> (Boddaert)	Redwattled Lapwing	++	++	++	+++	+	+	++	-	++	++	R
53.	<i>Vanellus malabaricus</i> (Boddaert)	Yellow-wattled Lapwing	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	+++	++	+	R/LM
54.	<i>Tringa ochropus</i> Linnaeus	Green Sandpiper	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	+	+	+	WM
55.	<i>Tringa hypoleucos</i> Linnaeus	Common Sandpiper	+	-	-	+++	-	-	+	++	-	+	WM
Family : ROSTRATULIDAE													
56.	<i>Rostratula benghalensis</i> (Linnaeus)	Painted Snipe	-	+	-	+	-	-	-	+	-	-	WM
Family : RECURVIROSTRIDAE													
57.	<i>Himantopus himantopus</i> (Linnaeus)	Blackwinged Stilt	+	++	-	+++	+	+	+	+	++	+++	WM
Family : GLAREOLIDAE													
*58.	<i>Cursorius coromandelicus</i> (Gmelin)	Indian Courser	+	-	-	-	++	+	++	++	+	+++	R
Family : LARIDAE													
59.	<i>Sterna aurantia</i> J. E. Gray	Indian River Tern	-	+	-	+	-	-	+	+	-	-	R/LM
Order : COLUMBIFORMES													

Table-1 (Contd.)

Sl. No.	Species	Common Name	Taluka											Status
			Kar-mala	Ma-ddha	Mal-shi-ras	Pan-dhar-pur	Sang-ola	Man-gal-vedha	Mohol	Barshi	Shola-pur	Akkal-kot		
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)	(11)	(12)	(13)	(14)	
Family : PTEROCLIDIDAE														
*60.	<i>Pterocles exustus erlangeri</i> (Neumann)	Indian Sandgrouse	+	-	-	-	++	+	++	+++	++	+++	R/LM	
Family : COLUMBIDAE														
61.	<i>Treron phoenicoptera</i> (Latham)	Green Pigeon	-	-	-	+++	-	-	+	+	+	++	R/LM	
62.	<i>Columba livia</i> Gmelin	Blue Rock Pigeon	+	++	++	+++	++	+	++	++	+++	+++	R	
63.	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i> (Frivaldszky)	Ring Dove	+++	+++	+	++	++	+	+	++	++	++	R/LM	
64.	<i>Streptopelia chinensis</i> (Scopoli)	Spotted Dove	+	++	+	++	-	-	+	++	+	++	R	
65.	<i>Streptopelia senegalensis</i> Linnaeus	Little Brown or Senegal Dove	+	-	+	+	++	+	++	+	+	+	R	
Order : PSITTACIFORMES														
Family : PSITTACIDAE														
*66.	<i>Psittacula krameri</i> (Scopoli)	Roseringed Parakeet	++	++	++	+++	++	++	++	+++	+++	+++	R	
67.	<i>Psittacula cyanocephala</i> (Linnaeus)	Blossom-headed Parakeet	+	+	+	+++	-	-	+	+	++	+++	R	
Order : CUCULIFORMES														
Family : CUCULIDAE														
*68.	<i>Clamator jacobinus serratus</i> (Sparrman)	Pied Crested Cuckoo	-	+	-	++	-	-	-	-	+	+	R	
69.	<i>Cuculus varius</i> Vahl	Hawk-Cuckoo or Brainfever Bird	+	+	+	++	+	+	+	+	+	++	LM/ WM	
70.	<i>Eudynamys scolopacea</i> (Linnaeus)	Koel	++	++	++	+++	++	+	++	++	++	+++	R	
71.	<i>Taccocua leschenaultii</i> Lesson	Sirkeer Cuckoo	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	+	R/LM	
72.	<i>Centropus sinensis</i> (Stephens)	Crow-Pheasant	+	++	+	+++	+	+	++	+	++	+++	R	

Table-1 (Contd.)

Sl. No.	Species	Common Name	Taluka										Status
			Kar-mala	Ma-ddha	Mal-shi-ras	Pan-dhar-pur	Sang-ola	Man-gal-vedha	Mohol	Barshi	Shola-pur	Akkal-kot	
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)	(11)	(12)	(13)	(14)
Order : STRIGIFORMES													
Family : STRIGIDAE													
Subfamily : TYTONINAE													
73.	<i>Tyto alba</i> (Scopoli)	Barn Owl	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	+	-	+	R
Subfamily : STRIGINAE													
74.	<i>Bubo bubo</i> (Linnaeus)	Horned or Eagle-Owl	+	-	-	+	-	-	-	+	+	+	R
75.	<i>Athene brama</i> (Temminck)	Spotted Owlet	++	++	++	+++	++	+	++	++	++	+++	R
Order : CAPRIMULGIFORMES													
Family : CAPRIMULGIDAE													
76.	<i>Caprimulgus asiaticus</i> Latham	Little Nightjar	+	+	-	++	+	-	+	++	+	++	R
Order : APODIFORMES													
Family : APODIDAE													
Subfamily : APODINAE													
77.	<i>Apus affinis</i> (J. E. Gray)	House Swift	+	+	-	++	-	-	+	++	+	++	R
78.	<i>Cypsiurus parvus</i> (Lichtenstein)	Palm Swift	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	+	-	R
Order : CORACIIFORMES													
Family : ALCEDINIDAE													
79.	<i>Ceryle rudis</i> (Linnaeus)	Pied Kingfisher	+	++	-	++	-	-	++	+	+	+	R/LM
80.	<i>Alcedo atthis</i> (Linnaeus)	Small Blue Kingfisher	+	++	+	++	++	+	+	++	+	++	R
81.	<i>Halcyon smyrnensis</i> (Linnaeus)	Whitebreasted Kingfisher	++	++	+	+++	+	+	++	++	++	++	R

Table-1 (Contd.)

Sl. No.	Species	Common name	Taluka										Status
			Kar-mala	Mad-dha	Mal-shi-ras	Pan-dhar-pur	Sang-ola	Man-gal-vedha	Mohal	Bar-shi	Shola-pur	Akkal-kot	
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)	(11)	(12)	(13)	(14)
Family : MEROPIDAE													
*82.	<i>Merops orientalis orientalis</i> Latham	Indian Small Green Bee-eater	++	++	++	+++	++	++	++	+++	++	+++	R
Family : CORACIIDAE													
*83.	<i>Coracias benghalensis indica</i> Linnaeus	Southern Roller	++	+	-	+++	+	+	+	++	+	+++	LM
Family : UPUPIDAE													
84.	<i>Upupa epops</i> Linnaeus	Hoopoe	+	+	-	++	+	+	++	+	++	++	R/LM
Family : BUCEROTIDAE													
85.	<i>Tockus birostris</i> (Scopoli)	Grey Hornbill	+	+	+	++	+	+	+	+	+	++	R
Order : PICIFORMES													
Family : CAPITONIDAE													
86.	<i>Megalaima viridis</i> (Boddaert)	Small Green Barbet	-	+	-	++	+	-	-	+	+	+	R
87.	<i>Megalaima haemacephala</i> (Muller)	Crimsonbreasted Barbet	+	++	+	+++	++	+	++	++	++	+++	R
Family : PICIDAE													
Subfamily : JYNGINAE													
88.	<i>Jynx torquilla</i> Linnaeus	Wryneck	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	WM
Subfamily : PICINAE													
89.	<i>Picoides mahrattensis</i> (Latham)	Yellowfronted Pied or Mahratta Woodpecker	-	+	-	++	-	-	+	+	+	++	R
Order : PASSERIFORMES													
Family : ALAUDIDAE													
90.	<i>Mirafra erythroptera</i> Blyth	Redwinged Bush Lark	-	+	-	+	-	-	-	+	+	+++	R

Table-1 (Contd.)

Sl. No.	Species	Common Name	Taluka										Status
			Kar-mala	Ma-ddha	Mal-shi-ras	Pan-dhar-pur	Sang-ola	Man-gal-vedha	Mohol Barshi	Shola-pur-	Akkal-kot		
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)	(11)	(12)	(13)	(14)
91.	<i>Eremopterix grisea</i> (Scopoli)	Ashycrowned Finch-Lark	++	+++	++	++	+++	++	+++	++	++	++	R
92.	<i>Ammomanes phoenicurus</i> (Franklin)	Rufoustailed Finch-Lark	++	+++	++	++	+++	++	+++	++	++	++	R
93.	<i>Galerida deva</i> (Sykes)	Sykes Crested Lark	+	+	-	+	+	+	+	-	+	++	R
94.	<i>Alauda gulgula</i> Franklin	Indian Small Skylark	+	+	-	+	-	-	-	-	+	-	R
Family : HIRUNDINIDAE													
95.	<i>Hirundo concolor</i> Sykes	Dusky Crag Martin	+	-	+	-	++	++	+	+	-	+	R
96.	<i>Hirundo rustica</i> Linnaeus	Common Swallow	+	++	+	+++	++	+	++	++	++	++	WM
97.	<i>Hirundo smithii</i> Leach	Wiretailed Swallow	-	-	++	++	-	-	+	+	+	++	R
98.	<i>Hirundo daurica</i> Linnaeus	Straited or Redrumped Swallow	-	+	+	+	-	-	-	+	-	-	R
99.	<i>Delichon urbica</i> (Linnaeus)	House Martin	+	+	+	++	+	-	+	+	+	++	WM
Family : LANIIDAE													
*100.	<i>Lanius excubitor lahtora</i> (Sykes)	Indian Grey Shrike	+	+	+	++	+	+	+	+	++	++	R/LM
101.	<i>Lanius vittatus</i> Valenciennes	Baybacked Shrike	-	+	++	+++	+	++	++	++	++	+++	R
102.	<i>Lanius schach</i> Linnaeus	Greybacked Shrike	+	+	+	++	-	+	-	+	++	+	R
Family : ORIOLIDAE													
103.	<i>Oriolus oriolus</i> (Linnaeus)	Golden Oriole	-	+	-	+++	-	+	+	++	++	++	LM
Family : DICRURIDAE													
*104.	<i>Dicrurus adsimilis macrocerus</i> Vieillot	South Indian Black Drongo or King Crow	+	++	+	+++	+	++	++	++	++	+++	R

Table-1 (Contd.)

Sl. No.	Species	Common Name	Taluka										Status
			Kar-mala	Ma-ddha	Mal-shi-ras	Pan-dhar-pur	Sang-ola	Man-gal-vedha	Mohol	Bar-shi	Shola-pur	Akkal-kot	
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)	(11)	(12)	(13)	(14)
105.	<i>Dicrurus caerulescens</i> (Linnaeus)	Whitebellied Drongo	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	++	+	++	R
	Family : STURNIDAE												
106.	<i>Sturnus pagodarum</i> (Gmelin)	Brahminy Maya	+	++	+ +	+++ +	+	++	++	++	++	++	R
107.	<i>Sturnus roseus</i> (Linnaeus)	Rosy Pastor or Rosy Starling	-	-	+	+++ -	-	-	-	+	++	++	WM
*108.	<i>Acridotheres tristis tristis</i> (Linnaeus)	Indian Myna	++	++	+++	+++	++	++	++	+++	+++	+++	R
109.	<i>Acridotheres fuscus</i> (Wagler)	Jungle Myna	-	-	-	++	+	-	-	+	+	++	R
	Family : CORVIDAE												
110.	<i>Corvus splendens</i> Vieillot	House Crow	++	+++	++	+++	+++	++	+++	+++	+++	+++	R
111.	<i>Corvus macrorhynchos</i> Wagler	Jungle Crow	++	++	++	+++	++	++	++	+++	+++	+++	R
	Family : CAMPEPHAGIDAE												
112.	<i>Tephrodornis pondicerianus</i> (Gmelin)	Common Wood Shrike	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	+	R
113.	<i>Pericrocotus cinnamomeus</i> (Linnaeus)	Small Minivet	-	+	-	++	-	-	-	+	+	++	R
	Family : IRENIDAE												
114.	<i>Aegithina tiphia</i> (Linnaeus)	Iora	+	+	-	++	-	-	+	-	+	++	R
	Family : PYCNONOTIDAE												
115.	<i>Pycnonotus jocosus</i> (Linnaeus)	Redwhiskered Bulbul	-	+	-	++	-	-	+	+	+	++	R
116.	<i>Pycnonotus cafer</i> (Linnaeus)	Redvented Bulbul	+	++	++	+++	++	++	++	++	+++	++	R

Table-1 (Contd.)

Sl. No.	Species	Common Name	Taluka										Status
			Kar-mala	Ma-ddha	Mal-shi-ras	Pan-dhar-pur	Sang-ola	Man-gal-vedha	Mohol	Barshi	Shola-pur	Akkal-kot	
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)	(11)	(12)	(13)	(14)
Family : MUSCICAPIDAE													
Subfamily : TIMALIINAE													
*117.	<i>Turdoides caudatus</i> (Dumont)	Common Babbler	+	++	++	+++	+	++	+	+	+	+++	R
118.	<i>Turdoides malcolmi</i> (Sykes)	Large Grey Babbler	+	++	++	++	++	+	++	++	++	+	R
Subfamily : MUSCICAPINAE													
119.	<i>Rhipidura albicollis</i> (Vieillot)	Fantail Flycatcher	-	+	-	++	-	+	+	+	+	++	R
Subfamily : SYLVIINAE													
120.	<i>Prinia subflava</i> (Gmelin)	Plain Wren-Warbler	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	+	+	++	R
121.	<i>Prinia socialis</i> Sykes	Ashy Wren-Warbler	-	+	+	+++	+	+	+	++	++	++	R
122.	<i>Orthotomus sutorius</i> (Pennant)	Tailor Bird	+	+	+	+++	+	+	-	++	++	+++	R
123.	<i>Hippolais caligata</i> (Lichtenstein)	Booted Tree Warbler	-	+	-	++	-	-	-	+	+	+	WM
124.	<i>Sylvia hortensis</i> (Gmelin)	Orphean Warbler	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	+	WM
125.	<i>Sylvia curruca</i> (Linnaeus)	Lesser Whitethroat	+	++	-	+++	+	+	+	-	-	++	WM
126.	<i>Phylloscopus affinis</i> (Tickell)	Leaf Warbler	-	+	+	++	-	-	-	+	+	+	WM
Subfamily : TURDINAE													
127.	<i>Copsychus saularis</i> (Linnaeus)	Magpie-Robin	+	+	+	+++	++	+	++	+	++	++	R
128.	<i>Phoenicurus ochruros</i> (Gmelin)	Black Redstart	-	-	+	++	-	+	+	-	+	+	WM
129.	<i>Oenanthe deserti</i> (Temminck)	Desert Wheatear	+	-	+	-	+	-	-	-	+	-	WM
130.	<i>Saxicoloides fulicata</i> (Linnaeus)	Black Robin	++	++	+	+++	++	++	++	++	++	+++	R
131.	<i>Monticola solitarius</i> (Linnaeus)	Blue Rock Thrush	-	-	+	++	+	-	-	-	+	+	WM
Family : PARIDAE													

Table-1 (Contd.)

Sl. No.	Species	Common Name	Taluka										Status
			Kar-mala	Mad-dha	Mal-shi-ras	Pan-dhar-pur	Sang-ola	Man-gal-vedha	Mohol	Bar-shi	Shola-pur	Akkal-kot	
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)	(11)	(12)	(13)	(14)
Subfamily : PARINAE													
132.	<i>Parus major</i> Linnaeus	Grey Tit	-	+	-	++	+	-	++	+	+	++	R
Family : MOTACILLIDAE													
133.	<i>Anthus similis</i> Jerdon	Rock Pipit	-	-	+	+	-	-	-	+	-	++	R
134.	<i>Motacilla flava</i> Linnaeus	Yellow Wagtail	+	+	+	++	+	+	+	++	+	++	WM
135.	<i>Motacilla caspica</i> (Gmelin)	Grey Wagtail	-	+	-	++	+	+	+	++	++	++	WM
136.	<i>Motacilla alba</i> Linnaeus	White Wagtail	-	-	-	+	-	-	+	+	+	++	WM
*137.	<i>Motacilla maderaspatensis</i> Gmelin	Large Pied Wagtail	+	++	+	+++	++	+	++	+	++	++	R
Family : DICAEDIDAE													
138.	<i>Dicaeum erythrorhynchos</i> (Latham)	Tickell's Flowerpecker	+	+	-	++	+	-	+	+	+	++	R
Family : NECTARINIIDAE													
139.	<i>Nectarinia zeylonica</i> (Linnaeus)	Purplerumped Sunbird	-	++	-	+++	+	+	+	+	+	++	R
140.	<i>Nectarinia asiatica</i> (Latham)	Purple Sunbird	+	++	+	+++	+	+	++	++	++	+++	R
Family : ZOSTEROPIDAE													
141.	<i>Zosterops palpebrosa</i> (Temminck)	White-eye	-	+	-	++	-	+	-	+	++	++	R
Family : PLOCEIDAE													
Subfamily : PASSERINAE													
142.	<i>Passer domesticus</i> (Linnaeus)	House Sparrow	++	++	+++	+++	++	+++	+++	+++	+++	+++	R
Subfamily : PLOCEINAE													
143.	<i>Ploceus philippinus</i> (Linnaeus)	Baya Weaver-bird	+	++	++	+++	+	++	+	++	++	++	R/LM

Table-1 (Concluded)

Sl. No.	Species	Common name	Taluka										Status
			Kar-mala	Ma-ddha	Mal-shi-ras	Pan-dhar-pur	Sang-ola	Man-gal-vedha	Mohol	Barshi	Shola-pur	Akkal-kot	
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)	(11)	(12)	(13)	(14)
Subfamily : ESTRILDINAE													
144.	<i>Lonchura malabarica</i> (Linnaeus)	Whitethroated Munia	++	++	-	++	-	-	+	+	++	++	R
145.	<i>Lonchura punctulata</i> (Linnaeus)	Spotted Munia	+	-	-	++	-	-	-	+	+	+++	R
Family : FRINGILLIDAE													
Subfamily : CARDUELINAE													
146.	<i>Carpodacus erythrinus</i> (Pallas)	Rosefinch	-	-	-	++	-	-	+	+	+	++	WM
Family : EMBERIZIDAE													
147.	<i>Emberiza buchanani</i> Blyth	Greynecked Bunting	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	+	++	WM
148.	<i>Melophus lathami</i> (Gray)	Crested Bunting	-	+	-	++	+	-	-	-	++	++	R

* —Specimens are deposited in the Collections of Zoological Survey of India, Western Regional Station, Pune.

TABLE-2 : *Some communal roosters observed in Sholapur district.*

(+)—Roosting observed, (–)—Roosting not observed

Name of village or town	Name of birds					
	Cattle Egret	Pariah Kite	Roseringed Parakeet	Indian Myna	House and Jungle Crow	House Sparrow
Pandharpur	+	+	+	+	+	+
Akkalkot	–	–	+	+	+	+
Sangvi Village	+	–	–	–	–	+
Tanda Village	–	–	+	+	+	+
Sholapur City	+	+	+	+	+	+
Barshi town	+	+	+	+	+	+
Bhimanagar	–	–	+	+	+	+
Tembhurni	–	–	–	+	+	+
Akluj	–	–	–	+	+	+
Mohol	–	–	+	+	+	+
Sangola	–	–	+	+	+	+

once near Karmala village (Karmala taluka) and near Nanaj village (Sholapur taluka) in September, 1983. In the district, Government of Maharashtra has declared a Great Indian Bustard Sanctuary in 1979. According to Kulkarni (1980), the population of this bird in the district during the year 1978-1980 was around 35 to 40. Rego (1980) has also given an account of status of the Great Indian Bustards in the districts Ahmednagar, Sholapur and Aurangabad (Maharashtra) during the years 1978-1980. More detailed studies on movement and flock composition of bustards at Nanaj (Sholapur district) during 1981-1984 has been dealt with by Rahmani and Manakadan (1986). Records were also maintained on bird species roosting communally during night time in different villages and towns (Table-2).

In general, it can be said that the avifauna of this district is fairly represented. Comparatively, the bird life is better in Pandharpur, Madha, Akkalkot and Barshi talukas. The number of waterbird species are less and this is natural because of scarcity of water and semi-arid conditions. Out of the total bird species observed and collected, 30 were found to be winter migratory species.

Davidson and Wenden (1878) have listed 255 bird species from the Deccan (including Sholapur district). Butler (1881)

explored vast portions of the Deccan and South Mahratta Country (also covering Sholapur district) and catalogued altogether 452 bird species from this region. Checklist of Birds of Maharashtra (Abdulali, 1973) mentions 525 species from Maharashtra State, out of which 148 are hereby recorded separately from Sholapur district.

SUMMARY

A survey of avifauna of Sholapur District (Maharashtra State) was undertaken during different years. The district lies in the semi-arid tract of the Deccan Plateau and has less than 1% forested area out of the total area of the district. It was interesting to observe the birds of such semi-arid biotope. Altogether 148 different bird species and subspecies with their regionwise abundance and status in the district have been discussed in this paper. Beside this, some observations on the communally roosting bird species of the district have also been reported.

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