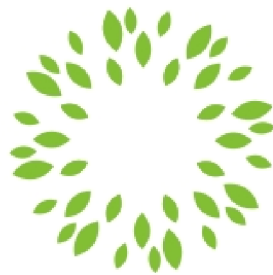


A Pilot Study

on

Birds of Girnar Wildlife Sanctuary



MAHIRU
FOUNDATION

July 2013

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About this document:

Mahiru Foundation is a non-government organization registered under The Indian Societies Registration Act. Prime objectives of the organization are to flare nature awareness and to promote science education-cum-research through innovative means. The ideology of the organization believes in connect of government efforts with various components of society. Documentation of natural richness by applying latest science and technology tools is one of the prime focus of the organization. This document is part of the same. It aims towards compilation of observations to set benchmarks for diversity of birds in Girnar Wildlife Sanctuary, and later, to monitor the same. Such efforts are envisaged to serve a large community from researchers to hobbyists and from tourists to policy-makers, equally. We hope to keep updating our knowledge and put forward for the society time to time.

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Introduction:

Birds are health indicator of any terrestrial ecosystem. They show specificity in their dietary and habitat characteristics which is known to be sensitive to slightest of the manipulation. Many of the birds are migratory and choose our lands as their second home to flourish. India has been known to host numerous numbers of species from northernmost parts of Asia who reside here during winter times. Gujarat, the westernmost state of the country, blessed with longest shoreline, even though having limited numbers of large water-bodies, especially in Saurashtra-kutch region, receives many species of these winter visitors. At the same time, database of indigenous diversity is also equally required to be established.

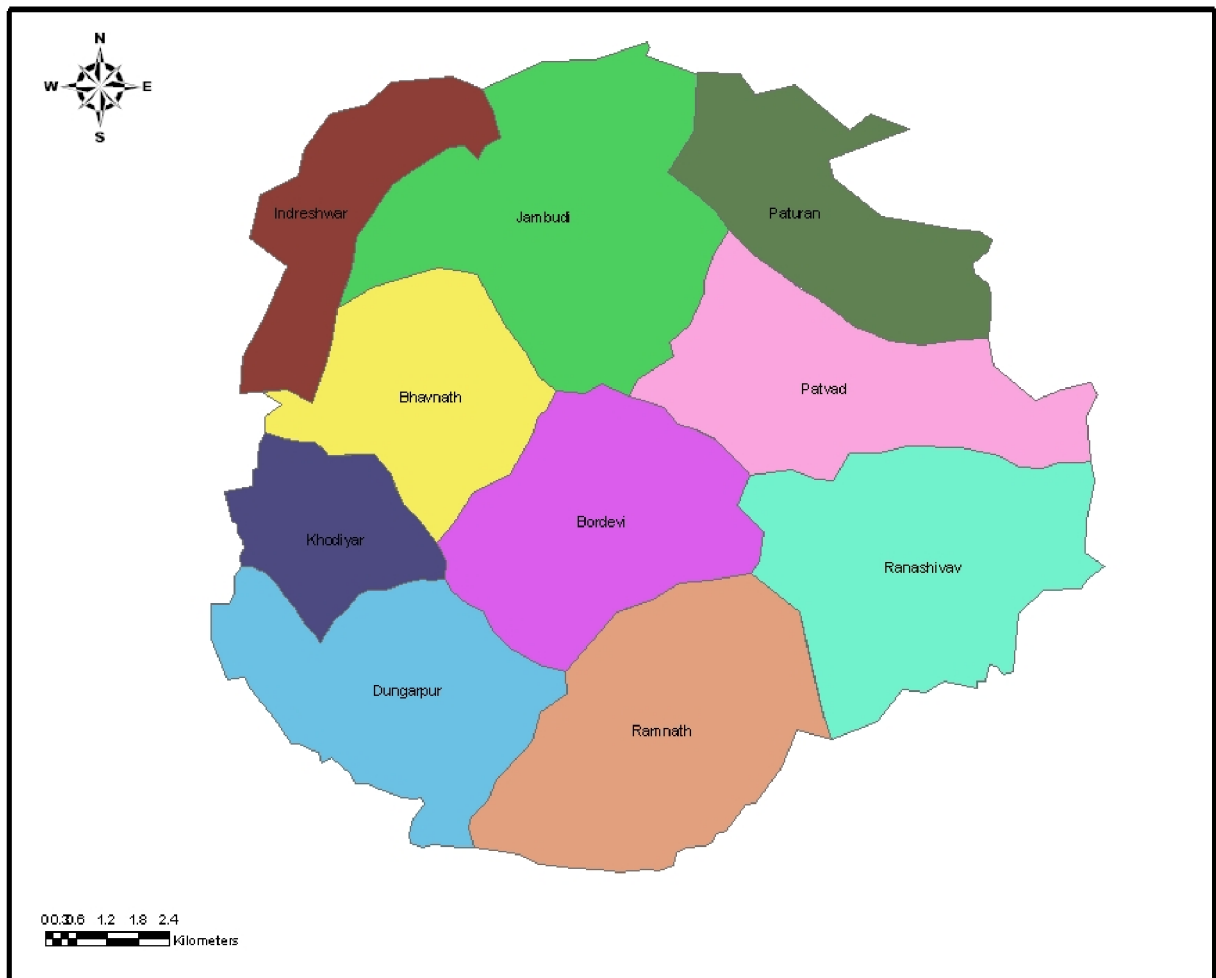


Fig.1: Rounds of Girnar Wildlife Sanctuary

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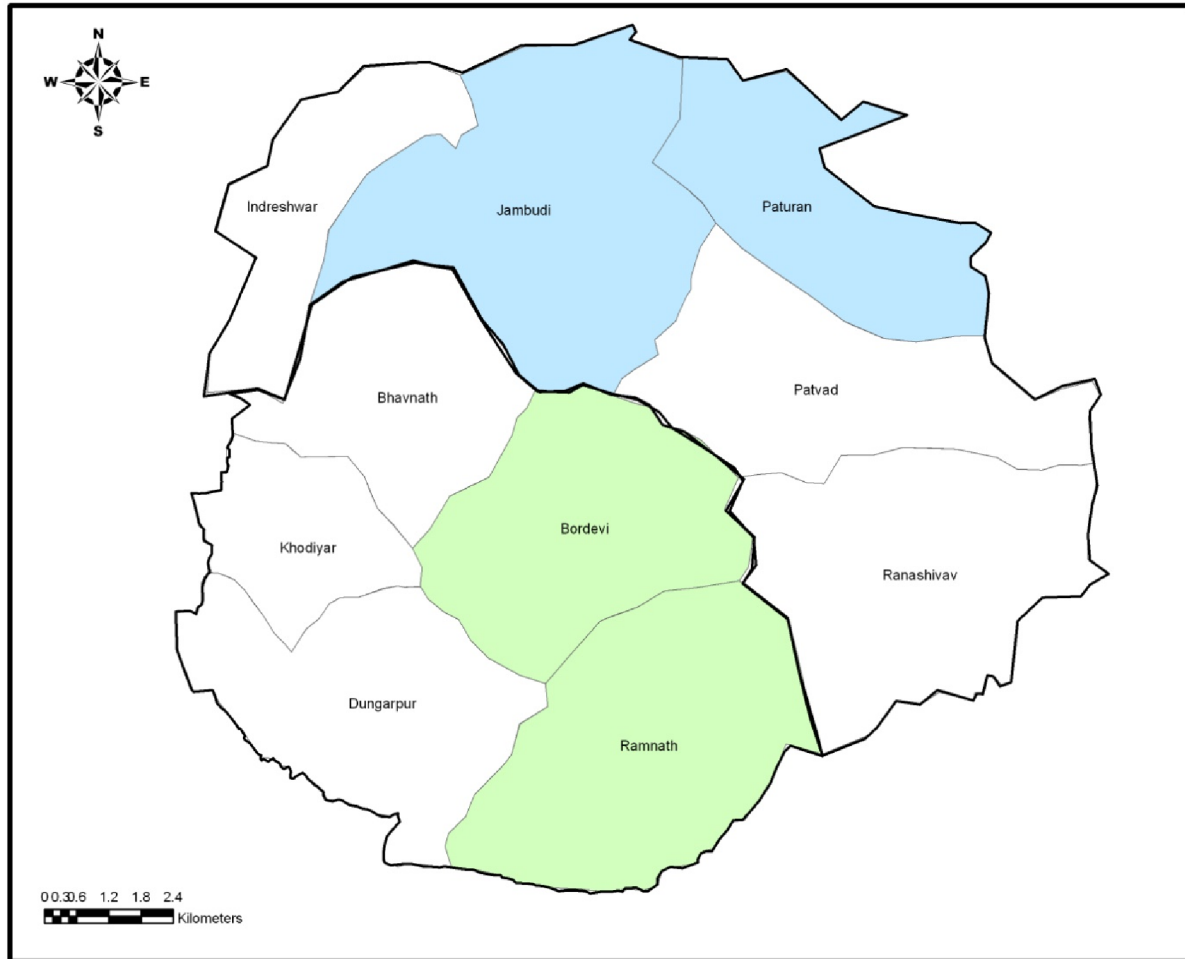


Fig.2: Ranges of Girnar WLS (Thick line) and study-area (color-filled)

Junagadh is a coastal district of Gujarat and district center Junagadh town, is spread adjacent to Girnar hills. The later was declared as Girnar Wildlife Sanctuary in year 2008. Very limited nature of scientific literature availability – over internet and otherwise – has made it necessary to undertake benchmark studies such as this one. The known partitions of Girnar Wildlife Sanctuary have been shown in Figure 1. The sanctuary has been divided into North and South ranges. Due to limited nature of time permitted to conduct, this study (as shown in Figure 2) was undertaken within two segments from each of these ranges. The segments were prioritized over others as per conventional knowledge about their importance with reference to bird diversity.

Observations:

General observations are tabulated below. Presence of winter visitors such as Osprey was surprising and needs further study. Some rarely recorded birds such as Sirkeer Malkoha have been noticed during this study, whereas presence of Yellow Legged Button Quail in Girnar Wildlife Sanctuary has been recorded for the first time as per best of the knowledge.

Table: Birds recorded within Girnar Wildlife Sanctuary, during May-June 2013.

Sr No.	Bird Type	Common English Name	Scientific Name	Habitat Remarks
1	Babbler	Common Babbler	<i>Turdoides caudatus</i>	Resident/Breeding
2		Jungle Babbler	<i>Turdoides Striatus</i>	Resident/Breeding
3		Yellow-Eyed Babbler	<i>Chrysomma sinense</i>	Resident/Breeding
4	Barbet	Coppersmith Barbet	<i>Megalaima haenacephala</i>	Resident/Breeding
5	Baya	Weaver Baya	<i>Ploceus philippinus</i>	Resident/Breeding
6	Bee-eater	Green Bee-eater	<i>Merops orientali</i>	Resident/Breeding
7	Bulbul	Red Vented Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus cafer</i>	Resident/Breeding
8	Buzzard	White-Eyed Buzzard	<i>Butastur teesa</i>	Resident/Breeding
9		Oriental Honey Buzzard	<i>Pernis ptilorhyncus</i>	Resident/Breeding
10	Cormorant	Indian Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax fuscicollis</i>	Resident/Breeding
11	Coucal	Greater Coucal	<i>Centropus sinensis</i>	Resident/Breeding
12	Crow	Large Billed Crow	<i>Corvus Macrorhynchus</i>	Resident/Breeding
13	Cuckoo	Pied Cuckoo	<i>Clamator jacobimus</i>	Summer Visitor
14		Common Hawk Cuckoo	<i>Hierococyx Varius</i>	Summer Visitor
15		Asian Koel	<i>Eudynamys Scolopacea</i>	Resident/Breeding

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Sr No.	Bird Type	Common English Name	Scientific Name	Habitat Remarks
16	Darter	Darter	<i>Anhinga melanogaster</i>	Resident/Breeding
17	Dove	Eurasian Collared Dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>	Resident/Breeding
18		Laughing Dove	<i>Streptopelia senegalensis</i>	Resident/Breeding
19		Red Collared Dove	<i>Streptopelia tranquebarica</i>	Resident/Breeding
20		Spotted Dove	<i>Streptopelia chinensis</i>	Resident/Breeding
21	Drongo	Black Drongo	<i>Dicrurus macrocercus</i>	Resident/Breeding
22	Duck	Comb Duck	<i>Sarkidiornis melanotos</i>	Resident/Breeding
23		Spot Billed Duck	<i>Anas poecilorhyncha</i>	Resident/Breeding
24	Eagle	Crested Serpent Eagle	<i>Spilornis cheela</i>	Resident/Breeding
25	Egret	Cattle Egret	<i>Bubulcus ibis</i>	Resident/Breeding
26		Great Egret	<i>Casmerodius albus</i>	Resident/Breeding
27		Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>	Resident/Breeding
28	Flowerpecker	Thickbilled Flowerpecker	<i>Dicaeum agile</i>	Resident/Breeding
29	Flycatcher	Asian Paradise Flycatcher	<i>Terpsiphone paradisi</i>	Resident/Breeding
30		Black Naped Monarch Flycatcher	<i>Hypothymis azurea</i>	Summer Visitor /Breeding
31		Tickells Blue Flycatcher	<i>Cyornis tickelliae</i>	Resident/Breeding
32		White Browed Fantail Flycatcher	<i>Rhipidura aureola</i>	Resident/Breeding

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Sr No.	Bird Type	Common English Name	Scientific Name	Habitat Remarks
33	Francolin	Grey Francolin	<i>Francolinus pondicerianus</i>	Resident/Breeding
34		Painted Francolin	<i>Francolinus pictus</i>	Resident/Breeding
35	Grebe	Little Grebe	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>	Resident/Breeding
36	Heron	Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>	Resident/Breeding
37		Indian Pond Heron	<i>Ardeola grayii</i>	Resident/Breeding
38	Hoopoe	Common Hoopoe	<i>Upupa epops</i>	Resident/Breeding
39	Ibis	Black Ibis	<i>Pseudibis papillosa</i>	Resident/Breeding
40		Black-Headed Ibis	<i>Threskioalus melanocephalus</i>	Resident/Breeding
41		Glossy Ibis	<i>Plegadis falcinellus</i>	Passage Visitor
42	Iora	Common Iora	<i>Aegithina tiphia</i>	Resident/Breeding
43		Marshall's Iora	<i>Aegithina nigrolutea</i>	Resident/Breeding
44	Kingfisher	Common Kingfisher	<i>Alcedo atthis</i>	Resident/Breeding
45		Pied Kingfisher	<i>Ceryle rudis</i>	Resident/Breeding
46		White Throated Kingfisher	<i>Halcyon Smyrnensis</i>	Resident/Breeding
47	Kite	Black Kite	<i>Milvus migrans</i>	Resident/Breeding
48		Black Shouldered Kite	<i>Elanus caeruleus</i>	Resident/Breeding
49	Lapwing	Red Wattled Lapwing	<i>Vanellus indicus</i>	Resident/Breeding
50		Yellow Wattled Lapwing	<i>Vanellus malarbaricus</i>	Resident/Breeding

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Sr No.	Bird Type	Common English Name	Scientific Name	Habitat Remarks
51	Lark	Ashy Crowned Sparrow Lark	<i>Eremopterix grisea</i>	Resident/Breeding
52	Malkoha	Sirkeer Malkoha	<i>Phaenicophaeus leschenaultii</i>	Resident/Breeding
53	Martin	Dusky Crag Martin	<i>Hirundo concolor</i>	Resident/Breeding
54		Plain Martin	<i>Riparia paludicola</i>	Resident/Breeding
55	Minivet	Small Minivet	<i>Pericrocotus divaricatus</i>	Resident/Breeding
56		White-Bellied Minivet	<i>Pericrocotus erythropygus</i>	Resident/Breeding
57	Munia	Scaly Breasted Munia	<i>Lonchura punctulata</i>	Resident/Breeding
58	Myna	Common Myna	<i>Acridotheres tristis</i>	Resident/Breeding
59	Nightjar	Savanna Nightjar	<i>Caprimulgus affinis</i>	Resident/Breeding
60	Oriole	Eurasian Golden Oriole	<i>Oriolus oriolus</i>	Possibly Breeding
61	Osprey	Osprey	<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>	Winter Visitor
62	Owl	Brown Fish Owl	<i>Ketupa Zeylonensis</i>	Resident/Breeding
63	Owlet	Spotted Owlet	<i>Athene brama</i>	Resident/Breeding
64	Parakeet	Plum-Headed Parakeet	<i>Psittacula cyanocephala</i>	Resident/Breeding
65		Rose Ringed Parakeet	<i>Psittacula kraneri</i>	Resident/Breeding
66	Peafowl	Indian Peafowl	<i>Pavo cristatus</i>	Resident/Breeding
67	Petronia	Chestnut Shouldered Petronia	<i>Petronia xanthocollis</i>	Resident/Breeding
68	Pigeon	Rock Pigeon	<i>Columba livia</i>	Resident/Breeding
69		Yellow footed Green Pigeon	<i>Treron Apicauda</i>	Resident/Breeding

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Sr No.	Bird Type	Common English Name	Scientific Name	Habitat Remarks
70	Pitta	Indian Pitta	<i>Pitta brachyura</i>	Summer Visitor
71	Plover	Little Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius dubius</i>	Resident/Breeding
72	Quail	Common Quail	<i>Coturnix coturnix</i>	Winter Visitor
73		Rain Quail	<i>Coturnix coromandelica</i>	Summer Visitor
74		Yellow Legged Button Quail	<i>Turnix tanki</i>	Summer Visitor
75	Robin	Indian Robin	<i>Saxicoloides fulicata</i>	Resident/Breeding
76		Indian Blue Robin	<i>Luscinia brunnea</i>	Possibly Breeding
77		Oriental Magpie Robin	<i>Copsychus saularis</i>	Resident/Breeding
78	Sandgrouse	Painted Sandgrouse	<i>Pterocles indicus</i>	Resident/Breeding
79	Shikra	Shikra	<i>Acipiter badius</i>	Resident/Breeding
80	Shrike	Bay-Backed Shrike	<i>Lanius Vittatus</i>	Resident/Breeding
81		Common wood Shrike	<i>Tephrodornis pondicerianus</i>	Possibly Breeding
82		Long-Tailed Shrike	<i>Lanius schach</i>	Resident/Breeding
83		Southern Grey Shrike	<i>Lanius meridionalis</i>	Resident/Breeding
84	Silverbill	Indian Silverbill	<i>Lonchura malabarica</i>	Resident/Breeding
85	Sparrow	House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	Resident/Breeding
86	Spoonbill	Eurasian Spoonbill	<i>Platalea leucorodia</i>	Resident/Breeding
87	Starling	Brahminy Starling	<i>Sturnus pagodarum</i>	Resident/Breeding
88	Stilt	Black winged Stilt	<i>Himantopus himantopus</i>	Resident/Breeding

Sr No.	Bird Type	Common English Name	Scientific Name	Habitat Remarks
89	Stork	Asian Open Bill Stork	<i>Anastomus oscitans</i>	Resident/Breeding
90		Painted Stork	<i>Mycteria leucocephala</i>	Resident/Breeding
91		Woolly Necked Stork	<i>Ciconia episcopus</i>	Resident/Breeding
92	Sunbird	Purple Sunbird	<i>Nectarinia asiatica</i>	Resident/Breeding
93	Swallow	Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	Winter Visitor
94		Red-Rumped Swallow	<i>Hirundo daurica</i>	Resident/Breeding
95		Wire-Tailed Swallow	<i>Hirundo smithii</i>	Resident/Breeding
96	Swift	House Swift	<i>Apus affinis</i>	Resident/Breeding
97	Tailorbird	Common Tailorbird	<i>Orthotomus sutorius</i>	Resident/Breeding
98	Tern	River Tern	<i>Sterna aurantia</i>	Resident/Breeding
99	Thick-knee	Eurasian Thick-knee	<i>Burhinus oedicephalus</i>	Resident/Breeding
100	Thrush	Blue Rock Thrush	<i>Monticola solitarius</i>	Winter Visitor
101	Tit	Great Tit	<i>Parus major</i>	Resident/Breeding
102	Tree Pie	Rufous Tree-pie	<i>Dendrocitta vagabunda</i>	Resident/Breeding
103	Vulture	Long Billed Vulture	<i>Gyps indicus</i>	Resident/Breeding
104	Wagtail	White-Browed Wagtail	<i>Motacilla maderaspatensis</i>	Resident/Breeding
105	Waterhen	White Breasted Waterhen	<i>Amaurornis phoenicurus</i>	Resident/Breeding
106	White eye	Oriental White-eye	<i>Zosterops palpebrosus</i>	Resident/Breeding
107	Woodpecker	Greater Flameback Woodpecker	<i>Chrysocolaptes lucidus</i>	Resident/Breeding
108		Yellow Crowned Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos mahrattensis</i>	Resident/Breeding

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Sirkeer Malkoha (*Phaenicophaeus leschenaultii*)



Yellow-legged Buttonquail (*Turnix tanki*)

Future Scope of study:

Even though more than hundred species have been recorded within short span of one month under this study – that too, during pre-monsoon times with relatively less expectancy of diversity - a lot is yet to be done. Expansion of diversity study, both spatially as well as temporally, should be primary focus. Density survey is a task that will help us identifying diversity hot-spots. Monitoring of these rich pockets will help us keep track of health of the ecosystem, and may be in future, wiser management of our tourism also.

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- Birds of the Indian Subcontinent (2nd revised edition); Richard Grimmett, Carol Inskipp & Tim Inskipp; Christopher Helm Publishing Company (2011) Helm Field Guides series; ISBN-10: 1408127636 | ISBN-13: 978-1408127636.
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