

AVIFAUNAL DIVERSITY OF MACFAST CAMPUS, THIRUVALLA, KERALA

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ABSTRACT

Pathanamthitta District abodes a wide variety of avifauna. Avifaunal diversity of MACFAST campus was studied during December 2017 to May 2019. Avifauna of MACFAST campus was surveyed on foot twice in a week and birds were photo-documented. A total of 130 species belonging to 14 orders and 45 families were recorded from the campus. Of these 14 orders, Passeriformes dominated the list with 51 species followed by Pelicaniformes (19) and Charadriiformes (14). Among the species recorded 62% comprised of resident birds followed by 31% of winter visitors, 5% of local migrants and 2% of breeding visitors. Of these, 68 species were terrestrial birds and rest of the 62 species was wetland dependent birds. MACFAST campus accounts for 26 per cent species, 51 per cent families and 63.64 per cent orders of birds of Kerala. 42 taxa of birds are newly reported in the present study. Baillon's Crake *Zapornia pusilla* and Paddyfield Warbler *Acrocephalus agricola* were the new addition to the birds of Pathanamthitta District.

Key words: Avifauna, diversity, MACFAST, Thiruvalla, Kerala.