



## ASPECTS OF AVIFAUNA OF THE SARISKA TIGER RESERVE

### Puneet Sood

Puneet Sood Legal Advisor and Wild Photographer, Wildlife Documentary Production House, SB188, Bapu Nagar, JLN Marg opposite Rajasthan University, Jaipur -302004, India

Email:extvp@yahoo.in

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### ABSTRACT

Sariska is one of the 3 tiger reserves of State of Rajasthan with varied habitats in which each species met their suitable habitat conditions. The reserve divided in ranges was studied between January 2008 to January 2009 and about 201 species of birds were recorded with 73% of species are resident and local migratory while 22% species are winter or passage migrants.

**Key words:** Avi Fauna, Sariska Tiger Reserve

### INTRODUCTION

The State of Rajasthan is located in the North Western parts of India. The avian fauna is scanty in simmering hot and sandy habitats in most parts of the Rajasthan falling under arid and semi-arid conditions. Sariska (27°19'23" N 76°26'13" E) spreading in an area of about 881 km<sup>2</sup> was declared tiger reserve in 1978 under India's Project Tiger and a national park in 1990 covering a total area of about 273.8 km<sup>2</sup>.

Because of varied vegetation cover comprising of scrub-thorn arid forests, dry deciduous forests, grasslands, and rocky hills; Sariska is an important biodiversity area in the Northern Aravalli leopard and wildlife corridor.

Birds are feathered vertebrate's animals having body temperature about 38°-40°C. Sufficient food supply ensures survival at extremes of temperature. Their survival to a large extent is governed by availability of food, nest, resting hiding sites etc. Every bird thus has its own characteristics habitat or its surroundings. Sariska offers diverse kinds of habitats to birds such as wetlands, ponds to desertous scrubby areas, forests on Aravali hills. Such diverse habitats have different species of plants to act as food for birds. In grassy reed bed areas are inhabited by a hoard of species as Weavers, Warblers, Coucals and birds of prey keep a close watch overhead. The well wooded parts often turn to be the disdain of the bird watcher. Avian fauna of Sariska Tiger Reserve has been reported in this communication.

During of author's total of sixteen years of ornithological activities, surveys were done of the Sariska reserve from January 2008 - January 2009. The whole Reserve divided in range level was studied for its avi-fauna by a set method of driving a hundred yards and then noting the observation as samples. Each species was studied and compilation of findings was done. Various water bodies were visited in each season to record waterfowls.

Abbreviations used are R for resident and local migratory, W for winter migrant, P for passage and S for summer migratory. As for the status (Commonality) words as U (uncommon/rare/ vagrant) and C (Common/Abundant) have been used.

Special forms of habitats are denoted as follows.

- W- Water areas, wet areas as swamps with also for vegetation near water. About 19% of species are found in this habitat.
- S - On shores, near water. About 11% of species are found in this habitat.
- L - On land, telephone, electric poles, thorny trees, big thorny shrubs, forests. About 52% of species are found in this habitat.
- G- Grass/scrub or bushes, reeds, fields. About 14% of species are found in this habitat.
- B - Barren areas, stony semi-desertous with little grass. About 4% of species are found in this habitat.

The total number avian species in the Tiger Reserve was 201 (Table 1). About 73% of the total species were resident/Local migratory, 23% winter/passage migrants and 4% Summer.

As per study 84% of species were common and 16% of species were uncommon or rare.

About 19% of species are found in the Water areas, wet areas as swamps with also for vegetation near water (W), whereas 11% on the shores (S). About 52% of species are found on the land (L) such as telephone, electric poles, thorny trees, big thorny shrubs, forests whereas 14% in grass/scrub

or bushes, reeds and fields (S). About 4% of species are found in the barren areas and stony semi-desertous with little grass (B). Concern is raised for crested serpent eagle and lesser florican and other birds.

Present study revealed that Sariska Tiger Reserve has not only the avifauna of northwest India but also of northern India with few species of peninsular region is also found here. Author suggests conserving habitats of the Reserve also for the avifauna to promote biodiversity and ecotourism.

Table 1. Bird Checklist of Sariska Tiger Reserve

S. No.	Species	Status	Habit/Status
1.	Little Grebe or Dabchick, <i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>	Resident	W/C
2.	Rosy Pelican, <i>Pelecanus onocrotalus</i>	Resident	W/C
3.	Spot-billed pelican, <i>Pelecanus philippensis</i>	Winter	W/U
4.	Indian Shag, <i>Phalacrocorax fuscicollis</i>	Resident	W/C
5.	Little Cormorant, <i>Phalacrocorax niger</i>	Resident	W/C
6.	Darter, <i>Anhinga rufa</i>	Resident	W/C
7.	Grey Heron, <i>Ardea cinerea</i>	Resident	W/C
8.	Purple Heron, <i>Ardea purpurea</i>	Resident	W/U
9.	Pond Heron, <i>Ardeola grayii</i>	Resident	W/C
10.	Cattle Egret, <i>Bubulcus ibis</i>	Resident	W/C
11.	Large Egret, <i>Ardea alba</i>	Resident	W/C
12.	Smaller Egret, <i>Egretta intermedia</i>	Resident	W/C
13.	Little Egret, <i>Egretta garzetta</i>	Resident	W/C
14.	Black ibis, <i>Pseudibis pappilosa</i>	Resident	W/U/RE
15.	Black Head ibis, <i>Plegadis falcinellus</i>	Resident migratory	W/C
16.	Painted Stork, <i>Mycteria leucocephala</i>	Resident	W/U
17.	Black Stork, <i>Ciconia nigra</i>	Winter	W/C
18.	Openbill Stork, <i>Anastomus oscitans</i>	Resident	W/C
19.	Wolly necked, Stork, <i>Ciconia episcopes</i>	Resident	W/C
20.	Black necked Stork, <i>Ephippiorhynchus asiaticus</i>	Resident	W/U
21.	Spoonbill, <i>Platalea leucorodia</i>	Resident	W/U
22.	Greylag Goose, <i>Anser anser</i>	Winter	W/C
23.	Lesser Whistling Teal, <i>Dendrocygna javanica</i>	Resident	W/C
24.	Ruddy Shelduck / Brahminy Duck, <i>Tadorna ferruginea</i>	Winter	W/C
25.	Pintail, <i>Anas acuta</i>	Winter	W/C
26.	Common Teal, <i>Anas crecca</i>	Winter	W/C
27.	Spot Bill or Grey Duck, <i>Anas poecilorhyncha</i>	Resident	W/C
28.	Wigeon, <i>Anas penelope</i>	Winter	W/U
29.	Gargany, <i>Anas querquedula</i>	Winter	W/C
30.	Shoveller, <i>Anas clypeata</i>	Winter	W/C

31.	Common Pochard, <i>Aythya ferina</i>	Winter	W/C
32.	White-Eye Pochard, <i>Aythya nyroca</i>	Winter	W/C
33.	Cotton Teal, <i>Nettapus coromandelianus</i>	Resident	W/C
34.	Comb Duck or Nakta, <i>Sarkidiornis malanotos</i>	Resident	W/U
35.	Blackwinged Kite, <i>Elanus caeruleus</i>	Resident	W/C
36.	Honey Buzzard, <i>Pernis ptilorhyncus</i>	Resident	W/C
37.	Pariah Kite, <i>Milvus migrans</i>	Resident	L/C
38.	Shikra, <i>Accipiter badius</i>	Resident	L/C
39.	White-Eyed Buzzard-Eagle, <i>Butastur teesa</i>	Resident	L/C
40.	Griffon Vulture, <i>Gyps fulvus</i>	Resident	L/U
41.	King Vulture, <i>Sarcogyps calvus</i>	Resident	L/U
42.	Scavenger Vulture, <i>Neophron percnopterus</i>	Resident	L/C
43.	Greater Spotted Eagle, <i>Accquila clanga</i>	Winter	L/U/W
44.	Marsh Harrier, <i>Circus aeruginosus</i>	Winter	W/C
45.	Imperial Eagle, <i>Accquila heliaca</i>	Winter	L/U/W
46.	Crested Serpent Eagle, <i>Spilornis cheela</i>	Resident	L/C
47.	Osprey, <i>Pandion haliaetus</i>	Winter	L/U
48.	Laggar Falcon, <i>Falco biarmicus jugger</i>	Resident	L/C
49.	Peregrine Falcon, <i>Falco peregrinus japonensis</i>	Resident	L/U
50.	Red-headed Merlin (Red-headed Falcon), <i>Falco chicquera</i>	Resident	L/U
51.	Kestrel, <i>Falco tinnunculus</i>	Resident	L/C
52.	Grey Partridge, <i>Farncolinus pondicerianus</i>	Resident	G/C
53.	Red Spur fowl, <i>Gallaperdix spadicea</i>	Resident	G/U/RE
54.	Blue Breasted Quail, <i>Coturnix chinensis</i>	Resident	G/U
55.	Jungle Bush Quail, <i>Perdica asiatica</i>	Resident	G/C
56.	Common Peafowl, <i>Pavo cristatus</i>	Resident	L/C
57.	Common Bustard Quail, <i>Turnix rusticator</i>	Resident	G/U
58.	Sarus Crane, <i>Grus antigone</i>	Resident	W/U
59.	White breasted Water hen, <i>Amaurornis phoenicurus</i>	Resident	W/C
60.	Moorhen, <i>Gallinula chloropus</i>	Resident	W/C
61.	Purple Moorhen, <i>Porphyrio porphyrio</i>	Resident	G/C
62.	Coot, <i>Fulica atra</i>	Winter	W/C
63.	Lesser Florican, <i>Sypheotides indica</i>	Resident	G/U
64.	Pheasant-Tailed Jacana, <i>Hydrophasianus chirurgus</i>	Resident	G/C
65.	Bronze-winged Jacana, <i>Metopidius indicus</i>	Resident	G/C
66.	Painted Snipe, <i>Rostratula benghalensis</i>	Resident	S/C
67.	Northern Lapwing, <i>Vanellus vanellus</i>	Winter	S/U
68.	Variable Lapwing, <i>Vanellus gregarius</i>	Resident	S/U
69.	Blackwinged Stilt, <i>Himantopus himantopus</i>	Resident	S/C
70.	Avocet, <i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i>	Winter	S/C
71.	Stone Curlew, <i>Burhinus oedicephalus</i>	Resident	B/U
72.	Redwattled Lapwing, <i>Vanellus indicus</i>	Resident	G/C
73.	Yellow-Wattled Lapwing, <i>Vanellus malabaricus</i>	Resident	B/U
74.	Little Ringed Plover, <i>Charadrius dubius</i>	Resident	S/C

75.	Kentish Plover, <i>Charadrius alexandrinus</i>	Resident	S/U
76.	Curlew, <i>Numenius arquata</i>	Winter	S/C
77.	Black-tailed Godwit, <i>Limosa limosa</i>	Winter	S/C
78.	Spotted Red Shank, <i>Tringa erythropus</i>	Winter	S/U
79.	Redshank, <i>Tringa totanus</i>	Winter	S/C
80.	Marsh Sand Piper, <i>Tringa stagnatilis</i>	Winter	S/C
81.	Greenshank, <i>Tringa nebularia</i>	Winter	S/C
82.	Green Sandpiper, <i>Tringa ochropus</i>	Winter	S/C
83.	Wood Sandpiper, <i>Tringa glaelola</i>	Winter	S/C
84.	Common Sandpiper, <i>Tringa hypoleucos</i>	Winter	S/C
85.	Little Stint, <i>Calidris minuta</i>	Winter	S/C
86.	Temmincks Stint, <i>Calidris temminckii</i>	Winter	S/C
87.	Ruff and Reeve, <i>Philomachus pugnax</i>	Winter	S/C
88.	Fantail Snipe, <i>Gallinago gallinago</i>	Winter	W/C
89.	Brown headed Gull, <i>Larusbrunni cephalus</i>	Winter	L/C
90.	Whiskered Tern, <i>Chilidonias hybrida</i>	Winter	L/C
91.	Black Bellied Tern Sterna, <i>Acaute cauda</i>	Resident	L/U
92.	Indian River Tern, <i>Sterna aurantia</i>	Resident	L/C
93.	Painted Sandgrouse, <i>Pterocle indicus</i>	Resident	B/U
94.	Yellow legged Green Pigeon, <i>Treronphoeni coptera</i>	Resident	L/C
95.	Blue Rock Pigeon, <i>Columba livia</i>	Resident	L/C
96.	Indian Ringdove, <i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>	Resident	L/C
97.	Red Turtle Dove, <i>Streptopelia tranquebarica</i>	Resident	L/C
98.	Little Brown Dove, <i>Streptopelia senegalensis</i>	Resident	L/C
99.	Rose Ringed Parakeet, <i>Psittacula krameri</i>	Resident	L/C
100.	Blossom headed Parakeet, <i>Psittacula cyanocephala</i>	Resident	L/C
101.	Pied Crested Cuckoo, <i>Clamtor jacobinus</i>	Summer	L/C
102.	Common Hawk-Cuckoo, <i>Cuculus varius</i>	Summer	L/C
103.	Indian Cuckoo, <i>Cuculus misraptarus</i>	Resident	L/U/RE
104.	Koel, <i>Eudynamys scalopacea</i>	Resident	L/C
105.	Sirkeer Cuckoo, <i>Taccocua leschenaultii</i>	Resident	L/C
106.	Crow-Pheasant Or Coucal, <i>Centropus sinensis</i>	Resident	L/C
107.	Barn Owl, <i>Tyto alba</i>	Resident	L/U
108.	Collared Scops Owl, <i>Otus bakkomoena</i>	Resident	L/U
109.	Spotted Owlet, <i>Athena brama</i>	Resident	L/C
110.	Short-eared Owl, <i>Asio flammeus</i>	Winter	L/U
111.	Mottled Wood Owl, <i>Strix ocellata</i>	Resident	L/V
112.	House Swift, <i>Apusvaffinis</i>	Resident	L/C
113.	Dursy Crag Martin, <i>Hirundo concolar</i>	Resident	L/C
114.	Palm Swift, <i>Cypsiurus parvus</i>	Resident	L/C
115.	Lesser Pied Kingfisher, <i>Ceryle rudis</i>	Resident	L/C
116.	Common or Small Blue Kingfisher, <i>Alcedo atthis</i>	Resident	L/C
117.	White Breasted Kingfisher, <i>Halcyon smyrnensis</i>	Resident	L/C
118.	Blue Cheeked Bee-Eater, <i>Merops superciliosus</i>	Summer	L/U
119.	Green Bee-Eater, <i>Merops orientalis</i>	Resident	L/C

120.	Indian Roller, <i>Coracias benghalensis</i>	Resident	L/C
121.	Hoopoe, <i>Upupa epops</i>	Resident	L/C
122.	Common Grey Hornbill, <i>Tokus birostris</i>	Resident	L/C
123.	Crimson-breasted Barbet or Coppersmith, <i>Megalaima haemacephala</i>	Resident	L/C
124.	Spotted Grey Creeper, <i>Salpornis spilonotus</i>	Resident	L/C
125.	Lesser Golden-backed Woodpecker, <i>Dinopium benghalensis</i>	Resident	L/C
126.	Yellow fronted Pied or Mahratta Woodpecker, <i>Picoides mahrattensis</i>	Resident	L/C
127.	Indian Pygmy Woodpecker, <i>Dendrocopos nanus</i>	Resident	L/C
128.	Singing Bush Lark, <i>Mirafra javanica</i>	Resident	G/C
129.	Singing lark, <i>Mrafra avanica</i>	Resident	B/C
130.	Dusky Crag-martin, <i>Hirundo concolor</i>	Resident	L/U
131.	Wire tailed Swallow, <i>Hirundo smithii</i>	Resident	L/C
132.	Redrumped Swallow, <i>Hirundo daurica</i>	Resident	L/C
133.	Grey Shrike, <i>Lanius excubitor</i>	Resident	L/C
134.	Bay-backed Shrike, <i>Lanius vittatus</i>	Resident	L/C
135.	Rufous Backed Shrike, <i>Lanius schach</i>	Resident	L/C
136.	Golden Oriole, <i>Oriolus oriolus</i>	Summer visitor	L/C
137.	Black Drongo, <i>Dicrurus adsimilis</i>	Resident	L/C
138.	Brahminy Myna, <i>Sturnus pagodarum</i>	Resident	L/C
139.	Rosy Pastor, <i>Sturnus roseus</i>	Resident	L/C
140.	Starling, <i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	Winter	L/C
141.	Pied Myna, <i>Sturnus contra</i>	Resident	L/C
142.	Common Myna, <i>Acridotheres tritis</i>	Resident	L/C
143.	Bank Myna, <i>Acridotheres gingianus</i>	Resident	L/C
144.	Indian Tree Pie, <i>Dendrocitta vagabunda</i>	Resident	L/C
145.	House Crow, <i>Corvus splendens</i>	Resident	L/C
146.	Jungle Crow, <i>Corvus macrorhynchos</i>	Resident	L/C
147.	Common Wood Shrike, <i>Terphrodornis pondicerianus</i>	Resident	L/C
148.	Large Cuckoo Shrike, <i>Coracina novaehollandiae</i>	Resident	L/C
149.	Scarlet Minivet, <i>Pericrotus flammeus</i>	Resident	I/U
150.	Black-headed Cuckooshrike, <i>Coracina melanoptera</i>	Resident	L/U
151.	Small Minivet, <i>Pericrocotus cinnamomeus</i>	Resident	L/C
152.	Common Iora, <i>Aegithina tiphia</i>	Resident	L/U
153.	White Cheeked Bulbul, <i>Pycnonotus leucogenys</i>	Resident	L/C
154.	Red Vented Bulbul, <i>Pycnonotus cafer</i>	Resident	L/C
155.	Yellow-eyed Babbler, <i>Chrysomma sinense</i>	Resident	B/C
156.	Common Babbler, <i>Turdoides caudatus</i>	Resident	L/C
157.	Large Grey Babbler, <i>Turdoides malcolmi</i>	Resident	L/C
158.	Jungle Babbler, <i>Turdoides striatus</i>	Resident	L/C
159.	Red Breasted Flycatcher, <i>Muscicapa parva</i>	Winter	L/C
160.	Grey-headed Flycatcher, <i>Culicicapa ceylonensis</i>	Winter	L/C
161.	White-browed Fantail Flycatcher, <i>Rhipidura aureola</i>	Resident	L/C
162.	Streaked Fantail Warbler, <i>Cisticola juncidis</i>	Resident	G/C

163.	Franklins Wren-Warbler, <i>Prinia hodgsonii</i>	Resident	G/C
164.	Streaked Wren-Warbler, <i>Prinia gracilis</i>	Resident	G/C
165.	Plain Wren-Warbler, <i>Prinia subflava</i>	Resident	G/C
166.	Ashy Wren-Warbler, <i>Prinia socialis</i>	Resident	G/C
167.	Jungle Wren-Warbler, <i>Prinia sylvatica</i>	Resident	G/C
168.	Tailor Bird, <i>Orthotomus sutorius</i>	Resident	G/C
169.	Blyth's Reed Warbler, <i>Acrocephalus dumetorum</i>	Winter	G/C
170.	Lesser Whitethroat, <i>Sylvia curruca</i>	Winter	G/C
171.	Chiffchaff, <i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>	Winter	G/C
172.	Yellow browed Warbler, <i>Phylloscopus inornatus</i>	Passage	L/C
173.	Blue Throat, <i>Erithacus svecicus</i>	Winter	G/C
174.	Magpie Robin, <i>Copsychus saularis</i>	Resident	L/C
175.	Black Redstart, <i>Phoenicurus ochruros</i>	Winter	L/C
176.	Brown Rock Chat, <i>Cercomela fusca</i>	Resident	L/C
177.	Pied Bush Chat, <i>Saxicola caprata</i>	Resident local migratory	B/C
178.	Grey Bushchat, <i>Saxicola firrea</i>	Resident	G/C
179.	Pied Chat, <i>Oenanthe picata</i>	Winter	B/C
180.	Indian Robin, <i>Saxicoloides fulicata</i>	Resident	L/C
181.	Grey Tit, <i>Parus major</i>	Resident	L/C
182.	Tree Pipit, <i>Anthus trivialis</i>	Winter	L, G
183.	Water Pipit, <i>Anthus spinoletta</i>	Winter	S/U
184.	Yellow Headed Wagtail, <i>Motacilla citreola</i>	Winter	S/C
185.	Tree Sparrow, <i>Passer montanus</i>	Resident	L/U
186.	Grey Wagtail, <i>Motacilla cinerea</i>	Winter	S/C
187.	White Wagtail, <i>Motacilla alba</i>	Winter	S/C
188.	Large Pied Wagtail, <i>Motacilla maderaspatensis</i>	Resident	S/C
189.	Purple Sunbird, <i>Nectarinia asiatica</i>	Resident	L/C
190.	Indian White-eye, <i>Zosterops palpebrosa</i>	Resident	L/C
191.	House Sparrow, <i>Passer domesticus</i>	Resident	L/C
192.	Spanish Sparrow, <i>Passer hispaniolensis</i>	Winter	G/C
193.	Yellow throated Sparrow, <i>Petronia xanthocollis</i>	Resident	L/C
194.	Baya, <i>Ploceus philippinus</i>	Resident	G/C
195.	Streaked Weaver bird, <i>Ploceus manyar</i>	Resident	G/C
196.	Red Munia, <i>Estrilda amandava</i>	Resident	G/C
197.	White throated Munia, <i>Lonchura malabáríca</i>	Resident	G/C
198.	Common Rosefinch, <i>Carpodacus erythrinus</i>	Winter	L/C
199.	White-capped Bunting, <i>Emberiza stewarti</i>	Winter	G/C
200.	Grey-headed Bunting, <i>Emberiza buchmani</i>	Winter	G/C
201.	Crested Bunting, <i>Melophus lathami</i>	Resident	B/C

G-Grass/Scrub/Reed/Fields; B- Barren/Stony habitats, S:Shore; L-Land, Tel/Electric wire, Trees, Big Thorny bushy forest; W- Water

C- Common; U - Uncommon