



Short Review Paper

Exploring the birds of Maitri Garden, Bhilai, Chhattisgarh, India

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Abstract

The survey of Maitri Garden was done to explore the birds of the zoo. It shows that the zoos are a special place where the birds can be conserved for their betterment. There is not a great change in the behavior, breeding season, food habit, etc. of the birds which are kept in the zoo instead there are taken a proper care there. There are 9 families and 12 species of birds kept in the Maitri Garden among which the Rose ringed parrot are included in threatened species. Many of the birds are exotic. All the birds are kept in pairs so that their breeding is not stopped in the zoo.

Keywords: Birds, Maitri Bagh, Bhilai, Chhattisgarh.

Introduction

In the previous years when the zoo was started, the people were excited to watch out the animals. During that time the zoo were only for the entertainment of the peoples where several animals were captured from the forest and kept. But now the objective of the zoo is changing. One of the zoo of India where some species of birds are conserved is the Maitri Garden of Bhilai, Chhattisgarh. Maitri Garden is located at Maroda tank which is 12 km from Durg city of Durg-Bhilai district of Chhattisgarh. It features landscaped gardens which is a joint initiative of Indian and Russian government and a Zoo.

By the help of Mr. Rajat Darsariya, the Assistant manager of the zoo, Dr. Dubey, Veterinary Doctor and Mr. Gopichand, the Head Caretaker, it became easy to know about the animals. The animals are not kept only for the recreation mean but for the mean of conservation also. Many birds species which are endangered and threatened are kept in pair under observation in the zoo so that there number can be increased and come in normal number. There are some examples like The African penguin, Bali starling, Blue-crowned laughing thrush, Ecuadorian Amazon parrot, Edwards pheasant, Madagascar pochard, Northern bald ibis, Oriental white-backed vulture, Socorro dove, etc. Narcondam hornbill, Great Indian Bustard, Indian Vulture, Himalayan Quill, Siberian Crane are endangered birds of India. ZSI headquarters in collaboration with its 16 Regional Centres located in various parts of the country has undertaken intensive and extensive survey programmes on the faunal resources of various States of India and collected and documented the baseline data¹.

So, the survey of the maitri garden also provides some information. Salim Ali was among the first Indians to conduct systematic bird surveys across India and several bird books that

he wrote helped popularise ornithology in India². It's a motivation for all the researchers.

The question comes in mind that whats the reason for this? Why such condition comes that there number is decreasing day by day? The reason is the changing environment which is harming the living being. So, the human being is trying to conserve them by keeping them in zoos and watching them out to increase their number. After observing them several facts of their lives were cleared which cannot be known without researching on them. The first thing which was observed was that birds are less sensitive in compared to other animals. They can be kept in iron cages but in larger one because they must be given a large space to move their wings or fly. The birds are not affected too much by keeping them in cages.

The exotic breeds of the Maitri Garden were peaceful and of good health. They were checked time to time every day and there foods are given like the natural food they eat. No change was observed in their reproductive period also. It means it is a good method to protect the animals. The Maitri Garden provides such environment to them that they survive without any problem.

In Maitri Garden only those birds are kept which are capable to survive in the particular environment of the garden because the change in environment affects the birds. Zoo provides information to the visitors about the birds and animals and encourages to save them. And so Maitri Garden is famous in whole Chhattisgarh.

In Table-1 the family, species as well as their number is shown but in many the males and females were not identified as any sexual dimorphism was seen in them. These are those which are kept in the zoo and many of them are given a large area to live because the birds needs large space for movement.

Table-1
Names of the birds

Family	Common name	Species	Number
Columbidae	Pigeon	<i>Columba domestica</i>	20
Psittaculidae	Parrot	<i>Psittacula krameri</i>	26
	Love bird	<i>Agapornis nigrigenis</i>	40
Phasianidae	Turkey ¹	<i>Meleagris gallopavo</i>	1[M]
	Golden pheasant	<i>Chrysolophus pictus</i>	1[F]
	Peacock ²	<i>Pavo cristatus</i>	8[4M+4F]
Ciconiidae	Adjutant stork	<i>Leptoptilos dubius</i>	1[M]
Numididae	Guinea fowl	<i>Numida meleagris</i>	5[3M+2F]
Anatidae	Indian duck	<i>Bucephala albeola</i>	3
Accipitridae	Kite	<i>Milvus migrans</i>	8
Cacatuidae	Cocktail	<i>Nymphicus hollandicus</i>	22
Dromaius	Emu	<i>Dromaius novaehollandiae</i>	1
Pelecanidae	Rosy pelican ³	<i>Pelecanus onocrotalus</i>	10



Figure-2
Peacock



Figure-3
Rosy Pelican

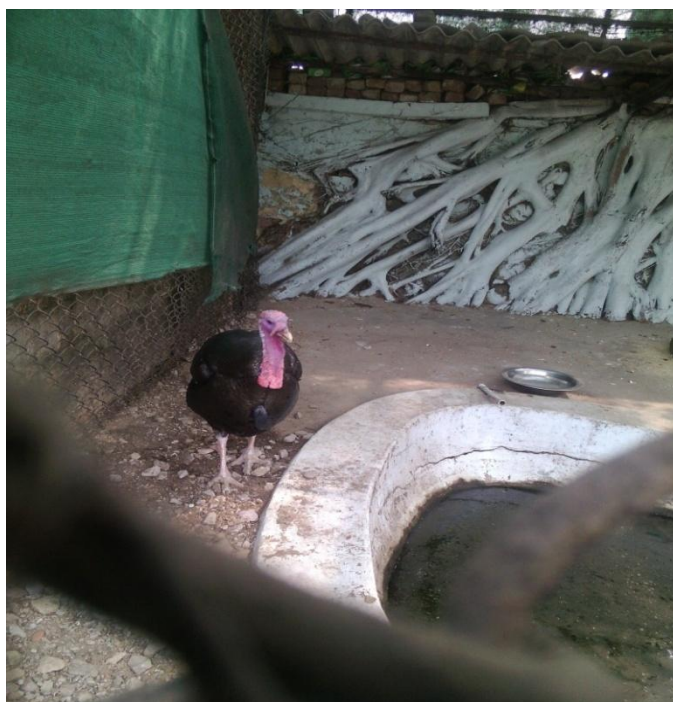


Figure-1
Turkey

The School trips also visit here for getting knowledge. Cages of the garden is spacious as the birds need a lot place to move because they are adopted for the aerial life. The birds like Duck, Rosy Pelican, etc. which eat fishes, catching from the water are provided with a small pond in which they are given fishes to eat. They catch the fishes from the water. Some species are kept alone so by their sexual dimorphism it was known that whether

they are male or female. The Maitri Garden has a collection of different birds from different places shown in Table-2. It means that the birds are kept here not only in the means of entertainment but for conservation and knowledge too.

Table-2
Places from where the birds are brought

S.No.	Names of birds	Native place
1	Pigeon	Chhattisgarh-India
2	Parrot	Chhattisgarh-India
3	Love bird	Chhattisgarh-India
4	Turkey	Chhattisgarh-India
5	Golden pheasant	China
6	Peacock	India
7	Adjutant stork	Bangladesh
8	Guinea fowl	Africa
9	Indian duck	Chhattisgarh-India
10	Kite	Chhattisgarh-India
11	Cocktail	Australia
12	Emu	Australia
13	Rosy pelican	Europe

All animals food habits are different and so the birds too have different habit. In Maitri Garden Herbivorous and Carnivorous both types of birds are present. As per their feeding habit, the herbivores are given grains, soaked and unsoaked grams, fruits and the carnivores birds which are kept in the zoo are all fish eating so they are given fish except the kites which are flesh eating. Live fishes are brought for the carnivores.

It is very important to take care of the birds living around us as it is seen that some common birds like the house sparrow, the crow, etc which were very common in our areas are now decreasing in number. So for the conversation means the zoo as well as biotechnology is very helpful. In-situ and Ex-situ conservation is helping a lot in this. The biotechnical ways such as preserving eggs of the birds of each species by Cryopreservation Method can be done and then they can be produced again whenever they are required. But it is a long process so the best way is to conserve them in zoos and when they are increased in number they can be again sent to the forest.

Results

The result of the survey of 13 species of the birds shows that conversation of them is very important for which the zoos play a very special role. Some Exotic species i.e. Rosy Pelican, Emu, Cocktail, Guinea Fowl, Adjutant stork and Golden pheasant which can adapt themselves in the environment of Bhilai are brought from the other countries to observe, study as well as to entertain the people. And all the birds present in the Maitri Garden are surviving successfully in its environment. The survey was done in the rainy season in which the peacock was showing sexual signal to the peahen. It took time for the peahen to except it. The males always have to impress the females for mating. This proves that the birds in the zoo are free to breed too. The love birds which are said to be very sensitive are also in a very good condition in the zoo. It means that the birds are comfortable in the zoo.

Conclusion

The Maitri Garden is helping a lot in the conservation of birds as well as other animals too. There are many zoo which harms the animals and birds to teach some activities but the survey concludes that the birds kept here are comfortable and are not harmed. A proper cleaning of their cage is done regularly to keep them disease free. The birds and the animals too are kept together in pairs for their proper breeding cycle. Their youngones after growing into adult are left in the forest for their betterment. The exotic breeds are comfortable here in the Maitri Garden. It is a good place where a researcher can observe all the activities and the characters of the birds. It concludes from the survey that zoos are the special places where the birds and animals can be conserved by providing them natural environment and their protection can be done. Many of the researchers have the same conclusion about all zoos. This was the first explore of the birds of Maitri Garden.

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