

Criterion VII: Institutional Values and Best Practices**7.3.1 Portray the performance of the Institution in one area distinctive to its priority and thrust****Ornithology - Bird Survey on the Campus**

The recording and monitoring of wildlife are vitally important for conservation. It is important to know more about nature so that one can protect it properly and for achieving this, survey plays an important role. Realising the importance of surveys, Sacred Heart College have been conducting bird surveys both at the campus and at the extension centre. Birds are important to continue ecologic circle, especially in food chain. For the last three centuries, industrial developments and anthropological effects have degraded habitats and caused the natural balance to deteriorate. The survey of birds helped the students and researchers to gather information related to birds visiting our campus and also to take measures to protect them. The protection of birds is vital to keep ecological balance.

Sacred Heart College is situated in Thevara, a densely populated urban area in the city of Kochi located on the coast of Vembanad estuary in Ernakulam district. The green campus with abundant native as well as introduced vegetation serves as excellent habitat for a wide variety of flora and fauna especially birds. The abundant mangrove vegetation along the coastal line also adds to the species wealth of the campus.

As part of Campus Biodiversity Assessment, an ongoing monthly bird survey was conducted on the campus with the active participation of students, research scholars and staff. The survey was carried out during good weather period in the morning (between 7am and 10am) and evening (between 5pm and 6.30pm) to coincide with peak singing activity. Every individual bird was recorded either by sight with the aid of a field binocular (8×40), noted by sound or photo-documented and identified with the help of standard field guides. Detailed checklists with

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scientific name, common name and vernacular name of the observed species along with the photographs were prepared following each count.

The lists were also displayed in the campus in the form of permanent display boards. Other major faunal groups observed during the survey such as butterflies, dragonflies, amphibians, reptiles and mammals were also documented.

The survey yielded a total of **61 species of birds from the campus at Thevara** including several migratory, rare and threatened species.

Other fauna observed:

From the campus: Butterflies - 35 species, Amphibians - 2 species, Reptiles - 4 species, Mammals - 5 species







Intermediate Egret
Ardea intermedia



Grey Heron
Ardea cinerea



Indian Pond-heron
Ardeola grayii



House Crow
Corvus splendens



Large-billed Crow
Corvus macrorhynchos



Pale-billed Flowerpecker
Dicaeum erythrorhynchos

Bird Survey at Arayankavu- Extention Survey

The extension centre of the college - Sacred Heart Centre for Organic-farming, Ornithology and Biodiversity (SHCOOB) in Arayankavu is another remarkable biodiversity spot with rich floral and faunal diversity. The centre is located at the lower midland of Ernakulam district. The area is a meeting place of ecosystems such as sacred grove, paddy field, rubber plantation, freshwater pond and grassland. The characteristic geographical feature of the area attracts a number of animal species including birds.

As part of Campus Biodiversity Assessment, an ongoing monthly bird survey was conducted on the campus and extension centre with the active participation of students, research scholars and staff. The survey was carried out during good weather period in the morning (between 7am and 10am) and evening (between 5pm and 6.30pm) to coincide with peak singing activity. Every individual bird was recorded either by sight with the aid of a field binocular (8×40), noted by sound or photo-documented and identified with the help of standard field guides. Detailed checklists with scientific name, common name and vernacular name of the observed species along with the photographs were prepared following each count. The lists were also displayed in the campus in the form of permanent display boards. Other major faunal groups observed during the survey such as butterflies, dragonflies, amphibians, reptiles and mammals were also documented.

The survey yielded a total of **64 bird species from the extension centre at Arayankavu** including several migratory, rare and threatened species.

Other fauna observed:

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From the extension centre: Butterflies - 22 species, Dragonflies - 11 species



Fauna spotted from Sacred Heart Extension Centre (Centre for Biodiversity, Ornithology and Organic Farming), Arayankavu on 24-11-2018 between 7am & 9am



Eurasian Golden Oriole
Oriolus oriolus



Black-hooded Oriole
Oriolus xanthornus



Lesser Whistling-duck
Dendrocygna javanica



Greater Racquet-tailed Drongo
Dicrurus paradiseus



White-cheeked Barbet
Psilopogon viridis



Rufous Treepie
Dendrocitta vagabunda



Common Myna
Acridotheres tristis



Common Flameback
Dinopium javanense



Greater Coucal
Centropus sinensis



Rock Dove
Columba livia



White-breasted Waterhen
Amaurornis phoenicurus



Little Egret
Egretta garzetta



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