

Impact Of Flood On Birds Species Diversity And Abundance In Vazhachal Forest Division, Thrissur District Kerala.

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The flood and landslide caused widespread destruction all over Kerala in August and also caused the loss some species, posing a threat to biodiversity. The present study was an extensive survey of birds in 22 different locations across the division covering all the identified vegetation and their abundance from Vazhachal region by systematic stratified random sampling method. A total of 196 species of birds were encountered during the survey. Among the observed bird species, 20 species were important in the conservation point of view. Of which 9 are IUCN threatened species, four Vulnerable Category, five species under Near Threatened category. Out of the 20 different locations surveyed 16 areas were noted for landslide or erosion of riparian areas. Unfortunately these areas are important bird areas. The less abundance of many species along the riparian areas even though areas marked high species diversity may be because of loss of riparian habitats especially islands. From the survey it is observed that less

abundance of bird in the flood impact zones in comparison with non impact zone in similar habitat. They also noted loss of foraging, nesting and roosting sites and trees along the riparian areas and islands.

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