

though primarily are to be found near aquatic habitats were also found in the study area, since the wetlands perhaps could also provide a suitable habitat. In addition the Purplerumped Sunbird could also be found in the area.

Taking the number of contacts per hour into consideration, the total comes to about 93.5. The total number of contacts per hour for the granivorous birds came to c.15.2, for the frugivorous birds to c.12.6, for the insectivorous 19.5 and for the predatory 0.9. About 37.6 contacts were made in an hour for the omnivorous and scavenging birds. The aquatic birds scored about 2.4 C/H and the Purple-rumped Sunbird c.2.7 C/H.

Coming to the species composition, the omnivorous and scavenging birds top the list accounting for about 40.4% of the population. Next were the insectivorous species accounting for about 21.4% of the population. The granivorous, the frugivorous, the aquatic and the predatory birds followed accounting for 16.3, 13.4, 2.7 and 1.1 per cent of the population respectively. The Purplerumped Sunbird accounted for 2.9% of the population.

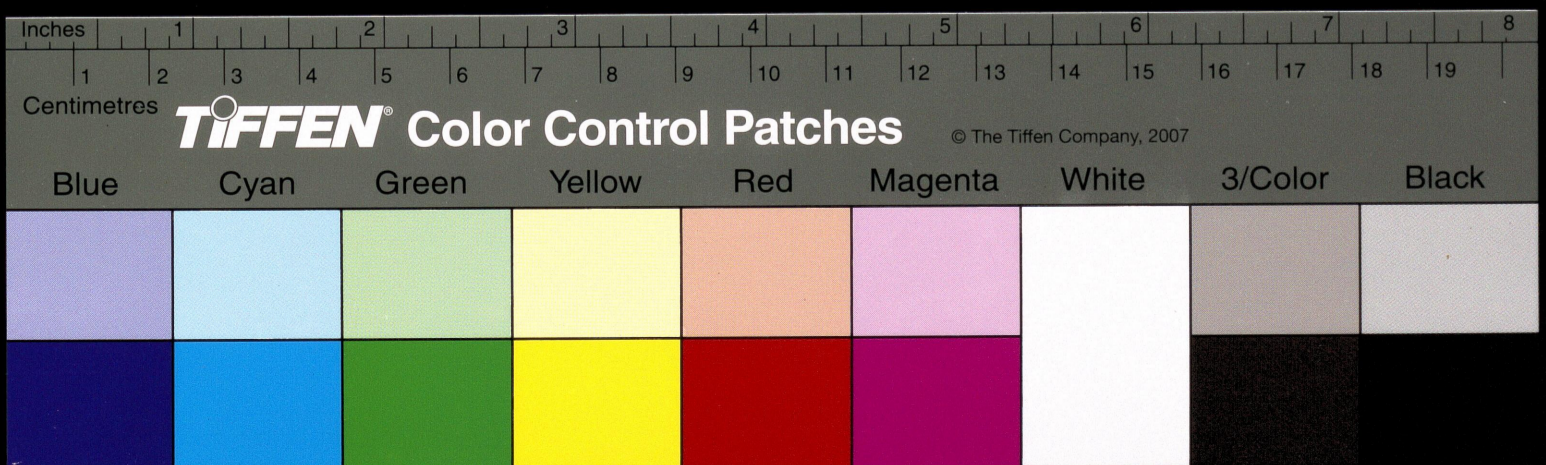
The House Crow (*Corvus splendens*) was observed to be the most common bird with c.20 C/H and accounting for c.21% of the population. The numbers of House Crows encountered during the earlier transects was comparatively low but was more during the later outings. This was because these crows used to come to feed while the ploughing operations were going on and these are generally carried out only after a few showers. Hence the increase in numbers during the later outings. The overall frequency of meeting ~~xxxx~~ flocks or groups of various sizes is given below:-

Flock size (Number of birds)	Frequency
1-2	17
3-5	2
6-10	2
11-15	1
16-20	0
21-25	1

It will be evident from the above data that in the flock sizes, single birds and pairs predominate.

The next common bird was the Indian Myna (*Acridotheres tristis*). This species accounted for about 10.4 per cent of the total bird population. The abundance was c.9.7 C/H.

During the time of study, the Mynas had just bred since some immature birds could also be seen. The following are the observed sizes of flocks and the frequency of meeting



them:-

Flock Size (No. of birds)	Frequency
1	5
2	8
3	4
4	0
5	1

Here it might be observed that it is the pairs that are most frequently met with compared to groups of other sizes.

The groups having more than two birds is mostly because of the fact that some immature birds were also seen together with the adult pair.

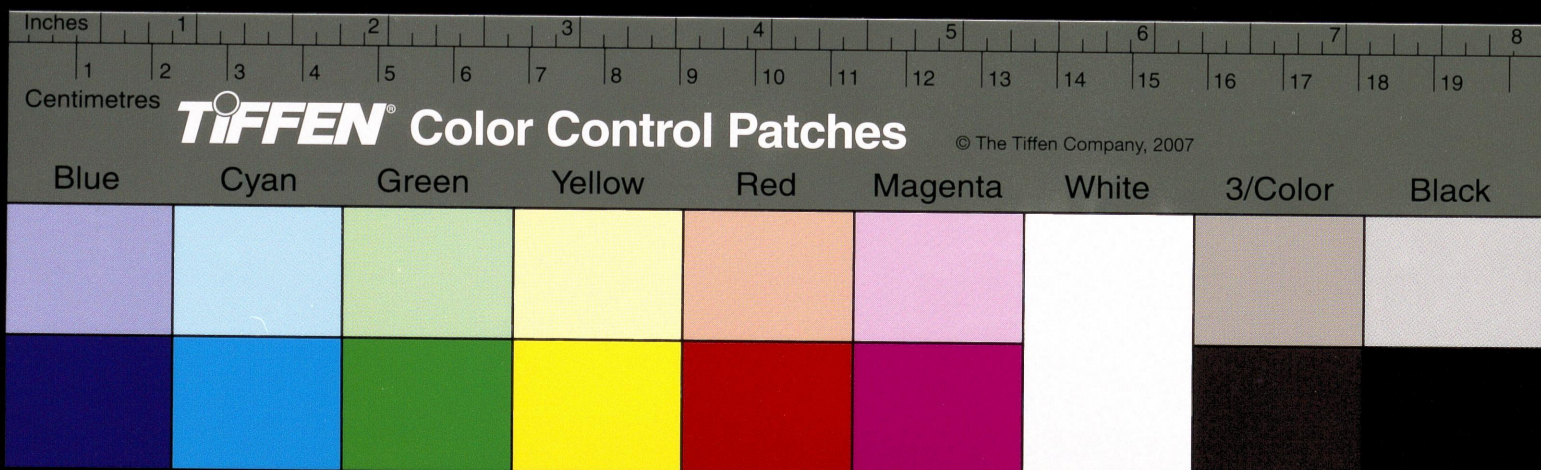
Third in the list of abundance comes the Roseringed Parakeet (*Psittacula krameri*) with about 8.5 contacts per hour and accounting for about 9.1 per cent of the local population. The relatively high abundance might be because of the fact that apart from the suitable foraging grounds being in the vicinity, (papaya and gauva plantations, vineyards and in the distance a mango tope) there are also holes in trees which are moderately common. The flock size and the frequency of meeting them is given below:-

Flock size	Frequency
1	7
2	8
3	1
4	2

The Jungle Crow (*Corvus macrorhynchos*) comes fourth in the list with an abundance of about 6.2 contacts per hour and accounting for about 6.7% of the local population. The ratio of meeting solitary birds to pairs is 13:6. Flocks containing larger numbers were not met with perhaps because of their more solitary habit compared with that of the House Crow.

The Spotted Dove (*Streptopelia chirenois*) comes next with an abundance of c.6.0 contacts per hour and accounting for c.6.4 per cent of the local population. The place it occupies here is relatively higher compared to the place (7th) it occupies in a park like Lalbagh. This is probably because of the availability of a greater amount of food since this is an agricultural area.

The actual numbers of the spotted owl (*Athene brama*) might be greater than the observed abundance because of the fact that these were observed on two cloudy mornings



perched openly on the branch of a tree.

With reference to the data on the frequency of meeting flocks of various sizes, it might however be noted that even auditory contacts were included and the transects were primarily done to record bird numbers and not to study bird flocks as such.

TABLE

SPECIES	C/H	%
House Crow, <i>Corvus splendens</i>	20.0	21.4
Indian Myna, <i>Acridotheres tristis</i>	9.7	10.4
Roseringed Parakeet, <i>Psittacula krameri</i>	8.5	9.1
Jungle Crow (<i>Corvus macrorhynchos</i>)	6.2	6.7
Spotted Dove (<i>Streptopelia chinensis</i>)	6.0	6.4
Ashy Wren-Warbler, (<i>Prinia socialis</i>)	4.2	4.5
Spotted Munia (<i>Lonchura punctulata</i>)	4.0	4.3
Baya Weaver Bird (<i>Ploceus philippinus</i>)	3.7	4.0
Tailor Bird (<i>Othotomus sutorius</i>)	3.7	4.0
Streaked Fantail Warbler (<i>Cisticola junicidis</i>)	3.0	3.2
Purple-rumped Sunbird, <i>Nectarina zeylonica</i>	2.7	2.9
Black Drongo, <i>Dicrurus adsimilis</i>	2.5	2.7
Crow-pheasant, <i>Centropus sisensis</i>	2.2	2.4
Magpie Robin, <i>Copsychus saularis</i>)	1.8	1.9
Koel, <i>Eudynamys scolopacea</i>	1.5	1.6
Whitebreasted Kingfisher, <i>Halcyon smyrnensis</i>	1.5	1.6
Tickell's Flowerpecker, <i>Dicaeum erythrorhynchos</i>	1.2	1.3
Pariah Kite, <i>Milvus migrans</i> ,	1.0	1.1
Ring Dove, <i>Streptopelia decaocto</i> ,	1.0	1.1
Whiteheaded Babbler, <i>Turdoides affinis</i>	1.0 0.2	0.3
Un identified	1.0 1.0	1.1
Pond Heron, <i>Ardeola grayii</i>	0.2 0.7	0.2 0.8
Spotted Owlet, <i>Athene brama</i>	1.0 0.7	0.8
Tree Pie, <i>Dendrocitta vagabunda</i>	0.7 0.7	0.8
Blue Rock Pigeon, <i>Columba livia</i>	0.7 0.5	0.7 0.5
Pied Crested Cuckoo, <i>Clamator jacobinus</i>	0.5 0.5	0.5
Roller, <i>Coracias benghalensis</i>	0.5 0.5	0.5
Coppersmith, <i>Megalaima haemacephala</i>	0.5 0.5	0.5
Goldenbacked Woodpecker, <i>Dinopium benghalense</i>	0.5 0.5	0.5

