

SURVEY OF FARMLAND

(APAU - AGRIL. COLLEGE CAMPUS - RAJENDRANAGAR)

— A PRELIMINARY REPORT

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Agricultural College, <sup>Farmland</sup> Rajendranagar - 14 Km away from the city (Koti), is characterised by a grassland type of habitat — mainly dominated by 2 spp's of grass - Cymbopogon spp's (Lemon grass) and Spear grass. The Campus is spread over an area of 400 acres. ~~It's a pleasure to see green everywhere in the Campus which has diverse forms of vegetation~~ <sup>other</sup> ~~weed flora, shrubs, tree spp's etc.,.~~ <sup>includes</sup> Further, hills and hillocks, here and there, enhance the beauty of the Campus. The weather, usually, is warm and cool, <sup>breeze</sup> with temperatures ranging between 32°-35° C except in Summer, when the mercury rises as high as 42°C.

Experimental plots in which different crop spp's are raised for carrying out research work are situated nearby. There are 2 ponds - one near NAARM (National Academy for Agril. Research Management) and the other in the College Farm. Usually we find Pond herons and the Red wattled Lapwings near them. Further, the Pond in the College Farm is characterised by the presence of 2 aquatic weeds viz., Ottelia alismoides and Hydrilla verticellata in large numbers. Asteracantha longifolia is seen in small patches around the pond.

To speak of the birds, the Campus hosts a large number of them. ~~We find a good many number of birds, which include both local and migratory. It is really fascinating to hear the calls of the Golden Oriole and the Iora - which are quite common in the Campus and present a pleasing sight.~~ <sup>ones.</sup>

As indicated earlier, a large number of birds welcome the visitors to the Campus and a list of the birds that are commonly seen in the Campus is given hereunder.

BIRDS COMMONLY SEEN IN AGRIL. COLLEGE CAMPUS

I. LOCAL

1. Cattle Egret, 2. Pond Heron, 3. Short toed eagle,
4. Black winged Kite, 5. Pariah Kite, 6. Common Quail,
7. Red wattled Lapwing, 8. Spotted Dove, 9. Blue rock pigeon,
10. Blossom headed parakeet, 11. Rose ringed parakeet,
12. Crow-Pheasant, 13. Indian Cuckoo, 14. Spotted Owlet,
15. House swift, 16. Little Blue Kingfisher, 17. Pied Kingfisher,
18. White Breasted Kingfisher, 19. Small green bee eater,
20. Indian Roller,

II. MIGRATORY

1. Stone Chat, 2. Red rumped Swallow, 3. Yellow Wagtail,
4. Golden backed Woodpecker, 5. Red Start, 6. Pied Crested Cuckoo,
7. Blue Rock Thrush, 8. Grey Shrike, 9. Rufous backed Shrike,
10. Fan tailed flycatcher, 11. Red Start.

III. STATIONARY

21. Hoopoe, 22. Ashy Crown Finch Lark, 23. Red Winged Bush Lark,
24. Common Swallow, 25. Golden Oriole, 26. Black Drongo,
27. Brahminy Myna, 28. Common Myna, 29. House Crow, 30. Jungle Crow,
31. Indian Tree Pie, 32. Common Iora, 33. Red vented Bulbul,
34. Common Babbler, 35. Jungle Babbler, 36. Ashy Wren Warbler,
37. Pied Bush Chat, 38. Indian Robin, 39. Large Pied Wagtail,
40. Purple Sunbird, 41. Purple rumped Sunbird, 42. Baya,
43. White throated Munia, 44. Black headed Munia, 45. House Sparrow,
46. Dusky Crag Martin.

In addition, two nests of the Golden Oriole, one each on 2 Peltophorum trees and a nest of the King Crow, also on Peltophorum, are seen beside the Department of Entomology.

One can see the Dusky Crag Martins and the Swifts flying over in front of the Library Building.

Red Start was seen twice, in September '83, in the lawn before the Library Building.

It is reported that House Sparrows are causing much damage to grains of Paddy, Bajra etc., in the threshing yard in the College Farm.

The diverse weed flora in the Campus includes the following :-

Datura Stramonium, Alternanthera echinata, Gomphrena celusoides,  
Tridax procumbens, Euphorbia hirta, Achyranthes aspera, Sida sp's,  
Tephrosia purpurea, Parthenium hysterophorus, Oldenlandia umbellata,  
Calotropis gigantea, Cynodon dactylon, Cyperus rotundus,  
Gynandropsis pentaphylla, Cloeme viscosa, Lantana camara,  
Xanthium strumarium, Physalis minima, Amaranthus viridis,  
Celosia argentea, Digera arvensis, Heliotropium indicum,  
Acanthospermum hispidum, Legasca mollis, Ageratum conyzoides,  
Solanum xanthocarpum, Cirsium arvense, Croton sparsiflorus,  
Tribulus terrestris, Heliotropium zeylanicum, Argemone mexicana etc...

These weed species are seen growing along roadsides, bunds of fields, waste pieces of land and other unutilised places in the Campus.

Among the insect fauna, grasshoppers of several species including the surface grasshopper (Chrotogonus oxypterus), the Cotton grasshopper (Cyrtacanthacris ranacea), the Ak grasshopper (Poecilocerus pictus) etc., dominate the grassland because of the diverse vegetation. Carabid beetles (Ground beetles) predaceous on several harmful insect species, Crickets, Tettigonids, Weevils, Jewel Beetles etc., are also found in large numbers. Regarding butterflies, it is difficult to describe — one will be deriving pleasure only by seeing them, especially in the Horticulture Garden where one can find the Monarch Butterfly (Danais chrysipus), the Nerium Butterfly (Euploea core), the Citrus Butterfly (Papilio demoleus) and several other species, in large numbers.

Regarding Shrubs, Bougainvillea, Nerium odorum (Oleander), Ixora, Tecoma stans, Hibiscus rosasinensis, Acalypha etc., are seen commonly in the Campus.

60

10

600

Among the tree species which beautify the Campus, the following need special mention.

1. Eucalyptus Sp's, 2. Acacia auriculiformes, 3. Erythrina indica,
4. Bauhinia purpurea, 5. Spathodea, 6. Peltophorum Sp's,
7. Delonix regia, 8. Lagerstroemia speciosa, 9. Casuarina-  
equisetifolia, 10. Caryota eurense, 11. Glyrcidia Sp's,
12. Cassia fistula, 13. Eugenia jambolina, 14. Subabool (Leucaena-  
leucocéphala), 15. Mangifera indica, 16. Dalbergia sisoo.

Apart from these tree species, also found are Azadirachta-  
indica, Aelanthus excelsa etc.,.

Regarding changes in habitat, no destructive activity is known to have occurred in the recent past and as such no major change has occurred in the habitat of this area. More and more new species of trees are being planted by clearing off the weeds and other unwanted species of plants, to beautify the Campus further. This (planting of new Sp's of trees) may probably bring <sup>about</sup> a change in the habitat with corresponding change in bird species in future.