
**STATUS OF SOME INLAND WETLANDS AND WETLAND BIRDS OF
SOUTH WESTERN GHATS, MAHARASHTRA**

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ABSTRACT: Western Ghats biodiversity is one of the most significant in the world, internationally declared as world heritage. South Western Ghats of Maharashtra have vast number of inland wetland especially they are built for Irrigation, drinking, domestic and drinking purposes. The present work is carried out some inland wetlands of South Western Ghats of Maharashtra during period between 2010-2012 and 2013 by line Transect method and direct observation method. The result reveals that huge numbers of water bird are attracted to different wetlands of South Western Ghats of Maharashtra in winter. Total 38 species of wetland birds are observed during study period. They are belonging to 4 order and 11 families. The status of bird and wetlands are studied, it reveal that more number of wetlands are facing several anthropogenic pressure therefore indirect effect on population of water bird. This study is not complete but further research need to improving understanding of general pattern of inland wetlands and their biodiversity.

KEY WORD: Inland wetland, Maharashtra, South western Ghats, Water bird.

INTRODUCTION

Wetlands are one of the natural resources. They are defined as lands transitional between terrestrial and aquatic-ecosystems where the water table is usually at or near the surface or the land is covered by shallow water (Mitch and Gosselink, 1986). Because of wetland people gets many things like food, water and other raw materials. Cowardin *et al* (1979) classified wetlands into marine wetland, lakes, riverine and marshes. Wetland support a

large variety of plant and animals species adapted to fluctuating water levels, making the wetlands of critical ecological significance. Wetlands are helps to bird for roosting, resting and foraging purposes. Inland wetlands are always containing freshwater or rain water but no sea water. It includes natural lakes, streams, village ponds, reservoirs, water logged area, marshes, canals paddy field and river etc. In South Western Ghats, Maharashtra is containing many inland wetlands