



Effects of Flight Disturbance on Bird Communities at Airports: Predatory Birds Rise to the Challenge

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ABSTRACT

Airports are special ecological environments. To study the effects of aircraft flight noise disturbance on airport bird communities, the composition and diversity of airport bird communities on flight and non-flight days were investigated using a line transect sampling method at the eastern airport of Hebei Province from June to August, 2019. In total, 36 species belonging to 11 orders and 22 families of birds were recorded. Disturbances such as noise from aircraft flights affected the number of species and the individual density and diversity of birds. However, different areas were affected to different extents, and three areas on the same side were the most affected. Additionally, we found that the numbers of 14 bird species increased on flight days compared to those on non-flight days. Three bird species, upland buzzard *Buteo hemilasius*, eastern buzzard *Buteo japonicus*, and black-crowned night heron *Nycticorax nycticorax*, were only observed on flight days. On flight days, the increase in the number of some raptors may be for hunting. Therefore, to prevent bird collisions, measures should be taken according to specific areas; in addition, bird repellent measures should be applied for bird species that increase during flight days.

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Authors' Contribution

JH designed the study. QL performed the field experiments. JW and WL carried out statistical analyses and wrote the draft manuscript. All authors approved the final submission.

Key words

Flight disturbance, Noise, Bird collisions, Airports, Bird communities

INTRODUCTION

Anthropogenic noise is becoming more prevalent because of rapid economic development. For many species, noise is an evolutionary source of acoustic disturbance and is potentially an important force affecting the ecology and evolution of many animals (Slabbekoorn and Ripmeester, 2008). Studies have shown that noise affects animal mate choice, song (Derryberry *et al.*, 2020; Zhao *et al.*, 2021), anti-predation (Chan *et al.*, 2010), and other behaviors. For example, the minimum frequency of song of white-crowned sparrow (*Zonotrichia leucophrys*) increased with increased noise because of increased traffic, and decreased during the COVID-19 shutdown period, when urban noise was decreased (Derryberry *et al.*, 2020). Further, noise levels can affect species diversity, richness, and community structure (Francis *et al.*, 2009; Proppe *et al.*, 2013; Perillo *et al.*, 2017; Carral-Murrieta *et al.*, 2020). However, some studies have found that noise has little or

no effect on bird diversity (Yang *et al.*, 2020). Currently, the effects of anthropogenic noise on birds have received increasing attention but are not well-studied.

Urbanization can have a great negative effect on birds, but it can also have some positive effects (Morelli *et al.*, 2014). Airports are special ecological environments, and with rapid growth of the aviation industry, the number of routes and flights is increasing; this raises the issue of noise generated during the landing and take-off cycle (LTO) and by various ground operation equipment during the LTO of aircrafts (Huang, 2020). In addition, collisions between birds and aircraft during take-off, flight, and landing can lead to flight safety accidents or incidents (bird strikes). As bird strikes cause significant damage to aircraft and people's lives, the International Aviation Federation has upgraded the airport bird strike hazard to an "A" category aviation disaster (Liu, 2011). Current research on airports focuses on aspects such as the spatial and temporal distribution of birds (Hou *et al.*, 2001; Xu *et al.*, 2014), seasonal patterns of bird species (Ma *et al.*, 2015; Chen and Deng, 2020; Liu *et al.*, 2020), bird diversity analysis (Cheng *et al.*, 2020; Li *et al.*, 2020), and bird strike risk assessment (Wang *et al.*, 2010; Zhang *et al.*, 2019). The special environment of airports with large areas of grass and other vegetation attracts birds to perch and feed; however, current research on bird diversity has focused on the effects of urbanization noise or building products of urbanization (e.g. roads) on birds (Morelli *et al.*, 2014; Perillo *et al.*, 2017; Carral-Murrieta *et al.*, 2020;

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Yang *et al.*, 2020; Wilson *et al.*, 2021). The effects airport noise on the community composition and structure of birds have rarely been reported. Therefore, comparing bird communities and composition in airports on flight days vs. non-flight days will provide insights into the effects of airport noise on birds as well as facilitate the design of targeted measures to prevent bird strikes on flight days.

To this end, the bird community composition and diversity on airport flight days and non-flight days were studied using the line transect sampling method at an airport in eastern Hebei province, China, under good weather conditions from June to August, 2019. We hypothesized that the species, number, and diversity of birds would decrease on airport flight days owing to the influence of airport noise, whereas the species and number of birds would increase on non-flight days; however, the magnitude of its impact in different areas may differ.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Overview of the study area

The study airport is located in the eastern plain of Hebei Province, at the lower end of the North China Alluvial Plain, with a gentle topography. The airport has a warm, temperate, semi-humid monsoon continental climate. There is much wind and little rain in the spring, with high evaporation, dry air, and drought. The summer is hot and humid, with concentrated rainfall, heavy rain, hail, thunderstorms, high winds, and severe weather. The autumn is mostly sunny, with large temperature changes, rapid cooling, low wind speed, and fresh air. In winter, the weather is relatively cold and dry, precipitation is scarce, with a prevalent northwest wind. The annual sunshine duration ranges from 2600 to 2900 hours, the annual average temperature is 12.5 °C; the highest temperature is 32.9 °C and the lowest is -14.8 °C. The frost-free period lasts for 180 to 190 days; annual precipitation is 500 to 700 mm, and the average number of frost days is about 10 days per year.

Survey sample area setting

The airport habitat was dominated by lawns. We first selected 8 sample regions from west to east, namely A to H, and named the four sample regions located in the north as A, C, E and G. The four sample areas located in the south are B, D, F and H. At both ends of these eight areas, J and I areas are respectively set, with a total of 10 sample areas. The reasons for dividing the airport into different areas are as follows: different areas may have different bird species and numbers due to the different intensity of bird repellent activities; according to different areas, the airport can take corresponding measures to prevent bird strikes.

Data acquisition

In the summer of 2019 from June to August, under good weather conditions, the 10 sample areas at the airport were surveyed using the line transect sampling method. Overall, six flight days (two flight days randomly selected each month) and four non-flight days (two non-flight days randomly selected in July and August) were selected for the survey; the survey time was from 06:00 to 18:00 each day, and the survey was conducted once every hour. The survey was divided into 2 groups of 1 person each, and was conducted simultaneously, i.e., one group traveled along the center line of areas A-C-E-G-I, and the other group traveled along the center line of areas J-B-D-F-H simultaneously. The length of each sample area was 500 m, and the observation distance was 50 m on one side. The survey was conducted using an SUV with a speed of about 2.5 km/h and equipment including binoculars (8 × 42), GPS handheld locators, and digital cameras (100–400 mm) to record the species and numbers of birds observed in each sample line. To avoid double counting, birds with the same direction of travel were not counted.

Statistical methods

(1) Bird species dominance: expressed as a percentage (P_i) of the number of individuals to the total number of individuals of different species.

(2) Density of individual birds: $D = N/2LS$

Where D is the density of individual birds; N is the number of birds recorded; L is the length of the sample area; and S is the one-sided observation distance (Gao, 1993).

(3) Species diversity was calculated using the Shannon-Wiener index (Shannon, 1949).

$$H' = -\sum_{i=1}^s p_i \ln p_i$$

Where H' is the diversity index, S is the total number of bird species, and P_i is the number of individuals of the i th species as a proportion of the total number of individuals.

(4) Uniformity was calculated using the Pielou index (Pielou, 1975).

$$J = H' / \ln s$$

Where H' is the Shannon-Weiner index and S is the number of species.

(5) Population ranking: Calculated using the percentage of the population, i.e., the number of a certain bird species/total number of all birds × 100%, defining species with more than 10% as the dominant species, species with 1–10% as common species, and species with less than 1% as rare species.

(6) Feeding groups division (Teresa, 1999): (1) grain-eating birds: Birds that feed mainly on plant seeds or crop

seeds, such as corn and wheat; (2) insectivorous birds: birds that feed mainly on adult insects, larvae and worms; (3) carnivorous birds: birds that feed mainly on small vertebrates such as mice and small birds; (4) omnivorous birds: birds with a mixed diet, mainly feeding on animal and plant foods.

(7) Data analysis: Generalized linear models (GLMs) were used to analyze the effects of aircraft flight noise on the number of bird species, individual density, species diversity, and uniformity at the airport as targets, and whether the plane flew (yes or not), the area, and the interaction of the two as fixed effects. We also used GLMs to investigate the effects of aircraft flight on bird densities and bird species numbers at different times of the day, and because the aircraft took off at different times of the day during flight days, three times of the six flight days surveyed (i.e., 8 am–9am, 9 am–10 am, and 10 am–11 am) were selected for comparison with non-flight days, considering the bird species numbers and individual densities as responses. Whether the plane flew, the time period, and the interaction of the two were inserted into the model as fixed effects.

RESULTS

Bird species composition

The survey recorded 36 species of birds belonging to 11 orders and 22 families at the airport. Of these, 11 families and 16 species of birds belonged to the order Passeriformes and 11 families and 20 species of birds were non-Passeriformes (Supplementary Table SI).

Based on the population numerical rank, the dominant species were eurasian tree sparrow (*Passer montanus*) and barn swallow (*Hirundo rustica*); five common species included common magpie (*Pica pica*), rock dove (*Columba livia domestica*), white-cheeked starling (*Spodiopsar cineraceus*), Richard's pipit (*Anthus richardi*), and pintail snipe (*Gallinago stenura*).

Based on the feeding group, there were 7 species of omnivorous birds, accounting for 19% of all bird species at the airport; further, there were 16 species of insectivorous birds, accounting for 45% of all bird species; 5 species of grain-eating birds, accounting for 14% of bird species; and 8 species of carnivorous birds, accounting for 22% of the number of bird species (Fig. 1, Supplementary Table SI).

Effects of flight on birds at different times of the day

The GLM results showed no significant effects regarding whether the aircraft flew ($x^2 = 1.519$, $df = 1$, $P = 0.218$), the different time periods ($x^2 = 1.379$, $df = 2$, $P = 0.502$), or the interaction between whether the aircraft flew and time period ($x^2 = 1.716$, $df = 2$, $P = 0.424$) on bird

species numbers (Table I).

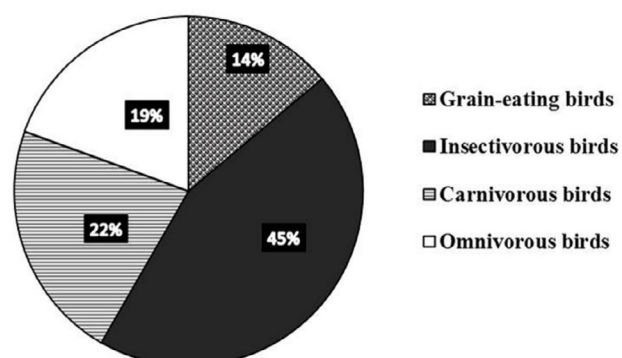


Fig. 1. Percentage of airport bird feeding groups.

Table I. Influence of interference factors (whether the plane flew, area and the interaction between the two) on the number of bird species, individual density, species diversity and evenness at the airport.

Source	X ²	df	P
Model for the number of bird species			
Whether the plane flew	31.736	1	< 0.001
Area	49.297	9	< 0.001
Whether the plane flew x area	12.219	9	0.201
Model for individual density of birds			
Whether the plane flew	52.839	1	< 0.001
Area	64.092	9	< 0.001
Whether the plane flew x area	44.271	9	< 0.001
Model for species diversity			
Whether the plane flew	0.628	1	0.428
Area	7.678	9	0.567
Whether the plane flew x area	20.619	9	0.014
Model for uniformity			
Whether the plane flew	6.430	1	0.011
Area	8.229	9	0.511
Whether the plane flew x area	16.646	9	0.055

There was a significant effect of whether the aircraft flew or not on individual density ($x^2 = 9.775$, $df = 1$, $P = 0.002$; Table I), with birds on non-flight days having significantly higher individual densities than those on flight days (Fig. 2); however, neither the time period ($x^2 = 0.535$, $df = 2$, $P = 0.765$; Table I) nor the interaction between whether the aircraft flew and the time period ($x^2 = 0.650$, $df = 2$, $P = 0.722$; Table I) had any significant effect on individual bird density.

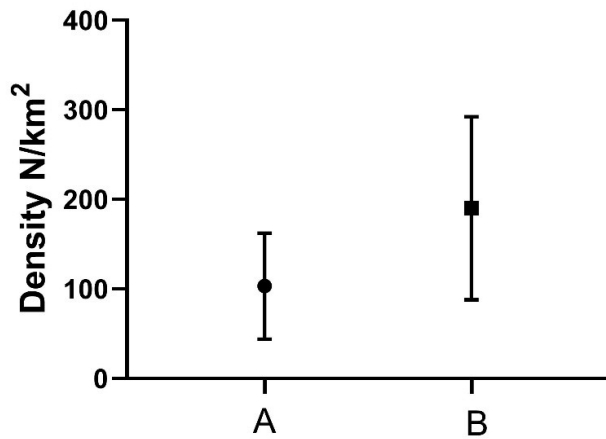


Fig. 2. Individual density of birds on flight (A) and non-flight days (B) (comparison of three periods).

Effects on birds in different regions

Effect of aircraft flight on the number of bird species

Whether the aircraft flew or not had a significant effect on the number of bird species ($x^2 = 31.736$, $df = 1$, $P < 0.001$; Table I); the number of bird species was significantly higher on non-flight days (18.75 ± 4.79) than that on flight days (12.67 ± 3.08); the number of bird species also differed significantly between the different areas ($x^2 = 49.297$, $df = 9$, $P < 0.001$; Table I), with areas I and J having the highest number of bird species whereas areas C, E, and G on the same side had the lowest number of bird species. Pairwise comparisons showed that all differences were attributed to a significantly higher number of bird species in area J than that in all other areas (all $P < 0.05$) and to the differences between the same-side partitions, i.e., areas C, E, and G, and the other partitions (all $P < 0.05$), except for the same side area A, which had significantly more bird species than those in area G ($P = 0.010$). However, the interaction of whether the aircraft flew or not with the partitions did not significantly affect the number of bird species ($x^2 = 12.219$, $df = 9$, $P = 0.201$; Table I).

Effect on individual bird densities

There was a significant effect of whether the aircraft flew on the density of individual birds ($x^2 = 52.839$, $df = 1$, $P < 0.001$; Table I), which was significantly lower when the aircraft flew (73.39 ± 39.97) than that when it did not fly (366.20 ± 310.09); there was a significant difference between areas in the density of individual birds ($x^2 = 64.092$, $df = 9$, $P < 0.001$; Table I), and the interaction between whether the aircraft flew and area partition also had a significant effect ($x^2 = 44.271$, $df = 9$, $P < 0.001$; Table I). The density of individual birds when

the aircraft was flying and not flying followed roughly the same trend across partitions, with the lowest density of individual birds in areas C, E, and G on the same side. Paired results showed that, in terms of differences between areas when the aircraft was flying or not flying, there were no significant differences in individual densities between areas when the aircraft was flying (all $P > 0.05$); however, when the aircraft was not flying, differences between areas were mainly attributed to significantly higher individual densities in area J than those in all other areas (all $P > 0.05$), and significantly lower individual densities in areas C, E, and G on the same side than those in the other areas (all $P > 0.05$). Further, for each area, individual bird densities were significantly higher in areas D, F, H, I and J when the aircraft were not flying than those when aircraft were flying (all $P < 0.05$).

Impact on diversity

For bird diversity, only the interaction of whether or not the aircraft flew with the area partition was significant ($x^2 = 20.619$, $df = 9$, $P < 0.014$; Table I). Pairwise comparisons showed that for each area, only two areas, E ($P = 0.024$) and G ($P = 0.012$), had a significantly higher species diversity when aircrafts were not flying than that when they were flying.

In terms of differences in species diversity between areas with and without aircraft flight, no significant differences in diversity were observed among areas when aircrafts were not in flight (all $P > 0.05$). When aircrafts were in flight, all variability was caused by significantly lower species diversity in areas A, C, E, and G on the same side than that in the other areas (all $P < 0.05$), with the exception of area B, where species diversity was significantly higher than in that area D ($P = 0.043$) and area C, where species diversity was significantly higher than that in area G ($P = 0.039$).

Effect on uniformity

When analyzing the effect of whether or not aircraft flew on the uniformity of each area, a significant difference was found only for whether or not the aircraft flew on the uniformity of the birds ($x^2 = 6.430$, $df = 1$, $P = 0.011$; Table I), which was significantly higher when flying (0.53 ± 0.08) than when not flying (0.49 ± 0.02).

Effects of aircraft flight on different bird species

Bird densities that increased on flight days compared to those on non-flight days included the hen harrier, upland buzzard (*Buteo hemilasius*), northern lapwing (*Vanellus vanellus*), amur falcon, common kestrel (*Falco tinnunculus*), eurasian collared dove (*Streptopelia decaocto*), white-cheeked starling, rock dove, eastern

buzzard (*Buteo japonicus*), Richard's pipit, black-crowned night heron (*Nycticorax nycticorax*), Chinese grey shrike (*Lanius sphenocercus*), eurasian skylark (*Alauda arvensis*), and spotted dove (*Streptopelia chinensis*). Birds that occurred only on flight days included upland buzzard, eastern buzzard, and black-crowned night herons, and birds that occurred only on non-flight days included Swinhoe's snipe (*Gallinago megala*), black drongos (*Dicrurus macrocercus*), gray wagtail (*Motacilla cinerea*), grey-headed woodpecker (*Picus canus*), red-rumped swallow (*Cecropis daurica*), Indian cuckoo (*Cuculus micropterus*), long-billed plover (*Charadrius placidus*), and little owl (*Athene noctua*).

DISCUSSION

Our airport summer bird survey recorded a total of 36 species in 11 orders and 22 families of birds, including 11 families and 16 species of passerine birds and 11 families and 20 species of non-passerine birds. Disturbances such as noise from aircraft flight affected the number of species, individual density, species diversity, and uniformity of birds; with the three areas (C, E and G) on the same side being the most affected; this may be related to aircraft flights and their bird repellent activities. In addition, certain bird species such as upland buzzard, eastern buzzard, and common kestrel were increased in numbers on flight days.

Noise has a significant impact on animal behavior (Derryberry *et al.*, 2020; Zhao *et al.*, 2021) but the effects of airport noise on bird communities and diversity have not been reported. In this study, we recorded the species and numbers of birds at a selected airport on flight days and non-flight days, and found that passerines were high in numbers and dominated the bird community at the airport, consistent with the results of previous studies on the bird community composition at airports in Hebei Province (Ma *et al.*, 2015; Wu *et al.*, 2019). As hypothesized, we found that the number of bird species declined with airport noise disturbance (i.e., flight days) and that the overall number of bird individuals decreased significantly, mainly among eurasian tree sparrow, barn swallow, red-rumped swallow, light-vented bulbul (*Pycnonotus sinensis*), and azure-winged magpie (*Cyanopica cyanus*) on flight days, indicating that these small and medium-sized birds may have an active tendency to avoid airport noise. Our results are consistent with studies on the effects of road noise on animal populations (Fahrig and Rytwinski, 2009), indicating that noise exhibits mainly negative or minimal effects on animals. Wang *et al.* (2011) reported that the population density of all woodland birds started to decline when noise levels reached 42 dB on average. Noise from aircraft flights can reach over 100 dB (Zhang, 2018), and

such strong noise may lead to intolerance in some bird species and decrease their population. In contrast, some bird populations did not decrease even in the presence of airport noise, possibly because they had adapted to this environment, i.e., as anthropogenic noise becomes more common, the intensity of animal responses to them may decrease because of habituation (Thompson and Spencer, 1966).

Interestingly, some bird species increased in numbers in the presence of airport noise, including amur falcon, common kestrel, hen harrier, eastern buzzard, upland buzzard, and Chinese grey shrike, while eastern buzzard and upland buzzard only occurred in the presence of airport noise. Some of these birds are carnivorous and may emerge in search of prey when airport noise is present; consistent with the results of this study, other studies have found that animals are attracted to and benefit from noisy, disturbed areas, for example, in search of food (Berger, 2007; Fahrig and Rytwinski, 2009; Morelli *et al.*, 2014). Here, there are three interpretations for the increase in raptor numbers in the presence of airport noise. First, some prey may engage in herding behavior in the absence of noise; the Group Effect Hypothesis (GEH) suggests that each member of a group will use other individuals as a buffer to reduce the probability of being preyed on (Siegfried and Underhill, 1975; Goodale and Ruxton, 2010). In the presence of airport noise, some birds may react and escape in fear (Weisenberger *et al.*, 1996; Maier *et al.*, 1998; Quinn *et al.*, 2006; Rabin *et al.*, 2006; Nowacek *et al.*, 2007), causing such prey to expose itself, increasing the chances of their predation. Some studies have also constructed models and shown that populations are unable to engage in cluster behavior when noise is high (Chen and Liu, 2021; Zhang *et al.*, 2021). Second, noise masks the sound of predators (acoustic masking), allowing them to exploit the situation. Third, noise may effectively distract prey, thus preventing them from responding to approaching predators (distracted prey hypothesis) (Chan *et al.*, 2010). The increase in predatory birds such as raptors found in this study may be similar to our previous study on playback alarms (Wang *et al.*, 2020), which indicated that playback or noise exposes prey targets, which may attract predators. Further, rock dove and dove tend to perch or nest in villages and woodlands surrounding airports, and the increase in the number of their individuals on flight days may be related to them being frightened and entering the airport.

Of the 10 studied sample areas at the airport, three areas (C, E and G) were the most affected by disturbances such as airport noise compared to other areas, which could significantly reduce the number of bird species and individuals in these areas, as this area was affected by

aircraft landings and takeoffs as well as taxiing or other bird repelling activities. It is thus clear that airport noise affects birds differently in each area of the airport. Shen (1983) studied the hearing of animals and showed that birds can easily detect vibrations caused by noise inside animals or underground, therefore the noise and vibrations generated by aircraft flight are highly disturbing to birds. The area located on the south side and I and J at both ends are less disturbed by aircraft take-off and landing, therefore the species and number of birds in these areas are relatively less affected. However, the birds in these areas also pose a notable impact on the occurrence of bird strikes. Further, whether the aircrafts are in flight or not, the relatively low number of bird species and numbers in areas C, E, and G, may be influenced by aircraft noise disturbances as well as be related to the surrounding environment. It has recently been shown that noise can affect the reproductive success of fish (Nedelec *et al.*, 2022), and that further research is needed to determine whether noise near airports can affect the breeding of birds. In addition, noise may also affect the frequency of bird calls (Derryberry *et al.*, 2020), which also needs to be investigated further.

CONCLUSION

Our results indicate that on airport flight days, the overall number of bird species, individual density, and species diversity is relatively low, which may be related to disturbances such as noise from aircraft flight; three areas on the same side are the most affected, and is related to aircraft flight and bird repellent activities. However, other areas should also receive attention to prevent and control the occurrence of bird strikes. Further, the numbers of certain bird species such as upland buzzard, eastern buzzard, and common kestrel increased on flight days; therefore, subsequent studies are needed to focus on the activity patterns of these species on flight days and propose the targeted measures to prevent bird strikes. Moreover, the breeding success and bird calls around the airport need to be further studied in terms of how they are affected by airport noise.

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IRB approval and ethical statement

This experiment only observed the birds at the airport, therefore, no ethical approval and Institutional review was required.

Supplementary material

There is supplementary material associated with this article. Access the material online at: <https://dx.doi.org/10.17582/journal.pjz/20220913080930>

Statement of conflict of interest

The authors have declared no conflict of interest.

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Supplementary Material

Effects of Flight Disturbance on Bird Communities at Airports: Predatory Birds Rise to the Challenge

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Supplementary Table SI. The bird list of the airport in this survey.

Orders/Families/ Species	Distribution*	Feeding group
Galliformes		
Family: Phasianidae		
1. Common pheasant (<i>Phasianus colchicus</i>)	R	Omnivorous birds
Columbiformes		
Family: Columbidae		
2. Rock dove (<i>Columba livia domestica</i>)	R	Grain-eating birds
3. Oriental turtle dove (<i>Streptopelia orientalis</i>)	R	Grain-eating birds
4. Eurasian collared dove (<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>)	R	Grain-eating birds
5. Spotted-necked dove (<i>Streptopelia chinensis</i>)	R	Grain-eating birds
Cuculiformes		
Family: Cuculidae		
6. Indian cuckoo (<i>Cuculus micropterus</i>)	S	Insectivorous birds
Charadriiformes		
Family: Charadriidae		
7. Northern lapwing (<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>)	P	Insectivorous birds
8. Grey-headed lapwing (<i>Vanellus cinereus</i>)	S, P	Insectivorous birds
9. Long-billed plover (<i>Charadrius placidus</i>)	P	Omnivorous birds
Scolopacidae		
10. Pintail snipe (<i>Gallinago stenura</i>)	P	Carnivorous birds
11. Swinhoe's snipe (<i>Gallinago megala</i>)	P	Carnivorous birds
Pelecaniformes		
Family: Ardeidae		
12. Black-crowned night heron (<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>)	S	Carnivorous birds

Table continued on next page.....

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Orders/Families/ Species	Distribution*	Feeding group
Accipitriformes		
Family: Accipitridae		
13. Hen harrier (<i>Circus cyaneus</i>)	S, P	Carnivorous birds
14. Upland buzzard (<i>Buteo hemilasius</i>)	W, P	Carnivorous birds
15. Eastern buzzard (<i>Buteo japonicus</i>)	W, P	Carnivorous birds
Strigiformes		
Family: Strigidae		
16. Little owl (<i>Athene noctua</i>)	R	Carnivorous birds
Bucerotiformes		
Family: Upupidea		
17. Common hoopoe (<i>Upupa epops</i>)	S	Insectivorous birds
Piciformes		
Family: Picidae		
18. Grey-headed woodpecker (<i>Picus canus</i>)	R	Insectivorous birds
Falconiformes		
Family: Falconidae		
19. Common kestrel (<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>)	R	Carnivorous birds
20. Amur falcon (<i>Falco amurensis</i>)	S	Insectivorous birds
Passeriformes		
Family: Dicruridae		
21. Black drongo (<i>Dicrurus macrocercus</i>)	S	Insectivorous birds
Family: Laniidae		
22. Brown Shrike (<i>Lanius cristatus</i>)	S, P	Insectivorous birds
23. Chinese gray shrike (<i>Lanius sphenocercus</i>)	S, W, P	Insectivorous birds
Family: Corvidae		
24. Azure-winged magpie (<i>Cyanopica cyanus</i>)	R	Omnivorous birds
25. Common magpie (<i>Pica pica</i>)	R	Omnivorous birds
Family: Alaudidae		
26. Eurasian skylark (<i>Alauda arvensis</i>)	W, P	Omnivorous birds
Family: Cisticolidae		
27. Zitting cisticola (<i>Cisticola juneidis</i>)	R	Insectivorous birds
Family: Hirundinidae		
28. Barn swallow (<i>Hirundo rustica</i>)	S	Insectivorous birds
29. Red-rumped swallow (<i>Cecropis daurica</i>)	S	Insectivorous birds
Family: Pycnonotidae		
30. Light-vented bulbul (<i>Pycnonotus sinensis</i>)	S	Omnivorous birds
Family: Sturnidae		
31. White-cheeked starling (<i>Spodiopsar cineraceus</i>)	S, W	Insectivorous birds
Family: Passeridae		
32. Eurasian tree sparrow (<i>Passer montanus</i>)	R	Omnivorous birds
Family: Motacillidae		
33. Gray wagtail (<i>Motacilla cinerea</i>)	S, P	Insectivorous birds
34. White wagtail (<i>Motacilla alba</i>)	P	Insectivorous birds
35. Richard's pipit (<i>Anthus richardi</i>)	S, P	Insectivorous birds
Fringillidae		
Grey-capped greenfinch (<i>Chloris sinica</i>)	R	Grain-eating birds

*R, Resident; S, Summer visitor; W, Winter visitor; P, Passage migrant