

Name: Bilal Kabeer.

University: CZECH UNIVERSITY OF LIFE SCIENCES PRAGUE

Faculty: Faculty of Tropical AgriSciences

Department: Department of Animal Science and Food Processing

Topic of the Thesis: Bird communities at an offshore island of Abu Dhabi, Sir Bani Yas, UAE

REPORT

I have evaluated thesis of Mr. Bilal Kabeer titled "Bird communities at an offshore island of Abu Dhabi, Sir Bani Yas, UAE".

This thesis on bird communities will be one of the first PhD Thesis carried out in United Arab Emirates, as most of studies have been restricted to the general surveys and breeding birds.

Chapter 1

The Chapter need to add the Ornithological surveys carried out in the United Arab Emirates, which sets up the base for the study was carried out. There is good amount of literature available online give a new shape to the Chapter.

Chapter 2

Well written.

Chapter 3

This chapter should add the concept of island Biography which is an interesting component of ecology and do the island support this concept. The chapter should also look at the published literature especially **Tribulus**, the Journal of the Emirates Natural History Group. Sir Baniyas was a breeding ground for Sooty Falcon (*Falco concolor*), and seems no breeding is taking place on the island now. The species is Vulnerable according to IUCN. The chapter does not give details of the avifauna species recorded in the United Arab Emirates and how many species are threatened according to IUCN. The number of species recorded over the years at the Island which should include the species document in the past.

Chapter 4

The chapter has been submitted to the review for a Journal.

The bird species numbers at the Island should be compared with the species recorded in United Arab Emirates which is missing in the chapter. It should also compare the bird species presents at some important islands on Arabian Gulf to make strong case for how important is Sir Baniyas Island in the region. The chapter has not been able to say about the seasonal variations in the bird's abundance.

Chapter 5

Paper has been excepted for the publication form this chapter. There are few things that I feel should have been addressed.

The study period of is for the span of five years (2014-2018), while the breeding has been recorded in the year 2017 and 2018. Have the candidate missed the birds during the period from 2014 to 2016 or Saunders's Terns did not breed there or breed only in 2017 and 2018 should be clearly written in the chapter. The Candidate should look at the Environmental Agency- Abu Dhabi breeding survey report which is published online to compare the number of breeding present in Abu Dhabi Emirate.

Chapter 6

Paper has been excepted for the publication form this chapter. There are few things that I feel should have been addressed

Candidate has walked transect to carry out the population estimates of species in the island. The candidate should use software program TRANSECT (Laake, Burnham & Anderson 1979) to determine the densities of the species at the island. The graph (Fig. 9) shows increase in the number birds across the years as the candidate shows the prey base availability or it is shooting pressures have been taken out as it is major threat for the birds of prey.

Chapter 7

Paper has been published this chapter. There are few things that I feel should have been addressed.

Map of the Osprey nests on the Island are missing should be included. The chapter does not include the number of Osprey nest recorded from the earlier surveys.

Conclusion

This thesis will be beneficial for the park managers in updating the management plans. The thesis is an original contribution to avian ecology and it amply shows the candidate's capacity for critical examination and judgment. The scientific presentation is very good.

RECOMMENDATION:

Thesis should be accepted for the award of Ph.D. degree.

Junid .

Junid N. Shah (Ph.D.)
Director Research



Ajaz Environment Consultants

M: +971 50 238 5670

T: +971 6 543 9928

PO Box 48521, Sharjah, UAE

www.aj-env.com