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**Research Article** 

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## Study of Biodiversity of Vertebrates at Kapauasherpur Village of district Balrampur Uttar Pradesh, India

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### Abstract

Kapaua Sherpur Village is located in Tehsil Utraula and block Sriduttganj of District Balrampur, Uttar Pradesh, India. This village during the month of March 2024 to February 2025 for this study we used watching and visual survey with the help of Camera, in this study total 22 species were recorded. The notable Vertebrates biodiversity includes 7 species of fishes, 2 species of Amphibia,4 species of Reptiles (Lizard), 6 species of birds and 3 species of Eutherian mammals(Pests).

The our survey of the study area showed different habitat having rich fishes and avian biodiversity this is due to availability of varieties food and ponds resources. The finding illustrated 6 species of birds, specially house crow, common myna and rock pigeon are very common birds in this village.

Keywords: Kapauva Sherpur Village, District Balrampur (U.P.), Biodiversity of Vertebrates (Pisces, Amphibia, Reptilia, Aves and Mammals)

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## Introduction

Changing is the rule of nature biodiversity of Vertebrata is not explaining of it. It is the part and parietal of ecology.Specially in district Balrampur at Kapauasherpur Village, Uttar Pradesh. This biodiversity of Vertebrates of play a significant role to maintain ecology or ecosystem in this way I would like to study biodiversity of Kapaua Sherpur Village. Similar study biodiversity of chordates (Ali S, 1990, Alvey 2006).

### **Biodiversity in India**

India occupies 2.4% of the world's area and is host to 7% of the global biodiversity, accounting for 8% of the world's mammals, 13% birds,6% reptiles .4% amphibians.12% fish and 6% flowering plants. India is one of the12 mega biodiversity hotspots of the world, the other countries being Bolivia, Brazil, China, Colombia, Ecuador, Indonesia, Mexico, Peru, South Africa, USA and Venezuela. So far over 91,200 species of animals and 45,500 species of plants have been documented in ten bio-geographic region of the country. India also has a variety of wetlands ecosystems ranging from high altitude cold deserts to hot and humid areas in coastal zones containing diverse flora and fauna (MoEF,2014). However, India is losing biodiversity at a rapid rate. Around 39 species of mammals, 72 species of birds and 1336 species of plants are considered vulnerable and endangered as the species have not been sighted during last 6-10 decades (Haripriya et.al., 2006).

Additionally, about 4,445 Km2 of the country is under mangroves(MoEF,2009). India also possess rich marine diversity. It is third largest fish producing country in the World(MoEF,2009),The vast coastline of India stretches 7,517 Km in total 7 and comprises of a wide range of habitats(like estuaries, lagoons, mangroves, backwater, salt marshes, rocky coasts, stretches and coral reefs).They are all characterised by rich and uniquebiodiversitycomponents. Forests, covering. 39 percent of the geographical area of the country (of which 75% occurs in the north eastern states), are crucial ecosystems for India. Due to lack of awareness for the value of biodiversity and inadequate forest protection planning. This rich biodiversity is in continuous decline. As per the International Union for conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red list version 2010.4,94 species of mammals, 78 species of birds,66 species of Amphibians,30 species of Reptiles,122 species of fish,113 species of Invertebrates and 255 species of plants in India are listed as Critically Endangered, Endangered or Vulnerable.

Phylum-Chordata is the highly evolved phylum among all animal phyla. These are characterized by the presence of notochord, presence of dorsal tubular hollow nerve cord and presence of pharyngeal Gill slits orgill clefts .The chordata is divided in to two group lower chordata (Acrania or Protochordata) and higher chordata (Craniata or Euchordata). The higher chordata is represented by a single subphylum Vertebrata in which notochord is replaced by back bone (Vertebral column). The Vertebrates have ventral muscular cardiac system bearing 2-4 chambers. A vertebrate has notochord during its embryonic development which is replaced by a cartilaginous or bony vertebral column called as back bone in adult. Taxonomically higher chordates belong to a subphylum Veryebrata that includes seven classes living Cyclostomata (division-Agnatha), Chondrichthyes, Osteichthyes, Amphibia, Reptilia, Aves and Mammalia.

Cyclostomata constitutes a group of eel -shaped vertebrate without jaws or paired appendages including the living jawless fishes: the lampreys and hagfishes. They have elongated and eel like body with suctorial and circular mouth. Fishes [Superclass - Pisces, Class - Chondrichthyes (Cartilaginous fishes) and Osteichthyes (bony fishes)] are exclusively aquatic animals. They have Cartilaginous or bony Vertebral column to support and protect the spinal cord, tubular nerve cord, ventral muscular 2-Chambered heart, fins as paired appendages and gills for breathing. These are cold blooded animals having an ability to appendages and gills for breathing. These are cold blooded animals having no ability to regulate their body temperature that changes according to the temperature of their surroundings.

Class-Amphibiaconstitutea subphylum-Vertebrata that live on land but breed in water. These are cold blooded (Pokilothermic or Ectotherms) animals with dicondylic skull. Class Amphibia comprises of three orders: Apoda that includes limbless amphibians like Ceacilians, Urodela that includes newts and Salamanders and Anura that includes Frog and toads.

Reptiles are also Cold blooded animals with monocondylic skull. These are first exclusively terrestrial vertebrates with creeping mode of locomotion. In general the class Reptilia contains four orders viz .Chelonia (turtle and tortise), Rhynchocephalia (tuatara), Squamata (lizards and Snakes) and Crocodilia (Crocodiles).

Birds (Aves) also referred to as masters of air are warm-blooded (homoiothermic) egg laying vertebrates characterized by feather and forelimbs modified as wings for flight.Jaw bones are prolonged in to toothless beak to seves like hands and mouth concurrently.

Mammals are warm blooded vertebrate having the skin more or less covered with hair ;Young are born alive (Viviparous) except for the small subclass of monotremes (most primitive mammals comprising the only extant members of the subclass-Prptotheria) nourished and with milk, having dicondylic skull and a muscular diaphragm.Presence of Mammary glands is the most unique features of this group. The class Mammalia includes egg laving mammals (Prototheria), Pouched mammals (Metatheria) and higher Viviparous mammals (Eutheria). Jones Waltor (2009) has study of biodiversity of chordates.

Studies of fish biodiversity have been immense interest to researchers of (Day, 1978, Menon, 1999, Srivastava, 2002, Kumar, 2012, Shukla and Singh (2013), Nagma and Khan (2013), Kaushik and Bardoloi, 2016, Bhat and Rao, 2018, Mishra et.al., 2021). Kanaujia et.al. (2017)) have reported Herpetofauna (Amphibia and Reptilia) in Uttar Pradesh, including 70 species of Reptiles:38 species are Snakes (18 Venomous and 20 nonvenomous),18 turtles and 12 lizards and 23 species of Amphibia were also recorded.

Nasim Ahmad Ansari(2018) has reported herpetofaunal diversity at the Surajpur Wetland, India,a total of 19 species of herpetofauna belonging to 14 families and three orders were recorded. It comprised of six species of Amphibians belonging to five families and 13 species of reptiles belonging to nine families. Ahmed et.al.(2009) also recorded reptiles and amphibians of Northeast India.

Vikas,K.S.(2020): has reported effects and values of biodiversity in India while Rajesh K.Srivastava et.al.(2022) has reported birds are the most attractive and fascinating groups of animals on the earth. Birds play an important role and dynamic role in the balanced ecological Parameters uniting of food chain in ecological units of nature and data were collected in Lucknow Zone for 12 consecutive months by using the point count method, recorded 35 species of birds that includes 11 orders and 23 families. The order Passeriformes has 19 species of birds, The family saturnidae and Phasianidae (3species) was the most diverse among all the 23 families. Michael (2021) has reported 11 species of smaller mammals in Trichy forest range Tiruchirapalli, Tamil Nadu, India.

The objective of the present study was to documented Biodiversity of Vertebrata (Fish, Reptilia, Amphibia, Aves and Eutherian Mammals) at Village Kapaua Sherpur, block-Sriduttganj of district Balrampur, Uttar Pradesh, India. Previous works other biodiversity in India of higher chordates have also been noted by Inger et.al. (1984), Srivastava G.J. (2002), Jayaram (1999), Hallerman et.al (2001), Chanda (2002), Das (2002), Singh and Banyal (2003), Whitaker and Captain (2004), Saikia et.al.(2007), Rooijen et.al.(2008), Ahmad et.al. (2009) Dinesh et.al. (2013) and Seema Jain(2017).

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#### Location of study area

Balrampur is a city and municipal board in district Balrampur, the state of Uttar Pradesh, India. District Balrampur located 27°25'48.00"N Latitude and 82°10'48.00"E Longitude.

Kapaua Sherpur is a village in Sriduttganj block of district Balrampur of Uttar Pradesh state, India. It belong to Devipatan division. It is located 22 Km towards east from the district head quarters Balrampur.2 Km from Sriduttganj.175 Km from state Capital Lucknow. Pipri Kolhai(1Km), Visamherpur(1Km), Chandapur (1Km), Vaibheet(2Km), Pachautha (3Km) are nearby villages to Kapaua Sherpur. Kapauwa Sherpur is surrounded by Utraula block towards East, Balrampur block towards West, Gaindas Bujurg block towards south, Tulsipur block towards north. Utraula, Balrampur, Tulsipur, Faizabad are the nearby cities of Village Kapaua Sherpur (Map-1,2 & 3).



Map-1: Location of study area of Uttar Pradesh



#### Map-2: Location of study area of district Balrampur, Uttar Pradesh





## Materials and Methods

The study was carried out during March 2024 to February 2025, with an aim to determine the diversity. distribution and natural history information at Kapaua Sherpur Village of district Balrampur, Uttar Pradesh. Field surveys were carried out during day time. During the extensive survey, we carried out visual inspection of fields, grasses, ponds and houses. All possible areas searched thoroughly including were such microhabitat as puddles and springs and such areas which often attract amphibians and reptiles for food, shelter or breeding. We go through all the literatures, Department of Zoology Museums, M.L.K.P.G.College, Balrampur, Uttar Pradesh and by help of local people for identification of fishes, amphibians, reptiles, birds and mammals (Fig.-1,2 and 3).

Fishes were identified using the standard keys of Day (1978), Jhingran(1991), Jayaram(1999) and Srivastava (1998). Dinesh (2017) helped to identify amphibian while reptiles with the help of Aengals (2011),

Observation and identification of birds were made 9:00 to 11 AM in the morning and 3:00 to 5:00 PM in the evening. Bird species were identified by using taxonomic manuals and key references books Grimmett et.al (1998), Singh et.al.(2018),Kumar and Srivastava (2021),Rajesh et.al.(2022).

Avian data were collected for 12 consecutive months by using the point count method were carried out by conducting avian surveys. Birds were also counted by using direct count method from walking within the selected habitats of Village-Kapaua Sherpur of district Balrampur, Uttar Pradesh, India. Birds photographs were taken with the help of Canon EOS 1000 D SLR Camera and Android mobile phone. The birds were observed most active during the period of day time.

Mammalian biodiversity With the help of Vertebrates R.L.Kotpal book. Local people also assisted the author in many ways for collection and identification.



Fig.-1: Fish Collection by Investigator for Study of Fishes at Kapauwa Sherpur Village of district Balrampur, U.P., India

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Fig.-2: Capturing photos of Mammals (Pests) by Investigator at Kapaua Sherpur Village of district Balrampur, Uttar Pradesh, India



Fig.-3: Capturing Photos of birds by Investigators at Kapaua Sherpur Village of district Balrampur, Uttar Pradesh



#### Fig.-4: Capturing Photos of Lizards by Investigator at Kapaua Sherpur Village of district Balrampur, Uttar Pradesh

## Results

Villages Kapauasherpur of district Balrampur, Uttar Pradesh hasrich Vertebrates diversity including-

(A)-07 species of fishes: including Mystus seenghala (Tengra), Clarias batrachus (Mangur), Notopterus chitala (Chital/Moya), Channa marulius (Saur), Heteropneustes fossilis (Singhi), Labeo calbasu (Black Rohu) and Labeo rohita (Rohu).

**(B)-02 species of Amphibia**: Rana tigrina (Indian frog) and Euphlyctis cyanophlyctis (Skittering frog).

**(C)- 04 species of Reptilia** (Lizards): Lygosoma punctatus (Snake Skink), Hemidactylus brookii (Brook's Gecko), Hemidactylus flaviviridis (House Gecko) and Eutropis carinata (Common Brahminy).

**(D)- 06 species of Birds**: Passer domesticus (House sparrow), Acridotheres tritis (Common myna),Columba livia (Rock Pigeon),Corvus splendes (House crow), Pavo cristatus (Indian peafowl) and Milvus migrans (Black kite).

**(E)-03 species of Mammals**: Funambulus palmarum (Stripped Squirrel), Mus musculus (Common small house rat) and Boselaphus tragocamelus(Nilgai).

# Table-1: The different Species of Vertebrates at Village Kapaua Sherpur of district Balrampur, Uttar Pradesh

S.No.	Class	Common name	Scientific Name
	Osteichthyes		
1		Tengra	Mystus seenghala
2		Mangur	Clarias batrachus
3		Chital/Moya	Notopterus chitala
4		Saur	Channa marulius
5		Singhi	Heteropneustes fossilis
6		Black Rohu	Labeo calbasu
7		Rohu	Labeo rohita
	Amphibia		
8		Indian Frog	Rana tigrina
9		Skittering frog	Euphlyctis cyanophlyctis
	Reptilia(Lizard)		
10		Snake Skink	Lygosoma punctatus
11		Brook's Gecko	Hemidactylus brookii
12		House Gecko	Hemidactylus flaviviridis
13		Common Brahminy	Eutropis carinata
	Aves		
14		House sparrow	Passer domesticus
15		Common Myna	Acridotheres tritis
16		Rock Pigeon	Columba livia
17		House Crow	Corvus splendes
18		Indian Peafowl	Pavo cristatus
19		Black Kite	Milvus migrans
	Mammalia (Pests)		
20		Stripped Squirrel	Funambulus palmarum
21		Common small house rat	Mus musculus
22		Nilgai	Boselaphus tragocamelus

### (Data March 2024 to February 2025)

Photoplates: Some Vertebrates Reported at Kapaua Sherpur Village of district Balrampur, Uttar Pradesh



Image-1: Mystus seenghala



**Image-2: Clarias batrachus** 



Image-3:Notopterus chitala



**Image-5: Heteropneustes fossilis** 



Image-4: Channa marulius



Image-6: Labeo calbasu



Image-7: Labeo rohita



Image-9: Euphlyctis cyanophlyctis



Image-11: Hemidactylus brookii



Image-8: Rana tigrina or Hoplobatrachus tigerinus



Image-10: Lygosoma punctatus



Image-12: Hemidactylus flaviviridis



Image-13: Eutropis carinata



**Image-15:Acridotheres tritis** 



**Image-17:Corvus splendes** 



**Image-14: Passer domesticus** 



Image-16:Columba livia



Image-18: Pavo cristatus



**Image-19:Milvus migrans** 



Image-21:Mus musculus

## Discussion

Total 22 Vertebrates are found during the study period from 05 Classes which were listed in (Table-01 and Image -01 to 22). Including

07 species of fishes, 02 species of Amphibia, 04 species of reptilian (Lizards), 06 species of birds and 03 species of Mammalia(Pests).

**Fish fauna:** Several workers have works in various lentic and lotic water bodies regarding the distribution and abundance of fish diversity Shukla and Singh (2013), Tripathi (2020) and Shukla and Tripathi (2021).



Image-20:Funambulus palmarum



**Image-22: Boselaphus tragocamelus** 

Herpetofauna (Amphibia and Reptilia): many habitat types may occur within an area, amphibians may utilizeonly a few of these. The number of Individuals that represents each species in community may vary from place to place depending on the amount of rainfall, available habitat and human interference as the structure and diversity of an amphibian community is determined by the availability of food, macro and micro habitat (Chanda, 2002, Dinesh et.al. 2011). Workers have work similar previous survey of Herpetofaunal (Amphibia and Reptilia) diversity of Northeast India and Wildlife sanctuary Uttar Pradesh (Ahmed et.al., 2009, Daset.al.2012). **Avian fauna:** Workers have works similar previous survey of Avian biodiversity in Uttar Pradesh (Kumar et.al.,2015, Carpenter, 2019)

**Mammalian fauna:** Workers have work similar previous survey of mammalian diversity in Uttar Pradesh (Nasim Ahmad Ansari 2017).

## Conclusion

To conclude the study of Vertebrates diversity at Kapaua Sherpur Village of district Balrampur, Uttar Pradesh shows that many animals which were found in these Village area many years back have now vanished or reduced to a very few due to human interference. These Village ponds, gardens and shrubs also need to be protect and improve management for Vertebrate diversity.

The survey of the study area showed different habitat having rich avian diversity this is due to availability of varieties of food resources. The finding illustrated six species of birds, specially house crow, common myna and rock pigeon are very common birds in this villages.

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