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Animal Expedition at Saidpur Cantonment Public School and College, Bangladesh: A Journey of Discovery and Learning

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ABSTRACT

Saidpur Cantonment Public School and College is remarkable for watching many animals, especially birds. This protected educational institution could play a significant role in keeping animals of wild or domestic/farm critters. Three related research works (breeding birds of Saidpur Cantonment, birds of its teachers' quarters-2, and birds of Bangalipur Nijpara) helped to write this composition. Out of 80 species of total animals—wild, street/feral, domestic, pet, ornamental, and farm animals were 63 (78.75%), 2, 1, 3, 6, and 5 (Table 1; Figure 1). Based on the classes of animals, 05 classes, 24 orders, 50 families, 70 genera, 80 species, and 44 subspecies were seen (Table 1; Figure 2). In addition, based on the classes of the animals, individuals were in Osteichthyes (11), Amphibia (3), Reptilia (2), Aves (59, 73.75%), and Mammalia (5) (Table 1; Figure 3). Remarkable trees (flowering, medium-sized, fruits, and long trees) (Plate 1) supported to live birds, especially herons (Plate 2).

Keywords: Birds, Animals, CPSCS, Saidpur, Bangalipur Nijpara, Teachers' Quarters-2, Bangladesh.

INTRODUCTION

Saidpur Cantonment Public School and College of Bangladesh established on 04 April 1979. It has 1296.19 decimal of land with a more significant culture-pond (200 decimal) (Plate 1). This pond showed surrounding flowering plants and four aviaries (domestic geese (*Anser anser domesticus*), barbary doves (*Streptopelia risoria*), domestic pigeons (*Columba livia domestica*), and budgerigars (*Melopsittacus undulatus*). The bank of this pond, medium-sized trees and banyan tree (*Ficus benghalensis*) and rubber fig (*Ficus elastica*) are playing a good role for sheltering many birds especially egrets and herons [1] (Plate 2). Scattered grains around the aviaries allow many birds, especially Burmese spotted doves (*Spilopelia chinensis tigrina*). In winter season (February—March), large deciduous plants, remarkably American mahogany trees (*Swietenia mahagoni*) shred their leaves in summer season (after April), house-crows (*Corvus splendens splendens*) and Indian pied myna (*Sturnus contra contra*) build their nest and complete successful breeding activities. Recently, after cutting some trees, a school building has been established. Urbanization is a problem for destroying trees is the main shelter for birds [2]. Since, Saidpur is under Rangpur

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Division, so all plants are evergreen here [1]. Botanical gardens and residential backyards sometimes provide a significant reservoir for many bird species [3]. Amphibians are adapted to live in many climate and ecological zones [4]. Frog metabolic wastes are more soluble than invertebrate waste [5,6]. The objective of this study is understanding the present status of the animals in Saidpur Cantonment Public School and College for their conservation.

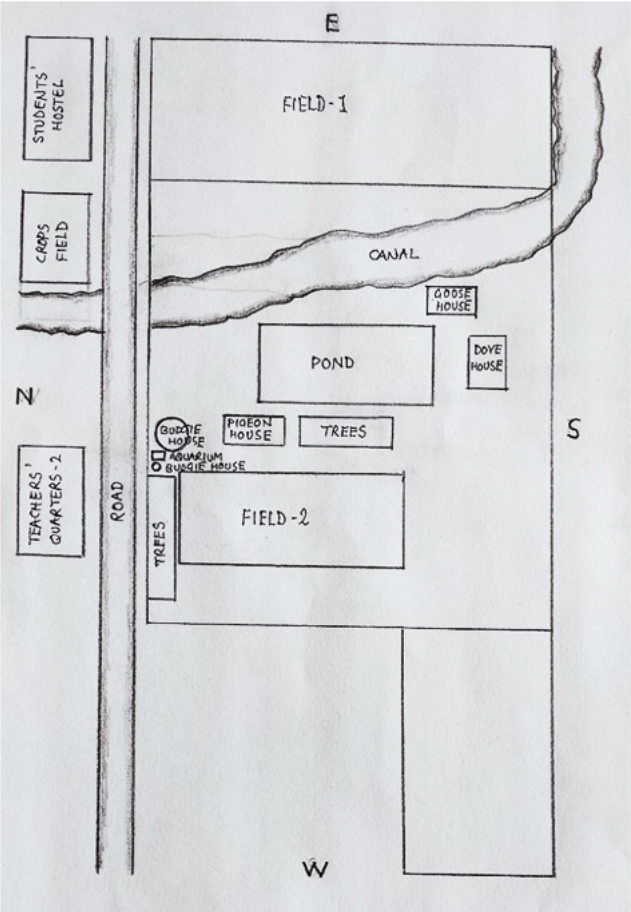

Plate 1. Map of Saidpur Cantonment Public School and College.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Animals of Public School and College observed directly at the time of regular service from 8:00 A. M. to 3:00 P. M. and at the time of jogging from 5:00 to 6:00 P. M. (total 8 hours daily). An android mobile phone (oppo) was perfect for taking occasional photographs and voice recordings of birds. A pair of binoculars (vixen, joyful H6×18 mm, palm-sized compact binoculars) used to observe these species. A DSLR camera (Canon, EOS Rebel T3i) helped for necessary snaps of the animals. This observation centre was 25°46'21.1"N and 88°54'52.1"E longitude and latitude. This study was conducted from 2003 to 2023.

Plate 2. Important trees are representing for sheltering many birds especially herons.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Keeping ornamental fishes in aquariums is increasing in all areas of Bangladesh, especially in Saidpur [8]. Within the animal kingdom, the amphibia class plays a significant role in detecting climate and ecological zones [4]. Three amphibians are commonly found all year round except winter season (December—February) in this institution of Bangladesh [8]. Less human disturbance is a great criterion for the conservation of breeding birds [1]. Urbanization and industrialization are a problem for destroying trees [2]. Long trees have been cut for establishing an academic building, so some birds have escaped from this place. High nesting densities allowed by habitat structure may be beneficial for reduced predation [9]. The author agrees with this quote because after cutting those trees, some birds lost their proper breeding habitat. Murton and Clarke [10] found the pattern in England with the spring and summer periods accounting for 60% of the total annual breeding, whereas Kabir [1] found 34% of breeding birds in this cantonment area as well. Evergreen forests are available in the Rangpur division, so for huge insects and larvae, the birds of this area are remarkable [1]. Till now, passerine birds are available here, and this type of study was conducted by Kabir in the year 2012. Like Kabir [1], at present, a big banyan and rubber tree are important feed sources and breeding of such birds [1]. In teachers' quarters 2 of this school and college, there were a total of 35 animals (3 reptiles, 30 birds, and 2 mammals [11]. In the present context, for cleaning bushes, animals have been decreased from this quarters. In this cantonment area, breeding animals were 11 of 15 and the highest number of birds were found in the Sturnidae family. Kitchen-thrown materials were their remarkable source of feed-stuff. Blackberry and Indian dates are still playing a good fruit source for bulbul and greater coucal. Crows play predatory behaviour toward other birds always [11], and in school and college too. Botanical gardens and residential backyards sometimes provide a significant reservoir for many bird species [3]. Flowering plants are available in this institution at the time of winter, so many sunbirds, flowerpeckers, and tailorbirds came here for sucking honey from the nectar glands of flowers. Nine birds in quarters made nest while the golden monitor-lizard (*Varanus flavescens*) and Indian gray mongoose (*Urva edwardsii*) were found with their young [11], but now this scenario is rare.

Names	Order	Family	National status	Global status
Rohu, *Labeo rohita,* Hamilton 1822	Cypriniformes	Cyprinidae	Farm-fish	LC
Catla, *Labeo catla* (Hamilton 1822)	Cypriniformes	Cyprinidae	Farm-fish	LC
Olive barb, *Systomus sarana* (Hamilton 1822)	Cypriniformes	Cyprinidae	Farm-fish	LC
Black moor, *Carassius auratus* (Linnaeus 1758)	Cypriniformes	Cyprinidae	Ornamental fish	LC
Goldfish, *Carassius auratus* (Linnaeus 1758)	Cypriniformes	Cyprinidae	Ornamental fish	LC
Koi fish, *Cyprinus carpio* var. koi, Linnaeus 1758	Cypriniformes	Cyprinidae	Ornamental fish	Ornamental fish
Red wag platyfish, *Xiphophorus maculatus* (Gunther 1866)	Cyprinodontiformes	Poeciliidae	Ornamental fish	DD
Freshwater angelfish, *Pterophyllum scalare* (Schultze 1823)	Cichliformes	Cichlidae	Ornamental fish	LC
Glowlight tetra, *Hemigrammus erythrozonus* (green, blue, pink, purple) (Durbin 1909)	Characiformes	Characidae	Ornamental fish	LC
Butter catfish, *Ompok bimaculatus* (Bloch 1797)	Siluriformes	Siluridae	Farm-fish	NT
Gangetic mystus, *Mystus cavasius* (Hamilton 1822)	Siluriformes	Bagridae	Farm-fish	LC
Asian common toad, *Duttaphrynus melanostictus* (Schneider 1799)	Anura	Bufonidae	LC	LC
Indian bull-frog, *Hoplobatrachus tigerina* (Daudin 1803)	Anura	Dicroglossidae	LC	LC
Indian skipper frog, *Euphlyctis cyanophlyctis* (Schneider 1799)	Anura	Dicroglossidae	LC	LC
Checkered keelback, *Xenochropis piscator* (Schneider 1799)	Squamata	Colubridae	LC	LC
Golden monitor-lizard, *Varanus flavescens* (Hardwicke & Gray 1827)	Squamata	Varanidae	EN	NT
Domestic goose, *Anser anser domesticus,* Linnaeus 1758	Anseriformes	Anatidae	Domestic bird	Farm-bird
Wild rock-pigeon, *Columba livia intermedia,* Strickland 1844	Columbiformes	Columbidae	LC	LC
Burmese spotted dove, *Spilopelia chinensis tigrina* (Temminck 1809)	Columbiformes	Columbidae	LC	LC
Indian ring-dove, *Streptopelia decaocto decaocto* (Frivaldszky 1838)	Columbiformes	Columbidae	LC	LC
Domesticated pigeons (ferals, tumblers, crossbreds), *Columba livia domestica,* Gmelin 1789	Columbiformes	Columbidae	Pet bird	Domestic/Pet/ Farm
Barbary dove, *Streptopelia risoria* (Linnaeus 1758)	Columbiformes	Columbidae	Pet bird	Domestic/Pet/ Farm
Boreal rose-ringed parakeet, *Psittacula krameri borealis* (Neumann 1915)	Psittaciformes	Psittacidae	LC	LC
Budgerigar, *Melopsittacus undulatus* (Shaw 1805)	Psittaciformes	Psittacidae	Pet bird	LC
Fulvous-breasted woodpecker, *Dendrocopos macei macei* (Vieillot 1818)	Piciformes	Picidae	LC	LC
Black-rumped flameback woodpecker, *Dinopium benghalense benghalense* (Linnaeus 1758)	Piciformes	Picidae	LC	LC
Black-naped green woodpecker, *Picus guerini,* Gyldenstolpe 1916	Piciformes	Picidae	LC	LC
Blue-throated barbet, *Megalaima asiatica* (Latham 1790)	Piciformes	Megalaimidae	LC	LC
Coppersmith barbet, *Psilopogon haemacephalus indicus,* Latham 1790	Piciformes	Megalaimidae	LC	LC

Eurasian hoopoe, *Upupa epops longirostris,* Jerdon 1862	Bucerotiformes	Upupidae	LC	LC
Common kingfisher, *Alcedo atthis bengalensis,* Gmelin 1788	Coraciiformes	Alcedinidae	LC	LC
Stork-billed kingfisher, *Pelargopsis capensis capensis* (Linnaeus 1766)	Coraciiformes	Alcedinidae	LC	LC
White-throated kingfisher, *Halcyon smyrnensis fusca* (Boddaert 1783)	Coraciiformes	Alcedinidae	LC	LC
Pied kingfisher, *Ceryle rudis leucomelanura,* Reichenbach 1851	Coraciiformes	Alcedinidae	LC	LC
Green bee-eater, *Merops orientalis orientalis,* Latham 1801	Coraciiformes	Meropidae	LC	LC
Asian koel, *Eudynamys scolopaceus scolopaceus* (Linnaeus 1758)	Cuculiformes	Cuculidae	LC	LC
Spotted owlet, *Athene brama indica* (Franklin 1831)	Strigiformes	Strigidae	LC	LC
Indian white-breasted waterhen, *Amaurornis phoenicurus phoenicurus* (Pennant 1769)	Gruiformes	Rallidae	LC	LC
Common sandpiper, *Actitis hypoleucos* (Linnaeus 1758)	Charadriiformes	Scolopacidae	LC	LC
Small Indian kite, *Milvus migrans govinda,* Sykes 1832	Accipitriformes	Accipitridae	LC	LC
Little cormorant, *Microcarbo niger* (Vieillot 1817)	Suliformes	Phalacrocoracidae	LC	LC
Little egret, *Egretta garzetta garzetta* (Linnaeus 1766)	Pelecaniformes	Ardeidae	LC	LC
Indian pond-heron, *Ardeola grayii* (Sykes 1832)	Pelecaniformes	Ardeidae	LC	LC
Black-crowned night heron, *Nycticorax nycticorax nycticorax* (Linnaeus 1758)	Pelecaniformes	Ardeidae	LC	LC
Chestnut bittern/Common bittern, *Ixobrychus cinnamomeus* (Gmelin 1789)	Pelecaniformes	Ardeidae	LC	LC
Asian openbill stork, *Anastomus oscitans* (Boddaert 1783)	Ciconiiformes	Ciconiidae	LC	LC
Brown shrike, *Lanius cristatus cristatus,* Linnaeus 1758	Passeriformes	Laniidae	LC	LC
Rufous treepie, *Dendrocitta vagabunda vagabunda* (Latham 1790)	Passeriformes	Corvidae	LC	LC
Eastern jungle-crow, *Corvus macrorhynchos levaillantii,* Lesson 1831	Passeriformes	Corvidae	LC	LC
House-crow, *Corvus splendens splendens,* Vieillot 1817	Passeriformes	Corvidae	LC	LC
Ashy woodswallow, *Artamus fuscus,* Vieillot 1817	Passeriformes	Artamidae	LC	LC
Black-hooded oriole, *Oriolus xanthornus xanthornus* (Linnaeus 1758)	Passeriformes	Oriolidae	LC	LC
Large cuckoo-shrike, *Coracina macei nipalensis* (Hodgson 1836)	Passeriformes	Campephagidae	LC	LC
Ashy minivet, *Pericrocotus divaricatus* (Raffles 1822)	Passeriformes	Campephagidae	LC	LC
White-throated fantail flycatcher, *Rhipidura albicollis stanleyi,* Baker 1916	Passeriformes	Rhipiduridae	LC	LC
Black drongo, *Dicrurus macrocercus albirictus* (Hodgson 1836)	Passeriformes	Dicruridae	LC	LC
Indian paradise-flycatcher, *Terpsiphone paradisi paradisi* (Linnaeus 1758)	Passeriformes	Monarchidae	LC	LC
Common iora, *Aegithinia tiphia tiphia* (Linnaeus 1758)	Passeriformes	Aegithinidae	LC	LC

Taiga flycatcher, *Ficedula albicilla* (Pallas 1811)	Passeriformes	Muscicapidae	LC	LC
Oriental magpie robin, *Copsychus saularis saularis* (Linnaeus 1758)	Passeriformes	Muscicapidae	LC	LC
Indian Pied myna, *Sturnus contra contra* (Linnaeus 1758)	Passeriformes	Sturnidae	LC	LC
Chestnut-tailed starling, *Sturnus malabaricus* (Gmelin 1789)	Passeriformes	Sturnidae	LC	LC
Jungle myna, *Acridotherus fuscus fuscus* (Wagler 1827)	Passeriformes	Sturnidae	LC	LC
Indian myna, *Acridotherus tristis tristis* (Linnaeus, 1766)	Passeriformes	Sturnidae	LC	LC
Great tit, *Parus major stupae,* Koelz 1939	Passeriformes	Paridae	LC	LC
Red-vented bulbul, *Pycnonotus cafer bengaensis,* Blyth 1845	Passeriformes	Pycnonotidae	LC	LC
Common tailorbird, *Orthotomus sutorius patia,* Hodgson 1845	Passeriformes	Cisticolidae	LC	LC
Jungle babbler, *Turdoides striata striata* (Dumont de Sainte Croix 1823)	Passeriformes	Leiothrichidae	LC	LC
Pale-billed flowerpecker, *Dicaeum erythrorhynchos erythrorhynchos* (Latham 1790)	Passeriformes	Dicaeidae	LC	LC
Purple sunbird, *Nectarinia asiaticus intermedius* (Hume 1870)	Passeriformes	Nectariniidae	LC	LC
House sparrow, *Passer domesticus indicus,* Jardine and Selby 1831	Passeriformes	Passeridae	LC	LC
Eurasian tree-sparrow, *Passer montanus malaccensis,* Dubois 1887	Passeriformes	Passeridae	LC	LC
White-browed wagtail, *Motacilla maderaspatensis,* Gmelin 1789	Passeriformes	Motacillidae	LC	LC
Indian silverbill, *Lonchura malabarica* (Linnaeus 1758)	Passeriformes	Estrildidae	LC	LC
Scaly-breasted munia, *Lonchura punctulata punctulata* (Linnaeus 1758)	Passeriformes	Estrildidae	LC	LC
Asian house-shrew, *Suncus murinus* (Linnaeus 1766)	Eulipotyphla	Soricidae	LC	LC
Indian grey mongoose, *Urva edwardsii* (Geoffroy Saint-Hilaire 1818)	Carnivora	Herpestidae	LC	LC
Golden jackal, *Canis aureus,* Linnaeus 1758	Carnivora	Canidae	LC	LC
Dog, *Canis familiaris,* Linnaeus 1758	Carnivora	Canidae	Street animal	Pet animal
Cat, *Felis catus,* Linnaeus 1758	Carnivora	Felidae	Street animal	Pet animal

LC=least concern; DD=data deficit; NT=near threatened; EN=endangered

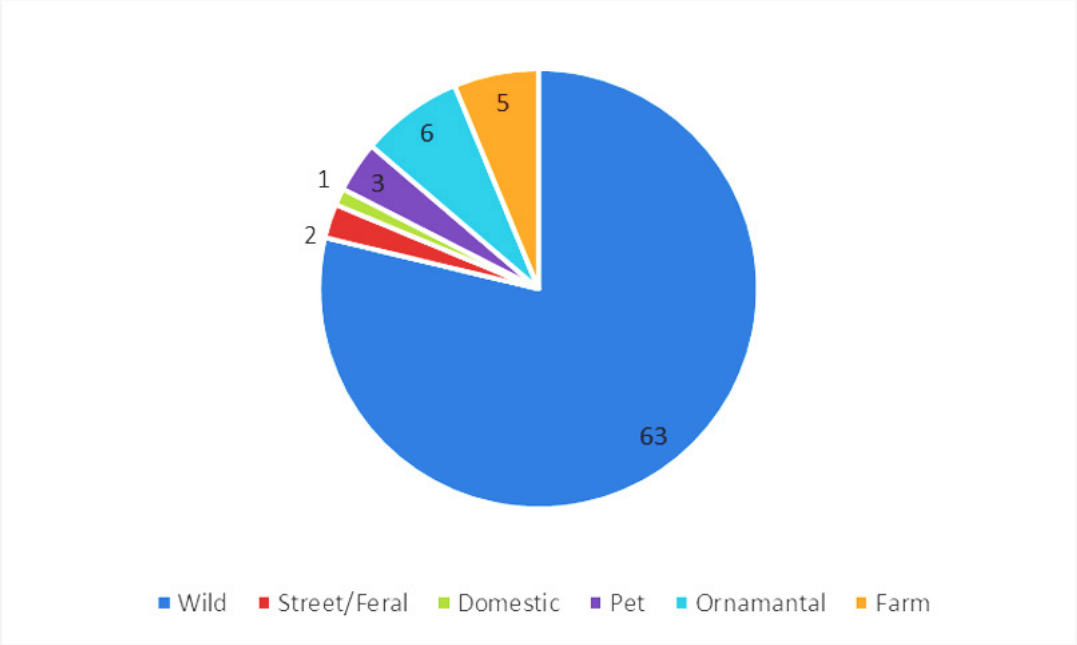

Figure 1. Total number of animals on the basis of their category.

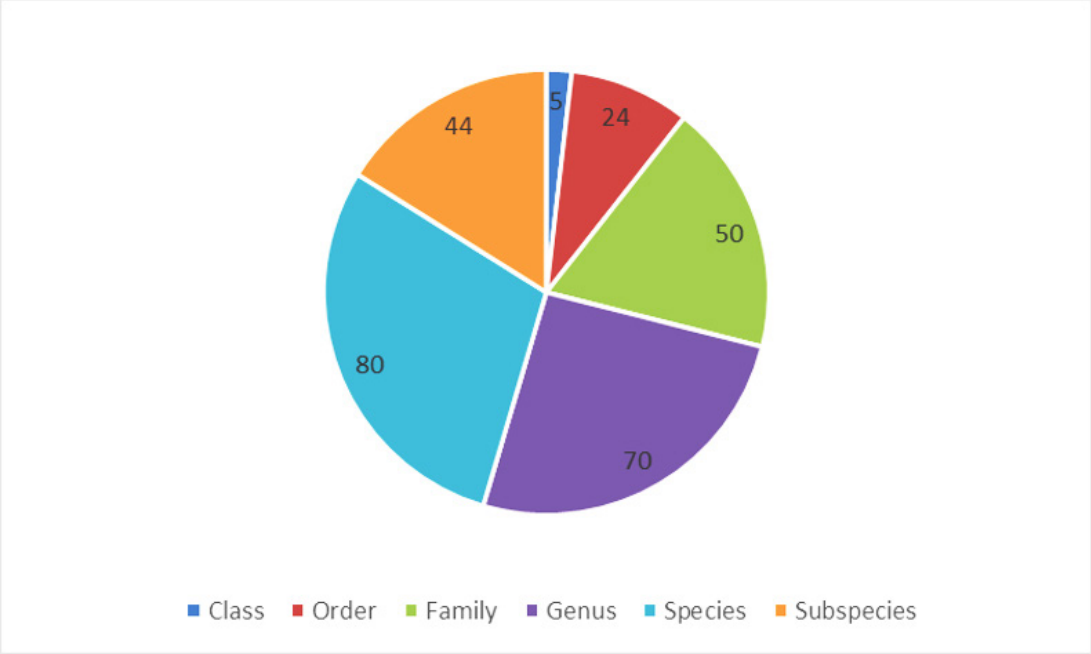

Figure 2. Number of animals on the steps of classification.

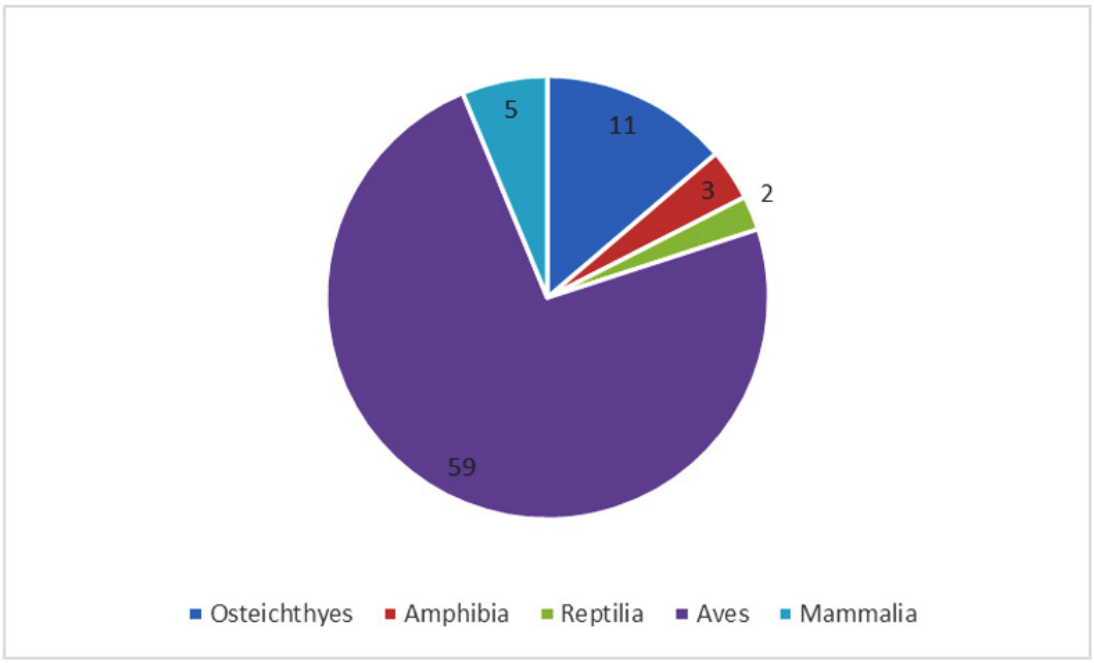

Figure 3. Classes and their corresponding animals.

Plate 3. Aquarium inside the canteen.

Plate 4. House-crow.

CONCLUSIONS

Bushes of the south portion of field-1, kitchen waste from the students' hostel and teachers' quarters-2, canal, culture-pond, five aviaries and one aquarium, and a canal (North—South) were the source of feed and shelter of these animals of the campus (Plate 1). In fact, house-crows (Plate 4) were the most dominant and predator bird all the year round of this school and college. Within the canteen, aquarium with some ornamental fishes increase the beauty of this place (Plate 3). Students', guardians, and all employees get enjoy at the time of taking snacks. When rainy season (April—May) comes, many Indian bull-frogs and golden monitor-lizards share the pond of this institution (Plate 2). This type of school and college could play a role to watching and preserving animals especially birds. Biology Department of this college is playing a positive attitude to conserve all animals. In future, if it is possible to provide a research fund on this issue, new teachers could get a chance to continue research on the animals of cantonment area.

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CONFLICT OF INTEREST

The authors declare that they have no financial interests or personal relationships that could have influenced this work.

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