

Response of Avian species to Environmental changes in a Derived Savanna in Abeokuta, Nigeria.

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Abstract

Response of avians to environmental changes was studied in the derived savanna vegetation at the University of Agriculture at Alabata, Abeokuta. Three habitat types: Cultivated Farmlands, Shrub lands, and the Aquatic lands of the Aparian valleys, were selected for data collection. Species diversity and abundance of birds were recorded both in the morning and in the evening in each of the habitat types. Environmental variables including temperature relative humidity and rainfall were collected sightings of different species were significantly higher ($P < 0.01$) in the morning (44.052) than in the evening (37.327). In terms of species frequency. Bronze manikin (*Lonchura cucullata*) was the most abundant species observed (4.248) followed by the village weaver (*Ploceus cucullatus*) (4,064) and Francolin (*Francolinus bicolcaratus*) 3.239. Guinea fowl (*Numela melagus*) (63) was the least abundant species. Cultivated land habitat had the highest population of bird species for both morning and evening observations. Biplots ordination of the distribution of the bird species and weekly abundance in relation to the selected environmental variables, demonstrated a weak to strong individual or combined influence of the environmental variable.