

INTERDEPENDENCY OF MACROPHYTES AND AVIAN DIVERSITY IN THE WETLANDS OF BALLAVPUR WILDLIFE SANCTUARY, SANTINIKETAN

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ABSTRACT : This is the first ever attempt to establish interdependence of aquatic plant and bird diversity in three wetlands of Santiniketan, West Bengal. 40 species of macrophytes, putative food plants, and 41 avian species have been recorded. Certain water-lily leaves and mats of Salvinia provide good running space for jacana and purple moorhen. Pochard species show a preference for one of the three jheels but this cannot be correlated with the presence of their putative food plants. The importance of invertebrates as bird food has been discussed in this context.

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