

Flagship Birds Species as Tourism Potentials: A Case Study of the Federal Polytechnic Ilaro Southwestern Nigeria

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ABSTRACT

Flagship bird species as tourism potentials was studied at The Federal Polytechnic Ilaro south Western Nigeria. Point count method was used to collect Data on bird species diversity in the study area. Data was collected for six months with three months in the dry season (November, February and March) and three months in the wet season (June, August, and September) in 2018. Birds were surveyed at dawn – the early hours of the mornings (6:30 – 9:30 hours) and at dusk - the early hours of the evenings (15:30 – 18:30 hours). Bird calls were also recorded with a voice recorder and played back later for confirmation. Physical features of birds sighted but could not be identified immediately were taken and field guide book of West African birds was used to identify the bird species and bird calls was used to confirmed the presence of nocturnal bird species within the study area. Flagship bird species in the study area were selected. In all a total of 140 bird species belonging to 36 families and 11 orders were identified and recorded in the study area. The flagship bird species in the study area includes, *Milvus aegyptius*, *Gypohierax angolensis*, *Corvus albus*, *Ceratogymna fistulator*, *Motacilla flava*, *Motacilla alba* and *Jacobin Cuckoo*, other bird species are *Polyboroidestypus*, *Spizaetus africanus*, *Apus affinis*, *Aquila chrysaetos*, *Cercococcyx mechowi*, *Amblyopia albifrons* and *Megaceryle maxima*.

Key words: Diversity, flagship species; birds species and tourism; conservation

INTRODUCTION

Nature tourism is currently a hot cake in the world over and in Costa Rica, for instance, (Aylward, et al, 2006) estimated that, this form of tourism generated over \$600 million in foreign exchange in 1994. In attempting to provide answers regarding the major factors contributing to the boom in this nature tourism/ecotourism ‘drive’, some authors have offered reasons such as an increased international awareness of global ecological realities, the desire among a rapidly growing and relatively affluent segment of the industrialized world’s tourists to have nature-based experiences and the developing worlds’ conviction that natural resources are finite and must be conserved for future generations (Booth, et al, 2011). In Africa (Chase, 1998) in his analysis of nature-based tourism in Kenya, has indicated that approximately 10% of the country’s natural area has been set aside for nature-based tourism, which accounts for 12% of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and serves as a leading source of foreign exchange earnings.

The importance of wildlife to the people of Nigeria is unquestionable. The country has 18 protected areas, 8 national parks, several resource reserves, 4 wildlife sanctuaries and one strict reserve all together occupying 36,028 km² of the country’s land size. There are about 260 known species of mammals of which ten are threatened and 933 bird species five are endemic and several are threatened (Ogunjemite, 2005). Unlike the popularity that most national parks enjoy, bird sanctuaries or areas with avitourism related potentials tend to be least patronized by tourists for recreation purposes though they offer great forms of amusement. Prevailing wisdom among conservation practitioners dictates that in order for development activities in postconflict regions to be sustainable, they must provide benefits for both rural communities and biodiversity (Baptiste, 2017).

Flagship species are those species that have effects in the human cultural realm. These effects arise by virtue of their connections with other entities institutions, publics, states or ideas, myths, values, etc. that interact to bring benefits to the wider ecological systems in which they are implicated (Bandara, and Tisdell, 2005). As organisms, species comprise a suite of affordances. These parallel what conservationists might term ‘characteristics’ and include material composition and phenotype how it looks, behavior (what it does), and distribution (where and when it occurs). Such affordances, or characteristics, align to varying degrees and in different ways with existing human frames (Metrick, and Weitzman, 1996). The arrival and departure of conspicuous migratory species such as cranes, storks, cuckoos, and swallows amplify frames relating to spring and renewal such that they become harbingers. In

short, we posit that species with material attributes that readily ‘bridge’ with, or extend and amplify cultural frames, assume cultural profile and familiarity (Bowen-Jones, and Entwistle, 2002).

Conservationists often choose ‘flagship’ species strategically from among the largest and most charismatic threatened mammals in order to raise public support for conservation. It is often argued that these flagships might also act as ‘umbrellas’ for conserving many other species, if the flagships have particularly broad ecological requirements. More recently, the effectiveness of this approach for conserving biodiversity has been called (Leader-Williams, and Dublin, 2000). into question, although suitable data were unavailable for tests (Simberloff, 1998). This might not be a problem if it were not apparent that even the smaller and less charismatic species are becoming increasingly threatened (Fredman, 2005). We investigated the consequences of selecting areas for flagships using new data for the highly valued fauna of sub-Saharan Africa.).

Ecotourism is a popularly proposed economic alternative to more. In Nigeria research interest in avitourism is still relatively embryonic compared with higher order markets such as nature-based or wildlife tourism. In Nigeria birdwatching is carried by few individuals who are researchers or others who pick interest in bird watching. Most Nigerians are not aware that many of our birds and other life forms are threatened by intense pressures from various human related activities such as farming, logging and wild fires. For example, the Bannerman’s weaver (*Ploceusbannermani*) and the White-throated Mountain Babbler (*Kupeoruisgilberti*) are threatened by the loss of important forest patches in their highland forest habitat on the Obudu Plateau (Ezealor, 2002)

The study is seeking to understand the diversity of bird species at the Federal polytechnic Ilaro, select the flagship bird species and look at the potentials of these bird species.

MATERIALS AND METHOD

Study Area

Data Collection

The Federal Polytechnic was established by law on July 25, 1979 and opened her gates to the public on November 15, 1979. The Polytechnic has since then acquired the reputation of a quintessential institution educating and training students in five schools or faculties. The Polytechnic was on this temporary site till 1983 when it moved to its permanent site along Ilaro/Oja-Odan Road, about three kilometers from Ilaro Township. It is also about 60 kilometers from Idiroko, a Nigerian Boarder town with Benin Republic. Ilaro town itself is an ancient town, land locked between Lagos and Abeokuta, the capital of Ogun State. The Polytechnic occupies a total of 898.116 hectares land area on its permanent site. Access to Ilaro and indeed the Polytechnic can be gained from Abeokuta through Abeokuta-Lagos Road via Papalanto [22 km] or through Abeokuta-Owode road via Ibese [10km], from Lagos through Sango-Ota-Idiroko Road via Owode [15km] and from Sagamu through Sagamu-Obele Road via Papalanto. The location of the Federal Polytechnic, Ilaro makes for easy access of road traffic. Latitudes 06° 52’ 35” N and 06° 52’ 53”N and Longitudes 02° 59’ 55” E and 03° 00’ 00” E.(Isichei, 1995).The rainy season in the area occurs from March till November while the dry season is from December until February. Annual rainfall ranges from 1700 to 2000 mm. The annual mean temperature in the area is 26°C. Soils are predominantly ferruginous tropical, typical of the variety found in intensively weathered areas of basement complex formations in the rainforest zone of Southwestern Nigeria (Mengistu, Salami, 2007) The soils are well-drained, mature, red, stony, and gravelly in upper parts of the sequence. The texture of topsoil in the area is mainly sandy loam the natural The school is eco-friendly. Some of the most commonly found trees in the area include *Milicia excelsa*, *Azeliabipindensis*, *Lovoatrichioides*, *Terminalia ivorensis*, , and *Triplochitonscleroxylon*. However, the natural vegetation of the area except developed has now been reduced to secondary regrowth forest thickets and grassland (NEA, 2002)

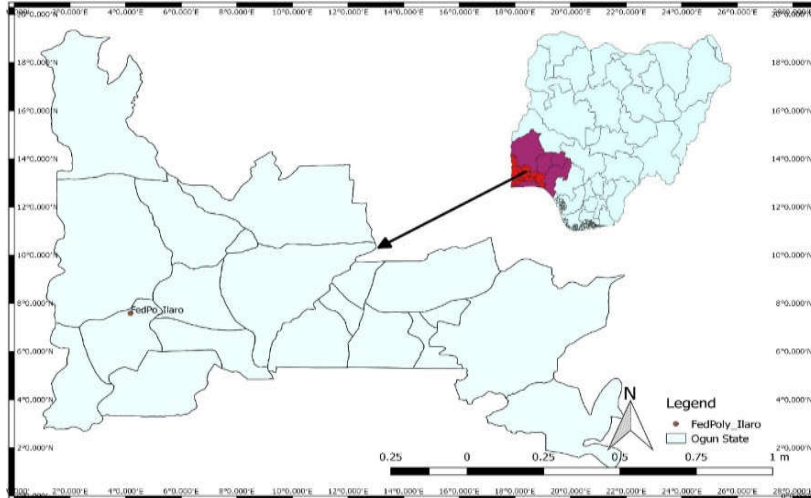


Figure 1 Map of the Study Area

Source: Field Survey

Bird Survey

Point count method (Sutherland, 2009) was used to collect data on bird species diversity and abundance in the two blocks. Counting bands of the 50m radius were used for all the stations. The minimum distance between two counting stations was 200 m. In all 30 counting station were used, 10 stations per a study block were used. On arrival at the sites, birds were allowed time to settle before recording all the birds seen or heard for a predetermined time, (usually, 20 minutes).

Birds were surveyed at dawn – the early hours of the mornings (6:30 – 9:30 hours) and at dusk - the early hours of the evenings (15:30 – 18:30 hours). Bird calls were also recorded with a voice recorder and played back later for confirmation. Physical features of birds sighted but could not be identified immediately were taken and field guide book of West African birds Borrow, and Demey, (20012). was used to identify the bird species and bird calls was used to confirmed the presence of nocturnal bird species within the study sites.

Data was collected for six months with three months in the dry season (November, February and March) and three months in the wet season (June, August, and September) in 2018. Flagships bird species was selected based on (Eckert and Hemphill, 2005) and (Gunnthorsdottir, 2001)

Data Analysis

Data collected from the observations were explored with descriptive statistics and analyzed with with PAST Model version 3 was used to analyze bird species diversity, and SHE analysis.

RESULTS

A total of 140 bird species belonging to 36 families and 11 orders were identified and recorded in the study area. The common species in the study area includes, *MilusaegyptiusGypohierax*, *angolensisCorvus* *albus*, *Ceratogymnafistulator*. However according to IUCN 2017 status categorization all the bird species recorded were in the Least Concern (LC) category. *Cuculidae* has the highest number of bird species in the study area, *Clamatorjacobinus* is one of the rare species among the species in this family Figure 2 The result of result of the status of the bird species indicates that resident bird species is higher (128) than the rest Palearctic migrant 3 and Intra African Migrant 9 Figure 3. A total of 1047 individual bird species were recorded in the study area and the result of the diversity index indicates that dry season was higher (4.676) than wet season (4.612) Table 1. A total of 24 flagship encountered in the study area. Some of the flagship bird species are Yellow Billed Kite, Pied Crow, Pipping Hornbill, Jacobin Cuckoo, African Thrush and Woodland Kingfisher Table 2. Table 3 reflect the checklist of bird species in the study area.

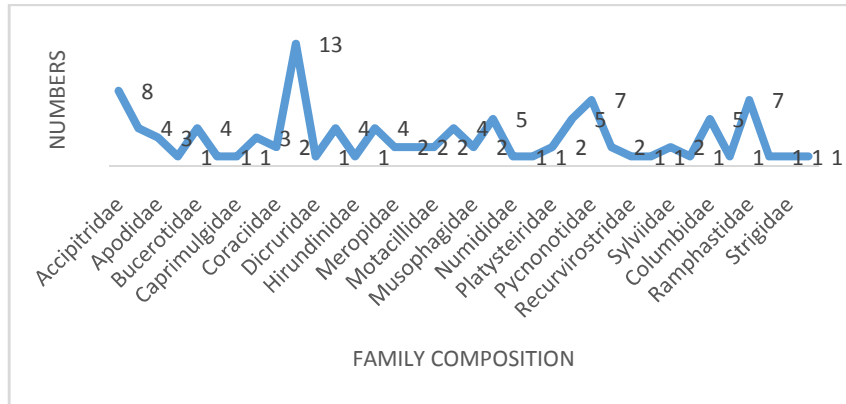


Figure 2, Family of Bird Species composition in the Study Area

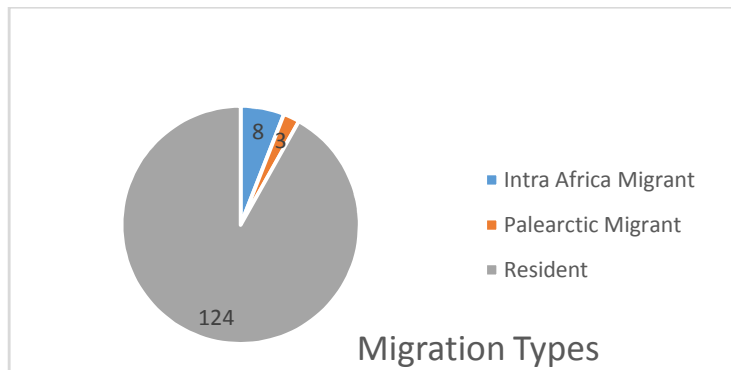


Figure 3 Status of Bird Species community in the Study Area

Table 1 Diversity Index of the Bird Species in the Study Area

Diversity Index	Dry season	Lower	Upper	Wet Season	Lower	Upper
Taxa_S	140	140	140	128	128	128
Individuals	574	574	574	473	473	473
Dominance_D	0.01167	0.01129	0.01357	0.01303	0.01206	0.01492
Shannon_H	4.676	4.591	4.688	4.612	4.541	4.651
Evenness_e ^{H/S}	0.7668	0.7043	0.7759	0.7294	0.6802	0.7587
Brillouin	4.312	4.236	4.323	4.205	4.142	4.24
Menhinick	5.843	5.843	5.843	6.345	6.299	6.345
Margalef	21.88	21.88	21.88	22.24	22.08	22.24
Equitability_J	0.9463	0.9291	0.9487	0.936	0.9218	0.9439

Table 2 Flagship Bird species in the Study Area

Name of Flagship Bird Species	Scientific Name	Family	orders
African Harrier Hawk	Polyboroidestypus	Accipitridae	Accipitriformes
Cassin's Hawk Eagle	Spizaetus africanus	Accipitridae	Accipitriformes
Chestnut Flanked Sparrowhawk	Accipiter castanilius	Accipitridae	Accipitriformes
Palm Nut Vulture	Gypohieraxangolensis	Accipitridae	Accipitriformes
Yellow Billed Kite	Milvus aegyptius	Accipitridae	Accipitriformes
African Golden Eagle	Aquila chrysaetos	Accipitridae	Accipitriformes
Pipping Hornbill	Ceratogymnafistulator	Bucerotidae	Bucerotiformes
Red Billed Dwarf Hornbill	Tockuscamurus	Bucerotidae	Bucerotiformes
Cassin's Spintail	Neafrapuscassini	Apodidae	Caprimulgiformes
Little Swift	Apus affinis	Apodidae	Caprimulgiformes
Black Winged Stilt	Himantopus himantopus	Recurvirostridae	Charadriiformes
African Green Pigeon	Treron calva	columbidae	Columbiformes
Tambourine Dove	TurturTympanistria	Columbidae	Columbiformes
Blue Bellied Roller	Coracias cyanogaster	Coraciidae	Coraciiformes
Woodland Kingfisher	Halyonsenegalnsis	Alcedinidae	Coraciiformes
Broad Billed Roller	Eurystomusglaucurus	Coraciidae	Coraciiformes
Chocolate Backed Kingfisher	Halcyon badia	Alcedinidae	Coraciiformes
Giant Kingfisher	Megaceryle maxima	Alcedinidae	Coraciiformes
African Emerald Cuckoo	Meropspusillus	Meropidae	Coraciiformes
Dusky Long Tailed Cuckoo	Cercococcyxmechowi	Cuculidae	Cuculiformes
Jacobin Cuckoo	Clamatorjacobinus	Cuculidae	Cuculiformes
Pied Crow	Corvus albus	Corvidae	Passeriformes
Grosbeak Weaver	Amblyospiza albifrons	Ploceidae	Passeriformes
African Mask Weaver	Ploceus velatus	Ploceidae	Passeriformes

Table 3 Checklist of Bird Species in the Study Area

Name of Bird Species	Scientific Name	Family	orders	status
African Harrier Hawk	Polyboroidestypus	Accipitridae	Accipitriformes	R
Cassin's Hawk Eagle	Spizaetus africanus	Accipitridae	Accipitriformes	M
Chestnut Flanked Sparrowhawk	Accipiter castanilius	Accipitridae	Accipitriformes	R
Lizard Burzard	Kaupifalcomonogrammicus	Accipitridae	Accipitriformes	R
Palm Nut Vulture	Gypohieraxangolensis	Accipitridae	Accipitriformes	R
Yellow Billed Kite	Molusaegyptius	Accipitridae	Accipitriformes	M
African Golden Eagle	Aquila chrysaetos	Accipitridae	Accipitriformes	P

African Pied Hornbill	<i>Tockusfasciatus</i>	<u>Bucerotidae</u>	Bucerotiformes	R
Pipping Hornbill	<i>Ceratogymnafistulator</i>	Bucerotidae	Bucerotiformes	R
Red Billed Dwarf Hornbill	<i>Tockuscamurus</i>	Bucerotidae	Bucerotiformes	R
African Grey Hornbill	<i>Lophocerosnasutus</i>	Bucerotidae	Bucerotiformes	R
African Palm Swift	<i>Cypsiurusparvus</i>	<u>Apodidae</u>	Caprimulgiformes	R
Cassin's Spintail	<i>Neafrapuscassini</i>	Apodidae	Caprimulgiformes	R
Little Swift	<i>Apus affnis</i>	Apodidae	Caprimulgiformes	R
Standard Nightjar	<i>Macrodipteryxlongipennis</i>	<u>Caprimulgidae</u>	Caprimulgiformes	R
Black Winged Stilt	<i>Himantopus</i>	Recurvirostridae	Charadriiformes	R
African Green Pigeon	<i>Treron calva</i>	columbidae	Columbiformes	R
Blue Headed Wood Dove	Turturbrehmeri	Columbidae	Columbiformes	R
Red Eyed Dove	<i>Streptopeliasemitorquata</i>	Columbidae	Columbiformes	R
Red Eyed Dove	<i>Streptopeliasemitorquata</i>	Columbidae	Columbiformes	R
Tambourine Dove	<i>TurturTympanistria</i>	Columbidae	Columbiformes	R
Black Dwarf Hornbill	<i>Tockushartlaubi</i>	Bucerotidae	Coraciiformes	R
Blue Bellied Roller	<i>Coracias cyanogaster</i>	Coraciidae	Coraciiformes	R
Woodland Kingfisher	<i>Halyonsenegalnsis</i>	Alcedinidae	Coraciiformes	R
Broad Billed Roller	<i>Eurystomusglaucus</i>	Coraciidae	Coraciiformes	M
Chocolate Backed Kingfisher	<i>Halcyon badia</i>	Alcedinidae	Coraciiformes	R
Giant Kingfisher	<i>Megaceryle maxima</i>	Alcedinidae	Coraciiformes	R
Little Bee Eater	<i>Meropspusillus</i>	Meropidae	Coraciiformes	R
Malachite Kingfisher	<i>Alcedocristata</i>	Alcedinidae	Coraciiformes	R
White Throated Bee Eater	<i>Meropsalbicollis</i>	Meropidae	Coraciiformes	R
African Cuckoo	<i>Cuculusgularis</i>	Cuculidae	Cuculiformes	R
African Emerald Cuckoo	<i>Chrysococcyxcupreus</i>	Cuculidae	Cuculiformes	R
Black Coucal	<i>Centropusgrillii</i>	Cuculidae	Cuculiformes	R
Black Cuckoo	<i>Centropusgrillii</i>	Cuculidae	Cuculiformes	R
Dideric Cuckoo	<i>Chrysococcyxcaprius</i>	Cuculidae	Cuculiformes	R
Dusky Long Tailed Cuckoo	<i>Cercococcyxmechowi</i>	Cuculidae	Cuculiformes	R
Klaas Cuckoo	<i>Chrysococcyxklaas</i>	Cuculidae	Cuculiformes	R
Olive- Long Tailed Cuckoo	<i>Cercococcyxolivinus</i>	Cuculidae	Cuculiformes	R
Red Chested Cuckoo	<i>Cuculussolitaius</i>	Cuculidae	Cuculiformes	R
Senegal Coucal	<i>Centropus senegalensis</i>	Cuculidae	Cuculiformes	R
Tick Billed Cuckoo	<i>Pachycoccyxaudeberti</i>	Cuculidae	Cuculiformes	R
Yellowbill	<i>Ceuthmocharesaereus</i>	Cuculidae	Cuculiformes	R

Jacobin Cuckoo	Clamatorjacobinus	Cuculidae	Cuculiformes	M
Long Tailed Hawk	Urotriorchismacrourus	Accipitridae	Falconiformes	R
Crested Guinea Fowl	Gutterapucherani	Numididae	Galliformes	R
Grey Headed Rail	Canirallusoculeus	<u>Rallidae</u>	Gruiformes	R
Nkeulengu Rail	Sarothrura pulchra	Rallidae	Gruiformes	R
Green Turaco	Tauracopersa	Musophagidae	Musophagiformes	R
White Tailed Alethe	Alethediademata	Musophagidae	Musophagiformes	R
African Forest Flycatcher	Fraseriaiocreata	Muscicapidae	Passeriformes	R
African Pied Wagtail	Motacillaaguimp	Motacillidae	Passeriformes	R
African Shrike Flycatcher	Megabyasflammulatus	Platysteiridae	Passeriformes	R
AnssorgesGreenbull	Andropadus ansorgei	Pycnonotidae	Passeriformes	R
Black And White Mannikin	Spermestes bicolor	Estrildidae	Passeriformes	R
Black Shouldered Puffback	Dryoscopus senegalensis	Malaconotidae	Passeriformes	R
Black Throated Apalis	Apalisjacksoni	Cisticolidae	Passeriformes	R
Black Winged Oriole	Oriolusbrachyrhynchus	<u>Oriolidae</u>	Passeriformes	R
Blue Billed Malimbe	Malimbusnitens	Ploceidae	Passeriformes	R
Blue Cuckoo Shrike	Coracinaazurea	Campephagidae	Passeriformes	R
Bronze Mannikin	Spermestescucullatus	Estrildidae	Passeriformes	R
Buff Throated Sunbird	Chalcomitraadelberti	Nectariniidae	Passeriformes	R
Buff Throated Sunbird	Chalcomitraadelberti	Nectariniidae	Passeriformes	R
Chestnut Breasted Negrofinch	Nigrita bicolor	Estrildidae	Passeriformes	R
Chestnut -Capped Flycatcher	Erythrocerusmccallii	<u>Monarchidae</u>	Passeriformes	R
Chestnut Wattle Eye	Platysteiracastanea	Platysteiridae	Passeriformes	R
Collard Sunbird	Hedydipnacollaris	Nectariniidae	Passeriformes	R
Common Bulbul	Pycnonotus barbatus	Pycnonotidae	Passeriformes	R
Common Bulbul	Pycnonotus barbatus	Pycnonotidae	Passeriformes	R
Crested Malimbe	Malimbusmalimbicus	Ploceidae	Passeriformes	R
Dusky Blue Flycatcher	Elminianigromittrata	Monarchidae	Passeriformes	R
Fire Tailed Alethe	Alethecastanea	Turdidae	Passeriformes	R
Forest Robin	Stiphorniserythrothorax	Muscicapidae	Passeriformes	R
Forest Scrub Robin	Cercotrichas leucosticte	Muscicapidae	Passeriformes	R
Fork Tailed Drongo	Dicrurusadsimilis	Dicruridae	Passeriformes	R
Green Combec	Sylviettavirens	Sylviidae	Passeriformes	R
Green Hylia	Hyliaprasina	Sylviidae	Passeriformes	R
Green Sunbird	Anthreptesrectirostris	Nectariniidae	Passeriformes	R

Green Tailed Bristlebill	Bledaeximius	Pycnonotidae	Passeriformes	R
Grey Ground Thrush	Zoothera prince	Turdidae	Passeriformes	R
Grey Backed Camaroptera	Camaroptera brachyuran	Cisticonidae	Passeriformes	R
Grey Headed Bristlebill	Bledacanicapilla	Pycnonotidae	Passeriformes	R
Grey Headed Negrofinch	Nigritacanicapilla	Estrildidae	Passeriformes	R
Grey Longbill	Macrosphenus concolor	Grey Longbill	Passeriformes	R
Icterine Greenbull	Phyllastrephus icterinus	Pycnonotidae	Passeriformes	R
Lagden's Bush Shrike	Malaconotus legdeni	Malaconotidae	Passeriformes	R
Large Billed Puffback	Dryoscopus abini	Malaconotidae	Passeriformes	R
Lesser Striped Swallow	Hirundo abyssinica	Hirundinidae	Passeriformes	M
Lowland Akalat	Sheppardia cyornithopsis	Muscicapidae	Passeriformes	R
Maxwell's Weaver	Ploceus albinucha	Ploceidae	Passeriformes	R
Narrow Tailed Starling	Poeyopteralugubris	Sturnidae	Passeriformes	R
Olive-Green Camaroptera	Camaroptera chloronota	Cisticolidae	Passeriformes	R
Pale Fronted Negrofinch	Nigritaluteifrons	Estrildidae	Passeriformes	R
Plain Backed Pipit	Anthus leucophrys	Motacillidae	Passeriformes	M
Plain Greenbull	Andropadus curvirostris	Pycnonotidae	Passeriformes	R
Purple Headed Starling	Lamprotornis purpureiceps	Sturnidae	Passeriformes	R
Red Billed Firefinch	Lagonostictas senegala	Estrildidae	Passeriformes	R
Red Billed Helmet-Strike	Prionopscanceps	Prionopidae	Passeriformes	R
Red Faced Cisticola	Cisticola erythrops	Cisticolidae	Passeriformes	R
Red Faced Crimsonwing	Cryptospiza reichenovii	Estrildidae	Passeriformes	R
Red Headed Malimbe	Malimbus erythrogaster	Ploceidae	Passeriformes	R
Red Tailed Greenbull	Pycnonotus cafer	Pycnonotidae	Passeriformes	R
Red Vented Malimbe	Malimbus cutatus	Ploceidae	Passeriformes	R
Reichenbach's Sunbird	Anabathmis reichenbachii	Nectariniidae	Passeriformes	R
Rufous Crowned Eremomela	Eremomela badiceps	Sylviidae	Passeriformes	R
Sabine's Puffback	Dryoscopus angolensis	Malaconotidae	Passeriformes	R
Simple Leavelove	Chlorocichla simplex	Pycnonotidae	Passeriformes	R
Simple Greenbull	Chlorocichla simplex	Pycnonotidae	Passeriformes	R
Simple Leaf Love	Chlorocichla simplex	Pycnonotidae	Passeriformes	R
Sooty Flycatcher	Muscicapa infuscata	Muscicapidae	Passeriformes	R
Splendid Sunbird	Cinnyris cocciniger	Nectariniidae	Passeriformes	R
	Cinnyris venustus	Nectariniidae	Passeriformes	R
Velliot's Weaver	Ploceus nigerrimus	Ploceidae	Passeriformes	R

Western Black Headed Oriole	Oriolusbrachyrhynchus	Oriolidae	Passeriformes	R
Western Bluebill	Spermophagahaematina	Estrildidae	Passeriformes	R
Western Nicator	Nicator chloris	Pycnonotidae	Passeriformes	R
Yellow Wagtail	Motacilla flava	Motacillidae	Passeriformes	P
Senegal Parrot	Poicephalussenegalus	psittacidae	Passeriformes	R
Compact Weaver	Ploceussuperciliosus	Ploceidae	Passeriformes	R
Grosbeak Weaver	Amblyospizaalbifrons	Ploceidae	Passeriformes	R
African Mask Weaver	Ploceusvelatus	Ploceidae	Passeriformes	R
Pied Crow	Corvusalbus	Corvidae	Passeriformes	R
Whim Chat	Saxicola Rubetra	Muscicapidae	Passeriformes	P
Great Egret	Ardea alba	Ardeidae	Pelecaniformes	R
Intermediate Egret	Egretta intermedia	Ardeidae	Pelecaniformes	M
Bristled Nosed Barbet	Gymnobuccopeli	Ramphastidae	Piciformes	R
Buff Throated Woodpecker	Campetheranivosa	Picidae	Piciformes	R
Gabon Woodpecker	Dendropicogabonesis	Picidae	Piciformes	R
Hairy Barbet	Tricholaema hirsute	Ramphastidae	Piciformes	R
Naked Faced Barbet	Gymnobucco calvus	Ramphastidae	Piciformes	R
Red Rumped Tinkerbird	Pogoniulusatroflavus	Ramphastidae	Piciformes	R
Speckled Tinkerbird	Pogoniulusscolopaceus	Ramphastidae	Piciformes	R
Velliot's Barbet	Lybiusvieilloti	Ramphastidae	Piciformes	R
Yellow Fronted Tinkerbird	Pogoniuluschrysoconus	Ramphastidae	Piciformes	R
African Wood Owl	Strixwoodfordii	Strigidae	Strigiformes	R
Narina's Trogon	Apalodermanarina	Trogonidae	Trogoniformes	R
Olive- Bellied Sunbird	Cyanomitraolivacea	Nectariniidae	Passeriformes	R
Yellow Billed Shrike	Corvinella corvina		Passeriformes	R
Common Fiscal	Laniuscolaris		Passeriformes	R
Northern Red Bishop	Euplectesfranciscanus	Ploceidae	Passeriformes	R
Green Headed Sunbird		Nectariniidae	Passeriformes	R

DISCUSSION

The result obtained from research study indicates abundant birdlife in the study area. However, there were differences in the bird species encountered in both seasons of the year. The differences in bird species diversity and abundance in the different land use types may be due to land use changes and forest heterogeneity which bring about variation in the availability of food, cover, predation risk and micro - climatic variation which is supported by various authors. Cody, (1985) reported the level of distribution of bird species in a habitat is normally as a result of an occurrence of plant species that support their population and to variation in species-specific requirements in the choice of habitat.

This is also consistent with Mangnall and Crowe, (2003)reportedthat the distribution of bird species is largely dependent on the availability of food, water, and cover.

The number of bird species encountered in the study area are rare and unique characteristics, the largest hawk in Africa, African Harrier Hawk, Yellow Billed Kite, Pied Crow, Compact Weaver, and Grosbeak Weaver are resident in the study area. Others are African Thrush with its beautiful calls, Dusky Olive Long Tailed Cuckoo and Whinchat are also encountered in the study area. This findings is consistent with Dietz, et al (1994) reported that nothing motivates bird-watchers like the chance to see a rare or endangered species that may be difficult or impossible to see in another part of the world. More recently, bird-watching has expanded to areas that were formerly unsafe reported that recent research suggests that the flagship concept may be more flexible and responsive to a diversity of social, cultural, scientific and political dimensions that might extend beyond the traditional model Bowen-Jones and Entwistle, (2002). reported that emerging flagship models include 'local' flagships, which are used to promote conservation among local people using locally significant species and eco-tourism flagships, which target international tourists with an interest in watching animals or participating directly in conservation (Labao, et al, 2008).

As part of my criteria used for this study was body size, home range distribution and migration types. Most of the ploceidae species are strictly resident in this part of the country, this findings is consistent with the following authors numerous characteristics have been cited as important in selecting a flagship species: body size (Eckert, and Hemphill, 2005), appearance and charisma (Gunthorsdottir, 2001) conservation status and population size. (Eckert, and Hemphill, 2005). and biological group (Kruger, 2005). However, criteria for selecting flagships differ depending on context and purpose. Selection of local flagships tends to be governed by local cultural, religious and social values (Kellert, 2006) whereas global flagships are typically high profile, charismatic species, like tigers and gorillas (Walpole, and Goodwin, 2002). Within a single conservation programme, a specific flagship species may attract varying degrees of support among different stakeholders (Eckert, and Hemphill, 2005). Consequently, conservation professionals and policy makers may need to choose different flagship species to suit particular objectives, different target audiences and different geographical settings.

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

The study area is very rich in bird species in both season of the year. Most of the bird species are resident which it possible to carried out bird watching throughout the year and while others are migratory bird species which provide great opportunity to encounter Palearctic and Intra Africa migrants using the study area as stop over. The study area is strategically placed and accessible to other west African countries as enable West Africa countries to visit on land. The potential revenues that bird-watching tourism could bring to developing country like Nigeria are Promising. The average bird-watcher is relatively wealthy and willing to pay a premium to see bird species. The Birdlife International projects that 120,000 bird-watchers will visit Nigeria from the western countries over the next decade, generating US\$47 million annually and sustaining 7,500 new jobs. These rosy numbers could be gross underestimates if Nigeria can emulate the recent surge in bird-watching tourism in Gambia a West Africa country, where the number of bird watching tourists doubled from 2012 to 2013, yielding an annual gross of US\$89 million.

Tourist flagship species offer exciting benefits for conservation, particularly in developing regions, which are dependent on overseas tourism. First, a tourism flagship species could help market the study area to tourists and therefore directly benefit the local community in terms of income and employment, thereby offsetting the costs of living with a flagship species

Bird-watchers are recognized as environmentally and socially responsible tourists, and so bird-watching in Nigeria has every opportunity to be a sustainable form of ecotourism. The federal government of Nigeria should take proactive and holistic review of the security apparatus in the country to stop security challenges in the country as this will encourage international tourist to visit Nigeria.

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