

## Nesting of Baya Weaver *Ploceus philippinus* in Mohammadpur Village under Rajshahi Division of Bangladesh

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### ABSTRACT

Seven days observation on Baya Weaver Bird (*Ploceus philippinus*) showed total 75 males and 25 females on an old and long Tala Palm Tree (*Borassus flabellifer*). Males were very busy for forming nest in March to October. This bird made nest with Coconut (*Cocos nucifera*), Indian Date (*Phoenix sylvestris*) and Indian Nut (*Areca catechu*) leaf and females were the visitors. House Crow (*Corvus splendens*) and Common Myna (*Acridotherus tristis*) were the enemies of this bird where crow was their dominant predators which captured this bird. Under this tree a shopkeeper is always tried to protect this bird by making various sound. The height of the nest from the ground was 32 feet and counted nests were 33. People in this village were very cordial to protect this bird and they were well-known the importance wildlife.

### INTRODUCTION

Mohammadpur village under Tanore upazilla is an evergreen village under Rajshahi division. This village is abundant with big and old Palm Tree (*Borassus flabellifer*) where some Palm Swift (*Cypsiurus parvas*) birds live. Sometimes, Spotted Dove (*Streptopelia chinensis*) and Indian Pipistrelle (*Pipistrellus coromandra*) live together here. Weaver birds collect their maximum nest materials near the coconut tree. Weaver birds use mature leaves of palm tree for nesting. In this village, most villagers' rear domestic animals for their livelihood. At evening Jackal and Fox are available in jungle in this village. Huge doves and field pigeons are available here. People get enjoy for seeing various birds mainly its nesting. They like weaver birds' pendant nest. Its chirping all day long is very attractive to the people. Under this palm tree there some small shops where people are gathered for snacks. This time they always protect from the predator birds mainly crow, falcon and at evening nocturnal owl. The Baya Weaver Bird *Ploceus philippinus* is widespread and commonly distributed local, seasonal movement of nesting sites and food (BirdLife International 2008). It breeds during the monsoon period (Rasmussen and Anderton 2005). The objective of this study was to identify the predator birds and male-female ratio and available nesting materials of the weaver bird.

### MATERIALS AND METHODS

In front of my residence there was a long Tala Palm tree (*Borassus flabellifer*) where total 100 weaver birds with 33 nests (Table 1). The nest construction activity of the bird on the plant was observed by standing at the close quarters by using binoculars (6x18mm, Vixen, palm-sized compact binoculars). The whole day was spent at the site for collecting accurate information. Weaver bird collected maximum nesting materials from the Coconut (*Cocos nucifera*) and sometimes Betel Palm/Indian Nut (*Areca catechu*) trees. Seven days were needed for this purpose. The nest structure was also examined and details have been noted. Nest builder male birds were healthy and active during this study period.

### RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The weaver birds' nest is unique for delicate craftsmanship of pendant nests. It has been reported that the bird uses *Cocos nucifera*, *Eucalyptus* sp, *Careya arborea*, *Saccharum* sp and *Bambusa* sp as nest building platforms (Borges et al., 2002). The criteria of the nest are provided against intruders, lashing rain and violent winds and prospective female mates and withstand climatic vagaries (Davis 1974). Each nest has vertical tube that lead to a side entrance (Venkataramani 1981). Sharma (1995) mentioned that weaver birds merely formed stalk-less nest which is not allowed by female. There are five stages in the construction of nest-

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initial attachment, roof and egg/brood chamber, ante-chamber, entrance and entrance tube. Last stage is taken up by male after laying egg by female. It lays two eggs per nest which are hard and pure white (Venkataramani 1981; Sharma

1995). Wood (1926) mentioned that nest once or twice a year, may repair old ones. Raju (2009) described the relation between Weaver Bird and Cupid Butterfly under red-listed *Cycas* plant.

**Table1.** Seven days observation on Baya Weaver Bird (*Ploceus philippinus*)

| Day          | Time              | Male      | Female    | Nesting materials                              | Enemy       |
|--------------|-------------------|-----------|-----------|--|-------------|
| 1            | 6:00 am - 6:00 pm | 5         | 2         | Coconut ( <i>Cocos nucifera</i> ) leaf         | Crow        |
| 2            |                   | 5         | -         | Coconut ( <i>Cocos nucifera</i> ) leaf         | Crow        |
| 3            |                   | 8         | 5         | Indian Nut ( <i>Areca catechu</i> ) leaf       | -           |
| 4            |                   | 9         | 5         | Indian Nut ( <i>Areca catechu</i> ) leaf       | Common Myna |
| 5            |                   | 8         | 2         | Coconut ( <i>Cocos nucifera</i> ) leaf         | -           |
| 6            |                   | 20        | 4         |  | Crow        |
| 7            |                   | 20        | 7         | Indian Date ( <i>Phoenix sylvestris</i> ) leaf | -           |
| <b>Total</b> |                   | <b>75</b> | <b>25</b> | -  |             |

### CONCLUSIONS

From March to October of every year this weaver birds come this village and pass their life with chicks. Moreover, this village is abundant with huge coconut, Indian date and nut trees. Sometimes, House Crow and Common Myna tries to destroy these nests and chick but the villagers especially under this tree a shopkeeper is always engaged to protect this bird by making various sound and fear to the predator birds. In fact, local people are now well-known about the importance of wildlife as well as the wildlife act.

### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Author is giving thanks to his wife Tania Zaman for delivering the information about her village. She also mentioned other wild animals' data in her village. During her student life in Department of Zoology, Rajshahi University when she came to her village, she collected information on animals especially birds. Her elder brother Md. Mainul Hossain has been living in this village for a long time with his family. His wife Aklima Khatun always rear domestic animals all the year round. She is very scientific to contact with me always about weaver birds. The shopkeeper under this research area always gave their nesting information to enrich this paper. Author is cordially thankful to all.

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**Citation:** M Ashraful Kabir "Nesting of Baya Weaver *Ploceus Philippinus* in Mohammadpur Village under Rajshahi Division of Bangladesh", *International Journal of Research Studies in Science, Engineering and Technology*, vol. 5, no. 7, pp. 26-27, 2018.

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