



MUACC REPORT TWO.

FIELD STUDY

ABSTRACT

This field study activity was carried out to identify the bird species present within the grounds of Muni University.

Ampumuza baimark

Avian life for generations

Contents

TITTLE.....	2
Acknowledgement.....	2
Report Author.....	2
Field participants.....	2
ABSTRACT.....	3
INTRODUCTION.....	3
Bird watching.....	3
Bird identification.....	4
Bird conservation.....	5
Why need for bird conservation?.....	5
Ecosystem roles of birds.....	6
Time for the field.....	7
Study area.....	7
THE CHECKLIST OF BIRDS AROUND MUNI UNIVERSITY.....	7
COMMENTS.....	8
Code of Birding Ethics.....	8
CHALLENGES AND RECOMMENDATIONS.....	8
CONCLUSION.....	8
REFERENCES.....	8

TITLE.

**A REPORT ON MUNI UNIVERSITY AVIAN CONSERVATION CLUB
BIRD WATCHING AROUND MUNI UNIVERSITY DONE ON 10TH JUNE,
2023.**

Acknowledgement.

Muni university avian conservation club extends great appreciation to Muni University administration through the Dean of Students for the guidance and the recommendations for club activity. Great thanks to Avian Conservation Uganda Society being the mother organization for the club.

We also acknowledge nature Uganda Muni University branch for assisting the club with field materials like binoculars and gumboots.

Finally, great thanks to members of the club who turned up for the activity for their commitment towards conservation of birds.

Report Author	Ampumuza Baimark
Field participants	Kwemboi Lisbon Siya Sande Job Tatweebwa Berian Nowamaani Aijuka Kuloba Isaac Enock

ABSTRACT.

This field study activity was carried out to identify the bird species present within the grounds of Muni University. A brief introduction bird watching, identification and conservation has also been given in this report. The field study shows that Muni University grounds provides habitat for some common bird species like pied crows and doves among others.

INTRODUCTION.

Muni University avian conservation club is club under the avian conservation Uganda society. on **10th June, 2023** the club carried out bird watching activity around the muni university grounds. The bird species naming and identification of the observed birds was carried out.

Below are the descriptions of the activities we carried in the field

Bird watching.

This is the observing of birds, either as a recreational activity or as a form of citizen science. A birdwatcher may observe by using their naked eye, by using a visual enhancement device like binoculars or a telescope, by listening for bird sounds or by watching public webcams. **Dunne, Pete (2003)**. ⁱThis activity was done using the binoculars and some bird species were observed.

Birdwatchers may take part in censuses of bird populations and migratory patterns which are sometimes specific to individual species. These birdwatchers may also count all birds in a given area, as in the [Christmas Bird Count](#), or follow carefully designed study protocols.

This kind of [citizen science](#) can assist in identifying environmental threats to the well-being of birds or, conversely, in assessing outcomes of environmental management initiatives intended to ensure the survival of at-risk species or to encourage the breeding of species for aesthetic or ecological reasons



Figure 1 bird watching using the binocular

Bird identification

This is an activity which involves determining what kind of bird(s) have been observed from the field. Bird identification involves use of the shape, size, coloring, behavior, habitat, voice and geographic location. Online field guides where used to confirm the names of birds observed in the field.

Identifying birds is a fascinating, ever-changing activity that increases our awareness and appreciation of natural wildlife.



Figure 2 bird watching and writing the bird descriptions

Bird conservation.

Birds represent an amazing group of species, and they act in different roles in different habitats, and are a delight to the senses with such variations in color, song, and incredible differences in flight pattern.

Because of their accessibility and ubiquity, birds are a useful tool for [environmental education](#) and awareness of environmental issues. Birdwatching can increase respect for nature and awareness of the fragility of [ecosystems](#).

Why need for bird conservation?

Unfortunately, many bird species are declining at alarming rates. Even species considered common are dropping sharply in number. Breeding bird surveys show population declines ranging from 30 to 77 percent since 1970 — and the numbers are still falling. Birds therefore need our help.ⁱⁱ

Birds Help Us Know if the Environment is Healthy

Because birds are sensitive to toxins and pollutants, problems detected in wild birds can serve as an early warning system that something is wrong in the

environment. Then changes can be made before the problem starts affecting humans and other animals.



Figure 3 Focusing using the Binocular

Birds Bring Us Joy and Beauty

In addition to their ecosystem roles, birds are one of life's more beautiful pleasures. Millions of people around the world enjoy watching and feeding birds. They are a gateway for many to learn more about the outdoors and nature.

Ecosystem roles of birds.

Birds eat insect pests that would otherwise decimate agricultural crops, gardens, and other vegetation. Birds eat 400–500 tons of insects per year.

Birds like crows and vultures scavenge carcasses, reducing the spread of diseases such as rabies and distemper.

Birds disperse seeds, spreading plants into new areas.

Birds such as hummingbirds help pollinate plants.

Birds like hawks and owls help keep the mouse and rat population in check.

Birds eat millions of mosquitoes and other biting insects each year.

Time for the field.

The field study lasted for two hours from 7:30 am to 9:30 am.

Lets note that early morning and in the evening times are the best times for bird watching since majority of the birds are active during these periodes.

Study area

The study covered Muni University bird watching grounds named by the club members as Library bird watching section which is a forested area with a river passing through and Health science bird watching section which is just a land for crop planting.

Below are the birds which were observed in the field.

THE CHECKLIST OF BIRDS AROUND MUNI UNIVERSITY

1. Mouse bird-02
2. Shikra-01
3. Rock dove-8
4. Pied crow-15
5. Village weaver bird
6. African pied wigtail
7. African pipit
8. Baglafecht weaver
9. Common bulbul
10. Grey backed fiscal
11. Yellow throated longelaw
12. Little bee eater
13. Yellow billed kite
14. Red chested sunbird
15. Common raven-5

COMMENTS.

Code of Birding Ethics

The code of birding ethics was considered and put into practice during the field study as the university through the dean of students recommended the team to carry out the birding activity within the university.

The owners of the gardens within the University grounds were contacted first before accessing the fields for bird watching.

The members were so curious on supporting the protection of important bird habitat. Avoided stressing birds or exposing them to danger. Exercised restraint and caution during observation, photography, sound recording, or filming.

CHALLENGES AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Very few bird species were identified from the field which could be due to the limited time spent in the field as the study took a duration of two hours. Limited trees around the University which reduces the landing sites for birds. Therefore, for improved birding results an appropriate time should be scheduled with enough time available for the field work to enable the participants explore all the bird species within Muni University and other regions within West Nile. More trees should be planted within the University grounds.

Gender balance within the club is still a problem as the men are more than ladies and like in this study all the ladies were absent for the study. More ladies should be encouraged to join the club and actively participate in the club activities.

CONCLUSION.

Bird watching continues to be a great activity for birders and everyone who would wish to appreciate nature and clearly understand the state of our ecosystem composition in relation to bird distribution, abundance and about bird habitats.

Muni University avian conservation club stands to create much more awareness on bird conservation in partnership with other conservation bodies, organizations and societies.

REFERENCES

-
1. ⁱ Dunne, Pete (2003). *Pete Dunne on Bird Watching*. Boston: Houghton Mifflin.
 2. ⁱⁱ Missouri department of conservation publications on bird conservation

Appendix

Club motto: **Avian life for generations**

Mission: Promoting the understanding, appreciation and conservation for Birds of Uganda.

Goals

1. To encourage members, especially young people, mainly bird lovers to learn about ornithology, identification and conservation of our birds through field excursions, outing meetings and the avian magazine.
2. To promote partnerships with international and local partners and friends of conservation of birds.
3. To advocate for the protection of birds and their habitats in Muni University, Arua City, West Nile and Uganda.