Birds are common dwellers of ecosystems and have been considered as environmental bio-indicators of inhabited areas (Blair 1999). There are approximately 9,990 bird species recorded in our planet and, the Indian subcontinent is home to 1,313 bird species (Grimmett et al. 2011). Tamil Nadu is known for its rich diversity of avifauna with more than 450 species including several endemic and conservation prioritised species (Islam & Rahmani 2004). Previously, Nirmala (2002) documented the birds of the Anaikatty area of the Western Ghats. The present study attempts to prepare a checklist of birds in and around the campus of the Sálim Ali Centre for Ornithology and Natural History (SACON) situated in the Anaikatty Hills (11°05’30.9”N & 76°47’36.2”E), 30km northwest of Coimbatore City, on the border of Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve (NBR), Western Ghats, Tamil Nadu (Fig. 1). Being located on the eastern slope (~ 600 elevation), the climate is semi-arid with temperature soaring up to 41°C during summer and the annual rainfall hardly exceeds 700mm. The SACON campus was established during early 1994 in 55 acres of degraded land. Tree planting initiatives (in 2000) and protection measures against livestock grazing enhanced the vegetation growth inside the campus which became a source of attraction for many bird species. The campus’ vegetation is predominantly scrub forest type, with a small Eucalyptus plantation. The campus harbours 200 species of plants that includes 60 tree species (Balasubramanian et al. 2012). Common woody species of the campus include Premna tomentosa, Albizia amara and Chloroxylon swietenia and tall shrubs include Lantana camara and Chromolaena odorata. Based on rainfall and temperature the study area experiences four distinct seasons, namely, southwest monsoon (June–August), northeast monsoon (September–November), winter (December–February) and summer (March–May).

Regular fortnightly surveys between January 2012 and May 2013 were done by walk on fixed routes in and around the campus including the banks of a non-perennial stream located on the western side of the campus. Surveys were usually made in the morning (07:00–10:00 hr) and evening (16:00–18:00 hr), and also sometimes in the night for owls and nightjars. The identification of birds in the field was based on Ali (2002) and Grimmett et al. (2011), while Manakadan & Pittie (2001) was referred to for binomial names and
Depending on movement and seasonality of occurrence, the birds are classified as: resident (species found throughout the year), winter migrant (species migrates from outside India during winter) and local migrant (species found irregularly but is resident to India). Depending on the frequency of sightings during the field visits, birds are classified as: abundant (birds sighted in more than 80% of the visits), common (sighted in 60—<80 %), uncommon (sighted in 40—<60 %), occasional (sighted in 20—<40 %) and rare (sighted in <20%). Breeding bird referred to as species observed to breed or showing evidence (nests or newly fledged chick(s) recorded) in the study area.

Results and Discussion: A total of 145 species of birds belonging to 106 genera and 48 families were recorded in and around the SACON campus (Appendix 1). The study area supports 76 passerine and 69 non-passerine bird species. Among the passerines, the best represented family is the Sylviinae (nine species), Timaliinae (seven species), Turdinae (six species) and Fringillidae and Dicruridae (five species each). Of the non-passerines, the Accipitridae (12 species) has the most species, followed by Cuculidae (eight species), Columbidae and Picidae (six species each) and Psittacidae and Alcedinidae (four species each). Two species, Blue-winged Parakeet Psittacula columboides and White-cheeked Barbet Megalaima viridis are endemic to the Western Ghats. Of the 145 species, all the 12 species belonging to the family Accipitridae, Indian Peafowl Pavo cristatus and Indian Grey Hornbill Ocymeros bicornis are included under Schedule-I of the Indian Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.

Among the 145 species, 73 (50%) are resident species, 58 (40%) local migrants and 14 (10%) winter migrants (Table 1). The Green Sandpiper Tringa ochropus, Indian Pitta Pitta brachyura, Forest Wagtail Dendronanthus indicus, Yellow Wagtail Motacilla flava, Brown Shrike Lanius cristatus, Blyth’s Reed-Warbler Acrocephalus dumetorum, Greenish Leaf-Warbler Phylloscopus trochiloides, Hume’s Lesser Whitethroat Sylvia olivacea, Asian Brown Flycatcher Muscicapa dauurica, Verditer Flycatcher Eumyias thalassina, Common Rosefinch Carpodacus erythrinus, and Rosy Starling Sturnus roseus are some important winter migrants and usually seen between mid November and early January of these, the Green Sandpiper, Indian Pitta and the Grey Wagtail are
also seen during the summer season in the study area.

Among the total species observed, 45 (31%) species are uncommon, 38 (26%) common, 26 (18%) occasional, 24 (17%) rare and 12 (8%) abundant (Table 1). The most abundant species in the study area are Red-whiskered Bulbul *Pycnonotus jocosus*, Red-vented Bulbul *P. cafer*, White-browed Bulbul *P. luteolus*, White-headed Babbler *Turdoides affinis*, Blue-winged Parakeet *P. columboides*, Small Bee-eater *Merops orientalis*, Common Iora *Aegithina tiphia*, Spotted Dove *Streptopelia chinensis* and Purple-rumped Sunbird *Nectarinia zeylonica*. The White-necked Stork *Ciconia episcopus*, Sirkeer Malkoha *Phaenicophaeus leuconotus*, Black Bulbul *Hypsipetes leucocephalus*, Orange-headed Thrush *Zoothera citrina* and Asian Fairy-Bluebird *Irena puella* were recorded only once during the entire survey period. Twenty-two species of birds were observed to be restricted to the stream side vegetations including some evergreen forest bird species (Appendix 1).

Forty species were recorded breeding in and around the SACON campus (Appendix 1). Of these, 23 species were seen to be nesting while the remaining 17 species were observed with their juveniles. Most of the species started their breeding activities at the end of the northeast monsoon.

Nirmala (2002) reported 187 species of birds from a larger area in the Anaikatty Hills of Western Ghats. The present study which focussed on a subset area of the earlier study, reports 19 additional species (Appendix 1) that were not reported by Nirmala (2002). However, there were 61 species which are found in the earlier checklist that could not be observed during the present study, because the study was carried out in relatively smaller and selected areas only. We hope that this updated checklist of birds would serve as a guide to the bird-watching community especially to students and research scholars and those who visit the SACON campus.

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| Orders            | No. of Families | No. of Species | Migratory status | Abundance status |
|-------------------|-----------------|----------------|------------------|------------------|
|                   | RE | LM | WM | A | C | U | O | R |
| Pelicaniformes    | 1  | 1  | -  | 1 | - | - | - | 1 |
| Ciconiiformes     | 2  | 4  | 2  | 2 | - | - | 3 | 1 |
| Falconiformes     | 2  | 13 | 4  | 9 | - | - | 5 | 4 |
| Galliformes       | 1  | 3  | 3  | - | - | 3 | - | - |
| Gruidae           | 2  | 2  | 1  | 1 | - | - | 1 | - |
| Charadriiformes   | 2  | 2  | 1  | - | 1 | - | 2 | - |
| Columbiformes     | 1  | 6  | 4  | 2 | - | 2 | 3 | 1 |
| Psittaciformes    | 1  | 4  | 2  | 2 | - | 1 | 2 | 1 |
| Cuculiformes      | 1  | 8  | 3  | 4 | 1 | - | 2 | 3 |
| Strigiformes      | 1  | 2  | 2  | - | - | 1 | 1 | - |
| Caprimulgiformes  | 1  | 2  | 2  | - | - | - | 2 | - |
| Apodiformes       | 2  | 3  | 2  | 1 | - | - | 2 | 1 |
| Coraciiformes     | 5  | 10 | 5  | 5 | - | 1 | 6 | 1 |
| Piciformes        | 2  | 9  | 4  | 5 | - | 3 | 2 | 3 |
| Passeriformes     | 24 | 76 | 38 | 26| 12| 8 | 26| 14 |
| Total             | 48 | 145| 73 | 58| 14| 12| 38| 45 |

RE - Resident; LM - Local Migrant; WM - Winter Migrant; A - Abundant; C - Common; U - Uncommon; O - Occasional; R: Rare
### Appendix 1. Systematic list of birds with its status in and around the SACON campus, southern India during January 2012 to May 2013

| Family / Common Name | Scientific Name | MS | AS | BR |
|----------------------|-----------------|----|----|----|
| Phalacrocoracidae     |                 |    |    |    |
| 1 Little Cormorant*   | Streptopelia decaocto | RE | U  |    |
| 2 Blue Rock Pigeon   | Columba livia   | RE | U  |    |
| 3 Little Brown Dove  | Streptopelia senegalensis | RE | A  | $  |
| 4 Spotted Dove       | Streptopelia chinensis | RE | A  | $  |
| 5 Yellow-legged Green-Pigeon | Treron phoenicoptera | LM | O  |    |
| 6 Rose-ringed Parakeet | Psittacula krameri | LM | U  |    |
| 7 Plum-headed Parakeet | Psittacula cyanocephala | RE | U  |    |
| 8 Eurasian Collared-Dove | Streptopelia decaocto | RE | U  |    |
| 9 Grey Junglefowl    | Gallus sonneratii | RE | C  | #  |
| 10 Common Indian Nightjar* | Caprimulgus asiaticus | RE | U  |    |
| 11 Jerdon's Nightjar* | Caprimulgus triperipennis | RE | U  |    |
| 12 Green Sandpiper** | Tringa ochropus | WM | U  |    |
| 13 Stork-billed Kingfisher** | Ketupa zeylonensis | RE | U  | #  |
| 14 Indian Hanging-Parmot | Loriculus vernalis | LM | R  |    |
| 15 Indian Plaintive Cuckoo* | Cacomantis passerinus | LM | O  |    |
| 16 Pied Cuckoo       | Clamator jacobinus | LM | U  |    |
| 17 Brainfever Bird   | Hierococcyx varius | LM | U  |    |
| 18 Jerdon's Nightjar* | Caprimulgus triperipennis | RE | U  |    |
| 19 Stork-billed Kingfisher** | Halcyon capensis | LM | R  |    |
| 20 House Swift       | Apus affinis    | RE | C  | $  |
| 21 Black-billed Kingfisher | Halcyon smyrnensis | RE | U  | #  |
| 22 Common Buttonquail | Turnix suscitator | LM | R  | $  |
| 23 Indian Hanging-Parmot | Loriculus vernalis | LM | R  |    |
| 24 Common Indian Nightjar* | Caprimulgus asiaticus | RE | U  |    |
| 25 Indian Hanging-Parmot | Loriculus vernalis | LM | R  |    |
| 26 Yellow-legged Green-Pigeon | Treron phoenicoptera | LM | O  |    |
| 27 Blue Rock Pigeon   | Columba livia   | RE | U  |    |
| 28 Little Brown Dove  | Streptopelia senegalensis | RE | A  | $  |
| 29 Stork-billed Kingfisher** | Halcyon capensis | LM | R  |    |
| 30 Yellow-legged Green-Pigeon | Treron phoenicoptera | LM | O  |    |
| 31 Black-billed Kingfisher** | Halcyon capensis | LM | R  |    |
| 32 House Swift       | Apus affinis    | RE | C  | $  |
| 33 White-browed Waterhen | Ambamosphila phoenicurus | RE | U  |    |
| 34 Black-billed Kingfisher** | Halcyon capensis | LM | R  |    |
| 35 Malabar Nightjar   | Caprimulgus asiaticus | RE | U  |    |
| 36 Black-billed Kingfisher** | Halcyon capensis | LM | R  |    |
| 37 House Swift       | Apus affinis    | RE | C  | $  |
| 38 Black-billed Kingfisher** | Halcyon capensis | LM | R  |    |
| 39 White-browed Waterhen | Ambamosphila phoenicurus | RE | U  |    |
| 40 Black-billed Kingfisher** | Halcyon capensis | LM | R  |    |
| 41 House Swift       | Apus affinis    | RE | C  | $  |
| 42 Malabar Nightjar   | Caprimulgus asiaticus | RE | U  |    |
| 43 White-browed Waterhen | Ambamosphila phoenicurus | RE | U  |    |
| 44 White-browed Waterhen | Ambamosphila phoenicurus | RE | U  |    |
| 45 White-browed Waterhen | Ambamosphila phoenicurus | RE | U  |    |
| 46 White-browed Waterhen | Ambamosphila phoenicurus | RE | U  |    |
| 47 White-browed Waterhen | Ambamosphila phoenicurus | RE | U  |    |
| 48 White-browed Waterhen | Ambamosphila phoenicurus | RE | U  |    |
| 49 White-browed Waterhen | Ambamosphila phoenicurus | RE | U  |    |
| 50 White-browed Waterhen | Ambamosphila phoenicurus | RE | U  |    |
| 51 White-browed Waterhen | Ambamosphila phoenicurus | RE | U  |    |
| 52 White-browed Waterhen | Ambamosphila phoenicurus | RE | U  |    |
| 53 White-browed Waterhen | Ambamosphila phoenicurus | RE | U  |    |
| 54 White-browed Waterhen | Ambamosphila phoenicurus | RE | U  |    |
| 55 White-browed Waterhen | Ambamosphila phoenicurus | RE | U  |    |
| 56 White-browed Waterhen | Ambamosphila phoenicurus | RE | U  |    |
| 57 White-browed Waterhen | Ambamosphila phoenicurus | RE | U  |    |
| Family / Common Name | Scientific Name | MS | AS | BR |
|----------------------|-----------------|----|----|----|
| Coraciidae           |                 |    |    |    |
| 58 Indian Roller     | Coracias benghalensis | RE | U  |    |
| Upupidae             |                 |    |    |    |
| 59 Common Hoopoe     | Upupa epops     | RE | C  | $  |
| Bucerotidae          |                 |    |    |    |
| 60 Indian Grey Hornbill | Ocyceros biastris | LM | O  |    |
| Capitonidae          |                 |    |    |    |
| 61 Brown-headed Barbet | Megalaima zeylanica | LM | O  |    |
| White-cheeked Barbet | Megalaima viridis | LM | O  |    |
| 63 Coppersmith Barbet | Megalaima haemacephala | RE | C  | $  |
| Pididae              |                 |    |    |    |
| 64 Brown-capped Pygmy Woodpecker | Dendrocopos nanus | LM | R  |    |
| 65 Rufous Woodpecker | Celeus brachyurus | LM | O  |    |
| 66 Small Yellow-naped Woodpecker | Picus chlorolophus | RE | U  |    |
| 67 Little Scaly-bellied Green Woodpecker | Picus xanthopygaon | RE | C  |    |
| 68 Common Golden-backed Woodpecker | Dinoquium javanese | LM | U  |    |
| Lesser Golden-backed Woodpecker | Dinoquium benghalense | RE | C  | $  |
| Pittidae             |                 |    |    |    |
| 70 Indian Pitta      | Pitta brachyura | WM | O  |    |
| Alaudidae            |                 |    |    |    |
| 71 Jerdon`'s Bush-Lark* | Mirafra affinis | RE | U  |    |
| 72 Eastern Skylark*  | Alauda guigula  | RE | U  |    |
| Hirundinidae         |                 |    |    |    |
| 73 Common Swallow    | Hirundo rustica | LM | R  |    |
| 74 Red-rumped Swallow | Hirundo daurica | LM | U  |    |
| Motacillidae         |                 |    |    |    |
| 75 Forest Wagtail*   | Dendroanthus indicus | WM | O  |    |
| 76 Large Pied Wagtail | Motacilla maderaspatensis | RE | U  |    |
| 77 Yellow Wagtail    | Motacilla flava  | WM | R  |    |
| 78 Grey Wagtail**    | Motacilla cinerea | WM | O  |    |
| Campephagidae        |                 |    |    |    |
| 79 Black-headed Cuckoo-Shrike | Coracina melanoptera | LM | O  |    |
| 80 Small Minivet     | Pericrocotus canapomeus | RE | C  | #  |
| 81 Common Woodshrike | Tephrodornis pondicerianus | RE | C  |    |
| Pycnonotidae         |                 |    |    |    |
| 82 Red-whiskered Bulbul | Pycnonotus jocosus | RE | A  | $  |
| 83 Red-vented Bulbul | Pycnonotus cafer  | RE | A  | $  |
| 84 White-browed Bulbul | Pycnonotus lutrolus | RE | A  | $  |
| 85 Black Bulbul*     | Hypsipetes leucocephalus | LM | R  |    |
| Irenidae             |                 |    |    |    |
| 86 Common Iora       | Aegithina tipha  | RE | A  | $  |
| 87 Jerdon's Chloropsis | Chloropsis cochinchinensis | RE | A  |    |
| 88 Gold-fronted Chloropsis | Chloropsis aurifrons | RE | A  |    |
| 89 Asian Fairy-Bluebird** | Irena puella | LM | R  |    |
| Lanidae              |                 |    |    |    |
| 90 Brown Shrike      | Lanius cristatus | WM | R  |    |
| 91 Rufous-backed Shrike | Lanius schach | LM | R  |    |
| Turdinae             |                 |    |    |    |
| 92 Malabar Whistling-Thrush* | Myiophonus horsfieldi | LM | R  |    |
| 93 Orange-headed Thrush** | Zoothera citrina | LM | R  |    |
| 94 Eurasian Blackbird** | Turdus merula | LM | R  |    |
| 95 Oriental Magpie-Robin | Copsychus saularis | RE | C  | #  |
| 96 Indian Robin      | Saxicoloides fulicata | RE | C  | $  |
| 97 Pied Bushchat      | Saxicola caprata | RE | C  | #  |
| Timaliinae           |                 |    |    |    |
| 98 Spotted Babbler^  | Pellorneum ruficeps | LM | O  |    |
| 99 Indian Scimitar-Babbler^ | Pomatorhinus horsfieldi | LM | R  |    |
| 100 Rufous-bellied Babbler | Dumea hyperlyra  | RE | C  | $  |
| 101 Yellow-eyed Babbler | Chrysamia sinense | RE | C  | $  |
| 102 Large Grey Babbler* | Turdoides malacinti | RE | C  |    |
| 103 Jungle Babbler   | Turdoides striatus | RE | U  |    |
| 104 White-headed Babbler | Turdoides affinis | RE | A  | $  |
| Sylviinae            |                 |    |    |    |
| 105 Franklin's Prinia | Prinia hodgsonii | LM | U  |    |
| 106 Jungle Prinia    | Prinia sylvatica | LM | U  |    |
| 107 Ashy Prinia      | Prinia socialis  | RE | C  | $  |
| 108 Plain Prinia     | Prinia inornata  | LM | U  |    |
| 109 Blyth's Reed-Warbler | Acrocephalus dumetorum | WM | R  |    |
| 110 Booted Warbler   | Hipolais caligata | RE | C  |    |
| 111 Common Tailorbird | Orthotomus sutorius | RE | C  | $  |
| 112 Greenish Leaf-Warbler | Phylloscopus trochiloides | WM | C  |    |
| 113 Hume’s Lesser Whitethroat | Sylvia minuta | WM | D  |    |
| Muscicapinae         |                 |    |    |    |
| 114 Asian Brown Flycatcher | Muscicapa daurica | WM | O  |    |
| 115 Verditer Flycatcher | Eumyias thalassina | WM | O  |    |
| 116 Tickell’s Blue-Flycatcher* | Cyornis tickelliae | RE | U  |    |
Birds of SACON

| Family / Common Name | Scientific Name        | MS | AS | BR |
|----------------------|------------------------|----|----|----|
| **Monarchinae**      |                        |    |    |    |
| 117                  | Asian Paradise-Flycatcher |    |    |    |
| 118                  | Black-rumped Monarch-Flycatcher* |    |    |    |
| **Paridae**          |                        |    |    |    |
| 119                  | Great Tit              |    |    |    |
| **Dicaeidae**        |                        |    |    |    |
| 120                  | Tickell’s Flowerpecker |    |    |    |
| **Nectariniidae**    |                        |    |    |    |
| 121                  | Purple-rumped Sunbird  |    |    |    |
| 122                  | Purple Sunbird         |    |    |    |
| 123                  | Loten’s Sunbird        |    |    |    |
| **Fringillidae**     |                        |    |    |    |
| 124                  | Common Rosefinch       |    |    |    |
| 125                  | White-throated Munia   |    |    |    |
| 126                  | White-rumped Munia*    |    |    |    |
| 127                  | Spotted Munia*         |    |    |    |
| 128                  | Black-headed Munia     |    |    |    |
| **Passerinae**       |                        |    |    |    |
| 129                  | House Sparrow          |    |    |    |
| 130                  | Baya Weaver            |    |    |    |
| **Sturnidae**        |                        |    |    |    |
| 131                  | Brahminy Starling      |    |    |    |
| 132                  | Rosy Starling          |    |    |    |
| 133                  | Common Myna            |    |    |    |
| 134                  | Jungle Myna            |    |    |    |
| **Oriolidae**        |                        |    |    |    |
| 135                  | Eurasian Golden Oriole |    |    |    |
| 136                  | Black-headed Oriole    |    |    |    |
| **Dicruridae**       |                        |    |    |    |
| 137                  | Black Drongo           |    |    |    |
| 138                  | Ashy Drongo            |    |    |    |
| 139                  | White-bellied Drongo   |    |    |    |
| 140                  | Bronzed Drongo*        |    |    |    |
| 141                  | Greater Racket-tailed Drongo* |    |    |    |
| **Artamidae**        |                        |    |    |    |
| 142                  | Ashy Woodswallow*      |    |    |    |
| **Corvidae**         |                        |    |    |    |
| 143                  | Indian Treepie         |    |    |    |
| 144                  | House Crow             |    |    |    |
| 145                  | Jungle Crow            |    |    |    |

* - Species recorded only along the stream; * - Additional sightings. These birds were sighted during the current study and were not reported by Nirmala (2002)
MS - Migratory status; LM - Local migrant; RE - Resident; WM - Winter migrant; AS - Abundance status; O - Occasional; U - Uncommon; R - Rare; C - Common; A - abundant; BR - Breeding; # - Nest-site; $ - Only juveniles
Birds of SACON

Image 43. Blue Rock Pigeon
*Columba livia*

Image 44. Little Brown Dove
*Streptopelia senegalensis*

Image 45. Spotted Dove
*Streptopelia chinensis*

Image 46. Eurasian Collared-Dove
*Streptopelia decaocto*

Image 47. Emerald Dove
*Chalcophaps indica*

Image 48. Rose-ringed Parakeet
*Psittacula krameri*

Image 49. Common Cuckoo
*Cuculus canorus*

Image 50. Small Green-billed Malkoha
*Phaenicophaeus virens*

Image 51. Brown Fish-Owl
*Ketupa zeylonensis*

Image 52. Small Blue Kingfisher
*Alcedo atthis*

Image 53. White-breasted Kingfisher
*Halcyon smyrnensis*

Image 54. Lesser-Pied Kingfisher
*Ceryle rudis*

Image 55. Small Bee-eater
*Merops orientalis*

Image 56. Brown-headed Barbet
*Megalaima zeylanica*

Image 57. Common Hoopoe
*Upupa epops*

Image 58. Indian Roller
*Coracias benghalensis*
