



DESCRIPTION OF BATHING BEHAVIOUR IN INDIAN SPOT-BILLED DUCK - *Anas poecilorhyncha*

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AUTHORS' CONTRIBUTIONS

This work was carried out in collaboration between all the authors. Authors RN (Principal & Head) and SA (Controller of Examinations) designed the study, performed the analysis, wrote the protocol and wrote the first draft of the manuscript. Author MAP (Research Scholar) carried out the field work, managed the analyses of the study and literature searches. All the authors read and approved the manuscript.

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ABSTRACT

Birds are intelligent, sociable creatures and exhibit a wide array of behaviours. The behaviours often do not occur in isolation and have Fixed Action Patterns (FAP). Indian spot-billed duck revealed certain FAP with regard to the bathing behaviour. Hence, bathing sequence in Indian spot-billed duck was recorded systematically to analysis the sequence of events, illustrate it using kinematic diagram. Data indicate that the probability of occurrence followed FAP. In the present study two bathing methods were recorded with differences between these two bathing methods. In this study, FAP analysis was done for head-dip bath and wing-thrashing. Further, somersault and wing thrash action was a part of FAP. Wing flap action was always recorded following head dip bath which was rare.

Keywords: Indian Spot-Billed Duck; *Anas poecilorhyncha*; bathing behaviour; bathing methods; kinematic diagram; Fixed Action Patterns (FAP).

1. INTRODUCTION

Indian spot-billed duck (*Anas poecilorhyncha*) is a large dabbling duck that is a non-migratory breeding duck throughout freshwater wetlands in the Indian subcontinent. While, in water it can be identified from

a long distance by the white totals that form a stripe on the side, whereas in flight it is distinguished by the green speculum with a broad white band at the base. The duck is of same size as a mallard and has a scaly patterned body of a green speculum bordered by white. At rest white stripe stands out and long neck

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