

In Ceske Budejovice

24-May-2021

Report on master thesis of Karthik Thrikkadeeri

The Master thesis by Karthik Thrikkadeeri provides exceptionally detailed survey of bird post-breeding communities at various points in the surrounding of Ceske Budejovice. I find the thesis in nearly perfect shape and very well done; thus, I would leave all comment to it to the reviewers. As a supervisor, I would like to mention that similarly to many other research projects in last two years, also this one took unexpected turns after I originally accepted Karthik to work on communities of dragon flies in different habitats in Papua New Guinea. This topic soon proved to be impossible due to Covid restrictions. Drifting through various ideas of studying dragonflies or beetles in various habitats in Czech, we ended up with a decision to survey with quite interesting topic of post-breeding activity of birds. Despite the topic being the consequence of the situation, I would like to point out that Karthik took it very seriously and turned the whole idea into a very nice study.

As I supervisor, I certainly cannot claim much credit myself. To tell the truth, my contribution was actually very limited from the moment we designed the study. After I purchased him a bike and gave him to hand my good ornithology technician Inga Freiberga, I did not hear from them too much until the end of end of survey. Soon after that, I realised that Karthik doesn't need too much supervision with statistics either, as his skills often surpassed mine. Thus, I was happy that I can supervise at least the writing process a bit. Overall, it was my great pleasure to work with so independent and hard-working student.

One more thing I would like to praise Karthik for is his persistence. And not only in his own work, but also in his ability to force me finish something. Specifically, he offered to me to clean and prepare all my old bird observations from Papua New Guinea for eBird database. Which requires him to work with 90,000 lines of my 10-year-old data and kindly reminding me here and there, and sometime several times a week, that I did not check and fix some mistakes he found. These data would never ever see the light of the world without his help and pushing, and I am very grateful for his help.

In summary, it is my opinion that Karthik Thrikkadeeri has clearly demonstrated the intellectual gravitas, independent and original thinking, as well as practical and good social skills necessary for high quality research. I wish Karthik the best of luck in his new position within eBird project in India, while we will keep the doors of the department opened in case he would like to come back for his PhD.



Mgr. Katerina Sam, Ph.D.

Master thesis supervisor