Ecology of the White-breasted Kingfisher *Halcyon smyrnensis* (Linnaeus) with special reference to its population, foraging and breeding in and around Nagapattinam, Tamilnadu, India”

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**ABSTRACT**

The present investigation deals with the Ecology of the White-breasted Kingfisher *Halcyon smyrnensis* in and around Nagapattinam. Data for the above work was collected during 2004-06.

The study includes population density of the White-breasted Kingfisher in agricultural lands and river banks. Prey availability in the study area was collected and compared with the population density of the White-breasted Kingfisher.

The regurgitated pellets of White-breasted Kingfisher was analysed and compared with the prey availability which inturn reflected its food selection.

Data was also collected with reference to perch variables such as perch types, perch height, substrate type and foraging methods. The foraging behavioural features of White-breasted Kingfisher was compared with Lesser Pied Kingfisher and small blue Kingfisher and the concept of resource partitioning was analysed using Principal Component Analysis. Niche breadth and Niche overlap values were also calculated.

The time activity budget of White-breasted Kingfisher and Lesser Pied Kingfisher was compared for 2 years.

Breeding biology of White-breasted Kingfisher was investigated with reference to nest site characters, egg morphometry, breeding stages and nestling growth pattern. An attempt was also made regarding the management implications of the bird cited above.