Introduction

Indian wildlife possesses a rich and diverse fauna in its different ecosystems. India’s avifauna ranks among the World’s ten most diverse and unique, representing 14% of the World’s total avifauna (Subramaman, 2001). There were good historical accounts on Ornithology in India since the beginning of the nineteenth century. Dr. T. C. Jerdon, Brain Hodgson and Edward Blyth were earliest founders of Indian Ornithology (Ali and Ripley, 1969). There are about 10 ground nesting birds in Sri Lankamalleswaram Wildlife Sanctuary, of which Jerdon’s Courser is rated as the most endangered species on the verge of extinction confined to this sanctuary and the present investigation attempts to understand ecological aspects of Jerdon’s Courser.

Jerdon’s Courser (Cursorius bitorquatus), commonly called as “Double-banded Courser”, is a poorly known bird. The name, Jerdon’s Courser, is after Dr. T. C. Jerdon, an Army surgeon from Nellore Town who first spotted the bird in 1848 from the Pennar river valley above the Eastern Ghats of Nellore and Cuddapah Districts of the present Andhra Pradesh State, India (Jerdon, 1877).