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**SUMMARY**

The present study is a preliminary account of the habitat utilization of the Andaman Crake. Habitat use, foraging behavior and other activities of the Andaman Crake were studied and compared between seasons (summer & monsoon). It was found out that Andaman Crake is a shy bird difficult to observe. During our study period the bird was observed in the semi evergreen forest. Abundant canopy cover and high density of leaf litter were the important parameters of the sites occupied. The bird was noted to occupy a well defined area, territory. The Andaman Crake defended territory by emitting calls and high-pitched screams. The particular territory call was “Kraa kraa kraa… Kraa kraa kraa”. The average size of the Territory was 9.4 ha. The overlapping of the territory was also recorded which was about 2.6 ha.

Activity budget and pattern showed that foraging was the major activity. This bird was noted to forage throughout the day with peaks in the morning and evening. Activity budget of the Andaman Crake showed no significant variation between summer and monsoon. The time spent for foraging was higher in all months. The Andaman Crake uses pecking, stabbing, shifting leaf and stone as the major methods to explore the food items. Significant differences were recorded in the foraging method between seasons.

Taking into account of faecal analysis and direct observation, the most numerous preys were hymenopterans, isopterans, molluscans, coleopterans, oligochaetes, arachnids and crustaceans. Food diversity was more in the monsoon than summer. Temperature showed negative effect on foraging behavior.

It called more in the morning and evening during summer, but was more during the mid day during monsoon. There was no significant variation in the pattern of calling between seasons. Preening, bathing and head scratching are the major maintenance activities. Bathing takes place in the hottest period of the day particularly in the afternoon. The batching spot was about 60m away from its roosting place. They roosted in pair, 1-2m above ground on thin branches of the small-trees or shrubs, especially bamboos.

More studies are need on this species. Conservation problems need to be given high priority.

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