

CONTENTS

	Page
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	
1. INTRODUCTION	1
2. LITERATURE REVIEWED	12
3. STUDY AREA	15
4. GENERAL METHODS FOR OBSERVATION	25
5. PHYSICAL FEATURES	31
Adult	33
Yearling	34
Fledgling	34
Sex	35
6. BEHAVIOURAL ECOLOGY OF FEEDING	39
Use of Foraging Grounds	44
Home Range During Non-breeding Season	49
Distance Covered in Foraging During Breeding Season	51
Does the Breeding Colony Acts as an Information Centre for Foraging	52
Time of Foraging	55
Consumption of Food Species	58
8. Selectivity of Food Items	60
Process of Feeding	64
Rest During Feeding	70
Foraging success	71
Bill and Its Relation with Feeding	71

7. BEHAVIOURAL ECOLOGY OF REPRODUCTION	77
8. MATING	80
Arrival of Birds in the Breeding Ground	84
Post-Arrival Behaviour and Territoriality	85
Age of Mated Birds	87
Mating Type	88
Mating Displays	88
Pair forming displays	89
Pair maintenance	96
Copulation	98
Pair Constancy	102
Causes of pair dissociation	103
Extra Pair Copulation	105
9. NESTING	111
Selection of Nest-Site	116
Begining of Nest Building	121
Process of Nest Building	123
Use of Nest Materials	129
Collection of Nest Materials	129
Use of Greenery and Its Role	130
Nesting in Relation to Water	134
Nesting synchrony	136
Nesting Failure	137
10. AGGRESSIVE BEHAVICUR	143
Types of Aggressive Acts	145
Description of the Aggressive Acts	145

Frequency of Different Aggressive Patterns	149
Factors Affecting Agonistic Behaviour	149
Defence Behaviour	157
11. EGGS, EGG LAYING AND INCUBATION	169
Laying	173
Laying in relation to nesting sequence	176
Time of laying	178
Laying interval	178
Factors affecting laying date	179
Behaviour of sexes	181
Egg	182
Factors affecting size of egg	186
Clutch Size	189
Factors affecting clutch size	190
Laying of Replacement Clutch	191
Incubation	192
Role of sexes	195
Factors affecting incubation	197
Abnormalities of incubation	202
Do openbill storks lay in conspecific nests	203
12. HATCHING AND DEVELOPMENT OF YOUNG	212
Hatching	214
Causes of egg loss	215
Hatching Success	217
Growth of Young	217

Behavioural Developmental	218
Fledging and Rate of Success	223
Causes of hatchling Loss	224
Factors Affecting Reproductive Success	226
Adaptive Significance of Hatching	228
Asynchrony	
13. PARENTAL CARE	236
Removal Egg Shell	238
Brooding	239
Water Sprinkling at Nest	240
Feeding of Young	246
14. POLYGYNY	254
Occurrence	256
Formation of Mating Group	256
Eggs and Youngs	258
Parental Investment	259
15. HUMAN INTERFERENCE AND MANAGEMENT	<u>266</u>
Protective Measures of the Sanctuary	268
Human Interference	269
Probable Effect of this Disturbance	272
Suggestions	275
16. SUMMARY	279
17. REFERENCES	I - XXXVII