



MIGRATORY BIRDS IN CHUNDASAGAR GAJNER BIKANER (RAJASTHAN) INDIA

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ABSTRACT:

In the northern hemisphere, the deep chill of winter closes the lakes and streams and snow fall covers the land as well as the total vegetation, compelling the birds to move towards warmer region around equator. The Indian subcontinent offers the sufficient food and water as well as the comfortable temperature to these migratory birds. The Rajasthan harbours the maximum variety and number of migratory birds, because of abundance of aquatic vegetation, fish, frogs, water insects, molluscs and planktons in the wide spread lakes, provide ideal conditions for the birds to stay. The migratory birds have been observed to reach up till the Chennai and Tamilnadu in the South India. The four water bodies of the sanctuary as well as the perennial water holes around Gajner, the Darbari water pond and the Kodemdesar water pond are the main water bodies to harbour the thousand of migratory birds reaching here since immemorable time. The water bodies of Gajner Sanctuary (Bikaner, Rajasthan) harbours approximately 6 to 7 thousand birds belonging to 17 species staying from Nov. to April every year (Chouhan 1994). The large number of birds coming regularly and staying comfortably in Chunda sagar, Gajner Sanctuary (Bikaner, Rajasthan) for food and shelter. Out of 14 species of birds visiting the Chunda sagar pond, some was the herbivore birds (Coots, Common teal) four was the carnivore birds (Cormorants, Darter, Pond heron, Spoon bill) and rest was both.

Keywords:- Migratory Birds, Gajner Sanctuary.

INTRODUCTION :

The history of Gajner wildlife sanctuary (Bikaner) and the lake can be traced since 1808. The wildlife were protected through wildlife act imposed since 1897 as a result of mass hunting of wild boar. The birds have been the interest of Ornithologist, bird watchers as well as the common men. The birds; house sparrow, cocoo has been entered the tails of Indian social culture. The “Kurja” Demoiselle crane is being sung all over the Rajasthan as a messenger, migrating and reaching to very far. Ojha (1939), Ojha and Kumar (1992), Chouhan (1994) have been great interest of migratory birds and described 19 species of migratory birds from Gajner wild life sanctuary.

STUDY AREA :

The Gajner wild life sanctuary is located at 27* 57' N latitudes, 73* 03'E longitudes and 233 meter MSL altitude. It is situated about 25 km.

South- West of Bikaner (Rajasthan). The sanctuary covers an area of 38 sq. km. and shows a typical arid conditions; extreme high and low temperature, low rainfall, excessive evaporation, xerophytic vegetation ie. spiny and thorny, trees and shrubs and only seasonal grasses. The animals inhabiting the sanctuary are also well adapted to desert conditions viz; water deficiency and extremes of temperature.

In the sanctuary one perennial artificial lake “Gaj Sagar”; one dam, the “Naya Bandha” and two big ponds namely the “Sugan Sagar” and “Chunda Sagar”; serve as the water support of the sanctuary.

Chunda Sagar is a pakka permanent perennial pond situated at the mid-east edge of the sanctuary and western side of the village. It covers approximately an area of 400 m X 200 m. This water hole is mainly meant for the domestic



cattle of the village and is used by wild life very rarely.



METHODOLOGY :

The investigation of spots were carried out during winter season from October to March. The birds migration times were noted from Anup library, The Sikar dairy, Chouhan (1994) as well as from the villagers of Gajner. The ecology of sanctuary was studied from Ojha and Kumar

(1992), Singh, Y. (1991), Swami, M. (1991). The Chunda Sagar map was drawn and divided in four parts for precisely counting and observations of the birds. The air and water temperature get recorded for the actual observations. The birds were scanned and observed by the naked eye as well as with the help of binocular.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION :

The Gajner wild life sanctuary is famous mainly for the imperial sandgrouse and the migratory water birds. It happened to be one of the important charm of game hunting; and the occasion were cherished to entertain the very important person by the ruler's of Bikaner. Ojha (1939), Bidasar (1981), Singh (1991), Ali (1987), Swami (1991), Ojha (1992), and Chouhan (1994).

A total number of 1732 birds belonging to family Anatidae; *Aythya fuligula* (Tufted duck), *A. ferina* (Common pochard), *Anas clypeata* (Shoveller), *A. strepera* (Gadwil), *A. Penelope* (Wigen), *A. crecca* (Common teal), *A. acuta* (Pintel), *Netta rufina* (Red crested pochard), Family Podicipedidae; *Podiceps ruficollis* (Dabchick), Family Rallidae; *Fulica atera* (Coot), Family Phalacrocoracidae; *Phalacrocorax carbo* (Cormorant), *Anhinga rufa* (Darter), Family Ardeidae; *Ardeola grayii* (Pond heron), *A. cinerea* (Grey heron), were observed to come and stay in the Chunda Sagar pond. In month of October only 32 birds were observed. The number increased to 251 in month of November and 460 and the highest population of the birds observed in the month of December. The number started gradually declining 388 in January, 347 in February and 245 in month of March. The birds return back with the middle of the April. The first reported to reach in the month of October are Coot, Shoveller, Dabchick and the Grey heron. Rest of the birds were reported in the later months. The Red crested pochard and the Wigeon were visited and stayed only for December and January. The Cormorant

was observed to arrive in the December and stayed for three months. The Coots outnumbered all the birds and their number reached upto 1224.

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Table- Showing total birds counting from Oct to March in the Chundasagar pond of Gajner wild life sanctuary

Birds	Months						Grand Total
	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	
Coot	10	191	324	269	277	153	1224
Gadwall	-	12	65	61	11	19	168
Shoveller	12	18	15	10	22	10	87
Common Pochard	-	12	11	9	15	27	74
Pintail	-	-	6	6	4	4	20
Common Teal	-	6	11	8	4	-	23
Tufted Duck	-	7	4	5	5	18	38
Dab Chick	9	3	7	4	3	7	37
Cromorant	-	2	3	2	1	2	11
Pond Heron	-	-	2	2	2	2	10
Darter	-	-	2	2	2	2	8
Red Creseted Pochard	-	-	5	7	-	-	12
Grey Heron	1	-	1	1	1	1	5
Wigeon	-	-	4	2	-	-	6
Mallard	-	-	-	-	-	-	0
Spoon Bill	-	-	-	-	-	-	0
Grand Total	32	251	460	388	347	245	1723