

CONSERVATION VALUE OF JAIKWADI BIRD SANCTUARY

The "Jaikwadi" dam is situated hardly 1km from Paithan towards its south west corner. As per the provisions of Sec. 18, 19 in the Wild Life Protection Act-1972, the Government of Maharashtra vide notification no. WLP/1086/27206/CR-39/86-ii. (IF-5, Dated 10th October 1986) declared the area, which was acquired for the construction of the "Jaikwadi" dam as "Jaikwadi" Bird Sanctuary". The sanctuary area is spread among the two districts of Aurangabad and Ahmednagar over an area of 339.Sqkm.

The biogeographic location of this area can be classified as under Bio-Geographical classification as under the Kingdom -Paleotropical; Subkingdom-Indo Malayan; Bio-Geographical zone-6, Deccan Peninsula; Biotic Province -6B central plateau. Except for the actual river course of Godavari, this reservoir is almost shallow at all the places. The difference between high flood level and dead storage level is only 10 meter. Although the reservoir area itself is devoid of vegetation cover, this reservoir provides a good habitat for aquatic flora and fauna. The Jayakwadi bird sanctuary harbors 251 species of the migratory and non-migratory birds, 67 fish species, 08 amphibian species & 11 mammals species. Numerous species of the Aquatic & Semi aquatic Hemiptera, Odonata are present. Many species of the phytoplankton and zooplankton are abundant due to shallow water body providing good food to the aquatic life and ornitho-life present in the sanctuary.

Aquatic flora of Nath-Sagar reservoir consists of algae, bryophytes and angiosperms. Some of the important aquatic plant genera represented here include Typha, Cyperus, Mymphea, Zostera, Zizania, Vallisneria, Ceratophyllum, Potamogeton, Scirpus, Pseudoraphis, Hydrilla, Ruppia and Najas. Animal life consist of all forms of aquatic invertebrates including Nematodes, snails, bivalvia, Crustacean, crabs, insects etc. and vertebrates represented by more than 50 indigenous species of fishes, frogs, turtles and crocodiles.

Bird's species commonly seen in the reservoir during winter months are Flamingos, Demoiselle Cranes, Common Cranes, White Necked Stork, Open bill Stork, Grey Heron, Indian pond Heron, Night Heron, Coot, Little Cormorant, Curlew, Avocet, Godwit, Gulls, Greb, Brahminy Duck, Tufted Pochard, Spot Bill Duck, Northern Pintail, Northern Shoveller, Common Pochard, Gadwall, Wigeon, Spoonbill, Snipes, Sandpiper, Egrets, Ibis, Pheasant Tailed Jacana. The other species of bird were seen and identified with habitats such as Moor hen, Plover, Stilt, Kingfisher, bar headed Goose, Marsh Harrier, Red Headed Falcon, Waterhen Black kite. The 30 odd islands have vegetation mainly consisting of Ipomea, Prosopis, Parkinsonia and sparse tree growth of Babul.

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