

BIODIVERSITY REPORT

The Ramsagar wildlife sanctuary Dholpur, is situated in the neighborhood of the famous Van Vihar wildlife sanctuary. This Sanctuary was notified by the Rajasthan Government in the year 1955. Ramsagar Sanctuary holds beautiful Ramsagar Lake, which backs rich water life including fresh water crocodiles and various fishes and snakes. Water fowls, for example, cormorants, white-breasted water hen, marsh hen, jacanas, ringed plover, sand piper, and green and purple herons are very basic.

Van Vihar and Ramsagar, old wildlife reserves of the rulers of Dholpur spread over an area of 59.86. sq. kms, were notified as wildlife sanctuaries by the Rajasthan Government in 1955 AD. Van Vihar is about 18 kms from Dholpur and Ramsagar is another 18 kms from Van Vihar. As a matter of fact, these are actually two separate wildlife sanctuaries. Van Vihar, located on Vindhyan plateau, supports a rather open stunted growth of Dhok and Khair trees. It is inhabited by animals like Sambhar, Chital, Blue Bull, Wild Boar, Sloth Bear, Hyena and Leopard.

Tigers were present in the area till the end of the nineteen sixties. It is said that Maharaj Udaibhan Singh of Dholpur had a great liking for the wild animals of Van Vihar. He used to hand feed not only the deer and antelopes in the reserve but also animals like foxes, jackals and birds. There is an old forest rest house in Van Vihar. It was initially built by the rulers of Dholpur. It is now maintained by the forest department and can be booked in advance by contacting the Dy. Conservator of Forests, Dholpur. Ramsagar part of the sanctuary has Ramsagar Lake. The lake is very picturesque and supports rich aquatic life including fresh water crocodiles and a number of species of fishes and snakes. Water birds like Cormorants, Darter, Ibis, White-Breasted Water Hen, Moorhen, Jacanas, Stilt, River Tern, Ringed Plover, Sand Piper and Herons (grey, and purple) are quite common. During winter months, migratory ducks and geese also visit the lake in good numbers. A four wheeler vehicle is necessary if one intends to visit Ramsagar area and the lake. Talab Shahi

About 40 kms. from Dholpur is a picturesque and historic lake called Talab Shahi. The lake and the palace were built in 1617 A.D. as a shooting lodge for Prince Shahjahan. A palace and the lake were later maintained by the rulers of Dholpur. The lake attracts a large number of winter migratory fowls like Pintail, Shoveller, Red Crested Pochard, Common Pochard, Tufted Duck, Common Teal, Garganey Teal, Wigeon and Gadwall.