

OBSERVATIONS ON THE WATERFOWLS OF JIWANI WETLAND COMPLEX (JIWANI, GAWATER BAY, PISHUKAN AND AKARA RIVER ESTUARY) BALOCHISTAN

Karim Gabol¹ and Abdul Rahim²

¹Department of Zoology, University of Karachi, Karach-75270, Pakistan

²International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), Gwadar Office, Balochistan, Pakistan

ABSTRACT

The present study deals with the observations on waterfowl of Jiwani wetland complex (Jiwani Gawater Bay Pishukan and Akara river estuary) during January 2006 to June 2006. During the study 31 species of waterfowls were observed at three different site of Jiwani wet land complex.

Key words: Waterfowls, Jiwani wetland complex, Akara river estuary, Balochistan

INTRODUCTION

The total area of Pakistan coastline nearly 1050 Km extends from Indus Delta and sir creek (23° 45' N 68° 15' E) in the south east to the Gawater Bay and Dasht River Estuary (25° 05' N, 61° 48' E) in the south west Jiwani coastal areas. These areas comprising various habitats, sandy and rocky beaches, deep sea, shallow bays and mangroves, located on the western end of Markran coast along Gwater Bay (Ras Jiwani) extending west ward to Iranian frontier (Ras fastah) and Hur-e-Bahu. Maximum temperature ranges from 32°C to 48°C .

There are different plants spp., present like, *Acacia*, *Prosopis*, *Tamarix*, and *Phoenix sp.*, while mangroves *Avicennia marina* and *Rhizophora mucronata* introduce by IUCN district Gwadar office, Baluchistan. Gawadar Bay around the delta of the Dasht River, a significant area of mangrove forests extends westward to the Iranian frontier, Different natural threats are coastal storm, flooding, wind erosion and desertification. These threats are caused by human activities, construction of dams, coastal high ways and ship port Pishukan area basically sandy and rocky beach near western corner Gwadar west bay. Akara river estuary situated at north of Gwadar port Akara river estuary a arid subtropical climate with an average annual rainfall of about 150mm, a relatively high humidity and a mean annual temperature of 32 °C. The natural vegetation are *Tamarix aphylla*, *Acacia jacquemontii*, *Maerua crassifolia*, *Salvadora oleoides*, *Suaeda fruticosa*, *Pennisetum divisum* and *Eleusine compress*.

The present paper is based on the observation made in aforesaid region from 1st January to 30th June 2006 in the three different areas of Jiwani wetland complex including Gawater bay mangrove area near Ras Jiwani, second Pishukan sandy and rocky beach and third study area is Akara river estuary near Gwadar port. Water birds surveys during winter have been undertaken by Sindh Wildlife Department and Zoological Survey Department.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

A six months survey of Jiwani wetland complex (Gawater Bay and Gwadar coastal areas) was conducted from January 2006 to June 2006, enlistment of birds species and record was made with the help of binoculars and spotting scopes. Species identification was made through the field guides developed by Grimmett (1998), Sonobe and Usui (1993), Ali *et al.*, (1983), Heinzel *et al.*, (1972), Perrins and Attenborough (1987) and Roberts (1991) and Breckenridge (1935).

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

These areas are important for waterfowls particularly Flamingo, Grey heron, Waders, Pelicans, Gulls and Tern. There are 31 species of waterfowls have been identified during the study period (Table 1).

The study area of Jiwani wet land complex is Gawater Bay and Gwadar coastal area Pishukan is sandy and rocky beach and Akara river estuary area Gwadar port. A total of 29 species was recorded from the areas, as given in Table 1. The majority of the waterfowls are migrant. The large flocks of Flamingoes and Pelicans have been observed, off and on during study period. Three hundred Greater flamingoes have been observed in Ras Jiwani, Gawater Bay mangrove forest. Flamingo observes as common visitor and irregular round the years in three study

areas. A large number of shore birds and Waders are observed from Gawater Bay, mangrove area. These are oystercatcher, Mongolian plover, Eurasian Curlew, Red shank, Green Shank, Bar-tailed Godwit, Terek Sandpiper and Curlew Sandpiper. During study period 100 Oystercacter and 90 Eurasian Curlew have been recorded in Gawater Bay mangrove areas.

In Gawater Bay, IUCN introduce *Rhizophura mucronata* and *Avicennia marina* plantation. So in winter or summer there are highest numbers of waterfowl visiting this area. The second study area of Jiwani wetland complex is Pishukan area. Pishukan area basically sandy and rocky beach of Balochistan.. In this area different water fowls Great crested Grebe, Great Cormorant, western Reef, Grey Heron observed during study period. In shore birds or warders only Great sand plover has been observed.

Table 1. Water fowls observed during study period (Jan – Jun 2006).

Common name	Scientific name
Little Grebe	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>
Great cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>
Western reef	<i>Egretta egretta gularis</i>
Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>
Great Egret	<i>Egretta alba</i>
Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>
Greater Flamingo	<i>Phoenicopterus ruber</i>
Dalmatian Pelican	<i>Pelecanus crispus</i>
Common shelduck	<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>
Oystercatcher	<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>
Mongolian plover	<i>Charadrius mongolus</i>
Greater sand plover	<i>Charadrius leschenaultia</i>
Bartailed Godwit	<i>Limosa lapponica</i>
Eurasian curlew	<i>Numenius arquate</i>
Redshank	<i>Tringa tetanus</i>
Greenshank	<i>Tringa nebularia</i>
Terek Sandpiper	<i>Xenus cinereus</i>
Curlew Sandpiper	<i>Calidris ferruginea</i>
Dunlin	<i>Calidris alpine</i>
Sanderling	<i>Calidris alba</i>
Kentish Plover	<i>Charadrius alexandrinus</i>
Greater Sand plover	<i>Charadrius leschenaultia</i>
Whimbrel	<i>Numenius phaeopus</i>
Herring Gull	<i>Larus largentatus</i>
Great Black headed Gull	<i>Larus Ichthyætus</i>
Blackheaded Gull	<i>Larus ridibundus</i>
SootyGull	<i>Larus hemprichi</i>
Gullbilled Tern	<i>Gelochelidon nilotica</i>
Caspian Tern	<i>Hydroprogne caspia</i>
Great Crested Tern	<i>Thalasseus bergii</i>
Sandwich Tern	<i>Sterna sandvicensis</i>

The third study area was Akara river estuary area Gawadar port. In this area large number of Dalmatian Pelican were observed in winter About 900 Dalmatian Pelican have been recorded in Akara river estuary. 515 Great Cormorant, 170 Greater Flamingo and a single individual of common shelduck was also observed. In waders 30 Kentish Plover, 30 Greater Sand Plover, 14 Sanderling, 13 Dunlin. Blacktailed Godwit, 8 Bartailed Godwit and 9 Eurasian Curlew have been recorded. 200 Black- head Gull, 90 Slender billed Gull and 30 caspian have been recorded in Akara river estuary during study period.

A sizeable population of Dalmation Pelican was recorded from Jiwani wetland complex and also including ducks, Common shelduck, Eurasian Wigeon, Gadwall, Common Teal, Mallard ,Northern Pintail, Northern Shoveler, Marbled teal ,Red crested Pochard, Tufted duck. The rare ducks like marbled Teal, Red crested Pochard ,White eyed Pochard and Red breasted Merganser were also found in Jiwani Wetland Complex (Hasan and Saadat, 2005)



Fig.1-4. Birds of Pakistan;

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