

SURVEY AND DISTRIBUTION OF THE RESIDENT AND MIGRATORY WILD BIRD SPECIES IN DIFFERENT HABITATS AT GHARBIA GOVERNORATE

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ABSTRACT: This work was conducted to survey and know distribution of some wild bird species at Gharbia Governorate during two successive years (2012-2014). Twenty four bird species were recorded as resident birds were classified to fourteen as harmful bird species and 10 species were recorded as beneficial birds. These species were existed around the year. Five bird species as migratory bird species recorded during the study period were as follow, four species were recorded as harmful birds and one species was recorded as beneficial bird species.

Key words: Bird species, beneficial bird species, harmful bird species, bird ecology

INTRODUCTION

In Egypt, the number of bird species were 515 the resident birds are 186 bird species, 12 are extinct and 17 are ere endemic, while the rest of bird species and sub species 300 species are migratory (Tharwat, 1997). In Egypt, horizontal expansion, through reclamation of desert lands create a new habitats for birds where food supplies and a suitable places for life and the reproduction. Some bird species are considered the most important agricultural pests in many crops, vegetables and fruits such as wheat, barley, rice, maize, tomato, squash, cucumber, grape, apple and strawberry (Khattab 1993, Tharwat 1997, Bonnah 2007, Khattab *et al.* 2002, Attia 2006, Omar 2010 and Attia 2013). Essa (1993) observed bird species at Nubaria area during 1990 and classified into beneficial birds and noxious birds, furthermore, It was evident that the study selected area was rich with beneficial bird species; Cattle egret, *Egrett ibis* and Great gray shrike, *Lanius excubitor*, where the most prevalent beneficial species all over the year months was White wagtail, *Motacilla alba* and Black headed gull Birds which surveyed in old land and newly

reclaimed land through the different seasons of the year, also House sparrow, *Passer domesticus niloticus*, was the most prevalent species in both lands, while In old land, Palm dove *Streptopelia senegalensis s.*, is ranked in second rank followed by Hooded crow *Corvus corone cornix*, and Crested lark, *Galerida cristata nigricans*. Crested lark was the second followed by Hooded crow *Corvus corone cornix*, Palm dove *Streptopelia sengalensis s.*, Spanish sparrow *Passer hespaniolensis h.* and Starling *Sturnus vulgaris*, were recorded only during Autumn and Winter as visitors with different abundance at the tested areas Khattab (1993).The House sparrow *Passer domesticus niloticus*, was the predominant noxious bird species at Kafr El-Sheikh Governorate, while Palm dove *Streptopelia sengalensis s.*, and Crested lark *Galerida cristata nigricans*, ranked in the second order after House sparrow Soliman (1999) and Wilson (1993). House sparrow *Passer domesticus niloticus* was the most prevalent species in both old and newly reclaimed lands, throughout year seasons. In old land, Palm dove, *Streptopelia senegalensis* ranked the second followed by Hooded crow *C. corone cornix* and Crested lark, *Galerida*

cristata. On the other hand, Crested lark was second in the newly reclaimed lands followed by Hooded crow and Palm dove. For the beneficial bird species, Cattle egret, *Bubulicua ibis*, recorded as resident with highly abundance in the two tested areas, while Swallow *Hirundo rustica* and Wagtail *Motacilla alba* were recorded only during Autumn, Winter and Spring seasons as visitors EL-Deeb *et al.* (1995). Cattle egret bird preferred open cultivated areas occupied by grazing cattle, but it was absent in fallow and salin lands. Cattle egret was found in all districts of Kafr EL- Sheikh Governorate except Baltim and Metobus, and their numbers considerably differed from one district to another. Palm dove birds were recorded in fields, buildings and shouna of the ten counties belonging to Kafr EL- Sheikh Governorate. Shouna harbored the highest number of Palm dove birds followed by buildings while the lowest number was recorded in fields. House sparrow birds were recorded in field, buildings and shouna of the ten districts belonging to Kafr EL- Sheikh Governorate Soliman (1999). The avifauna in Abbassa pond at Sharkia Governorate have many kinds of wild birds. Some of these birds are migratory (13species), but others are resident (16species). Avifauna community of Abbassa pond inhabited by some of noxious birds that feed on small fish in fish farm located in this area such as Blue-kingfisher, Black-headed gull, White stork and other species of the family Anatidae considered as migratory birds, while Gray heron, Purple heron, Little egret, Cattle egret and Pied kingfishers as resident once Khattab *et al.* (2002). Palm dove, (*Streptopelia senegalensis*) showed a significant difference in habitat, while there was no significant variance between the population density for the two years (1998 & 1999) at EL-Monofia governorate. The House sparrow (*Passer domesticus niloticus*) showed a high significant difference between the population density at this bird under different habitats through the two years EL-Danasory (2002). The birds

were 23 resident bird species and 5 migratory bird species under the different orders. The resident wild bird species were (Passeriformes) House sparrow, Hooded crow, Swallow, Fantailed warbler, Crested lark, Nile valley sunbird, Sand-martin, Desert wheatear and White vented bulbul. Also (Columbiformes), Palm dove and Rock dove, (Ciconiformes) Cattle egret, (Charadriiformes) spur winged plover and Senegal stone curlew, (Coraciiformes) Little green bee-eater, Pied kingfisher and Hoopoe, (Gruiformes) Moorhen and (Strigiformes) Barn owl and little owl, while the migratory wild bird species were (Passeriformes) White wagtail, Yellow headed wagtail, Blue throat and Chiffchaff Omar (2005). The resident birds in EL-Menoufia Governorate, these species were Common bulbul, *Pycnonatus barbatus*, Crested lark, *Galerida cristata*, Goldfinch, *Carduelis carduelis nedicki*, Great grey shrik, *Lanus excubitor*, Hooded crow, *Corvus corone cornex*, hoopoe, *Upupa epops epops*, House sparrow, *Passer domesticus niloticus*, Little bee-eater, *Merops orientalis cleoptara*, Palm dove, *Streptopelia senegalensis*, Senegal cucal, *Centropus senegalensis*, Spotted senegalensis, *Ptercles senegallus*, Spurwinged plover, *Hoplopterus spenosus*, Swallow, *Hirundo rustica savignii*, Yellow wagtail, *Motacilla flava*, and Graceful warbler, *Prinia gracilis*. The aquatic birds including two species: this species were Cattle egret, *Ardeola ibis ibis* and the Moorhen, *Gallinula chloropus*. Raptor birds were represented by three species: these species were Black shoulder kite, *Elanus caerules*, Kestrel, *Falco tinnunculus* and Black kite *Milvus migrans* EL-Danasory (2006).The resident wild bird species of order Passeriformes were the dominant wild birds included eleven families, and the House sparrow *Passer domesticus* is the most wild bird species extent in the three ecosystem of Sharkia Governorate Attia (2006). Hooded crow *Corvus corone sardonius* in all habitats of four tested governorates (Sharkia, Qalubia, Ismailia and

Suez), while Brown-necked raven *Corvus corax ruficollis* was only found at Ismailia and Suez Governorates Hassan (2008). Twenty seven resident bird species were recorded at Ismailia governorate. The resident wild bird species of order Passeriformes were the dominant wild birds included ten families, contain on six genera and eight species were recorded as harmful species, while six bird species were as migratory birds Linnet, *Carduelis cannabina*, White wagtail, *Motacilla alba alba*, Chiffchaff, *Phelloscobus collybita*, Stonechat *Saxicola torquata*, White stork, *Ciconia ciconia* and Kingfisher, *Alcedo atthis* Attia (2013).

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Survey and distribution of the wild bird species:

This work had been conducted at four different habitats representing different environmental and ecological areas at Gharbia Governorate. These habitats were nearby each of (buildings, field crops, trees and water canals). The field trails started from October 2012 to September 2014.

The birds either residents or migratory were surveyed in Tanta and Zifta district at Gharbia Governorate. In these trails, area size is two feddans inside the chosen cultivated Location. Number of the different bird species was counted in each habitat by using the method of Redinger and Libay (1979) as a plot equivalent two feddans from the determined cultivated area in each location. The identification and counts of bird species were achieved by using field glass (binoculars) from rising position, which gave clear sighted vision of the plots. This work has been accomplished twice daily, the first at sunrise and second at sunset during one hour for sex successive days monthly. Bird classification were carried out by (Sibley and Monroe 1990) under review by the checklist committee of the American Ornithologists Union (A. O. U.) were followed in bird classification.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Survey of some wild bird species: Survey and distribution of some resident wild bird species:

Data in Table (1) indicated that, the resident wild bird species recorded during the study period were as follow, 14 species were recorded as harmful birds and 10 species were recorded as beneficial birds belonging to 20 families and 10 orders. These species were existed around the whole year and recorded a highly significant difference between the numbers of bird species in the different districts.

These resident wild bird species were classified according to their orders as follow:-

Order Charadriiformes was represented by three bird species, Greater Painted snipe *Rostratula benghalensis* belonging to family Rostratulidae was found in Tanta district only, Spur-winged plover *Hoplopterus spenosus* belonging to family Charadriidae, Senegal thick nee *Burhinus senegalensis* belonging to family Burhinidae were found in two districts as beneficial bird.

Order Ciconiformes was represented by three bird species Cattle egret *Bubulcus ibis*, Little egret *Egretta garzetta* and Squacco heron *Ardeola ralloides* as beneficial species belonging to family Ardeidae were found in two districts. Order Columbiformes and family Columbidae was represented by one bird species Palm dove *Streptopelia senegalensis* as harmful species which was found in two districts.

Order Coraciformes was represented by two bird species were recorded as harmful species belonging to two families Cerylidae and Meropidae. These species were Pied kingfisher *Ceryle rudis* and Little green bee-eater *Merops orientalis* found in two districts.

Order Cuculiformes was represented by one bird species which were recorded as beneficial species belonging to family Centropidae Senegal coucal *Centropus*

senegalensis was found in Tanta district.

Order Falconiformes include one bird species were recorded as beneficial species belonging to family Falconidae Kestrel *Falco tinnunculus* found in two districts.

Order Gruiformes included two birds as harmful species Moorhen *Gallinula chloropus* found in two district and Water rail *Rallus aquaticus* which was recorded in Tanta only belonging to family Rallidae.

Order Passeriformes with eight families (Alaudidae, Cisticolidae, Corvidae, Hirundidae, Motacillidae, Nectariniidae, Passeridae, and Pycnonotidae) with six species were recorded as harmful bird.

These species were (Crested lark *Galerida cristata*), (Graceful warbler *Prinia gracilis*), (Hooded crow *Corvus corone cornix*), (Nile valley sunbird *Anthreptes metallicus*), (House sparrow *Passer domesticus niloticus*) and (Fan tailed warbler *Cisticola juncidis*), while three species were recorded as beneficial (Yellow wagtail *Motacilla flava*), (Swallow *Hirundo rustica savignii*) and (Common bulbul *Pycnonotus barbatus*). All these species were found at two districts expected Crested lark *Galerida cristata* and Yellow wagtail *Motacilla flava* were absent from Zifta district.

Table (1): Survey and distribution of some resident wild bird species at Gharbia Governorate during October 2012 to September 2014

Orders	Families	Resident bird species		Surveyed localities								
		Common name	Scientific name	Tanta locality				Zifta locality				
				B	F	T	W	B	F	T	W	
Charadriiformes	Burhinidae	Sengal thick knee	<i>Burhinus senegalensis</i>	+	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
	Charadriidae	Spur-winged plover	<i>Hoplopterus spinosus</i>	++	++	++	++	-	+	-	-	+
	Scolopacidae	Greater painted snipe	<i>Rostratula benghalensis</i>	++	++	++	++	-	-	-	-	-
Ciconiiformes	Ardeidae	Cattle egret	<i>Bubulcus ibis ibis</i>	++	*	++	++	++	++	*		
		Little egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>	-	-	+	+	-	++	+	++	
		Squacco heron	<i>Ardeola ralloides</i>	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	+
Columbiformes	Columbidae	Palm dove	<i>Streptopelia senegalensis</i>	++	++	++	++	++	++	+	++	
Coraciiformes	Cerylidae	Peid king fisher	<i>Ceryle rudis</i>	-	++	+	+	-	-	-	-	++
		Blue checked bee-eater	<i>Merops orientalis</i>	++	++	++	++	-	-	-	-	++
Cuculiformes	Centropidae	Senegal coucal	<i>Centropus senegalensis</i>	+	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Falconiiformes	Falconidae	Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>	-	-	+	-	-	-	+	+	
Gruiformes	Rallidae	Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>	++	++	++	++	+	-	-	++	
		Water rail	<i>Rallus aquaticus</i>	-	-	+	+	-	-	-	-	
Passeriformes	Alaudidae	Crested lark	<i>Galerida cristata</i>	-	+	-	+	-	-	-	-	
	Cisticolidae	Fantail warbler	<i>Cisticola juncidis</i>	++	++	++	++	++	++	++	++	
		Graceful warbler	<i>Prinia gracilis</i>	-	++	++	++	-	-	-	-	
	Corvidae	Hooded crow	<i>Corvus corone cornix</i>	++	++	++	++	++	++	++	++	
	Hirundidae	Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica savignii</i>	++	*	++	++	++	++		*	
	Motacillidae	yellow wagtail	<i>Motacilla flava</i>	*	++	*	++	-	-	-	-	
	Nectariniidae	Nile valley sunbird	<i>Anthreptes metallicus</i>	++	++	++	++	++	++	*	++	
	Passeridae	House sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus niloticus</i>	*	++	*	*	++	++	++	*	
Pycnonotidae	Common bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus barbatus</i>	-	-	+	+	-	-	-	+		
Strigiformes	Strigidae	Little owl	<i>Athene noctua</i>	-	-	++	+	-	-	-	-	
Upupiformes	Upupidae	Hoopoe	<i>Upupa epops</i>	+	-	-	-	++	-	-	+	

Survey and distribution of the resident and migratory wild bird

Order Strigiformes with family Strigidae was represented by one bird species Little owl *Athene noctua* as beneficial bird species found in Tanta district only.

Order Upupiformes including one family Upupidae was represented by one bird species Hoopoe *Upupa epops* as beneficial bird species was found in two districts.

The obtained data explained that, Cattle egret *Bubulcus ibis ibis*, House sparrow *Passer domesticus niloticus* and Swallow *Hirundo rustica savignii* were found in a high numbers in the two districts throughout the whole period of the study beginning from October 2012 to September 2014.

Also, Hooded crow *Corvus corone cornix* was found in a high numbers in Zifta district; while it was found in moderate numbers in Tanta district. And Yellow wagtail *Motacilla flava* was found in high numbers in Tanta district; while it was completely absent in Zifta district.

Also, Greeful warbler *Prinia gracilis* and Greater Painted snipe *Rostratula benghalensis* were found in moderate numbers in Tanta district; while they were completely absent in Zifta district.

On the other hand, Little owl *Athene noctua* and Water rail *Rallus aquaticus* were found in a few numbers in Tanta district; while they were completely absent in Zifta district.

These results coincided with these obtained by Goodman *et al.* (1989) who reported that Hooded crow, *Corvus corone cornix* was common resident in most cultivated parts of the Nile Delta and Valley (South to Aswan Governorate), along the Suez Canal, in the Faiyoum Governorate, and North-Eastern Sinai. (Essa 1993, Khattab 1993, Wilson 1993) and El-Mallah (2004) observed and classified birds in two groups, the first was beneficial birds and the second was noxious birds. Omar (2005) surveyed 23 resident bird species and 5 migratory bird species under the different orders in Assiut Governorate. Attia (2006) recorded some species of orders Passeriformes, Gruiformes, Falconiformes,

Ciconiformes, Columbiformes, Coraciiformes, Cuculiformes and Upupiformes as resident bird species.

El-Danasory (2006) recorded the resident birds in El- Behira and El-Menoufia governorates. Omar (2010) cleared that bird species in Assiut district included two types of birds, beneficial and noxious. The beneficial birds included *Ardeola ibis*, Hoopoe *Upupa epops*, , White wagtail *Motacilla alba*, Common bulbul, *Pycnonotus barabtus*, Fantailed warbler *Cisticola juncidis*, Kestrel *Falco tinnuculus*, Swallow *Hirundo rustica*, Spur winged plover *Hoplopterus spinosus*, Northern wheater *Oenanthe oenanthe* and rufous tailed robin *Cercotrichas galactotes*. Attia (2013) cleared that at Ismailia Governorate, 15 species were recorded as harmful birds and 12 species were recorded as beneficial birds belonging to 20 families and 9 orders.

Survey and distribution of some migratory birds:

Data in Table (2) showed five bird species as migratory birds were recorded during the study period were as follow, two species were recorded as harmful birds and three species were recorded as beneficial birds belonging to four families and three orders as follow:-

Order Charadriiformes including two bird species were recorded as harmful bird species Common sandpiper *Actitis hypoleucos* and Snipe *Gallinago gallinago* belonging to family Scolopacidae were found in moderate numbers in Zifta district and in few numbers in Tanta district.

Order Ciconiiformes was represented by one bird species, White stork *Ciconia ciconia* as harmful bird species belonging to family Ciconiidae was found in moderate numbers nearby (trees and water canals) in Tanta district only and Kingfisher *Alcedo atthis* belonging to family Alcedinidae and order Coraciiformes was found in moderate numbers in two district as harmful bird species.

Table (2): Survey and distribution of some migratory wild bird species at Gharbia Governorate during October 2012 to September 2014

Orders	Families	Migratory bird species		Surveyed localities							
		Common name	Scientific name	Tanta locality				Zifta locality			
				B	F	T	W	B	F	T	W
Ciconiiformes	Ciconiidae	White stork	<i>Ciconia ciconia</i>	-	-	++	++	-	-	-	-
Coraciiformes	Alcedinidae	King fisher	<i>Alcedo atthis</i>	-	++	+	++	+	+	+	++
Charadriiformes	Scolopacidae	Common sandpiper	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>	-	-	+	++	-	-	-	+
		Snipe	<i>Gallinago gallinago</i>	-	-	+	+	-	-	++	++
Passeriformes	Motacillidae	White wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba alba</i>	++	++	+	++	++	++	+	++

B= Buildings F= Field crops T= Trees W= Water canal
 - = Absent + = 1<10 ++ = 10<100 * = 100<500

One bird species belonging to order Passeriformes was recorded as beneficial bird species, White wagtail *Motacilla alba alba* belonging to family Motacillidae found in moderate numbers in two districts.

Our results agree with some author (Khattab 1998; Soliman 1999; El-Danasory 2002 and 2006; El-Malah 2004 and Attia 2006) recorded *Motacilla alba*, *Alcedo atthis*, *Phelloscobus collybita* and *Saxicola torquata* as migratory birds.

Attia (2013) cleared that at Ismailia Governorate six bird species were recorded as migratory birds, *Motacilla alba*, *Alcedo atthis*, *Carduelis cannabina*, *Phelloscobus collybita*, *Saxicola torquata* and *Ciconia ciconia*.

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حصر وتوزيع الطيور البرية المقيمة والمهاجرة في بيئات مختلفة في محافظة الغربية

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الملخص العربى

تهدف هذه الدراسة إلى حصر بعض أنواع الطيور البرية (الضارة والنافعة في بعض مراكز محافظة الغربية). وقد أوضحت النتائج وجود عدد (29) نوع من الطيور في كلا من المركزين تم تصنيفها إلى (24) نوع من الطيور المقيمة والتي تم تقسيمها إلى (10) أنواع من الطيور النافعة ، (14) نوع من الطيور الضارة. وبالنسبة للطيور المهاجرة تم حصر (5) أنواع فقط منهم نوعين من الطيور الضارة بالمزروعات والأنواع الثلاثة الأخرى من الطيور النافعة. كما ان كل الأنواع التي تم تسجيلها تدرج تحت (20) عائلة تنتمي إلى (10) رتب.