

RESEARCH ARTICLE

SOME IMPORTANT MIGRATORY BIRDS OF ASAN BARRAGE WETLAND, DEHRADUN, UTTARAKHAND, INDIA

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ABSTRACT

Asan Barrage has become first wetland from Uttarakhand, which is included in the prestigious Ramsar site list. This wetland is well known as a home of migratory birds and the present communication deals with some important of them.

INTRODUCTION

Asan Barrage a 444 hectare stretch. It is situated at the confluence of rivers Yamuna and Asan, and forms an important transition zone between riverine and forest ecosystems (Kumar *et al.*, 2018; RIS, 2020). It has been declared as “Wetland of International Importance” by the Ministry of Environment forests and climate change. Including it India has 75 Ramsar sites (PIB, 2020). Wetland is defined as a low laying area filled with water and provides a natural environment for a wide range of biodiversity (i.e. both flora and fauna) including birds (Bassi *et al.*, 2014). Here in the present article some important migratory birds are listed from this wetland of great importance.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

The wetland was surveyed during the month of December, 2022. It is a small barrage which is located at northwest of Dehradun (Dakpathar) near Uttarakhand- Himachal border (Fig. 1) and is about 40 Kilometers away from heart of the Dehradun city at 77°39'56" Elongitude and 30°26'09" N latitude. The bird's diversity identified on the basis of relevant literature (Grimmet *et al.*, 2011; Balachandran *et al.*, 2018).

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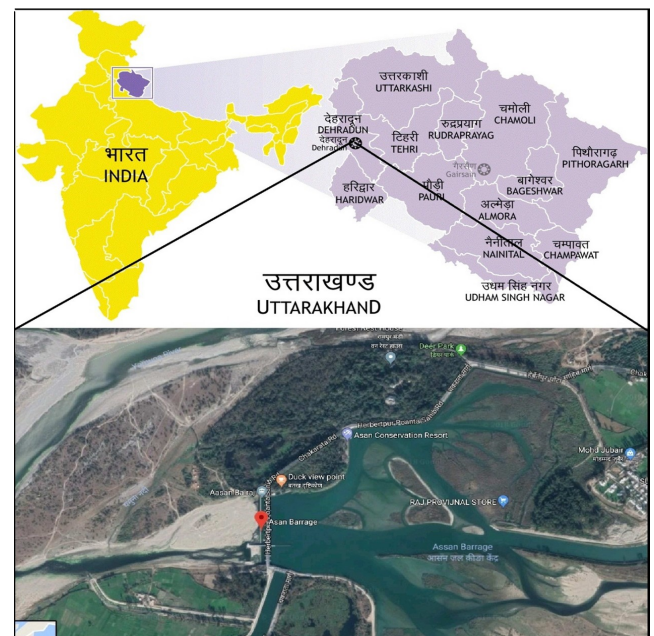













Fig. 1. Location map of Asan barrage wetland, Dehradun (after Kumar *et al.*, 2018)

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Based on the study it has been observed that almost all of them belong to class Anatidae and exhibits almost same pattern of feeding habits. Following observations have been made about them which are summarized in the Table 1.

Table 1. Some important migratory birds of Asan Barrage Ramsar site, Dehradun Uttarakhand

S.No.	Zoological Name	Common Name	Breeding Zone	Feeding Habit
1.	<i>Anas acuta</i>	Pintail	Great Britain and Northwest United States	Seeds, rhizome of aquatic plants, small fishes and insects.
2.	<i>Anas crecea</i>	Common teal	Europe and Asia	Phytoplankton, small animals like snails and small fishes.
3.	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	Mallard	Northern and Southern Hemispheres	Omnivorous, feed on plants like floating one.
4.	<i>Aythya farina</i>	Common pochard	Northern Europe and across the Palaearctic	Phytoplankton and small insects while floating on water.
5.	<i>Aythya fuligula</i>	Tufted duck	Northern Europe	Molluscs, crustaceans, grayfish, snails, aquatic plants and insects.
6.	<i>Fulica atra</i>	Coot	South America, Europe and North America	Plant debris, algae, seeds and fruits.
7.	<i>Mareca penelope</i>	Wigeon	Palaearctic and occasionally found in the Nearctic regions	Phytoplankton and zooplankton, either in or out of the water such as duck sedge, duckweed and cattails.
8.	<i>Mareca strepera</i>	Gadwall	Northern areas of Europe and central north America	Feed on aquatic vegetation, weeds, seeds, shoots, roots, tubers and leaves.
9.	<i>Netta rufina</i>	Red crested pochard	England	Phytoplankton, larvae and pupae present on rocks, aquatic animals, snails and crabs.
10.	<i>Spatula clypeata</i>	Shoveller	Europe and across Palearctic and across most of North America	Insects, crustaceans and seeds.
11.	<i>Tadorna ferruginea</i>	Brahming duck	Northwest Africa and Ethiopia	Feed on grasses, young shoot of the plants, grains and aquatic plants. Small insects and molluscs

		
<i>Anas acuta</i>	<i>Anas crecea</i>	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>
		
<i>Aythya farina</i>	<i>Aythya fuligula</i>	<i>Fulica atra</i>
		
<i>Mareca penelope</i>	<i>Mareca strepera</i>	<i>Netta rufina</i>
		
<i>Spatula clypeata</i>	<i>Tadorna ferruginea</i>	
Plate 1. Photographs of some important migratory birds of Asan Barrage wetland, Dehradun Uttarakhand (*Photographs courtesy from internet)		

CONCLUSION

Since the area is one of the attractions for bird watchers and ornithologists across the world. It is also a sensitive zone regarding climate change due to increase in tourism and construction in terms of development in the nearby areas, may cause ill effects such as increase in turbidity and change in pH of water. These effects may be responsible for the decline in the population of migratory birds. Seeing such sensitivity of the issue our government strict actions are highly required for the safeguard of the environment in the wetland area. Rules and regulations for tourism must be implemented at their real form to maintain sustainability in the area so that this treasure will remain spreading its beauty to its beholders.

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