

## INTRODUCTION

The bird fauna of Sindh comprises of 419 species whereas 667 species of birds have been reported from Pakistan. Most birds can be expected to be found near water (wetlands) and are called waterbirds. Some birds show their tendency to live in the desert areas and are called as Desert birds whilst some can be seen more in and around the forest and are termed as Forest birds, and some would like to wade on the muddy shore or on the sea coast and are called as Waders or Shorebirds.

Most of the wetlands of Sindh are very much degraded due to lack of management. Fortunately, some of the wetlands have a kind of protection through having been declared as Wildlife Sanctuaries. 10 wetlands of Sindh have been designated as Ramsar Sites (Wetlands of International importance) and those require immediate attention for their maintenance as such.

Keenjhar Lake is a Wildlife Sanctuary meant for the preservation of the wildlife of the area, particularly the waterbirds. It has also been declared as a Ramsar Site (Wetland of International Importance) due to its ecological, and wetland values.

This booklet is about the birds mostly seen on Keenjhar Lake. It also gives some basic information about the habits and status of some species as recorded thereon.

### Hydrological Data of Keenjhar Lake

Outlet	K.B Feeder Lower
Area under Lake	38sq.miles(24320 acres)
Storage Capacity	0.508 MAF
Usable Capacity	0.38 MAF
Av. Depth of Water	7.0 m
Length of Embankments	19 km
Maximum Height of Embankments	10.0 m
Deposition of Silt per year	4335 acre feet
Original Design life	132 years
Reduced life After silting	87 years
Life after construction of Link canal	192 years
Main water Supply source	Kalri Baghar Feeder upper
Source:	Sindh Fisheries Department

## BIRD GROUPS OF KEENJHAR LAKE

Kites Marsh Harriers Ospreys Cuckoos Swifts Swallows Pigeons Doves Parrots Sandgrouses Mynas Shrikes Larks	Babblers Sunbirds Bushchats Bee-eaters Drongos Crows Prinias Warblers Wagtails Sparrows Weaverbirds	Grebes Pelicans Cormorants Flamingos Herons and Bitterns Ibises and Spoonbills Ducks Moorhens/Waterhens Coots Waders Gulls and Terns
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The most abundant and regular winter visitors are the ducks, waders or shore birds, and the gulls and terns.

There are two types of migrants.

1. **Local Migrants** moving within the local biomes of the region.

2. **True Migrants** moving seasonally especially when temperature drops in winter. Millions of migrants move from their breeding sites located in the northern region to their feeding sites located in the southern region where temperature remains warm. Map I indicates the pattern of ducks migration from North to South.

Many birds are migratory to some degree and move around considerably as the water supply fluctuates. Resident birds (that are living in an area throughout the year) spread out during the summer, in search of suitable places for nest building and feeding.



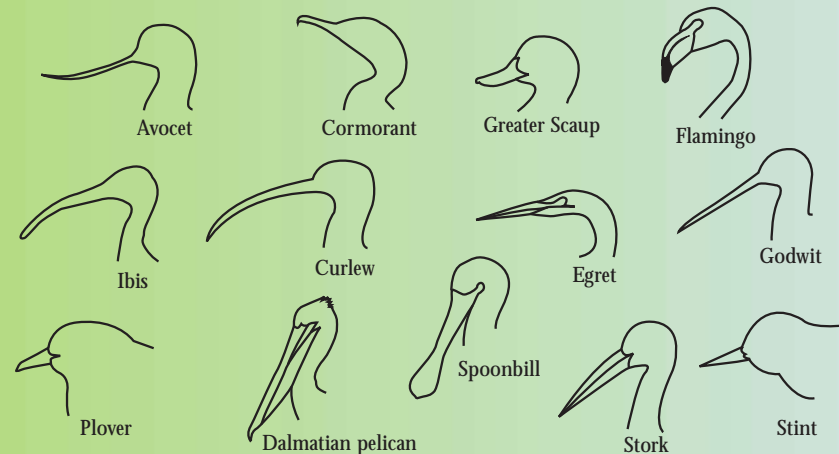
A large number of birds migrate in winter from their breeding grounds in the Northern Hemisphere and enter Pakistan through the Indus Flyway to their wintering sites located in the province of Sindh, Balochistan, Punjab, and NWFP, such as dhands, lakes, small and large sized ponds and Wildlife Protected Areas or other suitable habitats.

Map I



## FOOD AND FEEDING HABITS

There is a wide variety of beaks in waterbirds most suited to their special way of feeding.



### Piscivorous or fish eating birds including

Herons, Egrets, Cormorants, Snake bird, Brahminy Kite, Pallas's fish eagle, Pelicans, Osprey, Kingfishers, Storks, Gulls, and Terns.

### Flamingos and Shovellers, Godwits, Snipes are mud probers and Plovers

are food pickers from the surface.

### Grebes, Coots, Moorhens, Jacanas and Ducks

feed largely on plant matter but some animal matter is also taken.



### Tufted ducks

are lively, feeding during the day, while pochards tend to feed at night and sleep by day.



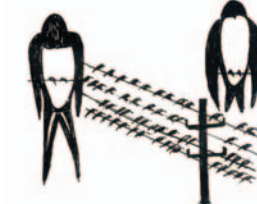
### Pratincoles, Swallows and Swifts

are aerial feeders on flying insects.



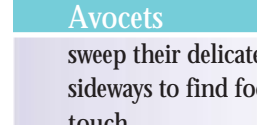
### Plovers

have a distinctive 'run-stop-tilt' forward-run action as they feed, dashing a little way to snatch up a worm or insect, then pausing to look for more.



### Swallows

like lakes in spring, as there are more insects there, but in summer prefer fields. They fly low and catch insects in the air.



### Avocets

sweep their delicate bills sideways to find food by touch.



### Stilts

wade in deep water with their long legs, but pick insects from the water surface with their fine bills. They also may snatch fish fry.



### Curlews and Godwits

have very long bills. These large waders feed on soft mud, probing deeply for lugworms, but curlews also eat crabs and earthworms in meadows.

### Ospreys

dive for fish, going head-first until they near the water, then putting their legs forward and hitting the water, feet-first; fish are grabbed in the feet and carried off to a perch, or to the nest, which is usually at the top of a large tree.



## COMMON BIRDS

### Migratory

White pelican	Garganey
Dalmatian pelican	Shoveller
Large cormorant	Common pochard
Grey heron	White eyed Pochard
Large egret	Tufted duck
Black bittern	Common coot
Yellow bittern	Grey plover
Spoonbill	Dunlin
Flamingo	Little stint
Pintail	Avocet
Common teal	Ruff
Mallard	Herring gull
Gadwall	Blackheaded gull
Wigeon	Whiskered tern

### Resident

Little grebe	Pheasant-tailed Jacana
Little cormorant	Redwattled lapwing
Purple heron	Blackwinged stilt
Little green heron	River tern
Pond heron	Little tern
Cattle egret	
Little egret	
Night heron	
Whitebreasted waterhen	
Common moorhen	
Purple moorhen	

## THREATENED/RARE BIRDS

Some threatened/rare birds have been recorded from the Keenjhar Lake. These are listed below:

- Ferruginous Duck (*Aythya nyroca*)
- Dalmatian Pelican (*Pelecanus crispus*)
- Black-bellied Tern (*Sterna melanogaster*)
- Black-headed Ibis (*Threskiornis melanocephalus*)
- White Stork (*Ciconia ciconia*)
- Cotton Teal (*Nettapus coromandelianus*)

Compiled & Edited by Jahangir Durrane & Muhammad Zafar Khan  
Illustrations by Dr. Ahsan Qureshi, Jahangir Durrane & Ismail Mehdi  
Layout and designed by Nida Shams

Indus for All Programme  
WWF - Pakistan  
606-607-Fortune Centre,  
Block-6 P.E.C.H.S., Main Shakra-e-Faisal, Karachi.  
Tel: 021-4544791-2 Fax: 021-4544790  
www.foreverindus.org



BIRDS  
OF KEENJHAR

