

Fish and birds in Keti Bundar, Shah Bundar and other parts of the Indus delta

Abrarul Hasan, Saadat Ali Khan, Syed Iftikhar Ahmad
Zoological Survey Department, Government of Pakistan, Karachi

Abstract

Bird and fish fauna of the Indus delta was studied. In all 51 species of birds and 22 species of fishes were recorded from various parts of Indus delta especially from Keti Bundar and Shah Bundar area. Preponderance of coastal species of bird and fishes were observed during the study.

Keyword: Keti Bundar, Shah Bundar, Fish, Bird, Indus Delta, Ecology

Introduction

The coastline of Sindh province is about 320 km long extending from Hub River in the west to the Sir creek in the east and cover the entire delta of Indus River. Total area of the Sindh coastal zone is estimated to be about 35,880 sq.km. Indus delta consists of fifth largest mangrove forest of the world and consists of swamps, tidal mudflats, a network of creek channels and a large number of small to large islands extending from Korangi-Gharo-Phitti creeks near Karachi upto Sir creek at its south eastern end. These diversified habitats harbour rich fauna and flora. Despite its importance, very little work has been done on the faunal diversity of the area (Hasan and Ahmad, 2000). Present paper forms a series, which will describe the fauna of the Indus delta and it deals with the fish and bird fauna of Keti Bundar and Shah Bundar which are two important population centers in the Indus delta.

Materials and Methods

For the identification of birds Perrins and Attenborough (1987), Hasan (1994, 1996), Heninzel *et al* (1987), Roberts (1991, 1992) and Ali *et al.* (1983) were used whereas for fishes Bianchi (1985) and Munro (1955) were mainly referred to. The paper enlists the species, which were collected, and indicates their relative abundance. Fishes were collected from commercial landings as well as sampling was done using cast and gillnets. Observations on birds were made using binocular and spotting scope.

Results and Discussions

During the study 51 species of bird and 22 species of fishes were observed. The bird and fish species according to their systematic arrangements

are given in Table-I and Table-II respectively. Typical coastal species of birds and fishes were observed in the Indus delta area. Similar assemblages were observed in Nurruri wetland (Javed and Hasan, 2004).

Table-I. Bird species observed at Keti Bundar and Shah Bundar area in the Indus Delta.

S. No.	Scientific Name/ Common Name	Status	Place of observation
	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i> (Little grebe)	Common/Winter visitor	A small wetland near Ghado
	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i> <i>sinensis</i> (Large cormorant)	Common/Winter visitor	Keti Bundar/Kharochan/ Near Hasan Goth.
	<i>Phalacrocorax niger</i> (Little cormorant)	Common/Resident	Keti Bundar/Yousuf Goth
	<i>Ardea cinerea</i> (Grey heron)	Common/Winter visitor	Keti Bundar village/ Raeesan Wari
	<i>Ardeola grayii grayii</i> (Indian pond heron)	Common/Resident	Keti Bundar Hasan Goth/Kun Sharif Shah Bundar
	<i>Bubulcus ibis</i> (Cattle egret)	Common/Resident	Ghado
	<i>Egretta garzetta</i> (Little egret)	Common/Irregular year round visitor	Keti Bundar Kharochan/ Kun Sharif Shah Bundar/ Raeesan Wari
	<i>Egretta gularis</i> (Indian reef heron)	Common/Resident	Kharochan Keti Bundar village/Kun Sharif Shah Bundar.
	<i>Phoenicopterus ruber</i> (Greater flamingo)	Common/Irregular year round visitor	Hasan Goth/Makar Dhand
	<i>Milvus migrans govinda</i> (Pariah kite)	Common/Resident	Throughout the area
	<i>Accipiter gentilis</i> (Goshawk)	Common Resident/ Winter visitor	On the way Juwa to Ghado
	<i>Circus aeruginosus</i> (Marsh harrier)	Common/Winter visitor	Hasan Goth

13	<i>Francolinus francolinus</i> (Black partridge)	Common/Winter visitor	On the way Juwa to Ghado/ Makar Dhand
14	<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i> (Oystercatcher)	Common/Winter visitor	On the way to Keti to Kharochan Keti Bundar
15	<i>Himantopus himantopus</i> (Black winged stilt)	Common/Winter visitor	Keti Bundar Kun Sharif Shah Bundar/Makar Dhand
16	<i>Vanellus indicus</i> (Red- wattled lapwing)	Common/Resident	Keti Bundar Kun Sharif Shah Bundar
17	<i>Charadrius dubius</i> (Indian little ringed plover)	Common/Winter visitor	Keti Bundar
18	<i>Charadrius alexandrinus</i> (Kentish plover)	Common/Resident	Keti Bundar Kun Sharif Shah Bundar/Raesan Wari.
19	<i>Numenius arquata arquata</i> (Curlew)	Common/Winter visitor	Keti Bundar Kun Sharif Shah Bundar/Raesan Wari.
20	<i>Numenius</i> <i>arquata</i> <i>orientalis</i> (Eastern curlew)	Common/Winter visitor	Keti Bundar Kun Sharif Shah Bundar/Raesan Wari.
21	<i>Xenus cinereus</i> (Terek sandpiper)	Common/Winter visitor	Keti Bundar
22	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i> (Common sandpiper)	Common/Winter visitor	Keti Bundar
23	<i>Calidris minuta</i> (Little stint)	Common/Winter visitor	Keti Bundar Makar Dhand
24	<i>Larus ridibundus</i> (Black-headed gull)	Common/Winter visitor	Kharochan/Yousuf/ Goth
25	<i>Chlidonias hybridus</i> (Indian whiskered tern)	Common/Winter visitor	Keti Bundar/Kharochan/Kun Sharif Shah Bundar/Makar Dhand
26	<i>Sterna caspia</i> (Caspian tern)	Common/Year-round visitor	KetiBundar/Kharochan /Makar Dhand
27	<i>Streptopelia tranquebarica</i> (Red turtle dove)	Common/Resident	On the way Keti Bundar to Kharochan/Yousuf Goth
	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i> (Collared dove)	Common/Resident	On the way Keti Bundar to Kharochan/Kun Sharif Shah Bundar
29	<i>Streptopelia senegalensis</i> (Little brown dove)	Common/Resident	Yousuf Goth

30	<i>Eudynamys scolopacea</i> (Indian koel)	Common/Resident	On the way Ketu Bundar to Kharacchan/Kun Sharif Shah Bundar/Yousuf Goth
31	<i>Ceryle rudis</i> (Pied kingfisher)	Common/Resident	Near Gharo village/Kun Sharif Shah Bundar
32	<i>Alcedo atthis bengalensis</i> (Indian common blue kingfisher)	Common/Resident	Near Gharo village/Kun Sharif Shah Bundar
33	<i>Halcyon smyrnensis</i> (White-breasted kingfisher)	Common/Resident	Near Gharo village/Kun Sharif <i>smyrnensis</i> Shah Bundar
34	<i>Merops orientalis</i> (Sindh little green bee-eater)	Common/Resident	On the way Gharo to <i>beludschicus</i> Ghado/Yousuf Goth
35	<i>Upupa epops</i> (Hoopoe)	Common/Resident	Near Ghado
36	<i>Galerida cristata</i> (Balochistan crested lark)	Common/Resident	Near Ghado/Yousuf Goth
37	<i>Hirundo rustica rustica</i> (Barn swallow)	Common/Winter visitor	Near Ghado
38	<i>Pycnonotus leucogenys</i> (White-cheeked bulbul)	Common/Resident	On the way Gharo to Ghado/un Shrif Shah Bundar.
39	<i>Pycnonotus cafer</i> (Red vented bulbul)	Common/Resident	On the Gharo to Ghado/Kun Sharif Shah Bundar
40	<i>Lanius excubitor</i> (Great grey shrike)	Common/Resident	Ghado/Kun Sharif Shah Bundar
41	<i>Sexicoloides fulicata</i> (Indian robin)	Common/Resident	On the Gharo to Ghado/Kun Sharif Shah Bundar
42	<i>Saxicola caprata</i> (Pied bush chat)	Common/Resident	Gharo/Kun Sharif Shah Bundar
43	<i>Turdoides caudatus</i> (Indian common babbler)	Common/Resident	On the Gharo to Ghado/Kun Sharif Shah Bundar
44	<i>Prinla gracilis</i> (Greaceful prinia)	Common/Winter-visitor	Yousuf Goth.
45	<i>Passer domesticus indicus</i> (Indian house sparrow)	Abundant/Resident	Throughout the Ketu Budar and Shah Bundar.
46	<i>Acridotheres tristis</i> (Indian common myna)	Common/Resident	Throughout the Ketu Budar and Shah Bundar.

47	<i>Acridotheres ginginianus</i> (Bank myna)	Common/Resident	Throughout the Ketu Bundar and Shah Bundar.
48	<i>Dicrurus macrocercus</i> (Black drongo)	Common/Resident	On the Gharo to Ghado/Kun Sharif Shah Bundar
49	<i>Dendrocitta vagabunda</i> (Indian tree-pie)	Less common/Resident	Ghado/Yousuf Goth
50	<i>Corvus splendens</i> (House crow)	Abundant/Resident	Throughout the area
51	<u><i>Ploceus philippinus</i> (Indian bay a)</u>	Common/Resident	YousufGoth

Table-II. Fish species observed at Ketu Bundar and Shah Bundar area in the Indus Delta.

S.No.	Scientific Name/English Name	Place of observation/collection
	<i>Sardinella longiceps</i> (Indian oil sardinella)	Ketu Bundar/Rehri
	<i>Escualosa thoracata</i> (White sardine)	Ketu Bundar/Rehri
	<i>Thryssa hamiltonii</i> (Hamilton's thryssa)	Ketu Bundar
	<i>Thryssa malabarica</i> (Malabar thryssa)	Shah Bundar
	<i>Thryssa mystax</i> (Moustached thryssa)	Ketu Bundar
	<i>Arius maculatus</i> (Spotted catfish)	Rehri
	<i>Arius tenuispinis</i> (Thinspine catfish)	Ketu Bundar/Rehri
	<i>Platycephalus indicus</i> (Bartail flathead)	Ketu Bundar
	<i>Terapon jarbua</i> (Jarbua terapon)	Rehri
	<i>Sillago sihama</i> (Silver sillago)	Rehri/Ketu Bundar

11	<i>Parastromateus niger</i> (Black pomfret)	Rehri
12	<i>Scomberoides tol</i> (Needlescaled queenfish)	Rehri
13	<i>Lutjanus fluviflamma</i> (Black spot snapper)	Keti Bundar/ Shah Bundar
14	<i>Lutjanus malabaricus</i> (Malabar snapper)	Keti Bundar
15	<i>Secular insidiator</i> (Pugnosa ponyfish)	Shah Bundar
16	<i>Pomadasys maculatum</i> (Saddle grunt)	Rehri/Shah Bundar/ Keti Bundar
17	<i>Acanthopagrus tow*</i> (Yellowfm seabream)	Rehri
18	<i>Acanthopagrus bifasciatus</i> (Twobar seabream)	Rehri/ Keti Bundar
19	<i>Liza vaigiensis</i> (Square tailed mullet)	Keti Bundar/Rehri
20	<i>Lepturacanthus savala</i> (Savali hairtail)	Keti Bundar/Rehri
21	<i>Pumpus argentus</i> (Silver pomfret)	Rehri/ Keti Bundar
22	<i>Salea elongata</i> (Elongate sole)	Rehri/ Keti Bundar/Shah Bundar

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