

Inventories are conducted by combining local knowledge from amateur birdwatchers and specific census performed by professional ornithologists. Amateur birdwatchers contributed mostly through Breeding Bird Atlas field work, during which they were asked not only to find breeding evidence and estimate local population of all species, but also to map approximate centre of breeding territories for the Natura 2000 species they could find. Using these Breeding Bird Atlas data as a starting point, the team of professional fieldworkers then applies specific methodologies to map Natura 2000 species. These methodologies include playback for detecting territorial woodpeckers, itineraries in open landscape for shrikes and other open-habitat birds, nocturnal itineraries for cranes and fixed point observation for raptors and storks.

For most Natura 2000 species, the combination of all gathered data leads to relatively accurate territory mapping. These maps are then used to evaluate population level for each species in the Natura 2000 sites. These maps are also crossed, using GIS, with the "habitat" layer produced by the Natura 2000 habitat cartography work. Resulting Natura 2000 bird habitat maps can then be used to spatially direct a set of management rules designed for each Natura 2000 species.

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32-Bird monitoring in Karavetti Bird Sanctuary, an IBA site in Tamilnadu, India

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Karavetti bird sanctuary is a large freshwater irrigation reservoir located in southern peninsular India (10° 58' 01" N : 079° 11' 07" E). It has a water holding area of 454 hectares, when full it can hold water to an average depth of 3 m. Water level is low from April to August every year. This lake is fed both by rain water and from river Cauvery.

Earlier this lake was owned by Public works department (PWD) which regulates water for irrigation, that time forest department had a bird list consisting of 26 bird species. Since bird monitoring was initiated by Nature Club, Bishop Heber College, in 1990, the bird list begun to grow longer. By 1998 the club presented a complete check list of birds with total bird population, accounting a total of 188 species including 101 migrants identified and recorded.

During winter the total number of birds recorded is between 20,000 to 60,000, mostly Anatidae. The thirteen species of Ducks mostly include Gargeneys *Anas querquedula*, Northern shovelers *Anas clypeata*, Northern pintails *Anas acuta*. Up to 1000 Barheaded geese *Anser indicus* are reported in some years, while 1% of population threshold for this species is 560 (Wetland International 2002). Spot-billed pelican *Pelecanus philippensis*, a globally threatened species, congregates here in large numbers in summer, when the water level is low (475 birds recorded in a single day in June 2002, while the 1% threshold is only 40 birds). Moreover, 18 species of shore birds were recorded including sandpipers, plovers, stints and snipes.

Ten species of water birds breed here, among them are the globally threatened Spot-billed pelican and the near threatened Oriental White ibis *Threskiornis melanocephalus*, Painted stork *Mycteria leucocephala*, Darter *Anhinga melanogaster* and Eurasian spoonbill *Platalea leucorodia*.

In 1999, when this bird list and information were presented to the Tamilnadu forest department it declared this reservoir as a bird sanctuary; later the lake area was declared as an IBA site in 2004 (IBA Site code IN-TN-13) under IBA criteria A1 (Threatened species), A4i (1% biogeography population), A4iii (20,000 water birds).

Thus bird monitoring helped in saving this less known, unpopular habitat and the birds there. Methods of data collection, role of students, threats and conservation issues about this site will be presented.

33-Waterfowl mid winter counts in the IBA "Lagoon of Venice": results for the years 1996-2005

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The Lagoon of Venice, with an extension of 55,000 ha, is the largest Italian lagoon and one of the largest in the whole Mediterranean. Since 1993, on behalf of the Provincia di Venezia-Office for Hunting and Fishing, mid-January counts have been regularly carried out over the entire lagoon, including fish-farms, large open water bodies and the sea facing the littoral strip. Along the decade 1996-2005, numbers of wintering birds increased almost regularly from 122,275 to 214,640 birds, whereas number of species ranged between 50 and 69. Different trends have been observed

among species, but most of them were either increasing (Spearman r , $P < 0.05$: e.g. Grey Heron *Ardea cinerea*, Great Egret *Egretta alba*, Mute Swan *Cygnus olor*, Greylag Goose *Anser anser*, Shelduck *Tadorna tadorna*, Mallard *Anas platyrhynchos*, Teal *Anas crecca*, Widgeon *Anas penelope*, Avocet *Recurvirostra avosetta*, Curlew *Numenius arquata*) or stable (non significant increase or decrease: e.g. Great Crested Grebe *Podiceps cristatus*, Coot *Fulica atra*, Dunlin *Calidris alpina*, Shoveler *Anas clypeata*, Pochard *Aythya ferina*). Black-necked Grebe *Podiceps nigricollis* and Goldeneye *Bucephala clangula* were among the very few species with a significant decreasing trend over the years. Spoonbill *Platalea leucorodia* began to use the lagoon only in 1999, and since then birds increased regularly.

Considering only the 2001-2005 period, with a mean of 184,000 birds, the most abundant species were Mallard (18.8%), Teal (16.1%), Coot (15.6%) and Dunlin (12.0%). Birds were mostly counted inside fish-farms (64%), followed by the open lagoon (35%) and the littoral strip (1%). Finally, the whole lagoon meets the 1% Ramsar criterion for nine species, i.e. Great Egret, Shelduck, Teal, Widgeon, Mallard, Coot, Dunlin, Yellow-legged Gull *Larus michaellis* and Black-headed Gull *Larus ridibundus*.

34-Conservation of threatened bird species in the valleys of small rivers in Moscow in habitats varying in degree of urban influence

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Urban parks may serve as reservoirs for native species in densely populated areas. Moscow is one of the largest cities in Europe – about 1000 sq. km, 10 million people and it spreads occupying natural territories surrounded the city. Most part of Moscow territory is highly transformed and represents urban habitats. To protect the natural habitats in the city a series of especially protected natural areas (PNA) were established. Research projects for monitoring of bird population in PNA are highly important to analyze the role of these territories for conservation of native fauna and especially threatened species in the city, to create the effective methods of wildlife management under conditions of reasonable recreational use of the territory. Although there is a limited source of publications about bird population in the parks of Moscow, information about distribution and diversity of birds in such specific habitats as valleys of small rivers under conditions of strong urban influence is scarce.

In the present study the bird communities in two protected territories of Moscow were investigated. Both PNA includes the valleys of small rivers – Shodnya and Setun but have different level of urban influence associated with different types of areas surrounded the park, level of transformation, time of being occupied by the city. Investigations were made in Natural park "Shodnya river valley in Kurkino" (274 hectares) and Natural reserve "Setun river valley" (730 hectares) during the breeding season (May – July) in 2003-2005. Territories were divided on the plots on the basis of the habitats. Each plot was characterized by the square, level of urban transformation and the plant cover. Birds were counted and mapped on the routes. For every plot threatened birds of following kinds were counted: list of Red Data Book of Moscow, list of birds recommended for monitoring in Moscow as possibly vulnerable species according to Krasnaya et al., 2001, and birds threatened in Europe according to Tucker and Heath 1994.

Results show the great conservation value of valleys of small rivers in the city. This effect was dependent on the size of the plot and the level of urban transformation. Plots with open habitats (meadows) were more important for conservation of threatened bird species. Thus the PNA including the valley of the small river can play the important conservation role even in case if it is surrounded by urban territories.

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35 – Monitoring of the wetland birds on the island of the black sea biosphere reserve in 2000

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In the last years (2000-2006ss) on the islands systems of Black Sea Biosphere Reserve sharp deterioration of conditions of birds nesting is observed. On islands occurs markedly reduction of nesting territory owing to their flooding, destruction of reed thickets, destruction of coastal zones by waves, a regular output on separate islands on shoalness of predatory mammals (wolves on