

INCIDENCE OF RESIDENT AND MIGRATORY BIRD SPECIES COLLECTED FROM BURULLUS PROTECTED AREA IN KAFR EL-SHEIKH GOVERNORATE.

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ABSTRACT

Resident and visitor bird species were collected from Burullus protected area in Kafr El-Sheikh Governorate during two successive years 2007/2008. Data revealed that 24 bird species in 17 families and 10 orders were recorded during the survey. The most common resident species in this habitat were: moorhen, *Gallinula chloropus*, Purple gallinule, *Porphyrio porphyrio*, little tern, *Sterna albifrons*, King fisher, *Alcedo rudis*, little Bittern, *Ixobrychus minutus*-Senegal coucal, *Centropus senegalensis* and little grebe, *Tachybatus ruficollis*. While, the most common winter visitors were gray wagtail, *Motacilla cinerea*, northern Pochard, *Aythya ferina*, teal, *Anas crecca*, Wigeon, *Anas penelop*, Shovler, *Anas clypeata*, Black-headed Gull, *Larus fuscus*, pied avocet, *Recurvirostra avosetta* Gray heron, *Ardea cinerea* and little Bittern, *Ixobrychus minutus*.

Also, twelve species were recorded as autumn passer i.e. swallows, *Hirundo rustica*, Gray wagtail, *Motacilla cinerea*, common quail, *Coturnix coturnix*, northern pochard, *Aythya ferina*, Teal, *Anas crecca*, Wigeon, *Anas Penelope*, Shoveler, *Anas clypeata*, little tern, *Sterna albifrons*, red shank, *Tringa erythropus* Bee eater, *Merops apiaster*, little bittern, *Ixobrychus minutus* and turtle dove, *Streptopelia turtur*.

INTRODUCTION

Egypt occupies the north-eastern corner of the African continent, with a surface area of more than one million square kilometers or about 3% of the total area of Africa (Zahran and Willis, 1992).

Avifauna is an important component of Egypt's biological resources; indeed it is the most diverse and prominent of all of the country's non-aquatic vertebrate fauna. More than 470 bird species are known from Egypt. Most of bird species found in Egypt are non-breeding migrants, which pass through the country or spend only the winter and are of palearctic origin (Kasas, 1993).

These wintering and transient bird populations although not present in Egypt all or most of the time, are an important component of country's biodiversity.

Only about 150 species can be considered resident breeding birds, although some of these also migrate further south during the winter (Bijlsma, 1987).

A total of 34 important bird areas (IBA) have been identified in Egypt, all of which meet one or more the selection criteria for globally important bird area. The total area covered by IBAs in Egypt is some 35000 km² or about 3.5% of Egypt's territory. Wetland habitats (both inland and coastal) are the best represented occurring in 25 or 74% of IBAs (Baha El-Din, 1998).