

Theme 3: Biodiversity – Terrestrial, Aquatic

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WATER BIRD DIVERSITY AT HEGGERI LAKE, HAVERI DISTRICT

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The avifaunal diversity and density in Heggeri lake, Haveri district, Karnataka, India, was studied for a period of 2 years (2004 – 06). Heggeri lake inhabits several local and migratory bird species. Reduction in water retention in this lake in summer has affected the avifauna diversity in the study area. This habitat attracted 30 bird species belonging to 10 families, which are local and migratory birds. Highest population of painted storks and Bar headed geese was recorded in January. Other prominent residents were herons and little cormorants. Interestingly, in spite of disturbances in NHAI activity, all the 30 species enjoyed the habitat from November to February during the study period. But birds like Flamingoes, White breasted water-hen, Little grebe, Spot billed pelican, Open bill-stork, Great stone plover, Brahminy shell-duck, Comb duck Eurasian pigeon, Mallard, Garganey and Poachard observed from 1997 to 2003 were not spotted during the study period.