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## **Kotal wildlife birds fauna with new records district Kohat, KPK, Pakistan**

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### **Abstract**

Most of the birds are migratory which travel in their particular season. Existing study was complemented in Kotal Wildlife Park located near Gulshan Abad Chowk near to Kohat Developmental Authority (KDA) Kohat. This park is appropriately isolated and preserved area for animal's biodiversity where animals and birds are inhibited either artificially or naturally by wildlife department. The present research work was conducted from Nov 2017 to April 2018 on birds' biodiversity of District Kohat KP Pakistan. Data was obtained from officials of wildlife department as well as by visiting the wildlife park by the investigators. During the survey total of 18 bird's species belonging to 9 families and 6 orders were identified up to species level. Kotal Wildlife Park is enriched with huge diversity of birds. This means that wildlife park is a best place to aware people about maintaining & conservation of biodiversity of birds. This park is the best way to know about the birds species present in Kohat city. In this area hunting is strongly prohibited. If more fund is given to this park association, then after a short period of time it might be convert in to peasantry. During this research a highest number of order Galliformes were recorded while Passeriformes stands 2<sup>nd</sup> highest position.

**Keywords:** Birds, Kotal Wildlife Park

### **Introduction**

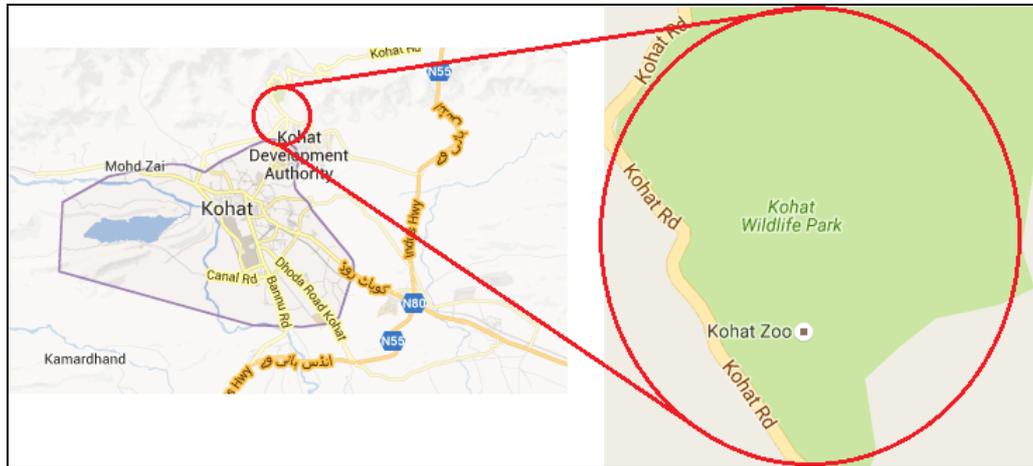
Birds play very important role in the ecosystem of an area. Most birds are big feeders of a great diversity of insects. If insect population was not check, they give a huge damage to biological system which is hard to estimate. Mynas, crows, bulbuls, and sparrows are well known predators of insects. They are "ecological litmus" and sharp respond to environmental changes [1]. Depending on the taxonomic perspective, the number of known living bird species fluctuates anywhere from 9,900 to 10,070 [2]. Birds and their diversity establish a main part of the natural environment and play an efficient role as agents of flower pollination, seed dispersal, source of food chain and agents in breaking seed dormancy [3]. The existence of a variety of organisms redirects the biological diversity of that particular area. Species are different units of diversity with each having a definite role in an ecosystem. Therefore, inspection the reduction of species and destruction of the gene pool is a key challenge to the community [4]. The bird species are friends of farmers because they eats huge numbers of harmful insects, as well as their larvae, and eggs, which serve as a biological pest control in Pakistan. A large number of birds migrate from different cooler parts of countries i.e. central Asia and Europe towards wetlands and ramsar sites of Pakistan to prevent themselves from severe cold i.e. they migrate in winter season. There is seven fly zones found all over the world and one zone (Indus fly zone) existing in Pakistan. The birds comes and reach to Pakistan by flying over Karakorum, Suleiman Ranges and Hindu Kush along the Indus River. Falcons, cranes, swans, and ducks, are important migratory birds in host country [5]. There is shortage of information about birds of district Kohat therefore the current surveys was try to aware people from these agricultural fields and vegetation along the dams, the areas rich with birds fauna. Unluckily, the people do not have awareness about the importance of wildlife in ecosystem and they hunt them, including some rare bird species, with air guns. Birds have a vital role in indicating an environment fitness of an ecosystem [6]. Till 2008 about 10,000 to 10,070 birds' species were reported, this number will be increased with the passage of time [7]. Biodiversity is the sum of living species in an environment [8]. Most of the birds are migratory which travel in their particular season [9]. "Aves" is the major group or class of birds which comprises the subdivision Palaeognathae (group of flightless birds), the tiramisu (Birds with weak flight) and

the Neognathae (Flight birds) [10]. The aim of the current research work was to find out the birds fauna of Kotal wildlife park, Kohat, KP, Pakistan.

**Material and Methods**

Existing study was accompanied in Kotal wildlife park situated near Gulshan Abad Chowk adjacent to Kohat Developmental Authority (KDA) Kohat (Figure-1) This park is a properly isolated and preserved area for animal's biodiversity where animals and birds are introverted either naturally or artificially by wildlife department. Data was

obtained from officials of wildlife department as well as by visiting the wildlife park by the investigators. Observations were made in the morning and afternoon between the months of Nov 2017 to April 2018. Surveys were focused on daily basis at different sites like agriculture fields. At each noticing birds were counted using a binocular and recognized. In case of unsure identification, photographs were taken and the species is identified later by students taking help from Google. The identification of birds was carried out using ordinary literature of [11, 12].



**Fig 1:** Map view of Kotal wildlife Park Kohat

**Observations and Results**

As Kotal Wildlife Park is an area situated near KDA Kohat. It becoming suitable habitat of so many avian fauna. Most of them were artificially familiarized by park management while some of them are natural residents of that area. This area is surrounded by high semi-green hills. This is unruffled area regularly monitored by Wildlife spectators and guards to avoid any illegal hunting and disasters. Maximum hills are under the control of Pakistan Army, they also direct and switch the movement of traffic on this road. In Kotal Wildlife Park there are so many bird species like Grey partridge (Seen Zara), Black partridge species (Taroo), Chukar partridge (Zark), Indian Ring Dove, Indian grey sphike, Black Drongo, White Eared Bul Bul, European Hoopoe, Starling, Silver

pheasant, Ring Neck Pheasant, Common Pea Fowl ( Moor), Crow, Sparrow, Mayna, Turkey (Peru) common Crane (karkara), Grey heron (*Kharrabagla*), Mrs. Hume's pheasant (Sra marghai), Common chicken (charga.)

Among the most dominant species of birds are different species of common chicken and partridge them.

Few of them are reared in cages for breeding while rest of them is set free in the park. Incubation facility is provided to wildlife department Kohat where eggs of different birds' are incubated and hatched. Illegal hunting is strictly restricted in this park.

Following is the classification of birds present in this park (Table-1).

**Table 1:** Classification of Birds present in Kotal wildlife Park.

S. No	Phylum	Class	Order	Family	Genus	Species
1	Chordata	Aves	Galliformes	Phasianidea	Francolinus	<i>F. pondicerianus</i>
2	Chordata	Aves	Galliformes	Phasianidea	Melanoperdix	<i>M.niger</i>
3	Chordata	Aves	Galliformes	Phasianidea	Alectoris	<i>A.chukar</i>
4	Chordata	Aves	Columbiformes	Columbidae	Streptopelia	<i>S. capicola</i>
5	Chordata	Aves	Passeriformes	Dicruridae	Dicrurus	<i>D. Macrocerus</i>
6	Chordata	Aves	Passeriformes	Pycnonotidae	pycnonotus	<i>P.leucotis</i>
7	Chordata	Aves	Bucerotiiformes	Upupidae	Upupa	<i>U. epops</i>
8	Chordata	Aves	Passeriformes	Sturnidae	sturnus	<i>S.vulgaris</i>
9	Chordata	Aves	Galliformes	Phasianidea	Lophura	<i>L. nycthemera</i>
10	Chordata	Aves	Galliformes	Phasianidea	phasianus	<i>P. colchicus</i>
11	Chordata	Aves	Galliformes	Phasianidea	pavo	<i>P.cristatus</i>
12	Chordata	Aves	Passeriformes	Corvidae	corvus	<i>C. splendens</i>
13	Chordata	Aves	Passeriformes	passeridae	passer	<i>P. domesticus</i>
14	Chordata	Aves	Passeriformes	Sturnidae	Acridotheres	<i>A.tristis</i>
15	Chordata	Aves	Galliformes	Phasianidea	Meleagris	<i>M. gallopavo</i>
16	Chordata	Aves	Gruiformes	Gruidae	Grus	<i>G. grus</i>
17	Chordata	Aves	Pelecaniformes	Ardeidae	Ardea	<i>A. cinerea</i>
18	Chordata	Aves	Galliformes	Phasianidea	Gallus	<i>G. G. domesticus</i>

In Karak Within one year survey, a total of 32 bird species belonging to 26 families and 11 orders were recorded from different study sites. While in Kohat within 7 months survey a total number of 18 bird's species belonging to 9 families and 6 orders only in Wildlife Park. In Karak the highest number of Passeriformes were recorded while in Kohat the highest number of order Galliformes were recorded while Passeriformes stands 2<sup>nd</sup> highest position.



**Fig 1:** Francolin



**Fig 2:** Melanoperdix



**Fig 3:** Alectoris



**Fig 4:** Streptopelia



**Fig 5:** Dicrurus



**Fig 6:** Pycnonotus



**Fig 7:** Upupa



**Fig 8:** Sturnus



**Fig 9:** Lophura



**Fig 10:** Phasianus



**Fig 15:** Meleagr



**Fig 11:** Pavo



**Fig 16:** Grus



**Fig 12:** Corvus



**Fig 17:** Ardea



**Fig 13:** Passer



**Fig 14:** Acridotheres



**Fig 18:** Gallus

## Conclusions

Kotal Wildlife Park is enriched with avian fauna. This park is a best way to aware people about maintaining and protection of avian fauna. The avian fauna of this area was gorgeous because the plants flora was dense. It is concluded from the recent study that hunting and habitat destruction are the chief threats to the wildlife. Moreover this park is a leading way to take care and also to produce more birds by artificial hatching of birds by incubation services. If more funds are given to this park, it might be converted to the district's leading peasantry.

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