

The Bird Fauna of Gaziantep (Turkey)

Hasan Huseyin Cemali TOPRAK¹Ozdemir ADIZEL²Ismail VAROL^{1*}¹ University of Gaziantep, Faculty of Science and Literature, Department of Biology, 27310 Gaziantep, TURKEY² University of Yuzuncu Yil, Faculty of Science and Literature, Department of Biology, Van, TURKEY* Corresponding Author
e-mail: varol@gantep.edu.tr

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Abstract

In this study, it was recognized 92 species and 1 subspecies of birds which belong to 14 orders and 38 families. This study was carried out in totally 66 fields in dates between 29.03.2003 and 06.05.2004 (almost 15 months). IUCN criteria of these species were categorized as CR 1, EN 3, VU 7, NT 10, LC 69, DD 1, and NE 2. According to all observations, it was determined 24 winter visitors (WV), 33 breeding species (Y-years birds-breeds regularly), 5 invasion species (T-occurs irregularly, but usually in great numbers) and 31 breeding species (G- only summer birds). In research area, *Fulica atra* was observed much more than the other species. It was determined average 8183 individuals in one day. *Tyto alba*, *Motacilla flava*, *Prunella modularis*, *Turdus merula*, *Sitta neumayer*, *Lanius excubitor*, *Emberiza cia* and *Emberiza striolata* were run across much more less than the others.

Key words: Ornithology, Bird systematic, Ornithofauna, Gaziantep, Turkey.

INTRODUCTION

There are approximately 9600 bird species belong to 23 ordo and 144 families in the world. Turkey is located on three geographical regions as a bridge and it has especially endemics-many animal and plant species. So far, Turkey has 453 bird species [10, 14, 15, 18].

Turkey has different habitats because it has peninsula, different geographic and climatic factors. When it is considered geographical features Turkey, it has very different habitats for animal and plant species. In the geographic circumstance brings out existness of many ecological habitats which have a lot of different ecotons which differ from each other and every graded of the length comes into a very rich biodiversity [1]. It has been reported that a lot of migrant birds have to stop by in passing to Turkey, because of geographic locations of Turkey [3].

One of the major industrial and agricultural cities is Gaziantep in Turkey. The city is located east-southern of Turkey. It have been constructed several dams by government in the last 20 years in this area. Although it has been known well on bird species in the many other areas of Turkey, there is limited number of scientific study in revised literature of the birds of Gaziantep till now. A few of these were carried out on systematic aim. None of these had been reported waterfowl had been naturally lived in this city area [7, 8, 16, 21, 22]. However, It had been started to carry out ornithological researches in this area in the last years [11-13]. In the recent studies, it had been emphasized on importance of aquatic areas for waterfowl (especially Karkamış Dam) in Turkey [5, 8, 20, 23]. Aim of carried this study was to determine the bird fauna of Gaziantep.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

Gaziantep is between Mediterranean and south Anatolian region is located longitude with east 36° 28' and 38° 01', longitude with north 36° 38' and 37° 32'. The city has nearly 1 % part of total area of Turkey which is ground of 7642 km².

This study was carried out in total 10 stations. These observation points are Karkamış dam, Birecik dam, Hancağız dam, Doğanpınar dam, Kayacık dam, Burç pond, Balıklan pond, Togaylar pond, Domuzderesi pond and Tahtakopru dam (Figure 1). It was selected to work on aquatic areas, forest, farmlands, mountain areas, lowlands, plateaus and canyons as investigation regions.

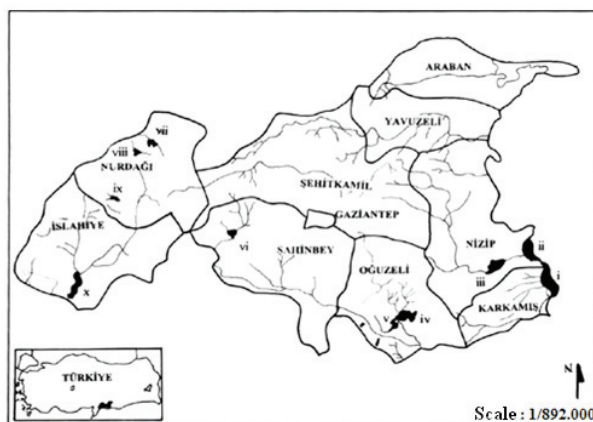


Figure 1. Maps of investigation area (i) Karkamış Dam, (ii) Birecik Dam, (iii) Hancağız Dam, (iv) Doğanpınar Dam, (v) Kayacık Dam, (vi) Burç Lake, (vii) Balıklan Lake, (viii) Togaylar Lake, (ix) Domuzderesi Lake, (x) Tahtakopru Dam.

The bird species were recorded in these 10 stations on the ways. The study had been performed between 29.03.2003 and 06.05.2004. Totally, 66 observations were carried out in this period.

During the study time, all data collected in study areas from species had been examined. Point Count, Transect Count and Dobinson Square methods were benefited in the study [2, 4, 9]. During watch and count activity, 10 x 46 and 20 x 50 binoculars, Fuji Film 602S digital photograph machine and Nikon telescope were used.

RESULTS

As a result of this study, it was found the dams of Gaziantep (for example Karkamış, Hancagız, Belkıs and Tahtaköprü etc.) were important for bird species to breed, migrate and shelter.

In Gaziantep province, 92 bird species and subspecies were recorded between March 2003 and May 2004. The 93 taxon of bird species are new records for Turkish bird fauna in this region. They belong to 38 families (Table I).

According to Categories Red Lists and World Conservation Union, observed species were categorized as CR 1, EN 3, VU 7, NT 10, LC 69, DD 1, NE 2. According to this list, it

was determined 18 bird species which were vulnerable, near endangered, endangered, deficient data and came under risk in Gaziantep region. In these species are *Actitis hypoleuco*, *Alcedo atthis*, *Anas crecca*, *Apus affinis*, *Ceryle rudis*, *Charadrius dubius*, *Chlidonias leucopterus*, *Circus aeruginosus*, *Delichon urbica*, *Egretta garzetta*, *Francolinus francolinus*, *Larus genei*, *Milvus migrans*, *Phalacrocorax pygmeus*, *Platelea leucorodia*, *Scolopax rusticola*, *Sterna albifrons* and *Tyto alba*. Moreover in the total 10 stations which the birds were found the most of dens, inside of city borders.

In this study, the list here obtained of these birds in Gaziantep region can contribute as new records to ornitofauna of both Gaziantep and Turkey.

DISCUSSION

Tree cutting and burning of bush, prickle and grass on edge of arable fields, agricultural modernization works, uncontrolled hunting destroy the habitat of these birds and these factories have threatened existence of many bird species in this region.

In Gaziantep, 4 dam lakes (Karkamış, Hancagız, Belkıs and Tahtaköprü) have been declared important bird areas so far [19]. They were important for bird species to breed and shelter. The lakes are located on the migration ways of several birds.

Table 1. Recorded birds in Gaziantep province [Criteria (Breeding), IUCN; Migration statue (IUCN status: EX: Extinct, EW: Extinct in the world, CR: Critically Endangered, EN: Endangered, VU: Vulnerable, NT: Near Threaten, LC: Least Concern: DD: Data Deficient, NE: Not Evaluated, KZ: Wintor visitor, G: Breeding species-only summer birds; breeds regularly or irregularly, R: Resident, T: Transit)]

Bird Species Name Latin (English)	Criteria	Counted individuals	Observation place	Migration statue
Family : Podicipedidae				
<i>Podiceps cristatus</i> (Great Crested Grebe)	LC	3	Karkamıs Dam	WV
<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i> (Little Grebe)	LC	14	Karkamıs Dam	WV
Family : Phalacrocoracidae				
<i>Phalacrocorax pygmeus</i> (Pygmy Cormorant)	VU	211	Karkamıs Dam	WV
Family : Ardeidae				
<i>Egretta garzetta</i> (Little Egret)	NT	12	Hancagız Dam	R
<i>Ardea cinerea</i> (Grey Heron)	LC	2	Hancagız Dam	T
Family : Ciconiidae				
<i>Ciconia ciconia</i> (White Stork)	LC	2	Burc Lake	SM
Family : Thereskionithidae				
<i>Platelea leucorodia</i> (Spoonbill)	EN	4	Karkamıs Dam	T
Family : Anatidae				
<i>Anser albifrons</i> (Whitefronted Goose)	NE	7	Karkamıs Dam	WV
<i>Tadorna tadorna</i> (Shelduck)	VU	9	Karkamıs Dam	WV
<i>Anas penelope</i> (Wigeon)	NE	6	Karkamıs Dam	WV
<i>Anas strepera</i> (Gadwall)	VU	400	Karkamıs Dam	WV
<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i> (Mallard)	LC	187	Karkamıs Dam	SM
<i>Anthya ferina</i> (Pochard)	LC	2045	Karkamıs Dam	WV
<i>Anas crecca</i> (Teal)	NT	240	Karkamıs Dam	WV
Family : Accipitridae				
<i>Milvus migrans</i> (Black Kite)	EN	8	Oğuzeli district	SM
<i>Circus aeruginosus</i> (Marsh Harrier)	NT	5	Karkamıs Dam	T

Bird Species Name Latin (English)	Criteria	Counted individuals	Observation place	Migration statue
<i>Buteo rufinus</i> (Long – legged Buzzard)	NT	2	Karkamis Dam	R
<i>Buteo buteo</i> (Buzzard)	LC	5	Gaziantep University	R
Family : Falconidae				
<i>Falco tinnunculus</i> (Kestrel)	LC	2	Gaziantep University	R
Family : Phasianidae				
<i>Francolinus francolinus</i> (Black Francolin)	NT	2	Karkamis Dam	R
<i>Alectoris chukar</i> (Chukar)	VU	2	Nizip district /Samandoken village	R
Family : Rallidae				
<i>Gallinula chloropus</i> (Moorhen)	LC	251	Karkamis Dam	R
<i>Fulica atra</i> (Coot)	LC	8183	Karkamis Dam	R
Family : Charadriidae				
<i>Charadrius dubius</i> (Little Ringed Plover)	NT	12	Hancagız Dam	SM
Family : Scolopacidae				
<i>Actitis hypoleuco</i> (Common Sandpiper)	VU	2	Karkamis Dam	T
<i>Scolopax rusticola</i> (Woodcock)	DD	5	Tahtakopru Dam	WV
Family : Laridae				
<i>Larus armenicus</i> (Armenian Gull,)	LC	42	Karkamis Dam	WV
<i>Larus genei</i> (Slender-billed Gull)	VU	32	Hancagız Dam	WV
Family : Sternidae				
<i>Sterna albifrons</i> (Little Tern)	NT	27	Karkamis Dam	G
<i>Chlidonias leucopterus</i> (White – winged Black Tern)	NT	12	Hancagız Dam	T
Family : Columbidae				
<i>Columba livia</i> (Rock Dove)	LC	134	Oguzeli district	R
<i>Streptopelia decaocta</i> (Collared Dove)	LC	104	Oguzeli district	R
<i>Streptopelia senegalensis</i> (Palm Dove)	LC	21	Balıklı Park	R
<i>Streptopelia turtur</i> (Turtle Dove)	LC	2	Gaziantep University	SM
Family : Strigidae				
<i>Athene noctua</i> (Little Owl)	LC	4	Karkamis district / center	R
Family : Tytonidae				
<i>Tyto alba</i> (Barn Owl)	NT	1	Karkamis Dam	R
Family : Apodidae				
<i>Apus apus</i> (Swift)	LC	112	Nizip district	SM
<i>Apus melba</i> (Alpine Swift)	LC	27	Huzurlu Plateau	SM
<i>Apus affinis</i> (Little Swift)	EN	30	Araban district / Kokluce village	SM
Family : Alcedinidae				
<i>Alcedo atthis</i> (Kingfisher)	NT	5	Karkamis Dam	WV
<i>Ceryle rudis</i> (Lesser Pied Kingfisher)	CR	3	Karkamis Dam	R
Family : Meropidae				
<i>Merops apiaster</i> (Bee – eater)	LC	30	Nizip district/ Karacurun village	SM
Family : Coraciidae				
<i>Coracias garrulus</i> (Roller)	LC	2	Nizip district/ Samandoken village	SM

Bird Species Name Latin (English)	Criteria	Counted individuals	Observation place	Migration statue
Family : Upupidae				
<i>Upupa epops</i> (Hoopoe)	LC	4	University of Gaziantep	SM
Family : Picidae				
<i>Dendrocopus syriacus</i> (Syrian Woodpecker)	LC	6	University of Gaziantep	R
Family : Alaudidae				
<i>Galerida cristata</i> (Crested Lark)	LC	35	Oguzeli district	R
Family : Hirundinidae				
<i>Hirundo rustica</i> (Swallow)	LC	86	Araban district	SM
<i>Delichon urbica</i> (House Martin)	VU	14	University of Gaziantep	SM
Family : Motacillidae				
<i>Anthus campestris</i> (Tawny Pipit)	LC	2	Karkamis Dam	SM
<i>Motacilla flava</i> (Yellow Wagtail)	LC	1	Oguzeli district	SM
<i>Motacilla alba</i> (Pied Wagtail)	LC	8	Karkamis Dam	R
<i>Motacilla cinerea</i> (Grey Wagtail)	LC	2	Huzurlu Plateau	SM
Family : Prunellidae				
<i>Prunella modularis</i> (Dunnock)	LC	1	University of Gaziantep	WV
Family : Turdidae				
<i>Phoenicurus ochrurus</i> (Black Redstart)	LC	3	Karkamis Dam	SM
<i>Oenanthe isabellina</i> (Isabelline Wheatear)	LC	12	Nizip district	SM
<i>Turdus iliacus</i> (Redwing)	LC	1	Guneykışla village	WV
<i>Turdus merula</i> (Black Bird)	LC	2	University of Gaziantep	R
<i>Cercotrichas galactotes</i> (Rufous Bush – Chat)	LC	8	University of Gaziantep	SM
<i>Erithacus rubecula</i> (Robin)	LC	2	University of Gaziantep	WV
<i>Luscinia megarhynchos</i> (Nightingale)	LC	2	University of Gaziantep	SM
<i>Oenanthe oenanthe</i> (Wheatear)	LC	8	Huzurlu Plateau	SM
<i>Oenanthe hispanica</i> (Black – eared Wheatear)	LC	2	Burc forest	SM
<i>Oenanthe finschii</i> (Finsch’s Wheatear)	LC	2	Huzurlu Plateau	R
<i>Phoenicurus phoenicurus</i> (Red Start)	LC	6	University of Gaziantep	SM
Family : Sylviidae				
<i>Hippolais pallida</i> (Olivaceous Warbler)	LC	6	University of Gaziantep	SM
<i>Regulus regulus</i> (Goldcrest)	LC	13	University of Gaziantep	R
<i>Sylvia melanocephala</i> (Sardinian Warbler)	LC	3	Burc district / Sarısalkım village	WV
Family : Muscicapidae				
<i>Ficedula hypoleuca</i> (Pied Flycatcher)	LC	2	University of Gaziantep	SM
<i>Muscicapa striata</i> (Spotted Flycatcher)	LC	2	University of Gaziantep	SM
Family : Paridae				
<i>Parus major</i> (Great Tit)	LC	12	University of Gaziantep	R
<i>Parus ater</i> (Coal Tit)	LC	12	University of Gaziantep	R
<i>Parus lugubris</i> (Sombre Tit)	LC	2	Huzurlu Plateau	R
Family : Sittidae				
<i>Sitta neumayer</i> (Rock Nuthatch)	LC	1	Araban district/ Kokluce village	R
Family : Laniidae				
<i>Lanius collurio</i> (Red – backed Shrike)	LC	35	Araban district/ Kokluce village	SM
<i>Lanius excubitor</i> (Great Grey Shrike)	LC	1	Huzurlu Plateau	WV

Bird Species Name Latin (English)	Criteria	Counted individuals	Observation place	Migration statue
<i>Lanius minor</i> (Lesser Grey Shrike)	LC	16	Araban district/ Kokluce village	SM
<i>Lanius senator</i> (Woodchat Shrike)	LC	8	Araban district/ Kokluce village	SM
Family : Corvidae				
<i>Corvus frugilegus</i> (Rook)	LC	14	Karkamis Dam	WV
<i>Corvus corone cornix</i> (Carrion/Hooded Crow)	LC	53	Oguzeli district	R
<i>Corvus monedula</i> (Jackdaw)	LC	8	Huzurlu Plateau	R
<i>Garrulus glandarius</i> (Jay)	LC	2	Huzurlu Plateau	R
Family : Sturnidae				
<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i> (Starling)	LC	52	Balklı Park	R
Family : Passeridae				
<i>Passer domesticus</i> (House Sparrow)	LC	261	Karkamis Dam	R
Family : Fringillidae				
<i>Fringilla coelebs</i> (Chaffinch)	LC	30	University of Gaziantep	WV
<i>Carduelis carduelis</i> (Goldfinch)	LC	32	Sarısalkım village/center	R
<i>Carduelis chloris</i> (Greenfinch)	LC	14	University of Gaziantep	WV
<i>Serinus serinus</i> (Serin)	LC	55	University of Gaziantep	R
<i>Carduelis cannabina</i> (Linnet)	LC	21	Karkamis Dam	R
Family : Emberizidae				
<i>Emberiza melanocephala</i> (Black-headed Bunting)	LC	33	Gaziantep University	SM
<i>Milliaria calandra</i> (Corn Bunting)	LC	35	Karkamis Dam	R
<i>Emberiza citronella</i> (Yellow hammer)	LC	2	Burc district / Sarısalkım village	WV
<i>Emberiza cia</i> (Rock Bunting)	LC	1	University of Gaziantep	WV
<i>Emberiza striolata</i> (House Bunting)	LC	1	University of Gaziantep	WV

Turkey has 2 important migration routes and 3 migration Gates, namely the Bosphorus in the North-west, Artwin-Boçka pass in the North-east and Hatay-Belen pass in the South [17]. Gaziantep is located on Hatay-Belen Gates. So, this region is very much important gates for the birds.

But it has been observed that Hancığz dams especially rigorously has been polluted with waste materials by industrial activities. We think that it must be protected this area and like this ones against to environmental pollution.

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