

## Aquatic Food Plants and their Consumer Birds at Sandi Bird Sanctuary, Hardoi, Northern India

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### ABSTRACT

One of the Bird Sanctuaries of Uttar Pradesh, Sandi, was selected for studying some ecological aspects like, aquatic food plants, their food calendar and dependent birds of migratory as well as resident origin. The study site is considered as an ideal wetland. This is located at 27°15' N and 79°55' E. Thirty four food plant species were identified to be eaten by 16 birds. These plants were the species of *Alloteropsis*, *Arundo*, *Azolla*, *Ceratophyllum*, *Chloris*, *Commelina*, *Cyperus*, *Echinochloa*, *Eichhornia*, *Eleocharis*, *Hydrilla*, *Ipomoea*, *Jussiaea*, *Lemna*, *Najas*, *Nelumbo*, *Nymphaea*, *Nymphoides*, *Oryza*, *Pistia*, *Polygonum*, *Potamogeton*, *Scirpus*, *Spirodela*, *Trapa*, *Typha*, *Vallisneria*, and *Wolffia*. Common consumer birds eating plant parts were Coot, Pochards, Teal, Wigeon, Gadwall, Gargany, Goose, Whistling-duck, Mallard, Pintail, Shoveler, and Swamphen. These are primarily the migratory birds except Coot, Whistling-duck and Swamphen. Spot-billed Duck, and Indian Moorhen were occasionally seen eating submerged hydrophytes and filamentous slimy green algae. On the basis of multi-strata growth of plants in the Sanctuary a wetland profile was prepared. Food calendar i.e., availability of palatable parts of plants during different months was recorded. Information collected in the study could be used for habitat management, especially the weed removal and ensuring food sustainability for the vegetarian birds.

**Key words:** wetland, profile, vegetation, food calendar, birds, richness, abundance