

Avian Ecological Status in the Gadaïne Eco-Complex (Batna, NE Algeria)

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Abstract : Wetlands represent ecosystems of great importance through their ecological and socio-economic functions and biological diversity, even if they are most threatened by anthropization. This study aimed to contribute to the creation of an inventory of bird species in the Gadaïne eco-complex (Batna, Algeria) from 2019 to 2021. Counts were carried out from 8:00 to 19:00 using a telescope (20 × 60) and a pair of binoculars (10 × 50) and by employing absolute and relative methods. Birds were categorized by phenology, habitat, biogeography, and diet. A total of 80 species in 58 genera and 19 families were observed. Migratory birds were dominant (38%) phenologically, and the birds of Palearctic origin dominated (26.25%) biogeographically. Invertivorous and carnivorous species were the most common (35%). Ecologically, the majority of species were waterbirds (73.75%), which are protected in Algeria. This study highlights the need for the preservation of ecosystem components and the enhancement of biological resources of protected, rare, and key species. We observed 43797 individuals of *Marmaronetta angustirostris* during our study and reported the nesting of *Podiceps nigricollis*, *Porphyrio porphyrio*, and *Tadorna ferruginea*. For this reason, it is recommended to propose the area as a Ramsar site.

Keywords : biodiversity, avifauna, ecological status, wetlands

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