

कार्यालय वन संरक्षक, लुप्तप्राय परियोजना, उत्तर प्रदेश, लखनऊ

पत्रांक- 1440 / 10-1,

लखनऊ, दिनांक, मार्च, 28, 2024

सेवा में,

रजिस्ट्रार,
नेशनल ग्रीन ट्रिब्यूनल (प्रिन्सीपल बेंच),
फरीद कोर्ट, कापरनिक्स मार्ग,
नई दिल्ली।

विषय:- ओ0ए0 संख्या-117/2024 In re: News item titled Nawabganj Bird Sanctuary Not (Bird's) paradise lost yet but solace becoming a casualty" Appearing in the Hindustan Times dated 25.12.2023 के सम्बन्ध में।

संदर्भ:- प्रधान मुख्य वन संरक्षक, वन्य जीव, उ0प्र0, लखनऊ के कार्यालय की पत्र संख्या-2781/10-1 (कोर्ट केस) दिनांक 28.03.2024

महोदय,

उपरोक्त विषयक संदर्भित पत्र द्वारा ओ0ए0-117/2024 In re News item titled Nawabganj Bird Sanctuary Not (Bird's) paradise lost yet but solace becoming a casualty" Appearing in the Hindustan Times dated 25-12-2023 में मा0 राष्ट्रीय हरित अधिकरण, नई दिल्ली में प्रतिशपथ-पत्र योजित किये जाने हेतु निर्देश प्राप्त हुए हैं। प्रधान मुख्य वन संरक्षक, वन्य जीव, उ0प्र0, लखनऊ की तरफ से प्रतिशपथ-पत्र दाखिल करने हेतु श्री विवेक सिंह, क्षेत्रीय वन अधिकारी, शहीद चन्द्रशेखर आजाद पक्षी विहार, नवाबगंज, उन्नाव को नामित किया जाता है।

आपसे अनुरोध है कि प्रधान मुख्य वन संरक्षक, वन्य जीव, उ0प्र0, लखनऊ की तरफ से उक्त संदर्भित विषय पर प्रतिशपथ-पत्र दाखिल कराने हेतु स्थायी अधिवक्ता को नामित कर प्रतिशपथ-पत्र दाखिल कराने की कृपा करें।

संलग्नक-उपरोक्तानुसार।

भवदीय,


(मनोज कुमार सोनकर)

वन संरक्षक,
लुप्तप्राय परियोजना, उ0प्र0,
लखनऊ।

पत्रांक- _____ / उक्तदिनांकित।

प्रतिलिपि- प्रधान मुख्य वन संरक्षक, वन्य जीव, उ0प्र0, लखनऊ की सेवा में सूचनार्थ एवं आवश्यक कार्यवाही हेतु सादर प्रेषित।

(मनोज कुमार सोनकर)

वन संरक्षक,
लुप्तप्राय परियोजना, उ0प्र0,
लखनऊ।

पत्रांक- _____ / उक्तदिनांकित।

प्रतिलिपि- निम्नलिखित को सूचनार्थ एवं आवश्यक कार्यवाही हेतु प्रेषित:-

1. वन्य जीव प्रतिपालक, लुप्तप्राय परियोजना, उ0प्र0, लखनऊ।
2. श्री विवेक सिंह, क्षेत्रीय वन अधिकारी, शहीद चन्द्रशेखर आजाद पक्षी विहार, नवाबगंज, उन्नाव।

(मनोज कुमार सोनकर)

वन संरक्षक,
लुप्तप्राय परियोजना, उ0प्र0,
लखनऊ।

Reply of notice (OA No.117/2024) of hearing in Suo Motu matter in re: News item appearing in the Hindustan Times dated 25.12.2023 entitled "Nawabganj Bird Sanctuary not (bird's) paradise lost yet but solace becoming a casualty".

The reply of above notice is as follows:-

1. Nawabganj Bird Sanctuary now known as Shaheed Chandra Shekhar Azad Bird Sanctuary, Nawabganj Unnao was notified as Nawabganj Bird Sanctuary in 1984 vide gazette notification number 2332/14-3-48-83 dated 07.08.1984 comprising an area of 224.6 ha. In which water body comprises 117.68 ha area. Nawabganj bird sanctuary declared as Ramsar site in year 2019 (sight no. 2412).

2. The sanctuary is a mosaic ecosystem where woodland, grassland and wetland are present. According to the news article increased highway traffic and continuous hoking of horns affect the birds in the bird sanctuary to control it, we maintain thick vegetation of trees and plants on road side (average 30m wide) which not only act as sound barrier but also help in prevention of vehicular emission pollution/ air pollution.

3. During last years, thick vegetation near roadside helped in least disturbances to migratory birds which come during winter season only in the wetland, which is about 400 M away from entry/exit gate.

4. Second question arises in the article is that birds have limited themselves to the core area of the sanctuary. Depending on their habitat few species are found in shallow water, few species are found in deep water, few species are in grasslands and few are found in swampy areas. Apart from it, there are maximum possibilities that these birds roam in entire sanctuary area and even beyond the boundaries of wetlands. Since, we can't restrict the movement of birds, and their movements vary with time, it is very difficult to predict their presence in a particular location. Nawabganj bird sanctuary's lake is divided into three beats. Middle beat and south beat have large availability of food at different places of the lake. So that the big portion of birds resides in these two beats of the lake. These birds shift from one place to another place in the lake. We can spot them at the entrance point of the lake area but due to visitors interference at the front it create disturbance among the birds, so they move towards the middle or back side of the middle beat.

In the south beat of the lake, we can find birds in the whole lake because in south beat the gap between the birds and the path way is large as result very less

disturbance is created and there are large food options present that's why these conditions provides best place to stay.

This year winter was late and cold started from January first week that affected migration of birds to sanctuary. The timing for bird watching is also important. Weather condition plays vital role in bird watching that's affect the sighting of birds in the sanctuary.

This year rainfall was very good as result all the water bodies and other wetland nearby the sanctuary had sufficient amount of water so migratory birds had many options for feeding and residing.

5. Third query in the news article is that the land has been purchased by the individuals and pacca construction is going on but there is no encroachment within the boundaries of the bird sanctuary. The boundaries of Sanctuary are safe and an Eco sensitive Zone of 100 M is also notified. No prohibited activity is being allowed in the ESZ, only permitted activities are going on in ESZ.

6. Fourth query in the newspaper is that now Asian open bill stork and Egrets are not nesting in the sanctuary area, It is not true that now a days birds are not making nests on the trees present in these islands. During summer nesting occurred here, the photographs of nests and birds sitting on the trees in these islands may be provided.

7. Fifth query in the newspaper is about the availability and depth of the water body few years back, there was problem related to water availability during summer in the Sanctuary but now a day due to active support of Irrigation Department, water is available during the entire year at least in few part of the Sanctuary. As per Para 6.4.3.1 of Management Plan, water area of Wetland is mentioned on page number 31 as given below-

S.No.	Description of land Approx.	area (ha)
1.	Swampy area (0-30 cm water depth)	56
2.	Shallow water area (30-90 cm water depth)	40
3.	Deep water area (90-120 cm water depth)	20
4.	Very deep water area (more than 120 cm water depth)	02
	Total	118

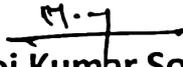
So, as per Management Plan, all actions are taken to create and manage the habitat of birds and water storage in wetland.

8. As per the question about the diversity of bird species in the park more than 200 different types of birds species can be sighted in the sanctuary. We can sight main terrestrial birds species in the sanctuary are Grey Hornbill, Yellow Wagtail, Black Drongo, Tailor Bird, White throated Kingfisher, Oriental Magpie-Robin, Ashy Prinia, White-bellied Drongo, Pheasant-tailed Jacana, Purple Heron, Grey Heron.

We can also easily sight local water birds in the sanctuary like Bronze Winged-Jacana, colony of Purple Swamp hen, Purple Heron, Little Grebe, Cotton Pigmy Goose, Spot Billed Duck, Comb Duck. in winter season we can sight migratory birds like Gadwall, Northern Pintail, Northern Shoveler, Ferruginous Duck, Mallard, Common Teal, Red-Crested Pochard, Common Pochard, Marsh harrier, Green shank, Red shank, Green Sandpiper, Wood Sandpiper, Common Sandpiper, Grey Headed Lapwing, White-tailed Lapwing.

9. Depending on the location, biodiversity richness and scenic beauty, the eco tourism section of forest department has rightly mentioned about the Sanctuary. Since, the area is also declared as Ramsar site in September 192019, all steps are being taken for its better management and conservation of the flora and fauna of the wetland.

10. Our prime target is to preserve and improve the habitat of birds at the sanctuary. All the directions and orders passed by Hon'ble National Green Tribunal will be followed in letter and spirit.


(Manoj Kumar Sonkar)
Conservator of Forests,
Endangered Project, U.P.,
Lucknow, ✓