

OFFICE OF THE PRINCIPAL CHIEF CONSERVATOR OF FOREST, WILDLIFE, U.P., LUCKNOW

No. 286 / 10-1 (2024) Lucknow,

dated February 05 2024

To

The Registrar,
Hon'ble National Green Tribunal,
Copernicus Marg, New Delhi.

Sub-: 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".

Ref-: Your E-mail dated 30.01.2024.

Sir,

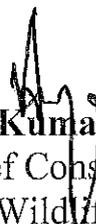
In compliance of your above referred notice the report is being annexed herewith.

It is requested that the said report may be presented before the Hon'ble Tribunal for kind consideration.

Thanking you in anticipation.

Encl:-As above.

Yours faithfully,


(Anjani Kumar Acharya)
Principal Chief Conservator of Forest/
Chief Wildlife Warden
Uttar Pradesh, Lucknow.

Reply of notice (OA No.117/2024) of hearing in Suo Moto 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
2. The sanctuary is a mosaic ecosystem where woodland, grassland and wetland is present. The sanctuary is located near Lucknow- Kanpur National highway but near the roadside thick vegetation of trees and plants is there which not only act as sound barrier but also help in prevention of vehicular emission pollution/ air pollution.
3. Since, last many years, thick vegetations near roadside help 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. Removal of unwanted weeds, repair of islands and other management practices are carried out every year depending upon requirement and budget availability. All basic infra structures are present in this Bird Sanctuary for visitors which can be used by visitors without disturbing the resident and migratory birds. Moreover, during winter fortnightly Population estimation of birds is being done. The report is given below:

**Summary of Population Estimation of Birds 2023-24
(SHAHID CHANDRA SHEKHAR AZAD BIRD SANCTUARY)**

S.N	Description/ Month	Oct-23		Nov-23		Dec-23		Jan-24	
		1st fortnight	2nd fortnight	1st fortnight	2nd fortnight	1st fortnight	2nd fortnight	1st fortnight	2nd fortnight
1	Migratory Birds	75	1163	2542	3609	5074	6271	7570	15050
2	Local Birds	4326	5577	6600	8330	12485	14216	16599	22094
	Total	4401	6740	9142	11939	17559	20487	24169	37144

The above table shows that more than 20000 birds were there in the month of December but the number of migratory birds were around 6000 only. As the winter becomes severe, their number may increase.

5. 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. In early morning these waterfowl are mainly found near watch tower number one (1) but when HT team had visited the Sanctuary, the probability is more that they might have shifted their location.

6. Few years back, there was problem related to water availability during summer in the Sanctuary but now a days 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.

7. 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. There are many islands in the Sanctuary where few species of birds like Egret, cormorant, Asian openbill stork , heron etc make their nests during summer/monsoon . It is not true that now a days birds are not making nests on the trees present in these islands. During summer/monsoon nesting occurred here, few photographs of nests and birds sitting on the trees in these islands are given below.



8. 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 2020, all steps are being taken for its better management and conservation of the flora and fauna of the wetland.

9. Sanctuary administration is managing the Protected Area as per duly approved Management Plan for betterment and enriching the flora and fauna of the sanctuary but we are always ready to accept and adopt good practices for conservation of the area.



(Dr. Anil Kumar Patel)
Conservator of Forest
Endangered Project
Uttar Pradesh, Lucknow.