

Study of the International Sorkhrud Wetland's Conservation Position, Using to the Birds Status, Compliance with the Important Bird and Biodiversity Areas Selection Criteria and Ramsar Convention

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Abstract

International Sorkhrud Wetland is located in Mazandaran province, in the west of Fereydunkenar International wetlands. It is composed of three parts of eastern, New and Western part that called Damgah. In this study, wetland birds, including these waterfowl and waders were evaluated in autumn and winter of 2008, 2009, 2010 and 2011. Bird census was done using direct observation, Total Count and using binocular camera 10 × 50. In these censuses, annual average number of species, population, density, and biodiversity indicators values was determined based on existing equations (Shannon- Wiener species diversity and Simpson species dominance) on waterfowl and waders. During the study, the dominant species with highest frequency in all three menageries was related to Common teal (*Anas crecca*) and lowest frequencies to the Red-breasted goose (*Branta ruficollis*). Also Sorkhrud wetland meets many IBA criteria and new criteria for recognition of the Ramsar Convention on international wetlands serves as one of the important bird habitats in the Middle East. Using the five criteria including birds, fish, threatening factors, socio-economic challenges and conservation status it was found that this wetland characterized with better conservation among the major wetland status than in 2004.

Keywords: International Sorkhrud Wetland, IBA Criteria, Ramsar Convention, Waterfowl and Waders.