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Review of the Ornithological Literature of Iran

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Received 20 July 2006; accepted 15 May 2007

Abstract: The intention of this review is to help organize and prioritise future ornithological studies by arranging the ornithological literature of Iran on a systematic basis. The review shows that a total of 35 Iranian ornithologists (who have worked on birds for over five years) and nine foreign ornithologists (who have at least five references) have studied the birds of Iran and have published their findings. A list has been compiled of over 1060 references, mostly comprising articles (46%) and reports (30%). When Middle Eastern countries are ranked according to the number of ornithological references available, Iran lies in third place and is some way behind Turkey in first place. Only 12% of Iran's bird species, 34% of its IBAs and 25% of its Protected Areas have been the subject of formal ornithological surveys, most of which have been conducted on wetland ecosystems (e.g. 15 of Iran's 22 internationally important wetlands have been studied), mostly in the Hyrcanian region (with 207 references). Avifaunal surveys have formed the largest component of ornithological studies. In future, priority should be given to studies of species of Passeriformes, waders and raptors, and forest, river, highland and desert habitats, mostly in the southern and eastern regions of the country. One long-term goal should be to achieve coverage of all of the country's 138 Protected Areas, 105 IBAs and 22 Ramsar sites. Other important subjects for study include genetics and feeding and breeding behaviour within the context of management of bird populations and their habitats.

Keywords: Ornithology, birds, literature, Iran, Middle East.

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IBIS
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Anderson (2002)
Firouz (2000) Evans (1994) Dayani (1999)
Scott (1976, 1995)

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(Zarudnyi 1911)

(Firouz 2000)

(Scott & Adhami 2006)

(Mansoori 2001)
(Scott 1989)

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Table 1. Number of ornithological papers and short communications in seven countries in the Middle East.

Egypt	Saudi Arabia	Jordan	Yemen	Iran	Israel/ Palestine	Turkey	Name of journal
1,001,450	1,960,582	92,300	527,970	1,648,195	21,130	780,580	() Area size in sq.km /
3	4	5	3	9	2	34	Zoology in the Middle East (1986-2006)
17	16	24	21	25	26	37	Sandgrouse (1996-2006)
5	10	3	9	1	10	23	Sandgrouse (1983-1995)
25	30	32	33	35	38	94	

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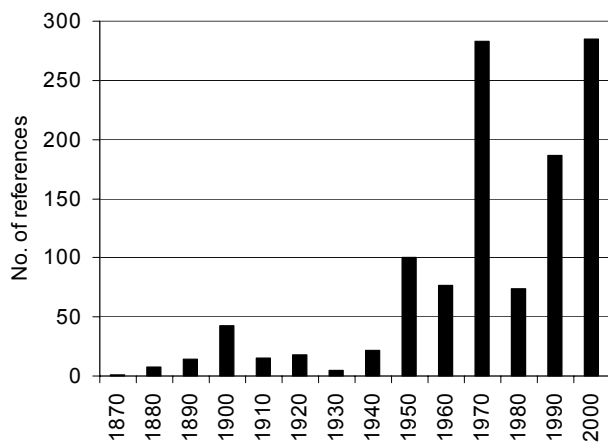


Figure 1. Appearance of ornithological literature by decade since 1870.

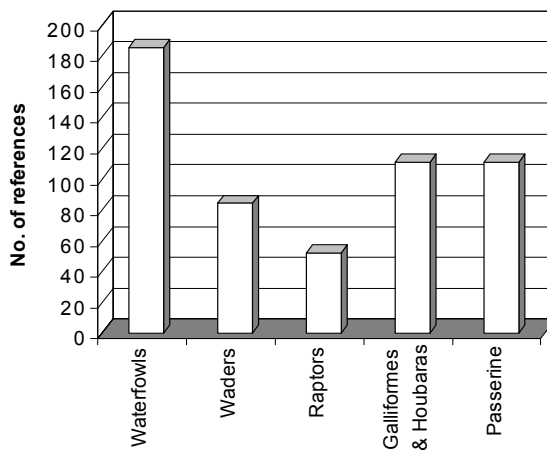


Figure 2. Number of references relating to particular groups of birds.

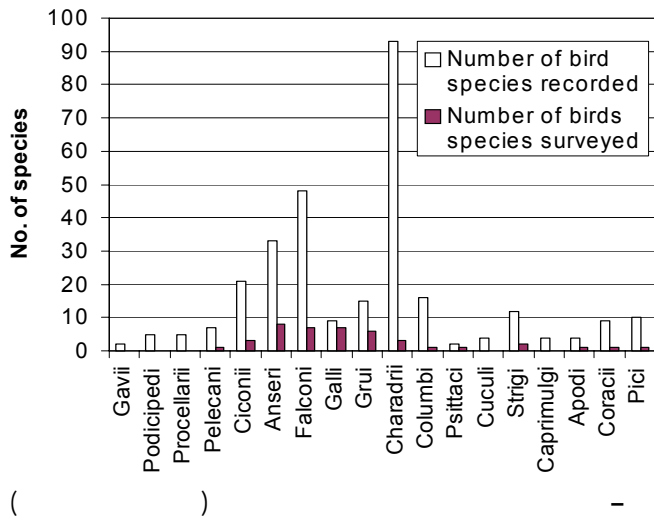


Figure 3. Number of bird species recorded and surveyed in Iran (non-passerine orders).

(*Podoces pleskei* Zarudnyi 1896)

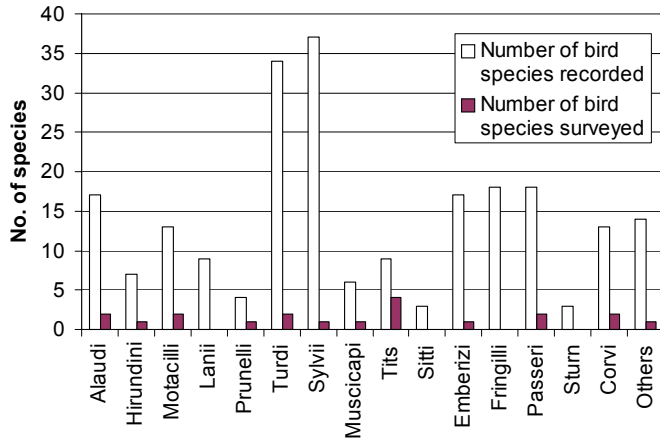


Figure 4. Number of bird species recorded and surveyed in Iran (passerine families).

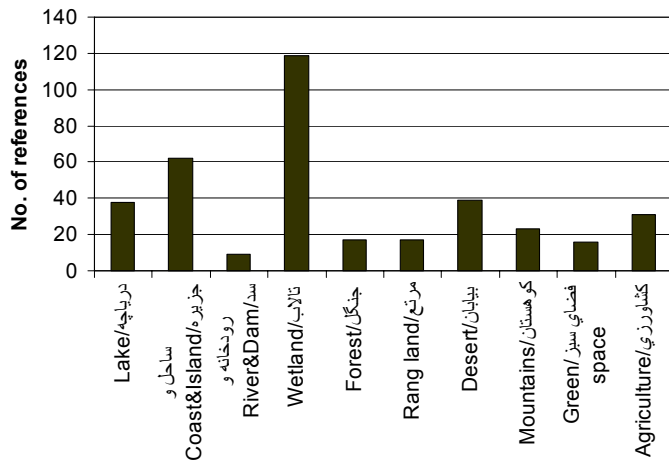


Figure 5. Number of references relating to various habitats in Iran.

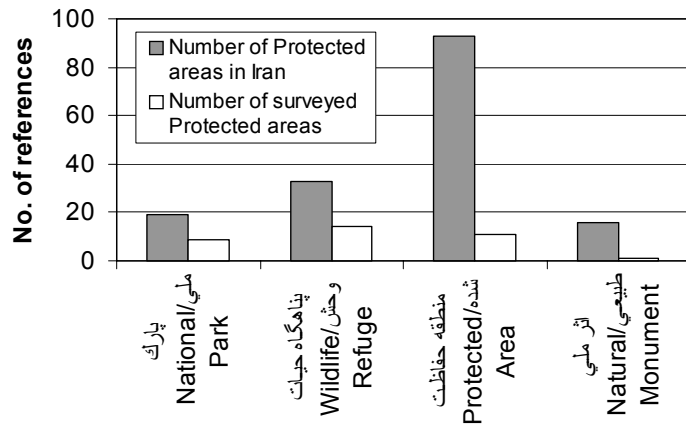


Figure 6. Number of Protected Areas surveyed in Iran.

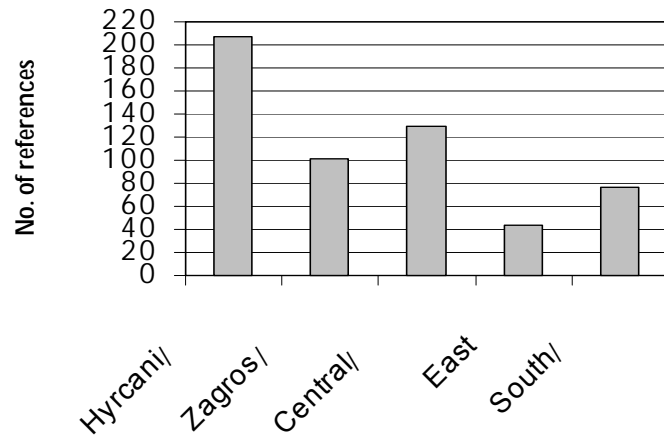


Figure 7. Number of references for each geographical region of Iran.

"Handbook of the Birds of Iran"

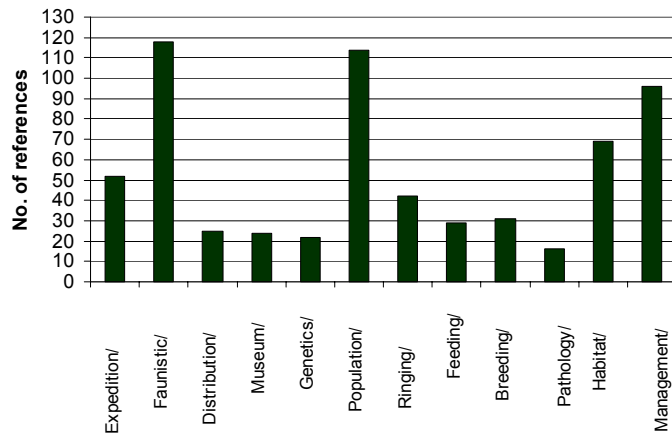


Figure 8. Diversity of subjects surveyed in the ornithological literature of Iran.

(Dubois 2003)

(Scott & Adhami 2006)

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Zosterops

(Reynolds 1978) *palpebrosus*
(Scott & Adhami 2006)

(*Saxicola* spp.)

(Schweizer 2003)

(Podoces)

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