

Re-Sighting of Greater Flamingos (*Phoenicopterus roseus*) at Anasagar Lake, Ajmer, Rajasthan, India



Dutt Umesh

Assistant Professor,
Deptt. of Zoology,
S.P.C. Government College,
Ajmer, Rajasthan

Prakash Bharti

Associate Professor,
Deptt. of Zoology,
S.P.C. Government College,
Ajmer, Rajasthan

Abstract

Greater Flamingo *Phoenicopterus roseus* is a large bird belonging to the family Phoenicopteridae (Grimmette *et.al.* 1998). Although the birds are large, excessively long-legged marsh birds with very long slender necks and peculiar thick lamellate bills sharply down curved or "broken" in the middle. Two species represent this family namely Greater Flamingo (*Phoenicopterus roseus*) and Lesser Flamingo (*Phoenicopterus minor*). The clearest difference between Lesser and Greater is the much more extensive black on the bill. They are migratory in the investigation / study area. I was carrying out wetland bird data collection at Anasagar lake. The present reporting of the Flamingo in this study may be found useful for further research and development of Anasagar lake more in depth on allied aspects may define well in its future prospects for a healthy and equitable wetland for avifaunal diversity.

Keywords: Wetland, Flamingo, Anasagar Lake, Avifauna and Migratory.

Introduction

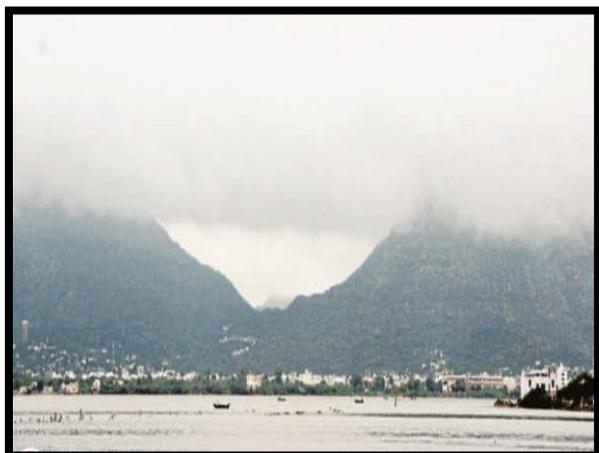
Greater Flamingo *phoenicopterus roseus* is a large bird belonging to the family Phoenicopteridae (Grimmette *et.al.* 1998). Although the birds are large, excessively long-legged marsh birds with very long slender necks and peculiar thick lamellate bills sharply down curved or "broken" in the middle. Their deep bill is specialized for filtering tiny food items. Plumage of flamingos is largely pinkish white and crimson, with black remiges or wing-quills. They have large tibia; toes are short and webbed. Sexes are alike or nearly so. Two species represent this family namely Greater Flamingo (*Phoenicopterus roseus*) and Lesser Flamingo (*P. minor*). The clearest difference between Lesser and Greater is the much more extensive black on the bill. They are migratory in the investigation / study area.

Study Area

Anasagar wetland is a moderated sized water body situated in Ajmer district. This artificial lake built by Anajc Chauhan in 12th century. This lake represent unique habitat for various avian species. This lake lies at the geographical position of (26°28'30. N and 74°38'30" E).

Fig 1. Satellite Map and Natural View of Anasagar Lake





Review of Literature

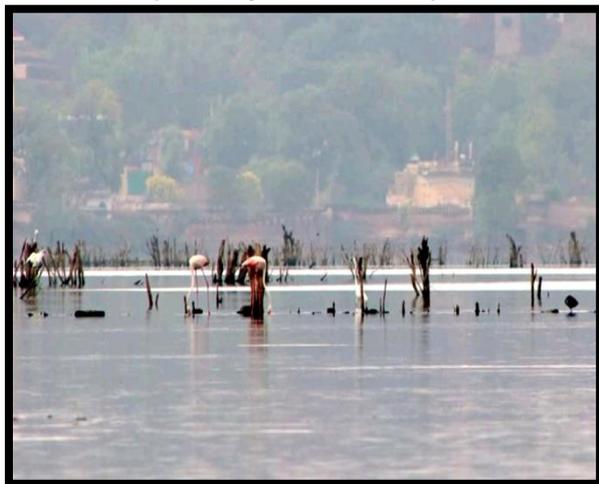
IUCN Red List is categorized Flamingo as Least Concern (BirdLife International, 2015). Despite being the most numerous species of Flamingo, Lesser Flamingo is classified as near threatened due to this declining population and the low number of breeding sites, some of which are threatened by human activities . (Mehra,2011) Previous sighting of flamingos around Ajmer was reported by Choudhary, (2007). From the previous studies it is cleared that Greater Flamingo were medium distance migrants because this species cover distances that span from one to several nearby states (Bopinwar *et al.*, 2012). Another study on avifaunal diversity was also carried out in Ajmer district by Sharma *et.al.*(2013) ; Dutt and Prakash (2018) where the species was only sighted once throughout the year.

Result and Discussion

As part of the regular wetland survey for my Ph.D. research problem at Anasagar lake located in district Ajmer, Rajasthan.

Fig 2

**Two adult Greater Flamingo *Phoenicopterus roseus* feeding in Anasagar lake
(Photo by: Vikas Saxena)**



Flamingo were not reported at Anasagar lake in 2016-2017 yearly censuses organized by forest department of Ajmer Rajasthan but choose Gundolav lake in Kishanghar district as their resting sites

because conditions here are favorable for them. (Mathur and Chaturvadi, 2017 and Saini, 2018).

Fig 3

**One individual Greater Flamingo *Phoenicopterus roseus* in Anasagar lake
(Photo by: Divaker Yadav)**



I was carrying out wetland bird data collection at Anasagar lake (Fig. 1) (Prakash and Dutt, 2018) and nearest while closed area of Ajmer district Rajasthan on 26 June 2018 at about 4: 30 PM . During the summer month author spotted four individuals of Greater Flamingo with rosy white body, striking red and black wings, and a very long neck and legs. Two Flamingos were busy for searching their food by a specialized technique of filtration of mud and water pumped in by the tongue with the upper side of the bill, scraping the bottom (Fig.2).

After seriously re-scanning the lake one more Flamingo was spotted to be standing at one side of water (Fig. 3). Out of these four individuals, the two foraging flamingos were adult while the lone one was an immature.

Conclusion

The identification of bird was confirmed by using field guide Grimmett *et al.*, (1999); Hasan (2001) and Kumar *et al.*, (2005). From the characteristics, it was conformed that, two birds were adult greater Flamingo and rest were immature. The bird was not reported in previous five years and in July 2014 two individuals were reported at same site (Fig. 4). From this reporting we confirmed the re-sighting of Greater Flamingos (*Phoenicopterus roseus*) at Anasagar lake, Ajmer, Rajasthan .The present reporting of the Flamingo in this study may be found useful for further research and development of Anasagar lake more in depth on allied aspects may define well in its future prospects for a healthy and equitable wetland for avifaunal diversity.

Fig 4
Two adult Greater Flamingo *Phoenicopterus roseus* fly over Anasagar lake
(Photo by: Vivak Sharma)



Recommendation

A lot of area of the lake has already been reduced by the development of the colonies in the submergence it is suggested to make a definite boundary line so that natural beauty of lake can be persevered. Development activities on going Smart city plan in the future should be in a planned way so that the natural habitat of the avifauna will not be disturbed.

Acknowledgements

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