

# AVIFAUNAL OBSERVATIONS IN “ABU-ZARAG” WETLANDS, CENTRAL MARSHES, LOWER MESOPOTAMIA.

## PART – II

**28, Mar. 04**

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As it was planned, and following “Part – I” report, that was held on 27th, Mar. 04; surveys were held at the second half (southern part) of Abu-Zarag wetlands, which is larger than the northern part and covered by more intensive, tall reedbeds of *Phragmites* and *Typha*.

Large portions of this part are of difficult access, but, obviously, other portions were cultivated previously as they were flat fields, which are now covered by shallow water of scattered, small bushes of *Acacia*.

Like at the northern part, surveys were done quickly ... but, indeed, it needs intensive regular observations urgently.

### MATERIALS AND METHODS

Same materials and methods of “Part-I” report were used at this fieldwork. Weather overlapped some times during the day from clear sunny to cloudy, and so the wind, from calm to strong.

### RESULTS

As a result of the following main states, those were stated;

- The same content of “Part-I” list was observed; but,
- Most species of this site exists in much numbers than “Part-I’s” ; in addition,
- Four bird-species were newly observed to be added to the list; moreover,
- The southern half contains more breeding sites of the “globally threatened” *Marmaronitta angustirostris* than the northern part.

We, generally, ought to pay more attention to the lower part. Especially when we know, after a passage observation, that this part is less frequently disturbed by fishermen or reed collectors, and its being more quiet than the northern part.

The following list, which is nearly similar to Part-I’s list, represents the bird-species of the lower part of Abu-Zarag wetlands.

**LIST OF BIRD SPECIES OBSERVED IN ABU-ZARAG WETLANDS,**  
**AT 28,MAR.03**

BIRD SPECIES			STATE
1.	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>	Little Grebe	F.B.
2.	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>	Grey Heron	M.?
3.	<i>Ardeola purpurea</i>	Purple Heron	F.?
4.	<i>Egretta gazetta</i>	Little Egret	F.B.
5.	<i>Ardeola ralloides</i>	Squacco Heron	M.B.
6.	<i>Bulbulcus ibis</i>	Cattle Egret	F.B.
7.	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>	Night Heron	M.?
8.	<i>Loxbychus minutus</i>	Little Bittern	A.B.
9.	<i>Marmaronetta anrusterostris</i>	Marbled Teal	A.B.
10.	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>	Common Moorhen	M.?
11.	<i>Himantopus nimantopus</i>	Black-winged Stilt	A.B.
12.	<i>Glareola pratincola</i>	Black-winged Pratincole	A.B.
13.	<i>Vanellus indicus</i>	Red wattled Plover	F.?
14.	<i>Vanillus spinosus</i>	Spur-winged Plover	F.?
15.	<i>Vanellus leucurus</i>	White-tailed Plover	A.B.
16.	<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>	Common Ringed Plover	F.?
17.	<i>Charadrius asiaticus</i>	Caspian Plover	F.?
18.	<i>Tringa totanus</i>	Redshank	F.?
19.	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>	Common Sandpiper	F.?
20.	<i>Larus ridibundus</i>	Black-headed Gull	F.?
21.	<i>Larus argentatus</i>	Herring Gull	F.?
22.	<i>Sterna albiforns</i>	Little Tern	A.?
23.	<i>Chlidonias leucopterus</i>	White-winged Tern	M.?
24.	<i>Chlidonias hybribus</i>	Whiskered Tern	F.?
25.	<i>Sterna anaethetus</i>	Bridled Tern	A.?
26.	<i>Sterna nilotica</i>	Gull-belled Tern	F.?
27.	<i>Sterna hirundo</i>	Common Tern	M.?
28.	<i>Ceryle rudis</i>	Pied Kingfisher	A.B.
29.	<i>Cisticola juncidis</i>	Fan-tailed Warbler	F.B.
30.	<i>Prinia gracilis</i>	Graceful Warbler	A.B.
31.	<i>Acrocephalus arundianaceus</i>	Great Reed Warbler	A.B.
32.	<i>Acrocephalus scripaceus</i>	Eurasian Reed Warbler	M.B.
33.	<i>Turdoides altirostris</i>	Iraq Babbler	F.?

In addition to the waterfowl and the water-close species, some land-birds were observed at the dry areas of the small islandlets within the marsh, or were recorded around but close to the shore, which are: (attaching with the above list)

**LIST OF LAND BIRD-SPECIES OBSERVED IN AND AROUND**  
**ABU-ZARAG ETLANDS, AT 28, MAR. 04**

34.	<i>Halcyon smyrnsis</i>	White-Breasted Kingfisher	F.?
35.	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>	Collared Dove	M.?
36.	<i>Francolinus francolinus</i>	Black Francolin	M.B.
37.	<i>Merops superciliosus</i>	Blue-checked Bee-eater	F.?
38.	<i>Coracias bebbhalensis</i>	Indian Roller	F.?
39.	<i>Herundo rustica</i>	Common Swallow	M.B.
40.	<i>Riparia repara</i>	Sand Marten	A.?
41.	<i>Pycnonotus leucotis</i>	White-cheeked Bulbul	M.?
42.	<i>Luscinia megarhynchos</i>	Eurasian Nightingale	F.?
43.	<i>Galerida cristata</i>	Crested Lark	M.?
44.	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	House Sparrow	A.?