



Bird Paradise
GÖLBAŞI





From the President...

Keep in mind that our children too will live here in our town...

The nature is not an infinite resource bestowed upon us, as a matter of fact the nature is a whole per se of which mankind too is an indivisible part. We- the mankind- could be happy as much as our efforts to live with the nature in a harmony and make the most of it as much as the respect we have shown to it.

We are fortunate that our town has ample natural resources; Lake Mogan and Lake Eymir and many species of flora and fauna that inhabit both Lakes, Andesite Stone which embellishes our towns and last but not the least our endemic iridescent Love Flower (a.k.a yanardoner). Due to its attributes, our town has serious potential in terms of ecological tourism. We are committed ourselves to present the natural wealth of our town respectively to the local residents, to the people of Ankara, and to the whole Turkish citizens while keeping it intact. We- as local governors- are cognizant of our responsibilities and duties to this end. We without a doubt believe that our prime supporters will be the local residents who simply are the true right holders of the natural wealth of the town. In truth, we are just the guardians and we bear the responsibility of protecting and handing over all kind of wealth ever exist on the face of this very land to the next generations intact.

In the hope of realizing the beauty of our town altogether and protecting our future,

Yakup ODABAŞI
Mayor

Habitat of the Lake Mogan Birds



201 different bird species inhabit Lake Mogan out of 456 bird species identified in Turkey. Lake Mogan is an “A” class wetland because of the fact that it shelters over 25.000 bird at one time. There were times that more than 40.000 birds at one time was observed during the surveys conducted every winter for the last 20 year to count the number of water birds. The most significant species of bird at Lake Mogan are; herons, water birds, shorebirds, songbirds, and birds of prey. All of the birds specified in 5 categories populate in the reeds.

- According to the scientific criteria set by Birdlife International, Lake Mogan is among 184 important bird areas.
- Harbours more than 150 bird species during a year in different periods.
- In accordance with the EU nature conservation policy Lake Mogan is a nominee to be considered as a Special Area of Conservation (SAC)

The reason of the international attention to the Lake is that 3 endangered species worldwide inhabit the Lake. The endangered species at Lake Mogan are White-Headed Duck (*Oxyura leucocephala*), Ferruginous Duck (*Aythya nyroca*), and Lesser Kestrel (*Falco naumanni*). Turkey has agreed to protect the species and their breeding areas by undersigning Bern Convention. Also an endemic flower named yanardoner (iridescent flower - *Centaurea tchihatcheffii*) flourish in the radius of the Lake.

Bearded Tit - Panurus Biarmicus



Males have black 'moustaches' rather than 'beards'. A brown, long-tailed bird, usually seen flying rapidly across the top of a reed bed and their 'ping' calls often being the first clue to their presence. They galumph in the reeds.

Little Owl - Athene Noctua



The Little Owl is a small owl with a large round face, platy head, and long legs. It can be seen in the daylight, usually perching on a tree branch, telegraph pole or rock. It will bob its head up and down when alarmed. In flight it has long, rounded wings, rapid wingbeats and flies with a slight undulation. The call is a querulous kee-ik. There is an idiom in Turkey 'brooding as a Little owl' inspired by its stern expression.

Euroasian Hoopoe - Upupa Epops



The species is highly distinctive. It has a pinkish-brown body, striking black and white wings, a long black downcurved bill, and a long pinkish-brown crest which it raises when excited. The hoopoe has broad and rounded wings capable of strong flight. The Hoopoe has a characteristic undulating flight, which is like that of a giant butterfly. The song is a trisyllabic “oop-oop-oop”, which gives rise to its Turkish and scientific names. Hoopoes are monogamous and care for their parents when they are old.

Yellow Wagtail - Motacilla Flava



As its name implies, it waves its tail from time to time. Yellow Wagtails usually can be seen during its migration season in lowland grassland where cattle are being grazed.

King Fisher - Alcedo Atthis



Kingfishers are small unmistakable bright blue-green and orange birds of slow moving or still water. They fly rapidly, low over water, and hunt fish from riverside perches, occasionally hovering above the water's surface.

Calandra Lark - Melanocorypha Calandra



The short tail is blackish-brown, with the two outer rectrices mainly white. The bill is strong, conical, and down-curved on culmen. It is an undistinguished-looking species on the ground, mainly streaked greyish-brown above and white below, and with large black patches on the breast sides. In flight it shows short broad wings, which are dark below, and a short white-edged tail. It is known throughout its range for the song of the male, which is delivered in hovering flight during mating season. In winter they fly in large and compact flocks that swing in synchrony.

Roller - Coracias Garrulus



The European Roller is a stocky bird at the size of a Jackdaw. It is mainly blue with an orange-brown back. Rollers often perch prominently on trees, posts or overhead wires, like giant shrikes, whilst watching for the large insects, small reptiles, rodents and frogs that they eat. This species is striking in its strong direct flight, with the brilliant blue contrasting with black flight feathers. The display of this bird is a lapwing-like display, with the twists and turns that give this species its English name. It nests in an unlined tree or cliff hole.

Great Reed Warbler - Acrocephalus Arundinaceus



The adult has an unstreaked brown upperparts and dull buffish-white chin and underparts. The forehead is flattened, and the bill is strong and pointed. The song is very loud and far-carrying. Its main phrase is a chattering and creaking carr-carr-cree-cree-cree-jet-jet.

Red - Backed Shrike - Lanius Collurio



The male is unmistakable with a bluish-grey head, black mask, bright chestnut back and thick hooked black bill. Shrikes like to perch prominently on the tops of bushes, fence posts and telephone wires, where they have a good view of potential prey. Items caught are then taken to a larder. The “kscha” call is heard much more frequently than the song, has a more carrying effect and is also more typical of the species. During the breeding season defends its territory aggressively.

Bluethroat - Luscinia Svecica



It is an elegant, long legged, and usually timid bird. The male has a loud, varied, and sometimes imitative song reminiscent of its relative, the Nightingale. Its call is a typical chat “chack” noise. They can be quite secretive, flicking into the cover of a bush with a flash of their chestnut tail patches and usually seen on passage.

Grey Heron - Ardea Cinerea



It is the most widespread Heron. Adults have a white head with a broad black supercilium and slender crest. It has a slow flight, with its long neck retracted (S-shaped). The call is a loud croaking “fraaank”.

Purple Heron - Ardea Purpurea



Purple Heron is one the largest Heron. The long neck of Purple Heron looks particularly snake-like, with more of an S-shape in flight. It has darker reddish-brown plumage and darker grey back. It can be seen on passage.

Black-Crowned Night Heron - Nycticorax Nycticorax



These birds stand still at the water's edge and wait to ambush prey, mainly at night or early morning. During the day, it often perches within the tree canopy, or trees and large shrubs close to the water, usually in small groups and when disturbed they fly away.

Squacco Heron - Ardeola Ralloides



Head and neck of Squacco Heron are yellow passed to bright-buff on under-neck, on crown, and on breast-flanks. Throat is white passed to buffy-yellow on neck. On head there is crest from extended feathers, longest of which are with blackish strips along borders and with narrow white edges. In summer, adults have long neck feathers. Its appearance is transformed in flight, when it looks very white due to the colour of the wings.

Great White Egret - Egretta Alba



Great White Heron is a large widely-distributed egret. It is a common species, usually easily seen. It has a slow flight with its neck retracted. It can be distinguished easily from other herons with its longer and thinner bill. It extends its long and retracted neck most of the time.

Little Egret - Egretta Garzetta



Its plumage is all white. The subspecies garzetta has long black legs with yellow feet and a slim black bill. Little Egrets are mostly silent.

Little Grebe - Tachybaptus Ruficollis



It is the smallest grebe in the area. Before diving it leaps up and splashes water, it readily dives when disturbed, surfacing unseen some distance away. It flies low over the water and flap off quickly. It can be noisy, with a distinctive whinnying trill.

Coot - Fulica Atra



It is completely black and has a distinctive white beak and 'shield' above the beak which earns it the title 'bald'. Its feet have distinctive lobed flaps of skin on the toes, which act instead of webs when swimming. It patters noisily over the water before taking off and can be very aggressive towards others. It is a perfect diver but can't last long under water. Its call resembles bicycle horn.

Red-Crested Pochard - Netta Rufina



The male has an orange-brown head with a red beak and pale flanks. They dive, dabble and up-end for their food. They take good care of their chick and love marshy areas.

Pochard - Aythya Ferina



They can be seen usually sleeping on the water. The triangular head shape is distinctive.

Great Crested Grebe - Podiceps Cristatus



It is the largest grebe in the area. It can be seen easily on flat water and doesn't splash water while diving. It dives slowly. Mating pairs perform their elaborate courtship display. This involves a lot of beak-to-beak head shaking, to fluff out and enhance the beautiful crest feathers. Both the male and the female dive under the surface to fill their beaks with pondweed, then raise themselves out of the water, breast to breast, by paddling very rapidly.

White-Headed Duck - *Oxyura Leucocephala*



The White-headed Duck is a small stiff-tailed duck. It has a short neck, a large bill, and a long stiff tail. Adult males have a grey and reddish body, a blue bill. It is usually quite all year long.

Garganey - Anas Querquedula



The Garganey is a small dabbling duck. The adult male is unmistakable, with its brown head and breast with a broad white crescent over the eye. The male has a distinctive crackling mating call; the female is rather silent for a female duck, but can manage a feeble “quack”.

Glossy Ibis - Plegadis Falcinellus



Breeding adults have reddish-brown bodies and shiny bottle-green wings. Non-breeders and juveniles have duller bodies. This species has a brownish bill, dark facial skin bordered above and below in blue-gray (non-breeding) to cobalt blue (breeding), and red-brown legs. Unlike herons, ibises fly with necks outstretched, their flight being graceful and often in V-formation. Sounds made by this rather quiet ibis include a variety of croaks and grunts, including a hoarse grrrr made when breeding.

Marsh Harrier - Circus Aeruginosus



The female is almost entirely chocolate-brown. It usually hunts wounded and sick birds. It hunts in typical harrier fashion, gliding low over flat open ground on its search for prey, with its wings held in a shallow V-shape and often with dangling legs.

Lesser Kestrel - Falco Naumanni



Largely populated in Turkey and it is among the endangered species in the world. The Lesser Kestrel eats insects, but also small birds, reptiles and rodents (especially mice). The call is a diagnostic harsh chay-chay-chay.

Long - Legged Buzzard - Buteo Rufinus



It is the most common bird of prey in Anatolia. Long-legged Buzzards is a larger buzzard with longer wings and longer tail. While gliding keeps its wings upward. It hunts hovering in the air.

Osprey - Pandion Haliaetus



Ospreys have vision that is well adapted to detecting underwater objects from the air. Prey is first sighted when the Osprey is high above the water, after which the bird hovers momentarily then plunges feet first into the water. The bird is distinctive with a white head with a dark mask across the eyes, reaching to the sides of the neck. The call is a series of sharp whistles, described as cheep, cheep or yewk, yewk.





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