



BIRDS OF EGYPT



Ancient Egyptians were the first to record the birds with drawings on the walls of temples. That was a resource to identify birds of Egypt since four thousand years.

Birds vary according to the variety of ecosystems. They may be in cities inspire of the dense population, and live in parks and buildings where they can feed on garbage offering an important service to man.

Some birds live in the desert of Egypt and adapted to arid conditions. Most of it live where they can find insects in desert plants and between rocks.

In Saini, situated between two continents live some birds not found in other places of the country. During spring and autumn the sky of Saint is crowded with thousands of birds passing through Egypt immigrating to other far away places.

Other birds live near man in cultivated land and help the farmer by feeding on insects harmful to plants and rats and mice harmful to crops. Among the most important friends of the farmer are Abu Kurdan and El-Hodhod.

Abu Kurdan (*Bibulous ibis*).

It is a 50 cm long bird always besides farmers in fields specially during irrigation and ploughing to free land of dangerous insects. It is a protected bird and reproduces in colonies on trees.



El-Hodhod

Is 28 cms long and secedes in the Delta and Nile valley. It digs the ground with its long beak in search for worms and insects ridding the soil from dangerous pest. It is also protected by law.



Risks endangering birds :

Many risks endanger birds and their habitats because of man and his actions. The most of it is the destruction of its natural habitats. Some birds die because of poisoning by insecticides which man uses with no care. This upsets equilibrium between animals and plants and causes the pest population to get out of control.

Protection of birds in Egypt :

Many reserves were established like Zaranik in Saini which receives hundreds of migrating birds. Laws were issued to safeguard such natural resources. Egypt signed many international acts protecting wild birds which are endangered. Research is carried on to estimate dangers. You may realise that birds are an international source which has to be handled carefully or it will be extinct. A world with no birds singing and flying is very dull.

Do you know ?

Sixty to seventy species of birds disappeared during the last three centuries.

Abu Mingle (*plegadis falcinellus*) a sacred bird to ancient Egyptians was a resident of Egypt until the end of the nineteenth century.

It is thought that the disappearance of this nice bird was because of the distraction of its habitats among papyrus plant.

The Ostrich lived in Egypt from early history but there are few birds in Gabble Elba reserve. It is endangered by hunting.

There are about nine thousand kind of birds in the world each differ in shape and habits.

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