Common Birds of Margallah Hills National Park

By ZB Mirza

Resident birds

These birds remain in Margallah Hills National Park throughout the year. They sing and breed in spring. As their number increases the young birds disperse for food within the area and even disperse to new areas. The young birds are preyed upon by predators in the air as well as on ground. The smarter ones among these ensure the hazards of nature to sing and breed in spring. Best time to see these beauties is soon after sunrise and before sunset.

- Small Minivet Pericrocotus melanurus
- Crested Lark Galerida cristata

Winter visitors from northern latitudes

- Eurasian Sparrow Hawk Accipiter nisus
- Indian Blue Robin or Chat Phylloscopus ororegulus

Summer breeders

- Golden Oriole Oriolus oriolus
- Pine Bunting Umberiza leucocephalos

Passage migrants

- Hoopoe Upupa epops
- Black crested-tit Zosterops palpebrosa

Four types of migratory birds visit Margallah Hills National Park (MHNP): a). Winter visitors from northern latitudes i.e. from northern Asia. b). Winter visitors from higher altitudes i.e. from Himalayan heights. c). Summer visitors from south i.e. the birds that breed and spend summer in MHNP, after that they migrate back. d). Passage migrants. These birds stop for short duration in autumn in MHNP while migrating from north to south or from Himalayan heights to lower heights or plains. These again pass through MHNP while migrating back in spring and stop again for short duration.

- Yellow-rumped Leaf Warbler Parus rufonuchalis
- Northern Hobby Falco subbuteo

Migratory

The Kalij Pheasant is a flagship species of the Margalla Hills National Park. It is chosen for its vulnerability and attractiveness to need of conservation, by focusing on, and achieving conservation of its habitat, the status of many other species which share its habitat and which are threatened by the same threats will also improve.

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White-crested Kalij Pheasant Lophura leucomelana

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