

BIRD SANCTUARY

in Kangra, Himachal Pradesh



The Pong Eco Village situated in the area where you will get mesmerized by having wildlife and bird sanctuary together.

The Pong Eco Village is situated on the edge of Pong Dam (Maharana Pratap Sagar). Which also called as the Haven for the migratory birds.



The specialty of this lake is, it is just beside the sanctuary for birds of numerous species including:



Bar headed Geese

The species has been reported as migrating south from Tibet, Kazakhstan, Mongolia and Russia before crossing the Himalaya. The bar-headed goose is one of the world's highest-flying birds, having been heard flying across Mount Makalu – the fifth highest mountain on earth at 8,481 m (27,825 ft) – and apparently seen over Mount Everest – 8,848 m (29,029 ft).



Red-necked Grebe

The red-necked grebe is a medium-large grebe, found in Europe and western Asia, and the larger *P. g. holboellii* (formerly Holboell grebe), in North America and eastern Siberia—is evaluated as Least Concern, and the global population is stable or growing.

*The Sounds of birds
stops the noise in your mind !*





In this effect, the entire reservoir was decreed as a wildlife sanctuary by the Himachal Pradesh Government. Besides providing a homes to many birds. Thousands of migratory ducks from Siberia can be seen in the swamp regions.



The sanctuary is ideally visited during the winters months of November to May. When the migratory birds populations is at a maximum. It is estimated that over 1,00,000 water birds migrate to the lake during the winter.



Some of my most cherished sightings at the lake include that of a Red-necked Grebe in deep waters, recorded for the first time in India as published in the Journal of the Bombay Natural History Society (JBNHS), along with the experience of a boatman taking about the exact location where we would find a Ruddy Shelduck an Osprey catching fish, small birds and coots becoming alarmed as a Marsh Harrier circled over the reeds and the presence of about 12 to 1,500 mallards at the same place on the lake's margin over several years.

All time favourite birds to see at the lake are the Black-headed, Pallas's and Caspian Gulls, species which are fairly uncommon in India, except along the coast. Last year, he count for migrants such as Bar-headed Geese was 40,000.

It was exhilarating for us to be present at the northern part of the lake to witness the annual swarm of more than 30,000 pochards when the award-winning filmmaker, Mike Pandey was shooting a documentary on the Pong Lake Bird Sanctuary.

Here we also have 90 species of butterflies and 18 species of snakes.

Birds:



Northern lapwing

It is highly migratory over most of its extensive range, wintering further south as far as north Africa, northern India, Pakistan, and parts of China. It migrates mainly by day, often in large flocks. Lowland breeders in westernmost areas of Europe are resident. It occasionally is a vagrant to North America, especially after storms, as in the Canadian sightings after storms in December 1927 and in January 1966.



Ruddy shelduck

There are very small resident populations of this species in north west Africa and Ethiopia, but the main breeding area of the bird is from southeast Europe across central Asia to Lake Baikal, Mongolia, and western China. Eastern populations are mostly migratory, wintering in the Indian subcontinent.



Northern Pintail

The pintail or northern pintail (*Anas acuta*) is a duck with wide geographic distribution that breeds in the northern areas of Europe, Asia and North America. It is migratory and winters south of its breeding range to the equator.



Common Teal

The Eurasian teal breeds across northern Eurasia and mostly winters well south of its breeding range. However, in the milder climate of temperate Europe, the summer and winter ranges overlap. For example, in the United Kingdom and Ireland a small summer population breeds, but far greater numbers of Siberian birds arrive in winter.



Spot-Billed duck

The Indian spot-billed duck (*Anas poecilorhyncha*) is a large dabbling duck that is a non-migratory breeding duck throughout freshwater wetlands in the Indian subcontinent.



Eurasian Coot



Black-headed Gulls



Plovers



Black Stork



Terns



Water-Fowl



Egrets

There are some other animals, which you can see at 'The Pong Eco Village':

Leopard, Nilgai, Sambhar, Barking Deer, Goral, Wild Boar, Monkeys, Langoors, Clawless otter, Mongoose, Monitor Lizard, Cobras, Pythons etc.