



Overview of the Faunal Diversity of the Béni Salah Region (Wilaya of El Tarf)

Bouaïcha Badreddine and Lazli Amel

EasyChair preprints are intended for rapid dissemination of research results and are integrated with the rest of EasyChair.

August 30, 2022

OVERVIEW OF THE FAUNAL DIVERSITY OF THE BÉNI SALAH REGION (WILAYA OF EL TARF)

Bouaicha Badreddine^a & Amel Lazli^b

^a *Bouhadjar forest Constituency, El Tarf, Algeria*
Email: Bouaichabadri@gmail.com

^b *Lazli Amel*
Biology department. SNV Faculty. Chadli Bendjedid University - El Tarf. Algeria
la_amel13@yahoo.fr

ABSTRACT.

The region of Beni Salah is one of the regions of El Tarf which contains a very important diversity of fauna and flora. Its landscapes are diversified, with rich and varied habitats. However, this part of the region remains little known; it is not much investigated by researchers. Thus, we proposed to study its faunal biodiversity through inventories of mammals and birds that inhabit this area. To do this, we relied on indicators of presence, notably animal tracks, sounds and direct observations. The inventory carried out resulted in the census of 10 species of mammals belonging to 5 orders, 9 families and 10 genera. The order of Carnivores is the most dominant with 5 species. Among the mammals inventoried, two species are protected by Algerian legislation. For birds, we observed 25 species belonging to 18 families and 24 genera. Accipitridae family was the most dominant with 03 species and the most dominant order was the Passeriformes with 13 species. Our study, a pioneer in this region, has enabled us to draw up a preliminary list of a fauna that remains to be studied and completed. It constitutes an important database for future work.

Keywords: *Beni Salah, El Tarf, Mammals, Birds, Inventory.*

INTRODUCTION

Part of the Daira of Bouhadjar, the municipality of Hammam Beni Salah is located between the wilayas of El-Tarf and Guelma (Fig. 1). This commune hosts a nature reserve of the same name, the "Beni Salah Natural Reserve". Difficult to access, the vegetation has been shaped by repeated forest fires, which has led to a more or less marked degradation of the forest, in extreme cases even turning it into scrub.

Although the region has a rich and varied landscape, its biodiversity is still poorly documented, hence the importance of this study. In order to improve our knowledge of this mountainous area, we first carried out an inventory of mammals and birds. This study will make it possible to draw up an initial diagnosis of the natural resources, which constitutes a database that can be completed by further works.

STUDY SITE

Beni Salah region covers an area of approximately 211.52 km², with a rugged ground and an altitude varying between 600 and 900 meters (Fig. 1). This natural patrimony constitutes one of the most important forest of the region. The vegetation is luxuriant with formations of cork oak *Quercus suber* and zeen oak *Quercus faginea*. The undergrowth is rich and varied, generally consisting of Heather *Erica arborea*, Strawberry tree *Aubutus unedo* and grassy formations.

International seminar on biodiversity in Algeria
 « *Richness and Conservation* »
 ISBA1_RC in Algeria
 Oum El-bouaghi : September 25 – 26 2022

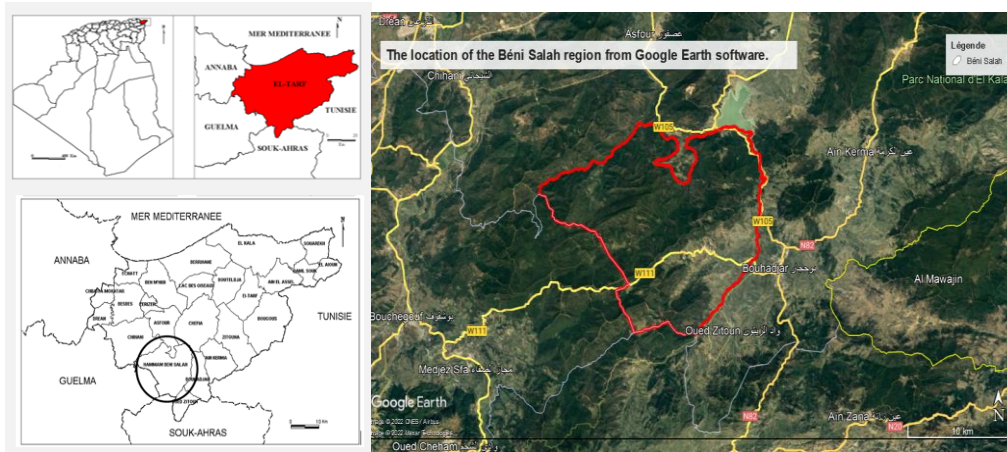


Figure 1. Location of the Beni Salah area in the northeastern Algeria

METHODS

The field investigations took place over almost a year, during which time we carried out an inventory of mammals and birds. We used indicators of presence, such as animal tracks, sounds and direct observations. In addition, we used mammal and bird guides^{1,2}.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Table 1. Checklist of mammals inventoried in Béni Salah region

N°	Species	Order	Family
01	<i>Atelerix algirus</i>	Erinaceomorpha	Erinaceidae
02	<i>Canis anthus</i>	Carnivora	Canidae
03	<i>Cervus elaphus barbarus</i>	Artiodactyla	Cervidae
04	<i>Herpestes ichneumon</i>	Carnivora	Herpestidae
05	<i>Hyaena hyaena</i>	Carnivora	Hyaenidae
06	<i>Hystrix cristata</i>	Rodentia	Hystriidae
07	<i>Mustela nivalis</i>	Carnivora	Mustelidae
08	<i>Oryctolagus cuniculus</i>	Lagomorpha	Leporidae
09	<i>Sus scrofa</i>	Artiodactyla	Suidae
10	<i>Vulpes vulpes</i>	Carnivora	Canidae

Our work has enabled us to inventory 10 species of mammals belonging to 5 orders, 9 families and 10 genera (Tab. 1, Fig. 1). Carnivora order being the most dominant with 5 species. Among the inventoried mammals, two species are by Algerian legislation, *Cervus elaphus barbarus* and *Hyaena hyaena*³.

International seminar on biodiversity in Algeria
 « *Richness and Conservation* »
 ISBA1_RC in Algeria
 Oum El-bouaghi : September 25 – 26 2022

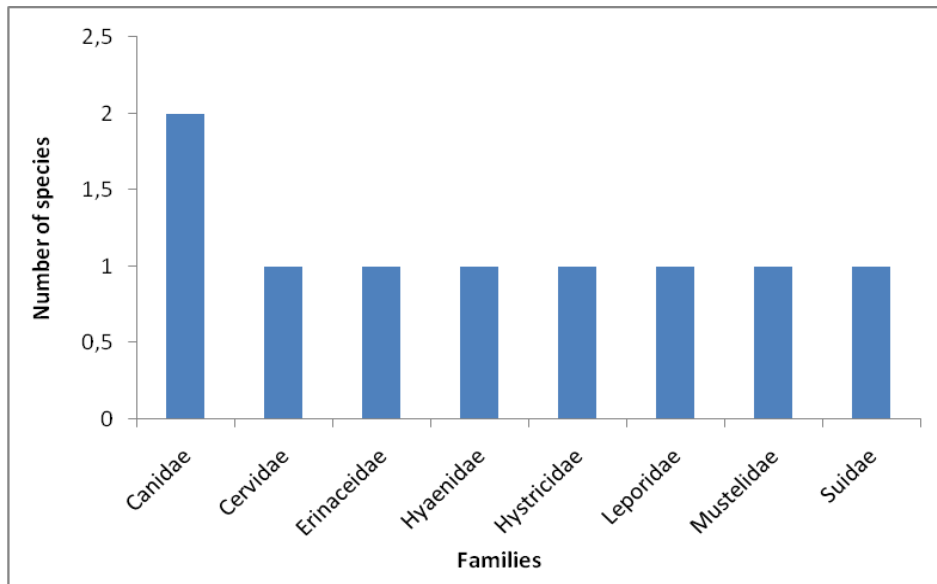


Figure 1. Composition by families of mammals in Beni Salah region

During our research, we counted 25 bird species belonging to 18 families and 24 genera (Tab. 2, Fig 2). Accipitridae family was the most dominant with 03 species and the most dominant order was the Passeriformes with 13 species.

Among the birds that were enumerated, there are 3 birds on the list of protected birds through Algerian legislation, and they are: *Ciconia Ciconia*, *Aythya nyroca* and *Sturnus unicolor*.⁴

Table 2. A table showing the list of birds found in the Bani Saleh district with their scientific names and their classification according to the family, Genus and order.

N°	Species	Order	Family
1.	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	Anseriformes	Anatidae
2.	<i>Bubulcus ibis</i>	Pelecaniformes	Ardeidae
3.	<i>Catharus guttatus</i>	Passeriformes	Turdidae
4.	<i>Ciconia Ciconia</i>	Ciconiiformes	Ciconiidae
5.	<i>Circus aeruginosus</i>	Accipitriformes	Accipitridae
6.	<i>Columba livia</i>	Columbiformes	Columbidae
7.	<i>Corvus corax</i>	Passeriformes	Corvidae
8.	<i>Curruca melanocephala</i>	Passeriformes	Sylviidae
9.	<i>Falco eleonora</i>	Falconiformes	Falconidae
10.	<i>Aythya nyroca</i>	Anseriformes	Anatidae
11.	<i>Galerida cristata</i>	Passeriformes	Alaudidae
12.	<i>Garrulus glandarius</i>	Passeriformes	Corvidae
13.	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	Passeriformes	Hirundinidae
14.	<i>Lanius senator</i>	Passeriformes	Laniidae

15.	<i>Milvus migrans</i>	Accipitriformes	Accipitridae
16.	<i>Motacilla flava</i>	Passeriformes	Motacillidae
17.	<i>Neophron percnopterus</i>	Accipitriformes	Accipitridae
18.	<i>Alectoris barbara</i>	Galliformes	Phasianidae
19.	<i>Phoenicurus moussieri</i>	Passeriformes	Muscicapidae
20.	<i>Scolopax rusticola</i>	Charadriiformes	Scolopacidae
21.	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>	Columbiformes	Columbidae
22.	<i>Sturnus unicolor</i>	Passeriformes	Sturnidae
23.	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	Passeriformes	Sturnidae
24.	<i>Turdus merula</i>	Passeriformes	Turdidae
25.	<i>Upupa epops</i>	Bucerotiformes	Upupidae

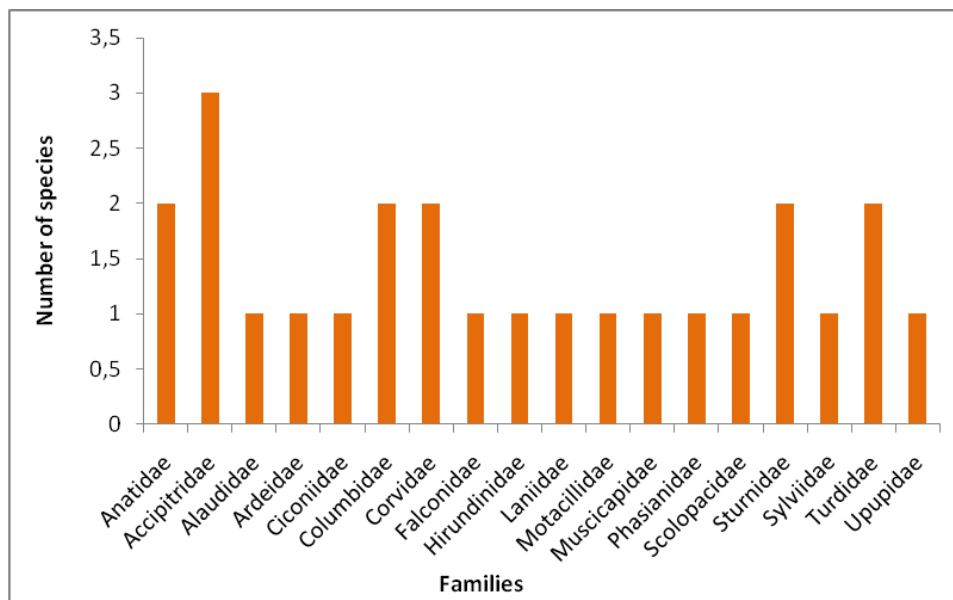


Figure 2. Composition by families of the bird species in Beni Salah region

CONCLUSION

In view of the results obtained during this study, it appears that the Beni Salah Forest is an ecosystem rich in innumerable animal species, including mammals and birds, both forest and aquatic; hence the importance of protecting this ecosystem against any degradation and continuing investigations on the faunistic and floristic level.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

We thank all those who helped us in the realization of this study.

REFERENCES

1. Birds of Algeria, Paul Isenmann & Aïssa Moali, SEOF, 2000, Paris.
2. Animal, The Definitive Visual Guide, 3rd Edition, Produced in association with the Smithsonian Institution, Edited by Dorling Kindersley Printed and bound in China, 12 September 2017.

International seminar on biodiversity in Algeria

« Richness and Conservation »

ISBA1_RC in Algeria

Oum El-bouaghi : September 25 – 26 2022

3. Decree No. 83-509 of August 20, 1983 relating to protected non-domestic animal species, Number 35 of the Official Gazette of the Algerian Republic, issued on August 23, 1983.
4. Decree No 05-06 of July 15, 2006 relating to the protection and preservation of some endangered animal species, Number 47 of the Official Gazette of the Algerian Republic, issued on July 19, 2006.