

## Taxonomic List

### Noteworthy fauna

#### Zooplankton

The zooplankton of Lake Sevan consists of 26 species of Rotifera and 18 species of Crustacea (9 species of Copepoda and 9 species of Cladocera).

#### Zoobenthos

The zoobenthos of Lake Sevan is represented by all 3 size groups: meio-, macro- and megabenthos.

The meiobenthos consists of 59 species: 2 Cnidaria, 3 Turbellaria, 23 Nematoda, 1 Tardigrada, 9 Ostracoda, 5 Cladocera, 3 Cyclopoida, 2 Harpacticoida, 11 Hydracarina.

The macrobenthos consists of 93 species: 26 Oligochaeta, 8 Hirudinea, 10 Gastropoda, 6 Bivalvia, 2 Amphipoda, 1 Odonata, 2 Ephemeroptera, 7 Trichoptera, 4 Hemiptera, 27 Chironomidae.

The megabenthos consists of 2 invader species: the fish mussel (*Anodonta piscinalis*) and narrow-clawed crayfish (*Astacus leptodactylus*).

#### Vertebrates

The fauna of vertebrates consists of 6 species of fishes (2 species and 1 sub-species are endemic, all in the Red Data Book of Armenia, 3 alien), 4 species of amphibians, 16 species of reptiles (5 in the Red Data Book of Armenia), 267 species of birds (58 in the Red Data Book of Armenia, 90 in the Agreement on the Conservation of *African-Eurasian Waterbird Agreement* of the Bonn Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals), 44 species of mammals (10 in the Red Data Book of Armenia).

#### Fish

Fish species in Lake Sevan are represented by Salmonidae (1), Coregonidae (1) and Cyprinidae (4) families. Salmonidae includes endemic Sevan Trout (*Salmo ischchan*), with its four subspecies. The representative of Coregonidae family is Whitefish (*Coregonus lavaretus*), being acclimatized to the lake through 1924-1927.

The two other endemics of the lake belong to *Cyprinidae* family: Khrami carp (*Varicorhinus capoeta sevangi*) and Sevan Barble (*Barbus goktschaicus*). In 1978 the Crucian carp (*Carassius auratus gibelio*) has been accidentally entered the lake from water systems of Ararat valley. Another species, recently registered in the lake is Riffle Minnow (*Alburnoides bipunctatus*), which is common in other Armenian watercourses.

#### Amphibians

Amphibians are abundant everywhere where water exists. Of them most abundant are European Marsh Frog (*Rana ridibunda*) and European Green Toad (*Bufo viridis*).

#### Reptiles

Of recorded reptiles 11 are lizards and 5 are snakes. Of them European Grass Snake (*Natrix natrix*) and Dice Snake (*Natrix tessellata*) are common everywhere.

#### Birds

The avifauna of Lake Sevan Ramsar site belongs to the following orders: national park and its buffer zone, belonging to the following taxonomic classification (the detailed list is given as an Annex to this RIS):

Gaviiformes (Loons) = 2 Podicipediformes (Grebes) = 5 Pelecaniformes (Pelicans) = 4

Circioniiformes (Herons, Egrets and Ibis) = 12 Phoenicopteriformes (Flamingos) = 1 Falconiformes (Raptors) = 31

Anseriformes (Ducks, Geese, Swans) = 28 Galliformes (fowl-like birds) = 3 Gruiformes (Cranes and Rails) = 10

Charadriiformes (Shorebirds and Gulls) = 57 Columbiformes (Pigeons and Doves) = 5 Cuculiformes (Cuckoos) = 1

Strigiformes (Owls) = 5 Caprimulgiformes (Nightjars) = 1 Apodiformes (Swifts) = 2

Coraciiformes (Bee-eaters, Rollers and Hoopoes) = 4 Piciformes (Woodpeckers) = 7

Passeriformes (Perching and Songbirds) = 128.

Of them Armenian Gull (*Larus armenicus*) considers as an endemic species. Ducks, especially paddle ducks are traditionally hunted.

Artificial water-level decrease influenced first of all on the quantity and species composition of breeding waterfowl. From approximately 60 breeders only about 20 are breeding during the last decade. Eurasian Coot (*Fulica atra*), Mallard (*Anas platyrhynchos*) and Armenian Gull at present are among most common breeders.

The lake is important passage for migratory birds, especially during the autumn. Significant numbers of grebes, pelicans, cormorants occur here from October until ice-cover in January. Such a rare birds as Great Egret (*Casmerodius albus*), Glossy Ibis (*Plegadis falcinellus*), swans, Demoiselle Crane (*Grus vigro*) are registered here regularly during the migrations.

*Mammals*

According to the outcomes of 2005 field surveys and data of relevant literature, the following 44 species of mammals are found in the territories of the national park and its buffer zone, belong to the following orders:

Insectivora (Insect eaters) - 7 species

Rodentia (Rodents) - 15 species

Logomorpha (Double-toothed rodents, hares) 1 species

Chiroptera (Bats) - 7 species;

Carnivora (Carnivores) - 11 species

Artiodactyla (Hoofed mammals) - 3 species.

The most typical mammals in the basin are hare (*Lepus europaeus*), fox (*Vulpes vulpes*), wolf (*Canis lupus*), jackal (*Canis aureus*), Stone Marten (*Martes foina*), and most of the rodents. Among the mammals which are ecologically depended on wetlands, the Water Vole (*Arvicola terrestris*) is very common. Recently European Otter (*Lutra lutra*) has been recorded for the first time after early 1960's.

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**Noteworthy flora**

Based on field observations carried out in 2005 and also literature and herbarium data the flora of Lake Sevan Ramsar site comprises 1619 vascular plants species, of which 1145 species grow in the territory of the Sevan National Park. The flora of the park is represented by 28 tree species and 42 bush species, 866 perennial herbages, and 209 biennial and annual plant species. The territory of Lake Sevan Ramsar site hosts 23 endemic plant species, 13 of which are endemics to Sevan floristic region. 48 species are included in the Red Book of Armenia. About 60 plant species used or can be used as medicinal plants. About 100 plant species are edible.

267 species, subspecies and types of macroscopic fungi species are known, of which 180 belong to Agaricaceous fungi (Hymenomycetes); 55 to Aphyllorphorales (Hymenomycetes), and 32 to Gasteromycetes. About 100 species of mushrooms are edible, 58 species have healing properties, 24 species are poisonous.

On the former bed of the lake artificial forests of pine (*Pinus caucasica*), poplar (*Populus canadensis*, *P. simoni*), acacia (*Caragana brevispina*, *C. frutex*), willow (*Salix viminalis*) have been planted. The Sea Buckthorn (*Hippophae rhamnoides*) forms almost impenetrable thickets.

Based on field observations carried out in 2005-2007 as well as literature and herbarium data the aquatic flora of Lake Sevan comprises 32 species - 11 agamous and 21 vascular plants. Of them 7 species are emergent and 25 species are submerged. Of them most common are algae *Cladophora glomerata*, *Vaucheria dichotoma*, *Chara globularis*, moss *Drepanocladus aduncus*, flowering rush (*Butomus umbellatus*), Spiked Water Milfoil (*Myriophyllum spicatum*), fennel pondweed (*Potamogeton pectinatus*). Emergent vegetation is located in the coves (Lchashen, Artanish) and estuaries of major rivers (Argichi, Gavaraget). Submerged vegetation is distributed much wider in the open lake and occurs at the depths 2-12 m, rarely up to 20 m.

The aquatic flora of Lake Sevan's tributaries comprises 58 species - 2 agamous and 56 vascular plants. Of them 28 species are emergent and 26 species are submerged. Most common plants are algae *Cladophora glomerata*, Water Crowfoot (*Batrachium kauffmannii*), Water Whorl-grass (*Catabrosa aquatica*), Plicate Sweet-grass (*Glyceria notata*), Water Speedwell (*Veronica anagallis-aquatica*); riverside Hairy Willowherb (*Epilobium hirsutum*), Caucasian Mint (*Mentha caucasica*).

The phytoplankton of Lake Sevan is represented by three major groups of algae: green algae (Chlorophyta), blue-green algae (Cyanobacteriae) and diatoms (Diatomeae).