

*Translation from Administration de Parques Nacionales document
(by Dave Fawcett 9 Dec 94).*

Protected areas of the Republic of Argentina to be included in the "List of Wetlands of International Importance"

LAGUNA DE POZUELOS NATURAL MONUMENT

"Pozuelos Lake"

Location: geographical coordinates 22°20'S, 66°00'W, situated 50 km to SW of La Quiaca; departments of Rinconada, Yavi and Santa Catalina; Jujuy province.

Area: The protected area covers 16,224 ha, of which some 7,000 ha correspond to the Lake itself.

Borders: translation not required (description of site boundaries; bordering roads etc.)

Altitude: 3500 m

Biogeographic province: "*Puneña*" / "*Puna*" [high Andean plateau]

Wetland type: saltwater lake, marshes

Site description: Permanent fresh- to brackish water lake on the Andean *antiplano* [high plateau], with little aquatic vegetation, surrounded by areas of marshland (water slightly salty) and flooded fields. The water level drops greatly during the dry season, leaving extensive quagmire areas uncovered.

Vegetation: The aquatic vegetation comprises *Myriophyllum* sp. The lake is surrounded by a semi-arid steppe composed of species of *Festuca*, *Stipa*, *Fabiana* and *Baccharis*.

Land ownership: Under ownership and jurisdiction of the National State, subject to the regulation of the law n° 22351 of National Parks, Natural Monuments and National Reserves.

Level of protection: Natural Monument, created in 1981, equivalent to IUCN category III (IUCN 1978).

Land use: The Collas Indians use the fields adjacent to the lake for cattle grazing.

CRITERIA FOR INCLUSION:

Waterbirds: One of the most important sites for waterbirds in the northern Argentinian Andes, with a high number of nesters and winterers from other Andean areas and the Nearctic.

The three Andean species of flamingos can be found here, having registered up to 26,000 individuals on one occasion. *Phoenicopterus chilensis* appears to be the most numerous species, and nests in the area; and both *Phoenicoparrus andinus* and *P. jamesi* are present in their hundreds, if not thousands.

Of particular importance for *Fulica cornuta*, very common and a nester on the lake. Laguna de Pozuelos is, furthermore, of the Argentinian sites where *Fulica gigantea* is found.

Some of the most common andean waterbird species can be observed in great quantities; for example, in February 1982, in the southern sector of the lake were counted: 300 *Podiceps occipitalis*, 2000 *Chloephaga melanoptera*, 2000 *Lophonetta specularioides*, 1000 *Anas georgica*.

The rare and restricted ranged *Recurvirostra andina*, is common at the site (>100 in Feb 1982), as is *Himantopus mexicanus*, *Vanellus resplendens* and *Chararius alticola*.

Several Nearctic wader species appear in great numbers during the southern hemisphere summer (for example *Tringa flavipes*, *T. melanoleuca*, *Calidris bairdii*, *C. melanotos*, *Limosa haemastica* and *Micropalama himantopus*). In some censuses, up to 10,000 *Phalaropus tricolor* are counted (information taken from Scott and Carbonell 1986).

Other fauna: In the area adjacent to the lake *Pterocnemia pennata tarapacensis* and *Vicungo vicungo* are found.

Threats: Collection of eggs from breeding colonies. Also erosion owing to overgrazing, especially on the shores, and pollution of the Rio Cincel through mining activity outside the Natural Monument (Laredo 1990).

Research and conservation: The body in charge of the Natural Monument is the National Parks Administration, which has a trained representative (warden) outposted permanently in the area. A large part of the lake catchment, lying outside the protected area, was declared a Biosphere Reserve in February 1990, covering an area of approximately 380,000 ha, and is being the object of studies of flora, fauna and anthropology, by the National University of Jujuy. The warden collaborates regularly with the research tasks of said University, and with other teams of scientists from the Miguel Lillo Institute (Tucumán).

References:

Contino, F., 1965. Una nueva gallareta para la avifauna argentina. *Hornero* 10: 282-283, Asoc. Ornit. del Plata, Buenos Aires.

Hurlbert, 1978. Andean Lake and Flamingo Investigations. Tech. Rep. 1 (inedito).

Erize, F.; Canevari, M.; Canevari, P.; Costa, G. and Rumboll, M., 1981. Los parques Nacionales de Argentina y otras de sus areas naturales. ICI/INCAFO, Madrid.

IUCN, 1982. Directory of Neotropical Protected Areas. Tycooly Int. Publ. Ltd., Dublin.

Canevari, P., 1985. Los Parques Nacionales y la Conservacion de los ambientes aquaticos en la Argentina. En: Scott, Smart y Carbonell -eds.- 1985. Informe de la XXXI Reunión Anual, IWRB, Slimbridge.

Scott, D. y M. Carbonell (compiladores), 1986. Inventario de Humedales de la Región Neotropical. IWRB, Slimbridge and UICN, Cambridge.

Laredo, C., 1990. Limicolos de la Laguna de Pozuelos, Jujuy. Grupo Argentino de Limicolos, Bol. Informativo 5: 2-3. Buenos Aires.