

A SURVEY OF WILDLIFE PREDATORS IN FISH PONDS IN THREE LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREAS OF OGUN STATE, NIGERIA.

Onadeko¹, S. A., G. N. O. Ezeri² And Shotuyo¹, A. L. A.

¹Department of Forestry And Wildlife Management,
University of Agriculture. Abeokuta.

²Department of Aquaculture And Fisheries Management,
University of Agriculture, Abeokuta.

Abstract

A survey of wildlife predators, in some ponds was conducted. Thirteen (13) wildlife species from four classes were identified during the study period. They included water snakes (*Grayia smithii*). Black cobras (*Naja melanoleuca*), Monitor lizards (*Varanus niloticus*), Soft-shelled turtle (*Trionyx senensis*). Grey heron (*Adeacinerea*) Wild duck (*Anas platyrhynchos*), African darter (*Achinga rufa rufa*), Shinning blue kingfisher (*Alcedo quadribrachys*), Pied kingfisher (*Cerylerudis rudis*), kingfisher (*Alcedo anthis*), Crabs (*Cancer* sp), Frogs (*Rana* sp) and Toads (*Bufo regularis*). The kingfishers and grey herons were observed in all the ponds daily. The soft-shelled turtle was the least sighted species. Predation occurred both in the day and night, (41%) early in the morning, (22%); in the afternoon and only 5% at night. Predatory activities were more pronounced during the dry season (41%) than rainy season (31%). The most preferred prey sizes appeared to be fish fingerlings which were consumed wholly. Predatory activities do not appear to be wanting, since prey was sought and killed only for food and not for sport. All the farmers practiced polyculture, 64% stocked Tilapia and *Claria* spp, 10% had Tilapia, Carp and *Clarias* spp while 28% stocked *Heterotis*, *Cyprinus* and *Heterobranchus* species.