

# ASIAN WATERBIRD CENSUS INDIA NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER  
2025



## Introduction

Since 1987, the Asian Waterbird Census (AWC) mobilizes thousands of volunteers across India to monitor waterbirds and wetland conditions during mid-winters. As part of the global International Waterbird Census led by Wetlands International, the AWC in India is jointly coordinated by Bombay Natural History Society (BNHS) and Wetlands International South Asia, with voluntary support from state-level coordinators. AWC objectives are to estimate waterbird populations and trends; identify and monitor priority sites for waterbirds; support wetland conservation and management planning; inform global agreements and national policies with waterbirds status and trend data; and encourage citizens participation in waterbird and wetlands conservation

## Glimpses from AWC India 2025

The AWC India 2025 was scheduled for 4-19 January, with data from December 2024 to February 2025 compiled to capture this year's mid-winter census.

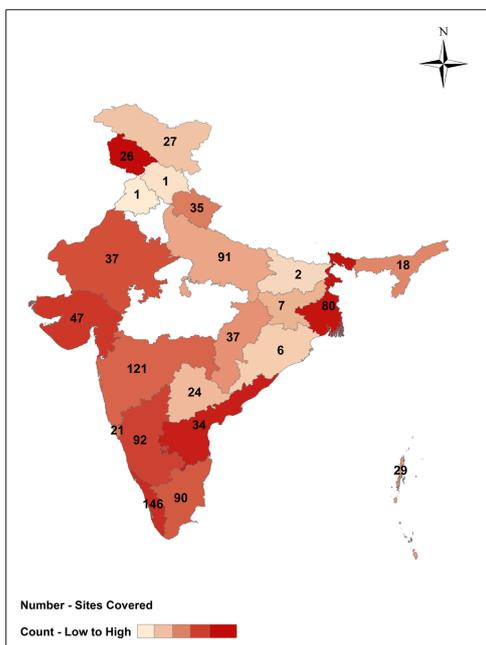
The census covered nearly 810 wetlands across 20 States and Union Territories, based on data compiled up to September 2025.

The census recorded almost 230 species of waterbirds and wetland-dependent birds from sites across the country.

The highest site coverage was reported from Kerala (146), Karnataka (92), and West Bengal (61).

West Bengal (1,78,500 & 225 species) recorded the greatest waterbird abundance and species richness, followed by Andhra Pradesh (88,393 & 118 species) and Kerala (81,504 & 110 species).

Overall, the census documented nearly 35 species listed as threatened on the IUCN Red List.



## In the Press...

Asian Waterbird Census-2025: Coringa, adjoining wetlands emerge prime feeding habitat for 106 avian species. [The Hindu](#).

Winged Symphony-2 : Asian Waterbird census 2025 records massive bird influx at Hokersar Wetland. [Rising Kashmir](#).

Over 10,000 birds observed in Pobitora's 2025 Asian Water Bird Census. [The Assam Tribune](#).

Kollam records 11,525 birds in Asian Waterbird Census. [The New Indian Express](#).

Asian Water Bird Census 2025: Bird Count at Deepor Beel Sees Increase. [The Sentinel](#).

Fewer migratory birds visit Sultanpur wetland: Asian Waterbird Census report. [Hindustan Times](#).

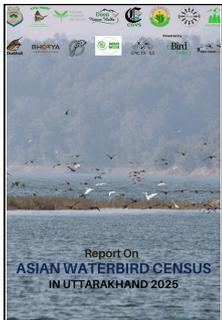
Survey indicates decline in migrant waterbird species, population in Coimbatore district. [The Hindu](#).

# ASIAN WATERBIRD CENSUS INDIA NEWSLETTER

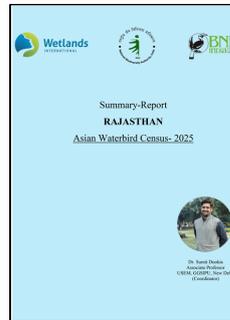
OCTOBER  
2025



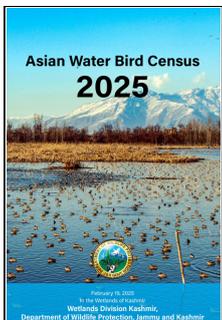
AWC India 2025 State Reports



The AWC 2025 in **Uttarakhand** surveyed 24 wetlands in 7 districts, where 150+ volunteers recorded 19,167 birds of 263 species, including 16 threatened species. Notable records such as the Ferruginous Duck underscore the vital role of Uttarakhand's wetlands and the need for their sustained conservation and monitoring.



The Asian Waterbird Census 2025 in **Rajasthan** covered 31 key wetland sites, including Sambhar Lake, Keoladeo National Park, etc. A total of 122 waterbird species were recorded, highlighting the ecological importance of these wetlands as critical wintering and stopover sites along the Central Asian Flyway. Notable observations included Lesser Flamingo, Common Coot, Great Cormorant, and Northern Shoveler.



The AWC 2025 in **Kashmir Valley** surveyed 26 wetlands and recorded 1.34 million birds of 67 species with support from 160 volunteers. Hokersar and Shallabugh together held nearly 60% of the total count, dominated by Eurasian Teal, Mallard, and Northern Shoveler, while seven species made up over 91% of all birds observed.



The AWC 2025 in **Ladakh**, organized by the Department of Forest, Ecology & Environment and Ladakh Biodiversity Council, surveyed wetlands in Leh and Kargil, recording 50 bird species, including rare sightings such as Ibisbill, alongside awareness, clean-up, and youth engagement activities.

For more information visit the Wetlands International South Asia website at <https://south-asia.wetlands.org/our-approach/healthy-wetland-nature/asian-waterbird-census/> or contact [awc@wetlands.org](mailto:awc@wetlands.org)

Produced by: Wetlands International South Asia

## AWC Coordinators Meeting 2025

The AWC India Coordinators' Meeting was held on 10-11 May 2025 in Patna with the primary objective of evaluating the implementation of AWC in India. Discussions focused on key aspects such as site coverage, coordination mechanisms, and logistical challenges across different regions.

The meeting convened 50 participants, including 19 state coordinators and their representatives. Discussions identified priority actions to enhance coordination, improve data quality, and strengthen the long-term impact of the AWC.

## Key Outcomes

- Standardise and ensure timely submission of AWC data across all States and UTs.
- Develop and circulate uniform educational and outreach resources to strengthen awareness and field practices.
- Retrieve and compile historical AWC datasets to enable robust long-term trend assessments.
- Update assessment forms and ensure consistent monitoring of priority sites for reliable data.
- Formalise roles of State Coordinators and establish a dedicated AWC India project on eBird.

“JOIN THE MOVEMENT – THE 40TH ASIAN WATERBIRD CENSUS IS COMING THIS JANUARY 2026.”

