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**Waterbirds  
of India:  
An Introduction**



Birds that are "ecologically dependent on wetlands" have been broadly defined as 'waterbirds' by the Ramsar convention (Wetlands International, 2012; Kumar *et al.* 2005). Wetland ecosystems are generally considered to be one of the most productive as well as fragile ecosystems. The waterbirds are considered to be a significant biological resource and are excellent indicators of the health of these ecosystems. This group of birds are "wetland specialists" and consist of species with diverse varieties of morphological characteristics and habits. Globally there are 871 species of waterbirds identified so far (Wetlands International, 2012).

Waterbirds have many intriguing features in their biology that includes long distance migration, colonial breeding, and congregatory behaviour. Though waterbirds are one of the well studied groups of birds, the hows, whys of many interesting behaviours like colonial nesting continues to evade scientists and continues to remain an evolutionary puzzle. We still have much to learn about this unique group of birds pertaining to their social and sexual behaviours, population dynamics, movement patterns, impact of toxicity, managing infectious diseases and impact of anthropogenic impacts on species and their spaces etc. Since conservation and management of waterbirds depend on reliable information, a need was felt to collate, compile information in form of this bulletin pertaining to latest works that are being carried out on waterbirds in India.

The main intention behind this issue was to come out with a comprehensive bulletin by compiling and collating information that are available on waterbirds in India. Chapters written by leading practitioners in the field would serve as a reference material for academicians, students, managers and conservation practitioners. Also the purpose was to summarize the state-of-the art studies, motivate young minds and encourage further progress in this field. During the course of this compilation, we realised that there is a vast scope for improving the current bulletin by incorporating many more chapters related to waterbirds. However, due to space and time constraints we weren't able to include several other chapters and we strongly feel that there is definitely a potential for another volume on waterbirds of India.

Diverse wetland types are distributed across all the biogeographic zones in India (Islam and Rahmani, 2008) which includes glacial lakes, rivers, streams, marshes, jheels, saline expanses, floodplains, estuaries, intertidal marsh, intertidal swamps, intertidal mudflats, lagoons, manmade reservoirs, irrigated agricultural lands, aquaculture ponds and salt pans etc. These diverse wetland habitats support 243 species of waterbirds belonging to 34 families in India (Table 1). This list does not include 33 vagrant waterbirds (Table 2) and some seabirds that do not make extensive use of shallow, inshore waters. This list was worked out by refereeing to "Birds of the Indian Subcontinent" second edition by Grimmett *et al.* (2011), The Book of Indian Birds, 13th Edition by Salim Ali (2002), Praveen *et al.* (2014) and "Duck, Geese and Swans of India" by Rahmani and Islam (2008) for identifying the waterbirds by their habitat use, vagrant status and to assess their migratory or resident status. "Potential and Existing Ramsar Sites in India" by Islam and Rahmani (2008) was used for collecting the information of distribution of threatened waterbirds in different biogeographic zones in India, IUCN website was followed for collecting information on threatened categories of waterbirds and Birdlife International website was referred for population trend of the threatened category waterbirds.

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Of the 243 birds, 114 species are migratory birds and among them 2 are of summer visitors, 4 are visitors and 108 are winter visitors. 44 species of waterbirds are threatened of which, 4 are critically endangered, 5 are endangered, 15 are vulnerable and 20 are in Near Threatened category as per IUCN Red List 2014. Population trends of most waterbird species are decreasing except for falcated duck (stable) and river lapwing (unknown). Biogeographic zone wise analysis for distribution of threatened birds revealed that North East India to harbour most number of threatened waterbirds and Trans Himalayas to have least number of threatened birds (Figure 1 & Table 3). Anatidae (ducks and goose), Scolopacidae (sandpipers, redshanks and greenshanks, snipes and stints), Laridae (gulls and terns), and Ardeidae (egrets and herons) were the four most dominating families with 46% of all waterbirds falling under these families. Analysis of population trends and conservation status by family revealed that increasing population trend is evident among families like Pandionidae, Phoenicopteridae, Recurvirostridae etc. and decreasing population trend was evident in most families. Higher proportion was seen in Accipitridae, Alcedinidae, Anatidae, Anhingidae, Ardeidae, Burhinidae, Ciconidae, Charadriidae, Glareolidae, Jacanidae, Pelecanidae and Threskiornithidae (Figure 2). Highest numbers of threatened birds are found in families of Anatidae, Scolopacidae, Ciconiidae, Accipitridae and Laridae. Families of Anhingidae, Ardeidae, Heliornithidae, Phasianidae, Phoenicopteridae, Threskiornithidae and Rallidae had lower number of threatened species (Figure 3).

The Indian Wildlife Protection Act (1972) accords highest protection to 12 waterbird species by placing them under Schedule I. These birds include: White-bellied Heron *Ardea insignis*, White-winged Duck *Asarcornis scutulata*, Pink-headed Duck *Rhodonessa caryophyllacea*, Fulvous Whistling-duck *Dendrocygna bicolor*, Andaman Teal *Anas albogularis*, Siberian Crane *Leucogeranus leucogeranus*, Black-necked Crane *Grus nigricollis*, Hooded Crane *Grus monacha*, Oriental Stork *Ciconia boyciana*, Eurasian Spoonbill *Platalea leucorodia*, White-bellied Sea-eagle *Haliaeetus leucogaster* and Osprey *Pandion haliaetus*. Rest of the waterbird species have been placed under the Schedule IV (Anonymous. 2002). There is an urgent need to revisit the classification of waterbirds under the various schedules of the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972, as several critically endangered, endangered, vulnerable and near threatened waterbirds are listed under the Schedule IV. Though this schedule offers protection, it is important to include the threatened waterbirds whose populations continue to decline due to various factors in Schedules I and II which accords highest level of protection.

This issue is divided informally into six sections covering major aspects of waterbirds of India. Section I deals with long term research and monitoring of waterbirds, there are 12 chapters in this section and the chapters deal with synthesis of multi decadal data of Asian waterfowl census in Kerala, findings /inferences of studies carried out on heronries, mangrove habitats, waterbird species like Painted storks, Sarus cranes, Openbill storks and Indian Skimmers and includes a chapter on review of evolution of coloniality in waterbirds. Section II deals with Conservation and Management of waterbirds, there are 12 chapters in this section in which the chapters deal about threatened waterbirds of the North East India, importance of man-made reservoirs as key bird habitats and potential IBA's, community based conservation efforts for conserving threatened waterbirds, importance of managing wetland habitats for waterbirds, conservation status of migratory waterbirds in Himachal Pradesh and conservation through regional cooperation. Section III deals with application of modern tools and techniques in waterbird conservation, there are 3 chapters in this section in which chapters deal about Avian influenza, importance of ecotoxicology and a review of satellite tracking studies on Bar-headed goose in Asia. Section IV provides information pertaining to list of key contacts (individuals/organisations/web portals) who are carrying out research, conservation and management activities on waterbirds in India and the final section V provides selected references on waterbirds in India for further reading.

Waterbirds command a high level of public attention and is reflected in various legislations that aim to conserve and manage waterbirds not only in India, but globally. Several international conventions like Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS), Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), Convention on Wetlands of International Importance (Ramsar convention) and Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) are in place to offer protection to waterbirds and their habitats. Important global network programme like that of BirdLife International's Important Bird and Biodiversity Area (IBA) Programme identifies and monitors key areas for conservation.

Of the 130 Species Specialist Groups (SSG), Red List Authorities and Task Forces under the IUCN Species Survival Commission (SSC), 17 SSGs work towards conservation of birds. 14 of these 17 SSGs are directly and indirectly related to waterbirds. This in itself exemplifies the importance and significance of the waterbirds. The challenges for the waterbird ecology and conservation unfortunately are many and needs to be addressed. Threats like degradation of wetlands, land use change, intensive grazing, disturbance at feeding grounds, disturbance at breeding areas, pollution, aquatic invasive species, hunting, poaching, trapping, poisoning, unregulated tourism, loss of genetic variability, climate change, avian influenza, sea level rise, and hydroelectric power developments, etc. Despite all these odds, waterbirds will continue to attract ecologists and conservation biologists as they present us with opportunities and challenges as diverse as the waterbirds themselves.

### Acknowledgements

This bulletin would not have been possible without the support of Dr. V.B. Mathur, Director and ENVIS Project coordinator at WII, all the contributors (both chapters and photographs), reviewers, proof editors, research fellows and support staff at WII. We would like to thank J. Praveen and Rajah Jayapal for reviewing and providing valuable inputs to this introductory article. Despite our best efforts there will still be many errors that may be found. We invite our readers to send notice of any comments/suggestions/errors for updating this compilation.

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**Table 1 :** Waterbirds of India, their status and global population trend

Sr. No.	Common Name	Scientific Name	Family	IUCN status	Status	Global Population Trend
1	Little Grebe	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>	Podicipedidae	LC	Resident	Decreasing
2	Great Crested Grebe	<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>	Podicipedidae	LC	Winter visitor	Unknown
3	Black-necked Grebe	<i>Podiceps nigricollis</i>	Podicipedidae	LC	Winter visitor	Unknown
4	Great White Pelican	<i>Pelecanus onocrotalus</i>	Pelecanidae	LC	Winter visitor	Unknown
5	Spot-billed Pelican	<i>Pelecanus philippensis</i>	Pelecanidae	NT	Resident	Decreasing
6	Dalmatian Pelican	<i>Pelecanus crispus</i>	Pelecanidae	VU	Winter visitor	Decreasing
7	Little Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax niger</i>	Phalacrocoracidae	LC	Resident	Unknown
8	Indian Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax fuscicollis</i>	Phalacrocoracidae	LC	Resident	Unknown
9	Great Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>	Phalacrocoracidae	LC	Resident	Increasing
10	Darter	<i>Anhinga melanogaster</i>	Anhingidae	NT	Resident	Decreasing
11	Great Bittern	<i>Botaurus stellaris</i>	Ardeidae	LC	Winter visitor	Decreasing
12	Little Bittern	<i>Ixobrychus minutus</i>	Ardeidae	LC	Resident	Decreasing
13	Yellow Bittern	<i>Ixobrychus sinensis</i>	Ardeidae	LC	Resident	Unknown
14	Cinnamon Bittern	<i>Ixobrychus cinnamomeus</i>	Ardeidae	LC	Resident	Stable
15	Black Bittern	<i>Dupetor flavicollis</i>	Ardeidae	LC	Resident	Decreasing
16	Malayan Night Heron	<i>Gorsachius melanolophus</i>	Ardeidae	LC	Resident	Unknown
17	Black-crowned Night Heron	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>	Ardeidae	LC	Resident	Decreasing
18	Striated Heron	<i>Butorides striata</i>	Ardeidae	LC	Resident	Decreasing
19	Indian Pond Heron	<i>Ardeola grayii</i>	Ardeidae	LC	Resident	Unknown
20	Chinese Pond Heron	<i>Ardeola bacchus</i>	Ardeidae	LC	Resident	Stable
21	Cattle Egret	<i>Bubulcus ibis</i>	Ardeidae	LC	Resident	Increasing
22	Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>	Ardeidae	LC	Resident	Unknown
23	White-bellied Heron	<i>Ardea insignis</i>	Ardeidae	CR	Resident	Decreasing
24	Goliath Heron	<i>Ardea goliath</i>	Ardeidae	LC	Unknown	Stable
25	Purple Heron	<i>Ardea purpurea</i>	Ardeidae	LC	Resident	Decreasing
26	Great Egret	<i>Casmerodius albus</i>	Ardeidae	LC	Resident	Unknown
27	Intermediate Egret	<i>Mesophoyx intermedia</i>	Ardeidae	LC	Resident	Decreasing
28	Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>	Ardeidae	LC	Resident	Increasing
29	Western Reef Egret	<i>Egretta gularis</i>	Ardeidae	LC	Resident	Stable
30	Pacific Reef Egret	<i>Egretta sacra</i>	Ardeidae	LC	Resident	Stable
31	Painted Stork	<i>Mycteria leucocephala</i>	Ciconiidae	NT	Resident	Decreasing
32	Asian Openbill	<i>Anastomus oscitans</i>	Ciconiidae	LC	Resident	Unknown
33	Black Stork	<i>Ciconia nigra</i>	Ciconiidae	LC	Winter visitor	Unknown
34	Asian Woollyneck	<i>Ciconia episcopus</i>	Ciconiidae	VU	Resident	Decreasing
35	White Stork	<i>Ciconia ciconia</i>	Ciconiidae	LC	Winter visitor	Increasing
36	Black-necked Stork	<i>Ephippiorhynchus asiaticus</i>	Ciconiidae	NT	Resident	Decreasing
37	Lesser Adjutant	<i>Leptoptilos javanicus</i>	Ciconiidae	VU	Resident	Decreasing
38	Greater Adjutant	<i>Leptoptilos dubius</i>	Ciconiidae	En	Resident	Decreasing
39	Black-headed Ibis	<i>Threskiornis melanocephalus</i>	Threskiornithidae	NT	Resident	Decreasing
40	Red-naped Ibis	<i>Pseudibis papillosa</i>	Threskiornithidae	LC	Resident	Decreasing
41	Glossy Ibis	<i>Plegadis falcinellus</i>	Threskiornithidae	LC	Resident	Decreasing
42	Eurasian Spoonbill	<i>Platalea leucorodia</i>	Threskiornithidae	LC	Resident	Unknown

Sr. No.	Common Name	Scientific Name	Family	IUCN status	Status	Global Population Trend
43	Greater Flamingo	<i>Phoenicopterus roseus</i>	Phoenicopteridae	LC	Resident	Increasing
44	Lesser Flamingo	<i>Phoeniconaias minor</i>	Phoenicopteridae	NT	Resident	Decreasing
45	Fulvous Whistling Duck	<i>Dendrocygna bicolor</i>	Anatidae	LC	Resident	Decreasing
46	Lesser Whistling Duck	<i>Dendrocygna javanica</i>	Anatidae	LC	Resident	Decreasing
47	Greylag Goose	<i>Anser anser</i>	Anatidae	LC	Winter visitor	Increasing
48	Greater White-fronted Goose	<i>Anser albifrons</i>	Anatidae	LC	Winter visitor	Unknown
49	Lesser White-fronted Goose	<i>Anser erythropus</i>	Anatidae	VU	Winter visitor	Decreasing
50	Bar-headed Goose	<i>Anser indicus</i>	Anatidae	LC	Winter visitor	Decreasing
51	Knob-billed Duck	<i>Sarkidiornis melanotos</i>	Anatidae	LC	Resident	Decreasing
52	Common Shelduck	<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>	Anatidae	LC	Winter visitor	Increasing
53	Ruddy Shelduck	<i>Tadorna ferruginea</i>	Anatidae	LC	Winter visitor	Unknown
54	White-winged Duck	<i>Asarcornis scutulata</i>	Anatidae	EN	Resident	Decreasing
55	Cotton Pygmy Goose	<i>Nettapus coromandelianus</i>	Anatidae	LC	Resident	Stable
56	Gadwall	<i>Anas strepera</i>	Anatidae	LC	Winter visitor	Unknown
57	Falcatad Duck	<i>Anas falcata</i>	Anatidae	NT	Winter visitor	Decreasing
58	Eurasian Wigeon	<i>Anas penelope</i>	Anatidae	LC	Winter visitor	Decreasing
59	Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	Anatidae	LC	Winter visitor	Decreasing
60	Indian Spot-billed Duck	<i>Anas poecilorhyncha</i>	Anatidae	LC	Resident	Decreasing
61	Eastern Spot-billed Duck	<i>Anas zonorhyncha</i>	Anatidae	LC	Winter visitor	Decreasing
62	Northern Shoveler	<i>Anas clypeata</i>	Anatidae	LC	Winter visitor	Decreasing
63	Andaman Teal	<i>Anas albogularis</i>	Anatidae	VU	Resident	Decreasing
64	Northern Pintail	<i>Anas acuta</i>	Anatidae	LC	Winter visitor	Decreasing
65	Garganey	<i>Anas querquedula</i>	Anatidae	LC	Winter visitor	Decreasing
66	Baikal Teal	<i>Anas formosa</i>	Anatidae	LC	Winter visitor	Increasing
67	Common Teal	<i>Anas crecca</i>	Anatidae	LC	Winter visitor	Unknown
68	Marbled Duck	<i>Marmaronetta angustirostris</i>	Anatidae	VU	Winter visitor	Decreasing
69	Red-crested Pochard	<i>Netta rufina</i>	Anatidae	LC	Winter visitor	Unknown
70	Common Pochard	<i>Aythya ferina</i>	Anatidae	LC	Winter visitor	Unknown
71	Baer's Pochard	<i>Aythya baeri</i>	Anatidae	CR	Winter visitor	Decreasing
72	Ferruginous Duck	<i>Aythya nyroca</i>	Anatidae	NT	Winter visitor	Decreasing
73	Tufted Duck	<i>Aythya fuligula</i>	Anatidae	LC	Winter visitor	Stable
74	Greater Scaup	<i>Aythya marila</i>	Anatidae	LC	Winter visitor	Decreasing
75	Common Goldeneye	<i>Bucephala clangula</i>	Anatidae	LC	Winter visitor	Stable
76	Smew	<i>Mergellus albellus</i>	Anatidae	LC	Winter visitor	Decreasing
77	Goosander	<i>Mergus merganser</i>	Anatidae	LC	Winter visitor	Increasing
78	White-headed Duck	<i>Oxyura leucocephala</i>	Anatidae	EN	Winter visitor	Decreasing
79	Demoiselle Crane	<i>Anthropoides virgo</i>	Gruidae	LC	Winter visitor	Increasing
80	Sarus Crane	<i>Grus antigone</i>	Gruidae	VU	Resident	Decreasing
81	Common Crane	<i>Grus grus</i>	Gruidae	LC	Winter visitor	Unknown
82	Black-necked Crane	<i>Grus nigricollis</i>	Gruidae	VU	Summer visitor	Decreasing
83	Andaman Crake	<i>Rallina canningi</i>	Rallidae	NT	Resident	Decreasing
84	Slaty-legged Crake	<i>Rallina eurizonoides</i>	Rallidae	LC	Resident	Decreasing
85	Slaty-breasted Rail	<i>Gallirallus striatus</i>	Rallidae	LC	Resident	Increasing
86	Water Rail	<i>Rallus aquaticus</i>	Rallidae	LC	Winter visitor	Decreasing

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87	Brown-cheeked Rail	<i>Rallus indicus</i>	Rallidae	LC	Winter visitor	Decreasing
88	Brown Crake	<i>Amauornis akool</i>	Rallidae	LC	Resident	Unknown
89	White-breasted Waterhen	<i>Amauornis phoenicurus</i>	Rallidae	LC	Resident	Unknown
90	Black-tailed Crake	<i>Porzana bicolor</i>	Rallidae	LC	Resident	Decreasing
91	Baillon's Crake	<i>Porzana pusilla</i>	Rallidae	LC	Winter visitor	Unknown
92	Spotted Crake	<i>Porzana porzana</i>	Rallidae	LC	Winter visitor	Stable
93	Ruddy-breasted Crake	<i>Porzana fusca</i>	Rallidae	LC	Resident	Decreasing
94	Watercock	<i>Gallicrex cinerea</i>	Rallidae	LC	Resident	Decreasing
95	Purple Swamphen	<i>Porphyrio porphyrio</i>	Rallidae	LC	Resident	Unknown
96	Common Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>	Rallidae	LC	Resident	Stable
97	Eurasian Coot	<i>Fulica atra</i>	Rallidae	LC	Resident	Decreasing
98	Masked Finfoot	<i>Heliopais personatus</i>	Heliornithidae	EN	Resident	Decreasing
99	Pheasant-tailed Jacana	<i>Hydrophasianus chirurgus</i>	Jacanidae	LC	Resident	Decreasing
100	Bronze-winged Jacana	<i>Metopidius indicus</i>	Jacanidae	LC	Resident	Unknown
101	Greater Painted-snipe	<i>Rostratula benghalensis</i>	Rostratulidae	LC	Resident	Decreasing
102	Eurasian Oystercatcher	<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>	Haematopodidae	LC	Winter visitor	Decreasing
103	Northern Lapwing	<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>	Charadriidae	LC	Winter visitor	Decreasing
104	River Lapwing	<i>Vanellus duvaucelii</i>	Charadriidae	NT	Resident	Unknwon
105	Grey-headed Lapwing	<i>Vanellus cinereus</i>	Charadriidae	LC	Winter visitor	Decreasing
106	Sociable lapwing	<i>Vanellus gregarius</i>	Charadriidae	CR	Winter visitor	Decreasing
107	Red-wattled Lapwing	<i>Vanellus indicus</i>	Charadriidae	LC	Resident	Unknown
108	White-tailed Lapwing	<i>Vanellus leucurus</i>	Charadriidae	LC	Winter visitor	Unknown
109	Pacific Golden Plover	<i>Pluvialis fulva</i>	Charadriidae	LC	Winter visitor	Decreasing
110	Grey Plover	<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>	Charadriidae	LC	Winter visitor	Decreasing
111	Common Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>	Charadriidae	LC	Winter visitor	Decreasing
112	Long-billed Plover	<i>Charadrius placidus</i>	Charadriidae	LC	Winter visitor	Decreasing
113	Little Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius dubius</i>	Charadriidae	LC	Resident	Stable
114	Kentish Plover	<i>Charadrius alexandrinus</i>	Charadriidae	LC	Resident	Decreasing
115	Lesser Sand Plover	<i>Charadrius mongolus</i>	Charadriidae	LC	Winter visitor	Unknown
116	Greater Sand Plover	<i>Charadrius leschenaultii</i>	Charadriidae	LC	Winter visitor	Unknown
117	Caspian Plover	<i>Charadrius asiaticus</i>	Charadriidae	LC	Winter visitor	Decreasing
118	Jack Snipe	<i>Lymnocyptes minimus</i>	Scolopacidae	LC	Winter visitor	Stable
119	Solitary Snipe	<i>Gallinago solitaria</i>	Scolopacidae	LC	Resident	Stable
120	Wood Snipe	<i>Gallinago nemoricola</i>	Scolopacidae	VU	Winter visitor	Decreasing
121	Pin-tailed Snipe	<i>Gallinago stenura</i>	Scolopacidae	LC	Winter visitor	Unknown
122	Swinhoe's Snipe	<i>Gallinago megala</i>	Scolopacidae	LC	Winter visitor	Unknown
123	Common Snipe	<i>Gallinago gallinago</i>	Scolopacidae	LC	Winter visitor	Decreasing
124	Asian Dowitcher	<i>Limnodromus semipalmatus</i>	Scolopacidae	NT	Winter visitor	Decreasing
125	Black-tailed Godwit	<i>Limosa limosa</i>	Scolopacidae	NT	Winter visitor	Decreasing
126	Bar-tailed Godwit	<i>Limosa lapponica</i>	Scolopacidae	LC	Winter visitor	Decreasing
127	Whimbrel	<i>Numenius phaeopus</i>	Scolopacidae	LC	Winter visitor	Decreasing
128	Eurasian Curlew	<i>Numenius arquata</i>	Scolopacidae	NT	Winter visitor	Decreasing
129	Spotted Redshank	<i>Tringa erythropus</i>	Scolopacidae	LC	Winter visitor	Stable
130	Common Redshank	<i>Tringa totanus</i>	Scolopacidae	LC	Winter visitor	Unknown

Sr. No.	Common Name	Scientific Name	Family	IUCN status	Status	Global Population Trend
131	Marsh Sandpiper	<i>Tringa stagnatilis</i>	Scolopacidae	LC	Winter visitor	Decreasing
132	Common Greenshank	<i>Tringa nebularia</i>	Scolopacidae	LC	Winter visitor	Stable
133	Green Sandpiper	<i>Tringa ochropus</i>	Scolopacidae	LC	Winter visitor	Stable
134	Wood Sandpiper	<i>Tringa glareola</i>	Scolopacidae	LC	Winter visitor	Stable
135	Terek Sandpiper	<i>Xenus cinereus</i>	Scolopacidae	LC	Winter visitor	Stable
136	Common Sandpiper	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>	Scolopacidae	LC	Winter visitor	Decreasing
137	Great Knot	<i>Calidris tenuirostris</i>	Scolopacidae	VU	Winter visitor	Decreasing
138	Red Knot	<i>Calidris canutus</i>	Scolopacidae	LC	Winter visitor	Decreasing
139	Red-necked Stint	<i>Calidris ruficollis</i>	Scolopacidae	LC	Winter visitor	Unknown
140	Little Stint	<i>Calidris minuta</i>	Scolopacidae	LC	Winter visitor	Decreasing
141	Temminck's Stint	<i>Calidris temminckii</i>	Scolopacidae	LC	Winter visitor	Unknown
142	Long-toed Stint	<i>Calidris subminuta</i>	Scolopacidae	LC	Winter visitor	Unknown
143	Curlew Sandpiper	<i>Calidris ferruginea</i>	Scolopacidae	LC	Winter visitor	Increasing
144	Dunlin	<i>Calidris alpina</i>	Scolopacidae	LC	Winter visitor	Decreasing
145	Spoon-billed Sandpiper	<i>Eurynorhynchus pygmeus</i>	Scolopacidae	CR	Winter visitor	Decreasing
146	Ruff	<i>Philomachus pugnax</i>	Scolopacidae	LC	Winter visitor	Decreasing
147	Red-necked Phalarope	<i>Phalaropus lobatus</i>	Scolopacidae	LC	Winter visitor	Decreasing
148	Sanderling	<i>Calidris alba</i>	Scolopacidae	LC	Winter visitor	Unknown
149	Broad-billed Sandpiper	<i>Limicola falcinellus</i>	Scolopacidae	LC	Winter visitor	Decreasing
150	Black-winged Stilt	<i>Himantopus himantopus</i>	Recurvirostridae	LC	Resident	Increasing
151	Pied Avocet	<i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i>	Recurvirostridae	LC	Winter visitor	Unknown
152	Ibisbill	<i>Ibidorhyncha struthersii</i>	Ibidorhynchidae	LC	Resident	Unknown
153	Crab-plover	<i>Dromas ardeola</i>	Dromadidae	LC	Winter visitor	Stable
154	Beach Thick-knee	<i>Esacus neglectus</i>	Burhinidae	NT	Resident	Decreasing
155	Great Thick-knee	<i>Esacus recurvirostris</i>	Burhinidae	NT	Resident	Decreasing
156	Indian Thick-knee	<i>Burhinus oedicephalus indicus</i>	Burhinidae	LC	Resident	Decreasing
157	Collared Pratincole	<i>Glareola pratincola</i>	Glareolidae	LC	Winter visitor	Decreasing
158	Oriental Pratincole	<i>Glareola maldivarum</i>	Glareolidae	LC	Resident	Decreasing
159	Small Pratincole	<i>Glareola lactea</i>	Glareolidae	LC	Resident	Unknown
160	Indian Skimmer	<i>Rynchops albicollis</i>	Laridae	VU	Resident	Decreasing
161	Slender-billed Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus genei</i>	Laridae	LC	Winter visitor	Increasing
162	Brown-headed Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus brunnicephalus</i>	Laridae	LC	Winter visitor	Stable
163	Black-headed Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>	Laridae	LC	Winter visitor	Decreasing
164	Pallas's Gull	<i>Ichthyaetus ichthyaetus</i>	Laridae	LC	Winter visitor	Decreasing
165	Heuglin's Gull	<i>Larus fuscus heuglini</i>	Laridae	LC	Winter visitor	Unknown
166	Steppe Gull	<i>Larus fuscus barabensis</i>	Laridae	LC	Winter visitor	Stable
167	Mew Gull	<i>Larus canus</i>	Laridae	LC	Visitor	Unknown
168	Gull-billed Tern	<i>Gelochelidon nilotica</i>	Laridae	LC	Winter visitor	Decreasing
169	Caspian Tern	<i>Hydroprogne caspia</i>	Laridae	LC	Winter visitor	Increasing
170	Little Tern	<i>Stemula albigrons</i>	Laridae	LC	Resident	Decreasing
171	Bridled Tern	<i>Onychoprion anaethetus</i>	Laridae	LC	Resident	Unknown
172	River Tern	<i>Sterna aurantia</i>	Laridae	NT	Resident	Decreasing
173	Common Tern	<i>Sterna hirundo</i>	Laridae	LC	Winter visitor	Decreasing
174	Black-bellied Tern	<i>Sterna acuticauda</i>	Laridae	En	Resident	Decreasing

Sr. No.	Common Name	Scientific Name	Family	IUCN status	Status	Global Population Trend
175	Whiskered Tern	<i>Chlidonias hybrida</i>	Laridae	LC	Resident	Stable
176	White-winged Tern	<i>Chlidonias leucopterus</i>	Laridae	LC	Winter visitor	Stable
177	Brown Noddy	<i>Anous stolidus</i>	Laridae	LC	Resident	Stable
178	White Tern	<i>Gygis alba</i>	Laridae	LC	Visitor	Stable
179	Greater Crested Tern	<i>Thalasseus bergii</i>	Laridae	LC	Resident	Stable
180	Lesser Crested Tern	<i>Thalasseus bengalensis</i>	Laridae	LC	Resident	Stable
181	Sandwich Tern	<i>Thalasseus sandvicensis</i>	Laridae	LC	Visitor	Stable
182	Roseate Tern	<i>Sterna dougallii</i>	Laridae	LC	Resident	Unknown
183	Black-naped Tern	<i>Sterna sumatrana</i>	Laridae	LC	Resident	Unknown
184	White-cheeked Tern	<i>Sterna repressa</i>	Laridae	LC	Resident	Decreasing
185	Saunders's Tern	<i>Sternula saundersi</i>	Laridae	LC	Visitor	Decreasing
186	Sooty Tern	<i>Onychoprion fuscatus</i>	Laridae	LC	Resident	Unknown
187	Brahminy Kite	<i>Haliastur indus</i>	Accipitridae	LC	Resident	Decreasing
188	Greater Spotted Eagle	<i>Aquila clanga</i>	Accipitridae	VU	Winter visitor	Decreasing
189	Indian Spotted Eagle	<i>Aquila hastata</i>	Accipitridae	VU	Resident	Decreasing
190	White-bellied Sea Eagle	<i>Haliaeetus leucogaster</i>	Accipitridae	LC	Resident	Decreasing
191	Pallas's Fish Eagle	<i>Haliaeetus leucoryphus</i>	Accipitridae	VU	Resident	Decreasing
192	White-tailed Eagle	<i>Haliaeetus albicilla</i>	Accipitridae	LC	Winter visitor	Increasing
193	Lesser Fish Eagle	<i>Ichthyophaga humilis</i>	Accipitridae	NT	Resident	Decreasing
194	Grey-headed Fish Eagle	<i>Ichthyophaga ichthyaetus</i>	Accipitridae	NT	Resident	Decreasing
195	Eurasian Marsh Harrier	<i>Circus aeruginosus</i>	Accipitridae	LC	Winter visitor	Increasing
196	Osprey	<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>	Pandionidae	LC	Winter visitor	Increasing
197	Swamp Francolin	<i>Francolinus gularis</i>	Phasianidae	VU	Resident	Decreasing
198	Brown Fish Owl	<i>Ketupa zeylonensis</i>	Strigidae	LC	Resident	Decreasing
199	Tawny Fish Owl	<i>Ketupa flavipes</i>	Strigidae	LC	Resident	Stable
200	Buffy Fish Owl	<i>Ketupa ketupu</i>	Strigidae	LC	Resident	Stable
201	Stork-billed Kingfisher	<i>Pelargopsis capensis</i>	Alcedinidae	LC	Resident	Decreasing
202	Brown-winged Kingfisher	<i>Pelargopsis amauroptera</i>	Alcedinidae	NT	Resident	Decreasing
203	Ruddy Kingfisher	<i>Halcyon coromanda</i>	Alcedinidae	LC	Resident	Decreasing
204	Black-capped Kingfisher	<i>Halcyon pileata</i>	Alcedinidae	LC	Winter visitor	Decreasing
205	Collared Kingfisher	<i>Todiramphus chloris</i>	Alcedinidae	LC	Resident	Decreasing
206	Oriental Dwarf Kingfisher	<i>Ceyx erithaca</i>	Alcedinidae	LC	Summer visitor	Decreasing
207	Blue-eared Kingfisher	<i>Alcedo meninting</i>	Alcedinidae	LC	Resident	Decreasing
208	Common Kingfisher	<i>Alcedo atthis</i>	Alcedinidae	LC	Resident	Unknown
209	Blyth's Kingfisher	<i>Alcedo hercules</i>	Alcedinidae	NT	Resident	Decreasing
210	Crested Kingfisher	<i>Megaceryle lugubris</i>	Alcedinidae	LC	Resident	Decreasing
211	Pied Kingfisher	<i>Ceryle rudis</i>	Alcedinidae	LC	Resident	Unknown
212	Sand Martin	<i>Riparia riparia</i>	Hirundinidae	LC	Unknown	Decreasing
213	Plain Martin	<i>Riparia paludicola</i>	Hirundinidae	LC	Resident	Decreasing
214	Pale Martin	<i>Riparia diluta</i>	Hirundinidae	LC	Resident	Unknown
215	Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	Hirundinidae	LC	Resident	Decreasing
216	Pacific Swallow	<i>Hirundo tahitica</i>	Hirundinidae	LC	Resident	Increasing
217	Red rumped Swallow	<i>Hirundo daurica</i>	Hirundinidae	LC	Resident	Stable
218	Wire-tailed Swallow	<i>Hirundo smithii</i>	Hirundinidae	LC	Resident	Increasing

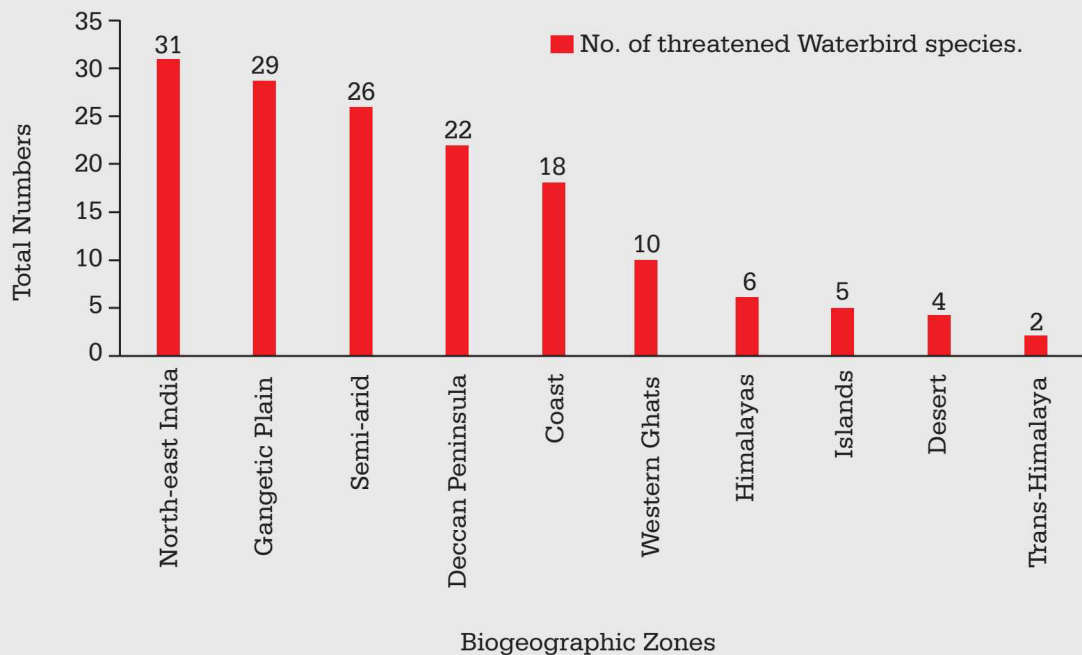
Sr. No.	Common Name	Scientific Name	Family	IUCN status	Status	Global Population Trend
219	Streak throated Swallow	<i>Petrochelidon fluvicola</i>	Hirundinidae	LC	Resident	Increasing
220	Forest Wagtail	<i>Dendronanthus indicus</i>	Motacillidae	LC	Winter Visitor	Stable
221	Yellow Wagtail	<i>Motacilla flava</i>	Motacillidae	LC	Winter visitor	Decreasing
222	Citrine Wagtail	<i>Motacilla citreola</i>	Motacillidae	LC	Resident	Stable
223	Grey Wagtail	<i>Motacilla cinerea</i>	Motacillidae	LC	Resident	Stable
224	White Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba</i>	Motacillidae	LC	Resident	Stable
225	White-browed Wagtail	<i>Motacilla maderaspatensis</i>	Motacillidae	LC	Resident	Stable
226	Rosy Pipit	<i>Anthus roseatus</i>	Motacillidae	LC	Resident	Stable
227	Red-throated Pipit	<i>Anthus cervinus</i>	Motacillidae	LC	Winter visitor	Stable
228	Buff-bellied Pipit	<i>Anthus rubescens</i>	Motacillidae	LC	Winter visitor	Decreasing
229	Water Pipit	<i>Anthus spinoletta</i>	Motacillidae	LC	Winter visitor	Stable
230	Richard's Pipit	<i>Anthus richardi</i>	Motacillidae	LC	Winter visitor	Stable
231	White-throated Dipper	<i>Cinclus cinclus</i>	Cinclidae	LC	Resident	Stable
232	Brown Dipper	<i>Cinclus pallasi</i>	Cinclidae	LC	Resident	Stable
233	Plumbeous Water Redstart	<i>Rhyacornis fuliginosa</i>	Muscicapidae	LC	Resident	Stable
234	White-capped Redstart	<i>Chaimarrornis leucocephalus</i>	Muscicapidae	LC	Resident	Stable
235	Little Forktail	<i>Enicurus scouleri</i>	Muscicapidae	LC	Resident	Stable
236	Black-backed Forktail	<i>Enicurus immaculatus</i>	Muscicapidae	LC	Resident	Stable
237	Slaty-backed Forktail	<i>Enicurus schistaceus</i>	Muscicapidae	LC	Resident	Stable
238	White-crowned Forktail	<i>Enicurus leschenaulti</i>	Muscicapidae	LC	Resident	Stable
239	Spotted Forktail	<i>Enicurus maculatus</i>	Muscicapidae	LC	Resident	Stable
240	Swamp Prinia	<i>Prinia cinerascens</i>	Cisticolidae	LC	Resident	Unknown
241	Chestnut-eared Bunting	<i>Emberiza fucata</i>	Emberizidae	LC	Resident	Stable
242	Black-faced Bunting	<i>Emberiza spodocephala</i>	Emberizidae	LC	Winter visitor	Stable
243	Common Reed Bunting	<i>Emberiza schoeniclus</i>	Emberizidae	LC	Winter visitor	Decreasing

Table 2 : Vagrant waterbirds in India

Sr.	Common Name	Scientific Name	Order	Family	IUCN Status
1	Horned Grebe	<i>Podiceps auritus</i>	Podicipediformes	Podicipedidae	LC
2	Red-necked Grebe	<i>Podiceps grisegena</i>	Podicipediformes	Podicipedidae	LC
3	Bean Goose	<i>Anser fabalis</i>	Anseriformes	Anatidae	LC
4	Snow Goose	<i>Anser caerulescens</i>	Anseriformes	Anatidae	LC
5	Red-breasted Goose	<i>Branta ruficollis</i>	Anseriformes	Anatidae	EN
6	Mute Swan	<i>Cygnus olor</i>	Anseriformes	Anatidae	LC
7	Tundra Swan	<i>Cygnus columbianus</i>	Anseriformes	Anatidae	LC
8	Whooper Swan	<i>Cygnus Cygnus</i>	Anseriformes	Anatidae	LC
9	Manadarin Duck	<i>Aix galericulata</i>	Anseriformes	Anatidae	LC
10	Long tailed Duck	<i>Clangula hyemalis</i>	Anseriformes	Anatidae	VU
11	Little Crake	<i>Porzana parva</i>	Gruiformes	Rallidae	LC
12	Corn Crake	<i>Crex crex</i>	Gruiformes	Rallidae	LC
13	European Golden Plover	<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>	Charadriiformes	Charadriidae	LC
14	Oriental Plover	<i>Charadrius veredus</i>	Charadriiformes	Charadriidae	LC

Sr.	Common Name	Scientific Name	Order	Family	IUCN Status
15	Great Snipe	<i>Gallinago media</i>	Charadriiformes	Scolopacidae	NT
16	Long-billed Dowitcher	<i>Limnodromus scolopaceus</i>	Charadriiformes	Scolopacidae	LC
17	Nordmann's Greenshank	<i>Tringa guttifer</i>	Charadriiformes	Scolopacidae	EN
18	Pectoral Sandpiper	<i>Calidris melanotos</i>	Charadriiformes	Scolopacidae	LC
19	Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	<i>Calidris acuminata</i>	Charadriiformes	Scolopacidae	LC
20	Buff-breasted Sandpiper	<i>Tryngites subruficollis</i>	Charadriiformes	Scolopacidae	NT
21	Red phalarope	<i>Phalaropus fulicarius</i>	Charadriiformes	Scolopacidae	LC
22	Mongolian Gull	<i>Larus smithsonianus mongolicus</i>	Charadriiformes	Laridae	LC
23	Franklin's Gull	<i>Leucophaeus pipixcan</i>	Charadriiformes	Laridae	LC
24	Little Gull	<i>Hydrocoloeus minutes</i>	Charadriiformes	Laridae	LC
25	Sooty Gull	<i>Ichthyaetus hemprichii</i>	Charadriiformes	Laridae	LC
26	Sabine's Gull	<i>Xema sabini</i>	Charadriiformes	Laridae	LC
27	Black-legged Kittiwake	<i>Rissa tridactyla</i>	Charadriiformes	Laridae	LC
28	Arctic Tern	<i>Sterna paradisaea</i>	Charadriiformes	Stirnidae	LC
29	Black Tern	<i>Chlidonias niger</i>	Charadriiformes	Stirnidae	LC
30	Black Noddy	<i>Anous minutes</i>	Charadriiformes	Laridae	LC
31	Lesser Noddy	<i>Anous tenuirostris</i>	Charadriiformes	Laridae	LC
32	Black throated diver/loon	<i>Gavia arctica</i>	Gaviiformes	Gaviidae	LC
33	Eastern Marsh Harrier	<i>Circus spilonotus</i>	Accipitriformes	Accipitridae	LC

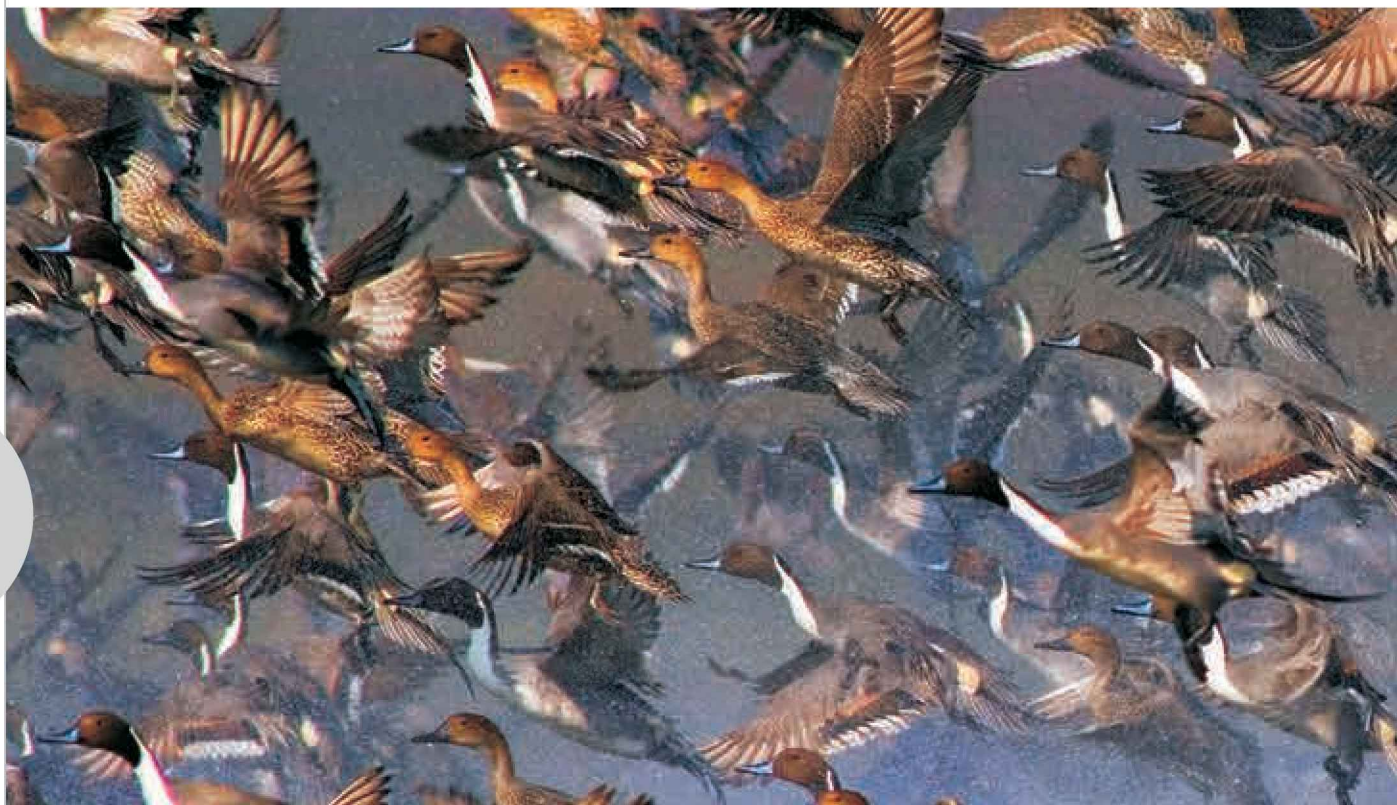
Figure 1 : Number of threatened waterbirds in different biogeographic zones



**Table 3** : Distribution of threatened waterbirds in different Biogeographic zones

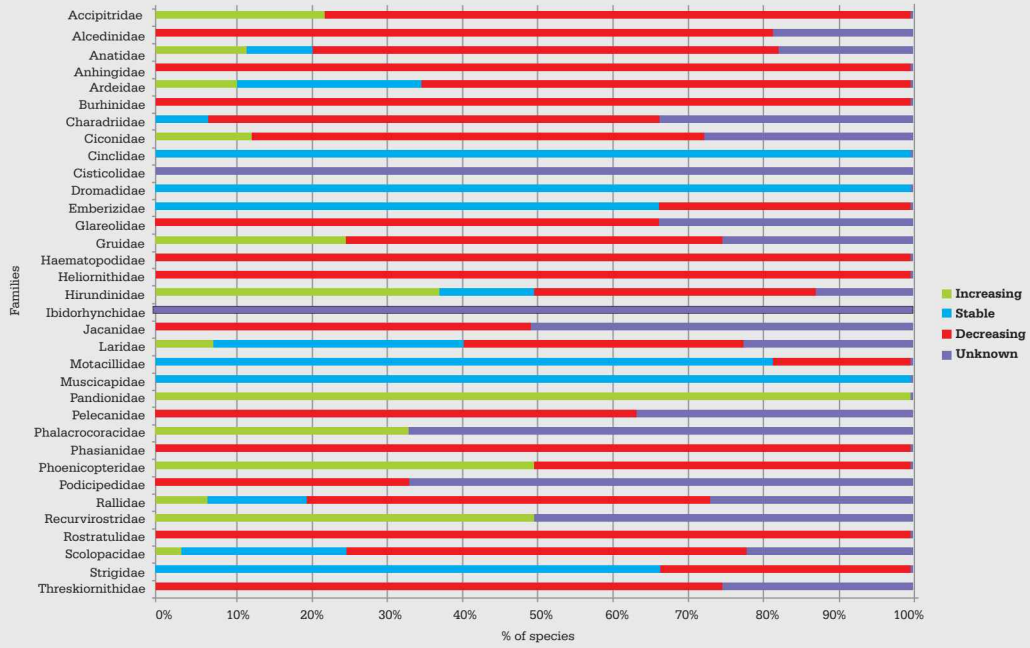
Sr. No.	Species	Scientific Name	IUCN Status	Biogeographic Zones
1	Baer's Pochard	<i>Aythya baeri</i>	Critically Endangered	Gangetic Plains, North-east, Eastern Coast
2	White-bellied Heron	<i>Ardea insignis</i>	Critically Endangered	Eastern Himalaya, North-east
3	Spoon-billed Sandpiper	<i>Eurynorhynchus pygmeus</i>	Critically Endangered	Eastern Coasts
4	Sociable lapwing	<i>Vanellus gregarius</i>	Critically Endangered	Semi-arid, Desert, Gangetic plains
5	White-winged Duck	<i>Asarcornis scutulata</i>	Endangered	Eastern Himalaya, North-east
6	White-headed Duck	<i>Oxyura leucocephala</i>	Endangered	Gangetic Plains, Semi-arid
7	Greater Adjutant	<i>Leptoptilos dubius</i>	Endangered	Gangetic Plains, North-east, Semi-arid, Eastern and Western Coasts
8	Masked Finfoot	<i>Heliopais personatus</i>	Endangered	North-east
9	Black-bellied Tern	<i>Sterna acuticauda</i>	Endangered	Gangetic Plains, North-east, Semi-arid, Deccan Peninsula, East and West Coasts
10	Swamp Francolin	<i>Francolinus gularis</i>	Vulnerable	Gangetic Plains, North-east
11	Lesser White-fronted Goose	<i>Anser erythropus</i>	Vulnerable	Gangetic Plains, Semi-arid, North-east
12	Marbled Duck	<i>Marmaronetta angustirostris</i>	Vulnerable	Gangetic Plains, North-east, Semi-arid, Western Coasts
13	Andaman Teal	<i>Anas albagularis</i>	Vulnerable	Islands
14	Greater Spotted Eagle	<i>Aquila clanga</i>	Vulnerable	Gangetic Plains, Eastern Himalaya, North-east, Desert, Semi-arid, Deccan Peninsula, Western Coasts
15	Indian Spotted Eagle	<i>Aquila hastat</i>	Vulnerable	Gangetic Plains, Himalayas, Semi-arid, Western Ghats, North-east
16	Asian Woollyneck	<i>Ciconia episcopus</i>	Vulnerable	Gangetic Plains, North-east, Semi-arid, Deccan Peninsula, Western Ghats, West Coasts
17	Lesser Adjutant	<i>Leptoptilos javanicus</i>	Vulnerable	Eastern Himalaya, Gangetic Plains, North-east, Deccan Peninsula, Eastern Coast, Western Ghats
18	Dalmatian Pelican	<i>Pelecanus crispus</i>	Vulnerable	Semi-arid, Desert, North-east
19	Pallas's Fish Eagle	<i>Haliaeetus leucoryphus</i>	Vulnerable	Gangetic Plains, North-east, Deccan Peninsula, Semi-arid
20	Sarus Crane	<i>Grus antigone</i>	Vulnerable	Gangetic Plains, North-east, Deccan Peninsula, Semi-arid
21	Black-necked Crane	<i>Grus nigricollis</i>	Vulnerable	Trans-Himalaya
22	Wood Snipe	<i>Gallinago nemoricola</i>	Vulnerable	Trans-Himalaya, North-east, Eastern and Western Coasts, Deccan Peninsula
23	Great Knot	<i>Calidris tenuirostris</i>	Vulnerable	North-east, Eastern and Western Coasts, Islands
24	Indian Skimmer	<i>Rynchops albicollis</i>	Vulnerable	Gangetic Plains, Semi-arid, Deccan Peninsula
25	Falcated Duck	<i>Anas faLCata</i>	Near Threatened	Gangetic Plains, Semi-arid
26	Ferruginous Duck	<i>Aythya nyroca</i>	Near Threatened	Gangetic Plains, Semi-arid, North-east, Deccan Peninsula, Eastern and Western Coasts
27	Lesser Flamingo	<i>Phoeniconaias minor</i>	Near Threatened	Desert, Semi-arid, Deccan Peninsula, Eastern and Western Coasts
28	Painted Stork	<i>Mycteria leucocephala</i>	Near Threatened	Gangetic Plains, Semi-arid, North-east, Western ghat, Deccan Peninsula

Sr. No.	Species	Scientific Name	IUCN Status	Biogeographic Zones
29	Black-necked Stork	<i>Ephippiorhynchus asiaticus</i>	Near Threatened	Gangetic Plains, Semi-arid, North-east, Deccan Peninsula, Eastern and Western Coasts
30	Black-headed Ibis	<i>Threskiornis melanocephalus</i>	Near Threatened	Gangetic Plains, Semi-arid, North-east, Deccan Peninsula, Western ghat
31	Spot-billed Pelican	<i>Pelecanus philippensis</i>	Near Threatened	Gangetic Plains, North-east, Deccan Peninsula, Semi-arid, Eastern Coast
32	Darter	<i>Anhinga melanogaster</i>	Near Threatened	Gangetic Plains, Semi-arid, North-east, Deccan Peninsula, Western ghat, Eastern Coast
33	Lesser Fish Eagle	<i>Ichthyophaga humilis</i>	Near Threatened	Gangetic Plains, North-east, Deccan Peninsula, Western ghat
34	Grey-headed Fish Eagle	<i>Ichthyophaga ichthyaetus</i>	Near Threatened	Gangetic Plains, North-east, Semi-arid, Deccan Peninsula, Western ghat
35	Andaman Crake	<i>Rallina canningi</i>	Near Threatened	Islands
36	Beach thick-knee	<i>Esacus neglectus</i>	Near Threatened	Islands
37	Great thick-knee	<i>Esacus recurvirostris</i>	Near Threatened	Gangetic Plains, North-east, Semi-arid, Deccan Peninsula
38	River Lapwing	<i>Vanellus duvaucelii</i>	Near Threatened	Gangetic Plains, North-east, Deccan Peninsula
39	Asian Dowitcher	<i>Limnodromus semipalmatus</i>	Near Threatened	Eastern Coast
40	Black-tailed Godwit	<i>Limosa limosa</i>	Near Threatened	Gangetic Plains, Semi-arid, Deccan Peninsula, Eastern and Western Coasts
41	Eurasian Curlew	<i>Numenius arquata</i>	Near Threatened	Gangetic Plains, Semi-arid, North-east, Eastern and Western Coasts, Islands, Deccan Peninsula, Western Ghats, Himalayas
42	River Tern	<i>Sterna aurantia</i>	Near Threatened	Gangetic Plains, North-east, Semi-arid, Deccan Peninsula, Western Ghats
43	Brown-winged Kingfisher	<i>Pelargopsis amauroptera</i>	Near Threatened	Eastern Coast
44	Blyth's Kingfisher	<i>Alcedo hercules</i>	Near Threatened	North-east





**Figure 2 :** Population trends in waterbird families in India



**Figure 3 :** Threatened category status in various waterbird families in India

