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ASIAN WATERBIRD CENSUS – INDIA 2016 GUIDANCE AND FORMS

BACKGROUND

The Asian Waterbird Census (AWC) is an international programme that focuses on monitoring the status of waterbirds and wetlands. It also aims to increase public awareness on issues related to wetland and waterbird conservation. The census is carried out each January as a voluntary activity at national and local level. The AWC is co-ordinated by Wetlands International as part of global programme, the “International Waterbird Census”. In India, the AWC is jointly coordinated by the Bombay Natural History Society and Wetlands International; and at the state level by AWC state coordinators (contacts details on <http://bit.ly/1kvV0kP>).

The census has three major objectives:

1. to obtain information on an annual basis of waterbird populations at wetlands in the region during the non-breeding period of most species (January), as a basis for evaluation of sites and monitoring of populations
2. to monitor on an annual basis the status and condition of wetlands
3. to encourage greater interest in waterbirds and wetlands amongst people, and thereby promote the conservation of wetlands and waterbirds in the region.

Data collected for the AWC is being used to provide information on wetlands and waterbirds and to encourage local or national conservation measures for important wetlands. The primary role of Wetlands International in co-ordinating the census is to raise awareness on the importance of waterbirds and wetlands at international level and for this it collates information at regional level. The census is primarily carried out by volunteers from all walks of life: university and school staff and students, nature club members, amateur and professional ornithologists, government and non-governmental agencies and others. Sites covered include rivers, lakes, reservoirs, tanks, swamps, coastal sites, mangrove and mudflats, reefs, sandy beaches, etc. All species of waterbirds associated with wetlands are entered onto standardised count forms.

Further information on the AWC is available on www.wetlands.org/awc

COUNT PROCEDURE AND GUIDELINES

1. Count at the most important waterbird sites (including wetland sanctuaries, Ramsar sites, IBAs and Flyway Network sites). A reference list of internationally important sites covered during the census which can be accessed on the website: <https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/16EqY41A4CSpx7AYIq27RiN2Em5fmuBvNeLD8-zuzWmU/edit?usp=sharing>
2. For each count, kindly complete the two forms accompanying this guidance.
3. The standard AWC Methodology to undertake the counts is downloadable on the AWC website <http://bit.ly/1YWmSfi>
4. Please try to count all waterbirds present. Also, give a count for a single day.
5. Give that figure of each species which you consider the best estimate and avoid giving ranges, e.g. 100-200. Terms such as “hundreds” and “thousands” are not very helpful.
6. If you fail to find any waterbirds at a wetland which is known to have held significant numbers of birds in the past, please complete a census form anyway, and note that no birds were present. If possible, give the reason for the absence of birds (e.g. wetland completely dry, wetland frozen over or site much disturbed by fishermen/hunters).
7. It is very important that you try to visit all the sites that you visited last year, try to use the same name for them and please do not amalgamate several sites which were previously counted separately. Kindly visit the sites visited in previous year(s).
8. Try to avoid duplication of effort. In previous years, we often received two or more census forms from the same site on different dates. Whenever possible, counters should liaise together and agree on ONE census form which gives the results of your combined efforts.
9. Please double-check all your entries on the count forms. In particular check to see that you have not inadvertently inserted a figure on the wrong line, or confused species names.
10. If you experience difficulties with the bird names on the count form, please mention this in the Comments section. Some English and Latin names vary for the same species depending on the guide book used. We have largely adopted the global standard set by BirdLife International (2014).
11. If you see any species of waterbird which is not listed on the count form, please add this in the space provided at the end of the list and give some additional information on its identification in the Comments section; photos may be submitted.
12. Please be sure to give your full name, address and email on the Waterbird Count Form. Otherwise we might not be able to email you a copy of the final Report.
13. Threatened wetlands - if you feel that the wetland at which the count is conducted is under severe threat of destruction or degradation, please inform your State or National Co-ordinator, who can advise on whether action could be taken.
14. Please rename the form for each site and year before submission. For eg. Kanha National Park Jan2016
15. If you have any query in filling the form, kindly mail us at awc@wetlands.org and ibabnhs@gmail.com.

Many thanks for your participation.

Please return the filled forms to your AWC state coordinator and cc awc@wetlands.org and ibabnhs@gmail.com by end of February 2016



ASIAN WATERBIRD CENSUS – INDIA SITE FORM 2016

NAME OF SITE:		DISTRICT:	
NEAREST LARGE TOWN/CITY:		STATE:	
ALTITUDE:	AREA:	DATE:	
COORDINATES	deg min N/S		
	deg min E		
STATUS: (Please circle the relevant figures) 1. National Park 2. Wildlife Sanctuary 3. Bird Sanctuary, 4. Community Reserve, 5. Ramsar Site			
Name of protected area(s): List all appropriate names. For e.g. Keoladeo National Park; Keoladeo Ramsar Site.			
Name of Important Bird Area and Biodiversity Area (IBA): (enter the name of the IBA if known)			

WETLAND TYPE: (Please circle the relevant figures/alphabets)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 0 Open seas, bays, straits | 6 Reservoirs, barrages, tanks |
| 1 Estuaries, tidal mudflats, salt marshes | 7 Gravel pits, mineral workings, mining pools |
| 2 Brackish or saline lakes, lagoons, salt pans | 8 Fish ponds, shrimp ponds |
| 3 Rivers, streams, canals, drains | 9 Grassland, arable land |
| 4 Freshwater marshes, flooded areas | 10 Mangrove, nipah |
| 5 Freshwater lakes, ponds | 11 Freshwater swamp forest, Peat swamp forest |

DESCRIPTION OF SITE: (Please circle the relevant figures/alphabets)

- a. Months of maximum flooding _____
- b. Annual rainfall _____ mm
- c. Source: 0. unknown 1. local rains 2. river/stream 3. sea 4. other _____
- d. Maximum depth of water (in meters) _____
- e. Tidal variation: 1. present 2. absent 0. unknown
- f. Salinity: 1. freshwater 2. brackish 3. saline 4. unknown
- g. Is the site: 1. permanent 2. temporary 0. unknown
- h. Vegetation cover of wetland: 1. none 2. half area 3. complete 4. recently cleared 0. unknown
- i. Vegetation type: 1. growing on bank 2. submerged in water 3. free floating 4. floating-leaved rooted 5. emergent 0. unknown
- k. Fishing: 1. None 2. little 3. moderate 4. large scale 0. unknown
- l. Hunting/trapping/poaching of birds: 1. none 2. little 3. moderate 4. large scale 0. unknown
- m. Agriculture: 1. None 2. little 3. moderate 4. large-scale 0. unknown
- n. Cattle grazing: 1. None 2. little 3. moderate 4. large-scale 0. unrecorded
- o. Are there signs of pollution? If so with what (e.g. foam, coloured water, solid waste) _____

MAP: Outline map of wetland count unit (limit of the area covered by the count) with important geographical features (cities, roads, rivers, hills included). Please enclose a copy of map.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:

PARTICIPANT(S) NAME(S), ADDRESS(ES), TEL. NO(S) AND EMAIL(S):

Please return the filled forms to your AWC state coordinator and cc awc@wetlands.org and ibabnhs@gmail.com by end of February 2016



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**ASIAN WATERBIRD CENSUS – INDIA****COUNT FORM 2016**

NAME OF SITE: _____ DISTRICT: _____

NEAREST LARGE TOWN: _____ STATE: _____

DATE: _____ TIME OF COUNT: START: _____ AM/PM END: _____ AM/PM

ENTER YOUR COUNTS HERE:

Count	GREBES	Count	IBISES & SPOONBILL
	Little Grebe / <i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>		Black-naped Ibis / <i>Pseudibis papillosa</i>
	Red-necked Grebe / <i>Podiceps grisegena</i>		Eurasian Spoonbill / <i>Platalea leucorodia</i>
	Black-necked Grebe / <i>P. nigricollis</i>		Black-headed Ibis / <i>Threskiornis melanocephalus</i>
	Great Crested Grebe / <i>P. cristatus</i>		Glossy Ibis / <i>Plegadis falcinellus</i>
	Unidentified grebes		FLAMINGOS
	PELICANS		Greater Flamingo / <i>Phoenicopterus ruber</i>
	Great White Pelican / <i>Pelecanus onocrotalus</i>		Lesser Flamingo / <i>Phoeniconaias minor</i>
	Dalmatian Pelican / <i>P. crispus</i>		Unidentified flamingos
	Spot-billed Pelican / <i>P. philippensis</i>		GEESE & DUCKS
	Unidentified pelicans		Large Whistling Duck / <i>Dendrocygna bicolor</i>
	CORMORANTS & DARTER		Lesser Whistling Duck / <i>D. javanica</i>
	Great Cormorant / <i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>		Bar-headed Goose / <i>Anser indicus</i>
	Little Cormorant / <i>P. niger</i>		Greylag Goose / <i>A. anser</i>
	Indian Shag / <i>P. fuscicollis</i>		White-fronted Goose / <i>A. albifrons</i>
	Unidentified cormorants		Unidentified geese
	HERONS, EGRETS & BITTERNs		Brahminy (Ruddy) Shelduck / <i>Tadorna ferruginea</i>
	Grey Heron / <i>A. cinerea</i>		Common Shelduck / <i>T. tadorna</i>
	Purple Heron / <i>Ardea purpurea</i>		White-winged Duck / <i>Cairina scutulata</i>
	White-bellied Heron / <i>A. insignis</i>		Cotton Teal / <i>Nettapus coromandelianus</i>
	Goliath Heron / <i>A. goliath</i>		Mallard / <i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>
	Great White Egret / <i>Ardea alba</i>		Northern Pintail / <i>A. acuta</i>
	Median Egret / <i>Mesophoyx intermedia</i>		Common Teal / <i>A. crecca</i>
	Little Egret / <i>Egretta garzetta</i>		Spot-billed Duck / <i>A. poecilorhyncha</i>
	Cattle Egret / <i>Bubulcus ibis</i>		Garganey / <i>A. querquedula</i>
	Western Reef Egret / <i>E. gularis</i>		Marbled Teal / <i>Marmaronetta angustirostris</i>
	Indian Pond Heron / <i>Ardeola grayii</i>		Common Pochard / <i>Aythya ferina</i>
	Brown-crowned Night Heron / <i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>		Ferruginous Pochard / <i>A. nyroca</i>
	Striated Heron / <i>Butorides striatus</i>		Baer's Pochard / <i>A. baeri</i>
	Malayan Night Heron / <i>Gorsachius melanolophus</i>		Tufted Pochard / <i>A. fuligula</i>
	Unidentified herons and egrets		Common Goldeneye / <i>Bucephala clangula</i>
	Eurasian Bittern / <i>Botaurus stellaris</i>		White-headed Duck / <i>Oxyura leucocephala</i>
	Yellow Bittern / <i>Ixobrychus sinensis</i>		Comb Duck / <i>Sarkidiornis melanotos</i>
	Black Bittern / <i>Dupetor flavicollis</i>		Eurasian Wigeon / <i>Mareca penelope</i>
	Cinnamon Bittern / <i>I. cinnamomeus</i>		Gadwall / <i>M. strepera</i>
	Unidentified Bitterns		Falcated Teal / <i>M. falcata</i>
	STORKS		Northern Shoveler / <i>Spatula clypeata</i>
	Painted Stork / <i>Mycteria leucocephala</i>		Red-crested Pochard / <i>Rhodonessa rufina</i>
	Asian Openbill / <i>Anastomus oscitans</i>		Common merganser / <i>Mergus merganser</i>
	Black Stork / <i>Ciconia nigra</i>		Unidentified ducks
	White Stork / <i>C. ciconia</i>		CRANES
	White-necked Stork / <i>C. episcopus</i>		Black-necked Crane / <i>Grus nigricollis</i>
	Oriental Stork / <i>C. boyciana</i>		Siberian Crane / <i>Leucogeranus leucogeranus</i>
	Black-necked Stork / <i>Ephippiorhynchus asiaticus</i>		Common Crane / <i>G. grus</i>
	Lesser Adjutant / <i>Leptoptilos javanicus</i>		Sarus Crane / <i>G. antigone</i>
	Greater Adjutant / <i>L. dubius</i>		Demoiselle Crane / <i>G. virgo</i>
	Unidentified storks		Unidentified cranes



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Count	RAILS, GALLINULES & COOT		Red Phalarope / <i>P. fulvicaria</i>
	Water Rail / <i>Rallus aquaticus</i>		Eurasian Woodcock / <i>Scolopax rusticola</i>
	Slaty-legged Crake / <i>Rallina eurizonoides</i>		Solitary Snipe / <i>Gallinago solitaria</i>
	Ruddy-breasted Crake / <i>P. fusca</i>		Swinhoe's Snipe / <i>G. megala</i>
	Slaty-breasted Rail / <i>Gallirallus striatus</i>		Pintail Snipe / <i>G. stenura</i>
	Baillon's Crake / <i>Porzana pusilla</i>		Common Snipe / <i>G. gallinago</i>
	Brown Crake / <i>Amaurornis akool</i>		Terek Sandpiper / <i>Xenus cinereus</i>
	Watercock / <i>Gallicrex cinerea</i>		Ruddy Turnstone / <i>Arenaria interpres</i>
	Purple Swampfen / <i>Porphyrio porphyrio</i>		Jack Snipe / <i>Lymnocyptes minimus</i>
	White-breasted Waterhen / <i>A phoenicurus</i>		Great Knot / <i>Calidris tenuirostris</i>
	Common Moorhen / <i>Gallinula chloropus</i>		Little Stint / <i>C. minuta</i>
	Common Coot / <i>Fulica atra</i>		Temminck's Stint / <i>C. temminckii</i>
Count	FINFOOT & JACANAS		Long-toed Stint / <i>C. subminuta</i>
	Masked Finfoot / <i>Heliopais personata</i>		Curlew Sandpiper / <i>C. ferruginea</i>
	Bronze-winged Jacana / <i>Metopidius indicus</i>		Sanderling / <i>C. alba</i>
	Pheasant-tailed Jacana / <i>Hydrophasianus chirurgus</i>		Dunlin / <i>C. alpina</i>
Count	SHOREBIRDS - WADERS		Spoonbilled Sandpiper / <i>C. pygmeus</i>
	Greater Painted Snipe / <i>Rostratula benghalensis</i>		Broad-billed Sandpiper / <i>Limicola falcinellus</i>
	Crab Plover / <i>Dromas ardeola</i>		Ruff / <i>Philomachus pugnax</i>
	Ibisbill / <i>Ibidorhyncha struthersii</i>		Unidentified shorebirds
	Avocet / <i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i>	Count	GULLS, TERNS & SKIMMER
	Eurasian Oystercatcher / <i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>		Sooty Gull / <i>Larus hemprichii</i>
	Black-winged Stilt / <i>Himantopus himantopus</i>		Pallas's Gull / <i>L. ichtyaetus</i>
	Great Stone Plover / <i>Esacus recurvirostris</i>		Black-headed Gull / <i>L. ridibundus</i>
	Oriental Pratincole / <i>Glareola maldivarum</i>		Lesser Black-backed (Heuglin's) Gull / <i>L. fuscus heuglini</i>
	Small Pratincole/ <i>G. lactea</i>		Caspian Gull / <i>L. cachinnans</i>
	Collared Pratincole/ <i>G. pratincola</i>		Brown-headed Gull / <i>L. brunnicephalus</i>
	Northern Lapwing / <i>Vanellus vanellus</i>		Slender-billed Gull / <i>L. genei</i>
	Yellow-wattled Lapwing/ <i>V. malabaricus</i>		Unidentified gulls
	White-tailed Lapwing / <i>V. leucurus</i>		Whiskered Tern / <i>Childonias hybridus</i>
	Red-wattled Lapwing / <i>V. indicus</i>		White-winged Black Tern / <i>C. leucopterus</i>
	River Lapwing / <i>V. duvaucelii</i>		Gull-billed Tern / <i>Gelochelidon nilotica</i>
	Sociable Lapwing / <i>V. gregarius</i>		Caspian Tern / <i>Sterna caspia</i>
	Grey-headed Lapwing / <i>V. cinereus</i>		Common Tern / <i>S. hirundo</i>
	Pacific Golden Plover / <i>Pluvialis fulva</i>		Little Tern / <i>S. albigrons</i>
	Grey Plover / <i>P. squatarola</i>		Saunders' Tern / <i>S. saundersii</i>
	Long-billed Plover / <i>Charadrius placidus</i>		Sandwich Tern / <i>S. sandvicensis</i>
	Little Ringed Plover / <i>C. dubius</i>		River Tern / <i>S. aurantia</i>
	Kentish Plover / <i>C. alexandrinus</i>		Great Crested Tern / <i>S. bergii</i>
	Greater Sand Plover / <i>C. leschenaultii</i>		Lesser Crested Tern / <i>S. bengalensis</i>
	Lesser (Mongolian) Plover / <i>C. mongolus</i>		Unidentified terns
	Black-tailed Godwit / <i>Limosa limosa</i>		Indian Skimmer / <i>Rynchops albigollis</i>
	Bar-tailed Godwit / <i>L. lapponica</i>		
	Asiatic Dowitcher / <i>Limnodromus semipalmatus</i>		WETLAND DEPENDENT BIRDS
	Whimbrel / <i>Numenius phaeopus</i>	Count	HAWKS, EAGLES, OSPREY & FALCONS
	Eurasian Curlew / <i>N. arquata</i>		White-bellied Sea-Eagle / <i>Haliaeetus leucogaster</i>
	Spotted Redshank / <i>Tringa erythropus</i>		White-tailed Sea Eagle / <i>H. albicilla</i>
	Marsh Sandpiper / <i>T. stagnatilis</i>		Pallas's Fish-Eagle / <i>H. leucoryphus</i>
	Spotted (Nordmann's) Greenshank / <i>T. guttifer</i>		Lesser Fish-Eagle / <i>Ichthyophaga humilis</i>
	Wood Sandpiper / <i>T. glareola</i>		Greater Fish-Eagle / <i>I. ichthyaetus</i>
	Common Redshank / <i>T. totanus</i>		Western Marsh-Harrier / <i>Circus aeruginosus</i>
	Common Greenshank / <i>T. nebularia</i>		Eastern Marsh-Harrier / <i>C. spilonotus</i>
	Green Sandpiper / <i>T. ochropus</i>		Eastern Imperial Eagle / <i>A. heliaca</i>
	Common Sandpiper / <i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>		Peregrine Falcon / <i>Falco peregrinus</i>
	Red-necked Phalarope / <i>Phalaropus lobatus</i>		Brahminy Kite / <i>Haliastur indus</i>



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	Greater Spotted Eagle / <i>Aquila clanga</i>	Count	SWALLOWS
	Osprey / <i>Pandion haliaetus</i>		Common Swallow / <i>Hirundo rustica</i>
Count	OWLS		Wire-tailed Swallow / <i>H. smithii</i>
	Brown Fish-Owl / <i>Ketupa zeylonensis</i>		Red-rumped Swallow / <i>H. daurica</i>
	Buffy Fish-Owl / <i>K. ketupu</i>	Count	WAGTAILS & PIPITS
	Tawny Fish-Owl / <i>K. flavipes</i>		White Wagtail / <i>Motacilla alba</i>
Count	KINGFISHERS		White-browed Wagtail / <i>M. maderaspatensis</i>
	Blyth's Kingfisher / <i>Alcedo hercules</i>		Yellow Wagtail / <i>M. flava</i>
	Small Blue Kingfisher / <i>A. atthis</i>		Citrine Wagtail / <i>M. citreola</i>
	Blue-eared Kingfisher / <i>A. meninting</i>		Grey Wagtail / <i>M. cinerea</i>
	Stork-billed Kingfisher / <i>Halcyon capensis</i>		Red-throated Pipit / <i>Anthus cervinus</i>
	White-breasted Kingfisher / <i>H. smyrnensis</i>		Water Pipit / <i>A. spinoletta</i>
	Ruddy Kingfisher / <i>H. coromanda</i>	Count	DIPPERS
	Black-capped Kingfisher / <i>H. pileata</i>		White-throated Dipper / <i>Cinclus cinclus</i>
	Brown-winged Kingfisher / <i>H. amauroptera</i>		Brown Dipper / <i>C. pallasii</i>
	Collared Kingfisher / <i>Todiramphus chloris</i>	Count	ADDITIONAL SPECIES OF WATERBIRDS
	Lesser Pied Kingfisher / <i>Ceryle rudis</i>		(include English and Latin name)
	Greater Pied Kingfisher / <i>Megaceryle lugubris</i>		
	Oriental Dwarf Kingfisher / <i>Ceyx erithacus</i>		

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:

VISIT INFORMATION: (Please circle the relevant number/s or alphabet/s)

Disturbance of birds during count: Provides an indication of whether disturbance of the birds may have affected your counts, e.g. were there any fishermen or hunters causing any disturbance.

1. No effect 2. Little effect 3. Moderate effect 4. Strong effect 5. Disturbed (unqualified)

Weather: Provides an indication of negative effects of weather conditions (wind, rain, fog) on counts.

1. No effect 2. Little effect 3. Moderate effect 4. Strong effect

KEY SITE INFORMATION:

Condition Of Wetland: 1 Wet; 2. Totally dry; 3. Totally frozen

Area Coverage: V- 1-25%; W- 25-50%; X- 50-75%; Y- 75-99% Z- 100%

Threats And Uses: 0. Unknown; 1. None; 2. Sedimentation, 3. Excessive growth of vegetation; 4. Cutting/ clearance of vegetation, 5. Eutrophication; 6. Agriculture along drying margins; 7. Cattle grazing; Pollution by: 8.domestic sewage; 9. solid waste A. industrial waste; B. oil; C. pesticides; D. fertilizers; E. Mining; F. Hunting/ trapping/poaching of birds; G. little fishing; H. Large scale fishing; I. Partial reclamation J. Complete reclamation; K. Dam/ barrage construction. L. Tourism/recreation

Many thanks for your participation.

Please return the filled forms to your AWC state coordinator and cc awc@wetlands.org and ibabnhs@gmail.com by end of February 2016