



Willow Warbler

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Why in News

Recently, **Willow Warbler** has been **sighted for the first time in India** at **Vellayani-Punchakkari paddy fields**, Kerala.

These paddy fields are a **birding hotspot on the outskirts of Thiruvananthapuram** and are known to **harbour more than 213 species of birds** that include both resident and migratory ones.



Key Points

- **Scientific Name:** *Phylloscopus trochilus*.
- **Habitat:** They breeds throughout **northern and temperate Europe and the Palearctic**.

Palearctic ecozone is one the Earth's 8 ecozones and covers Asia north of the Himalayas, with parts of western Asia and most of East Asia and Africa north of the Sahara.

- **Migration:** They **migrate to sub-Saharan Africa during early winter**.

- **Features:**
 - It is **one of the longest migrating small birds**.
 - The bird weighs around 10 grams and its **long wing feathers** help it fly long distances.
 - Warblers are generally **difficult to identify owing to the small size and change in plumage twice a year**. They are also the **most difficult groups of birds to identify** in the field for their **striking resemblance to each other**.
- **Threats:** The species is affected by **drought conditions in its wintering quarters** and **habitat alterations** due to human population expansion.
- **IUCN Red List:** Least Concern.

Source: TH