



State of the World's Birds

For Prelims: State of the World's Birds

For Mains: Conservation, Government Policies & Interventions

Why in News?

According to the **new review 'State of the World's Birds', approximately 48% of existing bird species worldwide** are known or suspected to be undergoing population declines.

- State of the World's Birds is an **annual review of environmental resources**.
- Since birds are highly visible and are sensitive indicators of environmental health, **their loss signals a much wider loss of biodiversity** and threat to human health and well-being.

What are the Key Highlights of the Review?

- **About:**
 - **Overall:**
 - The threat has been **attributed to almost half of the 10,994 recognised extant species of birds to the expanding human footprint** on the natural world and [climate change](#).
 - **While 4,295 or 39% of the species** had stable trends, about 7% or 778 species had increasing population trends. The trend of 37 species was unknown.
 - The study **reviewed changes in avian biodiversity** using data from the [International Union for Conservation of Nature's Red List](#) to reveal the changes in fortunes of all the global bird species.
 - **India:**
 - The trend towards **declining bird diversity is just as alarming in India**, where recent annual trends have been calculated for 146 species.
 - Of these, **nearly 80% are declining in numbers, and almost 50% plummeting strongly**.
 - Just over **6% of the species studied show stable populations** and 14% show increasing population trends.
 - **Among the most threatened species** were endemic species, birds of prey, and those living in forests and grasslands.
- **Reasons for the Decline:**
 - **Degradation and loss of natural habitats as well as direct overexploitation** of many species are the key threats to avian biodiversity.
 - The **use of 37% of the surviving bird species as common or exotic pets** and **14% as food** are examples of direct overexploitation.
 - Also, humans eat 14% of the world's surviving species of birds.
 - Apart from [tropical forests](#), the threat of natural grasslands has been particularly worrying for North America, Europe and India.

What are the Recommendations?

- Conducting reliable estimates of population abundance and change.
- Novel and more effective solutions applied at scale for demand reduction for over harvested wild birds.
- Monitoring green energy transitions that can impact birds if inappropriately implemented
- Eradication of populations of invasive alien species.
- Shifting human societies to economically sustainable development pathways.

[Source: TH](#)

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