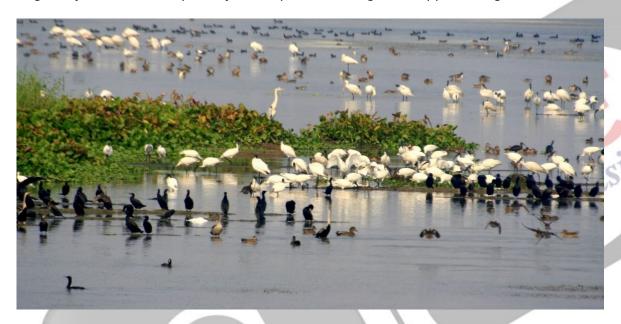


Asian Waterbird Census

Why in News?

A survey conducted as part of the <u>Asian Waterbird Census (AWC)</u> **2023** shows the populations of some migratory waterbirds, especially duck species visiting the Alappuzha region of Kerala, are falling.



What are the Highlights of the Survey?

- Major Missing Species:
 - Duck species like Northern Shoveler, Common teal and Eurasian wigeon, sighted in the previous surveys, were totally missing this time around.
- Climate Change Impact:
 - <u>Climate change</u> has affected the number of birds visiting the region. However, the precise impact of climate change on bird migration requires more detailed studies.

What is the Asian Waterbird Census?

- About:
 - It is a **citizen-science programme** supporting conservation and management of **wetlands** and waterbirds worldwide.
 - AWC is part of the global **International Waterbird Census (IWC)** coordinated by **Wetlands International.**
 - AWC runs in parallel with other regional programmes of the IWC in Africa, Europe, West Asia, the Neotropics and the Caribbean.
- AWC in India:
 - It was initiated in the Indian subcontinent in 1987 and since then has grown rapidly to cover major regions of Asia, from Afghanistan eastwards to Japan, Southeast Asia and Australasia.

- In India, AWC is jointly coordinated by the **Bombay Natural History Society (BNHS)** and **Wetlands International.**
- Significance:
 - It gives an idea of the birds at the wetland and the health of the wetland; the more the waterbirds, the more suitable the wetland is.
 - It helps in **better implementation of the** <u>Convention on Migratory Species (CMS)</u> and the <u>Convention on Biological Diversity's (CBD).</u>

UPSC Civil Services Examination, Previous Year Questions (PYQs)

- Q. With reference to a conservation organization called 'Wetlands International', which of the following statements is/are correct? (2014)
 - 1. It is an intergovernmental organization formed by the countries which are signatories to the Ramsar Convention.
 - 2. It works at the field level to develop and mobilize knowledge and use practical experience to advocate for better policies.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- (a) 1 only
- **(b)** 2 only
- (c) Both 1 and 2
- (d) Neither 1 nor 2

Ans: (b)

Source: TH

PDF Refernece URL: https://www.drishtiias.com/printpdf/asian-waterbird-census-1