



Marbled Duck

Why in News?

Recently, bird enthusiasts were thrilled to spot a **marbled duck**, a rare winter migrant, at [Sultanpur National Park](#). Last recorded sighting of this species in Sultanpur was in 1990.



Key Points

- **Physical Characteristics:**
 - **Medium-sized** duck with **grey-white** plumage.
 - Distinguished by a **large head and light eye patches**.
 - **Feeds on fish and aquatic plants.**
- **Global Conservation Status:**
 - Classified as "**vulnerable**" globally by the [International Union for Conservation of Nature \(IUCN\)](#).
 - Population decline attributed to habitat destruction and hunting.
- **Geographic Range and Habits:**
 - Native to Europe, where it breeds during the summer months.
 - Known to breed in three distinct regions: the [eastern Mediterranean, western Mediterranean, and Iran](#).

- Prefers lowland, shallow freshwater habitats for breeding.
- **Occurrence in India:**
 - Rarely spotted in Delhi-NCR; last recorded at [Bhindawas wetland in 2022](#).
 - Limited sightings in Haryana, with records in Gurgaon during the 2000s.
 - Previous observations include Gujarat and Rajasthan.

Sultanpur National Park

- **About:**
 - Sultanpur National Park is a bird paradise for bird watchers. It is famous for its **migratory as well as resident birds**.
 - Migratory birds start arriving in the park in September. Birds use the park as a resting place till the following March-April.
 - During [summer](#) and [monsoon](#) months the park is inhabited by many local bird species.
 - In April 1971, the [Sultanpur Jheel](#) inside the park (an area of 1.21 sq. Km.) was accorded **Sanctuary status** under section 8 of the **Punjab Wildlife Preservation Act, 1959**.
 - The status of the park was upgraded to [National Park](#) under the [Wildlife \(Protection\) Act, 1972](#) in July 1991.
- **Location:**
 - It is **situated in Gurgaon district of Haryana**. The distance of the park is around 50 Km from Delhi and 15km from Gurgaon.
- **Important Fauna at the Park:**
 - **Mammals:** [Blackbuck](#), [Nilgai](#), Hog deer, Sambar, [Leopard](#) etc.
 - **Birds:** [Siberian Cranes](#), [Greater Flamingo](#), [Demoiselle Crane](#) etc.

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