

Delhi Bird Atlas 2025

Prelims: *Current events of national and international importance*

Why in News?

Recently the Delhi Bird atlas was released.

- **Delhi Bird Atlas** - It is the first systematic effort to map the distribution and abundance of bird species across the National Capital Territory.
- **Prepared by** - The Delhi Forest Department, Bird Count India, WWF-India, and partner organizations.
- **Rank** - The atlas places Delhi second only to Nairobi among the world's national capitals in bird diversity.
- **Reasons for High Bird Diversity** - Attributed to its unique geographical location:
 - Northern edge of the Aravalli Range
 - Proximity to the Western Himalayas
 - Presence of the Yamuna and Sahibi floodplains
 - Strategic location along the Central Asian Flyway (CAF).

Central Asian flyway is a major migratory route connecting the Arctic with the Indian Ocean

Key features of the survey

- Covers 11% of Delhi's area
- Survey initiated in January 2025
- Conducted twice annually (winter and summer)
- Delhi divided into 6.6 km × 6.6 km grids
- 145 subcells randomly selected for sampling
- Data collected through standardized bird checklists uploaded to *eBird*

Key Findings

- Delhi's bird checklist now includes 471 species.
- An additional 22 species have not been re-recorded since 1975.
- During the first year of surveys, 221 species were documented:
 - 200 species in winter
 - 152 species in summer
 - 126 resident species

- 81 winter migrants
- 14 summer migrants
- **Ecological Composition** - Birds were classified according to feeding habits:
 - Invertebrate feeders - **108 species (48.87%)**
 - Plant and seed feeders - **37 species**
 - Omnivores - **34 species**
 - Vertebrate and carrion feeders - **33 species**
 - Fruit and nectar feeders - **9 species**
 - The atlas also recorded **18 endemic species** and several threatened birds, including:
 - **Endangered** - Egyptian Vulture, Black-bellied Tern
 - **Vulnerable** - River Tern, Common Pochard
 - **Near Threatened** - Black-tailed Godwit, Ferruginous Duck, Painted Stork, Black-headed Ibis, Oriental Darter

Reference

[The Indian Express| Delhi Bird Atlas](#)

