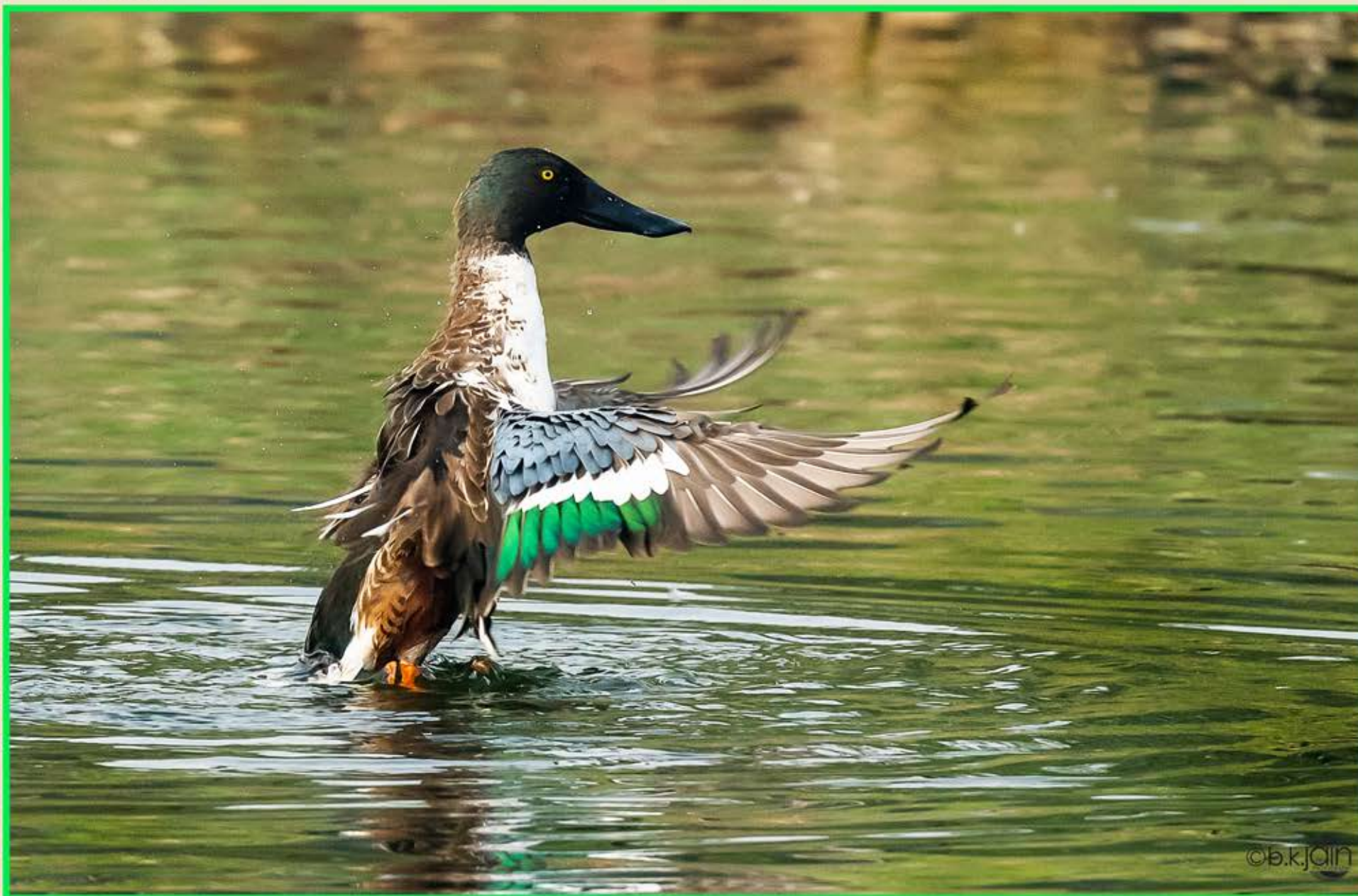




Environment, Forest and Climate Change
Government of Bihar

Drenched in Wonder

A Photo Journal of Asian Waterbird Census
2022 in Bihar



©b.k.jain

JAL-JEEVAN-HARIYALI

Incredible Bihar



**Environment , Forest and Climate Change Department
Govt. of Bihar**

Jal-Jeevan-Hariyali



Drenched in Wonder

A Photo Journal of Asian Waterbird Census 2022 in Bihar



बिहार सरकार

Environment, Forest and Climate Change Department

Copyright -
Environment, Forest & Climate Change Department
Government of Bihar, Patna

Digital Layout Design & Photo Editing -
Bijoy Kumar Jain, Photo Journalist & Artist

Printed -
In Digital Format

Published By -
Environment, Forest & Climate Change Department
Government of Bihar, Patna



Tej Pratap Yadav
Hon'ble Minister
Environment, Forest & Climate Change Department
Government of Bihar



MESSAGE

The State of Bihar is known for its rich heritage and cultural diversity across its wide landscape. This sacred land has disseminated knowledge and bestowed enlightenment to people from across the world. The inherent culture of conservation and inclusiveness of all life forms of the world as one family – the concept of “Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam”, much revered by the people of Bihar, has conserved the wildlife and its biodiversity in the State. The rich and diverse landscape comprises various ecosystems, including the wetlands. Whereas the forests are known to be the lungs of earth, the wetlands are its kidneys. These wetlands are also an important source of livelihood to numerous farming and fishermen community while they serve as a habitat for migratory waterbirds, the biggest markers of Climate Change.

The 1st Asian Waterbird Census (AWC), 2022 in Bihar has been a pioneering effort to document these wetlands and their bird biodiversity. The Environment, Forest and Climate Change Department has focussed its effort in conserving the avian wildlife and their habitats, especially the wetlands that are sensitive to changes.

This photo journal of AWC 2022 in Bihar is a pictorial depiction of our culture that understands the importance of conservation and the values of co-existence. I congratulate the team of our officers for putting enormous efforts in covering these major wetlands of Bihar for AWC, 2022 and documenting the bird diversity therein.

Tej Pratap Yadav
Hon'ble Minister
Environment, Forest & Climate change Department
Government of Bihar



Arvind Kumar Chaudhary, IAS
Principal secretary,
Environment, Forest & Climate Change Department,
Government of Bihar



MESSAGE

The first ever Asian Waterbird Census, 2022, conducted in Bihar by the Department of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, has worked as a catalyst in journey of conservation of wetland habitats and their avifaunal species in Bihar. This organised bird count exercise, spearheaded by the Department, has brought together scientists, nature conservationists, bird enthusiasts, wildlife photographers and students across the State to join hands in counting the birds and estimate their numbers and species diversity in the major wetlands of Bihar. All participants from various walks of life have been driven by the common goal during this exercise – protection of avian species and dissemination of message of its conservation far and wide.

The pictorial record – “Drenched in Wonder” - is a remarkable work by the Department, more so as it contains pictures that were actually taken by the participants of the exercise during the AWC, 2022. This is, no doubt, a memoir of the important wetland habitats and the avifauna inhabiting those wonderful ecosystems. This documentation will go a long way in habitat and species conservation and help us to admire and cherish our wealth and wonders of nature and natural resources.

I appreciate and congratulate the associated officers of our department and the participants of the Asian Waterbird Census, 2022 exercise in Bihar who have been a part of this initiative.

Arvind Kumar Chaudhary,
Principal secretary,
Environment, Forest & Climate Change Department



Ashutosh, IFS
Principal Chief Conservator of Forest (HoFF) Bihar
Environment, Forest & Climate Change Department
Govt. of Bihar



MESSAGE

Drenched in Wonder – A Photo-Journal of Asian Waterbirds Census (AWC), 2022 in Bihar is a commendable work depicting the avifaunal richness and wetland ecosystem diversity of the State of Bihar. The efforts put forth by the team of AWC, Bihar 2022 in documenting the bird species, population and diversity while undertaking a maiden journey of systematic Asian waterbirds census in the State of Bihar has been commendable. It is imperative to mention that the wetlands covered in this census exercise fall in the Central Asian Flyway – a migratory path which is used by the migratory bird species travelling southwards during winter. These wetlands act either as a wintering habitat or as stopover site for numerous migratory bird species during their onward and return journey. This photo-journal has been meticulously prepared by including the photos of major wetlands of Bihar, the local and migratory birds inhabiting these habitats and snippets of various team's field work during the AWC 2022 in Bihar.

I take this opportunity to applaud and convey my appreciation to the officers and staff of Environment, Forest and Climate Change Department who have been part of this pioneering effort to showcase the wilderness and avian species richness of Bihar. I also congratulate the bird experts, bird guides, bird enthusiasts and numerous volunteers who have been instrumental in bringing about this gigantic exercise.

Ashutosh, IFS
Principal Chief Conservator of Forest (HoFF), Bihar



Prabhat Kumar Gupta, IFS
Addl. Principal Chief Conservator of Forest
-cum- Chief Wildlife Warden, Bihar



Forward

Approximately 4% of Bihar's landscape is covered with numerous freshwater wetlands of all forms – Perennial lakes and rivers to seasonal ponds and monsoon inundated fields; large oxbows to the tiniest fishing ponds, - these wetlands are the mainstay of avifaunal life on the Central Asian Flyway as well as other aquatic life-forms. These reservoirs of biodiversity and the ever-growing discovery of their capacity in sustaining various life systems and their role in climate change mitigation and adaptation have become the driving force for the forest department in garnering the strength of volunteers, wildlife enthusiasts, experts from various institutions and organizations across the State of Bihar to join hands and venture into the first ever organised Bihar Asian Water Bird Census operation in early 2022. This scientific expedition has resulted in interesting outcomes and discoveries which would go a long way in understanding and shaping the conservation strategies for these markers of Climate Change.

This book is a pictorial compilation of the nascent beauty of these winged denizens of nature and their habitat captured in camera during this mammoth State-wide exercise. I express my immense pleasure in sharing this visual treat encapsulating the richness of avifaunal diversity and wetland ecosystems of our State. The efforts of Mr. S. Sudhakar, Conservator of Forests, Gaya Circle are praiseworthy who, as the State Nodal Officer for AWC, 2022 and an avid photographer himself, painstakingly collected and arranged the pictures to give this book its present shape.

Prabhat Kumar Gupta, IFS
Addl. Principal Chief Conservator of Forest
-cum- Chief Wildlife Warden, Bihar



S. Sudhakar, IFS.
Conservator of Forests, Gaya circle
and Nodal officer, AWC 2022 Bihar



Acknowledgement

The successful completion of the organised Asian Waterbird Census – 2022 in Bihar and the encouraging results inspired our team to venture into compiling this coffee table book type of photo documentary. This outcome is a combined effort of the entire team of AWC comprising of wholly energetic and enthusiastic participants, who had meticulously walked the remote landscapes and waded the marshes and rivers of Bihar. The winter haze and the wetlands' freezing waters never stopped these camera-devotees from drenching themselves just to get those wonderful flocks in focus. A photo-enthusiast can only dream of a perfectly focused and composed image taken in such a challenging environment. Yet, there are moments when dreams could come true. This photo-journal is a compilation of such dreams, moments of perfection, and team harmony captured in frames. The Asian Waterbird Census 2022 of Bihar state proved to be an opportunity for many amateur bird photographers to express their skills and explore further into the world of birds and bird habitats. The curiosity and interest expressed by them, and the ensuing knowledge gathered all through the exercise ascertains the fact that photography is an effective tool for conservation.

I take this opportunity to express my sincere thanks to Shri. Dipak Kumar Singh IAS, Additional Chief Secretary, Education department, Govt of Bihar. During his tenure of leadership in our department, Sir was a constant source of motivation and assurance for our officers and the AWC team to successfully complete this task. My sincere thanks are due to Shri. Arvind Kumar Chaudhary IAS, Principal Secretary Environment Forests and Climate Change Department, Govt of Bihar for his support and guidance in publishing this photo-journal. I express my sincere thanks to Shri. Ashutosh IFS, PCCF (HoFF) Bihar, whose continuous support, precise guidance and constructive assessments of our work steered our team in the direction of achievement and success. My sincere thanks to Shri. Prabhat Kumar Gupta IFS, APCCF cum Chief Wildlife Warden, Bihar for initiating the AWC exercise in our state. Being a camera enthusiast and Nature photographer, Sir has always been an inspiration for many amateur wildlife photographers. I am greatly thankful and appreciate the involvement and technical support of Dr. Nita Shah, Deputy Director, Bombay Natural History Society, Mumbai and her team of scientists and research scholars at Bird ringing and monitoring centre, Bhagalpur, Bihar. I sincerely thank all the Divisional Forest Officers and their field staff, Team Coordinators, various University and college Professors, Scientists, Student volunteers constituting the AWC 2022 team of Bihar, for their active participation and perpetual interest expressed during the AWC exercise.

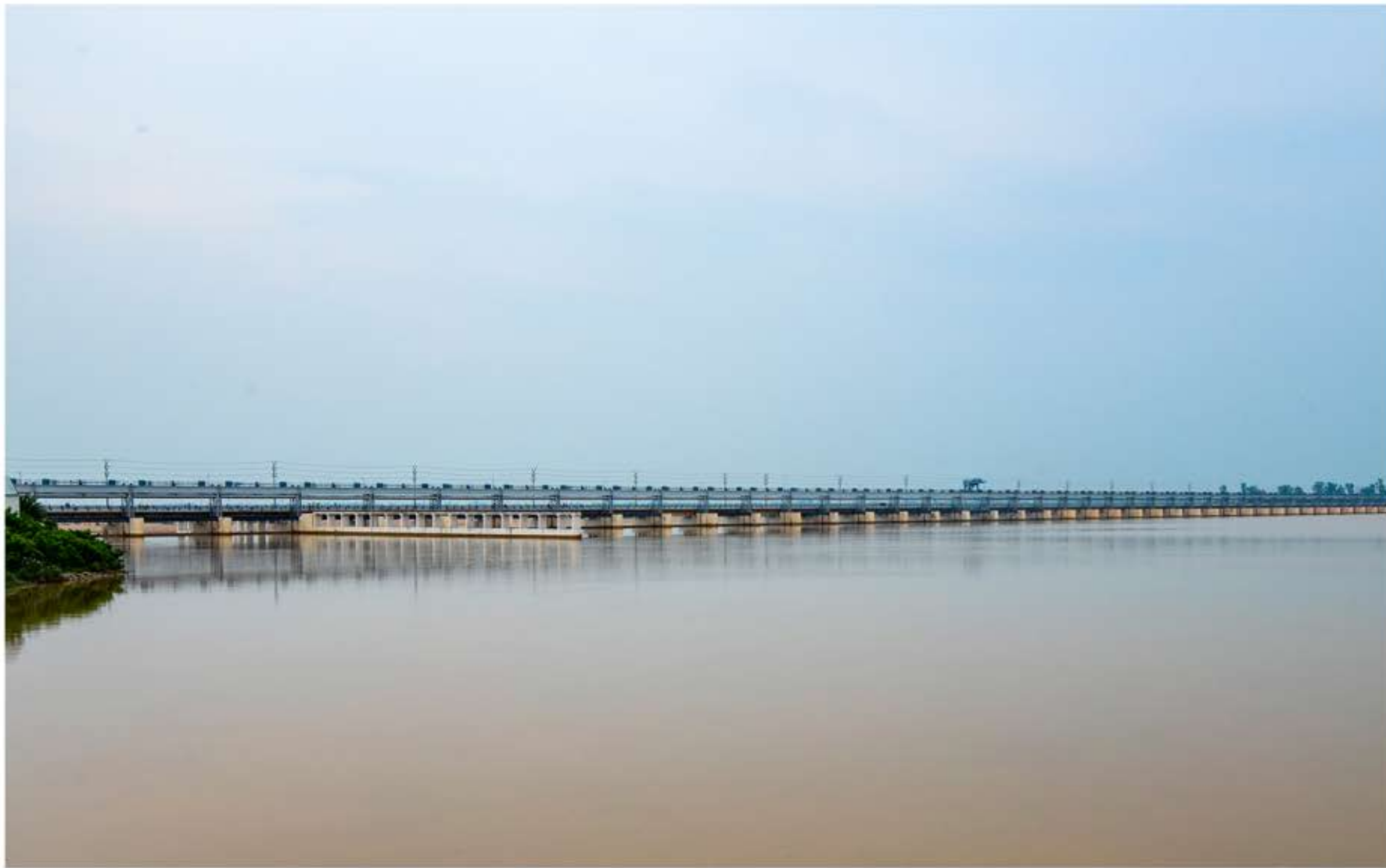
The world seen through a camera lens is a realm of rare wonders. The close-up glimmer of the glossy Ibis plumage, the numerous colours reflected from a mix flock of ducks, the splash-splash of a Great Cormorant taking off, or the splatter of the Little Terns emerging out with their tiny catches in their beak. Nothing else can leave us Drenched in Wonder. I express my thanks and highly appreciate the work of Shri. Bijoy Kumar Jain, Photo-Journalist and Artist, Patna for his commendable work in editing and arrangement of photographs in this Photo-journal that made those pictures come alive.

S. Sudhakar

Conservator of Forests, Gaya circle and Nodal officer, AWC, 2022 Bihar

Drenched in Wonder

INDRAPURI BARRAGE, AURANGABAD



The Sone Barrage at Indrapuri is 1,407 metres (4,616 ft) long and is the fourth longest barrage in the world, commissioned in 1968. The picturesque beauty is complimented by the visit of numerous migratory birds every year. Bar-headed goose, Wagtails, Black winged stilts, Ospreys, Red-crested pochard, Gargeny, White eyed pochard etc are found in large numbers wintering in the submerged area.

Drenched in Wonder

INDRAPURI BARRAGE, AURANGABAD



Blackwinged stilt



Submerged area with reed beds are excellent habitat for migratory and resident water birds and small land birds



White wagtail



Birders involved in AWC



Paddy field Pipit



Flock of Red Crested Pochard

Drenched in Wonder

ODHNI DAM, BANKA



The pristine waters of Odhni dam - a large water body surrounded by the picturesque hills of Banka is a favourite eco-tourism destination for many tourists visiting this place for enjoying boat ride and bird watching.

Drenched in Wonder

ODHNI DAM, BANKA



Asian openbill



Grey heron



Lesser Whistling Ducks



Birders involved in AWC

Drenched in Wonder

ODHNI DAM, BANKA



Large flock of Lesser whistling ducks dominate the water body.

Drenched in Wonder

ODHNI DAM, BANKA



Osprey



Red Crested Pochard



Little ringed plover



Bar-headed goose & Great cormorant

Drenched in Wonder

ODHNI DAM, BANKA



Lesser Whistling Ducks



Mallard



Flock of Little Cormorant



Birders involved in AWC

Drenched in Wonder

KAWAR LAKE , BEGUSARAI



The Kanwar lake wetland of Begusarai district is one of the Asia's largest freshwater oxbow lake, spreading over 2,620 hectares of the Indo-Gangetic plains of Northern Bihar. Owing to its rich bio-diversity, avifaunal population and conservation importance, Kavar lake is declared as Ramsar site (first of its kind in Bihar) by Govt of India in November 2020. This Wetland is an important stopover along the Central Asian Flyway, with 58 migratory waterbirds using it to rest and refuel. More than 220 bird species are recorded here.

Drenched in Wonder

KAWAR LAKE, BEGUSARAI



Barn swallow



Asian Openbill stork



Wood sandpiper



Baillon's crane

Drenched in Wonder

KAWAR LAKE, BEGUSARAI



Barn swallow



Baillon's crane



Pheasant-tailed jacana



Zitting cisticola

Drenched in Wonder

KAWAR LAKE, BEGUSARAI



Barn swallow



Citrine wagtail



Citrine wagtail



Richard's pipit

Drenched in Wonder

PACHAILA , BEGUSARAI



One of the major water body with significant numbers of migratory and resident birds next to Kavar lake complex. Pachaila chaur has been explored for their avifauna diversity and richness.

Drenched in Wonder

PACHAILA , BEGUSARAI



Garganey



Raptor



Great Crested Grebe



Birders involved in AWC

Drenched in Wonder

GANGAPRASAD LAKE , BHAGALPUR



This old course of Ganga river extends upto Tintanga ghat of Naugachia Sub-division in Bhagalpur district is mostly flooded during monsoon. This wetland extending in both govt and private farmlands is an abode to numerous migratory birds.

Drenched in Wonder

GANGAPRASAD LAKE, BHAGALPUR



Brown shrike



Grey heron



Himalayan buzzard



Little cormorant



Birders involved in AWC

Drenched in Wonder

JAGATPUR WETLAND, BHAGALPUR



The Jagatpur wetland is a major wetland in Naugachia sub-division of Bhagalpur district, which is reminiscent of an old course of river Ganga. Being a major wetland habitat supporting many threatened species (Resident and Migratory), such as the Greater Adjutant Stork, Lesser Adjutant, Oriental Darter, Black-necked Stork Black-headed Ibis, Ferruginous Duck, Black-tailed Godwit etc., it is a livelihood of many fishermen of Jagatpur panchayat.

Drenched in Wonder

JAGATPUR WETLAND , BHAGALPUR



Himalayan buzzard



Flock of Common Coot, Tufted duck and Red Crested Pochard



Spotted dove



Birders involved in AWC



Black-necked stork



Northern pintail



Osprey

Drenched in Wonder

JAGATPUR WETLAND, BHAGALPUR



Mix flock of Common coot, Common pochard and Northern pintail

Drenched in Wonder

VIKRAMSHILA GANGETIC DOLPHIN SANCTUARY, BHAGALPUR



The 60 Km stretch of river Ganga from Sultanganj (Ajgaibinath mandir) to Bateshwarstan in Kahelgaon has been declared as sanctuary in the year 1991. Apart from being a prime habitat for the endangered National aquatic animal - the Gangetic Dolphin, this river wetland is a home to numerous resident birds and migratory birds visiting for wintering or stopover during their onward or return journey. This is also a favourite foraging habitat for the resident birds such as Greater Adjutants, Lesser Adjutants, Black necked, Woolly necked Storks etc.

Drenched in Wonder

VIKRAMSHILA GANGETIC DOLPHIN SANCTUARY, BHAGALPUR



Great Crested Grebe



Greater Adjutant



Osprey



Woolly-necked stork



Ruddy shelduck



Pied Avocet

Drenched in Wonder

VIKRAMSHILA GANGETIC DOLPHIN SANCTUARY, BHAGALPUR



Nesting of numerous Bank Myna in the sandbanks of river Ganga in VGDS

Drenched in Wonder

VIKRAMSHILA GANGETIC DOLPHIN SANCTUARY, BHAGALPUR



Openbill stork with Red Naped Ibis



Mix flock of Ducks



Long-legged buzzard



Birders involved in AWC



Red-naped & White Ibis with Eurasian Curlew & Openbills



Small Pratincole



Bar-headed goose

Drenched in Wonder

GOKUL JALASHAY, BUXAR



This oxbow lake of 448 Hectares, is an old course of Ganga encompassed between Ganga river in the north and Dharmawati river in the south. This wetland complex is an important source of freshwater and flood buffer for the 56 villages surrounding the complex. The mosaic of habitats within the wetland complex sustains at least 186 plant and 134 animal species.

Drenched in Wonder

GOKUL JALASHAY, BUXAR



Plain prinia



Eastern orphen warbler



Reed warbler



Black redstart



White breasted flycatcher



Plain prinia



Grey hornbill



White throated kingfisher



Green sandpiper

Drenched in Wonder

GOKUL JALASHAY, BUXAR



Brown shrike

Drenched in Wonder

CHILROAN LAKE , EAST CHAMPARAN



Situated in the Turkaulia Block of East Champaran district, Chilraon Lake is a natural, perennial & ox-bow lake, having an area of 40 Ha. The lake is connected with Dhanauti river a tributary of Sikrahana or Burhi Gandak. The water of this lake is used widely for irrigation and pisciculture purposes. During Chhath festival, thousands of villagers living in its periphery gather around the lake and worship, thus depicting the religious and cultural aspects of this lake. This lake supports several resident and migratory avian species.

Drenched in Wonder

CHILROAN LAKE, EAST CHAMPARN



Great cormorant



Grey heron



Birders involved in AWC

Drenched in Wonder

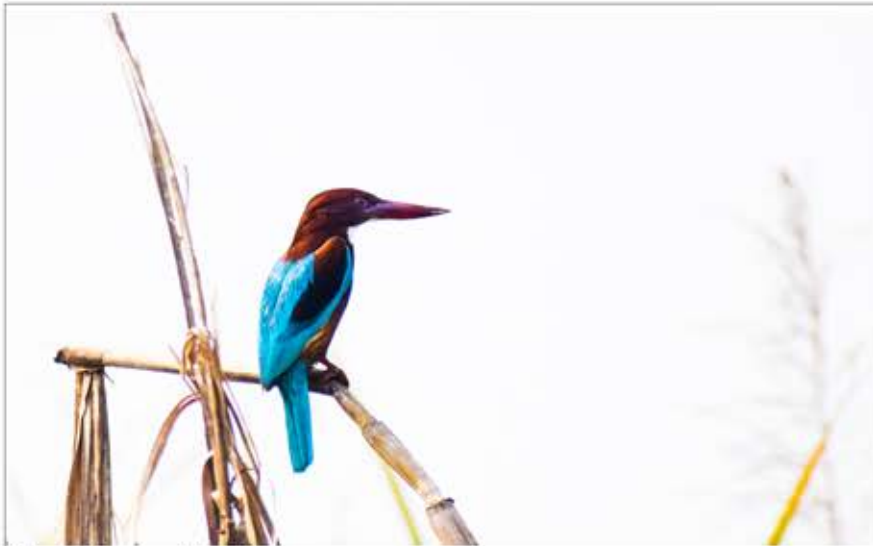
CHILROAN LAKE, EAST CHAMPARAN



Lesser Whistling ducks



Osprey



White throated kingfisher



Yellow -footed green pigeon

Drenched in Wonder

SAROTAR LAKE , EAST CHAMPARAN



Sarotar lake/khetar is one of the largest abode of migratory birds in the Gandak catchment area in the East Champaran district of Bihar. It is a natural & perennial freshwater lake having an area of 800 ha situated in the Kesaria block under Dumaria Ghat PS. This lake sustains several species of birds such as Little Grebe, Grey Heron, Purple Heron, Asian Openbill Stork, Lesser Whistling Duck, Northern Pintail, Ferruginous Duck, Red-crested Pochard, Bronze-winged Jacana, Pheasant-tailed Jacana, Common Moorhen, Common Sandpiper, Common Snipe, Wood Sandpiper etc. This lake is a prime source of fishes in East Champaran and adjoining Gopalganj district, providing livelihood to thousands of fishermen of this region.

Drenched in Wonder

SAROTAR LAKE, EAST CHAMPARAN



Fishing and transport boats in Sarotar lake



Village visit and interaction with local people by AWC Team



Birders involved in AWC

Drenched in Wonder

BARANDIH , GAYA



A small storage water body of about 60 Ha submerged area is located in the eco sensitive zone of Gautam Buddha Wildlife Sanctuary, Barachatti, Gaya. The water is mainly used for irrigation by the local villagers. This wetland is a safe haven to numerous resident birds like Little cormorants, Lesser whistling ducks, Openbills etc and migratory birds like Green shank, Common sandpiper, Little ringed plovers etc.,

Drenched in Wonder

BARANDIH , GAYA



Lesser Whistling ducks



Barandih wetland surrounded by the verdent forests of the eco sensitive zone of Gautam Buddha Wildlife Sanctuary, Gaya

Drenched in Wonder

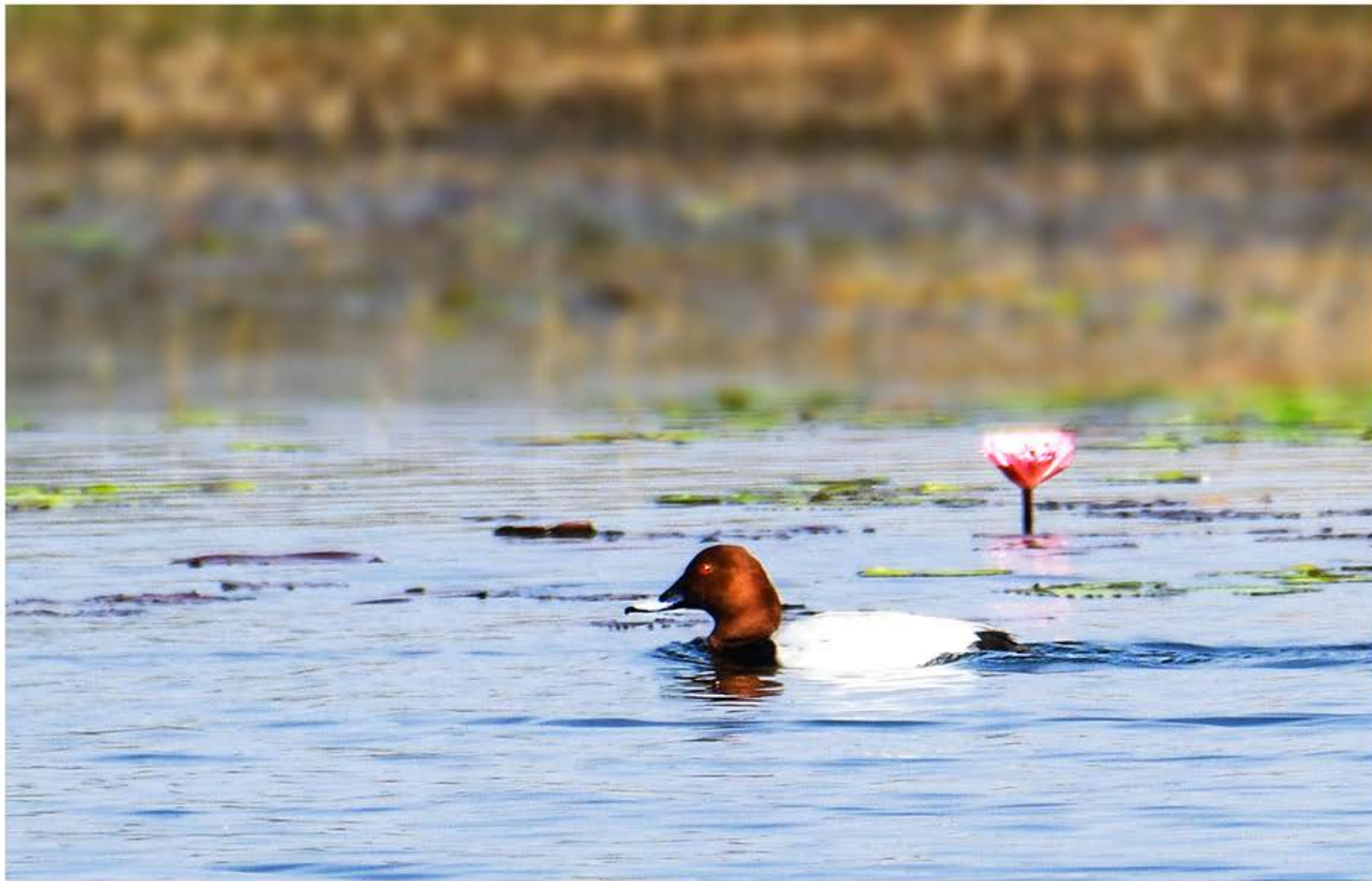
BARWADIH , GAYA



This storage water body in the eco sensitive zone of Gautam Buddha Wildlife Sanctuary is a main source of irrigation to the adjoining villages. This wetland adjacent to the protected area is frequented by numerous migratory waders, ducks and raptors.

Drenched in Wonder

BELATANR , JAMUI



One of the picturesque wetlands of Jamui district, this storage water body is a favourite wintering spot for numerous migratory birds like Common pochards (in photo) and other numerous ducks and waders.

Drenched in Wonder

BELATANR , JAMUI



Little Grebe



Cotton pigmy goose



Shikra



Shikra

Drenched in Wonder

DEVANAHAR , JAMUI



Black redstart



Devanahar water storage pond is a picturesque spot for bird enthusiasts and photographers in Jamui district, which is known for the numerous ducks and waders visiting during winter migratory season. This could be attributed to the ample aquatic vegetation present in the water body that are preferred by the birds.

Drenched in Wonder

GARHI DAM , JAMUI



One of the favourite tourist attraction in Jamui district. Garhi dam is a picturesque landscape known for its pristine environment and numerous birds, attracting bird watchers and nature lovers.

Drenched in Wonder

GARHI DAM , JAMUI



Flock of Red-crested pochard

Drenched in Wonder

GARHI DAM , JAMUI



Rose ringed Parakeet



Yellow-throated sparrow



Little green-bee eater



Mix flock of Common pochard, Gadwall and Red crested pochard

Drenched in Wonder

GARHI DAM , JAMUI



Natural stone Painting



Mergansers



Flock of Red crested pochard



Flock of Common coot

Drenched in Wonder

NAGI BIRD SANCTUARY, JAMUI



Nagi Bird Sanctuary is a 200 Hectare protected area wetland, declared as sanctuary in the year 1984. The wetland formed as a result of construction of Nagi dam, is a prime location for migratory birds in the winter season from October to April. About 3% of the global population of Bar-headed Goose (shown in the photo above) are found in Nagi bird sanctuary.

Drenched in Wonder

NAGI BIRD SANCTUARY, JAMUI



Ashy crowned sparrow



White-browed wagtail



Black stork



Kentish plover



Small pratincole



Green sandpiper



Red-crested pochard

Drenched in Wonder

NAGI BIRD SANCTUARY, JAMUI



Common pochard



Yellow-wattled lapwing



Temminck's stint



Small Pratincole

Drenched in Wonder

NAGI BIRD SANCTUARY, JAMUI



Common Greenshank



Kentish Plover

Drenched in Wonder

NAKTI BIRD SANCTUARY, JAMUI



Oriental white ibis



Bar-headed goose



Long-legged buzzard



flock of Common coot & Red crested Pochard



Indian Fox



Bar-headed Goose



Indian Fox



Oriental white ibis



Long-legged buzzard

Nakti bird sanctuary is a protected area wetland, declared as Sanctuary in the year 1984. The wetland is formed as a result of construction of Nakti dam. Many thousands of migratory birds visit this place during winter. The adjoining forest area is home to numerous ground birds and mammals.

Drenched in Wonder

PAILBHAJAN , JAMUI



Red-crested pochard



Siberian Stonechat



Siberian Stonechat



Lesser whistling duck

Pailbhan water storage pond is a location of picturesque beauty visited by numerous migratory ducks and waders during winter migratory season. The adjoining vegetation and grass lands are home to many ground birds and small passerines both resident and migratory.

Drenched in Wonder

DARAULI , KAIMUR



Spotted dove



Taiga flycatcher



Bronze winged Jacana with juveniles

This wetland complex consisting of several ponds, is located in Kaimur district with a total area of about 100 Ha. This wetland supports local agriculture and every year visited by numerous migratory birds.



Blackbuck

Drenched in Wonder

UDAYPUR JHEEL , WEST CHAMPARAN



UdaypurJheel is an Oxbow lake in the floodplains of Gandak river, and a predominant part of Udaypur Wildlife Sanctuary located in West Champaran district. It is home to a variety of water birds, both resident and migratory.

Drenched in Wonder

UDAYPUR JHEEL , WEST CHAMPARAN



Darter & Little cormorant



Grey Lapwing



Pond heron



Little Cormorant with fish catch



Osprey



Great cormorant



Little cormorant



Osprey



Asian brown flycatcher

Drenched in Wonder

BAGERBILL, KATI HAR



Egret family & Glossy ibis



Indian silverbill



Indian silverbill



Khasi hills bent-toed gecko



Paddyfield pipit



Indian silverbill



Common kestrel

Bagerbill is one of the part of wetland complexes found in the northern bank of river Ganga in Katihar district. These reminiscences of old river courses has formed an excellent habitat for migratory birds with their large water body, shallow marshy banks with reed beds.

Drenched in Wonder

GOGABILL, KATI HAR



Gogabil is one of the largest wetlands of Bihar located in Katihar district which has been declared the state's 1st Conservation reserve and Community reserve by Environment Forest and Climate Change Department, Govt of Bihar in August 2019. It is an oxbow lake falling in the Central Asian Flyway, with rich aquatic flora and fauna, attracting numerous migratory birds during winter.

Drenched in Wonder

GOGABILL , KATI HAR



Birders involved in AWC



Flock of Openbill stork



Osprey



Flock of Egrets & Grey heron



Large flock of Ducks in flight



Flock flight of Northern lapwing

Drenched in Wonder

GOGABILL, KATIHAR



Long-legged buzzard



Long legged buzzard



View of Goga bill lake and the adjoining agricultural landscape



Northern lapwing

Drenched in Wonder

CHAPANIYA LAKE , MADHUBANI



Birders involved in AWC

Drenched in Wonder

KHARAGPUR LAKE , MUNGER



Located in the heart of Bhimbandh Wildlife Sanctuary, Munger, Kharagpur lake is a large man-made storage structure constructed in the Kharagpur hills. This lake and the adjacent hot water springs of Bhimbandh are favourite tourists destination during winter. One can spot resident birds like Openbills, little cormorants and Black kites in the water body.

Drenched in Wonder

KHARAGPUR LAKE , MUNGER



Birders involved in AWC



Indian Robin



Indian Robin



Indian Robin



White-breasted waterhen

Drenched in Wonder

BRAHAMPUR LAKE , MUZAFFARPUR



Bronzed drongo



Black kite



Birders involved in AWC

Brahampur lake, also known as Sikqandarpur maun, is situated in Muzaffarpur district. It is a natural, perennial, L-Shaped lake with an area of about 76 Hectare. This lake is connected with Sikrahana or Burhi Gandak river through a channel.

Drenched in Wonder

GANDAK RIVER, VALMIKI TIGER RESERVE, WEST CHAMPARAN



The Gandak river stretch of West Champaran bordering Nepal is one of the hotspots for wildlife including birds population. The Birders of AWC Team (shown in photo) surveyed the river stretch which includes part of Valmiki Tiger Reserve.

Drenched in Wonder

GANDAK RIVER, WEST CHAMPARAN



Drenched in Wonder

NARSAN CHAUR, MUZAFFARPUR



Narsaun Chaur is situated in Saraiya block of Muzaffarpur district at a distance of 49 km from Motipur (Muzaffarpur). (Geo-coordinates- 26.04149°N and 85.24407°E). This wetland is primarily used for pisciculture, and remains inundated during June to October (i.e., monsoon season). Tobacco, mustard, wheat, rice etc. are mainly cultivated in surrounding villages of this lake.

Drenched in Wonder

JAB DAM , NAWADA



Jab Dam located in the district of Nawada is a water storage dam which is the main source of irrigation. The water and the adjoining forest area are home to numerous resident water birds like Openbills, Egrets and Cormorants.

Drenched in Wonder

PHULWARIA DAM , RAJAULI, NAWADA



Phulwaria/ Hardiya Dam is a large water storage structure surrounded by the pristine beauty of Deciduous forests of Nawada. The wetland is a favourite wintering site for numerous migratory birds like Red crested pochard, Tufted ducks, Garganey, Falcated duck etc. The shore lines are often spotted with numerous waders like Greenshanks, Spotted redshanks, Little ringed plovers etc. The adjoining agricultural landscape is inhabited by various ground and small birds.

Drenched in Wonder

PHULWARIA DAM , RAJAULI, NAWADA



Flock of Bar-headed goose



Northern pintail



Great cormorant



Yellow-footed green pigeon

Drenched in Wonder

PHULWARIA DAM , RAJAULI, NAWADA



Pristine beauty of the wetland and forest



Red-wattled Lapwing



Coppersmith Barbet

Drenched in Wonder

JALLA HANUMAN MANDIR , BEGAMPUR , PATNA CITY



Little cormorant



Little cormorant



Birders involved in AWC

Drenched in Wonder

DEOKHAL CHAUR, SAMASTIPUR



Deokhal chaur is one of the important wetlands of Samastipur district inhabited by resident and migratory birds like Little cormorant, Egrets and Herons

Drenched in Wonder

DEOKHAL CHAUR, SAMASTIPUR



Blyth's Reed-Warbler



Black crowned Night heron



Little Egret



Pond heron with a catch

Drenched in Wonder

KOSHI CATCHMENT AREA, SUPAUL



The AWC Team has successfully surveyed the Kosi catchment area of Supaul district, which is an important habitat of Gangetic Dolphins as well as migratory birds.

Drenched in Wonder

DARWABARI WETLAND , WEST CHAMPARAN



Asian openbill



Sarus crane with Juvenile

Drenched in Wonder

DARWABARI WETLAND , WEST CHAMPARAN



Egrets



Pied harrier



Sarus crane



Red-whiskered bulbul

This wetland is situated in Bagha block of West Champaran district with an area about 40 acres, is a home to more than 100 species of birds. The marshy habitat surrounded by agricultural fields provides a favourable wintering and staging ground for resident birds such as Sarus crane in Bihar. Greater One Horned Rhinoceros, Nilghai along with lesser carnivores can be frequently encountered. In January 2023, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Bihar Shri Nitish Kumar started his "Samadhan Yatra" from Darwabari village. This wetland is frequently visited by many tourists and bird enthusiasts visiting Valmiki Tiger Reserve.

Drenched in Wonder

PURAINIYA CHAUR, VAISHALI



Birders of AWC in Vaishali district surveyed one of the major wetland - Purainiya chaur, which is one of the important habitat of resident and migratory birds.

Drenched in Wonder

RAJDHANI JALASHAY, OLD SECRETARIAT, PATNA



Located in the heart of Patna city and surrounded by verdant environment, this pond is a home to many resident and winter migratory birds. It is often visited by bird enthusiasts and students for bird watching. Resident birds like Lesser whistling ducks, Cormorants, Asian Openbills, and Migratory birds like Little grebe, Garganey, Knob billed duck, Red crested pochard, Baikal teal etc., are sighted in large numbers.

Drenched in Wonder

RAJDHANI JALASHAY, OLD SECRETARIAT, PATNA



Common moorhen



Water snake



Little grebe



Lesser Whistling ducks

Courtesy : B.K.Jain

Drenched in Wonder

JAL MANDIR , PAWAPURI , NALANDA



Bronze-winged jacana with chick at pond



Mating of Bronze-winged jacana at pond



Common moorhen



Chick of bronze-winged jacana at pond

It is a major pilgrimage destination of Jains and the temple is dedicated to Mahavira, the 24th Tirthankara, which marks the place of his cremation. The water surrounding the temple is a home to numerous birds like Lesser whistling teal, Bronze winged Jacana (shown in photos), Purple moorhen, White breasted waterhen, Little egrets etc.,

Courtesy : B.K.Jain

Drenched in Wonder

DURGAWATI DAM , ROHTAS



Durgawati reservoir, also known as Karamchat dam is a large water storage dam in Rohtas - Kaimur districts. This wetland surrounded by hills and forests forms a beautiful landscape inhabited by various fauna including resident and migratory birds.

Drenched in Wonder

DURGAWATI DAM & KARKATGARH FOREST , ROHTAS & KAIMUR



Laughing dove



Grey francolin



Black drongo



Large cuckoo shrike



Black-shouldered kite



Baya-weaver at nest



Painted spur-fowl



Green bee-eater with sindh-sparrow



White-throated kingfisher

Courtesy : B.K.Jain

Drenched in Wonder

A Photo Journal of Asian Waterbird Census 2022 in Bihar

We express our sincere thanks and gratitude to the following AWC Team members and photographers who had spent their valuable time in the field during the Asian Waterbird Census 2022 and decorated this photo-journal with their wonderful images.

- | | |
|--------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. Dr. Niraj Kumar | 11. Mr. Bharat Chintapalli |
| 2. Dr. Kushagra Rajendra | 12. Dr. D.N. Choudhary |
| 3. Mr. Gyanendra Gyani | 13. Suman Kumar Sum |
| 4. Dr. Gopal Sharma | 14. Mr. Rahul Rohitashwa |
| 5. Mr. Navin Kumar | 15. Mr. Arvind Mishra |
| 6. Dr. Kamlesh K. Maurya | 16. Amir Rizwan Khan |
| 7. Dr. Satyendra Kumar | 17. Suman Sachin Patteker |
| 8. Mr. Bijoy Kumar Jain | 18. Rahul Srivastava |
| 9. Mr. S. Sudhakar | 19. Subham Kumar |
| 10. Col. Amit Sinha | 20. Deepak Kumar |



Drenched in Wonder
A Photo Journal of Asian Waterbird Census
2022 in Bihar



Environment, Forest and Climate Change Department
Government of Bihar