Asian Waterbird

Census 2026

February 27, 2026
In the Wetlands of Kashmir



Wetlands Division Kashmir,
Department of Wildlife Protection, Jammu & Kashmir



Citation in the scientific literature:

Asian Waterbird Census (AWC) 2026 in the Wetlands of Kashmir Valley:

A Comprehensive Report by the Department of Wildlife Protection, Government of Jammu & Kashmir

Wildlife Warden Wetlands Division, Kashmir



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Executive Summary

The annual Asian Waterbird Census (AWC 2026) was conducted by the Wetlands Division Kashmir on 27th February 2026, covering 26 wetlands/waterbodies across the Kashmir Valley in a systematic and scientific manner. The count was conducted simultaneously in all major as well as lesser-known wetlands of the Valley, including Hokersar, Shallabugh, Hygam, Mirgund, Wular Lake, Badinambal, Narkara/Nigeen Lake and associated wetlands, Anchar Lake, Dal Lake, and the Pampore wetlands viz., Manibugh, Kranchoo, Chattalum and Fashkhoori. A total of 176 volunteers, including NGOs, bird lovers, birdwatchers, students from Kashmir University, Central University and SKUAST-K, participated in the event along with the staff of Wetlands Division and North Division.

A total of 1,457,790 birds belonging to 104 species were recorded across all surveyed wetlands. Hygam Wetland Reserve contributed 25.86% of the total bird count, followed by Wular Lake (24.21%), Hokersar Wetland (23.51%) and Shallabugh Wetland Reserve (17.54%).

Mallard (Anas platyrhynchos), with 364,163 individuals (25.00% of the total bird count), was the most abundant species, followed by Common Teal/Eurasian Teal (Anas crecca), with 238,211 individuals (16.34% of the total bird count), and Northern Pintail (Anas acuta), with 195,939 individuals (13.44%).

The seven dominant bird species, namely Mallard (Anas platyrhynchos), Eurasian Teal/Common Teal (Anas crecca), Northern Pintail (Anas acuta), Eurasian Coot (Fulica atra), Gadwall (Mareca strepera), Eurasian Wigeon (Mareca penelope) and Northern Shoveler (Spatula clypeata), constituted 80.49% of the total birds counted during AWC 2026.

Altaf Hussain
Wildlife Warden Wetlands Division Kashmir



Introduction

The Asian Waterbird Census (AWC) is part of the global waterbird monitoring programme, initiated in 1987 in the Indian subcontinent and coordinated by Wetlands International (South Asia). The AWC monitors the status of waterbirds and wetlands and helps increase public awareness on issues related to wetland and waterbird conservation. The census is carried out each January as a voluntary activity at national and local levels. It covers the entire East Asian-Australasian Flyway and a large part of the Central Asian Flyway. AWC runs parallel to other regional programmes of the International Waterbird Census in Africa, Europe, West Asia, the Neotropics and the Caribbean region. Information and data generated through AWC contribute to the identification and monitoring of wetlands of national and international importance. The data also assist decision-makers in designating wetlands under the Convention on Wetlands (Ramsar, Iran, 1971), protecting threatened species, improving knowledge of lesser-known waterbird species and assessing wetland values.

The year 2015 marked the beginning of organized and streamlined AWC implementation in the wetlands of Kashmir, following International Waterbird Census (IWC) guidelines under the auspices of the Department of Wildlife Protection, Government of Jammu & Kashmir. Although the Department had also conducted annual waterbird censuses in earlier years, those counts were localized and mainly focused on a few major wetlands of the Valley. Since 2015, the programme has been conducted regularly as per AWC norms and guidelines. This year, all major and associated wetlands were included in the census programme. AWC 2026 was conducted in the wetlands of Kashmir Valley in a systematic and scientific manner as per IWC protocols and guidelines. An orientation programme to familiarize participants with the census procedure and methodology was organized at the auditorium of the Jammu and Kashmir Institute of Management and Public Administration (IMPA) on 26th February

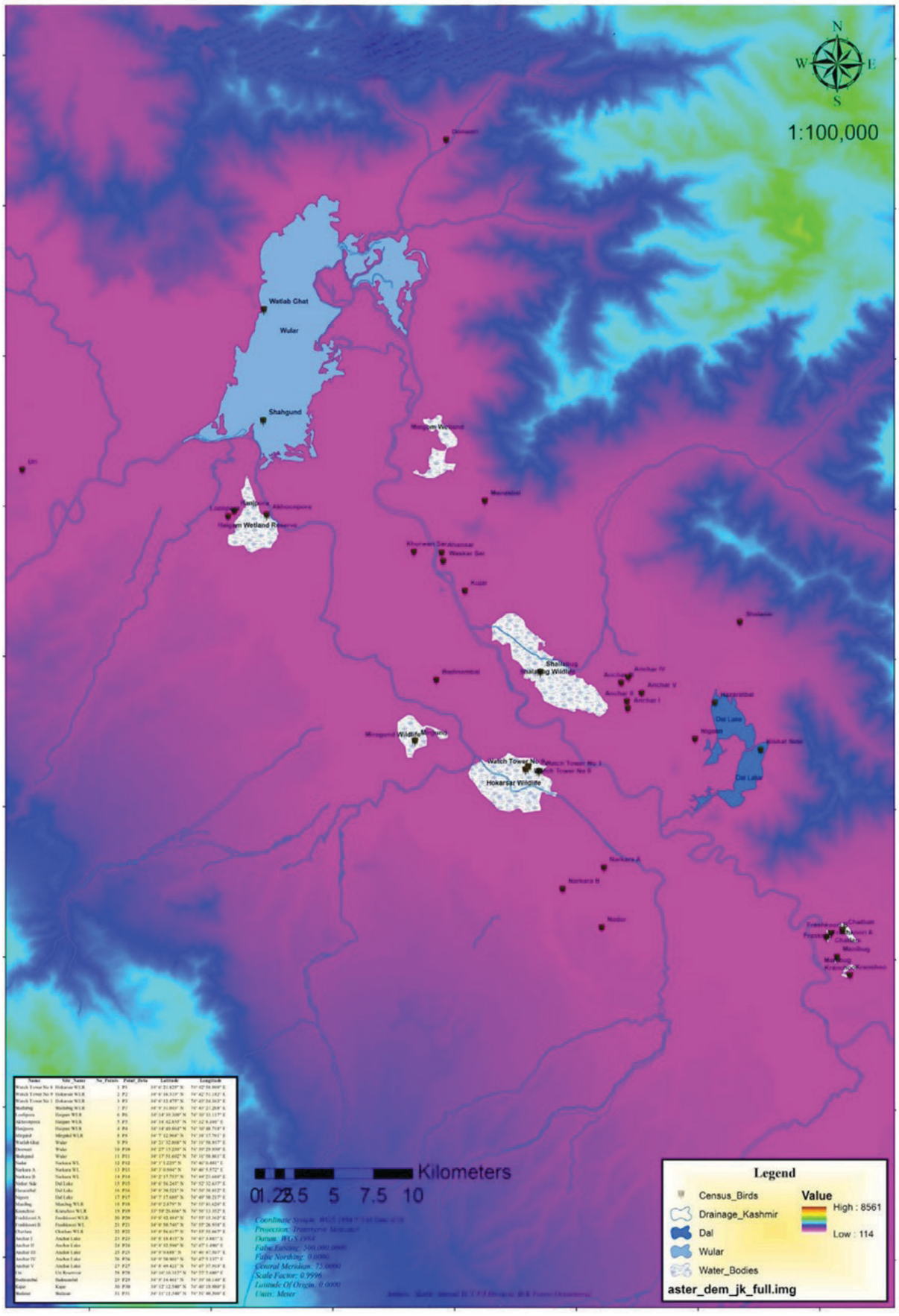


2026, with resource persons from Kashmir University and SKUAST-K present during the event.

METHODOLOGY

During the census, each wetland site was surveyed from vantage points. The number of points for each site depended on the area of the wetland and was decided in consultation with the frontline staff posted in the respective area. Larger wetlands were assigned more points than smaller wetlands; accordingly, Hokersar Wetland (7 points) and Wular Lake (10 points) had more census points than Manibugh (1 point) and Kranchoo (1 point), which have comparatively smaller areas. Altogether, 57 points were covered. At each point, a team of at least two observers - a birdwatcher who had undergone the orientation programme and a frontline staff member of the Department - counted all visible birds. The data collected were entered into the prescribed AWC forms at the counting points. The census was conducted on 27th February 2026.

Each census team was provided with at least one binocular (8x40/10x50) and a data sheet. The data were subsequently compiled systematically and analyzed to determine species abundance and species distribution.


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List of wetlands surveyed for Asian Waterbird Census 2026

S No	Name of Wetland	Census Point	Location	Geo Coordinates	Persons Deputed
1	Hokersar WLR	Point 1	Watch Tower No 1		Sajad Ah Wani Saniya Zehra, Marifat, Sajid Nyla Mam, Fumeena
1	Hokersar WLR	Point 2	Gaer Doab		Gh Mohiuddin, Dawood Yousaf, Shahid Majeed, Hilal Ah)
1	Hokersar WLR	Point 3	Flood channel No.2/3		Bilal Ahmad Sheikh (Aqib Rasheed, Farooq Ah, Amina Altaf
1	Hokersar WLR	Point 4	Goripora Sozeith		Mehraj ud din Dar Ubaid Rasool, Yaseen Sofi, Mufeeq, Gh Mohidin
1	Hokersar WLR	Point 5	Watch Tower 9		Bashir Ahmasd Dar, Qifayat, Faizan Zuhaib, Reyan)
1	Hokersar WLR	Point 6	Watch Tower 8		Sher Ali Parray, Insha Rasheed, Iram Jhangir, Bhat Aqib
1	Hokersar WLR	Point 7	New Watch Tower (Near Zizag)		Gh. Mohiuddin Bhat, Faizan, Ishfaq, aaqib
2	Hygam WLR	Point 1	Akhoonpora		Basharat Ahmad War, Abiza, Tanab Mehraj, Hurmat Ali)
2	Hygam WLR	Point 2	Sekhan		Fayaz Ahmad Dar,Taniya Wani, Furkan Hussain, Atoofa, Zufaiz)
2	Hygam WLR	Point 3	Renji		Aafaq Ahmad Sofi, Veeniqa, Tahleel Dr Mehreen
2	Hygam WLR	Point 4	Hanjipora		Farooq Ahmad Dar, Dr. Mehreen & KB
3	Shallabugh WLR	Point 1	Watchtower No.1		Ajaz Ahmad, Muneeza, Abroo, Ayneb, Amir
		Point 2	Ring bund near veer nallah		Khursheed Ahmad Dar, Uzair, Yasir, Tufeed Ah, Showkat Ah
		Point 3	Budgoal		Ashiq Ahamad Wani,Younis Ah, Mohd Ashraf, Mohd Iqbal, Tariq Ah
		Point 4	Tipen Shed		Mushtaq Ahmad, Bilal Ah, Imtiyaz Ah
		Point 5	Bhut No.2		Mehraj Ud din Ganiae, Saima Bashir, Mehjoor Altaf
4	Mirgund WLR	Point 1	Point A		Ab Rehman Reshi, Fajar Shah, Areeba Javid, Tareiya
4		Point 2	Point B		Manzoor Hussain Malik,Hamad
5	Chattalum WLR	Point 1	Chattalum 1		John Mohd Mir Iahikh, Aiman, Humaria, Sehrish
5	Chattalum WLR	Point 2	Chattalum 2		Tariq Ahmad Dar, Shahista, Aaterrah, Aatrea, Youha)
6	Kranchoo WLR	Point 1	Kranchoo WLR		Gulzar Ahmad Rather, Mehvish,Anista, Farhat
7	Manibugh WLR	Point 1	Manibugh WLR		John Mohd Mir, Araqam, Sheezan, Abida, Ayat
8	Freshkroori WLR	Point 1	Freshkroori 1		Ab Salam Shah, Alima, Sherish, Ayaman, Humaria
8	Freshkroori WLR	Point 2	Freshkroori 2		John Mohd Mir, Nafeesa, Zoha, Hafsa, Mehvish
9	Wular	Point 1	Batakdoub / Gocher (Baniyari)		Amir Hussain, Rahi Reyaz, Ab Khaliq, Zeenat, Aqib Shafi)

9	Wular	Point 2	Aeri / Tangwani		Mudasir Nazir & Showkat Ah, Mehboob Hussain, Shafat Rahi, Bilal Hussain, Tahir Zahoor
	Wular	Point 3	Dalow Khur		Mohd Amin Dar, Arena, Bashir Ah, Yamin
	Wular	Point 4	SK Payeen Jheel		Showkat Maqbool, Nida Zehra, Khurshid Ah, Dr. Javid, Umer Ali
	Wular	Point 5	Hutlungoo		Arfan Ahmad Naik, Ahsan Rahi, Jaaish, Zahiqa, Fazian Showkat, Toyba Bashir)
	Wular	Point 6	Brari Kach / Shah Gund		Mushtaq Ahmad Khanday, Suahil Tanveer, Aarish Nisar, Ayman Mushtaq
	Wular	Point 7	Larapora Humb		Towseef Ah, Tabiya Malik, Hadiya Tassum, Wajid Shafi
	Wular	Point 8	Dhunwari		Mudasir Nazir, Nusrat, Amreena, Seerat,Hakeem Monis, Mohd Salq)
	Wular	Point 9	Watlab		Mohd Ashraf Khanday, Suhail Shabir, Mohsin Bashir, Suhaib Hassan, Ahsan Ah
	Wular	Point 10	Drangangh Kulhama		Showkat & Mudasir, Syed Abdul nafeh, Zahib Gaffar, Shaid Nazir, Wani Basit, Syed Tajamul
10	Dal Lake	Point 1	Nishat Side		Shabir Ah Kutto, (Ansar, BOK)
10	Dal Lake	Point 2	Hazratbal		Shakeel Ah, Murtaza Ali, Zaffar Yousaf, Umer Nisar, Shazia
10	Dal Lake	Point 3	Nigeen		Bashir Ah Beigh, Minan, Adan Zahoor, Zoya Zehra, Seerat Farooq
11	Anchar Lake	Point 1	Grove Goal		Gh Hassan Ganie, Shahid Nazir Bhat, Sheikh Arsalan
11	Anchar Lake	Point 2	Manz wan		Ab Majeed Khanday, Muzafar Reshi
12	Barinambal	Point 1	Badinambal		Imtiyaz Ahmad Dar
13	Narkara WL	Point 1	Narkara		Mohd Ramzan Bhat
14	Waskhar Sar	Point 1	Waskhar Sar		Akther Ali, Junaid, Faizan
15	Ahan Sar	Point 1	Ahansar		Akther Ali, Junaid, Faiza
16	Manasbal Lake	Point 1	Manasbal Lake		Akther Ali,Mudasir Ali, Yawar Ali, Anusha, Ayneen
17	Kujar	Point 1	Kujar		Akther Ali, Mohd Subhan Lone (Mudasir Ali, Yawar Ali)
18	Shal Sar	Point 1	Shalsar		Akther Ali Manzoor Ahmad Lone Junaid, Faizan
19	Khurwan Sar	Point 1	Khurwan Sar		Akther Ali, Mushtaq Ahmad Hajam, Mudasir Ali, Yawar Ali
20	Sarband	Point 1	Sarband		Shabir Ah
21	Malgoam	Point 1	Malgam		Waris jeelani, Hiba Muneer, Amina Mehraj, Owais Yaqoob
22	Meej Nambal	Point 1	Meej Nambal		Manzoor Ilahi Gilkar,Seerat, Suzena,
22	Meej Nambal	Point 2	Meej Nambal		Manzoor Ilahi Gilkar, Afreena, Muskan
23	Sadu Nara	Point 1	Sadu Nara		Showkat & Mudasir
24	Pranveth (Zonipora)	Point 1	Safapora		Showkat & Mudasir, Zahid Ashraf, Mudasir Hussain, Lateef Ah Mir
25	Ich Nambal	Point 1	Ich Nambal		Dr. Kanchan, Syed Shahnawaz, Naziya Banoo
	Ich Nambal	Point 2			Showkat & Mudasir, Amir Fayaz, Mehreen Mehraj, Tahreen Jan
26	Gantmulla Reservior	Point 1	Gantmulla		North Division
27	Babdemb	Point 1	Babdemb		Ab Hameed Fufoo

Site Description

Hokersar Wetland Conservation Reserve

Hokersar Conservation Reserve, a Ramsar Site, is a renowned waterfowl reserve located 10 km west of Srinagar on the Srinagar-Baramulla Highway. The wetland has a history of more than a century and was formerly a shooting resort of Maharaja Hari Singh of Jammu & Kashmir State. It was successively administered by: (1) the Department of Tawaza (Hospitality and Protocol) and the Game and Fisheries Department up to 1947, during which it was notified as a State Rakh in 1945; (2) the Department of Game after the Fisheries wing was separated, up to 1973; (3) the Game and Fisheries Department up to 1979; and (4) the Department of Wildlife Protection from 1979 onwards. The wetland was notified vide Cabinet Order No. 710-C of 1945 (G.G.) dated 17 July 1945 by the then State Government. Late Ghulam Ahmed Bakshi, the then Chief Minister of Jammu & Kashmir State, raised the peripheral bund. Hokersar is also an Important Bird Area (Islam and Rahmani, 2004). It was declared a Ramsar Site by the Ramsar Convention Bureau on 8 November 2005, with Ramsar Site No. 1570. The wetland is fed by the perennial Doodhganga River tributary, which ultimately meets the Jhelum River. Another stream, Sukhnag, enters near Narbal village in the northwest and ultimately drains directly into Doodhganga near Souzeth village. The water table depends on discharge from the Doodhganga spill channel. The wetland reaches a maximum depth of 2.5 m in spring during snowmelt and a minimum depth of 0.7 m in autumn.

District	Budgam and Srinagar
Coordinates	34° 5′ 54.148″ N, 74° 42′ 19.356″ E
Ownership	Department of Wildlife Protection, J&K
Area	1,375 ha
Altitude	1,580 m
Rainfall	550 mm
Habitats	Seasonal Marsh

The vegetation ranges from submerged and attached forms to free-floating and emergent vegetation. Shallow areas support thick stands of Typha and Phragmites. Trapa natans, Nymphoides peltata, Nymphoides candida and Nymphoides stellata occur in the open-water areas. Floating gardens are present in parts of the wetland. Salix alba plantation has been taken up along the shoreline, while rice is cultivated in the surrounding areas. These crop fields also provide foraging areas for birds.

Hokersar is an important wetland for both resident and migratory waterbirds. Hussain (1989) counted 64 species in and around the wetland during bird-ringing studies. The wetland is particularly important as a wintering area for migratory ducks and geese and as a breeding area for herons, egrets and rails. Waterfowl numbers have increased considerably since shooting was stopped.

Ecological Importance: Hokersar Wetland, a designated Ramsar Site, is known for its ecological significance. It serves as a vital wintering ground for a large number of migratory bird species from Central Asia and Siberia, with more than 500,000 waterbirds visiting annually. Key species include Bar-headed Goose, Greylag Goose, Northern Pintail and Eurasian Wigeon, making it one of North India's most important bird habitats.

Hokersar also plays a crucial role in flood control by acting as a natural basin that absorbs excess water from the Doodhganga and Sukhnag rivers, thereby protecting Srinagar from seasonal floods. It supports groundwater recharge, filters pollutants and sustains nutrient cycling, helping maintain water quality and aquatic life.

Ecologically, the wetland provides habitat for fish, aquatic plants and waterbirds, while also supporting local livelihoods through fishing, reed harvesting and grazing. It contributes to climate regulation by functioning as a carbon sink and moderating the local microclimate.

In addition to its ecological functions, Hokersar has socio-economic and cultural importance and offers opportunities for ecotourism, education and recreation. Protecting this wetland is essential for conserving biodiversity and ensuring the well-being of surrounding communities.

Table 1. Abundance of the major bird species recorded at Hokersar Wetland during AWC 2026.

Species	Count	Percentage
Mallard	85,347	24.90%
Common Teal	52,476	15.31%
Northern Pintail	47,300	13.80%
Eurasian Coot	42,480	12.39%
Gadwall	26,351	7.69%
Northern Shoveler	29,049	8.48%
Greylag Goose	12,700	3.71%

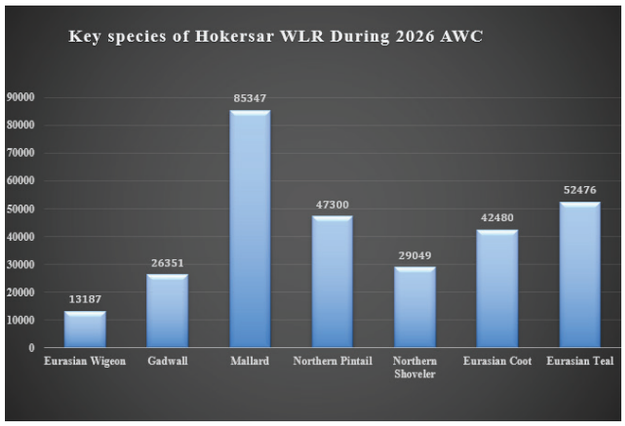


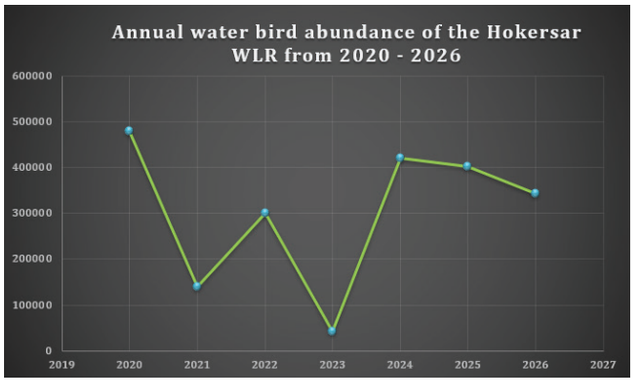
Fig. 2. Species diversity and abundance of key species at Hokersar Wetland during AWC 2026.

During AWC 2026, Mallard had the highest relative abundance at 24.90% of the total count, followed by Common Teal (15.31%) and Northern Pintail (13.80%). Other notable species included Eurasian Coot (12.39%),

Northern Shoveler (8.48%) and Gadwall (7.69%), reflecting a varied avian assemblage dominated by dabbling ducks.

The high abundance of waterfowl species, especially dabbling ducks, indicates that Hokersar Wetland continues to be a crucial wintering site on the Central Asian Flyway. The dominance of Eurasian Teal, Eurasian Coot, Mallard





and other species suggests strong habitat suitability for these species.

Bird population trends at Hokersar Wetland from 2020 to 2026 show notable fluctuations, with a peak in 2020 (481,068) and a significant decline in 2021 (139,416). However, recovery from 2022 onwards and stable high counts above 400,000 in the last three years indicate the wetland's ecological resilience and continued significance as a major wintering ground for migratory waterfowl.

Hygam Wetland Conservation Reserve

Hygam Wetland Reserve is located around 40 km north of Srinagar and has an area of 7.00 km2. It was notified as a Reserve in 1945 vide Cabinet Order No. 710-C of 1945 dated 17 July 1945. Hygam Wetland derives its name from the village in which it is situated. The area of this wetland has shrunk from 14 km^2 (Holmes and Parr, 1988) to 7.25 km^2.

Hygam Rakh is a permanent shallow freshwater lake with a maximum depth of 1.2 m. Perennial streams feed the wetland. The water table falls in late summer, reaches its lowest level in autumn and rises in early winter and during snowmelt. The surrounding areas are predominantly agricultural fields and marshes with some pastures. The wetland gets flooded after heavy rains.

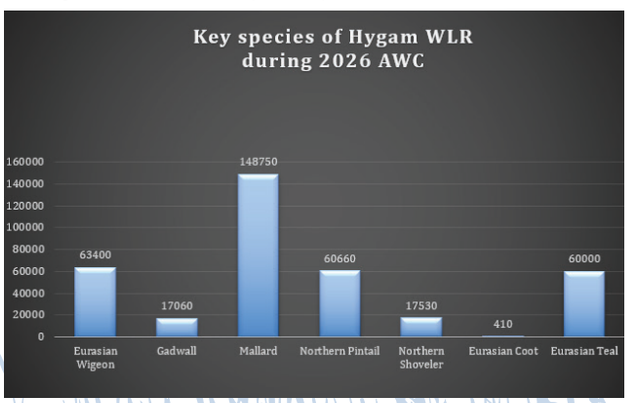
District	Baramulla
Coordinates	34° 1′ 14.301″ N, 74° 19′ 45.171″ E
Ownership	Department of Wildlife Protection, J&K
Area	1,400 ha
Altitude	1,580 m
Rainfall	900 mm
Habitats	Aquatic, Riverine Vegetation, Himalayan Secondary Scrub

Most of the lake is covered with a dense growth of reeds and other emergent vegetation. Dominant species include *Typha angustata*, *Phragmites communis*, *Phalaris arundinacea*, *Sparganium erectum*, *Sparganium ramosum*, *Scirpus maritimus* and *Scirpus triqueter* (Kaul et al., 1980; Kaul, 1982). In open areas, floating species such as water lilies Nymphaea stellata and Nymphaea alba, Fringed Water Lily Nymphoides peltata and Water Chestnut (Trapa natans) occur (Kaul et al., 1980). The vegetation is rooted in the bottom of shallower areas or occurs on floating mats of roots and silt.

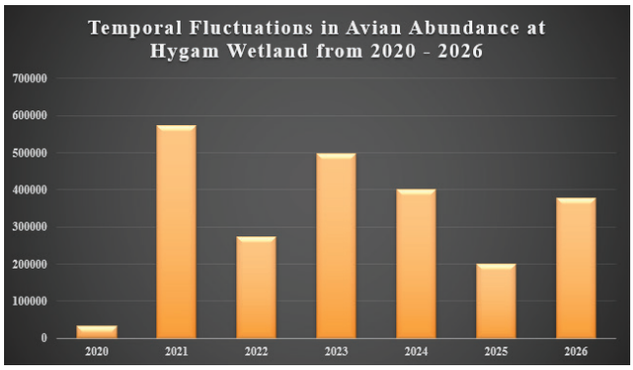
Table 2. Abundance of major avian species at Hygam Wetland during AWC 2026.

Species	Count	Percentage
Mallard	148750	39.46%
Eurasian Wigeon	63400	16.82%
Northern Pintail	60660	16.09%
Eurasian Teal	60000	15.92%
Northern Shoveler	17530	4.65%
Gadwall	17060	4.52%
Greylag Goose	6010	1.59%

The Asian Waterbird Census 2026 revealed that Mallard (39.46%) and Eurasian Wigeon (16.82%) were the most dominant species, together accounting for more than half of the total bird population. Northern Pintail (16.09%) and Eurasian/Common Teal (15.92%) also had substantial representation, highlighting the wetland's significance for dabbling ducks. Northern Shoveler (4.65%) followed closely, while Gadwall (4.52%) showed moderate numbers.



Mallard (148,750) was the most abundant bird species, indicating a strong preference for Hygam WLR as a wintering habitat. Eurasian Wigeon (63,400) and Northern Pintail (60,660) also showed significant presence, highlighting the wetland's value for dabbling ducks. Common/Eurasian Teal (60,000) and Northern Shoveler (17,530) recorded good numbers, suggesting the availability of diverse foraging habitats such as shallow water and mudflats. High numbers of waterbirds, especially migratory dabbling ducks, indicate healthy aquatic vegetation, invertebrate availability and water quality. Gadwall and Teal prefer shallow freshwater wetlands, showing that Hygam WLR is maintaining key habitats. The presence of species such as Northern Pintail in strong numbers highlights the site's importance for species conservation.



Shallabugh Wetland Conservation Reserve (Ramsar Site)

Shallabugh Wetland Conservation Reserve lies between Ganderbal and Srinagar districts, in close vicinity of Srinagar city and Anchar Lake. These marshes are fed by the Sindh River and local snowmelt. Water depth varies from 0.3 m to 2 m, and water levels fluctuate considerably with rainfall and snowmelt. Large areas of the wetland dry up between March and August. The area has extensive reed beds of Phragmites communis and Typha angustata, along with rich growth of Nymphaea candida and Nymphaea stellata in open-water areas. The side towards Shallabugh village has more willow plantations, while the side towards Sangam village (Srinagar) is dominated by paddy cultivation. The side towards Gadoora-Anchar has more reed beds, thereby providing an important wintering area for waterbirds.

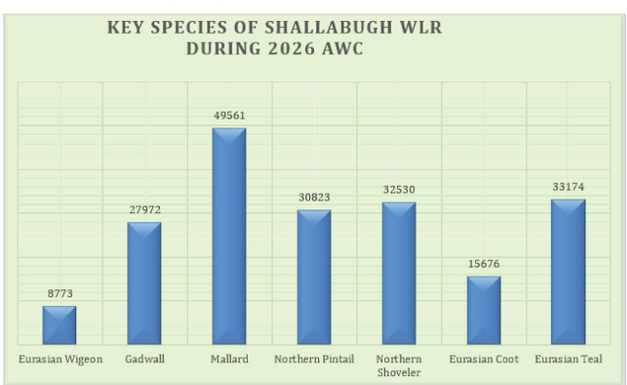
Ecological importance: Shallabugh Wetland, located in Ganderbal district of Jammu and Kashmir, is a Ramsar Site of high ecological importance. Spanning more than 1,600 hectares, it provides key habitat for numerous resident and migratory bird species, including globally threatened birds such as Steppe Eagle and Eastern Imperial Eagle. Fed by the Sindh River, Shallabugh plays a vital role in regional hydrology by aiding flood control, groundwater recharge and water purification. Its dense vegetation contributes to carbon sequestration and climate regulation. The wetland also supports local livelihoods through fishing and reed collection and has potential for ecotourism. However, it faces serious threats from siltation, pollution and encroachment, making its conservation essential for maintaining biodiversity and ecosystem services in the Kashmir Valley.

A total of 255,674 birds were reported from Shallabugh during AWC 2026. Mallard (19.38%), Eurasian/Common Teal (12.98%), Northern Shoveler (12.72%), Gadwall (10.94%), Eurasian Coot (6.13%) and Eurasian Moorhen (4.81%) recorded the highest relative abundance. The water level in the wetland was optimal this year, resulting in a good bird count.

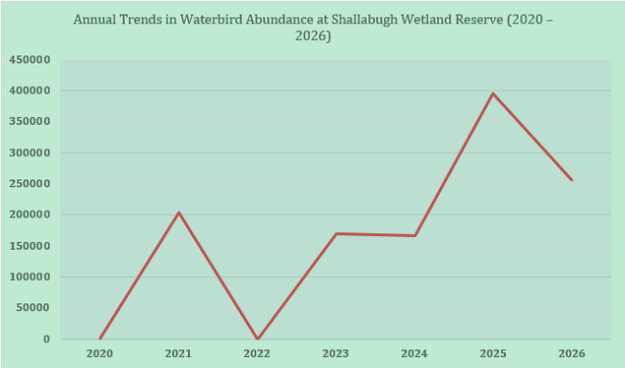
Table 3. Focal species composition of Shallabugh Wetland Conservation Reserve during AWC 2026.

Species	Count	Percentage
Mallard	49561	19.38%
Eurasian Teal	33174	12.98%
Northern Shoveler	32530	12.72%
Gadwall	27972	10.94%
Eurasian Coot	15676	6.13%
Eurasian Moorhen	12300	4.81%

Species composition data from AWC 2026 at Shallabugh Wetland Reserve (WLR) provide important insights into the wetland's ecological health and waterbird diversity. The dominance of Mallard (19.38%), followed by Eurasian Teal (12.98%), Northern Shoveler (12.72%) and Gadwall (10.94%), indicates that the wetland continues to serve as a vital wintering ground for dabbling ducks dependent on shallow freshwater habitats rich in submerged vegetation and aquatic invertebrates. The relatively lower counts of Eurasian Coot (6.13%) and Eurasian Moorhen (4.81%) may indicate localized habitat limitations or broader migratory shifts. The species composition underscores the importance of this Ramsar Site as a priority area for Anatidae conservation. Sustained monitoring and habitat protection are essential to maintain the site's ecological function and its role within the Central Asian Flyway.



The 2026 AWC data from Shallabugh Wetland Reserve highlight clear dominance by selected waterbird species, reflecting the ecological character of the site and its significance for overwintering avifauna. Mallard emerged as the most abundant species with a count of 49,561, followed by Eurasian/Common Teal (33,174), Northern Shoveler (32,530) and Gadwall (27,972). These four



species collectively constitute a major share of the observed individuals, signifying Shallabugh's importance as a major habitat for dabbling ducks of the family Anatidae.

Annual trends in waterbird abundance at Shallabugh Wetland Reserve (WLR) show striking variation in bird population counts recorded during AWC from 2020 to 2026. A dramatic increase is observed from very low counts in 2020 (689 birds) and 2022 (287 birds) to a significant spike in 2025 (395,656 birds). This reflects improved survey coverage, wetland restoration efforts and ecosystem rebound effects.

Chattalum, Fashkhoori, Kranchoo and Manibugh Wetland Conservation Reserves

The wetlands of Chattalum, Fashkhoori, Manibugh and Kranchoo are located in the Pampore area, about 16 km south of Srinagar city. These wetlands are permanent but relatively shallow waterbodies of fluvial origin and have a vast catchment extending from Pampore in the west to Wayun in the east. Chattalum is the largest among the four and has a basin area of about 2 km2, of which the waterbody comprises roughly 0.7 km2. The source of water for these wetlands is springs within the basin. The wetlands are home to a number of resident species and also support considerable populations of migratory waterbirds in winter. The combined area of these wetlands is 14.27 km2: Chattalum 8.52 km2, Fashkhoori 3.41 km2, Kranchoo 1.28 km2 and Manibugh 1.06 km2. These areas were designated as a reserve in 1945 vide Cabinet Order No. 710-C of 1945 dated 17 July 1945.

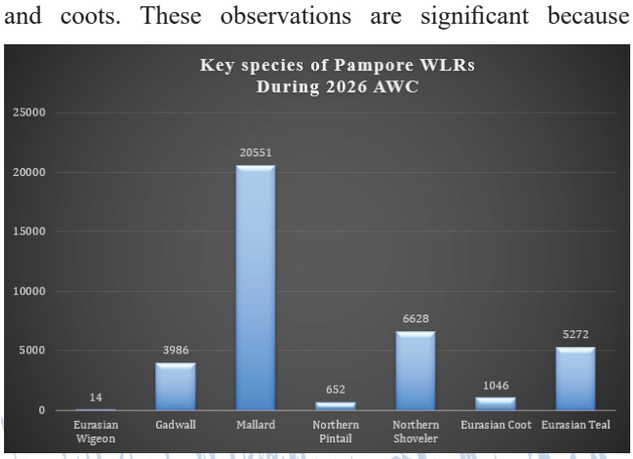
Ecological importance: The Pampore wetlands, located in Pulwama district of Jammu and Kashmir, hold significant ecological importance. These wetlands, including Chattalum, Fashkhoori and Kranchoo, serve as vital habitats for a wide range of biodiversity, especially migratory birds such as Mallard, teal, Ruddy Shelduck and Greylag Goose, making them important sites along the Central Asian Flyway. Rich aquatic vegetation supports diverse flora and fauna and plays a key role in maintaining ecological balance. Hydrologically, these wetlands help in flood control, groundwater recharge and water purification by filtering pollutants and sediments. They also support local livelihoods through fishing and fodder collection and help regulate the microclimate that benefits the nearby saffron fields for which Pampore is famous. They contribute to climate regulation by sequestering carbon and stabilizing local weather patterns. As natural buffers against pollution and urban pressure, and as important sites for ecological research and education, the Pampore wetlands are invaluable for both environmental and community well-being.



Table 4. Species composition of the Pampore wetlands recorded during AWC 2026.

Species	Count	Percentage
Mallard	20705	46.60%
Northern Shoveler	6645	14.95%
Eurasian Teal	5272	11.87%
Gadwall	4186	9.42%
Eurasian Coot	2377	5.35%
Eurasian Moorhen	1217	2.74%
Grey Heron	226	0.51%

AWC 2026 data from the Pampore wetlands highlight good avian diversity. Among the recorded species, Mallard (Anas platyrhynchos) dominated the population, contributing 46.60% of the total count, indicating its preference and tolerance for the habitat conditions in Pampore. Other commonly observed species included Northern Shoveler (14.95%), Eurasian Teal (11.87%) and Gadwall (9.42%), reflecting a modest but diverse presence of dabbling ducks and coots. These observations are significant because





waterbirds act as bioindicators of wetland health. Continuous monitoring and habitat management can help track wetland condition and guide targeted conservation action.

The findings from AWC 2026 emphasize the role of the Pampore wetlands as a secondary habitat or transit site for a variety of resident and migratory waterbirds. Although the site is not as densely populated as the larger Ramsar Sites in the region, it supports a range of dabbling ducks and other species, indicating the presence of shallow, vegetated waterbodies. Continuous monitoring of species composition, along with habitat management and protection from anthropogenic disturbances, will be crucial for maintaining and potentially enhancing the site's importance as a seasonal refuge for migratory birds.

Dal and Anchar Lakes

Dal Lake is a warm urban lake situated east of Srinagar city. The shoreline of the lake is about 15.5 km, and the average surface elevation is about 1,583 m. The lake has a water volume of about 983 million cubic metres, with primary inflow of about 291.9 million cubic metres through Tailbal Nallah and primary outflow of about 275.6 million cubic metres regulated through Dal Gate and Nallah Amir. The lake covers an area of 21 km2, including its floating gardens. Water depth varies from 6 m (20 ft) at its deepest point in Nigeen Lake to 2.5 m (8.2 ft) at its shallowest point in Gagribal. The lake is ecologically rich in macrophytes, submerged vegetation and floating plant species. Nearly 117 species have been reported (Pandit et al., 1996), including Nelumbo nucifera, Ceratophyllum demersum, Myriophyllum spicatum, M. verticellatum, Potamogeton lucens, Phragmites australis and Salvinia natans. Phytoplankton species such as Navicula radiosa, Nitzschia acicularis, Pediastrum duplex and Merismopedia elegans serve as food resources for wintering avifauna. The lake supports small populations of waterbirds whose numbers increase during winter. The main species include Eurasian Coot, Little Grebe, Mallard and Common Pochard.

During AWC 2026, 27,699 birds were reported from Dal Lake and 2,305 birds from Anchar Lake.

District	Srinagar
Coordinates	34° 05′ 50″ N, 74° 51′ 46″ E
Ownership	State
Area	21 km2
Altitude	1,583 m
Rainfall	900 mm
Habitats	Aquatic, Riverine Vegetation

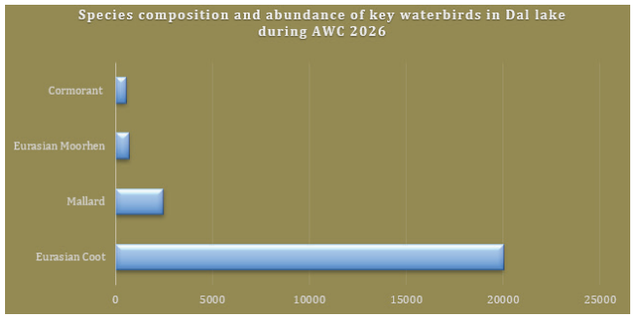
Table 5. Species composition and relative abundance of key waterbirds at Dal Lake during AWC 2026.

Species	Count	Percentage
Eurasian Coot	20025	72.29%
Mallard	2465	8.90%
Eurasian Moorhen	700	2.53%
Cormorant	561	2.03%

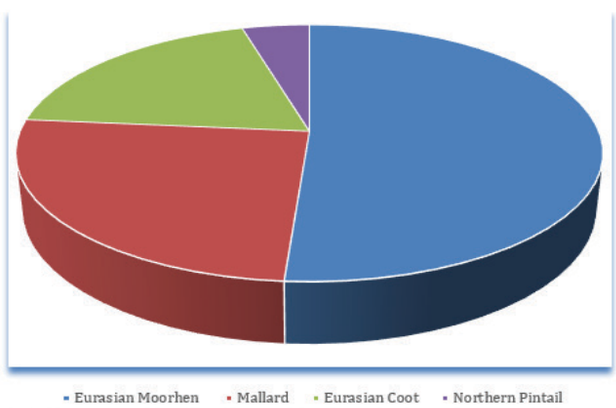
The avifaunal composition of Dal Lake during AWC 2026 shows strong dominance of Eurasian Coot (Fulica atra), which accounted for approximately 72.29% of the total bird count. This indicates the presence of dense emergent vegetation and shallow freshwater zones suitable for this species. Mallard (Anas platyrhynchos) constituted 8.90%, while Eurasian Moorhen (Gallinula chloropus) constituted 2.53%, suggesting a moderately diverse habitat that supports both marsh-dwelling and dabbling waterbirds.

Table 6. Species composition and relative abundance of key waterbirds at Anchar Lake during AWC 2026.

Species	Count	Percentage
Eurasian Moorhen	575	24.94%
Mallard	285	12.36%
Eurasian Coot	215	9.33%
Northern Pintail	49	2.13%



Species composition and abundance of key waterbirds in Anchar lake during AWC 2026



Wular Lake (Ramsar Site)

Wular Lake, located in Bandipora and Baramulla districts of Jammu and Kashmir, is one of the largest freshwater lakes in Asia. Covering an area of 189 km2, which may vary seasonally, the lake is a crucial part of the Kashmir Valley's hydrological system. It is primarily fed by the Jhelum River and functions as a natural flood reservoir.

Districts	Bandi Pora and Baramulla
GPS coordinates	34° 25′ N, 74° 35′ E
Area	189 km2 (varies seasonally)
Altitude	1580 m
Annual rainfall	1000 mm
Habitat	Aquatic, Marshy and Riverine

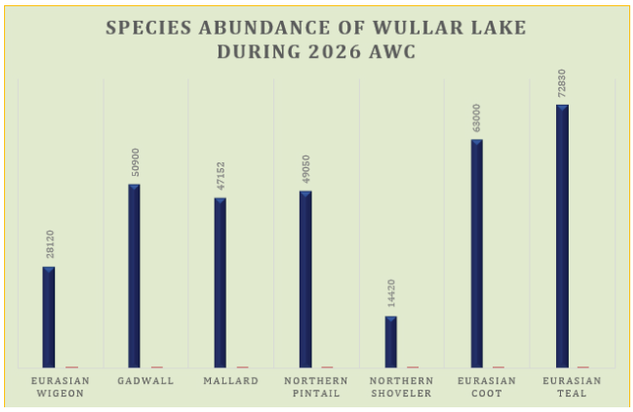
Ecological Importance

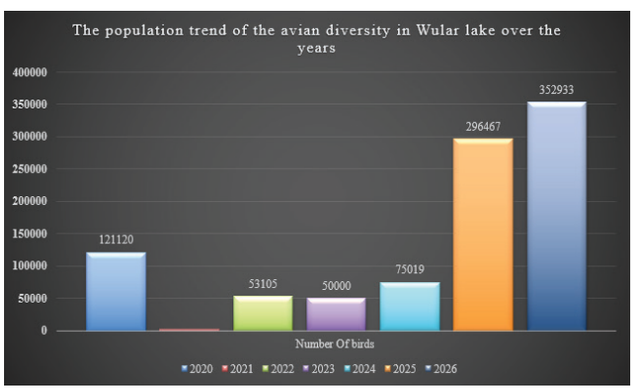
Wular Lake is designated as a Ramsar Wetland of International Importance, highlighting its role in maintaining ecological balance. The lake supports groundwater recharge, flood prevention, fisheries and agriculture. It is home to diverse flora and fauna and attracts both migratory and resident bird species. The lake is a haven for more than 150 species of birds, including resident and migratory species that travel from Central Asia, Siberia and Eastern Europe to escape harsh winters. Migratory species include Common Teal, Eurasian Wigeon, Gadwall, Northern Pintail, Mallard, Tufted Duck, Common Pochard and Greylag Goose. Wular Lake also provides permanent habitat for many species, including Black Kite, Eurasian Coot, Little Grebe, Common Kingfisher, Pied Kingfisher, Indian Pond Heron and Purple Heron. The lake supports a rich aquatic ecosystem with various fish species. The Wular Conservation and Management Authority (WUCMA) has been mandated to undertake lake restoration. WUCMA, along with various NGOs, has launched initiatives focusing on habitat restoration, afforestation, wetland conservation and waste management. Efforts to remove invasive weeds such as Alligator Weed (Alternanthera philoxeroides) and Azolla cristata are ongoing.

Table 7. Species composition and abundance of waterbirds in Wular Lake during AWC 2026.

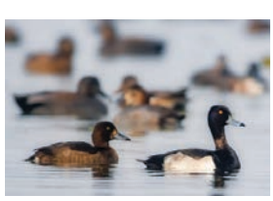
Species	Count	Percentage
Eurasian Teal	72830	20.64%
Eurasian Coot	63000	17.85%
Gadwall	50900	14.42%
Northern Pintail	49050	13.90%
Mallard	47152	13.36%
Eurasian Wigeon	28120	7.97%
Northern Shoveler	14420	4.08%

The waterbird community structure at Wular Lake during AWC 2026 was heavily dominated by dabbling ducks, with Eurasian Teal (20.64%) and Eurasian Coot (17.85%) being the most abundant species. Gadwall also contributed significantly (14.42%), indicating its strong presence. Other notable contributors included Northern Pintail (13.90%), Mallard (13.36%) and Eurasian Wigeon (7.97%), while Northern Shoveler accounted for a smaller fraction (4.08%). This distribution highlights the ecological importance of Wular Lake as a critical wintering ground for a diverse array of Anatidae species.





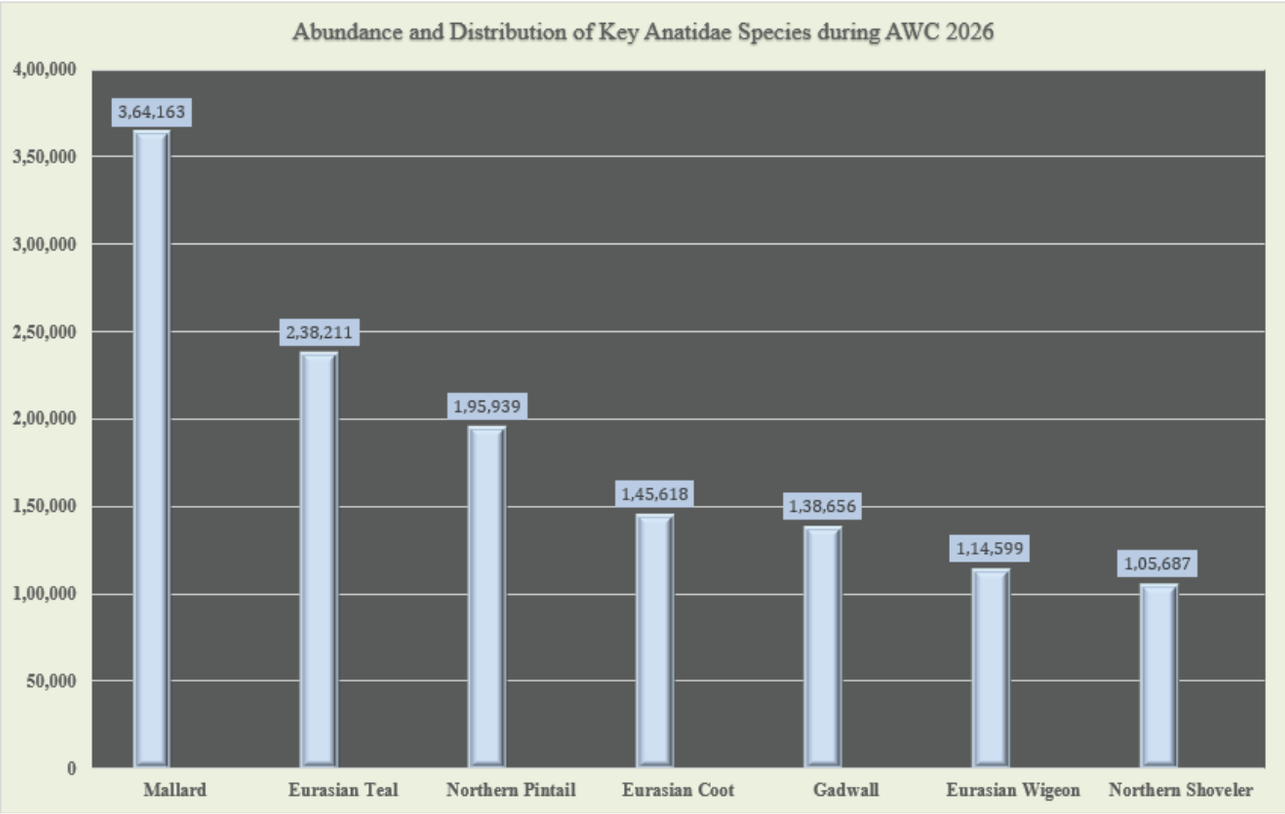
Wular Lake Bird Population Surge of 293%: A Testament to Conservation Success



Between 2024 and 2026, Wular Lake witnessed a remarkable increase in bird population, rising from approximately 75,000 to nearly 295,000 individuals - an impressive 293% growth over the period. This sharp rise in avian numbers reflects the cumulative impact of intensified conservation efforts led by the Wular Conservation and Management Authority (WUCMA). Over the past two years, WUCMA has implemented targeted habitat management interventions, including large-scale desiltation, bund creation and wetland restoration, aimed at improving water quality, stabilizing hydrology and enhancing foraging and roosting habitats. Strengthened anti-poaching measures and reduced human disturbance through increased patrolling and awareness programmes have provided a safer and more conducive environment for both migratory and resident bird species. The substantial increase in bird numbers in 2026 strongly suggests that these measures have helped restore ecological balance and reaffirmed Wular Lake's importance as a critical wetland habitat in the Central Asian Flyway.

Results

Abundance and composition of key species during Asian Waterbird Census 2026



The results of AWC 2026 indicate that Mallard was the most abundant species observed, with a remarkable count of 364,163 individuals, highlighting its strong preference for the surveyed habitats. This was followed by Eurasian/Common Teal (238,211) and Northern Pintail (195,939), both showing high population densities. Eurasian Coot and Gadwall also exhibited substantial numbers, with 145,618 and 138,656 individuals, respectively. Eurasian Wigeon and Northern Shoveler, while comparatively lower in abundance, still recorded significant counts of 114,599 and 105,687. These findings reflect the ecological richness of the region and its importance as a critical wintering ground for a diverse array of dabbling ducks and other avian species.

Table 8. Distribution and dominance of waterbird species during AWC 2026 in Kashmir wetlands.

Species	Count	Percentage
Mallard	364163	25.00%
Eurasian Teal	238211	16.34%
Northern Pintail	195939	13.44%
Eurasian Coot	145618	9.99%
Gadwall	138656	9.51%
Eurasian wigeon	114599	7.86%
Northern Shoveler	105687	7.25%

Table 9. Temporal trends in key waterbird species during the last seven AWCs (2020-2026).

Main Key Species of last Seven Years	Main Key Species of last Seven Years	Main Key Species of last Seven Years	Main Key Species of last Seven Years	Main Key Species of last Seven Years	Main Key Species of last Seven Years	Main Key Species of last Seven Years	Main Key Species of last Seven Years
Grey Leg Geese	Grey Leg Geese	Grey Leg Geese	Grey Leg Geese	Grey Leg Geese	Grey Leg Geese	Grey Leg Geese	Grey Leg Geese
1	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
	991	5682	24395	10747	4840	3217	23387
Eurasian Wigeon	Eurasian Wigeon	Eurasian Wigeon	Eurasian Wigeon	Eurasian Wigeon	Eurasian Wigeon	Eurasian Wigeon	Eurasian Wigeon

2	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
	92359	92359	196355	81870	86268	72378	114599
Gadwall	Gadwall	Gadwall	Gadwall	Gadwall	Gadwall	Gadwall	Gadwall
3	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
	69971	174329	137352	249545	211018	139141	138656
Mallard	Mallard	Mallard	Mallard	Mallard	Mallard	Mallard	Mallard
4	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
	120743	198522	119783	249545	256021	226063	364163
Northern Pintail	Northern Pintail	Northern Pintail	Northern Pintail	Northern Pintail	Northern Pintail	Northern Pintail	Northern Pintail
5	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
	161327	160795	62882	129620	100700	16971	195939
Eurasian Coot	Eurasian Coot	Eurasian Coot	Eurasian Coot	Eurasian Coot	Eurasian Coot	Eurasian Coot	Eurasian Coot
6	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
	152208	91935	178974	135964	148735	93417	145618
Eurasian Teal	Eurasian Teal	Eurasian Teal	Eurasian Teal	Eurasian Teal	Eurasian Teal	Eurasian Teal	Eurasian Teal
7	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
	203133	234854	336053	140527	236705	292039	238211
Northern Shoveler	Northern Shoveler	Northern Shoveler	Northern Shoveler	Northern Shoveler	Northern Shoveler	Northern Shoveler	Northern Shoveler
8	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
	70467	79754	91691	139193	134892	209715	105687

The Asian Waterbird Census 2026 recorded a robust total population of 1,457,790 waterbirds across the wetlands and associated waterbodies of Kashmir Valley. This year's census highlights encouraging trends among the eight key species monitored over the last seven years (2020-2026), reflecting the ecological importance and improving health of these critical wintering habitats.

Mallard continued to be the most abundant and dominant species, with a remarkable 364,163 individuals in 2026 - the highest count in the seven-year period. This represents a significant increase from previous years and underscores Mallard's adaptability and preference for the region's wetlands. Similarly, Eurasian Teal maintained its position as the second most numerous species with 238,211 birds, showing consistently high numbers and relative stability throughout the monitoring period.

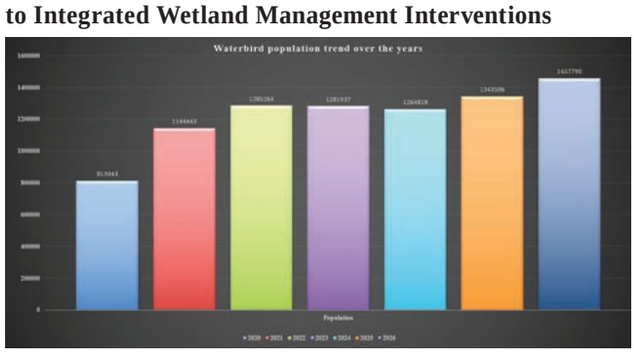
Northern Pintail showed a strong comeback in 2026 with 195,939 birds, recovering sharply from a low of only 16,971 in 2025. Greylag Goose also recorded a notable recovery, reaching 23,387 individuals in 2026 after a period of decline. Gadwall remained relatively stable at 138,656, consistently contributing a substantial portion of the total count. Eurasian Coot registered 145,618 birds, maintaining moderate stability over the years. Eurasian Wigeon displayed considerable fluctuation but showed good recovery in 2026 with 114,599 birds. Northern Shoveler peaked in 2025 but moderated to 105,687 in the current census.

Overall Assessment

The 2026 census indicates a generally positive trajectory for most key waterfowl species. The strong performance of Mallard and Eurasian Teal, combined with the recovery of Northern Pintail and Greylag Goose, suggests improved habitat conditions, better water availability and the positive impact of conservation measures implemented by the Wetlands Division Kashmir, Department of Wildlife Protection. However, year-to-year fluctuations observed in species such as Wigeon and Shoveler highlight the need for continued monitoring of environmental factors, including water levels, climate variability and habitat disturbance.

These wetlands remain vital wintering grounds for migratory birds along the Central Asian Flyway. Sustained protection, scientific monitoring and community involvement will be essential to maintain and further enhance these populations in the coming years.

Trends in Waterbird Populations (2020-2026) in Relation to Integrated Wetland Management Interventions



Asian Waterbird Census data from 2020 to 2026 reveal a highly encouraging long-term trend in the waterbird population across the wetlands of Kashmir. Starting from

a base of 813,043 birds in 2020, the population increased sharply in 2021 to 1,144,443 birds, a rise of more than 40%. This upward momentum continued in 2022 with 1,285,264 birds, after which numbers stabilized at a high level, showing only minor fluctuations in 2023 (1,281,937) and 2024 (1,264,818). A renewed phase of growth began in 2025 with 1,343,506 birds, culminating in the highest recorded count in 2026 at 1,457,790 birds, an 8.5% increase from the previous year and an overall growth of nearly 79.3% since 2020.

This consistent rise, particularly the strong performance in 2026, indicates improved ecological conditions in major wetlands such as Hokersar, Hygam, Shalbugh and Wular lake. Factors likely contributing to this positive trend include better water-level management, reduced disturbance and effective conservation initiatives by the Department of Wildlife Protection and the Wular Conservation and Management Authority (WUCMA), Government of Jammu & Kashmir. The wetlands continue to serve as vital wintering grounds for migratory waterbirds along the Central Asian Flyway, supporting large populations of key species such as Mallard, Eurasian Teal, Northern Pintail and Gadwall.

While the overall picture is positive, year-to-year fluctuations highlight the sensitivity of these populations to environmental variables such as rainfall, temperature and habitat quality. Continued scientific monitoring, habitat restoration and community involvement will be crucial to sustain and further enhance these populations in the future. The 2026 census stands as a testament to the success of ongoing conservation efforts and provides a strong foundation for long-term wetland management in the region. Another key intervention was continuous water-quality monitoring, which enabled timely action on issues such as eutrophication and pH imbalance. This proactive approach helped keep wetland aquatic health within favorable thresholds for avian life. Equally important were anti-poaching measures, including intensified patrolling and community vigilance programmes, which minimized threats during peak migratory influx and protected critical roosting areas. These efforts contributed to the visible increase in species richness and abundance, culminating in the highest recorded count of more than 1.45 million birds in 2026. In summary, the upward census trend over the past seven years is not merely a reflection of migratory patterns but also a direct outcome of holistic, science-based wetland management. The synergy between habitat engineering, ecological restoration, pollution control and protection measures has strengthened the wetlands as thriving refuges for migratory and resident waterbirds. The consistently upward trend, especially in ecologically sensitive and intervention-prone years, underscores the direct and cumulative impact of these strategic wetland measures on sustaining and enhancing waterbird populations.

Table 10. Total population trend of waterbirds over the years in the wetlands of Kashmir Valley.

Year	2020	2021	2022
Count	813043	1144443	1285264
2023	2024	2025	2026
1281937	1264818	1343506	1457790

Population trend of waterbirds during AWC 2026 across all wetlands and associated waterbodies of the Kashmir Valley.

Table: Wetland-wise Waterbird Population Trends during Asian Waterbird Census (2020–2026)
Wetlands are arranged in alphabetical order for ease of reference, verification and research use.

S. No.	Wetland / Waterbody	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
1	Ahan Sar	22	45	126	15	54	86	33
2	Anchar Lake	1398	521	3643	0	824	1162	2305
3	Babdemb	—	—	—	—	—	—	430
4	Barinambal	—	—	—	—	—	—	533
5	Chattalum	66883	79393	62085	47827	59910	3647	25620
6	Dal Lake	96247	2477	53105	77331	73706	13441	27699
7	Fashkroori	2415	35184	25750	47827	23171	141	8258
8	Gantmulla Reservoir	3500	0	0	0	0	411	1189
9	Hokersar WLR	481068	139416	301130	414143	421941	402719	342725
10	Hygam	33328	573290	274300	496327	400431	199140	376952
11	Ichnambal	—	—	—	—	—	—	632
12	Khan Pora Sgr	—	—	—	—	—	—	53
13	Khurwansar	39	85	110	41	93	103	33
14	Kranchoo	1364	23359	9752	18901	3846	343	7279
15	Kujar	—	—	—	—	—	—	153
16	Manasbal Lake	0	0	0	323	560	402	152

17	Manibugh	1020	4733	1842	876	3191	335	655
18	Meej Wetland	—	—	—	—	—	—	2624
19	Mirgund	1806	375	253643	36867	32147	23187	50678
20	Narkara	1753	0	702	0	155	215	818
21	Pranveth Zooni Pora	—	—	—	—	—	—	79
22	Sadu Nara	—	—	—	—	—	—	95
23	Sarband Lake	—	—	—	—	—	—	112
24	Shalar Sar	0	71	0	0	0	73	47
25	Shallabugh	689	203688	287	169559	166858	395656	255674
26	Waskhar Sar	40	45	0	23	41	95	0
27	Wular Lake	121120	2477	53105	0	75019	296467	352933

Note: "—" indicates that no count/data was recorded in the supplied trend table for that year



Appendix Table: Species-wise wetland count matrix

S. No	Bird Name	Hokersar WLR	Hygam WLR	Shallabugh WLR	Mirgund WLR	Chattalum WLR	Kranchoo WLR	Freshkroori WLR	Manibugh WLR	Meej Nambal	Inchnambal	Dal Lake	Anchar Lake	Wullar Lake	Narkara	Barinambal	Malgam Ajas Jeel	Gantmulla Reservoir	Waskhar Sar	Ahan Sar	Manasbal	Kujar	Shal Sar	Khurwan sar	Sarband	Khanpora Sgr	Babademb	Pranveth Zoonipora	Sadu Nara	Total
1	Little Grebe	670	120	5565	92	173	6	103	90	6	0	235	0	20	54	0	0	0	0	0	45	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	7179
2	Great Crested Grebe	200	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	92	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	292
3	Great Cormorant	353	0	0	0	0	0	80	0	0	0	561	0	193	0	0	0	9	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1196
4	Indian Shag	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
5	Little Cormorant	126	0	8	28	132	3	10	18	4	46	39	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	414
6	Indian Pond-heron	400	170	2008	90	77	8	16	0	0	0	281	35	87	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3172
7	Purple Heron	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	11	0	0	0	0	0	11
8	Grey Heron	600	0	5530	130	172	0	45	9	0	0	67	0	723	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	15	0	0	0	0	0	0	7291
9	Cattle Egret	90	0	0	0	0	0	30	0	0	0	0	0	47	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	167
10	Little Egret	1339	20	1653	110	11	6	0	0	2	0	389	30	166	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3726
11	Large (Great) Egret	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	120	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	122
12	Black Bittern	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
13	Black Stork	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
14	Fulvous Whistling Duck	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1025	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1025
15	Lesser Whistling Duck	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
16	Greylag Goose	12700	6010	3120	60	44	0	0	26	0	0	0	0	1427	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	23387
17	Bar-headed Goose	340	0	886	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1201	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2427
18	Tundra Swan	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
19	Ruddy Shelduck	2013	0	3731	20	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1782	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	7546
20	Common Shelduck	2850	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	471	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3321
21	Comb Duck	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
22	Cotton Pigmy goose	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
23	Eurasian Wigeon	13187	63400	8773	350	10	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	28120	0	0	0	750	0	0	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	114599
24	Gadwall	26351	17060	27972	12000	1537	330	2017	102	200	65	0	0	50900	45	50	0	0	0	0	8	17	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	138656
25	Mallard	85347	148750	49561	9000	16815	1256	2393	87	154	95	2465	285	47152	220	70	0	350	0	4	0	54	1	8	30	6	0	25	35	364163
26	Northern Pintail	47300	60660	30823	6800	77	485	52	38	115	95	299	49	49050	40	0	0	0	0	8	0	0	9	2	10	9	0	10	8	195939
27	Garganey	9143	0	1014	41	10	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	1500	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	11711
28	Northern Shoveler	29049	17530	32530	8600	1312	3764	1484	68	17	115	50	0	14420	43	30	0	0	0	7	9	14	9	4	30	17	0	10	15	109127
29	Marbled Teal	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
30	Red-crested Pochard	2020	0	1850	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1790	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5660
31	Common Pochard	3920	810	18256	0	23	190	61	2	0	0	0	30	3354	0	0	0	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	26656
32	Ferruginous Pochard	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	50	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	50
33	Tufted Pochard	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	148	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	148
34	Common Merganser	2432	0	712	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	64	202	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3410
35	Baillon's Crake	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
36	White-breasted Waterhen	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	13	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	13
37	Ruddy-breasted Crake	820	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	820
38	Eurasian Moorhen	4460	670	12300	240	651	0	204	34	328	0	700	575	1682	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	70	0	0	21914
39	Eurasian Coot	42480	410	15676	80	373	330	264	79	1331	205	20025	215	63000	330	310		70	0	0	0	0	0	0	30	0	360	25	25	145618
40	Pheasant-tailed Jacana	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
41	Ibisbill	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
42	Black-winged Stilt	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	7
43	Avocet	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
44	White-tailed Lapwing	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
45	Red-wattled Lapwing	21	0	0	0	9	145	16	0	11	0	0	0	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	212
46	Northern Lapwing	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	55	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	55
47	Yellow-wattled Lapwing	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
48	Little Ringed Plover	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
49	Kentish Plover	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
50	Black-tailed Godwit	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
51	Bar-tailed Godwit	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
52	Eurasian Curlew	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

53	Spotted Redshank	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
54	Common Redshank	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4
55	Marsh Sandpiper	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	100	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	100
56	Common Greenshank	0	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	151	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	156
57	Green Sandpiper	33	6	14	0	0	9	0	0	0	0	4	4	31	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	101
58	Wood Sandpiper	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	14
59	Common Sandpiper	40	0	18	5	17	17	5	5	0	0	11	0	114	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	232
60	Eurasian Woodcock	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
61	Solitary Snipe	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
62	Common Snipe	0	5	0	0	0	13	0	0	0	0	6	0	26	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	50
63	Temminck's Stint	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
64	Ruff	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
65	Brown-headed Gull	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	20	0	30	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	50
66	Black head Gull	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	169	0	68	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	237
67	Whiskered Tern	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	38	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	38
68	Caspian Tern	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
69	River Tern	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4
70	Pallas's Fish-Eagle	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
71	Western Marsh-harrier	3	3	8	0	6	6	12	0	0	0	0	0	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	43
72	Osprey	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
73	Peregrine Falcon	0	0	1	8	2	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	21
74	Small Blue Kingfisher	25	10	19	9	4	2	13	0	1	11	13	13	83	20	25	0	0	0	3	5	0	8	6	0	11	0	0	0	281
75	White-throated Kingfisher	17	30	8	0	11	4	13	0	1	0	95	1	16	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	196
76	Crested Kingfisher	6	0	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	12
77	Lesser Pied Kingfisher	10	110	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	94	0	49	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	266
78	White Wagtail	60	400	15	0	5	3	7	0	0	0	25	0	67	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	582
79	Citrine Wagtail	0	0	0	0	2	6	12	0	0	0	0	0	60	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	80
80	Yellow Wagtail	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	65	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	68
81	Grey Wagtail	30	0	0	0	0	0	12	0	0	0	10	0	50	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	102
82	White-throated Dipper	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
83	Grey-headed Swamphen	1772	520	393	0	0	645	115	97	429	0	552	400	10047	0	0	0	0	0	8	80	68	4	0	0	8	0	0	0	15138
84	Eurasian Teal	52476	60000	33174	13000	4102	0	1170	0	0	0	720	600	72830	58	48	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	12	0	0	9	12	238211
85	White-capped Water Redstart	13	0	9	0	0	0	77	0	0	0	2	0	40	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	141
86	Brown Dipper	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	15	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	15
87	Black Kite	29	240	36	15	31	11	0	0	25	0	424	0	240	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1051
88	Tundra Bean Goose	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
89	Palla's Gull	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	15	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	16
90	Black Crowned Night heron	0	0	0	0	0	0	23	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	23
91	Falcated Duck	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
92	Spotted Redshank	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
93	Horned Grebe	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
94	Black Tailed Godwit	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
95	Black Stork	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	13	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	13
96	White Breasted Water hen	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
97	Purple Heron	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
98	Water rail	0	10	5	0	9	32	11	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	69
99	Greater painted snipe	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
100	plumbeous Water redstart	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
101	long legged buzzard	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
102	Rose Ringed Parakeet	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	91	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	91
103	Eurasian Jack Daw	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	340	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	340
104	White Billed Sea Eagle	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Grand Total		342725	376950	255674	50678	25620	7279	8258	655	2624	632	27699	2305	352934	848	533	0	1189	0	33	152	153	47	33	112	53	430	79	95	1,457,790.00



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Appendix: Census Team and Affiliations

S. No	Participant	Designation	Affiliation
1.	Altaf Hussain Dentoo	Wildlife Warden Wetlands division	Department. of Wildlife Protection, J & K.
2.	Intisar Suhail	Wildlife Warden North	Department. of Wildlife Protection, J & K.
3.	Suhail Yousaf Qazi	Range Officer	Department. of Wildlife Protection, J & K.
4.	Sajid Farooq	Range Officer	Department. of Wildlife Protection, J & K.
5.	Iqbal Ah Wani	Range Officer	Department. of Wildlife Protection, J & K.
6.	Aakib Hussain Paul	Wildlife Biologist	Wildlife SOS
7.	Sajad Ah Wani	Wildlife Guard	Department. of Wildlife Protection, J & K.
8.	Sania Zehra	Student	Kashmir University
9.	Marifat	Student	Kashmir University
10.	Sajad	Student	GHSS HMT
11.	Nyla	Faculty	GHSS HMT
12.	Fumeena	Student	GHSS HMT
13.	Gh Mohideen	Wildlife Guard	Department. of Wildlife Protection, J & K.
14.	Dawood Yousaf	Student	GHSS HMT
15.	Shahid Majeed	Student	GHSS HMT
16.	Hilal Ah	Student	GHSS HMT
17.	Bilal Ah Sheikh	Helper	DWLP, JK
18.	Aqib Rashid	Student	GHSS HMT
19.	Farooq Ah	Student	GHSS HMT
20.	Amina Altaf	Birdwatcher	WCF
21.	Mehraj Ud Din Dar	Helper	DWLP, JK
22.	Ubaid Rasool	Birdwatcher	WCF
23.	Yaseen Sofi	Birdwatcher	WCF
24.	Mufeeq	Birdwatcher	WCF
25.	Bashir Ah Dar	Wildlife Guard	DWLP, JK
26.	Kifayat	Student	KU
27.	Faizan	Student	KU
28.	Zuhaib	Student	KU
29.	Reyan Sofi	Birdwatcher	BOK
30.	Sher Ali Parray	Birdwatcher	BOK
31.	Insha Rasheed	Student	KU
32.	Iram Jhangir	Student	KU
33.	Bhat Aqib	Student	KU
34.	Gh Mohideen Bhat	Wildlife Gurad	DWLP, JK
35.	Faizan Ah	Student	BVSC & AH SKUAST K
36.	Ishfaq Ah	Student	BVSC & AH SKUAST K
37.	Aqib Ah	Student	BVSC & AH SKUAST K
38.	Basharat Ah War	Wildlife Guard	DWLP, JK
39.	Abiza	Student	SRDE
40.	Tanab Mehraj	Student	SRDE
41.	Hurmat Ali	Student	BVSC & AH SKUAST K
42.	Fayaz Ah Dar	Helper	DWLP, JK
43.	Taniya Wani	Student	BVSC & AH SKUAST K
44.	Furqan Hussain	Student	BVSC & AH SKUAST K
45.	Atufa	Student	BVSC & AH SKUAST K
46.	Zufaz	Student	BVSC & AH SKUAST K

47.	Afaq Ah Sofi	Wildlife Guard	DWLP, JK
48.	Waneeqa	Student	BVSC & AH SKUAST K
49.	Tahleel	Student	BVSC & AH SKUAST K
50.	Dr Mehreen		WCRF
51.	Farooq Ah Dar	Guard	FPF
52.	Ajaz Ah	Student	BVSC & AH SKUAST K
53.	Muneeza Khursheed	Student	SKUAST K
54.	Abroo Jan	Student	BVSC & AH SKUAST K
55.	Aynab	Student	BVSC & AH SKUAST K
56.	Aamir Ahad	Student	BVSC & AH SKUAST K
57.	Khursheed Ah Dar	Guard	DWLP, JK
58.	Uzair	Student	GDC Ganderbal
59.	Yasir	Student	GDC Ganderbal
60.	Tufeed Ah	Student	GDC Ganderbal
61.	Showkat Ah	Helper	Wildlife SOS
62.	Ashiq Ah Wani	Student	GDC Ganderbal
63.	Younis Ah	Student	GDC Ganderbal
64.	Mohd Ashraf	Student	GDC Ganderbal
65.	Mohd Iqbal	Student	GDC Ganderbal
66.	Tariq Ah	Student	GDC Ganderbal
67.	Mushtaq Ah	Student	GDC Ganderbal
68.	Bilal Ah	Student	GDC Ganderbal
69.	Imtiyaz Ah	Student	GDC Ganderbal
70.	Mehraj ud din Ganaie	Wildlife Guard	DWLP
71.	Samia Bashir	Student	FOF, SKUAST K
72.	Mehjoor Altaf	Student	FOF, SKUAST K
73.	Ab Rehman Reshi	Guard	FPF
74.	Fajar Shah	Student	FOF, SKUAST K
75.	Areeba Javid	Student	FOF, SKUAST K
76.	Tareiya	Student	FOF, SKUAST K
77.	Manzoor Hussain Malik	Guard	FPF
78.	Hammad Mueen	Bird watcher	Kashmir Birdwatch
79.	John Mohd Mir	Forester	DWLP, JK
80.	Lahikh	Student	BVSC, SKUAT K
81.	Ayman	Student	GDC Pampore
82.	Humaria	Student	GDC Pampore
83.	Sehrish	Student	GDC Pampore
84.	Tariq ah Dar	Student	GDC Pampore
85.	Shahista	Student	GDC Pampore
86.	Aaterrah	Student	GDC Pampore
87.	Youha	Student	GDC Pampore
88.	Gulzar Ah Rather	Wildlife Guard	DWLP, JK
89.	Mehvish	Student	GDC Pampore
90.	Anista	Student	GDC Pampore
91.	Farhat	Student	GDC Pampore
92.	Araqam	Student	GDC Pampore
93.	Shezan	Student	GDC Pampore
94.	Abida	Student	BVSC, SKUAT K
95.	Ayat	Student	BVSC, SKUAT K
96.	Ab Salam Shah	Student	BVSC, SKUAT K
97.	Aalima	Student	BVSC, SKUAT K
98.	Sehrish	Student	BVSC, SKUAT K
99.	Ayman	Student	BVSC, SKUAT K
100.	Humaria	Student	BVSC, SKUAT K
101.	Nafeesa	Student	BVSC, SKUAT K

102.	Zuha	Student	BVSC, SKUAT K
103.	Hafsa	Student	BVSC, SKUAT K
104.	Amir Hussain	Student	BVSC, SKUAT K
105.	Rahi Reyaz	Student	GDC Ganderbal
106.	Ab Khaliq	Student	GDC Ganderbal
107.	Zeenat	Student	GDC Ganderbal
108.	Aqib Shafi	Student	GDC Ganderbal
109.	Mudsir Nazeer	Guard	WUCMA
110.	Showkat Ah	Guard	WUCMA
111.	Mehboob Hussain	Birdwatcher	NSWR & W
112.	Shafat Rahi	Birdwatcher	NSWR & W
113.	Bilal Hussain	Birdwatcher	NSWR & W
114.	Tahir Zahoor	Birdwatcher	NSWR & W
115.	Mohd Amin Dar	Birdwatcher	NSWR & W
116.	Areena	Birdwatcher	NSWR & W
117.	Bashir Ah	Birdwatcher	NSWR & W
118.	Yamin	Birdwatcher	NSWR & W
119.	Showkat Maqbool	Guard	WUCMA
120.	Nida Zehra	Birdwatcher	NSWR & W
121.	Khursheed Ah Dar	Student	BVSC, SKUAT K
122.	Dr Javid	Birdwatcher	NSWR & W
123.	Umer Ali	Birdwatcher	NSWR & W
124.	Arfan Ah Naik	Birdwatcher	NSWR & W
125.	Ahsan Rahi	Birdwatcher	NSWR & W
126.	Jaaish	Birdwatcher	NSWR & W
127.	Zahiqa	Birdwatcher	NSWR & W
128.	Faizan Showkat	Birdwatcher	NSWR & W
129.	Toiba Bashir	Student	KU
130.	Suhail Tanveer	Student	KU
131.	Aarish Nisar	Student	KU
132.	Ayman Mushtaq	Student	KU
133.	Towseef Ah	Student	SRDE
134.	Tabia Malik	Student	SRDE
135.	Hadiya Tabasum	Student	SRDE
136.	Wajid Shafi	Student	KU
137.	Mudasir Nazeer	Student	KU
138.	Nusrat	Student	GDC Pampore
139.	Amreena	Student	GDC Pampore
140.	Seerat	Student	GDC Pampore
141.	Hakeem Monis	Student	CUK
142.	Mohd Saliq	Student	CUK
143.	Mohd Ashraf Khanday	Guard	FPF
144.	Suhail Shabir	Student	SKUAST K
145.	Mohsin Bashir	Student	SKUAST K
146.	Suhaib Hassan	Student	SKUAST K
147.	Ahsan Ah	Student	SKUAST K
148.	Syed Abdul Nafi	Student	SKUAST K
149.	Zahib Zaffar	Student	FOF, SKUAST K
150.	Shahid Nazir	Student	FOF, SKUAST K
151.	Wani Basit	Student	FOF, SKUAST K
152.	Syed Tajamul	Student	FOF, SKUAST K
153.	Shabir Ah Kutoo	Guard	FPF
154.	Ansar Ah	Birdwatcher	BOK
155.	Shakeel Ah	Student	FOF, SKUAST K
156.	Murtaza Ali	Student	FOF, SKUAST K

157.	Zaffar Yousaf	Student	FOF, SKUAST K
158.	Umer Nazir	Student	FOF, SKUAST K
159.	Shazia	Student	FOF, SKUAST K
160.	Bashir Ah Beigh	Helper	DWLP, K
161.	Minan	Student	FOF, SKUAST K
162.	Adan Zahoor	Student	FOF, SKUAST K
163.	Zoya Zehra	Birdwatcher	WCF
164.	Seerat Farooq	Birdwatcher	WCF
165.	Gh Hassan Ganaie	Helper	DWLP,JK
166.	Shahid Nazir	Student	FOF, SKUAST K
167.	Sheikh Arsalan	Student	FOF, SKUAST K
168.	Ab Majeed Khanday	Guard	FPF
169.	Muzafar Reshi	Inspector	FPF
170.	Mohd Ramzan Bhat	Wildlife Guard	DWLP, JK
171.	Akther Ali	Bird watcher	SEED
172.	Junaid	Bird watcher	SEED
173.	Faizan	Bird watcher	SEED
174.	Yawar Ali	Bird watcher	SEED
175.	Ab Hameed Fofoo	Wildlife Guard	DWLP, JK
176.	Manzoor Ah Lone	Helper	FPF
177.	Mushtaq Ah Hajam	Helper	FPF
178.	Shabir Ah Bhat	Assistant	Wildlife SOS
179.	Muhtaq Ah Khanday	Guard	DWLP, JK









A Report by:

Wetlands Division Kashmir, 2026

Department of Wildlife Protection, Government of Jammu & Kashmir