



Nalabana Bird Sanctuary

Why in News

Recently, a record number of migratory birds have arrived at the Nalabana bird sanctuary in Odisha.

- The **dismantling of illegal prawn gherries inside the lake** is being cited as the main **reason** behind the avian gathering. **Gherries** are areas encroached for illegal prawn cultivation inside the wetland area.

Key Points

- The Nalabana bird sanctuary is located on **Nalabana Island in the Chilika lagoon area in Odisha.**
- The Nalabana Bird Sanctuary is the **core area of Chilika.**
- The large Nalabana Island (**Forest of Reeds**) covering about 16 sq km was declared a **bird sanctuary in 1987.**
- The island **disappears during the monsoon** due to inundation, only to emerge again post-monsoon.
- Nalabana and **Mangalajodi** (on the banks of Chilika lake) are the two major places in Chilika where the **birds congregate.**
- Migratory birds usually start arriving at Chilika in November as it is a comparatively hospitable alternate habitat compared to the extreme freezing conditions in their natural habitats in **Siberia, China, Japan and other countries in the northern hemisphere.**
- Few important migratory birds seen here are: Bar-headed geese, greater flamingos, herons, black-tailed godwits and rare Great Knot. The **Great Knot** was seen after five years.
- **Chilika Lake** is **Asia's largest** and **world's second-largest lagoon** after the **New Caledonian barrier reef** in **New Caledonia.**

Great Knot (*Calidris tenuirostris*) [//](#)



- The Great Knot is an **international migratory bird** that travels vast distances between the northern hemisphere breeding grounds and southern hemisphere summer feeding grounds around.
- It is distributed in far northeast Russia, coastal Australia, southeast Asia, India, Bangladesh, Pakistan and eastern Arabian Peninsula.

- It is listed as **Endangered** under the [International Union for Conservation of Nature \(IUCN\) Red List](#).

[Source: TH](#)

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