



Chinese Heron Sighted in Uttarakhand

Why in News?

Recently, The **Chinese Pond Heron**, a bird usually found in the northeastern states, Rajasthan and Bhutan, has been seen for the first time in Uttarakhand.

Key Points

- According to experts, there was no record of the presence of the Chinese Pond Heron in Uttarakhand.
 - For the first time, the bird has chosen the **Kotdwar area of Lansdowne forest** division for breeding.
- Many migratory birds are visible in the dense forests of Saneh area of Kotdwar and Lansdowne forest division during the summer.
 - The **arrival of birds from northeastern states** here is an indication that the environment here is favourable for them.

Chinese Pond Heron

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- The Chinese pond heron (*Ardeola bacchus*) is an **East Asian freshwater bird** of the heron family.
 - It is one of six species of birds known as "pond herons" (genus *Ardeola*).
- It is typically **47 cm (19 in) long with white wings, a yellow bill with a black tip, yellow eyes and legs.**
 - Its overall **colour is red, blue and white during breeding season**, and **greyish-brown and flecked with white at other times.**
- It is **found in shallow fresh and saltwater wetlands and ponds.**
- It is **fairly common** and considered a **Least concern (LC)** species by the [IUCN Red List](https://www.iucn.org/redlist).

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