



Indian Skimmers

Why in News?

As per the [Asian Waterbird Census 2023](#) (recommended dates for the AWC are 7 - 22 January) which has been started recently, **the Godavari estuary in Andhra Pradesh has become a prime and safe habitat for the Indian Skimmer** (*Rynchops albicollis*).

- Around 250 Indian Skimmers, **were sighted in Coringa Wildlife Sanctuary.**

What are Indian Skimmers?



- **About:**
 - Another common name for Indian skimmers is **Indian scissors bill.**
 - They are **more widespread in winter;** the Indian skimmer is found in the coastal estuaries of western and eastern India.
 - The species can be sighted near the [Chambal River](#) in Central India, in **few parts of Odisha and in Andhra Pradesh.**
- **Major Threats:**
 - Habitat degradation, excessive and widespread increases in disturbances near the rivers.
- **Protection Status:**
 - [IUCN Red List Status:](#) Endangered
 - [CITES:](#) Not listed

Coringa Wildlife Sanctuary

- The Government declared a part of the Godavari mangrove system **as Coringa Wildlife**

Sanctuary in 1978 to rehabilitate the [salt water crocodile](#) and to protect the other endangered species, such as [Olive Ridley turtles](#) and [Indian Otter](#).

- About 120 species of resident and migratory birds **depend on this area for breeding and nesting.**

Asian Waterbird Census

- **Every January**, thousands of volunteers across Asia and Australasia visit [wetlands](#) in their country and count waterbirds. This **citizen-science programme supports the conservation and management of wetlands** and waterbirds worldwide.
- The AWC is an integral **part of the global waterbird monitoring programme, the International Waterbird Census (IWC)**, coordinated by **Wetlands International**.

[Source: TH](#)

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