

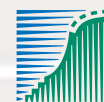
Extract only - complete publication at [www.jncc.gov.uk/worldwaterbirds](http://www.jncc.gov.uk/worldwaterbirds)

# Waterbirds around the world

A global overview of the conservation,  
management and research of the  
world's waterbird flyways

*Edited by G.C. Boere, C.A. Galbraith and D.A. Stroud*

*Assisted by L.K. Bridge, I. Colquhoun, D.A. Scott,  
D.B.A. Thompson and L.G. Underhill*



landbouw, natuur en  
voedselkwaliteit



SCOTTISH EXECUTIVE



EDINBURGH, UK: THE STATIONERY OFFICE

© Scottish Natural Heritage 2006

First published in 2006 by The Stationery Office Limited  
71 Lothian Road, Edinburgh EH3 9AZ, UK.

Applications for reproduction should be made to Scottish Natural Heritage,  
Great Glen House, Leachkin Road, Inverness IV3 8NW, UK.

British Library Cataloguing in Publication Data  
A catalogue record for this book is available from the British Library

ISBN 0 11 497333 4

Recommended citation:

Boere, G.C., Galbraith, C.A. & Stroud, D.A. (eds). 2006.  
*Waterbirds around the world*. The Stationery Office, Edinburgh, UK. 960 pp.

Names used for geographical entities do not imply recognition, by the organisers of the *Waterbirds around the world* conference or other supporting organisations or governments, of the political status or boundaries of any particular territory. Names of territories used (and any alternatives) are included solely to help users of this publication apply information contained within this volume for waterbird conservation purposes. The views expressed in papers included within this volume do not necessarily represent views of the editors or the organisations and governments that supported the conference and this publication.

*Cover photography:* Whooper Swans *Cygnus cygnus* arriving at Martin Mere, England. Photo: Paul Marshall.  
([www.paulmarshallphotography.com](http://www.paulmarshallphotography.com))

Copyright of all photographs used in this publication resides with the named photographers.

## Status of migratory shorebirds at Bhitarkanika and Chilika wetlands on the east coast of India

Anup Kumar Nayak

Wildlife Warden, Bhitarkanika; 1865/1866, Nuasahi Nayapalli (near Post Office), Bhubaneswar-751012, Orissa, India.  
(email: bravo\_123@sancharnet.in)

Nayak, A.K. 2006. Status of migratory shorebirds at Bhitarkanika and Chilika wetlands on the east coast of India. *Waterbirds around the world*. Eds. G.C. Boere, C.A. Galbraith & D.A. Stroud. The Stationery Office, Edinburgh, UK. pp. 305-307.

This paper describes the status of migratory shorebirds at Bhitarkanika wetland based on counts conducted in July 2002-2003 and Chilika wetlands based on counts made in January 2001, 2002 and 2003.

Bhitarkanika wetland extends to over 672 sq km in the north eastern part of Orissa State on the east coast of India and is the second most viable mangrove eco system in India after Sundarban. Bhitarkanika was declared a Wildlife Sanctuary in 1975 and a Ramsar site in 2002, but has been little studied. The Sanctuary area is divided into seven areas: Raipatia, Jaudia, Satabhaya, Barunei mouth and chataka, Udabali Island, Babubali Island and sand bars, mudflats along Bhitarkanika and Maipura rivers and Dangmal and Bhitarkanika meadows.

Visits were made twice a month during July 2002 to July 2003 by observers in boats or vehicles, and all shore birds sighted were listed. A total of 37 species of shorebirds and seven other important species were identified during the 13 months of observation.

A small number of over-summering shore birds were observed up to June 2003. Golden Plover *Pluvialis fulva* and Terek Sandpiper *Xenus cinereus* were present all year except for June and July. Whimbrel *Numenius phaeopus* were sighted most of the year, and may be breeding somewhere within Bhitarkanika. Early migrants included Great Knots *Calidris tenuirostris* which were seen in flocks of about 500 during

August to December, and Ruff *Philomachus pugnax* were found in large numbers as early as October 2002, indicating they were heading south.

Chilika is the largest brackish water lagoon in India, and is situated along the east coast of Orissa. Surveys were carried out on 12th and 13th of January 2001, 2002 and 2003 by boat. Results are given in the Table 2.

The presence of rare shorebird species like the Spoon-billed Sandpiper *Eurynorhynchus pygmeus*, Asian Dowitcher *Limnodromus semipalmatus* and Broad-billed Sandpiper *Limicola falcinellus* in Chilika wetland emphasizes the importance of this wetland along the east coast of India. The Bombay Natural History Society (BNHS) has recommended that the Bhusandpur and Tinimuhan areas of about 60 sq km be declared as a new bird sanctuary in addition to the existing sanctuary at Nalaban island. Large numbers of Fulvous Whistling Duck *Dendrocygna bicolor*, Lesser Whistling Duck *Dendrocygna javanica* and Cotton Teal *Nettapus coromandelianus* and other migratory birds support such an action.

The threats faced by the Chilika lagoon are due to siltation, shrinkage of the area, choking of the inlet channel, proliferation of invasive fresh water species like Water Hyacinth *Eichornia crassipes*, increased aquaculture activities, eutrophication and nest trampling by buffaloes.



Common Sandpiper *Actitis hypoleucos* occur frequently at Chilika Lake. Photo: Paul Marshall.

**Table 1.** Shorebirds sighted at Bhitarkanika July 2002-July 2003.

name		Max. number counted at a site on a trip	Habitat
Oystercatcher	<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>	10	Udabali
Avocet	<i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i>	80	Satabhaya
Black-winged Stilt	<i>Himantopus himantopus</i>	58	Satabhaya
Collared Pratincole	<i>Glareola pratincola</i>	500	Jaudia
Red-wattled Lapwing	<i>Vanellus indicus</i>	53	Jaudia
Yellow-wattled Lapwing	<i>V. malabaricus</i>	10	Jaudia
Grey-headed Lapwing	<i>V. cinereus</i>	38	Satabhaya
Great Knot	<i>Calidris tenuirostris</i>	500	Gupti
Grey Plover	<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>	5	Mudflat
Long-billed Plover	<i>Charadrius placidus</i>	10	Raipatia
Little Ringed Plover	<i>C. dubius</i>	8	Raipatia
Pacific Golden Plover	<i>Pluvialis fulva</i>	200	Jaudia
Kentish Plover	<i>C. alexandrinus</i>		Raipatia
Lesser Sand Plover	<i>C. mongolus</i>	2 000	Goja island
Indian Skimmer	<i>Rynchops albicollis</i>	70	Barunei mouth
Black-tailed Godwit	<i>Limosa limosa</i>	5 000	Raipatia
Whimbrel	<i>Numenius phaeopus</i>	50	Mudflat
Eurasian Curlew	<i>N. arquata</i>	20	Babubali island
Spotted Redshank	<i>Tringa erythropus</i>	4	Satabhaya
Common Redshank	<i>T. totanus</i>	50	Raipatia
Common Greenshank	<i>T. nebularia</i>	10	Satabhaya
Spotted Greenshank	<i>T. guttifer</i>	2	Satabhaya
Marsh Sandpiper	<i>T. stagnatilis</i>	10	Raipatia
Green Sandpiper	<i>T. ochropus</i>	5	Raipatia
Wood Sandpiper	<i>T. glareola</i>	10	Raipatia
Common Sandpiper	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>	10	Mudflat
Terek Sandpiper	<i>Xenus cinereus</i>	22	Mudflat
Ruddy Turnstone	<i>Arenaria interpres</i>	5	Chataka
Pintail Snipe	<i>Gallinago stenura</i>	2	Dangmal
Jack Snipe	<i>Lymnocyptes minimus</i>	2	Dangmal
Little Stint	<i>Calidris minuta</i>	2 000	Raipatia
Temminck's Stint	<i>C. temminckii</i>	10	Raipatia
Long-toed Stint	<i>C. subminuta</i>	5	Raipatia
Dunlin	<i>C. alpina</i>	10	Raipatia
Curlew Sandpiper	<i>C. ferruginia</i>	200	Raipatia
Ruff	<i>Philomachus pugnax</i>	50	Raipatia
Greater Painted Snipe	<i>Rostratula benghalensis</i>	2	Dangmal
Common Snipe	<i>Gallinago gallinago</i>	5	Dangmal
Lesser-crested Tern	<i>Sterna bengalensis</i>	50	Chataka
Great-crested Tern	<i>Sterna bergii</i>	5	Chataka
Eurasian Spoonbill	<i>Platalea leucorodia</i>	10	Goja island
Black-necked Stork	<i>Ephippiorhynchus asiaticus</i>	1	Dangmal
Lesser Adjutant	<i>Leptoptilos javanicus</i>	10	Mahisamada
Gray Pelican	<i>Pelecanus philippensis</i>	13	Dangmal

**Table 2.** Survey data for birds in Chilika lake.

Name		2001	2002	2003
Greater Painted Snipe	<i>Rostratula benghalensis</i>	-	26	2
Avocet	<i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i>	6	218	-
Black-winged Stilt	<i>Himantopus himantopus</i>	2 924	2 957	2 131
Little Pranticole	<i>Glareola lactea</i>	1 556	704	
Red-wattled Lapwing	<i>Vanellus indicus</i>	114	75	53
Yellow-wattled Lapwing	<i>V. malabaricus</i>	4	40	4
Grey-headed Lapwing	<i>V. cinereus</i>	-	-	257
Grey Plover	<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>	23	516	11
Long-billed Plover	<i>Charadrius placidus</i>	25	42	-
Little Ringed Plover	<i>C. dubius</i>	325	260	569
Pacific Golden Plover	<i>Pluvialis fulva</i>	1 886	1 536	427
European Golden Plover	<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>	6	50	53
Kentish Plover	<i>C. alexandrinus</i>	1 273	1 577	73
Lesser Sand Plover	<i>C. mongolus</i>	13 306	15 330	5 760
Greater Sand Plover	<i>C. leschenaultii</i>	25	20	19
Black-tailed Godwit	<i>Limosa limosa</i>	14 071	57 963	9 279
Bar-tailed Godwit	<i>L. lapponica</i>	225	54	41
Whimbrel	<i>Numenius phaeopus</i>	1 301	22	22
Eurasian Curlew	<i>N. arquata</i>	516	2052	40
Spotted Redshank	<i>Tringa erythropus</i>	65	80	12
Common Redshank	<i>T. totanus</i>	2 082	1 119	333
Common Greenshank	<i>T. nebularia</i>	82	73	60
Spotted Greenshank	<i>T. guttifer</i>	-	12	-
Marsh sandpiper	<i>T. stagnatilis</i>	8 168	4 047	1 870
Green Sandpiper	<i>T. ochropus</i>	80	21	23
Wood Sandpiper	<i>T. glareola</i>	2 538	1 459	3 427
Common Sandpiper	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>	4 582	1 677	588
Terek Sandpiper	<i>Xenus cinereus</i>	46	-	-
Ruddy Turnstone	<i>Arenaria interpres</i>	-	130	1
Common Snipe	<i>Gallinago gallinago</i>	257	266	329
Pintail Snipe	<i>Gallinago stenura</i>	-	7	-
Jack Snipe	<i>Lymnocyptes minimus</i>	15	49	14
Sanderling	<i>Calidris alba</i>	4	-	—
Little Stint	<i>C. minuta</i>	8 952	9 140	5 366
Temminck's Stint	<i>C. temminckii</i>	510	34	82
Long-toed Stint	<i>C. subminuta</i>	4	3	16
Dunlin	<i>C. alpina</i>	266	292	473
Curlew Sandpiper	<i>C. ferruginea</i>	1 366	9 928	2 676
Spoonbilled Sandpiper	<i>Eurynorhynchus pygmeus</i>	2	1	6
Ruff	<i>Philomachus pugnax</i>	1	1 536	659
Asian Dowitcher	<i>Limnodromus semipalmatus</i>	2	4	-
Broadbilled Sandpiper	<i>Limicola falcinellus</i>	2	4	2
Red Knot	<i>Calidris canutus</i>	-	-	6
Great Knot	<i>Calidris tenuirostris</i>	-	-	6
<b>Total species</b>		<b>38</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>34</b>