

Kerala to have its own Red List of Birds

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In news— The state of Kerala will soon have its own red list of birds.

About Kerala's red list-

- The **Kerala Bird Monitoring Collective led by Kerala Agricultural University** and the **Bird Count India** will conduct the regional red list assessment.
- **Once it gets ready, Kerala will be the first State to have a region-specific red list of birds.**
- Assessment will be done on the basis of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) guidelines.
- **The IUCN guidelines for preparing the red list have five main criteria.**
 1. **The population size reduction** measured over 10 years or three generations is one of the major guidelines.
 2. **Geographic range** on the basis of extent of occurrence or area of occupancy is another.
 3. **Small population size and decline.**
 4. Very small or **restricted population.**
 5. Quantitative analysis indicating the **probability of extinction in the wild** are the other criteria.
- **According to the global IUCN red list, Kerala has 64 threatened species of birds.** In that, Red-headed vulture and White-rumped vulture are critically endangered and Steppe Eagle, Banasura Chilappan and Nilgiri Chilappan are endangered and 11 species are vulnerable.
- **The Kerala Bird Monitoring Collective is planning to prepare the red list for the State in a year. It will be a decentralised process like how the Kerala Bird Atlas**

was prepared

Kerala Bird Atlas (KBA)-

- **Conducted as a citizen science-driven exercise**, a survey for KBA was jointly conducted by the Kerala Agriculture University, Bird Count India involving 1000 volunteers and supported by the Kerala Forest Department.
- It is the first-of-its-kind state-level bird atlas in India (Mysore city Bird Atlas is on from 2014).
- **The Atlas, prepared between 2015 and 2020, provides solid baseline data about distribution and abundance of various bird species in the State.**
- **The Kerala Bird Atlas accounts for nearly three lakh records of 361 species**, including 94 very rare species, 103 rare species, 110 common species, 44 very common species, and 10 most abundant species.
- According to the atlas, **most of the endemics are concentrated in the Western Ghats** while the threatened species are cited mostly along the coast

Further

reading:

<https://journalsofindia.com/bird-atlas-by-kerala/>