



SPOT BILLED PELICAN: ENVIRONMENT

NEWS: Breeding season begins for spot-billed pelicans at Uppalapadu Bird Protection Centre in Andhra

WHAT'S IN THE NEWS?

The Spot-billed Pelican, a Near Threatened species under IUCN, is crucial for wetland ecosystem balance but faces threats like habitat loss and human disturbances. Protected under India's Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, it highlights biodiversity and conservation challenges.



Spot-billed Pelican

- **Scientific Name:** *Pelecanus philippensis*.
- **Conservation Status:** Near Threatened (IUCN).
- **Distribution:** Found in India, Sri Lanka, and parts of Southeast Asia.
- **Habitat:** Prefers large inland and coastal waters, especially shallow lakes and wetlands.
- **Threats:** Habitat loss, degradation, and human disturbances.
- **Protection in India:** Listed under Schedule IV of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.



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- **Ecological Role:** Predator contributing to food chains and maintaining ecological balance.
- **Recent Initiative:** Spot-billed Pelican Conservation Breeding Programme in Cambodia emphasizes international conservation efforts

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/andhra-pradesh/breeding-season-begins-for-spot-billed-pelicans-at-uppalapadu-bird-protection-centre-in-andhra/article69001549.ece>

