

Bordoibam-Bilmukh Bird Sanctuary

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About Bordoibam-Bilmukh Bird Sanctuary

- **Location and Size:** It is situated on the boundary of **Dhemaji** and **Lakhimpur** districts in Assam and covers an area of approximately **11.25 sq. km** and lies at an altitude of **90-95 meters above mean sea level**.
- **History:**
 - Declared a wildlife sanctuary in **1996** by the Assam government.
 - Originally part of the **River Subansiri** (a tributary of the Brahmaputra), which now flows **7 km away** from the wetland.
- **Climate and Vegetation:**
 - Experiences a **moist tropical climate** with an average annual rainfall of about **2,000 mm**.
 - Dominated by **flooded valley grasslands** and **wetland vegetation**.
- **Avian Biodiversity:**
 - Hosts a variety of **migratory waterfowl** in winter.
 - Home to **globally threatened species** such as the **Spot-billed Pelican** (*Pelecanus philippensis*) and **Lesser Adjutant** (*Leptoptilos javanicus*).

Overview:

- The **Bordoibam-Bilmukh Bird Sanctuary (BBBS)** in Assam, once a thriving habitat for diverse avian species, has experienced a **72% decline in bird species count** over the past 27 years.
- This alarming biodiversity crisis has been attributed to **anthropogenic pressures** such as fishing, poaching, egg collection, and land-use changes.

Decline in Avian Diversity

- **Species Count:**
 - In **1997**, the sanctuary recorded **167 avian species**.
 - Recent studies (2022-2024) revealed only **47 species**, marking a **71.85% decline**.
 - **Temporal trends:** The decline has been **drastic since 2018**, as noted in comparative surveys:
 - **2011 Survey:** Recorded **133 species** (86 resident, 23 migratory, 24 local migrants).
 - **2017-2018 Survey:** Recorded **120 bird species**, alongside **133 macrophytes, 68 fish species**, and **seven aquatic fern species**.
 - **Migratory species:** Recent records include **Brown Shrike, Citrine Wagtail, White Wagtail** (winter migratory), and **Lesser Kestrel** (summer migratory).
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Q1: What are wetlands?

Wetlands are transitional ecosystems between terrestrial and aquatic environments, characterized by water saturation at or near the surface. They support a unique diversity of flora and fauna. Examples include marshes, swamps, bogs, and mangroves.

News: Assam bird sanctuary records 72% decline in bird species count in 27 years – The Hindu

Source: <https://vajiramandravi.com/current-affairs/bordoibam-bilmukh-bird-sanctuary/>

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