

POPULATION AND TOLERANCE TO HUMAN INTERFERENCE OF EURASIAN COOT (*FULICA ATRA*) FROM SOME FRESHWATER WETLANDS OF WEST BENGAL, INDIA

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Eurasian Coot, a Resident Migrant (RM) water bird species, is known to have a very large distributional range, even though currently having declining annual trend(<https://stateofindiasbirdds.in/species/eurcoo/>). It is listed as a Schedule-II category species of the Wildlife Protection Act, and included under Least Concern of the Global Red List. During mid-winter water bird population surveys from some selected wetlands of West Bengal, Nandi *et al.* (2004, 2007) recorded Eurasian Coot (*Fulica atra*) from Kulai Jurir Bundh (4 birds) of Bankura district and from three wetlands of Puruliya district, *viz.*, Saheb Bundh of Puruliya town (7 birds), Saheb Bundh of Adra (115 birds) and from Indra Beel (10 birds). The occurrences of this species in urban (Saheb Bundh, Puruliya town) and semi urban (Saheb Bundh, Adra) recreational wetlands with boating activities indicate their tolerances to minor man-made disturbances. Mazumdar *et al.* (2007) recorded this species during last week of December 2005 to January 2006 as follows: 24 birds (Saheb Badh, Puruliya district), 272 birds (Bakreswar Barrage, Birbhum district), and 20 birds (Ballavpur Wildlife Sanctuary, Birbhum district), recording the highest number of 272 Eurasian Coots at Bakreswar Barrage of Birbhum district, West Bengal, assumingly having less human interferences and for its large size.

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