

## Spot-Billed Pelicans Dying in Naupada Swamp

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Recently, nematode infestation has led to mass mortality of adult spot-billed pelicans at Telineelapuram Important Bird Area (IBA) in Naupada swamp of Srikakulam district, Andhra Pradesh.



[Ref: The Hindu]

### About Spot-Billed Pelicans:

- The spot-billed pelican belongs to the family **Pelecanidae**.
- **Habitat:** The species roost in trees near water bodies like: ponds, lakes, streams and rivers.

### Physical features

- The **adult pelican** has a dull white head and neck.
- The feathers on the hind neck are curly and form a grayish nape crest.
- The **tail is brownish** & the pouch is **pink** with speckles.
- The upper mandible carries **speckles**.
- The tip of the bill is **orange**.

### Distribution:

- The breeding population of these species is limited to India, Sri Lanka and Cambodia.
- In the non-breeding season, they are recorded in Nepal, Myanmar, Thailand, Laos and Vietnam.

### Status and Conservation:

- The **global population of the species** is around 13,000 to 18,000 individual birds.
- **Threats:** **habitat loss**, fishing activities, poaching of chicks and eggs, agricultural pollutants and silting up of water bodies.
- **IUCN Status:** Near Threatened.

