

## Project Update: March 2016

The study commenced in October 2015 with the establishment of a base in Chidambaram town (11.4°N 79.7°E), Tamil Nadu. Focal wetlands, hunters and their operating areas were identified during the reconnaissance in late November 2015 through a network of known wildlife enthusiasts and informants. Work slowed in December 2015 due to extensive flooding in the study area caused by northeast monsoons exacerbated by the El Nino. Administration of questionnaires commenced in late December 2015, and point-count surveys for water birds commenced in January 2016; both exercises will be completed by April 2016. One trial workshop was conducted for hunters in January 2016 and support for subsequent workshops was elicited. Video documentation of hunting commenced in November 2016 and will continue till the end of field work.



Baillon's Crakes – Illegally hunted and being offered for sale.



White-breasted Waterhens being prepared to be dressed and sold.