

TOP 10 ENDANGERED BIRD SPECIES OF INDIA



Ardeotis nigriceps

[GREAT INDIAN BUSTARD]

Status	Critically endangered and endemic to India and adjoining regions of Pakistan.
Habitat	Arid and semi-arid grass land, thorn scrub and tall grass interspersed with cultivation.
Food	Omnivorous – grains, plant shoots, insects, lizards etc.
Features	Among the heaviest of flying birds with height about 1 m. Males have Gular pouches. Females lay eggs in a shallow depression and only they incubate.
Threat	Hunting and habitat loss.

Common Name	Indian Black Vulture/ King Vulture
Habitat and Distribution	Endemic to India. Old world vulture. Inhabit deciduous forest, hills and open country
Food	Carrion feeder and has a false reputation for monopolizing a carcass until it had its fill of the choicest tit-bits.
Features	Black body with pale grey band at the base of the flight feathers. Males have pale whitish iris and females have dark brown iris. Body medium sized (76-86 cm). Wingspan:6.5-8.5'
Threat	Diclofenac in veterinary medicine.



Sarcogyps calvus

[RED HEADED VULTURE]

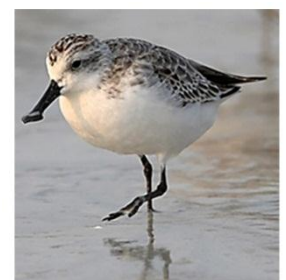


Glaucidium radiatum

[FOREST OWLET]

Status	Highly endangered and endemic to Central India.
Habitat	Crepuscular and nocturnal, but apparently little inconvenienced by sunlight and frequently on the move in daytime.
Distribution	Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh regions.
Food	Mainly feeds on insects and beetles.
Features	Small stocky bird of about 23 cm. Relatively large skull, beak, heavily banded wings and tail. Upper breast is almost solid brown. The facial disc is pale and eyes are yellow.
Threat	Habitat loss.

Status	One of the world's most threatened bird species
Distribution	Coasts of India, Pakistan, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka.
Food	Carnivorous – feeds on aquatic invertebrates
Features	Spatulate bill, Breeding adult bird is 14-16cm in length and has red brown head. Non-breeding adult lack reddish colouration.
Threats	Habitat loss, loss of breeding grounds.



Limicola falcinellus

[SPOON BILLED SAND PIPER]

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Rhinoptilus bitorquatus
[JERDON'S COURSER]

Distribution Endemic to a small regions in the Godavari river valley, Sri Lankalleshwara sanctuary, Seemandra.

Food Feeds on insects like crickets, grasshoppers etc.

Features Large eyes, grey- brown body with two white breast bands bordered with black. Remain hiding under shades. Makes sound like "twick-too... twick-too..."

Threats Habitat loss due to fuel wood collection, agricultural activity, livestock grazing, quarrying, plantations of exotics; as well as illegal trapping.

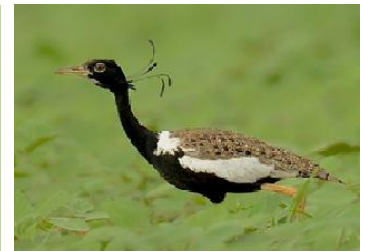
Status Rare species of bustard family.

Distribution Indian sub-continent only.

Habit Omnivorous, prefers plant food.

Features Males have black plumage in the head, neck and ventral region of trunk. Females lay only 2 eggs. Male are promiscuous.

Threats Endangered. Decline linked to habitat loss.



Houbaropsis bengalensis
[BENGAL FLORICAN]



Ardea insignis hume
[WHITE BELLIED HERON]

Common Name Imperial heron

Distribution One of the largest heron found in the foothills of great Himalayas.

Habit Carnivorous feeds on fish, frog, snakes etc.

Features Tall dark and grey body with long. Construct massive nests on tall trees. Migrate to places like Myanmar for breeding.

Threats Habitat destruction is of major concern.

Status Amazingly beautiful Himalayan quail belongs to the Pheasant family

Distribution Western Himalayas of Uttarkhand.

Habit Feeds on grain, termites etc.

Features Males are dark grey with bleak streaks and females brownish with dark streaks. Have long tail coverts.

Threats Endangered due to habitat destruction and hunting for meat.



Ophrysia superciliosa
[HIMALAYAN QUAIL]

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Status	Migrating bird.
Distribution	Migrates from grasslands of Kazakhstan to North West and Southern region of India.
Habit	Feed on insects, molluscs, grub, etc.
Features	Body is light brown above. The voice call is harsh kereck. Nests are placed on shallow scrapes on the sandy shores exposed river banks.
Threats	Endangered due to habitat destruction.



Vanellus duvaucelli
[SOCIABLE LAWING]



Grus leucogeranus pallas
[SIBERIAN CRANE]

Status	Migratory and commonly found during winter season.
Distribution	India at Bahrathpur sanctuary of Rajasthan, Russia and Siberia to Turkestan.
Habit	Largely vegetarian, feeds on plant tubers.
Features	Pure white plumage. Bill is dark, legs are pinkish. The males are larger than females, voice call high pitched whistling "Toyoya". Extralimital; breeds in SE. Russia and Siberia to Turkestan.
Threats	Due to habitat destruction, their population has fallen drastically, almost moving towards extinction at least for habitats in the Indian region.

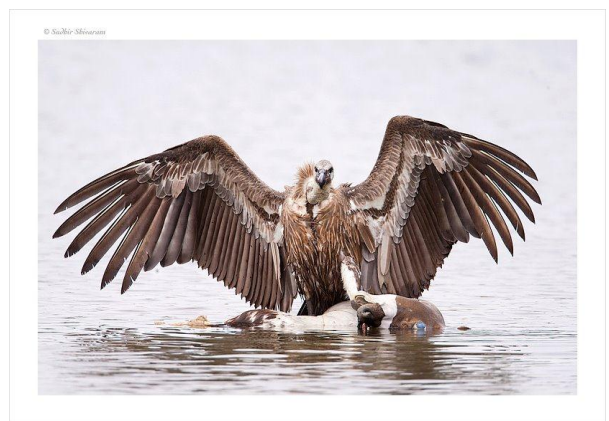
RAMADEVARABETTA, A VULTURE SANCTUARY: DECLARED RECENTLY JANUARY 31ST 2012.

Vulture is a large, scavenging bird of prey with a bald head. They are not related to hawks but are more closely related to storks. Vultures fly for hours in search of food.

Sudden drastic drop in population of any species is termed "Die-off". This has occurred for vultures around the mid 1990's. This is linked to indiscriminate use of the Diclofenac drug for domesticated animals. Earlier their population

was around 1500-2000. In 2005, the number of Long billed vultures dropped to 7.

Ramadevarabetta area has dry scrub forest vegetation, with rocky and hilly terrain, which is ideal habitats for the Vultures and deserves to be a Vulture sanctuary.



Information sources:

The Book of Indian Birds, Salim Ali, 13th Edn, 2002, Pp – 326.

Conservation India (19.08.2012), Declaration of a Vulture Sanctuary in Karnataka.

Net information from Google.