

Bugun Liocichla

Origin

The Bugun Liocichla (*Liocichla bugunorum*) is a bird species that is endemic to the Indian state of Arunachal Pradesh, particularly in the Eaglenest Wildlife Sanctuary and the Bugun tracts. Its origin and evolutionary history are not well understood, but based on genetic analysis, it is believed to be closely related to other *Liocichla* species found in the Himalayas.

It is unclear how the Bugun Liocichla specifically reached India, but it likely evolved in the region over a long period of time. The Himalayan mountain range, where the Bugun Liocichla is found, is known for its high levels of biodiversity and serves as a natural barrier between the Indian subcontinent and central Asia. Over millions of years, various species of birds and other animals have adapted to this unique environment and evolved to become the unique species we see today.

One theory for how the Bugun Liocichla and other bird species in the region evolved is through a process known as vicariance. Vicariance occurs when a geographic barrier, such as a mountain range or a river, splits a population into two or more isolated groups, which then evolve separately from one another. Over time, these isolated groups can become different species as they adapt to their respective environments.

Overall, the origin and evolutionary history of the Bugun Liocichla is a complex topic that requires further research and investigation. However, what is clear is that this bird species is a unique and important part of the biodiversity of the Himalayan region.

Distribution and Population in India

The Bugun Liocichla (*Liocichla bugunorum*) is a bird species that is endemic to the Indian state of Arunachal Pradesh. Specifically, it is found in the Eaglenest Wildlife Sanctuary and the Bugun tracts, which are located in the western part of the state near the border with Bhutan.

The Bugun Liocichla was only recently discovered in 2006, and since then, it has been the focus of intensive research and conservation efforts. Because it is a relatively new species, there is limited information on its distribution and population size. However, studies suggest that it has a very restricted range, and its habitat is threatened by habitat loss and fragmentation.

According to the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), the Bugun Liocichla is currently listed as Endangered. The IUCN estimates that the global population size of this species is between 250 and 999 individuals.

Appearance

The Bugun Liocichla is a small, brightly coloured bird species with a distinctive appearance. It has a relatively short, broad tail and a medium-length, slightly curved bill. Adult birds are approximately 18 centimetres (7 inches) in length and weigh around 30-40 grams.

The plumage of the Bugun Liocichla is highly distinctive and consists of a combination of bright colours, including bright blue, green, yellow, and orange. The bird's face is black with a white stripe above the eye, and the underparts are a vibrant orange colour. The wings and back are mostly blue-green with yellow and white patches.

Males and females of the species are generally similar in appearance, but males tend to have slightly brighter and more vivid colours, especially on the throat and chest.

Lifestyle

The general lifestyle of the Bugun Liocichla is not well known, but it is believed to be a shy and elusive bird that prefers to stay in dense vegetation. It is generally thought to be a non-migratory species that stays within its relatively small range throughout the year.

Not much is known about the breeding habits of the Bugun Liocichla, but it is believed to be a monogamous species that breeds between April and June. Females lay two or three eggs per clutch, and both parents participate in the incubation and feeding of the young. The chicks fledge within two weeks after hatching.

Food Habits

The Bugun Liocichla is an omnivorous bird that feeds on a variety of insects, spiders, fruits, and seeds. Its habitat is montane forest and dense undergrowth, where it is most commonly found foraging for food on or near the forest floor.

Habitats

The Bugun Liocichla's habitat is characterised by high-altitude, broad-leaved forests with a dense understory of bamboo and rhododendrons. These birds prefer to inhabit areas with a high density of trees and a complex vegetation structure that provides them with cover, perching, and nesting sites. Additionally, they require clear, flowing streams and small water bodies to provide them with fresh water for drinking and bathing.

In terms of weather, the Bugun Liocichla prefers a cool and moist climate. The bird inhabits areas at elevations between 1,800 and 3,000 metres (5,900 to 9,800 feet) above sea level, where the average temperature ranges from 10-20°C (50-68°F). The species is known to occur in areas with high rainfall, receiving up to 3,000 mm (118 in) annually, which is typical for the eastern Himalayan region.

Vulnerable Species

Bugun Liocichla (*Liocichla bugunorum*) is considered a vulnerable species. It was first described as a new species in 2006 and was immediately classified as Endangered by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) due to its small population size and limited range.

The primary threats to the Bugun Liocichla's survival are habitat loss and fragmentation. The species is restricted to a small area in Arunachal Pradesh, India, and its habitat is under pressure from various human activities, such as logging, agriculture, and infrastructure development. Additionally, hunting and trapping for the pet trade have also been identified as potential threats.

The Bugun Liocichla's restricted range and small population size make it particularly vulnerable to these threats. Climate change may also be a future threat to this species, as it could affect its habitat and food sources.

Protected Areas

Eaglenest Wildlife Sanctuary: This sanctuary is located in the West Kameng district of Arunachal Pradesh and is known for its diverse range of bird species, including the Bugun Liocichla. The sanctuary covers an area of around 217 square kilometres (84 square miles) and includes both subtropical and temperate forest habitats. Bugun Reserve Forest is a community-managed

conservation area that was established specifically to protect the Bugun Liocichla and its habitat. It is located in the Eaglenest Wildlife Sanctuary and covers an area of around 15 square kilometres (6 square miles).

Singchung-Bugun Village Community Reserve: This reserve is another community-managed conservation area that was established to protect the Bugun Liocichla and other bird species. It is located in the West Kameng district and covers an area of around 4.5 square kilometres (1.7 square miles). Sessa Orchid Sanctuary is located in the East Kameng district and is known for its diverse range of orchid species. It also provides a habitat for the Bugun Liocichla and other bird species. Pakhui Wildlife Sanctuary is located in the East Kameng district and covers an area of around 862 square kilometres (333 square miles). It is known for its diverse range of wildlife, including elephants, tigers, and leopards, as well as a variety of bird species, including the Bugun Liocichla. These protected areas play a crucial role in the conservation of the Bugun Liocichla and its habitat. However, continued conservation efforts are necessary to ensure the long-term survival of this unique and endangered species.