

8 species in IUCN Red List



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Birds, one of the best indicators of the environment, have slipped deeper into the danger zone in India, thanks to relentless habitat destruction. The latest IUCN (International Union for Conservation of Nature) Red List (2014) indicates that a total of 173 bird species in the country are now Threatened. The latest IUCN list shows that the newly discovered small colourful bird Bugun Liocichla from the North-East is now Critically Endangered, as compared to the earlier safer status of Vulnerable. Moreover, based on studies conducted by BNHS-India, BirdLife International (UK) and other partner organizations, eight other bird species have newly entered the threatened list.



Yunnan Nuthatch - by L Shyamal on Wikipedia

Species in danger



The eight species of birds newly added to the list include Woolly-necked Stork, Andaman Teal (both uplisted from Least Concern to Vulnerable), Andaman Green Pigeon, Ashy-headed Green Pigeon, Red-headed Falcon, Himalayan Griffon, Bearded Vulture and Yunnan Nuthatch (all uplisted from Least Concern to Near Threatened). When a species is “uplisted”, it means that it has moved up on the threatened ladder, deeper into the danger zone.

*Andaman Teal-
by John Keulemans
on Wikipedia*

In an earlier revision of the IUCN list that took place in November 2013, five species had been added to the threatened list, which includes Great Stone Plover, Alexandrine Parakeet, Grey-headed Parakeet, Blossom-headed Parakeet and Red-breasted Parakeet.



Ashy-headed Green Pigeon - by Gronvold and Baker on Wikipedia

Distribution and threats

Bugun Liocichla, first described by modern science in the 1990s, has till now been reported from a few areas such as Eaglenest Sanctuary and Bomdila in Arunachal Pradesh, India. It is likely to exist in other areas of the state and some neighbouring areas of Bhutan and China. Woolly-necked Stork, although found in most parts of India, is facing rapid population decline. Andaman Teal is found only on Great Coco Island and Andaman Islands of India with less than 1000 individuals recorded till now. Andaman Green Pigeon is also endemic to the Andaman and Nicobar islands of India and a couple of thousand individuals may exist. Ashy-headed Green Pigeon is confined to the north-eastern states of India. Red-headed Falcon is still found in declining numbers in most parts of India (except the Himalayan ranges) and several neighbouring countries. But it has disappeared from many areas and in Pakistan it has declined partly due to the falconry trade.

Found only in the Himalayan ranges, Himalayan Griffon is likely to decline further due to the impact of diclofenac use in livestock, as in the case of several other vulture species. Bearded Vulture or Lammergeyer is also found in the Himalayan ranges in India and similar habitats in other parts of Asia, Africa and Europe. It has been facing moderately rapid population decline. Yunnan Nuthatch found in Yunnan province of China, has been recorded only in Arunachal Pradesh in India. Habitat loss from a variety of factors such as infrastructure development and forest fires and poaching and use of chemicals are jeopardizing the existence of these and other threatened species.



Woolly-necked Stork - by Kaipally on Wikipedia

Worldwide phenomenon

A similar situation exists globally with 13% of all bird species on the threatened list. Moreover, from among the 350 species, newly recognized and assessed the world over by BirdLife International and IUCN, over 25% have been listed as threatened.

Species such as Belem Curassow from Brazil and Desertas Petrel from Madeira Islands have been listed as Threatened. In the case of the Blue-bearded Helmetcrest, a beautiful hummingbird from Colombia, it may already be too late, as the species has not been seen for nearly 70 years. Somali Ostrich, which is found in Somalia, Ethiopia, Djibouti and Kenya, is now recognised as a distinct species and listed as Vulnerable. Its population is thought to be in rapid decline because of hunting and egg-collection. The latest IUCN study also helps identify the places most important for birds, which need urgent protection.

Several areas of South East Asia are still expected to host extremely rare and endemic species such as Sangihe Dwarf Kingfisher and Cebu Brown Dove and many others not yet documented. Newly recognised species such as Javan Flameback and Javan Blue-banded Kingfisher are now severely threatened. These areas need immediate conservation attention to protect the remaining habitat.

The total number of species recognised by BirdLife in the 2014 Red List is 10,425. Among them category-wise break-up is as follows: Extinct: 140; Extinct in the Wild: 4; Critically Endangered: 213; Endangered: 419; Vulnerable: 741; Near Threatened: 959; Least Concern: 7,886 and Data Deficient: 62. Species are assigned to a particular category based on whether they meet criteria linked to population trends, population size and structure and geographic range. Species listed as Critically Endangered, Endangered or Vulnerable are collectively described as Threatened.



Bearded Vulture - by Richard Bartz on Wikipedia



Himalayan Griffon - by Jan Reurink on Wikipedia



Bugun Liocichla

IUCN Red List of Threatened Birds (2014) - India:

CommonName	Scientific Name	Category
Himalayan Quail	<i>Ophrysia superciliosa</i>	CR
Pink-headed Duck	<i>Rhodonessa caryophyllacea</i>	CR
Baer's Pochard	<i>Aythya baeri</i>	CR
Forest Owlet	<i>Heteroglaux blewitti</i>	CR
Great Indian Bustard	<i>Ardeotis nigriceps</i>	CR
Bengal Florican	<i>Houbaropsis bengalensis</i>	CR
Spoon-billed Sandpiper	<i>Calidris pygmaea</i>	CR

Sociable Lapwing	<i>Vanellus gregarius</i>	CR
Jerdon's Courser	<i>Rhinoptilus bitorquatus</i>	CR
White-rumped Vulture	<i>Gyps bengalensis</i>	CR
Red-headed Vulture	<i>Sarcogyps calvus</i>	CR
White-bellied Heron	<i>Ardea insignis</i>	CR
Slender-billed Vulture	<i>Gyps tenuirostris</i>	CR
Indian Vulture	<i>Gyps indicus</i>	CR
Siberian Crane	<i>Leucogeranus leucogeranus</i>	CR
Christmas Island Frigatebird	<i>Fregata andrewsi</i>	CR
Bugun Liocichla	<i>Liocichla bugunorum</i>	CR
Manipur Bush-quail	<i>Perdicula manipurensis</i>	EN
Green Peafowl	<i>Pavo muticus</i>	EN
White-headed Duck	<i>Oxyura leucocephala</i>	EN
White-winged Duck	<i>Asarcornis scutulata</i>	EN
Narcondam Hornbill	<i>Rhyticeros narcondami</i>	EN
Lesser Florican	<i>Sypheotides indicus</i>	EN
Masked Finfoot	<i>Heliopais personatus</i>	EN
Spotted Greenshank	<i>Tringa guttifer</i>	EN
Black-bellied Tern	<i>Sterna acuticauda</i>	EN
Greater Adjutant	<i>Leptoptilos dubius</i>	EN
Yellow-breasted Bunting	<i>Emberiza aureola</i>	EN
Saker Falcon	<i>Falco cherrug</i>	EN
Black-chinned Laughingthrush	<i>Strophocincla cachinnans</i>	EN
Nilgiri Blue Robin	<i>Myiomela major</i>	EN
White-bellied Blue Robin	<i>Myiomela albiventris</i>	EN
Egyptian Vulture	<i>Neophron percnopterus</i>	EN
Oriental Stork	<i>Ciconia boyciana</i>	EN

Red-breasted Goose	<i>Branta ruficollis</i>	EN
Nicobar Scrubfowl (Megapode)	<i>Megapodius nicobariensis</i>	VU
Swamp Francolin	<i>Francolinus gularis</i>	VU
Chestnut-breasted Partridge	<i>Arborophila mandellii</i>	VU
Western Tragopan	<i>Tragopan melanocephalus</i>	VU
Blyth's Tragopan	<i>Tragopan blythii</i>	VU
Sclater's Monal	<i>Lophophorus sclateri</i>	VU
Cheer Pheasant	<i>Catreus wallichii</i>	VU
Marbled Teal	<i>Marmaronetta angustirostris</i>	VU
Rufous-necked Hornbill	<i>Aceros nipalensis</i>	VU
Dark-rumped Swift	<i>Apus acuticauda</i>	VU
Pale-backed Pigeon (Yellow-eyed Pigeon)	<i>Columba eversmanni</i>	VU
Nilgiri Woodpigeon	<i>Columba elphinstonii</i>	VU
Pale-capped Pigeon	<i>Columba punicea</i>	VU
Sarus Crane	<i>Antigone antigone</i>	VU
Black-necked Crane	<i>Grus nigricollis</i>	VU
Wood Snipe	<i>Gallinago nemoricola</i>	VU
Indian Skimmer	<i>Rynchops albicollis</i>	VU
Pallas's Fish-eagle	<i>Haliaeetus leucoryphus</i>	VU
Nicobar Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter butleri</i>	VU
Greater Spotted Eagle	<i>Clanga clanga</i>	VU
Eastern Imperial Eagle	<i>Aquila heliaca</i>	VU
Dalmatian Pelican	<i>Pelecanus crispus</i>	VU
Lesser Adjutant	<i>Leptoptilos javanicus</i>	VU

Grey-sided Thrush	<i>Turdus feae</i>	VU
Kashmir Flycatcher	<i>Ficedula subrubra</i>	VU
White-browed Bushchat	<i>Saxicola macrorhynchus</i>	VU
White-throated Bushchat	<i>Saxicola insignis</i>	VU
Beautiful Nuthatch	<i>Sitta formosa</i>	VU
White-naped Tit	<i>Parus nuchalis</i>	VU
Yellow-throated Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus xantholaemus</i>	VU
Grey-crowned Prinia	<i>Prinia cinereocapilla</i>	VU
Bristled Grassbird	<i>Chaetornis striata</i>	VU
Broad-tailed Grassbird	<i>Schoenicola platyurus</i>	VU
Marsh Babbler	<i>Pellorneum palustre</i>	VU
Rusty-throated Wren-babbler	<i>Spelaornis badeigularis</i>	VU
Tawny-breasted Wren-babbler	<i>Spelaornis longicaudatus</i>	VU
Jerdon's Babbler	<i>Chrysomma altirostre</i>	VU
Slender-billed Babbler	<i>Turdoides longirostris</i>	VU
Black-breasted Parrotbill	<i>Paradoxornis flavirostris</i>	VU
Yellow Weaver	<i>Ploceus megarhynchus</i>	VU
Green Avadavat	<i>Amandava formosa</i>	VU
Snowy-throated Babbler	<i>Stachyris oglei</i>	VU
Nilgiri Pipit	<i>Anthus nilghiriensis</i>	VU
Long-tailed Duck	<i>Clangula hyemalis</i>	VU
Great Knot	<i>Calidris tenuirostris</i>	VU
Indian Spotted Eagle	<i>Clanga hastata</i>	VU
Great Slaty Woodpecker	<i>Mulleripicus pulverulentus</i>	VU
Asian Houbara	<i>Chlamydotis macqueenii</i>	VU
Lesser White-fronted Goose	<i>Anser erythropus</i>	VU

Hooded Crane	<i>Grus monacha</i>	VU
Socotra Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax nigrogularis</i>	VU
Red-faced Malkoha	<i>Phaenicophaeus pyrrhocephalus</i>	VU
Woolly-necked Stork	<i>Ciconia episcopus</i>	VU
Andaman Teal	<i>Anas albogularis</i>	VU
White-cheeked Partridge	<i>Arborophila atrogularis</i>	NT
Satyr Tragopan	<i>Tragopan satyra</i>	NT
Tibetan Eared-pheasant	<i>Crossoptilon harmani</i>	NT
Mrs Hume's Pheasant	<i>Syrmaticus humiae</i>	NT
Ferruginous Duck	<i>Aythya nyroca</i>	NT
Yellow-rumped Honeyguide	<i>Indicator xanthonotus</i>	NT
Andaman Woodpecker	<i>Dryocopus hodgei</i>	NT
Malabar Pied Hornbill	<i>Anthracoceros coronatus</i>	NT
Ward's Trogon	<i>Harpactes wardi</i>	NT
Blyth's Kingfisher	<i>Alcedo hercules</i>	NT
Brown-winged Kingfisher	<i>Pelargopsis amauroptera</i>	NT
Lord Derby's (Derbyan) Parakeet	<i>Psittacula derbiana</i>	NT
Nicobar Parakeet	<i>Psittacula caniceps</i>	NT
Andaman Scops-owl	<i>Otus balli</i>	NT
Andaman Boobook (Andaman Hawk-owl)	<i>Ninox affinis</i>	NT
Andaman Woodpigeon	<i>Columba palumboides</i>	NT
Andaman Cuckoo-dove	<i>Macropygia rufipennis</i>	NT
Nicobar Pigeon	<i>Caloenas nicobarica</i>	NT
Andaman Crane	<i>Rallina canningi</i>	NT

Asian Dowitcher	<i>Limnodromus semipalmatus</i>	NT
Lesser Fish-eagle	<i>Ichthyophaga humilis</i>	NT
Grey-headed Fish-eagle	<i>Ichthyophaga ichthyaetus</i>	NT
Cinereous Vulture	<i>Aegypius monachus</i>	NT
Andaman Serpent-eagle	<i>Spilornis elgini</i>	NT
Pallid Harrier	<i>Circus macrourus</i>	NT
Oriental Darter	<i>Anhinga melanogaster</i>	NT
Lesser Flamingo	<i>Phoeniconaias minor</i>	NT
Black-headed Ibis	<i>Threskiornis melanocephalus</i>	NT
Spot-billed Pelican	<i>Pelecanus philippensis</i>	NT
Painted Stork	<i>Mycteria leucocephala</i>	NT
Andaman Treepie	<i>Dendrocitta bayleyi</i>	NT
Andaman Drongo	<i>Dicrurus andamanensis</i>	NT
Rusty-bellied Shortwing	<i>Brachypteryx hyperythra</i>	NT
Black-and-rufous Flycatcher	<i>Ficedula nigrorufa</i>	NT
Nilgiri Flycatcher	<i>Eumyias albicaudatus</i>	NT
Firethroat	<i>Luscinia pectardens</i>	NT
Grey-headed Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus priocephalus</i>	NT
Nicobar Bulbul	<i>Hypsipetes nicobariensis</i>	NT
Rufous-vented Prinia	<i>Prinia burnesii</i>	NT
Long-billed Bush-warbler	<i>Bradypterus major</i>	NT
Tytler's Leaf-warbler	<i>Phylloscopus tytleri</i>	NT
Chestnut-backed Laughingthrush	<i>Garrulax nuchalis</i>	NT
Rufous-throated Wren-babbler	<i>Spelaeornis caudatus</i>	NT
Giant Babax	<i>Babax waddelli</i>	NT

Black-necked Stork	<i>Ephippiorhynchus asiaticus</i>	NT
Beach Thick-knee	<i>Esacus magnirostris</i>	NT
Great Hornbill	<i>Buceros bicornis</i>	NT
Rufous-rumped Grassbird	<i>Graminicola bengalensis</i>	NT
Long-tailed Parakeet	<i>Psittacula longicauda</i>	NT
Little Bustard	<i>Tetrax tetrax</i>	NT
Falcated Duck	<i>Mareca falcata</i>	NT
Grey-headed Parakeet	<i>Psittacula finschii</i>	NT
Blossom-headed Parakeet	<i>Psittacula roseata</i>	NT
Black-tailed Godwit	<i>Limosa limosa</i>	NT
Eurasian Curlew	<i>Numenius arquata</i>	NT
River Lapwing	<i>Vanellus duvaucelii</i>	NT
River Tern	<i>Sterna aurantia</i>	NT
South Nicobar Serpent Eagle	<i>Spilornis klossi</i>	NT
Laggar Falcon	<i>Falco jugger</i>	NT
Japanese Quail	<i>Coturnix japonica</i>	NT
Great Stone Plover	<i>Esacus recurvirostris</i>	NT
Alexandrine Parakeet	<i>Psittacula eupatria</i>	NT
Red-breasted Parakeet	<i>Psittacula alexandri</i>	NT
European Roller	<i>Coracias garrulus</i>	NT
Austen's Brown Hornbill	<i>Anorrhinus austeni</i>	NT
Blackish-breasted Babbler	<i>Sphenocichla humei</i>	NT
Long-tailed Wren-babbler	<i>Spelaeornis chocolatinus</i>	NT
Chevron-breasted Babbler	<i>Sphenocichla roberti</i>	NT
Mangrove Pitta	<i>Pitta megarhyncha</i>	NT
Kerala Laughingthrush	<i>Strophocincla fairbanki</i>	NT
Red Kite	<i>Milvus milvus</i>	NT

Buff-breasted Sandpiper	<i>Calidris (Tryngites) subruficollis</i>	NT
Great Snipe	<i>Gallinago media</i>	NT
Jouanin's Petrel	<i>Bulweria fallax</i>	NT
Swinhoe's Storm-petrel	<i>Hydrobates monorhis</i>	NT
Andaman Green Pigeon	<i>Treron chloropterus</i>	NT
Ashy-headed Green Pigeon	<i>Treron phayrei</i>	NT
Red-headed Falcon	<i>Falco chicquera</i>	NT
Himalayan Griffon	<i>Gyps himalayensis</i>	NT
Bearded Vulture	<i>Gypaetus barbatus</i>	NT
Yunnan Nuthatch	<i>Sitta yunnanensis</i>	NT
Nicobar Scops-owl	<i>Otus alius</i>	DD
Large-billed Reed-warbler	<i>Acrocephalus orinus</i>	DD
Sillem's Mountain Finch	<i>Leucosticte sillemi</i>	DD
<i>Compiled by BNHS and BirdLife International</i>		
<i>Note: Species marked in red are the new additions</i>		
Summary		
CR- Critically Endangered	17	
EN- Endangered	18	
VU- Vulnerable	81	
NT- Near Threatened	54	
Data Deficient	3	
Total	173	

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BY ATUL SATHE

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