

ENDANGERED BIRDS IN WESTERN GHATS

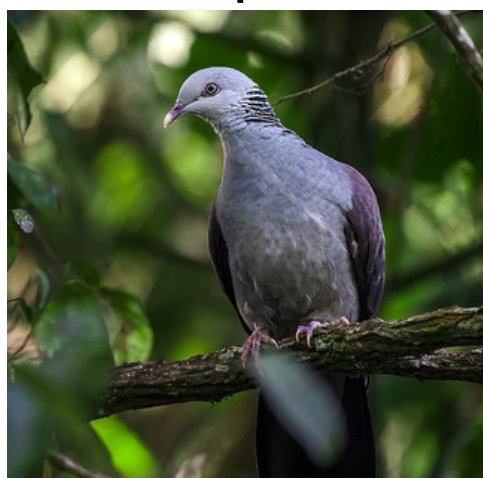
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The Western Ghats, constitute a mountain range along the western side of India. The range starts near the border of Gujarat and Maharashtra, south of the Tapti river, and runs approximately 1,600 km through the states of Maharashtra, Goa, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Kerala ending at Kanyakumari, at the southern tip of India. The Western Ghats are not true mountains, but are the faulted edge of the Deccan Plateau. They are believed to have been formed during the break-up of the super continent of Gondwana some 150 million years ago. The area is one of the world's ten 'Hottest' biodiversity hotspots.

There are at least 16 species of birds endemic to the Western Ghats including the endangered Rufous-breasted Laughing thrush, Nilgiri Wood-pigeon, White-bellied Shortwing and, Malabar Grey Hornbill, etc.

Down below are some Endangered bird species of Western Ghats:



Name: Nilgiri wood pigeon
scientific name: *Columba elphinstonii*
habitat: found in the moist deciduous forests and sholas of the Western Ghats in southwestern India.



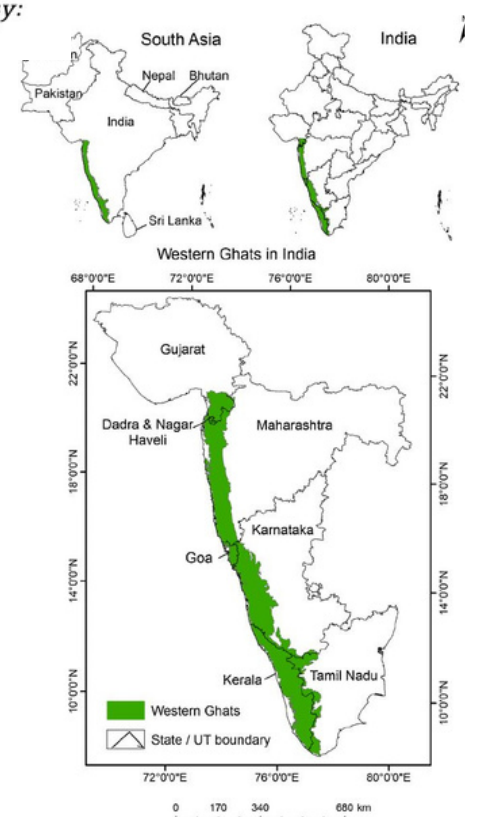
Name: The Nilgiri laughing thrush
scientific name: *Montecincla cachinnans*
habitat: The Nilgiri laughing thrush is a species of laughing thrush endemic to the high elevation areas of the Nilgiris and adjoining hill ranges in Peninsular India.



Name: Grey Hornbill
Scientific name: *Bucerotidae*
habitat: About 13 of those species are found in grasslands or open woodlands, while others are found in very dry areas or thick forests. It is vulnerable.



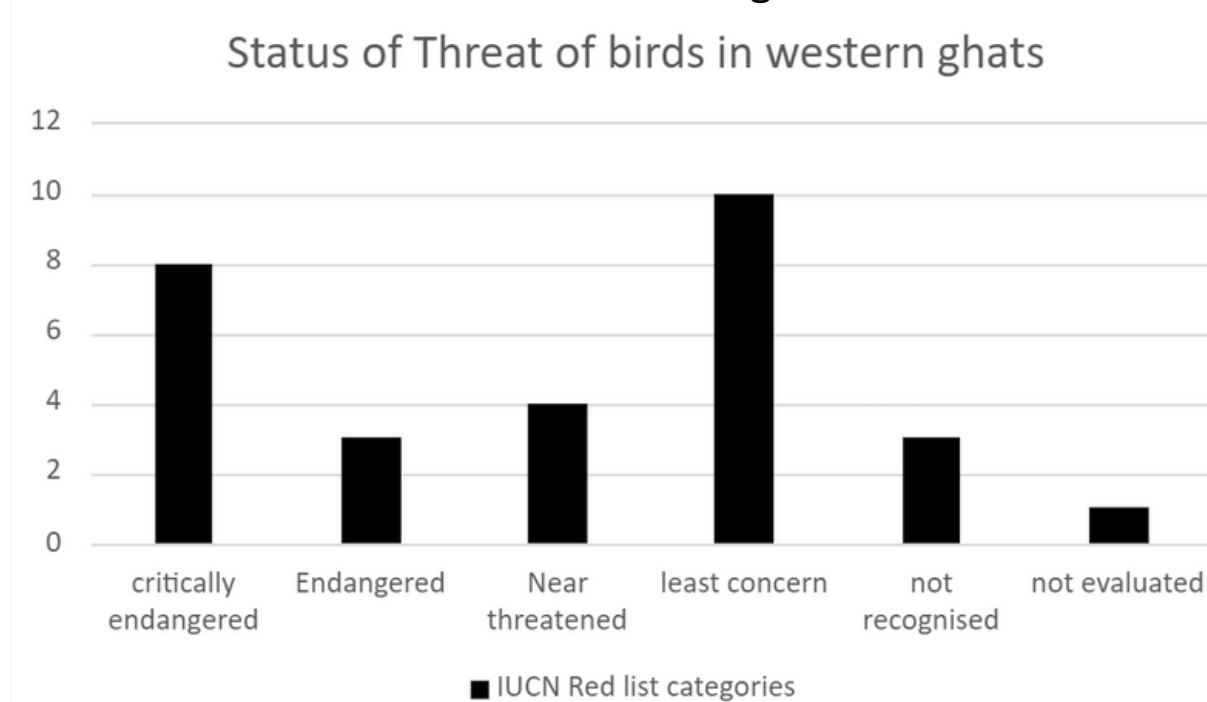
The map on the right shows commonly bird(ed) locations along with endemic bird areas (EBAs) across India (Image courtesy: eBird)



Name: The broad-tailed grassbird
Scientific name: *Schoenicola platyrus*
Habitat: grassy moist highlands.



common Name: white-bellied shortwing
Scientific name: *Myiomela albiventris*
These birds are found in dense forest in the dark lower canopy and forest floor.



How can these be conserved?

1. Conservation organizations must increase the rigor of their approach to determining species ranges by adopting methods that take into account all available data including records of bird sightings, climate, and land cover.
2. Using these refined range maps, managers and policymakers must prioritize high-value conservation areas to ensure species survival.
3. Afforestation helps as well as less practice of deforestation helps too.

References:

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