

Bengal Florican

खरमुजुर



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Morphology and Structure

Bengal Florican *Houbaropsis bengalensis* is a grassland dependent resident bird found in low land Terai of Nepal. Male is about 62-64 cm in height and 1.2-1.5 kg in weight whereas female is slightly larger and heavier than male, about 66-68cm in height and 1.7-1.9 kg. in weight. Head, neck and most parts of males are black, but has white patch in wings which is more distinct during flight. Females and young ones have buff-brown to sandy-rufous, and have buffish-white wing-coverts with fine dark barring.

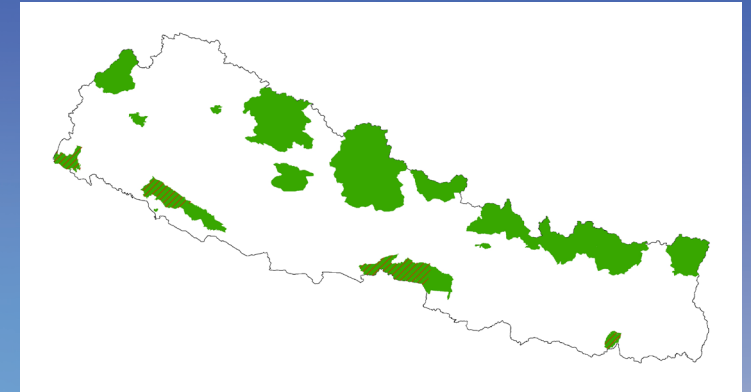
खरमुजुर तराईमा पाइने घाँसे मैदानको आवासीय पन्छी हो । यसको भालेभन्दा पोथी केही ठूलो हुन्छ । पोथीको शरीरको लम्बाइ ६६-६८ से.मि. र तौल १.७-१.९ कि.ग्रा. हुन्छ, भने भालेको शरीरको लम्बाइ ६२-६४ से.मि. र तौल १.२-१.५ कि.ग्रा. हुन्छ । भालेको टाउको, घाँटी र माथिल्लो भाग कालो हुन्छ तर पखेटाको रङ सेतो हुन्छ, जुन उड्दा प्रष्ट देखिन्छ । तर पोथी र बच्चाको रङ भने मैलो खैरोदेखि बलौटे कैलोसम्म हुन्छ ।



Distribution and Population

In Nepal, Bengal Florican occurs in and around protected areas of Terai region from the east to the west which are: Suklaphanta Wildlife Reserve, Bardia National Park, Chitwan National Park and Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve. However, its significant number has been recently recorded outside the Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve. Globally, Bengal Florican is found only in three countries, India, Cambodia and Nepal and is possibly extinct from Vietnam and Bangladesh. The population of Bengal Florican is declining globally with estimated adult global and national population less than 1500 and 100 birds respectively.

खरमुजुर नेपालको संरक्षित क्षेत्रहरू जस्तै: कोशी टप्पु वन्यजन्तु आरक्ष, चितवन राष्ट्रिय निकुञ्ज, बर्दिया राष्ट्रिय निकुञ्ज र शुक्लाफाँटा वन्यजन्तु आरक्षमा मात्रै पाइन्छ। हालै यसको सानो सङ्ख्या कोशीटप्पु वन्यजन्तु आरक्ष बाहिर पनि रेकर्ड गरिएको छ। नेपालमा बाहेक यो दुर्लव पन्छी भारत र क्याम्बोडियामा मात्रै पाइन्छ र सम्भवत भियतनाम र बङ्गलादेशबाट लोप भइसकेको छ। यसको सङ्ख्या विश्वबाटै घट्दै गइरहेको छ। वयस्क खरमुजुरको संख्या हाल विश्वभरिमा १५०० र नेपालमा १०० भन्दा कम रहेको अनुमान गरिएको छ।



Habitat

Bengal Florican is known as a dry grassland bird species. It usually prefers short grasslands for feeding and long grasslands for breeding. After breeding season this bird is known to leave the breeding areas and occurs in degraded grasslands and farmlands. However, non-breeding habitat requirement in detail is still scarcely known.

खरमुजुर सुख्खा घाँसे मैदानमा बस्ने पन्छी हो । यसले सिरु, काँस र खडाइका घाँसे मैदान मन पराउँछ । यो चर्नका लागि छोटो घाँस भएका मैदानहरू रुचाउँछ भने प्रजननका बेला अग्ला घाँस भएका मैदानमा भेटिन्छ । प्रजननको समयपछि यो सुख्खा घाँसे मैदान र खेतबारीमा भेटिए पनि यसको प्रजननपछिको वासस्थानको बारेमा निकै कम जानकारी छ ।



Feeding Behavior

Bengal Florican is active only during the early morning and early evening for feeding. It is omnivorous bird and feeds on seeds, flowers, berries, tubers, insects like grasshoppers, beetles, lizards, etc.

खरमुजुर प्रायः जसो आहारा खोज्न बिहान र बेलुका मात्रै सक्रिय हुने गर्छ । यो सर्वहारी पन्छी भएकाले स-साना किराफट्याङ्गा, छेपारोदेखि घाँस, दाना, फलफूल आदि खान्छ ।



Reproduction and Life Cycle

Bengal Florican lives solitary life but both male and female have multiple partners during the breeding period. Breeding season, starts from March and lasts up to May during which male holds the fixed territories and shows aerial display of flight to attract the female and defends territories from other males. Female lays 1-2 eggs in long grassland and incubates for 4 weeks.

खरमुजुर एकलै बस्न रुचाउने पन्छी भएपनि प्रजननको समयमा भाले र पोथी दुवैले धेरैसँग जोडी बनाउँछन् । यसको प्रजनन प्रायः जसो चैतदेखि जेठ महिनासम्म हुने गर्छ । पोथीलाई आकर्षित गर्नका लागि भालेले जमिनमाथि निरन्तर उफ्रदै मनमोहक नाच देखाउँछ । पोथीले अग्लो घाँसे मैदानमा १-२ ओटा अण्डा पाछे र करिब ४ हप्तासम्म ओथारो बसी बच्चा कोरल्छे ।



Social Behavior

The major conservation threats to the population of Bengal Florican within its range are habitat loss due to succession and fragmentation, grassland burning, over grazing and disturbances by livestock, invasion of alien species, conversion of grassland to agriculture land, plantation etc. which in result has restricted the breeding population within few protected areas.

तराईको घाँसे मैदानमा मानव अतिक्रमण, अव्यवस्थित गाईवस्तुको चरीचरण, घाँसे मैदानलाई खेतीयोग्य जमिनमा रूपान्तरण, घाँसे मैदानमा लगाइने डढेलो, वासस्थानको कमी, आहाराको कमी आदि खरमुजुर संरक्षणका प्रमुख चुनौतिहरू हुन् जसले गर्दा वयस्क खरमुजुरको सङ्ख्या तराईका संरक्षित क्षेत्रहरूमा मात्र सीमित भएको छ ।



Threats

Bengal Florican is a highly threatened species of bird which inhabits in alluvial grassland. It can be considered as an indicator species for the grassland ecosystem conservation to benefit a wide range of grassland fauna. The existing threats to the Bengal Florican can be reduced through better understanding of its ecological requirements and incorporating them in habitat management, conservation education among managers and local communities and conservation of breeding and wintering habitats. Understanding its importance, Government of Nepal, Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation is initiating its conservation in close coordination with Bird Conservation Nepal, WWF Nepal and other organizations.



खरमुजुर घाँसे मैदानको संकटापन्न पन्छी हो । यसको संरक्षण भएमा घाँसे मैदानको पनि संरक्षण हुनुका साथै त्यस पारिस्थितिकीय प्रणालीमा बस्ने अरू जनावरहरूको पनि संरक्षण हुन्छ । यसको संरक्षणका लागि समुदायलाई यसको बारेमा जानकारी गराउने, घाँसे मैदानको उचित संरक्षण र व्यवस्थापन तथा वैज्ञानिक तवरले बानी व्यवहारको अध्ययन गरी संरक्षणका कार्यक्रम गर्न आवश्यक छ । त्यसैले यसको संरक्षणका लागि नेपाल सरकार, राष्ट्रिय निकुञ्ज तथा वन्यजन्तु संरक्षण विभाग, नेपाल पन्छी संरक्षण संघ, डब्लु.डब्लु.एफ. नेपाल तथा अरू संस्थाहरूसँग मिलेर संरक्षणको कार्य गरिँदछ ।



Conservation and Legal Status

Globally and nationally, Bengal Florican is categorized as Critically Endangered species in IUCN Redlist. It is listed in Appendix I in the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES). It is one of the nine protected birds of Nepal by National Parks and Wildlife Conservation Act, 1973 A.D (2029 B.S). Hence, harming or killing the bird or collecting or destroying eggs is a punishable crime with the penalty of NPR 15,000-30,000 or imprisonment of 3-9 months or both.

आइ.यु.सि.एन. को रातो सूचीमा खरमुजुरलाई विश्व र नेपालमा अति संकटापन्न अवस्थामा राखिएको छ । त्यसैगरी साइटिस महासन्धिले यसलाई अनुसूची १ मा राखेको छ । यो नेपालको राष्ट्रिय निकुञ्ज तथा वन्यजन्तु संरक्षण ऐन, वि.सं. २०२९ द्वारा पनि संरक्षित पन्छी हो र यसलाई शिकार गरी मारेमा वा घाइते बनाएमा वा अण्डाहरू सङ्कलन र नष्ट गरेमा १५,०००-३०,००० रूपैयासम्म जरिवाना वा ३-९ महिनासम्म कैद वा दुवै सजाय हुने प्रावधान छ ।

Key Facts मुख्य विशेषता	
Common Name नाम	Bengal Florican खरमुजुर
Scientific Name वैज्ञानिक नाम	<i>Houbaropsis bengalensis</i>
Length (Male) (भाले)	62-64 cm ६२-६४ से.मि.
Length (Female) (पोथी)	66-68 cm. ६६-६८ से.मि.
Weight (Male) तौल (भाले)	1.2-1.5 k.g. १.२-१.५ कि.ग्रा.
Weight (Female) तौल (पोथी)	1.7-1.9 k.g. १.७-१.९ कि.ग्रा.
Global Status अवस्था (विश्व)	Critically Endangered अति सङ्कटापन्न
National Status अवस्था (राष्ट्रिय)	Critically Endangered अति सङ्कटापन्न
Global Population सङ्ख्या (विश्व)	1500 १५००
National Population सङ्ख्या (राष्ट्रिय)	100 १००
Global Distribution फैलावट (विश्व)	Nepal, India and Cambodia नेपाल, भारत र कयाम्बोडिया
National Distribution फैलावट (राष्ट्रिय)	Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve, Chitwan National Park, Bardia National Park, Suklaphanta Wildlife Reserve कोशी टप्पु वन्यजन्तु आरक्ष, चितवन राष्ट्रिय निकुञ्ज, बर्दिया राष्ट्रिय निकुञ्ज र शुक्लाफाँट वन्यजन्तु आरक्ष
Threats खतरा	Habitat loss and fragmentation, grassland burning, over grazing and disturbances by livestock, invasion of alien species, conversion of grassland to agriculture land, plantation etc. घाँसे मैदानमा अतिक्रमण, अव्यवस्थित चरीचरण, घाँसे मैदानको रूपान्तरण, डढेलो, वासस्थानको कमी, आहाराको कमी आदि ।

The Hariyo Ban Program is named after the famous Nepali saying 'Hariyo Ban Nepal ko Dhan' (Healthy green forests are the wealth of Nepal). It is a USAID funded initiative that aims to reduce the adverse impacts of climate change and threats to biodiversity in Nepal. This will be accomplished by working with the government, communities, civil society and private sector. In particular, the Hariyo Ban Program works to empower Nepal's local communities in safeguarding the country's living heritage and adapting to climate change through sound conservation and livelihood approaches. Thus the Program emphasizes the links between people and forests and is designed to benefit nature and people in Nepal. At the heart of Hariyo Ban lie three interwoven components – biodiversity conservation, payments for ecosystem services including REDD+ and climate change adaptation. These are supported by livelihoods, governance, and gender and social inclusion as cross-cutting themes. A consortium of four non-governmental organizations is implementing the Hariyo Ban Program with WWF Nepal leading the consortium alongside CARE Nepal, FECOFUN and NTNC.

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