

त्रीया.जी.ल्या.राप्ट्र.कि.चि.सूस्.र्यार

Common name: White-bellied Heron

Scientific name: Ardea insignis

Conservation status

Listed as Critically Endangered by IUCN (2007) and in Schedule I of the Forest and Nature Conservation Act 1995 of Bhutan (2012)

Population

Estimated population globally is 50-249 individuals. In Bhutan 18 individuals were recorded in 2013.

Distribution globally

White-bellied Heron is known from the elevation of 400 meters to 1500 meters. eastern Himalayan foothills in Bhutan and north-east India to the hills of Bangladesh, north Myanmer.

Distribution in Bhutan

In Bhutan it is found along

Punatsangchhu and Mangdechhu basins

including its major tributaries.

Tributaries in Punatsangchhu include

Kamechhu, Hararongchhu, Digchhu,

Burichhu and Ada Lake and Bertichhu

in Mangdechhu.

Habitat ecology

It is primarily recorded from small or

large rivers, usually with sand or gravel

bars, often within or adjacent to

dominant chirpine forest, between the

It is generally solitary but may

aggregate into small flocks and family

groups during winter and tends to

frequent inaccessible and undisturbed

The species is known to breed and roost in Chir pine forest.

Conservation and management

Habitat protection is very

important part of Heron

conservation in Bhutan. Phochhu

in Punakha has been declared as

heron conservation areas in 2010.

Extensive monitoring and

awareness programs were

conducted by Royal Society for

Protection of Nature. The Royal

Government of Bhutan has listed

in Schedule I of Forest and Nature

Conservation Act 1995 in 2012.

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Protect White-bellied Heron (Ardea insignis) in Bhutan

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The White-bellied Heron population is decreasing in Bhutan· In 2013, there were only 18 individuals counted·

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The White-bellied Herons are found in Punatsangchhu and Mandechhu basins. They are carnivorous and feed on fresh water fishes.

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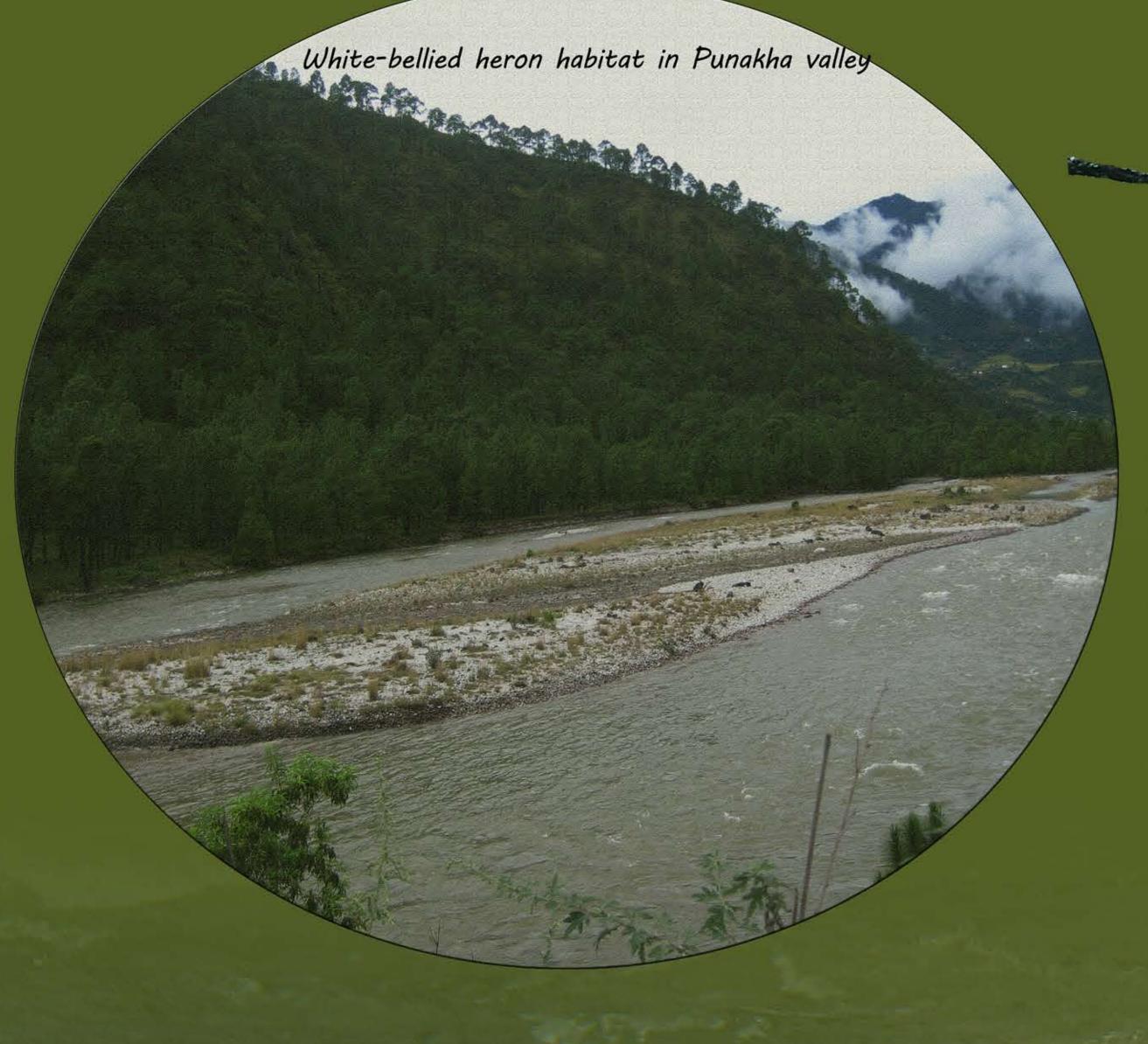
TEMAGATSHEE

SAMDRUP-JONGKHA

White-bellied heron distribution in Bhutan

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In Bhutan, White-bellied herons are mostly found roosting and nesting on tall Chirpine trees.



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Habitat degradation and disturbances are major causes for decline of population of this heron. Habitat degradation is mostly seen in areas of hydropower construction and riverbed quarry.

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Let us stop them from extinction!



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