



State Bird of Ladakh

Black-necked Crane (*Grus nigricollis*)



Cha Thung Thung

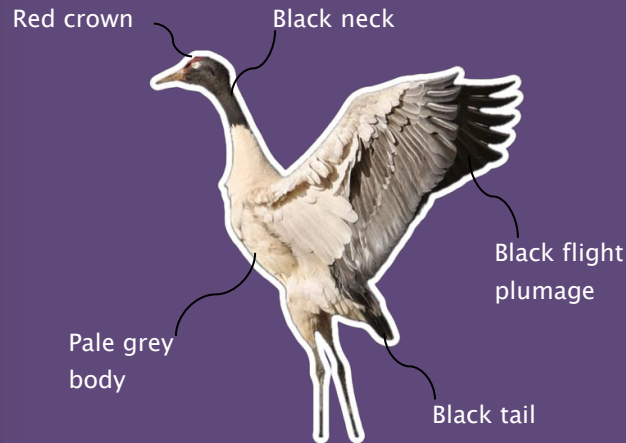
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Black Necked Crane

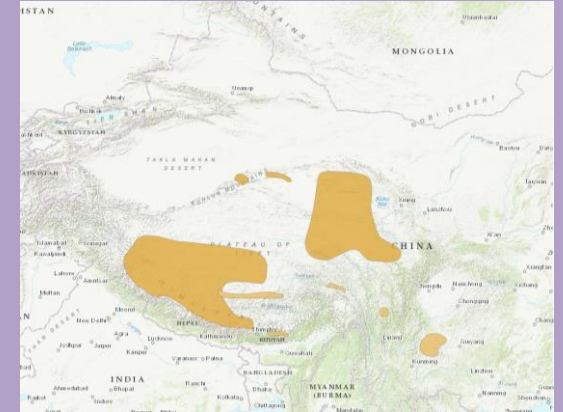
Welcome to the realm of avian biodiversity in Ladakh, where the Black-Necked Crane (*Grus nigricollis*) stands as an iconic bird. Distinguished by its whiteish plumage, contrasting black neck, and vivid red crown, this crane species occupies a significant ecological niche in the region's high-altitude wetlands and agricultural landscapes.

As a symbolic migratory species which breeds in Ladakh, the Black-Necked Crane (BNC) plays a crucial role in maintaining the ecological balance of Ladakh's fragile landscape. The high-altitude marshes and wetlands are the prime habitat of this amazing bird which is rare and threatened avifauna of Ladakh.



Geographic Range

Black Necked Crane breeding range includes the high-altitude mountain marshes and lakes. They are summer visitors in Qinghai-Tibet Plateau in China and Northern India. Their wintering range includes parts of southern China and Bhutan, where they descend from higher ranges.



The distribution of BNC in India is in Ladakh, Sikkim and Arunachal Pradesh.

In Ladakh, Changthang marshes are the best foraging and breeding ground for Black-necked Crane.

KEY FACTS:

- Height: 135 cm
- Weight: 5- 6 kg
- Breeding grounds' altitude range: 2600-4800m
- World Population: About 11,000
- Ladakh Population: 139 (WWF, 2014)

Protect the grace of the Himalayas: Save the symbol of PEACE!



- WPA, 1972: Schedule 1 (Part B, Sr.no. 16)
- IUCN Status: Near Threatened
- CITES: Appendix 1

References: www.iucnredlist.org

For more information contact:
Wildlife Protection Department, Ladakh
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bnhs.org

**Ladakh- Best place in Indian Himalayan Region!
Even black necked crane agrees!**

Ladakh is the only breeding area of black necked cranes in India.

Here is a cool bird fact!

While other cranes hang out in lowlands, our black necked crane is the ultimate mountain bird, chilling in the alpine regions like it's no big deal. They travel all the way from Qinghai Tibet to Ladakh crossing high mountain peaks to breed in Ladakh covering ~700 Kms.

When it comes to communication, black necked cranes do not hold back!

They have got vocals and postures that rival any drama series! But do not be fooled by their tough exterior, they would rather avoid a brawl and prefer to settle disputes with some fancy dance moves.

Move over, marshes!

Black necked cranes are the curators! These stylish birds exclusively breed in high altitude wetlands, where they feast on a gourmet menu of roots, insects, and even occasionally on fish hereby, helps in balancing the ecology of the wetlands.

But sadly,

The major threats to BNC are free-ranging dogs, unassessed transmission lines and wetland reclamation for agriculture, grazing and habitat fragmentation.

Fun facts about Black necked Crane

Did you know?

Black necked cranes are the original power couple of the bird world – while both sexes are almost the same size, the males just edge out the females by a feather! And when they're young, they sport a cute, brownish look before growing into their elegant adult attire.

The body plumage

A chic, pale grey/whitish body with a pop of boldness – a completely black neck, head, and tail feathers. A striking red crown that's the envy of all the birds on the block!



Guess who holds cultural and ecological importance in Ladakh?

That's right, it's the black-necked crane, endorsed as the **State Bird of Ladakh**.
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