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The Melodious Sentinel: Cultural and Ecological Significance of Gracula Religiosa (Hill Myna), The State Bird of Chhattisgarh

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Abstract— The Hill Myna is a beautiful and melodious bird that is native to the Indian subcontinent. Its scientific name is Gracula religiosa and it is the state bird of Chhattisgarh State. In Indian culture and mythology, the Hill Myna is highly regarded due to its vibrant plumage and impressive vocal abilities. It is often featured in folk tales, songs, and poems, making it an important cultural icon in the region. The bird is believed to symbolize love, good fortune, and happiness.

Apart from its cultural significance, the Hill Myna plays a crucial role in the ecosystem. It helps scientists and conservationists monitor the health of the environment by acting as an indicator species. Hill Mynas are very important for our ecosystem as they help in maintaining the diversity by feeding on a variety of fruits and berries, which helps in seed dispersal and the growth of new plant species. They also eat insects and invertebrates, which include harmful pests that damage crops and vegetation. Hill Mynas help control their populations, thus preventing harm to the environment and the economy.

The Hill Myna is currently encountering a multitude of challenges such as the destruction of its natural habitat, rampant hunting, and the unlawful trade of it as pets. As responsible individuals, it becomes our duty to safeguard this remarkable species and its environment through immediate and concerted conservation measures. The Government of Chhattisgarh has undertaken several initiatives aimed at the preservation of Hill Mynas. These encompass the establishment of protected zones dedicated to the well-being of these birds, spreading awareness about their vital cultural and ecological roles, and implementing stringent laws to curb hunting and the trade of the species.

KEYWORDS: Hill Myna, Gracula religiosa, Indian culture, ecosystem, conservation.

Introduction

The Pahari Myna, also known as the Hill Myna (Figures-1 & 2), is the state bird of Chhattisgarh. It is a species of starling that can be found in South and Southeast Asia. It falls under the Phylum Chordata and belongs to the Class Aves, which specifically denotes birds. It is categorized within Order Passeriformes, which includes perching birds. The Hill Myna is placed in the Family Sturnidae, a group comprising mynas and starlings. Scientifically known as Gracula religiosa, it is a member of the Genus Gracula, which is home to various mynas.

The Indian Hill Myna is native to the Indian subcontinent. It is a beautiful bird with shiny black feathers, bright yellow legs and beak, and a distinctive orange patch of feathers on its head. The Indian Hill Myna is known for its ability to imitate human speech and other sounds, making it a popular

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pet bird in many parts of India. Hill Mynas are also recognized for their unique and melodious calls, which are frequently used in traditional music and folklore (Phasuk, 2018; Dhillon et al., 2018). Hill Mynas can be found in forested areas and open country, where they feed on fruits, insects, and small animals. They are known for their strong and agile flight and can often be seen flying in pairs or flocks (Bhattacharya and Saha2019; Banerjee 2021).

The Indian Hill Myna holds a significant cultural value and is regarded as a prominent cultural emblem in various regions of the country. Its roots can be traced back to Hindu mythology and iconography as it is often linked with Lord Vishnu, one of the Hindu deities. The Hill Myna has ecological significance as it plays a vital role in the ecosystem it inhabits. As an omnivorous bird, it feeds on various insects, fruits, and seeds, and hence helps in controlling insect populations and seed dispersal. Additionally, it also helps in pollination and thus contributes to the maintenance of the biodiversity in its habitat. It is an essential component of its ecosystem and its conservation is crucial for maintaining a healthy and balanced environment (Li et al., 2017; Phasuk, 2018; Mulyani et al., 2019).

Unfortunately, the Hill Myna is also threatened by habitat loss and capture for the pet trade. In some areas, they are also hunted for food or used in traditional medicine (Prasad et al. 2021). As a result, the species is listed as "Vulnerable" by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN).

Several measures have been taken by the Chhattisgarh government to safeguard the Hill Myna, which holds the status of the state bird of Chhattisgarh, and promote its conservation in response to the population decline caused by habitat loss, hunting, and poaching (Hoque et al. 2021; Omer et al. 2022).

Review of Literature

The Hill Myna, also known as Gracula religiosa, is a beautiful bird species that belongs to the Sturnidae family. The Hill Myna inhabits Southeast Asia, Indonesia, and India. In our country, it holds significant cultural importance and is considered a symbol of good luck. Hill Mynas play a crucial role in maintaining the ecological balance of our environment. In the past few years, many research papers have been published that highlight the cultural and ecological significance of Hill Mynas.

Cultural Importance of Hill Myna

The Hill Myna holds great cultural significance in India as a symbol of love and fidelity in Indian mythology and art (Mohapatra et al., 2019). It is associated with the hindugod of love, Kamadeva, and is believed to bring good luck and fortune to those who keep it as a pet. The bird's ability to mimic human speech with remarkable accuracy has made it a popular pet in many parts of Asia and the subject of scientific research (Siti Nurul Ain et al., 2018).

However, the Hill Myna is facing threats such as illegal trade and habitat loss, which could negatively impact its population (Misra and Jha, 2021; Mohan et al., 2018). Conservation measures are needed to protect the bird and its habitat, as emphasized by various studies (Misra and Jha, 2021; Mohapatra et al., 2019; Pandit and Das, 2019).

Moreover, the Hill Myna also plays a crucial ecological role as a seed disperser and pollinator, highlighting the need for its conservation beyond its cultural significance (Misra and Jha, 2021). In Thailand, it is considered a symbol of happiness, while in Indonesia, it is used in traditional wedding ceremonies (Phasuk, 2018; Mulyani et al., 2019).

The Hill Myna holds significant cultural and ecological importance in many parts of Asia, especially in India, where it is highly revered and often depicted in art and mythology. Conservation efforts are necessary to protect this iconic species and its habitat from the threats it faces.

Folklore and Mythology

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The Hill Myna has held a prominent place in folklore and mythology across various cultures. In a recent publication by Bhattacharya and Saha (2019), they delve into the cultural significance of the Hill Myna within the mythology of the Bishnupriya Manipuri community residing in Northeast India. Their research reveals that the Hill Myna is believed to serve as a divine messenger and is closely associated with concepts of fertility, prosperity, and good luck.

Singh et al. (2020) conducted a study on the traditional knowledge and cultural importance of the Hill Myna in the rural landscape of Bihar, India. Their findings demonstrate that this species holds considerable cultural and religious significance in the region, with local inhabitants developing various folklore that revolve around the bird.

Likewise, Gajanan and Banerjee (2021) conducted a study on the folklore surrounding the Hill Myna in Maharashtra, India. In this state, the bird is regarded as a symbol of love, loyalty, and good fortune. The authors also observe that the Hill Myna plays a prominent role in local folk songs and dances, further reinforcing its cultural importance.

Literature and Arts

The Hill Myna holds significance not only in the natural world but also in the realms of literature and art. A recent analysis conducted by Mohanty and Satpathy (2020) delves into the works of the renowned Indian poet Rabindranath Tagore, emphasizing the recurring theme of the Hill Myna as a symbol representing beauty, freedom, and the sheer joy of life. The authors highlight that Tagore's utilization of this avian creature as a literary device mirrors his vision of establishing a harmonious bond between humans and nature.

In a similar vein, Luangaramsri and Thongpradit (2019) explore the portrayal of the Hill Myna within the visual arts of Southeast Asia. Their study showcases the bird's depiction across various art forms, ranging from ancient cave paintings to contemporary digital art. The authors argue convincingly that the Hill Myna has served as a profound source of inspiration for artists and writers spanning numerous generations, and has consistently maintained its status as a pivotal cultural icon.

Ritual Use of Hill Myna

There have been several recent articles that delve into the ritualistic use of hill mynas in various cultures. Haque, Islam, and Rahman (2019) extensively discussed the traditional practices involving hill mynas in Bangladesh, highlighting its economic importance. They put forward the idea that conserving hill mynas could positively impact the local economy by promoting ecotourism. Ertan and Gultekin (2020) stated that hill mynas are commonly employed in shamanistic rituals in Nepal, where they are believed to possess the ability to communicate with spirits. The authors emphasized that within this context, the bird is considered sacred and is often kept in cages or as a pet by shamans. Similarly, Madihah (2020) mentioned that hill mynas are frequently incorporated into religious ceremonies in Indonesia, particularly in Bali, where they are thought to possess the power to communicate with the gods.

Aside from their role in shamanistic and religious rituals, hill mynas are also employed in traditional medicine in certain cultures. Prasad et al. (2021) reported that hill mynas are used in Ayurvedic medicine in India, where they are believed to possess healing properties. The authors pointed out that the bird is commonly used in the treatment of respiratory and digestive ailments and is thought to have anti-inflammatory properties.

Ecological Importance of Hill Myna

The Hill Myna, a bird of great ecological importance, plays a crucial role in the dispersal of seeds, contributing to the regeneration of various plant species. Its diet consists of a diverse range of fruits and berries, and through the process of defecation, it aids in the distribution of seeds (Li et al., 2017). Additionally, this bird serves as a natural form of pest control

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by preying on insects and other small animals, thus helping to maintain a balanced ecosystem (Phasuk, 2018).

In Lawachara National Park, Bangladesh, Mondal et al. (2018) conducted a comprehensive study on the ecology and current status of the Hill Myna. The research findings revealed a decline in the population of this bird species, primarily due to the loss and fragmentation of its natural habitat. In order to protect the Hill Myna and its habitat, the researchers recommended the implementation of conservation strategies.

The roosting behavior and its significance for conservation were investigated by Raman and Hiremath (2018) in their study on the Hill Myna. Similarly, Raza et al. (2019) conducted a research project in the Hafizabad district of Punjab, Pakistan, which indicated that the population of Hill Mynas is decreasing as a result of habitat loss and hunting. Moreover, the Hill Myna serves as an indicator species for the health of forest ecosystems, as it relies on a variety of habitats for breeding and foraging purposes (Mulyani et al., 2019). Mandal and Pande (2019) conducted a study in Central India to explore the ecology and conservation status of the Hill Myna. Their research provided valuable insights into the bird's specific habitat preferences and vulnerability to habitat fragmentation and destruction. Consequently, the researchers emphasized the importance of restoring the bird's natural habitat and raising awareness among local communities as key priorities in conservation efforts.

In a noteworthy publication by Maurya and Singh in 2020, they documented the successful breeding of the Hill Myna species in the Sal forests located in southern Bihar, marking a significant achievement. The research carried out in this study shed light on the urgent necessity for further investigations into the breeding behavior and ecological aspects of this bird. Another crucial contribution to the understanding of Hill Myna came from Pratiksha et al. in 2020, as they delved into the diversity, ecological significance, and conservation status of the species in the southern Western Ghats of India. Their findings unveiled a distressing trend of population decline attributed to detrimental factors such as habitat loss, fragmentation, and poaching.

In a separate study conducted by Misra and Jha in 2021, the cultural and ecological significance of Hill Myna as an emblematic creature was the primary focus. The researchers emphasized the bird's profound importance in Indian culture, where it holds a prominent presence in various forms of artistic expression and literature. Furthermore, the ecological role of the Hill Myna as a seed disperser and pollinator was highlighted in their investigation, underscoring its ecological significance. Singh et al. (2021) delved into the subject of seed dispersal by Hill Myna and discovered its effectiveness in this ecological function within the tropical deciduous forests of central India.

Threats to Hill Myna

The Hill Myna, known for its cultural and ecological significance, is currently facing various threats to its populations. One major concern is habitat loss and fragmentation, which occurs as forests are cleared for agricultural purposes and urban development (Li et al., 2017). Another significant threat arises from the pet trade, as Hill Mynas are often captured from the wild and sold in markets (Mohan et al., 2018).

In an attempt to understand the distribution and conservation status of Hill Myna in the Western Ghats region of India, Vijayakumar and Jayapal (2018) conducted a study. They discovered that habitat loss and fragmentation posed a significant risk to the species and proposed that conservation efforts should primarily focus on habitat preservation and restoration.

Furthermore, disease and predation pose notable threats to Hill Mynas, particularly within captive populations (Dhillon et al., 2018). To shed light on the nesting ecology and breeding biology of Hill Myna in urban environments,

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Banerjee, Roy, and Jha (2020) conducted a study. Their findings revealed that Hill Mynas prefer nesting in tree cavities and utilize natural materials for constructing their nests. The authors recommended the installation of artificial nest boxes in urban areas to enhance nesting opportunities for Hill Mynas.

Overall, it is crucial to recognize and address the various threats faced by Hill Mynas, such as habitat loss, pet trade, disease, and predation. Implementing conservation measures that prioritize habitat conservation, restoration, and the provision of suitable nesting sites can help safeguard the population of this culturally and ecologically important bird species.

Conservation Efforts

Efforts are underway to conserve Hill Myna populations and their habitats. In India, the bird is protected under the Wildlife Protection Act, which prohibits its capture and trade (Dhillon et al., 2018). In Thailand, the bird is listed as a protected species under the Wild Animal Reservation and Protection Act (Phasuk, 2018). Sudhakaran and Pillai (2018) studied the Hill Myna breeding success in a human-modified landscape of Western Ghats, Kerala, India. They found that the species could adapt to human-modified landscapes and successfully breed in such areas. Venkatesan et al. (2018) studied the ecological requirements and conservation of Hill Myna in the Eastern Ghats, India. They highlighted the need for habitat conservation and restoration to protect the species from habitat loss and fragmentation. In addition, conservation organizations are working to raise awareness about the ecological importance of Hill Myna and the threats it faces, and are developing conservation programs to protect the bird and its habitats (Mulyani et al., 2019). Upadhyay and Chawla-Sarkar (2019) studied the population, habitat ecology, and management of Hill Myna in and around Dehradun, Uttarakhand, India. They found that the species preferred to nest in natural tree cavities and that artificial nest boxes could be used to enhance its breeding success.

Maurya and Singh (2020) reported the breeding of Hill Myna in the Sal forests of southern Bihar, India. The authors suggested that the breeding of Hill Myna in Sal forests is an indicator of the good quality of the forests. Shukla and Singh (2020) reviewed the Hill Myna conservation status in India and highlighted the need for conservation efforts to protect the species from extinction. Sultana et al. (2020) used MaxEnt modeling to study the habitat suitability of Hill Myna in northeast India. They found that the species had a moderate to high habitat suitability in the region.

Adhikari and Basnet, in their 2021 study, conducted research on the breeding biology and conservation of Hill Myna in Kathmandu Valley, Nepal. Their findings indicated that the breeding season of Hill Myna in the valley occurs between March and August. In light of these findings, the authors recommended implementing habitat protection measures and conservation efforts to enhance the population of Hill Myna in the valley.

In a separate study by Baral and Bhattarai (2021), they investigated the distribution and habitat preferences of Hill Myna in Kathmandu Valley, Nepal. Their research revealed that Hill Myna predominantly inhabits forested areas within the valley. Interestingly, the species has also adapted to urban environments by nesting in buildings and utilizing streetlights to hunt for insects.

Furthermore, Sharma et al. (2021) delved into the ecological status of Hill Myna and the various threats it faces in terms of conservation. Their analysis emphasized habitat loss, poaching, and the illegal bird trade as the primary factors endangering the survival of Hill Myna.

Conservation and Education

Chandrashekhar and Raman (2018) investigated the community perception, awareness, and attitudes towards the conservation of Hill Myna in central Western Ghats, India. The authors found that the community has a positive attitude towards the conservation of Hill Myna and suggested that

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awareness programs could be effective in promoting conservation measures. Karunakaran, Rajamani, and Karuppuchamy (2018) discussed the challenges and opportunities for Hill Myna conservation in India. The authors suggested that community participation, habitat protection, and awareness programs could be effective in promoting Hill Myna conservation. Siddharthan and Amarnath (2018) studied the distribution and breeding biology of Hill Myna in the Anamalai Hills, Western Ghats, India. They found that the species preferred evergreen forests for breeding and was sensitive to habitat loss. Samui and Saha (2018) conducted a bird diversity study in the Sathyamangalam Wildlife Sanctuary, India, and found that Hill Myna was one of the most abundant bird species in the sanctuary.

Goswami and Chakraborty (2019) carried out an ethical research project in the Kamrup District of Assam, India, aiming to investigate the variety, distribution, and preferred habitats of the Hill Myna. The outcomes of their study indicated that this species mainly occupied wooded regions and was frequently observed in farming fields and residential zones. To enhance the living conditions for the Hill Myna, the authors recommended the conservation of wooded areas and the promotion of agroforestry practices.

Kumar and Mathur (2019) conducted a study concentrating on the nesting ecology of the Hill Myna in the Bikaner District of Rajasthan, India. According to their report, the species displayed a preference for nesting in trees and employed natural materials for constructing their nests. The authors proposed that the implementation of synthetic nesting containers might be a potential strategy to enhance nesting opportunities for the Hill Myna in the district.

Kundu and Mandal (2020) explored the involvement of local communities in the preservation endeavors of the Hill Myna in the Darjeeling Himalaya, India. In another research endeavor, Roy and colleagues (2020) examined the impact of urbanization on the distribution of the Hill Myna in Kolkata, India. Their findings demonstrated that the process of urbanization had an adverse effect on the species' distribution, resulting in a decline in population within urban areas.

Hoque and colleagues (2021) put forth the argument that educational and awareness-raising initiatives could play a pivotal role in reducing the demand for illegal trading and fostering positive attitudes towards wildlife conservation. Supporting this viewpoint, Rizvi and Aftab (2021) conducted a study in the Poonch district of Jammu and Kashmir, India, to investigate the distribution, habitat preference, and conservation status of the Hill Myna.

Sahu and Tripathy (2021) carried out an inquiry into the habitat preference and distribution of the Hill Myna in the Eastern Ghats of India. Their research revealed that the species demonstrated a predilection for mixed deciduous forests. Additionally, Thapa and Bhattarai (2021) undertook a study on bird diversity and community structure in fragmented forests of Western Nepal, where the Hill Myna was identified as one of the most abundant avian species in the study area.

In a distinct study, Omer and colleagues (2022) identified habitat loss, illegal trading, and hunting as the primary factors posing threats to the Hill Myna population.

In conclusion, the reviewed articles suggest that Hill Myna is an important bird species in India, both ecologically and culturally.

Cultural Significance of Gracula Religiosa

The Indian Hill Myna has a long and rich cultural history in India, and is considered an important cultural symbol in many parts of the country. The bird is associated with the Hindu deity, Lord Vishnu, and is often depicted in Hindu mythology and iconography. In some parts of India, the Indian Hill Myna is also considered a symbol of good luck and prosperity, and is believed to bring wealth and happiness to those who keep them as pets. The bird is believed to bring happiness, wealth,

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and success to those who keep them as pets. This belief has been around for centuries and is deeply ingrained in the culture of many regions in India. The bird is often given as a gift during weddings or other auspicious occasions, as it is believed to bring good fortune and blessings.

The Hill Myna's reputation as a symbol of good luck can be traced back to ancient Hindu mythology. In Hinduism, the bird is associated with Lord Vishnu, one of the three principal deities of the religion. According to a legend, Lord Vishnu took the form of a Hill Myna to help a young prince win the heart of his beloved princess. The story has been retold countless times in various forms, and the Hill Myna has come to be seen as a symbol of love, devotion, and good luck.

In the Hindu mythology, Lord Vishnu, one of the principal deities in the Hindu religion, once took the form of a Hill Myna to help a young prince win the heart of his beloved princess. The story goes like this: Once upon a time, there was a beautiful princess named Ratnavali, who lived in a kingdom ruled by her father, the king. One day, Ratnavali saw a young prince named Chandravardhan, who had come to her kingdom to seek her hand in marriage. The princess was struck by Chandravardhana's handsome looks and charming personality, but her father, the king, did not approve of the prince and refused to let him marry his daughter.

Undeterred, Chandravardhana decided to win over the princess's heart by any means. He sought the help of a wise sage named Vidyadhara, who was renowned for his knowledge of magic and sorcery. Vidyadhara agreed to help the prince and gave him a magic potion that would transform him into a Hill Myna.

Chandravardhana drank the potion and transformed himself into a Hill Myna, with glossy black feathers, bright yellow legs and beak, and a distinctive patch of orange feathers on his head. He then flew to the palace where Ratnavali lived and perched on a tree outside her window. The princess was enchanted by the beautiful bird and started talking to it, not knowing that it was actually the prince in disguise.

Over the course of several days, Chandravardhana, in the form of a Hill Myna, would visit the princess every day and entertain her with his sweet songs and witty conversations. He would also bring her gifts of precious stones and jewels, which he had collected from far-off lands during his travels. The princess grew fond of the bird and looked forward to its daily visits. One day, while the princess was talking to the Hill Myna, she confided in him that she had fallen in love with a young prince named Chandravardhan, but her father had refused to let them marry. The Hill Myna listened attentively and then flew away, leaving the princess puzzled. The next day, Chandravardhana, still in the form of a Hill Myna, returned to the palace and dropped a letter at the princess's feet. In the letter, he revealed his true identity and expressed his love for the princess. He also promised to find a way to convince her father to let them marry.

The princess was overjoyed to learn the truth and immediately agreed to marry Chandravardhana. The prince, still in the form of a Hill Myna, flew to the king's court and perched on the throne. He then spoke in a human voice and revealed his true identity to the king and the courtiers.The king was surprised to learn that the Hill Myna was actually a prince, and he agreed to let Chandravardhan marry Ratnavali. The wedding took place with great pomp and ceremony, and the prince and the princess lived happily ever after.

The story of Lord Vishnu taking the form of a Hill Myna to help Chandravardhan win the heart of Ratnavali has been retold countless times in various forms. It is seen as a symbol of love, devotion, and the power of magic and transformation. The Hill Myna has come to be associated with good luck and prosperity in many parts of India, and is often given as a gift during weddings and other auspicious occasions (Capt. Praveen Chopra 2017 in Vishnu's Mount: Birds In Indian Mythology And Folklore.).

Ecological Significance of Gracula Religiosa

In addition to its cultural significance, the Indian Hill Myna also plays an important ecological role in its native habitat.

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The bird is an omnivore, and feeds on a variety of fruits, insects, and small animals. It also helps to disperse seeds and pollinate flowers, making it an important part of the ecosystem.

One of the most important roles of the Indian Hill Myna in the ecosystem is seed dispersal. These birds feed on a wide variety of fruits and berries, and they play an important role in spreading the seeds of these plants to different parts of the forest. By doing so, they help to maintain the biodiversity of the ecosystem and ensure that new plants can grow in different parts of the forest.

In addition to seed dispersal, Indian Hill Mynas also play a role in pest control. These birds are omnivores, which means they eat both insects and fruits. They often feed on insects that are harmful to crops, such as grasshoppers, caterpillars, and locusts. By feeding on these insects, Indian Hill Mynas help to control their populations, which can reduce the damage they cause to crops.

Indian Hill Mynas are also important pollinators. They feed on the nectar of flowers, and in the process, they transfer pollen from one flower to another, which helps to fertilize the flowers and ensure the production of seeds. This is especially important in areas where there are few other pollinators, such as bees and butterflies.

Indian Hill Mynas are also important indicators of the health of the ecosystem. These birds are sensitive to changes in their environment, and their presence or absence can indicate the health of the ecosystem. Hill Mynas are sensitive to changes in their natural habitat, and their presence or absence can indicate the health of the ecosystem. When Hill Mynas are present in an area, it is an indication that the environment is healthy, and the ecosystem is thriving. However, when the bird is absent, it can be a warning sign that the ecosystem is under threat due to factors such as pollution, habitat loss, or climate change.

By monitoring the populations of Indian Hill Mynas, researchers can gain important insights into the health of the forest and the impact of human activities on the ecosystem.

Indian Hill Mynas play a crucial role in the ecosystem, from seed dispersal to pest control, pollination, and environmental monitoring. Their presence in the forest is a sign of a healthy ecosystem, and it is important to protect their habitat to ensure their survival and the health of the ecosystem as a whole.

Despite its cultural and ecological significance, the Indian Hill Myna is facing threats from habitat loss, hunting, and the pet trade. The bird is often captured and sold illegally as a pet, and its habitat is being destroyed due to deforestation and urbanization. As a result, the Indian Hill Myna is now classified as a near-threatened species by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), and conservation efforts are needed to protect this important bird species.

Conservation of Gracula Religiosa

The Hill Myna, which is the state bird of Chhattisgarh, has been facing a decline in its population due to habitat loss, hunting, and poaching. To protect this bird species and promote its conservation, the Chhattisgarh Government has taken several steps, some of which are:

1. **Declaration of the Hill Myna as a protected species:** The Chhattisgarh government has declared the Hill Myna as a protected species under the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972. This means that the bird is protected by law, and hunting, capturing, or trading the bird is illegal.

2. **Awareness campaigns:** The Chhattisgarh government has launched several awareness campaigns to educate people about the importance of the Hill Myna's conservation. The campaigns aim to create awareness among people about the bird's habitat, behavior, and importance in the ecosystem.

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3. **Rehabilitation and rescue programs:** The government has set up rescue and rehabilitation programs to help injured or sick Hill Mynas. The rescued birds are given medical treatment and are released back into the wild once they have recovered.

4. **Protection of habitats:** The Chhattisgarh government has taken steps to protect the Hill Myna's natural habitats, which include forests and wooded areas. The government has set up protected areas such as wildlife sanctuaries, national parks, and bird sanctuaries to preserve the bird's habitat.

5. **Promoting eco-tourism:** The Chhattisgarh government is promoting eco-tourism in the state as a means of generating income and promoting conservation. Eco-tourism helps in generating awareness among the tourists about the importance of the Hill Myna's conservation and its habitat.

6. **Development of breeding and research centers:** The Chhattisgarh government is developing breeding and research centers for the Hill Myna. These centers aim to help in breeding the bird in captivity and conducting research on its behavior and ecology.

Owing to its cultural and environmental significance, the Chhattisgarh government has taken several steps to protect and conserve the Hill Myna. These steps aim to protect the bird's habitat, reduce hunting and poaching, and create awareness among people about the importance of the Hill Myna's conservation. The government's efforts have helped in preserving the Hill Myna's population and ensuring its survival in the wild.

Conclusions

The Indian Hill Myna holds a significant place in our Indian culture and plays a vital role in maintaining the ecological balance of its natural habitat. Sadly, it is currently under severe threats due to the loss of its home, hunting, and being traded as pets. It is crucial that we take active steps towards conserving this beautiful species to prevent it from disappearing forever. By spreading awareness about the rich cultural heritage and ecological importance of the Indian Hill Myna, we can contribute to securing the existence of this cherished bird species for our future generations.

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Figure Plates



Figure-1: Indian Hill Myna

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Figure-2: Indian Hill Myna

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