



INTACH

STATE BIRDS OF INDIA:

YELLOW FOOTED GREEN PIGEON



The yellow-footed green pigeon is also known as yellow-legged green pigeon. Its scientific name is *Treron phoenicopterus*. It is a common species of green pigeon found in the Indian subcontinent. It is the state bird of Maharashtra and is called Hola or Hariyal in Marathi.

DESCRIPTION

The yellow footed green pigeon is a stout bird. It is greenish-yellow in colour, with blackish wings with yellow in the edges. The bird has a small lilac patch on its shoulder. Its iris is blue with an outer circle of pink. It has a soft bill which is swollen at the base and greenish. The females sometimes seem slightly duller in comparison to the males.

DISTRIBUTION AND HABITAT

The yellow-footed green pigeons are distributed in Pakistan, India, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Bhutan, Bangladesh, Myanmar, Thailand, Cambodia, Laos, Vietnam and China. In India, this species is found in almost all the states, except for Lakshadweep Islands and Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

This bird is moderately dependant on forests for survival. It normally occurs in altitudes from 0 to 1000 meters. are commonly found in road side trees particularly, Banyan and Peepal trees. They are found in a wide range of wooded habitats which include dry and moist deciduous forests, secondary growth, scrubland, groves of trees in open country, agricultural land, villages, overgrown gardens and tree lined roads.

DIET

The yellow-footed green pigeon feeds mainly of fruits. Wild fruits, orchard fruits, drupes, berries and figs are their primary food.



DID YOU KNOW...

The genus *Treronis* derived from the Greek word meaning pigeon or dove, and can also mean shy or timid. The word *phoenicopterus* is from the Greek word *phoinikopteros*, literally translating to red-feathered but mostly referring to the lilac patch on the shoulder. So the name can translate to mean a shy pigeon with a lilac patch on the shoulder!

THREATS

Currently, the yellow footed green pigeon is not protected and is listed as Least Concern by IUCN. However, breeding habitat alteration and destruction, hunting for food and capture of adults

and juveniles for pet-trade are some of the main threats that are endangering the survival of these species.

ACTIVITY

1. What are the different kinds of pigeons that are found in India? How is the yellow footed green pigeon different from other pigeons?
2. On a map of India, shade the places where the green footed yellow pigeon is found.
3. Do you know the state bird of your state? Find out and write a short brief about it.

References:

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