

Bengal Florican

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Bengal Florican Latest News

Fewer than 1,000 Bengal floricans remain worldwide, with small, fragmented populations restricted to remnant alluvial grasslands.

About Bengal Florican

- It is a grassland **indicator species**.
- **Habitat:** It is a **bustard mostly** found in the seasonally **inundated alluvial grasslands** of the Gangetic-Brahmaputra plains.
- **Distribution:** It is distributed in the states of **Uttar Pradesh, Assam and Arunachal Pradesh** in India, in the terai of **Nepal and in Bangladesh**.
 - Key strongholds in India are **Dudhwa National Park** in Uttar Pradesh and several sites across Assam—**Manas, Kaziranga, Orang, and Dibru-Saikhowa National Parks**.
- The male bird shows black plumage, with a crest and elongated display feathers that are raised **during courtship**, and white wing patches become visible in flight.

- It makes vertical leaps, wing movements and vocalisations along with other males, a **behaviour known as “lekking”**, to **establish territories and attract females**.
- It shows **reverse sexual dimorphism** and colour dichromatism (male and female are differently coloured).
- **Diet:** They are **omnivorous birds**. They eat various insects, fruits, seeds, and flowers and also feed on small snakes and lizards.
- **Threats:** Land conversion, expansion of agriculture, **annual grassland burning**, overgrazing, encroachment, change of river course, fragmentation from infrastructure development, invasive plant species and fire mismanagement have altered their habitat.
- **Conservation Status**
 - **IUCN:** Critically Endangered
 - **Wild Life Protection Act 1972:** Schedule I

Source: DTE

Source: <https://vajiramandravi.com/current-affairs/bengal-florican/>

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