Beni greenlet

Prelims: *Current events of national and international importance | Species*

Why in News?

For over six decades, an olive-green bird in Bolivia's Beni savannas was misclassified, but new studies have confirmed it as a distinct species.

- The Beni greenlet is a newly confirmed bird species, characterised by its small size and greenish-grey plumage.
- **Scientific Name –** Hylophilus Moxensis.
- **Family –** Muscicapidae.
- **Genus –** Hylophilus.
- **Research Methods Used –** Researchers used various methods to distinguish the bird from closely related species.
    - **Genetic analysis** – Mitochondrial gene sequencing
    - **Morphological analysis** – Detailed comparison of physical traits
- **Field observations** – Direct observation of birds in their natural habitat.
- Study of vocalisations, including song structure and *"V-shaped notes."*
- **Appearance –**
    - The species has a small body with predominantly *greenish-grey upperparts*, a paler grey to whitish belly and throat, short, rounded wings, and a relatively short tail.
    - It has dark eyes with a faint or indistinct eye-ring.
    - The bird has *light brown-grey patches near its ears*, a dark area around the base of the beak, and a reddish top and forehead.
    - Its eyes are completely dark, and unlike similar birds, it does not have black or brown markings around the ears.
- **Habitat –** It inhabits *tropical moist lowland forests of northern Bolivia*, primarily occupying the canopy and forest edges.
- **Distribution –**
    - **Primary range –** Northern Bolivia.
    - **Endemism –** Currently considered endemic to the Beni region, with no confirmed records outside this area.

- **Diet –** Primarily insectivorous, feeding on insects and small arthropods; may also consume fruits occasionally.
- **Social behaviour –** Usually small groups or pairs; relatively secretive and shy, making it difficult to observe.
    - **Threats –** Habitat loss with altered rainfall patterns, increased drought, human activities like logging, infrastructure development, riverine and floodplain modifications.
- **Conservation status –** It has not yet been assessed or assigned a conservation category by the IUCN Red List.



Reference

Indian Defence Review | Beni greenlet

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