

Nilgiris Wood Pigeon

Prelims: Current events of national and international importance | Conservation

Why in News?

A recent study titled warns that climate change could drastically restrict Nilgiris Wood Pigeon suitable habitat in the Western Ghats by the end of the century.

- **Scientific Name** - *Columba elphinstonii*.
- **Family** - Columbidae.
- **Habitat** - Moist evergreen, semi-evergreen and moist deciduous forests of the ***Western Ghats***.
- Especially high-elevation “shola” forests, mainly 900–2,250 m and wooded ravines.
- **Distribution** - ***Endemic resident of the Western Ghats.***
- Scarce and patchily distributed at mid- and high elevations.
- **Range** - Recorded across hill ranges including the Nilgiris, Anamalai, Biligirirangan hills and adjoining landscapes.
- **Key Identification**
 - **Head** - Bluish-grey head, darker neck and chest.
 - **Pattern** - Clear black-and-white patch on the back of the neck (most distinctive feature).
 - **Body Colour** - Dark grey to slate-grey; upper back shows a maroon/chestnut shine.
 - **Male vs Female** - Male has a lighter grey crown (head), and the female looks duller and browner.
- **Behaviour** - It is a ***non-migratory species that shows local/nomadic movements*** linked to food availability and climate.
- **Breeding** - Breeds mainly from March to July in natural forests.
- **Diet** - Primarily feeds on fruits, seeds, flowers, leaf buds and some ground invertebrates.
- **Conservation Status**

- **IUCN** - Least Concern (LC).
- **Threats** - Climate change (projected habitat contraction and upslope shifts), forest loss, degradation and fragmentation.



References

1. [TH | Nilgiri Wood Pigeon](#)
2. [IUCN | Nilgiri Wood Pigeon](#)