



Mangrove Pitta Bird

Why in News?

Recently, the first mangrove pitta bird census was conducted in two coastal districts of Odisha (Kendrapara and Jagatsingpur).

What is the Mangrove Pitta?

- **About:**
 - The Mangrove Pitta bird (*Pitta megarhyncha*) is a species of bird that can be found in a few pockets of eastern India, including Odisha's [Bhitarkanika](#) and [West Bengal's Sundarbans](#).
 - The Mangrove Pitta bird is a **ground forager** (an animal that searches widely for food) and **tree rester** that primarily inhabits [coastal mangrove forests in India](#).
- **IUCN Status:**
 - The [IUCN \(International Union for Conservation of Nature\)](#) has categorized and evaluated the species and has listed it as "**Near Threatened**".
- **Distribution:**
 - India, Bangladesh, Myanmar, Thailand, Malaysia, Singapore, Indonesia.
- **Importance:**
 - This species is important because it is a **bio-indicator of the health of mangrove forests, which are crucial to maintaining ecological balance in coastal areas**.



What Was the First-Ever Census of Mangrove Pitta Birds?

- This census was conducted **using a point count method**, where direct sightings and chirping

sounds were used to count the birds.

- The census of Mangrove Pitta birds found that a **total of 179 individual birds were counted.**
- The highest concentration of these birds was found in the mangroves near the Mahipura river mouth inside the **[Bhitarkanika National Park.](#)**

[Source: TH](#)

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