Field Guide Mammals of Ladakh

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FOREWORD



Ladakh is one of the most wonderful places on earth with unique biodiversity. I have the privilege of forwarding the field guide on mammals of Ladakh which is part of a series of bilingual (English and Ladakhi) field guides developed by WWF-India. It is not just because of my involvement in the conservation issues of the state of Jammu & Kashmir, but I am impressed with the Ladakhi version of the Field Guide.

As the Field Guide has been specially produced for the local youth, I hope that the Guide will help in conserving the unique mammal species of Ladakh. I also hope that the Guide will become a companion for every nature lover visiting Ladakh.

I commend the efforts of the authors in bringing out this unique publication

A K Srivastava, IFS Chief Wildlife Warden, Govt. of J&K

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त्तर्वतः सूर्या स्पृत्यात्रम् स्वावदः सूत्रः विकान्त्रः स्वावः स्वावः सूत्रः स्वावः स्वावः स्वावः स्वावः सूत्रः सूत्रः स्वावः सूत्रः स्वावः सूत्रः स्वावः सूत्रः सूत्रः सूत्रः सूत्रः सूत्रः स्वावः स

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यःनाद्रयःश्चेयः ठद् दे क्रुयः छेन् प्यते न्ये क्रियः चित्रायः स्वितः यो त्यायः स्वतः स्वतः स्वतः स्वतः स्वतः स स्वतः स् स्वतः

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INTRODUCTION

India is one of the twelve mega biodiversity rich countries of the world which together support nearly 60-70 percent of the world's biodiversity. Ten biogeographic zones represent the biodiversity of our country. The country's 4.77 percent of geographical area is under Protected Area Network which is one of the most extensive networks of the world and is represented by 96 National Parks and about 600 Sanctuaries.

Ladakh, a region in the state of Jammu & Kasmir, comes under the Biogeographic zone 1A - the Trans Himalayas. This zone covers more than 92000 Sq. Km. of geographical area of Jammu & Kashmir. Being a high altitude cold desert region, it experiences harsh climatic conditions which include extreme low temperature and very low rainfall leading to low environmental productivity. This cold desert region appears barren with low number of wild animals per unit surface area. Nevertheless, more than 700 species of plants, predominantly herbs and shrubs, have been reported from this region. Thirty three species of mammals have been reported from this region so far. Two species of mammal viz., Himalayan weasel and Musk deer have not been reported after 1960 (Otto Pfister, 2004).

The avifauna, most of which is migratory and vary seasonally, is quite rich representing about 276 species. Within India's geographical limits, this region is the only area that provides breeding ground to the Blacknecked crane - the state bird of Jammu and Kashmir.

The fauna of eastern Ladakh have the Tibetan Plateau influence while Himalayan and central Asian species have influence of the central and western parts of this region. This region harbours the richest wild sheep and goat community represented by eight species and subspecies, all of them being listed under different Schedules of the Jammu & Kashmir Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1978 (Amended 2002) and Appendices of CITES.

芒愛了

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Blue Sheep

Common Name : Blue Sheep/ Bharal Scientific Name : Pseudois nayaur nayaur

Local Name : Napo/ Na

Size : Body Length 120-160 cm, Shoulder Height 75-90 cm,

Tail Length 10-20 cm

Weight : 55-70 kg



Description: Bharal is placed between sheep and goats as it is not a true sheep. The coat is of slate-blue colour which becomes redbrown in summer. The body is sturdy. Tail is short with black tip. Back of legs and under parts are whitish. The large rounded horns are directed up and sideward in males while the females have shorter, straighter horns. Females are smaller than the males and lack black throat pattern. The eyesight, hearing and sense of smell are well developed. Herbs, shrubs and grasses constitute the food of this animal.

Habitat and Behavior: The blue sheep stays between the tree line and snow line (16000 ft). It lives in groups in high altitude pastures,

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open hillsides and rocky slopes. The male and female stay in separate groups outside breeding season. During winter they descend to lower elevations (12000 ft).

Being intermediate between sheep and goat they graze like sheep and can climb to the high and inaccessible cliffs like goats. The colour of Bharal matches completely with surrounding boulders and rocks. The Bharal does not mate with domestic sheep.

Distribution: Bharal is one of the most common ungulates found in the Trans-Himalaya. Genus *Pseudois* is represented by two species. Within Indian limits only *P. nayaur nayaur* occurs. The Bharal though a typically Tibetan animal, has a wide distribution in almost all the major mountain ranges of China, Nepal, Bhutan and parts of Pakistan. In India it is distributed patchily in the main Himalayan range but in Trans-Himalayan region it has wide and continuous distribution

It is a common resident throughout Ladakh except in its western region. Bharal has a wide and continuous distribution in Leh district which includes Changthang region in the east and covers most of the area upto Zanskar River in the west. Bharal is one of the major prey species of the Snow leopard and other predators.

For sighting of this animal in Ladakh the best areas are Hemis National Park, Chumatang-Mahe region, Rupshu, Changthang including Tsokar, Puga, Tsomoriri and Hanle.

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Tibetan Antelope

Common Name : Tibetan Antelope/ Chiru Scientific Name : Pantholops hodgsonii

Local Name : Stzos

Size : Body Length 120-150 cm, Shoulder Height 80-95 cm,

Tail Length 10-15 cm

Weight: 30-40 kg



Description: Chiru, a small beautiful antelope is known for its fine and warm wool called shahtoosh - the king of wools. The body coloration is generally rufous—brown with whitish under parts. A dark brown stripe runs down the front of each leg in bucks. Males have long slender horns which are slightly curved forward. The snout is swollen, the body is covered with dense wool which is shed during summer. The high altitude adaptation is manifested in the form of inflated snout. Each nostril in the inflated nose has a sac to assist in breathing rarefied air at higher altitudes. The animal feeds on herbs and grasses.

Habitat and Behavior: Chiru is a shy and wary animal inhabiting high altitude prairies and steppes. It lives in large herds which consist of

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female, young and sub adults. The males, which normally stay separated, join these herds during the breeding season. They dig out shallow depressions with their hooves and rest in these depressions during mid day. The Chiru graze in the morning and afternoon.

The animal when in danger runs fast and is very difficult to approach. The rutting takes place during the winter (December-January) and young are born in May or June. During rutting season adult males fight each other. The gestation period is about 180 days.

Distribution: The Tibetan Antelope lives at a height of 3660-5500 m, inhabiting the world's most climatically hostile region. The Chiru in India is distributed in northern and north eastern Ladakh. The total estimated population in Ladakh is between 250-300 animals. Daulat Beig Oldi (DBO) in the Karakoram range and Changchenmo valley in Leh are the typical areas of encounter within Indian limits.

Status: Chiru is one of the most threatened animals endemic to Central Asia. Its population is declining throughout its range. Its wool was being collected in China after killing the animals, smuggled into India and transported to Kashmir where it was used in weaving fine quality shahtoosh shawls (Wright et al. 1997).

The Chiru is placed under Schedule I of the Jammu & Kashmir Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1978 and categorized as Vulnerable under IUCN Red List of endangered animals. It is listed under Appendix I of CITES. About 20000 animals are poached annually throughout its range and the estimated population is less than 75000 animals throughout its range.

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षिलामुन्द्रच्यात्वर्यात्वर्यम् स्त्रीत्वरायामुद्रम् स्टब्स्यायायम् स्तर्यात्वर्यम् त्रेष्ट्रम् स्त्रीत्वर्यायाम् देन्त्रहर्यात्वर्याम् के क्वित्यन्यान्यस्योत्वरायामुद्रम् स्तर्यात्वर्यम् स्त्रात्वर्यायान्यस्य स्तर्यायान्यस् वर्षेद्रवेन्त्रस्यात्वर्यायान्यस्यावर्यस्यस्य स्तर्यस्य स्तर्यस्य स्तर्यस्य स्तर्यस्य स्तर्यस्य स्तर्यस्य स्तर

Ladakh Urial

Common Name : Ladakh Urial
Scientific Name : Ovis vignei
Local Name : Shapo, Sha

Size : Body Length 110-150 cm, Shoulder Height 70-90 cm,

Tail Length 20-25 cm

Weight : 35-90 kg



Description: Ladakh Urial is smallest of all the wild sheep. It is also known as Red sheep. Urial has three subspecies viz., Afghan, Punjab and Ladakh Urial. Ladakh Urial is endemic to Ladakh The horns are back curved, outturned, well wrinkled and slender. The tips of the horns, in Ladakh Urial, point forward. The colour of the body in adult males is copper red. Under parts, lower legs, tail and chin are whitish along with a blackish lateral line. The adult male has a dark ruff from throat to breast. The winter coat is shed.

with the onset of summer. Males are heavier and larger while females are smaller with shorter horns. Males have a black and white saddle patch.

Habitat and Behavior: The Ladakh Urial is a very wary and agile animal and referred to as low country sheep. The animal lives in herds. Males and females mostly stay in separate herds. The animal normally inhabits steep, grassy mountain slopes between 3000 to 4000 m. In winter the Urial moves to lower slopes. They rest during mid day and graze in the morning and evening. The males in breeding season visit several herds.

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हि. इ. कृषाय : कृष्णं मुम्याय स्वतः वृष्णं स्वतः स द्याय स्वतः स Status and Distribution: Ladakh Urial has a very restricted distribution. This subspecies is endemic to Ladakh. Its distribution is along the major valleys of the rivers Indus and Shyok. As these valleys are heavily populated this brings this species into direct conflict with humans. The total estimated population of this species in Ladakh is about 1500 individuals. Its number is declining drastically due to disturbance and habitat loss. As per reports it has been exterminated from several areas and survives only in small isolated populations. The Urial is best sighted in areas surrounding Fotu La, Nindum and between Lamayuru, Rizong and Wanla. In Kargil district the animal is reported from Junkar range and between Chiktan and Jukshu.

The population is showing a declining trend. The animal is listed as Vulnerable in the IUCN Red List of Threatened Animals and comes under Appendix I in the CITES and Schedule I of the Jammu & Kashmir Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1978.

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Tibetan Argali

Common Name: Tibetan Argali/ Great Tibetan Sheep

Scientific Name: Ovis ammon hodgsoni

Local Name : Nyan

Size : Body Length 130-190 cm, Shoulder Height 90-110 cm,

Tail Length 10 cm

Weight: Up to 100 kg (Male)



Description: Tibetan Argali is the largest of all wild sheep. Argali has eight subspecies of which two occur in India viz., the Nyan and Marco Polo sheep. The Nyan resembles an antelope in build with long legs and a massive body. The coat is light brown and darker on the shoulders whereas the rump, throat, chest, belly and inner sides of legs are white. Males have creamy ruffs on their necks. The horns in males are massive, wrinkled and never exceed a single circle. Females have characteristic horns. Winter coat in both the sexes is paler.

Habitat and Behavior: Argali live in groups which are sexually separated outside breeding season. They prefer high altitude open plains

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व्यवस्य:८८:श्रुॅंट.जथा

ह्र स्वरूप्त होनाना त्रून क्रिप्त क्षा प्रस्ता प्रस्ता में समक्ष्म प्रमानिक प्रस्ता में स्वरूप में

and hills between 3660-4575 m. They rarely descend below 4500 m. They feed on herbs, grasses, and sedges. The life span is reported to be about ten to thirteen years. They feed early in the morning and in evening and rest during the day. The animal prefers dry spots on the stony slopes and avoids damp snow. While sitting the head is kept erect and the neck is out stretched while sleeping. Mating begins in November-December. Females attain sexual maturity at 2 years of age. During rutting season males engage in intense fights.

Status and Distribution: Nyan has a very limited and patchy distribution in India. In Ladakh it is distributed mainly in the eastern part of Changthang region. Most of its habitat falls along the international border with China. Its population in Ladakh is estimated to be about 200 to 300 animals. The animal can be best sighted in Khemmer catchment near Gya and Meru, upper Rumbak valley, northern slopes towards Taglang-La and above Tsokar basin.

Nyan is listed as Vulnerable in the IUCN Red List of Threatened Animals, under Appendix I in CITES and Schedule I of the Jammu & Kashmir Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1978.

[1]다.[전도회]

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Asiatic Ibex

Common Name : Asiatic Ibex/ Himalayan Ibex/ Siberian Ibex

Scientific Name: Capra ibex sibirica

Local Name : Skin, Sakin (male), Danmo (female)

Size : Body Length 130-160 cm, Shoulder Height 70-100 cm,

Tail Length 10-15 cm

Weight : 40-90 kg



Description: The lbex is closest in appearance to the wild goat. It is a sturdy animal with sweeping, scimitar–shaped horns curved backwards. The dense and short coat is brownish above with a bluish tinge under parts. Back of legs are whitish. The tip of the tail is also white. There is a dorsal stripe from neck to tail in both sexes. Females have thin parallel horns. Typical darker chin beard is present. In winter a dense under wool helps it to withstand the cold.

Habitat and Behavior: The animal lives in herds. Females and males stay in separate groups but come together in breeding season. They prefer high altitude pastures on rocky slopes and steep open hill sides. They do not migrate to lower heights in winter and prefer



श्चेरप्रम्हासी क्ष्म्यम्मीस्या सम्बद्धस्याम् क्षेत्वः तेनाष्ट्रतेनन्त्रा मेनः राष्ट्रिः चेन्न्या क्षेत्रा व्याप्तिः चेन्न्या

र्सन्यःस्त् । प्रस्तः सः स्वाप्यतेः अर्धेवः यः शेवः ते ते ते ते तः १००० धेवः वे व संगावः स्तः प्रधेवः वे व विभागत्वनः ।

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图口:[夏仁刻]

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Status and Distribution: Asiatic Ibex is distributed throughout the mountains of Central Asia from Alti to western Himalaya, Kashmir, Ladakh, Baltistan, Pakistan, Afghanistan to Kumaon in Uttarakhand. In Ladakh it is a common resident throughout western and partly central and southern Ladakh between 3500 and 5200 m. It shares a similar habitat as Blue Sheep at few places where their distribution ranges overlap. They were heavily hunted in the past and their population at several places is close to extinction. Apart from hunting, they are also affected by grazing pressure by herders. The estimated population in Ladakh is around 6000 animals. The Ibex can be best sighted in western areas of Hemis National Park or Kanji near Lamayuru, Changla and Nubra Shyok valleys.

वाल्याचा जीराना भीय का क्षेत्रेया स्वास्त्र स

Tibetan Gazelle

Common Name : Tibetan Gazelle
Scientific Name : Procapra picticaudata

Local Name : Goa

Size : Body Length 90-105 cm, Shoulder Height 65 cm,

Tail Length 10 cm

Weight: 15 kg



Description: Very little is known about this antelope. The animal is stocky with a barrel-shaped body, grey in colour, legs are thin and the tip of the tail is black, under parts are whitish with a prominent white caudal disc. In males, short, slightly ringed horns rise up straight and then take a sudden sharp curve backwards. This animal is rarely seen drinking water. The sexes are alike.

Habitat and Behavior: They stay in sexually separated herds outside breeding season. They prefer high altitude dry grasslands and barren steppes between 3950 and 5500 m. Males may be found roaming singly or in smaller groups. They graze in the morning and afternoon. They are very shy and wary and run very fast upon slightest suspicion.

Status and Distribution: Tibetan gazelle is distributed in Tibet and Sikkim. Once fairly common in Changthang region of Ladakh, it has since been wiped out completely from most of its range. The estimated population in Ladakh region is between 70-80 animals. The animals were best recorded from Kalak-Tartar plains south of Hanle valley. It is recorded as Near Threatened under the IUCN Red List of Threatened Animals, under Schedule I of the Jammu & Kashmir Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1978 and under Appendix-I of CITES.

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र्वेट्रबास्त्री न्युटायासुनायाक्षेत्रातेष्ठीत्ररा ५५ विनानी सर्वेत्राधीनार्देन

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图口:[夏左刻]

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Wild Yak

Common Name: Yak

Scientific Name : Bos grunniens

Local Name : Dong

Size : Body Length 300-380 cm, Shoulder Height 200 cm,

Tail Length 60-90 cm

Weight : 300-850 kg



Description: The Yak is the largest wild animal of the Himalaya. The Yak is a massive, powerful, short-legged, blackish-brown animal with a drooping head and high humped shoulders. Up-curved, widely separated pointed horns are present in both the sexes. Horns of females are about half the size that of males. The hairs hang down nearly to the ground from the shoulders and chest. The tail has a very large brush of black hair over a foot in thickness. Yaks have been domesticated across most of their range. Unlike the Wild Yak, the tamed Yak usually bears patches of white. Due to hybridization with domestic cows, Dzos, are smaller than the wild ones.

Habitat and Behavior: The Yak lives in groups, living mostly in sexually separated herds. Very little is known about this animal in India.

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<u>५ सु८ स.ळ्</u>न सदे अर्थे र केंद्र ने के तर १०००

गवरास-८-हीं-एया

सम्ब्रान्तियः स्वर्णान्तियः स्वर्णान्तियः स्वर्णान्तियः स्वर्णान्तियः स्वर्णान्तियः स्वर्णान्तियः स्वर्णान्तिय स्वर्णान्तियः स्वर्णानियः स्वर्णान्तियः स्वर्णान्तियः स्वर्णान्तियः स्वर्णान्तियः स्वर्णान्तियः स्वर्णान्तियः स्वर्णान्तियः स्वर्णान्तियः स्वर्णान्त The Yak is one of the highest dwelling animals of the world. It is found in the coldest, most desolate and rugged snow covered terrains of the Indian Himalaya. Due to scarce vegetation in its habitat the animals roam permanently to obtain food. They graze in the morning and evening. They have also been seen to consume snow when water is not available. During early summer they can be seen in lower areas feeding on fresh vegetation. They can endure temperatures below -40 $^{\circ}\mathrm{C}$ and are sensitive to warm temperature. To escape the summer heat they move up to the snowline and descend with the onset of winter. The animal is very shy and wary and is difficult to approach.

Status and Distribution: Yak is distributed in Trans-Himalayan ranges with limits in the plateau of Tibet and part of Kansu province in China. In Ladakh it has been reported from Changchenmo valley at an altitude between 4320-6000 m. The estimated population in Ladakh is around 40 to 50 animals. The estimated population throughout its range is 15000 animals.

The Yak is listed as Vulnerable under IUCN Red List of Threatened Animals, under Appendix I in CITES and Schedule II in the Jammu & Kashmir Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1978.

[1] 다 [전도회]

Tibetan Wild Ass

Common Name : Tibetan Wild Ass Scientific Name : Equus kiang kiang

Local Name : Kiang

Size : Body Length 210-230 cm, Shoulder Height 140 cm,

Tail Length 90-100 cm

Weight : 250-380 kg



Description: Tibetan Wild Ass was earlier regarded by some as a race of the Asiatic Wild Ass (Khur). Now it is recognized as a separate species. Indian Trans-Himalaya in there are two subspecies of Kiang Western Kiana (E.k.kiana) in Ladakh and parts of (Himachal) and the Southern Kiang (E.k.polydon) in Sikkim. Kiang has a massive head with powerful body supporting a short black-brown erect

mane. It has a narrow mid-dorsal strip without a whitish border. The longish tail ends in long black hair tuft. The hooves are large as in horses. It is reddish-brown on the back and white on the belly. The sexes are alike.

Habitat and Behavior: The Kiang occupies high biotopes in Trans-Himalayan cold desert often near marshes or wetlands between 4000 and 5200 m. It lives in groups of sexually separated herds. The Kiang grazes throughout the day. On sensing danger the herd will flee very fast. Often a male keeps watch of the herd from an elevated place and alarms the others by joining the herd.

Status and Distribution: Kiang is a common resident throughout eastern and northern Ladakh. Kiang is best seen in Rupshu and Changthang region, including Tsomoriri, Hanle, Chumur, Chushul, Tsokar and upper Markha valley. The estimated number of Kiang in Ladakh is between 1500 and 2000. Increasing developmental activities has pushed this animal to a few remote valleys. They are considered as competitor to the livestock of locals. This has brought this animal in direct conflict with nomadic herders.

Kiang is listed under Appendix II of CITES, under Schedule I of the Jammu & Kashmir Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1978 and as Vulnerable under IUCN Red List of Threatened Animals.

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न्सुरायः द्ध्याया शेवाते श्रीत्रा १९०

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देते नेबान रुव सुद क्रुंच पते र्वेण वन का कुट गुव क्रेंटन पते तहे नाम क्रेंद है। धेव वेंग

Snow Leopard

Common Name : Snow Leopard Scientific Name : Uncia uncia

Local Name : Shan

Size : Body Length 100-110 cm, Shoulder Height 63 cm,

Tail Length 80-100 cm

Weight : 35-50 kg



Description: Smaller in size than a common leopard, the Snow Leopard is one of the most beautiful cats of the world. Its fur is very luxuriant, soft and pearl grey. It is the king of snow capped mountains. It is adapted to survive in some of the harshest and most difficult environmental conditions. The head, nape and lower parts of limbs have dark-grey spots. Body and tail is covered with pale rosettes. Under parts are white and unmarked. The thick, furry tail is almost 1/3 of the body length and is wrapped around the body to keep it warm. The sexes are alike.

Habitat and Behavior: The Snow Leopard is nocturnal and very elusive. They are found singly, inhabiting the most inaccessible terrain of rugged mountains, preferably steep terrain broken by

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ग्रदशस्य ५८ हिंद त्या

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cliffs, ridges and gullies. Due to its camouflage and secretive habits it is very difficult to spot. Due to its ability to disappear in front of the eyes of the observer it is also called 'grey ghost' by locals. Due to well developed hind limbs and chest muscles it can jump up to 6 meters. The male are territorial and mark their territories with urine, feces and scraps. It is able to kill prey three times its weight. The two most common preys are Blue Sheep and Asiatic Ibex. Small prey includes marmot, pika, hares, other small rodents and game birds. Due to scarcity of natural prey they also kill livestock. It feeds on the carcass over a period of three to four days. In February and March, during its breeding season, it is also reported to feed on a shrub, Myricaria germanica.

Status and Distribution: The Snow Leopard is found in the mountainous region of Central Asia and has been recorded from parts of Russia, Mongolia, China, Nepal, Tibet, Bhutan, Pakistan, India, Afghanistan and north-east range over the Pamir, Tienshan and Altai mountains. In India, it is found throughout the alpine zone of the main Himalayan range. It is reported from Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Sikkim and Arunachal Pradesh. It is encountered throughout Ladakh, mostly in the south and central regions between 3000 and 5000 m. In Ladakh it can be best sighted within Hemis National Park and Zanskar valley. Its estimated population throughout Ladakh region is around 250-350 animals. Throughout its entire range the estimated population of Snow Leopard is 7000 individuals.

It is listed as Endangered in the IUCN Red List of Threatened Animals, under Appendix I in CITES and under Schedule I in the Jammu & Kashmir Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1978.

টীবধ্ৰ.ধূ্ৰথা

चक् बे के भ्रेन्यायः संस्थार स्वाम् विद्यालयः स्वाम विद्यालयः स्व

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Lynx

Common Name : Lynx, Eurasian Lynx, Himalayan Lynx Scientific Name : Lynx isabellina/ Felis lynx/ Lynx lynx

Local Name : Eeh

Size : Body Length 85-90 cm, Shoulder Height 60 cm,

Tail Length 18-23 cm

Weight: 20-26 kg



Description: Lynx has a stocky body and strong limbs. The body colour is reddish-grey with spots over the upper limbs. Hind legs are longer than the fore legs. The most distinctive character is long tufts of hairs on the tips of the erect and triangular-shaped ears. It has a short and black-tipped tail. The beard-like ruff around the face is prominent.

It is considered as one of the rare cat species in Ladakh.

Habitat and Behavior: Lynx inhabits areas at an altitude of 4250 and 4575 m in the Himalaya and descends up to 1525 m in winter. Dense vegetation of *Caragana*, *Hippophae* and willow are its preferred habitat. It is an excellent climber. Though known as a loner, groups of up

to four can be seen occasionally. The Lynx is very secretive and elusive. It is diurnal in habit but more active during dusk and dawn. It hunts marmots, hare, young ones of Bharal and even domestic sheep and goat.

Status and Distribution: The Lynx is distributed from Europe, to the east of Asia including China, North America, with an exceptional concentration along a strip across Russia from Ural mountains to the Pacific. It is also recorded from Tibet, Gilgit, Himachal Pradesh and Ladakh. In Ladakh it is reported from Hunder and Panamik area. It has also been observed near Gya-Miru area of Leh. The Lynx population has declined due to habitat loss and hunting for its fur which is still in demand in the fashion market. In western and Central Europe it has become extinct. The Lynx is listed under Appendix II of CITES, and Schedule I of Jammu & Kashmir Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1978. According to a report, there may be 50 to 70 individuals of Lynx in Ladakh region.

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Pallas's Cat

Common Name : Pallas's Cat

Scientific Name: Otocolobus manul/ Felis manul

Local Name : Trakshan

Size : Body Length 50-60 cm, Shoulder Height 30 cm,

Tail Length 20-30 cm

Weight: 2-5 kg



Description: The Pallas's Cat resembles a small domestic cat in size. It has a broad head, low forehead, low-set widely parted ears and long thick tail with black tip. Its coat gives frosted appearance due to white tips of its hair. The body is compact with low limbs. The colour of the body is silver grey. The limbs and lower back have black bands. The fur on its under parts and tail is comparatively longer than that on the rest of the body. The cat feeds on small mammals like pika and rodents. It also feeds occasionally on birds. The male is slightly heavier than female. The cat attains sexual maturity after one year.

Habitat and Behavior: Its habitat is mainly located in the vicinity of pika habitat in arid flat grasslands. The cat is seen solitarily. Very little is know about its ecology. The cat prefers jagged and rocky terrain at high altitude. The cat is generally active from dusk to dawn with rare

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sightings during day. For hiding and resting it uses rock crevices, small caves and burrows of fox and marmots. Due to its habit of moving low on the ground and its elusive nature, its sighting is very difficult. The gestation period is 66 to 74 days. The cat breeds once in a year delivering 3 to 6 kittens during April-May. The cat makes a hissing snarl when aroused.

Status and Distribution: Pallas's Cat, in India, is found only in eastern Ladakh at an elevation between 3000 to 4800 m. The Pallas's Cat is represented by three races and is distributed throughout Tibet, France, and Pakistan. This cat was hunted extensively for its fur. This cat has been placed under Schedule I of the Indian Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 and Appendex II of CITES.

The Pallas's Cat in Ladakh is best seen in Rupshu/ Changthang area. The subspecies found in Ladakh are *Otocolobus manul nigripectus*.

[1]다.[전도회]

त्रचा-प्रमाण्य-दिक्षित्रक्ष्मं च्यान्त्रक्ष्मं व्याप्तान्त्रकृष्णे व्याप्तान्त्रक्षेत्रक्षेत्रक्षेत्रक्षेत्रक्ष त्रिः व्याप्तान्त्रक्षः प्रमाण्य-व्याप्तान्त्रक्षेत्

Tibetan Wolf

Common Name Wolf, Tibetan Wolf, Himalayan Wolf

Canis lupus chanku Scientific Name

Local Name Changu

Size Body Length 95-140 cm. Shoulder Height 80 cm.

Tail Length 35-40 cm

Weight 18-27 kg



© Maya Ramaswamy

Description: There are two sub species of wolf in India. The one found in Ladakh. or Trans-Himalava is Tibetan Wolf (Canis lupus chanku). Its fur colour varies from sandy-brown to grey-brown, dark grey or black. Under parts are buff in colour. The black-tipped tail is less than half the body length. The winter coat is extremely thick and shaggy. The wolf has strong body, thin legs and V-shaped head.

Habitat and Behavior: The wolf prefers bare and open areas. Caves, crevices in rocks, and burrows in sand are used as shelter. They descend down to valleys in winter and ascend to the snowline in summer, migrating with the game. The animal is usually seen singly but some time encountered in packs. The wolf is nocturnal but also active during day. The animal prevs on pika. hare, rodents and birds. They also prey on cattle when sufficient wild prey is not available or when they are near human settlements. The hierarchy is maintained by the pack. The animals move over a large territory and the territory is marked by the pack by urine and feces at prominent spots. The whole pack feeds together on the prey. The animal is very shy and secretive and runs away in human presence.

Status and Distribution: The wolf in Ladakh is mainly distributed in eastern and northern region between 3000 and 5000 m. In Trans-Himalayan region wolf is considered to make maximum killing of livestock amongst all predators. This has led to human-wolf conflict and is considered as a big menace. Killing and trapping of wolf takes place by locals in retaliation. The estimated population in Ladakh region is 300-350 animals. It is best encountered in Rupshu and Changthang plains, to some extent in Markha, Upper Suru and Zanskar. The wolf is listed under Appendix I in CITES and under Schedule I in Indian Wildlife (Protection) Act. 1972.



र्ह्यर. यो.चूर. वर्ग अन् कृष्ण सन्त्रेष्ठ कृष्ण सन्तर १० विचित्रकृष्ण कृष्ण कृष्ण कृष्ण कृष्ण कृष्ण कृष्ण कृष् वर्ष कृष्ण कृष

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मवर्गामान्यः मुद्रान्य

图石.[夏七刻

श्चित्रचे चाकात्यः स्ट्रान्ति स्वर्षे वाद्यः स्वर्णां कर्णा श्वरः स्वर्णां कर्णा स्वरं स्

Tibetan Wild Dog

Common Name : Wild dog, Dhole Scientific Name : Cuon alpinus

Local Name : Phara

Size : Body Length 90-100 cm, Shoulder Height 55 cm,

Tail Length 40-43 cm

Weight : 15-20 kg



Description: The Wild dog appears in shape like a domestic dog. The tail is long and bushy, muzzle is shorter and the head is round. The ears are more rounded at the tips. It differs from domestic dogs, wolves and jackals in having six molar teeth in the lower jaw whereas the others have seven. It also has 12 to 14 teats as compared to 10 in *canis*. The sides of the neck and throat are covered by a distinct mane. The colour of the coat is sandy-brown with buff under wool. The under parts are paler. The sexes look alike.

Habitat and Behavior: The Dhole is rare and very little is known about this animal. They are social animals and live in family packs which consist of 2 to 4 individuals. They prefer to stay away from human habitations. The Dhole is mainly a forest animal and are found in

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बार्वेदः८८: मञ्जूमवार्येदेः२८:८:बोद्गःतेःबो:तरः४०दवाः०००४वःषः

क्किन्यामी विष्यत्व मान० ने विन्ने विन्ने विन

ૹદ્વાણય સુવા મેં સ્ટાન લાક સુવાના મુખ્યા છે કર્યું કર્યા હોય તાલું છે. તાલું સુવાના સુવાના સુવાના સુવાના છે. તાલું સુવાના સુવા

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Himalaya/ Trans-Himalaya preferring mountain habitat with gentle slopes. In Ladakh region they inhabit open country. The habit of living in pack helps them to hunt larger animals. The animal is diurnal i.e. active during the day time. The animal does not burrow in dens but lives in crevices, among rocks or ravines. After knocking down the prey the whole pack feeds together quickly. An individual Dhole can consume up to 4 kg of meat in one hour. The pack marks territory with feces. The Dhole preys on Markhor, wild sheep, pika, rodents and hare

Status and Distribution: In Ladakh, the Dhole is found throughout eastern and northern region upto 4000 m or higher, determined by the presence of prey. The Dhole is distributed from Central and East Asia to South and Southeast Asia. It is represented by about 10 races throughout its range. The animal is on a decline due to its persecution and depletion of prey. In Ladakh the animal is best seen in Rupschu, Changthang area, eastern part of Hemis National Park and eastern Zanskar.

The animal is listed as Vulnerable in IUCN Red List of Threatened Animals, under Appendix-I of CITES and Schedule II in Indian Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.

[1] 다 [전도회]

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Red Fox

Common Name : Red Fox or Hill Fox, Tibetan Fox

Scientific Name : Vulpes vulpes
Local Name : Whatse

Size : Body Length 50-70 cm. Shoulder Height 35 cm.

Tail Length 40-50 cm

Weight: up to 5 kg



Description: The name Red Fox is after its coat which is reddish in colour. The under parts are white. The body is covered with long and silky fur with dense under wool. The tip of the tail is white. Below each eye there is a dark spot. The limbs are slender. The pointed ears on their upper parts are black. The sexes look alike.

Habitat and Behavior: The Red Fox is not a social animal. It is found singly or seen in monogamous pairs. It inhabits sandy wastes, riverbeds and sand dunes in semi-arid regions. The animal is active by night. However, it can also be seen during dusk and dawn. The animal rests in crevices and burrows during the day time. Often considered as cunning, the fox is a very shy and wary animal. The animal feeds on birds, rodents, marmots and mouse-hares. The diet also includes berries.

Status and Distribution: Considered as most widespread the Red Fox is a common animal throughout Ladakh. It is reported from valley bottoms up to 5000 m. It is distributed throughout Europe, Asia and Northern Africa. The animal was introduced into North America and Australia. Within Indian limits the Red Fox is found in Ladakh, Kashmir, and up to Sikkim in the Himalaya. The animal throughout its range is hunted for its luxurious coat. Its population is declining. In Ladakh the Red Fox is best encountered in Suru, Markha, Nubra, Zanskar Indus valley, and high altitude slopes of Changthang and Rupshu region. The subspecies found in Ladakh is V.v. montana.

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चवर्यायान्यः हुँ नःचया

四カばりま

Himalayan Brown Bear

Common Name : Himalayan Brown Bear Scientific Name : *Ursus arctos isabellinus*

Local Name : Denmo

Size : Body Length 180-245 cm, Shoulder Height 100 cm,

Tail Length 10 cm

Weight : Over 200 kg (Male)



Description: There are eight species of bears in the world represented by about 58 subspecies. Four species of bears have been reported from India. The Himalayan Brown Bear (*U.a. isabellinus*) is a subspecies of Brown Bear (*U.arctos*). The Himalayan Brown Bear has reddish brown coat. The colour of the coat varies from individual to individual and place to place. It is considered as one of biggest carnivores. The animal has a large head with small eyes, chest makings are mostly absent. The animal is less arboreal. It has heavy body and stocky limbs and strong non-retractable flat claws.

Habitat and Behavior: The animal lives singly or in small groups consisting mainly of female and cubs. The animal prefers bare open areas above tree line. The animal is active both during night and day

क्षेत्रस्य प्रस्ति । स्रम्भिक्षेत्रस्य स्रम्भिक्षेत्रस्य है:ब्रु'क्पपदि:चैंकें द्वाचित्र| अर:अरः अरगहिंकः क्षेत्राचे:बे:द्वा देन्बें।

미숙제·제·수도,夏수·네제.

but prefers to rest during midday hours. It is territorial and its territory varies depending upon the availability of food. The territory of male may extend up to 100 sq.Km. However, the territory of female is smaller. It lives in caves and digs up dens and goes in for hibernation during winter (November to May). Before going in for hibernation the animal stores large amount of fat by eating voraciously. The animal has been classified as a carnivore but its feeding habits are omnivorous which vary with season. In summer it feeds on fresh sprouting grass, roots, bulbs, insects, rodents like pikas and also scavenges on carcasses and may also hunt livestock. In autumn or late summer the animal descends to valleys and feeds on buckwheat, fruits and berries. Mating takes place in early summer (May-June).

Status and Distribution: The Himalayan Brown Bear has been reported from south and western Ladakh. In summer the animal ascends to 5500 m up to snow line and descends down to lower areas in autumn. The animal is distributed in northern temperate zone of North America, Europe and Asia where its southern limit is the Himalaya. The animal is on a decline due to its persecution for medicinal value. The estimated population of the Himalayan Brown Bear in Ladakh is around 100 animals. In Ladakh the animal is best sighted in upper Suru, Zanskar and Changchu valley. Reports of its presence to some extent have also been received from lower Markha valley.

The animal is listed under Appendex I by CITES and under Schedule I of the Indian Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.

मार्चमः श्रेटः हेगः नटः तद्यबः सः व्यावारः नवारः ह्येगः श्चेश्चः सः नटः दुगः यगुनः वे नुषः व्याव्यासः सः सः सः श्रेयः नष्टायः विद्याप्तः विद्याप्तः विद्यापः स्वावः स्वावः स्वावः सः स्वावः सः सः

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Stnat

Common Name : Stoat/ Himalayan Stoat Scientific Name : *Mustela erminea*

Local Name : Lakimo

Size : Body Length 17-33 cm, Shoulder Height 7 cm,

Tail Length 4-12 cm

Weight : 250-300 g



Description: Stoat is a very agile animal. The head is flattened and triangular in shape. The body is lean and muscular with slender limbs. The tail is slim, small and black tipped. Whiskers are long. In summer the colour of the coat is reddish-brown. The under parts, inner legs and paws are whiter. The colour of the coat, except for the black tail tip, turns white in winter. The animal hunts vole and mice killing them by neck bite. It also feeds on pika, young hare, birds, eggs and insects. The male is double the size of female. The life span of the stoat is 2 to 7 years. Male attain sexual maturity at one year while female at 3 to 4 months.

Habitat and Behavior: The stoat prefers boulder-strewn soft slope, semi-desert areas and river banks, rock-strewn plains near lakes in high altitudes. The animal is a good swimmer and good climber also. It also stands erect on its hind limbs. It marks its territory with scent, to keep the intruders away. The animal is nocturnal but is also

याम्बर्याकी बीटा

श्चेत्रप्रमायीकीमा न्युक्तिमायन्युक्ति। अयानियामायन्युक्ति। क़ऀॿॖॎॹ॔

र्चेटब.क्ट्री म्बाबायार्ग्ये देन्द्रान्त्राचे त्राची त्राची व्याप्त व्यापत व्या तरः । क्षेत्रः या न्या न्या न ५० व वा न ०० धीव वें वा

e सः ब्रि:र्के: दिष्ठमः केमा मा दिष्याया अविदः विषा धोवः विषयः । अर्थः मुः मा सुर्यः यो यः यो यः धोवः विषयः वि गञ्जनसभ्यः द्वार्के द्वार भवाभागवामा वास्तर्भाव देशाचे सामा कार्या द्वार्के स्वार्के स्वार्वे स्वरं स्वार्वे स् चवाधेवार्वेण श्चारणावारेटाराधेवार्वेण ५५राष्ट्रवायायर्वेणान्यराश्च्याळवार्वेणा र्येन्पान्टर सुनानुवे दर देस गुव दर हेर संगुव दग्नर रे धेव देन दग्व दुस व हस स्वे समें दग् रे स गञ्जाषार्यते अर्देन द्राप्त संत्र सुर र देन ते वि वि स्व र मे भेगा में अहे र सत तह अष हे ना ब र र देन देव*व*ॱर्ष्ठणबायःह्मचाराद्रः देःर्वेदःह्यादुवाद्रः द्वैःयाद्रः द्वुवाद्रः वसुक्षेणागुवाववराणबदः दे.चचतः र्देग सं.स्.स्रुपः अन्यः क्ष्यः क्षयः क्षयः स्त्राः स्त्राः स्त्राः क्षिः स्त्राः स्त्राः स्त्राः स्तर पवि'यावे'पर्मे रारायार्वेण

गवराशन्दर्श्चेत्रवया

क्षे.िश्च.स्ट.वांच्य-१०व.व्.िश्च.या.२८. अ.क्र्य.वर.स्ट्र.श्चेय.१५.ल्.८.तपु.ववय.२८. ग्रॅव. र्येते व या नृतः र्हे ना व ना वेह ना येता व ना यह ना यह ना यह ना या यह ना य र-र्देग दे-म्-अपन्तर-पायावयायान्यः ग्रीवायायस्त्रम्ययायदः ह्नायाये विवास दे:र्चे:क्वर-दे:सु:म्।म्वेन्नःमादेःमाम्मायाः यहार्वे व दे:र्वेन्नः गुवर्यः द्वेत्यः विष्यं यहरः ह्वेश्मववर्ष्यः गुवर्धे र यहुँ मामार्वेष वे स्वायळवर्यायस्युयायावदः धेव वेस धैंद'देवर-वै:यवर-यर्हेर-र-र्देग देहेग्य-घूर-धेंद-रानेय-द'देन्य-ह'यदे:यर्ग-दय-देन्य-देन्य-देन्य-र्ये विषा तथे दर्या यह दर्भे वाव वर्या गुवः वे राय दुषा वा वे

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दे सेस्रास्य उत्र सेंदे क्रुन्य १९६ देवा पेंट र सेंवा विसेंप्य नुवास से सुर स मात्र दाया सिंदी सेंदी *न-*२.४४०० द्यायार्थर : द. व्

seen during day. When sensing danger it secretes an awful smelling secretion from glands located at the base of the tail.

Status and Distribution: The animal is represented by about 36 races. It is found in Ladakh from valley bottoms up to 4600 m. The animal is best sighted in Suru and Zanskar valleys and Markha valley in Hemis National Park. Outside Ladakh the species is distributed throughout North Africa, excluding Mediterranean region, and Europe eastwards to the Himalayan region. It is also found in North America and was introduced in New Zealand.

The animal is hunted for its fur and is listed under Schedule I of the Indian Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972. The subspecies found in Ladakh is *M.e. whiteheadi*.

Mountain Weasel

Common Name : Mountain weasel Scientific Name : Mustela altaica

Local Name : Laki

Size : Body Length 22-29 cm, Shoulder Height 8 cm,

Tail Length 9-15 cm

Weight : 220-350 g



Description: The body of this weasel is slender and long. The limbs are slender and short. The tail is about half of body length. Head is triangular in shape and the whiskers are long.

The colour of the coat is chocolate-brown, the under parts and inner legs are whitish. Its tail is without black tip. The colour of fur in the winter turns paler. It feeds on mice, vole, young hare, pikas and birds. The male is heavier than female. Life span is about 7 years.

Habitat and Behavior: The animal is seen solitarily or in family parties near the den. Its habitat is valley floors, meadows, fields, river banks and boulder-strewn soft slopes. It is a good climber and stands erect on hind limbs. The intruders are kept away by marking the territory with scent markings. It has good eye sight and well developed smell and hearing capacities. It is usually active during dusk and dawn though sometime also seen active during day. It discharges a secretion of awful smell when alarmed.

Status and Distribution: In Ladakh the animal is found from valley bottoms up to 5100 m or sometimes even higher. In Ladakh the animal is encountered in Hemis National Park, Shey, Thikse, Zanskar valley, Tsokar basin and Hanle.

The species is represented by four races from Central to East Asia and South to the upper Himalayan slopes. The subspecies described here is *M. a. temon.* The animal is hunted for fur.

Not much is known about its status.

श्चेरपहर बेरा ळव:रेगागी:बेरा यान्य यारी बीटा

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र्वेट्रशळ्ट्रा क्षेट्रायाम्यान्यान्तर्वान्त्रस्व

तः क्षुः ब्रिः क्रेंदिः मञ्जून मार्चः रेतः रेतः रेतः रेतः क्षेत्रः क्रेंन यदः यमाग्रवः रेतः বর্থায়-ঘণ্ডবা रैलान्टा हुटा हुत भीतार्देण हारा में मुनुमानार्दि सेन्र हुरा देश दी रेटा से भिटा दन्म सर्में मुन्मानुस बै'चर्चे'क्षु'८८:ञ्चार'ग्रव'रे८'र्ये'भेद'र्देग् ग्र्नुग्रय'रेदे'श्चु'अर्देग्'यें'ठग'भेत'र्रेग्रय'भेद'र्देग् र्गेन्-स-न्नः मनःपर्वे वरःर्यम्यःगुवःनगनःर्यःभेवःर्वेम् वे सेवे स्ववे अर्मे वगःरार्थेनः स्वर्वेम मञ्जाकाराते सुवार्मा संनिष्ठा वार्षा सुवार स्वार्मा स्वार स्वर्ण स्वर्मा स्वर्ण स्वरत्ण स्वर्ण स्वर् इटः ह्चारःइटः च्चीः यंगावः चैंबा हे १८५ वा वा केंबि । ब्रांबि । ब्रांबि । ब्रांबि । ब्रांबि । ब्रांबि । ब्रांबि पर्वःर्वः येवः वैंगः

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तेः बेबबारुवर्धे :क्ष्टबा बेंग्यपृवर्षः महिष्ये मार्थे । यद्या वदा क्ष्ट्या प्रदेश र्थे:अर्वेटःटःर्देण वेःर्वे:यर्जुंग्यःयुटःयःगुदःर्नटःश्वटःष्टरः वेटःगुदः न्मः भूमायति वास्रामुनान्नः स्टाम्सेन्रं ठन्ने भेन्ग्मान भेन्ने ते संभिन्ने । लायह्रवायाम् ह्वा संदूर क्रियाचे म्हाराये गालह्या हे हुवा वव आवदा भेदा देव षात्राक्ष्याषाणावात्राद्वात्राञ्च व दे हे नाषात्रीना यहरा हे ये त्यांना द प्यतः यावदः गाव यञ्चना याधेद देन ते वित्यक्षेत्रं चुकाको क्षेत्रा कुलावाद्यः द्वाया क्षेत्राचुका स्नुदा क्षेत्राचुका द्वारी वित्र केत्रा विरा यहेनाबान्ध्रदाळें राठावादी याचे हेना व्याप्त होना सुनान हरा होना

图石.复七刻

ंदेॱबेंबबबरठदर्ग्संप्य:नृष्युष:प्यायुद:पदी:अद्येय:दबःष:षु:नृ-अर्द्येद:र्रो:ब्रे:नृ-र:५०००४व:रे:नृद: ने:बद: बर्झेदर्भें गादायार्थेटर होंग देखेबबार इत्यें या दुवाबाया देखेबा देवादयार गादिर वे दिस ब्रिमाको पटः । बरका प्रमापर पटः अर्क्के प्रमाप के खेराका मुद्रापटः । अदायो मुद्राया प्रमापिक विवा याप्यदेश्वर्षः मानुवायाश्वर्षः प्रत्वेष देश्वर्षः देश्वर्षः मानुवायान् विष्वर्वेषः विष्वर्षः विष्वर्वेषः विष्व यम्बर्धितः मुबर्द्धतः विविध्येतः विविध्यः विविध्यः विविध्यः विविध्यः विविध्यः विविध्यः विविध्यः विविध्यः विविध्य

Stone Marten

Common Name : Stone Marten/ Beech Marten/ House Marten

Scientific Name: Martes foina/ Mustela foina

Local Name : Kogar

Size : Body Length 30-50 cm, Shoulder Height 15 cm,

Tail Length 18-25 cm

Weight : 2 kg (Male)



Description: Stone Marten is very agile. It is slightly bigger than a large squirrel. The body is graceful and slender. The limbs are moderately long. The tail is about half the size of body. Claws are semiretractile, tail is long and bushy. It is lighter in colour than other martens. The body colour varies from chocolate to tawny brown. Throat is white to pale yellow. The legs and tail are darker than the body. It generally feeds on rodents, reptiles and birds. It is also reported to consume eggs, fruits, honey, nuts and carrion. Male is heavier than female and is double the size of female.

Habitat and Behavior: The animal is seen singly. However, during mating season they can be seen in pairs. It is seen on boulder-strewn hill sides, rocky mountain slopes and near human settlement and orchards. It is active by day as well as night time. It leaps among boulders or moves with great speed in trees. The prey is attacked and killed with a neck bite. Those living around mountain villages

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Status and Distribution: In Ladakh it is an occasional resident. It is generally found throughout Ladakh, except for high altitude plains of eastern Ladakh, from valley bottoms to 4000 m. It is best encountered in Kargil region, lower Indus, Nubra valleys and lower region of Hemis National Park. The species is represented by 14 races throughout the temperate and alpine zone.

The animal is hunted for fur or trapped for causing damage to poultry. Not much is known about its status.

图石.复七刻

Eurasian Otter

Common name : Eurasian Otter Scientific Name : Lutra lutra Local Name : Chusham

Size : Body Length 60-80 cm, Shoulder Height 20-25 cm,

Tail Length 35-40 cm

Weight: 5 kg



Description: Otters are adapted to aquatic life. The Eurasian Otter has a rough water proof coat. Tail is thick and muscular. Muzzle is short with sensitive whiskers. The limbs are short and strong. The feet are five-toed, webbed and provided with retractile claws. The hind legs are longer than fore legs. The colour of the coat on dorsal surface is brown while the under parts are lighter. The hairs of the muzzle terminate above the naked nose in an angular or zigzag line. On the land the animal appears arch-backed.

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Habitat and Behavior: The animal establishes its territory in mountain streams or fresh water lakes. The animal is nocturnal and is very shy. It often stands on hind limbs for observation. Its presence can be recorded from its tracks, feces, fish bones and scales found near its den.

The animal secretes oil from its sebaceous glands and applies it on its skin to keep it water proof and for protection against the cold water of the streams. The animal migrates to lower valleys during winter. The sexes are alike. The recorded longevity is 12-15 years. Only one litter is produced per year. The gestation period is 60 to 65 days. The litter consists of 1 to 3 cubs born in dens dug out amidst rocks and boulders. The mating takes place in water. The female cares for offspring till they attain the age of one year.

Status and Distribution: In Ladakh this animal may best be found up to 3700 m along the Indus River and its tributaries including Rumtse and lower Zanskar. It is also reported from Kargil area, Suru and Dras valleys. The animal is represented by 10 races and is the most widely distributed otter species in the world. It is found from North Africa and Europe throughout Palearctic region to East Asia.

The animal is hunted for its fur and medicinal value.

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Himalayan Marmot

Common Name : Himalayan Marmot Scientific Name : *Marmota himalayana*

Local Name : Phia

Size : Body Length 58-60 cm, Tail Length 13-15 cm

Weight: 4-5 kg (spring), 8 kg (autumn)



Description: Two species of marmots are found in India. Both the species of marmot viz., Himalayan and Long-tailed Marmot are present in Ladakh. The Himalayan Marmot is well adapted to burrow life. The body is squat, limbs are short and the tail is very short. The head is triangular in shape with small neck, eyes have black rings. The whiskers are long. The colour of the body and limbs is pale tawny, much mixed with black on the upper parts. The face and the terminal portion of the tail are dark brown. There are six pairs of mammae extending from the axial to the groin.

Habitat and Behavior: The animal lives in colonies in the higher biotopes in lush meadows and open grassy stone-strewn slopes. The animal lives in excavated burrows which are also used for hibernation. The territory is marked by a secretion which is secreted from

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Status and Distribution: In Ladakh the Himalayan Marmot is a common resident living between 4000 to 5000 m. It is mainly found in central-south, eastern and northern Ladakh. Upper Markha valley in Hemis National Park, Changthang plains including Tsokar and Rupshu, Puga, Tsomoriri are the best locations for its sighting. The sub species is distributed through Himalayan range to South-Western East Asia. Natural predators include Snow Leopard, wolf, fox, wilddog, bear and Golden Eagle.

It is a threatened species and is killed for meat and fur. The construction of road through its habitat has disturbed this species. The labourers engaged for construction of road are also killing this animal for meat.

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Long-tailed Marmot

Common Name : Long-tailed Marmot/ Red Marmot/ Kashmir Marmot

Scientific Name: Marmota caudata

Local Name : Phia

Size : Body Length 56-58 cm, Tail Length 30-35 cm

Weight: 4-7 kg



Description: This is a more richly coloured marmot, well adapted to burrow life. The body is large, squat with short limbs. The length of the tail is about half the length of the body. The hair is black at the

tips and tawny at the base. Coloration varies from yellowish-tawny to orange. Head is flat and triangular in shape. Eyes are black. The whiskers are sensitive and long.

Habitat and Behavior: The animal is found in family groups. It is encountered in high biotopes between 2400-5500 m on rock strewn slopes and dry meadows. It is territorial and the territory is marked by a secretion from its chin glands. They dig out burrows in the ground which are 20 to 100 cm long and 4 to 6 m deep. These burrows end in large chambers and have 2 to 3 entrances. On sensing danger the animal gives out alarm call which makes all family members to rush into their burrows for shelter. A foul stinky substance is ejected from anal glands on being threatened.

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The animal is diurnal and feeds in morning and afternoon throughout the summer. It hibernates for 6 to 7 months during winter in its burrow. The metabolism of the animal during hibernation slows down. During midday the animal sits outside the burrow for basking. Only one litter is produced per year. The female is receptive for one day only. Mating takes place while inside the burrow. Gestation period is one month. The litter consists of 2 to 7 naked, blind offsprings. The young ones open their eyes at 3 weeks and come out when 6 weeks old.

Status and Distribution: The animal is a common resident in central and western Ladakh between 3500 and 5000 m. It is also found occasionally in the lower valley slopes. The best sighting places in Ladakh are upper Rumbak valley westwards through the Zanskar and upper Suru region, less common along the Ladakh range eastwards to Khardungla. The subspecies *M.c. caudata* is found in Ladakh and northern parts of Kashmir. It is killed for meat and fur. In Ladakh there are reports of its killing by laboures engaged in road construction.

图口.[夏七如]

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Silver Mountain Vole

Common Name : Silver Mountain Vole Scientific Name : Alticola argentatus

 Local Name
 : Zabra

 Size
 : 10-12 cm

 Weight
 : 21-54 g



Description: This vole was earlier thought to be a subspecies of *Alticola roylei*. The body is small. It has a longer tail and larger ears than most other voles. It has a more rounded head. Its colour varies from rust to dark brown and light grey-brown. The tail is bicoloured with dark animals and white with pale ones. This vole in Ladakh has its pelt greyish brownish above and paler silver grey below and the tail is whitish.

Habitat and Behavior: The animal lives in tunnels dug out in high altitude boulder-covered dry slopes. It collects leaves, stems of plants and shrubs and stores them for winter. It piles its food into heaps after drying it in the sun.

Status and Distribution: This vole in Ladakh is reported from eastern portion only at a height up to 4700 m. The best sites for encountering in eastern Ladakh are the southern slopes of the Tsokar plains. The species has its distribution through the mountainous region of Central Asia southwards to north western South Asia.

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图口:[夏左刻]

Royle's Mountain Vole

Common Name: Royle's Mountain Vole

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Scientific Name Alticola roylei Local Name

Size 10-12 cm Weight 21-54 a



Description: The head is rounded with short muzzle and small ears. The body is more or less cylindrical. It is very dark in colour, rustytinged, dark, slate grev-brown upper parts and grevish under parts. The teeth are rootless and grow throughout life.

Habitat and Behavior: The animal lives in pairs or family groups in open rocky plains in relatively lower uplands. It collects leaves, stems of plants and shrubs and stores them for winter. The stored food is piled into heaps after drying it in the sun.

Status and Distribution: In Ladakh it is a common resident of western and southern portion at around 3000 to 3300 m and above. This animal is best seen in and around Panikar upto Suru Valley, the Zanskar and Chang-chu valley.

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बेब'ते'बी'त्रर'१०व्रष'११

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বেশ্রীঅ'বর্গ

वेट[.]भेद[.]र्केन दे:र्वेदे:अर्देन्'र्यःदन्'वेदःवेदःद्दः(वअ:क्रुद्वन्'र्यःक्रून्'र्येदःद्दः नर्पेन्'र्वेदःगुदःक्रुः ल्या क्षेत्र द्वा र्श्वाम्य व्याप्त वा स्वाप्ते द्वा मार्चे म

गवयाया राष्ट्रीताया

'ते'र्च' प्रवार'स' वृषा संस्था वार्षेव'र्घ' धेव' पति 'ञ्चा 'ठव' वे' घट' कुट' 'जुव' गावि स' मिवेस' मिवेस' या वि स्मर्याचन्द्रम् स्वर्थान्त्राचान्त्रम् वित्रम् वित ऀॿॕॖॿॱय़ॱॸऀॸॱॺ॔ॱॻऻॖॿॱॸॸॖॺॱॸॖ॓ॱॻॺॕॻऻॺॱॸॖ॓ॱॺॕॸॱॸॱक़ॕ॔ॻऻ<u>ॸऀॱ</u>ग़ॏॿॕॱढ़ऀॱख़य़ॱॻॠॺॺॱॻड़ॖॻॱॿॖ॓ॱॸऀॸॱॿॱॿॖॸॺॱ *ने*:चॅर:र:र्वेण

图石:[夏左刻]

त्यान्त्रम्बात्यात्वेःच्यान्त्वेम्बात्यान्तः क्ष्यंश्चेम्बाक्षेत्रभ्रत्यात्वेः अर्थेः स्वतः क्षेत्रभ्रत्यात्वे स्वतः क्ष्यान्त्यात्वे स्वतः क्ष्यान्त्यात्वे स्वतः कष्यात्वात्वे स्वतः स aर्झ् बःग्वन्यःयर्नुषानाःर्वेष विःर्क् सुःनुवैःयःवैः अष्यः ५८ः ३८ सः ५ ग्वनः ५८ः । ३८ स्कुःयुः स्यःगुवनः ๗.ฆฐะ.ะ.ฮุ้น

Stoliczka's Mountain Vole

Common Name : Stoliczka's Mountain Vole

Scientific Name: Alticola stoliczkanus

 Local Name
 :
 Zabra

 Size
 :
 10-12 cm

 Weight
 :
 27-34 g



© Maya Ramaswamy

Description: This vole is similar in appearance to the Silver Mountain Vole. It is a small to medium sized vole, bright rufous brown with white or slaty-grey under parts. The Karakoram Vole is a subspecies that has a shorter tail and paler coloration.

Habitat and Behavior: The animal lives in pairs or groups and forms colonies in high alpine meadows, rocky scree and soft sandy slopes. Its burrows have many entrances and are 8-12 m long.

Status and Distribution: This vole is reported from northern and eastern portion of Ladakh between 4000 to 5500 m. The animal is most commonly seen in Rupshu and Changthang regions like Tsokar, Puga, Chumur, Hanle and Chushul plains.

The species, outside Ladakh, is distributed from the Karakoram/ south-eastern Central Asia, through the Tibetan plateau south to northern South Asia. Two subspecies are believed to be found in Ladakh region viz., A.s. slolizkanus from Nubra valley northwards and A.s. stracheyi in Rupshu and adjoining Changthang region.

क्रूं भेगवागमा यदं व तेव संभा

ह्ये र प्रमुद्द स्त्री र प्रमुद्द स्त्री स्

कुँभिन्यग्राम्यस्तिन्तेवर्षेयः जयन्तेर्गायः कुँभिन्यग्रान्यः

র্মান্ত্র

क्षेव्र:ते:बी:त्र:१०० वृष:११

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বেল্রীঅ'বর্মন

লব্শ-শ-দ্র-শ্রেষ্ট্র-পেঝা

图口:[夏七刻

Cape Hare

Common Name : Cape Hare/ Brown Hare

Scientific Name : Lepus capensis

Local Name : Ribong

Size : Body Length 45-55 cm, Shoulder Height 18-22 cm,

Tail Length 7-9 cm

Weight: 1-3.5 kg



© Maya Ramaswamy

Description: Cape Hare is the most common hare in the world. Its body is slender and head is oval shaped. Tail is short and bushy. Ears are mobile. The colour of the coat varies from sandy buff to rust brown. The inner sides of legs, belly and under tail are white. Sexes look alike. The female is larger.

Habitat and Behavior: Found singly amongst bush strewn plains, Hippophae-set sand dunes, near marshes and along edges of cultivation. It is active by dusk and dawn and spends the day lying

in shallow depressions under cover known as "forms". In winter it sometimes rests under snow. It is very agile, shy and watchful. When threatened it remains still and later dashes away swiftly. It jumps and leaps while running. It can also swim.

There is no sufficient study or record on the breeding pattern of this species in Ladakh. Mating takes place in spring. The gestation period is about 42 days. The litter size is 1 to 4 young which are fully furred at birth and born with their eyes open and become independent after one month.

ग्रेन के तर्

श्चेरप्तर्द्धः । क्रम्यम्यानी स्रीटा स्राम्यस्यानी स्रीटा ग्रेच हैत्र। स्टार्य ग्रेचित स्थार स्टिंद्र।

र्वेट्रब:र्क्ष्ट्रा

क्षेत्रः ते : व्री:तर्र १५ १५ वर्षः ५५

ફ્રેના

गी'र्थे'ग्रद्गश'१८८'५

ব্রীঅ'বপ্র

बॅग्गब्द र्डिंग केट रेज पेबर केंग्रिय केंग्रिय

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ला चित्राया से स्पृत्ती के स्वाप्त स्व स्वाप्त स्वापत स्वाप्त स्वाप्त स्वापत स् Status and Distribution: In Ladakh the animal is a common resident in north-western and north-central region at a height of about 3500 m. The species is represented by about 80 races through most of Africa, Middle East, Arabia, Central and East Asia and south to north-western South Asia. In Ladakh it is best seen in Nubra and Shayok valleys. The subspecies found in Ladakh is *L.c. tibetanus* which is also reported from Tibet and Kashmir to south-western Central Asia.

图口.[夏七如]

Woolly Hare

Common Name : Woolly Hare/ Tibetan Hare/ Highland Hare

Scientific Name : Lepus oiostolus

Local Name : Ribong

Size : Body Length 40-50 cm, Shoulder Height 20-25 cm,

Tail Length 6-8 cm

Weight: 2.5-3 kg



© Maya Ramaswamy

Description: The fur of this animal is thick and curly. Tail is short and bushy. Hind legs are long. The ears are black tipped. Eyes have a pale eye ring. The colour of the coat is brownish-grey. Inner sides of the legs, belly and tail are white. The sexes look alike, female is larger than male.

Habitat and Behavior: This hare is an animal of mountain slopes and meadows. Its habitat constitutes open, bush-strewn sandy plains. The animal is encountered singly. It is active during dusk and dawn. It spends the day lying in shallow dug out depressions. It also uses burrows of mar-

mots. The eye sight and hearing capacity are excellent. The animal feeds on herbs, plants, roots and grasses. The predator of this animal includes wolf, Lynx, Snow Leopard, Wild Dog, fox and Golden Eagle. The animal is not too shy of humans.

Status and Distribution: In Ladakh the Woody Hare is a common resident of north, east and southern regions found between 4000 and 5400 m. It can be encountered best in Rupshu and Changthang plains, Tsokar, Hanle, Chushul and to lesser extent in Markha and Rumbak valley of Hemis National Park. This animal is represented by 5-7 races in the Tibetan plateau. Not much is known about this animal. Its taxonomic status is still ambiguous. The subspecies described here is *L.o. piostolus*.

श्चेरप्तर्द्धः । क्रम्यानीक्षरः। अम्बद्धाः अस्ति। न्त्रुवाक्षेत्रेत्रः क्षेत्रकः खेदेशःर्हेश्वरः देःचेदः।

र्वेट्रू र्स्ट्र

बोब्दाने दी न्या १० व्याप

3/5

गी'र्से'न५८'५व्यात्र

বেল্রীঅ'বর্মন

दे:बेबबन'ठद'दे:बु'गुद'दह्याची'र्द्रायदेवाची'र्द्रायदेवाची'र्यं क्षेत्रक्षाची'त्रवाची'यादेवाची'यादेवाची'यादेवाच क्षेत्रमुद्राय कुराये महारागुद्राये राज्ये राज्ये प्राची क्षेत्रमा कुष्याची'त्रवाची'यादेवाची'यादेवाची'यादेवाच केषाची'त्रवाची'यादेवाची'र प्राची क्षेत्रक्षाची'यादेवाची'यादेवाची'यादेवाची'यादेवाची'यादेवाची'यादेवाची'यादेवाची केषाचींद्राय क्षेत्रच्याची'र प्राचीची'यादेवाची'यादेवाची'यादेवाची'यादेवाची'यादेवाची'यादेवाची'यादेवाची'यादेवाची'य

मवर्गामान्यः मुद्रान्य

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Plateau Pika

Common Name : Plateau Pika/ Black-lipped Pika

Scientific Name: Ochotona curzoniae

Local Name : Zabra

Size : Body Length 19-22 cm, Tail Length 1-2 cm

Weight: 170 g



Description: It is a small pika with a distinct rust patch behind each ear. Inner sides of legs and belly are yellowish-white. The colour of the coat is sandy brown while the fur is soft and fine. Ears are small and round. There is a blackish area over nose tip up to lips.

Habitat and Behavior: Plateau Pika is a very social animal and lives in a family unit. It lives in burrows. It is encountered in open meadows, steppes and semi-desert plains. Family groups form territories adjoining each other. The animal is active

during the day time throughout the year. The animal is most active during the morning and afternoon and basks in the sun during midday. The animal collects plant material and stocks it in front as well as inside burrows for consumption in winter.

The gestation period is of about 21 days. The litter consists of 2-8 young delivered in a burrow. 3 to 5 litters may be produced during a year.

Status and Distribution: In Ladakh this animal is an occasional resident found in steppes of east and northern Ladakh between 4100 and 4700 m. The animal is best encountered in Changthang and Rupshu including Tsokar and Chushul plains. The species is distributed, outside Ladakh, through most of the Tibetan plateau and Trans-Himalayan regions of South Asia.

The animal is poisoned in Tibet. Its burrows serve as shelter and breeding places for a variety of birds.

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र्वेटब.क्र्य

बेव-ते-बे-तर्गः नर्गः वर्षः ११

ଞ୍ଚିମ

না. শবা.১৯০

বেল্রীঅ'বর্মন

गवससार्ट्स हीं रायया

दी.ची.पि.प.र.चे.बा.क्षे.क्षे.क्षे.क्षे.क्षे.क्ष.ता.च.च.चे.चे.च.त.क्षे.च.पतन्नर.र.चू.च क्ष्यक्ष.च.र.दी.ची.चच.र.क्षर. ची.ची.पि.प.र.चे.बा.क्षे.क्षे.क्षे.क्षे.क्षे.क्षे.च.त.क्षर.अचवा.त.क्षे.य.र.चू.च क्ष्यक्ष.च.र.दी.ची.चच.र.क्षे.च.

图口:[夏七刻

Ladakh Pika

Common Name : Ladakh Pika/ Ladakh Mouse Hare/ Stoliczka's Pika

Scientific Name : Ochotona ladacensis.

Local Name : Zabra

Size : Body Length 23-25 cm, Tail Length 1-2cm

Weight : 200 g



Description: It has soft fur which is rufous-fawn in colour. The under parts are yellowish white. The skull is large with small ears. It has distinctive rust coloured exterior of ears. The whiskers are mixed black and white. The toe pads are exposed in summer but almost concealed

by long hair in winter. The longevity is about two years.

Habitat and Behavior: Little is known about the ecology of this species. The animal lives in family groups in defended territories. It is a social animal. High altitude, semi-desert plains constitute its habitat. The animal digs out burrows which have various entrance holes. The animal is diurnal and is active throughout the year. It moves mostly in morning and afternoon and takes a sun bath during midday. It immediately hides itself in burrows on sensing danger. This animal is very agile and alert.

Status and Distribution: This species is a common resident in eastern and northern Ladakh between 4400 and 5600 m. It is encountered mostly in Tsokar and Hanle plains. This species is distributed from eastern Ladakh north-eastwards towards the northern parts of the Tibet plateau.

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र्वेदशळ्ट्। श्रेव्रते श्रेत्र र ११व श्रे

ह्वेरा गुरुवात्र००

বেল্রীঅ'বর্মন

त्रस्यः श्रुंयह्वाः संन्त्ररः श्रुवाः वेरः श्रुष्यः त्याक्षः स्वाधः स्वाधः स्वधः स

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वृत्र, पे.पटीची विकादम् अञ्चीचकारा सूरा आपवालु अद्युची सहम्बार्ख्या प्रस्ता स्वालु अस्ता स्वालु अद्युची अस्ता सुची अस्ता

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Nuhra Pika

Common Name : Nubra Pika/ Nubra Mouse Hare

Scientific Name: Ochotona nubrica

Local Name : Zabra

Size : Body Length 17-20 cm, Tail Length 1-2 cm



Description: Very little is known about this species. It is pale sandybrown with pale grey under parts. Ears are smaller. A buff mid line is visible on its belly. Feet are brownish-grey. The animal shows distinct pale patches on the outer ear sides.

Habitat and Behavior: The animal is found in

sub-alpine and alpine shrubby areas. It is a social animal and lives in family groups in defended territories. The animal digs out burrows amongst the root systems of thickets. The animal is diurnal and active throughout the year. The animal is most active during morning and afternoon. It is a shy and alert animal. On sensing danger it retreats in its burrows.

Status and Distribution: In Ladakh the animal is a common resident in central region between 3100 and 3500 m. This species is represented by two races in Ladakh and eastern parts of Tibetan plateau. It is also reported from Sikkim and Arunachal Pradesh. In Ladakh the species is best encountered in thickly *Hippophae*-covered valley bottoms along Indus valley and Shyok River, especially the Hunder, Diskit and Panamik region.

ह्ये र य प्रत्ये द । क्ष्यं र या यो क्षेट । र या वुरुष्टिया के स्विट । बुगराधीगा ऑहॅर्नेब्दुगरीग इस्परा

र्चेटब.क्री

बेदाते वे ते न राज्य द बात्र

ব্রীঅ'বপ্র

ढ़॓ॱचॅद्रे-देनायःकुन्'ने क्रॅन्यःयःकुराअतःर्येषेनाओन्'स्योधन्द्रेन देन्यं स्वाधितःविषयः व्याधितः विषयः व्याधितः विषयः संक्षुर्येनाधितः देन्धितः देन्या मृत्यः स्वाधितः द्वायः क्षुयाः क्षुष्ये द्वायः विषयः स्वाधितः विषयः स्व विषयः स्वाधितः स्व

ল্বশ্শ-দ্দ:শ্ৰুদ্ৰেমা

दायाता, कट्या, अद्याद्माया, अप्याद्माया, अप्याद्माया, अप्याद्माया, अप्याद्माया, अप्याद्माया, अप्याद्माया, अप्य अप्याद्माया, अप्याद्माय, अप्

图石:[夏左刻

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Large-eared Pika

Common Name: Large-eared Pika/ Large Mouse Hare

Scientific Name: Ochotona macrotis

Local Name : Zabra

Size : Body Length 17-20 cm, Tail Length 1-2 cm

Weight: 150 g



© Maya Ramaswamy

Description: It is a rock dwelling pika. The animal is small with large ears. The ears have long dense hair inside. It is often confused with Royle's Pika. It is pale brownish-grey. The under parts are whitish. In some forms the head, rump and shoulders are more or less rufous. The feet are white. In some forms there

is a rufous band across the throat. The longevity is about 3 years.

Habitat and Behavior: The animals live in pairs with their offsprings. They live in slopes covered by rock scree and rubble fields. The animal is diurnal and active throughout the year. It is most active during morning and afternoon. It takes sun bath during midday hours. The animal is mostly dependent on foraging throughout the year. The species is shy and alert. It hides itself under boulders and rocks on sensing danger. Gestation period is about 30 days. The litter consists of 3-4 young.

Status and Distribution: In Ladakh it is an occasional resident mainly in central region between 3100 and 4200 m. This species is mostly encountered in lower Hunder valley and towards Khardungla. The species is distributed from the Central Asian mountains southwards to north-west South Asia, along the upper Himalaya to south-western East Asia and from Ladakh north-eastwards towards the northern parts of the Tibetan plateau.

यरहाक्षातरमान्या

ह्येत्रचन्द्रच्याचीक्षेत्रच्या स्वत्रेत्याचीक्षेत्रच्या स्वत्रेत्याचीक्षेत्रच्या स्वास्य

र्वेदशळ्ट्रा श्रेवन्ते श्रेन्रराग्रेव्या १०

क्षेत्। गारसाग्र

বেশ্রীঅ'বপ্রহা

त्र देनानी क्षेत्र स्वाप्त देना क्षेत्र स्वाप्त क्षेत्र स्वाप्त क्षेत्र स्वाप्त क्षेत्र स्वाप्त क्षेत्र स्वाप्त क्षेत्र स्वाप्त क्षेत्र स्वाप्त स्वापत स्वाप्त स्वापत स्वाप्त स्वाप्त स्वाप्त स्वाप्त स्वाप्त स्वाप्त स्वाप्त स्वाप्त स्वापत स्वाप्त स्वाप्त स्वाप्त स्वाप्त स्वापत स्वाप्त स्वाप्त स्वापत स्वाप

गवसस्य ५८:श्वें

图石:與七刻

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Royle's Pika

Common Name : Royle's Pika/ Himalayan Mouse Hare/ Indian Pika

Tibetan Mouse Hare

Scientific Name : Ochotona roylei

Local Name : Zabra

Size : Body Length 16-18 cm, Tail Length 1-2 cm

Weight: 150 g



Description: The Royle's Pika is the most common pika of the Himalayas. It is moderately large. The skull is flat. The ears are of moderate size with a coat of small hair inside. The body is rufous grey with chestnut head, shoulders and upper back. The throat is reddish-purple and under parts are

grevish-white. The reddish coloration fades in winter.

Habitat and Behavior: The animal does not burrow. It moves under ground through existing burrows in rubble fields and slopes covered by rock scree. The animal lives in family groups. The territories are defended and are marked by a secretion rubbed on rocks from the cheek gland. It constructs hay piles and hoards limited food for winter. The animal is diurnal and is most active during morning and afternoon. The animal does not hibernate and is active throughout the year. It also takes sun bath during midday hours. It is less vocal than other pika species. Gestation period is about 30 days.

Status and Distribution: In Ladakh this animal is a common resident found between 3100 and 4000 m. It is best encountered around upper Suru and Zanskar valleys and to some extent towards Hanle region.

In India it has its distribution from Jammu & Kashmir to Kumaon. Once very common in parts of Himalayas, its population has declined due to loss of habitat.

ह्ये राय हरा केरा क्रम्याची केरा सम्बद्धाः सेरा देखेकेचेम् ऑफ्रिंक् वः देखेके इयदा

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गवरासन्दर्श्चित्रयया

कृत सिंगीरिधरः राष्ट्रका श्रीश्री स्थाना स्वाना अ० लुक् कृता र तीरा र तुंचार राष्ट्रका से राष्ट्रका ना कृता ने स्वाना स्वाना अ० लुक् अराष्ट्रका स्वाना स्वा

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