

= Bugun liocichla =

The Bugun liocichla (*Liocichla bugunorum*) is a passerine bird species from the Leiothrichidae family closely related to the Emei Shan liocichla . First spotted in 1995 in Arunachal Pradesh , India , it was described as a new species in 2006 . The description was made without the collection of a type specimen as they were too few to risk killing one . It is thought to be an endangered species , with the only known population estimated to consist of 14 individuals and commercial development threatening the habitat of this population .

= = Description = =

The Bugun liocichla is a small babbler (22 cm (8 @. @ 7 in)) with olive @-@ grey plumage and a black cap . The face is marked with prominent orange @-@ yellow lores , and the wings have yellow , red and white patches . The tail is black with crimson coloured undertail coverts and red tips . The feet are pink and the bill is black at the face fading to pale white . A second duller individual was mist netted , which was probably the female . The voice is described as fluty and distinctive .

= = Distribution and habitat = =

All sightings of the species have been at an altitude of 2 @, @ 000 m (6 @, @ 600 ft) on disturbed hillsides covered with shrubs and small trees , with the exception of one sighting on the edge of primary forest . It lives in a territory similar to that of the Emei Shan liocichla . Small flocks were observed during January , whereas pairs were observed in May , with an estimated total of 14 individuals . It is thought that pairs may hold and defend territories . The Bugun liocichla is only currently known from just one location . Populations may be discovered in other areas of Arunachal Pradesh or neighbouring Bhutan .

Attempts have been made to identify new locations where the species could occur based on identification of suitable habitats using computational models .

= = Species discovery = =

The species was described in 2006 after being discovered in Eaglenest Wildlife Sanctuary in Arunachal Pradesh , India , by an astrophysicist , Ramana Athreya . The species was first spotted in the sanctuary in 1995 but was not seen again for ten years . Athreya spotted them again in January 2005 but did not publicize it until he was able to confirm it to be a new species . It was initially identified as appearing most similar to an Emei Shan liocichla , *Liocichla omeiensis* , a species of *Liocichla* endemic to China . It was however distinctly different and the full description was finally made by capturing and examining two individuals using mistnets , in May 2006 . Due to the apparent rarity of the species no type specimen was collected , instead feathers from the mist net , photographs , recordings and notes were used as the holotype . The International Code of Zoological Nomenclature does not allow for new species to be described without the collection of type specimens , but this provision was circumvented in this case by the collection of feathers (the Code allows for " any part of an animal " to be treated as a type specimen ; Art. 72 @. @ 5 @. @ 1) . The 1991 description of the Bulo Burti boubou (*Laniarius liberatus*) , an African bushshrike species later considered invalid , lacked a specimen and only blood samples were collected and has been more controversial .

The first report of the species was first made in a posting to the Nathistory @-@ India , an electronic mailing list in 1996 . It was only in 2006 , however that the species was formally described .

= = = Etymology = = =

The species ' scientific and common names are derived from the Bugun tribe in whose communal

forests the species was discovered .

= = Threats and conservation = =

For a " spectacular bird " with distinctive calls to have been overlooked until 1995 suggests that the species is not common . Only three breeding pairs are currently known and is listed as critically endangered . While the species is capable of living in degraded forests , its small population is considered threatened , especially in the light of plans to build a highway through an area thought to be its primary habitat .