

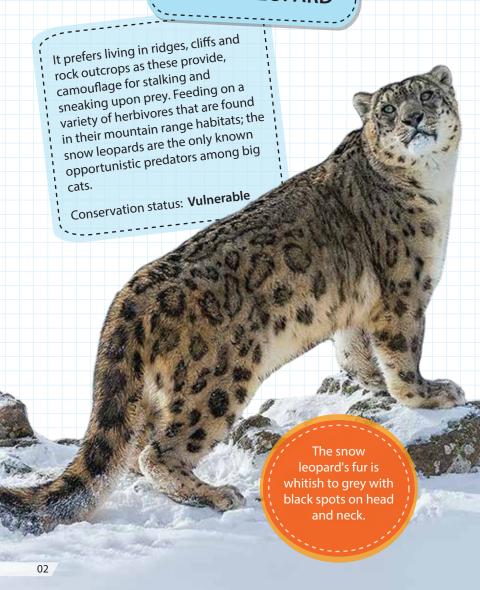


The northern highlands include lower elevation areas of Potohar and Kashmir regions and higher elevation areas embracing the foothills of Himalayan, Karakorum and Hindukush mountain ranges.

These areas provide an excellent habitat for wildlife in the form of alpine grazing lands, sub-alpine scrub and temperate forests. The areas are difficult for human beings to access, hence, most wildlife is present in reasonable numbers though some are endangered for other reasons. The northern highlands of Pakistan are covered with conifer and scrub forests, which have been reduced to scanty growth in most places.



SNOW LEOPARD



HIMALAYAN BROWN BEAR

The Himalayan brown bear is an omnivore and eats grasses, roots and other plants as well as insects and small mammals. It also likes fruits and berries.. It may also prey on large mammals, including sheep and goats. You can usually discover these extremely interesting creatures between the main Himalaya and the cold desert as well as the foothills of the Pakistani Himalaya in northern Pakistan, especially Deosai National Park.

Conservation status: Least concerned globally but in Pakistan, small and scattered populations exist.



INDIAN WOLF

The Indian wolf is a subspecies of the grey wolf that ranges from Southwest Asia to the Indian Subcontinent. It is a very small wolf, 3 feet in length. It belongs to the family of dogs and lives and hunts in packs, led by an alpha male. The diet is composed of small wild animals. This includes rodents, rabbits, and racoons.

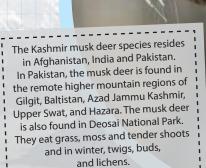
Conservation status: Least Concern

FUN FACT Wolves are excellent hunters and have been found to be living in more places in the world than any other mammal except





KASHMIR MUSK DEER



Conservation Status: Endangered

FUN FACT
The male has tusk-like
teeth called fangs
which help in
fighting.

Male musk deer have a gland that produces musk. Musk is used to make perfumes and soaps. It is also used in Traditional Chinese medicine. One musk gland has about 25 to 30 grams of musk. Musk deer have been hunted and killed for its musk.



WESTERN TRAGOPAN

The western tragopan is found along the Himalayas from north-eastern districts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province in northern Pakistan as well as in the west to Uttarakhand within India to the east. They feed mostly on leaves, shoots and seeds, but also consume insects and other invertebrates. Like most pheasants, it roosts in trees singly or in pairs except during nesting. Deforestation has had a serious impact on its habitat in Pakistan along with hunting, trapping and disturbance due to livestock and humans. The largest population of the western tragopan is in Palas Valley.

Conservation status: Vulnerable



CHAKOOR OR CHUKAR

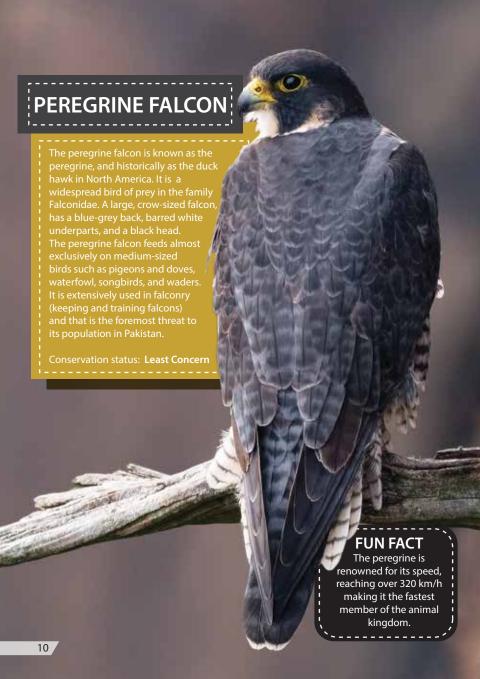
The chukar partridge, chakoor or Chukor has well marked black and white bars on the flanks and a black band running from the forehead across the eye and running down the head to form a necklace that encloses a white throat. This bird can be found in parts of the Middle East and South Asia including, Palestine, Lebanon, Turkey, Iran, Afghanistan, Pakistan, and India, along with the inner ranges of the Western Himalayas to Nepal.

Conservation status: Least Concern

Chukars are ground foragers and are predominantly vegetarian as adults; chicks are fed mainly insects. Chukars' preferred food are the leaves and seeds of annual and perennial grasses. Chukars also eat seeds from pinyon pine, sunflower, rough fiddleneck, and tansy mustard.

FUN FACT

The chukar is the national bird of Iraq and Pakistan.









The urial, arkars or shapo, is a subspecies group of the wild sheep Ovis orientalis. It is found in western central Asia from northeastern Iran and western Kazakhstan to Pakistan's Balochistan and Chitral, as well as being found in Ladakh, India.

Noticeable features are the reddish-brown long fur that fades during winter; males are characterized by a black ruff stretching from the neck to the chest and large horns.

Conservation Status: Vulnerable











The Indian crested porcupine or Indian porcupine is native to southwest and central Asia and in parts of the Middle East. Indian crested porcupines have a very broad and mostly herbivorous diet. They consume a variety of natural and agricultural plant material, including roots, bulbs, fruits, grains, drupe and tubers. They gnaw at bones to supplement their herbivore diet. The spikes on the body are called quills that offer a powerful defence mechanism.

They also rattle their quills to make a loud noise to warn other predators or to communicate with each other. They live in burrows.

Conservation Status: Least Concern







The long-eared hedgehog is a species of hedgehog native to Central Asian countries and some countries of the Middle East. This hedgehog is insectivorous but may also feed on small vertebrates and plants. The long-eared hedgehog lives in burrows that it either makes or finds and is distinguished by its long ears. It is considered one of the smallest middle eastern hedgehogs.

Conservation Status: Least Concern

FUN FACT

Newborns look like chubby white caterpillars.





The striped hyena is a species of hyena native to North and East Africa, the Middle East, the Caucasus, Central Asia and the Indian subcontinent. The striped hyena is primarily a scavenger which feeds mainly on ungulate carcasses in different stages of decomposition, fresh bones, cartilages, ligaments and bone marrow. It has very powerful jaws and crushes long bones into fine particles and swallows them, though sometimes entire bones are eaten whole.

Conservation Status: Least Concern





The leopard gecko is a cathemeral, ground-dwelling lizard naturally found in the highlands of Asia.
Unlike most geckos, all species in the genus possess movable eyelids, and cannot climb up smooth surfaces.

Conservation Status: Least Concern

FUN FACT

It has become a well-established and popular pet in captivity.