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Geographical range

Amazing Species: Taita Thrush

The **Taita Thrush**, *Turdus helleri*, is listed as 'Critically Endangered' on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species™. This highly specialized bird is found only in four square kilometres of forest in south-east Kenya's Taita Hills.

Decades of forest clearance for cultivation and non-native timber plantations have radically reduced the extent of indigenous forest in the Taita Hills. Today, the surviving forest patches on which the Taita Thrush depends remain under serious threat from clearance and degradation. One of the smaller subpopulations also has a highly male-biased sex ratio, which might have significant consequences for its long-term survival.

In order to restore existing forest fragments and hopefully enhance connectivity between them, efforts are being made to reforest areas with indigenous seedlings. Farmers are also being educated in environmentally responsible agricultural practices, and local people are being helped to develop alternative income-generating activities. In addition, an ongoing collaborative research project is in place and, as part of future conservation measures, a translocation project for the most threatened subpopulation is being developed.

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