First sighting record of Hooded Pitta *Pitta sordida* from Kaziranga National Park, India

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The Hooded Pitta *Pitta sordida* is found from south-western China to Philippines, and New Guinea. In India, the race *cucullata* is a summer visitor to the Himalayan foothills of Himachal to Arunachal, and north-eastern Bangladesh, and perhaps also to Meghalaya, and Nagaland. The darker *abbotti* is found in the Great, and Little Nicobar Islands (Rasmussen & Anderton 2005). It is categorized under 'Least Concern' in the IUCN's Red List 2008.

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Hooded Pitta *Pitta sordida*

Kaziranga National Park (KNP) (26°35'–26°45'N 93°05'–93°40'E) is situated in the floodplain of the Brahmaputra River, in the Nowgaon, and Golaghat districts of Assam, India. A detailed checklist of birds of Kaziranga National Park, with 479 species, has listed three species of pittas, namely, Blue-naped *P. nipalensis*, Blue *P. cyanea*, and Indian *P. brachyura* (Barua & Sharma 1999). Choudhury (2003) lists the Hooded Pitta as a hypothetical species for Kaziranga, 'in view of records from different parts of the Brahmanputra valley.' This is the first report of Hooded Pitta from KNP.

On 2 July 2008, we were on a field trip to the Central Range (Kohora) of KNP, as part of Aaranyak's camera-trapping team for monitoring tiger populations. While proceeding towards Hulalpath Forest Camp, between 1255–1305 hrs, we saw a pitta-like bird flying across the road (26°40.039'N 93°21.706'E). We spotted the bird again, at closer distance, in some forest undergrowth, in a patch of woodland with prominent tree species like *Machilus banbycyna*, with thick undergrowth of *Calamus* sp., and creepers such as *Lea* sp. It was immediately identified as Hooded Pitta, based on its dark head, and brownish crown. We took photographs of the bird (see below), which helped confirm its identity. We observed the bird for about two minutes, before it flew away into the thickets.

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