

Tracking the migratory route of Amur Falcon

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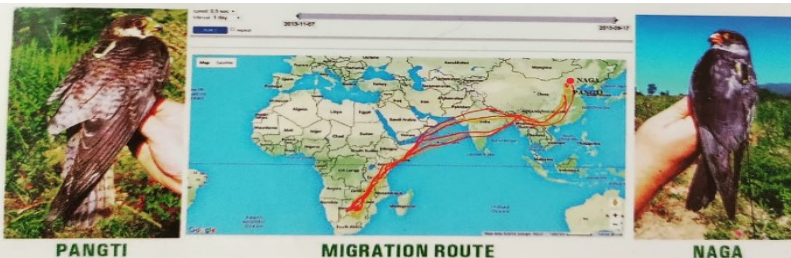
Amur falcons (*Falco amurensis*), pigeon-sized migratory birds breed in central Siberia east to Amurland, south to northern and eastern China in the summer. At the onset of winter they fly to India, especially to the Northeast (Manipur, Nagaland, Assam and Meghalaya) to rest for about two months before leaving for South Africa where they stay for about four months. While traveling back, they take a longer journey, passing over Laos, Vietnam and Myanmar to reach Siberia.

Nagaland was declared as the Falcon Capital of the World by the Ornithologists as one million Amur Falcons roost in this place. Being a signatory of the Convention on Migratory Species, India protected the birds under the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.

During the roosting period these birds help in maintaining the ecosystem by feeding on a large number of insects, thus controlling the population of insects. Termites are available in abundance during September and October giving it the necessary food which gives it adequate energy to carry on the journey to Africa by crossing the Arabian Sea. Also Dragonfly migration coincides with the migration of the Amur Falcon over the Arabian Sea. Hence, they turn out to be the greatest source of food for Amur Falcon, as it covers a distance of 22,000 Km, making it one of the longest distances covered by migratory birds.

Wildlife Institute of India (WII) along with Manipur Forest Department is implementing the satellite tagging project with the support of local community. Amur falcons, **Naga and Pangti**, which were satellite-tagged in Nagaland, were tracked on 25.11.2021 while flying over the Arabian Sea.

Since November 7, **Naga** had taken the route of Wokha in Nagaland, Assam, Bangladesh, the Bay of Bengal, Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka before entering the airspace over the Arabian Sea. During the same period, **Pangti**, took the route of Wokha, Assam, Bangladesh, West Bengal, the Bay of Bengal, Andhra Pradesh and Maharashtra before beginning the journey over the Arabian Sea. **Wokha**, followed Pangti's path and was tracked flying over the Bay of Bengal way behind the other two. The movements of all three birds are being monitored by scientists in Hungary, filtering satellite data through a dedicated website.



On the occasion of completion of second anniversary of satellite tagging of Amur falcons (Naga and Pangti) on 7.11.2015, released from Doyang, Wokha, Nagaland, The Falcon Capital of the World on 7.11.2013. The birds have completed second cycle of migration covering a distance of approximately 44000 Kilometres.

Special cover commemorating the second anniversary of satellite tagging of Amur Falcon was released on 7.11.2015 by India Post



Stamps on
Amur Falcon
(*Falco amurensis*)
by Mongolia,
Maldives &
Djibouti