

Snowy-headed Robin Chat

Cossypha niveicapilla



Class: *Aves*

Order: *Passeriformes*

Family: *Muscicapidae*

Characteristics:

Also known as snowy-crowned robin chat, this song bird is common throughout Africa and often mistaken for the North American Robin by zoo visitors. Their most notable characteristics are the orange body and white stripe on the top of their head. They are in the chat and old world flycatcher family.

Behavior:

Chats are known for their strong, varied song which often incorporates mimicry mixed with their own fluttery sound. They have an extremely large range, spread throughout most of central Africa. Unfortunately, despite their large distribution very little is known about their wild habits as they tend to hide in forested areas and avoid humans.

Reproduction:

Both sexes build the nest and care for the hatchlings but only the female incubates the eggs. It is unknown how many eggs are commonly laid.

Diet:

Wild: Insects, spiders, caterpillars, centipedes and other arthropods. Will also feed on seeds and grains, possibly berries
Zoo: Insectivore diet, dog food, feline diet, mealworms

Conservation:

Found throughout central Africa, chats seem to be stable and are considered common.

FYI:

The name chat refers to the family of birds that eats insects, preferring to catch them on the wing.



Range & Habitat:

Sub-tropical or tropical dry forests, moist lowland forests and moist savannah regions



Lifespan: up to 10 years in captivity, average is one year in the wild.

Special Adaptations: noisy, fluttery call

IUCN Conservation Status:
Least Concern

