

Grey Wagtail in Iran

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Typically, the Grey Wagtail (*Motacilla cinerea*) favors fast-running upland and mountain streams. Here in Iran, small upland creeks provide attractive alternatives in uplands while lowlands still serve them with quality habitat of their favorite taste. The grey wagtail is more colorful than its name suggests with slate grey upper parts and distinctive lemon yellow under-tail. Its tail is noticeably longer than those of pied and yellow wagtails.

Although they have gradually increased their range in the past 150 years into lowlands in many countries around the world but in Iran they are yet to be seen in Iranian northern highlands. They are badly affected by harsh winters, as stated here and there but still keep a good population around highland stream sides where they breed in spring. In winter they can be seen around farmyards and lowland streams, even in crowded cities like Tehran.

They are listed as Amber List species due to decline in numbers because of harsh winters recently. This still needs to be evaluated in Iran. We are still running further investigations.