

A Pictorial Field Guide for Beginners

COMMON BIRDS OF JHARKHAND



Palamu Tiger Reserve

Palamu Tiger Reserve

- Betla National Park
- Palamau Sanctuary
- Mahuatand Wolf Sanctuary



A photograph of a blue and purple sunbird perched on a branch with pink flowers. The bird is facing right, with its head slightly turned. The background is a soft-focus green and pink.

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**COMMON BIRDS
OF JHARKHAND**

Palamu Tiger Reserve

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INTRODUCTION

Birds provide great aesthetic enjoyment and enrich our lives with their presence. This value comes from knowing that our world is still healthy enough to support a variety of bird species. Birds add life, sound and color to our lives. Watching wild birds is often a diversion from the pressures of our daily lives.

Birds are a part of the balance of nature and they are recognized as one of the most important indicators of the state of the environment. They are the ecologist's favorite tool as they are sensitive to habitat change and easy to census. Changes in bird populations are often the first indication of environmental problems. Whether ecosystems are managed for agricultural production, wildlife, water, or tourism, success can be measured by the health of birds. A decline in their numbers tells us that we are damaging the environment through habitat fragmentation and destruction, pollution and pesticides, introduced species, and many other impacts. There is strong interdependence between all living things in the gigantic web of life and the removal of even the smallest form of life may in time endanger the entire structure.

Clean air, food, healthy plants and safe places to raise their young, the conditions that make good homes for birds and other wildlife, also make good homes for people; a habitat good for birds is a good environment for people.



In addition to the joy they bring to people's lives, birds are valuable for economic reasons as they provide insect and rodent control, plant pollination, and seed dispersal which result in tangible benefits to people. Their role is critical in reducing and maintaining populations of insects in natural systems.

Birding can be considered more than a pastime, more of an adventure that can be undertaken in your humble garden, your backyard or a distant, more challenging destination. There are around 9600 bird species in the world and more than 1200 in India. According to Avibase-the world bird database, there are about 446 bird species in Jharkhand. In this book there are 175 species of common birds with their photographs and identification pointers.

The main aim of this book is to provide basic information to beginners about the common birds found in Jharkhand and to generate love for birds and nature in their heart.

Species description in the text comprises of common English name along with their scientific names and bird's approximate length. It also includes main identification pointers and major habitat description. Although a large species of birds are resident, a significant population of birds is Winter Migrant and Summer Migrant from all over the world. A few species are Passage Migrant too. The color of the name panel indicates the Residential/Migrant status of the bird.

Resident



Winter Migrant



Summer Migrant



Passage Migrant

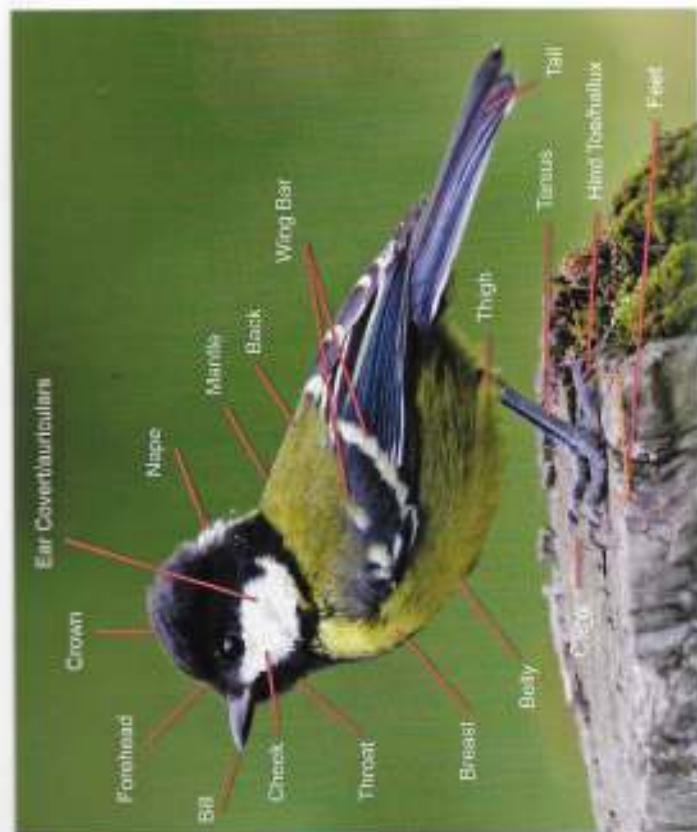


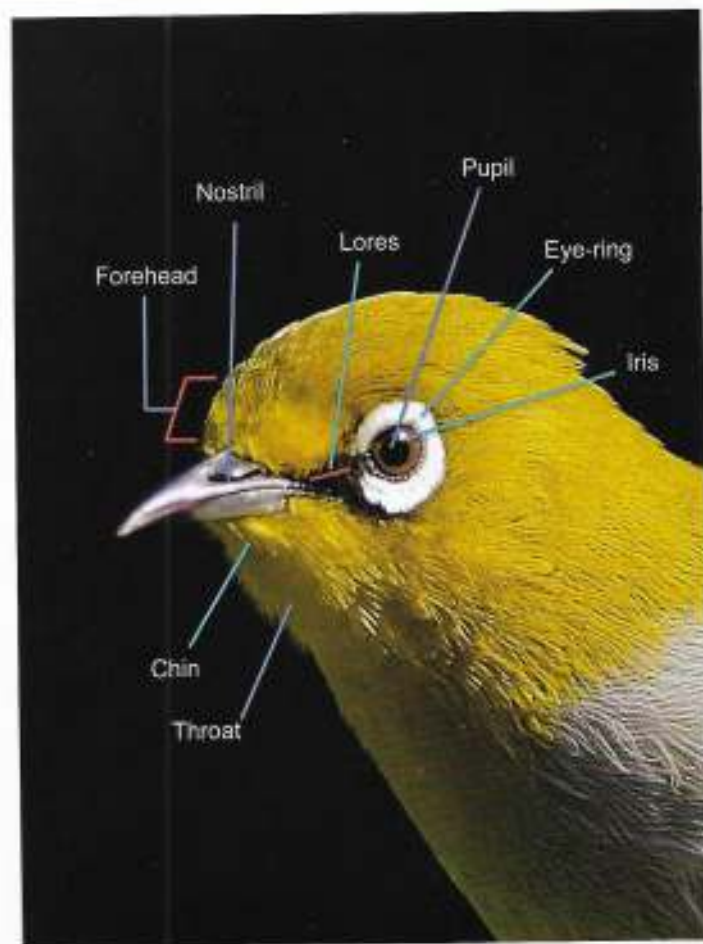
POINTS TO REMEMBER WHEN BIRDWATCHING

1. You need good binoculars, and a basic bird field-guide.
2. Maintain a safe distance from birds so that you do not disturb them in their natural habitat and in carrying out their day to day activities.
3. Never go too close to their nest as nesting time is very critical for them as they and their eggs/chicks are vulnerable to predators.
4. Wear dark and dull clothes to merge yourself with your surroundings.
5. Maintain silence.

HAPPY BIRDING







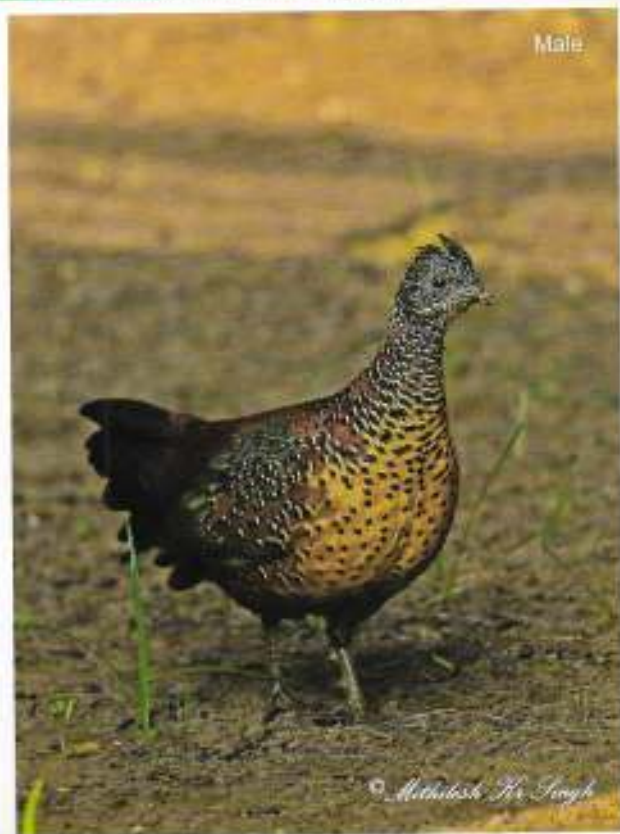


BIRD SPECIES

Grey Francolin (*Francolinus pondicerianus*) (33cm)

It is also called **Grey Partridge** commonly seen on the ground in small group. Adult has grey-brown upperparts; buffish face with black necklace; and finely barred upperparts and underparts.

Habitat: Dry grassland and scrub forest. **Resident**

Painted Sparfowl (*Gallopendix lunulata*) (32cm)

Male

© Nitulash R. Singh

Dark bill, legs and feet. Adult male is brightly coloured with greenish-black head; chestnut-red upperparts; yellowish-buff underpart has black spottings and barring.

Painted Sparfowl (*Gallopendix lunulata*)

Female

© Nitulash R. Singh

Adult female is dark olive-brown on upperparts and breast, buff throat and malar stripe, chestnut forehead, supercilium and ear-coverts.

Habitat: Rocky and scrub forest and bamboo thickets. **Resident**

Red Junglefowl (*Gallus gallus murghii*) (M 65-75cm, F 42-46cm)

Father of today's poultry. Adult male has its trademark red comb and wattle, blackish-brown underparts, rufous wing panel and long greenish-black arched tail. Female is smaller in size and dull rufous-brown body and small dark tail.

Habitat: At the forest edges and undergrowth. **Resident**

Ruddy Shelduck (*Tadorna ferruginea*) (61-67cm)

Also called **Brahminy Duck**. Warm buff-brown body with whitish head. Wings have a dash of green. Breeding male has black neck-collar which is less distinct or absent in non-breeding plumage.

Habitat: Water bodies. **Winter Migrant**

Lesser Whistling-duck (*Dendrocygna javanica*) (42cm)

Also known as **Lesser Whistling Teal**. Sexes alike. Adult is buff-brownish in colour with buff-scaled black back and rufous belly. It has chestnut rump, dark brown crown and bright chestnut patch on forewing (clearly visible in flight).

Habitat: freshwater and wetlands. **Resident**

Gadwall (*Anas strepera*) (39-43cm)

White patch on inner secondaries in all plumage. Adult male is mainly grey with white belly ending in black and dark grey bill. Female has orange sides to dark bill, white belly and light brown body.

Habitat: Water bodies, **Winter Migrant**

Bar-headed Goose (*Anser indicus*) (71-76cm)

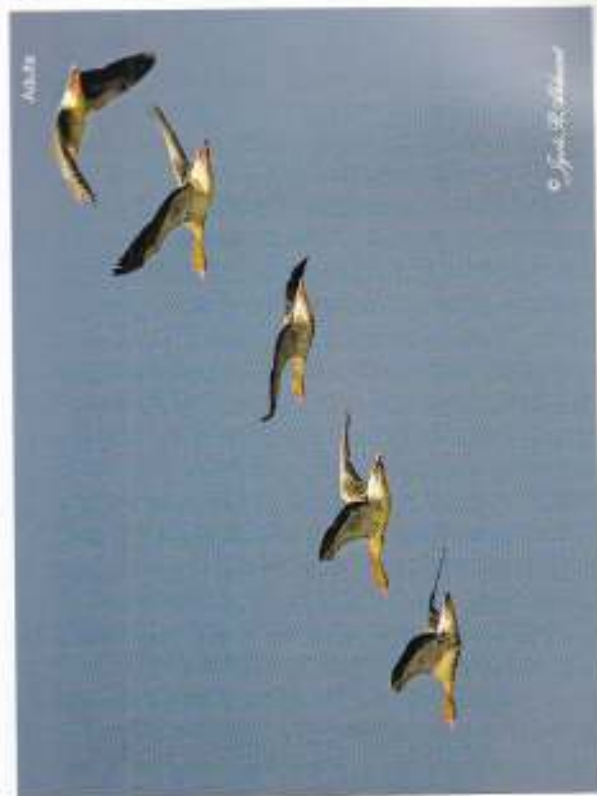
Large wintering goose with distinct double black band on the head and bright yellow bill with dark tip. It is one of the highest flying birds.

Habitat: Large water bodies and wetlands. **Winter Migrant**

Common Teal (*Anas crecca*) (34-38cm)

Breeding male has distinct chestnut head with green band behind eye. White stripe along scapulars and yellowish patch on undertail-coverts. Non-breeding adult, juvenile and female are of uniform colour in various shades of grey-brown and black eye-stripe.

Habitat: Wetlands and water bodies. **Winter Migrant**



A large bird with small pink bill and pink legs and feet. Shows pale-grey forewings in flight.

Habitat: Water bodies. Winter Migrant



Large neck and pointed tail. Male has chocolate-brown head, grey bill and shows white edges to secondaries. Female and non-breeding male has buffish head.

Habitat: Water bodies. Winter Migrant

Indian Spot-billed Duck (*Anas poecilorhyncha*) (58-63cm)Indian Spot-billed Duck (*Anas poecilorhyncha*) (58-63cm)

A dabbling duck with distinct yellow-tipped black bill, grayish-white head and neck, black crown, black eye-stripe and blackish spotting on breast. Adult male has prominent red loreal spot, bright green speculum and white on tertials.

Habitat: Water bodies. **Resident**, Isolated Records

Common Pochard (*Aythya ferina*) (42-49cm)

Male has dome-shaped chestnut head, black breast, grey upperparts, and flanks. Female has brownish head and breast and grey upperparts, pale patch on lores and pale throat. Bill has grey central band in both sexes. Juvenile males are duller with brown breast.

Habitat: Water bodies, wetlands. **Winter Migrant** Globally Threatened **Vulnerable (VU)**

Northern Shoveler (*Anas platyrhynchos*) (44-52cm)

It has distinct shovel-like large bill and bluish forewing. Breeding male has dark green head, white breast and chestnut flanks. Female is pale-brown patterned with dark brown. Non-breeding male resembles female.

Habitat: water bodies. **Winter Migrant**

Red-crested Pochard (*Netta rufina*) (53-57cm)

Adult male has red bill, red iris, rusty-orange head, white flanks, and black breast. Female has pale cheeks, brown-capped head and brown bill. Non-breeding male is like female but with red bill and red iris.

Habitat: Water bodies. Winter Migrant

Tufted Duck (*Aythya fuligula*) (40-47cm)

Breeding male is glossy black with crest and white flanks. Eclipsed male/juvenile is duller with grayish flanks. Females are dark brown with pale brown flanks and yellow iris.

Habitat: Water bodies. Winter Migrant

Great Crested Grebe (*Podiceps cristatus*) (46-51cm)

Breeding adult shows prominent black crest, black crown, hind neck and upperparts, rufous-orange ear-tufts and white cheeks and foreneck. Non-breeding lacks black crest, white naked face and neck and dull black upperbody.

Habitat: Water bodies. **Winter Migrant**

Little Grebe (*Tachybaptus ruficollis*) (25-29cm)

Breeding adult has rufous cheeks, neck-sides and yellow patch at the base of bill. In eclipsed plumage cheeks, foreneck and flanks are buff coloured.

Habitat: Wetlands and water bodies. **Resident**

Asian Openbill (*Anastomus oscellatus*) (68cm)

Breeding Adult



© Sita Mishra

Asian Openbill (*Anastomus oscellatus*) (68cm)

Juvenile



Breeding adult has stout pale open bill, pink legs and white body contrasting with black flight feathers and tail. Non-breeding adult and juveniles have grayish white body, dull pink legs and black bill.

Habitat: Wetlands and shallow water bodies. **Resident**



A large bird with long pointed bill, dense hair like feathering on head and hind neck, plain frontal plate, glossy black mantle and wings and white underparts. Breeding adult has red tinge to face, neck and copper coloured spots at the tips of median coverts, white edges to scapulars and inner greater coverts.

Habitat: Wetlands and lakes. **Resident** Globally threatened-Vulnerable (VU)



Also called **White Ibis** or **Indian White Ibis**. Mainly white body with black neck, black legs, and black down curved long bill. Breeding adult has white neck plumes, grey on scapulars and elongated tertials. Juvenile has white neck.

Habitat: Wetlands, water bodies. Winter Migrant. **Near Threatened**.

Red-naped Ibis (*Pseudibis papillosa*) (68cm)

Also called **Black Ibis**. Adult has naked black head with red nape, body dark brown with green and purple gloss on wings, reddish legs and white shoulder patch.

Habitat: Wetlands and water bodies. **Resident**

Great Egret (*Ardea alba modesta*) (90-102cm)

Also called as **Great White Heron** or **Large Egret**. Very large, black gape-line extends beyond eye. Breeding Adult has black bill, blue lores and reddish tibia. Non-breeding adult has yellow bill and pale green lores.

Habitat: large Water bodies. **Resident**

Intermediate Egret (*Ardea intermedia*) (65-72cm)

Also called **Median Egret** or **Lesser Egret**. Smaller than Great Egret with smaller bill and black gape-line does not extend beyond eye. **Breeding Plumage:** Black bill, lores yellow-green. **Non-breeding plumage:** Black-tipped yellow bill, yellow lores

Habitat: Wetland and water bodies, **Resident**

Little Egret (*Egretta garzetta*) (55-65cm)

Black bill, yellow feet, grayish or yellowish lores.

Breeding Plumage- Lores and feet become reddish and shows two elongated nape-plumes and mantle plumes.

Habitat: Wetlands and water bodies. **Resident**

Cattle Egret (*Bubulcus ibis*) (48-53cm)Cattle Egret (*Bubulcus ibis*) (48-53cm)

Small size, short yellow bill, short dark legs and feet and body all white.

Breeding Plumage- orange-buff on head, neck and mantle. Base of bill and legs become pinkish.

Habitat: Around domestic stock, damp grassland, village tanks, canals and tank etc. **Resident**

Purple Heron (*Ardea purpurea*) (78-90cm)

Very large size, long neck that is shaped like S, yellow bill that becomes brighter in breeding plumage. Adult has chestnut head and neck with black stripes along the crown and neck-side, grey mantle and upperwing-coverts and dark chestnut belly. Juvenile has black crown, buffish neck and brownish mantle and upperwing-coverts.

Habitat: Wetlands. **Resident**

Grey Heron (*Ardea cinerea*) (90-98cm)

Large size, mainly grey in colour with yellow bill, whitish head and neck with black head plumes and black patch on belly. In breeding plumage bill and legs become orange or reddish. Juvenile has dull bill and dark legs, grey neck and breast and lacks plumes.

Habitat: Wetlands and water bodies. **Winter Migrant**

Indian Pond Heron (*Ardeola grayii*) (42-45cm)

Breeding adult has buff head and neck, maroon-brown mantle and white wings. Non-breeding adult has heavily streaked head, neck and breast, brown back contrasting with white wings.

Habitat: Flooded paddy-fields, village ponds, drains etc. **Resident**

Little Cormorant (*Microcarbo nigripes*) (51 cm)

Breeding adult is all black. Bill, eyes, facial skin and gular pouch is black. Non-breeding is browner, whitish chin, pale bill and gular pouch.

Habitat: Inland water bodies. **Resident**

Great Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax carbo sinensis*) (80-100cm)

Very large size, thick neck, stouter bill. Breeding adult is glossy black with dark gular stripe, red spot at base of the bill, white cheeks, throat and white head plumes. Non-breeding adult lacks white cheeks and throat patch and white head plumes

Habitat: Water bodies. **Winter Migrant**

Indian Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax fuscicollis*) (63cm)

Smaller than great with thinner neck, small oval head, and fine bill. Breeding adult is glossy black, blue iris, dark facial and gular skin and white skin behind eyes. Non-breeding has whitish throat, yellowish gular patch and brownish head.

Habitat: Water bodies and wetlands. **Winter migrant**

Oriental Darter (*Anhinga melanogaster*) (85-97cm)

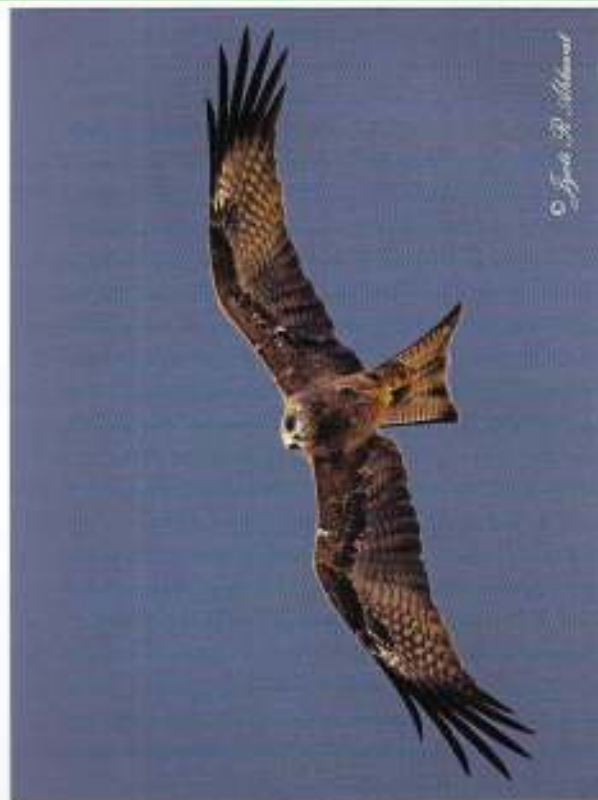
Also called Snake Bird. Typically long slim head and neck, long brown crown and hind neck, white stripe down the neck, black body with white streaking on wing-coverts.

Habitat: Wetlands, lakes and large water bodies. **Winter Migrant.** Globally **Threatened - Near Threatened (NT)**

Oriental Honey-buzzard (*Pernis ptilorhynchus*) (57-60cm)

Found in variable plumage from dark brown to pale with small pigeon-like head. Adult male has grey face, two black tail bands and usually three underwing bands and brown iris. Female has three black tail bands, four underwing bands and yellow iris. Juveniles have dark iris and cere yellow (grey on adult)

Habitat: well wooded forest. **Resident**

Black Kite (*Milvus migrans*) (58-66cm)


Very common raptor with dark rufous-brown body and distinct forked tail. Sexes alike.

Habitat: Human Habitation. **Resident**

Black-winged Kite (*Elanus caeruleus*) (31-35cm)


Also called Black shouldered Kite. A small sized raptor. Adult has grey and white body with black shoulder and red iris. Juvenile has brownish-grey upperparts and less distinct shoulder patch.

Habitat: Grassland, cultivated fields and scrub forest. **Resident**

Brahminy Kite (*Haliastur indus*) (48cm)

Adult is mainly chestnut coloured with white head, neck and breast. Juvenile is mainly brown with pale streaking on head, mantle and breast.

Habitat: Found in the vicinity of water bodies and wetlands. **Resident**

Crested Serpent Eagle (*Spilornis cheela*) (56-74cm)

Adult has black and white crest, yellow cere, lores and un-feathered yellow legs and feet. Broad white band across wings and tail and white spotting on brown underparts.

Habitat: Forest and well wooded countryside. **Resident**

Changeable Hawk Eagle (*Nisaetus cirrhatus*) (63-77cm)

It is found in various colour phases. Mostly adult has brown upperparts, white underparts with black long streaks on throat and chocolate coloured streaking on breast. Juvenile has pale fringes to upperparts and wings, pale-buff underparts.

Habitat: Evergreen moist forest. **Resident**

Crested Hawk Eagle (*Nisaetus cirrhatus ceylanensis*) (58-77cm)

A broad-winged and broad-tailed eagle. Adult has distinct white-tipped black crest, heavily streaked underparts from neck to belly with uniform rufous-brown belly, thigh and vent.

Habitat: Broad-leaved and dry-deciduous forest and well wooded country. **Resident**

Shikra (Accipiter badius) (30-36cm)



Shikra (Accipiter badius) (30-36cm)



Adult male has ashy blue-grey upperparts, white underparts cross-banded with brownish-orange and small dark bill and red iris (yellow iris in female). Juvenile has pale brown upperparts, pale bill, pale iris and white underparts streaked with brown.

Habitat: Open wooded country. **Resident**

White-eyed Buzzard (*Buteo leuco*) (43cm)



Adult has black gular-stripe, white nape-patch, barred underparts, dark wing-tips, rufous tail, white iris, throat stripe and cere yellow. Juvenile has buffish head and breast streaked with dark brown, brown iris.

Habitat: Dry open country and scrub forest Resident.

Egyptian Vulture (*Neophron percnopterus*) (60-70cm)



Small sized vulture with long pointed wings, small pointed head, and wedge-shaped tail. Adult mainly off-white, naked yellowish face, black flight feathers and orange bill. Juvenile is blackish brown with grey face.

Habitat: Town outskirts near garbage dump. Resident. Globally threatened, Endangered

White-rumped Vulture (*Gyps bengalensis*) (75-85cm)

Sexes alike. Smallest of *Gyps* vultures. Adult mainly blackish with white neck-ruff and white rump. Juvenile dark brown with streaking on underparts, dark rump and whitish head and neck and dark bill.

Habitat: Outskirts of cities. **Resident** Globally threatened. Critically Endangered

Long-billed Vulture (*Gyps indicus*) (89-103cm)

Adult and Juvenile



Also called Indian Vulture. Sexes alike. Adult has sandy brown body, blackish head and neck, white neck-ruff and yellowish bill. Juvenile has buff neck-ruff & dark bill.

Habitat: Cities, town and village outskirts. **Resident** Globally. **Threatened**, Critically Endangered

Himalayan Vulture (*Gyps himalayensis*) (115-125cm)


Also called Himalayan Vulture. Very large size. Adult has pale buffish body and wing coverts contrasting strongly with dark flight feathers and tail. Buffish ruff, pinkish feet, dark claws, yellowish bill, pale blue cere and facial skin. Juveniles have dark brown body and upperwing coverts and underparts boldly streaked with buff.

Habitat : Breeds in Himalayas and winters down to plains. Globally threatened - Winter Migrant. **Near Threatened**

Common Kestrel (*Falco tinnunculus*) (32-35cm)


Adult Male

Adult male has grayish head with dark moustachial stripe, rufous underparts heavily marked with black, grey tail with black tip, orange legs and feet with dark claws. Female and juvenile has rufous crown and black streaked nape, rufous upperparts spotted with black and dark barring on rufous tail.

Habitat: Grassland, cultivated land. **Winter Migrant**

Common Moorhen (*Gallinula chloropus*) (32-35cm)

Sexes alike. Breeding adult has blackish head and neck, slaty-grey underparts, dark olive-brown upperparts, distinct yellow-tipped red bill and frontal shield and usually shows white line along flanks. Non-breeding adult has duller bill and duller yellow legs. Juvenile has dull green bill, and dull brown body and pale border to flanks.

Habitat: Wetlands and water bodies. **Resident**

White-breasted Waterhen (*Amaurornis phoenicurus*) (32cm)

Sexes alike. Adult has brownish grey upperparts, white face, foreneck and breast, undertail coverts rufous. Bill and legs are greenish or yellowish. Juvenile has grayish face, sides of neck and breast and brown upperparts. Bill and legs are darker.

Habitat: Thick undergrowth close to water bodies. **Resident**

Common Coot (*Fulica atra*) (36-38cm)

It is also called **Eurasian Coot**. Sexes alike. Adult has blackish body, white bill and frontal shield (forehead), yellowish legs. Juvenile duller than adult with whitish face, neck, breast and belly, pale bill and legs.

Habitat: Water bodies and surrounding vegetation. **Resident**

Black-winged Stilt (*Himantopus himantopus*) (35-40cm)

Sexes alike. Adult has white head, neck and underparts contrasting with black wings and upperparts, reddish pink legs, feet and fine straight black bill.

Habitat: Water bodies. Winter migrant

Red-wattled Lapwing (*Vimellus indicus*) (32-35cm)

Sexes alike. Adult has black cap and breast, black-tipped red bill, yellow legs, white patch on ear coverts that extends to neck and converging into white belly. It has distinct red facial wattles. Juvenile is duller than adult.

Habitat: Open flat ground near water, **Resident**

River Lapwing (*Vimellus tharuvadii*) (29-32cm)

Sexes alike. Black crest, face and throat, grey sides to neck, face and breast, black small bill, and black legs. Sandy-brown upperparts, black patch on belly, black shoulder patch and white greater-covert wing bar contrasting with black flight feathers and black tail.

Habitat: Stony riverbeds, sandbanks, and water bodies. **Resident, Globally Threatened - Near Threatened**

Yellow-wattled Lapwing (*Vanellus malabaricus*) (26-28cm)



Sexes are alike. Pale brown body, white belly, dark cap, white eye-stripe joining at nape and distinct yellow wattles(very large) and forehead. In flight shows white greater covert wing bar contrasting with black flight feathers and white tail with broad black band.

Habitat: Fallow fields, open woodland dry country. **Resident**

Little Ringed Plover (*Charadrius dubius*) (14-17cm)



Sexes are alike. It is a very small bird with brown head and upperparts, white forehead, throat and neck-band. Breeding adult sports a black mask and yellow eye-ring. In flight shows a thin white wing-bar and white tail-sides.

Habitat: Banks of water bodies. **Resident**

Phoeasant-tailed Jacana (*Hydrophasianus chirurgus*) (31cm)


Sexes are alike. Grayish back, white face and foreneck, golden-yellow hind neck. Breeding adult has brown underparts and long black arched tail. Non-breeding adult and juveniles lack elongated tail and have white underparts.

Habitat: Floating vegetation near water bodies. **Resident**

Bronze-winged Jacana (*Metopidius indicus*) (28-31cm)


Sexes are alike. Adult is mainly a blackish bird with striking bronze-green tinge to upperparts and wings, chestnut-brown rump and tail, white supercilium and yellow bill. Juveniles have brown upperparts and whitish underparts with orange-buff wash on breast.

Habitat: Floating vegetation near water bodies. **Resident**

Greater Painted-snipe (*Rostrirula benghalensis*) (25cm)

Rounded wings, long down-curved bill, white spectacles, white belly and dark breast-band. Adult female has maroon head, neck and dark grayish wing-coverts. Adult male is duller, has buff spotting on wing-coverts.

Habitat: Cultivation fields and vegetated water bodies. *Resident*

Common Sandpiper (*Actitis hypoleucos*) (19-21cm)

Sexes are alike. Horizontal stance, long tail projecting well beyond closed wings, white wing-bar and underparts, pale yellow black-tipped bill and legs. Breeding male has irregular dark streaking and barrings on grayish brown upperparts.

Habitat: Fresh water and coastal Wetlands, mountain streams and rivers. Winter Migrant

Brown-headed Gull (*Larus brunnicapillus*) (42cm)

Sexes are alike. White body with gray upperwing coverts, thick (finer in Black-headed) black-tipped red bill, broad dark wing-tips and white patch on outer primaries (seen in flight) and pale-yellow iris (brown in black-headed). In breeding plumage hood and face is pale brown (brown in black-headed) whereas non-breeding shows a dark patch on ear-coverts.

Habitat: large water bodies and rivers. Winter Migrant

Rock Pigeon (*Columba livia intermedia*) (33cm)

Also called common pigeon. Found in variable colours but most birds are bluish-gray with two black bands on wings, black tip to tail, iridescent throat feathers, pink feet and legs, reddish eyes and white cere at the base of short bill.

Habitat: Human habitation **Resident.**

Eurasian Collared Dove (*Streptopelia decaocto*) (32cm)

Sexes are alike. Adult has distinct black collar(narrow black crescent) around the nape of neck, mostly tan or gray above and pale gray underparts, tan unmarked wings and dark wing-tips. Juvenile lacks neck-collar.

Habitat: Open country-side, cultivated fields. **Resident**

Red Collared Dove (*Streptopelia tranquebarica*) (23cm)

Smaller in size than more common Spotted Dove and Eurasian Collared Dove. Adult male has pale-grey head with black half-collar, pinkish maroon upperparts and pink underparts. Adult female has buffish-grey underparts and fawn-brown upperparts. Juvenile lacks neck-collar.

Habitat: Light woodland and trees in open country. **Resident**

Laughing Dove (*Streptopelia senegalensis*) (27cm)

Sexes are alike. Adult has brownish-pink head and underparts, sandy-brown upperparts, black streaks on rufous throat and neck and has long tail. Juvenile is duller and lacks black throat markings.

Habitat: farmland and cultivation fields, scrub forest. **Resident**

Spotted Dove (*Streptopelia chinensis*) (30cm)

Sexes are alike. A slim long-tailed pigeon with pale-brown back, wings and tail, pinkish head and underparts, and pale gray on face. Mantle and back are heavily spotted with buff and distinct white-spotted black neck-patch (duller or missing in juveniles).

Habitat: Open forest, cultivation fields near human habitation. **Resident**

Emerald Dove (*Chalcophaps indica*) (27cm)

Adult male has bright gray crown, white forehead and supercilium, deep pink head-sides and underparts and white shoulder-patch. Female has uniform pinkish head, neck and breast, white supercilium and lacks the shoulder-patch.

Habitat: Thick tropical and subtropical forest. **Resident**

Yellow-footed Green Pigeon (*Treron phoenicopterus*) (33cm)

Larger than other pigeons with grey cap, greenish-yellow forehead and throat, broad olive-yellow neck-collar and breast and distinct yellow legs and feet. Adult male shows distinct mauve shoulder-patch (smaller in female). Female are smaller and duller.

Habitat: Deciduous forest and fruiting tree around village and cultivation fields. **Resident**

Orange-breasted Green Pigeon (*Treron binectus*) (29cm)

Typically has grey central tail feathers, yellowish-green forehead merging into pale blue hind crown and nape and uniformly green mantle. Adult male has distinct orange breast bordered above by lilac band. Female has yellow cast to breast and belly.

Habitat: Well wooded country and moist tropical forest. **Resident**

Alexandrine Parakeet (*Psittacula eupatria nipalensis*) (53cm)

A large Parakeet with maroon shoulder patch and large red bill. Adult male has black chin-stripe and pink and turquoise hind neck-collar. Juvenile has less distinct shoulder patch and shorter tail.

Habitat: Deciduous forest and well wooded country. **Resident**. Globally **Threatened Near Threatened (NT)**

Rose-ringed Parakeet (*Psittacula krameri*) (42cm)Rose-ringed Parakeet (*Psittacula krameri*) (42cm)

Much smaller than Alexandrine, lacks maroon shoulder patch, smaller red bill. Adult male has black chin-stripe joining thin pink hind neck-collar.

Habitat: Deciduous forest, Wooded country-side and cultivation fields. *Resident*

Plum-headed Parakeet (*Psittacula cyanocephala*) (36cm)


Yellow upper mandible and white-tipped blue-green tail. Adult male has plum-red and purplish-blue head, black chin-stripe merging into a thin black collar, red shoulder patch.

Plum-headed Parakeet (*Psittacula cyanocephala*) (36cm)


Adult female has grayish head, yellowish collar and upper breast and no shoulder patch.

Habitat: Forest and well-wooded area. Resident

Red-breasted Parakeet (*Psittacula alexandri*) (38cm)

Adult male has lilac-grey crown and ear-coverts, yellow-tipped red upper mandible, broad black chin stripe, deep lilac-pink breast and belly, greenish-yellow lesser wing-coverts and yellow-tipped blue-green tail. Female similar but has blue-green tinge to head, pure peach-pink breast and black upper mandible.

Habitat: light wooded forest and secondary growth. **Resident**

Jacobin Cuckoo (*Clamator jacobinus*) (35cm)

Also commonly called as Pied Cuckoo. Sexes are alike. Black and white with crest. Distinct white patch at base of primaries and white tipped dark tail. Juvenile has brown upperparts, grayish throat and breast and buffish tinge to rest of the underparts, smaller crest than adult.

Habitat: Forest, well-wooded country-side, Summer Migrant

Common Hawk Cuckoo (*Hierocycyx varus*) (34cm)



Sexes alike. Grayish chin and throat, grey upperparts, rufous breast and barred whitish underparts, broad barred tail.

It is also called "Brain Fever Bird" due to its persistent shrill call.

Habitat: Light forest and well-wooded country. *Resident*

Indian Cuckoo (*Cuculus micropterus*) (33cm)



Brownish mantle, whitish belly having widely spaced black barrings. Tail has broad dark bands, eyes brown or reddish brown and yellow eye-ring. Female has rufous wash on breast.

Habitat: Forest and well-wooded country. Summer Migrant

Banded Bay Cuckoo (*Cacomantis sonnerati*) (24cm)

Sexes are alike. White supercilium encircling brown ear-coverts and merging into white underparts, dull orange upperparts. Supercilium, upperparts and underparts are finely barred with black. Juvenile has broader barring on underparts and crown and nape have some buff barring.

Habitat: Forest and wooded country. *Resident*

Grey-bellied Cuckoo (*Cacomantis passerina*) (23cm)

Overall plumage is slaty-grey, upperparts paler, blackish tail with white-tip, barred under-tail. On hepatic female, upperparts are bright rufous, sparsely barred crown and nape and unbarred tail. Dark bill, dark brown iris, yellowish legs. Juveniles have variable colorations, some have uniform brownish-black upperparts, dusky-grey underparts, barring can vary. These species are brood-parasites.

Habitat: Tropical and subtropical dry grasslands and moist forest, open woodland. *Summer Migrant*

Asian Koel (*Endynamys scolopaceus*) (43cm)



Adult male

© Mithilesh Kumar Singh

Male is glossy black with green iridescence, dull green bill, and distinct red eyes. Female has white-spotted brown upperparts and brown-barrred white underparts, red eyes and rufous wash on head. Juvenil is blackish with white tips

Asian Koel (*Endynamys scolopaceus*) (43cm)



Female



to wing-coverts and tertials, variable white barring on underparts, black tail with barring and brown eyes. They are brood-parasite.

Habitat: Open woodland, gardens and cultivation. **Resident**, State bird of Jharkhand.

Greater Coucal (*Centropus sinensis*) (48cm)

Greater coucal or Crow pheasant is large non-parasitic member of cuckoo family. Adult has black head, upper mantle and underparts and tail. The back and wings are chestnut brown, black bill, feet and bright red eyes. Juvenile has chestnut-spotted brownish-black head and chestnut-brown barred upperbody and whitish barring on entire underparts.

Habitat: Open wood, thick scrub, grassland and dense cover in gardens. **Resident**

Green-billed Malkoha (*Phaenicophaeus tristis*) (38cm)

Very long tail, grayish-green upperbody and tail (white-tipped), lime-green bill, red eye-patch, white supercilium.

Habitat: Dense broad-leaved forest. **(Resident)**

Spotted Owlet (*Athene brama*) (21cm)

Heavily spotted grey-brown upperparts and white underparts streaked with brown. Yellow eyes, pale facial disc and white hind collar and white circular band around eyes.

Habitat: around habitation and cultivation. *Resident*

a) Jungle Owlet (*Glaucidium radiatum*) (20cm)

Jungle Owlet is a small owl with rufous barrings on wing-coverts and flight feathers contrasting with buff barrings on mantle, closely barred upperparts and underparts with bars continuous across lower flanks and belly.

Habitat: Open tropical and Subtropical forest. *Resident*

b) Brown Wood Owl (*Strix leptogrammica indralee*) (47-53cm)

Brown Wood Owl (sub sp. *Indralee*) is a large owl has buffish upperparts (barred with brown), patch of white barring on scapulars, buffish underparts finely barred with brown, prominent rufous facial disc and finely barred tail.

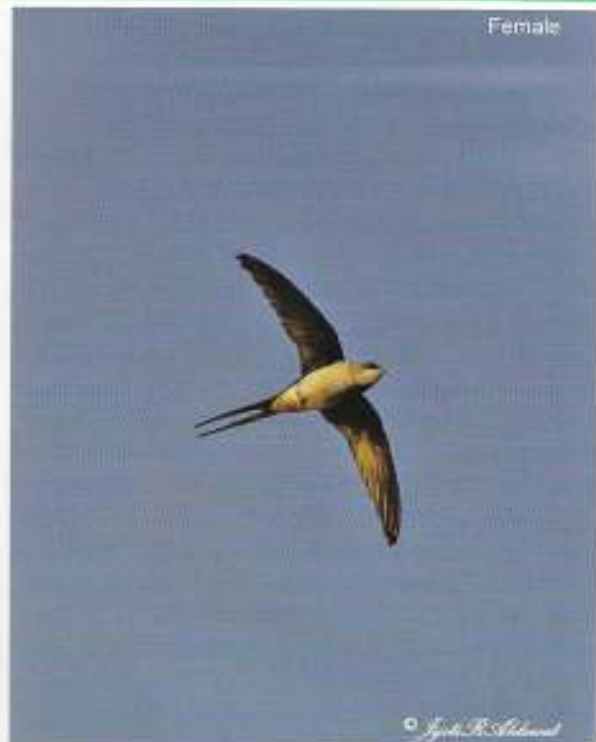


Habitat: Dense broad-leaved sub-tropical and temperate forest. *Resident*

Little Swift (*Apus affinis*) (15cm)

Also called Indian House Swift. A small stocky brownish swift with prominent white throat and white broad rump, square-ended tail.

Habitat: habitation, cliffs and ruins. **Resident**

Crested treeswift (*Hemiprocne coronata*) (23cm)

Female

Large size with sickle-shaped wings and long deeply forked tail (visible in flight). Adult male shows prominent dark green-blue crest, dull orange ear coverts. Female shows less prominent crest and dark grey ear-coverts bordered below by whitish moustachial stripe. Juvenile has white fringes to upperparts and underparts.

Habitat: Well-wooded area and forest. **Resident**

Indian Roller (*Coracias benghalensis*) (33cm)



© Jyoti R. Mahapatra

Indian Roller (*Coracias benghalensis*) (33cm)



© Jyoti R. Mahapatra

Sexes are alike. Adult has rufous-brown on nape and underparts, white streaking on ear-coverts and throat, and has greenish yellow mantle. It has prominent turquoise-blue band on primaries contrasting with dark-blue shoulder-patch, turquoise crown and pale forehead. Juvenile is duller and has more prominent streaking on throat.

Habitat: Cultivation, open woodland. **Resident**

Common Kingfisher (*Alcedo atthis*) (16cm)



Also called as **Small Kingfisher**. It has blue-green to turquoise upperparts, orange ear-coverts and underparts, white throat and side neck-patch.

Juvenile is similar to adult but duller and greener above.

Habitat: Freshwater in open country. **Resident**

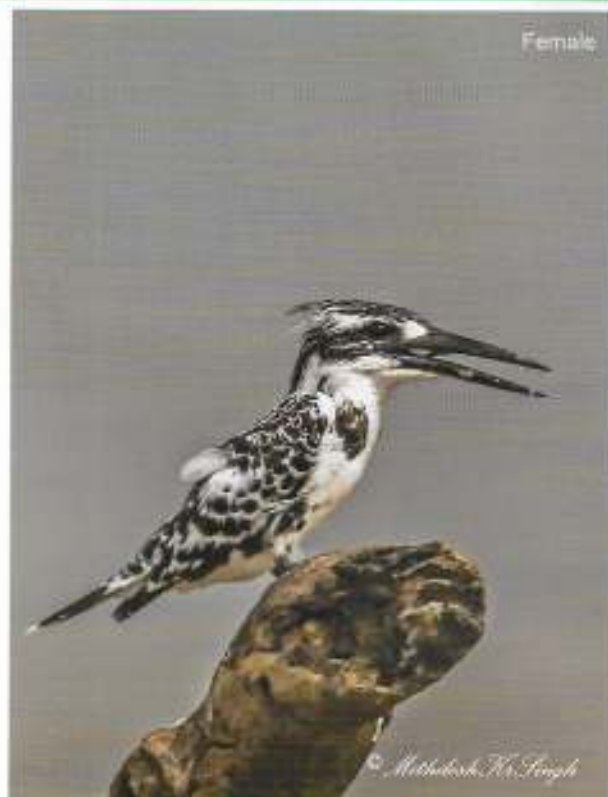
White-throated Kingfisher (*Halcyon smyrnensis*) (27-28cm)



Also called **white-breasted kingfisher** has large red bill, chocolate-brown head and underparts, white throat and centre of breast, turquoise-blue upperparts, rump and tail. Juvenile is duller with brown bill.

Habitat: Wide-ranging habitat from gardens, cultivation to forest edges and coastal wetlands. **Resident**

Pied Kingfisher (*Ceryle rudis*) (25cm)



Crested black and white Kingfisher with white-streaked black crown and crest, white supercilium contrasting with broad black eye-stripe, white underparts with black breast-band(double band in male). Female has single broken black band.

Habitat: Rivers and lakes. **Resident**

Blue-bearded Bee-eater (*Nyctornis adhaerens*) (31-34cm)



Large green bee-eater with broad square-ended tail. Adult has blue forehead and beard, dark curved bill, green upperparts, broad greenish streaking on yellowish-buff belly and flanks and yellowish undertail coverts and underside of tail. Juvenile is similar to adult.

Habitat: Edges of dense forest. **Resident**

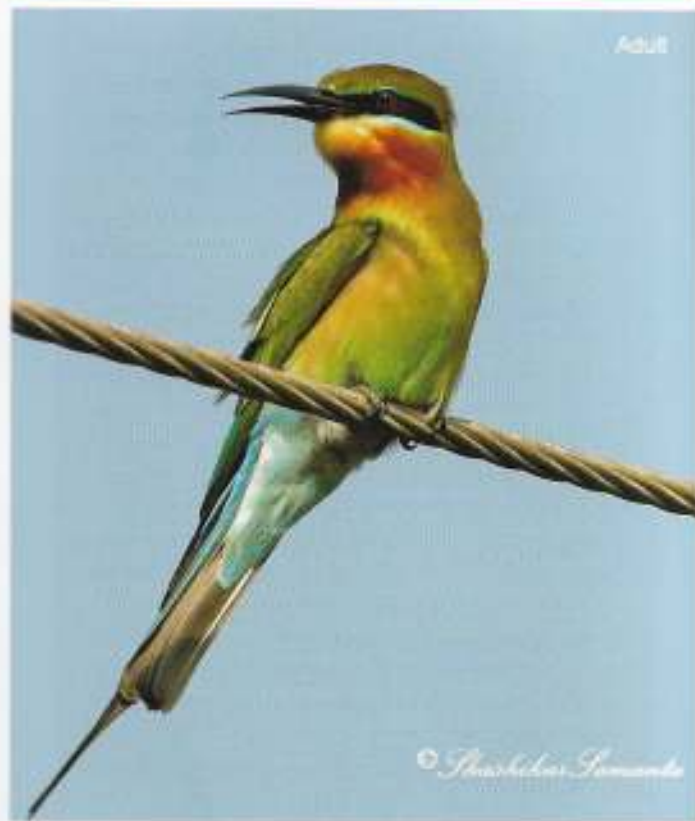
Green Bee-eater (*Merops orientalis*) (16-18cm)



Small with elongated central tail feathers, blue or green throat gorgeted with black, rufous crown, nape and mantle.

Habitat: Open country with scattered tree cover. *Resident*

Blue-tailed Bee-eater (*Merops philippinus*) (23-26cm)



Has distinct blue rump and tail, turquoise undertail-coverts, bronze-green forehead and crown, chestnut throat extending to upper breast and ear-coverts.

Habitat: Near water in wooded country. *Summer Migrant*

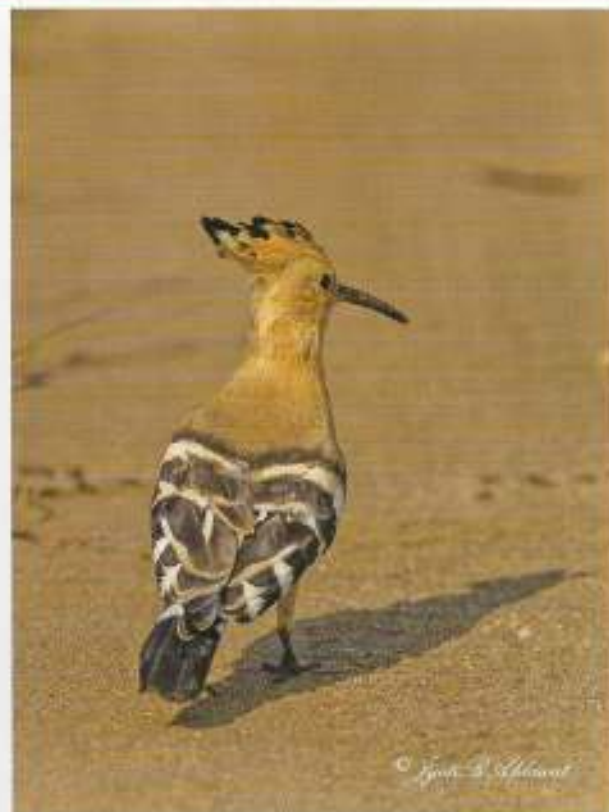
Chestnut-headed Bee-eater (*Merops leucorhynchus*) (18-20cm)



Bright chestnut crown, nape and mantle, yellow throat, turquoise rump and broad shallow-forked tail. Juvenile is duller and crown, nape and mantle are green.

Habitat: Vicinity of water in deciduous forest. **Resident.**

Common Hoopoe (*Upupa epops*) (33cm)



Mainly rufous-orange body, black and white bands on wings and tail, black-tipped fan-like crest and down-curved long bill.

Habitat: Open country and cultivation. **Resident**

Indian Gray Hornbill (*Ocyropsis gingallensis*) (50cm)



Indian Gray Hornbill (*Ocyropsis gingallensis*) (50cm)



Mainly grey body, grayish-white supercilium, dark grey ear-coverts, white tips to primaries, secondaries and tail. Has prominent blackish casque.

Female similar to male but has smaller casque with less pronounced tip. Adult has reddish eyes(dark in juvenile).

Habitat: Open forest and wooded area with fruiting trees. **Resident**

Brown-headed Barbet (*Megalaima zeylanica*) (27cm)



Brown head, mantle, chin and breast finely streaked with white, white-tipped wing-coverts, broad bare orange eye-patch extending to bill and reddish-orange bill (orange-brown in non-breeding adult).

Habitat: Forest, wooded country and wooded garden. **Resident**

Coppersmith Barbet (*Megalaima haemacephala indica*) (17cm)



A small, colourful barbet with crimson forehead and patch on breast bounded by yellow below, yellow patches above and below eye contrasting with black hind crown and sides of head, yellow throat and dark streaking on belly and flanks. Juvenile lacks red and yellow patches and has pale throat and olive green breast band.

Habitat: Open wooded country and urban gardens. **Resident**

Blue-throated Barbet (*Megalaima asiatica*) (23cm)



A medium-sized barbet with red forehead and hind crown, black band across centre of crown and blue face, throat and upper breast. Juvenile similar to adult but duller coloration.

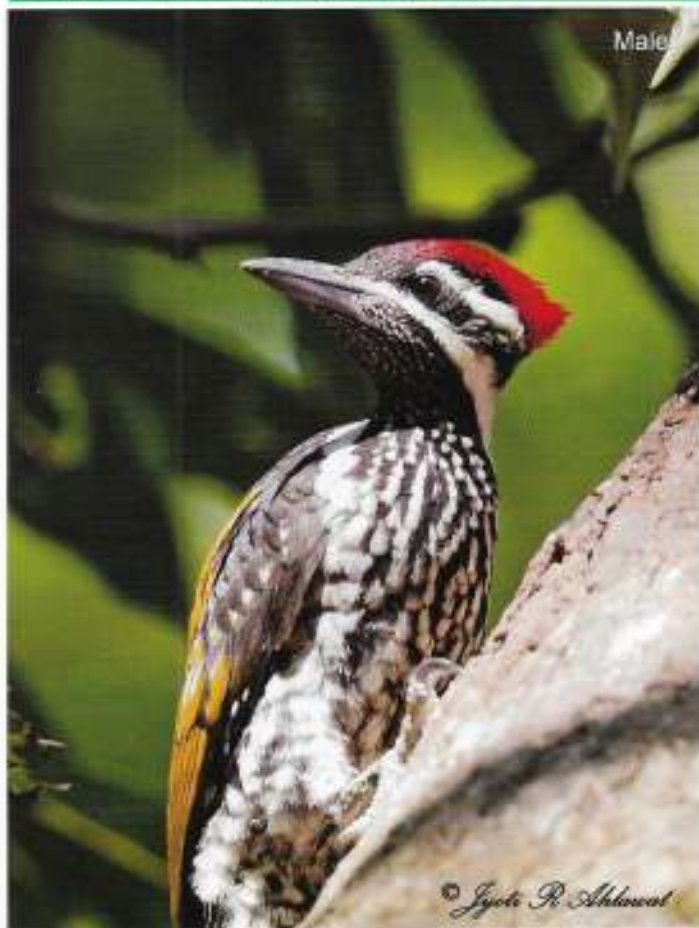
Habitat: Evergreen and deciduous trees, open forest and gardens. *Resident*

White-naped Woodpecker (*Chrysocolaptes festivus*) (29cm)



Large bill and white divided moustachial stripe. Distinct white nape covering hind neck and mantle contrasting with black scapulars and back (forming a V-shaped design). Rump black. Adult male has red crown and crest (yellow in female) and dark white-spotted forehead.

Habitat: Light scrub forest and scattered trees. *Resident*

Lesser Flameback (*Dinopium benghalense*) (26-29cm)Lesser Flameback (*Dinopium benghalense*) (26-29cm)

Black nape, upper back and rump, golden yellow mantle, yellow wings, white-spotted black throat and eye-stripe, barred primaries and white or buff spotting on blackish lesser wing-coverts. Adult male has red head but female has red hind crown and white-spotted black crown.

Habitat: Light forest and wooded open country. Resident

Yellow-crowned Woodpecker (*Dendrocopos maharattenais*) (17-18cm)Yellow-crowned Woodpecker (*Dendrocopos maharattenais*) (17-18cm)

Yellowish forehead and forecrown, white spotted mantle and wing-coverts, bold white barring on central tail feathers, and diffuse brown moustachial stripe and patch on sides. Adult male has red hind crown and nape while female has brownish hind crown and nape. Underparts are dull grey with brown streaking.

Habitat: Open woodland, open country with scattered trees. Resident

Brown-capped Pygmy Woodpecker (*Dendrocopos nanus*) (13cm)

A small woodpecker with brown crown, dark brown upperparts, brownish-white underparts(streaked lightly with brown). Brown eye-stripe extending to mantle, whitish throat and white spotting on central tail feathers. Male has distinct thin red-patch on the side of hind crown.

Habitat: Light forest. **Resident**

Common Woodshrike (*Tephrodornis pondicerianus*) (18cm)

A small brownish bird with white supercilium, black eye-mask, dark brown tail with white sides and Brown iris. Sexes similar. Juvenile has buffish white supercilium, white spotting on crown and mantle and indistinct brown streaking on breast.

Habitat: Open broad-leaved forest and well wooded countryside. **Resident**

Common Iora (*Argothina tiphia*) (14cm)

A small bright yellow bird with dark tail (male) or green tail (female), crown and mantle of breeding male varies from uniformly black to black mixed with yellow on mantle. Flight feathers are black with white wing-bar. Females are similar to non-breeding male (yellow forehead and greenish yellow upperparts) with green tail.

Habitat: Forest and well-wooded areas. *Resident*

Large Cuckooshrike (*Corachur marceli*) (30cm)

Adult male has grey throat and breast and barred underparts, black mask to face, grey upperparts, dark bill and whitish fringes to wing feathers. Female has completely barred underparts and dull face mask.

Habitat: Open woodland, trees in cultivation. *Resident*

Small Minivet (*Pericrocotus chinamomensis*) (16cm)Small Minivet (*Pericrocotus chinamomensis*) (16cm)

Adult male has dark grey to dull grey upperparts, black to dark grey throat, yellow underparts with orange breast band and flanks. Female has pale sandy-grey to grey upperparts, yellowish underparts with whitish throat and lower belly.

Habitat: Open wooded area. **Resident**

Scarlet Minivet (*Pericrocotus flammeus*) (22-23cm)Scarlet Minivet (*Pericrocotus flammeus*) (22-23cm)

Male has scarlet red underparts, undertail and rump, glossy black upperparts, face and throat and small black bill. Central tail feathers are black.

Female has yellow forehead, fore crown, ear-coverts and underparts, grey hind crown and mantle, and yellow patch on tertials.

Habitat: Forest and wooded area. **Resident**

Brown Shrike (*Lanius cristatus*) (18-19cm)

Dark rufous-brown upperparts and tail, thick dark bill, white supercilium and forehead, black eye-band, white throat and buffish underparts.

Habitat: Forest edge and scrub forest. Winter Migrant

Bay-backed Shrike (*Lanius vittatus*) (17cm)

Adult has black forehead, pale grey crown and nape, deep maroon mantle, white patch at base of primaries and broad black eye-stripe joining the black forehead. White throat and face, buffish underparts and rufous flanks.

Habitat: Scrub forest and bushes in cultivation. **Resident**

Long-tailed Shrike (*Lanius schach*) (25cm)

Adult has grey mantle, rufous scapulars and upper back, black wings and white patch on primaries. Tricolor sp. has black head, nape and upper mantle. Juvenile has rufous-brown upperparts, dark greater coverts and tertials fringed rufous.

Habitat: Open scrub forest and bushes in cultivation. Winter Migrant and Resident.

Indian Golden Oriole (*Oriolus kundoo*) (25cm)

Adult male has small black eye-patch, golden-yellow head and body, pink bill, black wings with yellow carpal patch and tips to tertials/secondaries and yellow and black tail. Adult female has yellowish-green upperparts, black streaking on whitish underparts, yellow rump and brownish-olive tail.

Habitat: Open woodland. Resident

Black-naped Oriole (*Oriolus chinensis*) (27cm)

Larger, stouter pink bill, black mask that is broader across nape and yellow body. Adult male has yellow mantle and wing-coverts which are concolorous with underparts whereas female has olive mantle and wing-coverts.

Habitat: Broadleaved forest. Winter Migrant

Black-hooded Oriole (*Oriolus xanthornus*) (25cm)

Black hood contrasting with bright yellow body, red eyes, pink bill, bold yellow-edges to black tertials and secondaries and mainly yellow tail. Adult female is similar but has olive-yellow mantle. Juvenile has dull black head, whitish chin and throat spotted with black, blackish bill.

Habitat: Open broadleaved forest and well-wooded area. Resident

Black Drongo (*Dicurus macrocerus*) (28cm)

Glossy black upperparts, shiny blue-black throat and breast, black underparts. Distinctly shows white rectal spot and brown eyes. Juvenile has brown upperparts and underparts.

Habitat: Around habitation and cultivation. **Resident**

Hair-crested Drongo (*Dicurus hottentottus*) (32cm)

Broad tail with upward twisted corners, long black downcurved bill, black mantle and glossy black wings and tail. Black underparts are streaked with glossy-blue on breast and shoulders. Adult has hair-like crest (missing on juvenile)

Habitat: Moist broadleaved forest. **Resident**

Greater Racket-tailed Drongo (*Dicrurus penadiscus*) (32cm)

Glossy black body, large black bill, crested head, forked tail and long tail-streamers. Tail feathers or streamers can be easily broken and tail can appear almost square-ended. Juvenile lacks rackets.

Habitat: Broadleaved forest and bamboo forest. *Resident*

White-bellied Drongo (*Dicrurus caeruleus*) (24cm)

Black body with whitish from belly downwards. Short, shallower forked tail. Juvenile has brown throat and breast.

Habitat: Open forest and well-wooded area. *Resident*

Asian Paradise-flycatcher (*Terpsiphone paradisii*) (20cm)Asian Paradise-flycatcher (*Terpsiphone paradisii*) (20cm)

Male has black head and crest with white or rufous upperparts and long tail-streamers and blue eye-ring. Female and juvenile are similar to rufous male but have shorter crest and short square-ended tail.

Habitat: Forest and well-wooded area. Summer Migrant

Rufous Treepie (*Dendrocitta vagabunda*) (46-50cm)

Uniform slaty-grey hood extending to breast, rufous-brown mantle and scapulars, pale-grey wing-coverts and tertials contrasting with rest of the dark wings. Fulvous-buff underparts, black-tipped silver-grey tail. Juvenile has browner head and breast.

Habitat: Open wooded country. *Resident*

House Crow (*Corvus splendens*) (40cm)

Glossy black forehead, fore crown and throat, black bill, black mantle, grey hind crown extending to nape and upper mental, and underparts.

Habitat: Human habitation and cultivation. *Resident*

Great Tit (*Parus major*) (12cm)

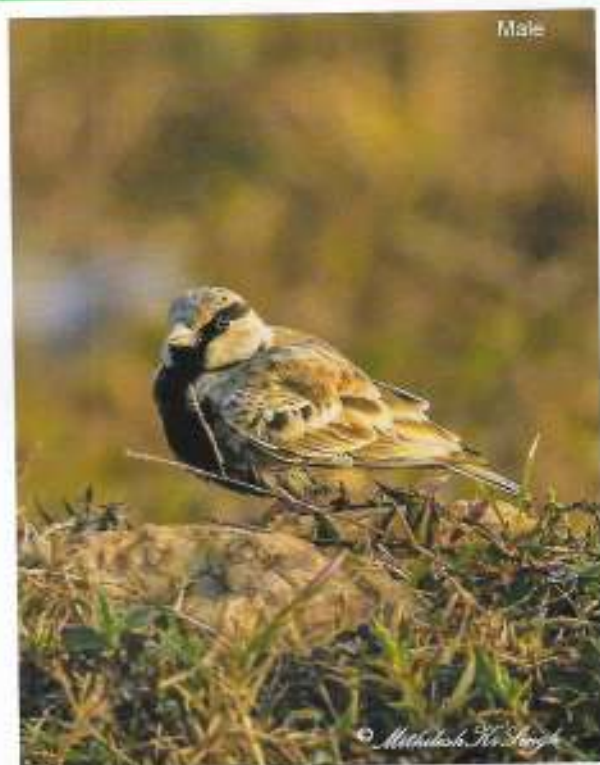
Black breast centre and line down belly, grey mantle, white breast-sides and flanks, and single white wing-bar. Juvenile is duller and has yellowish-olive wash to mantle.

Habitat: Forest and well-wooded country. *Resident*

Black-lored Tit (*Parus xanthogenyx*) (13cm)

Dull yellow cheeks, black forehead and lores, black border to yellow cheeks, uniform greenish upperparts, double white wing-bars. Short yellow supercilium in front of eye.

Habitat: Well-wooded area. *Resident*

Ashy-crowned Sparrow Lark (*Eremopterix griseus*) (12cm)

Brownish-black lores and supercilium. Black chin, throat and belly and thin neck band broken at the nape. Grayish cheeks and ear-coverts joining into grey nape and mantle. Female has sandy-brown body, uniform head lacking dark eye-stripe of male, indistinct and diffused breast streaking.

Habitat: Cultivation and open dry scrub near water bodies. Resident

Red-vented Bulbul (*Pycnonotus cafer*) (20cm)

Short crested black head, white rump and white-tipped black tail. Typically red vent and buffish upperparts and underparts scaled boldly with dark brown. Variations are found in plumage. Sexes alike. Juvenile has brown head, rufous edges to flight feathers, dull red or yellowish vent and buffish cast to white rump.

Habitat: Open forest, secondary growth and gardens. Resident

Red-whiskered Bulbul (*Pycnonotus jocosus*) (20cm)

© Shashikar Samanta

Red-whiskered Bulbul (*Pycnonotus jocosus*) (20cm)

© Jyoti R. Shrivastava

It has striking glossy black crown and crest, red patch (whisker) behind eye, white patch on lower ear-coverts bordered below by black moustachial stripe. White underparts with broken black breast-band, brownish unmarked upperparts and red vent. Juvenile has yellowish vent and lacks crest and red whisker.

Habitat : Open forest, gardens, orchards and cultivation. Resident

Wire-tailed Swallow (*Hirundo smithii*) (14cm)

Chestnut crown, bright blue upperparts, white underparts, and long, fine projection to outer tail feathers. Wire-like tail streamers can easily be broken or entirely lost.

Habitat: open country and cultivation near water bodies. *Resident*

Red-rumped Swallow (*Cecropis daurica*) (16-17cm)

Bright blue crown and upperparts, rufous-orange sides of neck extending to nape, rufous-orange rump, finely streaked buffish-white underparts. Long dark tail extending well beyond flight feathers. Shows considerable racial variations in plumage.

Habitat: Open scrub, cultivation and forest clearings. Winter Migrant

Barn Swallow (*Hirundo rustica*) (18cm)

Adult has bright rufous forehead and throat, blue-black breast band and upperparts and long tail streamers. Underparts vary from white to rufous.

Juvenile has duller orange forehead and throat, breast band is browner and less defined and has shorter tail streamers.

Habitat: Cultivation, lakes and rivers in open country. Winter Migrant

Puff-throated Dabbler (*Pellorneum ruficeps*) (15cm)

Rufous or chestnut crown, prominent buff supercilium, white throat (often puffed out), and heavily streaked whitish underparts.

Upperbody olive-brown to rufous-brown, orange-brown ear-coverts merging gradually into mantle.

Habitat: Forest undergrowth and thick scrub. Resident

Jungle Babbler (*Turdoides striata*) (25cm)

Uniform grey crown, grey-brown underparts with some mottling on throat and breast, darker upperparts. Pale Yellow bill and pale eyes.

Habitat: Deciduous forest, cultivation and urban gardens. **Resident**

Yellow-eyed Babbler (*Chrysomma sinense*) (18cm)

Rufous-brown upperbody, white throat and breast merging into buffish underparts, white lores and supercilium, and very distinct orange eye-ring, yellow iris. Small dark bill and yellow legs and feet.

Habitat: Tall grass and bushes. **Resident**

a) Common Babbler (*Turdoides caudata*) (23cm)

Unstreaked whitish throat and breast, streaked breast-sides, brown streaked buffish upperparts and grayish-buff underparts. Yellowish legs and feet, orange-brown iris and long tail.

Habitat: Dry scrub in plains. *Resident*

b) Zitting Cisticola (*Cisticola juncidis*) (11cm)

A small bird with white supercilium, white throat, brown-streaked buffish-orange upperparts. Adult breeding has streaked grey-brown crown, rufous rump. Non-breeding has longer tail, more heavily streaked upperparts, and less distinct rump.

Habitat: Grasslands and cultivation fields. *Resident*

Plain Prinia (*Prinia inornata*) (13cm)

Adult breeding has black short bill, grey-brown upperparts, whitish underparts and supercilium. Non-breeding adult has longer tail, pale base to lower mandible, warm-brown upperparts and rufous wings and tail.

Habitat: Grasslands, scrub forest, gardens etc. *Resident*

Ashy Prinia (*Prinia socialis*) (13cm)

White short supercilium that is lacking in breeding plumage, slate-grey crown and ear-coverts, red eyes. Slate-grey(breeding) or rufous-brown mantle, orange-buff wash on underparts. Juvenile has greenish upperparts and buffish-yellow underparts.

Habitat: Cultivation and forest edges. **Resident**

Ashy Prinia (*Prinia socialis*) (13cm)

Common Tailorbird (*Orthotomus sutorius patia*) (13cm)

Has long pale bill, distinct rufous forehead and forecrown, greenish upperparts, whitish underparts. Breeding male has elongated central tail feathers. Juvenile lacks rufous on crown.

Habitat: Forest edges, cultivation, bushes and gardens. *Resident*

Grey-breasted Prinia (*Prinia hodgsonii*) (11cm)

Adult breeding has grey cap and upperparts, grey breast band. Non-breeding adult has white supercilium, dark lores, olive-brown upperparts, and whitish underparts.

Habitat: Bushes at forest edges, scrub and secondary growth. *Resident*

a) Blyth's Reed Warbler (*Acrocephalus dumetorum*) (13cm)

Has long slim and pointed bill, olive-brown to olive-grey uniform upperparts, small supercilium (doesn't extend beyond eye) and pale underparts. In fresh plumage it has rufous cast to upperparts.

b) Common Chiffchaff (*Phylloscopus collybita*) (11cm)

Grayish to brownish upperparts, and olive-green cast to rump, wings and tail. Underparts whitish, blackish bill and legs, less prominent supercilium, prominent whitish crescent below eye and



absence of wing-bar separates it from greenish warbler.

Habitat: Bushes at the forest edge, cultivation and wooded area. Winter Migrant

a) Greenish Warbler (*Phylloscopus trochiloides*) (9-10cm)

Olive-green upperparts and crown, mottled ear-coverts, dusky underparts with yellow wash, dark bill with orange at the base of lower mandible. In fresh plumage shows two wing-bars otherwise single wing-bar and yellowish-white long supercilium.

b) Tickell's Leaf Warbler (*Phylloscopus affinis*)

Greenish-brown upperparts, greenish edges to wing feathers, bright lemon-yellow underparts and supercilium is of the same color as the throat.

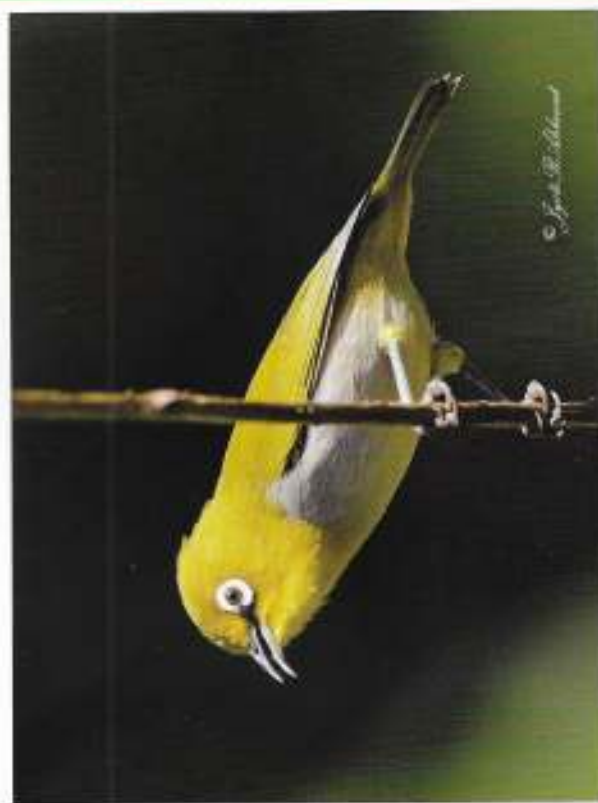
Well defined dark eye-stripe contrasting with yellow ear-coverts.

Habitat: Open country with bushes at the edge of forest and cultivation. Winter Migrant

Chestnut-bellied Nuthatch (*Sitta castanea*) (12.5cm)Chestnut-bellied Nuthatch (*Sitta castanea*) (12.5cm)

Bluish-grey upperparts, distinct white cheek-patch and chin contrasting with chestnut(pale chestnut in female) underparts, black eye-stripe, black bill.

Habitat: Well forested area. Resident

Oriental White-eye (*Zosterops palpebrosus*) (10cm)

A small dominantly yellow coloured bird with prominent white eye-ring. Black bill and lores, green to yellowish-green upperparts, bright yellow throat and vent and whitish underparts with variable grayish wash.

Habitat: Open broadleaved forest, gardens and plantation. **Resident**

Asian Pied Starling (*Gracuphila contra*) (23cm)

Typically black and white starling (also called Pied Starling) with white cheek-patch and scapular line. Black crown, nape, mantle and wings, throat and breast and white underparts. Pointed yellow bill with orange base, yellow legs and feet and orange orbital skin. Juvenile is duller and lacks orange coloration.

Habitat: Habitation and cultivation. **Resident**

Bank Myna (*Acridotheres tristis*) (23cm)

Bluish-grey coloration to upperparts and underparts contrasting with dark wings. Adult has small frontal crest, orange-red orbital patch, orange-yellow bill, brownish-red eyes and yellowish legs and feet. Juvenile is more brownish instead of grey and dull orange or yellowish orbital patch and bill.

Habitat: Cultivation and habitation. **Resident**

Common Myna (*Acridotheres tristis*) (25cm)

Brownish myna with yellow orbital skin, white wing-patch, and white tail-tip. Adult has glossy black on head and breast merging into maroon-brown of rest of the body. Juvenile is duller.

Habitat: Human habitation and cultivation. **Resident**

Jungle Myna (*Acridotheres fuscus*) (23cm)

Adult resembles bank myna but has more prominent frontal crest, pale eyes lacking any orbital patch. Black crown, ear-coverts, grey-brown upperparts, orange bill with blue base to lower mandible. Juvenile is browner and duller.

Habitat: Cultivation near well wooded forest. **Resident.**

Brahminy Starling (*Sturnia pagodarum*) (21cm)

Adult has black crest, crown, nape and lores and rufous-orange head-sides and underparts. Yellowish bill with blue base and blue or yellow skin behind eye.

Habitat: Dry, well-wooded area and scrub forest. **Resident.**

Chestnut-tailed Starling (*Sturnia malabarica*) (20cm)

Adult has grey head and upperparts, whitish forehead and throat, rufous underparts, and tail is mainly chestnut with grey central feathers. Yellow bill with bluish base, whitish eye, orange feet and legs.

Habitat: Open wooded area. **Resident**

Rose Starling (*Psittor roseus*) (21cm)

Adult has blackish head and small crest, pinkish mantle and underparts, dark wings with bluish green gloss. Juvenile is sandy-brown with yellowish bill.

Habitat: Cultivation and damp grasslands. **Passage Migrant**

Scaly Thrush (*Zoothera dauma*) (26-27cm)

Boldly scaled with black on golden-olive upperparts and whitish underparts, golden-olive panel on wings, dark black eye and dark patch on ear-coverts. Juvenile is more barred than scaled upperparts and spotted breast.

Habitat: Forest and well-wooded areas in winters. Winter Migrant

Orange-headed Thrush (*Zoothera citrina*) (21cm)

Adult has orange head and underparts, blue-grey mantle (female has olive-brown wash on mantle), and white wing-bar.

Juvenile has buffish-orange streaking on upperparts and mottled breast.

Habitat: Damp, shady places in forest. Resident and Winter Migrant

Blue-capped Rock Thrush (*Munticola cinclorhynchos*) (17cm)

Adult male has blue crown and throat, orange rump and underparts, dark eye-stripe merging into dark blue mantle and wings and distinct white patch on wings. Non-breeding male and first winter shows pale fringes on head and upperparts. Female is grey-brown above and black-spotted white below.

Habitat: Summers in Himalayas and winters in moist forest and well-wooded areas. Winter Migrant, isolated records.

Verditer Flycatcher (*Eumyias thalassina*) (16cm)

Adult male is entirely greenish-blue with brighter forehead and throat and black lores. Female is similar but duller and greyer and has dusky lores.

Habitat: Open forest, forest edges, groves and gardens. Winter Migrant

Taiga Flycatcher (*Ficedula albicollis*) (11-12cm)

Also called Red-throated flycatcher and very similar to Red-breasted. Adult male has orange restricted to throat, grey breast and buffish underparts and undertail. Female has grey-brown upperparts, black uppertail coverts, dark bill.

Habitat: Open forest and scrub at cultivation edges. Winter Migrant

Ultramarine Flycatcher (*Ficedula superciliosa*) (12cm)

A small flycatcher with small dark bill. Adult male has deep blue upperparts, sides of neck and breast and face, white underparts and white supercilium. Female is grayish-brown above and whitish below with grayish patches on sides of breast.

Habitat: Open deciduous woodland, gardens. Winter Migrant

Tickell's Blue Flycatcher (*Cyanus tickelliae*)


Adult male has orange throat and breast, blue upperbody and tail, white belly and brighter blue forehead and supercilium. Female has blue-grey cast to upperparts and juvenile has buff-barred brownish head and mantle, and mottled underparts.

Habitat: Open dry forest and wooded areas. **Resident**

Bluethroat (*Luscinia svecica*) (15cm)


Adult has prominent white supercilium, and rufous tail sides. Adult male has variable blue, black and rufous on throat and breast. Female typically shows black sub-moustachial stripe and band of black spotting across breast.

Habitat: Winters in scrub and tall grass. **Winter Migrant**

Oriental Magpie Robin (*Copsychus saularis*) (20cm)Oriental Magpie Robin (*Copsychus saularis*) (20cm)

Male has glossy blue-black head, upperparts and breast. Underparts are white, distinct white wing-patch and white sides to long tail. Female has bluish-grey head, upperparts and breast. Juvenile has orange-buff spotting on upperparts, throat and breast.

Habitat: Open forest, gardens. **Resident**

Indian Robin (*Saxicoloides fulicatus*) (19cm)

Male has white shoulder-patch and glossy black underparts and orange-brown upperparts. Female has grayish underparts and brown upperparts.

Both sexes show rufous vent.

Habitat: Dry stony areas with scrub and cultivation edges. *Resident*

White-rumped Shama (*Copsychus malabaricus*) (25cm)

Adult has long graduated dark tail with white sides and distinct white rump. Male has glossy blue-black upperparts and breast, and rufous-orange underparts. Female is duller with brownish-grey upperparts and shorter tail. Juvenile has orange-buff spotting on upperparts.

Habitat: Forest and well wooded areas. *Resident*

Black Redstart (*Phoenicurus ochruros*) (15cm)

Adult male has black or dark grey upperparts, black breast and rufous underparts. Female and first winter male are dusky brown with rufous-orange wash on flanks and belly.

Habitat: Winters in cultivation and plantation. Winter Migrant

Common Stonechat (*Saxicola torquatus*) (about 13cm)

Adult male has black head, white patch on neck, orange breast, and whitish rump. Female has streaked upperparts, and orange wash on breast and rump.

Habitat: Winters in scrub, grasslands and cultivation. Winter Migrant

Brown Rock-chat (*Cercomela fusca*) (17cm)



Both sexes brown with more rufous underparts and blackish tail.

Habitat: Rocky hills, cliffs and old buildings. *Resident*

Jerdon's Leafbird (*Chlorophaps jerdoni*) (20cm)



A very colorful bird with dominantly greenish-yellow body. Male has distinct black chin and throat and female has smaller blue throat-patch bordered with yellow.

Habitat: Open forest and well-wooded areas. *Resident*

Pale-billed Flowerpecker (*Dicaeum erythrorhynchos*) (8cm)Pale-billed Flowerpecker (*Dicaeum erythrorhynchos*) (8cm)

Smallest bird found in India. Adult has grayish-olive upperparts, buffish-white underparts and pinkish bill. Juvenile has orange bill.

Habitat: Open broadleaved forest and well-wooded areas. **Resident**

Thick-billed Flowerpecker (*Dicaeum agile*) (10cm)

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It has stout bluish-grey bill, indistinct dark malar stripe, lightly streaked white breast and white belly, small dark tail with white-tip, and distinct orange-red iris.

Habitat: Forest and well-wooded country. *Resident*

Crimson Sunbird (*Aethopyga siparaja*) (11cm)

Adult male

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Adult male has crimson mantle, throat and breast, yellowish-olive belly, bright blue crown, moustachial stripe and tail (longer than female). Female has yellowish-olive underparts, greenish-olive upperparts.

Habitat: Bushes in forest. *Resident*

Purple Sunbird (*Chmyris asiaticus*) (10cm)Purple Sunbird (*Chmyris asiaticus*) (10cm)

A small short-billed sunbird with metallic blue-green and purple body becoming blacker on belly and vent. Female has uniform yellowish underparts, faint supercilium and olive-brown mask and upperbody. Eclipsed male is similar to female but has a broad blackish stripe down centre of throat.

Habitat: Open deciduous forest and gardens. **Resident**

House Sparrow (*Passer domesticus indicus*) (15cm)

Breeding male has grey crown with chestnut sides and nape, black throat and upper breast. Duller in non-breeding plumage. Female has pale buff supercilium, dark streaking on buffish mantle, and unstreaked grayish-white underparts.

Habitat: Human habitation and cultivation. *Resident*

White-rumped Munia (*Lonchura striata*) (10-11cm)

Adult has dark face, throat, and breast, streaked upperparts, and distinct white rump and belly. Juvenile similar but has streaking on dark upperparts, and buff fringes to breast.

Habitat: Open wooded areas. *Resident*

Indian Silverbill (*Eudice malabarica*) (about 11cm)

Male has fawn-brown upperparts, whitish face and underparts and barred flanks. It has long and pointed black tail, white rump and uppertail coverts, and small grey bill. Female is duller. Juvenile lacks barring on flanks, shorter more rounded tail.

Habitat: Cultivation, grasslands and scrub forest. **Resident**

Scaly-breasted Munia (*Lanchura punctulata*) (12cm)

Adult has chestnut-brown face, throat and upper breast, whitish underparts boldly scaled with black and rufous-orange upperparts. Small dark bill and dark legs and feet. Juvenile is uniformly brown above and rufous-buff on underparts.

Habitat: Open forest, cultivation and bushes. **Resident**

Grey Wagtail (*Motacilla cinerea*) (19cm)

In all plumage, it has white supercilium, grey upperparts, yellow vent and undertail-coverts, and black wings. Breeding male had black throat and underparts Yellow. Non-breeding adult and first winter shows white throat, and buffish or pale yellow on underparts.

Habitat: Near lowland streams and foothills. Winter Migrant

White Wagtail (*Motacilla alba*) (19 cm)

Found in variable black and white head pattern, grey or black mantle.

Habitat: near rivers or streams in open country. Winter Migrant

White-browed Wagtail (*Motacilla leucophaea*) (21cm)

Larger than white wagtail with prominent broad white supercilium, black head, mantle and breast and white belly.

Habitat: River banks, tanks, and dams. **Resident**

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Photographers

1. **Arta Mishra** an IFS officer of 1994 batch is Chief Conservator of Forest (CCF) in Govt. of Jharkhand. His passion for wildlife photography has led him to photograph more than 200 species of birds in Jharkhand.
2. **Jyoti R Ahlawat** a Ph.D. in Environmental science from Jawaharlal Nehru University is passionate about birds, butterflies and animals and their habitat conservation. She has been doing bird photography since 2011 and has captured more than 400 species of birds from all over India.
3. **Mithilesh Kumar Singh** M.Sc. Botany (Cytogenetics) is an IFS officer, presently posted as Conservator of Forest (CF) in Jharkhand Forest Department. His fields of interest are birding, wildlife photography, study of medicinal plants and butterflies.
4. **M. P. Singh** an IFS officer of 1989 batch and presently posted as Field Director, Palamau Tiger Reserve is APCCF in Jharkhand Forest Department. He has worked in Forest Research Institute (FRI) and ICFRE Dehradun in many capacities and as Director Forest Education (DFE), Govt. of India. He is a passionate wildlife lover and a bird photographer.



5. **Ranjana Sandil** is an Engineer and software developer and has unique passion for wildlife and nature photography. She has extensively done bird photography in Uttarakhand and Jharkhand. She has captured numerous species of birds in her shutter.
6. **Satya Prakash** M.Sc.(Zoology) and Ph.D. on vulture is state coordinator of IBCN and AWC, and member of many organizations working in the field of nature conservation. He is working on the conservation of Vultures in Hazaribag and documenting the fauna of Jharkhand (particularly birds) and has many publications to his name in this field.
7. **Shashikar Samanta** an IFS officer of 1989 batch is Chief Conservator of Forest (CCF), Jharkhand. He has worked in Forest Research Institute (FRI) Dehradun as registrar and in other capacities. He has passion for photography since his childhood having photographed about 500 bird species in India and 100 species abroad. He is a well known figure in this field.
8. **Shib Shankar Goswami** is a well known bird photographer and nature lover from Hazaribag. He has conducted various programmes and quizzes for school kids and is spreading awareness and love for birds through his e-page "Bird's Buddy".



VULTURE CONSERVATION IN JHARKHAND

Vulture – the Natural Scavenger

Vulture, a large-sized bird adapted to a diet of dead animals, plays a vital role in the ecosystem. Nine vulture species have been recorded in wild in the Indian subcontinent viz., White-rumped Vulture (*Gyps bengalensis*), Slender-billed Vulture (*Gyps tenuirostris*), Long-billed Vulture (*Gyps indicus*), Eurasian griffon (*Gyps fulvus*), Himalayan Griffon (*Gyps himalayensis*), Egyptian Vulture (*Neophron percnopterus*), Red-headed Vulture (*Sacrogyps calvus*), Cinereous vulture (*Aegypius monachus*), and Lammergeier (*Gypaetus barbatus*) out of which 5 species belong to the genus *Gyps* (Oak et. Al. 2004, Prakash 1999). In the past *Gyps* vultures were very common birds, keeping the environment clean by consuming the carcasses of cattle thrown out in the open. Their population has declined by more than 97% (Prakash et.al., 2003) mostly due to non-availability of food and widely used non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drug (NSAID) Diclofenac, in the livestock treatment.

Species of Vultures in Jharkhand

Out of total 9 species of Vultures found in India, 5 species, viz., White-rumped Vulture, Long-billed/Indian Vulture, Himalayan Griffon, Egyptian Vulture, and Red-headed Vulture are reported from Jharkhand. White-rumped Vulture, Indian Vulture and Red-headed Vulture are listed as critically endangered species by IUCN.

Conservation Threats:

- 1) Apart from Diclofenac, Ketoprofen, Flunixin, Carprofen and Nimesulide may also be toxic to vultures.
- 2) Lack of proper disposal of livestock is causing food shortage
- 3) Habitat destruction
- 4) Superstition about vultures
- 5) Population pressure, noise pollution, and use of crackers during festivals and electrocution of Vultures

Conservation Activities in Jharkhand:

- 1) It is the joint effort of NGO, Neo Human Foundation(NHF), Indian Bird Conservation Network(BCN), Bombay Natural History Society(BNHS), RSBP(UK) and Forest Department of Jharkhand.
- 2) Survey and Monitoring is done regularly by NHF, BCN and BNHS
- 3) NHF is regularly organizing "Vulture Conservation Awareness Programme" to increase awareness among masses about the importance of Vulture and threats to them.
- 4) A project on the Provisional Vulture Safe Zone(PVSZ) in a radius of 100 km around Hazaribag has been undertaken by NHF with the support from BNHS, RSBP(UK) and Forest Department Jharkhand to make this area Diclofenac free.
- 5) A Vulture Conservation and Breeding centre is set up at Muta, Ranchi by Forest department, Govt. of Jharkhand.

Dr. Satya Prakash

Dr. Anil Kr. Mishra



Indian Roller



