

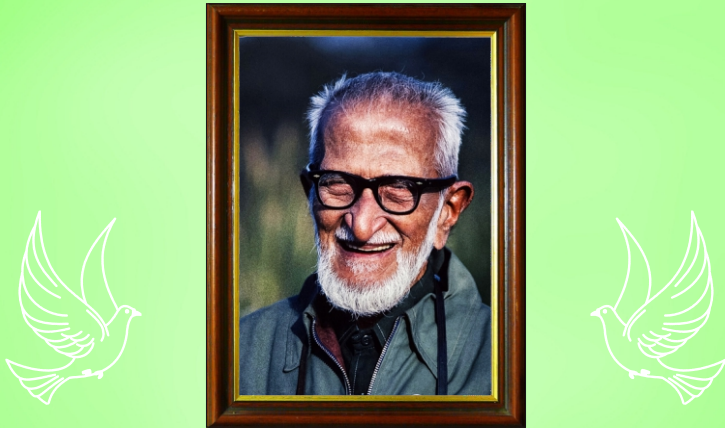
चिड़िया...

The Flight of Colours



CASFOS Dehradun

Dedicated to "BIRD MAN OF INDIA"



**“I suppose I've done my bit,
It's now up to you younger people”**

Dr Salim Moizuddin Abdul Ali
(12 Nov 1896 – 20 June 1987)



चिड़िया... The Flight of Colours

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“Team Birds”. This book is not an individual work rather a result of the team work of Officer Trainees of Batch 2018-20, SFS Induction Training Course and team members are:

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Forest Research Institute (FRI), Dehradun, campus is nestled in the foothills of mighty Himalayas in Uttarakhand. It is a cradle of biodiversity, being home to a large number of birds, butterflies, plants and animals. The pocket booklet titled 'चिड़िया...The Flight of Colours' is a sincere effort by the Officer Trainees of 2018-20 SFS Batch at Central Academy for State Forest Service (CASFOS) Dehradun to document and publish an illustrative reference on common birds inhabiting the magnificent campus of the FRI. This humongous task could not have been possible without the continuous support, guidance and encouragement of various people.

First and foremost, we are grateful to Shri. R.P. Singh IFS, Director, Directorate of Forest Education, for his relentless encouragement and support given during the preparation of the booklet. With pride and gratitude, we sincerely acknowledge the support and guidance of our Principal Shri Kunal Satyarthi, IFS for igniting this idea in our mind and nurturing us throughout the process of book preparation.

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FOREWORD



I am impressed by the booklet 'चिड़िया...The Flight of Colours' prepared by the Officer Trainees of 2018-20 SFS Batch of CASFOS Dehradun. I would like to congratulate the efforts of the Principal, faculty members, Officer Trainees and all those who were involved directly and indirectly in bringing out the booklet. This booklet contains details of common birds with its photographs which will act as a reference material for identification of birds for all the beginners in the field of bird watching.



CASFOS Dehradun has always stood tall in its approach to forestry training and has played a vital role in shaping the career and personality of innumerable officers of State Forest Service. This publication reflects the talent and innovation of the Officer Trainees. I appreciate the excellent work of the batch and wish them a bright future and hope that they will display utmost professionalism and excellence in rendering their duties.



Shri R.P. Singh. IFS

Director, Directorate of Forest Education
Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change







MESSAGE



The colourful plumage of birds and their melodious vocalization not only attracts the vision of keen naturalists but also of common man. Birds with their enormous diversity occupy an important position in our ecosystem. The historic Forest Research Institute campus, rich in scientific heritage, also forms a major green habitat of urban Dehradun landscape. In addition to being the green lungs of Dehradun City, FRI campus is also home to a variety of avifauna.



The booklet 'चिड़िया...The Flight of Colours' with pictorial information on birds is a marvellous effort by the Officer Trainees of SFS 2018-20 Batch. I appreciate the hard work and congratulate the batch for bringing out this publication. I am sure that this booklet will serve as a ready reference and a pocket guide for bird enthusiasts and beginners as well. I hope that the Officer Trainees especially the bird team sharpens and utilizes their creativity in field posting in future to add value to their professionalism as field foresters.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'K. Satyarthi'.

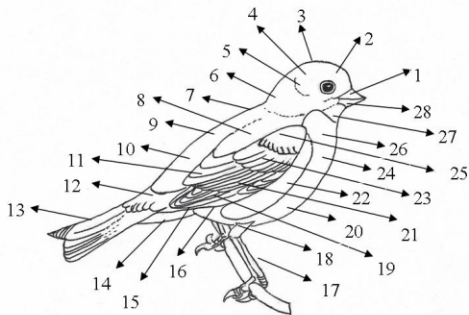
Shri Kunal Satyarthi. IFS
Principal, CASFOS
Dehradun





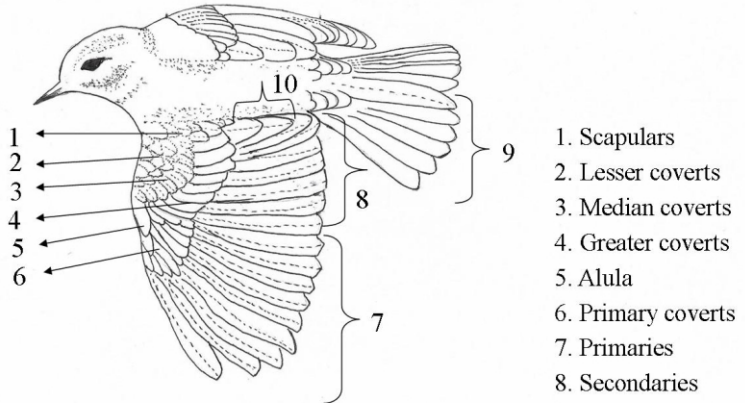
1. Upper mandible
2. Fore head
3. Crown
4. Supercilium
5. Ear coverts
6. Nape
7. Mantle
8. Scapulars
9. Back
10. Rump
11. Tertiaries
12. Upper tail coverts
13. Tail
14. Under tail coverts
15. Primaries
16. Vent
17. Tarsus
18. Thigh
19. Secondaries
20. Belly
21. Greater coverts
22. Flank
23. Median coverts
24. Breast
25. Lower coverts
26. Throat
27. Chin
28. Lower mandible

Plumage Terminology

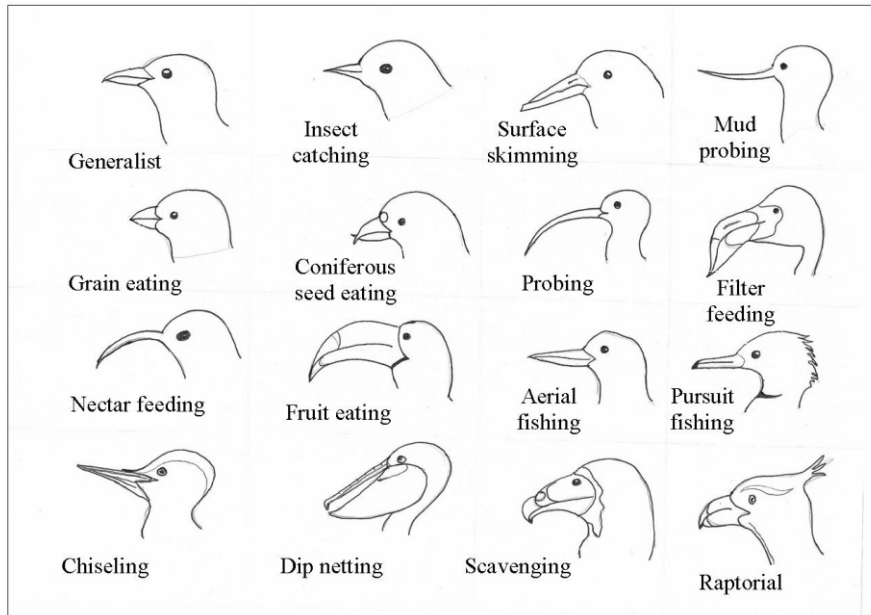




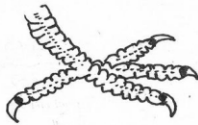
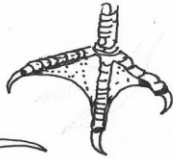
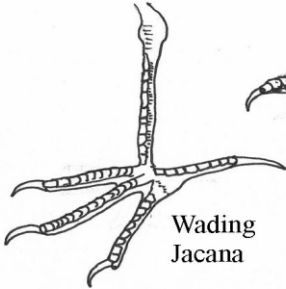
Different Parts of Wings



Beak adaptation and their functions



Types of Feet



Foraging Behaviour of Birds

1) Guilds with primarily insectivorous diets:

1. Canopy Insectivores: Birds which gleaned or hopped in the tree canopies for insects. Eg. Cuckoo-shrikes, Cuckoos, Minivets and Ioras.
2. Sallying Insectivores: Birds which preyed upon insects by making sallies at various heights from the trees. Eg. Flycatchers, Drongos and Bee-eaters.
3. Understory Insectivores: Birds which fed on insects in the understory vegetation and leaf litter. Eg. Babblers, Warblers, Chats, Thrushes and Jungle fowls.
4. Ground Insectivores: Birds which fed on insects in the soil surface. Eg. Egrets, Lapwings, Wagtails and Hoopoe.
5. Trunk / bark feeder: Birds which adopted to feed on insects on the tree trunk, branches and bark. Eg. Woodpeckers, Nuthatches, Tree-creepers and Tits.
6. Water insectivores: Birds which feed on insects along the water courses. Eg. Egrets, Herons and Redstarts.

2) Guilds with primarily phytophagous diets:

1. Fruit-insectivores: Birds feeding primarily on fruits but may consume insects at times. Eg. Barbets, Hornbills and Asian koel.
2. Granivores: Birds essentially adapted to a diet of grains and seeds. Eg. Sparrows, Finches, Munias, Doves and Pigeons.
3. Nectarivores : Primarily nectar feeding birds which may also feed on insects. Eg. Sunbirds, Flower peckers and White eyes.
4. Obligate- frugivores: Birds which exclusively feed on fruits. Eg Green pigeons.
5. Fruit- seed- nectar: Birds which feed on fruits, nectar and seeds. Eg Parakeets.

3) **Other guilds**

1. Fruit- seed- nectar- insectivores: Birds which feed on fruits, seeds, nectar and insects. Eg. Mynas, Starlings, Orioles and Bulbuls.
2. Omnivores: Birds which feed on all types of food ranging from fruits and nectar to insects and carrion. Eg. Crows, Treepies, Magpies and Coucal.
3. Raptors: Birds which feed on other birds (All birds of prey) Eg. Owls, Shikra, Kites.

Sl. No.	Bird Common names	Guilds
1	Black-chinned Babbler	Understorey-insectivore
2	Jungle Babbler	Understorey-insectivore
3	Rusty-cheeked Scimitar Babbler	Understorey Insectivore
4	Brown-headed Barbet	Fruit-insectivore
5	Coppersmith Barbet	Fruit-seed-nectar-insectivore
6	Great Barbet	Fruit-insectivore
7	Green Bee-eater	Sallying-insectivore
8	Grey-winged Black bird	Understorey-insectivore
9	Black Bulbul	Fruit-seed-nectar-insectivore
10	Himalayan Bulbul	Fruit-seed-nectar-insectivore
11	Red-vented Bulbul	Fruit-seed-nectar-insectivore
12	Crested Bunting	Granivore
13	Grey Bushchat	Understorey Insectivore
14	Brown Rock Chat	Understorey-insectivore
15	Greater Coucal	Omnivore
16	House Crow	Omnivore

17	Indian Jungle Crow	Omnivore
18	Common Hawk Cuckoo	Canopy-insectivore
19	Emerald Dove	Granivore
20	Laughing Dove	Granivore
21	Oriental Turtle Dove	Granivore
22	Spotted Dove	Granivore
23	Ashy Drongo	Sallying-insectivore
24	Black Drong	Sallying-insectivore
25	Spangled Drongo	Nectar-insectivore
26	Cattle Egret	Ground-insectivore
27	Little Egret	Water insectivore
28	White-throated Fantail	Sallying-insectivore
29	Asian Brown Flycatcher	Sallying-insectivore
30	Grey-headed Canary Flycatcher	Sallying-insectivore
31	Bar-winged Flycatcher-Shrike	Sallying-insectivore
32	Indian Pond Heron	Water-insectivore
33	Common Hoopoe	Ground-insectivore

34	Indian Grey Hornbill	Fruit-insectivore
35	Oriental Pied Hornbill	Fruit-insectivore
36	Common Iora	Canopy-insectivore
37	Red Junglefowl	Understorey-insectivore
38	Common Kingfisher	Fruit-seed-nectar-insectivore
39	White-throated Kingfisher	Sallying-insectivore
40	Black Kite	Raptor
41	Asian koel	Fruit-insectivore
42	Red-wattled Lapwing	Ground-insectivore
43	Striated Laungingthrush	Understory Insectivore
44	White-crested Laughingthrush	Understorey-insectivore
45	Red-billed Blue Magpie	Omnivore
46	Scarlet Minivet	Canopy-insectivore
47	Small Minivet	Canopy-insectivore
48	Scaly-breasted Munia	Granivore
49	Bank Myna	Fruit-seed-nectar-insectivore
50	Common Myna	Granivore

51	Jungle Myna	Fruit-seed-nectar-insectivore
52	Rufous-bellied Niltava	Understorey insectivore
53	Chestnut-bellied Nuthatch	Trunk/bark feeder
54	Velvet-fronted Nuthatch	Trunk/bark feeder
55	Black-hooded Oriole	Fruit-seed-nectar-insectivore
56	Jungle Owlet	Raptor
57	Spotted Owlet	Raptor
58	Alexandrine Parakeet	Fruit-seed-nectar
59	Plum-headed Parakeet	Fruit-seed-nectar
60	Rose-ringed Parakeet	Fruit-seed-nectar
61	Common Pigeon	Granivore
62	Yellow-footed Green Pigeon	Obligate-frugivore
63	Paddyfield Pipit	Understorey-insectivore
64	Ashy Prinia	Understorey-insectivore
65	Plain Prinia	Understorey-insectivore
66	Plumbeous Water Redstart	Water-insectivore
67	White-capped Water Redstart	Water-insectivore

68	Indian Robin	Understorey-insectivore
69	Oriental Magpie Robin	Understorey-insectivore
70	Indian Roller	Omnivore
71	Common Rosefinch	Omnivore
72	Shikra	Raptor
73	Long-tailed Shrike	Understory Insectivore
74	Indian Silver bill	Granivore
75	House Sparrow	Granivore
76	Asian Pied Starling	Fruit-seed-nectar-insectivore
77	Brahminy Starling	Fruit-seed-nectar-insectivore
78	Chestnut-tailed Starling	Fruit-seed-nectar-insectivore
79	Crimson Sunbird	Nectar-insectivore
80	Purple Sunbird	Nectar-insectivore
81	Barn Swallow	Sallying-insectivore
82	Red-rumped Swallow	Sallying-insectivore
83	Wire-tailed Swallow	Sallying-insectivore
84	House Swift	Sallying-insectivore

85	Common Tailor Bird	Understorey-insectivore
86	Blue Whistling Thrush	Understorey-insectivore
87	Tickell's Thrush	Understorey insectivore
88	Cinereous Tit	Trunk/bark feeder
89	Grey Treepie	Omnivore
90	Rufous Treepie	Omnivore
91	Grey Wagtail	Ground-insectivore
92	White Wagtail	Ground-insectivore
93	Grey-hooded Warbler	Canopy-insectivore
94	Baya Weaver	Granivore
95	Oriental White eye	Nectar-insectivore
96	Greater Goldenback	Trunk/bark feeder
97	Lesser Goldenback	Trunk/bark feeder
98	Grey-capped pygmy Woodpecker	Trunk/bark feeder
99	Grey-headed Woodpecker	Trunk/bark feeder
100	Lesser Yellownappe	Trunk/bark feeder



Common Name : Black-chinned Babbler

Scientific Name : *Stachyridopsis pyrrhops*

Distribution : Resident in Himalayas.

Identifying Features : Small babbler with black lores, chin and centre of throat, orange buff under parts and olive brown upperparts.

Diet : Understorey-insectivore.

Niche : Undergrowth, Open forests and secondary growth.

Nesting : Breeding season is from April to August. Nest is Cup shaped. Lays 3-4 eggs.



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Common Name : Jungle Babbler

Scientific Name : *Turdoides striata*

Local Names : Sat bhai (Hindi); Adavi haratemalla (Kannada); Kundakhia (Odia); Kariyilakkili (Malayalam).

Distribution : Widespread resident.

Identifying Features : Sexes alike. Dull earth brown above, lightly streaked on back, rufous brown tail, with pale markings on breast.

Diet : Understorey-insectivore.

Niche : Open dry scrub, cultivated lands and gardens; avoids wooded areas.

Nesting : Breeding season is throughout the year. Cup shaped nest concealed in dense masses of foliage. Lays 3-4 eggs.



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Common Name : Rusty-cheeked Scimitar Babbler

Scientific Name : *Pomatorhinus erythrogenys*

Distribution : Resident in Himalayas.

Identifying Features : Rufous lores, fore head, sides of breast, and ear coverts, has grey throat and upper breast.

Diet : Understorey Insectivore.

Niche : Undergrowth & thick shrub.

Nesting : Breeding season is from February to July. Builds nest on ground usually in a depression protect by covering the roots, tall grass, ferns. Lays 2-4 eggs.



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Common Name : Brown-headed Barbet

Scientific Name : *Psilopogon zeylanicus*

Local Names : Bada basanta (Hindi, Bengali);
Dodda hutra (Kannada); Kuturga (Marathi).

Distribution : Widespread resident.

Identifying Features : Brown chin and throat concolorous with breast and virtual absence of streaking on belly and flanks, deeper reddish-orange bill. More extensive bare orange patch around eye.

Diet : Fruit-insectivore.

Niche : Broadleaved forests, wooded areas and trees near habitation.

Nesting : Breeding season is from February to June. Nests in a tree hole. Lays 2-4 eggs.



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Common Name : Coppersmith Barbet

Scientific Name : *Psilopogon haemacechalus*

Local Names : Katphora (Hindi); Kanchu kutuga (Kannada); Chota basant bauri (Bengali); Tambat (Marathi); Tuktukiyo (Gujarathi).

Distribution : Widespread resident.

Identifying Features : Small bright coloured barbet, with crimson forehead, yellow patches above and below eye, contrasting with blackish hind crown and side head. Dark streaking on belly and flanks, bright red legs and feet.

Diet : Fruit-seed-nectar-insectivore.

Niche : Wooded areas, urban gardens, groves. Climb up trunks like a woodpecker.

Nesting : Breeding season is from February to April. Nests in a narrow excavate made on underside of tree branch. Lays 3-4 eggs.



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Common Name : Great Barbet

Scientific Name : *Megalaima virens*

Local Names : Traiho (Hindi).

Distribution : Himalayas, North-east India.

Identifying Features : Large pale yellow bill, violet blue head, brown breast and mantle, olive streaked yellowish underparts and red under tail coverts. It is largest among the Barbets.

Diet : Fruit-insectivore.

Niche : Moist, subtropical and temperate forests.

Nesting : Breeding season is from February to September. Nests in a tree hole. Lays 2-3 eggs.



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Common Name : Green Bee - eater

Scientific Name : *Merops orientalis*

Local Names : Harrial (Hindi); Sanna kalli pira (Kannada); Balisua (Odia); Banspati (Bengali); Pateri (Marathi); Veli tatta (Malayalam).

Distribution : Widespread resident.

Identifying Features : It has long central tail feathers, blue or green throat with black gorget.

Diet : Sallying-insectivore.

Niche : Open forest, grazing lands.

Nesting : Breeding season is from March to June. Nests in a hollow vertical mud banks in colonies of 10-30 pairs of birds. Lays 3-5 eggs.



© Nilendra Dalapati, SFS 2018-20



Common Name : Grey-winged Black bird

Scientific Name : *Turdus boulboul*

Local Names : Kasturi (Hindi).

Distribution : Resident in Himalayas, winters south to NE India.

Identifying Features : Male has black, pale grey panel on wing. Female has rufous brown panel on wing.

Diet : Understory Insectivore.

Niche : Breeding season is from April to July. Nest is placed on a tree, usually on branch close to the trunk between 2 -5 meter above ground. Lays 2-3 eggs.



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Common Name : Black Bulbul

Scientific Name : *Hypsipetes leucocephalus*

Local Names : Kari pilakara (Kannada); Myna bulbul (Malayalam); Karupu kondai kuruvi (Tamil).

Distribution : Resident in Himalayas and NE India.

Identifying Features : A slate grey to blackish bulbul, with slight crest. Has bright red bill, legs and feet, pale fringes to under tail-coverts, juvenile lacks crest, has whitish throat.

Diet : Fruit-seed-nectar-insectivore.

Niche : Mainly broad leaved forest and plantations.

Nesting : Breeding season is from January to June. Nest is cup shaped and places in the tree or bushes. Lays 3-4 eggs.



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Common Name : Himalayan Bulbul

Scientific Name : *Pycnonotus leucogenys*

Local Names : Himalayan bulbul (Hindi).

Distribution : Resident in Himalayas.

Identification Features : A crested bulbul with white cheeks, brownish grey upperparts and yellow vent.

Diet : Fruit-seed-nectar-insectivore.

Niche : Open scrub, vicinity of habitation, edges of forest.

Nesting : Breeding season is from April to August. Nest is lined with finer rootlets, lichens and grass, placed in lower bush or tree. Lays 2-3 eggs.



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Common Name : Red-vented Bulbul

Scientific Name : *Picnonotus cafer*

Local Names : Guldum (Hindi); Gobara Chadhei (Odia); Pigli pitta (Telugu); Konda lati (Tamil); Nattu bulbul (Malayalam).

Distribution : Widespread resident.

Identifying Features : Has short crested black head, white rump, white-tipped black tail, and red vent. Juvenile has browner head, rufous edges to flight feathers, buffish cast to white rump, and lacks white tips to tail.

Diet : Fruit-seed-nectar-insectivore.

Niche : Open deciduous forests, secondary growths, gardens and light scrub.

Nesting : Breeding season is from June to September. Nests in bushes at a height of around 2-3 meter. Lays 2-3 eggs.



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Common Name : Crested Bunting

Scientific Name : *Embriza lathami*

Local Names : Pathar chiria (Hindi). Kalu gubbi (Kannada).

Distribution : Resident in Himalayan foothills and hills of NE & C India.

Identifying Features : Has black crest & chestnut on wing & tail. Male has bluish black head & body. Female & first winter male has streak marks on upperparts and breast.

Diet : Granivore.

Niche : Grassy hills, terraced cultivation lands.

Nesting : Breeding season is from April to August. Nest is usually placed on ground, under rock, bushes or under roots on steep banks of water bodies. Lays 2-4 eggs.



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Common Name : Grey Bushchat

Scientific Name : *Saxicola ferreus*

Distribution : Resident in Himalayas and NE India.

Identifying Features : Male has white supercilium and dark mask. Female has buff supercilium contrasting with brown ear coverts.

Diet : Understorey Insectivore.

Niche : Bushes and secondary growth.

Nesting : Breeding season is from March to July. Cup shaped nest made of grasses, moss and fine roots lined with fibrous materials. Lays 3-4 eggs.



© Ashutosh Mallik, SFS 2018-20



Common Name : Brown Rock Chat

Scientific Name : *Cercomela fusca*

Distribution : Resident mainly in North India.

Identifying Features : Dark brown wings and blackish tail. Body frequently bobbed and tail is frequently cocked and spread.

Diet : Understorey-insectivore.

Niche : Dry open country, rocky hills.

Nesting : Breeding season is from spring to summer. Cup shaped nest build with grass and hairs. Lays 4-5 eggs.



© Charan G S, SFS 2018-20



Common Name : Greater Coucal

Scientific Name : *Centropus sinensis*

Local Names : Mahoka (Hindi); Kembuta (Kannada); Kumbhatua (Odia); Jemudu kaki (Telugu); Chemboth (Malayalam); Kumbar kaola (Marathi); Hokko (Gujarathi).

Distribution : Widespread resident.

Identifying Features : Adult has glossy black-purple head and body. Wings are bright chestnut on upper wing, and black on underling, bill is blackish and eyes are deep red.

Diet : Omnivore.

Niche : Grassland, forest edges, near cultivated areas.

Nesting : Breeding season is from February to September. Nest is large globular mass of leaves and twigs with a lateral entrance hole. Lays 3-5 eggs.



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Common Name : House Crow

Scientific Name : *Corvus splendens*

Local Names : Desi kowwa (Hindi); Budu kaage (Kannada); Kau (Odia); Kaola (Gujarathi); Kag (Bengali); Mancho kaki (Telugu); Nalla kaka (Tamil).

Distribution : Widespread resident.

Identifying Features : Two toned appearance, with paler nape, neck and breast. Adult has gloss to black of plumage and collar is well defined.

Diet : Omnivore

Niche : Human settlements throughout its range, from small villages to large cities.

Nesting : Breeding season is from March to August. Nest is platform of twigs, usually high upon the trees. Lays 4-5 eggs.



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Common Name : Indian Jungle Crow

Scientific Name : *Corvus culminatus*

Local Names : Kala kowwa (Hindi); Kari kaage (Kannada); Damara Kau (Odia); Dom Kaulan (Marathi); Girnari kagdo (Gujarathi); Mala Khaki (Telugu); Andan kaki (Tamil); Veli kakka (Malayalam).

Distribution : Widespread resident except higher Himalayas.

Identifying Features : Entirely black body with heavier bill that has more pronounced curve to culmen.

Diet : Omnivore.

Niche : Wide range of habitats.

Nesting : Breeding season is from March to May. Nest is a platform of twigs and small sticks. Lays 3-5 eggs.



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Common Name : Common Hawk Cuckoo

Scientific Name : *Hierococcyx varius*

Local Names : Kapak (Hindi); Bappaiyo (Gujarathi); Kappu balad kogile (Kannada).

Distribution : Widespread resident and partial migrant.

Identifying Features : Whitish or greyish chin and throat, uniform grey upperparts, more rufous on underparts, indistinct barring on belly and flanks.

Diet : Canopy-insectivore.

Niche : Well wooded country.

Nesting : Breeding season is from March to June.
Nest: Brood parasite. Lays single egg in host nest.



© Kunal Satyarthi, Principal, CASFOS



Common Name : Emerald Dove

Scientific Name : *Chalcophaps indica*

Local Names : Raj ghughu (Bengali); Pachu kavda (Marathi); Padaki pura (Tamil); Omana pravu (Malayalam).

Distribution : Widespread resident.

Identifying Features : Stocky, broad wings, short tailed pigeon with emerald green upper parts. Male has grey crown while female has warm brown on crown.

Diet : Granivore.

Niche : Tropical and sub tropical broad leaved forest.

Nesting : Breeding season is from April to September. Builds nest by using sticks. Lays 2-3 eggs.



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Common Name : Laughing Dove

Scientific Name : *Stigmatopelia senegalinsis*

Local Names : Chhoti fakta (Hindi); Belava (Kannada).

Distribution : Widespread resident. Not recorded in Higher Hiamalayas.

Identifying Features : Slim, small, with pairy long tail. Brownish pink head and underparts and black stippling on upperparts.

Diet : Granivore.

Niche : Dry cultivated land and scrub forests.

Nesting : Breeding season is varies according to range. Nest is platform of twigs in low bushes. Lays 2 eggs.



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Common Name : Oriental Turtle Dove

Scientific name : *Streptopelia orientalis*

Local Names : Barko fakhta (Hindi).

Distribution : Resident and winter visitor to Himalayas.

Identifying Features : Rufous scale scapulars and wing coverts, dusky underparts, barring on neck.

Diet : Granivore.

Niche : Open Forest.

Nesting : Breeding season: In Temperate area during summer and in Southern India during winter. Nest is platform of sticks, lined with leaves and grasses and placed in a tree or shrub. Lays 2 eggs.



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Common Name : Spotted Dove

Scientific name : *Spilopelia chinensis*

Local Names : Chitta fakhta (Hindi); Kapota (Odia); Chhite ghughu (Bengali); Thipkya kavda (Marathi); Aripjavu (Malayalam); Vana holi (Gujarathi); Poda bellaguvva (Telugu); Pulli pura (Tamil).

Distribution : Widespread resident.

Identifying Features : Upperparts are scaled with pinkish buff. Has extensive black and white chequered patch on sides of neck.

Diet : Granivore.

Niche : Cultivation, Habitation and open forest.

Nesting : Breeding season is throughout the year. Nest is loose platform of sticks placed in tree or buildings. Lays 2 eggs.



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Common Name : Ashy Drongo

Scientific name : *Dicrurus leucophaeus*

Local Names : Neel finga (Bengali); Budu kajana (Kannada); Eratti valan kuruvi (Tamil); kakkattampuran (Malayalam).

Distribution : Winters in central India, breeds in Himalayas and NE Indian hills.

Identifying Features : The adult has dark grey underparts and slate grey upperparts. The tail is deeply forked.

Diet : Sallying-insectivore

Niche : Forests and well wooded country.

Nesting : Breeding season is from May to June. Saucer shaped nest lined with lichen and leaves cradled in a horizontal or vertical fork. Lays 3-4 eggs.



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Common Name : Black Drongo

Scientific Name : *Dicrurus macrocercus*.

Local Names : Kolsa (Hindi); Kajana (Kannada); Kajalpati (Odia); Finga (Bengali); Pasa poli gadu (Telugu); Karichan (Tamil); Anaranchi (Malayalam); Kosita (Gujarathi); Chosia (Marathi).

Distribution : Widespread resident.

Identifying Features : Black upperparts, and shiny blue-black throat and breast.

Diet : Sallying-insectivore.

Niche : Around habitation and cultivation.

Nesting : Breeding season is from February to March. Nest is cup made with thin layer of sticks placed in the fork of branch. Lays 3-4 eggs.



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Common Name : Spangled Drongo

Scientific name : *Dicrurus hottentottus*

Local Names : Kesraj (Hindi); Juttu kajana (Kannada); Keshraj (Bengali); Kinnarikakka (Malayalam).

Distribution : Himalayan foothills, NE India, Eastern and Western Ghats.

Identifying Features : Broad tail with upward twisted corners and down curved bill. Adult have hair like crest.

Diet : Nectar-insectivore.

Niche : Moist broadleaved forest.

Nesting : Breeding season is from October to January. Nest is a shallow cup of twigs, vine tendrils and grasses, held together with spider web. Lays 3-5 eggs.



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Common Name : Cattle Egret

Scientific Name : *Bubulcus ibis*

Local Names : Surkhia bagla (Hindi); Govakki (Kannada); Baga (Odia); Go bak (Bengali); Samti kongra (Telugu); Kalikunti (Malayalam).

Distribution : Widespread resident.

Identifying Features : Small and stocky with short yellow bill and short dark legs. Has orange buff on head, neck and mantle in breeding plumage. Both male and female looks white in non breeding plumage.

Diet : Ground-insectivore.

Niche : Typically seen in flocks around domestic animals. Feeding and rooting can be seen mainly in grasslands, paddy fields, canals, lakes.

Nesting : Breeding season is from June to August. Nest is an untidy twig platform places on a large tree. Lays 1-5 eggs.



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Common Name : Little Egret

Scientific name : *Egretta garzetta*

Local Names : Kilchia (Hindi); Sanna bellakki (Kannada); Chhota korche bak (Bengali); Chinnamunti (Malayalam).

Distribution : Widespread resident.

Identifying Features : Black bill, black legs with yellow feet and greyish eye lores.

Diet : Water insectivore.

Niche : Flooded paddy fields, moist grasslands, fresh water bodies.

Nesting : Breeding season is July/August in North India, November to February in South India. Nests in colonies, usually a shallow platform of sticks built in trees. Lays 3-4 eggs.



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Common Name : White-throated Fantail

Scientific Name : *Rhipidura albicollis*

Local Names : Chakdil (Hindi), Bili gallada bisanike (Kannada).

Distribution : Resident in Himalayas, North East and East India.

Identifying Features : Narrow white supercilium and white throat, lack of spotting on wing coverts, slate-grey underparts and smaller white tips to tail.

Diet : Sallying-insectivore.

Niche : Forest, secondary growth and wooded areas.

Nesting : Breeding season is from February to August. Nest is small cup shaped places in tree.

Lays 3-5 eggs.



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Common Name : Asian Brown Flycatcher

Scientific Name : *Muscicapa dauurica*

Local Names : Zakki (Hindi); Kandu nona hiduk (Kannada); Thavittu pakshi (Malayalam).

Distribution : Breeds in Himalayan foothills, winters in South, Central and East India.

Identifying Features : Grey brown with short tail, large head, huge eye with prominent eye ring.

Diet : Sallying insectivore.

Niche : Wooded areas, grooves, plantations.

Nesting : Breeding season is from May to July.

Nests in a tree hole. Lays 4 eggs.



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Common Name : Grey-headed Canary Flycatcher

Scientific Name : *Culicicapa ceylonensis*

Local Names : Budu tale nona hiduka (Kannada);
Zard-phutki (Bengali).

Distribution : Resident, breeds in Himalayan region.

Identifying Features : Distinctive with grey-head and breast, greenish mantle, yellow belly, flanks and vent.

Diet : Sallying-insectivore.

Niche : Forests, gardens, orchards.

Nesting : Breeding season is from April to June.

Nests in a rock edges. Lays 3-4 eggs.



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Common Name : Bar-winged Flycatcher-Shrike

Scientific Name : *Hemipus picatus*

Distribution : Resident in Himalayas.

Identifying Features : Dark cap contrasts with white sides of throat, has white patch and white rump.

Diet : Sallying-insectivore.

Niche : Broadleaved forest and forest edge.

Nesting : Breeding season is from March to May. Cone shaped nest is attached to a branch using cobweb. Lays 2-3 eggs.



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Common Name : Indian Pond Heron

Scientific name : *Ardeola grayii*

Local Names : Andha bagla (Hindi); Kantia Baga (Odia); Konch bak (Bengali); Madayan (Tamil); Guddi konga (Telugu); Kulamuti (Malayalam).

Distribution : Widespread resident.

Identifying Features : Whitish wings contrast with dark saddle. Adult breeding has yellowish buff head, neck and maroon brown mantle. Head, neck and breast streaked/spotted in non breeding plumage.

Diet : Water-insectivore.

Niche : Usually solitary when hunting, but will gather in large number at drying out pools to feed on stranded fish. Marshes, flooded paddy fields, lakes and mangrove creeks.

Nesting : Breeding season is from onset of monsoon. Builds nest in small colonies. Platform of sticks on tree. Lays 3-5 eggs.



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Common Name : Common Hoopoe

Scientific Name : *Upupa epops*

Local Names : Hudhud (Hindi, Marathi, Gujarathi); Chandra mukuta (Kannada); Kukudu guwa (Telugu); Chaval Kuruvi (Tamil); Uppooppan (Malayalam).

Distribution : In summer visit to far North, resident and winter visitor to rest of sub-continent.

Identifying Features : Mainly rufous - orange to orange buff, with striking black and white wings and tail, black tipped fan like crest which is usually held flat.

Diet : Ground-insectivore.

Niche : Open country and cultivated land.

Nesting : Breeding season is from August to January. Nests in a tree hole. Lays 4-12 eggs.



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Common Name : Indian Grey Hornbill

Scientific Name : *Ocyceros birostris*

Local Names : Dhanmar (Hindi); Budu mungatte (Kannada); Kochilakhai (Odia); Puttial dhanesh (Bengali); Kommu kasiri (Telugu); Irawakke (Tamil); Chilontro (Gujarathi); Bhinas (Marathi).

Distribution : Widespread, found in all parts of India.

Identifying Features : It has greyish white supercilium with dark grey ear covert. White tips to primaries, secondaries, white tipped tail. Has prominent blackish casque

Diet : Fruit-insectivore.

Niche : Open forest and wooded area with fruiting trees.

Nesting : Breeding season is from from March to June. Builds nest in tree cavity or hollow. Male fetches food for the female and young ones till young ones gets ready to flight. Lays 1-5 eggs.



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Common Name : Oriental Pied Hornbill

Scientific Name : *Anthracoceros albirostris*

Local Names : Kao dhanesh (Assamese)

Distribution : Resident in Himalayan foothills, NE and East India.

Identifying Features : The tail is black with white tips on all the feathers except the central feathers (rectories). The plumage of their lower breast, lower abdomen, thighs, under-wing and all the tips of the wings except the three basal secondaries and two outer primaries is white, cylindrical casque with black patch restricted to tip.

Diet : Fruit-insectivore.

Niche : Open forest, large fruit trees.

Nesting : Breeding season is from January to June. Secondary cavity nests, known to use their previous nests for subsequent breeding. Lays 1-4 eggs.



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Common Name : Common Iora

Scientific Name : *Aegithina tiphia*

Local Names : Shaubeegi (Hindi); Madhura kanta (Kannada); Patsu jitta (Telugu); Pachapora (Tamil).

Distribution : Widespread resident, unrecorded in the North West.

Identifying Features : Breeding males have black cap, wing and tail black in colour. Females have greenish wings & an olive tail.

Diet : Canopy-insectivore.

Niche : Open forest and well wooded areas.

Nesting : Breeding season is from December to January. Nest is small cup shape made by using grasses. Lays 2-4 eggs.



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Common Name : Red Junglefowl

Scientific Name : *Gallus gallus*

Local Names : Jungli murga (Hindi, Bengali); Kempu kadu koli (Kannada), Bana Kukuda (Odia); Yerra adavi kodi (Telugu).

Distribution : Resident in Himalayas, NE and Eastern India.

Identifying Features : Male has rufous orange hackles, blackish brown underparts, rufous wing panel, white tail base and long greenish black, sickle shaped tail. Female has shawl of elongated feathers, rufous head and naked reddish face.

Diet : Understorey-insectivore.

Niche : Forest undergrowth and scrub.

Nesting : Breeding season is from January to July. Nest made on slightly depression ground and concealed by leaves. Lays 5-6 eggs.



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Common Name : Common Kingfisher

Scientific Name : *Alcedo atthis*

Local Names : Chhota kinkila (Hindi); Minchulli (Kannada).

Distribution : Widespread resident.

Identifying Features : Orange ear coverts, paler greenish - blue upperparts and paler orange underparts.

Diet : Piscivore.

Niche : Fresh water sources.

Nesting : Breeding season is from April to July. Nest is burrow excavated in low vertical river bank. Lays 2 eggs.



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Common Name : White-throated Kingfisher

Scientific Name : *Halcyon smyrnensis*

Local Names : Kilkila (Hindi); Machharanka (Odia); Kalkaliyo (Gujarathi); Kandya (Marathi); Lakmuka (Telugu); Vichuli (Tamil); Ponman (Malayalam).

Distribution : Widespread resident.

Identifying Features : Large red bill, chocolate brown head and underparts, white throat and centre of breast.

Diet : Sallying-insectivore.

Niche : Wide ranging habitat, often far from water, cultivation, forest edges, garden.

Nesting : Breeding season is from March to July. Tunnel shaped nest in an earth bank. Lays 4-7 eggs.



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Common Name : Black Kite

Scientific Name : *Milvus migrans*

Local Names : Cheel (Hindi, Bengali); Matia Chila (Odia); Malla gadda (Telugu); Paria parandu (Tamil); Chakki parandu (Malayalam); Ghar (Marathi).

Distribution : Widespread resident.

Identifying Features : Shallow fork tail, dark rufous brown, with whitish crescent at primary bases on under wing.

Diet : Raptor.

Niche : Mainly occurs around cities, town and village.

Nesting : Breeding season is from January to February. Nest is a rough platform of twigs and rags on the canopy of tree. Lays 2-3 eggs.



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Common Name : Asian koel

Scientific Name : *Eudynamys scolopaceus*

Local Names : Koel (Hindi); Kogile (Kannada); Koili (Odia); Kokila (Bengali, Marathi); Kuyil (Malayalam, Tamil).

Distribution : Widespread resident.

Identifying Features : Large with long and broad tail. Male is glossy black with red eye, female is strongly barred with dark brown.

Diet : Fruit-insectivore.

Niche : Typically keeps concealed in dense foliage when not feeding, Open wood land gardens and cultivation.

Nesting : Breeding season is from March to August. Brood parasitism. Lays 1-7 eggs in nests of crows and other hosts.



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Common Name : Red-wattled Lapwing

Scientific Name : *Vanellus indicus*

Local Names : Titori (Hindi); Tittiba (Kannada); Tintia (Odia); Titwi (Marathi); Titodi (Gujarathi); Allakati (Tamil); Chenkanni (Malayalam).

Distribution : Widespread resident.

Identifying Features : Black cap and breast, red bill with black tip and yellow legs. Juvenile is duller than adult, with whitish throat.

Diet : Ground-insectivore.

Niche : Open country, road sides, village and town outskirts, edges of hills.

Nesting : Breeding season is from March to August. Builds nest on open ground covered with grass. Lays 3-4 eggs.



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Common Name : Striated Laughingthrush

Scientific Name : *Grammatoptila striatus*

Distribution : Resident in Himalayas and NE India.

Identifying Features : Large with stout black bill and floppy crest. Chestnut crown, russet upperparts and brownish underparts.

Diet : Understorey Insectivore.

Niche : Broadleaved forest.

Nesting : Breeding season is from April to August. Nest is cup shaped broad usually shallow made with coarse grasses, twigs, creeper stems. Lays 2-3 eggs.



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Common Name : White-crested Laughingthrush

Scientific Name : *Garrulax leucolophus*

Local Names : Naga dhapuleka (Assamese).

Distribution : Resident in Himalayas, NE India

Identifying Features : Large white crest and black mask. Grey nape, chestnut mantle and band across lower breast.

Diet : Understorey-insectivore.

Niche : Broad leaved and secondary growth.

Nesting : Breeding season is from March to August. Wide shallow nest at least 6 feet above the ground usually constructed with bamboo leaves. Lays 3-5 eggs.



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Common Name : Red Billed Blue Magpie

Scientific Name : *Urocissa erythrorhyncha*

Distribution : Resident in Himalayas, NE India.

Identifying Features : White speckling on hind crown and brighter turquoise blue mantle and wings. Has red or orange red bill.

Diet : Omnivore.

Niche : Broadleaved forest and trees in cultivation.

Nesting : Breeding season is from March to May
Nest is built by weaving the branches together and having small basin in the middle. Lays 3-5 eggs.



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Common Name : Scarlet Minivet

Scientific Name : *Pericrocotus speciosus*.

Local Names : Pahari bulalchashm (Hindi); Chitra pakshi (Kannada); Kesariyo rajalal (Gujarathi); Pottkuruvi (Tamil); Teekkuruvi (Malayalam).

Distribution : Resident in Himalayas, hills of Central and Eastern India.

Identifying Features : Male has scarlet red under parts. Female has extensive area of yellow on forehead and ear-coverts.

Diet : Canopy-insectivore.

Niche : Forest and wooded areas.

Nesting : Breeding season is from February to September. Nest is large, shallow cup, woven with small twigs and held together with spider. Lays 2-3 eggs.



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Common Name : Small Minivet

Scientific Name : *Pericrocotus cinnamomeus*

Local Names : Rajlal (Hindi); Sanna chitra pakshi (Kannada); Kunkumpu jitta (Telugu); Techinnam (Malayalam).

Distribution : Widespread resident.

Identifying Features : Male has dark grey to pale grey upperparts, black to dark grey throat. Female has pale sandy grey to slate grey upperparts.

Diet : Canopy-insectivore.

Niche : Open wooded areas.

Nesting : Breeding season is from February to September. Nest is little shallow cup of fibres and outer lined with lichens and cobweb. Lays 2-4 eggs.



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Common Name : Scaly-breasted Munia

Scientific Name : *Lonchura punctulata*

Local Names : Telia munia (Hindi); Ratavala (Kannada). Chunchimuni (Odia).

Distribution : Widespread resident.

Identifying Features : Adult has chestnut brown face, throat and upper breast, whitish underparts boldly scaled with black.

Diet : Granivore.

Niche : Open secondary forest, bushes and cultivation.

Nesting : Breeding season is from June to August. Dome shaped nest hanging on tree, compact nest with a side entrance made of grass and leaves. Lays 3-7 eggs.



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Common Name : Bank Myna

Scientific Name : *Acridotheres ginginianus*

Local Names : Ganga myna (Hindi); Gang salik (Bengali).

Distribution : Widespread in North and Central subcontinent.

Identifying Features : Bluish grey coloration, small frontal crest, orange red orbital patch, orange yellow bill and had red eyes.

Diet : Fruit-seed-nectar-insectivore.

Niche : Cultivation, damp grassland and habitation.

Nesting : Breeding season is from May to June. Builds nest in earthen wall, on the banks of rivers, embankments. Lays 4-5 eggs.



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Common Name : Common Myna

Scientific Name : *Acridotheres tristis*

Local Names : Desi myna (Hindi); Goravanka (Kannada); Bani (Odia); Ghor salika (Assamese); Kabar (Gujarathi); Goranka (Telugu).

Distribution : Widespread.

Identifying Features : Brownish myna with yellow orbital skin, white wing path and white tail tip.

Diet : Fruit-seed-nectar-insectivore.

Niche : Cultivation and damp grassland.

Nesting : Breeding season is from March to September. Nests in a tree hollow or in building. Lays 4-6 eggs.



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Common Name : Jungle Myna

Scientific Name : *Acridotheres fuscus*

Local Names : Pahari myna (Hindi); Jhont salik (Bengali); Vana kabar (Gujarathi).

Distribution : Widespread resident.

Identifying Features : Has prominent frontal crest, white patch at the base of primaries, and white tip to tail. Eye is pale in colour.

Diet : Fruit-seed-nectar-insectivore.

Niche : Cultivation and damp grassland.

Nesting : Breeding season is from February to May in South India and April to July in North India. Nests in a tree hollow or in building. Lays 3-6 eggs.



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Common Name : Rufous-bellied Niltava

Scientific Name : *Niltava sundara*

Distribution : Resident in Himalayas and NE India.

Identifying Features : Male has dark blue upperparts and orange underparts, with brilliant blue crown, neck patch and rump. Female has well defined oval shaped throat patch.

Diet : Understory insectivore.

Niche : Undergrowth in broadleaved or mixed forest and secondary growth.

Nesting : Breeding season is from April to August. Builds an open cup shaped nest conceal in dense vegetation. Lays 3-4 eggs.



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Common Name : Chestnut-bellied Nuthatch

Scientific Name : *Sitta cinnamoventris*

Local Names : Siri (Hindi), Kempu mara gubbi (Kannada).

Distribution : Resident in Himalayan foothills, hills of NE India.

Identifying Features : Male has white cheek patch contrasting with uniform orange brown underparts. Female is similar but underparts are paler and has more clearly defined white chin and cheeks.

Niche : Trunk/bark feeder.

Nesting : Breeding season is from April to May. Nests in cavities, tree holes by making a simple cup lined with soft materials. Lays 5-7 eggs.



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Common Name: Velvet-fronted Nuthatch

Scientific name : *Sitta frontalis*

Local Names : Katphoria (Hindi); Tandan kili (Malayalam).

Distribution : Resident in Himalayas.

Identifying Features : Striking with violet blue upperparts, black forehead, black tipped red bill, yellow iris and eye ring.

Niche : Open forest & well wooded areas, forages from the canopy down to the undergrowth.

Diet : Bark feeder.

Nesting : Breeding season is from April to June. Builds nest in tree hole. Lays 3-6 eggs.



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Common Name : Black-hooded Oriole

Scientific Name : *Oriolus xanthurus*

Local Names : Peelak (Hindi); Kari tale honnakkri (Kannada); Haladi Basanta (Odia); Bene bau (Bengali); Hoti (Assamese).

Distribution : Widespread resident.

Identifying Features : Adult male has black head contrasting with golden yellow body, bold yellow edges to black tertials & secondaries with yellow tail.

Diet : Fruit-seed-nectar-insectivore.

Niche : Spend more time in tree canopies.

Nesting : Breeding season is throughout the year. stitches a hanging nest to the undersides of palm or eucalyptus leaves about 20 feet above the ground. Lays 2 eggs.



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Common Name : Jungle Owlet

Scientific Name : *Glaucidium radiatum*

Local Names : Jangli choghad (Hindi); Chhota kalpencha (Bengali); Sinna andai (Tamil).

Distribution : Widespread resident. Unrecorded in most of NW and NE.

Identifying Features : Bright rufous barring on wing coverts, more closely barred upperparts and underparts with bars continuous across lower flanks and belly.

Diet : Raptor.

Niche : Mainly crepuscular and nocturnal around habitation and cultivation. Some time active in day time too.

Nesting : Breeding season is from March to May. Nests in the hollow of tree. Lays 4 eggs.



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Common Name : Spotted Owlet

Scientific Name : *Athene brama*

Local Names : Kakusat (Hindi); Pecha (Odia);
Kutire pencha (Bengali).

Distribution : Widespread resident.

Identifying Features : Spotted rather than barred appearance (with prominent white spotting on crown, mantle and wing coverts) and brown spotting rather than close dark barring on under part.

Diet : Raptor.

Niche : Mainly crepuscular and nocturnal around habitation and cultivation.

Nesting : Breeding season is from November to April. Nests in the hollow of tree. Lays 3-4 eggs.



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Common Name : Alexandrine Parakeet

Scientific Name : *Psittacula eupatria*

Local Names : Rai tota (Hindi); Rama gili (Kannada); Shuva (Odia).

Distribution : Widespread resident.

Identifying Features : Comparison to Rose ringed it is larger in size, maroon shoulder patch, and massive bill. Male has black chin, stripe joining pink and turquoise hind collar. Female & immature lacks black chin and turquoise hind collar.

Diet : Fruit-seed-nectar.

Niche : Deciduous forest and well wooded area.

Nesting : Breeding season is from November to April. Nests in a hollow tree trunk excavated by themselves. Lays 2-4 eggs.



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Common Name : Plum-headed Parakeet

Scientific Name : *Psittacula cyanocephala*

Local Names : Tuiya tota (Hindi); Kendale gili (Kannada); Keera (Marathi); Tui (Gujarathi); Kili (Tamil); Poon totta (Malayalam).

Distribution : Widespread resident.

Identifying Features : Male has plum red and purplish blue head, white tipped blue green tail. Female has greyish head.

Diet : Fruit-seed-nectar.

Niche : Forest and well wooded areas.

Nesting : Breeding season is from December to April. A hole in a tree trunk often excavated by the birds by themselves. Sometimes several pairs nest in neighboring tree in a loose colony. Lays 4-6 eggs.



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Common Name : Rose-ringed Parakeet

Scientific Name : *Psittacula krameri*

Local Names : Tota (Hindi); Gulabi koralina gili (Kannada); Sudo (Gujarathi); Tatta (Malayalam)

Distribution : Widespread resident.

Identifying Features : Smaller than Alexandrine, lack of maroon shoulder patch, and smaller bill. Dark blue green coloured dorsal tail. Male has black chin stripe pink hind collar and it lacks in female.

Diet : Fruit-seed-nectar.

Niche : Deciduous forest and well wooded area.

Nesting : Breeding season is from September to December. A natural hollow in a tree trunk or one excavated by the birds themselves. Sometime in rock scraps and walls of buildings. Lays 3-4 eggs.



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Common Name : Common Pigeon

Scientific Name : *Columba livia*

Local Names : Kabutar (Hindi); Parivala (Kannada); Para (Odia); Gola payra (Bengali); Parva (Marathi); Parevun (Gujarathi).

Distribution : Widespread resident

Identifying Features : Grey tail with blackish terminal band, and broad black bars across greater coverts and tertials /secondaries.

Diet : Granivore.

Niche : Feral birds live in villages and towns, wild birds around cliffs and ruins.

Nesting : Breeding season is from March to May. Nest made by sticks in rooms of abandoned buildings, ceilings of dwelling houses. Lays 2 eggs.



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Common Name : Yellow-footed Green Pigeon

Scientific Name : *Treron phoenicopterus*

Local Names : Harial (Hindi).

Distribution : Widespread resident, occur throughout the Indian Subcontinent.

Identifying Features : Large size, grey cap, greenish yellow forehead and throat, broad olive yellow collar, pale greyish green upper part.

Diet : Obligate-frugivore.

Niche : Deciduous forest and fruiting trees around villages.

Nesting : Breeding season is from March to April. Nest is platform of twigs placed in the foliage of tree. Lays 1-2 eggs.



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Common Name : Paddyfield Pipit

Scientific Name : *Anthus rufulus*

Local Names : Charchari (Hindi); Gadde pipalika (Kannada); Varamban (Malayalam); Nettarei kali (Tamil).

Distribution : Widespread resident except in parts of NE and NW subcontinent.

Identifying Features : Paddy field often pale and shows warm ginger buff wash across breast and down flanks. Flight call differs.

Diet : Understorey-insectivore.

Niche : Short grass land.

Nesting : Breeding season is around the year. Woven cup shaped nests consists of grass and leaves. Lays 3-4 eggs.



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Common Name : Ashy Prinia

Scientific Name : *Prinia socialis*

Local Names : Kali phukti (Hindi); Katir kuruvi (Malayalam).

Distribution : Widespread resident.

Identifying Features : It has white supercilium, slate grey crown and ear coverts, red eye, slate grey mantle, orange buff wash on underparts and prominent black sub terminal mark to tail feathers.

Diet : Understorey-insectivore.

Niche : Tall grasses and shrubs, open secondary growth and reed beds.

Nesting : Breeding season is from May to August. Builds cup shaped nest close to ground in shrubs or tall grass. Lays 3-5 eggs.



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Common Name : Plain Prinia

Scientific Name : *Prinia inornata*

Local Names : Phukti (Hindi); Lota kun jitta (Telugu).

Distribution : Widespread resident.

Identifying Features : Adult breeding has black bill, grey brown upperparts and whitish underparts. Adult non breeding has longer tail, warm brown upper parts and warm buff wash to underparts.

Diet : Insectivore.

Niche : Tall crops, reeds, grasslands, scrub and tall grass and mangroves.

Nesting : Breeding season is from June to October in North and March to July in South India. Build nest in tall grass or shrubs. Lays 3- 6 eggs.



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Common Name : Plumbeous Water Redstart

Scientific Name : *Rhyacornis fuliginosa*

Distribution : Resident. Breeds in Himalayas, and NE Indian hills.

Identifying Features : Stocky and short-tailed; constantly flicks open tail while moving it up and down. Male slaty- blue, with rufous chestnut tail.

Diet : Water-insectivore.

Niche : Mountain, stream and rivers.

Nesting : Breeding season is from February to June. Builds nest near water course. Lays 4-5 eggs.



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Common Name : White-capped Redstart

Scientific Name : *Chaimarrornis leucocephalus*

Distribution : Resident, breeds in Himalayan and North East Indian hills.

Identifying Features : Adult has white cap and rufous tail with broad black terminal band.

Diet : Water-insectivore.

Niche : Mainly mountain streams and rivers.

Nesting : Breeding season is from May to August
Builds cup shaped nest, placed under stone or tree roots. Lays 3-5 eggs.



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Common Name : Indian Robin

Scientific Name : *Saxicoloides fulicatus*

Local Names : Kalchuri (Hindi); Kali deva (Gujarathi).

Distribution : Widespread resident.

Identifying Features : Has reddish vent and black tail. Male has white shoulders and black upperparts. Female has greyish underparts. Juvenile is darker brown than female.

Diet : Understorey-insectivore.

Niche : Dry stony areas with scrub and cultivation edges.

Nesting : Breeding season is from April to June. Cup shaped nest lined with twigs, dry leaves in the holes on walls. Lays 3-4 eggs.



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Common Name : Oriental Magpie Robin

Scientific Name : *Copsychus saularis*

Local Names : Dhaiyal (Hindi, Bengali); Madival hakki (Kannada); Daiyad (Gujarathi); Dominga (Marathi).

Distribution : Widespread resident.

Identifying Features : In all plumages, has white wing patch and white at both side, long cocked tail. Male has glossy blue-black head, upperparts and breast. Female has bluish-grey head, upperparts and breast.

Diet : Understorey- insectivore.

Niche : Gardens, groves and upper broad leaved forest.

Nesting : Breeding season is from March to July. Nests in the holes of tree trunk, old walls by using grasses and rootlets. Lays 4-5 eggs.



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Common Name : Indian Roller

Scientific Name : *Coracias benghalensis*

Local Names : Neelakanta (Kannada); Bhadabhadalia (Odia); Tas (Marathi); Pala pitta (Telugu); Pal kuriwi (Tamil).

Distribution : Widespread resident.

Identifying Features : Rufous brown nape and under part, white streaking on ear covert and throat, greenish mantle.

Diet : Omnivore.

Niche: Cultivation, open woodlands and gardens.

Nesting : Breeding season is from March to June. Nests in tree holes and rock crevices. Lays 3-5 eggs.



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Common Name : Common Rosefinch

Scientific Name : *Carpodacus erythrinus*

Local Names : Lal tuti (Hindi), Gulabi gubbi (Kannada).

Distribution : Widespread and breeds in Himalayas.

Identifying Features : Compact with short stout bill. Male has red head, breast and rump. Female and first year male have streaked upperparts and underparts.

Niche : Breeds in high altitude shrubberies and open forest, winters in cultivation with bushes.

Nesting : Breeding season is from May to August. Cup shaped nest built with grasses and weeds low in a bush. Lays 5 eggs.



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Common Name : Shikra

Scientific Name : *Accipiter badius*

Local Names : Shikra (Hindi); Shikre (Bengali)

Distribution : Widespread resident.

Identifying Features : Under wing pale, with fine barring on regimes, slightly darker wing tips.

Diet : Raptor.

Niche : Open wooded country.

Nesting : Breeding season is from March to June
Nest is built on trees with twigs as a platform and lined with grass. Lays 3-4 eggs.



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Common Name : Long-tailed Shrike

Scientific Name : *Lanius schach*

Local Names : Uddu balad kalinga (Kannada).

Distribution : Widespread resident.

Identifying Features : Adult has grey mantle, rufous sides to black tail, small white patches to primaries, narrow black forehead.

Diet : Understorey-insectivore.

Niche : Bushes in cultivation, garden.

Nesting : Breeding season is from March to June. Nest is loosely built cup of twigs and sticks looks untidy. Lays 3 eggs.



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Common Name : Indian Silver Bill

Scientific Name : *Euodice Malabarica*

Local Names : Charchara (Hindi); Piduri (Bengali).

Distribution : Widespread resident.

Identifying Features : Male has fawn-brown upperparts, whitish face and underparts with barred flanks, long and pointed black tail and white rump and upper tail-coverts. Female is duller with plainer face and flanks are less barred.

Diet : Granivore.

Niche : Dry cultivation, grassland and thorn scrub.

Nesting : Breeding season is throughout the year. Nest is large domes grass structure in a tree. Lays 4-10 eggs.



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Common Name : House Sparrow

Scientific Name : *Passer domesticus*

Local Names : Gauriya (Hindi); Gubbacchi (Kannada); Gharachatia (Odia); Ghakli (Gujarathi); Choti charai (Bengali).

Distribution : Widespread resident.

Identifying Features : Breeding male has grey crown with chestnut sides and nape. Duller in non breeding plumage.

Diet : Granivore.

Niche : Villages, cultivation area.

Nesting : Breeding season is from April to August. Nests near human habitation, houses, buildings by using grasses and straw. Lays 2 eggs.



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Common Name : Asian Pied Starling

Scientific Name : *Gracupica contra*

Local Names : Albaki myna (Hindi); Guye salik (Bengali); Venda gorinka (Telugu).

Distribution : Widespread resident.

Identifying Features : It has orange orbital skin. Black and white, with white cheek patch and scapular line, pointed yellowish bill.

Diet : Fruit-seed-nectar-insectivore.

Niche : Damp grassland, habitation.

Nesting : Breeding season is from March to September. Nests on large trees, in urban areas builds in manmade structures. Lays 4-6 eggs.



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Common Name : Brahminy Starling

Scientific Name : *Sturnia pagodarum*

Local Names : Popoya myna (Hindi); Papata gorinki (Telugu); Rawanati (Tamil).

Distribution : Widespread resident.

Identifying Features : Adult has black crest, rufous orange sides of head and underparts. Yellow bill with blue base and juvenile lacks the crest.

Diet : Fruit-seed-nectar-insectivore.

Niche : They specially favour water logged and marshy area. Typically found in dry forest, scrub jungle and cultivation.

Nesting : Breeding season is from March to September. Nests in tree holes or artificial cavities lined with grass, feathers and rags. Lays 3-4 eggs.



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Common Name : Chestnut-tailed Starling

Scientific Name : *Sturnia malabarica*

Distribution : Resident in NE India and summer visitor to Himalayas.

Identifying Features : Adult has grey head and upperparts, with white forehead and throat. Tail is mainly chestnut with grey central feather. Bill is yellow with blue base and eye is whitish.

Diet : Fruit-seed-nectar-insectivore.

Niche : Open wood areas.

Nesting : Breeding season is from March to September. Nests in hole and typically found in open woodland and cultivation. Lays 4-6 eggs.



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Common Name : Crimson Sunbird

Scientific Name : *Aethopyga siparaja*

Local Names : Phulchuiya (Hindi). Haladi bennina surakki (Kannada).

Distribution : Resident in Himalayas, hills of NE and Eastern parts of India.

Identifying Features : Male has crimson mantle, scarlet throat and breast and yellowish olive belly. Female has yellowish olive underparts.

Diet : Nectar-insectivore.

Niche : Bushes in forest.

Nesting : Breeding season is from December to March. Nest is pear shaped pouch suspended from low bush on a river bank. Lays 2-3 eggs.



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Common Name : Purple Sunbird

Scientific Name : *Cinnyris asiaticus*

Local Names : Phul soongni (Hindi); Nerale surakki (Kannada); Phul chakli (Gujarathi); Chumka (Marathi); Thena pitta (Telugu).

Distribution : Widespread resident. Unrecorded in parts of NE and NW subcontinent.

Identifying Features : Male is metallic blue green and purple becoming blacker on belly and vent. Female has uniform yellowish underparts.

Diet : Nectar-insectivore.

Niche : Open deciduous forest and gardens.

Nesting : Breeding season is from April to June. Nest is oblong pendulous pouch of soft grasses. Lays 2 eggs.



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Common Name : Barn Swallow

Scientific Name : *Hirundo rustica*

Local Names : Samanya ababil (Hindi); Banakki (Kannada).

Distribution : Himalayan and NE regions, wide spread farther south in winter.

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

Diet : Insectivore.

Niche : Cultivation area, lake and river in open country etc.

Nesting : Breeding season is from March to September. Nest built by collecting mud often mixed with grasses, stems to make pellets and placed on the top of the horizontal surfaces. Lays 3-7 eggs.



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Common Name : Red Rumped Swallow



Scientific Name : *Cecropis daurica*

Local Names : Masjid ababil (Hindi);
Varayankatrika (Malayalam); Kenchi ababil
(Gujarathi).

Distribution : Widespread resident, unrecorded
in NW and NE subcontinent.

Identifying Features : Pale reddish rump, finely
streaked throat and breast, and black squared-off
under tail coverts and tail. Juveniles paler, lack
reddish tones.

Diet : Sallying-insectivore.

Niche : Open grassy hill slopes, cultivation
upland.

Nesting : Breeding season is from October to
December. Builds nest by using mud inside the
old buildings, mosques and bridges. Lays 3-6
eggs.



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Common Name : Wire-tailed Swallow

Scientific Name : *Hirundo smithii*

Local Names : Ababil (Hindi); Wire taled kavalatoke (Kannada); Tam padi (Tamil); Wana kavela (Telugu); Vayalkoti (Malayalam).

Distribution : Widespread resident.

Identifying Features : Brighter blue upperparts, glistening white underparts and fine filamentous projections to outer tail feathers.

Diet : Sallying-insectivore.

Niche : Grasslands, wetlands, open scrublands, cultivated areas.

Nesting : Breeding season is from January to March. Bowl shaped nest made of mud, placed on vertical surface near water sources. Lays 3-4 eggs.



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Common Name : House Swift

Scientific Name : *Apus nipalensis*

Local Names : Babeela (Hindi); Pakoli (Marathi); Ababeelo (Gujarathi); Sarapakshi (Malayalam).

Distribution : Resident in Himalayas and NE India.

Identifying Features : Small, stocky, blackish swift with prominent white throat and rump band.

Diet : Sallying-insectivore.

Niche : Cliffs and ruins.

Nesting : Breeding season is from January to June
Nests in holes and cliffs of buildings, the inner cup is lined firmly with feathers and cemented with saliva. Lays 2-3 eggs.



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Common Name : Common Tailor Bird

Scientific Name : *Orthotomus sutorius*

Local Names : Pididi (Hindi, Marathi); Simpiga (Kannada); Tashko (Gujarathi); Likka jitta (Telugu); Panakkuruvi (Malayalam).

Distribution : Widespread resident.

Identifying Feature : Has long slightly down curved pale bill, rufous forehead and fore crown and greenish upperparts and buffish underparts.

Diet : Understorey-insectivore.

Niche : Typically found in open farmland, scrub, forest edges and gardens. Tailor birds get their name from the way their nest is constructed.

Nesting : Breeding season is from March to December. The edge of a large leaf are pierced and sewn together with plant fiber or spider silk to make a cradle in which the actual nest is built. Lays 3 eggs.



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Common Name : Blue Whistling Thrush

Scientific Name : *Myophonus caeruleus*

Local Names : Kaljit (Hindi); Nili sillar (Kannada).

Distribution : Resident in Himalayas and NE India.

Identifying Features : Adult is dark blue with head and body spangled with glistening silver blue, has stout yellow beak.

Diet : Understorey-insectivore.

Niche : Forest and wooded areas usually close to stream.

Nesting : Breeding season is from April to August. Nest is bulky cup shaped and placed in over hanging position. Lays 3-4 eggs.



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Common Name : Tickell's Thrush

Scientific Name : *Turdus unicolor*

Local Names : Desi pawī (Hindi).

Distribution : Resident, summers in Himalaya, winters towards East and South India.

Identifying Features : Has small pale brown bill and pale legs, male has pale bluish grey, with whitish belly and vent.

Diet : Understorey insectivore.

Niche : Open forests, grass lands.

Nesting : Breeding season is from April to August. Nest is deep cup shaped sometime tidy made of fibers. Lays 1-2 eggs.



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Common Name : Cinereous Tit

Scientific Name : *Parus major*

Local Names : Ramangra (Hindi); Budu chikadi (Kannada); Ramachakli (Gujarathi); Putani kuruvi (Tamil).

Distribution : Widespread resident.

Identifying Features : Black breast line drawn on belly, greyish mantle, white wing bar.

Diet : Trunk/bark feeder.

Niche : Forest land and well wooded country.

Nesting : Breeding season is from March to November. Nests in tree holes. Lays 5-8 eggs.



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Common Name : Grey Treepie

Scientific Name : *Dendrocitta formosae*

Local Names : Kakiya kak (Hindi)

Distribution : Resident in Himalayas and NE India.

Identifying Features : Dull coloured with blackish face with grey crown, nape and dull brown mantle, black wings with white patch at base of primaries.

Diet : Omnivore.

Niche : Broadleaved forest.

Nesting : Breeding season is from May to June. Nest is shallow cup shaped lined with hairs and built in trees, bushes clumps of bamboo. Lays 6-8 eggs.



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Common Name : Rufous Treepie

Scientific Name : *Dendrocitta vagabunda*

Local Names : Mootri (Hindi); kotri (Bengali); Matapakshi (Kannada); Kharkhara Chadhei (Odia).

Distribution : Widespread resident.

Identifying Features : Slate grey hood, rufous brown mantle, pale grey wing coverts. Black tipped silver grey tail.

Diet : Omnivore.

Niche : Open wooded country.

Nesting : Breeding season is from April to June. Nest is made of thorny twigs and well concealed by foliage. Lays 5-8 eggs.



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Common Name : Grey Wagtail

Scientific Name : Motacilla cinerea

Distribution : Breeds in Baluchistan and Himalaya, widespread in winter.

Identification Features : It has a very long, black-and-white tail, a yellow rump and a yellow belly. Breeding male black throat.

Diet : Ground-insectivore.

Niche : On river and stream banks.

Nesting : Breeding season is from April to July. Cup shaped nest made of grass, rootlets and wool placed near stream or river . Lays 6-8 eggs.



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Common Name : White Wagtail

Scientific Name : *Motacilla alba*

Local Names : Dhoban (Hindi); Bili sipile (Kannada); Tipsoi (Assamese).

Distribution : Breeds in Himalaya, widespread in winter.

Identifying Features: Black white head pattern, grey or black mantle, and largely white to largely black wing covert. Confusable with white browed wagtail.

Diet : Ground-insectivore.

Niche : Open country, cultivation.

Nesting : Breeding season is from April to August. Nest is made of rootlets, moss, hair, etc laced in a hole in a ruined wall. Lays 3-8 eggs.



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Common Name : Grey-hooded Warbler

Scientific Name : *Phylloscopus xanthoschistos*

Local Names : Tik tiki pididi (Punjabi).

Distribution : Resident in Himalayas and NE India.

Identifying Features : Greyish white supercilium and grey crown and mantle.

Diet : Canopy insectivore.

Niche : Forests and secondary growth.

Nesting : Breeding season is from March to August. Cup shaped nest wrapped with dead leaves and often places in bushes. Lays 2-5 eggs.



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Common Name : Baya Weaver

Scientific Name : *Ploceus philippinus*

Local Names : Son chiri (Hindi); Gijag hakki (Kannada); Baya Chadhei (Odia); Babui (Bengali); Parsupu pita (Telugu).

Distribution : Widespread resident, unrecorded in NE and NW subcontinent.

Identifying Features : Breeding male has yellow crown, dark brown ear coverts and throat, unstreaked yellow breast and yellow streaking on mantle and scapulars.

Diet : Grains and insects.

Niche : Grassland and scrub with scattered trees.

Nesting : Breeding season is from June to August. Hanging retort shaped nest with bulge at the top woven with leaves. The tunnel will face down for entry and exit. Lays 2- 4 eggs.



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Common Name : Oriental White Eye

Scientific Name : *Zosterops palpebrosus*

Local Names : Baboona (Hindi); Bellanna (Kannada); Vellai kanni (Tamil).

Distribution : Widespread resident.

Identifying Features : Distinctive with prominent white eye-ring, black bill and lores, green to yellowish green upperparts, bright yellow throat and vent.

Diet : Nectar-insectivore.

Niche : Open broadleaved forest, groves, gardens orchards and mangroves.

Nesting : Breeding season is from February to September. Compact cup shaped nest placed on fork of the thin twigs. Lays 2-3 eggs.



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Common Name : Greater Goldenback

Scientific Name : *Chrysocolaptes guttaecristatus*

Local Names : Kathphora (Hindi); Kathahana (Odia).

Distribution : Resident in Himalayas.

Identifying Features : Larger in size and longer S shaped neck, longer bill, female has white spotting on crown.

Diet : Trunk/bark feeder.

Niche : Seen mainly on dry snags in forest and grooves.

Nesting : Breeding season is from February and July. Nests in tree holes. Built by excavating horizontal entrance which descends into the cavity. Lays 3-4 eggs.



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Common Name : Lesser Goldenback

Scientific Name : *Dinopium benghalense*

Local Names : Katphora (Hindi).

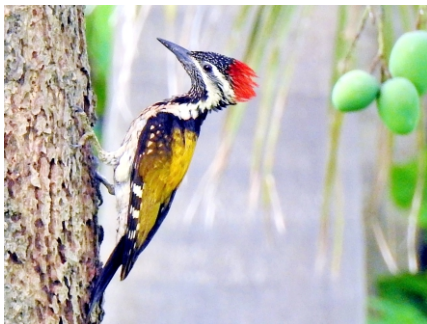
Distribution : Widespread resident.

Identifying Features : White spotted black throat and black stripe through eye. Male has black lower back and rump and female has red hind crown & crest.

Diet : Tree trunk / Bark feeder.

Niche : Forested areas, Plantations, groves.

Nesting : Breeding season is from February to July. Nests in tree holes. Lays 3-4 eggs.



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Common Name : Grey-capped pygmy Woodpecker

Scientific Name : *Dendrocopos canicapillus*

Local Names : Katphora (Hindi).

Distribution : Resident in Himalayas and NE India.

Identifying Features : Has blackish stripe behind eye, and by deeper fulvous coloration to underparts with heavier black streaking, whiter throat.

Diet : Bark feeder.

Niche : Forest, and trees in cultivation.

Nesting : Breeding season is from February to May. Nests in tree holes / snags. Lay 4-5 eggs.



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Common Name : Grey-headed Woodpecker

Scientific Name : *Picus canus*

Local Names : Katphora (Hindi); Budu tale maragutaka (Kannada).

Distribution : Resident in Himalayas, NE India.

Identifying Features : Has plain grey face, black nape and moustachial, darkbill, and uniform greyish green underparts. Male has red forehead and fore crown (black in female).

Diet : Bark feeder.

Niche : Deciduous & mixed forest areas.

Nesting : Breeding season is from May. Nests in tree holes / snags. Lays 5-10 eggs.



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Common Name : Lesser Yellownape

Scientific Name : *Picus chlorolophus*

Local Names : Katphora (Hindi); Haladi hubbin Maragutaka (Kannada).

Distribution : Resident in Himalayas.

Identifying Features : Smaller in size compare to greater yellow nape and white head marking, rufous panel in wing, white barring on primaries and underparts. Male has red moustachial and line above eye.

Diet : Bark feeder.

Niche : Mostly seen on dried snag trees.

Nesting : Breeding season is from February to July. Nests in tree holes / snags. Lays 3-4 eggs.



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