

# BIRDS OF INDUS ECOREGION

## A Quick-guide to the Birds of Indus Ecoregion



More than 400 species of birds have been reported from Sindh, out of which 196 species have been recorded so far from sites of the Indus For All Programme.

This quick identification guide to the birds of 4 sites of Indus Ecoregion helps in identification of 175 species of birds found in the area. It gives the scientific and common names of the birds along with the descriptions of the illustrated birds which helps with identification such as their size, field characters, seasonal plumages (breeding or non-breeding), status (resident or migrant) and habitat. The coloured sketches show the birds with their most important identification features. In many cases, birds having different plumages in different (breeding/non-breeding) seasons, or having difference between male and female plumage, are shown likewise.

The description of birds has been divided into four sections viz. (1) Waterbirds (2) Birds of prey (3) Passerines/Songbirds and Perching birds (4) Others

Most of these birds are commonly seen during the proper season, while some others have become very rare during the recent past such as Spotbill Duck, Cotton Teal, Marbled Teal, Painted Snipe and vultures etc.

This is not a comprehensive field guide to the birds of the region, rather it is meant only for the quick identification of the birds of the Indus Ecoregion, mostly the common birds.

**Concept:** Dr. Ghulam Akbar

**Text:** Syed Ali Ghalib and Rab Nawaz

**Illustrations:** Dr. Ahsan Qureshi, Sarah Khan, Ismail Mehdi, Marriyam Khan and Pakistan Wetlands Programme

**Layout & Design:** Nida Shams and Aliya Abbas



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**Indus for All Programme, WWF - Pakistan:** 606, 607 Fortune Centre, Block-6 P.E.C.H.S,  
Shahra-e-Faisal, Karachi. Tel: 02 1-454479 1-92, 70 12290, 4555 194 Fax: 02 1-4544790 [www.foreverindus.org](http://www.foreverindus.org)

# INDUS ECOREGION



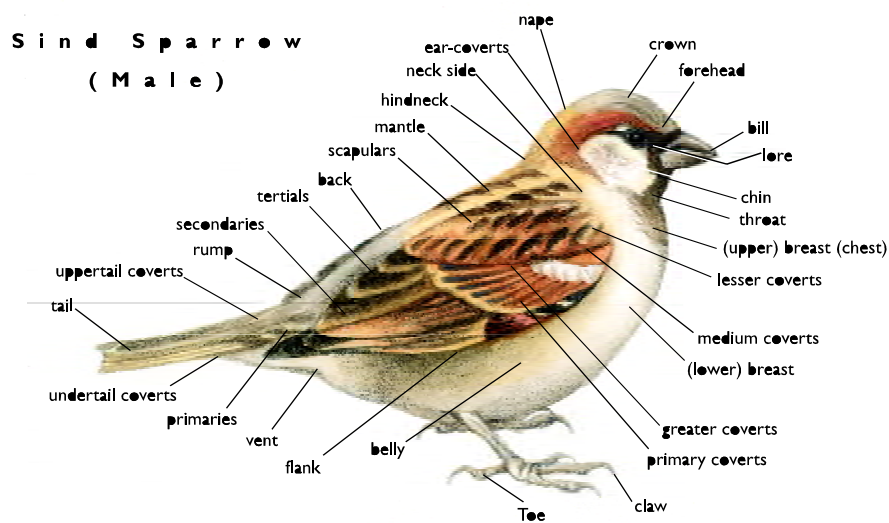
## Indus for All Programme

The Indus for All Programme is the 5-year implementation phase of the 50 years vision of the Indus Ecoregion Conservation Programme. The first implementation phase (April 2007-March 2012) follows the completion of a 9-month inception phase (July 2006-March 2007).

The Indus Ecoregion partly or fully covers several districts of Sindh Province. Four critical ecosystems in three districts (Thatta, Nawabshah and Sanghar) have been initially selected for the Indus for All Programme's interventions. Those include coastal ecosystem (Keti Bunder), inland forest ecosystem (Pai Forest), freshwater wetlands ecosystem (Keenjhar Lake) and desert-wetlands ecosystem (Chotiari Wetlands Complex).



## TOPOGRAPHY OF A BIRD



### Terms and abbreviations

1. **Breeding plumage:** Plumage of the bird in the breeding season i.e. in summer.
2. **Non-breeding plumage:** Refers to a plumage of a bird in the non-breeding season usually in winter.
3. **Under-parts:** Under surface of body from throat to under-tail.
4. **Upperparts:** Upper surface of body including wings to tail.
5. **Resident:** Remaining in the same area throughout the year and breeding.
6. **Passage migrant:** Regularly passing through an area or country during migration.
7. **Vagrant:** A wanderer outside the normal migration range of the species.

**B:** Breeding **NB:** Non-Breeding **R:** Resident, **WV:** Winter Visitor, **M:** Migratory, **NBR:** Non-breeding resident, **V:** Vagrant, **PM:** Passage migrant, **SV:** Summer visitor, and **SBV:** Summer breeding visitor.

**Note:** Size is given as the approximate body length of the species from bill to tail.



# WATER BIRDS



Grebes, Pelicans, Cormorants, Flamingos, Herons, Egrets, Bitterns, Storks, Ibises, Spoonbill, Ducks, Cranes, Rails, Waterhens, Coot, Crakes, Jacana, Painted Snipe, Crab Plover, Oystercatcher, Stilt, Avocet, Pratincole, Plovers, Sandpipers, Gulls & Terns.

**Little Grebe**



*Tachybaptus ruficollis*, 27 cm.  
**NB:** Brown above, sandy buff below, darker on cap, nape, and back, iris yellow. **B:** Sides of neck chestnut, yellow gape patch.  
**Status:** R  
**Habitat:** Ponds, lakes, marshes, and rivers.

**Black-necked Grebe**



*Podiceps nigricollis*, 30 cm.  
**NB:** Dark cap, red iris, white breast, and throat. **B:** Golden ear-tufts; head, neck and back black, under-parts brick red.  
**Status:** WV  
**Habitat:** Lakes, marshes, and estuaries.

**Night Heron**



*Nycticorax nycticorax*, 57.5 cm.  
 Black green from crown to mantle, wings grey, long white plumes on hind neck.  
**Status:** R  
**Habitat:** Rivers, pools, lakes, marshes, and mangroves.

**Large Cormorant**

*Phalacrocorax carbo*, 90 cm.  
**NB:** Black body with bronzy-tinged upperparts, yellow throat, white part behind eyes.  
**B:** White on rear crown, hind neck and thighs, reddish spot on bare facial skin.  
**Status:** WV  
**Habitat:** Lakes, marshes, rivers, and sheltered bays.



**Little Cormorant**



*Phalacrocorax niger*, 51 cm.  
**NB:** Black with chin and throat white.  
**B:** Forehead, sides of head and neck with narrow white feathers. **Status:** R/M  
**Habitat:** Lakes, marshes, reservoirs, rivers, mangroves, and tidal creeks.

**Purple Heron**



*Ardea purpurea*, 79 cm.  
**NB:** Mostly purplish-grey; head and neck orange to buff with black stripe along length on each side, chestnut hind neck.  
**Status:** R  
**Habitat:** Lakes, marshes, rice fields, mangroves, and mudflats.

**Reef Heron**



*Egretta gularis*, 62.5 cm.  
 Bluish slaty with a white patch on throat, legs greenish.  
**Status:** R  
**Habitat:** Rocky coasts, mudflats, marshes, and mangroves.

**Grey Heron**



*Ardea cinerea*, 94 cm.  
**NB:** Back and upper wings grey, white crown, white neck with black lateral markings, black shoulder patch. **B:** Black trailing tuft of feathers on head, bill yellow. **Status:** WV/R  
**Habitat:** Lakes, marshes, rice fields, mudflats, and rivers.

**Pond Heron**



*Ardeola grayii*, 46 cm.  
**NB:** Head and neck dark brown, streaked with yellowish buff, upperparts ashy-brown.  
**B:** Head and neck buff, back rich maroon, breast brownish buff. **Status:** R  
**Habitat:** Marshes, streams, rice fields, and ponds.

**White-breasted Water-hen**



*Amauornis phoenicurus*, 32.5 cm. Dark slate-grey back, white face and under-parts, reddish under tail coverts, bill green-yellow with red base. **Status:** R **Habitat:** Marshes, ditches, ponds, rice fields, grasslands, and sugarcane fields.

**Coot**



*Fulica atra*, 39 cm. Rounded, sooty black waterbird with white bill and facial shield and red eyes. **Status:** WV **Habitat:** Lakes, reservoirs, and ponds.

**Common Moorhen**



*Gallinula chloropus*, 32.5 cm. Dark brownish-grey, white line on flanks, red shield on face, and yellow tip to bill. **Status:** R **Habitat:** Marshes with vegetation cover.

**Purple Moorhen**



*Porphyrio porphyrio*, 43 cm. Violet-blue plumage, bright blue face, and red eyes, legs and bill. **Status:** R **Habitat:** Large lakes and marshes having dense reed-beds

**Oyster Catcher**



*Haematopus ostralegus*, 45 cm. Black and white plumage, red eyes, orange-pink bill and red pink legs. **Status:** WV **Habitat:** Sea coasts, estuaries, and mudflats.

**White-tailed Lapwing**



*Vanellus leucurus*, 28 cm. Buffish brown plumage, legs yellow, bill dark. **Status:** WV **Habitat:** Shallow margins of lakes.

**Yellow-wattled Lapwing**



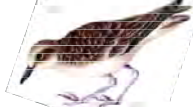
*Vanellus malabaricus*, 27 cm. **NB:** Upper-parts and breast brown, belly white, yellow wattle in front of eyes, black crown, white stripe near eye. **Status:** SBV **Habitat:** Wet and dry open land.

**Red-wattled Lapwing**



*Vanellus indicus*, 33 cm. **NB:** Crown, nape, chin, throat and breast black, red wattle in front of eyes, rest of upper-parts brown, under-parts white. **Status:** R **Habitat:** Marshes, ditches, open country, farmlands, and roadsides.

**Large Sand Plover**



*Charadrius leschenaultii*, 21.5 cm. **NB:** Upper-parts sandy brown, under-parts white with brown band round lower neck, thicker bill. **B:** Brick-red chest band extending around side of nape to rear of super-cilium, face white, legs pale-brown or greenish. **Status:** WV **Habitat:** Coasts and estuaries,

**Grey Plover**



*Pluvialis squatarola*, 29.5 cm. **NB:** Grey-speckled upper-parts, underparts dirty white, with extensive pale-grey markings on breast, bill and legs black. **Status:** WV **Habitat:** Coastal and estuarine mudflats, and sandflats.

**Ringed Plover**



*Charadrius hiaticula*, 19 cm. **NB:** Upper-parts grey-brown, under-parts white, broad white forehead, wide black frontal bar, dark sandy brown crown, black breast band, yellow bill, legs dull orange-yellow. **B:** Same as non-breeding but yellow bill tipped black, legs bright orange-yellow (dull vs bright) **Status:** WV **Habitat:** Shores, mudflats, and sandflats.

**Crab Plover**



*Dromas ardeola*, 38 cm. Pied plumage, heavy pointed black bill, long pale grey legs. **Status:** M **Habitat:** Coastal mudflats and reefs.

**Black-tailed Godwit**



*Limosa limosa*, 39 cm.

**B:** Head and neck brick-red, upper-parts and chest mottled with black, chestnut and grey; under-side mostly grey-white, black bars from breast to flanks. **NB:** Pale gray above, grey-white below, long, almost straight bill. **Status:** WV **Habitat:** Mudflats and grasslands.

**Bar-tailed Godwit**



*Limosa lapponica*, 41 cm.

**NB:** Long slightly upturned bill, upper-parts pale grey-brown with brown markings on breast and flanks. **B:** Chestnut from breast to underparts. **Status:** WV **Habitat:** Sandflats.

**Whimbrel**



*Numenius phaeopus*, 43 cm. Long down curved bill, crown with two dark stripes and pale supercilium. **Status:** WV

**Habitat:** Mudflats, rice fields, rivers banks, and grasslands

**Redshank**



*Tringa totanus*, 28 cm. Long stout bill, long legs, winter plumage almost uniformly grey-brown above and very pale below, orange-red legs and base to bill.

**B:** Under-parts with dark brown spots, bright orange-red legs. **Status:** WV **Habitat:** Coastal wetlands.

**Terek Sandpiper**



*Tringa terek*, 23 cm. Distinctive long up-curved bill, legs short and yellow-orange, upper-parts grey brown, under-parts white. **Status:** WV

**Habitat:** Mudflats and estuaries.

**Wood Sandpiper**



*Tringa glareola*, 22 cm.

**NB:** Upper-parts grey-brown, breast dark with obscure brown streaks, supercilium white and distinct and extends behind eye, white eye-ring, greenish-yellow legs. **B:** Breast buffish-white with bold dark brown streaks, barring on flanks; **Status:** WV **Habitat:** Inland freshwater.

**Greenshank**



*Tringa nebularia*, 35 cm.

Mostly grey having white terminal crescents on back, long green legs and slightly upturned bill. **B:** Head, neck and breast blackish-brown and heavily streaked, blackish marks with white notches present on the back. **Status:** WV **Habitat:** Mudflats and coasts.

**Spotted Redshank**



*Tringa erythropus*, 33 cm.

**NB:** Upper-parts grey, fringed with white, supercilium white, under-parts white, legs orange-red. **B:** Head, neck, under-parts all black, upper-parts black but spotted and notched white, legs dark brown-red, eye-ring white. **Status:** WV **Habitat:** Marshes and freshwater.

**Curlew Sandpiper**



*Calidris ferruginea*, 20.5 cm. WV in ter adult pale grey above with pale feather margins and light streaking on upper chest, under-parts pure white, down-curved black bill, white supercilium. **Status:** WV

**Habitat:** Mudflats, rice fields, and inlets.

**Common Sandpiper**



*Tringa hypoleucos*, 20 cm.

Upper-parts grey-buff, under-side white with white small patch extending in front of shoulder, supercilium white. **Status:** WV

**Habitat:** Lakes, marshes, and rivers.

**Marsh Sandpiper**



*Tringa stagnatilis*, 25 cm.

Slender straight black bill, extremely long grayish-green legs. **NB:** Upper-parts plain, brownish grey with whitish fringes, distinct white supercilium, grayish-green legs. **B:** Upper-parts grayish-brown with black shaft streaks, dense dark streaking from head to breast, legs yellowish. **Status:** WV

**Habitat:** Inland lakes and marshes.

**Green Sandpiper**



*Tringa ochropus*, 24 cm.

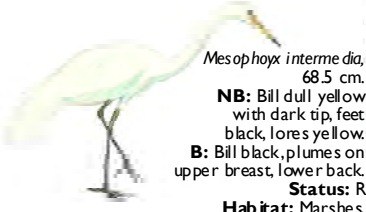
Upper-parts dark olive green with brownish tone, fading to grey-green on head, white eye ring, and dull white spots on back; bright white underside; legs blackish green. **Status:** WV

**Habitat:** Inland freshwater.



**Cattle Egret**

*Bubulcus ibis*, 53 cm.  
**NB:** White bird with a bulging throat; bill, lores yellow, body all white, legs dull yellowish green.  
**B:** Orange-yellow plumes on whole head, fore neck and back; legs pinkish orange.  
**Status:** R  
**Habitat:** Marshes, rice fields, and grasslands.



**Intermediate Egret**

*Mesophoyx intermedia*, 68.5 cm.  
**NB:** Bill dull yellow with dark tip, feet black, lores yellow.  
**B:** Bill black, plumes on upper breast, lower back.  
**Status:** R  
**Habitat:** Marshes, grasslands and rice fields.



**Great White Egret**

*Casmerodius alba*, 94 cm.  
**NB:** Plumage all white, bill yellow, dark greenish, yellow legs, blackish streak along gape, fairly long bill, neck and legs.  
**B:** Bill black, lores yellow-green, plumes on lower back.  
**Status:** WV  
**Habitat:** Lakes, rivers, mudflats, marshes and rice fields.



**Lesser Flamingo**

*Phoenicopterus minor*, 100 cm.  
Deeper rose-pink plumage, darker bill with crimson feathers around the base, dark red iris and facial skin.  
**Status:** NBR  
**Habitat:** Brackish lakes and salt pans.



**Great White Pelican**

*Pelecanus oncorotus*, 157 cm.  
**NB:** Upper parts buffy, legs pink, bare patch of pink skin around eyes.  
**B:** White body tinged pink; short crest, yellow on fore neck/ breast.  
**Status:** WV  
**Habitat:** Lakes and marshes.



**Little Egret**

*Egretta garzetta*, 60 cm.  
**NB:** All white with long black bill, conspicuous yellow feet, lores yellow.  
**B:** Long slender crest on rear crown, plumes on breast, lower back.  
**Status:** R  
**Habitat:** Lakes, marshes, rivers, lotus ponds, mudflats, rice fields, and mangroves.



**Greater Flamingo**

*Phoenicopterus roseus*, 140 cm.  
Rosy-white with scarlet-black wings, large black-tipped pink bill, legs very long and pinkish-red.  
**Status:** NBR  
**Habitat:** Brackish lakes and lagoons, salt pans, estuaries, and tidal mudflats.



**Dalmatian Pelican**

*Pelecanus crispus*, 170 cm.  
**NB:** White plumage with blue-gray tinge, legs lead-gray, gular pouch pink.  
**B:** Short crest.  
**Status:** WV  
**Habitat:** Lakes, marshes, rivers, and sea-coasts.



**Curlew**

*Numenius arquata*, 60 cm.  
Long down curved bill, mottled brown plumage with streaked under-side and white central region.  
**Status:** WV  
**Habitat:** Coasts and mudflats.

### Common Teal



*Anas crecca*, 37 cm.

Male: Orange-brown head with large green patch from eye to nape with distinct yellow line, black-bordered creamy yellow patches on sides of stem. Female: Black eye-stripe, black bill and legs, mottled grey-brown plumage. **Status:** WV

**Habitat:** Lakes, marshes, pools, and rivers.

### Marbled Teal



*Marmarsetta angustirostris*, 40 cm. Ground color grey-brown, covered with pale buff spots, dark smudge through eye, belly and under tail coverts whitish, bill grayish-black. **Status:** R/WV **Habitat:** Fresh water lakes and ponds, brackish pools, and marshes.

### Gadwall



*Anas strepera*, 50 cm.

Male: Grey plumage, bill dark grey, black stern. Female: Brown plumage, white speculum, yellow bill with orange-yellow sides. **Status:** WV **Habitat:** Open lakes, marshes, and rivers.

### Red-crested Pochard



*Netta rufina*, 50 cm.

Male: Head golden-chestnut; neck, underparts and tail-coverts black, flanks white, back gray-brown, bill and legs red, white shoulder line

Female: Brown with dark brown cap and hindneck, cheeks and throat whitish. **Status:** WV **Habitat:** Lakes and marshes.

### Common Pochard



*Aythya ferina*, 45 cm.

Male: Orange-reddish head and neck; breast black, under-parts and back grey, bill black with pale-grey band near tip. Female: Mottled brown and gray-brown, pale spectacle around eye, head and neck brown.

**Status:** WV **Habitat:** Lakes, marshes, pools, and rivers.

### White-eyed Pochard



*Aythya nyroca*, 41 cm.

Male: Uniform chocolate brown plumage with dark back and white stern, bill grey with dark tip, iris white, flanks reddish brown, belly white. Female: Brown all over; iris brown, white under tail coverts.

**Status:** WV **Habitat:** Lakes, marshes, rivers, inlets, and bays.

### Shoveller



*Anas clypeata*, 50 cm.

Male: Broad, flattened bill, green head; belly and flanks, chestnut, white breast.

Female: Mottled brown, broad dark bill with orange lower edges. **Status:** WV **Habitat:** Lakes and rivers.

### Tufted Duck



*Aythya fuligula*, 40 cm.

Male: Head black with purple gloss, belly and flanks white, bill grey with white band towards end and black tip, iris yellow, crest on head. Female: Mostly brown plumage, slightly paler on flanks, short tuft of feathers on head. **Status:** WV **Habitat:** Lakes, marshes, pools, and rivers.

### Mallard



*Anas platyrhynchos*, 59 cm.

Male: Mostly grey brown plumage, green head, yellow bill, chestnut breast. Female: Orange-yellow bill, uniform brown plumage, whitish tail, bill black with orange patches on sides. **Status:** WV **Habitat:** Lakes and marshes.

### Pin tail



*Anas acuta*, 51-56 cm.

Male: Head and neck chocolate-brown, white on under-parts and on front of neck, stern buff and black, flanks grey and black. Female: Dark-grey bill and largely brown plumage. **Status:** WV **Habitat:** Lakes, marshes, and rivers.

### Garganey



*Anas querquedula*, 38 cm.

Male: Broad-white crescent shaped stripe over eye; head and neck reddish-brown, breast brown, and flanks grey.

Female: Distinct black eye stripe, small oval patch at base of bill, wing-coverts gray-brown. **Status:** PM **Habitat:** Lakes, marshes, and rivers.





**Little-ringed Plover**

*Charadrius dubius*, 16 cm. Dull-brown upper parts, pure white under parts. Bright yellow eye ring, bill black and legs dull orange-brown. **Status:** WV **Habitat:** Mudflats and sand flats.

**Kentish Plover**



*Charadrius alexandrinus*, 17.5 cm. Broken breast band, sandy-brown upper parts and dark legs, white forehead. Same as non-breeding. **Status:** R/WV/PM **Habitat:** Beaches and coastal mudflats.

**Lesser Sand Plover**



*Charadrius mongolus*, 19.5 cm. **NB:** Upper parts sandy brown, under parts white with dusky patches on sides of breast forming incomplete breast band. **B:** Lores, areas around eye and frontal bar black, sides of neck and breast-band rusty-red, throat white. **Status:** WV **Habitat:** Coastal and river wetlands.

**Sanderling**



*Calidris alba*, 20.5 cm. In winter, pale-grey upperparts with white fringes to feathers, thick shorter black bill, and black legs, black patch at band of closed wing. **Status:** WV **Habitat:** Sandy shores, mudflats, and inlets.

**Scaup**



*Aythya marila*, 45 cm. Male: Head black with greenish sheen, breast black, back pale grey, flanks and belly white. Female: Head dark brown, large white patch at base of bill, breast and back brown. **Status:** Vagrant **Habitat:** Estuaries, inlets, bays, and lakes.

**Little Stint**



*Calidris minuta*, 13 cm. Black legs and short black bill. Winter plumage mostly grey buff above and white below. **Status:** WV **Habitat:** Mudflats, river banks, and rice fields.

**Dunlin**



*Calidris alpina*, 18.5 cm. Winter plumage pale grey above and white below with slight grey streaking on upper breast and crown, longish black bill slightly downward at tip, legs black. **Status:** WV **Habitat:** Mudflats, inlets, and river banks.

**Ruff**



*Philomachus pugnax*, 22.5-29.5 cm. Short slightly decurved bill, orange-red legs, feathers of upperparts black centered, conspicuous black blotching on breast and flanks. **Status:** WV **Habitat:** Marshes, mudflats, and rice fields.

**Painted Snipe**



*Rostratula benghalensis*, 23.5 cm. Male: Markings on head yellowish, area around eye yellowish white. Female: Dark chestnut breast and neck, dark head with white around and behind eye, conspicuous white line on side of breast. **Status:** M **Habitat:** Freshwater marshes, vegetated pools, and mangroves.

**Black-winged Stilt**



*Himantopus himantopus*, 32 cm. Long legged wader; wings and mantle black, and under-side white, black on head. **Status:** R **Habitat:** Marshes, coastal and estuarine mudflats, and rice fields.

**Avocet**



*Recurvirostra avosetta*, 43 cm. Large white wader, forehead, crown, and neck black, upturned bill, legs blue-grey, upper wing white with black bars. **Status:** R **Habitat:** Estuarine, coastal sandflats, and mudflats.

**Glossy Ibis**



*Plegadis falcinellus*, 52 cm. Plumage mostly chestnut, glossed with green and purple, bill curved downwards. **Status:** R/WV **Habitat:** Lakes and marshes.

**Small Indian Pratincole**



*Glareola lactea*, 17 cm. Crown pale grey, mantle pale sandy-grey, throat pink buff, breast buff grey, belly white. **Status:** SBV **Habitat:** Marshes and rivers.

### Sooty Gull



*Larus hemprichi*, 46 cm.  
**B:** Brown head, grayish-brown mantle and upper wing, stout yellow bill with red and black bands on tip, collar white. **NB:** White collar reduced or lacking.  
**Status:** R/VV  
**Habitat:** Coasts and estuaries.

### Herring Gull



*Larus argentatus*, 60 cm.  
Silver-grey mantle, heavily streaked on head, large yellow bill with orange spot near tip of lower mandible, eyes yellow, and legs pink.  
**Status:** VV  
**Habitat:** Lakes, marshes, rivers, and coast.

### Brown-headed Gull



*Larus brunicephalus*, 42 cm.  
**NB:** Mantle and back pale-grey, white rump, under-parts white, head white with dark spot on ear-coverts, bill red with black tip. **B:** Similar to non-breeding but head with a brown hood.  
**Status:** VV  
**Habitat:** Lakes, rivers, and seacoasts.

### Black-headed Gull



*Larus ridibundus*, 40.5 cm.  
**NB:** Head white with two blackish smudges around eye and on neck, dark red legs and red bill with dark tip. **B:** Head blackish-brown down to nape, white crescents above and below eye. **Status:** VV  
**Habitat:** Lakes, marshes, rivers, coasts, estuaries, and mudflats.

### Whiskered Tern



*Chlidonia hybridus*, 25.5 cm.  
**NB:** Grey upper-parts, and white under-parts. Bill and legs black, black stripes on white crown, black patch on ear-coverts extends to rear crown and hind neck. **B:** Jet black crown and nape, white lower face, upper wing grey; bill and legs dark red.  
**Status:** M  
**Habitat:** Lakes, marshes, estuaries, salt pans, rice fields and coasts.

### River Tern



*Sterna aurantia*, 40 cm.  
**B:** Forehead, crown and nape black, back and wings deep grey, long forked tail, bill pointed orange-yellow, legs crimson-red. **NB:** Black crown and nape with white flecks, bill yellow dark tipped. **Status:** R  
**Habitat:** Freshwater lakes, marshes, and rivers.

### Gull-billed Tern



*Gelochelidon nilotica*, 39 cm. Bill black, thick and blunt, legs black  
**NB:** Upper-parts white, conspicuous black patch on ear-coverts. **B:** Black cap, grey upper parts, and tail.  
**Status:** VV  
**Habitat:** lakes, marshes, coasts, and estuaries.

### Caspian Tern



*Hydroprogne caspia*, 52.5 cm.  
**B:** Crown and shaggy nape black, hind neck, face and under parts white, back and upper wings grey, thick red bill. **NB:** Cap mottled with black speckling extending on the face.  
**Status:** M  
**Habitat:** Lakes, marshes, coasts, estuaries, and marine islands.

### Sandwich Tern



*Sterna sandvicensis*, 42 cm. Large tern with long head and bill, tail deeply forked.  
**NB:** Crown white, streaked with black. **B:** Jet black cap with shaggy crest to rear, black bill tipped with yellow.  
**Status:** M  
**Habitat:** Coasts and creeks.

### White-cheeked Tern



*Sterna repressa*, 32 cm.  
**NB:** Forehead white, legs black, neck and breast white. **B:** Longer thinner red bill with blackish tip, upper-parts dark grey, red legs, white line below black cap. **Status:** SV  
**Habitat:** Coastal and marine.

### Little Tern



*Sterna albifrons*, 28 cm.  
**NB:** Bill black, legs yellowish-brown, crown ashy-grey. **B:** Black cap and nape, white from forehead to behind eyes, bill yellow with black tip, legs yellowish-orange.  
**Status:** R  
**Habitat:** Coasts, rivers, and reservoirs.

### Lesser Crested Tern



*Sterna bengalensis*, 40 cm. Robust orange-yellow bill at all times,  
**NB:** Black on head confined to patch from eye to nape and rear of crown. **B:** Black crown and crest, legs black. **Status:** R  
**Habitat:** Coasts.

### Black-bellied Tern



*Sterna acuticauda*, 32 cm. orange bill in all plumages  
**NB:** Crown white, nape streaked black, breast and belly white or lightly speckled with black. **B:** Crown and nape glossy black; lores, cheeks and throat white, upper breast and belly dark chocolate brown to black, back and wings pale silver-gray, forked gray tail with streamers, slender orange-red bill.  
**Status:** VV  
**Habitat:** Lakes and rivers.



**Slender-billed Gull**

*Larus genei*, 42 cm. Elongated (flat) forehead and distinctive longish bill, head white, bill dark red with black tip. **Status:** R **Habitat:** Saline lakes, marshes, salt pans, estuaries, and coasts.



**White Spoonbill**

*Platalea leucorodia*, 86 cm. **NB:** White body, long black bill with spatulate yellow tip, black line from base of bill to eyes. **B:** With long orange-yellow crest, orange-yellow band on upper breast. **Status:** WV **Habitat:** Shallow areas of lakes, marshes, pools, and rivers.



**Water Rail**

*Rallus aquaticus*, 29 cm. Slightly downcurved bill with red base, olive-brown back with black streaking; face and breast grayish, black-and-white banded sides, legs pinkish. **Status:** WV **Habitat:** Marshes with dense vegetation cover and reed-beds.



**Black Bittern**

*Dupetor flavicollis*, 58 cm. Male: Crown and upper-parts black, yellow-buff stripe on sides of neck. Female: Upper-parts blackish brown, under-parts whitish. **Status:** R **Habitat:** Marshes, reed-beds, rice-fields and mangroves.



**European Wigeon**

*Anas penelope*, 48 cm. Male: Orange head with a yellow fore-crown, breast pinkish, back and flanks grey, under-parts white, stem black. Female: mainly brown, white belly, dark feathering around eye, white bar in front of green speculum. **Status:** WV **Habitat:** Lakes, marshes, rivers, and sheltered bays.



**Baillon's Crake**

*Porzana pusilla*, 19.5 cm. Chestnut-brown upperparts, blue-gray underparts, broad chestnut-brown eye-strip, mantle streaked with black-and-white, flanks and belly barred dark brown and white, short greenish-yellow bill. **Status:** WV **Habitat:** Marshes, rice-fields, edges of ponds, and ditches.



**Demoiselle Crane**

*Anthropoides virgo*, 95 cm. Ashy-gray crown and body, long black plumes hang down from foreneck, white tufts of feathers from behind eye. Bill olive-gray with pink tip. **Status:** PM **Habitat:** Lakes, rivers, reservoirs, and farmland.



**Pheasant-tailed Jacana**

*Hydrophasianus chirurgus*, 55 cm. **NB:** Upper-parts brown, under-parts white with dark breast band, yellow hind-neck, white fore-neck and face. **B:** Long black tail in breeding season with black underparts and white wings. **Status:** R **Habitat:** Lakes, marshes, and ponds with dense vegetation.

## PASSERINES/ SONG BIRDS & PERCHING BIRDS



Larks, Swallows, Shrikes, Drongos, Mynas, Crows, Woodshrike, Bulbuls, Babblers, Flycatchers, Warblers, Bushchat, Pipits, Wagtails, Sunbird, Sparrows, Weaver Birds, Munias and Buntings.

### Singing Bush Lark



*Mirafra cantillans*, 14 cm. Similar to female sparrow with much more rufous, or chestnut in the wings, outer tail feathers white. Below fulvous streaked with triangular brown marks.  
**Status:** R  
**Habitat:** Grassland, fallow cultivation, scrubby, sandy and semi-desert.

### Ashy-crowned Finch Lark



*Eremopterix grisea*, 12 cm. Male: Sandy-brown above, black below, with ashy crown and whitish cheeks. Female like the hen house sparrow.  
**Status:** R  
**Habitat:** Open cultivated country and semi barren wasteland.

### Crested Lark



*Galerida cristata*, 18 cm. Large size, prominent pointed crest, sandy upperparts and well-streaked breast.  
**Status:** R  
**Habitat:** Sandy, semi-desert, cultivated plains, and coastal mudflats.

### Desert Lark



*Ammomanes deserti*, 17 cm. Pale earthy-brown tinged with rufous on upper tail coverts, much rufous in brown wings and tail, cheeks and ear coverts grayish brown. Chin, throat and upper breast fulvous-white, faintly dark streaked, lower plumage grayish rufous-pink.  
**Status:** R  
**Habitat:** Desert, hill slopes, and fallow lands in desert canal cultivation.

### Common Sky Lark



*Alauda arvensis*, 18 cm. Upper-parts buff, streaked blackish-brown, crown well-streaked, pale-buff supercilium around buff cheeks, under-parts buff white with heavy streaking across breast and flanks.  
**Status:** WV  
**Habitat:** Grassland and cultivated fields.

### Cliff Swallow



*Hirundo fluvicola*, 12 cm. Glossy steel blue above, pale brown rump, dull chestnut forehead and crown, whitish below boldly streaked with brown on throat and upper breast.  
**Status:** R  
**Habitat:** Large colonies near water, canals, and tanks.

### Wire-tailed Swallow



*Hirundo smithii*, 14 cm. Glossy steel blue above, with a chestnut cap, glistening white underparts, two fine long wires in the tail.  
**Status:** R  
**Habitat:** Open country and cultivation, near water.

### Common Swallow or Barn Swallow



*Hirundo rustica*, 18 cm. Glossy steel blue, or purplish-blue above, pale pinkish white below. Chestnut forehead and throat, throat bordered by a broad glossy black pectoral band, long forked tail.  
**Status:** R  
**Habitat:** Open cultivated country and around human settlements.

### Collared Sand Martin



*Riparia riparia*, 13 cm. Dark grey brown above, broad brown band across breast, light brown smudges on flanks, under-parts white.  
**Status:** WV  
**Habitat:** Sandy banks, and near water.

### Chiffchaff



*Phylloscopus collybita*, 11 cm. Olive crown and mantle and yellow supercilium; underparts whitish washed with brown; two pale wing bars.  
**Status:** WV  
**Habitat:** Mangroves, groves, bushes, gardens, standing crops, and reedbeds.

### Rosy Pastor



*Sturnus roseus*, 21 cm. Rose-pink, glistening black head, neck and upper breast, wings and tail, long, pointed crest on crown and nape.  
**Status:** PM  
**Habitat:** Open cultivation, grassland, and semi-desert.

**Grey Shrike**



*Lanius excubitor*, 25 cm. Silver grey with longish black and white tail, broad black stripe from bill backward through eye, wing with a white patch. **Status:** R  
**Habitat:** Semi desert and dry cultivation, interspersed with patches of thorny scrub, and wasteland.

**Baybacked Shrike**



*Lanius vittatus*, 17 cm. Hook-tipped bill, grey and white head with broad black band across forehead, and backward through the eyes, chestnut maroon back, mirror spots on wings, black and white graduated tail. **Status:** R  
**Habitat:** Dry and deciduous open thorn scrub jungle and outskirts of cultivation.

**Rufous-backed or Long-tailed Shrike**



*Lanius schach*, 25 cm. Forehead and a band through eye black, head grey, lower back and rump bright rufous. Under-parts washed with rufous, tail long. **Status:** R  
**Habitat:** Open wooded country and cultivation.

**Black Drongo**



*Dicurus adsimilis*, 28 cm. Glossy black bird, long deeply forked tail. **Status:** R  
**Habitat:** open deciduous forest and cultivation.

**Sind Wood Shrike**



*Tephrodornis pondicerianus*, 18 cm. Plain grayish-brown with a dark stripe below the eye and a distinct white supercilium. **Status:** R  
**Habitat:** Scrub and bush country and light deciduous forest.

**Sind Starling**



*Sturnus vulgaris*, 21 cm. Slim, glossy black with metallic green and purple reflections, finely stippled with whitish, feathers of head, neck, and breast pointed. **Status:** R  
**Habitat:** Cultivation, orchards, marshes, and vicinity of habitations.

**Indian Myna**



*Acridotheres tristis*, 25 cm. Dark brown with yellow bill, legs, and bare skin around eyes, a large white patch in wing. **Status:** R  
**Habitat:** Neighborhood of homesteads, villages, and cities.

**Bank Myna**



*Acridotheres gininianus*, 23 cm. Pale bluish-grey; naked skin around eyes, brick-red; pink on wings. **Status:** R  
**Habitat:** Neighborhood of human habitations.

**Tree Pie**



*Dendrocitta vagabunda*, 46-50 cm. Long-tailed chestnut brown bird with sooty head and neck, black-tipped grey tail and grayish-white wing patches. **Status:** R  
**Habitat:** Wooded country and scrub jungle.



**Sindh House Crow**

*Corvus splendens*, 40 cm. Grey neck, black body and head and neck. **Status:** R  
**Habitat:** Human habitations.

passerines/ song birds & perching birds

**Large Pied or White-browed Wagtail**



*Motacilla maderaspatensis*, 21cm. Black and white plumage, prominent white eyebrow.  
**Status:** R  
**Habitat:** Water streams, reservoirs and pools.

**White Wagtail**



*Motacilla alba*, 19 cm. Plumage grey and white with black chin and throat, and underparts white.  
**Status:** WV  
**Habitat:** Open country, vicinity of water courses, reservoirs, cultivation, lawns, and playing fields.

**Yellow Wagtail**



*Motacilla flava*, 18 cm. Slim, lively, long tailed bird, chiefly yellowish or olive-green above, yellow below.  
**Status:** PM/WV  
**Habitat:** Damp grasslands.

**House Sparrow**



*Passer domesticus*, 15 cm. Male: Grey crown, black lores and around eye, sides of neck and upper back chestnut, back rufous-chestnut, black streaked.  
Female: Ashy grey-brown above, streaked with blackish and rufous, pale fulvous supercilium, fulvous ashy white below.  
**Status:** R  
**Habitat:** Human habitation and cultivation.

**Sind Purple Sunbird**



*Nectarinia asiatica*, 10 cm. Male metallic dark blue and purple, pectoral tufts bright yellow and scarlet. Male in non-breeding, plumage like the female, brown to olive-brown above, pale dull yellow below, but with darker wings and a bright black stripe running down middle of breast.  
**Status:** R  
**Habitat:** Gardens, groves, cultivated and scrub country, and light deciduous forest.

**Streaked Weaver Bird**



*Ploceus manyar*, 14 cm. Breastfulvous, boldly streaked with black. Crown in breeding males yellow, in females and non-breeding males brown.  
**Status:** R  
**Habitat:** Tall coarse grassland and swampy tall reed-beds.

**Common Silverbill**



*Lonchura malabarica*, 11-11.5 cm. Earthy-brown, thick billed bird with pointed black tail, white upper tail-coverts, whitish under-parts.  
**Status:** R  
**Habitat:** Dry open cultivated country, sparse scrub, and bush country.

**Sindh Sparrow**



*Passer pyrrhonotus*, 13 cm. Similar to the House Sparrow. Male has less chestnut on head and a smaller black throat patch. Female has more prominent buffish-white supercilium than female House Sparrow.  
**Status:** R  
**Habitat:** Trees close to water.

**Indian Baya**



*Ploceus philippinus*, 15 cm. Female and male in non-breeding plumage, rather like the house sparrow. dark streaked fulvous-brown above, plain white fulvous-brown below.  
B male: Bright yellow crown; upper-parts dark brown, streaked with yellow; yellow breast, cream-buff under-parts.  
**Status:** R  
**Habitat:** Grasslands and secondary scrub dotted with Acacias and palm trees.

**Red Munia**



*Estrilda amandava*, 10 cm. NB: Brownish, sparsely stippled with white; red bill, and crimson rump.  
Breeding Male: Mainly red with white spotting.  
**Status:** R  
**Habitat:** Swamps, reed beds, and tall wet grassland.

passerines/ song birds & perching birds

**Streaked Wren-warbler or Graceful Prinia**



*Prinia gracilis*, 11 cm. Pale drab brown; crown and back dark streaked, white around eyes. Tail long, tipped white with sub-terminal dark spot; whitish below washed with buff. **Status:** R **Habitat:** Tamarisk, grass, scrub jungle in sandy, and semi desert country.

**Plain Wren-warbler or Plain Prinia**



*Prinia inornata*, 13 cm. Plain, sand coloured with longish graduated tail. Above sandy brown, supercilium and sides of head creamy-white, below cream-coloured. **Status:** R **Habitat:** Scrub and boulder country, open cultivation, mangroves, and salt marshes in coastal areas.

**Tailor Bird**



*Orthotomus sutorius*, 13 cm. Restless, olive-green bird, whitish under-parts, rust-coloured crown, two elongated pinpointed feathers in the tail. **Status:** R **Habitat:** Scrub country near cultivation, gardens, wooded compound, and deciduous jungle.

**Black Redstart**



*Phoenicurus ochruros*, 15 cm. Slim, active, black and orange chestnut bird constantly shivering its tail and dipping forepart of body. Female: brown and paler, orange-chestnut tail. **Status:** WV **Habitat:** Villages, cultivation, groves of trees, stony, and sparsely scrubbed broken country.

**Collared Bushchat or Stonechat**



*Saxicola torquata*, 17 cm. Male: Black head, orange-brown breast; prominent white patches on sides of neck, shoulders and above root of tail. Female: Streaked upperparts, orange on breast and rump. **Status:** PM **Habitat:** Open country, fallow land, reedy margins of tanks and marshes, mangroves, and tidal creeks.

**Pied Bushchat**



*Saxicola caprata*, 13.5 cm. Male: Black with white patches in rump, abdomen and wings. Female: Earth-brown with pale rusty colored rump. **Status:** R **Habitat:** Cultivation, sparsely scrubbed hillside, and coarse grass near water.

**Indian Robin**



*Saxicoloides fulicata*, 19 cm. Black with a white patch on wing, rusty undertail. Hen ashy brown without the wing patch. **Status:** R **Habitat:** Stony scrub country, around town, and villages.

**Paddyfield Pipit**



*Anthus novaeseelandiae*, 15 cm. Coloured like the female house sparrow. Dark brown above marked with fulvous, pale fulvous below, streaked with brown on breast. **Status:** R **Habitat:** Grassland, stubble fields, fallows, and marshy ground.

**Hume's wheatear**



*Oenanthe alboniger*, 17 cm. Black and white bird; rump, upper tail covers, lower breast and belly white. Terminal tail band black. **Status:** R **Habitat:** Barren stony slopes with boulders.



**Lesser Whitethroat**

*Sylvia curruca*, 13 cm. Brown above, whitish below, purer white on the throat, forehead and ear-coverts dark gray contrasting with brown back. Lower parts greyish white. **Status:** WV **Habitat:** Scrub jungle and bushes in semi-desert stony country.

passerines/ song birds & perching birds

**White-cheeked Bulbul**



*Pycnonotus leucogenys*, 20 cm. Earth brown with black head, glistening white cheeks, sulphur, yellow under root of tail. **Status:** R **Habitat:** Open scrub, cultivation, and gardens.

**Red-vented Bulbul**



*Pycnonotus cafer*, 20 cm. Perky smoke-brown bird partially crested black head, scale like markings on breast and back, crimson patch below root of tail. **Status:** R **Habitat:** Cultivation and scrub.

**Black-headed Bunting**



*Emberiza melanocephala*, 18 cm. Pale fulvous brown above, with yellow. **Status:** PM **Habitat:** Cereal cultivation.

**White-browed Fantail Flycatcher**



flycatcher with a broad white forehead and supercilium extending to the nape, white under-parts, white tipped tail, indistinct broken black band across breast. **Status:** R **Habitat:** Dry open country, wooded compounds, parkland, and scrub jungle.

**Common Babbler**



*Turdoides caudatus*, 23 cm. Slim, earthy brown, with upper plumage streaked darker, long graduated loosely attached cross rayed tail, white throat. **Status:** R **Habitat:** Dry open country, semi-desert with thorn scrub, and shrubby vegetation.

**Jungle Babbler**



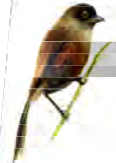
*Turdoides striatus*, 25 cm. Earthy brown, with stout yellowish bill, upperparts lightly streaked, dark mottling on throat and breast. **Status:** R **Habitat:** Deciduous forest, cultivation, and scrub jungle.

**Striated Babbler**



*Turdoides earlei*, 21 cm. Earthy-brown bird with long graduated tail, streaked head and neck, fulvous throat. **Status:** R **Habitat:** Swamps, tall grass, reeds, and bushes.

**Jerdon's or Sind Babbler**



*Chrysomma altirostre*, 17 cm. Above fulvous. Below chin, and throat white, breast and lower plumage ochraceous. Tail long and graduated, bill yellowish-brown, forehead black with ashy margins. **Status:** R **Habitat:** Reed beds and tall grasslands

**Cetti's Warbler**



*Cettia cetti*, 14 cm. Upper-parts and wings uniform chestnut brown, off-white eye-ring, grey supercilium; chin, and under-parts off-white. **Status:** WV **Habitat:** Watersides, swamps, and marshes.

**Paddy-field Warbler**



*Acrocephalus agricola*, 13 cm. Rufous brown above; paler, brighter rump, indistinct pale supercilium, throat whitish, under-parts - ochraceous buff. **Status:** WV **Habitat:** Reed-beds, elephant grass, sugarcane, and wet rice cultivation.

passerines/ song birds & perching birds



# OTHERS



Partridges, Quails, Sandgrouses, Pigeons, Doves, Parrots, Cuckoos, Owls, Nightjars, Swifts, Kingfishers, Bee-eaters, Roller, Hoopoe and Woodpeckers.

## Black Partridge



*Francolinus francolinus*, 34 cm. Mainly black, spotted and barred with white and fulvous, white cheek patches and chestnut collar (of the cock). Hen paler, mottled black and white, chestnut patch on nape. **Status:** R **Habitat:** Well watered scrub, tamarisk and grass jungle, millet, and sugarcane fields.

## Grey Partridge



*Francolinus pondicerianus*, 33 cm. Grayish brown, chestnut blotching above, black and buff vermiculations, chestnut tail, throat rufous-buff having a broken black line. **Status:** R **Habitat:** Dry open grass and thorn scrub country, neighborhood of villages, and cultivation.

## Chestnut-bellied or Indian Sandgrouse



*Pterocles exustus*, 31-33 cm. Yellowish sandy brown, narrow black band across the breast, brownish black belly; cheeks chin, and throat dull yellow. Female: Streaked, spotted and barred with black all over except the chin, a black band across breast. **Status:** R **Habitat:** Barren plains, stubble fields, and fallow land.

## Red Turtle Dove



*Streptopelia tranquebarica*, 23 cm. Male: Blue gray head, upperparts pinkish maroon, under-parts pink. Female: Darker fawn upperparts, buffish-grey underparts. **Status:** R/SV **Habitat:** Open cultivated country.

## Spotted Owllet



*Athene brama*, 21 cm. White spotted grayish brown; large head and yellow staring eyes. **Status:** R **Habitat:** Villages, ruins, and groves of old trees.

## Blue Rock Pigeon



*Columba livia*, 32 cm. Slaty grey bird; glistening metallic green, purple and magenta sheen on neck and upper breast, two dark bars on wings, a band across end of tail. **Status:** R **Habitat:** Open country with cliffs and rocky hills, gardens, disused buildings, living as a commensal of man in towns.

## Little Brown Dove



*Streptopelia senegalensis*, 27 cm. Earthy brown and gray above, pinkish brown and white below, rufous and black dashboard mark on either side of the neck. **Status:** R **Habitat:** Dry stony scrub country, neighborhood of villages and cultivation, semi-desert country.

## Ring Dove



*Streptopelia decaocto*, 32 cm. Pale vinous grey and brown bird, with a prominent narrow half-collar or ring on the hind neck. **Status:** R **Habitat:** Open cultivated or dry country, near human habitations, and gardens.

## Indian Koel



*Eudynamis scolopacea*, 43 cm. Glistening black, yellowish green bill and crimson eyes. Female: Brown, spotted and barred with white. **Status:** R **Habitat:** Garden, groves, and open country.

## Rose-ringed Parakeet



*Psittacula krameri*, 42 cm. Grass-green; typical short, massive, deeply hooked red bill, male has black chin stripe and pink collar. Female lacks the black and rose-pink collar of the male. **Status:** R **Habitat:** Thin jungle, orchards, cultivation, and human environs.

## Crow Pheasant



*Centropus sinensis*, 48 cm. Glossy black bird with conspicuous chestnut wings and long, broad, black graduated tail. **Status:** R **Habitat:** Open forest, scrub and grass land, groves about human habitation.

### Syke's or Sind Nighthjar



*Caprimulgus mahrattensis*, 23cm. Finely streaked crown, large white patches on sides of throat, indistinct collar on nape. **Status:** R **Habitat:** Canal side roads, or embankments.

### White-breasted Kingfisher



*Halcyon smymensis*, 28 cm. Brilliant turquoise blue with deep chocolate-brown head, neck and under-parts, white breast, long, heavy, pointed red bill. **Status:** R **Habitat:** Ponds, puddles, ditches, paddy field, and sea shore.

### Pied Kingfisher



*Ceryle rudis*, 31 cm. Speckled and barred black and white kingfisher with unbroken black gorget. Female with a single broken black gorget. **Status:** R **Habitat:** Lakes, reservoirs, stagnant water, ditches, streams, and tidal creeks.

### Indian Small Blue Kingfisher



*Alcedo atthis*, 16 cm. Blue and green small kingfisher, with deep rust colored under-parts, short stumpy tail and long, straight, pointed bill, white neck patches. **Status:** R **Habitat:** Streams, canals, ponds, mangroves swamps, and sea shore.

### House Swift



*Apus affinis*, 15 cm. Small smoky, black bird with white throat, white rump, short square tail and long narrow wings. **Status:** R **Habitat:** Around building, and cliffs.

### Hoopoe



*Upupa epops*, 31 cm. Fawn colored, with black and white zebra markings on back, wings and tail, conspicuous fan-shaped crest, long, slender, gently curved bill. **Status:** WVR **Habitat:** Open country, plains and hills, lawns, gardens, and groves.

### Roller or Blue Jay



*Coracias benghalensis*, 33 cm. Crown, back of head and wings blue, front of head and body rufous-brown. **Status:** R **Habitat:** Open cultivated country and light deciduous forest.

### Sind Small Green Bee-eater



*Merops orientalis*, 16-18 cm. Grass green bird tinged with reddish-brown on head and neck. Central pair of tail feathers plunged into blunt pins, conspicuous black necklace. **Status:** R **Habitat:** Open country, cultivation, forest clearings, fallow land, and gardens etc.

### Sind (Lesser) Gold backed Wood pecker



*Dinopium benghalensis*, 26-29 cm. Upper plumage golden yellow and black, lower buffy white streaked with black, more boldly on breast; crown and occipital crest crimson. **Status:** R **Habitat:** Open tree, scrub jungle and groves.

### Common Quail



*Coturnix coturnix*, 18 cm. Male: Black and white pattern to head and neck; upper breast and centre of abdomen black. Female: Has blackish spotting on buff breast. **Status:** SBV **Habitat:** Cultivation and grassland.

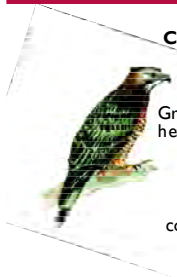
other birds

# BIRDS of PREY



Kites, Buzzards, Harriers, Hawks,  
Eagles, Osprey, Vultures and Falcons.

## Crested Honey Buzzard



*Pernis ptilorhynchus*,  
135-160 cm.  
Grayish brown with dark grey  
head, pale brown below cross-  
barred with white, short  
blackish nuchal crest.  
**Status:** M  
**Habitat:** Well wooded  
country and groves in semi-  
urban areas.

## White-eyed Buzzard



*Buteo badius*, 43 cm.  
Small grayish brown with white  
throat, two dark cheek stripes,  
orange-yellow cere, eyes white or  
yellowish white, whitish nuchal patch  
and buffish wing shoulders,  
rufous tail. **Status:** R  
**Habitat:** Dry open country, and  
deciduous forest.

## Long-legged Buzzard



*Buteo rufinus*, 61 cm.  
Brown with brown or  
almost white head, neck  
and breast, pale creamy  
rufous tail with indistinct  
cross-bars and a broad  
sub-terminal band.  
**Status:** R/VV  
**Habitat:** open country,  
desert and stony plains,  
semi-desert, and  
cultivation.

## Brahminy Kite



*Haliastur indus*, 48 cm.  
Rusty red hawk with white head, neck, upper  
back and breast, and brown abdomen.  
**Status:** R **Habitat:** Well watered localities  
in land and sea coast.

## Black-shouldered Kite



*Elanus caeruleus*, 31-35 cm.  
Red eyes with black eyebrows, black  
tipped yellow bill and yellow legs, black  
patch on inner wing as black shoulder.  
**Status:** R  
**Habitat:** Dry open country with  
scattered trees.

## Black Kite



*Milvus migrans*, 55-60 cm.  
Mainly dark brown, black  
tipped yellow bill, and yellow  
legs, tail forked.  
**Status:** R  
**Habitat:** Wooded lakes and  
open country, urban areas.

## Osprey



*Pandion haliaetus*,  
55-58 cm.  
Dark brown, whitish head with black  
stripe through eye, white under-  
parts, broad brown band on upper  
breast. **Status:** VV  
**Habitat:** Lakes and sea coasts.

## Egyptian Vulture



*Neophron percnopterus*, 60-70 cm.  
Dirty-white kite like vulture; naked yellow head  
and bill, wedge-shaped tail  
diagnostic in flight. **Status:** R  
**Habitat:** Open country in neighbourhood of  
human habitations.



**White-backed Vulture**

*Gyps bengalensis*, 75-85 cm.  
Mainly blackish with white rump and back, blackish brown naked head and neck.  
**Status:** R **Habitat:** Countryside near towns, and villages.

**Common Kestrel**



*Falco tinnunculus*, 32 – 35 cm.  
Male has grayish head with a moustache stripe, Rufous upperparts heavily marked with black. Grey tail with black band. Female has rufous crown and nape streaked. Rufous upper parts heavily barred and spotted with black.  
**Status:** WV **Habitat:** Open country.



**Central Asian Shikra or Indian Sparrow Hawk**

*Accipiter badius*, 30-36 cm.  
Ashy blue grey above, white below cross-banded with rusty brown. Female browner above, and larger.  
**Status:** R **Habitat:** Open wooded country, neighborhood of villages, and cultivation.

**Marsh Harrier**



*Circus aeruginosus*, 50-55 cm.  
Male: Dark brown back and wing coverts, blue grey flight feathers and tail, wing tips black. Female: Chocolate brown plumage with pale buff forehead and cap and throat.  
**Status:** WV **Habitat:** Reed-beds and wetlands.



**Pallas's Fishing Eagle**

*Haliaeetus leucorhynchus*, 76-84 cm.  
Dark brown with pale golden brown head, and a white band across tail. **Status:** R **Habitat:** Jheels, rivers, and tidal creeks.

**Short-toed Eagle**



*Circus gallicus*, 62-67 cm.  
Dark head and breast, brown underparts, barred with dark brown, unfeathered legs, upwardly directed bristly feathers on face.  
**Status:** R **Habitat:** Dry plains and foothills, and cultivated land.

**Eurasian Sparrow Hawk**



*Accipiter nisus*, 31-36 cm.  
Male: Blue-grey upper-parts and whitish under-parts, strong reddish-orange barring on body and under tail coverts, tail barred, yellow legs, and black tipped yellow bill. A white supercilium.  
Female: Grey-brown upper-parts, whitish under-parts with grey-brown barring.  
**Status:** WV **Habitat:** Well-wooded country, farm land, and urban areas.

**Pallid Harrier**



*Circus macrourus*, 40-45 cm.  
Male: Pale ashy-gray above, white below, tail white cross-banded with gray. Female: Brown, neck with owl like rufous ring.  
**Status:** WV **Habitat:** Undulating country, cultivation, and semidesert.