



PUSHPA GUJRAL
SCIENCE CITY

The Science of WOW

BIRDS

at
PUSHPA GUJRAL SCIENCE CITY
Part - I



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at

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Birds at Pushpa Gujral Science City is a compilation of Bird species spotted at PGSC during a bird survey conducted in February & March 2021

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CONTENTS

• PREFACE.....	1
• A BRIEF INTRODUCTION TO BIRDS.....	2
• BIRDS AT PGSC.....	4
Red-naped Ibis.....	5
Rose-ringed parakeet.....	6
Grey francolin.....	7
Jungle babbler.....	8
House crow.....	9
Grey hornbill.....	10
Indian white-eye.....	11
Indian peafowl.....	12
Indian Pond Heron.....	13
Black-winged Stilt.....	14
Greater Coucal.....	15
Black Drongo.....	16
Common Myna.....	17
Coppersmith Barbet.....	18
Red-vented Bulbul.....	19
Rufous Treepie.....	20
Black kite.....	21
Spotted Dove.....	22
Common Sandpiper.....	23
Red-wattled Lapwing.....	24
Spotted Owlet.....	25
Rock pigeon.....	26
Yellow-footed Green Pigeon.....	27
Eurasian Collared Dove.....	28
House Sparrow.....	29
Lemon-rumped Warbler.....	30
Purple Sunbird.....	31
Chiff Chaff.....	32
Oriental Magpie Robin.....	33
Little Cormorant.....	34
Grey Heron.....	35
Common tailorbird.....	36
Hume's Warbler.....	37
Cattle Egret.....	38
Shikra.....	39
Brown - headed Barbet.....	40
Black-rumped flameback.....	41
Indian Robin.....	42

Green Bee-eater.....43

Eurasian Coot.....44

Eurasian Hoopoe.....45

Asian Koel46

Black Redstart.....47

Blue Whistling Thrush.....48

Brown Rock Chat.....49

White-throated kingfisher.....50

• REFERENCES.....51

Preface

"If you could see every bird in the world,
you'd see the whole world." - Jonathan Franzen, novelist.

There are more than 10,000 species of birds alive today. A new study—the largest ever—has established a figure of the total bird population around the world as a whopping 50 billion! Birds occupy every continent, utilize all habitat types, and display incredible variety in behaviour and appearance. They have adapted to some of the earth's most extreme environments: grey gulls are masters of arid conditions, rearing their chicks in Chile's Atacama Desert; emperor penguins take the prize for cold tolerance, breeding during the Antarctic winter. They are hunters and gatherers and scavengers, with diets as varied as their vocalizations - Nectar, fruit, seeds, insects, amphibians, fish, small reptiles and mammals and other birds' carcasses. They range in size from the tiny bee hummingbird (~2 g) to the immense ostrich (~104 kg). Feathers reflect an impressionist's palette of color – the result of a kaleidoscope of possibilities incorporating every hue, shade, and tone imaginable – producing plumage as wildly divergent as the subtle beauty of a sparrow's humble browns and greys to the resplendent brilliance of the bird of paradise. Nests run the gamut from the simple, barely functional scrapes made by killdeer to the complex, highly decorated designs of bowerbirds (boudoirs meant to woo and seduce). Birds are masters of flight . . . or not. Some species migrate thousands of miles each year (Arctic terns, red knots), while others remain in the same locality year-round (blue jays, northern cardinals). Some species spend months at a time on the wing (European swifts), while other species can barely fly (turkeys), and still others are completely incapable of flight (kiwis, emus, penguins).

Considering that Pushpa Gujral Science City was a green campus with more than 5500 plants belonging to 168 species from 144 Genera and 58 Families, a bird survey was conducted and we were surprised to record 46 species of birds on the campus in just one season - enough to motivate us to bring out the 1st volume of this e-book on 'The birds at Pushpa Gujral Science City' at the occasion of International Biodiversity Day 2021. The book details out the specifications, like, the special features with which each bird can be recognized, its habit and behaviour and where can you spot the bird on your visit to Science City.

The most beneficial trees and shrubs for birds at the campus included *Pterospermum acerifolium*, *Duranta goldiana*, *Tribulus terrestris*, *Cestrum diurnum*, *Cestrum nocturnum*, *Russelia equisetiformis*, *Schleichera oleosa*, *Madhuca latifolia*, *Manilkara zapota*, *Aegle marmelos*, *Citrus limon*, *Murraya paniculata*, *Sapindus mukorossi*, *Gardenia jasminoides*, *Hamelia patens*, *Nerium oleander*, *Thevetia peruviana*, *Mangifera indica*, *Cordia dichotoma*, *Bombax ceiba*, *Phoenix sylvestris*, *Terminalia arjuna*, *Terminalia belerica*, *Terminalia chebula*, *Albizia procera*, *Acacia catechu*, *Bauhinia purpurea*, *Butea monosperma*, *Leucaena leucocephala*, *Erythrina indica*, *Delonix regia*, *Dalbergia sissoo*, *Pongamia pinnata*, *Leucaena leucocephala*, *Punica granatum*, *Pinus roxburghii*, *Plumbago auriculata*, *Putrenjiva roxburghii*, *Ziziphus mauritiana*, *Prunus persica*, *Rosa sps*, *Bougainvillea sps.*, *Phyllanthus emblica*, *Morus alba*, *Ficus religiosa*, *Psidium guajava*, *Tinospora cordifolia*, *Syzygium cumini*, *Artocarpus heterophyllus*, *Eucalyptus sp.*, *Melaleuca bracteata*, *Ficus elastica*, *Jasminum humile* & *Azadirachta indica* which provide food, habitat, roosting place and cover to these birds, besides several annual and perennial herbaceous species.

We hope to be able to record many more resident and migratory bird species as we survey our campus across seasons and bring to you the next Edition very soon. Till then, wishing you happy reading ..

Authors

A brief Introduction to Birds

Birds are vertebrate animals adapted for flight.

Many can also run, jump, swim, and dive. Some, like penguins, have lost the ability to fly but have retained their wings. Birds are found worldwide and in all habitats. The largest is the nine-foot-tall ostrich. The smallest is the two-inch-long bee hummingbird.

Everything about the anatomy of a bird reflects its ability to fly. The wings, for example, are shaped to create lift. The leading edge is thicker than the back edge, and they are covered in feathers that narrow to a point. Airplane wings are modeled after bird wings.

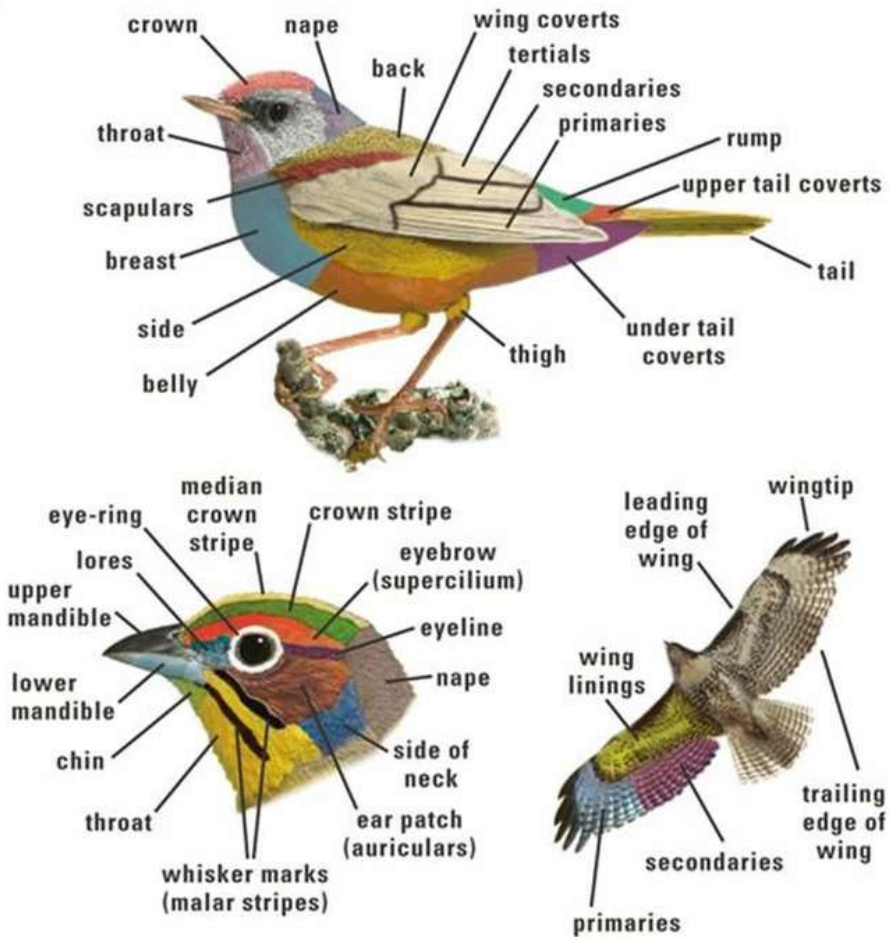
The bones and muscles of the wings are also highly specialized. The main bone, the humerus, which is similar to the upper arm of a mammal, is hollow instead of solid. It also connects to the bird's air sac system, which, in turn, connects to its lungs. The powerful flight muscles of the shoulder attach to the keel, a special ridge of bone that runs down the center of the wide sternum, or breastbone. The tail feathers are used for steering.

Birds have a unique digestive system that allows them to eat when they can—usually on the fly—and digest later. They use their beaks to grab and swallow food. Even the way a bird reproduces is related to flight. Instead of carrying the extra weight of developing young inside their bodies, they lay eggs and incubate them in a nest.

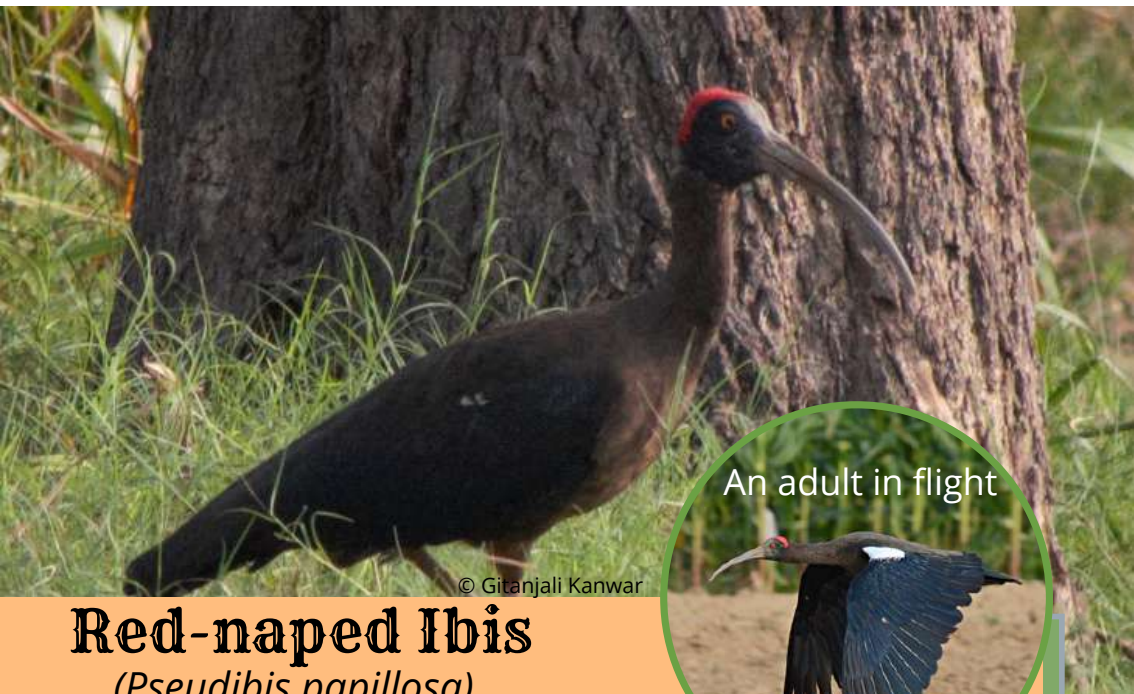
The fossil records show that birds evolved alongside the dinosaurs during the Jurassic period 160 million years ago. The best known fossil is that of Archaeopteryx.

Source: NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC BOOK, ANIMAL ENCYCLOPEDIA, 2012

Parts of a Bird



Birds at PGSC



© Gitanjali Kanwar

Red-naped Ibis

(*Pseudibis papillosa*)

Hindi Name: *Kala buza*

An adult in flight

© Savithri Singh

How do I look? Dark black body with a distinct white patch on the shoulder and bare head with a red patch. I have a long downward pointed bill.

Where am I found? Widely distributed in the plains of the Indian subcontinent II prefer lakes, marshes and irrigated farmlands.

My habits: Gregarious with omnivorous diet. I have a loud call and I am very noisy in the breeding season.

Where can you spot me in PGSC? In open areas near energy park, women technology park, sewage treatment plant and bus parking.

They are usually silent but call at dawn and dusk and more often when nesting. The calls are a series of loud braying, squealing screams that descend in loudness.

Rose-ringed parakeet

(*Psittacula krameri*)

Hindi Name: *Ra Tota* Punjabi Name: *Tota*



© Todd Pepper

How do I look? Green coloured medium sized parakeet with males having black & red coloured ring around the neck whereas females have no neck ring. I have very strong and bright red-coloured beak.

Where am I found? Widely distributed in the Indian subcontinent and commonly spotted in gardens and on trees in the urban areas.

My habits: Highly gregarious with herbivorous diet. I am a very noisy bird with loud and harsh call.

Where can you spot me in PGSC? In bougainvillea trail and trees near Dormitory, Energy park, women technology park and bus parking.

Only the male sports the distinctive black neck ring with rose-pink collar



© Gitanjali Kanwar

Grey francolin (*Francolinus pondicerianus*)

Hindi Name: Raamteetar

How do I look? I am brownish buff in colour with barring throughout my body. My face is pale yellowish in color with a thin black border.

Where am I found? In open cultivated land and scrub forests in the plains and drier parts of the Indian subcontinent.

My habits: I can be spotted in pairs and have omnivorous diet. I have a loud repetitive call.

Where can you spot me in PGSC? Uphill near the lake and bougainvillea trail.

The species has long been domesticated in areas of northern Indian subcontinent where it is used for fighting. The domesticated birds can be large at around 500-600g, compared to 250g for wild birds. They are usually carefully reared by hand and become as tame and confiding as a pet dog.

Jungle babbler

(*Argya striata*)

Hindi Name: *Pangia myna*
Punjabi Name: *Junglee Sohree*

© Gitanjali Kanwar

How do I look? I am a Brownish grey coloured bird with rounded wings and yellow beak.

Where am I found? I am a common resident breeding bird found in most parts of the Indian subcontinent and am often seen in gardens within large cities as well as in forested areas.

My habits: Gregarious with omnivorous diet. I am a very aggressive bird with harsh nasal call.

Where can you spot me in PGSC? Widespread in PGSC.

Birds within a group often indulge in allopreening, play chases and mock fights. When threatened by predators, they have been said to sometimes feign death





© Selvaganesh K

House crow

(*Corvus splendens*)

Hindi Name: *Kowwa*

Punjabi Name: *Kaa*

How do I look? Glossy black in colour with light grey-brown area in neck and chest. My wings, tail and legs are also black.

Where am I found? Common resident breeding bird found in most parts of the Indian subcontinent. I am of Asian origin but now found in many parts of the world. I prefer to live near human habitation.

My habits: Gregarious, opportunistic with omnivorous diet. I am an intelligent bird with loud and harsh call.

Where can you spot me in PGSC? Widespread in PGSC.



A House crow is very intelligent and is always wary and alert, walking or hopping along while flicking its wings nervously.



Grey hornbill (*Ocyrceros birostris*)

Hindi Name: *Dhanmar*

Punjabi Name: *Dhaan Chidhi*

© Gitanjali Kanwar

How do I look? Greyish brown coloured bird with grey feathers all over the body and a light grey or dull white belly. I have a black or dark grey horn on my beak which is a distinguishing characteristics.

Where am I found? Widely distributed in the Indian subcontinent. I can be commonly spotted in gardens and on trees in the urban areas.

My habits: Mostly arboreal, I can be commonly sighted in pairs and have a frugivorous diet. I am a very noisy birds with loud and harsh call.

Where can you spot me in PGSC? In bougainvillea trail and trees near Dormitory, Energy park, Women Technology Park and Bus parking.



Hornbills cannot swallow food caught at the tip of the beak as their tongues are too short to manipulate it, so they toss it back to the throat with a jerk of the head.



© J.M.Garg

Indian white-eye (*Zosterops palpebrosus*)

Hindi Name: *Babuna*

How do I look? Small yellowish olive coloured bird, I can be easily identified by a distinctive white eye-ring and a whitish grey belly.

Where am I found? I am widely distributed in the Indian subcontinent and commonly spotted in gardens and on trees in the urban areas.

My habits: Mostly arboreal, I forage in small groups, feeding on nectar and small insects. I am very sociable, forming flocks which only separate on the approach of the breeding season. I have a soft call and keep on frequently calling.

Where can you spot me in PGSC? On shrubs near Women Technology park, Energy park and Dinosaur park.



Indian peafowl

(*Pavo cristatus*)

Hindi Name: *Mor*

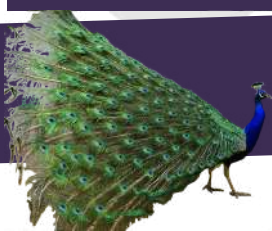
www.animalia.bio

How do I look? I am a brilliantly blue coloured bird with fan shaped crest on the head and a long tail. The peacock and peahen are very different looking from each other. The females are dull brownish in colour with short tails.

Where am I found? Widely distributed in the Indian subcontinent and commonly spotted in agricultural fields, forests & gardens in the urban areas.

My habits: I remain in small groups, commonly one male is sighted with 3-7 females. I have an omnivorous diet and a very melodious call.

Where can you spot me in PGSC? In open areas near Sewage treatment plant and garden area around Women Technology and Energy park. I can be seen in large groups behind Women Technology park during early mornings and late evenings



The Indian peafowl's "train" contains more than 200 feathers, while the actual tail has only 20 feathers and nearly all of these feathers end with an elaborate eye-spot.



© Gitanjali Kanwar

Indian Pond Heron

(*Ardeola grayii*)

Hindi Name: *Andha bagla*

Punjabi Name: *Chhaprhi Bagla*

How do I look? I am a Buff-brown coloured bird with a short neck and strong bill. Adults in breeding plumage develop dark reddish-brown color with a yellowish head, neck, and Chest.

Where am I found? Widely distributed in the Indian subcontinent and commonly spotted in different aquatic habitats.

My habits: I am a solitary and quite bird with a carnivorous diet and high-pitched call.

Where can you spot me in PGSC? In lake and near sewage treatment plant.



© Gitanjali Kanwar

Black-winged Stilt

(*Himantopus himantopus*)

Hindi Name: *Gaz paon*

How do I look? Small, active bird with blackish upper body and whitish under body. I have a round whitish head, long pink legs and a long thin black bill.

Where am I found? Widely distributed in the Indian subcontinent and commonly spotted in different aquatic habitats.

My habits: Usually seen in pairs and small flocks. I have a carnivorous diet and a high-pitched call.

Where can you spot me in PGSC? In lake and near sewage treatment plant.



Feeds by wading in water, picking with its bill from the water surface. In flight, long pink legs stick out far beyond tail.



© Davidvraju

Greater Coucal

(*Centropus sinensis*)

Hindi Name: *Mahuk*

How do I look? I am a Large, crow-like bird with mostly black body, a long tail and coppery brown wings. I have deep red eyes and powerful bill.

Where am I found? I am a common resident bird widely distributed in the Indian subcontinent. Found in a wide range of habitats from jungle to cultivation and urban gardens

My habits: I am usually solitary, rarely seen in a pair. I have a carnivorous diet and a series of high-pitched call notes.

Where can you spot me in PGSC? Spotted in bougainvillea trail. Also, in trees near sewage treatment plant, hostels, energy park, women technology park and bus parking.

Black Drongo

(*Dicrurus macrocercus*)

Hindi Name: *Kolsa*

Punjabi Name: *Kalkaleechi*



© Gitanjali Kanwar

How do I look? I am a complete black bird with a distinctive forked tail. Both sexes are alike.

Where am I found? I am a common resident bird widely distributed in the Indian subcontinent. Found in a wide range of habitats from forest periphery to cultivated lands and urban gardens. I readily make use of fence and electric wires.

My habits: I am usually solitary and sometimes seen in pairs. I have an insectivorous diet and a harsh chattering call. My species is known for its aggressive behavior and can be seen chasing much larger birds that enter their nesting territory, including crows and birds of prey.

Where can you spot me in PGSC? On wires and poles in throughout PGSC campus.



© Davidvraju



© Gitanjali Kanwar

Common Myna

(*Acridotheres tristis*)

Hindi Name: *Mynah*

Punjabi Name: *Lalrhee*

How do I look? I am a common and aggressive bird that can be easily identified by a brown body, black hooded head and a bare yellow patch behind the eye. My bill and legs are bright yellow.

Where am I found? Common resident breeding bird found in most parts of the Indian subcontinent. I prefer to live near human habitation.

My habits: I can be usually seen in pairs and in small to medium sized groups. I have an omnivorous diet and a multiple high-pitched call.

Where can you spot me in PGSC? Widespread in PGSC, especially near building area.

Common mynas are fond of grasshoppers and due to this they got the generic name *Acridotheres*, "grasshopper hunter"



© Gitanjali Kanwar

Coppersmith Barbet

(*Psilopogon haemacephalus*)

Hindi Name: *Chota basanta*

How do I look? I am a small barbet, majorly green in colour with a red head, yellow cheeks and a yellow throat. My underparts are streaked in grey and black.

Where am I found? A common resident bird widely distributed in the Indian subcontinent. Found in a wide range of habitats from jungle to cultivation and urban gardens.

My habits: I am usually solitary or in small groups. I have a frugivorous diet and a metronomic call that sounds like a coppersmith striking metal with a hammer.

Where can you spot me in PGSC? On trees near bougainvillea trail and energy park.

In summers they love to sunbathe so they sit on top of tall trees during daytime. In winters they are silent and do not call.

Red-vented Bulbul

(*Pycnonotus cafer*)

Hindi Name: *Kala Sir Bulbul*

Punjabi: *Bulbul or Guldarn*

© Gitanjali Kanwar

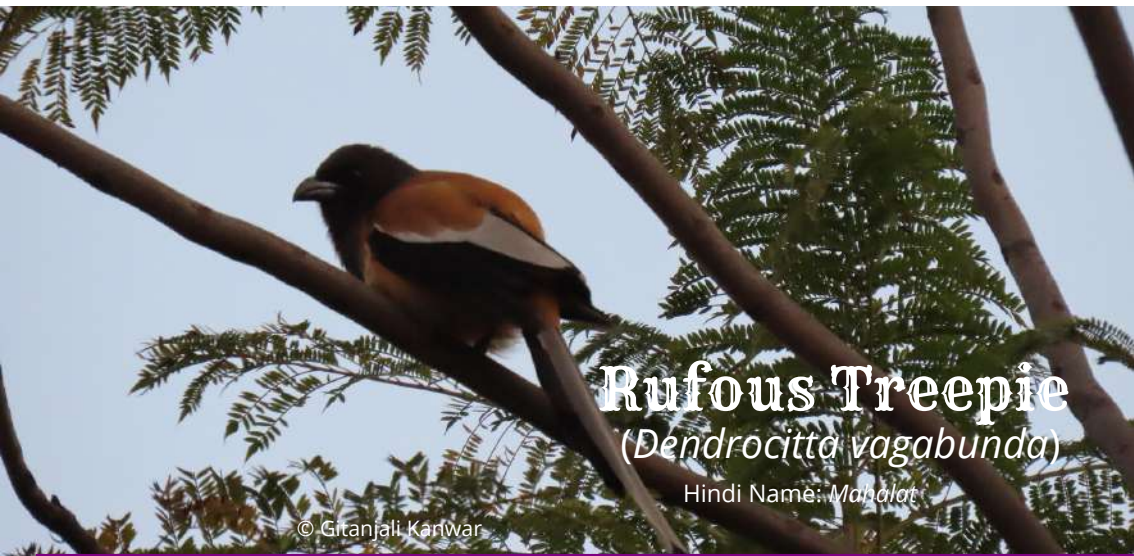


How do I look? I am a small bird, can be easily identified by my short crest giving the head a squarish appearance. I am dark brown in color with a scaly pattern while my head is darker or black. My rump is white while the vent is red. My black tail has a white tip.

Where am I found? A common resident bird widely distributed in the Indian subcontinent. Found in a wide range of habitats from forest periphery, small green patches to cultivated lands, dry scrub and urban gardens. I make use of fence, poles and electric wires.

My habits: I am usually solitary and have a frugivorous diet. I have a sharp loud call.

Where can you spot me in PGSC? Widespread in PGSC. On trees near sewage treatment plant, bougainvillea trail, hostels, energy park, women technology park and bus parking.



Rufous Treepie (*Dendrocitta vagabunda*)

Hindi Name: *Mahalat*

© Gitanjali Karwar

How do I look? I am a large bird and my both sexes are alike. I have a black head and cinnamon-colored upper parts and under parts. I have a long tail which is bluish grey in color.

Where am I found? A common resident bird widely distributed in the Indian subcontinent. Found in a wide range of habitats from jungle to cultivation and urban gardens.

My habits: I am usually seen solitary or in pair. I have an omnivorous diet and a loud musical call.

Where can you spot me in PGSC? Widespread in PGSC. I can be spotted on trees near sewage treatment plant, bougainvillea trail, hostels, energy park, women technology park, entry lane and bus parking.



The Rufous Treepie has been observed ridding the Sambar Deer and Spotted Deer to feed on ectoparasites (an organism like a flea living on a host). This gives them a symbiotic relationship, with the deer positioning itself to enable these birds to examine specific parts on their body for the cleaning process. You may see this in Rajasthan.



Black kite

(*Milvus migrans*)

Hindi Name: *Kalee Cheel*

© Gitanjali Kanwar

How do I look? I am a medium-sized bird of prey. I have brown upper body parts and the head and neck area are paler. Both sexes are alike though the male is little smaller and less aggressive.

Where am I found? I am a common resident bird widely distributed in the Indian subcontinent. Found in a wide range of habitats from jungle to cultivation and urban gardens. I am an opportunistic scavenger.

My habits: I am usually solitary or live in small groups. I have a carnivorous diet. My call is like a descending whistle.

Where can you spot me in PGSC? I am an occasional visitor to PGSC. I can be spotted on trees located at PGSC's backside boundary. Also, can be spotted flying in nearby agricultural fields.

Black kites guard their nest aggressively from intruders; the birds recognize humans who intrude the nest and single out for dive attacks



Spotted Dove

(*Spilopelia chinensis*)

www.animalia.bio

Hindi Name: *Chitrokha* Punjabi Name: *Cheeni Ghuggi*

How do I look? I am a medium sized, pigeon like bird. I am pinkish buff in colour with a long tail and a white-spotted black collar patch on the back and sides of the neck. My tail tips are white and the wing coverts have light buff spots.

Where am I found? Common resident breeding bird found in most parts of the Indian subcontinent and often seen in gardens within large cities as well as in open scrub forests.

My habits: I can be usually seen in pairs or in small loose groups. I have a frugivorous diet and a loud cooing call.

Where can you spot me in PGSC? On trees near bougainvillea lane.

A dove has special feathers on its body, which disintegrate to produce a sort of powder, for cleaning and lubricating the other feathers.

Common Sandpiper

(*Actitis hypoleucos*)

Hindi Name: *Jalrank* Punjabi Name: *Retal Chaha*



© Gitanjali Kanwar

How do I look? A small bird with brown upper parts and white underparts. I have short dark-yellowish legs and feet. My bill has a pale base and a dark tip.

Where am I found? Common bird widely distributed in the Indian subcontinent. Found in rivers, wetlands and other water bodies.

My habits: Usually solitary or in small or mixed groups. I have an insectivorous diet. My call is a sharp wheet.

Where can you spot me in PGSC? In Lake

When seen running in groups the birds appear to display a remarkable coordination of movement.



© Rathika Ramasamy



© Gitanjali Kanwar

Red-wattled Lapwing

(*Vanellus indicus*)

Hindi Name: *Tatihiri*

How do I look? A medium sized bird with brown upper parts and white under parts. I have a black breast and throat. My red bill is marked with a black tip.

Where am I found? A common resident bird widely distributed in the Indian subcontinent. Found in a wide range of habitats from open forest to cultivation and urban gardens.

My habits: Usually seen in pairs or in small groups. I have a carnivorous diet. I have characteristic loud alarm calls which are indicators of human or animal movement.

Where can you spot me in PGSC? Widespread in PGSC. I can be easily spotted around lake and in garden area.



Spotted Owlet (*Athene brama*)

Hindi Name: *Khakoosat* Punjabi Name: *Chugal*

© Gitanjali Kanwar

How do I look? I am a small and stocky bird. My upper parts are grey-brown in color and heavily spotted with white patches, underparts are white, streaked with brown color. My face is pale and eyes have yellow color.

Where am I found? A common resident bird widely distributed in the Indian subcontinent. Found in open habitats including farmland and human habitation, I have adapted to living in cities.

My habits: Usually seen in pairs or in small groups. I have a carnivorous diet. I have one of the most heard call at night i.e., whoo-hoo-hoo.

Where can you spot me in PGSC? On trees near sewage treatment plant and bus parking.

Owls as predators keep a balance in our ecosystem by keeping a check on rodent and insect population.

Rock pigeon

(*Columba livia*)

Hindi Name: *Pahadee Kabootar*

Punjabi Name: *Gola Kabootar*



www.britannica.com

How do I look? I am one of the most commonly seen pigeon which can be easily distinguished by a dark bluish-grey head, neck, and chest. I have a glossy yellowish, greenish and reddish-purple iridescence along my neck and wing feathers. My bill is grey-black and feet are purplish-red.

Where am I found? Common resident breeding bird found in most parts of the Indian subcontinent and often seen in buildings and gardens within the large cities.

My habits: Usually seen in pairs or small loose groups. I am a grain and plant parts eating bird. I have a prolonged cooing call.

Where can you spot me in PGSC? Widespread in PGSC, especially near Administrative building area.



Homing pigeons, domestic Rock Pigeons, are well known for their ability to find their way home from long distances.

Yellow-footed Green Pigeon

(*Treron phoenicoptera*)

Hindi Name: *Harial*

Punjabi Name: *Harial*



© Gitanjali Kanwar

How do I look? I am a medium sized bird, mostly bright green in colour. I have a grey colour in the shoulder area and have brilliant yellow-coloured legs. I have orange yellow colour in neck area.

Where am I found? Common resident bird widely distributed in the Indian subcontinent. Found in a wide range of habitats from open forests to cultivations and urban gardens

My habits: Usually gregarious, I also form small loose groups. I eat grain and parts of plants. My call is cooing whistles.

Where can you spot me in PGSC? On trees near sewage treatment plant, bougainvillea trail, hostels, energy park, women technology park, entry lane, dinosaur park and bus parking.



Eurasian Collared Dove

(*Streptopelia decaocto*)

Hindi Name: *Dhorfakhta*



© Gitanjali Kanwar

How do I look? I am a medium sized bird with grey-buff to pinkish-grey color, a little darker above than below, with a blue-grey under wing patch.

Where am I found? Common resident breeding bird found in most parts of the Indian subcontinent and often seen in gardens within large cities as well as in open scrub forests.

My habits: Usually seen in pairs or small loose groups. I form large flocks in winter. I have an omnivorous diet and a cooing call.

Where can you spot me in PGSC?

Widespread in PGSC, especially near building area.



Young collared doves have been known to travel over 600 km away from where they were born. These epic journeys, made all over Europe, tend to be in a northwest direction, reflecting the direction of the species' range expansion in the 20th century.



House Sparrow

(*Passer domesticus*)


Hindi Name: *Chidhiya* Punjabi Name: *Chiddhi*

© Gitanjali Kanwar

How do I look? I am a small bird with different looking male and female. Females and young birds are pale brown and grey in color while males have brighter black, white, and brown markings.

Where am I found? Common resident bird widely distributed in the Indian subcontinent. Found in a wide range of habitats from open scrub forests to cultivation and urban gardens. I can be commonly found near human habitation and have adapted to live in urban or rural settings.

My habits: I am highly gregarious and have an omnivorous diet. I have a sweet chirping song call.



Where can you spot me in PGSC? Widespread in PGSC. I can be spotted on shrubs in bougainvillea trail, energy park, women technology park, entry lane and along railway track.

In temperate areas, House sparrows have an unusual habit of tearing flowers, especially yellow ones, in the spring.



© Stefan Hirsch

Lemon-rumped Warbler

(*Phylloscopus chloronotus*)

How do I look? I am a small bird with olive yellow upper parts, pale underparts and dark legs.

Where am I found? I am a common winter migratory bird widely distributed in the Indian subcontinent. Found in Himalayas and descends to foothills and nearby plains in winter.

My habits: I am usually solitary, rarely seen in a pair. I have an insectivorous diet and a loud call.

Where can you spot me in PGSC? On bougainvillea trail.



© Gitanjali Kanwa

Purple Sunbird

(*Cinnyris asiaticus*)

Punjabi Name: *Sakkarkhora*



© Albin Jacob

How do I look? I am a small bird with different looking males and females. The male is glossy bluish to purple in color whereas females are olive green in color with yellowish underside.

Where am I found? I am a common resident bird widely distributed in the Indian subcontinent. Found in a wide range of habitats from open forests to cultivation and urban gardens

My habits: I live solitary, in pairs or in a small family group. I feeds on nectar and sometimes I have an insectivorous diet. I have a sharp twittering call.

Where can you spot me in PGSC? Widespread in PGSC. I can be spotted on trees near bougainvillea trail, dormitory, energy park, women technology park, entry lane and bus parking.



© Paul Lewis

Chiff Chaff

(*Phylloscopus collybita*)

Hindi Name: *Pidpidi*

Punjabi Name: *Pidpidi*

How do I look? Dull brownish in color, with pale eyebrows, dark legs and off-white underparts.

Where am I found? A common winter migratory bird in the Indian subcontinent. Found in an open canopy in jungles, scrub lands around wetlands and gardens near water bodies.

My habits: Usually solitary but may join small mixed flocks. I have an insectivorous diet and a cheerful chiff chaff call.

Where can you spot me in PGSC? On bougainvillea trail.

If you are not a bird watcher, you may confuse a female sparrow with this bird, but know that sparrows are bigger, with broader beaks to be able to crush grains.

Oriental Magpie Robin

(*Copsychus saularis*)

Hindi Name: *Dahier*

Punjabi Name: *Ghial*

© Gitanjali Kanwar



How do I look? I am a medium-sized robin with different looking males and females. Males are black in color whereas females are greyish-brown in color. I have a broad white wing-bar running from the shoulder to the tip of the wing and a long tail with white outer-tail feathers.

Where am I found? A common resident bird widely distributed in the Indian subcontinent. Found in open farmlands, scrub forests, forest edges and gardens.

My habits: I live solitary, in pairs or small family groups. I have a carnivorous diet and a whistle like melodious call.

Where can you spot me in PGSC? Near Energy park, Women Technology Park & Dinosaur Park.

The Oriental Magpie-Robin is the national bird of Bangladesh, where it is known as doyel/doel and appears on their currency notes as well.



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Little Cormorant

(*Microcarbo niger*)

Hindi Name: *Paan Kowwa*

Punjabi Name: *Jal Kaa*

How do I look? I am a medium sized, black coloured bird with blue eyes. My throat has a small whitish patch in the non-breeding season. My bill is hooked at the tip. I can be commonly spotted drying myself with outstretched wings.

Where am I found? Widely distributed in the Indian subcontinent and commonly spotted in different aquatic habitats.

My habits: Usually gregarious. I am a vocal bird with a carnivorous diet.

Where can you spot me in PGSC? In or around lake.

Cormorants have special feathers, which allow the water to penetrate, enabling the bird to swim well under water.



Grey Heron

(*Ardea cinerea*)

Hindi Name: *Nari* Punjabi Name: *Narhi*

© Sneha Gupta

How do I look? A large bird with pale grey upper parts and greyish white underparts. My head is mainly white, except for a black stripe extending from above my eyes to the back of my neck. I have long legs.

Where am I found? Widely distributed in the Indian subcontinent and commonly spotted in different aquatic habitats.



My habits: Usually solitary bird, I form a group during the breeding season. I am a quiet bird with carnivorous diet and high-pitched call.

Where can you spot me in PGSC? In lake and around sewage treatment plant.

In medieval times the Grey heron was a popular quarry of falconers who admired its great flying skills in evading the falcon.

Common tailorbird

(*Orthotomus sutorius*)

Hindi Name: *Baiya*

Punjabi Name: *Darji*

© Gitanjali Kanwar



How do I look? I am a small brightly coloured bird with greenish upper parts and whitish cream underparts. I have strong legs and slightly curved bill.

Where am I found? A common resident bird widely distributed in the Indian subcontinent. Found in open farmlands, scrub forests, forest edges and gardens.

My habits: Usually seen in pairs. I have a carnivorous diet and a loud call. I got my name from the way I construct my nest. I sew my nest like tailors sew clothes.

Where can you spot me in PGSC? On shrubs and small trees near bougainvillea trail. Also, on trees near sewage treatment plant, dormitory, energy park, women technology park and bus parking.



Hume's Warbler

(*Phylloscopus humei*)

© Ayuwat Jearwattanakanok

How do I look? I have greenish upper parts, an indistinct crown stripe and off-white underparts.

Where am I found? I am a common winter migratory bird in the Indian subcontinent. Found in a dense canopy in jungles, around wetlands and gardens.

My habits: Usually solitary or in pairs. I have a carnivorous diet and a hew-wee call.

Where can you spot me in PGSC? On bougainvillea trail.



Western Cattle Egret

(*Bubulcus ibis*)

© Gitanjali Kanwar

Hindi Name: *Bagula*

Punjabi Name: *Badaami Bagula*



How do I look? I am a large whitish colored bird with short thick neck and a strong light yellow colored bill. The whitish color of my body changes to buff-brown color with the onset of the breeding season.

Where am I found? A common resident bird widely distributed in the Indian subcontinent. Found in cultivated land, wetlands and open areas and gardens usually near water bodies.

My habits: Highly gregarious with a carnivorous diet. I have a raspy and repetitive call.

Where can you spot me in PGSC? Widespread in all gardens and open areas.

They are known to wait for airplanes at airports to pass by grass and blow the insects out.



Shikra

(*Accipiter badius*)

Hindi Name: *Shikari*

Punjabi Name: *Shikra*

© Gitanjali Kanwar

How do I look? I am a small bird of prey with different looking male and female. Adults have bluish grey upper parts and red iris whereas females have brownish grey upper parts with a yellow iris.

Where am I found? Common resident bird widely distributed in the Indian subcontinent. Found in a wide range of habitats including forests, farmlands and urban areas.

My habits: Usually seen singly or in pair. I have a carnivorous diet and a high-pitched two note call.

Where can you spot me in PGSC? Occasional visitor to PGSC. I can be spotted on trees located at PGSC's backside boundary. You can also spot me flying in nearby agricultural fields.

Great courage, coupled with intellect as a hunter, making it one of the easiest to train and tame (this is illegal now), made the Shikra the most common bird used in the art of falconry across the country in pre-independence times.



© Gitanjali Kanwar

Brown - headed Barbet

(*Psilopogon zeylanicus*)

Hindi Name: *Bada Basanta*

How do I look? I am greenish-brown in color and have a yellow eye patch. The adult has a streaked brown head, neck and breast.

Where am I found? Common resident bird widely distributed in the Indian subcontinent. Found in a wide range of habitats from jungle to cultivation and urban gardens with rich tree canopy.

My habits: Usually solitary but can be seen in pairs as well. I have a frugivorous diet and a sonorous call.

Where can you spot me in PGSC? On backside boundary trees of PGSC.

Barbets are invariably mistaken to be woodpeckers, as they have similar characteristics. They both have cavity-nesting behaviour, the ability to walk vertically up and down the trunk and branches, and wood-pecking behaviour for making holes (for nesting) and sometimes drumming on the trunk for insects.

Black-rumped flameback

(*Dinopium benghalense*)

Hindi Name: *Sunehra kathphorhwa*

© Gitanjali Kanwar



How do I look? I am one of the golden-backed woodpeckers which can be distinguished from other woodpeckers for its black throat and a black rump. The adult male has a red crown and crest. Females have a black fore crown spotted with white, with red only on the rear crest. I have an undulating flight.

Where am I found? Common resident bird widely distributed in the Indian subcontinent. Found in a wide range of habitats from jungles to cultivated lands and urban gardens.

My habits: Usually solitary and sometimes seen in pairs. I have an omnivores diet and a characteristic rattling-whinnying call

Where can you spot me in PGSC? On trees near sewage treatment plant, bougainvillea trail, dormitory & entry lane.

An average woodpecker can hit the trunk up to 100 times in a minute, which means that during one day it makes 12,000 knocks. Their brain doesn't get damaged thanks to a bone that loops around their entire skull and serves as a protection for the brain. Also, the upper and the lower bill have different lengths that help in distributing the force instead of focusing it in one spot.

Indian Robin

(*Copsychus fulicatus*)

Hindi Name: *Kaali Chirhi*

Punjabi Name: *Pidda*

© Gitanjali Kanwar

How do I look? I am a small bird with different looking males and females. The male is mainly black with a white shoulder patch or stripe. The females are brownish above, have no white shoulder stripe and are greyish below.

Where am I found? Common resident bird widely distributed in the Indian subcontinent. Found in open stony, grassy and scrub forest habitats.

My habits: Usually solitary, rarely seen in pairs. I have a carnivorous diet and have a melodious call.

Where can you spot me in PGSC? Near Energy park, Women technology park & Dinosaur park.



Robins are short-lived: the record for longevity is held by a ringed bird that survived until it was over eight.

Green Bee-eater

(*Merops orientalis*)

Hindi Name: *Patringa*

Punjabi Name: *Choota Pattranga*



© Gitanjali Kanwar

How do I look? A small bird which is intensely green overall with a greenish-blue throat, a thin black throat band, and long central tail feathers.

Where am I found? Common resident bird widely distributed in the Indian subcontinent. I use diverse range of habitats from jungle to cultivation and urban gardens. I readily make use of fence and electric wires.

My habits: Usually solitary or in small flocks. I have a carnivorous diet. and a loud trilling call.

Where can you spot me in PGSC? On wires and poles especially around entry lane and bus parking area.

The Green bee-eater has a distinguishing predator-avoidance behavior, in that if a potential predator looks at the bird's nest, the Green bee-eater will not enter it until the predator looks away.

Eurasian Coot

(*Fulica atra*)

Hindi Name: *Dasari*



© Ian Davies

How do I look? Medium Sized bird which has a slaty-black body, a glossy black head and a white bill with a white frontal shield.

Where am I found? Widely distributed in the Indian subcontinent. Found in a wide variety of aquatic habitats.

My habits: Gregarious. I have an omnivorous diet. I am a noisy bird with the crackling call.

Where can you spot me in PGSC? lake.

Coots are extremely good divers. They can dive deeper than 7m and often remain underwater for up to 15 seconds. A Coot can dive so deeply and for so long because it can squeeze lots of air out of its feathers as it goes underwater, making it less buoyant.



Eurasian Hoopoe

(*Upupa epops*)

Hindi Name: *Hudhud* Punjabi Name: *Chakkihara*

© Gitanjali Kanwar

How do I look? Medium sized bird notable for its distinctive "crown" of feathers. I am mostly buff colored with zebra stripes on head and wings. I have a long, thin tapering bill and strengthened musculature of the head allows my bill to be opened when probing inside the soil.

Where am I found? Common resident bird widely distributed in the Indian subcontinent. Found in a wide range of habitats from jungle to cultivation and urban gardens.

My habits: Usually solitary. I have a carnivorous diet. My call is a loud "oop".

Where can you spot me in PGSC? In open area near sewage treatment plant, energy park & women technology park.

Asian Koel

(*Eudynamys scolopaceus*)

Hindi Name: *Koyal* / Punjabi Name: *Koyal*



© Gitanjali Kanwar

How do I look? I am a large bird with different looking males and females. The male is glossy bluish-black, with a pale greenish grey bill. My iris is crimson and I have grey legs and feet. The female is brownish on the crown and has rufous streaks on the head.

Where am I found? Common resident bird widely distributed in the Indian subcontinent. Found in a wide range of habitats from jungle to cultivation and urban gardens

My habits: Usually solitary, rarely seen in pairs. I have a frugivorous diet. I have a distinctive loud melodious call. Like many of my related cuckoo kins, I am a brood parasite that lays its eggs in the nests of crows and other hosts.

Where can you spot me in PGSC? Widespread in PGSC. I can be spotted on trees near sewage treatment plant, bougainvillea trail, hostels, energy park, women technology park, entry lane and bus parking.



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Black Redstart

(*Phoenicurus ochruros*)

Hindi Name: *Tharatharkanap*

Punjabi Name: *Kaala Birbara*

How do I look? A small bird with different looking males and females. The adult male is overall dark grey to black on the upper parts, a black breast and its rump and tail are orange-red. The female is grey or grey brown with orange red on the rump.

Where am I found? Common resident bird widely distributed in the Indian subcontinent. Found in a wide range of habitats from jungle to cultivation and urban gardens

My habits: Usually solitary and have a carnivorous diet. I have a rattling song call.

Where can you spot me in PGSC? Near Dinosaur park.



Blue Whistling Thrush

(*Myophonus caeruleus*)

How do I look? A medium sized bird which is dark purple in color. I have tiny silvery spots on head, back, and wings. I am known for my loud human-like whistling song at dawn and dusk.

Where am I found? I can be found in the mountains of Central Asia, South Asia, China and Southern Asia.

My habits: Usually solitary. I have a carnivorous diet. I have a melodious call resembling human whistle.

Where can you spot me in PGSC? Near Boating point. I am a migratory species.

Brown Rock Chat

(*Oenanthe fusca*)

Hindi Name: *Shama* Punjabi Name: *Bhoori Gaalrhi*



©Nikolaj Mølgaard Thomsen

How do I look? I am uniformly rufous brown with the wings and tail of a slightly darker shade. I resemble a female Indian robin but lack the reddish vent and differ in posture and behavior apart from being larger.

Where am I found? Common resident bird found mainly in northern and central India. Found in a wide range of habitats from jungle to cultivation and urban gardens. I am often seen in old buildings and rocky areas.

My habits: Usually solitary or seen in a pair. I have a carnivorous diet. I have a sweet and eight different type of calls.

Where can you spot me in PGSC? Near Energy Park and Women Technology Park.



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White-throated kingfisher (*Halcyon smymensis*)

Hindi Name: *Safed Chatikilkila*

Punjabi Name: *Vadda Machera*

How do I look? A bright blue coloured kingfisher. My back, wings and tail are blue. My head, shoulders, flanks and lower belly are chestnut and throat and breast is white. I have a large bill and my legs are bright red.

Where am I found? Common resident bird widely distributed in the Indian subcontinent. Found in a variety of habitats, mostly open country in the plains near water bodies.

My habits: Usually solitary and with a carnivorous diet. I am a noisy bird with chuckling call.

Where can you spot me in PGSC? Near Energy Park and Women Technology Park.



Kingfishers in Greek mythology were seen as the Halcyon bird, having power to control the waves and wind.

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