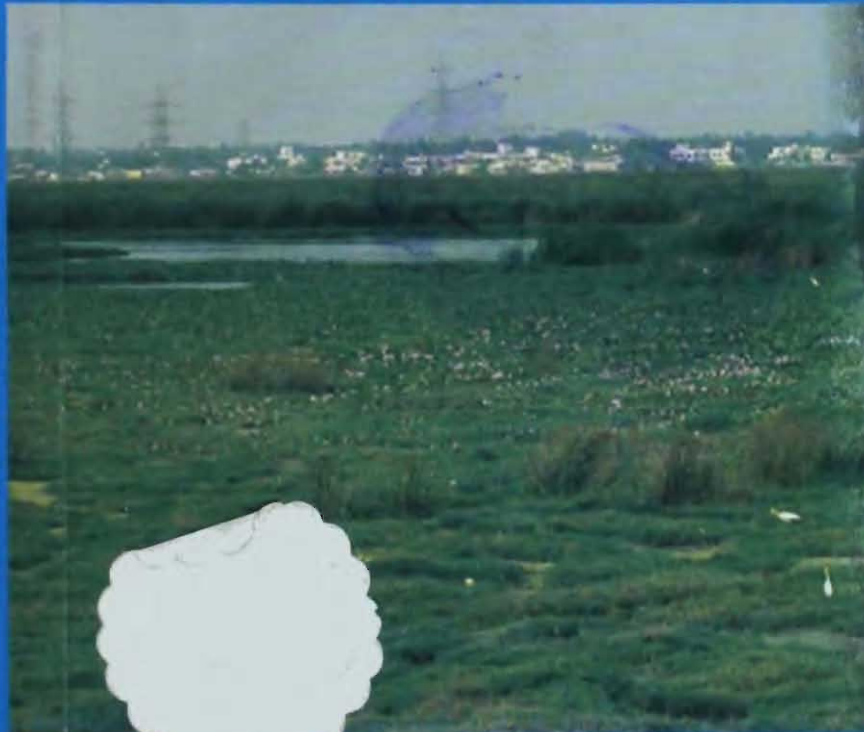


Pictorial Handbook
BIRDS OF CHENNAI



ZOOLOGICAL SURVEY OF INDIA

**G. Thirumalai
S. Krishnan**

PICTORIAL HANDBOOK
BIRDS OF CHENNAI

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*Southern Regional Station,
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Edited by the Director, Zoological Survey of India, Kolkata



Zoological Survey of India
Kolkata

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FOREWORD

Environmentalists fear that speedy urbanization leads to habitat destruction as has been seen in the metropolitan cities of India. In order to balance economic development and ecological conditions, we require to know the natural resources we have. In that pursuit, one of the thrust areas of ZSI was popularizing zoology amongst citizens with more emphasis on school going children and to sensitize them about ecosystem of which they are a part. Since birds are audio-visual feast, ornithology has become popular in urban environs. Birds are still a puzzle to scientists; their behaviour and phenomenal migratory instinct are complex. Recording of birds *in situ* and studying their behaviour is a time consuming process, nonetheless bird watching is a rewarding hobby. Now-a-days, we find that a lot of information on birds is available through internet but a hand book can never be relegated to the back seat. If one could have the photographs of birds with their names in native language, basic information and scientific classifications that will meet the need in the field itself. Keeping this aspect in mind, the writers of this book have strived their best. They have interacted with stalwarts in India while doing this work. There is always scope for improvement be it science or art. I sincerely believe that this book will form a solid background information base for future work and will help people of Chennai in field ornithology.

J.R.B. Alfred

Director

Zoological Survey of India, Kolkata

PREFACE

Bird watching is always a pleasure, and educative past time and food for exploring minds. Though Chennai Metropolitan city is fast urbanizing, it has several bird watching spots inviting the young and old alike. We have several handouts and booklets on the avifauna but photographic recording has been done by us, probably for the first time. We were able to record first hand information for 138 species out of the approximately 200 species of birds so far known to occur in Chennai and its environs. Abundant care has been taken to cross-check and verify local names of the birds with literature. When doubts arose we consulted Prof.S.Theodore Baskaran and followed his directives. This work is aimed at helping enthusiasts for whom the photographs are a better companion in the pocket to identify birds in the field.

**G. THIRUMALAI
S. KRISHNAN**

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Shri. E. Seshan and Shri. G. Sankaran Southern Regional Station, Zoological Survey of India, Chennai contributed best of their efforts in field Photography for which we record our appreciation. The staff of Southern Regional Station, Zoological Survey of India, Chennai had always been co-operative.

We were assisted by Shri V. Sivakumar, and Shri K. Suresh in data entry.

CONTENTS

Introduction	.....	1
Map	.....	6
Habitats	.....	7
Systematic List	.....	13
Discriptive Parts of Birds	.....	26
Little Grebe	.....	29
Little Cormorant	.....	30
Darter	.....	31
Grey Heron	.....	32
Purple Heron	.....	33
Indian Pond Heron	.....	34
Cattle Egret	.....	35
Little Green Heron	.....	36
Large Egret	.....	37
Black Bittern	.....	38
Little Egret	.....	39
Chestnut Bittern	.....	40

Yellow Bittern	.....	41
Median Egret	.....	42
Black-crowned Night Heron	.....	43
Asian Openbill	.....	44
Painted Stork	.....	45
Oriental White Ibis	.....	46
Glossy Ibis	.....	47
Greater Flamingo	.....	48
Northern Pintail	.....	49
Spot- Billed Duck	.....	50
Lesser Whistling Duck	.....	51
Shikra	.....	52
Eurasian Sparrowhawk	.....	53
Besra Sparrowhawk	.....	54
Black-shouldered Kite	.....	55
Brahminy Kite	.....	56
Black Kite	.....	57
Egyptian Vulture	.....	58
Oriental Honey Buzzard	.....	59
Crested Serpent Eagle	.....	60

Common Kestrel	.....	61
Grey Francolin	.....	62
Indian Peafowl	.....	63
White – breasted Waterhen	.....	64
Common Coot	.....	65
Common Moorhen	.....	66
Purple Moorhen	.....	67
Pheasant – tailed Jacana	.....	68
Kentish Plover	.....	69
Little Ringed Plover	.....	70
Pacific Golden Plover	.....	71
Red-wattled Lapwing	.....	72
Yellow-wattled Lapwing	.....	73
Common Sandpiper	.....	74
Little Stint	.....	75
Common Snipe	.....	76
Black-tailed Godwit	.....	77
Eastern Curlew	.....	78
Ruff	.....	79
Wood Sandpiper	.....	80

Common Greenshank	.....	81
Marsh Sandpiper	.....	82
Common Redshank	.....	83
Black-winged Stilt	.....	84
Stone-Curlew	.....	85
Gull-billed Tern	.....	86
Black-headed Gull	.....	87
River Tern	.....	88
Blue Rock Pigeon	.....	89
Spotted Dove	.....	90
Little Brown Dove	.....	91
Rose-ringed Parakeet	.....	92
Greater Coucal	.....	93
Red-winged Crested Cuckoo	.....	94
Pied Crested Cuckoo	.....	95
Asian Koel	.....	96
Brainfever Bird	.....	97
Green-billed Malkoha	.....	98
Short-eared Owl	.....	99
Spotted Owlet	.....	100

Eurasian Eagle-Owl	.....	101
Barn Owl	.....	102
Common Indian Nightjar	.....	103
House Swift	.....	104
Asian Palm-Swift	.....	105
Small Blue Kingfisher	.....	106
Lesser Pied Kingfisher	.....	107
Stork-billed Kingfisher	.....	108
Black -capped Kingfisher	.....	109
White-breasted Kingfisher	.....	110
Small Bee-eater	.....	111
Blue-tailed Bee-eater	.....	112
Indian Roller	.....	113
Common Hoopoe	.....	114
Coppersmith Barbet	.....	115
Lesser Golden-backed Woodpecker	.....	116
Indian Pitta	.....	117
Eastern Skylark	.....	118
Ashy-crowned Sparrow-lark	.....	119
Jerdon's Bush-lark	.....	120

Common Swallow	.....	121
Brown Shrike	.....	122
Rufous-backed Shrike	.....	123
Eurasian Golden Oriole	.....	124
Black Drongo	.....	125
Ashy Woodswallow	.....	126
Common Myna	.....	127
Brahminy Starling	.....	128
Rosy Starling	.....	129
Jungle Crow	.....	130
House Crow	.....	131
Indian Treepie	.....	132
Red –vented Bulbul	.....	133
Red – whiskered Bulbul	.....	134
White-browed Bulbul	.....	135
Blyth’s Reed Warbler	.....	136
Oriental Magpie Robin	.....	137
Common Tailorbird	.....	138
Plain Prinia	.....	139

Ashy Prinia	.....	140
Pied Bushchat	.....	141
Indian Robin	.....	142
Asian Paradise Flycatcher	.....	143
White-headed Babbler	.....	144
Common Babbler	.....	145
Large Grey Babbler	.....	146
Jungle Babbler	.....	147
Orange-headed Thrush	.....	148
Black-headed Cuckoo Shrike	.....	149
Small Minivet	.....	150
Common Woodshrike	.....	151
Common Iora	.....	152
Paddyfield Pipit	.....	153
Grey Wagtail	.....	154
Yellow Wagtail	.....	155
Large Pied Wagtail	.....	156
Purple Sunbird	.....	157
Loten's Sunbird	.....	158

Purple-rumped Sunbird	.....	159
House Sparrow	.....	160
Streaked Weaver	.....	161
Baya Weaver	.....	162
White-throated Munia	.....	163
Black-headed Munia	.....	164
Spotted Munia	.....	165
White-rumped Munia	.....	166
Species FactSheets (As Per Birds International)	.....	167
SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY	.....	170
INDEX TO SCIENTIFIC NAMES	.....	174
INDEX TO COMMON NAMES	.....	182
INDEX TO VERNACULAR NAMES	.....	189

INTRODUCTION

The classic description of Madras City, capital of Madras Presidency as given in the Imperial Gazetteer (1908), is totally changed. It is neither Madras City now, nor its physical boundaries are intersected by “two languid streams, the Cooum and the Adyar” The Chennai Metropolitan City (formerly Madras, Chennappa Naicker Patnam) has metamorphosed retaining its geological description, amusingly changing geographical and anthropological aspects, ordering a newer description of the physical changes. The avenues are denuded of the “frequent groves of palms and other trees” the imposing high rise concrete jungles have done away “the gardens, dignity of parks and rice fields” Houses are not “one storeyed” any further. The city has grown in “all the three dimensions” It is no more “a fortuitous collection of villages” and there is a clear-cut boundary line which is engulfing the outer margins by the process of urbanization. For municipal and statistical purposes, the Chennai agglomerate consists of Chennai district, Kancheepuram and Thiruvallur districts. The Corporation of Chennai runs Municipal Administration by 10 Zonal Offices controlling 155 Divisional Offices and the Collectorates of Kancheepuram and Thiruvallur control the outskirts of Chennai City. The miscalculation by the English (Gazetteer 1908)- “ample open spaces which will never be built over”- has done more damage. The People’s Park, Napier Park, Robinson’s Park, extensive grounds of the Government House do not serve as “lungs to the crowded centre of the city” any further. They have been strangled by the industry. Despite all the assaults on nature within the city, the one appreciable point is the presence of Guindy National Park which claims to be the “silent” oxygen producing facility. Statues and places of worship have increased in geometrical proportions eating away the surveyed

lands. The climate of Chennai has been accurately studied by the British as “three months hot and nine months hotter” The mercury has never fallen below 20° C mean value. As for the population projection with increase at 0.5 lakh a decade from 1871, by 1901 it stood at 5 lakhs. By the dawn of this millennium, it should have been 10 lakhs, but it is at least 4 times more placing a higher demand on the environment. The Zoological Garden which started as an annexe to the Madras Museum, was transferred to the People’s Park in 1863 and is presently located in the southern outskirts as Arignar Anna Zoological Garden at Vandalur. As for the coastline, Chennai has no natural harbour but two man-made, facilitating high quantities of export and import. The coastline is sandy, and completely urbanized.

GEOGRAPHY

The metropolitan city of Chennai is located between 12° 9’ and 13° 9’ Northern latitude & 80° 12’ and 80°19’ southern longitude stretching to approximately 26 Kms along the coast line from Thiruvanmiyur in the South to Thiruvottiyur in the North. It is bounded by the Bay of Bengal in the east and the remaining sides by Kanchipuram and Thiruvallur Districts (erstwhile Chengalpattu). The average elevation is less than 22 feet above the median sea level and many of the inland areas are just at sea level

The Cooum river (Kuvam) in the north and Adyar river in the south are not perennial with the former carrying heavy loads of pollutants through the city. The Cooum River originates from Kesavaram anicut built across Kortalayar River and the origin of River Adyar traced to a point near Guduvancheri

village which receives the outflows of Chembarambakkam Lake. The Buckingham canal, getting into Tamilnadu from Andhra Pradesh, had been a navigational canal entering the city at Tondiarpet and opens in the Bay of Bengal near the Victory War Memorial. The other canal, Otteri nullah joins the Buckingham Canal near Basin Bridge railway station. The two principal inshore water currents, the first from North and second from South run parallel to the coast in accordance with monsoons.

The Chennai City does not have forest areas but still green belts exist represented by 'People's Park' Napier Park, My Lady's Park, Nageswara Rao Park, Independence Day Park, Panagal Park, Raj Bhavan, Guindy National Park and Theosophical Society. The city has a number of lentic and a few lotic freshwater bodies including Adambakkam Eri, Alleri Tank, Ambattur Tank, Annanur Tank, Avadi Eri, Ayanambakkam Tank, Chembarambakkam Tank, Chitlapakkam Tank, Chitteri, Hasthinapuram Eri, Keelakatalai Eri, Kolathur Eri, Korattur Tank, Kovilambakkam Eri, Kovilpadagai Tank, Lilly Pond, Madavaram Eri, Madipakkam Eri, Mangamma Tank, Moovarasampattu Eri, Narayanapuram Tank, Nina Eri, Okkiam Maduvu, Palkeni Tank, Periya Eri, Periya Thoppu Lake, Puzhal/Redhill Lake, Puzhuthivakkam Eri, Ramapuram Eri, Retteri, Thangal Eri, Thirusulam Eri, Tumal Eri, Vannan Eri, Veeramuthu Tank, Velacherry Eri, Viliniyambakkam Eri, Adyar River, Ainsley's drain, Buckingham Canal, Cooum River, Ottery nullah and Vaikadu Kava. Many of these waterbodies have become dry beds due to monsoon failure and encroached upon for building dwelling units. The celebrated Theosophical Society on the Southern sector remains undisturbed, with its extensive floral wealth. It is a pleasant bird watching site too. The marshland/wetland at Pallikaranai, in recent days is considered worthy for bird watching.

Sight records of birds of Chennai and its environs are numerous, thanks to the efforts of the Tamilnadu State Forest department, NGO's and the Madras Naturalists' Society. The contributions by

Barnes (1938 & 39), Santharam (1986-1999), Ahimaz (1990), Faizi (1984), Selvarathinam *et al.* (1993), Radhika (1999), Gurusami (1993 & 1994), Rajasekar (1992), Selvakumar *et al.* (1981), Sridhar & Sriram (1986), Murugavel *et al.* (2005) are worth considering amongst the voluminous information available. Popular articles in local news papers by Prince Fredrick, Theodore Bhaskaran, Oppili, Sudhakar, Shoba Menon and others have drawn the attention of public to bird watching in Chennai.

In the Guindy National Park (GNP), according to Tamilnadu forest department, 130 species of birds have been sighted. This National Park is unique in location in a metropolitan city of Chennai for the reason that no other metropolitan city can boast of.

The number of bird species sighted in the Chennai metropolitan area is not yet conclusive but works to around 200 species. There are no authentic photographic records to the occurrence of so many avi-faunal varieties and precisely for that purpose this work has been started under the advise of Dr. P.T. Cherian, Retired Additional Director of Southern Regional Station, Zoological Survey of India, Chennai.

BIRD WATCHING

Birds have been associated with the south Indian's life, time immemorial. It is common sight in Chennai, a fortune teller sitting under the tree with his trained parakeet to forecast one's future. Mylapore, the religious and commercial hub derives its name from 'Mayil' the peafowl which was once abundant in this area. The Government Museum at Egmore has a good collection of stuffed birds.

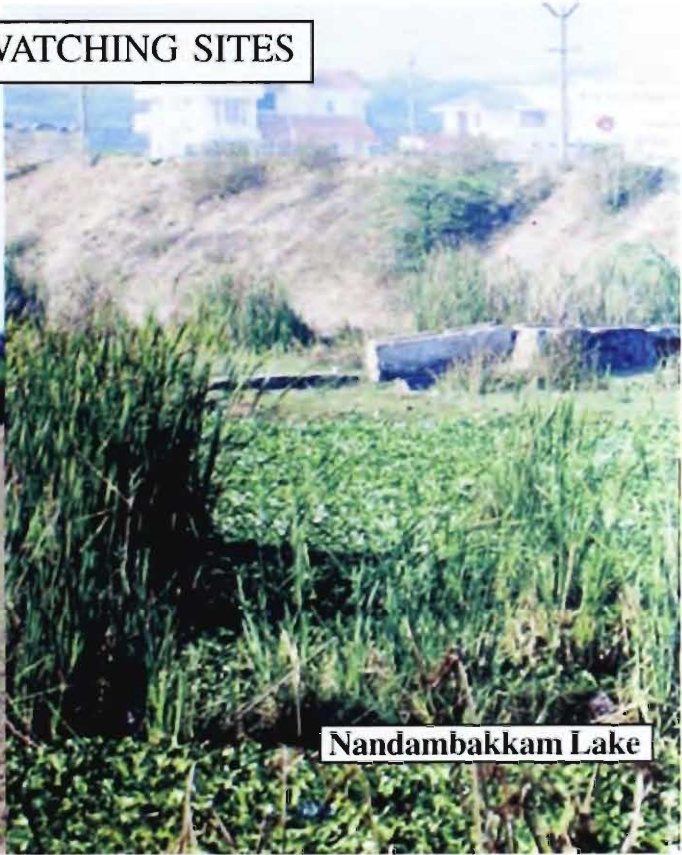
Bird watching not only breaks the monotony of busy city life but also rejuvenates people physically and psychologically. It doesn't require any sophisticated instrument too. There is no age bar to this hobby and can be pursued by the rich and poor alike, provided, one has the will to invest time and energy. A pair of very good field glasses or binoculars, a small note book and a pencil only are required. The best time to watch the bird is at sunrise and sunset. A blossoming artist will have enough scope to exhibit his or her talents by painting a bird in its own place. A budding naturalist can make notes on ecology and habits. Everyone can enjoy the sweet and hoarse noises made by the birds as bird's calls. Nowadays, a number of self-help groups are encouraging bird watching as enjoyable hobby.

To watch waders and water birds, one may have to go to undisturbed coastal areas, like Adyar, Pallikaranai Marsh etc. The ideal places to watch terrestrial birds can be Theosophical Society, Adyar, IIT Campus; Guindy National Park, Porur, Ambathur, Annanagar and adjoining areas, Pulicat, Nenmangalam forest, Red Hills and many places. For the late risers sitting in the balcony itself and looking at the greenery will indicate the presence of sunbirds, babblers, warblers, swallows, woodpeckers, kingfishers, munias, sparrows, owls etc. Photography will definitely be a blessing if one can afford. Bird calls can rouse the detective in you to trace where it is. It is better to avoid wearing bright coloured outfits so that you can merge with the surroundings. Cotton apparels will keep you comfortable with the field.

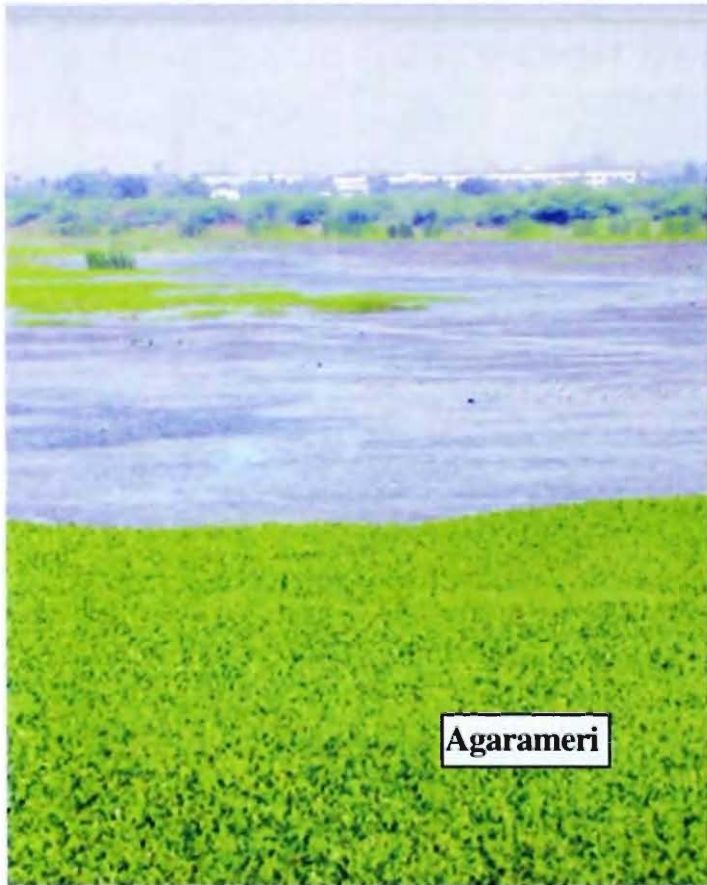
SOME BIRD WATCHING SITES



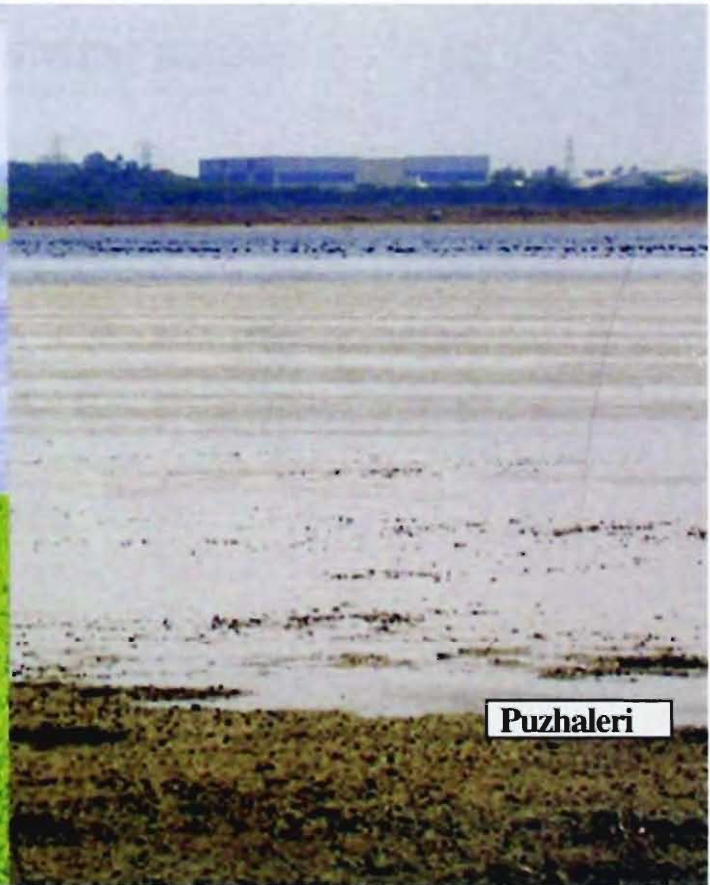
Retteri



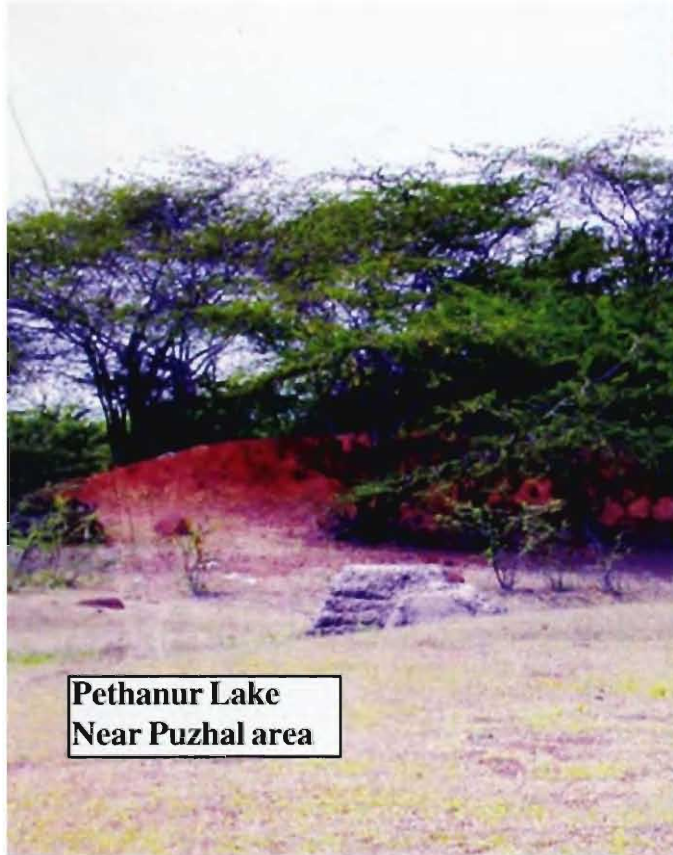
Nandambakkam Lake



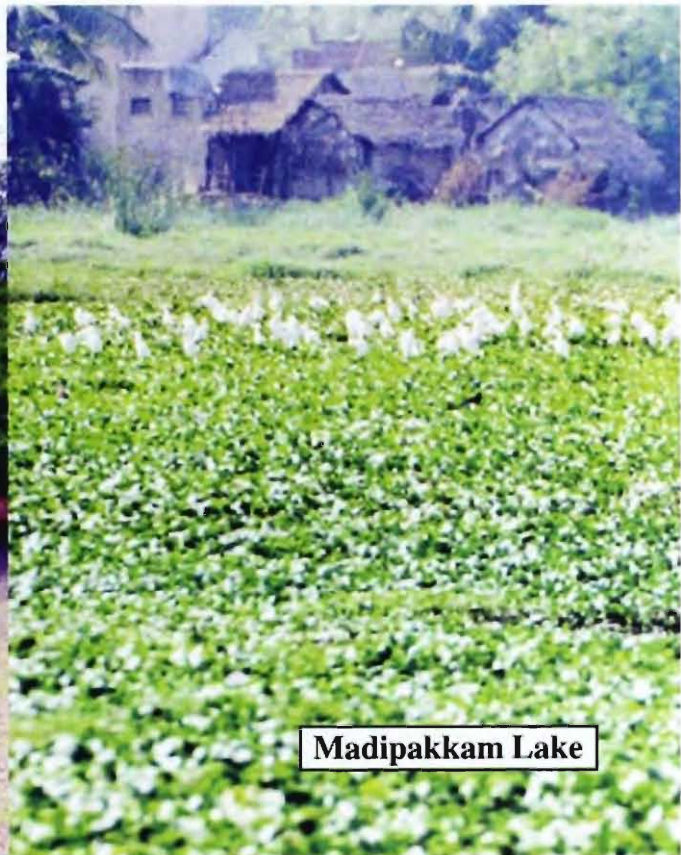
Agarameri



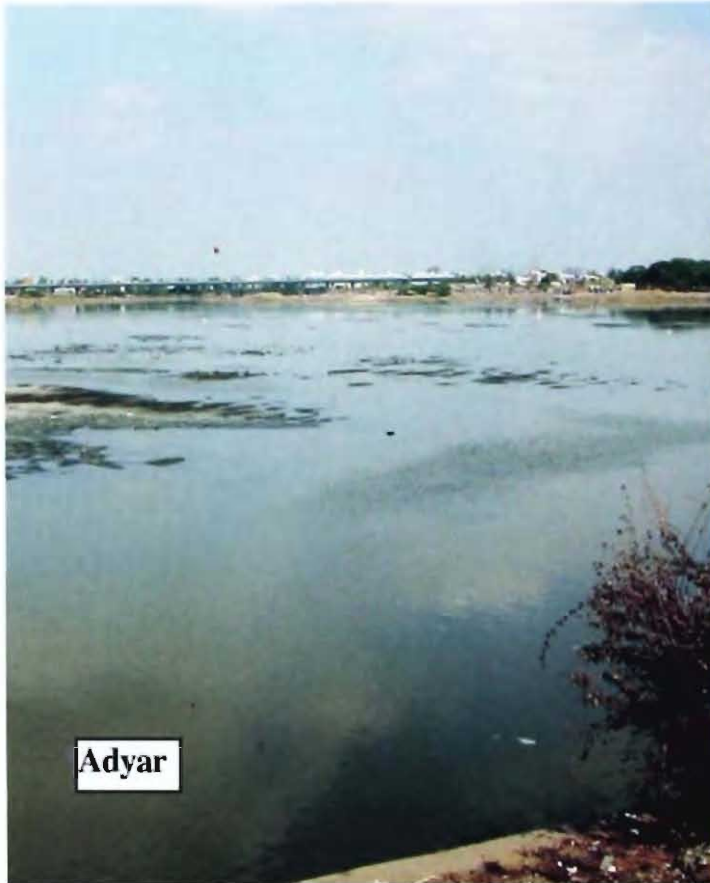
Puzhaleri



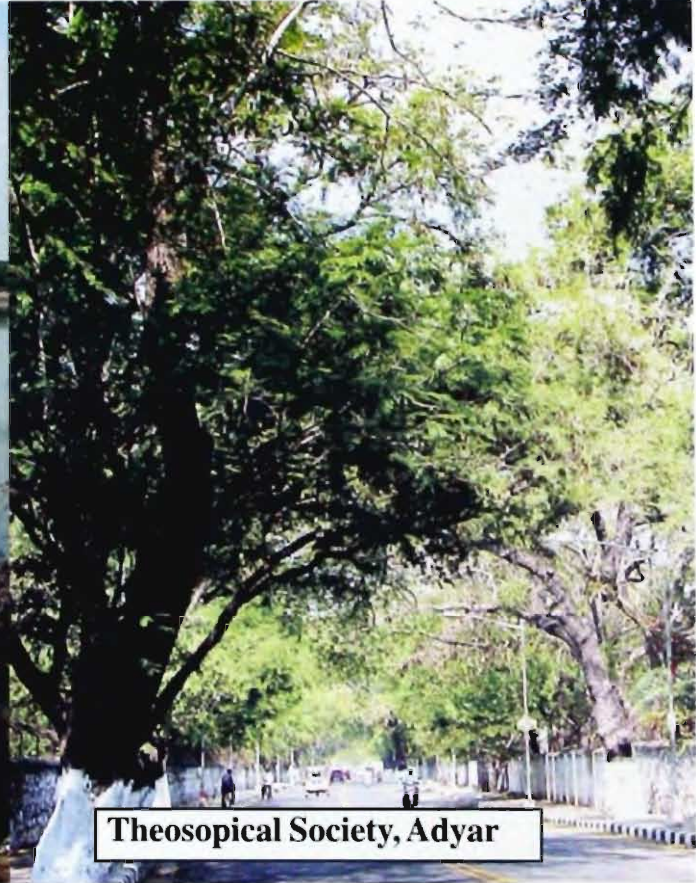
**Pethanur Lake
Near Puzhal area**



Madipakkam Lake



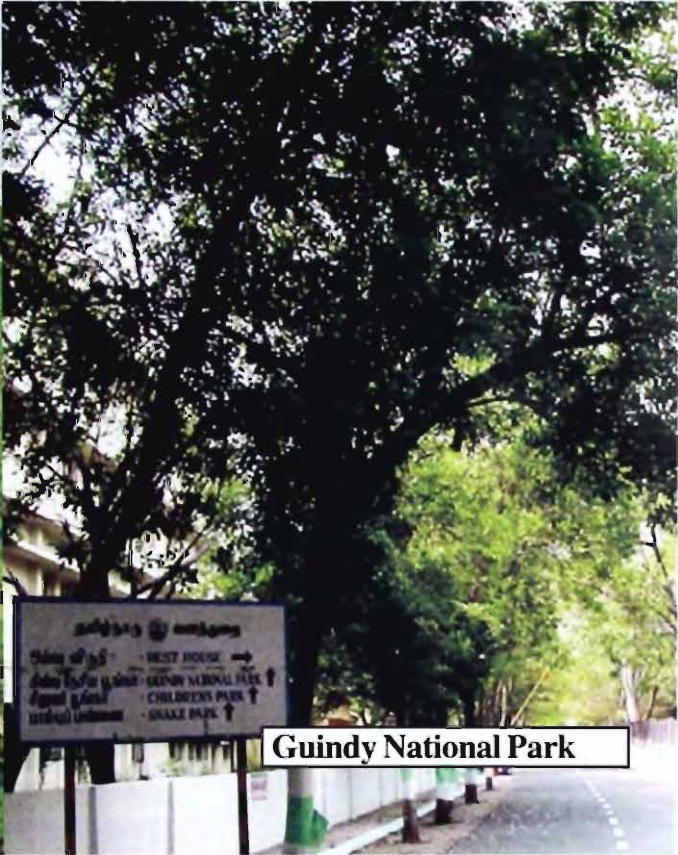
Adyar



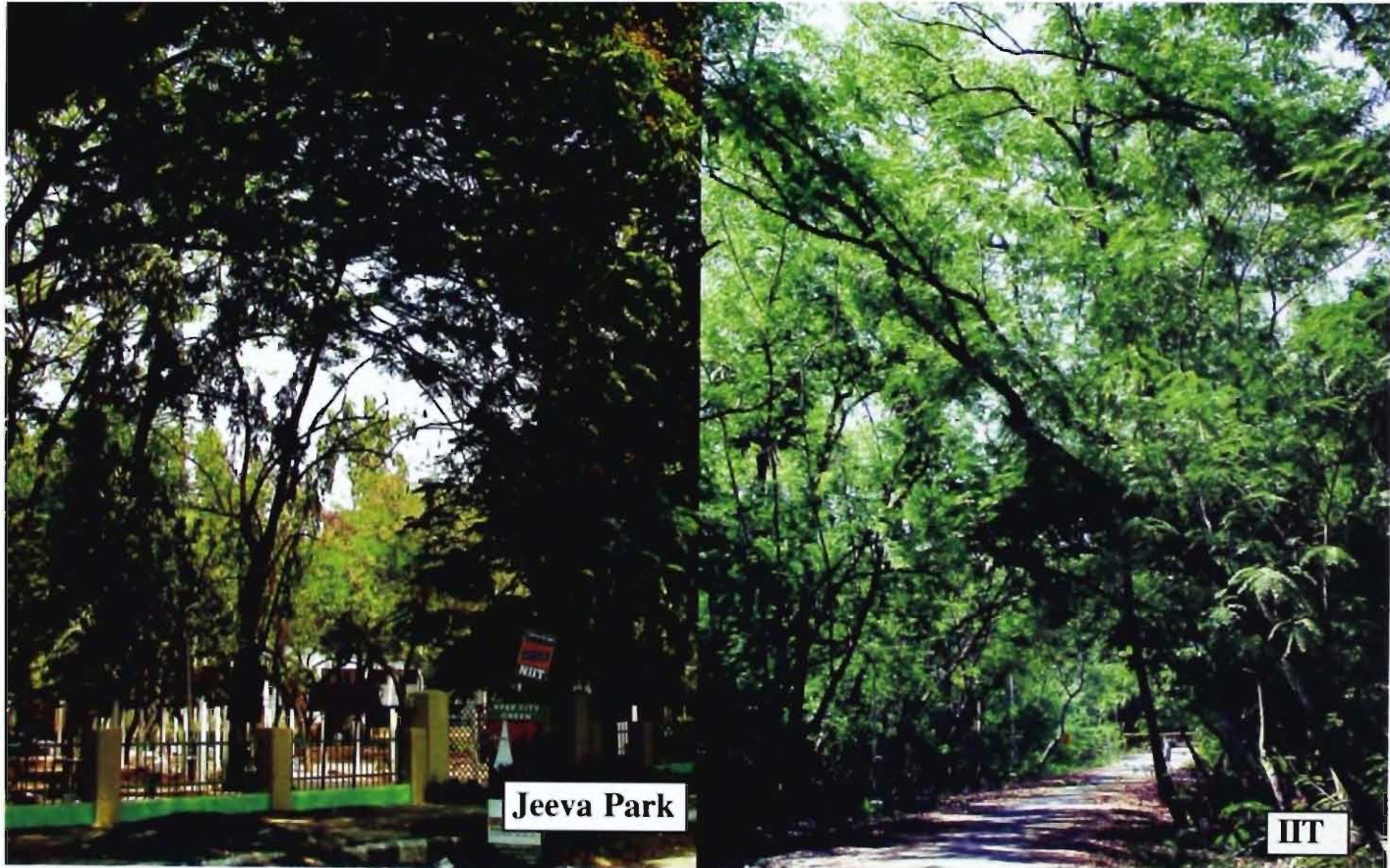
Theosophical Society, Adyar



Pallikaranai



Guindy National Park



SYSTEMATIC LIST

(Placing of Taxa according to Salim Ali & Dillon Ripley, 1983 and naming as per Manakadan & Pittie 2002)

Order PODICIPITICIFORMES

Family PODICIPEDIDAE (Grebes)

Tachybaptus ruficollis (Pallas, 1764)

Order PELECANIFORMES

Family PHALACROCORACIDAE (Cormorants)

Phalacrocorax niger (Vieillot, 1817)

Family ANHINGIDAE (Darter)

Anhinga melanogaster Pennant, 1769

Order CICONIIFORMES

Family ARDEIDAE (Hérons, Egrets, Bitterns)

Ardea cinerea Linnaeus, 1758

Ardea purpurea Linnaeus 1766

Ardeola grayi (Sykes, 1832)

Bubulcus ibis (Linnaeus, 1758)

Butorides striatus (Linnaeus, 1758)

Casmerodius albus (Linnaeus, 1758)

Dupetor flavicollis (Latham, 1790)

Egretta garzetta (Linnaeus, 1766)

Ixobrychus cinnamomeus (Gmelin, 1789)

Ixobrychus sinensis (Gmelin, 1789)

Mesophoyx intermedia (Wagler, 1829)

Nycticorax nycticorax (Linnaeus, 1758)

Family CICONIIDAE (Storks)

Anastomus oscitans (Boddaert, 1783)

Mycteria leucocephala (Pennant, 1769)

Family THRESKIORNITHIDAE (Ibises & Spoonbills)

Threskiornis melanocephalus (Latham, 1790)

Plegadis falcinellus (Linnaeus, 1766)

Family PHOENICOPTERIDAE (Flamingo)

Phoenicopterus ruber Linnaeus, 1758

Family ANATIDAE (Ducks, Geese, Swans)

Anas acuta Linnaeus, 1758

Anas poecilorhyncha J.R. Forster, 1781

Dendrocygna javanica (Horsfield, 1821)

Order FALCONIFORMES

Family ACCIPITRIDAE (Hawks, Eagles, Harriers, Buzzards, Old world Vultures)

Accipiter badius (Gmelin, 1788)

Accipiter nisus (Linnaeus, 1758)

Accipiter virgatus (Temminck, 1822)

Elanus caeruleus (Desfontaines, 1789)

Haliastur indus (Boddaert, 1783)

Milvus migrans (Boddaert, 1783)

Neophron percnopterus (Linnaeus, 1758)

Pernis ptilorhynchus (Temminck, 1821)

Spilornis cheela (Latham, 1790)

Family FALCONIDAE (Falcons)

Falco tinnunculus (Linnaeus, 1758)

Order GALLIFORMES

Family PHASIANIDAE (Fancolins, Quails, Pheasants, Peafowls)

Francolinus pondicerianus (Gmelin, 1789)*Pavo cristatus* Linnaeus, 1758

Order GRUIFORMES

Family RALLIDAE (Rails, Crakes, Moorhens, Coots)

Amaurornis phoenicurus (Pennant, 1769)*Fulica atra* Linnaeus, 1758*Gallinula chloropus* (Linnaeus, 1758)*Porphyrio porphyrio* (Linnaeus, 1758)

Order CHARADRIIFORMES

Family JACANIDAE (Jacanas)

Hydrophasianus chirurgus (Scopoli, 1786)

Family CHARADRIIDAE (Plovers)

Charadrius alexandrinus Linnaeus, 1758*Charadrius dubius* (Scopoli, 1786)

Pluvialis fulva (Gmelin, 1789)

Vanellus indicus (Boddaert, 1783)

Vanellus malabaricus (Boddaert, 1783)

Family SCOLOPACIDAE (Snipes, Woodcocks, Sandpiper)

Actitis hypoleucos Linnaeus, 1758

Calidris minuta (Leisler, 1812)

Gallinago gallinago (Linnaeus, 1758)

Limosa limosa (Linnaeus, 1758)

Numenius arquata (Linnaeus, 1758)

Philomachus pugnax (Linnaeus, 1758)

Tringa glareola Linnaeus, 1758

Tringa nebularia (Gunner, 1767)

Tringa stagnatilis (Bechstein, 1803)

Tringa totanus (Linnaeus, 1758)

Family RECURVIROSTRIDAE (Ibisbill, Avocets, Stilts)

Himantopus himantopus (Linnaeus, 1758)

Family BURHINIDAE (Stone-curlew / Thick-knees)

Burhinus oedicnemus (Linnaeus, 1758)

Family LARIDAE (Gulls, Terns & Noddies)

Gelochelidon nilotica (Gmelin, 1789)

Larus ridibundus Linnaeus, 1766

Sterna aurantia J.E.Gray, 1831

Order COLUMBIFORMES

Family COLUMBIDAE (Pigeons, Doves)

Columba livia Gmelin, 1789

Streptopelia chinensis (Scopoli, 1786)

Streptopelia senegalensis (Linnaeus, 1766)

Order PSITTACIFORMES

Family PSITTACIDAE (Parakeets, Parrots, Cockatoos, Lories, Macaws)

Psittacula krameri (Scopoli, 1769)

Order CUCULIFORMES

Family CUCULIDAE (Cuckoos, Coucals, Malkohas)

Centropus sinensis (Stephens, 1815)

Clamator coromandus (Linnaeus, 1766)

Clamator jacobinus (Boddaert, 1783)

Eudynamys scolopacea (Linnaeus, 1758)

Hierococcyx varius (Vahl, 1797)

Phaenicophaeus viridirostris (Jerdon, 1840)

Order STRIGIFORMES

Family STRIGIDAE (Owls)

Asio flammeus (Pontoppidan, 1763)

Athene brama (Temminck, 1821)

Bubo bubo (Linnaeus, 1758)

Tyto alba (Scopoli, 1769)

Order CAPRIMULGIFORMES

Family CAPRIMULGIDAE (Nightjars)

Caprimulgus asiaticus Latham, 1790

Order APODIFORMES

Family APODIDAE (Swifts)

Apus affinis (J.E. Gray, 1830)

Cypsiurus balasiensis (J.E.Gray, 1829)

Order CORACIIFORMES

Family ALCEDINIDAE (Kingfishers)

Alcedo atthis (Linnaeus, 1758)

Ceryle rudis (Linnaeus, 1758)

Halcyon capensis (Linnaeus, 1766)

Halcyon pileata (Boddaert, 1783)

Halcyon smyrnensis (Linnaeus, 1758)

Family MEROPIDAE (Bee-eaters)

Merops orientalis Latham, 1801

Merops philippinus Linnaeus, 1758

Family CORACIIDAE (Rollers, Ground-rollers)

Coracias benghalensis (Linnaeus, 1758)

Family UPUPIDAE (Hoopoes)

Upupa epops Linnaeus, 1758

Order PICIFORMES

Family CAPITONIDAE (Barbets)

Megalaima haemacephala (P.L.S Muller, 1776)

Lonchura malabarica (Linnaeus, 1758)

Family PICIDAE (Woodpeckers, Wryneeks)

Dinopium benghalense (Linnaeus, 1758)

Order PASSERIFORMES

Family PITTIDAE (Pittas)

Pitta brachyura (Linnaeus, 1766)

Family ALAUDIDAE (Larks)

Alauda gulgula Franklin, 1831

Eremopterix grisea (Scopoli, 1786)

Mirafra affinis Blyth, 1845

Family HIRUNDINIDAE (Swallows and Martins)

Hirundo rustica Linnaeus, 1758

Family LANIIDAE (Shrikes)

Lanius cristatus Linnaeus, 1758

Lanius schach Linnaeus, 1758

Family ORIOLIDAE (Orioles)

Oriolus oriolus (Linnaeus, 1758)

Family DICRURIDAE (Drangos)

Dicrurus macrocercus Vieillot, 1817

Family ARTAMIDAE (Wood-swallows)

Artamus fuscus Vieillot, 1817

Family STURNIDAE (Staling, Myna)

Acridotheres tristis (Linnaeus, 1766)

Sturnus pagodarum (Gmelin, 1789)

Sturnus roseus (Linnaeus, 1758)

Family CORVIDAE (Crows, Treepies)

Corvus macrorhynchos Wagler, 1827

Corvus splendens Vieillot, 1817

Dendrocitta vagabunda (Latham, 1790)

Family PYCNONOTIDAE (Bulbul)

Pycnonotus cafer (Linnaeus, 1766)

Pycnonotus jocosus (Linnaeus, 1758)

Pycnonotus luteolus (Lesson, 1841)

Family MUSCICAPIDAE (Robins, Babblers, Wrablers, Chats, Thrushes, Flycatchers)

Acrocephalus dumetorum Blyth, 1849

Copsychus saularis (Linnaeus, 1758)

Orthotomus sutorius (Pennant, 1769)

Prinia inornata Sykes, 1832

Prinia socialis Sykes, 1832

Saxicola caprata (Linnaeus, 1766)

Saxicoloides fulicata (Linnaeus, 1766)

Terpsiphone paradisi (Linnaeus, 1758)

Turdoides affinis (Jerdon, 1847)

Turdoides caudatus (Dumont, 1823)

Turdoides malcolmi (Sykes, 1832)

Turdoides striatus (Dumont, 1823)

Zoothera citrina (Latham, 1790)

Family CAMPEPHAGIDAE (Cuckoo-Shrikes)

Coracina melanoptera (Ruppell, 1839)

Pericrocotus cinnamomeus (Linnaeus, 1766)

Tephrodornis pondicerianus (Gmelin, 1789)

Family IRENIDAE (Ioras, Chloropsis, Leafbirds, Fairy-Bluebirds)

Aegithina tiphia (Linnaeus, 1758)

Family MOTACILLIDAE (Wagtails, Pipits)

Anthus rufulus Vieillot, 1818

Motacilla cinerea Tunstall, 1771

Motacilla flava Linnaeus, 1758

Motacilla maderaspatensis Gmelin, 1789

Family NECTARINIDAE (Sunbirds)

Nectarinia asiatica (Latham, 1790)

Nectarinia lotenia (Linnaeus, 1766)

Nectarinia zeylonica (Linnaeus, 1766)

Family PASSERIDAE (Sparrows, Weavers)

Passer domesticus (Linnaeus, 1758)

Ploceus manyar (Horsfield, 1821)

Ploceus philippinus (Linnaeus, 1766)

Family ESTRILDIDAE (Munias, Waxbills)

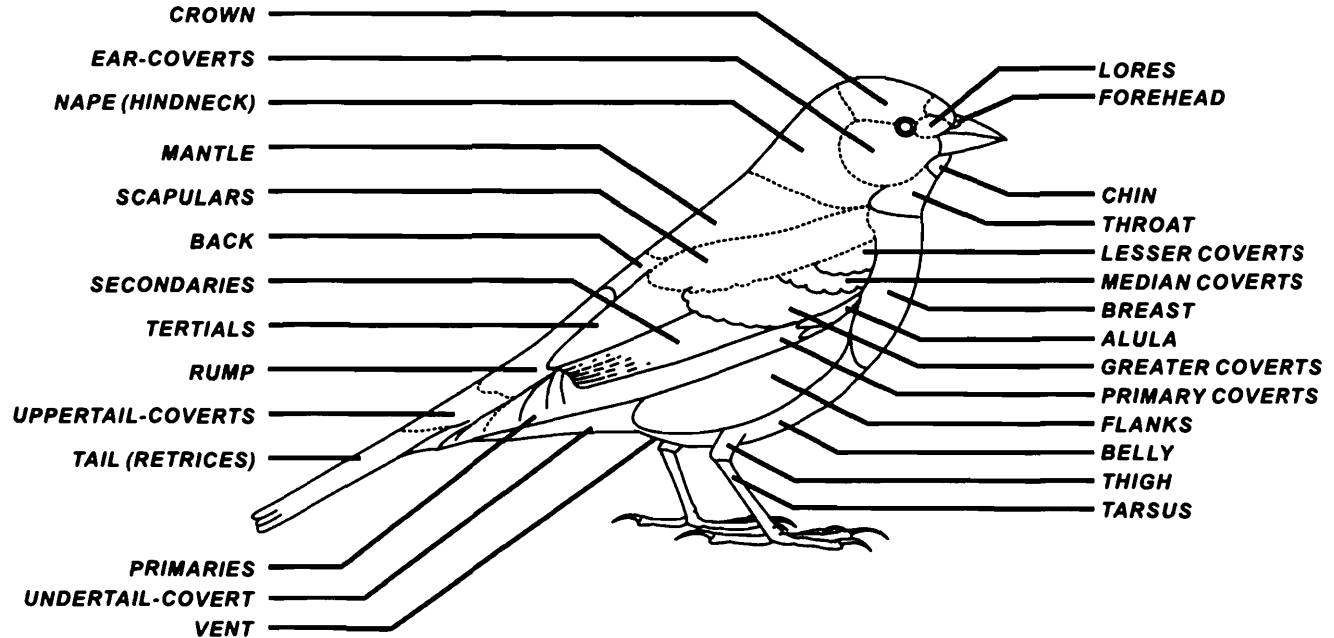
Lonchura malabarica (Linnaeus, 1758)

Lonchura malacca (Linnaeus, 1766)

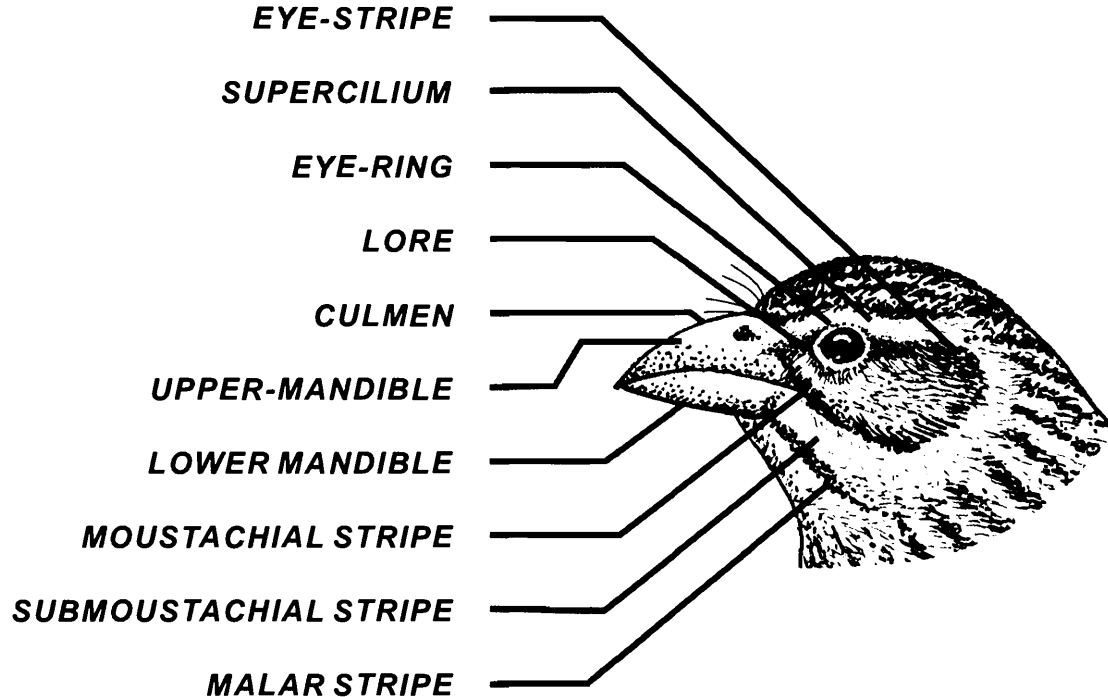
Lonchura punctulata (Linnaeus, 1766)

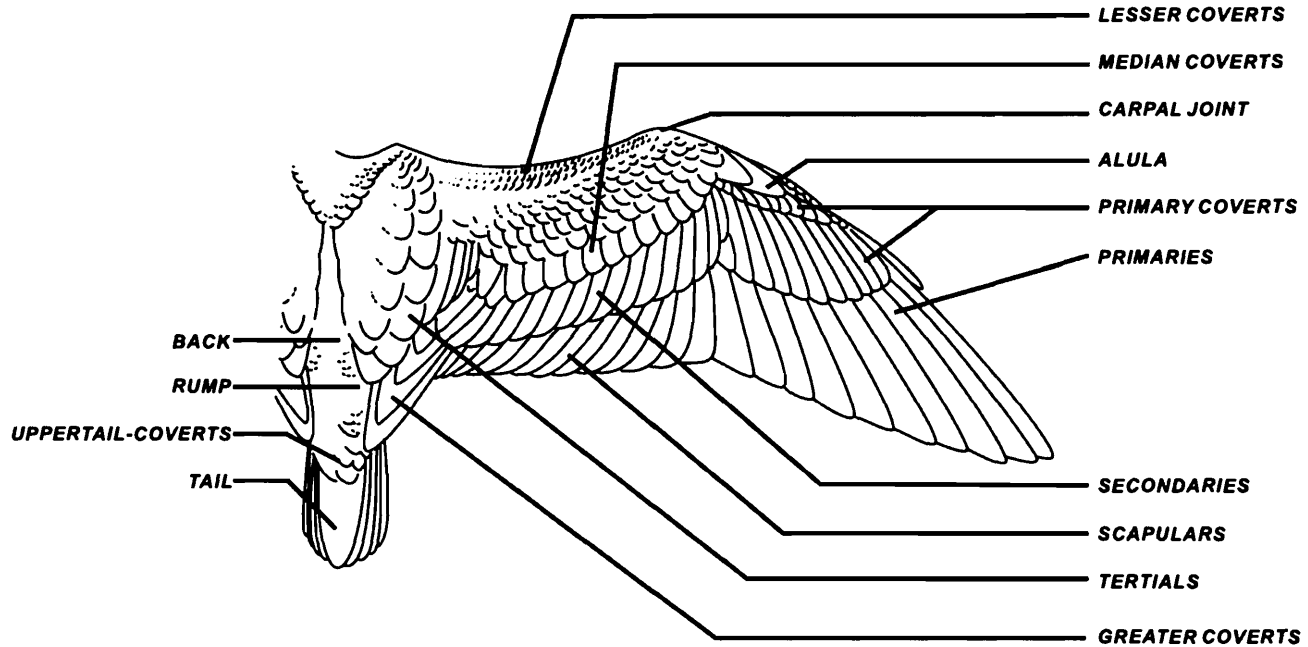
Lonchura striata (Linnaeus, 1766)

DESCRIPTIVE PARTS OF BIRDS



DESCRIPTIVE PARTS OF BIRDS



DESCRIPTIVE PARTS OF BIRDS

Family PODICIPEDIDAE

1. *Tachybaptus ruficollis* (Pallas, 1764)

Little Grebe

முக்குளிப்பான் Mukkulippaan
தண்ணிபுள்ளு - Thanni Pullu

Field Identification Characters : Size of pigeon; duck-like water bird; top of head and hind neck blackish-brown; sides of head and neck chestnut brown; upper parts of body brown; inner flight feathers white; base of bill yellow green, prominent; during breeding season abdomen silky white; no tail.

Habits and Habitat : Specialised for aquatic life; occurs in flocks, inhabiting water bodies; feed on small aquatic animals; an excellent diver and underwater swimmer.

Distribution : Throughout India.

Status : Resident and migratory.

IUCN : LC



Family PHALACROCORACIDAE

2. *Phalacrocorax niger* (Vieillot, 1817)

Little Cormorant

கடல் காகம் - Kadal Kaagam

நீர் காகம் - Neer Kaagam

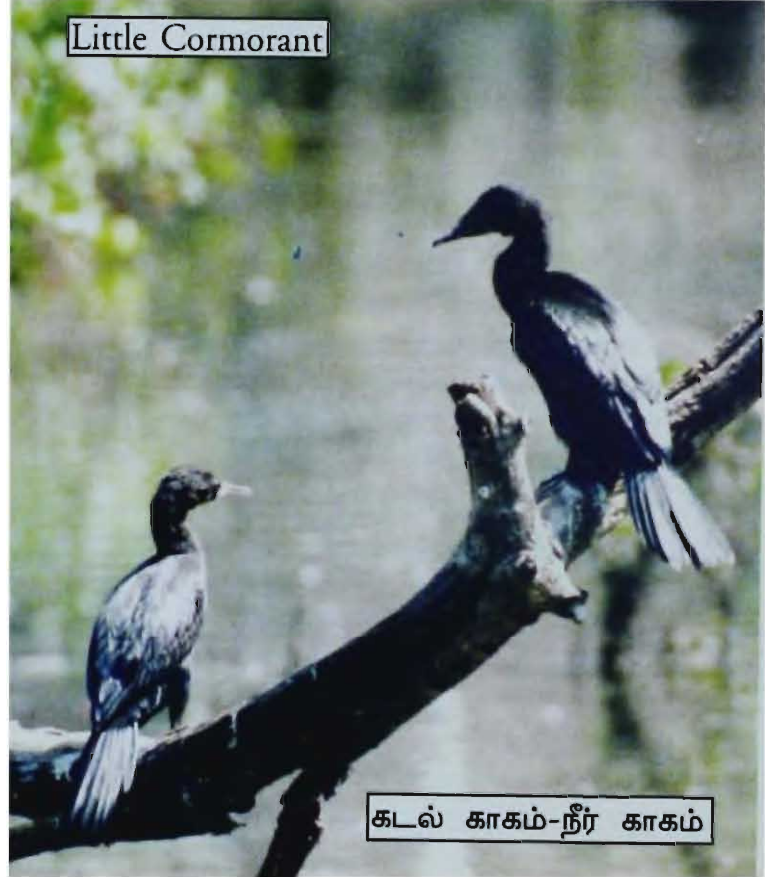
Field Identification Characters : Size of a jungle crow; water bird; whole body glistening black; a white patch bordering throat pouch which is lost in breeding season; bill sharply hooked; brown purple while breeding; tail V-shaped; toes webbed and flattened; male and female alike.

Habits and Habitat : Found in flocks, drying its outspread wings on dead free stumps, sandpits, partially exposed rocks, etc.; prefers freshwater bodies; occasionally found in the seacoast; feed mostly on fishes.

Distribution : Throughout India.

Status : Resident with local movements.

IUCN : LC



Little Cormorant

கடல் காகம்-நீர் காகம்

Family ANHINGIDAE

3. *Anhinga melanogaster* Pennant, 1769

Darter

பாம்புத்தாரா - Pambutthaaraa

Field Identification Characters : A large black water bird; a long brown snake-like neck with silvery streak on back; bill pointed; male and female alike.

Habits and Habitat : Excellent diver, inhabiting shrubs near lakes, streams, village tanks etc; feed mainly on fish.

Distribution : Throughout India.

Status : Resident.

IUCN : NT



Family ARDEIDAE

4. *Ardea cinerea* Linnaeus, 1758

Grey Heron

சாம்பல் நாரை - Saambal Naarai

Field Identification Characters : A large long necked egret like marsh bird; body ash grey; head and neck white; long black crest on head; a long black dotted line from fore neck to the middle of body; body below dull white; bill dull yellow; male and female alike; female small.

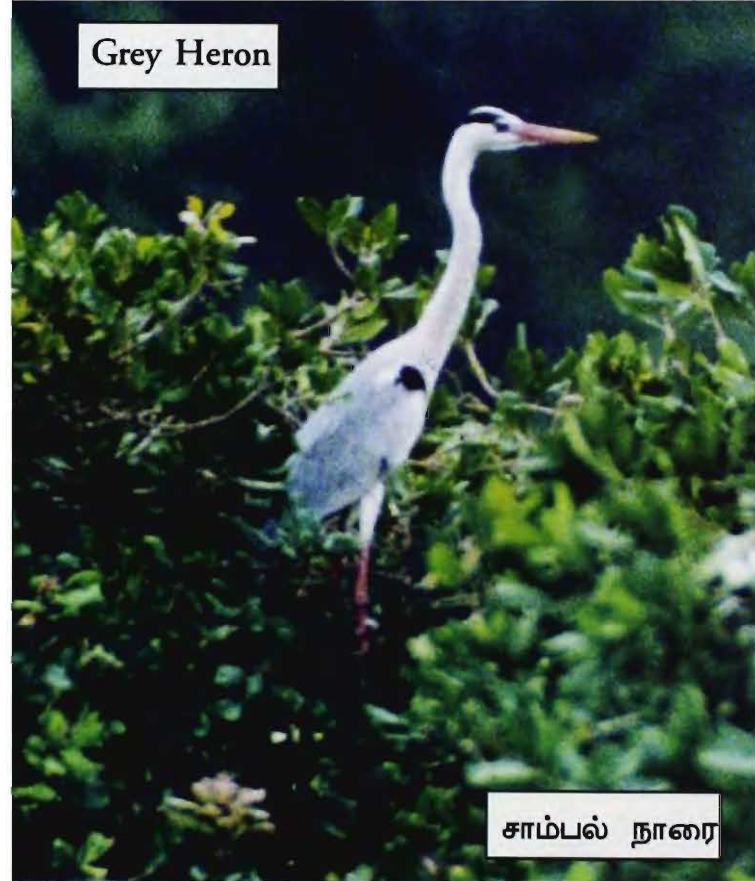
Habits and Habitat : Normally solitary; gregarious while nesting; characteristically stands motionless intently watching for the prey; feed on fish, frog and aquatic invertebrates.

Distribution : Throughout India.

Status : Widespread resident.

IUCN : LC

Remarks : The sighted bird is *Ardea cinerea rectirostris* Gould



Family ARDEIDAE

5. *Ardea purpurea* Linnaeus , 1766

Purple Heron

செந்நாரை - Chennaarai

Field Identification Characters : Smaller than grey heron; marsh bird; purple all over the body, slightly blackish wing and fowl; crown and crest state coloured; the long thin neck with black stripes; male and female alike.

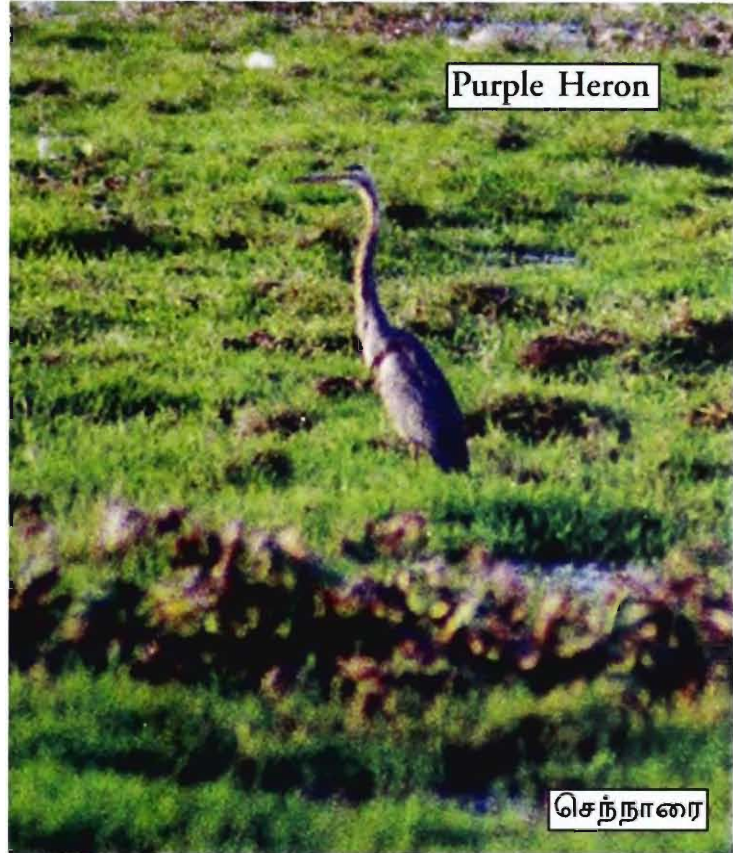
Habits and Habitat : Mostly crepuscular; secretive and hiding in dense bushes, reeds, etc.; feed on fish, frog and aquatic invertebrates; solitary; nesting in small colonies..

Distribution : Throughout India.

Status : Widespread resident; possible winter migrant from other regions.

IUCN : LC

Remarks : The sighted bird is *Ardea purpurea manilensis* Meyen



Family ARDEIDAE

6. *Ardeola grayi* (Sykes, 1832)

Indian Pond Heron

மடையான் Madaiyaan

குருட்டு கொக்கு Kurutu kokku

Field Identification Characters : Size of a country hen; egret like waterside bird; adult brown while perching; in flight wings appear snow white below; chin and throat whole; breeding adults handsome and yellowish brown with long decompressed plumage; male and female alike.

Habits and Habitat : Solitary when feeding; gregarious at roost; colonial while nesting; feed on fish, frogs and aquatic invertebrates at pond margins, tidal mud flats, etc.

Distribution : Throughout India.

Status : Widespread resident.

IUCN : LC



Family ARDEIDAE

7. *Bubulcus ibis* (Linnaeus, 1758)

Cattle Egret

உன்னிக்கொக்கு Unni Kokku

Field Identification Characters : Size of domestic hen; found on grazing cattle, near water edge, etc.; a snow white yellow billed bird; plumage orange during breeding; male and female alike.

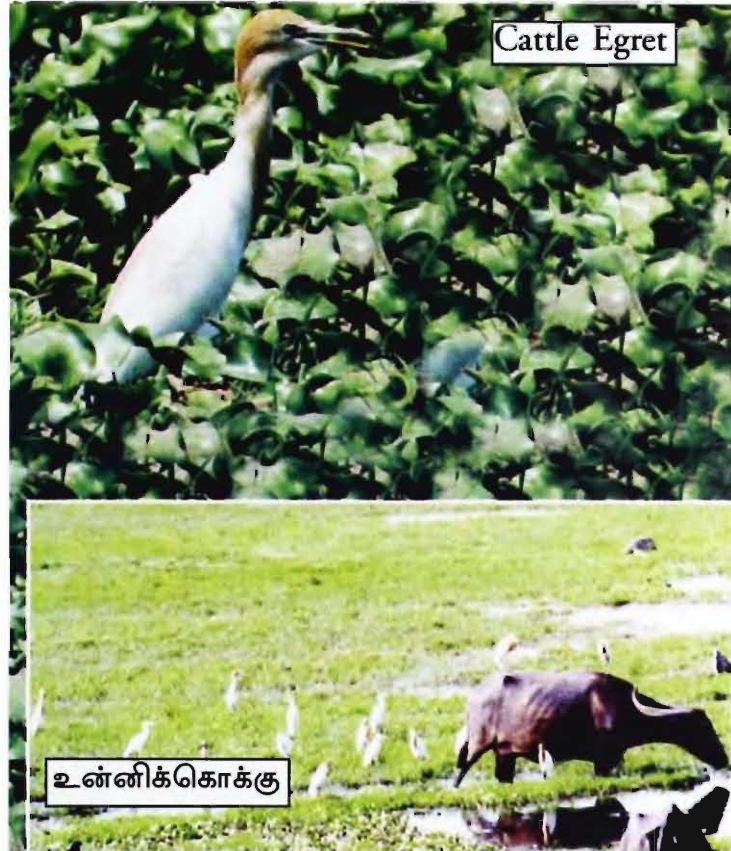
Habits and Habitat : Gregarious; feed on insects, earthworms, etc., inhabiting grasslands, scrubby areas disturbed by cattle; attending on grazing animals by eating ticks and mites.

Distribution : Throughout India.

Status : Widespread resident.

IUCN : LC

Remarks : The sighted bird is *Bubulcus ibis coromandus* (Booddaert).



Family ARDEIDAE

8. *Butorides striatus* (Linnaeus, 1758)

Little Green Heron

தோசிக்கொக்கு - Dhosi Kokku

Field Identification Characters : Size of a pond heron; found on scrubs near water bodies; body black, grey metallic dark green; crest glossy greenish black; cheek and centre of throat white; iris lemon yellow; bill brown; under tail white with black tip; male and female alike.

Habits and Habitat : Solitary, crepuscular, nocturnal; double brooded; found in mangrove swamps, bushes on the edge of stream or pond; feed on fish, frogs and aquatic invertebrates.

Distribution : Throughout India.

Status : Widespread resident.

IUCN : LC

Remarks : The sighted bird is *Butorides striatus javanicus* (Horsfield).

Little Green Heron



தோசிக்கொக்கு

Family ARDEIDAE

9. *Casmerodius albus* (Linnaeus, 1758)

Large Egret

பெரிய வெள்ளை கொக்கு

Peria Vellai Kokku

Field Identification Characters : Size of grey heron; a tall white marsh bird with a kink or a twist in its long neck; leg and feet black with yellow tinges; beak pointed, black with yellow base; ornamental plumes (aigrettes) on back during breeding; male and female alike.

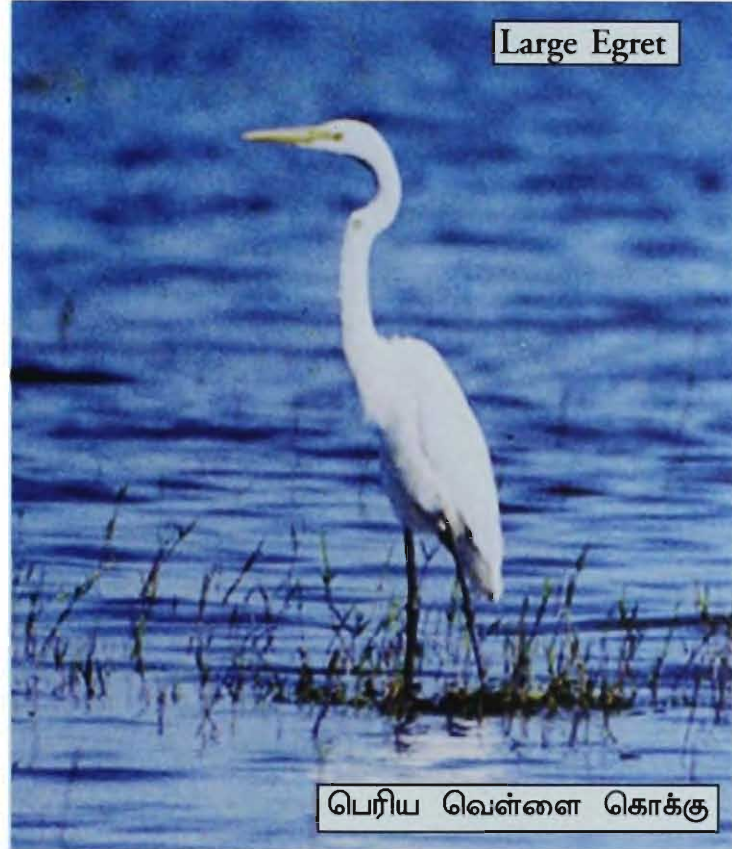
Habits and Habitat : Solitary found in large water bodies and marsh lands; feed on fishes, frogs and aquatic invertebrates.

Distribution : Throughout India.

Status : Widespread resident.

IUCN : LC

Remarks : The sighted bird is *Casmerodius albus modesta* J.E. Gray.



Family ARDEIDAE

10. *Dupetor flavicollis* (Latham, 1790)

Black Bittern

கருங்குருகு **Karunkurugu**

Field Identification Characters : Smaller than pond heron; found in inland marshes; whole body black; neck with a bright yellow band on sides; neck buffed; iris golden brown; eye lids blue; bill dull red; legs dark brown.

Habits and Habitat : Non gregarious; found in reedy marshes; crepuscular and nocturnal; feed on fish, frog, aquatic invertebrates, insects, etc.

Distribution : Throughout India, except Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

Status : Widespread resident.

IUCN : LC

Black Bittern



கருங்குருகு

Family ARDEIDAE

11. *Egretta garzetta* (Linnaeus, 1766)

Little Egret

சின்ன வெள்ளை கொக்கு

Chinna Vellai Kokku

Field Identification Characters : White marsh waterside bird; smaller than Indian egret; bill and legs black; two long crest plumes during breeding; male and female alike.

Habits and Habitat : Found in colonies; feed on fish, frogs and invertebrates at the water's edge.

Distribution : Throughout India.

Status : Widespread resident.

IUCN : LC



Family ARDEIDAE

12. *Ixobrychus cinnamomeus*
(Gmelin, 1789)

Chestnut Bittern

செங்குருகு - Senkurugu

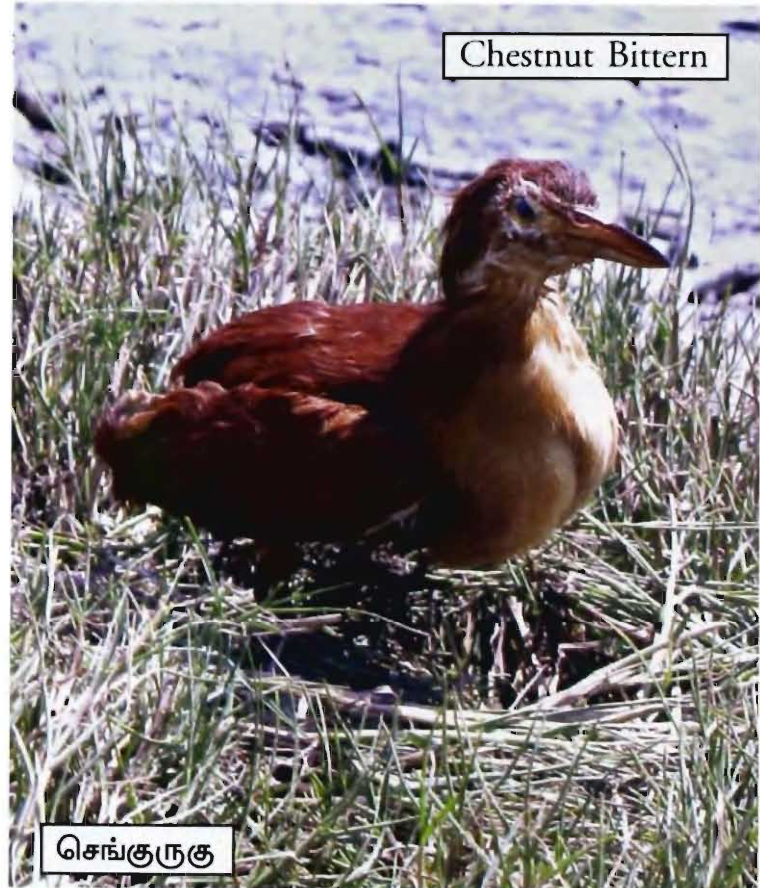
Field Identification Characters : Size of Pond Heron; found in scrub jungles near waterside; body including wing dark tan-brown; a patch of black-chestnut buff-edged feathers on upper breast; iris pinkish red; bill orange; male and female alike except black crown in female.

Habits and Habitat : Non gregarious; found in grasslands, reed-beds, inundated paddy fields. Crepuscular, active during day time; feed on fish, frogs, aquatic invertebrates, insects, etc.

Distribution : Throughout India.

Status : Widespread resident.

IUCN : LC



Family ARDEIDAE

13. *Ixobrychus sinensis* (Gmelin, 1789)

Yellow Bittern

மணல் நாரை Manal Naarai

Field Identification Characters : Size of a village hen; found in scrub jungles near water bodies; body more brownish in perch; yellowish in flight; crown and bushy crest black; tail grey black; upper breast blackish with buff streaks; iris orange-yellow; bill dusty brown; largest feet yellowish green; male and female alike.

Habits and Habitat : Crepuscular; found along with pond heron in inland swamps, mangroves, backwaters and inundated fields; nocturnal and active in overcast weather; feed on fish, frogs, aquatic invertebrates and insects.

Distribution : Throughout India.

Status : Widespread resident.

IUCN : LC



Family ARDEIDAE

14. *Mesophoyx intermedia*
(Wagler, 1829)

Median Egret

வெள்ளை கொக்கு - Vellai Kokku

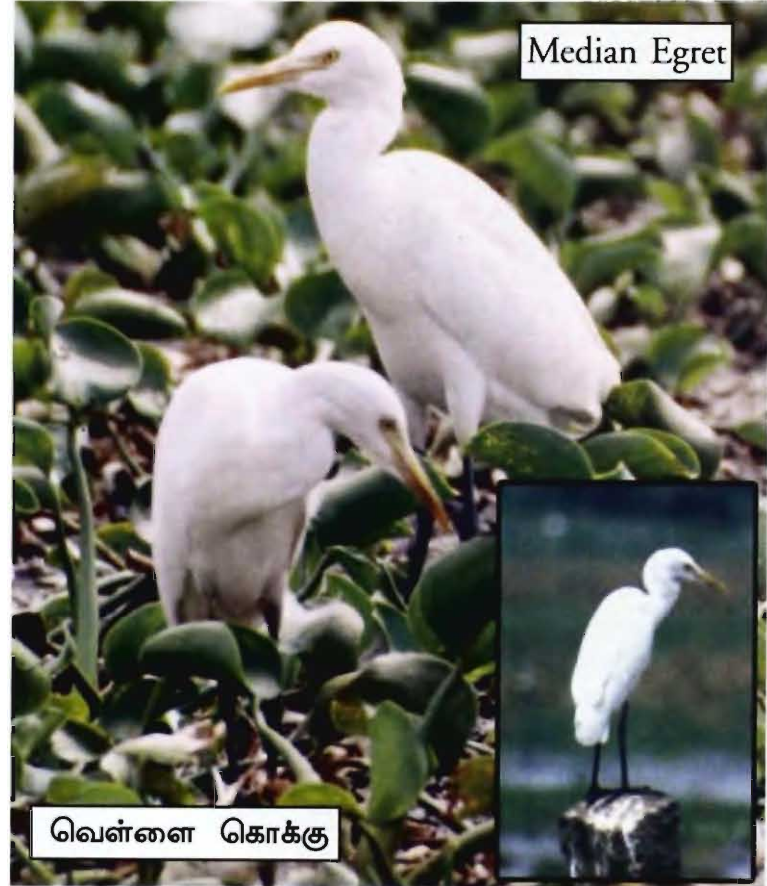
Field Identification Characters : Smaller than large egret; white long necked marsh bird with out kink in the neck; diagnosed by the presence of decomposed filamentous plumes on breast and back; male and female alike.

Habits and Habitat : Occurs in small groups; inhabiting larger water bodies and marsh lands; feed on fish, frogs and small invertebrates.

Distribution : Throughout India.

Status : Widespread resident.

IUCN : LC



Family ARDEIDAE

15. *Nycticorax nycticorax*
(Linnaeus, 1758)

Black-crowned Night Heron

வக்கா - Vakkaa

Field Identification Characters : Size of a pond heron; inhabiting the environs around water bodies; a heavy grey, white, metallic greenish bird; crown black stout bill; male and female alike.

Habits and Habitat : Colonial; inhabiting mangroves and overhanging vegetations. crepuscular, nocturnal; feed on fish, frogs and other aquatic invertebrates.

Distribution : Throughout India.

Status : Widespread resident.

IUCN : LC



Family CICONIDAE
16. *Anastomus oscitans*

(Boddaert, 1783)

Asian Openbill

நத்தைகுத்தி நாரை
Nathai Kuthi Naarai

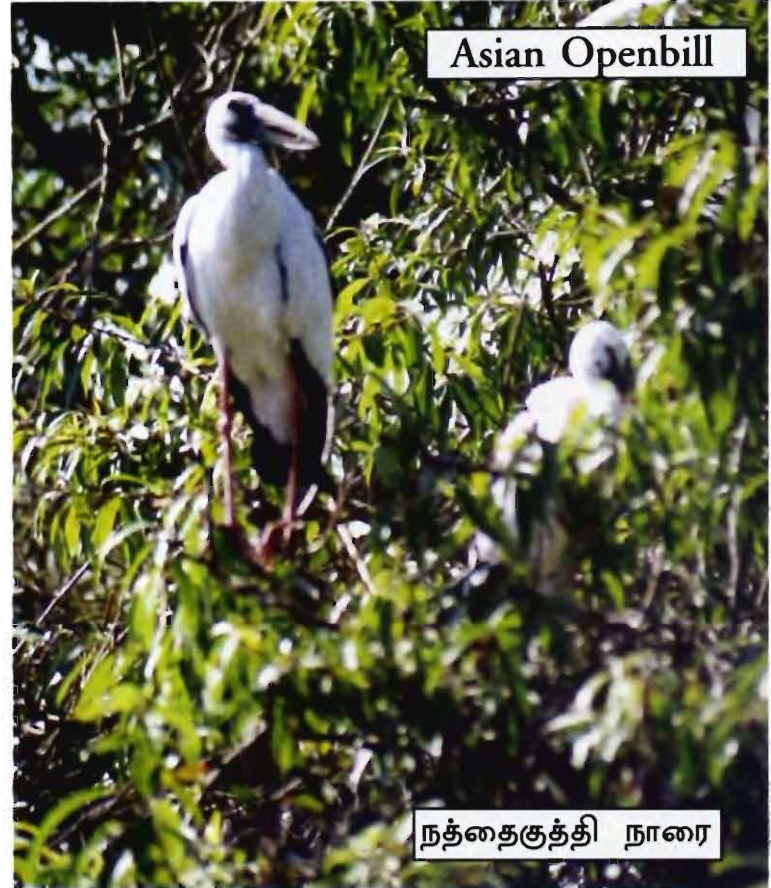
Field Identification Characters : Size of duck; marsh bird; snow white with black mantled wings and tail; bill peculiar with arching lower bill; a narrow open gap between bill is characteristic; legs dull flesh coloured; male and female alike.

Habits and Habitat : Gregarious; migratory; inhabiting all types of waters and mudflats; feed chiefly on molluscs, partially frogs and small animals in marshes.

Distribution : Throughout India.

Status : Widespread resident.

IUCN : LC



Family CICONIIDAE
17. *Mycteria leucocephala*
(Pennant, 1769)

Painted Stork

சங்குவளை நாரை - Sanguvalai naarai

Field Identification Characters : Size of great heron; long legged, long necked, marsh bird with long heavy yellow bill curved at tip; waxy yellow face without any feathers; plumage white, greenish black bars above; a black band across breast; pinkish near tail; tail quill, wing black; male and female alike.

Habits and Habitat : Gregarious, colonial forming heronries for breeding; inhabiting shallow water bodies; feed on crustaceans, insects, frogs and reptiles.

Distribution : Throughout India.

Status : Widespread resident.

IUCN : NT



Family THRESKIORNITHIDAE

18. *Threskiornis melanocephalus*

(Latham, 1790)

Oriental White Ibis

தாழைக்கொத்திச் சொண்டன்

Thaalaikothi Chondan

Field Identification Characters : Size of stork; a snow-white marsh bird with black head and neck; bill black and down curved; during flight red wing patches seen; male and female alike.

Habits and Habitat : Gregarious, often found with other marsh birds; inhabiting marsh lands, tidal mudflats, fresh water bodies and lagoons; feed on animal matter.

Distribution : Throughout India.

Status : Resident, nomadic.

IUCN : NT



Family THRESKIORNITHIDAE

19. *Plegadis falcinellus*

(Linnaeus, 1766)

Glossy Ibis

அன்றில் - Anril

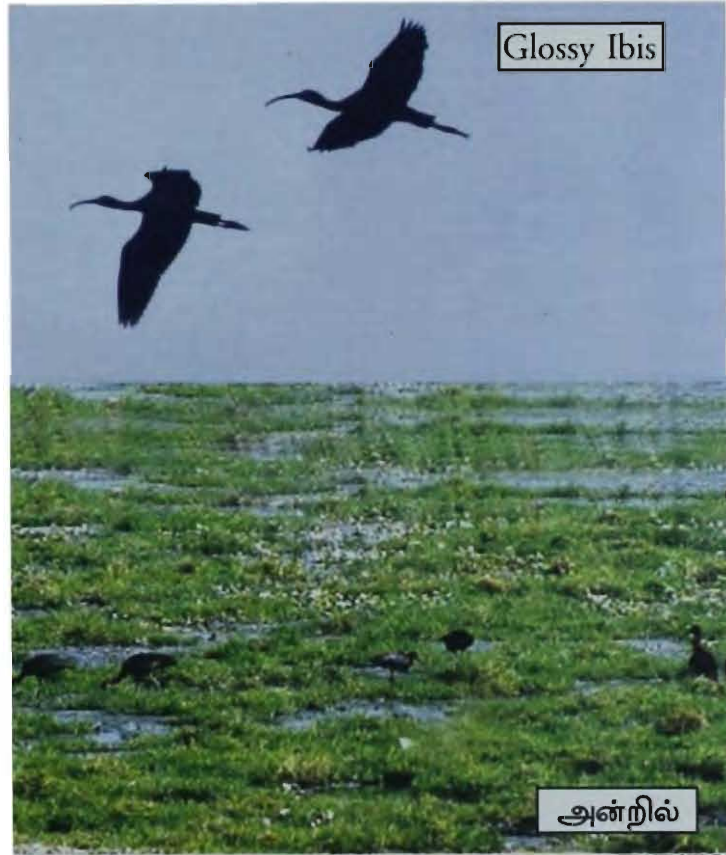
Field Identification Characters : Size of egret; dark coloured ibis with characteristic slender down curved bill; breeding adult dark metallic green & purple; non breeding adult brown; male and female alike.

Habits and Habitat : Gregarious, inhabiting marshlands and shallow water bodies; feed on worms, insects and other aquatic invertebrates and tadpoles.

Distribution : Wide spread, patchy Western, Southern India, Assam, Gangetic Plains, Manipur, Orissa, Madhya Pradesh; Rajasthan, West Bengal.

Status : Partly Resident, nomadic, winter visitor.

IUCN : LC



Family PHOENICOPTERIDAE

20. *Phoenicopterus ruber*

Linnaeus, 1758

Greater Flamingo

பூநாரை/உரியன் - Poo Naarai / Urian

Field Identification Characters : Size of the vulture; water bird; long legged and long necked rosy white body with red and black wings; black portion of wing hidden in standing posture; bill sharply down curved, red with black tip; legs flesh coloured; male and female alike.

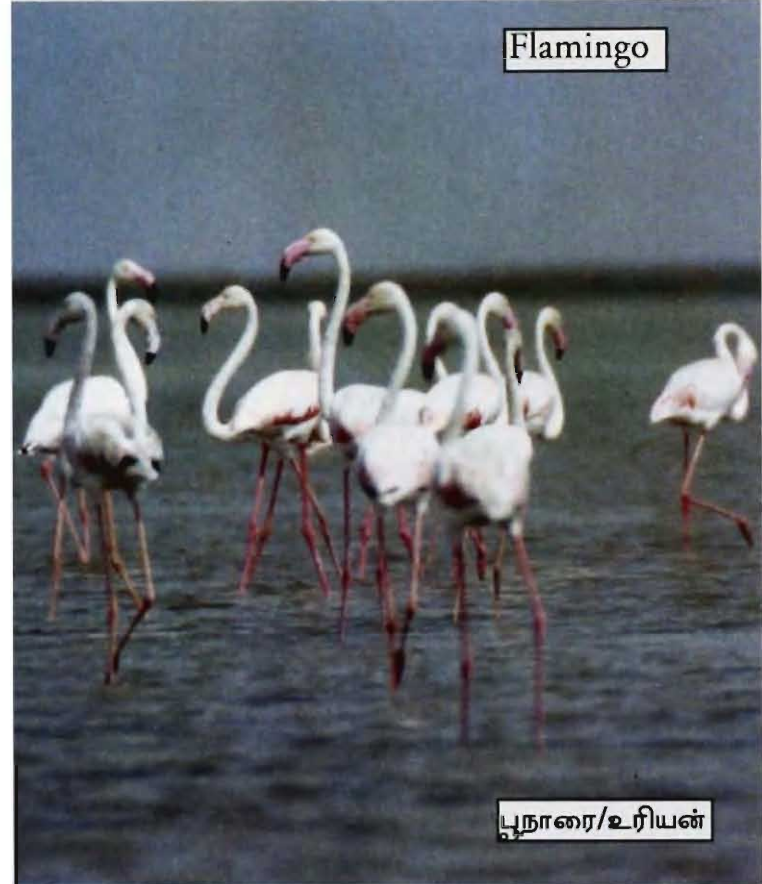
Habits and Habitat : Gregarious; mud-nest building; found on brackish lakes, lagoons, sea coast, estuaries, mud flats; feed on fish, frogs, aquatic invertebrates, etc.

Distribution : Throughout India.

Status : Local resident; Wide spread winter visitor.

IUCN : LC

Remarks : According to Salim Ali & Ripley (1983) it is *Phoenicopterus roseus* Pallas.



Flamingo

பூநாரை/உரியன்

Family ANATIDAE
 21. *Anas acuta* Linnaeus, 1758
 Northern Pintail
 மார்க்கலியன் - **Maarkaliyan**

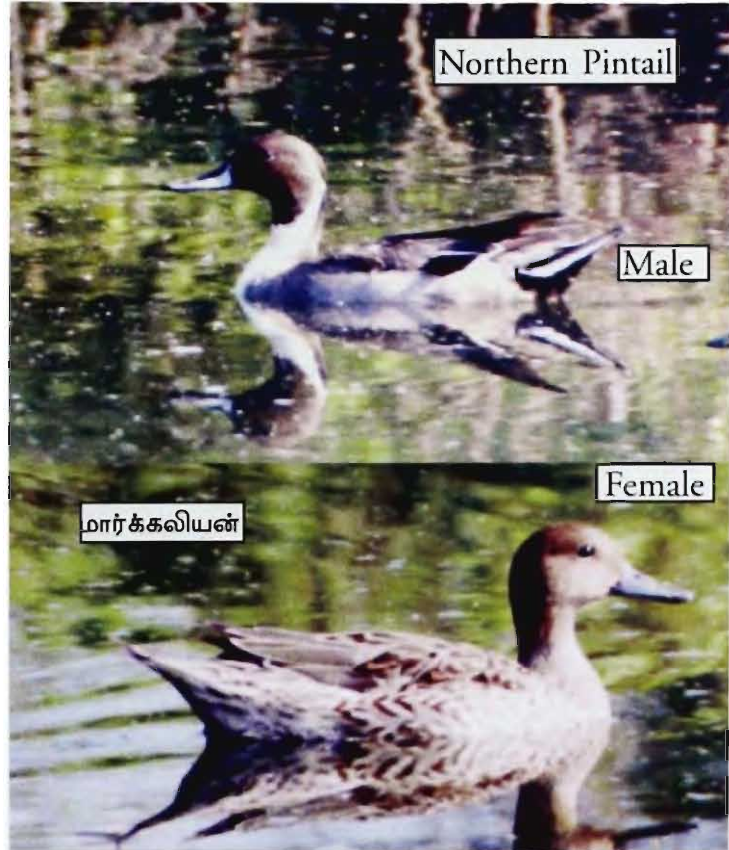
Field Identification Characters : size of domestic duck; breeding male with elongated body, slender neck, long pointed pin-like central tail feather; under tail coverts with broad puff patch; head face and throat chordate; hind neck black with a white band running down either side of neck. Male in eclipse and female alike with dark gray mantle vermiculated. Female mottled brown lacks pintail; absence of super cilium and slender body are distinguishing characters.

Habits and Habitat : Keeps in small flocks along water edge marshlands and paddy fields feed on vegetable matter and cultivated crop; occasionally on small invertebrates.

Distribution : Throughout India; common and widespread.

Status : Winter visitor.

IUCN : LC



Family ANATIDAE

22. *Anas poecilorhyncha* J.R.Forster,1781

Spot-billed Duck

புள்ளி மூக்கு வாத்து -
Pulli Mooku Vaathu

Field Identification Characters : Size of domestic duck; large body with buff gray and dark brown feathers; wings spectrum green with black and white margin; a broad white bar conspicuous more prominent in flight; dark bill tipped with yellow and a reddish lores on the base of bill; male and female alike.

Habits and Habitat : Occurs in small flocks; inhabits wetlands, paddy field and marshlands. Feed only on vegetable matter and cultivated grain.

Distribution : Throughout India; widely distributed.

Status : Resident, Nomadic.

IUCN : LC



Family ANATIDAE

23. *Dendrocygna javanica* (Horsfield, 1821)

Lesser Whistling Duck

சில்லி தாரா - Chilli Tharaa

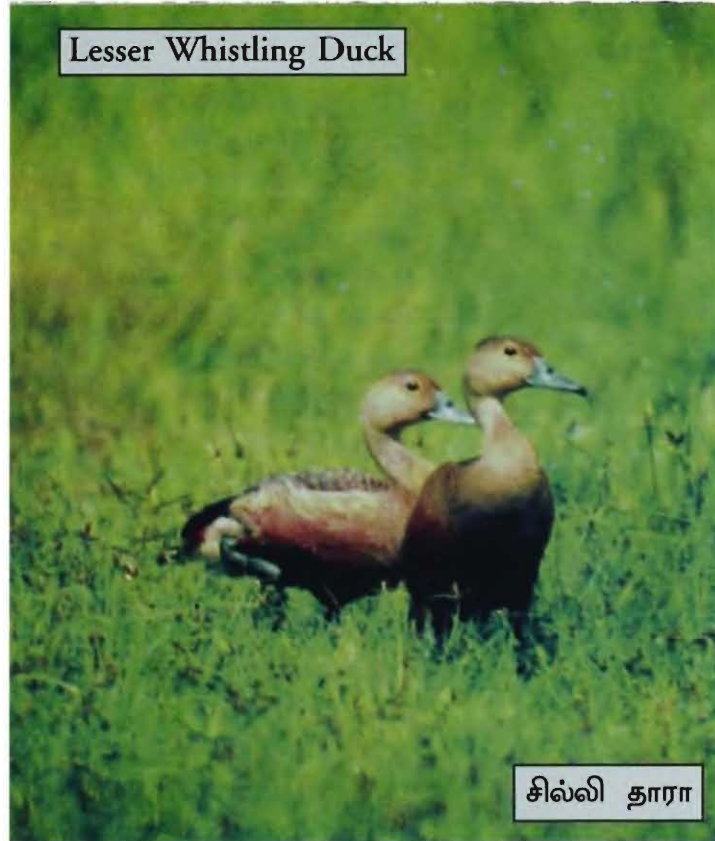
Field Identification Characters : Size of domestic duck; perching on trees near water's edge; dark brown heavy duck; wings rounded; upper tail coverts chestnut brown; iris dark brown; bill almost black and tip sharply bent downwards; legs blackish; male and female alike.

Habits and Habitat : Prefers perching on shrubs and trees, surrounded by water; feed mainly on aquatic weeds, tender shoots, grains and occasionally on animal matter; sociable; a good diver and walker.

Distribution : Throughout India.

Status : Widespread resident.

IUCN : LC



Family ACCIPITRIDAE

24. *Accipiter badius* (Gmelin, 1788)

Shikra

வல்லூறு - Vallooru

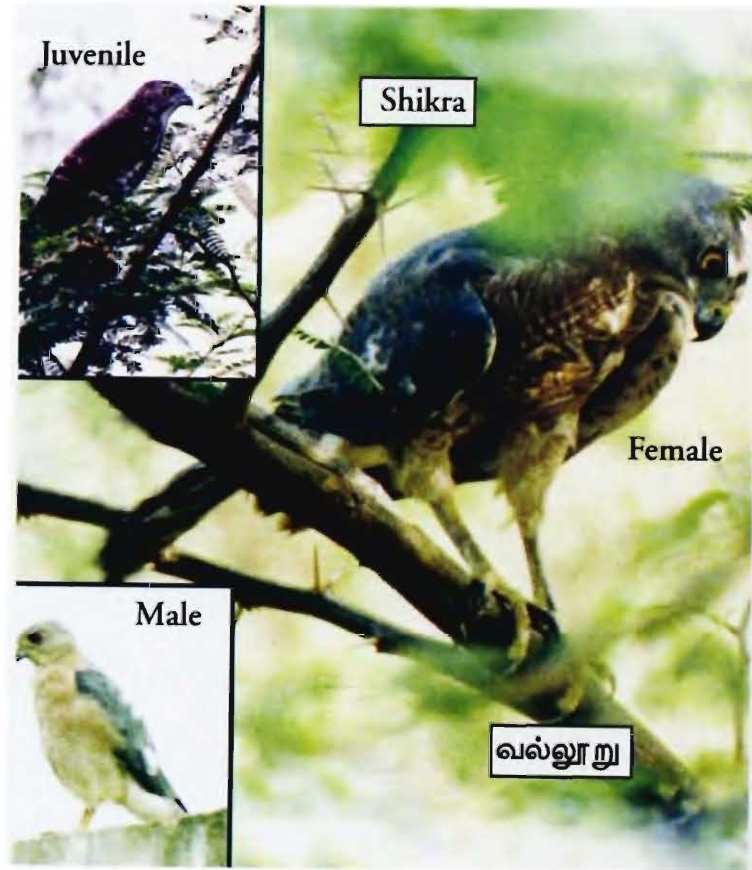
Field Identification Characters : Size larger than crow; upper parts dark grey; under parts ash coloured; bill blue, black at the tip; legs yellow; claws black; male and female alike.

Habits and Habitat : Highly arboreal; feed on small mammals, birds, lizards, frogs, insects etc; menace for poultry.

Distribution : Southern India.

Status : Resident.

IUCN : LC



Family ACCIPITRIDAE
25. *Accipiter nisus* (Linnaeus, 1758)
Eurasian Sparrowhawk
குருவி வல்லூறு - Kuruvi Vallooru

Field Identification Characters : Size of crow; male similar to shikra but darker; upper parts grey with blackish head; tail feathers more barred; legs slender and longer; females much larger; immature dark, rufous, brown with five tail bars.

Habits and Habitat : Solitary; inhabiting wooded areas, foothills, orchards etc. on tree trunks; feed on birds and poultry; trained by falconers to strike hares.

Distribution : Throughout India:

Status : Winter visitor.

IUCN : LC

Eurasian Sparrowhawk



குருவி வல்லூறு

Family ACCIPITRIDAE

26. *Accipiter virgatus*

(Temminck, 1822)

Besra Sparrowhawk

சின்ன வல்லூறு Chinna Vallooru

Field Identification Characters : Size of shikra; a conspicuous black mesial stripe on throat; male, dark grey above, nape feathers with white base, square tail with three black bands, chin white; female dark brown above gradually becoming dark grey on crown and nape.

Habits and Habitat : Solitary or in pairs; inhabiting forested tracts, dead trees, jungles and foothills; feed on small birds, lizards and mice.

Distribution : Peninsular India.

Status : Resident (uncertain).

IUCN : LC

Remarks : The sighted bird is *Accipiter virgatus besra* Jerdon

Besra Sparrowhawk



சின்ன வல்லூறு

Family ACCIPITRIDAE

27. *Elanus caeruleus*

(Desfontaines, 1789)

Black-shouldered Kite

கருந்தோள் பருந்து
Karuntholl Parundhu

Field Identification Characters : Size of crow; upper parts grey; under -parts, neck and tail pure white; a black line from end of bill to behind eyes; black patches on shoulder wing; tail square; eyes blood red; bill black; legs yellow; male and female alike.

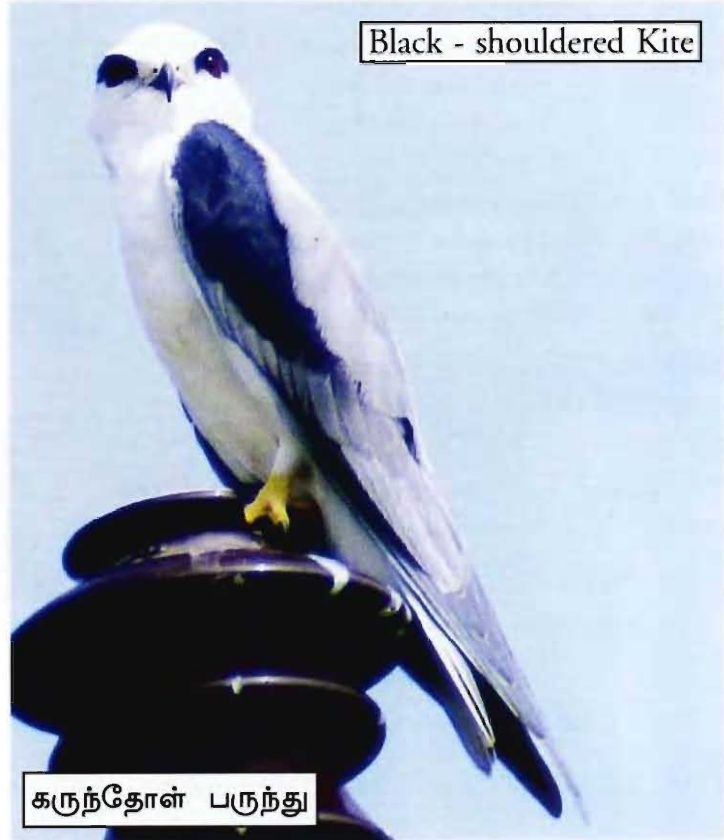
Habits and Habitat : Occurs in scattered pairs; crepuscular; found in scrub jungles; feed on small animals and insects.

Distribution : Throughout India.

Status : Resident.

IUCN : LC

Remarks : The sighted bird is *Elanus caeruleus vociferus* Jerdon.



Family ACCIPITRIDAE

28. *Haliastur indus* (Boddaert, 1783)

Brahminy Kite

கருடன் - Garudan

Field Identification Characters : Size of eagle; body chestnut coloured with head neck and breast white; abdomen brown; wings black at tips; Young ones brownish; male and female alike.

Habits and Habitat : Solitary inhabiting jungles, plantations, trees, etc., near water bodies; feed on fish, frogs, reptiles and small birds.

Distribution : Throughout India except north west and north eastern India.

Status : Resident.

IUCN : LC



கருடன்

Family ACCIPITRIDAE

29. *Milvus migrans* (Boddaert, 1783)

Black Kite

கல் பருந்து - Kal Parundhu

Field Identification Characters : Size of kite; distinguishable in flight by deeply forked tail; body dark fulvous brown; a white patch under eye; iris brown; bill black; legs pale yellow; male and female alike.

Habits and Habitat : Gregarious, soaring around human habitations and slaughter houses; scavenging on dead animals and poultry; omnivorous.

Distribution : Throughout India.

Status : Resident.

IUCN : LC

Remarks : The sighted bird is *Milvus migrans govinda* Sykes.



Family ACCIPITRIDAE

30. *Neophron percnopterus*

(Linnaeus, 1758)

Egyptian Vulture

மஞ்சள் திருடி **Manjal Thirudi**

Field Identification Characters : Size of kite; small vulture with naked head; neck relatively short; bill yellow in adult.

Habits and Habitat : Not gregarious but in parties of two or three; inhabiting neighbourhood of human settlements; feed on carrion, offal, garbage, frogs, large insects etc.

Distribution : Throughout India.

Status : Resident.

IUCN : LC



Egyptian Vulture

மஞ்சள் திருடி

Family ACCIPITRIDAE

31. *Pernis ptilorhynchus* (Temminck, 1821)

Oriental Honey Buzzard

தேன் பருந்து **Thaen Parundhu**

Field Identification Characters : Size of kite short blackish crest visible when head raised; upper parts brownish grey; head dark grey; lower parts pale brown with narrow white cross bars; underside of wing silvery grey; tail rounded with sub-terminal and median black cross bands; male and female alike.

Habits and Habitat : Occurs in pairs or singly; found inhabiting cultivated lands, scrub jungles, deciduous, semi-evergreen forests; feed on honey, and larvae of bees; occasionally on small animals.

Distribution : Throughout India.

Status : Resident with local movement.

IUCN : LC

Remarks : The sighted bird is *Pernis ptilorhynchus ruficollis* Lesson.

Oriental Honey Buzzard



தேன் பருந்து

Family ACCIPITRIDAE

32. *Spilornis cheela* (Latham, 1790)

Crested Serpent Eagle

பாம்புப்பருந்து - Paambu Parundhu

Field Identification Characters : Size of kite; a complete black and white nuchal crest; yellow patch at the base of bill; yellow legs without feathers; wings broad, rounded, with characteristic markings on tail with two broad bands but one indistinct; male and female alike.

Habits and Habitat : Occurs in singles and pairs; inhabiting the edges of forests, jungles and ruins, perching on top of tree; feed on frogs, reptiles, mice and occasionally poultry birds.

Distribution : Peninsular India.

Status : Resident.

IUCN : LC

Crested Serpent Eagle



பாம்புப்பருந்து

Family FALCONIDAE

33. *Falco tinnunculus* (Linnaeus, 1758)

Common Kestrel

சிகப்பு வல்லூறு - Sigappu Vallooru

Field Identification Characters : Size of eagle; male with grey head and brick coloured rufous upper parts, a moustachial stripe present, grey tail with sub-terminal band; female and young ones with rufous crown, upper parts heavily spotted with black, dark barring on rufous tail; male and female alike.

Habits and Habitat : Solitary, inhabiting cliffs, low rise hills. feed on animal matters including crop pests.

Distribution : Throughout India.

Status : Winter visitor.

IUCN : LC

Remarks : This sighted bird is *Falco tinnunculus objurgatus* (Baker).



Common Kestrel



சிகப்பு வல்லூறு

Family PHASIANIDAE

34. *Fracolinus pondicerianus* (Gmelin, 1789)

Grey Francolin

கௌதாரி - Koudhaari

Field Identification Characters : Size smaller than domestic hen; greyish brown, game bird; mottled grey brown with brownish tinge above; a prominent yellow throat patch enclosed in a black gular pouch; tail stub-like; legs dull red; male and female alike but cocks larger.

Habits and Habitat : Found in pairs and in small parties; fast runners with short flying capabilities; hides when threatened; inhabiting thorn-scrubs, dried jungles, bushes etc; feed on grains, berries and insects.

Distribution : Peninsular India.

Status : Resident.

IUCN : LC



Grey Francolin

கௌதாரி

Family PHASIANIDAE
35. *Pavo cristatus* Linnaeus, 1758
Indian Peafowl
மயில் Mayil

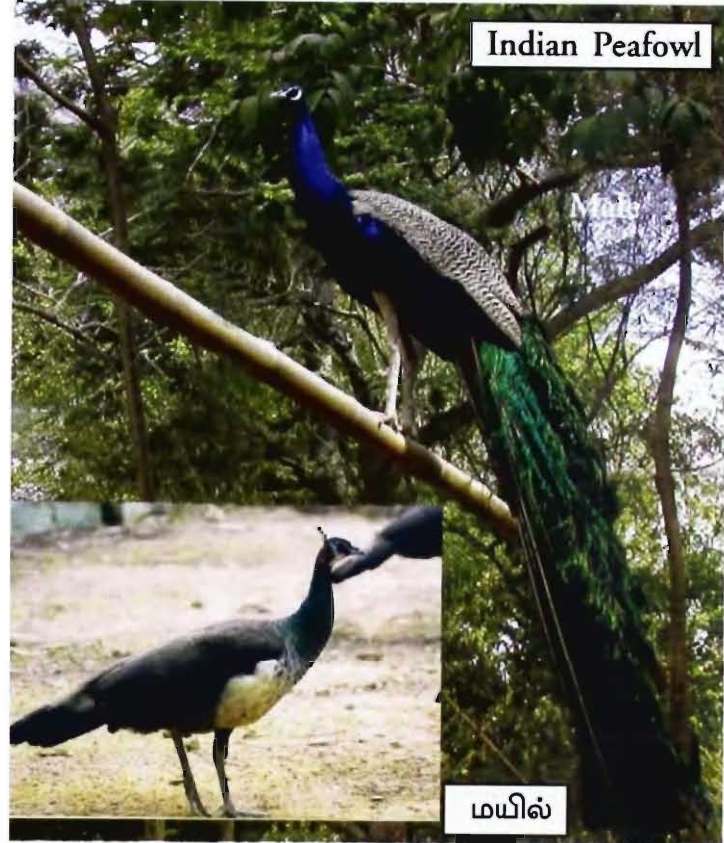
Field Identification Characters : Universally known; brilliant, metallic blue-green neck and breast; male and female distinctly different in plumage: male train of feathers with bold purplish black-centered coppery eye spot; neck metallic blue wings chestnut coloured; female abdomen buff-white; neck metallic green.

Habits and Habitat : Found in small flocks; the harem consist of a cock and 3 to 5 hens; inhabiting scrub jungles, dry deciduous forest, ravines, cultivated fields; pest in commercial plantations; omnivorous; feed seeds, invertebrates, small land vertebrates etc.

Distribution : Throughout India.

Status : Resident.

IUCN : LC



Family RALLIDAE

36. *Amaurornis phoenicurus*

(Pennant, 1769)

White breasted Water-hen

காணாங்கோழி – Kaanaang Kozhi

Field Identification Characters : Size of partridge; swamp bird; very familiar rail; upper parts grey; sides of head and under-part pure white; tail stub short; tail converts rufous, variable brown; iris blood red base of upper bill red; legs yellow; male and female alike.

Habits and Habitat : Gregarious in small flocks; inhabiting hedges, margins of water bodies where bushy scrubs are found; feed on invertebrates and seeds.

Distribution : Throughout India.

Status : Resident.

IUCN : LC



Family RALLIDAE

37. *Fulica atra* Linnaeus, 1758

Common Coot

நாமக்கோழி Naamakkozhi

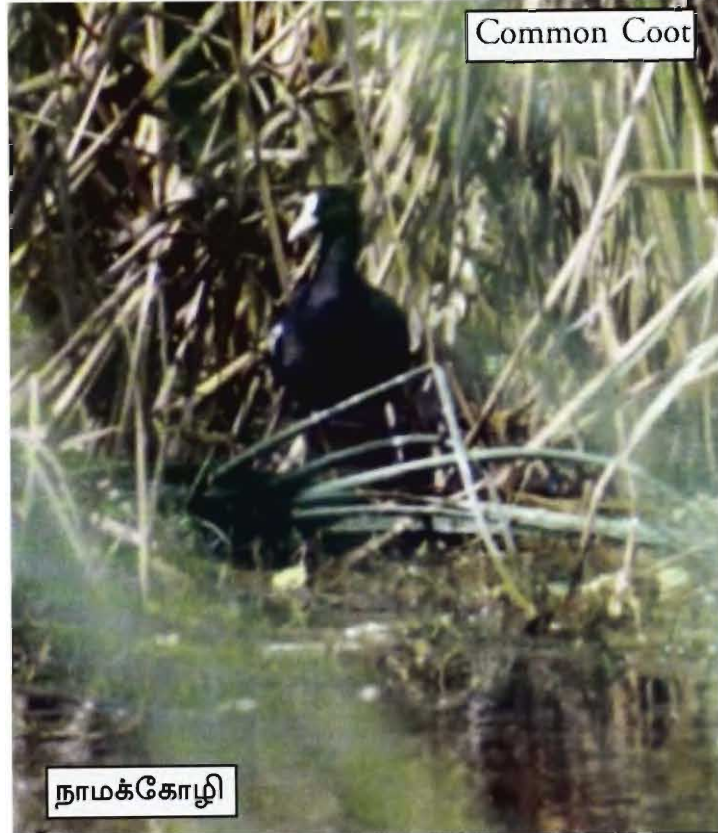
Field Identification Characters : Size of partridge; duck like, tail less waterbird; slaty black body with ivory bill; a horny shield on fore head; iris red-brown; leg and feet olive green, tibia orange; male and female alike.

Habits and Habitat : Gregarious; inhabiting edges of water bodies and wetlands; pattering on water surface; feed on vegetable matter, small invertebrates and fish.

Distribution : Throughout India.

Status : Resident with migratory populations.

IUCN : LC



Family RALLIDAE

38. *Gallinula chloropus* (Linnaeus, 1758)

Common Moorhen

தண்ணீர் கோழி - Thanneer Kozhi

Field Identification Characters : Size of village hen; waterbird; brownish black body with white border along closed wing margins; under-tail coverts white with black patch; forehead shield red with yellow bill tip; legs long and green; male and female alike.

Habits and Habitat : Found in small parties, spending most of the time in water; omnivorous; to some extent nocturnal.

Distribution : Throughout India.

Status : Resident with local migratory populations.

IUCN : LC

Remarks : The sighted bird is *Gallinula chloropus indica* Blyth.



Family RALLIDAE

39. *Porphyrio porphyrio* (Linnaeus, 1758)

Purple moorhen

நீர்க் கோழி-Neerk Kozhi

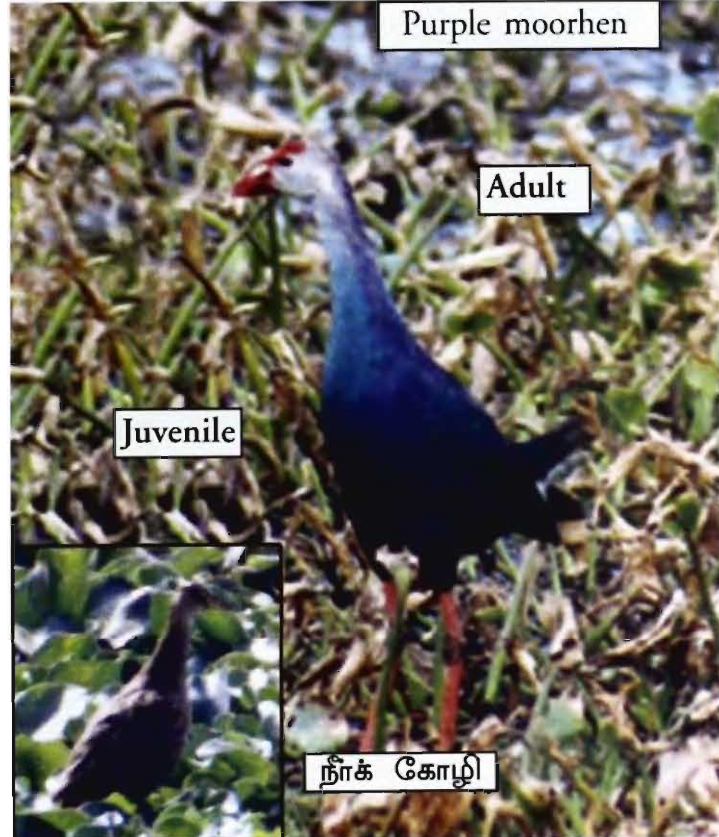
Field Identification Characters : Size of village hen; Swamp bird, purplish blue rail; long red legs, enormous toes; fore head bald, red; bill red, heavy white patch under stumpy tail; iris blood red; male and female alike, except bald fore head, smaller in female.

Habits and Habitat : Found in small groups; walk and wade in marshy lands and floating vegetation; typically flicking the tail often; feed on vegetable matter, small invertebrates and seeds; sometimes pest in paddy fields.

Distribution : Throughout India.

Status : Resident.

IUCN : LC



Family JACANIDAE

40. *Hydrophasianus chirurgus* (Scopoli, 1786)

Pheasant-tailed Jacana

நீளவால் இலைக் கோழி

Neelavaal Ilai Kozhi*

Field Identification Characters : Size of partridge; marsh bird; in breeding plumage white and dark brown; enormous spider-like toes; very long pointed sickle-shaped tail; face and fore neck white, hind neck golden yellow; male and female alike, females larger; in non breeding season no tail; bill basal part yellow, terminal half brown.

Habits and Habitat : Gregarious; inhabits surface vegetation in sheds tanks etc; feed on vegetable matter and small invertebrates.

Distribution : Throughout India.

Status : Resident.

IUCN : LC



Family CHARADRIIDAE

41. *Charadrius alexandrinus* Linnaeus, 1758

Kentish Plover

சின்ன கோட்டான் - Chinna Kottaan.

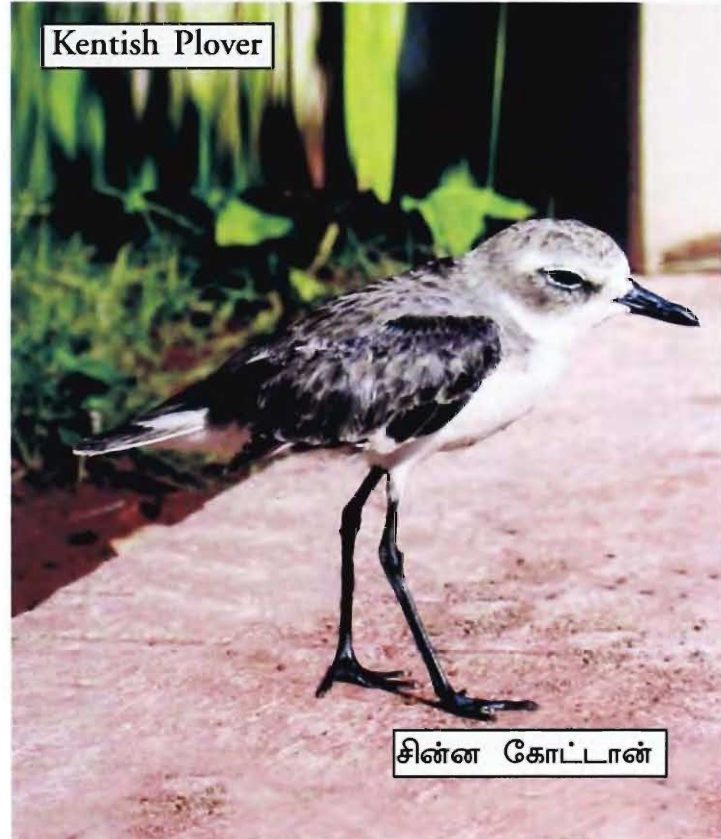
Field Identification Characters : Size of quail; stocky bird; similar to immature Little Ringed Plover; distinguished by blackish legs of non-breeders (winter), narrow brownish stripe through eye; fore head white; small dark patch on upper breast; both male and female alike.

Habits and Habitat : Gregarious in small flocks; seashores, sandy margins of freshwater bodies and salt pans; found mixed with other waders; feed on insects, crabs etc.

Distribution : Throughout India.

Status : Winter visitor.

IUCN : LC



Family CHARADRIIDAE

42. *Charadrius dubius* (Scopoli, 1786)

Little Ringed Plover

சின்ன கோட்டான் Sinna Kottaan

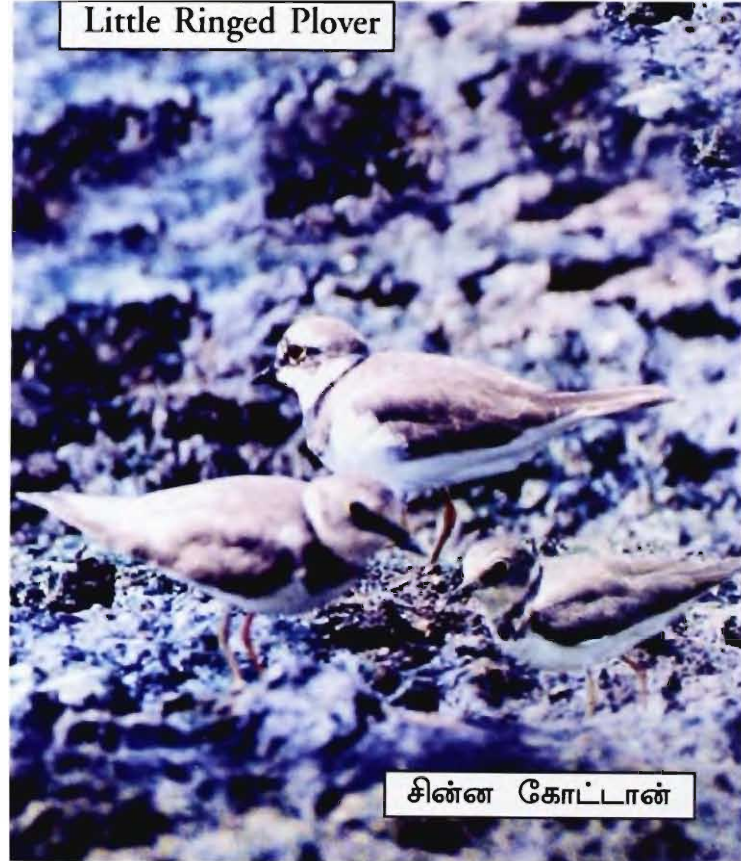
Field Identification Characters : Size of quail; found in wet grazing grounds; a thick round black and white patterned head; forehead white; fore crown black; hind neck with black double collar; upper parts brown upto hind margin of eye; chin, throat, fore neck white; upper breast with pectoral band across; under parts white; eyelids yellow, become swollen during breeding; bill grey black; legs yellow; male and female alike.

Habits and Habitat : Occurs in pairs or in small flocks; run with rapid steps in random; found inhabiting single banks of rivers, streams, ponds, mudflats, estuaries, etc. feed on insects, worms, crustaceans, etc.

Distribution : Throughout India.

Status : Widespread resident. **IUCN :** LC

Remarks : The sighted bird is *Charadrius dubius jerdoni* (Legge).



Little Ringed Plover

சின்ன கோட்டான்

Family CHARADRIIDAE

43. *Pluvialis fulva* (Gmelin, 1789)

Pacific Golden Plover

கோட்டான் - Kottaan

உப்பு கொத்தி Uppu Kothi

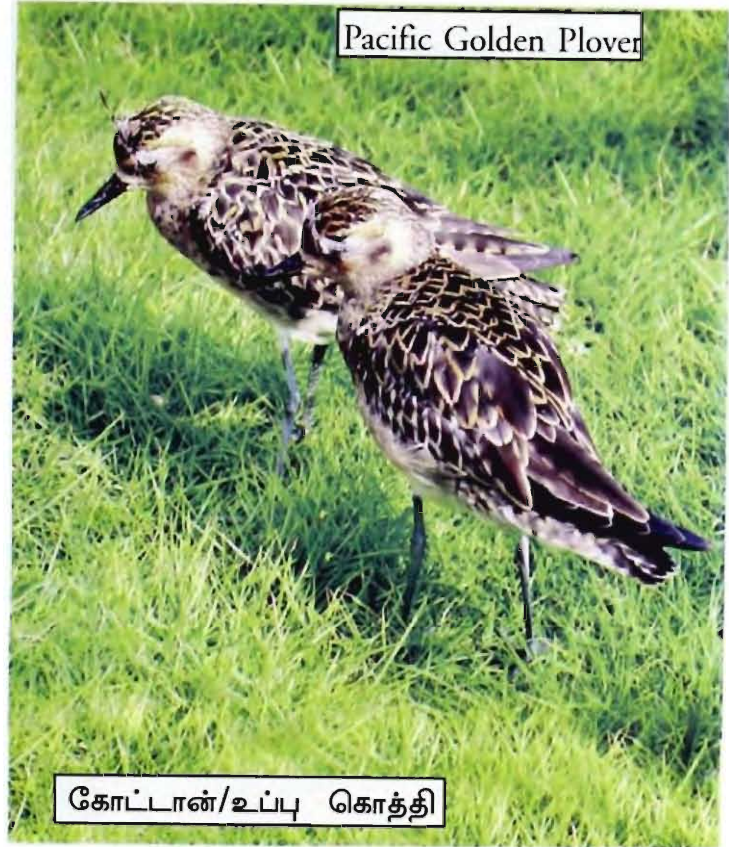
Field Identification Characters : Size of partridge; winter non breeders with mottled brown, white and golden yellow body, below whitish with grey underwing covert; rounded head, short stout thick pigeon-like bill; male and female alike.

Habits and Habitat : Gregarious; inhabiting marshland and periphery of water bodies; feed on animal matter and berries.

Distribution : Mainly Indian coasts.

Status : Winter visitor.

IUCN : LC



Family CHARADRIIDAE
 44. *Vanellus indicus* (Boddaert, 1783)
 Red-wattled Lapwing
 ஆள்காட்டி - Aalkaatti

Field Identification Characters : Size similar to partridge; a leggy plover of open country and cultivated land; bronze brown above white below; head, neck and breast black; a crimson red fleshy lobe or wattle in front of eye; bill red with black tip; yellow white band from behind eye through side of neck to meet under parts; male and female alike.

Habits and Habitat : Found in loose flocks in open well watered country side running zigzag; feed on insects, crabs, molluscs, vegetable matter, etc.

Distribution : Throughout India.

Status : Widespread resident.

IUCN : LC



Family CHARADRIIDAE

45. *Vanellus malabaricus* (Boddaert,1783)

Yellow-wattled Lapwing

ஆள்காட்டி - Aalkaatti

Field Identification Characters : Size of partridge; found in open dry land; a leggy brown bird with white black cap; bright yellow flap of skin or lapper in front of eyes; tail white; white bar conspicuous on black wings visible during flight; male and female alike.

Habits and Habitat : Occurs in loose flocks, sometimes along with Red wattled Lapwing; feed chiefly on insects; found in dry biotopes.

Distribution : Throughout India.

Status : Widespread resident.

IUCN : LC



Yellow-wattled Lapwing

ஆள்காட்டி

Family SCOLOPACIDAE

46. *Actitis hypoleucos* Linnaeus, 1758

Common Sandpiper

கோட்டான் Kottaan

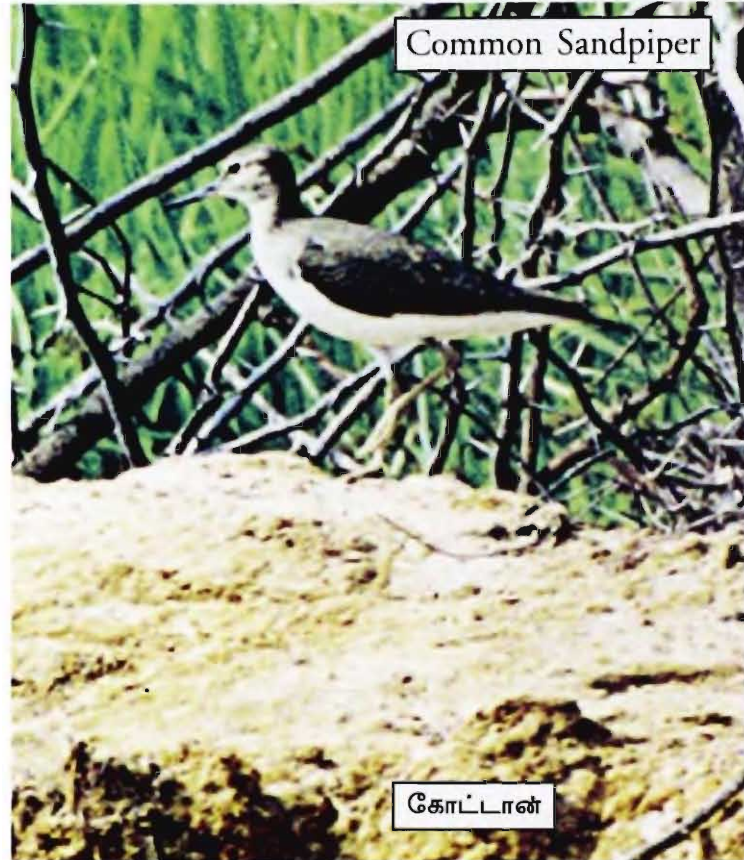
Field Identification Characters : Size of quail; found at waters edge; upper body, head and sides of neck brown; below white with a dusky band across the breast; tail brown with outer feathers white; iris dark brown; bill dirty brown; legs grey; male and female alike.

Habits and Habitat : Usually solitary; running at the water's edge; found near mud banks, tidal creeks, water bodies, etc; wags tail and jerks head incessantly; feed on insects, worms, molluscs, etc.

Distribution : Throughout India during winter.

Status : Widespread winter visitor.

IUCN : LC



Common Sandpiper

கோட்டான்

Family SCOLOPACIDAE

47. *Calidris minuta* (Leisler, 1812)

Little Stint

கொக உள்ளான் Kosu Ullaan

Field Identification Characters : Size of large sparrow; found in wetlands; upper parts mottled brown; white below; bill slender, small, black outer tail feathers smony; legs black; white stripes on black; male and female alike.

Habits and Habitat : Sociable, wader, flying in large flocks, continuously moving in cloud formation; very quick on flying and settling; found on marshy grounds including paddy fields. greatly agile in picking up insects, worms, crustaceans, molluscs, seeds of marsh plants etc.

Distribution : Throughout India.

Status : Widespread winter visitor.

IUCN : LC



Family SCOLOPACIDAE

48. *Gallinago gallinago* (Linnaeus, 1758)

Common Snipe

கோரை குத்தி **Korai Kuthi**

Field Identification Characters : Size of quail: a dirty brown marsh hunter with white mottling all over; under parts within grey; bill straight and slender; a band across fore head yellowish; a brown line through the eye; a black patch on the side of breast; male and female alike.

Habits and Habitat : Occurs in small flocks; inhabits the edges of water bodies, harvested paddy fields and marshes. Feed on aquatic invertebrates; specialized for marsh hunting.

Distribution : Throughout India.

Status : Winter Visitor.

IUCN : LC



Common Snipe

கோரை குத்தி

Family SCOLOPACIDAE

49. *Limosa limosa* (Linnaeus, 1758)

Black - tailed Godwit

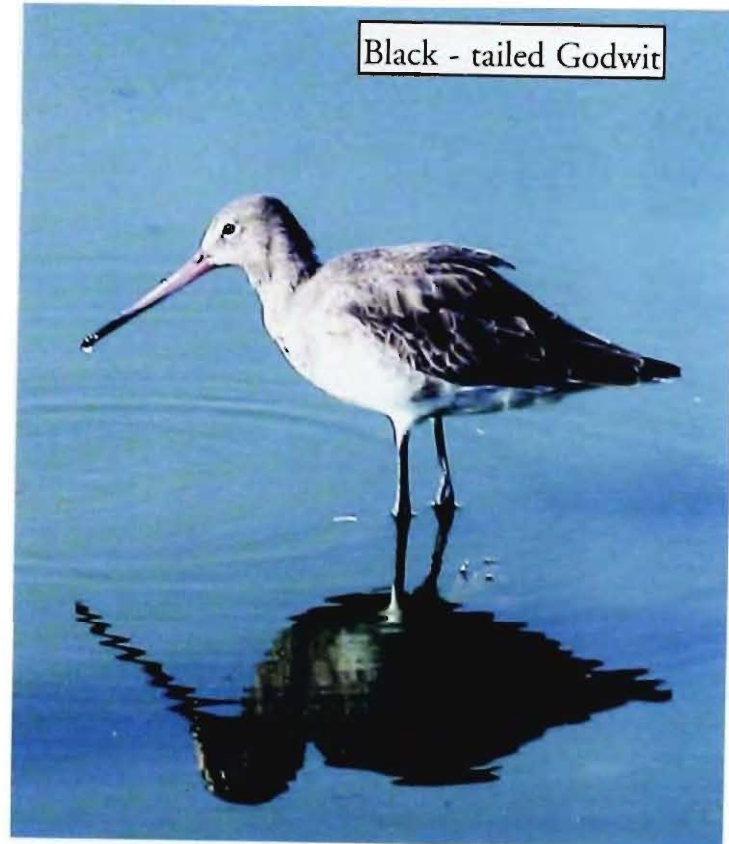
Field Identification Characters : Size of house crow. Coastal and inland waterbird; tern with grey and white colour; white tail deeply forked; bill gull-like; blackish; a black patch around eye covering fore-head; leg black; male and female alike.

Habits and Habitat : Gregarious but in scattered flocks; found in coastal mud flats, tidal creeks, salt pans and inland waters; feed on aquatic invertebrates, insects, frogs, etc.

Distribution : Throughout India.

Status : Widespread winter visitor.

IUCN : LC



Family SCOLOPACIDAE

50. *Numenius arquata* (Linnaeus, 1758)

Eastern Curlew

குதிரைமலை கோட்டான்

Kuthiraimalai Kottaan

Field Identification Characters : Size of domestic hen; sandy brown; large wading bird; bill down curved, slender and long; under parts white with thin black streaks; legs grey; male and female alike.

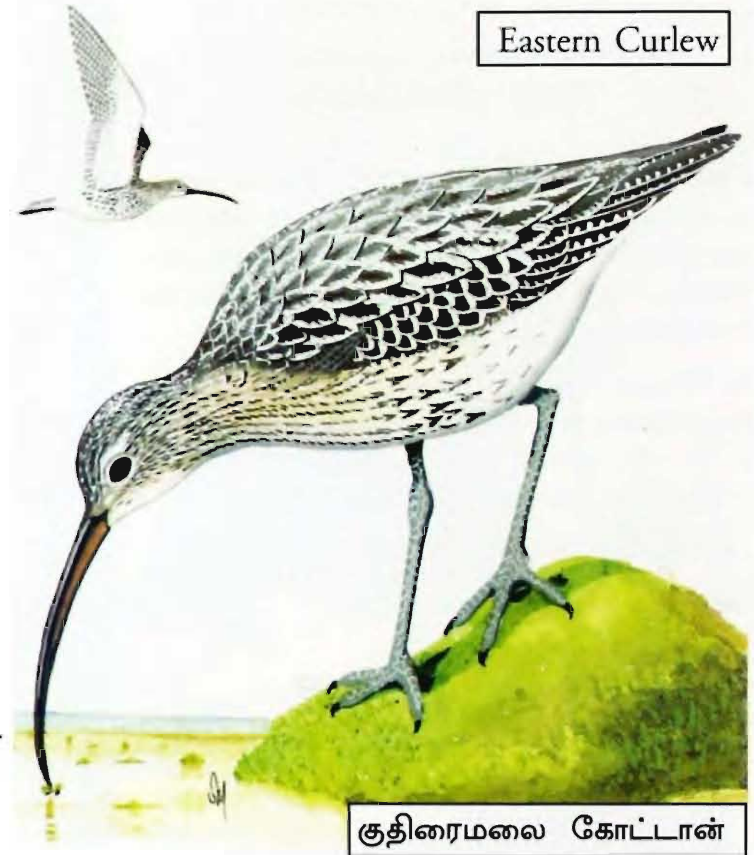
Habits and Habitat : Less gregarious; feed on aquatic invertebrates in the fields, mangrove swamps and mud flats.

Distribution : Throughout India.

Status : Widespread winter visitor.

IUCN : LC

Remarks : The sighted bird is *Numenius arquata orientalis* C. L. Brehm.



Eastern Curlew

குதிரைமலை கோட்டான்

Family SCOLOPACIDAE

51. *Philomachus pugnax* (Linnaeus, 1758)

Ruff

பேதை உள்ளான் - Paedhai Ullaan

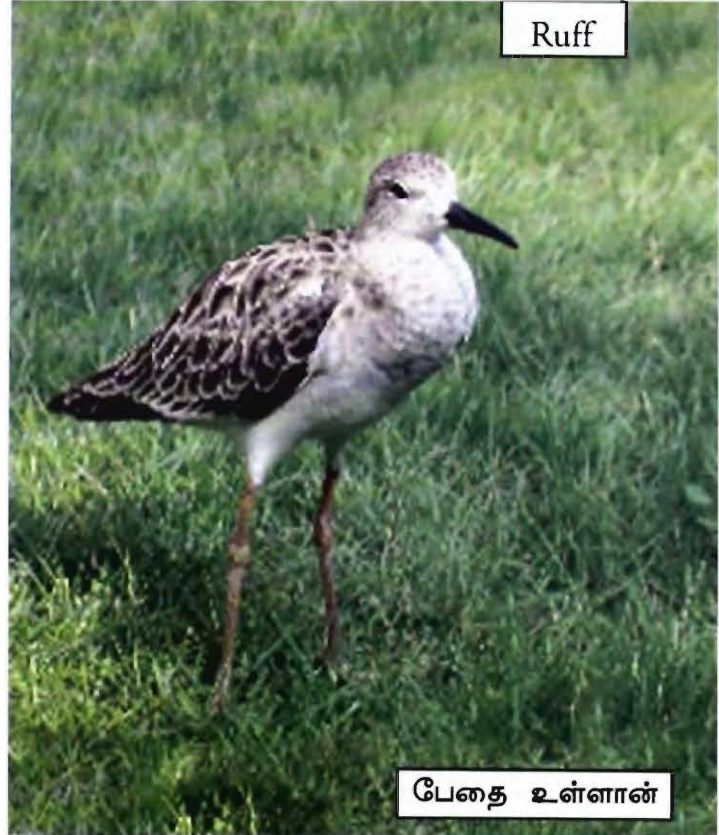
Field Identification Characters : Size of partridge; greyish brown wader with bold scaly / patterned upper parts blackish; relatively short, black, slightly down curved bill; legs reddish (nonbreeding forms); male and female alike except in breeding plumage.

Habits and Habitat : Gregarious, in company of other waders inhabiting coastal wetlands, freshwater bodies, wet paddy fields and marshes; feed on aquatic invertebrates, vegetable matter, grain etc.

Distribution : Throughout India.

Status : Winter visitor and passage migrant.

IUCN : LC



Family SCOLOPACIDAE
52. *Tringa glareola* Linnaeus, 1758

Wood Sandpiper

கோட்டான் / வயல் உள்ளான்

Kottaan / Vayal Ullaan

Field Identification Characters : Size of quail; found in wet paddy fields; upper body greyish brown; upper plumage spotted with buff and white; lower plumage dull and white; tail white with last bar blackish; bill blackish brown; male and female alike.

Habits and Habitat : Gregarious; wader; found in seepage marshes, near irrigation tanks, mud flats, etc.; feed on insects, worm, molluscs, etc.

Distribution : Throughout India.

Status : Widespread resident.

IUCN : LC

Wood Sandpiper



கோட்டான் / வயல் உள்ளான்

Family SCOLOPACIDAE
53. *Tringa nebularia* (Gunner, 1767)
Common Green Shank
பெரிய கோட்டான் - Periya Kōttaan

Field Identification Characters : Size of Sand Piper; dark greyish brown above; fore head, back, rump white; bill dark and slightly upcurved; legs olive green; male and female alike.

Habits and Habitat : Solitary or in small flocks often along Red Shanks; inhabiting marshes and shallow water bodies; feed on crustaceans, insects, worms, molluscs and tadpoles.

Distribution : Throughout India during winter.

Status : Winter visitor.

IUCN : LC



Family SCOLOPACIDAE

54. *Tringa stagnatilis* (Bechstein, 1803)

Marsh Sandpiper

சின்ன பச்சைக்காலி - Chinna Pachaikaali

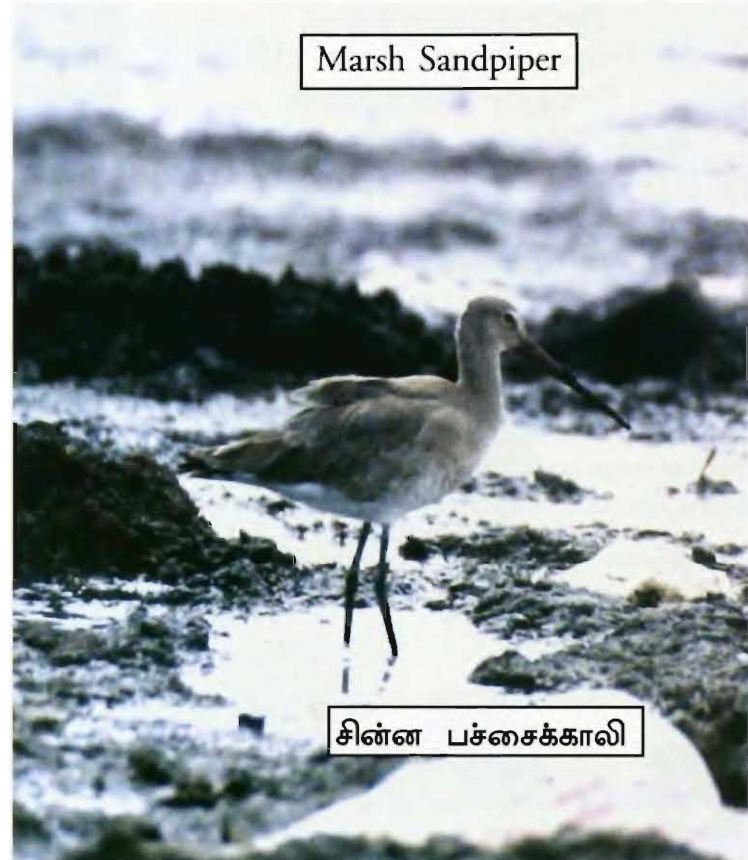
Field Identification Characters : Size of partridge; inhabiting marshy ground; upper body greyish brown,; sides of head, lower back pure white; tail narrowly barred brownish; lower body pure white; bill slender, almost straight and black; legs characteristically olive green; male and female alike.

Habits and Habitat : Occurs in small flocks with other Sand Pipers; probes marshy ground with bill for food; pivoting in semicircles to capture small molluscs, worms, insects, crustaceans, etc.

Distribution : Throughout India.

Status : Widespread winter visitor.

IUCN : LC



Marsh Sandpiper

சின்ன பச்சைக்காலி

Family SCOLOPACIDAE
55. *Tringa totanus* (Linnaeus, 1758)

Common Redshank

சிகப்புக்கால் உள்ளான் -
Sigappukkaal Ullaan

Field Identification Characters : Size of partridge; inhabiting marshy grounds; above greyish brown; lower back white; tail white with brown bars; breast with brown fine streaks; legs slender, bare, orange red; bill thin long, straight, orange; male and female alike.

Habits and Habitat : Solitary, occasionally with other small waders; running about muddy edges; found on marshes, margins of lakes, river banks and estuaries; feed on worms, crustaceans, insects, molluscs, etc.

Distribution : Throughout India during winter.

Status : Widespread winter visitor.

IUCN : LC



Family RECURVIROSTRIDAE

56. *Himantopus himantopus*

(Linnaeus, 1758)

Black winged Stilt

பவழக்கால் உள்ளான்

Pavazhakkal Ullaan

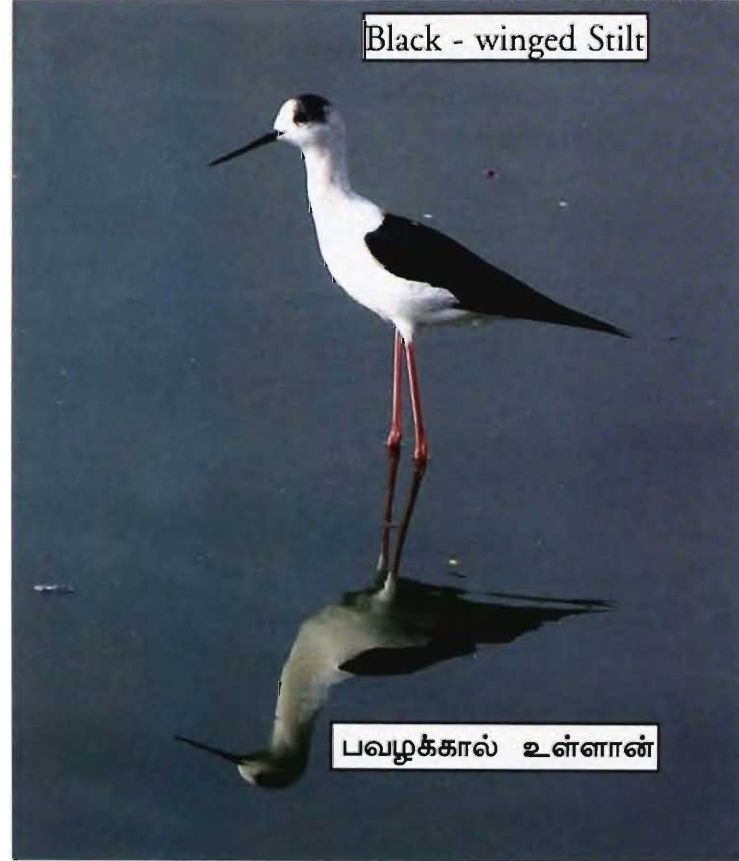
Field Identification Characters : Size of partridge; long and lean legged marsh bird; body pied black and white; bill black, straight, slender-pointed; wings black; legs remarkably long, thin and red make identity unmistakable even at a distance; male mantle and wings shiny metallic black; plumage shiny white; black spots on head; female black portion replaced by brown, more grey and dull.

Habits and Habitat : Gregarious; wades in water; found on jheels, lagoons, reservoirs, etc; feed on molluscs, worms, aquatic insects, small fish, seeds marsh plants etc.

Distribution : Throughout India.

Status : Widespread resident.

IUCN : LC



Family BURHINIDAE
57. *Burhinus oedicephalus*
(Linnaeus, 1758)
Stone-Curlew

கண்ணாடி ஆள்காட்டி -
Kannaadi Aalkaatti

Field Identification Characters : Size of partridge; cursorial bird; thick head; long pale yellow legs; large yellow goggle eyes; a buffy bar appears on closed wings; male and female alike.

Habits and Habitat : Terrestrial, cursorial, crepuscular, nocturnal; occurring in small parties; inactive during daytime; feed on small invertebrates, lizards etc.

Distribution : Throughout India.

Status : Resident.

IUCN : LC

Remarks : The sighted bird is *Burhinus oedicephalus indicus* (Salvadori).

Stone-Curlew



கண்ணாடி ஆள்காட்டி

Family LARIDAE

58. *Gelochelidon nilotica* (Gmelin, 1789)

Gull-billed Tern

கடல் குருவி **Kadal Kuruvi**

Field Identification Characters : Size of house crow. Coastal and inland waterbird; tern with grey and white colour; white tail deeply forked; bill gull-like, blackish; a black patch around eye covering fore-head; leg black; male and female alike.

Habits and Habitat : Gregarious but in scattered flocks; found in coastal mud flats, tidal creeks, salt pans and inland waters; feed on aquatic invertebrates, insects, frogs etc.

Distribution : Throughout India.

Status : Widespread winter visitor.

IUCN : LC



Gull-billed Tern



கடல் குருவி

Family Laridae

59. *Larus ridibundus* Linnaeus, 1766

Black-headed Gull

கடல் காக்கை - Kadal Kaakkai

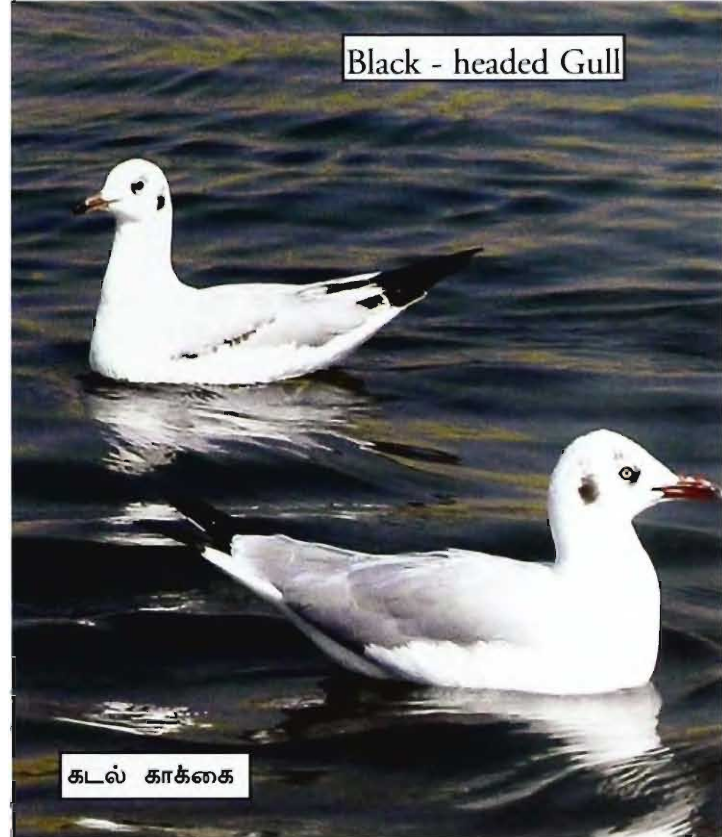
Field Identification Characters : Size common crow; a gray and white median sized gull; a blackish brown hood on head in summer; the leading edge of wing pure white pure white; male and female alike.

Habits and Habitat : Occurs in small flocks; in habitat estuaries harbours and sewage out flows in to the sea; feed on animal matter and is a scavenger.

Distribution : Coastal areas of India.

Status : Winter visitor and passage migrant.

IUCN : LC



Family LARIDAE

60. *Sterna aurantia* J.E.Gray,1831

River Tern

ஆற்று ஆலா - Aatru Aalaa

Field Identification Characters : Size of pigeon; slender, pale grey above, milk white below; long pointed wings; deeply forked tail; short red legs; pointed deep yellow bill; crown and nape black in winter; male and female alike.

Habits and Habitat : Solitary or in pairs; inhabiting water's edge, sand banks and shallow waters; feed on fish and aquatic invertebrates.

Distribution : Throughout India.

Status : Resident.

IUCN : LC



Family COLUMBIDAE
61. *Columba livia* Gmelin, 1789
Blue Rock Pigeon
மாடப் புறா **Maadap Pura**

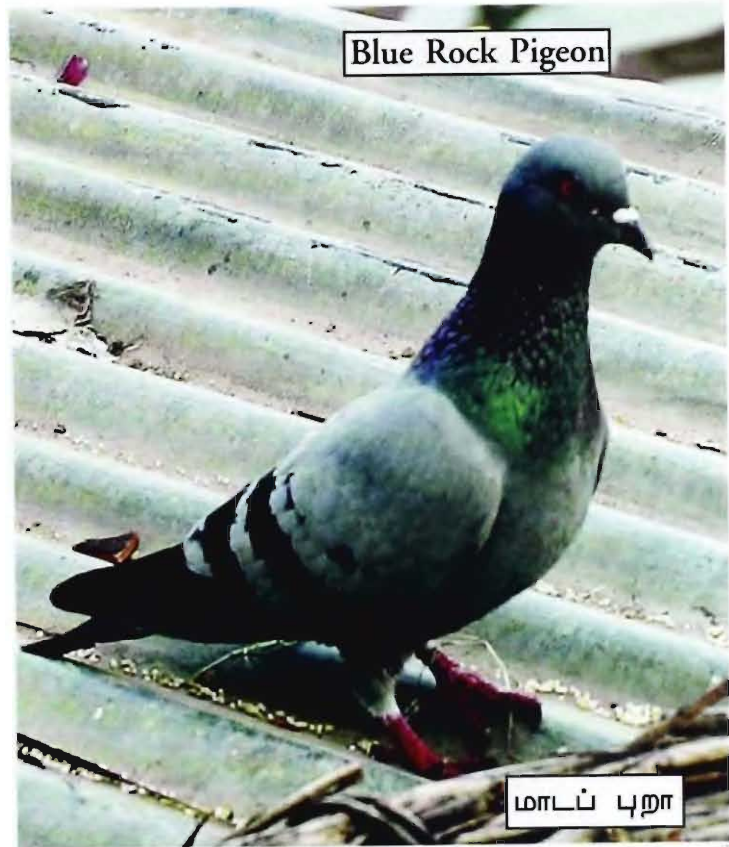
Field Identification Characters : Well known grey blue pigeon with metallic sheen around neck and upper breast; two dark bars on wings; legs and feet magenta; claws black; male and female alike.

Habits and Habitat : Colonial roosting, occupying ruins of buildings, in association with human habitations; feed on grains.

Distribution : Throughout India.

Status : Resident.

IUCN : LC



Family COLUMBIDAE

62. *Streptopelia chinensis* (Scopoli, 1786)

Spotted Dove

மணிப் புறா - **Mani Puraa**

Field Identification Characters : Size of myna; upper parts pinkish brown with grey tint, back spotted with white chess board pattern from hind neck; tail dark brown with white border; belly and under tail coverts white; legs and feet magenta; male and female alike.

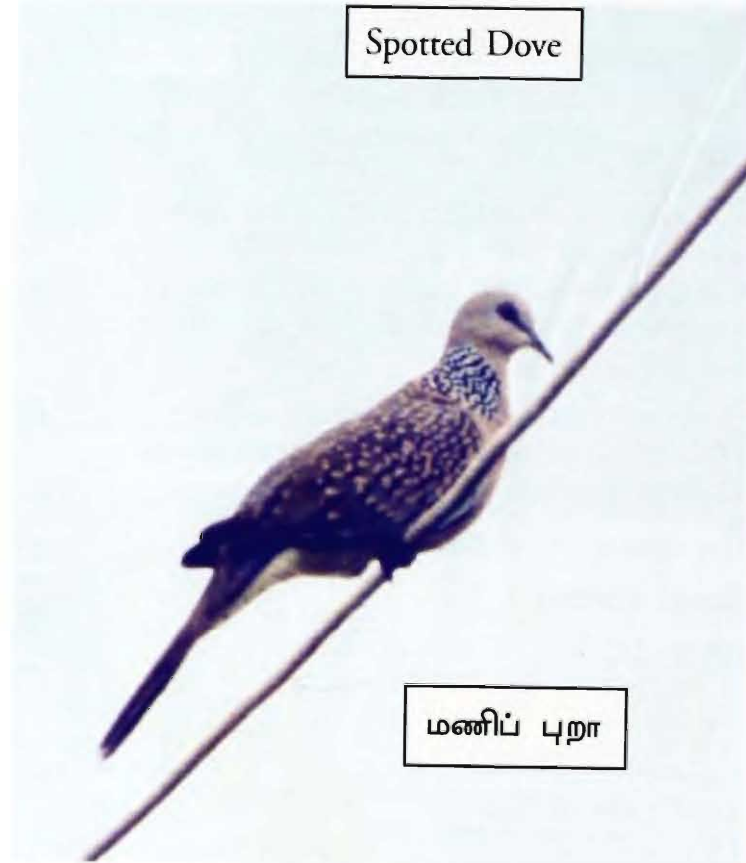
Habits and Habitat : Found in pairs or small parties in villages, deciduous jungles; considered pet; feed on grains.

Distribution : Throughout India.

Status : Resident.

IUCN : LC

Remarks : The sighted bird is *Streptopelia chinensis suratensis* (Gmelin).



Family COLUMBIDAE

63. *Streptopelia senegalensis* (Linnaeus,1766)

Little Brown Dove

தவிட்டு புறா - Thavittu Puraa

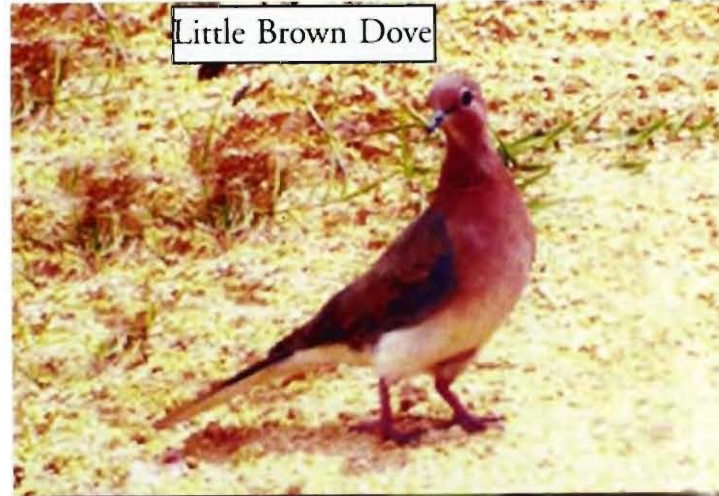
Field Identification Characters : Size of myna; brownish grey above neck pinkish with chess-board-like pattern; grey patches on wing shoulders; under part white; tail graduated; tips of outer feathers white; male and female alike.

Habits and Habitat : Keep in pairs or small parties; restricted to deciduous forests; feed on grains.

Distribution : Throughout India.

Status : Resident.

IUCN : LC



Family PSITTACIDAE

64. *Psittacula krameri* (Scopoli, 1769)

Rose-ringed Parakeet

கிளி Kili

Field Identification Characters : Size of myna; grass green coloured bird; heavy deeply hooked red bill; long pointed tail; lower part lower bill black, a thin rose coloured ring around neck; male and female alike.

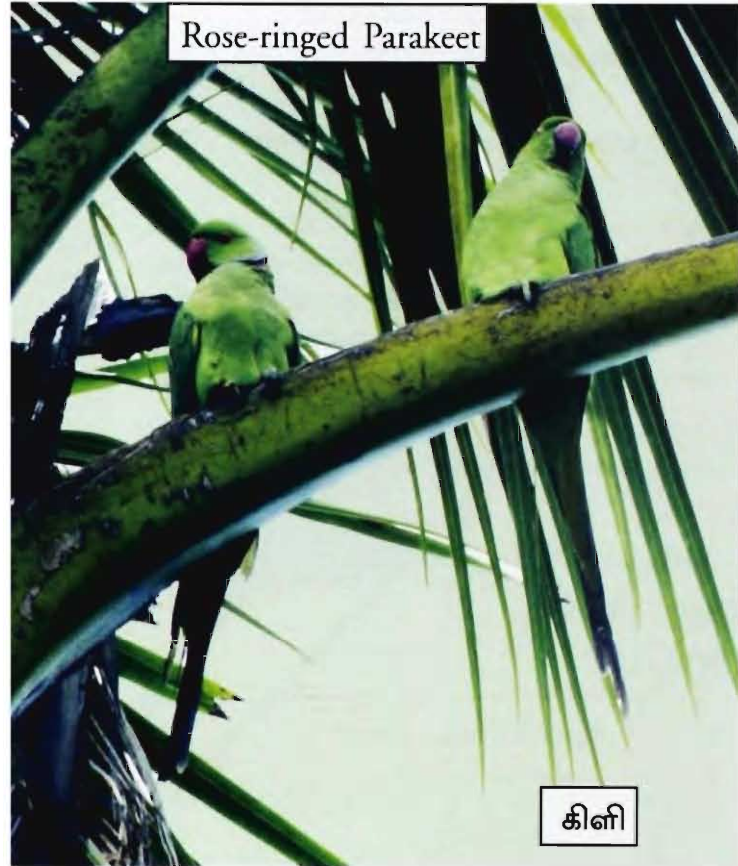
Habits and Habitat : Keep in large parties; affects dry deciduous and moist forests, cultivable lands and human settlements; feed all fruits grains, seeds, nuts, flowers, nectar etc.

Distribution : Peninsular India.

Status : Resident.

IUCN : LC

Remarks : The sighted bird is *Psittacula krameri manillensis* (Bechstein).



Family CUCULIDAE

65. *Centropus sinensis* (Stephens, 1815)

Greater Coucal

கள்ளிகாக்கா - Kalli Kaakkaa

செம்பகம் Chembagam

Field Identification Characters : Size of jungle crow; totally black ground dwelling bird with chestnut coloured wing; tail graduated; iris deep red; male and female alike, female slightly larger.

Habits and Habitat : Sedentary, terrestrial, streaking through bushes; feed on all types of animal matter.

Distribution : Peninsular India, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh.

Status : Resident

IUCN : LC

Remarks : The sighted bird is *Centropus sinensis parroti* Stresemann.



Family CUCULIDAE

66. *Clamator coromandus*

(Linnaeus, 1766)

Red-winged Crested Cuckoo

கொண்டை குயில் **Kondai Kuyil**

Field Identification Characters : Size of a house crow; body shining black above with a white half-collared on hind neck, wings chestnut red; below, rust coloured fading to white, a black crested head distinctive, tail long and blackish; male and female alike.

Habits and Habitat : Occurs in singles or pairs; arboreal, broad parasitic; inhabiting deciduous biotopes, scrub jungles etc. feed on insects and caterpillars.

Distribution : Patchy throughout India.

Status : Straggler.

IUCN : LC

**Red - winged
Crested Cuckoo**



கொண்டை குயில்

Family CUCULIDAE

67. *Clamator jacobinus* (Boddaert,1783)

Pied Crested- Cuckoo

பருத்தி குயில் - Paruthi Kuil

Field Identification Characters : Size of myna; Crest well developed; upper parts black, under parts bright white; a slender long tail with narrow white tip; a round white patch on wing; bill black with lemon yellow patch at the base; male and female alike.

Habits and Habitat : Found in dry deciduous jungles, moist low lands; brood parasitic; feed on caterpillars, bugs, ants etc.

Distribution : Southern India.

Status : Resident intermingling with migratory populations.

IUCN : LC



Family CUCULIDAE

68. *Eudynamys scolopacea* (Linnaeus, 1758)

Asian Koel

குயில் **Kuyil**

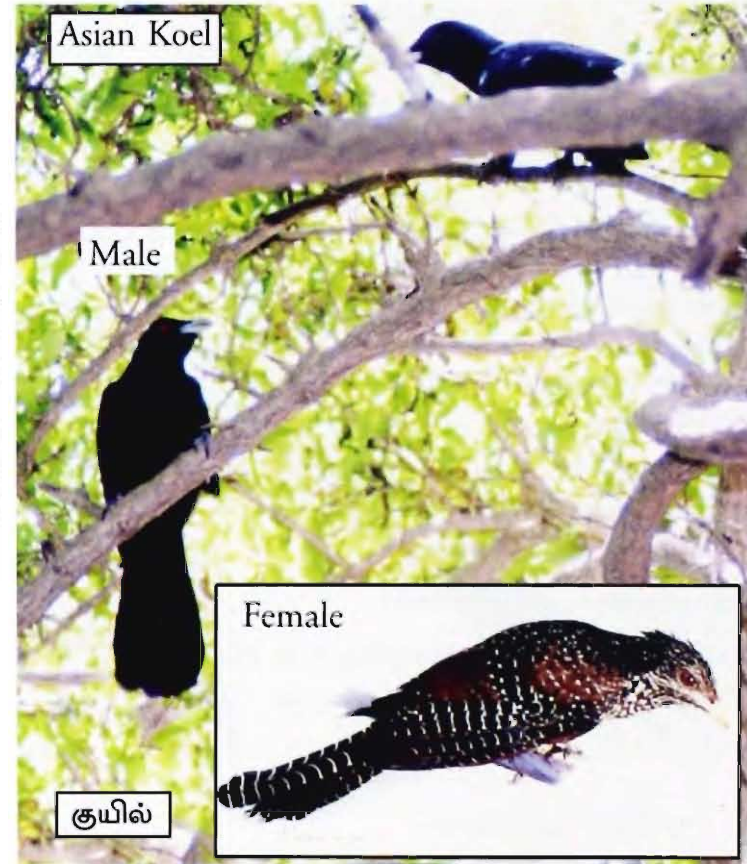
Field Identification Characters : Size smaller and slender than house crow but with long tail; Adult male black with bluish metallic tinge; female dark brown with white spots throughout; eyes crimson-red; bill yellowish green; lays eggs in crows nests.

Habits and Habitat : Keeps in singles or pairs; inhabiting trees near human settlement orchards, plantations etc; fruit eater; occasionally picks up snails; arboreal.

Distribution : Throughout India.

Status : Resident and local migratory.

IUCN : LC



Family CUCULIDAE

69. *Hierococcyx varius* (Vahl, 1797)

Brain fever Bird

பருந்து குயில் Parundhu Kuil

Field Identification Characters : Size of pigeon; similar to shikra but smaller; upper parts ash grey, lower parts white with brownish patterns; tail brownish with 4-5 white-black bars; legs yellow; bill yellowish green; male and female alike.

Habits and Habitat : Arboreal; found in single or pairs; found in deciduous, semi-evergreen jungles, orchards; feed on insects, lizards and fruits.

Distribution : Throughout India.

Status : Resident.

IUCN : LC



Family CUCULIDAE

70. *Phaenicophaeus viridirostris*

(Jerdon, 1840)

Green-billed Malkoha

பச்சைவாயன்குயில் Pachivayaan Kuil

Field Identification Characters : Size of crow; an ash grey coloured cuckoo with bright green bill; a conspicuous sky blue patch around eye; long graduated tail with white tip on each feather; male and female alike.

Habits and Habitat : Keep singly or in pairs; sedentary and attached to particular localities; found in scrub, bush jungles, deciduous forest etc; feed on insects, worms, lizards and the like.

Distribution : Peninsular India & Gujarat.

Status : Resident.

IUCN : LC

Green-billed Malkoha



பச்சைவாயன்குயில்

Family STRIGIDAE

71. *Asio flammeus* (Pontoppidan, 1763)

Short-eared Owl

ஆந்தை - Aandhai

Field Identification Characters : Size of pigeon; body pale buff, streaked heavily with mixed bristly black feathers surrounded by brown buff; two ear tufts vertically placed above yellow rounded eyes; male and female alike.

Habits and Habitat : Occurs in loose parties or scattered flocks; diurnal and terrestrial; inhabiting open lands, bushes, grasslands; feed on insects, rats and small birds.

Distribution : Throughout India.

Status : Winter visitor/passage migrant.

IUCN : LC

Short-eared Owl



ஆந்தை

Family STRIGIDAE

72. *Athene brama* (Temmnick, 1821)

Spotted Owlet

புள்ளி ஆந்தை - Pulli Aandhai

Field Identification Characters : Size of myna; greyish brown with white spots on upper parts of body; lower parts puffed brown; ear tufts absent; head large, round; eyes yellow, forwardly directed; male and female alike.

Habits and Habitat : Found in pairs or small parties; nocturnal, crepuscular; inhabiting hollow trees in jungles, holes in old abandoned buildings etc. feed on insects, worms, lizards, small birds and mice.

Distribution : Peninsular India.

Status : Resident.

IUCN : LC



Family STRIGIDAE

73. *Bubo bubo* (Linnaeus, 1758)

Eurasian Eagle-Owl

கொம்பன் ஆந்தை -Komban Aandhai

Field Identification Characters : Size of kite; body dark brown with streaked light brown and black buff; two prominent blackish horn-like ear tufts above head level; large round orange eyes forwardly directed; legs fully feathered claws black; male and female alike.

Habits and Habitat : Nocturnal, found in fissure of rocks, cliffs in ravines, ruined buildings; feed on small rodents, lizards, snakes, small birds, crabs, insects etc.

Distribution : Throughout India.

Status : Resident.

IUCN : LC

Remarks : The sighted bird is *Bubo bubo bengalensis* (Franklin).



Family STRIGIDAE

74. *Tyto alba* (Scopoli, 1769)

Barn Owl

சாவு குருவி - Saavu Kuruvi

Field Identification Characters : Size of crow; large round head; heart shaped white facial disc, surrounded by stiff feathers; upper parts of body golden buffed with black and grey streaks interspersed by white spots; lower parts of body dirty white; bill fleshy white; male and female alike.

Habits and Habitat : Nocturnal, crepuscular; found in single or pairs; inhabiting deserted habitations, ruins, dark hollows of trees etc; feed on rats, mice, bats, small birds etc.

Distribution : Throughout India.

Status : Resident.

IUCN : LC

Remarks : The sighted bird is *Tyto alba stertels* Hartert.



Family CAPRIMULGIDAE

75. *Caprimulgus asiaticus* Latham, 1790

Common Indian Nightjar

பக்கி - Packi

Field Identification Characters : Size of myna; body streaked with brownish-black, soft plumaged, tail long and graduated, legs short, bill soft with enormous gap, wing long and pointed; male and female alike.

Habits and Habitat : Occurs usually in single, nocturnal, crepuscular inhabiting scrub jungles, deciduous forest and bamboo bushes. insectivorous.

Distribution : Throughout India.

Status : Resident.

IUCN : LC



Family APODIDAE

76. *Apus affinis* (J.E. Gray, 1830)

House Swift

நாட்டு உழவாரன் Naattu Uzhavaaran

Field Identification Characters : Size of sparrow; smoke coloured swallow with rump and throat; short square tail; long sickle shaped wings; male and female alike.

Habits and Habitat : Gregarious, some times in large congregation; inhabiting neighbourhoods of human habitations, cliffs etc; feed on airborne insects, all captured in flight.

Distribution : Throughout India.

Status : Resident.

IUCN : LC



Family APODIDAE

77. *Cypsiurus balasiensis* (J.E.Gray,1829)

Asian Palm-Swift

உழவாரக்குருவி - Uzhavaarakkuruvi

Field Identification Characters : Size of sparrow; aerial; whole body dirty grey; deeply forked tail; long slender wings; tail fork clearly visible in flight; male and female alike.

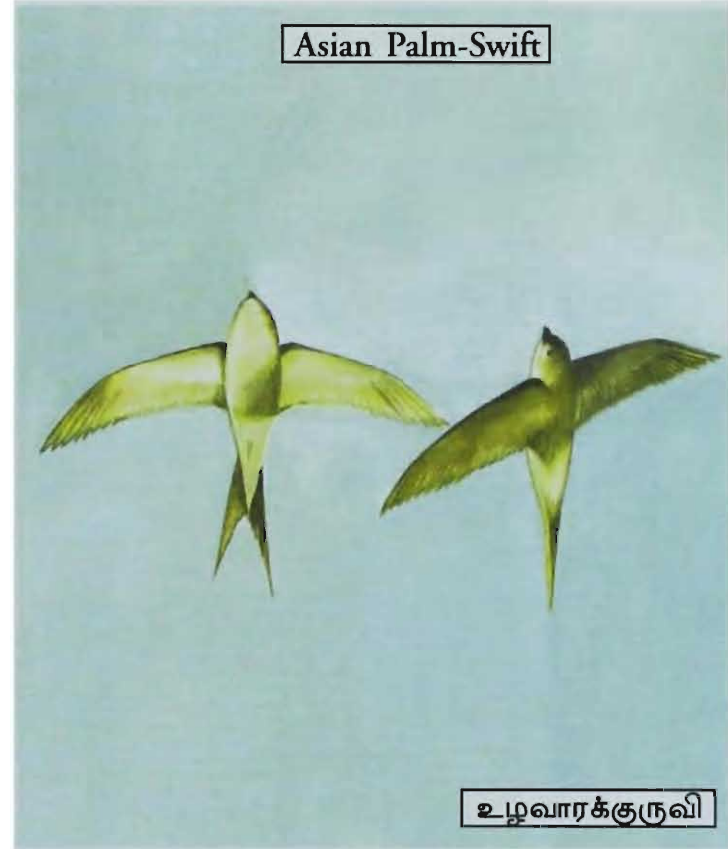
Habits and Habitat : Gregarious, fast flying in clusters; inhabiting palm, betelnut trees; feed on insects.

Distribution : Throughout India.

Status : Resident.

IUCN : LC

Remarks : The sighted bird is *Cypsiurus parvus batasiensis* (J.E.Gray).



Family ALCEDINIDAE

78. *Alcedo atthis* (Linnaeus, 1758)

Small Blue Kingfisher

மீன்கொத்தி - Meenkothi

Field Identification Characters : Larger than sparrow with a brilliant blue back and deep rust coloured under-parts, short, stumpy tail; long, straight, pointed black bill, legs and feet coral-red; chin and throat white, cheeks and ear-coverts rusty-red ending in a white patch on the sides of neck; a broad greenish-blue streak from lower mandible to side of the neck. Other striking features are the tones and a black band through eyes; male and female alike.

Habits and Habitat : Usually solitary or in pairs, inhabiting streams, canals, plains and peninsular hills. feed on small fish, tadpoles and aquatic insects.

Distribution : Throughout India.

Status : Resident. *IUCN* : LC

Remarks : The sighted bird is *Alcedo atthis taprobana* (Kleinschmidt).



Small Blue Kingfisher

மீன்கொத்தி

Family ALCEDINIDAE
79. *Ceryle rudis* (Linnaeus, 1758)
Lesser Pied Kingfisher
மீன்கொத்தி - Meenkothi

Field Identification Characters : Size bigger than myna, a speckled and barred black and white kingfisher with a dagger-shaped brownish-black bill, iris brown; legs, feet and claws brownish black. Above, forehead, crown and nuchal crest black streaked with white. Collar on hind neck white, a broad black streak through eye to ear-coverts. Below, white with two black gorget across the breast. Male and female alike.

Habits and Habitat : Usually in pairs, rarely solitary and in small parties, inhabiting all kinds of stagnant water, occasionally in coastal areas; feed mainly on fish.

Distribution : Throughout India.

Status : Resident. **IUCN :** LC

Remarks : The sighted bird is *Ceryle rudis leucomelanura* Reichenbach.



Family ALCEDINIDAE
 80. *Halcyon capensis* (Linnaeus, 1766)
 Stork-billed Kingfisher
 மீன்கொத்தி Meenkothi

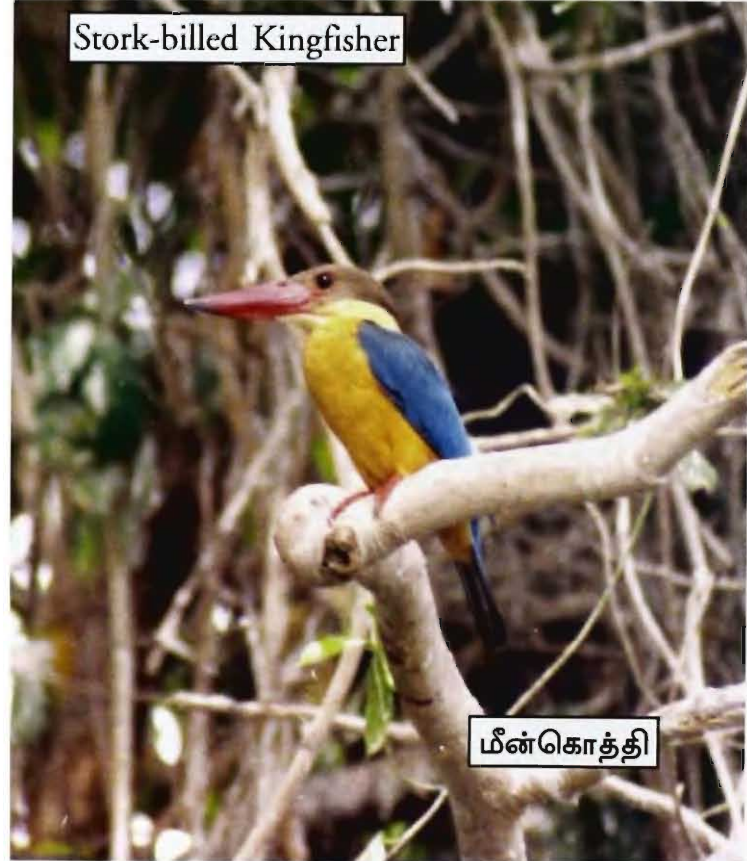
Field Identification Characters : Size of myna, a medium-size Kingfisher, identified by its rusty under-parts including underside of wings, a large whitish wing-patch conspicuous in flight. Bill bright coral-red. male and female alike.

Habits and Habitat : Occurs usually in singles, nocturnal, crepuscular inhabiting scrub jungles, deciduous forest and bamboo bushes. insectivorous.

Distribution : Throughout India.

Status : Resident.

IUCN : LC



Family ALCEDINIDAE

81. *Halcyon pileata* (Boddaert, 1783)

Black - capped Kingfisher

மீன்கொத்தி Meenkothi

Field Identification Characters :Size of myna; upper part pale rusty. Upper plumage black; crown velvety black, mantle separated by white collar, upper plumage purple blue, turning to black in sunlight. A large conspicuous whitish wing patch visible during flight; feathers across breast edged with black; male and female alike.

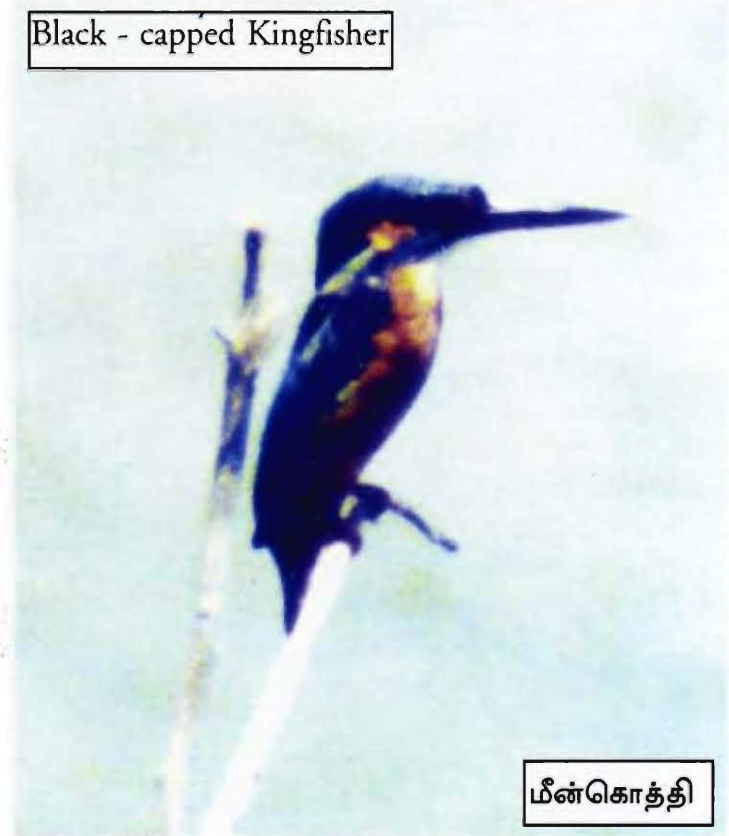
Habits and Habitats :Occurs usually in singles, and occasionally in pairs; affects mangrove, swamps, estuaries; less terrestrial; feed on fish, crabs, insects etc.

Distribution : Coastal wetlands.

Status : Resident and local migratory.

IUCN : LC

Black - capped Kingfisher



மீன்கொத்தி

Family ALCEDINIDAE

82. *Halcyon smyrnensis*

(Linnaeus, 1758)

White-breasted Kingfisher

மீன்கொத்தி Meenkothi

Field Identification Characters : Size larger than myna, a bright turquoise-blue kingfisher with a chocolate-brown head, neck and under parts. Chin, throat and centre of the breast glistening white. A large white wing patch prominent in flight; bill long, heavy pointed and coral-red and coral-red legs; male and female alike.

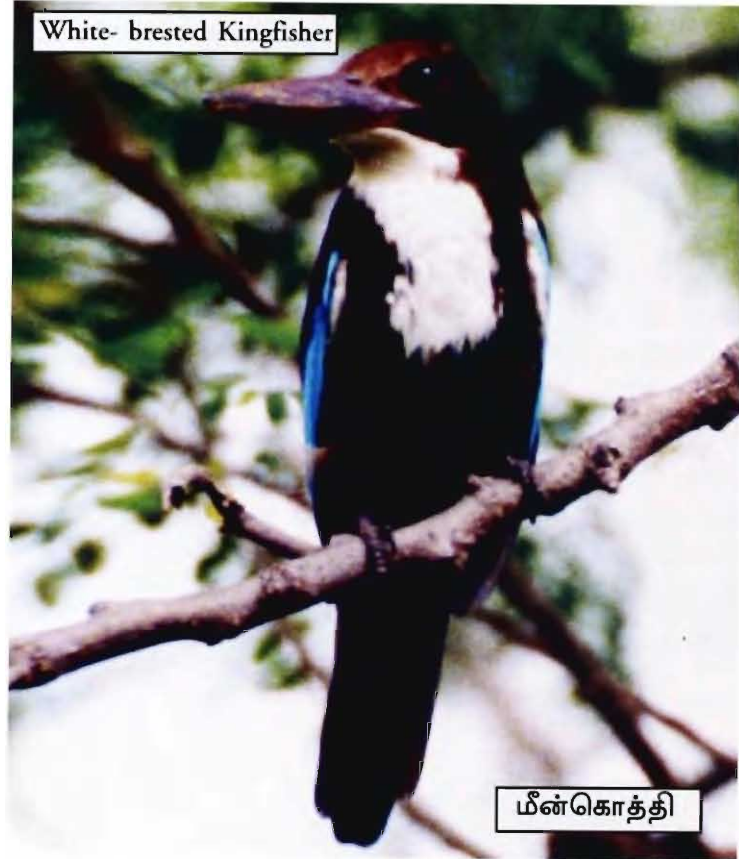
Habits and Habitat : Solitary or in pairs, inhabiting dry deciduous forests. Wet paddy fields, canals and fish-curling yards. feed on fish, large insects and beetles.

Distribution : Throughout India.

Status : Resident.

IUCN : LC

Remarks : The sighted bird is *Halcyon smyrnensis fusca* (Boddaert).



Family MEROPIDAE

83. *Merops orientalis* Latham, 1801

Small Bee-eater

பஞ்சுருட்டான் - Panjuruttaan

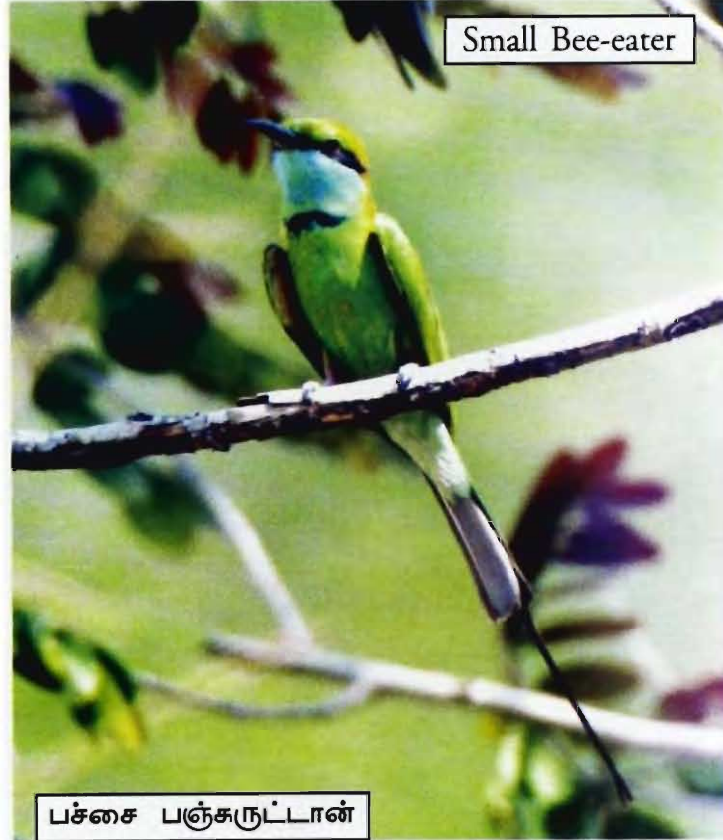
Field Identification Characters : Size of sparrow, a slender grass-green bird tinged with reddish-brown on head and hind neck; chin and throat blue bordered below by black gorget; central pair of tail-feathers projecting as blunt pins beyond tail. Slender, long slightly curved black bill; legs and feet yellowish brown; male and female alike.

Habits and Habitat : Occurs in loose parties and flocks, inhabiting plains and cultivated areas. feed on hymenopteran insects.

Distribution : Throughout India.

Status : Resident.

IUCN : LC



Family MEROPIDAE

84. *Merops philippinus* Linnaeus, 1766

Blue-tailed Bee-eater

நீலவால் பஞ்சுருட்டான்

Neelavaal Panjuruttaan

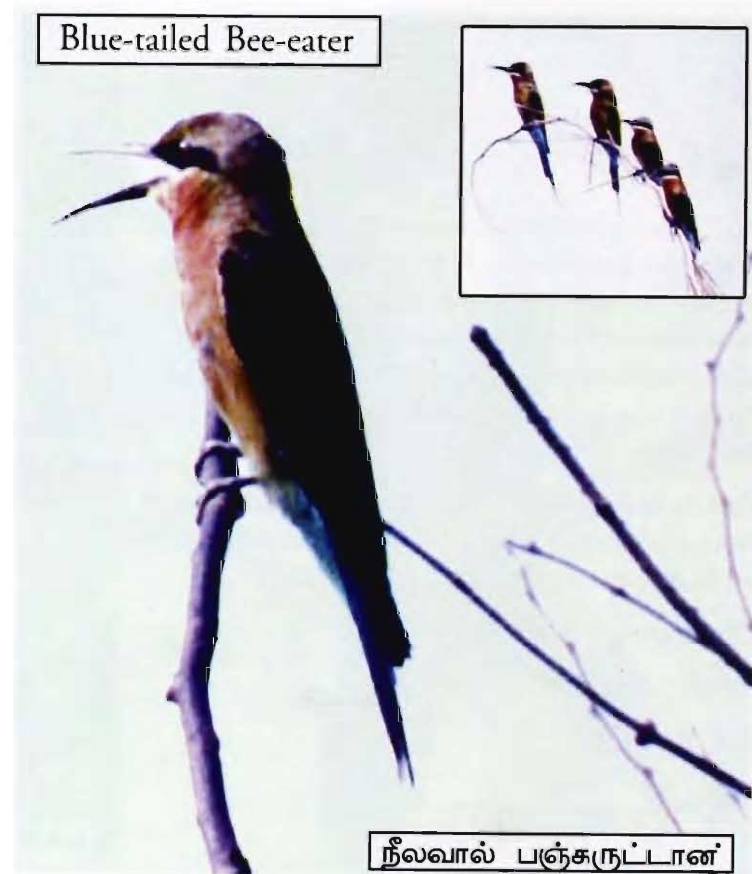
Field Identification Characters : Size of bulbul; slender green bird with slightly curved black bill; a pale chestnut patch on throat; a broad black streak from base of bill backwards through eye ; a conspicuous white and blue-green cheek patch; rump and tail bright blue projecting pintail feather ; male and female alike.

Habits and Habitat : Keeps in pairs or small flocks; inhabits forest clearings perching to tree tops and bamboo; feed on insects; nuisance to bee-keepers.

Distribution : patching in north and west India; peninsular India during winter.

Status : Migratory – winter visitor.

IUCN : LC



Family CORACIIDAE

85. *Coracias benghalensis* (Linnaeus, 1758)

Indian Roller / Blue Jay

பனங்காடை Panangkaadai

Field Identification Characters : Size of a pigeon, a bright blue bird with a big head, Rufous-brown coloured breast, pale blue abdomen and vent; heavy, crow-like brownish black bill, legs and feet dirty brownish-yellow.

Habits and Habitat : Solitary or pairs, inhabiting cultivated lands, gardens, groves of mango and other trees. feed on insects, frogs, lizards, small snakes and field mice.

Distribution : Throughout India.

Status : Resident.

IUCN : LC



Family UPUPIDAE

86. *Upupa epops* Linnaeus, 1758

Common Hoopoe

கொண்டைலாத்தி **Kondailaathi**

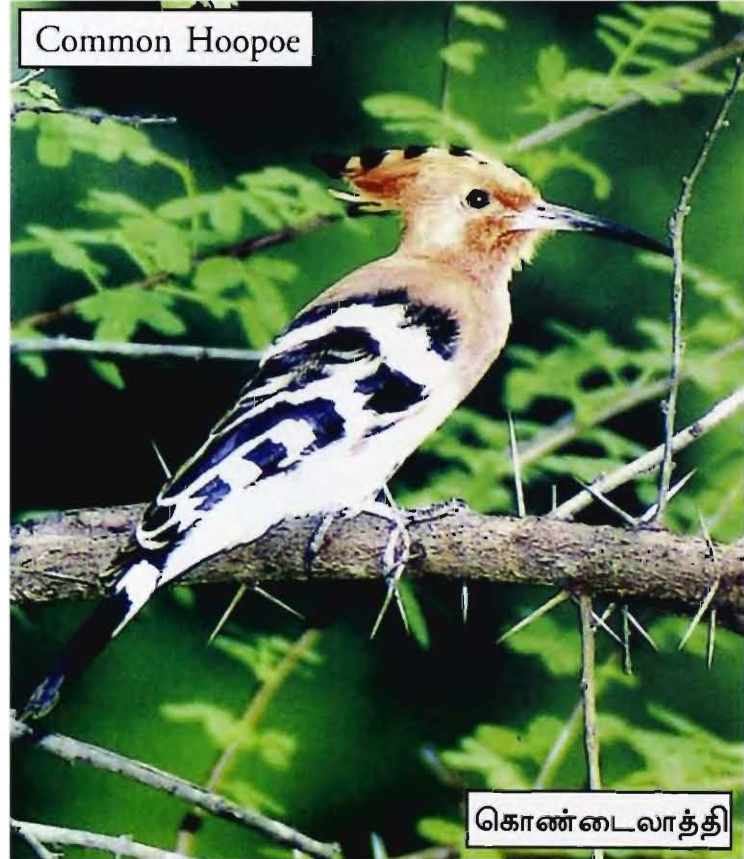
Field Identification Characters : Size of a myna with prominent black and white zebra markings on back, wings and tail; a black and white tipped crest; long, slender and slightly decurved horny black bill; legs and feet slaty brown; male and female alike.

Habits and Habitat : Solitary or in pairs inhabiting deciduous biotopes and cultivated fields. loose parties; feed on insects.

Distribution : Throughout India.

Status : Resident.

IUCN : LC



Family CAPITONIDAE

87. *Megalaima haemacephala*

(P.L.S. Muller, 1776)

Coppersmith Barbet

குக்குறுவான் / கழுத்தறுப்பான்

Kukuruvan / Kalutharuppan

Field Identification Characters : Size of sparrow, a grass green barbet with yellow throat, breast and forehead crimson streaked with yellowish-green under-parts; tail short and truncated; bill dark horny black; legs and feet coral-red; male and female alike.

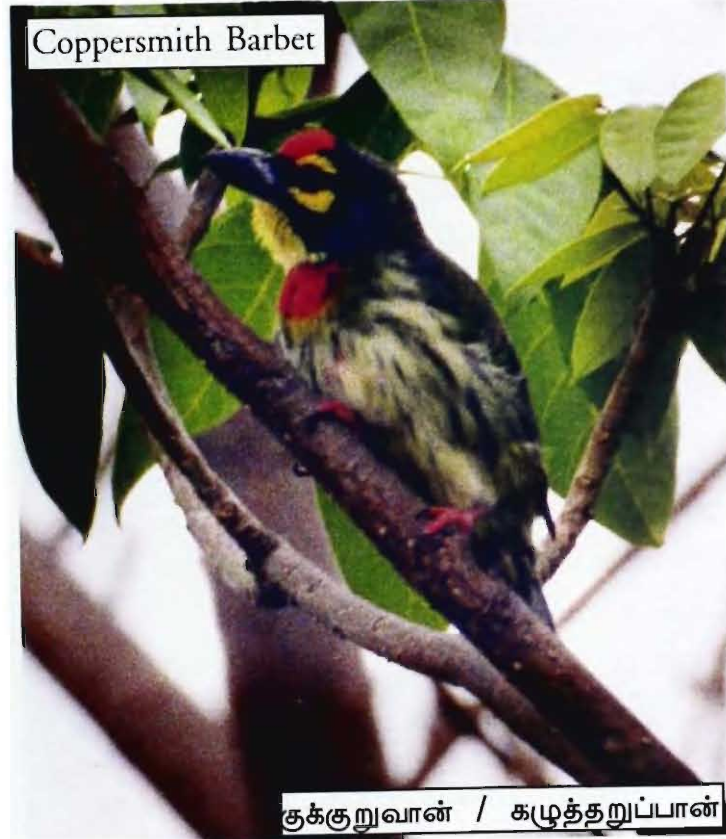
Habits and Habitat : Solitary or in pairs and small parties, arboreal inhabiting cultivated lands, groves of trees and gardens, frugivorous.

Distribution : Throughout India.

Status : Resident.

IUCN : LC

Remarks: The sighted bird is *Megalaima haemacephala indica* (Latham). There appears some nomenclatural mixup in authorship as P.L.S. Muller, 1776.



Family PICIDAE

88. *Dinopium benghalense* (Linnaeus, 1758)

Lesser Golden-backed Woodpecker

மரங்கொத்தி - Marangkothi

Field Identification Characters : Larger than myna; Male: Above; crown and occipital crest crimson; Plumage golden yellow and black; Below: white streaked with black, chin, throat and sides of head black streaked with white. Bill horny black, legs and feet greyish green.

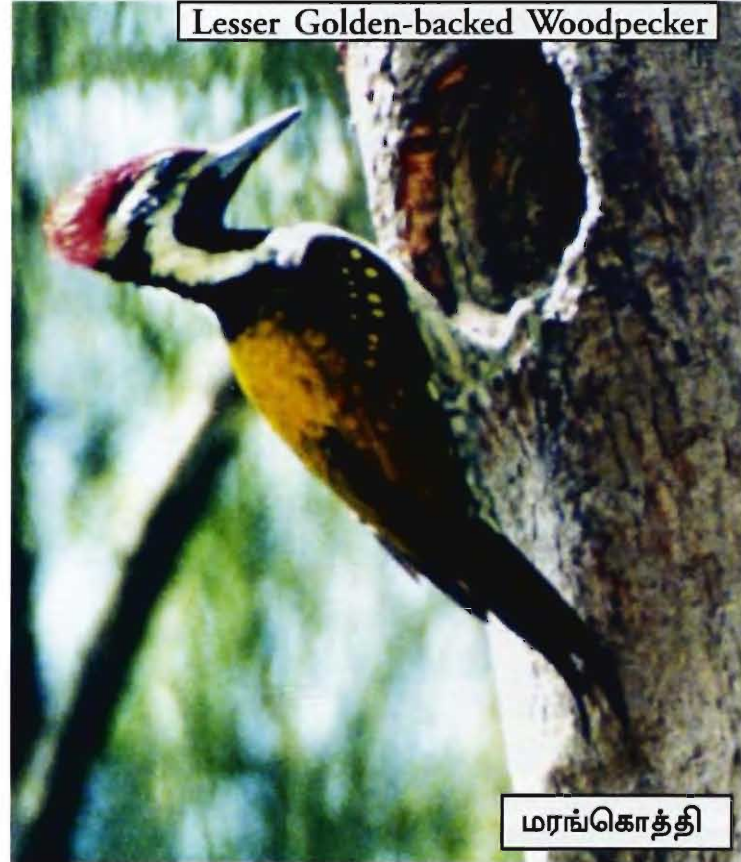
Habits and Habitat : Pairs or parties, inhabiting forest plantations, groves of palm and other trees; feed on larvae and insects.

Distribution : Throughout India.

Status : Resident.

IUCN : LC

Remarks : The sighted bird is *Dinopium benghalense puncticolle* Malherbe.



Lesser Golden-backed Woodpecker

மரங்கொத்தி

Family PITTIDAE

89. *Pitta brachyura* (Linnaeus, 1766)

Indian Pitta

அருமனை குருவி - Arumanai Kuruvi

தோட்ட கள்ளன் - Thottta Kallan

Field Identification Characters : Size of quail, a stub-tailed, thrush like terrestrial bird, abdomen, vent and under tail-coverts green, blue, black and fulvous with crimson-pink, a conspicuous round white patch near tip of the wing; bill brown with orange tinge; legs and feet pinkish; male and female alike.

Habits and Habitat : Occurs flocks, terrestrial; inhabiting deciduous and evergreen forests and scrub jungles; feed on worms and insects.

Distribution : Throughout India.

Status : Resident (local migrant).

IUCN : LC



Family ALAUDIDAE

90. *Alauda gulgula* Franklin, 1831

Eastern Skylark

வானம்பாடி Vaanambaadi

Field Identification Characters : Above, brown with a indistinct tuft on crown. Below, pale-fulvous-buff, breast dark fulvous streaked and spotted with black. Bill; upper mandible horny brown, lower pinkish, legs and feet brown; male and female alike.

Habits and Habitat : Two's or three's or small scattered parties, inhabiting coastal areas. feed on weeds, seeds, roots and insects.

Distribution : Throughout India.

Status : Resident.

IUCN : LC



Eastern Skylark

வானம்பாடி

Family ALAUDIDAE

91. *Eremopterix grisea* (Scopoli, 1786)

Ashy-crowned Sparrow-lark

வானம்பாடி - Vaanambaadi

Field Identification Characters : Size of sparrow, a small crestless lark. Male: Above, sand brown with ashy crown, cheeks white, a black streak from chin to eye. Below, brownish black. Bill, horny grey, legs and feet brownish flesh colour. Female: Sandy brown above.

Habits and Habitat : Keeps in pairs or small parties, inhabiting dry tidal mudflats, paddy stubbles, ploughed, fields, cultivated lands and wastelands. feed on seeds, weeds, grass, ants, weevils and insects.

Distribution : Throughout India.

Status : Resident.

IUCN : LC



Ashy-crowned Sparrow-lark

வானம்பாடி

Family ALAUDIDAE

92. *Mirafra affinis* Blyth, 1845

Jerdon's Bush-lark

வானம்பாடி - Vaanambaadi

Field Identification Characters : Size of sparrow; Above; ashy brown streaked with blackish and chestnut; wings chestnut streaked. Below, fulvous, coarsely streaked with triangular brown marks; bill, dark horny brown; legs and feet pinkish or yellowish brown; male and female alike.

Habits and Habitat : Solitary or in pairs or small loose parties; inhabiting plains, fallow lands and scrub & bush jungle. feed on seeds, weeds and insects.

Distribution : South India.

Status : Resident.

IUCN : LC

Remarks : The sighted bird is *Mirafra assamica affinis* Blyth



Family HIRUNDINIDAE

93. *Hirundo rustica* Linnaeus, 1758

Common Swallow

தாம்பாடி - **Thaampaadi**

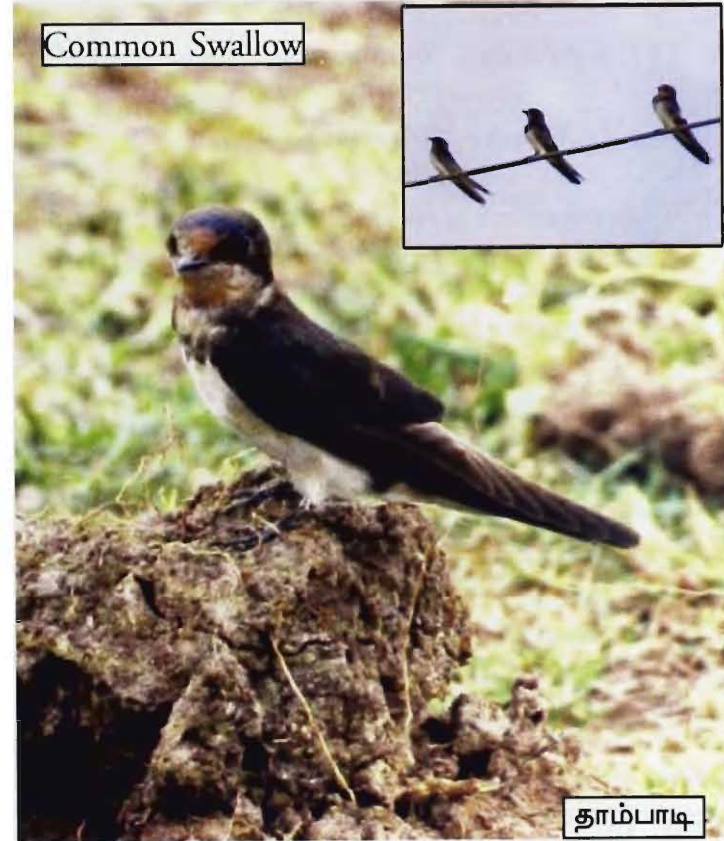
Field Identification Characters : Size of sparrow; long forked tail; glossy steel blue above; pinkish white below; fore head, throat, chin chestnut coloured; a blue-black pectoral band below throat; white spots on tail feather; male and female alike.

Habits and Habitat : Gregarious; sit in line on telephone wire; inhabiting meadows, reed beds, cultivated lands etc; feed on insects and ants.

Distribution : Throughout India.

Status : Resident

IUCN : LC



Family LANIIDAE

94. *Lanius cristatus* Linnaeus, 1758

Brown Shrike

பழுப்பு கீச்சான் - Pazhuppu Keechaan

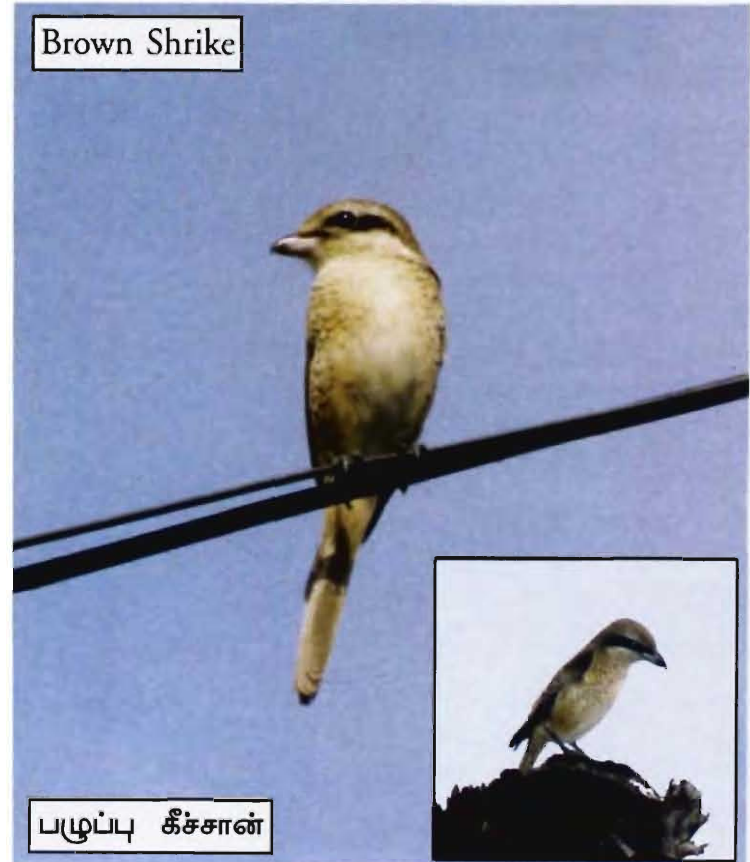
Field Identification Characters : Size of bulbul. Entire upperparts including crown, rump and upper tail-coverts reddish brown; forehead and supercilium white; a black line through eye to ear-coverts. Tail rufous brown. Wings brownish black edged, rufous with no white spots. Below, chin, cheeks and throat white; rest pale fulvous; bill horny brown, legs and feet plumbeous or bluish grey; male and female alike.

Habits and Habitat : Solitary or widely separated pairs, crepuscular, inhabiting deciduous and semi-evergreen biotopes. feed on insects, lizards and small mice.

Distribution : Throughout India.

Status : Winter visitor.

IUCN : LC



Family LANIIDAE

95. *Lanius schach* Linnaeus, 1758

Rufous-backed Shrike

காட்டுகுருவி - Kaattukuruvi

பேய்குருவி - Pey Kuruvi

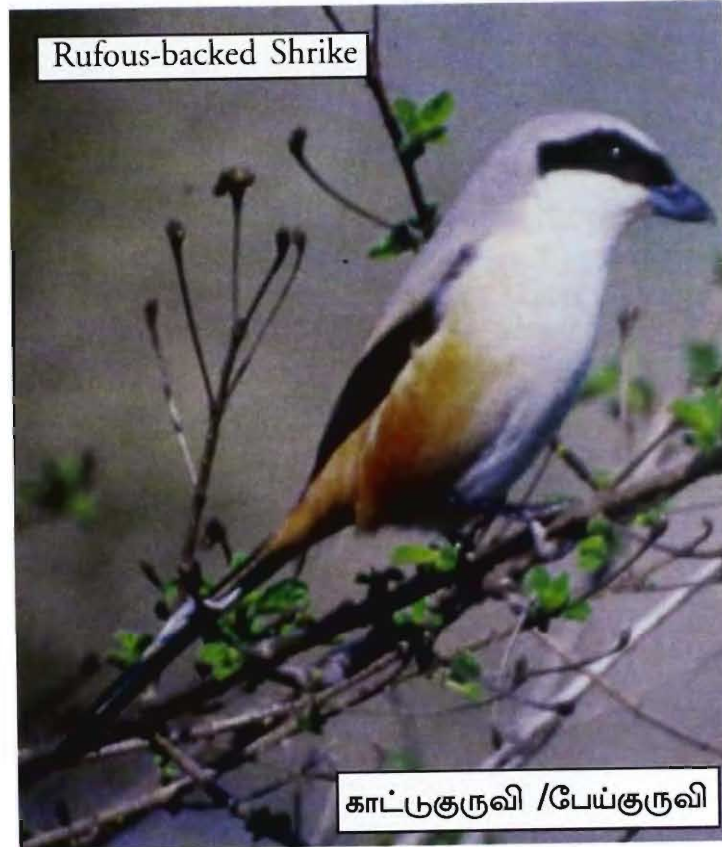
Field Identification Characters : Size of bulbul. Above, forehead black, a broad black band through eye; crown, nape, sides and hind-neck grey diffusing to cinnamon on rest of the upperparts, a long graduated black and rufous tail. Black wings with white wing-spot. Below, chin, throat and upper breast white; rest of under-parts pale rufous. Stout laterally compressed hook-tipped bill, legs and feet brownish black. Male and female alike.

Habits and Habitat : Solitary or widely separated pairs, inhabiting orchards, cultivated lands, gardens and groves of date and palmyra. feed on hymenopteran insects.

Distribution : Peninsular India.

Status : Resident.

IUCN : LC



Family Oriolidae

96. *Oriolus oriolus* (Linnaeus, 1758)

Eurasian Golden Oriole

மஞ்சள் குருவி - Manjal Kuruvi

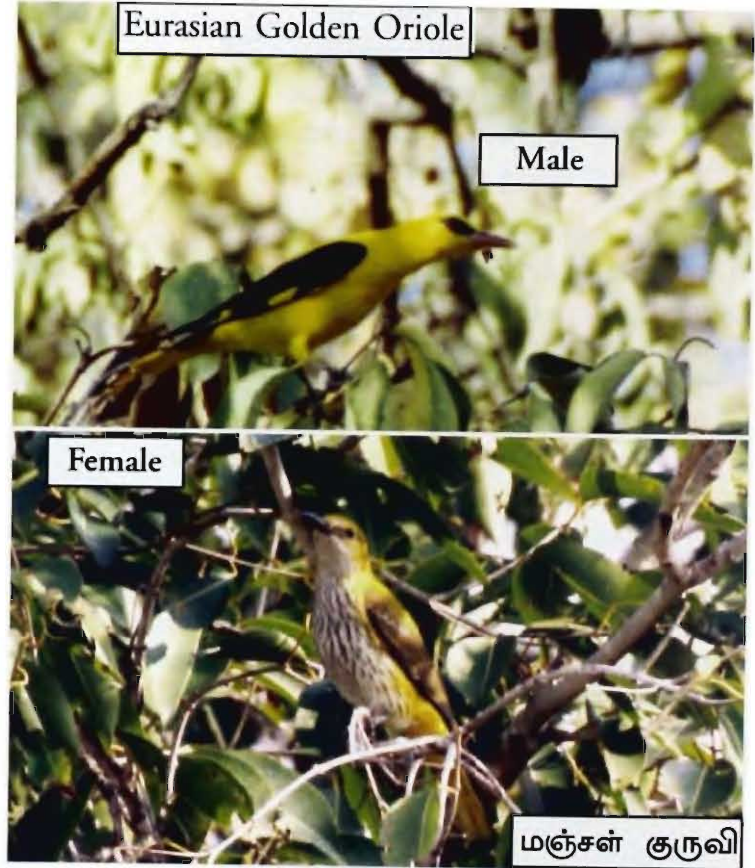
Field Identification Characters : Size of myna.
 Male : Bright golden yellow bird with black wing and tail, a prominent black streak from bores to behind the eye; bill pink; legs and feet slaty-blue.
 Female: Greenish-yellow with pale under-parts streaked with dull brown.

Habits and Habitat : Solitary or in pairs, arboreal, inhabiting orchards, deciduous and semi-evergreen forests. feed on fruits and insects.

Distribution : Throughout India.

Status : Winter visitor.

IUCN : LC



Family DICRURIDAE

97. *Dicrurus macrocercus* Vieillot, 1817

Black Drongo

கரிச்சான் - Karichchaan

Field Identification Characters : Size of bulbul. Slim, glossy jet black with long deeply forked tail. Bill, legs and feet black. male and female alike.

Habits and Habitat : Solitary, arboreal inhabiting cultivated lands, deciduous forests and plains. carnivorous.

Distribution : Throughout India.

Status : Resident.

IUCN : LC

Remarks : The sighted bird is *Dicrurus adsimilis macrocercus* Vieillot.



Family ARTAMIDAE

98. *Artamus fuscus* Vieillot, 1817

Ashy Wood-Swallow

மடல் புறா **Madam Puraa**

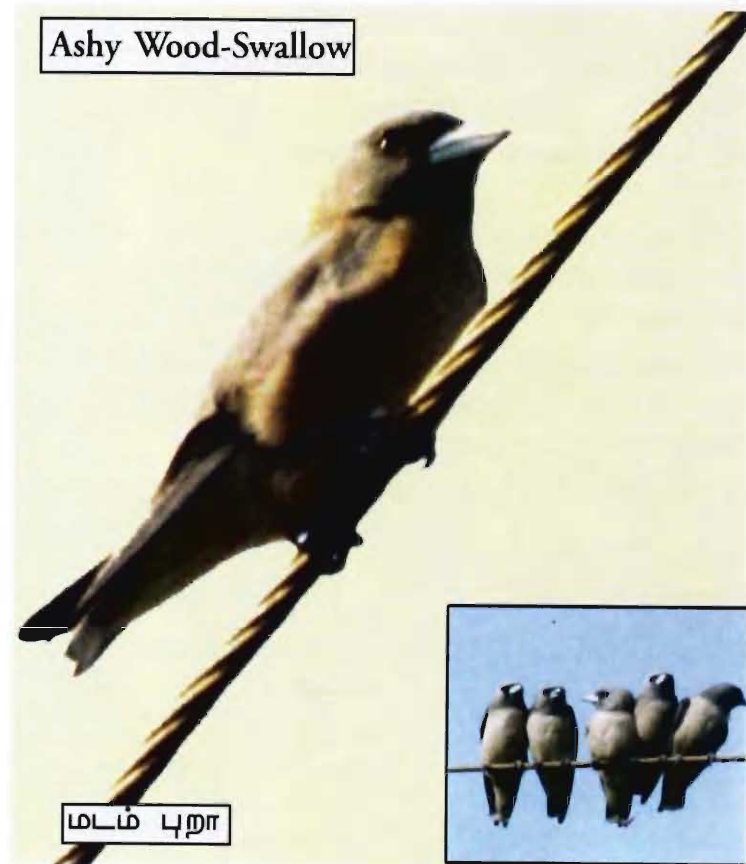
Field Identification Characters : Size of bulbul. A dark slaty grey bird with pale rump and underparts. Tail short, slaty-black tipped with white. Finch-like heavy, bluish bill; legs and feet slaty brown; male and female alike.

Habits and Habitat : Keeps in parties or loose flock, gregarious, sociable, inhabiting moist deciduous forests. feed on insects.

Distribution : Peninsular India.

Status : Resident.

IUCN : LC



Family STURNIDAE

99. *Acridotheres tristis* (Linnaeus, 1766)

Common Myna

நாகணவாய் - Naahanavai

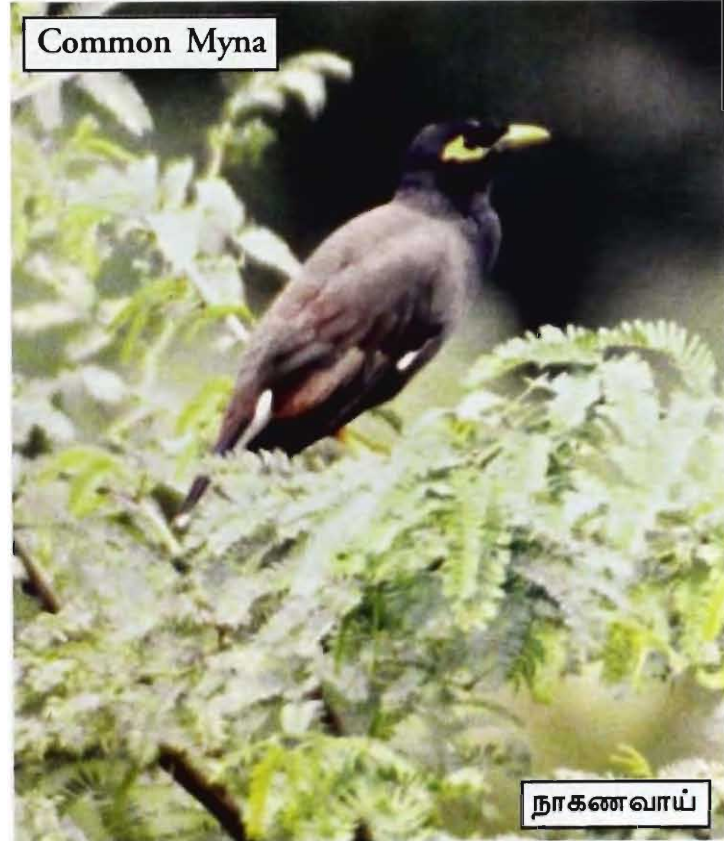
Field Identification Characters : Size approximately of dove; body dark brown with glossy black head; legs and bill bright yellow; a large white patch on wings visible in flight; a naked patch below and behind eye; eye brick red; male and female alike.

Habits and Habitat : Omnivorous; scavenging on ground in cultivated fields and human habitations.

Distribution : Throughout India.

Status : Widespread resident.

IUCN : LC



Family STURNIDAE

100. *Sturnus pagodarum* (Gmelin, 1789)

Brahminy Starling

பாப்பாத்தி நாகணவாய்

Paappaathi Naahanavai

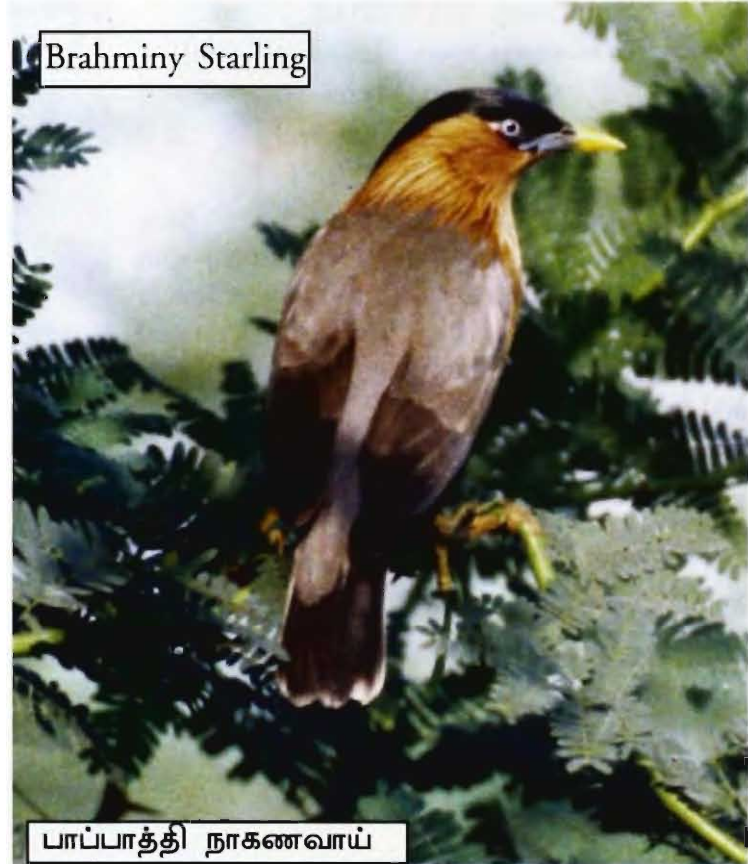
Field Identification Characters : Size smaller than dove; top of head with black crest; body greyish above; reddish fawn below; wings black; tail brown white edge; male and female alike; crest smaller in female.

Habits and Habitat : Sociable, occurs in small flocks, found in cultivated localities, feed on fruits, insects, nectar, etc.

Distribution : Throughout India.

Status : Widespread resident.

IUCN : LC



Family Sturnidae

101. *Sturnus roseus* (Linnaeus, 1758)

Rosy Starling

சோளக் குருவி **Chola Kuruvi**

Field Identification Characters : Size of myna; crest raised on excitement; wings pointed; blue-green gloss to wings; bill stout and yellowish; male and female alike.

Habits and Habitat : Gregarious, inhabiting cultivated lands, grass lands and scrub jungles; some times in swamps; feed on cultivated cereals and pulses, fruits, insects and animal matter.

Distribution : Throughout India; known for east west migration.

Status : Winter visitor.

IUCN : LC



Family CORVIDAE

102. *Corvus macrorhynchos* Wagler, 1827

Jungle Crow

அண்டங்காக்கை **AndanKaakai**

கருங் காக்கை **Karun Kaakai**

Field Identification Characters : Size of house crow, a glossy jet-black crow with a heavy black bill, legs and feet black.

Habits and Habitat : Solitary or in pairs and small scattered parties, less gregarious and sociable than house-crow; inhabiting forest, villages, towns and cities. Omnivorous.

Distribution : Peninsular India.

Status : Resident.

IUCN : LC

Remarks : The sighted bird is *Corvus macrorhynchos culminatus* Sykes.



Jungle Crow

அண்டங்காக்கை / கருங் காக்கை

Family CORVIDAE

103. *Corvus splendens* Vieillot, 1817

House Crow

காக்கை - Kaakkai

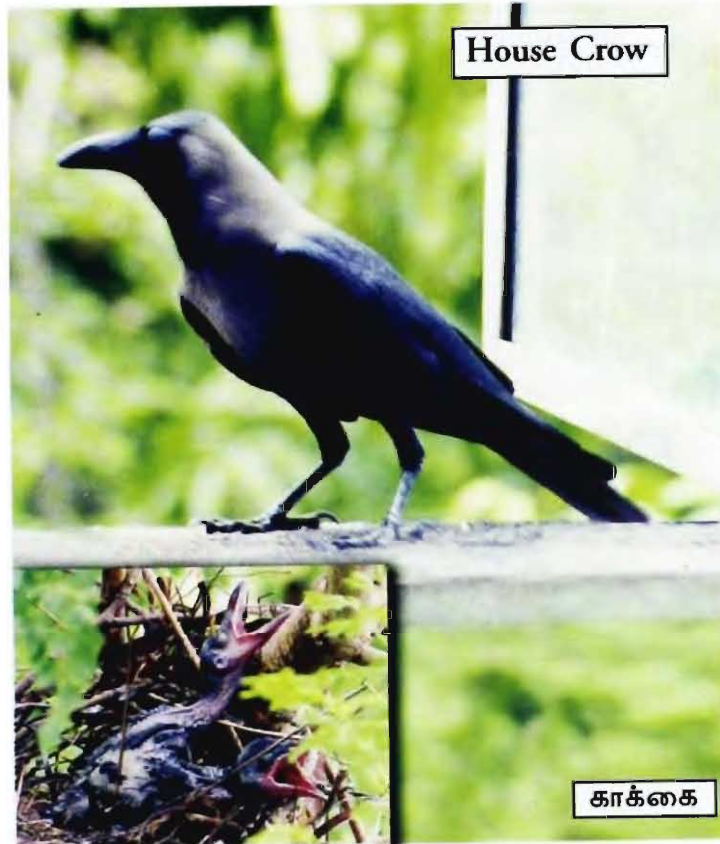
Field Identification Characters : Size of pigeon; glossy black with dusky grey nape, neck, upper breast and upper back. Forehead, crown and throat glossy black. bill, legs and feet black; male and female alike.

Habits and Habitat : Gregarious, groups, sociable, inhabiting human settlements trees and outskirts of forest, clannish and omnivorous.

Distribution : Throughout India.

Status : Resident.

IUCN : LC



Family CORVIDAE

104. *Dendrocitta vagabunda* (Latham, 1790)

Indian Treepie

மாங்குயில் **Maan kuil**

Field Identification Characters : Size of myna. Arboreal bird with dark sooty grey head, neck and breast. A long, broad greyish tail with black tips; the grey, white and black patterns are conspicuous in wings during flight; bill plumbeous, legs and feet dusky plumbeous.

Habits and Habitat : Keeps in pairs and family parties, arboreal, social, inhabiting forest plantations, dry and moist deciduous biotype and scrub jungles. omnivorous.

Distribution : Peninsular India.

Status : Resident.

IUCN : LC

Remarks : The sighted bird is *Dendrocitta vagabunda vernayi* Whistler & Kinneer.



Family PYCNONOTIDAE

105. *Pycnonotus cafer* (Linnaeus, 1766)

Red-vented Bulbul

கொண்டை குருவி - Kondai Kuruvi

Field Identification Characters : Size of myna; brown bird with tufted black head, black throat and scale-like markings on back and breast; rump white; scarlet vent; black tail tipped with white which is conspicuous in flight; bill black, legs and feet brownish black; male and female alike.

Habits and Habitat : Keeps in pairs and small parties, arboreal, inhabiting deciduous and evergreen biotopes. feed on fruits, insects and nectar of flowers.

Distribution : Peninsular India.

Status : Resident.

IUCN : LC



Family PYCNONOTIDAE

106. *Pycnonotus jocosus* (Linnaeus, 1758)

Red-whiskered Bulbul

தொண்டை கொழுத்தி

Thondai Koluthi

Field Identification Characters : Size of myna; hair on head brown with a black pointed crest, red tufts behind the eyes; collar dark; under parts white; under-tail coverts crimson red; male and female alike.

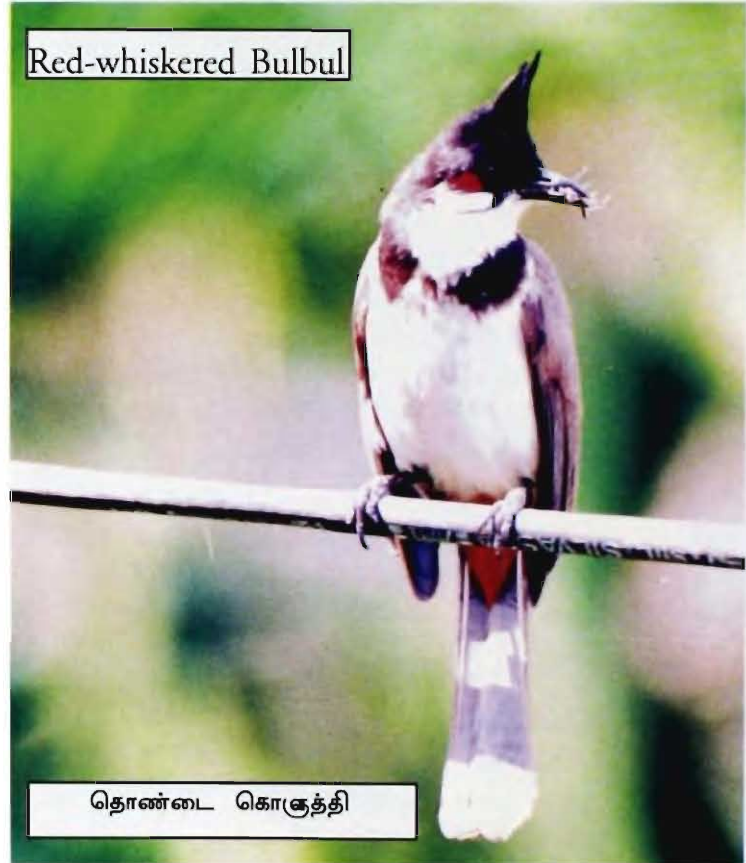
Habits and Habitat : Found in pairs; largely sedentary; inhabiting trees bushes and gardens in human settlement; familiar bird of the garden; feed on insects and fruits.

Distribution : Widely distributed except in north & Gangetic plains.

Status : Resident.

IUCN : LC

Remarks : The sighted bird is *Pycnonotus jocosus fuscicaudatus* (Gould).



Red-whiskered Bulbul

தொண்டை கொழுத்தி

Family PYCNONOTIDAE

107. *Pycnonotus luteolus* (Lesson, 1841)

White-browed Bulbul

மஞ்சள் தொண்டைக்குருவி

Manjalthondaikkuruvi

Field Identification Characters : Size of Redvented Bulbul; olive coloured uncrested bulbul with pale under-parts, white forehead and supercilium; bill black; legs and feet slaty black; male and female alike.

Habits and Habitat : Occurs in pairs, very shy and skulking, inhabiting scrub-jungles, gardens and cultivated lands. feed on fruits, berries, flower-nectar and spiders.

Distribution : Peninsular India.

Status : Resident.

IUCN : LC



Family MUSCICAPIDAE
 108. *Acrocephalus dumetorum*
 Blyth, 1849
Blyth's Reed Warbler
கதிர் குருவி – Kadhirkuruvi

Field Identification Characters : Size of sparrow. Above, olive-brown; a distinct buff supercilium. Below, throat white and rest of underparts buffy; olive-brown plumage; long and heavier greyish-black bill; legs and feet grey; male and female alike.

Habits and Habitat ; Solitary ; inhabiting deciduous biotopes, orchards, gardens, hedges and cultivated lands. feed on insects.

Distribution : Throughout India.

Status : Resident.

IUCN : LC



Family MUSCICAPIDAE

109. *Copsychus saularis* (Linnaeus, 1758)

Oriental Magpie Robin

வண்ணாத்தி குருவி **Vannaathi Kuruvi**

Field Identification Characters : Size of bulbul, a long-tailed black and white robin. Male: Above, glossy blue-black; wings brown with a prominent long white patch; tail black; Below, throat and breast blue-black; rest of under-parts white; bill black; legs and feet slaty brown or black. Female: Above, slaty grey on throat and breast.

Habits and Habitat : Keeps singly or in pairs, inhabiting dry deciduous forests, orchards, gardens and village groves. feed on ants, moths, grasshoppers, caterpillars, small lizards and vegetable matter.

Distribution : Throughout India.

Status : Resident.

IUCN : LC

Oriental Magpie Robin



வண்ணாத்தி குருவி

Family MUSCICAPIDAE

110. *Orthotomus sutorius* (Pennant,1769)

Common Tailorbird

தையல்சிட்டி **Thaiyalchittu**

Field Identification Characters : Size of sparrow. A small yellowish-green warbler with whitish buff under-parts and rust-coloured crown; tail pointed, erect, narrow and elongated; bill brown; legs and feet brownish flesh; coloured; male and female alike.

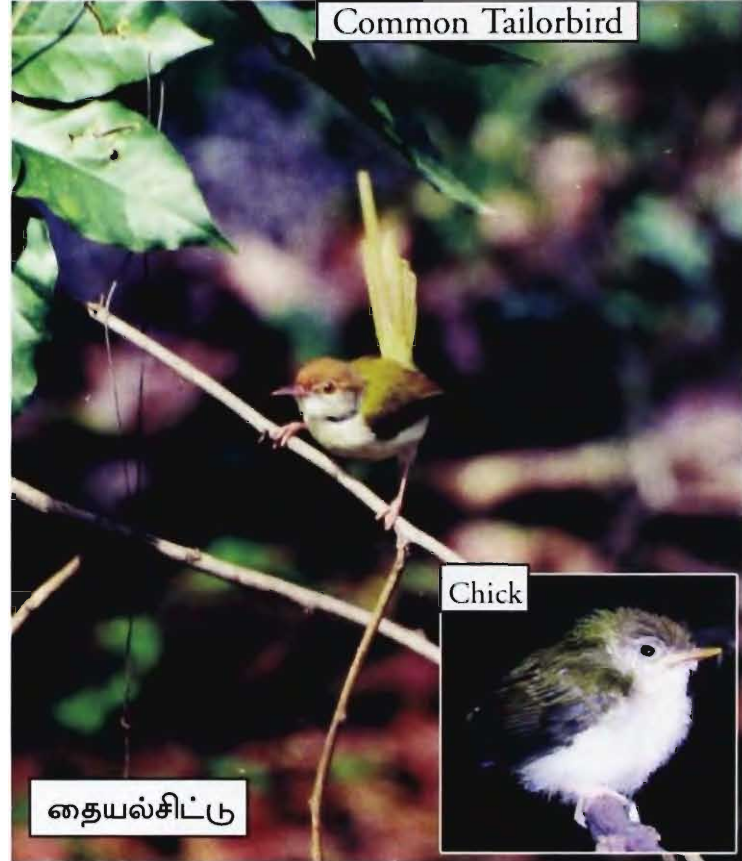
Habits and Habitat : Solitary or in pairs; inhabiting all sorts of environs; feed on larvae and insects.

Distribution : Throughout India.

Status : Resident.

IUCN : LC

Remarks : The sighted bird is *Orthotomus sutorius guzuratus* (Latham).



Family MUSCICAPIDAE

111. *Prinia inornata* Sykes, 1832

Plain Prinia

தினு குருவி - **Thinu Kuruvi**

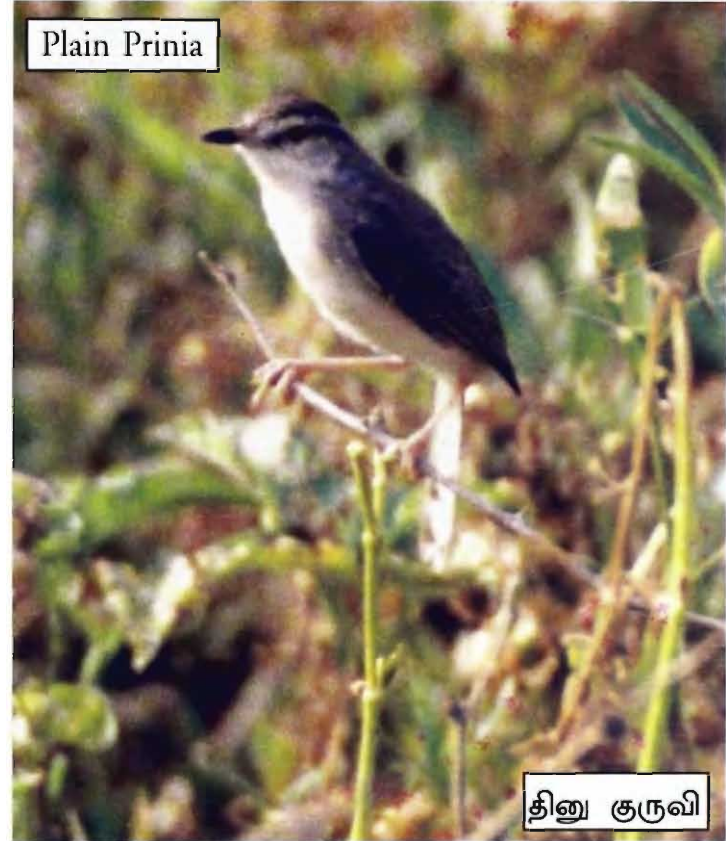
Field Identification Characters : Size of sparrow; body sand coloured with long graduated tail; sides of head creamy white, with white eyebrow; tail with terminal white band. Peculiar jerky switch back flight characteristic; male and female alike.

Habits and Habitat : Found in pairs or small parties; inhabiting scrub jungles, grasslands, mangroves, cultivable lands and coastal vegetations; feed on insects.

Distribution : Throughout India.

Status : Resident.

IUCN : LC



Family MUSCICAPIDAE
112. *Prinia socialis* Sykes, 1832

Ashy Prinia

சாம்பல் கதிர்குருவி

Saambal Kadhirkuruvi

Field Identification Characters : Size of sparrow; head, sides of neck and back ash grey; upper parts rufous brown; tail graduated with fulvous tips; throat whitish, abdomen ochraceous; bill black; male and female alike.

Habits and Habitat : Found in single or pairs; inhabiting grasslands, open scrub jungles, gardens and mangroves; feed on insects, spiders, larvae etc.

Distribution : Peninsular India.

Status : Resident.

IUCN : LC



Family MUSCICAPIDAE

113. *Saxicola caprata* (Linnaeus,1766)

Pied Bushchat

புதர்சிட்டு - Pudharchittu

Field Identification Characters : Size of a sparrow. Male : Above, jet black with a conspicuous white wing patch and white upper tail-coverts. Below, black with white belly and under tail-coverts; bill black; legs and feet black. Female : Above, head and back brown; brown wings with buff edges; upper tail-coverts rusty; tail blackish-brown. Below, fulvous, breast and belly rusty; vent and under tail-coverts buff; bill dark brown. **Habits and Habitat :** Usually solitary, frequently in pairs; inhabiting hills, canals jheels and cultivated fields; feed on insects, ants, larvae and spiders.

Distribution : Patchy distribution.

Status : Resident. **IUCN :** LC

Remarks : The sighted bird is *Saxicola caprata burmanica* Baker.



Family Muscicapidae

114. *Saxicoloides fulicata* (Linnaeus, 1766)

Indian Robin

வண்ணாத்தி குருவி - **Vannaathi Kuruvi**

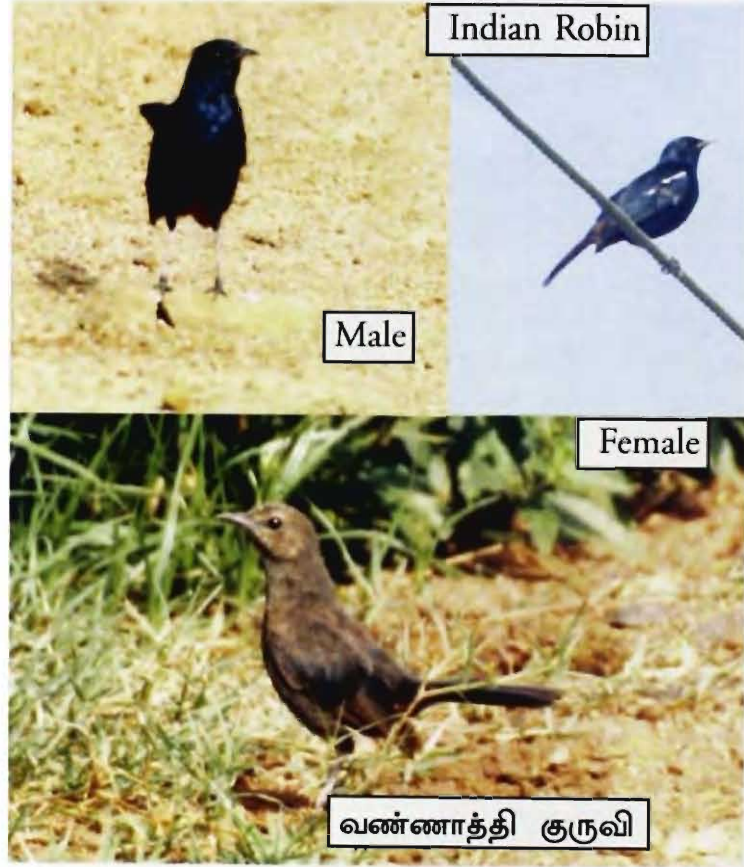
Field Identification Characters : Size of sparrow. Male : Above, crown and wings dark brown; wings with a conspicuous white patch; tail black. Below glossy blue-black; coverts; bill horny-brown; legs and feet dark horny brown. Female : Above, like male but lacks wing-patch; ear coverts tinged with rufous. Below, grey-brown; under tail-coverts chestnut.

Habits and Habitat : Solitary or in pairs; inhabiting scrub jungles, cultivated lands and forest cover; feed on grasshopper, hymenopteran insects and their larvae.

Distribution : Central and Southern India.

Status : Resident. **IUCN :** LC

Remarks : The sighted bird is *Saxicoloides fulicata fulicata* Linnaeus. Manakadan & Pittie (2002) have reported Linnaeus, 1776 instead of 1766.



Family MUSCICAPIDAE

115. *Terpsiphone paradisi* (Linnaeus, 1758)

Asian Paradise - Flycatcher

வேதி வால்குருவி - Vethi Vaalkuruvi

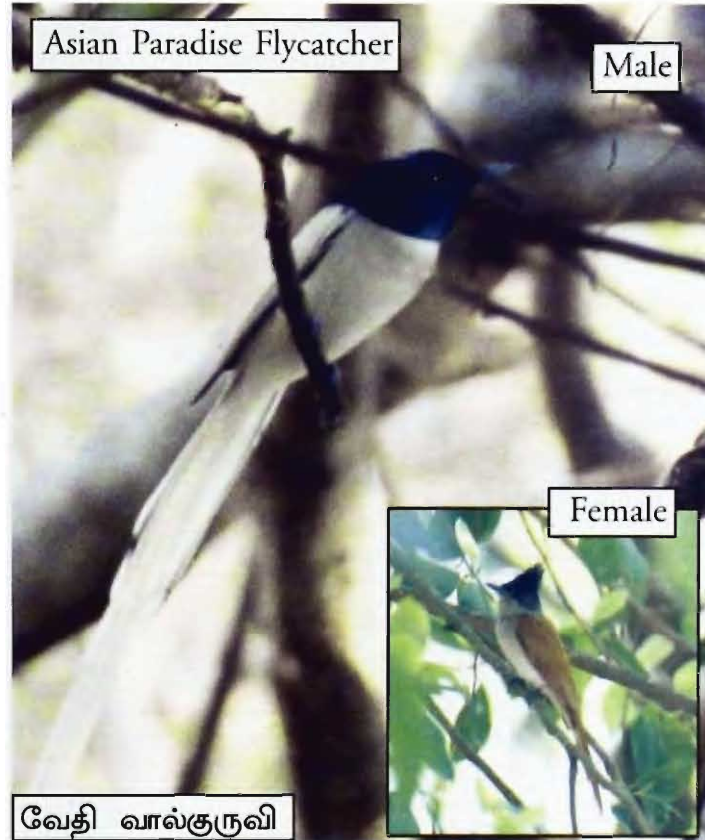
Field Identification Characters : Size of bulbul. Male : Head and throat black with a conspicuous crest. Wings black and white, rest of plumage silvery white, tail feathers with black shaft-streaks; bill blue; legs and feet greyish-blue. Female : crown bluish-black with a short crest than the male; upper parts rufous; throat, sides of head and nuchal collar ashy; belly white.

Habits and Habitat : Occurs in pairs; inhabiting shady forest, plantations, gardens and scrub; feed on winged insects and spiders.

Distribution : Uneven or patchy.

Status : Resident.

IUCN : LC



Family MUSCICAPIDAE

116. *Turdoides affinis* (Jerdon, 1847)

White-headed Babbler

தவிட்டுக் குருவி **Thavittu Kuruvi**

Field Identification Character : Size of bulbul; crown cream coloured; body dirty brown; wings fringed with grey; tail cross barred in the middle; bill and feet pale yellow; male and female alike.

Habits and Habitat : Gregarious, in small groups; inhabiting dry scrub areas in the vicinity of cultivations, urban gardens and home compounds; feed on insects and vegetable matter.

Distribution : Southern India.

Status : Common Resident.

IUCN : LC



White-headed Babbler

தவிட்டுக் குருவி

Family MUSCICAPIDAE

117. *Turdoides caudatus* (Dumont, 1823)

Common Babbler

தவிட்டு சிலம்பன் **Thavittu Chilamban**

Field Identification Characters : Size of bulbul, a slim brown babbler. Above, head and back pale brown streaked with dark-brown. Below, throat white; rest of under-parts creamy buff streaked with pink on the sides of breast; a long, graduated cross-barred tail; bill fleshy brown; legs and feet yellow.

Habits and Habitat : Keeps in flocks, inhabiting thorn scrub-jungle and sandy plains; feed on insects and flower nectar.

Distribution : Throughout India.

Status : Resident.

IUCN : LC



Family MUSCICAPIDAE

118. *Turdoides malcolmi* (Sykes, 1832)

Large Grey Babbler

பெரிய சாம்பல் சிலம்பன்

Periya Saambal Silamban

Field Identification Characters : Size of myna. Above, greyish-brown mottled with dark brown on back. Below, creamy buff with a pinkish tinge on throat and breast; forehead with pale ashy streaks; outer feathers whitish; a long graduated tail with faint cross-bars; bright yellow eyes; bill horny brown; legs and feet brownish grey; male and female alike.

Habits and Habitat : Keeps in parties, gregarious, inhabiting cultivated fields, scrub jungles, gardens and village environs; feed on grains, seeds, berries and insects.

Distribution : Patchy distribution.

Status : Resident.

IUCN : LC



Large Grey Babbler

பெரிய சாம்பல் சிலம்பன்

Family MUSCICAPIDAE

119. *Turdoides striatus* (Dumont, 1823)

Jungle Babbler

காட்டு சிலம்பன் - **Kaattu Silamban**

Field Identification Characters : Size of myna; sandy brown body; creamy white eyes ; legs and bill yellow; tail long and appears as if inserted into body; rump and tail coverts buffed; belly cream colored and buff; male and female alike.

Habits and Habitat : Gregarious occurring in groups of 6 to 12, flying to tree and bushes on disturbance; inhabiting deciduous forest and cultivated areas; feed on insects, spiders and berries.

Distribution : Throughout India except N.W & N. Eastern Parts.

Status : Resident.

IUCN : LC

Remarks : The sighted bird is *Turdoides striatus orientalis* (Jerdon).



Family MUSCICAPIDAE

120. *Zoothera citrina* (Latham, 1790)

Orange-headed Thrush

செந்தலை பூங்குருவி

Senthalai Poonkuruvi

Field Identification Characters :Size of myna; male entire head,nape and underparts brick-coloured; vent and undertail coverts white; upperparts slaty or bluish-grey; a white wing bar; outer retrice margin white; female like male but olive brown.

Habits and Habitat : A ground bird found in single or pairs; inhabiting bushes and dense under growths; feed on berries, worms, insects etc. of the forest floor litter.

Distribution : Himalayan States, Eastern and peninsular India.

Status : Partial migrant.

IUCN : LC

Remarks : The sighted bird is *Zoothera citrina citrina* (Latham).



Family CAMPEPHAGIDAE

121. *Coracina melanoptera* (Rüppell, 1839)

Black - headed Cuckoo Shrike

கருந்தலை குயில் கீச்சான்
Karunthalai Kuil Keechaan

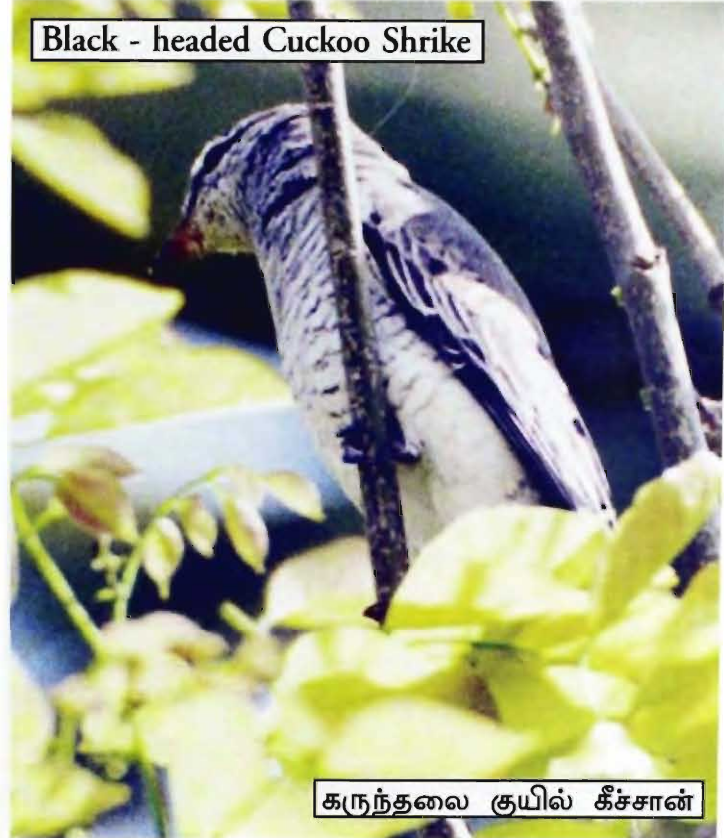
Field Identification Characters : Size of bulbul; male light gray with black head, wings and tail; tail white tipped except on middle retrices; abdomen white; female brownish, under parts white buff, barred with dark brown; male and female alike.

Habits and Habitat : Found in singles, pairs or small parties; in association with tree pies, babblers etc; inhabiting deciduous forests, scrub jungles, mangroves and fruit gardens; feed on insects and berries.

Distribution : Throughout India except north western parts.

Status : Resident.

IUCN : LC



Family CAMPEPHAGIDAE

122. *Pericrocotus cinnamomeus*

(Linnaeus, 1766)

Small Minivet

சின்ன மின்சிட்டு - Chinna Minchittu

Field Identification Characters : Size of a sparrow. Male : Head throat and back dark grey, rump orange-red; wings black with a yellow-orange patch; a long tail, black above, yellow-orange below; breast bright orange fading to yellow on belly. Bill black. Legs and feet horny black. Female : Upperparts similar to male but pale in colour; under-parts whitish-grey suffused with yellow; small yellow patch on the wings; colour of under-parts similar to male but pale whitish-grey suffused whitish yellow; small yellow patch on the wings. **Habits and Habitat :** Occurs small flocks; inhabiting edges of forests, open scrub, groves and cultivated lands; feed on caterpillars, insects and spiders.

Distribution : peninsular India except Malabar coast **Status :** Resident. **IUCN :** LC



Family CAMPEPHAGIDAE

123. *Tephrodornis pondicerianus*
(Gmelin, 1789)

Common Wood Shrike

காட்டு கீச்சான் Kaattu Keechaan

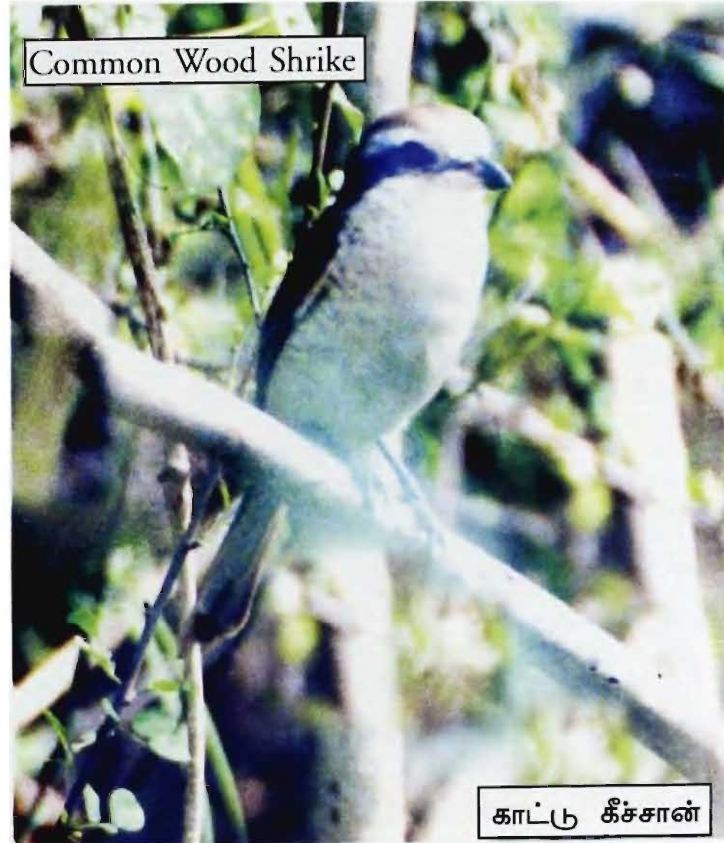
Field Identification Characters : Size of bulbul, greyish-brown shrike-like bird with a dark stripe below the eye from pores to ear-coverts, prominent white supercilium; tail short and square. Outer tail-feathers white, bill horny brown, legs and feet greyish-blue; male and female alike.

Habits and Habitats : Keeps in pairs or small parties, inhabiting deciduous forests, scrub jungle and gardens. feed on insects and spiders.

Distribution : Throughout India.

Status : Resident.

IUCN : LC



Family IRENIDAE

124. *Aegithina tiphia* (Linnaeus, 1758)

Common Iora

மாம்பழ குருவி **Maambazha Kuruvi**

Field Identification Characters : Size of sparrow. Male: A black and yellow tit-like arboreal bird with two white bars across the wing. Tail black. Bill greyish-blue, legs and feet plumbeous; claws greyish-blue. Female : Yellowish-green bird, greenish-brown wings with two white bars.

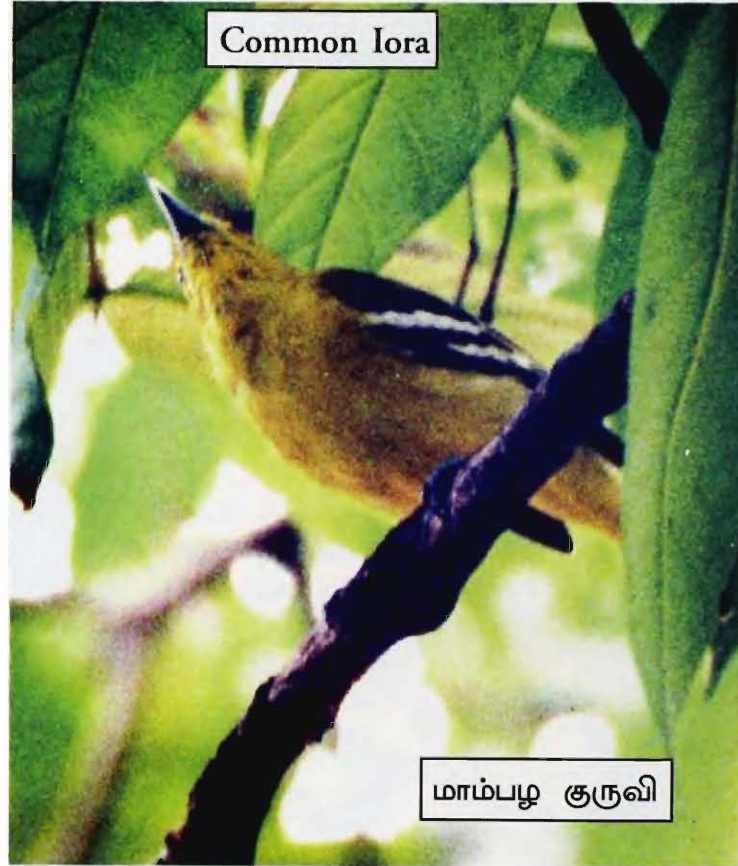
Habits and Habitat : Found in pairs or small parties, feed on larvae, insects and spiders. Forest, Scrub-jungle and cultivated fields.

Distribution : Peninsular India.

Status : Resident.

IUCN : LC

Remarks : The sighted bird is *Aegithina tiphia deignani* Hall.



Family MOTACILLIDAE
125. *Anthus rufulus* Vieillot, 1818
Paddyfield Pipit
புல்லுபொறுக்கி - Pullupperukki

Field Identification Characters : Size of sparrow. Above, dark brown marked with fulvous. Tail dark brown with white outer retrices conspicuous in flight. Below, buff streaked with brown on breast. Legs short and yellowish; bill dark and horny; male and female alike.

Habits and Habitat : Keeps in pairs or small loose flocks; inhabiting grasslands, cultivated fields, fallow fields and grazing grounds; feed on insects and their larvae.

Distribution : Throughout India.

Status : Resident.

IUCN : LC



Family MOTACILLIDAE

126. *Motacilla cinerea* Tunstall, 1771

Grey Wagtail

கொடிக்கால் வாலாட்டி **Kodikkaal Vaalaatti**

Field Identification Characters : Size of sparrow with a long tail; upper parts grey; wings dark brown with white margins forming prominent 'V' on back while perching; under parts buff yellow; male with black throat while breeding; male and female alike.

Habits and Habitat : Occurs in small parties; inhabiting shrub jungles along side hill roads, rocks beside streams; feed on insects.

Distribution : Throughout India.

Status : Winter visitor.

IUCN : LC

Remarks : The sighted bird is *Motacilla caspica caspica* (Gmelin).



Grey Wagtail

கொடிக்கால் வாலாட்டி

Family MOTACILLIDAE

127. *Motacilla flava* Linnaeus, 1758

Yellow Wagtail

மஞ்சள் வாலாட்டி - Manjal Vaalaatti

Field Identification Characters : Size of sparrow. Above, head, nape brown with two yellowish bars. Tail long and brown with white outer edge. Below bright yellow from chin to under tail-coverts; bill horny brown; legs and feet horny brown; male and female alike.

Habits and Habitat : Usually in small loose flocks; inhabiting pastures and moist grasslands. feed on insects.

Distribution : Throughout India.

Status : Winter visitor.

IUCN : LC

Remarks : The sighted bird is *Motacilla flava thunbergi* Billberg.



Family MOTACILLIDAE

128. *Motacilla maderaspatensis* Gmelin, 1789

Large Pied Wagtail

குளத்து குருவி - Kulatthu Kuruvi

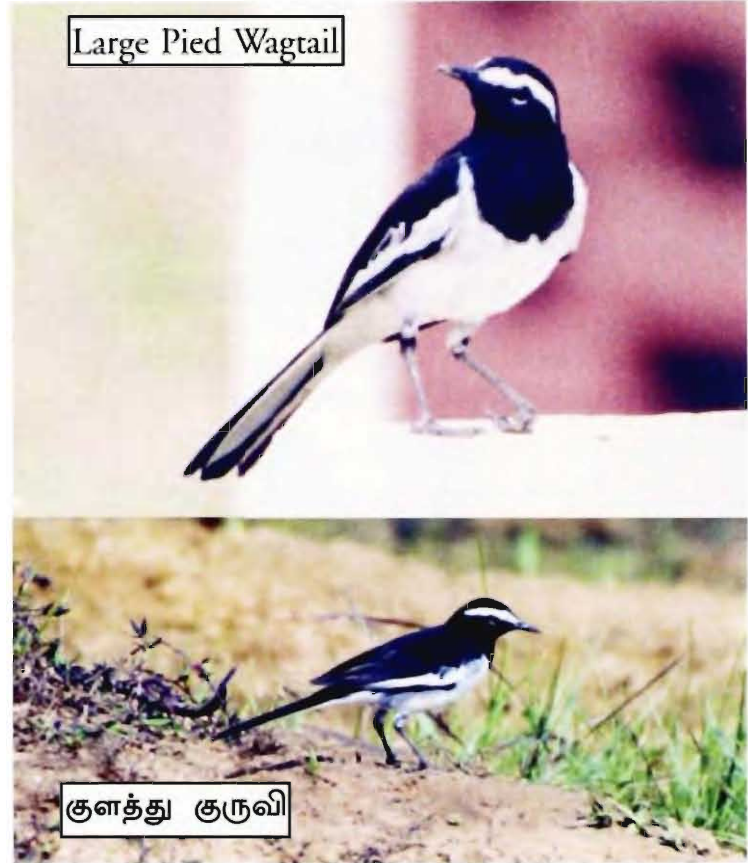
Field Identification Characters : Size of bulbul. A large black and white Wagtail. Above, black with a prominent white supercilium from lores to nape, a large white band on wings. Below, throat and breast black; rest of under-parts white; flanks grey coloured; bill slaty-black, legs and feet black; male and female alike.

Habits and Habitat : Occurs in pairs; inhabiting irrigation tanks, pools, wells and paddy fields. feed on locusts, dragonflies, snails and small seeds.

Distribution : Throughout India.

Status : Resident.

IUCN : LC



Family NECTARINIDAE

129. *Nectarinia asiatica* (Latham, 1790)

Purple Sunbird

தேன்சிட்டூ - **Thaenchittu**

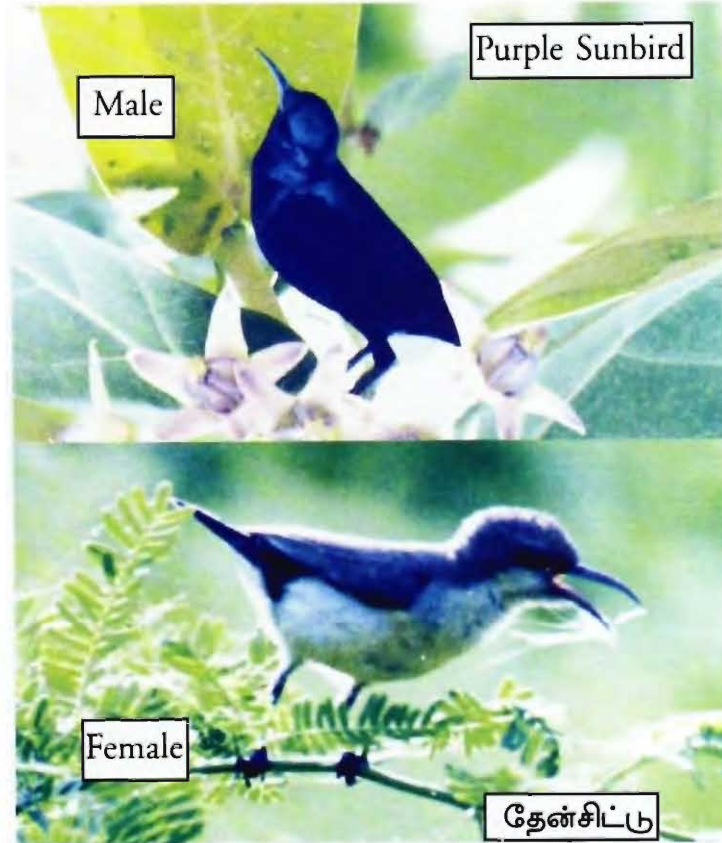
Field Identification Characters : Size of sparrow. Male: Above, metallic dark blue and purple. Below, throat and breast purple, sides bluish-green; belly dark purple separated from breast by a indistinct narrow reddish-brown band; pectoral tufts bright yellow and scarlet; bill, legs and feet brownish-black. Female : Above, olive-brown, below pale-yellow. The bird appears black at a distance.

Habits and Habitat : Solitary or in pairs, very active, inhabiting deciduous forests and gardens. feed on the nectar of flowers.

Distribution : Throughout India.

Status : Resident. **IUCN :** LC

Remarks : Currently known as *Cinnyris asiaticus asiaticus* (Cheke et al. 2001).



Family NECTARINIDAE

130. *Nectarinia lotenia* (Linnaeus, 1766)

Loten's Sunbird

தேன்சிட்டூ - Thaenchittu

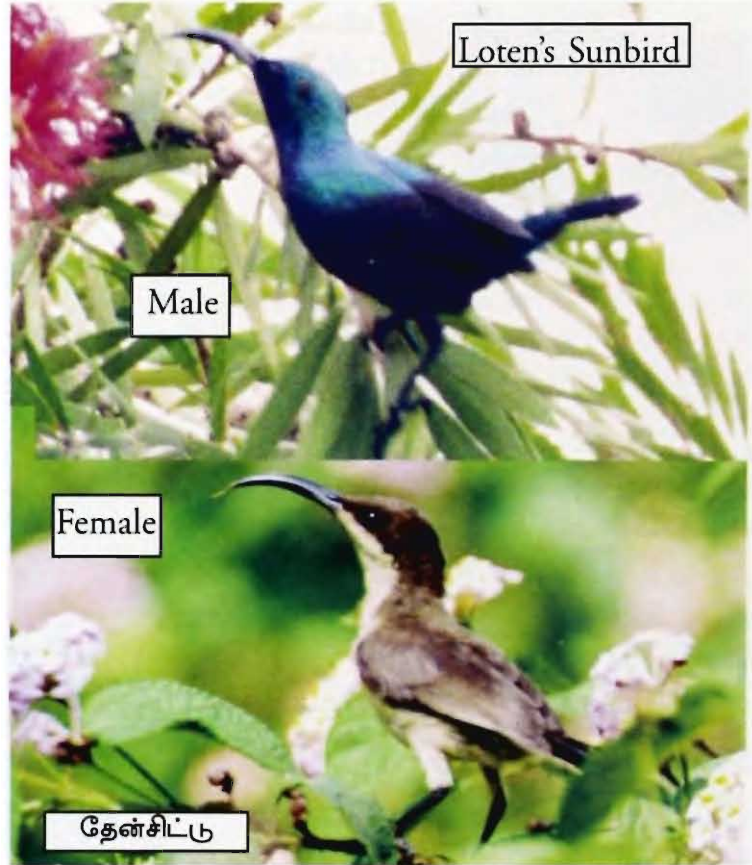
Field Identification Characters : Size of sparrow. Male: Above, head, back, shoulders, rump black with glistening metallic green and purple sheen-wings and tail dull black. Below, sooty-brown, throat metallic green and purple, a maroon band across the breast and bright yellow tufts on the sides of sides of breast are diagnostic features; bill black, legs and feet horny black. Female : Above, dull olive; tail blue black with white tips. Below, entirely dull yellow.

Habits and habitats : Occurs in single or in pairs inhabiting gardens, orchards, cultivated lands, forests; feed on nectar, flowers, small insects.

.Distribution : Peninsular India.

Status : Common Resident. **IUCN :** LC

Remarks : Currently known as *Cinnyris lotenius* (Cheke *et al.* 2001).



Family NECTARINIDAE

131. *Nectarinia zeylonica* (Linnaeus, 1766)

Purple-rumped Sunbird

தேன்சிட்டு **Thaenchittu**

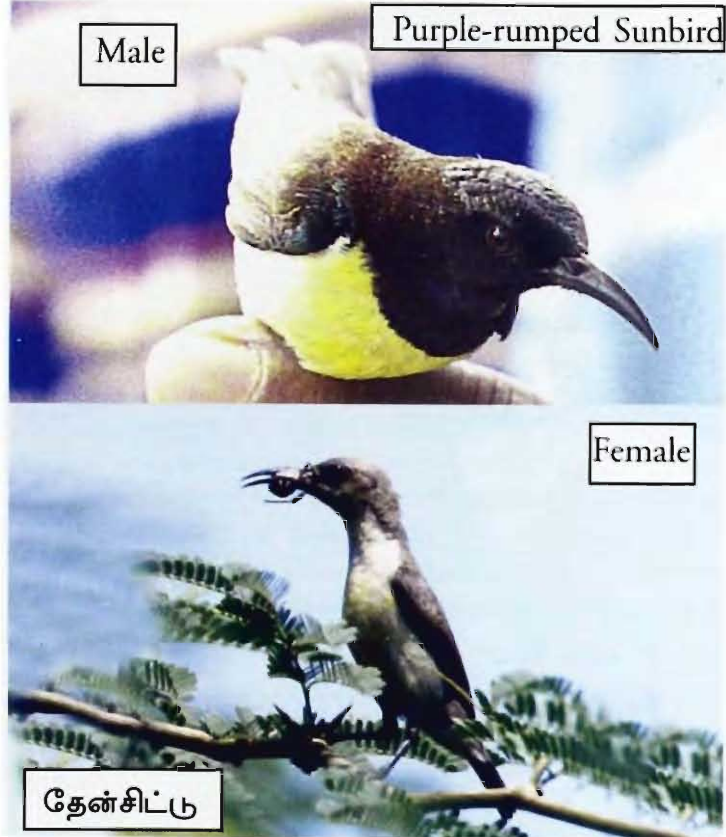
Field Identification Characters : Size of sparrow. Male : Above, crown metallic green, black deep or dark chestnut, a metallic-green shoulder patch. Below, throat metallic purple; a chestnut band across the lower throat; breast and belly lemon-yellow. Female : Above, brown; throat and flanks greyish white; breast and belly lemon-yellow; bill brownish black; legs and feet horn brown.

Habits and Habitat : Usually keeps in pairs; inhabiting deciduous biotopes, dry cultivated lands and gardens. feed on nectar of flowers, spiders and insects.

Distribution : Peninsular India.

Status : Resident. **IUCN :** LC

Remarks : Currently known as *Leptocoma zeylonica* (Cheke *et al.* 2001)



Family PASSERIDAE

132. *Passer domesticus* (Linnaeus, 1758)

House Sparrow

ஊர்க்குருவி Oor Kuruvi

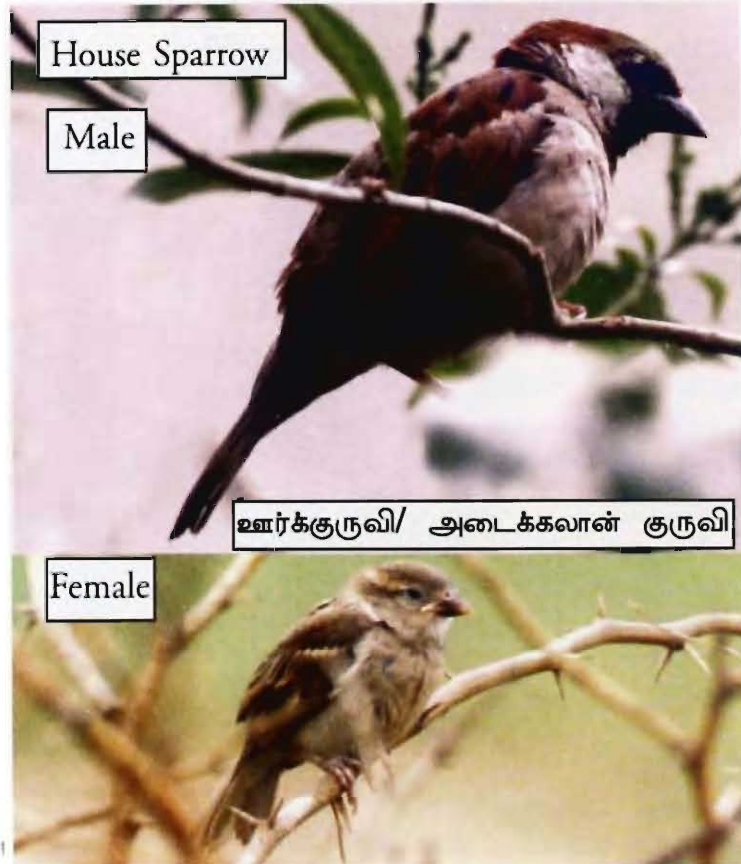
அடைக்கலான் குருவி - Adaikalaan Kuruvi

Field Identification Characters : Size of bulbul. Male: Above, grey crown, black bones, sides of crown behind eye, sides of neck and upper back chestnut. Back rufous-chestnut with black streaks. Wings rufous with a white shoulder patch, tail dark brown. Below, centre of throat and breast black, sides of throat white, rest of under-parts greyish-white; bill dark-brown, legs and feet fleshy and brownish. Female: Above, dark brown with greyish brown streaks, a pale supercilium. Below, plain brownish-white; bill pale-brown.

Habits and Habitat : Keeps in pairs or in noisy flocks; inhabiting in all human habitations; feed on grass, weeds, fruits, flower-buds and insects.

Distribution : Throughout India.

Status : Resident. **IUCN :** LC



Family PASSERIDAE

133. *Ploceus manyar* (Horsfield, 1821)

Streaked Weaver

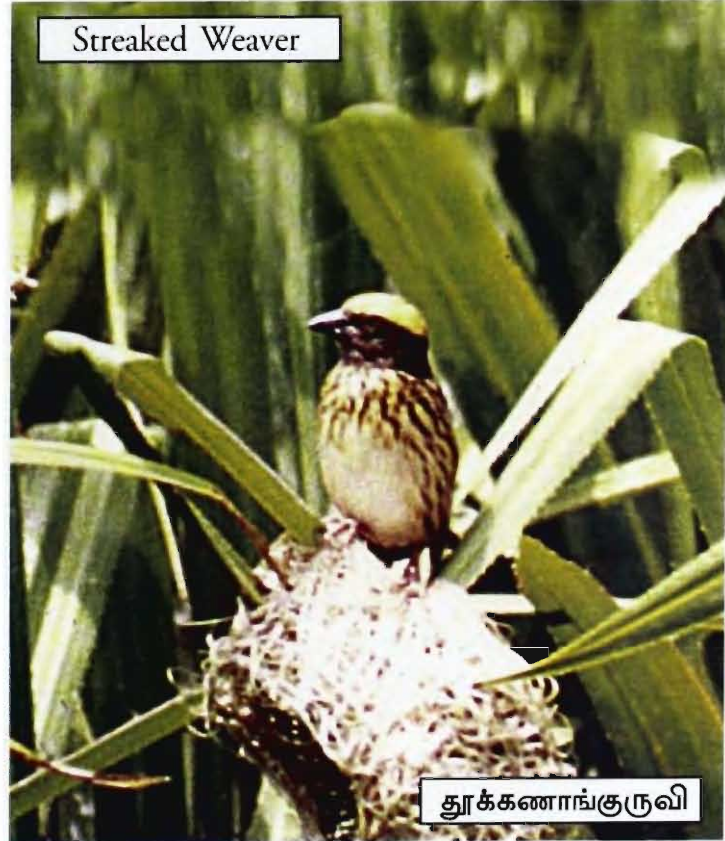
தூக்கணாங் குருவி **ThookanaanKuruvi,**

Field Identification Characters : Size of sparrow. Male : Above, crown golden yellow, sides of head and throat dark, brown, upperparts dark brown streaked with fulvous. Below, under-parts streaked with dark brown. Female: Above, dark brown with fulvous streaks, a conspicuous yellowish supercilium contained as a loop around brownish ear-coverts into a short collar on sides of neck is a diagnostic feature; bill horny brown, legs and feet brownish pink.

Habits and Habitat : Usually in flocks, gregarious; inhabiting swamps, reeds and riverbeds. feed on weeds, reeds, spiders, insects and flower-nectar.

Distribution : Peninsular India.

Status : Resident. **IUCN :** LC



Family PASSERIDAE

134. *Ploceus philippinus* (Linnaeus, 1766)

Baya Weaver

தொங்கா நத்தான் -Thongaa Nathaan

Field Identification Characters : Size of sparrow. Male: Above; crown yellow, under parts dark brown streaked with yellow on back. Below; throat and ear-coverts dark brown, breast yellow, under parts cream buff. Female : Above; crown and back yellowish buff streaked with dark brown, supercilium and sides of neck yellowish buff. Below; throat white, breast yellowish buff with brown streaks on sides, belly cream-buff.; bill horny brown, legs and feet horny brown.

Habits and Habitat : Usually in flocks, gregarious; inhabiting cultivated fields, paddy fields, grasslands and scrub with babool, date and palmyra trees; feed on grass, weeds, grains and insects.

Distribution : Throughout India.

Status : Resident.

IUCN : LC



Family ESTRILDIDAE

135. *Lonchura malabarica* (Linnaeus, 1758)

White-throated Munia

நெல்லு குருவி – Nello Kuruvi

Field Identification Characters : Size of sparrow
: upper parts plain brown; under parts dirty white
tail dark brown and pointed; wings dark brown.
Male and female alike.

Habit and habitat : Gregarious, in flock upto 60
birds; inhabits by hedges and cart-tracks; feed on
ground, seeds and insects.

Distribution : Throughout India.

Status : Resident.

IUCN : LC



Family ESTRILDIDAE

136. *Lonchura malacca* (Linnaeus, 1766)

Black-headed Munia

தினைக்குருவி - **Thinai Kuruvi**

Field Identification Characters : Size of sparrow. Above, head black, rest of upperparts rufous chestnut, rump darker. Below, throat, breast, centre of belly, under tail-coverts and thighs black; rest of under-parts white; male and female slaty brown.

Habits and Habitat : Usually in flocks; inhabiting paddy fields, marshes, swamps and grass fields. feed on grass, seeds and grains.

Distribution : Peninsular India.

Status : Resident.

IUCN : LC



Black-headed Munia

தினைக்குருவி

Family ESTRILDIDAE

137. *Lonchura punctulata* (Linnaeus, 1758)

Spotted Munia

நெல்லு குருவி – Nello Kuruvi

Field Identification Characters : Size of sparrow, Above, chocolate-brown with faint pale shaft-streaks. upper tail coverts and tail golden fulvous; rump barred with white. Below, sides of head, neck and lower throat chestnut, chin and throat much darker; breasts and flanks speckled black and white. Bill horny brown, legs and feet bluish gray.

Habits and Habitat : Usually flocks; inhabiting cultivated fields, grasslands, gardens and hilly areas and grains.

Distribution : Throughout India.

Status : Resident.

IUCN : LC



Spotted Munia

நெல்லு குருவி

Family ESTRILDIDAE

138. *Lonchura striata* (Linnaeus, 1766)

White-rumped Munia

வெண்முதுகு சில்லை

Vennmudhugu Chillai

Field Identification Characters : Size of sparrow; upper parts dark brown with white back; heavy bluish bill; fore head, wings and tail blackish-brown; rump white; abdomen creamy white or white; both male and female alike.

Habits and Habitat : Gregarious in small flocks; in habiting scrub, shrub jungles, fallow lands; feed on seeds of grass and bamboo and cultivated crops.

Distribution : Throughout India.

Status : Resident.

IUCN : LC



SPECIES FACTSHEETS (As per Birds International)

IUCN Red List Categories

The IUCN Red List Categories and Criteria are an objective and widely accepted system for classifying species at high risk of extinction. The categories, including the three globally threatened categories (Critically Endangered, Endangered and Vulnerable) are outlined below.

EXTINCT (EX)

A species is Extinct when there is no reasonable doubt that the last individual has died. A species is presumed Extinct when exhaustive surveys in known and/or expected habitat, at appropriate times (diurnal, seasonal, annual), throughout its historic range have failed to record an individual. Surveys should be over a time frame appropriate to the species's life history.

EXTINCT IN THE WILD (EW)

A species is Extinct in the Wild when it is known only to survive in captivity or as a naturalized population (or populations) well outside the past range. A species is presumed Extinct in the Wild when exhaustive surveys in known and/or expected habitat, at appropriate times (diurnal, seasonal, annual), throughout its historic range have failed to record an individual. Surveys should be over a time frame appropriate to the species's life history.

CRITICALLY ENDANGERED (CR)

A species is Critically Endangered when the best available evidence indicates that it meets any of the criteria A to E for Critically Endangered (see *IUCN Red List Criteria*) and it is therefore considered to be facing an extremely high risk of extinction in the wild.

ENDANGERED (EN)

A species is Endangered when the best available evidence indicates that it meets any of the criteria A to E for Endangered (see *IUCN Red List Criteria*), and it is therefore considered to be facing a very high risk of extinction in the wild.

VULNERABLE (VU)

A species is Vulnerable when the best available evidence indicates that it meets any of the criteria A to E for Vulnerable (see *IUCN Red List Criteria*), and it is therefore considered to be facing a high risk of extinction in the wild.

NEAR THREATENED (NT)

A species is Near Threatened when it has been evaluated against the criteria but does not qualify for Critically Endangered, Endangered or Vulnerable now, but is close to qualifying for or is likely to qualify for a threatened category in the near future.

LEAST CONCERN (LC)

A species is Least Concern when it has been evaluated against the criteria and does not qualify for Critically Endangered, Endangered, Vulnerable or Near Threatened. Widespread and abundant species are included in this category.

DATA DEFICIENT (DD)

A species is Data Deficient when there is inadequate information to make a direct, or indirect, assessment of its risk of extinction based on its distribution and/or population status. A species in this category may be well studied, and its biology well known, but appropriate data on abundance and/or distribution are lacking. Data Deficient is therefore not a category of threat. Listing of species in this category indicates that more information is required and acknowledges the possibility that future research will show that threatened classification is appropriate. It is important to make positive use of whatever data are available. In many cases great care should be exercised in choosing between DD and a threatened status. If the range of a species is suspected to be relatively circumscribed, and a considerable period of time has elapsed since the last record of the species, threatened status may well be justified.

The IUCN Red List category of Data Deficient is usually only applied to species where there is no information that, either directly or by inference, implies they may be threatened. A few Data Deficient bird species have not been recorded for a significant period of time. However, in each case the evidence suggests that they are unlikely to be threatened (and hence unlikely to be near extinction or possibly extinct), because no threatening factor is known or plausibly inferred, and there are convincing practical reasons why there have been no recent records (e.g. because surveys have been inadequate and/or the species is difficult to detect). In some cases it is likely that the lack of records is because the taxon is invalid (e.g. the type represents an aberrant individual of a commoner species).

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INDEX : SCIENTIFIC NAMES

Latin Name	Common Name	Page No.
<i>Accipiter badius</i> (Gmelin)	Shikra	52
<i>Accipiter nisus</i> (Linnaeus)	Eurasian Sparrowhawk	53
<i>Accipiter virgatus</i> (Temminck)	Besra Sparrowhawk	54
<i>Acridotheres tristis</i> (Linnaeus)	Common Myna	127
<i>Acrocephalus dumetorum</i> Blyth	Blyth's Reed Warbler	136
<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i> Linnaeus	Common Sandpiper	74
<i>Aegithina tiphia</i> (Linnaeus)	Common Iora	152
<i>Alauda gulgula</i> Franklin	Eastern Skylark	118
<i>Alcedo atthis</i> (Linnaeus)	Small Blue Kingfisher	106
<i>Amaurornis phoenicurus</i> (Pennant)	White – breasted Waterhen	64
<i>Anas acuta</i> Linnaeus	Northern Pintail	49
<i>Anas poecilorhyncha</i> J.R. Forster	Spot- Billed Duck	50
<i>Anastomus oscitans</i> (Boddaert)	Asian Openbill	44
<i>Anhinga melanogaster</i> Pennant	Darter	31
<i>Anthus rufulus</i> Vieillot	Paddyfield Pipit	153

<i>Apus affinis</i> (J.E. Gray)	House Swift	104
<i>Ardea cinerea</i> Linnaeus	Grey Heron	32
<i>Ardea purpurea</i> Linnaeus	Purple Heron	33
<i>Ardeola grayi</i> (Sykes)	Indian Pond Heron	34
<i>Artamus fuscus</i> Vieillot	Ashy Woodswallow	126
<i>Asio flammeus</i> (Pontoppidan)	Short-eared Owl	99
<i>Athene brama</i> (Temminck)	Spotted Owlet	100
<i>Bubo bubo</i> (Linnaeus)	Eurasian Eagle-Owl	101
<i>Bubulcus ibis</i> (Linnaeus)	Cattle Egret	35
<i>Burhinus oediconemus</i> (Linnaeus)	Stone-Curlew	85
<i>Butorides striatus</i> (Linnaeus)	Little Green Heron	36
<i>Calidris minuta</i> (Leisler)	Little Stint	75
<i>Caprimulgus asiaticus</i> Latham	Common Indian Nightjar	103
<i>Casmerodius albus</i> (Linnaeus)	Large Egret	37
<i>Centropus sinensis</i> (Stephens)	Greater Coucal	93
<i>Ceryle rudis</i> (Linnaeus)	Lesser Pied Kingfisher	107
<i>Charadrius alexandrinus</i> Linnaeus	Kentish Plover	69
<i>Charadrius dubius</i> (Scopoli)	Little Ringed Plover	70

<i>Clamator coromandus</i> (Linnaeus)	Red-winged Crested Cuckoo	94
<i>Clamator jacobinus</i> (Boddaert)	Pied Crested Cuckoo	95
<i>Columba livia</i> Gmelin	Blue Rock Pigeon	89
<i>Copsychus saularis</i> (Linnaeus)	Oriental Magpie Robin	137
<i>Coracias benghalensis</i> (Linnaeus)	Indian Roller	113
<i>Coracina melanoptera</i> (Ruppell)	Black-headed Cuckoo Shrike	149
<i>Corvus macrorhynchos</i> Wagler	Jungle Crow	130
<i>Corvus splendens</i> Vieillot	House Crow	131
<i>Cypsiurus balasiensis</i> (J.E.Gray)	Asian Palm-Swift	105
<i>Dendrocitta vagabunda</i> (Latham)	Indian Treepie	132
<i>Dendrocygna javanica</i> (Horsfield)	Lesser Whistling Duck	51
<i>Dicrurus macrocercus</i> Vieillot	Black Drongo	125
<i>Dinopium benghalense</i> (Linnaeus)	Golden-backed Woodpecker	116
<i>Dupetor flavicollis</i> (Latham)	Black Bittern	38
<i>Egretta garzetta</i> (Linnaeus)	Little Egret	39
<i>Elanus caeruleus</i> (Desfontaines)	Black-shouldered Kite	55
<i>Eremopterix grisea</i> (Scopoli)	Ashy-crowned Sparrow-lark	119
<i>Eudynamys scolopacea</i> (Linnaeus)	Asian Koel	96

<i>Falco tinnunculus</i> (Linnaeus)	Common Kestrel	61
<i>Fracolinus pondicerianus</i> (Gmelin)	Grey Francolin	62
<i>Fulica atra</i> Linnaeus	Common Coot	65
<i>Gallinago gallinago</i> (Linnaeus)	Common Snipe	76
<i>Gallinula chloropus</i> (Linnaeus)	Common Moorhen	66
<i>Gelochelidon nilotica</i> (Gmelin)	Gull-billed Tern	86
<i>Halcyon capensis</i> (Linnaeus)	Stork-billed Kingfisher	108
<i>Halcyon pileata</i> (Boddaert)	Black -capped Kingfisher	109
<i>Halcyon smyrnensis</i> (Linnaeus)	White-breasted Kingfisher	110
<i>Haliastur indus</i> (Boddaert)	Brahminy Kite	56
<i>Hierococcyx varius</i> (Vahl)	Brainfever Bird	97
<i>Himantopus himantopus</i> (Linnaeus)	Black-winged Stilt	84
<i>Hirundo rustica</i> Linnaeus	Common Swallow	121
<i>Hydrophasianus chirurgus</i> (Scopoli)	Pheasant – tailed Jacana	68
<i>Ixobrychus cinnamomeus</i> (Gmelin)	Chestnut Bittern	40
<i>Ixobrychus sinensis</i> (Gmelin)	Yellow Bittern	41
<i>Lanius cristatus</i> Linnaeus	Brown Shrike	122
<i>Lanius schach</i> Linnaeus	Rufous-backed Shrike	123

<i>Larus ridibundus</i> Linnaeus	Black-headed Gull	87
<i>Limosa limosa</i> (Linnaeus)	Black-tailed Godwit	77
<i>Lonchura malabarica</i> (Linnaeus)	White-throated Munia	163
<i>Lonchura malacca</i> (Linnaeus)	Black-headed Munia	164
<i>Lonchura punctulata</i> (Linnaeus)	Spotted Munia	165
<i>Lonchura striata</i> (Linnaeus)	White-rumped Munia	166
<i>Megalaima haemacephala</i> (P.L.S Muller)	Coppersmith Barbet	115
<i>Merops orientalis</i> Latham	Small Bee-eater	111
<i>Merops philippinus</i> Linnaeus	Blue-tailed Bee-eater	112
<i>Mesophoyx intermedia</i> (Wagler)	Median Egret	42
<i>Milvus migrans</i> (Boddaert)	Black Kite	57
<i>Mirafra affinis</i> Blyth	Jerdon's Bush-lark	120
<i>Motacilla cinerea</i> Tunstall	Grey Wagtail	154
<i>Motacilla flava</i> Linnaeus	Yellow Wagtail	155
<i>Motacilla maderaspatensis</i> Gmelin	Large Pied Wagtail	156
<i>Mycteria leucocephala</i> (Pennant)	Painted Stork	45
<i>Nectarinia asiatica</i> (Latham)	Purple Sunbird	157
<i>Nectarinia lotenia</i> (Linnaeus)	Loten's Sunbird	158

<i>Nectarinia zeylonica</i> (Linnaeus)	Purple-rumped Sunbird	159
<i>Neophron percnopterus</i> (Linnaeus)	Egyptian Vulture	58
<i>Numenius arquata</i> (Linnaeus)	Eurasian Curlew	78
<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i> (Linnaeus)	Black-crowned Night Heron	43
<i>Oriolus oriolus</i> (Linnaeus)	Eurasian Golden Oriole	124
<i>Orthotomus sutorius</i> (Pennant)	Common Tailorbird	138
<i>Passer domesticus</i> (Linnaeus)	House Sparrow	160
<i>Pavo cristatus</i> Linnaeus	Indian Peafowl	63
<i>Pericrocotus cinnamomeus</i> (Linnaeus)	Small Minivet	150
<i>Pernis ptilorhynchus</i> (Temminck)	Oriental Honey Buzzard	59
<i>Phaenicophaeus viridirostris</i> (Jerdon)	Green-billed Malkoha	98
<i>Phalacrocorax niger</i> (Vieillot)	Little Cormorant	30
<i>Philomachus pugnax</i> (Linnaeus)	Ruff	79
<i>Phoenicopterus ruber</i> Linnaeus	Greater Flamingo	48
<i>Pitta brachyura</i> (Linnaeus)	Indian Pitta	117
<i>Plegadis falcinellus</i> (Linnaeus)	Glossy Ibis	47
<i>Ploceus manyar</i> (Horsfield)	Streaked Weaver	161
<i>Ploceus philippinus</i> (Linnaeus)	Baya Weaver	162

<i>Pluvialis fulva</i> (Gmelin)	Pacific Golden Plover	71
<i>Porphyrio porphyrio</i> (Linnaeus)	Purple Moorhen	67
<i>Prinia inornata</i> Sykes	Plain Prinia	139
<i>Prinia socialis</i> Sykes	Ashy Prinia	140
<i>Psittacula krameri</i> (Scopoli)	Rose-ringed Parakeet	92
<i>Pycnonotus cafer</i> (Linnaeus)	Red –vented Bulbul	133
<i>Pycnonotus jocosus</i> (Linnaeus)	Red – whiskered Bulbul	134
<i>Pycnonotus luteolus</i> (Lesson)	White-browed Bulbul	135
<i>Saxicola caprata</i> (Linnaeus)	Pied Bushchat	141
<i>Saxicoloides fulicata</i> (Linnaeus)	Indian Robin	142
<i>Spilornis cheela</i> (Latham)	Crested Serpent Eagle	60
<i>Sterna aurantia</i> J.E.Gray	River Tern	88
<i>Streptopelia chinensis</i> (Scopoli)	Spotted Dove	90
<i>Streptopelia senegalensis</i> (Linnaeus)	Little Brown Dove	91
<i>Sturnus pagodarum</i> (Gmelin)	Brahminy Starling	128
<i>Sturnus roseus</i> (Linnaeus)	Rosy Starling	129
<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i> (Pallas)	Little Grebe	29
<i>Tephrodornis pondicerianus</i> (Gmelin)	Common Woodshrike	151

<i>Terpsiphone paradisi</i> (Linnaeus)	Asian Paradise Flycatcher	143
<i>Threskiornis melanocephalus</i> (Latham)	Oriental White Ibis	46
<i>Tringa glareola</i> Linnaeus	Wood Sandpiper	80
<i>Tringa nebularia</i> (Gunner)	Common Greenshank	81
<i>Tringa stagnatilis</i> (Bechstein)	Marsh Sandpiper	82
<i>Tringa totanus</i> (Linnaeus)	Common Redshank	83
<i>Turdoides affinis</i> (Jerdon)	White-headed Babbler	144
<i>Turdoides caudatus</i> (Dumont)	Common Babbler	145
<i>Turdoides malcolmi</i> (Sykes)	Large Grey Babbler	146
<i>Turdoides striatus</i> (Dumont)	Jungle Babbler	147
<i>Tyto alba</i> (Scopoli)	Barn Owl	102
<i>Upupa epops</i> Linnaeus	Common Hoopoe	114
<i>Vanellus indicus</i> (Boddaert)	Red-wattled Lapwing	72
<i>Vanellus malabaricus</i> (Boddaert)	Yellow-wattled Lapwing	73
<i>Zoothera citrina</i> (Latham, 1790)	Orange-headed Thrush	148

INDEX : COMMON NAMES

Common Name	Latin Name	Page No.
Ashy Prinia	<i>Prinia socialis</i> Sykes	140
Ashy Woodswallow	<i>Artamus fuscus</i> Vieillot	126
Ashy-crowned Sparrow-lark	<i>Eremopterix grisea</i> (Scopoli)	119
Asian Koel	<i>Eudynamys scolopacea</i> (Linnaeus)	96
Asian Openbill	<i>Anastomus oscitans</i> (Boddaert)	44
Asian Palm-Swift	<i>Cypsiurus balasiensis</i> (J.E.Gray)	105
Asian Paradise Flycatcher	<i>Terpsiphone paradisi</i> (Linnaeus)	143
Barn Owl	<i>Tyto alba</i> (Scopoli)	102
Baya Weaver	<i>Ploceus philippinus</i> (Linnaeus)	162
Besra Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter virgatus</i> (Temminck)	54
Black Bittern	<i>Dupetor flavicollis</i> (Latham)	38
Black -capped Kingfisher	<i>Halcyon pileata</i> (Boddaert)	109
Black Drongo	<i>Dicrurus macrocercus</i> Vieillot	125
Black Kite	<i>Milvus migrans</i> (Boddaert)	57
Black-crowned Night Heron	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i> (Linnaeus)	43
Black-headed Cuckoo Shrike	<i>Coracina melanoptera</i> (Ruppell)	149
Black-headed Gull	<i>Larus ridibundus</i> Linnaeus	87
Black-headed Munia	<i>Lonchura malacca</i> (Linnaeus)	164
Black-shouldered Kite	<i>Elanus caeruleus</i> (Desfontaines)	55

Black-tailed Godwit	<i>Limosa limosa</i> (Linnaeus)	77
Black-winged Stilt	<i>Himantopus himantopus</i> (Linnaeus)	84
Blue Rock Pigeon	<i>Columba livia</i> Gmelin	89
Blue-tailed Bee-eater	<i>Merops philippinus</i> Linnaeus	112
Blyth's Reed Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus dumetorum</i> Blyth	136
Brahminy Starling	<i>Sturnus pagodarum</i> (Gmelin)	128
Brahminy Kite	<i>Haliastur indus</i> (Boddaert)	56
Brainfever Bird	<i>Hierococyx varius</i> (Vahl)	97
Brown Shrike	<i>Lanius cristatus</i> Linnaeus	122
Cattle Egret	<i>Bubulcus ibis</i> (Linnaeus)	35
Chestnut Bittern	<i>Ixobrychus cinnamomeus</i> (Gmelin)	40
Common Babbler	<i>Turdoides caudatus</i> (Dumont)	145
Common Coot	<i>Fulica atra</i> Linnaeus	65
Common Greenshank	<i>Tringa nebularia</i> (Gunner)	81
Common Hoopoe	<i>Upupa epops</i> Linnaeus	114
Common Indian Nightjar	<i>Caprimulgus asiaticus</i> Latham	103
Common Iora	<i>Aegithina tiphia</i> (Linnaeus)	152
Common Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i> (Linnaeus)	61
Common Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i> (Linnaeus)	66
Common Myna	<i>Acridotheres tristis</i> (Linnaeus)	127
Common Redshank	<i>Tringa totanus</i> (Linnaeus)	83
Common Sandpiper	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i> Linnaeus	74

Common Snipe	<i>Gallinago gallinago</i> (Linnaeus)	76
Common Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i> Linnaeus	121
Common Tailorbird	<i>Orthotomus sutorius</i> (Pennant)	138
Common Woodshrike	<i>Tephrodornis pondicerianus</i> (Gmelin)	151
Coppersmith Barbet	<i>Megalaima haemacephala</i> (P.L.S Muller)	115
Crested Serpent Eagle	<i>Spilornis cheela</i> (Latham)	60
Darter	<i>Anhinga melanogaster</i> Pennant	31
Eastern Skylark	<i>Alauda gulgula</i> Franklin	118
Egyptian Vulture	<i>Neophron percnopterus</i> (Linnaeus)	58
Eurasian Curlew	<i>Numenius arquata</i> (Linnaeus)	78
Eurasian Eagle-Owl	<i>Bubo bubo</i> (Linnaeus)	101
Eurasian Golden Oriole	<i>Oriolus oriolus</i> (Linnaeus)	124
Eurasian Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter nisus</i> (Linnaeus)	53
Glossy Ibis	<i>Plegadis falcinellus</i> (Linnaeus)	47
Golden-backed Woodpecker	<i>Dinopium benghalense</i> (Linnaeus)	116
Greater Coucal	<i>Centropus sinensis</i> (Stephens)	93
Greater Flamingo	<i>Phoenicopterus ruber</i> Linnaeus	48
Green-billed Malkoha	<i>Phaenicophaeus viridirostris</i> (Jerdon)	98
Grey Francolin	<i>Francolinus pondicerianus</i> (Gmelin)	62
Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i> Linnaeus	32
Grey Wagtail	<i>Motacilla cinerea</i> Tunstall	154
Gull-billed Tern	<i>Gelochelidon nilotica</i> (Gmelin)	86

House Crow	<i>Corvus splendens</i> Vieillot	131
House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i> (Linnaeus)	160
House Swift	<i>Apus affinis</i> (J.E. Gray)	104
Indian Peafowl	<i>Pavo cristatus</i> Linnaeus	63
Indian Pitta	<i>Pitta brachyura</i> (Linnaeus)	117
Indian Pond Heron	<i>Ardeola grayi</i> (Sykes)	34
Indian Robin	<i>Saxicoloides fulicata</i> (Linnaeus)	142
Indian Roller	<i>Coracias benghalensis</i> (Linnaeus)	113
Indian Treepie	<i>Dendrocitta vagabunda</i> (Latham)	132
Jerdon's Bush-lark	<i>Mirafra affinis</i> Blyth	120
Jungle Babbler	<i>Turdoides striatus</i> (Dumont)	147
Jungle Crow	<i>Corvus macrorhynchos</i> Wagler	130
Kentish Plover	<i>Charadrius alexandrinus</i> Linnaeus	69
Large Egret	<i>Casmerodius albus</i> (Linnaeus)	37
Large Grey Babbler	<i>Turdoides malcolmi</i> (Sykes)	146
Large Pied Wagtail	<i>Motacilla maderaspatensis</i> Gmelin	156
Lesser Pied Kingfisher	<i>Ceryle rudis</i> (Linnaeus)	107
Lesser Whistling Duck	<i>Dendrocygna javanica</i> (Horsfield)	51
Little Brown Dove	<i>Streptopelia senegalensis</i> (Linnaeus)	91
Little Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax niger</i> (Vieillot)	30
Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i> (Linnaeus)	39
Little Grebe	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i> (Pallas)	29

Little Green Heron	<i>Butorides striatus</i> (Linnaeus)	36
Little Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius dubius</i> (Scopoli)	70
Little Stint	<i>Calidris minuta</i> (Leisler)	75
Loten's Sunbird	<i>Nectarinia lotenia</i> (Linnaeus)	158
Marsh Sandpiper	<i>Tringa stagnatilis</i> (Bechstein)	82
Median Egret	<i>Mesophoyx intermedia</i> (Wagler)	42
Northern Pintail	<i>Anas acuta</i> Linnaeus	49
Orange-headed Thrush	<i>Zoothera citrina</i> (Latham, 1790)	148
Oriental Honey Buzzard	<i>Pernis ptilorhynchus</i> (Temminck)	59
Oriental Magpie Robin	<i>Copsychus saularis</i> (Linnaeus)	137
Oriental White Ibis	<i>Threskiornis melanocephalus</i> (Latham)	46
Pacific Golden Plover	<i>Pluvialis fulva</i> (Gmelin)	71
Paddyfield Pipit	<i>Anthus rufulus</i> Vieillot	153
Painted Stork	<i>Mycteria leucocephala</i> (Pennant)	45
Pheasant – tailed Jacana	<i>Hydrophasianus chirurgus</i> (Scopoli)	68
Pied Bushchat	<i>Saxicola caprata</i> (Linnaeus)	141
Pied Crested Cuckoo	<i>Clamator jacobinus</i> (Boddaert)	95
Plain Prinia	<i>Prinia inornata</i> Sykes	139
Purple Heron	<i>Ardea purpurea</i> Linnaeus	33
Purple Moorhen	<i>Porphyrio porphyrio</i> (Linnaeus)	67
Purple Sunbird	<i>Nectarinia asiatica</i> (Latham)	157
Purple-rumped Sunbird	<i>Nectarinia zeylonica</i> (Linnaeus)	159

Red-vented Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus cafer</i> (Linnaeus)	133
Red-whiskered Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus jocosus</i> (Linnaeus)	134
Red-wattled Lapwing	<i>Vanellus indicus</i> (Boddaert)	72
Red-winged Crested Cuckoo	<i>Clamator coromandus</i> (Linnaeus)	94
River Tern	<i>Sterna aurantia</i> J.E.Gray	88
Rose-ringed Parakeet	<i>Psittacula krameri</i> (Scopoli)	92
Rosy Starling	<i>Sturnus roseus</i> (Linnaeus)	129
Ruff	<i>Philomachus pugnax</i> (Linnaeus)	79
Rufous-backed Shrike	<i>Lanius schach</i> Linnaeus	123
Shikra	<i>Accipiter badius</i> (Gmelin)	52
Short-eared Owl	<i>Asio flammeus</i> (Pontoppidan)	99
Small Bee-eater	<i>Merops orientalis</i> Latham	111
Small Blue Kingfisher	<i>Alcedo atthis</i> (Linnaeus)	106
Small Minivet	<i>Pericrocotus cinnamomeus</i> (Linnaeus)	150
Spot-Billed Duck	<i>Anas poecilorhyncha</i> J.R. Forster	50
Spotted Dove	<i>Streptopelia chinensis</i> (Scopoli)	90
Spotted Munia	<i>Lonchura punctulata</i> (Linnaeus)	165
Spotted Owlet	<i>Athene brama</i> (Temminck)	100
Stone-Curlew	<i>Burhinus oedicnemus</i> (Linnaeus)	85
Stork-billed Kingfisher	<i>Halcyon capensis</i> (Linnaeus)	108
Streaked Weaver	<i>Ploceus manyar</i> (Horsfield)	161
White-breasted Waterhen	<i>Amaurornis phoenicurus</i> (Pennant)	64

White-breasted Kingfisher	<i>Halcyon smyrnensis</i> (Linnaeus)	110
White-browed Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus luteolus</i> (Lesson)	135
White-headed Babbler	<i>Turdoides affinis</i> (Jerdon)	144
White-rumped Munia	<i>Lonchura striata</i> (Linnaeus)	166
White-throated Munia	<i>Lonchura malabarica</i> (Linnaeus)	163
Wood Sandpiper	<i>Tringa glareola</i> Linnaeus	80
Yellow Bittern	<i>Ixobrychus sinensis</i> (Gmelin)	41
Yellow Wagtail	<i>Motacilla flava</i> Linnaeus	155
Yellow-wattled Lapwing	<i>Vanellus malabaricus</i> (Boddaert)	73

INDEX : VERNACULAR NAMES

Common Name	Vernacular Names	Page No.
Ashy Prinia	சாம்பல் கதிர்குருவி Saambal Kadhirkuruvi	140
Ashy Woodswallow	மடம் புறா - Madam Puraa	126
Ashy-crowned Sparrow-lark	வானம்பாடி -Vaanambaadi	119
Asian Koel	குயில்-Kuil	96
Asian Openbill	நத்தைகுத்தி நாரை- Nathai Kuthi Naarai	44
Asian Palm-Swift	உழவாரக்குருவி Uzhavaarakkuruvi	105
Asian Paradise Flycatcher	வேதி வாக்குருவி - Vethi Vaalkuruvi	143
Barn Owl	சாவு குருவி -Saavu kuruvi	102
Baya Weaver	தொங்கா நத்தான்-Thongaanaathan	162
Besra Sparrowhawk	சின்ன வல்லூறு - Chinna Vallooru	54
Black Bittern	கருங்குருகு Karunkurugu	38
Black -capped Kingfisher	மீன்கொத்தி-Meenkothi	109
Black Drongo	கரிச்சான் Karichchaan	125
Black Kite	கல் பருந்தி-Kal Parundhu	57
Black-crowned Night Heron	வக்கா -Vakkaa	43
Black-headed Cuckoo Shrike	கருந்தலை குயில் கீச்சான்-Karunthalai Kuil Keechaan	149
Black-headed Gull	கடல்காக்கை -Kadal Kaakkai	87

Black-headed Munia	தினைக்குருவி-Thinai Kuruvi	164
Black-shouldered Kite	கருந்தோள் பருந்து Karuntholl Parundhu	55
Black-tailed Godwit		77
Black-winged Stilt	பவழக்கால் உள்ளான்-Pavazhakkaal Ullaan	84
Blue Rock Pigeon	மாடப்புறா -Maadap pura	89
Blue-tailed Bee-eater	நீலவால் பஞ்சுருட்டான் Neelavaal Panjuruttaan	112
Blyth's Reed Warbler	கதிர்க்குருவி - Kadhirkuruvi	136
Brahminy Starling	பாப்பாத்தி நாகணவாய்-Paappaathi Naahanavai	128
Brahminy Kite	கருடன் - Garudan	56
Brainfever Bird	பருந்து குயில் Parundhu Kuil	97
Brown Shrike	பழுப்பு கீச்சான் Pazhuppu Keechaan	122
Cattle Egret	உன்னிக்கொக்கு-Unni Kokku	35
Chestnut Bittern	செங்குருகு Senkurugu	40
Common Babbler	தவிட்டு சிலம்பன்- Thavittu Chilamban	145
Common Coot	நாமக்கோழி - Naamakkozhi	65
Common Greenshank	பெரிய கோட்டான் -Periya Kottaan	81
Common Hoopoe	கொண்டைலாத்தி Kondailaathi	114
Common Indian Nightjar	பக்கி -Packi	103
Common Iora	மாம்பழகுருவி - Maambazha Kuruvi	152
Common Kestrel	சிகப்பு வல்லூறு Sigappu Vallooru	61

Common Moorhen	தண்ணீர் கோழி-Thanneer Kozhi	66
Common Myna	நாகணவாய் Nahanavai	127
Common Redshank	சிகப்புக்கால் உள்ளான் - Sigappukkaal Ullaan	83
Common Sandpiper	கோட்டான் Kottaan	74
Common Snipe	கோரை குத்தி - Korai Kuthi	76
Common Swallow	தாம்பாடி - Thaampaadi	121
Common Tailorbird	தையல்சிட்டி - Thaiyalchittu	138
Common Woodshrike	காட்டு கீச்சான் Kaattu Keechaan	151
Coppersmith Barbet	குக்குறுவான் Kukuruvan	115
	கழுத்தறுப்பான் Kalutharuppan	
Crested Serpent Eagle	பாம்புப் பருந்து Paambu Parubdhu	60
Darter	பாம்புத்தாரா -Pambuttharaa	31
Eastern Skylark	வானம்பாடி Vaanambaadi	118
Egyptian Vulture	மஞ்சள் திருடி - Manjal Thirudi	58
Eurasian Curlew	குதிரை மலை கோட்டான்-Kuthirai Malai Kottaan	78
Eurasian Eagle-Owl	கொம்பன் ஆந்தை -Komban Aandai	101
Eurasian Golden Oriole	மஞ்சள் குருவி-Manjal Kuruvi	124
Eurasian Sparrowhawk	குருவி வல்லுறு - Kuruvi Vallooru	53
Glossy Ibis	அன்றில் - Anril	47
Golden-backed Woodpecker	மரங்கொத்தி Marangkothi	116

Greater Coucal	கள்ளிகாக்கா - Kalli Kaakkaa/செம்பகம் - Chembagam	93
Greater Flamingo	பூ நாரை -Poo Naarai; உரியன் Urian	48
Green-billed Malkoha	பச்சைவாயன்குயில் Pachivayaan Kuil	98
Grey Francolin	கௌதாரி Koudhaari	62
Grey Heron	சாம்பல் நாரை - Saambal Naarai	32
Grey Wagtail	கொடிக்கால் வாலாட்டி Kodikkal Vaalaatti	154
Gull-billed Tern	கடல் குருவி Kadal Kuruvi	86
House Crow	காக்கை - Kaakai	131
House Sparrow	ஊர்குருவி - Oor Kuruvi, அடைக்கலான் குருவி - Adaikalaan Kuruvi	160
House Swift	நாட்டு உழவாரன் Nattu Uzhavaaran	104
Indian Peafowl	மயில் - Mayil	63
Indian Pitta	அருமனைக்குருவி - Arumanai Kuruvi தோட்ட கள்ளன் Thotta Kallan	117
Indian Pond Heron	மடையான் Madaiyaan குருட்டு கொக்கு Kurutu kokku	34
Indian Robin	வண்ணாத்திக்குருவி-Vannaathi Kuruvi	142
Indian Roller	பனங்காடை Panangkaadai	113
Indian Treepie	மாங்குயில் - Maan kuil	132
Jerdon's Bush-lark	வானம்பாடி Vaanambaadi	120

Jungle Babbler	காட்டு சிலம்பன் - Kaatu Silamban	147
Jungle Crow	அண்டங்காக்கை - Andankaakai கருங்காக்கை Karunkaakai	130
Kentish Plover	சின்ன கோட்டான் Chinna Kottaan	69
Large Egret	பெரிய வெள்ளை கொக்கு - Periya Vellai Kokku	37
Large Grey Babbler	பெரிய சாம்பல் சிலம்பன் - Periya Saambal Silamban	146
Large Pied Wagtail	குளத்து குருவி - Kulathu Kuruvi	156
Lesser Pied Kingfisher	மீன்கொத்தி - Meenkothi	107
Lesser Whistling Duck	சில்லி தாரா-Chilli Tharaa	51
Little Brown Dove	தவிட்டு புறா - Thavittu Puraa	91
Little Cormorant	கடல் காசம் - Kadal Kaagam/நீர்காசம் -Neerkaagam	30
Little Egret	சின்ன வெள்ளை கொக்கு-Chinna Vellai Kokku	39
Little Grebe	முக்குளிப்பான்- Mukkulippaan தண்ணிப்புள்ளு-Thanni pullu	29
Little Green Heron	தோசிக்கொக்கு-Dhosi Kokku	36
Little Ringed Plover	சின்ன கோட்டான்-Sinna Kottaan	70
Little Stint	கொசு உள்ளான் - Kosu Ullaan	75
Loten's Sunbird	தேன்சிட்டு - Thaenchittu	158
Marsh Sandpiper	சின்ன பச்சைக்காலி - Chinna Pachaikaali	82
Median Egret	வெள்ளை கொக்கு - Vellai Kokku	42

Northern Pintail	மார்க்கலியன் Maarkaliyan	49
Orange-headed Thrush	செந்தலை பூங்குருவி - Semthalai Punkuruvi	148
Oriental Honey Buzzard	தேன் பருந்து-Thaen Parundhu	59
Oriental Magpie Robin	வண்ணாத்திகுருவி-Vannaathi Kuruvi	137
Oriental White Ibis	தாழைக்கொத்திச் சொண்டன் Thaalaikothi Chondan	46
Pacific Golden Plover	உப்பு கொத்தி - Uppu Kothi	71
Paddyfield Pipit	புல்லுப்பொறுக்கி-Pullupporukki	153
Painted Stork	சங்குவளை நாரை- Sanguvalai naarai	45
Pheasant – tailed Jacana	நீளவால் இலைக் கோழி - Neelavaal Ilai Kozhi	68
Pied Bushchat	புதர்சிட்டு Pudharchittu	141
Pied Crested Cuckoo	பருத்தி குயில் - Paruthi Kuil	95
Plain Prinia	தினு குருவி - Tinu Kuruvi	139
Purple Heron	செந்நாரை-Chennaarai	33
Purple Moorhen	நீர்க் கோழி-Neerk-Kozhi	67
Purple Sunbird	ஊதா தேன்சிட்டு Oodhaa Thaenchittu	157
Purple-rumped Sunbird	தேன்சிட்டு Thaenchittu	159
Red – whiskered Bulbul	தொண்டை கொழுத்தி குருவி- Thondaikoluthi Kuruvi	134
Red –vented Bulbul	கொண்டைக்குருவி- Kondai Kuruvi	133
Red-wattled Lapwing	ஆள்காட்டி - Aalkaatti	72
Red-winged Crested Cuckoo	கொண்டைகுயில்- Kondai Kuyil	94

River Tern	ஆற்று ஆலா - Aatru Aalaa	88
Rose-ringed Parakeet	கிளி-Kili	92
Rosy Starling	சோளக்குருவி - Chola Kuruvi	129
Ruff	பேதை உள்ளான் - Paedhai Ullaan	79
Rufous-backed Shrike	காட்டு குருவி - Kaattu Kuruvi, பேய் குருவி - Pey Kuruvi	123
Shikra	வல்லூறு-Vallooru	52
Short-eared Owl	ஆந்தை -Aandhai	99
Small Bee-eater	பஞ்சுருட்டான் -Panchurutaan	111
Small Blue Kingfisher	மீன் கொத்தி Meenkothi	106
Small Minivet	சின்ன மின்சிட்டு - Chinna Minchittu	150
Spot- Billed Duck	புள்ளி மூக்கு வாத்து - Pulli Mooku Vaathu	50
Spotted Dove	மணிப் புறா - Mani Puraa	90
Spotted Munia	நெல்லு குருவி -Nellu Kuruvi	165
Spotted Owlet	புள்ளி ஆந்தை-Pulli Aandhai	100
Stone-Curlew	கண்ணாடி ஆள்காட்டி -Kannaadi Aalkaatti	85
Stork-billed Kingfisher	மீன்கொத்தி- Meenkothi	108
Streaked Weaver	தூக்கணாங்குருவி-Thookanaan Kuruvi	161
White – breasted Waterhen	காணான் கோழி Kaanaan Kozhi	64

White-breasted Kingfisher	மீன்கொத்தி - Meenkothi	110
White-browed Bulbul	மஞ்சள் தொண்டைக்குருவி - Manjal Thondaikkuruvi	135
White-headed Babbler	தவிட்டுக் குருவி - Thavittu Kuruvi	144
White-rumped Munia	வெண்முதுகு சில்லை Vennmudhugu Chillai	166
White-throated Munia	நெல்லு குருவி -Nellu Kuruvi	163
Wood Sandpiper	கோட்டான்-Kottaan, வயல் உள்ளான்-Vayal Ullaan	80
Yellow Bittern	மணல் நாரை - Manal Naarai	41
Yellow Wagtail	மஞ்சள் வாலாட்டி - Manjal Vaalaatti	155
Yellow-wattled Lapwing	ஆள்காட்டி - Aalkaatti	73

