

This guide covers 139 familiar birds found in Madhya Pradesh, India. For ease of reference, they have been sorted into the following 6 categories-

#### WETLAND BIRDS

Wetlands include lakes, ponds, rivers and marshy areas, which are important habitats used by birds for breeding and nesting. Most of the birds listed here are only seen at wetlands (eg. Ducks, Cormorants, Waders, Herons etc) while a few (Cattle Egret, White-throated Kingfisher) can be seen away from water as well. Several migratory species visit our wetlands in winter.

#### AERIAL FEEDING BIRDS

Aerial Feeders like Swallows and Swifts are insectivorous birds that hunt and feed in flight. They have pointed wings and can often be seen gliding gracefully through the air or performing acrobatics to catch insects. At dawn and dusk, they may be found perching in groups on wires. Nightjars are aerial feeders that are only active at night.

#### BIRDS OF PREY

Birds of Prey or Raptors hunt and feed on other animals, including smaller birds. They have excellent eyesight, strong feet, sharp talons for hunting, and a hooked beak for tearing into flesh. Among the birds here, some (eg. Black Kite, Shikra) have adapted to human habitats, whereas others (Kestrels, Honey Buzzards) can be seen in open scrub habitats. Raptors are also seen hunting at wetlands where there are large congregations of waterfowl in winter.

#### GROUND FEEDING BIRDS

Ground Feeders are a diverse group of birds that are primarily terrestrial and feed on the ground. They include large birds like Pheasants, Pigeons, Crows to medium-sized birds like Babblers, Mynas and Starlings. Most ground feeders prefer open areas/scrub. This category also includes birds like Shrikes, Rollers and Chats which may perch low in a bush, but find their prey (small insects/reptiles) on the ground.

#### ARBOREAL BIRDS

Arboreal Birds are those whose life cycles are associated with trees and shrubs, and include a wide variety of birds found in forests, open woodland and urban gardens. Many arboreal birds feed on fruits and berries (Bulbuls, Barbets, Parakeets), while others feed on insects from bark (Woodpeckers), in foliage (Cuckoos, Warblers) or in the air (eg. Flycatchers, Drongos, Bee-eaters). Some like Sunbirds feed on nectar from flowers. Smaller species may be seen at low levels while larger birds prefer the forest canopy.

Gender symbols indicate where the male and female of the species look different. If no symbols are shown, it means that they look similar.

Migratory birds that visit Madhya Pradesh during the winter (October-March), from their breeding grounds in the Himalayas or Central Asia/Europe.

Migratory birds that visit Madhya Pradesh during the summer months (May-July) to breed.

Size indicates the length of the bird from beak tip to tail tip;  indicates breeding plumage.

Bird illustrations used with permission from "Birds of the Indian Subcontinent" by Richard Grimmett, Carol Inskipp and Tim Inskipp.



Birds of Madhya Pradesh - a pocket guide to 139 familiar birds

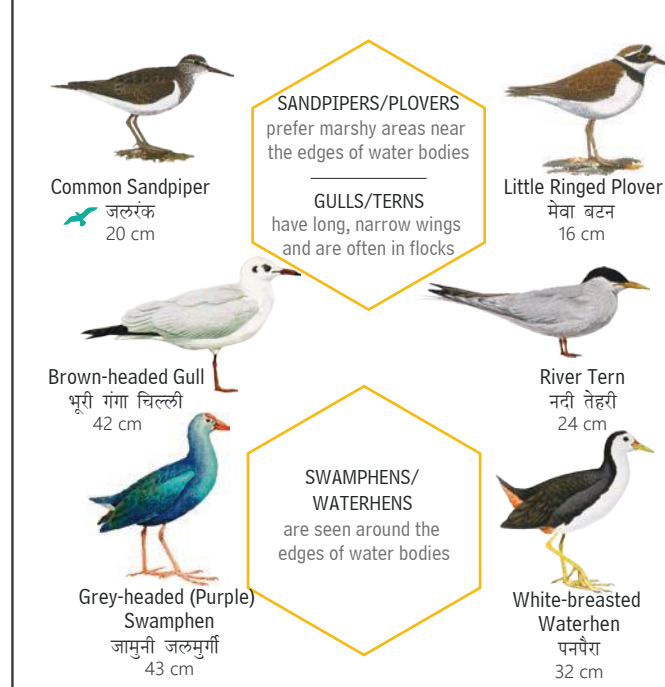
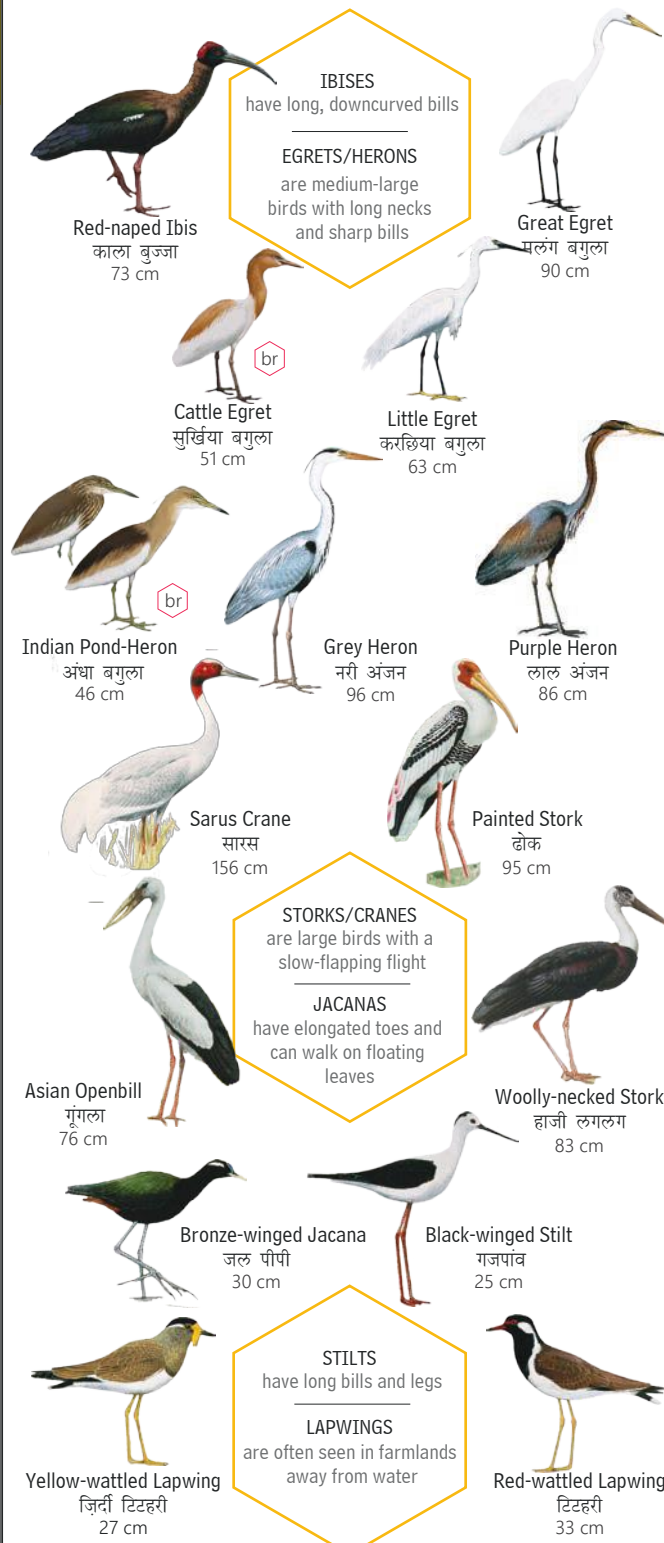
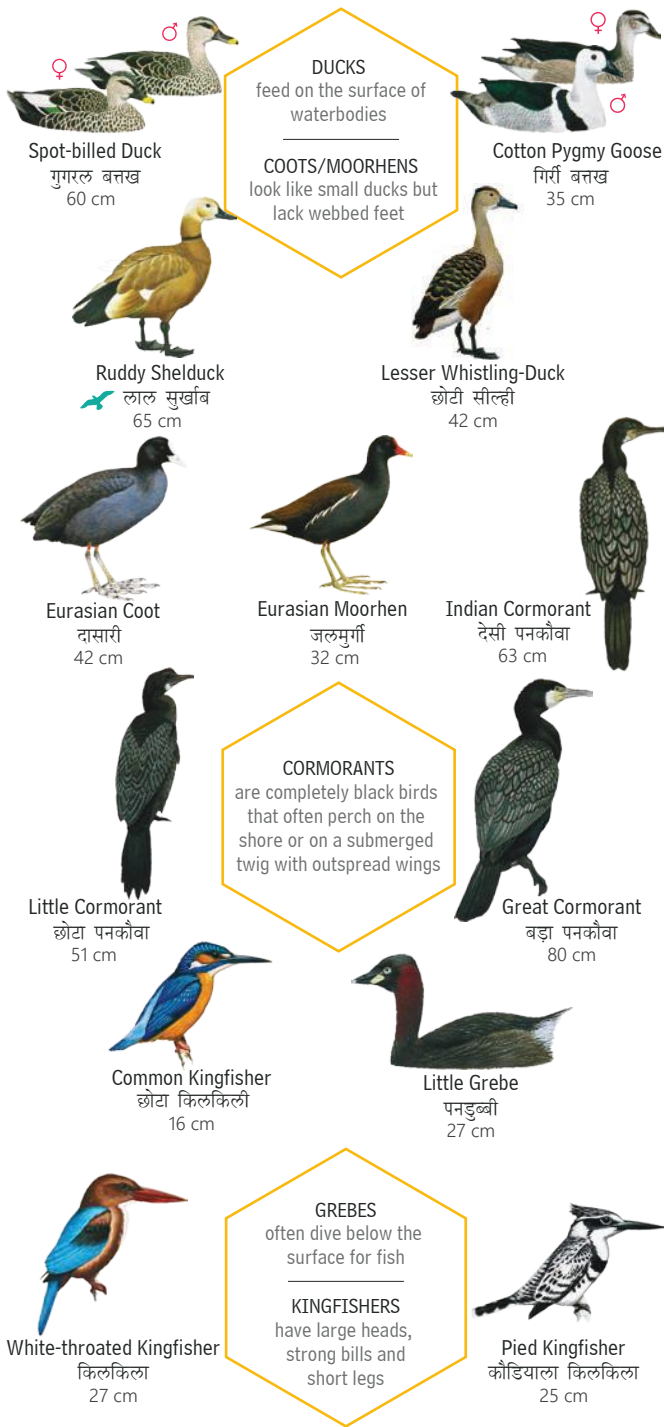
## Birds of Madhya Pradesh

## मध्य प्रदेश के सामान्य पक्षी

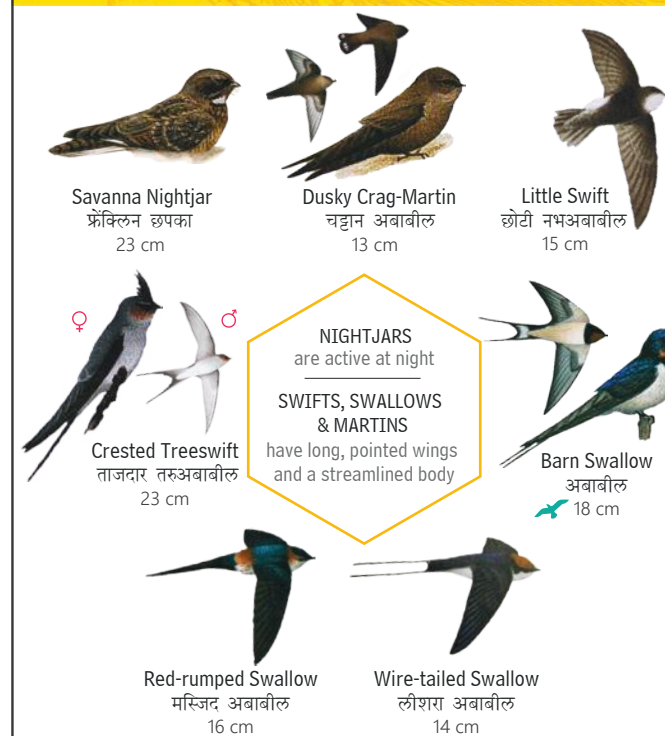


a pocket guide to  
139 familiar birds

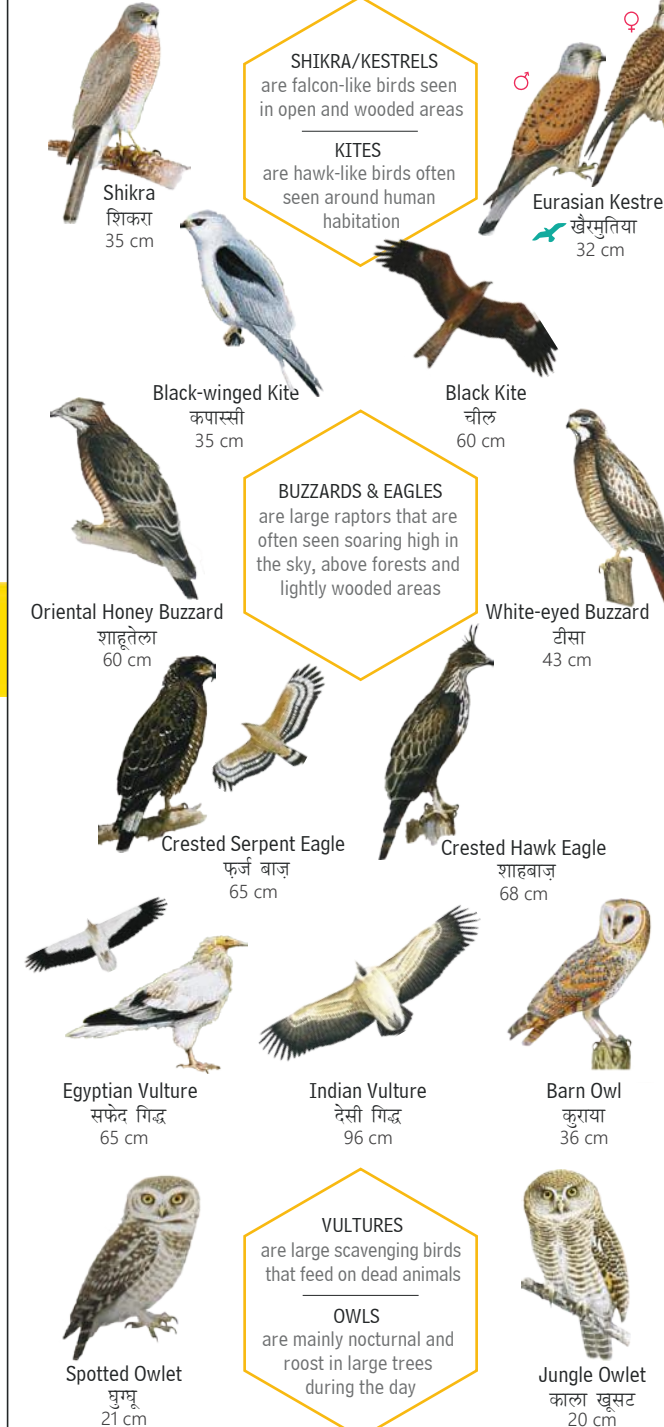
### WETLAND BIRDS



### AERIAL FEEDING BIRDS

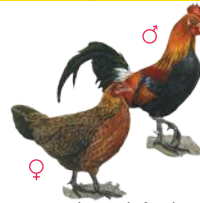


### BIRDS OF PREY





## GROUND FEEDING BIRDS



Red Junglefowl  
लाल जंगली मुर्गा  
70 cm (m) 44 cm (f)



Indian Peafowl  
मोर  
110 cm (m) 85 cm (f)



Rock Pigeon  
कबूतर  
33 cm



Yellow-footed Pigeon  
हरियल  
33 cm



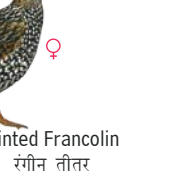
Eurasian Collared-Dove  
धोर फाख्ता  
32 cm



House Crow  
कौआ  
40 cm



Grey Francolin  
तीतर  
33 cm



Painted Francolin  
रंगीन तीतर  
31 cm



Spotted Dove  
चित्रोखा फाख्ता  
30 cm



Oriental Turtle-Dove  
काल्हक फाख्ता  
33 cm



Greater Coucal  
भारद्वाज  
48 cm



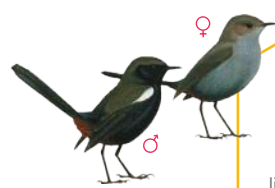
Large-billed Crow  
जंगली कौआ  
47 cm

**PHEASANTS**  
are heavy birds that make short flights but are mostly seen feeding and nesting on the ground

**PIGEONS/DOVES**  
have stout bodies with short necks. They usually feed on the ground and sometimes in trees

**COUCALS**  
are shy birds with a booming call

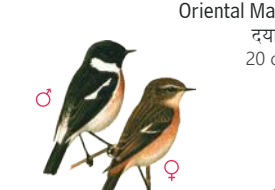
**CROWS**  
are noisy birds, with long straight bills



Indian Robin  
कलचुरी  
19 cm



Oriental Magpie Robin  
दयाल  
20 cm



Common Stonechat  
खर पिद्दा  
13 cm



Brown Rock Chat  
शामा  
17 cm



Long-tailed Shrike  
मटिया लहटोरा  
25 cm



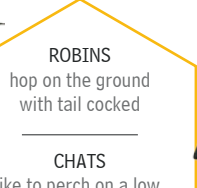
Indian Roller  
नीलकंठ  
33 cm



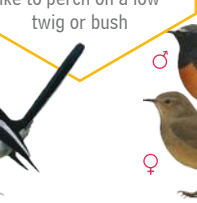
Common Myna  
देसी मैना  
25 cm



Asian Pied Starling  
अबलकी मैना  
23 cm



Pied Bushchat  
काला पिद्दा  
13 cm



Black Redstart  
थिरथिरा  
15 cm



Brown Shrike  
करखेता  
18 cm



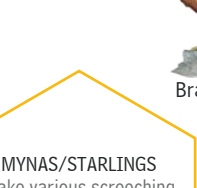
Bay-backed Shrike  
छोटा लहटोरा  
17 cm



Orange-headed Thrush  
केसरी सर कस्तूरा  
21 cm



Brahminy Starling  
ब्राह्मणी मैना  
21 cm



Rosy Starling  
गुलाबी मैना  
21 cm



**MYNAs/STARLINGS**  
make various screeching calls, and feed on the ground or sometimes in trees. They roost in large groups

**ROBINS**  
hop on the ground with tail cocked

**CHATS**  
like to perch on a low twig or bush

**SHRIKES/ROLLERS**  
often perch on a low branch to watch for ground prey

**THRUSHES**  
walk on the ground feeding on insects



Jungle Babbler  
सतभाई  
25 cm



Large Grey Babbler  
घोंघाई  
28 cm



Paddyfield Pipit  
खेत चरचरी  
15 cm



Grey Wagtail  
सलेटी खंजन  
19 cm



White Wagtail  
सफेद खंजन  
19 cm



House Sparrow  
गौरैया  
15 cm



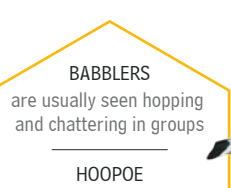
Baya Weaver  
बया  
15 cm



Chestnut-shouldered Petronia  
जंगली चिड़िया  
14 cm



Baya Weaver  
बया  
15 cm



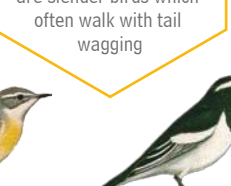
Hoopoe  
हुदहुद  
31 cm



Ashy-crowned Sparrow Lark  
सलेटी सिर देओली  
12 cm



Rufous-tailed Lark  
कथ्थई दुम देओली  
16 cm



White-browed Wagtail  
खंजन  
21 cm



Indian Pitta  
नौरंग  
19 cm



Scaly-breasted Munia  
तेलिया मुनिया  
11 cm



**PITTA**  
is a colourful, stubby bird with a short tail

**SPARROWS, WEAVERS & MUNIAS**  
are seed-eaters and have thick, conical bills



Indian Silverbill  
चरचरा  
11 cm

**HOPOE**  
has a long curved bill and raises its crest when alert

**LARKS**  
are dull-coloured with a melodious song

**WAGTAILS/PIPITS**  
are slender birds which often walk with tail wagging

## ARBOREAL BIRDS



Red-vented Bulbul  
गुलदुम बुलबुल  
20 cm



Red-whiskered Bulbul  
सिपाही बुलबुल  
20 cm



Alexandrine Parakeet  
हीरामन तोता  
53 cm



Indian Grey Hornbill  
सलेटी धनेश  
50 cm



Rufous Treepie  
लाल तरुपिक  
48 cm



Common Woodshrike  
तरती दुइया  
18 cm



**TREEPIES/ CUCKOOS**  
have long bodies and tails, and loud, repetitive calls



**WOODSHRIKES/ CUCKOOSHRIKES**  
have loud, whistling calls



**BULBULS**  
are gregarious songbirds that are usually seen in groups



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