

Birds of the University of Pune

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Introduction

The University of Pune (Savitribai Phule Pune University) campus is a biodiversity hotspot spread across 411 acres (166.33 hectares) in the heart of Pune city. Located at 18.5529°N 73.8352°E, the campus sits at an elevation of approximately 560 meters above sea level.

Campus Environment

The campus features diverse habitats that support a rich variety of birdlife. The landscape includes extensive wooded areas with native and exotic tree species, open grasslands, lawns, artificial water bodies, gardens, and building complexes. This mosaic of habitats provides excellent opportunities for both resident and migratory birds.

Flora and Vegetation

The university grounds host over 150 species of trees, creating a veritable urban forest. Native species like Banyan (*Ficus benghalensis*), Peepal (*Ficus religiosa*), Neem (*Azadirachta indica*), and Red Silk Cotton (*Bombax ceiba*) dominate the landscape, while ornamental and introduced species like African Blackwood (*Dalbergia melanoxylon*), Rain Tree (*Samanea saman*), Gulmohar (*Delonix regia*), and Copper Pod (*Peltophorum pterocarpum*) add to the diversity. This rich vegetation provides vital nesting sites, roosting areas, and food sources for various bird species.

Human Impact

The campus ecosystem faces various anthropogenic pressures that affect bird populations:

- Regular vehicular movement along campus roads
- Ongoing construction and development activities
- Presence of a large student population
- Regular maintenance activities including gardening and landscaping
- Noise and dust pollution from nearby urban areas
- Light pollution from campus buildings and facilities

When to Watch

Time of Day:

- Early morning (6:00-9:00 AM): Peak activity as birds forage for breakfast
- Late afternoon (4:00-6:30 PM): Second wave of feeding activity
- Midday: Good for watching raptors soaring on thermal currents
- Dusk: Best time to spot nocturnal species like owls becoming active

Seasonal Highlights:

- Winter (November-February): Peak season with numerous winter visitors
- Monsoon (June-September): Best for watching breeding activities
- Summer (March-May): Good for observing resident breeding birds
- Post-monsoon (October): Opportunity to spot passage migrants

Acknowledgments

Special thanks to the dedicated birdwatchers who have contributed extensively to documenting the avifauna of SPPU campus through eBird (SPPU eBird Hotspot).

Their systematic observations have greatly enhanced our understanding of bird diversity and seasonal patterns on campus.

How to Watch

Essential Equipment:

- Binoculars: 8x42 or 10x42 recommended for beginners
- Field guide: I highly recommend *Birds of the Indian Subcontinent* by Grimmett, Inskip & Inskip
- Notebook for recording observations

Useful Apps:

- eBird: For recording sightings and exploring hotspots
- Merlin Bird ID: Helps identify birds through photos or sounds
- BirdNet: AI-powered bird sound identification

More Tips

- Wear earth-toned clothing to blend with surroundings
- Move slowly and quietly to avoid startling birds
- Avoid using flash photography
- Keep a safe distance from nests and breeding areas
- Record your observations in eBird after each session

About This Guide

This field guide documents the diverse bird species found within the university campus. The most common species, which represent about half the bird species recorded on campus, are included here.

Each entry includes detailed information about the bird's appearance, behavior, and habitat preferences, accompanied by high-quality photographs. The nomenclature follows current taxonomic standards, with both scientific and common names provided for easy reference.

This source materials for this guide are available online at <http://github.com/yogeshw/sppu-bird-guide>. Issues and pull requests may be submitted there.

Chapter 1

Birds



Credit: Macaulay Library © Cornell Lab of Ornithology ML45127481

1. Black Kite (*Milvus migrans*)

Size: Kite size

Status: Very common resident

Field characters: Large raptor with forked tail. Dark brown plumage. Wings held in shallow V when soaring. Wings appear pale from below.

Best seen at: Throughout campus, especially near human habitation

Habits: Scavenges around garbage dumps. During breeding season hunts insects and small vertebrates. Known to rob food from crows.

Nesting: Breeds December to April. Builds large stick nest in tall trees. Clutch of 2-3 white eggs. Both parents incubate for 30-35 days.



Credit: Macaulay Library © Cornell Lab of Ornithology ML609495675

2. Red-naped Ibis (*Pseudibis papillosa*)

Size: Kite-sized

Status: Common resident

Field characters: Large black bird with red patch on nape and bare red crown patch. Long curved bill. Metallic sheen on neck and wings.

Best seen at: Open areas, grasslands and moist ground

Habits: Usually in small flocks. Probes marshy areas for insects, snails and small frogs.

Nesting: Breeds March to August. Platform nest in large trees. Clutch of 2-4 pale blue eggs. Both parents incubate for 28-30 days.



Credit: Macaulay Library © Cornell Lab of Ornithology ML303618951

3. Peregrine Falcon (*Falco peregrinus peregrinator*)

Size: Kite-sized

Status: Uncommon resident

Field characters: Powerful falcon with dark slaty upperparts, white-to-buffish barred underparts, and broad black moustachial stripe.

Best seen at: Around tall buildings and open areas

Habits: Makes spectacular stoops on pigeons and waterfowl from great heights. Extremely fast and agile hunter.

Nesting: Breeds February to April. Nests on cliff ledges or tall buildings. Clutch of 3-4 brownish-spotted eggs. Both parents participate in nesting duties.



Credit: Macaulay Library © Cornell Lab of Ornithology ML126386591

4. Shikra (*Accipiter badius*)

Size: Myna+

Status: Common resident

Field characters: Small compact hawk. Male blue-grey above, rufous barred white below. Female browner above. Deep red iris, yellow legs distinctive.

Best seen at: Wooded areas, gardens and groves across campus

Habits: Bold hunter, makes swift dashes at prey from concealed perches. Feeds mainly on lizards, large insects, small birds and rodents.

Nesting: Breeds March to June. Builds neat stick nest high in trees. Clutch of 3-4 bluish-white eggs. Female incubates for 28-30 days.



Credit: Macaulay Library © Cornell Lab of Ornithology ML614444237

5. White-breasted Waterhen (*Amaurornis phoenicurus*)

Size: Bulbul+

Status: Common resident

Field characters: Dark slaty-grey above, white face, neck and breast. Red base to bill and undertail. Legs greenish-yellow.

Best seen at: Around ponds, marshes and wet ditches with good cover

Habits: Skulking but not particularly shy. Walks deliberately, flicking tail. Feeds on insects, molluscs, seeds and vegetable matter.

Nesting: Breeds June to September. Builds pad of rushes in dense vegetation near water. Clutch of 6-7 buff eggs with reddish spots.



Credit: Macaulay Library © Cornell Lab of Ornithology ML126568571

6. Indian Pond Heron (*Ardeola grayii*)

Size: Myna+

Status: Very common resident

Field characters: Earthy brown when at rest but startlingly white in flight. Breeding birds develop golden-buff plumes on back. Yellow bill with dark tip.

Best seen at: Wherever there is water - ponds, marshes, paddy fields

Habits: Stands motionless or walks slowly when hunting. Suddenly stabs at prey. Feeds mainly on frogs, fish, crabs and aquatic insects.

Nesting: Colonial nester. Breeds June to September in mixed heronries. Platform nest of twigs. Clutch of 3-5 pale blue eggs.



Credit: Macaulay Library © Cornell Lab of Ornithology ML304986701

7. Black-crowned Night Heron (*Nycticorax nycticorax*)

Size: Crow+

Status: Common resident

Field characters: Stocky heron with black crown and back, grey wings, white forehead and underparts. Red eyes distinctive. Juveniles brown and streaked.

Best seen at: Wetlands and water bodies with good tree cover nearby

Habits: Most active at dusk and dawn. Roosts by day in dense trees. Stands hunched at water's edge. Feeds mainly on fish, frogs, and aquatic insects.

Nesting: Colonial nester. Breeds April to September. Platform nest of sticks in trees near water. Clutch of 3-4 pale blue eggs. Both parents share duties.



Credit: Unknown - Unknown location Macaulay Library © Cornell Lab of Ornithology ML608663702

8. Cattle Egret (*Bubulcus ibis*)

Size: Myna++

Status: Very common resident

Field characters: Stocky white egret with short thick neck. Breeding birds develop rich orange-buff plumes on head, neck and back. Yellow bill becomes orange-red in breeding.

Best seen at: Grasslands and agricultural areas, often following grazing cattle

Habits: Constantly follows cattle and other livestock, catching disturbed insects. More terrestrial than other egrets. Often in flocks.

Nesting: Colonial nester. Breeds June to September. Platform nest in mixed heronries. Clutch of 3-4 pale blue eggs. Both parents incubate and feed young.



Credit: Macaulay Library © Cornell Lab of Ornithology ML168489091

9. Little Egret (*Egretta garzetta*)

Size: Myna++

Status: Common resident

Field characters: Slender white egret with long neck, black bill and legs. Distinctive yellow feet. Breeding birds develop long lacy plumes on head, neck and back.

Best seen at: All types of wetlands and water bodies

Habits: Active hunter, running and darting after prey in shallow water. Often uses feet to stir up prey. More aquatic than Cattle Egret.

Nesting: Colonial nester. Breeds June to September in mixed heronries. Platform nest of sticks. Clutch of 3-5 pale greenish-blue eggs.



Credit: Macaulay Library © Cornell Lab of Ornithology ML308065631

10. Blue Rock Pigeon (*Columba livia*)

Size: Myna+

Status: Very common resident

Field characters: Bluish-grey with iridescent green and purple sheen on neck. Two prominent black wingbars and dark terminal tail band. Many color variants in urban birds.

Best seen at: Urban areas, especially around buildings and monuments

Habits: Gregarious, feeds in flocks on ground. Swift direct flight. Highly adapted to human settlements.

Nesting: Breeds throughout year. Flimsy platform nest on ledges of buildings. Clutch of 2 white eggs. Both parents incubate and feed squabs with 'crop milk'.



Credit: Macaulay Library © Cornell Lab of Ornithology ML621165796

11. Spotted Dove (*Streptopelia chinensis*)

Size: Myna

Status: Common resident

Field characters: Vinaceous-grey dove with black-and-white checkered patch on hindneck. Long graduated tail with white corners. Pale buffy-pink underparts.

Best seen at: Gardens, groves, and light woodland across campus

Habits: Usually in pairs. Walks sedately on ground searching for seeds. Characteristic mellow cooing call 'ku-kroo-ku'.

Nesting: Breeds mainly February to September. Flimsy platform nest of twigs in bushes or small trees. Clutch of 2 white eggs. Both parents share duties.



Credit: Macaulay Library © Cornell Lab of Ornithology ML622010668

12. Little Brown Dove (*Streptopelia senegalensis*)

Size: Myna-

Status: Common resident

Field characters: Dainty dove, smaller and slimmer than Spotted Dove. Pinkish-brown above, vinous below. Blue-grey wings with rufous primaries. Distinctive speckled collar patch.

Best seen at: Open areas with scattered trees and scrub

Habits: More terrestrial than other doves. Frequently seen in pairs on ground or wires. Musical call 'proo-proo-proo'.

Nesting: Breeds year-round. Simple platform nest low in thorny trees. Clutch of 2 white eggs. Shared parental care.



Credit: Macaulay Library © Cornell Lab of Ornithology ML126390831

13. Red-wattled Lapwing (*Vanellus indicus*)

Size: Myna++

Status: Common resident

Field characters: Large plover with distinctive red fleshy wattles in front of eyes. Black-and-white head and neck, brown back, white belly. Red bill with black tip.

Best seen at: Open areas, playgrounds, and margins of water bodies

Habits: Bold and noisy. Runs in short bursts, stopping abruptly. Famous for persistent 'did-he-do-it' calls day and night.

Nesting: Breeds mainly March to August. Nest is shallow scrape on ground, often on gravel. Clutch of 4 stone-colored eggs with black blotches. Both parents very aggressive in nest defense.



Credit: Macaulay Library © Cornell Lab of Ornithology ML126392811

14. Asian Koel (*Eudynamys scolopaceus*)

Size: Crow-

Status: Common resident

Field characters: Striking sexual dimorphism - male glossy blue-black with crimson eye; female brown with white spots and bars. Both with heavy pale green bill.

Best seen at: Wooded areas and gardens with fruiting trees

Habits: More often heard than seen. Male's loud 'ku-ooo' calls increase in summer. Mainly frugivorous but also eats insects and eggs.

Nesting: Brood parasite primarily on House Crows. Breeding season March to August coinciding with hosts. Female lays one egg per crow nest.



Credit: Macaulay Library © Cornell Lab of Ornithology ML142648801

15. Grey-bellied Cuckoo (*Cacomantis passerinus*)

Size: Bulbul-

Status: Common summer visitor

Field characters: Grey bird with dark grey breast and pale belly. Yellow eye-ring distinctive. Female browner. Juvenile heavily barred below.

Best seen at: Found in wooded areas across campus.

Habits: Rather secretive. Known for distinctive ascending whistle 'pee-pee-pee'. Feeds mainly on insects, especially hairy caterpillars.

Nesting: Brood parasite, laying eggs mainly in nests of Prinias and Cisticolas. Breeding season coincides with hosts, March to September.



Credit: Macaulay Library © Cornell Lab of Ornithology ML133733311

16. Common Hawk-Cuckoo (*Hierococcyx varius*)

Size: Myna++

Status: Common resident

Field characters: Remarkable resemblance to Shikra hawk in size, shape and plumage - an example of aggressive mimicry. Finely barred underparts.

Best seen at: Found throughout wooded areas of campus.

Habits: Known for crescendo call "brain-fever, brain-fever, BRAIN-FEVER", increasing in pitch and intensity. Feeds mainly on insects, especially caterpillars.

Nesting: Brood parasite, primarily targeting babblers. Peak breeding season March to July coinciding with host species.



Credit: Macaulay Library © Cornell Lab of Ornithology ML126393221

17. Greater Coucal (*Centropus sinensis*)

Size: Crow

Status: Common resident

Field characters: Large, black bird with chestnut wings and long tail. Red eyes and curved black bill distinctive. Female slightly larger.

Best seen at: Found in dense vegetation across the campus.

Habits: Skulking habit, often seen walking on ground. Deep resonant 'whoop-whoop-whoop' calls. Feeds on snakes, lizards, large insects, and bird eggs.

Nesting: Builds a domed nest in dense vegetation. Lays 3-5 white eggs. Both parents share incubation (18-19 days) and chick care.



Credit: Macaulay Library © Cornell Lab of Ornithology ML622584055

18. Rose-ringed Parakeet (*Psittacula krameri*)

Size: Myna++

Status: Very common resident

Field characters: Bright green parakeet with long tail. Males have pink and black neck ring, females lack this. Red bill distinctive.

Best seen at: Abundant throughout the campus, especially in wooded areas.

Habits: Noisy, gregarious birds. Often in large communal roosts. Feeds mainly on fruits, seeds, buds, and grain crops.

Nesting: Breeds December to May. Nests in tree hollows. Lays 4-6 white eggs. Female incubates for 22-24 days while male feeds her.



Credit: Macaulay Library © Cornell Lab of Ornithology ML133717151

19. Alexandrine Parakeet (*Psittacula eupatria*)

Size: Crow

Status: Uncommon resident

Field characters: Much larger than Rose-ringed with massive cherry-red beak. Males have broad rose-pink and black collar. Distinctive maroon shoulder patch.

Best seen at: Found in mature woodlands with large trees, less common than other parakeets.

Habits: Similar habits to Rose-ringed but more wary. Feeds primarily on fruits, seeds, and grain. Harsh rolling calls in flight.

Nesting: Nests in large cavities of mature trees. Lays 2-4 white eggs. Female incubates for 23-26 days while male feeds her.



Credit: Macaulay Library © Cornell Lab of Ornithology ML133932211

20. Plum-headed Parakeet (*Psittacula cyanocephala*)

Size: Myna

Status: Common resident

Field characters: Male has plum-red head with black collar and blue nape; female bluish-grey headed. Both have green body, yellow-tipped tail and red shoulder patch.

Best seen at: Regular visitor to wooded areas of the campus.

Habits: Usually in pairs or small flocks. More arboreal than other parakeets. Feeds mainly on wild figs, fruits, and ripening grain.

Nesting: Nests in tree hollows, February to May. Lays 4-6 white eggs. Female incubates for 21-23 days while male feeds her.



Credit: Macaulay Library © Cornell Lab of Ornithology ML80511821

21. House Swift (*Apus affinis*)

Size: Myna-

Status: Very common resident

Field characters: Small swift with white rump and shallow-forked tail. Overall dark brown-black plumage. Wings long and scythe-shaped.

Best seen at: Common throughout urban areas of the campus.

Habits: Aerial feeder, constantly on wing. Characteristic screaming parties near nesting sites. Often seen in large groups making low sweeping flights.

Nesting: Colonial nester, builds retort-shaped mud nests under building eaves and bridges. Several pairs may share common entrance tunnel. Lays 2-3 white eggs.



Credit: Macaulay Library © Cornell Lab of Ornithology ML126573081

22. Asian Palm Swift (*Cypsiurus balasiensis*)

Size: Sparrow-

Status: Common resident

Field characters: Smaller than House Swift, slender with deeply forked tail. Overall sooty brown. Distinctive stiff, fluttering wing beats.

Best seen at: Found around palm trees, especially Borassus and Coconut palms.

Habits: Very fast flier with quick directional changes, rarely glides. Often seen around single palms which they circle repeatedly.

Nesting: Breeds year-round. Attaches tiny cup nest to underside of palm frond using saliva. Lays 2-3 elongated white eggs.



Credit: Macaulay Library © Cornell Lab of Ornithology ML126564101

23. White-breasted Kingfisher (*Halcyon smyrnensis*)

Size: Myna+

Status: Common resident

Field characters: Large kingfisher with bright blue back, chocolate brown head, and white breast. Large red bill distinctive. Broad blue wing-band visible in flight.

Best seen at: Found near water bodies and in gardens across campus.

Habits: Bold and noisy. Maintains feeding territory which it advertises with loud screaming calls. Feeds on fish, frogs, lizards, insects, and even small birds and mice.

Nesting: Breeds March to June. Nests in horizontal tunnel (1m deep) in earth banks. Lays 4-7 round white eggs. Both parents incubate and feed young.



Credit: Macaulay Library © Cornell Lab of Ornithology ML168729731

24. Common Kingfisher (*Alcedo atthis*)

Size: Bulbul-

Status: Common resident

Field characters: Small kingfisher with brilliant blue upperparts and orange underparts. Long bill and short tail. Female has reddish lower mandible.

Best seen at: Found near water bodies and ponds on campus. Each bird maintains linear territory along water.

Habits: Perches low over water, dives vertically for fish with splash. Often hovers before plunging. Sharp 'chee-chee' flight call.

Nesting: Breeds February to April. Nests in 60-90cm tunnel in earth bank. Lays 5-7 round white eggs. Both parents incubate and feed young.



Credit: Macaulay Library © Cornell Lab of Ornithology ML126561671

25. Asian Green Bee-eater (*Merops orientalis*)

Size: Sparrow+

Status: Common resident

Field characters: Slender green bird with blue throat patch and black eye-stripe. Long central tail feathers distinctive.

Best seen at: Found in open areas with scattered trees across campus.

Habits: Graceful aerial hunter, catches insects in flight. Often perches prominently on wires or bare branches.

Nesting: Breeds March to June. Nests in tunnels dug in earth banks. Lays 4-7 white eggs.



Credit: Macaulay Library © Cornell Lab of Ornithology ML126555661

26. Coppersmith Barbet (*Megalaima haemacephala*)

Size: Bulbul+

Status: Common resident

Field characters: Small, green bird with crimson forehead and throat. Yellow eye-patch distinctive.

Best seen at: Found in wooded areas throughout the campus.

Habits: Known for its metallic 'tuk-tuk-tuk' call. Feeds mainly on fruits, especially figs.

Nesting: Excavates nest holes in dead tree trunks or branches. Lays 2-4 white eggs. Both parents incubate for about 13-15 days and feed the chicks.



Credit: Macaulay Library © Cornell Lab of Ornithology ML133734741

27. Dusky Crag Martin (*Hirundo concolor*)

Size: Sparrow-

Status: Common resident

Field characters: Small, dark brown martin with slightly forked tail. Uniform dusky plumage.

Best seen at: Found around buildings and rocky areas of campus.

Habits: Aerial feeder, catching insects in flight. Often seen gliding near buildings.

Nesting: Builds cup-shaped mud nests on buildings and rock faces. Lays 2-3 white eggs. Both parents incubate for about 14-16 days and care for the chicks.



Credit: Macaulay Library © Cornell Lab of Ornithology ML312652671

28. Barn Swallow (*Hirundo rustica*)

Size: Sparrow

Status: Common winter visitor

Field characters: Long, deeply forked tail. Blue-black above, rufous forehead and throat, pale underparts.

Best seen at: Winter visitor to campus, seen in open areas.

Habits: Graceful flier, catching insects on wing. Often perches on wires.

Nesting: Does not breed on campus; winter visitor only.

Image placeholder
Red-rumped Swallow

29. Red-rumped Swallow (*Hirundo daurica*)

Size: Sparrow

Status: Common resident

Field characters: Similar to Barn Swallow but with rufous rump and shorter tail streamers.

Best seen at: Found throughout campus, especially near buildings.

Habits: Aerial feeder, often in mixed flocks with other swallows.

Nesting: Builds bottle-shaped mud nests under structures. Lays 3-4 white eggs. Both parents incubate for about 14-16 days and care for the chicks.



Credit: Macaulay Library © Cornell Lab of Ornithology ML133941481

30. Wire-tailed Swallow (*Hirundo smithii*)

Size: Sparrow

Status: Common resident

Field characters: Distinctive long wire-like tail streamers. Glossy blue-black above, white below.

Best seen at: Found near water bodies and open areas on campus.

Habits: Graceful flier, often perches on wires. Feeds on flying insects.

Nesting: Builds cup-shaped mud nests under bridges and buildings. Lays 2-3 white eggs. Both parents incubate for about 14-16 days and care for the chicks.



Credit: Macaulay Library © Cornell Lab of Ornithology ML133755601

31. Long-tailed Shrike (*Lanius schach*)

Size: Bulbul+

Status: Common resident

Field characters: Grey-brown above, whitish below with black mask through eye. Long graduated tail.

Best seen at: Found in open areas with scattered trees.

Habits: Hunts from prominent perches. Impales prey on thorns. Feeds on insects, lizards, and small birds.

Nesting: Builds neat cup-shaped nest in thorny bushes. Lays 3-6 white eggs with brown spots. Both parents share incubation duties for about 15-16 days and care for the chicks.



Credit: Macaulay Library © Cornell Lab of Ornithology ML258102271

32. Golden Oriole (*Oriolus oriolus*)

Size: Myna+

Status: Common resident

Field characters: Male bright yellow with black wings and tail; female duller greenish.

Best seen at: Found in wooded areas across campus.

Habits: Shy bird, keeps to canopy. Melodious flute-like calls. Feeds on fruits and insects.

Nesting: Builds hammock-like nest suspended in tree fork. Lays 2-4 white eggs with reddish-brown spots. Both parents share incubation duties for about 14-16 days and care for the chicks.



Credit: Macaulay Library © Cornell Lab of Ornithology ML126548371

33. Black Drongo (*Dicrurus macrocercus*)

Size: Myna+

Status: Common resident

Field characters: Glossy black bird with deeply forked tail. Strong hooked bill.

Best seen at: Found throughout campus in open areas with trees.

Habits: Bold and aggressive. Often seen chasing other birds. Excellent aerial hunter.

Nesting: Breeds March to July. Builds cup nest in outer branches. Lays 3-5 pinkish eggs with red-brown spots.



Credit: Macaulay Library © Cornell Lab of Ornithology ML133717951

34. Ashy Drongo (*Dicrurus leucophaeus*)

Size: Myna+

Status: Winter visitor

Field characters: Similar to Black Drongo but grey overall. Less deeply forked tail.

Best seen at: Winter visitor to wooded areas of campus.

Habits: Less aggressive than Black Drongo. Catches insects in air and from foliage.

Nesting: Does not breed on campus; winter visitor only.



Credit: Macaulay Library © Cornell Lab of Ornithology ML97324171

35. Common Myna (*Acridotheres tristis*)

Size: Myna

Status: Very common resident

Field characters: Brown body with black head, yellow bill and legs. White wing patches visible in flight.

Best seen at: Abundant throughout campus in all habitats.

Habits: Bold, adaptable bird. Often in pairs or groups. Omnivorous diet.

Nesting: Nests in holes in trees, buildings, and other structures. Lays 4-6 blue-green eggs. Both parents share incubation duties for about 13-15 days and care for the chicks.



Credit: Macaulay Library © Cornell Lab of Ornithology ML126402031

36. Jungle Myna (*Acridotheres fuscus*)

Size: Myna

Status: Common resident

Field characters: Similar to Common Myna but greyer, with tuft of feathers at base of bill. Orange-yellow bill and legs.

Best seen at: Found in wooded areas and gardens, less urban than Common Myna.

Habits: Usually in pairs or small groups. More arboreal than Common Myna. Feeds on insects and fruits.

Nesting: Breeds March to July. Nests in tree holes. Lays 4-5 pale blue eggs.



Credit: Macaulay Library © Cornell Lab of Ornithology ML133728841

37. Brahminy Starling (*Sturnia pagodarum*)

Size: Myna

Status: Common resident

Field characters: Distinctive buff-colored starling with black crest, grey wings, and white underparts.

Best seen at: Found in wooded areas and gardens across campus.

Habits: Usually seen in pairs or small groups. Feeds on fruits, berries, and insects.

Nesting: Breeds April to July. Nests in tree holes and building cavities. Lays 3-5 pale blue eggs.



Credit: Macaulay Library © Cornell Lab of Ornithology ML126371181

38. Oriental Magpie-Robin (*Copsychus saularis*)

Size: Bulbul

Status: Common resident

Field characters: Striking black and white plumage in male, greyer in female. Long tail often held upright.

Best seen at: Found throughout campus in wooded areas and gardens.

Habits: Bold and melodious songster. Feeds on insects and berries.

Nesting: Breeds March to July. Nests in tree hollows and building holes. Lays 4-5 greenish-white eggs with brown spots.



Credit: Macaulay Library © Cornell Lab of Ornithology ML143852871

39. Spot-breasted Fantail (*Rhipidura albogularis*)

Size: Sparrow-

Status: Common resident

Field characters: Small black and white bird with spotted breast, white eyebrow, and fan-shaped tail often held spread.

Best seen at: Found in wooded areas and gardens with good tree cover.

Habits: Active and acrobatic, frequently fans tail while foraging. Makes short aerial sallies to catch insects.

Nesting: Breeds mainly March to September. Builds neat cup nest on tree branch. Lays 2-3 cream-colored eggs with reddish spots.



Credit: Macaulay Library © Cornell Lab of Ornithology ML126372681

40. Pied Bushchat (*Saxicola caprata*)

Size: Bulbul-

Status: Common resident

Field characters: Male black with white rump and wing patches; female brown with paler underparts.

Best seen at: Found in open areas with scattered bushes across campus.

Habits: Perches prominently on bushes and fences. Makes short flights to catch insects.

Nesting: Breeds March to August. Builds cup-shaped nest in grass clumps or bushes. Lays 3-4 pale blue-green eggs with rusty spots.



Credit: Macaulay Library © Cornell Lab of Ornithology ML300203931

41. Red-vented Bulbul (*Pycnonotus cafer*)

Size: Bulbul

Status: Very common resident

Field characters: Dark brown-black with scaled pattern, distinctive red vent and black crest.

Best seen at: Common throughout campus in all habitats.

Habits: Active and noisy. Often in pairs or small groups. Feeds on fruits and insects.

Nesting: Breeds year-round, peak February to May. Builds cup-shaped nest in bushes and small trees. Lays 2-3 pinkish-white eggs with red-brown spots. Both parents incubate for 14 days and feed chicks.



Credit: Macaulay Library © Cornell Lab of Ornithology ML311377551

42. Red-whiskered Bulbul (*Pycnonotus jocosus*)

Size: Bulbul

Status: Common resident

Field characters: Brown above, white below with distinctive red cheek patch and pointed black crest.

Best seen at: Found in wooded areas and gardens across campus.

Habits: Lively bird with pleasant calls. Often in pairs. Feeds on fruits and insects.

Nesting: Builds neat cup-shaped nest in shrubs and small trees. Lays 2-3 pinkish-white eggs with red-brown spots. Both parents incubate for about 12-14 days and care for the chicks.



Credit: Macaulay Library © Cornell Lab of Ornithology ML133742581

43. Large Grey Babbler (*Turdoides malcolmii*)

Size: Myna+

Status: Common resident

Field characters: Grey-brown bird with pale streaking. Long graduated tail and curved bill.

Best seen at: Found in open scrub and gardens across campus.

Habits: Lives in noisy groups. Forages on ground, flicking leaves. Feeds on insects and berries.

Nesting: Breeds March to September. Builds untidy nest in thorny bushes. Lays 3-4 turquoise blue eggs. Group members help in nesting duties.



Credit: Unknown - Unknown location Macaulay Library © Cornell Lab of Ornithology ML133939821

44. Tickell's Blue Flycatcher (*Muscicappa tickelliae*)

Size: Bulbul-

Status: Common resident

Field characters: Male bright blue above, rufous below. Female duller.

Best seen at: Found in wooded areas with good undergrowth.

Habits: Active bird, makes short flycatching sallies from perch. Sweet whistling calls.

Nesting: Breeds April to July. Builds neat cup nest in tree hollow or cleft. Lays 3-4 pale eggs with brown spots.



Credit: Macaulay Library © Cornell Lab of Ornithology ML126403561

45. Ashy Prinia (*Prinia socialis*)

Size: Sparrow-

Status: Common resident

Field characters: Ash-grey above, whitish below. Long graduated tail often held cocked.

Best seen at: Found in gardens and scrub throughout campus.

Habits: Active bird, moves through vegetation making harsh calls.

Nesting: Breeds mainly June to September. Builds deep cup nest in grass or bushes. Lays 3-5 brick-red eggs.



Credit: Macaulay Library © Cornell Lab of Ornithology ML150322831

46. Jungle Prinia (*Prinia sylvatica*)

Size: Sparrow-

Status: Common resident

Field characters: Grey-brown above, pale below. Darker than Ashy Prinia.

Best seen at: Found in scrub jungle and grassland areas.

Habits: Skulking habit, reveals presence by loud calls.

Nesting: Breeds June to September. Builds ball-shaped nest in grass clumps. Lays 3-5 greenish-white eggs.



Credit: Macaulay Library © Cornell Lab of Ornithology ML126406831

47. Common Tailorbird (*Orthotomus sutorius*)

Size: Sparrow-

Status: Common resident

Field characters: Tiny warbler with long upright tail. Olive-green above, whitish below, rufous crown.

Best seen at: Found throughout campus in gardens and areas with dense bushes.

Habits: Active bird, constantly moving through vegetation. Loud 'to-wit to-wit' calls.

Nesting: Breeds mainly May to September. Makes remarkable nest by stitching living leaves together. Lays 3-5 reddish-white eggs with spots.



Credit: Macaulay Library © Cornell Lab of Ornithology ML256739411

48. Lesser Whitethroat (*Sylvia curruca*)

Size: Sparrow-

Status: Common winter visitor

Field characters: Small warbler with grey-brown upper parts, white throat, and pale underparts. Dark mask through eye.

Best seen at: Found in scrub and bushes across campus.

Habits: Active but skulking. Forages in bushes for insects. Has a characteristic rattling call.

Nesting: Does not breed on campus; winter visitor only.



Credit: Macaulay Library © Cornell Lab of Ornithology ML305880301

49. House Sparrow (*Passer domesticus*)

Size: Sparrow

Status: Very common resident

Field characters: Male grey-brown with black bib and chestnut nape; female plain brown.

Best seen at: Common around buildings and human habitation.

Habits: Gregarious, feeds mainly on grains and seeds.

Nesting: Breeds almost year-round. Nests in holes in buildings. Lays 4-6 white eggs with brown spots.



Credit: Macaulay Library © Cornell Lab of Ornithology ML133720591

50. Baya Weaver (*Ploceus philippinus*)

Size: Sparrow

Status: Common resident

Field characters: Male bright yellow in breeding with brown back; female sparrow-like.

Best seen at: Found in grassland areas and reed beds on campus.

Habits: Colonial nester. Males build elaborate pendant nests. Feeds on grass seeds.

Nesting: Breeds during monsoon. Males build multiple helmet-shaped nests. Lays 2-4 white eggs.



Credit: Macaulay Library © Cornell Lab of Ornithology ML126370921

51. Indian Robin (*Copsychus fulicatus*)

Size: Sparrow

Status: Common resident

Field characters: Male glossy black with white wing patches, female brown. Cocked tail characteristic.

Best seen at: Common in open areas and scrub throughout campus.

Habits: Active ground feeder, frequently flicks tail upward. Sweet songs and calls.

Nesting: Breeds mainly March to September. Nests in holes in walls or ground. Lays 2-4 white eggs with brown spots.



Credit: Macaulay Library © Cornell Lab of Ornithology ML126366191

52. Oriental White-eye (*Zosterops palpebrosus*)

Size: Sparrow-

Status: Common resident

Field characters: Tiny olive-green bird with distinctive white eye-ring. Yellow throat and undertail.

Best seen at: Found in wooded areas and gardens across campus.

Habits: Active and acrobatic. Moves in small flocks through foliage. Feeds on insects and nectar.

Nesting: Breeds March to September. Builds neat cup nest in tree fork. Lays 2-4 pale blue eggs.



Credit: Macaulay Library © Cornell Lab of Ornithology ML97646291

53. Scaly-breasted Munia (*Lonchura punctulata*)

Size: Sparrow-

Status: Common resident

Field characters: Small brown finch with distinctive scaly pattern on breast. Short thick bill.

Best seen at: Found in grassy areas and scrub throughout campus.

Habits: Social, feeds in small flocks on grass seeds. Sweet twittering calls.

Nesting: Breeds July to October. Builds large ball nest in thorny bushes. Lays 4-6 white eggs.



Credit: Macaulay Library © Cornell Lab of Ornithology ML126547471

54. Rufous Treepie (*Dendrocitta vagabunda*)

Size: Myna++

Status: Common resident

Field characters: Large rufous and black bird with long graduated tail. Grey neck and white-tipped tail distinctive.

Best seen at: Found in wooded areas across campus.

Habits: Bold and inquisitive. Often in small groups. Omnivorous, feeds on fruits, insects, and small vertebrates.

Nesting: Breeds March to July. Builds neat cup nest in tree fork. Lays 3-5 greenish-white eggs with brown spots.



Credit: Macaulay Library © Cornell Lab of Ornithology ML126364891

55. House Crow (*Corvus splendens*)

Size: Crow

Status: Very common resident

Field characters: Grey and black crow with distinct grey neck collar.

Best seen at: Abundant throughout campus, especially near human activity.

Habits: Bold and opportunistic. Omnivorous diet.

Nesting: Breeds March to July. Builds platform nest in trees. Lays 4-5 pale blue-green eggs with brown spots.



Credit: Macaulay Library © Cornell Lab of Ornithology ML85864161

56. Large-billed Crow (*Corvus macrorhynchos*)

Size: Crow+

Status: Common resident

Field characters: Larger than House Crow, all black with massive bill. More solitary habits.

Best seen at: Found in wooded areas of campus and surrounding regions.

Habits: More cautious than House Crow. Often seen singly or in pairs. Omnivorous diet.

Nesting: Breeds March to June. Builds large platform nest high in trees. Lays 3-5 pale greenish eggs with brown spots.



Credit: Macaulay Library © Cornell Lab of Ornithology ML133939511

57. Spotted Owlet (*Athene brama*)

Size: Myna+

Status: Common resident

Field characters: Small, chunky owl with white spotting. Large yellow eyes and white eyebrows give it a stern expression.

Best seen at: Found in wooded areas and gardens across campus.

Habits: Active at dawn and dusk. Bobs head when alert. Feeds on insects, small vertebrates.

Nesting: Breeds February to April. Nests in tree hollows and old buildings. Lays 3-5 white eggs. Female incubates for 28-30 days while male provides food.



Credit: Macaulay Library © Cornell Lab of Ornithology ML145988711

58. Mottled Wood Owl (*Strix ocellata*)

Size: Crow+

Status: Uncommon resident

Field characters: Large owl with distinctive mottled brown plumage. Round head without ear-tufts, dark eyes, and yellow-green bill.

Best seen at: Found in wooded areas of campus with dense canopy cover.

Habits: Strictly nocturnal. Deep resonant calls at night. Feeds on rodents, birds, and large insects.

Nesting: Breeds December to March. Nests in natural tree hollows. Lays 2-3 white eggs. Female incubates while male provides food.



Credit: Macaulay Library © Cornell Lab of Ornithology ML133738511

59. Indian Grey Hornbill (*Ocyceros birostris*)

Size: Crow

Status: Common resident

Field characters: Large grey bird with long tail and distinctive casque on bill. Female has smaller casque.

Best seen at: Found in wooded areas across campus with large old trees.

Habits: Usually seen in pairs, moving from tree to tree. Feeds mainly on fruits, especially figs.

Nesting: Breeds March to June. Female seals herself in tree cavity, leaving narrow slit through which male feeds her and chicks. Lays 2-4 white eggs.



Credit: Macaulay Library © Cornell Lab of Ornithology ML126556251

60. Indian Roller (*Coracias benghalensis*)

Size: Myna++

Status: Common resident

Field characters: Crow-sized bird with brilliant blue wings and tail. Brown head and back.

Best seen at: Found in open areas with scattered trees.

Habits: Conspicuous percher, makes dramatic rolling display flights. Feeds on large insects, small lizards.

Nesting: Breeds March to July. Nests in tree hollows. Lays 3-5 white eggs. Both parents incubate for about 17-19 days.



Credit: Macaulay Library © Cornell Lab of Ornithology ML265163661

61. Black-headed Cuckoo-shrike (*Coracina melanoptera*)

Size: Myna+

Status: Common resident

Field characters: Male grey with black head; female grey with faint barring.

Best seen at: Found in wooded areas and gardens.

Habits: Methodically searches foliage for insects. Often joins mixed hunting parties.

Nesting: Breeds April to July. Builds small cup nest on horizontal branch. Lays 2-3 grey-green eggs with brown spots.



Credit: Macaulay Library © Cornell Lab of Ornithology ML133939181

62. Small Minivet (*Pericrocotus cinnamomeus*)

Size: Sparrow

Status: Common resident

Field characters: Male black and orange; female grey and yellow. Both have long tails.

Best seen at: Found in wooded areas throughout campus.

Habits: Active, moves through canopy in small groups. Sweet whistling calls.

Nesting: Breeds March to June. Builds tiny cup nest in tree fork. Lays 2-4 pale green eggs with brown spots.



Credit: Unknown - Unknown location Macaulay Library © Cornell Lab of Ornithology ML126373401

63. Tickell's Flowerpecker (*Dicaeum erythrorhynchos*)

Size: Sparrow-

Status: Common resident

Field characters: Tiny bird with grey-brown above, dirty white below. Short tail and curved bill.

Best seen at: Found wherever flowering and fruiting trees occur.

Habits: Very active, flits rapidly between flowers. Feeds on berries and nectar.

Nesting: Breeds year-round, peak March to May. Builds pear-shaped hanging nest. Lays 2-3 white eggs. Both parents care for young.



Credit: Macaulay Library © Cornell Lab of Ornithology ML44950691

64. Grey Wagtail (*Motacilla cinerea*)

Size: Sparrow

Status: Common winter visitor

Field characters: Slender bird with long tail, grey upper parts and bright yellow underparts. Shows constant tail-wagging behavior.

Best seen at: Found near water bodies and damp areas on campus.

Habits: Active forager, running and walking while wagging tail. Catches insects on ground and in air.

Nesting: Does not breed on campus; winter visitor only.



Credit: Macaulay Library © Cornell Lab of Ornithology ML44586821

65. White Wagtail (*Motacilla alba*)

Size: Sparrow

Status: Common winter visitor

Field characters: Black and white bird with grey back, white face and underparts. Shows characteristic tail-wagging.

Best seen at: Found in open areas, lawns, and near water bodies.

Habits: Walks gracefully on ground, wagging tail. Feeds on insects and small invertebrates.

Nesting: Does not breed on campus; winter visitor only.



Credit: Unknown Unknown location Macaulay Library © Cornell Lab of Ornithology ML126385911

66. White-browed Wagtail (*Motacilla maderaspatensis*)

Size: Sparrow+

Status: Common resident

Field characters: Large black and white wagtail with prominent white eyebrow. Long tail constantly wagged up and down.

Best seen at: Found near water bodies and open grassy areas across campus.

Habits: Active forager, running and walking while wagging tail. Often seen in pairs.

Nesting: Breeds March to September. Builds cup nest in holes in walls or banks. Lays 3-4 greyish-white eggs with brown spots.



Credit: Macaulay Library © Cornell Lab of Ornithology ML126386161

67. Common Iora (*Aegithina tiphia*)

Size: Sparrow-

Status: Common resident

Field characters: Male breeding bright yellow and black; non-breeding and female greenish-yellow. White wing-bars distinctive.

Best seen at: Found in wooded areas and gardens with good tree cover.

Habits: Active bird, constantly moving through foliage. Sweet melodious calls. Feeds mainly on insects.

Nesting: Breeds April to September. Builds neat cup nest in tree fork. Lays 2-3 pinkish eggs with brown spots.



Credit: Macaulay Library © Cornell Lab of Ornithology ML133732751

68. Asian Tit (*Parus cinereus*)

Size: Sparrow-

Status: Common resident

Field characters: Small grey bird with black cap and throat, white cheeks, and pale underparts.

Best seen at: Found in wooded areas and gardens across campus.

Habits: Active and acrobatic, often hanging upside down while foraging. Feeds on insects and seeds.

Nesting: Breeds March to July. Nests in tree holes. Lays 4-6 white eggs with red-brown spots.



Credit: Macaulay Library © Cornell Lab of Ornithology ML126385421

69. Purple Sunbird (*Cinnyris asiaticus*)

Size: Sparrow-

Status: Common resident

Field characters: Male breeding metallic purple-black; non-breeding and female olive brown above, yellow below.

Best seen at: Found throughout campus wherever flowering plants occur.

Habits: Very active, hovers at flowers. Long curved bill for nectar feeding. Also catches small insects.

Nesting: Breeds mainly February to May. Builds hanging purse-like nest. Lays 2-3 greenish-white eggs with brown spots.



Credit: Macaulay Library © Cornell Lab of Ornithology ML126401131

70. Purple-rumped Sunbird (*Leptocoma zeylonica*)

Size: Sparrow-

Status: Common resident

Field characters: Male has metallic purple-blue upper parts, yellow belly. Female olive above, yellow below.

Best seen at: Found in gardens and wooded areas with flowering plants.

Habits: Very active, hovers at flowers like Purple Sunbird. Feeds on nectar and small insects.

Nesting: Breeds year-round. Builds pendant nest with porch-like entrance. Lays 2 greenish-white eggs with brown spots.

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