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They fly at low level, flitting between plants, or rather jerkily over longer distances, ending in a sudden dive into cover.



Grassbirds are brownish warblers with longish tails. They inhabit damp tall grassland. Males perform song flights in the breeding season.

CUPWINGS Pnoeipygidae (3 species)



Small, rotund and almost tailless, with proportionately large bills, legs and feet. Named for the cup-like shape of their short, rounded wings. Forage in forests and forest edges on the ground and low down in the undergrowth. Previously known as wren-babblers. Three species occur in the region: Pygmy *Pnoeipyga pusilla*, Nepal *P. immaculata* and Scaly-breasted Cupwings *P. albiventer*.

MARTINS AND SWALLOWS Hirundinidae (17 species)



Gregarious, rather small passerines with a distinctive slender, streamlined body, long pointed wings and small bills. The long-tailed species are often called swallows, and the shorter-tailed species termed martins. All hawk day-flying insects in swift, agile sustained flight, sometimes high in the air. Many species have a deeply forked tail, which affords greater manoeuvrability. Hirundines catch most of their food while flying in the open. They readily perch on exposed branches and wires.

BULBULS Pycnonotidae (25 species)



Medium-sized passerines with soft, fluffy plumage, rather short and rounded wings, medium-long to long tails, slender bills and short, weak legs. Bulbuls feed on berries and other fruits, often supplemented by insects, and sometimes also nectar and buds of trees and shrubs. Many species are noisy, especially when feeding. Typically, bulbuls have a variety of cheerful, loud, chattering, babbling and whistling calls. Most species are gregarious in the non-breeding season.

LEAF WARBLERS Phylloscopidae (37 species)



Now included in *Phylloscopus*, based on recent genetic studies, are several species previously regarded as being in a separate genus *Seicercus*. Leaf warblers are rather small, slim and short-billed warblers. Useful identification features are voice, strength of the supercilium, colour of underparts, rump, bill and legs, and presence or absence of wing-bars, of coronal bands or of white on the tail. The coloration of upperparts and underparts and the presence or prominence of wing-bars are affected by wear. Leaf warblers are fast-moving and restless, hopping and creeping about actively and often flicking their wings. They mostly glean small insects and spiders from foliage, twigs and branches, often first disturbing prey by hovering and fluttering; they also make short flycatching sallies.

BUSH WARBLERS Scotocercidae (18 species)



Genetic studies have separated out a number of disparate taxa and grouped them as bush warblers, including the *Cettia* and *Horornis* bush warblers, tesias, *Abroscopus* warblers, and Mountain Tailorbird *Phyllergates cucullatus*. Bush warblers are medium-sized warblers with rounded wings and tail that inhabit marshes, grassland and forest undergrowth. They are usually found singly. Bush warblers call frequently and are usually heard more often than seen. *Cettia* species have surprisingly loud voices, and some can be identified by their distinctive melodious songs. *Tesia* species are almost tailless and largely terrestrial. When excited, these birds flick their wings and tail.

LONG-TAILED TITS *Aeginthidae* (7 species)

Very small birds, with relatively long tails and large heads. They use their short conical bills to extract insects from small crevices in buds and bark. Foraging in groups, they are constantly on the move through forest and woodland vegetation, keeping in touch through a series of high-pitched calls.



SYLVIA WARBLERS *Sylviidae* (15 species)

A much-reduced family (previously including the Acrocephalidae, Locustellidae and Phylloscopidae warblers for example), but now including only the *Sylvia* (and the recently separated *Curruca*) warblers, *Fulvetta fulvettas*, *Chrysomma* and Fire-tailed Myzornis *Myzornis pyrhoura*. The *Sylvia* and *Curruca* warblers are small to medium-sized passerines with fine bills. Typically, they inhabit bushes and scrub and feed chiefly by gleaning insects from foliage and twigs; they sometimes also consume berries in autumn and winter.



PARROTBILLS *Paradoxornithidae* (10 species)

The parrotbills have stout bills, strong legs and feet, and long tails. They frequent stands of bamboo and tall grasses, including in evergreen forest.



WHITE-EYES AND YUHINAS *Zosteropidae* (9 species)

Taxonomic studies have now grouped the yuhinas (previously included in the Timaliidae) with the white-eyes. Yuhinas are crested passerines with fine, pointed bills. Restless, often in flocks and at times tit-like in their feeding behaviour. White-eyes are small or very small insectivorous passerines with slightly decurved and pointed bills, brush-tipped tongues, and a white ring around each eye. White-eyes frequent forest edge, and bushes in gardens.



SCIMITAR BABBLERS AND ALLIES *Timaliidae* (35 species)

Previously this family comprised a much larger group of babblers, but recent taxonomic work has separated off the Phoenopygidae (cupwings), Pellorneidae (ground babblers) and Leiothrichidae (laughingthrushes and allies). They are small to medium-sized passerines, with soft, loose plumage, short or fairly short wings, and strong legs and feet. The sexes are alike. The scimitar babblers have longish, downcurved bills.



GROUND BABBLERS *Pellorneidae* (12 species)

Comprises some species previously included in the Timaliidae (e.g. the *Pellorneum* babblers) but also incorporating Rufous-vented *Laticilla burnesii* and Swamp Grass Babblers *L. cinerascens* (previously considered to be prinias) and Indian Grass-babbler *Graminicola bengalensis* (previously included in the Cisticolidae). Varied morphologically and in habits and habitat, but most species are skulking and favour undergrowth or dense tall grasses.



LAUGHINGTHRUSHES AND ALLIES *Leiothrichidae* (62 species)

Another family split off from the Timaliidae but still comprising a large number of genera including the *Turdoides* and related babblers, *Alcippe* fulvettas, laughingthrushes, babax, sibilas, mesia, leiothrix, minlas, liocichlas and barwings. Laughingthrushes are medium-sized, long-tailed babblers that are gregarious even in the breeding season. They often feed on the ground and their flight is short and clumsy.





Tiny, energetic passerines that glean insects from bark crevices, twigs and leaf clusters, often hovering at overhanging vegetation to snatch a prey item they have spotted from below. They often forage in flocks of their own or other species, giving high-pitched calls. Only one species in the region, Goldcrest *Regulus regulus*.

WALLCREEPER AND SPOTTED CREEPERS Tichodromidae (2 species)

Wallcreeper *Tichodroma muraria* breeds in rocky alpine areas and moves to similar habitat lower down in winter. It blends into grey rock faces as it forages for invertebrates, but becomes conspicuous when flying, as it flashes its bright red and pink flight feathers. Indian Spotted Creeper *Salpornis spilonota* is resident in India and probably sedentary. It has a very distinctive appearance with spotted and barred plumage, and a long, slender, decurved bill which it uses to glean invertebrates from bark crevices. Its slightly rounded tail is not used for support while climbing trees, unlike treecreepers.

NUTHATCHES Sittidae (10 species)

Nuthatches are small, energetic, compact passerines with short tails, large strong feet and long bills. They are agile tree climbers and can move with ease upwards, downwards, sideways and upside-down over trunks or branches, progressing by a series of jerky hops, and do not use the tail as a prop. Their flight is direct over short distances and undulating over longer ones. Nuthatches capture insects, spiders, seeds and nuts. They are often found singly or in pairs; outside the breeding season, they often join foraging flocks of other insectivorous birds.



TREECREEPERS Certhiidae (5 species)

Small, quiet, arboreal passerines with slender, decurved bills and stiff tails that they use as a prop when climbing, like that of the woodpeckers. Treecreepers forage by creeping up vertical trunks and along the underside of branches, spiralling upwards in a series of jerks in search of insects and spiders; on reaching the top of a tree, they fly to the base of the next one. Their flight is undulating and weak, and is usually only over short distances. Treecreepers are non-gregarious, but outside the nesting season they usually join hunting parties of other insectivorous birds.



WRENS Troglodytidae (1 species)

Very small birds, often with their characteristically short tails cocked over their backs. They have an energetic nature and loud assertive songs, out of proportion to their body size. Eurasian Wren *Troglodytes troglodytes* is the only species occurring in the region.



SPOTTED ELACHURA Elachuridae (1 species)

Spotted Elachura *Elachura formosa* is the only member of this family and closely resembles the wren-babblers in appearance and habitat. It frequents dense undergrowth in broadleaved evergreen temperate and semi-tropical forests, where it prefers densely vegetated, steep-sided gullies.



DIPPERS Cinclidae (2 species)

Aquatic passerines that spend all their lives along fast-flowing streams. Unique among songbirds, dippers dive underwater and walk along the submerged streambed

with long, strong legs and feet in search of aquatic invertebrates that cling to rocks. Adaptations for their aquatic lives include thick, uniform feathering and a large oil gland for waterproofing. Two species occur in the region: White-throated *Cinclus cinclus* and Brown Dippers *C. pallasi*.



STARLINGS AND MYNAS *Sturnidae* (24 species)

Robust, medium-sized passerines with strong legs and bills, moderately long wings and square tails. The flight is direct, strong and fast in the more pointed-wing species (*Sturnus*) and rather slower with more deliberate flapping in the more rounded-winged ones. Most species walk with upright stance in a characteristic, purposeful, jaunty fashion, broken by occasional short runs and hops. Their calls are often loud, harsh and grating, and the song of many species is a variety of whistles; mimicry is common. Most are highly gregarious at times. Some starlings are mainly arboreal and feed on fruits and insects; others are chiefly ground-feeders and are omnivorous. Many are closely associated with human cultivation and habitation.



THRUSHES *Turdidae* (38 species)

Includes *Turdus*, *Zoothera* and *Geokichla* thrushes, these are medium-sized passerines with rather long, strong legs, slender bills and fairly long wings. On the ground they progress by hopping. All are insectivorous, but many eat fruit as well. Some are chiefly terrestrial and others arboreal. Most thrushes have loud and varied songs, which are used to proclaim and defend their territories when breeding. Many species gather in flocks outside the breeding season. Also includes the cochoas, which are fairly large, robust, colourful birds with fairly broad bills. Shy, unobtrusive, arboreal and frugivorous. Taxonomic work has now assigned some genera to Muscicapidae.



CHATS AND OLD WORLD FLYCATCHERS *Muscicapidae* (108 species)

Chats are a diverse group of small/medium-sized passerines that includes the chats, blue robins, magpie robins, redstarts, forktails, wheatears and rock thrushes. Most are terrestrial or partly terrestrial, some are arboreal, and some are closely associated with water. Their main diet is insects, but they also consume fruits, especially berries. They forage mainly by hopping about on the ground in search of prey, or by perching on a low vantage point and then dropping to the ground onto insects or making short sallies to catch them in the air. Found singly or in pairs.



Flycatchers are small insectivorous birds with small, flattened bills, and bristles at the gape that help capture flying insects. They normally have a very upright stance when perched. Many species frequently flick the tail and hold the wings slightly drooped. Generally, flycatchers frequent trees and bushes. Some species regularly perch on a vantage point, from which they catch insects in mid-air in short aerial sallies or by dropping to the ground, often returning to the same perch. Other species capture insects while flitting among the branches or by picking them from foliage. Flycatchers are usually found singly or in pairs; a few join mixed hunting parties of other insectivorous birds.



WAXWINGS *Bombycillidae* (1 species)

Only one species occurs in the region, Bohemian Waxwing *Bombycilla garrulus*, which is a vagrant. A medium-sized passerine with a prominent crest and short tail. Feeds on fruit year-round.





HYPOLICOLIUS Hypocoliidae (1 species)
Hypocolius *Hypocolius ampelinus* is the only member of this family. It is a slim, long-tailed bird with strong and direct flight. Frugivorous all year, it forages chiefly by hopping and clambering about in trees and bushes. Quiet and shy.

FLOWERPECKERS Dicaeidae (11 species)



Flowerpeckers are very small passerines with short bills and tails, and tongues adapted for nectar-feeding. They usually frequent the tree canopy and feed mainly on soft fruits, berries and nectar; also on small insects and spiders. Flowerpeckers are very active, continually flying about restlessly. Normally they live singly or in pairs; some species form small parties in the non-breeding season.

SUNBIRDS AND SPIDERHUNTERS Nectariniidae (15 species)



Sunbirds have bills and tongues adapted to feed on nectar; they also eat small insects and spiders. The bill is long, thin and curved for probing the corollas of flowers. The tongue is very long, tubular and extensible far beyond the bill, and is used to draw out nectar. Sunbirds feed mainly at the blossoms of flowering trees and shrubs. They flit and dart actively from flower to flower, clambering over the blossoms, often hovering momentarily in front of them, and clinging acrobatically to twigs. Sunbirds usually keep singly or in pairs, although several may congregate in flowering trees, and some species join mixed foraging flocks. They have sharp, metallic calls and high-pitched trilling and twittering songs.



Spiderhunters are small, robust arboreal forest birds with very long decurved bills. Very active with fast dashing flight. Usually found singly or in pairs. They feed on nectar and small invertebrates.



FAIRY BLUEBIRDS Irenidae (1 species)

Medium-sized passerines with fairly long, slender bills, the upper mandible decurved at the tip; arboreal, typically frequent thick foliage in the canopy. They search leaves for insects and also feed on berries and nectar. Their flight is swift, usually over a short distance. Represented by only one species in the subcontinent, Asian Fairy-bluebird *Irena puella*.



LEAFBIRDS Chloropseidae (4 species)

Medium-sized green-and-yellow birds with slender downcurved bills. They are arboreal and feed on nectar from flowering trees, fruit, and invertebrates.



WEAVERS Ploceidae (4 species)

Small, rather plump, passerines with large conical bills. Adults feed chiefly on seeds and grain, supplemented by invertebrates. Weavers inhabit grassland, marshes, cultivation and very open woodland. They are highly gregarious, roosting and nesting communally, and are noted for weaving their elaborate roofed nests from grasses.



MUNIAS Estrildidae (10 species)

Small, slim passerines with short, stout conical bills. They feed chiefly on small seeds which they pick from the ground or gather by clinging to stems and pulling the seeds directly from seed heads. Outside the breeding season all species are gregarious. Flight is fast and undulating.

ACCENTORS *Prunellidae* (8 species)

Small, compact birds resembling *Passer* sparrows in appearance, but with slenderer and more pointed bills. Accentors forage quietly and unobtrusively on the ground, moving by hopping or a shuffling walk; some species also run. In summer accentors are chiefly insectivorous, and in winter they feed mainly on seeds. Their flight is usually low over the ground and sustained over only short distances.



OLD WORLD SPARROWS *Passeridae* (13 species)

Small passerines with thick, conical bills. This family includes *Passer*, the true sparrows, some of which are closely associated with human habitation. Most species feed on seeds taken on or near the ground. *Passer* sparrows are rather noisy, using a variety of harsh, chirping notes.



PIPITS AND WAGTAILS *Motacillidae* (21 species)

Small, slender, terrestrial birds with long legs, relatively long toes and thin, pointed bills. Some wagtails exhibit wide geographical plumage variation. All walk with a deliberate gait and run rapidly. The flight is undulating and strong. Most wagtails wag their long tail up and down, as so do some pipits. They feed mainly by picking insects from the ground as they walk along, or by making short rapid runs to capture insects they have flushed; they also catch prey in mid-air. Occur in scattered flocks in autumn and winter.



FINCHES *Fringillidae* (49 species)

Small to medium-sized passerines with strong, conical bills used for eating insects. They forage on the ground, some species also feed on seedheads of tall herbs, and blossoms and berries of bushes and trees. Finches are highly gregarious outside the breeding season. Their flight is fast and undulating.



LONGSPURS *Calcariidae* (1 species)

Longspurs are small passerines of open country that move south from their northern breeding areas in winter. The only family member recorded in the subcontinent. Lapland Longspur *Calcarius lapponicus*, is a vagrant. It is a stocky, long-winged small bird, with a stout yellowish bill.

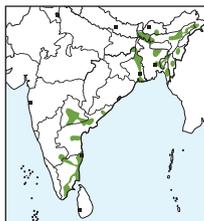


BUNTINGS *Emberizidae* (21 species)

Small to medium-sized, terrestrial passerines with strong, conical bills designed for shelling seeds, usually of grasses. They forage by hopping or creeping on the ground. Their flight is undulating. Buntings are usually gregarious outside the breeding season, feeding and roosting in flocks and occur in a wide variety of open habitats.



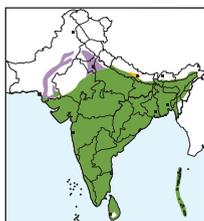
PLATE 1: WHISTLING DUCKS AND GEESE



Fulvous Whistling Duck *Dendrocygna bicolor*

45–53cm

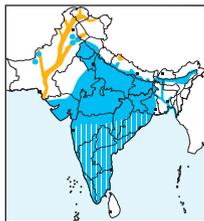
Resident. Mainly NE, SE India and Bangladesh. Vagrant: Pakistan, Nepal, Bhutan. **ID** Larger than Lesser Whistling Duck, with bigger, squarer head and larger bill. Adult from adult Lesser by warmer rufous-orange head and neck, dark blackish line down hindneck, dark striations on neck, more prominent white striping on flanks, indistinct chestnut-brown patch on forewing, and white band across uppertail-coverts. Often associates with Lesser. **Voice** Very noisy in flight and at rest; a repeated whistle *k-weeoo*. **HH** Keeps in small flocks, often with Lesser. Feeds chiefly at night by upending and dabbling. Roosts during day on undisturbed ground or waterbodies near its feeding grounds. Freshwater marshes, flooded paddyfields, and shallow lakes and ponds with emergent vegetation and partly submerged trees.



Lesser Whistling Duck *Dendrocygna javanica*

38–42cm

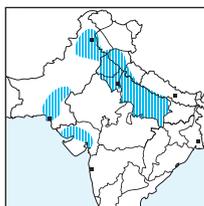
Widespread resident except most of NW. **ID** Smaller and more neatly proportioned than Fulvous. Like Fulvous, has weak, deep-flapping flight, appears very dark on the upperwing and underwing, and is very noisy with repeated whistling. From Fulvous by greyish-buff head and neck, dark brown crown, lack of or less prominent dark line down hindneck, indistinct or no white striping on flanks, bright chestnut patch on forewing, and chestnut uppertail-coverts. **Voice** Incessant wittering call in flight; at rest, a clear whistled *whi-who*, also, a subdued quacking. **HH** Similar to Fulvous but more gregarious. Flooded grassland and paddyfields, freshwater marshes and shallow ponds and lakes, prefers those with emergent vegetation and partly submerged trees.



Greylag Goose *Anser anser*

76–89cm

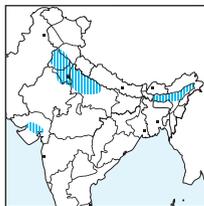
Winter visitor. Mainly N subcontinent. Vagrant: Bhutan, Sri Lanka. **ID** Large, grey goose, with stout pink bill and pink legs and feet. Head and neck similar in coloration to rest of body. In flight shows pale grey forewing and underwing-coverts (wings above and below more uniformly dark in similar species). Juvenile is like adult, but has less prominent pale fringes to upperparts, flanks and belly. See Vagrants for differences from Tundra and Taiga Bean Goose. **Voice** Loud cackling and honking, deeper than in other 'grey' geese with repeated deep *aahng-ahng-ung*. **HH** Feeds mainly at night, chiefly by grazing in wet grassland and crops, also, by upending in shallow water. Spends daytime on large lakes or rivers or loafing on spits or in open fields. Continuously gabbles in flight and as it feeds.



Greater White-fronted Goose *Anser albifrons*

66–86cm

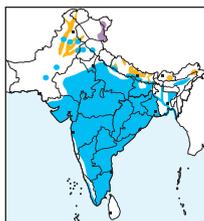
Winter visitor. Pakistan and mainly N and NW India. Vagrant: Nepal, Bhutan, Bangladesh. **ID** Adult best told from Greylag by broad white band at front of head, browner coloration, black barring on belly, and orange legs and feet. Has more uniform upperwing and underwing in flight, darker back and rump and darker base to tail than Greylag. Juvenile lacks white frontal band and barring on belly; is more like Greylag, but best told by smaller size and less stocky build, browner coloration, darker feathering at base of bill, dark tip (nail) to bill, and orange legs and feet. **Voice** Cackling and honking flight call is higher pitched than Taiga and Tundra Bean Goose (see Appendix) and contains distinctive musical *lyo-lyok* phrase. **HH** Habits like Greylag's. Large rivers and lakes.



Lesser White-fronted Goose *Anser erythropus*

53–66cm

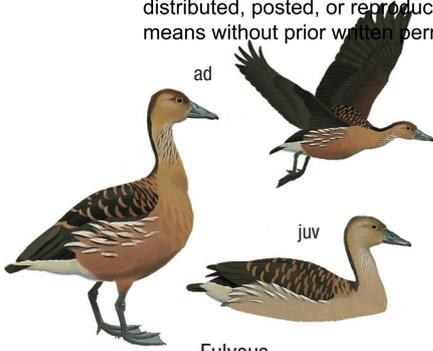
Winter visitor. NW India and Assam. Vagrant: Pakistan, Bangladesh. **ID** Adult from Greater by white frontal band on head extending as point at front of crown, and yellow eye-ring. Has slightly darker head and neck, and less extensive black barring on belly. Also, 'squarer' head, with more steeply rising forehead, and is smaller and more compact, with stout triangular bill. Juvenile lacks white frontal band and black barring on belly, and is best distinguished from juvenile Greater by yellow eye-ring, slightly darker head and neck, white nail to bill, and structural differences described above. **Voice** Call is like Greater but higher pitched; includes repeated *kyu-yu-yu* phrase. **HH** Similar to Greylag's. Globally threatened.



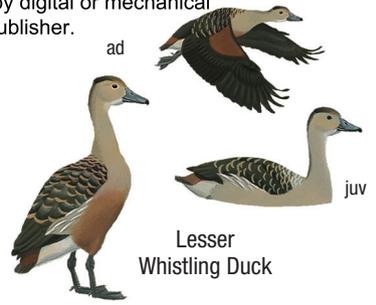
Bar-headed Goose *Anser indicus*

71–76cm

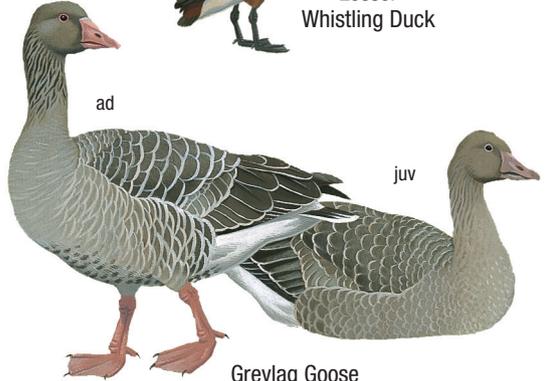
Breeds in Ladakh; widespread winter visitor. **ID** Yellowish legs and black-tipped yellow bill. Adult has white head, variably stained yellow, with black banding across crown, and white line down grey neck. Juvenile has white face and dark grey crown and hindneck. Plumage paler steel-grey, with more uniform pale grey forewing, and stronger contrast with black flight feathers, compared to Greylag. **Voice** Honking flight call but notes more nasal and more slowly uttered compared to Greylag. **HH** Feeds mainly at night in cultivation or grassland on riverbanks; roosts by day on sandbanks of large rivers. Breeds on swampy ground by high-altitude lakes; winters near large rivers, lakes and reservoirs; also, coastal islands in the Sundarbans, Bangladesh.



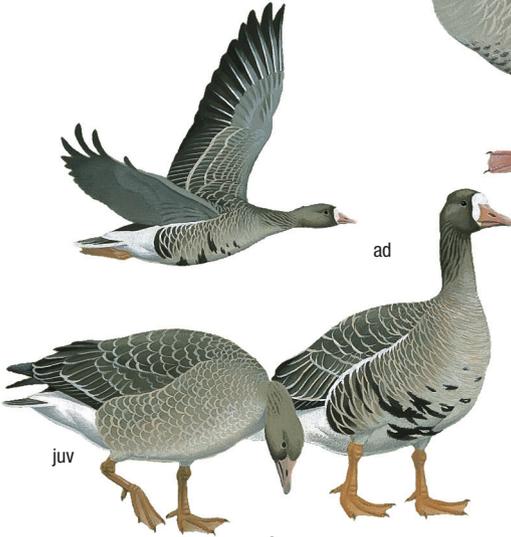
Fulvous Whistling Duck



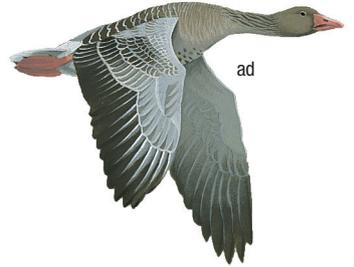
Lesser Whistling Duck



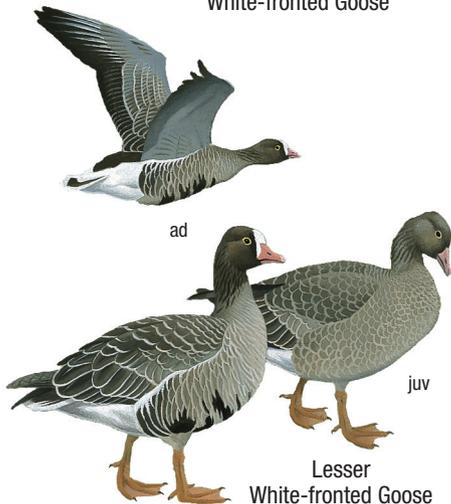
Greylag Goose



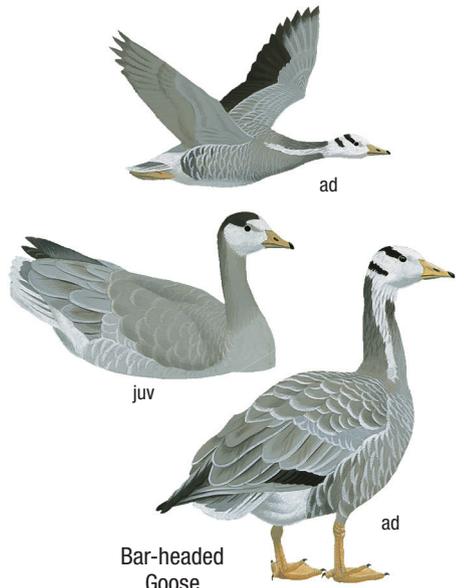
Greater White-fronted Goose



ad



Lesser White-fronted Goose



Bar-headed Goose

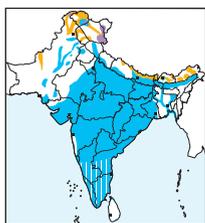
PLATE 2: DUCKS



Knob-billed Duck *Sarkidiornis melanotos*

64–79cm

Resident. Widespread in India, also, Nepal lowlands and Bangladesh. **ID** Whitish head speckled with black, and whitish underparts with incomplete narrow breast-band. Upperwing and underwing blackish. Male has blackish upperparts glossed bronze, blue and green, with fleshy 'comb' at base of bill and yellowish-buff wash to sides of head and neck in summer; comb much reduced in winter. Female much smaller with duller upperparts and no comb. Juvenile has pale supercilium contrasting with dark crown and eye-stripe, buff scaling on upperparts, and rufous-buff underparts with dark scaling on sides of breast. **Voice** Generally silent, though sometimes gives low croak when flushed. **HH** Grazes in marshes and wet grassland, also, wades and dabbles in shallows. Lowland pools and lakes in well-wooded country.



Ruddy Shelduck *Tadorna ferruginea*

50–67cm

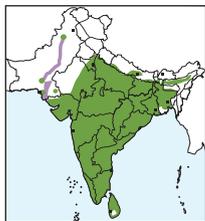
Breeds in Himalayas; widespread winter visitor. Vagrant: Sri Lanka. **ID** Rusty-orange, with buff to orange head; white upperwing- and underwing-coverts contrast with black remiges in flight. Breeding male has black neck-collar, which is less distinct or absent in non-breeding plumage. Female very similar to male, but lacks neck-collar and often has diffuse whitish face patch. Juvenile as female, but has browner and duller upperparts and underparts, and greyish tone to head. **Voice** A honking *aakh* and trumpeted *pok-pok-pok-pok* when taking off. **HH** Usually feeds by grazing on banks of rivers and lakes; also, by wading in shallows, dabbling and upending. Breeds around high-altitude lakes and swamps; winters by large open lakes and rivers, especially with sandbanks and sandy islets.



Common Shelduck *Tadorna tadorna*

58–67cm

Has bred Balochistan; widespread winter visitor and passage migrant. **ID** Adult has greenish-black head and neck, and largely white body with chestnut breast-band and black scapular stripe. White upperwing- and underwing-coverts contrast with black remiges in flight. Female slightly smaller than male, has narrower chestnut breast-band and lacks knob on bill. Adult eclipse duller and greyer, with less distinct breast-band. Juvenile lacks breast-band and has sooty-brown crown, hindneck and upperparts, and white forehead, cheeks, foreneck and underparts; legs greyish rather than pink. Flight pattern similar to adult (though less contrasting), but shows white trailing edge to secondaries. **Voice** Relatively silent. **HH** Feeds by walking on mud and dabbling at surface and wading in shallows and upending. Open freshwater lakes and rivers; also, coasts and salt lakes in Pakistan.



Cotton Pygmy Goose *Nettapus coromandelianus*

30–37cm

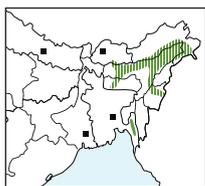
Widespread resident except the NW. Small size. **ID** Male has broad white band across wing, and female has white trailing edge to wing. Male has white head and neck, black cap, greenish-black upperparts, and black breast-band. Eclipse male, female and juvenile are duller and have dark stripe through eye. **Voice** Male utters sharp staccato cackle, *car-car-carawak* or *quack-quack-quacky-duck*. Female gives weak *quack*. **HH** Forages by dabbling and grazing among floating vegetation; picks food from surface and dips head and neck underwater. Vegetation-covered pools, irrigation tanks, channels and shallow lagoons.



Mandarin Duck *Aix galericulata*

41–51cm

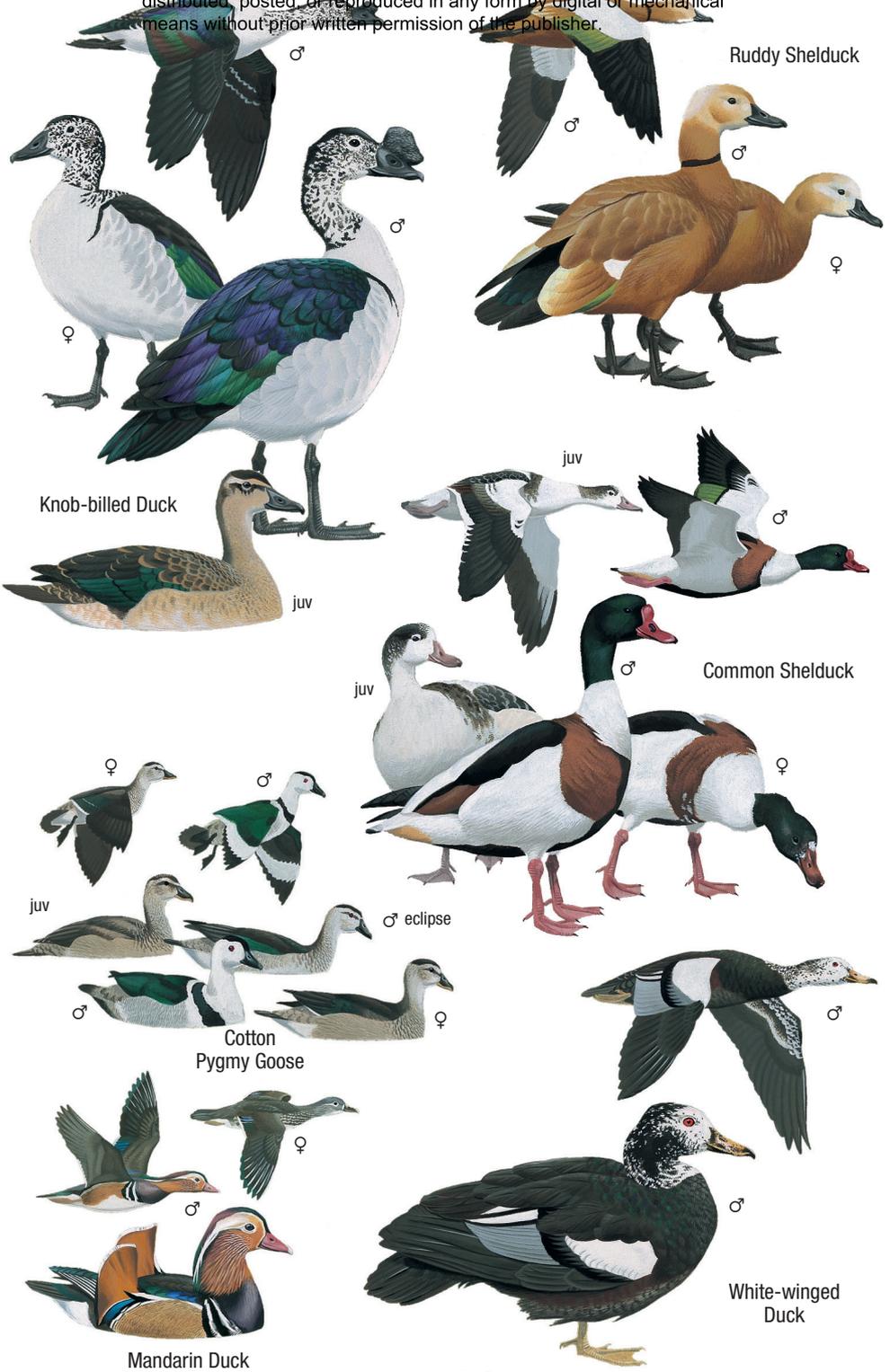
Very local winter visitor Bhutan and NE India. Vagrant: Nepal and Bangladesh Male is spectacular. Most striking features are reddish bill, orange 'mane' and 'sails', white stripe behind eye, and black-and-white stripes on side of breast. Female and eclipse male are mainly greyish with white 'spectacles' and white spotting on breast and flanks. In flight, shows dark upperwing and underwing, with narrow white trailing edge, and white belly. **Voice** Silent except during display. **HH** Forages by dabbling and head-dipping in shallow water. Perches readily in trees. Large rivers.



White-winged Duck *Asarcornis scutulata*

66–81cm

Resident. Bhutan, NE India and Bangladesh. **ID** Large size. White upperwing -coverts, and white head and neck variably speckled with black. Bill orange variably marked with black (can be mainly black). Eye strikingly orange. Sexes similar, but female duller with more heavily speckled head, and underparts more extensively rufous-brown. Juvenile like female, although duller and browner, with brownish head. **Voice** A prolonged, vibrant trailing honk in flight. **HH** Flies to feeding grounds at dawn; roosts in forest trees at night. Small stagnant and slow-flowing freshwater wetlands, often with dead trees, in tropical forest. Globally threatened.



Ruddy Shelduck

Knob-billed Duck

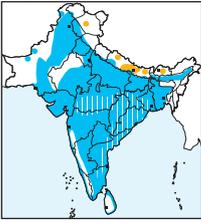
Common Shelduck

Cotton Pygmy Goose

Mandarin Duck

White-winged Duck

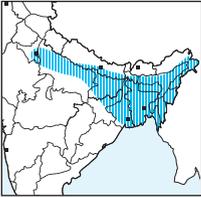
PLATE 3: DUCKS II



Green-winged Teal *Anas crecca*

34–38cm

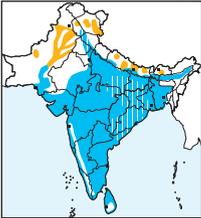
Widespread winter visitor. **ID** Male has chestnut head with green band behind eye, white stripe along scapulars, and yellowish patch on undertail-coverts. Female has rather uniform head, lacking pale loreal spot and dark cheek-bar of female Garganey, and has less prominent supercilium; further, bill often shows orange at base, and has prominent white streak at sides of undertail-coverts. Eclipse male much as female. In flight, both sexes have broad white band on greater coverts, and green speculum with narrow white trailing edge; forewing brown. **Voice** Male has distinctive soft, throaty whistle, *preep preep*. Female utters a sharp *quack* when flushed. **HH** During the day feeds by dabbling, head-dipping, upending and grazing on marshes, and forages in fields at night. Shallow inland freshwater and brackish wetlands. **AN** Common Teal.



Baikalk Teal *Sibirionetta formosa*

39–43cm

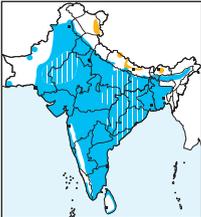
Winter visitor. N subcontinent. Vagrant: Pakistan, Nepal, Bhutan, Bangladesh. **ID** Male has white supercilium, striking dark green and yellow pattern to face, white vertical stripe on sides of breast, black undertail-coverts, and chestnut-edged scapulars. Female has complex (albeit variable) head pattern: typical birds show dark-bordered white loreal spot, buff supercilium broken above eye by dark crown, and white throat which curves up to form half-moon-shaped cheek-stripe. Both sexes have grey forewing, narrow chestnut greater covert wing-bar, and broad white trailing edge to wing in flight (recalling Northern Pintail). Eclipse male is like female but more rufous and with less well-defined loreal spot. **Voice** Chuckling *wat-wat-wat* by male. **HH** Large rivers and lakes. **TN** Formerly placed in *Anas*.



Garganey *Spatula querquedula*

37–41cm

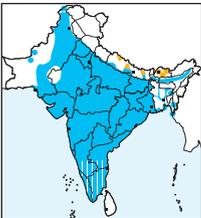
Widespread winter visitor. **ID** Male has white stripe behind eye, and brown breast contrasting with grey flanks; shows blue-grey forewing in flight. Female has more patterned head than female Green-winged Teal, with pale supercilium, whitish loreal spot, pale line below dark eye-stripe, dark cheek-bar, and whiter throat; in flight shows prominent white belly, grey forewing and broad white trailing edge to wing. Eclipse male is like female but has upperwing pattern of breeding male. **Voice** Male has dry cackling call if alarmed; female has Green-winged Teal-like quack. **HH** Usually keeps among emergent vegetation. Freshwater wetlands; also, coastal lagoons. **TN** Formerly placed in *Anas*.



Northern Shoveler *Spatula clypeata*

44–52cm

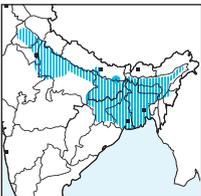
Widespread winter visitor. **ID** Long spatulate bill and bluish forewing. Male has dark green head, white breast, chestnut flanks and blue forewing. Female recalls female Mallard in plumage, but has greyish-blue forewing and lacks white trailing edge. Eclipse male recalls female, but is more rufous-brown, especially on flanks and belly, and has upperwing pattern of breeding male. Immature male resembles breeding male, but has black scaling on breast and flanks and whitish facial crescent between bill and eye. **Voice** Usually silent. **HH** Often feeds by sweeping the bill from side to side while swimming. All types of shallow fresh waters. **TN** Formerly placed in *Anas*.



Gadwall *Mareca strepera*

46–58cm

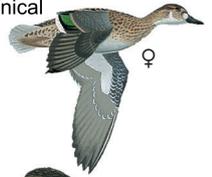
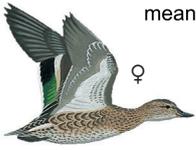
Widespread winter visitor. Vagrant: Sri Lanka. **ID** White patch on inner secondaries in all plumages (can be indistinct in female); lacking metallic speculum shown by Mallard. Male is mainly grey, with white belly and black rear end; bill is dark grey. Female like female Mallard; orange sides to dark bill, clear-cut white belly and white inner secondaries are best features. Eclipse male is similar to female but has more uniform grey upperparts and upperwing pattern of breeding male. **Voice** Usually silent. **HH** Feeds mainly by dipping head into shallow water; sometimes also by upending. Keeps close to emergent vegetation. Freshwater marshes and lakes with extensive aquatic and emergent vegetation. **TN** Formerly placed in *Anas*.



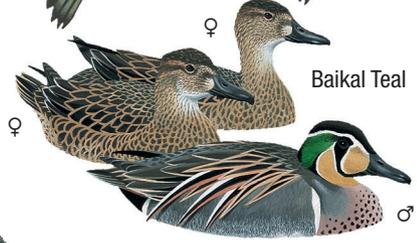
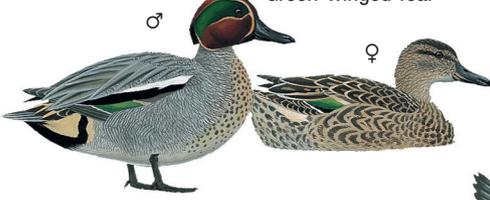
Falcated Duck *Mareca falcata*

46–54cm

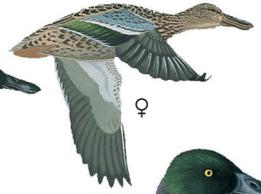
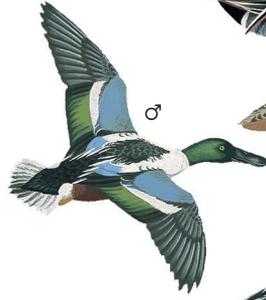
Winter visitor. N subcontinent. Vagrant: Pakistan, Bhutan. **ID** Male has bottle-green head with maned hindneck, white throat, elongated black-and-grey tertials, and black-bordered yellow patch at sides of vent; shows pale grey forewing in flight. Female has rather plain greyish head (with maned appearance), a dark bill, and variable greyish-white fringes to tertials; shows greyish forewing and white greater covert bar in flight (a useful feature when visible at rest); does not show white secondary patch and whitish belly of Gadwall. Eclipse male is like female, but has darker upperparts and paler grey forewing. **Voice** Distinctive loud, piercing whistle in flight; utters a chuckling note like that of male Mallard while swimming. **HH** Feeds mainly by dabbling and upending; usually keeps close to emergent vegetation. Lakes and large rivers. **TN** Formerly placed in *Anas*.



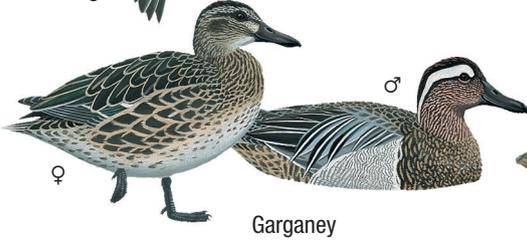
Green-winged Teal



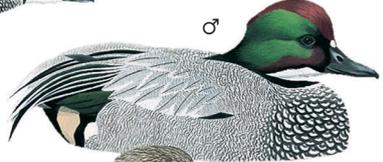
Baikal Teal



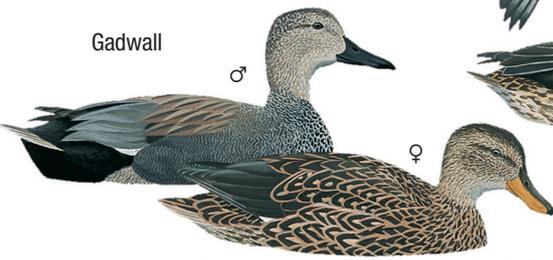
Northern Shoveler



Garganey

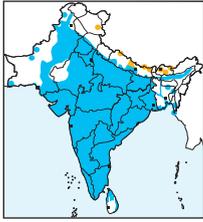


Gadwall



Falcated Duck

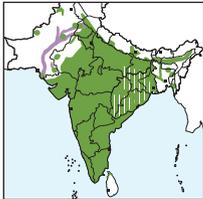
PLATE 4: DUCKS



Eurasian Wigeon *Mareca penelope*

45–51cm

Widespread winter visitor. **ID** Male has yellow forehead and forecrown, chestnut head, and pinkish breast; shows white forewing in flight. Female has rather uniform brownish head, breast and flanks. In all plumages, shows white belly and rather pointed tail in flight. Eclipse male is like female, but is more rufous on head and breast, and has white forewing. **Voice** Male has distinctive whistled *wheoooo* call and female a low growled *krrr*. **HH** Highly gregarious. Feeds chiefly by grazing on waterside grasslands and in wet paddyfields, grazes more than other ducks; also, feeds by dabbling at surface and by upending. Open lakes, reservoirs, rivers, pools, marshes, tidal creeks and saltmarshes. **TN** Formerly placed in *Anas*.



Indian Spot-billed Duck *Anas poecilorhyncha*

58–63cm

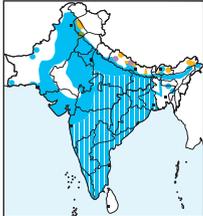
Widespread resident. Vagrant: Bhutan. **ID** Has yellow-tipped black bill, greyish-white head and neck with black crown and eye-stripe, blackish spotting on breast, white scalloping on flanks, and largely white tertials. In flight, wings appear dark except for white on tertials and white underwing-coverts. Male has prominent red loreal spot and is more strongly marked than female and juvenile (the red loreal spot is less conspicuous on female and lacking on juvenile). **Voice** As Mallard. **HH** Feeds by dabbling, head-dipping, upending, and walking among marsh vegetation. Freshwater marshes, lakes, irrigation tanks, and pools with extensive emergent vegetation.



Eastern Spot-billed Duck *Anas zonorhyncha*

58–63cm

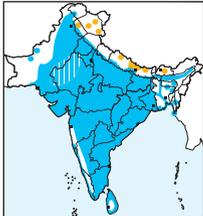
Visitor to N India, Bhutan and Nepal. Has yellow tip to bill like Indian Spot-billed. From Indian by lack of red loreal spot, diffusely marked breast, more uniform sooty-black upperparts and flanks, blue (rather than green) speculum, dark grey tertials (with whitish fringes), and dusky bar across cheeks. Sexes similar. **Voice** At least some calls like Mallard's. **HH** Similar to Indian Spot-billed's.



Mallard *Anas platyrhynchos*

50–65cm

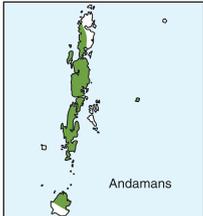
Breeds in Himalayas; widespread winter visitor. In all plumages, has white-bordered purplish speculum. Male has yellow bill, dark green head and purplish-chestnut breast, mainly grey body, and black rear end. Female is pale brown and boldly patterned with dark brown. Bill variable, patterned mainly in dull orange and dark brown. Eclipse male is like female, but with (less heavily marked) rusty-brown breast, blackish (glossed green) crown and eye-stripe, and uniform olive-yellow bill. **Voice** Male has soft, rasping *kreep*, and female a distinctive, laughing *quack-quack-quack-quack*. **HH** Feeds by dabbling, head-dipping, grazing and upending. Freshwater marshes, reed-edged lakes.



Northern Pintail *Anas acuta*

50–56cm

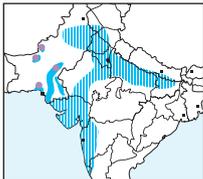
Widespread winter visitor. **ID** Long neck and pointed tail. Male has chocolate-brown head, with white stripe down sides of neck. Female has comparatively uniform buffish head, slender grey bill, and (as male) shows white trailing edge to secondaries and greyish underwing in flight. Eclipse male resembles female, but has grey tertials, and bill pattern and uperwing pattern as breeding male. **Voice** Male gives a mellow *prop prop*; female a descending series of weak quacks and a low croak when flushed. **HH** Forages at night in marshes and flooded paddyfields; roost by day on open waters with aquatic vegetation, freshwater marshes, brackish lagoons, and estuaries.



Andaman Teal *Anas albogularis*

37–47cm

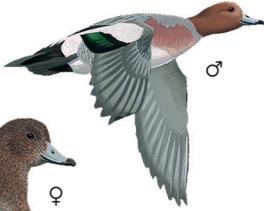
Resident. Andaman and Nicobar Islands. **ID** Compared with other teal species, has comparatively large head and slim neck; male has pronounced forehead. Brown, with variable white markings on head, and spotted underparts. Bill bluish. Typically has white throat and eye-patch, but occasionally head and neck are largely white, and juvenile has more uniform head, with whitish eye-ring and only slightly paler throat. In flight, shows white axillaries and broad white band across greater coverts. **Voice** Calls poorly known. Said to include a low soft whistle and low quacking. **HH** Freshwater pools and marshes; tidal creeks and paddyfields. **TN** Previously considered conspecific with Sunda Teal *Anas gibberifrons*.



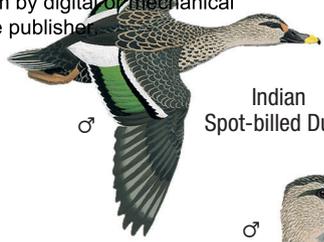
Marbled Duck *Marmaronetta angustirostris*

39–45.6cm

Breeds in Pakistan; winter visitor to N and NW India. **ID** Adult is pale sandy-brown with shaggy hood, dusky grey mask through eye, and diffuse buffish spotting on upperparts and underparts. In flight, has whitish underwing, rather uniform uperwing with pale brown coverts and greyish flight feathers, and pale leading edge to carpal. Juvenile similar to adult, but is more diffusely spotted and lacks shaggy hood. **Voice** Silent except during display. **HH** Feeds mainly by dabbling in shallow water; shy and secretive. Shallow freshwater lakes and ponds with extensive emergent vegetation. **AN** Marbled Teal.



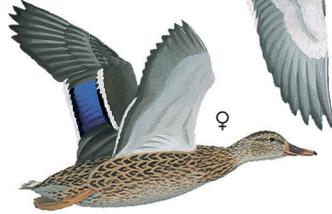
Eurasian Wigeon



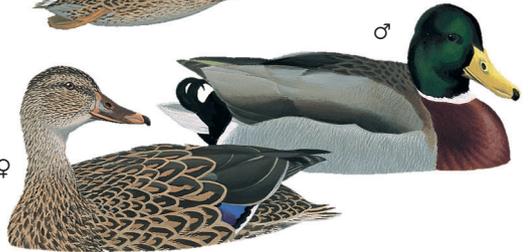
Indian Spot-billed Duck



Eastern Spot-billed Duck



Mallard



Northern Pintail



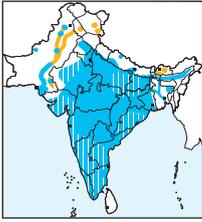
Andaman Teal



Marbled Duck



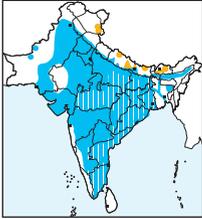
PLATE 5: DUCKS IV



Red-crested Pochard *Netta rufina*

53–57cm

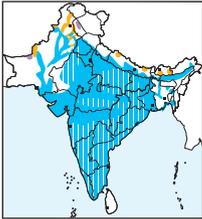
Widespread winter visitor; unrecorded in Sri Lanka. **ID** Large, with square-shaped head. Shape at rest and in flight more like a dabbling duck. Male has red bill, rusty-orange head, and white flanks which contrast with black breast and ventral region. Female has pale cheeks contrasting with brown cap, and dark bill with pink towards tip. Both sexes have largely white flight feathers on upperwing, and whitish underwing. Eclipse male very similar to female, but with reddish iris and bill. **Voice** Silent away from breeding grounds. **HH** Feeds chiefly by diving; occasionally by upending and head-dipping. Large lakes with fairly deep open water and plentiful submerged and fringing vegetation; occasionally rivers.



Common Pochard *Aythya ferina*

42–49cm

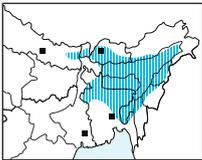
Widespread winter visitor; unrecorded in Sri Lanka. **ID** Large, with domed head. Pale grey flight feathers and grey forewing result in different upperwing pattern from other *Aythya* ducks. Male has chestnut head, black breast, and grey upperparts and flanks. Female has brownish head and breast contrasting with paler brownish-grey upperparts and flanks; usually shows indistinct pale patch on lores, and pale throat and streak behind eye. Eye of female is dark and bill has grey central band. Does not show white undertail-coverts of Ferruginous Duck. Eclipse male and immature male recall breeding male but are duller with browner breast. **Voice** Silent away from breeding grounds. **HH** Highly gregarious. Feeds chiefly by diving in open water. Lakes, jheels and reservoirs with large areas of open water; occasionally rivers. Globally threatened.



Ferruginous Duck *Aythya nyroca*

38–42cm

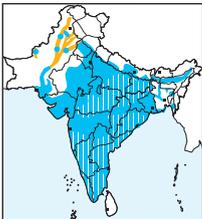
Breeds in Balochistan, Kashmir and Ladakh; widespread winter visitor. Smallest *Aythya* duck, with dome-shaped head. Breeding male is unmistakable, with rich chestnut head, neck and breast and white iris. Female is chestnut-brown on head, neck, breast and flanks, and has dark iris. Eclipse male resembles female, but is brighter on head and breast and has white iris. In flight, shows extensive white wing-bar extending further onto outer primaries than on other *Aythya* species; and striking white belly (less pronounced in female). **Voice** Silent away from breeding areas. **HH** Feeds chiefly by diving. Seeks refuge beyond the surf in coastal areas. Freshwater pools and irrigation tanks with extensive marginal and submerged vegetation; also, coastal lagoons. .



Baer's Pochard *Aythya baeri*

41–47cm

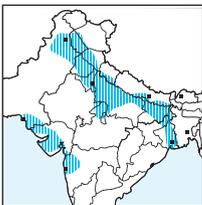
Winter visitor. Mainly NE India and Bangladesh. Vagrant: Pakistan, Bhutan. **ID** Greenish cast to dark head and neck, which contrast with chestnut-brown breast. White patch on fore flanks visible above water, and white undertail-coverts. Male has white iris. Female and immature male have duller head and breast than adult male. Female has dark iris and pale and diffuse chestnut-brown loreal spot. **Voice** Silent away from breeding areas. **HH** Feeds mainly by diving. Shy, usually found in pairs or small parties. Large rivers and lakes. Globally threatened.



Tufted Duck *Aythya fuligula*

40–47cm

Widespread winter visitor. Vagrant: Sri Lanka. **ID** Breeding male is glossy black, with prominent crest and white flanks. Eclipse/immature males duller, with greyish flanks, and less pronounced crest. Female is dusky brown, with paler flanks; some may show scaup-like white face patch, but they usually also show tufted nape and squarer head. Female has yellow iris; dark in female Common and Baer's Pochards and Ferruginous Duck. **Voice** Silent way from breeding grounds. **HH** Gregarious. Feeds in the day mainly by diving; also, upends, dips head or picks items from surface. Lakes and reservoirs with large open areas and deep enough to permit diving.



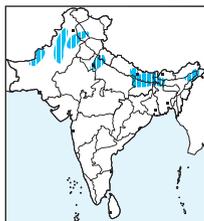
Greater Scaup *Aythya marila*

40–51cm

Winter visitor. N and NW subcontinent. Vagrant: Pakistan, Nepal, Bangladesh. **ID** Larger and stockier than Tufted Duck, with more rounded head and lacks any sign of crest. Bill is larger and wider, and has smaller black nail at tip than Tufted. Male has grey upperparts contrasting with black rear end and green gloss to blackish head. Female has broad white face patch, which is less extensive on juvenile/immature. Female usually has greyish-white vermiculations ('frosting') on upperparts and flanks. Eclipse/immature male has brownish-black head, neck and breast, and variable patch of grey on upperparts. **Voice** Silent except during display. **HH** Feeds mainly by diving, loafs in open water when not feeding. Large lakes and rivers.



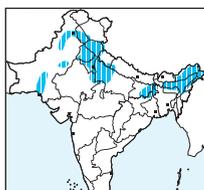
PLATE 6: DUCKS



Common Goldeneye *Bucephala clangula*

40–51cm

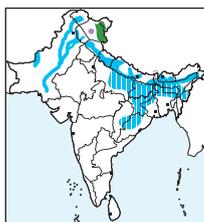
Winter visitor. N subcontinent. Vagrant: Bangladesh, Bhutan. **ID** Stocky, with bulbous head. Male has dark green head, with large white patch on lores, and black-and-white patterned upperparts. Female has brown head, indistinct whitish collar, and grey body, with white wing patch usually visible at rest. Immature male resembles female but shows pale laral spot and has some white in scapulars. Eclipse male resembles female, but wing pattern as breeding male. In flight, both sexes show distinctive white pattern on wing. **Voice** Silent except during display. **HH** Swims with body flattened, and partially spreads wings when diving. Feeds mainly by diving in daytime, group members often submerging simultaneously; occasionally dabbles and upends. Open-water areas in freshwater lakes and large rivers.



Smew *Mergellus albellus*

35–44cm

Winter visitor. N subcontinent. Vagrant: Nepal, Bangladesh. **ID** A small, stocky 'sawbill' with square-shaped head. In flight, both sexes show dark upperwing with white wing-covert patch. Male is mainly white, with black face, crest-stripe, breast stripes and back. Flanks are grey. Female, and first-winter and eclipse male, have chestnut cap and white cheeks, and mainly dark grey body. **Voice** Generally silent. **HH** Feeds diurnally, mainly by diving; members of a flock typically submerge in unison or in quick succession. Freshwater lakes, rivers and Himalayan streams.



Common Merganser *Mergus merganser*

54–71cm

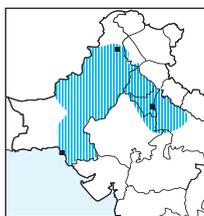
Breeds in Ladakh, Nepal? Winters mainly in N subcontinent. Vagrant: Bangladesh. **ID** Male has dark green head and whitish breast and flanks (with variable pink wash). Shows extensive white patch on wing-coverts and secondaries in flight. Female and eclipse/immature male have chestnut head and upper neck with shaggy crest, which contrasts with white throat and greyish neck, and show white secondaries in flight. Eclipse male has upperwing pattern like breeding male. **Voice** Silent except during display. **HH** Usually in small parties. Forages in daytime, often fishing cooperatively. Feeds mainly by diving, usually after scanning with head submerged. An expert swimmer and diver. Flight usually follows the watercourse. Lakes, rivers and streams; occasionally coastal waters in Pakistan. **AN** Goosander.



Red-breasted Merganser *Mergus serrator*

51–64cm

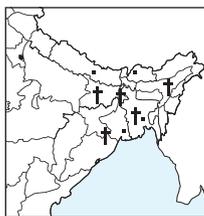
Winter visitor. Mainly Pakistan. Vagrant: India, Nepal, Bangladesh. **ID** Male has spiky crest, white collar, ginger breast, and grey flanks. Female and eclipse/immature male more closely resemble respective plumages of Common and are best told by slimmer appearance, with slimmer bill, and narrower head with weaker and more ragged crest. Chestnut of head and upper neck is duller and contrasts less with grey lower neck and breast, throat is only slightly paler, and has browner body. In flight, white wing patch is broken by black bar, unlike on Common. **Voice** Silent, except during display. **HH** Habits like Common Merganser's. Coastal waters in Pakistan; large rivers and lakes.



White-headed Duck *Oxyura leucocephala*

43–48cm

Winter visitor. Pakistan and N India. **ID** Swollen base to bill and pointed tail, which is often held erect. Breeding male has white head with black cap, and bright blue bill. Eclipse male has duller, less rufous body, grey bill, and black of cap more extensive and less clearly defined. Female and juvenile have grey bill, and striped head pattern (with dark cap, pale stripe below eye and dark stripe across cheeks). Immature male can have much black on head, which can even be all black. **Voice** Silent except during display. **HH** Very reluctant to fly; prefers to escape by diving or by swimming away while partially submerged. Large fresh waters, lakes and brackish lagoons with extensive submerged aquatic vegetation. Globally threatened.



Pink-headed Duck *Rhodonessa caryophyllacea*

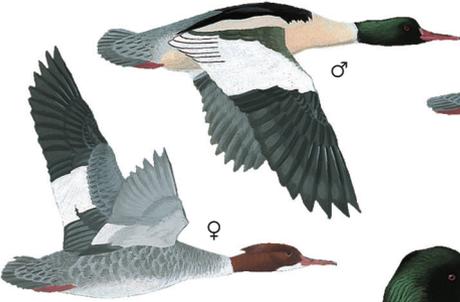
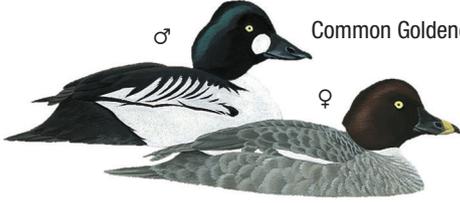
60cm

May be extinct. Mainly NE India. Nepal: one on passage collected in 19th century. Bangladesh: former rare resident. **ID** Long neck and body and triangular head. Male has combination of pink head and hindneck, and dark brown foreneck and body; bill pink. Female similar, but with paler, dull brown body, greyish-pink head, and brownish crown and hindneck. In flight, pale fawn secondaries, contrasting dark forewing, and pale pink underwing with dark body. **Voice** Male has a low weak whistle and female a low quack. **HH** Shy and secretive. Fed by dabbling on the water surface but could also dive; occasionally perched in trees. Secluded pools and marshes in elephant-grass jungle. Globally threatened.



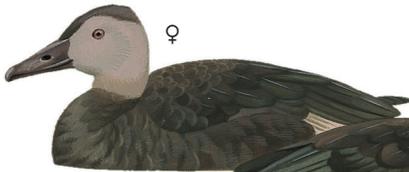
Common Goldeneye

Smew



Red-breasted Merganser

Common Merganser

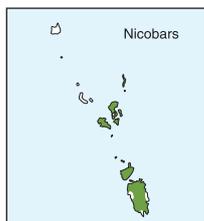


Pink-headed Duck



White-headed Duck

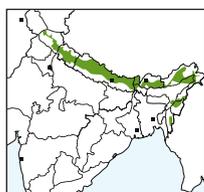
PLATE 7: NICOBAR MEGAPODE AND ARBOROPHILA PARTRIDGES



Nicobar Megapode *Megapodius nicobariensis*

37–43cm

Resident. Nicobars. **ID** Robust with very large legs and feet, and crested appearance. Chestnut-brown upperparts, cinnamon-brown to brownish-grey underparts, and bare red facial skin. Immature has bare facial skin restricted to lores and around eye. **Voice** Male's territorial call is *kyououououu-kyou-kou-koukoukoukoukou*, rising in pitch on the first note and gradually decreasing over the staccato series; contact call a cackling *kuk-a-kuk-kuk*. **HH** Partly nocturnal. Forages by scratching in leaf litter. Often run about calling noisily to each other. Forest undergrowth by sandy beaches. Globally threatened.



Hill Partridge *Arborophila torqueola*

28–30cm

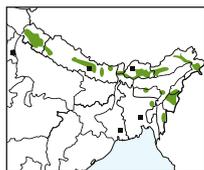
Resident. Himalayas and NE India. **ID** Male from Rufous-throated Partridge by orange to chestnut crown and orange ear-coverts, black eye-patch and eye-stripe, white neck-sides heavily streaked with black, and white collar. Female has grey-brown crown and ear-coverts, lacks white collar of male and is easily confusable with Rufous-throated. From this species by buff supercilium (although it can be greyish-white and more like Rufous-throated), black barring on mantle (best definitive feature), and lacks black border between duller rufous-orange foreneck and grey breast. Legs and feet are duller orangish or pinkish-brown (more strikingly pink or reddish in Rufous-throated). **Voice** Smoothly rising and mournful *whoop* repeated. **HH** Keeps in thick cover. Digs for food among leaves and humus on the forest floor. Ravines and slopes in damp, dense broadleaved, evergreen forest.



Chestnut-breasted Partridge *Arborophila mandellii*

28–30cm

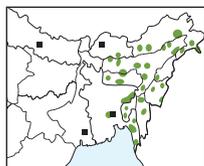
Resident. Very local in E Himalayas. **ID** From other *Arborophila* by combination of greyish supercilium, white collar bordered below with black, black-spotted orange throat and sides of neck, and chestnut crown and breast. Sexes are similar. **Voice** Includes a series of fluty, long-drawn melancholy whistles ascending to a climax. **HH** Habits like White-cheeked. Dense undergrowth with bamboo in broadleaved evergreen forest.



Rufous-throated Partridge *Arborophila rufogularis*

26–29cm

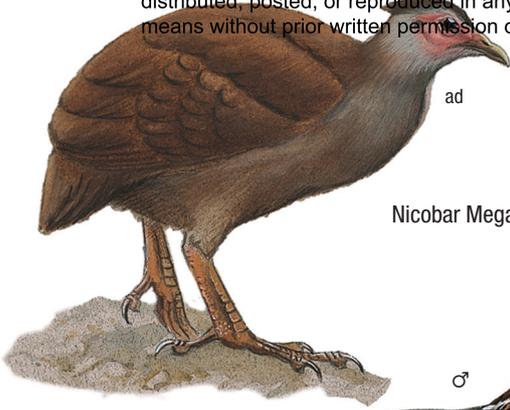
Resident. Himalayas, NE India and Bangladesh. **ID** Sexes similar unlike Hill Partridge, both with rufous-orange throat and neck with black streaking. Broad greyish-white supercilium and grey-brown crown, lack of orange cheek-patch, and lack of white collar, means separation from male Hill is straightforward. Best told from female Hill by broad greyish-white supercilium, diffuse white mustachial stripe, unbarred mantle, variable black border between rufous-orange foreneck and grey breast, and brighter pink or reddish legs and feet. *A. r. intermedia*, east and south of Brahmaputra River, has brighter orange foreneck, black throat, and lacks black border to breast. **Voice** Several well-spaced plaintive, drawn-out whistles leading into a varying series of repeated double notes, gradually increasing in pitch and volume, *whuu... whuu... whu-hu... whu-hu... whu-hu... whu-hu*. **HH** Habits similar to Hill's. Dense understorey of moist broadleaved evergreen forest and second growth.



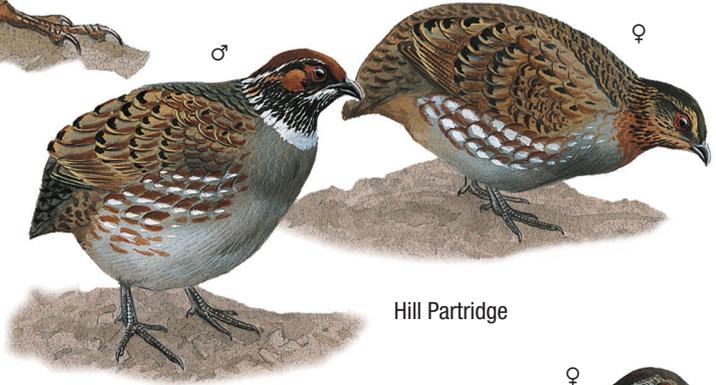
White-cheeked Partridge *Arborophila atrogularis*

25–28cm

Resident. E Himalayas, NE India, and Bangladesh. **ID** White supercilium and cheeks, black mask and throat, barred upperparts, black-streaked orange-yellow hindneck, and absence of rufous streaking on flanks. Sexes similar. **Voice** Accelerating and ascending series of 12–18 far-carrying, throaty *whew* notes, ending abruptly. **HH** Feeds in scattered groups. Flushes suddenly from almost underfoot. Bamboo thickets and undergrowth in less dense broadleaved forests than those inhabited by Hill and Rufous-throated.



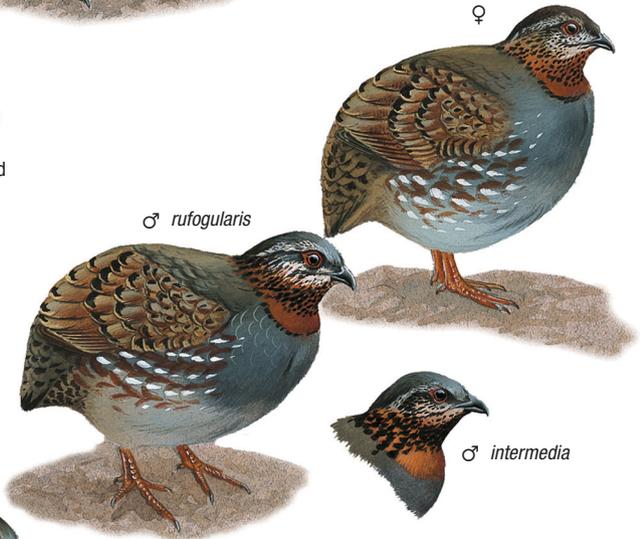
Nicobar Megapode



Hill Partridge



Chestnut-breasted Partridge

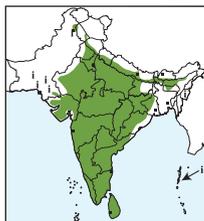


Rufous-throated Partridge



White-cheeked Partridge

PLATE 8: PEAFOWLS AND SPURFOWLS



Indian Peafowl *Pavo cristatus*

M 185–225cm, F 95cm

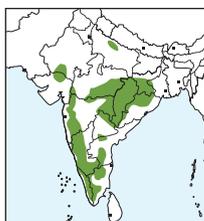
Resident. India, SE Pakistan, Nepal and Bhutan. **ID** Male has blue neck and breast, and spectacular glossy green train of elongated uppertail-covert feathers with numerous ocelli. Female lacks train; has whitish face and throat, bronze-green neck, brown upperparts and white belly. Primaries of female are brown (chestnut in male). First-year male is like female, but head and neck are usually blue, and primaries are chestnut with dark brown mottling. Second-year male has a short train, which lacks ocelli and is barred with green and brown. Length of train increases until fifth or sixth year. **Voice** Trumpeting, far-carrying and mournful *kee-ow*, *kee-ow*, *kee-ow*. Also, series of short, gasping screams, *ka-an... ka-an... ka-an*, repeated 6–8 times, and *kok-kok* and *cain-kok* when alarmed. **HH** Gregarious. Roosts in tall trees. Emerges from dense thickets in early mornings and afternoons to feed in forest clearings and fields at forest edges. Protected in parts of India for religious or cultural reasons where it has become very tame; quite shy and secretive where hunted. In the wild state inhabits dense riverine vegetation and undergrowth in sal forest, often near streams; where semi-feral found in villages and cultivation.



Green Peafowl *Pavo muticus*

M 180–300cm, F 100–110cm

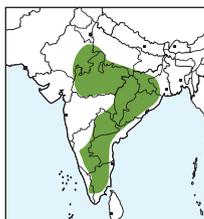
Former resident? NE India and Bangladesh. **ID** Male has erect tufted crest, and is mainly green, with long green train of elongated uppertail-covert feathers with numerous ocelli. Female lacks long train, otherwise like male, but upperparts are browner. Immature male resembles female; has long train, lacking ocelli, by second year **Voice** Male gives far-carrying, repeated *ki-wao* from roost site, less harsh and piercing than Indian's similar call. Female gives loud *aow-aa* with emphasis on first syllable, often repeated after short interval. **HH** Habits like Indian's, but extremely shy everywhere and generally does not emerge into forest clearings and edges. Dense forest near streams and clearings. Globally threatened.



Red Spurfowl *Galloperdix spadicea*

35.5–38cm

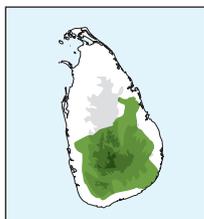
Resident. India. **ID** Red facial skin and legs/feet. Male of nominate has brownish-grey head and neck and darker brown crown, rufous upperparts and underparts scaled with grey and buff, and brownish-black unbarred tail. Female of nominate has browner head and neck, buffish-brown upperparts with bold blackish markings, rufous underparts with irregular blackish barring, and buff barring on tail. Male *stewarti* of Kerala is deeper chestnut-red than nominate. Male *caurina* of Rajasthan and parts of Gujarat is paler and less rufous than nominate; female has paler, more rufous-brown upperparts, which lack bold black mottling of female nominate. **Voice** Male gives a crowing *k-r-r-r-kwek*, *kr-kr-kwek*, *kr-kr-kwek* repeated rapidly. Harsh, cackling *kuk-kuk-kuk-kukaak* in alarm. **HH** Very skulking and rarely flushed. When startled runs off rapidly, dashing from one thicket to another. Dense scrub, bamboo thickets and second growth.



Painted Spurfowl *Galloperdix lunulata*

27–34cm

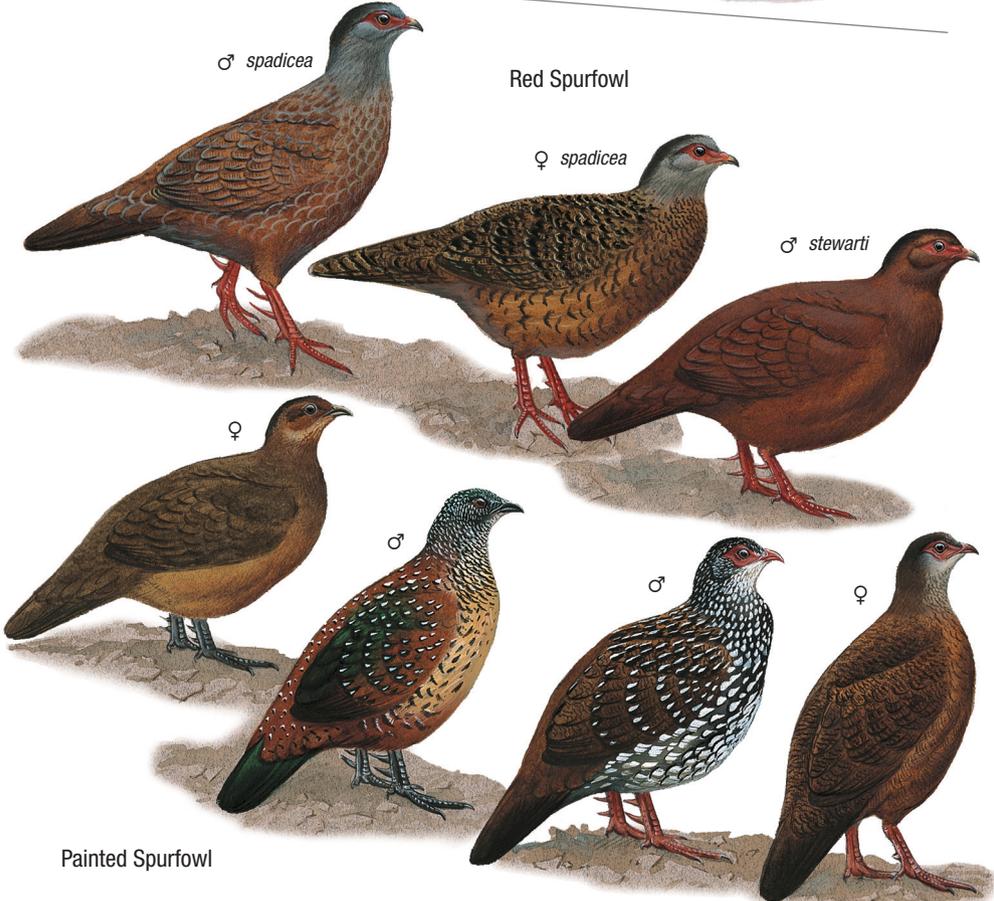
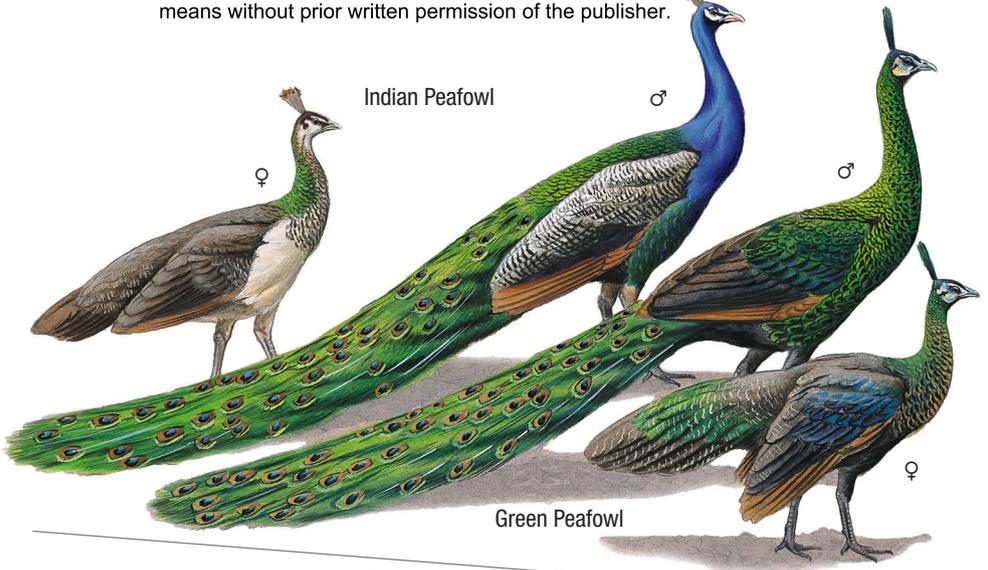
Resident. India. **ID** Dark bill and legs/feet. Male has greenish-black head and neck barred with white, chestnut-red upperparts and yellowish-buff underparts with spotting and barring. Female from female Red Spurfowl by dark olive-brown upperparts and breast (becoming paler brownish-buff on lower breast and belly); buff throat and malar stripe; chestnut forehead, supercilium and ear-coverts; absence of red facial skin, and dark legs and feet. **Voice** Fowl-like cackling; also a loud, rapidly repeated *chur*, *chur*, *chur*. **HH** If disturbed, sprints away clucking as it goes. If hard pressed will fly a few metres, then run again or hide among rocks. Very secretive. Dry stony foothills with dense thorn scrub or bamboo thickets.



Sri Lanka Spurfowl *Galloperdix bicalcarata*

30–35.5cm

Resident. Sri Lanka. **ID** Red facial skin and legs/feet. Male is boldly streaked and spotted with white; back and rump are chestnut and tail black. Female has chestnut upperparts with blackish vermiculations, rufous underparts, dark brown crown and whitish chin and throat. **Voice** Song is a duet, male uttering a shrill *kik-kik-kik-kikeeyu* repeated about five times, followed by a repeated, very loud musical *yuhuhu-yuyu-yuyu...*, female interposing a softer, sharp, whistling *ki-ki-ki-ki-ki*, each series rising in pitch and volume, both sexes ending with yet another similar series, and replied to by other pairs in the neighbourhood. **HH** Very shy and secretive. Tall, undisturbed, dense forest.

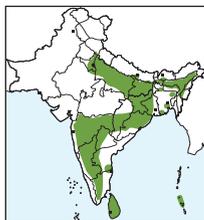




See-see Partridge *Ammoperdix griseogularis*

22–25cm

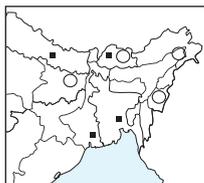
Resident. Pakistan. **ID** Lacks black throat gorget of Chukar. Bill orange and legs/feet yellowish. Shows rufous tail in flight. Male has white eye-stripe, black supercilium and chestnut-and-black flank stripes. Female rather plain with cream supercilium and throat, grey flecking on neck, diffuse flank striping, and pinkish-buff and grey vermiculations on mantle and breast. **Voice** Male gives far-carrying and repeated *wheet-div* or *hoe-it* from an exposed position, the first syllable possessing a whiplash quality. **HH** Active in early morning and at dusk. Very confiding where not hunted. Reluctant to fly when disturbed, escapes by rapid running and agile climbing. Dry rocky foothills with light scrub, sand dunes and edges of cultivation in narrow valleys.



Blue-breasted Quail *Synoicus chinensis*

12–15cm

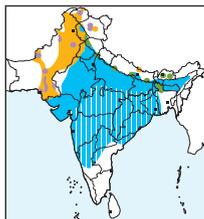
Widespread resident; unrecorded in north-west. **ID** Small size. Male has black-and-white patterned throat, slaty-blue flanks, and chestnut belly. Overall appearance is very dark with white on throat. Female like *Coturnix* quails but noticeably smaller, with rufous-buff forehead and supercilium, barred breast and flanks, and more uniform upperparts. **Voice** Typical call is a high-pitched series of two or three descending piping notes, *ti-yu* or *quee-kee-kew*. **HH** Habits like Common. Keeps in pairs or small family parties. Wet grassland, marshes, paddyfield edges and scrub. **AN** King Quail. **TN** Formerly placed in *Coturnix*.



Japanese Quail *Coturnix japonica*

17–19cm

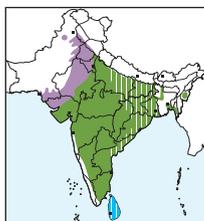
Winter visitor, probably breeds. Assam and Bhutan. **ID** Breeding male has rufous face and throat, with suggestion of dark anchor mark in some; pattern of throat in non-breeding male and female much as Common and probably indistinguishable in the field. In non-breeding plumage both sexes have pointed and elongated throat feathers, forming short 'beard'. **Voice** Best told from Common Quail by very different song: explosive, rasping, unmusical and often loud, barked *churck-chur-rr* repeated at c.10-second intervals. **HH** Habits like those of Common Quail. Crops and grassland.



Common Quail *Coturnix coturnix*

16–20cm

Widespread but erratic winter visitor and passage migrant, mainly in north. **ID** Male has black 'anchor' mark on throat and buff gorget, although head pattern is variable and black anchor lacking in some. Some males have rufous face and throat, with or without black anchor (and are thus very similar to Japanese Quail). Female has less striking head pattern and lacks black anchor; probably indistinguishable from female Japanese. **Voice** Song is a far-carrying *whit, whit-tit* repeated in quick succession. **HH** Secretive. Usually occurs singly or in pairs. If flushed rises rapidly with whirring wingbeats and brief glides on down-turned wings, plunging into cover again. In breeding areas males sing persistently in early morning, evening, and sometimes during the day. Crops, paddy stubbles and grassland.



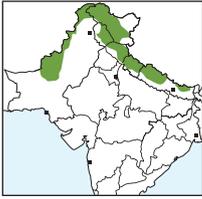
Rain Quail *Coturnix coromandelica*

16–18cm

Widespread resident, with some nomadic movement. Vagrant: Nepal, Bangladesh. **ID** Male similar in appearance to male Common, but has more strongly marked head pattern, variable black breast-patch and streaking on flanks, and cinnamon sides to neck and breast. Female smaller than female Japanese and Common; with unbarred primaries. **Voice** Utters a loud, metallic and high-pitched *whit-whit* repeated in runs of 3–5 calls. **HH** Habits like Common Quail. Sometimes in parties up to six birds. During breeding season in the monsoon can be heard frequently throughout the day. Crops, grassland, paddy stubbles, grass and scrub jungle.



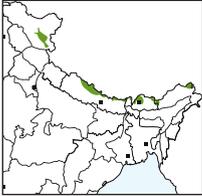
PLATE 10: CHUKAR, SNOWCOCKS AND PARTRIDGES.



Chukar *Alectoris chukar*

34–38cm

Resident. Pakistan hills and Himalayas. **ID** A stocky, medium-sized partridge. Has black stripe through eye which extends to form black gorget, encircling creamy-white throat; broad chestnut and black rib-like bars on flanks, and bright red bill and legs. Displays rufous corners to tail in flight. Sexes similar, female lacking leg spurs. **Voice** Utters a rapidly repeated *chuck, chuck-aa*; when flushed, an anxious 'rolled together' *chuck, chuck, chuck*. **HH** If flushed the covey disperses, flying very fast and strongly, and in hilly regions flies downhill hugging the contours. Open, arid rocky hills, barren hillsides with scattered scrub, grassy slopes, dry terraced cultivation, and stony ravines near a water source. **AN** Chukar Partridge.



Tibetan Snowcock *Tetraogallus tibetanus*

50–56cm

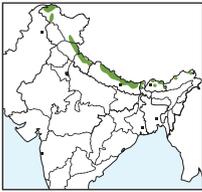
Resident. Himalayas. **ID** From Himalayan Snowcock by prominent white patch on ear-coverts offset against grey of head and neck, double band of grey across upper breast (absent, or just a single band, on some birds), white underparts with broad black flank stripes, and more pronounced whitish fringes to coverts and scapulars. Bill strikingly pinkish or orange with variable patch of red facial skin behind eye. In flight, wing pattern is very different, Tibetan showing only a small amount of white in primaries but extensive white in secondaries. Also has chestnut coloration on rump and uppertail-coverts. **Voice** Similar to Himalayan's: a subdued chuckling becoming louder and reaching a climax, a whistle and a call reminiscent of Eurasian Curlew. **HH** Habits like Himalayan's. Alpine rocky slopes and ridges and alpine meadows.



Himalayan Snowcock *Tetraogallus himalayensis*

55–74cm

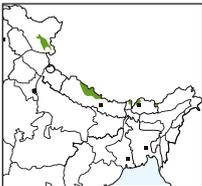
Resident. Himalayas. **ID** Distinguished from Tibetan by dark chestnut stripes down sides of largely white neck which join to form band across upper breast, greyish-white breast (variably barred with black) contrasting with dark grey underparts; strong contrast between pale grey hindneck/upper-mantle and dark grey rest of upperparts. Bill grey with variable patch of yellowish facial skin around eye. In flight, Himalayan shows extensive white in primaries but little or none in secondaries, and greyish coloration on rump and uppertail-coverts. **Voice** Makes a far-carrying inflected whistle ending on two shorter, rising whistled notes, *cour-lee-whi-whi* repeated at intervals and reminiscent of Eurasian Curlew; also, a *chok, chok, chok* which often accelerates into a rapid chatter. **HH** Escapes by running uphill or, if pressed, by flying a long distance very fast downhill before settling. Alpine pastures near the snowline, bare stony ridges, and steep slopes.



Snow Partridge *Lerwa lerwa*

30–40cm

Resident. Himalayas. **ID** Has head, neck, upper breast and upperparts finely vermiculated dark brown and white, with a chestnut wash. Underparts are heavily streaked with chestnut. Bill, legs and feet are red. Sexes are similar. Shows a narrow white trailing edge to wings in flight, blackish primaries and finely barred tail. **Voice** Male gives repeated whistle *jjiu, jjiu, jjiu* that increases in speed and pitch. **HH** Very tame where not hunted. When disturbed, plunges downhill with much wing clattering. Close to the snowline on steep rocky or grassy slopes interspersed with dwarf scrub.



Tibetan Partridge *Perdix hodgsoniae*

28–31cm

Resident. N Himalayas. **ID** Has white supercilium, black patch on white face, rufous hindneck, and black-and-rufous barring on underparts (with variable black patch on belly). Shows rufous tail in flight. *P. h. caraganae* of the NW Himalayas has paler rufous-orange collar and is paler overall compared to the nominate subspecies. **Voice** Male gives rattling and repeated *scherrrreck-scherrrreck* from a large rock; when flushed a shrill *chee, chee, chee, chee*. **HH** When disturbed runs fast uphill, calling loudly, if pressed scatters in different directions and dives downhill. Trans-Himalayan semi-desert and rocky slopes with scattered dwarf scrub.



Chukar



Tibetan Snowcock



Himalayan Snowcock

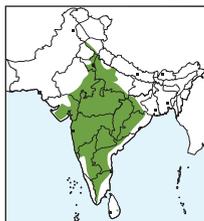


Snow Partridge



Tibetan Partridge

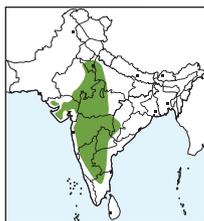
PLATE 11: BUSH QUAILS AND HIMALAYAN QUAIL



Jungle Bush Quail *Perdica asiatica*

15–18cm

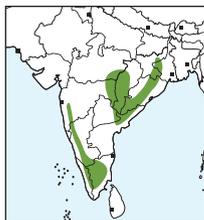
Widespread resident; unrecorded in NW and NE subcontinent. **ID** Male has strongly barred underparts, rufous-orange throat and supercilium (latter edged broadly above and narrowly below with white), variable white moustachial stripe (some with rufous-orange centre), well-defined brown ear-coverts, and orange-buff vent. Female has unbarred vinaceous-buff underparts, with head pattern like male. **Voice** A harsh grating *chee-chee-chuck*, *chee-chee-chuck*; also, soft musical whistling *whi-whi-whi-whi-whi-whi* after covey has scattered. **HH** Found in coveys of up to 20 birds outside the breeding season. Uses a network of runs through the grass to move in single file between feeding grounds. When approached, birds in a covey bunch up and squat low before suddenly bursting into flight in all directions with a loud whirring of wings. Soon reassemble by making rallying calls to each other. Dry grass and scrub and deciduous forest; chiefly on dry and stony ground.



Rock Bush Quail *Perdica argoondah*

15–18cm

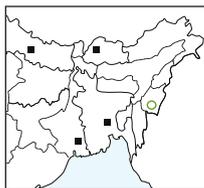
Resident. Mainly C and W India. **ID** Male has strongly barred underparts and rufous-orange throat, and is superficially similar to Jungle Bush Quail. Head pattern is subtly different; has a pronounced whitish supercilium but sides to crown are rufous-orange. In Jungle, the supercilium is rufous-orange and is strikingly edged above with white. Upperparts of Rock are more uniform and generally lack the bold black blotching on the scapulars of Jungle, and the vent is concolorous with the underparts. Female has vinaceous-buff underparts, including throat and ear-coverts, and whitish supercilium. Head pattern of female much plainer, and upperparts more uniform, than in female Jungle. **Voice** Song a long piping series starting as a rapid trill, rising in volume and slightly in pitch, becoming more strident, then changing into disyllabic, more scratchy notes. The trill is like Jungle's but slower and less uniform. **HH** Habits like Jungle's. Dry rocky and sandy areas thinly vegetated with thorn scrub in plains and foothills. Found in less well vegetated and stonier country than Jungle.



Painted Bush Quail *Perdica erythrorhyncha*

16–18cm

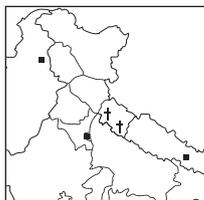
Resident. Mainly Western and Eastern Ghats. **ID** Black spotting on upperparts and flanks, and red bill and legs. Male has white supercilium and throat, and black chin and mask. Female has rufous supercilium, ear-coverts and throat. **Voice** Male's breeding call is a pleasant *kirikee*, *kirikee*. Contact calls involve very soft whistles, rising, then falling again. **HH** Habits similar to those of Jungle Bush Quail. In coveys of up to 15 birds for most of the year. Forages in more open areas in mornings and evenings. Often dust-bathes at edges of tracks. Thin scrub and scrub at forest edges, often interspersed with cultivation in plains and foothills.



Manipur Bush Quail *Perdica manipurensis*

19–20cm

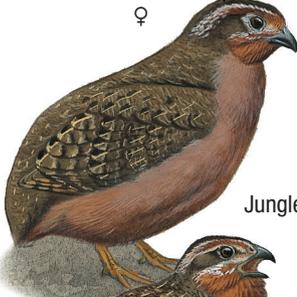
Very rare and local resident. NE India. No recent accepted records. **ID** White eye-patch, dark olive-grey upperparts, and golden-buff underparts with black cross-shaped markings. Male has chestnut forehead and throat, which are brownish-grey on female. *P. m. inglisi* (north of Brahmaputra River) is paler, greyer and less boldly marked with black than nominate. **Voice** A clear, softly whistled *whit-it-it-t-t*, with each successive note slightly higher in tone. **HH** Keeps in parties of 6–8 birds. Very secretive and mainly stays in dense cover; may move into shorter grass at dawn. Most easily located by its distinctive call. Tall moist grassland and scrub in foothills; also swamps. Globally threatened.



Himalayan Quail *Ophrysia superciliosa*

25cm

Uttaranchal, W Himalayas in India. No records since 1876 but considered probably still extant by BirdLife International because of difficulty of detection. **ID** Red bill and legs/feet. Both sexes with white marks in front of and behind eye. Male with black-and-white patterned head, including white supercilium and patch on ear-coverts. Body brownish-slate, streaked with black, with white-barred undertail-coverts. Female with greyish-cinnamon supercilium, ear-coverts and throat, broken by brown eye-stripe. Body cinnamon-brown, marked with black. Tail long, broad and rounded. **Voice** A shrill whistle when disturbed. Contact call when feeding low, short and quail-like. **HH** In coveys of 6–12 birds. Rarely left thick cover and very reluctant to take flight, preferring to run in and out between grass stalks. If flushed, birds flew slowly and heavily, soon dropped into vegetation and reunited by using shrill whistles. Long grass and brushwood on steep slopes. Globally threatened.



Jungle Bush Quail



Rock Bush Quail



Painted Bush Quail



manipurensis

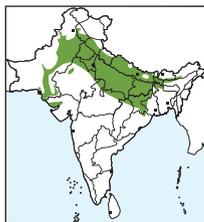


Himalayan Quail



Manipur Bush Quail

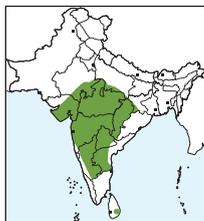
PLATE 12: FRANCOLINS



Black Francolin *Francolinus francolinus*

31–36cm

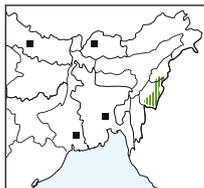
Resident. N subcontinent. **ID** Male has black face with white ear-cover patch, rufous collar, and black underparts with white spotting on flanks. Female from female Painted Francolin by rufous hindneck, dark stripe behind eye, streaked (rather than spotted) appearance to mantle, and dark-barred rather than white-spotted appearance to underparts (although underparts can be like Painted). Shows blackish tail in flight. **Voice** Loud, penetrating, frequently repeated, harsh *kar-kar, kee, ke-kee*. **HH** Active early mornings and late afternoons, returning into cover in heat of day. If much disturbed, escapes by running away swiftly, or flies off strongly and at great speed. Requires good ground cover and water close by. Cultivation, tea estates, tall grass and scrub in plains and hills.



Painted Francolin *Francolinus pictus*

31–32cm

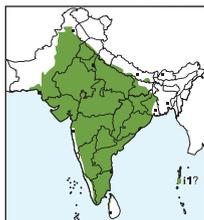
Resident. Peninsular India and Sri Lanka. **ID** Sexes similar, with plain, rufous-orange face (and often throat), and bold white spotting on upperparts and underparts. Vent rufous (pale in Grey Francolin). Shows blackish tail in flight. **Voice** Gives a *click... cheek-cheek-keray*, almost indistinguishable from Black. **HH** Very skulking and if disturbed will squat in cover. Leaves cover to forage in early morning and late afternoon. Males call throughout day in breeding season. Tall thick grassland and cultivation with scattered trees and bushes; open forest; partial to thick cover.



Chinese Francolin *Francolinus pintadeanus*

31–34cm

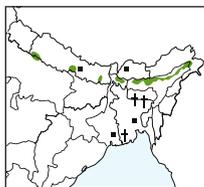
Very local resident. Manipur. **ID** Male striking with orange-buff sides of crown, black eye-stripe, white ear-coverts and throat divided by black moustachial stripe, chestnut scapulars, and extensive white spotting on underparts. Female similar, but less strikingly marked and upperparts browner and heavily barred. Shows blackish tail in flight. **Voice** From prominent post or stump male gives a series of 5–6 loud, harsh, metallic notes, *kak-kak-kuich, ka-ka* or *wi-ta-tak-takaa*. **HH** Very skulking and remains under cover. Very noisy in breeding season. Dry open dipterocarp forest and oak scrub in hills.



Grey Francolin *Ortygornis pondicerianus*

30–35cm

Widespread resident in lowlands and low hills; unrecorded in north-east. **ID** Plain buffish face, and buffish-white throat with fine necklace of dark spotting. Finely barred upperparts and underparts. Shows rufous tail in flight. The nominate subspecies of S peninsular India and Sri Lanka has a buffish-orange coloration to face and throat, and has darker, more chestnut upperparts and breast, compared to northern *F. p. interpositus* and *F. p. mecranensis* (which are paler and greyer, and have a whiter throat). **Voice** Makes a rapidly repeated *khateeja-khateeja-khateeja*; also, softer, more whistling *kila-kila-kila*, and a high, whirring *khirr-khirr*. **HH** Keeps in pairs or small groups which roost together in scrub. Usually escapes by running, seldom flies. Dry open grass plains and thorn scrub, often near dry cultivation, and stony semi-desert. **TN** Formerly placed in *Francolinus*.



Swamp Francolin *Ortygornis gularis*

36–38cm

Very local resident in lowland strip south of Himalayas from Nepal and N Uttar Pradesh east to Assam. **ID** Rufous-orange throat, buff supercilium and cheek-stripe (separated by dark eye-stripe), finely barred upperparts, and bold white streaking on underparts. Sexes similar, male with large leg spur. Shows rufous primaries and tail in flight. **Voice** A loud *kew-care* when alarmed, occasional *qua, qua, qua* ascending in tone, and a harsh *chukeroo, chukeroo, chukeroo* preceded by several chuckles and croaks. May sound like Grey Francolin but louder. **HH** In marshes often wades through shallow water or mud and climbs up onto reeds in deep water. Reluctant to fly, but if flushed, it rises clumsily and noisily with loud chuckling and whirring of wings. Roosts in thorny trees and on broken reeds in swamps. Tall wet grassland and swamps. **TN** Formerly placed in *Francolinus*.

♀



Black Francolin

♂



♀



Painted Francolin

♂



♀



Chinese Francolin

♂



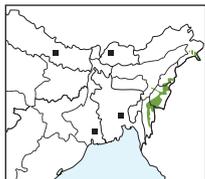
Grey Francolin



Swamp Francolin



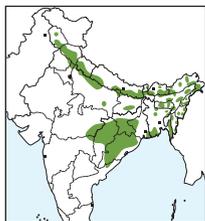
PLATE 13: BAMBOO PARTRIDGE AND JUNGLEFOWLS



Mountain Bamboo Partridge *Bambusicola fytchii*

32–37cm

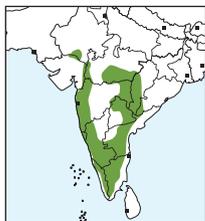
Resident. NE India and Bangladesh. **ID** Long tail, orange throat, chestnut spotting on breast and upperparts, blackish spotting on flanks, and buffish supercilium. Male has prominent blackish eye-stripe which extends to nape; it is rufous and less pronounced in female. Shows rufous in primaries and sides of tail in flight. **Voice** Similar call to Black Francolin but less shrill and high-pitched: resonant *che-chirree-che-chirree, chirree, chirree, chirree*. Males are very noisy in spring, calling from a mound or tree stump. **HH** Keeps in parties of up to five or six birds outside the breeding season. Shy, coming into the open to feed only in early mornings and evenings. Difficult to flush, flies rapidly a short distance before landing again in dense grass or trees. Thick grass; scrub in foothills.



Red Junglefowl *Gallus gallus*

M 65–78cm, F 41–46cm

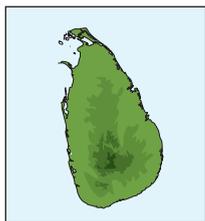
Resident. Himalayas, NE and E India, and Bangladesh. **ID** Male has rufous-orange hackles, blackish-brown underparts, rufous wing-panel, white tail-base, and long greenish-black, sickle-shaped tail. There is an eclipse plumage, after the summer moult, when the hackles are replaced by short, dark brown feathers, and the central tail feathers are lacking. Female has 'shawl' of elongated (edged golden-buff, black-centred) feathers, rufous head, and naked reddish face. Immature male much duller than adult male; hackles less developed (with black centres); lacks elongated central tail feathers. **Voice** Male's loud *cock-a-doodle-doo* is very similar to a crowing domestic cockerel; both sexes make cackling and clucking notes. **HH** Frequently wary and very secretive, though confiding where not hunted. If flushed, rises cackling with a clatter of wings. In early mornings and late afternoons, forages on forest tracks, firebreaks and fields at forest edges. Inhabits well-watered areas, undergrowth in moist mixed forest, and scrub jungle interspersed with cultivation.



Grey Junglefowl *Gallus sonneratii*

M 70–80cm, F 38cm

Resident. Peninsular India. **ID** Male has 'shawl' of white and pale golden-yellow spotting; band of golden spotting on scapulars, grey underparts, and long sickle-shaped, purplish-black tail. Eclipse male has shorter, brownish-black neck hackles, and shorter tail. Female is like Red Junglefowl, but has buffish face, bold white streaking on underparts, and yellowish (rather than greyish) legs. Immature male resembles adult male, but has much-reduced 'shawl' of yellowish-white spotting, smaller comb and wattles, and has shorter tail. **Voice** Male's distinctive crowing call is a repeated, loud, staccato *kuk-ka-kurruk-ka*. **HH** Similar to Red Junglefowl's. Normally very shy, never venturing far from cover, but tame where not hunted. Undergrowth in broadleaved evergreen and deciduous forests, second growth and bamboo thickets.



Sri Lanka Junglefowl *Gallus lafayetii*

M 66–72.5cm, F 35cm

Resident. Sri Lanka. **ID** Only junglefowl occurring naturally in Sri Lanka (although beware domestic chickens). Male has orange-red breast and belly, yellow centre to oblong-shaped comb, and purplish-black wings and elongated sickle-shaped tail. Legs are pinkish or yellowish, and iris is bright yellow. There is no distinct eclipse plumage. Female like female Red Junglefowl, but has black scaling on white underparts, prominent dark brown and buff barring in wings, and yellowish legs. Immature male has rufous-orange head and neck, deep rufous coloration to body, poorly developed comb and wattles, and shorter tail. **Voice** Cock's crow is a staccato, musical ringing *chiok, chaw-choyik*, the terminal *ik* higher on the scale; hen's cackle is a high-pitched metallic *kwikkuk kwikkukuk*. **HH** Similar to Red Junglefowl's. Non-breeding males often feed in large groups. Confined to large forest areas.

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