

This guide covers 142 birds found in Mussoorie, Uttarakhand including those seen in LBSNAA campus. For ease of reference, the birds featured in this guide are sorted into these five categories:

**ARBOREAL BIRDS**

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

**GROUND FEEDING BIRDS**

From colourful Pheasants to dull brown Pipits, ground feeders are a diverse group of birds that forage mostly on the ground. Some species like Wagtails are seen at wetlands too, while many are forest dwellers. Others like Blue-capped redstarts and Stonechats may perch low in a bush, but hunt small insects or other prey on the ground.

**BIRDS OF MIXED HABITAT**

Some Finches, Chats, and Redstarts can be found in various habitats because of their varied diets. Chats use low perches to sally and hunt for insects, although some finches with their strong conical beaks feed on a variety of fruits and seeds in trees, low down in bushes, and even on the ground. Redstarts although common along streams are occasionally graze on the ground in search of insects, berries, and grass seeds.

**BIRDS OF THE UNDERGROWTH**

Many Himalayan birds live in the dense undergrowth of stinging nettle, barberry, ringal bamboo and other plants, and are called 'skulkers' because they 'skulk' (hide) and rarely show themselves up. Species of Tesias, Cupwing and Laughingthrushes are common birds in the region that are often colourful, but are most often just heard singing from the undergrowth.

**AERIAL FEEDERS**

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

**BIRDS OF PREY**

Birds of Prey or Raptors hunt other animals. They have excellent eyesight, strong feet, sharp talons, and a hooked beak for tearing into flesh. Raptors such as the Black Kite have adapted to human habitats, others like Kestrels are found in open habitats, while species such as Mountain Hawk-Eagle prefer forests.

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

Migratory birds that visit the region during winter (October-March), from their northern breeding grounds in Europe or Central/East/North Asia.

Migratory birds that visit the region during summer (April-June) to breed.

Migratory birds that stop for a short time during the seasonal migration.

Size of each bird indicates the length from beak tip to tail tip. **br** indicates breeding plumage.

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



a pocket guide to  
**Birds of LBSNAA  
& Mussoorie**

A pocket guide to Birds of LBSNAA & Mussoorie



Compiled by Nature Lovers' Club, Lal Bahadur Shastri National Academy of Administration, Mussoorie

### ARBOREAL BIRDS


**CUCKOOS**  
have long bodies and tails, and loud, repetitive call.

**STARLINGS, MYNAS**  
make loud calls, and forage in trees as well as on the ground.


**ORIOLES**  
are brightly coloured birds with fluty songs.

**CROWS, MAGPIES, TREEPIES & JAYS**  
are noisy, bold and intelligent birds.


**SIBIAS**  
are social and can be seen foraging with other birds.




Indian Cuckoo  
33 cm




Common Cuckoo  
33 cm




Spot-winged Starling  
19 cm




Maroon Oriole  
26 cm



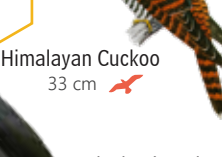
Red-billed Blue-Magpie  
61 cm




Black-headed Jay  
33 cm



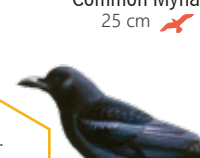
Himalayan Cuckoo  
33 cm



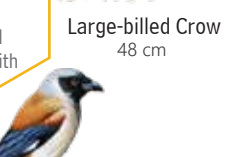
Black-winged Cuckooshrike  
22 cm



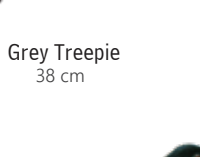
Jungle Myna  
23 cm



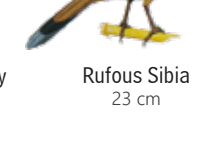
Common Myna  
25 cm




Large-billed Crow  
48 cm



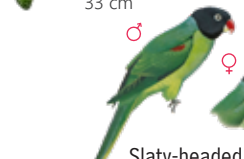
Grey Treepie  
38 cm




Eurasian Jay  
34 cm



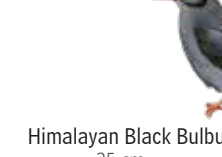
Great Barbet  
33 cm




Slaty-headed Parakeet  
40 cm




Mountain Bulbul  
23 cm



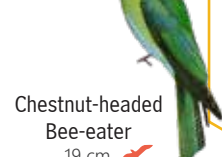
Himalayan Black Bulbul  
25 cm




Stripe-throated Yuhina  
14 cm



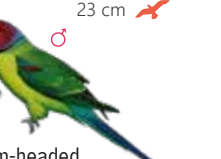
Long-tailed Broadbill  
28 cm




Chestnut-headed Bee-eater  
19 cm




Blue-throated Barbet  
23 cm




Plum-headed Parakeet  
35 cm



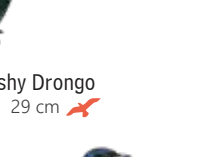
Red-vented Bulbul  
20 cm



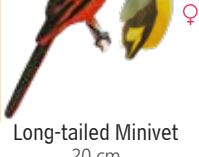
Himalayan Bulbul  
20 cm



Whiskered Yuhina  
13 cm



Ashy Drongo  
29 cm



Long-tailed Minivet  
20 cm

**BARBETS**  
have bristles at the base of their stout bills.

**PARAKEETS**  
are mostly green, and have screeching calls.

**BULBULS**  
are gregarious songbirds, usually seen in small flocks.

**YUHINAS**  
have mohawk-like crests.

**BROADBILLS**  
have a helmet-like black cap and are found in dense forests.

**DRONGOS**  
mimic calls of other birds.

**BEE-EATERS, MINIVETS**  
are colorful, insectivorous birds seen in groups.


**WOODPECKERS**  
have a sturdy bills to probe tree trunks.

**NUTHATCHES, TREECREEPERS**  
creep along tree trunks and branches looking for insects.

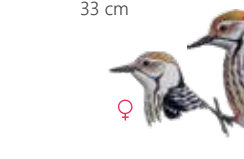
**SHRIKE-BABLERS & MINLAS**  
can be seen foraging in mixed flocks.

**FLOWERPECKERS**  
are brightly coloured and have long, thin, curved bills.


**FLOWERPECKERS**  
have tiny, stout bodies.



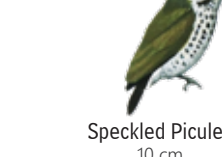
Greater Yellownape  
33 cm




Brown-fronted Woodpecker  
19 cm



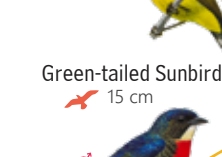
Scaly-bellied Woodpecker  
35 cm



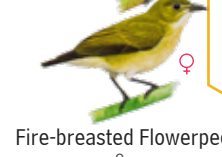
Speckled Piculet  
10 cm



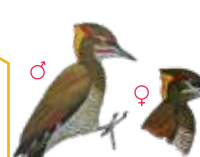
Bar-tailed Treecreeper  
12 cm



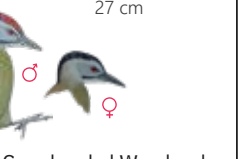
Green-tailed Sunbird  
15 cm




Fire-breasted Flowerpecker  
8 cm




Lesser Yellownape  
27 cm




Grey-headed Woodpecker  
32 cm



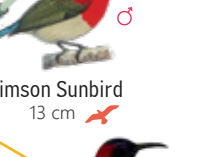
Rufous-bellied Woodpecker  
23 cm



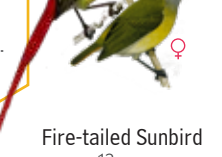
Himalayan Woodpecker  
24 cm




White-tailed Nuthatch  
12 cm



Himalayan Shrike-Babbler  
19 cm




Crimson Sunbird  
13 cm




Fire-tailed Sunbird  
12 cm

**WHITE-EYES**  
are small active, noisy birds usually seen in flocks.


**WARBLERS**  
are tiny, restless birds flicking their wings and chirping in the bushes, dull coloured in shades of yellow, olive and brown.




Indian White-eye  
10 cm




Hume's Warbler  
10 cm




Whistler's Warbler  
11 cm




Ashy-throated Warbler  
10 cm




Buff-barred Warbler  
11 cm




Blyth's Reed Warbler  
13 cm




Tytler's Leaf Warbler  
11 cm




Grey-hooded Warbler  
11 cm




Lemon-rumped Warbler  
10 cm




Greenish Warbler  
11 cm




Brownish-flanked Bush Warbler  
12 cm




Grey-sided Bush Warbler  
11 cm



Tickell's Leaf Warbler  
11 cm



Black-faced Warbler  
10 cm



Goldcrest  
9 cm



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COVER IMAGE **LBSNAA Archives**



**TITS** are active birds that are usually seen in flocks.

**FLYCATCHERS** have small, flattened bills and make short sallies from a perch to catch insects.

Green-backed Tit 13 cm

Coal Tit 11 cm

Black-throated Tit 10 cm

Himalayan Black-lored Tit 14 cm

Verditer Flycatcher 16 cm

Ultramarine Flycatcher 12 cm

Grey-headed Canary-Flycatcher 13 cm

Dark-sided Flycatcher 14 cm

Rufous-gorgeted Flycatcher 14 cm

Yellow-bellied Fantail 12 cm

White-throated Fantail 19 cm

**FRANCOLINS** are heavy birds that prefer to run than fly when alarmed.

**PIGEONS, DOVES** have stout bodies, small heads and long tails.

**THRUSHES, BLACKBIRDS** have melodious songs.

**PIPITS, WAGTAILS** often wag their tails while walking on the ground.

**DIPPERS** hunt underwater in fast flowing streams.

Black Francolin 34 cm

Rock Pigeon 33 cm

Spotted Dove 30 cm

Oriental Turtle-Dove 33 cm

Blue Whistling-Thrush 33 cm

Black-throated Thrush 26 cm

Chestnut Thrush 27 cm

Chestnut-bellied Rock-Thrush 22 cm

Blue-capped Rock-Thrush 18 cm

Gray-winged Blackbird 28 cm

Upland Pipit 17 cm

Tree Pipit 15 cm

Grey Wagtail 19 cm

White Wagtail 19 cm

Brown Dipper 20 cm

**SPARROWS, ACCENTORS, BUNTINGS** and some **FINCHES** are all gregarious birds seen feeding in groups.

Male **ROSEFINCHES** come in various shades of red, females are brown.

**BLUETAILS** perch on low bushes or fences to hunt insects.

**WALLCREEPERS** climb vertical rock faces while foraging for insects.

**PRINIAS** are dull-coloured, hyperactive birds.

**FORKTAILS** are often seen near water bodies.

**HOOPOES** have zebra striped wings.

House Sparrow 15 cm

Russet Sparrow 15 cm

Rufous-breasted Accentor 15 cm

Alpine Accentor 16 cm

Altai Accentor 15 cm

Rock Bunting 16 cm

Plain Mountain Finch 15 cm

Fire-fronted Serin 12 cm

Pink-browed Rosefinch 14 cm

Common Rosefinch 15 cm

Himalayan Bluetail 15 cm

Wallcreeper 16 cm

Himalayan Prinia 16 cm

Spotted Forktail 26 cm

Eurasian Hoopoe 31 cm

**PARTRIDGES, PHEASANTS** are bulky birds seen in forests, rocky slopes and alpine meadows, often in family groups.

Hill Partridge 29 cm

Kalij Pheasant M: 69 cm, F: 55 cm

**GROUND FEEDING BIRDS**

**GROUND FEEDING BIRDS**

**BIRDS OF MIXED HABITAT**

**REDSTARTS** are often seen near water bodies.

**FINCHES** are seed-eating birds with large conical beaks.

**BUSHCHATS, NILTAVAS** make sallies from a low perch to catch insects.

**SCIMITAR-BABLERS** have a high-pitched bubbling call and skulk in undergrowth.

**BABLERS** are usually seen hopping and chattering in flocks.

White-capped Redstart 15 cm

Blue-fronted Redstart 15 cm

Blue-capped Redstart 15 cm

Spectacled Finch 15 cm

Yellow-breasted Greenfinch 15 cm

Spot-winged Grosbeak 15 cm

Grey Bushchat 15 cm

Rufous-bellied Niltava 15 cm

Small Niltava 15 cm

**BIRDS IN THE UNDERGROWTH**

**CUPWINGS** prefer thick impenetrable undergrowth in moist areas.

**TESIAS** live in undergrowth near waterbodies and are difficult to spot.

Scaly-breasted Cupwing 10 cm

Chestnut-headed Tesia 9 cm

**BIRDS OF MIXED HABITAT**

**LAUGHINGTHRUSHES** are gregarious, have loud cheerful calls & are usually heard than seen.

**SCIMITAR-BABLERS** have a high-pitched bubbling call and skulk in undergrowth.

**BABLERS** are usually seen hopping and chattering in flocks.

Streaked Laughingthrush 20 cm

White-throated Laughingthrush 28 cm

Striated Laughingthrush 21 cm

Rufous-chinned Laughingthrush 24 cm

Rusty-cheeked Scimitar-Babbler 25 cm

White-browed Scimitar-Babbler 21 cm

Jungle Babbler 25 cm

Black-chinned Babbler 10 cm

**AERIAL BIRDS**

**SWIFTS, MARTINS, SWALLOWS** have long pointy wings which help them fly fast, and for long durations.

Little Swift 15 cm

Common House-Martin 13 cm

Barn Swallow 18 cm

Red-rumped Swallow 16 cm

**BIRDS OF PREY**

**VULTURES** have a large wing span; they feed on carcasses.

**EAGLES** take on large prey like pheasants and mammals.

**BUZZARDS and HAWKS** have compact bodies and broad wings.

**FALCONS** are the fastest birds.

Some **OWLS** are nocturnal and hunt at night while others are diurnal and prefer to hunt in the day.

Himalayan Griffon 120 cm

Egyptian Vulture 49 cm

Mountain Hawk-Eagle 72 cm

Crested Serpent-Eagle 65 cm

Black Kite 62 cm

Steppe Eagle 78 cm

Black Eagle 73 cm

Himalayan Buzzard 49 cm

Eurasian Sparrowhawk 34 cm

Peregrine Falcon 47 cm

Collared Owl 16 cm

Asian Barred Owl 23 cm

Mountain Scops-Owl 19 cm

Brown Wood-Owl 47 cm