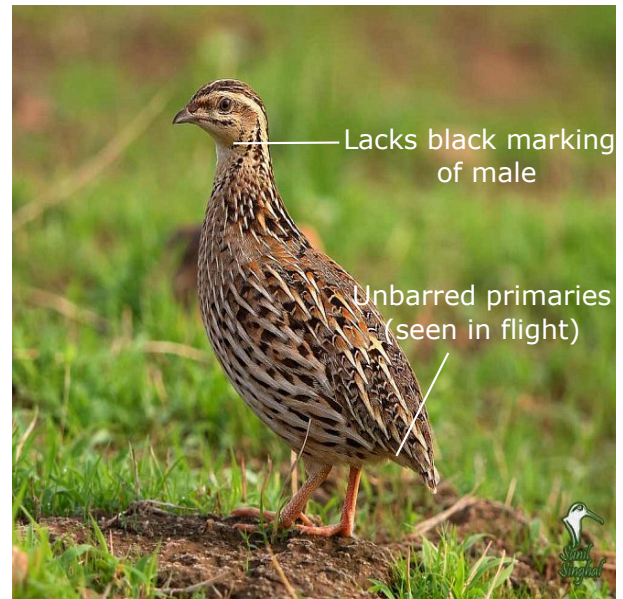


# Quails - I

## Rain Quail (*Coturnix coromandelica*) Resident, Not Uncommon

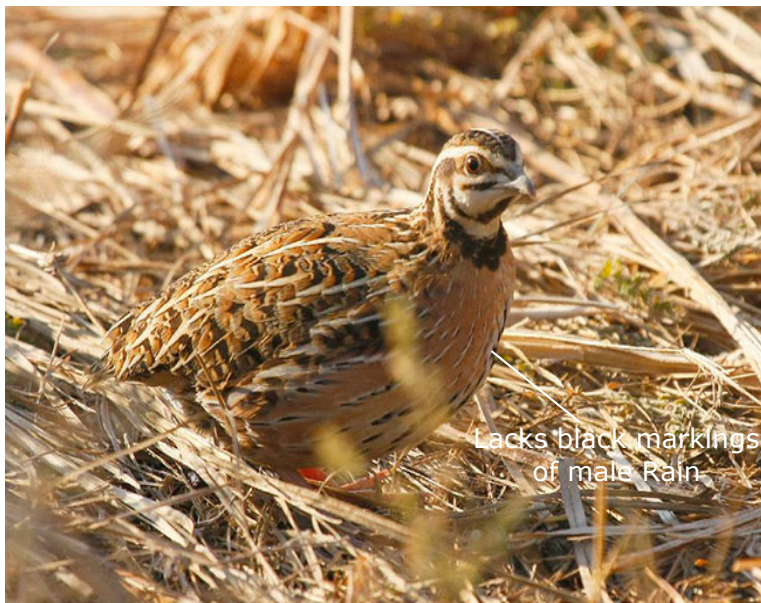


Adult male

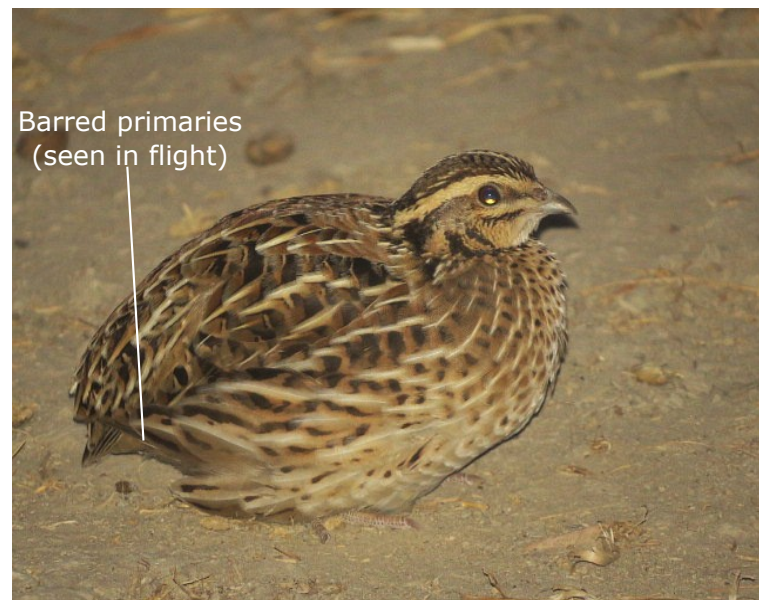


Adult female

## Common Quail (*Coturnix coturnix*) Winter migrant, Rare



Adult male



Adult female

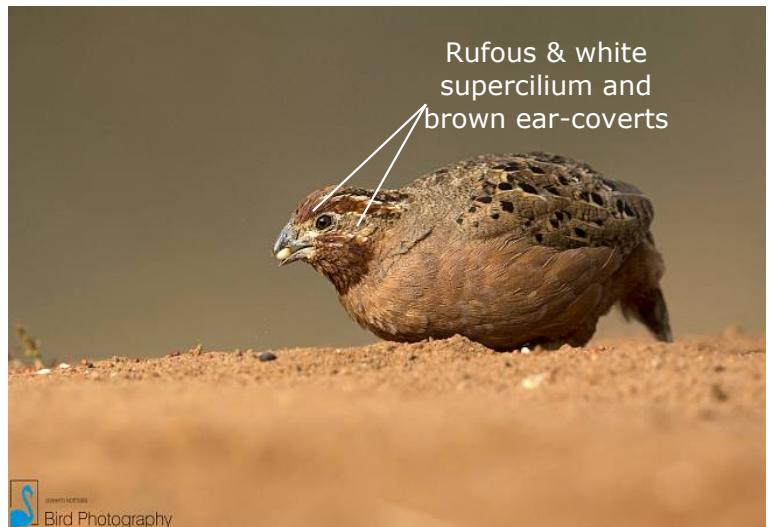
### Remarks

Rain Quails breed during monsoons and are less likely to be seen in this season. Common Quail is a rare winter visitor. Identification of females requires careful examination.



## Quails - II

### Jungle Bush-Quail (*Perdica asiatica*) Resident, Common



### Rock Bush-Quail (*Perdica argoondah*) Resident, Not Uncommon



### Remarks

Jungle is typically more common than Rock in Central India.

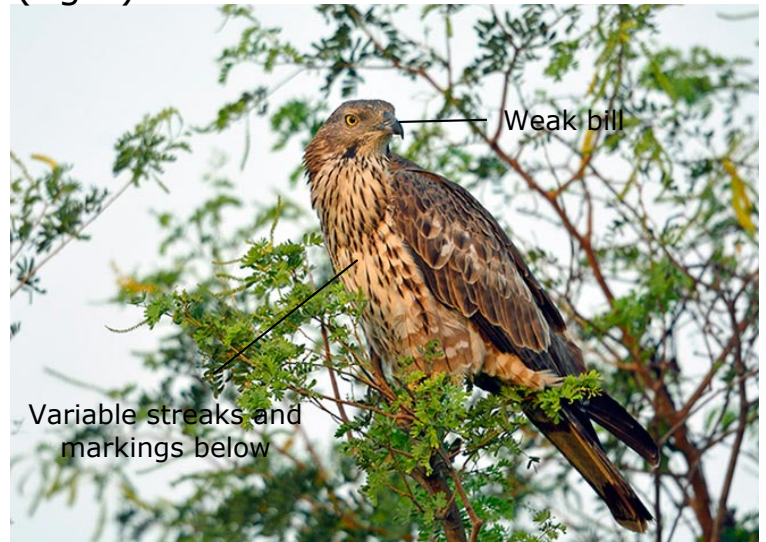
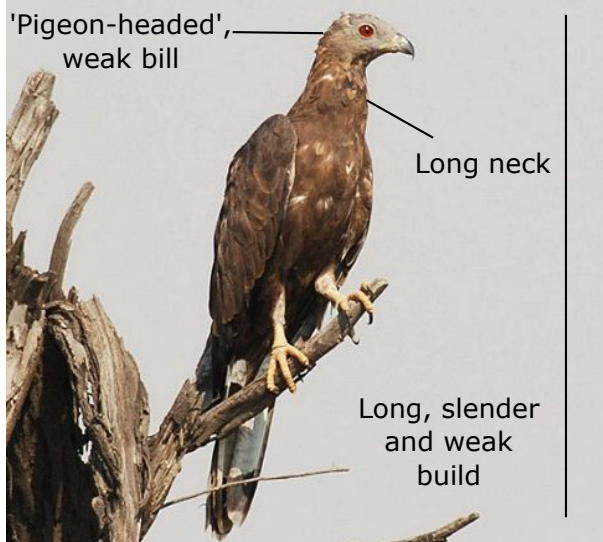


# Crested (Oriental) Honey Buzzard (*Pernis ptilorhynchus*)

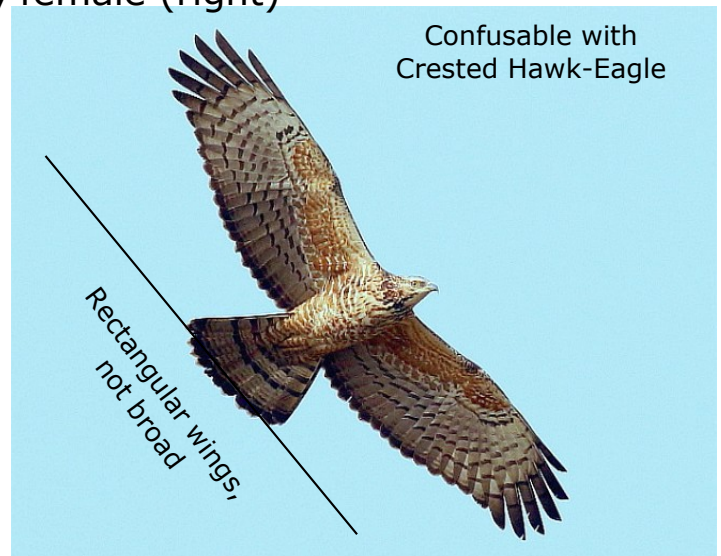
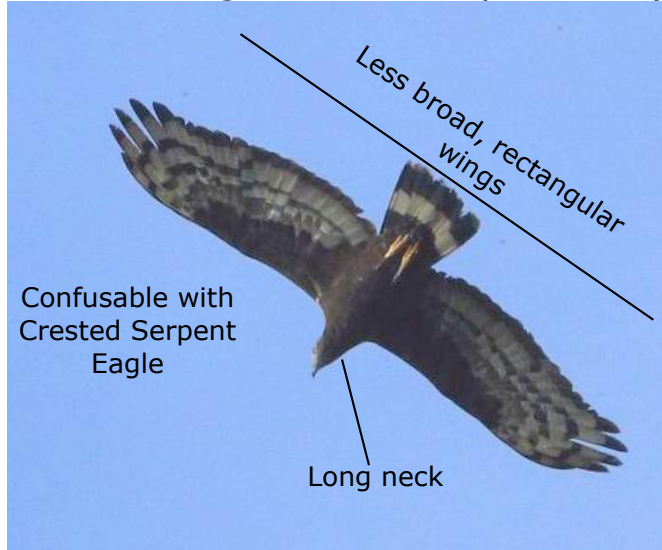
Resident, Common



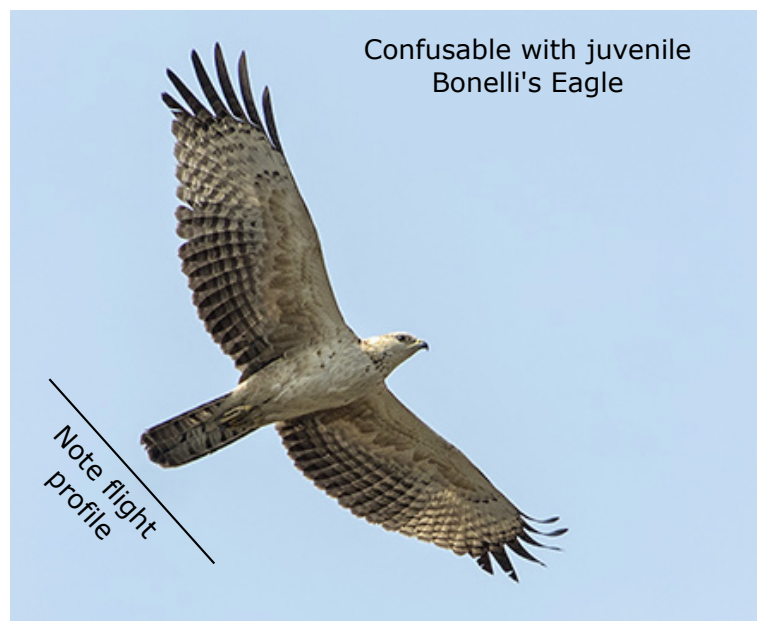
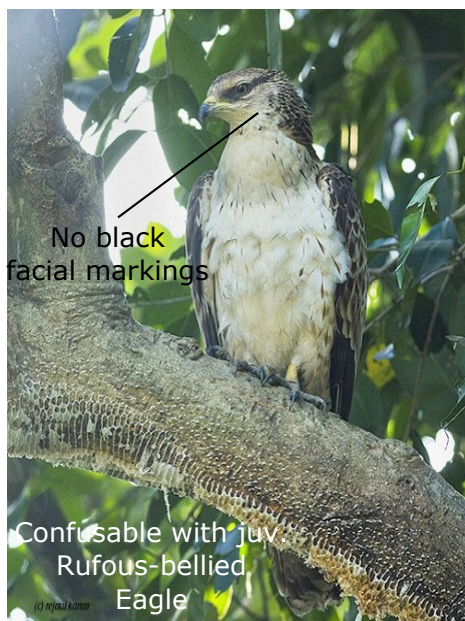
Adult plumages: male (left), female (right)



Adults in flight: dark morph male (left), female (right)



Juvenile plumages



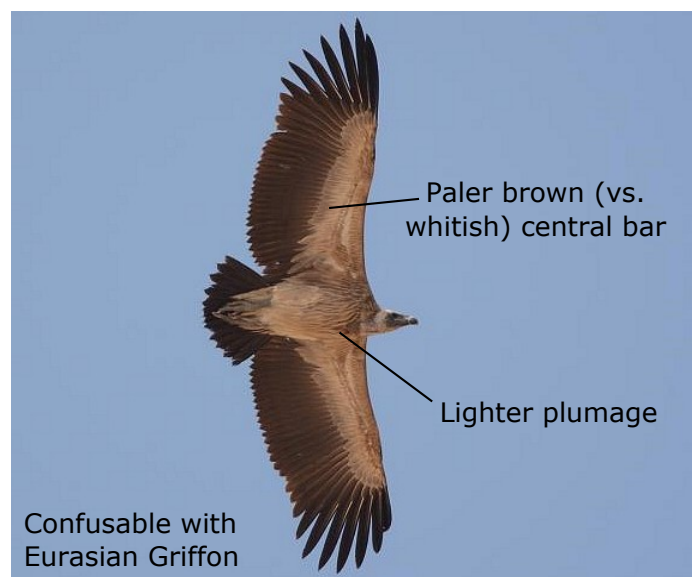


# Vultures - I

## White-rumped Vulture (*Gyps bengalensis*) - juvenile Resident, Common



## Indian (Long-billed) Vulture (*Gyps indicus*) - juvenile Resident, Common



### Remarks

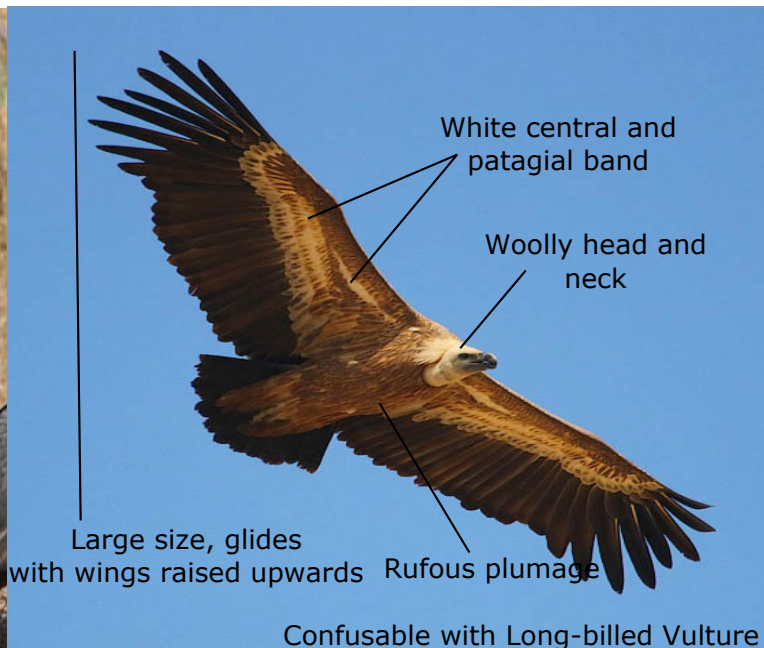
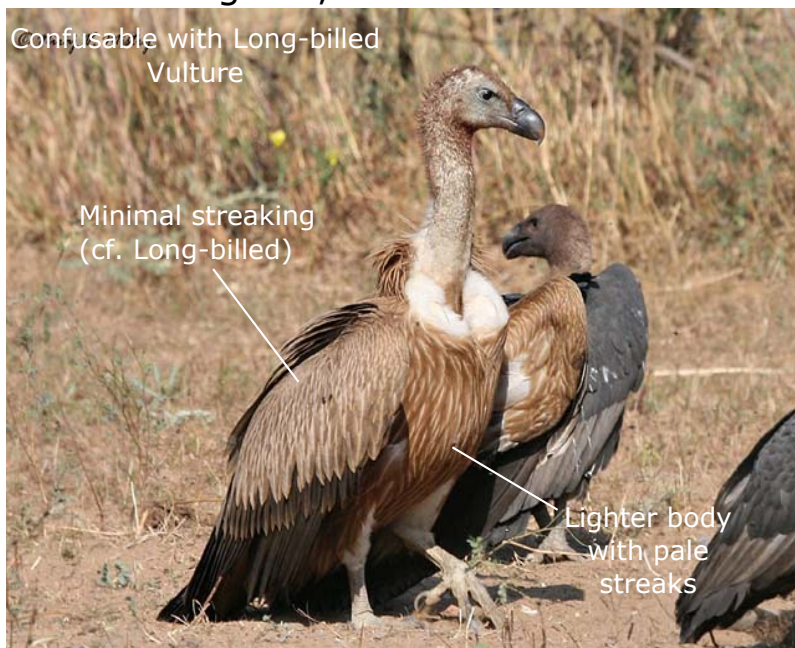
White-rumped nests on trees while Long-billed typically nests on cliffs.

Both species are smaller and less heavily built than the griffons.

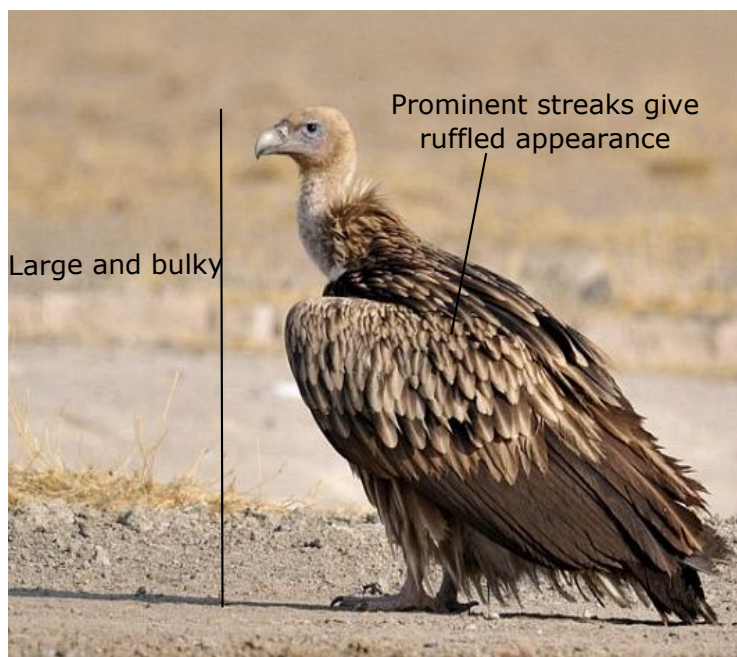
Vultures show immense individual and age variation - much of it is beyond the scope of this guide.



## Eurasian Griffon (*Gyps fulvus*) - juvenile Winter migrant, Rare



## Himalayan Griffon (*Gyps himalayanensis*) - juvenile Winter migrant, Rare



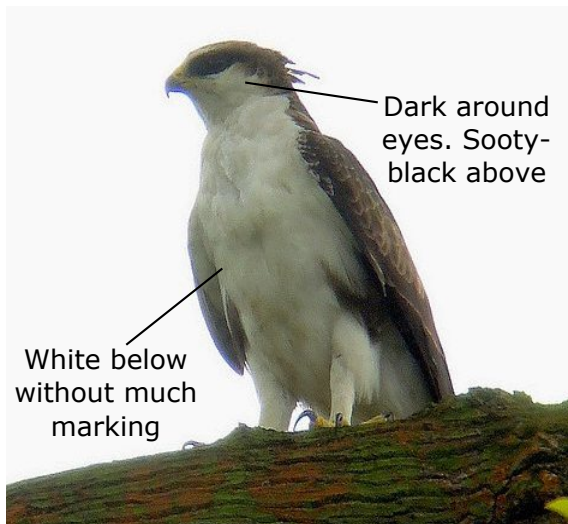
### Remarks

Adults of both these species are told apart from each other by extensively rufous upperparts in Eurasian. They are much larger than Long-billed and White-rumped Vultures; however the size difference is difficult to gauge without direct comparison.

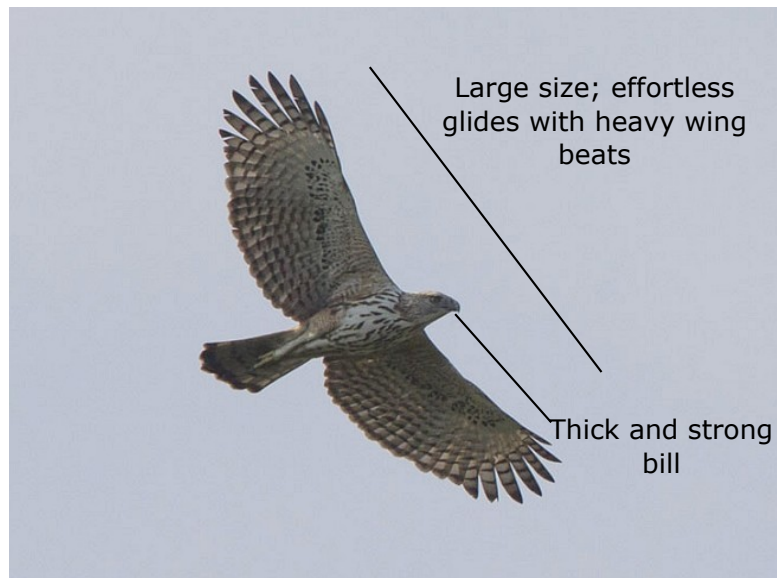


## Miscellaneous raptors

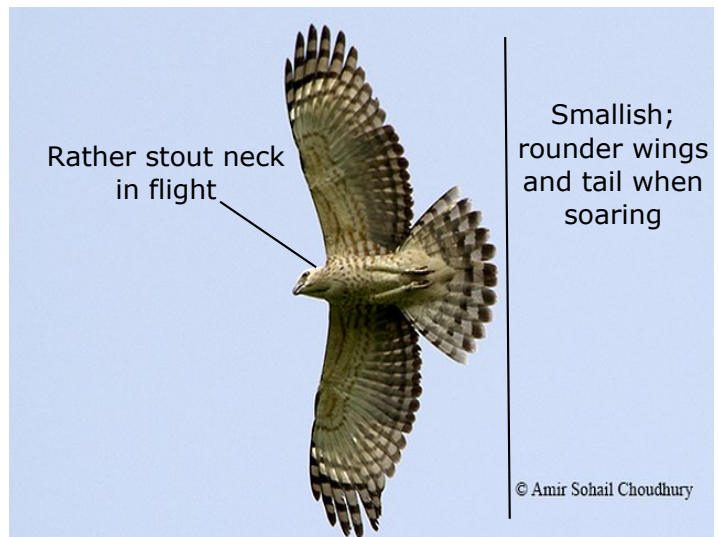
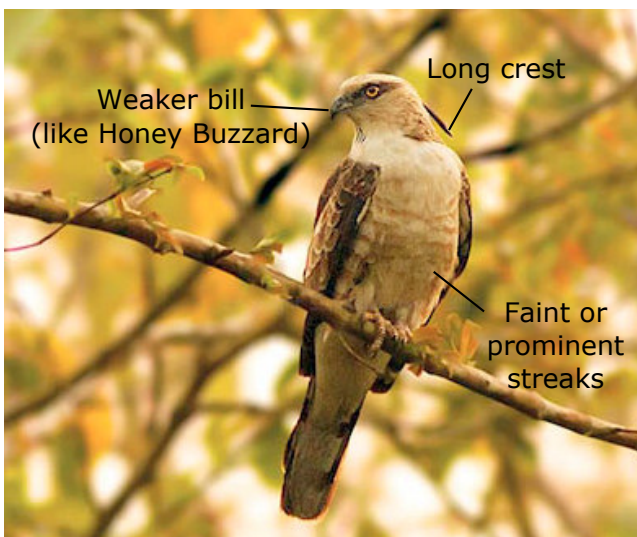
### Rufous-bellied Eagle (*Lophotriorchis kienerii*) - juvenile Resident, Not Uncommon



### Crested Hawk-Eagle (*Nisaetus cirrhatus*) Resident, Common



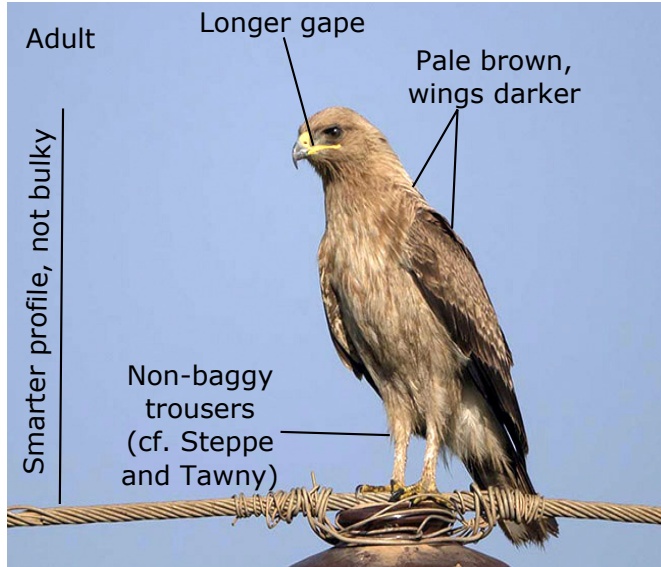
### Jerdon's Baza (*Aviceda jerdoni*) Resident, Rare





Indian Spotted Eagle (*Clanga hastata*)  
Resident, Rare

# Spotted Eagles



Greater Spotted Eagle (*Clanga clanga*)  
Winter migrant, Rare



Remarks: Greater Spotted also occurs in a rare tawny form called the 'fulvescens' morph. Both species are much smaller and less bulkier than Steppe and Tawny Eagle. Spotted Eagles have round nostrils (against oval of Aquila eagles).

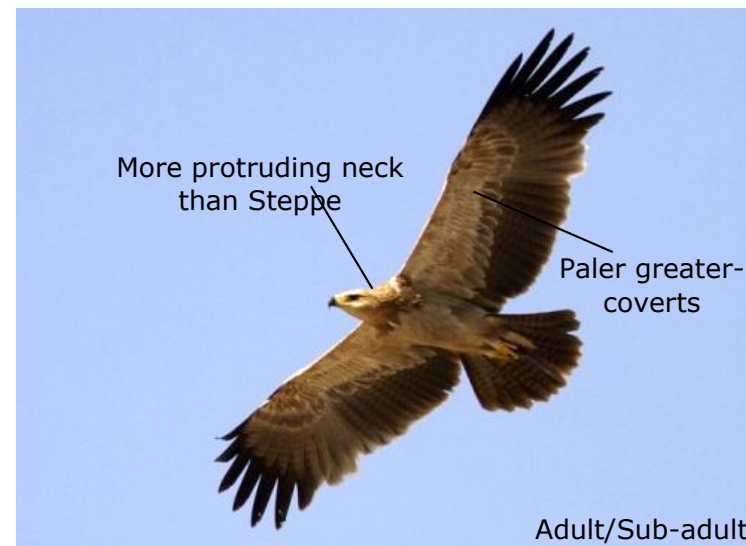
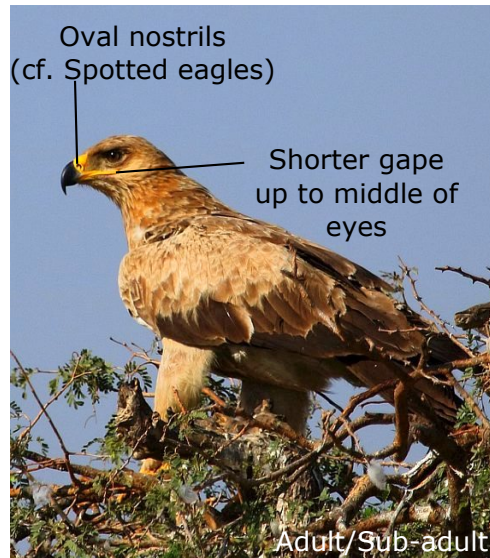
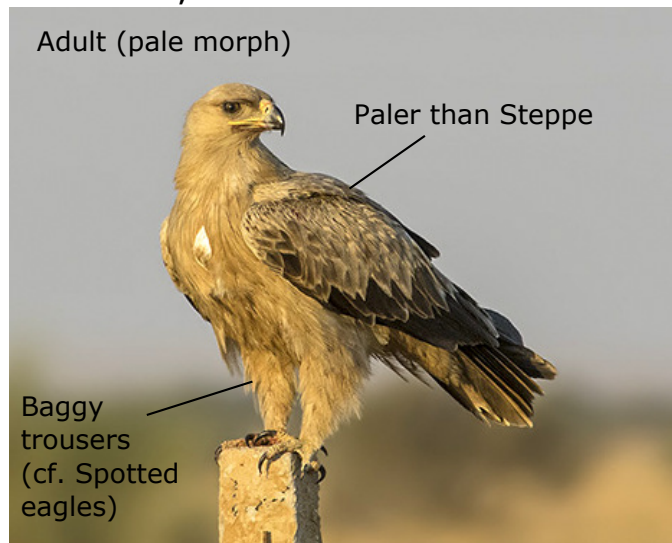
Photos by Niranjan Sant, Subhadeep Ghosh, Rohan Kamath, Shantilal Varu and Prasad Ganpule.



# Aquila Eagles

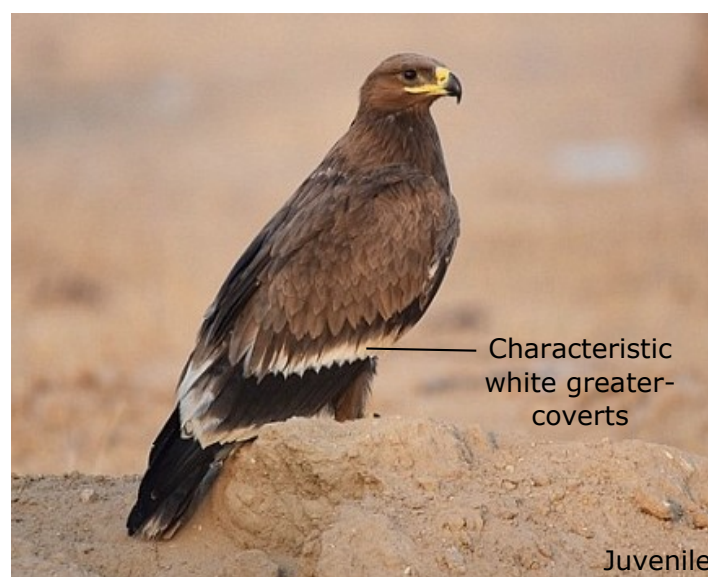
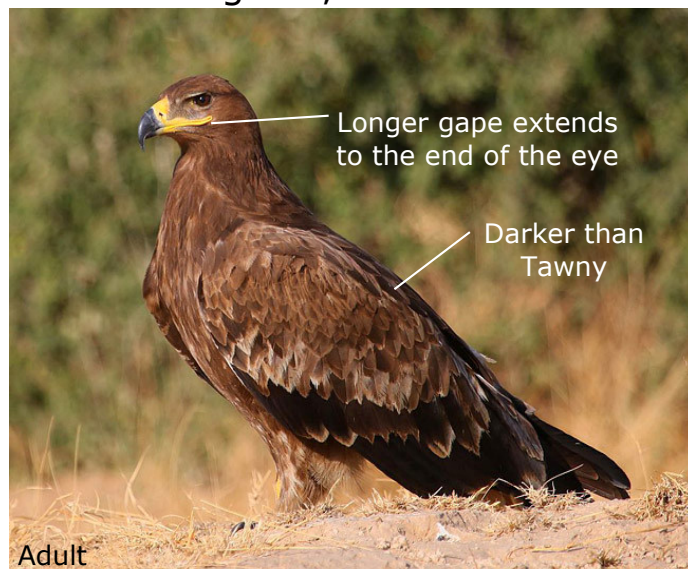
## Tawny Eagle (*Aquila rapax*)

Resident, Rare



## Steppe Eagle (*Aquila nipalensis*)

Winter migrant, Rare



### Remarks

The ID features provided here are simplistic. Tawny and Steppe have numerous age-associated plumages. Tawny also occurs in a dark morph in which its colour matches that of an adult Steppe. In comparison to Spotted Eagles note large size, bulkiness and much heavier wing beats (in flight).



# Harriers - females and juveniles

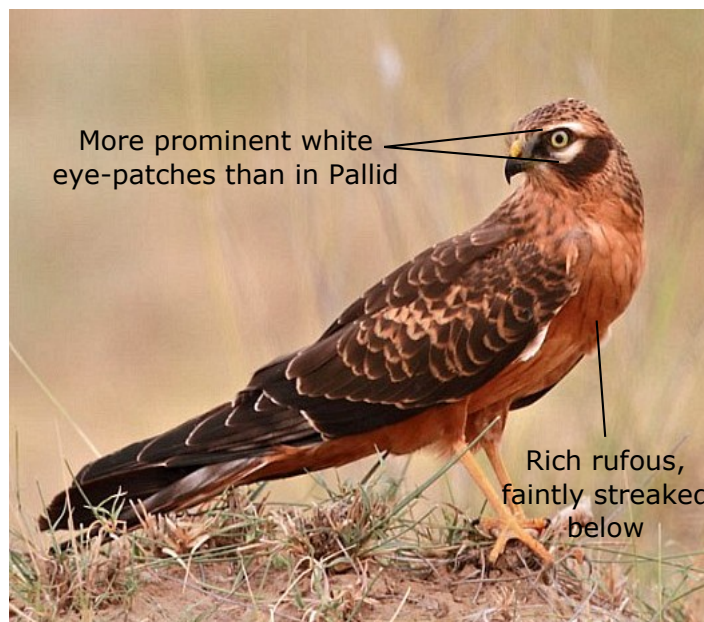
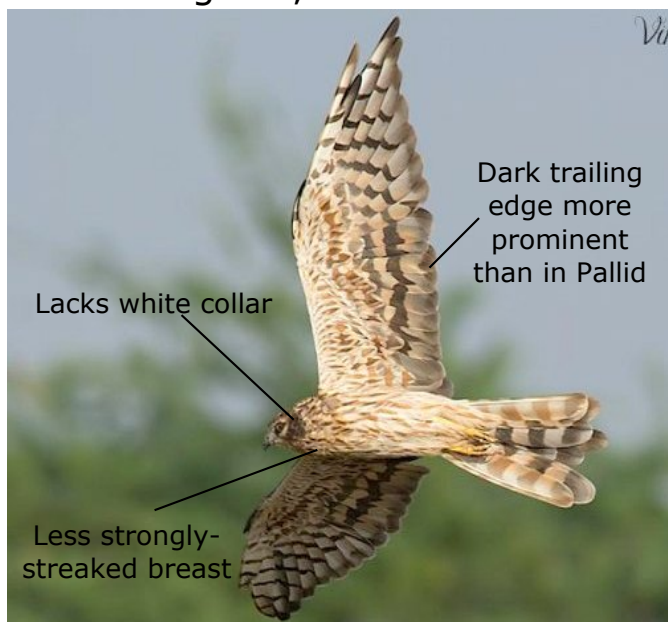
## Pallid Harrier (*Circus macrourus*)

Winter migrant, Not Uncommon



## Montagu's Harrier (*Circus pygargus*)

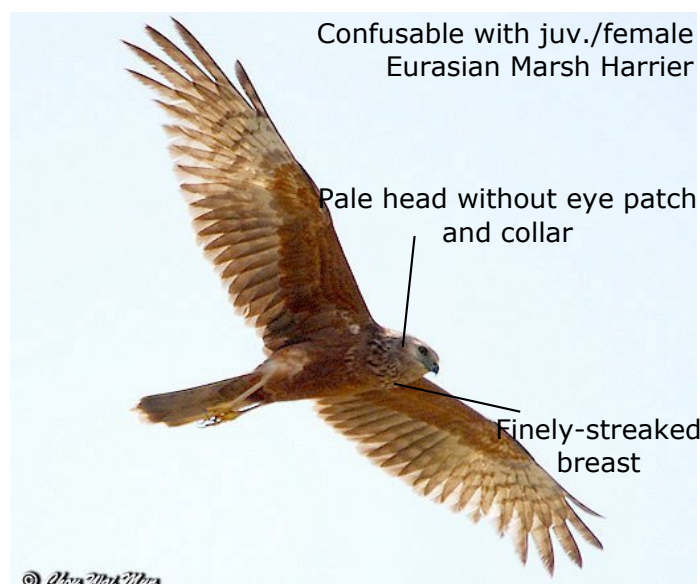
Winter migrant, Rare



## Pied Harrier (*Circus melanoleucos*)

Winter migrant, Rare

Confusable with Eastern Marsh Harrier



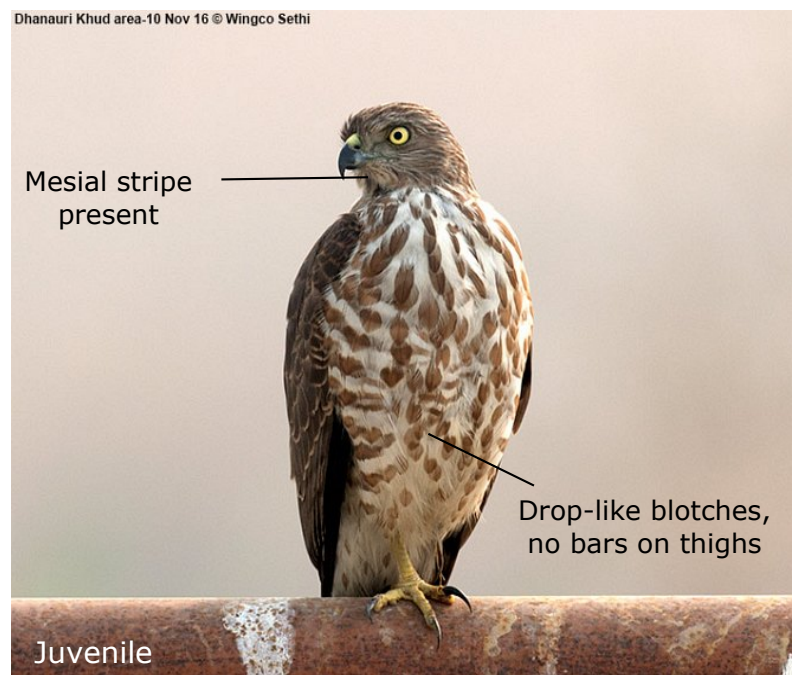
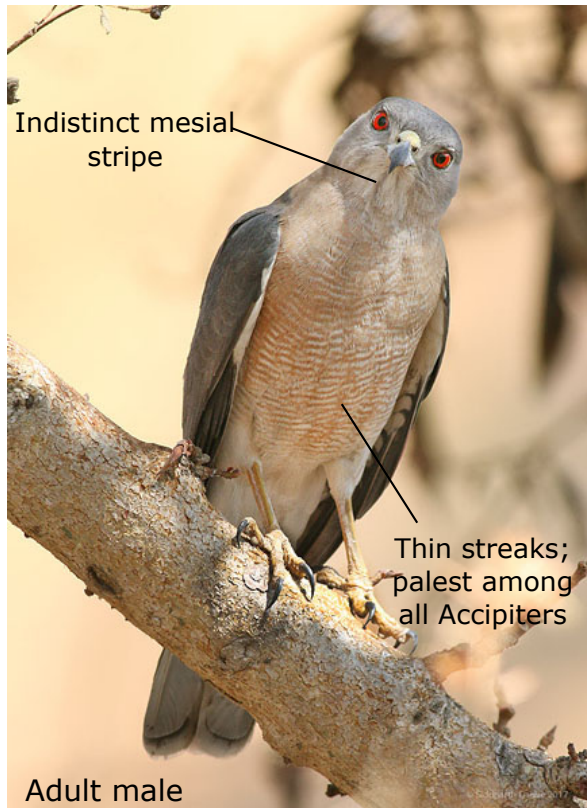
### Remarks

Harriers are often seen in eye-level flight while scanning grasslands, in which case also note extent of white on uppertail-coverts.



# Accipiters - I

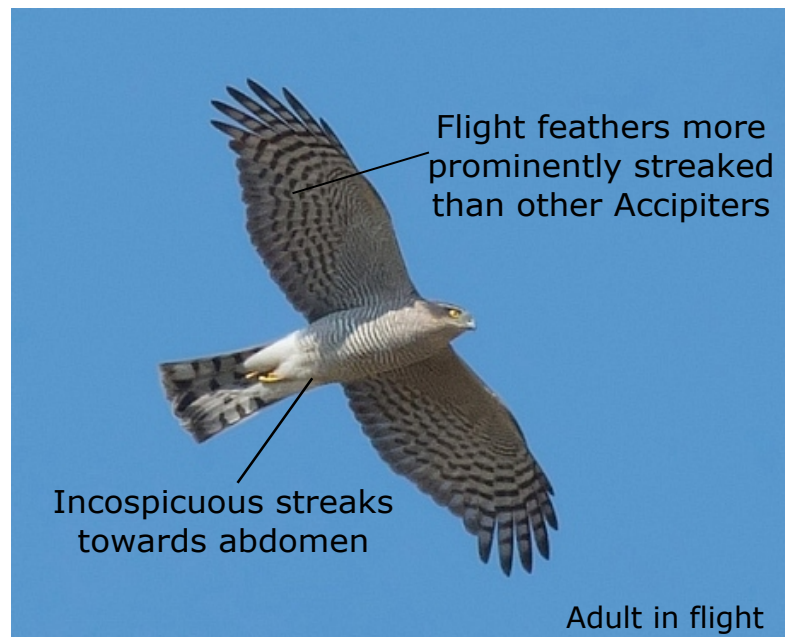
Shikra (*Accipiter badius*)  
Resident, Common





## Accipiters - II

### Eurasian Sparrowhawk (*Accipiter nisus*) Winter migrant, Not Uncommon



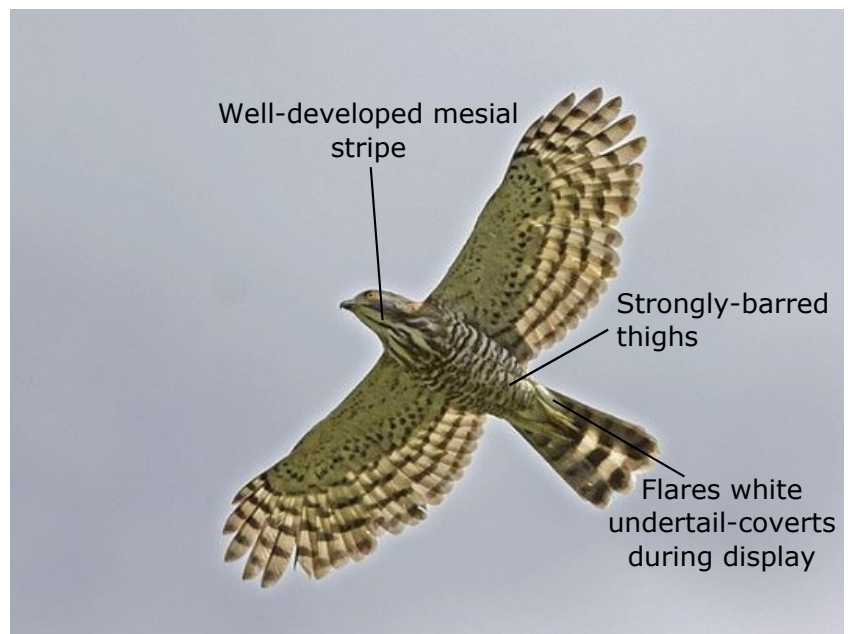


## Accipiters - III

### Besra (*Accipiter virgatus*) Resident, Rare



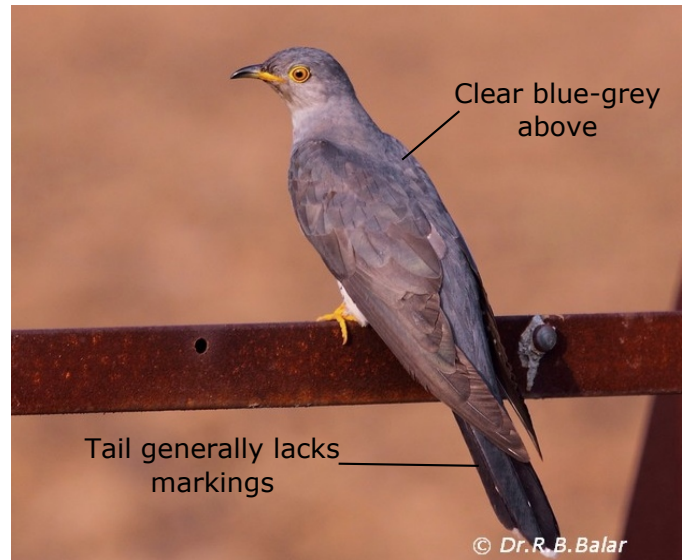
### Crested Goshawk (*Accipiter trivirgatus*) Resident, Rare





## Cuckoos

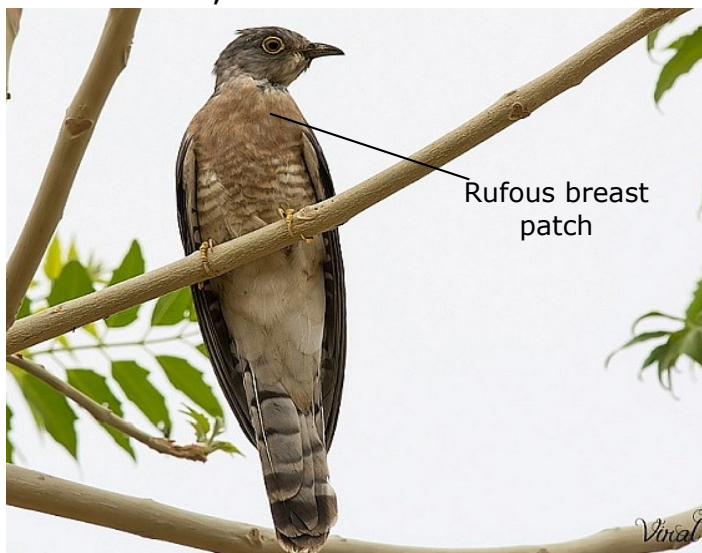
Common Cuckoo (*Cuculus canorus*)  
Summer migrant, Common



Indian Cuckoo (*Cuculus micropterus*)  
Resident, Common



Common Hawk-Cuckoo (*Hierococcyx varius*)  
Resident, Common



Remarks: All cuckoos are best told apart by their calls.



# Nightjars

Indian Nightjar  
(*Caprimulgus asiaticus*)  
Resident, Common



Large-tailed Nightjar  
(*Caprimulgus macrurus*)  
Resident, Rare



Savanna Nightjar  
(*Caprimulgus affinis*)  
Resident, Common



Indian Jungle Nightjar  
(*Caprimulgus indicus*)  
Resident, Common



## Remarks

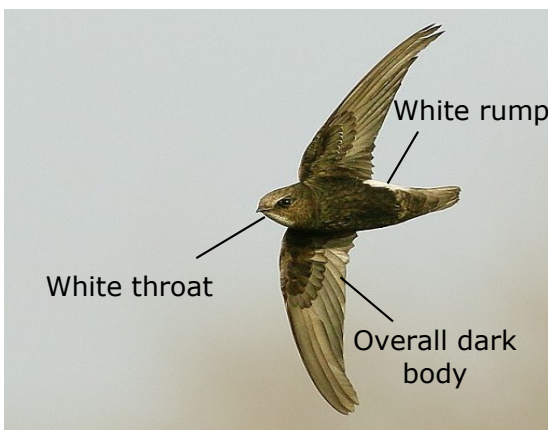
Habitat overlaps between Indian and Savanna. Indian Jungle and Large-tailed inhabit forested areas. Large-tailed prefers wetter and denser forests than Indian Jungle.

All nightjars are best identified by their calls at night (refer to recordings).

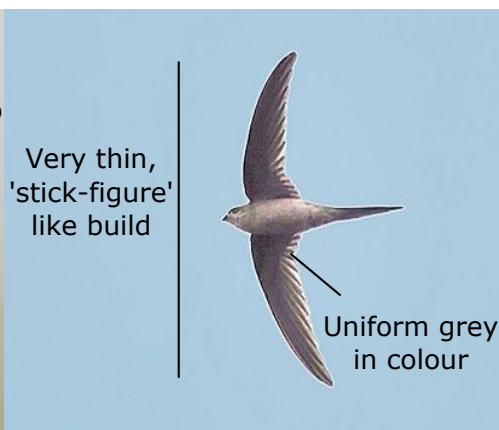


# Swifts

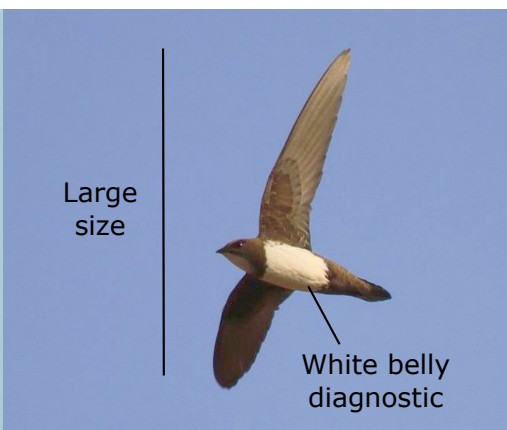
Little Swift  
(*Apus affinis*)  
Resident, Common



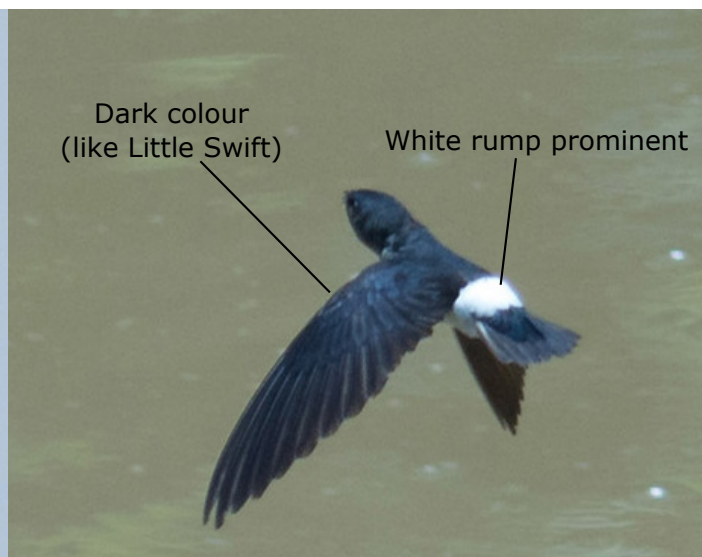
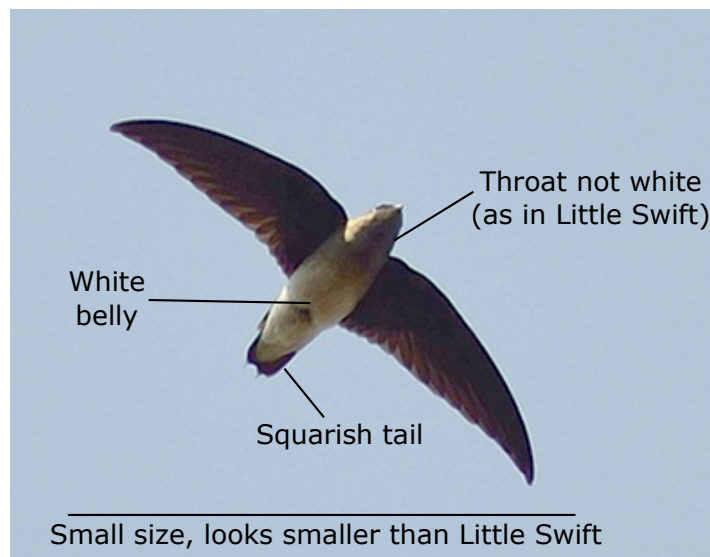
Asian Palm Swift  
(*Cypsiurus balasiensis*)  
Resident, Common



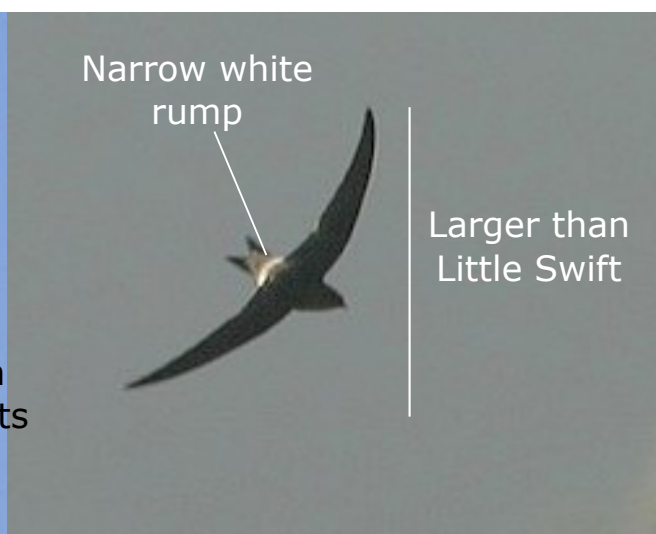
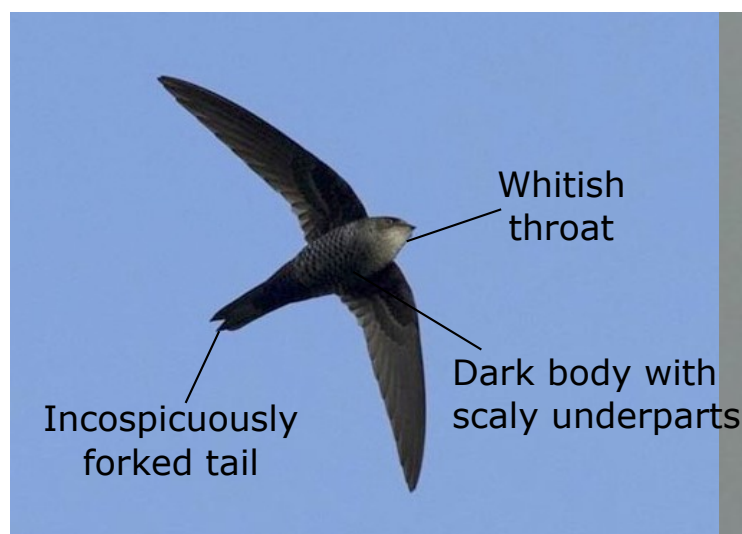
Alpine Swift  
(*Apus melba*)  
Resident, Not Uncommon



White-rumped Needletail (*Zoonavena sylvatica*)  
Resident, Common



Blyth's Swift (Fork-tailed Swift) (*Apus leuconyx*)  
Status unknown, Rare



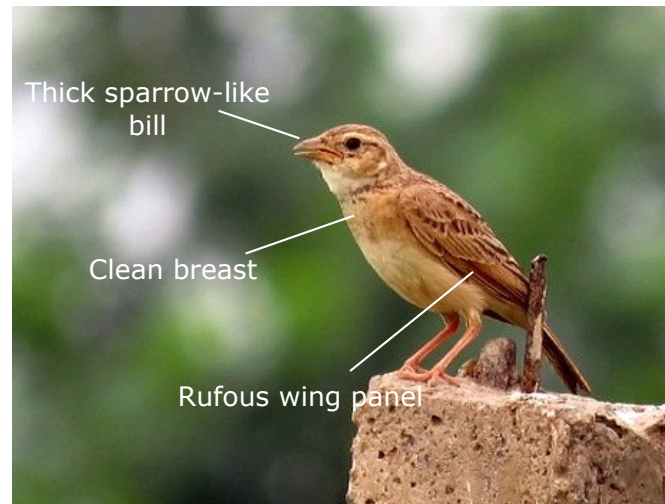
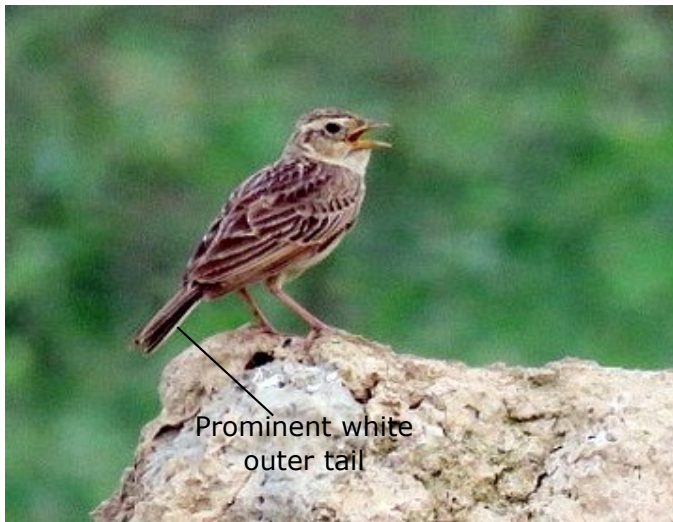
## Remarks

Asian Palm is associated with palm trees. White-rumped is common in broadleaved forests. Alpine and Fork-tailed occur in hilly country.

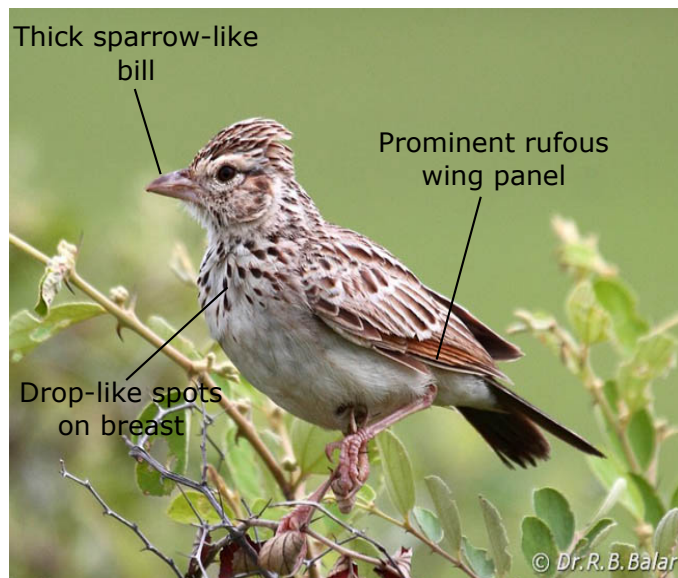


## Larks

Singing Bushlark (*Mirafra cantillans*)  
Resident, Rare



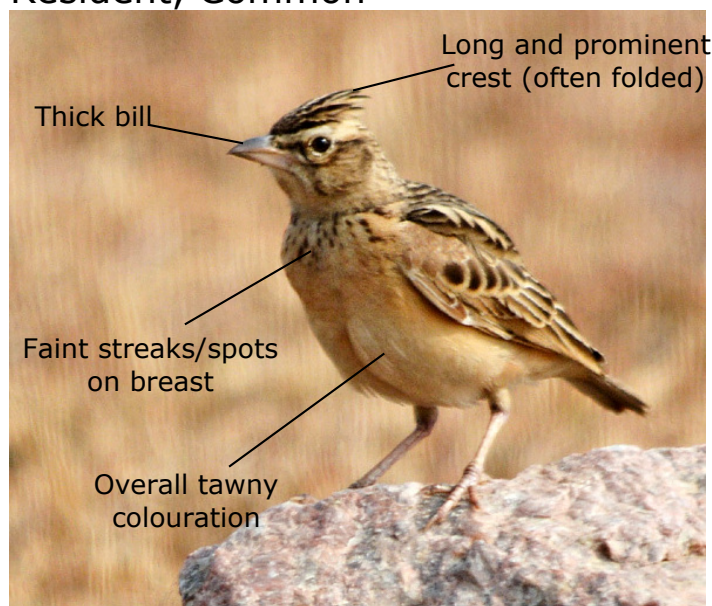
Indian Bushlark (*Mirafra erythroptera*)  
Resident, Common



Crested Lark (*Galerida cristata*)  
Resident, Rare



Sykes's (Tawny) Lark (*Galerida deva*)  
Resident, Common



Oriental Skylark (*Alauda gulgula*)  
Resident, Common

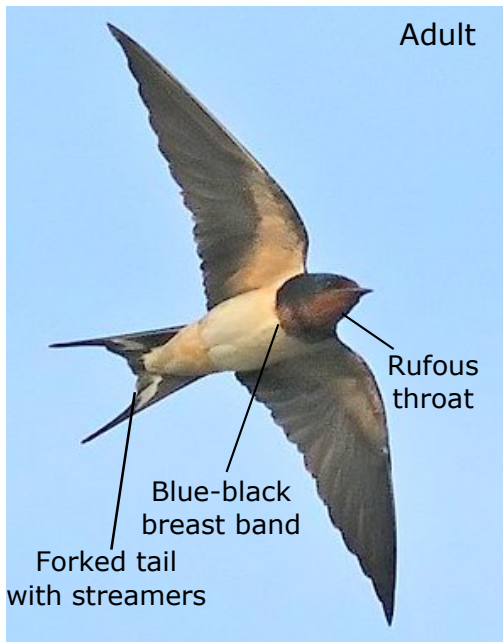


For detailed information about larks refer to <http://www.birdcount.in/tag/larks/>

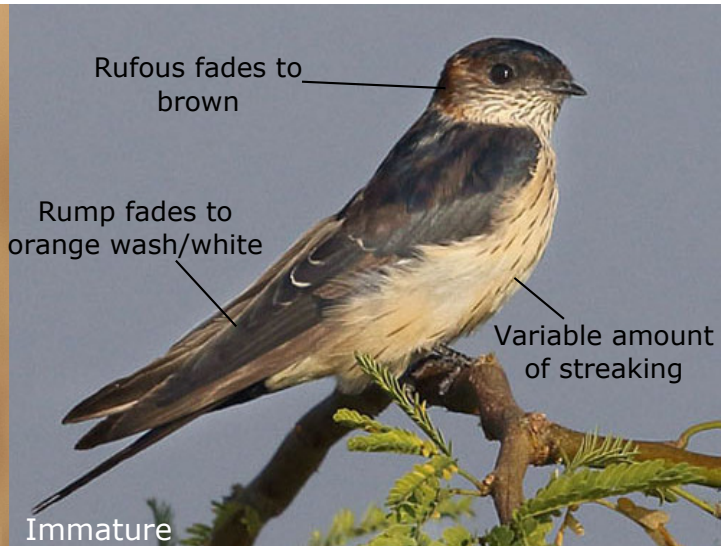
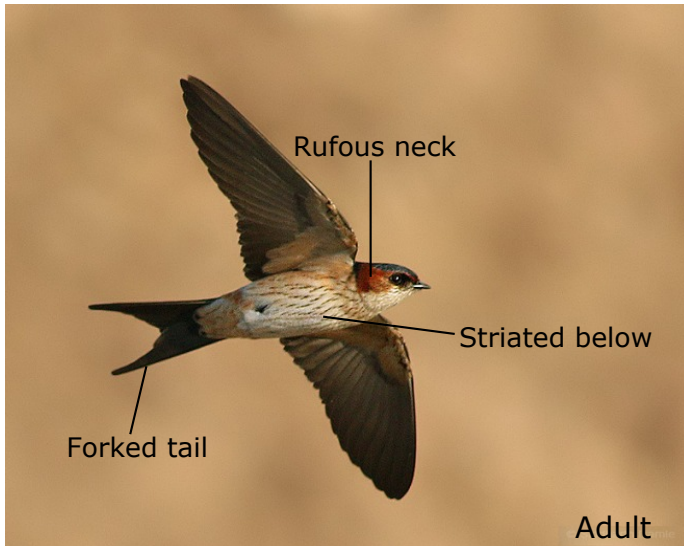


# Swallows - I

## Barn Swallow (*Hirundo rustica*) Winter migrant, Common



## Red-rumped Swallow (*Cecropis daurica*) Resident, Common



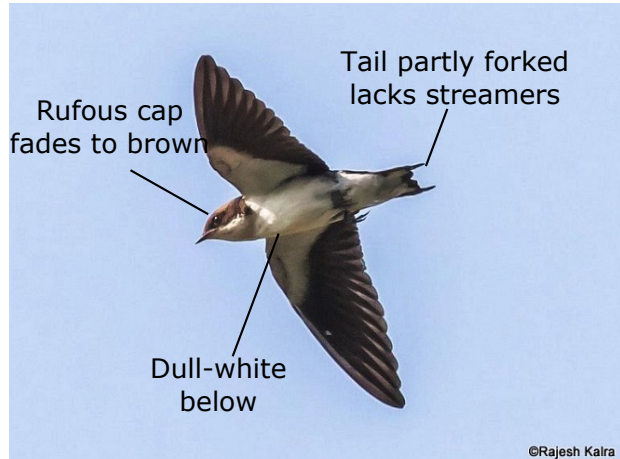
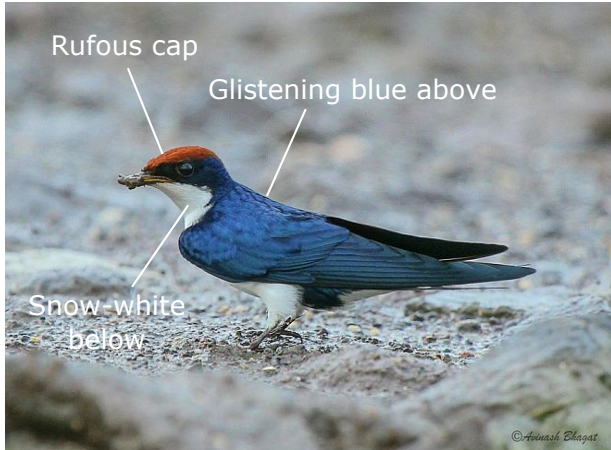
### Remarks

Juvenile/immature Red-rumped Swallows can be confused with juveniles of Barn, Wire-tailed and even Common House Martin when the rump colour and striations are faded.

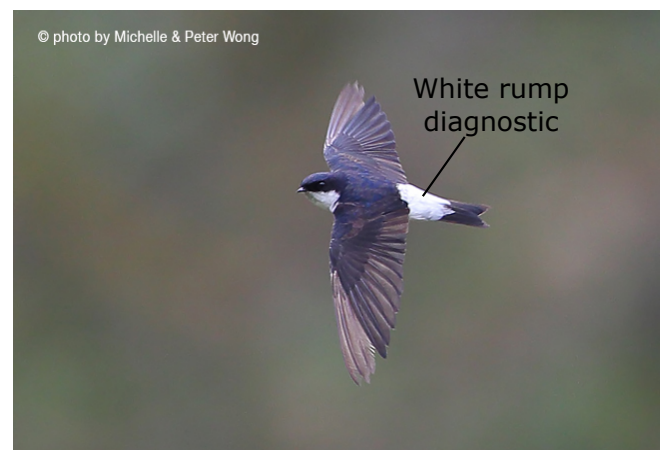
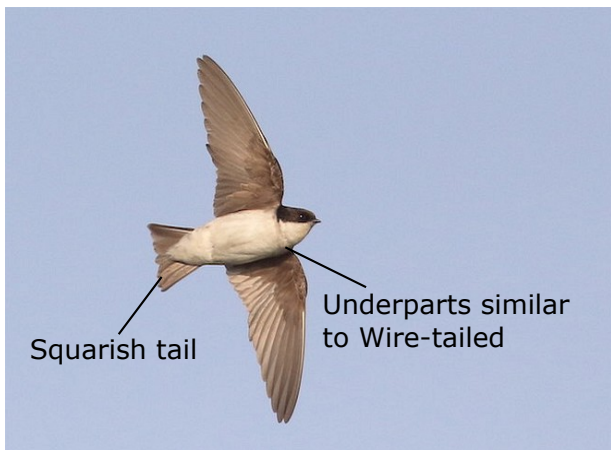


## Swallows - II

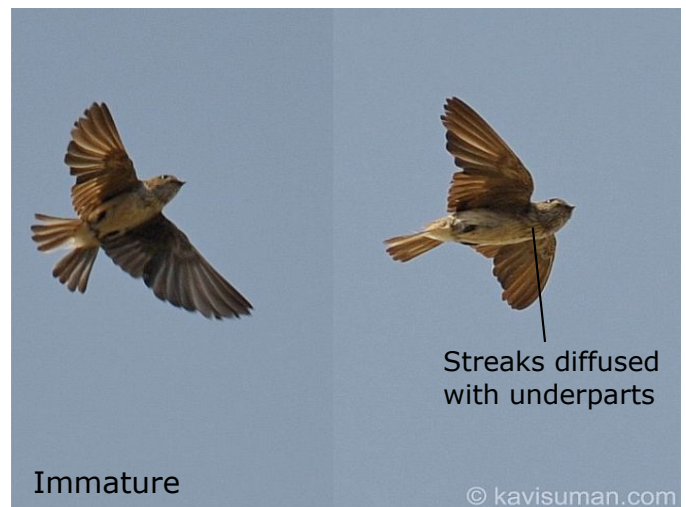
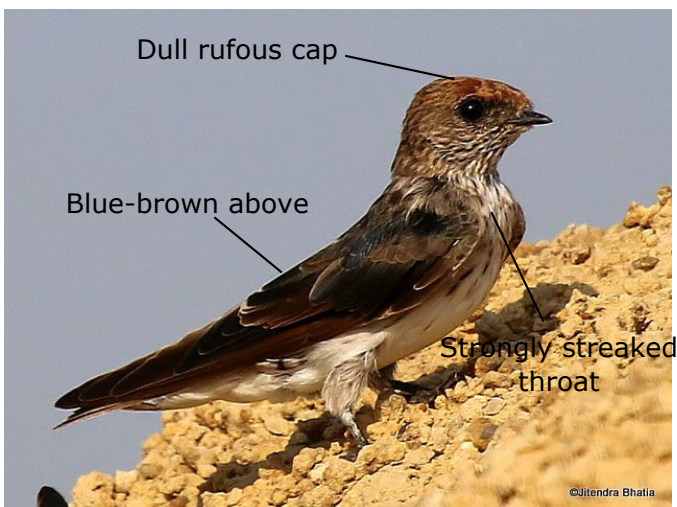
### Wire-tailed Swallow (*Hirundo smithii*) Resident, Common



### Common (Northern) House-Martin (*Delichon urbicum*) Passage migrant, Rare



### Streak-throated Swallow (*Petrochelidon fluvicola*) Resident, Not Uncommon



### Remarks

Wire-tailed and Streak-throated are partial to water bodies. Common House-Martin may mix with flocks of other swallows during passage.



## Swallows - III

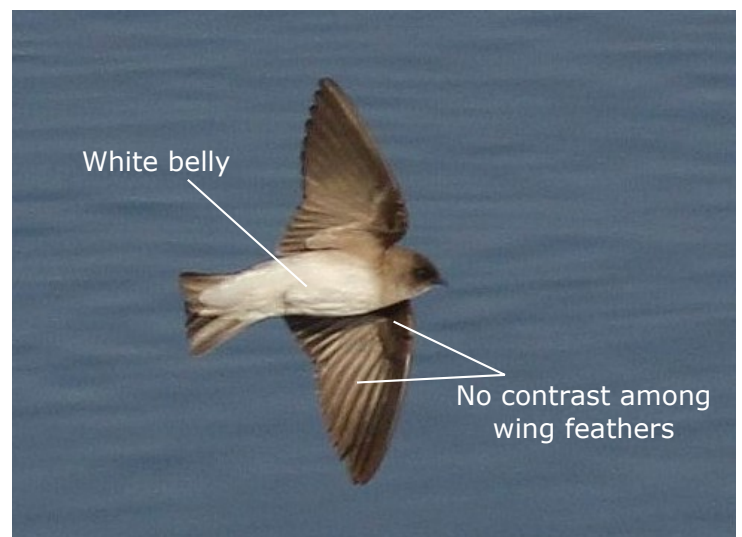
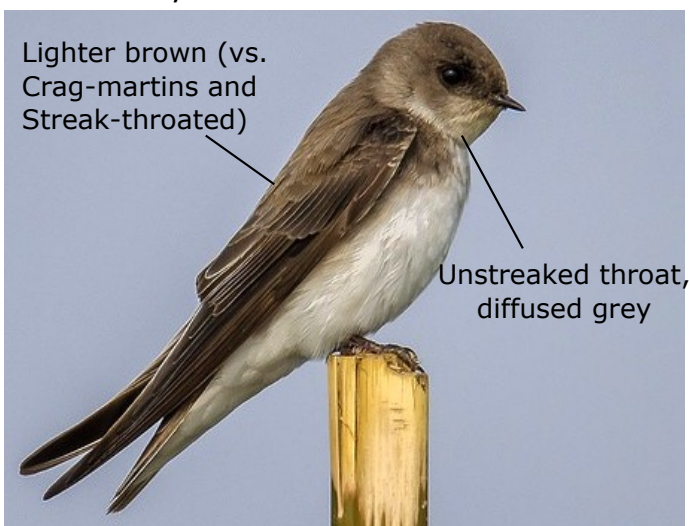
Dusky Crag-Martin (*Ptyonoprogne concolor*)  
Resident, Common



Eurasian Crag-Martin (*Ptyonoprogne rupestris*)  
Passage migrant, Rare



Grey-throated Martin (*Riparia chinensis*)  
Resident, Rare



### Remarks

Grey-throated juveniles are confusable with juvenile Streak-throated Swallows. Crag-martins inhabit crags and dry hills.

Photos by Hasitha Perera, Sudhir Garg, Clement Francis, Avinash Bhagat, Kaajal Dasgupta and Rajesh Kalra

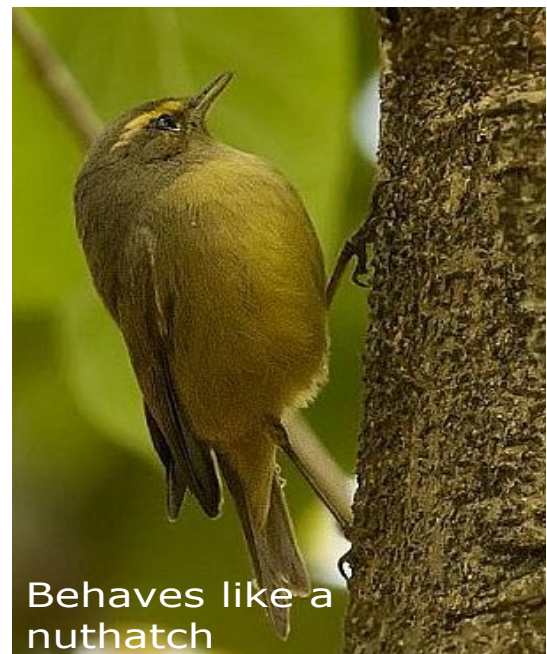
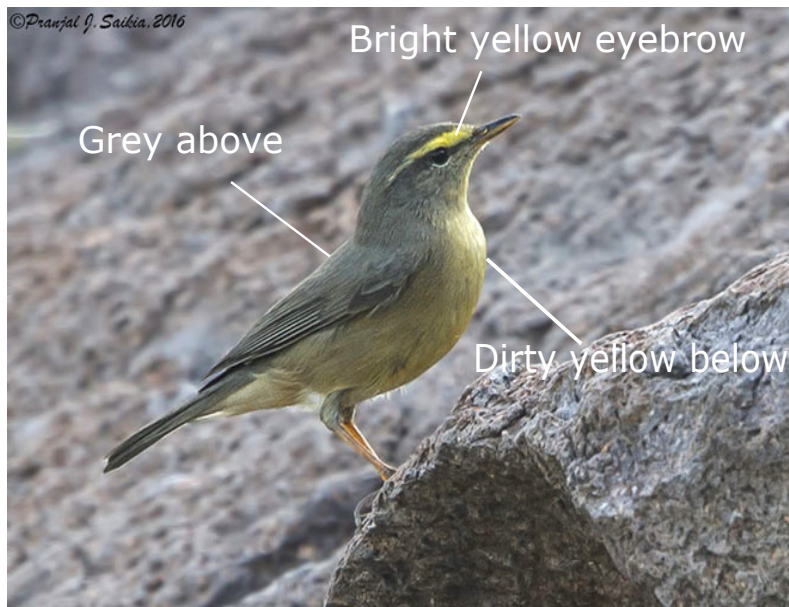


# WARBLERS - I

## Tickell's Leaf Warbler (*Phylloscopus affinis*) Passage migrant, Rare



## Sulphur-bellied Warbler (*Phylloscopus griseolus*) Winter migrant, Common



### Remarks

Tickell's Leaf is largely arboreal. Sulphur-bellied mostly feeds on the ground in rocky areas or like a nuthatch on vertical tree trunks



# WARBLERS - II

Common Chiffchaff (*Phylloscopus collybita*)  
Winter migrant, Common



Remarks  
Affects all habitats

Hume's Warbler (*Phylloscopus humei*)  
Winter migrant, Common



## Remarks

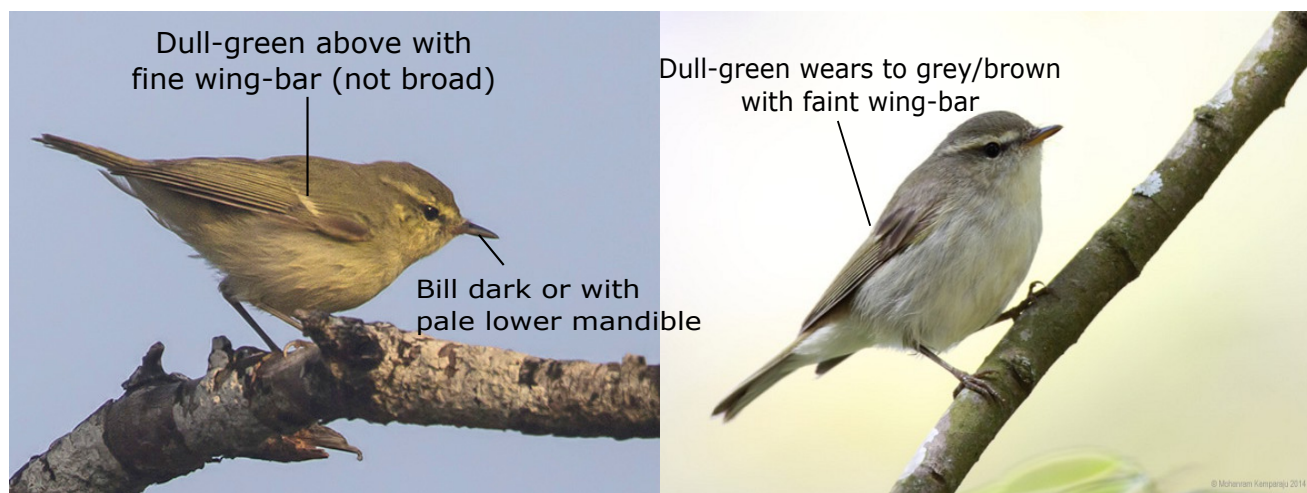
Found in wooded areas. In comparison to Greenish Warbler, wing-bar is generally more prominent in Hume's.

Call: Very vocal. Call is a soft, disyllabic 'chu-wip' (rather Tailorbird-like). Use recordings to distinguish from Greenish.

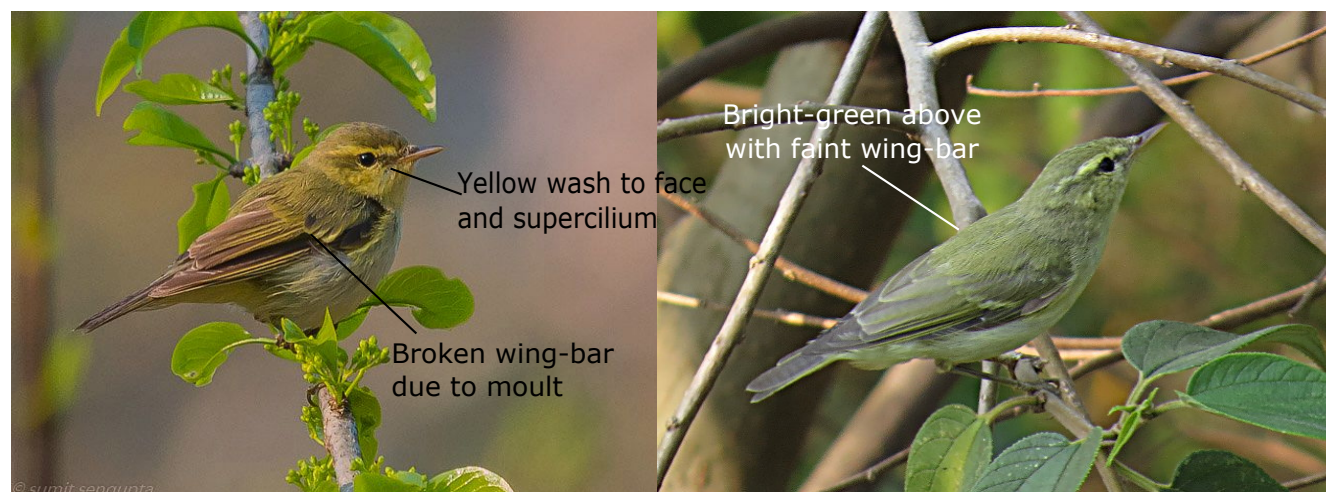


# WARBLERS - III

## Greenish Warbler (*Phylloscopus trochiloides*) Winter migrant, Common



## Green Warbler (*Phylloscopus nitidus*) Winter migrant, Not Uncommon



## Western Crowned Warbler (*Phylloscopus occipitalis*) Passage migrant, Rare



Remarks: Green and Greenish are best told apart by calls (refer to recordings). Western Crowned characteristically flicks its wings alternately. All three occur in wooded areas.

Photos by Pranjal Saikia, Mohan Kemparaju, Sumit Sengupta, Ramit Singal and Avinash Bhagat



# Reed Warblers

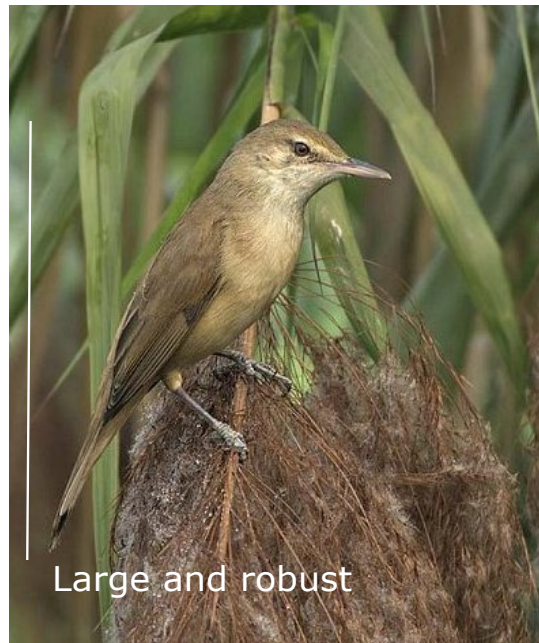
Blyth's Reed Warbler  
(*Acrocephalus dumetorum*)  
Winter migrant, Not Uncommon



Paddyfield Warbler  
(*Acrocephalus agricola*)  
Winter migrant, Not Uncommon



Clamorous Reed Warbler  
(*Acrocephalus stentoreus*)  
Resident, Common



## Remarks

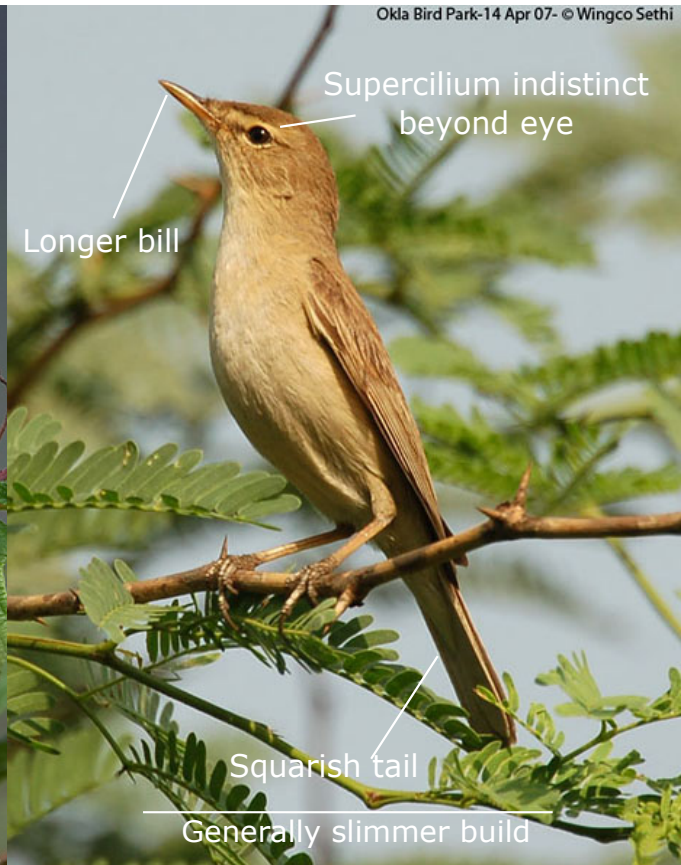
All reed warblers produce harsh 'chucks' (of differing intensities) while moving about. Clamorous Reed produces a series of raucous chucks and cackles. Paddyfield and Clamorous Reed are associated with reeds and tall grass meadows. Blyth's Reed occurs in a variety of habitats.



# *Iduna* and *Sylvia* Warblers

Booted Warbler  
(*Iduna caligata*)  
Winter migrant, Common

Sykes's Warbler  
(*Iduna rama*)  
Winter migrant, Common



Lesser Whitethroat  
(*Sylvia curruca*)  
Winter migrant, Common

Hume's Whitethroat  
(*Sylvia althaea*)  
Winter migrant, Rare



## Remarks

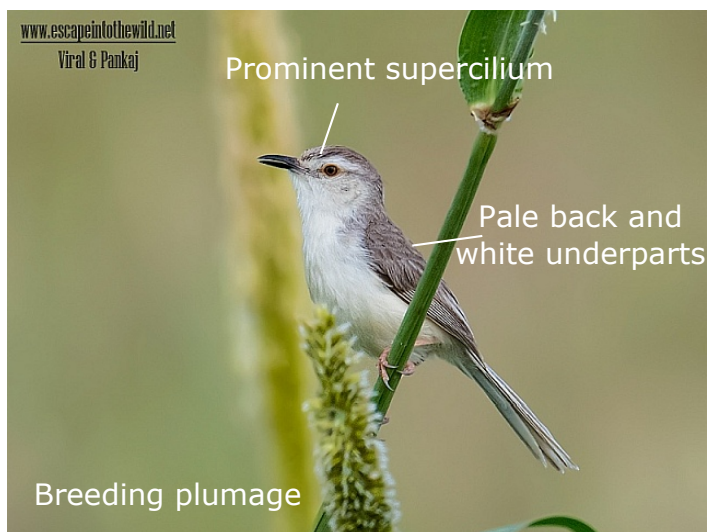
*Iduna* and *Sylvia* warblers occur in dry and shrubby areas. Booted often feeds on the ground. Sykes's is generally more arboreal. Unambiguous identification between Lesser and Hume's is often difficult.



# Prinias

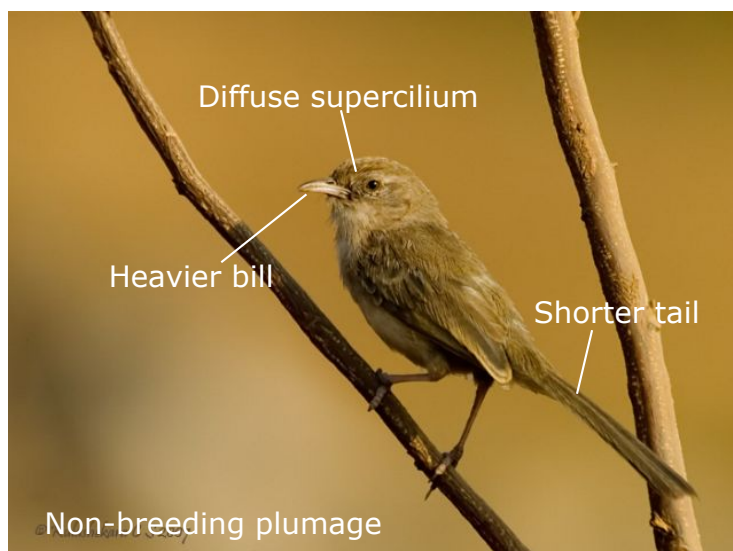
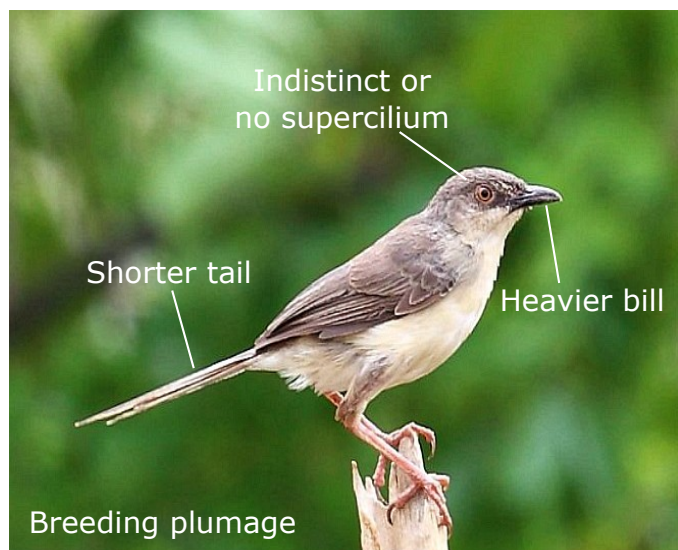
## Plain Prinia (*Prinia inornata*)

Resident, Common



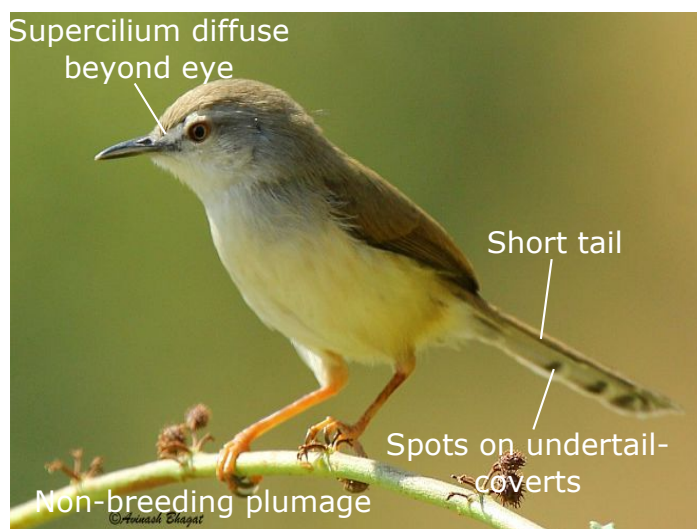
## Jungle Prinia (*Prinia sylvatica*)

Resident, Not Uncommon



## Grey-breasted Prinia (*Prinia hodgsonii*)

Resident, Common



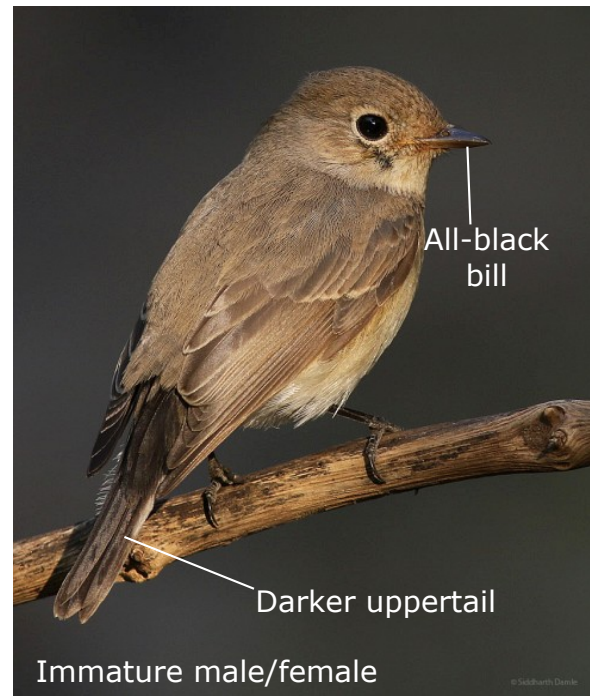
### Remarks

Habitats overlap. Calls are a reliable way to tell them apart.



# Flycatchers - I

## Taiga Flycatcher (*Ficedula albicilla*) Winter migrant, Common



## Red-breasted Flycatcher (*Ficedula parva*) Winter migrant, Common



### Remarks

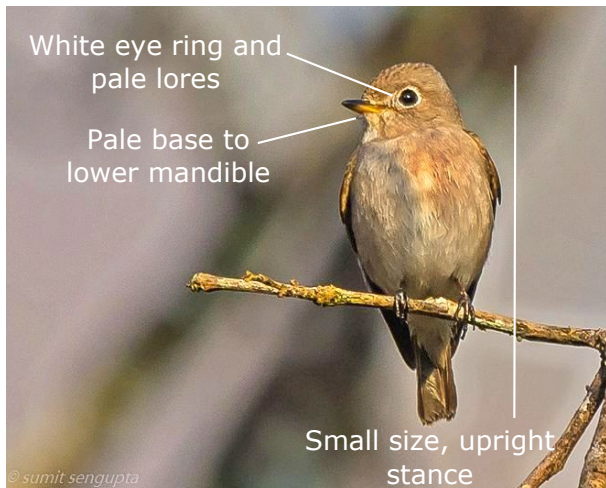
Habitats overlap. Best told apart by calls (refer to recordings).

Kashmir Flycatcher is also a rare passage migrant. However, ambiguous identification between Kashmir and Red-breasted (imm./female) is often not possible in the field. Please note behaviour and call of any odd Red-breasted.

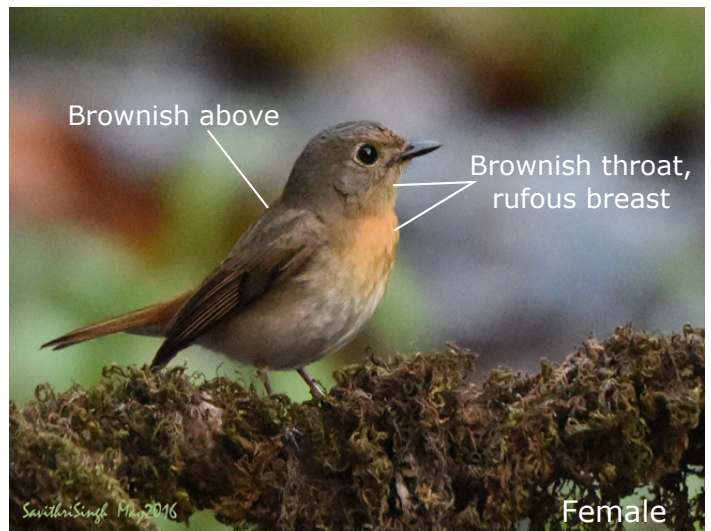
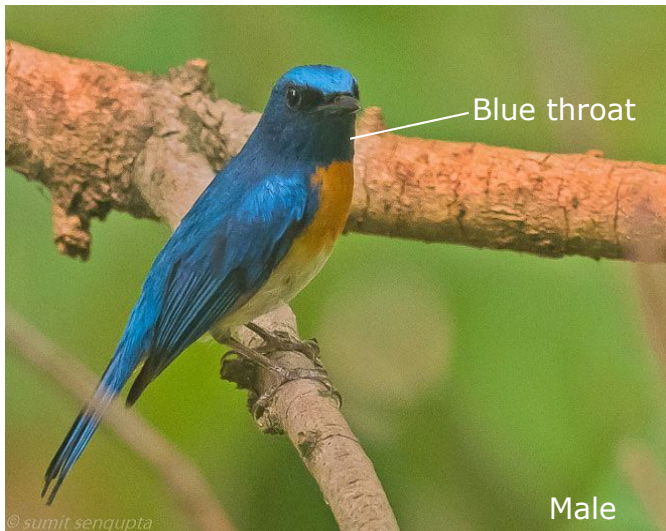


## Flycatchers - II

### Asian Brown Flycatcher (*Muscicapa dauurica*) Resident, Common



### Blue-throated Blue-flycatcher (*Cyornis rubeculoides*) Passage migrant, Rare



### Tickell's Blue-flycatcher (*Cyornis tickelliae*) Resident, Common



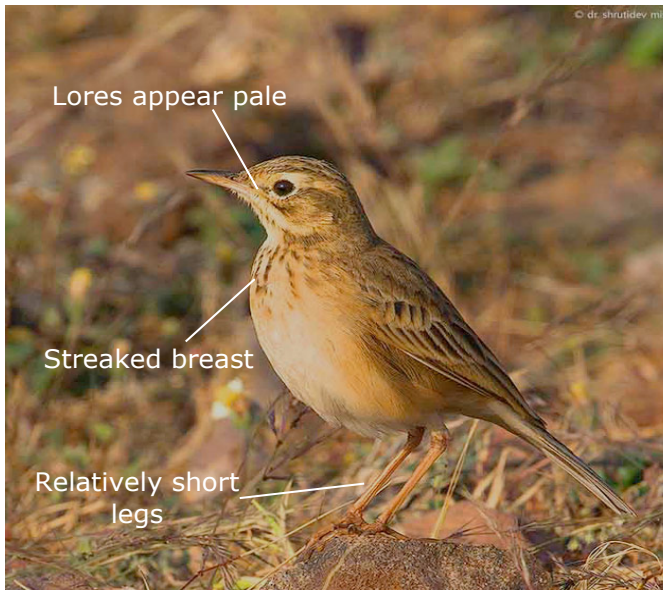
#### Remarks

Tickell's Blue and Blue-throated inhabit the understorey, while Asian Brown is found at higher strata.

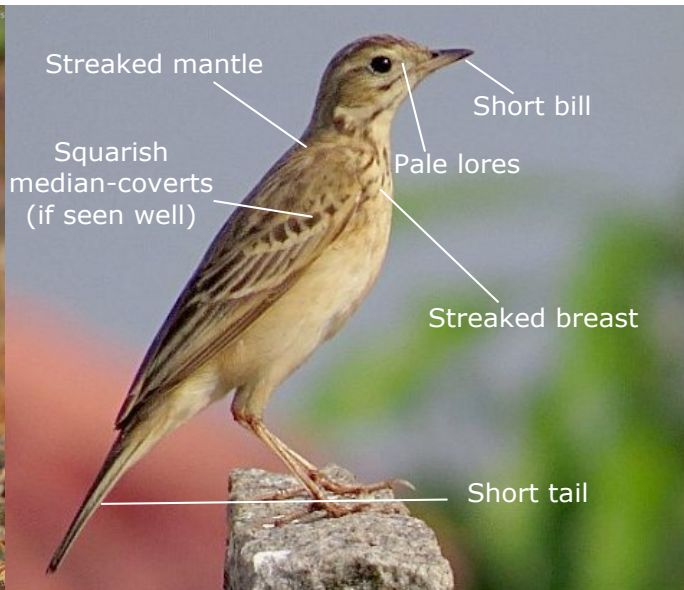


# Pipits - I

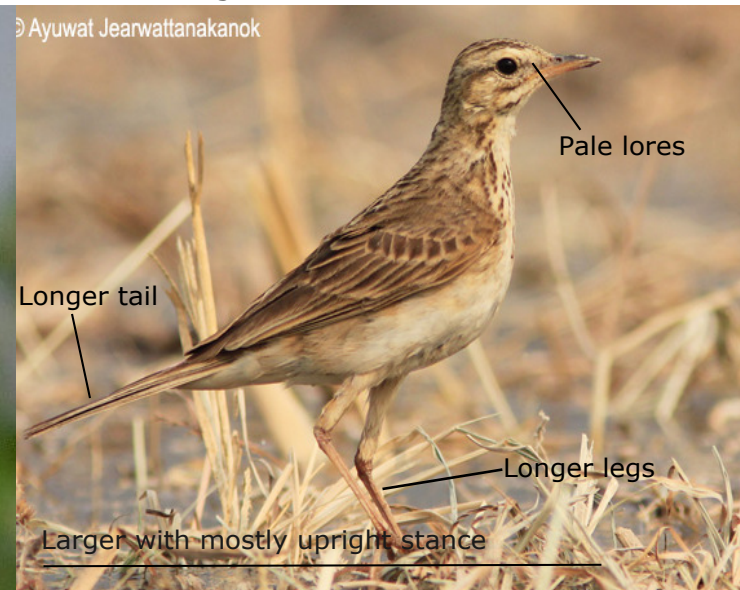
Paddyfield Pipit  
(*Anthus rufulus*)  
Resident, Common



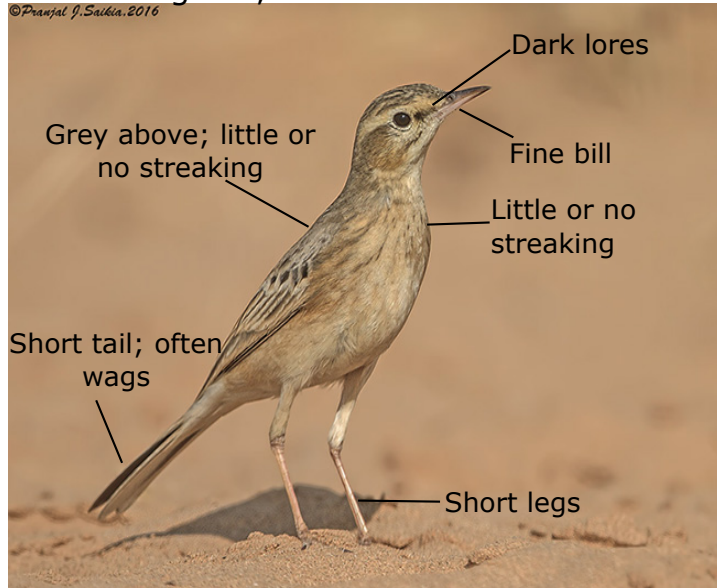
Blyth's Pipit  
(*Anthus godlewskii*)  
Winter migrant, Not Uncommon



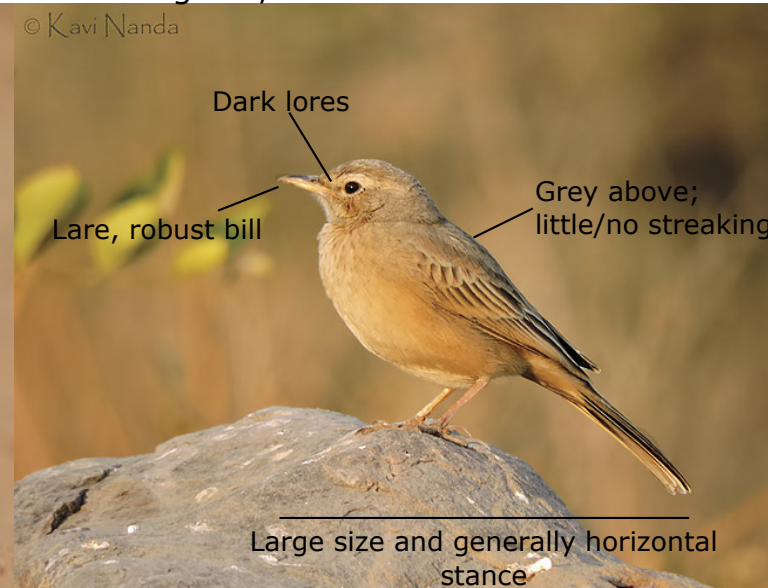
Richard's Pipit  
(*Anthus richardi*)  
Winter migrant, Rare



Tawny Pipit  
(*Anthus campestris*)  
Winter migrant, Common



Long-billed Pipit  
(*Anthus similis*)  
Winter migrant, Not Uncommon



## Remarks

Tawny and Long-billed are typically species of dry grasslands. Flight calls are often the best way to identify pipits. Colour of lores vary with angle of lighting hence require careful observation.

All plates compiled by Rohit Chakravarty