

1) **Great White Pelican** (*Pelecanus onocrotalus* Linnaeus)

Species No. in the Checklist: 1



Size: 183 cm; **Field Characters:** White or rose tinged with a tuft of yellowish feathers on breast, slight crest, feathers of forehead ending in a point above bill. Wing primaries and some secondaries black. Sexes alike but female smaller. Juvenile pale buffish brown; **Habitat:** Large bodies of water; **Food:** Mainly Fish.

2) **Indian Grey Hornbill** (*Ocyrceros birostris*)

Species No. in the Checklist: 47



Size: 59 cm; **Field Characters:** A clumsy brownish grey bird with an enormous black-and-white curved bill surmounted by a peculiar protuberance or casque, and long graduated tail. In female the casque is smaller. Small parties, in lightly-wooded country with groves of ancient trees; **Habitat:** Deciduous forest and groves near cultivation; **Food:** Mainly Fruit, but also large insects, lizards, young mice, etc.

3) Yellow-wattled Lapwing (*Vanellus malabaricus*)

Species No. in the Checklist: 24



Size: 27 cm; **Field Characters:** A sandy brown plover with white belly, black cap and bright yellow fleshy lappets above and in front of the eyes. In flight a white wing-bar conspicuous on the back wing. Sexes alike. Pairs, or small parties, on dry waste land. **Habitat:** Muddy shores ploughed fields and wet grounds.; **Food:** Insects, grubs, molluscs, etc.

4) White-spotted Fantail-Flycatcher (*Rhipidura albicollis*)

Species No. in the Checklist: 83



Size: 17 cm; **Field Characters:** A cheery restless smoke-brown bird with conspicuous white eyebrows, white-spotted breast and flanks and whitish abdomen. Its most striking feature is the perky, cocked and fanned-out tail with wings drooping on either side. Pairs, in wooded country, shrubbery, gardens, etc.; **Habitat:** Shady place in forest, well-wooded country, gardens, groves and secondary scrub; **Food:** Insects, chiefly diptera (flies) and hemiptera(bugs).

5) Long-tailed Shrike (*Lanius schach*)

Species No. in the Checklist: 58



Size: 25 cm; **Field Characters:** Forehead and a band through the eyes black. Head grey. Lower back and rump bright rufous, under-parts washed with rufous. Typical stout hooked bill. Sexes alike. Singly, in open lightly wooded and scrub country; **Habitat:** Open wooded country and cultivation; **Food:** Grasshopper and large insects, lizards, young mice, etc.

6) Yellow-footed Green-Pigeon (*Treron bicincta*)

Species No. in the Checklist: 36



Size: 43 cm; **Field Characters:** A stocky yellow, olive-green and ashy grey pigeon with a lilac patch on shoulders and a conspicuous yellow bar in the blackish wing. Sexes alike. Yellow legs (not red) always diagnostic for this species, Flocks in wooded country; **Habitat:** Evergreen and moist deciduous forest; **Food:** Fruits and berries.

7) Black-shouldered kite (*Elanus caeruleus*)

Species No. in the Checklist: 17



Size: 33 cm; **Field Characters:** A dainty hawk, ashy grey above, white below, with a black line above the eyes and black patches on shoulders, conspicuous at rest as well as in flight. When closed, the wing tip extend beyond the short, square, white tail; **Habitat:** Deciduous biotope up to c. 1300 m; **Food:** Locusts, crickets, mice, lizards, etc.

8) Chestnut-shouldered Petronia (*Petronia xanthocollis*)

Species No. in the Checklist: 99



Size: 14 cm; **Field Characters:** A pale earth-brown sparrow with a conspicuous chestnut shoulder-patch, two whitish bars in the wing, and a lemon-yellow 'thumb impression' on the throat. Female lacks the yellow on throat, and her chestnut shoulder-patches are paler. Pairs or flocks, in open thinly-wooded country; **Habitat:** Dry-deciduous forest, scrub, thorn jungle, groves, cultivation, and oases with date palms; **Food:** Nectar, Insects and Spider.

9) Indian Roller (*Coracias benghalensis*)

Species No. in the Checklist: 45



Size: 31 cm; **Field Characters:** A striking Oxford-and-Cambridge-blue bird, with biggish head, heavy black bill, rufous-brown breast, and pale blue abdomen and under tail. The dark and pale blue portions of the wings shows up as brilliant bands in flight, Sexes alike; **Habitat:** Open country, cultivation, gardens, light deciduous forest, etc; **Food:** Beetles and other large insects, also lizards and frogs.

10) Comb Duck (*Saekidiornis melanotos*)

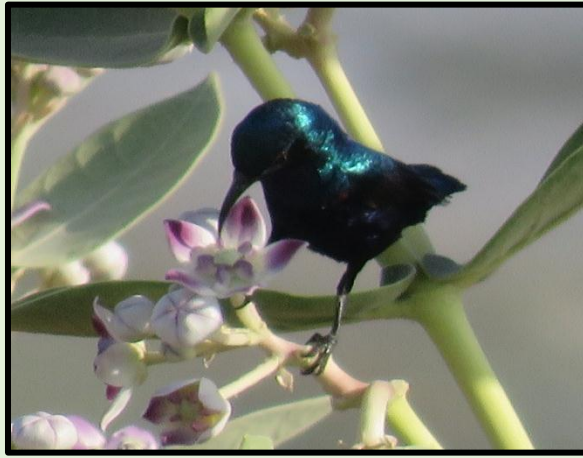
Species No. in the Checklist: 14



Size: 76 cm; **Field Characters:** A large duck, black above glossed with blue and green; white below. Head and neck speckled with black. The swollen knob at base of drake's bill, much enlarged during breeding season, is diagnostic. Female similar but much smaller, and minus comb. Small flocks on reedy jheels; **Habitat:** Reedy tanks in well-wooded plains; **Food:** Chiefly grain and shoots or wild and cultivated rice and other vegetable matter.

11) Purple Sunbird (*Nectarinia asiatica*)

Species No. in the Checklist: 96



Size: 10 cm; **Field Characters:** Breeding male metallic dark blue and purple, pectoral tufts bright yellow and scarlet. At a distance the bird look all black. Male in non-breeding plumage like female – brown to olive-brown above, pale dull yellow below – but with darker wings and broad strip running down middle of breast, pairs in open lightly-wooded country; **Habitat:** Light deciduous or dry thorn forest, cultivation, gardens and compounds; **Food:** insects and spiders, and very large flower nectar;

12) Shikra (*Accipiter badius*)

Species No. in the Checklist: 18



Size: 30-34 cm; **Field Characters:** A lightly build hawk, ashy blue-grey above, white below cross-barred with rusty brown. Female browner above, and larger. Immature, brown and rufous above with broad vertical streaks on the underside. Tail with broad, blackish cross bands. Singly, or pairs, in lightly-wooded country; **Habitat:** Light deciduous forest, village groves, etc; **Food:** Lizards, mice, squirrels, birds, etc.

13) White-eared Bulbul (*Pycnonotus leucotis*)

Species No. in the Checklist: 69



Size: 20 cm; **Field Characters:** An earth-brown bulbul with black head, glistening white cheek, and sulphur yellow under root of tail. The rest crest varies from the rudimentary rounded black tuft of the race from Gujarat, etc., (now considered a separate species *P. leucotis*) to the long forwardly curving pointed crest of northern birds, e.g. from Kashmir. Sexes alike. Pairs or scattered parties, in gardens and open scrub country; **Habitat:** Open scrub and cultivation, gardens, etc; **Food:** Insects, fruits and berries, peas and such like vegetables, and flower nectar.

14) Black Redstart (*Saxicola torquata*)

Species No. in the Checklist: 91



Size: 15; **Field Characters:** A slim active black and orange-chestnut bird, constantly shivering its tail (orange-chestnut) and dipping forepart of body. Female, brown and paler generally, also with orange-chestnut tail. Singly, in stony sparsely scrubbed country and groves of trees; **Habitat:** Stony, sparsely scrubbed broken country and near cultivation and village; **Food:** Insects and spiders etc.

15) Spotted Owlet (*Athene brama*)

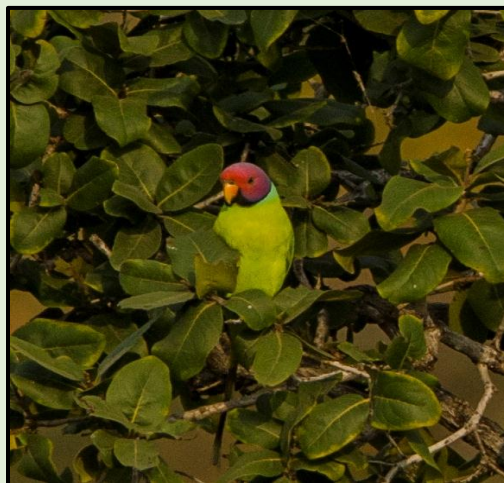
Species No. in the Checklist: 41



Size: ± 21 cm; **Field Characters:** A squat, white-spotted grayish brown little owl, with a typical large round head and forwardly directed staring yellow eyes. Sexes alike. Pairs or family parties, about villages, in ruins, and groves of ancient tree, etc; **Habitat:** Ruins, mango topes and village groves of ancient tree, etc; **Food:** Chiefly beetles and other insects; also young birds and mice and lizards, etc.

16) Plum-headed Parakeet (*Psittacula cyanocephala*)

Species No. in the Checklist: 37



Size: Overall 36 cm; **Field Characters:** Distinguished from rose-ringed Parakeet by smaller size, bluish red head and maroon shoulder-patches. In female, head greyer with a bright yellow collar round neck, and no maroon shoulder-Patches. White tips to the two long central tail feathers diagnostic in flight, as also the sharp, interrogative uttered on the wing; **Habitat:** Lowlands and hills; **Food:** Wild figs, fruits wild and cultivated. Leaf buds. Fleshy petals and nectar of *Butea* etc., paddy and other grains.

17) Bluethroat (*Luscinia svecica*)

Species No. in the Checklist: 92



Size: 13 to 15 cm; **Field Characters:** Small songbird. Gray back, White belly and Chestnut patch at base of tail. Male has blue throat with red center, Breeding (Alternate) Plumage: Grayish brown upperparts and whitish under-parts with bright blue bib (chin and throat) with bar or rounded triangular rufous patch in center. Bib bordered below by narrow black-and-white band and broad rufous band; **Habitat:** In the winter, the Bluethroat is found mainly in vegetation close to areas of fresh or salt water; **Food:** Earthworms, shrimps, small snails and small frogs and seeds and fruits.

18) Eurasian Spoonbill (*Platalea leucorodia*)

Species No. in the Checklist: 13



Size: 75 to 95 cm; **Field Characters:** A long-necked, long-legged snow-white marsh bird with black legs and a distinctive, large, flat, black-and-yellow spoon-shaped bill. A pale yellow brown patch on foreneck. A long, full nuchal crest in the breeding season; **Habitat:** Fresh and saltwater marshes, estuaries, deltas, tidal creeks, rivers, lakes, reservoirs and mangrove swamps; **Food:** Small fish, aquatic insects, shrimp and other invertebrates.

19) Stoliczka's Bushchat (*Saxicola macrorhyncha*)

Species No. in the Checklist: 86



Size: 17 cm; **Field Characters:** Breeding males dark above with mostly blackish mask and wings, broad white super cilium and band along inner wing-coverts and mostly white primary coverts. Non-breeding male has broad buffish fringing above and buffish-fringed remiges with less white. Female resembles non-breeding male but lacks dark mask and white on tail. Wings duller. Juvenile is darker brown above than female, with buff streaks and spots and whitish below, indistinctly brown-mottled throat and breast; **Habitat:** Subtropical thorn-scrub and perhaps irrigated cultivation and tall grass, though these are thought to be suboptimal habitats; **Food:** Insects.

20) Osprey (*Pandion haliaetus*)

Species No. in the Checklist: 19



Size: 56 cm; **Field Characters:** A dark brown hawk with a brown-and-white head, and white underparts. Across the upper breast is a broad brown band or 'necklace' which is diagnostic both when the bird is at rest and on the wing; **Habitat:** Lakes, reservoirs, jheel, estuary; **Food:** Fish.

21) Yellow-eyed Babbler (*Chrysomma sinense*)

Species No. in the Checklist: 73



Size: 18 cm; **Field Characters:** Cinnamon and chestnut-brown above, white below, with conspicuous orange-yellow ring round eye; **Habitat:** Scrub, thorn jungle, reed-beds, bamboo, etc; **Food:** Chiefly spiders and insects; also berries and flower nectar.

22) Little-ringed Plover (*Charadrius dubius*)

Species No. in the Checklist: 25



Size: 17 cm; **Field Characters:** A typical little plover with thick head, bare yellow legs, and short pigeon-like bill. Sandy brown above, white below. White forehead; black forecrown, ear-coverts and round eyes. A complete black band round neck separates the white hind neck collar from back; **Habitat:** Shingle beds in rivers, seashore and mudflats; **Food:** Insects, sand-hoppers, tiny crabs, etc.

(Note: 1. All photographs are taken on IIT, Gandhinagar premises by survey team; 2. Source of description: Book of Indian Birds by Salim Ali)

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