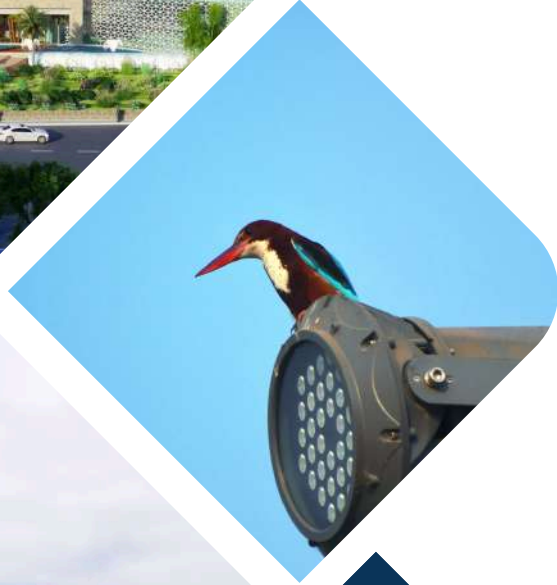




2024



Birds of Panvel

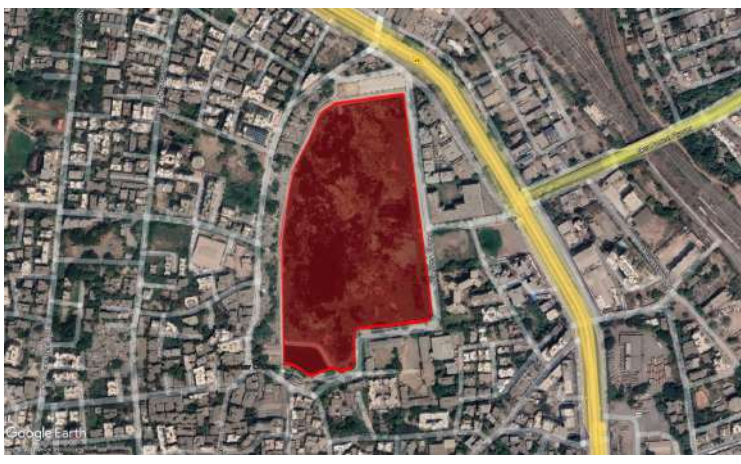


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MAPS OF SITES



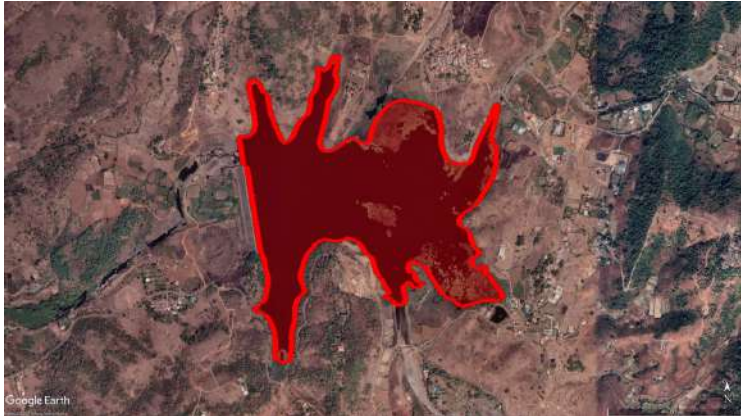
Wadale Lake



Sawla Dam



Khandeshwar Lake



Dodhani Dam

Birds
of
Panvel



Birds of Panvel



Dear Citizens,

I am delighted to extend my heartfelt appreciation to the dedicated team at Panvel Municipal Corporation for their outstanding efforts in curating the second edition of the "Birds of Panvel" magazine under the Majhi Vasundhara Abhiyan 4.0.

The meticulous documentation of the Asian Water Bird Census 2024 and the subsequent creation of this pictorial and informative collection exemplify our commitment to environmental awareness and citizen engagement. "Birds of Panvel" serves not only as a visual treat but also as a valuable resource, providing essential information about the winter migrant birds in our region.

This initiative aligns with our vision of fostering a deeper connection between the community and our local environment. By promoting awareness and understanding of our avian visitors, we empower citizens to form a meaningful connection with the natural world that surrounds us. The information within the magazine serves as a bridge, allowing each reader to appreciate the delicate balance of our ecosystem and their role in its preservation.

The relevance of the Karnala Bird Sanctuary, which lies near Panvel City, cannot be overstated. This sanctuary is a haven for a diverse array of bird species, including many of the winter migrants documented in this magazine. It is a vital part of our local environment, offering a sanctuary for birds and a place of natural beauty for citizens to explore. Understanding the species that visit Karnala enhances our appreciation of the sanctuary's importance and underscores our collective responsibility to protect and preserve these natural treasures.

I extend my gratitude to everyone involved in this noble endeavor and encourage all citizens to explore the pages of "Birds of Panvel" to gain insights into the rich biodiversity that graces our city.

Warm regards,

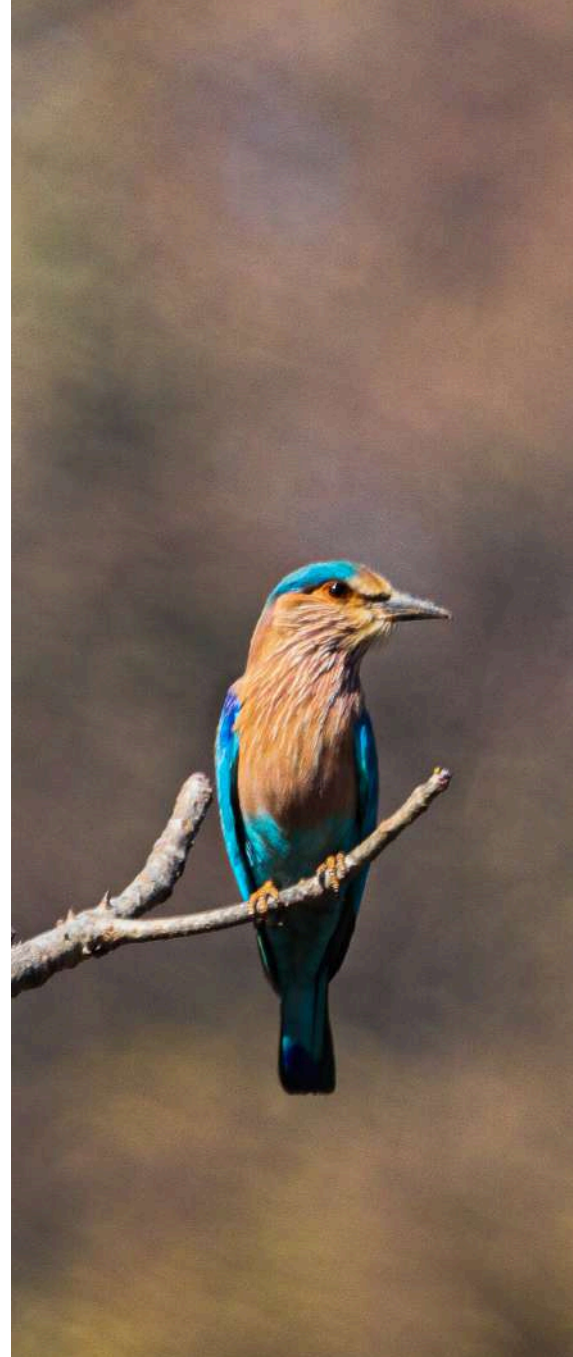
Warm regards,

Dr. Prashant Rasal
Hon. Commissioner and Administrator,
Panvel Municipal Corporation

Birds of Panvel

INDIAN ROLLER

The Indian roller (*Coracias benghalensis*) is a bird of the family Coraciidae. It is 30–34 cm (12–13 in) long with a wingspan of 65–74 cm (26–29 in) and weighs 166–176 g (5.9–6.2 oz). The face and throat are pinkish, the head and back are brown, with blue on the rump and contrasting light and dark blue on the wings and tail. The bright blue markings on the wing are prominent in flight. The sexes are similar in appearance. Two subspecies are recognised. The Indian roller occurs widely from West Asia to the Indian subcontinent. Often found perched on roadside trees and wires, it is common in open grassland and scrub forest habitats,

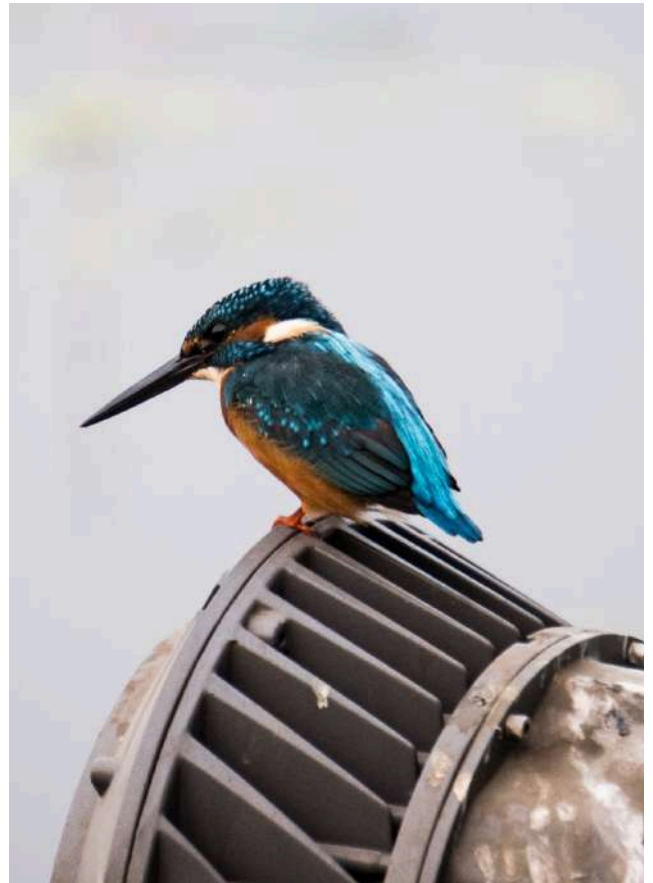
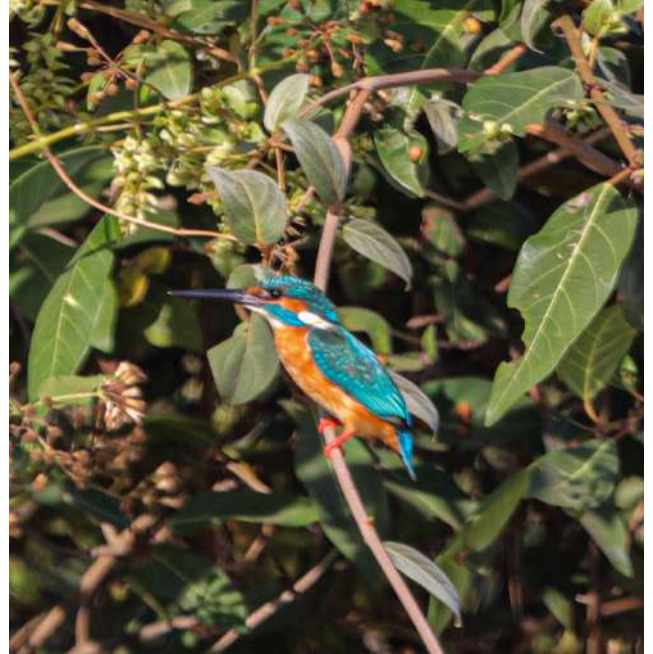


and has adapted well to human-modified landscapes.

It mainly feeds on insects, especially beetles. The species is best known for the aerobic displays of males during the breeding season. Adult males and females form pair bonds and raise the young together. The female lays 3–5 eggs in a cavity or crevice, which is lined with a thin mat of straw or feathers.

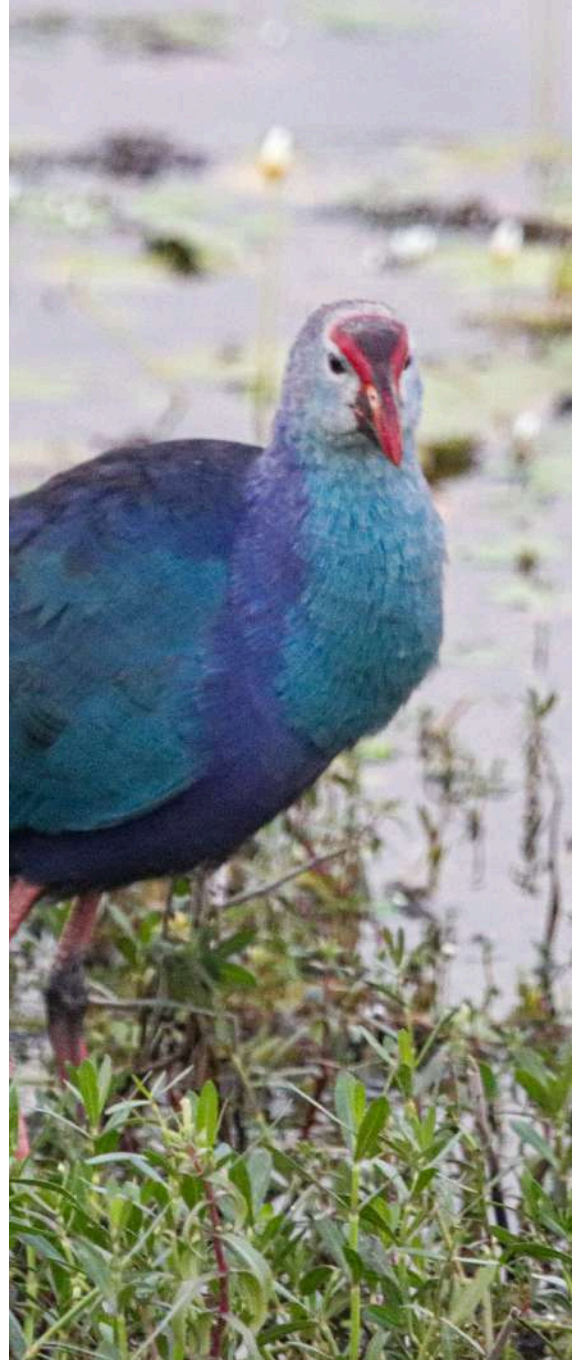
COMMON KINGFISHERS

Kingfishers are a family, the Alcedinidae, of small to medium-sized, brightly coloured birds in the order Coraciiformes. They have a cosmopolitan distribution, with most species living in the tropical regions of Africa, Asia, and Oceania, but also can be seen in Europe. They can be found in deep forests near calm ponds and small rivers. The family contains 116 species and is divided into three subfamilies and 19 genera. All kingfishers have large heads, long, sharp, pointed bills, short legs, and stubby tails. Most species have bright plumage with only small differences between the sexes. Most species are tropical in distribution, and a slight majority are found only in forests. They consume a wide range of prey usually caught by swooping down from a perch. While kingfishers are usually thought to live near rivers and eat fish, many species live away from water and eat small invertebrates. The centre of kingfisher diversity is the Australasian realm.



GREY HEADED SWAMPHEN

The grey-headed swamphen (*Porphyrio poliocephalus*) is a species of swamphen occurring from the Middle East and the Indian subcontinent to southern China and northern Thailand. It used to be considered a subspecies of the purple swamphen, but was elevated to full species status in 2015; today the purple swamphen is considered a superspecies and each of its six subspecies groups are designated full species.



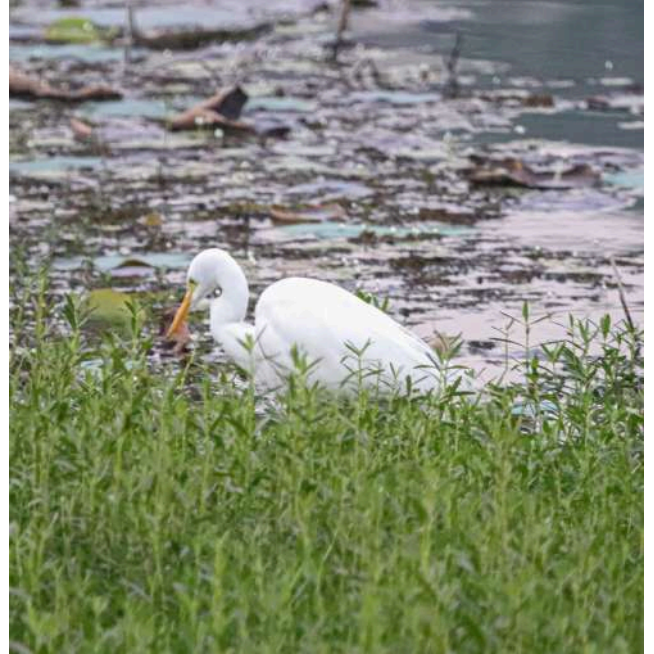
Taxonomy and systematics

The grey-headed swamphen is one of 15 species in the genus *Porphyrio*. It was classified as a subspecies of *P. porphyrio* until 2015, when the purple swamphen species complex was split into 6 species.

GREAT EGRET

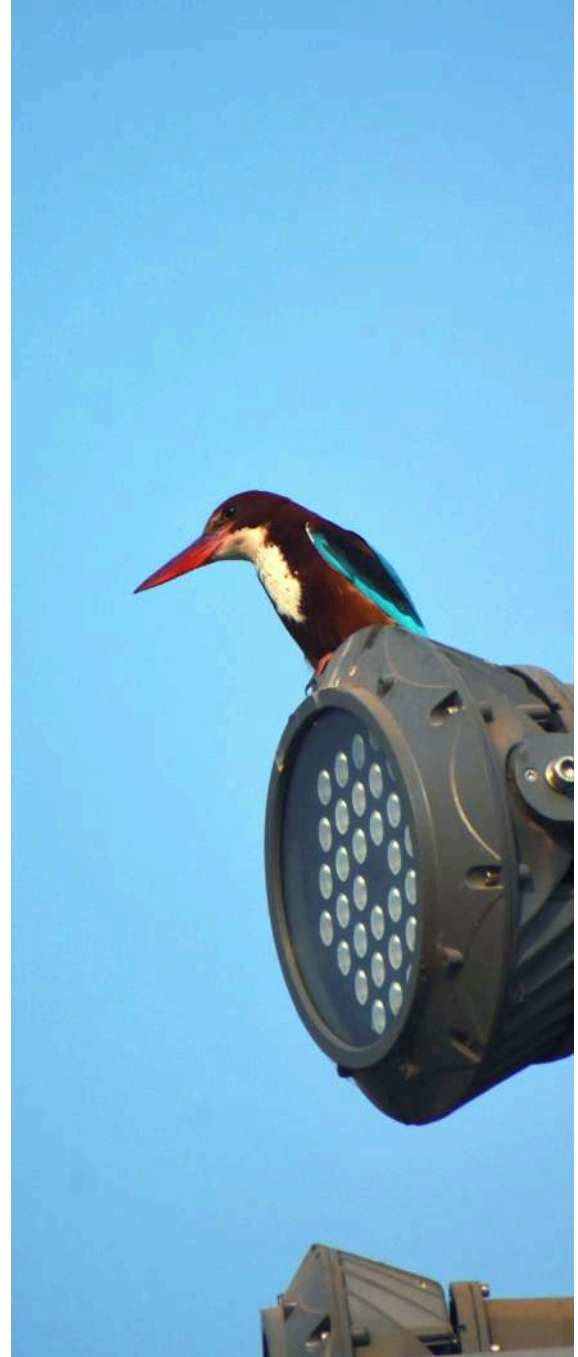
The great egret (*Ardea alba*), also known as the common egret, large egret, or (in the Old World) great white egret or great white heron, is a large, widely distributed egret. The four subspecies are found in Asia, Africa, the Americas, and southern Europe. Recently it is also spreading to more northern areas of Europe. Distributed across most of the tropical and warmer temperate regions of the world, it builds tree nests in colonies close to water.

The great egret was formally described in 1758 by the Swedish naturalist Carl Linnaeus in the tenth edition of his *Systema Naturae* under the binomial name *Ardea alba*. He specified the type locality as Europe. The scientific name comes from Latin *ardea*, "heron", and *alba*, "white".



WHITE-THROATED KINGFISHER

The white-throated kingfisher (*Halcyon smyrnensis*) also known as the white-breasted kingfisher is a tree kingfisher, widely distributed in Asia from the Sinai east through the Indian subcontinent to China and Indonesia. This kingfisher is a resident over much of its range, although some populations may make short distance movements. It can often be found well away from water where it feeds on a wide range of prey that includes small reptiles, amphibians, crabs, small rodents and even birds. During the breeding season they call loudly in the mornings from prominent perches including the tops of buildings in urban areas or on wires.



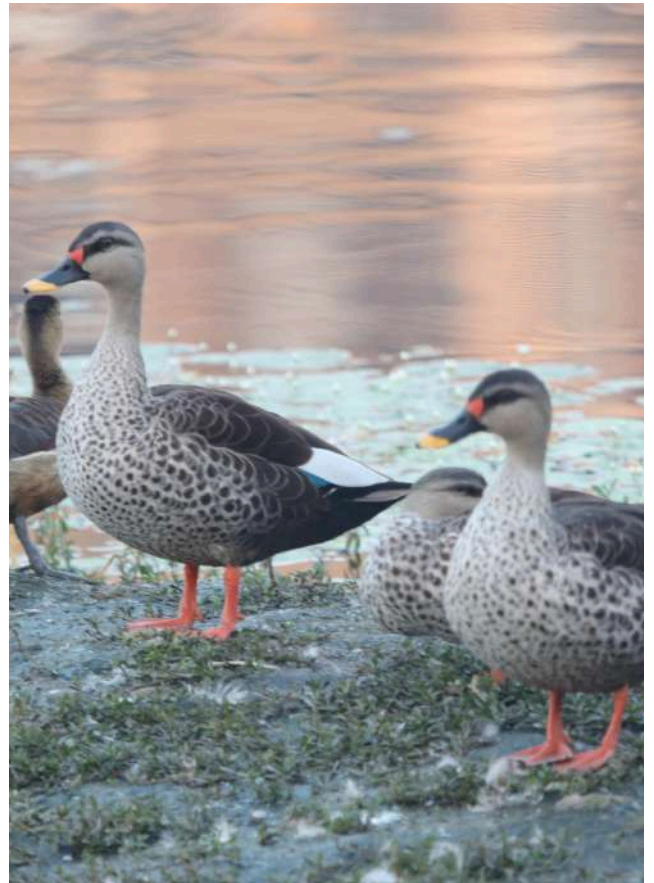
The white-throated kingfisher is a common species in a variety of habitats, mostly open country in the plains (but has been seen at 7500 ft in the Himalayas) with trees, wires or other perches. The range of the species is expanding.

This kingfisher is widespread and populations are not threatened. Average density of 4.58 individuals per km². has been noted in the Sundarbans mangroves.

INDIAN SPOT-BILLED DUCK

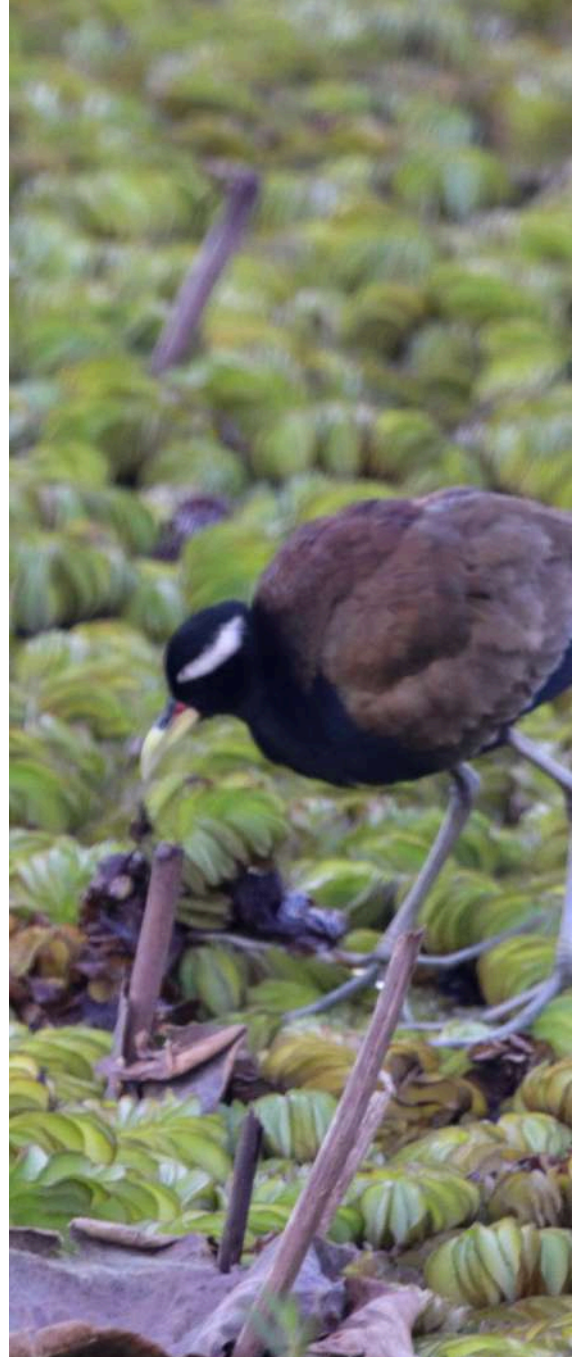
The Indian spot-billed duck (*Anas poecilorhyncha*) is a species of large dabbling duck that is a non-migratory breeding duck throughout freshwater wetlands in the Indian subcontinent. The name is derived from the red spot at the base of the bill that is found in the mainland Indian population. When in water it can be recognized from a long distance by the white tertials that form a stripe on the side, and in flight it is distinguished by the green speculum with a broad white band at the base. This species and the eastern spot-billed duck (*A. zonorhyncha*) were formerly considered conspecific, together called the spot-billed duck (*A. poecilorhyncha*).

The Indian spot-billed duck was described by the naturalist Johann Reinhold Forster in 1781 under its current binomial name *Anas poecilorhyncha*. The name of the genus *Anas* is the Latin word for a duck. The specific epithet *poecilorhyncha* combines the classical Greek words *poikilos* meaning "pied" or "spotted" and *rhunkhos* meaning a "bill".



BRONZE-WINGED JACANA

The bronze-winged jacana (*Metopidius indicus*) is a wader in the family Jacanidae. It is found across South and Southeast Asia and is the sole species in the genus *Metopidius*. Like other jacanas it forages on lilies and other floating aquatic vegetation, the long feet spreading out its weight and preventing sinking. The sexes are alike but females are slightly larger and are polyandrous, maintaining a harem of males during the breeding season in the monsoon rains. Males maintain territories, with one male in the harem chosen to incubate the eggs and take care of the young. When threatened, young chicks may be carried to safety by the male under his wings.

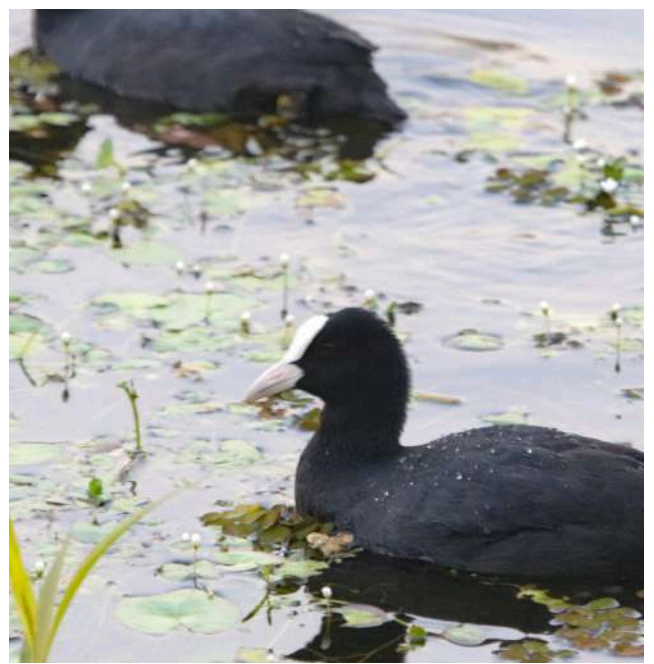
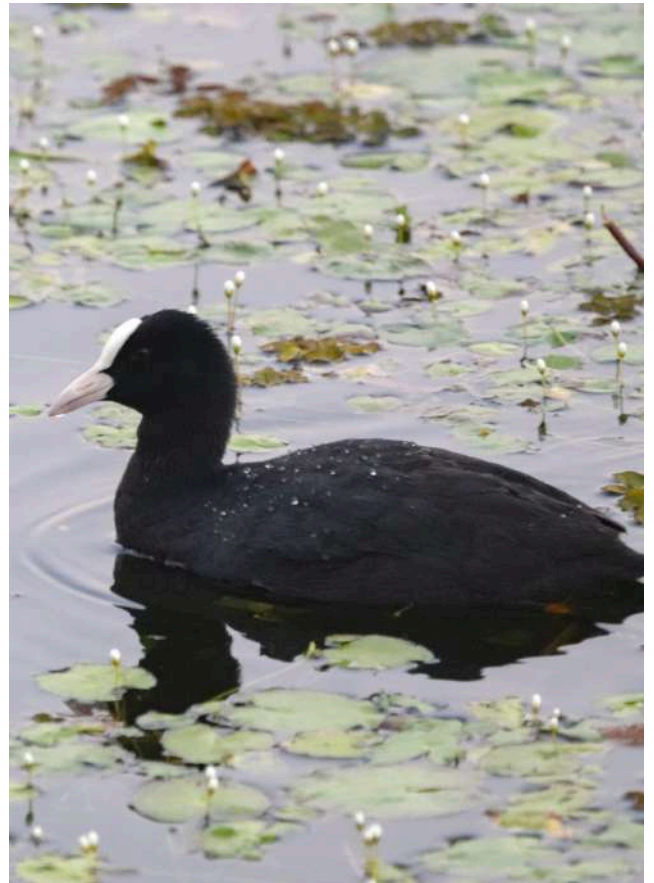
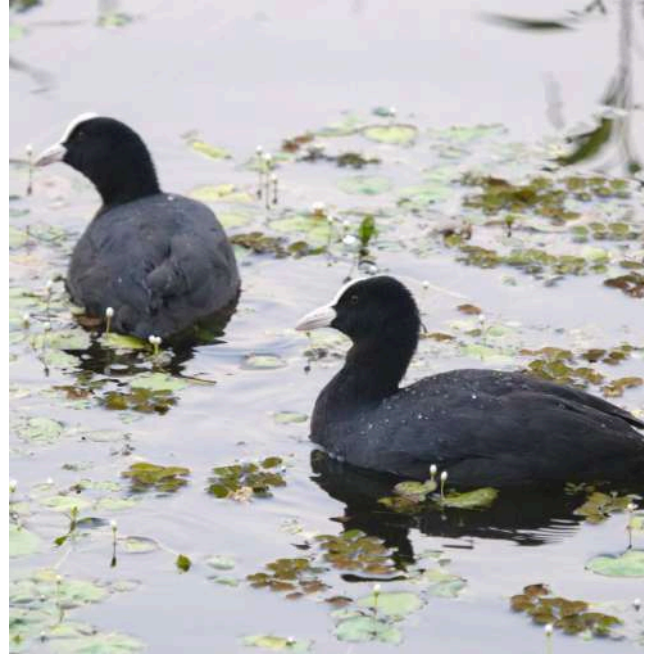


The bronze-winged jacana was formally described by the English ornithologist John Latham in 1790 and given the binomial name *Parra indica*. He placed it in the genus *Parra* along with all the other jacanas. Latham had earlier included the species in a supplement to his *A General Synopsis of Birds* but had not coined a scientific name.

EURASIAN COOT

The Eurasian coot (*Fulica atra*), also known as the common coot, or Australian coot, is a member of the rail and crane bird family, the Rallidae. It is found in Europe, Asia, Australia, New Zealand and parts of North Africa. It has a slaty-black body, a glossy black head and a white bill with a white frontal shield. The sexes are similar. Similar looking coot species are found throughout the world, with the largest variety of coot species living in South America.

The Eurasian coot was formally described by the Swedish naturalist Carl Linnaeus in 1758 in the tenth edition of his *Systema Naturae* under its current binomial name *Fulica atra*. Linnaeus specified the locality as Europe but this is now restricted to Sweden. The binomial name is from Latin: *Fulica* means "coot", and *atra* means "black".



CATTLE EGRET

The cattle egret (*Bubulcus*) is a cosmopolitan genus of heron (family Ardeidae) found in the tropics, subtropics, and warm-temperate zones. According to the IOC bird list, it contains two species, the western cattle egret and the eastern cattle egret, although some authorities regard them as a single species. Despite the similarities in plumage to the egrets of the genus *Egretta*, it is more closely related to the herons of *Ardea*. Originally native to parts of Asia, Africa, and Europe, it has undergone a rapid expansion in its distribution and successfully colonised much of the rest of the world in the last century.



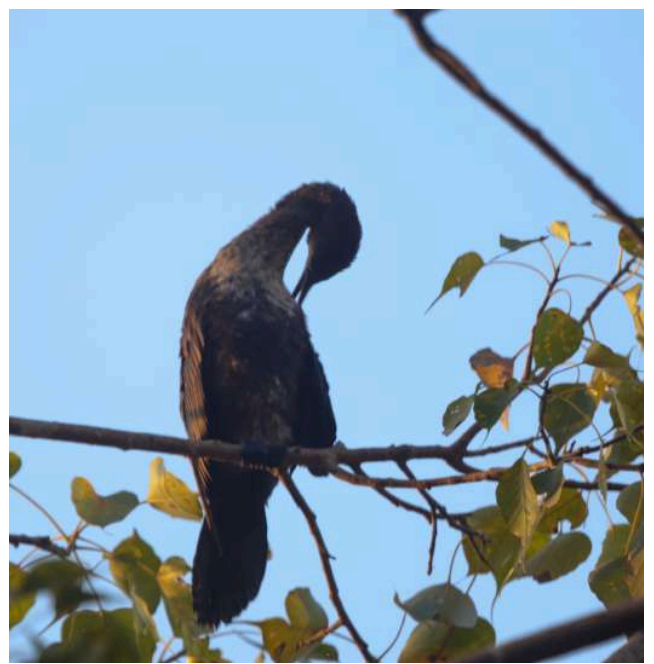
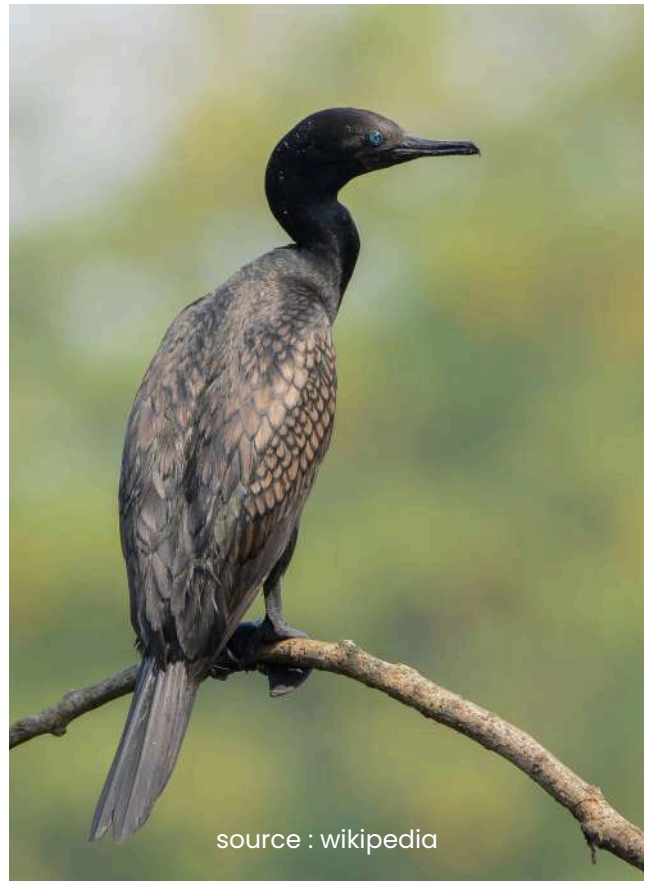
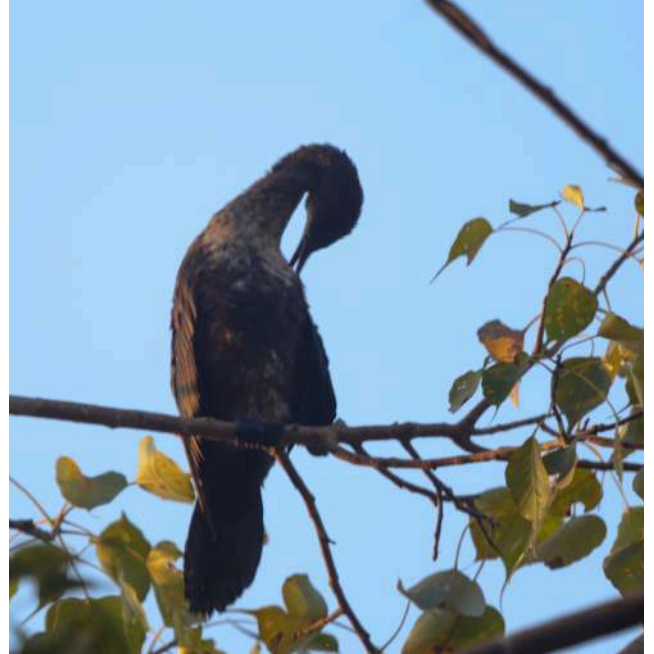
They are white birds adorned with buff plumes in the breeding season. They nest in colonies, usually near bodies of water and often with other wading birds. The nest is a platform of sticks in trees or shrubs. Cattle egrets exploit drier and open habitats more than other heron species.

LITTLE BLACK CORMORANT

The little black cormorant (*Phalacrocorax sulcirostris*) is a member of the cormorant family of seabirds. It is common in smaller rivers and lakes throughout most areas of Australia and northern New Zealand, where it is known as the little black shag. It is around sixty centimetres long, and is all black with blue-green eyes.

Taxonomy

The little black cormorant was formally described in 1837 by the German born naturalist Johann Friedrich von Brandt. He placed it in the genus *Carbo* and coined the binomial name *Carbo sulcirostris*. The species is now placed in the genus *Phalacrocorax* that was introduced by the French zoologist Mathurin Jacques Brisson in 1760. The genus name *Phalacrocorax* is the Latin word for a cormorant. The specific epithet *sulcirostris* combines the Latin *sulcus* meaning "furrow" with *-rostris* meaning "-billed". The species is monotypic: no subspecies are recognised. The common name in New Zealand is the little black shag.



SWEDISH BLUE

The Swedish Blue (Swedish: Svensk blå anka) or Blue Swedish is a Swedish breed of domestic duck. It originated in the former dominion of Swedish Pomerania – now in north-west Poland and north-east Germany – and is documented there from 1835. It is closely similar to the Pomeranian Duck from the same general area, differing mainly in its white primary feathers. The Swedish Blue is a medium-sized bird: drakes weigh some 3–4 kg, ducks about 2.5–3.5 kg. It is rather shorter and broader in body shape than breeds such as the Cayuga or Orpington;



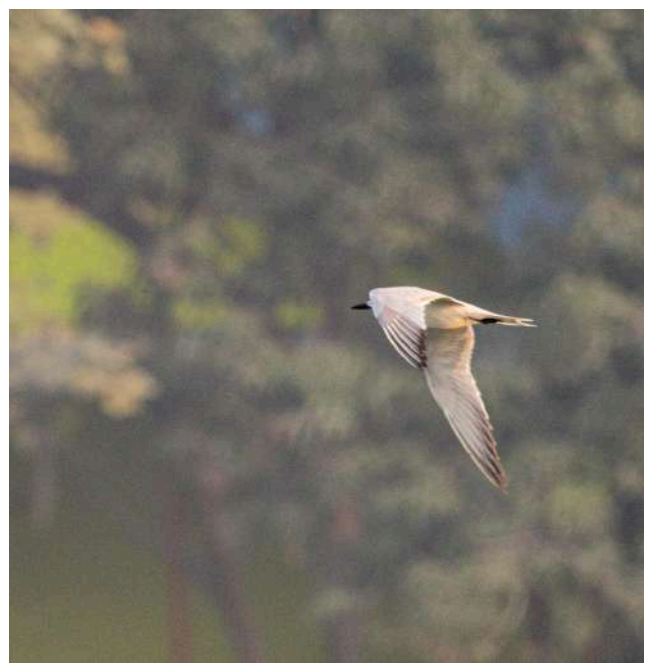
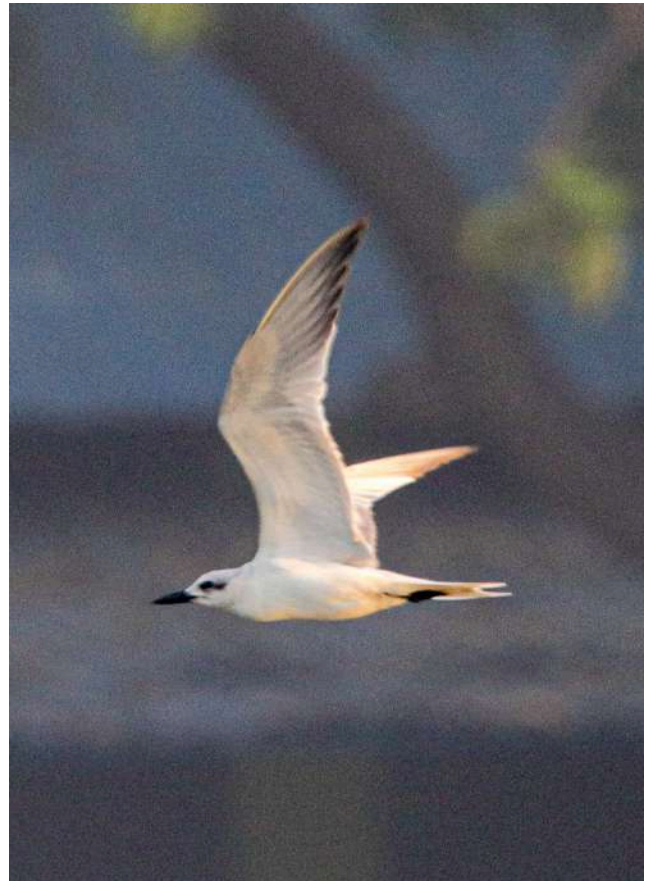
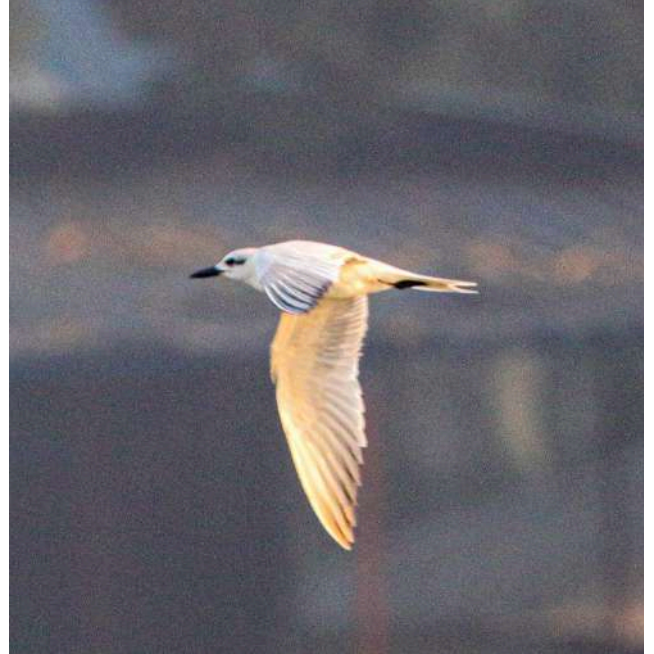
the body is rounded, plump and full-breasted, the back is straight and fairly flat, and is about half as long again as it is broad. The body is carried at an angle of about 20° to the horizontal. The head is long, oval and finely made. The Swedish Blue is distinguished from the Pomeranian Duck, another blue duck from approximately the same region, by its white primaries

WHISKERED TERN

The whiskered tern (*Chlidonias hybrida*) is a tern in the family Laridae. The genus name is from Ancient Greek *khelidonios*, "swallow-like", from *khelidon*, "swallow". The specific *hybridus* is Latin for hybrid; Peter Simon Pallas thought it might be a hybrid of white-winged black tern and common tern, writing "*Sterna fissipes* [*Chlidonias leucopterus*] et *Hirundine* [*Sterna hirundo*] natam". This bird has a number of geographical races, differing mainly in size and minor plumage details.

In winter, the forehead becomes white and the body plumage a much paler grey. Juvenile whiskered terns have a ginger scaly back, and otherwise look much like winter adults. The first winter plumage is intermediate between juvenile and adult winter, with patchy ginger on the back.

The whiskered tern eats small fish, amphibians, insects and crustaceans.



ASIAN GREEN BEE-EATER

The Asian green bee-eater (*Merops orientalis*), also known as little green bee-eater, and green bee-eater in Sri Lanka, is a near passerine bird in the bee-eater family. It is resident but prone to seasonal movements and is found widely distributed across Asia from coastal southern Iran east through the Indian subcontinent to Vietnam. Populations in Africa and the Arabian Peninsula that were formerly assigned to this species (under the name green bee-eater) are now considered distinct species: the African green bee-eater and the Arabian green bee-eater.

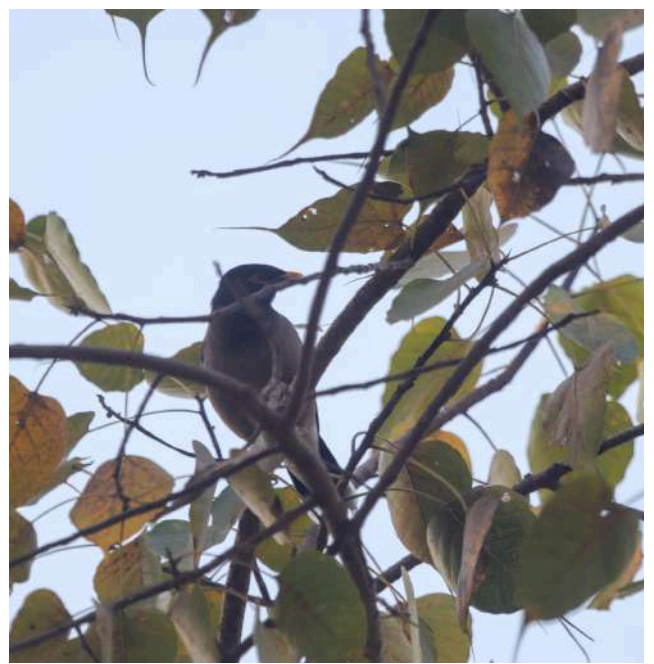


They are mainly insect eaters and they are found in grassland, thin scrub and forest often quite far from water. Several regional plumage variations are known and several subspecies have been named. Like other bee-eaters, this species is a richly coloured, slender bird. It is about 9 inches (230 mm) long with about 2 inches (51 mm) made up by the elongated central tail-feathers. The sexes are not visually distinguishable.

COMMON MYNA

The common myna or Indian myna (*Acridotheres tristis*), sometimes spelled mynah, is a bird in the family Sturnidae, native to Asia. An omnivorous open woodland bird with a strong territorial instinct, the common myna has adapted extremely well to urban environments.

The range of the common myna is increasing at such a rapid rate that in 2000 the IUCN Species Survival Commission declared it one of the world's most invasive species and one of only three birds listed among "100 of the World's Worst Invasive Species" that pose a threat to biodiversity, agriculture and human interests. In particular, the species poses a serious threat to the ecosystems of Australia, where it was named "The Most Important Pest/Problem" in 2008. The common myna is readily identified by the brown body, black hooded head and the bare yellow patch behind the eye. The bill and legs are bright yellow. There is a white patch on the outer primaries and the wing lining on the underside is white.



Birds of Panvel

LITTLE EGRET

The little egret (*Egretta garzetta*) is a species of small heron in the family Ardeidae. It is a white bird with a slender black beak, long black legs and, in the western race, yellow feet. As an aquatic bird, it feeds in shallow water and on land, consuming a variety of small creatures. It breeds colonially, often with other species of water birds, making a platform nest of sticks in a tree, bush or reed bed. A clutch of three to five bluish-green eggs is laid and incubated by both parents for about three weeks. The young fledge at about six weeks of age. The little egret was formally described by the Swedish naturalist



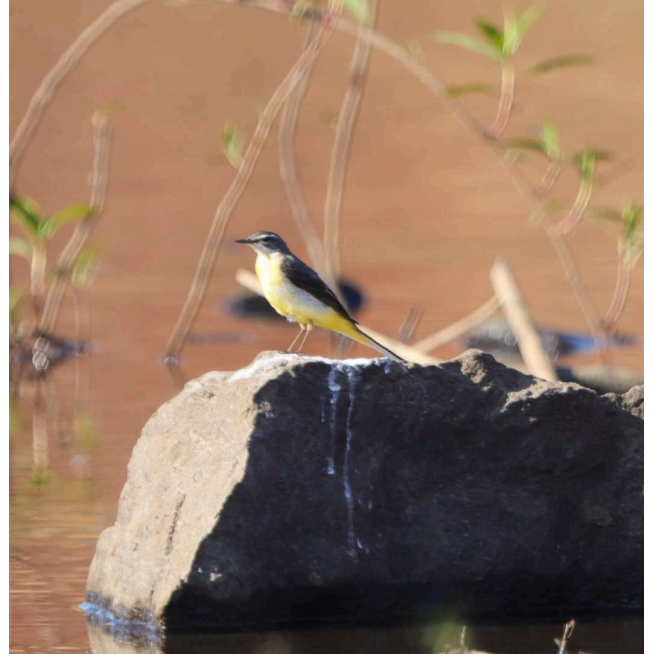
Carl Linnaeus in 1766 in the twelfth edition of his *Systema Naturae* under the binomial name *Ardea garzetta*. It is now placed with 12 other species in the genus *Egretta* that was introduced in 1817 by the German naturalist Johann Reinhold Forster with the little egret as the type species.[4][5] The genus name comes from the Provençal French *Aigrette*, "egret", a diminutive of *Aigron*, "heron".

Birds of Panvel

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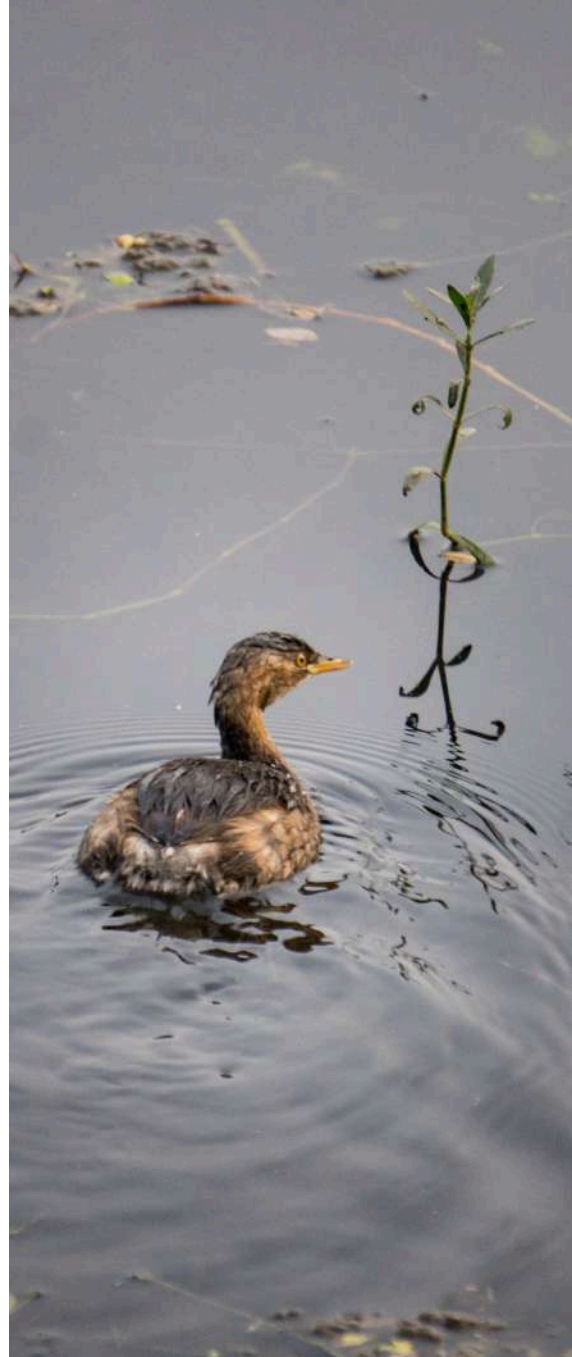


Birds of Panvel

LITTLE GREBE

The little grebe (*Tachybaptus ruficollis*), also known as dabchick, is a member of the grebe family of water birds. The genus name is from Ancient Greek takhus "fast" and bapto "to sink under". The specific ruficollis is from Latin rufus "red" and Modern Latin -collis, "-necked", itself derived from Latin collum "neck".

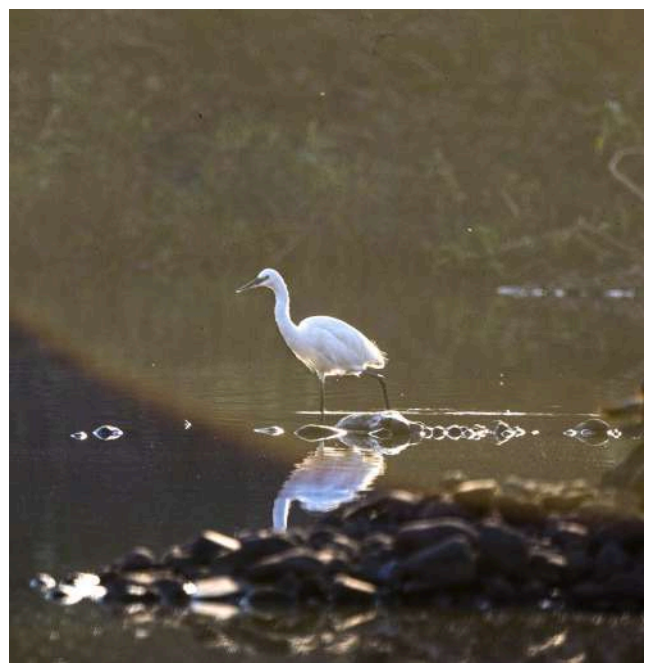
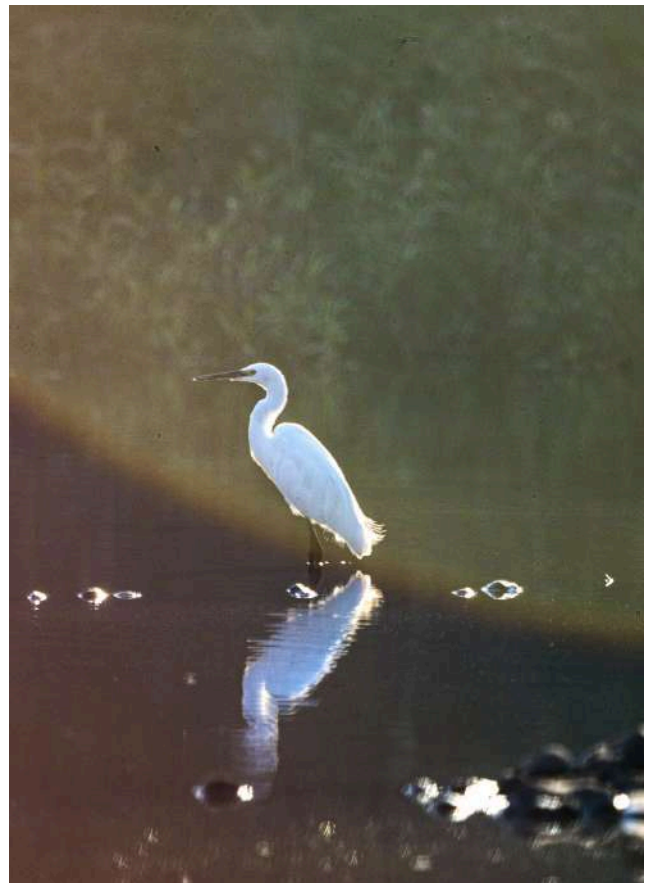
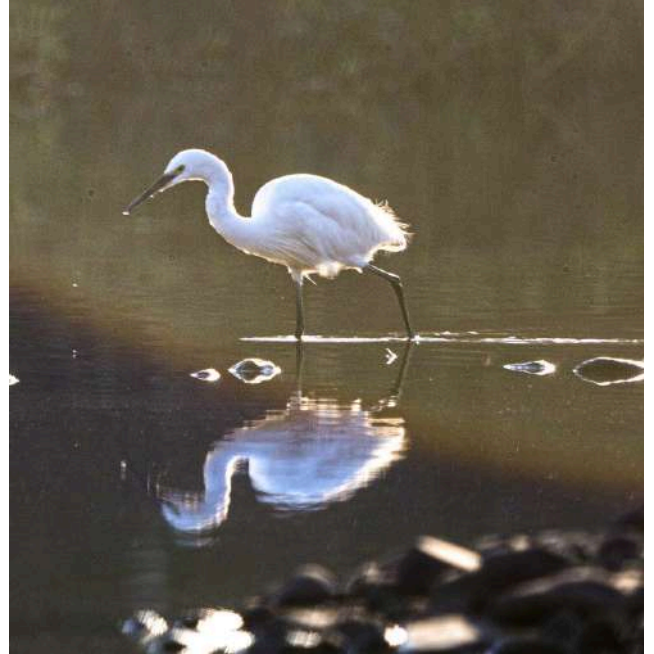
At 23 to 29 centimetres (9 to 11+1/2 inches) in length it is the smallest European member of its family. It is commonly found in open bodies of water across most of its range. The little grebe is a small water bird with a pointed bill.



The adult is unmistakable in summer, predominantly dark above with its rich, rufous colour neck, cheeks and flanks, and bright yellow gape. The rufous is replaced by a dirty brownish grey in non-breeding and juvenile birds. This bird breeds in small colonies in heavily vegetated areas of freshwater lakes across Europe, much of Asia down to New Guinea, and most of Africa.

EASTERN GREAT EGRET

The eastern great egret (*Ardea alba modesta*), a white heron in the genus *Ardea*, is usually considered a subspecies of the great egret (*A. alba*). In New Zealand it is known as the white heron or by its Māori name kōtuku. The subspecies was first described by British ornithologist John Edward Gray in 1831. Measuring 83–103 centimetres (33–41 in) in length and weighing 0.7–1.2 kilograms (1 lb 9 oz – 2 lb 10 oz), the eastern great egret is a large heron with all-white plumage. Its bill is black in the breeding season and yellow at other times, and its long legs are red or black.[citation needed] The colours of the bare parts of the face change to green during the breeding season. The breeding plumage is also marked by long neck plumes and a green facial area. The eastern great egret can be distinguished from other white egrets and herons in Asia and Australia by its very long neck, one and a half times as long as its own body.



RED-WHISKERED BULBUL

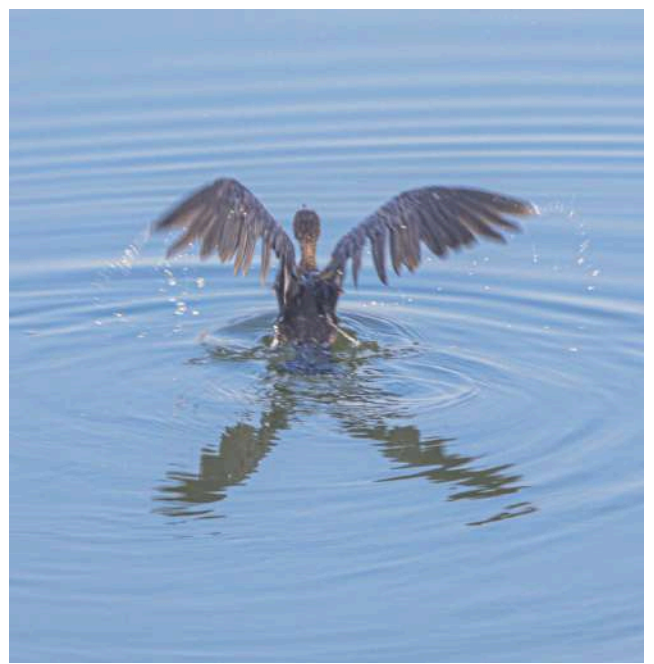
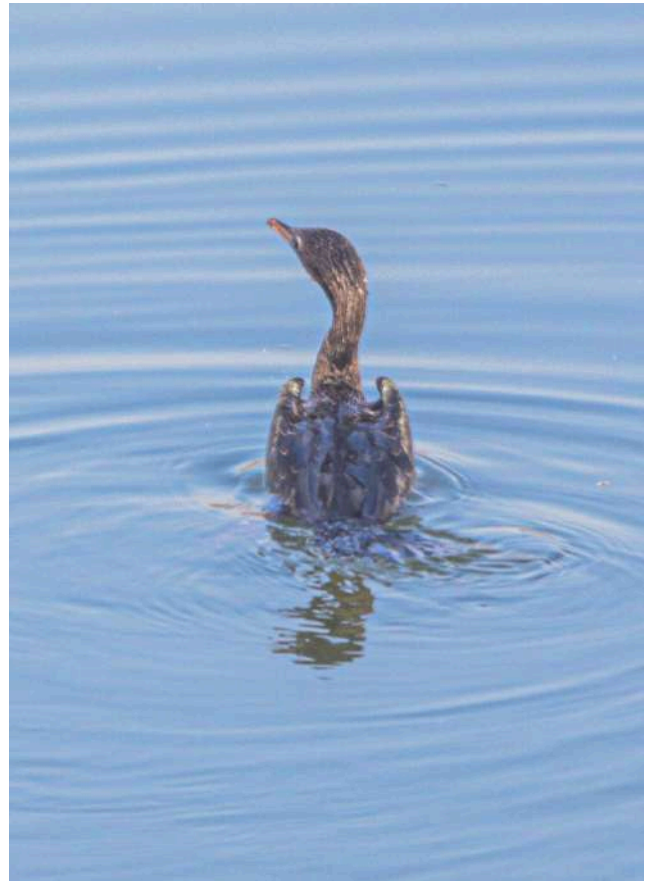
The red-whiskered bulbul (*Pycnonotus jocosus*), or crested bulbul, is a passerine bird native to Asia. It is a member of the bulbul family. It is a resident frugivore found mainly in tropical Asia. It has been introduced in many tropical areas of the world where populations have established themselves. It has a loud three or four note call, feeds on fruits and small insects and perches conspicuously on trees. It is common in hill forests and urban gardens. Hybrids have been noted in captivity with the red-vented, white-eared, white-spectacled, black-capped and Himalayan bulbuls.



The red-whiskered bulbul is about 20 centimetres (7.9 in) in length. It has brown upperparts and whitish underparts with buff flanks and a dark spur running onto the breast at shoulder level. It has a tall pointed black crest, red face patch and thin black moustachial line. The tail is long and brown with white terminal feather tips, but the vent area is red. Juveniles lack the red patch behind the eye, and the vent area is rufous-orange.

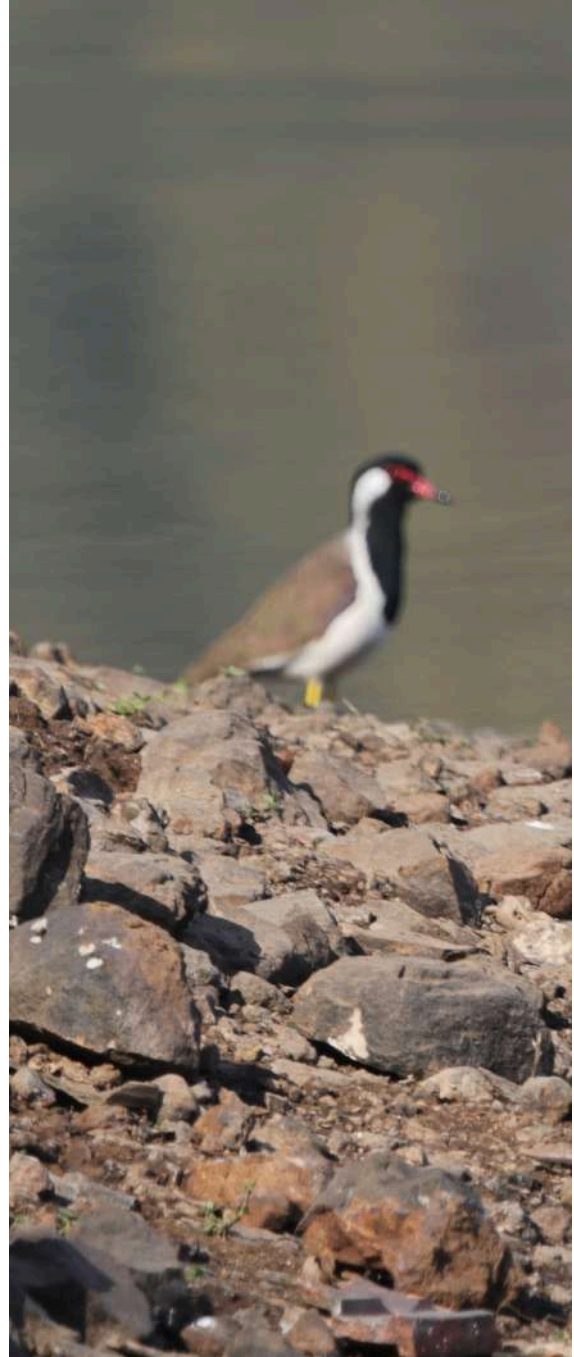
LITTLE CORMORANT

The little cormorant (*Microcarbo niger*) is a member of the cormorant family of seabirds. Slightly smaller than the Indian cormorant it lacks a peaked head and has a shorter beak. It is widely distributed across the Indian Subcontinent and extends east to Java, where it is sometimes called the Javanese cormorant. It forages singly or sometimes in loose groups in lowland freshwater bodies, including small ponds, large lakes, streams and sometimes coastal estuaries. Like other cormorants, it is often found perched on a waterside rock with its wings spread out after coming out of the water. The entire body is black in the breeding season but the plumage is brownish, and the throat has a small whitish patch in the non-breeding season. These birds breed gregariously in trees, often joining other waterbirds at heronries.



RED-WATTLED LAPWING

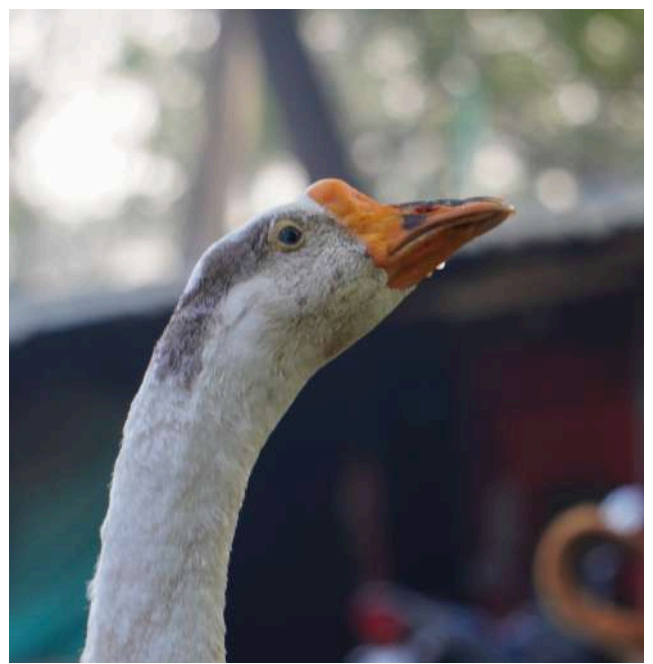
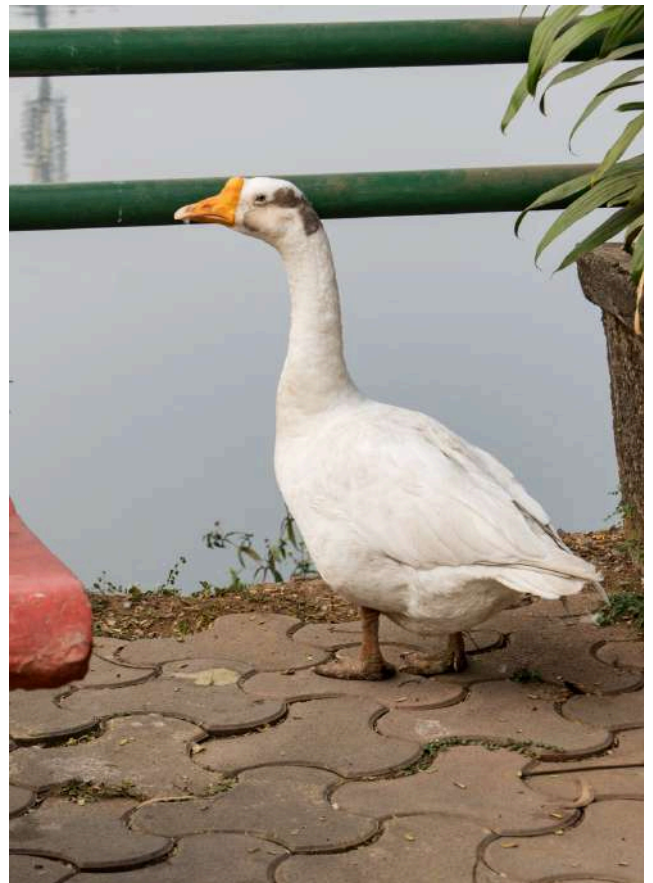
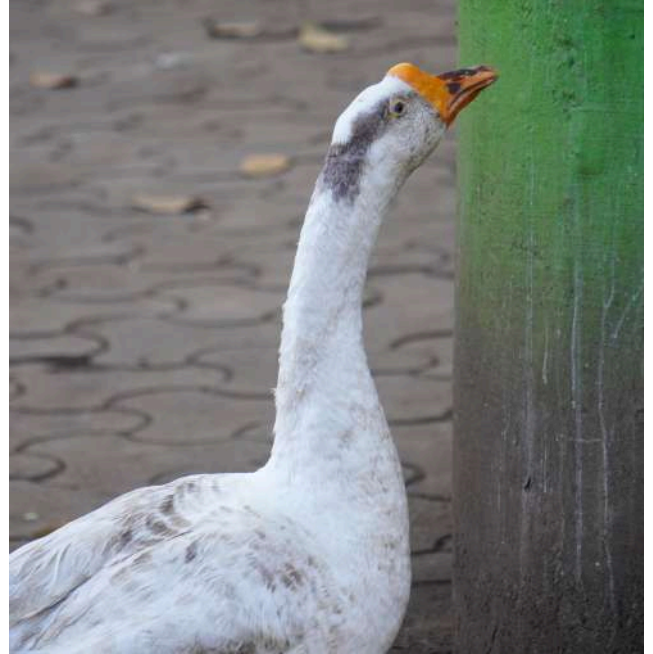
The red-wattled lapwing (*Vanellus indicus*) is an Asian lapwing or large plover, a wader in the family Charadriidae. Like other lapwings they are ground birds that are incapable of perching. Their characteristic loud alarm calls are indicators of human or animal movements and the sounds have been variously rendered as did he do it or pity to do it leading to the colloquial name of did-he-do-it bird. Usually seen in pairs or small groups not far from water, they sometimes form large aggregations in the non-breeding season (winter).



They nest in a ground scrape laying three to four camouflaged eggs. Adults near the nest fly around, diving at potential predators while calling noisily. The cryptically patterned chicks hatch and immediately follow their parents to feed, hiding by lying low on the ground or in the grass when threatened.

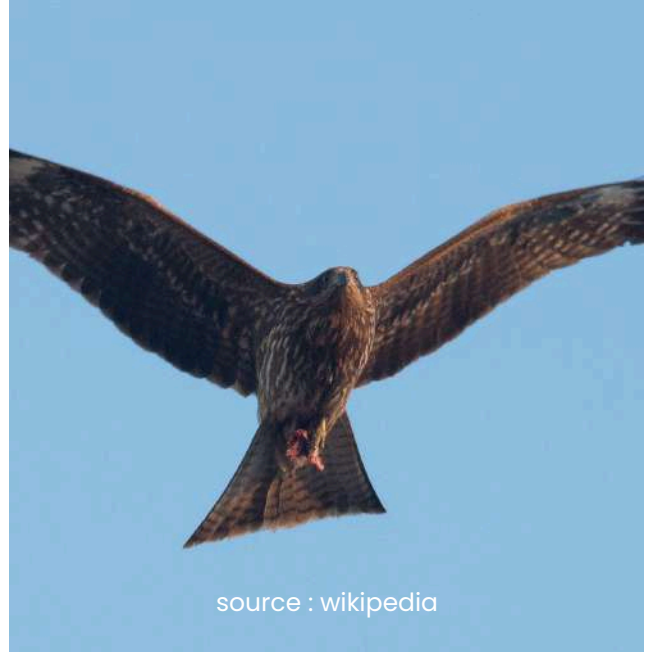
DOMESTIC GOOSE

A domestic goose is a goose that humans have domesticated and kept for their meat, eggs, or down feathers. Domestic geese have been derived through selective breeding from the wild greylag goose (*Anser anser domesticus*) and swan goose (*Anser cygnoides domesticus*). Domestic geese have been selectively bred for size, with some breeds weighing up to 10 kilograms (22 lb), compared to the maximum of 3.5 kilograms (7.7 lb) for the wild swan goose and 4.1 kilograms (9.0 lb) for the wild greylag goose. This affects their body structure; whereas wild geese have a horizontal posture and slim rear end, domesticated geese lay down large fat deposits toward the tail end, giving a fat rear and forcing the bird into a more upright posture. Although their heavy weight affects their ability to fly, most breeds of domestic geese are capable of flight. As most domestic geese display little sexual dimorphism, sexing is based primarily on physical characteristics and behaviour.



BLACK KITE

The little cormorant (*Microcarbo niger*) is a member of the cormorant family of seabirds. Slightly smaller than the Indian cormorant it lacks a peaked head and has a shorter beak. It is widely distributed across the Indian Subcontinent and extends east to Java, where it is sometimes called the Javanese cormorant. It forages singly or sometimes in loose groups in lowland freshwater bodies, including small ponds, large lakes, streams and sometimes coastal estuaries. Like other cormorants, it is often found perched on a waterside rock with its wings spread out after coming out of the water. The entire body is black in the breeding season but the plumage is brownish, and the throat has a small whitish patch in the non-breeding season. These birds breed gregariously in trees, often joining other waterbirds at heronries.



source : wikipedia

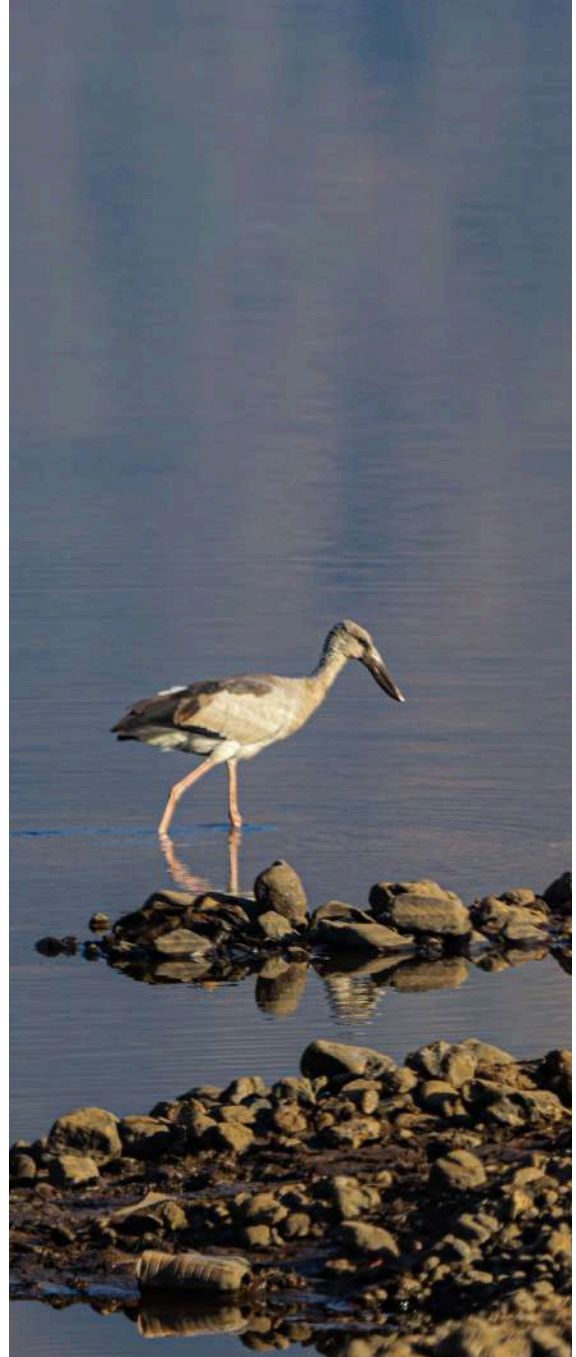


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ASIAN OPENBILL

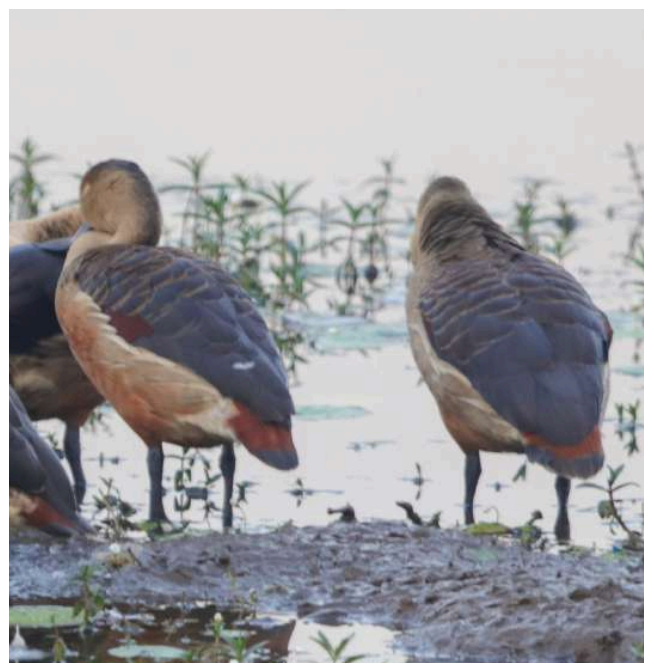
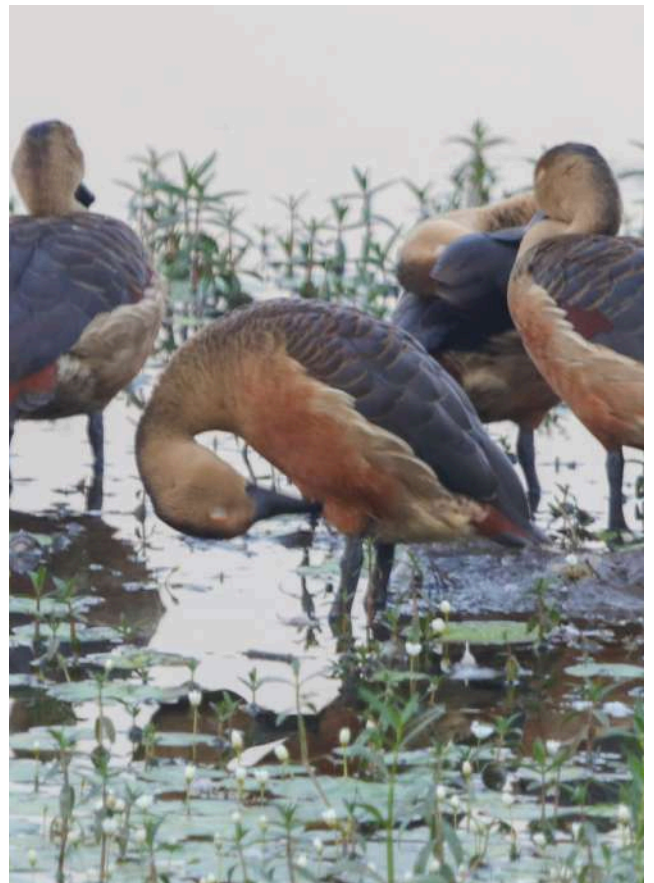
The Asian openbill or Asian openbill stork (*Anastomus oscitans*) is a large wading bird in the stork family Ciconiidae. This distinctive stork is found mainly in the Indian subcontinent and Southeast Asia. It is greyish or white with glossy black wings and tail and the adults have a gap between the arched upper mandible and recurved lower mandible. Young birds are born without this gap which is thought to be an adaptation that aids in the handling of snails, their main prey. Although resident within their range, they make long distance movements in response to weather and food availability.



The Asian openbill stork is predominantly greyish (non-breeding season) or white (breeding season) with glossy black wings and tail that have a green or purple sheen. The name is derived from the distinctive gap formed between the recurved lower and arched upper mandible of the beak in adult birds. Young birds do not have this gap.

LESSER WHISTLING DUCK

The lesser whistling duck (*Dendrocygna javanica*), also known as Indian whistling duck or lesser whistling teal, is a species of whistling duck that breeds in the Indian subcontinent and Southeast Asia. They are nocturnal feeders that during the day may be found in flocks around lakes and wet paddy fields. They can perch on trees and sometimes build their nest in the hollow of a tree. This brown and long-necked duck has broad wings that are visible in flight and produces a loud two-note wheezy call. It has a chestnut rump, differentiating it from its larger relative, the fulvous whistling duck, which has a creamy white rump. This chestnut brown duck is confusable only with the fulvous whistling duck (*D. bicolor*) but has chestnut upper-tail coverts unlike the creamy white in the latter. The ring around the eye is orange to yellow. When flying straight, their head is held below the level of the body as in other *Dendrocygna* species.







Birds of Panvel

