



A.G. & S.G. Siddhartha Degree College of Arts & Science
Vuyyuru, Krishna District, Andhra Pradesh

Department of Zoology

LOCAL FAUNA





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BIRD FAUNA

HOUSE SPARROW

SCIENTIFIC NAME: **Passer domesticus**

Common Name: **House Sparrow**

Order: **Passeriformes**

Family: **Passeridae**



MALE SPARROW



FEMALE SPARROW

IDENTIFICATION

- The male is dark brown, with a black bib, grey chest and white cheeks, whereas the female is light brown throughout its body, with no black bib, crown or white cheeks.
- It is a social species, found in groups of eight to 10, chirping and chattering to communicate with each other.
- The house sparrow is not only among the most commonly found bird species in urban cities, but also the most loved.
- Sparrows are vital for the ecosystem. These little birds support in further developing biodiversity and supporting plant growth in the ecosystem, resulting in healthier and greener environments.

INTERESTING FACTS

- Sparrows can live for around 4-5 years in the wild.
- They are very social and like to live close to human settlements. And you know what, according to the Handbook of Texas Online, they can eat over 830 different foods.
- House sparrows throw dust and soil over itself as if it taking a bath in water.

PIGEON

SCIENTIFIC NAME: **Columba livia**

Common Name: **Pigeon**

Order: **Columbiformes**

Family: **Columbidae**



MALE PIGEON



FEMALE PIGEON

IDENTIFICATION

Male and female pigeons typically exhibit variations in several physical characteristics:

Size: Male pigeons tend to be slightly larger and more robust than females.

Plumage: Males often have more vibrant and iridescent feathers compared to females, especially during mating season.

Head and Neck: In some species, males may have larger or more pronounced features such as a thicker neck or a more pronounced cere (the fleshy area above the beak).

Behaviour: Males may engage in more elaborate courtship displays, including puffing up their chest, cooing, and bowing, to attract females.

Vocalization: While both males and females coo, males may have a slightly deeper or more resonant voice during courtship displays

INTERESTINGFACTS

Pigeons have held historical importance to humans as food, pets, holy animals, and messengers. Due to their homing ability, pigeons have been used to deliver messages, including during the world wars.

1. Pigeons consume a variety of fruits and seeds. By doing so, they help in seed dispersal, which aids in the growth of various plant species.

2. Pollination not as efficient as some other birds or insects, pigeons can contribute to pollination when they feed on nectar-rich flowers.

KOEL

SCIENTIFIC NAME: *Eudynamys scolopaceus*

Common Name: KOEL

Order: Cuculiformes

Family: Passeridae



MALE KOEL



FEMALE KOEL

IDENTIFICATION

Male and female koels, like many bird species, exhibit differences in physical appearance and behavior:

Size: Male koels are typically larger than females, with longer tails and larger bodies.

Plumage: Male koels often have glossy black plumage with striking iridescent blue or green highlights, while females have a more subdued brown plumage with white streaks or spots.

Vocalization: Male koels are known for their distinctive and loud calls.

Behavior: During courtship and mating, male koels may display more aggressive behavior, including chasing away rivals and defending territories, while females focus on nest-building and incubating eggs.

Nesting: Females are primarily responsible for nest-building and incubation.

INTERESTINGFACTS

- The Asian koel like many of its related cuckoo kin is a brood parasite that lays its eggs in the nests of crows and other birds who raise its young.

- They are unusual among the cuckoos in being largely frugivorous as adults. The name koel is echoic in origin with several language variants.

- Asian koels are especially important in the dispersal of the sandalwood tree in India.

- Large seeded fruits are sometimes quickly regurgitated near the parent tree while small seeded fruits are ingested and are likely to be deposited at greater distances from the parent tree.

PIED CUCKOO

SCIENTIFIC NAME: **Clamator jacobinus**

Common Name: **Pied Cuckoo**

Order: **Cuculiformes**

Family: **Cuculidae**



ADULT



JUVENILE

IDENTIFICATION

- A common garden bird throughout much of Asia, found in open forests, fields, and parks; introduced to several regions around the world. Often tame and approachable.
- All black with a white wing patch; crest is distinctive
- It has a sleek body, long tail and pointed wings
- The white wing patch on the black wing and the pattern make it unmistakable even in flight.
- They are very vocal during the breeding season.
- The call is a ringing series of whistling notes "piu-piu" with the calls of the nominate form more rapid

INTERESTING FACTS

- The Pied Cuckoo holds a unique place in Indian folklore, often referred to as the "harbinger of monsoons."
- Its arrival coincides with the onset of the South-Western monsoon rains, making it a symbol of hope for farmers and communities reliant on agricultural cycles.
- In some regions, the Pied Cuckoo's appearance serves as a signal to commence rice crop planting, emphasizing its cultural significance.
- The Pied Cuckoo stands as a remarkable symbol of nature's cycles and the interconnectedness of all living beings
- As we cherish its presence, may we also cherish and protect the delicate balance of the ecosystems it inhabits

BHARADWAJ BIRD

SCIENTIFIC NAME *Centropus sinensis*

Common Name: Crow pheasant / Bharadwaj bird

Order: Cuculiformes

Family: Cuculidae



ADULT



JUVENILE

IDENTIFICATION

- A large bird that resembles a cross between a crow and a pheasant. Largely black with distinctive rusty wings, glossy underparts, a long and heavy black tail, and deep red eyes.
- Juveniles are much duller with white bars on the tail and underparts and variable amounts of black streaks on the wings and upperparts. Common across a range of habitats except very dense forests.
- Greater Coucal is larger with a longer bill and red eyes. Adult Greater Coucals also lack the white streaks on the wings seen on Lesser Coucal. The call is a series of deep, resonant "oop-oop-oop" notes.

INTERESTING FACTS

- Greater coucals or Bharadwaj bird are most active in the warm hours of the morning and in the late afternoon.
- They sunbathe in the mornings singly or in pairs on the top of vegetation with their wings spread out. They communicate with each other using various calls.
- Catching sight of this bird early in the morning proves to be lucky. These superstitions aside, this bird is indeed very beautiful, and be it morning, noon, or evening you will surely enjoy watching it closely in its natural habitat.

BLACK CROW/ RAVEN

SCIENTIFIC NAME: *Corvus splendens*

Common Name: **BLACK CROW/ RAVEN**

Order: **Passeriformes**

Family: **Corvidae**



IDENTIFICATION

Common crows have jet-black wings, tail, neck and beak but its nape (area behind neck) and belly are grey in colour where ravens or black crows are entirely jet-black and are bigger in size than common crows. So, the differences are in size and colour.

INTERESTING FACTS

Contrary to popular belief, crows don't cause bad luck. Their bad reputation comes from centuries of folklore, where storytellers painted crows as a sign of death or grief due to their black colouring.

Crow shouting in front of House

The birds are giving warning that something bad is going to happen. It can mean that your family may get into trouble or you may fall sick. If the crow is making noise sitting in the south direction, then it is considered a bad sign and haunting cawing.

CROW

SCIENTIFIC NAME: **Carvov splendus**

Common Name: **Crow**

Order: **Passeriformes**

Family: **Corvidae**



IDENTIFICATION

- A Large, Long -legged, thick-necked with a heavy straight bill.
- In flight, the wings are fairly broad and rounded with the wingtip feathers spread like fingers. The short tail is rounded or squared off at the end.
- There is no good way to tell them apart. However, the males are slightly larger than the females. This usually only helps if two birds are sitting side by side.
- There are also some behaviour differences between the males and females, but this is also very difficult to discern.

➤ INTERESTING FACTS

- Crows are extremely intelligent. They are popular for their problem-solving skills and are highly famous for their amazing communication skills.
- Another amazing fact, found by researchers is that crows never forget a face.
- When the crow serves as your spirit animal, it signifies our connection to wisdom, insight and psychic abilities to understand the hidden truths of the world.
- The crow spirit animal encourages you to trust your intuition and embrace your unique gifts

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WOOD PECKER

SCIENTIFIC NAME: PICIMEA

Common Name: WOOD PECKER Order: Piciformes Family: picidae



MALE



FEMALE

IDENTIFICATION

❖ Both males and females have red crowns but on males the red colour extends all the way down to their long bills. On females, the red coloration stops on the top of the head, and the forecrown is instead black or grey in color.

❖ Woodpeckers use their bills for drilling and drumming

❖ The long sticky tongue helps them to grasp insects.

❖ The foot has four toes with sharply pointed, curved claws. These toes are arranged, such that two toes point to the front and two to the back. This gives the bird a firm, tong like grip.

INTERESTING FACTS

❖ They can observe using tools, solving puzzles, and even demonstrating a sense of humour, which suggests a high level of intelligence.

❖ From their tree-climbing abilities to extraordinary hearing

❖ They Prefer Dead Trees But the birds will also visit live trees, which may contain tree-dwelling or wood-boring insects

❖ They listen for the sounds of insects crawling and chewing in the wood of a tree before using their strong, sharp bills to capture their prey.

❖ Strong, dense neck muscles allow woodpeckers to repeatedly drill up to 20 times a second.

❖ The extra muscles in the skull act as a protective helmet by keeping the brain from jiggling around when a woodpecker is drumming.

OWL

SCIENTIFIC NAME: **Tyto alba**

Common Name: **Owl** Order: **Strigiformes**

Passeriformes Family: **Passeridae**

Family: **Tytonidae**



MALE



FEMALE

IDENTIFICATION

- Owls have soft plumage. Most owls have piercing yellow eyes.
- Owls cannot move their eyes. If something is not straight in front of them, they have to turn their head to look at it.
- They have hooked beaks.
- Female owls are typically larger than the males.
- Males are generally paler and females darker. Black spots normally mean it's a female.

INTERESTING FACTS

- Owl eyes face forward and are immovable, providing great binocular vision.
- Owls compensate for immovable eyes by the ability to rotate their heads about 270 degrees.
- Contrary to popular belief, owls have excellent vision both in daylight and at night
- Owls fly silently as have specialized feathers that allow them to fly silently, aiding them in hunting by sneaking up on prey without being heard.
- Adaptations for Hunting: Their facial disks help funnel sound to their ears, improving their hearing. Additionally, their talons are powerful and sharp, enabling them to catch and kill prey efficiently.

INDIAN ROLLER

SCIENTIFIC NAME: *Coracias benghalensis*

Common Name: Neelakanth /Blue Jay Order: Passeriformes Family: Corvidae



IDENTIFICATION

- ✓ Blue Jay also known as Indian roller is locally referred as "Palapitta".
- ✓ The only way to tell males and females apart is their size.
- ✓ Male blue jays are slightly larger than females.
- ✓ Telangana government declared Palapitta as its state bird.
- ✓ 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.
- ✓ It has been recommended for International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red List reassessment.

INTERESTING FACTS

- ✓ The Indian roller descends to the ground to capture insects and to a lesser extent amphibians, reptiles, birds and small mammals.
- ✓ It is attracted to swarms of winged termites;
- ✓ In Hindu mythology it is believed to be Lord Shiva's assumed form or messenger and Lord Rama is said to have seen an Indian roller before the battle against Ravana
- ✓ Farmers once valued it for pest control in low-pesticide times. sighting it on Dasara day is considered auspicious.
- ✓ "In our state Palapitta are believed to bring luck when seen on the eve of Dasara festival.

LITTLE EGRET

SCIENTIFIC NAME: *Egretta garzetta*

Common Name: Little Egret

Order: Pelecaniformes

Family: Ardeidae



IDENTIFICATION

- Small snow-white heron with slender dark bill, blackish legs, and yellowish feet ("golden slippers").
- Inhabits a wide variety of wetlands: lakes, rivers, marshes, estuaries—almost anywhere with small fish.
- Occurs as singles or small loose groups; nests and roosts communally.
- There are no significant visible differences between male and female though males tend to be slightly larger.
- Males are in charge of picking the spot for a nest, usually in very tall trees near water.

INTERESTING FACTS

- With its yellow feet, which are used to flush prey when feeding in shallow water.
- Little egrets played a vital role in the founding of the RSPB. (Royal Society for the Protection of Birds).
- During the 19th century, little egrets were extensively hunted for their long neck plumes which were used as exotic feathers in women's hats. This led to local extinctions throughout North western Europe

PARROT

SCIENTIFIC NAME: *Psittacula*

Common Name: Parrot

Order: Psittaciformes

Family: Picidae



MALE PARROT



FEMALE PARROT

IDENTIFICATION

In males a brightly coloured neck ring develops when the bird is sexually mature.

Males are mostly bright green and females are light green in colour without a neck ring

Their colourful feathers serve both practical and aesthetic purposes, aiding in camouflage and attracting mates.

INTERESTING FACTS

Intelligence:

Parrots are highly intelligent birds, capable of problem-solving, mimicry, and even basic communication with humans.

Mimicry:

Parrots are capable of imitating a wide range of sounds, including human speech.

Social Behaviour:

Parrots are social animals that often form strong bonds with their flock or human caregivers.

Diverse Species:

There are over 390 species of parrots

Longevity:

Many parrot species have long life spans, with some individuals living for several decades or even over a century in captivity.

Overall, parrots are fascinating birds known for their beauty, intelligence, and engaging behaviour, making them popular subjects for study, conservation, and companionship.

HEN

SCIENTIFIC NAME: **Gallus domesticus**

Common Name: **Hen**

Order: **Galliformes**

Family: **Phasianidae**



MALE HEN



FEMALE HEN

IDENTIFICATION

- Hens are generally smaller than roosters. They have a sleeker and more compact body structure.
- The comb (fleshy crest on the head) and wattles (dangling flaps of skin) on a hen are typically smaller and less pronounced than those on a rooster.
- The males have pointed feathers around the neck, back, and tail; in females these feathers have round ends.

INTERESTING FACTS

- Chickens love to play, run, skip and flap their wings. They also enjoy sunbathing.
- Hens teach sounds to their chicks while they are still in the egg.
- Hens and Chickens have a profound memory and are able to distinguish between more than 100 faces of their species. They can also recognise people.
- They are able to distinguish colours. They also see ultraviolet light and iridescent hues. Their world looks more colourful than ours.
- They demonstrate REM (Rapid Eye Movement) when sleeping. That means they are capable of dreaming, just like us human beings.
- Chickens can show empathy and hens can act as a 'social buffer' for their baby chicks.
- The cognitive skills of chickens are similarly high to those of a dog or cat.
- They can taste salt but not perceive sweet tastes.
- Hens understand that when an object is taken away and hidden, it still exists.

BLACK DRONGO

SCIENTIFIC NAME: *Dicrurus macrocercus*

Common Name: Black Drongo

Order: Passeriformes

Family: Phasianidae



ADULT



JUVENILE

IDENTIFICATION

- The male is dark brown, with a black bib, grey chest and white cheeks, whereas the female is light brown throughout its body, with no black bib, crown or white cheeks.
- It is a social species, found in groups of eight to 10, chirping and chattering to communicate with each other.
- The house sparrow is not only among the most commonly found bird species in urban cities, but also the most loved.
- Sparrows are vital for the ecosystem. These little birds support in further developing biodiversity and supporting plant growth in the ecosystem, resulting in healthier and greener environments.

INTERESTING FACTS

- Sparrows can live for around 4-5 years in the wild.
- They are very social and like to live close to human settlements. And you know what, according to the Handbook of Texas Online, they can eat over 830 different foods.
- House sparrows throw dust and soil over itself as if it taking a bath in water.

MYNA

SCIENTIFIC NAME: **Acridotheres tristis**

Common Name: **Myna** Order: **Passeriformes** Family: **Sturnidae**



ADULT



JUVENILE

IDENTIFICATION

- Mynas are medium-sized passerines with strong feet. Their flight is strong and direct, and they are gregarious. Their preferred habitat is fairly open country, and they eat insects and fruit.
- Plumage is typically dark, often brown, although some species have yellow head ornaments.
- Both sexes of a mynah bird are monomorphic i.e. they look the same. There is no conspicuous way to tell a male and female apart from each other.
- The males are slightly larger than the females. The female's crest is slightly less well-developed. Otherwise, there is no sexual dimorphism.

INTERESTING FACTS

- They are highly intelligent birds known to evict native species (including birds and mammals) from their nesting and roosting hollows, in some cases destroying eggs and chicks.
- Myna birds are very clever, and are able to adapt to a range of habitats. They communicate using croaks, squawks, chirps, clicks, whistles and growls.
- They also fluff their feathers and bob their head when singing. Myna birds were a popular cage bird in the 1980's due to its ability to sing, speak and mimic new sounds.
- Their popularity was short lived however as the birds were found difficult to train.

WEAVER BIRD

SCIENTIFIC NAME: *Ploceus velatus*

Common Name: **Weaver Bird** Order: **Passeriformes** Family: **Ploceidae**



IDENTIFICATION

- Breeding males have yellow forehead and crown, a dark throat that contrasts with yellow under parts.
- Non-breeding males and females are similar except they have buffy colors

INTERESTING FACTS

- Weavers are said to be very smart birds that can be trained to perform tricks
- Weavers have the ability to hang upside down from just about any surface or object they can cling to with their talons.
- Male weavers tend to be the nest builders.
- Weaver birds are the only birds recorded with the ability to tie knots
- The nests are woven with long strips of paddy leaves, rough grasses and long strips torn from palm fronds. Each strip can be between 20 and 60 cm (7.9 and 23.6 in) in length. A male bird is known to make up to 500 trips to complete a nest.
- Male weaver birds construct their elaborate nests during mating season to attract prospective mates.
- Weaver sounds and calls are a continuous chit-chit-... sometimes ending in a wheezy cheee-eee-ee that is produced by males in a chorus.
- They are very steady birds and patient too



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MAMMALIAN FAUNA

SQUIRREL

SCIENTIFIC NAME: *Funambulus palmarum*

Common Name: **Squirrel**

Order: **Rodentia**

Family: **Sciuridae**



ADULT



JUVENILE

IDENTIFICATION

- ❖ The Indian squirrel or three-striped palm squirrel (*Funambulus palmarum*) found naturally in India (south of the Vindhyas) and Sri Lanka.
- ❖ They are known for their agility and quick movements, often seen running up and down trees and leaping from branch to branch.
- ❖ They primarily feed on fruits, nuts, seeds, and occasionally insects and bird eggs.
- ❖ Tree-dwelling squirrels are independent and prefer to be alone

INTERESTING FACTS

- ❖ A squirrel's front teeth never stop growing.
- ❖ They zigzag to escape predators.
- ❖ Squirrels may pretend to bury a nut to throw off potential thieves.
- ❖ A newborn squirrel is about an inch long.
- ❖ Squirrels are acrobatic, intelligent, and adaptable.
- ❖ Squirrels don't dig up all of their buried nuts, which results in more trees!

MANGOOSE

SCIENTIFIC NAME: **Herpestis**

Common Name: **Mongoose v**

Order: **Carnivora**

Family: **Herpestidae**



ADULT



JUVENILE

IDENTIFICATION

- The mongoose is considered to be slender creatures with an elongated body, short legs, a thin snout, and very small and rounded ears.
- Mongoose coat colour is brown, grey, or even yellow and sometimes they do have stripes on their bodies.

INTERESTING FACTS

- Mongooses are noted for their audacious attacks on highly venomous snakes, such as king cobras.
- The size of the mongoose varies depending on the species.
- In mongoose communication, smell plays a very important part. This is made easier by the existence of huge smell glands near the abdomen, which they utilize to attract mates and mark their territory.
- Mongooses, like other animals, rely on vocalizations to avert danger, initiate courtship, and communicate other essential information to other members. They can communicate with each other using a wide range of noises, including screams, growls, and laughter. Each sound is accompanied by a distinct set of actions.
- After mating, the female will give birth a few months later. She may have a litter of one to six pups at a time

BAT

SCIENTIFIC NAME: **Chiropterus**

Common Name: **BAT**

Order: **Chiroptera**

Family: **Pteropodidae**



ADULT



BATS HEAD

IDENTIFYING CHARACTERS

- Length including tail is around 3 inches, with an 8 - to 10-inch wingspan. Females are larger than males.
- The glossy, dense fur is brown, almost bronze; wings are black with no fur. Little brown bats eat a variety of insects including moths, mosquitoes, flies, and beetles.
- Bats are beneficial. They eat insects and pollinate plants and play an important role in keeping ecosystems healthy and in balance.
- Many myths are associated with bats, such as the saying “blind as a bat.” Interesting facts
- There are nearly 1,000 species of bats in the world.

INTERESTING FACTS

- One of the most distinguishing features of bats is their ability to echolocate – a process where sound is used to determine the location of objects in an environment.
- bats can fly 10,000 feet high.
- Bats eat a variety of foods from flower nectar to fish, small mammals, and insects
- Because they consume quantities of “bugs” such as mosquitoes, bats are a natural form of insect control.
- Despite bats’ many benefits including pollination and insect control, their populations are declining nearly everywhere.
- Bats ever used a cell phone, they could forgo caller ID: The mammals can identify each other by their voices.
- Some scientists believe that mother bats use a combination of their sense of hearing and sense of smell to recognize their pups.

RAT

SCIENTIFIC NAME: *Rattus rattus*

Common Name: **Rat**

Order: Rodentia

Family: Muridae



IDENTIFICATION

- ✓Rats are medium-sized, long-tailed rodents.
- ✓Rats are generally slender with pointed heads, large eyes, prominent thinly furred ears and they have moderately long legs and sharp claws.
- ✓Their preferred food is cereals and they eat around 30 grams of food a day and drink 60 ml of water
- ✓They have 10 pairs of mammae instead of 10 pairs.
- ✓ Female rats are smaller than male rats.
- ✓The lifespan of rats is from 1.5 years to three years.

INTERESTING FACTS

- ✓Rats are opportunistic eaters and scavengers.
- ✓Rats are also used as working animals. Some of the popular tasks include snipping of gun powder residue, demining, acting, and also for animal-assisted therapy.
- ✓It is used for odour detection as it has a keen sense of smell and they can be trained easily. The trained rats are used to detect the land mines and tuberculosis in the patients.
- ✓Rats are also used for experimental purposes as they are proved to be valuable in physiological studies of learning and other mental processes.

CAT

SCIENTIFIC NAME: **Felis catus**

Common Name: **Cat** Order: **Carnivora** Family: **Felidae**.



IDENTIFICATION

- The color of cats' eyes, paw pads, whiskers, and noses can help in their identification. Typically cats have yellow or blue eyes in a variety of shades.
- All kittens are born with blue eyes, but their true color develops between 6 and 8 weeks old.

INTERESTING FACTS

- There are over 100 different cat breeds. Cats can see up to 120 feet away.
- The average age for an indoor cat is 15 years while the average age for an outdoor cat is only 3-5 years. Blue eyed cats are often prone to deafness.
- Cats have powerful night vision, allowing them to see at light levels six times lower than what a human needs in order to see.
- Cats offer companionship, unconditional love, entertainment, affection, lots of purring, comfortable silences and they're trainable!
- Cats are believed to be the only mammals who don't taste sweetness
- Cats are supposed to have 18 toes (five toes on each front paw; four toes on each back paw). Cats can jump up to six times their length



BANDICOOT

SCIENTIFIC NAME: **Passer domesticus**

Common Name: **Bandicoot** Order: **Peramelemorphia** Family: **Peramelidae**

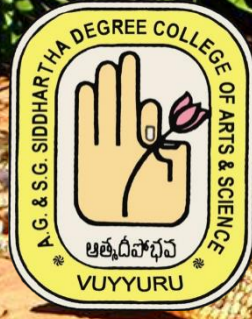


IDENTIFICATION

- ✓ The long-nosed bandicoot is around 31–43 cm in size and weighs up to 1.5 kg.
- ✓ It has pointed ears, a short tail, grey-brown fur, a white underbelly and a long snout. Its coat is bristly and rough.
- ✓ The males are larger than the females.
- ✓ The body is stout and usually coarse-haired, the muzzle tapered, and the hind limbs longer than the front
- ✓ The teeth are sharp and slender. The pouch opens rearward and encloses 6 to 10 teats.

INTERESTING FACTS

- ✓ The bandicoot sleeps during the day and make use of rabbit burrows.
- ✓ Young reach sexual maturity around 60 days after birth. Lifespan of adults is about 8–9 months.
- ✓ The maximal running speed of bandicoot, weighing about 0.72 kg is given as **4 m/s**
- ✓ They have a keen sense of smell and hearing and this enables them to locate submerged insect larvae.
- ✓ Though not great swimmers, bandicoots can cover small bodies of water fairly easily.
- ✓ Bandicoots make snuffling, snorting sounds. If two adults forage near each other, one will often chase the other away while 'grunting'. Bandicoots help farmers and gardeners.



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REPTILIAN FAUNA

RUSSELL'S VIPER

SCIENTIFIC NAME: **RUSSELL'S VIPER**

Common Name: **Chain Viper**

Order: **Squamata**

Family: **Viperidae**



IDENTIFICATION

- Flattened, triangular head distinct from neck. Head has a V like pattern.
- dorsal side has three rows of circular or diamond shaped rings
- White belly and sometimes speckled, depends on geographical range. Vertical pupils like all vipers and have very large fangs.
- A single row of subcaudal plates extending from the anal plate on the underside of the tail.
- Retractable fangs.
- It often exists in farmlands where human contact and rodent prey are abundant.

INTERESTING FACTS

- Vipers have long fangs compared to other snakes. When a viper closes its jaw, its fangs fold up against the roof of its mouth. Vipers do not really hunt for food. Instead they wait for small animals to come to them.
- A potent heterodimeric PLA2 neurotoxin (designated a Russtoxin) was found in the venoms of all Russell's vipers
- Bleeding is a common symptom, especially from the gums and in the urine, and sputum may show signs of blood within 20 minutes after the bite.
- The blood pressure drops, and the heart rate falls.

COBRA

SCIENTIFIC NAME: *Naja naja*

Common Name: Spectacled cobra,

Order: Squamata

Family: Elapidae



IDENTIFICATION

- ✓ Tail is pointed , ventrals are larger, presence of hood, spectacle mark on the hood, fourth supra labial is the largest
- ✓ Male cobras have distinct physical characteristics that distinguish them from females, including larger size, longer and thicker tails, and a more prominent hood.
- ✓ Female cobras, on the other hand, are typically smaller and lack the prominent hood and long tail

INTERESTING FACTS

- ✓ Their 'Hoods' Are Actually Ribs
- ✓ Their Venom Is a Deadly Neurotoxin
- ✓ Their Biggest Predator Is the Mongoose
- ✓ Indian cobras are oviparous and lay their eggs between the months of April and July.
- ✓ The female snake usually lays between 10 and 30 eggs in rat holes or termite mounds and the eggs hatch 48 to 69 days later.
- ✓ The hatchlings measure between 20 and 30 centimetres (8 and 12 in) in length.

INDIAN RAT SNAKE

SCIENTIFIC NAME: **Ptyas mucosa**

Common Name: **Gerrigoddu** Order: **Squamata** Family: **Colubridae**.



Vivek Sharma/indiansnakes.org

IDENTIFICATION

- ❖ Slender body usually yellowish-brown in colour
- ❖ Lower lips have black bands distinctive of rat snakes.
- ❖ Head with smooth scales, large round pupils and a fairly pointed snout.
- ❖ Posterior of body is usually has a black net-like pattern or crossbands too.
- ❖ Often confused with a cobra, but rat snakes grow much longer and have thinner necks.
- ❖ Grow to 6-8 feet on average, the largest colubrids found in India.
- ❖ Inhabit a wide variety of habitats like forests, grasslands and human habitations.
- ❖ Hide in dark places like rat holes, termite mounds and under rocky caves.

INTERESTING FACTS

- ❖ Non Venomous, very fast moving and slender snakes.
- ❖ Aggressively hunted for skin and meat in some places
- ❖ Mainly eat rodents and sometimes frogs, lizards, birds, fish and even small snakes.
- ❖ Diurnal snakes that are terrestrial, semi-arboreal and even semi-aquatic.
- ❖ Males known to be territorial and establish boundaries through fights often misread as mating dances.
- ❖ Extremely fast movers and tries to escape if threatened.
- ❖ If harassed, puffs throat, emits a deep growly hiss and strikes repeatedly.

COMMON KRAIT

SCIENTIFIC NAME: Bungarus caeruleus

Common Name: **Krait**

Order: **Squamata**

Family: **Elapidae**



IDENTIFICATION

- Dorsal body is Glossy Jet Black or Bluish-Black with Milky White Bands across the body.
- Larger Hexagonal scales along Vertebra confirm it is a Krait. Usually no bands close to neck and have rather thin bands and which maybe paired.
- Juveniles often have thicker bands like wolf snakes.
- Slightly broader head than neck, rounded snout, small black eyes, smooth scales, white belly
- Cylindrical body and grow to 3-4 feet on average.

INTERESTING FACTS

- Neurotoxic Venom : Paralyzes muscles leading to respiratory and cardiac failure. Bite marks are tiny like two bug bites.
- Preys mainly on Other Snakes and Rodents. Also feeds on toads and lizards.
- Fully Nocturnal. Sluggish during day but active hunter during night.
- Very shy and non-offensive snake, usually reluctant to bite if not harassed.
- When agitated during the day, it coils up into a ball concealing it's head and flattens body.
- During the night when it is very active, it might hiss loudly and try to bite
- When it bites, it often holds on injecting considerable amounts of venom.

MABUYA

SCIENTIFIC NAME: *Eutropis nagarjuni*

Common Name: Sharma's mabuya

Order: Passeriformes

Family: Scincidae



IDENTIFICATION

- ❖ The colour as dark brown or black with white longitudinal stripes three on the back with the middle vertebral stripe.
- ❖ They become indistinct on the tail. The head scales have brown centres and light brown margins.
- ❖ The legs are dark brown above and the hind limbs are sculpted with white above. The underside is white.
- ❖ Some specimens show an orangish-red stripe on either side of the neck that may be sex-specific trait.

INTERESTING FACTS

- ❖ young are relatively mature and mobile from the moment of birth or hatching.
- ❖ Oviparous; clutches of 2-20 eggs are laid at a time in a self-excavated hole or under fallen logs, between August and September.
- ❖ Eggs are measuring 11 * 17 mm. Hatchlings emerge between May and June, measure 12-12.5 mm.

HOUSE LIZARD

SCIENTIFIC NAME: *Hemidactylus frenatus*

Common Name: **Wall Lizard**

Order: **Squamata**

Family: **Geckknoidae**



IDENTIFICATION

- The lizards have a slender body covered with minute scales.
- Their body measures about 25 cm in length and can be distinguished into head, neck, body or trunk and tail.
- Some of them have dark grey or black patches on the dorsal surface while the others have brown or dark grey dorsal surface.
- The Head is flat and triangular and it contains nostrils, eyes and external ear openings. They have a sticky and protrusible tongue and their eyelids are fused over the eyes. They have well-developed hind limbs and forelimbs
- Their toes are unique with circular adhesive pads. They have five clawed digits that are dilated.

INTERESTING FACTS

- Their unique feature is that they can regenerate their broken tail. The species of wall lizards are adapted to walk on roofs, walls and smooth surfaces.
- They have dilated digits with a double series of ridged lamellae and they work under the vacuum principle.
- The digits are first pinned over the wall and are gently released to create a vacuum.



GARDEN LIZARD

SCIENTIFIC NAME: **Calotes versicolour**

Common Name: **Garden lizard**

Order: **Squamata**

Family: **lacertidae**



MALE Lizard



FEMALE Lizard

IDENTIFICATION

- ✓ Body is elongated, slender and divisible into head, neck, trunk and tail
- ✓ Male is brightly coloured, golden yellow with a greenish tinge.
- ✓ Throat is scarlet red, often with a black transverse bar. Female is not so brightly coloured.

INTERESTING FACTS

- ✓ Some lizards can detach their tails if caught
- ✓ Some species of lizard will go their entire lives without drinking water
- ✓ While most lizards are not dangerous to be around, there are a few exceptions to this rule
- ✓ Lizards can change colour at will.
- ✓ Lizards have a variety of anti-predator adaptations, including running and climbing, venom, camouflage, tail autotomy, and reflex bleeding.
- ✓ They run around and eat all the bugs they can catch.
- ✓ This helps keep the populations of insects down in garden, which help your garden's health