

COMMON BIRDS OF

INDIA





1. HOUSE SPARROW

- The scientific name is *Passer domesticus*.
- *Passer domesticus* is commonly known as the 'house sparrow' in English and 'chidiya' or 'gauriyya' in Hindi.
- It is a small bird, measuring 10 to 16cm. in length.
- Sexual dimorphism is distinct.
- Breeding occurs almost throughout the year, 3 to 5 pale white, greyish eggs laid at





House Sparrow



➤ The female is ash white and the male is earthy brown with blackish throat and breast and white abdomen.



➤ Sparrows are omnivorous, but chiefly granivorous.

➤ Its beak is seed-eating beak.

➤ The weaker beaks are used for piercing up small seeds, while more powerful beaks are meant for crushing fruit stones.



➤ Feet are adapted for perching with three toes anterior and the first toe of halux posterior.

2. Crow

- The scientific name is Corvus splendens.
- The common name is 'house crow' in English and 'kowwa' in Hindi.
- The adult grows 32 to 42cm. in length.
- The body is covered with a more or less black plumage while the neck and the breast are grey in colour.
- Both sexes are similar.





LONG
SLENDER BEAK



- Eyes are large and beaks elongated.
- Feet are adapted for perching.
- Tail feathers are elongated.
- Crows are intelligent, cunning and audacious birds.
- They are omnivorous as they eat anything from dead sewer rat to kitchen refuse, insects, fruits, grains.

3. Hoopoe



➤ The scientific name is Upupa epops.

➤ The name is 'hudhud' in Hindi.

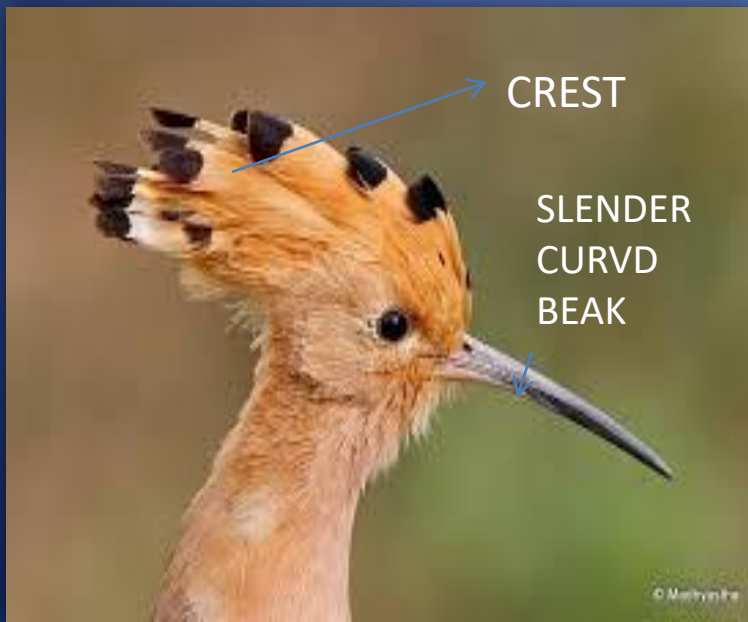
➤ It is a reddish fawn coloured bird with black and white zebra markings on back, wings and tail.

➤ The white bars flash out with beautiful effect when the bird starts flying.





- Its beak is about 5cm. long , very slender and gently curved.
- The two sexes are similar.
- Its probes dry land to draw out subterranean insects, grubs and pupae and is beneficial to agriculture.
- It emits a soft , musical 'hoo-po' or 'hoo-po-po' which is repeated in runs.



4. Koel



- The scientific name is Eudynamis scolopaceus.
- The common name is 'koel' in Hindi.
- The bird is about the size of the house crow, but slim and with a longer tail.
- Sexual dimorphism is conspicuous.
- Male bird is characterised by having glistening metallic black all over with yellowish green beak



Male Koel

➤ Male bird is characterised by having glistening metallic black all over with yellowish green beak and small blood red eyes.



Female Koel

➤ The female is brown with white spots.

- The bird is better known by its melodious voice.
- It is the male bird whose voice is often heard in summer during mango season and the female does not sing.
- Koel is a nest parasite and does not build a nest of its own.
- The koel commonly lays its egg in the nest of crows.



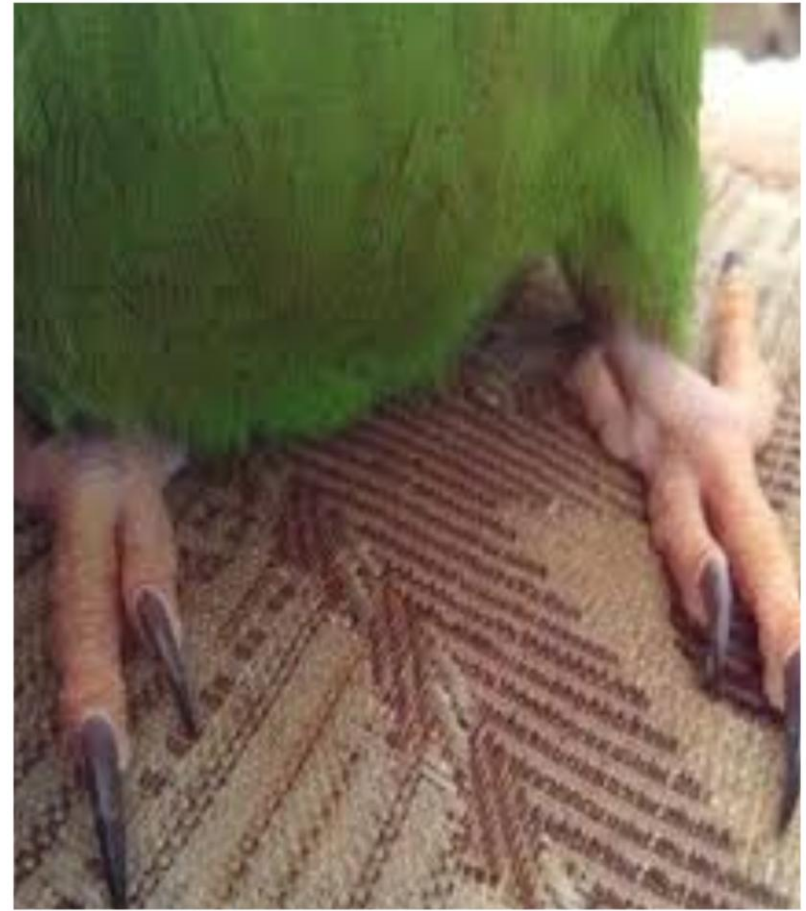
5. Parrot

- The scientific name is Psittacula eupatria.
- The common name is 'hiraan tota' in Hindi.
- The body is covered by a brilliant grass green plumage.
- There is a conspicuous maroon patch on each shoulder.

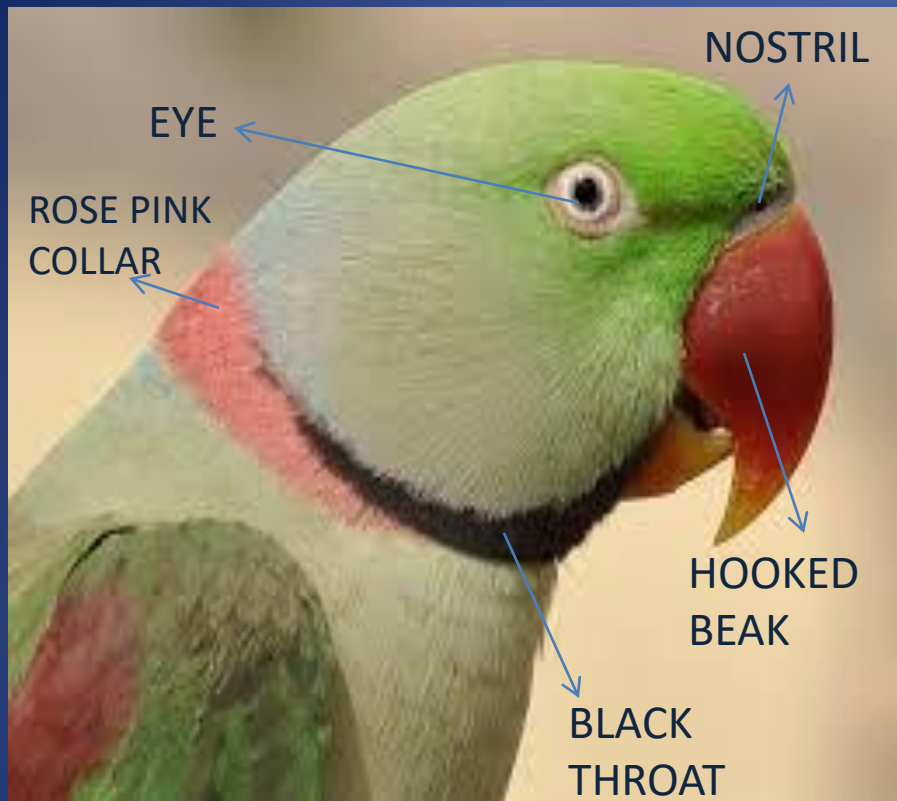




The beak is short but stout, sharp, edged, ,deeply hooked and coral red.



Feet are adapted for grasping, holding and climbing.



The female is green all over, but the male has a rose pink collar and a black throat.



MALE PARROT



FEMALE PARROT

- Food consist chiefly of fruit.
- Parrots are gregarious with loud voices.
- Parrots can copy and speak some words like man .
- They are popular domestic cage birds as they are easily procured.



6. Peacock



- It is a National bird of India.
- The scientific name is Pavo cristatus.

- The common name is 'Peacock' in English and 'mayur' or 'mor' in Hindi.
- It inhabits dense scrub, jungles and forest.
- They feed in grains, vegetables shoots, insects, lizard and snakes and sometimes cause severe damage to newly sown seed.
- The call is a loud, harsh, screaming 'may-awe'

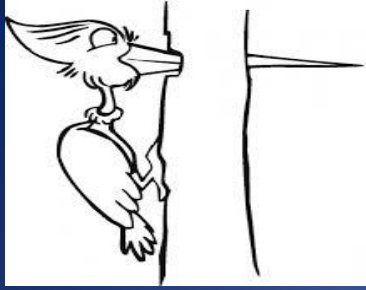




The male bird is about the size of a vulture ,very gracious and beautifully pigmented.

The head is crested and the neck reflects a bright green metallic seen.





7. Woodpecker

- The Hindi name for all woodpecker is 'kathphorwa'.
- They are small birds found in light wooded country, orchards and groves around villages, clinging to tree trunks.
- The stiff pointed wedge-shaped tail is pressed against the stem.
- The long stout bill is awl chisel-like, square at the tip





➤ The long protrusible tongue is tipped with strong and sharp hooks or barbs.

➤ The foot bears four toes, two in front and two behind, not reversible.

➤ Woodpeckers dig into rotten wood for beetles, grubs, ants and other insects.

➤ The yellow fronted pied or Mahratta woodpecker (dryobates) is much smaller, about the size of a bulbul.





➤ The golden backed woodpecker (Dinopium) is about the size of a myna.



8. Vulture

- The scientific name is Sacrogyps calvus.
- The Hindi name of the black, king vulture is 'raj gidh'.
- It is a huge bird measuring 7 feet across the wing.
- Its deep black colour is relieved by white two patches on upper wings, a white band on underside of wings, and a white collar at the base of neck



- The stout bill is hooked at the tip and bears a soft naked cere at the base.
- The feet are adapted for grasping with sharp claws.
- Both the sexes are alike.
- They all live in groups.



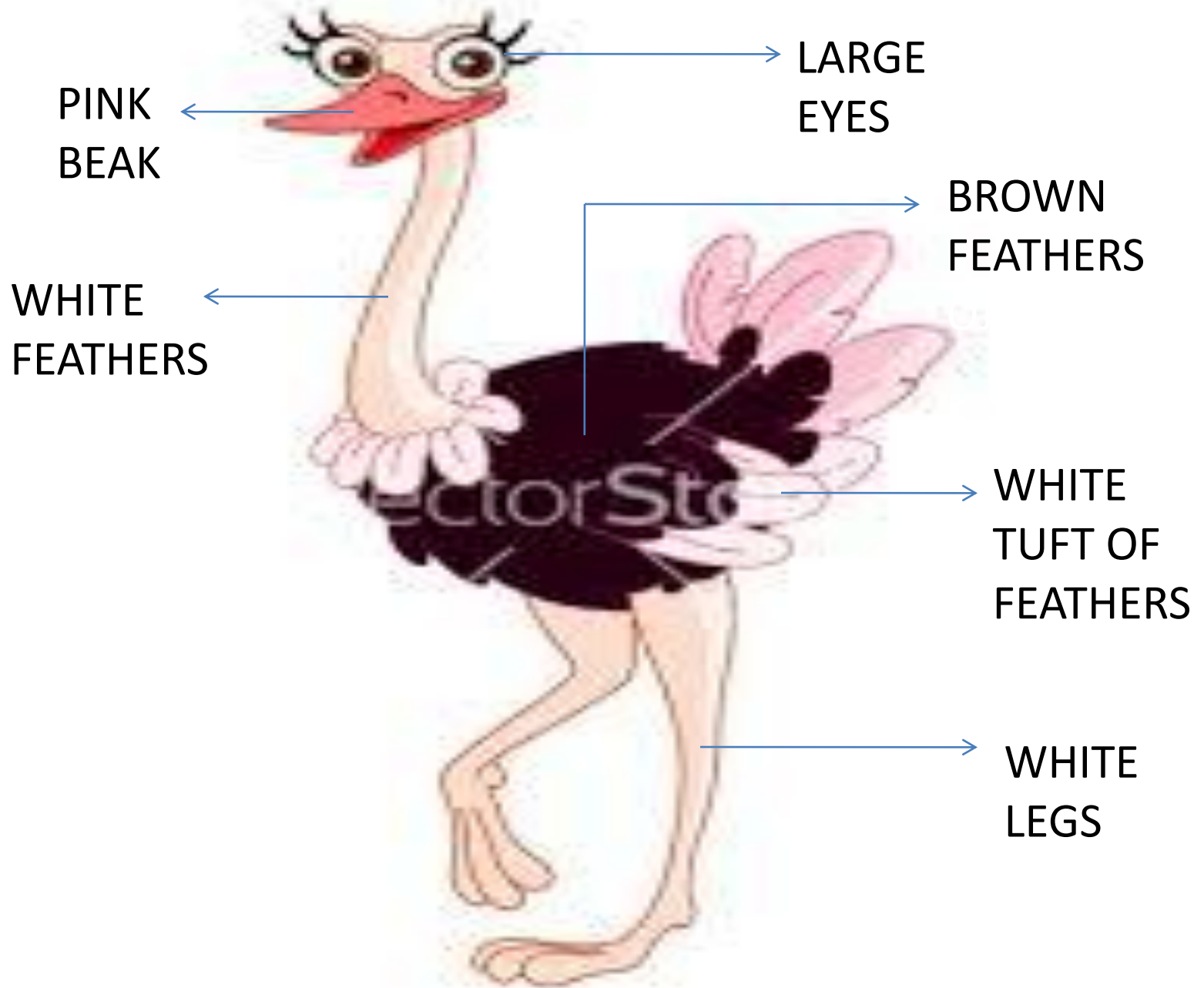


➤ The naked head ,neck and legs are blood red in colour.

9. Ostrich

- The scientific name is Struthio camelus.
- The common name is 'ostrich' in English and 'shuturmurg' in Hindi.
- It is the largest living birds attaining a height of more than 2.5 metres and a weight of 150 kg.
- Head , neck and legs are





- Male and female birds differ in colour of their plumage.
- The tail and wing feathers are white while the rest are black in the male.
- Each foot has 2 toes only, with stunted nails.
- Both beaks and feet are severe as weapons of defence.
- The food consists chiefly of herbage including seeds and fruits.



**LARGE
EYE**

NOSTRIL

**PINK
BEAK**





- The egg of the ostrich is very large and in size to that of mackerel shark.
- Each egg weighs nearly 1.5 kg and requires 50 minutes to boil it.

- Ostrich travel in groups, they are polygamous as one male attends several females.
- The male has a single solid retractile penis while the female has a clitoris.
- The feathers of adult bird are used by a women as decorative plumes.
- It can run at a speed of 80 km/hour, covering more than 8 metres in a single stride.



10. flowerpecker

- The flowerpeckers are a family Dicaeidae.
- They are also called *Tickell's Flower pecker*.
- These are small birds ranging from the 10-cm, 5.7-gram.
- Its a tiny Olive-brown bird with grayish white under parts and light pink colored bill.



➤ Its main food comprises of the berries of the plant parasites.

➤ Flowerpeckers lay 1-4 eggs, typically in a purse-like nest of plant fibres, suspended from a small tree or shrub.

➤ Nectar forms part of the diet, although they also take berries, spiders and insects.





THANK YOU

