



A Brush with Raptors of Indian Subcontinent

Maneesh Joshi

Drawings

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Foreword

It brings me immense pleasure to introduce "*A Brush with Raptors of the Indian Subcontinent*," by Maneesh Joshi, ACF, Uttarakhand. The book is a captivating collection of 65 paintings showcasing the majestic raptors that grace our skies. This book not only celebrates the artistic talent of our forest officer but also serves as a valuable resource providing essential information about these magnificent birds.

Art is more than just a creative pursuit; it is a language that speaks to the heart and soul of the artist. For a forester, art serves as a powerful medium to express the deep connection and appreciation for nature's wonders, especially the avian species that play a vital role in our ecosystems.

In this book, the author's passion for raptors shines through each brushstroke, capturing not just their physical attributes but also their spirit and significance in our natural world. Through detailed illustrations and accompanying information, readers are not only treated to visual delights but also gain insights into the ecological importance, behaviours, and conservation status of these remarkable birds.

As we marvel at the intricate details of feathers, the intensity in their eyes, and the grace of their flight depicted in these paintings, we are reminded of the responsibility we bear in protecting and conserving our avian friends and their habitats.

I commend the author, a dedicated forest officer, for sharing his artistic talents and knowledge with the world through this exceptional work. May this book inspire fellow foresters, wildlife enthusiasts, and art lovers alike to deepen their understanding and appreciation for the avian treasures of the Indian subcontinent.



V. Thirunavukarasu, IFS

APCCF & Principal,
CASFOS, Coimbatore

Preface

Welcome to "A Brush with the Raptors of the Indian Subcontinent." As an ACF trainee at the Central Academy for State Forest Service in Coimbatore, my journey into the captivating world of birds began with the resonating squeaks of peafowls heralding our mornings.

The campus of CASFOS Coimbatore is rich in bird diversity. Each morning, following our physical training sessions, eagerly identifying warblers, babblers, hoopoes, parakeets, and an array of other bird species was my favourite pass time. The weekends offered an even more splendid opportunity to delve deeper into the world of birds, with sightings ranging from francolins to coucals, Indian rollers, and beyond.

However, it was the majestic raptors that held a special place in my heart. Their grace, power, and commanding presence ignited within me a desire to capture their essence through art. With humble beginnings, I started sketching these magnificent birds. The acquisition of binoculars from the academy marked a turning point, transforming bird watching into a cherished activity shared with my dear friend, Pawan, an accomplished bird watcher in his own right. Together, we used weekend mornings for bird watching.

It was under the guidance and encouragement of our esteemed Course Director, Shri Anisha Kalkoor, IFS, that the idea of creating a booklet on birds took root. I decided to focus my efforts on compiling a sketchbook dedicated to the raptors of the Indian Subcontinent. Recognizing the value of providing additional insights into these remarkable birds, I decided to enrich the sketchbook with basic information on different raptor species. In this endeavour, I was fortunate to receive invaluable guidance and assistance from my father, a skilled artist himself.

I am deeply grateful to my friend Nidhi, a fellow bird enthusiast and talented photographer, whose creative input and meticulous editing played an indispensable role in bringing this booklet to fruition. As you

peruse the pages of "A Brush with the Raptors of the Indian Subcontinent," I hope you will be inspired to marvel at the beauty, majesty, and significance of these magnificent birds. May this booklet serve as a tribute to the remarkable diversity of raptors and ignite a deeper appreciation for the wonders of nature that surroundings.

- Maneesh Joshi

Acknowledgements

I want to extend my heartfelt thanks to everyone who made "A Brush with the Raptors of the Indian Subcontinent" possible. First and foremost, I am grateful to Principal CASFOS Shri V. Thirunavkarasu, IFS and Course Director Shri Anisha Kalkoor, IFS, for their unwavering support and encouragement during my time at the Central Academy for State Forest Service in Coimbatore. Their belief in my passion for birds and their guidance motivated me to pursue this project.

A special thank you to my father, whose artistic guidance and expertise were invaluable in bringing this booklet to life. His encouragement and support fuelled my creativity and determination.

I also want to express my gratitude to my friend Nidhi, whose enthusiasm for birds and keen eye for detail greatly contributed to the design and editing of this booklet.

Lastly, I am thankful to my dear friend Pawan, with whom I shared countless birdwatching adventures and who provided invaluable companionship and encouragement throughout.

To all the birds that inspired me and to everyone who supported me along the way, thank you. This booklet is a tribute to the beauty and wonder of the raptors of the Indian Subcontinent.

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Introduction to Raptors

Birds of prey, also known as raptors, are very important in nature and often get special protection because of their role.

What makes raptors special are their unique features and skills:

- ♦ **Hooked Beak:** All raptors have a beak that is curved and sharp, which helps them catch and tear their food. Falcons, for example, use their beaks to quickly kill their prey by breaking their spinal cord.
- ♦ **Sharp Talons:** Raptors have strong legs and toes with sharp claws that are great for catching and holding onto prey. The size and shape of their claws vary depending on what they hunt.
- ♦ **Keen Eyesight:** Raptors have really good eyesight, helped by their big eyes, special eye muscles, and sharp vision. Some can see colors, while others can see well in the dark.
- ♦ **Carnivorous Diet:** Raptors mostly eat meat. Different raptors eat different kinds of animals, depending on where they live.

Other interesting things about raptors

- ♦ **Size Dimorphism:** Female raptors are usually bigger than males, which might help them protect their nests or hunt bigger prey.
- ♦ **Eye Anatomy:** Raptors have three eyelids, including one that protects their eyes while they fly or eat. They also have a bony ridge above their eyes that protects them from the sun and injuries.



- ♦ **Nesting Habits:** Raptors build their nests in different ways. Some use old nests, while others make new ones every year. Usually, the female builds the nest while the male helps.
- ♦ **Egg Characteristics:** Raptor eggs are big and come in different colors. Bigger raptors lay fewer eggs but take more care of them.

Understanding these special traits helps us see how amazing raptors are and how they survive in different places, playing important roles in nature

Raptors Categories

Vultures: Vultures are large black raptors known for their expansive wingspan. They often fly together in a strong "V" formation. These birds have featherless heads, which helps keep them clean while feeding on carrion. Their diet mainly consists of carrion, which they find using both sight and smell. Vultures are famous for gathering in large groups to roost and have a remarkable ability to handle toxins found in decaying meat. They usually lay their eggs on the ground or in cavities and feed their chicks by regurgitation.

Hawks: Hawks are a diverse group of daytime raptors, with over 200 species worldwide. They are known for their exceptional hearing and eyesight, which is up to eight times better than humans'. Many hawk species form lifelong pairs and migrate long distances.

Eagles: Eagles are large raptors, often dark brown in color, with long wings and fan-shaped tails. They have strong feet and powerful beaks. Eagles build large nests, which they often reuse, and may roost alone or in groups of over 100 birds.

Buteos: Buteos are medium to large hawks with broad wings and fan-shaped tails. They primarily feed on small mammals but also



capture various prey. Buteos are often seen perched on trees, poles, or fences.

Accipiters: Accipiters are small to medium-sized raptors with short, broad, rounded wings and long tails. They are agile hunters, feeding on birds and small mammals, and are known for their swift and stealthy hunting tactics.

Harriers: Harriers are medium-sized raptors with slim builds, long legs, and tails. They hunt low over open areas and have distinctive white rump patches. Harriers primarily feed on rodents, birds, and insects and nest on the ground.

Osprey: Ospreys are large raptors found near water. They have long legs and sharp talons adapted for catching fish. Ospreys lack the protective bony ridge above the eye seen in other raptors and are known for their ability to hover and dive for fish.

Falcons: Falcons vary in size and have large heads, notched beaks, and distinct stripes below their eyes. They are swift flyers, inhabiting open areas, and are known for their speed and agility. Falcon nests are often found on cliffs or in cavities, and they primarily feed on birds and small mammals.

Kites: Kites are medium-sized raptors resembling falcons but with unique tails. They have long, pointed wings and graceful flight, often seen gliding in steady winds. Some kite species have curved beaks for feeding on snails.



Amur Falcon (*Falco amurensis*)



Amur Falcon (*Falco amurensis*)

1. Description

- ✦ Size: Small raptor, 25 to 30 cm in length
- ✦ Weight: 100 to 155 grams (male), 110 to 190 grams (female)
- ✦ Coloration: Sooty grey back in males, reddish-brown thighs, vent, and undertail coverts; females have dark scaly markings on white underparts
- ✦ Eye Ring, Cere, Legs: Orange
- ✦ Call: Fast repeated kee..kee.. sound.

2. Habitat

- ✦ Breeding Season: Inhabits open woods and marshes during the breeding season
- ✦ Migration: Roosts near open forests during migration.

3. Feeding Habits

- ✦ Diet: Feeds on insects, capturing them in the air or on the ground; known to feed on small birds, frogs, and migrating dragonflies during migration.

4. Breeding

- ✦ Breeding Season: May to June
- ✦ Nesting Sites: Uses abandoned nest platforms of other birds and tree hollows
- ✦ Clutch: Contains three to four eggs



- ◆ Parental Care: Both parents incubate eggs and feed chicks.

5. Distribution

- ◆ Breeding Populations: Southeast Siberia, Amurland in Russia, northeastern Mongolia, northeastern China, North Korea.
- ◆ Wintering Migration: Southeastern Africa
- ◆ Stopover: Northeast India, particularly Nagaland State.

6. Movement Patterns

- ◆ Breeding: In Northeastern Asia
- ◆ Wintering Migration: Flocks exhibit flocking behavior during migration to southern Africa; stopover in Northeast India, Nagaland.
- ◆ Note: Mass trapping and capturing occurred in Nagaland in 2012.

7. Status and Conservation

- ◆ Global Population: Estimated at more than 1,000,000 individuals
- ◆ Conservation Status: Least Concern
- ◆ Threats: Mass trapping, capturing, and slaughtering of migrating and roosting flocks.



Andaman Serpent Eagle (*Spilorni selgini*)



Andaman Serpent Eagle (*Spilorni selgini*)

1. Overview

- ◆ Common Name: Andaman Serpent Eagle
- ◆ Scientific Name: *Spilorni selgini*
- ◆ Family: Accipitridae › Accipitriformes › Aves › Chordata › Animalia
- ◆ Other Names: Haematornis selgini Blyth, 1863

2. Taxonomy

- ◆ Related Species: Closely related to *S. cheela*
- ◆ Earlier Classification: Previously included in the genus *Haematornis*.

3. Physical Characteristics

- ◆ Size:
- ◆ Length: 50 to 60 cm
- ◆ Weight: 800 to 1,000 grams
- ◆ Wingspan: 110 to 140 cm
- ◆ Appearance: Small crest, bright yellow face, dark brown body with white speckles on the breast, belly, and scapulars, thick black and white bands on the undertail, bare and yellow legs
- ◆ Call: Sharp whistling sound.



4. Habitat

- ◆ Preferred Environment: Subtropical or tropical moist lowland forests, mangrove forests.

5. Feeding Habits

- ◆ Diet: Mainly snakes and lizards, occasional prey includes small mammals, birds, fish, frogs, and crabs.

6. Breeding

- ◆ Breeding Information: Limited information available.

7. Distribution

- ◆ Endemic Range: South Andaman Island, India.

8. Movement Patterns

- ◆ Migratory Patterns: Sedentary, staying within their range.

9. Conservation Status

- ◆ Global Population: Estimated to be between 1,500 to 7,500 individual birds
- ◆ Status: Near Threatened
- ◆ Threats: Habitat degradation, increasing agricultural activities, hunting, human activities in interior forests, habitat loss.



Besra (*Accipiter virgatus*)



Besra (*Accipiter virgatus*)

1. Overview

- ✦ Common Name: Besra
- ✦ Scientific Name: *Accipiter virgatus*
- ✦ Family: Accipitridae

2. Physical Characteristics

- ✦ Size: 25 to 35 cm, females slightly larger (130 to 210 grams)
- ✦ Wings: Short and broad
- ✦ Tail: Long
- ✦ Coloration (Male): Dark blue-grey upper parts, whitish underparts with reddish barring
- ✦ Coloration (Female): Dark brown upper parts
- ✦ Underwings: Barred
- ✦ Call: Loud 'ki-we' sound.

3. Distribution

- ✦ Habitat: Deciduous and evergreen forests, dense forests, savannah, cultivated lands
- ✦ Geographic Range: Indian subcontinent, Southeast Asia, East Asia (India, Pakistan, Nepal, central and south China, Indonesia, Philippines).



4. Behavior

- ◆ Feeding Habits: Large insects, small birds, mammals, reptiles, frogs
- ◆ Breeding Season: Varies with the range (March to June in North India)
- ◆ Nest: Built in trees, clutch size of 2 to 5 eggs.

5. Movement Patterns

- ◆ Besra is a sedentary resident bird.
- ◆ Some birds in Nepal and Himalayas may move southwards in winter.

6. Conservation Status

- ◆ IUCN Red List Status: Least Concern
- ◆ Population: Estimated at 100,000 individual birds
- ◆ Threats: Habitat loss due to human activities



Bearded Vulture *(Gypaetus barbatus)*



Bearded Vulture **(*Gypaetus barbatus*)**

1. Overview

- ◆ Common Name: Bearded vulture
- ◆ Scientific Name: *Gypaetus barbatus*
- ◆ Family: Accipitridae
- ◆ Other Names: Lammergeier or lammergeyer; Vultur barbatus Linnaeus, 1758

2. Physical Characteristics

- ◆ Size: Large bird, 90 to 120 cm in length
- ◆ Weight: 4,500 to 7,000 grams
- ◆ Wingspan: 230 to 280 cm
- ◆ Sexual Dimorphism: Female slightly larger
- ◆ Coloration: Mostly dark gray, rusty, and whitish; orange-rusty head; small blackish beard at the base of the bill; creamy-colored forehead; red eyes.

3. Habitat

- ◆ Inhabits: Remote, mountainous areas with precipitous terrain; may move to suburban areas for food.

4. Feeding Habits

- ◆ Diet: Scavenger; feeds on carrion, preferably bones and marrow; also consumes small mammals, birds, and reptiles; known to carry and drop bones or tortoises over rocks to break them open.



5. **Breeding**

- ◆ Breeding Season: November to June in the Indian subcontinent
- ◆ Nest: Large nest with sticks and animal remains, built in caves, ledges, and rock outcrops
- ◆ Clutch: Usually one or two eggs; both parents participate in rearing chicks.

6. **Distribution**

- ◆ Subspecies *G. b. barbatus*: Himalayas (India, Nepal, Bhutan), north Africa, southern Europe, Turkey, Caucasus, Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Iran, Afghanistan, Kazakhstan, Russia, Mongolia, China, Pakistan, Tibetan Plateau
- ◆ Subspecies *G. b. meridionalis*: North and east Africa, South Africa, Lesotho.

7. **Movement Patterns**

- ◆ Behavior: Sedentary in its range; vultures in high mountains may move to lower altitudes during winter.

8. **Conservation Status**

- ◆ IUCN Red List Status: Near Threatened



Black Baza (*Aviceda leuphotes*)



Black Baza (*Aviceda leuphotes*)

1. Overview

- ◆ Common Name: Black Baza
- ◆ Scientific Name: *Aviceda leuphotes*
- ◆ Family: Accipitridae

2. Physical Characteristics

- ◆ Size: 30 to 35 cm in length, wingspan of 65 to 80 cm
- ◆ Coloration: Pigeon-like head with a long crest, white scapulars in males, several chestnut bands on the underside of females
- ◆ Notable Features: Short, stout legs, strong talons

3. Distribution

- ◆ Habitat: Deciduous or evergreen tropical forests
- ◆ Geographic Range: Central China, India, Bhutan, Myanmar, Malaysia, Thailand, Indonesia, Sri Lanka, Andaman Islands of India

4. Behavior

- ◆ Hunting Style: Feeds on large insects, frogs, small reptiles, small birds; observed eating ripe fruits of oil palm
- ◆ Mating and Nesting: Breeds in north India in April, both partners involved in nest building, incubation, and feeding



- ◆ Migration: Partially migratory; some flocks move to Thailand, Malaysia, Indonesia for wintering

5. Diet

- ◆ Primary Prey: Large insects, frogs, small reptiles, small birds, ripe fruits
- ◆ Hunting Techniques: Not specified

6. Conservation Status

- ◆ IUCN Red List Status: Least Concern
- ◆ Threats: Loss of forest cover



Black Kite (*Milvus migrans*)



Black Kite (*Milvus migrans*)

1. Overview

- ◆ Common Name: Black Kite
- ◆ Scientific Name: *Milvus migrans*
- ◆ Family: Accipitridae › Accipitriformes › Aves › Chordata › Animalia
- ◆ Other Names: Milan noir (French), Schwarzmilan (German), Milano negro (Spanish)

2. Physical Characteristics

- ◆ Size: Male: 45 to 65 cm (length), 600 to 900 grams; Female: Slightly larger, 750 to 1,100 grams
- ◆ Wingspan: 120 to 150 cm
- ◆ Plumage: Dark brown with paler head and neck; dark patch behind the eyes; black outer flight feathers with dark cross bars; yellow cere, gape, and legs; black beak and claws
- ◆ Distinctive Sound: Shrill whistling followed by a rapid whinnying call

3. Distribution

- ◆ Regions: Europe, Africa, Asia, Indian Subcontinent, Australia
- ◆ Subspecies:
- ◆ *M. m. migrans*: Europe, Africa, Asia, Indian Subcontinent



- ◆ *M. m. govinda*: Pakistan, India, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, South China, Myanmar, Vietnam, Thailand, Malaysia
- ◆ *M. m. formosanus*: Taiwan, South China
- ◆ *M. m. affinis*: Indonesia, New Guinea, Australia
- ◆ *M. m. lineatus*: Europe, Asia, Indian Subcontinent, Myanmar, Southeast Asia
- ◆ *M. m. aegyptius*: Egypt, Arabia, coastal E Africa, Kenya
- ◆ *M. m. parasitus*: Africa, Madagascar

4. Behavior

- ◆ Habitat: Wide variety including semi-deserts, grasslands, savannas, woodlands; avoids dense forests.
- ◆ Feeding Habits: Birds, bats, rodents, fish, reptiles, carrion, household waste
- ◆ Breeding Season: Winter in India; Rough platform nests in tree forks; Both parents involved in nest building, incubation, and chick care; Clutch of two to three eggs

5. Movement Patterns

- ◆ Residency: Tropical populations are resident; European and North Asian populations migrate between breeding grounds and wintering areas in sub-Saharan Africa and southern Asia

6. Conservation Status

- ◆ Population Estimate: 1,000,000 to 6,000,000 individual birds globally
- ◆ Status: Least Concern



Black-winged Kite *(Elanus caeruleus)*



Black-winged Kite

(*Elanus caeruleus*)

1. Overview

- ✦ Common Name: Black-winged Kite
- ✦ Scientific Name: *Elanus caeruleus*
- ✦ Family: Accipitridae › Accipitriformes › Aves › Chordata › Animalia
- ✦ Other Names: Élanionblac (French), Gleitaar (German), Elaniocomún (Spanish)

2. Physical Characteristics

- ✦ Size: Male: 30 to 35 cm (length), 200 to 270 grams (weight); Female: Slightly larger, 220 to 340 grams
- ✦ Wingspan: 75 to 90 cm
- ✦ Plumage: White, grey, and blackish velvety with blackish shoulder patches, wing tips, and eye stripe

3. Distribution

- ✦ Regions: Europe, Africa, Asia, Indian Subcontinent, Southeast Asia, Philippines, New Guinea, Indonesia
- ✦ Subspecies:
- ✦ *E. c. caeruleus*: France, Spain, Africa, Arabia
- ✦ *E. c. vociferus*: Indian Subcontinent, China, Southeast Asia, Indochina, Iraq, Iran, Arabian Peninsula
- ✦ *E. c. hypoleucus*: Malaysia, Indonesia
- ✦ *E. c. wahgiensis*: New Guinea



4. Behavior

- ◆ Habitat: Open savanna grasslands, semi-desert areas, and higher altitudes
- ◆ Feeding Habits: Small mammals, rodents, shrews, bats, small birds, grasshoppers, crickets, and other large insects
- ◆ Breeding Season: February to August (Palearctic region), end of the wet season (Africa and India)
- ◆ Nesting: Trees with twigs and fine material; clutch of two to four eggs; both parents incubate

5. Movement Patterns

- ◆ Nomadic, moving around its range in search of prey
- ◆ Some observed to migrate to warmer areas in winter

6. Conservation Status

- ◆ IUCN Red List: Least Concern
- ◆ Threats: Pesticide use, habitat degradation, human activities in breeding habitats



Bonelli's Eagle (*Aquila fasciata*)



Bonelli's Eagle (*Aquila fasciata*)

1. Overview

- ◆ Common Name: Bonelli's Eagle
- ◆ Scientific Name: *Aquila fasciata*
- ◆ Family: Accipitridae › Accipitriformes › Aves › Chordata › Animalia
- ◆ Other Names: Aigle de Bonelli (French), Habichtsadler (German), Águilaperdicera (Spanish)

2. Physical Characteristics

- ◆ Size: 65 to 70 cm (length)
- ◆ Weight: 1,600 to 2,400 grams
- ◆ Wingspan: 150 to 170 cm
- ◆ Coloration: Dark brown upper parts; White underside with dark streaks; Yellow eyes and feet; Relatively short, rounded wings; Long, grey tail with a broad terminal black band
- ◆ Call: Shrill 'klu-kluklu-kluee' sound

3. Habitat

- ◆ Preferred Environment: Forest edges, cultivated land with large trees, hilly areas, open country with tree cover

4. Feeding Habits

- ◆ Diet: Medium-sized birds, mammals, reptiles, frogs, insects; Occasionally carrion



- ◆ Feeding Strategy: Predatory, using keen eyesight to locate prey.

4. Breeding

- ◆ Breeding Season: November to September (India)
- ◆ Nesting: Built with sticks and twigs on a remote cliff ledge or large tree
- ◆ Eggs: 1-3 eggs per clutch
- ◆ Parental Care: Both parents involved in incubation and care of chicks.

6. Distribution

- ◆ Range: Africa, Mediterranean region, Middle East, Arabia, Afghanistan, Indian subcontinent, North Indochina, Southeast China, Indonesia.

7. Movement Patterns

- ◆ Behavior: Mostly sedentary; Juveniles disperse within the range.

8. Conservation Status

- ◆ Population Trend: Steady decline
- ◆ Status: Least Concern
- ◆ Threats: Decline in prey populations, human activities, habitat degradation, pesticide use, persecution, collisions with power lines.



Booted Eagle (*Hieraaetus pennatus*)



Booted Eagle (*Hieraaetus pennatus*)

1. Taxonomy

- ◆ Scientific Name: *Hieraaetus pennatus*
- ◆ Common Name: Booted Eagle
- ◆ Other Names: *Falco pennatus* J. F. Gmelin, 1788; *Aquila minuta* Brehm, 1831; *Aquila pennata*
- ◆ Family: Accipitridae › Accipitriformes › Aves › Chordata › Animalia.

2. **Description:** A medium-sized eagle, measuring 40 to 50 cm in length, and weighing 500 to 750 grams. Females are larger, weighing 850 to 1,250 grams. Wingspan ranges from 110 to 140 cm. Two distinct color morphs exist, with pale morphs being light grey with a darker head, and dark morphs having dark brown plumage. The call is a shrill kli-kli-kli sound.

3. **Habitat:** Inhabits forests with some open areas and hilly countryside.

4. **Feeding Habits:** Feeds on small birds, reptiles, and small mammals like mice and susliks. Known to hunt prey five times their weight.

5. **Breeding:** Breeding season is from April to May. Nests are built with sticks and twigs on forest trees. They lay one or two eggs.

6. **Distribution:** Found in Europe, Africa, and Asia. Breeding populations in southern Europe, North Africa, Middle East, northern Indian Subcontinent, and across Asia. Wintering



populations in Sub-Saharan Africa, South Asia, and southern Indian subcontinent.

7. **Movement Patterns:** Mainly migratory, leaving breeding grounds in September for wintering and returning in March and April.
8. **Status and Conservation:** Considered least vulnerable with an extensive range and population. Major threats include habitat destruction, human activities near breeding grounds, persecution, and wind turbines. Listed as "Least Concern" by the IUCN.



Brahminy Kite (*Haliastur indus*)



Brahminy Kite (*Haliastur indus*)

1. Overview

- ◆ Common Name: Brahminy Kite
- ◆ Scientific Name: *Haliastur indus*
- ◆ Family: Accipitridae › Accipitriformes › Aves › Chordata › Animalia
- ◆ Other Names: Milan sacré (French), Brahminenweih (German), Milano brahmán (Spanish)

2. Physical Characteristics

- ◆ Size: Male: 45 to 50 cm (length), 400 to 650 grams; Female: Slightly larger, 430 to 700 grams
- ◆ Wingspan: 110 to 125 cm
- ◆ Plumage: Chestnut back, wings, and belly; white head and breast; relatively short wings and rounded tail; distinct squarish pale patch on the underwing carpal region

3. Distribution

- ◆ Regions: Sri Lanka, Nepal, India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Southeast Asia, Australia
- ◆ Subspecies:
- ◆ *H. i. indus*: Pakistan, India, Sri Lanka, Southeast Asia, South China
- ◆ *H. i. intermedius*: Malaysia, Indonesia, Philippines



- ◆ *H. i. girrenera*: New Guinea, Australia
- ◆ *H. i. flavirostris*: Feni Islands, Green Island, Solomon Islands

4. Behavior

- ◆ Habitat: Coastal plains, estuaries, rivers, lakes, swamps, marshes, reservoirs, rice fields, urban areas
- ◆ Feeding Habits: Mainly dead fish, crabs, carrion; also live prey such as small mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians, and fish; known to snatch food from other birds
- ◆ Breeding Season: December to April in Asia; nests built with sticks and twigs on trees; clutch of two eggs; both partners involved in nest-building and chick-rearing

5. Movement Patterns

- ◆ Residency: Resident birds with seasonal local movements for food and water

6. Conservation Status

- ◆ Population Estimate: Approximately 100,000 individual birds globally
- ◆ Status: Least Concern
- ◆ Threats: Habitat loss, agricultural pesticides



Chinese Sparrowhawk (*Accipiter soloensis*)



Chinese Sparrowhawk

(*Accipiter soloensis*)

1. Taxonomy

- ◆ Scientific Name: *Accipiter soloensis*
- ◆ Common Name: Chinese Sparrowhawk
- ◆ Other Names: Falco Soloënsis Horsfield, 1821; Chinese Goshawk;
- ◆ Family: Accipitridae › Accipitriformes › Aves › Chordata › Animalia

2. Description

- ◆ Small bird of prey, 25 to 35 cm in length.
- ◆ Male weighs 140 grams, female slightly larger at 200 grams.
- ◆ Wingspan of 50 to 60 cm.
- ◆ Prominent black wing tips.
- ◆ Male is grey above and white below.
- ◆ Male has red eyes, female has yellow eyes.
- ◆ Call is a sharp keee-keee-keee sound.

3. Habitat

- ◆ Inhabits forests, open woodland, open country with trees, plantations, and rice fields.

4. Feeding Habits

- ◆ Feeds on frogs, lizards, and large insects.



5. Breeding

- ◆ Breeding season from early May to August.
- ◆ Nest platform built on the fork of a tree.
- ◆ Clutch size is 2-5 eggs.

6. Distribution

- ◆ Distributed in Russia, China, Taiwan, Indian subcontinent, Indonesia, Philippines, and Southeast Asia.

7. Movement Patterns

- ◆ Completely migratory.
- ◆ Breeds in Southeast China, Taiwan, Korea, and Russian Siberia.
- ◆ Passes through Southeast Asia and winters in Indonesia and Philippines.
- ◆ Occasionally visits Indian subcontinent.

8. Status and Conservation

- ◆ Wide range, population considered least vulnerable.
- ◆ Habitat loss is the main threat.

9. Conservation Status: Least concern (IUCN)



Cinereous Vulture *(Aegypius monachus)*



Cinereous Vulture **(*Aegypius monachus*)**

1. Overview

- ◆ Common Name: Cinereous vulture
- ◆ Scientific Name: *Aegypius monachus*
- ◆ Family: Accipitridae
- ◆ Other Names: VulturMonachus Linnaeus, 1766; black vulture; monk vulture; Eurasian black vulture.

2. Physical Characteristics

- ◆ Size: Large bird, 100 to 110 cm in length
- ◆ Weight: 7,000 to 12,500 grams
- ◆ Wingspan: 250 to 300 cm
- ◆ Coloration: Dark brown overall, brown down on the head; bluish-grey bare skin on the head and neck; brown eyes; purplish cere; massive blue-gray bill; pale blue-gray legs
- ◆ Vocalizations: Grunts, croaks, and hisses, especially during feeding at carcasses

3. Habitat

- ◆ Inhabits: Hilly, mountainous areas; dry semi-open habitats like high-altitude meadows, steppe, grasslands, and open woodlands

4. Feeding Habits

- ◆ Diet: Feeds on carcasses of medium-sized and large



mammals; occasional live prey; soars on thermals to locate dead animals.

5. Breeding

- ◆ Breeding Season: February and March
- ◆ Nest: Built with sticks and twigs; loose colonies in trees and cliff ledges
- ◆ Clutch: Typically a single egg
- ◆ Parental Care: Both parents participate in chick rearing

6. Distribution

- ◆ Range: Europe, Asia, Indian Subcontinent

7. Movement Patterns

- ◆ European Populations: Mostly sedentary
- ◆ Asian Populations: Migrate southwards for wintering in temperate Asia.

8. Conservation Status

- ◆ IUCN Red List Status: Near Threatened
- ◆ Population: Estimated at 21,000 to 30,000 individuals
- ◆ Trends: Slight increase in European population; decline in Asian population
- ◆ Threats: Shooting, poisoning, veterinary diclofenac use, decrease in food availability, habitat loss.



Collared Falconet **(*Microhierax caerulescens*)**



Collared Falconet **(*Microhierax caerulescens*)**

1. Taxonomy

- ◆ Scientific Name: *Microhierax caerulescens*
- ◆ Common Name: Collared Falconet
- ◆ French: Fauconnet à collier; German: Rotkehlfalkchen; Spanish: Falconeteacollarado;
- ◆ Other Names: *Falco caerulescens* Linnaeus, 1758;
- ◆ Family: Falconidae › Falconiformes › Aves › Chordata › Animalia.

2. Description

- ◆ Small falconet, 15 to 20 cm in length, weighing 30 to 50 grams.
- ◆ Both males and females look alike.
- ◆ Wingspan of 30 to 35 cm.
- ◆ Shrike-like in shape, mainly pied with bold white supercilia and collar.
- ◆ Double-toothed relatively heavy bill.
- ◆ Short wings, medium-length tail, strong half-feathered legs with powerful feet.

3. Habitat

- ◆ Inhabits open deciduous forest, clearings, and edges in evergreen forest.



4. Feeding Habits

- ◆ Feeds on large insects like grasshoppers, butterflies, and large beetles.

5. Breeding

- ◆ Breeds during February to May.

6. Distribution

- ◆ Subspecies *M. c. caerulescens* in Nepal, Uttarakhand, West Bengal, Odisha, Uttar Pradesh, Sikkim, and Assam in India.
- ◆ Subspecies *M. c. burmanicus* in Myanmar, Cambodia, Laos, Thailand, Malaysia, and Vietnam.

7. Movement Patterns

- ◆ Considered sedentary, moving within the region of their occurrence.

8. Status and Conservation

- ◆ Extremely large range, considered least vulnerable.
- ◆ Population appears to be stable.
- ◆ Threats include habitat degradation and tree felling.

9. Conservation Status

- ◆ Listed as "Least Concern" by the IUCN (International Union for Conservation of Nature).



Common Kestrel (*Falco tinnunculus*)



Common Kestrel *(Falco tinnunculus)*

1. Description

- ◆ Size: Small bird of prey, 25 to 35 cm in length
- ◆ Weight: 135 to 250 grams (male), 155 to 310 grams (female)
- ◆ Wingspan: 55 to 80 cm
- ◆ Plumage: Light chestnut brown with blackish spots on the upperside, brown with narrow blackish streaks on the underside
- ◆ Head and Tail: Grey in males
- ◆ Cere, Feet, Eye Ring: Bright yellow
- ◆ Toenails, Bill, Iris: Greyish black
- ◆ Call: Fast, shrill kik-kik-kik-kik sound.

2. Habitat

- ◆ Inhabits fields, heaths, shrubland, wetlands, moorlands, arid savanna, and marshland.

3. Feeding Habits

- ◆ Diet: Mainly feeds on small mammals, particularly voles and other rodents; also preys on small birds.

4. Breeding

- ◆ Breeding Season: Varies depending on the climate
- ◆ Nesting Sites: Holes in cliffs, trees, or buildings



- ◆ Clutch: Contains three to six eggs
- ◆ Incubation: Female incubates eggs; male hunts and feeds the incubating female.

5. Movement Patterns

- ◆ Northern Populations: Migratory, moving southwards for wintering
- ◆ Warmer Areas: Mainly sedentary.

6. Status and Conservation

- ◆ Global Population: Estimated between 4,310,000 to 6,370,000 mature individuals
- ◆ Threats: Habitat degradation, felling of trees, overgrazing, agricultural expansion, windmills, and prey scarcity
- ◆ Conservation Status: Least Concern.

7. Conservation Efforts

- ◆ Monitoring and addressing threats to habitats
- ◆ Sustainable land-use practices
- ◆ Conservation of prey populations.



Crested Goshawk *(Accipiter trivirgatus)*



Crested Goshawk *(Accipiter trivirgatus)*

1. Overview

- ✦ Common Name: Crested Goshawk
- ✦ Scientific Name: *Accipiter trivirgatus*
- ✦ Family: Accipitridae

2. Physical Characteristics

- ✦ Size: 30 to 45 cm in length, female larger (around 550 grams), wingspan of 50 to 80 cm
- ✦ Coloration (Male): Dark brown crown, grey head and sides, black moustachial and throat stripes, pale underparts with rufous bars, rufous streaks on the breast
- ✦ Coloration (Female): Brown plumage
- ✦ Call: Screaming sound.

3. Distribution

- ✦ Habitat: Deciduous and evergreen forests in humid lowlands and foothills
- ✦ Geographic Range: Indian subcontinent, South China, Southeast Asia, Indonesia, Philippines.

4. Behavior

- ✦ Hunting Style: Preys on large insects, birds, mammals, and reptiles; surprises prey by diving from its perch
- ✦ Mating and Nesting: Breeds between December and May, nest built with sticks on trees, two to three eggs in the nest.



5. Conservation Status

- ◆ IUCN Red List Status: Least Concern
- ◆ Threats: Loss of forest cover, increased human activities in habitats



Crested Serpent Eagle (*Spilornis cheela*)



Crested Serpent Eagle (*Spilornis cheela*)

1. Overview

- ◆ Common Name: Crested Serpent Eagle
- ◆ Scientific Name: *Spilornis cheela*
- ◆ Family: Accipitridae › Accipitriformes › Aves › Chordata › Animalia
- ◆ Other Names: Falco Cheela Latham, 1790

2. Physical Characteristics

- ◆ Size:
- ◆ Length: 50 to 75 cm
- ◆ Weight: 400 to 1,800 grams
- ◆ Wingspan: 100 to 170 cm
- ◆ Appearance: Large head with crested feathers, bare yellow face, yellow unfeathered and heavily scaled feet, rounded wings, short tail with wide white and black bars
- ◆ Call: Loud, piercing, distinctive Kluee-wip-wip sound.

3. Habitat

- ◆ Preferred Environment: Tropical and subtropical forests with thick vegetation, both on low hills and plains, hunts over forests and wet grasslands.

4. Feeding Habits

- ◆ Diet: Mainly snakes and lizards, occasional prey includes small mammals, birds, fish, frogs, and crabs.



5. **Breeding**

- ◆ Breeding Season: Late winter
- ◆ Nest: Large platform made of sticks, lined with leaves
- ◆ Clutch: Usually one egg
- ◆ Parental Care: Both male and female participate in nest building and raising the chick.

6. **Distribution**

- ◆ Subspecies and Distribution:
- ◆ S. c. cheela: Pakistan, North India, Nepal, Bangladesh
- ◆ S. c. melanotis: Peninsular India, Gujarat, Gangetic Plain

7. **Movement Patterns**

- ◆ Migratory Patterns: Generally sedentary, with juveniles possibly dispersing widely

8. **Conservation Status**

- ◆ Global Population: Not quantified, common in its ranges
- ◆ Status: Least Concern
- ◆ Threats: Habitat loss, loss of tree cover.



Eastern Imperial Eagle (*Aquila heliaca*)



Eastern Imperial Eagle

(*Aquila heliaca*)

1. Overview

- ◆ Common Name: Eastern Imperial Eagle
- ◆ Scientific Name: *Aquila heliaca*
- ◆ Family: Accipitridae › Accipitriformes › Aves › Chordata › Animalia
- ◆ Other Names: Aigleimpérial (French), Kaiseradler (German), Águila imperial oriental (Spanish)
- ◆ Species Author: Savigny, 1809

2. Physical Characteristics

- ◆ Size (Male): 70 to 85 cm (length), 2,400 to 2,700 grams (weight)
- ◆ Size (Female): Larger than male, 3,100 to 4,500 grams
- ◆ Wingspan: 180 to 210 cm
- ◆ Coloration: Generally dark brown; Pale buff color on the crown, nape, sides of the head, and neck
- ◆ Call: Repeated barking sound.

3. Habitat

- ◆ Preferred Environment: Open country with small woods.

4 Feeding Habits

- ◆ Diet: Birds and small mammals



- ◆ Feeding Strategy: Predatory, targeting avian and mammalian prey.

5. Breeding

- ◆ Breeding Season: March and April
- ◆ Nesting: Old isolated trees in open country; Nest constructed with sticks and twigs
- ◆ Eggs: Two to three eggs
- ◆ Parental Care: Both parents participate in raising the chicks.

6. Distribution

- ◆ Range: Europe, Asia, Indian subcontinent, Africa, Southeast Asia, Middle East
- ◆ Wintering Migration: Southwards to East Africa, Indian subcontinent, and Southeast Asia.

7. Movement Patterns

- ◆ Migration: Seasonal migration for wintering.

8. Conservation Status

- ◆ Global Population: Approximately 10,000 birds
- ◆ Population Trend: Steady decline
- ◆ Status: Vulnerable
- ◆ Threats: Persecution, poisoning, threats at breeding sites, habitat loss
- ◆ Conservation Actions: Conservation efforts needed to address threats.



Eastern Marsh Harrier



Eastern Marsh Harrier

1. Overview

- ◆ Common Name: Eastern Marsh Harrier (*Circus spilonotus*)
- ◆ Scientific Name: *Circus spilonotus*
- ◆ Family: Accipitridae

2. Physical Characteristics

- ◆ Size: 45 to 55 cm in length, female slightly larger, weighing 350 to 800 grams, wingspan of 110 to 140 cm
- ◆ Coloration: Male - blackish head, breast, back, and wing-coverts with pale streaks; white rump and mostly white belly. Female - dark brown
- ◆ Notable Features: Call is a mewling sound.

3. Distribution

- ◆ Habitat: Open country, dense marsh vegetation, including marshland, paddy fields, wetlands, and grasslands
- ◆ Geographic Range: Northeast China, Mongolia, southeast Siberia, northern Japan; wintering in southern China, Taiwan, Korea, southern Japan, northeast India, Bangladesh, Southeast Asia, Philippines, and Indonesia.

4. Behavior

- ◆ Hunting Style: Hunts by flying close to the ground, preying on small mammals, birds, frogs, and reptiles



- ◆ Mating and Nesting: Nests on the ground and reed beds, built with sticks and reeds; breeding season from April to June
- ◆ Migration: Mostly migratory, northern harriers move southwards for wintering.

5. Diet

- ◆ Primary Prey: Small mammals, birds, frogs, reptiles
- ◆ Hunting Techniques: Flying close to the ground.

6. Conservation Status

- ◆ IUCN Red List Status: Least Concern
- ◆ Threats: Habitat loss, human activities



Eurasian Buzzard (*Buteo buteo*)



Eurasian Buzzard (*Buteo buteo*)

1. Overview

- ◆ Common Name: Eurasian Buzzard
- ◆ Scientific Name: *Buteo buteo*
- ◆ Family: Accipitridae

2. Physical Characteristics

- ◆ Size: 40 to 50 cm in length, female larger weighing 500 to 1,300 grams, wingspan of 110 to 140 cm
- ◆ Coloration: Plumage varies from white to black in subspecies; common plumage in shades of brown with a pale 'necklace' of feathers, barred flight feathers, pale area in outer primaries
- ◆ Notable Features: Buzzard call is a loud mewing sound.

3. Distribution

- ◆ Habitat: Edges of forests, pastures, open fields, steppe, coniferous forests, deciduous forests, wetlands, cultivated lands with nearby tree cover
- ◆ Geographic Range: Europe, Asia, Indian subcontinent, Africa.

4. Behavior

- ◆ Hunting Style: Preys on small birds, mammals, frogs, reptiles, and large insects; occasionally scavenges dead animals



- ◆ **Mating and Nesting:** Breeding season varies with latitude (March to May), nest built with sticks and twigs on a tree branch, clutch may contain 2 to 4 eggs, incubation mostly by the female, male feeds the female and chicks
- ◆ **Migration:** Mostly resident; subspecies *B. b. vulpinus* is completely migratory, migrating from northern Europe and Asia to winter in southern Europe, Africa, and India.

5. Diet

- ◆ **Primary Prey:** Small birds, mammals, frogs, reptiles, large insects

6. Conservation Status

- ◆ **IUCN Red List Status:** Least Concern
- ◆ **Threats:** Persecution, bait traps, pesticides, decline in prey animals, habitat loss.



Eurasian Sparrowhawk (*Accipiter nisus*)



Eurasian Sparrowhawk

(*Accipiter nisus*)

1. Overview

- ◆ Common Name: Eurasian Sparrowhawk
- ◆ Scientific Name: *Accipiter nisus*
- ◆ Family: Accipitridae

2. Physical Characteristics

- ◆ Size: 30 to 40 cm, female larger (180 to 350 grams), wingspan of 60 to 80 cm
- ◆ Coloration (Male): Bluish grey upper parts, reddish cheeks and flanks, orange-barred underparts
- ◆ Coloration (Female/Juvenile): Brown upper parts with brown barring below
- ◆ Iris: Yellow in immature males, orange-yellow or orange-red in adults
- ◆ Call: Series of "kek-kek" sounds.

3. Distribution

- ◆ Habitat: Edges of wooded areas, forests, open areas; migrants also found in urban areas
- ◆ Geographic Range: Europe, Asia, Indian subcontinent, Africa.

4. Behavior

- ◆ Hunting Style: Surprise attacks from a perch on birds and small mammals



- ◆ Mating and Nesting: Breeding season from April to June, nest on a tree in the lower canopy, clutch of four or five eggs, female incubates while male hunts.

5. Movement Patterns

- ◆ Migration: Northern populations may migrate southwards during July to November, returning between March and June; southern populations are often resident or dispersive.

6. Conservation Status

- ◆ IUCN Red List Status: Least Concern
- ◆ Threats: Persecution, organochlorine pesticides, trapping by falconers, wind energy farms, habitat loss.

7. Population

- ◆ Global population estimated to be over 1,500,000 individual birds.



Golden Eagle (*Aquila chrysaetos*)



Golden Eagle (*Aquila chrysaetos*)

1. Overview

- ◆ Common Name: Golden Eagle
- ◆ Scientific Name: *Aquila chrysaetos*
- ◆ Family: Accipitridae › Accipitriformes › Aves › Chordata › Animalia
- ◆ Other Names: Aigle royal (French), Steinadler (German), Águila real (Spanish)
- ◆ Species Author: Linnaeus, 1758

2. Taxonomy

- ◆ Closely Related to: *A. audax*, *A. gurneyi*
- ◆ Earlier Placement: Genus *Falco*
- ◆ Subspecies:
 - ◆ *A. c. chrysaetos*: Europe and Siberia
 - ◆ *A. c. homeyeri*: North Africa, Mediterranean region, Middle East, Arabia, Iran, Uzbekistan
 - ◆ *A. c. daphanea*: Central Asia, Central China, north Indian subcontinent
 - ◆ *A. c. kamtschatica*: Siberia, East Russia
 - ◆ *A. c. japonica*: Japan, Korea
 - ◆ *A. c. canadensis*: North America



3. **Physical Characteristics**

- ◆ Size (Male): 75 to 90 cm (length), 2,800 to 4,500 grams (weight)
- ◆ Size (Female): Larger than male, 3,600 to 6,600 grams
- ◆ Wingspan: 190 to 230 cm
- ◆ Coloration: Dark brown plumage; Golden-brown plumage on the back of the crown and nape; Dark bill, fading into lighter horn color; Yellow bare portion of the feet
- ◆ Call: High, shrill sound

4. **Habitat**

- ◆ Preferred Environment: Mountains, marshes, deserts, semi-deserts, plateaux, plains, steppe.

5. **Feeding Habits**

- ◆ Diet: Birds, reptiles, fish, amphibians, medium-sized mammals (rodents, rabbits, hares)
- ◆ Feeding Strategy: Predatory, skilled hunters.

6. **Breeding**

- ◆ Breeding Season: March to August (varies by range)
- ◆ Nesting: Cliffs and large trees; Large platform nest built with sticks and twigs.

7. **Distribution**

- ◆ Range: Europe, Asia, Indian subcontinent, Africa, North America, Middle East
- ◆ Global Population: Estimated over 170,000 birds



8. Movement Patterns

- ◆ Behavior: Mostly sedentary; Northern populations may migrate southwards in winter.

9. Conservation Status

- ◆ Status: Least Concern
- ◆ Threats: Poisoning, persecution, trapping, habitat loss, pesticide use, electrocution.



Great Nicobar Serpent-Eagle (*Spilornis klossi*)



Great Nicobar Serpent-Eagle

(*Spilornis klossi*)

1. Overview

- ◆ Common Name: Great Nicobar Serpent-Eagle
- ◆ Scientific Name: *Spilornis klossi*
- ◆ Family: Accipitridae › Accipitriformes › Aves › Chordata › Animalia
- ◆ Other Names: Nicobar Serpent-Eagle

2. Taxonomy

- ◆ Related Species: Closely related to *S. cheela*, *S. holospilus*, *S. kinabaluensis*, and *S. rufipectus*

3. Physical Characteristics

- ◆ Size:
- ◆ Length: 40 to 45 cm
- ◆ Wingspan: 85 to 95 cm
- ◆ Appearance: Small size, large head with a relatively flat crown, short wings and tail
- ◆ Sounds: Limited information available on their calls

4. Habitat

- ◆ Preferred Environment: Mixed evergreen forest, grassland, regenerating habitats
- ◆ Habitat Usage: Frequently seen in the canopy of forests



5. Feeding Habits

- ◆ Diet: Preys on reptiles like snakes and lizards, also known to prey on small birds like doves

6. Breeding

- ◆ Breeding Information: Limited information available

7. Distribution

- ◆ Endemic Range: Great Nicobar, Little Nicobar, Menchal, Pilo Milo, Treis in the South Nicobar Island group

8. Movement Patterns

- ◆ Migratory Patterns: Sedentary in their habitat

9. Conservation Status

- ◆ Global Population: Not quantified, considered common in endemic habitats
- ◆ Status: Near Threatened
- ◆ Threats: Suspected population decline, steady habitat loss due to human activities



Greater Spotted Eagle (*Clanga clanga*)



Greater Spotted Eagle (*Clanga clanga*)

1. Taxonomy

- ◆ Scientific Name: *Clanga clanga*
- ◆ Common Name: Greater Spotted Eagle
- ◆ French: Aiglecriard; German: Schelladler; Spanish: Águilamoteada;
- ◆ Other Names: Aquila Clanga Pallas, 1811;
- ◆ Family: Accipitridae › Accipitriformes › Aves › Chordata › Animalia

2. **Description:** A large bird of prey, measuring 60 to 70 cm in length and weighing 1,500 to 1,900 grams. Females are larger, weighing 1,800 to 2,500 grams. Wingspan is 150 to 180 cm. Dark brown head and wing coverts, lighter brown body plumage. Lighter eye color than the dark plumage. Distinct barking sound.

3. **Habitat:** Inhabits forests near wetlands, marshes, and mangroves.

4. **Feeding Habits:** Preys on small birds, mammals, reptiles, and frogs.

5. **Breeding:** Breeding season is April to August. Nests on tall trees with 1 to 3 eggs. Both parents participate in raising the chicks.

6. **Distribution:** Found in Europe, North Africa, East Africa, the Middle East, the Arabian Peninsula, the Indian Subcontinent, south Asia, and Southeast Asia.



7. **Movement Patterns:** Migratory, with northern populations moving south for wintering. Leave breeding grounds in October and November, returning in February and March.
8. **Status and Conservation:** Global population estimated to be less than 10,000 individuals. Considered vulnerable with a steady population decline. Threats include agricultural intensification, loss of wetland habitats, and human activities. Listed as "Vulnerable" by the IUCN.



Greyheaded Fish-Eagle (*Ichthyophagai chthyaetus*)



Greyheaded Fish-Eagle

(Ichthyophagai chthyaetus)

1. Overview

- ◆ Common Name: Grey-headed Fish-Eagle
- ◆ Scientific Name: *Ichthyophagai chthyaetus*
- ◆ Family: Accipitridae › Accipitriformes › Aves › Chordata › Animalia
- ◆ Other Names: Grey-headed Fishing-eagle, Falco Ichthyaetus Horsfield, 1821
- ◆ Species Author: (Horsfield, 1821)
- ◆ Former Genus: Earlier classified under genus Falco; the genus was previously spelled Ichthyophaga (del Hoyo and Collar 2014)

2. Physical Characteristics

- ◆ Size:
- ◆ Length: 60 to 75 cm
- ◆ Weight: 1,600 to 2,700 grams (females larger than males)
- ◆ Wingspan: 150 to 170 cm
- ◆ Appearance: Dark brown upper body, greyish head, lighter underbelly; small bill and head; white thighs and legs; rounded white tail with a broad black subterminal band

3. Habitat

- ◆ Preferred Environment: Forested wetlands, rivers, lakes, and tanks



4. Feeding Habits

- ◆ Diet: Mostly live or dead fish; also small mammals, reptiles, and birds

5. Breeding

- ◆ Breeding Season: November to January (in north India)
- ◆ Nesting: Huge nest built on tall trees with sticks and leaves, preferably near water bodies; clutch usually contains two to four eggs; both parents involved in incubation, foraging, and fledgling feeding

6. Distribution

- ◆ Global Range: India, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Myanmar, Thailand, Laos, Vietnam, Cambodia, Malaysia, Singapore, Brunei, Indonesia, Philippines

7. Movement Patterns

- ◆ Migration: Sedentary with local movements for feeding

8. Conservation Status

- ◆ Global Population: Estimated to be 15,000 to 150,000 individual birds
- ◆ Status: Near Threatened
- ◆ Threats: Rapid population decline; loss of forested wetland habitats; overfishing of feeding grounds.



Griffon Vulture (*Gyps fulvus*)



Griffon Vulture (*Gyps fulvus*)

1. Description

- ◆ Size: Large bird, 95 to 110 cm in length
- ◆ Weight: 6,000 to 11,000 grams
- ◆ Wingspan: 240 to 280 cm
- ◆ Coloration: White head and neck, buff body, contrasting with dark flight feathers
- ◆ Vocalization: Noisy during feeding, producing grunting, hissing sounds, and calls

2. Habitat

- ◆ Adaptation: Well-adapted to various habitats, including open country, mountains, plateaux, steppe, and semi-deserts.

3. Feeding Habits

- ◆ Diet: Feeds on carcasses, focusing on muscles and viscera of medium-sized and large mammals
- ◆ Foraging: Soars high on thermals to locate dead animals.

4. Breeding

- ◆ Breeding Season: December to March
- ◆ Nesting Sites: Nests on rocky outcrops with sheltered ledges, small caves, cliffs
- ◆ Clutch: Typically contains one egg



- ◆ Parental Care: Both parents participate in rearing the chick.

5. Distribution

- ◆ Subspecies
- ◆ *G. f. fulvus*: Northwest Africa, Europe, Mediterranean region, Turkey, Middle East, Arabia, Iran, Kazakhstan
- ◆ *G. f. fulvescens*: Afghanistan, Pakistan, north and northeast India.

6. Movement Patterns

- ◆ Sedentary: Mostly sedentary, but juveniles and immature vultures may undertake long-distance movements.

7. Conservation Status

- ◆ Global Range: Large, and the population is categorized as Least Concern by the IUCN
- ◆ Threats: Habitat degradation, human activities, wind farms, reduced food availability, and nesting site shortage.

8. Conservation Efforts

- ◆ Ongoing monitoring and research to understand population dynamics and address emerging threats
- ◆ Conservation initiatives aimed at protecting habitats, mitigating human-related risks, and ensuring food availability.



Hen Harrier (*Circus cyaneus*)



Hen Harrier (*Circus cyaneus*)

1. Overview

- ✦ Common Name: Hen harrier
- ✦ Scientific Name: *Circus cyaneus*
- ✦ Family: Accipitridae
- ✦ Other Names: Northern harrier

2. Physical Characteristics

- ✦ Size: 40 to 50 cm (female larger, 370 to 700 grams)
- ✦ Wingspan: 100 to 120 cm
- ✦ Plumage (Male): Mainly grey above, white below, grey upper breast, white rump, grey wings with black wingtips
- ✦ Plumage (Female): Brown above, white upper tail coverts, buff-streaked underparts
- ✦ Call (Male): Chek-chek-chek sound

3. Distribution

- ✦ Habitat: Open country, grasslands, steppe, meadows, moorland, bogs, prairies, farmland, coastal prairies, marshes, swamps
- ✦ Geographic Range: North America, Europe, North and central Asia, North Indian Subcontinent, North Africa



4. Behavior

- ◆ Feeding Habits: Preys on voles, mice, rats, ground squirrels, sparrows, larks, pipits, small shorebirds, young waterfowl, frogs, reptiles, insects
- ◆ Breeding Season: April to early July, ground or mound nest with sticks and leaves, single male may mate with several females, females incubate eggs, male hunts and brings food.

5. Movement Patterns

- ◆ Migratory: Completely migratory, northern populations migrate southwards for wintering.

6. Conservation Status

- ◆ IUCN Red List Status: Least Concern
- ◆ Population: Global population size unknown (recent taxonomic split into *Circus cyaneus* and *C. hudsonius*)
- ◆ Threats: Habitat modification, pesticide use



Himalayan Vulture (*Gyps himalayensis*)



Himalayan Vulture (*Gyps himalayensis*)

1. Taxonomy

- ◆ Scientific Name: *Gyps himalayensis*
- ◆ Common Name: Himalayan vulture
- ◆ French: Vautour de l'Himalaya; German: Schneegeier; Spanish: Buitre del Himalaya
- ◆ Other Names: Himalayan Griffon
- ◆ Family: Accipitridae › Accipitriformes › Aves › Chordata › Animalia.

2. Description

- ◆ Size: Large bird, 100 to 110 cm in length
- ◆ Weight: 8,000 to 12,000 grams
- ◆ Wingspan: 260 to 290 cm
- ◆ Features: Long pale brown ruff with white streaks, yellowish down on the head (adults), whitish down in immature birds, varying underside and under-wing coverts, greenish-grey to white legs, pale whitish blue facial skin
- ◆ Vocalization: Noisy during feeding, grunting, hissing sounds, and various calls.

3. Habitat

Inhabits: Mountains, high-elevation steppes, and plateaus.

4. Feeding Habits

- ◆ Diet: Feeds on carcasses, avoids offal, observed feeding on pine needles (unexplained behavior).



5. Breeding

- ◆ Breeding Season: January to March
- ◆ Nest: Built on a cliff
- ◆ Clutch: Usually one egg
- ◆ Parental Care: Both parents participate in chick rearing.

6. Distribution

- ◆ Range: Himalayan Pakistan, India, Tibet, Nepal, Bhutan, Central and western China, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Afghanistan, Mongolia
- ◆ Winter Visitors: Rarely observed in Thailand, Cambodia, and Bangladesh.

7. Movement Patterns

- ◆ Behavior: Mostly sedentary, may move to lower altitudes in winter, juvenile birds may disperse south during winter.

8. Status and Conservation

- ◆ Global Population: Estimated at 100,000 to 500,000 individuals
- ◆ Conservation Status: Near Threatened
- ◆ Decline Factor: Major decline due to kidney failure caused by diclofenac in carcasses
- ◆ Threats: Habitat degradation, human activities, reduced food availability, shortage of suitable nesting sites
- ◆ Conservation Measures: Urgent need for conservation efforts.



Indian Spotted Eagle (*Clanga hastata*)



Indian Spotted Eagle (*Clanga hastata*)

1. Taxonomy

- ◆ Scientific Name: *Clanga hastata*
- ◆ Common Name: Indian Spotted Eagle
- ◆ Family: Accipitridae > Accipitriformes > Aves > Chordata > Animalia

2. **Description:** Medium-sized birds of prey, measuring 50 to 60 cm in length, with a wingspan of 150 cm. Broad head, wide mouth, pale brown plumage with spots, darker iris. Broad and short wings, short tail. Distinct high-pitched, cackling laughing sound.
3. **Habitat:** Inhabit subtropical and tropical dry forests, forest fringes, plantations, and agricultural fields with scattered trees.
4. **Feeding Habits:** Prey on small birds, mammals, reptiles, and frogs.
5. **Breeding:** Breeding season is March to August. Nests on trees built with sticks and lined with leaves.
6. **Distribution:** Found in Bangladesh, India, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, and Cambodia.
7. **Movement Patterns:** Sedentary with juveniles spreading within the range.
8. **Status and Conservation:** Small and declining population of less than 10,000 birds. Considered vulnerable with habitat loss as the major threat.
9. **Conservation Status:** Listed as "Vulnerable" by the IUCN.



Japanese Sparrowhawk (*Accipiter gularis*)



Japanese Sparrowhawk

(*Accipiter gularis*)

1. Taxonomy

- ◆ Scientific Name: *Accipiter gularis*
- ◆ Common Name: Japanese Sparrowhawk
- ◆ French: Épervier du Japon; German: Trillersperber; Spanish: Gavilancitojaponés;
- ◆ Other Names: *Astur gularis* Temminck and Schlegel, 1844;
- ◆ Family: Accipitridae > Accipitriformes > Aves > Chordata > Animalia
- ◆ Species Author: (Horsfield, 1821).

2. Description

- ◆ Small bird of prey, 20 to 30 cm in length, weighing 80 to 140 grams.
- ◆ Females larger, weighing 110 to 190 grams, wingspan of 45 to 60 cm.
- ◆ Male has dark grey upper parts.
- ◆ Male's underwings are dark and barred, underparts lightly barred.
- ◆ Red eyes in males, yellow in females.
- ◆ Call is a “kik-kik-kik” and a mewing sound.

3. Habitat

- ◆ Inhabits various types of forests and open lands with trees.



4. Feeding Habits

- ◆ Feeds on small birds, particularly small forest passerines, taken in flight.

5. Breeding

- ◆ Breeds during May-June.
- ◆ Nests are built on trees with twigs.

6. Distribution

- ◆ Subspecies *A. g. sibiricus* distributed in Russia, Mongolia, China, Japan, and Southeast Asia.
- ◆ Subspecies *A. g. gularis* distributed in Russia, Korea, China, Japan, Philippines, and Indonesia. Occasional visitor to India.
- ◆ Subspecies *A. g. iwasakii* distributed in South Ryukyu Island.

7. Movement Patterns

- ◆ Subspecies *A. g. iwasakii* are sedentary.
- ◆ Other subspecies are migratory, wintering in Indonesia, Philippines, Southeast Asia, and occasionally in eastern India.

8. Status and Conservation

- ◆ Population estimated in the tens of thousands.
- ◆ Extremely large range, considered least vulnerable.
- ◆ Loss of habitat in breeding grounds is the main threat.

9. Conservation Status

- ◆ Listed as "Least Concern" by the IUCN (International Union for Conservation of Nature).



Jerdon's Baza (*Aviceda jerdoni*)



Jerdon's Baza (*Aviceda jerdoni*)

1. Overview

- ◆ Common Name: Jerdon's Baza
- ◆ Scientific Name: *Aviceda jerdoni*
- ◆ Family: Accipitridae › Accipitriformes › Aves › Chordata › Animalia
- ◆ Other Names: Baza de Jerdon (French), Hinduweih (German), Baza oriental (Spanish)
- ◆ Species Author: (Blyth, 1842)

2. Taxonomy

- ◆ Earlier Classification: Genus *Pernis*
- ◆ Subspecies:
 - ◆ *A.j. ceylonensis* (Legge, 1876)
 - ◆ *A.j. jerdoni* (Blyth, 1842)
 - ◆ *A.j. borneensis* (Brüggemann, 1876)
 - ◆ *A.j. magnirostris* (Kaup, 1847)
 - ◆ *A.j. celebensis* (Schlegel, 1873)

3. Physical Characteristics

- ◆ Size: 40 to 50 cm (length), 350 grams (weight)
- ◆ Wingspan: 120 cm
- ◆ Crest: Thin, white-tipped, black crest usually held erect



- ◆ Wings: Broad and rounded, paddle-shaped
- ◆ Underparts: Plain and pale, white chin.

4. Habitat

- ◆ Preferred Environment: Foothills in the terai, margins of evergreen forests, tea estates.

5. Feeding Habits

- ◆ Diet: Large insects, lizards, small rodents.

6. Breeding

- ◆ Breeding Season: Throughout the year (except for summer months)
- ◆ Breeding Sites: Not specified.

7. Distribution

- ◆ Subspecies *A. j. ceylonensis*: South India and Sri Lanka
- ◆ Subspecies *A. j. jerdoni*: Sikkim, West Bengal, Assam (India), Myanmar, Sumatra (Indonesia)
- ◆ Subspecies *A. j. borneensis*: Borneo Island
- ◆ Subspecies *A. j. magnirostris*: Philippines

8. Movement Patterns

- ◆ Migration: Sedentary; Recorded throughout the year in the habitat.

9. Conservation Status

- ◆ Global Population: Estimated between 1,000 to 10,000 individuals
- ◆ Status: Least Concern



Laggar Falcon (*Falco jugger*)



Laggar Falcon (*Falco jugger*)

1. Description

- ◆ Medium-sized bird of prey, 40 to 45 cm long, weighing 500 to 850 grams.
- ◆ Dark plumage on the back, pale face, cheeks, and throat, striated chest.
- ◆ Slender appearance with long wings and tail; loud "we-ee-ee" call.

2. Habitat

- ◆ Inhabit arid open areas, dry woodlands, cultivated areas, and open country with scattered trees near human habitations.

3. Feeding Habits

- ◆ Primarily feed on birds, especially game birds and passerines.
- ◆ Also feed on small mammals and lizards.

4. Breeding

- ◆ Breeding season from January to May.
- ◆ Use stick nests of other birds and tree holes; clutch consists of three to five eggs.

5. Distribution

- ◆ Distributed in India, Iran, Afghanistan, Pakistan, Nepal, Bhutan, Bangladesh, and Myanmar.



- ◆ Conspicuously absent in south India.

6. Movement Patterns

- ◆ Resident and sedentary species; move around their range while foraging.

7. Status and Conservation

- ◆ Global population estimated at 15,000 to 30,000 individual birds.
- ◆ Considered near threatened due to the rapid decline in population.
- ◆ Main threats include the spread of agriculture, pesticide use, trapping for falconry, and habitat destruction.

8. IUCN Status

- ◆ listed as "Near Threatened" by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN).



Legge's Hawk-Eagle (*Nisaetus kelaarti*)



Legge's Hawk-Eagle (*Nisaetus kelaarti*)

1. Taxonomy

- ◆ Scientific Name: *Nisaetus kelaarti*
- ◆ Common Name: Legge's Hawk-Eagle
- ◆ Family: Accipitridae › Accipitriformes › Aves › Chordata › Animalia

2. **Breeding:** It breeds in the Indian subcontinent, specifically from southern India to Sri Lanka. The specific name "kelaarti" pays tribute to the physician-zoologist E.F. Kelaart.

3. Appearance

- ◆ Medium-sized eagle, fairly large raptor.
- ◆ Typical adult has brown upperparts and pale underparts with barring on flight feathers and tail.
- ◆ Heavily streaked breast and belly.
- ◆ Broad wings with a curved trailing edge, held in a shallow V during flight.
- ◆ Sexes are similar, while young birds are often whiter-headed.

4. Taxonomic Status

- ◆ Formerly considered a subspecies of the mountain hawk-eagle.
- ◆ Identified as a distinct species, *Nisaetuskelaarti*, based on geographic isolation and differences in call.



5. Size

- ◆ Legge's hawk-eagles are about 5-10% smaller than mountain hawk eagles on average.
- ◆ Average total length for males is around 70 cm, and for females, it's about 76 cm.

6. Habitat and Nesting

- ◆ Inhabits mountain woodlands.
- ◆ Builds stick nests in trees, laying usually a single egg in a clutch.

7. Diet

- ◆ Feeds on small mammals, birds, and reptiles.
- ◆ Despite its size, a powerful predator with large talons, known to pursue prey as heavy or heavier than itself, such as Indian peafowl.

8. Conservation

- ◆ A bird with an estimated global population.
- ◆ It is not considered a threatened species.
- ◆ Legge's hawk-eagle showcases the fascinating dynamics of nature, thriving in mountainous landscapes, utilizing its prowess for hunting and contributing to the rich biodiversity of the Indian subcontinent.



Lesser Fish Eagle (*Ichthyophaga humilis*)



Lesser Fish Eagle (*Ichthyophaga humilis*)

1. Overview

- ✦ Common Name: Lesser Fish Eagle
- ✦ Scientific Name: *Ichthyophaga humilis*
- ✦ Family: Accipitridae › Accipitriformes › Aves › Chordata › Animalia
- ✦ Other Names: Lesser Fishing-eagle, *Falco humilis* S. Müller and Schlegel, 1841
- ✦ Species Author: (Müller, S. & Schlegel, 1841)

Former Genus: Earlier classified under genus *Falco*; the genus *Ichthyophaga* was previously spelled *Ichthyophaga* (del Hoyo and Collar 2014)
- ✦ Subspecies: Two recognized subspecies - *I. h. plumbea* (Jerdon, 1871) and *I. h. humilis* (S. Müller & Schlegel, 1841)

2. Physical Characteristics

- ✦ Size:
- ✦ Length: 50 to 70 cm
- ✦ Weight: 780 to 800 grams
- ✦ Wingspan: 120 to 160 cm
- ✦ Appearance: Greyish brown plumage; white belly and thighs; cream-colored legs with black talons; small head; rounded tail; light yellow eyes; distinctive cackling call.



3. Habitat

- ◆ Preferred Environment: Various forms of rivers, lakes, and wetlands; often seen along hill streams and fast-moving rivulets with fringe trees

4. Feeding Haits

- ◆ Diet: Mainly fish; claws and talons adapted for plucking prey from the water; use perches for spotting prey

5. Breeding

- ◆ Breeding Season: March to August (in north India)
- ◆ Nesting: Nest built with sticks and leaves; clutch may contain two to four eggs

6. Distribution

- ◆ Global Range: North India, south India (Kerala and Karnataka), Bangladesh, Nepal, Bhutan, China, Myanmar, Thailand, Cambodia, Laos, Malaysia, Indonesia

7. Movement Patterns

- ◆ Migration: Mostly sedentary; eagles in high altitudes may descend to lower levels in winter

8. Conservation Status

- ◆ Global Population: Preliminarily estimated to be 15,000 to 75,000 individual birds
- ◆ Status: Near Threatened.



Lesser Kestrel (*Falco naumanni*)



Lesser Kestrel **(*Falco naumanni*)**

1. Description

- ◆ Size: Small bird of prey, male 30 to 35 cm, female slightly larger
- ◆ Weight: Male 90 to 170 grams, female 140 to 200 grams
- ◆ Wingspan: 60 to 70 cm
- ◆ Male: Bluish-grey head, rusty brown upper parts, buff underparts with black spots, grey tail with subterminal black band
- ◆ Female and Immature: Rusty back with black barring and streaking
- ◆ Call: Harsh chay-chay-chay sound.

2. Habitat

- ◆ Steppe-like habitats, natural and managed grasslands, open areas in hot, dry climates, semi-desert habitats, non-intensive cultivation.

3. Feeding Habits

- ◆ Primary feed: Large insects like grasshoppers, locusts, crickets
- ◆ Also feeds on tree frogs, small reptiles, small birds.

4. Breeding

- ◆ Breeding Season: April and May
- ◆ Colonial breeder, nests on buildings, cliffs, or in tree holes



- ◆ Clutch Size: 3 to 6 eggs
- ◆ Both parents participate in raising chicks.

5. Distribution

Breeding: Spain, Portugal, France, Mediterranean region, Israel, Palestine, Jordan, Iran, Iraq, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Russia, Ukraine, Afghanistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, China, Mongolia

- ◆ Rare visitor to the Indian Subcontinent.
- ◆ Wintering: Africa.

6. Movement Patterns

- ◆ Partially migratory
- ◆ European and Mediterranean populations move southwards across much of Africa, particularly South Africa.

7. Status and Conservation

- ◆ Population decline in the late 1900s, stabilized with increasing trends
- ◆ Threats: Habitat degradation and loss, agricultural intensification, afforestation, intensive pasture management, urbanization
- ◆ IUCN Status: "Least Concern".



Long-legged Buzzard (*Buteo rufinus*)



Long-legged Buzzard

(*Buteo rufinus*)

1. Overview

- ◆ Common Name: Long-legged Buzzard
- ◆ Scientific Name: *Buteo rufinus*
- ◆ Family: Accipitridae

2. Physical Characteristics

- ◆ Size: 50 to 65 cm in length, female larger weighing 900 to 1700 grams, wingspan of 125 to 155 cm
- ◆ Coloration: Polymorphic plumage varying from dark brown to reddish to pale brown, orange tinge, reddish-orange tail, pale head, underwings appear whitish, distinctive black carpal patch, blackish trailing edge to the wing
- ◆ Notable Features: Long wings and legs, loud mewing, screaming sound as a buzzard call.

3. Distribution

- ◆ Habitat: Steppe, open country, semi-desert regions, rocky areas, forests with clearings
- ◆ Geographic Range: Europe, Asia, Indian subcontinent, Africa.

4. Behavior

- ◆ Hunting Style: Preys on small mammals, especially rodents, lizards, snakes, small birds, large insects



- ◆ **Mating and Nesting:** Breeding season during March and April, nests on high bushes, trees, cliffs, or hillocks, nest built with sticks and twigs
- ◆ **Migration:** Populations in North Africa are sedentary; European and Asian populations migrate southwards to Africa, southern Asia, and the Indian subcontinent during August and September, return in March and April.

5. Diet

- ◆ **Primary Prey:** Small mammals, rodents, lizards, snakes, small birds, large insects.

6. Conservation Status

- ◆ **IUCN Red List Status:** Least Concern
- ◆ **Threats:** Wind energy installations, pesticide use, depletion of prey, habitat loss



Montagu's Harrier (*Circus pygargus*)



Montagu's Harrier (*Circus pygargus*)

1. Overview

- ◆ Common Name: Montagu's harrier
- ◆ Scientific Name: *Circus pygargus*
- ◆ Family: Accipitridae

2. Physical Characteristics

- ◆ Size: 40 to 50 cm (female larger, 250 to 450 grams)
- ◆ Wingspan: 100 to 120 cm
- ◆ Plumage (Male): Pale grey with black primaries and bands across secondaries
- ◆ Plumage (Female): Mostly pale yellow-brown on underparts with longitudinal stripes, spotted wing coverts
- ◆ Display Call (Male): "kek..kek..kek" sound.

3. Distribution

- ◆ Habitat: Lowlands, broad river valleys, plains near waterbodies, heaths, dunes, moors, steppe
- ◆ Geographic Range: Europe, Mediterranean region, West Russia, Kazakhstan, Northwest China; Winters in sub-Saharan Africa and Indian subcontinent.

4. Behavior

- ◆ Feeding Habits: Small rodents, small birds, bird eggs, reptiles, large insects



- ◆ Breeding Season: Mostly May-June, ground-nesting in tall vegetation, loose breeding colonies, 3-5 eggs
- ◆ Polygamous Males: Tend to be polygamous, feed incubating females and broods.

5. Movement Patterns

- ◆ Migratory: Winters in sub-Saharan Africa and Indian subcontinent
- ◆ Migration Timing: Leave northern breeding grounds in August-September, return in March-April after wintering.

6. Conservation Status

- ◆ IUCN Red List Status: Least Concern
- ◆ Population: Estimated between 150,000 to 200,000 individual birds
- ◆ Threats: Use of organochlorine pesticides, locust control, droughts, habitat conversion to agriculture, prey depletion



Mountain Hawk-Eagle (*Nisaetus nipalensis*)



Mountain Hawk-Eagle

(*Nisaetus nipalensis*)

1. Overview

- ◆ Common Name: Mountain Hawk-Eagle
- ◆ Scientific Name: *Nisaetus nipalensis*
- ◆ Family: Accipitridae › Accipitriformes › Aves › Chordata › Animalia
- ◆ Other Names: Aiglemontagnard (French), Berghaubenadler (German), Águilamontañesa (Spanish)

2. Physical Characteristics

- ◆ Size: 65 to 85 cm (length)
- ◆ Weight: 1,800 to 3,500 grams
- ◆ Wingspan: 130 to 160 cm
- ◆ Coloration: Brown upper parts, paler under parts, barred under sides and tail, streaked breast, belly, and underwing coverts.

3. Distribution

- ◆ Regions: Indian subcontinent, Indochina, Southeast Asia, China, Japan, Indonesia
- ◆ Subspecies:
 - ◆ N. n. orientalis: Japan
 - ◆ N. n. nipalensis: Pakistan, Himalayas of India, Nepal, Bhutan, China, Indochina region, Malay Peninsula



- ◆ N. n. kelaarti: South India and Sri Lanka

4. **Behavior**

- ◆ Habitat: Mountain woodlands, observed at altitudes up to 4,000 meters
- ◆ Feeding Habits: Birds, reptiles, small mammals; Prefers hares, pheasants, and quails
- ◆ Breeding Season: Varies with range; Breeds during February and June in the Himalayas; Builds stick nests on trees; Single egg per clutch.

5. **Movement Patterns**

- ◆ Migration: Mostly sedentary; May move to lower altitudes in winter.

6. **Conservation Status**

- ◆ Population Estimate: Not specified
- ◆ Status: Least Concern
- ◆ Threats: Decline in population due to loss of forest cover; Habitat destruction and declining prey availability.



Nicobar Sparrowhawk (*Accipiter butleri*)



Nicobar Sparrowhawk (*Accipiter butleri*)

1. Taxonomy

- ◆ Scientific Name: *Accipiter butleri*
- ◆ Common Name: Nicobar Sparrowhawk
- ◆ Family: Accipitridae › Accipitriformes › Aves › Chordata › Animalia

Earlier included in the genus Astur, closely related to A. badius, A. brevipes, A. soloensis, and A. francesiae. Two recognized subspecies: A. b. butleri (Gurney, Jr, 1898) and A. b. obsoletus (Richmond, 1902).

2. Description

- ◆ Small bird of prey, 30 to 35 cm in length.
- ◆ Wingspan of 50 to 60 cm.
- ◆ Short pointed wings and thick bill.
- ◆ Adult males have pale grey upper parts with dark primaries.
- ◆ Dark sub-terminal band on the tail.
- ◆ Rusty breast, barred flanks, pale white underparts.
- ◆ Females are brown with bands on the upper tail.
- ◆ Call is a shrill, double "kee-wick" sound.

3. Habitat

- ◆ Inhabits subtropical or tropical forests.



4. Feeding Habits

- ◆ Recorded to feed on lizards and insects.

5. Breeding

- ◆ Limited information available on breeding habits.

6. Distribution

- ◆ Subspecies *A. b. butleri* in Car Nicobar.
- ◆ Subspecies *A. b. obsoletus* in Katchal and Camorta in the central Nicobar Islands.

7. Movement Patterns

- ◆ Endemic to Indian islands, sedentary.

8. Status and Conservation:

- ◆ Considered "Vulnerable" due to a small population (around 3,700 to 7,500 individuals) and a narrow range.
- ◆ Major threat is habitat degradation and loss due to human activities.

9. Conservation Status

- ◆ Listed as "Vulnerable" by the IUCN (International Union for Conservation of Nature).



Northern Goshawk (*Accipiter gentilis*)



Northern Goshawk (*Accipiter gentilis*)

1. Taxonomy

- ◆ Scientific Name: *Accipiter gentilis*
- ◆ Common Name: Northern Goshawk
- ◆ Family: Accipitridae > Accipitriformes > Aves > Chordata > Animalia

2. Description

- ◆ Medium-sized bird of prey, 45 to 65 cm in length, weighing 500 to 1,100 grams, Short, broad wings, long tail.
- ◆ Females slightly larger, weighing 800 to 2,200 grams.
- ◆ Blue-grey above, grey or white below, with barred chest and belly.
- ◆ Adult goshawks have a white eye stripe.
- ◆ Minor variations in eye color and level of coloration among subspecies.
- ◆ Loud "kek-kek-kek" call.

3. Habitat

- ◆ Inhabit mature deciduous and coniferous forests.
- ◆ Prefer areas near clearings and the forest edge.

4. Feeding Habits

- ◆ Prey upon birds, small mammals, and reptiles.



- ◆ Surprise prey by diving and attacking.

5. Breeding

- ◆ Breeding season from early April to early June.
- ◆ Breeding pairs mate for life.
- ◆ Nest built on a large, old tree with twigs and lined with leafy twigs.
- ◆ Clutch may have up to five eggs.
- ◆ Female incubates eggs, and male hunts and feeds the female and chicks.

6. Distribution

- ◆ Distributed in temperate parts of the Northern Hemisphere, including North America, Europe, and Asia.

7. Movement Patterns

- ◆ Mostly sedentary in habitats.
- ◆ Northernmost populations may move southwards during September and November, returning in March and April.

8. Status and Conservation

- ◆ Global population estimated to be more than 500,000 individuals.
- ◆ Least concern (IUCN).



Oriental Hobby (*Falco severus*)



Oriental Hobby (*Falco severus*)

1. Description

- ◆ Size: Small bird of prey, 25 to 30 cm in length
- ◆ Weight: 170 to 250 grams
- ◆ Wingspan: 60 to 70 cm
- ◆ Features: Black hood, pale throat, bluish-grey back, rufous underparts, short tail, wings reach up to tail tip, yellow legs
- ◆ Call: Repeated "kee-kee" sound.

2. Habitat

- ◆ Inhabits forest clearings, lowland forests, mangroves, foothill forests.

3. Feeding Habits

- ◆ Mainly feeds on insects
- ◆ Known to prey on small birds and bats.

4. Breeding

- ◆ Nests on stick nests of other birds in trees, building ledges, or on cliffs
- ◆ Breeding Season: April to July in India.

5. Distribution

- ◆ Subspecies *F. s. severus*: India, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Bangladesh, China, Myanmar, Thailand, Indochina, Indonesia, Philippines



- ◆ Subspecies *F. s. papuanus*: New Guinea, Bismarck Archipelago, Solomon Island.

6. Movement Patterns

- ◆ Himalayan hobby populations are migratory, moving southwards to south India and Sri Lanka for wintering
- ◆ Other hobby populations appear to be sedentary.

7. Status and Conservation

- ◆ Estimated Population: 1,000-10,000 individual birds
- ◆ Extremely large range, considered least vulnerable
- ◆ Main Threats: Deforestation and habitat loss
- ◆ IUCN Status: "Least Concern"



Oriental Honey Buzzard *(Pernis ptilorhynchus)*



Oriental Honey Buzzard

(*Pernis ptilorhynchus*)

1. Overview

- ✦ Common Name: Oriental Honey Buzzard
- ✦ Scientific Name: *Pernis ptilorhynchus*
- ✦ Family: Accipitridae › Accipitriformes › Aves › Chordata › Animalia
- ✦ Other Names: Crested Honey Buzzard, *Pernis ptilorhynchus*, *Pernis ptilorynchus*
- ✦ Species Author: Temminck, 1821

2. Physical Characteristics

- ✦ Size:
- ✦ Male: 50 to 70 cm (length), 750 to 1,300 grams (weight)
- ✦ Female: 950 to 1,500 grams (weight)
- ✦ Wingspan: 110 to 160 cm
- ✦ Male Characteristics: Small blue-grey head, short head crest, long neck, long, dark tail with a white band
- ✦ Female Characteristics: Brown head.

3. Habitat

- ✦ Preferred Environment: Woodlands of various climatic types, prefers broad-leaved forests.

4. Feeding Habits

- ✦ Diet: Larvae of bees and wasps, bees, wasps, cicadas, bits of honeycomb, honey



5. **Breeding**

- ◆ Breeding Season: March (South India), summer months (Northern ranges)
- ◆ Breeding Sites: Nests in the forks of trees
- ◆ Mating Display: Wing-clapping

6. **Distribution**

- ◆ Subspecies *P. p. orientalis*: Siberia, Kazakhstan, China, Japan, Korea, Philippines, Indonesia
- ◆ Subspecies *P. p. ruficollis*: Pakistan, India, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Myanmar, China, Malaysia, Thailand

7. **Movement Patterns**

- ◆ Migration: Migratory in northern regions (April to May, August to October), sedentary in the south

8. **Conservation Status**

- ◆ Global Population: Estimated between 100,000 to 1,000,000 individuals
- ◆ Status: Least Concern
- ◆ Threats: Habitat degradation, tree felling.



Osprey (*Pandion haliaetus*)



Osprey (*Pandion haliaetus*)

1. Overview

- ◆ Common Name: Osprey
- ◆ Scientific Name: *Pandion haliaetus*
- ◆ Family: Pandionidae › Accipitriformes › Aves › Chordata › Animalia
- ◆ Other Names: Balbuzard pêcheur (French), Fischadler (German), Águilapescadora (Spanish)

2. Physical Characteristics

- ◆ Size: 55 to 60 cm (length)
- ◆ Weight: 1,000 to 1,800 grams (Male); 1,200 to 2,000 grams (Female)
- ◆ Wingspan: 120 to 175 cm
- ◆ Plumage: Glossy brown upper parts, greyish-white head and underparts, dark eye patch, golden-brown irises, white feet with black talons, short tail, narrow and long wings with distinct feathers
- ◆ Call: Cheep, cheep or yewk, yewk; sharp 'cheereek' when disturbed.

3. Distribution

- ◆ Regions: Indian Subcontinent, Asia, Europe, Australia, Africa, Americas
- ◆ Subspecies:



- ◆ *P. h. haliaetus*: Europe, Asia, Africa, Southeast Asia, Indian Subcontinent
- ◆ *P. h. carolinensis*: North America, South America
- ◆ *P. h. ridgwayi*: Caribbean
- ◆ *P. h. cristatus*: Indonesia, New Guinea, Australia, Solomon Islands, New Caledonia.

4. Behavior

- ◆ Habitat: Shallow, fresh, brackish, or marine habitats; Fishing in ponds, lakes, marshes, lagoons, and creeks
- ◆ Feeding Habits: Mainly fish, occasional consumption of rodents, frogs, and other birds
- ◆ Breeding Season: Varied by region; Construct nests on high trees, rocky outcrops, or manmade structures; Monogamous; Two to four eggs per clutch.

5. Movement Patterns

- ◆ Migration: European Osprey migrates to Africa for wintering; North American Ospreys move southwards for wintering; Tropical and subtropical populations are sedentary.

6. Status :Least concern (IUCN)



Pallas's Fish Eagle **(*Haliaeetus leucoryphus*)**



Pallas's Fish Eagle *(Haliaeetus leucoryphus)*

1. Overview

- ◆ Common Name: Pallas's Fish Eagle
- ◆ Scientific Name: *Haliaeetus leucoryphus*
- ◆ Family: Accipitridae › Accipitriformes › Aves › Chordata › Animalia
- ◆ Other Names: Aquila leucorypha (older taxonomy), Pallas's Sea Eagle, Band-tailed Fish Eagle
- ◆ Species Author: (Pallas, 1771)
- ◆ Former Genus: Earlier classified as Aquila leucorypha Pallas, 1771

2. Physical Characteristics

- ◆ Size
- ◆ Length: 70 to 85 cm
- ◆ Male Weight: 2,000 to 3,300 grams
- ◆ Female Weight: 2,100 to 3,700 grams
- ◆ Wingspan: 180 to 215 cm
- ◆ Appearance: Dark brown plumage; warm buffish to whitish head, neck, and upper mantle; black tail with a wide white band; underwings also have a white band
- ◆ Call: Guttural kha-kha-kha-kha or gao-gao-gao-gao sound



3. Habitat

- ◆ Preferred Environment: Wetlands, especially large lakes and rivers fringed by tall trees; roost and nest on trees close to water

4. Feeding Habits

- ◆ Diet: Mainly fish; also small mammals, reptiles, birds, carrion

5. Breeding

- ◆ Breeding Season: September to February (in India)
- ◆ Nesting: Nests built on tall trees near water bodies

6. Distribution

- ◆ Global Range: Kazakhstan, southern Russia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, Mongolia, China, Afghanistan, Pakistan, northern India, Bhutan, Nepal, Bangladesh, Myanmar

7. Movement Patterns

- ◆ Migration: Central Asian populations migrate southwards for wintering
- ◆ Residency: Mainly sedentary

8. Conservation Status

- ◆ Global Population: Estimated to be less than 10,000 individual birds
- ◆ Status: Vulnerable



Pallid Harrier (*Circus macrourus*)



Pallid Harrier (*Circus macrourus*)

1. Overview

- ◆ Common Name: Pallid Harrier
- ◆ Scientific Name: *Circus macrourus*
- ◆ Family: Accipitridae

2. Physical Characteristics

- ◆ Size: 40 to 50 cm in length, female slightly larger, weighing 230 to 400 grams, wingspan of 100 to 120 cm
- ◆ Coloration: Male - whitish grey upper parts, white underparts, black wingtips. Female - brown upper parts, white upper tail coverts
- ◆ Notable Features: Males and females have distinct plumages; limited information on calls and sounds

3. Distribution

- ◆ Habitat: Open plains, bogs, heathland; winters in open country
- ◆ Geographic Range: Europe, Asia, Indian Subcontinent, Africa; breeding populations in southern parts of eastern Europe, central Asia, Asiatic Russia, Kazakhstan, northwest China, Azerbaijan, Romania, Turkey, Ukraine; migrate and winter in tropical African countries, the Middle East, and the Indian subcontinent

4. Behavior

- ◆ Hunting Style: Feeds on small mammals, birds, reptiles, frogs, and large insects



- ◆ Mating and Nesting: Breeding season in May and June, nests on the ground with four to six eggs.

5. Diet

- ◆ Primary Prey: Small mammals like rats and mice, birds, reptiles, frogs, large insects.

6. Conservation Status

- ◆ IUCN Red List Status: Near Threatened
- ◆ Threats: Habitat loss due to destruction and degradation of steppe grasslands, conversion to agricultural lands, burning of vegetation, intensive grazing, reduced prey availability.



Peregrine Falcon (*Falco peregrinus*)



Peregrine Falcon (*Falco peregrinus*)

1. Description

- ◆ Size: Medium-sized bird of prey, 35 to 50 cm in length
- ◆ Weight: 550 to 1,500 grams (male), larger in females
- ◆ Wingspan: 80 to 120 cm
- ◆ Plumage: Blue-grey back, barred white to rusty underparts, black head, prominent black moustache, black wingtips, narrow and rounded black tail with a white band
- ◆ Cere and Feet: Yellow
- ◆ Beak and Claws: Black
- ◆ Call: Loud series of 'kak, kak, kak' sound.

2. Habitat

- ◆ Variable habitats including mountain ranges, river valleys, coastlines, and cities.

3. Feeding Habits

- ◆ Mainly feeds on birds, including pigeons, doves, waterfowl, songbirds, waders, smaller birds of prey, and game birds
- ◆ Also feeds on reptiles, small mammals, and insects
- ◆ Stooping flight technique for capturing prey in mid-air.

4. Breeding

- ◆ Breeding Season: Varies with range



- ◆ Nesting Sites: Scrapes in loose soil, cliff edges, and large tree hollows
- ◆ Clutch Size: Three to four eggs
- ◆ Incubation: Both male and female incubate eggs
- ◆ Chick Rearing: Both parents participate.

5. Distribution

- ◆ Found globally, absent in extreme polar regions, entirely absent in New Zealand
- ◆ Subspecies *Falco peregrinus peregrinator* found in Indian subcontinent and southern China.

6. Movement Patterns

- ◆ Highly migratory in temperate and Arctic zones, migrating southwards in winter.

7. Status and Conservation

- ◆ Conservation Status: Least Concern
- ◆ Historic Decline: Due to organochlorine pesticides (DDT), hunting, and egg collection
- ◆ Recovery: Conservation efforts, DDT restrictions, and protective measures contributed to population recovery



Pied Falconet *(Microhierax melanoleucos)*



Pied Falconet ***(Microhierax melanoleucos)***

1. Description

- ◆ Small black and white raptor, 7-7 ½ inches long, 55-75 g.
- ◆ White face, black eye patch, yellowish beak, completely black upper parts.
- ◆ Black primaries with white wing bars, long tail with black upper parts and white bars from below.

2. Habitat and Distribution

- ◆ Found in temperate forests in Bangladesh, Bhutan, China, Hong Kong, India, Laos, and Vietnam.
- ◆ Non-migratory, residing in the same area for most of the year.

3. Behavior

- ◆ Vocalization: Shrill scream and chattering whistle; males court females with rapid calls during breeding.
- ◆ Diet: Feeds on insects, small mammals, reptiles, and birds; catches prey mid-flight or from surrounding trees.
- ◆ Reproduction: Breeds from March to May; males present leaves to females as a courtship behavior; nests in old woodpecker cavities; lays 3-4 white eggs.

4. Taxonomy

- ◆ Belongs to the Falconidae family, *Microhierax* genus, which includes the smallest diurnal raptors.



- ◆ Other species: Collared Falconet, Black-thighed Falconet, White-fronted Falconet, and Philippine Falconet.

5. Status

- ◆ Listed as "Least Concern" due to a large home range and stable population size.



Pied Harrier (*Circus melanoleucos*)



Pied Harrier (*Circus melanoleucos*)

1. Overview

- ✦ Common Name: Pied Harrier
- ✦ Scientific Name: *Circus melanoleucos*
- ✦ Family: Accipitridae

2. Physical Characteristics

- ✦ Size: 40 to 50 cm in length, female slightly larger weighing 400 to 450 grams, wingspan of 110 to 125 cm
- ✦ Coloration: Male - pale grey with a black head, mantled back, upper breast, and tail coverts; strong plumage color differences between male and female
- ✦ Notable Features: Male makes a shrill call with repeated “kiiy-veee” sounds

3. Distribution

- ✦ Habitat: Open lands, grasslands, steppe, wet meadows, and marshes
- ✦ Geographic Range: North Russia, northeastern China, North Korea, Indian Subcontinent, Myanmar, Indochina, Malaysia, Indonesia, Philippines

4. Behavior

- ✦ Hunting Style: Feeds on small mammals (rats and mice), birds, reptiles, frogs, and large insects; often seen flying low over paddy fields and marshes



- ◆ **Mating and Nesting:** Breeds in May, builds nests on the ground, long grass, reedbeds, rushes, or in bushes
- ◆ **Migration:** Completely migratory, northern populations migrate southwards for wintering; breeds in northern Asia and pockets in India and Myanmar, winters in Indian Subcontinent and Southeast Asia

5. Diet

- ◆ **Primary Prey:** Small mammals, birds, reptiles, frogs, large insects
- ◆ **Hunting Techniques:** Flying low over fields and marshes, hunting for prey

6. Conservation Status

- ◆ **IUCN Red List Status:** Least Concern
- ◆ **Threats:** Loss of habitat, drying up of marshes and wetlands



Red Kite (*Milvus milvus*)



Red Kite (*Milvus milvus*)

1. Overview

- ◆ Common Name: Red Kite
- ◆ Scientific Name: *Milvus milvus*
- ◆ Family: Accipitridae › Accipitriformes › Aves › Chordata › Animalia
- ◆ Other Names: Milan royal (French), Rotmilan (German), Milano real (Spanish)

2. Physical Characteristics

- ◆ Size: 60 to 65 cm (length)
- ◆ Weight: Male: 750 to 1,200 grams; Female: 1,000 to 1,300 grams
- ◆ Wingspan: 175 to 195 cm
- ◆ Plumage: Deep rufous with black breast-streaks; deeply forked reddish tail; pale fringes to upper wing secondary-coverts; thin piping sound call.

3. Distribution

- ◆ Regions: Europe, Africa, Asia; Rare visitor to Indian Subcontinent
- ◆ Subspecies:
- ◆ *M. m. milvus*: Spain, Portugal, Ukraine, Russia, Britain, France, Germany, Sweden, Latvia, Italy, Turkey, North Africa



- ◆ *M. m. fasciicauda*: Cape Verde Islands (Considered extinct)

4. Behavior

- ◆ **Habitat:** Breeds in broadleaf woodlands, forests mixed with farmland, pasture, and heathland; Wintering kites occupy open wooded land, wasteland, scrub, and wetlands
- ◆ **Feeding Habits:** Carrion, small to medium-sized mammals (mice, voles, shrews, young hares, rabbits), birds, reptiles, amphibians, invertebrates
- ◆ **Breeding Season:** March to May; Nest built on tree fork with twigs and lined with grass or vegetation and sheep's wool.

5. Movement Patterns

- ◆ **Migration:** Most north-east European population migratory to wintering grounds in France, Iberia, and Africa (August to November, returning between February and April); Sedentary populations in other places.

6. Conservation Status

- ◆ **Population Estimate:** 40,000 to 50,000 individual birds globally
- ◆ **Status:** Near Threatened
- ◆ **Threats:** Illegal poison baits, loss of breeding habitat due to tree felling, increased human activity in breeding grounds



Red-headed Vulture (*Sarcogyps calvus*)



Red-headed Vulture (*Sarcogyps calvus*)

1. Taxonomy

- ◆ Scientific Name: *Sarcogyps calvus*
- ◆ Common Name: Red-headed vulture
- ◆ French: Vautour royal; German: Kahlkopfgeier; Spanish: Buitrecabecirrojo
- ◆ Other Names: Vultur calvus Scopoli, 1786; Asian king vulture; Indian black vulture; Pondicherry vulture
- ◆ Family: Accipitridae › Accipitriformes › Aves › Chordata › Animalia

2. Description

- ◆ Size: Large bird, 75 to 85 cm in length
- ◆ Weight: 3,500 to 5,500 grams
- ◆ Wingspan: 200 to 230 cm
- ◆ Coloration: Mainly black, bare reddish head, neck, and legs, pale grey band at the base of flight feathers
- ◆ Sexual Dimorphism: Male has a paler, whitish iris, while the female has a dark brown iris.

3. Habitat

- ◆ Prefers open country away from human habitation
- ◆ Well-wooded hills and dry deciduous forest with rivers.



4. Feeding Habits

- ◆ Feeds on carcasses of medium-sized and large mammals
- ◆ May snatch food from other birds
- ◆ Soars high on thermals to locate dead animals.

5. Breeding

- ◆ Breeding Season: December to September
- ◆ Nesting recorded in tall trees.

6. Distribution

- ◆ Regions: India, Nepal, Bangladesh, and Bhutan in the Indian Subcontinent
- ◆ Small populations in Myanmar, Laos, and Cambodia
- ◆ Previously present in South China, Thailand, Vietnam, Malaysia, and Singapore.

7. Movement Patterns

- ◆ Mainly sedentary, with seasonal altitudinal movements in the Nepal population.

8. Status and Conservation

- ◆ Global Population: Estimated at 3,500 to 15,000 individual birds



Red-necked Falcon (*Falco chicquera*)



Red-necked Falcon *(Falco chicquera)*

1. Description

- ◆ Size: Small bird of prey, 30 to 35 cm in length
- ◆ Weight: 160 grams (female: 250 grams)
- ◆ Wingspan: 55 to 70 cm
- ◆ Features: Bright rufous crown and nape, bluish-grey wings and upper parts, yellow legs, ceres, and eye ring, black tip of the bill, short and pointed wings, long and rounded tail
- ◆ Call: Shrill kee..kee.. sound.

2. Habitat

- ◆ Inhabits trees around open grounds, waterways, savannah, dry open country, and semi-deserts.

3. Feeding Habits

- ◆ Feeds on small birds like sparrows, starlings, and pigeons.

4. Breeding

- ◆ Breeding Season: January to March in India
- ◆ Nests in old tree nests of other birds
- ◆ Clutch: Three to five eggs.

5. Distribution

- ◆ Found in the Indian subcontinent and Southeast Iran.



6. Movement Patterns

- ◆ Mostly resident and nomadic in certain areas like Northeast India.

7. Status and Conservation

- ◆ Population undergoing decline
- ◆ Main Threats: Habitat destruction and dearth in prey supply
- ◆ IUCN Status: "Near Threatened"



Rufous-bellied Eagle *(Lophotrior chiskienerii)*



Rufous-bellied Eagle *(Lophotrior chiskienerii)*

1. Overview

- ◆ Common Name: Rufous-bellied Eagle
- ◆ Scientific Name: *Lophotrior chiskienerii*
- ◆ Family: Accipitridae › Accipitriformes › Aves › Chordata › Animalia
- ◆ Other Names: Aigle à ventre roux (French), Rotbauchadler (German), Águilaventrirroja (Spanish)

2. Taxonomy

- ◆ Species Author: G. de Sparre, 1835
- ◆ Earlier Placement: Genus Astur and genus Hieraaetus
- ◆ Subspecies:
- ◆ L. k. kienerii: North India, Nepal, Bhutan, Northeast India, Sri Lanka, Western Ghats in South India

3. Physical Characteristics

- ◆ Size: 40 to 60 cm (length)
- ◆ Weight: 700 grams
- ◆ Wingspan: 90 to 130 cm
- ◆ Coloration: Black hood with a short bushy crest; Bright rufous underparts and underwing coverts; White throat and chest with black streaks; Dark, barred tail
- ◆ Call: High-pitched fwick, fwick sound.



4. Habitat

- ◆ Preferred Environment: Evergreen and moist deciduous forests in foothills.

5. Feeding Habits

- ◆ Diet: Birds, reptiles, small mammals
- ◆ Hunting Method: Flying over the forest canopy to spot prey.

6. Breeding

- ◆ Breeding Season: Late winter in the Indian subcontinent
- ◆ Nesting: Large nest built with sticks and twigs on a tree; Nest lined with leaves
- ◆ Eggs: Single egg per clutch
- ◆ Parental Care: Both parents incubate the egg and feed the chick.

7. Distribution

- ◆ Range: India, Nepal, Bhutan, Sri Lanka, Indochina, Southeast Asia, Indonesia, Philippines.

8. Movement Patterns

- ◆ Behavior: Mainly sedentary; Local movements observed in Malaysian birds.
- ◆ Least concern (IUCN)



Saker Falcon (*Falco cherrug*)



Saker Falcon (*Falco cherrug*)

1. Description

- ◆ Size: Medium-sized bird of prey, 45 to 60 cm in length
- ◆ Weight: 700 to 1,000 grams (female larger, 1,000 to 1,300 grams)
- ◆ Wingspan: 100 to 130 cm
- ◆ Plumage: Brown upper bellies, pale brown head and underparts, dark streaking on the breast, whitish to brown crown
- ◆ Call: Loud kyak-kyak or kiy-ee sound

2. Habitat

- ◆ Open grassy landscapes, desert edge, semi-desert, plains near waterbodies, steppes, arid mountain areas.

3. Feeding Habits

- ◆ Hunts terrestrial rodents in open terrain
- ◆ Preys on birds and reptiles.

4. Breeding

- ◆ Breeding Season: April and May
- ◆ Nesting: Cliff ledges, tall trees, abandoned stick nests of other birds
- ◆ Clutch Size: Three to five eggs.



5. Distribution

- ◆ Subspecies *F. c. cherrug* in Europe, Asia, Southwest Asia, Middle East, and North Africa
- ◆ Subspecies *F. c. milvipes* in Mongolia, China, North India, and Nepal.

6. Movement Patterns

- ◆ Temperate region falcons are migratory, moving southwards for winter
- ◆ Migration: Leave breeding grounds in September and October, return between February and May
- ◆ Birds in warmer ranges are mostly sedentary.

7. Status and Conservation

- ◆ Population Status: Rapid decline, considered endangered
- ◆ Global Population: Estimated 12,800 to 30,800 mature individuals
- ◆ Threats: Avian influenza, capture for falconry trade, habitat degradation, agricultural intensification, pesticide and agrochemical use.

8. Conservation Efforts

- ◆ Protection of habitats
- ◆ Monitoring and control of avian influenza
- ◆ Regulation of falconry trade
- ◆ Sustainable agricultural practices.



Shikra (*Accipiter badius*)



Shikra (*Accipiter badius*)

1. Overview

- ♦ Common Name: Shikra
- ♦ Scientific Name: *Accipiter badius*
- ♦ Family: Accipitridae

2. Physical Characteristics

- ♦ Size: 25 to 45 cm in length, female larger (130 to 260 grams), wingspan of 50 to 70 cm
- ♦ Coloration: Grey upper parts, white underside with fine rufous bars, black wingtips, dark terminal band on central tail feathers
- ♦ Notable Features: Short rounded wings, narrow and long tail, red iris in males, yellow-orange iris in females
- ♦ Call: 'Pee-wee' and sharper 'kik-ki ... kik-ki' sound.

3. Distribution

- ♦ Habitat: Forests, deciduous woodland, plains, farmlands, savanna, arid steppe, urban areas
- ♦ Geographic Range: Indian subcontinent, South China, Southeast Asia, Indonesia, West Asia, Middle East nations, Africa.

4. Behavior

- ♦ Hunting Style: Feeds on reptiles, small mammals, small birds, frogs, insects



- ◆ Mating and Nesting: Breeding season from March to June, nest constructed on trees with twigs, both partners involved in nest building, clutch of 3 to 4 eggs.

5. Conservation Status

- ◆ IUCN Red List Status: Least Concern
- ◆ Threats: Loss of trees in the savanna, changes in habitat due to human activities



Short-toed Snake Eagle (*Circaetus gallicus*)



Short-toed Snake Eagle (*Circaetus gallicus*)

1. Overview

- ◆ Common Name: Short-toed Snake Eagle
- ◆ Scientific Name: *Circaetus gallicus*
- ◆ Family: Accipitridae › Accipitriformes › Aves › Chordata › Animalia
- ◆ Other Names: Falco gallicus (older taxonomy), Short-toed Eagle
- ◆ Species Author: (Gmelin, 1788)
- ◆ Former Genus: Earlier included in the genus Falco

2. Taxonomy

- ◆ Related Species: Closely related to *C. beaudouini* and *C. [Species Author: (Gmelin, 1788)]*

3. Physical Characteristics

- ◆ Size
- ◆ Length: 60 to 70 cm
- ◆ Weight: 1,200 to 2,000 grams (female slightly larger)
- ◆ Wingspan: 160 to 190 cm
- ◆ Appearance: Predominantly white underside, greyish-brown upper parts, rounded head, pale brown chin, throat, and upper breast, 3 to 4 bars in the tail, owl-like face, bright yellow eyes



4. Habitat

- ◆ Preferred Environment: Open cultivated plains, arid and stony lands, deciduous scrub areas, foothills, semi-desert areas in warm temperate and tropical environments

5. Feeding Habits

- ◆ Diet: Mainly snakes and lizards, occasional consumption of small mammals and birds

6. Breeding

- ◆ Breeding Season: December to February in the Indian subcontinent
- ◆ Nesting: Usually nests in trees, lays a single egg

7. Distribution

- ◆ Global Range: North Africa, Mediterranean region, southern Europe, Russia, the Middle East, Iran, China, Mongolia, Indian Subcontinent, Southeast Asia, Indonesian islands
- ◆ Migration: Temperate region eagles migrate southwards for wintering, Southeast Asian populations are sedentary, European and temperate Asian populations winter in North Africa and the Indian Subcontinent

8. Conservation Status

- ◆ Global Population: Estimated between 51,400 to 156,000 individual birds



Slender-billed Vulture (*Gyps tenuirostris*)



Slender-billed Vulture (*Gyps tenuirostris*)

1. Overview

- ✦ Common Name: Slender-billed vulture
- ✦ Scientific Name: *Gyps tenuirostris*
- ✦ Family: Accipitridae
- ✦ Other Names: *Gyps indicus tenuirostris*, *Gyps indicus nudiceps*.

2. Physical Characteristics

- ✦ Size: Medium-sized, 80 to 100 cm in length
- ✦ Wingspan: 190 to 260 cm
- ✦ Features: Long neck, black head and neck without feathers, thickly creased and wrinkled neck skin, dark bill with pale culmen and black cere.

3. Habitat

- ✦ Inhabits: Dry open country, partly wooded areas, forests away from human habitation.

4. Feeding Habits

- ✦ Diet: Scavenger, feeds on carcasses of dead animals, scavenges at rubbish dumps and slaughterhouses.

5. Breeding

- ✦ Nest: Recorded to nest in tall trees, builds nest with sticks.



6. Distribution

- ◆ Range: India, Nepal, Bangladesh, Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar (historically in Malaysia and Thailand).

7. Movement Patterns

- ◆ Behavior: Sedentary in its range, makes movements in search of feed.

8. Conservation Status

- ◆ IUCN Red List Status: Critically Endangered
- ◆ Population: Estimated at 1,000 individuals
- ◆ Decline: 97% decline in population
- ◆ Threats: Kidney failure caused by diclofenac in carcasses, nearing extinction.



Sooty Falcon (*Falco concolor*)



Sooty Falcon (*Falco concolor*)

1. Description

- ◆ Medium-sized falcon with ash-colored plumage.
- ◆ 32–37 cm long, 78–90 cm wingspan.
- ◆ Resembles a large hobby or small Eleonora's falcon.
- ◆ Blue-grey adults lack black underwing coverts seen in Eleonora's falcon.

2. Taxonomy

- ◆ Order: Falconiformes, Family: Falconidae, Genus: Falco.
- ◆ Belongs to the hobby group, often considered a subgenus Hypotriorchis.

3. Distribution

- ◆ Breeds in Southwest Asia, North Africa, from northeastern Africa to the southern Persian Gulf.
- ◆ Winters in east Africa, south to Madagascar, and southeast South Africa.
- ◆ Rare vagrant north of breeding range.

4. Ecology

- ◆ Diet: Feeds mainly on birds, large insects like dragonflies, also lizards, and crabs.
- ◆ Hunting Behavior: Various techniques include diving, flushing, flying up and coming down, and survey flights.



- ◆ Nesting and Breeding: Occasional nesting in colonies, lays up to four eggs in arid deserts on cliffs or rocky outcrops.
- ◆ Migration: Winter migration from Southwest Asia and North Africa to Eastern and Southeastern Africa, covering about 5500 kilometers in approximately 13 days.

5. Conservation

- ◆ Formerly Least Concern, uplisted to Vulnerable in 2017.
- ◆ Estimated population between 2800 and 4000 individuals, showing a decline.
- ◆ Conservation concerns include human disturbance, especially on accessible islands affecting nesting success. Mitigating disturbances and protecting natural habitats are critical for conservation.



Steppe Eagle (*Aquila nipalensis*)



Steppe Eagle (*Aquila nipalensis*)

1. Overview

- ◆ Common Name: Steppe Eagle
- ◆ Scientific Name: *Aquila nipalensis*
- ◆ Family: Accipitridae › Accipitriformes › Aves › Chordata › Animalia
- ◆ Species Author: Hodgson, 1833

2. Taxonomy

- ◆ Closely Related to: *A. rapax*, *A. heliaca*, *A. adalberti*
- ◆ Subspecies: *A. n. orientalis* Cabanis, 1854; *A. n. nipalensis* Hodgson, 1833

3. Physical Characteristics

- ◆ Size (Male): 70 to 80 cm (length), 2,400 to 4,000 grams (weight)
- ◆ Size (Female): Slightly larger than male
- ◆ Wingspan: 160 to 200 cm
- ◆ Coloration: Brown upperparts, blackish flight feathers and tail
- ◆ Distinctive Features: Gape extends beyond the center of the eye, oval nostril
- ◆ Call: Resembles a crow's barking.



4. Habitat

- ◆ Preferred Environment: Open dry habitats, including deserts, semi-deserts, steppes, and savannah.

5. Feeding Habits

- ◆ Diet: Small birds, mammals, reptiles, frogs, and fresh carrion
- ◆ Behavior: Known to steal prey from other birds of prey.

6. Breeding

- ◆ Breeding Season: April to July
- ◆ Nesting: Large platform nest on the ground or trees, constructed with sticks and twigs
- ◆ Eggs: One to three eggs.

7. Distribution

- ◆ Subspecies *A. n. orientalis*: Europe and Central Asia; Winters in the Middle East, Arabia, and Africa

8. Movement Patterns

- ◆ Migration: Migratory, moving to south-east Africa, southern Asia, and India for wintering
- ◆ Migration Period: August to October (southward), January to May (return northward).

9. Conservation Status: Least Concern (IUCN)



Tawny Eagle (*Aquila rapax*)



Tawny Eagle (*Aquila rapax*)

1. Taxonomy

- ◆ Scientific Name: *Aquila rapax*
- ◆ Common Name: Tawny Eagle
- ◆ French: Aigleravisser; German: Savannenadler; Spanish: Águilarapaz;
- ◆ Other Names: Falco rapax Temminck, 1828; Indian Tawny Eagle; Aquila rapax rapax;
- ◆ Family: Accipitridae › Accipitriformes › Aves › Chordata › Animalia

2. **Description:** A large bird of prey, measuring 60 to 75 cm in length and weighing 1,600 to 3,100 grams. Wingspan is 160 to 180 cm. Tawny upper parts with blackish flight feathers and tail. Pale neck and lower back. Distinctive crow-like barking sound.

3. **Habitat:** Inhabits open woodlands, drylands, deserts, semi-deserts, steppes, savannas, and plains. Also found near cultivated lands, settlements, and slaughterhouses.

4. **Feeding Habits:** Preys on small birds, mammals, reptiles, frogs, and carrion. Known to snatch prey from other raptors.

5. **Breeding:** Breeding season varies. In India, it spans November to August. Builds large nests on top of tall isolated trees with sticks and twigs. Nests typically contain 1-3 eggs.



6. Distribution

- ◆ A. r. vindhiana: Iran, Pakistan, India, Nepal, and Myanmar.
- ◆ A. r. belisarius: Africa and Middle East nations.
- ◆ A. r. rapax: Much of Africa.

7. Movement Patterns: Sedentary with short-distance seasonal movements. Some eagles may occasionally wander long distances.

8. Status and Conservation: Extremely large range, considered least vulnerable. Major threats include consuming poisoned carcasses and habitat loss.

9. Conservation Status: Listed as "Least Concern" by the IUCN.



The Changeable Hawk-Eagle (*Nisaetus cirrhatus*)



The Changeable Hawk-Eagle (*Nisaetus cirrhatus*)

Nisaetus cirrhatus is a large bird of prey belonging to the Accipitridae family. Found in India, Nepal, Bhutan, Sri Lanka, Indochina, Southeast Asia, Indonesia, and the Philippines, this eagle has various subspecies with distinct distributions.

1. Key Features

- ◆ 50 to 80 cm in length, weighing 1,300 to 1,900 grams.
- ◆ Size Appearance: Dimorphic, with or without crest, brown upperparts, white underparts, barring on flight feathers and tail, black longitudinal streaks on the throat, and chocolate streaks on the breast.
- ◆ Call: High-pitched ki-ki ki-ki sound.

2. **Habitat:** Changeable Hawk-Eagles inhabit dense forests, deciduous woods, and savannas with tall trees.

3. **Diet:** They feed on mammals, birds, and reptiles, employing a hunting technique of swooping down on prey and carrying it to a perch.

4. **Breeding:** Breeding season is December to April, with nests built on tall trees, consisting of large stick platforms. Only a single egg is laid.

5. Distribution: Subspecies distribution

- ◆ *N. c. cirrhatus*: Rajasthan and Gangetic Plains in North India.
- ◆ *N. c. ceylanensis*: Sri Lanka.
- ◆ *N. c. andamanensis*: Andaman Islands of India.



- ◆ *N. c. limnaeetus*: North India, Nepal, Bangladesh, Myanmar, Indochina, Malay Peninsula, Indonesia, and the Philippines.
 - ◆ *N. c. vanheurni*: Simeulue Island in Indonesia.
6. **Movement Patterns:** Primarily sedentary, they move within their range in search of prey.
 7. **Status and Conservation:** Considered least vulnerable with an extensive range, the global population size is unspecified. Main threats include habitat destruction and increased human disturbance. The IUCN lists them as "Least Concern."



Upland Buzzard (*Buteo hemilasius*)



Upland Buzzard (*Buteo hemilasius*)

1. Overview

- ◆ Common Name: Upland Buzzard
- ◆ Scientific Name: *Buteo hemilasius*
- ◆ Family: Accipitridae

2. Physical Characteristics

- ◆ Size: 65 to 70 cm in length, female larger weighing 1,000 to 2,000 grams, wingspan of 140 to 160 cm
- ◆ Coloration: Pale morph has whitish head, nape, and underparts; upper breast and abdomen marked with irregularly distributed large brown spots; dark morph is completely dark brown with prominently dark bands in the tail.
- ◆ Notable Features: Prolonged mewing sound as a call.

3. Distribution

- ◆ Habitat: Open country, grasslands, cultivated lands, steppes, plateaux, rocky areas, mountain slopes
- ◆ Geographic Range: Asia, North Indian subcontinent, including Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, Iran, China, Russia, Mongolia, Japan, North Korea, South Korea, Pakistan, North India, Bhutan, Nepal.

4. Behavior

- ◆ Hunting Style: Feeds mainly on small mammals, birds, lizards, and insects; hunts by hovering and spotting prey; also hunts on the ground



- ◆ Mating and Nesting: Breeds between April and August; nest built on crags and ledges of cliffs with sticks and twigs lining.
- ◆ Migration: Mostly migratory, northern populations move southwards for wintering.

5. Diet

- ◆ Primary Prey: Small mammals, birds, lizards, insects
- ◆ Hunting Techniques: Hovering, spotting prey, ground hunting.

6. Conservation Status

- ◆ IUCN Red List Status: Least Concern
- ◆ Threats: Habitat degradation, depletion of prey animals



Western Marsh Harrier (*Circus aeruginosus*)



Western Marsh Harrier (*Circus aeruginosus*)

1. Taxonomy

- ◆ Scientific Name: *Circus aeruginosus*
- ◆ Common Name: Western Marsh Harrier
- ◆ Family: Accipitridae > Accipitriformes > Aves > Chordata > Animalia

2. Description

- ◆ Medium-sized bird, 40 to 55 cm in length.
- ◆ Weighs 400 to 700 grams; females slightly larger (550 to 950 grams).
- ◆ Wingspan of 115 to 145 cm.
- ◆ Male plumage reddish-brown with yellowish streaks on the breast.
- ◆ Head and shoulders pale greyish-yellowish.
- ◆ Legs, feet, irides, and cere are yellow; black bill, Female entirely brown., Male harrier makes a shrill whistling display call.

3. Habitat

- ◆ Inhabits freshwater and brackish wetlands, grasslands, and farmlands.

4. Feeding Habits

- ◆ Feeds on small mammals, birds, reptiles, frogs, and insects.



5. Breeding

- ◆ Breeding season from mid-March to May.
- ◆ Ground nest built with sticks, reeds, and grass in dense vegetation.
- ◆ Male may pair with two or three females in a season.

6. Distribution

- ◆ Subspecies *C. a. aeruginosus* in Europe, Africa, Asia, Indian Subcontinent, and Southeast Asia.

7. Movement Patterns

- ◆ *C. a. harterti* is sedentary; others are migratory.
- ◆ Migration to wintering grounds in September and October.
- ◆ Return to breeding grounds in March and April.
- ◆ Wintering birds migrate to milder regions in Europe, Middle East, Indian Subcontinent, Myanmar, and Malaysia.

8. Status and Conservation

- ◆ Extremely large range, considered least vulnerable.
- ◆ Global population estimated at 500,000 to 2,000,000 individuals.
- ◆ Threats include loss of wetland habitat, agricultural expansion, and pesticide use.

9. Conservation Status: Least concern (IUCN)



White-bellied Sea Eagle (*Haliaeetus leucogaster*)



White-bellied Sea Eagle (*Haliaeetus leucogaster*)

1. Overview

- ◆ Common Name: White-bellied Sea Eagle
- ◆ Scientific Name: *Haliaeetus leucogaster*
- ◆ Family: Accipitridae › Accipitriformes › Aves › Chordata › Animalia
- ◆ Species Author: Gmelin, 1788
- ◆ Former Genus: Earlier included in genus Falco

2. Taxonomy

- ◆ Related Species: Closely related to *H. sanfordi*, *H. vocifer*, and *H. vociferoides*

3. Physical Characteristics

- ◆ Size:
- ◆ Length: 75 to 85 cm, Wingspan: 178 to 220 cm, Male Weight: 1,800 to 2,900 grams, Female Weight: 2,500 to 3,900 grams.
- ◆ Appearance: Whitish head, breast, under-wing coverts, and tail; upper parts are grey and black; under-wing flight feathers contrast with whitish coverts; short, wedge-shaped tail; blue-grey hooked bill; yellow legs and feet; black talons
- ◆ Call: Loud goose-like honking sound



4. Habitat

- ◆ Preferred Environment: Coastal areas, inshore waters, islands, estuaries, wetlands

5. Feeding Habits

- ◆ Diet: Fish, turtles, water snakes, crustaceans, small mammals, reptiles, birds, carrion; known for snatching food from other birds

6. Breeding

- ◆ Breeding Season: Dry season
- ◆ Nesting: Nests on tall trees, cliffs, or man-made pylons; constructed with sticks and branches, lined with grass or seaweed; clutch may have two eggs, but usually, only one chick is reared; both parents participate in incubation and chick-rearing

7. Distribution

- ◆ Global Range: Sri Lanka, Nepal, India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Southeast Asia, South China, Indonesia, Philippines, Australia; along the coast of the Indian Subcontinent.

8. Movement Patterns

- ◆ Residency: Resident in some regions, nomadic in others; moves in search of food

9. Conservation Status

- ◆ Global Population: Estimated between 10,000 to 100,000 individual birds
- ◆ Status: Least Concern



White-eyed Buzzard (*Butastur teesa*)



White-eyed Buzzard (*Butastur teesa*)

1. Overview

- ◆ Common Name: White-eyed Buzzard
- ◆ Scientific Name: *Butastur teesa*
- ◆ Family: Accipitridae

2. Physical Characteristics

- ◆ Size: 35 to 45 cm in length, wingspan of 85 to 100 cm
- ◆ Coloration: Slim-bodied with whitish iris and throat, yellow ceres, dark mesial stripe, darkly barred underside, rufous tail with a darker subterminal band
- ◆ Notable Features: Narrow wings, mewing sound as a call

3. Distribution

- ◆ Habitat: Dry open land, open forest, cultivated lands
- ◆ Geographic Range: West Asia, Indian subcontinent, Myanmar; summer visitor in northeastern Afghanistan; may go up to 1200m in the foothills of the Himalayas

4. Behavior

- ◆ Hunting Style: Preys on small birds, mammals, reptiles, frogs, crabs, and insects like locusts, grasshoppers, and crickets
- ◆ Mating and Nesting: Breeding season from February to June, nest built on a tree with twigs, female incubates up to three eggs



- ◆ Migration: Resident in their range, may move down from higher elevations in winter; summer visitors in northeastern Afghanistan

5. Diet

- ◆ Primary Prey: Small birds, mammals, reptiles, frogs, crabs, insects
- ◆ Hunting Techniques: Not specified

6. Conservation Status

- ◆ IUCN Red List Status: Least Concern
- ◆ Threats: Habitat loss, fluctuations in prey populations



White-rumped Vulture (*Gyps bengalensis*)



White-rumped Vulture (*Gyps bengalensis*)

1. Taxonomy

- ◆ Scientific Name: *Gyps bengalensis*
- ◆ Common Name: White-rumped vulture
- ◆ Family: Accipitridae › Accipitriformes › Aves › Chordata › Animalia
- ◆ Species Author: (Gmelin, 1788).

2. Description

- ◆ Size: Large bird, 75 to 90 cm in length
- ◆ Weight: 3,500 to 6,000 grams
- ◆ Wingspan: 205 to 220 cm
- ◆ Features: Lack feathers on the head and neck, greyish-pink head, short heavy silvery bill with dark ceres, black plumage with whitish neck-ruff and underwing-coverts, black tail
- ◆ Vocalization: Squealing calls, grunts, croaks, and hissing sounds.

3. Habitat

- ◆ Inhabits: Open country near human habitations, towns, and cities.

4. Feeding Habits

- ◆ Diet: Mainly carrion, occasional feeding on small mammals, birds, and reptiles.



5. Breeding

- ◆ Breeding Season: October to March
- ◆ Nest: Built in colonies in tall trees near human habitation, constructed with sticks and lined with leaves
- ◆ Clutch: Usually a single egg
- ◆ Parental Care: Both parents participate in chick rearing.

6. Distribution

- ◆ Range: Pakistan, India, Bangladesh, Nepal, Bhutan, Myanmar, Thailand, Laos, Cambodia, and southern Vietnam
- ◆ Historical Presence: Southern China, Malaysia, southeast Afghanistan, Iran (current status unknown).

7. Movement Patterns

- ◆ Behavior: Poorly known, considered sedentary, recorded to forage over vast areas

8. Status and Conservation

- ◆ Global Population: Estimated at 3,500 to 15,000 individuals
- ◆ Conservation Status: Critically Endangered
- ◆ Decline Factor: Major decline due to kidney failure caused by diclofenac in carcasses



White-tailed Sea-Eagle (*Haliaeetus albicilla*)



White-tailed Sea-Eagle (*Haliaeetus albicilla*)

1. Overview

- ◆ Common Name: White-tailed Sea-Eagle
- ◆ Scientific Name: *Haliaeetus albicilla*
- ◆ Family: Accipitridae › Accipitriformes › Aves › Chordata › Animalia
- ◆ Other Names: White-tailed Eagle, Erne
- ◆ Species Author: (Linnaeus, 1758)
- ◆ Former Genus: Earlier classified under genus Falco; closely related to *H. leucocephalus*

2. Physical Characteristics

- ◆ Size:
- ◆ Length: 70 to 90 cm
- ◆ Male Weight: 4,000 grams
- ◆ Female Weight: 5,500 grams
- ◆ Wingspan: 200 to 245 cm
- ◆ Appearance: Large bird with broad wings, large head, and thick beak; mainly grayish-brown plumage with a paler head and neck; blackish flight feathers; distinctive white tail; yellow bill and legs; characteristic call sounds 'kyo-kyo-klee-klee-klee-klee'



3. Habitat

- ◆ Preferred Environment: Diverse habitats in both freshwater and marine environments, including coasts, rocky islands, lakes, and large rivers

4. Feeding Habits

- ◆ Diet: Mainly fish; also feeds on small mammals, reptiles, birds, and carrion; known for pirating food from other birds and snatching fish from otters

5. Breeding

- ◆ Breeding Season: January in southern ranges; April and May in northern ranges
- ◆ Nesting: Coastal cliffs and tall trees; nests built with sticks; often pairs for life

6. Distribution

- ◆ Global Range: Norway, Russia, Greenland, Denmark, Sweden, Poland, Germany, Iceland, United Kingdom, Finland, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Belarus

7. Movement Patterns

- ◆ Migration: Mostly resident; northernmost birds may migrate southwards for wintering

8. Conservation Status

- ◆ Global Population: Estimated at 20,300 to 39,600 individual birds
- ◆ Status: Least Concern



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Maneesh Joshi, a State Forest Service Officer trained at the Central Academy for State Forest Service in Coimbatore. With a deep love for wildlife, especially birds, Maneesh's debut book, "A brush with Raptors of Indian subcontinent," focuses on these majestic birds of prey.

Using his talent for sketching and drawing, Maneesh brings the raptors of the Indian subcontinent to life on the pages of his book. Alongside his sketches, he provides simple yet informative details about each species.

Through "A brush with Raptors of Indian subcontinent," Maneesh hopes to inspire others to appreciate and protect these incredible birds. Join him on a visual journey through the skies and discover the beauty of India's raptors.