



**FOUNDATION FOR INNOVATIVE RESEARCH IN
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY**

COMMON BIRDS IN KANYAKUMARI



1. PEACOCK

Botanical name: *Pavo cristatus*

Family Name: Phasianidae

Tamil Name: டயில்

Characteristic:

- ❖ Peacock is one of the most beautiful creatures of the earth, which is feathered. It has variation features that make it distinctive from other birds. They live up to 20 to 25 years.
- ❖ Peacocks have a crown or peak on their head.
- ❖ In the year 1963, peacock said to be the national bird of India. Peacock is sacred in the Hindu religion.
- ❖ Peacocks can live in dry and hot desserts and even can get by in frigid climates. In territories where there is a lot of fresh waters are found, there in woodlands and bushes. Peacocks are likewise found in fields and gardens. They, as a rule, eat grains. They are the companion of ranchers and foe of the snake and insects.
- ❖ Peacocks are exceptionally shy and timid.
- ❖ Peacocks sleep on the lower parts of the trees.
- ❖ On cloudy days they deliver a ton of views since they love downpour. In the rainy season when it downpours Peacocks open their feathers and move joyfully.
- ❖ Peahen is the female one. Their female peahen is smaller in size.
- ❖ Peacocks can't fly higher because their large tail is more massive than their body. Peacocks can't fly yet they can run extremely quickly since they have solid legs.
- ❖ They ordinarily make sharp and abrasive voices to caution different birds when they see any danger.



2. Rose-ringed parakeet

Botanical name: *Psittacula krameri*

Family Name: Psittacidae

Tamil name: பச்சைக்கிளி

Characteristic:

- ❖ The **rose-ringed parakeet** (*Psittacula krameri*), also known as the **ring-necked parakeet**, has been kept as a pet for centuries and remains a favorite companion bird today.
- ❖ As its name suggest, the Indian ring-necked parakeet originates from India, where it is still found wild in great quantities, even in urban areas.
- ❖ These beautiful and elegant birds can live 25 to 30 years.
- ❖ The Rose-ringed Parakeet has established feral populations in India and a number of European cities.
- ❖ Rose-ringed Ring necks are cavity nesters. In nature, they will seek out tree holes for nesting and in captivity they freely accept nesting boxes.
- ❖ The average clutch consists of 4 – 6 eggs, which are incubated for about 23- 24 days.
- ❖ The hatchlings weigh about 0.2 oz (5 g) each, but they grow fast and are able to leave the nest seven weeks later.



3. ROCK DOVE

Scientific name: *Columba livia*

Family name: Columbidae family

Tamil Name: புறா

Characteristic:

- ❖ The rock dove is also known as rock pigeon or common pigeon. In common usage, this bird is often simply referred to as the “pigeon”.
- ❖ Eye colour of the pigeon is generally orange, but a few pigeons may have white-grey eyes. The eyelids are orange and encapsulated in a grey-white eye ring. The feet are red to pink.
- ❖ Wild rock doves are pale grey with two black bars on each wing, whereas domestic and feral pigeons vary in colour and pattern. Few differences are seen between males and females.
- ❖ Habitats include various open and semi-open environments. Cliff and rock ledges are used for roosting and breeding in the wild.
- ❖ Originally found wild in Europe, North Africa and Western Asia, pigeons have become established in cities around the world.
- ❖ The rock dove breeds at any time of the year, but peak times are spring and summer. The laid two eggs are incubated 17 to 19 days shared by both parents. Pigeon chicks are called squabs.
- ❖ The rock dove’s life span is 6 years in the wild.



4. GREATER COUCAL

Scientific Name: *Centropus sinensis*

Family name: Cuculidae

Tamil name: செம்போத்து

Characteristic:

- ❖ The greater coucal or crow pheasant is a large non-parasitic member of the cuckoo order of birds.
- ❖ Widespread resident in the Indian subcontinent and Southeast Asia.
- ❖ They are large, crow-like with a long tail and crow like with a long tail and coppery brown wings and found in a wide range of habitats from jungle to cultivation and urban gardens.
- ❖ They are weak fliers and are often seen clambering about in vegetation or walking on the ground as they forage for insects, egg and nestling of other birds.
- ❖ This is a large species of cuckoo.
- ❖ The head is black, upper mantle and under side are black glossed with purple. The eyes are ruby red.
- ❖ The females are slightly larger than the males.



5) RUFIOUS TREEPIE

Scientific Name: *Dendrocitta vagabunda*

Family name: Corvidae

Tamil name: வால் காக்கை

Characteristic:

- ❖ The Rufous Treepie is a treepie native to the Indian subcontinent and adjoining parts of Southeast Asia. It is found commonly in open scrub, agricultural areas, forests as well as urban gardens.
- ❖ It has a long and stiff tail with primarily rusty-brown upperparts and dull orangeish under parts.
- ❖ This bird steals the shiny items such as coins, jewellery and other similar items. So it can name as “Coin Stealer”.
- ❖ They are highly arboreal and rarely come to the ground to feed. It can eat fruits, seeds, invertebrates, small reptiles and the eggs and young of birds.
- ❖ The nesting and breeding season extends from March to July. The rufous treepie breeds solitary, both parents participate in building the nest.
- ❖ The female lays 3-6 light greenish or brownish eggs with darker markings. Both parents share duties in building, incubation and taking care of the young.



6) Yellow-billed Babbler

Scientific name: *Turdoides affinis*

Family name : Leiothrichidae

Tamil name : பூணில் (அ) காட்டுச் சிலம்பன்

Characteristic

- ❖ The Jungle Babbler, *Turdoides striata*, is an Old babbler found in South Asia.
- ❖ They are gregarious birds that forage in small groups of six to ten birds, a habit that has given them the popular name of “Seven Sisters” in urban Northern India.
- ❖ They feed mostly on insects, but also eat grains, nectar and berries.
- ❖ These can be seen even in the woods and urban areas, and are always noisy.
- ❖ These will keep making noise even when eating.
- ❖ Birds such as the quail and Asian koel lay their eggs in the nests of the Jungle Babbler. After hatching, the parent bird will search for prey along with them, not realizing that they are not their own chicks. Each time they get tired of looking for prey, other birds will bring prey to those chicks.



7) BROWN – HEADED BARBET

Scientific Name : *Psilopogon zeylanicus*

Family Name : Megalaimidae

Tamil Name : பச்சைக் குறுவான்

Characteristic :

- ✳ It is an arboreal species of gardens and wooded country which eats fruit and insects.
- ✳ It is fairly tolerant of humans and often seen in city parks.
- ✳ It nests in a tree hole, laying 2-4 eggs. It forages on mangoes, ripe jackfruit, papaya, banana, figs and similar cultivated fruit trees.
- ✳ Its habitat includes urban and country gardens; it tends to eschew heavy forest. It nests in a suitable hole in a tree that it will often excavate.
- ✳ Both sexes incubate the eggs and often communicate with each other using their *Kura, kura* calls.



8) INTERMEDIATE EGRET

Scientific Name : *Ardea intermedia*

Family Name : Ardeidae

Tamil Name : வெண் கொக்கு

Characteristic :

- ❖ The intermediate egret stalks its prey methodically in shallow coastal or fresh water, including flooded fields.
- ❖ It eats fish, frogs, crustaceans and insects.
- ❖ It often nests in colonies with other herons, usually on platforms of sticks in trees or shrubs.
- ❖ Two to five eggs are laid, the clutch size varying with region.
- ❖ They often run after fish in shallow water. Breeding birds have long nuptial plumes on the back of their heads.



9) BLACK-RUMPED FLAMEBACT

Scientific Name : *Dinopium benghalense*

Family Name : Picidae

Tamil Name : பொன்முதுகு-மரங்கொத்தி

Characteristic :

- This species is normally seen in pairs or small parties and sometimes joins mixed-species foraging flocks. They forage from the ground to the canopy
- They feed on insects mainly beetle larvae from under the bark, visit termite mounds and sometimes feed on nectar.
- The breeding season varies with weather and is between February and July
- The eggs are laid inside the unlined cavity. The normal clutch is three and the eggs are elongate and glossy white.
- They are often seen in urban areas with wooded avenues. It is somewhat rare in the Kutch and desert region of Rajasthan.



10) ASIAN KOEL

Scientific Name : *Eudynamys scolopaceus*

Family Name : Cuculidae

Tamil Name : ஆசியக் குயில்

Characteristic :

- Host nests at low heights and nearer to fruit trees tended to be preferred by koels.
- In southern Thailand and the Malay Peninsula, koels have shifted host from crows to myna (*Acridotheres* sp.) as the latter became more common in the late 1900s.
- In the Indian Subcontinent they have sometimes been found to parasitize the black drongo the European magpie and possibly the black-headed oriole.
- Males may distract the hosts so that the female gets a chance to lay an egg in the nest.
- A female may remove a host egg before laying. Eggs hatch in 12 to 14 days.



11) COMMON TAILOR BIRD

Scientific Name : *Orthotomus sutorius*

Family Name : Cisticolidae

Tamil Name : தையல் சிட்டு

Characteristic :

- The song is a loud *cheep-cheep-cheep* with variations across the populations.
- The disyllabic calls are repeated often. Tailorbirds are found singly or in pairs, usually low in the undergrowth or trees, sometimes hopping on the ground.
- They forage for insects and have been known to feed on a range of beetles and bugs.
- They are attracted to insects at flowers and are known to favour the inflorescences of mango.
- They also visit flowers such as those of *Bombax*, *Salmalia* for nectar and are sometimes covered in pollen, giving them a golden-headed appearance.



12) COMMON MYNA

Scientific Name: *Acridotheres tristis*

Family Name : Sturnidae

Tamil Name : சாதாரண மைனா

Characteristic :

- Common mynas are believed to pair for life. They breed through much of the year depending on the location, building their nest in a hole in a tree or wall.
- The normal clutch size is 4–6 eggs. The average size of the egg is 30.8 x 21.99 mm. The incubation period is 17 to 18 days and fledging period is 22 to 24 days.
- The Asian koel is sometimes brood parasitic on this species. Nesting material used by common mynas includes twigs, roots, tow and rubbish.
- Common mynas have been known to use tissue paper, tin foil and sloughed off snake-skin.
- The common myna uses the nests of woodpeckers, parakeets, etc. and easily takes to nest boxes; it has been recorded evicting the chicks of previously nesting pairs by holding them in the beak and later sometimes not even using the emptied nest boxes.

