

GBU Biodiversity Atlas: An Attempt to Link the GBU Family with In-Campus Plants and Animals

GBU's Avian Treasures: A Visual Guide to Local Birdlife

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*Photo sources are thankfully acknowledged.



The morning songs, flashes of colours in the air, and graceful flights across the sky are the wonders that the bird species bring to the planet Earth. Every bird species has a unique role in the ecosystem, such as, dispersal of seeds, regulation of insect-pest populations, and pollination of green plants.



The natural world often thrives quietly in the background of our daily lives, especially in academic institutions where the primary focus is human learning and development. Yet, at the Gautam Buddha University, the symphony of birdsongs, the flutter of wings inside the tree cavity, across treetops, and the graceful presence of feathered visitors in and around bushes and open grassy areas remind us that **education is not confined to the classroom alone**. The University's expansive, lush evergreen 511-acre campus, home to manicured gardens, planted areas, and open fields, offers an ideal home to a wide variety of bird species. This vibrant habitat supports a fascinating blend of resident birds, migratory species, and seasonal visitors, all contributing to the ecological wealth of the region.



This magazine is a tribute to GBU campus's feathered residents and visitors. It aims to document, classify, and celebrate the bird species observed on the campus, just to foster awareness about their occurrence and reported conservation status. Each species featured in this guide includes its scientific identity, the IUCN (International Union of Conservation of Natural Resources, Red List Category), and IWPA 1972 (Indian Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972) conservation status, identifying features, and behavioral traits, accompanied by carefully sourced and self-taken images.



By showcasing our university's bird (avian) diversity, we attempt to ignite curiosity, promote responsible real-life observation, and encourage conservation of local bird biodiversity among the GBU's family- students, faculty, and staff, and nature enthusiasts alike. This work also contributes to ongoing efforts in environmental education and citizen science within the academic space.



So, Facilitate Nature's Restoration!!

Bird Species Catalogue

1. Red-vented Bulbul



Photo by Ramesh Desai, © 2019.

Source: Macaulay Library at eBird (Image ID: ML164088751)



Photo by Authors

Common Name	Red-vented Bulbul
Binomial Name	<i>Pycnonotus cafer</i>
Family	Pycnonotidae
Conservation Status	Least Concern (IUCN); Schedule IV (IWPA1972)
Residency Status	Resident
Key Traits	Vocal, feeds on fruits and insects, and active in the morning hours.

2. Indian Peafowl



Photo by Andrew Spencer, © 2014.

Source: Macaulay Library at eBird (Image ID: ML31254781)



Photo by Authors

Common Name	Indian Peafowl
Binomial Name	<i>Pavo cristatus</i>
Family	Phasianidae
Conservation Status	Least Concern (IUCN); Schedule I (IWPA 1972)
Residency Status	Resident
Key Traits	National Bird of India. The male is known for dancing during mating season.

3. Common Myna



Photo by Albin Jacob, © 2017.

Source: Macaulay Library at eBird (Image ID: ML78390881)

Common Name	Common Myna
Binomial Name	<i>Acridotheres tristis</i>
Family	Sturnidae
Conservation Status	Least Concern (IUCN); Schedule IV (IWPA 1972)
Residency Status	Resident
Key Trait	Bold, omnivorous, commonly seen walking on grass

4. Black Drongo



Photo by Derhasar Brahma, © 2017.

Source: Macaulay Library at eBird (Image ID: ML88495001)

Common Name	Black Drongo
Binomial Name	<i>Dicrurus macrocercus</i>
Family	Dicruridae
Conservation Status	Least Concern (IUCN); Schedule IV (IWPA 1972)
Residency Status	Summer Visitor
Key Traits	Aggressive; chases large birds; forked tail

5. Blue Rock Pigeon



Photo by Luke Seitz, © 2014.

Source: Macaulay Library at eBird (Image ID: ML61674401)

Common Name	Blue Rock Pigeon
Binomial Name	<i>Columba livia</i>
Family	Columbidae
Conservation Status	Least Concern (IUCN); Schedule IV (IWPA 1972)
Residency Status	Resident
Key Traits	Often seen in flocks; iridescent neck; feeds on grains and scraps.

6. Asian Koel



Photo by Renuka Vijayaraghavan, © 2017.

Source: Macaulay Library at eBird (Image ID: ML60614251)

Common Name	Asian Koel; Cuckoo
Binomial Name	<i>Eudynamys scolopaceus</i>
Family	Cuculidae
Conservation Status	Least Concern (IUCN); Schedule IV (IWPA 1972)
Residency Status	Resident
Key Traits	Male glossy black, female speckled brown; loud call; brood parasite, more vocal in summer

7. Red-wattled Lapwing



Photo by Neoh Hor Kee, © 2017.

Source: Macaulay Library at eBird (Image ID: ML71795691)

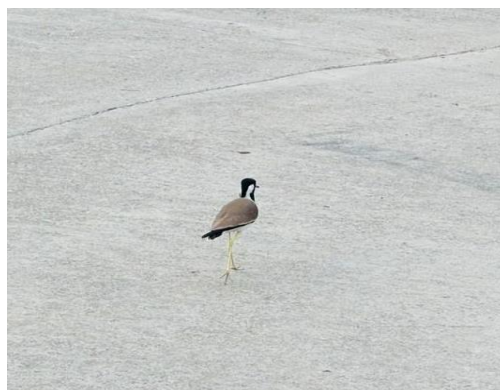


Photo by Authors

Common Name	Red-wattled Lapwing, Plover
Binomial Name	<i>Vanellus indicus</i>
Family	Charadriidae
Conservation Status	Least Concern (IUCN); Schedule IV (IWPA 1972)
Residency Status	Resident
Key Traits	Loud call; nests on ground; red facial wattles

8. Eastern Cattle Egret



Photo by Cristina Baccino, © 2018.

Source: Macaulay Library at eBird (Image ID: ML176720111)



Photo by Authors

Common Name	Cattle Egret
Binomial Name	<i>Ardea coromanda</i>
Family	Ardeidae
Conservation Status	Least Concern (IUCN); Schedule IV (IWPA 1972)
Residency Status	Resident
Key Traits	White body, orange plumes in breeding season

9. Spotted Owlet



Photo by Anirudh Kamajeri, © 2018.

Source: Macaulay Library at eBird (Image ID: ML79531841)

Common Name	Spotted Owlet
Binomial Name	<i>Athene brama</i>
Family	Strigidae
Conservation Status	Least Concern (IUCN); Schedule IV (IWPA 1972)
Residency Status	Resident
Key Traits	Small owl; spotted plumage and yellow eyes

10. Jungle Babbler



Photo by Adarsh G, © 2017.

Source: Macaulay Library at eBird (Image ID: ML71913761)



Photo by Authors

Common Name	Jungle Babbler
Binomial Name	<i>Argya striata</i>
Family	Leiothrichidae
Conservation Status	Least Concern (IUCN); Schedule IV (IWPA 1972)
Residency Status	Resident
Key Traits	Seen in groups of 6-8; noisy, brownish bird

11. Purple Sunbird



Photo by Albin Jacob, © 2018.

Source: Macaulay Library at eBird (Image ID: ML85636021)



Photo by Authors

Common Name	Purple Sunbird
Binomial Name	<i>Cinnyris asiaticus</i>
Family	Nectariniidae
Conservation Status	Least Concern (IUCN); Schedule IV (IWPA 1972)
Residency Status	Resident
Key Traits	Small, fast nectar-feeding bird with metallic purple males and olive-yellow females.

12. Indian Black Ibis



Photo by Kehar Singh, © 2017.

Source: Macaulay Library at eBird (Image ID: ML127758631)



Photo by Authors

Common Name	Indian Black Ibis
Binomial Name	<i>Pseudibis papillosa</i>
Family	Threskiornithidae
Conservation Status	Least Concern (IUCN); Schedule IV (IWPA 1972)
Residency Status	Resident
Key Traits	Large black bird with glossy plumage, a long-curved bill, often seen in dry fields.

13. Rufous Treepie



Photo by Anoop CR, © 2018.

Source: Macaulay Library at eBird (Image ID: ML81686351)



Photo by Authors

Common Name	Rufous Treepie
Binomial Name	<i>Dendrocitta vagabunda</i>
Family	Corvidae
Conservation Status	Least Concern (IUCN); Schedule IV (IWPA 1972)
Residency Status	Resident
Key Traits	A bold, noisy bird with rufous-orange body, black head, and long graduated tail.

14. Common Sparrow



Photo by Evan Lipton, © 2015.

Source: Macaulay Library at eBird (Image ID: ML51357991)

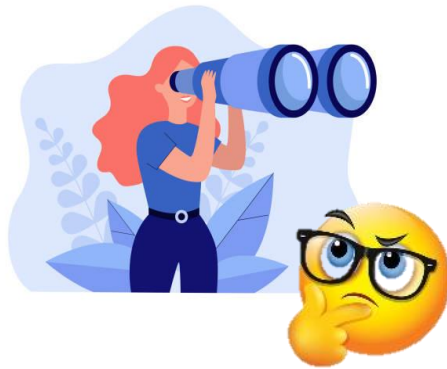


Photo by Authors

Common Name	House Sparrow
Binomial Name	<i>Passer domesticus</i>
Family	Passeridae
Conservation Status	Least Concern (IUCN); Schedule IV (IWPA 1972)
Residency Status	Resident
Key Traits	Small, sociable bird with a stout beak, brown and grey plumage, and found near human habitation.



Thanks for Reading



Eagerly look forward for next issue!!