



Wildlife and Nature Photography Club, IGNFA

About the Initiative

The New Forest - the IFS training campus - an area which houses the FRI and its sister institutions including the Indira Gandhi National Forest Academy (IGNFA) is also home to a rich biodiversity. These flora and fauna become a part of our neighbourhood while we are at the campus. The campus is also adorned with heritage buildings, museums, nurseries and a beautiful landscape. This initiative is aimed at making us more familiar with our neighbourhood.

The KYC (Know your Campus) initiative started by the IFS 2019 batch in this lockdown period shall come out with a campus related topic each day.

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KNOW YOUR CAMPUS

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If you are a baby in the field of bird-watching , then this issue is just for you. If you are a pro you will still enjoy it.



BIRDS OF PREY

LETS GET THE BASICS RIGHT

size are relative



Wingspan: 1.8-2m
Height: 90-110cm

VULTURE

Large Wingspan

Head partly/fully devoid of feather
Straight wings, Fingered at end
Scavenging bird, Soar high in sky

Common species found in India: Egyptian, Indian, Slender-billed, Griffon Vultures

Long billed vulture



Wingspan: 1.5-2m
Height: 60-80cm

EAGLE

Large hefty built

Broad wings rounded end
Fan-type tail

Strong bill and Flatened head

Common species found in India: Spotted, Steppe, Tawny, Serpent Crested Eagle



Wingspan: 1.1-1.3m
Height: 51-57cm

BUZZARD

Medium-large raptors

Fingered, slight forward tipped wing
Fan-type tail

Common species found in India: Oriental Honey Buzzard



Wingspan: 1.1-1.3m
Height: 40-50cm

HARRIER

Large, slender

V-shape wing when soaring
Long tails, Long thin legs

Common species found in India: Eurasian Marsh harrier, Pallid Harrier, Pied Harrier



by garima bhatia



Milvus



Elano

KITE

Wingspan: 1.3-1.5m
Height: 50-60cm

Fingered backward pointed wings
Forked Tail

Opportunistic hunters and
Scavenging food habits

Common raptors,

Common species found in India: Black Kite, Brahminy Kite, Black-winged and Black-Eared Kite



black kite



Wingspan: 0.6-0.9m
Height: 30-45cm

FALCON

Medium-size birds

Long pointy and curved wings
Swift flight

Common species found in India: Indian Hobby Kestrel, Merlin and Peregrine



amur falcon



Wingspan: 0.55-0.65m
Height: 30-40cm

ACCIPTER/HAWKS

Medium Size, Rounded Head

Fingered backward facing wings
Hunt by sudden dashes from concealed perch, tall tail

Common species found in India: Shikra, Sparrow-hawk, Gosahawk



shikra



Lets Look closely at commonest of all: the Black Kite

Scientific Name *Milvus migrans*

Most populous species of raptor, with about 6 million in the world.

Most often seen gliding and soaring on thermals (hot upward wind) as they search for food

Despite their name, they aren't actually black although they can look black from a distance. They are really dark brown with some lighter markings. They are commonly know as Cheel.

Unlike most other raptors, black kites can form large flocks, especially during plagues of grasshopper.

In the large cities of India, they get a lot of their food from garbage heap and even steal food out of the hands of people.

Black kites are also attracted to smoke and fires because they catch prey escaping the fire



Has a shrill, almost musical whistle
ewe-wit-f-f-H



CLICK TO LISTEN



Wingspan- 1.3-1.5m

Remember the distinguishing feature in kite is forked tail and backward facing fingered wing

Trevor Road, FRI Campus



Mother Bird with its chick in the nest

OTHER KITE SPECIES FOUND IN INDIA

BRAHMINY KITE



BLACK-WINGED KITE

BLACK EARED KITE



DID YOU KNOW?

Andean Condor is the largest flying raptor and 5th largest flying bird in the world
New World vulture

Max wingspan- 3.3 m
Wt - 11-15 kg





Found in Andes Mountain
South America and adjacent Pacific



Feeling Sleepy then we will end with a small quiz to test how much have we learnt



Match the following:

- | | | |
|----|---|------------|
| 1. |  | a. Kite |
| 2. |  | b. Eagle |
| 3. |  | c. Falcon |
| 4. |  | d. Vulture |

As top predators, they are important for healthy ecosystem functioning, and by protecting them many other species are safeguarded.

They play important role controlling populations of rodents and other small mammals that can damage crops and lands and transmit diseases to humans, domestic livestock and pets. They play scavenging role by clearing the decaying carcasses.

Birds of Prey are facing challenges like threat from pesticides, illegal hunting, electrocution from power lines, collision from wind turbine. Conservation of raptors is need of the hour.

Hope that now when you spot a Raptor in the campus or elsewhere you can broadly identify it. As for the black kite, it's urban presence makes it easy to be seen. Let's be to observe this lovely raptor the next time we see.

**DESIGN and CONTENT :
PHOTOGRAPHS :**

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Google search

**Reference: Birds of the Indian Subcontinent. Richard Grimmett,
Carol Inskipp, Tim Inskipp**

Bird Call : Andrew Spencer, XC547503.

Accessible at www.xeno-canto.org/547503.

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