

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.

Bright colors, flawless dives,
and rhythmic flights...

The Kingfishers



Family : Alcedinidae

Peculiar characteristics -

1. A large head compared to its body
 2. Long and point bill
 3. Short legs
 4. Most species have an attractive colouring
 5. It's flight is low and fast.
 6. Can hover in air before attempting a fast targeted dive into water
- Click on the link below to see it dive and hunt like a pro.

https://youtu.be/MQVEdXN_Mnk



Food -

As the name suggests they are excellent fishermen - with fish as their major diet.

Other things include
small crabs

insects

rodents

Habitat -

Majorly near aquatic ecosystems -

Lakes and ponds

Rivers and streams

Creeks and estuaries

Near human inhabitations -

Flooded farms and canals

Nalahs

Distribution -



Nesting -

Usually nest in wall cavities, tunnels dug on water banks, unused pipe holes

About 114 species of kingfishers are found in the world
20 species are found in India
4 Species in FRI Campus



Common Kingfisher
Alcedo atthis

About 16 cm

Shades of Bluish green color
on back.

Pale orange belly.

Look for orange patch near
the ear.



CLICK TO LISTEN CALL



**White throated
Kingfisher**
Halcyon smyrnensis

About 27 - 28 cm

Shades of Bluish green on
back.

Bright red orangish head.

White near throat.



CLICK TO LISTEN CALL





Pied Kingfisher
Ceryle rudis

About 25 cm

Black and white body
with crest



CLICK TO LISTEN CALL



Did you know?

Kingfishers are territorial
and try to dominate good
fishing grounds.

They are species of the
ecotone zones as they prefer
shallow waters.



Crested Kingfisher
Megaceryle lugubris

About 42 cm

Rather rare bird.

Black and white body with
a Shaggy streaked crest



CLICK TO LISTEN CALL



*Walk down to the Tons banks,
if luck you may spot all four of
them at one place.*

Text, Design and Photographs :
Kasturi Sule, IFS 2019

Illustration : Green Humour
Reference and maps : Birds of Indian
Subcontinent (Book by Inskipp and Grimmett)
Bird calls : www.xeno-canto.org