



Birds in Sandan

A brief guide for visitors to
Sandan community ecotourism



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE



WINROCK
INTERNATIONAL

Credits

All photographs are licensed under the Creative Commons Attribution-Share Alike 2.0 Generic license or revisions to this. Authors are credited next to each image, except for the front cover: Dr. Raju Kasambe, Dûrzan Cîrano, JJ Harrison, Harvinder Chandigarh, Thomas Quine, Varun Omanakuttan, Lip Kee Yap, Dibyendu Ash (Wikipedia). IUCN distribution maps are reproduced in compliance with The IUCN Red List Terms and Conditions of Use (version 2.1). Names of featured species in languages other than English or Khmer are taken from species pages on <https://avibase.bsc-eoc.org/avibase.jsp>. Text is adapted mostly from Wikipedia, with some from <http://indianbirds.thedynamicnature.com/>. Standardized Khmer names for all species, and Cambodian breeding seasons for featured species are taken from Tan Setha and Poole, C. M. (2003).

References

Tan Setha and Poole, C. M. (2003). A Field Guide to the Birds of Cambodia. Wildlife Conservation Society Cambodia Program with the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and Wildlife of the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries.



MARTIN LEIGHFIELD (2017)

Birds in Sandan

A brief guide for visitors to
Sandan community ecotourism

Winrock International's program for USAID Supporting Forests and Biodiversity (SFB) works with the local community in Sandan to conserve forests and biodiversity and to improve livelihoods of forest-dependent communities. This guide to birds in Sandan supports that program.

WHO IS THIS GUIDE BOOK FOR?

According to local guides, at least 130 species of birds have been seen in Sandan. This guide book gives information on almost 50 of them. It is not comprehensive, and so may not meet the expectations of serious birders, either in scope of species or depth of detail. We hope that serious birders will come prepared with their own reference resources or professional guides.

This guide book is for casual birdwatchers, who hope to enjoy a day on the lake or in the forest and identify many of the birds that they are likely to encounter.

HOW DO I USE THIS BOOK?

The book is divided into four sections. The first section (pages 1-26) describes 13 featured species that occupy different habitats. These featured species include those that are globally threatened or locally scarce, such as the woolly-necked stork and great hornbill. This will help monitor conservation efforts. Featured species also include birds of lesser concern, but which are dramatic and easily seen, such as the black kite and large-tailed nightjar. Other featured species are neither endangered nor dramatic, but seen so regularly that visitors might like to learn more about them, such as the cotton pygmy goose or little cormorant.

There then follow three sections covering species by their habitat: water birds, forest birds and field birds. These sections help you find birds quickly. Use these habitat sections as your first reference point when you are on the lake, in the forest or in the rice fields. Featured species appear in these sections as well, and refer you to the page with the details.

You will also see birds in the village. Many of these appear in the Forest Birds and Field Birds sections.

Some birds in the book are very common, but not native to Cambodia, such as the common myna. These invasive species may become a threat to local species.

WILL I SEE ALL THE BIRDS?

If you visit all the habitats, you have a good chance of seeing most of the species, even the rare ones such as the painted stork. Most of the birds are resident in Sandan year-round. Some, such as the large-tailed nightjar, are active near and after dusk, so you may need an overnight trip to see them. Some forest birds, like the red junglefowl or white-crested laughingthrush, are hard to see amongst the trees, but the forest is alive with their calls. Your guide will be able to recognize many bird calls.

You may also see many birds that are not in the book, and your guide may show you a bird in a tree that does not look very much like the bird he points to in the book. Remember that male and female birds can look very different, and plumage can change with the season.

WHAT DO THE SYMBOLS MEAN?

Featured species pages use symbols to give information at a glance.

Find your national flag to see the name of featured species in French, German, Spanish, Dutch, Italian or Japanese. Over 80 percent of international visitors speak one of these languages. The bird names appear in Khmer and English for all species. Sometimes, two Khmer names appear. The first is the standardized Khmer name (from Tan SETHA and POOLE, C. M. 2003); if a second name appears, it is a non-standard name used by local people.



These symbols are the International Union of the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) codes for the threat facing the species globally. LC means least concern; NT, near-threatened; VU, vulnerable; EN, endangered; CR, critically endangered; EW, extinct in the wild; and EX, extinct.

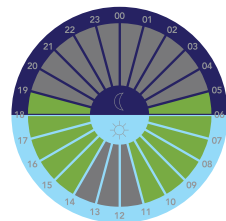
PRESENT IN SANDAN



BREEDING SEASON



The calendars show the months when the species is present, as well as its breeding season.



This clock symbol shows the times you are most likely to see the birds.

FINALLY, ON BEHALF OF SANDAN ECOTOURISM COMMUNITY,
THANK YOU FOR YOUR VISIT.

We really appreciate your contribution to our efforts
to conserve our birds, animals and environment.

LESSER WHISTLING DUCK

Dendrocygna javanica

ប្រីក

PRESENT IN SANDAN

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12

BREEDING SEASON

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12

LESSER WHISTLING DUCK

Dendrocygna javanica

DESCRIPTION

The lesser whistling duck, or teal, breeds in the Indian subcontinent and Southeast Asia. In flight it makes a whistling noise and a loud, two-note wheezy call. This brown duck has a chestnut rump. It has broad wings and a long neck, with the head held below the body in flight. Males and females are similar in appearance.

It feeds at night, flocking around lakes and wet paddy fields during the day. In Sandan you will often see lesser whistling ducks on the lake in daylight hours.

DISTRIBUTION AND HABITAT

The lesser whistling duck occurs widely across lowland wetlands.

DIET

It feeds mainly on water plants, as well as grains from cultivated rice. They also eat small fish, frogs, mollusks and worms. It dabbles or dives in water for its food.

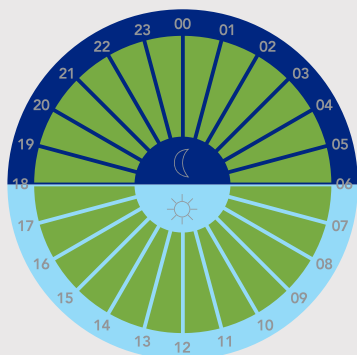
BREEDING

Courtship involves the male facing the female, dipping and raising his bill in the water, and swimming around the female. The nest site may be a tree hole lined with twigs and grass or built in the fork of a large tree, sometimes reusing the old nest of a kite or heron. Parents sometimes carry the chicks on their backs.

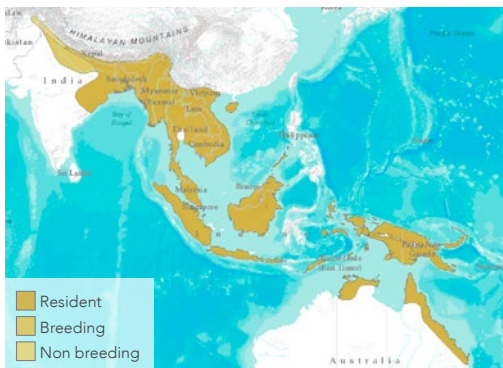
INTERNATIONAL NAMES

	ཕྱྱུ་མཚོ་
	Javapfeifgans
	Dendrocygne siffleur
	Indische Fluiteend
	Dendrocigna indiana
	Suirirí de Java
	リュウキュウガモ

BEST PLACE AND TIME



IUCN



COTTON PYGMY GOOSE

Nettapus coromandelianus

ប្រផឹក

PRESENT IN SANDAN



BREEDING SEASON



COTTON PYGMY GOOSE

Nettapus coromandelianus

DESCRIPTION

The cotton pygmy goose is a small perching duck. Small individuals of this species are the world's smallest waterfowl, as little as 160 grams and 26 centimeters long.

In the breeding season, males have a glossy blackish green crown, with white head, neck and underparts; a prominent black collar; and a white wing-bar. In flight, the wings are green with a white band, making the male distinct from the lesser whistling duck, which shares its habitat. The female is paler, without a black collar and wing-bar. In the non-breeding season, the male resembles the female except for his white wing-bar.

DISTRIBUTION AND HABITAT

The cotton pygmy goose is abundant in Pakistan, India, Bangladesh, Southeast Asia and Australia. It lives on freshwater lakes, flooded paddy fields and rain-filled ditches. It becomes very tame wherever it is unmolested.

DIET

It feeds mostly on seeds and vegetable matter, especially water lilies. It also eats insects and crustaceans.

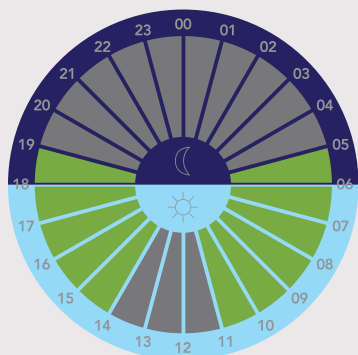
BREEDING

The cotton pygmy goose makes its nest a natural hollow in a tree trunk in or near water, sometimes lined with grass, rubbish and feathers.

INTERNATIONAL NAMES

	ប្រព័ន្ធ
	Koromandelzwergente
	Anserelle de Coromandel
	Coromandeleend
	Oca pigmea indiana
	Gansito Asiático
	ナンキンオシ

BEST PLACE AND TIME



IUCN

EX

EW

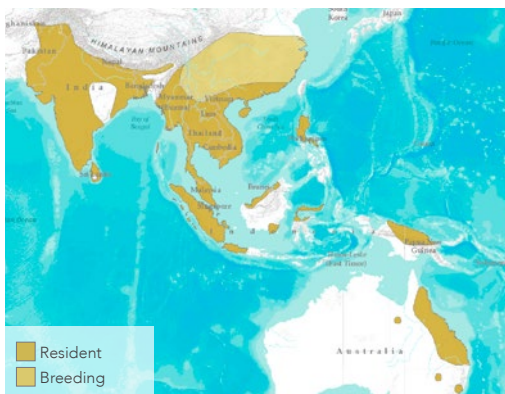
CR

EN

VU

NT

LC



INDIAN SPOT-BILLED DUCK

Anas poecilorhyncha

ទាកាបព្រៃ
ទាទឹក

PRESENT IN SANDAN



BREEDING SEASON



INDIAN SPOT-BILLED DUCK

Anas poecilorhyncha

DESCRIPTION

The spot-billed duck breeds in tropical and eastern Asia. There are three subspecies; the population in Sandan is the Indian spot-billed duck (*A. poecilorhyncha poecilorhyncha*). The name comes from the yellow and red spots on the bill.

This duck is 55 to 63 centimeters long. It is mainly grey, with a paler head and neck and a black bill tipped bright yellow. The wings are whitish with black flight feathers below, and from above, a white-bordered green. The female is similar to the male, except the red spot on the bill is absent or inconspicuous.

INTERNATIONAL NAMES

	ទាតាបន្លែ ទាទឹក
	Indien-Fleckschnabelente
	Canard à bec tacheté
	Indische Vlekbekeend
	Germano beccomacchiato
	Ánade picopinto indio
	アカボシカルガモ

DISTRIBUTION AND HABITAT

This duck is resident in the southern part of its range from Pakistan and India to southern Japan. It is a bird of freshwater lakes and marshes in fairly open country.

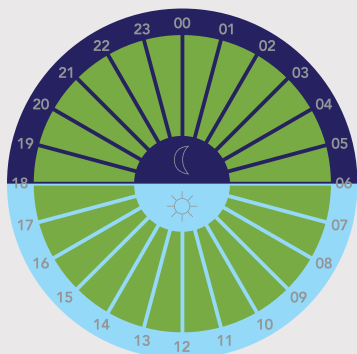
DIET

It feeds by dabbling for plant food, mainly in the evening or at night.

BREEDING

It nests on the ground in vegetation near water and lays eight to 14 eggs. Incubation begins after the last egg is laid, allowing the chicks to hatch simultaneously after about 24 days. The chicks are black with a yellow back.

BEST PLACE AND TIME



IUCN

EX

EW

CR

EN

VU

NT

LC



GARGANEY

Spatula [Anas] querquedula

ទាព្រៃក្បាលឆ្មុតស
ទាព្រៃ

PRESENT IN SANDAN



BREEDING SEASON



GARGANEY

Spatula [Anas] querquedula

DESCRIPTION

The garganey is a small dabbling duck, 35 to 40 centimeters long. The breast is brown. The rest of the body is grey with loose grey scapular feathers. The adult male has a distinct white crescent over the eye.

DISTRIBUTION AND HABITAT

It breeds in much of Europe and western Asia, but is strictly migratory, with the entire population moving to southern Africa, India and Australasia in winter. In breeding season, the garganey inhabits small, shallow ponds and lakes with fringing vegetation and flooded fields.

DIET

It feeds both during the day and night, eating aquatic plants, weeds, seeds, roots, tubers, shoots, leaves, aquatic insects, small fish, crustaceans, mollusks and frogs. These birds feed mainly by skimming rather than upending.

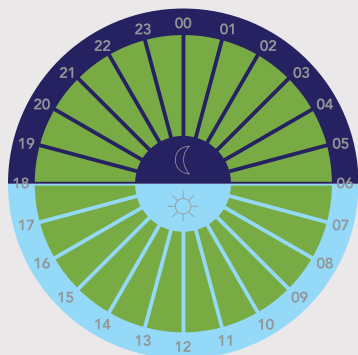
BREEDING

The garganey nests on the ground, usually less than 150 meters from the water's edge. The nest is hidden in tall grasses.

INTERNATIONAL NAMES

	ទាព្រៃក្បាលឆ្មូតស៍ ទាព្រៃ
	Knäkente
	Sarcelle d'été
	Zomertaling
	Marzaiola
	Cerceta Carretona
	シマアジ

BEST PLACE AND TIME



IUCN

EX

EW

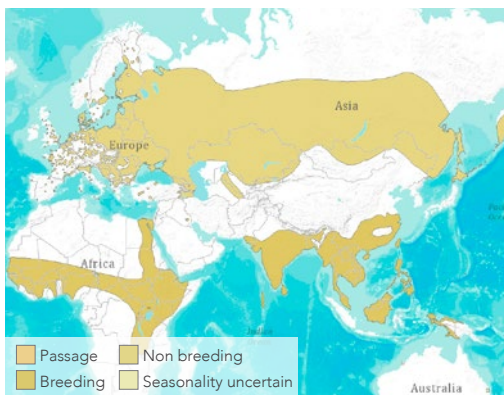
CR

EN

VU

NT

LC



LITTLE CORMORANT

Microcarbo niger

ត្រីកកទឹកតូច

PRESENT IN SANDAN

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12

BREEDING SEASON

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12

LITTLE CORMORANT

Microcarbo niger

DESCRIPTION

The little cormorant is a seabird. It differs slightly from the Indian cormorant (also seen in Sandan); it is smaller (about 50 centimeters long), has a shorter beak and lacks a peaked head. Breeding birds have glistening black feathers and a short crest on the back of the head. Juveniles and non-breeding birds are brownish. Like other cormorants, the little cormorant is often seen with its wings spread out to dry. It is vocal near its nests and roosts, where it produces low roaring sounds.

DISTRIBUTION AND HABITAT

This species is widely distributed across the Indian subcontinent and extends east to Java. It inhabits wetlands, ranging from small village ponds to large lakes, and sometimes tidal estuaries.

DIET

Little cormorants forage alone or in small, loose groups. They swim underwater to capture their prey, mainly fish. They often bring the fish to the surface to swallow them, when other birds may attempt to steal the fish.

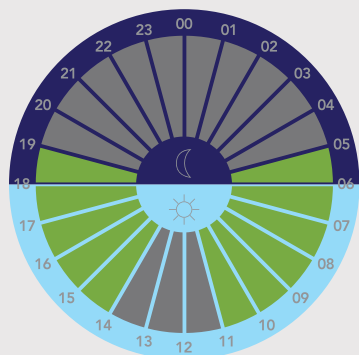
BREEDING

These birds breed gregariously in trees, often joining other waterbirds at heronries. The male displays at the nest site by fluttering his wings and holding his head back with bill raised. After pairing, the male provides food to the female in courtship feeding. Both parents take part in building the nest, a platform of sticks in a tree. Incubation begins when the first egg is laid. This leads to asynchronous hatching, and the chicks in a nest can vary considerably in age.

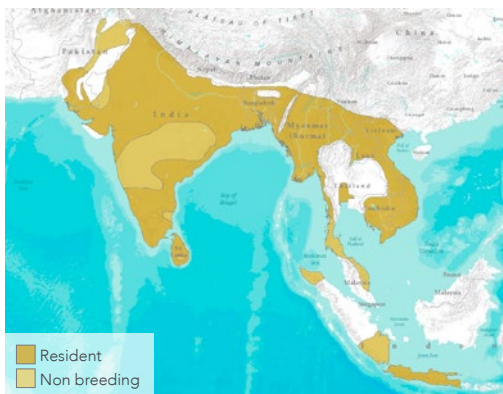
INTERNATIONAL NAMES

	ក្អែកទឹកតូច
	Mohrenscharbe
	Cormoran de Vieillot
	Indische Dwergaalscholver
	Cormorano minuto
	Cormorán de Java
	アジアコビトウ

BEST PLACE AND TIME



IUCN EX EW CR EN VU NT LC



INDIAN CORMORANT

Phalacrocorax fuscicollis

ក្រែកទឹកមធ្យម
ក្រែកទឹកធំ

PRESENT IN SANDAN



BREEDING SEASON



INDIAN CORMORANT

Phalacrocorax fuscicollis

DESCRIPTION

The Indian cormorant, or Indian shag, is a medium-sized bronze-brown cormorant with black coloring on its upper body. It is distinguished from the little cormorant (which also lives in Sandan) by its long, narrow hook-tipped bill and lack of a crest. Breeding birds have a short white ear tuft. The male and female of the species are similar, but non-breeding adults and juveniles are browner.

DISTRIBUTION AND HABITAT

It is found mainly along the inland waters of the Indian subcontinent, but its range also extends west to Thailand and Cambodia.

DIET

In contrast to the little cormorant, the Indian cormorant will often fish communally. The group will form a broad front to drive fish, then make short dives to capture them.

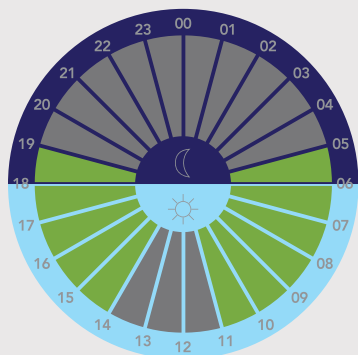
BREEDING

The Indian cormorant's nest is a platform of twigs placed in the forks of partially submerged trees, or trees growing on islands. These birds often place their nests close to those of other Indian cormorants, storks or waterbirds in dense colonies.

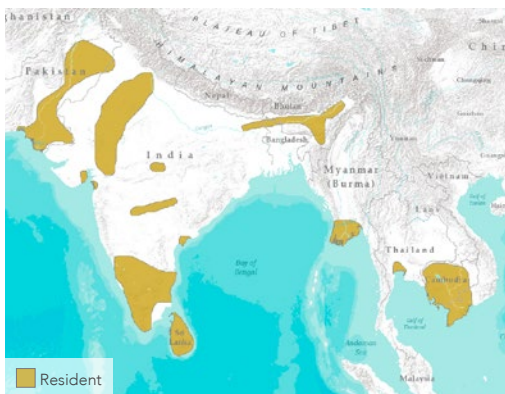
INTERNATIONAL NAMES

	ក្អែកទឹកធូល្យ ក្អែកទឹកជំ
	Braunwangenscharbe
	Cormoran à cou brun
	Indische Aalscholver
	Cormorano indiano
	Cormorán Indio
	インドヒメウ

BEST PLACE AND TIME



IUCN



ORIENTAL DARTER

Anhinga melanogaster

ស្បែក

PRESENT IN SANDAN



BREEDING SEASON



ORIENTAL DARTER

Anhinga melanogaster

INTERNATIONAL NAMES

	ဓမ္မာဏ္ဍ
	Orient-Schlängenhalsvogel
	Anhinga roux
	Indische Slangenhalsvogel
	Aninga comune
	Anhinga Asiática
	アジアヘビウ

DESCRIPTION

The Oriental darter, or Indian darter, is a water bird of tropical South Asia and Southeast Asia. It has a long, slender neck and a straight, pointed bill.

The adult darter is black from above, with blackish-brown underparts. Its crown and neck are brown to black. In flight, the long and slender neck, wide wing and wedge-shaped tail make it distinctive.

The bird's body remains submerged as it swims, and the slender neck alone is visible above the water, leading to the common name "snakebird." Like the cormorants, it has wettable feathers and is often found perched on a rock or branch with its wings held open to dry.

DISTRIBUTION AND HABITAT

The Oriental darter is found mainly in freshwater lakes and streams.

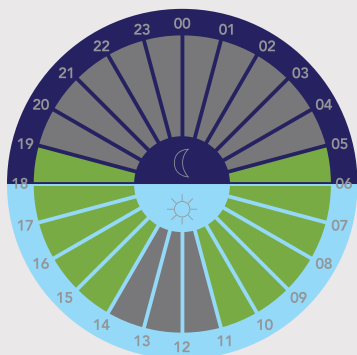
DIET

Like the cormorant, it hunts for fish while its body submerged is in water. It spears a fish underwater, brings it above the surface, and tosses and juggles it before swallowing the fish headfirst.

BREEDING

Oriental darters nest in mixed-species heronries on a stick platform. The nest tree is usually surrounded by water. Both parents incubate the eggs. The newly hatched chicks are mostly bare with some down on their heads. As they grow, they become covered in white down. The chicks feed by thrusting their heads down the throats of their parents.

BEST PLACE AND TIME



IUCN

EX

EW

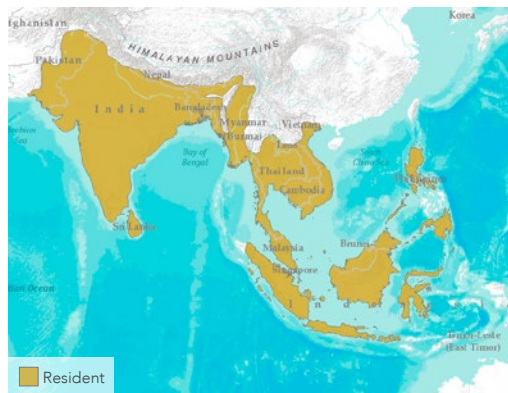
CR

EN

VU

NT

LC



WOOLLY-NECKED STORK

Ciconia episcopus

ស៊ីតូក៏ស
ត្រី

PRESENT IN SANDAN



BREEDING SEASON



WOOLLY-NECKED STORK

Ciconia episcopus

DESCRIPTION

The woolly-necked stork, or white-necked stork, is a large wading bird in the stork family *Ciconiidae*. It is a medium-sized stork at 75 to 92 centimeters tall. The stork is glistening black overall, with a black "skull cap" and white lower belly and under-tail feathers. It derives its name from its downy white neck. Its distinctive iris is deep crimson or wine-red. Largely solitary, this stork is often seen in pairs or small family groups of four to five; flocks are rare.

DISTRIBUTION AND HABITAT

This widespread tropical species breeds in Asia from India to Indonesia, as well as in tropical Africa. It is a resident breeder in wetlands with trees. It lives in a variety of freshwater wetlands, including seasonal and perennial reservoirs and marshes, crop lands, irrigation canals and rivers. It is also attracted to fires in grasslands and crop fields; it captures insects trying to escape the fire.

DIET

The woolly-necked stork walks slowly and steadily on the ground seeking its prey, which, like that of most of its relatives, consists of amphibians, reptiles and insects.

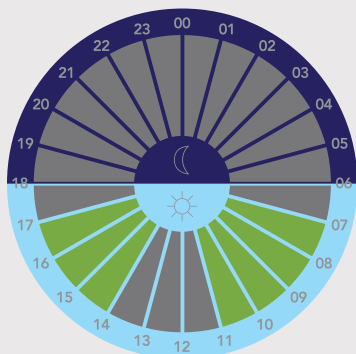
BREEDING

It breeds singly, or in small loose colonies. It builds its large stick nest on a tree. Birds commonly use both forest trees and solitary trees in agricultural areas to build nests.

INTERNATIONAL NAMES

	សត្វក្រហម ត្រី
	Asien-Wollhalsstorch
	Cigogne épiscopale
	Bisschopsooievaar
	Cicogna lanosa
	Cigüeña lanuda asiática
	エンビコウ

BEST PLACE AND TIME



IUCN

EX

EW

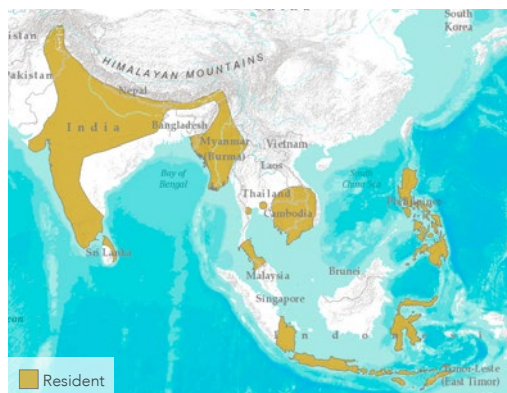
CR

EN

VU

NT

LC





PAINTED STORK

Mycteria leucocephala

រនាសពណ៌

PRESENT IN SANDAN



BREEDING SEASON



PAINTED STORK

Mycteria leucocephala

DESCRIPTION

The painted stork (*Mycteria leucocephala*) is a large wader in the stork family. For a stork, it is medium-sized, standing about 93–102 cm tall. The distinctive pink tertial feathers of the adults give them their name.

The heavy yellow beak with a down-curved tip resembles an ibis. The head of adults is bare and reddish. There is a distinctive black breast. The rest of the body is whitish, and the primaries and secondaries are black with a greenish gloss. The legs are yellowish to red but often appear white due their habit of urohidrosis or defecating on their legs.

DISTRIBUTION AND HABITAT

They are found in the wetlands of the plains of tropical Asia south of the Himalayas and extending into Southeast Asia.

BEHAVIOR

They forage mostly in small flocks (<5 birds) in shallow waters along rivers or lakes. Like all storks, they fly with their neck outstretched. They often soar on late morning thermals. Like other storks they are mostly silent but clatter their bills and may make some harsh croaking or low moaning sounds at the nest.

DIET

They immerse their half-open beaks in water and sweep them from side to side and snap up their prey of small fish that are sensed by touch. As they wade along they also stir the water with their feet to flush hiding fish.

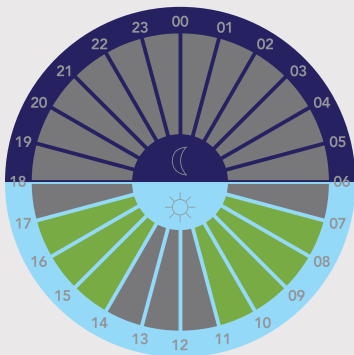
BREEDING

They nest colonially in trees, often along with other waterbirds. The platform nests are typically placed in a tree on an island or in an otherwise undisturbed area.

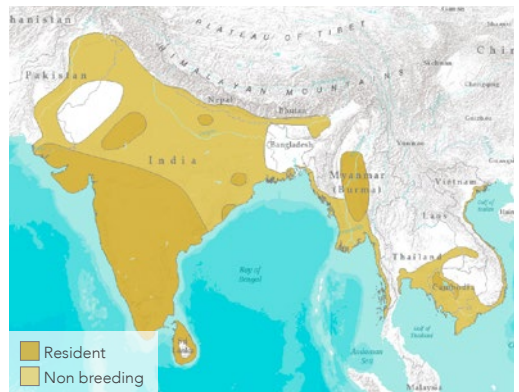
INTERNATIONAL NAMES

	រោងពណ៌
	Buntstorch
	Tantale indien
	Indische Nimmerzat
	Cicogna pittata
	Tántalo Indio
	インドトキコウ

BEST PLACE AND TIME



IUCN EX EW CR EN VU NT LC



GREAT HORNBILL

Buceros bicornis

កេងកងធំ
ក្អក

PRESENT IN SANDAN



BREEDING SEASON



GREAT HORNBILL

Buceros bicornis

DESCRIPTION

The great hornbill is one of the larger members of the hornbill family, at 95 to 130 centimeters long. The bright yellow and black casque on top of its massive bill serves no known purpose. Its heavy wing beats can be heard from a distance. Females are distinguishable from males by their smaller size, their bluish-white eyes (red in males) and the reddish coloring on the back of their casques.

DISTRIBUTION AND HABITAT

The great hornbill found in the forests of India, Bhutan, Nepal, mainland Southeast Asia and Sumatra. It is less common in Sandan than the oriental pied hornbill. It lives mainly in dense, old growth forests in hilly regions.

DIET

The great hornbill is predominantly frugivorous (fruit-eating), but is an opportunist and will also prey on small mammals, reptiles and birds. It obtains all the water it needs entirely from its diet of fruits. Great hornbills are important dispersers of many forest tree species.

BREEDING

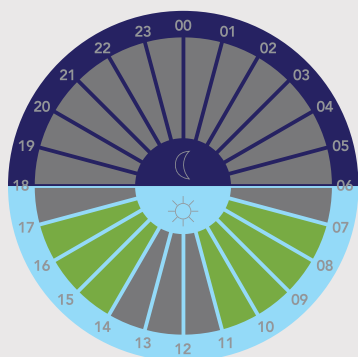
During the breeding season, great hornbills become very vocal. They make loud duets, beginning with a loud "kok" given about once a second by the male, joined by the female.

The female hornbill builds a nest in the hollow of a large tree trunk, sealing the opening with a plaster made up mainly of feces. She remains imprisoned there, relying on the male to bring her food, until the chicks are half-developed.

INTERNATIONAL NAMES

	កេងកងធំ ក្លឹក
	Doppelhornvogel
	Calao bicorné
	Dubbelhoornige Neushoornvogel
	Bucero maggiore
	Cálao Bicorné
	オオサイチョウ

BEST PLACE AND TIME



IUCN





ORIENTAL PIED HORNBILL

Anthracoceros albirostris

កើតក្នុងតូច
កើតក្នុង

PRESENT IN SANDAN



BREEDING SEASON



ORIENTAL PIED HORNBILL

Anthracoceros albirostris

DESCRIPTION

The oriental pied hornbill is among the smallest (55 to 60 centimeters long) and most common of the Asian hornbills. Its head, neck, back, wings and upper breast are black with a slight green sheen. The tail is black with white tips on all the feathers except the central feathers. The lower breast, lower abdomen, thighs, and under-wing are white. Males are larger than females, and have a yellow bill with black base and bright red eyes.

DISTRIBUTION AND HABITAT

The oriental pied hornbill is found in the Indian subcontinent and throughout Southeast Asia. Its natural habitat is subtropical or tropical moist lowland forests.

DIET

Its diet consists mainly of wild fruit. It also eats large insects, small birds, lizards, snakes, frogs and fish. They are important large seed dispersers; few other birds have a large enough gape.

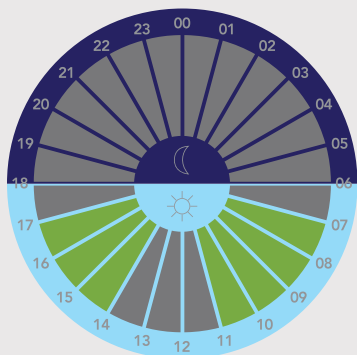
BREEDING

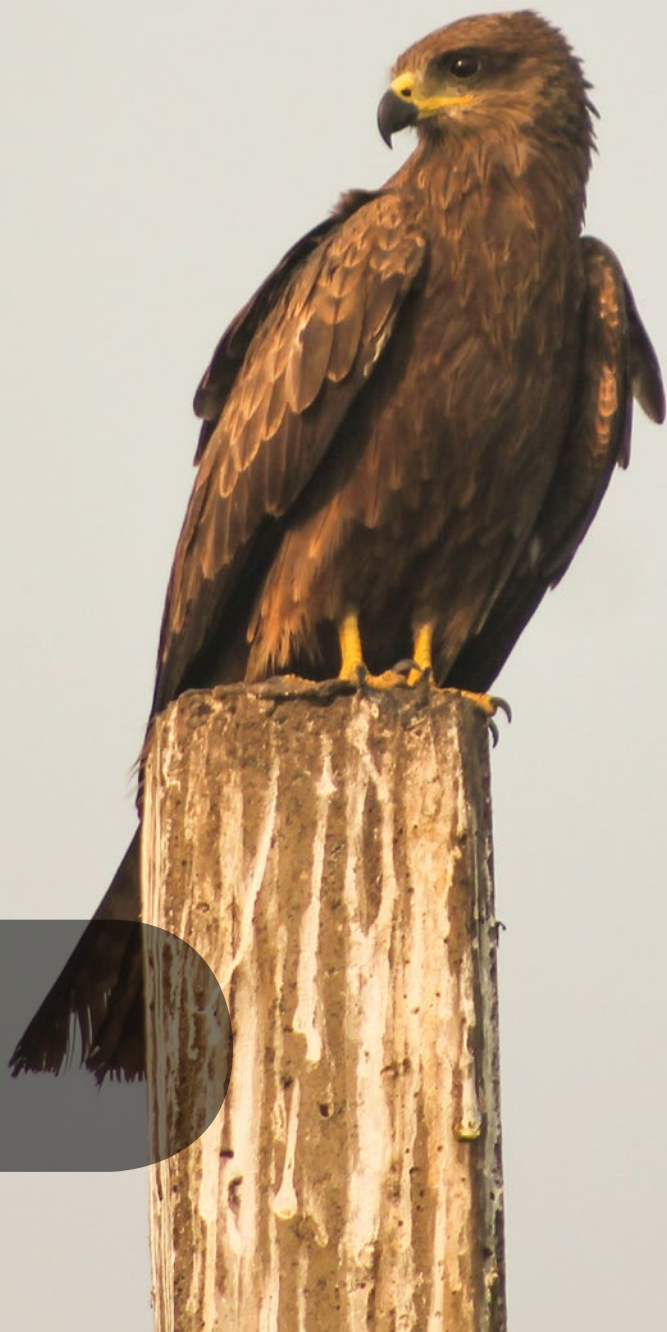
The female select a hole in a tree to make a nest, sealing herself inside with a mixture of saliva, mud, fruit, droppings and tree bark. The male passes food through a small hole. The female and chicks remain inside the nest for several months.

Competition for nest-sites with other species such as squirrels and other birds can affect breeding success.

INTERNATIONAL NAMES

	កេងកងតូច កេងកង
	Orienthornvogel
	Calao pie
	Bonte Neushoornvogel
	Bucero bianco e nero orientale
	Cálaro Claro Oriental
	キタカササギサイチョウ





BLACK KITE

Milvus migrans

ខ្លែងខ្មៅ

PRESENT IN SANDAN



BREEDING SEASON



BLACK KITE

Milvus migrans

DESCRIPTION

The black kite is a medium-sized bird of prey. It is thought to be the world's most abundant species of Accipitridae. It often soars in thermals in search of food. Its angled wing and distinctive forked tail make it easy to identify. It has a shrill, whinnying call. Males and females of the species are similar in appearance. The upper body is brown, but the head and neck tend to be paler. The underside is pale brown. Its wingspan is around 150 centimeters.

DISTRIBUTION AND HABITAT

This kite is widely distributed through the temperate and tropical parts of Eurasia, as well as parts of Australasia and Oceania. The European populations are small, but the South Asian population is very large. Black kites are common in densely populated areas in India, with up to 15 pairs per square kilometer.

DIET

They swoop down with their legs lowered to snatch small live prey, fish, household refuse and carrion. Unlike others of the group, black kites are opportunistic hunters and are more likely to scavenge.

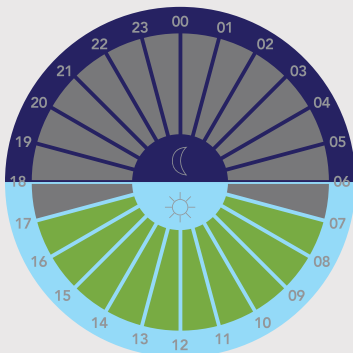
BREEDING

The nest is a rough platform of twigs and rags placed in a tree. The male and female both take part in nest-building, incubation and care of chicks. Siblings are aggressive, and the weaker chicks may be killed. Parent birds guard their nest and dive aggressively at intruders.

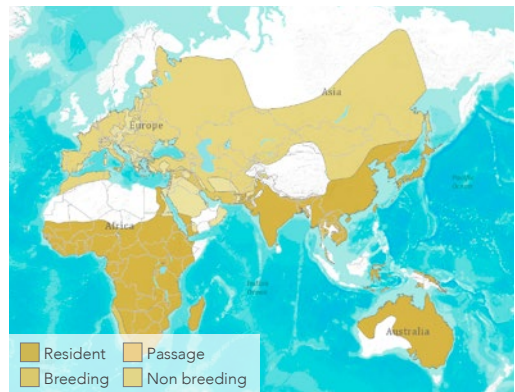
INTERNATIONAL NAMES

	ইগুড়ে
	Schwarzmilan
	Milan noir
	Zwarte Wouw
	Nibbio bruno
	Milano negro
	ニシトビ

BEST PLACE AND TIME



IUCN



LARGE-TAILED NIGHTJAR

Caprimulgus macrurus

ពង្សាក៏ចង

PRESENT IN SANDAN



BREEDING SEASON



LARGE-TAILED NIGHTJAR

Caprimulgus macrurus

INTERNATIONAL NAMES

	ពត្តាកំចង់
	Langschwanz-Nachtschwalbe
	Engoulevent de Horsfield
	Horsfields Nachtzwaluw
	Succiacapre codalarga
	Chotacabras Macruro
	オビロヨタカ

DESCRIPTION

The large-tailed nightjar is active mostly by night. During the day, it spends most of its time on the ground. Its feathers look like leaf litter, giving perfect camouflage. Almost impossible to find in the day, it is easy to see at sunset in fields close to the forest.

DISTRIBUTION AND HABITAT

It is found along the southern Himalayan foothills, eastern South Asia, Southeast Asia and northern Australia. Its natural habitats are open forests, forest edges and fields.

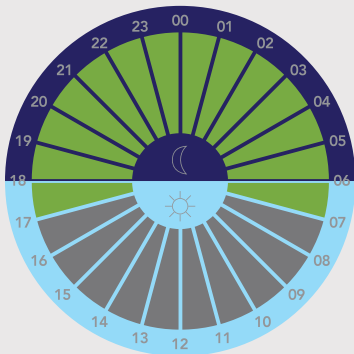
DIET

The large-tailed nightjar's bill can enlarge into an enormous "scoop" for catching insects in flight. Its swooping flight, often very close to the ground and with abrupt changes of direction, is dramatic.

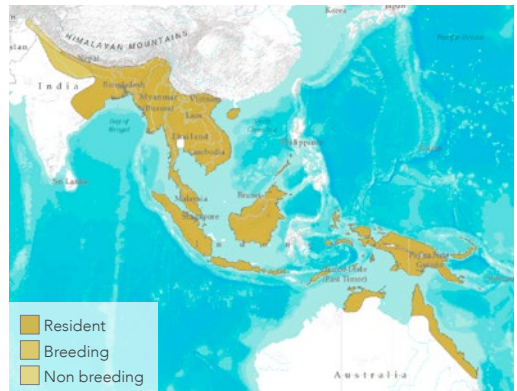
BREEDING

The nightjar does not build any nest. Instead, it lays its eggs in a shallow depression of the ground, often in a shady area beneath a tree or bush. Eggs are well camouflaged, looking like pebbles. Both parents take turns brooding the eggs, the female mostly by day and the male at night.

BEST PLACE AND TIME



IUCN EX EW CR EN VU NT LC





WETLAND BIRDS



SANDAN, CAMBODIA



LESSER WHISTLING DUCK

Dendrocygna javanica



PHOTO: HARVINDER CHANDIGARH (WIKIPEDIA)

ប្រវែក

This bird is featured on page 1.

RUDDY-BREASTED CRAKE

Porzana fusca



PHOTO: SHAM EDMOND (WIKIPEDIA)

កាត្រែត
មានទឹក

This secretive bird hides amongst shrubs when disturbed. Its body is flattened laterally to allow passage through the reeds or undergrowth. It forages for shoots, berries and insects, as well as large snails, which it eats by using its bill to peck through the hard shell.

WATERCOCK

Gallicrex cinerea

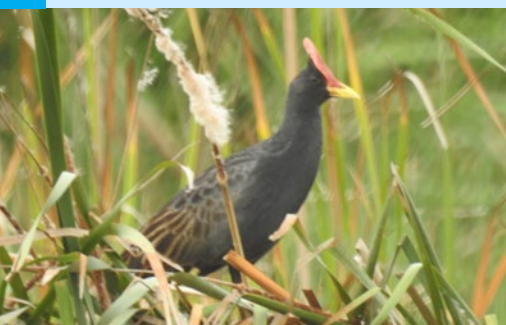


PHOTO: DR. RAJU KASAMBE (WIKIPEDIA)

ក្ដី
ត្រលុកក្ដី

The watercock is sometimes seen in the open, but with its loud gulping call, it is more likely to be heard, especially at dawn and dusk. Adult male watercocks have a frontal shield and horn. Females are dark brown above and paler below.

COTTON PYGMY GOOSE

Nettapus coromandelianus

ប្រវែក

This bird is featured on page 3.



PHOTO: JM GARG (WIKIMEDIA)

WHITE-BREADED WATERHEN

Amaurornis phoenicurus

មាន់ទឹក

Unlike many rails, the white-breasted waterhen is often seen out in the open. It can be noisy at dawn and dusk, with a loud, croaky call. It jerks its tail as it walk. The waterhen uses its bill to probe in mud or shallow water, picking insects, small fish, aquatic invertebrates and seeds.



PHOTO: DAVIDVRAJU (WIKIPEDIA)

BLACK-BACKED SWAMPHEN

Porphyrio indicus

បទាម ទោម

The black-backed swamphen is considered a subspecies of the purple swamphen, which it resembles. However, unlike its relative, it has a large shield, black upperparts and blackish coloring on the side of its head.



PHOTO: TOBY HUDSON (WIKIPEDIA)

BRONZE-WINGED JACANA

Metopidius indicus



PHOTO: HARVINDER CHANDIGARH (WIKIPEDIA)

ព្រហ្មត្ថេរ

Bronze-winged jacanas have a sex-role reversed breeding system. The females are larger and more brightly colored than males. Females compete with each other for harems of males to incubate their clutches of eggs. Female jacanas copulate with multiple males prior to laying their clutch. However, before laying the clutch, the female spends more time with a specific "receiver" male, who will care for the clutch alone.

LITTLE CORMORANT

Microcarbo niger



PHOTO: AALOKMJOSHI (WIKIPEDIA)

ក្អែកទឹកតូច

This bird is featured on page 9.

ក្អែកទឹកមធ្យម
ក្អែកទឹកធំ

This bird is featured on page 11.

INDIAN CORMORANT

Phalacrocorax fuscicollis

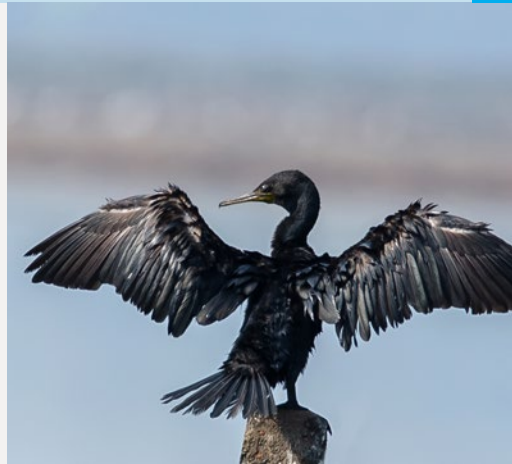


PHOTO: MANOJIRITTY (WIKIPEDIA)

ត្រដេរីចទន្លេ
ត្រដេរីចចិន

The river lapwing is near-threatened. It feeds on insects, worms, crustaceans and mollusks in wet grassland and farmland. It nests on shingle and sand banks in a hole scraped in the ground. Its breeding display, given on the ground, includes stooping, spinning, stretching and crest-raising.

RIVER LAPWING

Vanellus duvaucelii

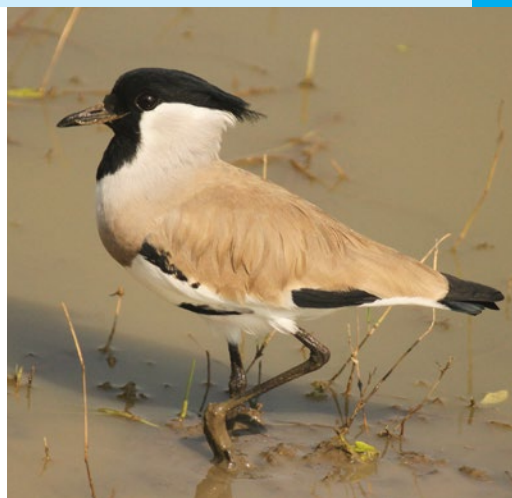


PHOTO: DAVIDVRAJU (WIKIPEDIA)

ORIENTAL DARTER

Anhinga melanogaster

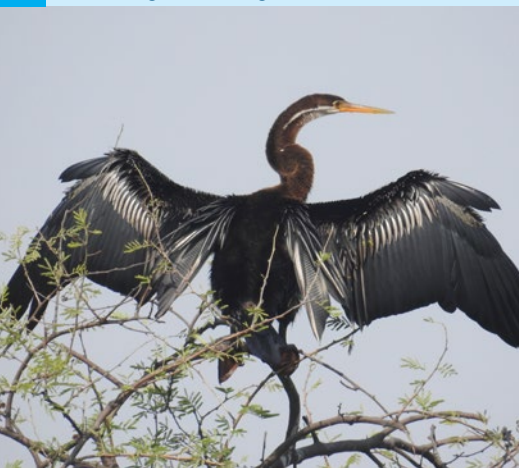


PHOTO: DAVIDVRAJU (WIKIPEDIA)

ស្មៅ

This bird is featured on page 13.

GREY HERON

Ardea cinerea

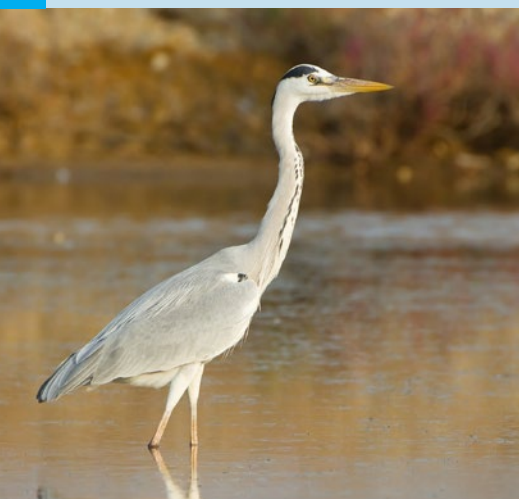


PHOTO: JJ HARRISON (JJHARRISON89@FACEBOOK.COM)

ក្រសែប្រផ្នះ
អណ្តែត

The grey heron stands up to a meter tall. It stands stationary beside or in water, or stalks its prey at the water's edge. The birds breed colonially in heronries, usually building their nests high in trees.

សត្វក្រិស
ក្រី

This bird is featured on page 15.

WOOLLY-NECKED STORK

Ciconia episcopus



PHOTO: HARVINDER CHANDIGARH (WIKIPEDIA)

រោលពណ៌

This bird is featured on page 17.

PAINTED STORK

Mycteria leucocephala

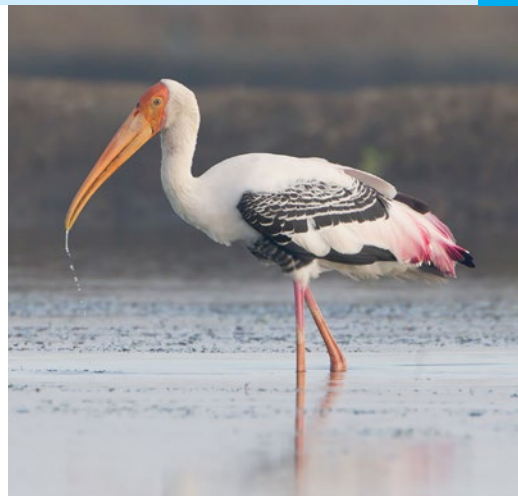


PHOTO: JJ HARRISON (JJHARRISON89@FACEBOOK.COM)



FOREST BIRDS

TONLE SREPOK
WILDLIFE SANCTUARY,
CAMBODIA



PHOTO: "IMONDULKIRI PROTECTED FOREST, CAMBODIA" BY GLOBAL WATER FORUM, USED UNDER CC BY

RED JUNGLEFOWL

Gallus gallus

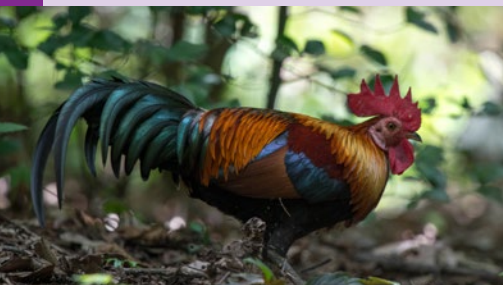


PHOTO: JASON THOMPSON (WIKIPEDIA)

មាន់ព្រៃ

The red junglefowl is ancestral to the domestic chicken, and was first domesticated at least 5,000 years ago in Asia. They fly no better than domestic chickens. You will often hear them calling in the forests around Sandan. The call is shorter than that of domestic roosters, and cuts off abruptly at the end.

SIAMESE FIREBACK

Lophura diardi



PHOTO: DICKDANIELS (CAROLINABIRDS.ORG)

ស្តេចក្បាលីត មាន់ទេ

The male Siamese fireback is grey with red facial skin, crimson legs and feet, black crest feathers and a long, curved, blackish tail. The female is brown with blackish wing and tail feathers. The Siamese fireback is the national bird of Thailand.

COMMON HILL MYNA

Gracula religiosa

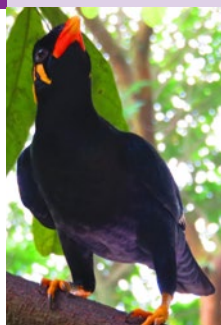


PHOTO: DIVERDAVE (WIKIPEDIA)

សាវ័កកែវវង់

The common hill myna does not imitate other birds in the wild, but both sexes produce an extraordinarily wide range of loud calls – whistles, wails, screeches and gurgles. It is most vocal at dawn and dusk, in small groups in forest clearings high in the canopy.

Each individual has a repertoire of three to 13 call types, learned in youth, which may be shared with neighbors. Dialects change rapidly with distance; birds living more than 15 kilometers apart typically have no call types in common.

In captivity, these birds are renowned mimics. Though abundant in the wild, they are threatened by the capture of birds for the illegal pet trade some areas. In 1997, the species was assigned to CITES Appendix II.

LARGE-TAILED NIGHTJAR

Caprimulgus macrurus

ពន្លាក់ចង់

This bird is featured on page 25.



PHOTO: MIKE PRINCE (FLICKR)

GREAT HORNBILL

Buceros bicornis

កេងកងធំ
ក្អក

This bird is featured on page 19.



PHOTO: DR. RAJU KASAMBE (WIKIPEDIA)

ORIENTAL PIED HORNBILL

Anthracoceros albirostris

កេងកងតូច
កេងកង

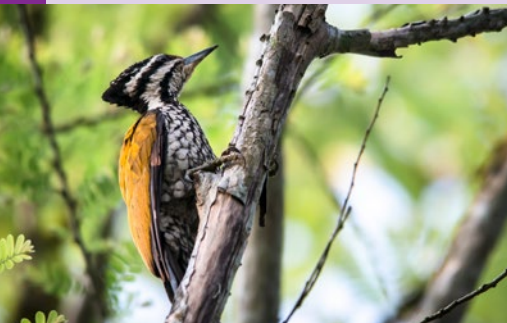
This bird is featured on page 21.



PHOTO: JOHN J. MOSESSO, NBII (WIKIPEDIA)

COMMON FLAMEBACK

Dinopium javanense



ត្រសេះតូចខ្នងភ្លើង

The common flameback is a medium-sized, golden-backed woodpecker with distinct stripes on its head and neck. The male has a red crown, the female a black crown. Its natural habitats are subtropical or tropical dry forests, subtropical or tropical moist lowland forests, and subtropical or tropical mangrove forests.

PHOTO: RUSHEN (WIKIPEDIA) FROM WWW.THAINATIONALPARKS.COM/KAENG-KRACHAN-NATIONAL-PARK

WHITE-CRESTED LAUGHINGTHRUSH

Garrulax leucolophus



ចកវីកកំប៉ោយ ស ព្រលែង

White-crested laughingthrushes are noisy, social birds who occasionally burst into loud calls that sound just like laughter.

PHOTO: DIBYENDU ASH (WIKIPEDIA)

OLIVE-BACKED SUNBIRD

Cinnyris jugularis



ចាបកន្លៀង កូនញ័រ

Originally living in mangroves, the olive-backed sunbird has adapted well to humans, and is now common even in fairly densely populated areas. In Sandan, you may see them in the forest, fields or village. The photo shows a female at the nest. The male has a blue throat.

PHOTO: JIM BENDON (WIKIPEDIA)

BROWN-THROATED SUNBIRD

Anthreptes malacensis

ចាបកន្លង់បំពង់កត្នោតចាស់ ញុស

Like most sunbirds, the male brown-throated sunbird (pictured) is more colorful than the female, which olive-green above and yellowish below. It mostly feeds on nectar, but it will also take small fruits and berries. In the forest, you are likely to hear them before you see them.



PHOTO: HOWARD B (WIKIPEDIA)

SCARLET-BACKED FLOWERPECKER

Dicaeum cruentatum

ចាបកន្លង់ខ្នងក្រហម ញុស

The scarlet-backed flowerpecker weaves its pouch-shaped nest hanging from a branch high up in a tree. The nest has a side entrance, typical of those of the flowerpecker family. As with other flowerpeckers, the female is drab. Its scientific name comes from the male's reddish coloring; in Latin, *cruentatum* means "blood-stained."



PHOTO: DOUG JANSON (WIKIPEDIA)

LITTLE SPIDERHUNTER

Arachnothera longirostra

ចាបកន្លង់តូចពីងពាង

Unlike most sunbirds, males and females of this species are very similar in appearance. They are most often found near flowering plants, where they obtain nectar. So, if they eat nectar, why are they called spiderhunters? Because they hang their nest below a leaf using "pop-rivets" of spider silk.



PHOTO: LIP KEE YAP (WIKIPEDIA)

BLACK-HOODED ORIOLE

Oriolus xanthornus

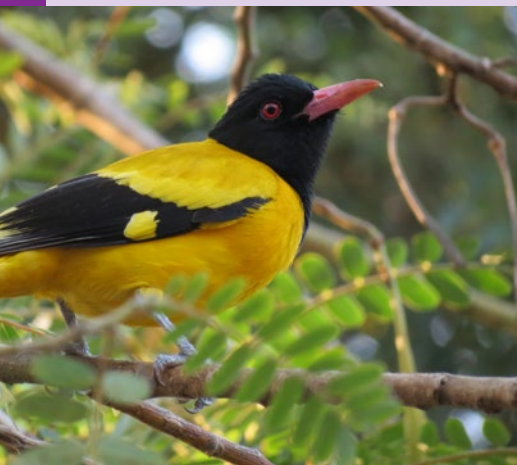


PHOTO: NIRMAL GNANASUNDERAM (WIKIPEDIA)

ចេកទុំក្បាលខ្មៅ

The black-hooded oriole is a bird of open woodland and cultivation. The female is drabber than the male, with greenish underparts, but still has the black hood. It is less common in Sandan than the black-naped oriole.

BLACK-NAPED ORIOLE

Oriolus chinensis



PHOTO: PHALINN OOI (WIKIPEDIA)

ចេកទុំ

The black-naped oriole is found in forests, gardens and plantations. Males and females of the species are very similar in appearance. It feeds on berries and insects in the forest canopy. In many parts of Southeast Asia, it is trapped and sold in the bird trade.

BLACK-CRESTED BULBUL

Pycnonotus flaviventris

ពពិតក្បាលខ្មៅកំប៉ោយ ពពិតប៉ោយ

The black-crested bulbul is a bird of forest and dense scrub. It feeds on fruit and insects. The male and female are similar in appearance. You may also see its relative, the puff-throated bulbul (*Alophoixus pallidus*), a larger bulbul with no black head and with puffy white throat feathers.



PHOTO: THAI NATIONAL PARKS (WIKIPEDIA)

STRIPE-THROATED BULBUL

Pycnonotus finlaysoni

ពពិតពុកមាត់លឿង ពពិត

The stripe-throated bulbul is a songbird. Your guides will tell you when they hear one. Listen for the guide to say "Popich," although this may refer to one of several similar species.



PHOTO: JJ HARRISON (WIKIPEDIA)



FIELD BIRDS



SIEM REAP,
CAMBODIA



BARRED BUTTONQUAIL

Turnix suscitator



PHOTO: DR. RAJU KASAMBE (WIKIPEDIA)

គ្រូចអ៊ីត

The barred buttonquail is often seen running along the ground. It is reluctant to fly. The female is larger and brighter than the male. She fights other females to win a male, initiates courtship and builds the ground nest. After laying the eggs, the female runs off to find another mate, leaving the male to look after the eggs and young. Smart lady.

HOOPOE

Upupa epops



PHOTO: DŮRZAN CÍRANO (WIKIPEDIA)

បាត្រ

The hoopoe is occasionally seen in Sandan. Its beautiful scientific name *Upupa epops* comes from Greek and Latin. Like the English name, it echoes the hoopoe's call.

Although beautiful to see, it has unappealing personal habits. During nesting, they produce a liquid which smells like rotting meat. They smear it on their feathers to deter predators. Nestlings can also direct streams of feces at intruders. Look, but do not touch!

WOOLLY-NECKED STORK

Ciconia episcopus



PHOTO: HARVINDER CHANDIGARH (WIKIPEDIA)

សត្វក្រស

ត្រី

This bird is featured on page 15.

LARGE-TAILED NIGHTJAR

Caprimulgus macrurus

ខ្លែងខ្មៅ

This bird is featured on page 25.



PHOTO: MIKE PRINCE (FLICKR)

BLACK KITE

Milvus migrans

ខ្លែងខ្មៅ

This bird is featured on page 23.



PHOTO: DAVIDVRAJU (WIKIPEDIA)

អន្ទេបខ្មៅ
កន្ទេបកន្ទែ

BLACK DRONGO

Dicrurus macrocercus

The black drongo is common in open agricultural areas and light forest, often perching on a bare branch, power line or even a buffalo (as in the picture).

These aggressive, fearless birds will attack much larger birds that enter their nesting territory, including crows and birds of prey. This encourages smaller birds such as orioles, doves and especially bulbuls to nest just a few meters from the drongo.

The black drongo's call imitates that of the shikra. This frightens other birds, allowing the drongo to steal their food.



PHOTO: DR. RAJU KASAMBE (WIKIPEDIA)

SHIKRA

Accipiter badius



PHOTO: JAN WILLEM STEFFELAAR (WIKIPEDIA)

ស្វាងស្លាបតែក ខ្មែងលលក

The shikra is a small bird of prey widely distributed in Asia and Africa. The word *shikra* or *shikara* means "hunter" in Hindi.

The shikra is found in a range of habitats, including forests, farmland and urban areas. It feeds on rodents, squirrels, small birds, small reptiles and insects. When flying, it often draws alarms from smaller birds and squirrels. The flight is typical with flaps and glides. During the breeding season, pairs will soar on thermals and stoop at each other.

ASIAN KOEL

Eudynamys scolopaceus

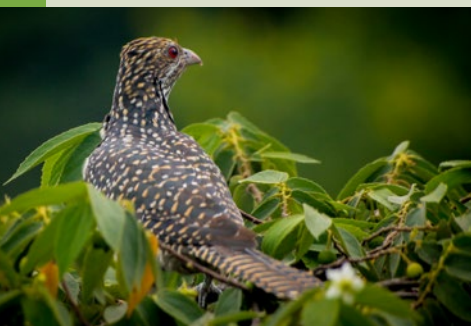


PHOTO: VIJAY SONAR PHOTOGRAPHY (WIKIPEDIA)

តាពៅ

The Asian koel is a cuckoo. It lays its eggs in the nests of crows and other hosts, who raise its young. The male is glossy bluish-black, in contrast to the female (pictured).

Koels are very vocal during the breeding season. You will frequently hear them calling, and the guides will alert you to this by calling the local name, "Tavow."

BLUE-TAILED BEE-EATER

Merops philippinus



PHOTO: DHURVARAJ S (WIKIPEDIA)

ត្រដេវក្បាលបៃតង ត្រដេវខ្យល់

The blue-tailed bee-eater breeds in open country, such as farmland, parks or ricefields. It is most often seen near large waterbodies, so Sandan is an ideal place to find it. Like other bee-eaters, it mostly eats insects, especially bees, wasps and hornets. It catches them in the air, attacking from an open perch, then beats them on the perch to kill them and break open the exoskeleton.

GREEN BEE-EATER

Merops orientalis

ត្រីដេវតូច ត្រីដេវចូសដី

The green bee-eater often hunts from low perches, less than a meter high. Unlike some other bee-eaters, it can be found well away from water, but sometimes bathes by dipping into water in flight.

Green bee-eaters are usually seen in small groups and often roost communally in large numbers (200 to 300). The birds move excitedly at the roost site and call loudly, often explosively dispersing before settling back to the roost tree.



PHOTO: SUNIL ELIAS (WIKIPEDIA)

INDIAN ROLLER

Coracias benghalensis

ទាវខៀវ

Indian rollers are common in open grassland and scrub forest. They often perch on roadside trees and wires, descending to capture insects, spiders, small reptiles and amphibians. They bathe in open water by plunge-diving into it; this behavior is often interpreted as fishing. The English name derives from the male's dramatic aerobatic display.



PHOTO: KUNALWIKI86 (WIKIPEDIA)

COMMON TAILORBIRD

Orthotomus sutorius

ចាបតែត ចចរ

The common tailorbird is shy, but its loud calls give away its presence. Tailorbirds get their name from the way they construct their nests. They pierce the edges of a large leaf and sew the leaf with plant fibre or spider silk to make a cradle. Then they build their nest in the cradle.

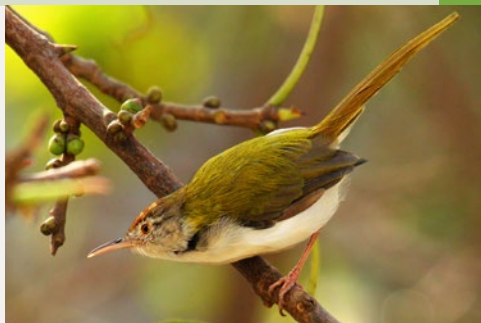


PHOTO: AKSHAY CHAREGAONKAR (WIKIPEDIA)

ASIAN PALM SWIFT

Cypsiurus balasiensis



PHOTO: DR. RAJU KASAMBE (WIKIPEDIA)

ត្រចៀកកាំដើមឆ្មោត

Asian palm swifts spend most of their lives in the air, catching insects. They often feed near the ground and swoop to drink water. Their tails is long and deeply forked, but usually held closed. Their call is a loud, shrill scream. Palm swifts make a feather nests glued to the underside of a palm leaf with saliva. The eggs are also attached with saliva.

PACIFIC SWIFT

Apus pacificus

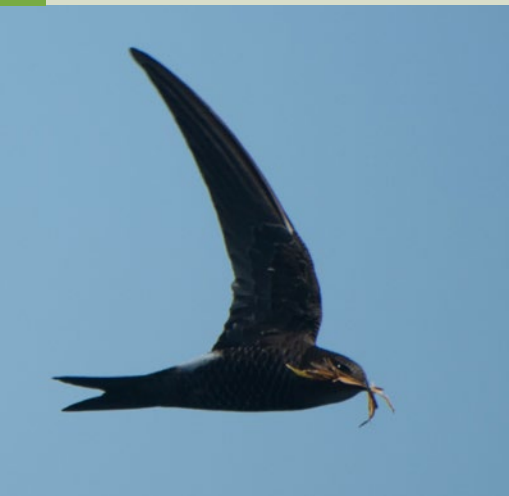


PHOTO: SNOWMANRADIO (WIKIPEDIA)

ត្រចៀកកាំកន្ទុយឆែក

The Pacific swift is strongly migratory, spending the northern hemisphere's winter in Southeast Asia and Australia. Its nest is a half-cup of dry grass and other fine material that is gathered in flight, cemented with saliva and attached to a vertical surface.

COMMON MYNA

Acridotheres tristis

សារិកាកែវគោ

The range of the common myna is increasing at such a rapid rate that in 2000 the IUCN Species Survival Commission declared it one of the world's most invasive species. It is one of only three birds in the top 100 species that pose an impact to biodiversity, agriculture and human interests. We should have listened to Alfred Hitchcock in 1963.



PHOTO: DICK DANIELS ([HTTP://CAROLINABIRDS.ORG/](http://carolinabirds.org/)) (WIKIPEDIA)

JAVAN MYNA

Acridotheres javanicus

សារិកាកែវក្របី

The Javan myna, also known as the white-vented myna, is native to Java and Bali. It has been introduced to a number of countries and has reached Sandan. It eats seeds, fruit, nectar, insects and human waste. It is often found in large groups. Javan mynas are bold and not very afraid of humans. Along with the common myna, it competes with native species, especially for nest holes.



PHOTO: LIP KEE YAP (WIKIPEDIA)

winrock.org



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE



WINROCK
INTERNATIONAL