

BIRD WATCHING JOURNAL

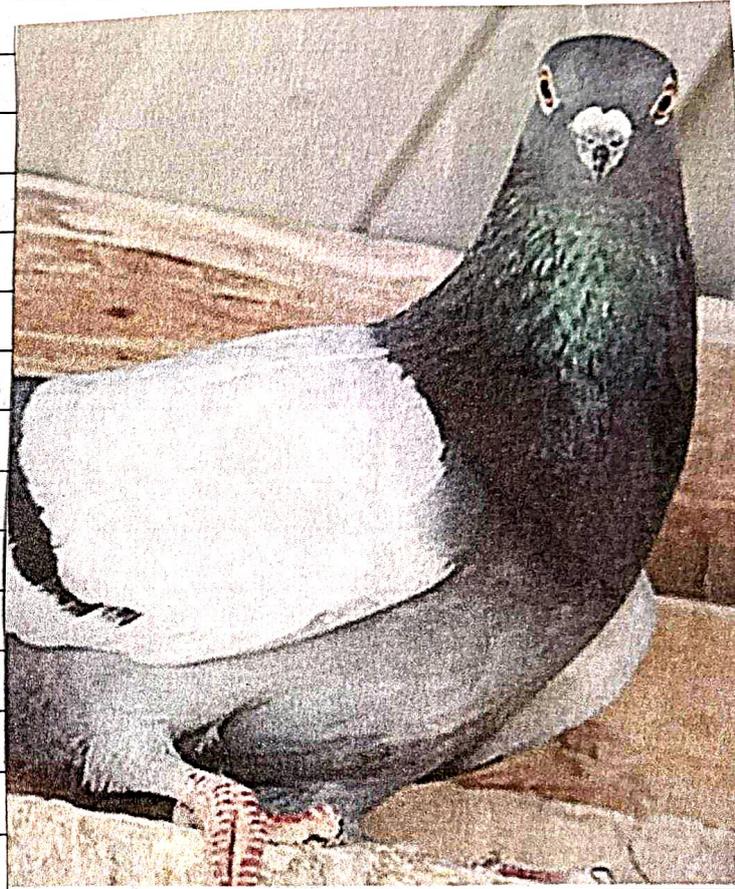
1. PIGEEON

Date: 26/10/2024

Location: Solan

Classification of PIGEON :-

- Kingdom : Animalia
- Phylum : Chordata
- Class : Aves
- Order : Columbiformes
- Family : Columbidae
- Genus : Columba
- Species : Columba livia



Physical Characteristics :

- Typically medium sized birds with rounded body.
- Colouration varies from grey, white, brown to iridescent greens and purple on the neck.
- Small head, short neck and wide wings, which allow them to fly at high speeds.
- Life span :- 3-6 years in the wild, upto 15 years in captivity.

• Habitat and Behavior :

- Pigeons are found in diverse habitats, from cities to towns to fly at high speeds.
- They thrive in urban environments, where they have access to food and nesting spots.
- I saw many groups of pigeons in my city at different locations.
- Pigeons are omnivores, primarily feeding on seeds, fruits and grains. In urban settings, they often rely on food scraps.

• Flight & Navigation:

Pigeons are known for their impressive navigational abilities using landmarks, the Earth's magnetic field and the sun's position to find their way over long distances.

• Social Behavior

Pigeons are social birds and often travel in flocks. They communicate with coos, display of courtship and wing flapping rituals.

• Nesting :-

They build nests on ledges, bridges and other man-made structures in cities. Their nests are simple, consisting of twigs, leaves and other material found in the environment.

- Historical Significance
Pigeons have been used throughout history of various purposes:
 - ① Messenger Birds :- During wartime, pigeons were used to carry important messages across long distance.
 - ② Symbolism : Pigeons are often symbols of peace & love in different culture.



Red-billed Blue Magpie

The Red-billed Blue Magpie is an iconic bird species known for its vibrant plumage, striking red bill and playful behavior. It is native to mountain regions of India.

Overview

- Kingdom : Animalia
- Phylum : Chordata
- class : Aves
- Order : ~~Passeriformes~~
- Family : Corvidae
- Genus : Urocissa
- Species : Urocissa erythrogastra

Date : -

Location : -



Physical Characteristics:

- The bird is known for its striking blue feathers with contrasting black wings and tail, which can be over 60cm long.
- The tail feathers are long and gracefully curved, contributing to its distinctive appearance.
- The bill is bright red, which contrasts sharply with the blue and black plumage.
- The eyes are dark, and it has a white patch on the throat.

- Size

Length :- About 50-60cm (including tail).

Weight :- Around 150-200 grams.

- Habitat and Distribution

The Red-billed Blue Magpie is primarily found in the Himalay foothills, from northern India to part of Nepal, Bhutan, & Mya

It prefer montane forests and high-altitude habitats.

I saw these bird at my home near the stream. These bird have pleasant sound which can refresh our mind.

They are often found at altitudes ranging from 1000 to 3500 meters.

- Diet

The Red Billed Blue Magpie is omnivorous and opportunistic

It feeds on a variety of foods including :

- Fruits and berries
- Insects and small animals.
- Eggs and chicks of other birds
- Small reptiles.

Social Behavior

- These magpie are social birds and often travel in small groups or family units.

- They are known for their playful and behavior, engaging in loud, chattering calls,
- They are known to be monogamous and breed in pairs.
- The female lay 2-4 eggs which both parents take turns incubating.

Conservation & protection

The Red billed Blue Magpie is consider to be of "Least Concern" by the IUCN but habitat loss and human disturbance are threat to their population. Bird watching and ecotourism can play a role in raising awareness about the protection of their natural habitats.

Sparrow



Sparrow is on next page



Common Sparrow

Date:- 10/10/2024

Location:- Solan

Classification of sparrow

- Kingdom: Animalia
- Phylum: Chordata
- Class: Aves
- Order: Passeriformes
- Family: Passeridae
- Genus: Passer
- Species: Passer domesticus

Physical Characteristics:

- Size:- About 14-18cm in length
- Weight:- 24-40 grams
- Colour:- Brown, black & white with streaks on back.
- Short beak and conical, ideal for eating seeds.

- Life span:- 3-5 years in the wild.

Sparrows build their nests in sheltered areas, such as under eaves of houses, in tree branches, or in bushes. They use grasses, twigs & feathers to construct their nest.



Habitat and Distribution:

Sparrows are found in a variety of environments including cities, villages, forests and grasslands. But I rarely found them in our city. I saw a group of sparrows near my house at morning time. Their voice is peaceful and they prefer to live around human settlement. They are social birds, often seen in flocks.

DIET AND FEEDING HABITS:-

Sparrows are omnivorous and primarily feed on:

- Seeds and grains (wheat, rice, millet)
- Insects and larvae (especially for feeding their young ones)
- Fruits & vegetables
- Food scraps from human settlement.

BEHAVIOR & Social Life:

- Sparrows are highly social birds and often live in small flocks.
- They communicate through chirping and can be very vocal.
- They build nests in tree hollows under eaves or in walls using grass, twigs and feathers.
- They breed multiple times in a year, with females laying 3-5 eggs per clutch.

CROW

Date: 10/12/2024
 Location: Simmou

Classification of Crow

- Kingdom : Animalia
- Phylum : Chordata
- Class : Aves
- Order : Passeriformes
- Family : Corvidae
- Genus : Corvus
- Species : Corvus brachyrhynchos

Physical Characteristic

- Size:- Crows are medium sized birds, about 16 to 21 inches long, with that spread out 33 to 39 inches.
- Colour:- Crows are usually all black, with shiny, glossy feathers that can look blue or purple in the sunlight.
- Beak: They have a strong, sharp beak that helps them eat a variety of foods.
- Eyes:- Crows have dark, intelligent looking eyes.



- **Feet:-** Their feet are strong, helping them land and grab onto things.
- **Habitat & Distribution:**
Crows are found in many places like Forests, Cities, Fields & Coastal Areas. They are very adaptable, meaning they can live in almost any environment. Some common crow species are the American Crow and Common Crow. I saw a group of crows at my village, they are eating the dead body of an animal.
- **Why Crows are Important:**
 - **Cleaning up:-** Crows eat dead animals and other waste, helping to keep the environment clean.
 - **Spreading Seeds:-** Crows help plants grow by eating fruits and then spreading the seeds.
 - **Controlling the pests:-** They eat insects and small animals which helps control pests in the environment.
- **Challenges for crows:**
 - **Losing habitats:-** As cities grow, crows might lose place to live.

- Climate change :- Weather changes can affect where crows find food.
- Conflict with humans :- Sometimes crows are seen as pests, especially by farmers.
- Behaviour & Intelligence :-
 - Crows use sticks to get food like pulling bugs from trees
 - They can solve puzzles and understand tricky situations
 - Crows make many different sounds to communicate with each other like warning calls and sound of finding food.
 - Crows live in groups, called families and work together to find food & protect each other.



HOMING PIGEON

Date:- 20/12/2025

Location:- Solan

Classification of HOMING PIGEON

- Kingdom : Animalia
- Phylum : Chordata
- Class : Aves
- Order : Columbiformes
- Family : Columbidae
- Genus : Columba
- Species : *Columba livia domestica*

Physical characteristic:

- Size and Appearance - Medium sized bird with a rounded body, short neck and short legs.
- Typically grey with variations of white, black and brown.
- Adaptations for navigation:
 - exceptional vision and sensory abilities.
 - Specialized feathers and strong flight muscle for long distance travel.



Behavioural characteristics

- Homing pigeons have unique ability to return to their home location from their home location from far distances. They have incredible navigation skills, history with humans and their status in the world of avian studies.
- Specialized feathers and strong flight muscle for long distance travel.
- They have ability to use Earth's magnetic field, sun, and visual landmarks for orientation.
- I saw these pigeon near my room at siemou. My neighbour have group of homing pigeons which they use to trained to come back at home.

Historical significance

- Pigeons were used in warfare (WWI & WWII) for communication due to their remarkable abilities.
- The famous pigeon " Cher Ami " saved soldiers during WWI by delivering important message despite being injured.
- Pigeons are still used in racing and as a hobby around the world.

• Special features

- Exceptional navigational skills
- Strong muscle for sustained flight.
- Can recognize patterns, faces and landmarks.



MYNA

Date:-

Location:-

Classification of Myna

- Kingdom: Animalia
- Phylum: Chordata
- Class: Aves
- Order: Passeriformes
- Family: Sturnidae
- Genus: *Acridotheres*
- Species: Common Myna (*Acridotheres tristis*)
- Tangle Myna (*Acridotheres tristis*)
- Bank Myna (*Acridotheres tristis*)



Physical Characteristics:

- Size:- 22-30cm in length.
- Weight:- 80-140 grams
- Colour:- Mostly brown or black. Yellow legs and beak.
- Wings:- Strong flyers with white wing patches visible in flight.
- Life span:- 10-25 years in captivity, 4-7 years in the wild.

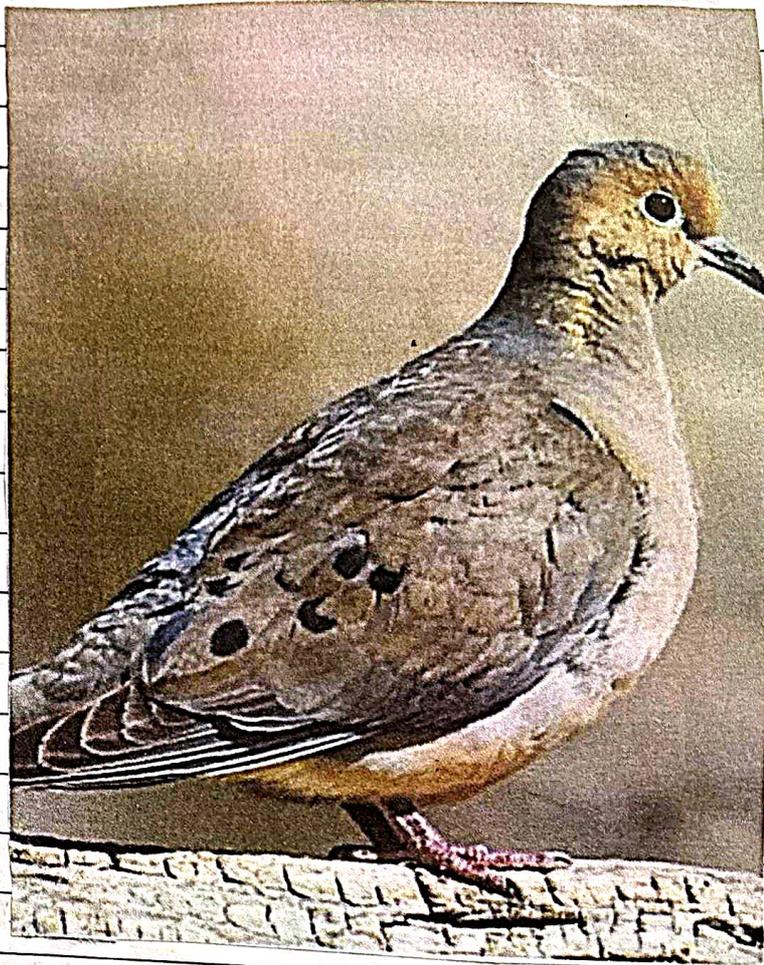
MOURNING DOVE

Date: 40/01/2025

Location: Siamour

Classification of Mourning Dove

- Kingdom: Animalia
- Phylum: Chordata
- Class: Aves
- Order: Columbiformes
- Family: Columbidae
- Genus: Zonotrichia
- Species: Zonotrichia macroura



Physical Characteristics:-

- Medium sized bird with a slender body and long, pointed tail.
- Soft brown and gray plumage with black spots on the wings.
- Dark eyes with a thin, blue ring around them.
- Small, black beak and pinkish red legs.

Distinctive features:

- Produce a mournful cooling sound, giving it its name.
- Flies with rapid wingbeats and makes a whistling noise when taking off.

Habitat and Distribution:

- Found across North America, Central America and some region of India. I saw these birds at school near my room on trees. They are adapted to different environments including urban areas and often seen perching on power line, fences or tree branches.

Diet and Feeding Habits:

- Omnivorous (seed eater): Eats a variety of seeds, grains and small fruits.
- Frequently forages on the ground for food.
- Swallows seeds whole and later grinds in its gizzard.

Behaviour and Adaptability

- Monogamous:- Mates often stay together for life.
- Builds simple, flimsy nests in trees, shrubs or even on building ledges
- Fast fliers, reaching speeds up to 55 mph (88 km/h)
- Known for moving-like calls and gentle behavior.

Importance In Ecosystem

- Helps in seed dispersal contributing to plant growth.