

What to expect @ Bhigwan

'Bharatpur of Maharashtra'



 **Rafiq Somani**, March 19th, 2022, 4 pm



1,400

Number of Bird species in India

308

Number of Bird species found at Bhigwan (eBird)

<https://ebird.org/printableList?regionCode=L2814614&yr=all&m=>

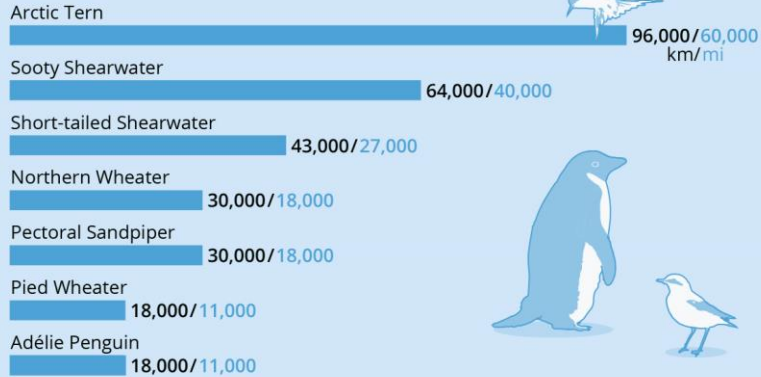
The backwater of Bhigwan Lake is formed due to the construction of a Dam (Ujjani dam) on the Bhima river.



A total of 77 species of migratory birds are seen @Bhigwan.

The World's Most Incredible Bird Migrations

Longest annual migration distances recorded for bird species*



Greater Flamingo

Rafiq Somani

How to Identify Birds?

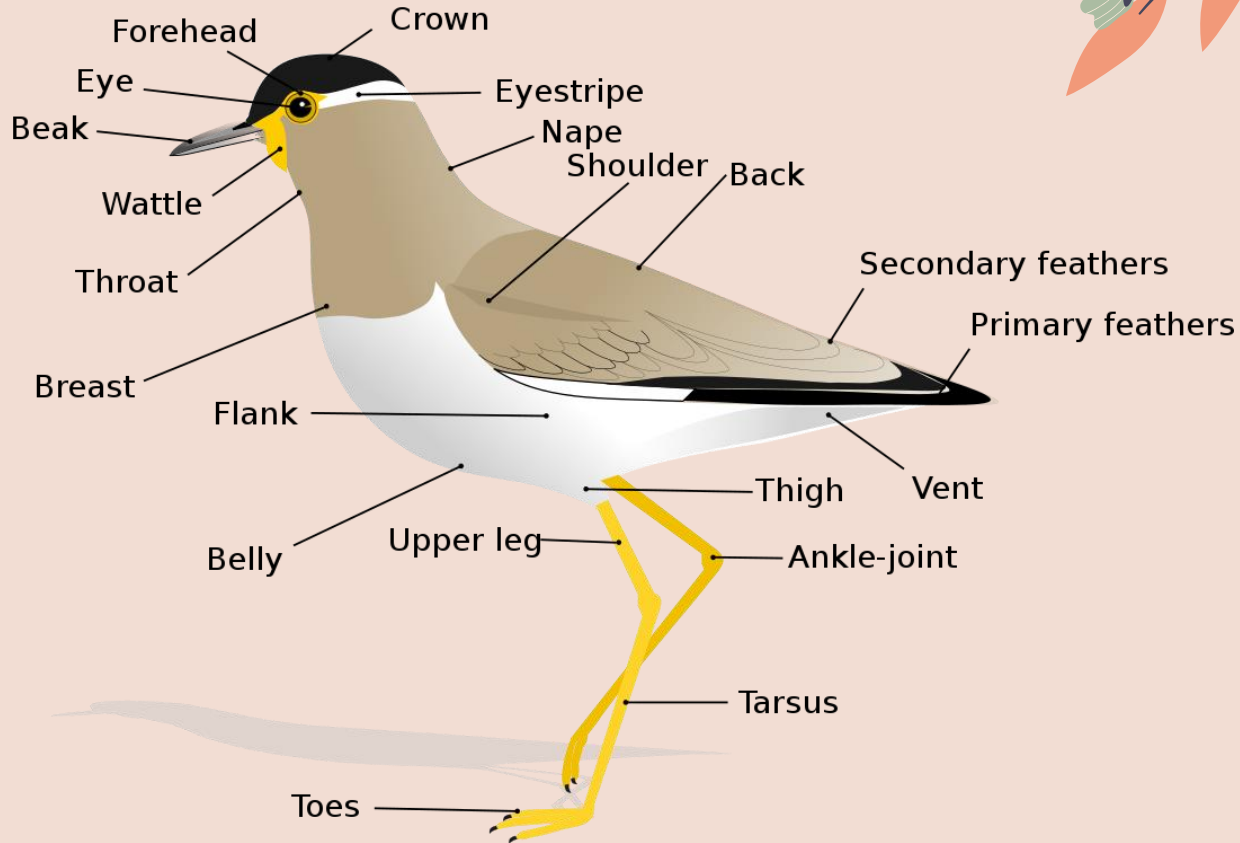


- 1. Physical feature (Size, shape, colour etc.)**
- 2. Behaviour (Flight/gait, Feeding etc.)**
- 3. Habitat (Wetland, Vegetation)**
- 4. Season (Winter, summer, monsoon)**
- 5. Calls**



Water Bird Anatomy

Yellow-wattled Lapwing



Common Redshank



Large

Common Greenshank



Large

Marsh Sandpiper



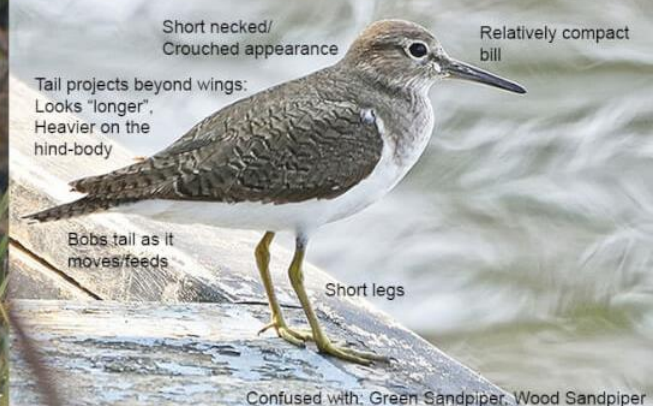
Wood Sandpiper



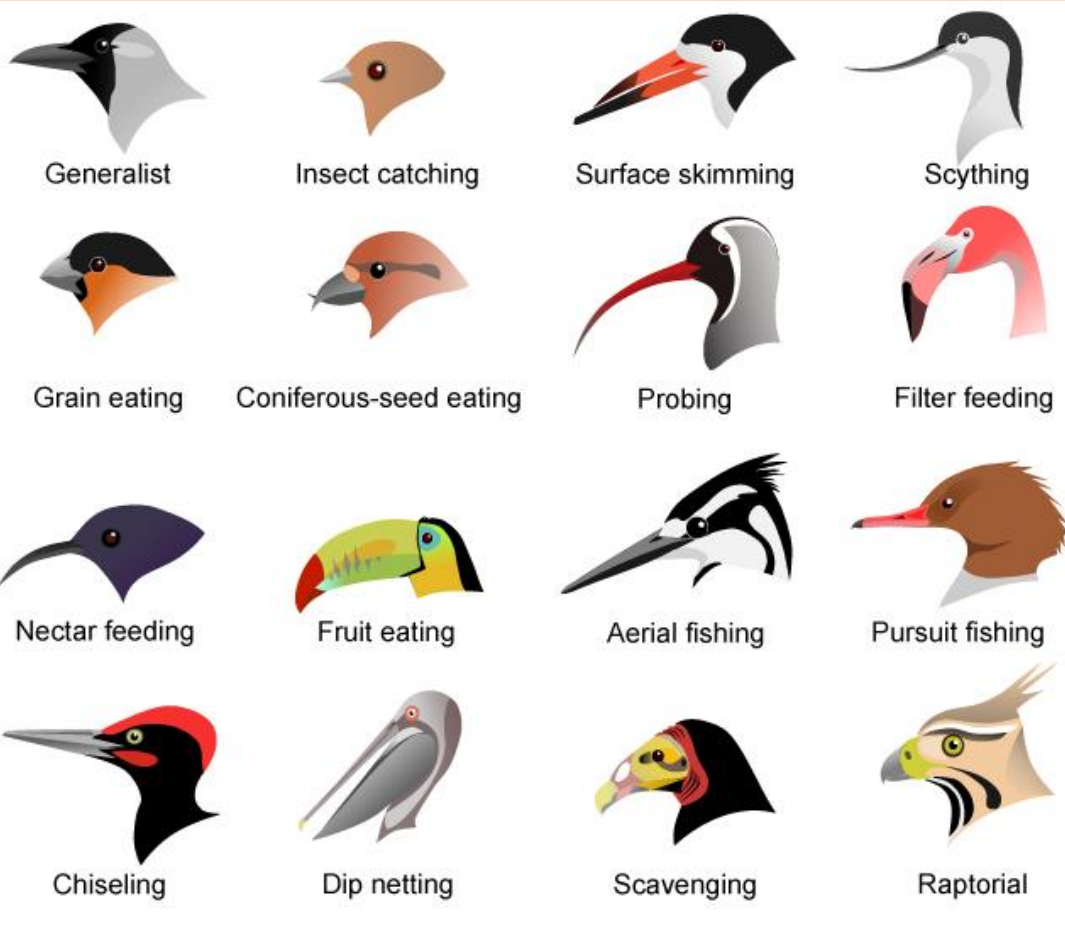
Green Sandpiper



Common Sandpiper



Behaviour: Foraging



Behaviour: Foraging

Aerial Fishing



Probing *



Filter Feeding



* Many sandpipers have sensitive nerve receptors in their bill tips, so they can find unseen prey through touch, odor, and pressure changes.

Dip Netting



Raptorial

Wetland Habitat

- **Wading** – Waterbirds mostly have long legs, and they habitually wade through water bodies e.g., Flamingos, Cranes, Herons, Egrets, Storks, Spoonbills, Stilts, Ibises, etc.
- **Edge of water**
 - Sandpipers, Wagtails, Kingfishers, etc.
- **Swimming**
 - Ducks, Grebes, Coots, etc.



Greater Flamingo

Rafiq Somani



Their bent bills allow them to feed on —plankton, tiny fish, shrimps...

Lesser Flamingo

eBird Ian Davies



The smallest flamingo with a long and very dark tricolored bill & red legs





Group of Flamingos called “Flamboyance”

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Painted Stork

Group of Storks called “Muster”

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They are large waders with distinctive pink flight feathers with a heavy yellow beak

Painted Stork

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Asian Openbill

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Gets its name from the distinctive gap in the dull grayish-yellow bill. Has Pinkish legs.

Grey Heron

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Quite common in wetlands. Stands quietly in or at the edge of the water.



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Purple Heron

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Large Heron with rusty head and streaky neck.

Oriental Darter

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Has long, slender snake-like neck and large pointed beak.

Eurasian Spoonbill

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Large white wading bird with a spatula for a bill. Adult has a short crest.

Black-headed Ibis

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Large white body wading bird with black head and neck.

Glossy Ibis

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Has a long and curved bill. Adults are mostly dark with iridescent green and reddish tones.

Red-naped Ibis

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Mid size Ibis with bluish-green sheen. Crown and nape covered in red warts



A group of Cormorants is called “Gulp”

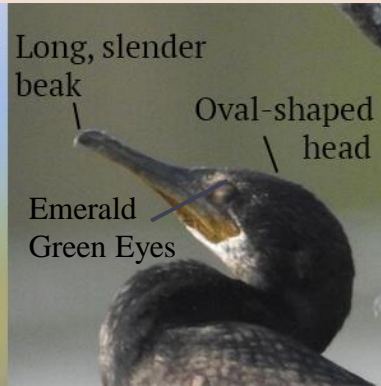
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Little Cormorant



Indian Cormorant



Great Cormorant







Little Egret

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Habits: Found around water bodies; skillful fisher. Identified by yellow 'socks'

Indian Pond Heron

– Breeding Plumage

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Black-crowned Night Heron

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Stocky heron with neck usually tucked in, black cap and back, and red eyes.

Black-winged Stilt

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Elegant shape, pied plumage, long pink legs, and long and fine bill

Brown-headed Gull

– nonbreeding adult

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Breeding adult has chocolate milk colour head. NB has a dark ear patch

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Black-headed Gull



Breeding adult has dark brown (not black) hood, red bill and legs

Brown

Black

Brown

Black

Breeding



Non-Breeding



1st winter



1st winters /Immatures

Adults (Br & non br)

Whiskered Tern

– nonbreeding adult

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Small buoyant tern, NB adult has silvery gray body with faded cap

Common Coot

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Is slaty black with a white bill and forehead shield. Has big feet with lobed toes

Common Coot

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Breeding pairs are highly territorial but nonbreeding flocks can number in hundreds.

Eurasian Wigeon

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Rufous head with buffy forehead, pearly gray body, and pinkish breast.

Ruddy Shelduck

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Bright ruddy overall with pale creamy head and neck. Male has black neck ring

Lesser Whistling Duck

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Pale brown overall, dark grey bill, orange-yellow eye ring and has a whistling call

Indian Spot-billed Duck

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Common residents duck with a yellow-tipped black bill & a red spot at the base.

Garganey

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Males have a big white eyebrow on the dark brown head, pale grey flanks

Gadwall

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Brownish with a black posterior with white patches in rear seen during flight.

Little Grebe

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Small & compact waterbird with a pointed bill with rich rufous neck

Black-tailed Godwit

– nonbreeding adult

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Has a long pink-based bill. Breeding has plumage rusty head & breast.

In flight shows bold white wing stripe, white rump, and black tail



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Bar-headed Goose

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Has bold black & white head and neck pattern. Orangey-yellow bill & legs

Northern Shoveler

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Huge spoon shape bill. Breeding male has a dark green head & white breast.

Red-wattled Lapwing

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Noisy bird, unique call 'did-he-do-it'. Black breast, throat, red bill with white tip.

Purple Swamphen

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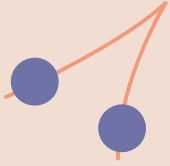
Large bluish-purple bird with a red bill & forehead shield. Long toes

White-throated Kingfisher

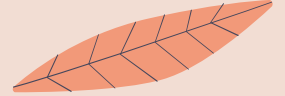
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Electric blue back and wings, a heavy bill with snow-white throat patch



Bhigwan Birding Tips & Guidelines



- **Carry Binoculars and Zoom camera (if available)**
- **Wear comfortable earth or neutral colour cotton clothes**
- **Carry Caps and Glares if possible**
- **Carry water bottles and stay hydrated**
- **Shoes should be comfortable rough use types**
- **If possible don't flush birds to fly**



Merlin App



The Cornell Lab

Merlin

ID Help: 7,500+ Species



Start Bird ID

Photo ID

Sound ID

Explore Birds



Explore Birds



Likely in Bhigwan, M...ashtra, IN - March 05 241 birds



Painted Stork



Indian Pond-Heron ✓



Black-winged Stilt



Black-headed Ibis



Glossy Ibis ✓



Gray Heron



Northern Shoveler



eBird account

The **Cornell** Lab of Ornithology

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MY STATS WORLD

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55

Species observed

14

Complete checklists

14 Total

10

Species with photos

11 Observations

0

Species with audio

0 Observations

0

Days of checklist streak

Best streak: 1 days





Bhigwan Bird Sanctuary [A Big One for Birds]

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If you are a nature lover and want to see Flamingoes with all their grace and beauty, then a visit to [Bhigwan](#) should be on top of your list. It is a small town located in central [Maharashtra](#) and is easily accessible from [Pune](#), [Baramati](#), and [Ahmednagar](#). Wetlands created because of the Ujani dam on the Bhima river here have created a conducive habitat for both residents as well as migratory birds. Bhigwan is also referred to as the [Bharatpur](#) of Maharashtra- a bird watchers' paradise. The best time to visit Bhigwan was between the months of December and March when the water levels are shallow and ideal for migratory birds.

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