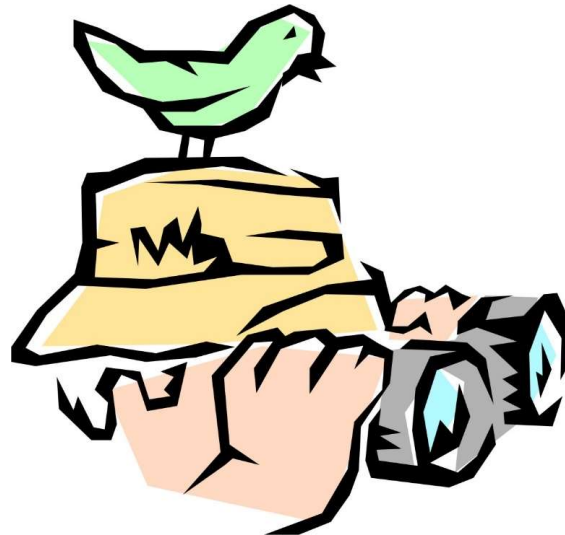


Bird Conservation Society of Gujarat

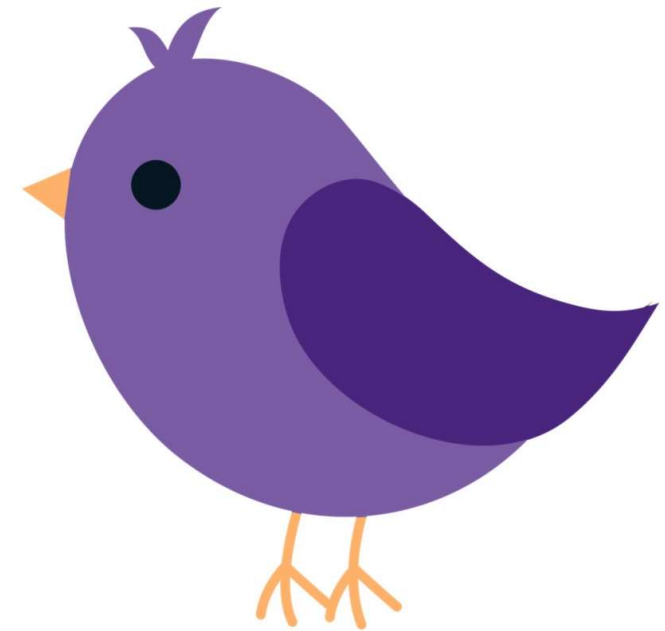
An Introduction to Birding



Prepared By Dr.Maulik Varu

What is a Bird ??

- A warm blooded, egg laying vertebrate
- Body covered with feathers
- Forelimbs modified to form wings



What is birding/birdwatching ??

- Observing birds
- Hearing calls/songs of birds
- Observing their colors, behavior, movements etc.



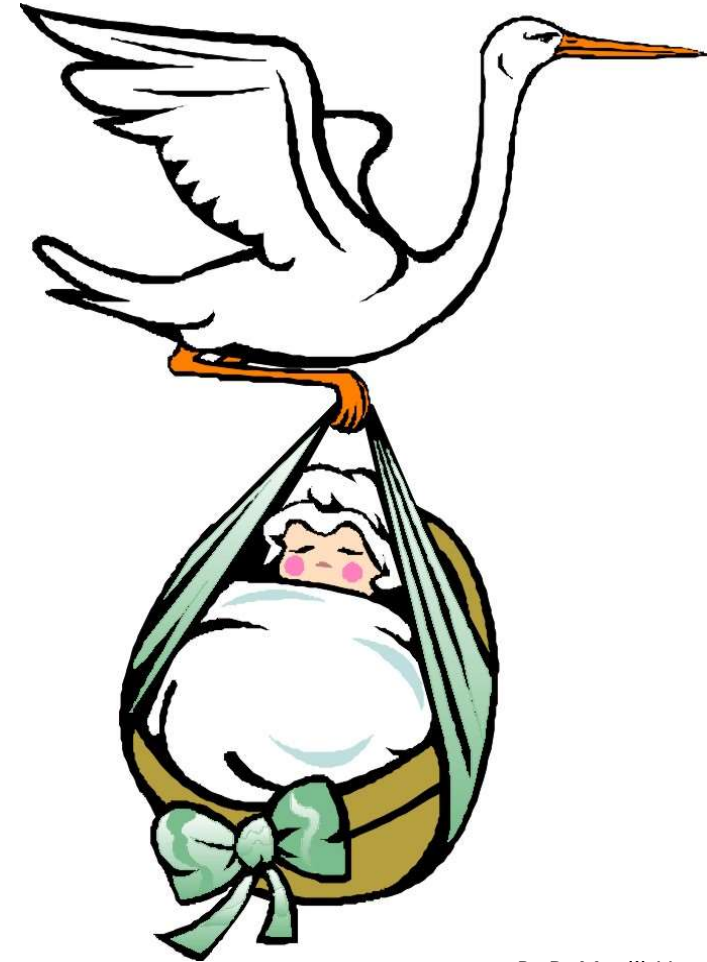
Why birding ??

- Quality time spend with nature
- Keeps you Physically and mentally healthy
- Aids in conservation efforts
- Contribution to science
- Good message to our next generation



Importance of Birds

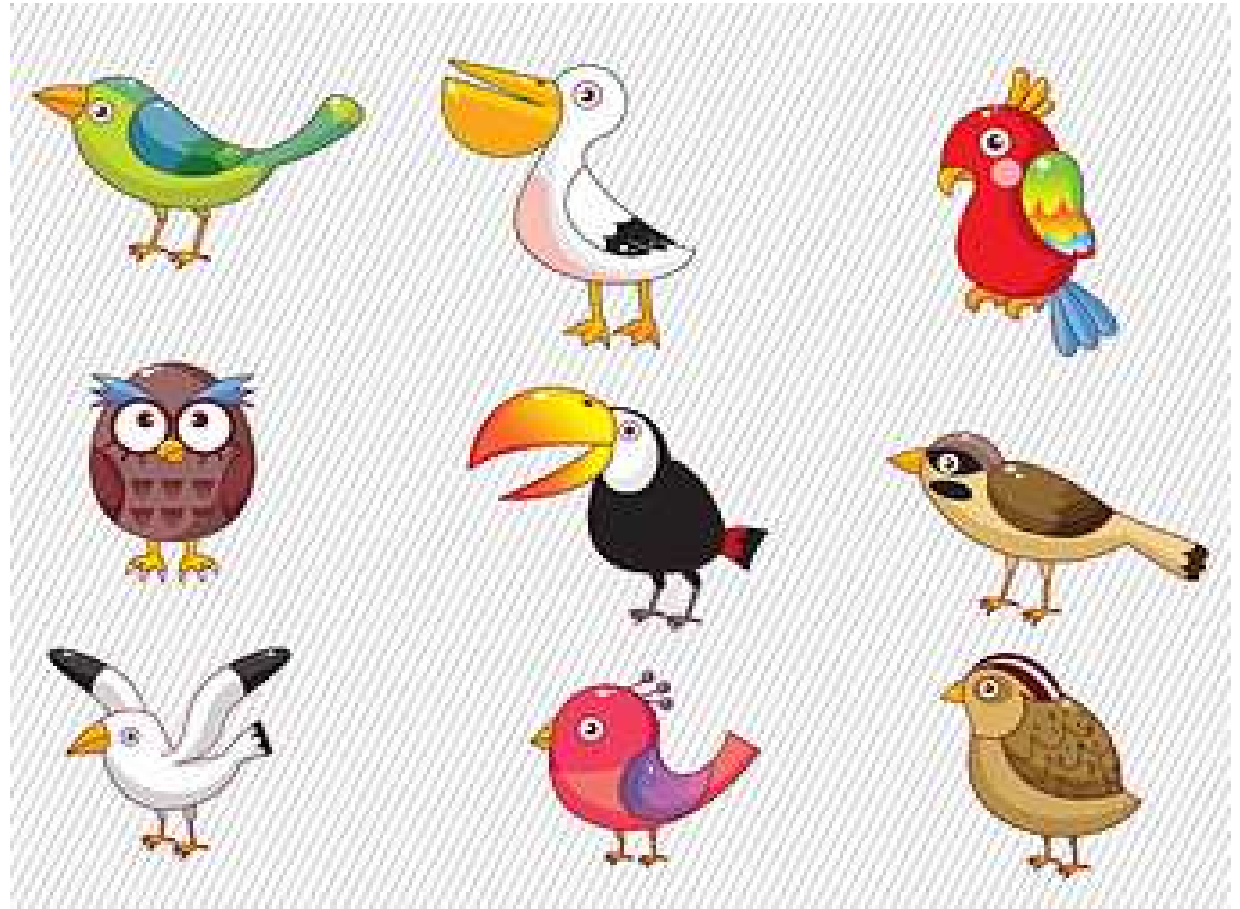
- Natural pest control helps in agriculture
- Pollination carrier
- Birds like vultures are scavengers. By feeding upon dead animals, they keep our environment clean and prevent spread of diseases
- Birds that feed upon fruits, excrete seeds which helps to grow more trees
- Maintain the balance of ecosystem



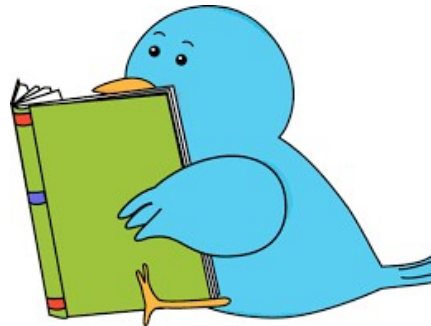
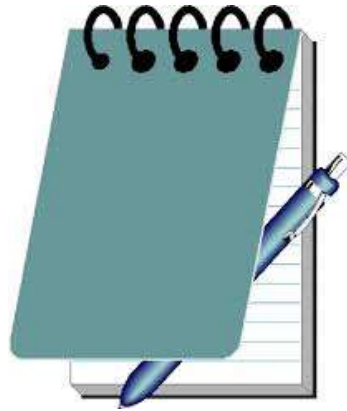
By Dr.Maulik Varu

Total number of bird species

- World: 9000+
- India: 1300+
- Gujarat: 600+



Requirements



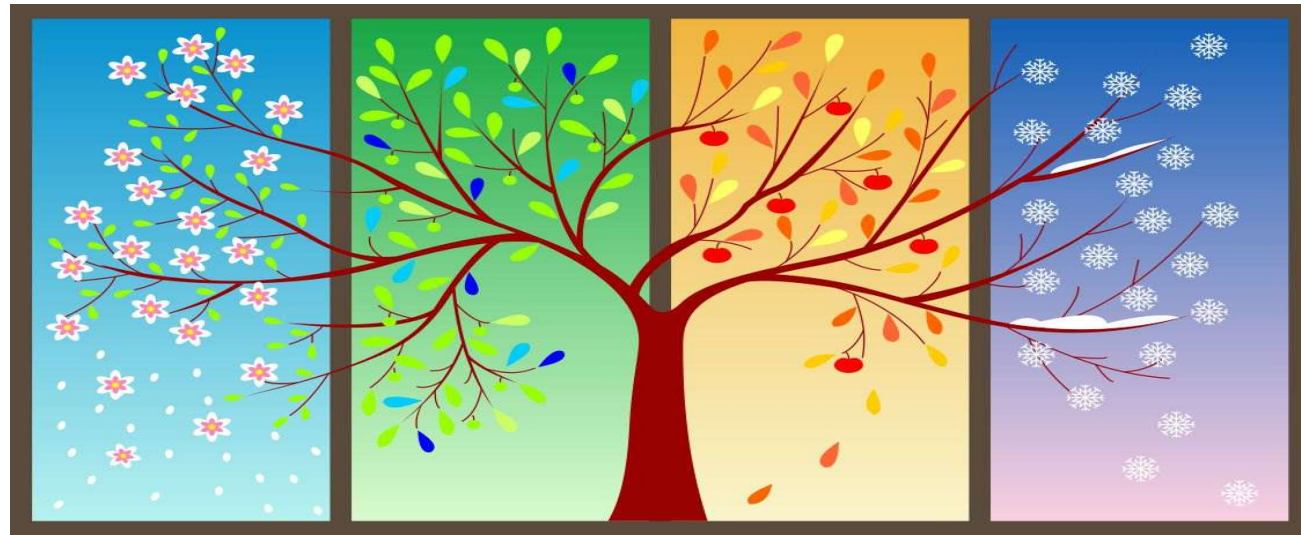
Where to go??

- Backyard
- Wetland
- Forest
- Grassland
- Scrubland
- Farmland
- Mountains/Hills



Best season for birding ??

- Depends on your target
- For Winter migrant birds: November – February
- For Resident birds: Throughout the year
- For monitoring nesting activity: breeding season of particular species
- For autumn passage migrants: August-October



Best time for birding ??

- Early morning: best
- Evening also good
- Owls and nocturnal birds at night

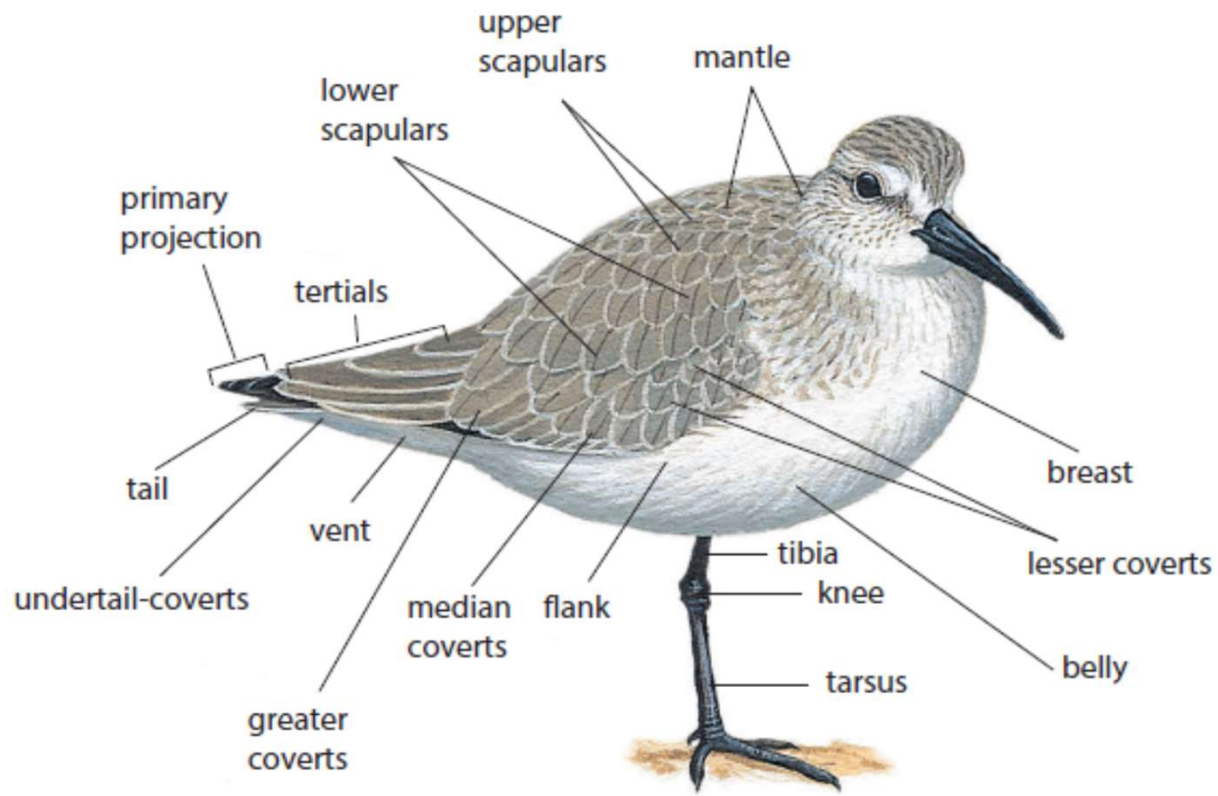


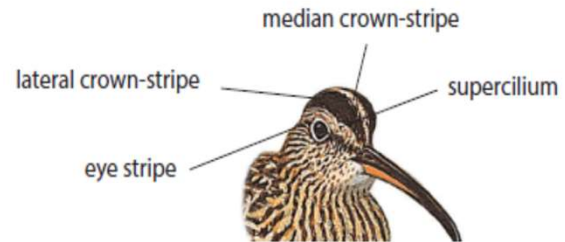
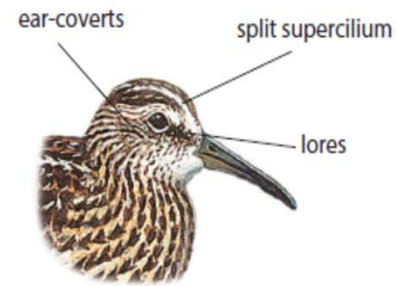
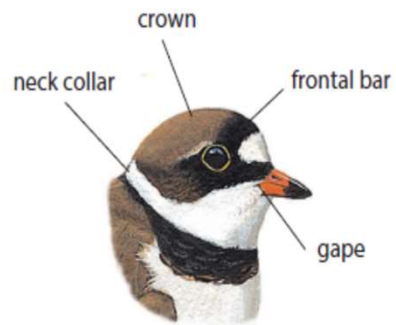
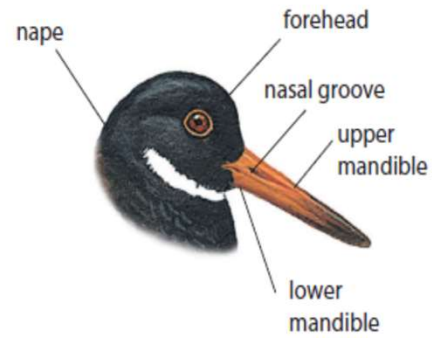
What to look for ??

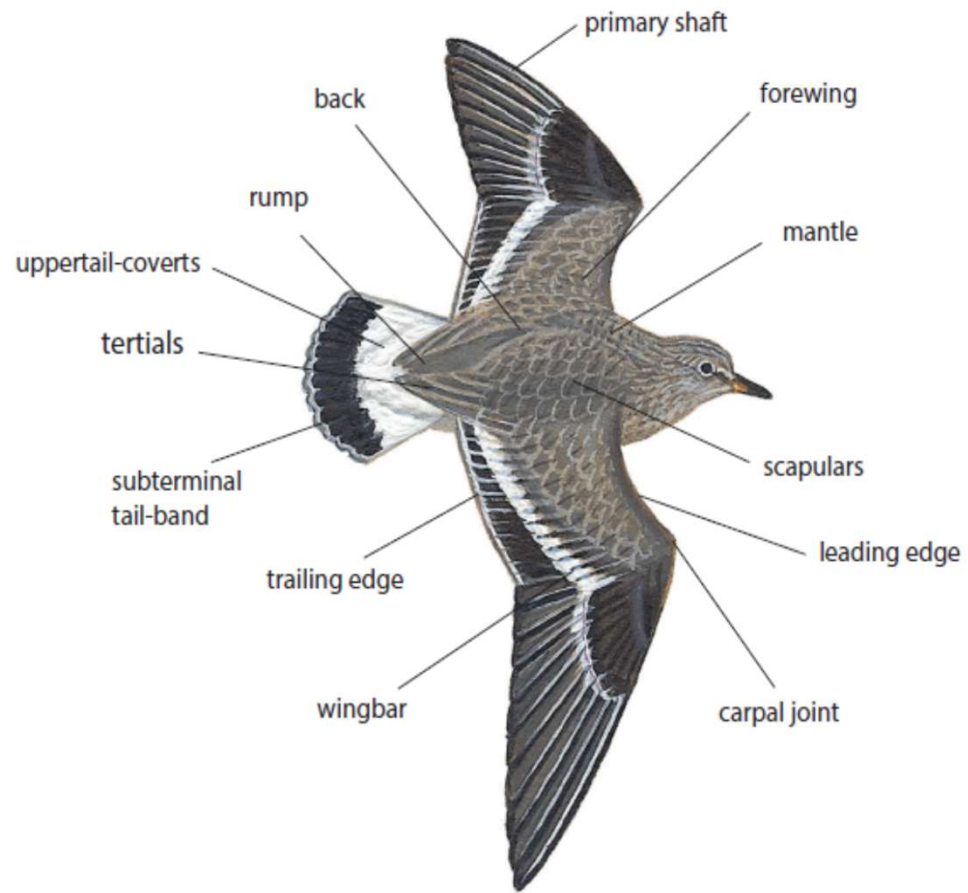
- Try to put it in a basic family
- Size
- Shape
- Behavior
- Flight characteristics
- Call/song
- Location
- Time
- Specific field marks
 - Wingbar
 - Supercilium
 - Rump
 - Eye color
 - Tail
 - Primary projection



Topography of a bird







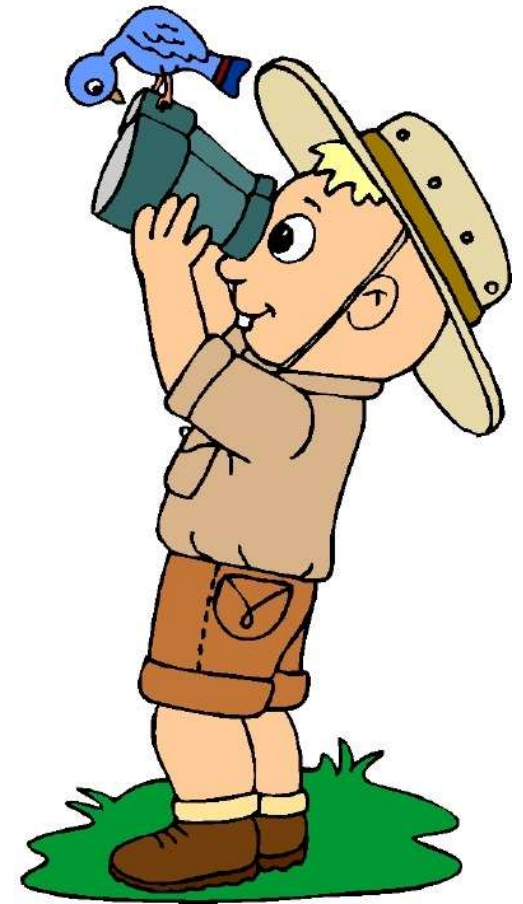
Birding ethics

- Don't disturb birds
- Walk gently and on established path
- Avoid call playback
- Obey forest rules
- Don't approach nesting birds
- Avoid going in large groups



How to become a better birder ??

- Spend more and more time in field
- Buy a good quality binoculars
- Buy a good field guide
- Join an experienced birder friend
- Obtain a local checklist of your area
- Make your life list
- Be a keen observer



Get more involved

- Join a local NGO/Nature Club in your surroundings
- Become a member of organizations like BCSG, BNHS, SACON etc
- Attend nature camps, workshops, seminars, conferences etc



Contribute

- Upload your data on eBIRD
- Upload photos, audio, video on various online platforms
- Publish your important sightings
- Take participation in activities like
 - Great backyard bird count
 - Asian Waterbird Census
 - Lavkumar Khacher Bird Count
 - Salim Ali Bird Count



Acknowledgements

- www.clipart-library.com



