

ENDEMIC BIRDS OF ANDAMAN & NICOBAR ISLANDS



पर्यावरण एवं वन विभाग
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Andaman Green-pigeon *Treron chloropterus* (Blyth)

The Andaman Green Pigeon usually occurs singly or in small groups. It is a medium-sized pigeon, the head is green to greenish-yellow, and the underparts are green. The under-tail coverts are mainly whitish or pale yellowish in colour and legs are reddish. It eats the seeds and fruits of a wide variety of plants. It can be commonly seen in the evergreen forest and edges. (Photo: ZSI)

Andaman White-headed Starling *Sturnia erythropgia* (Blyth)

IUCN Status: Near Threatened

It is distributed throughout Andaman. Head and under parts are cream white, wings and tail are glossy greenish-black. This species is mainly found in forest clearings and edges, farmlands, plantations, beaches, and grass. (Photo: ZSI)



Andaman Drongo *Dicrurus andamanensis* (Beavan)

IUCN Status: Near Threatened

This species is mainly found in Andaman Islands. It has a deeply forked tail, a heavy black bill and plumage is black and glossed with green. It is common in evergreen forests. (Photo: ZSI)

Andaman Bulbul *Pycnonotus fusciflavescens* (Temminck)

It is endemic to Andaman group of Islands. It has olive yellow plumage and has most of the head olive. It is locally common in forests, forest edges, and thick jungle. It feeds on small fruits, berries and also will take insects. (Photo: ZSI)



Andaman Cuckoo-dove *Macropygia rufipennis andamanica* (Abdulali)

IUCN Status: Near Threatened

The Andaman Cuckoo Dove is found in dense, broad-leaf, primary and secondary evergreen forest. The species is frugivorous and takes a variety of fruits and berries. It is endemic to the Andaman and Nicobar Islands (Nancowry group and Great Nicobar Islands). (Photo: ZSI)

Andaman Hawk-owl *Nonox affinis* (Beavan)

IUCN Status: Near Threatened

This species is generally found in lowland forest, and is known to occur in low secondary forest, as well as mangrove forest, settlements, plantations, lightly wooded areas and forest clearings, apparently hawking insects at dusk. (Photo: Rajneesh Suvarna)





Andaman Teal *Anas albogularis* (Hume)

The Andaman Teal is a species of small duck found in the Andaman Islands. The species is dark brown with buffy markings. The face and throat are pale with a white ring around the eye. The bill is bluish grey and the iris is red. They are found in inland wetlands as well as mangroves and lagoons. They feed mainly on mollusks and arthropods. (Photo: ZSI)

Andaman Serpent-eagle *Spilornis elgini* (Blyth)

IUCN Status: Near Threatened

This is a species of bird of prey & it belongs to the family Accipitridae. Adult birds have dark brown under parts and under wing coverts with white spot. This species commonly can be seen in the tropical moist lowland forests and tropical mangrove forests. It feeds on frogs, lizards, snakes, birds, and rats. (Photo: ZSI)



Andaman Coucal *Centropus andamanensis* (Beavan)

IUCN Status: Near Threatened

It is endemic to these islands and is found in forest-edge gardens, cultivation and mangrove areas. It closely resembles the Greater Coucal (*Centropus sinensis*), except that its plumage is a fawn brown as opposed to *C. sinensis*'s bluish-purple. It has a chestnut rear mantle and wings and the head is pale tawny brown. The mantle and breast grade from pale to dark brown on the belly and vent. (Photo: ZSI)

Andaman Woodpigeon *Columba palumboides* (Hume)

IUCN Status: Near Threatened

Andaman Woodpigeon is uncommon species in the dense forest of this archipelago and occurs in pairs or small parties. It is frugivorous, taking a wide variety of large berries and fruit, and wanders between islands in search of food sources such as fruiting fig trees. (Photo: Jainy Kuriakose)

State Bird of A & N Islands



Nicobar Megapode *Megapodius nicobariensis* (Blyth)

IUCN Status: Vulnerable

This species is found in Nicobar Islands. Colour of the bird is rufous-brown with short crest. Adult has bare, reddish facial skin, lacking in juvenile. Legs are greenish-brown. It is locally common in coastal dry deciduous forest. Megapodes are unique group of birds which incubate their eggs in mounds. It is also referred to as "thermometer birds" as this species incubate their eggs in constructed mounds of rotting vegetation, which they manipulate in order to regulate the temperature. (Photo: K. Sivakumar)

Narcondam Hornbill *Aceros narcondami* (Hume)

IUCN Status: Endangered

This species is restricted and confined to the Narcondam Island with an area of 6.82 km². It was first discovered by A.O. Hume in 1873 & named it after the Island. It is an interesting species from ecological and evolutionary point of view. The population appears to be stable over the years. (Photo : Niranjan Sant)



Nicobar Parakeet *Psittacula caniceps* (Blyth)

IUCN Status: Near Threatened

This species is mainly found in the Nicobar group of Islands (Great, Little Nicobar, and Kondul Islands). Colours of the male birds are yellowish green, with buffish grey head, black forehead and road black chin stripe. It is generally found in tall trees in the evergreen forests. (Photo: ZSI)

Andaman Treepie *Dendrocitta bayleyi* (Tytler)

IUCN Status: Near Threatened

It is distributed throughout Andamans. It is a long-tailed passerine species & it belongs to the family Corvidae. It is generally found in pairs or parties in tall trees in dense broad-leaved evergreen forest, near the coast, and on hill slopes. (Photo: ZSI)



Andaman Cuckooshrike *Coracina dobsoni* (Boddaert)

It is a medium sized arboreal bird, generally long and slender. It is usually found singly or in pairs. It mainly feeds on insects and also eats small vertebrates, fruits, seeds and other plant matter. It is mostly found on the top of trees. (Photo: ZSI)

Andaman Shama *Copsychus albiventris* (Scopoli)

This species is a resident bird of the Andamans. It is similar to white-rumped Shama, but has white belly. It is fairly common in dense forest, scrub and gardens, especially in dense ravines near water.



Andaman Woodpecker *Dryocopus hodgei* (Blyth)

IUCN Status: Near Threatened

It is mainly found in the South and Middle and surrounding islets of Andamans. Colour black, larger in size. Male has a red crown, crests and moustachial stripe. It occurs in evergreen and open forests. (Photo: ZSI)

ENDEMIC BIRDS AT SUBSPECIES LEVEL



Nicobar Pigeon
Caloenas nicobarica nicobarica
(Linnaeus)



Common Hill-Myna
Gracula religiosa andamanensis
(Beavan)



Andaman Blackcrested Baza
Aviceda leuphotes andamanica
(Abdulali)



Andaman Green Imperial-Pigeon
Ducula aenea andamanica
(Abdulali)



Andaman Collared Kingfisher
Halcyon chloris davisoni
(Sharpe)



Andaman Red-breasted Parakeet
Psittacula alexandri abbotti
(Oberholser)



Andaman Little Green Heron
Butorides striatus spodiogaster
(Linnaeus)



Andaman Red-cheeked Parakeet
Psittacula longicauda tytleri
(Hume)

The Andaman and Nicobar Islands, popularly known as 'Bay Islands', are situated in the Bay of Bengal, mid way between peninsular India and Myanmar, spreading like a broken necklace in the North-south direction. These islands are located between 6° 45' and 13° 41' N latitudes and 92° 12' and 93° 57' E Longitudes. There are 572 islands which lie 193 km away from Cape Negrais in Myanmar, 1255 km from Kolkata and 1190 km from Chennai.

The total geographic area of Andaman and Nicobar Islands is 8249 km², of which Andaman group of islands cover 6408 km² while Nicobar group cover 1841 km². The maximum altitude of these islands is 730m at Saddle Peak in North Andaman, formed mainly of limestone, sandstone, and clay. Two islands of volcanic origin are found, namely the Narcondam and the Barren islands. The former is now apparently extinct while the latter is still active. The climate is typical tropical and it is always warm, but with sea-breezes. The tropical hot and humid climate with abundant rains has resulted in very luxuriant and rich vegetation of tropical rain forests.

Long isolation of these islands from mainland has resulted in a high degree of endemism both in plants and animals. **The term "endemic" refers to any species found only within a defined geographical area.** The fauna & flora of Andamans have close affinities to Indo-China and Nicobars to the Indo-Malayan.

The Andaman and Nicobar Islands are one of the 218 Endemic Bird Areas of world as identified by Birdlife International. Out of 10,000 bird species of world or more, about 2500 are endemic, which have small, restricted ranges, being confined to a particular area.

This archipelago is considered as Paradise of Biological Diversity. About 8425 species of fauna are found in A & N Islands, of which 846 species are endemic to these Islands. A total of 280 species of birds were found in A & N Islands belonging to 56 families under 17 orders. **Out of 280 species of birds, 105 are endemic at species and subspecies level.** Of the 142 endemic bird species of the Indian subcontinent, 28 are found in Andaman and Nicobar Islands. Though the A & N Islands form only 0.25 per cent of the landmass of the India, they support 12 per cent of the endemic avifauna.

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