

Flying Jewels of Gavardhan Ecovillage BUTTERFLIES

There are more than 60 butterfly species recorded here, we provide information about top 30 most common butterfly species here.

SKIPPERS (8 SPECIES)

Malabar Spotted Flat (*Celaenorrhinus ambareesa*)

This forest dweller is often seen resting on rocks. Comes to flowers for nectar. Fast flier. Caterpillar feeds on *Asystasia* plants, and remains hidden in the rolled leaf.

45-55 mm Jan-Dec



Common Redeye (*Gangara lebadea*)

Confined to wooded areas, especially where its favourite host plant bamboo grows. Visits flowers in lower bushes. Gets its name for its striking red eyes.

40-55 mm Jan-Dec



BLUES (9 SPECIES)

Common Cerulean (*Jamides celeno*)

A false eye dot and a tail is a deception for predators to attack for its head. Most common just after rains. Caterpillars feed on Pongam and are protected by ants.

27-40 mm Jan-Dec



Grass Jewel (*Chilades trochylus*)

This tiny butterfly is the smallest butterfly in India. Seen along the road on flowers. Always flies along the ground level. Caterpillar feeds on Turnsole while they are fiercely protected by the guarding ants.

12-18 mm Sep-May



Red Pierrot (*Talicauda nyseus*)

This butterfly will always be found near its favourite food plant – the fleshy-leaved *Kalanchoe*. Caterpillars survive by remaining hidden inside the fleshy leaves they feed on.

30-36 mm Jan-Dec



Wingspan

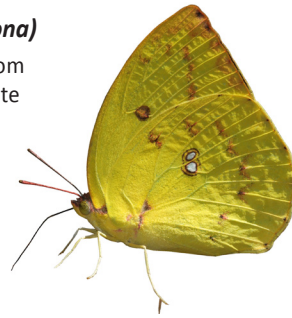


YELLOWS & WHITES (11 SPECIES)

Common Emigrant (*Catopsilia pomona*)

This fast flier is usually seen fleeing from flower to flower. Often known to migrate in large numbers for new pastures. Caterpillars feed on leaves of Indian Laburnum tree.

55-80 mm Jan-Dec



Common Jezebel (*Delias eucharis*)

Bright colours of this butterfly are actually warning colours to its would-be predators. Flies slow enough for its would-be predator recognize its warning colours and keep off. Caterpillars feed on parasitic Mistletoe plants.

66-83 mm Jan-Dec



Common Grass Yellow (*Eurema hecabe*)

Most common butterfly in this campus, seen all round the year among grasses. On hot days, several of these butterflies could be seen on damp patches on mud. Caterpillar feeds on leaves of Pot Cassia and English Tamarind.

40-50 mm Jan-Dec



White Orange Tip (*Ixias marianne*)

Confined to forested area, this butterfly is seen more commonly during rains. Flowers are its favourite for nectar. Female is not brightly patterned. Caterpillar feeds on Caper plants.

50-55 mm Jan-Dec



Yellow Orange Tip (*Ixias pyrene*)

Bright flier is the male, while female is much duller. More common around forested areas. Like most butterflies, it loves to bask in the sun. Seen on flowers and on damp patches. Caterpillar feeds on Capers.

50-70 mm Jan-Dec



BRUSH FOOTED BUTTERFLIES (24 SPECIES)

Plain Tiger (*Danaus chrysippus*)

More local and common butterfly in this area. Its caterpillar feeds on the toxic Giant Milkweed plants, and accumulates plant toxins that make this butterfly distasteful. Birds soon learn to keep off from this distasteful butterfly.

70-80 mm Jan-Dec



Striped Tiger (*Danaus genutia*)

Birds soon learn to avoid this brightly patterned butterfly, as it is distasteful. Seen on flowers and on Rattlepod plants. Caterpillar feeds on Flytrap plants.

72-100 mm Jan-Dec



Common Crow (*Euploea core*)

Slow sailing flight of this dark butterfly is unmistakable. Distasteful for birds. Seen on flowers and on Rattlepod plants. Caterpillar feeds on leaves of Oleander, Banyan and Peepal trees.

85-95 mm Jan-Dec



Common Evening Brown (*Melanitis leda*)

Certainly an exception, as unlike most butterflies this butterfly flies during the early hours at dusk and late in the evening. Eyespots on the wings are seen only during the rains, dry season form has no eyespots, but the drab brown marks make this butterfly invisible among dry leaves.

60-80 mm Jan-Dec



Blue Tiger (*Tirumala limniace*)

Commonly seen on flowers and on Rattlepod plants. Birds avoid this distasteful butterfly. Known to migrate along with Striped Tiger. Caterpillar feeds on Green Milkweed Climber.

90-100 mm Jan-Dec



Baronet (*Euthalia nais*)

Most active flier during the hottest part of the day. Prefers forested areas. Prefers to feed on overripe fruits and tree sap. Caterpillars feed on Tendu leaves.

60-70 mm Sep-Jun



Danaid Eggfly (*Hypolimnas misippus*)

This attractive butterfly prefers to fly in drier, open areas. Female could be easily mistaken for distasteful Plain Tiger, whom she mimics to escape being eaten by birds.

70-85 mm Jan-Dec



Peacock Pansy (*Junonia almana*)

A marsh loving butterfly, commonly seen where its favourite foodplant, Talimkhana grows in abundance. Eye spots on the wing help in deflecting predator's attention from attacking its head.

60-65 mm Jan-Dec



Blue Pansy (*Junonia orithya*)

Open grassy patches and dry stream beds patches are its favourite where it flits at ground level during the hottest time of the day. Undersides are paler resembling leaves.

45-60 mm Nov-May



Common Sailer (*Neptis hylas*)

Common butterfly seen sailing along the road, and often settling on flowers. More abundant during rains. Caterpillar feeds on leaves of Red Silkcotton Tree.

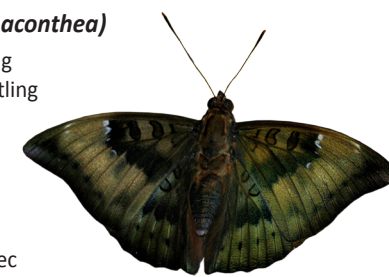
50-60 mm Jan-Dec



Common Baron (*Euthalia aconthea*)

Common butterfly seen sailing along the road, and often settling on flowers. More abundant during rains. Caterpillar feeds on leaves of Red Silkcotton Tree.

55-80 mm Jan-Dec



Bamboo Treebrown (*Lethe europa*)

Shy butterfly, prefers to remain around bamboo clumps in the woodland. Flies close to ground in search of over ripe fallen fruits or oozing tree sap. Never visits flowers.

65-75 mm Mar-Nov



Blue Oakleaf (*Kallima horsfieldi*)

Classic example of adaptive mimicry – a leaf like look perfectly copied. Usually sits with closed wing to avoid detection from predators. Never visits flowers, but over ripe fruits are its favourite.

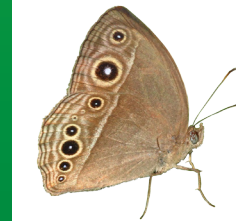
85-110 mm Jun-Nov



Common Bushbrown (*Mycalesis perseus*)

Eyes on the wings are only seen during the rains, in summer the spots are absent which helps them to merge among the fallen leaves. More than flowers, over ripe fruits are its favourite.

38-55 mm Jan-Dec



Common Four-ring (*Ypthima huebneri*)

Four eye spots on its hindwing give this butterfly its name. During the dry season, eye spots on hindwing are reduced to small dark spots. Caterpillar feeds on grasses.

30-40 mm Mar-Dec



SWALLOWTAILS (8 SPECIES)

Tailed Jay (*Graphium agamemnon*)

Restless flier, seen on flowers along the road. Truly a city dweller and rather rare in forests. Custard Apple and Mast tree are its favourite food plants to lay eggs on.

85-100 mm Jan-Dec



Common Jay (*Graphium doson*)

A swift flier, seen visiting flowers, and comes to mud-puddle on stream banks. Mast tree and Custard Apple are its most favoured food plants to lay eggs on. Caterpillars remains well camouflaged.

70-80 mm Jan-Dec



Common Rose (*Pachliopta aristolochiae*)

Bright crimson colours of this slow flier warn predators of distasteful encounters. Caterpillar feeds on poisonous Birthwort plant which makes them distasteful. Known to migrate.

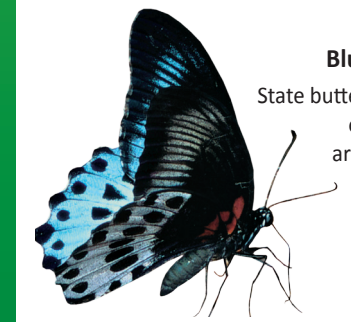
80-110 mm Jan-Dec



Blue Mormon (*Papilio polymnestor*)

State butterfly of Maharashtra. Mainly a dweller of the forested hills. Migrates to lower areas during rains. Strong weaving flight is typical of this butterfly. Caterpillar feeds on lemon plants.

120-150 mm Jul-Nov



Common Mormon (*Papilio polytes*)

Male does not resemble the female, but she mimics two distasteful butterflies; Common Rose and Crimson Rose. Caterpillar feeds on Curry-leaf and Lemon. A familiar butterfly in the garden.

90-100 mm Jan-Dec



Lords of Sky
BIRDS
of Govardhan Ecovillage

There are 1266 bird species found in India of which 63 are found in Govardhan Ecovillage. Check out 30 interesting birds here.

VERY SMALL BIRDS (8-13 cm)

Pale-billed Flowerpecker (*Dicaeum erythrorhynchos*)

One of the smallest among birds. Feeds on nectar and berries. Prefers urban gardens with berry bearing trees. Nest is small pendant purse-like structure made of cobwebs, fibre, moss, suspended from the tip of a twig.

8 cm



Green Warbler (*Phylloscopus nitidus*)

Known for its amazing migration from Himalaya to Peninsula and Andaman Islands in winter. Feeds on insects including caterpillars. Nest is on the ground in low shrub.

10-11 cm



White-rumped Munia (*Lonchura striata*)

Frequents open woodland, grassland and scrub, and is well adapted to agricultural lands. Feeds mainly on seeds, moving through the undergrowth in groups. Often found near water and have been observed feeding on algae.

10 cm



Sahyadri Sunbird (*Aethopyga vigorsii*)

Exclusively found in evergreen and moist-deciduous forest of Western Ghats. Strongly curved bill used for nectar feeding. Also feeds on small insects, and spiders. Nest is purse-like, with porch, ornamented with scraps of forest litter, and attached to twig.

10-15 cm



Indian Pygmy Woodpecker (*Picoides nanus*)

Forest bird found in the wooded areas mostly with the mixed-hunting flocks (i.e. different birds hunting in groups). Feeds on insects, larvae, ants, termites, beetles, spiders. Nests in the trunk of the trees.

13 cm



Photo credits: Vijay Anand Ismavel, Amit Bhandekar, Aravind R., Pravin Kawale

All species mentioned here are listed under IUCN as Least Concern species



SMALL BIRDS (14-18 cm)

Common Iora (*Aegithina tiphia*)

Insect eating bird. Known for its long musical whistles and short chirps. During the breeding season the male performs an acrobatic courtship display, darting up into the air fluffing up all his feathers, then spiraling down to the original perch.

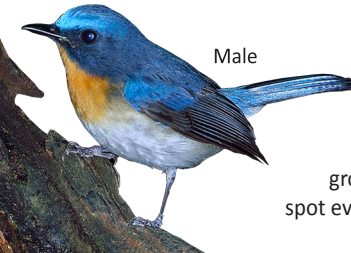
14 cm



Tickell's Blue Flycatcher (*Cyornis tickelliae*)

Local migrant. Males and females look different. Feed mainly by capturing insects in flight but their prey includes insects such as termites and earwigs that may be gleaned or picked from the ground. Wary bird and very difficult to spot even after metallic song clearly heard.

14 cm



Black-naped Monarch (*Hypothymis azurea*)

Slim and agile passerine bird. Males and female look different. Found in thick forests and other well-wooded habitats. Feeds on insects. Eggs are laid in a small cup nest in a tree.

16 cm



Coppersmith Barbet (*Psilopogon haemacephalus*)

Fruit eating bird with short fat bill. Call resembles sound of a distant coppersmith hammering his metal hence the name coppersmith. Makes nests by digging hole in a tree trunk.

17 cm



Red-whiskered Bulbul (*Pycnonotus jocosus*)

Common bird seen among hill forests as well as urban gardens. Feeds on fruits and insects. Get their English name due to a red feather on its cheek. Calls are loud and melodious.

18-20 cm



Photo credits: Benjamin Naden, Pravin Kawale

MEDIUM BIRDS (20-21 cm)

Asian Green Bee-eater (*Merops orientalis*)

Insectivorous bird. Known for its aerial sallies after bees and other insects snapping them in the bill and coming back to the perch.

21 cm



Indian Paradise-flycatcher (*Terpsiphone paradisi*)

Handsome local migrant from thick forests and well-wooded habitats. Males, females and juveniles look different. Both partners build neat cup nest of grass and fibers plastered with cobwebs built in fork of tree.

20 cm



Orange-headed Thrush (*Geokichla citrina*)

Melodious songster, shy, secretive bird usually occurring on ground. Mostly preferring shady damp areas. Feeds on wide range of insects, earthworms and fruits.

21 cm



Oriental Magpie-robin (*Copsychus saularis*)

Common bird in urban gardens as well as forests. Particularly well known for their songs. Feeds on insects. Males and females look different. Female builds the grass lined nests almost anywhere from thick shrubs, in the fork of branches.

20 cm



Jungle Owlet (*Glaucidium radiatum*)

Mainly active at dawn and dusk, but is known to call and fly during daytime as well. Found on tall trees and steep hillslopes. Feeds mainly on beetles and other insects.

20 cm

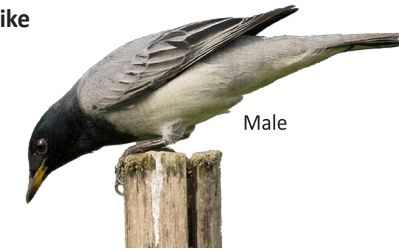
Photo credits: Harjit Singh, Vivek Raut, Pradeepkumar Devdass, Tanmay

AVERAGE BIRDS (20-25 cm)

Black-headed Cuckoo-Shrike (*Lalage melanoptera*)

Local migrant. Males and females look different. Feeds mostly on insects, especially caterpillars also take fruit such as berries and figs.

20 cm



Red-rumped Swallow (*Cecropis daurica*)

Insect feeding bird from open grasslands. Fast fliers who catch insects while in flight. Makes mud nests over cliff edges.

20-23 cm

Lesser Cuckoo (*Cuculus poliocephalus*)

Passage migrant from Himalaya to Sri Lanka. Uniquely marked in black stripes on chest. Brood parasite (i.e. does not make its own nest and lay eggs in its host nest) of small warblers. Feeds on insects.

22-27 cm



Long-tailed Shrike (*Lanius schach*)

Highly vocal predatory bird of scrub and open habitats. Impales its prey on thorns before tearing them apart with sharp beak. Master of mimicry which are not limited to bird calls. Mainly feeds on large insects, small reptiles and mammals.

25 cm

Black-hooded Oriole (*Oriolus xanthornus*)

Local migrant. Feeds on insects, fruits and berries. Known to build nest on same tree occupied by Black Drongo probably for protection.

25 cm



Photo credits: Jose Luis Conzelcao, Un-Hoi Jung, Zhongying Koay, Vivek Raut

LARGE BIRDS (25-34 cm)

Jungle Babbler (*Turdoides striata*)

Gregarious and very social. Usually seen hopping on forest floor and agricultural lands always seen in a group of 7 to 8. They feed mainly on insects, but also eats grains, nectar and berries.

25 cm



White-throated Kingfisher (*Halcyon gularis*)

Largest among the kingfishers who are often be found away from water. Feeds on a wide range of prey that includes small reptiles, amphibians, crabs, small rodents and even birds. Call is like a loud shrill. State bird of West Bengal.

28 cm

Black-rumped Flameback (*Dinopium benghalense*)

One of the few woodpeckers that are seen in urban areas. Unique in having rattling-whinnying call and an undulating flight. Pointed bill and sticky long tongues helps in feeding on insects hidden inside tree bark.

29 cm



Eastern Spotted Dove (*Spilopelia chinensis*)

Long tailed pigeon with spotted neck. Prefers woodland, scrub, and farmland. Move in pairs on ground looking for seeds and grains. Both partners make nest which is a cup of twigs.

30 cm



Shikra (*Accipiter badius*)

Extraordinary hunter. Their vision is eight times more acute than the vision of humans. Found in a range of habitats including forests, farmland and urban areas singly or in pairs. Feeds on lizards and small birds.

30-34 cm



Photo credits: Saurabh Sawant, S. Saqib Shams, Debashish Das, Vidya, Paul

VERY LARGE BIRDS (35-51 cm)

Greater Racket-tailed Drongo (*Dicrurus paradiseus*)

Largest among the drongos. Prefers forest habitats. Well-known for its loud metallic calls and mimicry. Aggressive and may steal food from other birds. Feeds on insects and flower nectar. Cup nest is built in the fork of a tree.

31-35 cm



Lesser Whistling-duck (*Dendrocygna javanica*)

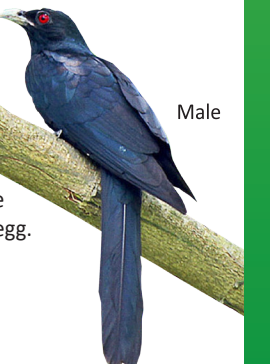
Aquatic duck, rests during day time and feeds at night in paddy fields. Feeds on shoots and grains but sometimes on fish and snails. Produces shrill whistling calls while flying.

42 cm

Western Koel (*Eudynamis scolopaceus*)

Males are famous for their songs. Females look different. Feeds on fruits, berries and insects. Known as brood parasite on crows. Male distracts the nesting female crow while the female Koel sneaks in her egg by removing one egg.

43 cm



Greater Coucal (*Centropus sinensis*)

Large bird found in wide range of habitats from jungle to cultivation and urban gardens. Weak fliers, often seen among vegetation walking on the ground as they forage. Feeds on fruits, snails, insects, field mice, lizard, snakes, eggs of other birds.

48 cm



Cattle Egret (*Bubulcus ibis*)

Aquatic bird. Usually seen with grazing cattles, riding on their back or running in and out between their legs, catching insects that get disturbed by cattle movement. They get golden yellow feathers along their head, neck and back during breeding season.

51 cm



Photo credits: Francisco Herrera

Concept, content and design by Ladybird Environmental Consulting LLP
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