

The Pench Tiger Reserve, Maharashtra nestling in the lower southern reaches of the Satpuda hills is situated in the northern part of eastern Vidarbha. It was established as Pench National Park in 1975 and it the status of tiger reserve in 1999. It gets its name from its lifeline-the Pench River. Strategically, the Tiger Reserve is located in the heart of the Central Indian Tiger landscape, which contributes to almost 1/6 th of the total tiger population of the country. It has a good connectivity with Kanha (MP), Pench (MP), Tadoba-Andhari, Navegaon-Nagzira and Bor Tiger Reserves.

#### WETLAND BIRDS

Wetlands include lakes, ponds, rivers, mangroves, swamps and marshy areas. They are important habitats and are used by birds for breeding and nesting, as well as for feeding, shelter and a source of drinking water. Most of the birds listed under this group are only seen at wetlands (eg. Ducks, Cormorants, Waders, Herons etc) whereas there are a few (Cattle Egret, White-throated Kingfisher, Yellow-wattled Lapwing) that are frequently seen away from water as well. Several migratory species visit our wetlands in winter.

#### AERIAL FEEDING BIRDS

Aerial Feeders like Swallows and Swifts are insectivorous birds that hunt and feed on the wing. They have pointed wings and can often be seen gliding gracefully through the air or performing acrobatics to catch insects. They are very fast in flight and prefer open areas, and are sometimes seen near water. At dawn and dusk, Swallows may be found perching in groups on wires.

#### BIRDS OF PREY



Birds of Prey or Raptors hunt and feed on other animals, including smaller birds. They have excellent eyesight, strong feet, sharp talons for hunting, and a hooked beak for tearing into flesh. Among the birds listed in this group, some (eg. Black Kite, Shikra) have adapted to human habitats, whereas others (Buzzards, Eagles) can be seen in open habitats like farmland/scrub. Owls are also included in this group and are skilled night hunters.

#### GROUND FEEDING BIRDS


Ground Feeders are a diverse group of birds that are primarily terrestrial and feed on the ground. They include large birds like Pheasants and Crows to medium-sized birds like Babblers, Mynas and Starlings. Some ground foragers like Wagtails are seen at wetlands, but most prefer open areas/scrub. This category also includes birds like Shrikes, Rollers and Chats which may perch low in a bush, but find their prey (small insects/reptiles) on the ground.

#### ARBOREAL BIRDS

Arboreal Birds are those whose life cycles are associated with trees and shrubs, and include a wide variety of birds found in forests, open woodland and urban gardens. Many arboreal birds feed on fruits and berries (eg. Hornbills, Bulbuls, Barbets, Parakeets), while others feed on insects from bark (eg. Woodpeckers), in foliage (eg. Cuckoos, Orioles, Warblers) or in the air (eg. Flycatchers, Drongos, Bee-eaters). Some like Sunbirds feed on nectar from flowers. Smaller species may be seen at low levels while larger birds prefer the forest canopy.

  Gender symbols indicate where the male and female of the species look different. If no symbols are shown, it means that they look alike.

 Migratory birds which come to Pench National Park during the winter months Oct-March, from their breeding grounds in the Himalayas or Central Asia/Europe.

Size indicates the length of the bird from beak tip to tail tip;  indicates breeding plumage.

Bird illustrations used with permission from "Birds of the Indian Subcontinent" by Richard Grimmett, Carol Inskipp and Tim Inskipp.



## Birds of Pench Tiger Reserve, Maharashtra






a pocket guide to 141 familiar birds

### WETLAND BIRDS



**DUCKS**  
feed on the surface of waterbodies

Indian Spot-billed Duck 60 cm  

Northern Pintail 55 cm  

Ruddy Shelduck 64 cm 

Lesser Whistling-Duck 42 cm

Cotton Pygmy-Goose 35 cm  

Indian Cormorant 63 cm

Little Cormorant 51 cm

**CORMORANTS/DARTERS**  
are completely black birds that often perch on the shore or on a submerged twig with outspread wings

Little Grebe 27 cm

Oriental Darter 92 cm

Common Kingfisher 16 cm

White-throated Kingfisher 27 cm


**GREBES**  
often dive below the surface for fish


Stork-billed Kingfisher 35 cm

**KINGFISHERS**  
have large heads, strong bills and short legs

Pied Kingfisher 25 cm

**JACANAS**  
have elongated toes and can walk on floating leaves


Bronze-winged Jacana 63 cm 


Pheasant-tailed Jacana 63 cm 

White-breasted Waterhen 32 cm

Little Ringed Plover 16 cm

**WADERS**  
like sandpipers, plovers and stints prefer marshy areas near the edges of water bodies

Common Sandpiper 20 cm 

Green Sandpiper 20 cm 

Black-winged Stilt 25 cm 

Black-headed Ibis 60 cm

**IBISES**  
are large birds with a long, downcurved bill

Glossy Ibis 60 cm

Red-naped Ibis 73 cm

River Tern 42 cm


Indian Thick-Knee 37 cm


**TERNs**  
have long, pointed wings and a graceful flight

Yellow-wattled Lapwing 27 cm

**LAPWINGS**  
have long, pointed wings and a graceful flight


Red-wattled Lapwing 33 cm

Little Egret 63 cm 

Intermediate Egret 80 cm 

Great Egret 90 cm

**EGRETS/HERONS**  
are medium to large-sized birds with long legs and neck, and a thick, sharp bill.

Indian Pond-Heron 46 cm 

Grey Heron 96 cm

**STORKS**  
are large birds with a slow-flapping flight

Cattle Egret 51 cm 

Painted Stork 96 cm


Asian Openbill 68 cm

Black Stork 95 cm

Woolly-necked Stork 83 cm

### AERIAL FEEDING BIRDS

**SWIFTS, SWALLOWS & MARTINS**  
have long, pointed wings and a streamlined body and spend most of their time flying

Barn Swallow 18 cm 

Crested Treeswift 23 cm

**NIGHTJARS**  
are active at night and sleep during the day

Red-rumped Swallow 16 cm

Jungle Nightjar 30 cm

Wire-tailed Swallow 14 cm

Little Swift 15 cm

### BIRDS OF PREY

Shikra 35 cm

Oriental Honey Buzzard 60 cm

White-rumped Vulture 80 cm

White-eyed Buzzard 43 cm

Crested Serpent Eagle 65 cm

**EAGLES/BUZZARDS**  
are larger raptors (birds of prey) that hunt many species of small animals and birds

Grey-headed Fish-Eagle 72 cm

Changeable Hawk-Eagle 68 cm

Osprey 56 cm

Black-winged Kite 35 cm

Black Kite 60 cm

Jungle Owlet 20 cm

Brown Fish-Owl 56 cm

**KITES**  
are hawk-like birds often seen around habitation

Indian Scops Owl 24 cm

**OWLS**  
are nocturnal and roost in trees during the day

Spotted Owl 21 cm

## GROUND FEEDING BIRDS



**PHEASANTS**  
are heavy birds that make short flights

**CROWS**  
are noisy birds, with long straight bills

Grey Francolin  
33 cm

Red Spurfowl  
36 cm



Indian Peafowl  
110 cm (m) 85 cm (f)

Red Junglefowl  
70 cm (m) 44 cm (f)



Large-billed Crow  
47 cm

House Crow  
40 cm



Jungle Babbler  
25 cm

Large Grey Babbler  
28 cm

Hoopoe  
31 cm



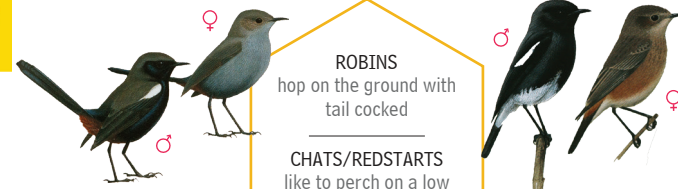
White-browed Wagtail  
21 cm

Grey Wagtail  
19 cm



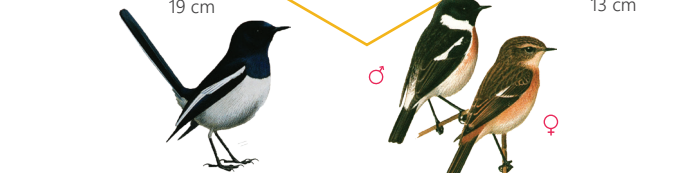
Paddyfield Pipit  
15 cm

Orange-headed Thrush  
21 cm



Indian Robin  
19 cm

Pied Bushchat  
13 cm



Oriental Magpie Robin  
20 cm

Siberian Stonechat  
13 cm



Indian Roller  
33 cm

Black Redstart  
15 cm



Long-tailed Shrike  
25 cm

Bay-backed Shrike  
17 cm



Rufous-tailed Lark  
16 cm

Indian Bushlark  
14 cm

Common Myna  
25 cm



Jungle Myna  
23 cm

Chestnut-tailed Starling  
21 cm



Brahminy Starling  
21 cm

Rosy Starling  
21 cm



Asian Pied Starling  
23 cm



Indian Pitta  
19 cm

House Sparrow  
15 cm



Scaly-breasted Munia  
11 cm

Indian Silverbill  
11 cm

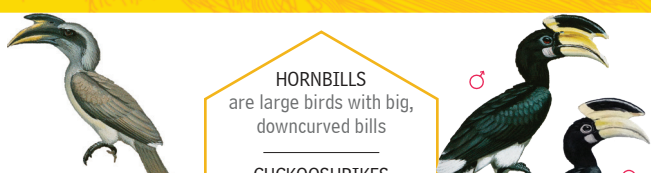


Baya Weaver  
15 cm

Yellow-throated Sparrow  
14 cm

Red Avadavat  
10 cm

## ARBOREAL BIRDS



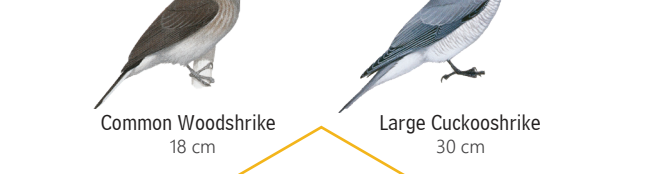
Indian Grey Hornbill  
50 cm

Malabar Pied Hornbill  
65 cm



Common Woodshrike  
18 cm

Large Cuckooshrike  
30 cm



Golden-fronted Leafbird  
19 cm

Common Iora  
14 cm



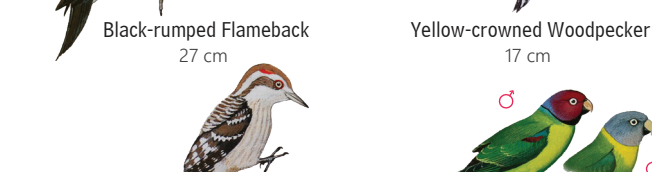
Rose-ringed Parakeet  
42 cm

Alexandrine Parakeet  
53 cm



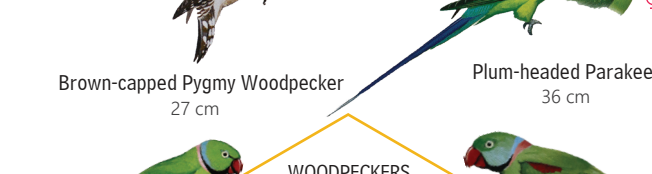
Black-rumped Flameback  
27 cm

Yellow-crowned Woodpecker  
17 cm



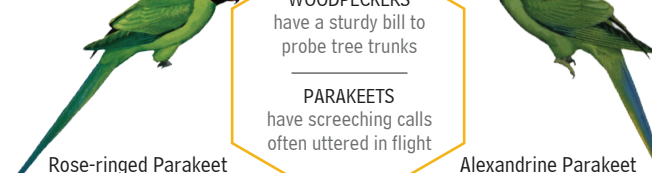
Brown-capped Pygmy Woodpecker  
27 cm

Plum-headed Parakeet  
36 cm



Asian Koel  
43 cm

Pied Cuckoo  
33 cm



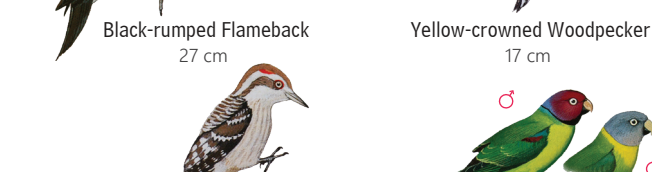
Rose-ringed Parakeet  
42 cm

Alexandrine Parakeet  
53 cm



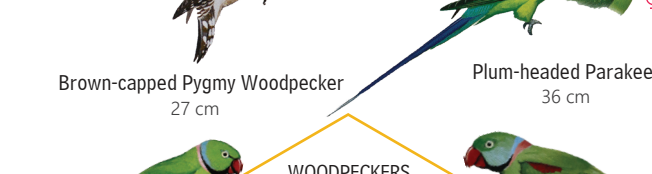
Black-rumped Flameback  
27 cm

Yellow-crowned Woodpecker  
17 cm



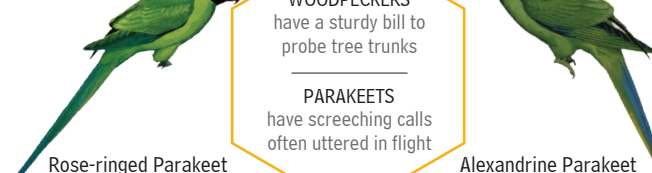
Brown-capped Pygmy Woodpecker  
27 cm

Plum-headed Parakeet  
36 cm



Asian Koel  
43 cm

Pied Cuckoo  
33 cm



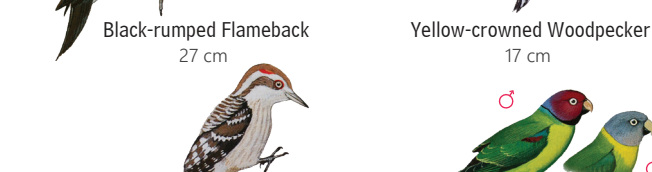
Rose-ringed Parakeet  
42 cm

Alexandrine Parakeet  
53 cm



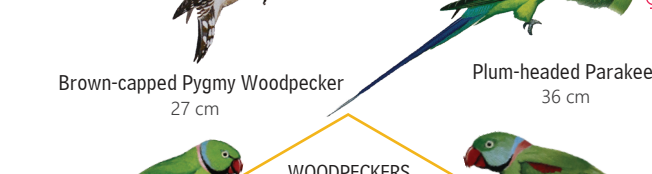
Black-rumped Flameback  
27 cm

Yellow-crowned Woodpecker  
17 cm



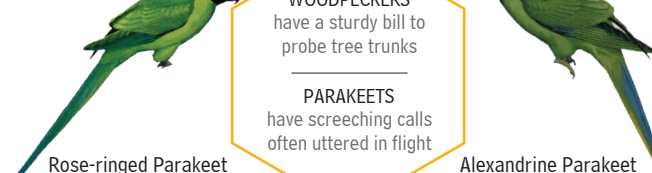
Brown-capped Pygmy Woodpecker  
27 cm

Plum-headed Parakeet  
36 cm



Asian Koel  
43 cm

Pied Cuckoo  
33 cm



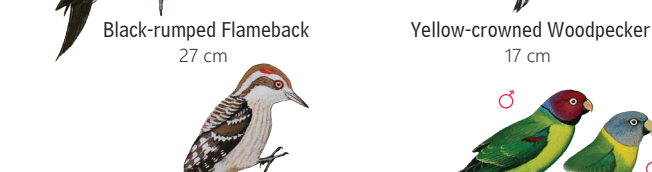
Rose-ringed Parakeet  
42 cm

Alexandrine Parakeet  
53 cm



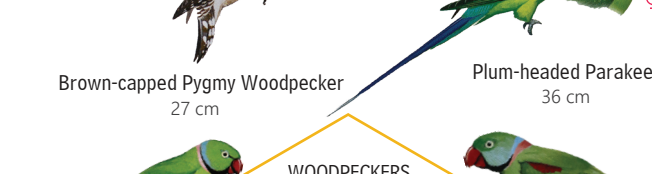
Black-rumped Flameback  
27 cm

Yellow-crowned Woodpecker  
17 cm



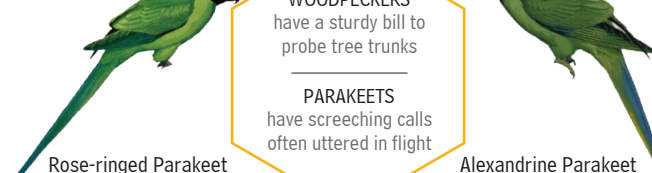
Brown-capped Pygmy Woodpecker  
27 cm

Plum-headed Parakeet  
36 cm



Asian Koel  
43 cm

Pied Cuckoo  
33 cm



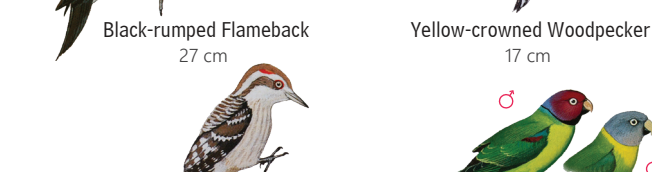
Rose-ringed Parakeet  
42 cm

Alexandrine Parakeet  
53 cm



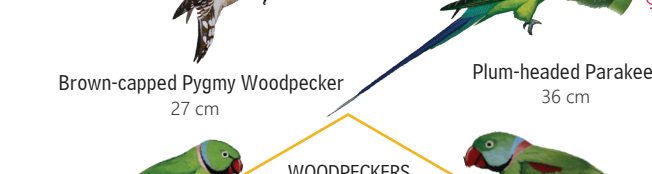
Black-rumped Flameback  
27 cm

Yellow-crowned Woodpecker  
17 cm



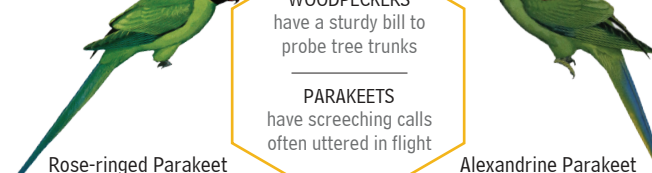
Brown-capped Pygmy Woodpecker  
27 cm

Plum-headed Parakeet  
36 cm



Asian Koel  
43 cm

Pied Cuckoo  
33 cm



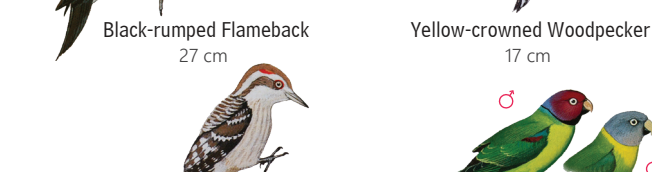
Rose-ringed Parakeet  
42 cm

Alexandrine Parakeet  
53 cm



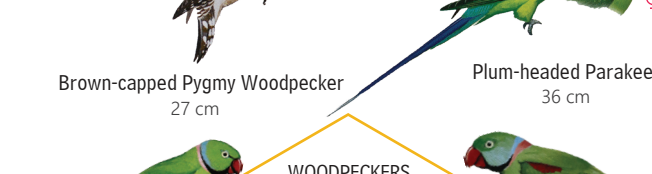
Black-rumped Flameback  
27 cm

Yellow-crowned Woodpecker  
17 cm



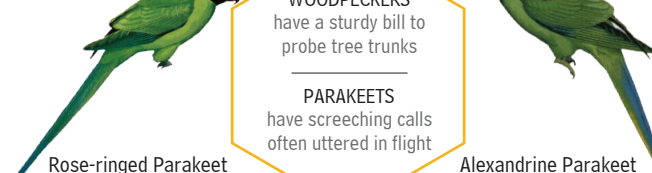
Brown-capped Pygmy Woodpecker  
27 cm

Plum-headed Parakeet  
36 cm



Asian Koel  
43 cm

Pied Cuckoo  
33 cm



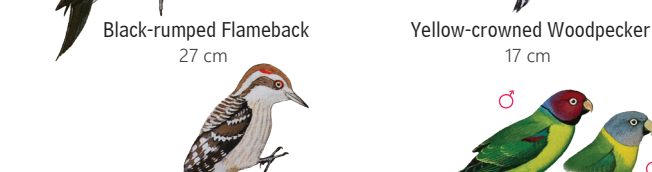
Rose-ringed Parakeet  
42 cm

Alexandrine Parakeet  
53 cm



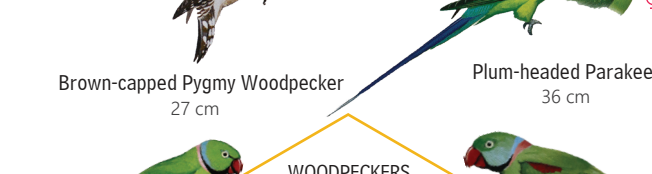
Black-rumped Flameback  
27 cm

Yellow-crowned Woodpecker  
17 cm



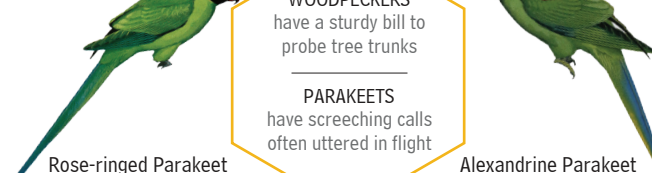
Brown-capped Pygmy Woodpecker  
27 cm

Plum-headed Parakeet  
36 cm



Asian Koel  
43 cm

Pied Cuckoo  
33 cm



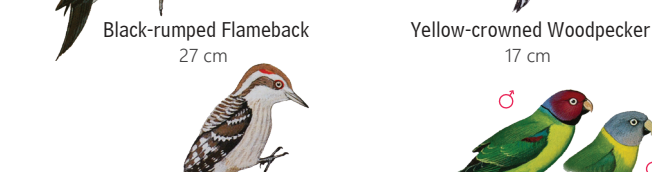
Rose-ringed Parakeet  
42 cm

Alexandrine Parakeet  
53 cm



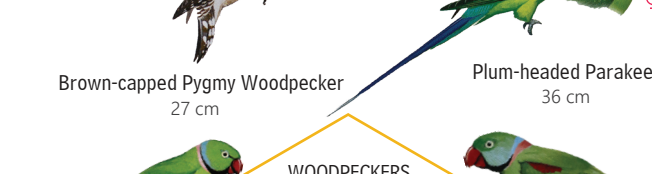
Black-rumped Flameback  
27 cm

Yellow-crowned Woodpecker  
17 cm



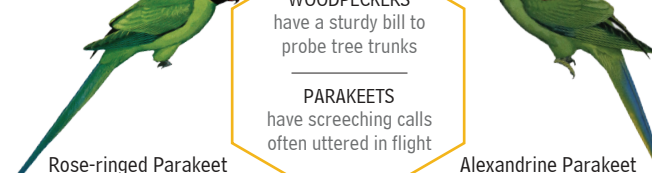
Brown-capped Pygmy Woodpecker  
27 cm

Plum-headed Parakeet  
36 cm



Asian Koel  
43 cm

Pied Cuckoo  
33 cm



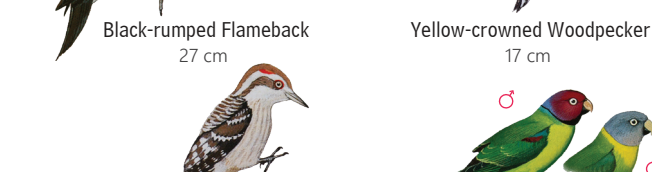
Rose-ringed Parakeet  
42 cm

Alexandrine Parakeet  
53 cm



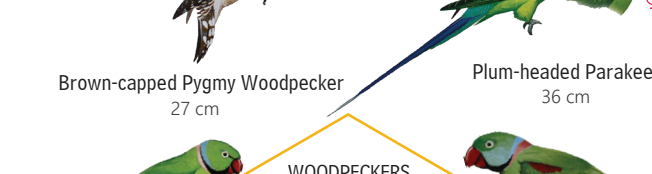
Black-rumped Flameback  
27 cm

Yellow-crowned Woodpecker  
17 cm



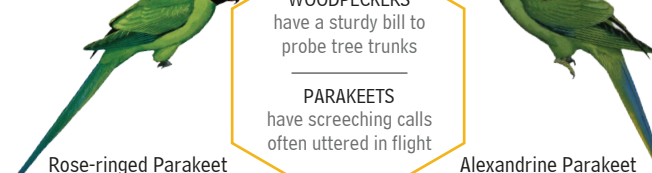
Brown-capped Pygmy Woodpecker  
27 cm

Plum-headed Parakeet  
36 cm



Asian Koel  
43 cm

Pied Cuckoo  
33 cm



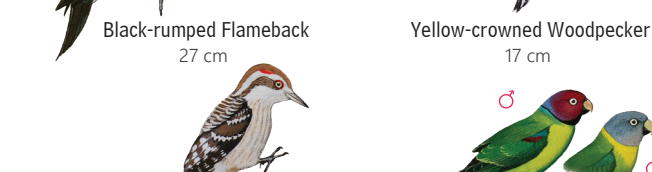
Rose-ringed Parakeet  
42 cm

Alexandrine Parakeet  
53 cm



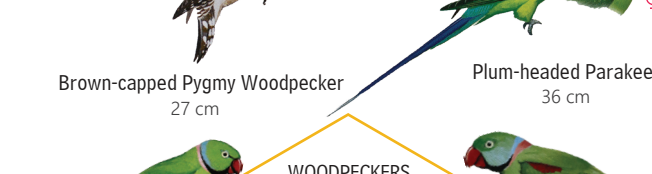
Black-rumped Flameback  
27 cm

Yellow-crowned Woodpecker  
17 cm



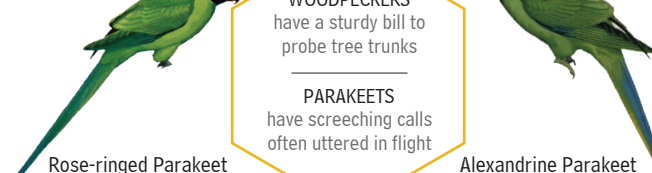
Brown-capped Pygmy Woodpecker  
27 cm

Plum-headed Parakeet  
36 cm



Asian Koel  
43 cm

Pied Cuckoo  
33 cm



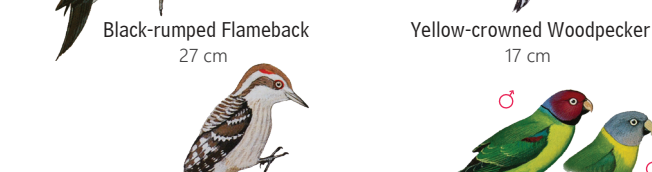
Rose-ringed Parakeet  
42 cm

Alexandrine Parakeet  
53 cm



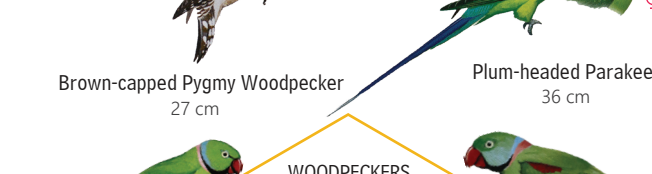
Black-rumped Flameback  
27 cm

Yellow-crowned Woodpecker  
17 cm



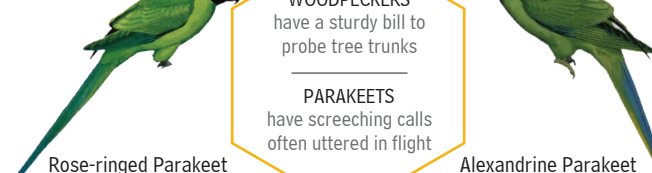
Brown-capped Pygmy Woodpecker  
27 cm

Plum-headed Parakeet  
36 cm



Asian Koel  
43 cm

Pied Cuckoo  
33 cm



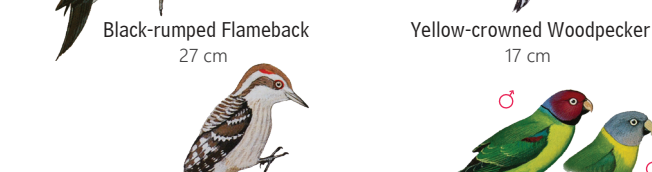
Rose-ringed Parakeet  
42 cm

Alexandrine Parakeet  
53 cm



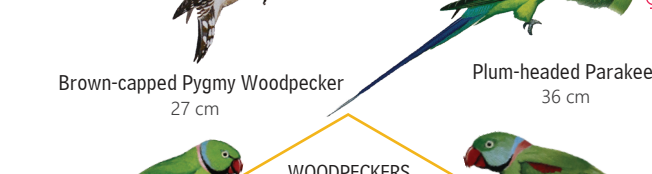
Black-rumped Flameback  
27 cm

Yellow-crowned Woodpecker  
17 cm



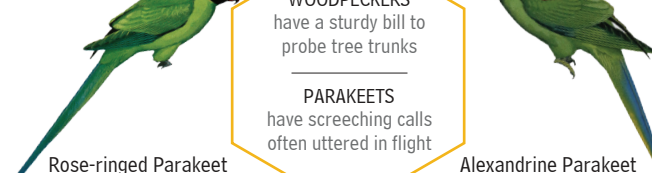
Brown-capped Pygmy Woodpecker  
27 cm

Plum-headed Parakeet  
36 cm



Asian Koel  
43 cm

Pied Cuckoo  
33 cm



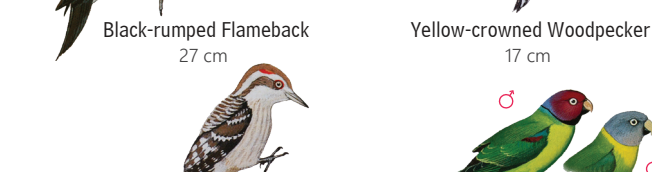
Rose-ringed Parakeet  
42 cm

Alexandrine Parakeet  
53 cm



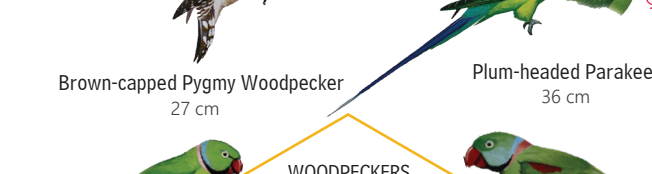
Black-rumped Flameback  
27 cm

Yellow-crowned Woodpecker  
17 cm



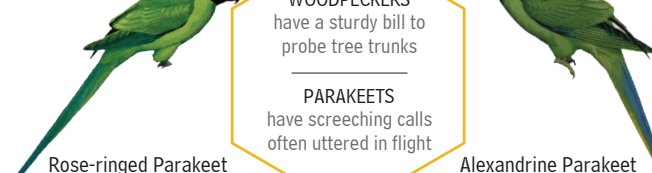
Brown-capped Pygmy Woodpecker  
27 cm

Plum-headed Parakeet  
36 cm



Asian Koel  
43 cm

Pied Cuckoo  
33 cm



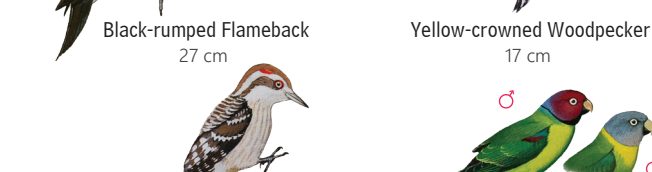
Rose-ringed Parakeet  
42 cm

Alexandrine Parakeet  
53 cm



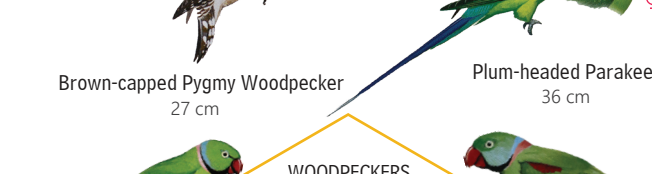
Black-rumped Flameback  
27 cm

Yellow-crowned Woodpecker  
17 cm



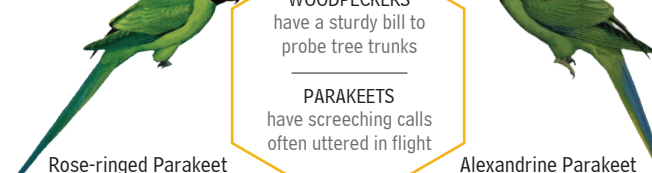
Brown-capped Pygmy Woodpecker  
27 cm

Plum-headed Parakeet  
36 cm



Asian Koel  
43 cm

Pied Cuckoo  
33 cm



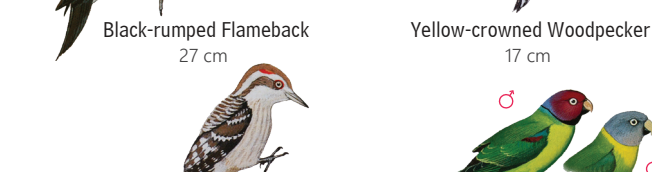
Rose-ringed Parakeet  
42 cm

Alexandrine Parakeet  
53 cm



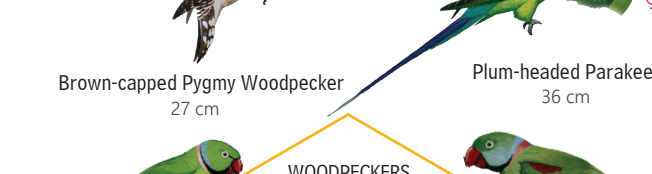
Black-rumped Flameback  
27 cm

Yellow-crowned Woodpecker  
17 cm



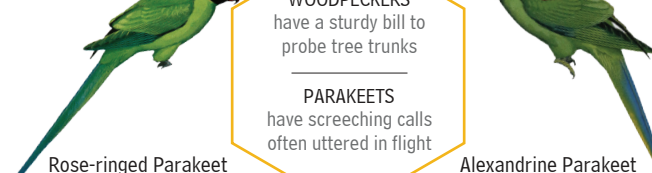
Brown-capped Pygmy Woodpecker  
27 cm

Plum-headed Parakeet  
36 cm



Asian Koel  
43 cm

Pied Cuckoo  
33 cm



Rose-ringed Parakeet  
42 cm

Alexandrine Parakeet  
53 cm



Black-rumped Flameback  
27 cm