

Chapter- 2 Animals



Look at the picture above. Which animals are eating what type of food? Have you ever noticed what do the animals at your home or neighbourhood eat? Complete the list below—

Name of Animals	Food they eat	Name of Animals	Food they eat
(1) Cow	—	(11) Rat	—
(2) Goat	—	(12) Snake	—
(3) Pigeon	—	(13) Monkey	—
(4) Cat	—	(14) Snail	—
(5) Duck	—	(15) Horse	—
(6) Dog	—	(16) Vulture	— Dead bodies
(7) Hen	—	(17) Elephant	—
(8) Crow	—	(18) Squirrel	—
(9) Earthworm	—	(19) Honeybee	—
(10) Lizard	—	(20) Crane	—

Are the food for different animals the same in the above table?

Cows, goats, buffaloes, etc. eat grass, leaves, etc. These animals are called **herbivorous animals**. On the other hand, tigers, lions, foxes, etc live by eating flesh. These animals are called **carnivorous animals**. Human beings are omnivorous animals. Man depends on both plants and animals for their food. Just like human beings, there are some other animals too who eat all types of food, for example, dogs, cats, bears, crows, etc. These animals are called **omnivorous animals**.

Let us identify some animals and classify them

➤ Write the names of some animals that you know, based on their food habits according to the table below—

Name of animals		
Herbivorous	Carnivorous	Omnivorous

Based on their food habits, animals are divided into three types—herbivorous, carnivorous, and omnivorous.

Let us know, how different types of animals eat their food—

Look at the picture. What is the cow eating? Grass, isn't it? Herbivorous animals like cows, buffaloes, goats, horses, camels, etc eat grasses, leaves, etc by chewing them very little before swallowing them. While taking a rest, cows bring out the partly-chewed food called cud and chew them again completely before finally swallowing them. This process is called ruminating. Ruminant animals have big and flattened teeth.



In the following picture, what is the tiger eating? Tigers, lions, etc eat by hunting the herbivorous animals in the forest. Because of having very strong claws, the prey cannot escape their grasp. They feed on their prey by tearing off the pieces of flesh with their sharp teeth and pointed nails.



Since they live on feeding only the flesh of animals, hence they are carnivorous animals.





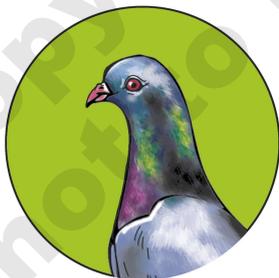
Think and write–

- The herbivorous animals in a forest are always found to be in a group. What is the reason?

Let us know how do birds eat their food–

Food for different birds is not the same. Different birds eat different types of food. They do not have teeth. They work with their beaks. Based on their food habits, different birds have different types of beaks.

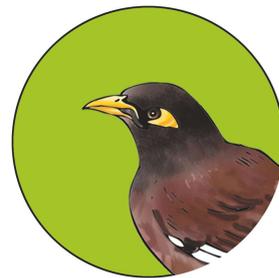
Seed-eating birds–



pigeon



cuckoo

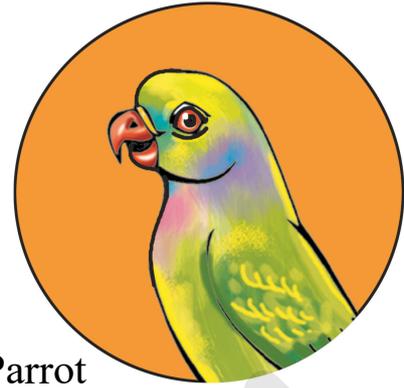


common Myna (salika)

The seed-eating birds like pigeon, *common Myna*, cuckoo, etc have short, pointed, and stiff beaks. They eat the seeds by breaking them with their beaks. Although they are seed-eating birds, they eat insects and other foods too.

Fruit-eating birds–

The beaks of parrots are short, stout, and end in a conical shape. They like to eat fruits. Because of having very strong beaks, they can eat hard fruits like almonds, by breaking off their shells.



Parrot

Honey sucking birds–

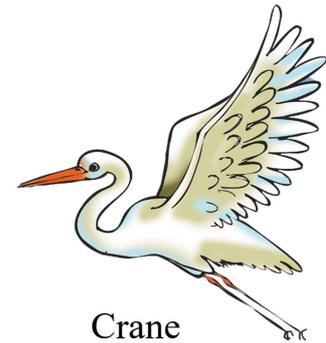
The humming bird is a very small bird whose beak is slender, long, and needle like which slightly bends downward. Its tongue is also long and narrow. It inserts its beak deep into the flower and sucks out nectar/honey with its tongue. Although honey is their favourite food, they also love to eat bugs and other insects.



Humming bird

Fish-eating birds–

The fish-eating birds, such as *bogoli* (Crane), heron, kingfisher, etc have long and pointed beaks. Because of having long legs, they can stand in water without getting wet and catch fish from under the water. They also eat frogs, crabs, snails, etc living in the water.



Crane



Kingfisher



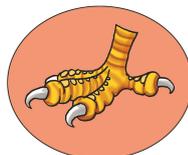
owl



Vulture



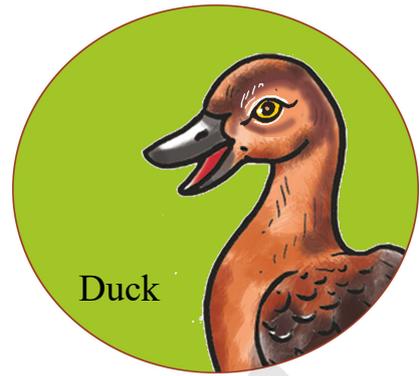
kite



Flesh-eating birds–

Vulture, owl, kite, etc are flesh-eating birds. They tear off the flesh into pieces with their beaks. They have sharp, strong, and hooked claws from which their prey cannot escape. These birds are also called raptors, which means bird of prey.

Have you ever noticed ducks eating their food? Because of having broad and flat beaks, ducks can hold a big amount of food at a time. They pick out earthworms and other insects from mud to eat. They remove the muddy water mixed with food through the two holes in their beak. Their favourite food is snails.



- Pictures of some beaks of birds are given below. Based on their beaks, identify which of these birds eat what kind of food



Sparrow



Humming bird



Bortokola

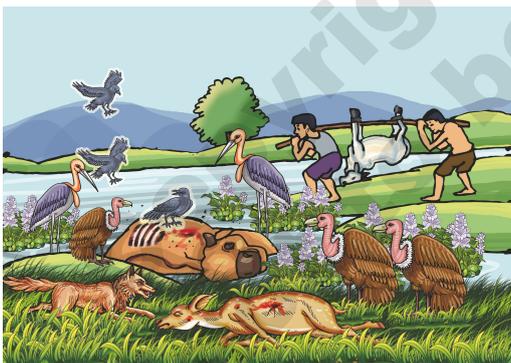


Falcon

Observe and write –

- What do the birds in your surroundings eat and write down in the table below-

Name of birds	Foods eaten

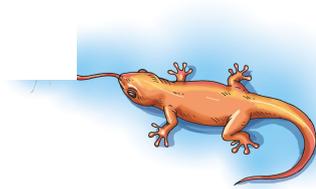
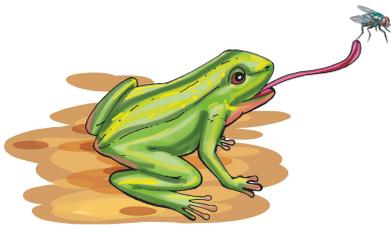


Animals like vulture, *bortokola* (Adjutant stork), crow, fox, etc keep our environment clean by eating the dead and decaying animals.

Besides birds, let us know what foods do some other animals eat–

Fish eats plants and insects growing in water. Some bigger fishes eat small fishes.





Lizard, frogs, etc eat insects by catching them with their tongues. They have long tongues which lies at the front of their mouth. They have a sticky tongue. They eat by throwing their tongue at a distance to capture the insects.

Write down—

➤ What do the following insects eat

Honeybees _____ |

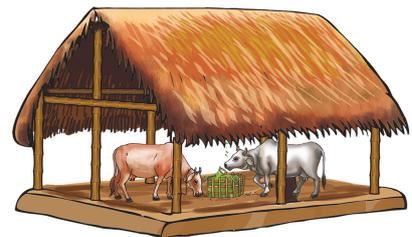
Spider _____ |

Butterfly _____ |

Crow _____ |

Every organism eats food to get energy and to have good health. Food gives us the energy to do work. It helps in our growth and development.

Habitats of animals—



All the organisms on the earth need shelter to live. To save the animals from heat, harsh wind, rain, and other animals, they need shelter. All animals do not have the same habitat. Domestic animals live in shelters made by human beings. For example, people build houses for cows, buffaloes, horses, ducks, hens, pigs, etc. On the other hand, wild animals such as tigers, lions, elephants, rhinos, giraffes, zebras, etc. move around freely in the jungle. They make arrangements for their shelters themselves.

For the animals living in zoos, cages or other shelters are made for them.

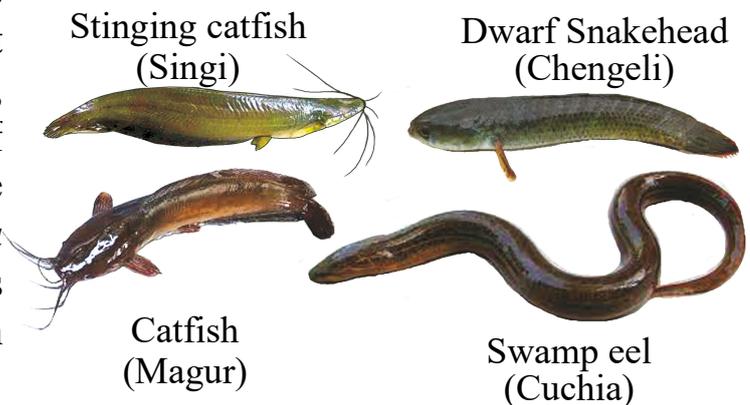
Let us know the shelters of different animals–

Animals	Shelters	Animals	Shelters
Spider	— Web	Tiger	—Lair
Honeybees	—Beehive	Lion	—Den
Rabbit	—Burrow	Horse	—Stable
Rat	—Burrow	Pig	—Sty
Snake	—Burrow	Owl	—Tree cavities
Termites	—Termite mound	Cow	— Shed
Grasshopper	—Grassland	Monkey	—Tree
Deer	— Tall grassland	Rhino	—Tall grassland

Let's make –

- Prepare a model of a shelter for any animal from waste materials.

Some fishes live in the bushy plants, hyacinths, etc. that grows in water. Stinging catfish, catfish, *Swamp eel*, Dwarf Snakehead, etc. are found to be buried in holes. *Brahmaputra Labeo fish (Silghoria)* fish takes shelter in the spaces between rocks in rivers.



Think and say–

- Like domestic animals, wild animals too help us in a number of ways. What problems would we face if these useful animals extinct?

Birds build nests so that they can lay and hatch eggs. Have you seen birds collecting small plants twigs, branches, wires, grasses, hay-straws, etc.? They build their nests with them.

Let us see how do birds build their nests—



Woodpeckers make a deep cavity in the trees to stay inside, by digging with their beaks. Their beaks are very strong and sharp.

Tailorbirds (Tuni) use two large leaves of plants like brinjal to sew them like a bag and they use the fibers from leaves as threads. They line the nest with hay straws, soft materials like cotton, threads, etc. to make it comfortable.



Weaver birds (Tokora) build their nests like a hanging pot in betel nut trees, date trees, coconut trees, palm trees, etc. Tools for making nests are long raw grasses and fibers from the leaves of coconut, date, or banana trees. They hold the base of the fiber strands clutching with their claws and use their beaks to make loops with the strands, weaving a slender nest. These birds are expert in weaving their nest so they are called weaver birds. The 'paatsiya' birds build their nests by sewing the tree leaves.



Red-whiskered birds (Bulbul) generally make their nests in big bushy trees. The beautiful nest looks like a colander.



During the spring, the cuckoos (*Kuli*) that sing coo-coo do not build their own nest. They lay their eggs at crows' nests. As the crows are being tricked into thinking of those eggs as their own, they hatch the cuckoo eggs.

Pond heron (Konamuchori) and kingfishers are found near rivers, lakes, etc. as they like to eat fish. They take shelter by building their nests in the nearby trees.

Birds like the cuckoo, *Indian nightingale* (keteki), peacock, etc. do not make their own nest.

Let us observe and do-

Observe where do the birds build their nests in your surroundings and what are the items they use to make nests, then complete the following table–

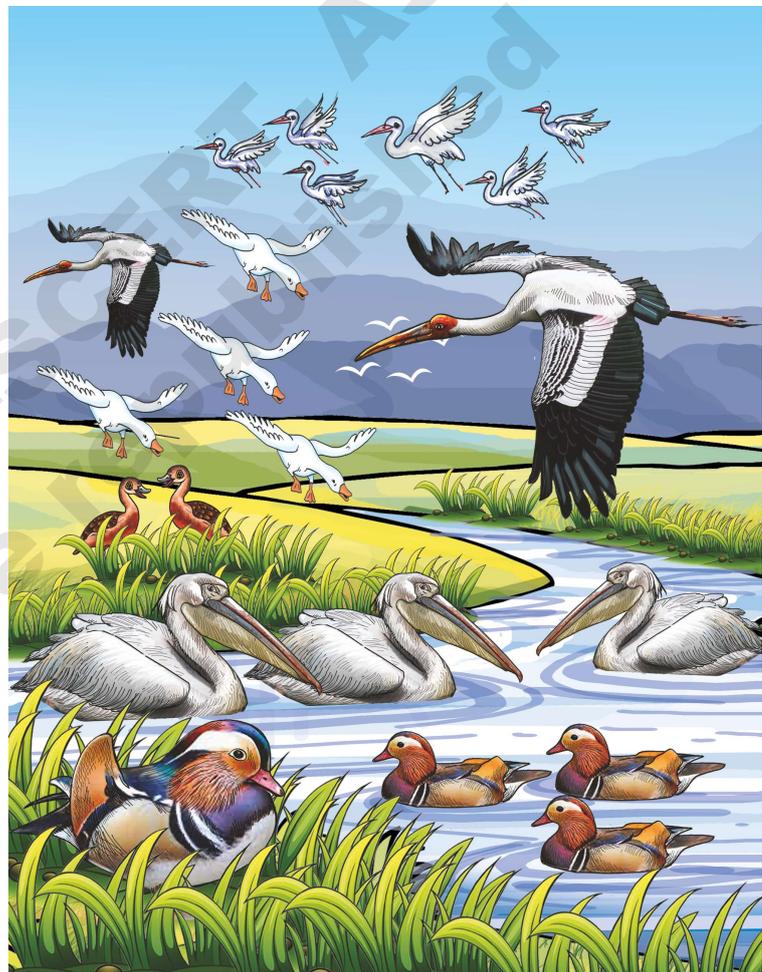
Name of the bird	Items used for making nests	Where did they build the nest?

Birds like to fly freely. The cages that you have seen are not shelters for birds. You should never keep birds and animals enclosed in cages.

Migratory birds–

Can you identify the birds in this picture?

Some birds travel thousands of kilometres every year to fly to Assam. Again, some others fly from nearby places. These birds are found only at certain times of the year. We do not see them at other times. They fly from various natural regions like deserts, snow-clad cold regions, deep forests, sea coasts, etc. They stay in Assam for a few months, then again flies back to their native place. As they do not stay at the same place but move from one country or region to another, they are called **migratory birds**.

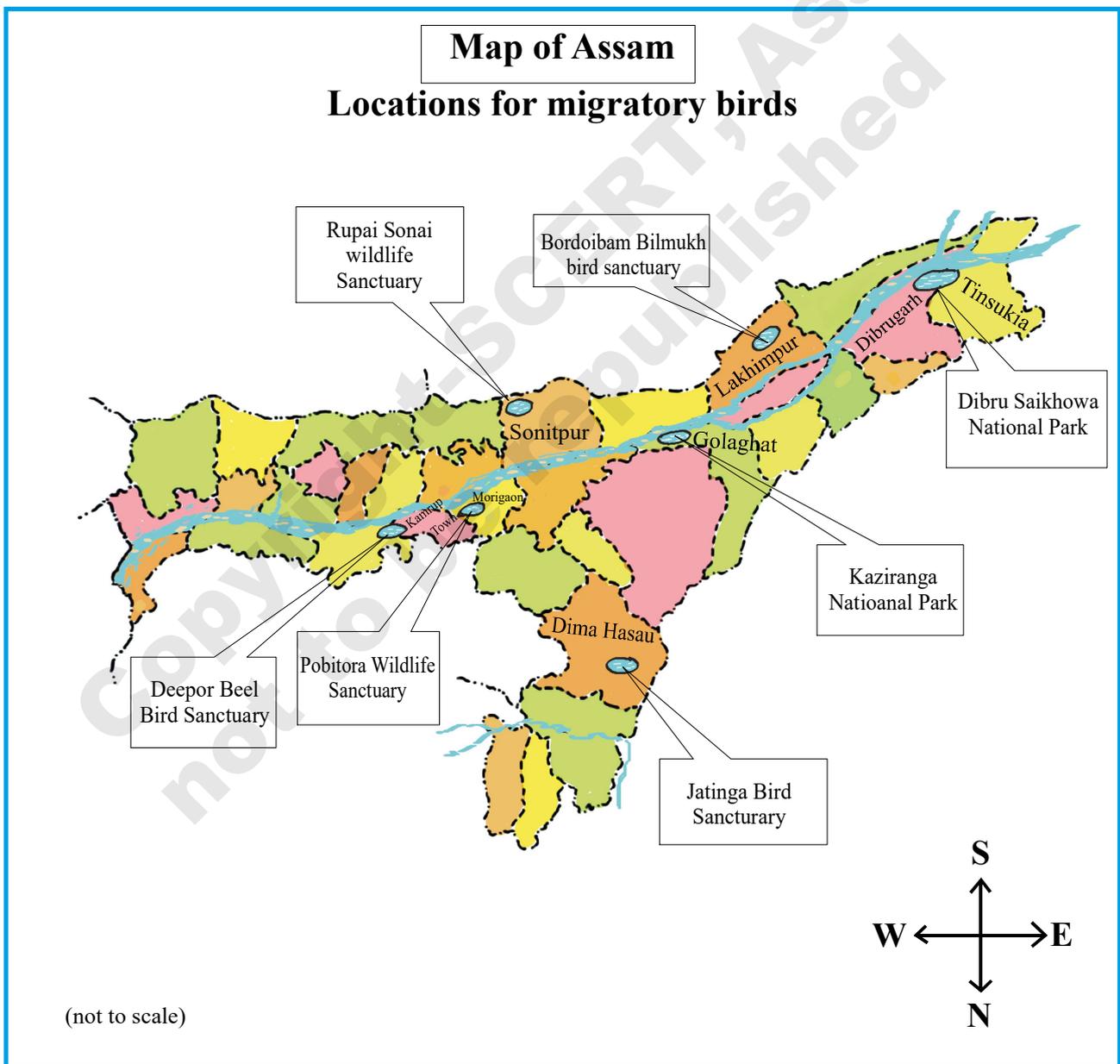


Do you know why do they come to our state? They visit Assam in search of food or when they cannot bear the extreme heat or cold in their native region.

Different species of birds visit Assam every year. Some of such migratory birds are Wagtail (*Balimahi*), Cuckoo, White-winged wood duck (*Deohah*), Bar-headed goose (*Dhritraj*), Starling, Red-rumped Swallow (*Satak*), Pelicans, etc.

The migratory birds stay away from places that are crowded with people. Based on their food habits, these birds are found in the nearby areas of water reservoirs, riverine sand areas (*bali-char*), crop fields, forests, and grasslands.

Assam's water reservoirs, wildlife sanctuaries, and national parks along with the forest areas are the locations for many migratory birds. Tourists from in and around the country visit to see these migratory birds.



Look at the map on the previous page and complete the table below

Sanctuaries/National Parks	Name of the district

Considering birds to be useful organisms, it is very essential to conserve them and provide security to them. It is very wrong to kill birds. Nowadays, various measures have been taken at government and non-governmental levels to protect migratory birds.

Let us know about the measures taken by the government and non-governmental institutions to protect migratory birds—

- Some of the spots where migratory birds visit have been declared as wildlife sanctuaries. For example—Deepor beel bird sanctuary in Guwahati.
- Making hunting of migratory birds illegal.
- The lakes, ponds, wetlands, swamps, etc. are water reservoirs where migratory birds visit are kept clean. The fish in these water bodies are eaten by those migratory birds. Thus, fishing is not allowed in these places. Moreover, fish-larva (baby fish) is also released to these water bodies from time to time for those migratory birds.
- It is not allowed to have a picnic in the places where migratory birds travel so that pollution from these places does not cause any diseases or harm to those birds.
- Cutting trees is also prohibited in such places because some migratory birds make temporary shelters in those trees. If there is any loss of trees because of natural calamities, new saplings are planted.
- The establishment of factories and construction of dams is also prohibited.

The colourful migratory birds adds charm to the different location of Assam in which they visit. Migratory birds are our guests, we should never cause any harm to them.

Let us do with the help of teachers and parents-

- Prepare an album by collecting pictures of different migratory birds.

Exercise

1. Answer the following—

- Why human beings are called omnivorous?
- Why do migratory birds travel from place to place?
- What are carnivorous animals?
- What are herbivorous animals?
- Why do animals need shelter?
- How does a frog catch insects to eat?
- Why do animals need food?
- How does a weaving bird build its nest?
- What are the places that fish use as shelters?

2. Select the correct answer from the following—

- Tailorbird/Cuckoo/Nightingale does not build its own nest.
- Bar headed goose*/Nightingale/Peacock is a migratory bird.

3. Fill in the blanks—

- People from in and around the country who visit Assam to see the migratory birds are called _____.
- The beak of a duck is _____ and _____.
- _____ bird build their nest like a hanging pot.

4. Match Column “A” with “B”—

A	B
Pond heron	eats snail.
Kite	eats fruit.
Duck	eats fish.
Parrot	eats flesh.

