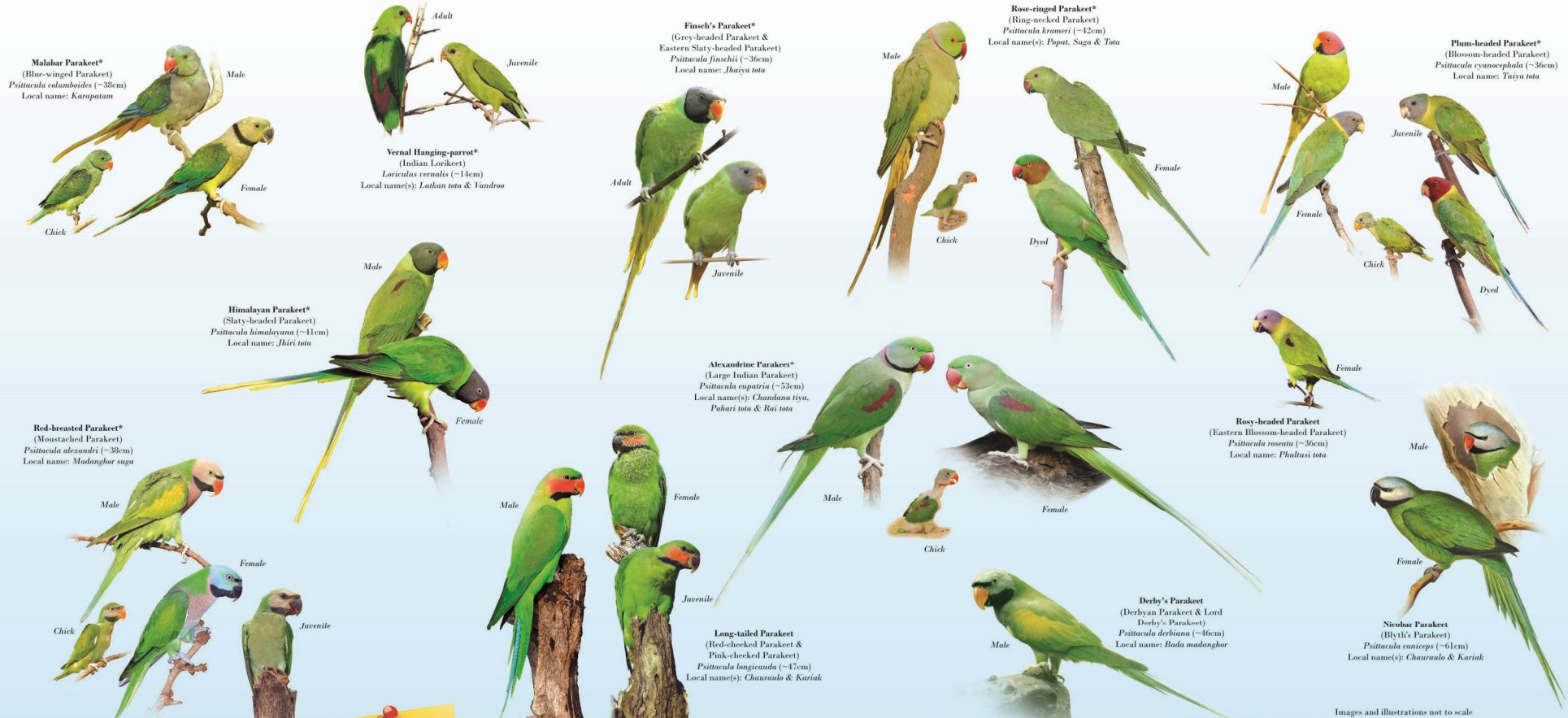


# Parrots of India in Illegal Trade

India is home to 12 species of parrots - 11 parakeets and one hanging-parrot. Two of the parakeet species, the Malabar Parakeet *Psittacula columboides* and Nicobar Parakeet *Psittacula caniceps* are endemic to India.



### Illegal trade in Parrots

For centuries, parrots have been kept as pets mainly because of their beauty, charm, long life-span and their astonishing ability to "talk". This has in turn created demand that has led to an organized illegal trade in the species. Despite the blanket ban since 1990-91 on trade in all Indian bird species, hundreds of parrots are collected and traded annually in India. The adult parrots are traded throughout the year with chicks arriving in trade between December and June. Parrots are caught using nets and bird-line.

Out of the 12 species of parrots found in India, eight species\* have regularly been recorded in Indian bird markets during bird trade surveys undertaken by TRAFFIC India.

**Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972:** Hunting of or trade in all Indian parrot species is prohibited in India. Schedule I, Part III: Derby's Parakeet *Psittacula derbianna* Schedule IV: All other species of parrots

**CITES (Convention on the International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora):** All Indian species of parrots are in Appendix II of CITES except for the Rose-ringed Parakeet that is not listed in CITES.

**IUCN Status:**  
Near Threatened: Nicobar Parakeet *Psittacula caniceps*, Long-tailed Parakeet *Psittacula longicauda* & Derby's Parakeet *Psittacula derbianna*.

Least Concern: All other parrot species in India.

### Identification Tips

- Alexandrine Parakeet:** Distinctive maroon-red shoulder patch
- Derby's Parakeet:** Distinctive mauve-coloured breast
- Finsch's Parakeet:** Grey head with creamish-coloured tail-tip
- Himalayan Parakeet:** Deep yellow tail-tip with slaty coloured head
- Long-tailed Parakeet:** Long blue-green tipped tail, pinkish-red cheeks, green cap, broad black moustachial and lores lines
- Malabar Parakeet:** Distinctive yellow-tipped tail and vermiculated green wings
- Nicobar Parakeet:** Grey-headed, largest among Indian parakeets and restricted to Nicobar
- Plum-headed Parakeet:** Male has a plum-magenta hood while the female has a dark violet-grey to cyan or blue-grey-coloured hood
- Red-breasted Parakeet:** The only parakeet species with a red-breast, also has a black upcurved neck band
- Rose-ringed Parakeet:** Male has thin pink and black neck band, which is inconspicuous in the female
- Rosy-headed Parakeet:** Male has a lilac-tinged pink hood which is bluish in female
- Vernal Hanging-parrot:** Green coloured sparrow-sized hanging-parrots

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Images and illustrations not to scale



TRAFFIC India carries out research and provides analysis, support and encouragement to efforts aimed to ensure that wildlife trade is not a threat to the conservation of nature.

In India, TRAFFIC operates as a programme division of WWF-India.