



- The following pages have some identification markers for each of the Nightjars & Frogmouths found in India
- To know more on these birds you can visit <http://ogaclicks.com/nightjar>
- If you are interested in Coming on any of my tours or workshops please share your email id. I will keep you updated
- Mail me at [ogaclicks@gmail.com](mailto:ogaclicks@gmail.com)
- You can also call me on (91)9840119078 ,  
(91) 9445219078  
(91) 6369815812

**Nightjar**

# Andaman Nightjar Identification Tips

**Andaman Nightjar : *Caprimulgus andamanicus***: Resident of Andaman Islands

Crown is pale grey marked with heavy black central streaks



Buff whitish submoustachial stripe

White throat patch

Underparts greyish-brown, barred brown and spotted buff,

Pale tips to black wing-coverts

Black upper mantle barred paler

Scapulars blackish brown edged buff



Black-banded, dark tail

# European Nightjar Identification Tips

European Nightjar : *Caprimulgus europaeus*: Passage Migrant in North West India ( Gujarat)



Finely streaked grey crown

Upperparts are greyish-brown streaked blackish-brown

Buff whitish submoustachial stripe

White throat patch

Underparts greyish-brown, barred brown and spotted buff,

Wing-coverts greyish-brown spotted buffish

Buff line across forewing and buff line along scapulars



# Great-eared Nightjar Identification Tips

Great-eared Nightjar : *Eurostopodus macrotis* : Resident of Western Ghats & North East India



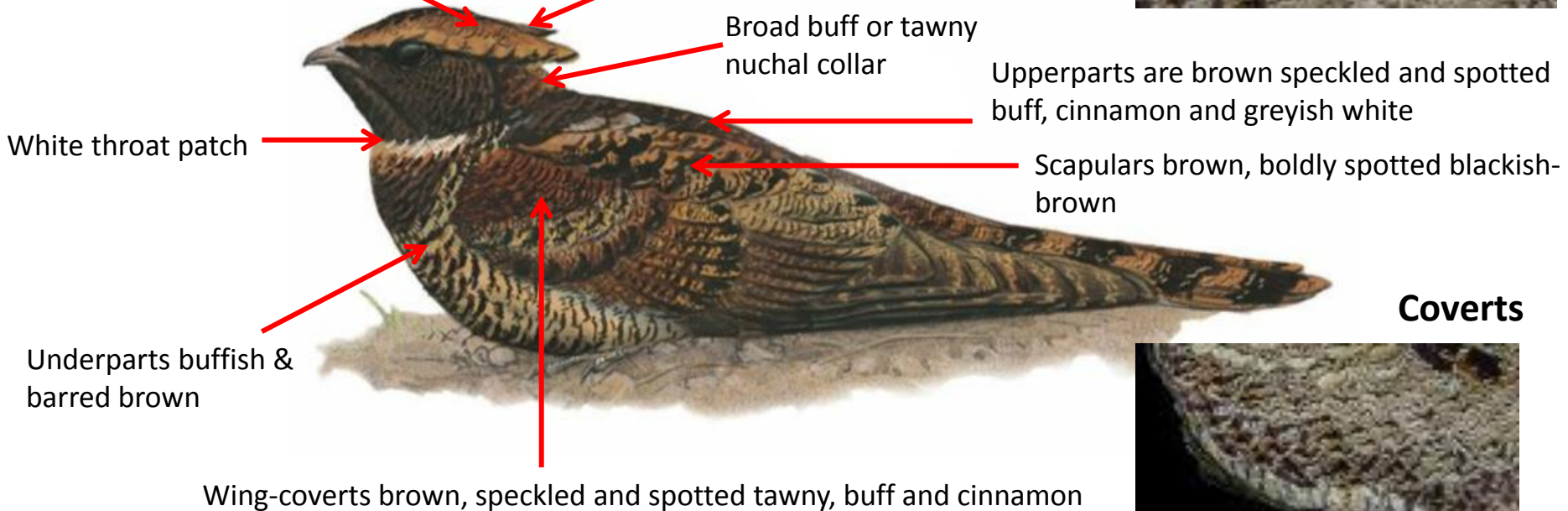
Ear tufts

Scapulars



Crown is boldly spotted blackish brown

Prominent ear tufts



# Grey Nightjar Identification Tips

**Grey Nightjar : *Caprimulgus indicus jotaka*** : Summers in Himalayas in North , Resident of Arunachal Pradesh & South Assam

Crown has broad black splotches

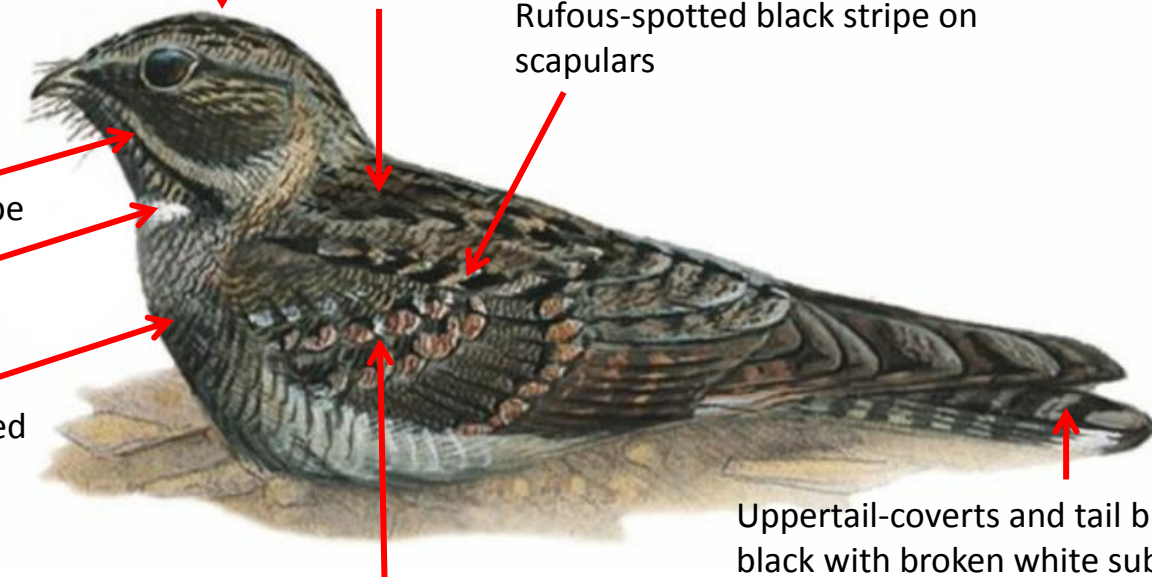
Broad black streaks on mantle

Rufous-spotted black stripe on scapulars

Whitish submoustachial stripe

White throat patch

Underparts Blackish spotted pale white



Uppertail-coverts and tail broadly barred black with broken white subterminal band

Wing-coverts have rufous spotting on dark grey



**Coverts**



**Tail**

Difference from Breeding plumage

Important id point

Reference : Birds of Indian Subcontinent  
Inskipp and Grimmett  
[www.HBW.com](http://www.HBW.com)

# Indian Nightjar Identification Tips

**Indian Nightjar : *Caprimulgus asiaticus*** : Widespread resident of India except North East and extreme North West

Crown is broadly streaked blackish brown edged rufous



Upperparts are greyish brown streaked blackish brown

Broad buff or tawny nuchal collar

Scapulars blackish brown edged buff



Whitish submoustachial stripe

White throat patch

Underparts greyish brown, barred brown and boldly spotted buff

Lesser coverts greyish brown speckled rufous

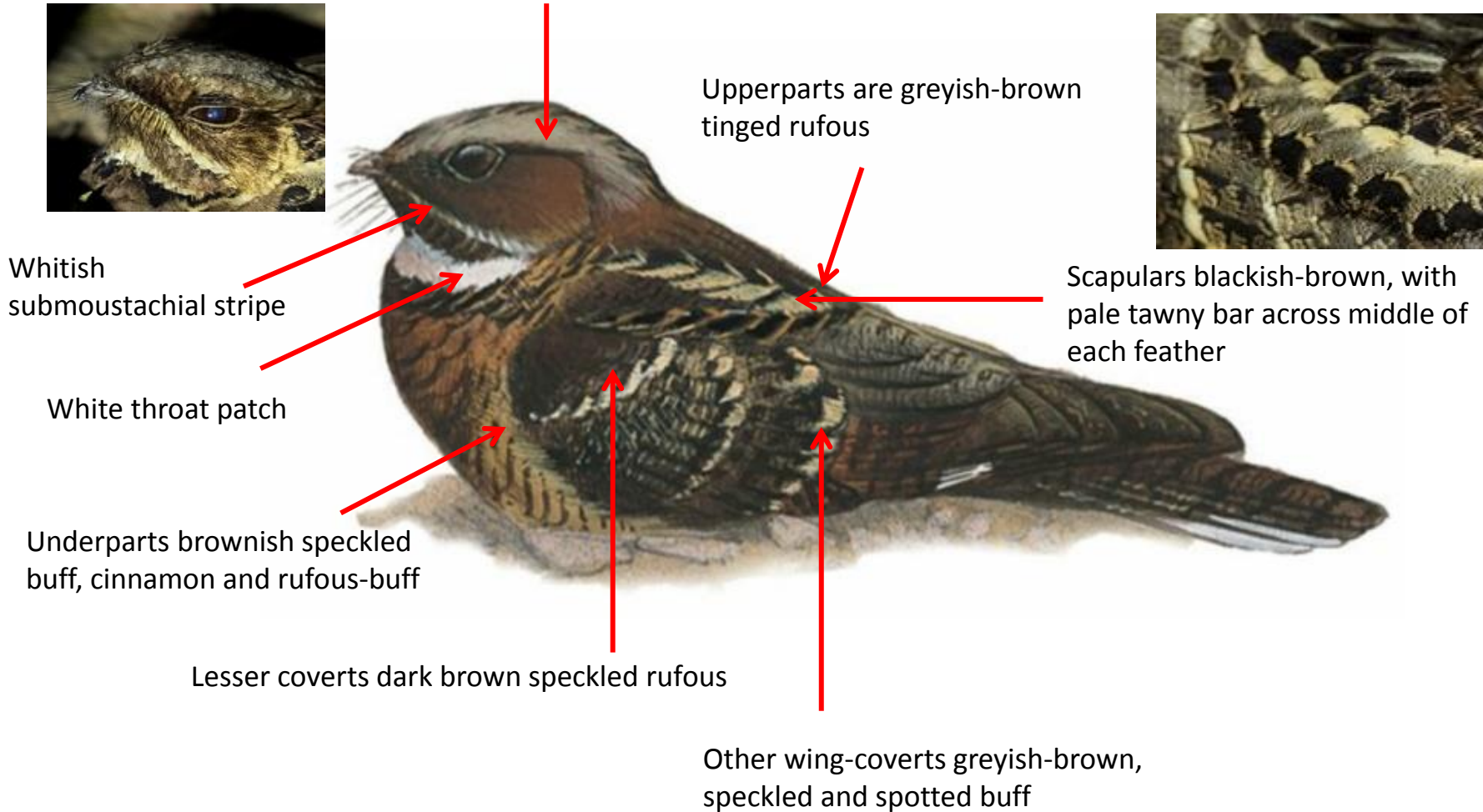
Greater & Median coverts greyish brown boldly spotted buff



# Jerdon's Nightjar Identification Tips

Jerdon's Nightjar : *Caprimulgus atripennis* : Resident of Southern Peninsular India

Crown is greyish-brown, spotted or streaked blackish-brown in centre



Upperparts are greyish-brown tinged rufous

Scapulars blackish-brown, with pale tawny bar across middle of each feather

Whitish submoustachial stripe

White throat patch

Underparts brownish speckled buff, cinnamon and rufous-buff

Lesser coverts dark brown speckled rufous

Other wing-coverts greyish-brown, speckled and spotted buff

Difference from Breeding plumage

Important id point

Reference : Birds of Indian Subcontinent  
Inskipp and Grimmett  
[www.HBW.com](http://www.HBW.com)



# Jungle Nightjar Nightjar Identification Tips

**Jungle Nightjar : *Caprimulgus indicus*** : Summer Visitor in East Rajasthan, Gujarat & West MP; Resident in Western Ghats, Lower MP, Chattisgarh & Odisha

Crown greyish-brown streaked blackish-brown

Upperparts are greyish brown streaked blackish brown

Buffish submoustachial stripe

White throat patch

Underparts greyish brown, finely barred greyish-brown or pale buff,

Lesser coverts brown, speckled greyish white, buff or tawny

Greater & Median coverts greyish brown, boldly spotted greyish white, pale buff or pale tawny with spots distinctly smudged or vermiculated brown



Greater covert spots distinctly smudged or vermiculated brown



Lesser Coverts

Greater & Median Coverts

# Large-tailed Nightjar Identification Tips

Large-tailed Nightjar: *Caprimulgus macrurus* : Himalayas to East & North East India

Crown greyish-brown streaked blackish-brown

Pale buffish, cinnamon or whitish nuchal collar

Upperparts are greyish-brown streaked blackish-brown

Buffish submoustachial stripe

Wingbars



White throat patch

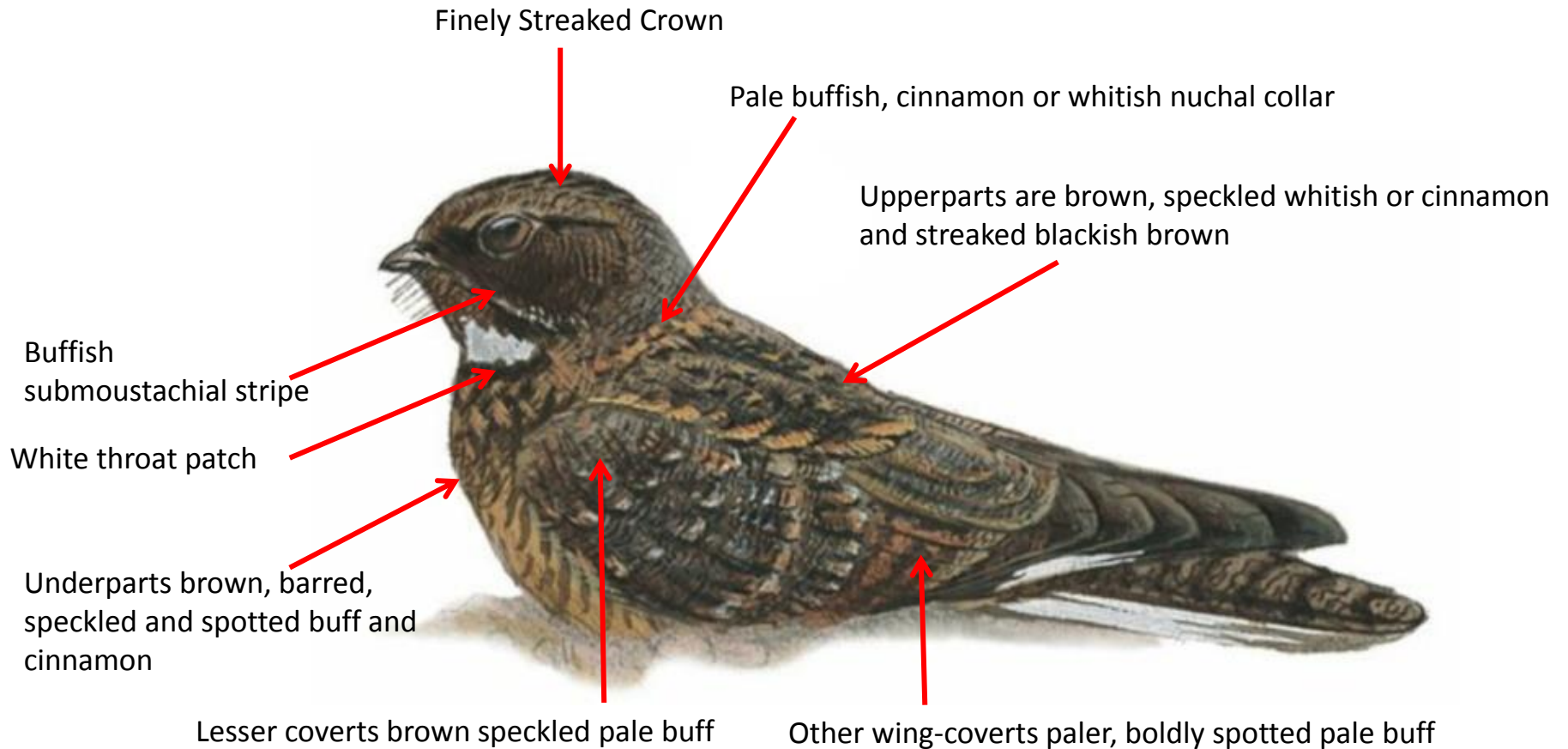
Underparts brownish, barred and speckled buff

Wing-coverts greyish-brown, spotted buff or tawny- buff

Large tail, white on outer tail feather

# Savanna Nightjar Identification Tips

Savanna Nightjar: *Caprimulgus affinis monticolus* : Widespread Resident in India



# Sykes Nightjar Identification Tips

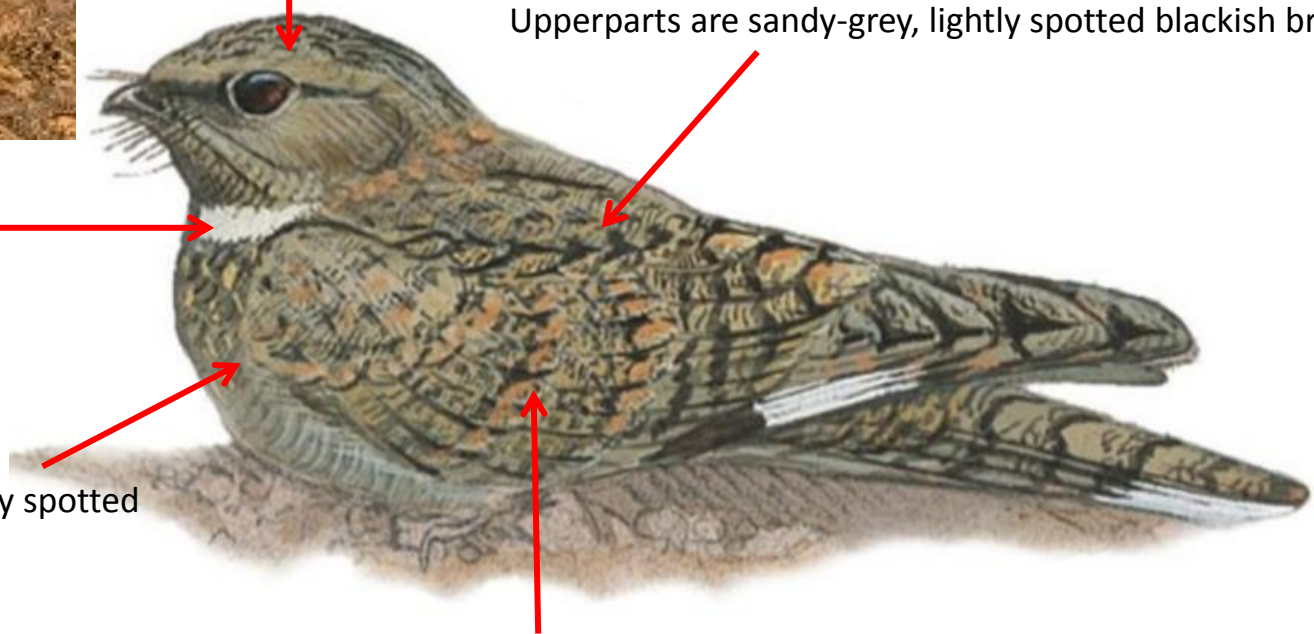
Sykes Nightjar : *Caprimulgus mahrattensis* : Resident of North West India



Finely Streaked sandy brown crown

Upperparts are sandy-grey, lightly spotted blackish brown

White throat patch



Underparts Sandy-grey spotted buff, barred brown

Wing-coverts sandy-grey, streaked and vermiculated blackish brown and boldly spotted buff and pale buff



**Coverts**

# Nightjars Id Features – at a glance

Bird Name	Generic name	Coverts			Nuchal Collar	Crown	Other Features
		Lesser	Median	Great			
Andaman Nightjar	<i>Caprimulgus andamanicus</i>	Uniform Black			Not Prominent	Pale grey marked with heavy black central streaks	Whitish submoustachial stripe
European Nightjar	<i>Caprimulgus europaeus</i>	Brown	Wing-coverts greyish-brown spotted buffish		Not Prominent	Finely streaked grey crown	Buff line across forewing and buff line along scapulars
Great-eared Nightjar	<i>Eurostopodus macrotis</i>	Brown, speckled and spotted tawny, buff and cinnamon			Broad tawny-buff	Boldly spotted blackish brown	Prominent Ear Tufts
Grey Nightjar	<i>Caprimulgus indicus jotaka</i>	Dark grey with rufous spotting			Not Prominent	Broad black splotches	Whitish submoustachial stripe
Indian Nightjar	<i>Caprimulgus asiaticus</i>	Greyish brown speckled rufous	Greyish brown boldly spotted buff		Broad buff or tawny	Broadly streaked blackish brown edged rufous	Scapulars blackish brown edged buff
Jerdon's Nightjar	<i>Caprimulgus atripennis</i>	Dark brown speckled rufous	Greyish-brown, speckled and spotted buff		Not Prominent	Greyish-brown, spotted or streaked blackish-brown in centre	Whitish submoustachial stripe
Jungle Nightjar	<i>Caprimulgus indicus</i>	Brown, speckled greyish white, buff or tawny	Greyish brown, boldly spotted greyish white, pale buff or pale tawny with spots distinctly smudged or vermiculated brown		Not Prominent	Greyish brown streaked blackish brown	Buffish submoustachial stripe
Large-tailed Nightjar	<i>Caprimulgus macrurus</i>	Dark Grey-brown	Greyish-brown, spotted buff or tawny-buff		Not Prominent	Greyish brown streaked blackish brown	Wing bars formed on Coverts
Savana Nightjar	<i>Caprimulgus affinis</i>	Brown speckled pale buff	Paler, boldly spotted pale buff		Pale buffish, cinnamon or whitish	Brown, speckled whitish or cinnamon and streaked blackish brown	Buffish submoustachial stripe
Sykes Nightjar	<i>Caprimulgus mahrattensis</i>	Sandy-grey, streaked and vermiculated blackish brown and boldly spotted buff and pale buff			Not Prominent	Sandy-grey, lightly spotted blackish brown	

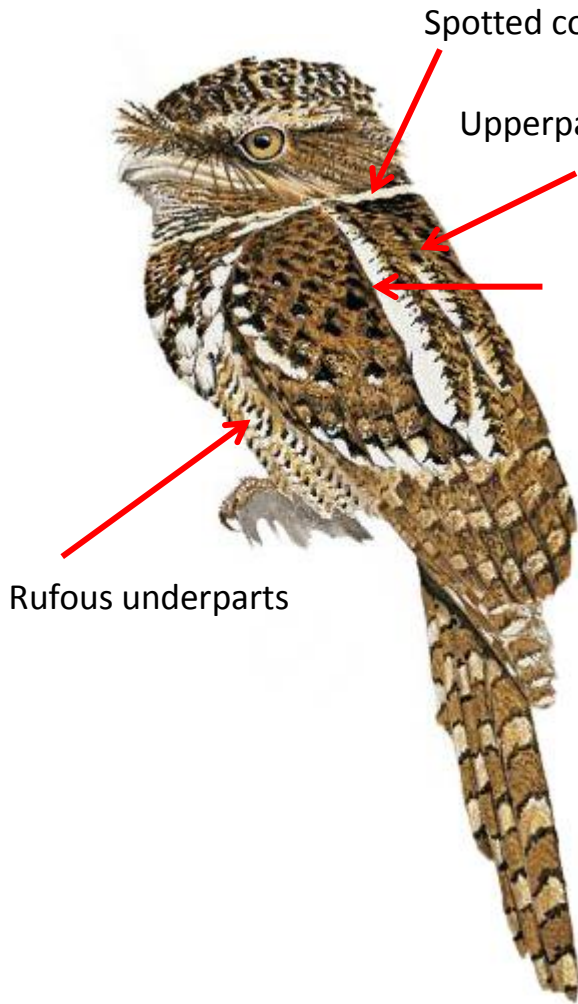
# Nightjars Distribution in India

Passage Migrant			Breeding			Resident				
Bird Name	Generic name	Himalayas	North	Central	West	East	South	North East	Western Ghats	Andaman & Nicobar
Andaman Nightjar	<i>Caprimulgus andamanicus</i>									Andaman Islands
European Nightjar	<i>Caprimulgus europaeus</i>				Gujrat (Bhuj)					
Great-eared Nightjar	<i>Eurostopodus macrotis</i>						Kerala , Hills of TN	Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram		
Grey Nightjar	<i>Caprimulgus indicus jotaka</i>	Uttarakhand	H.P					Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram		Andaman Islands
Indian Nightjar	<i>Caprimulgus asiaticus</i>		All States	All States	All States	All States	All States		All States	
Merdon's Nightjar	<i>Caprimulgus atripennis</i>						All States			
Jungle Nightjar	<i>Caprimulgus indicus</i>			MP , Chattisgarh		Jharkhand, Orissa, WB			All States	
Long-tailed Nightjar	<i>Caprimulgus macrurus</i>	Uttarakhand	East UP	East MP, Chattisgarh		Bihar, Orissa, Jharkhand, WB		All States		
Savana Nightjar	<i>Caprimulgus affinis</i>	Uttarakhand	All States	All States	All States	All States Except Sikkim	All states/ Winters in TN, Kerala	All states		
Sykes Nightjar	<i>Caprimulgus mahrattensis</i>		West Rajasthan		Gujarat					

**Frogmouth**

# Hodgson's Frogmouth Identification Tips

Hodgson's Frogmouth : *Batrachostomus hodgsoni* : Resident of North East India



Spotted collar

Upperparts are rufous-brown

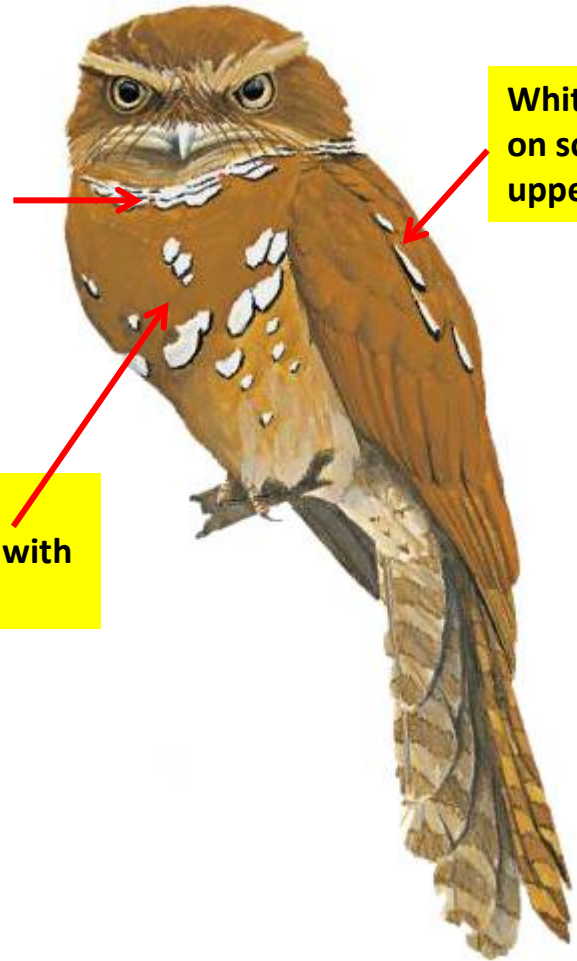
White spots  
on scapulars and  
upper mantle

Rufous underparts

**Male**

**Spotted collar**

**Rufous  
underparts with  
White spots**



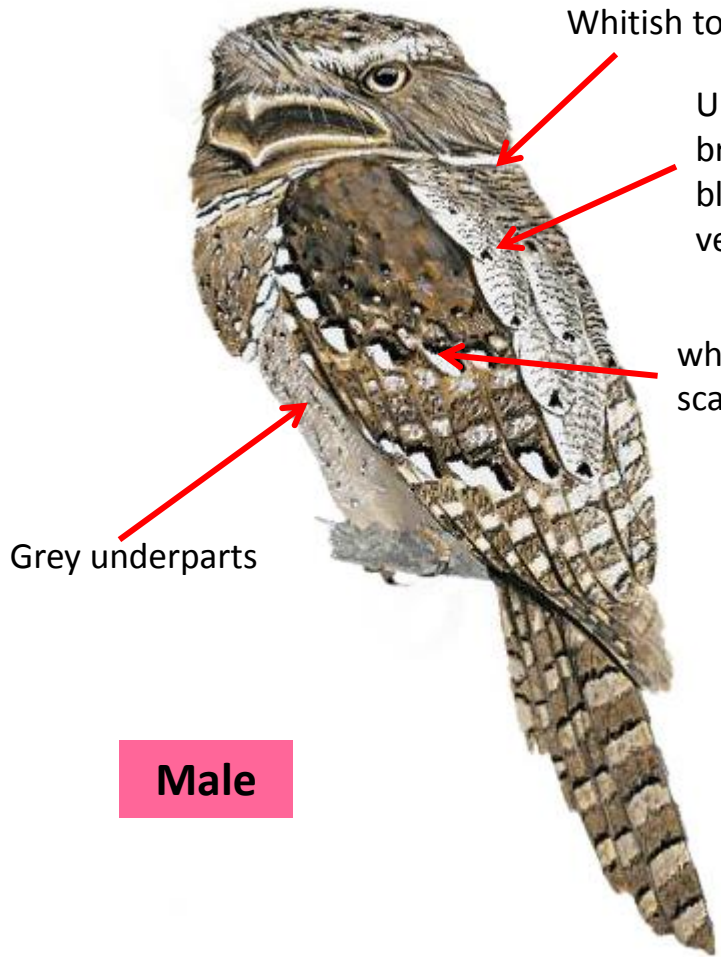
**White spots  
on scapulars and  
upper mantle**

**Female**



# Srilanka Frogmouth Identification Tips

Srilanka Frogmouth : *Batrachostomus moniliger*: Resident of Western Ghats India



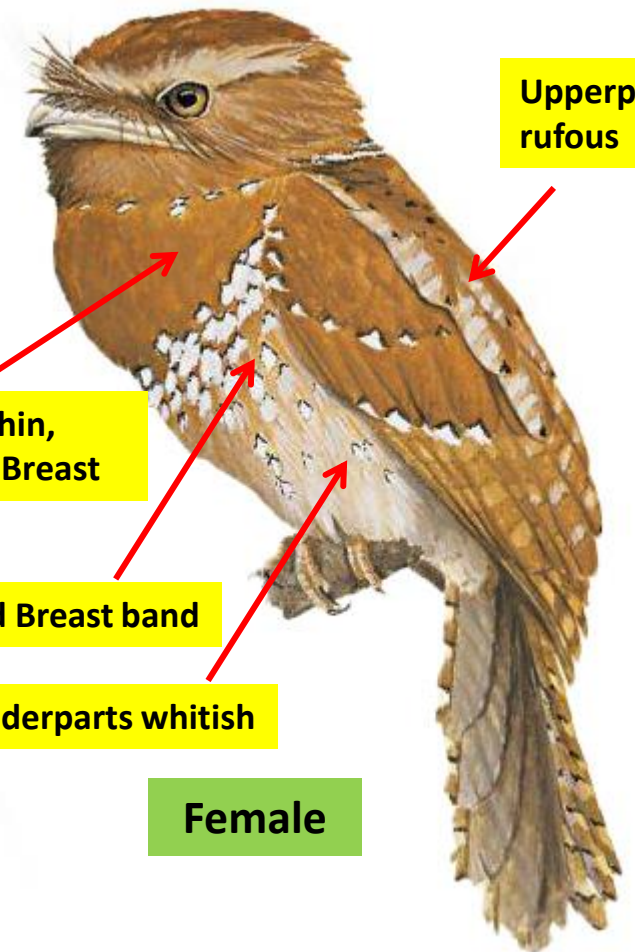
Whitish to buff collar

Upperparts with brownish grey with black and white vermiculations

white spots on scapulars

Grey underparts

**Male**



**Upperparts are rufous**

**Rufous Chin, throat & Breast**

**Spotted Breast band**

**Underparts whitish**

**Female**