



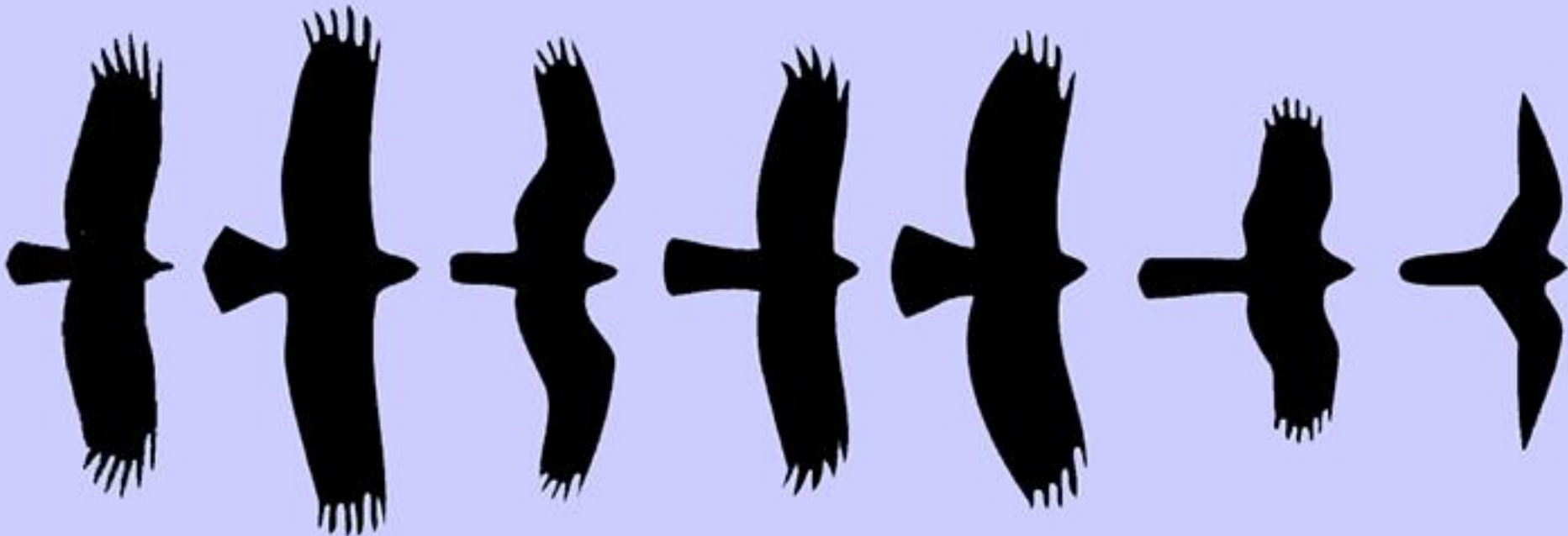
- The following pages have some identification markers for each of the Serpent Eagles found in India
- To know more on these birds you can visit <http://ogaclicks.com/eagles/>
- If you are interested in Coming on any of my tours or workshops please share your email id. I will keep you updated
- Mail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

## Raptors at a glance

Raptors : Any of numerous carnivorous birds that hunt and kill other animals

Derived from Latin word *rapere* : To ravish

Characterised by Hooked Beak, Talons and Flying abilities required to hunt & kill prey



Vulture

Eagle

Osprey

Harrier

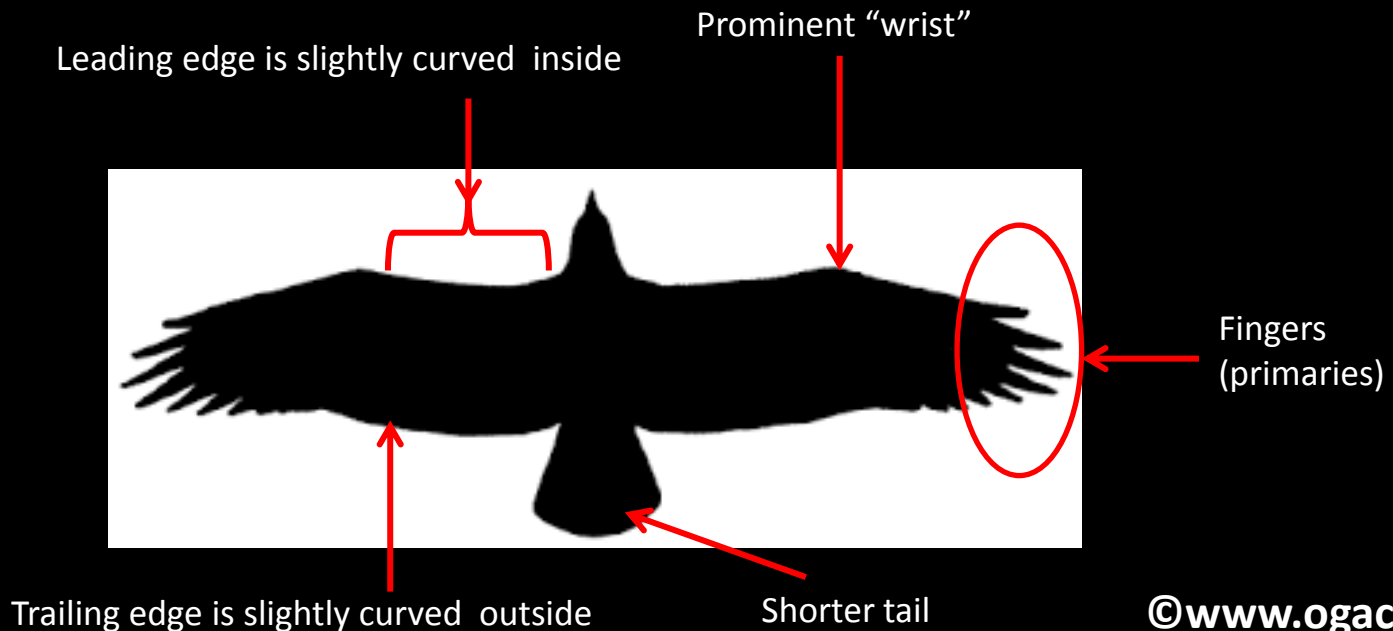
Buteo

Accipiter

Falcon

# Serpent Eagles

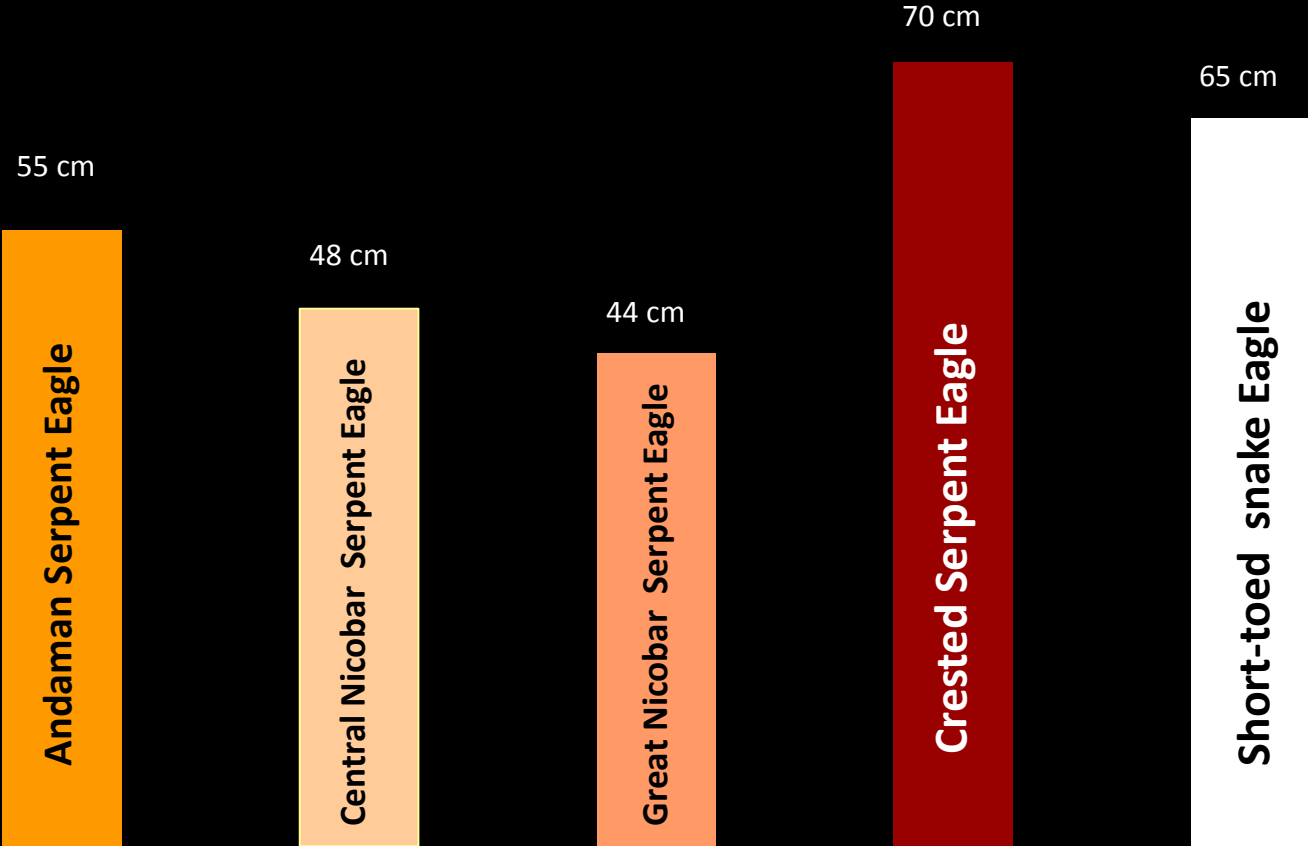
- Eagles are birds of prey large enough to hunt sizeable (about 50 cm long or more overall) vertebrate prey
- Serpent Eagles are part of Eagle family characterised by scaly legs that are unfeathered to protect them from Snake bites
- Small eagles with Sharp eyes & very agile snake hunters
- Reptiles ( Espl Snakes) are preferred prey



# List of Serpent Eagles found in India

<b>Sno.</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b><i>Binomial Name</i></b>
<b>1</b>	<b>Andaman Serpent Eagle</b>	<b><i>Spilornis elgini</i></b>
<b>2</b>	<b>Central Nicobar Serpent Eagle</b>	<b><i>Spilornis minimus</i></b>
<b>3</b>	<b>Great Nicobar Serpent Eagle</b>	<b><i>Spilornis klossi</i></b>
<b>4</b>	<b>Crested Serpent Eagle</b>	<b><i>Spilornis cheela</i></b>
<b>5</b>	<b>Short-toed Snake Eagle</b>	<b><i>Circaetus gallicus</i></b>

# Serpent Eagles Height Comparison



**ANDAMAN**

**&**

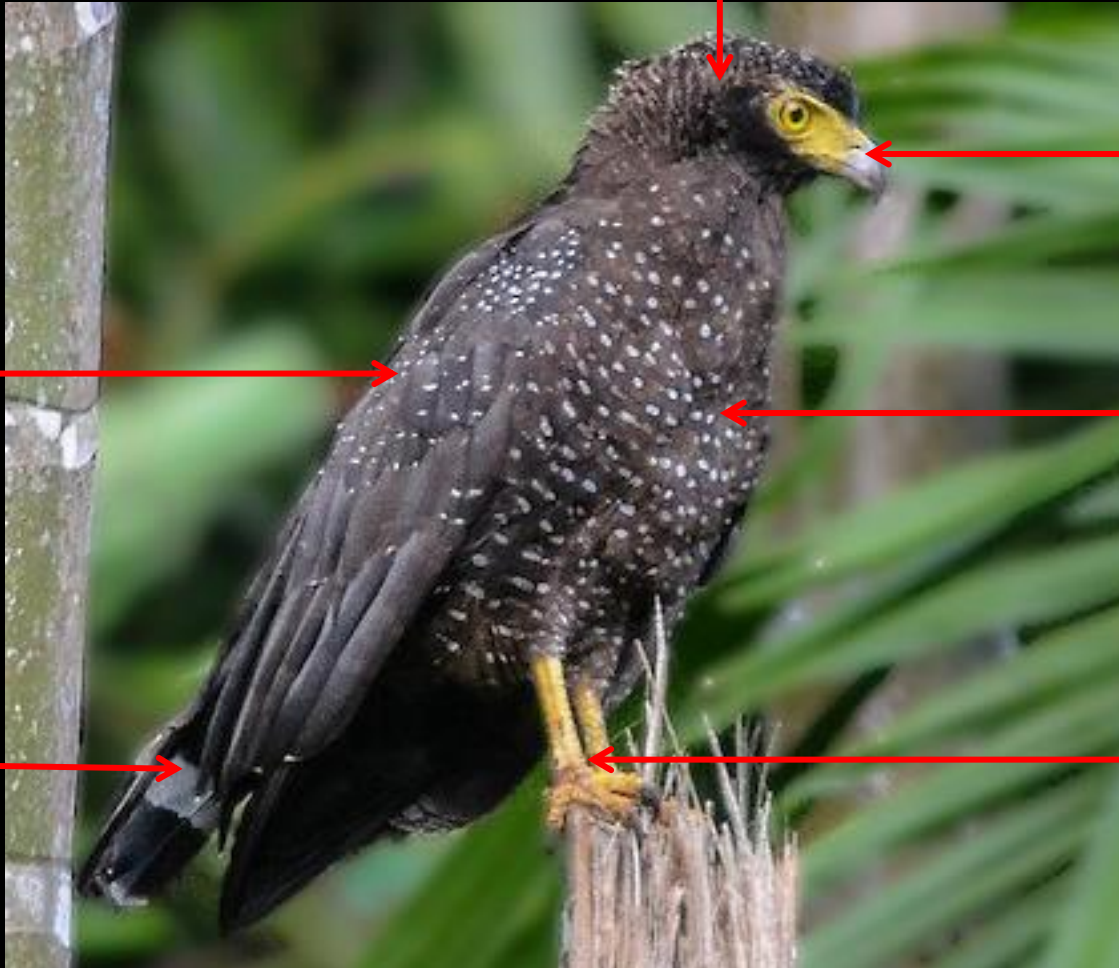
**NICOBAR**

**SERPENT EAGLE**

# Andaman Serpent Eagle Identification Tips

## Andaman Serpent Eagle : *Spilornis elgini* : Resident of Andaman

Black and white fan-shaped nuchal crest



Grey bill with yellow cere

Upperparts with multiple spots

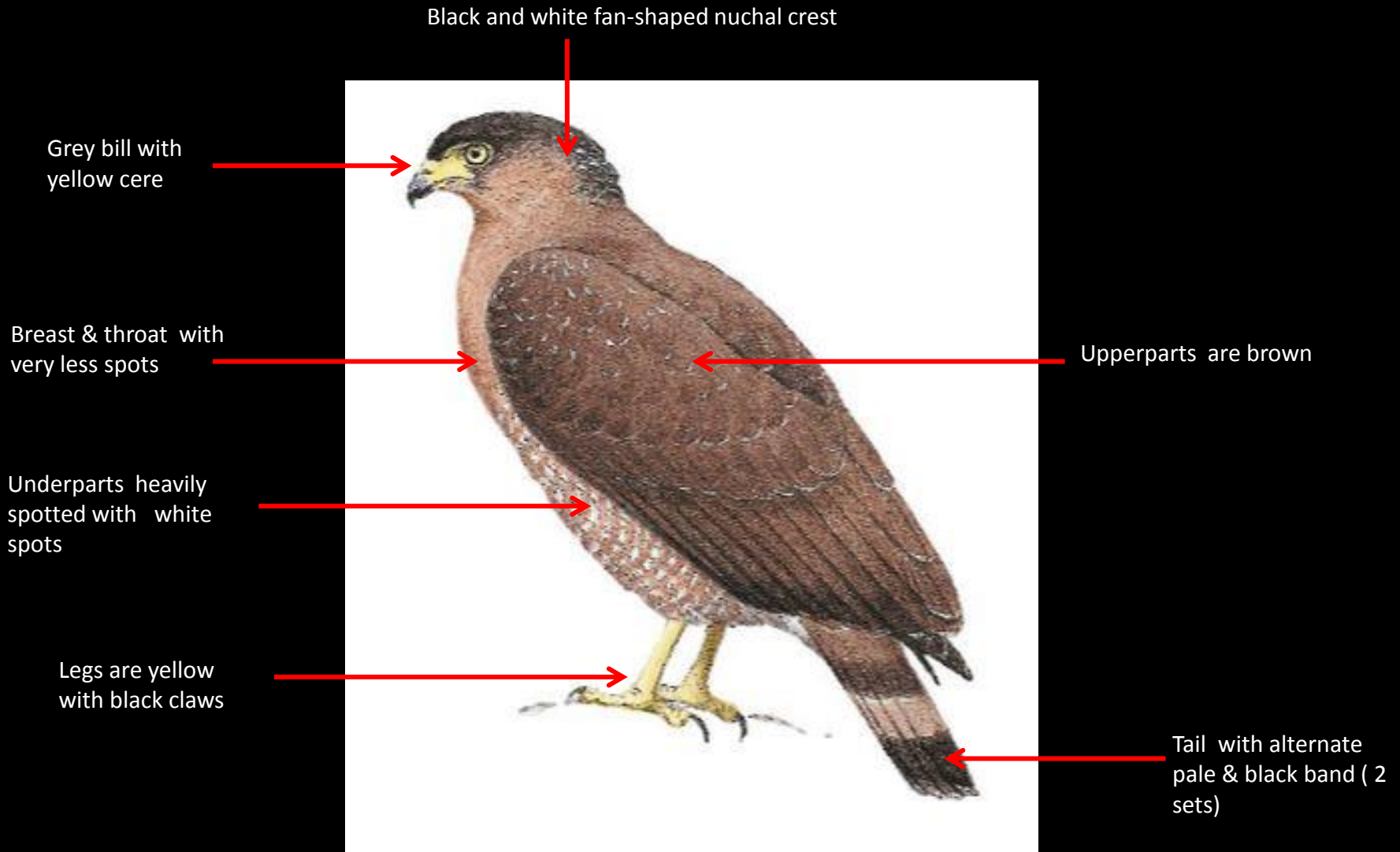
Underparts with multiple white spots

Tail with multiple black band

Legs are yellow with black claws

# Central Nicobar Serpent Eagle Identification Tips

Andaman Serpent Eagle : *Spilornis minimus*: Resident of Central Nicobar Islands





# Great Nicobar Serpent Eagle Identification Tips

Andaman Serpent Eagle : *Spilornis klossi*: Resident of Great Nicobar Islands

Black nuchal crest without spots

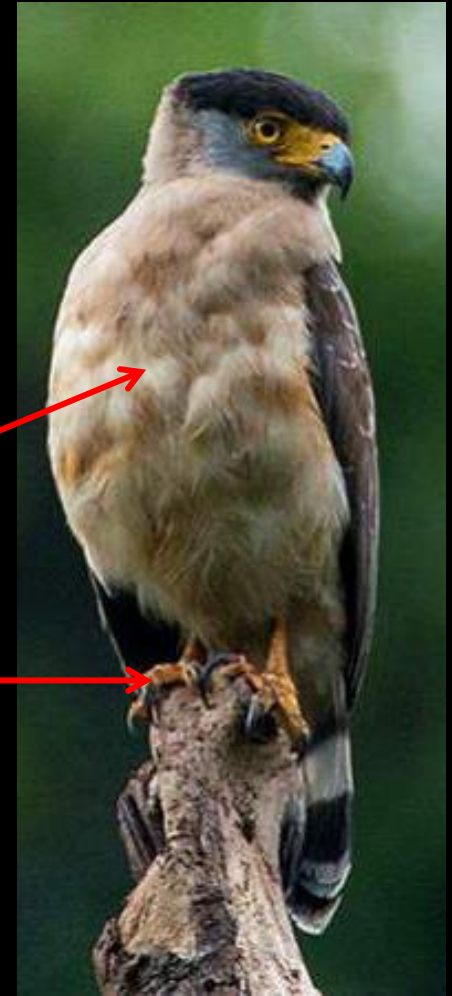
Grey bill with yellow cere



Upperparts are brown

Unspotted off white underparts

Legs are yellow with black claws



Tail with alternate pale & black band ( 2 sets)

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

**CRESTED  
SERPENT  
EAGLE**

# Crested Serpent Eagle Identification Tips : Juvenile

**Crested Serpent Eagle : *Spilornis cheela* :** Wide spread Resident in India ( Except North West & North East India )



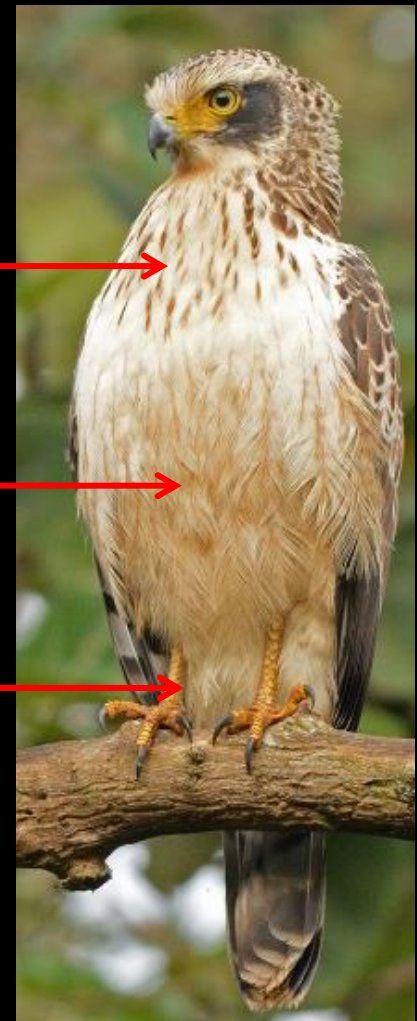
White head with black streaks

Black patch on face

Brown upperparts with white streaks

Two black band on white tail

Black bill with yellow cere



Throat & breast Buff-white streaked brown

Buff underparts

Legs are yellow with black claws

## Crested Serpent Eagle Identification Tips : Adult

**Crested Serpent Eagle : *Spilornis cheela*:** Wide spread Resident in India ( Except North West & North East India )

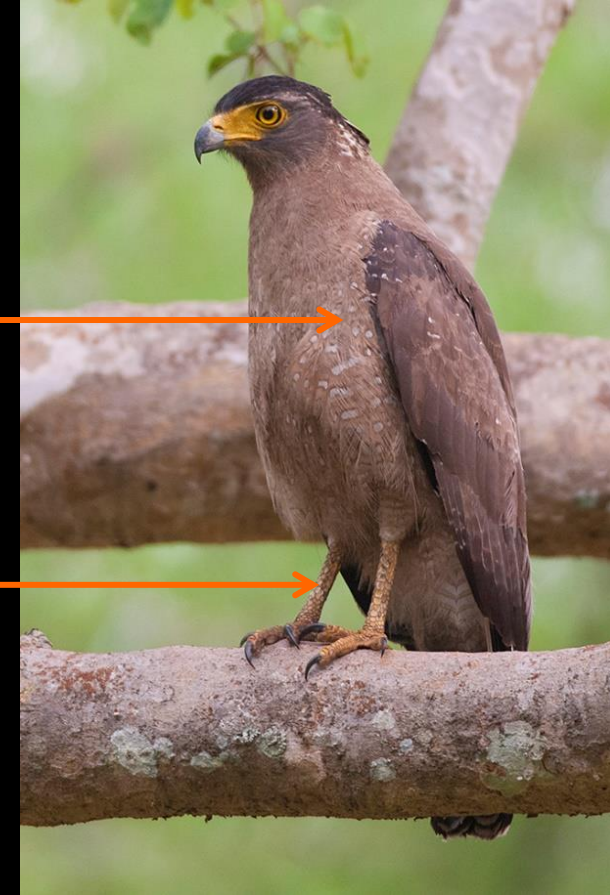


Black and white fan-shaped nuchal crest

Brown upperparts

Brown flight feathers with black Edges

Black bands on tail



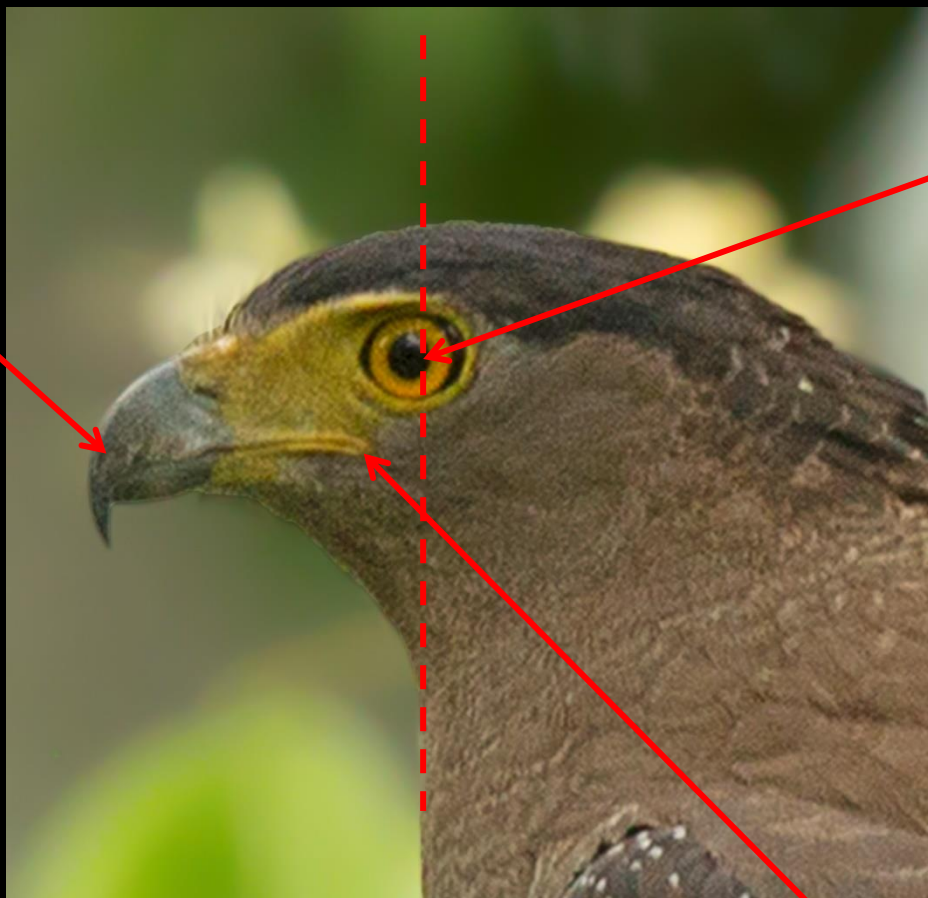
Brown underparts spotted with white & yellowish-brown

Legs are yellow with black claws

## Crested Serpent Eagle Identification Tips : Face

**Crested Serpent Eagle : *Spilornis cheela*:** Wide spread Resident in India ( Except North West & North East India )

Grey/Black beak  
with yellow cere

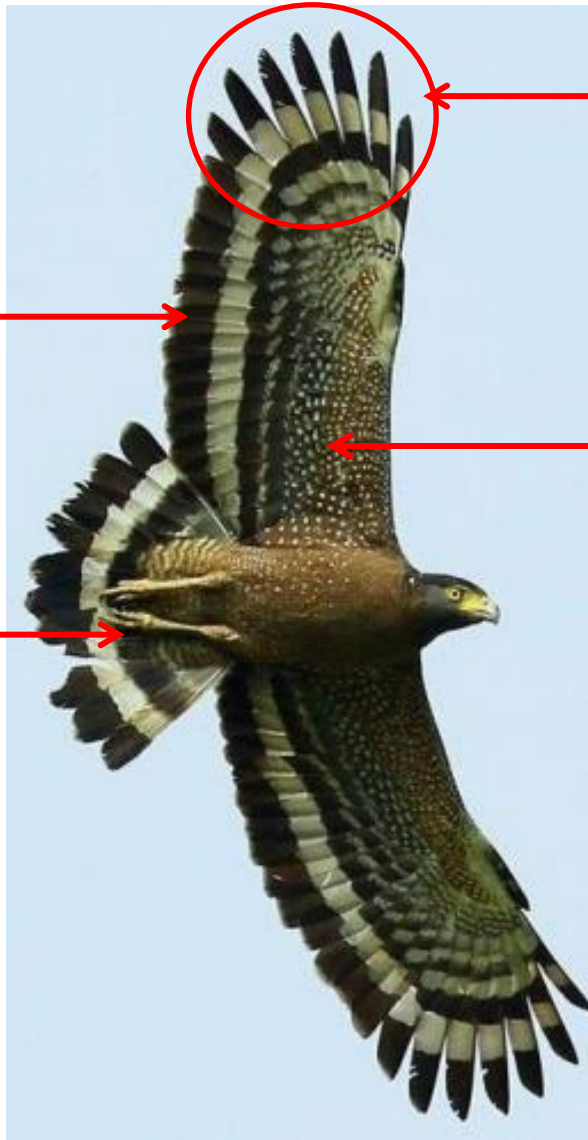


Iris is yellow,  
black eyering

Thin yellow gape, ending before the centre of eyes

# Crested Serpent Eagle Identification Tips : Flight

Crested Serpent Eagle : *Spilornis cheela*: Wide spread Resident in India ( Except North West & North East India )



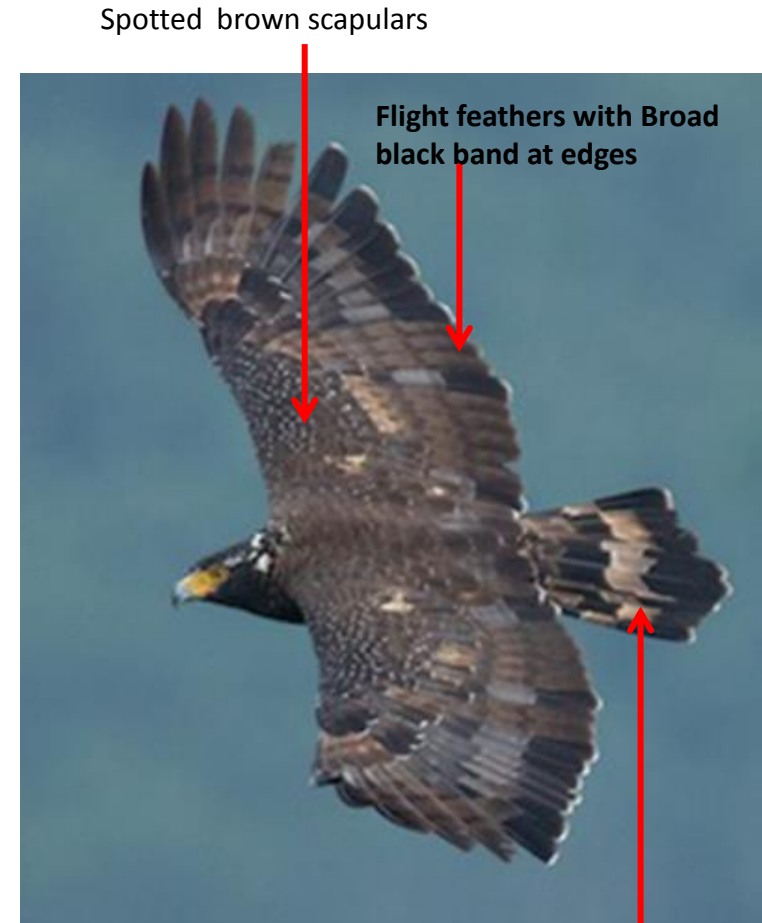
7 fingers

White flight feathers with Broad black band at edges

Brown under wing coverts with white spots

Tail feathers with two Broad black bands with white band in between them

Pale Under wings ( Secondaries)



Spotted brown scapulars

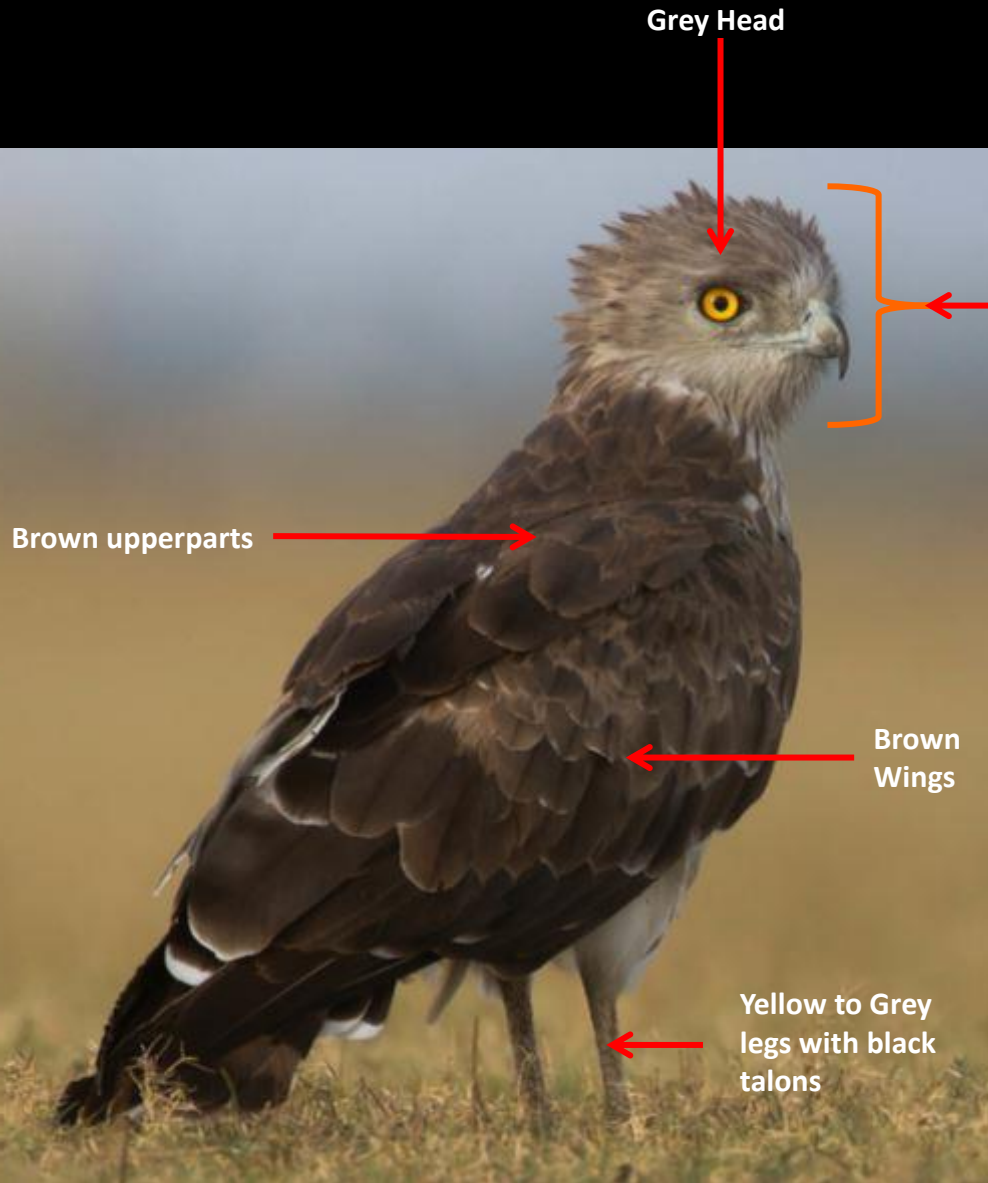
Flight feathers with Broad black band at edges

Tail feathers with two Broad black bands

**SHORT-TOED  
SNAKE EAGLE**

# Short-toed Snake Eagle Identification Tips

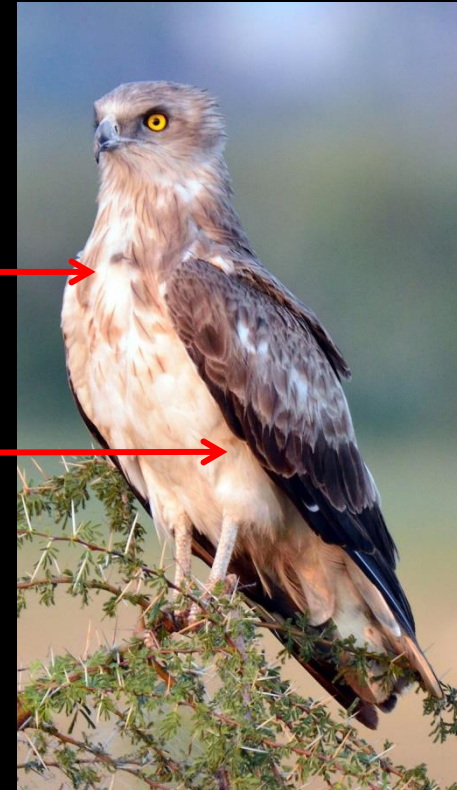
Short-toed Snake Eagle : *Circaetus gallicus*: Wide spread resident in India ( Except South East India )



Grey face  
Owl like face

White throat &  
breast with brown  
streaks

White underparts

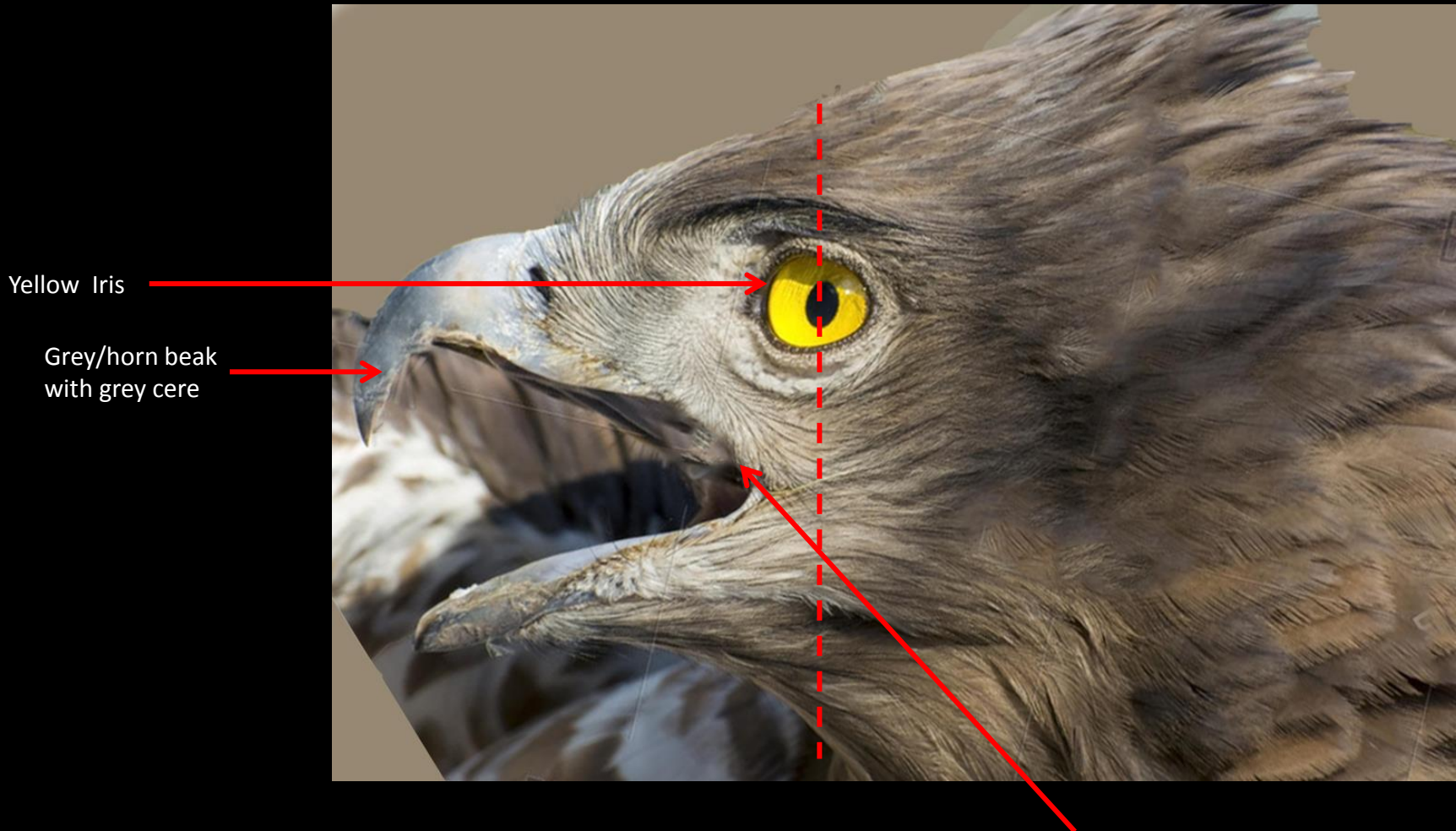


Reference : Birds of Indian Subcontinent  
Inskipp and Grimmett  
[www.HBW.com](http://www.HBW.com)



## Short-toed Snake Eagle Identification Tips : face

Short-toed Snake Eagle : *Circaetus gallicus*: Wide spread resident in India ( Except South East India )



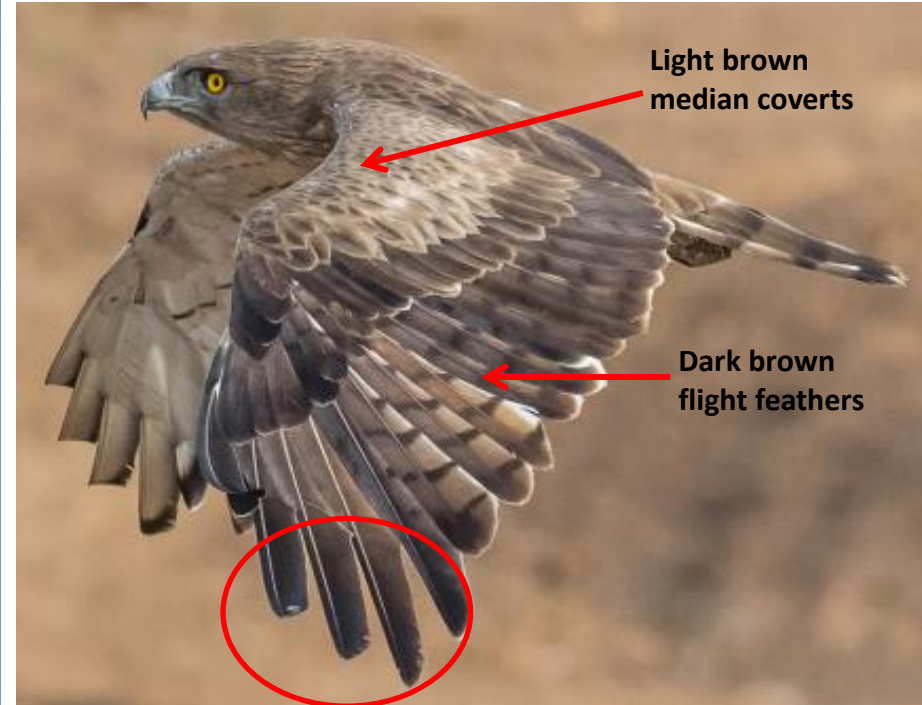
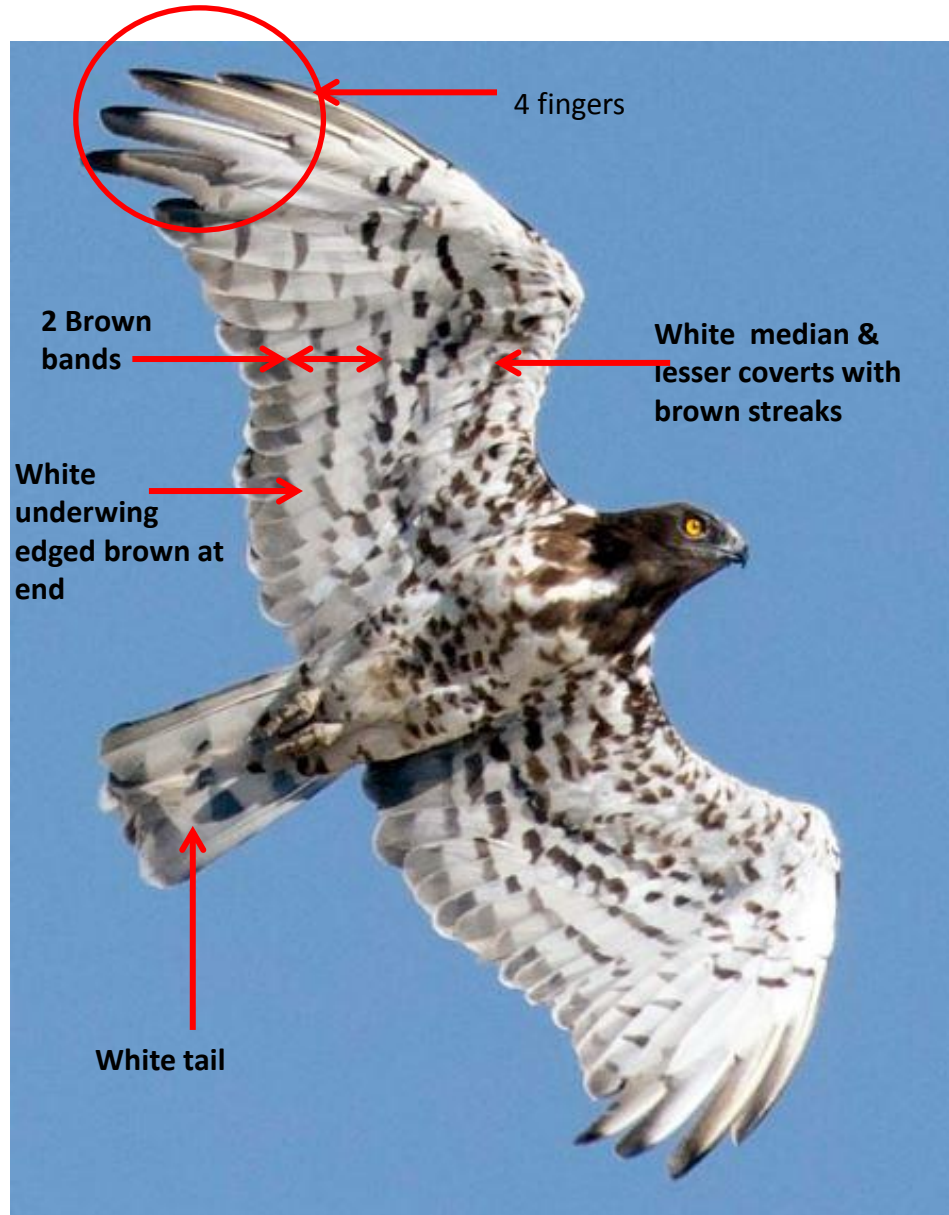
Yellow Iris

Grey/horn beak  
with grey cere

Thin grey gape, ending before the centre of eyes

# Short-toed Snake Eagle Identification- Flight

Short-toed Snake Eagle : *Circaetus gallicus*: Wide spread resident in India ( Except South East India )



## Serpent Eagle Identification at a glance

<b>Name</b>	<b>Distribution</b>	<b>Crest</b>	<b>Upperparts</b>	<b>Underparts</b>	<b>Tail</b>
<b>Andaman Serpent Eagle</b>	<b>Andaman Islands</b>	<b>Brown /Black with spots</b>	<b>Brown with spots</b>	<b>Heavily Spotted Throat &amp; Breast</b>	<b>Tail with multiple black band</b>
<b>Central Nicobar Serpent Eagle</b>	<b>Nicobar Islands</b>	<b>Black and white fan-shaped</b>	<b>Brown with spots</b>	<b>Heavily spotted from Belly downwards</b>	<b>Tail with alternate pale &amp; black band ( 2 sets)</b>
<b>Great Nicobar Serpent Eagle</b>	<b>Great Nicobar Islands</b>	<b>Black nuchal crest without spots</b>	<b>Uniform brown</b>	<b>White with brown suffusion , No spots at all</b>	<b>Tail with alternate pale &amp; black band ( 2 sets)</b>
<b>Crested Serpent Eagle</b>	<b>Main land India</b>	<b>Black and white fan-shaped</b>	<b>Uniform brown</b>	<b>Brown underparts spotted with white &amp; yellowish-brown</b>	<b>Black bands on brown tail</b>