



- The following pages have some identification markers for each of the Starlings found in India
- To know more on these birds you can visit <http://ogaclicks.com/myna-starling/>
- 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  
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# List of Starlings found in India

<b>Sno.</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Binomial Name</b>
1	Asian Glossy Starling	<i>Aplonis panayensis</i>
2	Asian Pied Starling	<i>Gracupica contra</i>
3	Blyth's Starling (Malabar Starling)	<i>Sturnia (malabarica) blythii</i>
4	Brahminy Starling	<i>Sturnia pagodarum</i>
5	Chestnut-cheeked Starling	<i>Agropsar philippensis</i>
6	Chestnut-tailed Starling	<i>Sturnia malabarica</i>
7	Common Starling (European Starling)	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>
8	Daurian Starling	<i>Agropsar sturninus</i>
9	Rosy Starling	<i>Pastor roseus</i>
10	Spot-winged Starling	<i>Saroglossa spiloptera</i>
11	White-headed Starling	<i>Sturnia erythropygia</i>
12	White-shouldered Starling	<i>Sturnia sinensis</i>

# Asian Glossy Starling Identification Tips

**Asian Glossy Starling : *Aplonis panayensis***: Resident of Andaman & Nicobar Islands in India

Small black mask on lores and around eye

iris red

Black with greenish to oily gloss Crown

Bill is black

Nape is black with greenish to oily gloss

Upperparts are Black with greenish to oily gloss

Black with greenish to oily gloss chin ,throat & breast

Coverts are black with greenish to oily gloss

Wing is black with greenish to oily gloss

***A. p. albiris* - Resident of Central & South Nicobar Islands**

iris bluish-white / whitish



Legs are black

Matt Black Underparts

Tail brownish-black

**Both the sexes are similar**

**Difference from Nominat**

**Important id point**

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

# Asian Pied Starling Identification Tips

Asian Pied Starling : *Gracupica contra* : Resident of North ,Central & East India

iris brownish orange, bare skin around eye orange

White forehead

Black glossy Crown

White cheek & ear-coverts

Bill is dull reddish orange with whitish-yellow tip

Nape is black

Upperparts are Black with gloss

Glossy Black chin ,throat & breast

White line along edge of scapulars

Coverts are black with gloss

Wing is black with gloss

*G. c. superciliaris* – Resident of Manipur

Tail brownish-black

Forehead and crown streaked white

White supercilium

Legs are yellowish brown

Greyish-white Underparts

Underparts are Smoky grey

Both the sexes are similar

Difference from Nominat

Important id point

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



# Brahminy Starling Identification Tips

**Brahminy Starling : *Sturnia pagodarum*:** Widespread resident in India ( Except North West & North East India)

Iris pale greenish, small bare patch of whitish skin behind eye

Crown is black, with Long wispy crest formed by elongate and hackled feathers

Bill yellow distally, bluish basally, with dull greenish in between

Nape cinnamon with pale shaft streaks

Cinnamon chin & throat,

Upperparts are grey, tinged brown

Cinnamon breast with pale shafts (streaked effect)

Grey, tinged brown coverts

wing is brownish-black with some white at base

Belly is Cinnamon

Tail is grey-brown, with white tip

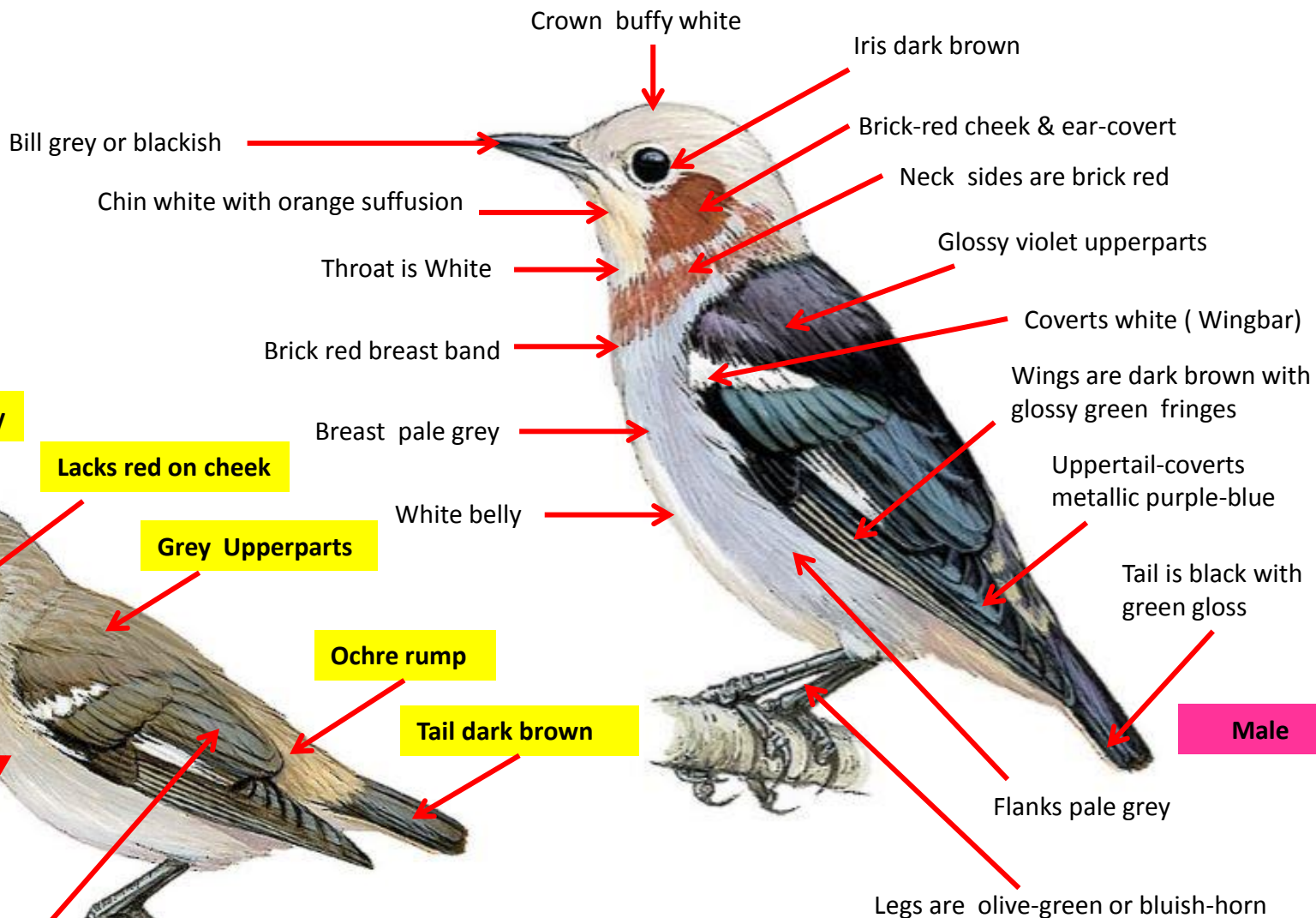
Flanks are greyer

Legs are lemon-yellow

**Both the sexes are similar**

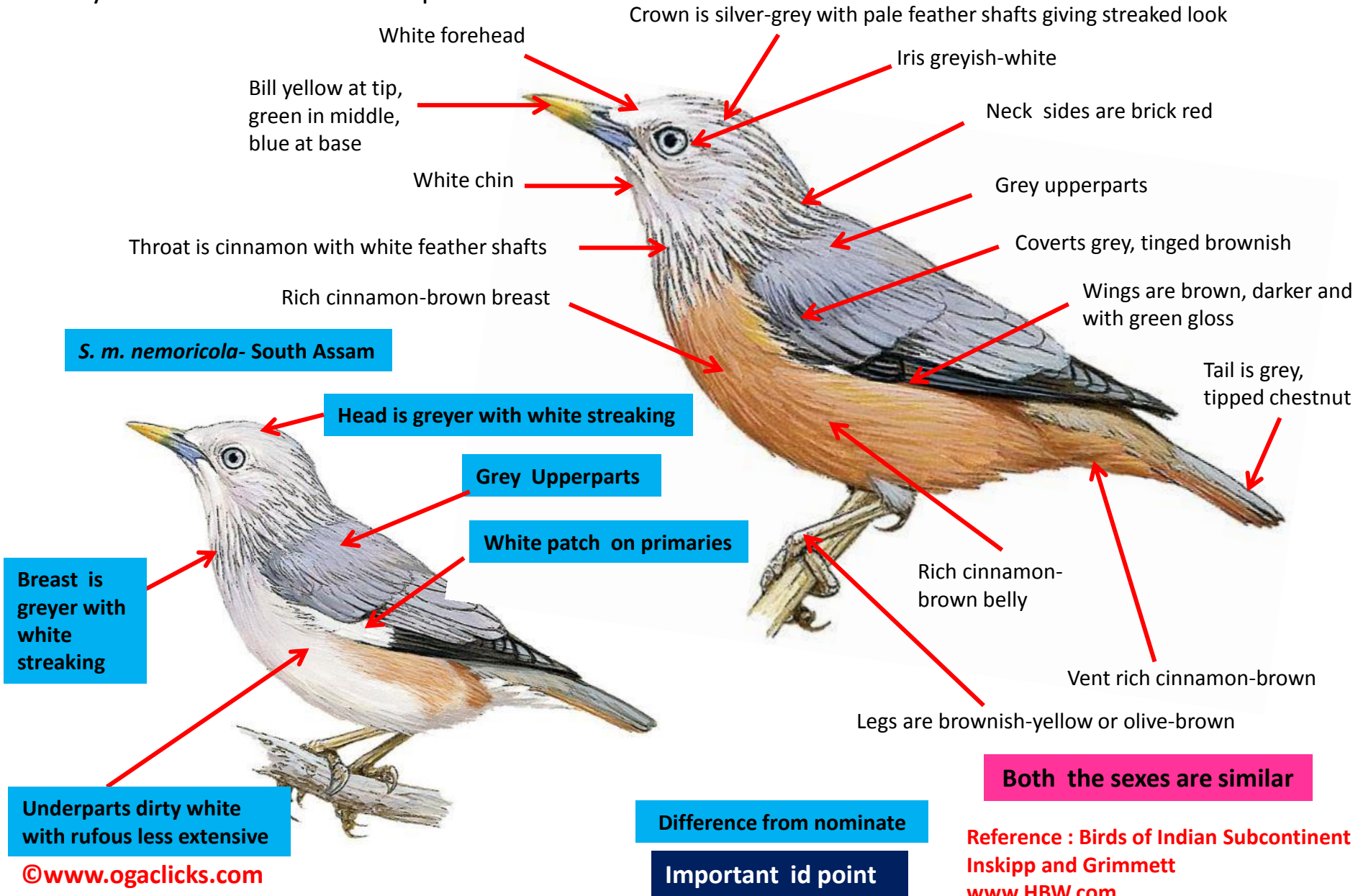
# Chestnut-cheeked Starling Identification Tips

Chestnut-cheeked Starling : *Agropsar philippensis*: Vagrant in India



# Chestnut-tailed Starling Identification Tips

**Chestnut-tailed Starling : *Sturnia malabarica*** : Resident of North East India , Summers in West & Central Himalayas & Winters in Southern peninsular India





# Common Starling (European Starling) Identification Tips

**Common Starling (European Starling) : *Sturnus vulgaris***: Winter visitor in North Subcontinent in India

Crown is black with purple and greenish iridescence, whitish or buff terminal spots

Bill is yellow, grey at base

Iris dark brown

Black upperparts with purple and greenish iridescence, whitish or buff terminal spots

Coverts brown with very narrow buff margins

Wings are brown with very narrow buff margins

Tail is brown with very narrow buff margins

Male

Breast is dark brown, glossed green

Breast pale grey

Brown belly with broader and whiter tips

Legs are Pinkish/flesh coloured

Lanceolate feathers of head and neck shorter and less glossy

More extensive pale tips of body feathers

More extensive pale tips of body feathers

Difference from male

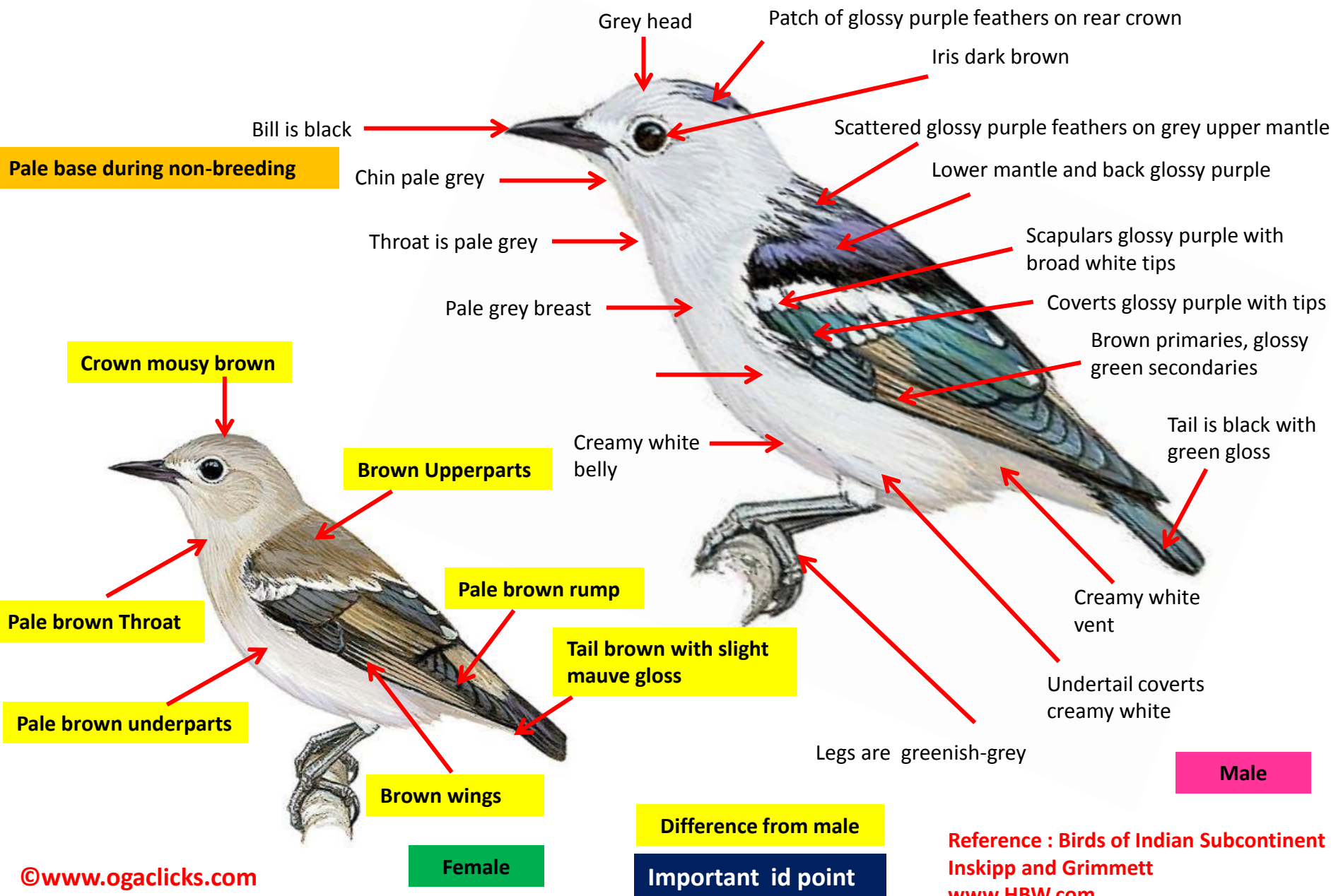
Important id point

Female



# Daurian Starling Identification Tips

Daurian Starling : *Agropsar sturninus* : Vagrant in India



Pale base during non-breeding

Crown mousy brown

Brown Upperparts

Pale brown Throat

Pale brown underparts

Brown wings

Pale brown rump

Tail brown with slight mauve gloss

Female

Difference from male

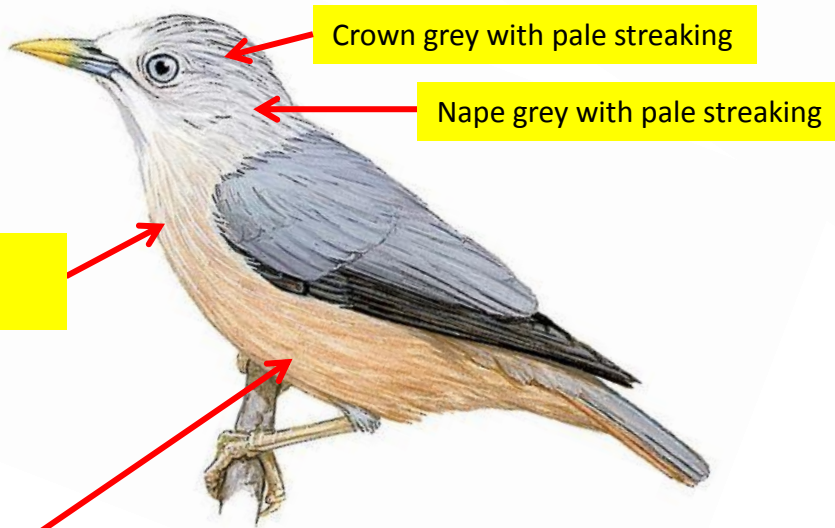
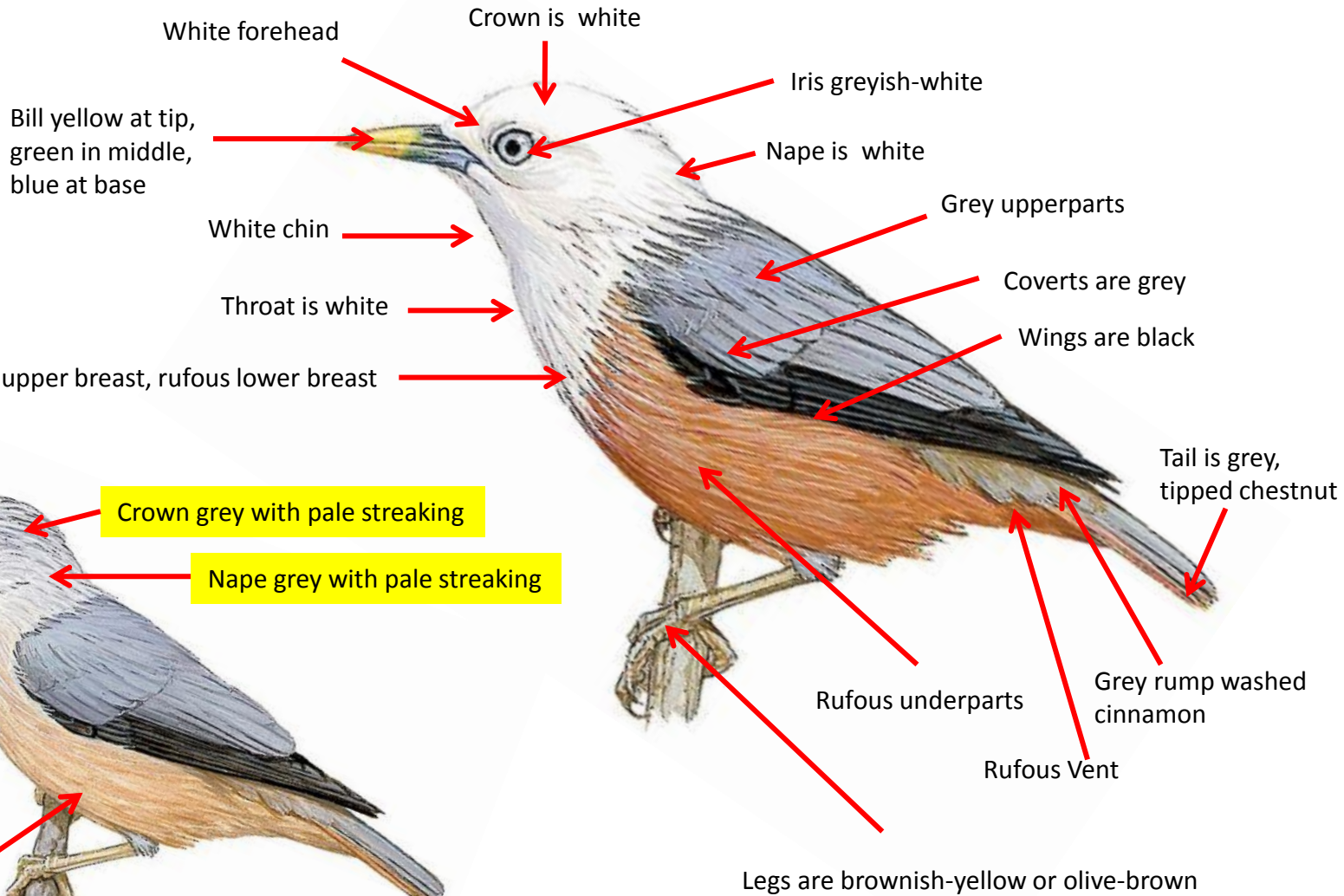
Important id point

Male

Reference : Birds of Indian Subcontinent  
Inskipp and Grimmett  
www.HBW.com

# Malabar Starling ( Blyth's Starling) Identification Tips

**Malabar Starling ( Blyth's Starling): *Sturnia (malabarica) blythii*:** Resident of Western Ghats & South West India

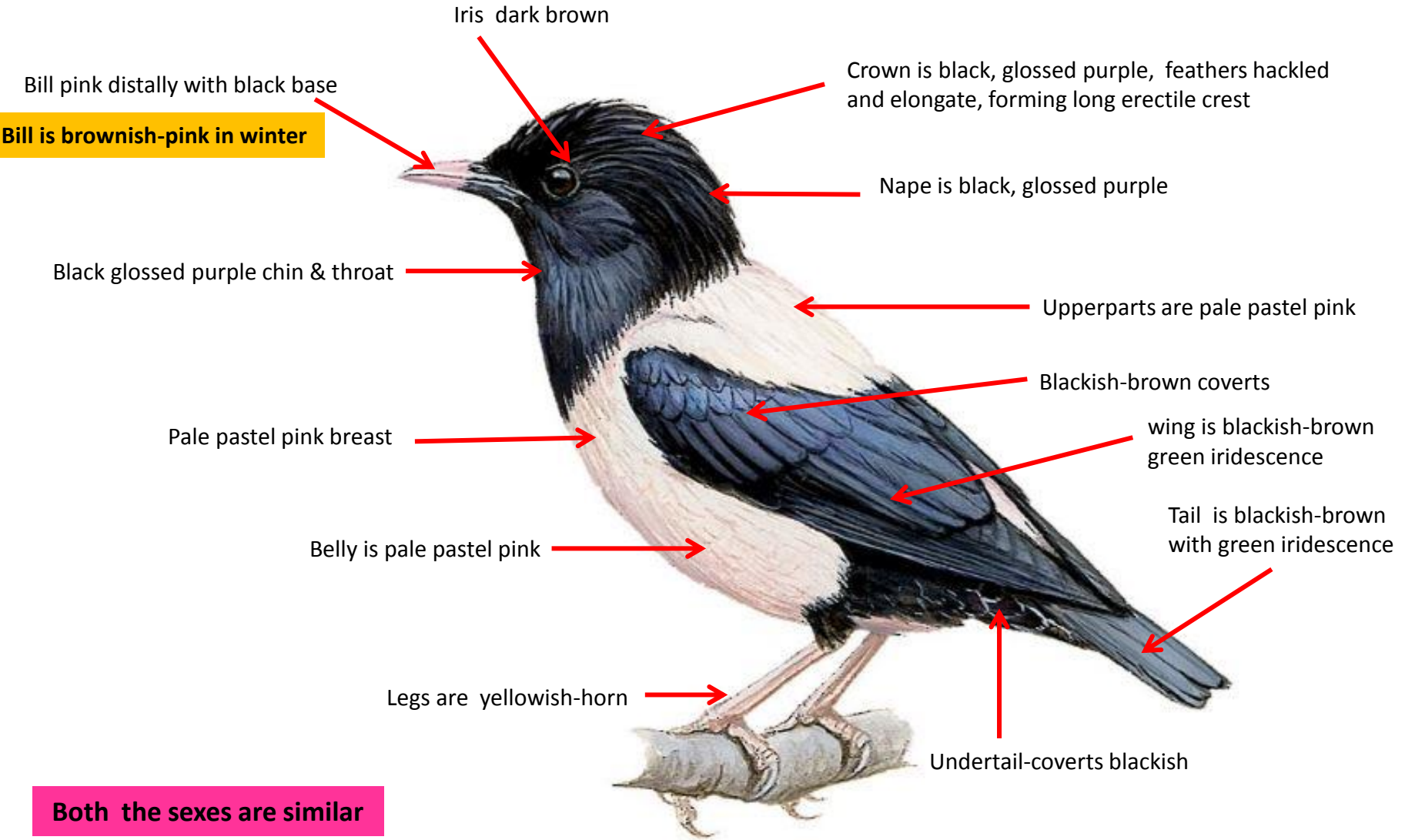


Difference from male  
Important id point

Reference : Birds of Indian Subcontinent  
Inskipp and Grimmett  
www.HBW.com

# Rosy Starling Identification Tips

**Rosy Starling : *Pastor roseus***: Passage migrant in North India, Winter visitor to West & South India



**Bill is brownish-pink in winter**

**Both the sexes are similar**

**Difference from Breeding**

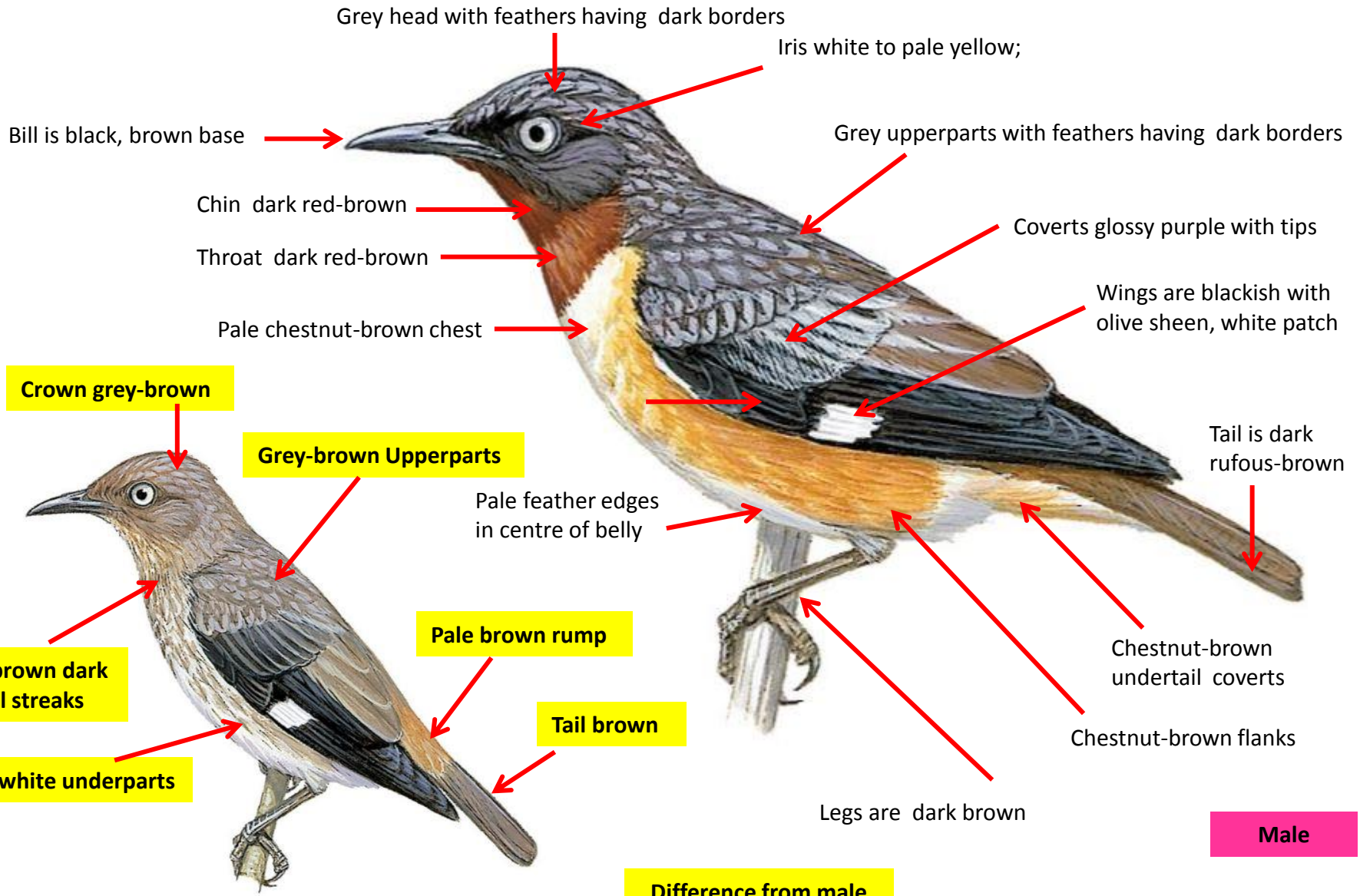
**Important id point**

**Reference : Birds of Indian Subcontinent  
Inskipp and Grimmett  
www.HBW.com**



# Spot-winged Starling Identification Tips

**Spot-winged Starling : *Saroglossa spiloptera***: Resident of Himalayan foothills & North East India



Difference from male  
Important id point

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



# White-headed Starling Identification Tips

White-headed Starling : *Sturnia erythropgia*: Resident of Andaman & Nicobar islands in India

Dirty white head & crown with streaked look

Iris white, grey or bluish

Bill is yellow, small blue area at base

Dirty white nape

Chin is white

Throat is white

Lower mantle and back grey with purple tinge

Wings are black with green gloss

Rump and uppertail-coverts chestnut

Tail is black with green gloss, chestnut tips

White belly

Chestnut washed flanks

Legs are yellow

Chestnut undertail coverts

Tail has white outer rectrices & white tips

Grey rump and uppertail-coverts

Female

Difference from nominate

Important id point

Both the sexes are similar

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

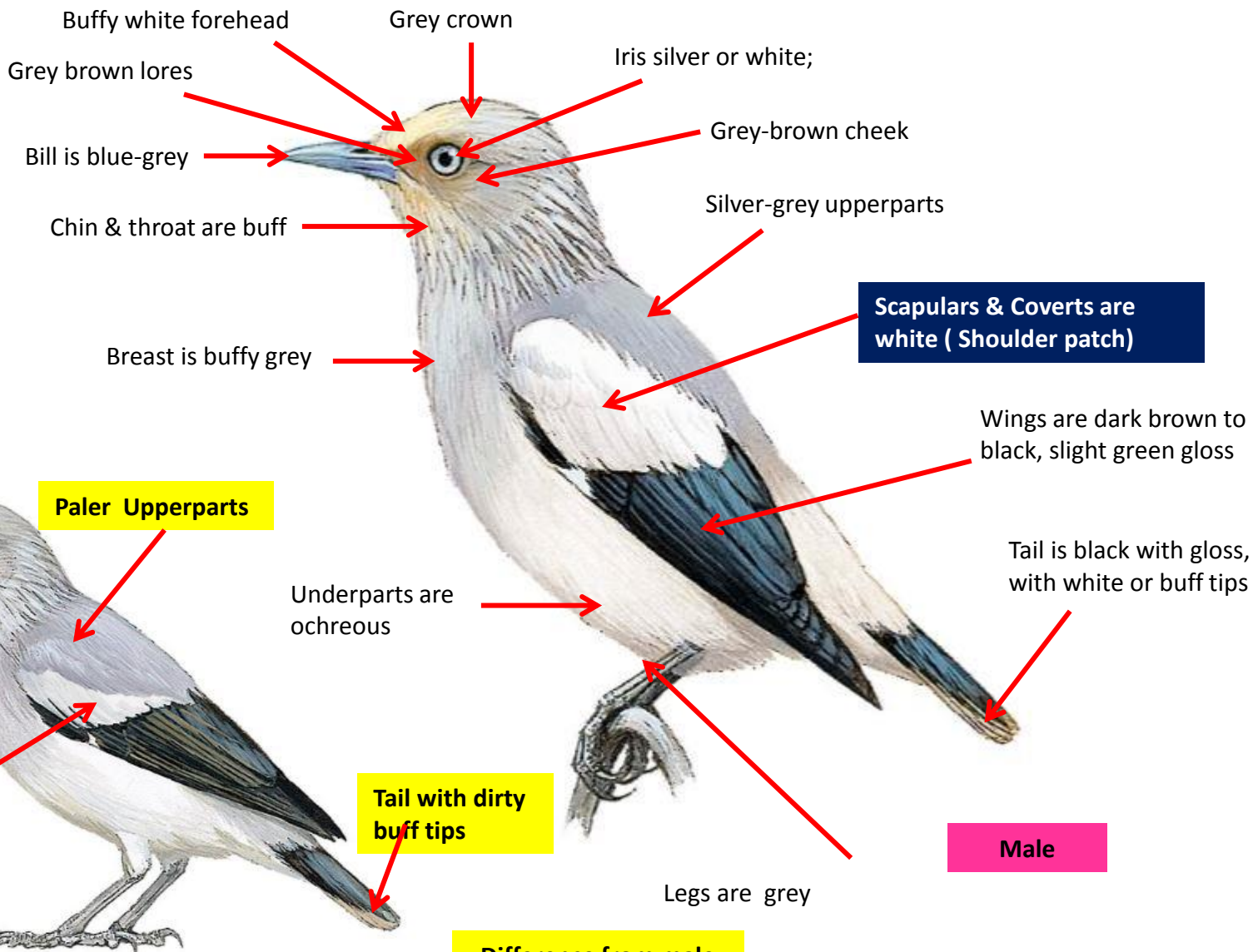
*S. e. andamanensis*- Andaman Islands

Crown plain white

Greyer than nominate

# White-shouldered Starling Identification Tips

White-shouldered Starling : *Sturnia sinensis*: Vagrant in India



Difference from male

Important id point