

Columba livia (Pigeon)

- Pigeons are quite familiar birds that we see everyday of our lives.
- They are best suited for type study because of their convenient size, harmless nature and easy procurement in large numbers.

Systematic Position -

Phylum - Chordata

Subphylum - Vertebrata

Superclass - Tetrapoda

Class - Aves

Subclass - Neornithes

Order - Columbiformes

Genus - Columba

Species - livia

- There are more than 500 species of pigeons have been described which fall under two categories wild and domesticated.
- Common wild pigeon, known as blue rock pigeon or rock dove is Columba livia

Distribution -

- widely distributed in Asia, Europe and North Africa with several geographical races or sub-species.
- At least two races are recorded from India. A larger and paler sub-species Columba livia neglecta found in Himalayas where as Columba livia intermedia is common throughout.

Habitat -

- In its wild, pigeon lives in perfect freedom in ledges, fissures and holes of rocks, forts, old crumbling building and other inaccessible places but never nests on trees.
- often nests in houses tenated by man.

Nature -

- Pigeons are the gentlest of all birds.
- Timid, inoffensive and harmless, they are considered "living symbol of peace, harmony & happiness", all over the world.
- They fly in flocks and roost together.
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a place where birds regularly settle or rest at night.