

A TALE OF 100 TAILS

VIVID QUILLS

A vibrant blue and green bird, possibly a Kingfisher, is perched on a brown branch. The bird has a long, dark beak and a white patch around its eye. Its feathers are a mix of bright blue and green. A quill pen, with a white shaft and a green and blue tip, is positioned diagonally across the top right, resting on the word 'QUILLS'.



We humans have always admired the flying faunas. Birds or Aves have always been envied by humans for their blessed ability to fly and wander freely wherever they want. Their colourful iris, the beauty of their multi-coloured and multi patterned feathers have always been a matter of attraction for poets and painters.

It is now with the gift of cameras, we can capture these majestic creatures of nature. Their array of colours among various species makes them one of the most eye catching subjects of photography in the wild. However, their mobile nature makes it a fun challenge to click!

They even play a vital role in the food web of nature. Be the hovering humming birds that facilitate pollination or the scavenging vulture, more than 10,000 species of birds play a vital role in the food web of nature. Some of them fly across oceans and mountains, some dig soil to lay eggs, some suck nectar from flowers to some species that dive deep in waters, they are indeed, a fascination for nature lovers!



SASWAT PATI & SOURAV PATI
(BIRDS OF COASTAL ODISHA)

F O R E W O R D



N Suresh Krishnan
Managing Director

Vivid Quills- A tale of 100 tails...

On a foggy wintry morning or a dry summer evening, a spring afternoon or a rainy day when life takes a back seat, Paradeep Phosphates Ltd. campus resonates with nature's music through the seasons. Cuckoos in the lush groves, Coucals and Treepies in the hedges, a lone Kingfisher on a swaying twig and a pair of Golden Orioles in some shady corner of a huge banyan tree - together they keep life busy everywhere. Our avian residents and winged guests are at ease, comfortable with life on the campus and it feels like a mini natural paradise for birds.

Alongside the hustle and bustle of human habitation, there is another world that adds on more excitement every year during winter, when innumerable avian guests arrive from all over the world, thronging the water bodies, creeks, marshes, swamps and grasslands. PPL campus is a preferred destination, a beautiful and rich habitat and provides our winged visitors and residents a blissful seclusion for their habitation.

They find food, water, nesting places and a non-threatening environment just right for the messengers of peace. What attracts them from thousands of miles in the north are the bountiful perennial freshwater reservoirs, freshwater marshes, brackish water estuaries and grasslands, with an abundance of fish, small reptiles, insects, weeds and wild grains for their food. The uniqueness of the place is that it provides a peaceful, rich and undisturbed serene habitat to over 200 species of birds, small and large, locals and migrants alike.





“ More than 10 years now, I have been documenting the beauty of nature, and
I feel Nature never Disappoints ”

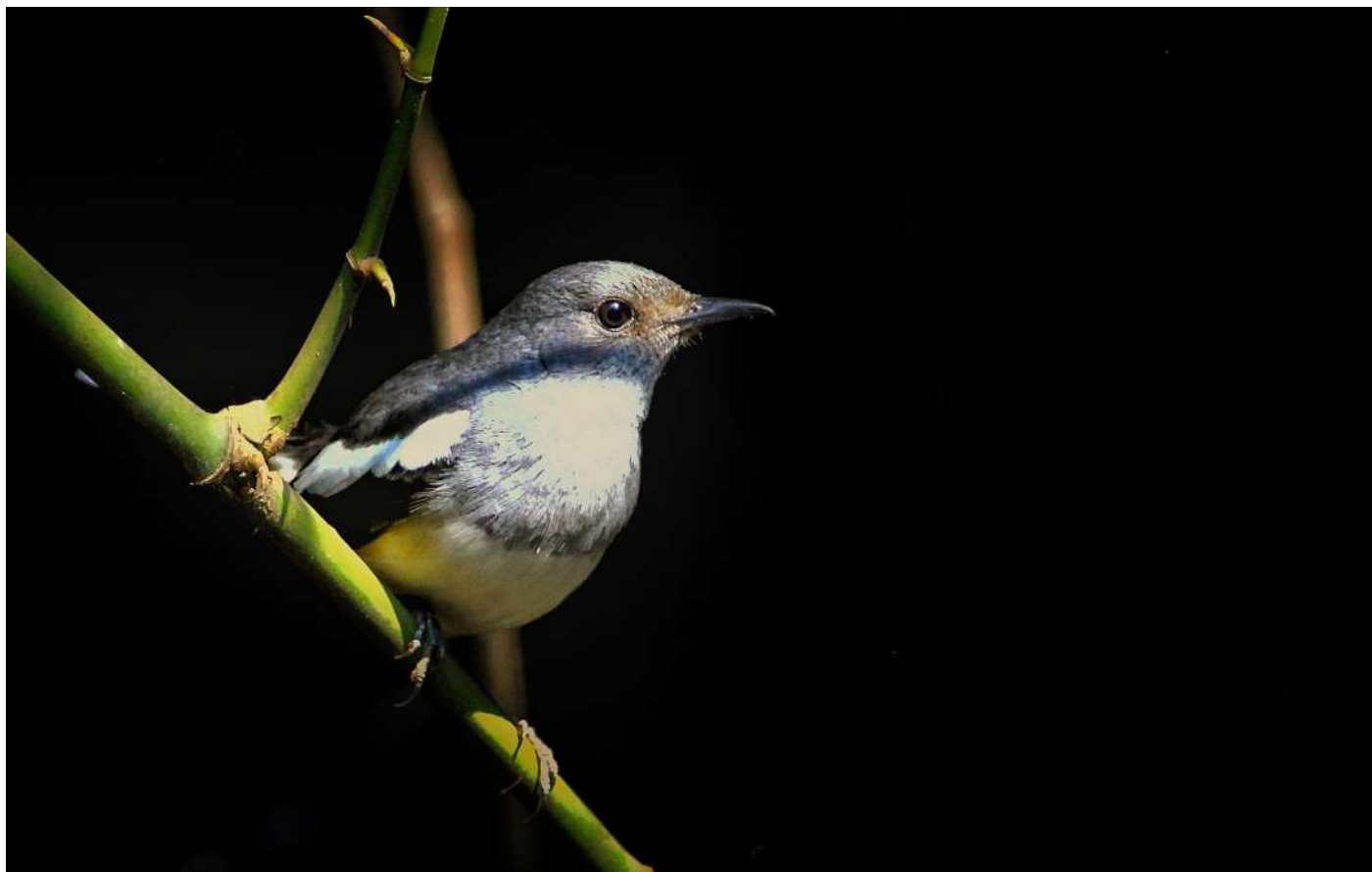
Ruddy shelduck (Tadorna ferruginea)

CANON 80D 1/1500 sec. f/5.6 400 mm ISO 800



Emerald Dove
“Chalcophaps Indica”

CANON 1200D 1/160 sec. f/4 81 mm ISO 3200



Oriental magpie-robin “Copsychus saularis”

CANON 1D-X 1/1000 sec. f/5.6 400 mm ISO 3200



Cotton teal “Nettapus coromandelianus”

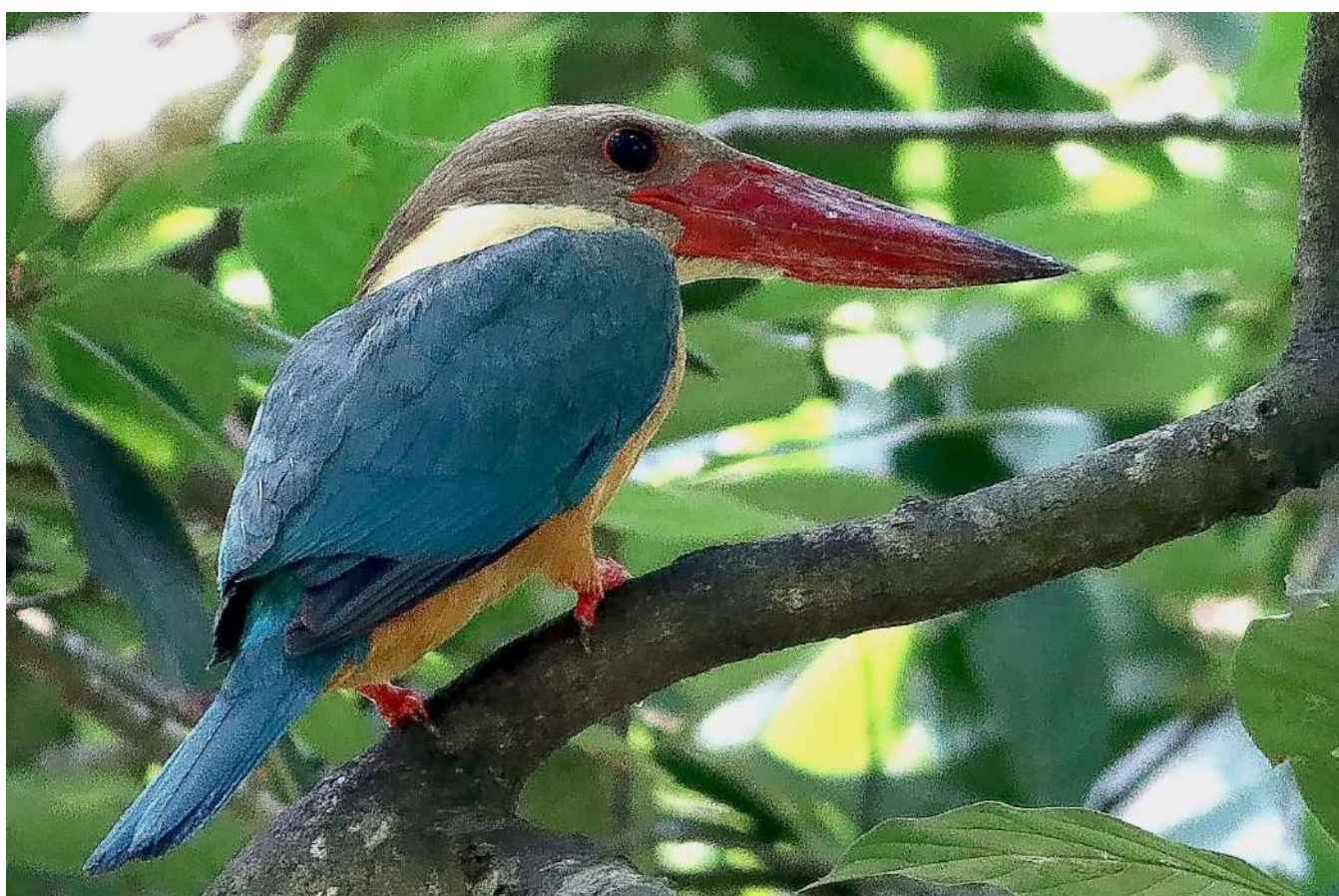
CANON 1200D 1/1000 sec. f/5.9 360 mm ISO 400

“White-throated kingfisher is a species of a variety of habitats, mostly wetlands.”



White-throated kingfisher “*Halcyon smyrnensis*”

CANON 80D 1/1000 sec. f/6.3 400 mm ISO 1000



Stork-billed kingfisher “*Pelargopsis capensis*”

CANON 80D 1/1600 sec. f/5.6 400 mm ISO 1600



Common kingfisher “*Alcedo atthis*”

CANON 80D 1/30 sec. f/5.6 288 mm ISO 100

Kingfishers feed on a wide variety of prey. They are most famous for hunting and eating fish, and some species do specialise in catching fish, but other species take frogs and other amphibians.



Pied kingfisher “*Ceryle rudis*”

CANON 1200D 1/1250 sec. f/5.6 400 mm ISO 200



Collared Kingfisher “Todiramphus Chloris”

CANON 80D 1/1000 sec. f/5.6 400 mm ISO 1600



Black-Capped Kingfisher “Halcyon Pileata”

CANON 80D 1/400 sec. f/5.6 400 mm ISO 2000



Brown-Winged Kingfisher (Pelargopsis Amauroptera)

CANON 80D 1/500 sec. f/5.6 400 mm ISO 1000

This species is nocturnal but sometimes seen in the day. When disturbed from their daytime site, they bob their head and stare at intruders. It can often be located by the small birds that mob it while it is perched in a tree. It hunts a variety of insects and small vertebrates.



Spotted owlet “Athene brama”

CANON 80D 1/500 sec. f/6.3 400 mm ISO 320



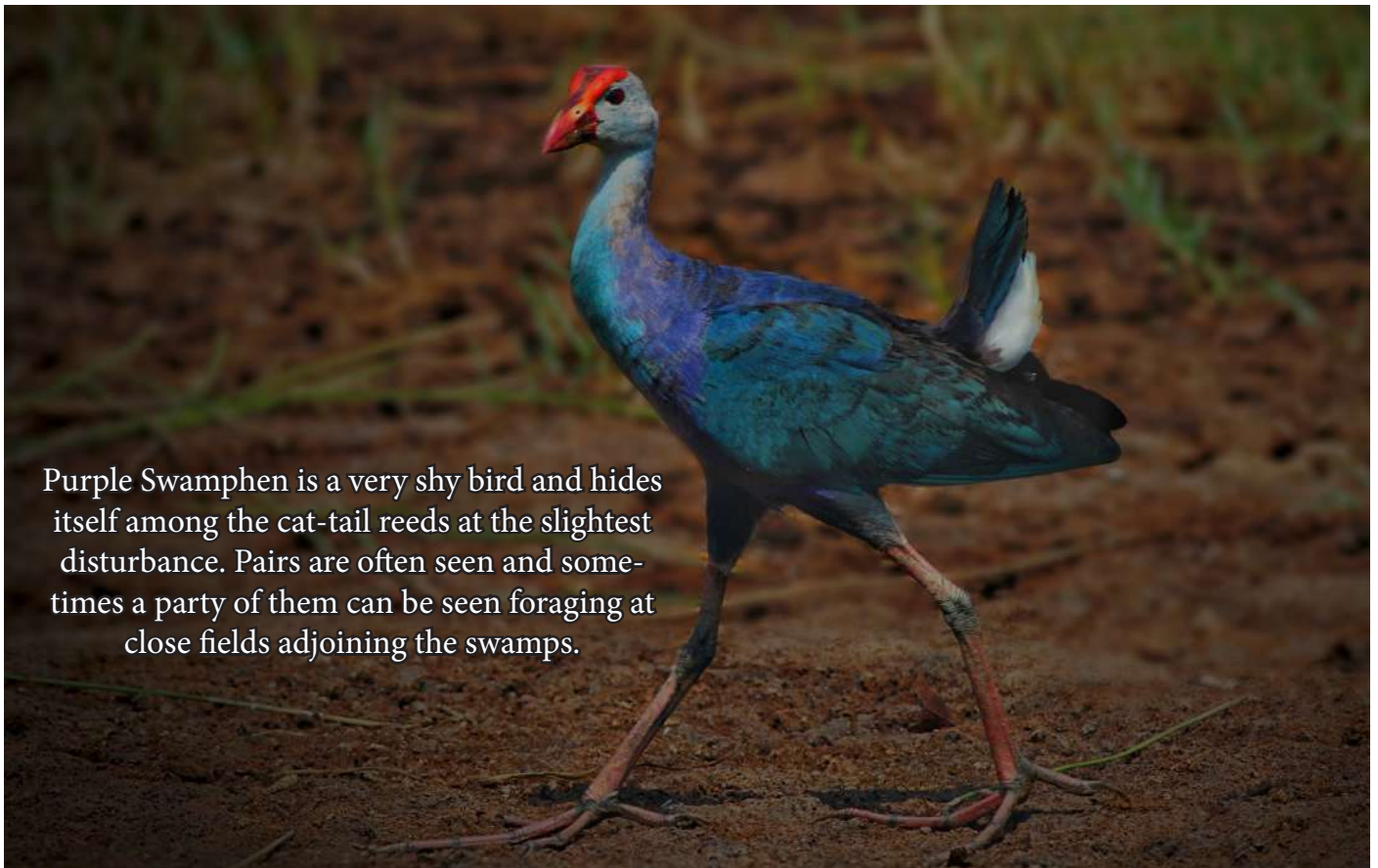
Barred jungle owlet “*Glaucidium radiatum*”
CANON 80D 1/1250 sec. f/5.6 400 mm ISO 3200



Indian scops owl “*Otus bakkamoena*”
CANON 80D 1/100 sec. f/5.6 324 mm ISO 800



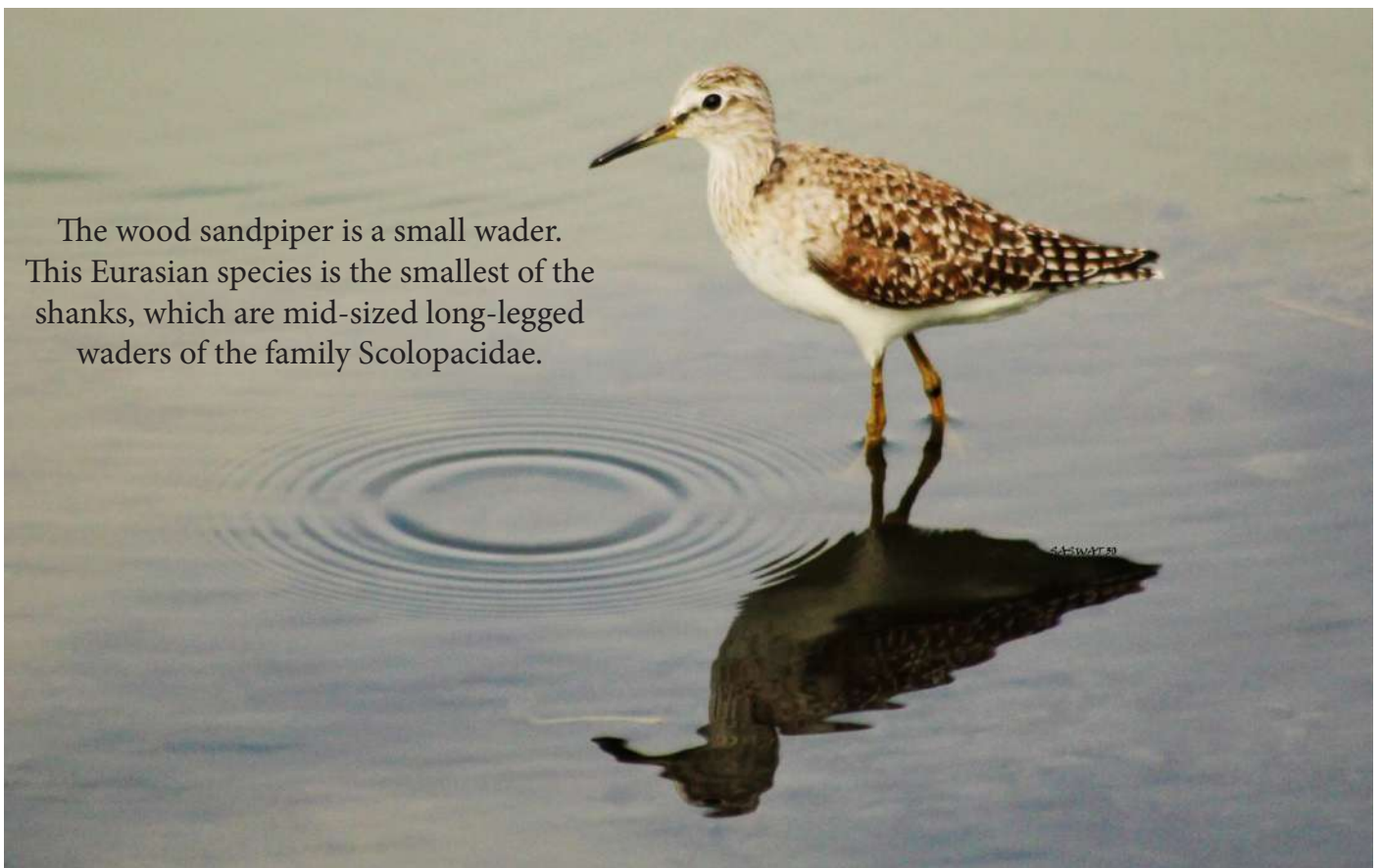
Grey Heron "Ardea cinerea"
CANON 80D 1/1600 sec. f/6.3 400 mm ISO320



Purple Swamphen is a very shy bird and hides itself among the cat-tail reeds at the slightest disturbance. Pairs are often seen and sometimes a party of them can be seen foraging at close fields adjoining the swamps.

Purple Swamphen “*Porphyrio porphyrio*”

CANON 1200D 1/1250 sec. f/5.6 400 mm ISO 200



The wood sandpiper is a small wader. This Eurasian species is the smallest of the shanks, which are mid-sized long-legged waders of the family Scolopacidae.

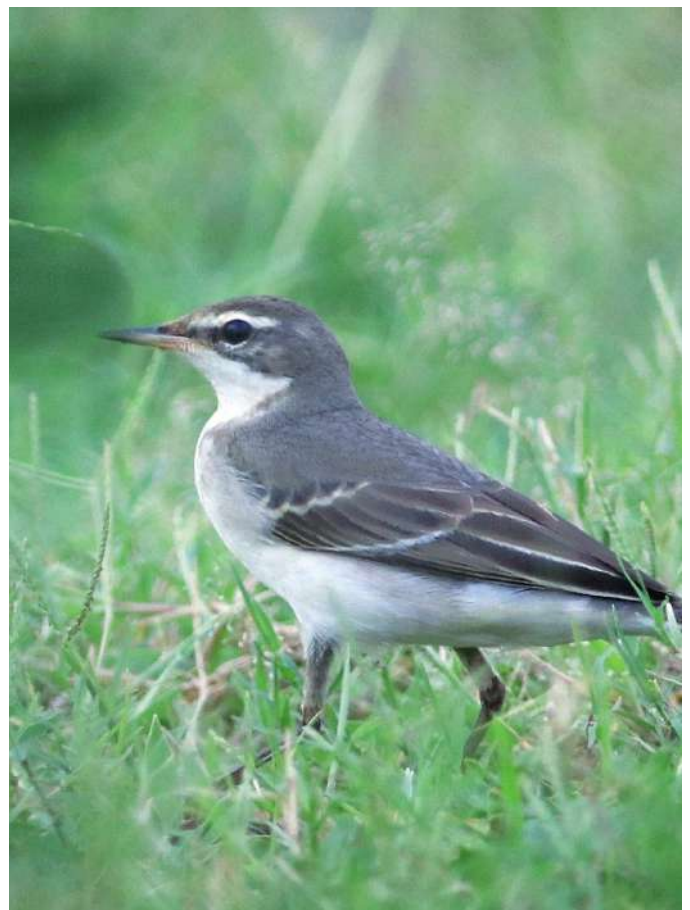
Wood sandpiper “*Tringa glareola*”

CANON 80D 1/2000 sec. f/5.6 300 mm ISO 320



Citrine wagtail (*Motacilla citreola*)

CANON 80D 1/400 sec. f/6.5 247 mm ISO100



Grey Wagtail "*Motacilla cinerea*"

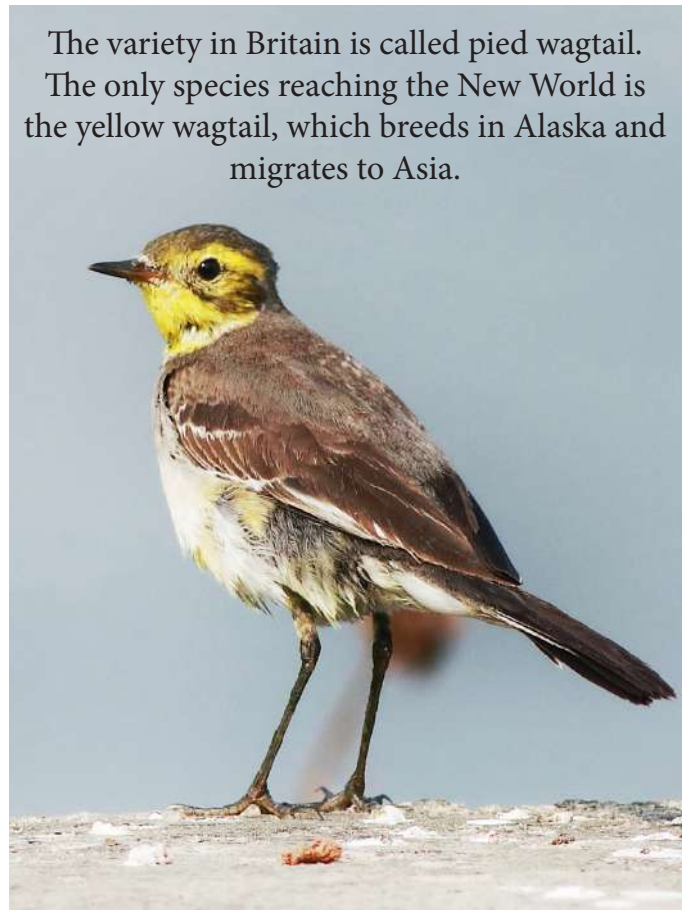
CANON 80D 1/1000 sec. f/5.6 400 mm ISO 1000



White wagtail (*Motacilla alba*)

CANON 80D 1/1000 sec. f/5.6 360 mm ISO250

The variety in Britain is called pied wagtail.
The only species reaching the New World is
the yellow wagtail, which breeds in Alaska and
migrates to Asia.



Yellow wagtail "*Motacilla tschutschensis*"

CANON 80D 1/1600 sec. f/5.6 400 mm ISO 320



Comb Duck (*Sarkidiornis Sylvicola*)

CANON 80D 1/400 sec. f/5.6 400 mm ISO 1500



Indian Spot-Billed Duck (*Anas Poecilorhyncha*)

CANON 80D 1/1000 sec. f/5.6 400 mm ISO 320



Sasmat 52

Shikra (*Accipiter badius*)
CANON 80D 1/500 sec. f/5.6 400 mm 500



The paradise flycatchers make a range of vocalisations, these range from whistling songs to harsher calls. These songs and calls are typical of the monarch flycatchers.

Asian paradise flycatcher “*Terpsiphone paradisi*”

CANON 80D 1/2000 sec. f/5.6 400 mm ISO1600

The adult black-shouldered kite is around 35 cm in length, with a wingspan of between 80 and 100 cm.

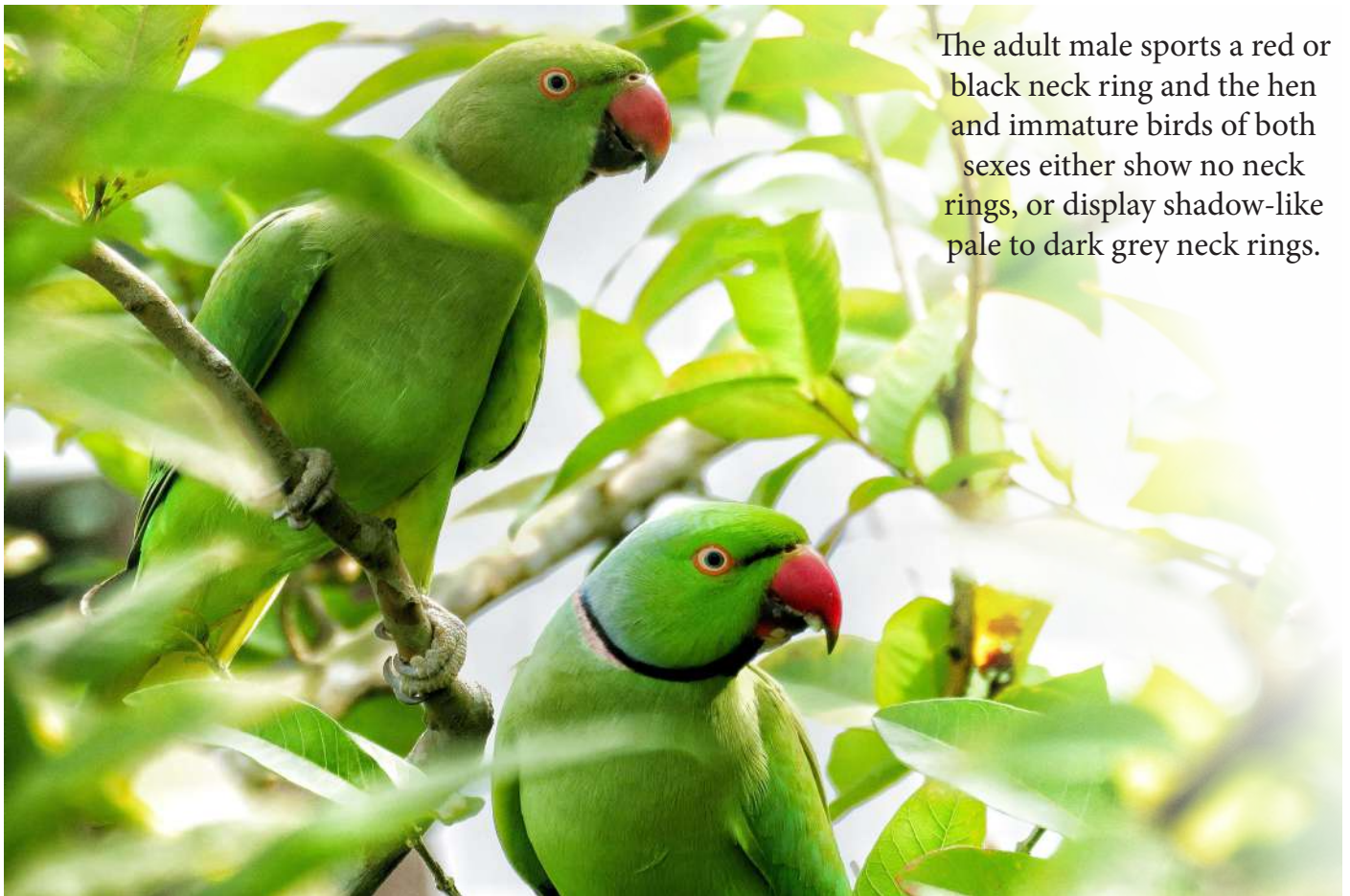
The female is slightly heavier, weighing on average around 300 g compared to the male’s average weight of 260 g.

The sexes have similar plumage.



Black-winged kite “*Elanus caeruleus*”

CANON 80D 1/640 sec. f/5.6 400 mm ISO 1000



The adult male sports a red or black neck ring and the hen and immature birds of both sexes either show no neck rings, or display shadow-like pale to dark grey neck rings.

Rose-ringed parakeet “*Psittacula krameri*”

CANON 80D 1/125 sec. f/5.6 200mm ISO100



Barn Swallows have a steely blue back, wings, and tail, and rufous to tawny underparts. The blue crown and face contrast with the cinnamon colored forehead and throat.

Barn swallow (*Hirundo rustica*)

CANON 80D 1/1600 sec. f/5 190 mm ISO 400



Brown shrike (*Lanius cristatus*)
CANON 80D 1/1250 sec. f/6.3 400 mm 400

The song-flight of Indian Bush
 Lark during the mating season is
 an amazing spectacle.

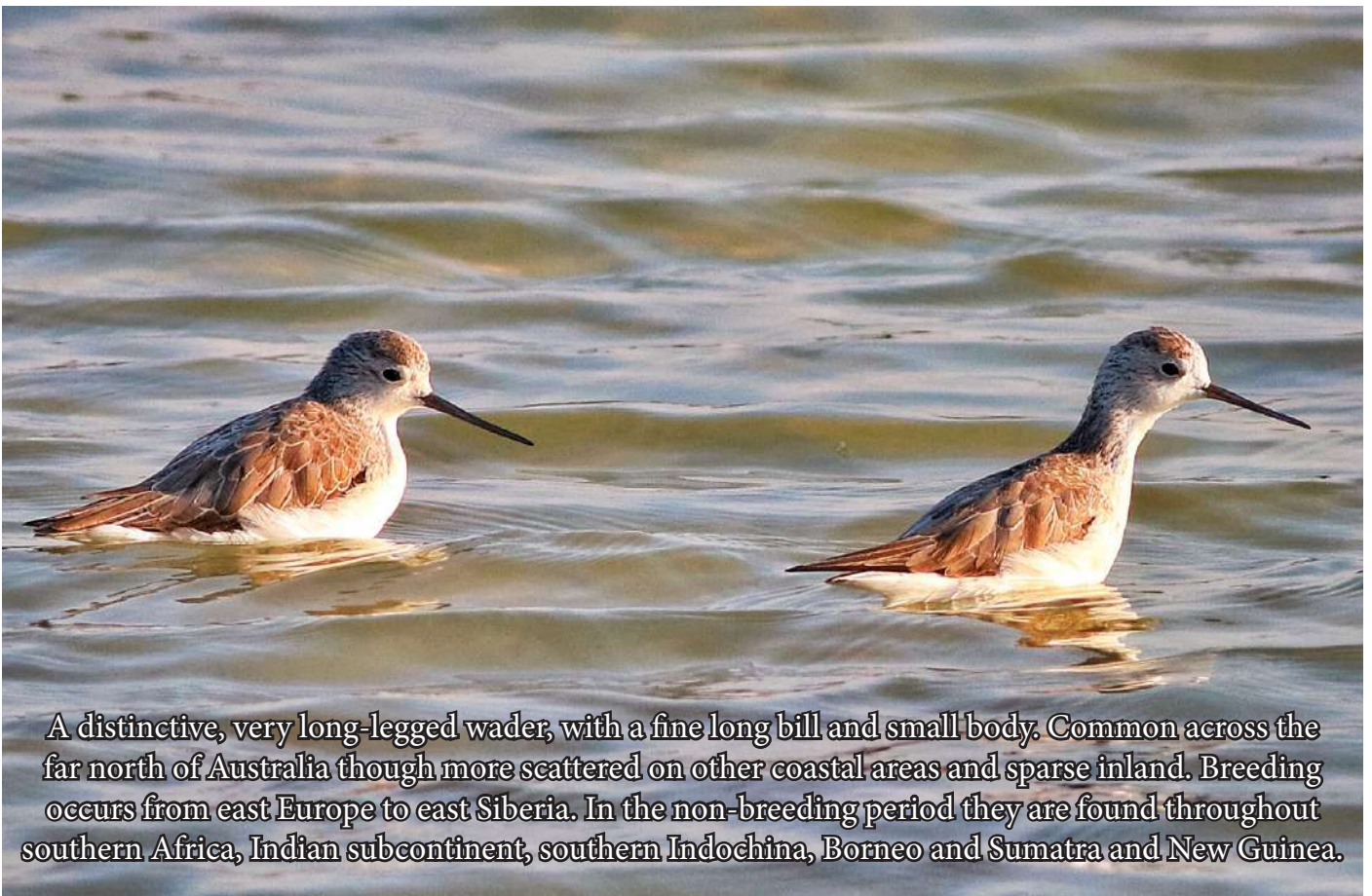


Bengal bush lark "*Mirafra assamica*"
CANON 80D 1/1250 sec. f/5.6 400 mm ISO400

Breeds in southern Asia from southern Pakistan across India east to Indonesia. It is a bird of large inland and coastal waters, especially large lakes. Catches fish in its huge bill pouch while swimming at the surface.



Grey pelican (*Pelecanus philippensis*)
CANON 80D 1/1600 sec. f/5.6 400 mm ISO 800



A distinctive, very long-legged wader, with a fine long bill and small body. Common across the far north of Australia though more scattered on other coastal areas and sparse inland. Breeding occurs from east Europe to east Siberia. In the non-breeding period they are found throughout southern Africa, Indian subcontinent, southern Indochina, Borneo and Sumatra and New Guinea.

Marsh sandpiper (*Tringa stagnatilis*)
CANON 80D 1/1250 sec. f/5.6 400 mm ISO400

A widespread species found in open habitats, especially short grassland and cultivation with open bare ground. It runs rapidly on the ground, and when flushed, does not fly far.



Oriental pipit “*Anthus rufulus*”

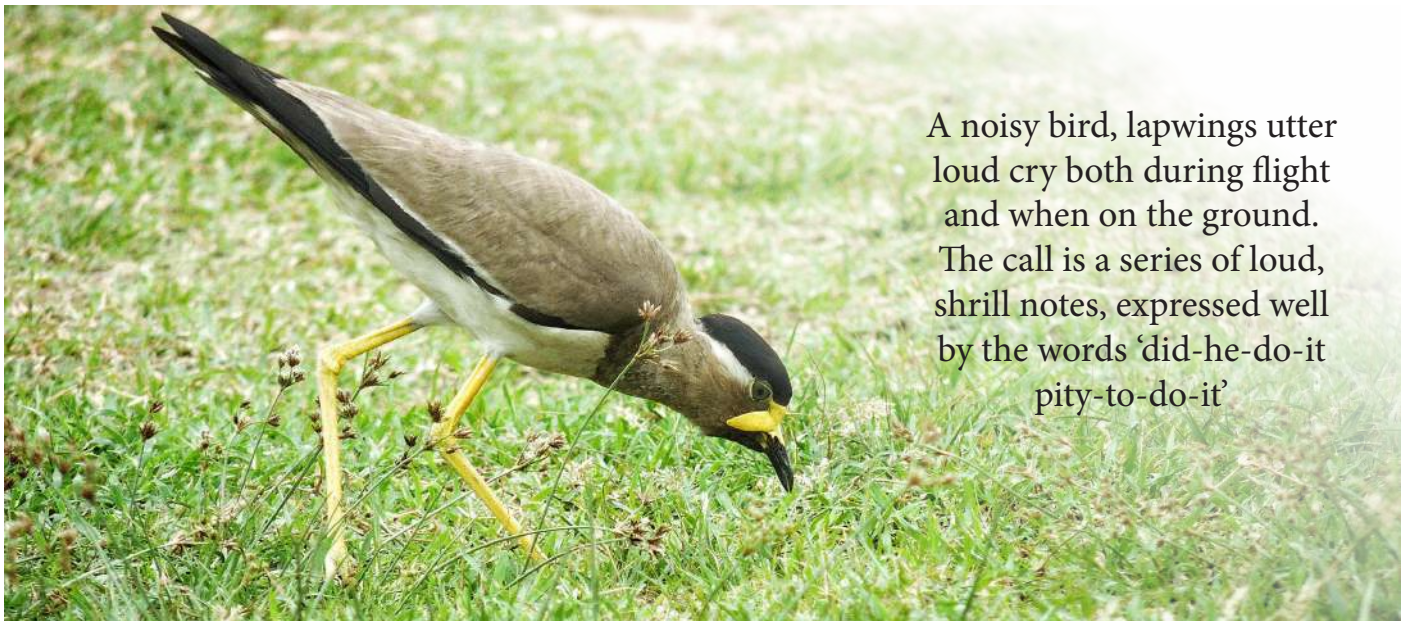
CANON 80D 1/2000 sec. f/5.6 300 mm ISO 500

The red-breasted flycatcher is a small passerine bird. It breeds in eastern Europe and across central Asia and south Asia. It is a regular passage migrant in western Europe.



Red-breasted flycatcher-(female) “*Ficedula parva*”

CANON 80D 1/640 sec. f/6.3 400 mm ISO1000



A noisy bird, lapwings utter loud cry both during flight and when on the ground. The call is a series of loud, shrill notes, expressed well by the words 'did-he-do-it pity-to-do-it'

Yellow-wattled lapwing (*Vanellus malabaricus*)

CANON 80D 1/500 sec. f/5.9 180 mm 5



Red-wattled lapwing (*Vanellus indicus*)

CANON 80D 1/1600 sec. f/5.6 400 mm 1000



Grey-headed lapwing (*Vanellus cinereus*)

CANON 80D 1/1250 sec. f/5.6 400 mm 400



Blyth's reed warbler (*Acrocephalus dumetorum*)
CANON 80D 1/500 sec. f/5.6 400 mm ISO4000



Tailorbirds are found singly or in pairs, usually low in the undergrowth or trees sometimes hopping on the ground. They forage for insects and have been known to feed on a range of beetles and bugs.

Common tailorbird (*Orthotomus sutorius*)
CANON 80D 1/500 sec. f/5.6 400 mm ISO3200

Normally found foraging on bare or low grass covered ground in scrub and open country, and is rarely found above an altitude of 500 m above sea level in India. Fly very low and prefer to run away when threatened.



GREY FRANCOLIN (*Francolinus pondicerianus*)

CANON 80D 1/250 sec. f/5.6 400 mm 400

The black-bellied tern (*Sterna acuticauda*) is a tern found near large rivers in the Indian subcontinent, its range extending from Pakistan, Nepal and India to Myanmar. It has become very scarce in the eastern part of its range and the International Union for Conservation of Nature has assessed its conservation status as being endangered.



Black-bellied tern (*Sterna acuticauda*)

CANON 80D 1/250 sec. f/5.6 128 mm ISO100



Lesser crested tern (*Thalasseus bengalensis*)

CANON 1D-x 1/2500 sec. f/5.6 400 mm ISO200



Temminck's Stint (*Calidris Temminckii*)
CANON 80D 1/600 sec. f/5.6 400 mm ISO 400



House Sparrow (*Passer domesticus*)
CANON 80D 1/1000 sec. f/6.3 250mm ISO800

Western osprey (*Pandion haliaetus*)

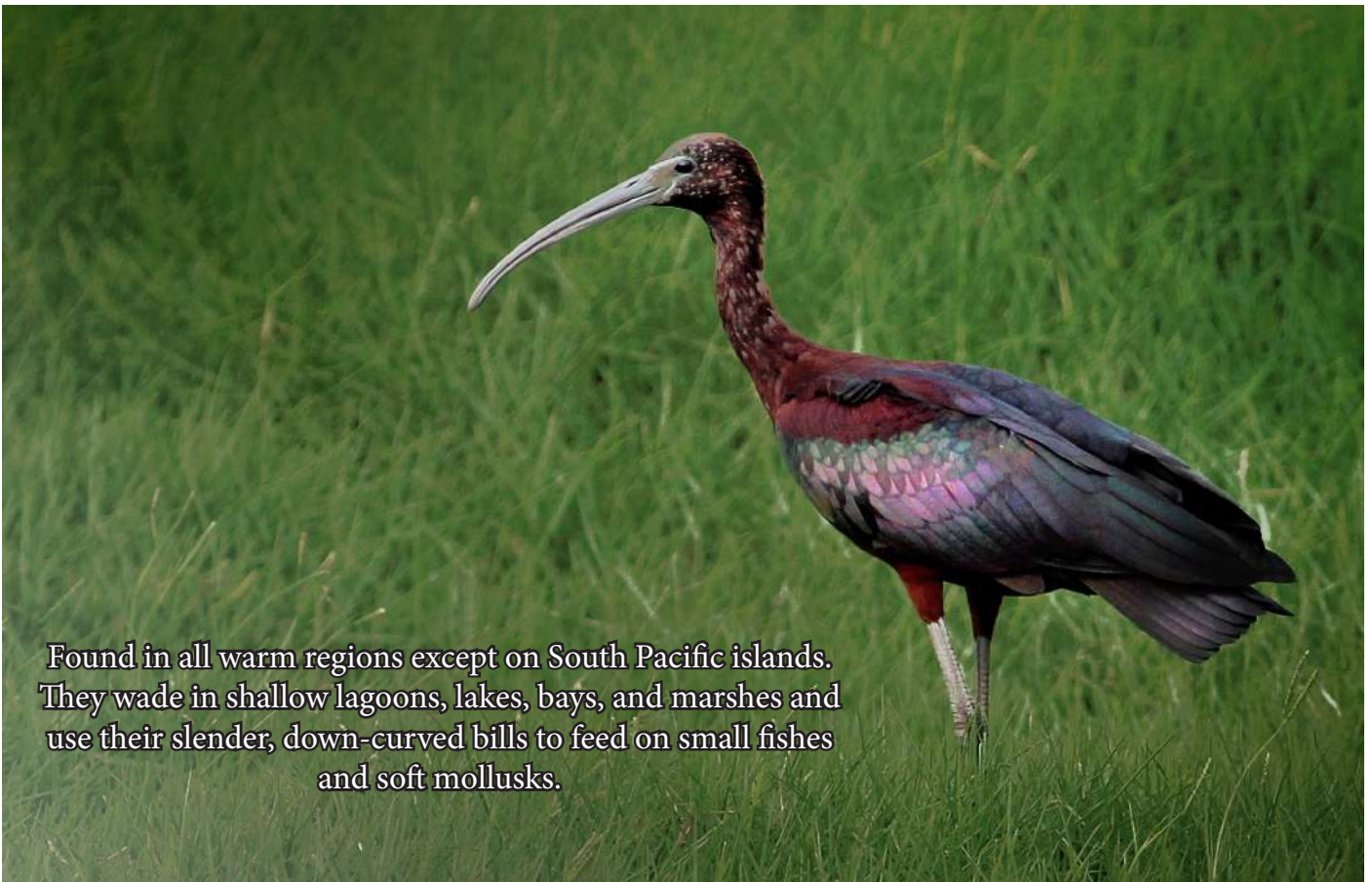
CANON 80D 1/1000 sec. f/5.6 400 mm 200

The osprey is the second most widely distributed raptor species, after the peregrine falcon. It has a worldwide distribution and is found in temperate and tropical regions of all continents except Antarctica.



White-Bellied Sea Eagle (*Haliaeetus leucogaster*)

CANON 80D 1/2000 sec. f/6.3 250mm ISO400



Found in all warm regions except on South Pacific islands. They wade in shallow lagoons, lakes, bays, and marshes and use their slender, down-curved bills to feed on small fishes and soft mollusks.

Glossy ibis (*Plegadis falcinellus*)
CANON 80D 1/1250 sec. f/5.6 400 mm 800



Black-Headed Ibis (*Threskiornis Melanocephalus*)
CANON 1200D 1/800 sec. f/5.6 400 mm ISO200



Little cormorant (*Microcarbo niger*)
CANON 80D 1/1000 sec. f/5.6 400 mm 3200



Indian darter (*Anhinga melanogaster*)
CANON 80D 1/2000 sec. f/5.6 400 mm ISO400



Bar-headed goose (*Anser indicus*)
CANON 80D 1/2000 sec. f/7.1 147.549 mm 100



Greylag Goose (*Anser Anser*)
CANON 77D 1/800 sec. f/5.6 400 mm 400

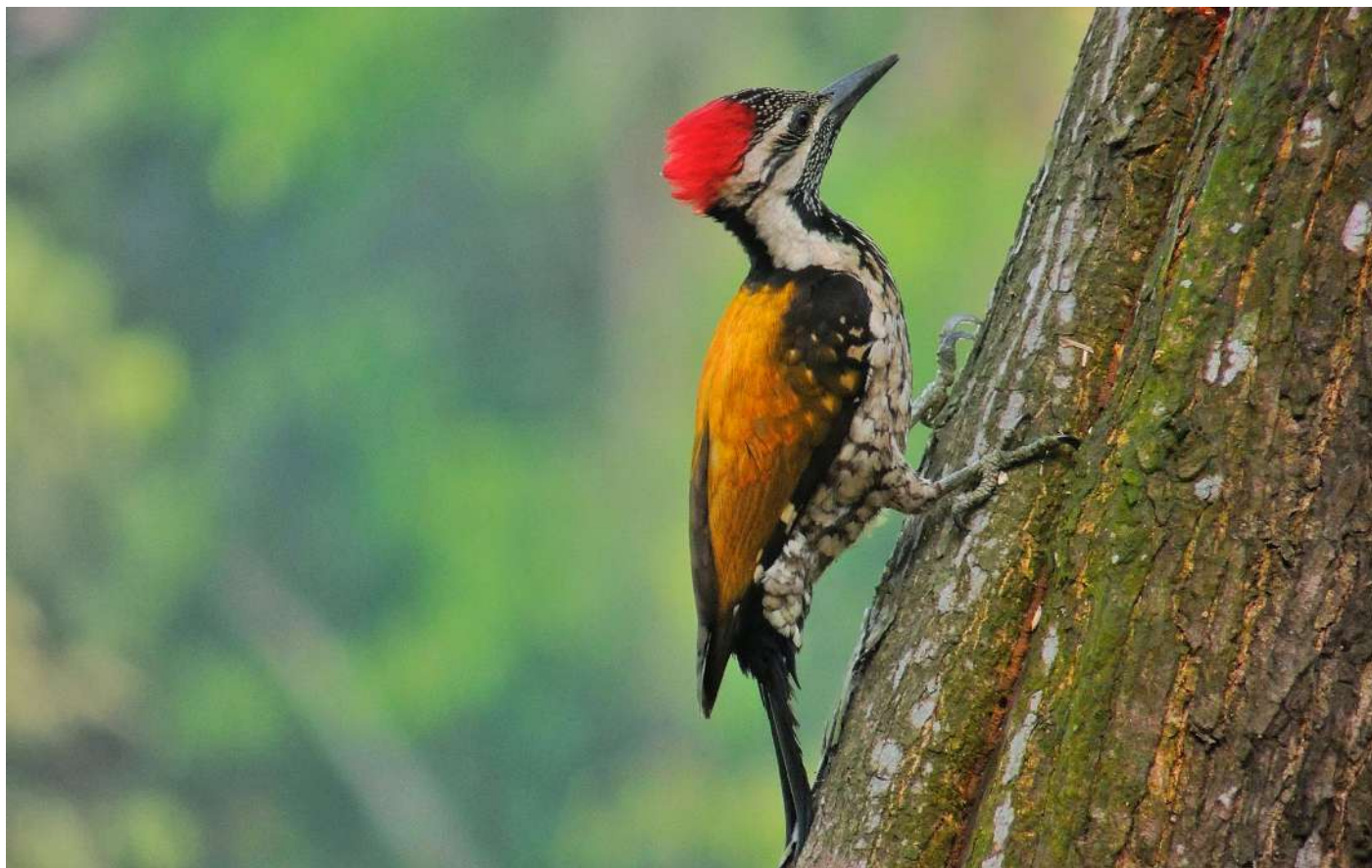


Ruddy shelduck (*Tadorna ferruginea*)
CANON 1D-x 1/1600 sec. f/6.3 400 mm 160



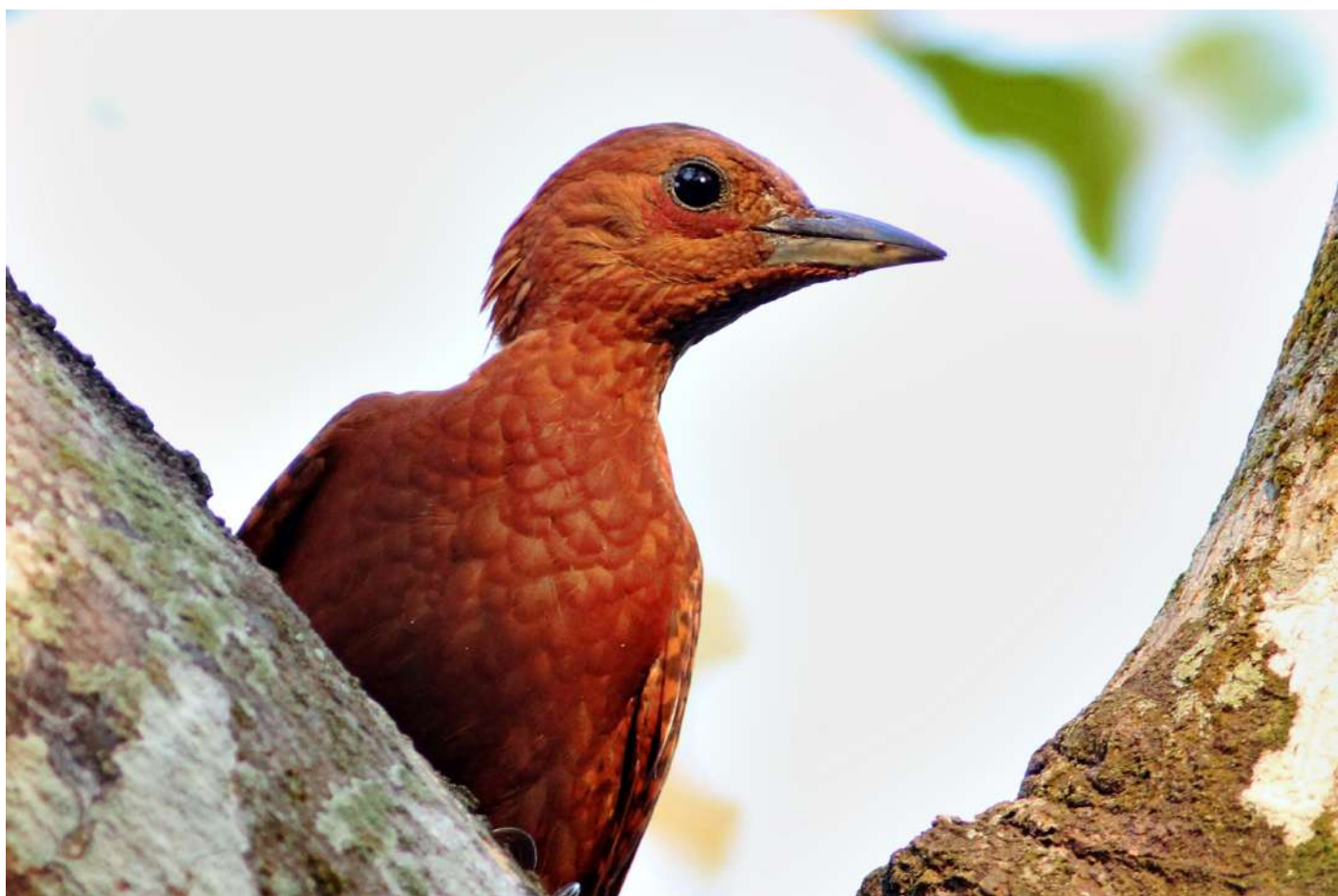
Breeds in the Indian Subcontinent and Southeast Asia. They are nocturnal feeders and during the day may be found in flocks around lakes and wet paddy fields. They can perch on trees and sometimes build their nest in the hollow of a tree.

Lesser whistling duck (*Dendrocygna javanica*)
CANON 80D 1/1600 sec. f/5.6 400 mm 1000



Black-rumped flameback (*Dinopium benghalense*)

CANON 80D 1/200 sec. f/5.9 180 mm 800



Rufous Woodpecker (*Micropternus brachyurus*)

CANON 80D 1/800 sec. f/5.6 400 mm ISO100



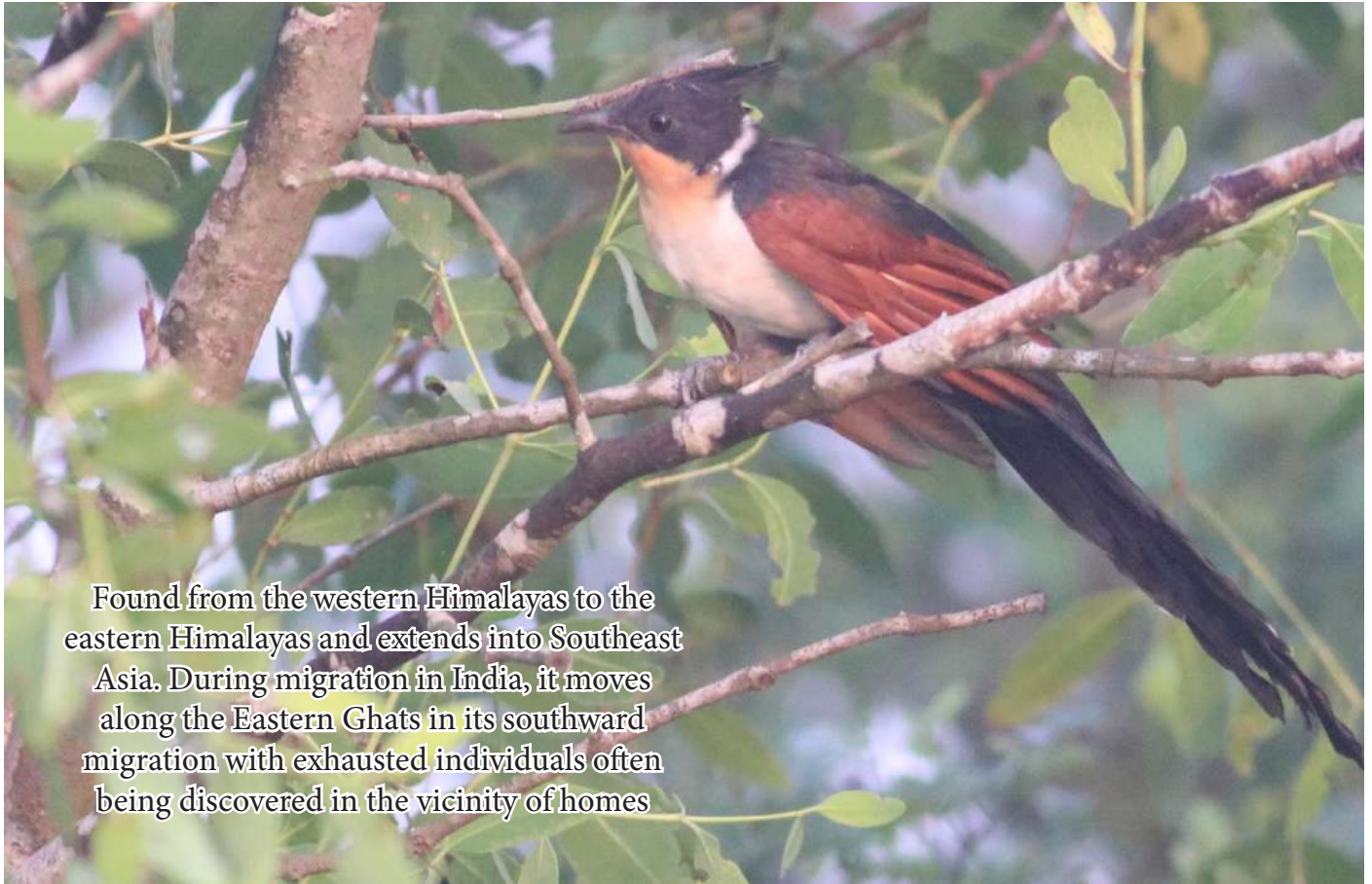
Green bee-eater (*Merops orientalis*)
 CANON 80D 1/1000 sec. f/5.6 400 mm 1000



Chestnut-headed bee-eater (*Merops leschenaulti*)
 CANON 80D 1/1250 sec. f/5.6 400 mm 800



Blue-tailed bee-eater (*Merops philippinus*)
 CANON 80D 1/400 sec. f/8 196.51 mm 400



Found from the western Himalayas to the eastern Himalayas and extends into Southeast Asia. During migration in India, it moves along the Eastern Ghats in its southward migration with exhausted individuals often being discovered in the vicinity of homes

Red-winged crested cuckoo (*Clamator coromandus*)

CANON 80D 1/80 sec. f/5.6 300 mm ISO 3200



Pheasant-tailed jacana (*Hydrophasianus chirurgus*)

CANON 80D 1/1250 sec. f/5.6 400 mm ISO 400

Indian golden oriole is a partial migrant. It breeds in central Asia and the Indian subcontinent. The Indian populations are largely resident while the other populations are migratory. The breeding season is April to August, the nest being a small cup placed in a fork near the end of a branch.



Indian golden oriole (Oriolus kundoo)

CANON 80D 1/640 sec. f/5.6 400 mm 320



Black-hooded oriole (Oriolus xanthornus)

CANON 80D 1/2500 sec. f/5.6 400 mm 3200



Black-Naped Oriole Juvenile



Black-Naped Oriole (Oriolus Chinensis)

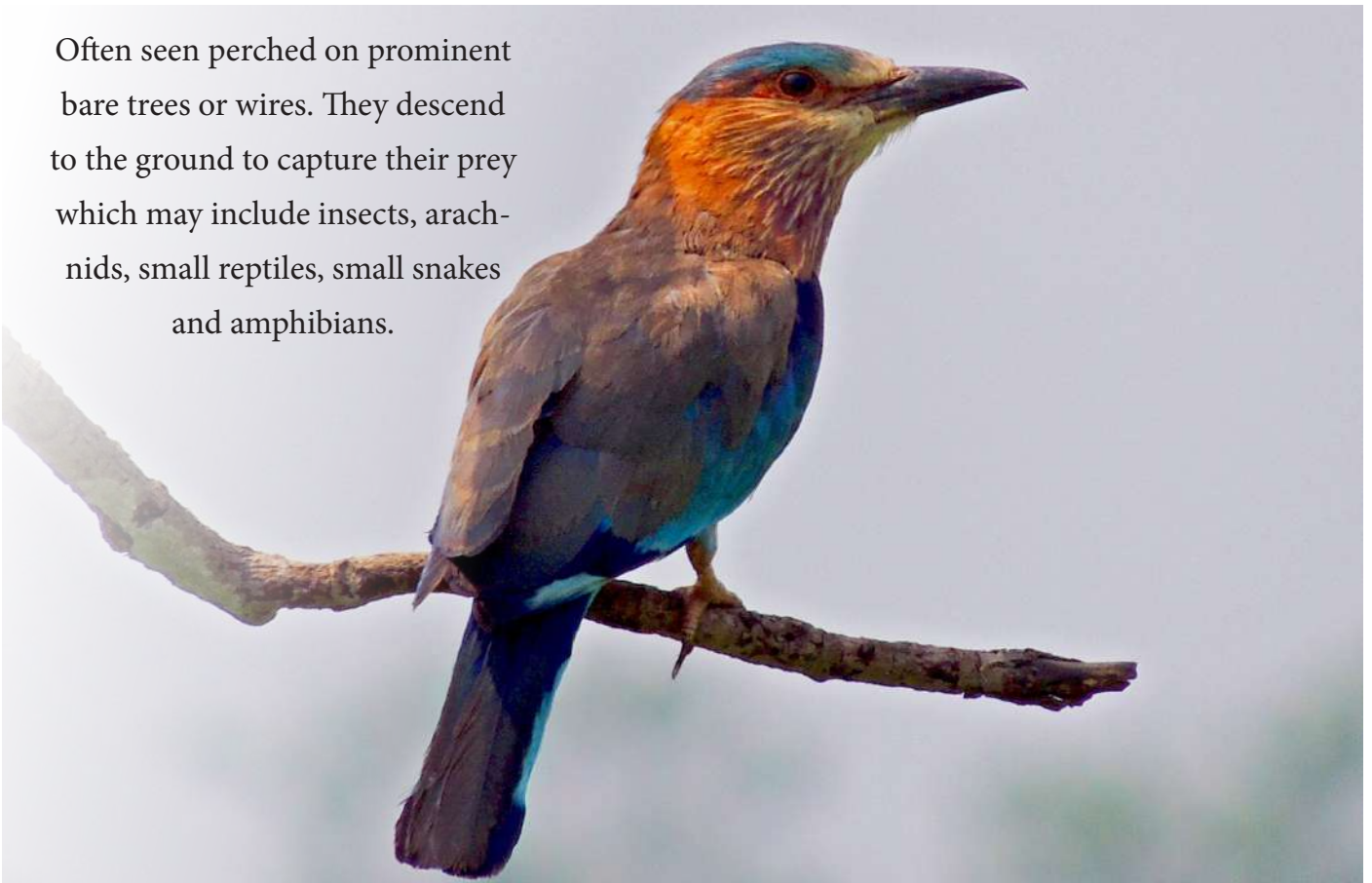
CANON 80D 1/800 sec. f/5.6 200mm ISO3200



Lesser cuckoo (*Cuculus poliocephalus*)

CANON 80D 1/500 sec. f/5.9 180 mm 400

Often seen perched on prominent bare trees or wires. They descend to the ground to capture their prey which may include insects, arachnids, small reptiles, small snakes and amphibians.



Indian roller (*Coracias benghalensis*)

CANON 80D 1/640 sec. f/5.9 252 mm 800

They mainly eat invertebrates, but also aquatic plants in winter and on migration. In the breeding season, prey includes beetles, flies, grasshoppers, dragonflies, mayflies, caterpillars, annelid worms and molluscs.



Black-tailed godwit (*Limosa limosa*)
CANON 1D-x 1/1600 sec. f/5 190 mm ISO500



Little grebe (*Tachybaptus ruficollis*)
CANON 80D 1/125 sec. f/5.9 180 mm 1000



These birds pick up their food from sand or water. They mainly eat insects and crustaceans. The nest site is a bare spot on the ground near water. These birds often nest in small groups, sometimes with avocets.

Black-winged stilt (*Himantopus himantopus*)

CANON 1D-x 1/640 sec. f/6.3 500 mm 1000



Laughing dove (*Spilopelia senegalensis*)

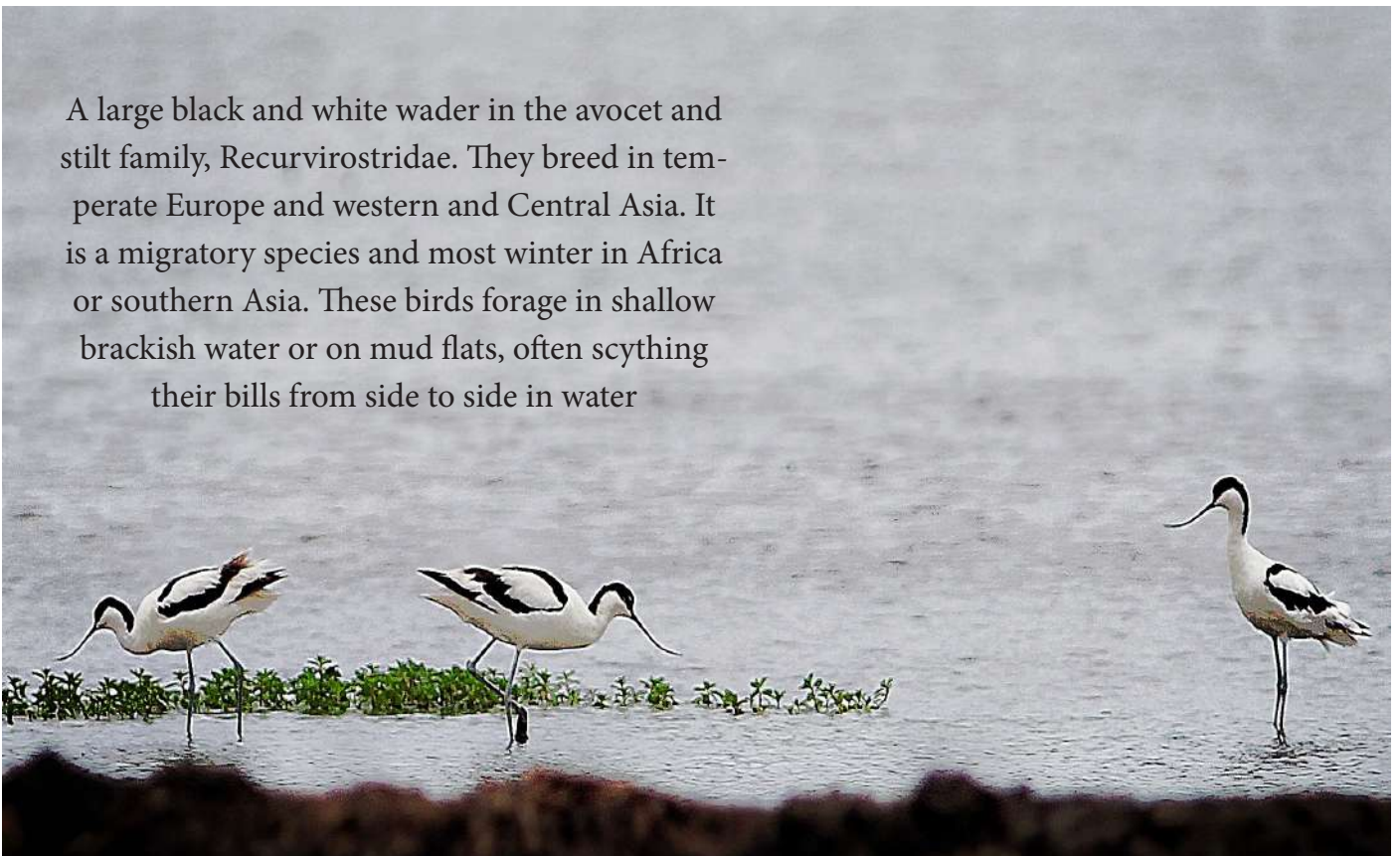
CANON 80D 1/1250 sec. f/5.6 400 mm 400



Red-crested pochard (*Netta rufina*)

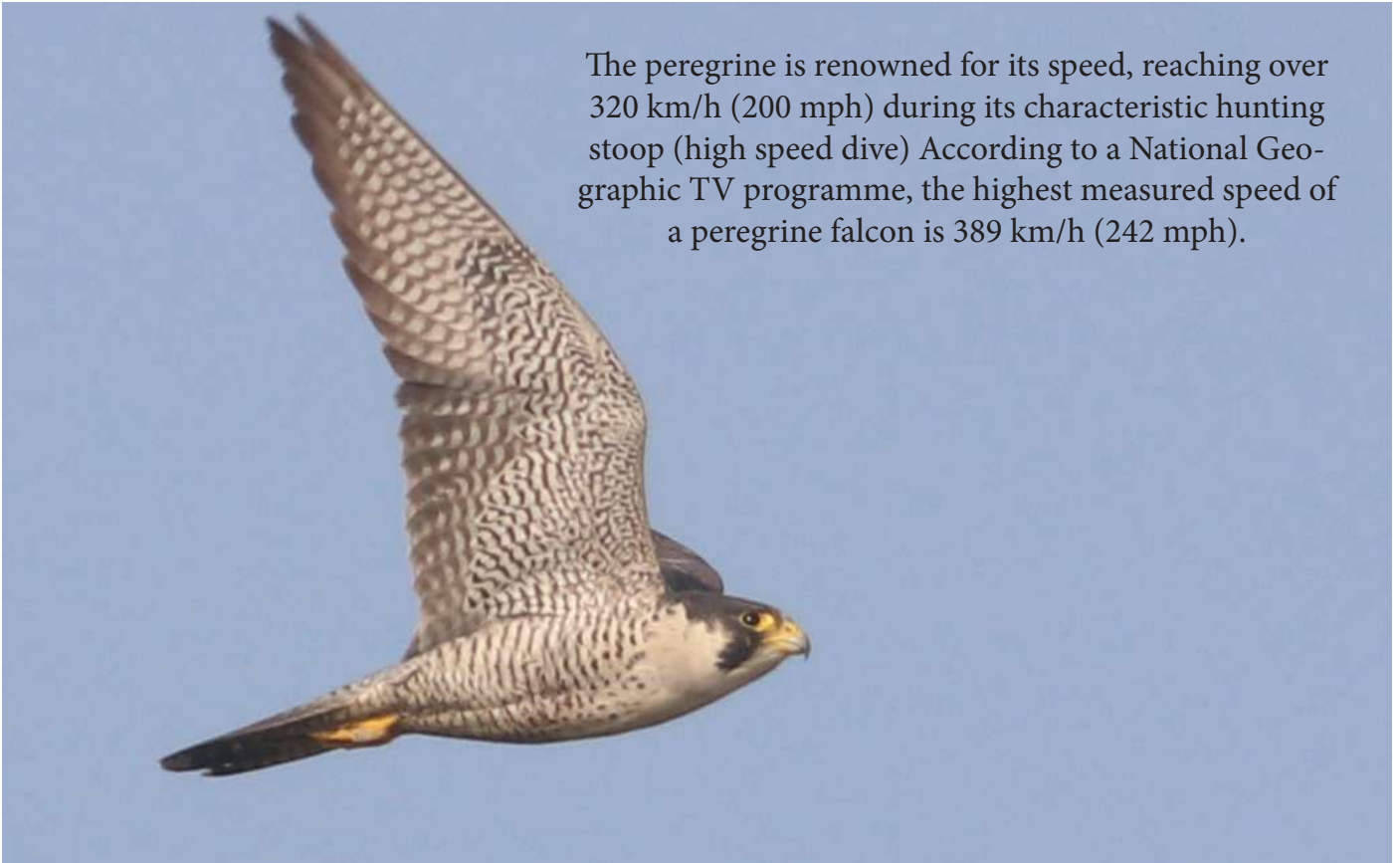
CANON 80D 1/800 sec. f/10 400 mm 320

A large black and white wader in the avocet and stilt family, *Recurvirostridae*. They breed in temperate Europe and western and Central Asia. It is a migratory species and most winter in Africa or southern Asia. These birds forage in shallow brackish water or on mud flats, often scything their bills from side to side in water



Pied avocet (*Recurvirostra avosetta*)

CANON 80D 1/1250 sec. f/5.6 400 mm 500



The peregrine is renowned for its speed, reaching over 320 km/h (200 mph) during its characteristic hunting stoop (high speed dive) According to a National Geographic TV programme, the highest measured speed of a peregrine falcon is 389 km/h (242 mph).

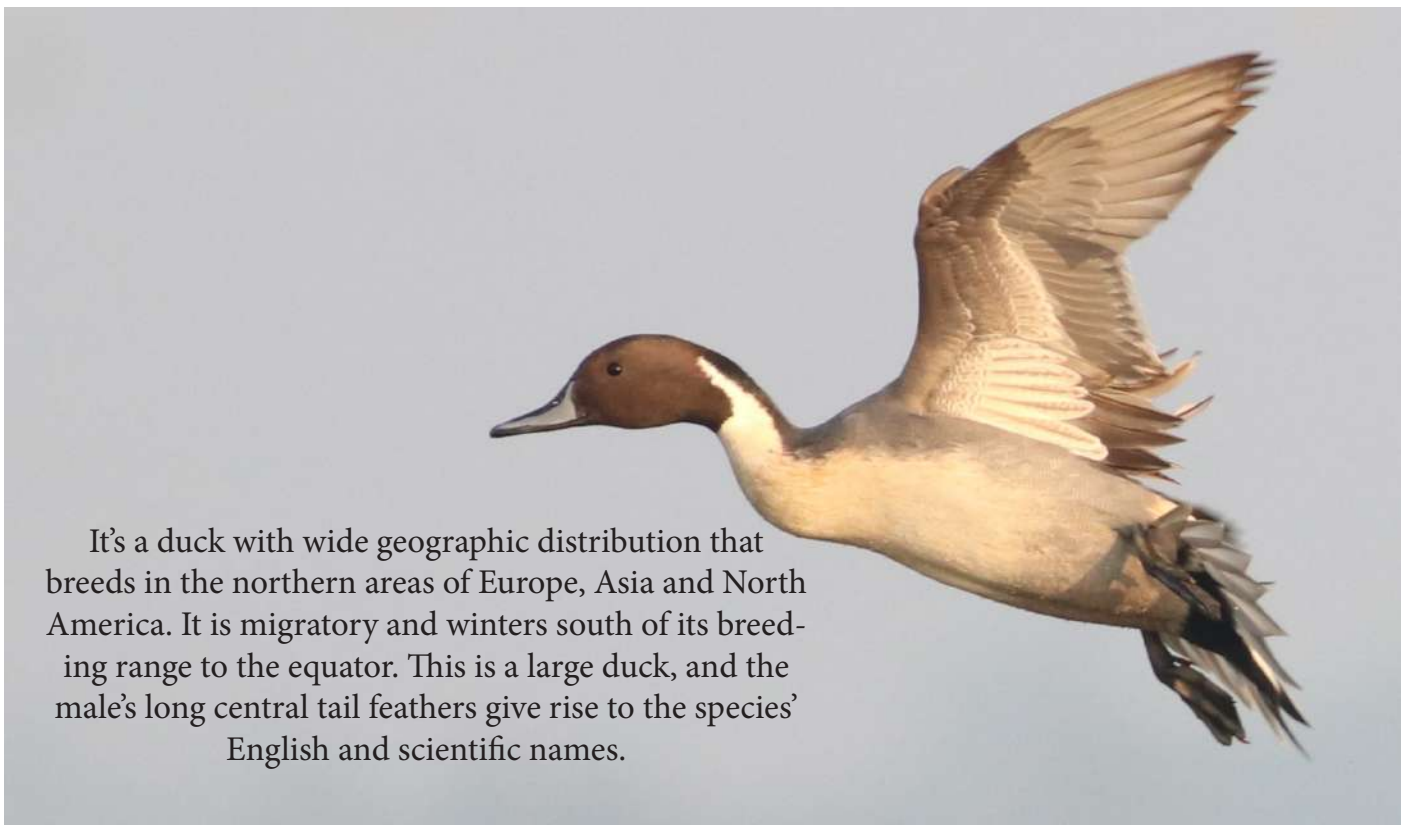
Peregrine falcon (*Falco peregrinus*)
CANON 80D 1/2000 sec. f/5.6 400 mm 1000



Brahminy Kite (*Haliastur Indus*)
CANON 80D 1/400 sec. f/5.6 400 mm ISO1500



Northern shoveler (*Spatula clypeata*)
 CANON 1D-x 1/1600 sec. f/5.6 400 mm 1000



It's a duck with wide geographic distribution that breeds in the northern areas of Europe, Asia and North America. It is migratory and winters south of its breeding range to the equator. This is a large duck, and the male's long central tail feathers give rise to the species' English and scientific names.

Northern pintail (*Anas acuta*)
 CANON 80D 1/1250 sec. f/5.6 400 mm 1000



The species is found in the wetlands of the plains of tropical Asia south of the Himalayas in the Indian Subcontinent and extending into Southeast Asia. Their distinctive pink tertial feathers of the adults give them their name. They forage in flocks in shallow waters along rivers or lakes.

Painted stork (*Mycteria leucocephala*)

CANON 80D 1/2000 sec. f/5.6 400 mm 320



Black bittern (*Ixobrychus flavicollis*)

CANON 80D 1/200 sec. f/5.9 180 mm 800

Most unusual feature for these birds classed as waders is that they typically hunt their insect prey on the wing like swallows, although they can also feed on the ground. Their short bills are an adaptation to aerial feeding. Their flight is fast and graceful like a swallow or a tern, with many twists and turns to pursue their prey. They are most active at dawn and dusk, resting in the warmest part of the day.



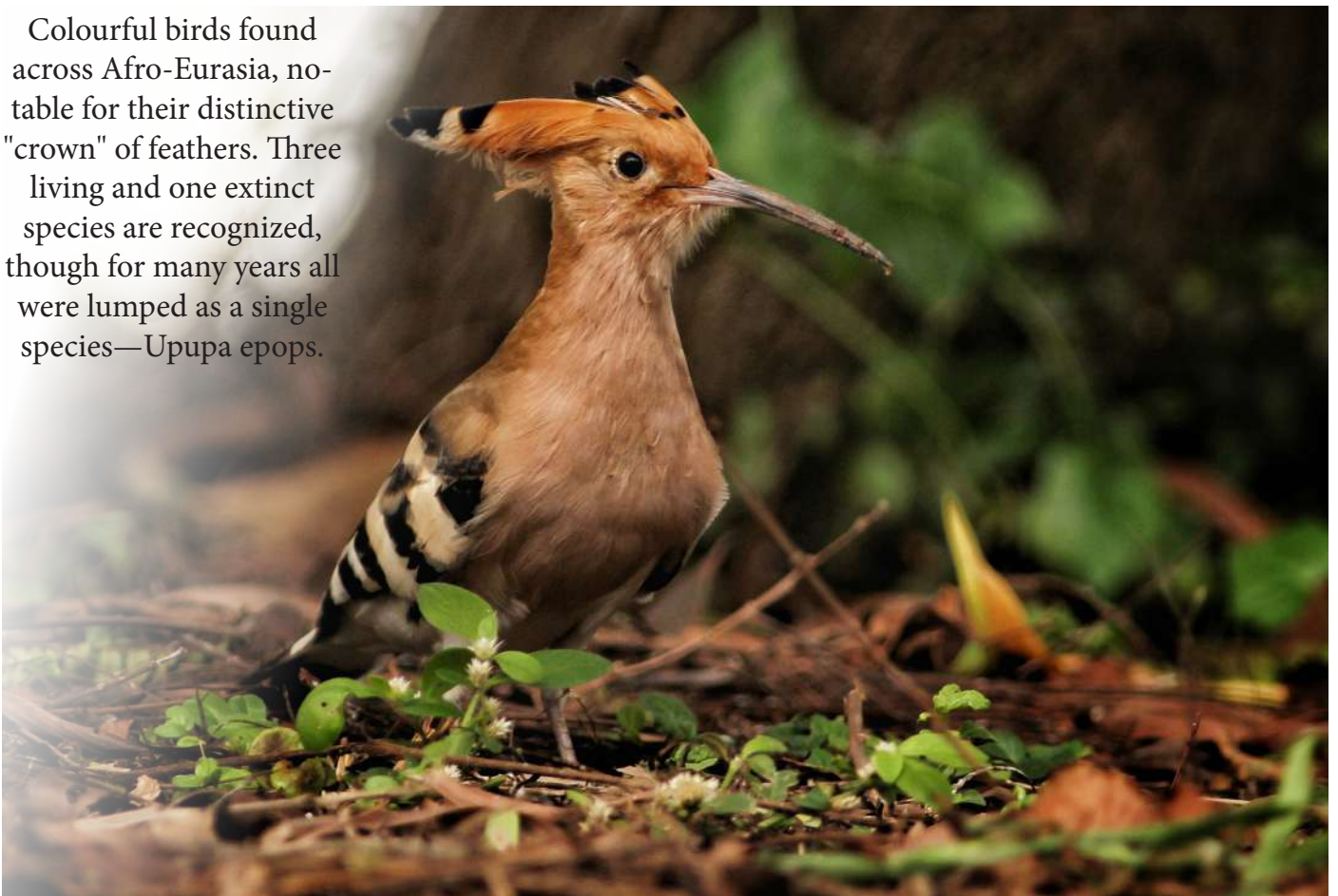
Small Indian pratincole (*Glareola lactea*)

CANON 80D 1/1250 sec. f/5.6 400 mm 400



White-Rumped Shama (*Copsychus Malabaricus*)
 CANON 80D 1/1000 sec. f/5.6 400 mm ISO800

Colourful birds found across Afro-Eurasia, notable for their distinctive "crown" of feathers. Three living and one extinct species are recognized, though for many years all were lumped as a single species—*Upupa epops*.



Hoopoe (*Upupa epops*)
 CANON 1200D 1/400 sec. f/5.6 400 mm 100



Indian Pitta (*Pitta brachyura*)
CANON 80D 1/1250 sec. f/5.6 400 mm 400



Mangrove Pitta (*Pitta megarhyncha*)
CANON 80D 1/800 sec. f/5.6 400 mm ISO3000



They are small birds which feed mainly on seeds, usually in relatively open habitats, preferring to feed on the ground or on reeds of grasses. Several species have been noted to feed on algae such as Spirogyra.

Tricoloured munia (*Lonchura malacca*)

CANON 80D 1/1000 sec. f/5.6 400 mm 200



Clamorous Reed Warbler (*Acrocephalus Stentoreus*)

CANON 80D 1/400 sec. f/5.6 400 mm ISO800



Baillon's crane (*Porzana pusilla*)
CANON 80D 1/1000 sec. f/5.6 400 mm ISO200



Common Curlew (*Numenius Arquata*)
CANON 80D 1/1000 sec. f/5.6 400 mm ISO200



Yellow Bittern (*Ixobrychus Sinensis*)
CANON 80D 1/500 sec. f/5.6 400 mm ISO400



Striated Heron (*Butorides Striata*)
CANON 80D 1/400 sec. f/5.6 400mm ISO800



Long-Billed Plover (*Charadrius Placidus*)
CANON 80D 1/400 sec. f/5.6 400 mm ISO1500



Chinese Pond Heron (*Ardeola Bacchus*)
CANON 80D 1/1200 sec. f/5.6 400 mm ISO400



Common Greenshank (*Tringa Nebularia*)
CANON 80D 1/1500 sec. f/5.6 400 mm ISO400



Common Redshank (*Tringa Totanus*)
CANON 80D 1/500 sec. f/5.6 400 mm ISO200



Jungle Prinia (*Prinia Sylvatica*)
CANON 80D 1/600 sec. f/5.6 400 mm ISO1500



Tickell's Flowerpecker (*Dicaeum Erythrorhynchos*)
CANON 1200D 1/1000 sec. f/5.6 200 mm ISO200



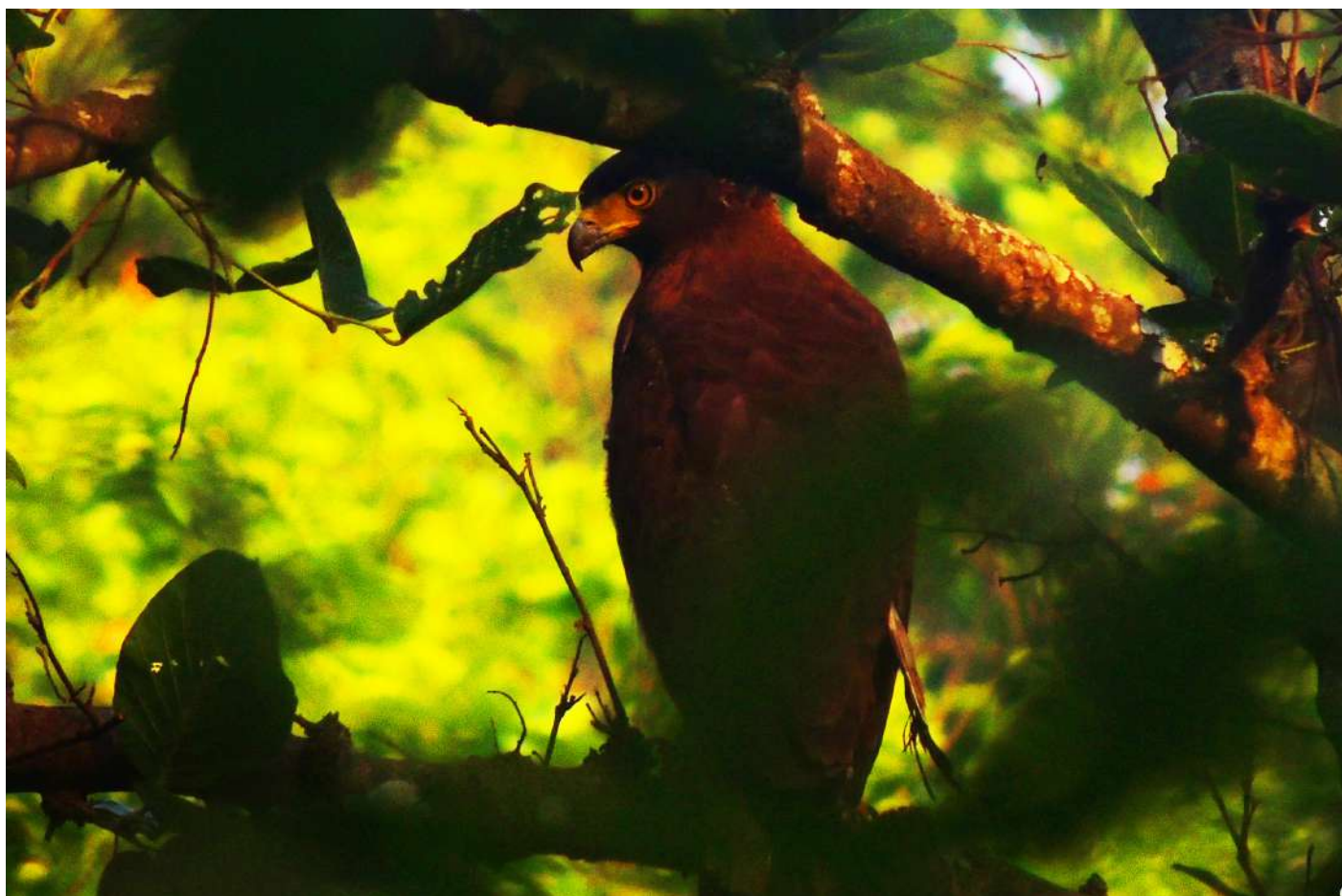
Large Green Barbet (*Psilopogon Zeylanicus*)
CANON 80D 1/800 sec. f/5.6 400 mm ISO100



Blue-Throated Barbet (*Psilopogon Asiaticus*)
CANON 1200D 1/800 sec. f/5.6 400 mm ISO400



Lesser Adjutant (*Leptoptilos Javanicus*)
CANON 80D 1/400 sec. f/5.6 400 mm ISO1500



Crested Serpent Eagle (*Spilornis Cheela*)
CANON 80D 1/400 sec. f/5.6 400 mm ISO800



Purple heron (*Ardea purpurea*)
CANON 80D 1/1600 sec. f/5.6 400 mm 320

About the Authors

It has been quite a time that nature and its wilderness has been a fascination for us. Going into dense forests and taking the snaps of the beautiful animals and birds having their life in peace, away from the urbanised chaotic human world, is something we enjoy and would love to do for the rest of our life.

I am currently a freelance filmmaker and wildlife conservationist, and Sourav a GIS enthusiast, pursuing bachelors in Sustainable Development at XIM University. We love to protect, conserve and document wildlife and nature. We have photographed and documented more than 250+ birds in wild and counting. Its was Paradeep Phosphates limited where for the first time we held a professional camera to capture a bird in its habitat and the journey continues. Majority of the photographs in the book are from Paradeep Phosphates Limited, captured over a period of over 7 years.

We have been travelling different forests to photograph and study wildlife closely. As I honed my skills spending days longs in the wild, I realised I have become more of nature and wildlife admirer. My photographs and films are just a medium to bring out the beauty of the wild to the rest of the world. We distinctly love nature in its raw form and pro anything that supports conservation and non- interference of humans with the wilderness. With various National and International awards for wildlife conservation and wildlife films, we feel lucky to be a part of PPL for 9 long years. We also thank Forest Department Odisha for giving us the opportunity to be a part of its endeavour to protect the flora and fauna of Odisha.

We are fortunate to be born and brought up in the state of Odisha, India, where forests and within them, a countless number of creatures thrive. We have explored various forests in India and Europe. More than 13 years now, we have been documenting the beauty of nature, and we feel Nature never disappoints.



~ Saswat Pati & Sourav Pati



PARADEEP PHOSPHATES LIMITED



adventz



VIVID QUILLS

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