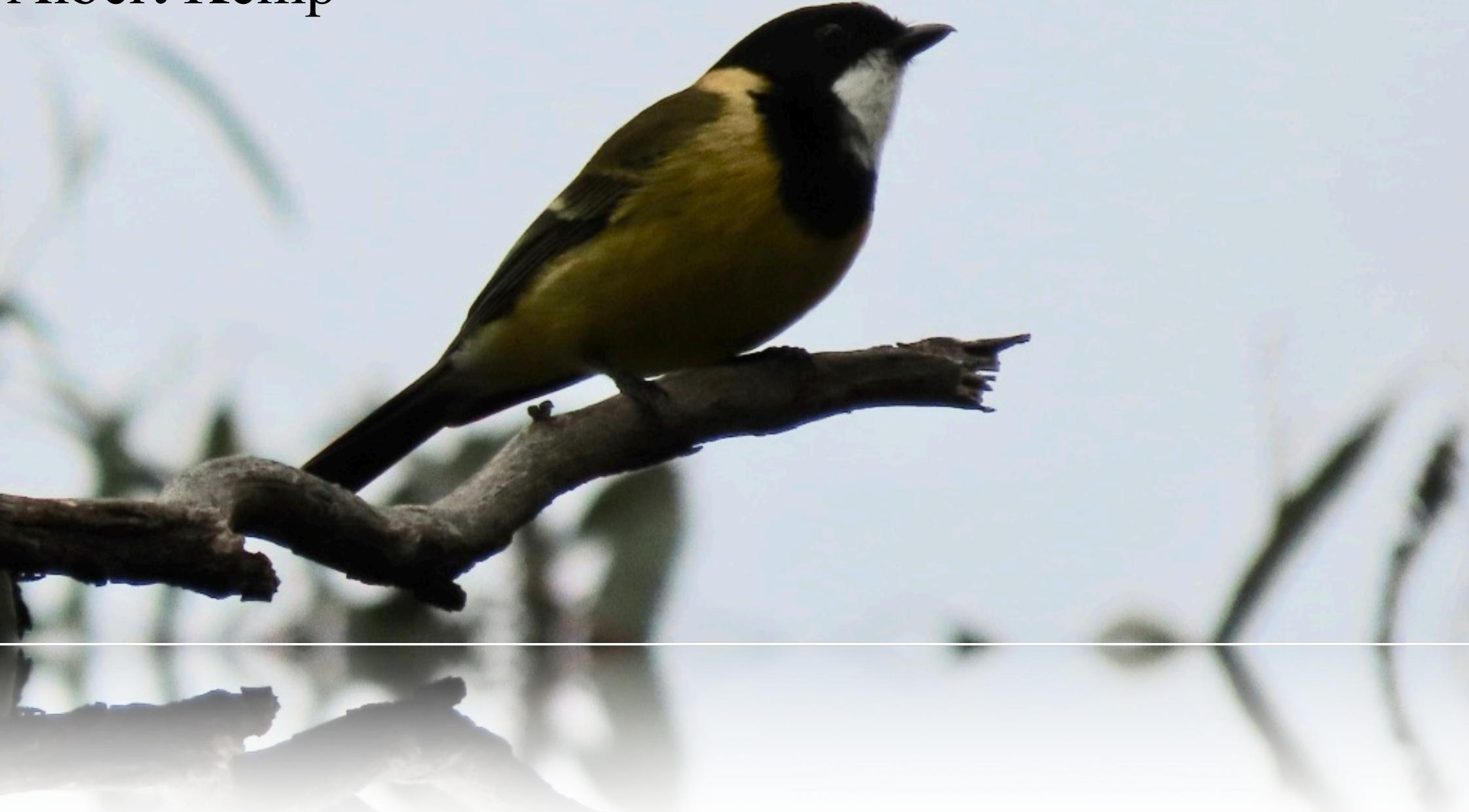


Australian Birds

Albert Kemp





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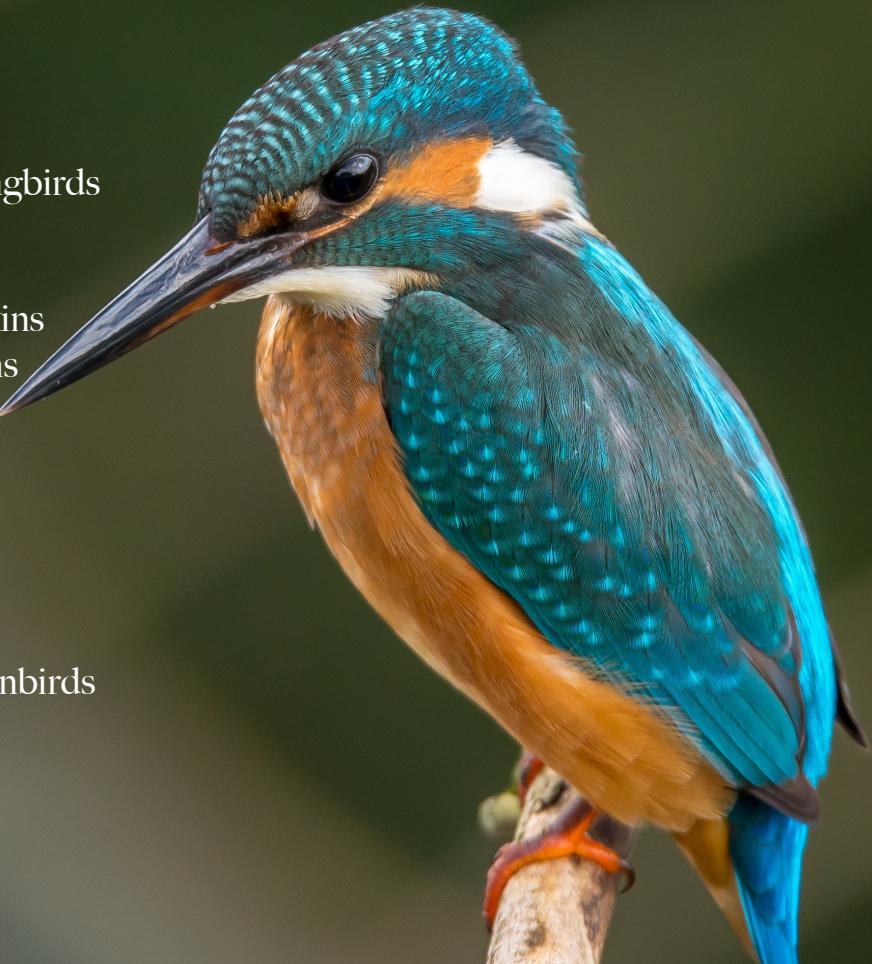
Tropical Rainforest
Temperate Forest
Deciduous Forest
Tundra
Oceans & Seas
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BIRD SPECIES:

Non-Passerines:
Ostriches, Rheas
Emus & Cassowaries
Tinamous
Kiwis
Gulls, Terns and relatives
Kingfishers and relatives

Gamebirds
Parrots
Toucans and relatives
Owls
Woodpeckers
Bee-eaters
...

Passerines:
Lyrebirds
Bowerbirds
Larks and other songbirds
Dippers
Robins
Finches and Manakins
New Zealand Wrens
Umbrellabirds
Bird's of Paradise
Herons and Egrets
Nuthatches
Treecreepers
Sitellas
Hummingbirds, Sunbirds
Honeyeaters
Shrike-thrushes





FOREWORD

BIRDS ARE AMONG the most majestic, beautiful, and graceful creatures on our planet. From tiny Bee Hummingbirds to huge Ostriches, our planet is full of birds. From a year ago I have been interested in birds and have not hesitated to take a photo of these beautiful creatures. Although birds are so beautiful, and look so horrible to kill, people have killed and extinct more birds than any other thing on earth. Humans don't often directly kill birds (although they sometimes shoot birds for sport) but usually they either cut down trees, ruining the birds' habitat, or introduced creatures such as pigs, goats, cows, rabbits and cats that are killing birds at a shocking rate (cats kill 377 birds a year, and possibly over 1 billion birds are killed by bumping into buildings and towers in the United States alone).

However, good things are happening too — Rock Doves have made themselves at home in almost all the cities in the world and they can reach shocking numbers. However, Rock Doves aren't the only birds who have made out, Peregrine Falcons have taken advantage of the huge population of Rock Doves, and the skyscrapers in the city are the equivalent of the cliffs that they're wild cousins live on.

So many bad things are happening in the world, but good things are happening as well — everything is in a delicate balance, and if we destroy one species, it may cause a huge list of other species to die.



Albert Kemp
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PARTS OF THIS BOOK

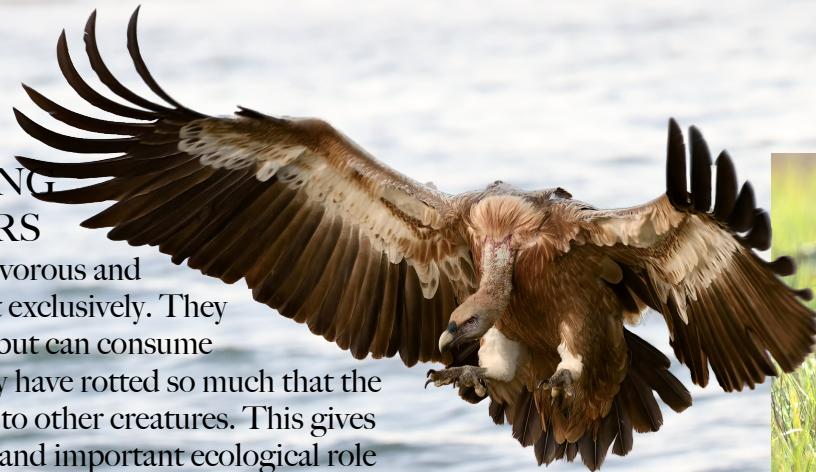


The introduction has information about many bird species, Bird Anatomy, Communication, Mating, Courtship, Migration, Feathers, Nesting, Eggs, Diet.

INTRODUCTION

MEAT-EATING SCAVENGERS

Vultures are carnivorous and eat carrion almost exclusively. They prefer fresh meat but can consume carcasses that may have rotted so much that the meat can be toxic to other creatures. This gives vultures a unique and important ecological role because they help prevent the spread of diseases from rotting corpses.



ALL-ROUND VISION

This Pied Oystercatcher has an almost all-round vision when sitting on its nest which makes it hard for predators to sneak up un-noticed.



MIGHTY EAGLE

Harpy eagles are the largest eagles in the Americas, with a wingspan up to 6.5 wide, and are considered the most powerful predators in the Amazon. They can be called the avian emperors of the Americas.



OCEAN WANDERERS

Wandering Albatross spend the bulk of their lives at sea – namely the South Pacific and Southern Oceans. Wandering albatross have the largest wingspan of any bird (up to 3.5m) allowing them to pursue long fishing trips of 10-20 days covering up to 10,000km at a time.

INTRODUCTION

Bird Anatomy



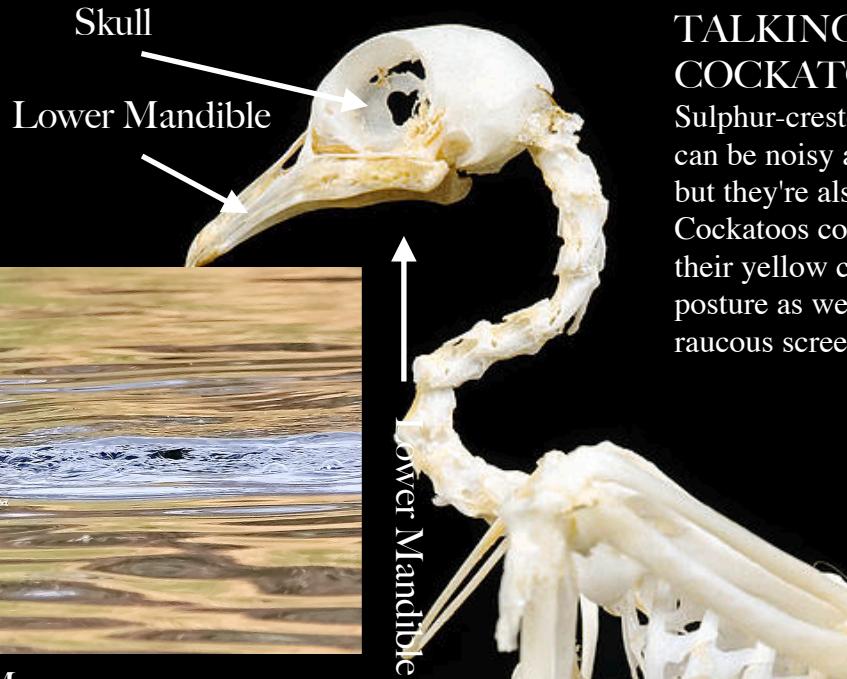
BIRD DIGESTIVE SYSTEM

Birds have a surprisingly big gape such as this Black Cormorant which is tackling a fish – several hours hard work.



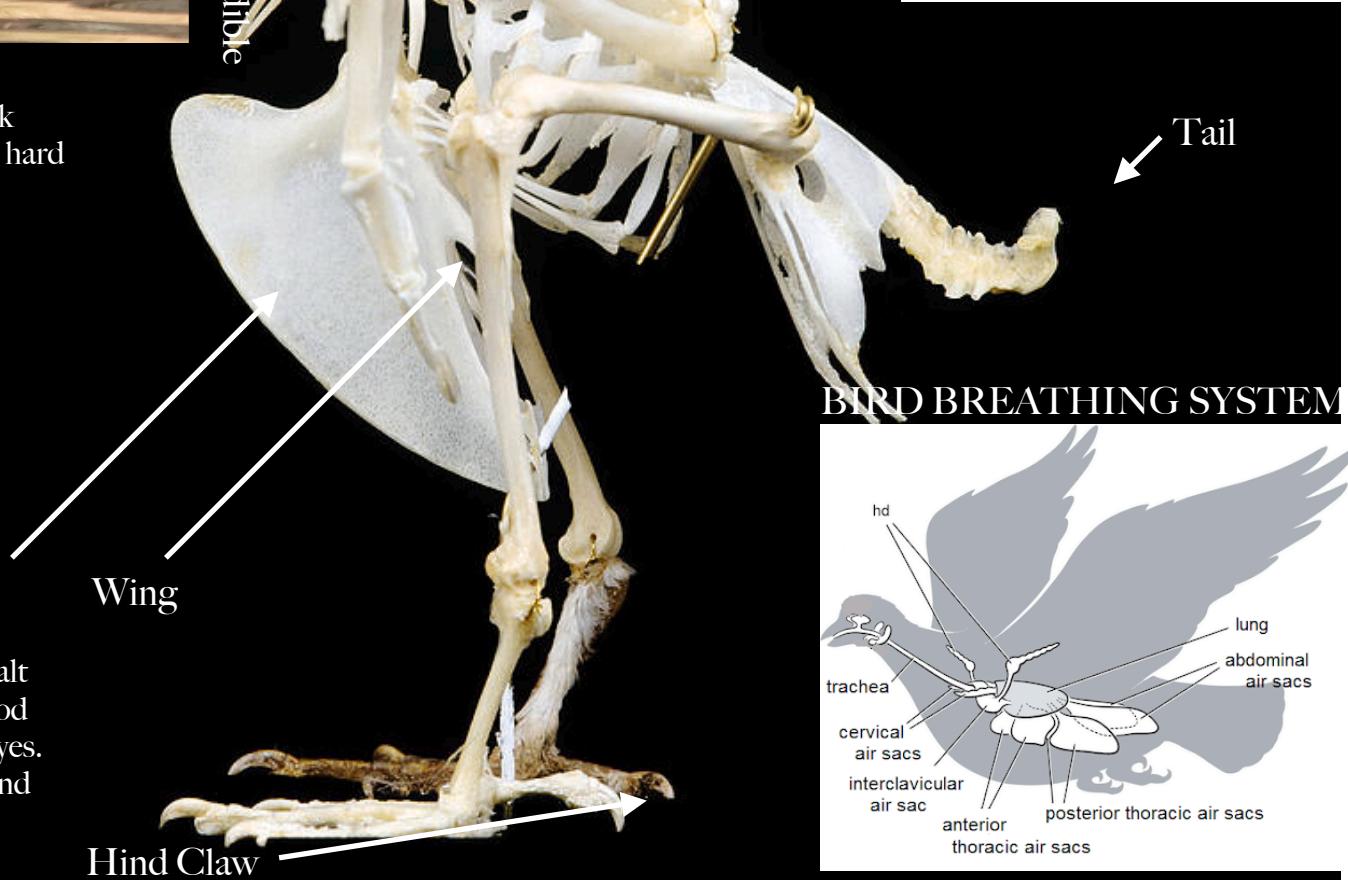
SALTY WATER

Seabirds have no problem drinking seawater. The salt they take in is absorbed and travels through their blood stream flowing into a pair of salt glands above their eyes. The concentrated liquid is ejected from the nostrils and runs down cracks in the bill.



TALKING COCKATOOS

Sulphur-crested cockatoos can be noisy and destructive, but they're also very clever. Cockatoos communicate with their yellow comb and body posture as well as their raucous screeching.



Communication



LIVING IN PITCH BLACK

The oilbird uses echolocation to navigate in total darkness. Oilbirds roost and nest in dark caves. Unlike most birds, which rely on sight to find their way, oilbirds also have the unique ability to navigate using echolocation (or sonar).

Migrating Canada geese call to each other as they migrate south.



MASSIVE COLONIES

Chinstrap Penguins can have massive colonies and the males still are able to recognise the particular call of their mate. The largest colony, on the uninhabited South Sandwich island of Zavodovski, hosts some 1.2 million breeding pairs. Baily Head in the South Shetland Islands is home to more than 100,000 pairs.



BEAUTIFUL SONGBIRDS

Eastern Meadowlarks are amazing in the way that they can recognise the calls of their own species out of a noisy meadow. Seabirds such as Penguins, Albatrosses, and Terns can find their own mate just by listening for her own unique call.

INTRODUCTION

Mating

A pair of courting Oriental Hornbills in Singapore.



BREEDING OSTRICHES

Ostriches fluff up their feathers when breeding to attract a female. If the female accepts, she sits down and the male climbs on her back, then he transfers his spores and she combines his spores with her egg, producing the 15 or more eggs. The male ostrich takes most of the egg-minding duties and when two Ostrich families come together they form a creche and the males compete to control it.

COURTING JABIRUS

Two Jabirus are courting performing their courtship dance. When the female is happy she will let the male climb onto her and transfer his spores into her body. Then she will combine the males' spores with her egg and thus produce the



MATING KITES

The female lays 3 to 5 eggs and incubates them about 25 to 28 days; during this time the male provides her with food. The chicks are altricial; they hatch helpless and are covered in down. They fledge around 35 days later but will remain with their parents for another month more.

INTRODUCTION



MATING KILLDEER

Killdeer are monogamous (one male mates with one female). Breeding pairs form on the breeding grounds in the spring. ... The male and female work together to "build" their nest. ... The male and female both build the nest and incubate the eggs.

BREEDING CORMORANTS

Breeding can occur at any time depending on food supply. Both sexes build the nest, which is a large structure of sticks placed in a low tree or on the ground. Both parents also incubate the eggs and care for the young. Breeding Season: August to January.



RUSHING WESTERN GREBES

The Western grebe is the largest among North American grebes. Folk names of Western grebes include "dabchick", "swan grebe" and "swan-necked grebe". The breeding dances of Western grebes are known to be the most elaborated dances in the water bird species.



A Courting Vogelkop
Superb Bird-of-paradise performs to a watching female.



Migration

INTRODUCTION



A LONG JOURNEY

A small, slender gray-and-white bird with angular wings, the Arctic Tern is well known for its long yearly migration. It travels from its Arctic breeding grounds to Antarctica where it enjoys the Antarctic summer, covering around 25,000 miles. Breeding birds sport a full black cap, short red legs, and a red bill.



A NON-STOP FLIGHT

Bar-tailed Godwits hold the world records for non-stop flight: they have been recorded travelling 11,000km from Alaska to New Zealand in only 8 days, flying at an average of more than 50km/h. This journey is also a fantastic weight-loss program, as the birds lose almost half of their body weight along the way. Luckily, once they arrive in Australia, our mudflats are waiting, filled with tasty morsels to help them recuperate.

PERILOUS JOURNEY

Ruby-throated Hummingbirds spend their time in Central America and southern Mexico. Then, as the weather begins to turn warm, they will start to make their northern trip up to the United States. This can be a perilous journey, as many of them choose to fly over the Gulf of Mexico.

Pink Flamingos head southwest to winter in Spain or in Tunisia and Turkey.

Feathers

INTRODUCTION



PATTERNS IN FEATHERS

Feathers are surely some of the most interesting patterns in nature. There are a lot of different examples of patterns and many types of feathers such as flight feathers, secondary feathers, and down feathers. Birds tend to like to preen down their feathers to keep them all neat, tidy, clean and fit for flying.

Parts of a Feather

SHAFT

The shaft runs the length of the feather and is divided into the calamus and the rachis.



BARBS

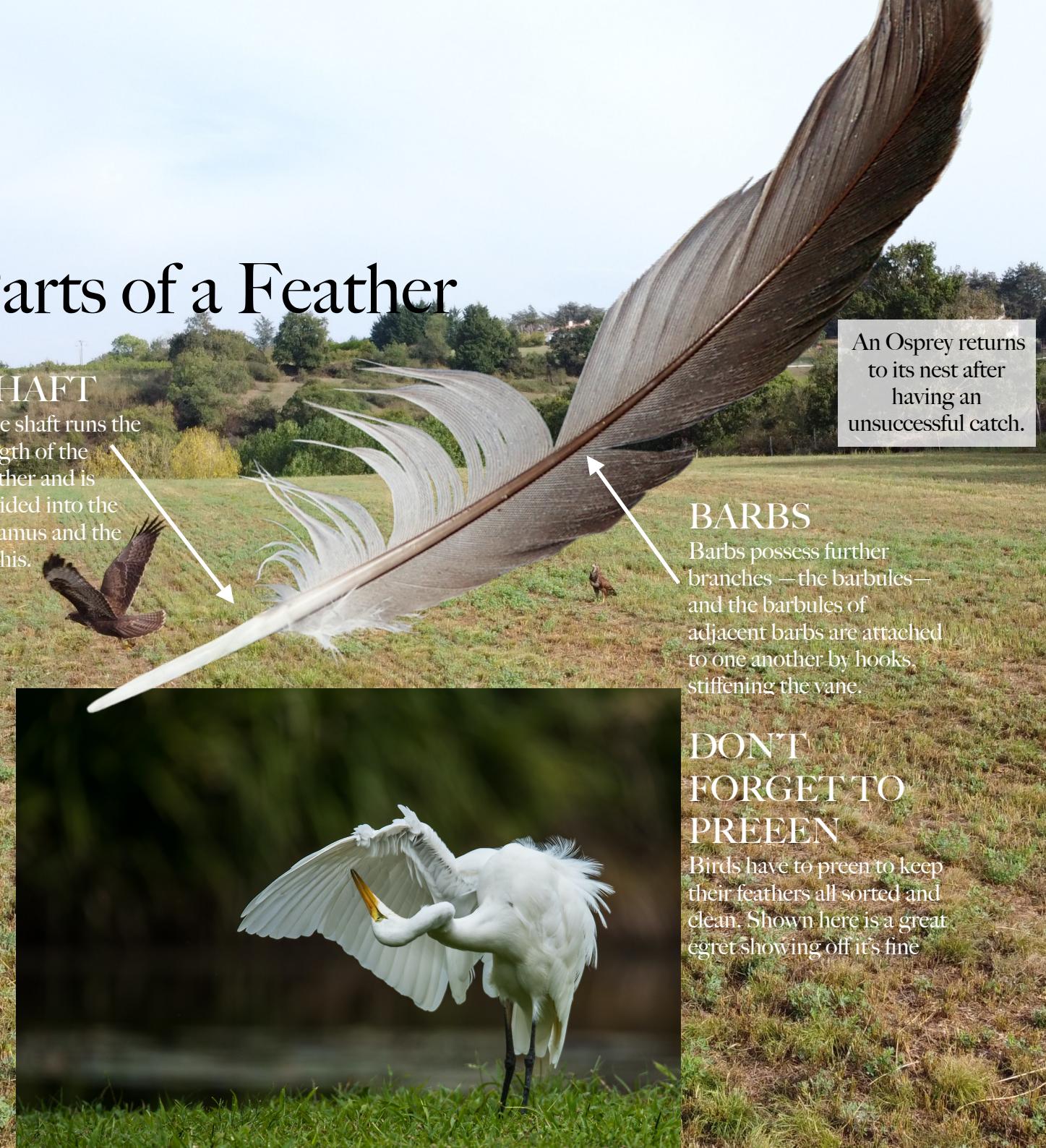
Barbs possess further branches – the barbules – and the barbules of adjacent barbs are attached to one another by hooks, stiffening the vane.

DON'T FORGET TO PREEEN

Birds have to preen to keep their feathers all sorted and clean. Shown here is a great egret showing off its fine



An Osprey returns to its nest after having an unsuccessful catch.



INTRODUCTION

Nesting



A pair of Bald Eagles at their nest at Kennedy Space Centre survey the gorgeous view.



SUNBIRD NEST

Sunbirds make quite elaborate nests and collect a lot of plant material and sticks, twigs and grass regularly occur in their nest. Here, an Olive Sunbird is tending to its nest, adding a few extra bits and pieces to make it look better. This photo was taken in Singapore.



ELABORATE STRUCTURES

African Golden-weavers build elaborate structures with an opening on the bottom, and the rest of the surface is neatly and tightly woven together made with grass woven onto a shrub or small tree.



INTRODUCTION

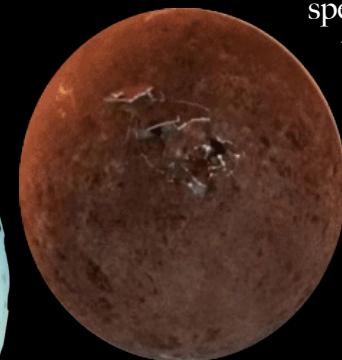
Eggs

FROM THE BIGGEST TO THE SMALLEST

The extinct Elephant bird had a huge egg, and compared with the Bee Hummingbird egg it looks massive although the Bee Hummingbird egg is a pretty hefty egg compared to its body size whereas an Ostrich has a pretty small egg compared to the 2.8 metre high giant that we call an Ostrich



GUILLEMOT
EGG



EGYPTIAN
VULTURE
EGG

SHAPES IN EGGS

Eggs have many shapes to suit their environment or to prevent fatal damage done if they have a more standardised shape. Guillemots have a pointy egg that stops itself rolling off cliffs as the top is too light

to get enough momentum. Egyptian Vulture eggs, however, don't need

specialise and their eggs are almost perfectly round.

