



Dr. Lanka Siva Rama Prasad's

CONFERENCE *confessions*

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By Dr. Lanka Siva Rama Prasad
Art by Apoorva Lanka



A VISIONARY AND A LEGEND

This book is dedicated to Shri. Boinapally Srinivas Rao, the group chairman of Prathima Institute of Medical Sciences, is a self made man. He is one of the thought-provoking business leaders of Telangana, who has made Prathima Group a household name in the state. With interests ranging from power, infrastructure, technology to healthcare, education and hospitality - he is a leader with a vision. His philosophy in life is to add value to everything he does.

AUTHOR'S NOTES

It all started when people started swimming in the sea of Facebook in the canoes of poetry exploring unknown lands and befriending people across the borders. Suddenly there is a surge in the poetry ports and canoe races started with big stakes of awards and rewards. In that tumultuous scenario one fateful day I found Pentasi-B Poetry group with Dr. PenPen as helmsman looking for a host country to sponsor the event.

So I went to Philippines, enjoyed the hospitality of Dr. PenPen and came back to India to announce the INDIA WORLD POETREE FESTIVAL- PENTASI-B Fellowship-2017 to be conducted at Ramoji Film City- Hyderabad, India- from October 12-16, 2017. The incidents that had happened, both serious and hilarious ones, are depicted in these poems in anthropomorphic forms of birds taking cue from the famous books like Panchatantra of Vishnu arma and Birds conference of Fariduddin Attar.

Finally the Conference has become a Bench Mark in the annals of Poetry Meetings; around 200 poets participated that includes around 35 international poets from 25 countries, SARC, National poets and local poets. All the experiences of joy and pain as the host are reflected in these poems. This is only a beginning and after the last poem the saga continues...



Once upon a time
one Phoenix was soulfully
happy in his own loneliness,

It perched upon the great
date tree near the oasis
amidst of barrenness,

No humans ever entered that
area, only birds and beasts in
thirst roamed there,

They sang their songs of labors,
victories and defeats in solo or
groups that dare!

After they left, the Phoenix used
to go onto fits of depression
and wrote poems of retreat!

Such a sad poetry it wrote and
sang, god gave it a chance to
conduct world birds meet!

Birds of all sizes and sounds
sharpened their beaks and talons
and showed their plumes!

Then began its ordeals from day
one to 'D'- day in bucketfuls of
blooms and fumes

The birds from the distant
lands followed the wild geese
from the pines lands!

The national birds enquired
about the dates and nests with
comfort bands!

The local birds wanted their
bread buttered on both sides
with their own hands!

Nobody bothered about the
host Phoenix view of the world
and with it his bonds!

The song and talk birds wanted
their voice to be heard all over
the lands and deserts!

So the lone Phoenix looked
at the Apollo and he gave the
birds the deserved desserts!

So many goose and ganders
joined swans, cranes, pigeons
and birds of paradise!

Emus, kiwis, ostriches made
league with hens, roosters,
peacocks and herons wise!

Crows, cuckoos, hoopoes, owls,
woodpeckers, birds of prey and
Eagles looked otherwise!

Then goose said to the gander with
some sauce and spice' look at the
bird of praise! '-

'I tell you that Phoenix is
an old wives tale! That is no
Phoenix; i say it is a duck!

By some luck that duck flew
onto that deck and got settled
or to it forcibly struck!

Now it wants our help, what
shall we do? What shall we
do? Shall we pluck it chuck?

Feather by feather till it look
like a duck that i know from my
geography buck book?

The desert ostrich was groping
its head in the poetry sand
hissed' Phoenix is a myth!'-

Don't you smell anything weird?
Frankincense, amber, that stupid
duck's stench is death!'-



Rooster crowed thrice.' it is our
custom! We doodle three times
before any Peter says no!'-

The crane standing on one leg
said-' in my meditation i found
that duck is a duck know!'-

The old wise owl held its tongue; the
birds of prey were counting the birds'
off-guard!

The king of birds eagle said to
hoopoe, -'go, find out! Is that bird
Phoenix or a mocking bard?'-





So the great hoopoe famed
for its friendship with king
Solomon, made a sortie,

The ducked Phoenix was in its
blues pondering over the blue
seas and skies party,

Unable to get a proper view
the hoopoe bird requested for
an interview variety,

But the Phoenix reviewed the
hoopoe about its journey to the
Simourgh with birds thirty!

Hoopoe remembered its journey
in detail..-'yes! We crossed seven
valleys of stigmas'-

It said with tears in its eyes-
'first, the valley of the Quest-
there we cast-off our dogmas,

Then in the Valley of Love we
abandoned the reason, in the
third valley of knowledge,

We unlearned it, and in the
fourth the valley of Detachment
we cut off the reality edge!

Now we reached the valley of
Unity, see all those birds...and
then we moved

Into the valley of Wonderment
and bewitched by the beauty of
the Beloved,

In the last valley of Annihilation
we lost our- selves to become
Simourgh of timelessness!

When hoopoe stopped, Phoenix
thundered- 'O Crazy bird! Here
what is your business?

By that thunderbolt question
the hoopoe crashed down to
the eagle feet,

Revived by the eagle and said,-
'i don't say it is a duck, but its
voice hit my heart beat!'-



Then the sleepy owl opened its
eyes and rotated the eyeballs to
look at the king and all!

Yes!,- It confessed -' it is a
weird world! The more you go
in more the deep your fall!

If you care i will tell you a
story that tells you about the
perspectives in any call!

One day a cat chased a rat, a
ferocious dog chased that cat,
ratcatdog in a squall!

The rat entered the hole, the
cat jumped through the window
of a big building,

By the time the angry dog
with its sharp teeth entered
through the door growling,

In that room it saw thousands
of its own clones barking and
were about to pounce on him!

The dog lost its nerve, with
its tail in between its hind legs
darted out shivering to brim!

There my grandfather owl saw
him and asked-' O vicious
canine! What happened to you?

You went like a lion and came
back like a cat that lost all its
lives nine! What is due?

Then the dog said -' phew'- ;
My old man said-'I understand
you! Now you enter the room

With pleasantness and your
best smile you can afford!'- The
dog entered with smile bloom!



Lo! What happened ! Thousands of his facsimiles welcomed him smiling!'-
Facebook is such a thousand mirrors room, what you see is your own reflection, o king!

Then the eagle said in its
eager tone-' i live in a cliff
garden, i have a pen

near knock knock falls in
money law city of the fine
pine land and i am open

To any sessions on visual
acuity, and i can see muses in
mathematical equation,

One day this duck-
onto my arbor
ess relation!'-



Then birds became silent -'
Look, there is our king bird,
who knows, all he knows,

So let us know about the real
purpose of this conference!'-said
a crane with long nose,

O great king! Tell us what
business you talked about? Is it
about world war or peace?
Such a regal bird you are!

How come you mistook a duck
to Phoenix in any geese?'-

Three days we flew over the cuckoos nests

like drones and what a show we showcased!

We burnt the money law city with money loss

and talked many things that surfaced!'-



In the begining, in the
preliminary meeting of birds, a
heron of waterfowl cried foul!

-I don't care where the Phoenix
or Simorgh lives! I am happy with
my song and howl!

Then the hoopoe said -' yes! O
water heron! You can stay in your
own cesspool,

And sing your own tune and
live, this is only invitation not
invasion, so be cool!'-

You can't bribe me into your
group by offering me a feather
plaque or bird seed bowl!

Ha ha! I am the bard of the birds
and guard of the words, your
entice can go to hell bowell!'-

The other birds this way that
way argued about their personal
experiences of life's rule,

Some of the materialistic birds
dropped their plans of long
journeys and not to be a fool!

By that time, the World Wide
Web was expanding like warts
on the toads,

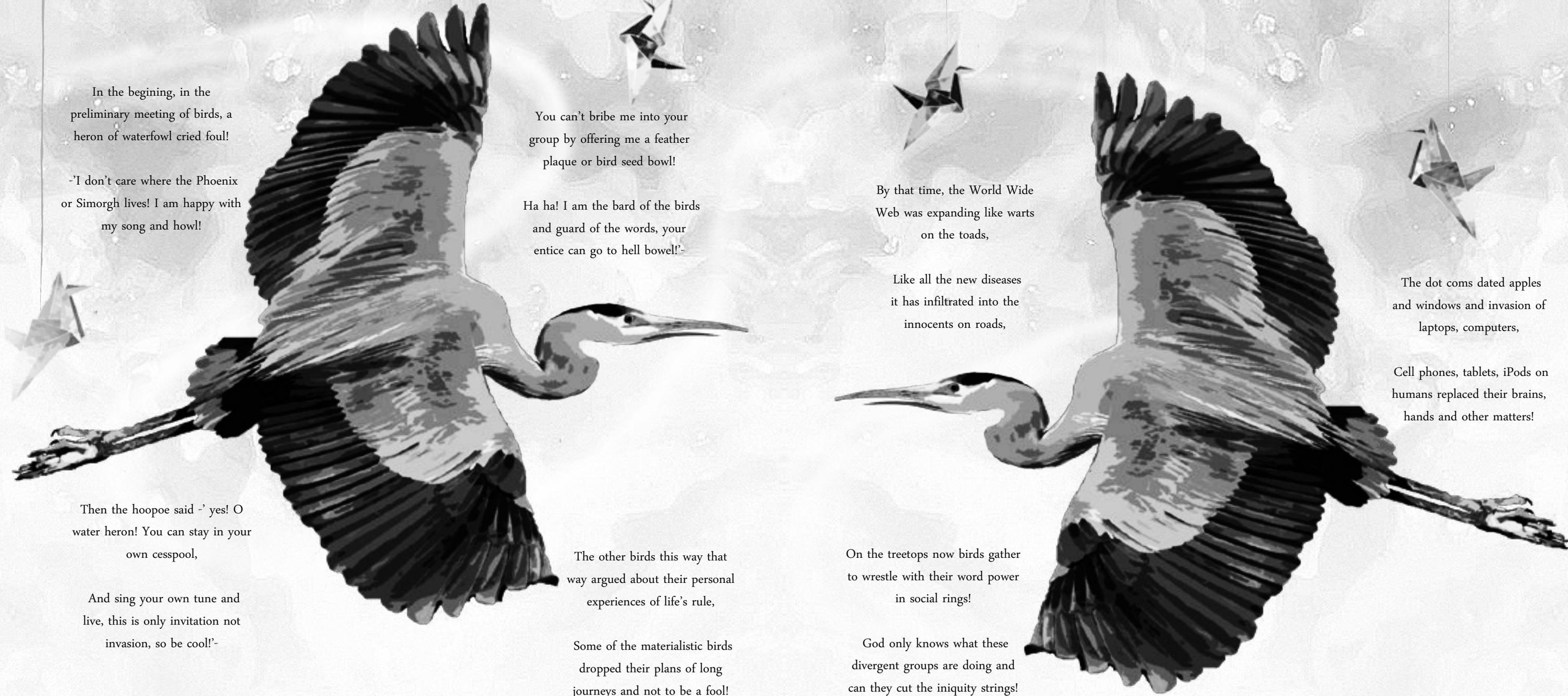
Like all the new diseases
it has infiltrated into the
innocents on roads,

On the treetops now birds gather
to wrestle with their word power
in social rings!

God only knows what these
divergent groups are doing and
can they cut the iniquity strings!

The dot coms dated apples
and windows and invasion of
laptops, computers,

Cell phones, tablets, iPods on
humans replaced their brains,
hands and other matters!



From Money laws to money
plant it is a very very long
distance journey!

The script has changed
from 'In Search of Poetree'-
to 'tree of Money,-!

Then agreement says, it
seems, or presumes that
poets write about poverty,

From premium class facility
and they need to be served
gold biscuits and high tea!

So the Ducked Phoenix went
to Greece to grease his own
stiff joints nice,

And later to Sri Lanka in
search of its own Lanka and
collected sapphires and spice

And the insignia of Rama, Sita,
Lakshmana and Hanuman along
with Ravana in disguise,

Got some advice, proceeded
to Mount Kailasa and Manas
Sarovar to wash away sins in ice!

After the customary three dips in
the serene cold water it dawned to
the Phoenix,

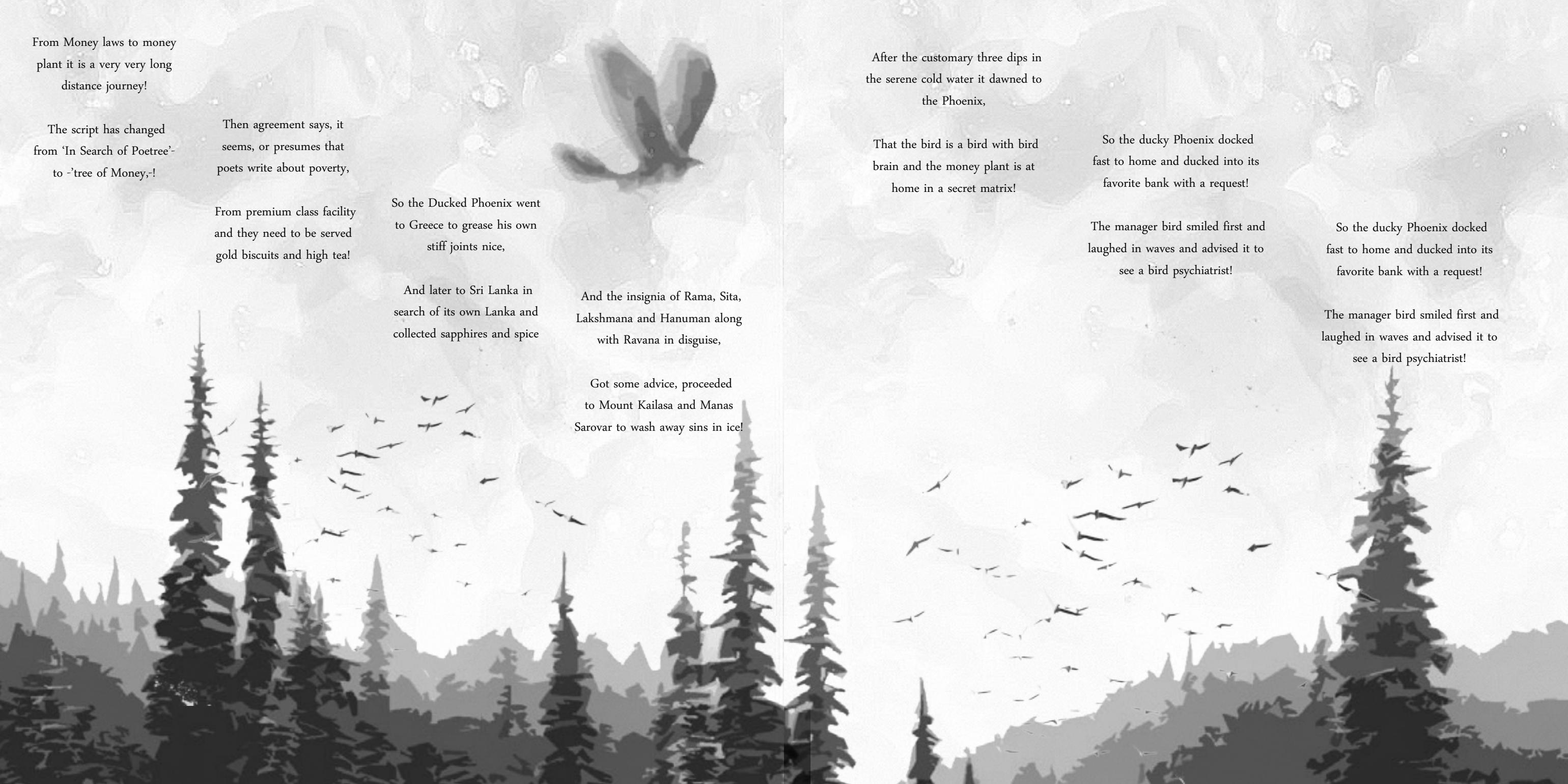
That the bird is a bird with bird
brain and the money plant is at
home in a secret matrix!

So the ducky Phoenix docked
fast to home and ducked into its
favorite bank with a request!

The manager bird smiled first and
laughed in waves and advised it to
see a bird psychiatrist!

So the ducky Phoenix docked
fast to home and ducked into its
favorite bank with a request!

The manager bird smiled first and
laughed in waves and advised it to
see a bird psychiatrist!



-'As we think we became
grownups suddenly it dawns that a
silly child is still in us!

All the games we play as adults
are mere jests in the carnival of
life of a decorated bus!

Our bird songs, mating dances,
bower nests, hatchings and rearing
the hatchlings,

Our migrations, our meditations
on the verdant stage with blue
roof all are illusive things!'-

Said the Sarus crane looking at
the Demoiselle crane anticipating
moral support,

All the cranes took crane shot
selfies with the philosophical crane
and offered their port!

-'In the name of Allat, Uzza,
Manat, we are ever vigilant by
holding a stone in the claw,

We were the inspiration for the
sage Valmiki to write the epic
Ramayana without a flaw!'-

-'With such a grand history of
vigilance we are observing this
bird bard conference,

We can keep our long noses
in any wrong places worth of
litigation with slander lens!'-

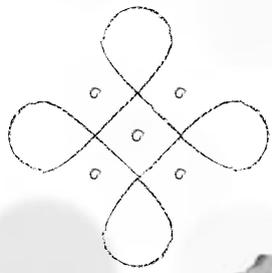
Then the hoopoe bird asked the
crane holding an apple instead of a
stone in its claw,

Why are you holding an apple
instead of a traditional stone, is it
not against law?'-

Then the grus crane made a large
vocal local call in Greek- Kalliste,
Kalliste, Kalliste!

And threw the apple of discord
between the bird bards, the reason
for their proteste!



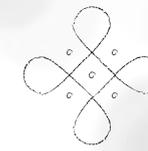


Now the parrot came forward
with its beautiful beak and
colorful plumage

and offered its knowledge in
tart, it said - ' i can advise you on
disagreement of any age,

We have a strong curved bill, an
upright stance, strong legs and
zygodactyl feet stage,

I parrot what my god father says
in law books of in-laws and out
laws in rampage!



Then the Eagle said-' Don't you
see what is brewing there in the
birds gathering?

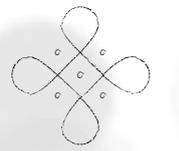
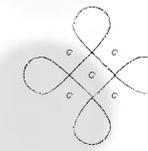
You psittacidae parrots, parakeets,
macaw, parrotiets, amazons,
rosellas in a ring,



You tell me what bird courts you
have visited and what birds laws
you know by heart?'

Then the talkative parrot said with
pride and prejudice -' Rumi of
Persia mentioned our art!

We are the vehicles of Manmatha,
the king of spring and we pick up
cards in parrot tarot!



Love birds, blue bonnets,
lory, lorikeets, hanging parrots,
gualabero, racket tails, cockatiel,

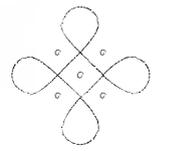
Cockatoos, galah, kaka, kea and
kakapos! You cover the world with
parrot talk and tale!



We imitate our masters and speak
sentences of wise, Aesop and Ovid
wrote fables on our lot!'

O king! There are no fixed laws in
friendship and when we gather for
a common goal,

Mutual trust and helping nature
takes away the hard feelings and
tumult as a whole!



All the while birds of prey are praying their own gods for an opportunity to criticize!
Now they sensed something is brewing in that blue lagoon with birds of wise.



For they have this acuteness of smelling discord among pigeons and doves precise!
If they can isolate a few birds they can fill their critical stomachs in food paradise!

The leader of the vultures and condors giggled at the gig and rigged a few waves of laughter!

Ahaha! O brothers of Accipitridae! O eagles, kites, buzzards and hawks of sinister!
O buzzards! Like a blizzard you haunt the gizards of the hazardous lizard bird faction!
O hawks! You go and hack the bird computer net works! Call all your hackers in to action!



O kites! Fly high and bring me the sky news in a fraction! O eagles, be ready for reaction!

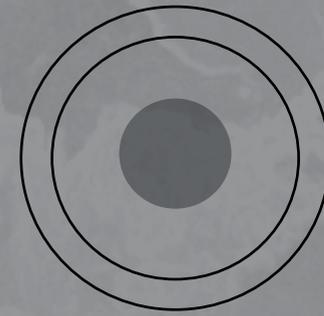


Then the great Eagle said, ' O Vulture! Your fine culture made a sepulcher of my computer,

Let this birds assembly be a cynosure to the living world of the words with no distraction!



You hawkers hacked my account and i cannot count my members numbers hereafter!'-



So dear bards beware! Our birds of prey are aware of your birds in conference!

That's why we came here even though there is no invitation or any critical reference!



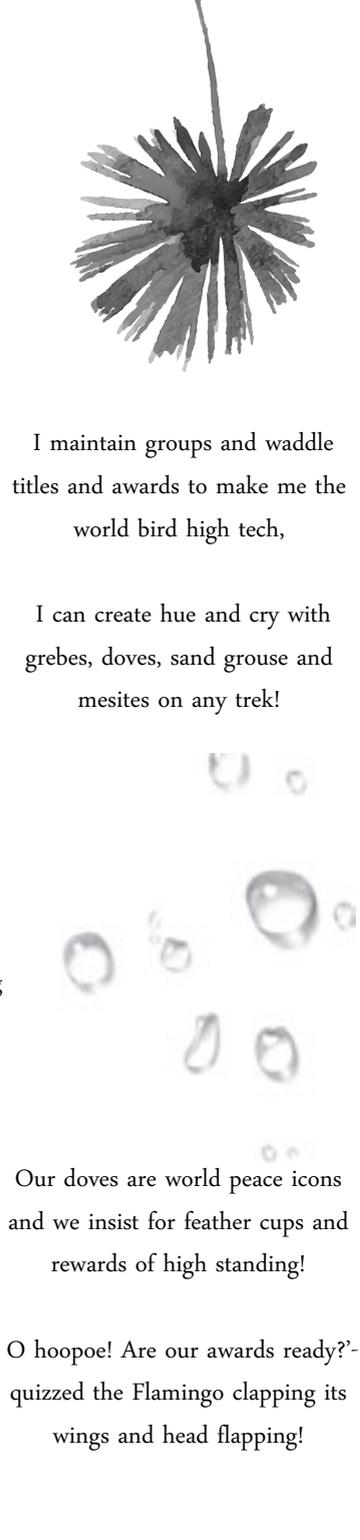


-I am the national bird of
Bahamas!- i have carotene in my
body many a speck,

That gives me the glow of
flame'; With long slender legs and
beautiful long neck,

We are the miraculous birds and
we stand on one leg and give crop
milk to off -spring,

We like free boarding and lodging
because we perform flamenco
dance on the stage ring!'-

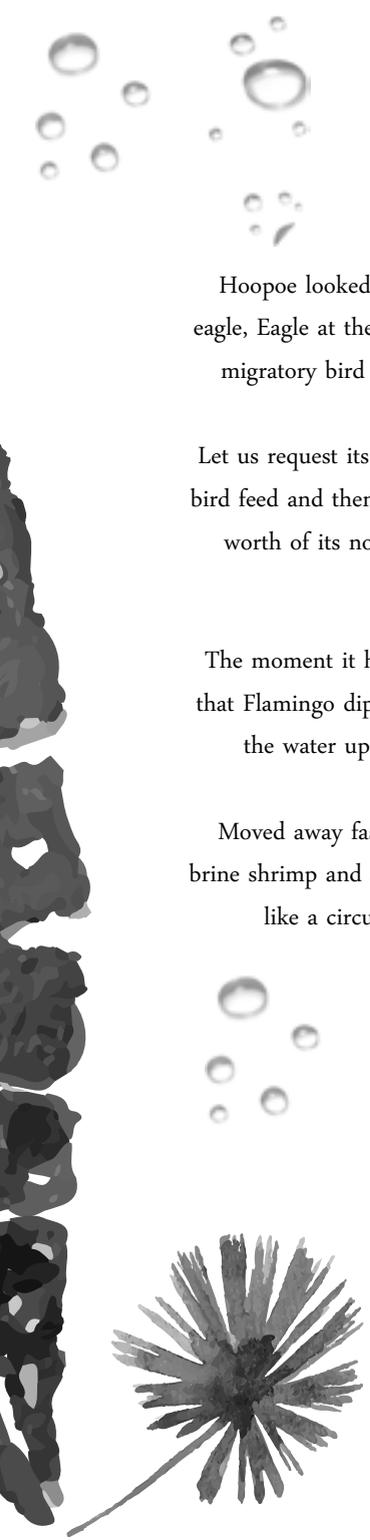


I maintain groups and waddle
titles and awards to make me the
world bird high tech,

I can create hue and cry with
grebes, doves, sand grouse and
mesites on any trek!

Our doves are world peace icons
and we insist for feather cups and
rewards of high standing!

O hoopoe! Are our awards ready?'-
quizzed the Flamingo clapping its
wings and head flapping!



Hoopoe looked at the grand
eagle, Eagle at the hoopoe, -' this
migratory bird is audacious,

Let us request its group for some
bird feed and then see is this bird
worth of its noise precious!

The moment it heard the eagle
that Flamingo dipped its head in
the water upside down,

Moved away fast in search of
brine shrimp and algae blue-green
like a circus clown!

n hoopoe said to the Eagle,-' O
king! All that red is not commune or
ism or bardism!

This red bird does take but not
give, but it is also a color that comes
out of a social prism!



Suddenly there you see the
murder of crows in the sky like
the thunderous cloud views,

All the birds became silent
because crows are the harbingers
of rain and bad news!

The cygnus swans became mute,
the parrots and song birds
swallowed their flute,

The sounds of koww- koww
reverberated in the premises and
every bird wished for a route!

-'Doomsday! Doomsday!'- they
crowed,-' new Tramp cards and
Modified rules have come!

Do you have Aadhar card? H1B
visa? Do you have expertise? Did
you pay GST? Be calm!

You can not go on long journeys
and spend as you like! Cannot
cross borders without check!

We jackdaws, crows, ravens,
magpies are fine intelligent but
this is too much on the neck!'-

It hit our songs first! Such a fine
singers we are deceived by these
cuckoos out and in!

We hatch their eggs with all
the labour, while they enjoy the
holidays in lagoon inn!

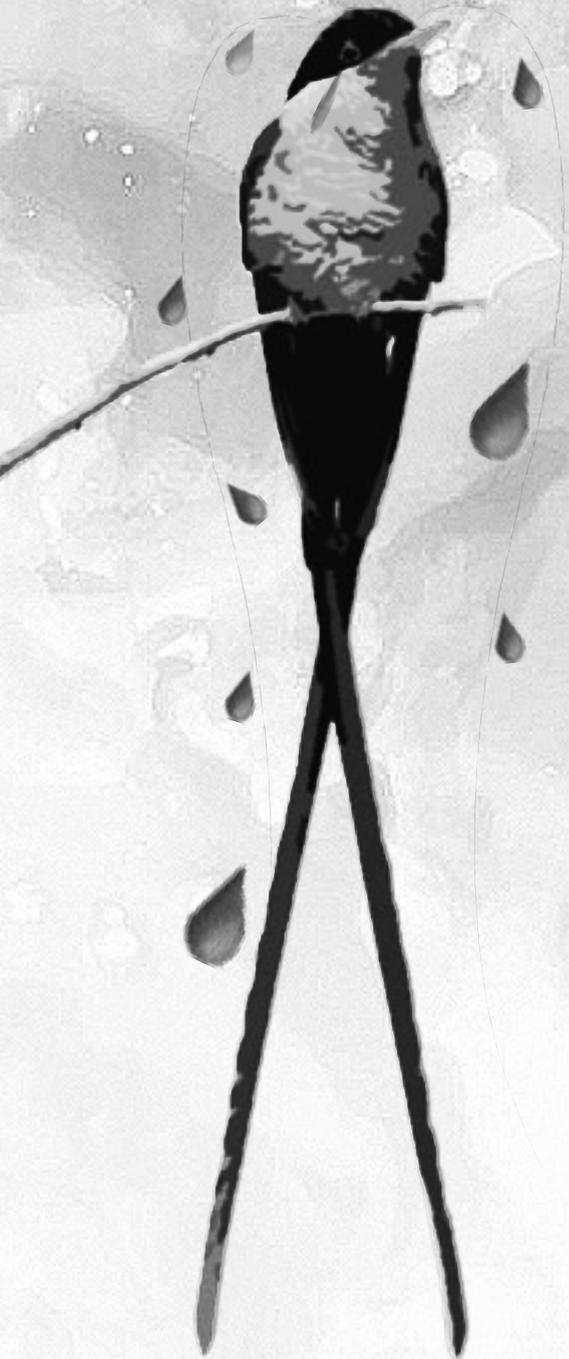
We are the vehicles of Sani-
Saturn god, and goddess
Dhumavati, we taught Cain

To bury the dead Abel, we are
the messengers Huginn and
Muninn to Norse god Odin!

We are the birds of omen and the
character of Edgar Allan Poe -'The
Raven'-from his pen!,-

The Eagle thundered-' Enough is
your din and introduction! Now
what is going to happen?





Shearing the silence screen a
pathetic cry erupted in spasms of
strain and pain!

While every bird was watching in
bewilderment a shivering bird shot
past the birds train!

And fell at the feet of the eagle
like a dart lost its speed, vitality,
consciousness and shine!

Looking at that pitiful bird the
hoopoe said,-' O god! This is the
doctor bird of Jamaican line!

It said in a weak voice-' We are
from the cult of Aesculapeus,
Dhanvantari, Avicenna,

Hippocrates, Charaka, Sushruta,
Galen, Thoth, Yellow Emperor and
shamans with manna!



From demigod status to demonic
shape our sheen was lowered in
public image!

I heard this birds conference is
conducted by a few doctor birds i
came nonstop in craze!

The eagle was in tears and it said
-' once i was a doctor eagle now
changed to bard noble!

Even the duck-Phoenix does
doctoring as per its confession so
there shall be no trouble!



Every nook and corner of the
assembly is filled with praises,
appraises and whispers!

The nearby birds sprinkled some
spirit water on that bird who
slowly recovered its tempers!

When the birds heard the
word 'doctor ', they all started
whispering their own encounters,

The tragedies, comedies, the loss
benefit ratios the doctor bashers
and money hunters,



While the Doctor bird was amidst
of intervals of sleep syncope and
wakeful hope,

A little Kurdish bird with beard
came flapping its wings and
clasping its bioscope!

It cried in majestic tone-' O king
of this day! O s- word of this day!
Kill these birds of prey!'-

Shuddered by these words the
Eagle said-' O mystic bird! Reveal
yourself to all of us, I pray!

'- I am the bird of fortune! I am
the descendant of mythical Huma
the bird of paradise!

I am Nuthatch, crossed four
valleys and gained some substance
and merchandise!

I wish to share here in this bards
conference my experiences in
mystic wayfaring.

They call me the disciple of Bahai
order and i answer the queries
about my soul spring!'-

All the birds and bards looked at
one another, some coughed, some
picked attention!

'-Four kinds are the wayfarers.
Some follow religious laws strictly
word to word ahead!

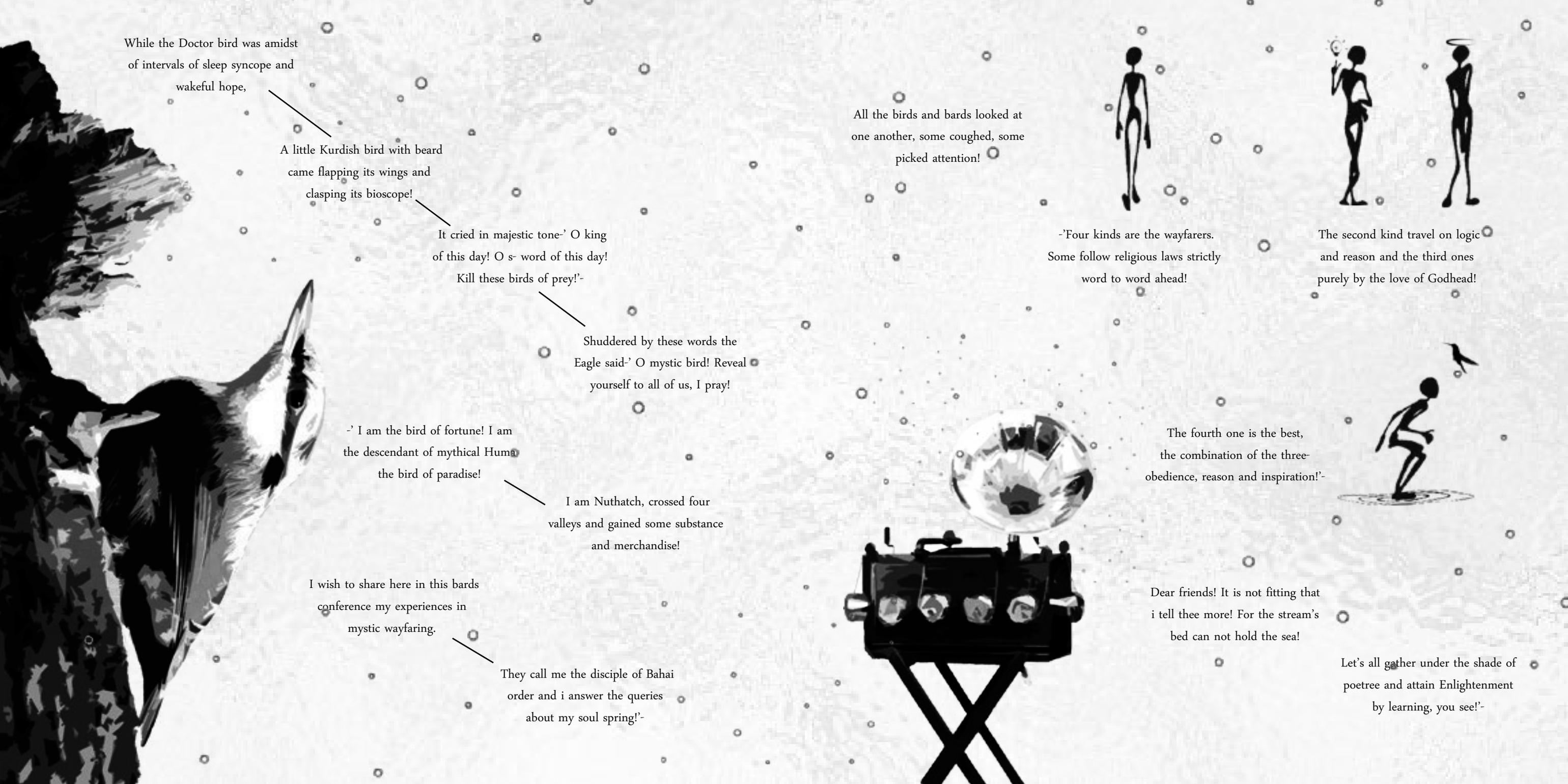
The fourth one is the best,
the combination of the three-
obedience, reason and inspiration!'-

Dear friends! It is not fitting that
i tell thee more! For the stream's
bed can not hold the sea!

The second kind travel on logic
and reason and the third ones
purely by the love of Godhead!



Let's all gather under the shade of
poetree and attain Enlightenment
by learning, you see!'-



The wisdom bird wished to go on, but all of a sudden two crows appeared on horizon!

They rushed to the summit like the suicide bombers in surrogate mission and vision!

Those who sipped the spilled drops are the less gifted bards,
Now there is a problem

There was complete silence. Birds looked staring at one another -Am i the one, o god?-

The birds with colored fake feathers for the occasion were trembling in their false world!

Some lost their feathers, some their colors, some their fair weathers in their deceit word!

The messengers stood in front of the entrance n exit gates like archangel Gabriel with sword!

The great eagle and hoopoe hurriedly looked at their famous delegates bird- bards list!

-i am the thought Huginn and he is the memory Muninn, we are the messengers of god Odin!

-We are clean and our birds are pure poets not maligned by filthy politics at any cost'-

Some fake bards who have stolen the mead from bird net by hacking are spoiling the realm,

Our Lord Odin sent us here to filter fake from real and see that standards are maintained firm!

The birds who have received the mead by Odin Himself are the blessed bards with emblem



Suddenly in the caravan of the
birds there was a great commotion
that reached peak!

Some birds cried -'thief! thief!
O great Ornith! By your divine
feathers, talons and beak!

We swear some kleptoparasitism is
going on here! My song is stolen
by a crook or geek!!

A plagiarist bird must be on
prowl! It stole my tuna tune before
i sang! What a squeak!'-

In a corner they saw a few kea
parrots, gulls and frigate birds busy
ruminating ideas!

They said in unitone, -' Don't
anchor your looks of suspicion on
us with birdipedias!

We are no more guilty than
Thomas Chatterton or many
mimicry song birds on dias!

No more we are scavenger birds
and we are now as clean as any
one of you on podias!

You blame us but what about
Eliot's Waste land? What he stole
from Madison Casein?

Nicki Minaj, J. K.Rowling, J. R.R.
Tolkien and many a great bards
were accused of theft!

Tell us! Are we not plagiarizing
nature or god's works day in day
out and claim it as divine gift?

The first deaf-blind celebrity
Helen Keller did she imitate
Margaret Canby in her first vision?

-'I have a dream! '- said Marton
Luther King jr? What about
Samuel Francis Smith's hymn?

Jane Goodall, Johnny Cash, Alex
Haley, Putin, Obama, Justin Bieber
and Dan Brown ,



While the plagiarist lobby
was flogging its cause, there
in another corner,

Under a beautiful trellis
adorned by clematis-
jackmanii, climbing
Hydrangea as runner,

Kafir lily, streptocarpus,
calamondin orange, Brazilian
fireworks, crown of thorns,
geraniums,

Gloxinia, guppy, lipstick,
shrimp, ixora, begonia,
guzmania, pansies, and
chrysanthemums

Five leaf Akebias with
purple blossoms, purple
Kiwi vine, passion flowers
and trumpet

vine, African violets,
hibiscus, flowering
maples, oxalis, peace lily,
anthurium, jasmine,

Amidst those bushes
were sitting in a relaxed
way, birds of paradise
were in rock and roll!

Like the lashes on
Christ's body they are
species thirty nine may
be three more in scroll!

Paradise crow, manucodia,
paradigalla, astrapia, parotia,
king of Saxony, lophorina
superb,

Rifle bird, sickelbills,
cicinnurus, standard wing,
twelve wired bird, paradisaea,
blue bird in herb,

All these birds looked
at their species king for
advice; he said,-' we are
the special ones

Related to the Phoenix!
Hark! the commoners are
in a commotion! With
things of nuisance!

Suddenly all the male
birds started lekking in
classical and exploded
arrangements!

Booming calls, plumage
displays, pheromone
sprays, song sessions
became tournaments!

-'Beauty is feather deep,'- wept
a failed love bird,-' my lover is a
wicked bard!

Love is a subliminal thing but he
is a flesh lover and a henniser, a
foul fowl by word!

He was a mix of Genghis khan
and Don Juan in one cockcrow,
Picasso and Casanova,

Kennedy and Ian Fleming, Hefner
and Waren Betty, jack and Wilt, a
combined Innova!'-

Thus the lady bird wept-' I am
not a beetle! I am not a bug! Me a
bird he made me duck!'-

Her tears melt the hearts of the
most beautiful birds in the world
gathered as a flock

Blue Macaw, wood duck,
Bohemian waxwing, Blue jay,
Atlantic puffin, Peacock,

Keel billed Toucan, Flamingo,
scarlet Macaw, Golden Pheasant
stopped their beauty talk!

The golden Pheasant said in a
majestic tone -'Oh dear! This is a
safe group!

We carefully select the most
beautiful birds with all the modern
tests proof!

The greatest pen-pal birds we
are! Like Sartre and Beauvoir,
Catherine and Voltaire,

Nabokov and Wilson, Brahms and
Clara, Edith and James, Bishop
and Lowell, Nin and Miller!



Like Barrett and Browning, Mary
and Shelly, Plath and Hughes we
have our idols!

Some love some grieve, but
that is the essence of life! Beauty
enhanced by just ideals!

Then this Ani bird with recurrent worries
flickered its tail and fluttered its wings

In a sea of doubt-' Oh you may call me
doubting Thomas! But i can perceive things,

All incongruities they smell to me like onion
rings and Raflesia flower near springs,

I am worried who will answer my doubts and
allay my fears about these bird gatherings!"-

Then that Ani bird saw a bird farm in the
lines of metamorphosed birds,

-' All bards are enemies. All birds are
comrades' there were many placards,

The seven commandments stared at this Ani
bird-" whoever doubts is a friend,

Whoever recites morals during bird feed is a
mortal enemy, no bird shall follow a trend,

No bird shall sleep on a worry, no bard shall
mix water in alcohol! No bird shall grill!

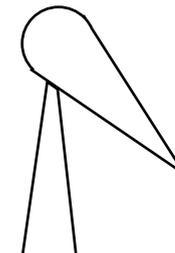
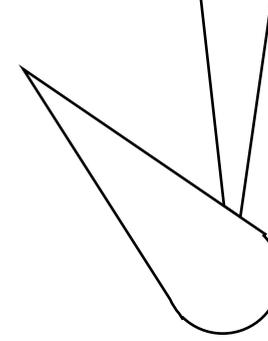
All birds are equal but bird bards are more
equal and all birds shall practice drill,

Towards freedom and birdism birds shall work
and all bird bards shall raise noise shrill!"-

The ever doubting Ani bird worried that can all
these commandments have a practical thrill?

Then it saw the faces of the birds reflecting the
features of famous and infamous in house!

But it was already impossible to say which was
which, a bird of paradise or a common grouse!





Near the watershed the deep
divers were in a knee deep deary
discussion!

' We sea ravens are different,
cormorants and shags are we, deep
diving is our passion!

The lone woman of San Nicolas-
Juana Maria did knit a cormorant
feather dress in files

Using whale sinews was news!
We are the hood ornament of
Packard automobiles!

In Ancient Egypt, Peru, Korea,
India and still in China and Japan
we fish Haiku likes!

With a ring around our neck we
regurgitate our poems on stages
before sounding mikes!

In Milton's 'Paradise lost' Satan
took our form, and perched atop
of the tree of life,



In wing- drying pose he sat and
spied greedily on Adam and Eve
living without strife!-

Continued the leading cormorant-'
Dear friends, shags and
cormorants! By spying we lose



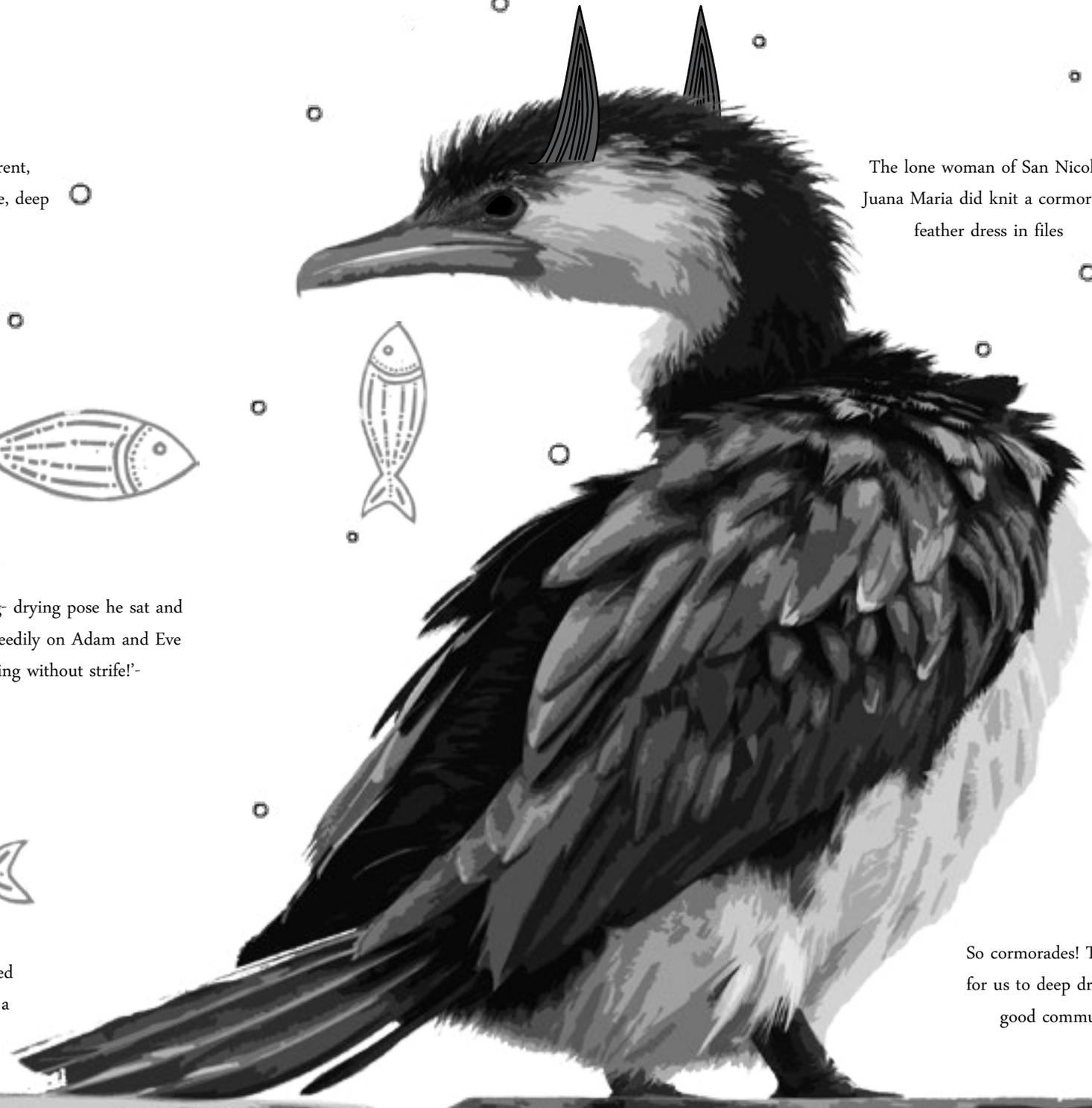
Nothing but our neck rings!
Only from the barrel of our throat
comes revolution! So compose!

We are the spirits of the lost
bards at the sea, with slim head
vermillion strapped,



And big black feet we inspired
Amy Clampitt in composing a
poem beautifully rapped!

So cormorades! This is a chance
for us to deep drive and fish for
good commune poetry!



Near the Orwellian bird farm the birds
found a mysterious fantasy land

Inhabited by the souls of the extinct
birds, every where in that shade sand,

Elephant birds, upland moas, Emus, Labrador
ducks, scrubfowls, quails, penguins,

Great auks, sand pipers, curlews, Leguats, rails,
grebes, herons, petrels, starlings,

Passenger Pigeons, doves, Dodos, lorikeets,
kakas, parakeets, cuckoos, caracaras, wrens

Owls, hawks, nightjars, swifts, woodpeckers,
piopios, warblers, thrushes, and swamp hens,

All were there the birds of the past, became
extinct by one unwise homosapiens bards!

Then the famous Dodo and great auk came
forward and spoke to the conference birds!

All were there the birds of the past, became
extinct by one unwise homosapiens bards!

Then the famous Dodo and great auk came
forward and spoke to the conference birds!

'Color wise, feather wise, flight wise, beak,
talon, weight, stature, diurnal variation,

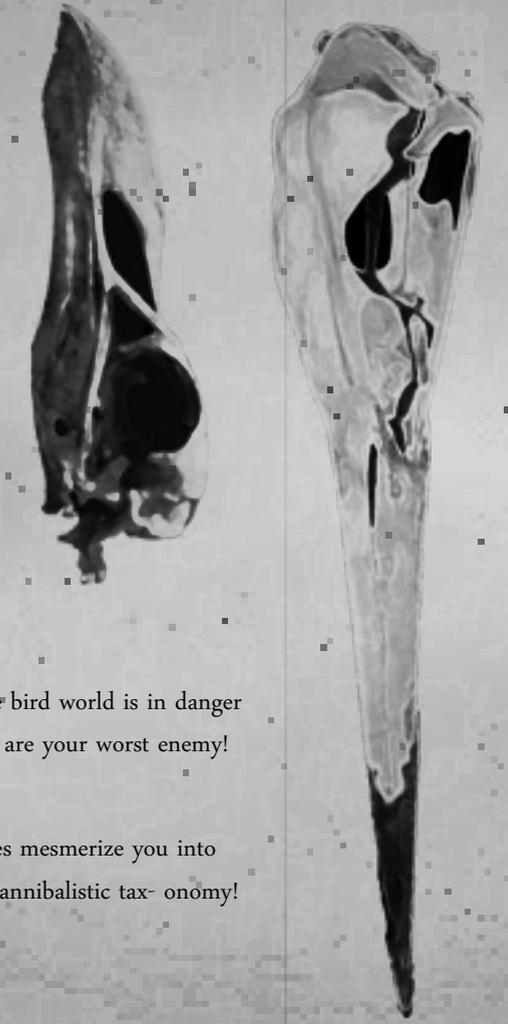
You were divided and imprisoned in the
social cages firmly without any hesitation,

Beware! The whole bird world is in danger
of extinction! You are your worst enemy!

Your own species mesmerize you into
slavery by mental cannibalistic tax- onomy!

The yoke is on your wings! These birds of
prey entice you with digital blue screens,

And convert you into zombies, slowly devour
you while you are still alive in your greens!'





Then appeared the mysterious Cockatoo bird in
chains and shackles from a milk can!

While every bird is watching in bewilderment
the escape artist wriggled out of locks ton,



And announced, 'i am Harry Handcuff Houdini!'-
then every bird said-' how do you do Houdini! '-

Are you the bird hand cuffed by daily mirror?
Buried alive but came out without scratch tiny!-



'I am from Hungary. I am hungry for illusions,
stunts, movie making and aviation!

I have impressed the Vaudeville houses and
before your eyes i can create commotion!

O revered audience! Come, bind me with locks,
straight jackets, ropes or any contraption!

Try nailed crates, boilers, mail bags, whale belly
but i can escape by dematerialization!'-



This is Chinese Water Torture Cell, these are
hand cuffs, this is Bess my assistant bard,

This is jennie the vanishing elephant, these are
my movies and i am the bard from beyond'-



The Cockatoo proudly announced, 'i am here to
debunk false poets, and fake writers at hand!

Mina Crandon, Argamasilla, Nino-, i exposed
them but lost my Conan Doyle's friendship card!



So beware! My Houdini effect is bewitching;
it transports you into the world of illusion,

But exposes the false prophets and bards that
are hoodwinking the rules of creative vision!



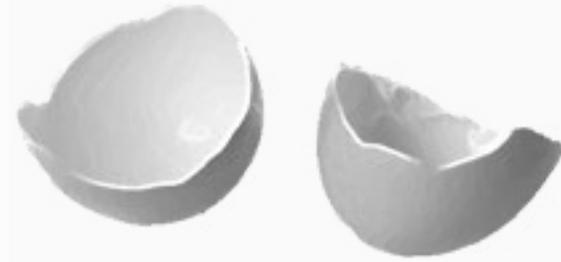
Then the rooster rooted and crowed thrice
and Peters ran away from the dove across!

As the cockcrow was looking at the crows
crowd they walked the dove to the cross!



Is a stringed lute on which all winds can play, i
paint a face like rose leaves with ivory,

I walked on aesthetics and libels, incarcerated
for the importance of being earnest as a whole.



Boosting its energy the rooster cried, -'Don't
count the eggs before they are hatched!

The nearby frolicking Oscar Wilde bird retorted,
It is wiser to count eggs than chicks run ahead!

Every fowl looked at this wild bird that talked
foul and painting Dorian Gray,

-' Oh, i feel just so happy as a bright
sunflower! I drift with every passion till my soul



From Happy prince to a pauper my birdly
life had many weird twists and turns!

O Dou -glass bird! What's the love that
dare not speak its name, led me to ruins!



I wanted to eat of the fruit of all the trees in the
garden of the world, ignored its gloomy side,

So dear friends! Follow the laws of the land and
the constitution of birds, Enjoy the happy ride!

It put me in pillory for it! To regret one's own
experience is to arrest one's own development!

To put a lie into the lips of one's own life, and it
is no less than a denial of the soul in ferment!





Before they got out of the shock from the wilde
Cockatoo in pathos focus
The birds saw rows of gymnastic parrots on
one side doing tricks of circus,
Another side columns of trained raptors ready
to do their war parades and prowess,
The situation was tense with silence and every
bird had their hearts choked in guess!

The parrots started retrieving coins, shaking
claws, opening wings, talking,
Some flew through hoops, some roller skated,
some took up bicycle riding and singing,
Their platoon leader said proudly. -' we learnt
our tricks under counter conditioning,
No punishment or negative reinforcement
used, we are don't like tarot card picking.'-

The hawks commandant harked, -'in the
manning process we wear a hood and bell,
With jesses to our legs we perch on a block or
mews, and land on the gauntlets well,
Or the gloved hand of our master falconer! We
are free of debt, but reinforced of vision,
With telemetry, now we hawks falcons and
owls became actors in movies and television!

Then the parrots and raptors crossed their lines
and there was all commotion and chaos!
All their manning has gone into hunger, birds
saw heaps of feathers and blood on the dais!

While the birds are still in terror
stricken state, the artificial clouds
disappeared,

For a moment there was a
hushed silence that gave way to
claps and whistles,

All the spectators looked at the
spectacular spectacle and the
feathers rustles,

In a moment the trained parrots
and hawks took their original
positions and smiled!

The dias was cleared and then
heard were the breath taking
sounds of Samba drums,

Bum-ba-bum, two beats-three
steps, long quick, short quick,
then slow weight shift hums,

In the sparkling twinkles of
fireflies appeared Brazilian Samba
birds in colorful plumage,

The carnival moved in samba de
Gafieira, Axe, Pagode, Reggae,
Rock and de Roda of craze!

Surdo drums beamed primeira
and marcacao, answered by
segunda and response,

In between, pitched interceira
as cutador, the high pitch made
them all touch the essence!

The birds in jubilation tapped
their feet and the lagoon and
valley reverberated in music!

What a joy! From dark terror
to mirthful mirror! All the birds
regaled in fun and frolic!

Then the hoopoe bird remarked,-
our birth is mystery and our
death is further mystery!

In between birth and death is our
mastery! But in between death
and birth what is our story?'

Ciconia! Ciconia!,- Exclaimed birds of science looking at the sky over horizon!

Ba, Ba- said the Egyptian orniths in amazement, Chasidah! O ancestral origin!

Prayed Hebrew bards; Greek and Roman birds lowered their heads and allopreened!

Hindu birds remembered Lord Krishna's adventures and Yaksha questions answered!

The whole sky was filled with white storks going north in pilgrimage!

All birds greeted them with respect and reverence with expanded plumage!

Some old birds recounted their encounters with great white storks of golden age!

-We were delivered by storks from adebarsteine to our parents for parentage'-

You modern birds don't believe but that's why we at this oldage are also strong!

Look at yourselves! You fat obese chicken! You lost your souls and going wrong!'-



The young modern birds chuckled with waves of laughter. -'Yes'- they said in jest,

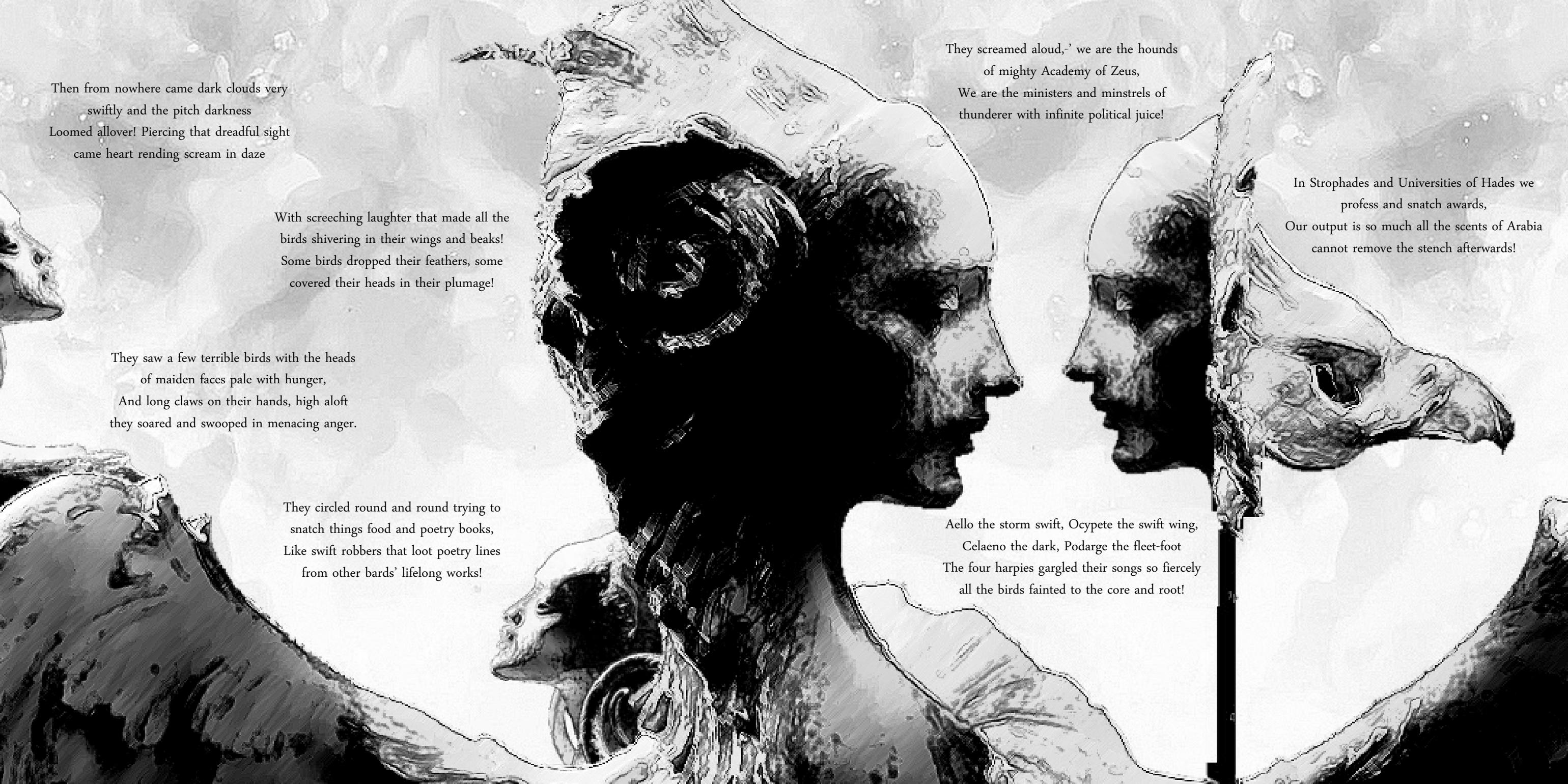
O great grand paters! O stork factory products!, we saw those marks on your back rest!'-



The philosophical birds looked inward and gazed at the disappearing storks of myth,

-' May be there is truth in storks delivery about birth and our souls delivery after death!'-





Then from nowhere came dark clouds very
swiftly and the pitch darkness
loomed all over! Piercing that dreadful sight
came heart-rending scream in daze

With screeching laughter that made all the
birds shivering in their wings and beaks!
Some birds dropped their feathers, some
covered their heads in their plumage!

They saw a few terrible birds with the heads
of maiden faces pale with hunger,
And long claws on their hands, high aloft
they soared and swooped in menacing anger.

They circled round and round trying to
snatch things food and poetry books,
Like swift robbers that loot poetry lines
from other bards' lifelong works!

They screamed aloud, 'we are the hounds
of mighty Academy of Zeus,
We are the ministers and minstrels of
thunderer with infinite political juice!

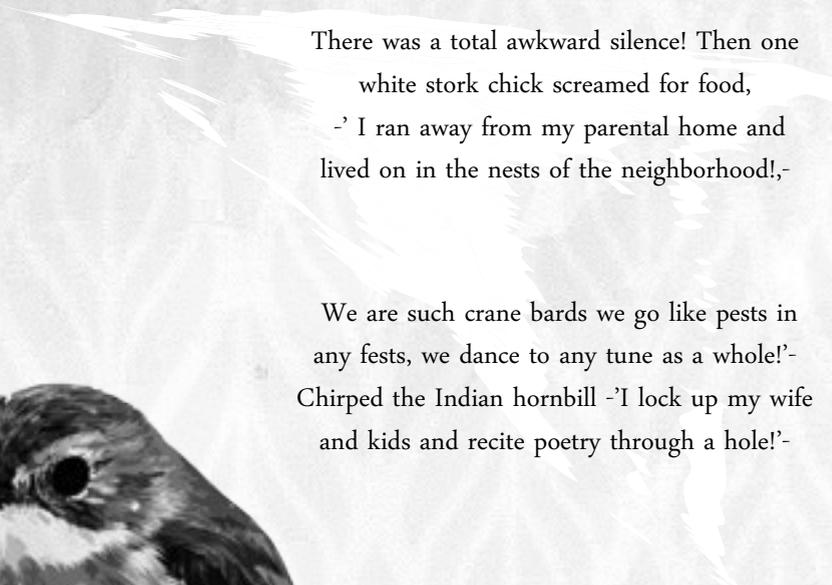
In Strophades and Universities of Hades we
profess and snatch awards,
Our output is so much all the scents of Arabia
cannot remove the stench afterwards!

Aello the storm swift, Ocypete the swift wing,
Celaeno the dark, Podarge the fleet-foot
The four harpies gargled their songs so fiercely
all the birds fainted to the core and root!



Then birds heard and saw a vintage group of
bards at various vantage points
Announcing guffaws unique to them only and
wished to exhibit before media joints!

A tiny garden song bird chickadee boasted-
we blast roosting bat poets out of breath!-
Then the Kelp gull cried- we gulls can cull big
giant right whale authors in any depth!

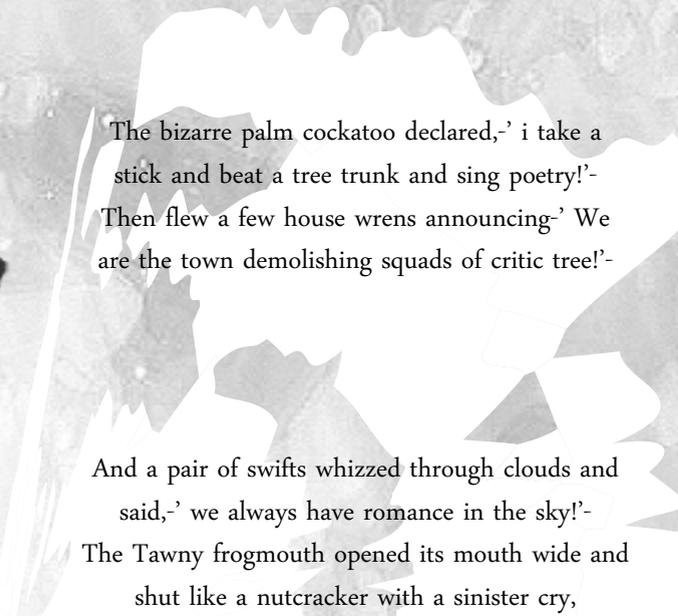


There was a total awkward silence! Then one
white stork chick screamed for food,
- I ran away from my parental home and
lived on in the nests of the neighborhood!-

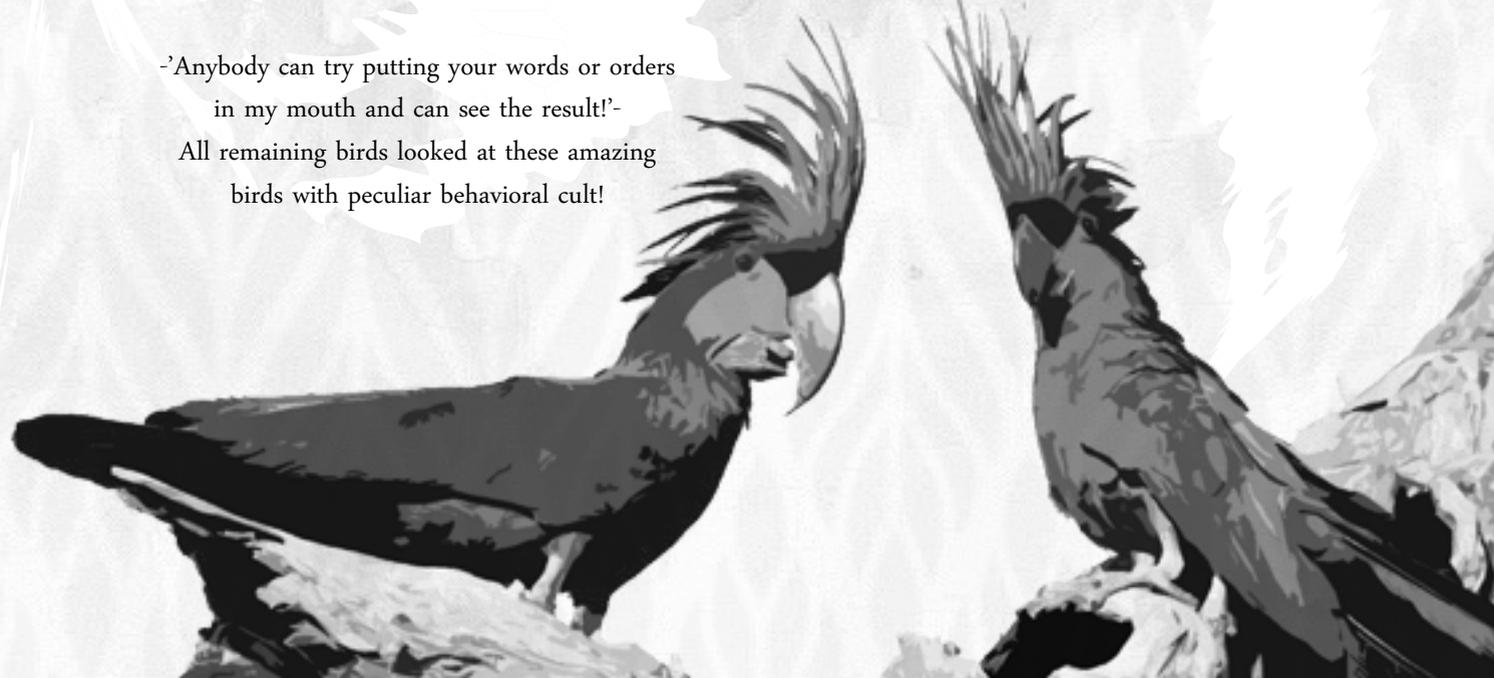
We are such crane bards we go like pests in
any fests, we dance to any tune as a whole!-
Chirped the Indian hornbill -I lock up my wife
and kids and recite poetry through a hole!-



The bizarre palm cockatoo declared,- i take a
stick and beat a tree trunk and sing poetry!-
Then flew a few house wrens announcing- We
are the town demolishing squads of critic tree!-



And a pair of swifts whizzed through clouds and
said,- we always have romance in the sky!-
The Tawny frogmouth opened its mouth wide and
shut like a nutcracker with a sinister cry,



-Anybody can try putting your words or orders
in my mouth and can see the result!-
All remaining birds looked at these amazing
birds with peculiar behavioral cult!

Nearby at the Spencerian
trellis of entwined vines in the
wonderland of Alice type,

Near the tiger lilies, daisies,
violets, roses and delphinium
larkspur with beauty hype,

The birds found love everywhere
among its residents of Agap-ornis
the lovebirds of lore!

They were in such a divine
agape state the onlookers looked
at them in disbelief stare!

Yellow -collared, black -cheeked,
peach- faced, black- winged,
red-headed, grey-headed,

Black-collared, Lilian's and
Fischer's love birds the social
affectionate small love- loaded,

They pine for each other, they
spend their lovely evenings in
bird cafes and share fruits,

On birdentine's day they
celebrate in flocks but everyday is
a fun day for these love recruits!

Lovebirds that love to snuggle
their favorite poet parrots and
preen with parrot rhetoric!

The Hoopoe bird explained
in sotto voice- these lovebirds
mate for life, wear nice fabric!

Our Chaucer bird sang the love
in 'Parliament of Fowles' and
immortalized the lovebirds,

During dawn and dusk these
birds make loud high pitched
noises more like our bards!'-

Every bird chuckled, smiled and
laughed their heartfuls and there
permeated love,

The invisible presence of god
and nature they all perceived
with blessings from high above!



Then they saw the multiple tiny specks of
iris fluttering in the azure sky

zooming towards the flower cups in the
garden to savor the nectar high!



All the birds looked at the tiny birds in
rainbow colors probing the flower blossom,

The humming voice from their wing beats
is an onomatopoeic huitzil sound awesome!

We are from Trinidad and Tobago! We are
the smallest birds in the poetry world scan!

We may weigh two grams but we are in
the famous Nazca lines and Aztec talisman!



Our visual acuity, vigor, energy and propensity
to do work is unparalleled in any bird clan,

Our tongue is a micro pump and we lap poetic
nectar in a jap second with all elan!

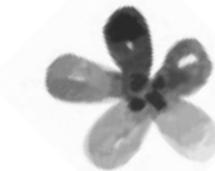


We are clades, the Tropicbirds, Hermits,
Mangoes, Brilliants, and emerald color store!

From Alaska to Mexico we fly in migration
with highest metabolic score!

All the big birds like emus and ostriches
looked at these tiny birds wonder struck!

They realized it is not the size but the love
of life that made them move in world trek!



In non poesy seasons we go into a state of
semi hibernation of torpor!

We are the fallen Aztec warriors the soldiers
of Huitzilopochtli the Aztec god of war!



Beep! Beep! Heard a voice zooming past like a
cracker and suddenly halted to stop,

And looked all around as though looking for a
coyote or snake or a lizard in that group!

All the birds waved at this earth cuckoo with
zygodactyl foot and long legs with no droop!

Then hoopoe introduced it to the bird troupe -
He is the famous road runner, runs poetry shop!

For snakes, venomous spiders like tarantulas,
scorpions and insects it is a killer!

To the native American birds it is the mythical
baby deliverer and a guide to the traveler!

See! How it runs, parallel to the ground with
tails streaming like rudders in couth,

Like a poet at poetry reading at the mike and
standing with all his energy in his mouth!

Hey Chuck Jones! You immortalized the super
genius Wile E. Coyote and Road Runner!

Michael Maltese made a mesmerizing meme of
the roadrunner always a fast winner!'-

Beep! Beep! Said the roadrunner approving and
it came like a bullet and gone in a spinner!

All poet birds thought - ' What a jovial bird this
fellow! Never a bummer and not a sinner!

On a long long road of poetry we all have to
run to reach our imagination gardens!

Lo! Let us forget our differences and move with
elan vital to create a new world sans burdens!





'We are the builders in birds and bards!'-
they announced proudly to the gathering,

We ptilonorhynchidae bowerbird passerines
are passionate to the ring,

We build Maypole or Avenue type bowers to
suit our partners taste and win them

We dance and serenade them in complex
transfer effect of bright bird anthem!

We paint our bowers and create optical
illusions with our blue green saliva gum,

We mimic other birds chirpings from stone
age to awesome post modernism!

We bachelor romantic birds decorate our
nests using beautiful embellishments,

We build bowers of U shaped ones with
green moss carpet floor establishments!'-

While all the birds looking at them in
amazement, they built their bowers

And started courtship rituals with ' buzz-
wing flips'- with fluffing up of feathers,

Buzzing vocalizations and a lot of running
back and forth three or four times,

When blue is blooming the winner won his
partner and rang the honeymoon chimes!

The most romantics of all the birds, these
bower birds are fine gardeners!

More skillful more chances of conquering the
world of love, of stage makers!

COO

COO

COO

Long long ago, in the jungles of Mexico, there was this unhappy pajaro cu, A bird that neither looks good nor sings poesy in playful tunes of sudoku!

A barn owl saw its plight and requested every bird to give the cu fowl One feather each in lieu of its services as a messenger to the bird council!

The cu bird was enamored by its own new plumage started spending hours After hours before mirror, one day the king Eagle sent this narcissistic messenger,

To call upon all the birds to a great meeting but this cu bird on the way in a pond

Of clear water found its own reflection more enchanting and alluring grand!

By the time the great eagle reached the venue no bird was there any near,

With a thunder and shout he summoned every bird and found the culprit near mirror!

So he punished the cu bird and its loyal sympathizer barn owl not to appear

In daytime! That's why plagiarist birds and bards dwell in darkness and sound terror!

HOO

HOO

Lol! You can see and hear them in the weird nights when everyone is sleeping,

A bitter unhappy cu bird because in darkness it can not see its own plumage,

And a lone barn owl hooting instead of singing during dark nights sulking!

Since then every birds conference is haunted by the cu birds and owls lineage!



And they were sitting in the back rows with
frozen tears giving deep wounds,

They are angels and time keepers in any
meeting beating victory drums!

Most often the frontline soldiers go empty
handed in the victory marches.

The Caesars and Alexanders ride on pomp
horses and elephants with lit torches,

In a grand event where time is a precious
princess a few suitors limp with ego,

Some kidnap, ransack, encroach and again
complain about time lost in their go!

Some of the self-proclaimed generals demand
their repeat flesh pounds,

A few lose their glue n nuts, cry foul and
hoarse like children in tantrum rounds!

A poetry festival is a conglomeration of bards to
mingle without leverage,

When hosts face difficulties if the guests go on
rampage on individual mileage

What morals they are writing to the posterity
in their blessed message?

On a borrowed stage, unless proved otherwise,
everyone wears a mask of a sage!

The selfish generals soon perish with in their
tombs with eroded epitome!

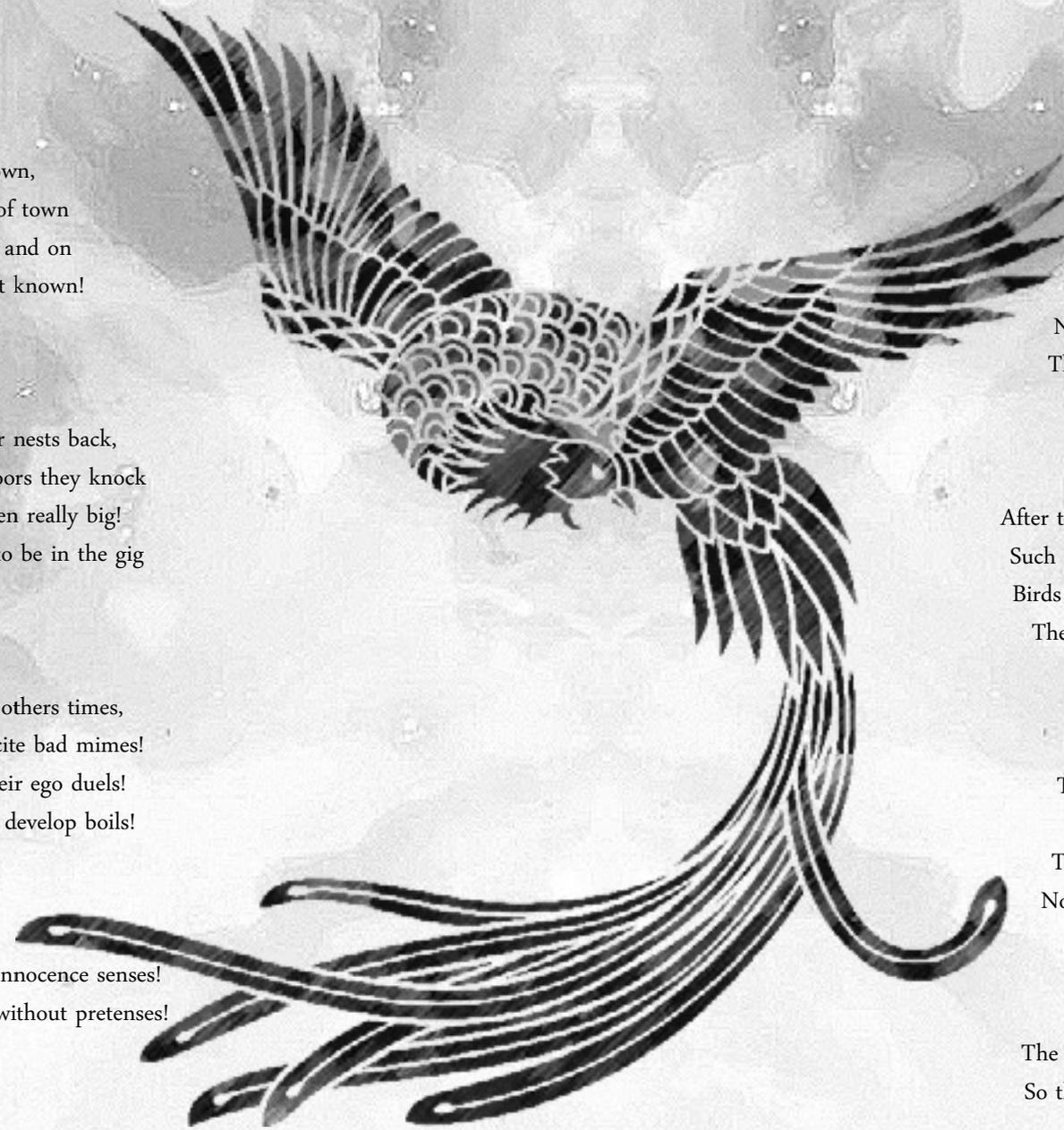
I believe in the soldiers and bow to them for
their valor and sacrificial theme!

So we have attended a bards meeting and sang songs of our own,
The galleries were full on the dot of first hour and slowly birds of town
And faraway villages chose their feathered groups and moved on and on
Ego trips of their own choice and in a paradise some chose dissent known!

It is noticed many of the birds forget their hosts when they reach their nests back,
It is very rare they reciprocate it either with words or deeds but other doors they knock
When they don't get invitation some beg some curse and some threaten really big!
Once the invitation is in their hands they remember their kith and kin to be in the gig

In the meeting halls they rarely follow the time table, many gobble up others times,
The encroachment is pitiful and cruel when it is done by others they recite bad mimes!
After the rituals and recitals are done they compare the events with their ego duels!
Some make peculiar demands that are out of the purview of the host n develop boils!

We wish one day bards will behave like children of poetry with preserved innocence senses!
On that wishful day poets forgive one another and live in a world of love without pretenses!



Once upon a time one Phoenix was soulfully happy in his own loneliness,
It perched upon the great date tree near the oasis amidst of barrenness,
No humans ever entered that area, only birds and beasts in thirst roamed there,
They sang their songs of labors, victories and defeats in solo or groups that dare!

After they left, the Phoenix used to go onto fits of depression and wrote poems of retreat!
Such a sad poetry it wrote and sang, god gave it a chance to conduct world birds meet! ,
Birds of all sizes and sounds sharpened their beaks and talons and showed their plumes!
Then began its ordeals from day one to 'D'- day in bucketfuls of blooms and fumes!

The birds from the distant lands followed the wild geese from the pines lands!
The national birds enquired about the dates and nests with comfort bands!
The local birds wanted their bread buttered on both sides with their own hands!
Nobody bothered about the host Phoenix view of the world and with it his bonds!

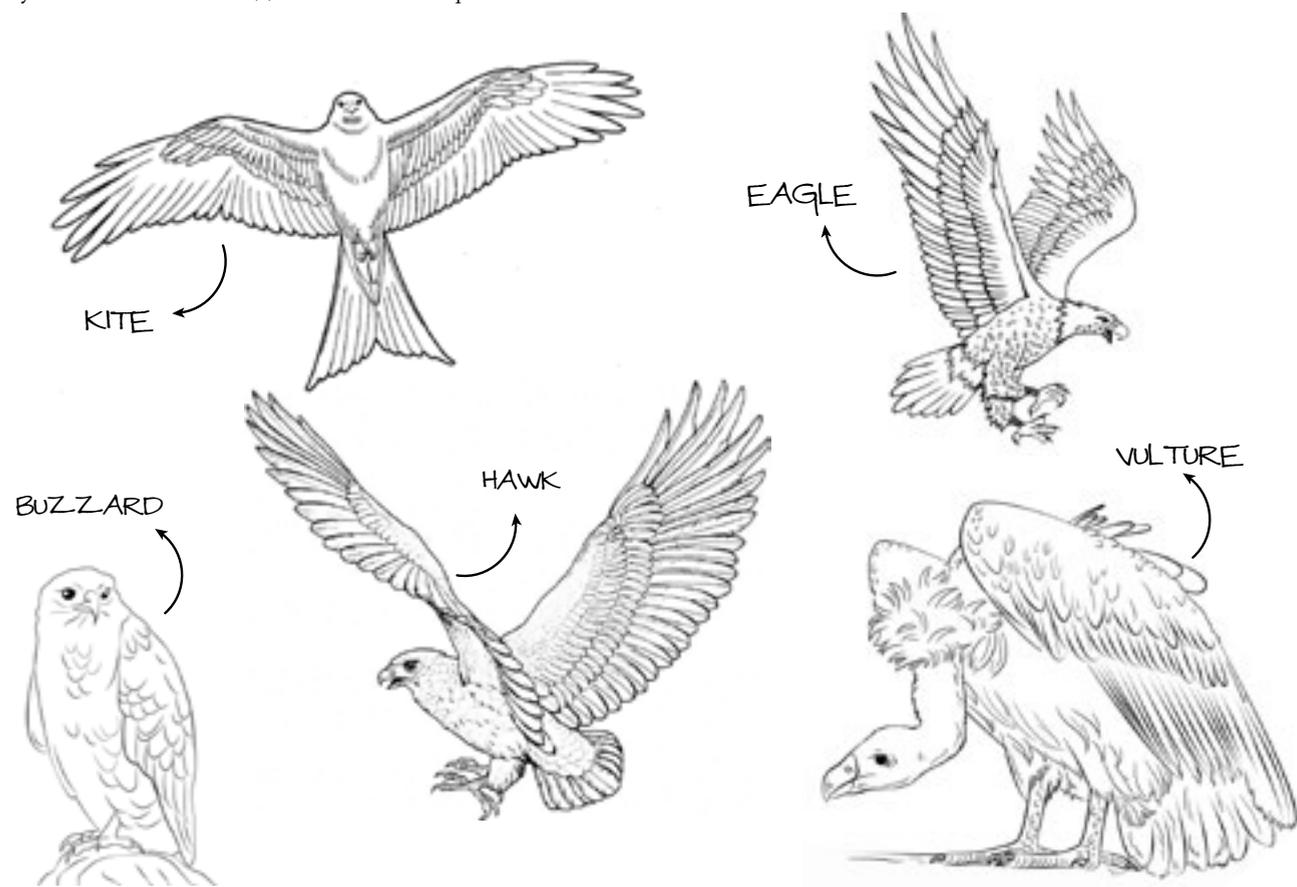
The song and talk birds wanted their voice to be heard all over the lands and deserts!
So the lone Phoenix looked at the Apollo and he gave the birds the deserved desserts!

TERM GLOSSARY

[g. - genus; f. - family; s. - subfamily]

Accipitridae (Buzzards, Eagles, Hawks, Kites, Vultures, etc) - The Accipitridae, one of the four families within the order Accipitriformes (the others being Cathartidae, Pandionidae and Sagittariidae), are a family of small to large birds with strongly hooked bills and variable morphology based on diet. They feed on a range of prey items from insects to medium-sized mammals, with a number feeding on carrion and a few feeding on fruit. The Accipitridae have a cosmopolitan distribution, being found on all the world's continents (except Antarctica) and a number of oceanic island groups. Some species are migratory.

Many well-known birds, such as hawks, eagles, kites, harriers and Old World vultures are included in this group. The osprey is usually placed in a separate family (Pandionidae), as is the secretary bird (Sagittariidae), and the New World vultures are also usually now regarded as a separate family or order. Karyotype data indicate the accipitrids analysed are indeed a distinct monophyletic group, but whether this group should be considered a family or one or several order(s) on their own is a question still to be resolved.



Ani Bird (Crotophaga Ani) - The anis are the three species of near-passerine birds in the genus *Crotophaga* of the cuckoo family. They are essentially tropical New World birds, although the range of two species just reaches the United States. The anis are large black birds with a long tail and a deep ridged black bill. Their flight is weak and wobbly, but they run well, and usually feed on the ground. This is a very gregarious species, always found in noisy groups. The calls include croaking and turkey-like gobbling kro-koro. Fossils of two ani species have been found from Pleistocene rocks, dated to between 1.8 million and 10,000 years ago. There are 3-4 types of these birds - Greater ani (*Crotophaga major*), Smooth-billed ani (*Crotophaga ani*), Groove-billed ani (*Crotophaga sulcirostris*) Cabo San Lucas groove-billed ani, *Crotophaga sulcirostris pallidula* - probably invalid and extinct.



Atlantic Puffin (Fratercula Arctica) - The Atlantic puffin AKA the common puffin, is a species of seabird in the auk family. It is the only puffin native to the Atlantic Ocean; two related species, the tufted puffin and the horned puffin, are found in the northeastern Pacific. It has the typical upright stance of an auk. At sea, it swims on the surface and feeds mainly on small fish, which it catches by diving underwater, using its wings for propulsion. This puffin has a black crown and back, pale grey cheek patches and white underparts. Its broad, boldly marked red and black beak and orange legs contrast with its plumage. It moults while at sea in the winter and some of the bright-coloured facial characteristics are lost, with color returning again during the spring.

The Atlantic puffin is the official bird symbol of the province of Newfoundland and Labrador, Canada. The Norwegian municipality of Værøy has an Atlantic puffin as its civic emblem. Puffins are viewed with affection because they are colourful and full of character. They have been given a number of endearing names including “clowns of the sea” and “sea parrots”, and juvenile puffins may be called “pufflings”. The publisher of paperbacks, Penguin Books, introduced a range of books for children under the Puffin Books brand in 1939. Puffin Book Clubs were introduced in schools to encourage reading, and a children’s magazine Puffin Post was established.

Birds of Paradise - The birds-of-paradise are members of the family Paradisaeidae of the order Passeriformes. The majority of species are found in eastern Indonesia, Papua New Guinea, and eastern Australia. The members of this family are perhaps best known for the plumage of the males of the sexually dimorphic species (the majority), in particular the highly elongated and elaborate feathers extending from the beak, wings, tail or head. For the most part they are confined to dense rainforest habitat. The diet of all species is dominated by fruit and to a lesser extent arthropods. The birds-of-paradise have a variety of breeding systems, ranging from monogamy to lek-type polygamy.

Best known are the members of the genus *Paradisaea*, including the type species, the greater bird-of-paradise, *Paradisaea apoda*. This species was described from specimens brought back to Europe from trading expeditions in the early sixteenth century. These specimens had been prepared by native traders by removing their wings and feet so that they could be used as decorations. This was not known to the explorers, and in the absence of information many beliefs arose about them. They were briefly thought to be the mythical phoenix. The often footless and wingless condition of the skins led to the belief that the birds never landed but were kept permanently aloft by their plumes. The first Europeans to encounter their skins were the voyagers of Magellan's circumnavigation of the Earth. Antonio Pigafetta wrote that they "The people told us that those birds came from the terrestrial paradise, and they call them bolon diuata, that is to say, 'birds of God'. This is the origin of both the name "bird of paradise" and the specific name *apoda* – without feet. whether this group should be considered a family or one or several order(s) on their own is a question still to be resolved. Societies of New Guinea often use bird-of-paradise plumes in their dress and rituals, and the plumes were popular in Europe in past centuries as adornment for ladies' millinery. Hunting for plumes and habitat destruction have reduced some species to endangered status; habitat destruction due to deforestation is now the predominant threat

The southern hemisphere constellation *Apus* represents a bird-of-paradise. An adult-plumaged male bird-of-paradise is depicted on the Flag of Papua New Guinea. The various members of the family were profiled by David Attenborough in *Attenborough in Paradise*. Indonesian Army has a Military Area Command named after "Cenderawasih", as its local name for the bird. The plume from the bird of paradise was used in the Royal crown worn by the King of Nepal, before the establishment of a republic. Now, the crown is housed in Naraynhiti Palace Museum.



Paradise Crow *genus Lycocorax*



Crinkle-collared Manucode *genus Manucodia*



Short-tailed Paradigalla *genus Paradigalla*



Princess Stephanie's *Astrapia genus Astrapia*



Bronze Parotia *genus Parotia*



Greater Bird of Paradise *genus Paradisea*



King of Saxony bird-of-paradise g. *Pteridophora*



Blue bird-of-paradise g. *Paradisaea*



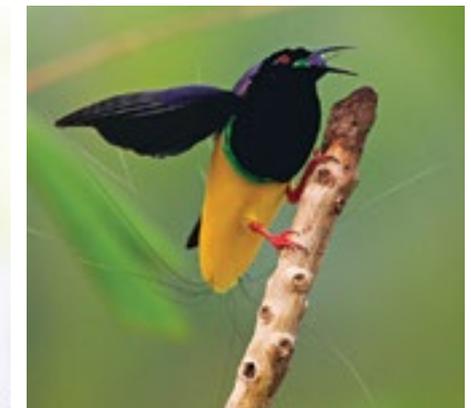
Brown sicklebill, *Epimachus meyeri*



Magnificent riflebird g. *Ptiloris*



King bird-of-paradise g. *Cicinnurus*



Twelve-wired bird-of-paradise g. *Seleucidis*

Bohemian Waxwing (*Bombycilla garrulus*) - The Bohemian waxwing is a starling-sized passerine bird that breeds in the northern forests of Eurasia and North America. It has mainly buff-grey plumage, black face markings and a pointed crest. Its wings are patterned with white and bright yellow, and some feather tips have the red waxy appearance that give this species its English name. They can metabolise alcohol produced in fermenting fruit, but can still become intoxicated, sometimes fatally. Waxwings can be very tame in winter, entering towns and gardens in search of food, rowan berries being a particular favourite. Other hazards include predation by birds of prey, infestation by parasites and collisions with cars or windows. Their high numbers and very large breeding area mean that it is classified as being of least concern by the International Union for Conservation of Nature.



Bowerbird (*Ptilonorhynchus Violaceus*)- Bowerbirds make up the bird family Ptilonorhynchidae. They are renowned for their unique courtship behaviour, where males build a structure and decorate it with sticks and brightly coloured objects in an attempt to attract a mate. The Ailuroedus catbirds are monogamous, with males raising chicks with their partner, but all other bowerbirds are polygynous, with the female building the nest and raising the young alone. These latter species are commonly dimorphic, with the female being more drab in color. Female bowerbirds build a nest by laying soft materials, such as leaves, ferns, and vine tendrils, on top of a loose foundation of sticks. In courtship the male bowerbird will dance to the female in an attempt to attract her. Many species of bowerbird are superb vocal mimics.

MacGregor's bowerbird, for example, has been observed imitating pigs, waterfalls, and human chatter. Satin bowerbirds commonly mimic other local species as part of their courtship display. Bowerbirds have also been observed creating optical illusions in their bowers to appeal to mates. They arrange objects in the bower's court area from smallest to largest, creating a forced perspective which holds the attention of the female for longer. Males with objects arranged in a way that have a strong optical illusion are likely to have higher mating success.



Buzzard (*Buteo Buteo*) - The common buzzard is a medium-to-large bird of prey whose range covers most of Europe and extends into Asia. Over much of its range, it is resident year-round, but birds from the colder parts of the Northern Hemisphere typically migrate south (some well into the Southern Hemisphere) for the northern winter.

The common buzzard breeds in woodlands, usually on the fringes, but favours hunting over open land. It eats mainly small mammals. Pairs mate for life. To attract a mate (or impress his existing mate) the male performs a ritual aerial display before the beginning of spring. This spectacular display is known as 'the roller coaster'. He will rise high up in the sky, to turn and plummet downward, in a spiral, twisting and turning as he comes down. He then rises immediately upward to repeat the exercise. The common buzzard breeds in woodlands, usually on the fringes, but favours hunting over open land. A great opportunist, it adapts well to a varied diet of pheasant, rabbit, other small mammals to medium mammals, snakes and lizards, and can often be seen walking over recently ploughed fields looking for worms and insects. When the abundance of field voles decline, common buzzards switch to foraging on a diversity of prey items typical of farmland habitats.

Caracaras (*f. Falconidae*) - Caracaras are birds of prey in the family Falconidae. They are traditionally placed in subfamily Polyborinae with the forest falcons, but are sometimes considered to constitute their own subfamily, Caracarinae, or classified as members of the true falcon subfamily, Falconinae. Caracaras are principally birds of South and Central America, just reaching the southern United States.

Unlike the Falco falcons in the same family, the birds in the five relevant genera are not fast-flying aerial hunters, but are comparatively slow and are often scavengers (a notable exception being the red-throated caracara). The caracaras are found throughout much of the Americas. The range of the northern caracara extends as far north as the states of Arizona, Texas, and Florida in the United States. In the Southern Hemisphere, the striated caracara inhabits the Falkland Islands and Tierra del Fuego, just off the coast of the southernmost tip of South America.



Chickadee (g. *Poecile*) - The chickadees are a group of North American birds in the tit family included in the genus *Poecile*. Species found in North America are referred to as chickadees, while other species in the genus are called tits. They are small-sized birds overall, usually having the crown of the head and throat patch distinctly darker than the body. They are at least 6 to 14 centimetres (2.4 to 5.5 in) in size. Their name reputedly comes from the fact that their calls make a distinctive “chick-a-dee-dee-dee” (sound).

Chickadees are viewed very positively in many Native American cultures. In Cherokee mythology Chickadee is associated with truth and knowledge, and the arrival of a chickadee is thought to warn of danger or foretell the future. In many Plains Indian tribes, chickadees are symbols of success, and it is considered good luck to see or hear one, particularly in a dream or vision.



Mountain chickadee (*Poecile Gambeli*)



Black-capped chickadee (*Poecile Atricapillus*)



Boreal chickadee (*Poecile Hudsonicus*)



Carolina chickadee (*Poecile Carolinensis*)



Chestnut-backed chickadee (*Poecile Rufescens*)



Grey-headed chickadee (*Poecile Cinctus*)



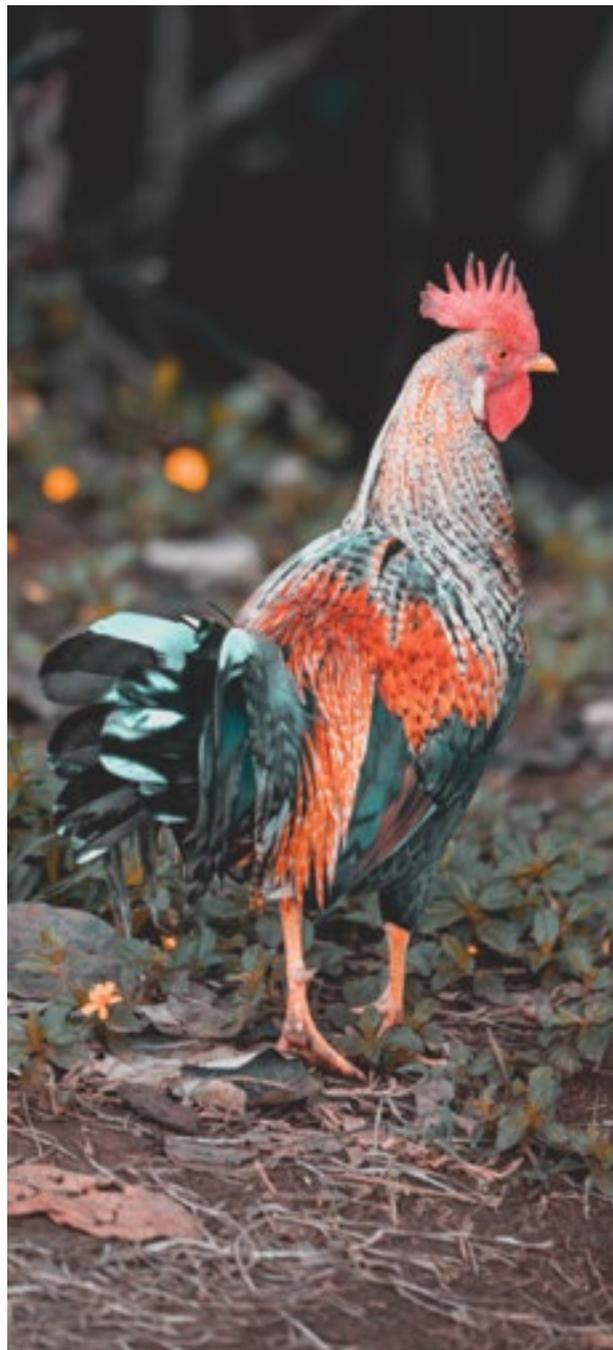
Mexican chickadee (*Poecile Sclateri*)

Chickens (*Gallus gallus Domesticus*) - The chicken (*Gallus gallus domesticus*) is a type of domesticated fowl, a subspecies of the red junglefowl. It is one of the most common and widespread domestic animals, with a total population of more than 19 billion as of 2011. There are more chickens in the world than any other bird or domesticated fowl. Humans keep chickens primarily as a source of food (consuming both their meat and eggs) and, less commonly, as pets. Originally raised for cockfighting or for special ceremonies, chickens were not kept for food until the Hellenistic period (fourth–second centuries BCE).

A rooster, also known as a gamecock, cockerel or cock, is an adult male gallinaceous bird, usually a male chicken. Mature male chickens less than one year old are called cockerels. The term “rooster” originates in the United States, and the term is widely used throughout North America, as well as Australia and New Zealand. The older terms “cock” or “cockerel”, the latter denoting a young cock, are used in the United Kingdom and Ireland.

“Roosting” is the action of perching aloft to sleep at day, which is done by both sexes. The rooster is polygamous, but cannot guard several nests of eggs at once. He guards the general area where his hens are nesting, and attacks other roosters that enter his territory. During the daytime, a rooster often sits on a high perch, usually 0.9 to 1.5 m (3 to 5 feet) off the ground, to serve as a lookout for his group (hence the term “rooster”). He sounds a distinctive alarm call if predators are nearby and will frequently crow to assert his territory.





Chickens are gregarious birds and live together in flocks. They have a communal approach to the incubation of eggs and raising of young. Individual chickens in a flock will dominate others, establishing a “pecking order”, with dominant individuals having priority for food access and nesting locations. Removing hens or roosters from a flock causes a temporary disruption to this social order until a new pecking order is established.

Chickens are omnivores. In the wild, they often scratch at the soil to search for seeds, insects and even animals as large as lizards, small snakes or young mice. The average chicken may live for five to ten years, depending on the breed.

In Indonesia the chicken has great significance during the Hindu cremation ceremony. A chicken is considered a channel for evil spirits which may be present during the ceremony. A chicken is tethered by the leg and kept present at the ceremony for its duration to ensure that any evil spirits present go into the chicken and not the family members. The chicken is then taken home and returns to its normal life. In ancient Greece, the chicken was not normally used for sacrifices, perhaps because it was still considered an exotic animal. Because of its valor, the cock is found as an attribute of Ares, Heracles, and Athena. The alleged last words of Socrates as he died from hemlock poisoning, as recounted by Plato, were “Crito, I owe a cock to Asclepius; will you remember to pay the debt?”, signifying that death was a cure for the illness of life. The Greeks believed that even lions were afraid of roosters. Several of Aesop’s Fables reference this belief. In many Central European folk tales, the devil is believed to flee at the first crowing of a rooster. The chicken is one of the symbols of the Chinese Zodiac. In Chinese folk religion, a cooked chicken as a religious offering is usually limited to ancestor veneration and worship of village deities. Vegetarian deities such as the Buddha are not recipients of such offerings. Under some observations, an offering of chicken is presented with “serious” prayer (while roasted pork is offered during a joyous celebration). In Confucian Chinese weddings, a chicken can be used as a substitute for one who is seriously ill or not available (e.g., sudden death) to attend the ceremony. A red silk scarf is placed on the chicken’s head and a close relative of the absent bride/groom holds the chicken so the ceremony may proceed. However, this practice is rare today. A cockatrice was supposed to have been born from an egg laid by a rooster, as well as killed by a rooster’s call.



Cormorant (*Ptilonorhynchus Violaceus*) - Phalacrocoracidae is a family of approximately 40 species of aquatic birds commonly known as cormorants and shags. Cormorants are medium-to-large birds. The majority of species have dark feathers. The bill is long, thin and hooked. Their feet have webbing between all four toes. All species are fish-eaters, catching the prey by diving from the surface. They are excellent divers, and under water they propel themselves with their feet with help from their wings; some cormorant species have been found to dive as deep as 45 metres. They have relatively short wings due to their need for economical movement underwater, and consequently have the highest flight costs of any flying bird. Cormorants nest in colonies around the shore, on trees, islets or cliffs. They are coastal rather than oceanic birds, and some have colonised inland waters – indeed, the original ancestor of cormorants seems to have been a fresh-water bird. They range around the world, except for the central Pacific islands. Humans have used cormorants’ fishing skills in various places in the world. Archaeological evidence suggests that cormorant fishing was practiced in Ancient Egypt, Peru, Korea and India, but the strongest tradition has remained in China and Japan, where it reached commercial-scale level in some areas. In Japan, cormorant fishing is called ukai.

Cormorants feature in heraldry and medieval ornamentation, usually in their “wing-drying” pose, which was seen as representing the Christian cross, and symbolizing nobility and sacrifice. For John Milton in *Paradise Lost*, the cormorant symbolizes greed: perched atop the Tree of Life, Satan took the form of a cormorant as he spied on Adam and Eve during his first intrusion into Eden. In some Scandinavian areas, they are considered good omen; in particular, in Norwegian tradition spirits of those lost at sea come to visit their loved ones disguised as cormorants. For example, the Norwegian municipalities of Røst, Loppa and Skjervøy have cormorants in their coat of arms. The symbolic liver bird of Liverpool is commonly thought to be a cross between an eagle and a cormorant. The bird has inspired numerous writers, including Amy Clampitt, who wrote a poem called “The Cormorant in its Element”. The species she described may have been the pelagic cormorant, which is the only species in the temperate U.S. with the “slim head ... vermilion-strapped” and “big black feet” that she mentions. A cormorant representing Blanche Ingram appears in the first of the fictional paintings by Jane in Charlotte Brontë’s novel *Jane Eyre*. The cormorant served as the hood ornament for the Packard automobile brand. Cormorants are a recurring fascination of the protagonist in Jesse Ball’s 2018 novel *Census*.

Cranes - Cranes are a family, Gruidae, of large, long-legged and long-necked birds in the group Gruiformes. There are fifteen species of crane in four genera. Unlike the similar-looking but unrelated herons, cranes fly with necks outstretched, not pulled back. Cranes live on all continents except Antarctica and South America. They are opportunistic feeders that change their diet according to the season and their own nutrient requirements.

They eat a range of items from suitably sized small rodents, fish, amphibians, and insects to grain, berries, and plants. Cranes construct platform nests in shallow water, and typically lay two eggs at a time. Both parents help to rear the young, which remain with them until the next breeding season. Some species and populations of cranes migrate over long distances; others do not migrate at all.

Cranes are solitary during the breeding season, occurring in pairs, but during the non-breeding season they are gregarious, forming large flocks where their numbers are sufficient. Most species of cranes have been affected by human activities and are at the least classified as threatened, if not critically endangered. The plight of the whooping cranes of North America inspired some of the first US legislation to protect endangered species.

The cranes' beauty and their spectacular mating dances have made them highly symbolic birds in many cultures with records dating back to ancient times. Crane mythology is widely spread and can be found in areas such as the India, Aegean, South Arabia, China, Korea, Japan and in the Native American cultures of North America.

In northern Hokkaido, the women of the Ainu people performed a crane dance that was captured in 1908 in a photograph by Arnold Genthe. In Korea, a crane dance has been performed in the courtyard of the Tongdosa Temple since the Silla Dynasty (646 CE). The Sanskrit epic poet Valmiki was inspired to write the first sloka couplet by the pathos of seeing a male sarus crane shot while mating. In Mecca, in pre-Islamic South Arabia, Allat, Uzza, and Manat were believed to be the three chief goddesses of Mecca, they were called the "three exalted cranes" (gharaniq, an obscure word on which 'crane' is the usual gloss).

In China, several styles of kung fu take inspiration from the movements of cranes in the wild, the most famous of these styles being Wing Chun, Hung Gar (tiger crane), and the Shaolin Five Animals style of fighting. Crane movements are well known for their fluidity and grace. There are various myths involving cranes, and in Chinese mythology cranes are generally symbolically connected with the idea of immortality.

For the Greek, the crane was a bird of omen. In the tale of Ibycus and the cranes, a thief attacked Ibycus (a poet of the 6th century BCE) and left him for dead. Ibycus called to a flock of passing cranes, who followed the attacker to a theater and hovered over him until, stricken with guilt, he confessed to the crime. Pliny the Elder wrote that cranes would appoint one of their number to stand guard while they slept. The sentry would hold a stone in its claw, so that if it fell asleep it would drop the stone and waken. A crane holding a stone in its claw is a well-known symbol in heraldry, and is known as a crane in its vigilance. Aristotle describes the migration of cranes in the History of Animals, adding an account of their fights with Pygmies as they wintered near the source of the Nile. He describes as untruthful an account that the crane carries a touchstone inside it that can be used to test for gold when vomited up. Greek and Roman myths often portrayed the dance of cranes as a love of joy and a celebration of life, and the crane was often associated with both Apollo and Hephaestus.

Throughout Asia, the crane is a symbol of happiness and eternal youth. In Japan, the crane is one of the mystical or holy creatures (others include the dragon and the tortoise) and symbolizes good fortune and longevity because of its fabled life span of a thousand years.



Common Crane (*Grus grus*)



Demoiselle Crane (*Grus virgo*)



Sarus Crane (*Antigone antigone*)



Grey Crowned Crane (*Balearica Regulorum*)



Black Crowned Crane (*Balearica Pavonina*)



Red Crowned Crane (*Grus Japonensis*)

Corvids - Corvus is a widely distributed genus of medium-sized to large birds in the family Corvidae. The genus includes species commonly known as crows, ravens, rooks and jackdaws; there is no consistent distinction between “crows” and “ravens”, and these appellations have been assigned to different species chiefly on the basis of their size, crows generally being smaller than ravens. As a group, crows show remarkable examples of intelligence. Natural history books from the 18th century recount an often-repeated, but unproven anecdote of “counting crows” — specifically a crow whose ability to count to five (or four in some versions) is established through a logic trap set by a farmer. Crows and ravens often score very highly on intelligence tests. Certain species top the avian IQ scale. Wild hooded crows in Israel have learned to use bread crumbs for bait-fishing. Crows engage in a kind of mid-air jousting, or air-”chicken” to establish pecking order. They have been found to engage in activities such as sports, tool use, the ability to hide and store food across seasons, episodic-like memory, and the ability to use individual experience in predicting the behavior of environmental conspecifics.

Crow - House Crow (*Corvus Splendens*) - A crow is a bird of the genus Corvus, or more broadly is a synonym for all of Corvus. The term “crow” is used as part of the common name of many species. The house crow, also known as the Indian, greynecked, Ceylon or Colombo crow, is a common bird of the crow family that is of Asian origin but now found in many parts of the world, where they arrived assisted by shipping. It is between the jackdaw and the carrion crow in size (40 cm (16 in) in length) but is slimmer than either. The forehead, crown, throat and upper breast are a richly glossed black, whilst the neck and breast are a lighter grey-brown in colour. The wings, tail and legs are black. There are regional variations in the thickness of the bill and the depth of colour in areas of the plumage. The voice is a harsh kaaw-kaaw.



Cu Bird - The Cu bird (Spanish: pájaro cu or cú) is a bird from a Mexican folktale that is unhappy with its looks. According to the legend, the other birds agreed to the barn owl’s proposal to give the Cu bird one feather each and in return asked it to become the messenger of the bird council. But the bird soon started neglecting its task because instead it spent time admiring its plumage. One day the eagle, the head of the council, sent the Cu bird to call other birds to a meeting, but it was so entranced by the reflection of its feathers in a lake that it completely forgot the task. When the eagle came to the appointed place, nobody was there. Angry, the eagle went looking for other birds and they all started quarrelling about who was to blame. Their noise and shouting woke up the god of forests. He sent a silent bird to quieten them down, but being silent, it was ignored by the quarrelling birds. The god became angry and took away the birds’ speech. All the birds blamed the situation on the Cu bird for neglecting its task, and on the owl, because giving the Cu bird a beautiful plumage was its idea. So they promised them a lesson. Now both the owl and the Cu bird hide from other birds in the dark and the Cu bird’s beautiful plumage serves no purpose because no one can see it in the light of the Sun.

Another version is a ballad. The Cu bird has no feathers, so the barn owl and the hoot owl (tecolote) organize all the birds to donate a feather each to it; the hoot owl guarantees that the Cu bird will not be a “traitor”. However, once the Cu bird is dressed, it flies to better lands, and the other birds blame the hoot owl. This is why the latter calls at night to the Cu bird, Ticú-ticú, and why it cannot see during the day.

There is a song titled “El pájaro cu” in the Mexican Son Jarocho style. According to one source, pájaro cu is a name used in the Yucatan Peninsula for the russet-crowned motmot, a colorful bird.

Cuckoo (f. Cuculidae) - The cuckoos are a family of birds, Cuculidae, the sole taxon in the order Cuculiformes. The cuckoo family includes the common or European cuckoo, roadrunners, koels, malkohas, couas, coucals and anis. The coucals and anis are sometimes separated as distinct families, the Centropodidae and Crotophagidae respectively. The cuckoo order Cuculiformes is one of three that make up the Otidimorphae, the other two being the turacos and the bustards. The cuckoos are generally medium-sized slender birds. Most species live in trees, though a sizeable minority are ground-dwelling. The family has a cosmopolitan distribution, with the majority of species being tropical. Some species are migratory. The cuckoos feed on insects, insect larvae and a variety of other animals, as well as fruit. Some species are brood parasites, laying their eggs in the nests of other species, but the majority of species raise their own young.



Russet-crowned Motmot (Motmot Momotus)



Asian Koel (*Eudynamis scolopaceus*)

Cuckoos are often highly secretive and in many cases best known for their wide repertoire of calls. Calls are usually relatively simple, resembling whistles, flutes, or hiccups. The calls are used in order to demonstrate ownership of a territory and to attract a mate. Within a species the calls are remarkably consistent across the range, even in species with very large ranges. This suggests, along with the fact that many species are not raised by their true parents, that the calls of cuckoos are innate and not learnt. Although cuckoos are diurnal, many species call at night.

Cuckoos have played a role in human culture for thousands of years, appearing in Greek mythology, the god Zeus transformed himself into a cuckoo so that he could seduce the goddess Hera; the bird was sacred to her. In England, William Shakespeare alludes to the common cuckoo's association with spring, and with cuckoldry, in the courtly springtime song in his play *Love's Labours Lost*. In India, cuckoos are sacred to Kamadeva, the god of desire and longing, whereas in Japan, the cuckoo symbolises unrequited love.

“Doctor Bird” Red-billed Streamertail (*Trochilus polytmus*) - also known as the scissor-tail or scissors tail hummingbird, is indigenous to Jamaica, where it is the most abundant and widespread member of the hummingbird family. While most authorities now consider it a separate species, some (including the American Ornithologists' Union) continue to consider it conspecific with the black-billed streamertail. The red-billed streamertail is the national bird of Jamaica. These birds feed on nectar from flowers using a long extendable tongue or catch small insects on the wing. The bird is featured in Ian Fleming's James Bond short story *For Your Eyes Only*. The first line of the book reads, “The most beautiful bird in Jamaica, and some say the most beautiful bird in the world, is the streamer-tail or doctor humming-bird.” Doctor Bird (founded 1965) was a British and Jamaican record label named after the Jamaican doctor bird.



Dodo (*Raphus Cucullatus*) - The dodo (*Raphus cucullatus*) is an extinct flightless bird that was endemic to the island of Mauritius, east of Madagascar in the Indian Ocean. The dodo's closest genetic relative was the also extinct Rodrigues solitaire, the two forming the subfamily Raphinae of the family of pigeons and doves. The closest living relative of the dodo is the Nicobar pigeon. A white dodo was once thought to have existed on the nearby island of Réunion, but this is now thought to have been confusion based on the Réunion ibis and paintings of white dodos. Like many animals that evolved in isolation from significant predators, the dodo was entirely fearless of humans. This fearlessness and its inability to fly made the dodo easy prey for sailors.

Studies suggested that dodos bred around August, after having potentially fattened themselves, corresponding with the fat and thin cycles of many vertebrates of Mauritius. The chicks grew rapidly, reaching robust, almost adult, sizes, and sexual maturity before Austral summer or the cyclone season. Adult dodos which had just bred moulted after Austral summer, around March. The feathers of the wings and tail were replaced first, and the moulting would have completed at the end of July, in time for the next breeding season. Different stages of moulting may also account for inconsistencies in contemporary descriptions of dodo plumage.

The dodo's significance as one of the best-known extinct animals and its singular appearance led to its use in literature and popular culture as a symbol of an outdated concept or object, as in the expression “dead as a dodo,” which has come to mean unquestionably dead or obsolete. Similarly, the phrase “to go the way of the dodo” means to become extinct or obsolete, to fall out of common usage or practice, or to become a thing of the past. “Dodo” is also a slang term for a stupid, dull-witted person, as it was supposedly stupid and easily caught. The dodo appears frequently in works of popular fiction, and even before its extinction, it was featured in European literature, as symbol for exotic lands, and of gluttony, due to its apparent fatness.



The famous Edwards's Dodo, 1626



Dodo among Indian birds, by Ustad Mansur, c. 1625

Dove (f. Columbidae) - Pigeons and doves constitute the animal family Columbidae and the order Columbiformes, which includes about 42 genera and 310 species. The related word “columbine” refers to pigeons and doves. They are stout-bodied birds with short necks, and short slender bills that in some species feature fleshy ceres.

They primarily feed on seeds, fruits, and plants. This family occurs worldwide, but the greatest variety is in the Indomalaya and Australasia ecozones. Pigeons and doves are likely the most common birds in the world. The distinction between “doves” and “pigeons” is not consistent. In modern everyday speech, as opposed to scientific usage or formal usage, “dove” frequently indicates a pigeon that is white or nearly white. However, some people use the terms “dove” and “pigeon” interchangeably. In contrast, in scientific and ornithological practice, “dove” tends to be used for smaller species and “pigeon” for larger ones, but this is in no way consistently applied. Historically, the common names for these birds involve a great deal of variation between the terms. The species most commonly referred to as “pigeon” is the species known by scientists as the rock dove, one subspecies of which, the domestic pigeon, is common in many cities as the feral pigeon.

Doves and pigeons build relatively flimsy nests, often using sticks and other debris, which may be placed on trees, ledges, or the ground, depending on species. They lay one or two eggs at a time, and both parents care for the young, which leave the nest after 7–28 days. Unlike most birds, both sexes of doves and pigeons produce “crop milk” to feed to their young, secreted by a sloughing of fluid-filled cells from the lining of the crop. Young doves and pigeons are called “squabs”.

Domesticated rock pigeons are also bred as carrier pigeons, used for thousands of years to carry brief written messages, and release doves used in ceremonies. White doves are also commonly used in magic acts. The pigeon was used in both World War I and II, notably by the Australian, French, German, American, and UK forces. In ancient



Mesopotamia, doves were prominent animal symbols of Inanna-Ishtar, the goddess of love, sexuality, and war. Lead dove figurines were discovered in the temple of Ishtar at Aššur, dating to the thirteenth century BC, and a painted fresco from Mari, Syria, shows a giant dove emerging from a palm tree in the temple of Ishtar, indicating that the goddess herself was sometimes believed to take the form of a dove. In the Epic of Gilgamesh, Utnapishtim releases a dove and a raven to find land; the dove merely circles and returns. Only then does Utnapishtim send forth the raven, which does not return, and Utnapishtim concludes the raven has found land. In the ancient Levant, doves were used as symbols for the Canaanite mother goddess Asherah. In classical antiquity, doves were sacred to the Greek goddess Aphrodite, who frequently appears with doves in ancient Greek pottery. During Aphrodite’s main festival, the Aphrodisia, her altars would be purified with the blood of a sacrificed dove. Aphrodite’s associations with doves influenced the Roman goddesses Venus and Fortuna, causing them to become associated with doves as well.

In the Hebrew Bible, doves or young pigeons are acceptable burnt offerings for those who cannot afford a more expensive animal. In Genesis, Noah sends a dove out of the ark, but it came back to him because the floodwaters had not receded. Seven days later, he sent it again and it came back with an olive branch in her mouth, indicating the waters had receded enough for an olive tree to grow. Jesus’s parents sacrificed doves on his behalf after his circumcision. Later, the Holy Spirit descended upon Jesus at his baptism like a dove (Matthew), and subsequently the “peace dove” became a common Christian symbol of the Holy Spirit. In Islam, doves and the pigeon family in general are respected and favoured because they are believed to have assisted the final prophet of Islam, Muhammad, in distracting his enemies outside the cave of Thaw’r, in the great Hijra. A pair of pigeons had built a nest and laid eggs at once, and a spider had woven cobwebs, which in the darkness of the night made the fugitives believe that Muhammad could not be in that cave.



Eagle (*Hieraetus Spilogaster*) - The Eagles are large, powerfully built birds of prey, have very large, hooked beaks for ripping flesh from their prey, strong, muscular legs, and powerful talons. Their eyes are extremely powerful. It is estimated that the martial eagle, whose eye is more than twice as long as a human eye, has a visual acuity 3.0 to 3.6 times that of humans. This acuity enables eagles to spot potential prey from a very long distance. This keen eyesight is primarily attributed to their extremely large pupils which ensure minimal diffraction (scattering) of the incoming light. The female of all known species of eagles is larger than the male.

In ancient Sumerian mythology, the mythical king Etana was said to have been carried into heaven by an eagle. Classical writers such as Lucan and Pliny the Elder claimed that the eagle was able to look directly at the sun, and that they forced their fledglings to do the same. Those that blinked would be cast from the nest. The eagle is the patron animal of the ancient Greek god Zeus. In particular, Zeus was said to have taken the form of an eagle in order to abduct Ganymede. The Moche people of ancient Peru worshiped the eagle and often depicted eagles in their art. The United States eagle feather law stipulates that only individuals of certifiable Native American ancestry enrolled in a federally recognized tribe are legally authorized to obtain eagle feathers for religious or spiritual reasons.

Emu (*Dromaius Novaehollandiae*) - The emu (is the second-largest living bird by height, after its ratite relative, the ostrich. It is endemic to Australia where it is the largest native bird and the only extant member of the genus *Dromaius*. The emu's range covers most of mainland Australia, but the Tasmanian emu and King Island emu subspecies became extinct after the European settlement of Australia in 1788. The bird is sufficiently common for it to be rated as a least-concern species by the International Union for Conservation of Nature. Emus are soft-feathered, brown, flightless birds with long necks and legs, can travel great distances at an astonishing speed. They forage for a variety of plants and insects, but have been known to go for weeks without eating. They drink infrequently, but take in copious amounts of water when the opportunity arises. Females are more aggressive than males during the courtship period, often fighting for access to mates, with fights among females accounting for more than half the aggressive interactions during this period. The male does the incubation; during this process he hardly eats or drinks and loses a significant amount of weight. The eggs hatch after around eight weeks, and the young are nurtured by their fathers. They reach full size after around six months, but can remain as a family unit until the next breeding season.

The emu has a prominent place in Australian Aboriginal mythology, including a creation myth of the Yuwaalaraay and other groups in New South Wales who say that the sun was made by throwing an emu's egg into the sky; the bird features in numerous aetiological stories told across a number

of Aboriginal groups. One story from Western Australia holds that a man once annoyed a small bird, who responded by throwing a boomerang, severing the arms of the man and transforming him into a flightless emu. The Kurdaitcha man of Central Australia is said to wear sandals made of emu feathers to mask his footprints. Many Aboriginal language groups throughout Australia have a tradition that the dark dust lanes in the Milky Way represent a giant emu in the sky. Several of the Sydney rock engravings depict emus, and the birds are mimicked in indigenous dances.

The emu is popularly but unofficially considered as a faunal emblem – the national bird of Australia. It appears as a shield bearer on the Coat of arms of Australia with the red kangaroo, and as a part of the Arms also appears on the Australian 50 cent coin. It has featured on numerous Australian postage stamps. The hats of the Australian Light Horse are decorated with emu feather plumes.

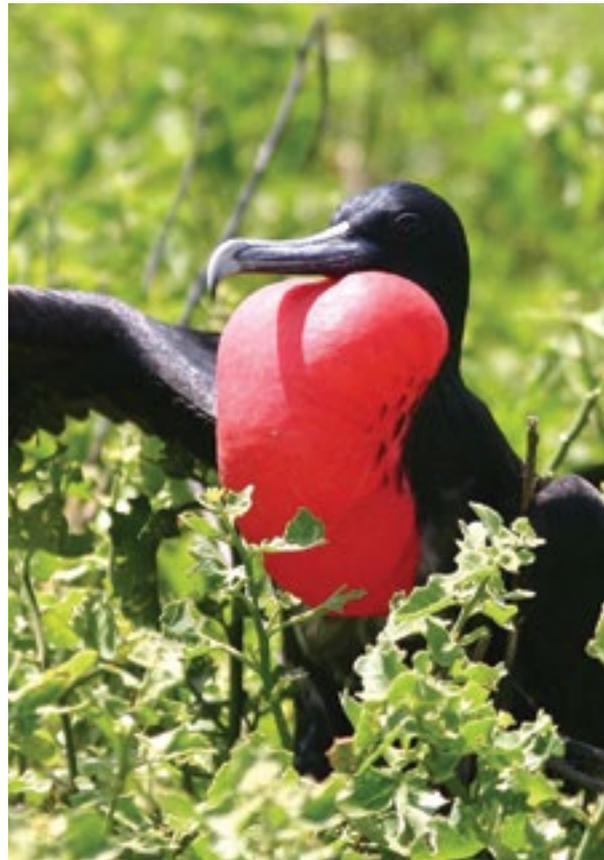
There are around six hundred gazetted places in Australia with “emu” in their title, including mountains, lakes, hills, plains, creeks and waterholes. During the 19th and 20th centuries, many Australian companies and household products were named after the bird. In Western Australia, Emu beer has been produced since the early 20th century and the Swan Brewery continues to produce a range of beers branded as “Emu”.

Flamingo - Flamingos are a type of wading bird in the family Phoenicopteridae, the only bird family in the order Phoenicopteriformes. The pink or reddish color of flamingos comes from carotenoids in their diet of animal and plant plankton. Flamingos usually stand on one leg while the other is tucked beneath their bodies. The reason for this behaviour is not fully understood. One theory is that standing on one leg allows the birds to conserve more body heat, given that they spend a significant amount of time wading in cold water. However, the behaviour also takes place in warm water and is also observed in birds that do not typically stand in water. An alternative theory is that standing on one leg reduces the energy expenditure for producing muscular effort to stand and balance on one leg. A study on cadavers showed that the one-legged pose could be held without any muscle activity, while living flamingos demonstrate substantially less body sway in a one-legged posture. As well as standing in the water, flamingos may stamp their webbed feet in the mud to stir up food from the bottom. In Ancient Rome, their tongues were considered a delicacy. In the Americas, the Moche people of ancient Peru worshipped nature. They placed emphasis on animals and often depicted flamingos in their art. In the Bahamas, they are the national bird. Andean miners have killed flamingos for their fat, believed to be a cure for tuberculosis.



Frigate Birds (g. *Fregata*) - Frigatebirds are a family of seabirds called Fregatidae which are found across all tropical and subtropical oceans. All have predominantly black plumage, long, deeply forked tails and long hooked bills. Females have white underbellies and males have a distinctive red gular pouch, which they inflate during the breeding season to attract females. Their wings are long and pointed and can span up to 2.3 metres (7.5 ft), the largest wing area to body weight ratio of any bird. Able to soar for weeks on wind currents, frigatebirds spend most of the day in flight hunting for food, and roost on trees or cliffs at night. Their main prey are fish and squid, caught when chased to the water surface by large predators such as tuna. Frigatebirds are referred to as kleptoparasites as they occasionally rob other seabirds for food, and are known to snatch seabird chicks from the nest.

The great frigatebird was venerated by the Rapa Nui people on Easter Island; carvings of the birdman Tangata manu depict him with the characteristic hooked beak and throat pouch. Its incorporation into local ceremonies suggests that the now-vanished species was extant there between the 1800s and 1860s. Maritime folklore around the time America was discovered held that frigatebirds were birds of good omen as their presence meant land was near. There are anecdotal reports of tame frigatebirds being kept across Polynesia and Micronesia in the Pacific. A bird that had come from one island and had been taken elsewhere could be reliably trusted to return to its original home, hence would be used as a speedy way to relay a message there.



Goose (f. *Anatidae*) - This waterfowl group comprises the genera *Anser* (the grey geese) and *Branta* (the black geese). *Chen*, a genus comprising 'white geese', is sometimes used to refer to a group of species that are more commonly placed within *Anser*. Some other birds, mostly related to the shelducks, have "goose" as part of their names. More distantly related members of the family *Anatidae* are swans, most of which are larger than true geese, and ducks, which are smaller. The term goose applies to the female in particular, while gander applies to the male in particular. Young birds before fledging are called goslings. The collective noun for a group of geese on the ground is a gaggle; when in flight, they are called a skein, a team, or a wedge; when flying close together,

they are called a plump. To "have a gander" is to examine something in detail. "What's sauce for the goose is sauce for the gander" means that what is an appropriate treatment for one person is equally appropriate for someone else. Saying that someone's "goose is cooked" means that they have suffered, or are about to suffer, a terrible setback or misfortune. The common phrase "silly goose" which is used when referring to someone who is acting particularly silly. "Killing the goose that lays the golden eggs," derived from an old fable, is a saying referring to any greed-motivated, unprofitable action that destroys or otherwise renders a favourable situation useless. "A wild goose chase" is a useless, futile waste of time and effort. There is a legendary old woman called Mother Goose who wrote nursery rhymes for children. The Goose-Step is a political cartoon by British cartoonist E. H. Shepard, drawn in 1936, the year which Nazi Germany remilitarized the Rhineland. Below the drawing of the goose, there is a short poem, which parodies the nursery rhyme Goosey Goosey Gander.



Great Hornbill (*Buceros bicornis*) - The great hornbill also known as the great Indian hornbill or great pied hornbill, is one of the larger members of the hornbill family. It is found in the Indian subcontinent and Southeast Asia. Its impressive size and colour have made it important in many tribal cultures and rituals. The great hornbill is long-lived, living for nearly 50 years in captivity. It is predominantly frugivorous, but is an opportunist and will prey on small mammals, reptiles and birds.

Tribal peoples threaten the great Indian hornbill by hunting it for its various parts. The beaks and head are used in charms and the flesh is believed to be medicinal. Young birds are considered a delicacy. Tribesmen in parts of northeastern India and Borneo use the feathers for head-dresses, and the skulls are often worn as decorations. The Sema Nagas consider the flesh unfit for eating, believing that it produces sores on their feet, as in the bird. When dancing with the feathers of the hornbill, they avoid eating vegetables, as doing so is also believed to produce the same sores on the feet. Among the Zomi, a festival without a hornbill feather is incomplete. Conservation programmes have attempted to provide tribes with feathers from captive hornbills and ceramic casques to substitute for natural ones.

The great hornbill is called homrai in Nepal (hence the name of the Himalayan subspecies) and banrao, both meaning "king of the forest". It is called "Vezhaambal" in Malayalam. It is the state bird of Chin State in Myanmar, and of Kerala and Arunachal in India.

Due to habitat loss and hunting in some areas, the great hornbill is evaluated as near threatened on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species. Declines in population have been noted in many areas such as Cambodia. Molecular approaches to the study of their population diversity have been attempted.

Grebe (f. Podicipedidae) - Grebes are a widely distributed order of freshwater diving birds, some of which visit the sea when migrating and in winter. The young are precocial, and able to swim from birth. Recent molecular studies have suggested a relation with flamingos.

Grebes are small to medium-large in size, have lobed toes, and are excellent swimmers and divers. Although they can run for a short distance, they are prone to falling over, since they have their feet placed far back on the body. Bills vary from short and thick to long and pointed, depending on the diet, which ranges from fish to freshwater insects and crustaceans. The feet are always large, with broad lobes on the toes and small webs connecting the front three toes. The hind toe also has a small lobe. Recent experimental work has shown that these lobes work like the hydrofoil blades of a propeller.

When preening, grebes eat their own feathers, and feed them to their young. The function of this behaviour is uncertain but it is believed to assist with pellet formation, and to reduce their vulnerability to gastric parasites. Grebes make floating nests of plant material concealed among reeds on the surface of the water.

The young are precocial, and able to swim from birth. When preening, grebes eat their own feathers, and feed them to their young. Grebes make floating nests of plant material concealed among reeds on the surface of the water. The young are precocial, and able to swim from birth. Grebes have unusual plumage. It is dense and waterproof, and on the underside the feathers are at right-angles to the skin, sticking straight out to begin with and curling at the tip. By pressing their feathers against the body, grebes can adjust their buoyancy. Often, they swim low in the water with just the head and neck exposed.



Horned grebe in Edmonton, Alberta, 2013



Black-necked Grebe, January 2007



Pacific gull (Larus Pacificus)



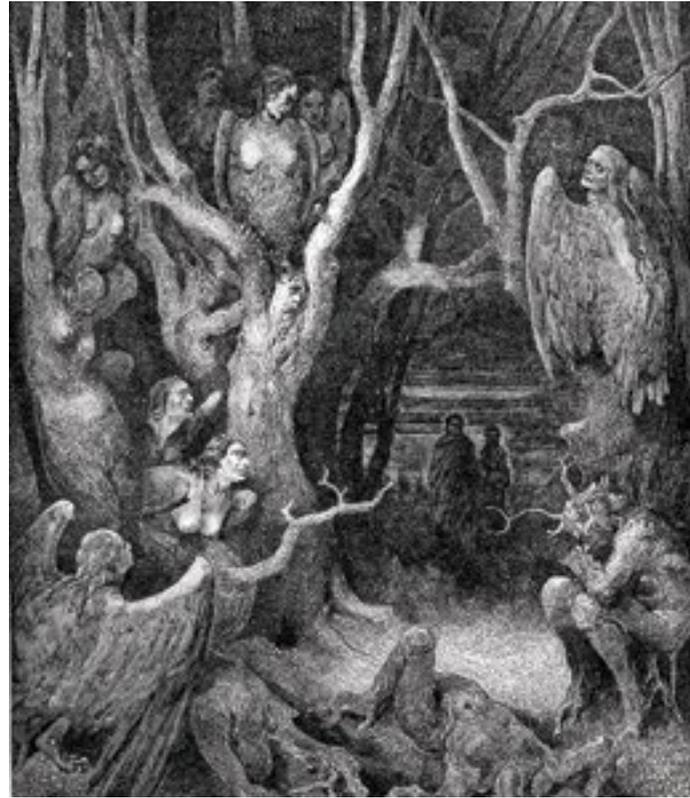
Kelp Gull (Larus Dominicanus)

Gull (f. Laridae) - Gulls or seagulls are seabirds of the family Laridae in the suborder Lari. They are most closely related to the terns (family Sternidae) and only distantly related to auks, skimmers, and more distantly to the waders. Until the 21st century, most gulls were placed in the genus *Larus*, but this arrangement is now considered polyphyletic, leading to the resurrection of several genera. Gulls are typically medium to large birds, usually grey or white, often with black markings on the head or wings. They typically have harsh wailing or squawking calls; stout, longish bills; and webbed feet. Most gulls are ground-nesting carnivores which take live food or scavenge opportunistically, particularly the *Larus* species. Live food often includes crabs and small fish. Gulls have unhinging jaws which allow them to consume large prey. Gulls are typically coastal or inland species, rarely venturing far out to sea, except for the kittiwakes. The large species take up to four years to attain full adult plumage, but two years is typical for small gulls. Large white-headed gulls are typically long-lived birds, with a maximum age of 49 years recorded for the herring gull. Gulls nest in large, densely packed, noisy colonies. They lay two or three speckled eggs in nests composed of vegetation. The young are precocial, born with dark mottled down and mobile upon hatching. Gulls are resourceful, inquisitive, and intelligent, the larger species in particular, demonstrating complex methods of communication and a highly developed social structure. For example, many gull colonies display mobbing behavior, attacking and harassing predators and other intruders. The **Kelp Gull** (*Larus dominicanus*), also known as the Dominican gull, is a gull which breeds on coasts and islands through much of the southern hemisphere. Seagulls play a variety of roles in the folklore of different Native American tribes. In some cases, seagulls are antagonists criticized for their noisy, aggressive, and greedy behavior. In others, they are noted for their endurance and perseverance. In some Northwest Coast tribes, Seagull was said to have powers over storms and weather. They also used seagulls as totems and displayed them on totem poles. In Greek mythology, seagulls were incarnations of the goddess Leukothea or “the white goddess”, a local nymph and she was highly respected by the people.

Harpies - In Greek mythology and Roman mythology, a harpy (plural harpies, harpyia) was a half-human and half-bird personification of storm winds, in Homeric poems. They were generally depicted as birds with the heads of maidens, faces pale with hunger and long claws on their hands. Roman and Byzantine writers detailed their ugliness. Pottery art depicting the harpies featured beautiful women with wings. Ovid described them as human-vultures. The harpies seem originally to have been wind spirits (personifications of the destructive nature of wind). Their name means “snatchers” or “swift robbers”. They are named Aello (“storm swift”) and Ocypete (“the swift wing”), and Virgil added Celaeno (“the dark”) as a third. Homer knew of a harpy named Podarge (“fleet-foot”). Aello, is sometimes also spelled Aellopus or Nicothoe; Ocypete, sometimes also spelled Ocythoe or Ocytode.

The harpies were called “the hounds of mighty Zeus” thus “ministers of the Thunderer (Zeus)”. Later writers listed the harpies among the guardians of the underworld among other monstrosities including the Centaurs, Scylla, Briareus, Lernaean Hydra, Chimera, Gorgons and Geryon. The most celebrated story in which the harpies play a part is that of King Phineus of Thrace, who was given the gift of prophecy by Zeus. Aeneas encountered harpies on the Strophades as they repeatedly made off with the feast the Trojans were setting. Celaeno utters a prophecy: the Trojans will be so hungry they will eat their tables before they reach the end of their journey. The Trojans fled in fear. Harpies remained vivid in the Middle Ages. In Canto XIII of his *Inferno*, Dante Alighieri envisages the tortured wood infested with harpies, where the suicides have their punishment in the seventh ring of Hell.

The harpy eagle is a real bird named after the mythological animal. The term is often used metaphorically to refer to a nasty or annoying woman. In Shakespeare’s *Much Ado About Nothing*, Benedick spots the sharp-tongued Beatrice approaching and exclaims to the prince, Don Pedro, that he would do an assortment of arduous tasks for him “rather than hold three words conference with this harpy!”



Harpies in the infernal wood, from *Inferno XIII*, by Gustave Doré, 1861



A harpy in Ulisse Aldrovandi’s *Monstrorum Historia*, Bologna, 1642



Heron - The herons are the long-legged freshwater and coastal birds in the family Ardeidae, with 64 recognised species, some of which are referred to as egrets or bitterns rather than herons. Egrets are not a biologically distinct group from the herons, and tend to be named differently because they are mainly white or have decorative plumes. Herons, by evolutionary adaptation, have long beaks. Herons fly with their necks retracted, not outstretched. They are also one of the bird groups that have powder down.

Several Native American tribes believe that seeing a heron brings good luck to them. In the Northwest coast, fishermen believed that they will experience a successful fishing trip if they see a heron. Due to its attributed good judgment skills, a heron has become a symbol of wisdom. According to Greek mythologies, herons were thought to be messengers of God. Therefore, in many cultures, it is considered wrong to shoot a heron, which brings you bad luck. In Japan, there are several legends as well where love-sick maidens transform into spirits of white herons to dance by frozen ponds in winter. According to another legend, after the death of a Japanese prince, he turned into a white heron and flew away. In China, a white heron stands for the path to heaven. In Egypt, a heron is considered as the creator of light. It is also considered as the messenger of God. Herons are associated with Christ’s suffering as it is said that these birds can shed tears.

Hawk (g. *Elanus*) - Hawks are a group of medium-sized diurnal birds of prey of the family Accipitridae. Hawks are widely distributed and vary greatly in size. In February 2005, Canadian ornithologist Louis Lefebvre announced a method of measuring avian “IQ” by measuring their innovation in feeding habits. Based on this scale, hawks were named among the most intelligent birds. Hawks have four types of colour receptors in the eye. These give hawks the ability to perceive not only the visible range but also the ultraviolet part of the spectrum. Other adaptations allow for the detection of polarised light or magnetic fields.

A war hawk, or simply hawk, is a term used in politics for somebody favouring war. Numerous sporting clubs, such as the Atlanta Hawks and Hawthorn Hawks, use the bird as an emblem.



Humming Bird (g. *Elanus*) - Hummingbirds are birds native to the Americas that constitute the family Trochilidae. They are among the smallest of birds, most species measuring 7.5–13 cm (3–5 in) in length. Indeed, the smallest extant bird species is a hummingbird, the 5 cm (2.0 in) bee hummingbird weighing less than 2.0 g (0.07 oz).

They are known as hummingbirds because of the humming sound created by their beating wings which flap at high frequencies audible to humans. Hummingbirds have the greatest mass-specific metabolic rate of any homeothermic animal. To conserve energy when food is scarce, and nightly when not foraging, they can go into torpor, a state similar to hibernation, slowing metabolic rate to 1/15th of its normal rate.

Hummingbirds are specialized nectarivores and are tied to the ornithophilous flowers upon which they feed. Some species, especially those with unusual bill shapes such as the sword-billed hummingbird and the sicklebills, are co-evolved with a small number of flower species. The bee hummingbird (*Mellisuga helenae*) – the world’s smallest bird – evolved to dwarfism likely because it had to compete with long-billed hummingbirds having an advantage for nectar foraging from specialized flowers, consequently leading the bee hummingbird to more successfully compete for flower foraging against insects. During evolution, hummingbirds have adapted to the navigational needs of visual processing while in rapid flight or hovering by development of an exceptionally dense array of retinal neurons allowing for increased spatial resolution in the lateral and frontal visual fields.

Aztecs wore hummingbird talismans, both artistic representations of hummingbirds and fetishes made from actual hummingbird parts: emblematic for their vigor, energy, and propensity to do work along with their sharp beaks that symbolically mimic instruments of weaponry, bloodletting, penetration, and intimacy. Hummingbird talismans were prized as drawing sexual potency, energy, vigor, and skill at arms and warfare to the wearer. The Aztec god of war Huitzilopochtli is often depicted as a hummingbird. It was also believed that fallen warriors would return to earth as hummingbirds and butterflies. The Nahuatl word *huitzil* (hummingbird) is an onomatopoeic word derived from the sounds of the hummingbird’s wing-beats and zooming flight. One of the Nazca Lines depicts a hummingbird. Trinidad and Tobago, known as “The land of the hummingbird,” displays a hummingbird on that nation’s coat of arms, 1-cent coin and emblem of its national airline, Caribbean Airlines.



Huitzilopochtli, as depicted in the Codex Borbonicus

Jackdaw (*Coloeus Monedula Spermologus*) - The western jackdaw (*Coloeus monedula*), also known as the Eurasian jackdaw, European jackdaw, or simply jackdaw, is a passerine bird in the crow family. Found across Europe, western Asia and North Africa, it is mostly resident, although northern and eastern populations migrate south in winter. Four subspecies are recognised, which mainly differ in the colouration of the plumage on the head and nape. Linnaeus first described it formally, giving it the name *Corvus monedula*. The common name derives from the word “jack”, meaning “small”, and “daw”, the native English name for the bird. Western jackdaws are voluble birds. The main call, frequently given in flight, is a metallic and squeaky chyak-chyak or kak-kak. This is a contact or greeting call. A feeding call made by adults to call young, or males when offering food to their mates, has been transcribed as kiaw or kyow. The European jackdaw can be trained to imitate human speech.

An ancient Greek and Roman adage runs “The swans will sing when the jackdaws are silent”, meaning that educated or wise people will speak only after the foolish have become quiet. In Ancient Greek folklore, a jackdaw can be caught with a dish of oil. A narcissistic creature, it falls in while looking at its own reflection. The mythical Princess Arne Sithonis was bribed with gold by King Minos of Crete, and was punished by the gods for her greed by being transformed into an equally avaricious jackdaw, who still seeks shiny things. The Roman poet Ovid described jackdaws as harbingers of rain in his poetic work *Amores*. Pliny notes how the Thessalians, Illyrians, and Lemnians cherished jackdaws for destroying grasshoppers’ eggs. The Veneti are fabled to have bribed the jackdaws to spare their crops.

In some cultures, a jackdaw on the roof is said to predict a new arrival; alternatively, a jackdaw settling on the roof of a house or flying down a chimney is an omen of death, and coming across one is considered a bad omen. A jackdaw standing on the vanes of a cathedral tower is said to foretell rain. The 12th-century historian William of Malmesbury records the story of a woman who, upon hearing a jackdaw chattering “more loudly than usual,” grew pale and became fearful of suffering a “dreadful calamity”, and that “while yet speaking, the messenger of her misfortunes arrived”. Czech superstition formerly held that if jackdaws are seen quarreling, war will follow, and that jackdaws will not build nests at Sázava after being banished by Saint Procopius. The jackdaw was considered sacred in Welsh folklore as it nested in church steeples – it was shunned by the Devil because of its choice of residence. Nineteenth century belief in the Fens held that seeing a jackdaw on the way to a wedding was a good omen for a bride.



Western Jackdaw



Eurasian Jackdaw



Kite (g. *Elanus*) - Kite is a common name for certain birds of prey in the family Accipitridae, particularly in subfamilies Milvinae, Elaninae, and Perninae. In 1824, Vigors proposed five divisions or stirpes of the family Falconidae: Aquilina (eagles), Accipitrina (hawks), Falconina (falcons), Buteonina (buzzards) and Milvina (kites, containing two genera *Elanus* and *Milvus*). He characterized the kites as having weaker bill and feebler talons than the buzzards, tail more or less forked, and wings longer than the tail.

Isis is said in ancient Egyptian mythology to have taken the form of a kite in various situations in order to resurrect the dead. It also figures in several fables by Aesop which underline its character as a predator: The Sick Kite, The Kite and the Doves and a variant of The Crow and the Snake. The Garuda is a legendary bird or bird-like creature in Hindu, Buddhist and Jain mythology. He is variously the vehicle mount (vahana) of the Hindu god Vishnu, a dharma-protector and Astasena in Buddhism, and the Yaksha of the Jain Tirthankara Shantinatha.

Garuda is described as the king of birds and a kite-like figure. He is shown either in zoomorphic form (giant bird with partially open wings) or an anthropomorphic form (man with wings and some bird features). Garuda is generally a protector with power to swiftly go anywhere, ever watchful and an enemy of the serpent.



Kiwi (g. *Apteryx*) - Kiwi or kiwis are flightless birds native to New Zealand, in the genus *Apteryx* and family Apterygidae. Approximately the size of a domestic chicken, kiwi are by far the smallest living ratites (which also consist of ostriches, emus, rheas, and cassowaries), and lay the largest egg in relation to their body size of any species of bird in the world. At present, the greatest threat to their survival is predation by invasive mammalian predators. The unique adaptations of kiwi, such as their large eggs, short and stout legs, or using their nostrils at the end of their long beak to detect prey before they ever see it, have helped the bird to become internationally well-known. The kiwi is an icon of New Zealand, and the association is so strong that the term Kiwi is used internationally as the colloquial demonym for New Zealanders.

Magpie (f. *Corvidae*) - Magpies are birds of the Corvidae (crow) family. The black and white Eurasian magpie is widely considered one of the most intelligent animals in the world and one of the only non-mammal species able to recognize itself in a mirror test. Marc Bekoff, at the University of Colorado, argues that Eurasian magpies are capable of feeling complex emotions, including grief.

In Europe, magpies have been historically demonized by humans, mainly as a result of superstition and myth. In European folklore, the magpie is associated with a number of superstitions surrounding its reputation as an omen of ill fortune. In the 19th century book, *A Guide to the Scientific Knowledge of Things Familiar*, a proverb concerning magpies is recited: "A single magpie in spring, foul weather will bring". The book further explains that this superstition arises from the habits of pairs of magpies to forage together only when the weather is fine. In Scotland, a magpie near the window of the house is said to foretell death. An English tradition holds that a single magpie be greeted with a salutation in order to ward off the bad luck it may bring.

Mesite - The mesites (Mesitornithidae) are a family of birds that are part of a clade (Columbimorphae) that include Columbiformes and Pteroclitiformes. They are smallish flightless or near flightless birds endemic to Madagascar. They are the only family with more than two species in which every species is threatened. Historically, mesites have been allied with the doves and the dippers.

The mesites are forest and scrubland birds that feed on insects and seeds. The brown and white-breasted mesites forage on the ground, gleaning insects from the leaves and under them, as well as low vegetation. The subdesert mesite uses its long bill to probe in the soil. Other birds, such as drongos and flycatchers, will follow mesites to catch any insects they flush and miss. Mesites are vocal birds, with calls similar to passerine song, used for territorial defence. Two or three white eggs are laid in a stick-nest located in a bush or low branch. The Mesitornis species are monogamous; *Monias benschi* is polygamous and unlike the other two shows significant sexual dichromatism.

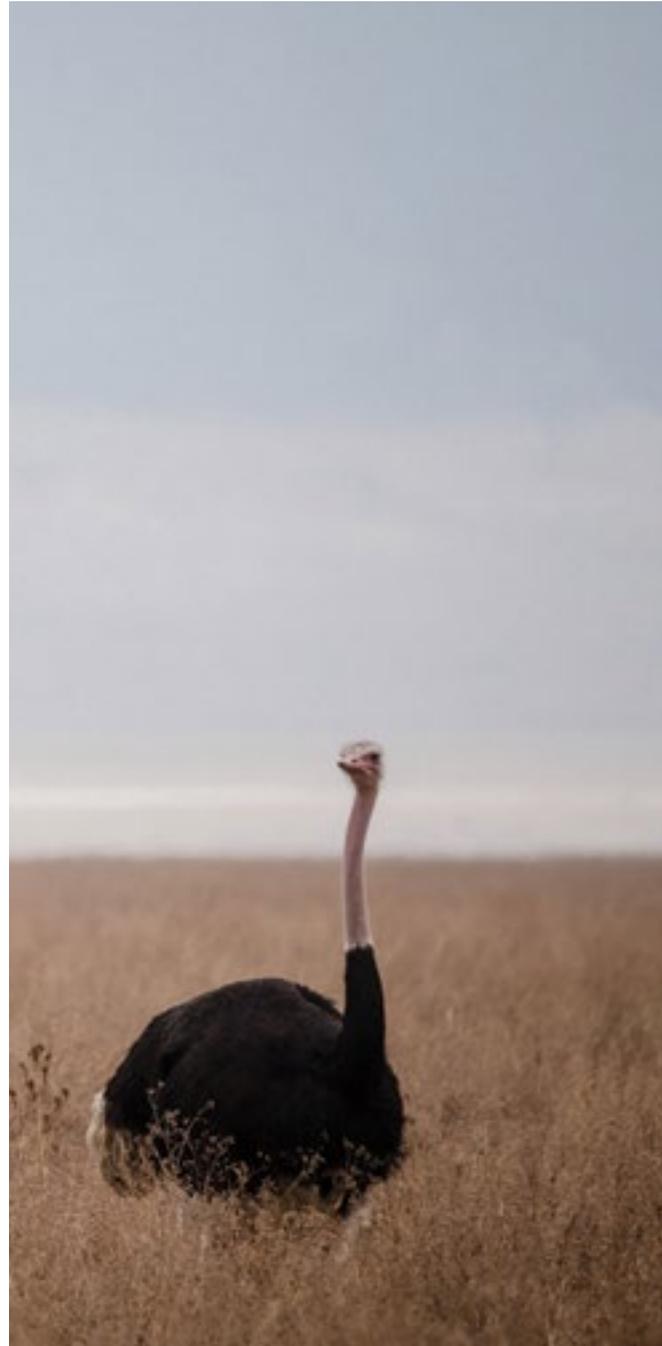


Ostrich (Struthio Camelus) - The ostrich or common ostrich is either of two species of large flightless birds native to Africa, the only living member(s) of the genus *Struthio*, which is in the ratite family. In 2014, the Somali ostrich (*Struthio molybdophanes*) was recognized as a distinct species. The common ostrich shares the order *Struthioniformes* with the kiwis, emus, rheas, and cassowaries. However, phylogenetic studies have shown that it is the sister group to all other members of *Palaeognathae* and thus the flighted tinamous are the sister group to the extinct moa. It is distinctive in its appearance, with a long neck and legs, and can run for a long time at the speed of 55 km/h[6] or even up to about 70 km/h (19 m/s; 43 mph), the fastest land speed of any bird. The common ostrich is the largest living species of bird and lays the largest eggs of any living bird (extinct elephant birds of Madagascar and the giant moa of New Zealand laid larger eggs).

The common ostrich's diet consists mainly of plant matter, though it also eats invertebrates. It lives in nomadic groups of 5 to 50 birds. When threatened, the ostrich will either hide itself by lying flat against the ground, or run away. If cornered, it can attack with a kick of its powerful legs. Mating patterns differ by geographical region, but territorial males fight for a harem of two to seven females.

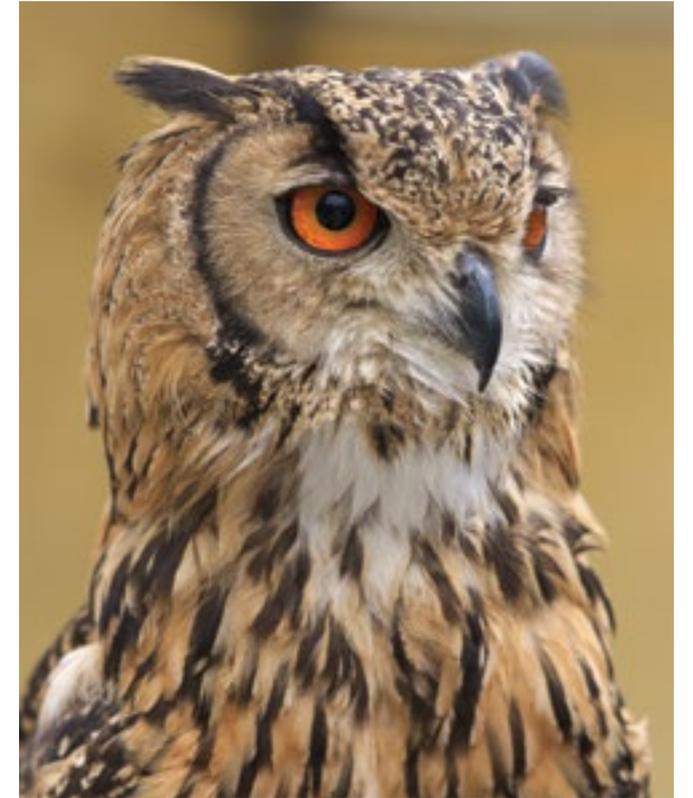
The common ostrich is farmed around the world, particularly for its feathers, which are decorative and are also used as feather dusters. Its skin is used for leather products and its meat is marketed commercially, with its leanness a common marketing point. In Roman times, there was a demand for common ostriches to use in venatio games or cooking. They have been hunted and farmed for their feathers, which at various times have been popular for ornamentation in fashionable clothing (such as hats during the 19th century). Their skins are valued for their leather.

Common ostriches have inspired cultures and civilizations for 5,000 years in Mesopotamia and Egypt. A statue of Arsinoe II of Egypt riding a common ostrich was found in a tomb in Egypt.[99] Hunter-gatherers in the Kalahari use ostrich eggshells as water containers, punching a hole in them. They also produce jewelry from it.



Owl (Order. Strigiformes) - Owls are birds from the order *Strigiformes*, which includes about 200 species of mostly solitary and nocturnal birds of prey typified by an upright stance, a large, broad head, binocular vision, binaural hearing, sharp talons, and feathers adapted for silent flight. Exceptions include the diurnal northern hawk-owl and the gregarious burrowing owl. Owls hunt mostly small mammals, insects, and other birds, although a few species specialize in hunting fish. They are found in all regions of the Earth except Antarctica and some remote islands. Owls are divided into two families: the true (or typical) owl family, *Strigidae*, and the barn-owl family, *Tytonidae*.

Among the Kikuyu of Kenya, it was believed that owls were harbingers of death. If one saw an owl or heard its hoot, someone was going to die. In general, owls are viewed as harbingers of bad luck, ill health, or death. The belief is widespread even today. In Mongolia the owl is regarded as a benign omen. For example, the great warlord Genghis Khan was hiding from enemies in a small coppice. An owl roosted in the tree above him, which caused his pursuers to think no man could be hidden there. In modern Japan, owls are regarded as lucky and are carried in the form of a talisman or charm. In Hinduism, an owl is the vahana, mount, of the Goddess Lakshmi.



Palm Cockatoo (Probosciger Aterrimus) - The palm cockatoo, also known as the goliath cockatoo or great black cockatoo, is a large smoky-grey or black parrot of the cockatoo family native to New Guinea, Aru Islands, and Cape York Peninsula. It has a very large black beak and prominent red cheek patches that change colour when the bird is alarmed or excited. The palm cockatoo has a large and complex vocal repertoire, including many whistles and even a "hello" call that sounds surprisingly human-like. Distinct dialects occur throughout the species' range. The male has a larger beak than the female. The bill is unusual, as the lower and upper mandibles do not meet for much of its length, allowing the tongue to hold a nut against the top mandible while the lower mandible works to open it. This species is in high demand for the pet trade due to its unusual appearance.



Parrot - Parrots, also known as psittacines are birds of the roughly 393 species in 92 genera that make up the order Psittaciformes, found in most tropical and subtropical regions. Characteristic features of parrots include a strong, curved bill, an upright stance, strong legs, and clawed zygodactyl feet. Many parrots are vividly coloured, and some are multi-coloured. Most parrots exhibit little or no sexual dimorphism in the visual spectrum. They form the most variably sized bird order in terms of length. The most important components of most parrots' diets are seeds, nuts, fruit, buds, and other plant material. A few species sometimes eat animals and carrion, while the lorries and lorikeets are specialised for feeding on floral nectar and soft fruits. Almost all parrots nest in tree hollows (or nest boxes in captivity), and lay white eggs from which hatch altricial (helpless) young.

Parrots are among the most intelligent birds, and the ability of some species to imitate human voices enhances their popularity as pets. Trapping wild parrots for the pet trade, as well as hunting, habitat loss, and competition from invasive species, has diminished wild populations, with parrots being subjected to more exploitation than any other group of birds.

Parrots have featured in human writings, story, art, humor, religion, and music for thousands of years. From Aesop's fable "The parrot and the cat" and the Roman poet Ovid's "The Dead Parrot" to Monty Python's "Dead Parrot sketch", parrots have existed in the consciousness of many cultures. In ancient times and current, parrot feathers have been used in ceremonies and for decoration. They also have a long history as pets, stretching back thousands of years, and were often kept as a symbol of royalty or wealth. Parrots are popular in Buddhist scripture and many writings about them exist. In Chinese Buddhist iconography, a parrot is sometimes depicted hovering on the upper right side Guan Yin clasping a pearl or prayer beads in its beak. Parrots are used as symbols of nations and nationalism. A parrot is found on the flag of Dominica and two parrots on their coat of arms. The St. Vincent parrot is the national bird of St. Vincent and the Grenadines, a Caribbean nation.



Rose-ringed Parakeet



Love birds



Puerto Rican Amazons



Cockatoo



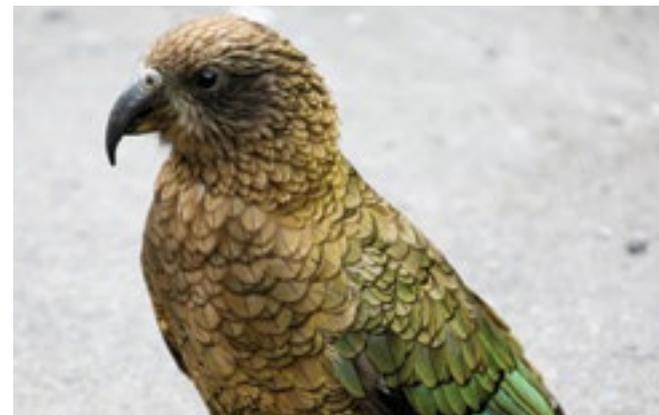
Cockatiel



Lorikeets



Red and Blue Macaws



Kea Parrot



Red Lory

Peafowl (*Peacock and Peahen*) - The peafowl include three species of birds in the genera *Pavo* and *Afropavo* of the Phasianidae family, the pheasants and their allies. The two Asiatic species are the blue or Indian peafowl originally of the Indian subcontinent, and the green peafowl of Southeast Asia; the one African species is the Congo peafowl, native only to the Congo Basin. Male peafowl are known for their piercing calls and their extravagant plumage. The latter is especially prominent in the Asiatic species, which have an eye-spotted “tail” or “train” of covert feathers, which they display as part of a courtship ritual. The term peacock is properly reserved for the male; the female is known as a peahen, and the immature offspring are sometimes called peachicks.

The functions of the elaborate iridescent coloration and large “train” of peacocks have been the subject of extensive scientific debate. Charles Darwin suggested they served to attract females, and the showy features of the males had evolved by sexual selection. More recently, Amotz Zahavi proposed in his handicap theory that these features acted as honest signals of the males’ fitness, since less-fit males would be disadvantaged by the difficulty of surviving with such large and conspicuous structures. Peafowl are forest birds that nest on the ground, but roost in trees. They are terrestrial feeders. All species of peafowl are believed to be polygamous. In common with other members of the Galliformes, the males possess metatarsal spurs or “thorns” on their legs used during intraspecific territorial fights with other members of their kind. The peafowl is native to India, while also displaying significance in its culture.

In Hinduism, the Indian peacock is the mount of the God of war, Lord Kartikeya. During a war with Asuras, Karthikeya split the demon king Surapadman in half. Out of respect for his adversaries prowess in battle, the God converted the two halves as an integral part of himself. One half became a peacock serving as his mount, and another a rooster adorning his flag. The peacock displays the divine shape of Omkara when it spreads its magnificent plumes into a full-blown circular form. Peacock feathers also adorn the crest of Lord Krishna, an avatar of Lord Vishnu, one of the trimurti. Chandragupta Maurya, the founder of the Mauryan Empire, was born an orphan and raised by a family farming peacocks. In the Burmese



and Sinhalese zodiacs, the peacock is represented in both of their cultures. India adopted the peacock as its national bird in 1963 and it is part of the National symbols of India.

To the Sinhalese people, the peacock is the third animal of the zodiac of Sri Lanka. Peacocks (often a symbol of pride and vanity) were believed to deliberately consume poisonous substances in order to become immune to them, as well as to make the colours of their resplendent plumage all the more vibrant - seeing as so many poisonous flora and fauna are so colorful due to aposematism, this idea appears to have merit. The Buddhist deity Mahamayuri is depicted seated on a peacock. Peacocks are seen supporting the throne of Amitabha, the ruby red sunset coloured archetypal Buddha of Infinite Light. In Persia and Babylonia, the peacock is seen as a guardian to royalty and is often engraved upon royal thrones. Nonetheless, using the peacock as the symbol of royalty has an old and distinguished pedigree in India too. Ancient Greeks believed that the flesh of peafowl did not decay after death, so it became a symbol of immortality. In Hellenistic imagery, the Greek goddess Hera’s chariot was pulled by peacocks, birds not known to Greeks before the conquests of Alexander. Alexander’s tutor, Aristotle, refers to it as “the Persian bird”. One myth states that Hera’s servant, the hundred-eyed Argus Panoptes, was instructed to guard the woman-turned-cow, Io. Hera had transformed Io into a cow after learning of Zeus’s interest in her. Zeus had the messenger of the gods, Hermes, kill Argus through eternal sleep and free Io. According to Ovid, to commemorate her faithful watchman, Hera had the hundred eyes of Argus preserved forever, in the peacock’s tail.

The symbolism was adopted by early Christianity, thus many early Christian paintings and mosaics show the peacock. The peacock is still used in the Easter season, especially in the east. The ‘eyes’ in the peacock’s tail feathers symbolise the all-seeing Christian God and – in some interpretations – the Church.

Pheasant (f. Phasianidae) - Pheasants are birds of several genera within the subfamily Phasianinae, of the family Phasianidae in the order Galliformes. The family's native range is restricted to Asia. Pheasants are characterised by strong sexual dimorphism, males being highly decorated with bright colors and adornments such as wattles. Males are usually larger than females and have longer tails. Males play no part in rearing the young.

Pheasants typically eat seeds and some insects. The best-known is the common pheasant, which is widespread throughout the world, in introduced feral populations and in farm operations. Various other pheasant species are popular in aviaries, such as the golden pheasant (*Chrysolophus pictus*).



Phoenix - Associated with the Sun, a phoenix obtains new life by arising from the ashes of its predecessor. According to some sources, the phoenix dies in a show of flames and combustion, although there are other sources that claim that the legendary bird dies and simply decomposes before being born again. The phoenix is sometimes pictured in ancient and medieval literature and medieval art as endowed with a nimbus, which emphasizes the bird's connection with the Sun. In the oldest images of phoenixes on record these nimbuses often have seven rays, like Helios (the sun Titan of Greek mythology). Pliny the Elder also describes the bird as having a crest of feathers on its head, and Ezekiel the Dramatist compared it to a rooster. Although the phoenix was generally believed to be colorful and vibrant, sources provide no clear consensus about its coloration. Tacitus says that its color made it stand out from all other birds. Scholars have observed analogues to the phoenix in a variety of cultures. These analogues include the Hindu garuda and gandaberunda, the Russian firebird, the Persian Simorgh, Georgian paskunji, the Arabian Anka and from that, the Turkish Zümrüdü Anka, the Tibetan Me byi karmo, the Chinese fenghuang and zhu que, and the Japanese Ho-o. Phoenixes have proved an enduring allegorical symbol, symbolizing rebirth, renewal or uniqueness and often appearing in modern popular culture. Shakespeare frequently mentions the bird in his plays. He wrote the poem *The Phoenix and the Turtle*.



Raven (f. Corvidae) - A raven is one of several larger-bodied species of the genus *Corvus*. These species do not form a single taxonomic group within the genus. There is no consistent distinction between “crows” and “ravens”, and these appellations have been assigned to different species chiefly on the basis of their size, crows generally being smaller than ravens. The largest raven species are the common raven and the thick-billed raven.

There are many references to ravens in the world through legends and literature. Most of these refer to the widespread common raven. Because of its black plumage, croaking call, and diet of carrion, the raven has long been considered a bird of ill omen. French anthropologist Claude Lévi-Strauss proposed a structuralist theory that suggests the raven (like the coyote) obtained mythic status because it was a mediator animal between life and death. As a carrion bird, ravens became associated with the dead and with lost souls. In Swedish folklore, they are the ghosts of murdered people without Christian burials and, in German stories, damned souls.



Roadrunner (g. Geococcyx)-The roadrunners (genus *Geococcyx*), also known as chaparral birds or chaparral cocks, are two species of fast-running ground cuckoos with long tails and crests. They are found in the southwestern United States and Mexico, usually in the desert. Some have been clocked at 32 km/h. The roadrunner has a slow and descending dove-like “coo”. It also makes a rapid, vocalized clattering sound with its beak. The roadrunner usually lives alone or in pairs. Breeding pairs are monogamous and mate for life, and pairs may hold a territory all year. The Hopi and other Pueblo tribes believed that roadrunners were medicine birds and could protect against evil spirits. Roadrunner feathers were traditionally used to decorate Pueblo cradleboards as spiritual protection for the baby. In Mexican Indian and American Indian tribes, such as the Pima, it is considered good luck to see a roadrunner. In some Mexican tribes, the bird was considered sacred and never killed, but most Mexican Indians used the meat of the roadrunner as a folk remedy to cure illness or to boost stamina and strength.





Swift (*Apus Apus*) - The swifts are a family, Apodidae, of highly aerial birds. They are superficially similar to swallows, but are not closely related to any passerine species. Swifts are placed in the order Apodiformes with hummingbirds. The treeswifts are closely related to the true swifts, but form a separate family, the Hemiprocnidae. Resemblances between swifts and swallows are due to convergent evolution, reflecting similar life styles based on catching insects in flight. The family name, Apodidae, is derived from the Greek (ápous), meaning “footless”, a reference to the small, weak legs of these most aerial of birds. The tradition of depicting swifts without feet continued into the Middle Ages, as seen in the heraldic martlet.

Swifts are among the fastest of birds, and larger species like the white-throated needletail have been reported travelling at up to 169 km/h in level flight. Even the common swift can cruise at a maximum speed of 31 metres per second. In a single year the common swift can cover at least 200,000 km.

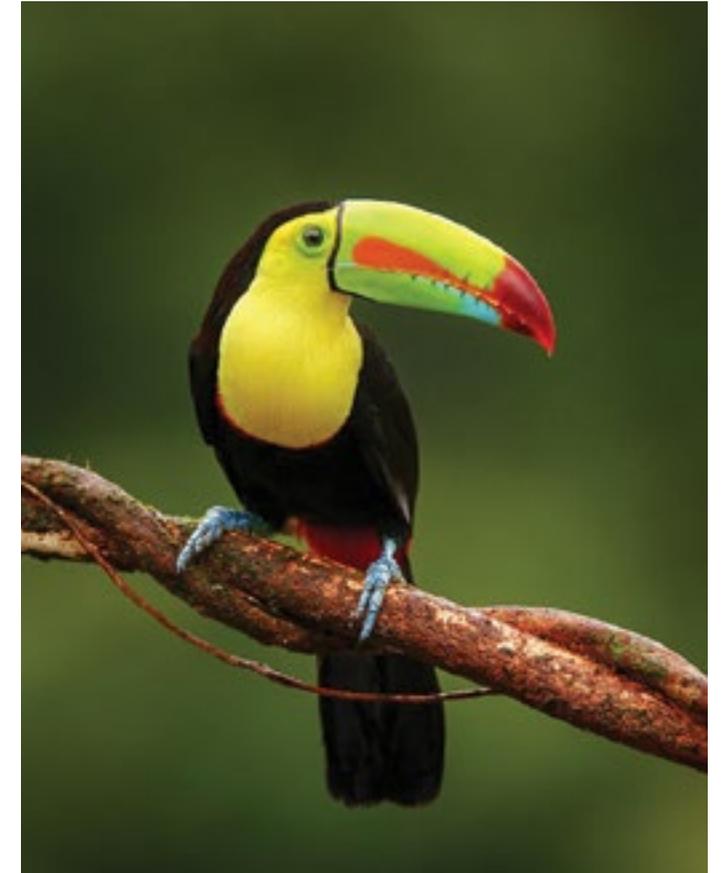


Tawny Frogmouth (*Podargus Strigoides*) - The tawny frogmouth is a species of frogmouth native to and found throughout the Australian mainland and Tasmania. They are big-headed, stocky birds often mistaken for owls due to their nocturnal habits and similar colouring. Tawny frogmouths have a wide range of vocalisations that can signal information about sex, territory, food, or predators. They generally use low-amplitude and low-frequency sounds to communicate, though some of their warning screams can be heard for miles. When disturbed during rest, they can emit a soft warning buzz that sounds similar to a bee, and when threatened, they can make a loud hissing noise and produce clacking sounds with their beaks. During winter, tawny frogmouths choose northerly oriented positions on branches that are more exposed to sunlight to increase body heat. Pair roosting and huddling to share body warmth is also common during winter. During daylight, tawny frogmouths sometimes perch on the ground to sunbathe, remaining motionless up to five minutes. During this time, the birds open their beaks wide, close their eyes, and move their heads to the side to allow sunrays to penetrate beneath the thick layer of feathers.

Toucan (*f. Ramphastidae*) - Toucans are members of the Neotropical near passerine bird family Ramphastidae. The Ramphastidae are most closely related to the American barbets. They are brightly marked and have large, often-colorful bills. The family includes five genera and over forty different species.

Toucans are arboreal and typically lay 2–21 white eggs in their nests. They make their nests in tree hollows and holes excavated by other animals such as woodpeckers—the toucan bill has very limited use as an excavation tool. When the eggs hatch, the young emerge completely naked, without any down. Toucans are resident breeders and do not migrate. Toucans are usually found in pairs or small flocks. They sometimes fence with their bills and wrestle, which scientists hypothesize they do to establish dominance hierarchies.

The toucans are, due to their unique appearance, among the most popular and well known birds in the world. Across their native range they were hunted for food and also kept as pets, and their plumage and bills were used for decorations. In some places anyone that discovers a nest is deemed its owner and is entitled to sell the birds within. In the western world they were first popularised by John Gould who devoted two editions to a detailed monograph of the family. The constellation Tucana, containing most of the Small Magellanic Cloud, is named after the toucan.



Wood Duck (*Aix Sponsa*) - The wood duck or Carolina duck is a species of perching duck found in North America. It is one of the most colorful North American waterfowl. The wood duck is a medium-sized perching duck. It shares its genus with the Asian Mandarin duck. In 2013, the Royal Canadian Mint created two coins to commemorate the wood duck. These birds feed by dabbling or walking on land. They mainly eat berries, acorns, and seeds, but also insects, making them omnivores. Expanding North American beaver populations throughout the wood duck's range have also helped the population rebound as beavers create an ideal forested wetland habitat for wood ducks.



Woodpecker (f. Picidae) - Woodpeckers are part of the family Picidae, a group of near-passerine birds that also consist of piculets, wrynecks, and sapsuckers. Members of this family are found worldwide, except for Australia, New Guinea, New Zealand, Madagascar, and the extreme polar regions. Most species live in forests or woodland habitats, although a few species are known that live in treeless areas, such as rocky hillsides and deserts, and the Gila woodpecker specialises in exploiting cacti.

Members of this family are chiefly known for their characteristic behaviour. They mostly forage for insect prey on the trunks and branches of trees, and often communicate by drumming with their beak, producing a reverberatory sound that can be heard at some distance. Some species vary their diet with fruits, birds' eggs, small animals, and tree sap. They mostly nest and roost in holes that they excavate in tree trunks, and their abandoned holes are of importance to other cavity-nesting birds. They sometimes come into conflict with humans when they make holes in buildings or feed on fruit crops, but perform a useful service by their removal of insect pests on trees.



Wren (f. Troglodytidae) - The wrens are mostly small, brownish passerine birds in the mainly New World family Troglodytidae. The family includes 88 species divided into 19 genera. Only the Eurasian wren occurs in the Old World, where in Anglophone regions, it is commonly known simply as the “wren”, as it is the originator of the name. Most wrens are small and rather inconspicuous, except for their loud and often complex songs. Notable exceptions are the relatively large members of the genus Campylorhynchus, which can be quite bold in their behavior. Wrens have short wings that are barred in most species, and they often hold their tails upright. As far as known, wrens are primarily insectivorous, eating insects, spiders, and other small arthropods, but many species also eat vegetable matter and some take small frogs and lizards. The wren features prominently in culture. The Eurasian wren has been long considered “the king of birds” in Europe. Killing one or harassing its nest is associated with bad luck—broken bones, lightning strikes on homes, injury to cattle.



Vulture - A vulture is a scavenging bird of prey. The two types of vultures are the New World vultures, including the Californian and Andean condors, and the Old World vultures, including the birds that are seen scavenging on carcasses of dead animals on African plains. Some traditional Old World vultures (including the bearded vulture) are not closely related to the others, which is why the vultures are to be subdivided into three taxa rather than two. New World vultures are found in North and South America; Old World vultures are found in Europe, Africa, and Asia, meaning that between the two groups, vultures are found on every continent except Australia and Antarctica. A particular characteristic of many vultures is a bald head, devoid of normal feathers. Although it has been historically believed to help keep the head clean when feeding, the bare skin may play an important role in thermoregulation. Vultures have been observed to hunch their bodies and tuck in their heads in the cold, and open their wings and stretch their necks in the heat. Vultures also use urine as a way to keep themselves cool by urinating on themselves.

Vultures in south Asia, mainly in India and Nepal, have declined dramatically since the early 1990s. It has been found that this decline was caused by residues of the veterinary drug Diclofenac in animal carcasses. The government of India has taken very late cognizance of this fact and has banned the drug for animals. However, it may take decades for vultures to come back to their earlier population level, if they ever do: without vultures to pick corpses clean, rabies-carrying dogs have multiplied, feeding on the carrion, and age-old practices like the sky burials of the Parsees are coming to an end, permanently reducing the supply of corpses. In the Hindu epic Ramayana, Jatayu is the youngest son of Aruna. His brother, Sampati, is a demi-god who has the form of a vulture and was an old friend of Dasharatha (Rama's father). Jatayu sees Ravana abducting Sita, he tries to rescue Sita from Ravana. Jatayu fought valiantly with Ravana, but as he was very old Ravana soon got the better of him. It is believed that Jatayu fell on the rocks in Rameshwaram, India after his wings were chopped off by Ravana. Rama is said to have commanded the bird to rise Le Pakshi, hence the name for that village.

Extinct birds - Over 190 species of birds have become extinct since 1500, and the rate of extinction seems to be increasing. The situation is exemplified by Hawaii, where 30% of all known recently extinct bird taxa originally lived. Other areas, such as Guam, have also been hit hard; Guam has lost over 60% of its native bird taxa in the last 30 years, many of them due to the introduced brown tree snake. Currently there are approximately 10,000 living species of birds, with an estimated 1,200 considered to be under threat of extinction. Elephant birds, Upland Moas, , Labrador ducks, Scrubfowls, Quails, Penguins, Great auks, Sand Pipers, Curlews, Leguats, rails, grebes, , petrels, starlings, Passenger Pigeons, wrens, nightjars, swifts, woodpeckers, piopios, warblers, thrushes, and swamp hens are some of the recently extinct birds.

Elephant birds (*Aepyornis maximus*) are members of the extinct family Aepyornithidae. Elephant birds were large to enormous flightless birds that once lived on the island of Madagascar. They became extinct, perhaps around 1000-1200 AD, for reasons that are unclear, although human activity is the suspected cause. Elephant birds comprised the genera *Mullerornis* and *Aepyornis*. *Aepyornis* was among the heaviest of birds (the extinct *Dromornis stirtoni* of Australia reached a similar weight). While they were in close geographical proximity to the ostrich, elephant birds' closest living relatives are kiwi, suggesting that ratites did not diversify by vicariance during the breakup of Gondwana but instead evolved from ancestors that dispersed more recently by flying. The roc (rukḥ) is known from Sindbad the Sailor's encounter with one in *One Thousand and One Nights*. Some scholars think the roc is a distorted account of *Aepyornis*. Historical evidence for this can be found in Megiser (1623). H. G. Wells wrote a short story titled "*Aepyornis Island*" (1894) about the bird. It was first collected in *The Stolen Bacillus and Other Incidents* (1895). Wildlife artist Walton Ford created a painting called "Madagascar" about the Elephant Bird in 2002.

The **Upland Moa** (*Megalapteryx didinus*) was a species of moa bird endemic to New Zealand. It was a member of the ratite family, a type of flightless bird with no keel on the sternum. It was the last moa species to become extinct, vanishing around 1500 CE. the upland moa was among the smallest of the moa species. Unlike other moas, it had feathers covering all of its body but the beak and the soles of its feet, an adaptation to its cold environment. It had no wings or tail. This moa usually laid only 1 to 2 blue-green coloured eggs at once. Like the emu and ostrich, male moa cared for the young. The upland moa's only predator before the arrival of humans in New Zealand was the Haast's eagle.



Elephant Bird



Upland Moa



King Island emu, *Dromaius minor* (King Island, Australia, 1822) and **Kangaroo Island emu**, *Dromaius baudinianus* (Kangaroo Island, Australia, 1827) are both now extinct species of Emus. The King Island emu is an extinct subspecies of emu that was endemic to King Island, in the Bass Strait between mainland Australia and Tasmania. The small size of the King Island emu may be an example of insular dwarfism. The King Island emu was the smallest of all known emus, and had darker plumage than the mainland emu. It was black and brown, and had naked blue skin on the neck, and its chicks were striped like those on the mainland. The exact cause for the extinction of the King Island emu is unknown. The Kangaroo Island emu or dwarf emu is an extinct subspecies of emu. It was restricted to Kangaroo Island, South Australia, which was known as Ile Decrés by the members of the Baudin expedition. It differed from the mainland emu mainly in its smaller size. The species became extinct by about 1827. The Australian museum curator, Stephanie Pfennigwerth, has instead proposed that the larger "male" was actually drawn after a captive Kangaroo Island emu, that the smaller, dark "female" is a captive King Island emu, that the scenario is fictitious, and the sexes of the birds

indeterminable. They may instead only have been assumed to be male and female of the same subspecies due to their difference in size. A crooked claw on the “male” has also been interpreted as evidence that it had lived in captivity, and it may also indicate that the depicted specimen is identical to the Kangaroo Island emu skeleton in Paris, which has a deformed toe.

The **Labrador duck** (*Camptorhynchus labradorius*) was a North American bird; it has the distinction of being the first endemic North American bird species to become extinct after the Columbian Exchange, with the last known sighting occurring in 1878 in Elmira, New York. It was already a rare duck before European settlers arrived, and as a result of its rarity information on the Labrador duck is not abundant, although some, such as its habitat, characteristics, dietary habits and reasons behind its extinction, are known. The Labrador duck is considered a sea duck. The female plumage was gray. The Labrador duck is thought to have been always rare, but between 1850 and 1870, populations waned further. Although hunted for food, this duck was considered to taste bad, rotted quickly, and fetched a low price. Consequently, it was not sought much by hunters. However, the eggs may have been overharvested, and it may have been subject to depredations by the feather trade in its breeding area, as well. The duck soon disappeared after the first wave of European settlement. Another possible factor in the bird’s extinction was the decline in mussels and other shellfish on which they are believed to have fed in their winter quarters, due to growth of population and industry on the Eastern Seaboard.

The **Viti Levu scrubfowl** (*Megapodius Amissus*) of Viti Levu and possibly Kadavu, Fiji, may have survived to the early 19th or even the 20th century as suggested by circumstantial evidence. The megapode was similar in size to, or slightly larger than, the living orange-footed scrubfowl, though it had reduced wings and more robust legs, suggesting that it was flightless or almost flightless. It is likely that it became extinct through overhunting following human settlement of the Fiji Islands, as did the Raoul Island scrubfowl,



Female and Male Labrador Ducks, John Gerrard Keulemans



The “Consumed” scrubfowl (*Megapodius alimentum*), extinct megapode



New Zealand quail, Charles Joseph Hullmandel



Himalayan quails, Hume and Marshall



Christmas sandpiper, Tahiti sandpiper, White-winged sandpiper

Megapodius sp. (Raoul, Kermadec Islands, 1876) A megapode is said to have inhabited Raoul Island until the population was wiped out in a volcanic eruption. It is not clear whether the birds represent a distinct taxon or derive from a prehistoric introduction by Polynesian seafarers.

The **New Zealand quail** (*Coturnix novaezelandiae*), or koreke (the Maori name), has been extinct since 1875. The male and female were similar, except the female was lighter.

The **Himalayan quail** (*Ophrysia superciliosa*) is officially critically endangered. A little-known native name from Western Nepal probably refers to this bird, but for various reasons, no survey for *Ophrysia* has ever been conducted in that country, nor is it generally assumed to occur there (due to the native name being overlooked). The Himalayan quail (*Ophrysia superciliosa*) or mountain quail is a medium-sized quail belonging to the pheasant family. It was last reported in 1876 and is feared extinct. This species was known from only 2 locations (and 12 specimens) in the western Himalayas in Uttarakhand, north-west India. The last verifiable record was in 1876 near the hill station of Mussoorie, though there was a recent set of possible (though unlikely) sightings around Naini Tal in 2003.

The **Kiritimati sandpiper** (*Prosobonia cancellata* - Kiritimati Island, Kiribati, 1850s) or The Christmas sandpiper was a small shorebird. It became extinct some time in the first half of the 19th century. The **Tahiti sandpiper** (*Prosobonia leucoptera* Tahiti, Society Islands, 19th century) is an extinct member of the large wader family Scolopacidae that was endemic to Tahiti in French Polynesia. It was discovered in 1773 during Captain Cook’s second voyage, when a single specimen seems to have been collected, but it became extinct in the 19th century. Only one museum specimen is known to exist, held in the Aves collection of Naturalis Biodiversity Center. The only hint at the existence of the **White-winged sandpiper** (*Prosobonia ellisi*, Moorea, Society Islands, 19th century) are William Anderson’s notes and the descriptions based on two specimens were collected by him and a painting by William Ellis.

The curlews genus *Numenius*, are a group of eight species of birds, characterised by long, slender, downcurved bills and mottled brown plumage. The English name is imitative of the Eurasian curlew's call, but may have been influenced by the Old French *corliu*, "messenger", from *courir*, "to run". The **Eskimo curlew** or the northern curlew (*Numenius borealis*) is one of eight species of curlew, and is classed in the genus *Numenius*. It was one of the most numerous shorebirds in the tundra of western Arctic Canada and Alaska, with approximately two million birds killed per year in the late 1800s. As there has not been a reliable sighting since 1987 or a confirmed sighting since 1963, the Eskimo curlew is now considered possibly extinct. The bird was about 30 cm (12 in) long and fed mostly on insects and berries.

After a long period of steady decline, **Slender-billed curlew** (*Numenius tenuirostris*) the slender-billed curlew is extremely rare, with only a minute and still declining population. The primary cause of the decline is thought to be excessive hunting on the Mediterranean wintering grounds. Habitat loss, particularly in the wintering grounds, may also have played a part, but huge areas of forest bogs suitable for breeding still exist in Siberia. May still exist; officially classified as critically endangered. A few birds were recorded in 2004, following several decades of increasing rarity. There was an unconfirmed sighting in Albania in 2007.

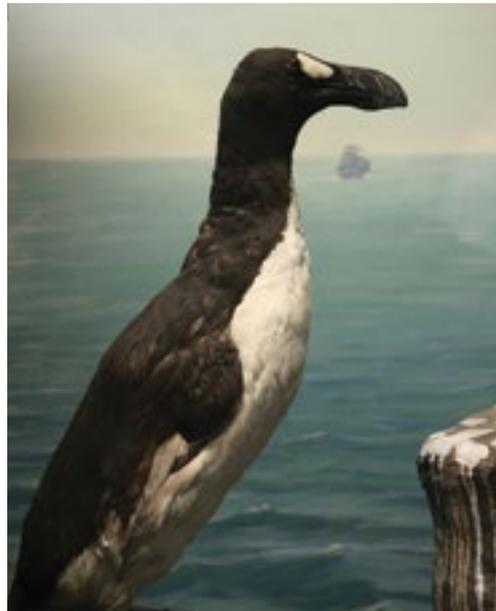


Eskimo curlew



Slender-billed curlew

The **Great auk** (*Pinguinus Impennis*) is a species of flightless alcid that became extinct in the mid-19th century. It was the only modern species in the genus *Pinguinus*. It is not closely related to the birds now known as penguins, which were discovered later and so named by sailors because of their physical resemblance to the great auk. It bred on rocky, isolated islands with easy access to the ocean and a plentiful food supply, a rarity in nature that provided only a few breeding sites. The great auk was a food source for Neanderthals more than 100,000 years ago, as evidenced by well-cleaned bones found by their campfires. The great auk was an important part of many Native American cultures, both as a food source and as a symbolic item. Early European explorers to the Americas used the great auk as a convenient food source or as fishing bait, reducing its numbers. Its growing rarity increased interest from European museums and private collectors in obtaining skins and eggs of the bird. Today, 78 skins of the great auk remain, mostly in museum collections, along with approximately 75 eggs and 24 complete skeletons. Ogden Nash warns that humans could suffer the same fate as the great auk in his short poem "A Caution to Everybody." The great auk is one of the more frequently referenced extinct birds in literature, much as the famous Dodo.



The **Rails, or Rallidae**, are a large cosmopolitan family of small- to medium-sized ground-living birds. The family exhibits considerable diversity and also includes the crakes, coots, and gallinules. Many species are associated with wetlands, although the family is found in every terrestrial habitat except dry deserts, polar regions, and alpine areas above the snow line. Members of the Rallidae occur on every continent except Antarctica. There are numerous island species. The most common rail habitats are marshland or dense forest. They are especially fond of dense vegetation. Some larger, more abundant rails are hunted and their eggs collected for food. The Wake Island rail was hunted to extinction by the starving Japanese garrison after the island was cut off from supply during World War II. At least two species, the common moorhen and the American purple gallinule, have been considered pests Due to their tendencies towards flightlessness, many island species have been unable to cope with introduced species. The most dramatic human-caused extinctions occurred in the Pacific Ocean as people colonised the islands of Melanesia, Polynesia and Micronesia, during which an estimated 750–1800 species of bird became extinct, half of which were rails.

Grebes are a widely distributed order of freshwater diving birds, some of which visit the sea when migrating and in winter. The young are precocial, and able to swim from birth. Recent molecular studies have suggested a relation with flamingos. The decline of the **Colombian grebe** is attributed to wetland drainage, siltation, pesticide pollution, disruption by reed harvesting, hunting, competition, and predation of chicks by rainbow trout. The primary reason was loss of habitat: drainage of wetlands and siltation resulted in higher concentrations of pollutants, causing eutrophication across Lake Tota. This destroyed the open, submergent pondweed vegetation and resulted in the formation of a dense monoculture of water weed. By 1968, the species had declined to approximately 300 birds. Only two records of this bird were made in the 1970s; one seen 1972, and the last confirmed record from 1977 when three birds were seen. Intensive studies in 1981 and 1982 failed to find the species and it is now considered extinct. The **Alaotra grebe** (*Tachybaptus rufolavatus*), also known as Delacour's little grebe or rusty grebe, is an extinct grebe that was endemic to Lake Alaotra and surrounding lakes in Madagascar. The species declined in the course of the 20th century, mainly because of habitat destruction, entanglement with monofilament gillnets and predation by the introduced blotched snakehead. The **Atitlán grebe** (*Podilymbus gigas*), also known as giant grebe, giant pied-billed grebe, or poc, is an extinct water bird, a relative of the pied-billed and largemouth bass were introduced into Lake Atitlán. These invasive species reduced the crabs and fish which the grebes depended on for food and the fish even killed the grebe chicks. The population of the Atitlán grebe declined from 200 individuals in 1960 to 80 in 1965. The last two birds were seen in 1989, and after they disappeared the Atitlán grebe was declared officially extinct.



Rodrigue's Rail/ Leguat's Rail



Giant grebe, David G. Allen

The word **Petrel** comes from the Latin name for the Christian Saint Peter, and refers to the habits of certain species to hover just above the ocean waves, with their feet barely touching the water, thus giving an appearance of walking on water, as St. Peter is said to have done. The families Oceanitidae and Hydrobatidae are the storm petrels, small pelagic petrels with a fluttering flight which often follow ships. The family Pelecanoididae is the four species of diving petrels, genus Pelacanoides. These are auk-like small petrels of the southern oceans. The Guadalupe storm petrel (*Oceanodroma macrodactyla*), Saint Helena petrel (*Pseudobulweria rupinarum*), Imber's petrel (*Pterodroma imberi*) are all most likely extinct due to overpredation by people and/or introduction of domesticated animals by people.



The **Chatham Penguin** (“*Eudyptes chathamensis*”) was a species of penguin, now extinct. It is known only from subfossil bones, but may have become extinct as recently as the late 19th century as a bird kept captive at some time between 1867 and 1872 might refer to this taxon. It appears to have been a distinct species, with a thin, slim and low bill. As of 2018, the species had not been formally described. The **Giant Penguins (Palaeudyptinae)**, are an extinct subfamily of penguins. It includes several genera of medium-sized to very large species – including *Palaeudyptes marplei*, the 1.5 meter tall *Icadyptes salasi*, *Anthropornis nordenskjoldi* which grew 1.5 meters (4 ft 11.1 in) tall or even larger, and the massive *Pachydyptes ponderosus* which weighed at least as much as an adult human male.

The **Passenger Pigeon** or wild pigeon (*Ectopistes migratorius*) is an extinct species of pigeon that was endemic to North America. Its common name is derived from the French word passager, meaning “passing by”, due to the migratory habits of the species. The scientific name also refers to its migratory characteristics. The morphologically similar mourning dove (*Zenaida macroura*) was long thought to be its closest relative, and the two were at times confused, but genetic analysis has shown that the genus *Patagioenas* is more closely related to it than the *Zenaida* doves. The main reasons for the extinction of the passenger pigeon were the massive scale of hunting, the rapid loss of habitat, and the extremely social lifestyle of the bird, which made it highly vulnerable to the former factors. Deforestation was driven by the need to free land for agriculture and expanding towns, but also due to the demand for lumber and fuel. The general idea of re-creating extinct species has been criticized, since the large funds needed could be spent on conserving currently threatened species and habitats, and because conservation efforts might be viewed as less urgent. In the case of the passenger pigeon it is unlikely that enough birds could be created for revival to be successful, and it is unclear whether there is enough appropriate habitat left for its reintroduction. Furthermore, the parent pigeons that would raise the cloned passenger pigeons would belong to a different species, with a different way of rearing young.



The **Vaurie's Nightjar** (*Caprimulgus centralasicus*) is a putative species of nightjar in the family Caprimulgidae. It is endemic to China. Its natural habitat is cold desert. However, it is threatened by habitat loss. This bird is only known from a single 1929 specimen from Xinjiang, China, described by Charles Vaurie. It has never been found again, and it is quite possibly invalid as it has not yet been compared to the similar subspecies of the European nightjar, *C. europaeus plumipes*, which occurs at the locality where *C. centralasicus* was found.

The piopios or turnagras are an extinct genus of passerine birds in the family Oriolidae, that were endemic to New Zealand. Sometimes described as New Zealand thrushes, the piopios had only a coincidental, passing resemblance to the thrush family. For many years, the North Island piopio was considered to be conspecific with the South Island piopio, but the two are now regarded as two separate species due to their pronounced differences in external appearance and osteology (Olson et al., 1983). An alternate name for the **North Island piopio** is the **North Island thrush**. The **South Island piopio** (*Turnagra capensis*) also known as the **New Zealand thrush**, was a passerine bird of the family Oriolidae.



North Island thrushes



New Zealand thrushes

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FACEBOOK PAGES
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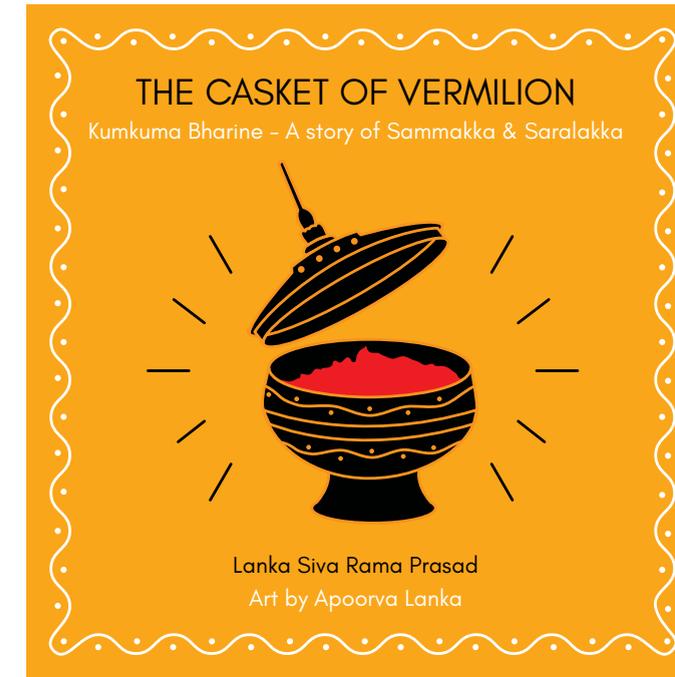
Dr. LANKA SIVA RAMA PRASAD (Dr. LSr Prasad) is a Cardio Thoracic and Vascular Surgeon by profession, a popular author of 120 books, cartoonist, painter, critic, Editor and orator par excellence.

His knowledge in Telugu and English earned him name. He has translated Homer's Iliad, Odyssey first time in to Telugu Literature. In that series of Greek literature- Epic cycle and Greek Heroes came as the third book. His other notable translations in to Telugu are John Milton's Paradise Lost, Paradise Regained; John Bunyan's The Pilgrim's Progress; Virgil's Aeneid; Dante's Divine Comedy, Goethe's Faust. Rumi's Masnavi; Attar's - Birds conference; Omar Khayyam's- Rubaiyat. He was assigned the job of translating selected classic poems of Telugu literature by C.P. Brown's Academy which was published as Telugu songs and poems. Katthi anchu pai- is a collection of noir genre stories.

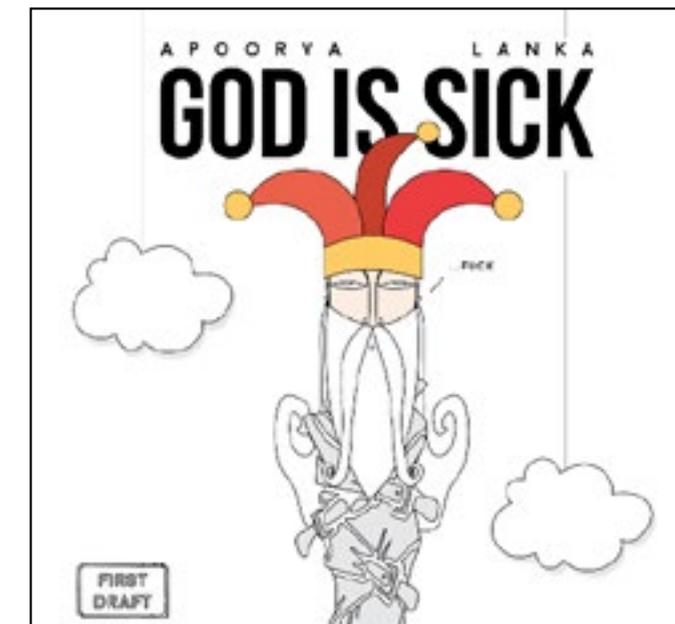
More than ten translations of contemporary poets, two novels, twenty short stories, hundreds of essays and prefaces, books on science and Medicine and dream analysis are available. Now his published books have crossed the prestigious hundred land-marks and reached 120. Most of his books are reference books in literature. His poems were translated into Greek, Spanish, Arabic, Hindi, Tamil, Kannada and many other languages. His works are available free at www.Anuvaadham.com

He is the recipient of T.S Eliot award (2017), Global poet Award-CANADA-WIN (2017), Life time achievement award-(2017), Kibatek medal-Turkey (2017), Poet Laureate Award-Delhi (2017), Sahiti Rajahamsa award- Vizag (2017), Poet Laureate-Kazakhstan (2017), Pentasi-B life time achievement award(2017), Naji Naman Award- Lebanon(2018), Kavya Siromani-2018 -(Mathura), The Poetry Crucible- 2018, Neruda Award- 2018 (Italy) and many more honors.

He was the host and sponsor of PENTASI-B INDIA WORLD POETREE FESTIVAL- October 2017- at HYDERABAD- INDIA, attended by more than 200 poets from all over the world.

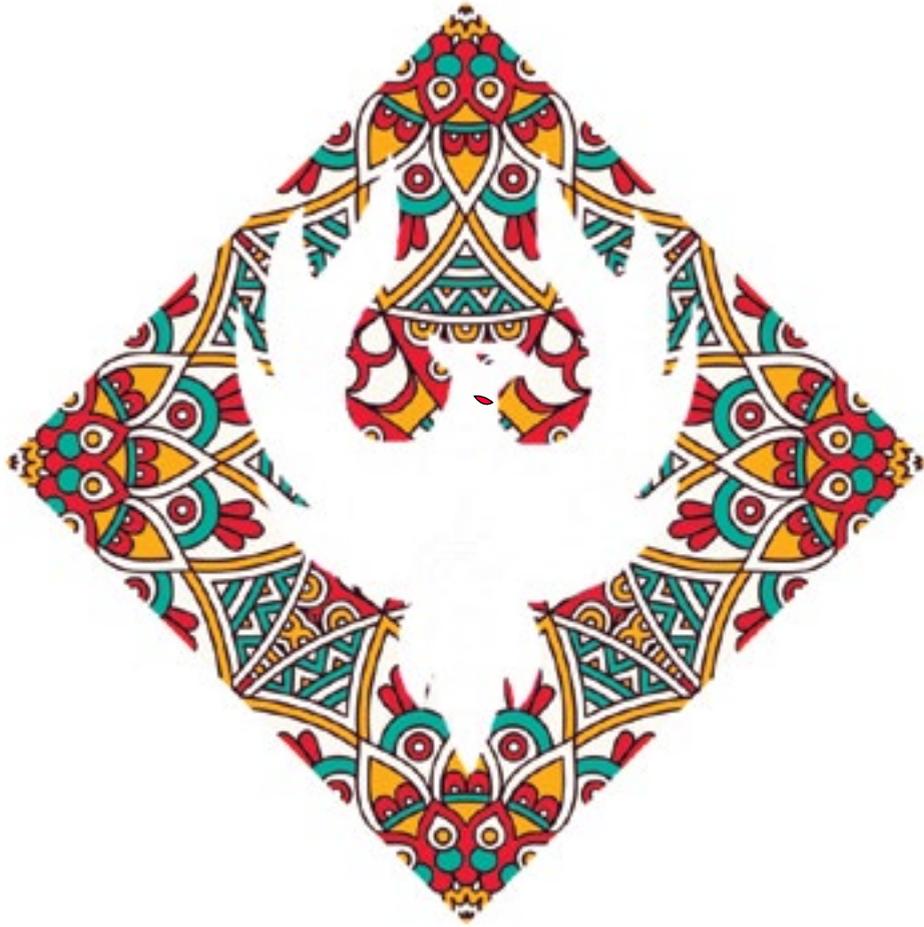


Also coming up, The Casket of Vermilion, a retelling of the story of Sammakka and Saralakka.



This book was illustrated by Apoorva Lanka, artist and designer who has also illustrated her own book, God is Sick which can be accessed on request or on her facebook profile.

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In Attar of Nishapur's "Conference of the Birds", birds of the world gather to decide who is to be their sovereign, as they have none. Each of the birds represents a human fault which prevents humankind from attaining enlightenment. *Conference Confessions* is a record of the experiences the host of a similar conference, a conference of the bards. It is about the joy and pain of bringing widespread poets together and making something beautiful.