




Faculty Details proforma for DU Web-site

Title	Dr.	First Name	A.J.	Last Name	Urfi	Photograph
Designation		Associate Prof.				
Address		Department of Environmental Studies, University of Delhi (North Campus), Mall Road, New Delhi 110007				
Phone No Office		-				
Residence		-				
Mobile		-				
Email		ajurfi@rediffmail.com				
Web-Page						
Educational Qualifications						
Degree		Institution			Year	
Ph.D.		University of Delhi			1988	
Any other qualification		CSIR – NET			1985	
Career Profile						
Dec, 2001- <i>present</i>		Reader/Associate Professor		Department of Environmental Studies, University of Delhi		
Jan, 2001- Dec 2001		Lecturer		Department of Environmental Biology, University of Delhi		
1996 - 2001		Scientist SD		Centre for Environment Education, Ahmedabad		
1995- 1996		CSIR Pool Officer		Department of Zoology, University of Delhi		
1994 (uptill Sept)		Higher Scientific Officer		NERC Institute of Terrestrial Ecology, Furzebrook, Dorset, England		
Jan 1993 – 1994		EC Fellow		NERC Institute of Terrestrial Ecology, Furzebrook, Dorset, England		
1991		Lecturer (Temp)		Ramjas College, University of Delhi		
1989 -1992		CSIR Research Associate		School of Environmental Sciences, Jawaharlal Nehru University, Delhi.		

Administrative Assignments
Head, Department of Environmental Biology, University of Delhi (Jan 2004 - Jan 2007)
Areas of Interest / Specialization
Behavioural Ecology • Foraging and nesting ecology of aquatic birds • Mating patterns in storks and evolution of Sexual Size Dimorphism • Biodiversity Conservation • Urban Ecology • Environment and science education related writing • History of Science
Brief account of research: Previous work in my lab (2001-10) focused on the ecology of colonial waterbirds using the Painted Stork as a model. Questions relating to foraging ecology, nesting patterns, evolution of sexual size dimorphism, mating patterns etc. were explored. Most of these studies have been detailed in my book, ' <i>The Painted Stork: Ecology and Conservation</i> ' (2011, Springer, New York). Field studies on sympatric cormorants (<i>Phalacrocorax</i> spp.) were also undertaken with respect to foraging patterns and kleptoparasitism. I have also been involved in science popularization (<i>Birds Beyond Watching</i> , 2004, articles in <i>Resonance</i> and other periodicals) and researching on literary and historical aspects of natural history writings (<i>Birds of India: A Literary Anthology</i> , OUP, 2008). Besides the above a PhD research project on avian diversity of the Aravalli hills in Rajasthan was successfully completed in my lab. I was also involved in guiding research, for a PhD degree, as a co-supervisor, on bio-medical and toxicological subjects. The work currently underway in my laboratory is along the following lines: (1) Studies on genetic diversity of Painted Stork populations across India by using DNA microsatellite markers, (2) Studies on the evolution of coloniality, ecology of heronry birds, (3) Urban Ecology, (4) Environmental Toxicology
Subjects Taught
<u>At University of Delhi</u>
<p>(1.) At B.Sc level (as lecturer, Ramjas College, in 1991) following topics (<i>theory and practical</i>) taught: <i>Animal physiology, vertebrate & invertebrate zoology, ecology etc.</i> in different courses.</p> <p>(2.) Cooperative teaching in M.Sc Environmental Biology, Department of Environmental Biology (1992 & 1995).</p> <p>(3.) In M.Sc Environmental Biology, Department of Environmental Biology (2001- 2011). Topics taught: <i>Biological thought and history of science, Vertebrate diversity and evolution, Field Biology and Ornithology, Conservation Biology, Sustainable Development, history of the conservation movement, Behavioural ecology, biogeography</i> in the papers: Paper IV- Evolution & Systematics, Paper IX- Conservation & Development , Course No. EVB: 414, Conservation, Development & Society (in the semester mode).</p> <p>(4.) In MA/ M.Sc Environmental Studies, Department of Environmental Studies (2010-present). Topics taught: <i>resources, conflict over resources (Indian case studies), Environmental Communication & Education</i> in courses: Course No. 03: Environment, Development and Sustainability (Sem I, Part 1), Course No. 07: Urban ecology (Sem II, part 2), Course No. 08: Natural Resources: Their conservation and management (Sem II, part 2), Course No.15: Environmental Communication & Education (Sem IV, Part 2).</p> <p>(5.) PhD. Environmental Studies, Department of Environmental Studies: Course work.</p>
<u>At CEE, Ahmedabad (1995-2000)</u>
Teaching in training courses such as TEE, SASEANEE etc. using a variety of indoor and outdoor teaching methods

Research Guidance

List against each head (If applicable)

1. Supervision of awarded Doctoral Thesis: 5
2. Supervision of Doctoral Thesis, under progress: 3
3. Supervision of MSc project dissertations: 23

Publications Profile [urfi complete publications.pdf](#)

1. Books/Monographs (Authored/Edited)

Urfi, A.J. (2011) *The Painted Stork, Ecology and Conservation*. Springer, New York.

Urfi, A.J. (2008) *Birds of India, A Literary Anthology* (Edited). Oxford University Press, New Delhi.

Urfi, A.J. (2004) *Birds, Beyond Watching*. Universities Press, Hyderabad.

2. Research papers published in Refereed/Peer Reviewed Journals

Urfi, A.J (2015 *in press*) Foraging ecology and conservation of waders along coast of India: Need for detailed studies. *Wader Study*. vol 122.

Urfi, A.J. & N.K.Tiwary (2015) Does *Prosopis juliflora* negatively impact upon the nesting success of heronry birds? A critique of a report in *Current Science*. *Curr Sci*. **108** (No. 11, 10 June): 1973- 1974.

Sharma, B.B., M. Mustafa., T.Sharma, B.D. Banerjee & A.J.Urifi (2014) Cross-species amplification of microsatellite markers in *Mycteria leucocephala* Pennant 1769: Molted feathers as successful DNA source. *Indian J Exp Biology*.**52**:1011- 1016.

Urfi, A.J. (2012) Birdwatchers, Middle Class and the 'Bharat-India' Divide. Perspectives from Recent Bird Writings. *Economic & Political Weekly*. October 20. Vol. **XLVII** (No.42):27- 29.

Dwevedi, R & A.J.Urifi (2011) Discovery of a large heronry at Chhata, near Mathura, in western Uttar Pradesh. *J. Bombay Nat. Hist. Soc.***108** (3):229-230.

Urfi, A.J (2011) The foraging behavior of Painted Stork (*Mycteria leucocephala*): A review. *Waterbirds*. **34**(4): 448-456.

Urfi, A.J (2011) Climate change and its impacts on Indian birds: monsoon phenology and monitoring heronry birds. *Current Science*.**101** (9), 10 November: 1140-1142.

Mahinderan, M. & A J Urfi (2010) Foraging patterns and kleptoparasitism among three sympatric cormorants (*Phalacrocorax* spp.) from the Delhi region, North India *Hydrobiologia*. **638**:21-28.

Urfi, A.J. (2010) Using heronry birds to monitor Urbanization Impacts: A case study of Painted Stork *Mycteria leucocephala* nesting in the Delhi Zoo, India. *Ambio*. **39**: 190-193.

Urfi, A.J (2010) Factors causing nest losses in the Painted Stork *Mycteria leucocephala*: a review of some Indian studies. *J. Bombay Nat. Hist. Soc.***107** (1): 55 – 58.

Meganathan, T. & A.J.Urifi (2009) Inter-Colony Variations in Nesting Ecology of Painted Stork (*Mycteria leucocephala*) in the Delhi Zoo (North India) *Waterbirds*. **32**(2): 352-356

Kalam, A. & A.J.Urifi. (2008) Foraging behaviour and prey size of the painted stork (*Mycteria leucocephala*).

Journal of Zoology. **274**: 198–204

Urfi, A.J, T. Meganathan & A. Kalam (2007) Nesting ecology of Painted Stork (*Mycteria leucocephala*) at Sultanpur National Park (Haryana), India. *Forktail*. **23**: 150- 153.

Urfi, A.J & A Kalam (2006) Sexual size dimorphism and mating pattern in the Painted Stork (*Mycteria leucocephala*) *Waterbirds*. **29**(4): 489-496.

3. a) Research /general papers published in Academic Journals other than Refereed/Peer Reviewed Journals

Tiwary, N. K., Sharma, B. B., & Urfi, A. J. (2014). Two new nesting colonies of Painted Stork *Mycteria leucocephala* from northern India. *Indian BIRDS* . **9** (4): 85-88.

Urfi, A.J. & M Mahindiran. (2011) The status of the Oriental Darter *Anhinga melanogaster* in the Delhi region, India. *Cormorant Research Group Bulletin*.**7**: 47-56.

Urfi, A.J (2010) Musings on a wetland. *Jalaplavit* (exploring wetlands, an e-magazine) Vol **2**, No.1. Feb 2010. pp: 4-6

a) Research papers published in Refereed/Peer Reviewed Conferences

Pathak, R, S G Suke, R S Ahmed, A K Tripathi, K Guleria, C S Sharma, S D Makhijani, A J Urfi & B D Banerjee (2007) Organochlorine pesticide residue levels and oxidative stress in preterm birth cases: A possible correlation. *Toxicology Letters* Vol 172S, 7 Oct, 2007: Q15, p S105. (Abstracts of the **44th Congress of the European Societies of Toxicology**, Amsterdam, The Netherlands, 7-10 October, 2007

Urfi, A.J. (2006) *Biodiversity conservation in an urban landscape. A case study of some Important Bird Areas on the river Yamuna in Delhi (India)* (pp: 303-317). In: **Conservation Biology in Asia** (edited by J.A.McNeely, T.M.McCarthy, A Smith, L Olsvig - Whittaker and E.D.Wikramanayake) Society for Conservation Biology (Asia Section) & Resources Himalaya Foundation, Nepal, Kathmandu.

4. Other publications (Edited works, Book reviews, Festschrift volumes, etc.) [By invitation]

Urfi A J (in prep) *Food and Foraging ecology of Indian aquatic birds: Implications for conservation intervention*. In: **Wetland Science, Perspectives from South Asia** (eds) Prusty et al. Springer, India.

Urfi, A. J. (2014) *Long-Term Research and Monitoring of Painted Stork Nesting Colonies: Two case studies from North India*. In: **Waterbirds of India** (eds) G.V.Gopi & S.A. Hussain, *ENVIS Bulletin: Wildlife & Protected Areas*. Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun, India. Vol. 16, (2013-14). Pp: 32-43.

N.K.Tiwary & A J Urfi (2013) *Bird occupancy in an urban landscape: A case study from Delhi*. In: **Urban Biodiversity and Conservation Seminar**. 23rd Nov, 2013. Indian National Trust for Arts and Cultural Heritage (INTACH), Delhi.

Urfi, A. J. (2007) *The wetlands of the Indo-Gangetic plains*. (pp: 85-97). In: **India through its birds** (ed) Zafar Futehally. Dronequill Publishers, Bangalore.

Book reviews

Urfi, A.J. *Journal of Asian Studies*, 2004: **63** (1).pp: 224-225. (*The Use and Abuse of Nature*" (Incorporating, 'This Fissured Land' and 'Ecology and Equity') by M Gadgil & R Guha).

Urfi, A.J. *Journal of Asian Studies*, 2004: **63** (1).pp: 211. ('On the banks of the Ganga' by Kelly D. Alley.)

Miscellaneous writing/science education/teaching related etc

Urfi, A.J. (2013) Grappling with 'Natural Selection' – Experiences of a Teacher. *Resonance*. Vol **18**, No. 5 (May) : 468 - 474. [<http://www.ias.ac.in/resonance/May2013/p468-474.pdf>]

Urfi, A.J. (2008) Green (Report of the lecture: 'Peeps and twitters from my window' by Peter G Kaestner at IIC, March 18, 2008). *Diary India International Centre*, **22/2**, March- April 2008: 4.

Conference Organization/ Presentations (in the last three years)

List against each head(If applicable)

1. *Organization of a Conference- nil*
2. *Participation as Paper/Poster Presenter- details below*

Presentations/participation in professional meetings, Seminar's delivered & Sessions chaired (Several, see cv)

Invited lectures in training courses, broadcasts etc (Several, including in CPDHE courses)

Research Projects (Major Grants/Research Collaboration)

External: *Title of Project:* Field studies on the foraging ecology of the Painted Stork in relation to the trophic dynamics of chosen fresh water wetlands. *Position in Project:* Principal Investigator. *Period:* March 2003 - August, 2006. *Funding Agency:* Ministry of Environment & Forests, Government of India.

Internal: University of Delhi & DST-Purse

Awards and Distinctions

European Commission Fellowship (Marie Curie Bursary) 1993

Fulbright Fellowship, 2006

Association With Professional Bodies

nil

Other Activities

Examiner

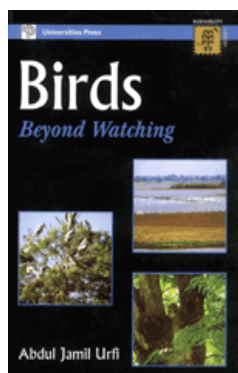
Examiner of PhD thesis from several Indian universities.

Editing and refereeing

(Several- see detailed cv elsewhere)



Critical Acclaim

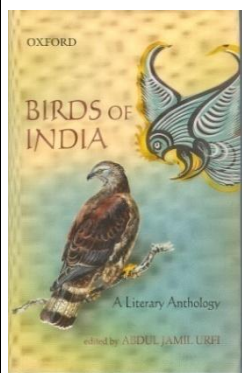


Birds, Beyond Watching.

Universities Press, Hyderabad, 2004.

Reviews

1. (Avian Adventure) **Hindu Online**, 15/09/2004.
2. **The Hindu**, November 14 2004.
3. **Hornbill**, Oct-Dec 2004 (reprinted in **Birding Asia** 2005).
4. **Indian Birds** Vol 1. No.2 (March - April 2005) pp:40-41.
5. (Production of the book 'Birds Beyond Watching') **OBC Bulletin** No. 34. P:17.
6. (Jonathan Livingston Seagull) **Indian Express**, The real Page 3, March 6, 2005.
7. (Value added birdwatching) Feb 28, 2006. **Down to earth**.p. 53.
8. **Ibis**, 2006 (vol 148) p. 192.
9. **Current Science**, Vol. 92, NO. 6, 25 March 2007.
[\[http://cs-test.ias.ac.in/cs/php/toc.php?vol=092&issue=06\]](http://cs-test.ias.ac.in/cs/php/toc.php?vol=092&issue=06)



Birds of India: A Literary Anthology (Edited).

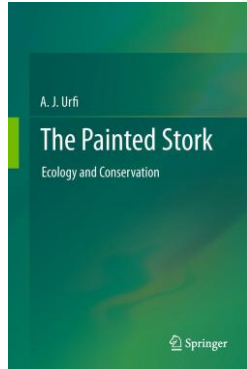
Oxford University Press, New Delhi, 2008. (4th Reprint 2014).

Reviews

1. (Words on a wing) **India Today** February 11, 2008 p- 76.
2. (Gold Thrush) **Outlook** March 03, 2008.
3. (Our feathered Friends) **The Hindu, Sunday Magazine** March 09, 2008.
4. (Literary bird book) **Mumbai Mirror**, April 17, 2008.
5. (Recent ornithological publications) **Ibis** (2008),150 p- 651.
6. (A representative Selection) **The Book Review**, Vol 32, No. 12, December 2008.
7. (Selected reviews of Books on Indian Birds) **Kolkatabirds**
<http://www.kolkatabirds.com/bookreview.htm>
8. <http://hubpages.com/hub/Black-Racer-Snakes-Harmless-to-Humans-yet-the-Epitome-of-Unforgiving-Predator>

9. 'review' on **Goodreads**. Aug 23, 11.

<http://www.goodreads.com/review/show/143688428> accessed on July 2014



The Painted Stork: Ecology and Conservation.

Springer, New York & Dordrecht, 2011.

Listing in periodicals

1. ***Journal of Wildlife Management*** 2011, 75(8):1820-1822.
2. ***Current Science*** 25 Feb 2012. Publications Received.
3. ***WorldBirdwatch*** (Birdlife International) September 2012: 25. Books.

Reviews

1. ***Current Science*** (2012) 102/12 (25th June), pp: 1715-1716. *by* Raman Kumar
[\[http://cs-test.ias.ac.in/cs/php/cissue.php\]](http://cs-test.ias.ac.in/cs/php/cissue.php)
2. ***Ibis*** (2012)154/3 (July), pp: 639 - 654. *by* Malcolm C. Coulter
3. ***Waterbirds*** (2013) 36/1, pp:111-112. *by* Larry Bryan

