



Faculty Details proforma for DU Web-site

Title	Dr.	First Name	Abdul Jamil	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		
UG	Aligarh Muslim University				1980		
PG	Aligarh Muslim University				1982		
Ph.D.	University of Delhi				1988		
Any other qualification	CSIR – NET				1985		
Career Profile							
Jan 2006- <i>present</i>	Associate Professor	Department of Environmental Studies, University of Delhi					
Dec 2001- Jan 2006	Reader	Department of Environmental Biology, University of Delhi					
2006 (March-June)	Fulbright Fellow	Department of Wildlife, University of Florida- Gainesville, & Department of Zoology, University of Wisconsin-Madison, USA					
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 – Jan 1994	European Commission 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).

Acting Head, Dept Environmental Studies (during 2013, 2014)

Served as member of various committees in the Department and University

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 • Environmental trends and their impacts

Brief account of academic activities: Previous work in my lab (2002-11) focused on the ecology of colonial waterbirds using the Painted Stork (*Mycteria leucocephala*) 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, '*The Painted Stork: Ecology and Conservation*' (2011, Springer). Field studies on sympatric cormorants (*Phalacrocorax* spp.) were also undertaken with respect to foraging patterns and kleptoparasitism. I have also been involved in science popularization (*Birds Beyond Watching*, articles in *Resonance* and other periodicals) and researching on literary and historical aspects of natural history writings (*Birds of India: A Literary Anthology*). Besides the above a PhD research project on avian diversity of the Aravali hills in Rajasthan was successfully completed in my lab. I was also involved in guiding research, as a co-supervisor, on bio-medical and toxicological topics.

Current work (2012 onwards): (1) Studies on genetic diversity of Painted Stork populations using DNA microsatellite markers, (2) Evolution of 'avian coloniality'; modeling nest survival in Painted Stork colonies, (3) Urban Ecology.

Teaching & subjects taught

- (1.) At Ramjas College (1991) following topics (theory and practical) taught: Animal physiology, vertebrate & invertebrate zoology, ecology etc. in B.Sc courses.
- (2.) Cooperative teaching in M.Sc Environmental Biology, Department of Environmental Biology (1992 & 1995).
- (3.) At CEE, Ahmedabad (1996-2001), teaching in training courses such as TEE, SASEANEE etc. using a variety of indoor and outdoor teaching methods
- (4.) In M.Sc Environmental Biology, Department of Environmental Biology (2001- 2011). Topics taught: 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
- (5.) In MA/ M.Sc Environmental Studies, Department of Environmental Studies (2010-present). Topics taught: resources, conflict over resources (Indian case studies), Environmental Communication & Education, Urban ecology.
- (6.) PhD. Environmental Studies, Department of Environmental Studies: Course work.

Research Guidance

List against each head (If applicable)

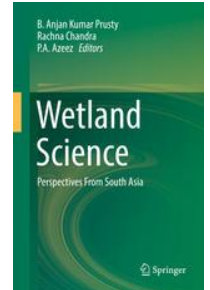
1. Supervision of awarded Doctoral Thesis: 5
2. Supervision of submitted Doctoral Thesis: 2
3. Supervision of Doctoral Thesis, under progress: 1
4. Supervision of MSc project dissertations: 24

Recent publications

2017

Urfi A J (2017) Foraging Ecology of Aquatic Birds: Implications for Conservation Intervention and Suggestions for Future Research (Ch 7). Pp: 129-141. In: *Wetland Science, Perspectives from South Asia*. (Eds) Prusty, B. A.K, Chandra, R & P. A. Azeez. Springer (India) DOI 10.1007/978-81-322-3715-0_7.

ISBN 978-81-322-3713-6 (Print) 978-81-322-3715-0 (Online)



Urfi A J (2017) Values Associated with Village Tanks and Some Instances of Enviro-Legal Activism for Wetland Conservation. (Ch 29).Pp: 563-573. In: *Wetland Science, Perspectives from South Asia*. (Eds) Prusty, B. A.K, Chandra, R & P. A. Azeez. Springer (India) DOI 10.1007/978-81-322-3715-0_29.

ISBN 978-81-322-3713-6 (Print) 978-81-322-3715-0 (Online)



2016

Tiwari, N.K & A.J. Urfi (2016) Spatial variations of bird occupancy in Delhi: The significance of woodland habitat patches in urban centres. *Urban Forestry & Urban Greening*. 20: 338-347. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.ufug.2016.10.002> 1618-8667

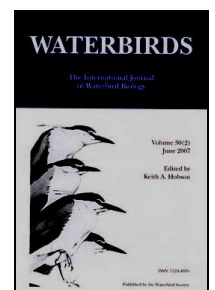
ISSN: 1618-8667 (Elsevier)



Tiwari, N.K & A.J. Urfi (2016) Nest Survival in Painted Stork (*Mycteria leucocephala*) Colonies of North India: the Significance of Nest Age, Annual Rainfall and Winter Temperature. *Waterbirds*. **39(2)**: 146-155.

Journal of Waterbird Society, USA.

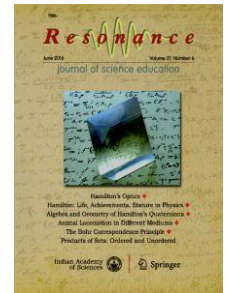
ISSN: 1938-5390



Urfi, A.J. (2016) Animal Locomotion in Different Mediums. The Adaptations of Wetland Organisms. *Resonance*. Vol **21 (6)** June: 545- 556.

Journal of Science Education, Indian Academy of Sciences, Bengaluru.

ISSN: 0971-8044 (print)

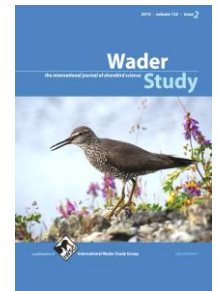


2015

Urfi, A.J. (2015) Foraging ecology and conservation of waders along coast of India: Need for detailed studies. *Wader Study* **122(2)**:153–159. Doi: 10.18194/ws.00013

International Wader Study Group, The Netherlands.

ISSN: 0260-3799.



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 2015): 1973- 1974.

Current Science Association, Bengaluru.

ISSN 0011-3891

2014

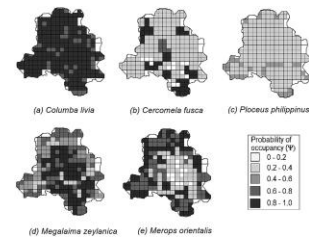
Sharma, B.B., M. Mustafa., T.Sharma, B.D. Banerjee and A.J.Urfi (2014) Cross-species amplification of microsatellite markers in *Mycteria leucocephala* Pennant 1769: Molted feathers as successful DNA source. *Indian J Exp Biology*.**52**:1011- 1016. IJEB (October 2014 issue) <http://nopr.niscair.res.in/handle/123456789/29424>

ISSN: 0975-1009 (Online); 0019-5189 (Print)



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





For List of Publications by A J Urfi (Last updated, 19th July 2016) see

[http://www.du.ac.in/du/uploads/Faculty%20Profiles/2016/EnvironmentalStudies/Nov2016 Environmental Abdul.pdf](http://www.du.ac.in/du/uploads/Faculty%20Profiles/2016/EnvironmentalStudies/Nov2016%20Environmental%20Abdul.pdf)



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)

Invited lectures in training courses, broadcasts etc (Several)

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

Commission Member IUCN SSC Stork, Ibis and Spoonbill Specialist Group 2017-2020

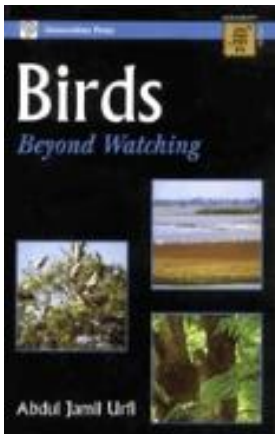
Other Activities

Examiner

Examiner of PhD thesis from several Indian universities

Editing and refereeing: Several

Critical Acclaim



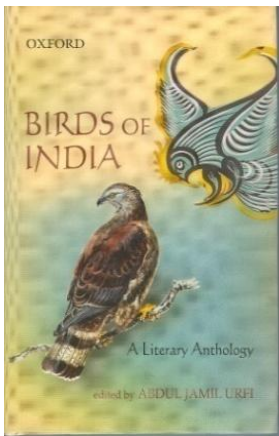
Birds, Beyond Watching.

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 India, 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

