

RETURN OF WHITE-TAILED EAGLE DENMARK'S FLYING DOOR

By Sudin K

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'If you are interested in protecting nature, you must get the young interested,' Ole says. He adds, with quiet satisfaction: 'You are happy when they are happy.'

On a frozen February Sunday, standing on a wooden platform at the edge of an iced-over lake in North Zealand, I scanned an empty sky. Not a single bird. Just the vast white silence of a Danish winter. I had come looking for the White-tailed eagle, *den flyvende dør*, or the flying door as the Danes call it, for its impressive wingspan of 2.5 meters. Whether it would agree to be met was another matter entirely.

It didn't show that day. But what the day gave me instead set in motion something far more interesting than a single sighting.

A bird lost and found

Hunted to extinction, the White-tailed eagle (*Haliaeetus albicilla*) was gone from Denmark for most of the 20th century. The elderly couple I met on that platform — years of eagle-chasing behind them — spoke of those years and the rumours of the day: a supposed threat to livestock and, some even claimed, to human babies. Whether those rumours were ever true, history does not confirm. What history does confirm is the absence of the bird from Danish skies for the best part of a century. Its return has been slow,

deliberate and extraordinary.

Small steps

The work that eventually brought it back began in the early 1990s, with small steps rather than a grand strategy. An early attempt to sustain Swedish eagles wintering in Denmark by providing meat had little success. The real turning point came in 1996, when young eagles were spotted in south Jutland near the German border. These turned out to be birds from a breeding protection project already underway in northern Germany — and crucially, that project was working. Denmark decided to

replicate it.

Commitment

In 1995, the Dansk Ornitologisk Forening, the Danish Ornithology Association, or DOF, launched Project Eagle (Projekt Ørn in Danish). The model was straightforward but demanded sustained commitment: assign a volunteer coordinator to each known nest, responsible for monitoring its safety, tracking breeding, and acting as a bridge between DOF, the forest owner, and local hunters. Legal protection for the White-tailed eagle had been



A close up of White-tailed Eagle



Power lies in talons of this species, White-tailed Eagle

in place in Denmark for some 80 years before Project Eagle (Ehmsen et al., 2011, DOFT).

Yet it was protection built on public outreach and partnerships that achieved what regulation alone had not.

DOF's 2004 annual report recorded just 12 breeding pairs. By 2024 that figure had risen to 150. Ole Larsen, one of the earliest leaders of Project Eagle, puts the current number at approximately 183 breeding pairs — possibly closer to 200 — and says the growth far exceeded anything they anticipated. The support of private forest owners and hunters, he adds, has been critical to that success.

A volunteer army

There are now upwards of 100 volunteer nest coordinators across Denmark, making Project Eagle the largest volunteer-driven conservation project in the country. Preben, one of several area coordinators, oversees 13 nesting locations alone.

Like all raptors, the White-tailed eagle is a slow breeder, reaching maturity only at five or six years of age and laying just two or three eggs a year. Unauthorized access to

nesting sites is prohibited during the breeding season from February to July— restrictions that, as Peter La Franz, a DOF volunteer, explained, are largely to deter over-enthusiastic photographers pushing ever closer for a better shot; a social media age problem as much as a conservation one. Any unmanaged disturbance risks disrupting the breeding cycle, which is why each coordinator's role is irreplaceable.

Changing minds

The shift has been as much cultural as ecological. Changing public sentiments in favour of conservation acted as a tailwind to the project, as DOF readily acknowledges. Kim Skelmos, who currently leads Project Eagle at DOF, has watched public perception transform over three decades. 'People's perception of the bird started changing,' he says. 'They began seeing the eagle as friendly — something they could live alongside.' Ole adds a detail that would have been unthinkable a generation ago:

'The closest nest we have is only around 50 meters from the nearest human presence.'

Eagle TV — a channel broadcasting live camera feeds from select nests

BIRDS DO NOT NEED VISA

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Iran? My colleague editor at CTIMES offers pleasant news. Lindon Cornwallis had studied Hume's Chat in Iran for his PhD.

US based David A. Ferguson's daughter served as a volunteer in Iran. George Archibald grouped Iran experts with those in USA, Russia, etc., to sustain the Western population of Siberian Cranes (Sibe), on decline for reasons.

He further adds: The last Sibe reaching Iran's Fereydunkener wetlands on coast of the Caspian sea was named as Omid meaning hope. It remained alone since 2007. To pair it, a captive born female called Roya was introduced there in 2023 and both migrated to Russia within months. Omid was not observed after 2023. It was presumed that the western population of this wild species was likely to be extinct. Sad as it was.

Much water has gone under the rivers in Middle East since. Oil is the main business. Consequently urban development is at its peak. Yet the Arab royalty has indescribable passion for falconry, their age old tradition.

Houbara is being bred in thousands. And released in wild in areas far north. Mohamed Bin Zayed Raptor Conservation Fund is functioning in Abu Dhabi. Munir Virani is its CEO. The CTIMES is carrying an item by him (Jam Side Up).

Praying for global peace, we try to recall wonderful work having been rendered in that region.



Kim Skelmosse, leader of Danish Project Eagle, making visitors aware of the raptor goals.

around the clock — has become one of the most watched programmes in Denmark. The 'flying door', has found its way into the national living room.

Getting the young involved

The focus on young people is a conscious strategy. Eagle Clubs and the annual Eagle Day, observed on the last Sunday of February, are designed to draw children into the world of conservation early.

The Club uses the bird's fascination as a gateway to broader bird and nature conservation.

'If you are interested in protecting nature, you must get the young interested,' Ole says.

He adds, with quiet satisfaction: 'You are happy when they are happy.'

Kim, who also personally leads the

ringing and GPS-tagging of the birds, takes a more hands-on approach with young visitors.

DOF routinely invites children to observe the process — close enough to touch.

'You can see the joy in their faces when they touch the bird,' he says, 'and that joy is infectious. It is a lifetime experience for them.' Preben added that it was during one such ringing exercise that his own

grandchild first encountered the bird.

The day it all came together

A week later, on another snowy Sunday morning, acting on the elderly couple's tip, I headed to an Eagle Day event closer to home. This time with my wife, daughter, and a friend's family—the two teens reluctantly coaxed out. We stood on a ridge with perhaps twenty others, families, elderly birders, a handful of children, while Peter swept a telescope slowly across the tree line.

And then, on top of a leafless birch tree some 500 meters away, a silhouette. Dark against the winter sky, but for that white tail — unmistakable, finally, there.

A child of about ten, binoculars around her neck, tugged at her mother's sleeve. She had seen it first.



Two year old White-tailed Eagle ringed by Germans in 2025 near Polish border and spotted on 27 February 2026 over Gedsar Island in Denmark

Jam Side Up

WHEN NUMBERS GET WORSE, HOPE TO BE MORE STUBBORN

By Munir Virani

Munir Virani is Chief Executive of the Abu-Dhabi-based Mohamed bin Zayed Raptor Conservation Fund dedicated to the protection and conservation of threatened birds of prey around the world.

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I am sitting on my balcony in Abu Dhabi, half listening for the low thud of interceptions, half watching the sky the way you do when the airspace is closed and the news is too loud to sleep through. And then a kestrel drops out of nowhere. Not flying.

It is March. Kestrels here are on eggs now. In a few weeks, if the world holds together long enough, those eggs will crack open and the cycle will do what it has done for millennia. I find enormous comfort in that.

But today, I read an article a study that made the comfort harder to hold.

The numbers nobody wanted

A new analysis of decades of North American breeding bird surveys examined 261 species across more than a thousand routes. The finding: an average loss of about 304 birds per route since 1987, roughly a 15 percent decline. Not just whether birds are declining, but whether they are declining faster. And the answer, across 63 species, is yes.

A parallel European study covering 170 species across 28 countries tells the same story from a different continent. Agricultural intensification, especially chemical inputs, correlates most tightly with population collapse.

The mechanism is one every field biologist knows in their gut: poison the invertebrates, and the shockwave travels up through the food web, hitting hardest during breeding season, when nestlings

need protein to survive their first weeks alive.

The problem with knowing too much

I spent sixteen years in the Masai Mara in Kenya. Sixteen years of tagging hundreds of vultures, fitting harnesses in the early light, tracking their movements across a landscape that still felt infinite. I ran road counts so often I could tell you the density of bateleurs along every stretch of dirt track, their absurd, beautiful rocking flight like controlled falling against a sky that never seemed to run out of raptors.

And here is where the story turns bitter in a way that keeps me up at night. The power companies and energy developers come to us asking for data. They always ask for data. We know why the birds are going.

Everyone knows. But data has become an obstacle to the goal, a stalling tactic dressed up as due

diligence.

My dear friend Simon Thomsett, a legendary figure in raptor conservation, put it in words I cannot improve on: “There are no more birds to kill.” So why are we still arguing about sample sizes? Fix the poles.

In Mongolia, the Mohamed bin Zayed Raptor Conservation Fund retrofitted 27,000 of them and cut electrocution by 95 percent. The solution exists. What is missing is not data. It is the will to act on what we already know.

In Nepal, I watched lammergeiers carry bones above the snowline, these enormous bearded vultures drifting against granite and ice as if gravity were a suggestion. In Sri Lanka, I stood in forests so dense the light had to negotiate its way down, and listened to Sri Lanka frogmouths calling at dusk with a sound that belonged more to the



A Bateleur flying across Kenya's Masai Mara, Mumir Virani

forest than to any single bird. In Central America, mixed flocks moved through the canopy like weather systems. And in Mongolia, the raptors were so thick over the steppe that you stopped counting. Sakers, golden eagles, upland buzzards, all stacked in the same thermal, hunting the same wind, filling the sky with purpose.

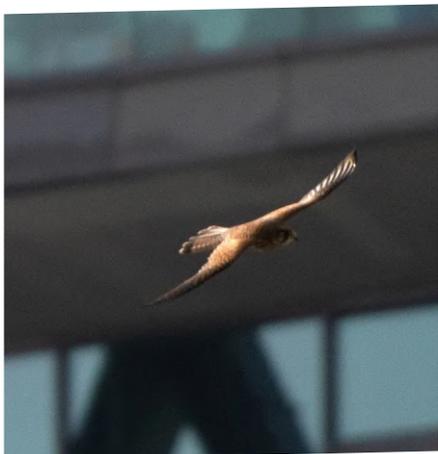
I did not know, in those years, that I was building a library of what we stand to lose. I thought I was just watching birds.

The recoveries nobody expected

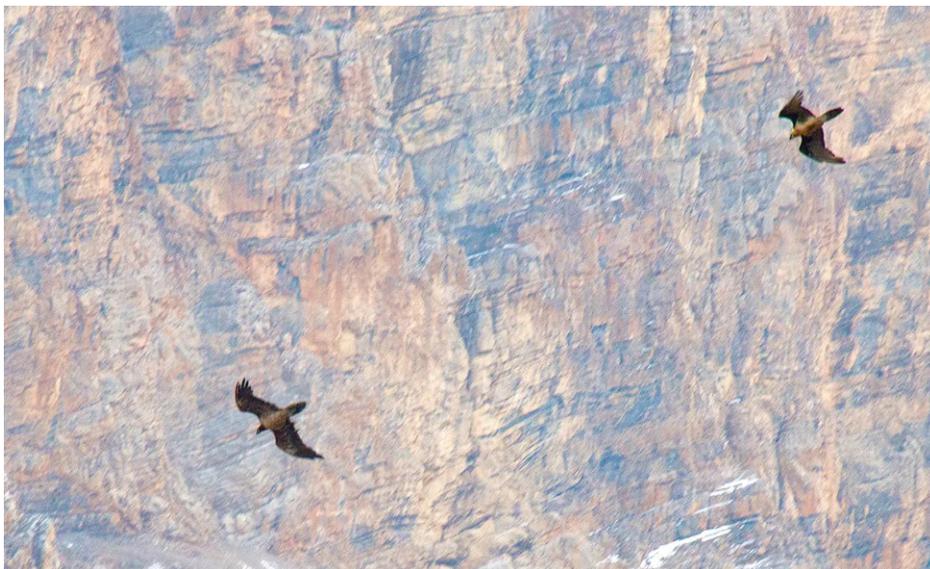
Despair is easy. It asks nothing of you. Hope, the real kind, is more demanding.

On Mauritius, the kestrel population crashed to a point where most biologists had written the species off entirely. A small, stubborn team led by the legendary Dr Carl Jones refused to accept the math. With just four known birds left, they began an aggressive captive breeding program and released them into the forests. Later through the Mauritius Wildlife Foundation, they built nest boxes, managed predators, and monitored released birds. The forests had themselves been mauled by invasive species. The Mauritius kestrel is still here, in its hundreds. Not because luck intervened. Because people did.

Across South Asia, vultures



A Common Kestrel soaring effortlessly outside my balcony, Mumir Virani



Bearded Vultures soaring against the Annapurnas in Nepal, Mumir Virani

collapsed by the millions after a veterinary painkiller called diclofenac turned livestock carcasses into poison. When the drug was identified and banned, the decline began to slow. In some populations, it may be reversing. It is fragile. It is incomplete. But the curve bent because someone traced the cause and then fought to remove it.

These are not fairy tales. They are engineering projects. Recoveries are built, monitored, repaired, and defended by people who refuse to let the story end at the worst chapter.

What hope actually looks like

Hope is not optimism. Optimism is a feeling. Hope is a practice.

It looks like standardized monitoring that tells the truth even when the truth is brutal. It looks like modelling that separates decline from acceleration so we catch the problem while there is still time to bend the curve. It looks like field teams and volunteers and agency biologists and policy advocates, all doing unglamorous, repetitive, necessary work.

François Leroy, the lead author of the new study, put it simply: if we act, we will see the impact in our lifetime.

That is not a promise of easy wins. It is a reminder that biological systems respond when we stop squeezing them from every direction.

One small thing, done well

You do not have to carry the whole planet to be part of its repair. Plant native species. Even a balcony pot with the right plant becomes habitat for the insects that feed the birds that hold the web together. Make your glass visible. Window collisions kill staggering numbers of birds, and the solutions are simple and proven. If you hunt, choose non-lead ammunition. The condor data makes this one unambiguous.

And if none of those apply to your life right now, choose the smallest thing of all. Choose attention. Choose to keep caring when it would be easier to go numb. Because the point of jam side up is not pretending the fall did not happen. It is refusing to let the fall be the end of the story.

I am still on my balcony. The kestrel is gone. Somewhere nearby, she is sitting on eggs in the dark, doing the only thing she knows how to do. And I find, unexpectedly, that it is enough to keep me going too.

REASON UNILEVER, PATAGONIAN, BOSCH & IKEA ARE PROOF-POINTS

By Alusch H. Amoghli

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In the evolving landscape of corporate responsibility and sustainable capitalism, companies such as Unilever, Patagonia, Bosch, and IKEA are widely recognized as benchmark cases of successful ESG (Environmental, Social, Governance) integration. They are living proof that sustainability, resilience, and profitability can be mutually reinforcing when ESG is truly integrated.

Inbuilt pillar: All four companies treat ESG not as a peripheral initiative, but as a **strategic pillar** embedded in corporate purpose, planning, and performance.

Unilever's Sustainable Living Plan serves as a blueprint for aligning sustainability goals with business growth. Rather than setting parallel “CSR goals,” Unilever connects ESG directly to brand performance, innovation, and market expansion. Its strategic pivot under former CEO Paul Polman toward long-term value over short-term shareholder pressure became a model for ESG-focused leadership.

Patagonia's mission: “We're in business to save our home planet” and it goes beyond compliance or risk management. ESG is the business model. Strategic decisions such as donating 100% of profits to environmental causes, pursuing B-Corp certification, or designing products to last rather than turnover quickly, all stem from this deeply integrated ESG mind set.

IKEA: It has “People & Planet Positive” strategy which illustrates how sustainability goals



can drive innovation, affordability, and brand loyalty. IKEA's vision of becoming climate positive by 2030 is not aspirational. It is backed by clear roadmaps across design, sourcing, energy, logistics, and even customer use behavior.

Bosch: It integrates ESG at the corporate planning level through its focus on **technological innovation for societal benefit**. From smart mobility and climate-friendly building technologies to employee development and ethical AI, ESG themes are structurally tied to long-term business viability and competitiveness.

Supply Chain: IKEA and Patagonia are rigorous about sourcing. IKEA invests in traceability tools and partners with



third-party certifiers like FSC to ensure responsible forest stewardship. Patagonia audits suppliers against high social and environmental standards and discloses its entire supply chain—setting transparency norms in the fashion industry.

Product Development: Bosch embeds sustainability in product lifecycle management—designing energy-efficient home appliances and developing hydrogen and e-mobility solutions.

Unilever reformulates thousands of products to meet strict environmental and health criteria.

Circular Economy: IKEA's take-back schemes, repair guides, and resale programs support the shift from linear to circular consumption.

Patagonia's “Worn Wear” program encourages product longevity and reuse, reinforcing both environmental and brand values.

Carbon Footprint: Bosch achieved climate neutrality across all operations globally in 2020, using a mix of renewable energy, offsets, and efficiency gains. IKEA owns renewable energy assets and is shifting its entire delivery fleet to

electric vehicles.

Cross-functional collaboration is standard. IKEA integrates sustainability into product teams, logistics, HR, and finance—embedding ESG into core decision-making processes. Patagonia's activism is supported by internal education, alignment processes, and even legal structures (it is now owned by a non-profit trust to ensure its mission remains intact).

Investor Attraction: Unilever has consistently been favored by ESG-conscious investors, appearing in numerous sustainability indices (e.g., Dow Jones Sustainability Index, FTSE4Good). IKEA, though privately held, publishes sustainability reports that align with investor-grade expectations.

Risk Reduction: By addressing ESG risks proactively—climate risk, supply chain disruptions, social license to operate—these companies lower their exposure to costly future liabilities or regulatory sanctions.

One of the most overlooked yet crucial dimensions of ESG success is **internal and external stakeholder alignment**

Employees: ESG leaders often



How companies can shape markets and norms through values-based leadership, and for corporates, seeking credible, practical models of ESG implementation, how such companies can offer “proof of concept” but also a “strategic blueprint” for value creation in the age of sustainability....

The CTIMES recommends such practices to be adopted by all companies to cause examples, nay own benefits.



report higher employee retention and engagement. IKEA and Patagonia, for example, use sustainability as a **cultural and motivational driver** internally. Bosch emphasizes lifelong learning, gender equity, and workplace wellbeing as part of its broader ESG agenda.

Customers: These companies build **consumer trust and loyalty** by offering transparency and values-driven branding. Patagonia's political advocacy resonates with its customer base.

IKEA engages customers in sustainability through accessible, low-cost green solutions for the home.

Policymakers: These firms also play a proactive role in shaping the **regulatory environment**. Unilever and Bosch have advocated for more robust climate policies and sustainable industry standards, acting as ESG policy influencers rather than passive observers.

Integrated Reporting: Unilever integrates sustainability and financial results to demonstrate the connectivity between ESG actions and business performance.

IKEA and Bosch commit to science-based emission reduction targets aligned with the Paris Agreement.

Certification: Patagonia is B-Corp certified; IKEA collaborates with certifiers and NGOs to validate its environmental claims.

ESG FRAMEWORK?

Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) is a framework used by investors and businesses to measure a company's sustainability, ethical impact, and risk management practices.

It evaluates performance beyond financial metrics, focusing on environmental impact, social responsibility, and corporate leadership transparency to inform investment decisions and corporate strategy.

Environmental (E): Focuses on a company's impact on the planet, including energy consumption, greenhouse gas emissions, waste management, pollution control, and natural resource conservation.

Social (S): Examines relationships with employees, suppliers, customers, and communities, covering health and safety, diversity and inclusion, labour practices, and community engagement.

Governance (G): Addresses company leadership, audits, internal controls, executive compensation, shareholder rights, and transparency.

CHILIKA BUFFALOES: UNSUNG HEROES OF THIS RAMSAR SITE WETLAND

By **Indrani Chakraborty**

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The dawn mist still hangs over Chilika Lake when the first fisherman's boat glides across the lake. On the lone road circumventing the vast wetlands, a slow, deliberate procession unfolds. Herds of sturdy, dark-coated buffaloes, their sweeping horns silhouetted against the rising sun, march homeward after a night spent grazing in the water.

For the early morning birding guides and their guests, armed with long lenses and hopes of capturing a rare migratory species, this is a familiar, sometimes frustrating, delay. The herds claim the right of way, their slow movement momentarily halting the quest for the perfect shot. Yet, this daily interruption is not just an inconvenience. It is a living, moving indicator of the health of this Ramsar Site including the birds that the tourists flock to see.

Key-factors: These 29,000-odd pure-bred Chilika buffaloes are keystones of a delicate ecosystem, silent engineers of one of Asia's



A Purple Heron having lunch at Chilika, Soumya Mukherji

most vital wetlands. They are endowed with a unique hardiness: they enter the deep, salty water, feed on aquatic vegetation like 'Chhera' and 'Pitta' that no other creature would touch. They are raised in the open, immune to most diseases that affect other milch cattle, and need no shelter, thriving

under hot sun and heavy rains.

Their nightly grazing is a mission of cleansing and renewal, preventing the wetlands from becoming choked and stagnant. The open water patches they create are lifelines, and their splashing helps oxygenate the lake waters, vital for healthy fish growth. By dawn, the herd returns to give their precious milk, only 2 to 5 liters per animal, but liquid gold in its own right.

The benefits of this unique routine ripple through the ecosystem. The dung and urine the buffaloes deposit fertilize the water, nurturing 'phytoplanktons'.

This feeds the zooplankton, which feeds the fish and crustaceans like prawns and crabs, which ultimately feed the tens of thousands of migratory birds that flock to the Mangalajodi Wetlands each winter.

Bird-benefits: The presence of the buffaloes directly benefits the



Buffaloes wading through water in Chilika Ramsar Site, Soumya Mukherjee



Ruddy Shelducks being served new feed by Buffaloes, Soumya Mukherji

birds. While grazing, they expose the roots of Bermuda grass, which many birds eat. A visible symbiotic relationship exists, with birds often seen riding on their backs, pecking at insects and roots disturbed by the buffaloes.

"Our farmers rely on these resilient, docile animals for their livelihood. A small herd can sustain a family. The milk, slightly salty yet rich, is prized for its purity and is

transformed into a remarkable curd, which can stay fresh for up to a week without refrigeration " says Sanathan, a local who now earns his living taking tourists around this delicate wetland.

Beyond milk, these 'living tractors' provide farm power, pulling, plowing, and carting loads. Furthermore, villagers use "dung patties" (a sun-dried mix of dung and leaves) as fuel, saving vast

amounts of firewood and reducing deforestation.

What threat: But this ancient harmony is under threat. The introduction of other buffalo breeds has led to crossbreeding.

The hybrid calves, often created through artificial insemination with Murrah buffalo, tell a cautionary tale. They are reluctant to enter the lake, unable to digest



Ducks having gala feed at Chilika, Soumya Mukherji



Brahminy Ducks and Egret receiving advantages of grazing at Chilika, Soumya Mukherji

the saline weeds, and must be fed hay and grass on land.

They fall sick more easily, prone to parasitic diseases like liver fluke infection, and need regular medication and shelter. Their milk yield remains low, breaking the beautiful, low-cost, zero-investment cycle that defines the pure Chilika breed.

The decline of the pure Chilika buffalo has consequences far beyond the farm. As their numbers drop, the reduction in grazing leads to unchecked weed growth, clogging the lake. The very health of the lake, which supports a fishing industry for nearly two lakh people, is intertwined with the fate of this unique breed.

The significance of the Chilika buffalo runs even deeper, plaited into the spiritual fabric of Odisha.

Local mythology, drawn from the Jagannath culture and the celebrated Kanchi Kaveri legend, tells a divine tale. During the Gajapati King

Purushottama Deva's expedition to Kanchi, it is said that Lord Jagannath and Balabhadra, disguised as soldiers, stopped near Chilika.

There, they encountered a humble milkmaid named Manika and asked to buy yoghurt and milk.

Lord's blessing: Having no way to pay, Lord Jagannath gave her his gem-studded ring.

Later, when the king saw the ring, he recognized its divine origin, understanding that the gods had blessed his quest.

In gratitude, he rewarded Manika with an entire village, now known as Manikpatna. This story, chronicled in Jagannath temple traditions, sanctifies the buffalo milk of Chilika and celebrates its givers.

These narratives show that the Chilika buffaloes are more than just elements of the ecosystem.

They shape the landscape, realign the actions of both birds and

birders, and keep alive a rich continuum of spiritual lore and cultural identity.

This biodiversity in buffalo germ plasm is unique and must be preserved.

The future lies not in failed crossbreeding, but in promoting the pure breed and passing on traditional knowledge.

Lake-guardians: As we sit in our country boat admiring another large herd ambling leisurely through the marshy waters, I can not help feeling how we have vilified these gentle giants and overlooked their role in preserving this wetland.

The path forward is to recognize these unsung heroes not as relics of the past, but as vital guardians of the lake's future.

--With thanks to S.K Patnaik, retired Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forest, Odisha and to the Guide, Sanathan.

TREE PROTEST GAINS GROUND BISHNOI COMMUNITY ON TOES

BY CONSERVATION TIMES DESK

ROCKED!

Yes, Government of Rajasthan appeared sweating!

Nearly 90 thousand men, women, and children congregated in Bikaner on 2 and 3 February 2026. The banner read: “Prakriti Bachao Maha-padaav” (Conserve Nature Sit-in Protest). On either side of banner were depicted Khejri trees (*Prosopis cineraria*), which offer, free of cost, all that people need for daily survival.

On the ground squatted people,

predominantly Bishnoi community. They were joined in by several other communities, and from variety of trade, business, occupations. Women appeared outnumbering men! Students served as keen volunteers.

Head for a Tree: Barring occasional slogans raised, no disturbance was caused. In hands they had innumerable placards, reading: “*Sir santhe roonkh rahe to bhi sasto jaan*” (if head is chopped off for a tree, it be treated as a cheap deal). The sermon this community chanted after 373 men-women had

given away own lives protecting Khejri trees in 1730 at a village near Jodhpur.

After 3 February, the massive strength melted. About 8,000 continued sitting, round the clock, till 12 February midnight when a Government Minister reached the rostrum and handed over a written commitment: Khejri trees shall not be felled all over Rajasthan and a new legislation would be scripted.

Done: Obvious gain? All people went back to own homes-hearths as silently as they had trooped in.



An aerial view of the Bishnoi protest in Bikaner to demand saving Khejri trees, Ramniwas Bishnoi



Bishnoi men at Bikaner protest, Ramniwas Bishnoi

Why was it caused? Demand of people was not being met: do not permit solar farms across fields having Khejri tree concentration.

The Government was adamant to sanction more such farms. Even over Sacred Groves, fertile agri-land! Unmindful of the loss perpetrated to the ecology of regions and economy of rural folk.

What to do when reasoned community logic is not acknowledged by authorities favouring solar companies? The suggestion was: let solar farms be set up over waste land, sandy tracts and similar areas available in

abundance. But agriculture land having Khejri trees continued to be sold/allotted.

“The protest has not come to an end, it is suspended in face of the written commitment” gently explained Ramniwas Bishnoi, one of the organizers.

Renaissance: What next if demand would not be met? “We shall have sit-in protest again to seek justice and prove the Bishnoi tradition to respect Nature”, he quipped. Has any one heard of such a protest for conserving Nature?

New video jingles: Save Khejri,

Come up to protect our Natural Resources, etc; coined with a new zenith of zeal by local youth, laced with folk music.

Nature conservation, the cause having become a house hold clamour!

Some photographs of the site are reproduced here, courtesy Ramniwas Bishnoi. Each frame speaks for itself.

Note: Following the assurance given on 12 February 2026 night at the protest site, the Government of Rajasthan set up a committee to draft a new legislation.



Bishnoi saints invoking tree-saving promise of 1730 at Khejerli, Ramniwas Bishnoi

GODWIT FLIES 8,000 MILES in 11 DAYS

By Brian Lada

AccuWeather meteorologist



Godwit's journey map

According to the U.S. Geological Survey's Alaska Science Center, a four-month-old Bar-tailed Godwit, known as B6, flew 8,425 miles in 11 days, traveling nonstop from Alaska to Tasmania, Australia.

The journey set what the agency described as the longest documented non-stop flight by any animal.

The young Godwit left Alaska on Oct. 13, 2022, and arrived on Oct. 24, after first fattening up on Alaska's Kuskokwim Delta.

The record-setting trip was not a lucky guess based on sightings. A team of scientists from the U.S. Geological Survey, the Max Planck Institute and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service tracked juvenile Bar-tailed Godwits from breeding sites near Nome, Alaska, to learn how the birds navigate their very first long migration.

To follow B6's route, researchers used a 5-gram, solar-powered

satellite transmitter attached to the bird's rump. They also used a U.S. Geological Survey metal band and a uniquely coded alphanumeric leg flag to identify individual birds.

Bar-tailed godwits are built for long-haul flight, using stored energy to cross vast stretches of ocean. But what makes this story stand out is the combination of distance, duration and the bird's age. B6 was only about four months old when it completed the crossing, according to the Alaska Science

Center.

Researchers say work like this is part of a broader effort to understand where and when godwits face the greatest threats during the year and how conservation efforts can protect them along their migration routes.

WHY MIGRATION

Birds migrate primarily to survive by moving from areas of low or decreasing resources to areas of high availability. This seasonal movement is driven by the need to find food, better weather, and secure nesting locations, as well as by hormonal changes triggered by shifting day lengths.

As winter approaches, food sources like insects and berries disappear. Birds fly to warmer climates where food is abundant.

Many birds move north in the spring to take advantage of longer daylight hours, which allow them to find more food for their young, and to find abundant nesting sites with fewer predators.

Birds escape extreme cold, snow, and inhospitable conditions.



Bar-tailed Godwits and Red Knots in flight along the North Sea coast., Arterra

WHAT A TINY POND CAN DO

BY CONSERVATION TIMES DESK

There's a common assumption that you need a lot of space to create meaningful biodiversity.

In reality, you can achieve a surprising amount in a space as small as 2 m x 2 m, provided it is properly designed.

Whether you are a homeowner looking to bring a bit of life back to a corner of the garden, or a developer looking to introduce meaningful habitat into a scheme, the same principle applies.

The key is to move away from thinking purely about planting and instead focus on creating a small habitat mosaic.

By combining a few simple features in one space, you can introduce a range of microhabitats that support far more species than a typical lawn or flower bed.

A simple setup might include a small



Such a bird can visit your pond, Wikipedia

pond, a rock pile, a patch of bare sand, a native wildflower area and a log pile.

The pond acts as the centre of the system. If the soil is clayey, even better — allowing water to collect naturally will create a temporary pond.

These seasonal water bodies are often more valuable than permanent ones, supporting specialist invertebrates and preventing fish colonisation.

On free-draining soils, a liner or

compacted clay base will achieve the same effect. Around this, each feature plays its role.

The rock pile provides warm, sheltered niches for invertebrates and amphibians. The bare sand provides nesting habitat for solitary bees, which are scarce in most gardens.

The wildflower area brings in pollinators and provides seasonal continuity, while the log pile introduces decay, an essential but often overlooked ecological process. None of these features is unusual in isolation.

But when they are brought together in a small space, they begin to function as a system. Even within a 4 sq. m., area, you can create something genuinely valuable for wildlife.

Ecology does not always need more space; it just needs to be used better.



An ideal pond within house premises, Wikipedia

WHAT MAKES A CITY “HAPPY”

4 CITIES IDENTIFIED BY BBC

By Lindsey Galloway
At BBC

Friends, family and a sense of community all can lead to happiness, but the environment can also have a huge impact. Yet, what exactly makes a "happy city"?



Zurich offers lot of Nature, wikipedia

To find out, researchers at the Institute for the Quality of Life recently released their 2025 Happy City Index, tracking 82 indicators of happiness across six major categories including Citizens, Governance, Environment, Economy, Health and Mobility. The index measured the policies that contribute to the quality of life, as well as their implementation and impact on residents. The BBC provides clues to better living.

Copenhagen, Denmark

Denmark frequently ranks in the happiest countries index, so perhaps it is no surprise that its capital city received the highest overall score. Copenhagen scores exceptionally well in the Environment category, which ranks its green spaces, sustainability and waste management; and the Economy category, which factors in items like

GDP, median salary and overall innovation and international company presence.

The city also ranked well in the Citizens category, which includes cultural resources like libraries and museums, as well as resident engagement and events.

For permanent resident Mari-Anne Daura, the lively food and cultural scene keeps her loving where she lives.

Safe transport: Residents also appreciate Copenhagen's emphasis on alternate and safe modes of transport.

“Nearly one-third or more of the population bikes and the city itself has its own bike lane, which many people use to commute to and from the city.

The metro system also runs like

clockwork,” said resident Aaron Wertheimer.

Zurich, Switzerland

Ranked second highest in the index, Switzerland's largest city received especially high marks in the Citizens' category as well as the Governance category, which measures citizen participation in government policies and access to digital services to improve life for residents.

This overall ease of living makes it much more stress-free, according to residents. “As a mum of two, Zurich is the perfect place to raise a family,” said resident Raquel Matos Gonçalves, who helps residents relocate to Switzerland through her company Expat you.”

Stress-free: She adds: “All these aspects make daily life so easy, so predictable, that they absorb the stress you'd otherwise experience.”

The city has clear rules and guidelines, too. “The unofficial motto is ‘If it does not say yes, assume it is a no,’ said resident Amelie Guiot, meaning that everyone stays within the bounds of the law and rules, keeping infrastructure like streets and public transport orderly and clean.

Singapore

The city-state of Singapore often ranks high in various indexes, especially as one of the happiest countries in Asia due to its ease of



Cycling is best way of going in Copenhagen, wikipedia

doing business, cleanliness and infrastructure.

In the 2025 Happiest City Index, it scored particularly well in the newly created Health metric, which tracks overall safety, public health initiatives like vaccinations and financial protection for health expenses.

Governance: It also ranked high in governance, a metric where

residents have seen policies ease the cost-of-living burden that has plagued other cities around the world.

Residents also appreciate how the city's infrastructure makes it easy to enjoy life.

"Beyond convenience, Singapore's policies around green space, safety and multicultural inclusivity really stand out.

You can go from pitching a global client downtown to enjoying satay by the waterfront, all in the same evening," says resident Samuel Huang who owns a Singapore-based business.

Antwerp, Belgium

Antwerp managed to inch out larger sister-city Brussels in the Happy Cities index, with higher scores in the Citizens, Government and Environment categories.

"I moved to Antwerp in my late 20s expecting a charming city with good food and beautiful architecture, but I've stayed because of how livable it is," said resident Grace Carter.

"There's a calm efficiency here that you start to feel in your day-to-day and cultural life, she added.

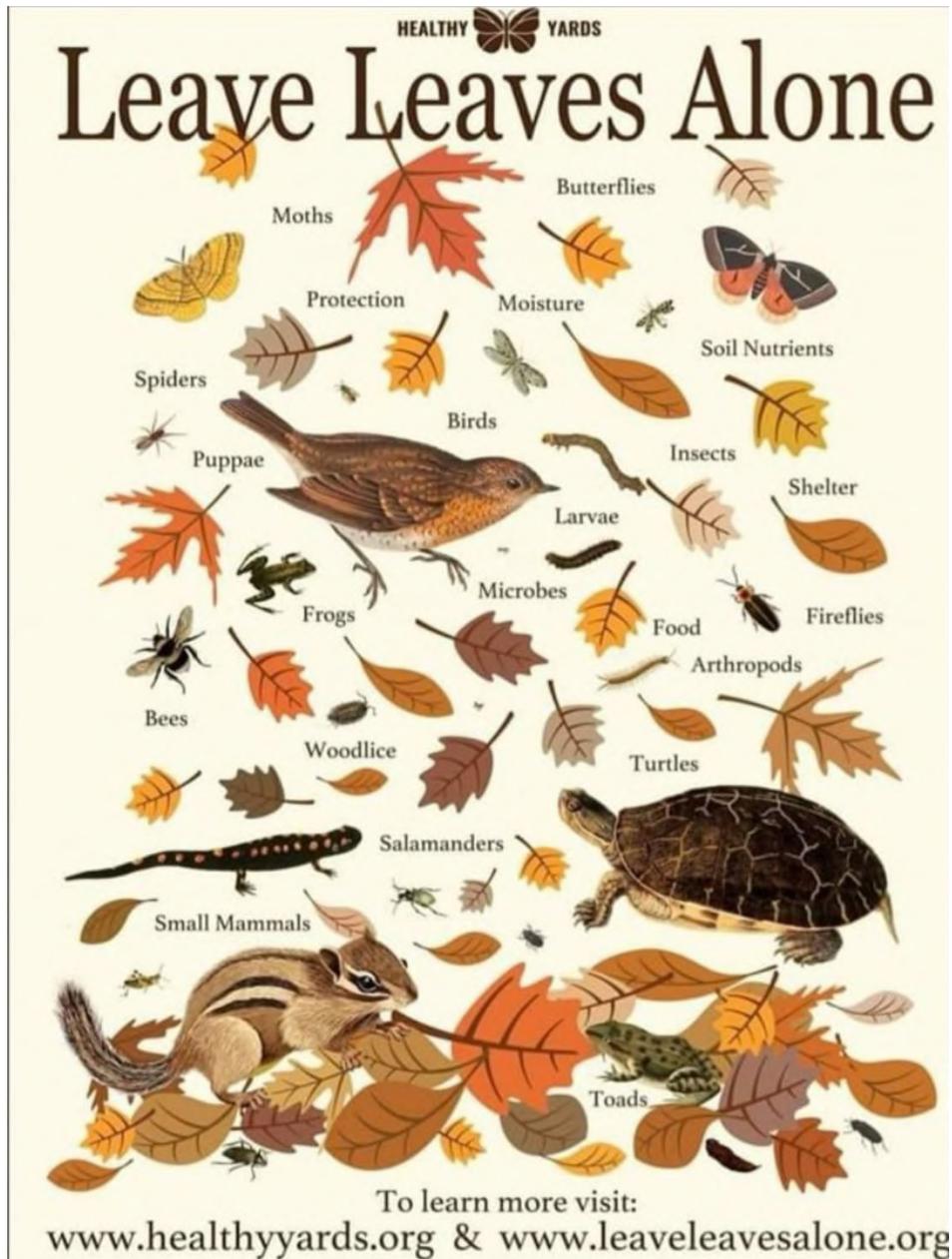
How many cities can take a lesson from these happy cities?



Antwerp offers good heritage sites, Wikipedia

LEAVE LEAVES ALONE

BY CONSERVATION TIMES DESK



Or rake them towards your shrubs or vegetable garden.

* Wet leaves on paths or terraces can become slippery, so keep walkways clear.

*A tidy garden is not always a healthy one. Sometimes, doing less is doing more for nature.

MOSS: YES OR NO?

What if the green “nuisance” we keep scraping off is actually one of our most overlooked climate allies?

Moss quietly delivers serious environmental value in urban spaces:

Absorbs significantly more Carbon Dioxide per sq. m., than many larger plants.

Thrives on walls, roofs and stone —no soil required.

Cools surrounding areas through evaporative cooling.

Retains rainwater and helps regulate humidity.

Supports micro-biodiversity. Traps airborne pollutants, improving air quality.

Why: Yet we routinely remove it for being “untidy”. Rather than fighting it, we could design with it, integrating moss into green roofs, façades and public realm projects as part of climate-resilient urban planning.

Not just greenery. Infrastructure.

Moss Yes or No ?

Why You Should Leave The Leaves Alone?

*Leaves protect soil life by keeping moisture in and feeding micro-organisms.

*They create vital winter shelter for insects, hedgehogs, and pollinators.

*Decomposing leaves turn into rich humus that nourishes your plants naturally.

*A natural leaf layer prevents

erosion and helps regulate soil temperature.

*Less raking = less work + more biodiversity. Win-win!

*Nature's mulch keeps weeds down without chemicals or plastic covers.

But be mindful

*Too many leaves on your lawn can suffocate the grass: use mulch mowing to chop and spread them evenly.

Kim Skelmose, team leader for Danish White-tailed Eagle project, creating awareness, all photographs, courtesy this project (via Sudin)



Welcome to live along with
Butterflies, Birds, under a Green Canopy

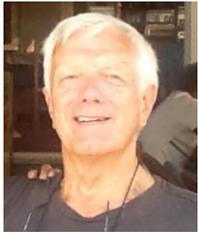


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Ed McCrea is President of Environmental Education and Conservation Global, a US nonprofit conservation organization. Over the last fifty 50 years, he has worked in environmental education and biodiversity conservation at the local, state, national, and international levels.



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Oishimaya Sen Nag is a conservation storyteller, editor, and science communicator based in India. She serves as the Senior Editor of WorldAtlas.com and is also associated with the Bombay Natural History Society. Her current focus is writing about lesser-known species and community-led conservation.



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Amit is an eco-lover based in Dallas, Texas. Believing that a traveler always starts out in his backyard, Amit traveled extensively across India. He kept his passion for nature alive after moving to North America and has traveled extensively around the continent.



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Manoj Sharma worked for the Indian Statistical Service for 10 years and then immigrated to the USA to pursue graduate studies in statistics. Currently he is the Director of Biostatistics at Grail Inc., supporting the company vision of "Detect cancer early, when it can be cured".



Sharma, Satish

Authored 11 books on forest, wildlife management and biodiversity, specialized in ethnobotany and ethnozoology, did PhDs on Plant life of Weaver Birds (1991) and Study of Biodiversity and Ethnobiology of Phulwari WL Sanctuary (2007), former Forest Officer, based at Udaipur.



Sudin

Sudin is based in Denmark, into regenerative farming and nature education project. A postgraduate in Forestry Management, he holds a Permaculture Design Certificate and has experience across silviculture, natural-resource-based-rural-livelihoods domains in India. He believes in the resilience of a biodiverse ecosystem.



Thomas, Rosamma

Rosamma Thomas is a freelance journalist based in Maharashtra, India. She has worked in radio and print journalism. She has only ever lived in cities, despite being a wild creature at heart. She has supported by writing on a unique cause like House Sparrow ex situ breeding initiatives.



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