




## Faculty Details proforma for DU Web-site 2020

Title	Dr.	First Name	Abdul Jamil	Last Name	Urfi	Photograph 
Designation	Assoc Professor.					
Address	Department of Environmental Studies, University of Delhi (North Campus), Mall Road, New Delhi 110007					
Phone No	Office	-				
	Residence	-				
Mobile	-					
Email	<a href="mailto:ajurfi@es.du.ac.in">ajurfi@es.du.ac.in</a> , <a href="mailto:ajurfi@gmail.com">ajurfi@gmail.com</a>					
Web-Page	-					

### Educational Qualifications

Degree	Institution	Year
UG	Aligarh Muslim University	1980
PG	Aligarh Muslim University	1982
Ph.D.	University of Delhi	1988

### Career Profile

Jan 2006- <i>present</i>	Assoc Prof.	Department of Environmental Studies, University of Delhi
Eligible for promotion to 'Professor' under mps w.e.f. 1.1.2009		
Dec 2001- Jan 2006	Reader	Department of Environmental Biology, University of Delhi
2006 (March-June)	Fullbright 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 of Environmental Studies (during 2013, 2014)  
 Served as member of various committees in the Department and University  
 Hon General Secretary, World Pheasant Association-India, 2005 – 2008

## 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 • History of science

**Brief account of academic activities:** **Previous work in my lab (2001-12)** 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 was also involved in science popularization (*Birds Beyond Watching*, articles in *Resonance* on ecology and evolution) and researching on literary and historical aspects of natural history writings (chiefly ornithological) in India, especially during the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries by European and Indian (*Birds of India: A Literary Anthology* and a follow up article). Besides the above a PhD research project on avian diversity of the Arravali hills in Rajasthan was successfully completed in my lab. I was also (and continue to be) involved in guiding research, as a co-supervisor, on bio-medical and toxicological topics. Work in my lab during **2012-20** focussed on studies on genetic diversity of Painted Stork populations using DNA microsatellite markers, Evolution of 'avian coloniality' and studies on nest survival. Also undertaken was a study dealing with sociological aspects of birdwatching which appeared as an article in *Economic & Political Weekly* and studies on history of science (*Scroll.in*). **Current work 2020 onwards:** (1) modeling nest survival in Painted Stork colonies, geographical ecology and methodological studies using camera surveillance methods in wildlife research, (2) occupancy modelling of birds in urban habitats, (3) history of science & ethno-ornithology, (4) Bio-medical research (in collaboration).

## Teaching & subjects taught

- (1.) 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): Field ecology, systematic and diversity, conservation biology.
- (3.) At CEE, Ahmedabad (1996-2001), teaching in training courses such as TEE, SASEANEE etc. using a variety of indoor and outdoor teaching methods: conservation studies, environmental education, field ecology.
- (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, conflicts, Environmental Communication & Education, Urban ecology, Environment Policy & Politics
- (6.) PhD. Environmental Studies, Department of Environmental Studies: Course work.
- (7.) Others: as guest lecturer/resource person in several workshops/training programmes.

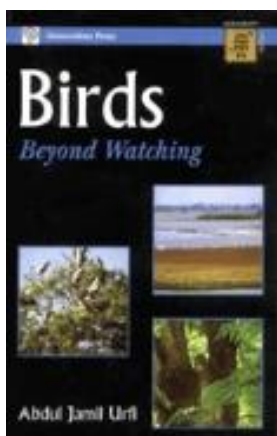
## Research Guidance

List against each head (If applicable)

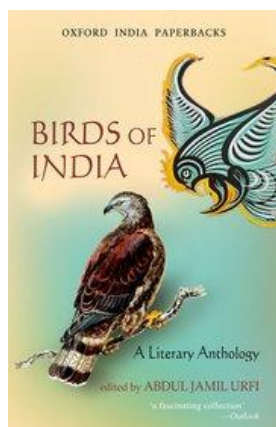
1. Supervision of awarded Doctoral Thesis: 7
2. Supervision of Doctoral Thesis, under progress: 3
3. Supervision of MSc project dissertations: 26

## Publications Profile

## Books



**Birds, Beyond Watching.** Universities Press, Hyderabad, 2004.



**Birds of India: A Literary Anthology (Edited).** Oxford University Press India, New Delhi, 2008. (4<sup>th</sup> Reprint 2014).



**The Painted Stork: Ecology and Conservation.** Springer, New York & Dordrecht, 2011.

## Reviews

[Down to earth](#), [Current Science](#), [The Hindu](#), [Ibis](#), Hindu Online, Hornbill, Birding Asia, OBC Bulletin, [Indian Birds](#)

[India Today](#), [Outlook](#), The Hindu, [Ibis](#), [Mumbai Mirror](#), [Kolkatabirds](#), [hubpages.com](#), [Goodreads](#)

[Current Science](#) , [Ibis](#), [Waterbirds](#)

## Recent Publications

Urfi, A.J. (2020) Indian heronries need conservation monitoring. *Nature India*. doi:10.1038/nindia.2020.12. Published online 23 January 2020. EISSN: 1755-3180. <https://www.natureasia.com/en/nindia/article/10.1038/nindia.2020.12>

Urfi, A.J. (2020a) Why bird decline in India should worry all of us. *Nature India*. doi:10.1038/nindia.2020.34. Published online 20 February 2020. EISSN: 1755-3180. <https://www.natureasia.com/en/nindia/article/10.1038/nindia.2020.34>

Urfi, A J (2019) Writings on Indian birds during the British colonial period: An exploration. Abstract accepted for ‘The Gwillim Project: Women and Networks of Knowledge and Exchange in the Company Raj’ Symposium (scheduled in 2020, postponed due to Corona Pandemic), McGill Library and Collections, McGill University, Montreal, Canada.

Thakur, A.K., P. Ahmed, R. Singh & A.J. Urfi\* (2019). Scope of using surveillance cameras for studying nesting ecology of colonial waterbirds: Painted Storks in National Zoo, Delhi. Bird-o-soar #36. *Zoo's Print* 34(11): 42–48. ISSN 0971-6378 (Print); 0973-2543 (Online) <https://zoosprint.zooreach.org/index.php/zp/article/view/5615/5032>

Urfi, J (2018) What colonial writing about Indian birds reveals about the British Raj. *Scroll.in* . December 16th 2018. <https://scroll.in/article/904783/what-colonial-writing-about-indian-birds-reveals-about-the-british-raj>

Sharma, B.B., B.D. Banerjee & A.J.Urifi\* (2017) A preliminary study of cross-amplified microsatellite loci using molted feathers from a near-threatened Painted Stork (*Mycteria leucocephala*) population of north India as a DNA source. *BMC Res Notes*. DOI : 10.1186/s13104-017-2932-y  
<https://bmresnotes.biomedcentral.com/articles/10.1186/s13104-017-2932-y> ISSN: 1756-0500 (electronic version).

Sharma, B.B., B.D. Banerjee & A.J.Urifi\* (2017) Indian zoos can contribute towards ornithological research in novel Ways. *Current Science*. 113(6): 1013. Current Science Association, Bengaluru. ISSN 0011-3891

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)

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*. 21 (6): 545- 556. Journal of Science Education, Indian Academy of Sciences, Bengaluru. ISSN: 0971-8044 (print)

## Recent general writings & blogs on science, natural history etc (2019-21)

Urfi, A.J. (2020) Natural History Classics and Popular Science Books of Yester-years! What a Difference They Made! *Caleidoscope*. 20 April, 2020. <https://www.caleidoscope.in/nostalgiphilia/natural-history-classics-and-popular-science-books-of-yester-years-what-a-difference-they-made>

Urfi, A.J. (2020a) Remembering Dr. Hamida Saiduzzafar: A Birdwatcher Par Excellence. *Karvaan India*. May 1, 2020. <https://www.karvaanindia.com/2020/05/01/remembering-dr-hamida-saiduzzafar-a-woman-of-substance-and-birdwatcher-par-excellence/>

Urfi, A.J. (2020b) Recollections of a biology student: Waiting for “achchhe din”, which never came! *Confluence. Indian Academy of Sciences*. May 9, 2020. <http://confluence.ias.ac.in/recollections-of-a-biology-student-waiting-for-achchhe-din-which-never-came/>

Urfi, A.J. (2019) Discovering Zoology Through My Passion for Birdwatching I. *Journal of Stories in Science* 15 Aug 2019. <https://storiesinscience.org/2019/08/15/discovering-zoology-through-my-passion-for-birdwatching/> ISSN#2575-5129

Urfi, A.J. (2019a) [Discovering Zoology Through My Passion for Birdwatching II: Is There a Final Word in Research?](#) *Journal of Stories in Science* 28 Aug 2019. <https://storiesinscience.org/2019/08/28/discovering-zoology-through-my-passion-for-birdwatching-part-2/?fbclid=IwAR2QGSKp5CTvDw0sbxW1mPs78jNT5PuA1DJXP0Z3zfw-6-SIO2eJfp1J8qs> ISSN#2575-5129

Urfi, A.J. (2019b) Delhi & The Storks: A Professor Shares How This Surprising Bond Began 60 Years Ago. *The betterindia.com*. Oct 7, 2019. [https://www.thebetterindia.com/198832/delhi-zoo-history-nesting-birds-painted-stork-india/?utm\\_source=rss&utm\\_medium=rss&utm\\_campaign=delhi-zoo-history-nesting-birds-painted-stork-india](https://www.thebetterindia.com/198832/delhi-zoo-history-nesting-birds-painted-stork-india/?utm_source=rss&utm_medium=rss&utm_campaign=delhi-zoo-history-nesting-birds-painted-stork-india)

Urfi, A.J. (2019c) Stork sagas! Encounters with some stork workers. *Indian BIRDS* 15 (5): 145–147. ISSN 0973-1407. [http://indianbirds.in/pdfs/IB\\_15\\_5\\_Urfi\\_StorkSagas.pdf](http://indianbirds.in/pdfs/IB_15_5_Urfi_StorkSagas.pdf)

**\*correspondent author**

[For complete list of Publications by A J Urfi \(Last updated, 19<sup>th</sup> July 2016\) 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 (recent)

Presentations/participation in professional meetings, Seminar's delivered & Sessions chaired: Several.

Invited lectures in training courses, broadcasts etc: Several.

*Recent Talks delivered by A J Urfi (2019-20)*

[‘Urbanization and its impacts on birds in Delhi’](#), in ‘*Expert consultation meeting on Wildlife Conservation in Urban India: Towards an Inclusive Policy and Programmatic Framework*’, organized by Columbia Global Centers, Mumbai, in partnership with the Aga Khan Trust for Culture on 7<sup>th</sup> Nov, 2019 at Sundar Nursery, New Delhi.

[‘Khwaja Ahmad Abbas: His revolutionary activities and forays in journalism while a student at Aligarh as revealed through his memoirs’](#), in ‘*Shaping National Consciousness: The Words and Works of K A Abbas*’, seminar organized by K A Abbas Memorial Trust (KAAMT) on 29<sup>th</sup> Feb, 2020, at India International Centre, New Delhi.

### Research Projects (Major Grants)

**Major External Grant at Delhi Univ:** *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

*Small grants received in past:* OBC-Small Grant (Oriental Bird Club, UK); Kushlan Grant, Waterbird Society, USA.

### 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 of PhD thesis: Several Indian universities.

Course setting, syllabus restructuring and related academic activities: several.

### International Experience:

Countries visited for post doctoral research/attending meetings/study etc: Denmark, United Kingdom, The Netherlands, Switzerland, Nepal, USA, Egypt, Greece, Germany, France, Belgium, Ethiopia, Bhutan.

*Examiner of PhD thesis & viva-voce examination:* Dept of Zoological sciences, Addis Ababa Univ, Ethiopia, 2017

*Partner, ‘The Gwillim Project: Women and Networks of Knowledge and Exchange in the Company Raj’.* Social

Science and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC), McGill Library and Collections, McGill University Montreal, Canada. 2020.

**Editing and refereeing** (Last five years):

*J Field Ornithol* (Wiley), *Wilson J Ornithol* (USA), *Current Science* (Indian Academy of Sciences), *European Journal of Wildlife Research* (Springer), *Ostrich*, *J African Ornithol*, *Urban Ecosystems* (Springer), *Biological Conservation*, *Tropical Ecology*, *Ind Acad Sciences*, *SIS Newsletter* (IUCN SSC).

Editor, *Mor*, Newsletter of WPA-India. 2005-2008

Member, Editorial Board of IUCN SIS-SG bulletin '*Stork, Ibis and Spoonbill Conservation*' (SISC). 2016—present.

Reviewer, '*The Student Conference on Conservation Science*' (SCCS) – Bangalore hosted by CES, IISc and NCBS. (2017, 18)

**Other**

Qualified National Eligibility Test (NET) CSIR, New Delhi in 1985