

Reva Duraphe – A young Ornithologist recognised and rewarded.

Our very own class IX student, Reva Duraphe has been featured in the popular Champak magazine. Being an ardent bird lover from a very young age and a certificate holder in Ornithology, she is well equipped to discuss everything about birds and wildlife.

Champak is a popular fortnightly magazine for children published by the [Delhi Press Group](#) since 1969 in India. It is published twice a month in English and 7 other Indian languages.

They interviewed Reva for their article published in February 2023 and asked 5 questions pertaining to the field in their highlights section.

Dhruv Global School has also selected and printed her photographs on their notebook covers ! They include some breath-taking clicks on wildlife that she captured during her many escapades.

Her photographs have also been selected for the Women in wildlife photography competition by the Institute of Environmental Architecture & Research - **IEAR**, Mumbai. The event is being held today, but unfortunately Reva wouldn't be attending due to exams.

On the occasion of Women's Day , the TOS family is very proud of her remarkable journey so far as she embarks on many more milestones to cross and come out victorious.

5 QUESTIONS FOR... By Edith Kinny

Reva Duraphe

Though merely 14 years old, Reva is a powerhouse of information on birds and wildlife. At age 11, she became the youngest person to complete the certificate ornithology course by the Ela Foundation. She was the youngest member invited to speak at the prestigious TEDx platform in December 2021 and two of her photographs were shortlisted for the Sony BBC Earth Competition.

1 WHAT WAS YOUR MOST MEMORABLE BIRD SIGHTING?
The Himalayan Monal is one of the most colorful birds in India. The best place to see it is known as Chopita in Uttarakhand. The Monal was the only reason I decided to attempt the trek to Tungnath temple—the highest Shiva temple in the world, at an altitude of about 12,000 ft! I was keeping an eye out for it, but soon lost hope of getting even a glimpse. Hearing some bird calls, I stopped to have some water. Suddenly, a bottle-green head popped out from behind a rock. The Monal! I couldn't believe my luck! I quickly took out my camera and clicked some pictures before it disappeared into the undergrowth. It still remains one of my most memorable and satisfying bird sightings!

2 HOW DO YOU SPOT BIRDS? IS THERE A SPECIFIC WAY OF FINDING A PARTICULAR BIRD?
Spotting different birds requires different tactics. One must know their habitat and the time of day they are most active. More birds can be seen where there is abundant food and water. Some birds move, some call, some sit on the ground, some sit high up in trees, and some keep so still they look exactly like leaves or rocks. Looking out for movement is the key to spotting most birds. Listening to their calls gives a sense of direction. Some birds, like owls, camouflage so well that even a trained eye finds it hard to spot them. Continuously observing birds trains the eyes and makes spotting them easier.

3 WHAT'S THE BEST WAY TO FEED BIRDS?
We tend to feed birds processed foods like biscuits or cooked foods like rice. Birds actually find it hard to digest these foods. Keeping out uncooked, raw food grains like jowar, rice grains, and bajra attract a variety of birds. Many of them love over-ripe fruits, too, like guava or papaya. In hot summers, you can also keep out a water dish for them to drink and bathe!

4 IS THERE A PREFERRED TIME OF DAY TO WATCH BIRDS?
Birds are highly active at dawn and dusk, so early mornings and evenings are the best time to keep an eye out for them.

5 WHICH PLANTS ATTRACT BIRDS?
Native fruit trees and flowering trees are a major attraction for birds. Barbets are regular visitors on drumstick trees, while parakeets love guava trees. Sunbirds like tubular flowers, like queen of the night and thunbergias. In my garden, tailor birds, sunbirds, munias and bulbuls are regular visitors. They feed, bathe in the sprinkler, and also build nests in the plants every season!

White-Created Laughingthrush

Himalayan Monal

Great Hornbill

Malabar Trogon

Oriental Dwarf Kingfisher

Black-Headed Jay

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The photographs on the notebook covers of Dhruv Global School.

