



SPOTLIGHT

OF FEATHERS AND FLIGHTS

It was almost dusk when I heard an unfamiliar chirrup resonating from the field. Although I was already running late, I couldn't help but stop walking. I took a step forward to reach the edge of the fence and squinted to get a better look. That's when I spotted it in all its majesty, pecking away at the ground. With a vivid yellow torso and contrasting copper wings, the avian creature was so tiny it could probably effortlessly fit within the palm of my hand. Mesmerised for a couple of minutes by the sheer joy in discovering an unknown bird for the first time, I decided to take a photograph. A few days later, I realised I had and wanted to know so much more.

Thus began my quest - the quest to learn more about birds and the act of watching them.

"When I began my journey as a birder



back in the 1980s, the idea of bird-watching was considered absurd," confessed Mr. Enam Ul Haque, founder of Bangladesh Bird Club (BBC). "Once I was bird-watching with my team near a village and a villager



approached me and asked if I had nothing better to do," he chuckled as he recalled the bittersweet memory. However, today it is a widely known and popular pastime activity, especially in the western regions. In fact,

even in Bangladesh today, although still an untried activity for many, bird-watching is gradually increasing in popularity. And Bangladesh is a key destination not only for bird-watchers but also many different kinds of birds, especially during the winter season.

Sayam U. Chowdhury, Conservation Biologist and Assistant Coordinator of the International Spoon-billed Sandpiper Task Force spoke about the importance of Bangladesh to numerous species of migratory birds. "The migration usually begins around early August when thousands of birds fly towards this tropical nation from colder regions. It peaks between November and December and the last of these avian guests leave for home around May," he added.

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