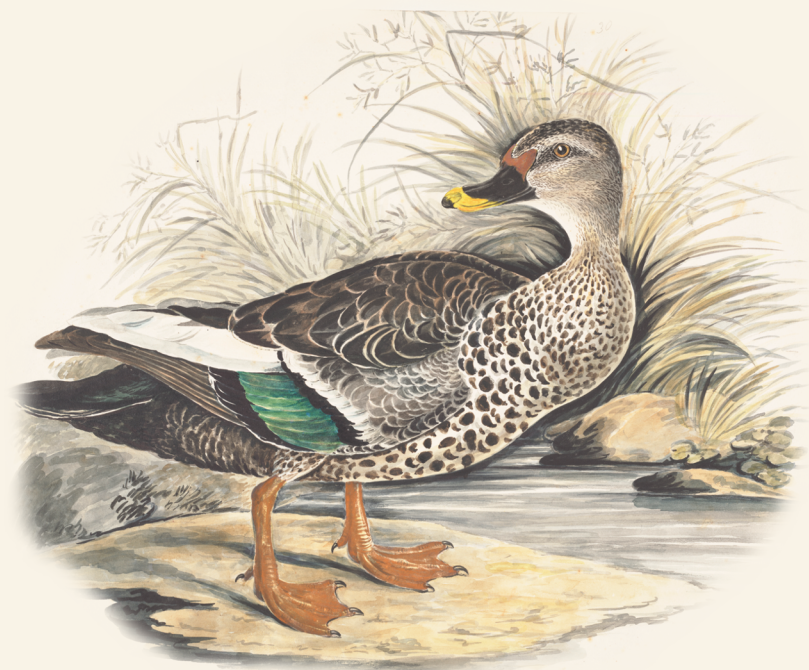


Birds, Art, and Literature in 19th Century Madras

Dr S. Subramanya and Dr Abdul Jamil Urfi
Moderator: Robert Montgomerie



July 20, 2020
9:00AM (EDT)

To register for this virtual event, please visit:
<https://tinyurl.com/ydxgezhz>

The Gwillim Project, which centres around the unpublished correspondence and artwork of two sisters who lived in Madras at the beginning of the nineteenth century, brings together an international network of scholars from diverse fields in order to explore the collections from multiple perspectives.

The Gwillim Project Online will host a panel that features presentations by Dr Subramanya and Dr Urfi. Discussion will be moderated by Robert Montgomerie, Professor Emeritus in the Department of Biology at Queen's University, Kingston. Dr Subramanya's presentation, entitled "Indian Bird Paintings by Lady Elizabeth Gwillim," analyzes Lady Elizabeth Gwillim's bird paintings and backgrounds. Dr Urfi's presentation, "Writings on Indian Birds during the British Colonial Period: An Exploration," examines the output of natural history writings by British writers in general. Taken together, these presentations highlight the sisters' contributions to ornithology and to natural history more broadly.

Dr S. Subramanya, known as 'Subbu' in birding circles in India, was Professor of Entomology at the University of Agricultural Science in Bangalore. He has been studying birds in India for over four decades. He worked on the Red Data Book, the "Threatened birds of Asia" at BirdLife International, Cambridge, U.K., has compiled details on heronries in India and helped in their conservation, and has played a key role in the establishment of bird sanctuaries and reserves. After retiring in 2018, he undertook a dream project to re-conduct the 1939 Mysore Bird Survey of Dr. Salim Ali, the Birdman of India. Presently, he volunteers with the State Wildlife Department in Karnataka, India to support its bird conservation initiatives. As a visiting faculty at McGill University, Montreal, he examined the watercolours of birds by Lady Gwillim and wrote on her artwork (*Newsletter for Birdwatchers*, 1994).

Dr Abdul Jamil Urfi is Associate Professor at Department of Environmental Studies, University of Delhi, India. As a European Commission Fellow at NERC ITE Furzebrook, England, he conducted studies on the foraging ecology of the European Oystercatcher, overwintering on the Exe estuary in Devonshire. He has been involved with environmental education as a staff scientist at CEE, Ahmedabad where he also carried out studies on reptiles and snakes. The Painted Stork has been the focus of Urfi's research for over three decades, resulting in his book, *The Painted Stork, Ecology and Conservation* (2011). As a Fulbright Scholar, he also studied colonial waterbirds in Florida Everglades, USA. Urfi's other books are *Birds Beyond Watching* (2004) and *Birds of India, A Literary Anthology* (2010).



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