

THE ARCTIC'S
LAST SEA ICE

SCIENCE OF
GOOD & EVIL

THE HEALING
OF COLOMBIA

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC



WHY BIRDS MATTER

BY
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FRANZEN**



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CONTENTS

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NATIONAL
GEOGRAPHIC

FRONT

FEATURES

VISIONS

FROM THE EDITOR

Why National Geographic is celebrating 2018 as the Year of the Bird

3 QUESTIONS

How Colombia's president, **Juan Manuel Santos**, has promoted conservation

EXPLORE

Aerodynamic eggs, trashy nests, and a bird detective

90 | LAST ICE

In the 1980s Arctic sea ice extended across nearly three million square miles at the end of summer. Since then more than a third of that ice has been lost.

By *Tim Folger*



On the Cover Today one in eight bird species is threatened with global extinction, BirdLife International reports. Vulnerable species include the secretary bird, *Sagittarius serpentarius*; this one lives at the Toronto Zoo. Photo by Joel Sartore

Corrections and Clarifications
Go to natgeo.com/corrections.

30 | WHY BIRDS MATTER

Wild birds connect us to a nature that's rapidly receding. They live in a spectacular variety of habitats and signal each one's ecological health. Birds – with their brilliant plumage, their trills, and their flight – nurture our souls.

By *Jonathan Franzen*
Photographs by *Joel Sartore*

58 | FLIGHT PATHS

A photographer captures the patterns that birds make in the sky.

By *Catherine Zuckerman*
Photographs by *Xavi Bou*

110 | KABUL'S MIDDLE CLASS

Moving away from conflict.

By *Sune Engel Rasmussen*
Photographs by *Andrew Quilty*

66 | THE HEALING OF COLOMBIA

After a half century of war.

By *Alma Guillermoprieto*
Photographs by *Juan Arredondo*

116 | THE SCIENCE OF GOOD AND EVIL

A decisive factor: empathy.

By *Yudhijit Bhattacharjee*
Photographs by *Lynn Johnson*