

A yellow paper airplane is the central focus, resting on a cobblestone street. The airplane is folded from a single sheet of paper and has a small rectangular label on its side. The background is a blurred street scene with buildings and a green truck.

ISSUE XXI

Response Magazine



The Response Magazine is now in its 9th year and continues to be created, curated and designed exclusively by Fabrica volunteers. Our 21st issue of Response Magazine, produced in the 19th year of Fabrica's founding, continues this constantly evolving tradition. Once distributed as a pamphlet, we now produce an online magazine alongside the original copy in the exhibition space. In this way the magazine reaches a wide, even international audience.

Every magazine has been bursting with content inspired by the exhibition, and our May 2015 issue is no exception. Marcus Coates' *Dawn Chorus* exhibition has provided inspiration for a wealth of creative responses ranging from poetry, to drawing and photography on the subject of birds and metamorphosis. We hope that you enjoy the magazine and that this compilation might encourage reflection – both conceptual and creative – on our wonderful spring exhibition.

The Fabrica Team

@FabricaGallery
#fabricaflock



Francisco Bravo

“The piece is perhaps also a musing on human society, the singers all captured tweeting alone in rooms – modern habitats separated by concrete walls from their fellow humans. Really, it’s anything but a ‘chorus.’ We’ve come so far from nature to the modern built environment, and maybe it serves to emphasise how far we are from the wild.”

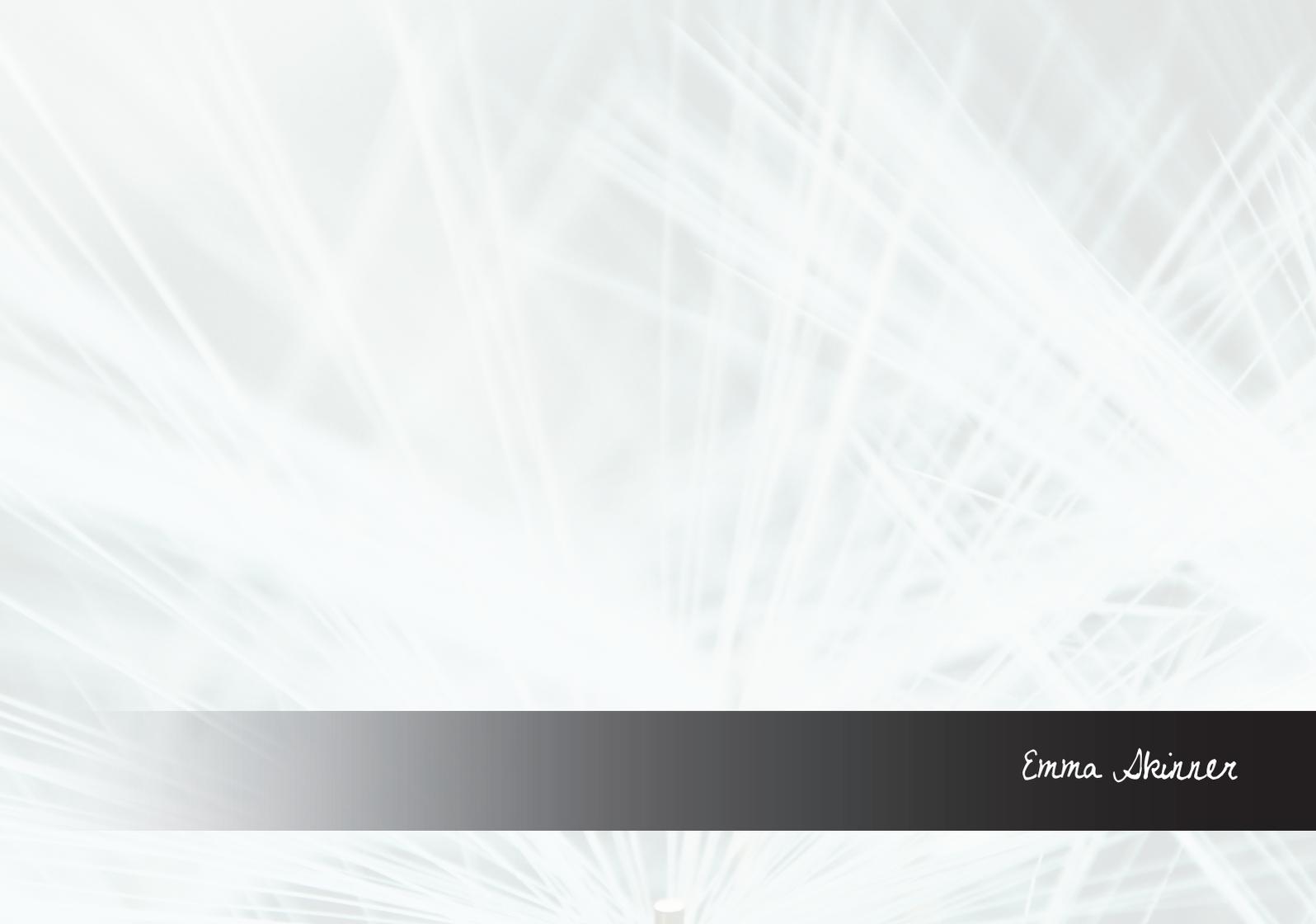
Extract from visitor Peter James Field’s review of the exhibition on his blog:

<https://peterjamesfield.wordpress.com>

@Peterjamesfield







Emma Skinner







Jamsin Huxford

Katherine George



Spontaneous response

Armed with a pen, paper and perception, these volunteers shared their immediate response to the exhibition live in the gallery.

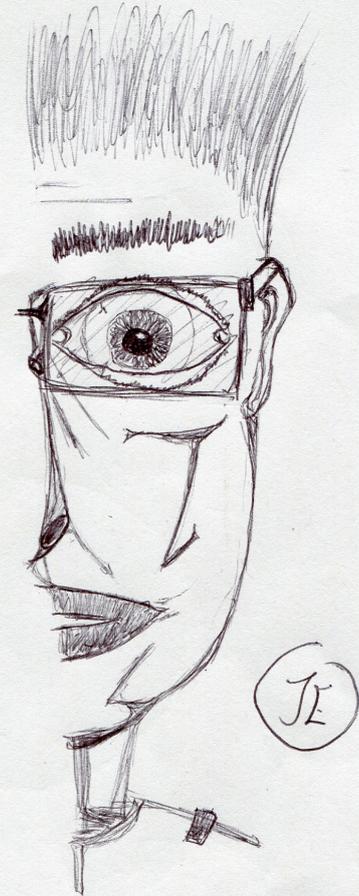
Jamsin Huxford



GOOD
MORN-
ING

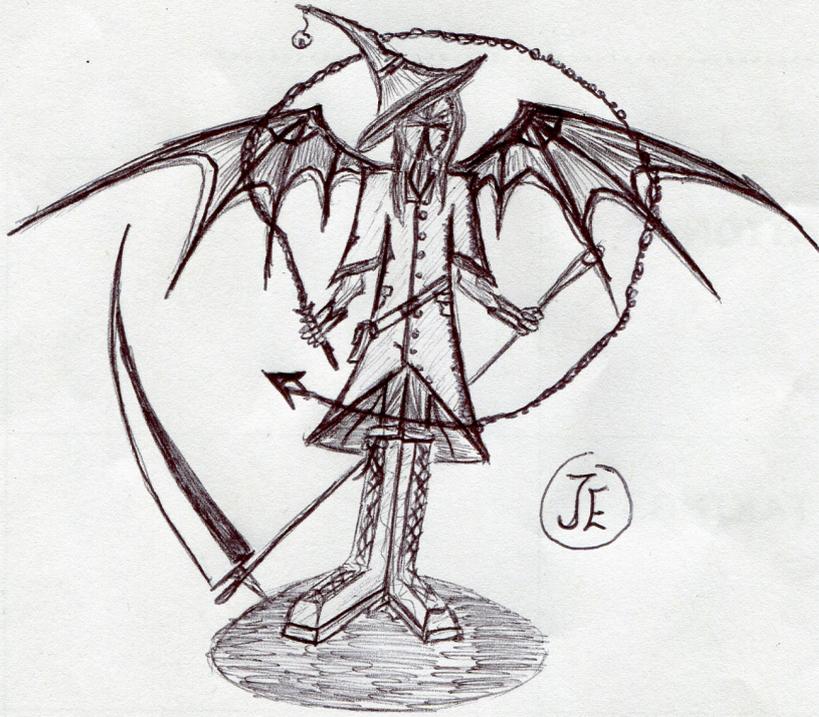
#

A place to
sing



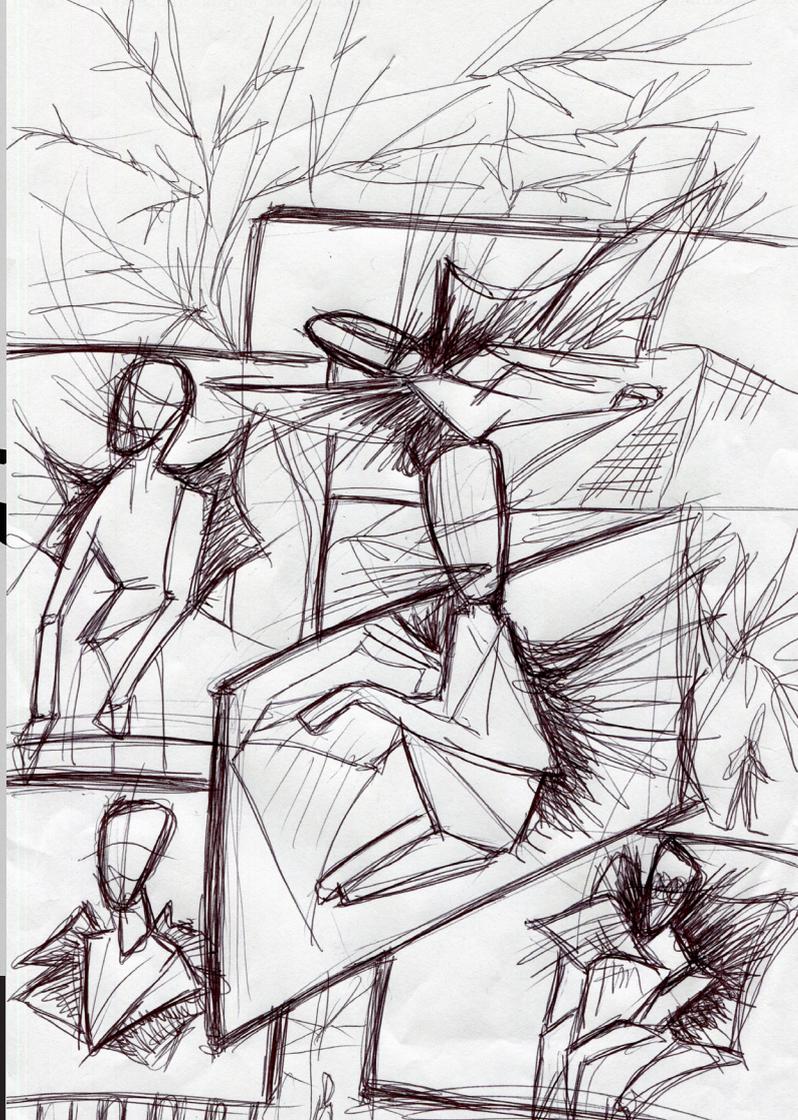
Robert Heath

Jason



Eade

Esin Koc



Anon

Allouette Hill

I'd love you to
come with me

mixed, charcoal,
pen on paper,
gold foil, glitter



Birdsong

A Pileated Woodpecker drums on a tree at 15 beats per second. A Wilson's Snipe dives through the air, the feathers on its wings vibrating to produce a winnowing sound, hu-hu-hu... the Brown Thrasher can sing as many as 2,000 distinct songs, while the Henslow's Sparrow, has only one. A Winter Wren weighs just one-third of an ounce, but it sings with 10 times the power of a crowing rooster, per unit weight.

The ways in which the songs of the ten thousand species of birds differ from each other is the first step to appreciating them. But questions as to how birds sing, quickly give way to questions about why they sing as they do. It's well known that birds take such trouble to sing in order to secure their territory, and to attract a mate. In fact, looking beyond the traditional parallel with courtly ballads, birdsong is little different than human flirtation.

Rather passé human tradition dictates that the males make the move, whether it's buying a drink, a cheesy chat up line, or devastating dance moves. And it's the same with male birds. It is the men who must do the work to attract a mate. Though perhaps we have something to learn from bird life because whilst human culture traditionally pigeonholes women as the pretty creatures whom men judge, with birds it is quite the

opposite. It is the female birds which make sensitive judgements on the overtures of their lusty male counterparts.

It's quite clear that appeal, moreover, in the cases of birds as well as with humans, is entirely a matter of preference. For the lusty young Dickcissel for example, persistence, and stamina are key. Male Dickcissels are not so fussed about quality but spend as much as 70 percent of the day singing while establishing territories and courting females.

The male Purple Martin's game, however, is more complex. Demonstrating impressive energy levels for so early in the morning, males wake at dawn to fly hundreds of feet into the air, singing a beautiful dawn-song audible for several miles. This feat of endurance succeeds in attracting other martins to the colony to

create additional mating opportunities. Perhaps the combination of running clubs and social media is the answer for us.

Despite all this talk about species, we needn't assume that birds' capacities are confined to their DNA. Birds learn from their peers, and from their environment as humans do, and whilst picking up local slang or dialect might be key to fitting in for a teenage boy, birds have been known to mimic anything from cats to trains. Though details of songs in some birds, is encoded in nucleotide sequences in the DNA, there is plenty of room for creative flexibility for a wide variety of species.

In fact, birds are incredibly adept at finding what biologists call their 'sonic niche', that is, the particular gap in sound where they can be heard most effectively. Birds are small, and often live in dense habitats

like woodlands, but the internet is just as challenging for the keen Tinder or match.com user intent on showing themselves in the best possible light. What birds teach us is not only that uniqueness is key, but also that it's OK to use the most flattering picture of yourself from two years ago when you were tanned and your stomach muscles were still visible. Birds stop singing completely when they start moulting around July, when they begin to be less than appealing to the opposite sex. Birdsong in this scenario would only be an advertisement for someone stronger to infringe on their territory, so they wait till they're in better shape.

It's no surprise then that birds have been used in art throughout time, and their behaviour picked out to parallel human activity. The most famous bird artwork is Picasso's dove of peace, and traditional

specifically Biblical associations of birds with peace, is not far off the biological function of birdsong. Just as political debate can function as a substitute for military might, birdsong supplements the wasteful effort of fighting to establish territory. The assumption that fighting is a last resort might be a good model for the Western world today. The Costa Rican Banded Wrens are a particularly appealing example: these chirpy creatures listen and respond to one another in complex ways that lead researchers to liken their song to human speech. There is, and will continue to be a myriad of things our flying friends can teach us.

Jamsin Huxford

Afroditi Goulioumi

Disintegration

collage and ink on paper

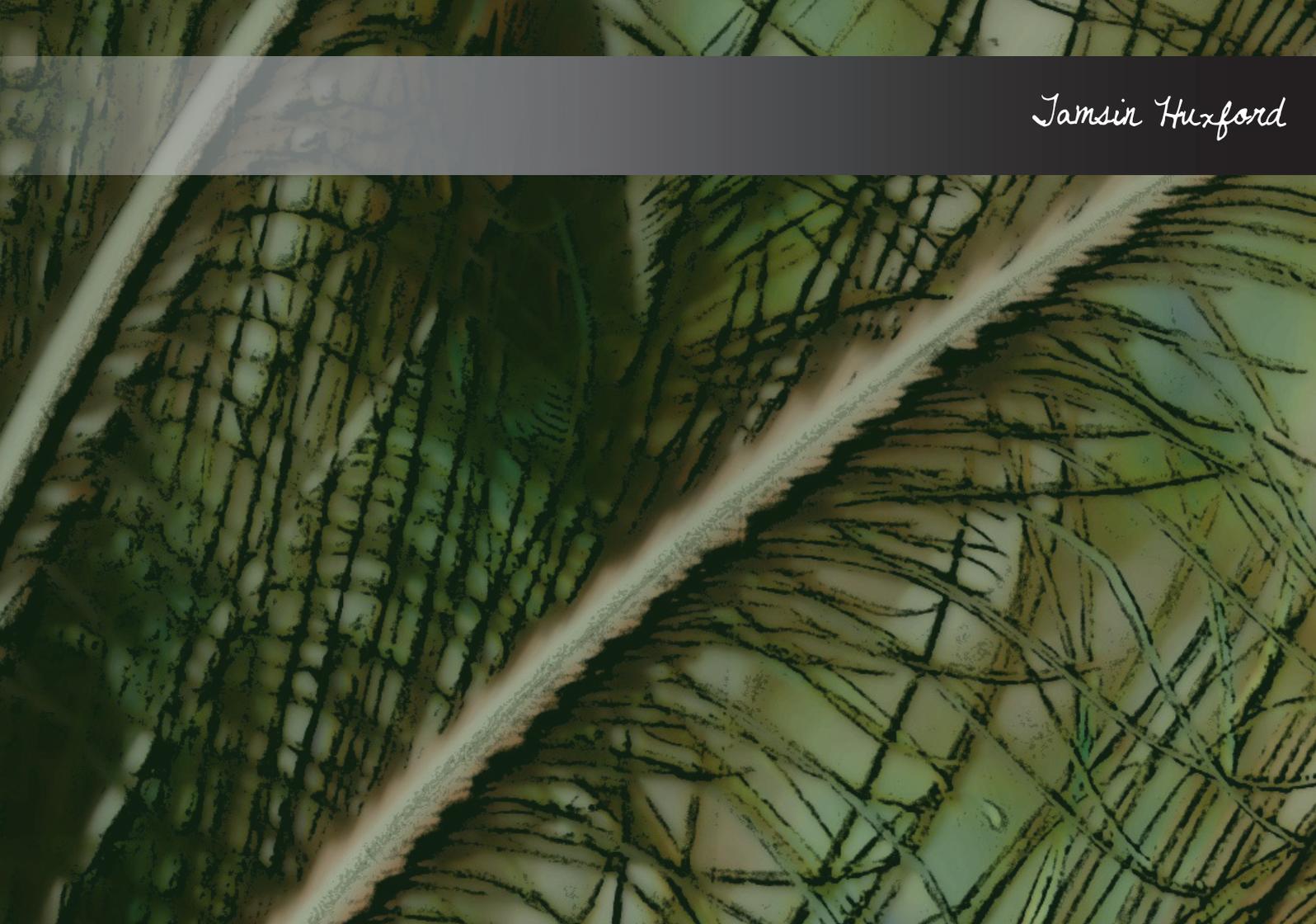




Rocio Arenillas

Charlotte Eliza King





Jamsin Huxford





Jamsin Huxford

Feathers

I drag in a few fresh feathers and twigs,
I find some soft, downing stuff to line my nest,
Fluff and shake, throwing away last year's, beyond hope
Wash and dry my feathers
I polish the tips,
Hoovering up the stragglers
I rearrange the twigs, some are very useful,
Propping up, keeping closed,
Some we sit on,
No sooner do I start the fluffing, the beaks are open,
It's not long since the last feed,
I hadn't even started clearing away that mess,
I had been busy creating a utopian myth,

Now have got behind in the real life scenario,
Now have to work twice as fast to catch up from before, as I prepare the now,
Feeling more stressed as I go like the clappers, agitated as I watch the last couple of hours
deteriorate as the fledglings crossly cause chaos,
Their wings are strong, the strength in them as they flap, knocks over my twigs,
My feathers are ruffled, even the attached ones.
There seems to be no signs of any maiden voyage,
No practice flight,
All aviation is deferred,
The second decade of this,
The second decade on my own,
But I sleep well when the chirping stops,
I eat the left over grubs,
I don't mind last year's feathers,
The fledglings have new though,
The colours you can get those feathers in these days,
For me, I'm going to dye the muddy grey feathers fuchsia, and I'll sleep sweetly.

Vicky Milner

Charlotte Eliza King





Jamsin Huxford



Rocio Arenillas



Morning Tea

It had been a long journey. The train was delayed due to weather conditions, and at every stop, more and more people got on, but nobody seemed to get off. I don't think there was even a trolley service; it wouldn't have been able to get past the crowd.

It was almost 9 o'clock when the train finally arrived at my destination. I got off, and headed straight for the taxi rank just outside the station. It was getting dark and I was tired; I wanted to get to the house and unpack.

The taxi ride was barely five minutes, and I was pleasantly surprised when it stopped outside the house. I paid the driver his fare, got out, and made my way to the entrance. Then, I turned the key and walked inside, dragging my luggage behind me.

My flat was on the first floor, so I lugged everything another flight of stairs. There was no lift. When I got to my front door, again, I just turned the key and walked inside.

The lights were working. I took off my coat and shoes, and had a quick look around; two rooms, a fitted kitchen, and a fitted bathroom. The bath had a shower attachment, and the large room even had beautiful French windows and a balcony.

Too exhausted to unpack, I just left everything and tumbled onto the large bed in one of the rooms. I checked my phone, it said 10:05pm. My mind drifted, and I couldn't even tell if I was awake and reflecting, or if I was asleep and dreaming. I was aware that my eyes were closed, and in my mind, I saw shops, cafés, and architectural beauty. I thought of family and friends, the life I'd left behind... and Ed.

The white table linen was a stark contrast against Ed's newly acquired tan, and as he rested his arms on the table, the colour was all the more striking. He could've been advertising something.

We ordered the Full Afternoon Tea, which included unlimited tea and a variety of mini sandwiches. Ed had something on his mind he really wanted to tell me.

“Remember that job in Edinburgh I was telling you about? They finally got back to me; want me to start beginning of next month.”

“That's great,” I said, going along with his enthusiasm, but not sure how I was supposed to feel.

“We'll speak every night, and who knows, in time you'll probably want to move out there.”

“I'm not sure. We might speak initially, but it won't be viable long-term.”

“Of course it will. Lots of couples have long-distance relationships.”

The tea and sandwiches arrive. There wasn't much left to say.

That was almost a year ago. Just as I'd predicted, we spoke on the phone for the initial few weeks, but couldn't keep it up long-term.

After Ed left for Edinburgh, I longed for change in my life, hence the new home, in a new town, about to start a new job.

I opened my eyes. It was still dark, but I could hear birds tweeting, outside. I sprung out of bed and headed for the shower. Yes, Ed and I had a wonderful 6 months. We'd enjoyed museums, art, and natural beauty spots. But it wasn't to last.

I finished my shower, and made myself a hot cup of tea. The sound of birds singing so merrily was a clear reminder; with the right outlook, a new day can be a new beginning.

Sabiha Choudhury



Quiz



Which of our Dawn Chorus pin ups is your spirit bird? Take our short quiz to find out:

You're hanging out at the bird bath, you're looking slick, you're singing in tune. But what's your style?

- A) Simple and classy with a distinctive twist
- B) Cute and fun
- C) Fairly plain with the odd accessory
- D) I look a million dollars. Literally
- E) I'm coordinated, I'm colourful and I've gone all out

You're building your nest, but who is passing you the twigs?

- A) My soul mate – they'll go wherever I will go
- B) Some hot bird, they come and go
- C) My steady partner, but one of us may be punching above their weight
- D) Someone I can depend on to look after my chicks
- E) My one and only of course! Why, what have you heard?!

Any special talents?

- A) I'm graceful/athletic/have excellent endurance
- B) I'm helpful/love gardening/creative
- C) I'm original/aim to impress/inventive
- D) I can dodge bullets/navigate/hibernate when it's cold outside
- E) I'm agile/acrobatic/know neat tricks

Describe your flock:

- A) My flock and I stick together. We live close together and travel as a group
- B) Flock? No thanks, even my partner knows not to move in on my space
- C) I'm a lone bird, unless there's a party...
- D) I have a small, close group. Some may say we're too close.
- E) Sometimes I'm alone, sometimes I'm with my partner, sometimes I like a flock. I'm flexible!



Someone's moving in on your nest, what do you do?

- A) ATTACK!
- B) Fight to the death – they will pay!
- C) Defend my spot, I saw it first!
- D) Charge at them and hope they get the message before I get there
- E) Make a huge fuss, make a noise, but don't actually attack

Are you a home bird or do you like your travels?

- A) I love long distance trips, give me that sun and I don't care when I come back!
- B) I might pop over to Spain for some winter sun. I might stay home. I can't commit.
- C) That depends entirely on my family, we might stick together, we might go for a few trips or we might migrate abroad. I'm adaptable!
- D) Pah, why leave the countryside?
- E) I'm happy keeping things local



Where do you like to spend time outside?

- A) Anywhere as long as I'm moving!
- B) I love a nice garden or park
- C) Give me a nice deciduous forest
- D) I want fields as far as the eye can see
- E) A wood of oak trees, with or without wood cabin

Finally, what's for dinner?

- A) Something I've grabbed on the go that was probably alive before I ate it
- B) Some meat with a side of home-grown veg
- C) I'll eat anything
- D) I don't eat meat
- E) I only eat meat

Work out which letter you scored the most of and turn the page to find out your spirit bird...

Results



Mostly As: The swallow

Swallows are known for their distinctive tail streamers or forked tails. Both sexes look alike and they mate for life. They migrate enormous distances in flocks and roost communally. They impress a mate with their flying skills and are adept at catching airborne insects.

Mostly Bs: The robin

Robins are known for their cheery red plumage, and their willingness to help with the gardening make them one of Britain's most beloved birds. Both sexes look alike, although they only pair for the mating season. They have been known to get creative with their nests, building them in strange places such as from the handlebars of bikes or in barbecues. Despite their cute appearance, robins can be incredibly aggressive and there are reports of them fighting to the death over territory.





Mostly Cs: The blackbird

Male blackbirds are black with distinctive yellow rings around the eyes; the females and young are duller brown in colour. They mate for life and impress potential partners by hopping and charging on the ground. They are keen foragers, and the females will attack each other to get the best nesting spot.

Mostly Ds: The pheasant

Pheasants are ornate in appearance, with plumes and adornments accompanying brightly-coloured feathers on the male, and duller colours for the female. One cock will have a harem of hens and they may give chase when they feel a nest is threatened. Often bred for the hunting season, they can be found roaming the countryside and darting across roads in small packs.



Mostly Es: The bluetit

Both sexes of bluetit have beautiful, ornate colouring, and despite seeming to mate for life, females have been documented sneaking around behind their partner's back to ensure the best possible specimen of male fathers her chicks. They are skilled acrobats, and despite a diet of insects and spiders are known for learning how to get into bottles of milk to eat the cream. They are the most likely bird to use a custom-built birdhouse for nesting.



A big thank you
to our flock of Fabrica
volunteers who came together
to create the 21st issue of
Response Magazine!

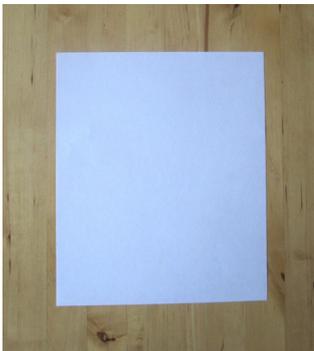


Before you go

Learn how to make your own Dawn Chorus origami bird
with Francisco Bravo



#fabricaflock

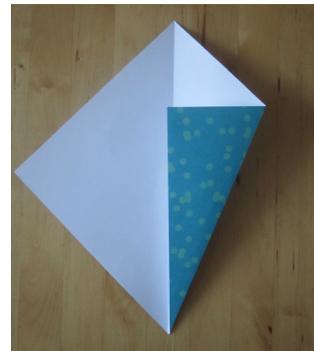


1



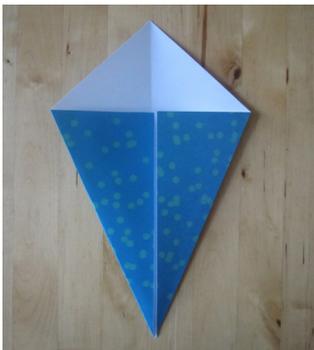
2

Diagonal valley fold



3

Fold two corners to
centre



4

Turn over



5

Valley fold top down



6

Front view



7

Fold both corners



8



9

Make a squash fold



10

Both sides



11

Complete squash fold



12



13
Valley fold to form feet



14



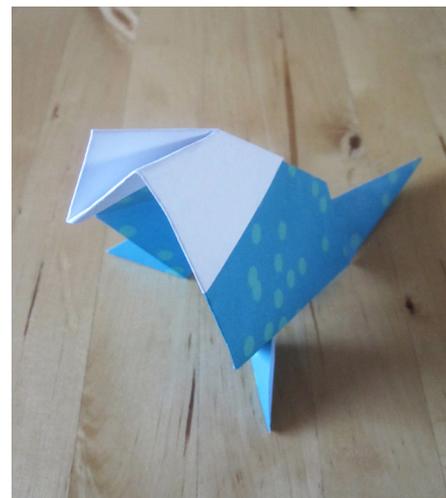
15
Fold the bird in half



16
Make an inside reverse
fold for the head



17
Make a crimp with mountain
and valley folds for the tail





Created in response to 'Dawn Chorus' by Marcus Coates
under the wing of Stacey Richards

with ideas, time and talent from:

Rocío Arenillas • Francisco Bravo • Nefertiti Boles • Ines Caluori
• Sabiha Choudhury • Olga Fiodorova • Tamsin Huxford •
Chantelle Lee • Alice Leverton • Catriona Shaw • Umberto Ughi