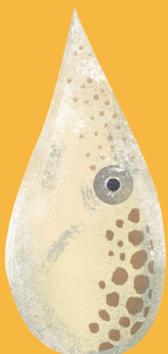


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All about **THE EGG**

B4U PUBLISHING



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RED ADMIRAL

Vanessa atalanta

 100 eggs
2 × per year

 7 days

 0.8 mm

 no one

The Brush-Footed is the nobility among the migratory butterflies! And it truly looks the part. You have to admit that the dark brown wings with white spots on the ends and with red hems are the essence of elegance and nobility. Before laying their eggs in Europe, they have to take a long and dangerous trip from Africa. The eggs have a green colour and grooves and resemble small barrels. They are really small, measuring even less than a millimetre! They have an opening in the middle which enables them to exchange gases between the egg and the external environment. This is where the caterpillar butterflies chew out into the world.



GREEN EGGS BLEND IN WITH THE COLOUR OF THE NETTLE LEAF →



GROOVED EGG, SMOOTH SURFACE
↓



CYCLE

One of the greatest wonders in the world takes place in this inauspicious pupa – the transformation of a not particularly attractive caterpillar into a colourful butterfly. After the final shedding of its coat, a new Red Admiral hatches from the pupa. As soon as it struggles into the world, it has to find a quite place where it can straighten up and dry its squished wings. Adult butterflies seek out rotting fruit in orchards and gardens at the end of the summer where they mainly feast on pears. And then it's time for goodbyes, they have to set off south.

Butterflies

ADULT BRUSH-FOOTED BUTTERFLIES ARE AS DISTINCT AS THE PLACES WHERE THEY LIVE. THEY ARE ALWAYS AMONG THE MOST ATTRACTIVE BUTTERFLIES WHETHER FLYING ABOVE THE MEADOWS OF CENTRAL EUROPE OR IN THE TROPICAL FORESTS OF SOUTH AMERICA:



MAP BUTTERFLY



QUESTION MARK



PELEIDES BLUE MORPHO



PEACOCK BUTTERFLY

The lifecycle of a butterfly



GROOVED EGG



CATERPILLAR WITH SPINES ON ITS BACK



GREY-BROWN PUPA



AN ADULT

A NETTLE GOURMET

The Red Admiral is an exception being a loner except for the mating season. It also, in contrast to other butterflies which place a group of eggs next to one another, lays each one on its own. Each egg has its own space on the upper part of a nettle leaf. The various coloured caterpillars are born in the middle of a laid table and can immediately start eating the nettles or thistles. They have to change clothes as they grow. And when the time comes, they pupate, hang on a leaf or hide inside leaves.

BURGUNDY SNAIL

Helix pomatia

 in clutches of 40-65, several times per season

 3-4 week

 6-8 x 7 mm

 no one



UNDERGROUND NEST

During spring, the snail uses its foot to dig several holes in the earth before laying up to 65 eggs in each. We might call it a champion hole-maker. Having again used its foot to cover the holes, it takes no further care of its eggs. For the next 3-4 weeks, the eggs rest in their underground nests. Eventually, tiny, luminous snails hatch from the eggs before boldly forcing their way through the soil to the surface. Their fragile shells grow with them – quite simply, theirs is a tailor-made home.

Occurrence

IT THRIVES IN CENTRAL, EASTERN AND WESTERN EUROPE – FROM UKRAINE TO BELARUS, THE CZECH REPUBLIC, POLAND, ALL THE WAY TO FRANCE AND ENGLAND. IN SOME COUNTRIES, IT IS CONSIDERED A DELICACY.



SNAIL DANCES

The Roman snail is a hermaphrodite, meaning that it is part boy and part girl. So what is a snail courtship like? When snail meets snail, they touch each other's muscular foot and tentacles in a kind of pre-marital snail dance.

Eggs

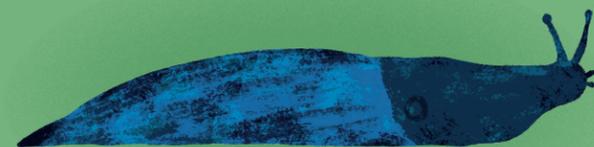
THE SNAIL LAYS ITS EGGS IN THE EARTH. THEY ARE JELLY-LIKE AND WHITE.

LUMINOUS PEARLS

The Roman snail makes its merry way through the green vegetation; it is about to lay its eggs. I'm not kidding – snails really are born from jelly-like white eggs. The eggs are sticky little balls that hold together in a pile. The snail will cover them up in their holes and continue on its way. The snail has left buried treasure – snail eggs look like little pearls.

Gastropods

THE ROMAN SNAIL HAS MANY INTERESTING RELATIVES. SOME OF THEM ARE A STRIKING BLUE AND DON'T CARRY THEIR SHELLS WITH THEM, WHILE OTHERS LIVE UNDERWATER. ALL ARE GASTROPODS, HOWEVER.



CARPATHIAN BLUE SLUG



ZEBRINA DETRITA



GROVE SNAIL



GREAT POND SNAIL

COMMON CUCKOO

Cuculus canorus

Great reed warbler



EGG SPECKLED ALL OVER



Common redstart



LIGHT-BLUE EGG



European robin



WHITE EGG WITH CINNAMON-COLOURED SPECKLES



Cuck-oo

THE CUCKOO CALL YOU HEAR IN THE WOODS IS MADE BY THE MALE.

If you see a bird carefully building a nest, tending its eggs and flying around fetching food for its young, you can be sure it's not a cuckoo. Not only does a cuckoo not build a nest, it doesn't even look after its young. It is happy to entrust their care to other bird families. So we can say that little cuckoos are born into foster families. Every cuckoo identifies a different bird species into whose nest it will lay its eggs. Typically, it lays a single egg in a nest before flying on to the next.

NEST

The cuckoo doesn't waste time building a nest. It's an extremely crafty bird! All it takes is for the hard-working redstart or wren to be away from its nest for a few moments; this is when the cuckoo slips its eggs into the stranger's nest. Most often, it leaves just one egg in each nest. Having laid an egg of its own, it will swallow one of the stranger's, so that the number of eggs remains the same and the foster family doesn't have too many. A cuckoo's eggs are similar in colour to those of the bird that brought it up.

A FOSTER PARENT → FEEDING A YOUNG CUCKOO

THE YOUNG BIRD IS SEVERAL TIMES LARGER THAN ITS FOSTER PARENT



usually 9 per season



11-13 days



19-27 × 14-19 mm



foster parents

CRAFTY BIRDS

Young cuckoos break out of their eggs earlier than other birds. But it's not because they are keen to meet their foster-brothers and -sisters and glad to have been taken in by a family of strangers. These apparently defenceless newborns push all the other eggs and young out of the nest. Then the little cuckoo's adoptive parents treat it as an only child and care for it devotedly, bringing it food for four or five weeks until it can look after itself.

Occurrence

FROM THE BRITISH ISLES TO FINLAND, SIBERIA AND ALL THE WAY TO CHINA AND JAPAN IN THE EAST. ACROSS THE MEDITERRANEAN, NORTHERN AFRICA, INDIA AND SOUTHEAST ASIA IN THE SOUTH. IT SPENDS THE WINTER IN TROPICAL AFRICA.



GREEN SEA TURTLE

Chelonia mydas



↑
ADULT TURTLES ARE UP TO 1.5 M LONG!

↑
GREENISH-BROWN COLOURING

-  100–150 into a nest

-  2–3 months

-  45 × 45 mm

-  no one

WHEN NIGHT FALLS

Green sea turtles hatch at night. Before they hurry to the sea in the moonlight, they must test their hard coat and dig themselves out of the sand. These things are hard work for a little turtle, and many hazards lie in wait for them. Only one turtle in a hundred lives to adulthood, which makes just one in every 1000 eggs!



A JUST-HATCHED GREEN SEA TURTLE IS ONLY 5 CM LONG!
↓



↑
A PIT 80 CM DEEP

LAYING EGGS

Green sea turtle eggs are laid in pits dug into the sand. One after another, until there are 200 or so! Over several nights, one green turtle can lay over 350 eggs in five nests. The average number for a single clutch? An incredible 112 round white eggs, each as big as a ping-pong ball. Although the eggs look fragile, they don't break on impact because they are protected by a leathery covering. As soon as its eggs are buried in the sand, the turtle heads straight for the sea, reaching it before daybreak.

Turtle traps

GREEN SEA TURTLE EGGS, BABIES AND ADULTS ALIKE HAVE MANY ENEMIES. THEIR ARCHENEMIES INCLUDE:



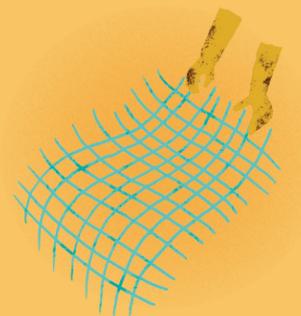
TIGER SHARK



YOUNG NANKEEN NIGHT HERON



VARIOUS CRAB SPECIES



HUMANS AND THEIR NETS

The green sea turtle moves slowly and cumbersomely along the sandy shore. It has an important task to perform – to lay eggs. It is an exhausting walk: its body isn't designed for dry land. It's a good thing that it makes this trip to the beach where it was born only once every two or three years. When a turtle lays eggs, it weeps ... The tears moisten its eyes and wash the sand out of them. After two hours, it returns to the sea.

KING PENGUIN

Aptenodytes patagonicus

THEY ROLL THE EGGS BETWEEN LEGS



1 egg per year



52-57 days



90-115 × 66-82 mm



the male initially, then they take turn

IN THE POCKET

As soon as the females lay one of these pears, which can weigh more than a quarter kilo, they roll them up to the legs of the male. The future father immediately bends over it and covers it with its fur coat. He watches over it and warms it. While he and the other fathers are freezing, amazing that their beaks don't shiver with cold, the eggs are doing great! After around three weeks, the mother returns in order to give the father a rest. One parent always broods while the other sets off to hunt, alternating in this fashion every five days.

Occurrence

THEY INHABIT THE ANTARCTIC SEAS AND COME TO THE ISLANDS ONLY DURING THE NESTING SEASON. THEY PROSPER, FOR EXAMPLE, ON TIERRA DEL FUEGO, ON THE FALKLANDS, ON SOUTH GEORGIA ISLAND AND ON THE PRINCE EDWARD ISLANDS.



UNDER THE SHELL

Something begins to happen after 55 days ... the egg shell begins to gently crack. It is far from easy for the young penguin to get out of the egg, lasting up to several hours. The parents do not come to its assistance, it has to find its way out of the egg on its own. Hooray, the bald penguin baby has arrived! It remains nice and warm with the parents. Soon it grows brown-dust-coloured feathers which protect it from the cold. This means it can join the other youngsters in the penguin kindergarten. The parents continue to care for it, however, feeding it and warming it, until it is able to regulate the temperature of its body on its own and find its own food.

THE YOUNG →
BEG FOR
FOOD WITH
THEIR BEAK



Coloring
THE EGGS ACQUIRE
COLOUR OVER TIME
FROM THE DROPPINGS
AND MUD

All around only frozen soil, gravel and stone, with the thermometer showing way below zero and piles of snow still occurring around. A fierce wind blows through the valley, reaching a speed in places of up to 200 km/h. Welcome to the islands of the Antarctic, the nesting site of the King Penguin. Brrrr, you can feel the cold just thinking of that windy, icy beauty. How can eggs survive here? The white to greenish coloured eggs of the King Penguin, reminiscent of large juicy pears, actually greatly prosper here!

Penguin gatherings



LITTLE PENGUIN



HUMBOLDT PENGUIN



ROYAL PENGUIN



ADÉLIE PENGUIN



KING PENGUIN



EMPEROR PENGUIN

1:1

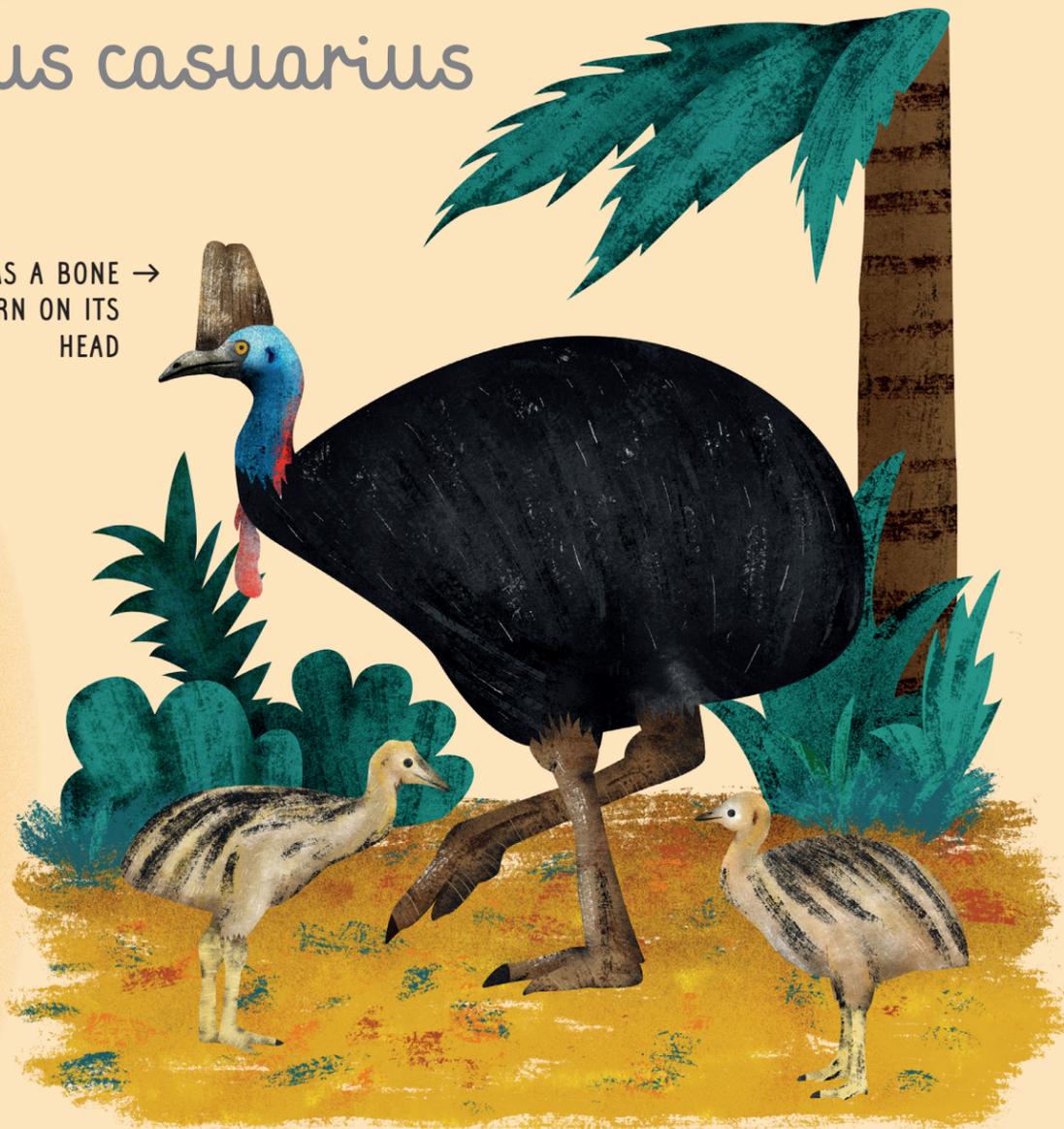
↑
PEAR
SHAPED

SOUTHERN CASSOWARY

Casuarus casuarus

1:1

HAS A BONE →
HORN ON ITS
HEAD



↑
POWERFUL
LEGS

↑
STRIPED
YOUNG

CASSOWARY MATING

Cassowaries are not all that concerned about family life, therefore their paths only cross when mating time comes around. The males call the females with a hooting call, circle around them swelling up their necks and throat wattles. When the larger and also more colourful females like the performance, they lay, after mating, 3–6 pea-green eggs into the prepared nests. They are nice and round, up to 15 cm long with small bumps and protrusions on the green shell. The cassowary eggs are diamonds among eggs!



← ROUND
EGGS WITH
A GRAINY
SURFACE

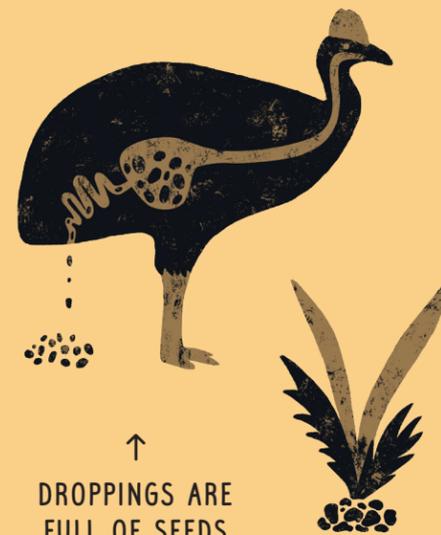
← LINING FROM
GRASS,
LEAVES AND
STICKS

3–6 eggs

47–61 days

127–151 × 86–100 mm

♀♂ the males
exclusively!



↑
DROPPINGS ARE
FULL OF SEEDS
AND BERRIES

← PLANTS SPROUT FROM
ITS DROPPINGS

Food

IT PRIMARILY LIVES ON FRUIT FROM AS MANY AS 75 DIFFERENT KINDS OF TREES! IT LEAVES BEHIND DUNG FULL OF SEEDS AND PELLETS WHICH END UP HELPING SPREAD THEIR FAVOURITE FOOD.

YOUNG

When the striped chicks emerge into the world out of the turquoise, green eggs, the attentive father leads them around for up to nine months, seeking out food for them, warming them on cold nights and never letting his eyes off of them the entire time. Now they might be small and need their father's protection, but when they grow up, they become one of the most dangerous birds in the world, able to slice open with one kick a dog, a horse or even a human. Cassowaries have powerful legs and particularly dangerous is its claw on the middle finger, up to 12 cm in length and sharp as a dagger.

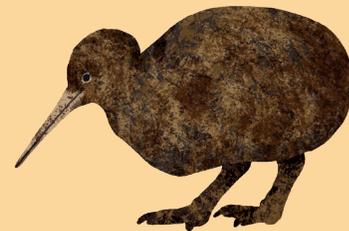
NEST

As soon as the female lays the eggs, her parental responsibilities come to an end. The father is on his own with the care for the eggs and the offspring. He is the one who carefully prepares the nest so as to have a comfortable place to sit on the round peas. The nest is a shallow hollow in the country, well hidden in thick overgrowth and bushes abundant in plants, sticks and fern leaves. The most important thing is for it to be comfortable as he will have to sit there another 54 days! He never abandons the eggs, warming them and turning them over.

Occurrence

THE SOUTHERN CASSOWARY IS LARGE, BUT NEVERTHELESS A MYSTERIOUS BIRD. IT HIDES IN DENSE FORESTS ON THE ISLANDS OF PAPUA NEW GUINEA, SERAM, ARU AND CAPE YORK PENINSULA IN AUSTRALIA.





All about **THE EGG**

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Illustrated by Matej Ilčík



Take a look at the nests of various sizes hidden in branches, underground, high up on cliffs or deep under the surface of the sea. Who lays the most eggs at one go, who has the strangest, the smallest or, in contrast, the largest eggs? Who shows them off to others for admiration and who hides their eggs from the rest of the world in chambers on a sandy beach? Eggs are always at the beginning of new life. Come and discover all of the mysteries connected with them ...



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