

HOW HARRIERS MIGRATE

Story & Script
Gayathri Chandrasekaran

Art
Sahil Upalekar

Letters
Pranay Bendre



Research:
T. Ganesh &
Arjun Kannan

A FAMILY OF PALLID HARRIERS WAS GETTING READY FOR A LONG JOURNEY.

I'M SO FULL, I CAN'T POSSIBLY EAT MORE, PAPA.

YOU MUST, SVEN! WE NEED TO EAT AS MUCH AS WE CAN. WE HAVE A LONG JOURNEY, AND WE'LL USE UP ALL THE ENERGY STORED IN OUR BODIES.

THE DAYS WILL SOON BECOME SHORTER AND THE NIGHTS LONGER; THAT IS WHEN WE NEED TO START FLYING SOUTH.

HOW LONG IS THE JOURNEY, MAMA?

The map shows the migration path of Pallid Harriers. It starts in the 'BREEDING GROUNDS' in northern Russia (green), passes through a 'PASSAGE' in the Middle East (light blue), and ends in 'NON-BREEDING, WINTERING GROUNDS' in South Asia (dark blue). A small inset image of a harrier is in the top left corner.

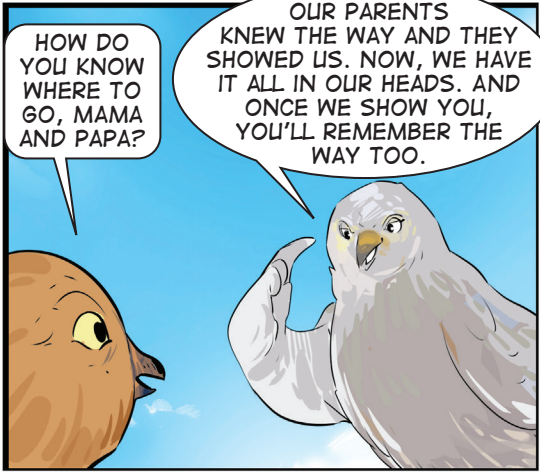
"WE'LL FLY ALMOST 5,000 KM AND THAT WILL TAKE US MORE THAN TWO WEEKS, ANYA."

THAT'S TOO MUCH FLYING! WHY CAN'T WE JUST STAY HERE?

IT GETS VERY COLD HERE IN RUSSIA IN WINTER. TEMPERATURES CAN DROP TO -20 DEGREE CELSIUS. WE WON'T HAVE A WARM PLACE TO SLEEP OR FIND PREY TO EAT.

WHAT HAPPENS IF I CAN'T FLY? IF I GET TIRED?

WE'LL FIND PLACES ON THE WAY TO STOP AND REST. WE'LL BE ABLE TO HUNT THERE TOO.

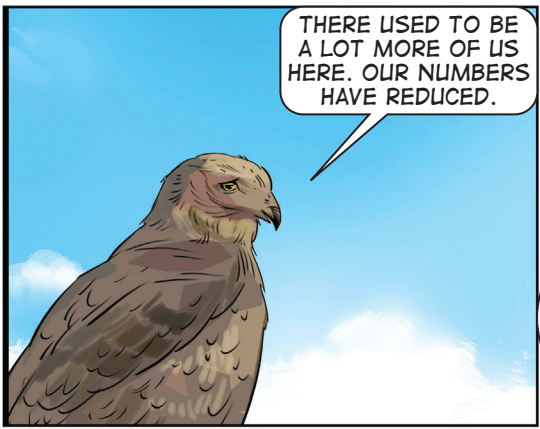
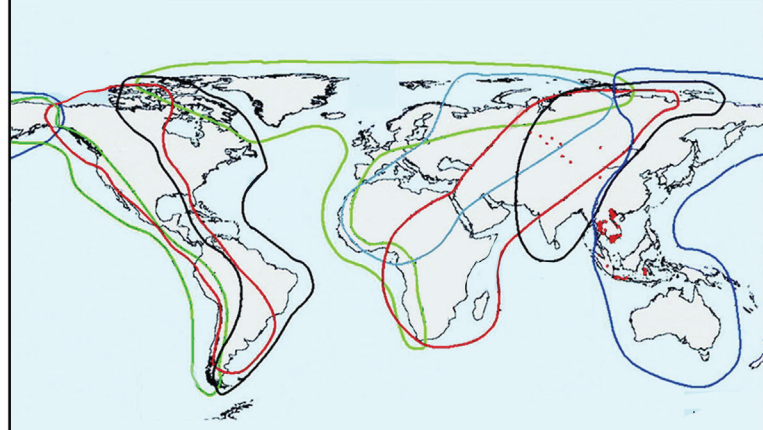


HOW DO YOU KNOW WHERE TO GO, MAMA AND PAPA?

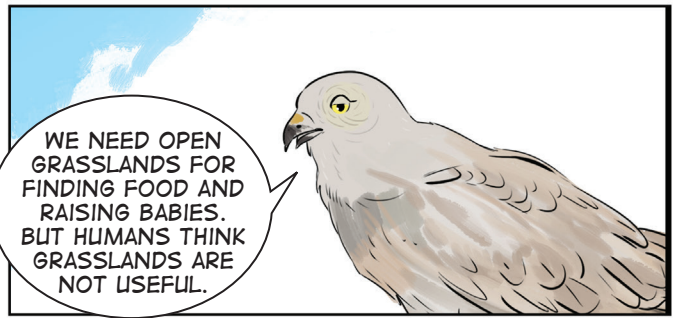
OUR PARENTS KNEW THE WAY AND THEY SHOWED US. NOW, WE HAVE IT ALL IN OUR HEADS. AND ONCE WE SHOW YOU, YOU'LL REMEMBER THE WAY TOO.



"ALMOST 5,000 SPECIES OF BIRDS ALL OVER THE WORLD MIGRATE FROM COLDER REGIONS TO WARMER REGIONS DURING WINTER. HUMAN SCIENTISTS HAVE FIGURED THAT THERE ARE MAJOR 'FLYWAYS' THAT BIRDS USE TO MIGRATE."



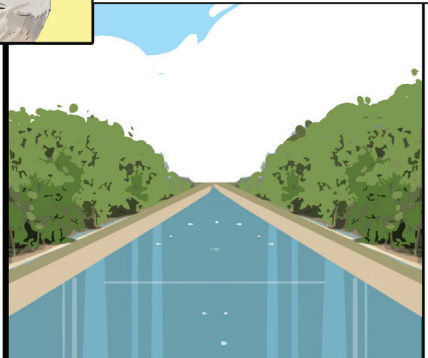
THERE USED TO BE A LOT MORE OF US HERE. OUR NUMBERS HAVE REDUCED.



WE NEED OPEN GRASSLANDS FOR FINDING FOOD AND RAISING BABIES. BUT HUMANS THINK GRASSLANDS ARE NOT USEFUL.



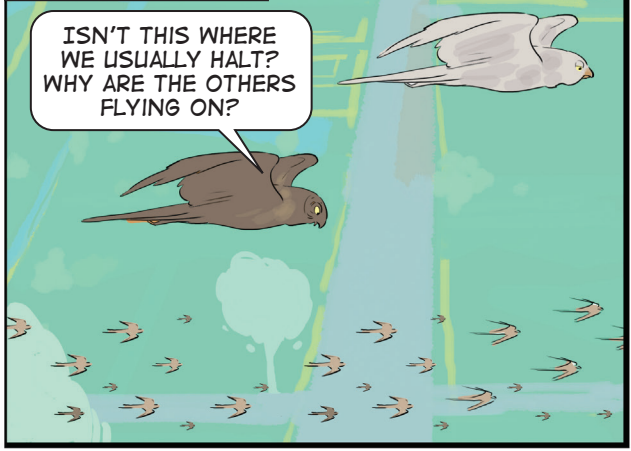
"THEY OFTEN CONVERT GRASSLANDS INTO FARMLAND, QUARRIES, CANALS, OR EVEN SOLAR OR WINDMILL FARMS."



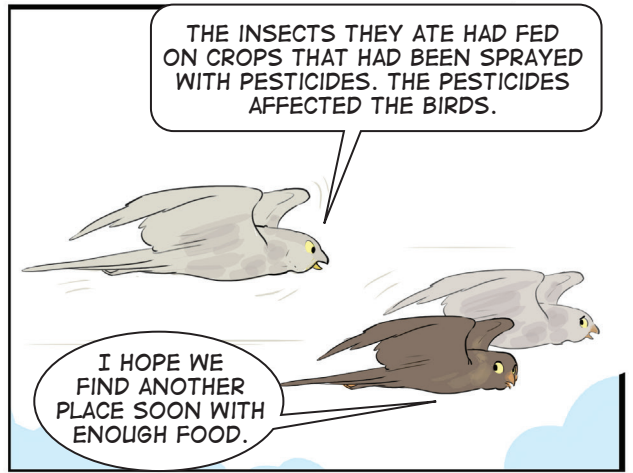
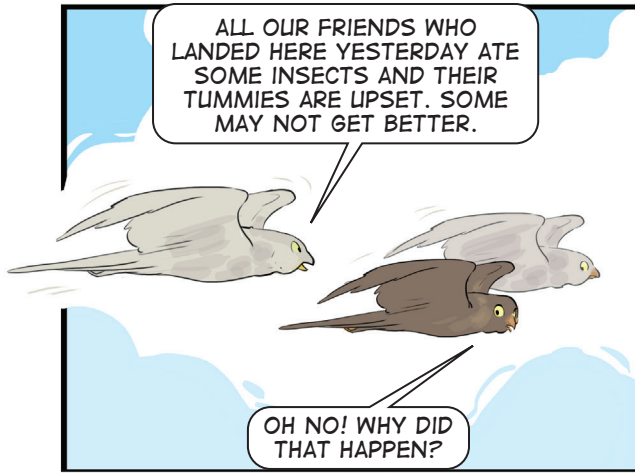
THE HARRIER FAMILY SOON SET OFF FOR THEIR WINTERING GROUNDS IN INDIA.



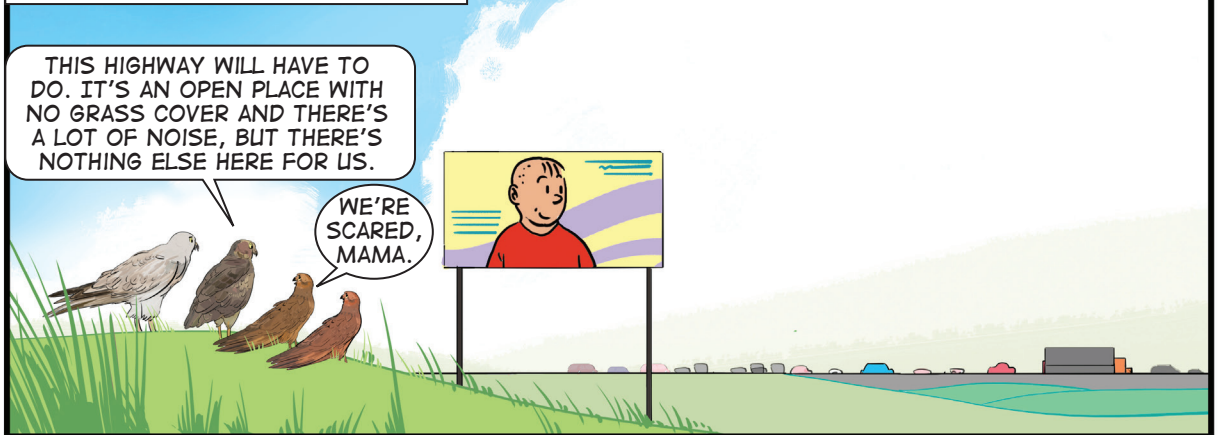
A FEW DAYS LATER...



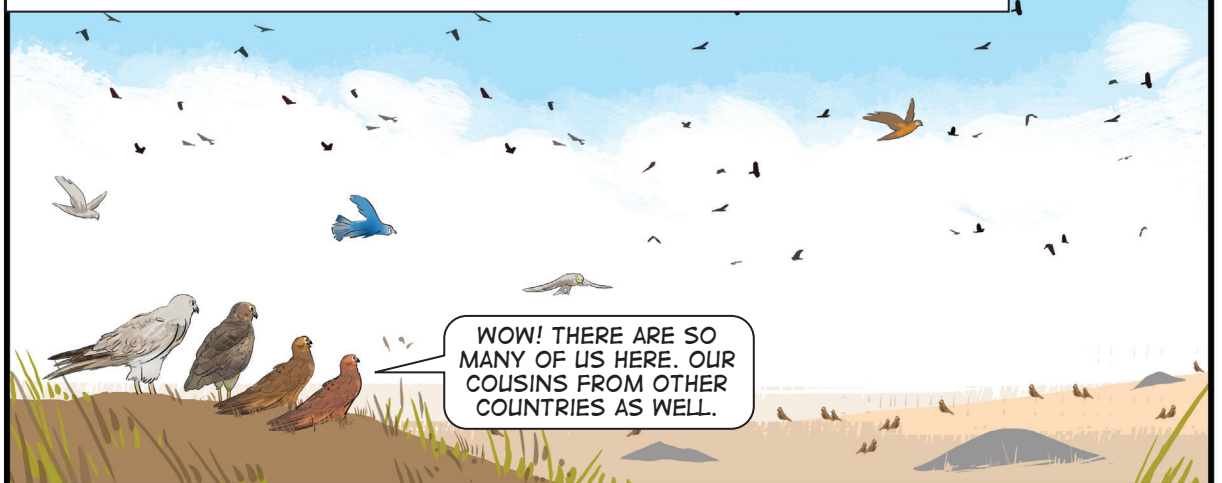
ISN'T THIS WHERE WE USUALLY HALT? WHY ARE THE OTHERS FLYING ON?

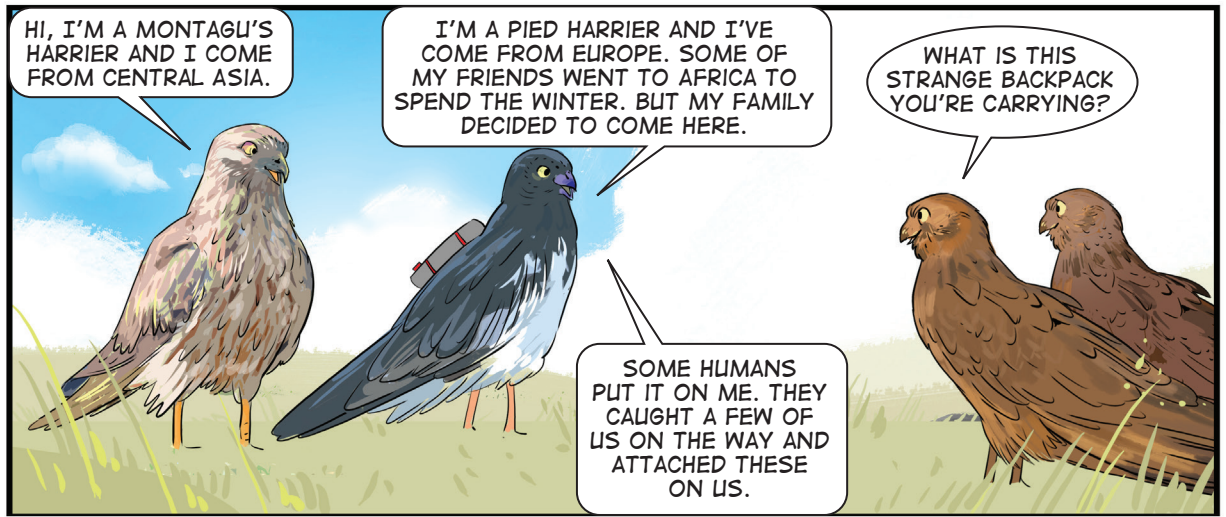


AFTER SEARCHING FOR SOME TIME...



AFTER TWO WEEKS OF FLYING, WHEN THEY REACHED VELAVADAR PARK IN GUJARAT...





HI, I'M A MONTAGU'S HARRIER AND I COME FROM CENTRAL ASIA.

I'M A PIED HARRIER AND I'VE COME FROM EUROPE. SOME OF MY FRIENDS WENT TO AFRICA TO SPEND THE WINTER. BUT MY FAMILY DECIDED TO COME HERE.

WHAT IS THIS STRANGE BACKPACK YOU'RE CARRYING?

SOME HUMANS PUT IT ON ME. THEY CAUGHT A FEW OF US ON THE WAY AND ATTACHED THESE ON US.



IT WAS SCARY. BUT THEY LET US GO.

"I HEARD THEM SAY THAT THEY WILL TRACK OUR MOVEMENTS WITH THESE DEVICES."



"APART FROM US, THERE ARE THREE OTHER TYPES OF HARRIERS THAT MIGRATE TO INDIA. MOST OF OUR NUMBERS HAVE REDUCED DRASTICALLY IN THE LAST 20 YEARS.

"THROUGH THEIR TRACKING EFFORTS, SCIENTISTS AIM TO CONSERVE OUR HABITATS AND OUR NUMBERS."



WE, PALLID HARRIERS, ARE ON THE ENDANGERED LIST AS OUR NUMBERS ARE FAST DECREASING.

YOU SAW HOW WE MADE THE LONG JOURNEY TO OUR ROOSTING GROUND, DESPITE DIFFICULTIES. WE'LL GO BACK IN A FEW MONTHS AND RETURN NEXT YEAR.

WE HOPE THAT THE GRASSLANDS ARE INTACT, AND THAT WE CAN SAFELY COME BACK HERE TO SPEND THE WINTER.