



BIRDS

A Photographic Journey of Nature's Aviators.

Incredible diversity fills the skies over SJS Organic Farm, where each bird captured in this collection reveals moments of wonder, resilience, and beauty. Celebrate the natural ecosystem and its avian inhabitants through these stunning images.



SJS Organic Farm



SJS Organic Farm

Centre Of Excellence



SJS Organic Farm, nestled in Tanzania's lush Mwanga District in the Kilimanjaro Region. Founded in 2017, SJS stands as a model of sustainable agriculture, answering Pope Francis' call in Laudato Si to care for our shared earth. At SJS, we empower small-scale farmers through hands-on organic training, with 70% of our curriculum dedicated to practical skills, from Bio Fertilizers and Effective Microorganisms to Organic Pest Management and the One Acre Family Farm model. Our mission reaches beyond farming; we aim to secure food resources, eradicate poverty, and uplift living standards through climate-resilient practices and indigenous technologies. SJS Organic Farm is a place to inspire and educate, dedicated to building a sustainable, peaceful community for youth, women, and farmers. Join us in cultivating a greener future—whether as a learner, partner, or fellow advocate. Together, let's plant the seeds of lasting change.

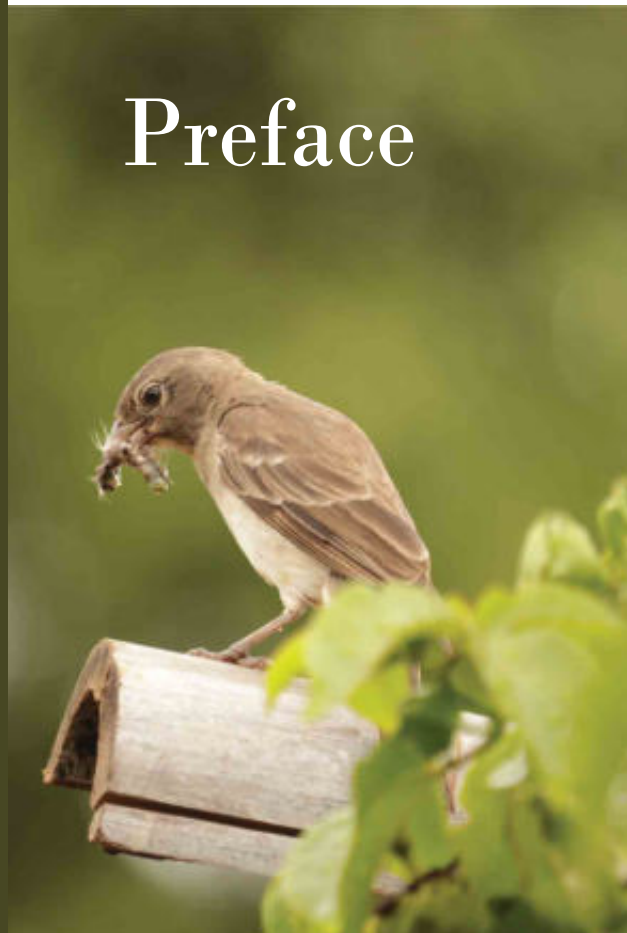
Located at the foot of the majestic Pare Mountains, SJS Organic Farm is a haven of natural beauty and biodiversity. Situated in Kwanyange village within Tanzania's Kilimanjaro Region, the farm's unique location at the Kenya-Tanzania border offers a breathtaking view of Mount Kilimanjaro. This idyllic setting, surrounded by the rich ecosystems of Tsavo National Park in Kenya and Mkomazi Park in Tanzania, as well as the nearby Lake Jipe and River Ruvu, provides a sanctuary for a diverse array of flora and fauna.

The photographs in this coffee table book were taken between March and May, a period following the rainy season when the farm comes alive with an abundance of insects. These insects, flourishing due to the sudden availability of resources and favorable conditions, attract a vibrant variety of birds to the farm. Each image captured within these pages reflects the unique harmony between the land and its feathered visitors, showcasing the farm's rich biodiversity and the intricate beauty of its avian inhabitants.

As you turn the pages, you'll journey through the lush landscapes of SJS Organic Farm, witnessing the captivating interplay between the natural environment and the birds that call it home. We hope this collection not only brings joy and wonder but also inspires a deeper appreciation for the delicate balance of nature and the role we all play in preserving it.

Welcome to the wondrous world of SJS Organic Farm, where every snapshot is a testament to the beauty and resilience of nature.

Preface



Acknowledgments

This collection would not have been possible without the inspiring dedication and vision of several key individuals who have nurtured this project from inception to publication.

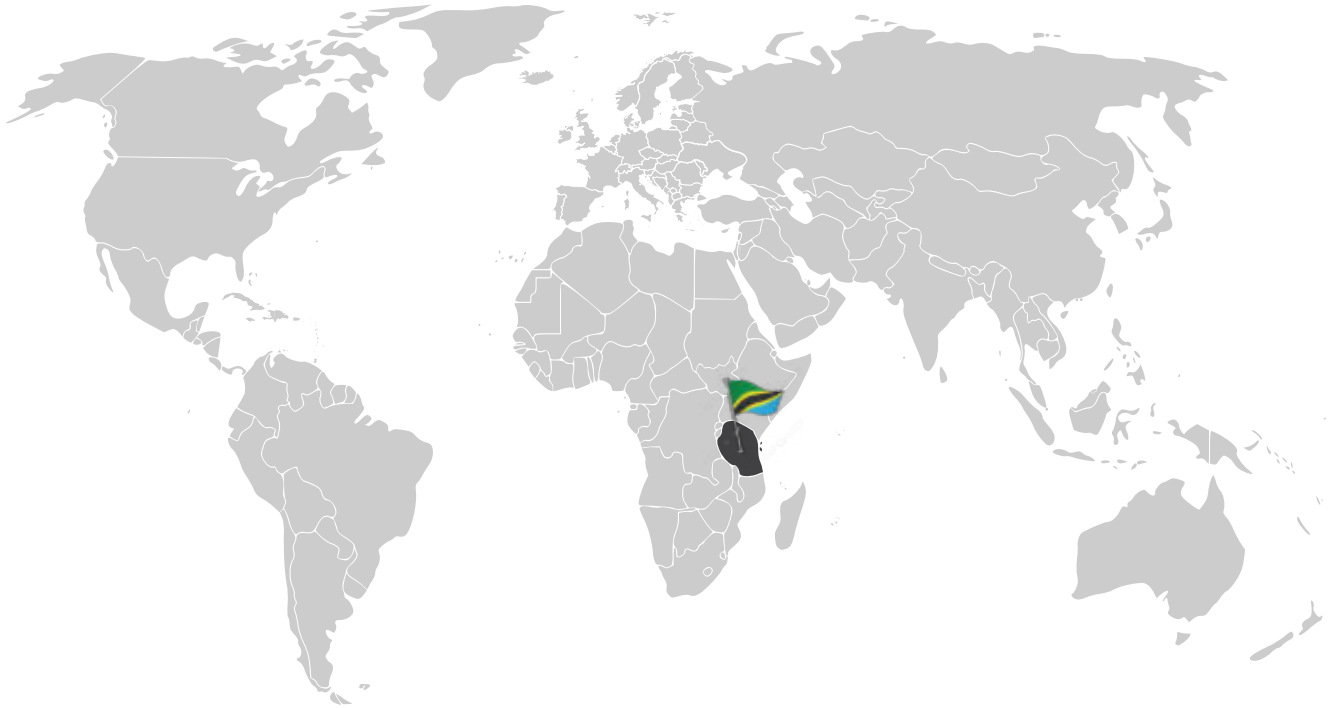
First and foremost, heartfelt gratitude goes to Fr. Alwyn D'Souza, Director of SJS Organic Farm, whose unwavering commitment to sustainability and ecological harmony brought this vision to life. His leadership has turned SJS into a sanctuary for biodiversity, where the beauty of nature flourishes.

Deep appreciation also goes to Mr. Hosea Augustine, whose photographic artistry has brilliantly captured the essence of each bird in this collection. His patience, skill, and eye for detail have transformed fleeting moments into timeless images that tell the story of SJS's natural inhabitants.

Special thanks to Rev. Dr. Praveen Martis, SJ, Vice Chancellor of St. Aloysius (Deemed to be University), Mangaluru, for his invaluable support and encouragement. His commitment to promoting environmental awareness and education has inspired us all to look deeper into the beauty that surrounds us and to treasure our ecological heritage.

To each of you, thank you for making this collection a celebration of nature's incredible artistry.

Tanzania



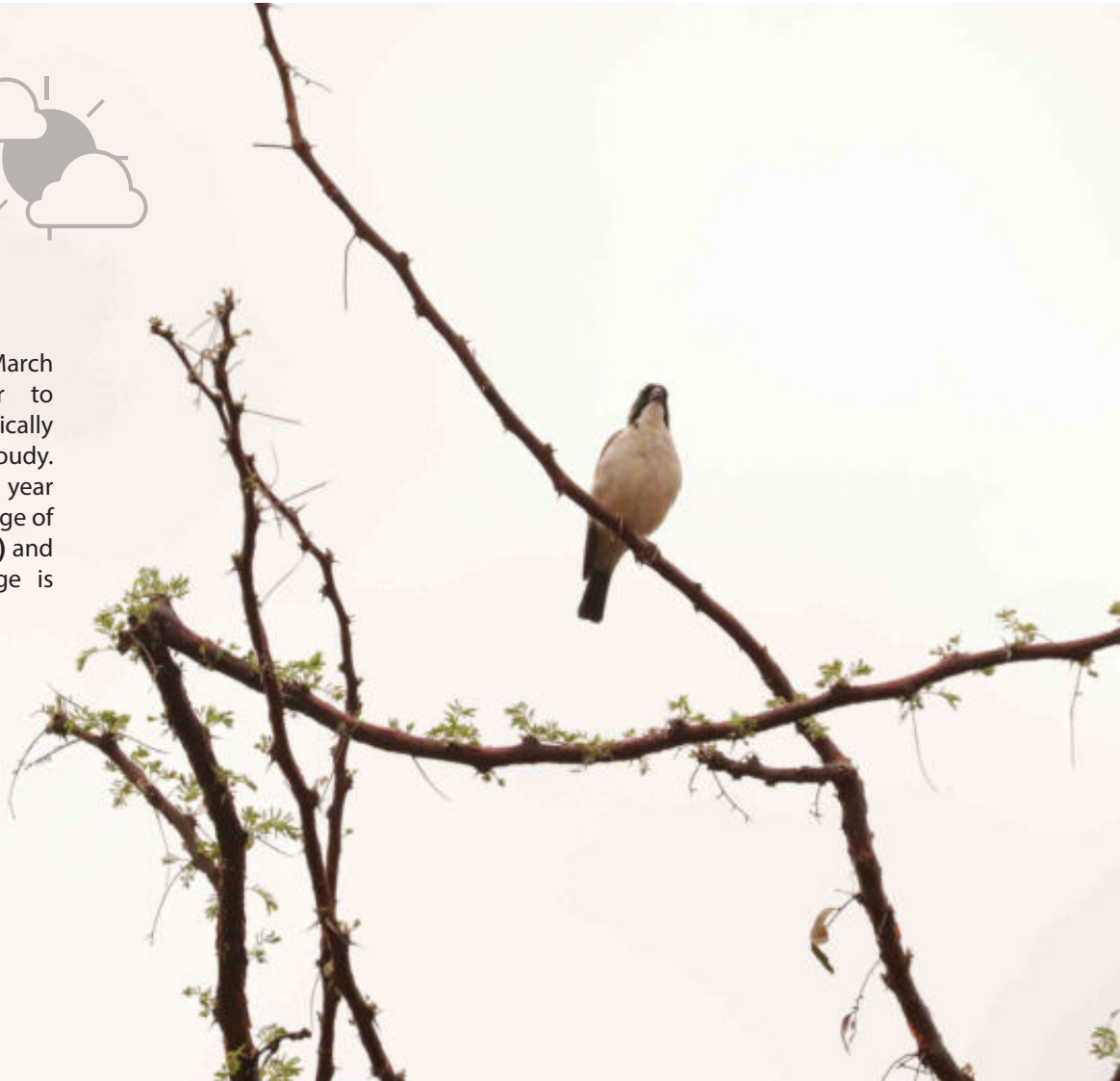


■ Kilimanjaro,
Region,
Tanzania



Weather at Kilimanjaro Region, Tanzania

Two rainy seasons – mid-March to May, and November to mid-January, when it is typically hot, humid and cloudy. Throughout the year temperatures stay in the range of **61°F (16°C) to 91°F (33°C)** and at the summit the average is **21°F (-6°C)**.





The Society of Mangalore
Africa Mission



SJS Organic Farm





Golden Palm Weaver

Ploceus bojeri

The Golden Palm Weaver (*Ploceus bojeri*) is a bright yellow bird with a slight orange hue on its head and chest, making it easy to spot among green foliage. Known for its intricate, woven nests, this weaver has a stout bill ideal for picking seeds and insects. On its visit to the SJS Organic Farm, it was spotted actively attacking the sunflower garden, likely attracted to the seeds. Golden Palm Weavers are social birds, often seen in small groups, and are native to East Africa, where they thrive in open grasslands and areas with scattered trees.



Red-billed Firefinch

Lagonosticta senegala

The White-bellied Go-away-bird (*Crinifer leucogaster*) is a large, striking bird with a unique appearance. It has a prominent gray crest on its head, a grayish body, and a bright white belly, with a long tail and strong beak. Known for its loud, distinctive "go-away" call, this bird often startles other animals and people alike. On the evening of March 30, 2023, one was spotted at SJS Organic Farm, likely perched in a tree, as it often prefers open woodlands and savanna areas. Its diet includes fruits, buds, and leaves, and it can often be found foraging among treetops.



Thick-billed Weaver

*Amblyospiza
albifrons*

The Thick-billed Weaver (*Amblyospiza albifrons*) is a sturdy, dark brown bird with a large, powerful beak that gives it a distinctive look. The males have rich brown plumage with glossy blackish highlights, while the females and young birds are lighter brown with streaks. Known for using its thick bill to crack seeds and weave complex nests, this weaver was spotted at SJS Organic Farm on April 1, 2023. It typically prefers wetlands, reed beds, and bushy areas, where it can easily find grasses and seeds to feed on.





Northern White-crowned Shrike

Eurocephalus ruepelli

The Northern White-crowned Shrike (*Eurocephalus ruepelli*) is a medium-sized bird with a striking appearance. It has a grayish-brown body, a distinctive white crown on its head, and a contrasting dark mask around its eyes. Its wings and tail are darker, giving it a bold, two-toned look. This shrike is known for its social behavior, often seen in small family groups. On March 30, 2023, it was spotted at SJS Organic Farm, likely perched high on a branch or fence post, scanning the surroundings for insects and small prey. This bird prefers open woodlands and savanna areas, where it hunts by swooping down from elevated perches



Grey Heron

Ardea cinerea

The Grey Heron (*Ardea cinerea*) is a large, elegant bird characterized by its long legs, neck, and sharp, pointed bill. It has a striking grayish-blue plumage on its back and wings, with a white head and underparts, along with black streaks above its eyes. Known for its patience while hunting, the Grey Heron stands still or wades slowly through shallow waters, looking for fish, amphibians, and small invertebrates.

On March 31, 2023, a Grey Heron was spotted at SJS Organic Farm, likely positioned near a water source, scanning the area for potential prey. This species is commonly found in wetlands, marshes, and along coastlines, and it is known for its distinctive, graceful flight, often seen with its neck retracted and long legs trailing behind.



White-bellied Go-away-bird

Crinifer leucogaster

The Red-billed Firefinch (*Lagonosticta senegala*) is a small, colorful bird known for its vibrant red bill and striking plumage. The male typically has a bright red forehead, cheeks, and underparts, with a more muted brownish back and wings. Females are generally less colorful, featuring a more subdued brown and cream coloration.

On March 30, 2023, a Red-billed Firefinch was spotted at SJS Organic Farm, likely foraging on the ground for seeds and small insects. These birds are social and often found in small flocks, where they are known for their cheerful chirping calls. Their lively presence adds a splash of color to their natural habitats, which include grasslands, savannas, and open woodlands.



The Nesting Season of Weaverbirds at SJS Organic Farm

Between February and May, the nests of weaverbirds at SJS Organic Farm are an impressive sight, typically spherical or oval-shaped and woven from grass, reeds, and other plant materials. These nests, featuring a small entrance at the bottom, are often found hanging from tree branches and can form large colonies in a single area. During this nesting season, males busily gather materials, flying back and forth to collect grasses and fibers. They skillfully weave these materials together, displaying their vibrant plumage to attract females and showcase their nest-building skills. This bustling activity creates a lively atmosphere, as the birds work diligently to complete their nests before females arrive to choose mates based on nest quality.





D'Arnaudbaardvogel

(darnaudii/boehmi)

Trachyphonus darnaudii
darnaudii/boehmi

The D'Arnaud's Barbet (*Trachyphonus darnaudii*) is a small, colorful bird with a distinctive, stubby beak. It has a bright yellow chest and throat speckled with black, a white belly, and black-and-white spots on its wings. Its face is highlighted with an orange-red patch around the beak, adding to its unique appearance. Known for its rapid, repetitive "trrr-trrr-trrr" call, this barbet is often heard before it's seen. One was spotted at SJS Organic Farm on March 30, 2023, likely perched low in a bush or near the ground, as it often forages there for insects, seeds, and fruit. D'Arnaud's Barbets prefer savanna and open woodland habitats, where they live in pairs or small groups.



Lilac-breasted Roller

Coracias caudatus

The Lilac-breasted Roller (*Coracias caudatus*) is a brilliantly colored bird with a vibrant lilac chest, turquoise blue wings, and a greenish head, making it one of the most eye-catching birds in Africa. It has a long tail with outer feathers that form pointed extensions, especially noticeable in flight. This bird feeds on insects, small reptiles, and occasionally seeds, diving down from a perch to catch its prey. On March 31, 2023, a Lilac-breasted Roller was spotted at SJS Organic Farm, likely perched on a tree or post, scanning the area below for food. This roller is known for its beautiful display flights and thrives in open woodland and savanna.



White-browed Sparrow-weaver

Plocepasser mahali

The White-browed Sparrow-Weaver (*Plocepasser mahali*) is a small, social bird known for its distinctive appearance and behavior. It has a brown body with a striking white brow that extends from its beak over its eyes, giving it a notable facial pattern. The rest of its plumage is generally brown with lighter underparts, and it has a sturdy, conical bill that is well-suited for seed-eating.

On March 31, 2023, a White-browed Sparrow-Weaver was spotted at SJS Organic Farm, likely foraging in small groups among grasses and shrubs. These birds are known for their intricate nests, which they weave from grass and plant material, often creating communal nesting sites. Their cheerful calls and sociable nature make them a delightful presence in the area.



Jacobin cuckoo *Clamator jacobinus*

The Jacobin Cuckoo (*Clamator jacobinus*) is a striking bird known for its distinctive plumage and unique calls. This cuckoo features a sleek body with a long tail, and its most notable characteristic is its bold black and white coloration; the males have a glossy black head and upperparts, while the underparts are white with some dark streaking. They also possess a distinctive crest, adding to their elegant appearance.

On April 29, 2023, a Jacobin Cuckoo was spotted at SJS Organic Farm, often perched on a branch or in open areas where it can be seen and heard. These birds are known for their melodious, repetitive calls that echo through the surroundings. The Jacobin Cuckoo is a brood parasite, typically laying its eggs in the nests of other birds, which then raise its young. With its beautiful plumage and vocalizations, this cuckoo is a fascinating addition to the farm's avian community.



Superb Starling, *Lamprotornis superbus*

The Superb Starling (*Lamprotornis superbus*) is a strikingly colorful bird, with vibrant blue and green upper parts, a reddish-orange belly, and a white chest band. It has a sharp, pointed beak and bright white eyes, which make it easily recognizable. Known for its lively personality, this starling often moves in groups and can be found in open woodlands and savannas, feeding on insects, seeds, and fruits. One of these beautiful birds was spotted at SJS Organic Farm on April 1, 2023.



Pale Rockfinch

*Carpospiza
brachydactyla*

The Pale Rockfinch (*Carpospiza brachydactyla*), a small, light brown and grayish bird with a short, stubby bill, was spotted at SJS Organic Farm on April 29, 2023. This bird typically inhabits rocky, dry areas, like cliffs or open deserts across the Middle East and Central Asia and Africa. Feeding mainly on seeds and insects, it often flies in small flocks, especially during the breeding season.



Hadada Ibis

Bostrychia hagedash

The Hadada Ibis (*Bostrychia hagedash*) is a large, striking bird known for its distinctive long, curved bill and iridescent green and purple plumage. This ibis has a mostly dark brown body, with a noticeable white wing stripe that is often visible in flight. Its long legs are adapted for wading through shallow waters and marshes, where it forages for food.

On March 30, 2023, a Hadada Ibis was spotted at SJS Organic Farm, likely searching for insects, snails, and other small invertebrates in the ground or water. These birds are known for their loud, distinctive calls that sound like "hadada," which is how they got their name. Social and often seen in small groups, the Hadada Ibis adds a lively presence to the farm's ecosystem, thriving in a variety of habitats, including wetlands, grasslands, and agricultural areas.



SJS Organic Farm

is under Catholic Diocese of Same

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