



For my Mother, who always encouraged me to follow my passion. – G.T

For J.P.
With special thanks to the Biology Department at Boston University. – J.M.

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Made For Each Other



GEORGINA TAYLOR



BPP

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What is Symbiosis?

In the natural world, it benefits to have a friend. Teamwork or an unexpected partner could make all the difference to survival – whether it's warding off predators, removing parasites or aiding reproduction. It is for this reason that creatures great and small come together, from the tiniest of tree frogs to the biggest of elephants. The strength of these relationships gives each organism the confidence to overcome fears, and establish a level of trust and intimacy that would otherwise seem impossible.

In this book, we explore nature's most precious relationships in the form of symbiosis – how two or more organisms have adapted to each other for survival. To understand symbiosis, is to understand the complex and fragile network that all life depends on. If just one link in the chain is removed, the consequences could be far reaching. From the top of the jungle canopy to the depths of the ocean, habitats all around the world are teeming with these extraordinary animal partnerships.







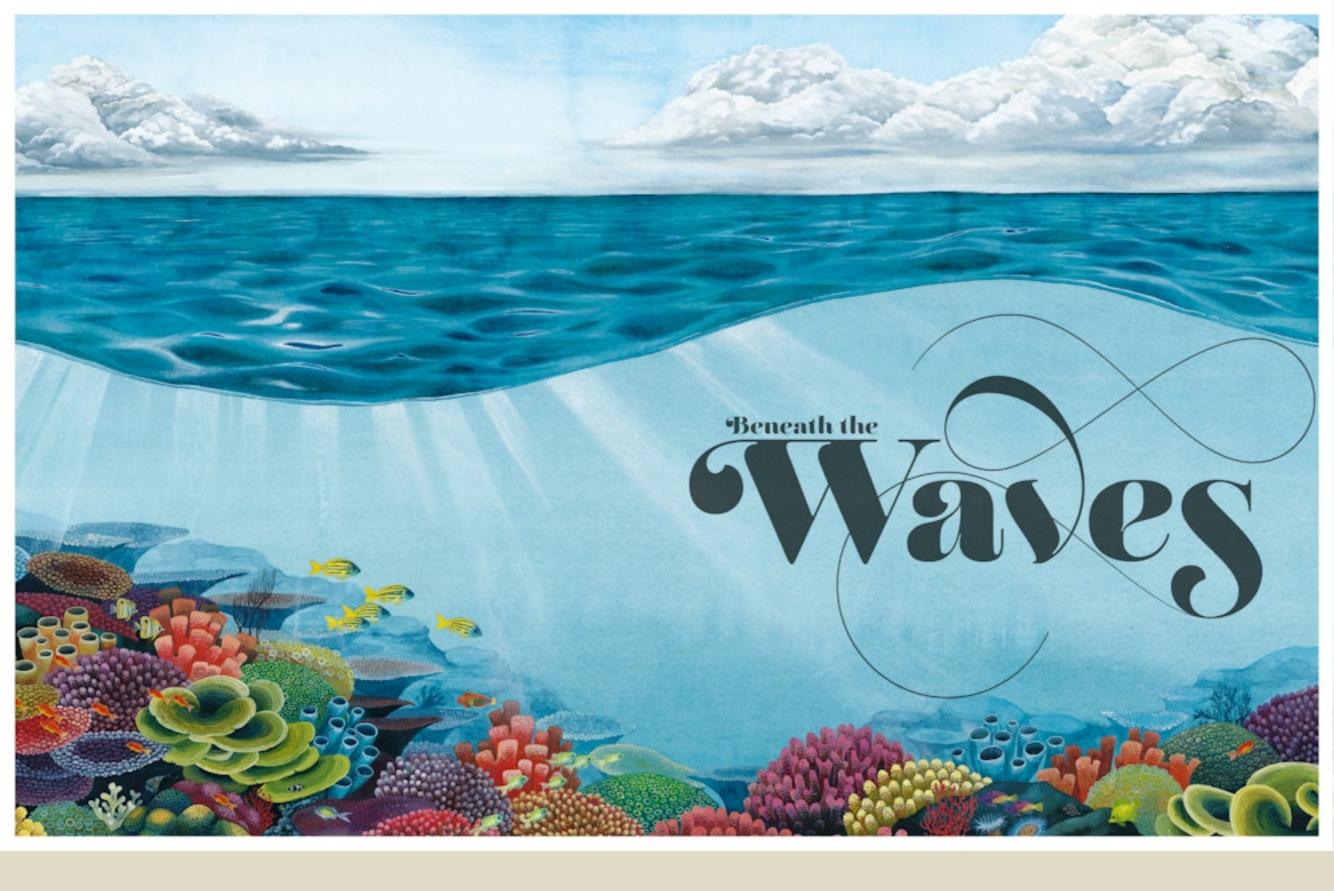


















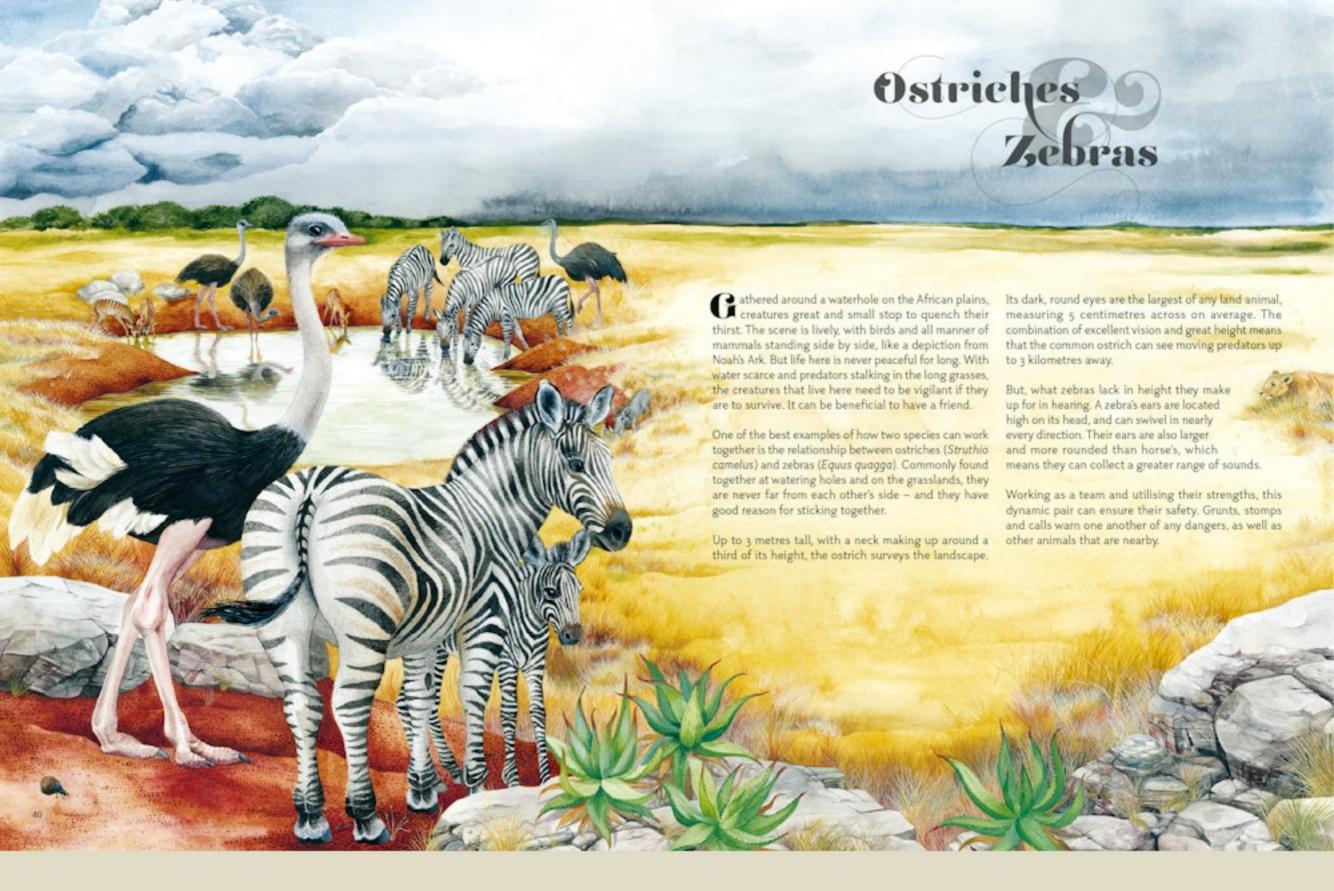




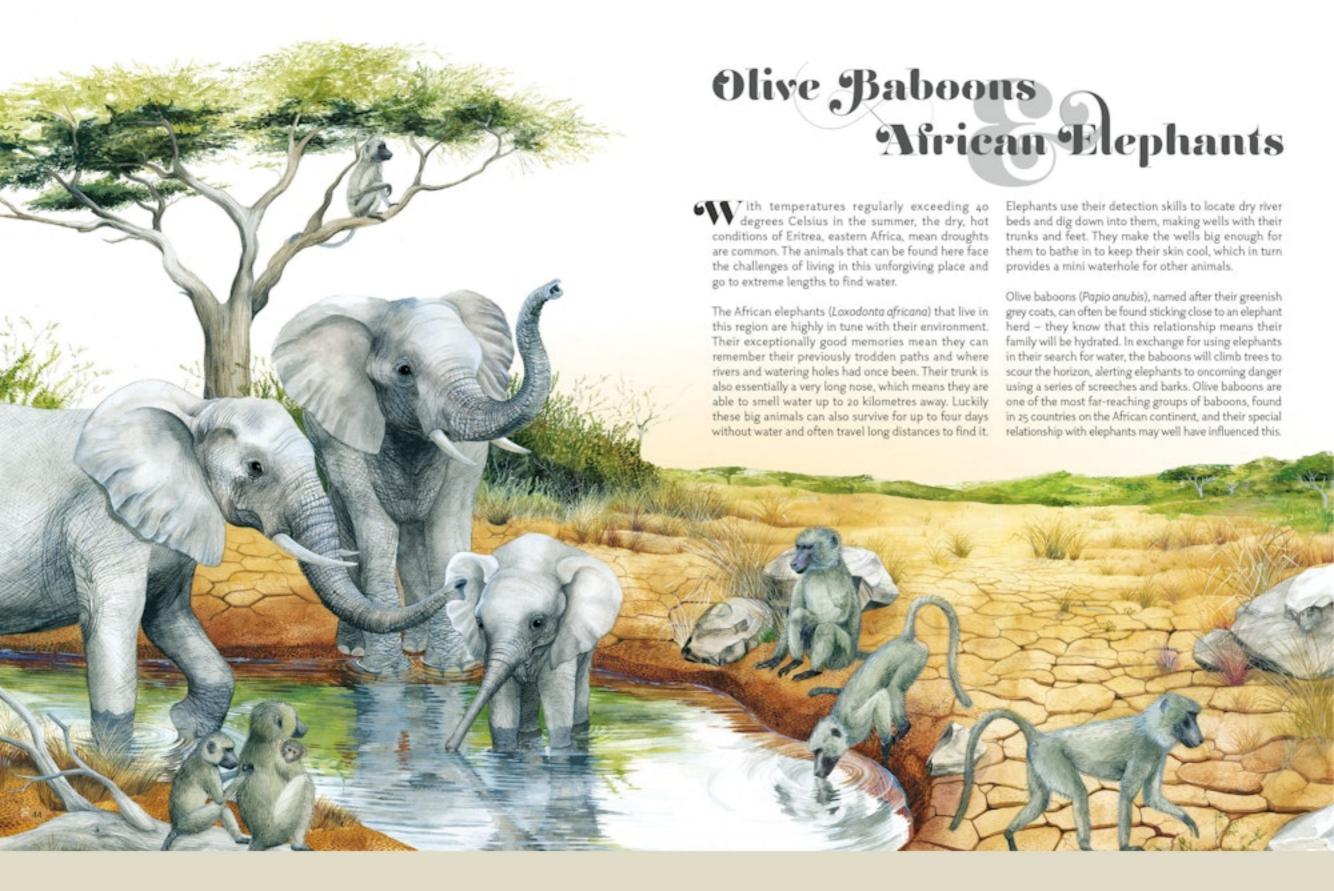


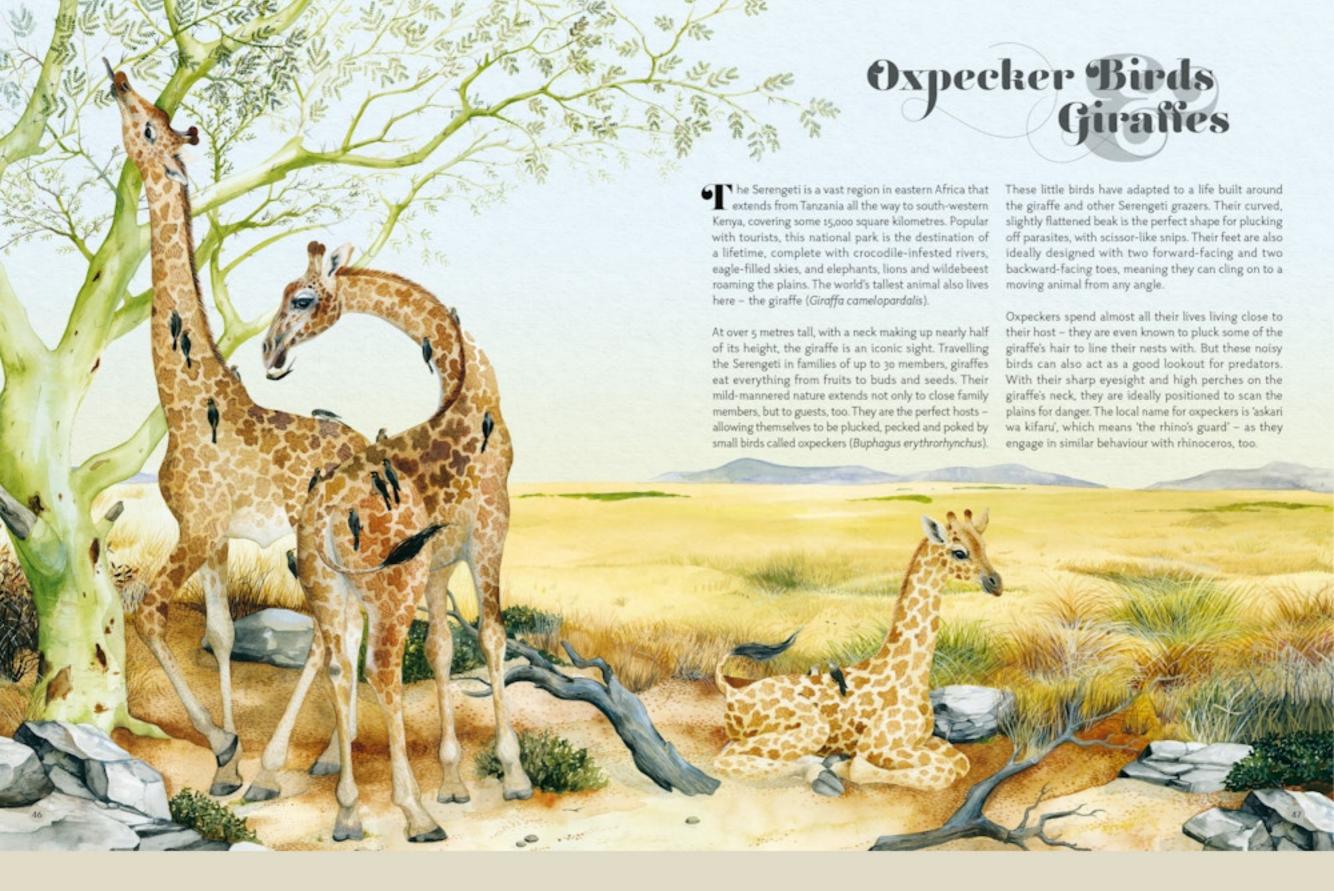
















It is not often thought that mammals such as monkeys play a role in plant pollination, but it is true that they have an important role in some South American jungles. In fact, many other species including lizards and birds are also key pollinators for plants – not just insects.

In much the same way that bees

pollinate flowers in an English





is extremely limited.

More than 90 per cent of the birds' nests are built inside

a single type of tree - the manduvi (Sterculia apetala) and of that, the selection is narrower still. It is often

only inside ancient manduvi trees (aged over 60 years),

with sturdy hollow barks and large, shaded canopies,

which these parrots choose to nest in.

year. Hyacinth macaws only lay two eggs and often

This uniquely complex relationship has been called a 'conservation puzzle' by scientists. It highlights the importance of truly understanding an ecosystem in order to protect it.

raise just one healthy chick, and so this is especially disastrous. In this way, the toucans are both helpful

and harmful to the macaw population.







