

# GAME 2: BIRD MIGRATION

Print page I & II back-to-back on thick paper. Cut along the dotted line

**1** You spotted a black-and-white bird with a long tail and crest.

Most migratory birds arrive in India from colder places like Russia, Mongolia, Eastern China, Siberia among others during winter season. The **Pied Cuckoo** is one of the very few birds that comes to India from Africa during the summer months.

*Touch anything that is black and white in colour. Name 2 other birds that are black, white or black & white.*

**3** In North Indian folklore, the Pied Cuckoo is known as the "**Chatak**" a bird that quenches its thirst only with raindrops. Its black crest is seen as a second beak that points up at the sky, waiting for rain to quench its thirst. Ancient Sanskrit poet Kalidasa in his famous poem **Meghaduta** compares the thirst of the Pied Cuckoo for the rain to the yearning of a pious heart for the divine.

*Find a natural element that is consumed both by us and birds.*

**5** You encountered '**Chatak**', the Pied Cuckoo who has flown from Africa crossing the Arabian Sea. It is one of the first Pied Cuckoos who reached India in the third week of May, ahead of the monsoon.

As the monsoon arrives and spreads in June, sightings of the Pied Cuckoo in India also spread, until the entire Indian subcontinent is covered by both rain as well as Pied Cuckoos!

*Spot something flying and describe it*

**7** You meet '**Megh**', another migratory Pied Cuckoo in Dehradun, Uttarakhand State. Megh visits Dehradun year after year.

Migratory birds are known to have high site fidelity meaning the birds return to the same location every year.

*Touch an object that you find in the same place and you use again and again every day.*

**2** You met a farmer who calls the Pied Cuckoo a **Rain Bird**.

Farmers have traditionally relied on the arrival of the Pied Cuckoo as a signal to sow seeds, as they know that the monsoon will follow soon. This signal is right because the Pied Cuckoo arrives in India riding the south-west monsoon wind.

*Stretch your arm and point at south-west direction*

**4** Pied Cuckoos seen in India belong to two different types.

One is a resident in southern India and is seen all year round. But in central and northern parts of India, Pied Cuckoos appear in late summer and early monsoon (middle of May). These are migratory birds that move between India and Africa.

*Listen closely - can you hear any bird call? Imitate the call*

**6** '**Chatak**', will stay in the foothills of the Himalayas to raise a family.

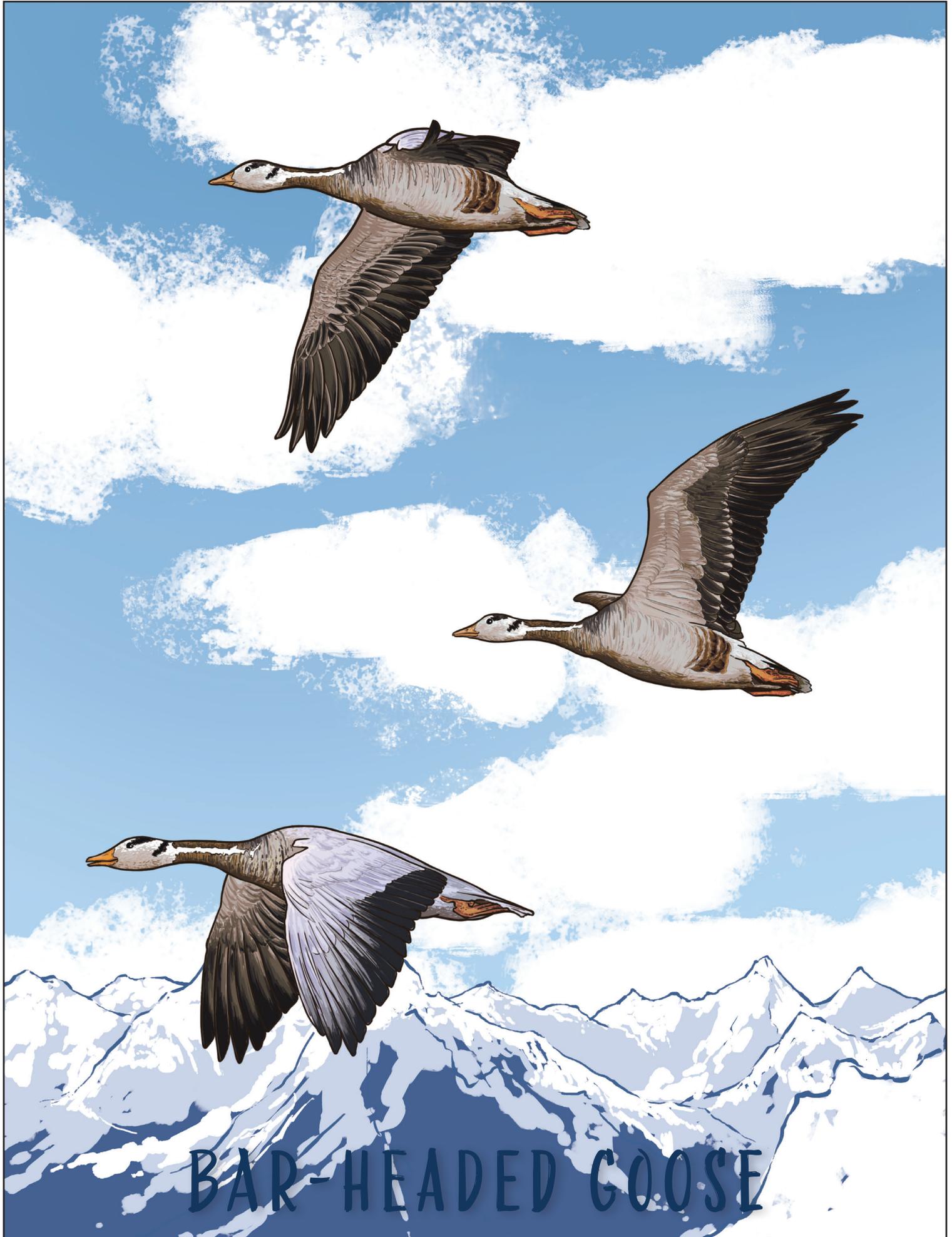
It is a **brood-parasite**, meaning it does not make its own nest and instead lays its egg in the nest of other birds, particularly the Babblers.

*Go fetch any material that is used by birds for nesting*

**8** '**Chatak**' and '**Megh**' will stay in the Himalayan foothills till the end of the monsoon season and start the return migration to Africa in late September. Pied Cuckoos feed on insects including hairy caterpillars.

*Find an insect or a spider in the room.*

# JIGSAW PUZZLE 2: CELEBRITIES OF MIGRATION



BAR-HEADED GOOSE