

GUANDU NATURE PARK

Waterbird Wonderland



Taipei City Animal Protection Office (TCAPO)

Formally established 2010, The TCAPO is committed to the protection of animals and the promotion of animal-related laws and regulations.

Guandu Nature Park

In 1996 the Taipei City Government established the Guandu Nature Park as part of its commitment to environmental education and wetland conservation.

The nature center was established in 2001, the same year the Wild Bird Society of Taipei was entrusted to manage it.

Wild Bird Society of Taipei (WBST)

Established in 1973 and officially registered as a civil association in 1984, the WBST actively cooperates with the Taipei City government in areas related to birdwatching, wild bird research, and conservation.

Publisher: Taipei City Animal Protection Office

Illustrator: Li, Mei-Ching

Art Editor: Bor Hwa Printing Co., Ltd

Editor: Wild Bird Society of Taipei

Translator: Chan, Sze Wing · Scott Pursner

Proofreader: Chiang, Kung-Kuo



The East Asian - Australasian Flyway

The Guandu Wetland is located on the East Asian-Australasian Flyway. Due to its geographic features and local climatic conditions, it is an important bird habitat and also the most important site for migratory birds in northern Taiwan. Over 302 bird species have been recorded at Guandu.

More than 5,000 Green-winged Teals (*Anas crecca*) and Dunlin (*Calidris alpina*) have been recorded here. However, due to the construction of dikes and the expansion of mangrove forests, the wetland habitat has been changed and territorialized, losing some of its ecological functions. However, Guandu is still the most important bird habitat in northern Taiwan.



臺北市動物保護處
Taipei City Animal Protection Office

關渡自然公園
GUANDU NATURE PARK

臺北市野鳥學會
Wild Bird Society of Taipei

Guandu Wetlands include a variety of different habitats such as forests and mudflats. This diverse landscape is home to diverse bird species.

The seemingly empty mudflats of the intertidal zones hide many benthic organisms. This habitat attracts birds such as the Black-winged Stilt (*Himantopus himantopus*), Common Greenshank (*Tringa nebularia*) and different species of heron and egret to forage here.

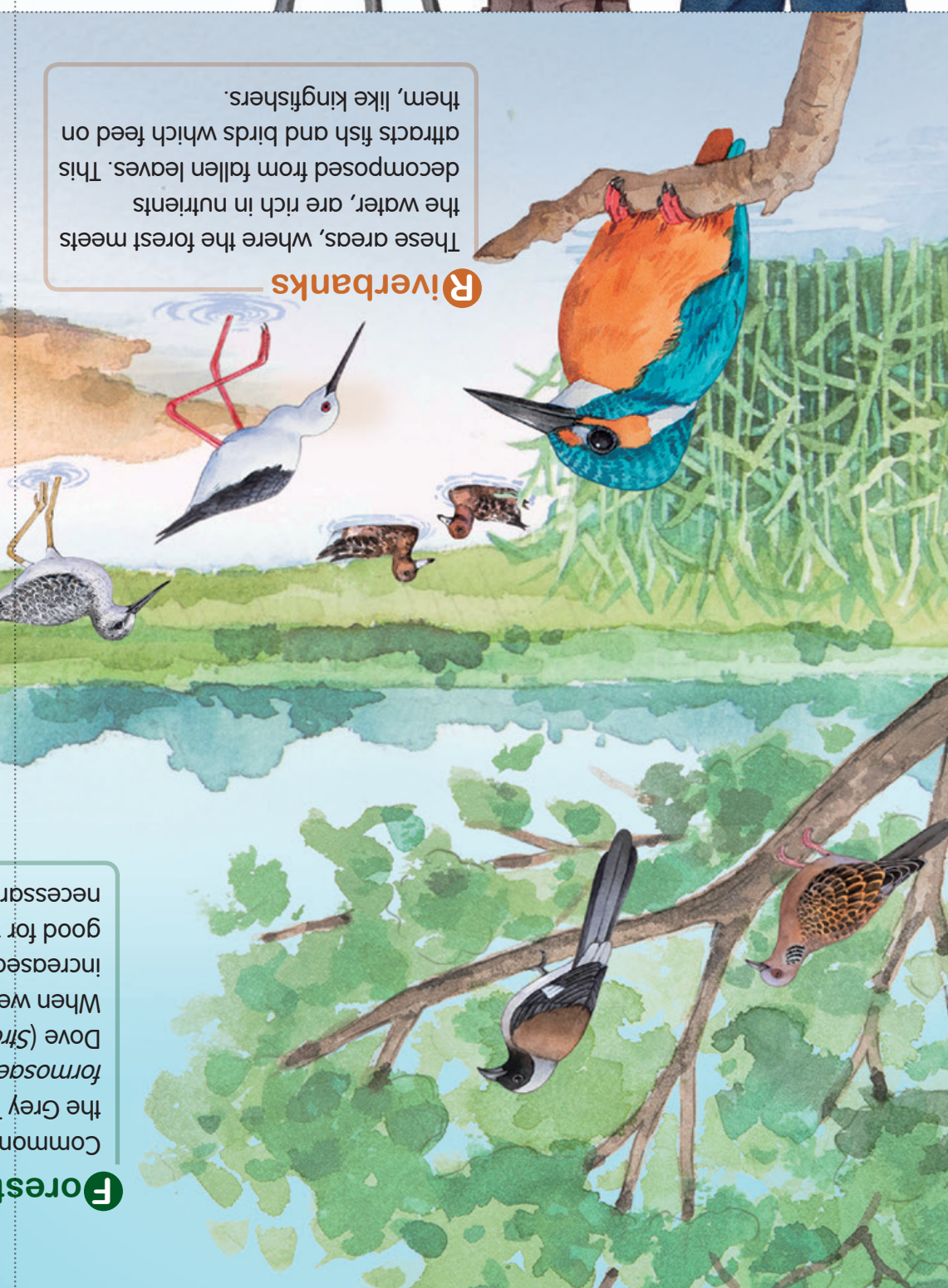
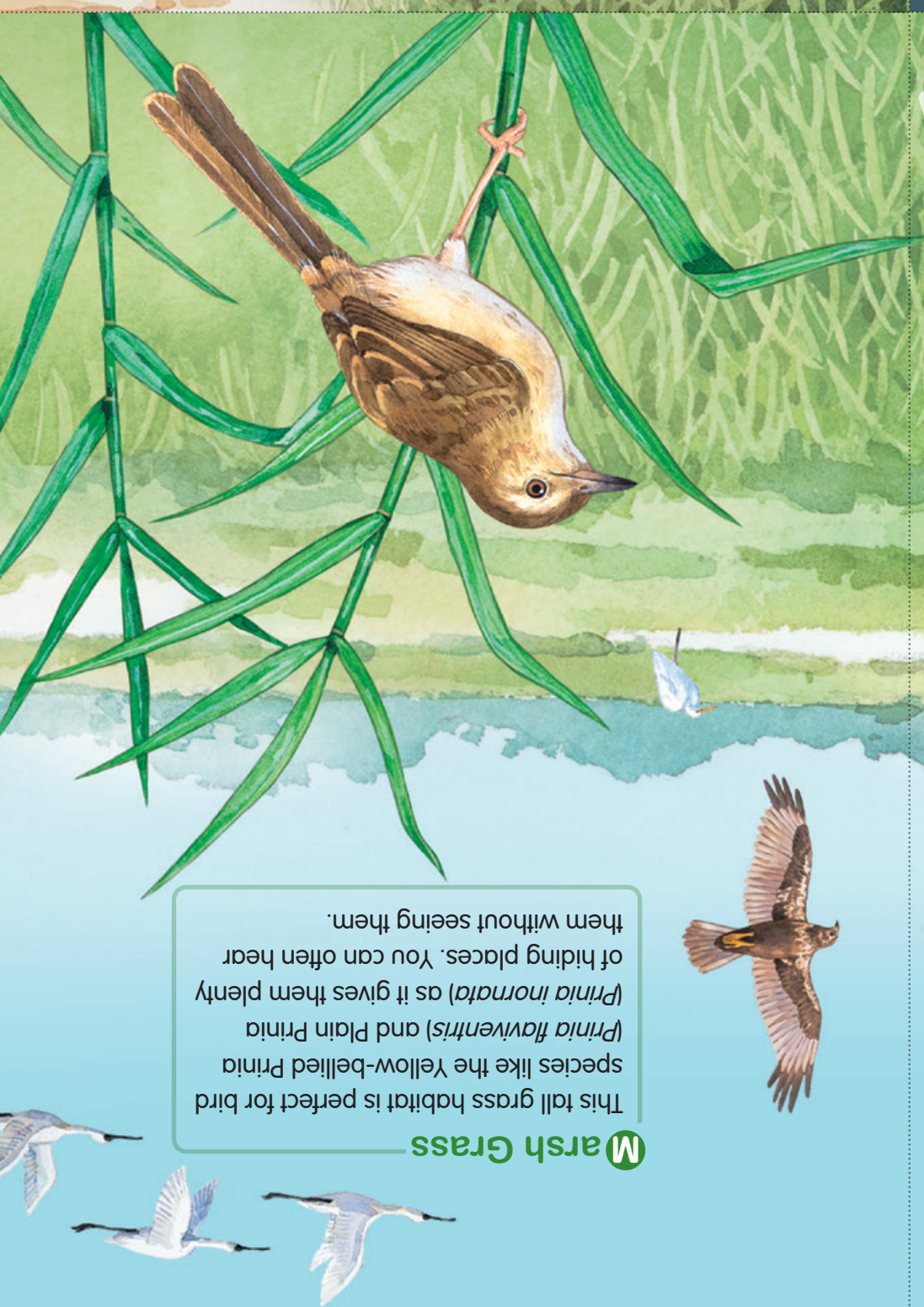
These areas, where the forest meets the water, are rich in nutrients decomposed from fallen leaves. This attracts fish and birds which feed on them, like kingfishers.

Though seemingly no bird found in summer, this is the prime habitat of many ducks and geese in winter. Guests from Siberia include species like the Green-winged Teal (*Anas crecca*), Mallard (*A. platyrynchos*) and Northern Shoveler (*Spatula clypeata*)!

Common species here include the Grey Treepie (*Dendrocitta formosae*) and the Oriental Turtle Dove (*Streptopelia orientalis*). When wetlands dry out, it means good for forest areas. This is increased for forest birds but not necessarily for waterbirds.

This tall grass habitat is perfect for bird species like the Yellow-bellied Prinia (*Prinia flaviventris*) and Plain Prinia (*Prinia inornata*) as it gives them plenty of hiding places. You can often hear them without seeing them.

In addition to seeing raptors patrolling the sky, you can also spot Barn Swallow (*Hirundo rustica*), Pacific Swallow (*Hirundo tahitica*) and House Swift (*Apus nipdensis*) foraging for insects with their superb flying skills!





Kandelia obovate is the only mangrove species found in the Guandu Wetland. It blooms in March and its seedlings disperse into the mudflats around September. They can be seen throughout the areas. *Kandelia obovate* is the dominant species in Gundu mangrove.

The Guandu Wetland includes two major areas, the Guandu Nature Park and the Guandu Mangrove. Having two completely different landscapes, swamp and marsh, they meet at the confluence of the Tamsui and Keelung Rivers.

Wetlands have high biodiversity. A diverse variety of benthic organisms feed waterbirds while many different plants and animals live in the mud itself as well.

The old name for Guandu was "Gan Dou", deriving from "Casidor", the Spanish name for the Guandu Pass.

Until 1960s , Guandu Wetland and its adjacent areas were mainly rice paddy fields served as an important granary for northern Taiwan. However, severe flooding caused by typhoons in the 1960s resulted in the widening of the Guandu Pass, bringing large amounts of saltwater into the areas and slowly transforming the wetland that you see today. This created an important habitat for birds. As many migratory birds found their way to Guandu, by the 1970s, the Guandu Wetland attracted both local and international birdwatchers. Some of the Taiwan's earliest birdwatching activities and bird research started here. Later, the Guandu Nature Reserve and Guandu Nature Park were established. Due to the change in conservation goal and habitat change from mudflats to mangroves , Guandu Nature Reserve was abolished in 2021 and the areas are now protected by the Wetland Conservation Act.

In the past, problems like garbage, silt, and sewage seriously threatened the Guandu Wetland.

The Taipei City government, the Wild Bird Society of Taipei and like-minded NGOs have joined together to restore the beauty of the Guandu Wetland by doing things like habitat creation, environmental management, and water quality improvement. It is our hope that this wonderful wetland can return to its former glory and bring more waterbirds here in the future.