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**THIS
EDITION:
Green
Issue**

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2018**



WANDER to WONDER

by MARTINA NICOLLS



**The world will never starve for wonder, but only for want of wonder.
G.K. Chesterson**

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editor's note

Welcome to the 28th edition of WANDER to WONDER

This edition of Wander to Wonder focuses on green: green animals and the greening of the planet.

Until next edition, with another theme,

Martina

MARTINA NICOLLS



green iguana

The Green Iguana (*Iguana iguana*) is also known as the American Iguana, or just Iguana. It is a large arboreal lizard, native to Central America, South America, and the Caribbean.

The Green Iguana is not always green. It can be various colours, such as blue, purplish, and pinkish. It is a strong, stout-bodied lizard, with a row of spines on its back and tail. Its tail can be 'dropped' to allow it to escape danger, and it can be regenerated. It has white or cream-coloured eyes, and sometimes yellow eyes – with excellent vision. Under its neck is a dewlap (loose skin) to help regulate its body temperature.

It can grow to about 150 centimetres (58 inches) long.

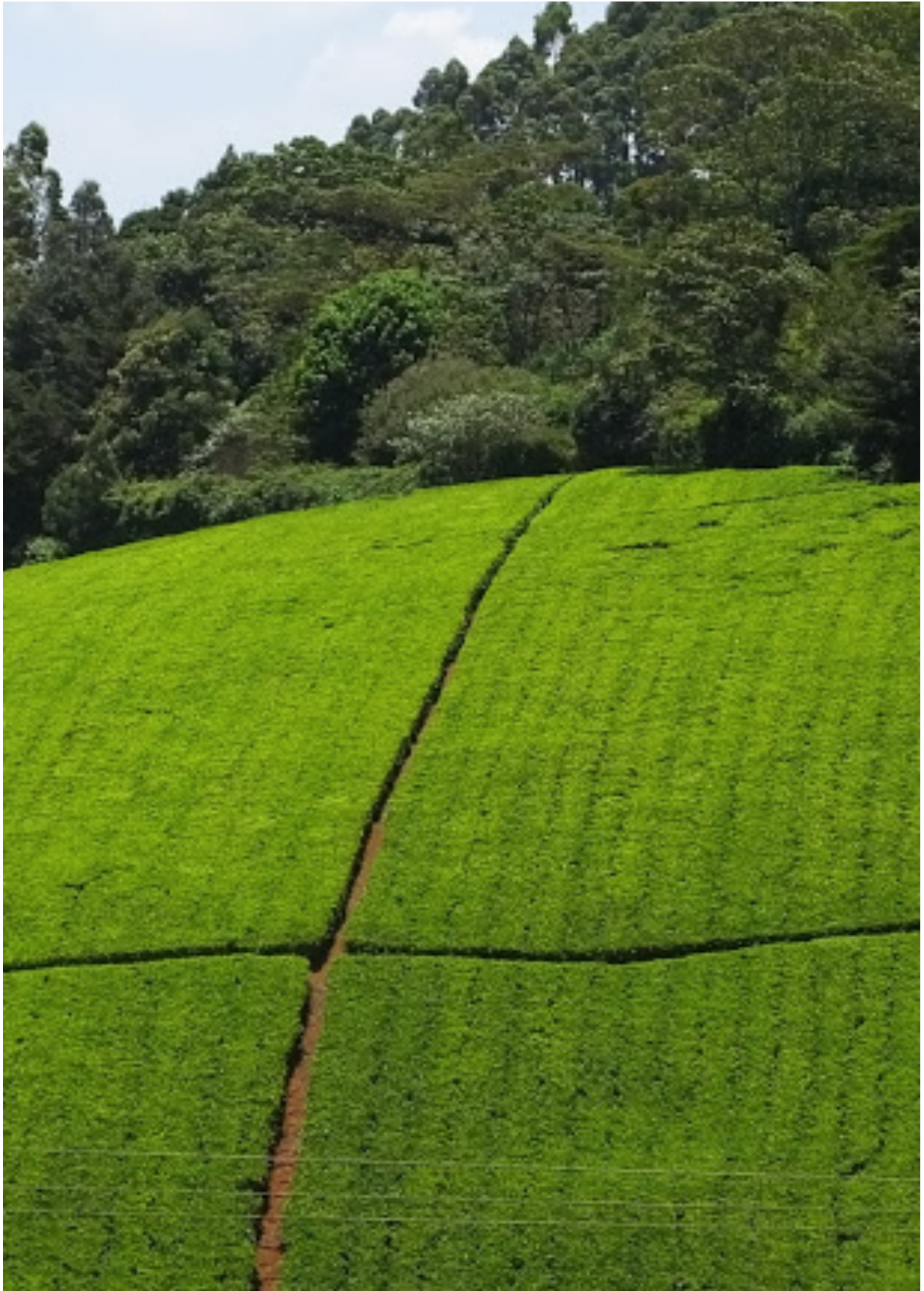
It is diurnal (active during the day) and arboreal (living in trees) in countries such as Mexico, Brazil, Dominican Republic, Paraguay, Bolivia, and the Caribbean. It prefers to live near water, because it is a good swimmer, staying submerged, moving through the water using its powerful whip-like tail. It is also an excellent climber. It uses its hind legs, with strong claws, to clasp tree branches.

It is herbivorous, eating leaves, flowers, and fruit. The Green Iguana has very sharp teeth for shredding leaves. Its teeth are flat with serrated (saw-like) edges.

Females lay about 25 eggs. They are oviparous. The young hatch after 10-15 weeks. The young stay close to their parents for the first year of their lives.





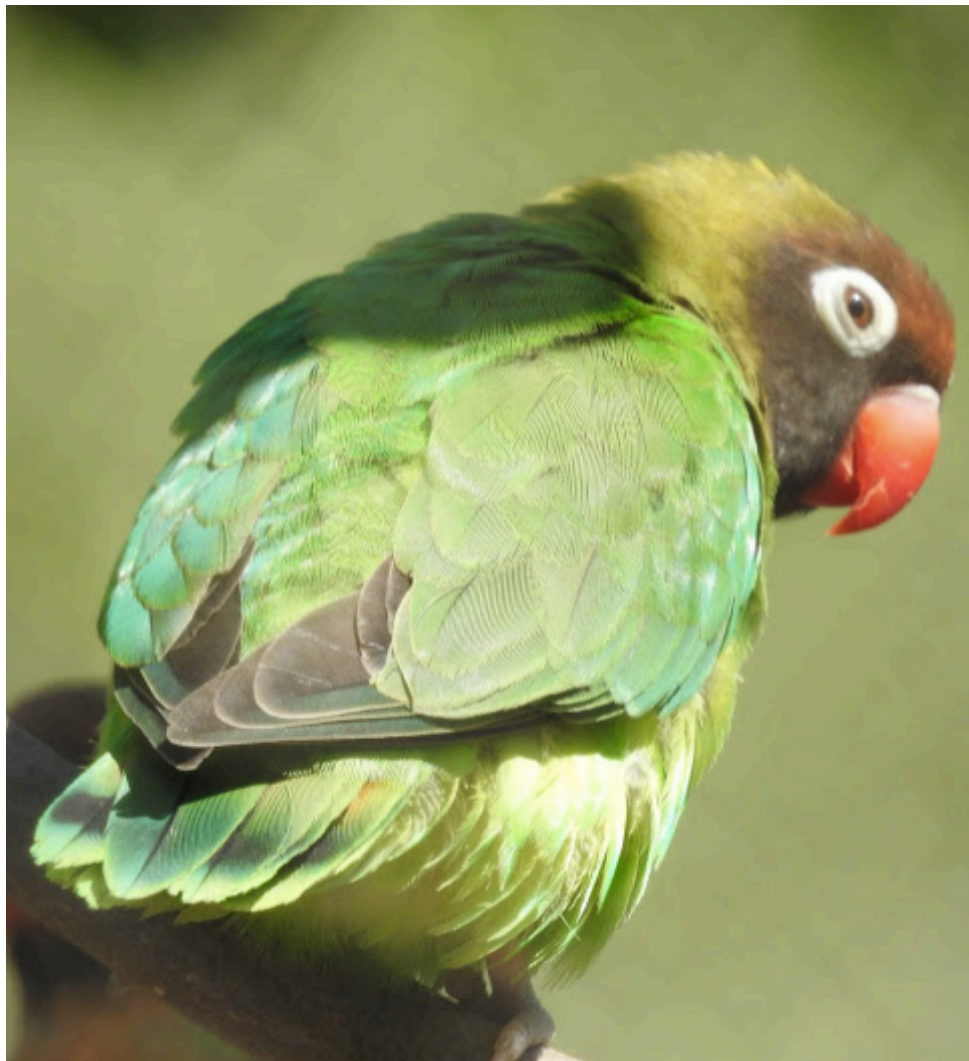


black-cheeked lovebird

The Black-Cheeked Lovebird (*Agapornis nigrigensis*) is a small parrot. It has mostly green feathers, with a reddish-brown head, black cheeks, and a yellow-orange patch on its chest. It has a red beak with a thin, white cere. It has dark eyes with a white eye-ring.

It measures 14 centimetres (5.5 inches) tall. The Black-Cheeked Lovebird is found in southwest Zambia in the continent of Africa. It prefers woodlands near water. It feeds on the ground on grass, grass seeds, fruit, and insect larvae.

It is a social bird, living in flocks, often up to 800 individuals. However, they are most often seen in pairs, as they form a mating bond for life. The female makes a small nest. She lays 4-6 eggs. The average lifespan is 10-15 years.









green banana cockroach

The Green Banana Cockroach (*Panchlora nivea*) is a small insect. It is also known as the Cuban Cockroach. It is oval-shaped and pale-green to yellowish-green. It has a yellow line along its sides. It has wings and can fly. It measures up to 2.5 centimetres (1 inch) in length.

The Green Banana Cockroach is native to Cuba and the Caribbean, as well as America, from Florida to Texas. It prefers tropical and sub-tropical scrub forests, living on the bark of trees or in leaf litter on the ground.

Females develop a small egg case, called an ootheca, inside her body. The oothecal contains 28-60 eggs. When the eggs are ready to hatch – after about 48 days – nymphs emerge. The nymphs are brown or black and burrow under logs and other debris to keep safe. The nymphs feed on leaf litter and develop into adults after about 144-181 days.





jungle nymph

The Jungle Nymph (*Heteropteryx dilatata*) is an insect. It is bright green with a leaf-shaped body and six legs. It has a pair of long antennae. The male has large pink wings and can fly. Females have short pink wings, but cannot fly.

It measures up to 12-25 centimetres (5-10 inches) in length. Females are larger than males. It is native to the tropical forests of Malaysia. It eats the leaves of plants.

The female Jungle Nymph has an ovipositor, which is a tube that she uses to lay eggs. She lays her eggs in soil at the base of a tree. The eggs take almost a year to hatch.









emerald tree boa

The Emerald Tree Boa (*Corallus caninus*) is a non-venomous snake. It is bright green with white zig-zag markings on its back and belly, called lightning bolts. Its belly is yellow. It has long frontal fangs. It measures about 180 centimetres (71 inches) long.

The Emerald Tree Boa is native to the northern regions of South America, particularly in Brazil and Columbia, and from Venezuela to Suriname. It prefers tropical rainforests, especially the Amazon jungle. It eats small mammals, and sometimes birds and lizards. It eats once every two or three months.

The Emerald Tree Boa is ovoviviparous, which means that the eggs hatch inside the female and the snakelets are born alive. Females produce 6-14 young. The snakelets may be orange in colour and gradually turn emerald green when they are 9-12 months old.





little bee-eater

The Little Bee-Eater (*Merops pusillus*) is an East African bird, and one of the smallest Bee-Eaters. It is bright green with a long, thin black mask around its dark eyes with a shiny blue line above the eye. It has a bright yellow throat and a chestnut belly. It has a green notched tail.

It can grow to 16 centimetres (6.5 inches) tall. The Little Bee-Eater likes grassy locations near water. Females lay 4-6 eggs in a nest burrowed in the grasslands.









blue-green chromis

The Blue-Green Chromis (*Chromis viridis*) is a small, tropical, marine ray-finned fish. It is a damselfish. It is also called the Blue Chromis or the Green Chromis. It has pale-green to light-blue scales. Its dorsal fin has an orange tint. It has a bright blue line from its eyes to the top of its mouth and bright blue lips. It has a forked tail.

It grows to about 10 centimetres (4 inches). It lives in schools of 6-100 individuals in Mediterranean waters and the Eastern Atlantic. The Blue-Green Chromis eats plankton.







green-banded swallowtail

The Green-Banded Swallowtail (*Papilio phorcas*) is a butterfly, also known as the African Green-Banded Swallowtail. It is a large butterfly with black with broad green bands and a long tail with a rounded end. Its eyes, proboscis, and feelers are large.

Its wingspan is 7.5 to 9 centimetres (3 to 3.5 inches) across. The Green-Banded Swallowtail is found in East Africa and southern Africa in forests and woodlands. It prefers to live close to pools of waters and streams.





variable sunbird

The Variable Sunbird (*Nectarinia venusta*) is also called the Yellow-Bellied Sunbird. It is a small bird from eastern Africa. It has an iridescent green head and upperparts, with a purple chest and yellow belly.

It grows to 11 centimetres (4.5 inches). It prefers forests and woodlands, as well as marshes, gardens and parks. It feeds on flower nectar.

The Variable Sunbird builds an oval hanging nest, made of grass, leaves, and flowers. The nest is held together by spider webs. Females lay two eggs in the nest.







the author: Martina Nicolls

I am an author and humanitarian aid consultant with over 30 years' experience in the management, implementation, and evaluation of international aid development projects, particularly in post-conflict environments and countries with transitional governments, such as Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan and Darfur, Afghanistan, Kashmir, Pakistan, Iraq, Liberia, Sierra Leone, Georgia, Kosovo, Rwanda, and Sri Lanka, and also Mauritius, Mongolia, Papua New Guinea, Thailand, Vietnam, Cambodia – and others. I provide technical advice on areas such as peace-building and conflict mitigation, education, poverty reduction, human rights, child labour, data quality and financing models.

But mostly I am a wanderer. Wherever I am and wherever I go, I take photographs and I write. My books include:

Similar but Different in the Animal Kingdom (2017)
A Mongolian Lament (2015)
The Komodo Verses (2012)

Liberia's Deadeast Ends (2012)
Bardot's Comet (2011)
Kashmir on a Knife-Edge (2010)
The Sudan Curse (2009)

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