

Prime Minister of Mauritius hosts launch of new Seychelles bird book

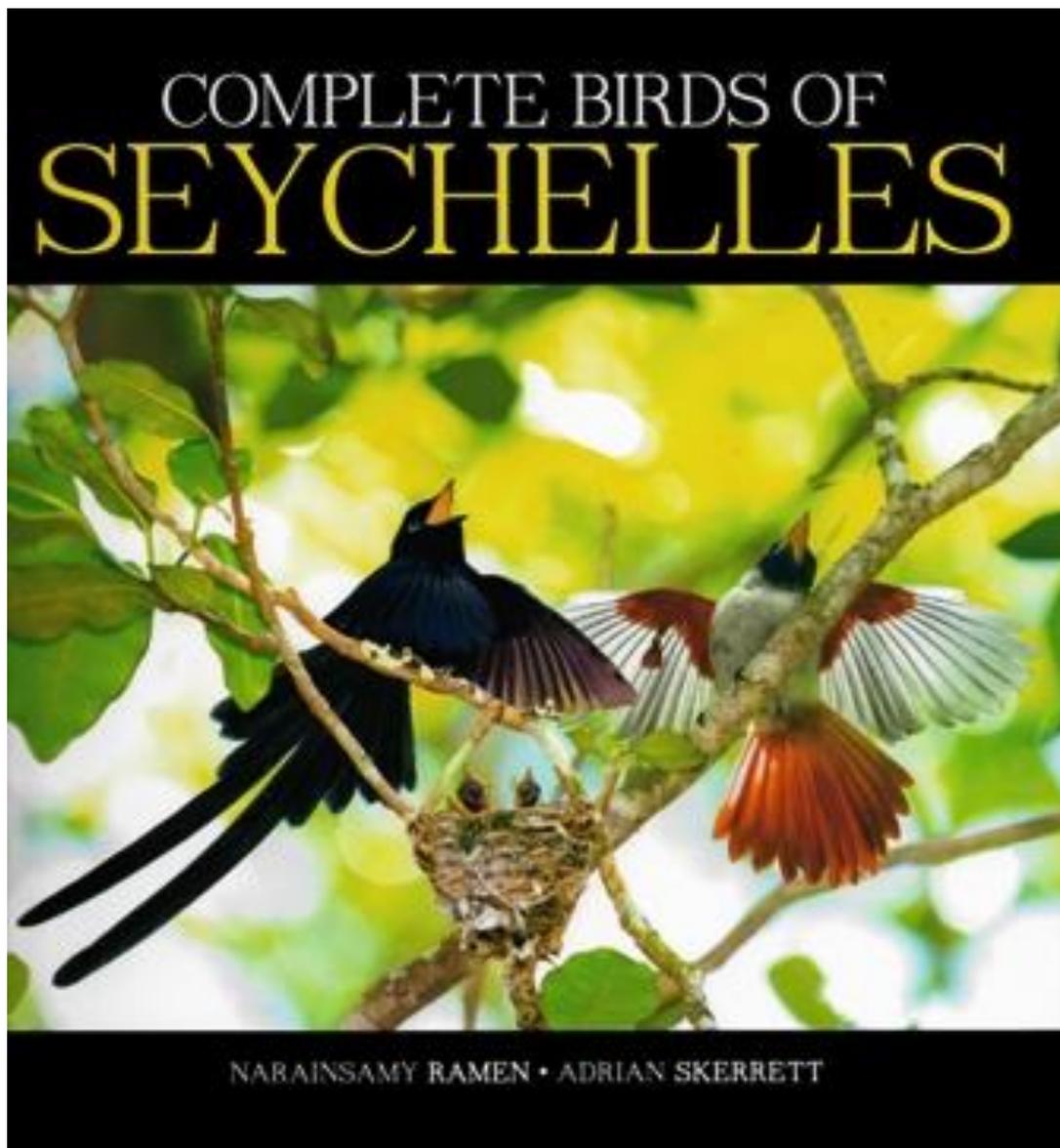
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At a ceremony held at Pamplémousses, Mauritius on November 8, the Right Honourable Sir Aneerood Jugnauth, Prime Minister and former President of Mauritius hosted the launch of a new book, *Complete Birds of Seychelles* by Narainsamy Ramen and Adrian Skerrett.

Also attending the ceremony were ministers including Honourable Alain Wong Yen Cheong, Minister for Environment, Sustainable Development, and Disaster and Beach Management, Lady Sarojini Jugnauth and members of the diplomatic and business communities of Mauritius.

This is the second book of Mauritian photographer Narainsamy Ramen. He published his first photographic work, *Birds of the Mascarene*, in 2012. His next ambition became to produce a similar work for Seychelles, reflecting both the similarities and the differences between the two locations. In 2014 during his second trip to Seychelles to gather material, he met Adrian Skerrett, author of a number of books about the bird life of the islands. The two decided to work together to combine their differing skills and common interest.



Complete Bird of Seychelles includes photographically illustrated chapters on all categories of birds recorded in Seychelles. Every species of bird that breeds and every regular migrant is illustrated in full colour. There is a heavy focus upon the endemic species, especially those of the granitic islands with other chapters on waterbirds, seabirds, rare vagrants and even extinct species.

In a speech to the audience Adrian Skerrett said, “Just as the human histories of Mauritius and Seychelles are closely intertwined so is the story of the birds. It is then perhaps fitting that the concept of this book was the inspiration of a visitor from Mauritius who teamed up with a resident of Seychelles”.

Complete Birds of Seychelles is now on sale at Antigone Bookshop in Victoria price R500. A box of 10 books can be purchased directly from Island Conservation Society at Point Larue at a special price of R3,500. The book has been privately funded and profits from the sale of books in Seychelles will be donated to Island Conservation Society.