

1.5 Finding their way - Geolocation

Every year, many birds migrate thousands of miles between Europe and Africa, and then repeat that same journey again, year after year, to nest in exactly the same place that they chose on their first great journey. The remarkable navigational precision displayed by these tiny birds has been one of the enduring mysteries of behavioral biology.

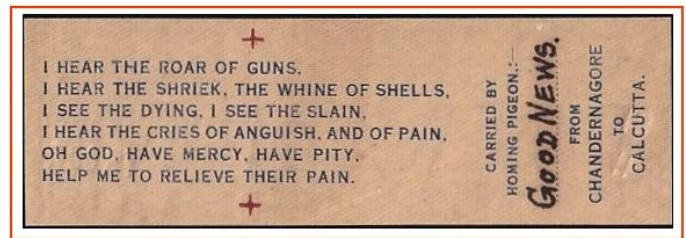
Homing Pigeons

The compass mechanism helps them to fly in the right direction, while the map mechanism allows them to compare where they are to where they want to be (home).



1940. India. Pigeongram carried by homing Pigeons, named as Good News, which flew at 11.20am from Chandernagore to Calcutta covering 47.7 km of distance and landed at 1.30pm on 18th Oct 1940.

Autographed by Stephen Smith, a Rocket scientist and a pioneer of Rocket mail, in British India Era.



Flimsy carried by this homing pigeon "Good News" had war cries printed on it, as India was in the midst of Second World War.



CAMEROON (1971a) . Landscapes (Waza national park) . Black Crowned Crane (*Balearica pavonina*) *. Die proof in dark green signed by the engraver DURRENS

MIND MAPS

It's long been known that adult Cranes develop some sort of navigational map to help them migrate. How they do this has remained controversial.

A Demoiselle crane tagged in Russia's Transbaikalia was spotted in Khinchan village in Jodhpur district on Sunday. The crane traveled about 4,368 km to reach here, the longest distance covered by the tagged migratory birds reported so far, bird experts claimed on Monday.