

Grandeur

A meditation in images and verse

PHOTOGRAPHS BY
VICTOR R. BALTAZAR, S.J.

TRANSLATION OF GERARD MANLEY HOPKINS'S "GOD'S GRANDEUR" BY
ALBERT E. ALEJO, S.J.¹

In the past year, Fr. Vic ventured into bird photography primarily to help animate his exercise of prayerful contemplation. Once shared through social media, however, his photographs—gifts granted by nature in his solitary walks—have come to be an occasion for many to be awakened to the delicate beauty of birds, present even in urban settings, and to rediscover God's glory reflected in these magnificent creatures.

All the photographs here are of birds inside the Ateneo campus, mostly around the Jesuit Residence and also by the waterways near the College Covered Courts parking lot, in the vicinity of the Paseo de Reilly, around the Manila Observatory, and behind the San Jose Major Seminary.

¹ Albert E. Alejo, S.J., *Nabighani: Mga Saling Tula ng Kapwa Nilikha* (Manila: UST Publishing House, 2015), p. 18.

Ganda't Garà ng Diyos



Collared Kingfisher (*Halcyon chloris*)

Daigdig ay puspós ng ganda't garà ng Diyos.



Pied Triller (*Lalage nigra*)

Sisiklab



Scaly-breasted Munia (*Lonchura punctulata*)

tulad ng kislap ng inalog na palarâ;



Lowland White-Eye (*Zosterops meyeni*)

Tumitipon sa tigib



Olive-backed Sunbird (*Nectarinia jugularis*)

tila pagtagas ng gatang piniga.



Philippine Serpent Eagle (*Spilornis holospilus*)

Ba't ba tao'y di pa rin sumunod sa kaniyang tungkod?



Eurasian Tree Sparrow (*Passer montanus*)



Drongo Cuckoo (*Surniculus lugubris*)



Pied Triller (*Lalage nigra*)



Philippine Pygmy Woodpecker (*Dendrocopos maculatus*)

Sali't saling lahi na'ng kumayod,



Zebra Dove (*Geopelia striata*)



Zebra Dove (*Geopelia striata*)

kumayod, kumayod;



White-breasted Woodswallow (*Artamus leucorynchus*)



Pacific Swallow (*Hirundo tahitica*)

At sa kalakal naglapnos; nagluhâ, nanlagkit sa paggawa;



Collared Kingfisher (*Halcyon chloris*)



Eurasian Tree Sparrows (*Passer montanus*)

Nadamtan ng bahid at nadamay sa baho ng tao:



Zebra Dove (*Geopelia striata*)

ang lupa
Ngayo'y tigang,



Eurasian Tree Sparrow (*Passer montanus*)

paa ma'y manhid na, sa kásasapatos.



Olive-backed Sunbird (*Nectarinia jugularis*)



Brown Shrike (*Lanius cristatus*)

At sa lahat ng ito, kalikasa'y di mandin nalulustay;



Eurasian Tree Sparrow (*Passer montanus*)



Collared Kingfisher (*Halcyon chloris*)



Philippine Hawk-cuckoo (*Hierococcyx pectoralis*)



Olive-backed Sunbird (*Nectarinia jugularis*)



Scaly-breasted Munia (*Lonchura punctulata*)



Lowland White-Eye (*Zosterops meyeni*)



Pied Triller (*Lalage nigra*)



Philippine Serpent Eagle (*Spilornis holospilus*)



Eurasian Tree Sparrow (*Passer montanus*)

Sa kailalima'y buháy ang mahal na bukal na ubod ng tining,



Eurasian Tree Sparrow (*Passer montanus*)



Pied Triller (*Lalage nigra*)



Large-billed Crow (*Corvus macrorhynchos*)



Yellow-vented Bulbul (*Pycnonotus goiavier*)



Black-chinned Fruit Dove (*Ptilinopus leclancheri*)



Pied Triller (*Lalage nigra*)

At sa Kanlurang maitim



Zebra Doves (*Geopelia striata*)

huling ilaw man ay pumanaw,



Black-naped Oriole (*Oriolus chinensis*)

Oh, liwayway,



Rock Dove or Feral Pigeon (*Columba livia*)

sa kayumangging bingit pasilanga'y susupling—



Yellow-vented Bulbul (*Pycnonotus goiaver*)



Brown Shrike (*Lanius cristatus*)

Sapagkat halimhim ng Espiritung Banal



Collared Kingfisher (*Halcyon chloris*)

ang lupaypay
Na daigdig sa mainit na dibdib at ah!



Pied Triller (*Lalage nigra*)



Pied Triller (*Lalage nigra*)

bagwis na maningning.