

WALLCREEPER
“THE HEAVENLY ANGEL”
WITH CARMINE WINGS

THE WALLCREEPER (*Tichodroma muraria*) - the feathery jewel of the limestone rocks and azure heaven - is a peculiar phenomenon in the empire of birds. This fascinating creature inhabits limestone rock faces in remote areas above the tree line or rock cliffs in canyons.

THE WALLCREEPER is perfectly adapted to the stingy rocky environment where it lives together with edelweiss. THE WALLCREEPER is unique - it is the only bird in Slovakia which is able to climb along the steep rock faces. THE WALLCREEPER has a habit of continually flicking its wings, thus displaying conspicuous carmine patterns (unique among west Palearctic birds) and 16-18 white elliptical spots on the primaries. The most ravishing view is of THE WALLCREEPER in flight. This elegant and enigmatic creature shows remarkable agility in flying about rock faces and pinnacles and usually performs a fluttering, jerky flight. Its large, broad, elliptical, butterfly-like wings enable THE WALLCREEPER to show great agility and manoeuvrability in the air. In its “investigative flight” it is reminiscent of a large exotic butterfly. It performs a characteristic downward “gliding flight” in spiral from height that resembles a leaf falling from a beautiful exotic tree... Flying WALLCREEPER reminds one of “A HEAVENLY ANGEL” with carmine wings, sent from God to Earth to decorate a sparse rocky environment... In flight carmine wing-patches “flashing” and also 16-18 white elliptical spots on the primaries are visible.

THE WALLCREEPER is one of the most spectacular birds in the world. This flamboyant species is aptly named “ROCK FLOWER” in Chinese and “FEATHERY BUTTERFLY” in Slovakia... Once you have looked up and beheld “THE HEAVENLY ANGEL” with carmine wings, you will never forget meeting this wonderful messenger of God...

THE LIFE OF THE “HEAVENLY ANGEL” WITH CARMINE WINGS IS IN OUR HANDS...

LET US HELP IT SURVIVE!

WALLCREEPER

A SMALL FEATHERED CREATURE WITH LACY WINGS

Since the while when, as a boy of seven, I glimpsed for the first time a WALLCREEPER on a house wall in my village, I have fallen in love with this wonderful bird creature. At the same moment, my heart was devoted to this feathered jewel of limestone cliffs and bright blue sky. The love was at the first glance, and infatuation for the whole life.

The WALLCREEPER enchanted me with its outlook, delightful movements, affection, weirdness... Nevertheless, absolutely charmed was I by his fidelity to one of the most hostile environments – calcite-dolomite rocky galleries – monuments trying to reach the blue heaven. In these conditions, the bird maintains even during cruel winter frosts. I must confess that no matter where my physical body is present actually, my soul is dwelling in these remote rocky refuges – providing since the very beginning the home for this fascinating bird species.

The happiest moments in my life mean also moments when my wandering shoes carry me upwards a steep foot path into a crevice in rocky cliffs or to a rocky boulder above the upper forest line when I hope to be received by His Majesty WALLCREEPER in the most esteemed audience. When my ears pick up soft whistle and my eyes glance up this carmine-winged angel of sky, I immediately find myself in the seventh heaven. And I find me full of such feelings that any words to describe this are missing.

When I am lacking the presence of my darlings – WALLCREEPERS, I am still keeping them in my mind, contemplating wondrous whiles spent in their company, and making drawings to present their vivid pictures for the delight of my heart. I cannot judge about how these pictures are faithful; I have committed the judgement to you, dear readers. I love these birds very much, and I am seeing my drawings always when I cannot dwell in community of live WALLCREEPERS – the most loved and most beautiful creatures for me. And the most successful drawings you can find summarised in this non-planned tiny book.