

headrest cracks in a new environment. While peering through a greenish haze on the way to a scheduled meeting with a consultant of my uncle, I suddenly noticed a blur of brown in the corner of my eye. I quickly turned, and saw a flash of black, scattered around a few feet broader, sliding out of the ground. Their figures are quite small, roughly about the size of a small white or a large sparrow. The bird that made eye contact with me had a white-bellied brown eye and yellow breast, and is covered with beautifully patterned feathers. It glared curiously at me with shiny black eyes, and carefully examined me with peering footings. I bent down and tilted my head as we stared at each other. It was a head-on reconnaissance for both of us.

My uncle noticed the small little bird too, and checked on his blue tent down to examine it. "This, I would presume, is a chestnut-colored tanager, more specifically, a breeding male, judging by its fat color," he says, "today's your lucky day! We don't get to see this species this often."

I turned my eyes and I scanned over the little creature, "How come these adorable creatures are endangered?"

My uncle sighed, and pulled me to my feet, leaving the bird flitting its head up with confusion and bewilderment, even twiddling under the sunlight.

"They've lost too much of their breeding habitat since throughout history people have cleared many swaths like these low-lying, leaving these poor birds homeless. The population of chestnut-colored tanagers is still declining today."

I wanted to remain with the birds, observe their behavior, and expand the discussion about how humans have destroyed the homes of so many species. But I was on my way, and for a long time, I didn't get to see another chestnut-colored tanager, or anything related. As time passed, I gradually began to forget the amazing encounter in Colorado Springs.

That was, until I came across the bird conservation competition, and saw that familiar same pop-up again. Moments of the afternoon when I met the bird were instantly re-created again. I decided to draw a