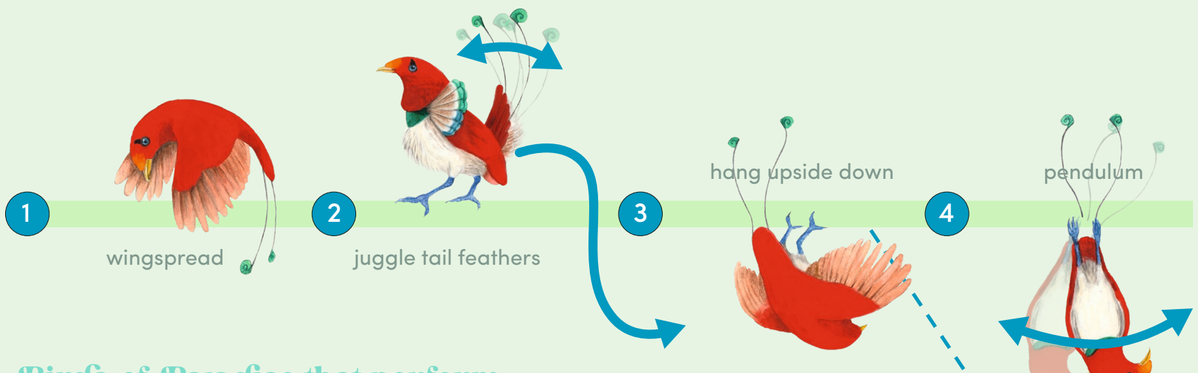
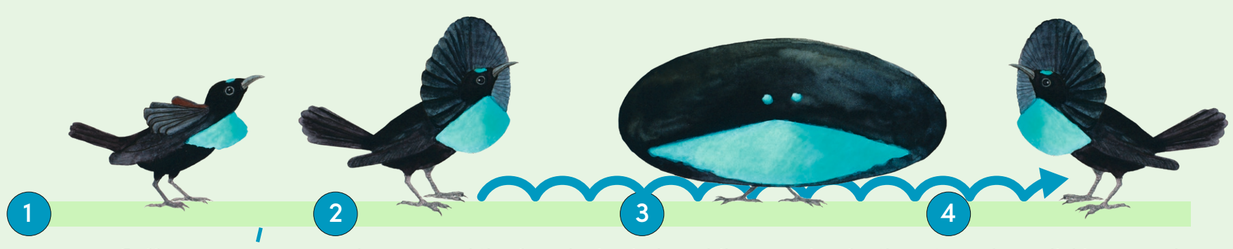
Birds-of-Paradise Display Dances

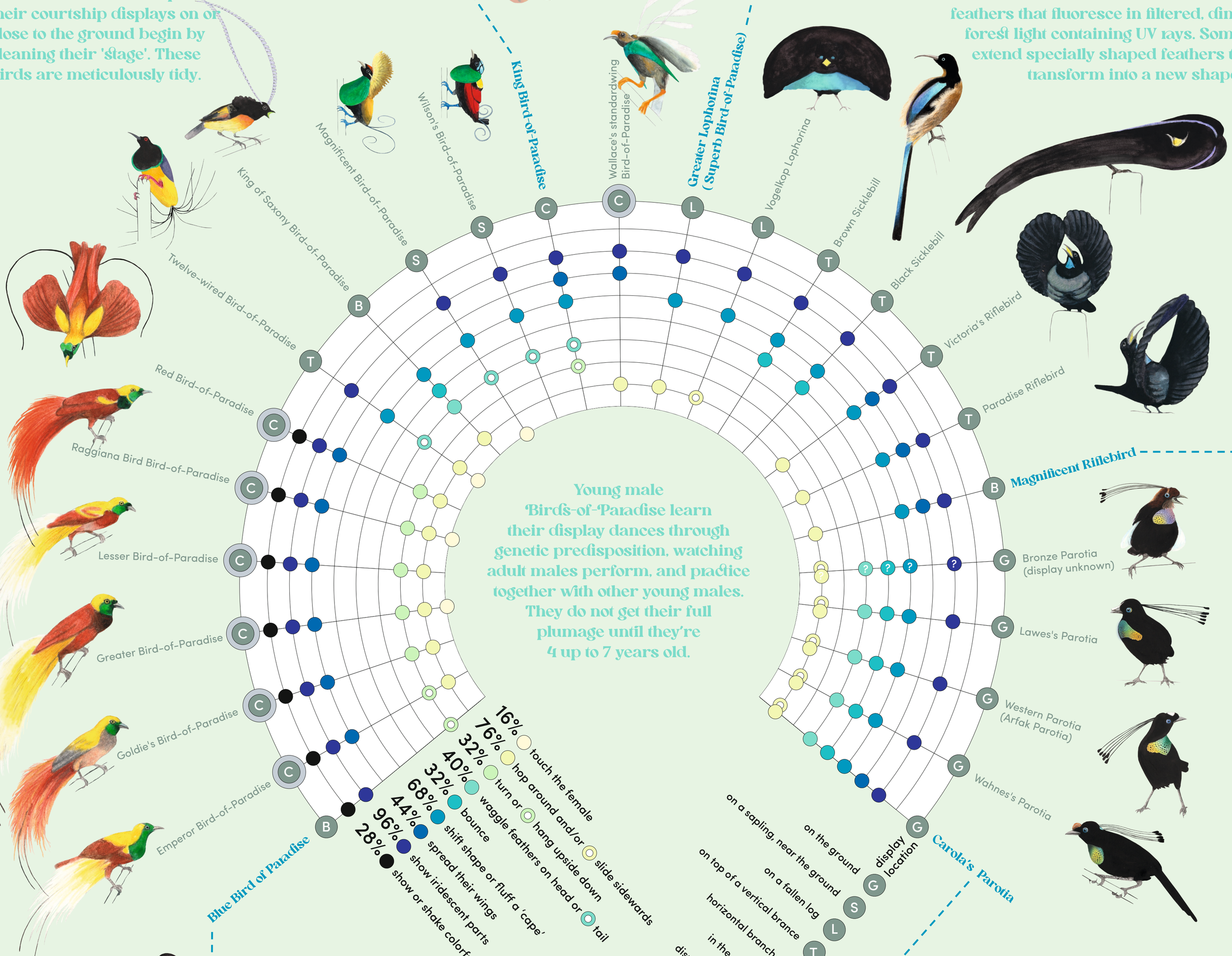
Birds-of-Paradise live only in New Guinea and a few surrounding islands. The 40 species in this family are renowned for their brilliant colors and complex display dances performed by the males – the result of sexual selection by females. It's hard to believe that all these astounding species have evolved from a single ancestor that resembled a crow, about 20 million years ago. However, when we take a closer look at the display dance elements of the 25 different species shown below (as far as filmed), we see interesting similarities. Such as: **96% of the birds show their iridescence, 76% hop and/or slide around and 68% transform into a new shape**.





Birds-of-Paradise that perform their courtship displays on or close to the ground begin by cleaning their 'stage'. These birds are meticulously tidy.

All these Birds-of-Paradise have feathers that fluoresce in filtered, dim, forest light containing UV rays. Some extend specially shaped feathers to transform into a new shape.



infographic & artwork: Jeanne design