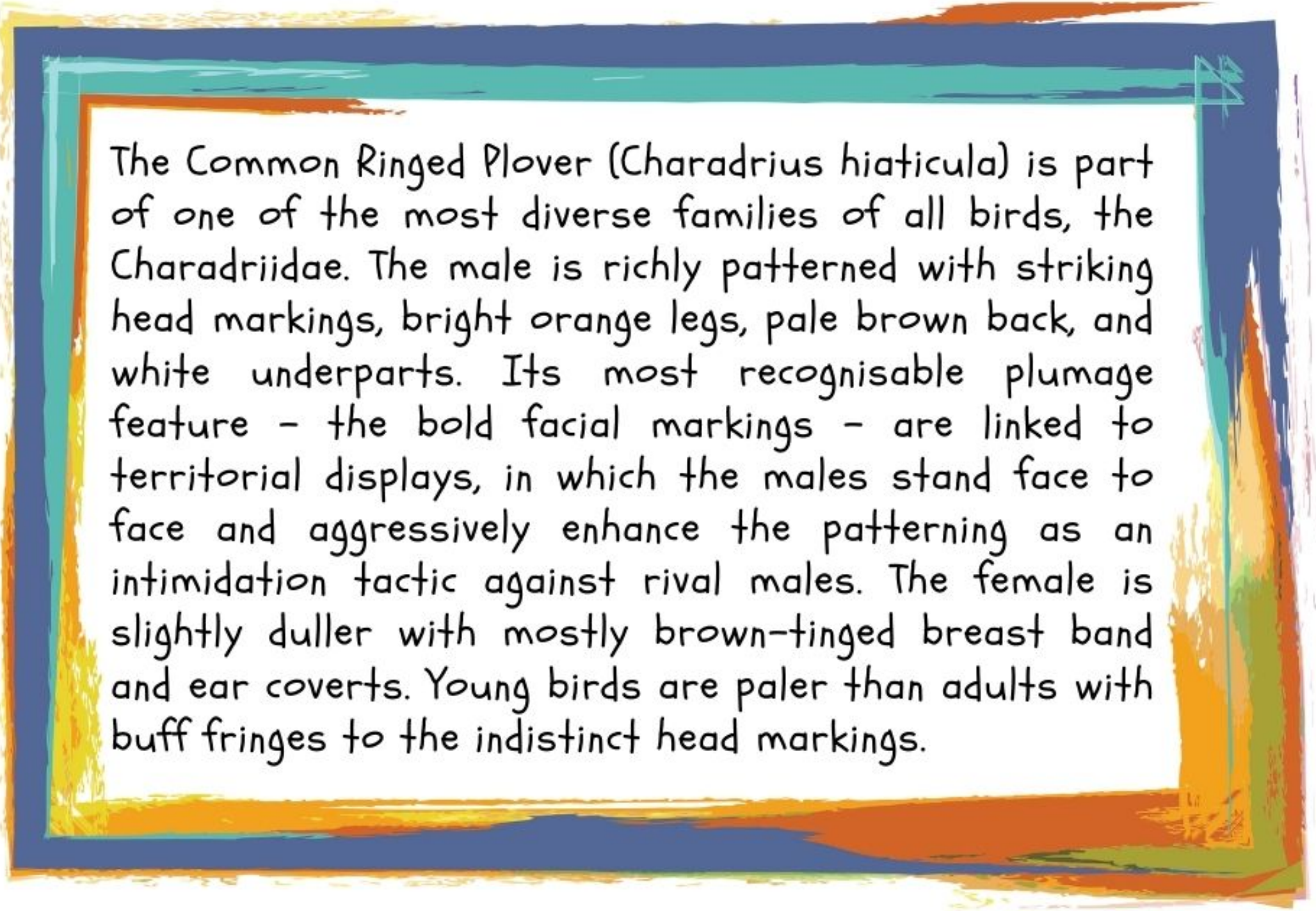




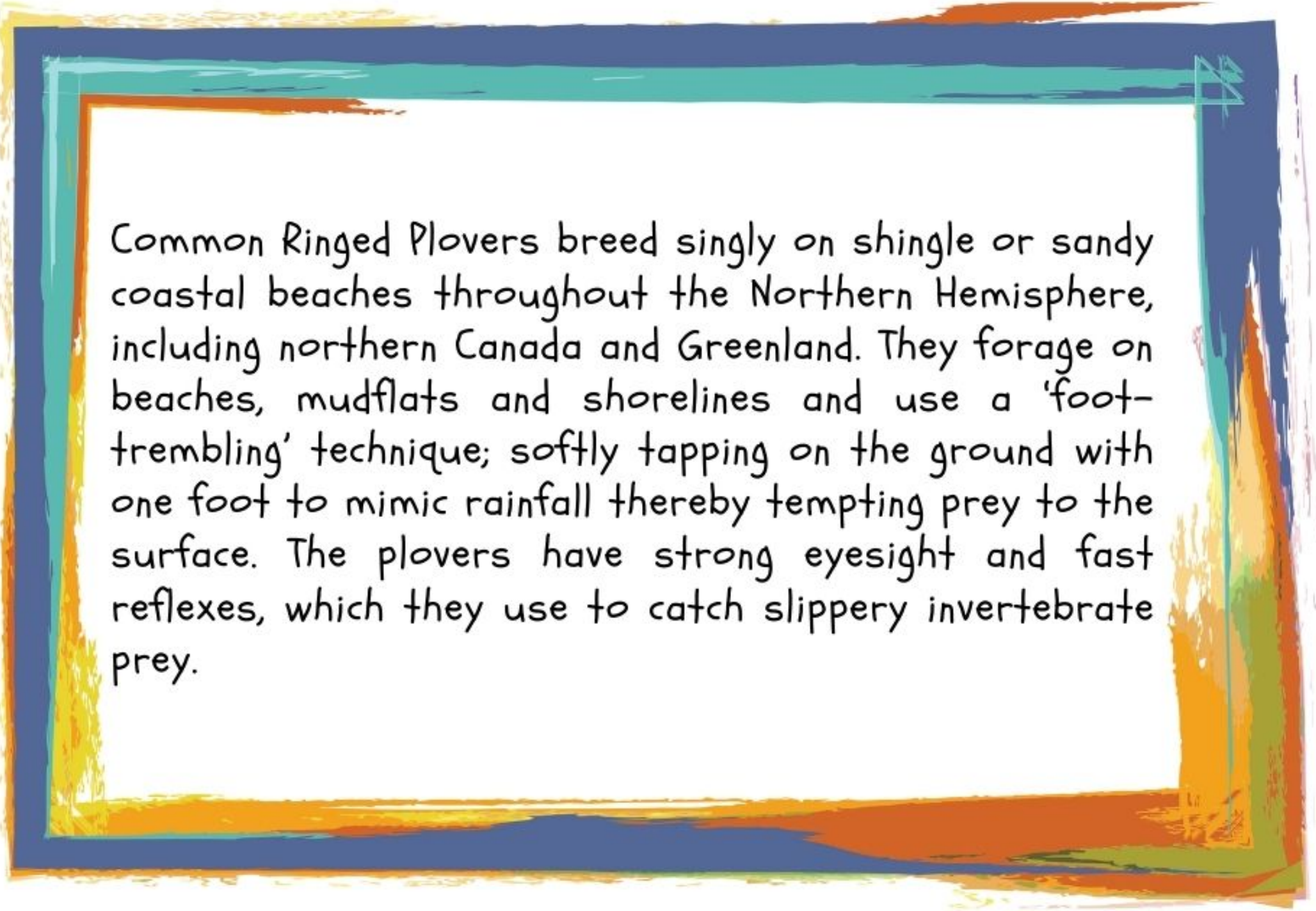
Fact 1



The Common Ringed Plover (*Charadrius hiaticula*) is part of one of the most diverse families of all birds, the Charadriidae. The male is richly patterned with striking head markings, bright orange legs, pale brown back, and white underparts. Its most recognisable plumage feature - the bold facial markings - are linked to territorial displays, in which the males stand face to face and aggressively enhance the patterning as an intimidation tactic against rival males. The female is slightly duller with mostly brown-tinged breast band and ear coverts. Young birds are paler than adults with buff fringes to the indistinct head markings.



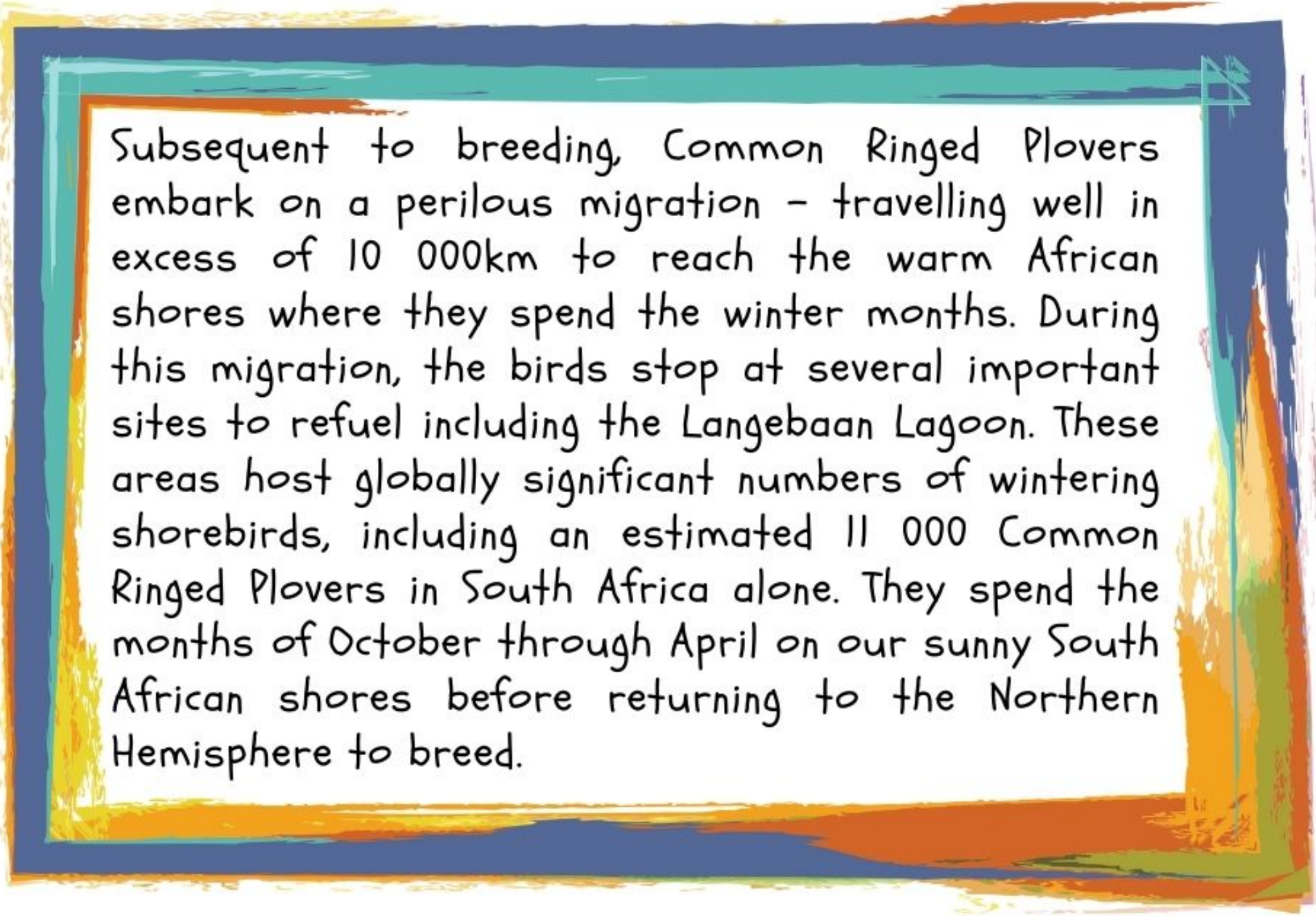
Fact 2



Common Ringed Plovers breed singly on shingle or sandy coastal beaches throughout the Northern Hemisphere, including northern Canada and Greenland. They forage on beaches, mudflats and shorelines and use a 'foot-trembling' technique; softly tapping on the ground with one foot to mimic rainfall thereby tempting prey to the surface. The plovers have strong eyesight and fast reflexes, which they use to catch slippery invertebrate prey.

Fact 3





Subsequent to breeding, Common Ringed Plovers embark on a perilous migration - travelling well in excess of 10 000km to reach the warm African shores where they spend the winter months. During this migration, the birds stop at several important sites to refuel including the Langebaan Lagoon. These areas host globally significant numbers of wintering shorebirds, including an estimated 11 000 Common Ringed Plovers in South Africa alone. They spend the months of October through April on our sunny South African shores before returning to the Northern Hemisphere to breed.