Celebrating National Bird Day with Flight of Knowledge: Facts and Feathers, Birds of Somalia.

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National Bird Day is a celebration that soars above the ordinary and lands firmly in the domain of appreciation and knowledge. It is more than just a day on the calendar. National Bird Day becomes a symbolic code to our feathered friends as we embrace the beauty of avian diversity and the complex tapestry of nature they weave. This unique day, which dates on January 5th every year, encourages us to explore the wonderful world of birds and recognizes their significant influence on our ecosystems in addition to their visual beauty.

The history of National Bird Day; National Bird Day is an annual celebration that honors and raises awareness of the diverse and important roles that birds play in our ecosystems. This important day, celebrated on January 5 every year, serves as a reminder of the importance of bird conservation and the need to protect these magnificent creatures.

The origins of National Bird Day can be traced to the grassroots efforts of environmentalists, bird enthusiasts, and conservationists who recognized the urgent need to shed light on plight of birds and their habitat. The first National Bird Day was officially established in 2002 by Born Free USA, a nonprofit organization committed to wildlife conservation and animal welfare.

What is the significance of celebrating National Bird Day?

The celebration of National Bird Day is of significant importance for many reasons, including environmental, ecological, educational and cultural aspects.

Here are some key reasons why it's important to celebrate National Bird Day:

Biodiversity conservation: National Bird Day emphasizes the importance of preserving and protecting the rich diversity of bird species around the world. Birds play crucial roles in maintaining the balance of ecosystems, contributing to biodiversity and overall environmental health.

Ecosystem services: Birds provide essential ecosystem services such as pollination, seed dispersal, pest control, and nutrient cycling. Recognizing and celebrating National Bird Day underscores the interconnectedness of all living organisms and their contributions to the functionality of ecosystems.

Environmental awareness: The day serves as a platform to raise awareness about the environmental challenges faced by birds, including habitat loss, climate change, pollution, and illegal wildlife trade. By understanding these threats, individuals and communities can take informed actions to address and mitigate them.

Birds of Somali

Somalia is home to a wide variety of bird species, ranging from resident birds that stay in the country year-round, to breeding birds that spend most of the growing season here to breed their young, to migratory birds that pass through the country as the seasons change, and to wintering birds that like to spend most of the winter here to escape the cold of the north. Many species of birds are fairly common as they form part of the state's ecosystems, but it's always exciting to see a rare bird or a vagrant that doesn't form part of any of the Somalia ecosystems. Perhaps it got lost on its way between summer and winter residence, or maybe it got displaced due to bad weather.

Somalia has an avifauna of 655 species of which 300 are resident, 88 are intra-African migrants and 151 are Palearctic migrants. Nineteen species are of global conservation concern.

In Somalia, there are hundreds of bird species; some are migratory and do not stay in the country, some are seasonal, and some are native and never leave the country. Here I will mention some of the birds by following the names that Somalis know.

White crowned starling *(in Somali language, Xeyra-Gurato),* **Helmeted Guineafowl** *(in Somali language, Digrin-Kurus),* **Somali bee eater** *(in Somali language, Cawley)*, **Ruppel Long tailed Starling** *(in Somali language, Indho-cad),* **Campethera Nubica Nubian Woodpecker** (*in Somali language, Loxoda-goys),* **Golden-Palm Weaver** *(in Somali language, Huruud-leey),* **White fronted plover** *(in Somali language, Bog-cad),* **Vulturine Guineafowl** *(in Somali language, Baal-xariir)* **Mousebird Blue nabbed** *(in Somali language*, *Dabadheer, Cali-Food),*

Cinnyrus Mariquensis *(in Somali language, Shimbir-sharax, Malab-Dhuuq),* **Spotted Thick knee** *(in Somali language, Dhibic-leey, Wiiro-Wiiro),* **Croned Plover** *(in Somali language, Xidin-Xiito)*, **Carrion crow** *(in Somali language, Duke/Tuke)*, **Somali Ostrich** *(in Somali language, Goroyo/Goronyo)*

White crowned starling, in Somali language (*Xeyro-Gurato, Xeyro-xad, Dhoofaan dhalo cad, Galaalo-Hunguri*) is one of the birds of the Horn of Africa and one of the most famous birds in Somalia. Aside from the carrion crow (*Tuke*), it is the rarest and fastest bird. It feeds on insects, fruits, remnants of meals, and meat. They, like other birds, do not live in the wild, but rather with humans. As it relates, the most attractive birds are among the Somalis, with their contrasting colors and stop pattern. Her voice is distinctive.

The carrion crown in Somali (*Tuke*) is a very intelligent black bird that flies fast, and it is a bird that often appears around people and lives with them.

The ostrich in *Somali* (*Goroyo*) is the largest winged bird in the world and does not fly even though it has wings. But it is said, when it runs fast it spreads its wings and follows the wind as shown in the picture. Another advantage of having wings is that they can fight and play.

Her legs have no fur and are webbed, and her fingers are three very strong toes. Also, it has a long neck. The ostrich lives in the plains. Her male is *Goray-haldhaa* or *Haldhaa*. The male ostriches are all black on the edges and the sides, the belly and the wings around them are white. The female is a gray ostrich or in Somali *Goroyo-Cowl*, her appearance is gray with white in it (like the name you know from the gray ostrich). The place where it is born is called Goof. When a baby is born before it learns to run, it is called *Wariile*. Those who gets up together are called *Fil*. The young male ostrich is called *Warriile* and the young female ostrich is called *Raanyar*.

Birds help us know if the environment is healthy because birds are sensitive to toxins and pollutants, problems detected in wild birds can serve as an early warning system that something is wrong in the environment. Then changes can be made before the problem starts affecting humans and other animals.

Somalia has been in the process of state building since the collapse of the country's former government. This has resulted in a lack of conservation interest and awareness of vital habitats such as birds.

Birds contribute to plant growth by pollinating them, they enhance the beauty of the environment and the ecosystem, and they eat harmful microorganisms from the environment. They attract people to beaches and beautiful areas. Deforestation, habitat loss, climate change, and other life-threatening conditions are putting many birds in danger. These ordinary injustices committed against birds are discussed and brought to the public's attention on National Bird Day.

Although we do not have complete knowledge about the birds of Somalia, there have been some papers and researches done, but they do not match the requirement to learn more about this animal species. Increasing awareness is one of this event's main purposes.

I would like to suggest to the ministries that work on environmental protection such as the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change in Somalia to pay special attention to the birds to maintain the balance of ecosystems, contributing to biodiversity and overall environmental health.