



NATIONAL BIRD DAY

12TH NOVEMBER 2022

Brief history of National Birds Day

November 12 was declared as a National Birds Day by the Government of India on occasion of the birth anniversary of Dr. Salim Ali, who is known as “*Birds Man*” of India. He was introduced to ornithology (study of birds) by WS Millard, secretary of Bombay Natural History Society (BNHS).

Dr. Salim Ali autobiography, “*The fall of a Sparrow*” talks about an incident that became a turning point of his pursuit of knowledge regarding birds. He was also an influential figure in Indian wildlife conservation and environmentalist in the post-Independence era.

About “*The Birdman of India*”, Dr. Salim Ali

- ✈ Dr. Salim Ali was a world-renowned Indian ornithologist and naturalist.
- ✈ Born in Mumbai, on 12th November 1986, Ali went on to become one of the most well-respected ornithologist in the world.
- ✈ His fascination with birds first took shape as an interest in sports shooting.
- ✈ For his accomplishment in ornithology, he was awarded both the Padma Bhushan in 1958 and the Padma Vibhushan in 1976.
- ✈ Ali was the first non-British citizen to receive the Gold Medal of the British Ornithologists’ Union in 1967.
- ✈ He was the first Indian to conduct systematic bird surveys across India.
- ✈ Dr. Salim was the one who rediscovered the Finn’s Baya (*Ploceus megarhynchus*) a rare weaverbird species.
- ✈ Several species of birds are named after him.
- ✈ He was also an instrumentalist in creation of Bharatpur Bird Sanctuary in Rajasthan.

The significance of celebrating birds is to create public awareness about the habitat loss, disease, illegal bird trade etc.

Birds are often considered living links to the past, being the closest-related animals to the evolution of dinosaurs. They're often keystone species in the ecosystems, signifiers of its health and vitality.

Some fascinating things about birds:

No Teeth: No species of birds have teeth.

Why Birds sing and chirp? One of the reasons birds sing and chirp is to attract a mate.

Mammal with the Biggest Eye:

Ostriches have the largest eyes of any mammal on land.

Birds communicate well:

Birds are able to communicate well through their chirping and singing.

Group of Bird:

A group of birds is called a flock.

According to the Nagaland State Biodiversity Board report, there are 519 bird species in Nagaland. The great Indian hornbill is one of the most famous birds found in the State. Blyth's tragopan, a vulnerable species of pheasant, is the State bird of Nagaland.



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Nagaland Pollution Control Board
(State Nodal Agency, NGC Eco Club)

