



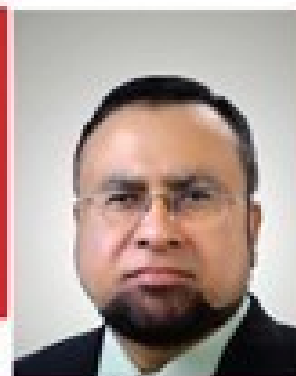
## LATEST NEWS:

## Bahrain celebrates World Migratory Bird Day 2016

07-May-2016

# Thinking green

Rehan Ahmed



Birds contribute to the happiness in our lives in many ways. By mere watching them, listening to their soft music, capturing the insects, rodents and creatures, dispersing seeds and re-vegetating the disturbed areas are some of their advantages for which we need to be thankful. Birds are also pollinators, ensuring that we are graced with flowering plants, trees, and shrubs. Birds provide free pest-control services and support economies through tourism, serve as indicators of pending environmental doom.

We need to understand the diversity of birds around the world, the amazing migrations they take, and the phenomenal range of behaviors, plumages, and songs they exhibit.

The first World Migratory Bird Day (WMBD) was celebrated on 8 and 9 April, 2006 to focus attention to the aspect of bird migration and the need for their conservation. Since 2006, the number of registered WMBD events has steadily been increasing with more than 130 countries participating in the events. WMBD shares the many ways in which birds matter to the earth, ecosystems and people.

The 2016 World Migratory Bird Day Theme is “and when the skies fall silent? The Day aims to highlight the incredible numbers of migratory birds being lost each year as a result of illegal killing, taking and trade. The motives behind these illicit activities are various and the toll that they are taking is incredible as millions of birds are being killed each year. These numbers are totally unsustainable leading to habitat loss with common species are being threatened with extinction. There is a wide range of reasons for the illegal killing, taking and trade of birds including subsistence uses, recreational activities, organized crime, traditional practice and so on. They vary from each country and region.

Many governments have passed laws to ensure sustainability, protecting migratory birds by restricting or prohibiting their exploitation. The protection of migratory birds has been coordinated at the international level since past many decades. In some countries there is clearly no regulation, while in others, regulations do exist but enforcement needs to be improved. Illegal activities not only affect birds’ populations, but they also harm society in general, our very existence and our natural resources. Conservation, agriculture and the tourism sector all suffer from their negative impacts. Legal hunting is affected by these illegal activities as well.

One example is that Nets along the north coast of Africa kill millions of birds every year. Only the bird Linnet has lost 50% of its population since 1980, or the farmland birds lost 300 million in Europe over the same period. The public has to be made aware of the urgency of the threat posed by illegal hunting, taking and trade. Our attitudes must change as we can no longer afford to turn a blind eye to those who flout the law and endanger our shared natural heritage.

On and around 10 May 2016, dedicated organizations, governments and people around the world will plan events to mark World Migratory Bird Day celebrating migratory birds and raising awareness about the need for their conservation. Take action and celebrate, conserve and raise awareness of migratory birds by organizing educational programs, lectures, bird walks, visits to bird-watching sites, competitions, art exhibitions and other public events.

Let us celebrate the WMBD with enthusiasm and fervor and make others understand their contribution to our ecosystem. Children are specially to be educated in respecting what birds are providing to us besides food and aesthetics.

Let us work together to protect migratory birds from illegal killing, taking and trade!



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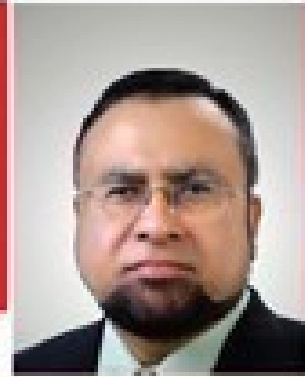
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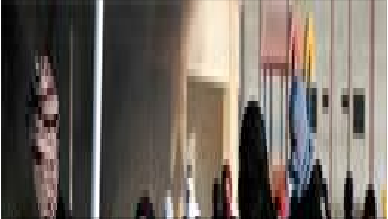
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The defendant was in the Juvenile Detention and Rehabilitation Centre, where he is reported to have physically assaulted the two police officers.  
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