



The National Field
Research Centre for
Environmental Conservation
About innovative Environmental Research



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Issue 63

Palm Squirrels

A New Environmental Problem

Must be Addressed Urgently



The International Whaling Commission (IWC) Commends the Sultanate's Efforts for Saving the Humpback Whale

The International Whaling Commission commended the Sultanate's efforts in saving the humpback whale trapped in the nets in Duqm Port. The Commission stated that the humpback whale in the Arabian Sea is unique. Being the only group of its kind that does not migrate, but rather spends its entire life in the Arabian Sea, that makes it seriously threatened by extinction. The IWC noted that the rescue operation carried out by the Omani Environment Authority with its partners is of great importance. The IWC indicated that its Scientific Committee has included the humpback whale in the Arabian Sea within the five groups most at risk of extinction, which means that saving only one whale has a significant impact on genetic diversity



and restoration of humpback whale numbers. The IWC executive Secretary also mentioned that the Coordinator of the International Whaling Commission (IWC), who is responsible for responding to entanglement incidents has been invited by the Omani Environment Authority to Muscat to conduct training for the process of responding to entanglement incidents, stressing that the process requires joint efforts of several bodies such as Coast Guards, ports and others, in addition to trained response teams to achieve an effective and safe response.

Inauguration of the New Identity of Oman Animal and Plant Genetic Resources Center «Mawarid»

The Oman Animal and Plant Genetic Resources Center, at the Ministry of Higher Education, Scientific Research and Innovation, has launched its new identity "Mawarid", through which it reflects the multiple goals and roles that the center plays, and has established (Mawarid) from its verbal motto of (converting genetic resources into value), as a pillar Essential for launching its programs and projects that aim to preserve, protect and document genetic resources of all kinds inspiring the colors of the new identity from the colors of the picturesque of Omani nature.



مواريد
mawarid

The State Audit Institution Participates in the Meeting of INTOSAI Environmental Monitoring Working Group

The State Audit Institution participated in the Twentieth Meeting of the Environmental Monitoring Working Group of the International Organization of Supreme Audit Institutions (INTOSAI) via video communication, with the participation of the authorities which are members of the team. The agenda of the meeting includes many scientific and practical sessions on several topics, the most important of which is the discussion of aspects related to the circular economy and its effective role in eliminating waste in the resources use, a review of international experiences and visions on nutrient recycling, renewable agriculture, and a work plan related to plastic waste. That is in addition to a case study on auditing agricultural



circular economy projects, and monitoring the challenges of plastic waste management. The meeting also reviews the reports of the regional working groups concerned with environmental monitoring through holding sessions to exchange experiences, experiment and capacity development, in addition to reviewing the report of the International Center for Monitoring Environment and Sustainable Development, discussing ways of training on sustainable development goals, the auditing through community participation and environmental monitoring.

point of view



Population Increase and the Pressure on Resources

Dr. Dawood Sulaiman Al Balushi
Editor-in-Chief

Recent scientific studies carried out by many international organizations concerned with the environmental field have proven that the greater the population in the country, the greater the direct pressure on natural resources. This pressure results in many negative effects on ecosystems, such as the deterioration of the ecosystem, the increase in waste of all forms and types, the deterioration and extinction of wildlife and living organisms, and other direct and indirect environmental problems.

The results of the electronic census of population, housing and establishments in the Sultanate for the year 2020 indicated an increase in the population compared to the 2010 census, as the total population of the Sultanate is currently 4 million 471 thousand and 148 people, compared to the 2010 census, which at that time was 2 million 773 thousand and 479 people, with an increase rate of 61%. Naturally this increase will lead to an increase in the pressure on the natural resources and ecosystems in the Sultanate. Now, this poses a great challenge to government agencies responsible for the environment and natural resources in the Sultanate, especially in the process of regulating human use of natural resources so that it does not reach the stage of degradation and extinction. Also, this increase will create challenges regarding human behavior towards these natural resources and environmental tourism places, as well as a direct pressure on such resources and environmental tourism places. The result will be the damage of environment and its resources and components. That is in addition to the pollutants that result from human ways of dealing with waste in addition to the methods of disposing of the solid, liquid and gaseous wastes produced by industrial cities, crushers, quarries and petrochemical factories.

Therefore, the burden is now great on the government agencies responsible for the environment and natural resources in the Sultanate in light of the recent increase in population, which constitutes pressure and a direct impact on natural systems and resources. So, the government agencies should intensify environmental inspection and monitoring campaigns on all establishments and factories and the extent of their compliance with environmental laws and legislation. This is in addition to increasing environmental awareness campaigns for all members of society and clarifying their role in preserving the ecosystem in the Sultanate. It is also necessary for these authorities to review and formulate all environmental legislations and laws to be in line with the technological developments at the present time. The government agencies have to seek to create a competent environment police that contributes to the implementation of laws and legislations in society. They have to open the way for environmental innovation for individuals and institutions specialized in the environment and to support environmental scientific research that contributes in solving environmental issues and working on developing and strengthening national capabilities in the environmental aspect, in order to contribute to achieving sustainable development of the environment in the Sultanate.

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Algae and Seaweed

are Source
of

Food

Medicine

and Energy

By: Fatimah Al Zidjali

.. **Algae and seaweed are a treasure in every word. It provides everything we need. Rather even what humanity looking for to meet its various needs after they have burdened the earth's resources with the enormous population increase. Seaweed is a source of food, medicine and the production of renewable biofuels. What's more is that some types of marine algae remove various pollutants. Most of all, it produces approximately 80% of the world's oxygen production through photosynthesis. Thus, it is considered the lung of the earth, as it produces more oxygen than all other plants on land. ..**



What is the Difference Between Algae and Seaweed?

Marine Algae

Algae are plants of primary shape, with no roots, stems, flowers, or true leaves. It is a group of cells, one standing next to the other. Generally, algae are found in water, whether fresh, such as lakes, rivers, swamps, springs, etc., but their preferred medium is the salt water in the sea. There are many types of algae, found in both sea and fresh water.

Seaweed

Seaweed is different from marine algae. They are whole plants with flowers, leaves and roots just like terrestrial plants. It is also capable of producing seeds that can be grown on the sea floor and become new plants. There are approximately 60 species of seaweed in the world, such as "eelgrass" and "Zostera marina", which is a common weed that grows in areas with moderate temperatures.

The algae «Spirulina» is the first plant to appear on the face of earth. Algae in general are among the first living organisms to appear on the planet. A team of French scientists discovered in Mexico a type of blue marine algae known as «Spirulina», which is considered to be the origin of life on Earth and the first to reach photosynthesis nearly 3.5 billion years ago. The Aztecs people, who lived in this region since ancient times, used «Spirulina» and live on it, because it has a huge nutritional capacity to contain a high percentage of proteins and vitamins to treat malnutrition. Also, «Spirulina» is rich in minerals such as calcium, phosphorus, magnesium, iron, zinc, copper, sodium, potassium and psyllium. It is also rich in chlorophyll and fatty acids such as omega-6 and gamma linoleic acid which helps to regulate the level of cholesterol in the blood to the appropriate level. It is used after drying algae and then consumed it as spices that helps to replenish blood, such as the Epo hormone, which activates red blood cells. That is what made French cooks use it in their food. This is what made France a world leader in the use of this type of algae. As well, «Spirulina» is still used in meals and sold in Markets as biscuits.

Uses of Algae and Seaweed as Food

Seaweed and algae have been used as food since prehistoric times in many Asian and European countries, especially in coastal areas. Seaweed and algae are characterized by its containment of large amounts of fiber and complete protein in high proportions that may reach 45 - 60% of its weight. (complete protein: means that the food contains an adequate percentage of all the amino acids necessary for the dietary needs of humans or animals. Some incomplete proteins contain all the necessary amino acids, but complete protein contains the correct proportions that support vital functions in the human body) so it is an ideal food for vegetarians.

Seaweed and algae are rich in calcium, magnesium, copper, potassium, selenium, zinc, iodine, and iron and they contain very little fat. Iodine is one of the vital elements necessary for the proper growth of all age groups. It is essential for the regulation of normal thyroid function as well as the development of the brain and pituitary gland. As well, thyroid hormone also plays an essential role in the process of myelination of the central nervous system of newborns.

Uses of Algae and Seaweed as Medicine

Marine seaweed and algae are considered as an important source of traditional medicine raw materials in many countries. Even the latest research relied on its use because of the unique materials it contains, to the extent that a team of Russian scientists in «Retrosense Company» is testing some types of seaweed for possible use in the composition of a drug that treats blindness. These plants contain a light-sensitive protein that scientists intend to implant into the retina of a blind person in order to restore vision, and the company soon plans to conduct clinical trials.

Anti-Pollution

Algae and seaweed are the largest and most powerful natural filters of the planet. It gets rid of the largest percentage of pollution, work to recycle carbon dioxide, the most important product of fuel combustion processes. They produce nearly 80% of the world's oxygen production through the photosynthesis process, and thus surpasses the production of oxygen from all other plants on land. Green, bluish-green and red algae play an important role in nature as they are used as a remedy for reducing pollution in sea and river waters. That is why the German city of Stuttgart is using nature to combat air pollution. It built a 100-meter-long wall made of algae to get rid of harmful

particles in the air. Stuttgart, the German car-making bastion and headquarters of Porsche and Daimler, which manufacture Mercedes, is located in a cavity that often traps particles which include dust, dirt, soot, smoke and liquid droplets. The Stuttgart authorities say this surface made up of algae that has millions of tiny leaves, collects particles with electrostatic quality. The Stuttgart authorities add that the algae can absorb the ammonium nitrate, which makes up to 50% of the particles and convert it into part of the plant mass. Two experimental sections of a few meters high wall have been erected so far, at the intersection of a major road near the city center. By March, a finished wall will be installed, which is an aluminum frame in which an algae mat will be placed. There is an Arab experiment carried out by an Arab researcher, who used algae to devour industrial waste and get rid of one of the major environmental problems. In order to solve this environmental dilemma, it was necessary to search for a natural, healthy and safe mean that does not represent a new burden on the environment that is already heavy with pollutants. A mean that is cheap as well as simple to equip and does not represent a financial or technical burden added to production costs. Dr. Saad, produced marine algae as a mixture that works to completely purify industrial wastewater from heavy metals, regardless of their high levels of concentrations in the water, depending on the carbohydrates contained in marine algae with a high capacity to absorb heavy metals. The material prepared by this Arab researcher is a mixture of different types of algae. This material is characterized by the fact that it can be used with the same efficiency for multiple times, up to twenty times, as well as the possibility of extracting heavy metals from this unique material to be recycled for production process.





Muscat, January

A new environmental problem has appeared on the Omani environment. A variety of squirrels, called «palm squirrels», have spread in the Sultanate's farms, causing various environmental damages. Farmers complained that they eat the fruits, especially the palm, and damage the crops. There are concerns that these squirrels will become an environmental pest, which means that all competent authorities must deal with this environmental problem, which is still in its infancy in the Sultanate before it worsens significantly and becomes very difficult to deal with.



Palm Squirrels

A New Environmental Problem

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A Study on Palm Squirrels

A recent scientific study published by Sultan Qaboos University in its 27 bulletin «Iqra» confirmed that date palm squirrels of the genus Funambulus began to spread in the Sultanate for the first time, as they were recorded in 11 sites in the Sultanate. Seven species of the recorded squirrel are the North Indian palm squirrel with five lines (Funambulus pennantii), while the species of the other four types are unconfirmed.

Dr. Erica Soto and Professor Reginald Victor from the Biology Department at the University studied the status of date palm squirrels in the Sultanate. Dr. M. Barry, from the same department, took pictures of these rodents in the Botanical Garden of Sultan Qaboos University. It was confirmed that it was the Five-Striped Northern palm squirrel. So, Dr. Victor and Dr. Erika Soto performed an extensive study on these squirrels, recently published in the International Journal of Environmental Studies.

According to the study published in «Iqra», it is known that the five-striped palm squirrel is the only type found in the United Arab Emirates, but evidence has emerged about the presence of the Indian three-striped palm squirrel

(Funambulus palmarum) in Ras Al-Khaimah. Therefore, there is the possibility that these species can appear in the Sultanate.

The study indicates that the palm squirrel is slightly smaller than the regular squirrel, with a length of 6 to 7.8 inches, its body slightly longer than its thick tail, and the weight of the squirrel rarely exceeds 120 grams. Palm squirrel are surprisingly fast, they can travel about 16 km per hour, and they have memory. In addition to that, they are strong and live from 2 to 4 years. These squirrels feed on the fruits of palm trees which are of commercial value and are found in large numbers in the United Arab Emirates. That is what made researchers in the «Emirates» to warn that getting rid of these squirrels in the future will be very difficult and expensive. The researchers in the «Emirates», also indicated that the invasion of these squirrels to the Sultanate's orchards is still in its infancy. Therefore, strategies should be formulated to eliminate or control them as a top priority, especially since the National Vertebrate Pests Committee in Australia has classified squirrels among the species that pose a great threat as a type of potential pest, as they can turn

into a problem that threatens fruit crops in addition to eating bird eggs.

Multiple Damages

Residents have noticed the unusual presence of squirrels in their farms, as it is a type of rodent species, whose source is unknown and that it has caused damage to fruits and crops. Residents have also been observing that such squirrels attack bird nests to eat their eggs. There are many theories about the reasons behind the spread of these squirrels in the Sultanate. Some believe that the came from neighboring countries, while others believe that they escaped from the cages of animal fanciers. There are also those who say that they settled ten years ago in custody of a pet dealer, then escaped and started spreading. Others believe that their source is the ships docking in the Sultanate's ports and that they have found a suitable environment for reproduction in farms and abandoned homes.

With the multiplicity of stories, however, these squirrels have become a reality that environmentalists, farm owners, birds and poultry keepers and others who have been affected by these squirrels have to live with it. These squirrels have caused the destruction of many agricultural crops, especially in

Suggested Solutions

- Conducting more research and studies on squirrels in the Sultanate.
- Monitor their locations.
- Collaporation between competent authorities to deal with them at an early time.
- To study the experiences of other countries in dealing with squirrels.
- To implement strict requirements of importing them from outside the country to ensure that they do not leave the places of their breeding.
- To raise community awareness on the damages caused by squirrels and explaining how to deal with them.
- To put in place a specific agency to receive reports from the people as well as a team to deal with the areas of their wide spread.



- ▶ **These squirrels were monitored and recorded in 11 sites in the Sultanate**
- ▶ **Among their harmful effects they eat fruits, eggs and young of birds and eating larvae and seeds, which causes damage to crops**
- ▶ **All competent authorities must join efforts to deal with this environmental problem that is still in its infancy in the Sultanate**
- ▶ **It is of unknown origin and there are multiple reasons for its spread**



- ▶ **It is considered a fast-breeding animal, as the female gives birth twice a year and gives birth to between 2 to 7 young squirrels at one time, and the female's pregnancy extends between 36 to 45 days**



the South and North Al-Batinah governorates, according to what was published in various media. They also eat eggs that belong to the bird and poultry keepers.

Environmentalists are studying other damages caused by these squirrels, as it has been proven that they eat fruits, nuts, smaller rodents, insects, worms, eggs and young birds. They also eat larvae and seeds, causing damage to crops, and also eat mice and small reptiles.

Palm squirrels are characterized by their agility, small size and speed of movement. Their activity increases mainly during daylight hours. They live in trees and deserted places. They also collect and store food. Palm squirrels are considered prey to wild cats, hawks, eagles, snakes, and others.

Fast-breeding Animals

Squirrels are known to be very careful. That means they run away immediately, so, it is hard to catch them. They are so active that they run tirelessly. They also search for their food tirelessly. Squirrels are a pesky rodent that makes loud screams and whistles. They have strong, sharp claws, which allow them to climb trees and jump from a branch to another. Squirrels also have a thick furry tail that helps them balancing themselves running or jumping. They have wide black eyes and round ears.

Squirrels are fast-breeding animals as they can give birth to 2 to 7 young squirrels at a time, twice a year. The pregnancy period of female squirrels extends from 36 days to 45 days. At birth, young squirrels are naked of the fur with closed eyes. When young squirrels reach the age of 58- weeks, their fur will grow and begin to search for food. Baby squirrels get ready to depend on themselves when they are about one year old. Squirrels live for a long time, which may exceed 6 years. The squirrels fight among themselves in defense of the area and food.

A brief Historical Overview

Palm squirrels have settled in the Indian Subcontinent and has spread to a number of other countries. When talking about its spread, it is always worth mentioning that, squirrels have escaped from the Perth Zoo in Australia and rapidly spread in the area and became an environmental phenomenon there. That phenomenon was dealt with by creating a non proliferation zone around Perth to limit further spread of squirrels, as well as setting up a program to combat them and reduce their numbers.

» The Environment Society's «Its Time» Campaign Focuses on 3 Main Issues

The Environment Society of Oman started the new year with the launch of its awareness campaign «Its Time». It is a year-long initiative that calls on the entire Omani society to adopt sustainable environmental behaviors with the aim of preserving the environment and its resources. The awareness campaign

focuses on three main issues that affect the environment which are: Waste, Single-use plastics, and the Recycling Culture. The Society is keen to hold a number of events, workshops and seminars, as well as cleaning campaigns and a number of competitions and awards, in addition to its campaign through various social

media. By this step, the Environment Society of Oman seeks to enhance community participation in various environmental issues, collect donations for its programs, as well as spread awareness among individuals about the importance of preserving the environment by adopting sustainable behaviors.

Saudi Arabia

«The Inauguration of a Climate Station to Measure the Amount of Rain Water and Climate Elements

The Ministry of Environment, Water and Agriculture has inaugurated, at its headquarters in Riyadh, an automated climate station, which aims to achieve greater accuracy and reduce the difference between the records of the hydrological monitoring stations.

The climate station records and collects data related to measuring rain falling, wind direction and speed, temperature, sun brightness, humidity, soil temperature, and other climatic elements.

The station also contains a data transmitter and receiver via a chip that sends all data to the project

server for review and approval.

The climate stations provides the necessary data to aid in hydrological and climate change studies, which are among the most important pillars of water resource management, planning and sustainability.

Kuwait

The Conference of «Renewable Energy and Sustainable Development»

His Excellency Sheikh Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Hamoud Al-Sabah, Director General of the Environment Public Authority and Chairman of the Board of Directors, participated in the opening of the «Renewable Energy and Sustainable Development ... Challenges and Solutions» conference, that was organized by the Kuwait Geographical Society with the aim of shedding light on the role of sustainable energy and its provision for all and enhancing and supporting access to it in the future with affordable prices in light of the «Corona» Covid-19 pandemic.

UAE

The Launching of the Handbook for Dealing with «Infectious» Biological Waste

Within the framework of its strategy to achieve integrated and sound management of waste and maintain of public health and safety, the Ministry of Climate Change and Environment launched the updated guide for the mechanism of dealing with biological waste (The transmits the infection). The guide also includes standards and mechanisms for dealing, treating and disposing of wastes generated during epidemics, especially Covid-19 virus wastes.

Bahrain

Clean Energy Powers a Number of Recreational Projects

projects such as the Busaiten walkway and lighting a number of parks in various locations, which will contribute to reducing operational costs. In addition to providing all recreational services in the same project to avoid its repetition in another place close to it, such as providing walkways in parks to reduce the cost of building outdoor walkways as possible. An example of this is the development of a walkway within the components of Al Muharraq Al Kubra Park and Water Park. This will also be implemented in the Faisal Corniche, which will contribute to reducing construction and operating expenses and ensuring the provision of integrated services.

Qatar

The Continuation of the Second Phase of the Northwest Beaches Cleaning Campaign

The Ministry of Municipality and Environment, represented by the Beaches and Islands Section of the Public Cleaning Department, continues the second phase of the campaign to clean the northwestern coasts of the country. The second phase of the campaign covered the area from Al-Reem Reserve to Umm Haish. The cleaning campaign included different types of random waste, such as damaged tires, dead animals, about (42) car tires and (4) dead animals were removed, via (9) transport trips.

The Public Works Minister Issam Khalaf, assured that the Ministry is working continuously to provide all services to citizens and residents in the Kingdom at a high level, in line with international urban requirements. The ministry is also keen to implement ideas to reduce expenditures in various stages, whether planning, construction or operational. Among these plans, the use of clean energy (solar energy) in operating a number of recreational

A 480 Million Years Oldest Sea Star in the World Discovered



London - ONA: A study from the University of Cambridge reports that the fossil starfish discovered in Morocco dating back 480 million years is the «missing link» between modern floral organisms and their ancestors. Experts in biology said that the fossil, which was discovered inside the so-called the Oily Rocks in the Small Atlas Mountains, is the oldest known starfish. Experts explained that the former competitor for the oldest specimen of starfish was 50 million years younger. These beautifully preserved remains will allow paleontologists to map the body of a new species in detail, and shed light on how starfish evolved.

China Launches a Group of Satellites

Beijing - ONA: China launched the second group of remote sensing satellites «Yaogan-31» into space from the Jiuquan Satellite Launch Center in northwest China. The Jiuquan Center said in a statement that the satellite group was launched on board a «Long March-4C»

carrier missile, indicating that the satellites have entered their planned orbits and will be used in performing an electromagnetic environment surveys and technological tests. China had launched the first set of remote sensing satellites «Yaogan-31» in 2018.



The Earth is Losing Ice at an Accelerating Melt Rate Record



Paris - ONA: A study published by the European Space Agency, ESA, reports that the world is losing ice at a record and increasing rate. A total of 28 trillion tons of snow melted around the world between 1994 and 2017, researchers said in the study, published in the Cryosphere Journal. The researchers noted that the rate of melting is increasing with the warming of the atmosphere and oceans, as the world witnessed in the 1990s an annual loss of 0.8 trillion tons of ice, and by 2017, this number reached 1.2 trillion tons per year.



Environmental Vocabulary

Role Model

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Its body is dressed in a cloak of bright black feathers, whose view implies a feeling of pessimism and uncomfortable. This feeling is deepening by its sharp whoop that varies in tunes. Beneath this black cover hides a human soul with its opposite behaviors that blend between aggressiveness and friendship, between randomness and order, and between constraints and freedom. Each behavior has its motives. Embodied in its shape characteristics of birds, while embodied in its actions the qualities of human. Who learned from whom?

This bird, which has a sharp intelligence, is familiar to everyone by its shape, color, voice, and the name that mentioned in the Holy Quran. On the other hand, it can also distinguish the faces of human beings and classifies them as good or bad. Its average length is about 69 cm, while it weighs about 980 grams. Its main food is the meat of small mammals, amphibians, reptiles, and carcasses, as well as its share of seeds, nuts, fruits, and insects. This food diversity has kept this bird away from the spectre of hunger and thirst and adapts quickly to its surrounding environment. This bird lives within its family group (each group called murder), which is characterized by a certain sound frequency different from other groups. It is easy for the group to identify the intruder from other groups that may faces a strong resistance reach to fighting.

The male reaches puberty after 4 years while the female after 3 years. When the reproductive instinct intensifies between mid-March and mid-July, the male begins his mating ritual by issuing loud sounds to attract the female until one approach him, then he spreads his feather indicative of his acceptance of her, then begins to sing her a short song. After the marriage occurs, both clean the feathers of the other and prepare the nest which may last for 14 days in which their love of beauty appears by putting colored pieces of soap or any other material that has an aesthetic value. The female lays an average of 4 eggs within a week once a year, then hatches after about 19 days. The chicks stay in the nest under parental care for about 40 days and then fly into the space with the rest of the group. There are two exceptional cases of separation of couples; non hatching of eggs and second is death of the wife, otherwise, the couple live in a marital bond in love, affection, and loyalty whole their life span, which sometimes lasts for 21 years.

The social life of this strange bird represents lessons and examples for us. It desperate to defend itself and its group. When anyone tries to attack this birds eggs or nests will be attacked by the bird. The aggressor will be continuously watched and may be attacked for many years because this bird easily distinguishes the aggressor and never forget the abuse. At the same time, any bird attempting to steal food from other group is being judged and punished by plucking its feathers until it is unable to fly. It has been noted that the court is always held on Friday. The death is the penalty of the adulterer by beating and injuring it to death, and then it is buried in honor of the dead. As well as the very sick bird will be killed for fear of the outbreak of the disease to rest of the group, and then buried. Thus, God almighty sent the raven (The Crow) to teach man and show him how to bury his brothers corpse. The Crow taught the man by its actin not by its tongue. What a honor for this Crow! both its name and action are immortalized in the Great Quran. God almighty puts his secret in whoever he wants any time wishes. He is the Wise and the Acquainted (with all).

Bulbul



My name is Bulbul
I am a small, white-cheeked bird
beautiful and handsome

I am intelligent, good coexistence
and a pet

I am proverbial in fluency of tongue
and nice voice

We build our nests over palms and trees, using palm leaf and tree sticks
as we roll the nesting material. The nest is round in shape

We eat all kinds of vegetables and fruits, due to the vitamins they contain
as well as insects to take protein, especially during the period of raising chicks

