Proposal for TROPICAL BIRD emoji

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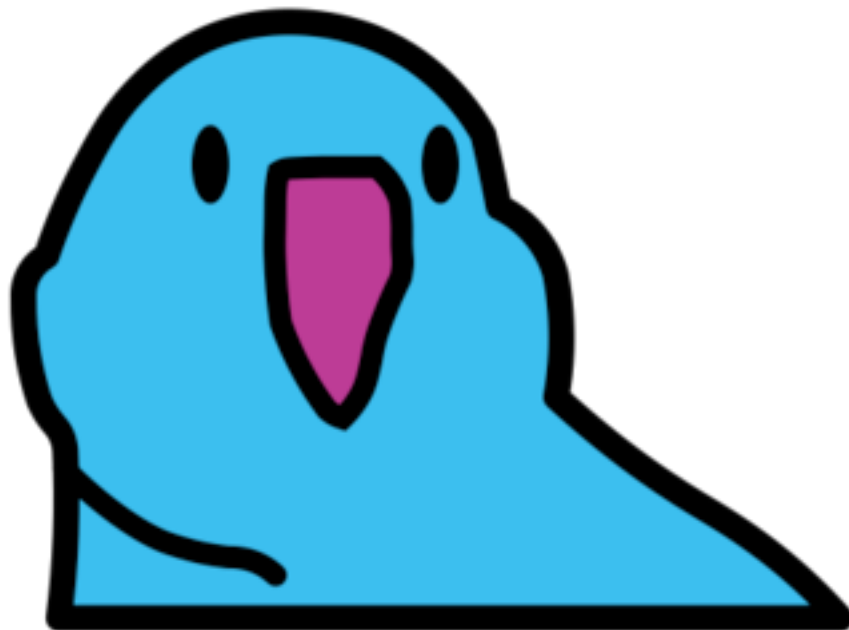
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Figure 1: Common visualisation of the "Party Parrot"

Abstract

This submission proposes the introduction of the TROPICAL BIRD emoji into the Unicode Standard.

Introduction

The Unicode Standard is host to a number of animal symbols, and a small variety of common birds. The author proposes the inclusion of a character to represented a more unique avian creature: TROPICAL BIRD.

While also providing accompaniment to the number of tropical emoji, the inclusion of TROPICAL BIRD in the Unicode Standard would assist with platform compatibility with the popular emoticon "Party Parrot". In addition, it would fill a current lacking in the Unicode Standard for exotic animals.

Factors for Inclusion

A. Compatibility

"Party Parrot"[1] is a highly visible emoticon that is commonly added as a custom 'emoji' on platforms such as Slack and HipChat. The inclusion of this emoji in the Unicode Standard would help with cross-platform compatibility.

B. Expected Usage Level

1. Frequency

"Party Parrot" is synonymous with the Slack messaging service. Due to the nature of the distribution of custom Slack emoji, the exact installation numbers for "Party Parrot" are unknown. However, the service as a whole boasts 3 million daily active users (as of May 2016[2])

2. Multiple Usages

An argument could be made that TROPICAL BIRD could be represented by the sequence "PALM TREE, BIRD", and "Party Parrot" by "PARTY POPPER, BIRD".

Colloquially, "Party Parrot" is used as a sign of excitement or achievement, which could also be represented by PARTY POPPER or CONFETTI BALL

The more general parrot emoji would also pair with the recently introduced ZWJ sequence PIRATE FLAG.

C. Distinctiveness

Although there are an number of bird-related emoji already included in the Standard, these are majorly domestic birds, or poultry.

Additionally there is a distinct lack of exotic animals in the Unicode standard.

D. Completeness

The introduction of the TROPICAL BIRD emoji would complement the existing tropical emoji (TROPICAL DRINK, TROPICAL FISH) and complement the existing tropical-aligning emoji (BEACH WITH UMBRELLA, BIKINI, PALM TREE, and others).

E. Frequently Requested

According to the Unicode Documents register, TROPICAL BIRD, "Party Parrot", "Parrot", or a variation there upon has not been formally requested.

There are no known petitions for the "Party Parrot" emoticon to become an official emoji, although there are multiple requests on social media for it to be standardised within Slack[3,4], or as an official emoji[5,6,7]

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[1] http://www.cultofthepartyparrot.com
[2] http://web.archive.org/web/20160902210603/http://expandedramblings.com/index.php/slack-statistics/
[3] https://twitter.com/codetheory/status/782957088259448832
[4] https://twitter.com/SharmaDinesh907/status/753381175826276352
[5] https://twitter.com/sohutto/status/778417082111184897
[6] https://twitter.com/giantrobotbee/status/712659519881486337
[7] https://twitter.com/BarDown/status/788508868200439808

Factors for Exclusion

F. Overly Specific

An argument could be made that the proposed emoji is overly specific. However, by choosing the name TROPICAL BIRD as opposed to "Parrot" or "Party Parrot", it's hoped that, if vendors choose, the implemented artwork can draw from a number of parrots, including, but not limited to, Toucans, Cockatoos, Macaws, and other unique avian wildlife.

G. Open-ended

This is a specific addition to the existing set of bird code points within the standard. This proposal uses the same naming scheme that is be applied to the subset of FISH and TROPICAL FISH.

H. Already Represented

There is no code point in current Unicode Standard that represents the proposed emoji.

I. Logos, Brands, Signage, etc

Not Applicable.

J. Transient

Persistent conversation efforts by a number of local and global organisers work tirelessly to ensure the preservation of a number of endangered species, including tropical birds. It is hope that with their continued efforts, tropical birds aren't a transient phenomenon.

Additional Information

Suggested Emoji Ordering

If accepted, the TROPICAL BIRD emoji would be placed within the "animal-bird" category.

Party Parrot Licensing

The source of the original Party Parrot imagery is unknown[8]

Kākāpō

The "Party Parrot" emoticon is based a Kākāpō parrot of international renown[9] by the name of Sirocco[10], who has his own Twitter account[11].

Kākāpō parrots are native to New Zealand, but are classified as Critically Endangered by the International Union for Conservation of Nature.

Parrots in Popular Culture

See also the Monty Python Parrot Sketch[12], Pirates and Parrots in Fiction[13]

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[8]https://github.com/jmhobbs/cultofthepartyparrot.com/blob/master/LICENSE
[9]https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9T1vfsHYiKY
[10]http://kakaporecovery.org.nz/sirocco/
[11]https://twitter.com/spokesbird
[12]https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dead_Parrot_sketch
[13]https://www.reference.com/history/pirates-parrots-30208162cb3c7589