



World Migratory Bird Day

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en particuliers ceux engagés dans le programme 'Flyways', focalisé sur les principales voies migratoires africaines. La tâche s'annonce de plus en plus difficile les prochaines années, mais nul ne doute que les partenaires africains de BirdLife seront prêts à relever ce défi.

Message from the CAP Chair



Chers lecteurs,

En effectuant chaque année les milliers de kilomètres de leur parcours migratoire, les oiseaux migrants ne se doutent pas que leurs futures migrations seront de plus en plus ardues.

La cause principale est la dégradation progressive, voire la disparition de plusieurs sites vitaux dont ils dépendent due à la conversion de la terre sous forme de l'expansion urbaine, l'agriculture intensive, la déforestation, l'extraction de minerais etc. Ces activités ont un impact direct sur les populations d'oiseaux migrants qui sont particulièrement sensibles à toute interférence aux sites et habitats qu'elles utilisent. Le thème de la Journée Mondiale des Oiseaux Migrateurs (JMOM) cette année a porté sur « les changements d'utilisation des sols - vue à vol d'oiseaux ». Comme à l'accoutumée, les partenaires africains de BirdLife ont été au rendez-vous en organisant plusieurs actions de sensibilisation dans le but d'informer le public sur les dangers que courent les oiseaux migrants si les sites ne bénéficient pas d'une conservation adéquate. Plus que jamais, la protection des sites et celle des habitats, qui sont deux des quatre piliers de la stratégie de BirdLife International, devra mobiliser les partenaires,

Dear readers,

Every year, migratory birds travel thousands of kilometers along 'flyways' which are increasingly in jeopardy as anthropogenic factors such as urban expansion, agriculture, deforestation, mining and other forms of unsustainable land use have intensified in the last few years. These activities have a direct impact on migratory bird populations that are particularly sensitive to any interference with their sites and habitats.

The World Migratory Bird Day (WMBD) this year focused on "land use changes from a bird's-eye view." As usual, the African Partners of BirdLife International have used the WMBD to inform the public about the plight of migratory birds if their sites are not adequately conserved. More than ever, the protection of sites and habitats (i.e. landscapes), which are two of the four pillars on the strategic focus of BirdLife International, will guide the work of the BirdLife Partners, particularly those involved in the 'Flyways programme' which aims to conserve the main bird migration routes in Africa. The task will be more difficult during the next few years, but there is no doubt that BirdLife Partners in Africa are ready to meet this challenge.

By Mr. Mourad Amari, Chair BirdLife Council for the Africa Partnership (CAP) 2010-12

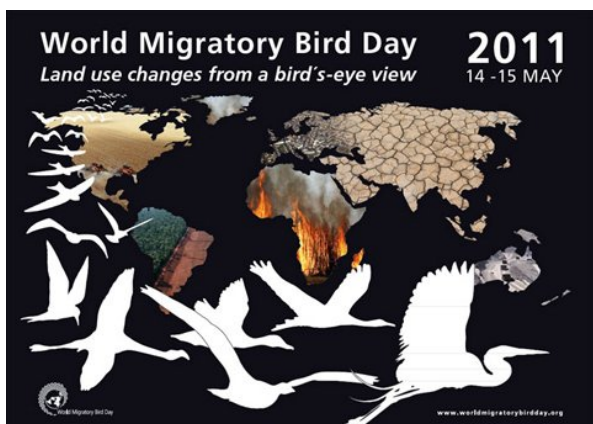
CONTRIBUTION OF ARTICLES

We welcome contributions to the e-bulletin from the BirdLife Africa network about bird species, sites, habitats and people. We would also be happy to know about conservation-related events at global, regional, national levels being organized within BirdLife network. Please send your contributions for the next issue to: antoINETTE.otieno@birdlife.org by 15 Oct 2011

WMBD MESSAGE IN 2011

The 2011 WMBD celebration focused on the theme “Land use changes from a bird’s-eye view”. Migratory birds’ pathways are areas that provide food, water, cover, route and space that these birds need to survive and reproduce during either their wintering or breeding season. Of all the threats to migratory birds, the “Human Hand” has the greatest effect on the Earth’s natural environments. The way humans change and use the natural world for their needs is the greatest threat to migratory birds, because it directly changes, degrades, fragments or removes bird habitats.

Changes in land use including intensive agriculture, hunting, waste disposal, powerlines and infrastructure affect the birds’ wellbeing and critical habitats.



The 2011 WMBD poster © [WMBD](http://www.wmbd.org) website

The WMBD aimed at involving as many stakeholders as possible, including Government agencies, NGOs, UN agencies, current and prospective donors, media, religious leaders and the wider community including youth and children.

The 2011 WMBD message was that no person should disturb, destroy or take a nest, egg, or damage a habitat for a migratory bird and that no one should deposit wastes or any other substance harmful to migratory birds along their flyways.

By J. Gaithuma (jane.gaithuma@birdlife.org) and T. Ukizintambara

MESSAGE TO THE 2011 CMS IN NORWAY

A declaration on the plight of migratory birds was drafted for the 10th Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS) that will be held between 20th and 25th November 2011 in Bergen, Norway. The declaration states:

“Due to the fact that many trans-Saharan migratory birds have undergone precipitous declines since CMS came into force in 1979; no intergovernmental conservation provisioning for long-distance migrant landbirds in Sub-Saharan Africa exists; these birds maybe a suitable indicator for assessing the impact of climate change on a number of migratory species; and that the African Eurasian Waterbird Agreement (AEWA) and the Memorandum of Understanding on the Conservation of Migratory Birds of Prey in Africa and Eurasia are instruments for the conservation of migrant birds under the CMS in the African-Eurasian flyway. The 10th meeting of the CMS is urged to develop a flyway action plan for the conservation of African-Eurasian migrant land birds for adoption at the 11th COP in 2014, including to encompass the relevant research and conservation priorities identified by the 2011 Annual BOU Conference and to commission, in parallel to the production of the action plan, research to determine which international, national and local institutions influence relevant land use policy and practice in the Sub Saharan countries on which most declining long distance land bird migrants depend during the non-breeding period.”

“The action plan should address in particular the drivers of the causes of habitat loss and transformation in the African non-breeding areas; unsustainable hunting of migrating birds, especially in the Mediterranean area; protection of key staging sites; and habitat loss and transformation in the Eurasian breeding grounds. All parties should ensure effective implementation of a flyway action plan for the conservation of African-Eurasian migrant land-birds through enhanced capacity building within all countries along the flyway.”

For more information, contact J. Gaithuma (jane.gaithuma@birdlife.org)

Map: Major Eurasian-African flyways



From clients.ingenious-web.com

staff members at Olorgesailie to interact with each other. It was evident that the OEWCG members, mainly from the local Maasai community, are very knowledgeable about the threats to (migratory) birds in their area. Recently the bird watching fraternity has raised concerns about rapid habitat degradation and deleterious land cover change around Olorgesailie, driven by the production of charcoal to meet the insatiable fuel wood demand of the urban population in Nairobi and other adjacent small towns.

“Compared to a decade ago when I was involved in ornithological research at this site and its surroundings, the vegetation cover has significantly declined and urgent interventions are needed to reverse this worrying trend.”

“A further reduction in land cover change has serious socio-economic implications as livestock, which are the main source of livelihood for the local communities, a cultural symbol and a sense of pride, are reduced in numbers.”

George Eshiamwata of BirdLife International and Elijah Ole Kotkash, one of the Maasai community elders, in their respective speeches.

SPECIAL SECTION: HOW THE BIRDLIFE AFRICA PARTNERSHIP CELEBRATED WORLD MIGRATORY BIRD DAY

NATURE KENYA and BIRDLIFE AFRICA SECRETARIAT CELEBRATED THE WMBD WITH THE MAASAI COMMUNITY

Staff from Nature Kenya (BirdLife in Kenya), the BirdLife International Africa Partnership Secretariat, the National Museums of Kenya and members of the Olorgesailie Environment and Wildlife Conservation Group (OEWCG) held a joint celebration of the WMBD visiting Olorgesailie Prehistoric Site and Lake Magadi, located approximately 70km south of Nairobi. The celebration comprised of bird walks at both sites. Olorgesailie is a bird watcher's paradise with over 250 species recorded including a high number of both Palearctic and afrotropical migratory bird species, especially those using the eastern migratory flyway including the Great Rift Valley.

A total of 64 species were sighted at both sites. The event also provided an opportunity for the OEWCG and Museum

As part of the efforts to reverse the trend, trees were planted by the team from NatureKenya, BirdLife, the community and the Museum staff. Various advocacy materials including booklets, brochures, posters and magazines were distributed and some donated to the resource centre. BirdLife International donated a bird field guide to the staff of Olorgesailie Prehistoric Site. It is envisaged that this will be helpful in assisting staff to maintain an up-to-date checklist of birds seen at the site and its surroundings as well as avail it for use by visitors who are keen to watch birds.



Logistical support for this event was provided through the AECID (Agencia Española de Cooperación Internacional para el Desarrollo)-funded Policy Making and Improved Livelihoods project.

For more information about Olorgesale Prehistoric Site, visit: www.museums.or.ke/content/blogcategory/34/60/



Participants at the Kenyan WMBD celebrations
© Martha Nzisa, Nature Kenya

By George Were Eshiamwata
(george.eshiamwata@birdlife.org)

WABSA in the GAMBIA ORGANISED A RADIO TALK SHOW ON WORLD MIGATORY BIRD DAY

During a Radio Talk Show, Mr. Lamin Jobaate, the Executive Director of West Africa Birds Studies Association (WABSA) in the Gambia, expounded on the mission of WABSA as supplementing government's efforts in conserving and protecting bird habitats. He emphasised how the loss, fragmentation and degradation of natural bird habitats occurring globally is caused by the pressures resulting from a growing human population, rapid urbanization and unsustainable use of natural resources and is affecting migratory birds worldwide. In the Gambia the situation is not different since many of the existing migratory bird habitats, such as the Tanbi wetland National Park, is under increasing human pressure. These threats are manifested through mangrove logging, illegal settlement, uncontrolled tourism activities and a host of other activities that destroy birds' habitats.

However, WABSA is doing something to address these threats and to contribute to the conservation of migratory birds. "The Gambia is endowed with more than 560 species of birds. One third of which are migratory birds and WABSA is currently planting mangroves in more than six bird sanctuaries which play a vital role in providing habitat for both

migratory and resident birds," according to Mr. Modou Njie, the finance and administrative manager of WABSA.



Participants at the Radio Talk Show © WABSA

When asked about the importance of the day for the country, Dr Amado Camara said: "The day is very important and the theme - Land use changes from a bird's-eye view - very appropriate in terms of creating awareness especially in the Gambia where more people are unaware of the impact of habitat destruction on migratory birds."

WABSA is implementing a BirdLife project on the conservation of coastal migratory birds (CMB) along the west Coast of Africa.

By Lamin Jobaate, Executive Director of WABSA (kunowabsa@yahoo.com)

WMBD BY GUI NÉE ECOLOGIE in GUI NEA CONAKRY

The Guinée Ecologie NGO, in partnership with BirdLife International, celebrated the World Migratory Bird Day (WMBD) on Saturday, 14th May 2011 in Lambanyi, District of Ratoma in Conakry. The Lambanyi Bay is hosts migratory birds from November to May each year. This coastal mangrove stretches from Conakry to the city of Dubréka 50kms away. Despite the fragile nature of the coastal and marine environment in Guinea, the bay has been devastated by human activities. Bird identification during the WMBD © Guinée Ecologie

On the occasion of WMBD, members of Guinée Ecologie, accompanied by students from the University of Gamal Abdel Nasser in Conakry recorded 17 bird species of which 11



are Palaearctic migrants, which confirms that the area is a very important wintering area for migratory birds. However, the participants also noted the mushrooming of villa constructions on the beach. This is despite the Ministry for Urban Development's directive against the illegal occupation of the coastline. Environmental impact assessments of these buildings have never been done.

To address these threats, the beach, which is very popular with young people, will be developed to accommodate responsible ecotourism. A mangrove reforestation initiative will be undertaken learning from the experience of OCEANUM, who have offered to provide technical support. Guinée Ecologie hopes to mobilize strong support for this major undertaking.

Guinée Ecologie is implementing the CMB BirdLife project along the west Coast of Africa.

By Mamadou S. Diallo, Coordinator, Guinée Ecologie (madousalioupop@yahoo.com)

WMBD CELEBRATIONS in BURUNDI

ABO (BirdLife in Burundi) successfully celebrated the World Migratory Bird Day on 14 and 15 May 2011. This celebration was attended by over 140 participants including Her Excellency Pamela Slutz, the U.S. Ambassador to Burundi, members of ABO, representatives of NGOs such as ARCOS, ACVE, journalists from Renaissance Radio and Television and the National Radio and Television of Burundi, and a dozen of students from Gatumba high school.

Early morning on Saturday the 14th May, the President and Legal Representative of ABO, Prof. Laurent Ntahuga, welcomed participants and thanked them for the massive turnout. A presentation entitled "migration phenomenon" by Arsene Manirambona of ABO highlighted the causes, adaptation, and threats to migratory birds and the conservation measures that can be taken.



Participants at the WMBD in Burundi © ABO

Two films on migratory bird populations and the Rusizi Nature Reserve in Burundi were shown to the participants. The first film highlighted threats along the migratory routes of 38 migratory species and the second film ably demonstrated that the Rusizi Nature Reserve is under serious threats such as agriculture and livestock grazing.

Apart from watching the films, the participants were given an opportunity to visit to Rusizi Reserve so that they could witness the extent of degradation at this site. Participants noted that large areas of the reserve have been transformed into rice paddies and sugar cane fields. The Head boy of Gatumba High School urged the ABO Director and staff to involve the workforce and students in conservation efforts in the country.

By Charles Rugerinyange (aboburundi@yahoo.fr)

WMBD CELEBRATIONS BY NATURE MAURITANIE in MAURITANIA

The NGO Nature Mauritanie (NatMau) organized the WMBD from the 14th to the 15th May 2011 in collaboration with the Fondation International du Banc d'Arguin (FIBA). The celebration was conducted in order to reach a larger Mauritanian audience through different communication tools:



Drawing contest © NatMau

- ❖ NatMau worked with an elementary school (BAMA private school) in Nouakchott to educate students about bird migration by showing the small video clips highlighting the conservation of migratory birds and by organizing a bird drawing contest.
- ❖ NatMau released an article on the theme of the 2011 WMBD in two very popular websites for the intellectual Mauritanian public namely www.beta.mr and www.cridem.org.
- ❖ To inform a wider public about the WMBD in Nouakchott, banners were hung on the crowded places and where the information can be accessed by a variety of stakeholders including civil society leaders, politicians, international institutions, etc.

In short, WMBD weekend was full of events related to avian migration issues in Mauritania.

NatMau is implementing the CMB BirdLife project along the west Coast of Africa.

By Yelli Diawara, Coordinator, NatMau (ydiawara00@yahoo.fr)

WMBD AN IMPORTANT EVENT FOR COMMUNITY MOBILIZATION in KENYA

The WMBD events organized by Site Support Groups (SSGs – Local Conservation Groups) and Nature Kenya (BirdLife in Kenya) are becoming avenues for community leaders, government officials and Nature Kenya to share information and interact with the public.

During the 2011 WMBD 23 government officers attended site events and used the opportunity to discuss and create awareness on topical issues such as climate change, water management, forest and soil conservation, beekeeping, public health issues, resource mobilization including the Kenya Youth Fund, and micro-enterprise - linking these with environmental conservation.



Nature Kenya and Kinangop SSG celebrated the WMBD © Nature Kenya

The event was held at eight Important Bird Areas (IBAs) in coordination with SSGs. About 1500 participants and 15 schools were directly involved. Small groups led by highly qualified bird guides from SSG membership recorded a total of 127 birds in the sites including two Kenyan endemics. Birds were recorded also by their vernacular names to encourage community members not see the event as belonging to scientists or SSG members only.

By Joan Gichuki, Community Conservation Coordinator, Nature Kenya (conservation@naturekenya.org)



THE 2011 WMBD CELEBRATED in RWANDA

In Rwanda, the Association pour la Conservation de la Nature au Rwanda (ACNR, BirdLife in Rwanda) hosted the WMBD celebrations in the country which saw active involvement of bird lovers and the nature clubs drawn from various schools. The 2011 WMBD celebration had three components:

- A preliminary round table discussion broadcasted live on Rwanda TV on Thursday 12th May 2012, featuring Mrs Rica Rwigamba, Head of the Tourism and Conservation Department at Rwanda Development Board (RDB) presenting the government's position on bird conservation and tourism issues; Mr Serge Nsengimana, ACNR Executive Director called for the conservation of birds and their habitats in general and migratory birds in particular while Mr Davidson Mugisha, President of RBA talked on behalf of eco-tourism operators in Rwanda.
- A press release on the 2011 WMBD and events in Rwanda was sent out to prominent media in Rwanda to raise the profile of the celebration. The press release was coordinated by ACNR and RDB.



Participants at the WMBD in Rwanda © ACNR

- A big birdwatching event on the 15th May 2011, focusing on raising people's interest in birds and their protection while at the same time introducing the newly developed Bugesera Birding Circuit. More than 100 participants comprising of government officials, RDB, ACNR and

Rwanda Birding Association (RBA) staff, bird guides, Nature Clubs, general public, students, community members, media, tour operators, the US Ambassador and other diplomats.

ACNR initiated the creation of a paper bird sculpture during which every participant received a paper bird and wrote on it his/her personal impressions, ideas and wishes concerning the WMBD. Afterwards all paper birds were collected and will be hung in a shape of big bird at the entrance hall of RDB where more than a thousand people pass each day. The big paper bird will give to the WMBD event an even bigger audience besides the fact that the whole event has left a mark on the participants' minds.

With thanks to RDB for transportation and refreshments. By Serge Nsengimana, Executive Director, ACNR (nsengimanaserge@yahoo.fr)

THE 2011 WMBD CELEBRATED in LIBERIA

The Society for the Conservation of Nature of Liberia (SCNL - BirdLife in Liberia) in collaboration with Farmers to Conserve the Environment (FACE) and Friends of the Environment (FOTE), organized and implemented a two-phase programme in commemorating of WMBD.

The outdoor programme included birdwatching that started at the SCNL/Birdlife International offices where Mr. Flomo P. Molubah of FACE gave a brief background of the event and the sites that were about to be visited around the Mesurado Wetlands.

One of the major threats facing this area is a road being constructed towards the S. K. Doe Boulevard. If constructed without a hanging bridge, this road will cause stagnation of running water, which will result in the destruction of the mangroves.

Waste management is another key issue. As evidenced by the conversion of Kesselly Boulevard wetland into a dumpsite and the coming up of many new human settlements.



Participants gathered at SCNL Office © SCNL

The indoor programme provided an opportunity to evaluate the coordination of the event. Participants expressed their satisfaction with the diversity of the activities, level of interactions and experience-sharing between participants. The journalist in attendance encouraged the media in Liberia to give more coverage to environment issues and less on political issues because the former are very detrimental to our survival as a nation and humankind.



Kesselly Boulevard Wetland being used as garbage disposal Site © SCNL

At the end of the brainstorming session, Mr. Amos Smith, the Policy and Advocacy Officer at SCNL read the WMBD press release.

The organizers are grateful to all the participants, the management of La Lagune and one anonymous sponsor for making this day a success. By Michael F. Garbo, IBA Officer, SCNL (scnlliberia@yahoo.com)

WMBD in CAMEROON: MIGRATORY BIRDS AND ECOSYSTEM SERVICES

WMBD 2011 was commemorated by Cameroon Biodiversity Conservation Society (CBCS, BirdLife in Cameroon) in the remnants of a secondary forest at Nkolbisson, in the outskirts of Yaoundé. Threats to migratory birds were highlighted by CBCS to the students of Kad-ndap Bilingual School Complex who asked puzzling questions about the issue.

Dr. Roger Fotso, President of CBCS, emphasised the role played by biodiversity in terms of ecosystem services and promoting ecological processes. For example birds are very good pollinators (e.g. weavers and sunbirds) and seed dispersers (e.g. barbets). The interaction between nature and human beings was also highlighted as Roger guided the students to a large quarry where stones were extracted during the construction of the artificial lake at Nkolbisson neighbourhood that used to supply portable water to some parts of Yaoundé city.



Birdwatching by students and members of CBCS © CBCS

Students were able to watch birds during this exercise with the help of telescopes and binoculars.

By Ferdinand Nteh, Wildlife Club Coordinator, CBCS (cbcs_cam@yahoo.fr)

"EYES ON WATER": THE CELEBRATION OF THE 2011 WMBD in EGYPT

The 2011 WMBD celebration in Egypt focused on the theme "Eye on the Water" and on the Northern Wetlands, one of the biggest wetlands areas in North Africa representing about 25% of all wetlands in the Mediterranean Sea Region. The wetlands are also very important feeding, resting and wintering grounds for migratory waterbirds, seabirds & soaring birds.

NCE (BirdLife in Egypt) selected Manzala Lake (IBA), one of the largest wetland on the Egyptian Mediterranean Coast to celebrate the WMBD. On 14 and 15 May, about 9505 individuals of some 50 species of resident, wintering visiting, passage migrant birds and migrant breeders were recorded. With the help of Google Earth Maps (Bird View) and the Wings Over Wetlands (WOW) Critical Site Network (CSN) Tool, the importance of these areas for biodiversity and local people and how much human activities impact on them were evaluated. As a result, El Manzala Lake (IBA) was confirmed to be the most productive lake for fisheries producing 41,000 tonnes a year in the North-eastern corner of the Nile Delta. The lake is located on the bird migration flyway and very important for migratory waterbirds. Every year over 420,000 birds frequent its Salty Marches and fresh and salty water aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems. However, Lake Manzala has been shrinking from 1,698km² at the beginning of the century to 770 km² by 1988 to 469 km² currently and an average depth of 1.3m currently due to developmental expansion and farming on lake shores. If this wetland is not protected, in the near future, migratory and resident birds will not have anywhere to live, flyover, stop or breed.

By Watter Al Bahry (NCE Event Coordinator, info@ncegypt.org)

HEAR THE NEWS:

Visit: www.talking-naturally.co.uk/tn38-keith-betton-african-bird-club/ and listen to the podcast about the African Bird Club (ABC) in Africa

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

SeaWorld and Busch Gardens Conservation Fund. Deadline: 1 December 2011. Amount: USD 5,000 – 25,000
Focus: Wildlife conservation and research.
See www.swbg-conservationfund.org

LUSH. No deadline. Amount: GBP 10,000.
Focus: grassroots community-driven research, surveys, conservation and campaigns for the survival of threatened bird species. Email an outline of your project and budget to sophie.pritchard@lush.co.uk who will send you the application form if suitable.

FUTURE EVENTS

8-12 September 2011: 2nd World Biodiversity Congress, Kuching, Malaysia
E-mail: biodiversity2011@gmail.com or visit: www.cenfoundindia.org

19-23 September 2011: African Regional Workshop on REDD in Developing Countries and on Relevant Biodiversity Safeguards. Cape Town, South Africa.
Contact: Mr. Ahmed Djoghlaif
Executive Secretary, CBD, E-mail: secretariat@cbd.int or visit www.cbd.int

26-30 September 2011: World Conference on Marine Biodiversity. University of Aberdeen King's College, Scotland. Contact: marine-biodiversity@abdn.ac.uk or visit www.abdn.ac.uk/marine-biodiversity/

5-9 October 2011: Raptor Research Foundation Annual Conference. Duluth, Minnesota, USA. Contact: RRFinDuluth@aol.com or visit: www.raptorresearchfoundation.org

25-31 March 2012: BirdLife International Council for the African Partnership Meeting. Nairobi, Kenya.
Contact Julius Arinaitwe
(julius.arinaitwe@birdlife.org)

This e-bulletin was compiled by Tharcisse Ukizintambara and edited by Maaike Manten and Julius Arinaitwe