



the rare
bird club
of BirdLife International





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proud to make a difference



The Rare Bird Club is an exclusive international community of concerned individuals who are determined to make a difference.

Through BirdLife International, it provides the resources which help to deliver successful projects to reverse the global decline in species and improve the quality of peoples' lives. Its contribution helps to ensure the long-term investment that is essential for sustainable conservation.

The Rare Bird Club meets together to share the excitement of nature, learn about conservation work and experience the rigours and delights of wildlife through visits to projects in the field.

The example of your dedication to saving natural habitats and conserving species is an encouragement to others to act. Please join The Rare Bird Club - for the future of birds, nature and humanity.

Hisako

*HH Princess Takamado of Japan
Honorary President of BirdLife International*





Who we are?
Support, Influence, Enjoy

Our passion is the preservation of the delicate balance of nature and the magnificent diversity of species. Bird populations are vital indicators of the wellbeing of environments and the human populations they support.

We are determined to act to prevent the extinction of species and build a future where these iconic ambassadors of all life on earth can live in harmony with nature and local communities.

Support - The Rare Bird Club supports the work of BirdLife International in protecting threatened species and their habitats.

One in eight bird species – a total of 1,200 – is at risk of extinction, under relentless pressure from habitat destruction and degradation, alien species, hunting, climate change and much more. Saving species not only preserves these rare and wonderful creatures and their habitats but also contributes to wider biodiversity conservation and the preservation of the natural ecosystems that are vital to all life on earth.

Influence - Sharing knowledge is one of the ways that The Rare Bird Club makes a real difference. With the authoritative information from BirdLife International and our extensive network of contacts, we can influence and spread the conservation word among decision-makers, catalyse the much-needed support to tangible BirdLife International conservation programmes, and help achieve real impact.

Enjoy - We meet to share our love of birds, coming together as an extraordinary and exclusive community of like-minded individuals. We visit unique sites to meet some of the world's rarest birds, see BirdLife International projects in action and talk to the people who make them happen.



BirdLife International delivers the difference -

BirdLife International is uniquely structured, with local non-governmental Partners in over 110 countries and territories, making it the world's largest partnership of conservation organisations.

This very special combination of local presence and global coordination promotes efficient, effective and sustainable conservation action on the ground.

BirdLife International is recognised for the quality of its research through the depth of its data-gathering and rigorous analysis. It is the world leader in bird conservation.

Through authoritative data and strong local presence, BirdLife International is best placed to influence local, national and international decision-makers about the needs of priority species, sites and habitats.

BirdLife Partners develop and implement plans to build local capacity which is sustainable in the long term. It is BirdLife International's belief and experience that real

change and impact can only be delivered by local commitment and capacity.

Actions may include changes in agriculture, forestry management or fishing practice, preservation or restoration of priority sites or habitats, or targeted breeding programmes and reintroductions.

In all this work, environmental education and local cooperation are essential hallmarks of BirdLife International programmes. Sustainable projects must be seen to be to the benefit of local populations.

The global BirdLife Partnership is proving highly effective. We are making a difference. A number of species have been saved and are now off the danger list. The size of protected areas is growing.

However, there is still much to do. This is why The Rare Bird Club plays a crucial role in providing the resources to support BirdLife International priority programmes that are otherwise difficult to fund.

"We have no right to exterminate the species that evolved without us. We have the responsibility to do everything we can to preserve their continued existence."



Sir David Attenborough speaking about why he is a BirdLife Species Champion for the Critically Endangered Araripe Manakin, pictured above.

The Rare Bird Club is your opportunity to make a difference – and to get further enjoyment from your love of birds and nature.

You will join a special group of people who come from many countries and backgrounds but share a passion for birds and nature and a determination to see that threatened biodiversity is preserved in the best way possible.

We aim to have one member of The Rare Bird Club for each of the 1,200 species threatened with extinction. Membership will put you at the heart of the work of BirdLife International. There are many opportunities for active involvement and meeting fellow enthusiasts.

Explore - Our field trips take us to rarely visited locations, often not otherwise easily accessible, to meet face-to-face some of the world's rarest and most special birds. As well as serious birdwatching with expert guides and chances to see the work of BirdLife International first-hand, there are plenty of opportunities for wider cultural experiences.

Share - You will be invited to dinners and receptions, often in exotic locations and with inspirational hosts, where you can meet fellow members to discuss nature conservation. Past events have attracted figures of world stature in this field, such as HRH The Prince of Wales and Sir David Attenborough.

You will also be invited to The Rare Bird Club Annual General Meeting where you will receive a detailed account of the work of BirdLife International around the world and the way your contribution is making a difference.

You will receive regular newsletters reporting on active projects and campaigns as well as details of forthcoming events. You can see the current programme at www.rarebirdclub.org.

Be Proud - Perhaps the most rewarding aspect of membership of The Rare Bird Club is being really excited about the differences we make and proud of the great achievements of the BirdLife Partnership which we support.

Be part of it...
Explore, Share, Be Proud



Membership Gift - To welcome you to The Rare Bird Club, you will receive a membership gift of a specially commissioned painting from a leading wildlife artist of a globally threatened bird of your choice.

How to join - To find out more about how you can make a difference by joining The Rare Bird Club, please use the enclosed form or contact us directly at:

Tel: +44 (0)1223 277318

Email: rarebirdclub@birdlife.org



"The trip was an unforgettable experience. We enjoyed seeing some rare species for the first time, discovering great food and plenty of local colour, and the excellent company of our fellow travellers. It was wonderful to meet and compare experiences with people who share our passion for birds and the environment."

Jan-Heert and Atske Dokter following a recent club trip to Kenya.

Credit / doug89898 / Flickr



Credit / Markus Varesvuo



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Credit / Danny Perez / Flickr



What BirdLife International has achieved to date with the support of The Rare Bird Club

Closely targeted conservation work by the BirdLife Partnership has prevented the certain extinction of seven species between 1994 and 2004. Here are some of the recent achievements of the BirdLife Partnership:

- Built up a global Partnership of 114 conservation organisations and a supporter base of over ten million individuals.
- Assessed the conservation status of all 10,000 bird species in the world.
- Identified and promoted 5,000 conservation actions to promote the survival and recovery of all globally threatened birds and developed a network of local BirdLife Species Guardians to implement action for the most Critically Endangered species.
- Reduced albatross deaths in South African fisheries by 85% in a project which is a model for future action.
- Documented over 10,500 Important Bird Areas, and published over 115 national and six regional IBA directories covering 234 countries.
- Facilitated legally binding protection for over 2,000 Important Bird Areas.
- Managed just over one million hectares in some 6,350 nature reserves.
- Conserved and restored around 20% of Sumatra's remaining lowland rainforest which hosts over 60 globally threatened birds and one of the richest populations of Sumatran Tiger, through a programme being replicated around the tropics.
- Influenced important international agreements: Convention on Biological Diversity, Convention on Wetlands, Convention on Migratory Species and UN Framework Convention on Climate Change.



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