

For lovebirds everywhere

BirdLife International has teamed up with the *Good Gifts Catalogue* to raise funds for Lilian's Lovebirds *Agapornis lilianae* in Malawi. Listed in the catalogue as a gift 'for lovebirds everywhere' it is hoped that people will spend £25 (the cost of the gift) which will go towards field equipment for surveying and monitoring the birds in Liwonde National Park, Malawi and towards community outreach programmes. With just 1,000 individuals estimated to exist in Malawi, this charming little parrot, 'Liwonde's Jewel', is under serious threat from local hunting activities. In 2004, over 110 lovebirds were found dead at one water pool. Hunters poison small pools of water during the dry season when water is scarce in the park. Their aim is to catch small mammals and large birds such as doves for food. Their theory is that they remove the intestines of the birds quickly from the bird so that the body is not poisoned and it is safe to eat. Lilian's Lovebirds are a victim of this hunting as they come to drink in the same pools in large numbers. It is not clear, however, exactly how hunting is affecting their populations because so little is known about their biology, abundance and distribution in the national park where they are found. It is essential, therefore, to assess their status and undertake research so that the appropriate action can be taken to reduce the current hunting pressure and to protect their habitat in the long term.

BirdLife International has been selected to feature in the Good Gifts Catalogue (www.goodgifts.org). You can buy 'for lovebirds everywhere'.

The price of the gift is passed on to BirdLife in full. So it's an excellent way of solving your gift problems and supporting our work.