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**Special e-bulletin:  
African Waterbird Census**

*Dear BirdLife Africa Partners,*

I trust that this message finds everyone in the Partnership very well and ready to withstand yet another great environmental challenge – climate change. This is especially critical for wetlands of high significance for the survival of waterbirds. As you are well aware, wetlands are one of the most fragile habitats that can easily be affected by climatic changes. Hence there is a pressing need to keep an eye on degradation of wetlands and provide science-based information and technical assistance to the relevant stakeholders and decision-makers so that they can take appropriate measures to protect the sites and the (bird) species involved.

One way of gathering such information is by means of the annual/biannual African Waterbird Census. Census results can be used to generate reports or briefing documents that can trigger formulation of policies, development of conservation strategies and provision of laws that would be favourable to safeguard wetlands from degradation and imminent losses/modifications as a result of climate change. Changes observed in the diversity and quantity of waterbirds can be inferred as an indicator of degradations and/or modification of wetlands.

Hence, I strongly urge the Africa Partnership to engage in Waterbird Census activities, and to share information and experiences about wetland monitoring within the Partnership. This e-bulletin aims to make a start with such sharing, as recommended by CAP 2006 in Ethiopia.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all the best of luck and success in your endeavours.

***Mengistu Wondafrash, Chair of CAP  
(Council for the Africa Partnership)***

**New hope for the  
African Grey Parrot**

CITES, the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, held its 14<sup>th</sup> COP meeting in June 2007. During this meeting, CITES made a number of recommendations regarding the African Grey Parrot, *Psittacus erithacus*. One of the key recommendations, coming from the Animals Committee, was that the West African range states of the African Grey Parrot, in collaboration with the CITES secretariat, experts, NGOs, and other stakeholders, should develop and implement regional management plans for the conservation of and trade in Grey Parrots. Even though the development of these plans is still funding dependent, this is a step in the right direction.

In addition, the export quotas for Grey Parrots were drastically reduced. This is in line with the recommendations made by CAP in 2006 to 'mitigate the Grey Parrot trade'. So again, this is good news!



*African Grey Parrot*



*Caged African Grey Parrots*

**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 the network. Please send your contributions or comments to: [antoinette.otieno@birdlife.or.ke](mailto:antoinette.otieno@birdlife.or.ke).

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## REGIONAL INITIATIVES

### Horn of Africa

A 'Horn of Africa Regional Environment Centre and Network' (HoA-REC/N) was launched in Addis Ababa in December 2006. This centre and network, initiated by the Science Faculty of the Addis Ababa University in collaboration with the Royal Netherlands Embassy in Ethiopia, covers Sudan, Ethiopia, Eritrea, Djibouti, Somalia (including Somaliland) and Kenya.

The centre and network aim to improve environmental governance in the Horn of Africa, working with a membership drawn from civil society organisations, universities and research institutions in the region that are working on environmental issues. Member organisations include the Ethiopian Wildlife and Natural History Society (BirdLife in Ethiopia), Nature Kenya (BirdLife in Kenya), the Sudanese Environment Conservation Society and Djibouti Nature, who are also collaborating with BirdLife International in project development and implementation in their respective countries.

The HoA-REC/N will also work with partners drawn from international research and environmental management institutions working in the region, including the BirdLife Africa Partnership Secretariat in Nairobi.

Over the next three years, these members and partners will develop new ideas and approaches to combat environmental destruction and related conflicts between the users of natural resources; to conduct demand-driven action research; to prepare, implement and guide innovative projects aiming to rehabilitate damaged ecosystems; and to build capacity in the fields of management of wetlands and lakes, parks and buffer zones/interfaces and erosion-prone highlands and dry lowlands. HoA-REC/N will also raise environmental awareness and advocate for policies, measures and programmes or projects that can contribute to the improvement of the state of the environment in the region, taking climate change into consideration.

For more information, contact [julius.arinaitwe@birdlife.or.ke](mailto:julius.arinaitwe@birdlife.or.ke)

### World Migratory Bird Day 2007



*World Migratory Bird Day event at the Kneiss Islands bird reserve in the Gulf of Gabès, Tunisia (photo AAO - Tunisia)*

This year, ten BirdLife Partners in Africa celebrated World Migratory Bird Day (on 12 and 13 May 2007) with the theme: "Migratory Birds in a Changing Climate". Awareness-raising activities, varying from birdwalks to screenings of Al Gore's film "An Inconvenient Truth", were carried out by BirdLife network NGOs in Cameroon, Ghana, Kenya, Liberia, Nigeria, Rwanda, the Seychelles, South Africa, Tunisia and Zimbabwe.

See also [www.worldmigratorybirdday.org](http://www.worldmigratorybirdday.org)

### New EC-funded PA/IBA monitoring project

The European Commission (EuropeAid, Section Environment and Tropical Forests) has recently signed a contract with the RSPB (BirdLife in the UK) to provide Euro 1.8 million for monitoring work to be undertaken by BirdLife Partners in Botswana, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Kenya, Tunisia, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe – supported by the BirdLife Africa Partnership Secretariat in Kenya/Ghana. The monitoring work in this project will focus on the 160 Important Bird Areas in these countries that are also Protected Areas, and will help the implementing countries to fulfil various internationally agreed monitoring and reporting obligations.

For more information, contact the project manager at the BirdLife Africa Partnership Secretariat, [thandiwe.chikomo@birdlife.or.ke](mailto:thandiwe.chikomo@birdlife.or.ke)

## Special: African Waterbird Census

### African Waterbird Census In collaboration with Wetlands International



The African Waterbird Census was initiated by Wetlands International in

1990, hence 2007 is the 18<sup>th</sup> year running. BirdLife Partners in Africa have been highly involved since the beginning of the census. Altogether, cumulatively up to 36 African countries have contributed data to the waterbird census programme to date.

The African Waterbird Census (AfWC) is Africa's section of the International Waterbird Census (IWC) organized by Wetlands International. The IWC is a worldwide waterbird monitoring programme. Most of the BirdLife Partners in Africa take part in organizing and undertaking the census nationally, an effort that contributes immensely to the Important Bird Area programme. The prioritization in the designation of Ramsar IBA sites relies largely on the AfWC data as a baseline. The census involves counting waterbirds in wetland sites to monitor waterbird population trends. The waterbird counts are mostly done biannually with most of the sites being covered around January and fewer in July.

#### January 2007 counts

So far fourteen countries have submitted the January 2007 data to Wetlands International and BirdLife International and more data are still expected. In terms of site coverage, Kenya is in the lead with 30 sites. The Wild Bird Global Avian Influenza Network for Surveillance (GAINS) provided support that boosted the census work in Burkina Faso, Burundi, Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya, Nigeria and Tanzania (*see separate article on the next page*).

#### Information and awareness

It is encouraging to note that since its inception, the number of countries participating and the number of sites covered during the AfWC continue to increase.

Thousands of volunteers are involved in the counts which contribute to raising awareness of the importance of waterbirds and wetland sites to the local communities and the general public. The AfWC provides information on status and trends of species population and keeps track of the suitability of sites for waterbird species. The census information and data are key in guiding decision making in conservation of waterbirds and their sites. It provides a tool for local, national and international policy formulation. The African Waterbird Census contributes significant information for the development of population estimates, status and trends of waterbirds, which are published triannually as the Waterbird Population Estimates for formal adoption by the Ramsar Convention (*see separate book news on page 6*).

For more information, contact [oliver.nasirwa@wetlands.org](mailto:oliver.nasirwa@wetlands.org)

*(book review)*

#### Waterbirds around the world

*Edited by Gerard Boere, Colin Galbraith and David Stroud*

'Waterbirds around the world' is a product of a high profile International Conference held in Edinburgh in April 2004. It was attended by about 500 people from around the world. Among the participants and presenters was His Royal Highness, the Prince of Wales. The book is a compilation on knowledge gathered by conservationists (scientists, managers and policy makers) from around the world. It brings us up to date on the status of the world's waterbirds at the start of a new millennium. It contains papers and articles from about 450 authors. The articles provide reviews for over 600 waterbird species from about 160 countries and presents new data on 170 Globally Threatened and Near-Threatened species. Article after article it uncovers the hard work leading to the reverse of the adverse conservation status of many waterbirds species. It points out that the struggle to provide waterbird species with a secure future is only just beginning. The book not only provides new information on the many threats facing waterbirds, but also documents numerous success stories.

One key result of the conference published in the book is the Edinburgh Declaration, which calls for urgent action to halt and reverse wetland loss and degradation, and to an extent strengthen the network of key sites for migratory waterbirds along their flyways.

*(guest column)*

### The African Waterbird Census: a living network

The first time I took part in the African Waterbird Census (AfWC) was in Zambia in 1992, scanning through mixed flocks of birds on the Kafue Flats, some of them unidentifiable white blurs in a heat haze, others fleeting glimpses in the reeds. It was a challenge, but a very enjoyable challenge, which usually involved coming home soaking wet and covered in mud.

From 1995, I coordinated the counts in Africa, when I joined Wetlands International (then IWRB – the International Waterfowl and Wetlands Research Bureau). What has always astonished me about the census is the large number of people involved, including the long lists of volunteers from Kenya. Many participants across Africa continue to devote their work to the conservation and monitoring of birds. The BirdLife Africa Partnership Secretariat in Nairobi alone hosts three former AfWC National Coordinators: Hazell Thompson, Julius Arinaitwe and Oliver Nasirwa. They and others took part in the first meeting of AfWC National Coordinators at Djoudj National Park in Senegal in February 1996, when a preliminary strategy for the census was developed. Since then, many new countries have joined the scheme, and over 30 African countries monitor wetlands every year in January, some also in July.

Whilst the overall aim of the AfWC is to monitor the status of waterbirds and wetlands in Africa, the programme is perhaps as much about people and partnership as it is about birds. So many enthusiastic counters have taken part often in difficult circumstances - sat for long periods in small canoes, waded through mud, bitten by mosquitoes, chased by buffalos and become stranded by tides or stuck vehicles. So, in this short introduction to the waterbird census in Africa, rather than impress you with figures about numbers of birds recorded and numbers of sites visited, I want to leave a simple message ... a message of thanks. Thanks to all participants, many of whom will be readers of this newsletter. Thanks for your commitment, your enthusiasm and for enjoying the challenges and appreciation of Africa's wetlands. Long may it continue!

Tim Dodman

*Associate Expert, Wetlands International*

### Special: African Waterbird Census

#### Waterbird counts used as H5N1 early-warning tools

Waterbird data collected during January-April 2007 from seven African countries (Burundi, Burkina Faso, Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya, Nigeria and Tanzania) greatly contributed to a wider initiative that is establishing a global surveillance network of wild birds - The Wild Bird Global Avian Influenza Network for Surveillance (GAINS).

With some additional funding from GAINS through the Wildlife Conservation Society to BirdLife International, waterbird count data were collected systematically to report cases of waterbird morbidity and mortality. These data will provide a baseline against which morbidity and mortality levels in future years can be assessed, allowing early warning of unusually high levels that might result from an outbreak of avian influenza, and therefore warrant further investigation.

A few cases of sick, injured and dead birds were reported in some of the 39 sites assessed, but in none of the cases were numbers unusually high. However, these counts brought out data on local hunting levels of waterbirds, especially in Burkina Faso. With the help of hunters a count of 1133 (1.3%) dead or injured birds was made in Lake Oursi-Lake Darkoye IBA in Burkina Faso, all attributable to local hunting.

A very small proportion (only 11 out of 790,212 individuals) of dead and injured birds also attributable to hunting were recorded in Hadejia-Nguru Wetlands, Nigeria.



*Trapped Cattle Egret in Nigeria (photo Ademola Ajagbe, NCF)*

For more information, please contact [paul.ndanganga@birdlife.or.ke](mailto:paul.ndanganga@birdlife.or.ke)

**Special: African Waterbird Census**

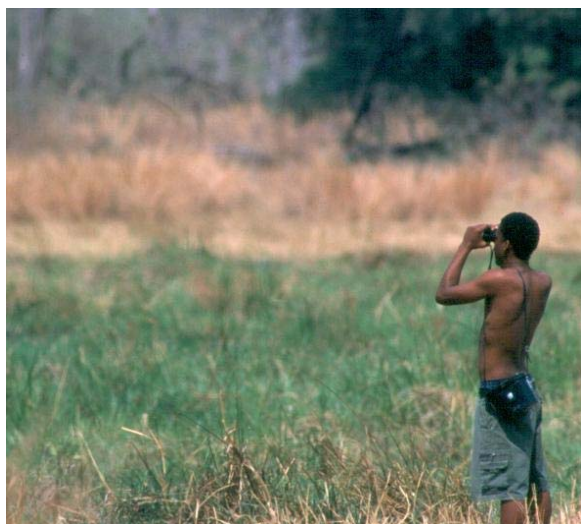
**EXPERIENCES FROM THE NETWORK**

**Botswana**

**Birds, bad vibes and crocodiles**

Botswana boasts some extraordinary wetlands, ranging from the Chobe River in the North-East to the vast swamps, lagoons and floodplains of the Okavango Delta in the North-West, the immense salt pans of the Makgadikgadi system and numerous dams and sewage ponds around its cities.

Initially most of the sites that were covered by BirdLife Botswana's Waterbird Census were dams and sewage ponds in and around Gaborone in South-East Botswana, where most members of BirdLife Botswana live. That even monitoring these city sites is not without risks was proven by an American girl helping to count at one of the Dams by canoe, and who overturned her canoe and had to swim to shore avoiding the local crocodiles!



*Counting waterbirds in the Okavango swamps (photo Pete Hancock/BirdLife Botswana Library)*

The BirdLife team in Maun and local guides and other staff at tourist camps are now also covering rivers, lagoons and swamps in the Okavango Delta. This is a vast site and so BirdLife Botswana can only count at a sample of habitats. To get to many sites is a major expedition and the abundance of large dangerous game adds to the difficulties.

A memorable occasion involved running out of fuel on the Okavango River at dusk and drifting down a small channel, avoiding hippos which were giving the boatman, a stalwart waterbird counter, Elaine Pryce, bad vibes! The team then had to cling to papyrus at the main channel and await rescue...

However, despite these risks and other challenges, which include the small number of birdwatchers in a large country, costs for volunteers to travel to far-flung, often remote sites and organising and paying for boats and other logistical nightmares, carrying out these co-ordinated counts of Botswana's waterbirds has provided some excellent and highly useful data! – *Stephanie Tyler*

For more information, contact BirdLife Botswana at [blb@birdlifebotswana.org.bw](mailto:blb@birdlifebotswana.org.bw)

**Kenya**

**A Nigerian at the Kenyan Waterbird Census**

The hot springs of Lake Bogoria hold a fascination for the average tourist, but couple that with the chance to observe thousands of flamingoes and hundreds of ducks, and you have the making of a trip of a lifetime. As if that is not enough, add the good feeling that comes from knowing that participation in this trip contributes to on-going monitoring research for water birds. The biannual Waterbird Census in Kenya, organized by the Department of Ornithology of the National Museums of Kenya, includes the major lakes in Kenya – Bogoria, Nakuru, Naivasha, Elmentaita, Oloiden, Sonachi, Magadi, Baringo and Victoria.



*A team of volunteers standing amidst Flamingo nests at Lake Bogoria (photo Samuel Osinubi)*

Participation is welcomed from volunteers who are required to fill out a volunteer form a month or so to each series of counts. Due to the large volume of ready volunteers, selection has now become necessary. Exhibited knowledge in bird identification is a bonus but interest is the primary selection criterion. The Kenyan Waterbird Census has become not only an ornithological data gathering / monitoring exercise, but a social, awareness-raising event as well.

All in all, the Kenyan Waterbird Census is a series of well-organized outings that I will readily welcome another opportunity to participate in. – *Samuel Osinubi*

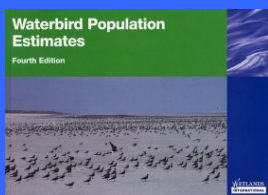


*A group of volunteers after the January 2007 counts at Lake Nakuru (photo Samuel Osinubi)*

For more information about the Kenyan Waterbird Census, please contact Simon Musila, the National Co-ordinator for the Kenyan African Waterbird Census, at [surnbirds@yahoo.com](mailto:surnbirds@yahoo.com)

*(new book)*

The fourth edition of the Wetlands International publication *Waterbird Population Estimates* (Wetlands International 2006) is now available to download (for free, in spreadsheet form) at [www.wetlands.org](http://www.wetlands.org). In addition to the spreadsheet which includes all the data published in tables in the book, some introductory notes are provided.



## Special: African Waterbird Census

### Zambia Waterbird Counts in Zambia



*Searching for waterbirds on the Kafue Flats (photo Lizanne Roxburgh)*

This year the Zambian Ornithological Society (ZOS, BirdLife in Zambia) is reviving the waterbird counting. ZOS used to count at around 30 sites in the past, but in recent years that has dropped to only about five sites. However, this year ZOS has sent out a request for their members to count in the 30 historical sites, half of which are IBAs. This has produced a good response so far! As a result, ZOS hopes 2007 will be their best waterbird count in the last ten years. – *Lizanne Roxburgh*

For more details, contact ZOS at [zos@zamnet.zm](mailto:zos@zamnet.zm)



*A flock of openbill storks heading for a roost on the Kafue Flats (photo Lizanne Roxburgh)*

**The African Waterbird Census report for 2002-2004 is currently at the printers in Dakar, Senegal, and will be distributed to all National Coordinators in the coming months. If you do not receive your copies by August 2007, please contact Oliver Nasirwa ([oliver.nasirwa@wetlands.org](mailto:oliver.nasirwa@wetlands.org))**

## DATA ZONE

### The BirdLife checklist of the birds of the world

After many years of preparation, BirdLife finally released the first version of *The BirdLife checklist of the birds of the world* in June of this year.

This is significant because a well-justified understanding of what we mean by a “species” and a properly documented list of which species we recognise and those we don’t fundamentally underpins the work of the BirdLife Partnership. Several of our objectives relate to preventing extinctions of species, improving their status, and identifying and conserving a network of IBAs to safeguard suites of priority species. In a world where there is much disagreement over which bird taxa deserve species status, and hence warrant greater conservation attention and funding, it is important that BirdLife can define and justify its position.

At this stage however, the release of the checklist has been deliberately low-key because we know the checklist is still far from perfect and are keen to iron out as many “bugs” as possible before making it more widely known. It is therefore entitled version 0, with an intention to seek review and comment, to revise it and release version 1 next spring. It can be downloaded from the “Search species” page on the BirdLife website.

See for the checklist [www.birdlife.org/datazone/species/downloads/BirdLife\\_Checklist\\_Version\\_0.xls](http://www.birdlife.org/datazone/species/downloads/BirdLife_Checklist_Version_0.xls)

The background notes explaining the purpose, scope and taxonomic / nomenclatural basis of the list are available at [www.birdlife.org/datazone/species/taxonomy.html](http://www.birdlife.org/datazone/species/taxonomy.html)

And for those who are wondering how many bird species there are in the world, according to BirdLife, the answer is currently 9,956 but a further 155 are in the pipeline as “under review”!

For more information and/or comments, please contact [science@birdlife.org](mailto:science@birdlife.org)

### Zambian Barbets: what’s in a name?

From May 2007, Chaplin’s Barbets are officially known on the BirdLife website and checklist as the Zambian Barbet. The reasoning behind renaming this bird is not to annoy the average birder, but to emphasize that this is a distinctively Zambian bird. It occurs nowhere else on earth, and we need to take seriously the responsibility of ensuring the conservation of this unique bird.



To stop naming this bird after a relatively obscure colonial governor, who probably never saw the bird, is also good news. The scientific name, *Lybius chaplini*, remains unchanged.

*The Zambian Barbet, formerly known as ‘Chaplin’s Barbet’ (photo Claire Spottiswoode)*

While this bird may have some profile in the international and local birding community under the name Chaplin’s Barbet, it is unknown amongst many Zambians as such. Time will tell if the name ‘Zambian Barbet’ is accepted everywhere, but if this rare species only gains a profile in Zambia through the name change, it will have been worthwhile. Zambian Barbets are listed as Near Threatened in the IUCN Red List, but may be reviewed for inclusion in a Threatened category in the next round of appraisals. ZOS has been implementing various projects over the last few years, assessing the status and supporting the conservation of this bird species, sponsored by the Africa Bird Club, the Cleveland Metroparks Zoo and the RSPB (BirdLife in the UK).

For more information, contact Lizanne Roxburgh of the Zambian Ornithological Society, at [lizanne@coppernet.zm](mailto:lizanne@coppernet.zm)

#### RED LIST NEWS

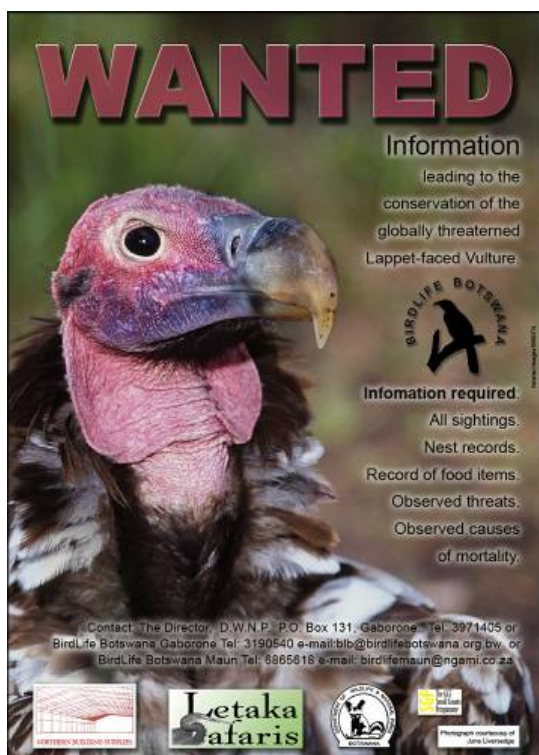
**1,221 and counting: More birds than ever face extinction - see [www.birdlife.org/news/news/2007/05/2007\\_red\\_list\\_update.html](http://www.birdlife.org/news/news/2007/05/2007_red_list_update.html)**

## NEWS FROM THE NETWORK

### Botswana

#### Conserving the Lappet-faced Vulture

BirdLife Botswana has embarked on a nationwide project to conserve the Globally Threatened Lappet-faced Vulture. This is in line with the International Species Action Plan that was published in 2005, and which provides the framework for range states with populations of this species to draft and implement their own National Action Plans.



The project, entitled “The Lappet-faced Vulture as a flagship for raptor conservation in Botswana” aims to determine the minimum breeding population of this and other threatened raptors in Botswana. This will be done by surveying breeding areas from the air. Population trends will be determined by measuring breeding success and by repeating road counts from the 1970, 80s and 90s. An important part of the project will be to determine potential and real threats to the birds and to identify causes of mortality – this will be done by means of surveys and by engaging members of the public in reporting information on the species. This information will be central to developing Botswana’s National Species Action Plan.

A public awareness poster, generously sponsored by the GEF Small Grants Programme and two local businesses, has been developed and distributed to key localities throughout the country. The Botswana Department of Wildlife and National Parks is a major partner in the project and field-based Game Scouts and Wildlife Officers will be important contributors of information. It is also envisaged that professional guides and Site Support Group members will make the gathering of baseline information easier. Research into the population dynamics of the species will commence during the breeding season this winter.

For more information on this project, contact Pete Hancock, Conservation Officer, BirdLife Botswana at [birdlifemaun@botsnet.bw](mailto:birdlifemaun@botsnet.bw)

### Tanzania / Kenya

#### Lesser Flamingoes threatened

The planned establishment of a Soda Ash extraction and processing plant at Lake Natron in Tanzania could threaten the survival of the East African subpopulation of the Lesser Flamingo, *Phoenicopterus minor*. Lake Natron is the only place where the East African Lesser Flamingo has bred in the past 45 years. This development comes at a time when experts from the range states of the Lesser Flamingo have declared “the most critical threat to the survival of the Lesser Flamingo to be the loss and/or degradation of its specialized habitat through altered hydrology and water quality”. These experts met in September 2006 at the BirdLife Africa Partnership Secretariat office in Nairobi to start the process of drafting the International Lesser Flamingo Species Action Plan.

An Environmental Impact Assessment is currently being carried out at Lake Natron and the BirdLife Partners in Tanzania and Kenya are watching the process closely.

For more information, contact [paul.ndanganga@birdlife.or.ke](mailto:paul.ndanganga@birdlife.or.ke)

#### HOT RED LIST NEWS!

Red List Index to become UN development indicator to track MDGs progress:  
[www.birdlife.org/news/news/2007/05/birds\\_become\\_development\\_indicator.html](http://www.birdlife.org/news/news/2007/05/birds_become_development_indicator.html)

**Ghana****White-necked Picathartes nesting news**

*White-necked Picathartes in nest (photo Asamoah Augustus)*

Following the development of the National Species Action Plan for the Globally Threatened White-necked Picathartes for Ghana, the Ghana Wildlife Society (GWS, BirdLife in Ghana) has made significant strides towards realizing some of the prime objectives of this plan. To date GWS has been able to identify four important White-necked Picathartes nesting areas throughout the forest zone of the country. Out of these four, the New Edubiase nesting area is the most active and important. With financial support from the RSPB (BirdLife in the UK), some local people near the nesting communities have been engaged, after due training by GWS, in the monitoring of nesting and breeding activities of the birds. On November 17, 2006, a total of 28 birds were recorded during a night monitoring exercise of one specific nest site at Adansi Bonkuro in the New Edubiase nesting area.

Since February this year a number of enthusiastic bird watchers have been visiting the White-necked Picathartes nesting sites, taking care to minimise disturbance. It is hoped that such visits will engender more local and international support for the conservation of the bird and its habitat.

For more information, contact GWS at [wildsoc@ighmail.com](mailto:wildsoc@ighmail.com)

**NEWS**

**Download BirdLife's latest publication on the links between bird / biodiversity conservation and improving people's lives:**  
[www.birdlife.org/news/news/2007/06/conserving\\_biodiversity\\_improving\\_livelihoods.html](http://www.birdlife.org/news/news/2007/06/conserving_biodiversity_improving_livelihoods.html)

**FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES****British Ecological Society Overseas Bursaries**

**Deadline: 1 September 2007**

This scheme provides grants for ecologists in developing countries to carry out innovative ecological research. It aims to support excellent ecological science in Africa. Currently the grants are restricted to citizens of Africa. Each grant is normally up to GBP 7,000 over an 18 month period and is intended for the purchase of the basic tools needed to conduct a research project, limited in-country travel and in some cases part of the applicant's salary.

See [www.britishecologicalsociety.org/articles/grants/research/obf/](http://www.britishecologicalsociety.org/articles/grants/research/obf/) for more details.

**Netherlands Committee of the IUCN - Small Grants for the Purchase of Nature (SPN)**

**Deadline: 1 September 2007**

The objective of this fund is the purchase of vulnerable nature, with the aim to conserve biodiversity for the long term. Some BirdLife Partners in Africa have already benefited from this fund. Please send a pre-proposal to NC-IUCN first.

See [www.nciucn.nl/english/funds/purchase/engels/application.htm](http://www.nciucn.nl/english/funds/purchase/engels/application.htm) for the guidelines and application forms.

**British Birdwatching Fair / RSPB Research Fund for Endangered Birds**

**Deadline: 30 September 2007**

This fund provides grants of up to USD 2,000 for researchers working on birds classified by IUCN as Endangered or Critically Endangered. The fund is open to all, though priority is given to those working with or for BirdLife Partners where they exist. Priority is also given to researchers working in their own country, and it does not fund travel from developed to developing countries.

For more information, see [www.rspb.org.uk/ourwork/science/international/smallgrants/endangeredbirdgrants.asp](http://www.rspb.org.uk/ourwork/science/international/smallgrants/endangeredbirdgrants.asp) or contact [paul.donald@rspb.org.uk](mailto:paul.donald@rspb.org.uk)

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### 16-20 July: 2nd Biennial Knowledge Management Africa Conference 2007

Nairobi, Kenya.

Contact Michelle Pretorius-KM Africa Project Administrator at [michelle@dbsa.org](mailto:michelle@dbsa.org)

### 23-25 July: Workshop on Global Change Research Network on African Mountains

Kampala, Uganda.

See also [www.mountainpartnership.org](http://www.mountainpartnership.org)



### 15-19 OCTOBER 2007: COUNCIL FOR THE AFRICA PARTNERSHIP MEETING

The tenth CAP meeting,  
in conjunction with the BirdLife Global  
Council Meeting

Nairobi, Kenya.

Contact [hazell.thompson@birdlife.or.ke](mailto:hazell.thompson@birdlife.or.ke)

### 1 November 2007: 8<sup>th</sup> Session of the Conference of the Parties to the UN Convention to Combat Desertification (COP-8)

Spain.

Contact the UNCCD Secretariat at  
[secretariat@unccd.int](mailto:secretariat@unccd.int)

### 3 - 6 December, 2007: The 6th TAWIRI Scientific Conference: "Consequences of global Environmental changes to natural ecosystems"

Arusha, Tanzania. Organized by Tanzania  
Wildlife Research Institute (TAWIRI).

Register through [conference@tawiri.org](mailto:conference@tawiri.org) or  
visit [www.tawiri.org](http://www.tawiri.org)

### 7-12 SEPTEMBER 2008: 12TH PAN- AFRICAN ORNITHOLOGICAL CONGRESS: "Birds and People - Interaction, Utilisation and Conservation"

Contact: Doug Harebottle

([Doug.Harebottle@uct.ac.za](mailto:Doug.Harebottle@uct.ac.za)) or visit:

<http://paoc12.adu.org.za/sciprogram.htm>

(advert)

### RARE BIRDS YEARBOOK PHOTO COMPETITION

The BirdLife International Secretariat is involved in a new book project, entitled The Rare Birds yearbook, which will be published this October by MagDig Media Ltd based in Sweden. MagDig's objectives are to publish annually a book that summarises the status and facts of the world's c.190 Critically Endangered (CR) bird species in an appealing, modern, educational and readable way. The book will consist of:

- a directory section of the 190 species,
- sections on statistics and lists,
- a directory of regional organisations
- and commercial bird tour companies arranging travel to see CR species of birds.

Each yearbook will have a number of specially written feature articles on issues related to threatened birds such as migration, rare bird sites and taxonomy. The directory section will also be updated each year with the latest information on the plight of the world's most threatened species. GBP 4 per sold book will be donated to BirdLife International in order to enhance their funds for conservation work.

**Photo competition** - MagDig has launched a photo competition in association with the Rare Birds Yearbook. More information on this competition is available at [www.rarebirdyearbook.com](http://www.rarebirdyearbook.com)

**Please share news of this photo competition with your members and anyone you know taking photographs.**

We hope this will create a database of photographers who are taking images of the world's rarest and threatened birds.

For more information, please contact Ade Long at [adrian.long@birdlife.org](mailto:adrian.long@birdlife.org)

**The next e-bulletin  
will come out in September 2007**

**Please share your stories with the rest  
of the Africa Partnership (and beyond)  
and send them to:**

[antoinette.otieno@birdlife.or.ke](mailto:antoinette.otieno@birdlife.or.ke)

**\*\* before 15 August 2007 \*\***

This e-bulletin is also available at [www.birdlife.org/regional/africa/newsletter.html](http://www.birdlife.org/regional/africa/newsletter.html)