



**BIRDLIFE INTERNATIONAL
EAST ATLANTIC FLYWAY INITIATIVE**

EAFI NEWSLETTER DECEMBER 2021



**A BRIEF WORD
FROM THE
TASK FORCE**



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Flyway work is, by definition, collaboration with others. Migratory birds don't follow boundaries, they cross from one country to another. Some cross national borders fifteen or twenty times towards their wintering grounds or towards their breeding grounds as they complete their life cycle. To be able to offer the birds a safe flyway all year long, we need to work together and to coordinate our actions.

And this starts with awareness. Sharing information about what we are doing. It is useful that [BirdLife](#) Partners and other organisations and institutions get to know that we are working on the same species they are busy with. That we are working to conserve some of the sites that are used by the very same birds they are protecting. And this is one of the goals of this newsletter: to create a space in which we can all share our news and updates about the work each of us is doing for the benefit of **migratory birds**.

We are now seeing how Partners along the flyway enthusiastically support each other. Last year many Partners sent letters to SPEA ([Sociedade Portuguesa para o Estudo das Aves](#)) in support of their efforts to stop the construction of an airport in the Tagus estuary. The past months we saw how support from flyway **Partners** poured towards Fuglavernd. [BirdLife Iceland](#) is requesting its government to stop afforestation plans in the breeding areas of many migratory species. A letter was sent to the Ministry for the Environment and Natural Resources, including the signatures of

thirty seven BirdLife flyway Partners and the EAFI Task Force. And when the [Wadden Sea Society](#) (Waddenvereniging) requested support for their new and urgent motion "**Call to withdraw draft-permit Exploration of fossil fuels underneath UNESCO World Heritage Site Wadden Sea**", so it could be considered at the IUCN Congress in Marseille, the flyway Partners quickly responded. Without the support of at least ten co-sponsors from at least two IUCN regions, the motion could not be voted. But within 48 hours the motion was co-sponsored by 24 organisations, sixteen of which EAFI Partners, it was later voted during the congress, and approved. Similarly, partners in the southern portion of the flyway joined forces to support a motion to protect the Okavango from oil and gas exploitation, which was also voted and approved.

These examples highlight the huge capacity of response along the flyway, and the potential we have to improve the conditions for migratory bird populations along the flyway – together.



NEW BIRDLIFE PARTNERS

We knew this would happen, but now it is official. Last summer the Council for the African Partnership approved the decision and so our flyway has been enriched with two new BirdLife Partners: [NCD](#) (Nature-Communautés-Developpement) from Senegal, and [Guinée-Ecologie](#) (Guinea). Welcome to the family, and we look forward to continue our fruitful collaboration with you!

WEBINAR

In the framework of World Migratory Bird Day, just like last year, we organised a webinar that included interventions of, among others, Ms. Amy Fraenkel, Executive Secretary of CMS, Mr. Jacques Trouvilliez, Executive Secretary of AEWA (African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbird Agreement), and Mr. Abakar Zougoulou, Scientific and Technical Director of the Panafrican Agency of the Great Green Wall. João Belo represented Ambassadors from the East Atlantic Flyway Youth Forum, Carles Carboneras presented the Turtle Dove Action Plan, and several Partners gave updates about their activities along the flyway.

If you missed it or you want to see it again, follow this [link](#) to BirdLife's YouTube channel

REMINDERS

Please remember that we have a platform to share our work graphically through the interactive map that SEO BirdLife is curating. Please visit the map, but also share your projects by updating it. If you have any questions about this, you can address them to bleafi@seo.org. Tracks of individuals fitted with transmitters are also welcome to illustrate the paths followed by the birds.

BirdLife's Hatch platform is now live, replacing the extranet. This is a hub for news and events across the Partnership, and there is already an EAFI group in it. Don't forget to register and start using it. The more of us using Hatch, the better the platform will become.

You can register by following the link below: <https://birdlife-hatch.org/signup>

Register to join Hatch now!

MIGRA PROGRAM OF SEO/BIRDLIFE: 10 YEARS STUDING BIRD MIGRATION

Ana Bermejo y Javier de la Puente
SEO/BirdLife

Spain lies in the middle of the migration route of the East Atlantic Flyway, between two continents and in a privileged location for the migration of birds. Many species of migratory birds can be observed in our country, and their future conservation requires detailed knowledge of their migratory routes, and of their stopover, wintering, and breeding areas.

To get that important information, in 2011 [SEO/BirdLife](#) started a new bird monitoring program, thanks to the collaboration with Fundación Iberdrola España, to study the migration of birds in Spain. The emergence of new technologies for bird tracking in the 21st century has revolutionized the understanding of bird migration and spatial ecology. We use the most modern remote bird tracking technologies (GPS satellite transmitters, GPS-GMS transmitters, geolocators, nano-GPS, micro-dataloggers, etc.) to tag birds of different species throughout Spain.

The Migra program is now 10 years old and has managed to tag more than 1,260 birds of 34

different species, of which 783 individuals of 33 species have provided useful information. With the data collected, 6 monographs on bird migration and 17 scientific articles have been published, in addition to numerous informative articles. We published the [monographs on the migration](#) of the Audouin's Gull, Booted Eagle, Cory's Shearwater, Bulwer's Petrel, White Stork, and Eleonora's Falcon. Currently we are working mainly with Red Kite, Common Swift, Lesser Kestrel, Montagu's Harrier, Hen Harrier, Black Kite, and Eurasian Hobby, among other species. In addition, Migra data are being used in the [BirdLife's East Atlantic Flyway Initiative application](#).

This ambitious study on bird migration can be carried out thanks to the participation of more than 350 collaborators and 60 collaborating entities in Spain and abroad.

Migratory birds know no borders, and therefore their future preservation depends on conserving the areas where they are found throughout the year, which requires actions at a global level. The results of the Migra program will improve the management of the migratory species in the East Atlantic Flyway.

More information: migracion@seo.org



MONOGRAPHS PUBLISHED IN THE MIGRA PROGRAM

Different species of migratory birds tagged in the Migra program with different remote monitoring devices. © Javier de la Puente-SEO/BirdLife



TROUBLE FOR LISBON AIRPORT PLAN AS TOP LEGAL OFFICIAL BACKS CALLS TO ABANDON PROJECT



Black-tailed Godwit flock near a high-tide roost within the Tagus estuary SPA, with Lisbon in the background, by Ernst Schade @ernstschade.com

The Portuguese government is under increasing pressure to abandon plans to build a new airport on the Tagus Estuary, one of Europe's most important wetland sites, after the country's top legal official issued guidance which strongly supports the case against the airport.

Portugal's Public Prosecutor gave its legal Opinion following a case brought last year by lawyers from [ClientEarth](#) and seven Portuguese NGOs, headed by [Sociedade Portuguesa para o Estudo das Aves](#) (SPEA, BirdLife Portugal) and supported by BirdLife's East Atlantic Flyway Initiative.

The Public Prosecutor's Opinion strongly supports the environmental groups' legal action against the Portuguese authorities' failure to properly consider the devastating impacts of the future Montijo Airport on the Tagus Estuary, an internationally protected nature site which acts as crucial shelter and pit stop for migratory birds, before giving the project the green light.

The Public Prosecutor drew attention to the major deficiencies, technical errors and inconsistencies in assessing the impact the airport would have on the Special Protected Area in the Tagus Estuary, as already highlighted during the environmental assessment of the project and as required under

EU nature laws. He also highlighted that the cross-border impacts the project would have on international and European migratory birds and therefore on other protected sites across Europe, were unjustifiably understated by the authorities. Downplaying the airport's transboundary impact means the authorities avoided consulting other countries who might be affected by the project.

ClientEarth wildlife lawyer Soledad Gallego said: "At a time when we need to be protecting and restoring our most precious habitats to help tackle both the biodiversity crisis and the climate crisis, the Portuguese authorities are pushing ahead with a project that would irreversibly compromise one of Europe's most important wetlands – as well as generating vast amounts of carbon emissions" .

"We hope that the Court will follow this Opinion, but more importantly, we hope that the Portuguese authorities will realise their legal duty to protect the Tagus Estuary. Primarily because protected migratory birds depend on this unique natural area and its unique habitats for their survival, but also because of the key role these ecosystems play in ensuring a robust and healthy climate."

ClientEarth and SPEA's case is still pending before the Lisbon Administrative Court.



SUMMARY PARTNERS



Island areas in Iceland that the government wants to reforest but where there should be no trees. Changing the system would impact on nesting areas for migratory birds, by Tómas Grétar Gunnarsson

FUGLAVERND (ICELAND)

- Fuglavernd continues to restore the watershed landscape of Grunnafjörður including the Ramsar site in Western Iceland, and to rewet and expand the Flói Nature reserve in southern Iceland – the latter could be the subject of Iceland's first LIFE application.



Native birch in foreground and very invasive Lodgepole Pine in background by Zbig Karpowicz

- Fuglavernd is implementing two projects funded by EEA: Exchange of experience in peatland restoration, and Management of Protected Areas for breeding and migratory birds in Iceland, as well as the newly granted Nordic Council project which will -amongst other migratory birds activities – test the wet grassland species-based methodology in both Iceland and Norway for estimating the reference populations of selected migratory birds and the areas of breeding habitats that are needed to be well managed and/or restored.
- BirdLife Iceland is lobbying against the afforestation policy of the Icelandic government, which would disturb breeding habitats of migratory birds. A letter to the Icelandic government was

endorsed by 38 BirdLife Partners along the East Atlantic Flyway. RSPB is financially supporting the preparation of a campaign on the policy which will take place over the next 6 months.

NORWEGIAN ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY (NOF – NORWAY)

- The Nordic Council of Ministers and the European Economic Area are supporting a project aimed at exchanging experiences and improve management planning at Natura 2000 sites in Belarus, Iceland, Norway and Poland. The project anticipates joint field workshops in the involved countries, summarising and analysing the local best practices, and developing guidelines for management planning at sites that are or can be important for migratory birds.

BIRDLIFE SVERIGE (SWEDEN)

- In Sweden SOF registered lower than expected numbers for some migratory species. Though the figures for the autumn migration are not fully compiled yet, we have not compiled the summary of the autumn migration, the increase in migrating Yellow-browed Warbler has not corresponded to what SOF had hoped for, with far fewer records than expected during this last migratory season. SOF recorded also a rather mediocre calidris- autumn with notable low numbers of migrating arctic waders on Sweden's east coast. Another salient figure is that Brant goose, *Branta bernicla* migrated 2 weeks earlier than usual, with a peak on 18 September.

DANSK ORNITOLOGISK FORENING (DOF – DENMARK)

- DOF celebrated EuroBirdwatch with events on as many ringing stations, combining direct observations of migrating birds with education by showing people how birds are ring and what information is gained by this means.

BIRDLIFE FINLAND

- BirdLife Finland is working towards a network of disturbance-free waterfowl staging areas to prevent premature onset of autumn migration.
- Areas are created by voluntary actions of local landowners and hunting clubs.
- The two-year [SOTKA project](#) is funded by the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry.

BIRDLIFE ESTONIA

- During the Eurobirdwatch on 2-3 of October Estonian birdwatchers counted migrating birds in 10 known migration sites. Altogether 270 000 migrating birds were counted. Most abundant migrant on that weekend was Chaffinch. Water bird migration culminated on 13 of October when almost 200 000 waterbirds were counted migrating at Põõsaspea cape. This is one of the most intense witnessed waterbird migration days in Põõsaspea history. The most abundant migrant on that day was Barnacle Goose. Exact count results can be found [here](#)

LATVIAN ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY (LOB—LATVIA)

- In N2000 site Adazi, a nestbox equipped with a camera made it possible for everyone to [watch online](#) European Rollers breeding.
- A five-year LIFE project for protection of Lesser Spotted Eagle in Latvia was completed. LOB was responsible for finding unknown and unprotected nests. We found 543 of them. This species does not migrate along the EAF, but the project is an example of how raptors can be better protected.
- The Latvian Fund for Nature launched in early summer 2020 the campaign 'Nature hasn't cancelled anything!' within the [project GrassLIFE](#). The campaign has picked up several awards at the BalticBest 2021 marketing and advertising competition. The LIFE project took home a bronze award in the 'general marketing at the time of pandemic' category and silver in the 'advertising/branding integrated advertising' category. The GrassLIFE project aims to restore and improve EU priority grasslands and promote their multiple use in Latvia. Restoration activities are being carried out on 14 Natura 2000 network sites.

POLISH SOCIETY FOR THE PROTECTION OF BIRDS (OTOP – POLAND)

- OTOP supported BirdWatch Ireland to organise the workshop on Natura 2000 sites and migratory birds. It is also helping to roll out the methodology that was developed during the previous workshop around the Baltic sea (initially in Germany, the Netherlands and Poland), and to rally Partners to develop a concrete project proposal based on the results from that first meeting.
- OTOP will participate in the project supported by the Nordic Council of Ministers and the European Economic Area (see Norwegian Ornithological Society's (NOF) entry for additional information).

BIRDLIFE BELARUS

- BirdLife Belarus will participate in the project supported by the Nordic Council of Ministers and the European Economic Area (see Norwegian Ornithological Society's (NOF) entry for additional information).

NATURE AND BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION UNION (NABU – GERMANY)

- Through the project [AfriEvolve](#), NABU has been supporting three Partners in Africa - [NATURAMA](#) (Burkina Faso), [Ghana Wildlife Society](#), and [SOS Fôrets](#) (Ivory Coast) - to implement conservation activities and improve resilience of local communities against the effects of climate change.
- NABU participated actively at a meeting held by [BirdWatch Ireland](#) (with support from [OTOP](#) and [RSPB](#)) to identify SPAs along the western European portion of the East Atlantic Flyway that can play an important role for the conservation of migratory birds.

VOGELBESCHERMING NEDERLAND (VBN – NETHERLANDS)

- There is a growing number of dairy products from Dutch farmers who make an extra effort to avoid damaging meadow birds, and Vogelbescherming has attached its name and logo to these products. To increase the attention and turnover of these products, there was a national bird-friendly dairy campaign during the late spring.
- VBN continues to work with fishermen in the Wadden Sea. A first small group of shrimp fishermen recently agreed to have their fishing licenses bought through the Wadden Fund.
- VBN is exploring how Nature Based Solutions can improve incomes and business models in several habitats in the Netherlands.

- A petition signed by 86000 people has put pressure on the Dutch government to increase its funding for the implementation of the Black-Tailed Godwit action plan in the Netherlands.
- A large project in Holwerd aan Zee in the Wadden Sea is getting started. This is an area that fifty years ago was going to be reclaimed from the Wadden Sea, and through this project will regain its natural dynamics.
- An innovation concept was submitted for the Uplink Challenge together with partners who previously helped develop a concept to upscale the ongoing work in the shea parklands of Burkina Faso. The winning concepts were linked with business stakeholders in the broader network of the World Economic Forum. The concept was praised but was unfortunately not included among the winners.
- VBN has continued to support SPEA and ClientEarth in their efforts to challenge the Portuguese government's decision to build an airport in the Tagus estuary (see SPEA's entry). Dutch expertise advised on the interpretation of radar images.
- Five small grants for the conservation of shorebirds are starting to yield interesting results in Morocco, Senegal, Guinea Bissau, Ghana and South Africa (see Partners' entries for additional detail). Additional small grants are being assessed for sites in Nigeria and Ivory Coast.

NATUURPUNT (BELGIUM)

- Natagora was one of the 38 Partners signing the letter sent by BirdLife Iceland to their Minister for the Environment and Natural Resources in order to express a strong concern regarding the Ministry's draft national Forestry Plan (see BirdLife Iceland's entry for additional details).

NATUR&ËMWELT (LUXEMBOURG)

- Like fifteen other flyway partners, natur&ëmwelt co-sponsored the motion "Call to withdraw draft-permit Exploration of fossil fuels underneath UNESCO World Heritage Site Wadden Sea", presented by the Wadden Sea Society at the IUCN World Conservation Congress in Marseille.

BIRDWATCH IRELAND

- BirdWatch Ireland hosted a workshop to prioritise special protected areas important for the conservation of migratory birds in the Western Europe portion of the East Atlantic Flyway (Germany to France plus the British Isles). This was the second event organized under the auspices of

the EU Biogeographical Process, and with support of OTOP (who organized the first one a year ago) and RSPB. Thirty experts from eight countries took part in this event, the results of which are still being processed.

- The latest [review of the Birds of Conservation Concern in Ireland](#) provides alarming reading, with a 46% increase in the number of Red-listed species. Since the previous assessment in 2013, 23 species have moved onto the Red List and only six species have left it. An additional 79 species (37%) are now 'Amber-listed', and 78 are on the Green List (i.e. not currently considered at risk).
- A total of 1,704 Roseate Tern pairs on Rockabill Island, as well as 1,656 Common Tern and 37 Arctic Tern nests. This is especially good news for Roseate Terns which are the rarest breeding seabird in Europe. Also, a Roseate Tern ringed in July 1993 was found, making it 28 years old and the oldest Roseate on record in this part of the world!
- Two Bar-tailed Godwits, colour ringed by the [Dublin Bay Birds Project](#) (DBBP), have been resighted on the breeding grounds. One at the breeding grounds in Porsanger, Norway, and the other was unfortunately found dead in the Tersky District, Russia. Curlew 'FH74868', ringed in 2014, has been spotted on the breeding grounds near Jokisilta, Tyrnava in Finland for the second year in a row.
- The restoration of the pool systems at the BirdWatch Ireland Annagh Marsh Nature Reserve in Co. Mayo, has, after an absence of 30 years, seen the return of successfully breeding Red-necked Phalaropes.



© Roseate Tern by Brian Burke



© Roseate Tern by Brian Burke

ROYAL SOCIETY FOR THE PROTECTION OF BIRDS (RSPB — UNITED KINGDOM)

- As one of the UK's fastest declining birds, the RSPB organised a Turtle Dove National Survey in 2021. Largely confined to the eastern half of the midlands and southern England, a better understanding of where and how many birds now breed in the UK will help identify those priority areas where conservation action will be beneficial.
- RSPB have secured a \$80k grant from the CEPF fund in West Africa to work with BirdLife Partners on KBAs in 5 countries (Nigeria, Ghana, Liberia, Sierra Leone, Guinea). Training on the KBA processes will be provided to facilitate the identification of KBAs and the establishment and strengthening of National Coordination Groups.
- RSPB has been leading efforts, together with OTOB and Naturebureau, to develop a methodology to identify sites with conservation and/or restoration potential for the benefit of meadow birds.
- RSPB provided a scientific report highlighting how important the Tagus Estuary is for migratory waders along the EAF. Birds from 32 countries, 342 IBAs, 310 Natura-2000 sites and 4 Natural World Heritage sites used the Tagus Estuary. Furthermore, these sites are the focus of considerable conservation effort and funding which will be undermined by the construction of the airport. However, the Portuguese Government have not assessed these negative international impacts in their EIA.

LIGUE POUR LA PROTECTION DES OISEAUX (LPO — FRANCE)

- LPO Successfully lobbied to stop the hunting of several migratory species, including whimbrel and black-tailed godwit, for another season. This in addition to the temporary ban on European turtle dove.
- LPO participated actively in the IUCN WCC in Marseille, and welcomed other BirdLife Secretariat and Partner staff from around the world that were able to participate in spite of the ongoing travel restrictions due to COVID.

SEO (SPAIN)

- During 2021, 40 birds belonging to four species have been provided with GPS-GSM tags. Most of them are black (17) and red kites (16), but also European hobby and hen harriers.
- In the same period 7 Balearic shearwaters have been tagged in their colonies to monitor their dispersal.
- One itinerant expo regarding the importance and threats of seabirds has been created and is travelling by fish markets in order to raise awareness, in particular among fishers.
- Common swift has been declared Bird of the year 2021 and actions involving raising awareness on the importance of the birds have been implemented, including a special accent in the protection of colonies during reform of facade and covers. Also, a crowdfunding was launched to support the care of swift fledglings.
- For the first time in history, post breeding shooting of European turtle dove have not been authorised, following the recommendations of the SAP developed by several BirdLife partners.

- [SEO](#) is acting as civil party in eight court process regarding illegal killing of birds, mostly involving migratory birds.
- Within the [Spring Alive project](#), several educational actions have been developed, including the creation of an audio book that aims to sensitize the youngest on the importance of respect for migratory birds. The story tells the story between a boy and a swallow that, after its long journey, finds its nest destroyed.

PORTUGUESE SOCIETY FOR THE STUDY OF BIRDS (SPEA – PORTUGAL)

- [SPEA released](#) a guide for owners and managers of salt pans to implement good practices in favour of birds and optimize these spaces for their occupation, highlighting the potential advantages derived from marketing and birdwatching.
- The opinion of Portugal's Public Prosecutor's strongly supports the environmental groups' legal action against the Portuguese authorities' failure to properly consider the devastating impacts of the future Montijo Airport on the Tagus Estuary. The Public Prosecutor's supportive intervention in the case is a first major success for the coalition of environmental groups, in which SPEA plays a leading role.
- More than 1200 participants celebrated nature and bird migration during the 12th edition of [Sagres Birdwatching Festival](#). Over 200 activities were organized by SPEA and local partners, from 1 to 5 October, and more than 130 bird species were recorded.
- Lobby from SPEA, together with other five Portuguese NGOs, succeeded in stopping the hunting season for Turtle Dove this year – an important step towards the recovery of this species and the implementation of the European Turtle Dove Species Action Plan.
- The 2021 census of the Portuguese breeding population of Audouin's Gull recorded 4.300 nests in a single colony at Ria Formosa (Algarve), the highest number for Portugal, and likely the biggest colony for this species at the time being.

GIBRALTAR ORNITHOLOGICAL AND NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY (GONHS – GIBRALTAR)

- The GONHS Raptor Rescue Unit have rescued, rehabilitated and released 15 migrating birds of prey this spring, including 6 Short-toed Snake-Eagles and 3 Eurasian Griffons. Hazards to raptors crossing the Strait of Gibraltar include harassment by territorial Yellow-legged Gulls and Peregrines, as well as exhaustion.

- New facilities opened by the Government of Gibraltar in the Gibraltar Nature Reserve provide increased capacity for raptor rehabilitation activities by GONHS, including interpretation on the importance of rescue work.
- Regular promotion on social media of migration-related work in Gibraltar including observations, bird ringing and rescue.



Vincent Robba of the Raptor Rescue Unit, about to release a Short-toed Snake Eagle that has been rescued and tagged prior to release by GONHS

ASSOCIATION LES AMIS DES OISEAUX (AAO – TUNISIA)

- Association "Les Amis des Oiseaux" (AAO/BirdLife in Tunisia) published a first report analyzing data from the International Waterfowl Census over 10 years (2009-2018) determining population trends of wintering waterbirds in Tunisia and potential new Ramsar sites.
- AAO continued to lobby against unsustainable bird hunting and illegal mist net trapping on the Cape Bon (Nabeul) through participation in the National Advisory Commission on Hunting and Game Conservation and news articles and interviews.
- AAO teamed up with Association of the Friends of CAPTE in Tunisia for the restoration of agricultural landscapes around Ichkeul National Park (Bizerte) and in the Dyr El Kef KBA (Le Kef) using a full array of sustainable management tools.
- Monitoring data of the Eurasian Spoonbill population in Tunisia over the past 5 years helped confirm key wintering sites for this species, and to orient conservation actions required to maintain healthy populations.
- To promote bird migration and flyway conservation, AAO celebrated World Migratory Bird Day (WMBD) in May and October through local



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and national events, both face-to-face and virtual, including a webinar, the annual conference “Bird & Heritage”, and public visits to the Observatory of Birds and Nature at Sebkheth Sejoumi (Tunis).

- Ten local observers working at IBAs, KBAs and Ramsar sites were trained in waterbird identification and monitoring. IBA monitoring training for the same group is scheduled for October 2021.

- Two new Clubs of Nature and Birds at the House of Culture of Ghar El Melh (Bizerte) and at the House of Jeunes of Saouf (Zaghouan) have now been established.

- A video promoting eco-tourism and biodiversity conservation around “Jbel Nadhor and Ghar El Melh Lagoon”, a KBA and Ramsar site, was produced and publicly launched. This area is an important migratory corridor for many birds.

GREPOM (MOROCCO)

- [The Ecological Information Centre of Oualidia](#)

has resumed activities, after being forced to stop due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Oualidia is an environmental education centre located on the Atlantic coast of Morocco. It is managed by “GREPOM/BirdLife Morocco” after the signature of tripartite partnership between the Commune of Oualidia, and the Department of Water and Forests.

- GREPOM is running a small project to improve knowledge of the Eurasian Curlew, Whimbrel, Black-tailed Godwit and Bar-tailed Godwit. The goal is to produce a multispecies action plan for Morocco. Three sites have been identified along the country (Bas Loukkos Marshes & Sidi-Moussa Walidia Lagoons) to develop the project further. This pilot approach could be replicated with other species and sites.

- Several face-to-face and remote events were held, mainly to celebrate World Migratory Bird Day and World Wetlands Day, as well as other awareness



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© Oualidia

NATURE MAURITANIE (MAURITANIA)

- Diawling National Park at the mouth of the Senegal river is a key site for tens of thousands of migratory birds. Nature Mauritanie works with communities in the periphery of the park to diminish encroaching and get their support for conservation actions. In the last months, an area of 40 ha in the Diawling National Park has been reforested with 7,000 *Avicennia germinas* trees. The market gardening cooperative of Dar Salam in the periphery of Diawling National Park, which counts around one hundred women, benefitted with market gardening equipment and the installation of a mechanical well. Nature Mauritanie also helped 120 women of the Birette women's cooperative to set up a poultry unit, and supplied them with 700 chicks and the necessary feed and materials.
- Nature Mauritanie organised partners locally to join together an online workshop of the IUCN World Conservation Congress.

NATURE-COMMUNAUTÉS-DÉVELOPPEMENT (NCD — SENEGAL)



©Jaime Garcia Moreno

- NCD is implementing a project to strengthen the conservation of migratory birds at the Nature Community Reserve of Tocc-Tocc in the north of the country, while supporting the communities and raising their awareness about the sustainable use of local natural resources. Also, a study about the Black-tailed Godwit population dynamics in the Nature Community Reserve of Tocc-Tocc is being conducted, by a student at the Animal Biology Department of the Cheikh Anta Diop University of Dakar, with support from NCD.
- NCD has now established a network of bird monitoring sites along the western portion of the country, from the border of Mauritania to the Casamance in the south.
- Senegal is an important country for the turtle dove, and NCD is therefore taking action to conserve

and learn more about this species. It has now set up Site Support Groups in Sandiara and Koyli Alpha (northern Senegal), and trained members at Beer Sheba (in the Thies region) and Koyli Alpha on the identification of Turtle Dove (Beer Sheba is a 100 hectares of naturally regenerating forest that Turtle Doves seem to enjoy). This improves the monitoring capacity of the Turtle Dove in Senegal, as these groups will monitor regularly (October to March) at these locations.

ODZH (GUINEA BISSAU)

- ODZH is implementing a project to monitor Black-crowned Crane and Black-tailed Godwit in the Mansoa river basin, working hand in hand with six local communities. The results highlight that as many as 58 waterbird species are making use of this basin, 35 of which being migrants using the estuary to spend the winter. For many species, the region seems to be more important than currently acknowledge.

These communities and community schools are gaining knowledge about the Flyway through the environmental education and communication sessions that are enabling knowledge and knowledge exchanges about the migratory birds and the habitats of the region they pass through. Twelve community agents, two from each community, have so far been trained in the monitoring of birds and the state of the region's habitats.

GUINÉE-ÉCOLOGIE (GUINEA)

- Guinée Ecologie (Guinea) has carried out several bird protection activities, including raising awareness through a conference-debate on the importance of migratory birds. Field visits with students for birdwatching were also conducted.

NATURAMA (BURKINA FASO)



© Tree nursery in Burkina Faso by Ardjouma Sanou

- The project Birds, Bees and Business (together with VBN and Cordaid) aims to restore the shea parklands of Burkina Faso by bringing back

biodiversity to the monocultures they have become. In this context, NATURAMA has trained over 150 farmers on different topics like organic manure production, pollinator management, assisted natural regeneration, diversification of trees, etc. For more information link [below](#)



© Tree nursery in Burkina Faso by Amadou Keita

- Radio broadcasts in local languages and posters about the “Tree-Insect-Bird” strategy are being used to strengthen social mobilisation in the southern provinces of Ioba, Sissili and Nahouri.
- NATURAMA has also started to restore forest landscapes for increased ecosystem resilience, and improved local livelihoods, in the Sourou Valley, on the border with Mali. With support from NABU, native tree species are being planted as part of the [AfriEvolve project](#)

SOS-FORETS (IVORY COAST)

- SOS-Forêts has conducted three awareness campaigns for the sustainable management of priority sites for the conservation of migratory species. The awareness-raising activities took place in the villages around the Azagny National Park, the Ehotilé Islands National Park and the N’ganda N’ganda classified forest. These sites are Ramsar sites, Important Bird Areas (IBAs) and wetlands.
- With support from NABU through the project [AfriEvolve](#), we initiated the transfer of cocoa plantations into agroforestry systems in the outskirts of Azagny National Park. The activities also included awareness-raising for forest conservation and impacts of climate change, and training of bee keepers in modern methods for improved income.

GHANA WILDLIFE SOCIETY (GHANA)

- GWS is implementing a project to enhance the conservation of shorebirds at two wintering sites along the coast of Ghana (Songor and Muni). In addition to the monitoring of the sites, it is conducting public awareness and education campaigns at these sites.

- With support from NABU, GWS has started [installing model farms for rain water drip irrigation and climate-resilient vegetable cultivation](#) at Mognori, in the vicinity of the Mole National Park

NIGERIAN CONSERVATION FOUNDATION (NCF – NIGERIA)

- A [video](#) documentary tagged **Our Plight to Survive: Nigeria's Vulture and Wildlife Trade Crisis** was launched in Lagos
- National Sensitization workshop for Law Enforcement Agencies on wildlife trade and illegal killing of birds with a focus on African Vulture including Egyptian Vulture in 2 regions of Nigeria (Kano and Abeokuta). The training will make law enforcement agents better able to enforce wildlife laws- an interesting anecdote was that the Chief of Police in one of the States was an ardent consumer of bushmeat without being aware that he was breaking law!
- May's World Migratory Bird Day was commemorated with radio and media awareness. NCF staff featured in local radio programme to discuss the plight of EV as a migratory species and calls for more public support for the protection of vulture.
- A national vulture assessment was conducted in 11 Nigerian States- Enugu, Anambra, Rivers, Crossriver, Edo, Uyo, Abuja, Nassarawa, Delta, Bauchi, Plateau, and Gombe States.

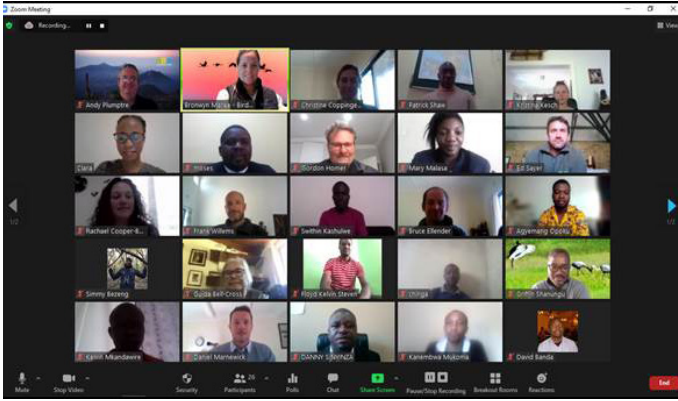
BIRDLIFE BOTSWANA

- Five community villages around the Nata Sanctuary formed a Community Based Organisation to sustainably utilize the area and generate income from visitations. BirdLife Botswana has technically supported the functioning of the trust through training on biodiversity monitoring and bird guiding and the provision of equipment such as binoculars and bird books. The Nata Sanctuary is famous as a feeding ground for globally threatened Great and Lesser Flamingo, and presents a considerable potential for birding tourism, and thus improve livelihoods and economic development in the area.



© Nata Sanctuary Bird Guide by Birdlife Botswana

BIRDWATCH ZAMBIA



- A virtual workshop aimed at introducing the concept of KBAs to relevant stakeholders in Zambia, understanding the spatial planning tools and biodiversity data that already exists and providing guidance on the next steps to initiate the KBA process and assessment was held last June. This workshop was conducted in collaboration with the KBA Secretariat, the International Union for the Conservation of Nature, Botanical Gardens Conservation International, World Wide Fund for Nature-Zambia and the Frankfurt Zoological Society. Two of the key outcomes of the workshop included the nomination and acceptance of BirdWatch Zambia to take the lead role to drive the KBA process forward in Zambia and the development of a road map that outlines the next steps to secure the buy-in of key government departments and other relevant stakeholders.
- BirdWatch Zambia celebrated World Migratory Bird Day last May with social media and awareness raising campaigns on migrant birds. BirdWatch Zambia will continue to profile migrants through these celebratory days.
- BirdWatch Zambia has successfully implemented a biocontrol project on the Lukanga Swamp to control an invasive aquatic plant, *Salvinia molesta* infestation. The project has led to the clearance of canals, opened up channels for navigation and fishing activities, and promoted social activities such as swimming. The Lukanga Swamp is well visited by many migratory species.



© Birdwatch Zambia Staff

BIRDLIFE ZIMBABWE



© Birds monitoring by Birdlife Zimbabwe

- BirdLife Zimbabwe is currently working in the development of Vulture Safe Zones, which should result in the adoption of a landscape conservation approach that benefits many migratory species.
- Capacity development of community environmental stewards in Important Bird and Biodiversity Areas (IBAs)/Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs).
- Protection and restoration of wetlands in urban areas (i.e. Harare) for migratory bird species, such as Striped Crake and Streaky-breasted Flufftail is an area in which BirdLife Zimbabwe remains active. In addition, rural wetlands, such as Driefontein Grasslands IBA (Ramsar Site) is undergoing a restoration and livelihoods project. BirdLife Zimbabwe is working with government in the development of tools for wetland protection and management.
- BirdLife Zimbabwe Youth have been clearing gillnets at Lake Chivero Ramsar Site, an important wetland for migratory birds.
- Bird monitoring has continued with the January and July waterbird counts. In addition, BirdLife Zimbabwe promotes participation in citizen science projects such as October Big Day and World Migratory Bird Day.
- In September, BirdLife Zimbabwe was part of the team of local stakeholders who collaborated closely to submit an application for Chimanimani KBA to become a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve

BIRDLIFE SOUTH AFRICA

- BirdLife South Africa's pilot project on the restoration of the Berg River Estuary, supported in part by a small grant for the conservation of shorebirds (VBN), made good progress this year after Covid-19 related delays in 2020 and early 2021: Signage has been placed to curb human activities in sensitive areas; rehabilitation of reed marsh are producing the first visible results in several

bankside areas, and members of the West Coast community are being trained in the techniques being used by the project.

- BLSA participated actively in Spring Alive, reaching some 10000 people through printed and social media, and engaging with 5000 children through different approaches.

- BirdLife South Africa will drive the roll-out of the first "other effective area-based conservation measures" (OECMs) in the Western Cape. BirdLife South Africa will undertake to assess the resource and capacity requirements needed to facilitate the roll-out of OECMs in the Western Cape as a case study for other provinces to follow. For additional details Write to Bronwyn.maree@birdlife.or.za



A site within a conservancy is being assessed against the criteria of the other effective area-based conservation by Giselle Mur



BirdLife International is a strategic global partnership of conservation organisations in over 115 countries, working to conserve birds, their habitats and global biodiversity, and to promote sustainability in the use of natural resources. We are driven by our belief that local people, working for nature in their own places but connected nationally and internationally through our global partnership, are the key to sustaining all life on this planet. This unique local-to-global approach delivers high impact and long-term conservation for the benefit of nature and people

For further information about the East Atlantic Flyway Initiative, please contact:
Dr. Jaime García-Moreno
Chair East Atlantic Flyway Initiative, VBN International Programme Coordinator
Jaime.garciamoreno@vogelbescherming.nl