

# Familiar Chat

June 2008

newsletter of BirdLife Botswana



Photo courtesy J. Broekhuis

The Cape Turtle-Dove is currently one of the most common and widespread birds in Botswana. See p 3

Hi Birdlife Members,

With the winter solstice almost here, we are half way through winter already! The current mild temperatures make birding a pleasure, so do get out as much as you can and **submit your bird sightings to our Tickbird website**. By following the easy steps in Pete's article on p 3 even the most technologically challenged readers can make a real contribution to bird conservation in Botswana.

BLB is looking for a dynamic, capable young **person to market the organization**. The candidate will preferably be a Batswana citizen with good communication skills, be self-motivated, presentable and dynamic. Contact Harold Hester for more information. Details p 12

Mike Goldsworthy has had beautiful **membership badges** made, sponsored by Magnum Freight. These are available at the Broadhurst shop (Members P50, Life Members free). Do purchase them and wear them proudly.

Please **renew your membership** if you haven't done so (it runs from Jan to Dec). A form is available on the website or page 13 of the previous newsletter. I greatly welcome all contributions or ideas as the newsletter needs to reflect members' interests as well as being informative on BirdLife matters! Forthcoming editions will feature a special **children's section** to reflect our growing number of young members.

Eugenie Skelton – editor  
[skelton@home.co.bw](mailto:skelton@home.co.bw)

## Contents

	Page
<i>IBA Monitoring and Tourism</i>	2
<i>Birding With A Purpose</i>	3
<i>WOW! Wings Over Wetlands Website</i>	7
<i>Red List 2008 - Climate Change and Continental Drift</i>	8
<i>Bird Ringing at Botshabelo</i>	9
<i>Migrating Bird Numbers Plummet</i>	9
<i>Gaborone Branch News</i>	11
<i>BLB Committee 2008</i>	12
<i>Regional Events</i>	13



Cape Vulture at Manyelannong Game Reserve. See page 2

IF ANYONE CAN

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# **MONITORING OF PROTECTED AREAS & IMPORTANT BIRD AREAS KEY TO TOURISM PROSPECTS & IMPROVED LIVELIHOODS**

*A follow up report after the key regional meetings hosted by BirdLife Botswana in February on enhancing monitoring of Protected Areas/Important Bird Areas in Africa.*

The meetings brought together practitioners from the eight environmental NGOs in Africa involved in the project - BirdLife Botswana, Fondation des Amis de la Nature: Naturama (Burkina Faso), Association Burundaise pour la Protection des Oiseaux (Burundi), Nature Kenya, Association 'Les Amis de Oiseaux' ABO (Tunisia), Nature Uganda, Zambian Ornithology Society and BirdLife Zimbabwe. This is a four year regional initiative funded by the EC on 'Instituting Effective Monitoring of Protected Areas/Important Bird Areas to reduce biodiversity loss in Africa', managed by the RSPB (UK) and coordinated by the BirdLife International Secretariat in Nairobi. The project seeks to meet the CBD 2010 target of reducing biodiversity loss by monitoring the status and trends of Protected Areas / IBAs.

Delegates from the eight African countries, supported by experts from the RSPB and BirdLife International, reviewed project progress for 2007. Achievements, challenges/problems affecting project implementation and recommendations for project performance were discussed as well as each country's plans for 2008 and their intended outcomes.

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*"This meeting marks a critical point along the path to establishing better management and monitoring of some of Africa's most important wildlife sites..." Paul Buckley (RSPB)*

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BirdLife Botswana showcased the rich biodiversity that exists in Botswana and demonstrated that through monitoring of IBAs, concrete results could contribute towards improving gains from tourism for the benefit of conservation and livelihoods. Botswana boasts Protected Areas covering 17% of the total land area, seven of which overlap with IBAs - Chobe National Park, Linyanti Swamps, Okavango Delta, Makgadikgadi Pans, Central Kalahari Game Reserve, Manyelannong Game Reserve and the Kgalagadi Transfrontier National Park. Convening these areas is critical as various conservation challenges including degradation and loss of biodiversity are being faced.

BirdLife Botswana is also in collaboration with the DWNP & other stakeholders, such as the UB and especially the Harry Oppenheimer Okavango Research Centre in Maun. Site Support Groups (SSIs) including the Nata Sanctuary Trust have widened the scope of collaboration. In addition BirdLife Botswana has signed a contract with UNDP to undertake a pilot exercise in Manyelanong Game Reserve to institute birding routes as an untapped tourism activity. BLB has trained community SSIs on bird guiding and thus saving IBAs in Botswana definitely provides opportunities for avi-tourism.

The EC funded project will therefore go a long way to address loss of biodiversity through monitoring and Botswana is proud to be one of the African countries involved and to have hosted the first Annual Planning and Review Meeting.

**Motshereganyi Virat Kootsositse**  
**IBA Manager – BirdLife Botswana**

# BIRDING WITH A PURPOSE

... collecting data for the conservation of birds in Botswana

Compiled by Pete Hancock

Do you, like many other birders, keep a list of birds seen on your field trips? If so, you can enter your observations in **Botswana Tickbird**, a web-based bird monitoring system being implemented by BirdLife Botswana – and thereby make a valuable contribution to bird conservation efforts in the country. This system aims to collect data from both local observers and visiting tourists, with an emphasis on empowering citizen scientists and community monitoring groups.

Botswana Tickbird is part of the Worldbirds global programme – a joint initiative brought to you by BirdLife, the RSPB and Audubon, linking together existing and new internet systems to collect and report on bird populations in different countries around the world.



## What kind of observations are needed?

The Botswana Tickbird project is based on **DAY LISTS** for any prescribed locality in Botswana. If you keep a list of the birds seen on any day or part thereof, in a specific locality, you can enter this information in the system – when accumulated together with similar observations from hundreds of other birders, what was just a fun past-time becomes a powerful tool for determining changes in the status of a large variety of Botswana's birds. It is important to note however that what is required are data from small, well-defined sites – they could be as small as your back garden, but should be no larger than, say, a radius of 10 kilometres of a central point. If you are travelling from Maun, via Moremi to Savuti in one day, your day list will **NOT** be suitable because it covers so many localities, some of which are protected and some of which aren't, making the utility of the data limited.

## How can you participate?

First you must log on to the Botswana Tickbird website – as mentioned, this is a web-based bird monitoring system, so you must have internet access. To register as a user, you can access the site by looking on the BirdLife Botswana website [www.birdlifebotswana.org.bw](http://www.birdlifebotswana.org.bw) and then clicking on the Tickbird link. Alternatively you can go directly to the site – [www.worldbirds.org](http://www.worldbirds.org) – then click on Africa and then Botswana.



The Worldbirds home page

The first time you access the system, you must register.

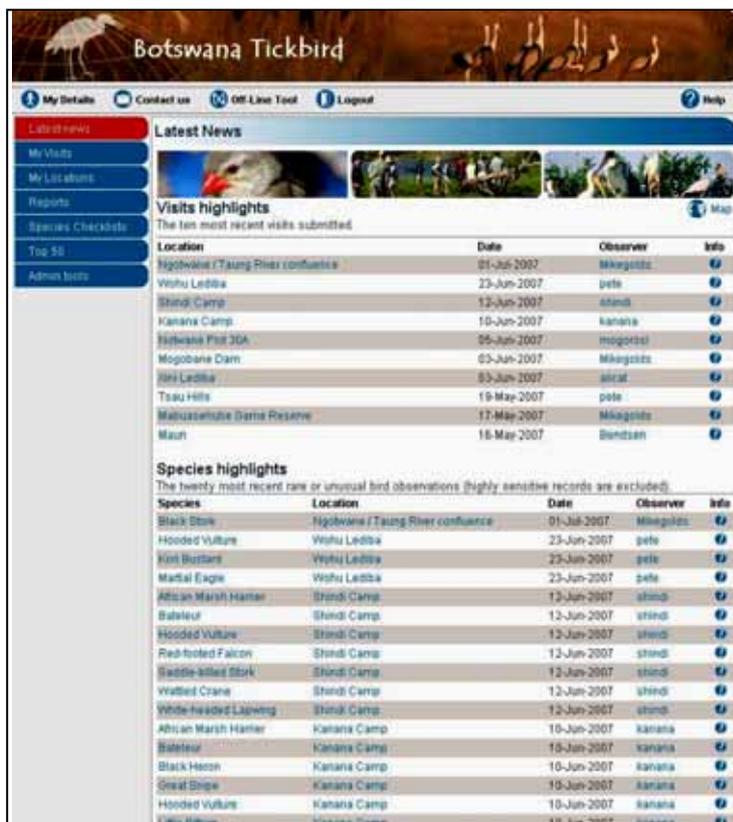


The log-on page

An important tip is to make sure that when doing this, you specify which bird names you prefer to use, those of BirdLife International or local common names (*i.e.* the new Roberts VII names) – this information is required near the bottom of the short registration form. Within a day or so of registering, you will receive an e-mail confirming your user name, and providing you with your own, exclusive password (if you later want to change your password, this is easy to do). You are now ready to participate in the system!

### Entering your birdlist

Once you have been out birding, and have a **day list** for a specific locality that you wish to enter, log on to the system by entering your user name and password in the space provided. The system opens to the Latest News page showing Visits Highlights and Species Highlights – recent sightings from interesting birding areas and of rare or unusual species seen.



The system opens to the Latest News page

The system has been programmed to highlight globally threatened birds and birds of conservation concern in Botswana, and BirdLife Botswana's Category A and B Rarities.

On the left hand side of the Visits Highlights, you will see several different menus that you can choose from (the one saying Latest News will be highlighted in red, since you are on the Latest News page). Click on My Visits to enter your checklist. The procedure from here on is very logical and user-friendly, with the system prompting you for the following information:

Where did you go birding?  
When did you go birding?  
Who did you go with?  
What did you see?

There are a few very important points to consider as you follow the process, particularly for describing your birding locality: it must have a name, and since place names in Botswana have not been standardised, this can cause some confusion! For example, Xobega Lediba and Gcobega Lediba, although alternative spellings for the same place in Moremi Game Reserve, will appear as two different localities. You can imagine that if a list of birds of Xobega Lediba is needed at any stage, and half the lists are entered under Gcobega Lediba, it will not be easy to get a complete list. If in doubt, type in the first few letters of the locality and hit the TAB key or press the Select button and localities already entered in the system will appear, enabling you to see the spelling being used. We have standardised on place names as used on the new 1:1,000,000 map of Botswana, with the exception of the Okavango Delta and Chobe National Park where we use the more detailed 1:50,000 map. You should only use the "New Location" option after checking to see if a location already exists (to reduce the amount of duplication). Furthermore, to avoid any confusion, when a location is first entered in the system, a short description should be made in the space provided, including the co-ordinates of its approximate centre point. If you are entering a new locality in the system, please take the few minutes needed to do this – the co-ordinates of the site are easy to obtain using the Google Earth link – simply click on Google Earth and you will have access to an incredible composite satellite image of the whole of Botswana (and in fact, the whole world!) on which you will be able to locate your precise locality. Your back yard, for instance, will show up clearly and if you have been birding in the bush somewhere, the chances are good that you'll be able to identify the very tree where you started! If you go into Google Earth, a red 'pin' will appear on the map in the centre of the country – simply drag it to your birding locality, click on OK at the top of the map, and the co-ordinates of the site will be automatically entered into the description of your location. Nothing could be easier or more painless – you don't need to have a GPS or even a map of the area! (Note that in Google Earth, you have the option of having a conventional map to work from, a satellite image or a hybrid of the two – a satellite image with a map of roads and settlements superimposed over it. The latter is most useful. You can also change the scale on the map, satellite image or hybrid until you can see exactly the locality where you went birding).

Please follow the above procedure when entering a new locality in the system – it only has to be done once, and it gives the required structure to the data to facilitate later analysis.

When entering your actual list of birds, you can choose whether you want to work from a complete list of Botswana birds or a short-list of those previously recorded at the particular site where you have been birding. If you type the first

few letters of the bird's name, the system will generate the remainder of the name to save you typing the whole name in. If you make a mistake as you are entering a species, just click on the garbage bin on the right hand side and it will be deleted. The final golden rule for entering your list is to include only those birds that you are sure of – when in doubt, leave it out! Once you are through with entering the birds seen, simply click on Save at the bottom of the page.

### The multiple uses of Botswana Tickbird

The beauty of Botswana Tickbird is that it is not only useful to BirdLife Botswana and the greater BirdLife partnership as a conservation and monitoring tool – **it has benefits for you the user too.**

You can use the system to:

- store and manage your own observations and view other people's records
- download or print checklists of birds for a country or a location, or birds you have/have not seen



The screenshot shows the 'Botswana Checklist' page. It features a navigation menu on the left with options like 'My Details', 'Contact us', 'Off-Line Tool', 'Logout', 'Latest news', 'My Visits', 'My Locations', 'Reports', 'Species Checklists', 'Top 50', and 'Admin tools'. The main content area is titled 'Botswana Checklist' and includes a 'Print' and 'Download' button. Below this is a table with columns for 'Species name', 'Scientific name', 'Count', and 'Notes'.

Species name	Scientific name	Count	Notes
Little Orestre	Tachybaptus ruficollis		
Great Crested Orestre	Podiceps cristatus		
Black-necked Orestre	Podiceps nigricollis		
Reed Cormorant	Phalacrocorax africanus		
White-breasted Cormorant	Phalacrocorax carbo (Lacaud)		
African Darter	Anhinga rufa		

Part of the Botswana checklist generated by the system

- extract data for a species or location (particularly useful if you have a specific bird that you want to see – you can find out where it is most frequently seen)
- create your own maps.

In addition to the above uses for contributors, a 'reporting rate' will be calculated for each bird species, being a percentage of the number of day lists entered in which that particular species was recorded. For example, the Cape Turtle-Dove (based on the Botswana Bird Atlas data in the system) has a reporting rate of 63%, making this one of the most common and widespread species in the country at present. If, in 2016, this has dropped to 50%, this would be a quantitative negative change in the status of the bird, and cause for concern. In this way, your data will be contributing to the monitoring of a wide range of bird species throughout the country.

### Strength in numbers

A final word about Botswana Tickbird – the larger the number of people who participate in the system, the more robust and useful it becomes. We need birders from all walks of life to participate in order to guarantee widespread coverage and the entry of sufficient data to make analysis meaningful. Please encourage fellow-birders to log-on and give their birding a useful purpose – contributing to the monitoring of Botswana's diverse avifauna.



This project is supported by the RSPB, the BirdLife International Partner in the UK.

# WOW!

## New website helps flyway project take off ...

BirdLife International 29-04-2008

The Wings Over Wetlands (WOW) Project has launched its new website. The pages give an insight into the largest international wetland and waterbird conservation initiative ever to take place in the African-Eurasian region.

WOW is fostering international collaboration along the African-Eurasian flyways, building capacity and demonstrating best practice in the conservation and wise-use of wetlands.

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**“Waterbird migrations are presently underway across much of Europe, as birds head back from Africa to their northern breeding grounds. The WOW project is helping to safeguard this amazing sight for future generations to enjoy”**

—Dr Leon Bennun, Director of Science, Policy and Information at BirdLife International

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The new website gives visitors an overview of the different components of the project. It provides information on the Critical Site Network Tool and the Flyway Conservation Training Framework. Furthermore, the website also contains pages for demonstration projects being carried out in 12 African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbird Agreement (AEWA) countries.

Demonstration projects focus on critical issues in wetland management. These include community mobilization, management planning, ecotourism, wetland restoration, and control of invasive species, transboundary management, awareness-raising and alternative livelihoods.

WOW is a joint effort between Wetlands International, BirdLife International, the Global Environment Facility through the United Nations Environment Programme, the Secretariat of the AEWA, the Ramsar Convention Secretariat, the United Nations Office for Project Services and a range of donors and local partners along the African-Eurasian Flyways.

The WOW Project Website can be found at [www.wingsoverwetlands.org](http://www.wingsoverwetlands.org)



Pete Hancock is trying to establish an archive of back numbers of the Familiar Chat. If any member has hard copies of issues predating January 2005, it would be greatly appreciated if they could make them available to him at  
PO Box 1529, Maun. telephone 6865618

### The Red List 2008: Climate Change and Continental Drift

Climate change has become firmly established as an accelerant to many of the factors which have put one in eight of the world's birds at risk of extinction, today's publication of the 2008 IUCN Red List assessment for birds has found.

Long-term drought and sudden extreme weather are putting additional stress on the pockets of habitat that many threatened species depend on. This coupled with extensive and expanding habitat destruction has led to an increase in the rate of extinction on continents and away from islands, where most historical extinction has occurred. The 2008 Red List makes grim reading with 1,226 species of bird now threatened and eight species newly uplisted to Critically Endangered, the highest threat category.

Of the 26 species that changed category owing to changes in their population size, rate of decline or range size, 24 were uplisted to a higher level of threat. These include widespread continental species like Eurasian Curlew *Numenius arquata* and Dartford Warbler *Sylvia undata*, both previously of Least Concern, and now regarded as Near Threatened in a global context. In Australia, Mallee Emu-wren *Stipiturus mallee* is undergoing a very rapid population decline, and its habitat is now so fragmented that a single bushfire could be catastrophic. Years of drought, particularly in the southern and western parts of the species's range, have affected the health of the vegetation on which it relies and has almost led to the emu-wren's extinction in South Australia where the last significant population comprises 100 birds confined to 100 km<sup>2</sup>.

In the Galápagos Islands, Floreana Mockingbird *Nesomimus trifasciatus* is confined to two islets off Floreana. Its population has declined from an estimated maximum of 150 individuals in 1966 to fewer than 60, and is now at risk from extreme weather events. As a result it has been uplisted to Critically Endangered. In Papua New Guinea, deforestation caused by a rising demand for the cultivation of palm oil has led to species such as New Britain Goshawk *Accipiter princeps* being uplisted to a higher threat category.

However, there is some good news. Two species whose situation has improved are Marquesan Imperial-pigeon *Ducula galeata* and Little Spotted Kiwi *Apteryx owenii*, both the beneficiaries of conservation. Actions plans put in place have resulted in the downlisting of both species to lower threat categories.

*“This goes to show not only that conservation action works but that it is vital if we are to prevent the extinction of these and other species. Species are being hit by the double whammy of habitat loss and climate change. As populations become fragmented the effect of climate change can have an even greater impact, leading to an increased risk of local extinctions”*

-Dr Stuart Butchart, BirdLife's Global Research and Indicators Coordinator

Climate change is likely to figure more prominently in future Red List updates. To combat the ever increasing threat of extinction to so many species, BirdLife has launched the Preventing Extinctions Programme, the biggest and most wide-ranging bird conservation programme the world has ever seen. The Programme targets all 190 Critically Endangered birds on the 2008 IUCN Red List, by finding 'Species Champions' who will fund the work of nominated 'Species Guardians' for each bird – organisations and people best placed to carry out the conservation work necessary to prevent the loss of these species.

**For further information contact** Martin Fowle at BirdLife International, Cambridge, UK  
tel. +44 (0)1223 279813

# Brief Observations re Bird Ringing at Botshabelo

A report by Nicky Bousfield in Francistown

I have been trapping, ringing and releasing birds in the 10 acre housing estate within the city boundary of Francistown for the past 5 years. I have attempted to make one effort per month, using the same area of mist nets over the same period of time per exercise. Fascinating information has emerged, raising queries and concerns.

August 2003 - total birds trapped 83

August 2004 - no record

August 2005 - total birds trapped 71

August 2006 - " " " 70

August 2007 - " " " 21

During these periods, prevailing weather conditions were variable but similar overall. Is the severe decline in numbers a consequence of the severe black frost experienced last June, due to the frenetic construction and increased human intervention brought about by rapid urbanization or is it something more sinister?

It is well known that birds are a reliable indicator of environmental health. Should we be concerned?

\* please note that August is too early for migrant arrivals, except the Black Kite, so do not think of Avian Flu!

*Ed: Nicky submitted the article below from the Telegraph to further corroborate her concern.*

## Migrating Bird Numbers Plummet in UK

A report by Paul Eccleston in the Telegraph newspaper 21-04-08

A new study by the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) has revealed disturbing figures:

- \* garden birds decline by 20% in four years
- \* feeding birds may affect migratory species
- \* climate change confuses migrating birds

The fall in numbers of birds completing the annual journey from Africa has been so dramatic that scientists fear it is part of a seismic environmental change. The spotted flycatcher, turtle dove and tree pipit numbers have declined by more than 80% while once familiar small songbirds such as the willow, marsh & garden warblers are down by about 75%. The cuckoo, traditional herald of spring, is down by almost 60%.



the Hoopoe is a European migrant

The birds often weigh only a few grams and face arduous and dangerous journeys of thousands of kilometres from their winter homes in sub-Saharan Africa to Britain and Europe. Many do not survive, falling prey to hunters or predators such as hawks. Bad weather and shortage of food also take their toll but there is nothing to explain the widespread collapse in numbers from dozens of species. Climate change and loss of habitat, particularly in Africa, may be a part of a complex set of factors which together have conspired against the birds.

The RSPB survey reveals that of the 36 species which make the journey from Africa to Britain for which there is long-term data, 21 have declined dramatically. Two, the red-backed shrike and the wryneck, have become extinct while a further 11 have suffered more than 50% decline. For a further 42 migrants for which there is only short-term data, more than half - 23 - are in decline.

The annual migration of an estimated 16 million birds into Britain every year – and possibly as many as 50 billion into Europe as a whole – is one of nature’s marvels. Birds which have to fly south in Autumn to find food and to avoid the northern European Winter return in Spring to breed.

Many such as swallows and house martins will use the same nest site year after year as long as they breed successfully, but the drop in breeding numbers has been so dramatic that it is unsustainable and some species will become extinct unless the trend can be reversed.

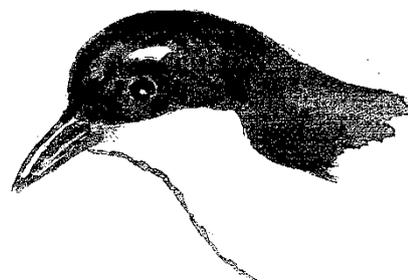
Dr David Gibbons, the RSPB’s head of conservation science said “At the moment we do not know what the answer is. It may be a problem in the wintering grounds – desertification or drought – or it could be something in the breeding grounds. With the Yellow Wagtail for instance we know that changes in agriculture have meant it is struggling to breed with the same success. Previously it was producing multiple broods but this is not happening any more.” He added “It seems as though there is a big signal emerging from all the noise – that migrants as a group are declining – but we haven’t yet found the smoking gun.”

Dr Gibbons said it was possible migrant birds were losing out to residents who bred earlier and who made the most of available insect food. Migrants were arriving and finding much of the vital food resources, such as caterpillars, already depleted.

*Ed. In the next issue we will follow up on the recent meeting of scientists and ornithologists in Germany.*

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Another item of interest from Nicky in Francistown is a local variation that she has noticed in the resident Tropical Boubou (*Laniarius ethiopicus*). A number of these birds have been ringed in recent years and almost all have a white patch in the black crown above the eye, resembling the remnant or start of a white eyebrow stripe, as per her sketch. *Any comments ?*



# Gaborone Branch Bird Walk – Moshupa Hills - 6 April 2008

Sandra and John Stonehill

It's 5am, cold and dark and we are tempted to stay put under the duvet but we only have to do it once a month and we force ourselves to get up and go. Warm gear on, breakfast packed and off to join the other 'birders' at the Museum. A quick briefing from Mike and the Bird Walk 'Caravan' sets off, a motley assortment of 10 or more 4x4's, bakkies and saloons snaking its way out of Gaborone.



Today we are going to Moshupa, about 60km, with plenty of opportunity for losing those who are reluctant to ignore red lights on our way out of town. We have several stops en route to pick up more birders and re group before following Chris towards Moshupa village where we dive off the tarmac and onto the gravel and finally dirt roads. It's a challenge to try and remember each tree, rock and fence post so that we will be able to retrace our steps when it's time to head for home.

Chris is already 'spotting' and stops to point out some short-clawed larks before we arrive at the end of the road – close to a kopjie. We set off up a huge flat, bare rock with piles of massive boulders, their surface dotted with bright green lichens. One of these boulders appears to have just been split in two like a pea although it probably happened decades ago. Other rocks have wild figs growing on them; their roots look like they have been poured over the rocks. From the top of the slope we have a wonderful view of Moshupa Village and the hills beyond.



John heads off to photograph some flowers but comes back with the skull of a Vervet monkey, doing his 'Hamlet' "Alas poor Yorick..." speech. He spent the rest of the morning worrying that he might slip and crack 'his' skull.

This place is so unspoilt and full of flowers, butterflies, trees, oh ... and birds, and the group breaks up to explore, climb the rocks and just enjoy the natural beauty. With the temperature rising now the layers start coming off and before long we head back to the cars for breakfast and chat.

Daphne reviews the list and it is agreed that we have 55 species to enter on 'Tickbird' (go to the web site: <http://www.worldbirds.org/v3/botswana.php> to find out what we saw), these included many House Martins and European Bee Eaters, making their last or nearly last appearance before heading north. Splendid morning. Thanks to Mike and Chris. Do join us on the next walk.

# Committee of BirdLife Botswana 2008

<b>Chairman</b>	Harold Hester
<b>Vice-Chairman</b>	Mike Goldsworthy - also membership secretary
<b>Hon. Treasurer</b>	Jane Fleming
<b>Secretary</b>	Sandra Stonehill

## Committee members

Balisi Bonyongo  
Guy Brina - organiser of activities in Francistown  
Chris Brewster - recorder  
Mary Lane-Jones  
Dolina Malepa -  
Doreen McColaugh – education  
Geoff & Trish Williams - organisers Kasane  
Eugenie Skelton – editor *Familiar Chat*  
Ian White –  
Lucas Rutina –

## Staff members

Kabelo Senyatso – Dir. & Conservation Officer  
Pete Hancock - Conservation Officer Maun  
Keddy Mooketsa - Assistant CO – Gaborone  
Mooketsi Mfolwe – Assistant CO – Maun  
Virat Kootsositse – Ass. CO Gaborone

## Records sub-committee

<b>Recorder</b>	Chris Brewster, PO Box 2316, Gaborone
<b>Secretary</b>	Keddy Mooketsa Andrew Hester Huw Penry Stephanie J. Tyler Richard D. Randall

## Conservation/Research sub-committee

<b>Chair</b>	Pete Hancock (birdlifemaun@ngami.co.za) birdlifemaun@botsnet.bw Kabelo Senyatso Stephanie Tyler Graham McCulloch Sekgowa Motsumi Caspar Bonyongo
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## Editorial sub-committee (*Babbler*)

<b>Editor</b>	Stephanie J. Tyler
<b>Asst. Editors</b>	Pete Hancock & Doreen McColaugh

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Website: [www.birdlifebotswana.org.bw](http://www.birdlifebotswana.org.bw)

## Growing Your Nest Egg

**Harold Hester will be giving a further course of 4 lectures  
over a month ( August/September) on how to invest on the stockmarket.**

Cost P1000 per person or P750 per person for 2 or more family members.

Please contact Harold for further information

3161766 or [harold@accelerate-it.co.bw](mailto:harold@accelerate-it.co.bw)

*All proceeds will go to BirdLife Botswana*

# *For All Eternity*

If you would like a really special way to remember someone who cared about the bush and its birds, an *In Memoriam* gift to BirdLife Botswana is something you may want to think about. That's because your gift would go directly towards protecting and conserving our birds and the environment in which they live. BLB is working assiduously to protect our birds and promote an interest in them. We are particularly trying to interest children in learning to appreciate and love our birds.

Your *In Memoriam* gift can ensure a future for the birds that meant so much in the life of someone who is sadly no longer with us. In celebrating the name of someone who cared about these things, you can help us learn more about endangered species, and promote the popularisation of a healthy pastime for others and in so doing, protect these precious birds and the environment.

It may be that you, your family and friends would like to do something more to honour the memory of the one you have lost. If so, you may wish to consider a *Feather Fund* in their name (e.g. the Mary Wilson Feather Fund). This on-going personalised fund will celebrate their memory, and can be added to at appropriate times, like special anniversaries that you may wish to honour. There are many ways in which friends, relatives and colleagues may wish to increase the *Feather Fund* – from fund-raising to making a regular donation. Just let us know if you would like to know more about this rewarding way to sustain the memory of someone who had a special love for birds and the bush.

Please contact Harold Hester on 3161766  
or email him at [haroldh@accelerate-it.co.bw](mailto:haroldh@accelerate-it.co.bw)

## BirdLife - Jwaneng

Our brand new Jwaneng branch has started – contact Kabo Ditshane for details  
[kditshane@debswana.bw](mailto:kditshane@debswana.bw)

## BirdLife Events 2008 - Gaborone

Date	Event	Remarks
June 17	Talk	Virat
July 6	Walk	Notwane
July 12, 13	Water bird counts	S Tyler
July 15	Talk	
August 3	Walk	Bokaa
August 19	Talk	
September 7	Walk	Mogobane
September 16	Talk	
September 28, 29	National meeting/camp	Francistown
October 5	Walk	Gabane
October 18	Annual dinner	Kgale Siding
November 2	Walk	Modipane
November 18	Talk	
December 7	Walk	Mokolodi

1. **Bird walks** start at 06:30 October to April and 08:00 May to September. Meet at the museum.
2. **All talks** take place at the National Museum at 19:30.

## BirdLife Events – Francistown

The museum is located at the corner of the first turn to the left as you travel from the Bulawayo roundabout towards the light industrial area.

If you have any questions about the club, please call Guy Brina on 2412913 or email him at [gltm@botsnet.bw](mailto:gltm@botsnet.bw).

## BirdLife Events – Kasane

This branch plan to meet on either the last Saturday or Sunday of the month. Check the website [www.birdlifebotswana.org.bw](http://www.birdlifebotswana.org.bw) for details

## Calendar of Events 2008 – Maun

Date	Activity
June 11th	Film - Life of Birds
June 14 <sup>th</sup> & 15th	Kwebe Hills
July 9 <sup>th</sup>	Film – Talons: the Story of a Crowned Eagle
July 12 <sup>th</sup> & 13th	African Waterbird Counts – Thamalakane and Boteti Rivers
July 19th	African Waterbird Counts – Lake Ngami
July 26 <sup>th</sup> & 27th	African Waterbird Counts - Moremi
August 13th	Film - Okavango Magic
August 16 <sup>th</sup> & 17th	Field outing – venue to be announced
September 10th	Film - Birds and their Ways
September 13 <sup>th</sup> & 14th	Field outing to Nxai Pan
October 8 <sup>th</sup>	Bird Quiz
October 11th & 12th	Field outing – venue to be announced
November 12th	Film - Flying Devils
November?	Big Birding Day
December 10th	Film – Amazing Behaviour of Birds of the Kruger National Park

**Evening activities** (talks, films etc.) are held at Maun Lodge starting at 19h00 unless otherwise indicated.

**Field outings** on weekends commence from the parking area outside Ngami Toyota. Exact details for outings (e.g. time of departure) are announced at the evening meeting prior to the field outing.

**Additional activities** may be scheduled depending on demand.

**Note** that there will always be an activity on the dates listed – these dates can be diarized with a high degree of certainty that an activity will take place. If there is an unexpected problem with the listed activity, another will be substituted.

**Contact** P Hancock at BirdLife Maun office for further information - 6865618.

**Maun office address** – P O Box 1529, Maun