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Sketch: D Butchart

EDITORIAL

This issue contains a wealth of interesting information on vultures (among other things), and readers may wonder why we have chosen to focus on this particular group of birds. It is because all African vultures, with very few exceptions, are now recognised as being Globally Threatened – including even the seemingly abundant White-backed Vulture. The well-known, catastrophic decline of Asian vultures in the short space of little more than a decade, has also highlighted the vulnerability of this group of birds to extinction. Vultures occupy a precarious position at the top of the food pyramid, as any disorder lower down in the food chain impacts particularly severely on scavengers.

The Cape Vulture has long been regarded as a bird of concern in Botswana and the proclamation of Mannyelanong Game Reserve by the Botswana Government in 1985 was one of the first initiatives on the continent to protect a vulture's breeding area. However, the Lappet-faced Vulture was also subsequently recognised as a 'red data book' species, followed recently by the White-headed and White-backed Vultures. It is for this reason that BirdLife Botswana has launched a project entitled 'The Lappet-faced Vulture – a flagship for threatened raptors in Botswana' and we are slowly gathering data on the numbers and distribution of vultures and other raptors, as well as an insight into the threats that face them.

Botswana undoubtedly has important populations of the five major southern African vulture species, but this situation seems set to change if conservation action for the species is not undertaken. Particularly disturbing has been the discovery of a poisoning incident on a Hainaveld farm late last year where 80 vultures were needlessly killed when a

farmer put out poison for lions that had been marauding his cattle – this may just be ‘the tip of the iceberg’.

Hence this editorial – vultures are a beleaguered group, and we urge members of the public to continue to send us information on all species in Botswana.

Pete Hancock



USEFUL TERMINOLOGY

Confusion sometimes exists over the use of the terms ‘endangered’ and ‘threatened’ when describing birds of conservation concern, so it is just as well to clarify the system followed by BirdLife Botswana and other professional conservation bodies. We all use the IUCN terminology and criteria, where the generic term ‘globally threatened’ is the umbrella for a range of specific threat categories, as described in the table below:

GLOBALLY THREATENED CATEGORIES

EXTINCT (EX): There is no reasonable doubt that the last individual has died.

CRITICALLY ENDANGERED (CR): Considered to be facing an extremely high risk of extinction in the wild.

ENDANGERED (EN): Considered to be facing a very high risk of extinction in the wild.

VULNERABLE (VU): Considered to be facing a high risk of extinction in the wild.

NEAR THREATENED (NT): A species is Near Threatened when it does not qualify for Critically Endangered, Endangered or Vulnerable now, but is close to qualifying for or is likely to qualify for a threatened category in the near future.

LEAST CONCERN (LC): A species is Least Concern when it does not qualify for Critically Endangered, Endangered, Vulnerable or Near Threatened. Widespread and abundant species are included in this category.

Specific criteria are used to categorise a bird's status – important factors are small size of the population, large or rapid declines, and small global distribution, for example.

THE ENVIRONMENTAL BIKE CHALLENGE

As the previous issue of this newsletter went to press, cyclists on the Environmental Bike Challenge (including BirdLife Botswana's Tsogo Maiphetho) were



approaching Maun towards the end of their 1,000 kilometre ride from Gaborone. The aim of the ride was to raise awareness and funds for four Maun-based Non-governmental Organisations - Bana ba naga, BirdLife Botswana, the Maun Tree Planting Foundation and Women against Rape – and included participants from each of these organisations.

The cyclists arrived in Maun mid-afternoon of Saturday 30th of June, after 10 days on the road, and were met by a crowd of well-wishers at Riley's Hotel. Many cold drinks were consumed by all!

Hon. R Ridge (back to camera) sees the cyclists off. On the road between Kang and nowhere ...



Puncture repair!

Last leg to Maun – Tsogo (in red) behind.

The ride generated a total of P12,000.00 in cash, in addition to which many individuals and companies provided sponsorship in kind. Of the cash raised, P3,000.00 accrues to BirdLife Botswana, and will be used for environmental education projects involving the youth – specifically, running bird awareness and identification courses for Boy Scouts in Ngamiland.

BirdLife Botswana would like to thank all the sponsors, listed overleaf, and the bike riders for undertaking this project. In addition, many individuals worked tirelessly



behind the scenes to make this a success and special thanks are due to Carl-Heinz Gimpel and Pamela Hafner for their unstinting support.

THANKS TO ALL SPONSORS

The following individuals/organisations sponsored the ride, in cash or kind:

Okavango Wilderness Safaris
Water Web Works
Riley's Garage
Airfield Filling Station
Checkers – Kgale Hill
Botsalo Score Supermarket
Fairground Filling Station
Circle Filling Station
Broadhurst Spar
Debswana Jwaneng Mine
Ghanzi Veterinary Department
Shell Botswana
Mmakgoduma Lodge
Kang Ultra Lodge
Okavango River Lodge
Tautona Lodge
Rileys Hotel
Gaborone Garage and Cycles
Tri-electrical
Mankwe Safari Lodge
Planet Safari
Mabutsane and Lonetree DWNP
J and J Lackey

Maun Rest Camp (J and S Paul)
S Ringrose
Letaka Safaris
M Kyriacou
G and M von Meer
Okavango International School
Orient-Express Safaris
D Carter
P Malik
Island Safari Lodge
Kalahari Canvas
G Montsho
The Studio and Drumbeat Safaris
Kgori Safaris
Steers
Maun Wholesalers
H Hester
Thadralai Investments
W Matheson
Spar
P vd Grift
B and D McColaugh

(The September issue of Familiar Chat, obtainable off the BirdLife Botswana website www.birdlifebotswana.org.bw, has an interesting, first-hand 'blow-by-blow' account of the ride, by Tsogo, for those interested in knowing what it is like to ride 1,000 kilometres without actually feeling the pain oneself!)

DID YOU KNOW?

- A satellite-tracked Bar-tailed Godwit flew 10,200 kilometres in just nine days. Now *that's* air travel!



AFRICAN VULTURES MENACED BY DICLOFENAC

BirdLife Africa Partnership statement

African BirdLife Partners now need to be on high alert as Diclofenac, a veterinary drug that has decimated Asian vulture populations, has recently been found on sale at vets in Arusha, Tanzania. The product in question is 'Diclofenac 50', manufactured by a Brazilian company called Ourofino, but Diclofenac can be marketed under many different brand names. A survey by the Wildlife Conservation Society of Tanzania is already underway to establish the full facts. This development could be absolutely catastrophic for vultures in Africa if it is not addressed immediately, preventing this avian killer drug from becoming an established veterinary drug. There are safe alternative drugs available, e.g. Meloxicam, 2007) so there is actually no need for Diclofenac at all.

In South Asia, populations of the endemic Oriental white-backed (*Gyps bengalensis*), long-billed (*Gyps indicus*) and slender-billed vultures (*Gyps tenuirostris*) have plummeted by more than 99% since the early 1990s and the few that are left continue to decline at between 30-50% per year. These three species, which together used to number tens of millions, are now at high risk of global extinction and are listed as Critically Endangered (IUCN 2004). Veterinary use of Diclofenac, a Non-Steroidal Anti-Inflammatory Drug (NSAID), is the cause of these declines on the Indian sub-continent.

Diclofenac is a widely available veterinary drug on the Indian subcontinent, where it is an effective painkiller, used for the symptomatic treatment and management of inflammation, fever, and/or pain associated with disease or injury in domestic livestock. However, it rarely cures seriously sick animals as it does not address the root cause of their illness. Vultures are exposed to Diclofenac when they consume carcasses of livestock that have been treated with the drug and nonetheless died within a few days of treatment. *Gyps* vultures are extremely sensitive to Diclofenac, which even in very low doses causes gout and death.

Veterinary use of Diclofenac in Africa could quickly put the Cape Vulture *Gyps coprotheres* (Vulnerable) in even greater danger of extinction, and further threaten Ruppell's Griffon Vulture *Gyps rueppellii* (Near Threatened), White-backed Vulture *Gyps africanus* (Near Threatened) and Griffon Vulture *Gyps fulvus* (Least Concern). *Gyps* vultures are very wide ranging. For example in just over one year a Cape Vulture satellite-tagged in Namibia covered at least 64,000 kilometres through six countries: Namibia, Angola, Botswana, Zambia, Zimbabwe and South Africa. Exposure to Diclofenac in a single carcass in any one of their range states could prove fatal, and threaten the more common species as well as the already rare ones.



Surveys of veterinarians and zoos document the outcomes of the treatment of over 870 scavenging birds from 79 species. NSAID toxicity was reported for raptors, storks, cranes and owls, suggesting that the potential adverse conservation impact of NSAIDs may extend beyond *Gyps* vultures and could be significant for all vultures. In Africa this would include the threatened Egyptian Vulture *Neophron percnopterus* (Endangered), White-headed Vulture *Trigonoceps occipitalis* (Vulnerable) and Lappet-faced Vulture *Torgos tracheliotus* (Vulnerable).

In contrast, there were no reported mortalities for the NSAID Meloxicam, which was administered to over 700 birds from 60 species. The relative safety of Meloxicam supports other studies indicating that it is a suitable substitute NSAID for Diclofenac.



As a consequence of the collapse of South Asian vulture populations, national and international conservation organizations have concluded that it is essential to ban the use of Diclofenac in livestock so as to remove it as a contaminant of the food of wild vultures. At a meeting of the National Wildlife Board in March 2005, the Government of India announced that it intended to phase out the veterinary use of Diclofenac within six months. In 2006, the governments of India, Pakistan and Nepal all banned manufacture, sending a very clear signal, and it is hoped that full retail bans will soon follow.

Diclofenac is not licensed for veterinary use in Europe or North America, but worryingly, it is starting to be used in some developing countries, Tanzania now included. It should be noted that Diclofenac is widely licensed for medical use for treating human ailments, but there is relatively little chance of human corpses becoming vulture food in Africa.

This briefing note calls for all concerned citizens and stakeholders to work with relevant authorities and other conservationists to assess whether Diclofenac is in veterinary use in their country, and where this is the case to stop/ban it. In countries where Diclofenac is not yet in veterinary use, it will be important to work with government authorities and civil society to alert people of its danger and to ensure it becomes pre-emptively banned.

Further information can be obtained from <http://www.vulturedeclines.org/>

STATEMENT ON DICLOFENAC USE IN BOTSWANA BY DIRECTOR OF VETERINARY SERVICES

Telephone: 395 0628
Facsimile: 390 3744
318 1383
Email:
Website: www.gov.bw
Ref.: HQ 10/2/1 X(51)



Department of Veterinary Services
Private Bag 0032
Gaborone
Botswana

25 July 2007

Conservation Officer
Birdlife Botswana Ngamiland Branch
P.O Box 1529
Maun

Dear P. Hancock

USE OF DECLOFENAC SODIUM IN ANIMAL HEALTH IN BOTSWANA

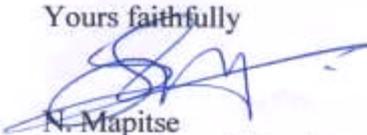
Our sincere apologies for responding this late to your letter submitted on same subject matter.

The drugs under question (declofenac and phenylbutazone) are not distributed by Government Livestock Advisory Centres since they are not over the counter drugs. Therefore it became logical for us to answer your question, to find out the extent of their use in private veterinary practice which also contributed to delay in responding to you in good time.

Following our survey with the private practices in Botswana, declofenac is rarely used since there are other potent drugs (remedal/meloxicam) available for use in small animals. Phenylbutazone is the preferred drug in large animals in private practice due to costs and efficacy. Phenylbutazone is used in few valuable beef animals and recreational horses/ponies. It is only a few farmers who can afford veterinary interventions on their animals, that will have a record of use of these drugs.

Therefore in conclusion, there is no widespread use of declofenac in Botswana.

Yours faithfully


N. Mapitse
For/Director of Veterinary Services

THE TRANS-OKAVANGO TRANSECT

The Trans-Okavango Transect is the brainchild of Maun businessman, Lars Elvenes – it is a scientific, data-collecting expedition that traverses the Okavango from Maun to Mohebo. The transect takes 8 days to complete, and was undertaken between the 15th and 23rd of September this year. It is supported by BirdLife Botswana and the Harry Oppenheimer Okavango Research Centre (HOORC); BirdLife Botswana was of course responsible for documenting the birdlife in the variety of habitats encountered, while a small team from HOORC monitored water quality, and collected samples of aquatic invertebrates and fish for analysis back at the Centre.

Tsogo Maiphetho undertook the bird monitoring for BirdLife Botswana. Among other things, he conducted African Waterbird Census (AfWC) transects along all major waterways. Some of these were existing transects that have been counted regularly since the 1990s, but many were new and added substantially to our coverage of the Delta.

Several African Fish-Eagle nests were recorded during the transect and will be monitored annually as part of our Okavango Delta Important Bird Area (IBA) monitoring, to determine breeding success of this raptor which is at the top of the food chain. Fish-Eagles are being used as environmental indicators in other parts of Africa, and could serve the same purpose in the Delta since they are conspicuous and well-known.

Photos: Stuart James Arnold/Kalahari Images



Tsogo and Lars at data collection point.



Tsogo looking for African Skimmer nests.

At the overnight stops, in the late afternoons and early mornings, comprehensive checklists of birds present were made and entered into Botswana Tickbird, BirdLife Botswana's web-based bird monitoring system. These records are available to all interested persons by visiting the site www.worldbirds.org/Botswana.

Highlights of the transect from a birding point of view were the following:



- ? The Boro heronry is very active - over 150 nests were counted with Great Egrets incubating, and 18 nests with Rufous-bellied Heron chicks. Only five nests of Reed Cormorants were seen, although it is suspected that larger numbers of this species are breeding - visibility in the reeds is not good. Six Slaty Egrets were counted at the site, and may be breeding there again. Dozens of Black-crowned Night-Herons were present, and these were probably just roosting in the reedbed. This site is worthy of special protection.
- ? African Skimmers, a Near Threatened species, were found breeding at Xigera Lagoon and along the Phillip Channel in significant numbers. However, there were fresh tracks of Water Monitors visiting nests at these sites and Marabou Storks were also seen, posing a threat to these breeding birds. The site at Xigera lagoon is however free from human disturbance.

The trip was extremely worthwhile in terms of new baseline information gathered, but the real value will show when the transect has been repeated over a period of several years. Special thanks are due to Lars Elvenes for inviting BirdLife Botswana to participate in this project.

BOTSWANA TICKBIRD - WORLDBIRDS IN BOTSWANA

Support our web-based bird monitoring system.

Enter your bird checklist - www.worldbirds.org/Botswana

NEW BEHAVIOUR RECORDED

The use of camera traps - automated cameras programmed to take photos at pre-set time intervals, or when triggered by an animal passing by - is quite widespread for research purposes nowadays. They have been especially successful for monitoring nocturnal predators, and Matthew Swarner has been using them around Ghanzi to assess the status of wild dog, brown hyena, leopard and lion in the area. The cameras are set up at carcasses, and take a photo every minute, day and night, for a protracted period.

One afternoon during mid-winter last year, Matt set up a camera at a donkey carcass - this was soon spotted by several White-backed and two Lappet-faced Vultures which landed nearby. By 18h00 it was already dark, but the photos, taken with an automatic flash, showed the vultures still feeding. At 21h00, they were still at the carcass, eventually leaving at 21h27! Interestingly, a Brown Hyena arrived soon after, and may have been responsible for the vultures' departure. The photo overleaf tells the story:





This is not an isolated incident – Matt has hundreds of photos taken at carcasses with several other examples of vultures feeding after dark. There is however no mention of vultures feeding during the night in *Vultures of Africa* by Mundy *et al.* (the definitive work on African vultures), but another farmer in the Ghanzi District has reported them drinking at one of his drinking troughs during the evening (possibly after feeding elsewhere). This behaviour is not only novel, but may indicate that the vultures face a potential food shortage – why else would they feed well into the night? By the following day, Brown Hyena and jackal had significantly reduced the amount of meat available to the vultures. If any readers have similar observations, or alternative views on the reasons for this behaviour, please contact the BirdLife office in Maun.

Acknowledgements: Matt Swarner is thanked for sharing his interesting observations. Clive Eaton (on whose farm the picture was taken) and other Ghanzi farmers are thanked for participating in Matt's scavenger study.

BIRDING BIG DAY

On Birding Big Day (BBD), teams of birders from throughout Southern Africa participate in a fun activity recording as many bird species as possible in a 24 hour

period. They also organise sponsorship – a certain amount of money per bird species recorded – and this money is used for bird conservation work.

This year BBD is on 24th November, and BirdLife Botswana is fielding two teams:

1. The Chobe Chalkers, comprising R Randall, M Muller and A Flatt will be operating in the Chobe area. This is a serious team, having recorded the highest number of birds of any team in Southern Africa, in 1999 and 2000.
2. The BirdLife Botswana Community team is made up of T Maiphetho, M Mfolwe, P Hancock, G Bikitshane and B France. They will be targeting the Lake Ngami area, and although this is their first BBD, they should achieve a high score.

If you would like to sponsor either or both of these teams, please contact the BirdLife office in Maun. All proceeds raised by the Chobe Chalkers will be donated to the BirdLife office in Maun, while the Community team is raising funds to support the Bosele Lake Ngami Conservation Trust, a community-based organisation committed to the conservation of the avifauna of Lake Ngami.

Any other Botswana teams preparing to enter are requested to make contact with P Hancock at the BirdLife Botswana office in Maun.

DID YOU KNOW?

- A comprehensive, critical review of recent literature on avian flu concluded that poultry trade, rather than bird migration, is the main mechanism of global dispersal of the virus.

PHOTO OF THE MONTH

Professional guide and photographer **Victor Horatius** sent in a spectacular series of photos of an adult Martial Eagle with its Steenbok prey, to share with readers. The Martial Eagle is one of our largest and most powerful raptors, and according to the new Roberts Birds of Southern Africa, mammals make up the bulk of its prey – species taken include hares and rabbits, young Chacma Baboons and other primates, Warthogs, Black-backed Jackals, Bat-eared Foxes, Caracals, genets, Striped Polecats, Ground Squirrels, Rock Hyraxes, Aardwolves and ungulates up to the size of Impala.

It is a Bird of Concern in Botswana, and its status requires further investigation. Please send information on sightings and breeding observations for inclusion in the BirdLife Botswana database. Enjoy the photo overleaf.





Many thanks to Victor for sending in this photo and for setting a new precedent – readers are encouraged to follow his example and submit any interesting bird photographs for publication in future editions of the newsletter.

BIRDS KNOW NO BOUNDARIES

1. MONTAGU'S HARRIER

I am currently working on a 3 year study of Montagu's Harrier *Circus pygargus* in Extremadura, SW Spain. My work is based at a recuperation centre for the species, AMUS. Montagu's Harrier breeding in Spain are increasingly threatened during the breeding season by early harvesting of the barley fields which are this species' preferred nesting habitat. Often, nests are cut by combine harvesters, and chicks are decapitated or sitting females are cut by the blades of the harvester. Our work involves locating nests and liaising with landowners and harvesters so that the nests are spared. We have a volunteer programme during the summer months, and participants from Africa, particularly those with an interest in the species, would be most welcome. Inquiries to amus100@hotmail.com and website details below (though at present the website is in Spanish, I can be contacted on my personal e-mail below for enquiries in English and French).

Since 2004, chicks that have been reared in the centre by adults previously injured by combines, have been ringed and marked with green plastic wing tags

upon their release. In addition, the current three year study involves trapping adults in the wild and marking them with a series of colour tags on both wings.

We are very keen to find out the wintering areas of these birds. It is likely in the sahel zone of West Africa, but birds could wander further afield to other countries on the continent.

Please keep an eye out for any Montagu's Harriers you might see in your area of Africa, particularly between September and February, checking for any colour tags. If you see any such birds, please let me know the date, time, place and habitat of the sighting. In addition to our tagged birds, there are also a large number of tagged juveniles that were processed in France this year. Please also keep an extra eye out for harrier roosts.

Thanks in advance for any help you might be able to give.

Yours faithfully,

Fergus Crystal

AMUS (Acción por el mundo salvaje)

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Editor's note: Montagu's Harrier occurs in Botswana during our summer months and is seen regularly along the Chobe floodplain, at Mpandamatenga, Nxai Pan, Makgadikgadi and around Rakops. Please route any sightings through the BirdLife Botswana office so that we get to hear about them too.

2. WHITE-BACKED VULTURE

Regular readers of the newsletter will remember the interest generated by the first sighting of a wing-tagged White-backed Vulture from Menoakwena. Other sightings are slowly being reported, and are adding pieces to the puzzle of regional vulture movements. Three more incidents have been reported ...

A wing-tagged White-backed Vulture was seen right in the north of the country in Linyanti. This bird, photographed and reported by Brian Rode, was tagged K029 by Abrie Maritz in the northern Cape as a fledgeling last year. The straight line distance between point of tagging and resighting is 934 kilometres. See photos overleaf.



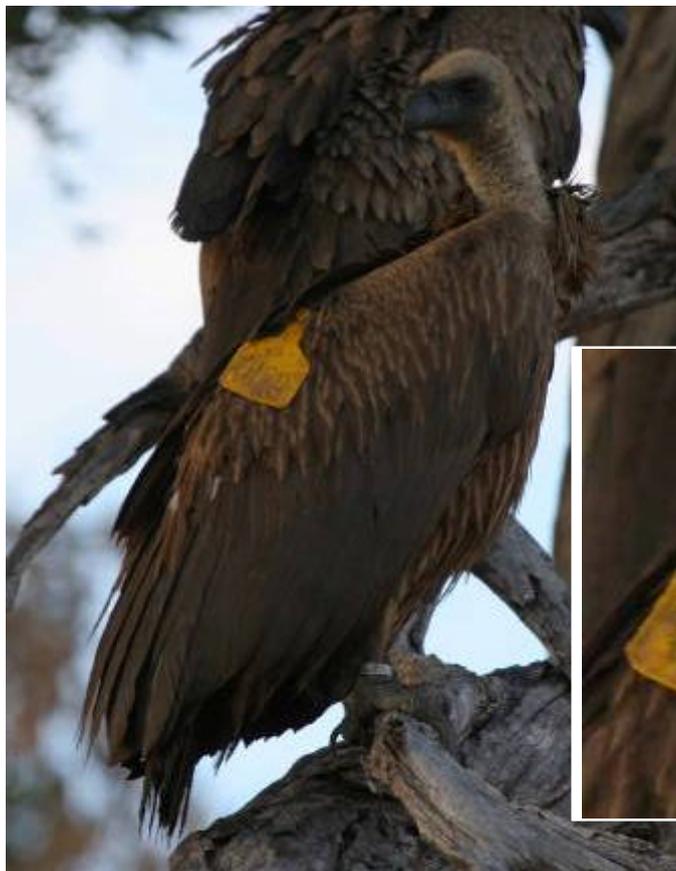


Photo: B Rode

Close up of the grubby tag

Sean Watson reported another wing-tagged White-backed Vulture from the Boteti area – this time K060 seen at Leroo-la-tau. This vulture was also tagged by Abrie Maritz in the northern Cape, and has moved at least 742 kilometres in the past 10 months. Only four months ago, it was seen in the North-West Province of South Africa – it certainly seems to get around!

Another tagged White-backed Vulture was seen in Moremi Game Reserve recently, and we are awaiting further details on this bird.

The pattern that is emerging is that young vultures hatched in the northern Cape are dispersing widely throughout Botswana, reaffirming the notion that vultures in Southern Africa are all part of one large 'metapopulation'.

STOP PRESS

Based on information provided by BirdLife Botswana member Mark Bing, and following a member outing to Coombe's farm in the Tuli Block (see Familiar Chat September 2007), it became apparent that the Limpopo River and its tributaries support a large breeding population of White-backed Vultures. This area falls within the Limpopo-Shashe Transfrontier Conservation Area (TFCA), and we were

able to make contact with the Co-ordinator, Johan Verhoef, through our Patron Sedia Modise who works for the Peace Parks Foundation and was instrumental in establishing this TFCA. Johan very kindly put us in touch with various potential partners who he felt may be able to assist us to conduct an aerial survey of the nesting vultures, to determine the size of the breeding population.

To cut a long story short, this area does have a very large White-backed Vulture breeding colony, possibly the largest in Southern Africa. This adds another important component to the Limpopo-Shashe TFCA - vultures are ideal ambassadors for the TFCA concept as they know no boundaries. Our thanks are due to Pete le Roux and Jeanetta Selier from Mashatu, Jacques van der Merwe from Tuli Safari Lodge and especially to Warwick Mostert and his team from Venetia for their assistance. More about this in the next newsletter.

CONTACT ADDRESSES

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Visit our website <http://www.birdlifebotswana.org.bw/>

BIRDLIFE BOTSWANA MISSION

BirdLife Botswana aims to conserve birds and important bird habitats, by creating awareness, carrying out research and promoting beneficial relationships between birds and people.

This newsletter appears quarterly. If you would like to contribute an article on your field observations or bird conservation project, please send it to birdlifemaun@ngami.co.za



Membership Details

Membership is due in *January* of each year, as the subscription runs from January to December.

Rates

- Resident - entitles you to both Babbler issues and the quarterly Familiar Chat (per family): P120.00
- Corporate - (4 families): P2000
- Professional – rangers and guides (Babbler and Familiar chat): P60.00
- Bona fide students: P15.00
- Life - P2000
- Schools/Clubs - nil
- SADC Region - P150
- Overseas (and outside SADC) – P200

The following details are required:

I/We/Dr/Mr/Mrs/Ms: _____ wish to become members of BirdLife Botswana

Address: _____

Home/Cell Phone: _____

Work phone: _____

Email (PRINT please): _____

I acknowledge that my family dependents, invitees and I take part in the BirdLife Botswana organised events entirely at our own risk. I, in my personal capacity and as representative of my spouse, children, dependents, and invitees hereby keep BirdLife Botswana, its committee, members and agents indemnified and hold them harmless against all loss, injury, or damage to person or property from any cause (including negligence) arising as a result of our participation in events organised by BirdLife Botswana.

Signed _____

Date: _____

Please make your cheque payable to 'BirdLife Botswana'

Please return this form with your subscription to one of the addresses given below:

The Secretary (membership)
BirdLife Botswana
P/Bag 003
Suite 348
Mogoditshane
Botswana

Pete Hancock
PO Box 20463
Maun

or phone Pete to
collect 6865618

Guy Brina
Private Bag F12
Francistown

or phone Guy to
collect 2412913

Trish Williams
Private Bag K4
Kasane

or phone Trish to
collect 6250341

OFFICIAL USE

Card issued? _____

Data base _____



Birds of Concern Reporting Sheet

BirdLife Botswana is very interested in collecting information on Birds of Concern – they are species that are either globally or nationally threatened. **Please use the format below when submitting sightings to make computerisation of the data easier.**

Note that the co-ordinates of each sighting are essential – it is convenient to get these from a GPS but of course they can be read off any good map. If you have a GPS, please set the datum to WGS 84 and the position format to decimal degrees. If you use any other datum/format, please just let us know what it is. Information in **bold** in the table below is the most important, if you cannot collect it all.

Species (see list below)	GPS co-ords		Quarter degree square e.g. 1923C4	Area e.g. NG 19	Locality e.g. 2 km west of Machaba	Date	Time	# of birds	Ad. M	Ad. F	Ad. ?	# of Imm.	Observer (your name)	Comments
	S	E												

The species that we are interested in are the following:

Slaty Egret	White-backed Night-Heron	Wattled Crane	Grey Crowned Crane	Lesser Flamingo
Cape Vulture	White-headed Vulture	Lappet-faced Vulture	Hooded Vulture	Pallid Harrier
Bateleur	Martial Eagle	Long-crested Eagle	Lesser Kestrel	Pel's Fishing-Owl
Kori Bustard	Southern Ground Hornbill	African Skimmer	Rosy-throated Longclaw	
Black-winged Pratincole				

Breeding records for these species would also be invaluable.

Please send this information to:

[BirdLife Botswana](mailto:birdlifemaun@botsnet.bw), PO Box 20463, Maun, BOTSWANA. Alternatively, please e-mail us at birdlifemaun@botsnet.bw

