

FAMILIAR CHAT

March 2006

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**Newsletter of Birdlife Botswana
Private Bag 003 #348,
Mogoditshane,
Gaborone**

Dear Friends,
During 2005, Glen Stephens took on the thankless task of organising a programme of activities for Birdlife members in Maun. We are greatly appreciative of everything he has done and it is now time for some one else to take over. We welcome the offer by Doline Bridges to continue where Glen left off.

Bennie van den Brink who was ringing Swallows in Notwane sent us this exciting message from Safring.
An adult bird ringed on 31 January 2003 in Notwane, Gaborone was caught and released on 17 September 2005 at Kinroor, Prov. of Brabant, Belgium. Distance apart 8667 kilometres.

The Editor
Daphne Goldsworthy
Email : daf@botsnet.bw

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IF ANYONE CAN
Canon
CAN

XAKANAXA WATERBIRD COUNT

Birds are peaceful, harmless, beautiful and interesting flying animals. When dealing with them, one would expect a smooth and easy task, but hey, there is a lot involved. Going out counting birds is just about as dangerous as going out for a lion hunt.

The heavy rains this season have been good as well as bad - good in the sense that nature is pleased and the land is green and fresh. The rivers are flowing and ephemeral pans are almost everywhere, making a good rich habitat for birds.

The downside of the recent rains is that we seem to have had too much of a good thing. When we went out to do the African Waterbird Counts, the rains made the counts quite challenging!

Several Birdlife members from Maun went to Xakanaxa in Moremi Game Reserve on the 21st of January, to do the waterbird counts along the channels of the Maunachira River system. We were a team of ten members including the youngest member of the team, Miles, who is about five years. The other members of the team were Pete Hancock, Helmut and Hannelore Bendsen, Tsogo Maiphetho, Priscilla Ormand, Kiddy Sechube, Ofentse Mereroythe, Keone Tlholego and Segolame Dikakanyo.

We started off from the Harry Oppenheimer Okavango Research Center at Matlapaneng around ten in morning. We had a smooth run up to Moremi South Gate - the difficult part started in the park where the tracks were flooded. We had decided to travel to Xakanaxa via Xini lagoon, but we couldn't because of the condition of the tracks. We were nearly at Xini when we had to turn back because we couldn't cross one of the channels.

Further along, we got stuck in the mud, and were rained on, but it was all part of the fun. Spotting the heaviest flying bird - the Kori Bustard - was one of the highlights.



It was moving about the grassland, proudly and slowly in search of a meal. It seemed not be bothered by our presence. It just slowly and sedately walked away into the nearby bushes even when we stopped, to closely have a good view of the bird and take a GPS reading, since it is one of our birds of concern.

Both Pete's vehicle and the Bendsen's took turns in getting stuck in the mud en route to Xakanaxa. Luckily only one became stuck at a time, and we used the free vehicle to pull the other one out, with everyone pushing. Many thanks to the Bensons for bringing their vehicle - if we had only had one, we would never have reached Xakanaxa. When we finally arrived, we were welcomed by lots and lots of monkeys at campsite # 1 near the boat station. A guide from camp Moremi told us "There are fifteen lions nearby, in those bushes on that island, so watch where you go". Hmmm, funny.

Early on the morning of Sunday the 22nd, we had a quick face wash and were out in the channels of the Okavango on a boat. It was a double-decker boat and I was sitting on the roof to spot those birds that the crew below might have missed or overlooked. Upon seeing one, I would shout from the top, giving directions to the bird so that it could be identified and then recorded.

We counted waterbirds at five sites on the Maunachira River starting from Xakanaxa. The first, Xakanaxa Lediba, with co-ordinates :- S 19.18000 E 23.39500 (1923A2) had a total of 90 birds of 17 species. The coverage was incomplete, as we only covered the main known breeding and loafing areas, but did not systematically cover the whole lagoon. Numbers should therefore be regarded as minima.

Xakanaxa to Gadikwe Lagoon started where the river enters the lagoon:- S 19.13512 E 23.38046 and ended at Gadikwe 1 campsite, where the river leaves the lagoon at:- S 19.15699 E 23.24953. It thus covers quarter degree square 1923A2 and a small part of 1923A1, so the coverage was complete with 14 species and a total of 73 birds.

Gadikwe Lediba started and ended at:- S 19.15699 E 23.24953 which is Gadikwe 1 campsite (in square 1923A1). The coverage was incomplete because the main breeding area in the center was the focus of the count, but some birds were seen around the periphery of the lagoon - 16 species and 131 birds altogether.

From Gadikwe to Gcobega starts where the river enters Gadikwe at:- S 19.16732 E 23.23387 and ends where the river leaves Gcobega:- S 19.17518 E 23.21506. This stretch of the river had only 5 species and just 8 birds in total and the coverage was completed.

Gcobega Lediba in 1923A1 had 13 species and 40 birds in all. This was the last area to be covered, but the count was not completed since it started pouring with rain making the task difficult - maybe was one of the factors leading to the poor birdlife we found there.

Amazingly we only counted 336 birds of 32 different species in the whole of the system out of five sites. Cattle Egrets outnumbered other species, and some of the interesting birds seen included

African Marsh Harrier,
Spur-winged Goose,
Comb Duck,
Egyptian Goose,
Yellow-billed Egret,
Green backed Heron,
Woodland Kingfisher,
Long-toed Lapwing and
African Snipe.

Interestingly, we watched as some Marabous tended to their all-white downy chicks on their nests.

The 22nd was a Sunday when we did our counts, but just as soon as we got back to the campsite, we had to pack up and go. Monday was waiting - back to school for Miles and for some of us to work. We hit the road back to Maun at around 5 *p.m.*

So, just see how difficult birds can be to follow! Birders need to be persistent when looking for their little friends. The figures on the African Waterbird Count Form don't reflect the fun and the madness entailed in a bird count - that's where you are missing out, so go out and do some counts and experience the birding madness of your lifetime.

Enjoy your Familiar Chat and your birding!

Tsogo Pex Maiphetho

Tsogo has just joined the BirdLife Botswana Maun Office to help with computerization of nest records and maintaining the other databases that are kept there, and is an avid birder.

- Birds as Partners -

We would like to introduce ourselves as important members of Botswana's Waste Management Team. We birds are part of nature's clean-up crew and we play an important role in keeping Botswana clean and tidy by consuming dead animal carcasses, discarded food items and other human waste.

Our important clean-up crewmembers include Vultures,
Some carrion-eating Eagles and Crows,
As well as others such as the Marabou Stork.

In our environmental clean-up activities we are often assisted in nature by other scavengers (scavengers are animals that eat things that are already dead) such as Lions (yes, they scavenge as well as hunt their food),

Hyenas and Jackals, as well as by various insects such as Dung Beetles and the smaller bacteria and other varied decomposers. Even though other birds play an important role in the environmental clean up crew, in this article we will first concentrate on us Vultures who share our space with you here in Botswana.

We Vultures are birds that are typified by large size, heavy hooked beaks, necks wholly or partially devoid of feathers (that is because regular feathers on the neck would get dirty and matted when we stick our heads inside a carcass) and, for a bird of prey, relatively weak feet not suited to grasping prey. That is because even though we are known as birds of prey, we actually don't capture live prey and kill it - although some people think we do and punish us for things we really don't do. We feed on carrion (animals that are already dead), soar with ease during much of the day, and bathe in ponds and rivers.

Yes, we do like to keep clean!

Normally we are silent birds, but hiss and squeal when squabbling over food, which often happens when many arrive at a "kill" at the same time. Hey, just remember now that something or someone else did the "killing" - we didn't - and remember we just eat carrion from an animal that got sick and died or was involved in an accident with a car or something like that. Let us tell you a little more about ourselves.

We are the five species of vultures found in Botswana as listed below. First our names are given in the common English form, followed by the scientific name and then the name/s in Setswana.

- Cape Griffon/Cape Vulture (*Gyps coprotyeres*)
[Lenong lelefatshwa, Diswaane]



- Hooded Vulture (*Necrosyrtes monachus*)
[Motlhanka-wamanong]

- Lappetfaced Vulture (*Torgos tracheliotus*)
[Kgosiya, Bibing]



- Whitebacked Vulture (*Gyps africanus*)
[Lenong leletuba, Kopajamutla]



- Whiteheaded Vulture (*Trigonoceps occipitalis*) [Motlhanka-wamanong]

Some birds require very special habitats and so some of our brothers of other vulture species don't live here in Botswana. But because we do have that wonderful power of flight we can often zip across the borders (hey, we don't need a passport) and visit friends and family of our own kind there or find some food. Depending upon what part of Botswana you might be in, it could be possible to see all five species of us together cleaning up the remains of a carcass.

We vultures have excellent eyesight and while slowly soaring high in the sky can spot a carcass several kilometres away. Upon spotting a carcass we begin to gather and descend to land, ready to start managing the waste. If you look carefully at the gathering you will see that we really are several different species – each with its specialities. If an animal has died from old age, disease or from fighting and the carcass is still entire then some of us must wait until the bigger, stronger vultures,

such as the Lappet-faced Vulture get there to open up a carcass with their very powerful beaks. Sometimes other big birds of prey such as the Tawny Eagle and the Bateleur will also arrive to join the scavenging party. Some of us smaller species have to wait our turn and make do with what the big boys have left us. But we are good at cleaning up every little scrap after they have had their fill. The next time you see a bunch of us cleaning up a carcass, see if you can identify who is who. Sometimes you have to be quick because we can clean up a place in an hour or less, leaving just some bones for the Hyenas to chew up. Even the little pieces of bone left by the Hyenas are important for us to take to our chicks so that they get enough calcium in their diets which enables them to grow strong and healthy.

Unfortunately our numbers are declining because we can't find enough food outside of national parks and reserves because at times animal carcasses are burned up under old tyres or buried. And did you know some farmers poison carcasses to try and kill other scavengers like Hyenas and Lions that might also kill their livestock? But what happens is that we also die when we eat from these poisoned carcasses and sometimes as many as 20 - 25 of our brothers and sisters have perished at one poisoned carcass. Sometimes our nesting places are disturbed by humans and so we have no peace and can't raise our chicks properly. Another problem is that because of our excellent eyesight and other attributes, some traditional doctors try to capture and kill us for special body parts. Sometime we accidentally fly into - or even land on - the big overhead power lines and of course get electrocuted. All of these negative activities really reduce the numbers of this special environmental clean up crew as well as decreases our national biodiversity. Some of us are now on the endangered list, so please help us survive so we can continue to help you in waste management.

The variety of things made and used by humans continues to grow by leaps and bounds. After using them you humans often discard them indiscriminately. Many of these things are made of metal, plastic and wood that we cannot clean up. So, humans are going to have to help us and do their part too if Botswana is to ever have a clean environment again.

Submitted by Doreen McColaugh
Education Officer
BirdLife Botswana

WANTED

Someone who is
young or old,
male or female,
who has some initiative,
common sense and imagination,
who has a car
and access to a computer.
This person is needed to serve on our committee in Gaborone.
There is no pay
but he or she will mix with nice people,
have a fun time
and will receive satisfaction from knowing that their contribution is much
appreciated.
An in depth knowledge of birds or birding is not a requirement.

Darnaway Farm February 2006

Hubert and Camien



The camping weekend at Darnaway turned out to be a great success. No less than 5 new members participated. Although it was the rainy season the weather played along and afforded us excellent walks in the lush and green veldt bordering a strong flowing Limpopo.

Birding was excellent and no less than 91 species were identified, either by sight or sound.

A hardworking Red billed hornbill was feeding her chicks in a nest in a tree close by and their grateful squealings could be heard when they were offered a tasty titbit. The hornbill became more daring during the weekend and rescued crumbs etc. from the camp.

The brakes on one of the vehicles seized and so Saturday was spent trying to solve this with various suggestions. However with the combined efforts of the team and some tools from the farm house the problem were soon solved.



Snippets

Francistown Bird News

Guy Brina

Kabelo Senyatso, Birdlife Botswana's conservation officer joined us for the April meeting at the Supa-Ngwao Museum and updated us on where the national organisation is headed and explained how our membership fees are being put to good use protecting birds, wildlife and the environment. New and potential members are always welcome to join us for our meetings which are usually held on the second Wednesday of each month at the museum which is located at the corner of the first turn to the left as you travel from the Bulawayo roundabout towards the light industrial area. We are planning to make a day trip out to the newly constructed Ntimbale in the near future. If you have any questions about the club, please call Guy at 2412913.

Why did the duck put it's head in the stream?

To liquidate its bill!



World birds

A new program on the internet has recently been launched for Botswana. People can input their own bird lists and download lists of birds visit www.worldbirds.org/botswana and record all your sightings.

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Bird Ringing Lake Ngami

Peter D'arcy will be continuing with the bird ringing which he started at Lake Ngami last December.

If any of you are interested, or know of anyone else who may be interested, you are once again welcome to join him while he is ringing there for some or all of any of the following dates:

20th to around the 25th/26th April
17th through to around the 23rd of August
Sunday 17th through to Sunday 24th December

Please let him know if you are going so he can send you information about how to get there, what to bring with you, etc.. Please feel free to ask for any information related to this and he will try and reply as soon as possible.

He has a permit from the Ministry of Environment, Wildlife and Tourism which covers himself and anyone who wishes to join (as an already qualified ringer or who wishes to work as a trainee).

**Investments in 'Ecosystem' Health
Likely to Pay Dividends in War
Against Infectious Diseases**

Nairobi- Restoring tens of thousands of lost and degraded wetlands could go a long way towards reducing the threat of avian flu pandemics a new report today says.

The loss of wetlands around the globe (see notes to editors) is forcing many wild birds onto alternative sites like farm ponds and paddy fields, bringing them into direct contact with chickens, ducks, geese, and other domesticated fowl.

Close contact of wild birds and poultry species is believed to be a major cause behind the spread of avian influenza.

Clearing intensive poultry rearing units from the 'flyways' of migratory birds would also be prudent.

"Intensive poultry operations along migratory wild bird routes are incompatible with protecting the health of ecosystems that birds depend upon. They also increase the risks of transfer of pathogens between migrating birds and domestic fowl," says the study.

The report has been commissioned by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) from a team led by leading Canadian academic Dr David Rapport.

It focuses on the environmental factors underpinning the re-emergence of old diseases and which are likely to be triggering the rise of new ones like highly virulent avian influenza or H5N1.

The report's preliminary findings, announced at a scientific seminar on avian influenza taking place at UNEP's headquarters in Nairobi, concludes that current "heroic efforts" focusing on "isolation, quarantine, culls and medications" are likely to be quick fixes

offering limited short term benefits.

It recommends that governments, the United Nations and public health experts back environmental measures in order to counter the spread of diseases like H5N1.

Other possibly more controversial suggestions, aimed at reducing contact between wild birds and poultry, include shifting livestock production away from humans and other mammals such as pigs.

The report accepts that in some parts of the world, like S E Asia, separating poultry from people is at odds with generational cultural traditions and practices.

"As unpalatable as this may be, where it is clearly in the interest of preventing future pandemics with potentially catastrophic global effects, it can and should be undertaken," argues Dr Rapport, Honorary Professor of the Ecoystem Health Programme, Faculty of Medicine, University of Western Ontario, and a member of the firm EcoHealth Consulting of Salt Spring Island, British Columbia.

Shafqat Kakakhel, UNEP's Deputy Executive Director and Officer in Charge, said: "These thought-provoking findings will need to be looked at in detail by all those involved in fighting current and future threatened pandemics. However, what this research underlines is that the link between a healthy environment and disease prevention is no marginal topic, but an important component in public health policy in a globalized world".

He said: "There are numerous pressing reasons for conserving and restoring degraded ecosystems like wetlands".

The services they provide for humankind are vital and of great economic importance. Wetlands are natural water storage features, they filter pollution, help absorb

floods and are home to numerous species including fish.

"Their ability to disperse and keep wild birds away from domestic ones is now yet another compelling argument for conserving and rehabilitating them," added Mr Kakakhel.

The two day avian flu seminar, organized by UNEP, the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS) and the African Eurasian Water Bird Agreement (AEWA), has brought together experts from across the world.

The seminar builds on the work of the international Scientific Task Force on avian influenza established by CMS last August which now comprises experts from 13 UN Bodies, treaty organizations and non governmental organizations.

The report also comes in the wake of an expert workshop held in Curitiba. Brazil organized by the UNEP Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD).

The experts in Brazil concluded that a far wider range of species including rare and endangered ones may be affected by highly virulent avian flu than has previously been supposed.

These include big cats like leopards and tigers, small cats such as civets, and other mammals like martens, weasels, badgers, and otters.

The CBD workshop also concluded that over 80 per cent of known bird species, including migratory and non migratory ones may also be at risk with members of the crow family and vultures of particular concern.

The experts are also worried that the impact of the highly virulent virus may extend far beyond direct infection of species, including on livelihoods and trade as countries take measures to combat the problem.

Culling of poultry, especially in developing countries where chicken is a key source of protein, may lead to local people turning to 'bushmeat' as an alternative.

This may put new and unacceptable pressure on a wide range of wild living creatures from wild pigs up to endangered species like chimpanzees, gorillas and other great apes.

The CBD experts also expressed concern over the development of a genetic mono- culture of domestic poultry claiming that this makes many domestic fowl less disease resistant.

In late 2005, more than 120 governments endorsed resolutions at a meeting of three key wildlife treaties-AEWA, CMS and the wetlands treaty Ramsar-which recommend strengthening biosecurity in farming; improving global surveillance and research on avian influenza; developing early warning systems and avoiding ineffective or counter-productive 'quick fixes' such as culling migratory birds or destroying their wetland habitats.

Notes to Editors

The draft report: Avian Influenza and the Environment: An Ecohealth Perspective has been submitted to UNEP by David Rapport, EcoHealth Consulting, with contributions from John Howard, Luisa Maffi and Bruce Mitchell. A final version is to be published soon on www.unep.org.

In respect to wetlands, the report says "Wetland depletion has direct implications for migrating wild birds. Wetland habitat world-wide continues to decline (owing to agricultural expansion and urban development), resulting in fewer staging areas for wild migrating birds.

In these situations, remaining wet areas associated with rice paddies and farm ponds would be expected to be increasingly attractive to wild birds lacking sufficient natural habitat during staging, nesting and migration activities".

Since we were unable to get the speaker we wanted for our annual dinner planned for February it was decided to arrange a boat trip for our February meeting instead. Our dinner, at which we hope Graham McCulloch will be our speaker, is now scheduled for March.

We met with our bundles of brunch goodies and convenient cooler boxes before clambering aboard the CCA skimmer. (Grateful thanks to CCA.) Mike took us at a leisurely pace up the Chobe River; always close enough to the banks for us to identify the birds. The usual Reed Cormorants, African Jacanas, Pied Kingfishers and Darters marked our passage and kept us interested. The boat was so closely followed by a Wiretailed Swallow that we were convinced that it must have a nest between the pontoons. It graced us with a continual display of its beautiful blue back, orange cap and snowy under-parts, and was our welcome and willing companion for almost the whole trip.



We stopped at a convenient lodge to borrow a forgotten Cadac Key (no gas no bacon) and marveled at the beauty and precision of the thick billed weaver nests and the brilliance of the Red Bishops in the reeds nearby as we waited. As we progressed the white fronted Bee-eaters, Little Bee-eaters (Rex was asked by a client if they only eat little bees, Bettina smiled at the joke), and a Blue cheeked Bee-eater taxed our powers of identification, but we were fortunate to have Lyn (a professional guide for many years) on board and she helped with the task.

Leanne, our brand new birder, was excited when she spotted a dove to add to our list but had the wind taken out of her sails when asked "Which one?" (A red eyed dove). We later identified a Cape Turtle just to test her skills. Duncan, her husband was furiously keeping tabs so that all the birds could be recorded in their Bird book for posterity. They plan to make their bird sightings a record of their lives as Trish and Geoff have done for many years.



Before being in danger of heading down the rapids at Mowana (a possibility when the flood is higher but not to be recommended this day with two children, Josh and Megan, aboard) we took a left up the Kasai Channel and a sharp left into the small Kasai (or could be called the false Kasai - no-one was quite certain.) What we were all certain of, however, is that this is one of Kasane's hidden treasures. Undiscovered by tourists, it is a small, elongated backwater festooned with water lilies where the extravagant skies are separated from their exuberant reflections by a ribbon of reeds, papyrus and grasses.

We watched as a crocodile swam in porpoise style elegance through the water lilies into the reeds and laughed at the Hippos indignation at being disturbed in his own back yard. Ouma and Judy edged away from the front of the boat just in case. Guido, who is new to Kasane and helping us all recapture the wonder of it all with his "new to town eyes" and very large lenses, snapped away at birds, scenery and people.

A little Bittern graced the skies in tan, black and white splendor, the Fish eagle's call captured our attention as only it can, the Gymnogene headed out for the hunt and a coppery tailed Coucal floundered about inelegantly. A stone chat swayed in the breeze atop a reed and an exquisite Malachite Kingfisher reminded us again that nature is not stinting in its gift of beauty, even when it comes in small packages - but I do wonder if his Greyheaded Kingfisher cousin, sighted later, envies his more colourful plumage. A broad billed roller provoked a discussion on what the National Bird of Botswana should be and a Greenbacked Heron reminded us all how lucky we are to live in an area where a mornings outing can produce such a plethora of plenty. American greenbacks some of us may have in short supply, but the bird kind abound in the floodplains of our backwater to reward us all.

There we have it. The occurrence lately as we annual rainfall). The bright blue skies cotton wool clouds with the world was awash with time of the year as the moisture laden relaxed as they searched and knowledge of the more than others) and ate perfect day for us all. tag along spouses fed and companionable comfort and committee business discussed between contented silences and bacon butties.



sun was shining (rare head for almost double our breeze was gentle, the pregnant with snowy white, rain darkened undersides and the golden light we get this sun slants through the atmosphere. The people for birds, shared their love creatures (some knew so much their brunch. A near Keen birders were rewarded, watered in beauty and

Somewhere within all this verbiage you will find a list of the birds we saw and the people who saw them. The prize for finding them all(?) an open invitation to join us in Kasane on any of our activities. Find a list of activities and dates on the birdlife website and further on. Consider joining us on the weekend of 27th/28th May for our camp at Kazuma Pan (another hidden treasure) and watch this space for plans to go and see the Flamingos in Sua Pans.

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

Rates

- Resident - (per family) P120.00
- Corporate - P2000
- Professional – Rangers and guides - P60.00
- Life - P2000
- Students under 18 studying in Botswana – P15
- 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 (please

PRINT): _____

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 the address's given below:

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

Pete Hancock
PO Box 20463
Maun

or phone Pete to
collect 6862481

Guy Brina
Private Bag F12
Francistown

or phone Guy to
collect 2412913

Geoff Williams
Private Bag K4
Kasane

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Data base _____

BIRDLIFE BOTSWANA COMMITTEE MEMBERS

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	Geoff & Trish Williams	P. Bag K4 Kasane	6250341	williams@botsnet.bw

Birdlife Botswana

Gaborone Calendar of events for 2006

Date	Event	Remarks
April 2	6.30 am Walk	Pitsane Grasslands
April 18	Committee mtg	
April 18	Talk	
May 7	8.00 am Walk	Metsimotlhabe River
May 16	Committee mtg	
May 20	AGM	
May 16	No meeting	
June 4	8.00 am Walk	Boatle/Notwane
June 20	Committee mtg	
June 10/11	Quarterly camp	To be decided
June 20	Quiz	Goldsworthys
July 3	8.00 am Walk	Gabane
July 18	Committee mtg	
July 18	Talk	
August 6	8.00 am Walk	Phakalane
August 15	Committee mtg	
August 15	Talk	
Sept 3	8.00 am Walk	Mogobane
Sept 19	Committee mtg	
Sept 19	No talk	
Sept X	Annual dinner	Speaker: ROY COWGILL .
Oct 1	6.30 am Walk	Bokaa Dam
Oct 17	Committee mtg	
Oct 17	Talk	
Oct 21/23	Quarterly camp	Stevensford
Nov 5	Little birding day	HCH to organise, Tea at Gem Nursery
Nov 21	Committee mtg	
Nov 21	Talk	
Nov 26	Birding Big day	
Dec 3	6.30 am Walk	Walk with D.McColaugh
Dec 12	Committee mtg	
Dec 19	No talk	

1. Gaborone Bird walks start at 06:30 October to April and 08:00 May to September. Meet at the museum.
2. All Gaborone talks take place at the Botswana Accountancy College at 19:30.
3. Francistown Branch will hold their meetings on the second Thursday of each month, meetings will take place at the Supa-Ngwao Museum. 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.

Birdlife Botswana

Maun Calender of Events 2006

Date	Activity	Person leading
19/4/06	Film - Winged Migration	P Hancock
23/4/06	Field outing to Tale and Ngwaku pans	P Hancock
10/5/06	Film - March of the Penguins	D Bridges/T Maiphetho
14/5/06	Field outing to D'Kar Game Farm, Ghanzi	Pete Hancock
14/6/06	Film - Fascinating World of Birds	K Oake
17 & 18/6/06	Field outing to Central Kalahari Game Reserve	P Hancock
12/7/06	Film - Flying Devils	D Bridges/T Maiphetho
22 & 23/7/06	African Waterbird Counts - Thamalakane and Boteti	T Maiphetho
29 & 30/7/06	African Waterbird Counts - Moremi Game Reserve	P Hancock/T Maiphetho
16/8/06	Illustrated talk on BirdLife's work in Africa Film - Fascinating World of Birding	P Hancock
19 & 20/8/06	Field outing to Lake Ngami	D Bridges/T Maiphetho P Hancock
13/9/06	Film - The Weavers Tale Film - Talon: the Story of a Crowned Eagle	D Bridges/T Maiphetho
16 & 17/9/06	Field outing to Central Kalahari Game Reserve	D Bridges/T Maiphetho P Hancock
11/10/06	Film - Okavango Magic	D Bridges/T Maiphetho
14 & 15/10/06	Field outing to Okavango Panhandle	D Bridges/P Hancock
15/11/06	Film - Year of the Flamebird Film - Haunt of the Fishing Owl	D Bridges
18 & 19/11/06	Field outing to Makgadikgadi - Kwaraga campsite	P Hancock/D Bridges
6/12/06	Film - Fascinating World of Birding	D Bridges/T Maiphetho
9 & 10/12/06	Field outing to Central Kalahari Game Reserve	P Hancock

Evening activities (talks, films *etc.*) are held at Nhabe Museum 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 diarised 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/T Maiphetho for further information - 6860252

Birdlife Botswana

Kasane Calendar of events 2006

We plan to meet on either the last Saturday or Sunday of the month.

Date	Event	Remarks
March 26th	Mini Birding day (Competition) in the park Teams to meet at the park Gate at 7.00am Brunch/braai at Serondela	Open Game Drive vehicles will be arranged for every team. Suggest 6 per team.
April 30th	Short walk around Safari Lodge area followed by a talk by Lyn Francey on Raptor ID - Brunch at Sedudu Bar. Meet Saf. Lodge Car park 8.00am	Talk will be in the conference Centre of the Hotel
May 27 th /28 th	Camp at Kazuma Pan for Saturday Night. Convoy can be arranged for those unsure of the venue.	The spot was selected because it is accessible in a two-wheel drive vehicle. (members from other clubs most welcome)
June 25 th	Quiz on bird and animal calls at the seep followed by Braai. Meet sunset on The Seep	This is mid winter - we may well make it a midwinter "Christmas"
July 30 th	Movie evening and discussion at the school - David Attenborough's life of Birds.	Popcorn and sweets will be on sale.
August 27 th	"Show and tell" presentation of slides at a venue to be decided.	Hopefully we can get Gavin Blair to speak and show us his slides on this occasion
September 24 th	Guest speaker and Mini workshop. Marina. Time to be advised.	We are awaiting a reply to our invitation from the speaker of our choice
October 24 th	Night Drive. Meet at 17.30 at the farm.	The area around Chobe Farms and up the Lesoma Valley.
November 25 th	Fun Evening Function at a venues to be decided	Best story, quirk of the year, do something in celebration of birds. Boubou of the year prize giving