



"Inspiring birds, inspiring people"

NEWSLETTER no. 18 (March, 2014)



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Introduction:

Dear colleagues,
 In this edition you will learn again news from your colleagues and the activities of the network and beyond.
 This time we have also added some French text and I hope this will be helpful for the French-speaking colleagues.
 Thanks for you contributions.

*Chers collègues,
 Dans cette édition, vous apprendrez à nouveau des nouvelles de vos collègues et les activités du réseau et au-delà. Cette fois, nous avons ajouté aussi quelques textes en français et j'espère que ce sera utile pour les collègues de langue française. [voir le texte bleu].
 Merci pour vos contributions.*

On behalf of the core group, good reading!

Au nom du groupe de base, bonne lecture!

Roelof Heringa

Check also our website: www.migratorybirdsforpeople.org

MBP is now also on FACEBOOK : www.facebook.com/migratorybirdsforpeople

P.S.: your feedback is always welcome! / vos commentaires sont toujours les bienvenus!

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Supplement:

- **Map of the MBP-network & List of participants / partners + contact details core group** **33**

When you do not want to print the supplement: consider to print only pages 1 - 32

Lorsque vous ne voulez pas imprimer le supplément: envisager d'imprimer uniquement les pages 1 - 32



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Mission “Migratory Birds for People”

European wetland sites make up a chain along bird migration routes, and many of these sites have visitor centres that function as ways to engage local people. They connect the birds and sites to the visiting audience, local citizens, children, birdwatchers and other lovers of these Natura 2000-locations. It is our dream to get these birds, their migration routes and their sites firmly in the hearts and minds of the European citizens. We want to really connect the Natura 2000 sites and their centres and emphasize their importance as a coherent system by which thousands and thousands of birds roam across Europe and Africa. The idea is simple. The chain of sites and related centres linked by migrating birds is also directly expressed in the centre itself. Modern digital equipment and technique play an essential role in this flow of information.

The first step is to collect data of birds flying over Europe and Africa in all directions. This can be done by radio-and/or satellite tracking, as well as through sightings from local birdwatchers. Data of existing and extended tracking programmes can be used and displayed on large screens in each of the partaking visitor centres all over Europe, raising awareness amongst visitors that their centre is an important part of a chain of similar ones. Through indicators and digital software, local visitors can collect extra information of the particular site the birds are residing at the specific moment.

The input for the information mentioned above, is gathered by local amateurs and committed visitors and contains, for example, local made films, pictures taken by amateur photographers and actual counts and other gathered data. Every visitor centre, being a meeting point and a centre of all sorts of activities, is creating a database of information, connected through an interactive website, specially developed for the project.

The most important connection will be made in the minds of the visitors. During a visit or by means of a website, a visitor is asked to connect him or herself to a migrating bird by leaving his/her e-mail address behind. Through this e-address, information is broadcasted periodically of where and when the bird is flying, nesting, foraging and resting. The information gathered is giving an extra and in-depth view of the local circumstances in which the ‘connected bird’ is living at that particular moment in time. Thus the person or group of young students that are connected are given real-time impressions of the circumstances and conditions in which ‘their’ bird is residing.

By this ‘broadcasting’ of information and creating a life-long connection with a bird or groups of birds, a deeper understanding will be created among European citizens of the value of Natura 2000 wetlands. More than before, people will be able to understand the importance of their site in relation to the migratory routes or the birds. Information is made easily accessible by sending email messages and using the website and social media. With this knowledge, support for the conservation and management of the local site will increase as well as the support for the other sites will grow. Not only will people be involved in their own community and their local Natura 2000 site and wetland, they will also become a stakeholder for the other European Natura 2000 Wetlands.

With the migration routes as central chain, sites, centres and people will get connected. A better understanding of the importance of the network of site is created and an increased co-operation among centres is established. Not just for the partners taking part, but as a start for a European collaboration among centres and their organisations illustrating the wonders of migrating birds and their wetlands.

The “Migratory Birds for People”-programme is contributing to the CEPA-programme of Ramsar





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First Announcement!
Annual Meeting "Migratory Birds for People" 2014 will be held in the Centre de découverte du Scamandre Camargue Gardoise in Southern France. Please note the dates in your agenda: 14-16 September.

Première annonce!
Réunion annuelle "Migratory Birds for People" 2014 aura lieu dans le Centre de découverte du Scamandre Camargue Gardoise dans le sud de la France. S'il vous plaît noter les dates dans votre agenda, 14-16 Septembre.

Contact: Jérémiah PETIT, Conservateur RNR du Scamandre and Chris Rostron WWT/ WLI

The East Atlantic Flyway



You will find a nice **animation-movie** about bird migration by using the following link:

Vous trouverez un beau film sur la migration des oiseaux en utilisant le lien suivant :

<http://www.rijkevaddenzee.nl/nieuws/nieuws/animatiefilm-over-de-flyway>



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News from the network:



Finland : Liminganlahti conservation area



Winter is naturally very quiet season in the nature of the northern region like Liminka Bay.

This winter has been exceptionally mild and snow coverage has been very thin.

Vole species have been occurring in high numbers since last year and this clearly shows in the numbers of certain bird species.

Hawk Owls (*Surnia ulula*) have been common sights throughout the winter and also Great Grey Shrikes (*Lanius excubitor*) have been seen quite regularly e.g. from inside the visitor centre.

Even rarer winter visitors for the region have been two Hen Harriers (*Circus cyaneus*) and a Short-eared Owl (*Asio flammeus*).

Spring will be interesting if the vole populations are still on a high level – will the increase in the numbers of the **Pallid Harriers** (*Circus macrourus*) continue?



Perhaps the most unusual natural event during the early winter was the storm on 17th of November.

Storm lift the sea level up to +130cm above the average level and the landscape changed dramatically – shore line moved c. 1km from its average location.

Interestingly, tens of field voles and common shrews used the board walks near the visitor centre as life rafts during the flood!

The most popular event of the winter was again the “Winter of the animals” on 14th of December. This event is especially oriented for smaller children and their parents.



Participants were able to visit e.g. in the bears nest, meet otters and also a real-life batman was present in Liminka Bay!

Petri Lampila.

Liminganlahti Wetland centre



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Norway: Fetsund Lenser, Nordre Øyeren wetland centre

Lots of pupils (1100!) attended our carnivore days in November, December and January. Thanks to the County Governor of Oslo and Akershus, we were able to provide transportation and a free visit at the wetland center for the schools. The subject of the day was three of Norway’s four large carnivores, bear, wolf and lynx. During the day, the children attended three posts.

1. The carnivore box – where they learned about the biology of the three carnivores and how they should react if they meet them in the forest.



2. Carnivore research – where they learned about how we do research on big carnivores in Norway, and they also went outside to track a (teddy)bear.



3. Who killed the sheep? On this post the children had to resolve five “crime cases” and figure out which animal had killed the sheep.



Next out was our **World wetland day in February**- but unfortunately the weather conditions were not on our side and most people stayed at home. Those families that did come enjoyed different activities as making their own feeding table for birds, outdoor exhibitions, feeding the fish in our centre and several outdoor activities.

During winter break in week eight this year we decided to have some extra activities for children and the different activities we offered were: Learn about the beaver, learn about the brown bear, learn about wolf and lynx and learn about the birds. We experienced that the last two topics were especially popular.



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This winter has not been a very snow-rich winter in the south-eastern parts of Norway and most of the snow has now gone and the birds have already started their migration north. Skylarks, lapwings are coming, the whooper swans are making themselves heard.

A rather rare **Bewick's swan** was seen a couple of days and almost at the same time a very early **dark-bellied Brent Goose**.

Trude Starholm,
Nordre Øyeren wetland centre



Sweden: Naturum Lake Tåkern

Some nice news from here is that the ice is thawed from Tåkern two days ago. [See picture].

This brought on the arrival of one crane, hundreds of mute swans and bean geese, a few greylag, five white-fronted geese, some lapwings, and larks that start singing in the sky!

On Sunday, 2nd of March, we are opening up for visitors and call it "The day of the lapwing". It was a bit of a gamble to set this date, fields could have been knee deep with snow, but we were lucky.



The lapwings are here for Lapwing Day!

Ellen Hultman



Le dimanche 2 Mars, nous ouvrent pour les visiteurs et c'est "Le jour du vanneau huppé". Ils étaient arrivé à temps !



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Sweden: Naturum Getterön

Naturum Getterön – Newsletter spring 2014

While writing this newsletter it is windy, rainy and grey outside and there is not much action in our nature reserve. But we have had sunny days here, too, with nice bird visitors such as the Glaucous Gull (*Larus hyperboreus*) and plenty of White-tailed Eagles (*Haliaeetus albicilla*). Looking back at the past months we have had a good autumn and winter here at Getterön.



During our environmental friendly Christmas market in December we raised **USD 668** for bird conservation in Senegal (Association Nature Communautés Développement (NCD); www.ncd-senegal.org) – in cooperation with Wetlands International and our local nature conservation organization *Naturskyddsforeningen i Varberg*. The funds will be used for waterbird monitoring, awareness raising and conservation, e.g. training of local people in the basic skills in bird identification and counting as well as monitoring of wetlands of international importance. A nice connection between Sweden and Africa is that several bird species can be observed in both places (even if the individuals might not be the same), e.g. the Black-tailed Godwit (*Limosa limosa*), the Lesser Black-backed Gull (*Larus fuscus*), the Northern Shoveler (*Anas clypeata*), the Pied Avocet (*Recurvirostra avosetta*), the Great Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax carbo*), and the Ringed Plover (*Charadrius hiaticula*).

The money came mostly from the 30 sellers at the market – everyone had to pay a small fee in order to participate at the market and that money was 100% used for the bird project in Senegal.

In addition, some people visiting the market contributed with small amounts.

The market was a wonderful mix of local and/or organic handicrafts, food products, cosmetics, fair-trade and second-hand products and was overall a success. The transfer of the money to Africa was a bit challenging as the people at our local bank were suspicious – but we managed in the end and it arrived safely in Senegal. The idea for this fund-raising was born at our meeting in September and I hope that this project will continue and grow with time – maybe other partners would like to join? Last year it was a trial to see how everything works: how to raise the money, how to transfer it, and finally, what will be done with the money, will it be useful? We have been promised a short project report that I can share with everyone interested. Together with Varbergs Ornitologiska Föreningen, the local birding society, and Studieförbundet, a study association for adult education, we are already in full planning for this year's World Migratory Bird Day that we call “Folk & Fåglar” (people and birds) and that we will celebrate on the 11th of May with several talks, the longest bird picture, exhibitions and a treasure hunt.

Check out our website (in Swedish): <http://www.folkochfaglar.nu/>.

Our spring program will start in the beginning of March with bird activities such as guided tours, interesting lectures from two researchers at Swedish universities, a day about cranes with Japanese craftwork and much more. So it seems that an exciting spring is lying ahead!

Au cours de notre marché de Noël en Décembre, nous avons recueilli 668 USD pour la conservation des oiseaux au Sénégal (Association Nature Communautés Développement (MNT); www.ncd-senegal.org) - en collaboration avec Wetlands International et de notre organisation locale de conservation de la nature Naturskyddsforeningen dans Varberg.

Les fonds seront utilisés pour la surveillance des oiseaux d'eau, la sensibilisation et la conservation de sensibilisation, par exemple formation des populations locales dans les compétences de base en matière d'identification des oiseaux et de comptage ainsi que le suivi des zones humides d'importance internationale. L'idée de cette collecte de fonds est né lors de notre réunion annuelle en Septembre et nous

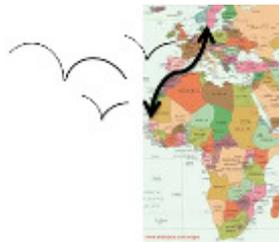


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espérons que ce projet va se poursuivre et se développer avec le temps - peut-être d'autres partenaires aimeraient se joindre?

Winter greetings from Getterön and good wishes to all of you for the spring season!



Katja Fedrowitz

- Brochure about Getterön can be downloaded from: <http://www.naturumgetteron.se/wp-content/uploads/GetterofolderENG.pdf>



Estonia:

We are still looking for a contact in this country. In case you have potential contacts, you may write me an email.

Roelof Heringa (rheringa@eurosite.org)



Lithuania:

We are still looking for a contact in this country. In case you have potential contacts, you may write me an email.

Roelof Heringa (rheringa@eurosite.org)



Denmark: Nature Centre Vestamager

*RECTIFICATION: In the 17th newsletter the English text sent in by Rune Kjaergaard Lange Has not been published the right way due to an error made by me. Below the article is reprinted.
With my apologies, Roelof Heringa.*

The Nature Park of Amager

In Denmark, there are major changes in the nature area "Vestamager ". The Danish Ministry of the Environment, which manages the area, entered into a partnership with the City of Copenhagen , Taarnby Municipality and Copenhagen City & Port Development. Four large public landowners, who also have natural areas that are associated with Vestamager . Together, these natural areas are now defined as one nature area . And the total area is named " The Nature Park of Amager " . The name Vestamager therefore disappears. The area that before was covering the name "Vestamager", is now changed to the more correct name "Kalvebod Fælled".

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The goal of the project is as follows :

- To support public access to nature
- To support public use of nature
- To further develop and enhance the biodiversity
- To further develop the relationship with the surrounding urban areas
- To further develop and strengthen the nature interpretation
- To define the nature's particular role in the Capital of Denmark

And also to break down the invisible municipal boundaries, that still goes over the area. We will create more understanding of the value for Copenhagen to have a very large contiguous nature area just next to the Danish capital . The story of the link between these different, neighbouring nature areas, has never really been told, because it is different large municipalities and Nature Agency that manages our every part of the areas.

Now we will cooperate on the management of the nature areas and make them appear as on. "The Nature Park of Amager".

The total area of "The Nature Park of Amager " will be 3,000 hectares of nature, next to the capital. We are seeking funds to develop the nature area together and develop outdoor activities in the area. We expect that the development is going to cost hundreds of millions Danish Kroner, over the next 10 years.

Cinq organismes publics unissent leurs espaces naturels près de la capitale de Copenhague : "Le parc naturel d'Amager",

*Rune Kjaegaard Lange
Wetland centre "Kalvebod Fælled".*



Russia: CEPA , St. Petersburg

Current situation in wetland education in Russia

2 February 2013,
World wetlands day,

-15°C



An impression of the World Wetlands Day event in St. Petersburg last year. These kids are not stopped by icy conditions!

*Une impression de la Journée mondiale des zones humides à Saint-Pétersbourg l'année dernière.
Ces enfants ne sont pas arrêtés par des conditions de glace!*

Wetland Centre Network - Russia

managers of education/outreach departments of nature

Evgeny Genelt-Yanovski, Baltic Fund for Nature (BFN) , St. Petersburg



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Germany : Nationalpark - Haus Husum

Vögel im Weltnaturerbe und Nationalpark Wattenmeer

Wichtige Schutzgebiete bilden die Küste Wattenmeer, ein weltweites Schilfmeer, das sich von den Niederlanden bis zum Nordatlantik erstreckt. Die Wattenmeer entlang der Norddeutschen Ostküste, Dänemarks, Schwedens und der Inseln bildet ein einzigartiges Ökosystem. Die Wattenmeer ist ein UNESCO-Weltkulturerbe, ein Ramsar-Gebiet, ein Natura 2000-Gebiet, ein Biosphärenpark und ein Nationalpark. Die Wattenmeer ist ein einzigartiges Ökosystem, das sich von den Niederlanden bis zum Nordatlantik erstreckt. Die Wattenmeer entlang der Norddeutschen Ostküste, Dänemarks, Schwedens und der Inseln bildet ein einzigartiges Ökosystem. Die Wattenmeer ist ein UNESCO-Weltkulturerbe, ein Ramsar-Gebiet, ein Natura 2000-Gebiet, ein Biosphärenpark und ein Nationalpark.

17 Arten von Vögeln sind im Wattenmeer geschützt:

1. **Blauflügelstrandläufer** (Himantopus himantopus) - ein kleiner Strandläufer, der im Wattenmeer überlebt.
2. **Blauer Schneläufer** (Actitis hypoleucos) - ein kleiner Strandläufer, der im Wattenmeer überlebt.
3. **Blauer Schneläufer** (Actitis hypoleucos) - ein kleiner Strandläufer, der im Wattenmeer überlebt.
4. **Blauer Schneläufer** (Actitis hypoleucos) - ein kleiner Strandläufer, der im Wattenmeer überlebt.
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12. **Blauer Schneläufer** (Actitis hypoleucos) - ein kleiner Strandläufer, der im Wattenmeer überlebt.
13. **Blauer Schneläufer** (Actitis hypoleucos) - ein kleiner Strandläufer, der im Wattenmeer überlebt.
14. **Blauer Schneläufer** (Actitis hypoleucos) - ein kleiner Strandläufer, der im Wattenmeer überlebt.
15. **Blauer Schneläufer** (Actitis hypoleucos) - ein kleiner Strandläufer, der im Wattenmeer überlebt.
16. **Blauer Schneläufer** (Actitis hypoleucos) - ein kleiner Strandläufer, der im Wattenmeer überlebt.
17. **Blauer Schneläufer** (Actitis hypoleucos) - ein kleiner Strandläufer, der im Wattenmeer überlebt.

Most important for the Wadden Sea in the last months was the „12th Trilateral Governmental Conference on the Protection of the Wadden Sea“, which took place in Tønder/DK from 4 to 6 February 2014.



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Most important for migratory birds there was the signing of a Flyway Vision developed by the Wadden Sea Flyway Initiative.

However, there was also progress on issues such as fisheries in the protected area of the Wadden Sea, as tourism, and the adoption of a climate adaptation strategy.

You can find the full text of the Ministerial Council Declaration and a number of annexes at <http://www.waddensea-secretariat.org/trilateral-governmental-conference-2014>.

WWF Germany published a complete new edition of its Wadden Sea posters, including the one on birds seen as a picture above (see [wwf.de/watt](http://www.wwf.de/watt)).“

L'événement plus important pour la mer des Wadden a été dans les derniers mois la " 12ème Conférence gouvernementale trilatérale sur la protection de la mer des Wadden ", qui a eu lieu à Tønder / DK du 4 au 6 Février 2014.
Lien internet : <http://www.waddensea-secretariat.org/trilateral-governmental-conference-2014>.

*Contact: Dr. Hans-Ulrich Rösner
Head of Wadden Sea Office,
WWF Germany*



United Kingdom : Wetland Centre Slimbridge (W.W.T.)

Contact: Chris Rostron



United Kingdom : Welney Wetland Centre (W.W.T.)

World Wetlands Day 2014

Here at WWT Welney Wetland Centre, we felt that this year's WWD theme was particularly appropriate for our reserve, so we decided to go all out on activities to highlight wetland biodiversity and the close relationship between wetlands and agriculture.

Our reserve is set within the hugely agricultural landscape of the fens, known as 'the bread basket' of Britain due to 17th Century drainage which provided extensive areas for large scale cultivation. We still use traditional methods to manage the area, with seasonal livestock grazing helping to provide suitable conditions for our summer migrants and breeding birds. Over the past seven years we have also been busy reconverting previously arable land back into lowland wet grassland with our successful Lady Fen and Bank Farm project. World Wetlands Day was the perfect opportunity to highlight our work, our wildlife and how agriculture needn't be at the expense of nature.

Although we had planned for a big species 'Bio blitz' conditions were not on our side with the majority of our reserve very much under water...



One of our volunteers coming back from a wild swan feed. He is standing where our paths should be!



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However, we did what we could and had guides in our hides throughout the day helping people to identify our wildfowl, did our first small mammal survey on Lady Fen, conducted a bird ringing demonstration, led guided walks out onto Lady Fen to highlight farmland species such as Brown hares, sky larks and lapwings and had three wild swan feeds. We also had one of our local farmers who use our washes to graze his cattle, come and display some of his farmland machinery which went down well with the families that came to visit and children that visited on the day created a fantastic wetland landscape using potato printing which we now have displayed outside our observatory.

Before the small mammal survey we were warned that because it's our first attempt we might not be too successful and that a 40% catch rate would be good. Well, out of our 25 traps almost all caught small mammals giving us a catch rate of over 90%-so we were very pleased with that!

Our site is clearly full of the more elusive smaller species scurrying around at night. We were pleased to find plenty of wood mice, field voles and bank voles. We were disappointed to not capture any shrews but our barn owl pellet dissection later in the day proved that we also have plenty of those around to. Our bird ringing demonstration had a bit of a slow start with the windy conditions but we still managed to get wrens, blackbirds and the highlight of the day as the ringers were packing away was a wonderful sparrow hawk which plenty of our visitors took the opportunity to get a closer look at.

Due to the close association of the migratory swans feeding agricultural waste including sugar beet tops, potatoes and winter wheat, we also invited local farmers to join us for a floodlit feed to see the swans on their roosting site.

All in all we had over 250 visitors on the day and visitors gave great feedback about all the staff and volunteers that helped on the day. It has certainly set a high standard for next year's WWD!



A field vole seemed to enjoy taking a good look at us before scurrying off into the undergrowth



Getting people closer to wildlife



local farmer Chris Jackson



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The final catch, a juvenile male sparrow hawk being ringed



Wetland landscape created by our visitors using potato printing.

Migratory Swan update

Due to the mild winter we’ve been experiencing it seems that the majority of our Bewick’s have stayed on the continent. Our highest dawn roost count resulted in just 1073 Bewick’s roosting on the Ouse washes; this is our lowest count for at least a decade, normally getting numbers between 3-4,000.

Two Bewick’s that have been sighted on the reserve over winter have already been seen on return migration on the continent. Our Whooper swan numbers are also slightly down with a total of 5083 in the most recent count. Due to the flooded conditions many are choosing to use part of our reserve off of the washes to roost.



Whooper swans on Lady Fen



Floodwaters on the reserve

Samantha Lee
Public Engagement Officer



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the Netherlands: Terschelling (Wadden Sea)

The mini exhibition about the East Atlantic Flyway and the relation with " Migratory Birds for People" is now also been placed in the nature centre on the island Ameland. This centre attracts annually some 50.000 visitors.

Nowadays we are realising a field exhibition with a.o. a weather-proof videoscreen at the wardens- and informationpost at the Boschplaat.

We also are preparing the World Migratory Day in May.

*Freek Zwart,
Staatsbosbeheer, Terschelling*



nature centre on the island Ameland



the Netherlands : Oostvaardersplassen

Information centre transformed into an outdoor activity centre

In the Oostvaardersplassen nature reserve (Holland) there have been some developments around the existing Information centre. The former centre was outdated and there was a great need for a more permanent building. The original ideas for a new centre had to be set a side due to the estimated cost.



The old centre / Le vieux centre

There for a second best option has been put in place. In August the existing temporary building was replaced by a new modernised building. There is still the ambition to erect a permanent building, which would be more in keeping with the (inter)national nature of the Oostvaardersplassen reserve. However, due to shortage of funding, another temporary building has been erected for the time being. The new centre will play a more prominent role in the activities in the Oostvaardersplassen reserve and Hollandse Hout, a 900 ha forest adjacent to the Oostvaardersplassen reserve. Rather than providing information in the form of an exhibition, information is now provided electronically as far as possible through 3 touchscreens.

Regular visits by visitors / Les visites régulières de visiteurs

As in previous years, there were a range of excursions with many participants. For the sake of readability, the different types of excursions are simply listed in the following table. In 2013 there were almost 50 more excursions than in 2012, when there were 562 groups and 9,874 participants.

Bird Fair / Foire des oiseaux

In 2013 the reserve hosted the second Dutch Bird Fair, a joint venture launched by Staatsbosbeheer and several commercial companies. The purpose of the fair is to draw wider attention to the Oostvaardersplassen reserve, especially among bird watchers and photographers. There has been a significant increase in the number of photographers in particular. The second Dutch Bird Fair attracted approximately 6,000 visitors. A portion of the proceeds will be used to transmit footage of white-tailed eagles (*Haliaeetus albicilla*) in 2014.



The present centre in the final stage of construction.

Every year the Oostvaardersplassen reserve welcomes a very considerable number of very diverse guests, who range from day visitors, to universities, to King’s Commissioners. The reserve is always visited by a large number of (university) researchers and students with an academic or scientific interest.

International visitors / Les visiteurs internationaux

The reserve also prides itself on the fact that it attracts so many international visitors. In 2013 the reserve was visited by people from Singapore, Serbia, Germany, America, the United Kingdom and many other European countries.

Type of excursion	General	Rut	Total	
	Groups	Participants	Groups	
Ecokar excursion from Almere	44	24	1224	68
Ecokar excursion from Lelystad	91	45	2720	136
Toyota/VW minibus	104	31	1080	135
Driehoek/Schollevaar walks	90	12	2040	102
Wagon excursions	57	36	2790	93
Primary school visits	50	0	1250	50
Children’s photo safaris	6	0	120	6
Total			11,224	590

Special guests / Les invités spéciaux

An interest in film brought many media representatives and high-ranking officials to the reserve in 2013. Some of these special guests are listed below.

Special guests
Representatives of various local and national political parties.
Researchers and students from universities in Oxford, Wales, Amsterdam, Leiden, Wageningen, Rotterdam and Groningen.
Researchers and students from educational and training institutes such as IPC Groene Ruimte, In Holland, CAH and Helicon.
Representatives of various media, including local and national press, radio and television.
Representatives of international media, such as the <i>Herald Tribune</i> , the <i>New York Times</i> and a Belgian nature conservation magazine.
Individuals: Andre Kuipers (astronaut), HRH Princess Irene, Minister from Singapore, Serbian State Secretary, King’s Commissioner for the province of Flevoland



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Colleagues from the German Forestry Commission
Police officers

Media / Médias

The release of the film “De Nieuwe Wildernis” [“The New Wilderness”] and the opening of the outdoor activity centre attracted considerable media attention, which ranged from local and national radio and television stations and the press, to articles in the *Herald Tribune* and the *New York Times*. The highlight was probably the featuring of Oostvaardersplassen safaris on USA Today’s Bucket List.

Notification line / Ligne de notification

Once again good use was made of the notification line during the winter period, with as many as 255 calls being made during the winter. Throughout the year 164 calls were made via 144 to report situations involving animals and 44 calls were made to the police to request extra attention for an animal. People who call the notification line are put through to the warden on duty, who can then take action. Seven threats were made against a warden via the notification line. The remainder of the telephone calls were mainly questions, in response to which the warden provided information about the Oostvaardersplassen. As during the previous winter, the telephone number is printed on the flyer, the website and the info panels.

De Nieuwe Wildernis film

De Nieuwe Wildernis [The New Wilderness] film was released in September of 2013. EMS Films spent 2.5 years working on the film, which shows the wildlife and developments in the Oostvaardersplassen reserve during the course of a year. The film was a huge success. It attracted considerable attention and won several awards. 680,000 visitors have seen the film to date. The film was also shown on television in December 2013 and VARA is planning to broadcast the film in sections. A great deal of attention is also being devoted to education in the wake of the film. Many schools are using the free teaching materials compiled to go with the film. Almost 3,000 classes have now used the materials. To increase the impact of the film, Staatsbosbeheer developed a campaign that was rolled out nationally across a total of 10 wilderness areas. Various wilderness activities and so-called ‘wilderness cafés’ were also organised in these areas. This was done with a view to spreading attention as much as possible and sparing the Oostvaardersplassen reserve while using it as a catalyst to raise awareness of nature in the Netherlands. The film will also be shown internationally. Talks are currently being conducted with Belgian, German and various other cinema and media operators. The film will also be shown in various cinemas in the United States in the spring of 2014.

‘Follow the Fox’ website / “Suivez la Fox” site

Webcams were installed in the foxes den as they were two years ago. The cameras show the foxes in their lair. In 2013 the website attracted 2.7 million viewers. (link: <http://www.staatsbosbeheer.nl/volgdevos>)

Hans Breeveld (Warden Oostvaardersplassen)

Hans Breeveld is our new contact in Oostvaardersplassen.

His contact details are listed in the supplement.

(Roelof Heringa)

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Belgium: Natuurpunt : visitor centre 'Uitkerkse Polder'.

The Uitkerkse Polder has had an exceptionally mild winter (so had the Low Countries in general), with absolutely no frost (a 0 or -1°C at night just a few times), no ice or snow coverage at all. Similar to 2006-2007, this is unprecedented in official Belgian climatic records, that started in the early 1830's. Nevertheless, wintering birds were present in average numbers, and activities such as guided tours and public walks have known great success. To mention the so called 'Big birding weekend' the first weekend of February, over one hundred mostly local people came to watch the feeding places for songbirds. Local birdwatchers came to assist our nature guides, and children as well as adults were keen to know more about the birds they hadn't seen - or noticed – in their garden before.



Photo: Greenfinch and Blue Tit.

A yearly tradition is the winter field excursion for the students in Biology of Ghent and Antwerp University. Usually on a cold December day (as not this year...), after lunch, prof. Eckhart Kuijken gives a two hour lecture on the history of wintering geese in the Flemish polders. Since professor Kuijken was the Belgian representative at the Ramsar meeting in 1971 in Iran, this lecture is an excellent opportunity for the students to learn and ask all about Ramsar and the protection of wetlands in general!



Prof. E. Kuijken giving his lecture

*Bob Vandendriessche
Uitkerkse Polder, Natuurpunt vzw, Belgium*



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Nature centre “het Zwin”

In former days “Het Zwin” encompassed a vast Zwin-plain with on the one hand mudflats and marshes and on the other hand a visitor centre with reception, cafeteria and bird park. In 2006 the reserve “Het Zwin” became owned by the Flemish government and the province of West-Flanders and since much effort was put into the preparations of a completely new Zwin nature centre. After selection and installation of a consortium of architects and designers a plan for a modern, sustainable and landscape integrated new center was drawn. In 2013 preparation started to dismantle the bird park. All birds from the collection became a new home in domestic and foreign bird parks. Some of them made a long trip, even to Sharjah, United Arab Emirates! In July 2013 the old visitor centre of the Zwin was closed to the public and park and buildings were demolished. Also most of the park area was cleared. This created a ‘corridor’ between the Zwin-plain and the previously redesigned nature area ‘the Zwinnebosjes’, just south of the Zwin. Part of the cleared trees were built in a gigantic wall, which makes a nice, natural integrated closure between the new park and the parking lot. Construction will start in March 2014.



Constructions of concrete will be placed in the dike around the Zwin at the spot where an “all-weather” facility will be built. This will offer a nice panoramic view over the plain and waters. The centre will be largely built into the dike.

On another spot the contractor will also start with digging the basement for the new visitor centre.

The visitor centre will contain a touristic info point, a cafeteria-restaurant, a large exhibition on the theme of migratory birds and the Zwin as an ‘international airport for birds’, offices and an area for temporary exhibitions.

The former bird park will be a stretch of wetland with a footpath. Along the footpath there will be cabins (a ‘forest cabin’; a ‘feeding-cabin’ with a feeding place for birds; a ‘scientific cabin’ with explanation of scientific studies e.g. bird ringing). At the dike there will be a bird hide and a migratory birds counting spot.



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Impression of the new wetlandcentre “Het Zwin”

© COUSSE & GORIS architecten / GAFFA

The total project will be completed in 2015.

Beaucoup de travail à l'avenir pour les collègues dans "het Zwin" avec la réalisation d'un nouveau centre des zones humides. L'ensemble du projet sera achevé en 2015.

Kris Struyf (Centre manager Natuurcentrum Zwin – biologist)



France: Baie de Somme

The Syndicat Mixte Baie de Somme - Grand Littoral Picard (SMBS-GLP) is responsible of the development project of La Maison de la Baie de Somme.

The original purpose, which was to exhibit stuffed birds, is moving towards public awareness about the evolutionary dynamics of the Somme estuary.

Among the topics to be discussed there are the function and services of a wetland, the silting up of the bay, shingle industry participation and coastline protection, the sea level rise and its impact on the territory,

In particular, this project will be developed until the complete overhaul of the interior / exterior





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museum and to an extension of the closed landscape.

The SMBS GLP is organizing a competition for the project management.

The work sketches made by four candidates will be deposited on March 15 next to SMBS-GLP.

Volet Projet :

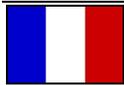
Le Syndicat Mixte Baie de Somme – Grand Littoral Picard (SMBS-GLP) porte le projet de développement de La Maison de la Baie de Somme. L'objet initial, qui était de présenter des oiseaux naturalisés, évolue vers la sensibilisation du public sur les dynamiques évolutives de la baie de Somme. Parmi les thèmes qui seront traités, on trouvera le fonctionnement d'une zone humide, l'ensablement de la baie, la participation des exploitants de galets à la gestion du trait de côte ou encore l'évolution de l'augmentation du niveau des mers et son impact sur le territoire.

Concrètement, ce projet se traduira par la refonte totale de la muséographie intérieure/extérieure de la maison et d'une extension de l'actuel parc paysager.

Le SMBS-GLP maître d'ouvrage de l'opération organise un concours de maîtrise d'œuvre. Le 15 mars prochain seront déposés au SMBS-GLP les travaux d'esquisse réalisés par 4 candidats.

To get a good impression of this area you may follow this link: <http://www.baiedesomme.fr/fr/maison-de-la-baie-de-somme>

Benoit Marsal (Chef de projet Développement chez Syndicat Mixte Baie de Somme - Grand Littoral Picard)



France: Camargue Gardoise / Centre de découverte du Scamandre

The crew of this centre will host the coming "Migratory Birds for People" annual meeting in September.
No messages received.

Jérémy Pétit, Centre de découverte du Scamandre, France



Spain: Aiguamolls de l'Emporda

No messages received.





Spain: MónNatura Delta, Ebro Delta

New hide for bird photography in la Llacuna de l'Alfacada / MonNatura Delta

At the new Fundació Catalunya-La Pedrera (previously known as Fundació CatalunyaCaixa and Fundació Territori i Paisatge) we are trying new initiatives to strengthen the economic viability of our natural sites. A wide range of eco-touristic activities are in place and we want to share with you our new development: two photographic hides in la Llacuna de l'Alfacada, our restricted access reserve in Delta de l'Ebre. La Llacuna de l'Alfacada, offering a mix of abandoned rice paddies, lagoon and nearby active fields, is one of the most biodiverse sites of the Ebre Delta: over 2.800 waterbirds have been counted last winter, plus more than 500 pairs of nesting birds in the last season.



Of special interest are the **Purple Swamphen** (*Porphyrio porphyrio*) and the Glossy Ibis (*Plegadis falcinellus*); and it is also home to 30% of the total nesting population of the Whiskered Tern (*Chlidonias hybrida*) in the Delta.



On the other hand, l'Alfacada is also specially interesting for dragonflies (*Odonata*): 10 species have been detected, among them ***Aeshna isosceles*** and 5 other migratory species.

For more information on the new hides we are testing and about the guided visits to La Llacuna de l'Alfacada, please visit:

www.fundaciocatalunya-lapedrera.com/ca/content/espai-natura-lalfacada (in Spanish and Catalan only)

And you can find more info on the centre at: www.monnaturadelta.com (also in English)

And about the LIFE+ Delta Lagoon project: <http://lifedeltalagoon.eu> (also in English)

Contact person for the MBP-Network:

Xavier Escuté



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Spain: las Salinas y Arenales de San Pedro del Pinatar

Celebration of World Wetlands Day at the Regional Park of the Salt Flats of san Pedro

World Wetlands Day is held on the 2nd of February every year, the date on which the Ramsar convention on wetlands was signed in 1971. 2014 has been chosen as the International Year of Family Farming by the UN, and therefore this year’s WWD theme is ‘Wetlands and Agriculture: partners for growth’.

To raise awareness of the fundamental role of wetlands in supporting agriculture as well as the great biodiversity of these ecosystems, San Pedro’s Information and Visitor Services put on a set of public events, and some targeted at school groups, to celebrate the day in a fun and entertaining way.

WWD bike ride

Around 300 people took part in the park’s World Wetlands Day activities this year. During February 150 people took part in the game ‘Have fun playing with wetlands’ developed by the visitor centre ‘Las Salinas’, which allows people to learn about wetland through games, such as creating your own souvenir photo in which each participant is turned into a seahorse.

We also ran a treasure hunt titled ‘What do you know about wetlands?’ inspired by a popular television contest and in which around 30 participants took part in this well-known game. Activities aimed at schools included a guided walk, on which we planted date palms (*Phoenix dactylifera*) and got a hot chocolate, from the firm *Churros y Chocolate Victor*.



The firm was given an award by the Fundación Biodiversidad in the second round of its competition ‘Responsible Bars’ for its green activities. The 50 students that took part in this activity had won a cartoon competition, run by the local authority of San Pedro de Pinatar amongst education centres around the national park.



Finally, 40 students from the area participated in two guided bike rides, which passed through the spectacular scenery between the waters of the Mar Menor and the salt pans, revealing the special characteristics of

these wetlands, both of great importance in the region.

On February 17 2014 / [World Wetlands Day 2014](#)

CELEBRACIÓN DEL DÍA MUNDIAL DE LOS HUMEDALES EN EL PARQUE REGIONAL SALINAS DE SAN PEDRO

Cada 2 de febrero se celebra en todo el mundo el Día Mundial de los Humedales conmemorando así la fecha en que se adoptó la Convención sobre los Humedales en 1971. El año 2014 ha sido elegido como Año Internacional de la Agricultura Familiar, por este motivo, el lema de este año es “Humedales y agricultura: juntos en pro del crecimiento”.

Con el objetivo de comprender mejor el papel fundamental que desempeñan los humedales en apoyo de la agricultura y dar a conocer la gran biodiversidad de estos ecosistemas, el Servicio de Información y Atención al Visitante del Parque Regional Salinas y Arenales de San Pedro del Pinatar ha llevado a cabo una serie de actividades destinadas al público en general y a grupos escolares del entorno, para celebrar este día de una manera amena y divertida.

Alrededor de 300 personas han participado este año en las actividades programadas para la celebración del Día Mundial de los Humedales en el Parque Regional Salinas de San Pedro. Durante el mes de febrero, 150 personas han participado en la actividad especial “Diviértete jugando con los humedales”, desarrollada en el Centro de Visitantes “Las Salinas”, con la que han podido conocer cómo son los humedales a través de varios juegos, así como hacerse una divertida foto de recuerdo, en la que cada participante se ha convertido en un caballito de mar.



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Además, el día 2 de febrero se llevó a cabo una **Ruta-concurso titulada “Lo sabe o no lo sabe: Especial Humedales”**, inspirada en el popular concurso televisivo y donde una treintena de participantes fueron los concursantes de este conocido juego.

Por otro lado, entre las actividades destinadas al público escolar del entorno se realizó un itinerario ambiental guiado, en el que se llevó a cabo una **plantación de palmera datilera** (*Phoenix dactylifera*) y una chocolatada que corrió a cargo de Churros y Chocolates Víctor. Este establecimiento de San Pedro del Pinatar ha sido reconocido por la Fundación Biodiversidad en la segunda edición de sus premios “Chiringuitos Responsables”, recibiendo el segundo premio en la categoría “Iniciativas para la Integración con el Entorno” por su labor en el reciclaje de los residuos que se generan en el establecimiento y por sus ideas para luchar contra la erosión de la playa. Los 50 escolares que participaron en esta actividad fueron los ganadores de un concurso de dibujo que el Ayuntamiento de San Pedro del Pinatar puso en marcha previamente entre los centros educativos del entorno del Parque Regional.

Por último, 40 escolares del municipio participaron en dos **visitas guiadas en bicicleta**, que transcurrieron por un espectacular paisaje entre las aguas del Mar Menor y las charcas salineras, conociendo así las singularidades de estos dos humedales, ambos de gran importancia en la Región de Murcia.

Contact : Teresa López Aledo, **Dirección General de Medio Ambiente -Consejería de Presidencia de la Región de Murcia**



Portugal : Tagus Estuary Birdwatching and Conservation Area

No message received.

Contact: Sandra Paiva Silva,
Companhia das Lezírias, S.A



West-African Centres



- Mauritania
- Senegal
- Guinea-Bissau

Great news from Djoudj National Park, our MBP Site in Senegal –

They recently hosted the East Atlantic Flyway training for site managers and local NGO leaders course between 14-18 December.

Check out: <http://www.wetlands.org/News/tabid/66/articleType/ArticleView/articleId/3613/Default.aspx>

Hand in hand: wetland conservation and tourism in Senegal

25-Feb-2014 / By Taej Mundkur, Wetlands International.

I recently got the chance to experience the natural beauty of Djoudj National Park in Senegal for the first time and see its conservation needs. The Djoudj is a paradise for over a million waterbirds and a lot of other biodiversity. It provides an ideal setting for developing sustainable solutions such as tourism that should allow the surrounding villages, visitors and nature to benefit from this natural wonder.

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Djoudj National Park is located in the delta of the Senegal River separating Mauritania and Senegal and forms the first critical stopover wetland site for over a million migrant waterbirds and other birds that have just crossed the Sahara desert.

The wetlands are extremely popular with birds that use the East Atlantic Flyway, stretching from north-western Europe to West Africa (such as the Northern Pintail) and further south to South Africa (Black Tern). Furthermore, many African species that only migrate within the continent depend on the park.



This is also the site where the largest colony of Great White Pelicans in West Africa has been observed. These birds nest colonially in the thousands on a bare mud bank in the middle of the marsh (see picture with adult and brown coloured juveniles that have just learned to fly).

I was amazed to see just how unafraid these pelicans were of us tourists. Large flocks sailed in and landed around our boat in the canal – too close to even take pictures!



In recent years, seven villages that surround the park have received assistance to enhance the recreational value of this beautiful wetland area. They provide boat tours, guided visits into the park, organise ticket sales into the park where they sell some locally made handicraft, as well as provide basic accommodation outside the park through a cooperative agreement. This provides a strong basis for local communities to benefit from the park and to support its continued existence.

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We were fortunate to experience the local hospitality when we stayed a night in a cottage with a reed-thatch roof at the village run “campement Njagabar” (Njagabar which aptly means ‘pelican’ in the Wolof dialect). We were treated to very tasty and locally cooked meals and refreshingly delicious drinks made of hibiscus and baobab. This facility in the Diadium III village lies conveniently close to the park entrance.



Communities are keen to enhance these activities to ensure even greater benefits, and I look forward to further constructive sustainable tourism developments here in the coming years. The activities are also a promising start to addressing the urgent need for better management of the area. The main challenges include ensuring a long-term supply of water to the marshes and the restoration of canals and marshes to improve water circulation and control invasive *Typha* and other water plants that currently pose a huge threat.

Destination Flyways

Wetlands International wants to build on our many years of work in the Delta and I visited Djoudj for a "Destination Flyways"* site assessment. With this project we aim to support local government and community efforts to generate revenue through sustainable tourism that contributes to restoration and improved management of wetland habitats. In total eight internationally important migratory bird sites in Africa, Asia and Europe will be selected for Destination Flyways

The Djoudj is the third site we have now visited after Chongming Island in Shanghai, China, and the Chilika Lake in India for this the development of this project. I firmly believe that if we do it right, such a sustainable tourism programme will be a great example of the win-win situation for nature, local and international tourists and local communities that can be replicated elsewhere around the world.

*The Destination Flyways project is being developed with UN-World Tourism Organisation, Wetlands International, Convention on Migratory Species, The Ramsar Convention on Wetlands, East Asian - Australasian Flyway Partnership, African-Eurasian Waterbird Agreement, BirdLife International and others; the preliminary phase is ongoing with support from the Federal Ministry of the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety of Germany.



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News from the Core group

NEW Poster for "Migratory Birds for People" :

It was agreed during the Annual Meeting in September 2013 in Sweden, that we should work together to produce a new and fresh poster for our network. The poster will have limited text and will act as a template that can be translated to your own wetland centre. Katja Fedrowitz from Getterön Wetland centre in Varberg (Sweden) has kindly promised to take the lead in this affair and in the meantime we have discussed already a draft. We hope to send you the poster by April 2014.

Il a été convenu lors de la réunion annuelle en Septembre 2013 en Suède, que nous devons travailler ensemble pour produire une nouvelle et fraîche affiche pour notre réseau. L’affiche devra un texte limité et agira comme un modèle qui peut être traduite dans votre propre centre des zones humides. Katja Fedrowitz de Getterön Wetland Centre à Varberg (Suède) a aimablement promis de prendre les devants dans cette affaire et dans l’intervalle, nous avons déjà discuté un conception. Nous espérons de vous envoyer l’affiche en Avril 2014.

Roelof Heringa

Wetland Centre Audit

From our last meeting in Tåkern, we agreed that it would be useful to develop a simple audit for those working in Wetland Centres, which would allow staff to assess their centre and activities in a structured way. The MBP steering group has come up with this first edition of the ‘centre audit’, which you can download from the MBP webpages at:
<http://wli.wwt.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2013/03/Wetland-Centre-Audit-v6.docx>.



The tool is not meant to compare centres, but to act as a year on year assessment, showing how your centre is developing and how you are improving delivery of wetland conservation and education practices.

Français: Nous avons créé une nouvelle forme d’évaluation pour les centres de zones humides, qui peut être trouvé ici. Il est à usage interne au centre, et n’a pas été créé comme un moyen de comparaison entre les différents centres. Nous espérons que c’est un outil utile pour l’utilisation annuelle et avoir une vision plus claire de ce que le centre est en train de faire, ou qui se passe en elle.

Español: Hemos creado una nueva formulario de evaluación para los centros de humedales, la cual puedes encontrar aquí. Es para el uso interno de su centro, y no fue creada como forma de comparación entre los distintos centros. Esperamos que sea una herramienta útil de uso anual para así tener una visión más clara de lo que su centro está haciendo, o que está pasando en él.

Chris Rostron

From the (Skype-)meetings of the core group / November '13 – February '14.

We organised several Skype-meetings in which we mainly discussed :

- development of the MBP-network
- start of products for the network
- Discussing the results of our Annual Meeting 2013 and details of the actions that lay ahead.
- planning the dates for the Annual Meeting 14-16 Sept. 2014 in the Camargue in France.





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In the coming months the core group will continue with the development of the network, making contacts for funding and with the scientific world.

We hope that you are inspired after reading this newsletter and hope that you will take also action to connect with your colleagues in the “Migratory Birds for People”-network to learn more about each other and the way communication is being done, especially concerning migratory birds.
 Be inspired!

Roelof Heringa

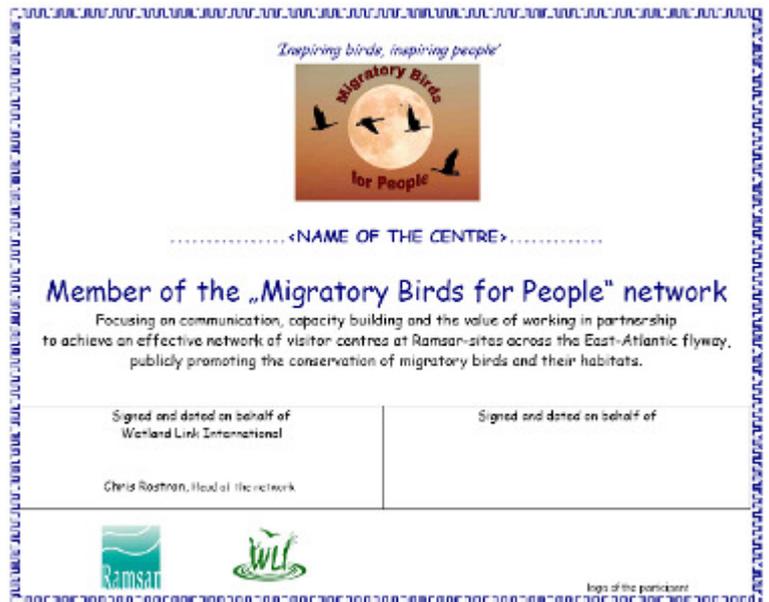
**“Migratory Birds for People”
 certificate**

The core group decided to develop a certificate by which the participating visitor centre can show that they are a member of the `Migratory Birds for People`- network.

This certificate can still be obtained for free.

Just write an email to rheringa@eurosite.org and we will send you a certificate.

*Ce certificat peut encore être obtenu gratuitement.
 Il suffit d'écrire un courriel à rheringa@eurosite.org et nous vous enverrons un certificat.*



Other MBP- network news



Eurosites

Workshop People Engagement Techniques

Do you know how to convince people of the use of benefits of Natura 2000 areas?

Are you a site manager, educational expert or communications expert working within a Natura 2000 reserve?

Come and join us on the **2nd and 3rd of April 2014** in Bruges, Belgium.

More info: <http://www.eurosites.org/en-UK/natura-people-workshop>

Will we see you at our Natura People workshop? **Registration is open until 19 March!**



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FLOW

Please note that brochure on the twinning programme is now uploaded on the WI website, and the hyperlink is provided in the article (last word). If you have problems in making the hyperlink working when you convert the word to pdf (I have sometimes had this problem), then it would be best to add the full link
<http://www.wetlands.org/LinkClick.aspx?fileticket=hA1VgFFbWBI%3d&tabid=2982&mid=12743>
 in the article.

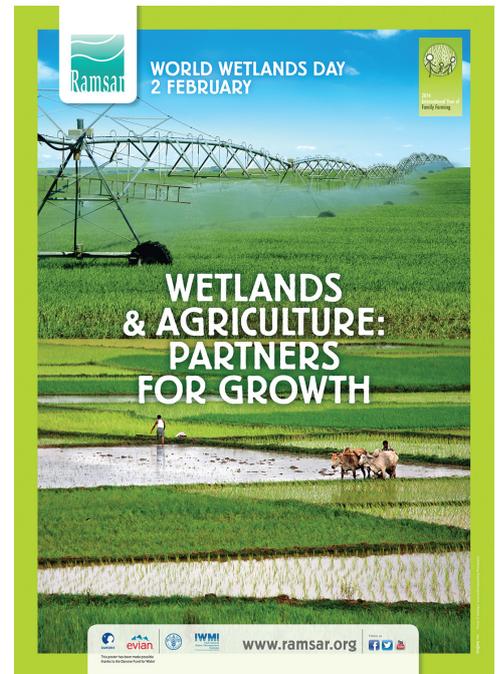
Taej Mundkur
 Programme Manager – Flyways / Wetlands International

World Wetlands Day 2014 is focussing on the theme of wetlands and agriculture and their inter-reliance.

The theme links to the UN Year of Family Farming with the slogan *Wetlands and Agriculture: Partners for Growth* and you can find materials on how to mark the occasion at:
http://www.ramsar.org/cda/en/ramsar-activities-wwds-wwd2014index/main/ramsar/1-63-78%5E26287_4000_0

You are invited to organise an event around this theme at any time this year (it is not restricted to the “birthday” of the Ramsar-convention the 2nd of February.

- if you're not already on the list, Ramsar will also send you materials by post, just drop them a line via their CEPA manager Sandra Hails, hails@ramsar.org



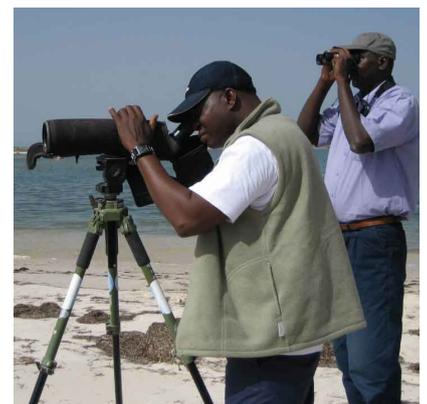
World Migratory Bird Day - Raising Awareness for Migratory Birds ...



World Migratory Bird Day

World Migratory Bird Day 2014 will be on 10-11 May 2014 - Please Save the Date!

World Migratory Bird Day is a two-day event annually held on the second weekend of May to highlight the need to protect migratory birds and their habitats. The United Nations is one of the many organisations that support this global awareness campaign.





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The theme for 2014 will be linked to the topic of tourism and migratory birds, focusing on the global bird – and wildlife watching industry and sustainable tourism as a vehicle to conserve migratory birds and their habitats. It is planned to work closely with the World Tourism Organization (**UNWTO**) in promoting the “Destination Flyways” Project which focuses on the protection of migratory birds and their habitats and the creation of sustainable livelihoods for local communities through the development of innovative tourism products along the world’s major flyways.

People and dedicated organisations around the world will be using World Migratory Bird Day to draw attention to migratory birds and the need to conserve them, through activities such as bird festivals and bird watching trips, public discussions, exhibitions, presentations, bird rallies and other educational and public events.

Manual on Best Practice in Wetland Centre Design and Operation

Late last year a workshop was held in South Korea, bringing together people from wetland centres across the world. The aim was to share best practice, and use this to create a new Manual that supports those working in wetland centres. It replaces the existing WLI Manual on Wetlands centres, and will be an invaluable resource for those working in wetlands centres everywhere. The Manual covers everything from planning your centre, designing and building the centre, running education and engagement activities, sustainability of your centre and much more. The manual will also be available in Spanish, French, Russian and Arabic later this year.

Chris Rostron



Seosan group photo with certificates

Connecting Birds with People

Coordinated Waterbird Count of the East Atlantic Flyway, Januari 2014

Working together to assess the status of migratory waterbirds

To all involved in the January 2014 count

Many waterbirds that breed in the Arctic and Northwest Europe are found along the western coasts of Europe, the Mediterranean and Africa in January. There they mingle with local waterbirds, often forming huge concentrations. The East Atlantic Flyway encompasses a string of key sites from the Arctic to Southern Africa where these birds find refuge during breeding, migration and non-breeding.

Knowledge about the size, trends and distribution of the populations using this flyway is a prerequisite for their conservation. To build this knowledge a huge cooperative effort is needed as the species concerned are distributed over many countries and long distances.

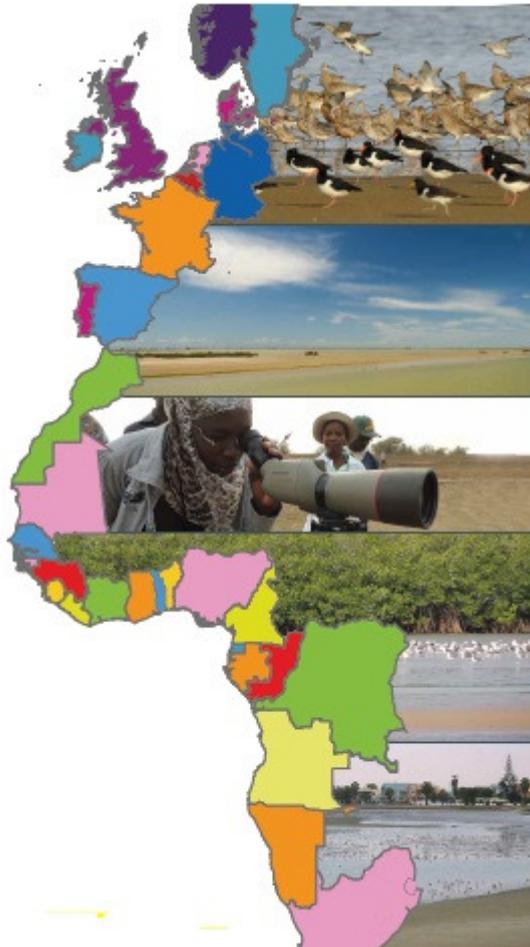
By January most migratory waterbirds have reached their final non-breeding destination areas and are concentrated at discrete wetlands. This presents an opportunity to count them together at the same time and to thus work out population estimates and identify key areas of concentration. Although these counts are carried out on a yearly basis, there are usually many gaps, so in January 2014 a special effort is being made along the length of the flyway.

In a combined effort of national governments, institutions, national NGOs and volunteers with international organisations, and with the support of many different funding sources, an attempt will be made to cover as many coastal sites as possible of the East Atlantic Flyway countries, especially in covering the key sites in West Africa.

In each country contact persons, usually the International Waterbird Census National Coordinators, have been working hard to make the counts possible with wide involvement. In Africa all efforts are being made to mobilize local institutions, governments and other stakeholders to carry out the counts, whilst in some countries there is extra involvement of

expert volunteer counters from abroad.

We would like to express our sincere thanks to everybody involved in the counts, either in the organization, carrying out the counts or for funding at both the national and international level. We are looking forward to the results and to sharing them with the wider network for use in conservation planning and management. Happy counting!



A tous impliqués dans le Dénombrement de Janvier 2014

Beaucoup d'oiseaux qui se reproduisent dans l'Arctique et le Nord Ouest de l'Europe se retrouvent en janvier le long des côtes

européennes, méditerranéennes et africaines. Là, ils se mêlent aux oiseaux d'eau locaux et forment souvent d'immenses concentrations.

De l'Arctique à l'Afrique australe, la voie migratoire de l'Est de l'Atlantique comprend

une chaîne de sites clés où ces oiseaux migrants trouvent refuge durant la reproduction, la migration et la période de non reproduction.

La connaissance de la taille, des tendances et de la distribution des populations utilisant cette voie est une condition préalable pour la conservation.

Tout en sachant que les espèces concernées se retrouvent dans plusieurs pays et sur de longues distances, un énorme effort de coopération est nécessaire pour bâtir cette

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connaissance. En janvier, la majorité des oiseaux d'eau migrateurs auront atteint leurs sites de reproduction qui sont leur destination finale et sont concentrés dans les zones humides. Ceci est une opportunité pour les dénombrer ensemble, au même moment et ainsi faire des estimations des populations et identifier les zones clés de concentration. Même si ces comptages sont organisés annuellement, il y a généralement des lacunes à combler, ainsi en janvier 2014, un effort particulier est en train d'être fait le long de la voie migratoire. En combinaison des efforts des gouvernements, institutions, ONG et volontaires nationaux avec les organisations internationales, et avec le soutien de beaucoup de différentes sources de fonds, un essai sera fait pour couvrir plusieurs sites de la côte de la voie migratoire de l'Est de l'Atlantique, en couvrant spécialement les sites clés en Afrique de l'Ouest. Dans chaque pays, des personnes de contacts qui sont d'habitude des

Coordinateurs Nationaux du Dénombrement International des Oiseaux d'eau, travaillent d'arrache pied pour que les comptages aient lieu avec une large implication des parties prenantes. En Afrique, tous les efforts sont mis dans la mobilisation des institutions locales, gouvernements et d'autres parties prenantes pour conduire les dénombrements, tandis que dans quelques pays, il y a une implication des compteurs experts volontaires qui viennent de l'étranger. Nous voudrions vous adresser nos sincères remerciements à tout un chacun impliqué dans le dénombrement, que ce soient dans l'organisation, la conduite des comptages ou le soutien financier au niveau national et international. Nous attendons les résultats du comptage et leur partage dans le large réseau pour son utilisation dans la planification et la gestion dans la conservation.

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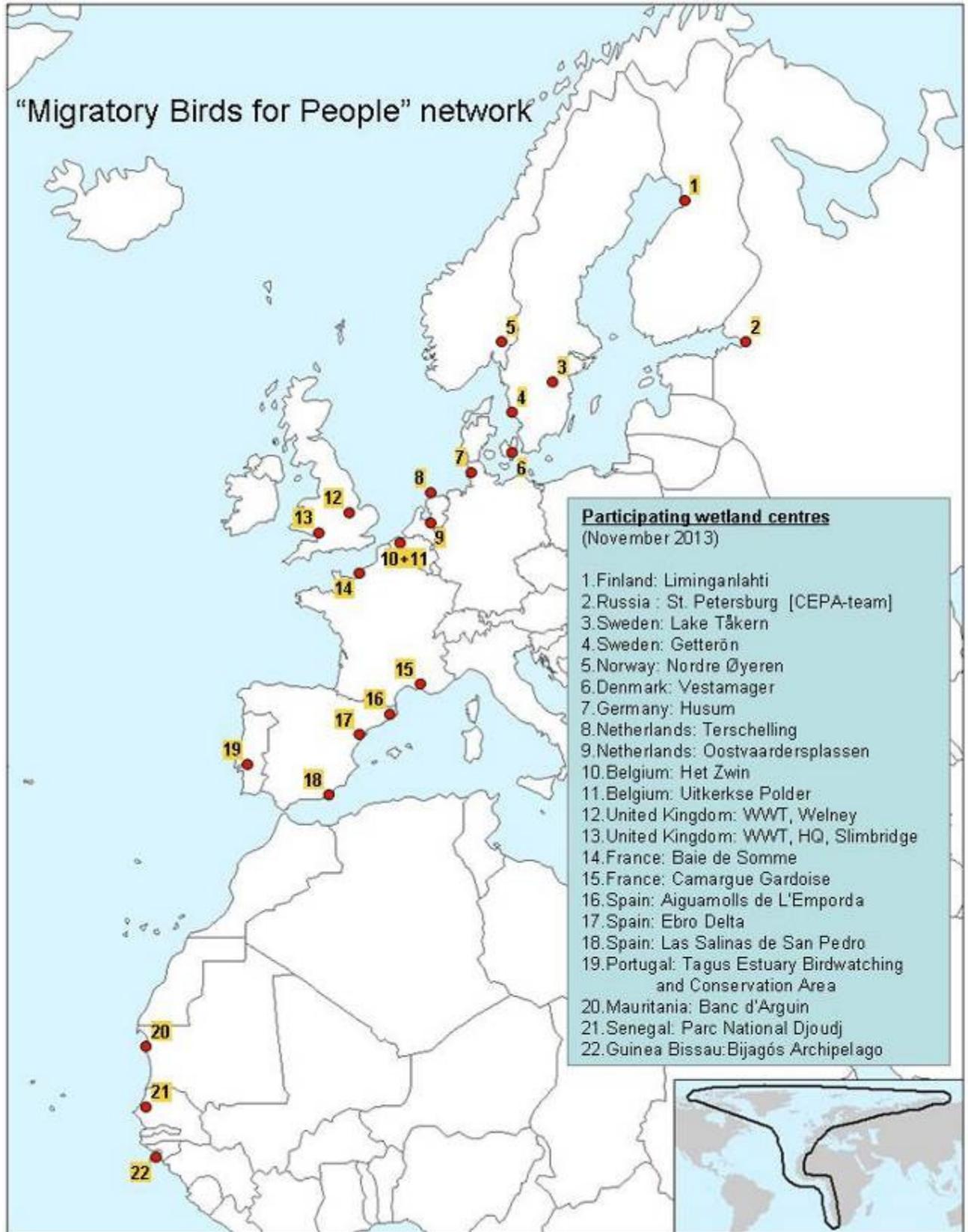


Whiskered tern (*Chlidonias hybridus*) Photo from Ebro Delta

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SUPPLEMENT: List of participants in Europe and West-Africa





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