"Inspiring birds, inspiring people"

NEWSLETTER no. 20 (October, 2014)

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Introduction:

Dear colleagues,
In this edition we will inform you about the outcome of our this years successful annual meeting in Camargue.In this edition you will learn again news from your colleagues and the activities of the network and beyond. We experience that the network is gradually becoming more active as people get to meet and know each other.(see also the request from Lake Tåkern at page 11). Let us remind ourselves that the purpose of this network is the exchange of knowledge and experience between the participating centres and thus to enhance the communication with the public about the importance of the Ramsar-wetland sites along the East- Atlantic Flyway. So, we would like to invite you to contact your colleagues in the network directly.

Thanks for you contributions.
On behalf of the core group, good reading!

Chers collègues,
Dans cette édition, nous vous informerons du résultat de réunion annuelle en Camargue.
Vous apprendrez aussi à nouveau des nouvelles de vos collègues et les activités du réseau et au-delà. Nous faisons l'expérience que le réseau est en train de devenir plus actif que les gens apprennent à se rencontrer et se connaître. (voir aussi la demande du lac Tåkern à la page 11).
Rappelons-nous que le but de ce réseau est l'échange de connaissances et d'expériences entre les centres participants et de renforcer ainsi la communication avec le public sur l'importance des sites Ramsar des zones humides le long de la voie de migration de l'Atlantique Est. Donc, nous vous invitons à communiquer avec vos collègues dans le réseau directement.

Merci pour vos contributions.
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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Lorsque vous ne voulez pas imprimer le supplément: envisager d'imprimer uniquement les pages 1 - 28

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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 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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Notes from MBP meeting 2014, Centre de Découverte de Scamandre, France

15th and 16th of September 2014

Attendees: from left to right: Edorta Unamuno, Urdaibai, Spain; Hans Breeveld, Staatsbosbeheer, Oostvaardersplassen, Netherlands; Roelof Heringa, Eurosite, Netherlands; Theo de Bruin, Staatsbosbeheer, Netherlands; Ellen Hultman, Naturum Lake Tåkern, Sweden; Jose Mari Unamuno, Urdaibai, Spain; Adam Bergner, Takern Field Station NGO, Sweden; Chris, Rostron, WWT, UK; Jérémiah Petit, Centre de Scamandre, Camargue, France; Milène Filleux, ADENA, France; Yulia Danilova, Baltic Fund for Nature, Russia; Joeri Lamers, Staatsbosbeheer; Terschelling, Netherlands, Eugene Genelt-Yanovsky, Baltic Fund for Nature, Russia; and (not at the photo) Pierre Caessteker, ONEMA, France.

At Tour du Valat:
Pierre Dufos du Roi, ONCFS, France; Jean-Yves, Mondain Monval, ONCFS, France; Christian Perennou, Observatoire des Zones Humides Méditerranéennes, Tour du Valat, France

Note: Due to a severe thunder storm on the first morning, there was no electricity (and no internet connection) at the Centre, and **we were therefore unable to join by Skype with partners** that had expressed an interest.

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1. Introductions and presentations :

The **presentations** are all available at the MBP web pages, see:
http://wli.wwt.org.uk/2014/10/uncategorized/migratory-b/.

Summaries included:
Scamandre, Jérémiah Petit. (see also **page 20**).
Welcomed the group to the site and explained the background of the site. Originally had been drained farmland, but pumping was stopped and the land returned to wetland. Cover 147 ha, and the organisation has just bought a further 300 ha neighbouring the centre. Also creating a new centre that will open soon. Scamandre has around 900 glossy ibis (90% of the French population), 9 species of heron, flamingos etc . 20,000 people visit per year, including 3,000 children, and staff run educational activities on site. 20 staff in all.

MBP / WLI update, Chris Rostron. The wider Wetland Link International network (WLI) is active globally, with similar lead groups running, and plans for more independent regional WLI networks. WLI Asia works closely with the East Asia Australasia Partnership, with a similar focus on migratory species. The Ramsar Regional Centre East Asia is currently in discussions to take lead role. WLI neotropics (South and Central America) in a similar position, planning a regional WLI conference, with a wetland study centre positioned to take on the role. WLI Russia – meeting planned for October, to take forward the network.
Ramsar is preparing for the next CoP (Conference of the Parties). CR will attend the Europe preparatory meeting, and likely to hold a workshop on the importance of wetland centres, to take place at Kufstein, Austria. Senior management of Ramsar has changed a lot, but CEPA and wetland centres still an important part of the Ramsar approach.
MBP has continued to work despite lack of resources. The Core Group meets every month, to plan and develop the network. New members have also been joining, and Roelof produces the MBP-newsletter quarterly. Outcomes from the last meeting include: poster for MBP in publisher format (thanks to Katja); the final version of the wetland centre audit available online; set up of a facebook page; purchase of the domain name 'migratorybirdsforpeople.org' and more work with Africa colleagues.

Terschelling, Joeri Lamers. Work on the island includes a lot of involvement of local people, including the use of social media. The facebook site is well used as a means to contact local residents, and to update on activities. Recent project to take young people out to stay on the reserve for the night has been really popular. Terschelling had also created small research hut in the dunes, to house 2 researchers for a week at a time, and with signage and information on the outside.
Panels for communication on the East Atlantic Flyway will be in a digital format available for other centres in MBP.

Freek Zwart has an idea to find funding to support two people to make a trip along all the centres along the flyway (Title: "People for Migrating Birds"). The idea is to have to students travelling along the Flyway during migration and work on educational pprojects in the centres.
Prof. Dr. Theunis Piersma (Uni Groningen)also keen to collaborate. This could link with the Leeuwarden Cultural City status in 2018. Klaas Spoelstra also wants to create a mobile exhibition on migratory birds including black-tailed godwit, spoonbill and sandpipers.

Baltic fund for Nature, Eugene Genelt Yanovsky and Julia Danilova. BFN does not have a wetland centre as such, but carries out much work through travelling exhibits and actions (there a probably fewer than 20 centres in Russia). EGY and JD showed us how they use purpose built tents and teaching materials, including a generator to provide power. They also showed us their teaching app, usable on an I-pad, to provide a resource for pupils and teachers.

The "mobile education centre" (see also under news from network under St. Petersburg)

Oostvaardersplassen, Hans Breeveld. Oostvaardersplassen originally part of land reclamation from the sea and intended for industry, but was too wet. Now a leading example of the 'hands-off' approach to managing wildlife, leaving the management to the cows, horses and deer on the site. Between two towns and 20 minutes from Amsterdam. Staatsbosbeheer runs regular events in order to raise funds for site management. Tours, ice-skating, Landover safaris all bring in income with minimal disturbance to wildlife. The 'temporary' visitor centre has been created, as plans for a larger € 6.5 m are currently on hold, and welcomes 60,000 visitors per year.
Hans also showed the OVP film, The New Wilderness - a 90 minute film that was on general release, with high production values and covering a year in the Oostvaardersplassen.

Urdaibia, Spain. Jose Mari Unamuno and Edorta Unamuno. Located near Bilbao in the Basque country, within the Urdaibai biosphere reserve. In 1967 the building was a fish-canning factory, the Aranzadi Society of Sciences acquired it in 2003 and converted it to a visitor centre with a viewing tower, which opened in 2012. The centre covers research, environmental education and tourism. Researchers mix with visitors and are visible, adding to the visitor experience. Rooms are also available to house the researchers on a temporary basis. Bird tracking projects taking place with the Eurasian woodcock and Osprey (working with Scottish partners).
The centre has no permanent exhibition, but relies on screens which are constantly updated with information / pictures / data from around the site. As a 'bottle neck' of migration routes, Urdaibai are keen to develop their work on international tracking and science.

Lake Tåkern, Sweden, Ellen Hultman and Adam Bergner. Shallow lake in rural Sweden which during migration welcomes 4,000 mute swans per year and around 30,000 pochards, large numbers of geese and cranes, and Caspian terns. For example in terms of breeding there are around 45 pairs of bittern, a similar amount of marsh harrier, several osprey, and black terns. Tåkern Visitors Centre (Naturum) was built 2 years ago with a modern design, clad in reeds from the lake, and receives 80,000 visitors per year. It is run by the County Administration (Länsstyrelsen). Keen to work more with disabled people, the site is well designed to accommodate them. Tåkern Field Station (NGO, Adam Bergner) has worked to do a lot

of monitoring and ringing of birds. Naturum and the Field Station cooperate in arranging a large number of events for the public, guided walks for groups and outdoor education for schools.

ONEMA (National Organisation for Water and Aquatic Environments), Pierre Caessteker. Focus on 3 targets: public administrations, citizens and users. ONEMA is the French CEPA organisation and has 13 key actions including: Edit the Wetlands « Pôles-relais » charter; Contribute to the new biodiversity national observatory (wetlands); Develop links with environmental education networks; Increase the capacity building; Transfer the research knowledge; Promote the national wetlands website; Build « citizen message » (national communication campaign); Build links between Ministry of Environment and local administration.
ONEMA runs a website, produces newsletters and resources, and also runs the World Wetlands Day activities in France. It also runs campaigns around wetlands themes, such as the Frog Frequency campaign, asking local people to report on sightings of frogs. PC will work to help engage more wetland centres in the MBP/WLI networks, with an estimated 60 centres running activities across France.

excursion at the Scaramandre site

……..

Tour du Valat, 16th September:
Christian Perrenou introduced the Tour du Valat. The reserve was created by Luc Hoffman over 60 years ago, with 2,600 ha of wetland and agricultural land. Since then it has become internationally known for its work on wetland and bird conservation. 60 core staff, plus 40 from other agencies at the site. The three core objectives are to: conserve the natural and cultural heritage of the reserve; facilitate research programmes on the reserve and with key species; maintain traditional activities at the site as management tools (grazing, farming, hunting etc).
The site hosted the IWRB (now Wetlands International), and now hosts other organisations such as MedWet and the National Office of Hunting and Wildlife, and includes the Mediterranean Wetland Observatory (headed by CP) which is developing a comprehensive survey of wetlands in the region and a set of indicators.
Office National de la Chasse et la Faune Sauvage (National office of Hunting and Wildlife). Jean-Yves Mondain Monval, Pierre Dufos du Rau. Now working more on African hunting issues. Funded through hunting taxes (2/3) and by the Ministry of Ecology (1/3) as hunting become less popular. Focus on sustainable hunting and collection of harvest data.
Key point is that management for hunting results in more biodiversity than agriculture, which is much more of a threat for wetlands. It is also important to accept this in order to work better with hunters and to appreciate that they can be a positive force for conservation. ONCFS has close ties with Djoudj national park, and there is now a special fund, from the Baie de Somme (Patrick Triplet) to support conservation and hunters in Djoudj. Key findings of ONCFS:

- Role of sustainable hunting is key to wetland conservation.
- Intensive agriculture is the worst option.
- Don't let philosophic / religious issues get in the way of work.

- Identify common points and get hunters interested.
- 'Shelter' under the AEWA umbrella to support wider work.

2. Updating of the MBP Strategy Plan

All agreed that the plan would benefit from shortening / simplification. CR will update some background figures (numbers of partners etc). See latest version of the strategy plan for updates.
Actions include:

1. Inclusion of Urdaibai in the core MBP group, to participate in regular Skype meetings.
2. Running of social media 'webinar' by Joeri and Naomi? Create new Facebook page (Joeri) and update web page (Chris).
3. Closer working with NorBalWet (Ellen) and MedWet (Chris) on CEPA issues.
4. Development of joint project based on species lists provided (Chris). Identify lead partner to deliver the bid (see below).
5. Identify activities for WMBD and WWD
6. Continue to add members from areas missing from our strategic area.

3. Discussions about a joint project:

Data had already been collected on species of interest for each site. This revealed that although a few species covered a long flyway, shared by many centres, there is not one single species that could be seen at all of our member centres. In addition, it was proposed that some of the species we focus on should be the common ones that people are likely to see, as well as those that are rare/under threat that could interest a potential funder.
The potential project should focus on our strengths, which are around linking wetland centres, activities at and between the sites, and delivery of CEPA activities. This could work in tandem/partnership with other more science based projects that are being carried out by other partners.
Once we have agreed a set of activities for this bird-themed approach, we will then identify potential funding sources. LIFE deadline next year will be in the Autumn, which should provide plenty of time. Recommendation to go for (early) next years' call as autumn this year would be too close
Also not focus only at Life, but try to get other funding/sponsorship ; also look at what can be done in cooperation with research programmes. Theo de Bruin arranging a meeting with their European Officer in order to see if there is a possibility for obtaining European funding for our network. Our co-operation and all the efforts in CEPA activities are a valuable source for maintaining and increasing habitats and/or improving circumstances for endangered species. And fits completely in the European schema of networking, sustainability, etc.

4. Next meeting

Urdaibai centre offered to host the next annual meeting and agreed that they could cover accommodation and subsistence costs for it. It would allow the group to visit a centre that uses modern audio-visual equipment, and state of the art bird tracking and monitoring techniques.
Baltic Fund for Nature also offered to host the meeting at Olonets, in North West Russia, 300km north of St Petersburg and near Lagoda lake. Could be hosted at the field station, but the best period to see birds (and the goose festival) is in Spring. The Wetland Centre network in Russia is still developing.
A third option is to try to hold the meeting in Africa, to ensure that our African colleagues can participate. However, this will be expensive and complicated to arrange.
The decision will be taken at our next MBP Skype meeting. (see also page: 28)

Chris Rostron, Wetland Link International.

News from the network:

Finland : Liminganlahti conservation area

Busiest season starts to be over in Liminka Bay, even though while writing this (on 13th October), hundreds of swans and geese and thousands of dabbling duck feed around the visitor centre.
In the weather forecast there are subzero temperatures for the coming days which probably mean that the very shallow Liminka Bay freezes over and the majority of the last remaining migrant birds will depart to go further south.

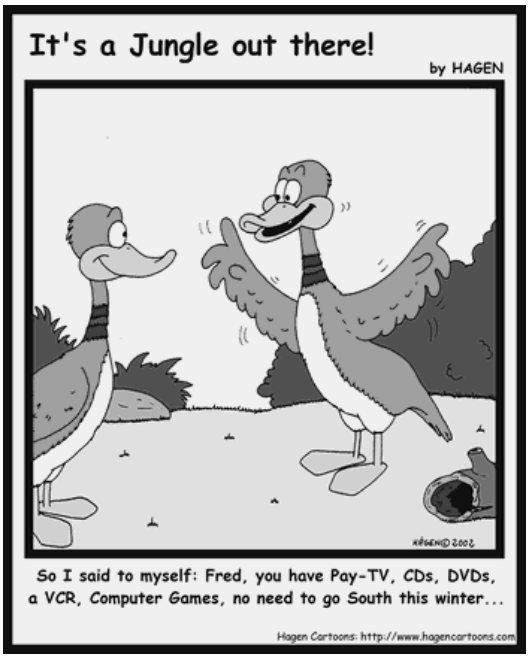
Once again there were lots of activities and events during spring and summer. The highlight of the spring was the **8th Liminka Bay Bird Photo Festival** on 25th to 27th April. The program consisted of the photo presentations by several top bird photographers from Finland, as an international visitor this year we had David Tipling from England. Festival started on Friday with the finals of the increasingly popular Liminka Bay Bird Quiz, where students from elementary and high schools compete in the skill of bird identification. During the three festival days there were altogether 2000 visitors in the Liminka Bay visitor centre.

After the spring season started the renovation of the outdoor areas. The visitor centre has now for example a brand new campfire site and children can discharge their excess of energy on a safe playground. Visitor centre and the bird watchtowers around the Liminka Bay will also soon have new information tables.

The star bird of the late spring and summer was – once again – **Gull-billed Tern** (*Gelochelidon nilotica*). This is only the 3rd individual for Finland but this time apparently the same individual has now returned to Liminka Bay already on 5 years in a row. However, it is not easy to find from the vast bay area; one birder said that he succeeded seeing it only on his 6th visit!

Other notable events in the birdlife were the successful breeding of the two southeastern rarities, Citrine Wagtail (*Motacilla citreola*) and Pallid Harrier (*Circus macrourus*).

The Pallid Harrier bred very successfully near the visitor centre and six chicks fledged with coded color rings on their legs. One of them was already controlled in Southern Finland, 500km away!
Also Lesser White-fronted Geese (*Anser erythropus*) had a good year, with a total of 54 individuals recorded during their migration period in early May. Some of them also visited Liminka Bay, even though the main staging area is south from Liminka Bay.
Fifty Lesser White-fronted Geese recorded on 15th of May was the highest daily count in Finland since 1992, which is very promising news for this globally threatened species.



Petri Lampila.
Liminganlahti Wetland centre

Norway: Fetsund Lenser, Nordre Øyeren wetland centre

This autumn has as usual been busy at Nordre Øyeren wetland center with several activity days and lots of schoolchildren attending several different activities.

Activity days for families

In August we had a well visited Bat Night at our visitor center with 80 people attending of which 30 were children. After a half an hour lecture about these fascinating animals, we had a live bat to show to the audience – a great success! Then we went along our wetland listening for bats – and found Daubentons bat (*Myotis daubentonii*), Soprano pipistrelle (*Pipistrellus pygmaeus*), Noctule (*Nyctalus notcula*) and Northern bat (*Eptecicus nilsonii*).

In mid-August we had a fishing contest with lots of families attending – we captured more than 150 fish of several species; most of them alive. Some of them were used to refill our aquariums inside our visitor center – to great enjoyment for some of the children who had even named their fish. All the children who attended got a fishing rod each and the biggest fish of each species got something extra – thanks to a local fish equipment store who sponsored it all!

Last day of August we had a wetland day with lots of fun stuff about wetlands – catching insects in water and look at the "monsters" in magnifying glass, go for a small and safe boat-trip on the water and feeding-time in our aquarium were some of the activities we had to offer.

Boat trips out in the Nordre Øyeren Delta

We arranged eight **boat trips** for a total of 480 pupils at the local secondary school. On these trips they learned about the formation of the delta area, why it is a nature reserve, what some of the rules and concerns are in the nature reserve and about the animals and plants in the area. All the pupils got their own binocular for the day, and a lot of birds were observed, including Osprey (*Pandion haliaetus*), Mallards (Anas platyrhynchos), Great cormorant (*Phalacrocorax carbo*) and Mute swan (*Cygnus olor*).

Invasive species

A total of 170 high school students visited us to learn more about invasive plant species. They were also out in the field where they removed Lupin (*Lupinus polyphyllus*), Red-barked dogwood (*Cornus alba*), Musk strawberry (*Fragaria moschata*) and Spotted loosestrife (*Lysimachia punctate*).

From june-october we have also continued our fight of the invasive plant species Himalayan Balsam (Impatiens glandulifera) in the Nordre Øyeren nature reserve and the borders around it at Øya in Fet municipality and close to our visitor center.

Cultural history

A total of 600 primary school children visited us over a period of 10 days. They got to experience how it was at Fetsund Lenser (Fetsund timber booms) back in the day when it was a timber floating and a sorting plant. The children visited **the blacksmith**, they tried to float timber on the river, visited the sawmill where they got to see how a timber log is cut into planks, and much more.

Trude Starholm and Line Gustavsen
Nordre Øyeren wetland centre

Sweden: Naturum Lake Tåkern

At lake Tåkern the last month has been filled with school groups visiting. Thanks to special funding from the Tåkern Foundation, we are able to offer full days of outdoor education activities for school groups. Mostly, we focus on birds of course, and this time of year migration is very visible.

With one of my groups I organized the children in two lines with one kid up front, to run and flap their arms all the way back to the visitor centre from the trail. They were practicing being migrating cranes (and keeping warm on a chilly day). When we had finished and I was just saying goodbye, one kid shouted "Look! The cranes!", and up in the sky a plough of cranes just passed over our heads. He got it! Then he ran off to the bus shouting back to me : "Thank you for the adventure!" Such a nice day!

Also nice and very inspiring for me was the annual meet in Camargue, meeting new and old friends and finding out about new interesting methods to interpret our message about migrating birds to our visitors. I was filled with new energy and renewed ambitions to become even better at giving our visitors a direct experience of what they see at our wetland, through new technique with scopes and screens as well as spending more of my own time actually seeing "my" wetland!

The pictures show school kids building imaginary bird's nests for imaginary birds they've drawn.

Call for cooperation concerning renewal of visitor area.
At lake Tåkern we are planning measures to bring the birds closer to our visitors.
Is your Visitor Centre planning something similar?
We would like to clear reeds, scrape shoreline, and create new islands close to the birdwatching tower, and build new innovative hides along a trail. For this, we need to create a project and apply for money from some fund.
Maybe your centre and ours could cooperate in this kind of project, as a twinning action?
Please contact me as soon as possible if you like this idea!
Or if you just have suggestions and best practice you would like to share, or ideas for funds.

Ellen Hultman
Naturum Tåkern
Ellen.hultman@lansstyrelsen.se
+46-10-2235389

Ellen Hultman

Please have also a look at the webcam of Tåkern
Perhaps you can connect it to one screen in your centre.:
http://webbkameror.se/flash/lstostergotland/lstostergotland_2.swf

Sweden: Naturum Getterön

Hello, now it has become the fall and a lot has happened since the last newsletter:
Our Visitor Centre manager Linda Nyberg has come back from her maternity leave. Welcome back Linda!

Anders Nothagen has hung up his stunning watercolor exhibition the Visitor Centre Getterön. It will remain here until the beginning of November.

One of the watercolours painted by Anders Nothagen

Many birds have already left the south, others have arrived resting here on their way south, and some of those who overwinter here also already arrived. For example, a kingfisher dwelling in the channel outside the Visitor Centre Getterön right now. To be able to survive the winter here, it's very important that they not be disturbed. It is important for it to be able to fish in peace and quiet in ice-free water. It is fine to look for it with respectful distance from the bridge over the canal, from the trail to the big hide and not least here from Visitor Centre window. When it turns out you can also take the picture through the spotting scope in the centre disturbing the bird world!

And last but not least: The full program of our activities is available on our website under *http://www.naturumgetteron.se/program/helaprogrammet/.*
All activities are free as usual.

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

There has been a change in the management of this centre: after one year Linda Nyberg has returned to her former post as manager for this centre. Katja Fedrowitz has been her "stand-in" during this period, but now has left Lansstyrelsen. We are very grateful for the work Katja has done for the MBP-network and we are glad that she will stay active in our network the coming months./. The core group

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)

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Denmark: Nature Centre Vestamager

No message received.

The Nature Park of Amager
Contact: Rune Kjaegaard Lange
Wetland centre "Kalvebod Fælled".

Russia: CEPA , St. Petersburg

Wetland Centre Network - Russia

Our team has invested in equipment for a “mobile education centre” and a mobile nature trail. This can be used at different locations.
Main result: mobile nature education centre with the set of specific equipment and educational programs / sets of prepared activities for the exploration of the nearby nature by non-specialists.

The tent can host a class of schoolchildren and the yellow colour was especially chosen in order to create a friendly atmosphere in the tent.

The mobile nature trail consists of: 2 sets of large information stands + set of 5 posters + small stands.

Peatbog guide
for Ipad (+PDF)

We produced a peat bog guide for use on Ipad, which explains all features of our (raised) bogs.
We also organised a seminar for teachers on involvement of school teams into bird watching during the seasonal migrations and a workshop: “Biologists for nature conservation”.

(see also presentation on website: **http://wli.wwt.org.uk/2014/10/uncategorized/migratory-b/.**

managers of education/outreach departments of nature
Evgeny Genelt-Yanovsky and Yulia Danilova , Baltic Fund for Nature (BFN) , St. Petersburg

Germany : Nationalpark - Haus Husum

Nationalpark-Haus Husum, at the World Heritage Site Wadden Sea

As our place is mainly about protection of the Wadden Sea, here is some news on that.
We all in the Wadden Sea became very happy in June when UNESCO World Heritage Committee decided to add also the Danish Wadden Sea (and some outer parts of the Wadden Sea in Lower Saxony) to the **Wadden Sea World Heritage Site**.
Following that decision we now truly have ONE WADDEN SEA, which, however, does not mean, that there is not very much to do to put this view into practise.
Therefore, this became the main focus of ,,The 2014 Call for Action for the Wadden Sea" (*see: www.wwf.de/fileadmin/fm-wwf/Publikationen-PDF/The_2014_Call_for_Action_for_the_Wadden_Sea.pdf*), which has been published by 19 environmental NGOs from all three Wadden Sea countries at the Wadden Sea Day on 28 August 2014 (*see: www.waddensea-secretariat.org/wadden-sea-day-2014*).

salt grasslands

The Call is focussing on the joint responsibility, because Denmark, Germany and The Netherlands now have to protect the ,,Outstanding Universal Value" of the area. In addition the Call is focussing on the poor condition of the underwater world of the Wadden Sea, which is mainly related to an inappropriate management of fisheries, and offers also dialogue and partnership to solve this within the next 10 years.

The ,,Nordlink"-Cable (Norway-Germany) has been approved, which is certainly good news for the ,,Energiewende" in Germany, but unfortunately bad news for the National Park Wadden Sea which will be damaged by that cable, while as of today there is no true compensation provided for the impact.
Concerning tourism, WWF has published a report about ,,Contributing to Nature Conservation through Tourism in the Wadden Sea" (*see: http://www.wwf.de/fileadmin/fm-wwf/Publikationen-PDF/WWF-Studie-Reisen-Tourismus-Schutz-Wattenmeer-englisch.pdf*).

×

Brent geese (one adult and 4 juv..
(both pictures by Hans-Ulrich Rösner)

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

the Netherlands: Terschelling (Wadden Sea)

No message received.

Freek Zwart,
Staatsbosbeheer, Terschelling

the Netherlands : Oostvaardersplassen

The rut.

The rutting season for the Red Deer in the Oostvaardersplassen nature reserve is now in full swing. Many visitors come our way, almost special for this amazing, annual event. It attracts thousands of visitors each year. In particular after the release of the film “the New Wilderness” a film that was shot on location in the Oostvaardersplassen, the number of visitors has increased. It has tripled. Of course this is great news for an information centre, but it is a different story for the area and the facilities. The number of people that visit us has risen, but also the number of cars they use to come here has grown. And since there is only a small parking lot one can imaging this gives problems. Also the requests for the number of field-tours has risen greatly. Again good news, but when the organisation is not prepared for this, it is hard to handle. The number of visitors and groups has increased last year considerably. As soon as the final numbers are known, I will put them in the next report. What the ruth is concerned, it is almost at its end now and things will calm down shortly. Than it is up to the wintertime, with perhaps ice skating, and other winter activities.

Hans Breeveld, Oostvaardersplassen

Belgium: Natuurpunt : visitor centre 'Uitkerkse Polder'.

No message received (with apologies).

Bob Vandendriessche
Uitkerkse Polder, Natuurpunt vzw, Belgium

Nature centre “het Zwin”

Since we have realised the management restoration activities in the Zwin Reserve last year, we have done several nice observations.
We have established breeding results from Common terns and Little terns on the island that was created fort hat purpose. On a number of occasions we spotted Great Egrets in the reserve and for longer periods also significant larger groups of Spoonbills (up to 30 individuals) then in former years.

As icing on the cake we had one and occasionally two juvenile **Ospreys** in the Zwin from the beginning of September till the beginning of October. They were seen flying over and hunting, with varying success. We could not establish if we were dealing with the same individuals all the time. In any case it was exceptional for the reserve that Ospreys did stay such a long period.

In the meantime the construction of the new **Zwin Nature Centre** is well under way.
It will be a new visitors centre with an experience park. The main building has almost reached his definitive height on which a platform will offer visitors a nice look-out over the whole area. The opening of the new Zwin Visitor Centre is scheduled for March 2016.

Kind request to all participants in the MBP- network regarding our new project in the Zwin.

On the basis of the websites “Waarnemingen.nl” and “Waarnemingen.be” we have developed regional screen “waarnemingen (=observations) in the Zwin area” via a special “data-filter”.
We intend to present these data on a very large screen in the hall of our new exhibition (in the style of an airportpanel). Visitors will see which birds are present in the area, are to be expected or which will leave soon. So, just like an airport. But this is about the Zwin area.

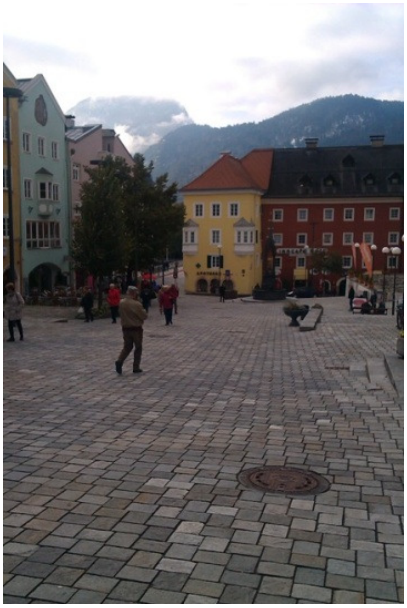
We would like to gather also **regular information** from different other sites along the East Atlantic Flyway. The question is how we could simply receive these data (and of course our data share with others in the network) ? Do you have advice, tips and contacts for us?

Kris Struyf *(Centre manager Natuurcentrum Zwin – biologist)*

Provinciaal Natuurpark Zwin * Provincie West-Vlaanderen
Graaf Leon Lippensdreef 8 * 8300 Knokke-Heist, Belgium.
T: 0032-50 60 70 86
E: kris.struyf@west-vlaanderen.be

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

Ramsar Europe preparatory meeting



Chris Rostron, head of WLI, took part in the Europe preparatory meeting for the Ramsar COP, held in Kufstein (left), Austria, with representatives from the European countries. The meeting discussed the planned resolutions for the Conference of the Parties (COP) to be held next year. This included the resolution on CEPA (communication, education, participation and awareness) and a workshop on wetland centre network in Europe, which of course promoted the MBP network. The workshop also came up with recommendations such as making resources available in local languages, working through governments to get contacts for wetland centres, providing templates for local use, and developing twinning and exchange programmes. For more on the CEPA resolution, see the Ramsar website. (www.ramsar.org)

Slimbridge:

As part of the sustainability plans for our Slimbridge site, a new biomass boiler is being installed, which will replace our existing oil-fired heating systems. This is good news not only in terms of reducing our carbon footprint massively (we are also using sustainably source wood pellets), and saving us lots of money (thanks in part to the government incentives), but also reduces the risk of oil contamination at our site.

Storing oil in tanks always has some risk, and accidents are possible.
The biomass boiler will also provide a good message for our visitors, showing that we are working to reduce our environmental impact, with interpretation boards and information.

Contact: Chris Rostron

From Martin Mere (UK) we received a message written by Kane Brides:

Staff and visitors to WWT Martin Mere herald the arrival of autumn when the first flocks of Pink-footed Geese arrive back at the wetland site. As darkness falls and temperatures drop in the cold north of Iceland, thousands and thousands of Pink-footed Geese arrive to the shores of the UK for warmer climes!
WWT Martin Mere is specially managed during the summer and winter for the geese, making sure that the correct feeding conditions and safe roosting areas are provided ready for their winter return. Usually around 22,000 Pink-footed Geese arrive at the reserve either for the winter or to refuel before carrying on with their

southward journey to Norfolk. However the Reserve Wardens were surprised when more than usual numbers of birds started to arrive this autumn! A record site count of 45,800 Pink-feet were counted during September, the flock certainly put on quite a show providing awesome sights and sounds for visitors! Numbers have now dropped to around 22,000 birds - as arrivals and numbers in Norfolk start to build, however we look forward to welcoming their return again come spring migration!

Kane Brides

WWT Species Monitoring Unit

Luxembourg: Haff Réimech **WELCOME TO OUR "Migratory Birds for People"-NETWORK!**

This site and centre is our new participant in Luxembourg. It represents the Ramsar site “Haff Réimech” and the visitor centre “Biodiversum Remerschen”.
This new visitor centre is still under construction and will open its doors in May 2015.
We welcome **Patric Lorgé** and his colleagues to our network and we hope that they will soon find their role in our "Migratory Birds for People"-network.

France: Baie de Somme

Syndicat Mixte Baie de Somme – Grand Littoral Picard (SMBS-GLP) is going to celebrating this year the **30th anniversary** of the Maison de la Baie de Somme.

After 30 years of presentation of some bird species in restored and artificial landscapes from the Somme estuary, the Maison de la Baie de Somme is becoming a tool to raise awareness visitors about the evolution of the estuary, either on the natural landscape, or the economic and heritage features.

To formalise this approach, SMBS-GLP has chosen a partner after an architectural competition and this partner will have to propose a project dealing with the re-organisation of the Centre.

At the same time of this process, SMBS is working in collaboration with local stakeholders and resource persons on topics dealing with the evolution of the Baie de Somme.

The topics are:
Theme 1: The morphological and landscape evolution of the Somme estuary
Theme 2: A rich cultural heritage
Theme 3: The evolution of natural environment
Theme 4: New development perspective

The goal is to share and enrich the future exhibitions to be presented to visitors.

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

France: Camargue Gardoise / Centre de découverte du Scamandre

Once again we would like to thank **Jérémiah Pétit** and his staff for hosting our Annual Meeting 2014 in the wonderful and inspiring environment of the Camargue! The ambience was great and so were food and drinks! Despite some troubles caused by nature (thunderstorm -> power cut), we still managed to do our presentations and other discussions during the event. We also enjoyed several nice excursions in the Camargue.

On behalf of the core-group: Roelof Heringa.

Contact: Jérémiah Pétit, Centre de découverte du Scamandre, France

"Inspiring birds, inspiring people"

NEWSLETTER no. 20 (October 2014)

Spain: Urdaibai Bird Centre WELCOME TO OUR "Migratory Birds for People"-NETWORK!

This site and centre is our new participant in Spain.

Urdaibai Bird Centre is a great living natural museum, open for the public to enjoy the world of birds and learn about their migratory behaviour. It is not only a great museum and scientific research centre for birds.

What makes the Bird Centre unique, is that it is located at the heart of the Urdaibai Biosphere Reserve and is a privileged observatory from which visitors can enjoy spectacular views of the marshland.
This centre is administered by Aranzadi Society of Sciences and works in scientific research and the dissemination of information about birds, their migratory behaviour and the habitats in which they live.
Urdaibai is indeed a living centre. As the course of events is set by the birds, every day brings something new. It is a compulsory stop in the migration of birds, this great journey which is one of the greatest phenomenon in nature.
From the observatories the public can enjoy the birds that are visiting Urdaibai; Spoonbills from the Wadden Sea, elegant Herons, many species of ducks, waders from the far north and even birds as elusive as the Eurasian Bittern. In this centre, research and dissemination teams work together so that visitors can learn about and experience the projects which are in progress. Guides and experts are always at hand to help the visitor gain a greater insight into this exciting world and the centre is well equipped with state of the art audio visual equipment.
Urdaibai Bird Centre is also open to other centres interested in dissemination and research on the birds found at the wetlands of the East Atlantic Flyway.
For more information: www.birdcentre.org

Please have also a look at the webcam of Urdaibai. Perhaps ou can connect it to one screen in your centre.:
http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_embedded&v=XQiAZv5f5M8

Contact: Jose Unamuno,director Bird Center Urdaibai

Spain: Aiguamolls de l'Emporda

Recently, the Aiguamolls de l'Empordà Natural Park has been working to become more sustainable and help saving energy. At the park Headquarters we have installed a biomass boiler, and the whole Information Centre and Park HQ will heat with wood chip coming mainly from the product of the maintenance workers (pruning, thinning trees, etc. ..). This will save the consumption of more than 4000 liters of diesel every year.

"Inspiring birds, inspiring people"

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In addition, in the field of environment, we have monitored breeding birds, with good results for species of interest, which include the breeding for first time in history of a pair of the **Red-crested Pochard** (*Netta rufina*) at our Natural Park.

Contact: Sergio Romero and Ponç Feliu

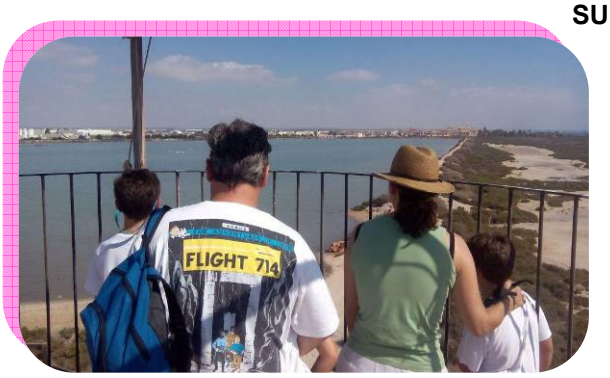
Spain: MónNatura Delta, Ebro Delta

No message received

Contact: Xavier Escuté

Spain: las Salinas y Arenales de San Pedro del Pinatar

SUMMER IMAGES



POINT OF BIRDWATCHING
We installed a birdwatching point in an exceptional viewpoint: the terrace of the tower Coterillo; the highest watching point at the Regional Park.

TWO SPECIAL TOURS
Guided tours "Between 2 waters" and "Holidays in Las Salinas" allowed at the visitors to learn about the natural and cultural values of the place they chose to spend their summer holidays.

Campaign "*Posidonia oceanica*: a sea of life" during the months of July and August have carried out an awareness campaign on the plant *Posidonia oceanica* marina to publicize the benefits of us and the importance of its conservation.

Special day "searching of underwater treasure", where we discovered playing the network of life on the prairies of *Posidonia oceanica* in the Mediterranean Sea. In addition, elaborating a mural with remains of plastics collected along the beaches natural Regional Park.

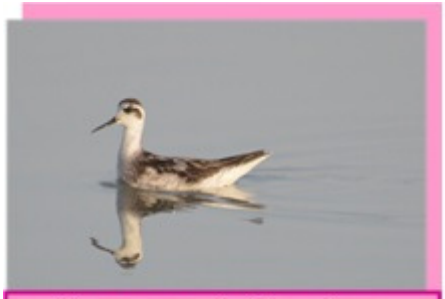
CAMPAÑA posidonia oceanica Un Mar de Vida

We installed a mobile information point in beach, in which we show the importance of the a grounds plant of Posidonia to avoid erosion and preserve the sand of our coasts. In addition to indispensable place for shorebirds feeding.

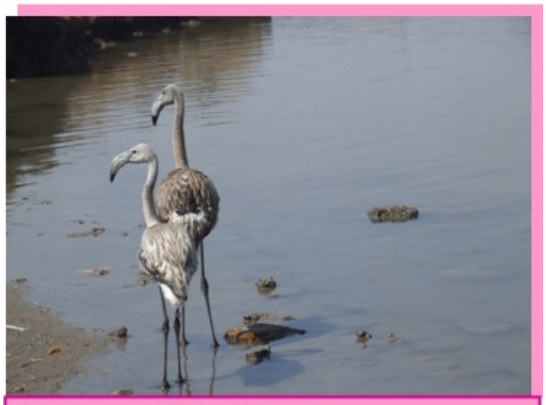
AUTUMN IMAGES

An unusual visitor, faralopo picofino (Pharalopus lobatus), is seen at the Regional Park.

Salinas y Arenales de San Pedro del Pinatar Regional Park is a stepping-stone in the migration, where many species stop on their long trek to rest and recharge; one of these species is the Faralopo picofino (Pharalopus lobatus). That species is born in the Arctic and appears occasionally in Spain. This year it has been seen in the Delta del Ebro and also in Cádiz. A young bird was spotted in the salt flats of Salinas y Arenales de San Pedro del Pinatar Regional Park in late August, which, in size, looks like a Black-winged stilt. This is a wader bird that feeds on a wide variety of aquatic invertebrates, although unlike the black-winged stilt and other waders they can also swim.



Young exemplary Pharalopus lobatus. Foto: L.C.G



Flamingos deep into the salt ponds

Two young Flamingos (Phoenicopterus roseus) healed at Centre Wildlife Healing are liberated to salt flats of Salinas y Arenales de San Pedro del Pinatar Regional Park.

To cheer us all the success stories, this is one of them.
In the middle of August two people called the Centre for Wildlife Healing because they saw two flamingos in unusual places. They were alone and disoriented. It is possible that these young flamingos were lost on their first flight. They were tired but not malnourished, but there was no food in the places where they made their "emergency landing".

After regaining strength for 15 days in the Healing Wildlife Centre, they have been delivered to nature in the salt flats of Salinas y Arenales de San Pedro del Pinatar Regional Park, where they have met with their peers; ten minutes after eating on the shore of the ponds, they were approached by a group of young fellows.
Wetlands, such as Salinas y Arenales de San Pedro del Pinatar Regional Park, are essential to the conservation of wildlife, being places of refuge, breeding and feeding for many animals.

World Bird Day 2014 (in the Region of Murcia)

Birds are always near us.

The World Bird Day is an annual event that takes place the first weekend in October at the time when millions of birds pass by. The onset of autumn is an ideal moment to watch many birds and know them best.

The World Bird Day is a great participatory event organised by BirdLife International global and coordinated in Spain by SEO / BirdLife. Birds are always near us, bringing life and colour to our surroundings, however, often go unnoticed. For this reason, this celebration aims to show to citizens the birds in our immediate environment, our town or city.

Directorate of Environment through Information and Visitor Service of Protected Natural Areas in the Region of Murcia is to celebrate the Birds Day through a series of activities for organised groups and the citizen, in Salinas y Arenales de San Pedro del Pintar Regional Park; Sierra Espuña Regional Park and Healing Wildlife Centre.

Parque Regional
Salinas de San Pedro

Entire month of October

"Booklet: Rosetti's Journey"

With this booklet, younger guests can have fun with their family making a tour at the Exhibition Hall in Visitor Centre "Las Salinas".

“Identify flora and fauna”

Visitors who participate in scoring the "check-list" of animals and plants during October will automatically be entered in a prize draw for a pair of binoculars. They may also assist in the development of the "List of Birds of the Month", located at the Visitor Centre "Las Salinas". This activity is organised by the Department of Tourism of the Municipality of San Pedro del Pinatar in collaboration with the Information Service of the Regional Park.

Saturday 4 October - Ornithological Route "Our neighboring birds"

Visitors will discover how birds influence our wellbeing. During the tour we will try to identify the birds that live in the salt pools, ending with birdwatching at an exceptional viewpoint: the terrace of the tower Coterillo; the highest watching point at the Regional Park.

Route Details: 3 km (return trip). Low difficult.

Wednesday 8 and Thursday 9 October-Guided tour and workshop bird feeders

Special activity with a school near of the Regional Park. During the day develop a guided tour Salinas y Arenales de San Pedro del Pintar Regional Park and a workshop on bird feeders reusing materials that tend to go away.

More information: www.murcianatural.carm.es

*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**

Project "From Arctic to Africa"- Towards a strategic conservation plan in the Senegal River delta

As part of the project "From Arctic to Africa" for the protection and conservation of migratory birds and their habitat along the East Atlantic flyway, a strategic conservation plan in the Senegal River Delta, in West Africa, is being developed. This plan is to define and breed an operational framework for the protection of migratory water birds and the restoration of key habitats of major importance for biodiversity.

Decisive progress in this regard has been made during the last consultation and conceptualization workshop of the plan held in Saint Louis, Senegal, from 12th to 14th August 2014. Participants of this brainstorming are managers of parks and reserves in the intervention area targeted by the Action Plan, representatives of parks management, representatives of institutions and

regional public services, national and international NGOs, community associations, management structures, local authorities, academics, etc. from Senegal and Mauritania.

A total of eight (08) conservation targets as well as four (04) waterbird species and four (04) habitat type were selected:

For the waterfowls characteristics of the area, the target species are:

- Black-tailed Godwit (Limosa limosa)
- The Ruff (Philomachus pugnax)
- The Flamingo (Phoeniconaias minor)
- The Crowned Crane (Balearica pavonina)

In terms of features habitats of the area, the target is:

- Coastal areas
- Areas of floodplains
- Rice field areas.
- Estuarine areas.

Key field actions that can be undertaken in the short term, pending the finalization and validation of the draft plan, have been identified. The outlines and the selection of these priority actions are primarily focused around protection of waterfowl, habitat restoration and expansion of areas with a legally protected status. That is why the Strategic Plan will include the restoration of habitat and species, monitoring of water birds at the site of Aftout Es Saheli (Mauritania), whose islands are important breeding sites for Lesser Flamingos in West Africa;

Furthermore restoration of habitats and biodiversity monitoring are included in the draft plan and will intervene at the Nature Reserve of Tocc-tocc (in Senegal) which is in turn, a major site for Teal mumps.

As previously done in the National Park of Djoudj in Senegal, work plans for clearing of waterways and dredging of channels in the park of Diawling in Mauritania will help a better flow of water and reclaiming water lands colonized by aquatic invasive plant species.

In addition, essential recommendations to make the next strategic conservation plan on the Senegal River delta operational, came out of this workshop:

- ✓ The need to work in continuity taking into account the existing elements from the development and implementation of the final management plan for the RBT.
- ✓ Preparation, with the various stakeholders, and the implementation of the priority activities in the short-term on the identified sites of Tocc-tocc, Diawling and Aftout Es Saheli
- ✓ Finalisation by WIA and consultants of the process by specifying the additional information needed to refine the elements and the established descriptive model of the situation
- ✓ The Prioritization of the various suggestions and strategies that have been made and the documentation of the most suitable and efficient responses to identified threats
- ✓ Completion of drafting the strategic plan document along axes and orientation
- ✓

It should be noted that this workshop was enhanced by the presence of eminent personalities including Professor Ahmed El Moctar Salem of the University of Nouakchott, Mr. Pape Mawade Wade representing the Regional Director of Wetlands International Africa, Col Ibrahima Kane coordination of RBT, Abdallahi Magrega representing the Director of Diawling National Park and Col Soulèye Ndiaye, Director of National Parks of Senegal.

Gabin Agblonon
Wetlands International Africa

"Inspiring birds, inspiring people"

NEWSLETTER no. 20 (October 2014)

News from the Core group

From the (Skype-)meetings of the core group : October

Wednesday 15th October 2014, 8.30am – 9.30am CET
(abridged version)

1. **Agree MBP meeting host 2015**

We discussed the possibility of an African meeting, the invitation from St. Petersburg BFN to visit Olonets, north east of St Petersburg, or Urdaibai's offer at their Bird Center in Northern Spain. Logistically, it seems that an annual meeting in Africa would be very expensive and complicated, but all agreed that a targeted meet with African partners would be useful – possibly through the Arctic to Africa activities through Wetlands International.
Russia similarly could be more logistically complicated, and the Olonets facility is fairly small – although it would be good to see the local activities, and all thanked BFN for the invitation.
Given the ease of access to get to Northern Spain, and the range of activities provided by Urdaibai, it was agreed that we will accept their offer to host the meeting in **2015, September 14/15**. Visit to include a trip to the local town and market and also to see activities being run on site.

2. **MBP updated action plan**

The updated action plan was agreed by the core group. We will have to do some final work on the action plan. We also decided to remove Natuurpunt, and add Urdaibai and Eurosite to the core group.

3. **Communications** – logo, social media etc.

This area will take more time to discuss, to be covered at our next meeting. Issues around the MPB-logo, social media training etc.

4. **Project development** – Katja's offer of help whilst she is job-hunting.

Currently Katja Fedrowitz has a week in November and two in December scheduled to work on project development for MBP. Katja to work on developing the approach of a flyway bid for MBP members, looking at a range of birds species that will be seen at a broad number of wetland centres – not just rare/threatened spp, but also those that the public can easily spot.
We agreed to set up a separate development group to meet before next core group meet.

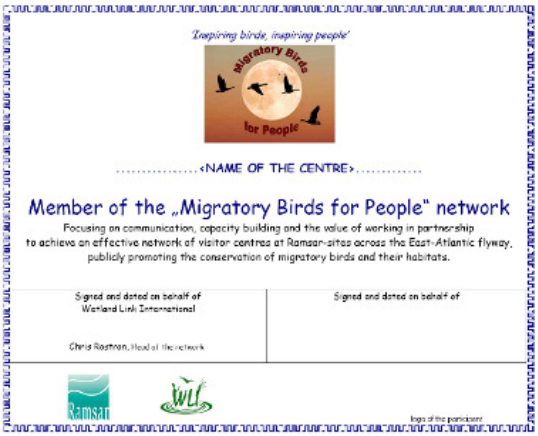
Roelof Heringa

"Migratory Birds for People" certificate

The core group has a certificate available 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.


'Inspiring birds, inspiring people'

.....<NAME OF THE CENTRE>.....

Member of the „Migratory Birds for People" network

Focusing on communication, capacity building and the value of working in partnership to achieve an effective network of visitor centres at Ramsar-sites across the East-Atlantic flyway, publicly promoting the conservation of migratory birds and their habitats.

Signed and dated on behalf of Wetland Link International	Signed and dated on behalf of
Chris Rostron, Head of the network	

Logos of the participant

==========

Other MBP- network news

World Wetlands Day 2015 is focussing on the theme *Wetlands for Our Future* – Join us!

World Wetlands Day is annually held on February 2 to celebrate how wetlands, which are lands saturated by water, help maintain biodiversity on Earth. World Wetlands Day marks the date of the signing of the Convention on Wetlands, called Ramsar Convention, on 2 February 1971, in the Iranian city of Ramsar on the shores of the Caspian Sea.
There will be events held around the globe to celebrate the purpose of the day, from seminars to nature walks and community clean up days in over 98 countries worldwide.

On 2 February 2015, we'll be enticing youth to experience wetlands for themselves!

A Wetlands Youth Photo Contest will ask entrants aged 15-24 to snap and upload a picture taken in a wetlands location between 2 February and 2 March. The photographic challenge is to highlight one of the many ways wetlands ensure our future.
On 27 October 2014, a full range of World Wetlands Day support materials for organizers and teachers will be available for download on the Ramsar website. We can use your help in spreading the word!

World Migratory Bird Day – 2015

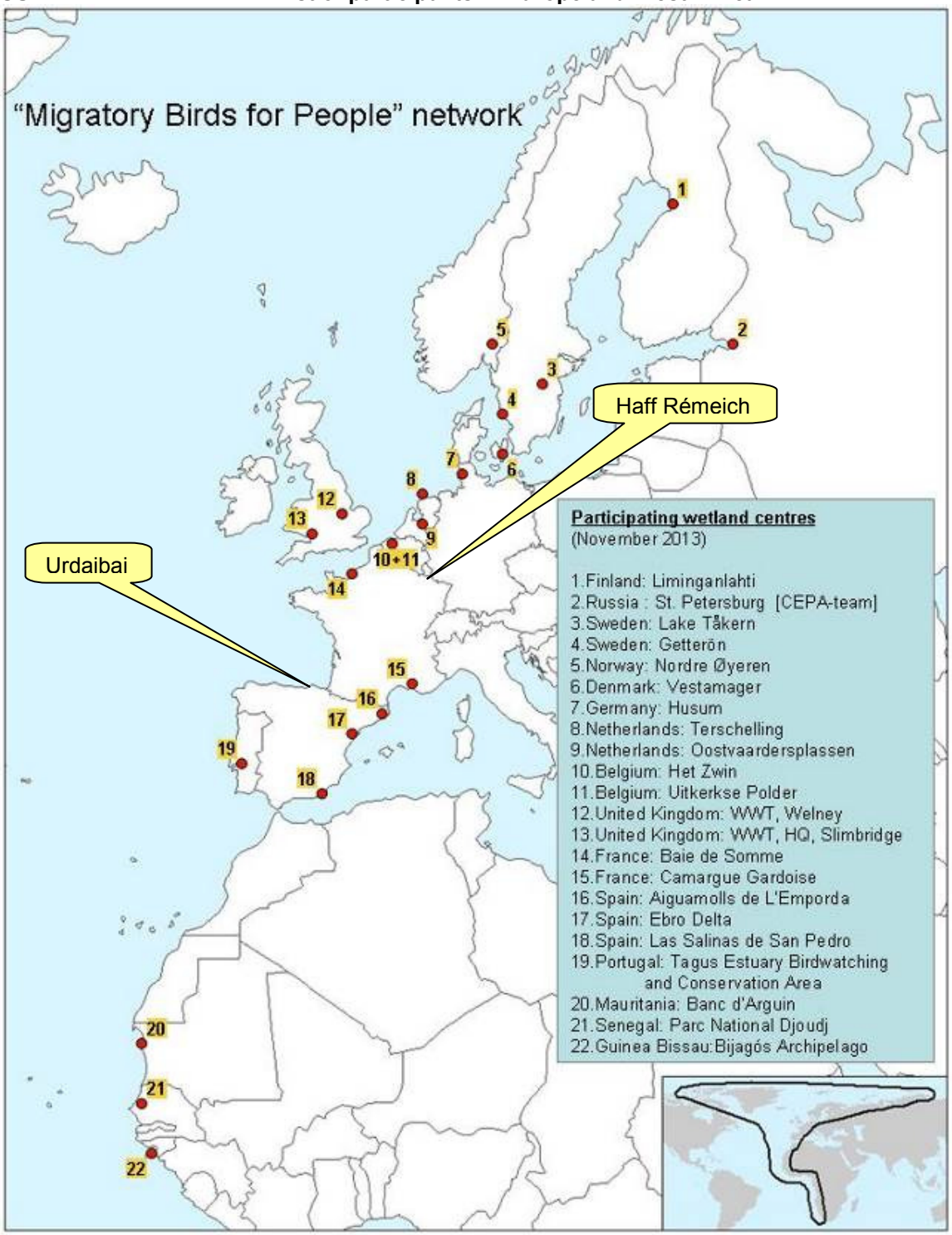
Raising Awareness for Migratory Birds ...

World Migratory Bird Day 2015 will be on 9-10th of May 2015 **- 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.
The theme for 2015 is yet to be announced. (see also: http://www.worldmigratorybirdday.org)

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.

SUPPLEMENT: **List of participants in Europe and West-Africa**



Sorry, due to a technical problem we could not provide the latest changes on the MBP-network map. But for now the location of our new members is displayed by a tag.

"Inspiring birds, inspiring people"

NEWSLETTER no. 20 (October 2014)

Finland : Liminganlahti conservation area

Contact: Sari Airas, Programme manager Metsähallitus
Jukupolku 5, 85100 Kalajoki
Mob: +358-40-5016127
Email : sari.airas@metsa.fi
Website : www.wwt.org.uk/wli/regional-partners/.../liminganlahti

Sweden: Naturum Lake Tåkern

Contact: Ellen Hultman, Manager Naturum Lake Tåkern,
Naturvårdsenheten Länsstyrelsen Östergötland, Sweden
Östgötagatan 3, 581 86 Linköping
Tel: +46-(0)13-196561
Mob : +46-703-776599.
Email: ellen.hultman@lansstyrelsen.se

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Lake Tåkern Fieldstation

Contact: Adam Bergner
Mob.: +46-739260057
Email: adam.bergner@yahoo.se

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Sweden: Naturum Getterön

Contact: Linda Nyberg, Manager Naturum Getterön
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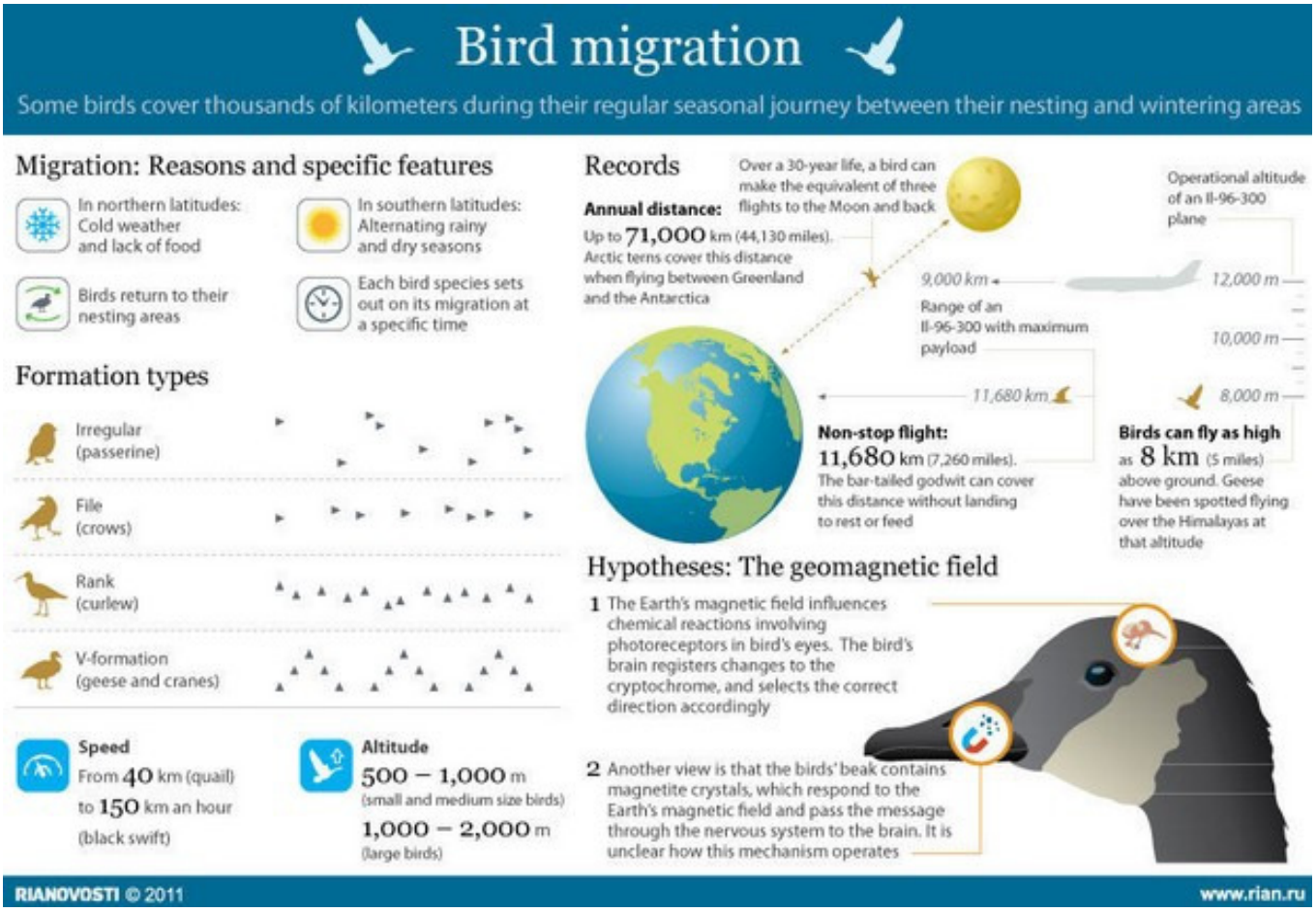
Bird migration
Some birds cover thousands of kilometers during their regular seasonal journey between their nesting and wintering areas
Migration: Reasons and specific features
In northern latitudes: Cold weather and lack of food
In southern latitudes: Alternating rainy and dry seasons
Birds return to their nesting areas
Each bird species sets out on its migration at a specific time
Formation types
Irregular (passerine)
File (crows)
Rank (curlew)
V-formation (geese and cranes)
Speed
From 40 km (quail) to 150 km an hour (black swift)
Altitude
500 – 1,000 m (small and medium size birds)
1,000 – 2,000 m (large birds)
Records
Over a 30-year life, a bird can make the equivalent of three flights to the Moon and back
Annual distance:
Up to 71,000 km (44,130 miles). Arctic terns cover this distance when flying between Greenland and the Antarctica
9,000 km
Range of an Il-96-300 with maximum payload
11,680 km
Non-stop flight:
11,680 km (7,260 miles). The bar-tailed godwit can cover this distance without landing to rest or feed
Operational altitude of an Il-96-300 plane
12,000 m
10,000 m
8,000 m
Birds can fly as high as 8 km (5 miles) above ground. Geese have been spotted flying over the Himalayas at that altitude
Hypotheses: The geomagnetic field
1 The Earth's magnetic field influences chemical reactions involving photoreceptors in bird's eyes. The bird's brain registers changes to the cryptochrome, and selects the correct direction accordingly
2 Another view is that the birds' beak contains magnetite crystals, which respond to the Earth's magnetic field and pass the message through the nervous system to the brain. It is unclear how this mechanism operates
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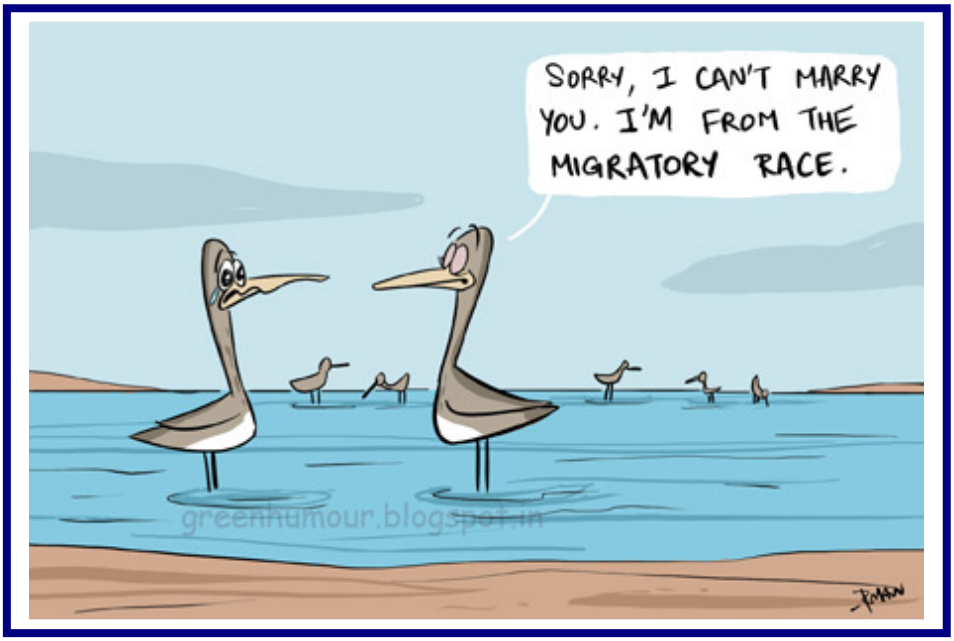
SORRY, I CAN'T MARRY YOU. I'M FROM THE MIGRATORY RACE.
greenhumour.blogspot.in

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