

**EDITORIAL**

Although it's a bit late in the year, the Interim Secretariat would like to extend its best wishes for the new millennium. The last year was a busy one, with all the preparations for the first Meeting of the Parties (MOP1) in Cape Town. We can however, look back on a successful first meeting. This is mostly due to the way in which representatives from more than 80 countries and from various IGOs and NGOs participated in this meeting.

The focus in the next year will primarily be on creating the permanent secretariat in Bonn (Germany). We expect that the secretariat will move from the Ministry of Agriculture, Nature Management and Fisheries in The Hague (the Netherlands) to the special Agreements Unit in UNEP/ CMS Secretariat in Bonn at the end of June. The necessary steps have been taken open the vacancy for the position of Secretary and to set up the Trust Fund.

The Secretariat has received information for the newsletter from: Mr Jeff Kirby (UK), Mr Saulet Sakenov (Kazakhstan), Mr David Lindley (South Africa), Mrs Wendy Borello (Botswana), Mr Rob Simmons (Namibia), Mr Sampie van der Merve (South Africa), Mr Klaus Riede (Germany), Mr. Les Underhill (South Africa), Mr Andy Green (Spain), Mr Umberto Gallo-Orsi (The Netherlands), Mrs Maria Panayotopoulou (Greece), Mr R.G. Wetzel (USA) and from Mr Ivan Rusev (Ukraine). Further information was provided by: UNEP/ CMS Secretariat, British Trust for Ornithology, the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB), European Commission/ DG VIII, Quercus, Department of Environment, Transport and Regions of the UK (DETR), the International Council for Game and Wildlife Conservation/ Migratory Bird Commission, the Conservation Society of Sierra Leone, Wetlands International, Wildlife Palestine Society, Cooperating Organizations Bird Census Work in the Netherlands (SOVON), Foundation Working Group International Wader and Waterfowl Research (WIWO), Office National de la Chasse (ONC), BirdLife International and WWF-Norway.

For certain regions in the area of the Agreement there is very limited exchange of information. We cannot emphasise enough that the AEWA Newsletter is *for* you, but most importantly *from* and *by* you. Experience has shown that many people read the newsletter and that various authors have received feedback about their articles.

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The first Session of the Meeting of the Parties took place from 6-9 November 1999 at the Lord Charles Hotel in Cape Town, South Africa.

### **OPENING OF THE SESSION AND OPENING STATEMENTS**

The joint opening of the sixth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS) and the first Meeting of the Parties to the Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds took place at the Lord Charles Hotel, Somerset West, Cape Town, South Africa at 4.30 p.m. on Saturday, 6 November 1999.

Opening statements were made by Mr Pieter Botha, Deputy Director for Species Conservation, Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism of South Africa; Mr Mohammed Valli Moosa, Minister of Environmental Affairs and Tourism of South Africa; Ms Geke Faber, State Secretary for Agriculture, Nature Management and Fisheries of the Netherlands; Ms Gila Altmann, Parliamentary State Secretary in the Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety of Germany; Mr Kas Hamman, Director of Environment of the Western Cape Provincial Government; Mr. Dave Pritchard, of BirdLife International; Mr Alwyn Nel, Senior Manager of Philatelic Services of the South African Post Office; and Mr Klaus Töpfer, Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). All the statements mentioned the significance of the existence of the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS). Ms Faber of the Netherlands specifically mentioned the AEWA in her speech, indicating that the AEWA would serve as an exemplary agreement for the preservation of nature and would also allow for practical implementation of CMS. Since its efforts towards the conservation of waterbirds would have a positive effect in many other areas, AEWA could be an important step in the development of an integrated strategy for sustainable development. It could play a key role in the important issue of sustainable harvesting of waterbirds, by collecting and disseminating information about waterbird hunting. It could provide funds for protection programmes, training and education. With these words, Ms Faber formally opened the first Meeting of the Parties (MOP1) to AEWA. For the sake of brevity we must omit the full statement, but more information about the content of the opening statement can be found in the Proceedings of the MOP1, which will appear later this year.

The first session of the Meeting of the Parties to AEWA took place from 7-9 November and was chaired by Mr Mbareck Diop from Senegal.

### **Short overview of the main results of MOP1**

The chairman dealt with the agenda very capably. In total fourteen resolutions were accepted concerning:

1. Establishment of the Permanent Secretariat for the AEWA;
2. Financial and Administrative matters;
3. Establishment of a triennial National Report format for the AEWA;
4. International Implementation Priorities 2000-2004;
5. The Establishment of a Register of International Projects;
6. Guidelines for the Acceptance of Contributions in Cash and Contributions in Kind;
7. Establishment of a Small Conservation Grants Fund;
8. Establishment of the Technical Committee of the AEWA;
9. Amendments to the Action Plan;
10. Conservation Guidelines;
11. Date, Venue of the Second Session of the Meeting of the Parties to AEWA;
12. Tribute to the Organisers;
13. Accepting Candidate Parties for the right to vote at the First Session of the Meeting of the Parties to AEWA;
14. Phasing out Lead Shot.

Both the documents which served as a basis for the resolutions above, and the resolutions themselves were extensively discussed in two working groups, one focused on financial and administrative matters, and the other on more technical matters. The latest versions of the above resolutions can be downloaded from the

AEWA Website or requested from the AEWA Secretariat.

The proceedings of the first Session of the Meeting of the Parties to AEWA will be published shortly. The participants to the MOP1 will be sent a copy of the proceedings. Anyone else interested can download information from the Website or request a hard copy from the AEWA Secretariat.

Returning to the resolutions, here follows a short overview of the main results of the MOP1:

### **Establishment of a Permanent Secretariat**

The Meeting of Parties adopted to establish a permanent Secretariat within the Agreement Unit at Bonn. This resolution is a continuation to the resolution 5.5. passed during the fifth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to CMS (Geneva, 1997) regarding the location of Agreement Secretariats in the Agreement Unit within the Convention Secretariat. The Secretariat will move from The Hague to Bonn before the end of June 2000. Preparations for the move and setting up of new office space are already underway. The Meeting of the Parties gratefully accepted Germany's offer to pay the costs of removal and furnishing the AEWA Secretariat.

### **Financial and Administrative Matters**

The Meeting adopted the budget proposal for 2000-2002. However, in the discussion, representatives noted the absence of any provision for implementation, particularly in developing countries. Also, several representatives stressed the need for adequate funding for the attendance of meetings by representatives of developing country Parties. In response to these comments the Secretary explained that the proposed budget was exclusively for the operation of the secretariat.

### **Establishment of the Technical Committee**

The proposal for the establishment of the Technical Committee was adopted and the following persons and their alternates were appointed:

## **EXPERTS REPRESENTING THE FOLLOWING REGIONS OF THE AGREEMENT**

### **Eurasia**

North-Southwestern Europe  
Eastern Europe  
Central Europe  
Southwestern Asia

### **Representative**

Dr. Gerhard C. Boere  
Prof. Dr. Dan Munteanu  
Dr. V. Serebzyabov  
(still to be determined)

### **Alternate**

Dr. Mike Moser  
Dr. Branco Micevski  
Dr. Ion Bejenaru  
(still to be determined)

### **Africa**

Northern Africa  
Central Africa  
Western Africa  
Eastern Africa  
Southern Africa

Mr Sherif Mohammed Baha el Din  
Mr Ikonga Jérôme Mokoko  
Mr Seydou Seyni  
Dr Charles Mlingwa  
Mr Bary Taylor

Mr Mohammed Haffane  
Mr Kasulu Seya Makonga  
Mr Momoudou Kassama  
Mr Oliver Nasirwa  
Mr Yousoof Mungroo (Provisional Chair)

### **One representative from:**

World Conservation Union (IUCN)  
Wetlands International  
International Council for Game and  
Wildlife Conservation (CIC)

Mr Mariano Gimenez-Dixon  
Dr Janine van Vessem  
Dr. Herby Kalchreuter

Mr Sue Mainka  
Mr Simon Nichalas Delany  
Mr Christian Krogell

### **One expert of each of the following fields:**

Rural Economics  
Environmental Law

Mr Elijah Danso  
Mrs Rachel Adam

Mr Yousoof Mungroo (Mauritius) was appointed provisional Chair until the first meeting of the Technical Committee (TC). This first meeting of the TC will take place From 23-24 October 2000 in Bonn. Mr Mungroo's role will concentrate on the efforts to fill the position of AEWA secretary. He will thus have a seat in the interview panel. Furthermore, the provisional Chair will be involved in the preparation for the first meeting of the TC.

### **Amendments to the Action Plan**

In early 1997, Wetlands International was requested to draw up draft proposals for the amendment of the Action Plan to include all 170 waterbird species listed in Annex 2 to the Agreement. After deliberations in the technical working group the amendments were adopted by the Meeting of the Parties. The Meeting furthermore asked the Technical Committee, in consultation with the Scientific Council of the Convention, to consider a number of species, in particular, *Oxyura maccoa*, *Sarothrura ayresi*, *Crex crex*, *Glareola ocularis*, *Glareola nuchalis* and *Rhynchops flavirostris* for addition to Annex 2 of the Agreement and table 1 of the Action Plan.

### **Conservation Guidelines**

A set of nine guidelines had been prepared: on the preparation of single-species action plans; on identifying and addressing emergency situations for migratory waterbirds; on preparation of site inventories for migratory waterbirds; on management of key sites for migratory waterbirds; on sustainable harvest of migratory waterbirds; on regulating trade in migratory waterbirds; on the development of ecotourism in wetlands; on reducing crop damage, damage to fisheries and other forms of conflict between waterbirds and human activities; and for a waterbird monitoring protocol. These guidelines were adopted by the Meeting of the Parties as initial guidelines. Furthermore, the Meeting of the Parties requested the Technical Committee to revise the initial guidelines as a matter of urgency, taking into account the comments provided by the participants in the Meeting of the Parties and seeking further input from Range States and other organisations.

### **Phasing out Lead Shot**

According to the text of the Action Plan to the Agreement, 'Parties shall endeavour to phase out the use of lead shot for hunting in wetlands by the year 2000'. The Meeting of the Parties acknowledged that many Range States are currently having technical difficulties in meeting this obligation. Therefore the Meeting of the Parties decided to request the Technical Committee to review the experience of those countries that have phased out, or are endeavouring to phase out, the use of lead shot for hunting in wetlands. This review should take place in consultation with hunting organisations, gun and ammunition manufacturers and traders. The outcome of this exercise should be developed into guidelines for the Meeting of the Parties at its second session.

### **International Implementation Priorities 2000-2004**

This plan follows the AEWA Implementation Plan 1997-1999. The first plan played an important part as a 'shopping list' in the implementation of the AEWA. Financial support from Switzerland, the UK and the Netherlands allowed more than three-fourths of the proposed activities from the AEWA 1997-1999 Implementation Plan to actually be carried out. Some of the remaining activities from the AEWA 1997-1999 Implementation Plan have been incorporated into the new plan. In addition, new priorities have been identified which require an international approach and co-ordination. In total the plan encompasses 33 activities, focused on;

- a) Species Conservation (e.g. Identify priority areas for further survey work);
- b) Habitat Conservation (e.g. Restoration/ rehabilitation techniques for waterbird habitats, particularly in Africa);
- c) Management of Human Activities (e.g. review of non-toxic shot for waterbird hunting);
- d) Research and monitoring (e.g. Study of the potential impacts of marine fisheries on migratory waterbirds);
- e) Education and information (e.g. Development of the Agreement's website).

The Meeting of the Parties accepted the International Implementation Priorities 2000-2004. It is now up to the Contracting Parties, the Technical Committee and the Secretariat to investigate the possible ways to carry out these priority activities.

## ACTION PLAN Species Conservation

### **Management Plans for Gadwall (*Anas strepera*) and Velvet Scoter (*Melanitta fusca*)**

Back in 1996, the European Commission's *Directorate-General XI "Environment"* commissioned a report to investigate the conservation measures taken by Member States for species listed in Annex II ('hunnable species') of the Birds Directive. This report reviewed the status of 26 bird species that had been identified by the ORNIS Scientific Working Group (SWG) as having an *Unfavourable Conservation Status*. The list of species with an unfavourable conservation status was reduced later to 22 species following discussions in the ORNIS Committee and the SWG.

The preparation of management plans is considered an important tool for achieving favourable conservation status for the species concerned. Currently, nine management plans have been drafted and four are in preparation, with financial assistance from DG XI.

JUST ECOLOGY Environmental Consultancy has been contracted by DG XI for preparing Community-level management plans for two species (*Anas strepera* and *Melanitta fusca*), in close co-operation with WETLANDS INTERNATIONAL.

For more information please contact:

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### **Review of the Control of Gulls (*Laridae*) for Nature Conservation Purposes**

The scientific basis for controlling gulls for nature conservation purposes, such as to reduce their predation on species considered to be of greater conservation importance, or to reduce the destruction of important plant species or habitats, is currently under review by English Nature. Periodic review of such policy is needed in order to inform the assessment of licence applications for gull control and to advise on best practice to nature reserve managers in England. Here, as in other parts of the world, several species of gulls (in this case including *Larus fuscus*, *L. marinus*, *L. argentatus*, *L. ridibundus*, *L. canus*) are controlled in small numbers under general or specific licences, in order to reduce real or perceived conservation impacts.

The terms of reference for this review include providing an up-to-date synthesis of:

1. the evidence of impacts (positive or negative) of gulls on other species of flora or fauna;
2. the effectiveness of various gull management techniques (through baiting, egg control, control of adults, non-lethal methods) in reducing numbers of gulls at a site level;
3. the effectiveness of those management techniques in achieving objectives e.g. tern protection – protection/occupation of territory;
4. gaps in knowledge and research necessary to fill those gaps.

The methodology involves a comprehensive literature review followed by structured consultations with a series of UK-based land managers with particular, practical experience of gull control scenarios.

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**An update on the Action Plan for Red-crested Pochard (*Netta rufina*)**

Since the project started in Summer 1999, more than 125 Anatidae experts from 46 countries in the species distribution area have been contacted by the Office National de Chasse. ONC is the French governmental agency for the regulation of hunting and wildlife conservation and falls under the French Ministry of Environment. ONC received 23 contributions from 20 countries. Unfortunately, no contributions have as yet been received from countries of some significance, such as Germany, the Netherlands, Spain, Russia, Turkmenistan, the Ukraine and India.

Editing of the text has now started, with a preliminary focus on the European Union. The draft Action Plan will be submitted to a panel of experts which shall include contributors. The final document concerning the species in Europe will be submitted to the EU in July 2000 followed by an AEWA document about the species' entire flyway.

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**Second update of the Slender billed Curlew Database and bibliography**

In March 2000 the second update of the SbC Database and Bibliography was produced and distributed among the SbC Working Group members. The total number of records over the last 100 years has now risen to 764 from 49 countries. It is worrying that in the space of 5 years the number of verified data has decreased dramatically from 19 in 1995 to only 2 in 1999.

Two recent expeditions to Iran failed to collect records of SbC but identified large areas of pristine wintering habitat for the species and collected important data on other poorly known birds. The SbC WG is willing to organise further visits to the area as well expeditions in Russia and Ukraine.

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**International Workshop on the White-headed Duck (*Oxyura leucocephala*)**

An international workshop on the White Headed Duck, organised by the Hellenic Ornithological Society, was held in Porto Lagos, Greece from 17-19 March 2000. The Workshop brought together representatives of BirdLife Partners in Bulgaria (BSPB), Turkey (DHKD), UK (RSPB), Germany (NABU) and the European Division of BirdLife. Information from Bulgaria, Greece, Kazakhstan, Mongolia, Morocco, Spain, Turkey, UK

and Uzbekistan was exchanged, as well as information submitted by questionnaire from Azerbaijan, Ukraine, Russia and Iran.

Participants discussed the degree of protection provided in each country to the species and their wetland habitats, as well as progress in the national implementation of the Action Plan for the White-headed Duck. There was general recognition for the need to monitor wintering and migrating populations because of the inaccessibility of most of the breeding sites in Mongolia, China, Iran or Turkey. Furthermore, one of the most important conclusions of the workshop is that fishing nets are a significant mortality factor for the White-headed Duck. Closer monitoring of gill-net mortality is essential and research on ways to minimise accidental bycatch is urgent.

The proceedings of this workshop containing additional data will be published soon .

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## **ACTION PLAN Habitat conservation**

### **Project for the conservation of Wetlands in Egypt.**

In September 1999, Egypt and the United Nations Development Programme signed on for a project on the conservation of wetlands and coastal-ecosystems in the Mediterranean region. This project is an important initiative involving authorities of six countries: Albania, Egypt, Lebanon, The Palestinian Authority, Morocco and Tunisia. It aims to conserve the wetlands and coastal ecosystems in these countries. This MedWet initiative originated from the Mediterranean Wetlands Conference held in Italy in 1999. Egypt is benefiting from the MedWet initiative through a national component of the above-mentioned regional programme, with support from the Global Environment Facility in the amount of US \$ 2.9 million. In addition, national government contribution to the project is US \$ 1.5 million in cash and US \$ 1.8 million in technical assistance. The project runs over five years. It is implemented by UNDP and executed by the Egyptian Environmental Affairs Agency.

Source: The original article was published in the Egyptian Gazette on 28-9-1999.

### **One-fourth of the Yakutia under strict protection**

In February 2000, the Government of the Sakha Republic announced that several new nature reserves would be established in the Arctic part of the Republic. Two new reserves have already been established in a joint project by the Ministry of Agriculture, Nature Management and Fisheries of the Netherlands and WWF. The Sakha Republic has vast expanses of forest and taiga. Although Yakutia covers about one-fifth of the Russian Federation, it has a permanent population of only about one million. Thanks to this, large parts of Yakutia are still relatively unaffected by pollution from industrial activities. However, as exploitation of the Republic's large reservoir of natural resources steps up, the need for effective conservation of the fragile Arctic tundra, wetland and taiga ecosystems has become urgent. The establishment of two large new resource reserves "Muna" and "Beke" (covering 22,353 km<sup>2</sup> and 16,000 km<sup>2</sup> respectively) promote a strict protection of taiga and tundra ecosystems. These reserves are a "Gift to the Earth" under the WWF's "Living Planet Campaign". As a result of the establishment of these two new reserves in the Arctic part of Yakutia, 26.4% of the territory of the Sakha Republic will be protected.

In co-operation with WWF, the Government of Sakha also plans to establish two additional reserves in the Arctic Part.

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**ACTION PLAN research and monitoring**

**Flamingo migration routes - a challenge for Mozambique**

New data and new hypotheses about the mystery of the flamingos, first brought up by Leslie Brown in 1957, have resulted from recent conferences such as Lake Bogoria, Kenya (1997) organised by IUCN East Africa with financial support from the Netherlands, the World Conference in Miami (1998) organised by the Flamingo Specialist Group and the conference on migration in Israel (1997).

The mystery is: do flamingos migrate from East African rift valley lakes (especially Lake Natron in Tanzania) to southern Africa, and if so, why is there no record of this? Leslie Brown argued persuasively that flamingos do not migrate between the two sites because (i) the 2,500 km journey is too long for them, (ii) few birds have ever been seen putting down in areas such as Zambia, midway Lake Natron and Sua Pan in Botswana, (iii) they do not have the energy resources necessary to fly non-stop for 48 hours which would be necessary to complete such a flight.

Meanwhile, several surveys have shown that the birds do move around. Unfortunately, there are huge gaps regarding observations of movements of the species. It has also been hypothesised that some birds go island-hopping and visit Madagascar. Scientists would therefore be pleased with confirmed sightings of flamingos on the coast of Mozambique, in particular from Beira northwards. This information would help solve one of mysteries of the flamingo.

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**Piscivorous Birds Research**

The United Kingdom Government at the end of 1999 concluded a four-year research programme into the problems caused by piscivorous birds. The overall aim of this research programme was to improve the current level of information on the behaviour of fish-eating birds, their populations and the extent of the problems they cause to fisheries and to develop effective management strategies.

The key results of the research were:

- the wintering population of cormorants grew by 5-10 percent a year from 1987/8 to 1994/5 and has now stabilised at 15-16,000 birds. Goosander numbers increased by up to 11 per cent yearly in south-west England and South Wales and by 3-8 per cent elsewhere;
- the numbers of cormorants breeding inland has increased significantly from sporadic records in 1981 to the current population at 1,437 pairs in 1998. Goosanders have increased by 10 percent yearly since 1987 to a total of 6,600 breeding pairs in 1997;
- the impact of piscivorous birds is a problem for specific fisheries rather than a general problem. Sometimes bird predation can be high enough to cause serious damage to a fishery;
- factors other than predation by birds can have more significant impact on fisheries;
- evidence on whether or not shooting to kill enhances effectiveness if bird scaring was inconclusive; and
- apart from human presence, no other management measures were found to be consistently effective although fish refuges showed some promise.

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**Threatened Wetlands and Waterbirds in Morocco**

This project was concluded at the end of 1999. The aim of the project was to study the status and conservation problems of six waterbird species that are threatened globally or in the west Mediterranean region: Marbled Teal (*Marmaronetta angustirostris*), Ferruginous Duck (*Aythya nyroca*), White-headed Duck (*Oxyura leucocephala*), Ruddy Shelduck (*Tadorna ferruginea*), Crested Coot (*Fulica cristata*) and Glossy Ibis (*Plegadis falcinellus*). The success of efforts to conserve waterbird species in the region will depend on co-operation between Spain and Morocco. Although considerable information is available about the wintering distribution of these species in Morocco, a series of surveys has been conducted in Moroccan wetlands to complement existing census data on these species in Andalusia.

The main outcome of this study is that the total wintering populations of Crested Coot and Marbled Teal in the Western Mediterranean are estimated at about 5,000 birds for each species. Current estimates for the Ruddy Shelduck are probably too low. The Crested Coot appears to be declining fastest, owing to the species' dependence on fragile freshwater wetlands and its inability to exploit reservoirs and other alternative habitats. The results of the study, including the numbers of waterbirds present and breeding in 45 wetlands, are presented in detail in the Final Report compiled Dr. Andy Green.

For more information or to order a copy of the report please contact:

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**On the Lesser White-fronted goose (*Anser erythropus*) in the Central Palearctic**

In recent years, the International Council for Game and Wildlife Conservation (CIC) has intensified the efforts by its Migratory Bird Commission (MBC) to explore the Central Palearctic, thus regions within the north-western part of the AEWA Area. During the 46th CIC General Assembly in Milan, May 1999, vice-president of the MBC and Professor of the Russian Academy of Sciences Helene Rogacheva reported on the results of the Central Palearctic projects financially supported by CIC.

Special attention was paid to the Lesser White-fronted goose, the most endangered species of Eurasian geese. A total of six expeditions have been conducted in order to get more information on breeding areas and population numbers, three to different parts of Taimyr and three to western Yakutia.

The results were rather disappointing. While until recently Taimyr was thought to harbour the last prospering part of the Lesser White-fronted world population, this assumption could not be confirmed. Even in the most remote areas, where this species had been widespread earlier, it had almost disappeared. The Yakutia expeditions, too, were not yet successful in finding larger breeding grounds that might provide the more than 10,000 Lesser White-fronts wintering in China. The results of these expeditions are now being prepared for publication.

The wintering areas of the Central Palearctic birds are still unknown. Some of them obviously fly towards the Caspian Sea and were seen in the Volga delta. In order to get more information 15 specimens were marked with satellite transmitters on the Taimyr and Yamal Peninsulas. Unfortunately, all of them were killed within

Kazakhstan and near the Caspian Sea. These incidents caused Russian and Finnish experts to jointly publish two folders and three posters to enhance not only identification but also better understanding of this rare species.

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### **First Ringing Station in Palestine**

The first ringing station was opened on 13 March, with the support of MERC/USAID of the USA, under the title "Birds Know No Boundaries". The Wildlife Palestine Society (WLPS) established this station in co-operation with Children for the Protection of Nature in Palestine, Tel Aviv University, Jerusalem Ornithology Centre, The International Bird Study Centre, Latron, Israel Ornithology Centre, The International Monitoring Station Eilat, Kefar Robin Station, Beit Shaan and the Royal Society for Conservation of Nature of Jordan. In co-operation with the Palestinian Environmental Affairs Ministry, ringing stations will be established in Gaza and Jericho before the end of 2000.

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## **ACTION PLAN Information and education**

### **AEWA Film**

For some time now, the AEWA Secretariat has wanted to make a video or "flyway film" to supplement existing AEWA information, such as the newsletter, poster and brochure. At the end of 1999, the Secretariat contacted Mr Izaak Van Noordt, a renowned filmmaker with experience in this field. Mr Van Noordt has been commissioned to write a scenario for a short film in which examples from real-life will illustrate, in fifteen minutes, AEWA's important international role in the protection of migratory waterbirds. The scenario shall also include a budget for the production of the film. The realisation of the film depends on third-party funding.

For more information please contact:

**AEWA Secretariat**

### **A TRAINING MANUAL FOR AFRICAN WATERBIRD CENSUS COUNTERS IN SIERRA LEONE:**

The Conservation Society of Sierra Leone (CSSL), with technical support from Wetlands International West Africa Programme, drafted a training manual for waterbird census counters.

The manual is intended for those who are interested in learning practical skills to: identify and count waterbirds, make use of relevant equipment (binoculars, telescope, GPS, maps, etc.) in the field, collect

census data, carry out site and species inventories and complete Wetlands International's newly launched African Waterbird Census (AfWC) forms.

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## ACTION PLAN Implementation

### **Progress on the Atlas of Wader Populations in Africa and Western Eurasia**

The African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbird Agreement (AEWA) came into force on 1 November 1999. Effective implementation of the AEWA Agreement and Action Plan requires that detailed knowledge be readily available on the limits of the populations of migratory waterbirds covered by the Agreement; their migration routes; the sizes and trends of their populations; and the networks of sites which are critical for their survival. It is particularly important that the limits of each population be defined on a map, since these constitute the units on which the estimates of population size and 1% criteria, determination of trends, and identification of key sites are based. For the ducks, geese and swans of the AEWA region, this information was compiled in the *Atlas of Anatidae Populations in Africa and Western Eurasia* (Wetlands International Publication No. 41).

The Wader Study Group, as a specialist group of Wetlands International, is now preparing a similar publication on waders included by AEWA, the *Atlas of Wader Populations in Africa and Western Eurasia*. With substantial financial assistance from the Dutch Ministry of Agriculture, Nature Management and Fisheries, and of Alterra-DLO (formerly IBN-DLO, the Institute for Forest and Nature Management), introductory chapters and 39 species accounts have been written. These were distributed as a consultation draft at the First Meeting of Parties of AEWA in Cape Town last November.

The consultation draft includes 29 species that breed in Eurasia (but often winter in Africa), and 10 Afro-tropical species. Species accounts still need to be written for 20 species breeding in Eurasia, and 29 that live in Africa. We are very pleased that the Directorate General for Environment of the European Commission has recently granted nearly EURO 40,000 for this purpose. A request for funding for the remainder is presently being considered by another donor.

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### **INTRODUCED WATERBIRDS IN THE AEWA AREA**

Part of the UK Government's support to AEWA was to describe the status and effects of introduced waterbirds on indigenous waterbird species. The Department of the Environment, Transport and the Regions (DETR) contracted a consortium of the Central Science Laboratory and the British Trust for Ornithology to obtain the information required.

The history of introduced organisms is littered with environmental disasters. The lesson to be learnt from the past is that the consequences of deliberate or accidental introduction of species into an alien environment are unpredictable.

Amongst birds, an introduced species can prove a threat in a number of ways:

- If closely enough related, it can hybridise with an indigenous species. If the offspring are fertile, vigorous and display a tendency for the introduced species' characteristics to predominate, then the advantage lies with the introduced species;
- It can compete with indigenous species for nest sites, food or territory;
- Its breeding strategy, even when not directly competitive with indigenous species, can prevent an indigenous species from breeding by sheer weight of numbers, as did Starling (*Sturnus vulgaris*) in the USA.
- The introduced species' disease pathology may render indigenous species vulnerable. Recent data suggest that the long history of rearing Pheasant (*Phasianus colchicus*) intensively has allowed a parasitic worm to evolve in isolation from forms existing in the wild. Wild Grey Partridge (*Perdix perdix*) probably absorb the nematodes through foraging in Pheasant areas, lose condition and become unable to survive the winter (Coghlan, 1999).

A large number of sources were contacted to obtain information about the status and effects of introduced waterbird species e.g: IUCN, SOVON, DDA, LIPU, The Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust, BirdLife International, the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds and their national equivalents within the AEWA region, European ornithologists and biologists and the AEWA Secretariat. Via this network questionnaires were distributed.

The preliminary responses on the questionnaire raise some interesting points:

- Some of the problems encountered in western Europe with introduced waterbirds may be beginning to occur elsewhere;
- The lack of an agreed method of recording introduced waterbirds (even in the UK, until recently) can mean that the true size of a species' population is not known;
- In the UK, only now is a detailed introduced waterbird (Canada Goose *Branta canadensis*) scientific survey under way. It is scarcely surprising therefore that responses received from some countries are contradictory;
- It has been suggested that the appearance of non-native wildfowl in one country may be due to escapes in a neighbouring country;
- In some countries, introduced species are so far not a problem, for sometimes unexpected reasons:
- The local acquisition of exotic birds may be very expensive.
- Some nations are so predominantly arid that escaped waterbirds could not thrive.
- Indiscriminate shooting occurs in some countries, rapidly wiping out conspicuous escapes.
- Some countries seem not to have adopted the fashion for waterbird collections.

It is well known that many species of waterfowl can hybridise with each other, and although some cases are due to proximity in wildfowl collections, it is difficult to predict what will happen in the wild. Some countries have done much work in collating information on hybridisation potential but before the risk to indigenous species can be evaluated across the AEWA area, we have to obtain basic data on the status and effects of introduced waterbirds. This is where this project is important.

All data from AEWA area states will be included in a database showing the extent of known problems, how these problems have arisen, and where data are lacking. The database should be with the DETR this year.

From the data which have already been received, it seems prudent and sensible that the question of introduced waterbirds within the AEWA area should be addressed on the precautionary principle. In other words, if we wait until we have gathered sufficient evidence to prove whether an introduced species is having deleterious effect on indigenous species, there is a significant risk that threatened indigenous species or subspecies will disappear. The general principle should be that introductions should be prevented, existing introduced populations should be removed, and that captive collections, subject to stringent controls, should contain species which are known non-hybridizing species or part of a co-ordinated conservation breeding programmes. Any contentious issues ideally should be solved by a partnership of government, economic, conservation and hunting interests.

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## PROJECTS

### **Update on the proposed 'Waterbird Flyways' GEF project**

In summer 1999, with financial support from the AEWA Secretariat, Wetlands International began work to prepare a project for submission to the Global Environment Facility (GEF), addressing shared priority activities of the AEWA and Ramsar Convention. The project aims to enhance the conservation status of African-Eurasian migratory waterbirds by supporting GEF-eligible countries throughout the flyway in conserving the critical network of wetlands areas used by migratory waterbirds. Although excellent examples of legal, policy, management, research and communications tools exist in different countries, few countries can demonstrate extensive application of all or most of these tools. Developing countries in particular are often greatly constrained in their implementation of best practice by lack of access to these tools, and lack of training and resources for their application.

The project will thus be a catalyst for integrating best practice into conservation efforts throughout the flyway. Furthermore, the project will lead to integrated implementation of the Convention on Biodiversity, the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands, the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS) and (last but not least) of the AEWA.

Following a presentation of the broad objectives of the project at the first session of the Meeting of the Parties to AEWA, the full GEF PDF-B proposal has been prepared. A workshop on the GEF proposal took place from 8-9 February 2000 at the headquarters of Wetlands International in Wageningen, the Netherlands. During this workshop, representatives of UNEP-GEF, Wetlands International, BirdLife International, Ramsar Bureau, UNEP/ CMS Secretariat and the AEWA Secretariat finalised the draft GEF proposal. In particular the selection of demonstration site projects was thoroughly discussed. Based on criteria set during the meeting, 10 demonstration projects (4 located in Eurasia and 6 in Africa) were chosen from the whole Agreement Area. Furthermore, it was decided to leave open the option to add two more demonstration projects. The idea is to organise one workshop in the Middle East and one in Central Asia where these additional projects might be identified.

Applicants for the site demonstration projects have been informed whether their proposal will be included in the GEF project or not. For the demonstration projects that have been included, all the endorsement letters of the GEF focal points, the Ramsar Bureau and the UNEP/ CMS Secretariat have been received. The endorsement of the AEWA Secretariat was given by Resolution 1.4 'International Implementation Priorities for 2000-2004' which requested the GEF to assist eligible countries with the joint implementation of the priority actions of AEWA and the Ramsar Convention for the network of critical wetlands used by migratory waterbirds in Africa/Eurasia. In early March 2000 the application for funding of a GEF PDF-B was sent to UNEP-GEF in Nairobi. The total cost of the PDF-B block has been estimated at ca. US\$ 600,000 (GEF funds approx. US\$ 350,000, matching funds approx. US\$ 250,000). Via this PDF-B block a full GEF project will be developed with an estimated total budget of US\$ 12 million (including 50 % co-financing).

Several countries have provided support for the project, including matching funds, and support through their GEF focal points. Wetlands International is grateful to all those who have assisted to this stage. After the project proposal was submitted by Wetlands International a great deal of supplementary information was requested from both Wetlands International and the UNEP/GEF representative. Happily we heard at the end of March that GEF had approved the proposal and work can soon start on the project.

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### **International Emergency Measures**

The call for International Emergency Measures has been strengthened by recent environmental disasters such as the oil spill caused by the "Erika" off the French coast and the toxic mine spills in northern Romania which severely polluted large parts of the Tisza catchment area. In both cases, various national governments and organisations voluntarily offered to assist in the clean-up. Although several countries in Europe have national contingency plans for these type of disasters, no such plan exists at the international level. As a consequence, there is little or no coordination of international aid.

AEWA recognises this shortcoming, but it is unclear how this situation should be changed. In the Final Act of the AEWA Negotiation Meeting (1995), the Interim Secretariat was asked to develop criteria to define emergency situations. Until now, this has proven to be a difficult task. Nevertheless, efforts should be continued in the years to come.

Emergency situations will again be discussed by the Technical Committee, which will meet in October this year. Currently, the idea is to appoint a panel of experts to study this subject and to develop proposals for emergency criteria and international emergency measures, initially for Europe only. These proposals can be discussed at the second session of the Meeting of the Parties in late 2002. Once the proposals have been finalised and accepted they could be used to develop similar criteria and measures for other continents, e.g. Africa.

The Secretariat hopes that a number of countries will support these activities financially so that a consultant can be commissioned to carry out a number of tasks.

For more information, please contact:

**AEWA Secretariat**

## **GENERAL INFORMATION**

### **Conserving migratory waterbirds and their habitats in the Asia-Pacific**

The northern mainland of Asia serves as an important breeding area for a great diversity of waterbirds. Many of these species migrate to Africa and are now covered by the AEWA. Numerous others that share the same breeding areas, migrate along various flyways into East, South, and South East Asia and Australasia. Thus the conservation of these birds are intimately linked together in the breeding grounds. The *Asia-Pacific Migratory Waterbird Conservation Strategy: 1996-2000* serves as a framework for promoting conservation in the Asia-Pacific region. The *Strategy* is funded and implemented co-operatively by governments, the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS), Ramsar Convention, NGOs and local people. Activities are co-ordinated by an international Migratory Waterbird Conservation Committee and supported by Wetlands International. The *Strategy* can be viewed at

<http://www.environment.gov.au/bg/environm/wetlands/mwp/apstrat.htm>

Initiatives developed under the *Strategy* include the establishment of three international networks that focus on promoting conservation of important wetlands across the flyways of migratory waterbirds and span sites from the breeding grounds through staging areas to the non-breeding areas. The three networks focus on species groups, namely the *East Asian Australasian Shorebird Site Network* (25 sites in 9 countries/ see: <http://www.environment.gov.au/bg/environm/wetlands/mwp/infosrn1.htm>), the *North East Asian Crane Site Network* (18 sites in 6 countries), and *East Asian Anatidae Site Network* (25 sites in 6 countries). Three publications of interest include an *Action Plan for Conservation of Migratory Shorebirds in Asia-Pacific*, an *Atlas of Key Sites for Anatidae in the East Asian Flyway* (see: <http://www.jawgp.org/anet>) and an *Atlas of Key Sites for Cranes in the North East Asian Flyway* (see: [http://www.kt.rim.or.jp/~birdinfo/BL\\_news/cranenet.html](http://www.kt.rim.or.jp/~birdinfo/BL_news/cranenet.html)).

The *Strategy* will finish at the end of 2000 and efforts are underway to extend and broaden the initiatives for another five-year term.

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**New NGO IN KAZAKHSTAN**

A new NGO, "AREKET", has recently been established in Kazakhstan thanks to the efforts of the International Environmental Conventions Committee of the National Environmental Center for Sustainable Development (NEC SD). In Kazakh the name means "action". The UNFCCC Coordinator of the NEC SD expects that this NGO will deal with climate change issues, an integrated approach to conventions and support for their implementation at the national level, promoting public awareness, ecological education and information.

The NGO is also expected to provide technical, procedural and scientific support to delegations of the Republic of Kazakhstan at international environmental meetings. It is planned that the NGO will be financed from donor resources, the total budget of the project will amount to USD 20,000 - 30,000. The Government of Canada and the Environmental Defense Fund (USA) have already expressed their interest in the NGO.

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**Wildlife Palestine Society**

Wildlife Palestine Society (WLPS) was founded in 1998, evolving from the Children for the Protection of Nature in Palestine, a project for the Lutheran Schools and other private schools. WLPS stresses the conservation philosophy of "think globally, act locally". WLPS believes that Conservation Education is the main pillar in the conservation movement of any country, and has therefore worked intensively with various stakeholders to increase awareness and improve education. One of its successes has been the inclusion of environment in the Palestine national education curriculum. It was also involved in the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan for Palestinian Environmental Authority. Its good conservation record led the WLPS to becoming the Palestinian Representative to Birdlife International as well as the sole Partner of Euronature/ European Natural Cultural Heritage Fund representing Palestine and Jordan.

Its programme for 2000-2005 involves Monitoring of Bird Areas in the Gaza Strip, Conservation of Raptors in Palestine, Wildlife Survey in Palestine, Promotion of sustainable management of Wadi Gaza wetland (IBA), Promotion of Birds and their habitat in Palestine and Establishment of monitoring and research centre for Birds in the Jordan Valley, Jerusalem Mountains and Gaza Strip.

For more information please contact:

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HTTP://www.wildlife-pal.org

### **Report of the first Black Sea Coastal Wetlands workshop, February 2000**

Wetlands International's Black Sea office in the Ukraine organised an international workshop on "The Importance of the Black Sea Coastal Wetlands, especially for Migratory Waterbirds" on 10-11 February 2000 in Odessa, Ukraine. This meeting heralded the first phase of the project "Black Sea coastal wetlands".

The workshop served as a forum for exchange of ideas on the development of a Directory of the Black Sea Coastal Wetlands, the enhancement of international co-operation between wetland and waterbird experts and organisations in the Black Sea region, and the identification of priorities for wetland conservation in the region.

The workshop was attended by 42 key wetland and waterbird experts from Azerbaijan, Bulgaria, Georgia, Moldova, the Netherlands, Romania, Russia, Turkey, the Ukraine and the United Kingdom. They discussed the current status of the monitoring programmes on waterbirds and coastal wetlands in the Black Sea region. Special attention was paid to the gap-filling census in 2002/2003 for the International Waterbird Census as well as the importance of the region for different waterbird flyways in relation to the AEWPA agreement.

Further co-operation between wetland and waterbird experts was stimulated by the participation of the workshop participants in the 20th Meeting of the Ukrainian Azov-Black Sea Ornithological Working Group on 12-14 February 2000 which was held in Odessa too. More than 150 mainly Ukrainian participants took part in this meeting.

The final workshop for the "Black Sea coastal wetlands" project will be held on 26-27 September in Odessa. During this workshop the drafts of the Waterbird Monitoring Plan, the Directory of Black Sea Coastal Wetlands as well the Priorities for Wetland Conservation in the Black Sea region will be discussed. This bottom-up approach could mean the start of a new initiative for conservation and sustainable use of wetlands in the Black Sea region.

For more information, please contact:

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Project Coordinator of the Black Sea Office of Wetlands International  
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### **RENNIES WETLANDS PROJECT**

The Rennies Wetlands Project, started in 1991 by the World Wide Fund for Nature, the Wildlife and Environment Society, Rennies, the Natal Parks Board, the Mazda Wildlife Fund and South African Breweries, is one of the few projects in South Africa working nationally on this crucial issue both at grassroots and policy making levels. The project promotes the rehabilitation, wise use and sustainable management of wetlands. It also aims to influence political decision-makers at both national and provincial level, so that wetland management is included in policy making and macro planning.

One of the products developed by the project is a basic field guide on the identification, restoration and management of South African wetlands. Free access to the guide is on the Website, address below.

For more information please contact:

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HTTP://www.psybergate.com\wetfix

### **BARBERSPAN NATURE RESERVE; desperately seeking programme**

Barberspan Nature Reserve, in the North West Province of South Africa, was for many years the country's premiere waterbird ringing site. Countless thousands of ducks, coots, and other species were ringed and there were vast numbers of recoveries. Unfortunately, funding shortfalls beginning in the early 1990s meant that research staff were gradually withdrawn, and in about 1994 the entire research facility was put into mothballs. The research station consists of houses, offices and laboratory. It is a magnificent facility, currently standing empty, and slowly deteriorating.

The Nature Reserve Management is desperately seeking a new research programme to make use of this wetland as a research base and could make a small contribution to the maintenance of the facility.

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### **Migration Forum**

The current discussion lists of the American Society of International Law and the Bonn Convention have been combined into one new Migration Forum. This new Forum is maintained by the Zoological Museum Koenig in Bonn. You can communicate with 206 members of this Forum by sending your news to E-mail: migration@listerv.uni-bonn.de.

For more information please contact:

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## **Conferences . Meetings of interest**

### **May 15-26, 2000**

The fifth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, Nairobi, Kenya.  
Info: please visit the CBD website <http://www.biodiv.org>

### **June 14-15, 2000**

Final LIFE Project Seminar "Waterbirds of the Atlantic Coast", Séné-Golfe de Morbihan, France.  
Info: SEPNB, 186 rue Anatole France, BP 32, F-29276 Brest Cedex, Tel: (+33) 298 490 718, Fax: (+33) 298 499 580

### **August 6-12, 2000**

Millennium Wetland Event, Québec City, Canada.

INFO: Mrs. Elizabeth MacKay  
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Tel: (+1)418 657 3853, fax :(+1) 418 657 7934  
Email: cqvb@cqvb.qc.ca  
HTTP://www/cqvb.qc.ca/wetland2000/intro/introa.htm

**September, 3-8, 2000**

The tenth Pan-African Ornithological Congress will take place in Kampala, Uganda.  
Info: Nature Uganda - The East Africa Natural History Society, Plot 83 Tufnel Road, P.O. Box 27034, Kampala, Uganda, Fax: (+256 041) 533528, E-mail: eanhs@imul.com

**September 5-6, 2000**

EUCC-France Workshop; Dune and Coastal Wetland Management in the Merlimont Area, Pas-de-Calais, France.

INFO: Mr Jean Favennec, fax: (+33) 5 56984107, E-mail: jean.Favennec@onf.fr

**September 17-19, 2000**

2<sup>nd</sup> International Symposium of the Pan-European Ecological Network, Rochefort, Belgium

INFO: Fax: (+33) 3 88 413751, E-mail: environment@coe.int

**September 28-October 1, 2000**

Danone-Evian / FFEM / Ramsar / MedWet 4/ Eurosite meeting: Network of Mediterranean, Caspian and Black Sea Deltas, Odessa, Ukraine.

Info: Dr Christian Perennou, Station Biologique de la Tour du Valat, E-mail: perennou@tour-du-valat.com or Dr.Igor Ivanenko, Wetlands International (Kiev office), E-mail: uawetl@carrier.kiev.ua

**October 4-10, 2000**

IUCN's World Conservation Congress 'ecospace', Amman. Jordan

Info: please contact your local representative or visit the Website:

<http://iucn.org/2000/about/content/secretariat.html> or the Congress Unit at E-mail: [jth@iucn.org](mailto:jth@iucn.org)

**October 23-24, 2000**

First Meeting of the Technical Committee of the Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds (AEWA), Bonn, Germany Info: AEWA Secretariat

**October 31- November 3, 2000**

The 10<sup>th</sup> International Scientific Wadden Sea Symposium 'Challenges to the Wadden Sea', Groningen, the Netherlands. Info: Mr Kees van Berker, Ministry of Agriculture, Nature Management. P.O. Box 30032, 9700 RM Groningen, Tel: (+31) 50 5992315

**November 27-29, 2000**

Lake 2000 - Symposium on Restoration of Lakes and Wetlands, Bangalore, India.

INFO: Dr. T.V. Ramachandra Centre for Ecological Sciences, Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore 560 012, India. Tel:(+91) 80 3600985/ 309 2506, Fax(+91)80 3601428/ 3600683/ 3600085

HTTP://144.16.65.194/energy/water/lake2000conference.html

## PUBLICATIONS

**Strategies for Conserving Migratory Waterbirds:**

The Proceedings of Workshop 2 of the 2nd International Conference on Wetlands and Development held in Dakar, Senegal, 8-14 November 1998, edited by Albert Beintema and Janine van Vessem of Wetland International were published at the end of 1999.

Workshop 2 reviewed conservation strategies for migratory waterbirds. These spectacular and highly mobile species can only be conserved by co-ordinated efforts at intercontinental flyway level. The workshop compared strategies developed in the Asia-Pacific and the American region, with the African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbird Agreement (AEWA). Keynote speakers explained large-scale conservation strategies, while case studies and poster presentations dealt with smaller scale activities. A set of so-called Conservation Guidelines, called for in the AEWA Action Plan, were discussed in draft during the workshop.

This volume presents the conclusions of the workshop, global waterbird conservation strategies, regional aspects of the AEWA, and case studies in the AEWA region. The final programme and the abstracts of the posters presented, are given as appendices.

A copy of *Strategies for Conserving Migratory Waterbirds* could be order at the address below.  
Price: GBP 10 plus postage and packing.

For more information or to order a copy please contact:

**The Natural History Book Service Mailorder Bookstore**

2-3 Wills Road, Totnes, TQ9 5XN. UK

Tel: (+44)1803 865913

Fax: (+44)1803 865280

E-mail: [sales@nhbs.co.uk](mailto:sales@nhbs.co.uk)

[HTTP://www.nhbs.co.uk/](http://www.nhbs.co.uk/)

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE CMS SYMPOSIUM ON ANIMAL MIGRATION**

On April 13, 1997 a symposium on animal migration was held during the 5<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on the conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS). The central theme was the impact on migratory species of habitat loss as well as habitat restoration and management, including the effects of human conflicts. This publication collects examples from different parts of the world of the varied problems faced by migratory animals as a result of human induced modifications in today's fast-changing world. Under the heading 'Bird Migration' one article on 'The course of bird migration in Europe: long- and short-term effects of ecological conditions' (by Bruno Bruderer) and one on 'The effects of oil pollution on Migrating and Breeding Waterbirds' (by Hani M.A. Tatwany) can be found.

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**Important Bird Areas in Europe Priority sites for conservation**

*Important Bird Areas in Europe Priority sites for conservation* was published in March 2000 after four years of intensive research and data collection by hundreds of ornithologists and volunteers from the BirdLife International Partnership on more than 3,600 sites in 51 countries of Europe. This 1,600 page inventory builds on the success of the first edition of *Important Bird Areas in Europe* published in 1989. The book provides up-to-date and revised information on previously covered sites and information about more than 1,000 new sites, and is probably the most comprehensive effort yet to quantify and locate sites for which conservation action is most essential.

For more information or to order a copy please contact:

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### **Review of ring recoveries of waterbirds in southern Africa**

This review, by L.G. Underhill, A.J. Tree, H.D. Oschadleus & V Parker (1999), is limited to waterbird species occurring in parts of southern Africa including Botswana, Lesotho, Namibia, South Africa, Swaziland, Zimbabwe and that part of Mozambique south of the Save River. Recoveries of 101 species with at least one recovery in the SAFRING database are reviewed. For many species, the information presented in this publication has never before been summarised and made available. For a few species, notably Turnstone (*Arenaria interpres*) and Sanderling (*Calidris alba*), additional information obtained in 1999 when this review was undertaken has led to radical reassessments of the way we understand migration systems.

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### **International Waterbird Census**

(Wetlands International Publication No. 54)

Latest IWC results from the Western Palearctic and Southwest Asia 1995 and 1996 have just been published, including twenty-year population trends. The International Waterbird Census (IWC) has taken place in January in the Western Palearctic and Southwest Asia in every year since 1967. The latest IWC results from the region have just been published, presenting detailed summaries of counts made by over 11,000 observers in 47 countries in January 1995 and January 1996. Midwinter numbers and distribution are summarised for 174 species of waterbirds, of which 23 million were counted in the region in 1995 and 19 million in 1996. In addition, detailed estimates of population trends between 1974 and 1996 of 24 species of Anatidae and Common Coot in five areas of the Western Palearctic are presented.

For more information or to order a copy please contact:

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[HTTP://www.nhbs.com](http://www.nhbs.com)

### **European Wet Grassland: guidelines for management and restoration**

European Wet Grassland is a practical handbook to the techniques of wet grassland management. This handbook is published by the Royal Society of the Protection of Birds, October 1999. The guidelines aim to enable wet grassland managers to implement best management practice by providing information on the practical aspects of wet grassland management and restoration in Northern and Central Europe. The guidelines largely comprise case studies from the region and aim to: share practical management and restoration experience, present alternative management and restoration options, describe the functions of wet grassland (as well as biodiversity conservation), etc.

The Guide is softback A4, 169 pages long, with 38 figures, 43 plates and 35 tables. It costs GBP 15.95 plus GBP 2.60 per order.

For more information or to order a copy please contact:

**Mrs Sara Smith**

RSPB

E-mail: sara.smith@rspb.org.uk

**Parks for Biodiversity:** Policy Guidance based on experience in ACP countries.

In June 1999 the IUCN published this report for the European Commission. Under the Lomé Convention, the European Union support the ACP (Africa-Caribbean-Pacific) countries in their efforts to achieve 'the protection and enhancement of the environment and natural resources, the halting of the deterioration of land and forests, the restoration of ecological balances, the preservation of natural resources and their rational exploitation'. To help plan its development assistance to protected areas in ACP countries, the European Commission asked IUCN to provide policy guidance for support to protected areas, by drawing on best practice from project experience of donors and partners in ACP. Part II of the report focuses on Africa under the following headings: a) An African Perspective, b) Where do we stand? The Status of Protected Areas in Africa, c) The Issues facing Protected Areas in Africa, d) A New Approach: Protected Areas that Contribute to Rural Development, e) What External Help is Needed.

For more information please contact:.

European Commission

**DG VIII, Directorate-General for Development**

Rue de la Loi 200

B-1049 Brussels, Belgium

Fax: (+32) 2 2992525

E-mail: info@dg8.cec.be

### **Birds and Power lines**

The findings of 20 specialist from the United States, Mexico, Norway, Sweden, the Netherlands, South Africa and Spain on the subject of bird mortality due to collision and electrocution on electricity lines has been published in the book "Birds and Powerlines" edited by Dr. Miguel Ferrer and Guyonne Janss.

Besides providing general information on the problem, the research findings included in this book deal with very specific cases concerning Spain, ospreys in wetlands on the coast of Mexico and swans on the Swedish coast. It is therefore a very interesting book for all those experiencing problems with electricity lines.

The book (250 pages), was published in Spain in 1999 by the Spanish magazine Quercus.

Price: English version USD 31 plus USD 4 for postage and packing.

For more information or to order a copy please contact:

**Servicios Informativos Ambientales/ Quercus**

Cº de Hormigueras, 122 Bis, 5º, P-1

28031 Madrid, Spain

E-mail: revista@quercus.es

HTTP://www.quercus.es.

**Wetlands, Water and the Law:** Using law to advance wetland conservation and wise use.  
(IUCN Environmental Policy and Law Paper no. 38)

This excellent new study by Clare Shine and Cyrille de Klem (1999) offers an astonishingly wide coverage of the role of law in wetland conservation throughout the world, amply illustrated with examples and case studies from nearly every nation. Focused primarily on the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands, it also covers

the contribution of other global and regional legislation, and investigates such thematic issues as land-use planning, river basin and coastal zone management, Environmental Impact Assessment, permit systems, economic incentives, enforcement, trans-boundary wetlands, and much more.

For more information or to order a copy please contact:

**IUCN Publications Services Unit, 219c**

Huntingdon Road, Cambridge CB3 0DL, UK

E-mail: info@books.iucn.org

**LIMNOLOGY IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES.**

The International Association for Limnology (SIL) is publishing a series entitled "Limnology in Developing Countries". The volumes include reviews of the state of research and training in aquatic resources in various developing countries. Each review includes an account of the physical environment, water resources and aquatic ecological research, status of conservation and management of aquatic resources (rivers, lakes, reservoirs, wetlands) training and research facilities, and scientific organisations in each of the countries.

Volume 1, published in 1995, contains reviews for Ghana, Tunisia, Bangladesh, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Malaysia and Papua-New Guinea. Volume 2, just published (1999) includes reviews for Indonesia, Morocco, Ethiopia, Uruguay and Costa Rica. Reviews for India, Mexico, China and Brazil are expected to be published early in 2000.

Volumes 1 and 2 are priced at USD 5 and USD 8 per copy respectively for individuals, and USD 12 and USD 20 respectively for the libraries/institutions.

For more information or to order a copy please contact:

SIL General Secretary

**Prof. R.G. Wetzel**

Dept of Biological Sciences, University of Alabama,

Tuscaloosa, AL 35487-0206, USA

email: rwetzel@biology.as.ua.edu).

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**BETWEEN TAYMIR AND TABLE MOUNTAIN: WIWO Forward Plan 1999-2003**

The Forward Plan 1999-2003 reviews WIWO activities in the past period and sets the stage for the years to come. This document is a successor of the Forward Plan 1994-1998. Its intention is to provide a guideline for future activities. Its primary aim is to stimulate and lend some structure to initiatives by potential project organisers and participants. In short, the plan shows no specific roads, only general directions. Secondly, it may serve as a background document for funding organisations in evaluating the resulting project proposals.

**COASTAL BREEDING BIRDS IN SINE-SALOUM NATIONAL PARK AND LANGUE DE BARBARIE NATIONAL PARK, SENEGAL, 1998.**

(WIWO-REPORT No. 68)

In May 1998, a complete census of breeding gulls and terns was carried out in two national parks in Senegal; Îlot aux Oiseaux, Langue de Barbarie, in the north of the country, and Ile aux Oiseaux and some smaller islands in the Sine Saloum Delta just north of Gambia. Breeding gulls and terns were also counted in the salinas near Kaolack. An additional visit was paid to Ile aux Oiseaux in July. The census in 1998 was the first ever to completely cover all gull and tern species. Comparison with data from previous counts on the islands showed that Slender-billed Gull (*Larus genei*) have remained stable since the middle of the 1970's, while Caspian Tern (*Sterna caspia*) have increased considerably since 1991. The other species had apparently either decreased (Common Tern *S. hirundo*) or changed for other reasons (Grey-headed Gull *Larus cirrocephalus*, Gull-billed Tern *Gelochelidon nilotica*, Little Tern *Sterna albifrons*). As numbers are also available from Mauritania, a new population estimate for gull and tern species breeding in Western Africa is proposed.

## **BIRDS OF MEDUSA BAY, NW TAYMYR, IN 1997**

(WIWO-REPORT No. 66)

The report presents the results of a study of breeding waders and other birds species in Medusa Bay, NW Taymyr in 1997. The study is part of a long-term monitoring scheme of the area around the Willem Barentz Biological Station. The survey was carried out between 17 June and 26 July 1997 and included estimates of breeding bird densities and nesting success, Brent Goose feeding ecology and a survey of the Severo-Vostochnie Islands.

For more information please contact:

### **WIWO**

Van Stuivenbergweg 4  
6644 Ab Ewijk, The Netherlands

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## **Birds of Azov-Black Sea Region**

Articles by Dr. Ivan Russev (editor) have recently been published by the Ukranian Natural Heritage Fund and the EUCC. These articles (most of them in Russian, some in English) summarise the results of ornithological studies from 1979 to 1999 including aspects of habitat conservation in the Dnestr Delta.

For more information please contact:

### **Mr Ivan Rusev**

26 apt, 30, Geroev Stalingrada Str  
65053 Odessa, Ukraine  
Tel/Fax: (+380)-482-522805  
E-mail: wildlife@paco.net

## **Monitoring Breeding Success of Coastal Birds & Monitoring Pollutants in Coastal Bird's Eggs, in the Wadden Sea Ecosystem No. 8, by Stefan Thyen et al (1998)**

Both pilot studies were carried out in 1996 and 1997 in the framework of the "Trilateral Monitoring and Assessment Programme" in order to develop harmonized trilateral programmes and to test the sampling sites and methods. Both parameters (breeding success and pollutants in eggs) are useful for the assessment of the Wadden Sea, and therefore for Wadden Sea conservation. This report can be ordered at the address below, price NLG 15 (postage incl.)

For more information or to order a copy please contact:

### **Sovon**

Rijksstraatweg 178  
NL-6573 DG Beek-Ubbergen, The Netherlands  
Fax: (+31) 24 6848188

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## **Websites**

### **The Development of the AEWA-WEBSITE**

The further development of the Agreement's Website is one of the projects included in the International Implementation priorities AEWA 2000-2004. The general idea is to develop the Website into a more attractive site containing useful information on the Agreement. Maps and graphics in particular would greatly enhance the effectiveness of the AEWA Website. Furthermore the Website should include: pages available in all official languages, access to all official documentation, clearing house facilities, species photographs and maps of sites allowing users to examine migration routes, key sites per species, etc., etc. The Interim Secretariat visited WCMC in Cambridge to discuss further development of the Website. It was decided to give priority to include interactive maps on migration routes per species. Currently the Interim Secretariat is considering what kind of information should be included in the Internet Mapping System, IMS. Although it is

technically possible to include this information there are budget limitations. Fortunately due to a voluntary contribution from Germany the first phase of the development of the Website will be possible. During this first phase official documentation now available and new photographs of species will be put on the Web. Furthermore the Contracting Parties will be requested to submit their country programmes so that these can be included too.

For more information please contact:

**AEWA Secretariat**

#### **Global review of wetland resources and priorities for wetland inventory**

The aims of the review were to: a) provide an overview of international, regional and national wetland inventories as well as other general information on global wetland resources, b) outline steps to quantify the extent of global wetland resources and to provide a baseline for measuring trends in wetland conservation or loss, c) identify priorities for establishing, updating or extending wetland inventories so as to improve the accuracy with which the global wetland resource can be quantified and described in the future.

For more information please visit:

**Wetlands International - AEME**

[HTTP://www.wetlands.agro.nl](http://www.wetlands.agro.nl)

## **COLOFON**

THE AFRICAN-EURASIAN WATERBIRD AGREEMENT (AEWA) IS AN AGREEMENT UNDER THE CONVENTION ON THE CONSERVATION OF MIGRATORY SPECIES OF WILD ANIMALS COMMONLY REFERRED TO AS THE BONN CONVENTION. AEWA AIMS TO CREATE A LEGAL BASIS FOR A CONCERTED CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT POLICY BY RANGE STATES FOR MIGRATORY WATERBIRD SPECIES.

AEWA HAS AN ACTION PLAN, WHICH SPECIFIES ACTION PARTIES SHALL UNDERTAKE IN RELATION TO PRIORITY SPECIES AND ISSUES.

THE NEWSLETTER PROVIDES THE LATEST NEWS ON AEWA. THE NEXT NEWSLETTER WILL BE PUBLISHED IN DECEMBER 2000

THIS NEWSLETTER IS ALSO AVAILABLE IN FRENCH.

#### **THE NEWSLETTER WAS PUBLISHED BY :**

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## **AGREEMENT UPDATE**

The African-Eurasian Waterbird Agreement (AEWA) was open for signing at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in The Hague (the Netherlands) from 15 August 1996 to 30 September 1999. By 31 August 1999 the requirements had been met for the Agreement's entry into force. In accordance with Article XIV, paragraph 1, the Agreement entered into force on 1 November 1999. The following Range States ratified, accepted or approved the Agreement and became a Contracting Party: Benin, Congo, Denmark, Egypt, Finland, Gambia, Germany, Guinea, Jordan, the Netherlands, FYR of Macedonia, Mali, Monaco, Niger, Romania, Senegal, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Sudan, Switzerland, Tanzania, Togo and United Kingdom and Northern Ireland. Signatories to the Agreement are: Belgium (29-10-'99), Bulgaria (5-7-'99), the European Union (1-9-'97), France (25-11-'98), Greece (14-5-'98), Luxembourg (27-10-'97), Morocco (19-11-'97) and Ukraine (16-10-'98)

The Depository draws your attention to Article XIII, paragraph 2 of the Agreement, which reads: 'The Agreement remains open for signature at The Hague until the date of its entry into force'. This means that after 1 November 1999 it will no longer be possible to sign the Agreement. Under paragraph 3 of the same Article it is pointed out that a State or a regional economic integration organisation can become a party after the Agreement entered into force only through the deposit of the instrument of accession with the Depository ( the Treaties Division of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands). A specimen of the instrument of accession is obtainable from the Depository.

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