

"Inspiring birds, inspiring people"

NEWSLETTER no. 16 (June 2013)



“Inspiring birds, inspiring people”

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Introduction:

Dear colleagues,

In this newsletter you will read the latest news from our network. We received again a variety of contributions from the partners in the network and I to invite you especially to look at the very nice report from our colleagues in Djoudj National Park in Senegal! *[page 14]*

In this edition we also present the programme for **the annual workshop/meeting 2013 in Sweden !**

Don't miss the opportunity to meet your colleagues there.

Enjoy reading and have a nice summer,

On behalf of the core group,

Roelof Heringa

P.S.: your feedback is always welcome!

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**Second announcement Annual Workshop “Migratory Birds for People”
29th of Sept.- 1st of Oct. 2013.**

The next meeting of the MBP members is kindly being hosted by our colleagues at Lake Takern, and so far we have 18 people already signed up to attend. The meeting will give participants time to update and share their new projects, take a look at the brand new wetland centre at Takern, and plan for future activities through the MBP network. There are a few more places available, but please let us know as soon as possible if you would like to come, see the [website](#) for more details.

The costs of accommodation and food are covered, so all you have to pay for is the flight; the nearest airport is Stockholm, Skavsta, and low cost airlines do fly there.

Hosted by the County Administrative Board of Östergötland, the NGO Lake Tåkern field station and the visitors centre naturum Tåkern.

Accommodation: Tåkern Vandrarhem,

<http://www.svenskaturistforeningen.se/sv/upptack/Omraden/Ostergotland/Vandrarhem/STF-Vandrarhem-Takern/> walking distance of naturum Takern.

Contact: Ellen Hultman, e-mail: ellen.hultman@lansstyrelsen.se

PROGRAMME:

29th September - Sunday evening: arrive on Sunday evening: pick up at the bus station in Linköping. (Bus Skavsta airport - Linköping is 1,5 hrs <http://www.flygbussarna.se/en>).

30th September - Monday

Breakfast at 07.00 at Tåkern hostel. Walk to naturum (2 km).

09.00 – 12.30 Introductory meeting on progress with MBP and the strategic plan, update from partners on activities (location: Visitors centre naturum Tåkern).

12.30 – 13.15 Lunch in the Visitors centre.

13.15 Look around in Visitors centre, discussion of experiences and educational quality.

15.00 Checking out birds from bird watching tower and hike back to hostel.

16.00 Workshop/rest at hostel

17.30 Departure for dinner. Excellent dinner with local ecological produce at Omberg Hotel www.ombergsturisthotell.se . Sunset over huge lake Vattern.

1st October - Tuesday

07.00 Optional showing of bird ringing by NGO staff

09.00 Meeting at the visitors centre naturum Tåkern. Work groups on specific strategy areas (funding, engaging the public, capacity building for staff, funding). Group discussion on interpretation strategy element of the plan. Plan for activities in 2014, discuss development and funding/resource opportunities.

12.00 Lunch at the visitors centre. Continue discussions.

13.00 Summarizing meeting.

14.00 Guided tour in nature reserve. Inflight by migratory geese (around 10000) and cranes. Our guides are Malin and Ellen from naturum Tåkern. (Optional)

2th October - Wednesday

09.00 Departure to Linköping for transfer to airport buses to Skavsta airport (2,5 hrs).



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Map of Lake Tåkern



Link to larger map of area:
<http://kartor.eniro.se/m/nPiCL>



Accommodation: Tåkern Vandrarhem, located near the Lake Tåkern and the Naturum.



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Mission “Migratory Birds for People”

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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News from the network:



Finland : Liminganlahti conservation area

Expected, unexpected and rare visitors in spring and summer 2013

After the opening of the new visitor centre in April 2012, Liminka Bay has become steadily popular among visitors. In total 25000 persons had visited the centre during the first five months of 2013. The new exhibition has been successful in attracting everyone interested in birds and nature in general– from the smallest kids to the keen birdwatchers.

Spring 2013 arrived very quickly – when it finally arrived. Still in mid April there were still ideal conditions for cross-country skiers on the ice of Liminka Bay – and only less than a week later there were hundreds of dabbling ducks swimming in the very same areas! Spring arrived just in time before the 7th Liminka Bay Bird Photography Festival. Festival was again successful and more than 2000 visitors came to see top-quality bird and wildlife photos from around the world. For the second time, there was also a bird identification quiz for the 7-15 year old children.

Many migrant birds (like Bean Geese) spent less time than usual in Liminka Bay due to rapid advance of spring. Spring was nevertheless once again interesting for birdwatchers and e.g. **Pallid Harriers** (*Circus macrourus*) were recorded in highest-ever numbers locally. This globally rare (population estimate only 9000 – 15 000



pairs) and near-threatened species has continued to increase in numbers in Finland, despite the opposite trend globally. It will be interesting to see, are these elegant birds of prey going to breed in the area? The most sought-after bird individual has again been the Gull-billed Tern – only the 3rd individual for Finland, but this apparently same individual has returned to Liminka Bay four years in a row. Yet another interesting sighting was the **Black-tailed Godwit** (*Limosa limosa*) ringed in Belarus. But the most unexpected visitor came on the late evening of the 6th of June when a Brown Bear was seen only 100 meters away from the visitor centre!



Petri Lampila,
Limminganlahti conservation area



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Norway: Fetsund Lenser, Nordre Øyeren wetland centre

Summer is almost here and during the spring lots of birds have been migrating through Nordre Øyeren nature reserve. Good numbers of Eurasian Curlew (89) and Greenshanks (300) seen in one day in the location Svellet. A rare Citrine Wagtail male was also seen in the beginning of May.

At the wetland centre we have arranged several activity days during the springtime. From celebration of the World Wetland Day in February, culture-and nature trip into the nature reserve and an Outdoors-day for the children with lots of different activities in the near nature surroundings of the centre.

At the World Migratory Bird day 2013 at the 12 th of May we arranged a bird watching trip on Årnestangen in Nordre Øyeren nature reserve. This was a collaboration between the local Nordre Øyeren Birding Station and Nordre Øyeren Wetland Centre. We observed a lot of Spotted Flycatchers (*Muscicapa striata*), a pair of Red-backed Shrikes (*Lanius collurio*), Common Kestrel (*Falco tinnunculus*), Common snipe (*Gallinago gallinago*) and a lot of other interesting species.

Unfortunately only a few people attended, and the weather was to blame, it was rainy and windy just until five minutes before the trip started. In future we hope to develop our relationship with the local Nordre Øyeren Bird Station further.



Working together : the County Governor of Oslo and Akershus and Nordre Øyeren Wetland Centre - have recently released the first leaflet for bird watching in the Nordre Øyeren nature reserve and we hope this will inspire people to look at birds and appreciate the importance of this wetland. We are also making further plans of another brochure about the nature reserve with more general information about the wetland area. Please have a look at our brochure at the following link:

<http://www.fylkesmannen.no/Oslo-og-Akershus/Miljo-og-klima/Skjulte-sider/Brosjyrer-og-faktaark/>



Trude Starholm,
Nordre Øyeren Wetland Centre

Website address: <http://fetsundlenser.no/nordre-oyeren-vatmarkssenter.html>

Facebook: www.facebook.com/NordreOyerenVatmarkssenter



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Sweden: Naturum Lake Tåkern

Dear all,
Here at Lake Tåkern our new Visitors Center continues to be a great success!
People are overwhelmed and keep telling us how beautiful the building is and how fun it was to visit us.
We already had more than 35000 visitors this year, although we only opened in April...



We are so happy that y'all are coming to visit us this fall!
You are most welcome on September 29th!

Some news about our birds is that the population of **Bearded Reedling** (*Panurus biarmicus*) which has formerly been typical of Lake Tåkern, has been dramatically reduced by several severe winters. We hope that it will have a good breeding season and that next winter will be a little shorter!



A fun news is that a species that has never bred in Sweden before, now breeds in Lake Tåkern: Red-crested Pochard (*Netta rufina*).

And today my colleagues and I could listen to a **River warbler** (*Locustella fluviatilis*) through the window of our lunch room!
It is on the Swedish red list and not very common in Sweden.

*Yours Sincerely, Ellen Hultman
Manager of naturum Tåkern*



Sweden: Naturum Getterön

No message received / Inget meddelande mottagits

Contact: Katja Fedrowitz

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



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Estonia:

We are still looking for a contact in this country.

Roelof Heringa



Lithuania:

We are still looking for a contact in this country.

Roelof Heringa



Russia: CEPA , St. Petersburg

Wetland Centre Network - Russia



In early May the Head of WLI and colleagues from the Baltic Fund for Nature took part in two successful workshops in Russia. The first was held at **Olonets**, near Lagoda Lake, north of St Petersburg. The session was aimed at those working in protected areas or in wetland education in the North West Russian region, and was a two day event looking at the theory of learning, how to develop and use

wetland centres, and practice examples of wetland education, led by the Baltic Fund for Nature.

The second event was held at the Kaluga Bird Park near Moscow, run by Wetland International Russia and bringing together around 40 representatives from protected wetland areas and wetland centres. The two day workshop allowed participants to learn about wetland education case studies and good practice, and to discuss how we can continue to support and develop the network of centres in Russia. They also started to develop the wetland CEPA strategy for European Russia, and set up a working group that will continue this work.

(reported by Chris Rostron, WLI)

*Evgeny Genelt-Yanovskiy and Yulia Danilova
Baltic Fund for Nature Of St.Petersburg Naturalists Society
Universitetskaya emb. 7/9-11
Saint-Petersburg*



Chris, Inge and Yulia



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Denmark: Nature Centre Vestemager

This spring the Naturcenter of Vestemager, Denmark has opened a new unit called “Friluftshuset” - meaning “The house of Open air Activity”. It includes the starting point of nature interpretation, general information, renting out equipment for open air activities in the same place - all for activities on the 2000 ha big nature area on Vestemager. The idea is to reach a wider group of people - not just people that are interested in nature - not just the people that are interested in open air activity. This new unit also offers none government organisations a platform for their activities as long as they also arrange public activities in nature for free. It seems to work out quiet well. We hope to get in contact with a much broader range of target group than before.



The new unit of The Naturecenter of Vestemager is made of 2 former buildings combined with an open canopy. The building on the right side is the café.

Best regards

Stella Blichfeldt
Project Manager for Open Air activities



Germany : Nationalpark - Haus Husum

No message received / Keine Nachricht empfangen

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



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

No message received

Contact: Chris Rostron



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the Netherlands: Terschelling (Wadden Sea)

Positive message from the Wadden Sea area

It has recently been announced that Staatsbosbeheer together with other partners has received an important subsidy for improvement of habitats and creating a number of communication projects for a better protection of shorebirds. Part of the scheme is to improve an information- and surveillance post at the east point of the island Terschelling, the realisation of a bird hide on Vlieland and the replacement of a warden shed on the uninhabited island Engelsmanplaat. All three are hotspots for migrating and breeding wetlandbirds.

In total is € 475.000,- available for the coming 3 years.

*Freek Zwart,
Staatsbosbeheer, Terschelling*



the Netherlands : Oostvaardersplassen

The realisation of a (temporary) new visitor centre in the Oostvaardersplassen. The new centre will be open at the end of August when the Dutchbirdfair will take place. During the last month we have been acting in a so-called “Portacabin” at the parking, but now we look forward to the moment we will be able to receive everyone in a proper way again; this time even with a catering facility!



*Heleen Visser
Staatsbosbeheer*



Belgium: Natuurpunt : visitor centre 'Uitkerkse Polder'.

1. Exciting resightings of colour-banded waterbirds in the Uitkerkse Polder demonstrate a functional linkage of our network

Thanks to many skilled birdwatchers, scientists receive data about migrating birds all over the world. In March 2013, a banded **Black-tailed Godwit (*Limosa limosa*)** and some banded **Eurasian Spoonbills (*Platalea leucorodia*)** were spotted by several observers in the Uitkerkse Polder, an important Natura 2000-wetland near the Belgian coast. The Uitkerkse polder is part of the 30,000 hectares 'Oostkustpolder' between Ostend, Bruges and 'Het Zwin' in Knokke, near the Dutch border. Over 500 hectares of the Uitkerkse Polder (one of two MBP centres in Belgium), is owned and managed by Natuurpunt vzw, the largest NGO for nature conservation in the Flemish part of Belgium. The Black-tailed Godwit was banded in May 2011 in the Netherlands and since then, also spotted in Spain (between Sevilla and Gibraltar) and in Portugal (North-East of Lissabon), before this latest observation in the Uitkerkse Polder. This Polder is an important staging site for the species, as in each northward migration; several thousands make a stop-over to rest and feed here. In addition, several hundred stay in the region for breeding.



One Eurasian Spoonbill that was banded in Niedersachsen, Germany in 2008, has since then also been observed in The Netherlands, France (the Camargue – not far from our Camargue Guardoise MBP centre), Spain and last March also in Belgium. This individual was part of a group that was spotted in the Uitkerkse Polder during the last week of March 2013, some of which were banded in 2002 (red flags).

These resightings confirm over and over again what we already know: well managed wetlands form a vital network of habitats and stop-overs for migrating birds around the world. It is not only in the interest of the birds, but also in the interest of people that these wetlands remain intact and well managed!



Many thanks to the birdwatchers (Nicole Joly, Marc Nollet and Peter Depodt), to Geert Declercq for managing all the bird data in the Uitkerkse Polder, to the bird ringers (Niko Groen, Theunis Piersma and Olaf Geiter) and to the Working group Spoonbills (Werkgroep Lepelaar) from the Netherlands!

*Bob Vandendriessche
Uitkerkse Polder, Natuurpunt vzw, Belgium*

2. Other news from the Uitkerkse Polder

After an unprecedented cold and windy spring, in fact more a prolonged winter, actual spring only started in may, not less than six or seven weeks later than average! April was extremely dry, while in may, there was almost no sunshine. No need to say that nature lost its compass.

The first blossoms of Elderflower only appeared last week!



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After winter, the number of visitors in the centre stayed low for many weeks. For those who came, our documentary proved useful as an alternative for a walk in the cold, windy and rainy polder. As the end of may turned sunnier, the requests for guided tours exploded, and some of our nature guides had to awake suddenly from their long hibernation!

As the Uitkerkse Polder is situated near the Seaport of Bruges ('haven van Zeebrugge'), where many



cruise ships moor, our working group 'PR' is currently checking out how we can reach these travelers who may be interested in visiting the Uitkerkse Polder by foot or by bike. Any experience with this kind of publicity (for example how to contact these cruise companies) is very welcome.

longer breeding in the Belgian dunes.

The northern Wheatear (Oenanthe oenanthe) is no

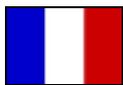
*Bob Vandendriessche,
Wetland centre 'Uitkerkse Polder'.*



= Visitor centre “het Zwin”

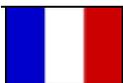
No message received / Aucun message reçu

Leo Declercq



France: Baie de Somme

No message received / Aucun message reçu



France: Camargue Gardoise / Centre de découverte du Scamandre,

No message received / Aucun message reçu



Spain: Aiguamolls de l'Emporda

No messages received / No hay mensajes recibidos



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Spain: Ebro Delta

MónNatura Delta – a new visitor centre in the Ebro Delta by Fundació CatalunyaCaixa

No messages received / No hay mensajes recibidos

Contact person for the Network:

Xavier Escuté

Xavier.escute.fos@catalunyacaixa.com



Spain: las Salinas y Arenales de San Pedro del Pinatar

No messages received / No hay mensajes recibidos

Contact : Teresa Lopez



Portugal : Tagus Estuary Birdwatching and Conservation Area

We welcome our new partner in the MBP-network in Portugal !



For introduction: a short summary of this centre:

EVOA is situated in the Natural Reserve of the Tagus Estuary (RNET), which is included in the Natura 2000 network since 1980 and is recognized as a wetland of international importance (Ramsar Site).

Since April 2013, the visitor can enjoy the wild birds, mostly in three freshwater wetlands, with 70 ha, created by the project and managed for birds. The necessary tranquility and convenience for visitors are guaranteed through hidden trails and hides that are strategically located.

The Visitor Centre offers a pleasant visitor experience. It support visitors to get to know the birds, the estuary and the lezíria and to participate in various interactive activities. In addition to the exhibition area – EVOA, where *the world meet the Tagus*, the centre has a multi-purpose auditorium and a cafeteria where visitors can enjoy the space and the beautiful scenery.



EVOA has programs of interpretive guided tours and birdwatching appropriate to different audiences and ages. It also provides other recreational and educational activities and special access conditions.



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The front of the visitor centre overlooking the Tagus estuary



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

West-African Centres



- **Mauretania**
- **Senegal**
- **Guinea Bissau**



_Senegal: Djoudj National Park

Biological Station: WIA’s Center of Migratory Bird for People (MBP) sensitize school children on species conservation

Wetlands International Africa (WIA) has, in partnership with the “Direction des Parcs Nationaux” organized one day field visit for the school children and their teachers from the seven villages around Djoudj National Park. It was an important awareness day

The objective of this important outing is to develop knowledge and awareness on their environment, particularly in waterbirds migration routes.

This important field discovery took place recently. This outing has allowed 35 school children and their 7 teachers from the following villages: Diadiem I, II and III, Debi, Tiget, Rone and Kheune (northern Senegal) to be aware of the importance of the site and the wetlands management where the local communities living around are the first beneficiaries.



Birding: using the telescope at the lagoon around the Biology Station



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Many questions have been asked related to the importance of the water management and the connections of the sites along the migratory routes and also how to consider the stopovers along the flyways.

The key challenges have been addressed such as poaching mainly illegal fishing and over grazing, the children are fully aware of this and ready to convince the villagers on the drawbacks. The day started with an indoor class (le end reste) the power point presentation to show the different species (types) of birds and their different habitats and also the key threats.



Flocks of White faced tree ducks flying over

The

ecotourism activities in which the

communities play important roles has been presented to the kids and also the key activity related to the annual census in mid-January which take place regularly in the Park.

The children and teachers were able to admire the flocks of birds through the telescopes and binoculars made available to them by the team. After sometimes, they were able to identify some species of waterbirds in the lagoon around the Biology station such as: White faced tree ducks, black-winged stilt, heron, Avocet and others.



Departure of the boat trip at the -pier

Finally, early afternoon an excursion (boat trip) in the Djoudj allowed the children to discover the beauty of the site with the breeding island of the White pelicans with approximately 20 000 individuals. During the trip many others species of reptiles and mammals have been seen along the river bank such as python, crocodile and warhog. A fishing eagle was very impressive on the edge of the branch which was attractive to the crowded boat.

The primary school teachers were very impressed and their academic supervisors based in Saint. Louis welcomed this great initiative and wishes the continuation of this important activity. Park authorities who supported this event are also engaged to keep this program going as they did in the past Djoudj Birds National Park has been classified since 1981 Humanity Worldwide Patrimony by Unesco

*By Pape Diomaye THIARE
(With the support of Abdoulaye Ndiaye & Angèle Lecomte)
Wetlands International Africa*

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Some other pictures taken during the excursion >



Young pelicans learning how to swim



Pelican colony at the breeding place



Group photos after the trip at the Djoudj inlet



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Other MBP- network news

➤ **MBP questionnaire:**

Summary of recent MBP questionnaire for visitor centres:

Thanks to those of you who completed the questionnaire, we had 12 responses from the group. Of those that responded, about half were NGOs and half run by government bodies, and 10 of them described themselves as ‘visitor centres’.

Most said that they worked with all ages of students, as well as informal learning, although only half said they did any research or volunteer programmes. Ecotourism was also mentioned as an activity. Half said they received between 20,000 - 50,000 visitors each year, 3 between 5,000-20,000, and one over 200,000, and 7 said they had education/interpretation buildings.

All of them had parking, a website, wildlife viewing facilities, outdoor trails, and outdoor signage – however the indoor facilities varied a lot. Most said they ‘sometimes’ had contact with other wetland centres, with only 2 saying they ‘often’ had contact. Existing partnerships tended to be national, and most were part of national partnerships / networks.

In terms of events run by centres, the most important ones tended to be locally focused, with only one mentioning an international event (World Migratory Bird Day), with no mention of World Wetlands Day. All said they would like to work more closely with other centres, but the barriers identified were largely about the lack of time, but funding and the language barrier were also mentioned. 7 people said they would be prepared to spend more time supporting MBP via regular telephone conference, and 4 said maybe.

The most important benefit of MBP was the sharing of best practice with other centres, followed by updates on other centres’ work, developing joint projects, and celebrating World Wetlands Day and World Migratory Bird Day. Behind this came collaborative research, and promotion of wetland policy. What would you like MBP to support you with? Top answers were arrange exchange visits, and share communication between centres. This was followed by production of share resource for educators and joint fund-raising, then arranging international conferences, with only a few saying they needed capacity building and training.

So, in summary, it seems that our MBP partners are keen to work together, but are held back by the lack of time and resources. If you have not yet filled in the questionnaire, you can still do so at <http://fluidsurveys.com/s/mbp/>

Chris Rostron

➤ **Linking scientific research to the MBP-network.**

You are still invited to send me information about contacts with scientists working with migratory birds. Please, send you information to taej.mundkur@wetlands.org .

➤ **Kind request for footage.** (repeated request)

Wetlands International is planning to make a film on migratory birds and wetlands, which could also form a resource for each wetland centre as a movie in digital format with images that could be used for a “Migratory Birds for People”- presentation. We hope for your positive response and will of course discuss with you the conditions under which you would be willing to share this material with us. Please send in your material to : rheringa@eurosites.org

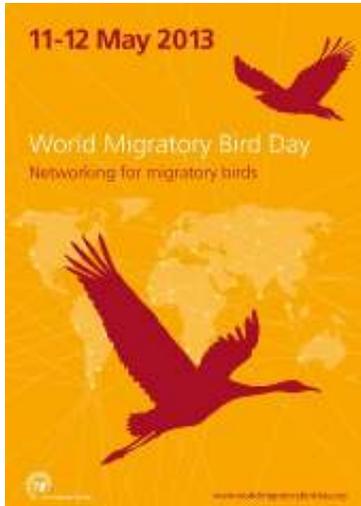




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World Migratory Bird Day 2013



This year, the theme was networking for migratory birds, a good message for us at MBP, and we have some stories from MBP members on the WLI [website](#).

The WMBD is a great event for raising awareness of the importance of migratory birds, and as well as sending us stories for the WLI site, you can still upload your stories to the WMBD [website](#) too.

Promoting World Migratory Bird Day by the Migratory Birds for People Network

Around 11 - 12 May this year, World Migratory Bird Day was celebrated by an amazing 350 registered events in 88 countries worldwide around the world focused on this year’s theme “Networking for migratory birds”. Several of our Migratory Birds for People partners organized a variety of activities as summarised below. This note also aims to stimulate and encourage all network partners to participate in the future. Bird watching events were organised at the Nature Centre Vestamager in Denmark and the National Park Haus Husum in Germany. While ‘Nature Mauritanie’ in Mauritania organised a bird watching trip for school children and their teachers.

The Regional Park Salinas y Arenales de San Pedro del Pinatar in Spain organised a guided tour highlighting the natural and cultural values of the protected area, while devoting more attention to birds and their amazing migration. The activity was aimed at a group of 20 women in the environment and organised through the Department of Women and Youth. During the visit they made several stops and each participant read a poem related to any particular species, which serves to link the theme of birds and migration. Meanwhile at the Tancada’s Lake in Ebro Delta, a workshop was organized to introduce people to the world of the migratory birds of the area. In Russia, a seminar was organized at the Aleksala visitor centre aimed to motivate educational departments of nature protected areas for making a wetland visitor center. The seminar was organised with the support of the Matra programme of Embassy of Netherlands and in collaboration with Wetlands International Russia. Chris Rostron of Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust made some presentations about the UK experience in making wetland centers. Finally, on 11th of May they all took part in the traditional Goose Festival, Chris Rostron and Yulia Danilova spoke at the opening ceremony for the Festival.

The Baltic Fund for Nature held the traditional educational journey "Routes of spring" near the town of Olonec (South Karelia) in Russia, famous for its large geese flocks on



Bird watching in Ooypolder (NL)



Black terns colony in Ooypolder (NL)



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migration. It was attended by 35 students and teachers of educational institutions of St. Petersburg and the Leningrad region. This year, due to the late spring there were few geese present in end April, but the participants were able to see flocks of other species including Lapwing, Eurasian Curlew and the Black-tailed Godwit.

In the Netherlands, Wetlands International organised a bicycle bird watching trip to the famous Ooijpolder, a flood plain wetland on the River Waal, an area of international importance for migratory and resident waterbirds. For some staff and families, it was their first time to go bird watching. On a nice sunny day, we saw many interesting birds, including several species that migrate to Africa for the northern winter and return to breed in the Netherlands, such as the Black Tern, White Stork, Common Swift and Common Cuckoo.

This note is summarized by Taej Mundkur based on information that has been provided by partners to the African-Eurasian Waterbird Agreement (AEWA) Secretariat.

Partners are invited to share further details and images on their events.

All registered events can be found on the WMBD event list and global event map and images at: www.worldmigratorybirdday.org/2013/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=9&Itemid=9

*Taej Mundkur,
Wetlands International*

➤ **"Migratory Birds for People" certificate**

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

This certificate can still be obtained for free. Just write an email to rheringa@euosite.org and we will send you a certificate.



➤ **WLI information sheets**

As a new tool for those working at wetland centres, WLI is producing a series of information sheets on issues that are likely to be of interest to those involved in wetland centres and education. The format is a 'two sides of A4', offering an introduction to the topic, with further links and resources.

The first topic is on constructed wetlands as water treatment systems, followed by 'wetland centre development', 'evaluation of wetland visitor groups', and 'engaging the public in bird breeding programmes'.

You can see them at the [WLI website](http://www.wli.org)

- WLI information sheet No. 1: Wetland treatment Systems (Constructed Wetlands)
- WLI information sheet No. 2 : Masterplanning
- WLI information sheet No. 3 : Engaging the public in aviculture



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News from the Core group

Bid for funding from AECEA [‘Europe for Citizens’- programme]

Natuurpunt submitted a bid to the EU EACEA fund, to cover the costs of three exchange trips between Lake Tåkern (Sweden), Centre de Camargue Guardoise (France) and Uitkerkse Polder (Belgium) over the next two years.

We have received the message that our bid was not granted, so we have to look for other financial sources to support our network activities.

Chris Rostron



From the (Skype-)meetings of the core group / Febr. – June 2013

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

- looking for contacts with the scientific world
- development of the MBP-network
- start of products for the network
- planning the programme, logistics and finances for the Annual workshop 2013 in Sweden



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

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

Be inspired!

Roelof Heringa



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FINALLY: A bird-story from across the Atlantic Ocean for our inspiration:

FABIEN ROJIZO GETS A NEW PLANE,
OR
HOW TO BUILD A CONSTITUENCY FOR SHOREBIRD CONSERVATION

Mirta Carbajal¹ and Charles Duncan²
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Argentina.

The prosperity of early 20th century Argentina and the vast distances between its cities led to the creation of Aeroposta Argentina, the airmail.



The Patagonian route was opened in 1929, flying mail from Bahía Blanca to Comodoro Rivadavia in French-made single-engine, open-cockpit planes. Among the handful of brave and skilled pilots flying this route was one Antoine de Saint Exupery who later became known and loved worldwide for his story “The Little Prince.”

Less well-known is Saint Exupery’s chilling novel “Night Flight,” the story of the last flight of Fabien, one of the airmail pilots. Heading north at night to Buenos Aires after taking off from the town of San Antonio Oeste, Fabien encounters a huge storm that covers the entire center of Argentina ...

Today, San Antonio Oeste is a popular Argentine summer beach resort town. It is also the most important northbound stopover site for Red Knots in South America, recognized as a Site of International Importance in the Western Hemisphere Shorebird Reserve Network. Unfortunately, the total disconnect between these two worlds threatened the knots. Beachgoers rode 4-wheelers across sensitive habitat, and local authorities authorized incompatible projects.

Our two organizations realized that what was needed was a way to inform the public, both the residents and the visitors. But even more, we sought to engage them on an emotional, as well as intellectual level, with shorebirds and conservation. We first collaborated on the creation of *Vuelo Latitud 40* (Flight Latitude 40), a nature interpretation center with that goal in mind. Manomet raised funds as part of a grant from the National Fish & Wildlife Foundation while Fundación Inalfquen provided the vision, design and hard work required to create a place that is both appealing to visitors and effective in delivering its message.



One part of the Center is the Red Knot Club where children can play at being scientists studying shorebirds through participatory activities. We needed a mascot to tell the stories to the youngest ones, and Fabien, the pilot, was never far from our thinking. His lonely journey, buffeted by winds with only a simple compass and, at





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best, intermittent communication with the ground, reminded us of the needs of the knots. They, too, stop at San Antonio Bay, seeking a safe place to rest, refuel and do a little feather “maintenance” if needed before continuing on the way north, ultimately to the Canadian Arctic. Soon, we had “reincarnated” Fabien as a rather dapper Red Knot—*Playero Rojizo* in Spanish—complete with flying helmet and aviator’s scarf. We named him “Fabien Rojizo” and made him the symbol of shorebird conservation at San Antonio Bay. As part of a “Pride” campaign co-financed by Rare and Manomet, a human-sized version of Fabien visits schools, dances on the beach, attends meeting with mayors of other cities, and leads the annual shorebird festival at San Antonio Bay. And Fabien recently got a new plane! Recognizing the shared interests in the area’s natural, cultural and literary heritage, a partnership developed between Fundación Inalafquen and the 65-year-old Aeroclub San Antonio Oeste. During the upcoming edition of the San Antonio Bay Shorebird Festival, the Aeroclub-SAO will offer flights to get a shorebird’s eye view of the Bay.

Recently, in honor of the shorebird festival and the new partnership, Aeroclub-SAO has named its 4-seat Piper Archer “Fabien Rojizo.” Fabien will continue to fly at San Antonio Bay along with the flocks of Red Knots, telling the story that has joined humans and shorebirds in the same sky for so many years.



Bird migration: always a fascinating phenomena....

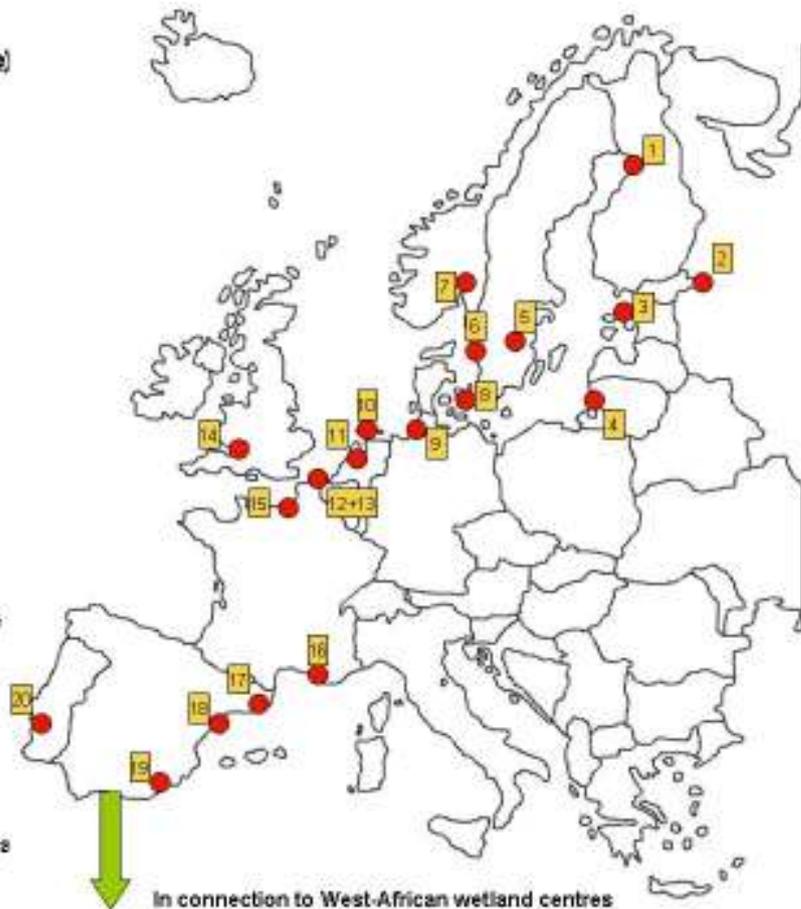


SUPPLEMENT: List of participants in Europe and West-Africa

Participating visitor centres (Europe)

(Nov. 2012)

1. Finland: Liminganlahti
2. Russia : St. Petersburg [CEPA-team]
3. Estonia: Matsalu (proposed)
4. Lithuania: Nemunas Delta (proposed)
5. Sweden: Lake Tåkern
6. Sweden: Getterön
7. Norway: Nordre Øyeren
8. Denmark: Vestamager
9. Germany: Husum
10. Netherlands: Terschelling
11. Netherlands: Oostvaardersplassen
12. Belgium: Het Zwin
13. Belgium: Uitkerkse Polder
14. United Kingdom: WWT, HQ, Slimbridge
15. France: Baie de Somme
16. France: Camargue Gardoise
17. Spain: Aiguamolls de L'Empordà
18. Spain: Ebro Delta
19. Spain: Las Salinas de San Pedro
20. Portugal: Tagus Estuary Birdwatching & Conservation Area



Finland :

Liminganlahti conservation area

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Still searching for contact.



Lithuania:

Still searching for contact.



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Conservateur RNR du Scamandre

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Website www.evoa.pt



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Participants in West-Africa

The wetlands in West Africa are: the **Banc D'Arguin** in Mauritania, the **Djoudj** in Northern Senegal and the **Bijagós Archipelago** in Guinea Bissau.



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Bijagós Archipelago, Guinea Bissau
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