“Inspiring birds, inspiring people”

NEWSLETTER no. 19 (August, 2014)

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Introduction:
Dear colleagues,
This summer-edition of the MBP-newsletter is dedicated to the invitation and programme for our Annual Meeting in September in the Camargue (France). Please organise your trip to this event soon! We hope to meet each other there.
Thanks to those colleagues who managed to send in a contribution, despite summer holidays and busy times at the centres.
On behalf of the core group, good reading!

Chers collègues,
Cet été-édition du bulletin MBP est dédié à l'invitation et le programme de notre réunion annuelle en Septembre en Camargue (France). S'il vous plaît organiser votre voyage à cet événement bientôt! Nous espérons rencontrer et saluer les uns les autres là-bas.
Merci à ces collègues qui ont réussi à envoyer une contribution, malgré les vacances d'été et les périodes de pointe dans les centres.
Au nom du groupe de base, bonne lecture!

Roelof Heringa

Check also our website: **www.migratorybirdsforpeople.org**

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

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

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When you do not want to print the supplement: consider to print only pages 1 - 21
Lorsque vous ne voulez pas imprimer le supplément: envisager d'imprimer uniquement les pages 1 - 21

Mission "Migratory Birds for People"

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Migratory Birds for People: Annual Meeting at Scamandre, Camargue, France

Sunday 14th to Wednesday the 17th September, 2014

Meeting venue
The visitors centre ***Centre de découverte du Scamandre - Camargue gardoise,***
http://www.camarguegardoise.com/

For those joining by skype please let us know in advance and use the skype name wetland.conservation. You should add this to your list of contacts the week (at least!) before the meeting starts.

Logistics

- ***Registration*** – please contact the Head of WLI, Chris Rostron, to register your interest.
- ***Arrival*** - aim to arrive on **Sunday the 14th September,** getting in to Nimes, from where transport will be provided, either from the town of the airport. Arrival at Montpellier is also possible, just let us know if you will arrive there.
- ***Departure*** – you can depart on **16th or 17th of September** depending on your travel arrangements. There will be a site visit on the morning of Wednesday the 17th for those that choose to stay.

Please bring walking boots/shoes, a wind-proof jacket and swimming costumes.

Accommodation : This will be at a nearby converted barn, see
http://www.maspetitbizerty.com/
Address: Mas Petit Bizerty © 2013 | Route des Iscles - 30800 Saint Gilles | masdemarignan@wanadoo.fr | 33 (0)4 66 87 34 01 | +33 (0)6 12 57 99 73

- there are two swimming pools, hence the need to bring swimwear!

Contact:
Jérémiah Petit, Camargue Gardoise /le centre du Scamandre, Hôtel du Département, Rue Guillemette, cedex 9 30044 NIMES, France, Tel : +33 (4) 66 73 52 05

And finally….

Please, in case you play a musical instrument, don't hesitate to bring it along!

For PROGRAMME, see next page….

PROGRAMME

	14th September - Sunday: Arrival in Nimes, dinner
	15th September - Monday
07.00	Breakfast
08.00 – 9.00	Registration / coffee
09.00 – 12.30	***Annual Meeting, Session 1:***
	• Welcome from Scamandre • Round of introductions (15 mins) • Ramsar CEPA focal point, France? • Introductory meeting on progress with MBP – Chris Rostron (20 mins) • Update from partners on new and interesting activities (2 hours)
12.30 – 1.00	Skype link for 30 minutes with those MBP members not present (if requested)
13.00 – 13.45	Lunch in the Visitors centre.
13.45-15.30	Look around in Visitors centre, discussion of experiences and educational quality
15.30 – 17.00	**Session 2** – discuss key areas of strategy plan and which should be priorities for development. Start thinking about activities for coming year.
17.00-17.30	Broadening the range of audiences at wetland centres (local centres present)
17.30	Round up of day one and planning for day 2
19.30	Dinner.
20.30	Evening activity / social?
	16th September – Tuesday
07.00	Early bird-spotting?!
07.00	Or Breakfast
09.00 – 12.30	***Annual Meeting, Session 3:***
	• Group discussion on the communication element of the plan (Network Development). • Conservation and hunting – getting the partnership right • Plan for activities in 2014, discuss development and funding/resource opportunities • Others?
12.30 – 16.30	Sandwich and visit to Tour du Valat
16.30 – 17.30	Final session – agree activities and aims for 2015 and beyond
17.30	**Skype call with colleagues (if necessary)**
19.00	➢ **Eurococktail: This is a Eurosite-tradition: Everyone takes a special regional drink and / or delicacy to the event to be consumed during a relaxed gathering.** ➢ **Communal dinner** (and music session!)
	17th September – Wednesday
07.00	Breakfast
09.00	Optional field trip to . . .nature reserve Aigues Mortes and Mahistre.
12.00	All depart from Scamandre, close of meeting

News from the network:

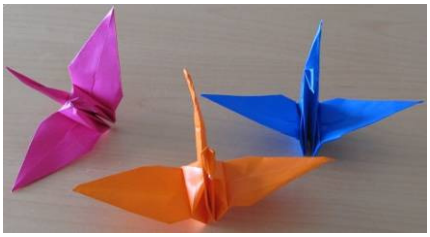
Sweden: Naturum Getterön

Naturum Getterön – Newsletter summer 2014

Hej from sunny and very warm Varberg (Sweden)!

A lot is happening at Getteröns nature reserve, the birds have been busy with raising chicks while we could enjoy observing them from our hides. Some special bird guests also came along, among them the **Great Egret** (*Ardea alba*), the **Pectoral Sandpiper** (*Calidris melanotos*), the **Great Reed Warbler** (*Acrocephalus arundinaceus*) and the **Black-necked Grebe** (Podiceps nigricollis). A **White-tailed Eagle** (*Haliaeetus albicilla*) has been seen eating geese a few times. Until mid-July, 161 bird species had been observed in the reserve – the species names (also in English) can be found at our webside: http://www.naturumgetteron.se/fagelobsar/krysslista-naturum-getteron-2014/

We have a lively spring behind us. A few highlights were:



- A **crane-day** in April with Japanese story-telling, info about real cranes, and the folding of Japanese paper cranes to a colorful art-mobile (see picture).
- **World Migratory Bird Day** on the 11th of May with an event that we called "**Folk & Fåglar**" (people and birds). Between 700 and 1 000 people attended despite rainy weather. Visitors listened to interesting lectures and enjoyed slideshows about birds and birding by some of Sweden's most famous ornithologists. They further participated in guided tours, bird ringing demonstrations and the longest bird drawing made by children, looked at an exhibition about waders, followed a treasure hunt with binoculars and visited the market tent with binoculars and clothes for birders.
- As every year in May, several hundred children from the schools in Varberg enjoyed **a day about culture & nature** at our center, with activities such as bird watching, bird ringing demonstrations, an interactive game about communication, a station on bees & beekeeping, and a wonderful improvisation concert.

We have also been continuing our **lecture series** in which we invite different researchers from universities to talk one evening about their research on birds.
But not only birds are of interest to us - our nature guide has also been busy with guided tours about plants, volunteers have started building an insect hotel, and the local bee keepers inform about beekeeping at our bee hive every weekend. In our center we have continued with changing art exhibitions on nature by local artists.

Now we are slowly getting ready for autumn. Together with our local bird ringing station that is busy with bird ringing from July to October we will celebrate **Bird ringing day on the 14th of September**.

We have come up with this event last year and would like to make a tradition of it as bird ringing demonstrations have been of great interest to the public.
Maybe more of you would like to join the celebration of this day in future?
This year we will have bird ringing demonstrations as well as some hands-on activities for children in which they can learn more about bird ringing in a fun-way (without real birds). In addition, there will be information about bird migration and a quiz for both children and adults.
Summer greetings from Getterön and good wishes to all of you for the autumn!

Katja Fedrowitz

Estonia:

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

Roelof Heringa (rheringa@eurosite.org)

Lithuania:

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

Roelof Heringa (rheringa@eurosite.org)

Denmark: Nature Centre Vestamager

BioBlitz at Nature Centre Amager, Kalvebod Fælled.

How many species - plants and animals - can be found in a single day, at a single site?

Friday 13th. of June, 200 students (!) from Copenhagen schools took that challenge and went into the field with scientists, educators and Nature Interpreters from the Natural History Museum of Denmark and Nature Centre Amager. Together we went hunting for species with binoculars, magnifying glasses and microscopes, in a race against time, and took a snapshot of the biodiversity of the Natura 2000 area, Kalvebod Fælled.

Fishing in fresh water

Fishing in salt water

Insect laboratory

Plant laboratory

In the evening, when the pupils had gone home, they were replaced by families with children, nature watchers and the local neighbours to the area, who came out to help continue the search for species. Approximately 50-100 people continued to register nature until 1 am.

This day at Kalvebod Fælled we were fishing for frogs, invertebrates and small fish in the ponds. We were trapping both flying and crawling insects, collecting botany and even tardigrades. Near the dam that surrounds Kalvebod Fælled we went fishing in both fresh and salt water, we were looking at the life in the shallow water, and we were recording the bird species in the bird sanctuary.

When darkness came we were luring moths with light, in "Pinseskoven" - the biggest birch forest in Denmark.

The primary objectives of the BioBlitz, were to present the diversity of nature to students and guests, and to present the work that scientists do at the museum. But although the number of species was not the primary focus, we did find 412 species. All the species were recorded and the data is available online.

The day proceeded as a great success. The Students were drawn by the talented scientists and their enthusiasm. They knew everything about birds, fish, moths, plants, fungi, amphibians and tardigrades *(also known as waterbears or moss piglets) are water-dwelling, segmented micro-animals, with eight legs.)* and they were pleased to have the opportunity to share their knowledge. Also the schoolchildren and participants were amazed about the wild diversity.

A total of about 35 scientists from the Natural History Museum of Denmark and 20 Nature Interpreters from Nature Centre Amager, 200 schoolchildren and about 100 other guests participated in the BioBlitz
We found 412 different species on the day - a complete species list can be found here:
http://daim.snm.ku.dk/bioblitz/index.html?goto=fund

Some of the particularly interesting species we observed, are mentioned here:

Panurus biarmicus (Bearded tit)
Briza media (Quaking grass)
Lissotriton vulgaris (Smooth newt)
Selinum dubium (DK - Brændeskærm)
Asio otus (Long-eared owl)
Orthetrum cancellatum (Black-tailed skimmer)
Dactylorhiza majalis ssp interest grata (DK - Priklæbet orkide)

In Denmark, the National History Museum in Copenhagen has made a website which aims to bring together all the experience and knowledge of BioBlitzes in Denmark. It is available at www.bioblitz.dk (for now only available in Danish though). The Natural History Museum will continue to make BioBlitzes, to waken up the people's nature interest and keep a focus on the biodiversity issues in Denmark.

If you are interested to know more or get advice, do not hesitate to contact Mia Lindegaard Pedersen, Nature Interpreter at the Natural History Museum in Copenhagen. Email: mia.pedersen @snm.ku.dk
or Rune Kjærgaard Lange, MBP contactperson and Nature Interpreter at Nature Centre Amager.
Email: rukla@nst.dk

Rune Kjaegaard Lange
Wetland centre "Kalvebod Fælled".

Germany : Nationalpark - Haus Husum

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

During these days our visitor center at Husum reaches 10 years of age, and just a few weeks ago we passed the total number of 500,000 visitors.
At the Halligen (small islands within the Wadden Sea here) we celebrated the 17th Brent Goose days (,,Ringelganstage", see poster) during April and May.

Concerning the birds, during spring migration in May again tens of thousands of Dunlins, Bar-tailed Godwits, Redshanks and several other typical common wader-species were recorded in our part of the Wadden Sea. Additionally, some very rare species like 2-3 Terek Sandpipers, 30-40 Dotterels and again like in the previous year more than 80 Broad-billed Sandpipers were observed.

The breeding period for the coastal birds went quite well and many species managed to raise young successfully. Eurasian Spoonbills bred with a new record number of almost 200 breeding pairs in the Schleswig-Holstein Wadden Sea area and again 30 pairs of Gull-billed Terns bred in one single colony.

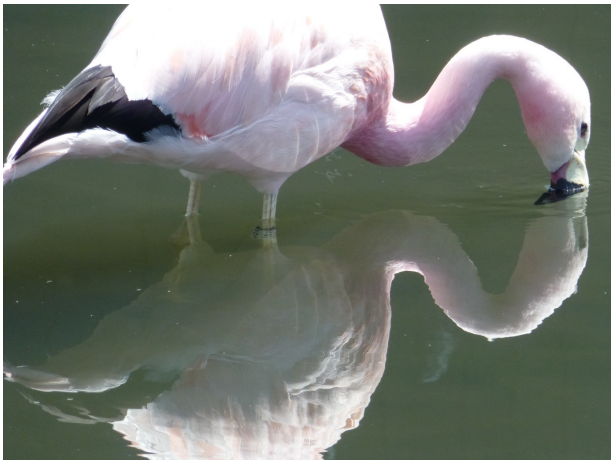
Also a single pair of **Black-winged Stilts** settled and perhaps bred successfully for the second time ever in Schleswig Holstein (which is situated quite far north for them) since two chicks hatched.

Klaus Günther & Hans-Ulrich Rösner

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

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

Slimbridge flamingos



Andean flamingo: a very specialised bill to filter tiny particles of algae from near the surface of the water column.

Flamingos, whilst not migratory birds here in UK, make a striking display at WWT, and our Slimbridge Wetland Centre is unique in that it is the only place in the world where all six extant species of the family *Phoenicopteridae* can be seen in one place. The six species of flamingo are further divided down into two basic types, and this division is based on bill structure. Those with shallow-keeled beaks include the greater, Chilean and Caribbean flamingo.

Newly hatched Caribbean chick

There are large flocks of all three of these species at Slimbridge, with some very old birds from the original imports in the 1960s still around. The other group of flamingos, with what are termed deep-keeled bills, are the lesser, Andean and James' flamingos. Much rarer to see in captivity (and more threatened in the wild too), these birds are highly specialised feeders, using a very fine straining mechanism in their beaks to filter

microscopic algae from the water. (Indeed, the beaks of these birds are very similar in design to the filtering mechanism of the some of the world's largest creature, the great whales.)
Currently there are very cute and fluffy chicks wandering around the greater flamingo and Caribbean flamingo enclosures, and the Chilean flamingos are sitting on a huge number of eggs! With a very long lifespan, and a specialised breeding biology, flamingos do not need to produce young every year. But when they do, they go for it in a big way. Flamingos crèche their chicks all together into one area, creating a large grey bundle of small birds, watched over by a handful of adults. So it's very easy to spot the fruits of all of these breeding endeavours.

By Paul Rose / Pictures: Chris Rostron

Slimbridge's last James' flamingos ("Mr James") has a bath. Apparently flamingos spend more time keeping their feathers in tip-top condition than any other bird.

Contact: Chris Rostron

France: Camargue Gardoise / Centre de découverte du Scamandre

The crew of this centre is busy with the preparation of the "Migratory Birds for People"-Annual Meeting ! They hope to meet you in September!

L'équipage de ce centre est occupé par la préparation de les «Migratory Birds for people" Réunion -Annual! Ils espèrent vous rencontrer en Septembre!

Jérémiah Pétit, Centre de découverte du Scamandre, France

Spain: Aiguamolls de l'Emporda

In Aiguamolls, during summer time, some educational activities have been organized, mainly with young kids. These programs involve bird, fish and wildlife monitoring activities, such as ringing migrant and breeding birds with mist nets, or trapping invasive species (such as Slider (not sure which ssp.-Red.) Trachemys scripta and **Red Swamp Crayfish** Procambarus clarckii).

About 40 young naturalists have been living in Mas Matà with camping tents, in the heart of Aiguamolls Natural Park, where they have been able to discover, learn and enjoy all the beauty and environmental
treasures of our Natural Reserves.

Ponç Feliu

West-African Centres

- **Mauritania**
- **Senegal**
- **Guinea-Bissau**

Regional Training workshop in Djoudj National Park, Senegal

From 14 to 18 December 2013 in the Djoudj National Park, Senegal, a regional training workshop was organized for site managers and local NGO leaders along the East Atlantic Flyway in Africa. This was a joint initiative organized by the Wadden Sea Flyway Initiative, the "From the Arctic to Africa" project supported by the Arcadia Foundation, the "Conserving Migratory Birds in West Africa" project supported by the MAVA and by the Parks Department in Senegal.

This Flyway Training Workshop brought together about 35 site managers and local NGO leaders from Morocco to the Democratic Republic of Congo along the East Atlantic Flyway. Animated by international trainers, this four days meeting was a great opportunity for this conservation people to gain knowledge and share experiences on the flyway approach to the conservation and wise use of waterbirds and wetlands. Through combination of theoretical sessions, interactive Powerpoint presentations, group discussions, games and field visits, the workshop helped to cover various aspects including the site conservation and management planning in the context of migration routes, the cooperation and communication and the populations' livelihoods.
Thus, during the workshop, the importance and the roles of key sites for the species were highlighted in relation to the migration strategies and the different threats to the sites along the whole flyway. Animated games helped to understand migration ecology and the consequences of threats affecting migratory birds and their key sites.
The partnership approach in conservation planning and, need of going towards a networking of East-Atlantic Flyway was discussed. In the same time, the participants explored the opportunities, at policy level, for transboundary cooperation and for exchanges between sites, as well as the necessary requirements and capacities for making this happen. This included communication issues, specifically the means and methods to enable a smooth sharing of information between managers and others relevant actors along the flyway.
At the chapter of livelihoods for local populations, the exploitation of the potentials for ecotourism and the valuation of migratory birds as means for site management and for local development was discussed. The Djoudj NP case study served as example and showed the involvement of local population in the site management and the biodiversity conservation that is experiencing in this site through this kind of activities since years.
The workshop also served to prepare the regional coordinated waterbirds counts operations organized within the region in January 2014, taking opportunity of the presence of some of country waterbirds counts coordinators.
Some final recommendations from this regional training meeting highlighted:

- The importance of the networking (sites & coordination level) for the success of activities related to the International Waterbirds Census.
- The capacity building of the managers and other actors through trainings at sites level and through exchange visits
- The twinning between sites along the East-Atlantic Flyway
- A better management of sites for better water birds frequentation with a focus on the colonies and the resting areas
- The ecotourism as mean for improving livelihoods for local populations living around wetlands, and using waterbirds as resources

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International exchange visit between Nenetsky Autonomous Okrug Region in Russia and Senegal and Mauritania in West Africa.

"Migratory waterbirds connecting wetlands and people", motto of the Flyway Programme of Wetlands International has again been put into practice with a first exchange visit of people from russian arctic to the Djoudj-Diawling Complex (Senegal/Mauritania), which respectively represent important areas for the breeding and the wintering of migratory birds within the East-Atlantic Flyway.
This visit took place from 10th to 14th February 2014 under the "From the Arctic to Africa" project, a Wetlands International's initiative supported by the Arcadia Foundation. In accordance with the implementation of Ramsar Strategic Plan and the AEWA Resolution 5.20 on twinning amongst sites, the activity also falls within the plans of the proposed Flyways Linking Organizations and Wetlands (FLOW) initiative with a focus on supporting identification and matching the needs of site managers and promoting a more flyways-wide twinning and exchange.

Through the implementation of this five days visit, the Russian partners (M. Sergey KUNGURTSEV from the Nenets Administration, Mrs. Nina NIKOLAEVA and Mr. Sergei UVAROV, both from the Nenets Museum of Natural History) gained a broader understanding of the Complex and the close connection between migratory birds that breed in Russia and spend over half a year in this complex formed by the Djoudj National Park (in Senegal) and the Diawling National Park (in Mauritania).
The meetings and discussions with the officials from Parks Department in Senegal and with the site managers gave opportunity to explore the possibilities to establish a formal and concrete collaboration between managers and their areas in Russia (Nenets AO) with their counterparts in West Africa (Senegal River delta). This led to an agreed process and timeline proposals in order to make this happen.

Field excursions allowed visitors to realize and appreciate the wealth and the available potentials in the site, particularly in terms of birds' frequentation.

Discussions with surrounding populations helped visitors to understand the involvement of this population in the site's management system and how they benefit from the site, through the development of income generating activities like hosting and guiding tourists within the parks.

Strengthening collaboration between sites for better conservation of migratory birds within the East-Atlantic Flyway.

Directors of parks and reserves from Mauritania, Senegal and Russia have signed an agreement that commits them to work together for a sustainable management of migratory waterbirds and their critical sites along the East Atlantic Flyway. Preceded by a exchange visit of Russian partners in Senegal, this agreement is a result of activities of Wetlands International and local partners through its Arcadia Foundation funded "From the Arctic to Africa" initiative.
The signing of the tripartite agreement that formalizes the willingness to work together, took place during an exchange visit that brought representatives of the Senegal River delta (Mauritania and Senegal) in Arctic Russia from the 1st to 10th June 2014. During the visit in Naryan-Mar (Region Nenetsky Autonomous Okrug) in Russia, Mr. Daf Daf Sehla, Director of Diawling Mauritania National Park and his colleague Ibrahima Diop of Senegal's Djoudj National Park have joined Mr. Stanislav Zolotoy, Director of the Natural State Reserve Nenetsky to sign the Memorandum of Understanding formalizing the commitment to collaboration between the three parks and reserves in their respective countries.
The signing took place in Naryan-Mar on Monday, June 9th, 2014, during ceremony chaired by His Excellency the Governor of the Region of Nenetsky Autonomous Okrug, Igor Koshin, and officials from Wetlands International.

The ceremony was the peak of the exchange visit which mainly allowed members of the African delegation from Diawling and Djoudj to visit a few key areas of the Nenetsky reserve which is one of the most important reproduction lands for migratory birds along the East Atlantic flyway. The visit took place on three islands which play host for the birds during their breeding season. This was a moment for African managers to observe certain common species of migratory birds and their characteristic features in breeding season and also to have a new expertise on polar habitats that serve as breeding site to "their birds" while emphasizing the need to work together for their management.
Discussions in "Okhot Control Center" in Moscow allowed sharing of information on the monitoring of birds in the deltas of the Pechora and the Senegal River as well as the management of bird hunting in these areas. The guided visit to the Nenetsky museum of Natural History was an opportunity for visitors to learn much more about the natural wealth of the region and its ethnographic history. Finally, the debates at the Nenetsky Cultural and Tourist Centre have highlighted the importance of taking into account ecotourism and the development of common ideas for interventions in the framework of the action plan that will be implemented from the agreement.

Some details of the agreement
The aims of the agreement are to work together to support and contribute to:

- Sustainable management of waterbird habitats;
- Monitoring and management of shared migratory bird species for their conservation on the East Atlantic Flyway;
- Cooperation among relevant countries along the flyway and the implementation of relevant international or regional conventions and partnerships;
- Joint research activities and share knowledge and experiences on the conservation and management of natural resources.

In order to achieve these ambitions, the parties agreed to:

- Facilitate exchange visits and the transfer of know-how between experts and site managers
- Exchange, assess and disseminate the monitoring data collected on migratory birds
- Seek partnerships with regional, national and international organizations to promote and enhance conservation
- Explore a sustainable financing mechanism to support activities to implement the agreement

From left: Gabin Agblonon (Wetlands International), Mr. Stanislav Zolotoy (Nenetsky Reserve), Mr. Daf Daf Sehla (Diawling Park), and Colonel Ibrahima Diop (Djoudj Park)

"Inspiring birds, inspiring people"

NEWSLETTER no. 19 (August, 2014)

News from the Core group

NEW Attractive poster for "Migratory Birds for People" is now ready for use!

It was agreed during the Annual Meeting in September 2013 in Sweden, that we should work together to produce a new and fresh poster for our network.
The poster has limited text and will act as a template that can be translated to your own wetland centre.
Katja Fedrowitz from Getterön Wetland centre in Varberg (Sweden) has kindly taken the lead in this affair.

The poster is now ready to be used in your centre as well. Just write an email to Chris Rostron and you will receive the document which you can easily adapt filling in the details for your centre.
Each centre can put their own logo on it, translate it into their own language, and put it up!

This is the example for Naturum Getterön (Sweden)

Il a été convenu lors de la réunion annuelle en Septembre 2013 en Suède, que nous devons travailler ensemble pour produire une nouvelle et fraîche affiche pour notre réseau.
L'affiche a limité texte et agira comme un modèle qui peut être traduit à votre propre centre des zones humides.
Katja Fedrowitz de Getterön Wetland Centre à Varberg (Suède) a aimablement pris les devants dans cette affaire.
L'affiche est désormais prêt à être utilisé dans votre centre ainsi. Il suffit d'écrire un courriel à Chris Rostron et vous recevrez le document que vous pouvez facilement adapter le remplissage dans les détails de votre centre. Chaque centre peut mettre leur propre logo sur elle, le traduire dans leur propre langue, et le mettre en place!

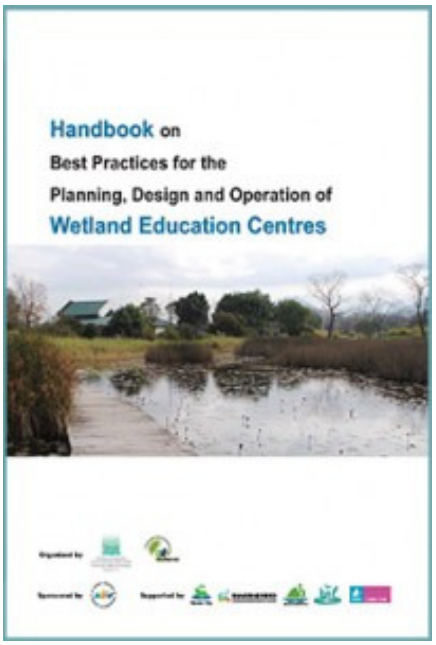
With many thanks to Katja Fedrowitz for her work on this project.

Roelof Heringa

Handbook on Best Practice in the planning, design and operation of Wetland Education Centre.

Whether you are thinking of creating a new wetland centre, converting your activities to include a new wetland focus, or you already run a fully-fledged centre, this handbook contains everything you need to know about creating, running and evaluating wetland centres and their activities. WLI worked with the Ramsar Convention and the ERF (Environmental Ecosystem Research Foundation, South Korea) who brought together wetland centre managers from across the world (many of whom are WLI members) at a week-long workshop hosted at **Seoson Birdland, South Korea**, in November 2013.

The handbook is aimed at a range of audiences including government agencies, architects, NGOs and other conservation organisations, and will be available in several different languages.



In the handbook, you can find out about:

- Planning or redeveloping a wetland education centre, including financial planning
- Ensuring the on-going financial sustainability of a wetland education centre and its programmes
- Communication, Education, Participation and Awareness (CEPA) programmes and learning content at wetland education centres, as well as evaluation techniques
- The sustainable design of wetland education centres

It can be downloaded from the WLI website at this link: http://wli.wwt.org.uk/resources/visitor-centres/handbook-wetland-centres/, or contact Chris Rostron for more information.

Chris Rostron (WLI)

"Inspiring birds, inspiring people"

NEWSLETTER no. 19 (August, 2014)

From the (Skype-)meetings of the core group / March - August '14.

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

- Development of the MBP-network
- Wetland centre audit tool
- Poster for the network
- Funding opportunities
- Communication
- Planning the dates for the Annual Meeting 14-16 Sept. 2014 in the Camargue in France.

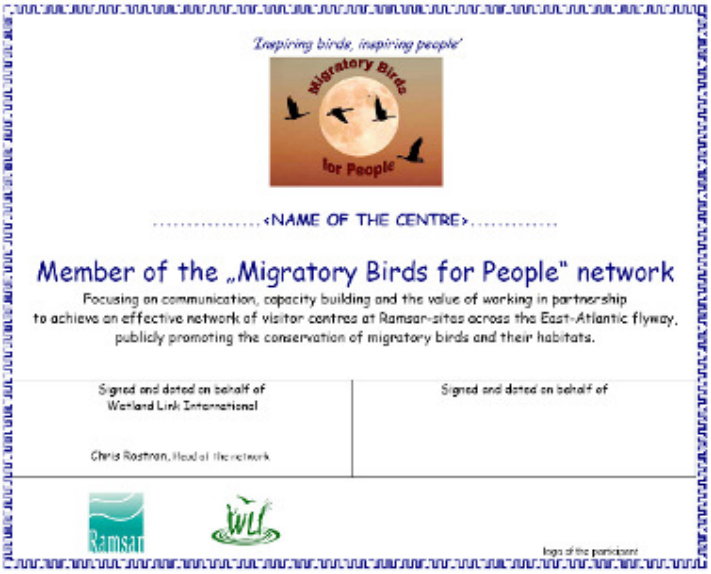
  Be inspired! *Roelof Heringa*
-

"Migratory Birds for People" certificate

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

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

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


'Inspiring birds, inspiring people'

Migratory Birds for People

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

Member of the „Migratory Birds for People" network

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

Signed and dated on behalf of Wetland Link International

Chris Rostron, Head of the network

Signed and dated on behalf of

Ramsar

WLI

logo's of the participants

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Other MBP- network news

Eurosite

EUROPARC FEDERATION

Eurosite - EUROPARC Workshop:
Realising the promise of ecosystem services for nature reserves

The joint Eurosite and EUROPARC working group is organising a workshop on Ecosystem Services. The workshop will look at how Ecosystem Services can be used to generate public support and funding for protected areas.
It will take place on **25-26 November 2014** in **Amsterdam**.

See the full workshop programme here. To register for the workshop please fill out the registration form. If you have any questions please email Hans Schiphorst, the chair of the working group: snp@steenwijkerland.nl

(see also website: http://ec.europa.eu/environment/life/news/events/events2014/november.htm)

Communication training seminar: Increasing capacity for communicating Natura 2000 sites

EUROPARC is organising a 5-day training seminar on communication, aimed at Natura 2000 site managers and staff. The main purpose of the course is to increase the capacity and skills for communicating the importance of Natura 2000 sites. The course will cover different communication aspects, including: presentations, writing skills, working with local communities, negotiations, working with local media, and social media.

The workshop will take place on **1 - 5 December 2014** in **Segovia, Spain**.

The course is free (including food and accommodation) and subsidies are available for travel costs. Places are limited and applicants will have to fulfil certain criteria. For more information about the criteria and to apply, see the EUROPARC website.

World Migratory Bird Day 2014 Celebrated with Record Number of Events

400 Events in 90 Countries Worldwide!

This year's World Migratory Bird Day on 10-11 May was the most successful ever with over 400 events celebrated in 90 countries. For this year's campaign, World Migratory Bird Day partnered with the World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) and others to highlight the mutually beneficial relationship between tourism and conservation. With the theme "Destination Flyways: Migratory Birds and Tourism", thousands of people came together at events - from bird watching to large eco-tours, local art exhibitions to international birding conferences - to celebrate migratory birds and the need for their conservation. **[See Highlights of WMBD 2014]**

A BIG THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

The Secretariats of the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS) and the African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbird Agreement (AEWA) would like to thank the World Migratory Bird Day Partners, and all participating individuals and organizations for their continued support of World Migratory Bird Day. Our special thanks go to all the World Migratory Bird Day Event and Activity organizers for their enthusiasm and

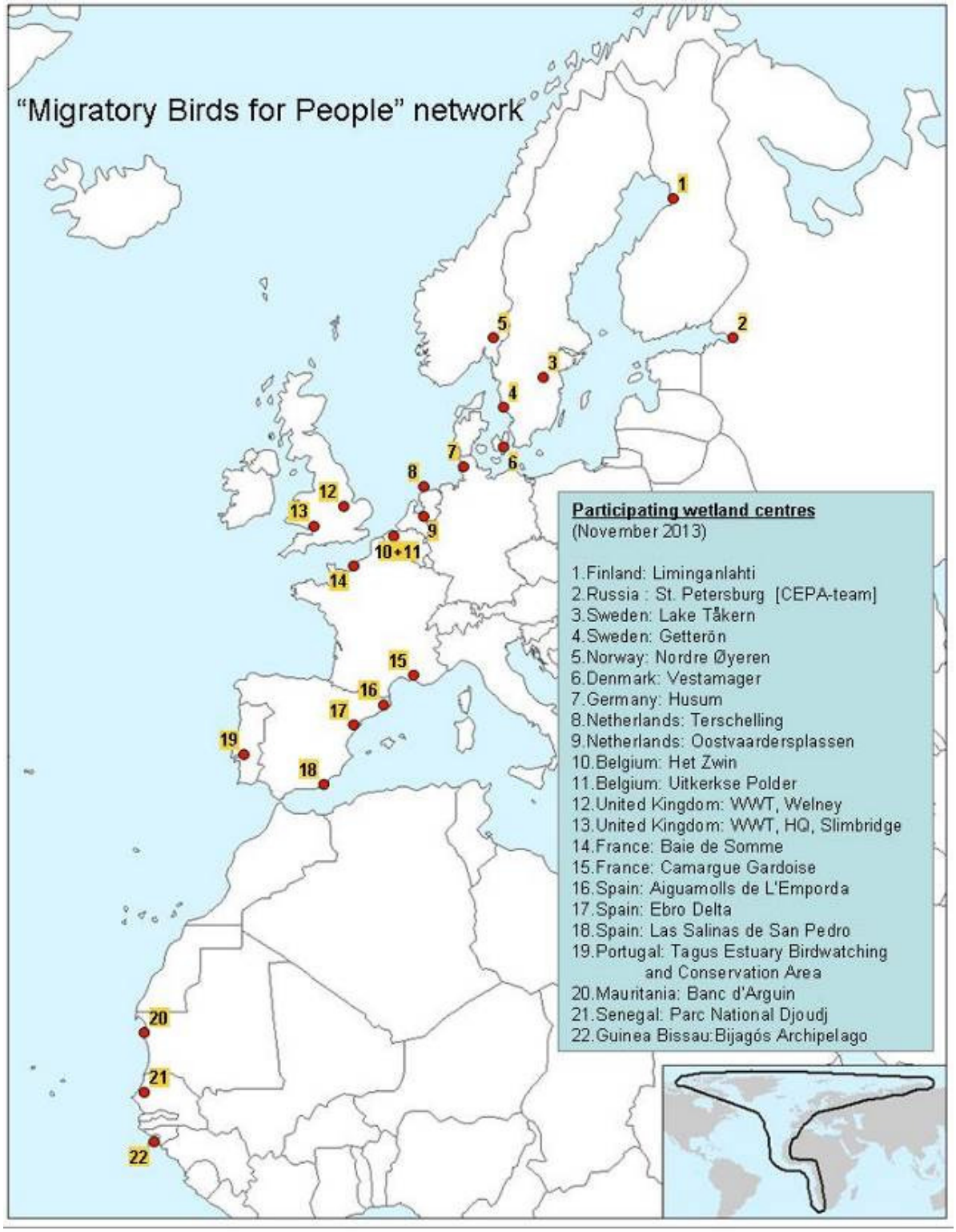
passion for migratory birds and the need for their conservation! A big thank you also goes to all organizations and individuals that provided statements of support for World Migratory Bird Day this year.

Finally, we would like to express our gratitude to the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety (BMUB) for their kind financial contribution, without which the 2014 World Migratory Bird Day campaign would not have been possible.

"Last year at this time, we would've been headed north while relaxing in first class. In a way, I'm glad the economy forced us to go back to simpler times"

Yes, indeed… let us go to the South of France this year !
See you all in the Camargue !
Roelof Heringa

SUPPLEMENT: List of participants in Europe and West-Africa



Finland : Liminganlahti conservation area

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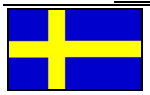

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Email: eugene@bfn.org.ru
Websites : http://www.wwt.org.uk/wli/regional-partners/europe/nature-watch-baltic
http://web.me.com/naturewatch.

Denmark: Nature Centre Vestamager

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"Inspiring birds, inspiring people"

NEWSLETTER no. 19 (August, 2014)

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W www.west-vlaanderen.be

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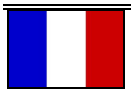

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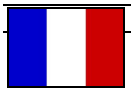
Contact : Benoit Marsal
Chef de projet Développement
Service aménagement
Tél: 03 22 20 11 78
Mobile: 06 86 67 97 94



France: Camargue Gardoise / Centre de découverte du Scamandre

Contact: Jérémiah PETIT,Conservateur RNR du Scamandre
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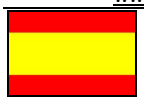
website: www.en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Aiguamolls_de_l'Empordà
www.iberianature.com



Spain: Ebro Delta

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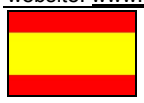

Spain: Parque Regional Salinas y Arenales de San Pedro del Pinatar

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Website: http://es.wikipedia.org/wiki/Salinas_y_Arenales_de_San_Pedro_del_Pinatar

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Banc d'Arguin, Mauritania

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Parc National Djoudj, Senegal

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Bijagós Archipelago, Guinea-Bissau

Contact: Mr Meio Dia qu'a coordinateur Reserva da Biosfera do Arquipélago de Bolama Bijagós
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"Inspiring birds, inspiring people"

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