“Inspiring birds, inspiring people”

NEWSLETTER no. 21 (March, 2015)

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Introduction:

Dear colleagues,
Much later than expected is here the new edition of our "Migratory Birds for People"-newsletter.
In this edition news about the progress made during the meeting in Oostvaardersplassen (NL) in February and of course also contributions from several colleagues in the network. Thanks for you contributions.
We also welcome two new participants.
On behalf of the core group, good reading!

Chers collègues,
Beaucoup plus tard que prévu voici la nouvelle édition de nos "Migratory Birds for People" -Newsletter.
Dans cette édition nouvelles sur les progrès accomplis au cours de la réunion à Oostvaardersplassen (Pays Bas) en Février et bien sûr aussi des contributions de plusieurs collègues dans le réseau. Merci pour votre contribution.
Nous nous félicitons également deux nouveaux participants.
Au nom du groupe de base, bonne lecture!

Roelof Heringa

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

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

Our MISSION can also be found on: www.facebook.com/migratorybirdsforpeople

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

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When you do not want to print the supplement: consider to print only pages 1-17
Lorsque vous ne voulez pas imprimer le supplément: envisager d'imprimer uniquement les pages 1-17

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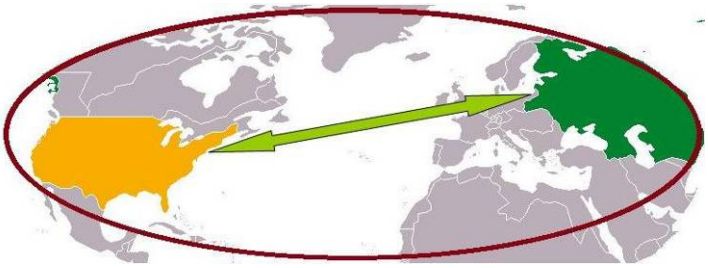
News from the "Migratory Birds for People"- core group

(contributed by Chris Rostron)

In preparation: Course for wetland centres

The Head of Wetland Link International has been working with colleagues at Eurosite, the Field Studies Council, Bristol University, Kew Gardens UK and MedWet to prepare a European funded project through the Erasmus stream. The project involved developing a distance learning course for those working in site-based environmental education, and if successful will start in January 2016. We hope that this will provide an ongoing course that can develop the capacity of those that work in wetland education centres too, as training and professional development can be difficult to access for many of us.

Exchange programme Russia and United States.



WLI is working with partners in Russia and the United States to hold an international exchange scheme between wetland centres.
Two staff from each of three centres in Russia, and three in the United States will visit each other to learn about what they are each doing, how their shared experience can help to improve their activities, and discuss opportunities to work together to improve messaging and engagement at wetland centres.
You can follow their Facebook page (www.facebook.com/pages/Russia-USA-Wetland-Center-Exchange-Program/637279613072780), or see their profiles on the WLI website.

Meeting core group in Oostvaardersplassen, 19th of February 2015.

Our recent meeting at Oostvaardersplassen was a great success, thanks to our colleagues at Staatsbosbeheer for hosting it!

From left to right:Taej Mundkur, Evgeny Genelt-Yanovski, Yulia Danilova, Chris Rostron, Roelof Heringa, Naomi Racz,Freek Zwart, Jose Unamuno, Katja Fedrowitz, Theo de Bruin, Edorta Unamuno.

A group of eleven of us from across the network worked on identifying short and long term activities for MBP, based on the recent survey of centres carried out by Katja Fedrowitz.

Katja's survey showed that most of the centres along the East Atlantic flyway were interested in resources such as a film or presentation, that they were willing to share information and that they appreciated information on other centres, but need it in a concise form.
She also highlighted that based on our 'shared' bird species, we should be looking at a bigger, longer term funding proposal.

José explains his ideas

At the Oostvaardersplassen meeting we agreed to go ahead with creating a simple film (Powerpoint) that can be used in each centre, use free platforms such as Flickr to share pictures and information, and update the shared poster.
It was also agreed that a large European bid needs more development work as we do not currently have a suitable idea for LIFE funding.
See the MBP- website pages for more: www.migratorybirdsforpeople.org

Hans shows us the new visitor centre.

World Migratory Bird Day (WMBD) takes place every year in May, and this year's theme is **'Energy – make it bird-friendly!'** reflecting the serious problems that energy infrastructure creates for birds during their migration and everyday life.
These include traditional power lines that have been around for years, but also renewable infrastructure such as wind turbines and solar panels, that can also have a serious impact if positioned in the wrong place.

If you have information on how your site deals with this issue, for instance by burying power lines, reducing your reliance on fossil fuels by wind, solar or biomass plants on site, or any other good ideas, they would love to hear from you. For more information, posters and resources, and the opportunity to post up your events or stories.
(see also page: 16 in this newsletter and link: www.worldmigratorybirdday.org

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Funding opportunity for "Migratory Birds for People" in progress……

Project: "The Black-tailed Godwit - King of the meadows"

In the context of Leeuwarden Cultural Capital 2018 a bid for an Erasmus grant is requested in which Staatsbosbeheer Terschelling also participates.
The Godwit features as a symbol for the preservation of bio-cultural diversity in Europe.
At our request the Spoonbill has been added as an indicator for good wetland management.

Part of the program is a communication and education project in which students and young managers travel with the birds and hereby utilize visitors centres of the "Migratory Birds for People"- network inthe breeding and wintering areas and along the migration route.
If a positive decision is made, the project can be further developed with interested centers in France, Portugal, Spain and possibly also African countries.

For more information, contact Freek Zwart, Staatsbosbeheer Terschelling (NL)
Tel: +31-562-446494 / Mob.: +31-653340052 / Email: f.zwart@staatsbosbeheer.nl

Bid for EU Life Communication project? *(Theo de Bruin)*

The latest MBP core group meeting took place in the Oostvaardersplassen. One of the subjects was a joint project with possible LIFE funding. Partaker in the meeting was Wim van Hooff, expert in the field of European funding acquisition. He made unequivocally clear that LIFE funding starts from a good problem definition. In the presentation he missed this focus. At the same time the MBP network is valuable and can be a good basis for a joint EU project in which some centers may participate.

Following this meeting, a consultation was held with Kees de Lange, Perry Cornelissen and Hans Breeveld (all Staatsbosbeheer, Oostvaardersplassen). It was brought forward that from the Staatsbosbeheer point of view there is a need to improve the relationship between research from universities and institutes as well as to improve sharing the results of research and investigations within the network and with visitors to the centre. The lack of understanding of this data means a lower support and understanding of the value and quality of the Oostvaardersplassen.
In close consultation with Staatsbosbeheer we will now consider whether this problem/issue can form the basis for a good project with some MBP- partners.
The first step is to describe the initial contours of such a project and to seek appropriate support.
(to be continued)

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News from the network:

Finland : Liminganlahti conservation area

This newsletter is a bit too late for this, but just to show what happens up north !

Please stop by as the Liminka Bay Bird Photography Festival takes off for the seventh time.

The festival offers product presentations, information and magnificent experiences both in nature and on the screen. The event is organised at the peak of the traditional goose migration season and is meant for anyone interested in birds and bird photography.

The festival is organised by the Association of the Friends of Liminka Bay

Contact: Petri Lampila

Sweden: Naturum Lake Tåkern

Some news and pictures from Tåkern!

First I´d like to tell about the activities we arranged for children during winter break in February:
One of our helpers from the Tåkern Fieldstation NGO (Bosse) had prepared pieces for building nesting boxes, and helped bunches of kids to make their own box.
With all the hammering, I'm happy to let you know that no thumbs were sacrificed!

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We also had a visit from the County tracking experts to show us how to track predators in the snow. We mostly found mice tracks and a lot of dog, but it was exciting nevertheless thanks to Johan who acted lynx in a most professional way! We also are happy to announce that naturum Tåkern has joined a national network for "better experiences and sustainable development".
http://www.swedishwelcome.se/en/
We will be certified by the end of the summer. In the beginning of February the members had a two-day meet in our area, so we got the chance to guide them all at our site! They also were guided by our partners on the sites of mount Omberg and the monastery ruin Alvastra.

Finally I'd like to send a message of spring! Yesterday, on February 25, I had my first flock of lapwing during a short hike out on the flooded meadows. Lovely! Also very timely since we have announced the Day of the Lapwing on Sunday and will keep the center open.

Ellen Hultman
Föreståndare Naturum Tåkern
Länsstyrelsen Östergötland

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

Sweden: Naturum Getterön

Here a brief report about the Nature Reserve Getterön:

During the winter time we had a lot of White-Tailed Eagles visiting the reserve and taking part of the meat that was "served" almost every morning until last week. At the most there were 40 eagles at the time. The eagles were very popular to study, so not only ornithologists and photographers but also a lot of families and others came to naturum Getterön to watch them. Now most of the eagles,

The beautiful Smew

especially the grown-ups, have departed to their breeding areas and only a few eagles can be seen in the reserve right now.

Instead some of the spring-related birds have come back: a lot of ducks (like Common Shelduck, Eurasian Teal and some Eurasian Wigeons), Northern Lapwings, Common Skylarks whilst some of the overwintering species still are here, like **Smews**.
We never had a "real" winter this time: only very little snow and not often temperatures below zero.

From the 1st of March the high season for Naturum Getterön starts and we have open every day until the end of October.

Have a nice day, Greetings from Varberg- Sweden,
Beke Regelin

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

Denmark: Vadehavscentret, Ribe

First of all: a warm welcome for our colleagues, Klaus Melbye and his team from the Vadehavsvcentret in Ribe in our "Migratory Birds for People"-network!
This is our third centre in the Wadden Sea area, a crucial stop-over for huge numbers of many bird species. Now, all three "Wadden Sea countries" are presented in our network.
(Roelof Heringa)

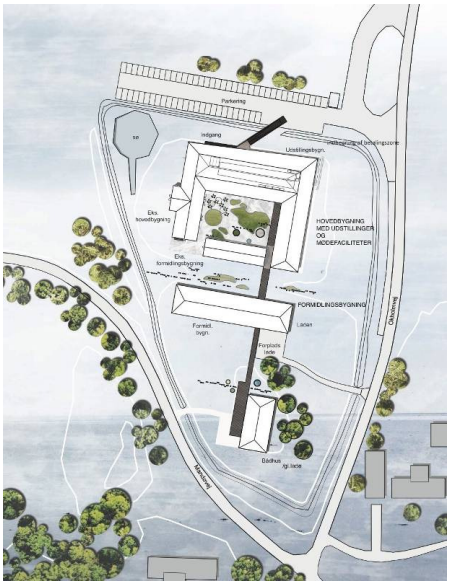
❄

The Wadden Sea Centre is going to be rebuild from the 1st of June 2015 and we expect to open the new venue at the **1st of July 2016**. The old centre will be enlarged from 1140 m2 to 2400 m2.

Impression of the new buildings

We are creating a new exhibition called: "12 Migratory birds on travel" This is a World Heritage exhibition about the "Wadden Sea". We also build a new house for education. We are very happy about our project , because it will bring the Wadden Sea´s wildlife, especially the migratory birds closer to the public.
My rangers/interpreters and I will continue with our more than 500 excursions out in the Wadden Sea every year.

Contact: Klaus Melbye, Vadehavscentret, Ribe



Germany : Nationalpark - Haus Husum

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

Lots of workshops and meetings about problems and solution in the Wadden Sea ... and, e.g. Barnacle Geese have returned for spring (see photo).

Contact: Hans-Ulrich Rösner , Husum

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the Netherlands: Terschelling (Wadden Sea)

The 15th of March has passed, so on Terschelling we heading right into the breeding season. By the end of March our voluntary birdwatchers and rangers will be on the "Boschplaat" again. Every week four volunteers will stay in this European nature reserve, until the end of September. For this job we have a large group of 80 volunteers, they all stay one week on the Boschplaat. (The "Boschplaat" is one of the areas awarded with the European Diploma of Protected Areas by the Council of Europe)

At the moment of writing this (19th March), the first groups of Spoonbills and White tailed Godwits are seen on the island.
Also a colleague of a nearby island saw the first three Sandwich terns in the Waddensea this year.

Another interesting thing is that we are in contact with a university that has a specialisation called "Geomedia and design". Students of this course create visualisations of field data (for example migration data), which can be used for education and communication goals.

Joeri Lamers, Staatsbosbeheer, Terschelling

Nature centre "het Zwin"

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

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

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

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

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

United Kingdom : Wetland Centre Welney, Norfolk, UK

We welcome – again - Leigh Marshall and his team from Welney Wetland centre, Norfolk in our "Migratory Birds for People"- network.
After Samantha Lee left the centre, for a while Slimbridge Wetland centre was our only participant in UK.
(Roelof Heringa)

WWT, *Welney Wetland centre*

GPS tagged swans aid species research (Welney)

(see also: www.wwt.org.uk/wetland-centres/welney)

Bewick's swan family / by Adam Finch

The quiet, rural landscape of the Fens has been the setting for the start of an incredible journey for ten special Bewick's swans – the rarest swan in the UK.

These swans are some of the first of their species to be tracked from Britain, in a study that aims to identify the threats facing them during their migrations. Fitted with GPS collars, these swans will soon be leaving the UK to travel 2,500 miles back to their breeding grounds in Arctic Russia. Whilst the swans are here in the UK they rely on the rich wetland habitat of the Ouse Washes to roost on and the surrounding arable land in which to feed during the day. The relationship that WWT has with local farmers, and the support of volunteers, is crucial for enabling swan catches to take place in fields around the Ouse Washes.

Tagged Bewick's swans ready for re-release

Daisy the Bewick's swan

Bewick's swans being released by Sacha Dench

Through decades of monitoring and research, WWT has led the way in studying the Northwest European population of these beautiful birds. Now that the population is in decline, we are able to advise on and implement solutions to those threats thanks to the support of visitors and members. The data gained from the tracking study, will be used to advise wind farm developers on the appropriate locations of turbines in large offshore wind farms, to reduce the collision risk for migrating swans.

So far this winter the data recorded shows that the swans have remained in the area around WWT Welney, albeit been increasingly using the Ouse Washes rather than local reservoirs to roost in recent days, which they tend to do prior to migration. Two tagged birds have already migrated to mainland Europe, however, heading for the Netherlands then on to Germany on 9th February, and we anticipate that it won't be long before the others follow on the long journey north. Keep checking back on the website for updates on how our tagged swans are getting along with their migrations.

This tracking study is being undertaken by WWT for the Department for Energy and Climate Change (DECC) as part of DECC's strategic environmental assessment programme for offshore energy

Contact: Leigh Marshall, WelneyWetland Centre, Norfolk

Spain: Urdaibai Bird Centre

Message from JANUARY 2015

Organic agriculture and our birds.

The Urdaibai Bird Center and The Council of Organic Agriculture and Food of the Basque Country (ENEEK) have signed an agreement within the framework of the project "Inguruko Hegaztiak-Garden Birdwatching".

"Inguruko Hegaztiak-Garden Birdwatching" is promoted by Urdaibai Bird Center and enjoys the collaboration of the Provincial Administration of Bizkaia. Recently organic producers, who are members of ENEEK, have also joined the group.
The project was started three years ago and now more than one hundred families and schools are participating. The majority of them are from the Biosphere Reserve of Urdaibai. This project is deeply rooted in northern Europe, especially in the U.K. where more than 500.000 families are working together in the project Garden Birdwatch.
(*see also:* www.rspb.org.uk/discoverandenjoynature/discoverandlearn/birdwatch/)

Due to the countryside that we have here in the Basque Country the variety of different species is great. The meadows and the farms along the landscape are very significant. In the last decades the agricultural activities have decreased significantly and we have seen that some species of birds that are in relation with the agriculture activities have suffered a decrease in their population. Two examples of this are Sparrows and Swallows.
With the project "Inguruko Hegaztiak-Garden birdwatch" project we try to help those birds that live near our houses and farms and enjoy them.
Great Britain is the most important country in this subject: last year 500.000 people took part and each of them installed different feeding points in their gardens. Furthermore, they took some notes about which birds do visit their garden.

In the first year, "Inguruko Hegaztiak-Garden birdwatch" started in the schools of Urdaibai and in the second it was extended to other people. Nowadays, we have more than 100 participants and each of them take note of the birds that they are observing. Most of the participants are from Urdaibai but, people all around the Basque Country are taking part.

To the agreement signed between Urdaibai Bird Center and ENEEK the whole food that is going to be used for the project "Inguruko Hegaztiak," would be organic, and if it is possible produced at farms in the Basque Country.

Birds and agricultural production

Organic producers visiting Urdaibai Center (in front, kneeling left: Edorta and in the middle, grey pullover: José)

The main objective of organic farming is to preserve the ecosystem, as well as enhance the conservation of biodiversity.
Using these forage the birds can feed in our garden and farms in winter. Later, during the spring and summer, birds eat insects, especially when they are breeding. Such as a pair of great tits, each breeding, they hunt an average of 2,500 caterpillars.
Harriers, however, can eat near in 2000 voles, and a white owl, 5 mice per day. These numbers are a sign that agricultural activities are harmful in the control of various insects and animals by the birds.
Included in this agreement, a group of organic farmers enrolled ENEEK has approached to Urdaibai Bird

Center to see firsthand the operation of the project that will participate this season 2014-2015 and know in detail the benefits that wild birds, as auxiliary fauna, have in agricultural production. Organic farming in harmony with nature.

Weblog: http://www.ingurukohegaztiak.blogspot.com.es

Contact: Jose Unamuno & Edorta Unamuno

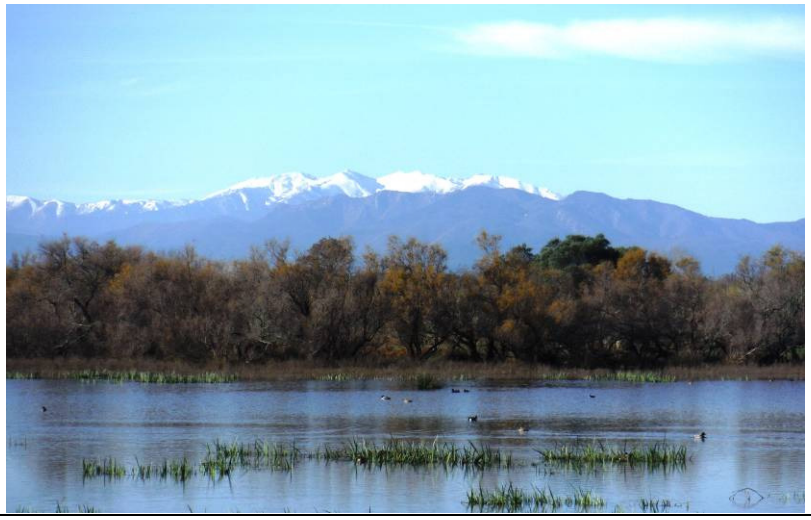
Please have also a look at the webcam of Urdaibai
Perhaps you can connect it to one screen in your centre.:
http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_embedded&v=XQiAZv5f5M8

Spain: Aiguamolls de l'Emporda

Here are some pictures about the wintering bird census we did during January 2015.

It has been a good wintering season, with almost 400 geese (what is an impressive number for us),
more that 10.000 ducks (most of them Mallards, Teals, Wigeon, Shovelers and also some Pintails and
Scaups), and about 300 White Stork.

A part from that, 3 surprising birds have spent the winter at La Massona lagoon; a Pygmy Cormorant
(first time it has been seen in Spain!), and American Teal and Ring-necked duck (very rare visitors from North America).



Contact: Ponç Feliu, Visitor centre Aiguamolls de l'Emporda

Spain: las Salinas y Arenales de San Pedro del Pinatar

CELEBRATION OF THE DAY WORLD OF THE WETLANDS 2015

PARK REGIONAL SALINAS OF SAN PEDRO

The World Wetlands Day is an international event that is held in February of each year. It marks the date that was adopted in the Convention on wetlands in Ramsar, Iran, 2 February 1971.

Under the theme "Wetlands for our future", the Visitor´s Service of Parque Regional Salinas y Arenales de San Pedro joins one year more to this celebration. We have carrying out two photographic routes in the surroundings of the wetland protected.

- The first one route took place on 24th February, was attended by 15 participants of the local population. They were taking pictures of the different environments of this protected area, while they discovered its natural and cultural values through the dynamics and the explanations of the guides.

- The second one was held on 1th March, in which 30 people marched through the path "Las Encañizadas" to discover this unique site in the world and photographing spectacular landscapes.

These activities aim to increase awareness of wetland values and benefits that give us, as well as to reflect on the importance that are as unique and unknown ecosystems.

Photographic route to school

Photographic route for the general public

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

"I don't migrate any more.
I just log on to travel Web sites."

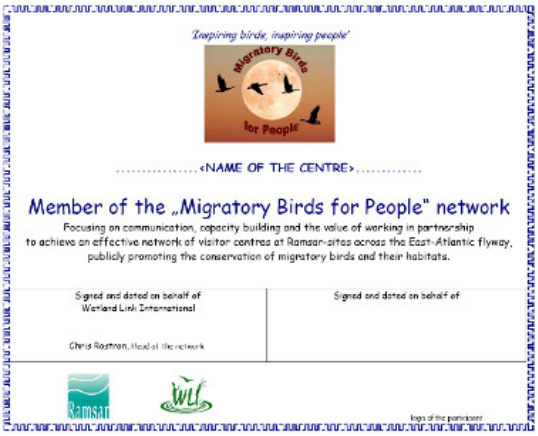
Other MBP- network news

"Migratory Birds for People" certificate

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

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

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



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In times of ever-increasing global demand for energy, developing new and expanding existing renewable energy technologies are key when striving towards a low carbon future. Yet energy cannot be truly sustainable and nature-friendly unless it fully takes biodiversity and, more specifically, migratory birds into consideration. With the theme "Energy – make it bird-friendly!", World Migratory Bird Day (WMBD) 2015 aims to highlight the importance of deploying energy technologies in a way that prevents, minimizes and mitigates impacts on migratory birds and their habitats.

Every year, millions of migratory birds struggle with the massive expansion of various means of generating and distributing energy: collisions and electrocution due to power lines as well as barrier effects from energy infrastructure are causing mortality and displacement. In addition, the birds suffer effects from habitat loss and degradation and other disturbances from the deployment of hydropower, bio-energy, ocean, solar, wind and geothermal energy technologies. Sustainable renewable energy production is expected to have positive effects on migratory birds by mitigating climate change and its impacts. However, if certain energy technologies are deployed without proper planning, design and risk assessment, they can pose a grave threat to migratory bird species.
When expanding energy production, transition to wildlife-friendly methods is a key step to protect life on the Earth. The conservation of migratory birds needs to be considered in all phases of energy development at multiple levels - locally, nationally and internationally. Therefore, concerted conservation actions by governments, nature conservation organizations, scientists and the energy sector as well as the general public are necessary. This way the benefits of sustainable energy can be realized without the risk of harming migratory birds and their habitats.

What is World Migratory Bird Day?

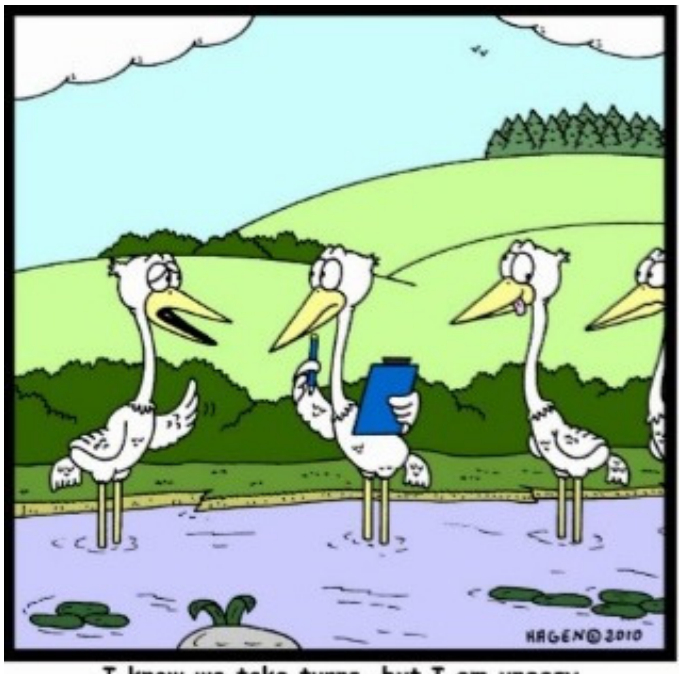
Launched in 2006 - World Migratory Bird Day is an awareness-raising campaign which is celebrated annually and aims to inspire the worldwide conservation of both migratory birds and their habitats. This campaign is organized by two international wildlife treaties administered by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) - the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS), and the Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds (AEWA). World Migratory Bird Day is also supported by a growing number of partners and we acknowledge with deep gratitude the generous contribution of the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety (BMUB) without which the campaign would not be possible.

Join us and take part in World Migratory Bird Day on 9 – 10 May 2015. However you decide to contribute - by organizing educational programmes, lectures, bird-watching tours, visits to bird-friendly energy infrastructure, art exhibitions or other public events - every activity counts and will enrich this global celebration!

You can **learn more about World Migratory Bird Day, register your event and order posters, stickers and postcards** on the WMBD website (**www.worldmigratorybirdday.org**) as well as share your activities with the growing community behind WMBD across the globe.

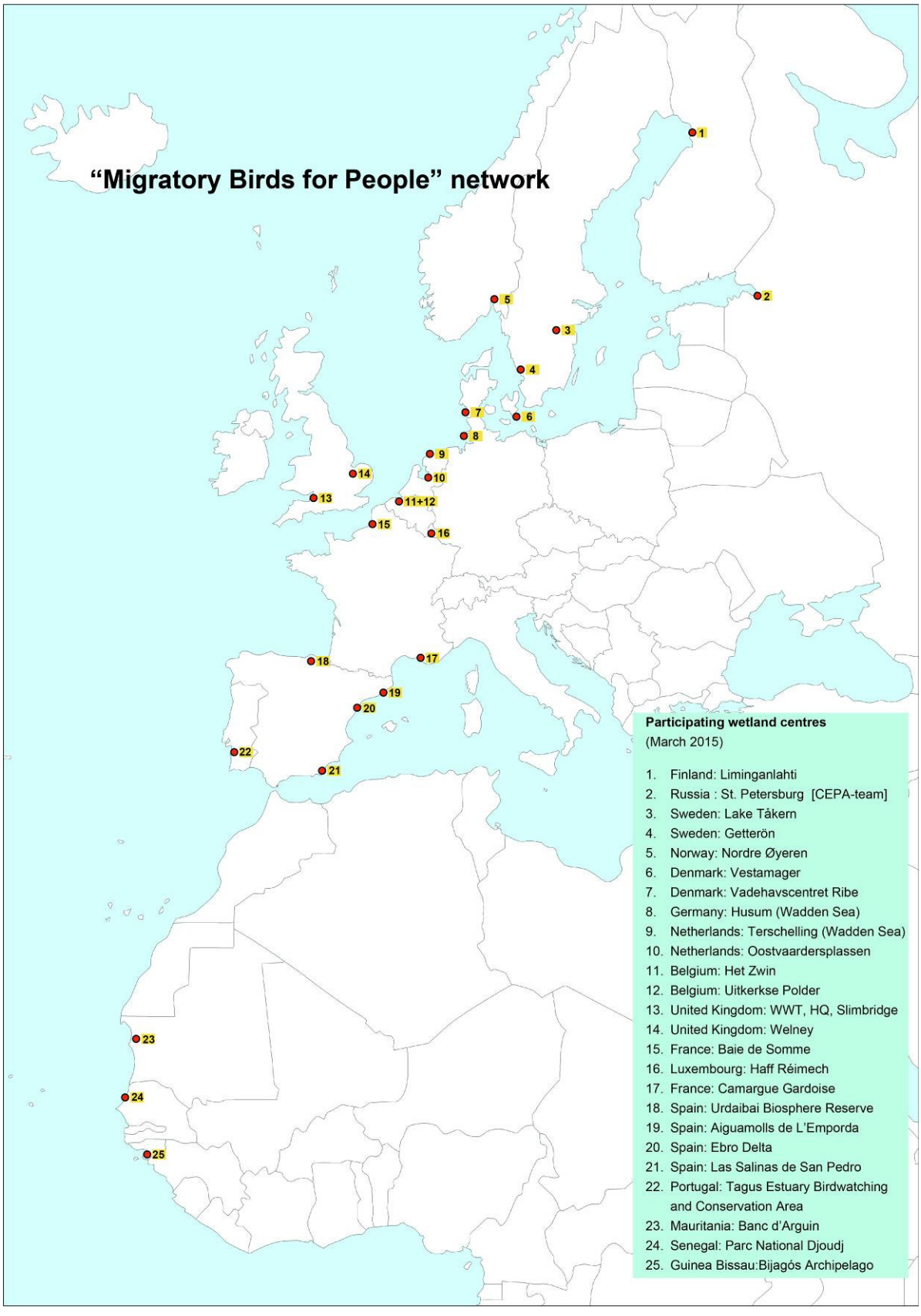
We look forward to celebrating World Migratory Bird Day 2015 with you!

To learn more about WMBD and to register your event, please visit us at: **www.worldmigratorybirdday.org**
For more information or to order posters please contact:
Ms Dunia Sforzin, UNEP/AEWA Secretariat
Tel: +49 (0)228 815 2454
Fax: +49 (0)228 815 2450 E-mail: contact@worldmigratorybirdday.



I know we take turns, but I am uneasy at the idea of Bill leading the migration flight...

SUPPLEMENT:


"Migratory Birds for People" network
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Participating wetland centres
(March 2015)
1. Finland: Liminganlahti
2. Russia : St. Petersburg [CEPA-team]
3. Sweden: Lake Tåkern
4. Sweden: Getterön
5. Norway: Nordre Øyeren
6. Denmark: Vestamager
7. Denmark: Vadehavscentret Ribe
8. Germany: Husum (Wadden Sea)
9. Netherlands: Terschelling (Wadden Sea)
10. Netherlands: Oostvaardersplassen
11. Belgium: Het Zwin
12. Belgium: Uitkerkse Polder
13. United Kingdom: WWT, HQ, Slimbridge
14. United Kingdom: Welney
15. France: Baie de Somme
16. Luxembourg: Haff Réimech
17. France: Camargue Gardoise
18. Spain: Urdaibai Biosphere Reserve
19. Spain: Aiguamolls de L'Emporda
20. Spain: Ebro Delta
21. Spain: Las Salinas de San Pedro
22. Portugal: Tagus Estuary Birdwatching and Conservation Area
23. Mauritania: Banc d'Arguin
24. Senegal: Parc National Djoudj
25. Guinea Bissau:Bijagós Archipelago

"Inspiring birds, inspiring people"

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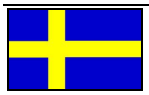

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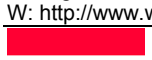

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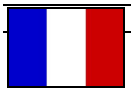

France: Camargue Gardoise / Centre de découverte du Scamandre

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