"Inspiring birds, inspiring people"

NEWSLETTER no. 33 (June, 2019)

"Inspiring birds, inspiring people"

NEWSLETTER no. 32 (March, 2019)

Introduction:

Dear colleagues,

In this edition of our MBP-Newsletter we present several stories about the activities around World Migratory Bird Day in May. (e.g. skype conferences with schools both in English and French language)

Then we look forward to our 10th Anniversary Annual Meeting in October this year with will be held in Slimbridge (UK). You are kindly invited to have a look at the programme on the MBP-website..
For this event we also prepare a special educational item: New floor-sized flyway map is in production! Read more about this under Slimbridge (UK) (page 13).

We wish you a very nice summertime with some time to relax watching our birdlife.

Enjoy reading!

On behalf of the core-group "Migratory Birds for People"-network,

Audrey Cadou, Connor Walsh and Roelof Heringa (editor team)

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!

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In order to make this newsletter more accessible, we have put in 'hyperlinks' for your convenience. Look in the index below for the underlined item you want to read and search for the item in the document by clicking "Ctrl + Click left"

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"Inspiring birds, inspiring people"

NEWSLETTER no. 32 (March, 2019)

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

MBP- Annual Meeting 2019 : Slimbridge UK

This year's annual meeting of MBP will celebrate our 10th anniversary, and will be held at WWT Slimbridge from the 14th to the 17th October, on the banks of the River Severn, near Bristol UK.

Many people know the site as one of the longest serving wetland centres in the world, with a long history of migratory birds conservation and education. We hope to hold the meeting in Sir Peter Scott's famous house, which has recently been renovated, see here for more.

As usual, the meeting will include updates and sharing of experience, training and capacity building, site visits and a review of our work, with planning for the coming year. The theme for the meeting will be 'Linking science and education', looking at how we can get more people excited about science and research.
We hope to have delegates from across Europe and Africa, and look forward to stimulating and productive discussions to help us deliver our work better. It's free to join the meeting, but you will need to pay for your flight to the UK and accommodation, which we have reserved nearby. For more information, see the draft programme and application form on our webpage

We look forward to seeing you here!

Mr Chris Rostron
Head of Wetland Link International/Director de la Red Internacional de los Humedales (WLI)/Directeur du Réseau International des Zones Humides (WLI)
Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust (WWT)
Slimbridge, Glos GL2 7BT, UK

Address: WWT Slimbridge, Bowditch, Slimbridge, Gloucestershire, GL2 7BT.
https://www.wwt.org.uk/wetland-centres/slimbridge/

Accommodation will be available (at a reasonable cost) within 1 km of the wetland centre.
More details about program and accommodation incl. registration form in our next edition.
See you in October 2019 !

Millions of birds killed annually by nocturnal olive harvesting

(Copied from: Editors AnimalsToday.nl, 31 May 2019)

The **Andalusian government** in Spain has recommended that the nightly olive harvest be stopped. Every year, millions of migratory birds die during the night time olive harvest in the Mediterranean. Song birds that hibernate there from central and northern Europe and rest in the olive trees are attacked at night by the harvesters. They have no chance of succeeding when the huge harvesting machines suck up the olives with a lot of noise and blinding light. In the Spanish Andalusia alone, 2.6 million birds die an awful death every year.
In the period from October to January, the olives are harvested at night because the aromas are better preserved when the temperature is cooler. During harvesting, the machines suck the olives from the trees, but also millions of sleeping birds. The victims include thrushes, wagtails, finches and robins. If the machines were to be used during the day, there would be no problem, according to Vanessa Mata, chief researcher at the Research Center in Biodiversity and Genetic Resources in Portugal:

"During the day, the birds can see what is happening and fly away. At night they become disorientated and blinded by the strong lights of the harvesters and are sucked in by the machines."

Foto: Robert Vassallo/Wikimedia

Nocturnal olive harvesting major threat
The figures are worrying and threaten the species that hibernate in the Mediterranean. It is estimated that 96,000 birds die in this way every winter in Portugal. It is feared that the problem is so serious that Portuguese researchers have recently written a letter to the scientific magazine Nature calling for an end to the nightly harvesting of olives. Vanessa Mata:

"Millions of (singing) birds from central and northern Europe spend the winter in the Mediterranean. These protected birds are killed on a catastrophic scale by the nocturnal olive harvest when they rest in the trees."

Example
The researchers call on the Portuguese government to take steps, just as the regional Andalusian government is doing. The other large olive-producing countries, such as France and Italy, should also follow suit in Spain. Domingos Leitão, of the Portuguese Society for the Study of Birds (SPEA):
"According to the EU Birds Directive, birds should not be disturbed during their resting period."

A petition has been launched to the committee responsible for the EU Birds Directive.

News from the network:

Finland : Liminka Bay Visitor Center

Challenging spring for Liminka Bay

Spring migration of geese and swans started as normally in middle of March.
As Graylag Geese and Bean Geese form the majority of the first arrivals, more and more Pink Footed Geese and Greater White-fronted Geese are migrating every year through the migration route of Bothnian Bay coastline.
Geese are resting at Liminka Bay and feeding on the surrounding fields.
These fields melt earlier than other fields on same latitudes due to unique geology and soil of underlying Muhos Formation.

Average March weather was followed by very warm period. Before Easter the migration season had already taken gigantic steps forward.
Many insect feeders and waders arrived earlier than normally.

Unfortunately on the transition from April to May came recurring wintry weather and exceptionally thick snow cover.
Many reports of dying insect feeders (e.g. White wagtail **and European pied flycatcher**) has been published in the social media.
This makes one wonder if the climate chance makes future springs more unpredictable and challenging for migratory birds.
Earlier and earlier beginning of spring and recurring wintry weather destroys nests and nestlings.
Are migratory birds able to adapt to this fast enough?

Heli Suurkuukka

Norway: Fetsund Lenser, Nordre Øyeren wetland centre

Russia: CEPA-team St.Petersburg

Sweden: Naturum Lake Tåkern

Sweden: Naturum Getterön

Newsletter from naturum Getterön

The spring has been both lovely and weird, with all kind of weather you can imagine. From summer weather with 20 to 25 degrees and sunshine, to zero degrees with snow and storm. Unfortunately, the cold weather came in the end of April, which has probably made birds to postpone their breeding a bit.
Getterön's nature reserve have had a few nice bird visitors during spring.

The first bird was the green-winged teal - a beautiful male.
He had found the big group of common teals which always lies 50 meters from one of the observation spots. He was found the last day of March and stayed until 29th of April.

The green-winged teal to the right, common teal to the left.
Photo: Christopher Gullander

The day after the green-winged teal was found, two **read-breasted gees** were spotted among 15 000 barnacle geese.
Lots of birders came to visit the Naturum and the reserve to see these rare species.
The geese stayed the whole of April.

The red-breasted geese.
Photo: Christopher Gullander

Photo: Christopher Gullander

The **greylag geese** are always the species which hatch first in Getterön's nature reserve. In the middle of April, more precisely the 13th, the first greylag geese babies were spotted outside the naturum windows. Many more greylag goose families have joined since that date.

Male of lesser white-fronted goose.
Photo: Johan Vaktnäs

Another kind of goose, **the lesser white-fronted goose**, is an uncommon species which breeds up in the northern Sweden. Many years a preservation project have bred these geese in captivity to be able to release them in the wild and strengthen the wild population. Two of these geese from the project was found together out in the reserve the 17th of April. They were both ringed with colour rings. Birders managed to see their marking, one had "Y" on its ring and the other "A". It turned out these geese had been missing since last year. How? The geese were released in Arjeplogsfjällen, northern Sweden in July 2018 as 2Y birds, together with several other geese. A big flock of lesser white-fronted geese was found in autumn the same year outside Sundsvall. After that there haven't been any signs of these geese until now, when the two was found at Getterön. The goose with "Y" is a male and "A" is a female. They're seen as a couple and hopefully they're on their way up north to the breeding site in the fell region.

Many birds have arrived, like the cuckoo, sedge warbler, willow warbler, blackcap… and so many more. Still waiting for the nightingale (*Luscinia luscinia*) though!

Many regards,
Linnea Henriksson

Sweden: Naturum Hornborgasjön

Denmark: Amager, Copenhagen

Denmark: Vadehavscentret, Ribe

Germany : Nationalpark - Haus Husum

Netherlands: Terschelling

Breeding success of Eurasian curlew Terschelling

Worldwide, the number of Eurasian curlews (*Numenius arquata*) is decreasing. In 2007 the world population was estimated at a maximum of 1.3 million individuals. The Netherlands is an important country for curlews, about 75% of the world population breeds here. However, the Dutch Eurasian curlew population declined by 40% between 1990-2015.

On the island of Terschelling, one of the Dutch Wadden islands, the decrease even concerns over 70% between 1997-2018, from 145 to 40 territories. The causes behind the decreasing trend are not exactly clear.
One of the possible causes could be a poor breeding success. During the breeding season 2019 we set up a study into the breeding success of Eurasian curlews on the island of Terschelling.
Therefore, we captured adult Eurasian Curlews on the island, in order to colour-ring them. One individual per breeding pair, to minimize the chance of nest desertion. Every captured bird received a ring with an individual code, to distinguish the different families from each other and so we can follow them during the breeding period. The main purpose of this is to see how many of the hatched juveniles grow up successfully in each family.
So far, 12 families have been found. Of which 4 have been predated in the egg stage, 2 by Marsh harriers (*Circus aeruginosus*), observed and recorded by bird watchers. Now we have to follow the other 8 families to determine the breeding success per nest. With this study, we hope to find a cause of the declining number of Eurasian curlews, so we can protect them and their habitat.

Sascha Kuiper
Student Applied Biology
Staatsbosbeheer Terschelling
The Netherlands

For contact about this project: Staatsbosbeheer Terschelling (w.bakker@staatsbosbeheer.nl)

Feline Zwaan & Wanda Bakker

World Migration Bird day 2019 on Terschelling

Staatsbosbeheer looks back on a very successful educational week with islander youth.
We started with making a short movie with 5 children of the island. Therefore we visited the birdwatcher post on the Boschplaat to see what a birdwatcher does. The children prepared questions for an interview with the birdwatcher: Joeri Lamers. During the Skype conference we showed this short movie.
Ten children participated in the **Skype conference**. They did an excellent job! The questions and the answers were well prepared and they had a great time. Among others things they showed the children the plastic waste that was washed up on our beach in past winter. They find it important to protect their environment and migration birds.
The following week we celebrated World Migration Bird Day with all group 5 and 6 children from the island. We taught the children how birds make nests, what they eat, how they navigate and what different birds look like. After three different activities we did a final game; live goose board game.
The children had to answer many questions. With every correct answer a dice was thrown. Whoever reached the finish line first was the winner.
The children, teachers and Staatsbosbeheer had a great time together. In this way we hope that children become more aware of the importance of protecting migratory birds.

Feline Zwaan & Wanda Bakker

Netherlands: Buitencentrum "Oostvaardersplassen"

World Migratory Birds Day at the Oostvaardersplassen

May 11th was World Migratory Birds Day. Worldwide migratory birds were put in the spotlight. This was also the case at the Buitencentrum "Oostvaardersplassen" in Lelystad and at the Nature Experience Centre "De Oostvaarders" in Almere.

On World Migratory Birds Day, visitors could go out with an experienced birdwatcher to learn to recognise birds by their sound and appearance. During the golden hour, enthusiastic nature lovers looking for the most beautiful pictures in the area went on a jeep safari.

At the various vantage points, guides told more about the birds that can be spotted at these locations. In addition to outdoor activities, there was also plenty to do indoors. Nico de Haan, known from radio and TV, told us about the wonderful world of migratory birds.

Even young nature lovers had plenty to do on World Migration Birds Day. There was a special children's programme for them, which included birdhouse carpentry, calligraphy with feathers and special 'Wild Facts' about migratory birds.

Skype conference between schools in the MBP-network.

The skype conference was held with a selection of children from the three classes involved.
Groups from Spain, Great Britain, Sweden, Terschelling and of course Almere were included in the Skype Conference.
The children first told us which school they are and what projects undertaken.
Then they asked each other questions about the projects and of course got answers.
The main bird species in the question lines was the Spoonbill.
Again, the children concluded that things are going quite well in the English language.
If it is up to the children, they will participate again in the autumn.

Hans-Erik Kuipers

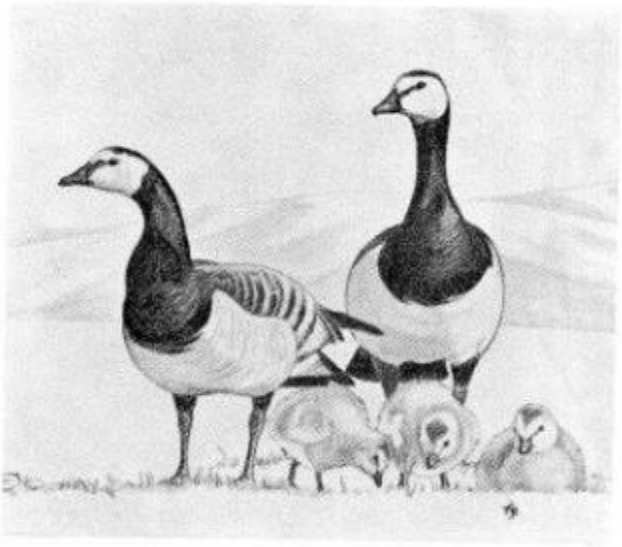
Netherlands: Biesbosch

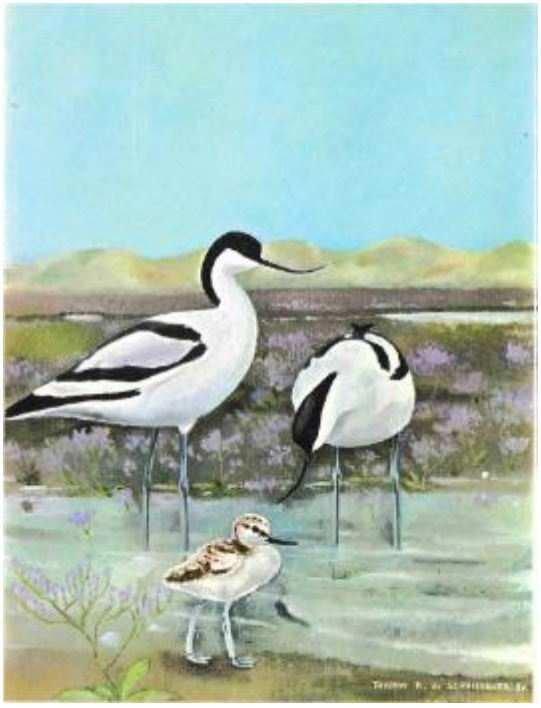
Luxembourg: Biodiversum Remerschen

Belgium: Nature centre "het Zwin"

1. Exposition: Thierry Robyns de Schneidauer revisited (24.03-13.06.2019)

We organised an exposition on the paintings and drawings of Thierry Robyns, the first conservation manager of the Zwin Nature Reserve. Robyns, becoming this year 90 years of age, started as the first manager in 1960 and left in 1970. He was not only a keen birder but also a talented artist. In those days he did not only make drawings and paintings for the Zwin Nature Reserve, but also for WWF and the BNVR (Belgische Natuur- en Vogelreservaten, now Natuurpunt/Natagora) to illustrate their magazines or support their marketing.





During the fifties he already went to Slimbridge and met Sir Peter Scott. Being both ornithologist and painter they got a close relation. Peter Scott also asked Robyns to make illustrations for his publications the Wildfowl series. And in the sixties Peter Scott, who also knew Leon Lippens who started up the Zwin Nature Reserve, came to visit the reserve.

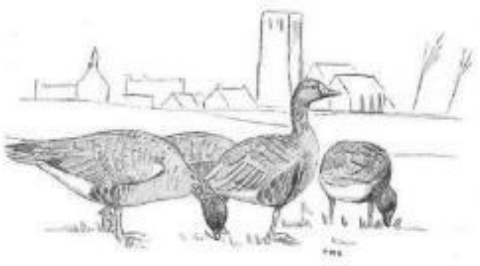


Illustration by Thierry Robyns (TRS) of white-fronted geese near Damme in 'Wildfowl 2'

Sir Peter Scott (middle) visiting the Zwin, with Thierry Robyns and Léon Lippens (with the hat).

After leaving the Zwin Robyns worked two years in Zaïre, now again the DR of Congo, after which he started being scientific consultant for the 'travel agency' of the WWF. So he organised and accompanied many tours and trips to sometimes remote places. Africa and the countries and isles around the Indian Ocean became well known to him. For the Indian Ocean he made one of the first nature travel guides.

Okapi in Congo (TRS)

Lemur in Madagascar (TRS)

Thierry Robyns got lots of inspiration by travelling, but always remained close to where he started off his 'Zwin'. He is painting to the very day and comes to visit the exposition regularly. He is an artist, an ornithologist, a conservationist but above all a very warm and nice person.

There has been a connection between the Zwin and Slimbridge for many years in the past. We knew that Léon Lippens borrowed many ideas for the Zwin centre, but we were unaware of the close relation between Thierry Robyns and Sir Peter Scott.
We started the exposition almost by coincidence, but were surprised to discover that during the sixties there were much more contacts. A good reason to try and restore them.

Leo de Clercq

2. First Symposium on Migratory Birds in the Zwin Nature Centre.

Trying to get attention for migratory birds we decided to organise a first symposium on May the 11th. We were able to have three key speakers of great quality: Wouter Van Steelant (B.), Harry Horn (NL) and Sacha Dench (UK).

Wouter Vansteelant who is an expert working on migration of raptors for many years (now working in Spain, Coto Doñana) gave the results of three species being closely looked at to discover how young birds learn to find their way from Europe-Asia to Africa.

The species studied were marsh harrier, lesser spotted eagle and European honey buzzard. One of the questions was do they learn by the parents, the adults or by genetics, the ever returning nurture or nature question.
As Wouter is one of the pioneers of the Batumi region his observations there together with satellite tracked birds (from different countries) gave an interesting insight in the differences between these species. Lesser spotted eagles travelling together, young's and adults, where young honey buzzards have to make it on their own and marsh-harriers having a strategy which puts them somewhere in between; they can follow adults be it not their parents. Of course not all the questions can be answered, but still the results were astonishing.

Harry Horn is one of the 'founding members' of the **Spoonbill group of the Netherlands.**
He pointed out the success story of the northwest European population, after near extinction at the end of the sixties, with spoonbills now not only breeding with up to 3.000 pairs in the Netherlands, but also colonies in Denmark, Germany, Belgium and the north of France. Birds still migrate to West-Africa, but a growing number stays in the South of Spain and Portugal and smaller numbers even in France.
These birds, especially the young ones, having better survival rates than the birds wintering in Africa. Many spoonbills are ringed for already many years and reading the colours has become a big sport resulting in many data on the whereabouts of individual birds. Spoonbills of this population are doing well, but we have to be cautious because threats like windmill parks, food shortage… can again reduce the population.

Sacha Dench followed the migration of Bewick's swan from high up in the Artic to Slimbridge some 7.000 kilometres.

It is certainly one of the most astonishing adventures. Especially when you know she did it in a para motor. Sacha not only gathered information and data for the researchers, but she did much more as she stopped in every country where the swans passed.
So she learnt of the problems the swans faced and got involved in many different ways of conservation of Bewick's swans and wetlands in general.
The combination of science, conservation, reaching the public be it natives in Siberia or natives in Belgium proved to be a very convincing model for getting sometimes dull data across, not only to convince people but also to understand their reasons of action and how by just being there and listen and give your view things could start to change.

In a World of growing polarisation a very welcome example of the opposite. It was an adventure but certainly worthwhile, let alone the beautiful images and reactions of people along the flyway of the Bewick's swan.

We had a very much interested audience and would like to repeat the symposium formula next year. Suggestions for speakers on the subject always welcome!

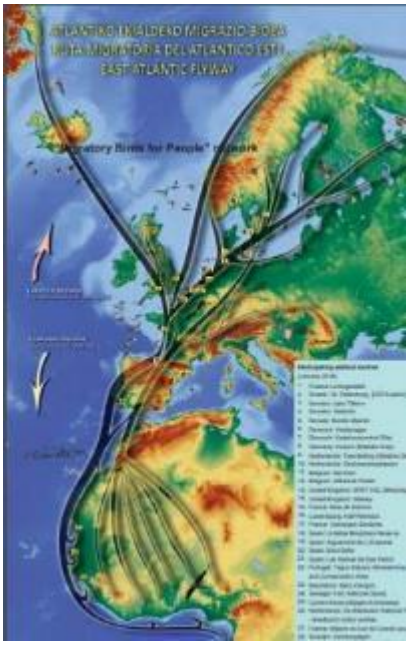
Leo De Clercq
Zwin Natuur Park

Informatiecentrum Uitkerkse Polder

United Kingdom : Slimbridge

New floor-sized flyway map is in production!

This is the tenth year of the "Migratory Birds for People"- Network!



The MBP flyway map will be based on this one from Urdaibai Bird Centre

The core group is keen to mark the growth and successes of the past ten years; and what better way than with an educational resource for the future?

With that in mind we are creating a large map of the East Atlantic Flyway, on rugged and flexible material, that centres can bring to schools for children to use for games and formal learning. Measuring 1.8 x 2 metres and made of recyclable PVC, we hope to make the map available to centres on both continents, along with digital support services.

Members from Luxembourg, France, Germany, the Basque Country, and the UK are all contributing funding, content, and information to the map. In particular Urdaibai Bird Centre are providing the fundamentals of the map.
The maps will be printed in the UK, in time for the MBP annual meeting in October, and we hope participants that buy the map will be able to bring them back to their centre as luggage.

**If you would like to submit data for the map please take part in the surveys online;
or if you are able to help fund the map or buy one for your centre,
please email Connor Walsh.**

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Birds and Schools

Once again, MBP members have electronically brought together schoolchildren from across the flyway for World Migratory Bird Day. As well as the Francophone video conference (see Terschelling, Oostvaardersplassen, Grand Lieu Lake, and Urdaibai), we also held one in English.

The format was broadly similar to previous years but with some tweaks, which everyone said made for a better experience.

Centre staff approached schools and brought them in to visit before World Migratory Bird Day; where possible they shot a video about their experience. And then they got together again on Friday 10th May for a video conference with the other participants.

The children all prepared the same set of questions and asked them one-by-one to the next school, from north to south. Keeping the same order helped minimise the difficulties that can come from technical issues with the sound—this is almost inevitable with Skype, and every call had some.

The UK primary school is keen to try again in October, so if you have a partner school with similar level of age and language skill, get in touch with Connor Walsh and we can connect you both together.

The participants of Birds and Schools 2019, in English yellow and French blue

As well as the two MBP activities, WLI also used the same format more widely. Visits and a video conference also took place in English for the Americas, and we are hoping for more in Spanish and Portuguese in October.

WWT is preparing a video on the calls, which we will make available on the WLI website. There is also a YouTube playlist of the participants' videos from this and previous years.

The activities would not have been possible without the hard work and enthusiasm of the participating schools and wetland centres:

On the Wadden Sea island of **Terschelling**, Wanda Bakker and Feline Zwaan worked with local children; to the south Maud Verwer and a team of volunteers and staff including Hans-Erik Kuypers and Gert Jan Knoet worked with Aeres **Almere**; across in England, David Fieldhouse of Cley Marshes worked with **Walsingham Primary**; while furthest south Rowan Hardman and Edorta Unamuno worked with **Urretxindorra Herri Eskola** ('nightingale school'!).

Thank you all!

Connor Walsh

United Kingdom, Welney

Project Godwit is an exciting wetland bird conservation project that aims to secure the future of black-tailed godwits in the UK.
We are in the third year of a five year project, and so far it has proven to be very successful.
In the first two years 64 headstarted black-tailed godwits were released at WWT Welney Wetland Centre and RSPB Nene Washes, in an attempt to increase the productivity of the godwits breeding on the Nene and Ouse washes. The wardens from the RSPB and WWT sites have been managing the habitat to encourage godwits to nest, and a lot of research is being carried out looking into the behaviour and breeding success of the godwits and their migration movements.
Having had such a successful first two years, seeing many headstarted godwits returning to the project sites from their migration, the project team then wanted to focus on engaging with local communities about the project and about black-tailed godwits in the fens.

We therefore set up our schools program, delivering free outreach sessions to local primary schools close to Welney Wetland Centre and our RSPB project sites. We were amazed by how many local schools wanted to get involved and we are currently delivering 18 outreach sessions to approximately 480 children across eight local primary schools.

Many of the classes and their teachers are also signing up to become Godwit Guardians. This links the class to one of our headstarted godwits, which have names and unique colour ring patterns on their legs. The class then receive a newsletter about the project and updates on what their godwit has been up to and where it has been spotted on its migration.

We have also been connecting with local people by delivering talks to community groups and attending festivals such as the Pensthorpe Bird and Wildlife Fair. We also held the first ever Godwit Festival at WWT Welney where visitors could go to talks by experts working on godwit and wetland conservation, and guided walks and activities. Some of our new Godwit Guardians also attended.

The aim of our outreach activities is to encourage an interest in local wetland wildlife and also to help people get involved in an exciting and innovative conservation project happening right on their door step, and so far we have been overwhelmed by the positive response Project Godwit has received.

By Jess Owen – Project Godwit Engagement Officer

United Kingdom, Welney

France: Baie de Somme

France: La Maison du Grand Lac de Lieu

1. WMBD at the Grand-Lieu Lake Centre

Before the 10th of May, pupils visited their local wetland centres in **France** (Grand-Lieu Lake), the **Luxemburg** (Haff Réimech Nature Reserve) and the **Senegal** (Kalissaye Bird Reserve, Kafountine and Mbam region) to learn about migratory birds, wetlands and do beach clean-up.
At Grand-Lieu Lake, 11-12 years old children met nature reserve managers of national and regional nature reserves. Then on Friday, May 10, pupils from different countries all met online in a video conference, chaired from St-Philbert-de-Grand-Lieu, France. They discussed about the species they saw and what they learned. They also discussed about their actions to protect the environment.

WMBD – meeting between French pupils and the ornithologist of the Grand-Lieu Lake national nature reserve and video conference between Senegal, Luxemburg and France.

2. A new exhibition

The 2nd of May, an exhibition on the Kingfisher started at the centre.
This is a photo exhibition carried out by the Grand-Lieu Lake Centre and the professional photographer Erwan Balança. This exhibition also includes information and videos on the Kingfisher ecology, and an angling game for children.
Even if the exhibition poster below is in French, each panel and information in this exhibition were translated in English. This traveling exhibition will be available in December, so if you are interested do not hesitate to contact us.

Best regards,
Audrey Cadou

Spain: Urdaibai Bird Center

Urdaibai Bird Center is holding events to celebrate World Migratory Bird Day 2019.

(Press Release 07-05-2019)

It's that time of year again!

On the 10th of May people all over the world celebrate World Migratory Bird Day.
To mark this special occasion, activities related to people and their connection with birds and migration are organized in visitor centres. Urdaibai Bird Center is organizing events and activities throughout the week.

Thursday May 9th, 19:00 - UBC
To open the event, Dr Aitor Galarza, Director of the Osprey Recovery Project in Urdaibai, will give a talk about his experiences following the migratory journey of this remarkable raptor from Urdaibai to Senegal. Aitor will share his adventures in search of our ospreys in this beautiful African country. In addition to this, we will have the pleasure of listening to the experiences of **Senegalese people** now living in Busturia. We will also gain an insight into their view of migration.

Friday 10th May - UBC
On World Migratory Bird Day, children from Urretxindorra School (Muxika) will take part in an international skype meeting with schools in other countries along the flightpath (Holland and England). Using English as the vehicle for communication, students will share their work and experiences on the subject of migratory birds. No doubt these young bird lovers will have lots of interesting things to say!

Sunday 12th May – UBC
Last but not least, Urdaibai Bird Center will hold an open doors day with a scientific bird banding demonstration. Visitors will enjoy the spectacular bird watching opportunities offered by the observatories in the center. The celebration coincides with spring migration so many beautiful birds can be seen on their migratory passage to their breeding grounds in the north.

This year the slogan of World Migratory Bird Day is "Protect Birds: Be the solution to Plastic Pollution!!" The focus of the event will be on the impact of this material on migratory birds and their habitats. Organizations like Urdaibai Bird Center aim to raise awareness of the fact that migratory birds are an essential resource to help young people build a future alongside nature.
Join us in the celebration of World Migratory Bird Day, 2019!!

Edorta Unamuno

The Urdaiabai Bird Center has recently launched a very nice monograph about the Osprey.
You may find it on: http://www.birdcenter.org/en/urdaibai-reserve-no6
Then there is a second webcam availlable on the website. The first webcam shows the marshes of the reserve in front of the bird center. The second webcam points towards 'garden birds' near the center. See:
http://www.birdcenter.org/en/birds/birds-cams-garden-birds

Spain: Aiguamolls de l'Emporda

Spain: Ebro Delta

Spain: las Salinas y Arenales de San Pedro del Pinatar

Portugal: Tagus Estuary Birdwatching and Conservation Area

Banc d'Arguin, Mauritania

Parc National Djoudj, Senegal

Centre d'Education de Kalissaye

The culture of the Karoninka People: a factor of sustainable management in Kalissaye

The Jola-Karon people are traditionally very mindful of the sustainable conservation of their environment. Aware of the benefits that nature gives them, they promote actions and provisions that aim to maintain and preserve the environment.

It's thanks to this that all of the villages surrounding the Kalissaye Avifaunal Reserve (ROK) have marked out sacred woods. As a site used for Jola initiation ceremonies, the sacred wood is an intangible cultural heritage, a treasure and an incredible asset to these local communities. The trees represent one or more sacred objects or charms that may belong to either a group of villages, a segment, a family, or to women or men. Each charm has its uses and its rules; there is a well-defined code of clear taboos and sanctions.

As a result, each rule depends on its owner. Violating these rules can lead to the death penalty. To avoid the worst, the offender must make an offering of palm wine. This offering can also involve an animal for certain charms. It is also strictly forbidden to clear areas of the sacred woods, cut down trees or start fires there. Wood cutting may be authorised by the owners and fruit may be gathered and eaten at the site, but none must leave the woods except for through family members.

In addition to sacred woods, totems are a very important element for different ethnic groups, particularly among the Jola-Karon. Totems are linked to the soul of a person; the death of an animal totem symbolises the death of a family member, which is why these animals are well-protected against any threats. In fact: "in the bolong Kalissaye opposite the sandbar where there are birds, there are totems belonging to a Bakassouck family. In this area, carrying out any activity is very dangerous, as you could lose your equipment or your life."

Places of remembrance are also important in all of the villages surrounding the reserve. They are a tribute to the history of these people while being in keeping with their traditions. For example, a place of remembrance has been identified in the village of Boune. This place served as a gathering place for local communities when there was danger (invasion of settlers), bad news, meetings, and so on.

Contact: Cdr PATHE BALDE, conservationist at the ROK, cnebaldepathe@gmail.com

Bijagós Archipelago, Guinea-Bissau

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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 be obtained for free.

Just write an email to **r.b.heringa@gmail.com**
and we will send you a certificate.

Migratory Birds for People T-shirt and Mug can still be ordered!

We have created our own MBP-t-shirt. (price: approx.. € 10,= / excl. mailing costs)

Please let me know if you are interested and send me your details about **number and size** .
You could also obtain your **own MBP-mug**.
The price of this item is: approx.. € 5,= (excl. mailing costs)
Send your message to: **r.b.heringa@gmail.com**

In case you will attend the Annual Meeting in Slimbridge, please order before the 1st of September.
This will safe mailingcosts.

News from our MBP-partner EUROSITE:

In 2019 Eurosite (*the* network for Europe's natural site managers) is celebrating their 30th anniversary.

See also: www.eurosite.org/events

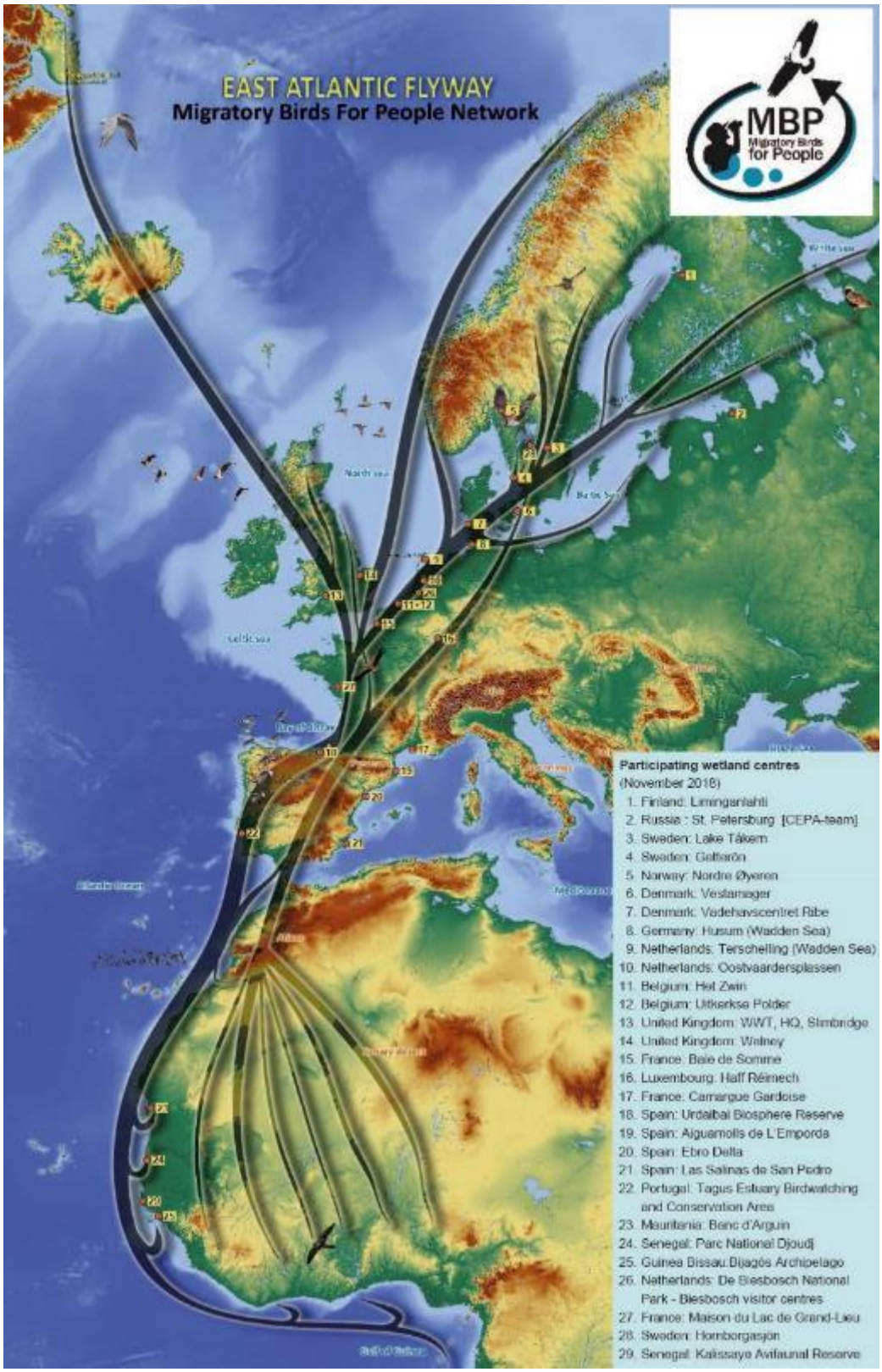
Wetlands in action-inspiring work programme of IPBES

Tour du Valat, Research Institute for the conservation of Mediterranean wetlands and Eurosite member in the south of France, together with **MedWet, the regional initiative of the Ramsar convention**, have prepared a proposition on how the new working programme of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) could be used to render IPBES more impactful and relevant for private and societal actors and inspire engagement to improve the state of biodiversity, as it is believed that IPBES can play an important role in the conservation of wetlands.

The IPBES plenary meeting is currently taking place in Paris, with the proposal for the next work programme on the agenda. During the meeting, country delegations will negotiate the focus of the assessments for the coming five years. Therefore, this is the opportunity to try and ensure that the conservation and sustainable management of wetlands are acknowledged in these planned assessments.

Photo credit: Marc Thibault, Tour du Valat

Supplement:


EAST ATLANTIC FLYWAY
Migratory Birds For People Network
MBP
Migratory Birds for People
Participating wetland centres
(November 2018)
1. Finland: Limingantahti
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: Alguamolls 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
26. Netherlands: De Biesbosch National Park - Biesbosch visitor centres
27. France: Maison du Lac de Grand-Lieu
28. Sweden: Hornborgasjön
29. Senegal: Kalissaye Avifaunal Reserve

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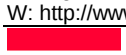

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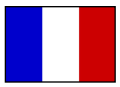 **France: Baie de Somme**

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France: Camargue Gardoise / Centre de découverte du Scamandre

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website:www.en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Aiguamolls_de_l'Empordà
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