"Inspiring birds, inspiring people"

"Migratory Birds for People" – Newsletter no. 41 / November, 2021

"Inspiring birds, inspiring people"

NEWSLETTER no. 41 (November, 2021)

Introduction:

In our last newsletter (June 2021), we were still optimistic about the pandemic; the wetland centres were allowed to open their doors again and in most countries measures were lifted. Unfortunately, the situation has worsened again in recent weeks.

We sincerely hope that after two years of waiting, the 2022 Annual Meeting can be held in Senegal.

In the meantime, despite all this, our network remains active and we are also working on various projects.

As consolation, we now offer you another newsletter with stories from colleagues in the network.

Please, distribute this newsletter also in your staff!

Enjoy reading and stay healthy!

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

Isabelle Zwick,
Audrey Cadou,
Roelof Heringa
(editorial team)

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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
PS.: your feedback is always welcome!

"Inspiring birds, inspiring people"

NEWSLETTER no. 41 (November, 2021)

Editorial

Dear friends and colleagues in the Migratory Birds for People-network.

After twelve years I have decided to end my work as editor for our MBP-Newsletter.
It has been a pleasure editing the MBP-newsletter for our MBP-network and I am very pleased that this work will now be continued by Isabelle Zwick (Biodiversum Haff Réimech, Remerschen, Luxembourg) and Audrey Cadou (Maison du Lac de Grand-Lieu, Bouaye, France)!

How it all started

After a successful visit of a delegation from Sweden to a number of wetland centres in the Netherlands in the spring of 2009, Dan Nilsson from Lake Tåkern prepared an evaluation of this visit.
He wrote in his report on this trip:

" I put forward an idea for an international project focused on visitor centres connected to bird rich wetlands. Some of Europe's very finest wetland areas could take part in the project. Such a project could have three subsidiary goals as set out below.

a.) That visitor centre personnel should have the opportunity to visit each other's facilities in order to exchange findings and be inspired by each other's work.

b.) That the various centres should exchange display materials with each other. One idea is to have joint webcam transmissions from each area. In this way, via direct webcam transmissions in autumn and winter, we in Sweden could, for example, watch "our" breeding birds even in the winter. The "reverse" would, of course, be true for those providing the transmissions. I believe this would be an appreciated part of any overall display at a centre. It would also firmly establish that nature conservation must often be undertaken internationally.

c.) Improve the information about each visitor centre (with the purpose of increasing the number of foreign tourists). The potential for nature tourism in these areas is great! "

So after this call for action, our "Migratory Birds for People" programme started and we have to thank Dan Nilsson for his vision on this. Sadly Dan passed away in 2011.

As soon as the first wetland centres had joined the new network, contact was made and established with Wetlands International (WI) and Wetland Link International (WLI).
Under the wings of Wetland Link International and the inspiring leadership of Chris Rostron "Migratory Birds for People" really took off.

The "Migratory Birds for People"network

MBP has become an active network of visitor centres in wetlands and is embedded in a global initiative of flyway-networks under the umbrella of Wetland Link International (WLI).
During many sessions in Annual Meetings and monthly Skype/Zoom-contacts with the MBP-core group we have developed our MBP- network, our mission, strategy and many projects.

As defined in its mission, "Migratory Birds for People" is all about exchange of information and knowledge according to the principals of the Ramsar CEPA-program:

THE TERMS ASSOCIATED WITH CEPA

C for communicating, connecting, capacity building, change in behaviour;
E for educating, empowerment (learning and professional updating);
P for public, public awareness, public participation, policy instrument;
A for awareness, action, action research.

Finally, I would like to thank you all for your active participation, both in the projects and in the newsletters.
Without you there will be no MBP newsletter!

All the best to you all and our MBP-network,

Roelof Heringa

News from the Core Group

Annual Meeting 2022 – your input!

Would you like to come to the Annual Meeting in Senegal next year?
Yes, of course you would! But when would be a suitable date?

We are planning to have the meeting **around World Migratory Bird Day in October 2022**.
Please let us know what are your **preferred dates** within the **period 3 to 14 October** to attend the meeting in Senegal.

Email Chris.Rostron@wwt.org.uk and ihama@wetlands-africa.org with the dates when you could attend.
This is not registering for the meeting; this is just helping us set the best possible date for it!

Annual meeting 2021 summary

Around thirty people took part in our 2021 Annual Meeting, which we again held online to accommodate the changing travel restrictions in Europe and very busy times for wetland visitors centres. Being online, all activities happened behind a screen or a camera, and we were able to have simultaneous interpretation between French and English.

You will have received the Meeting Report as a separate newsletter; you can also read and download the report, with work plan for the next year, on the website MigratoryBirdsForPeople.org.

Optics for Africa at WWT

Back in 2019 we started collecting donations of used but working binoculars and telescopes at MBP member centres in Europe, to share with counterparts in West Africa.
WWT has been particularly busy! Visitors to WWT wetland centres dropped off many optics; but also the education and reserves teams at the centres themselves have gotten on board. This has meant we received dozens of smaller binoculars, suitable for children to use.
It will take some time to assess them all and deliver them to West Africa.
Then, children visiting MBP members in Senegal and Mauritania may have the chance to view migratory birds though binoculars marked 'LWC', meaning 'London Wetland Centre'!

With so many donations, our store room is full!
Thankfully Connor Walsh mostly works from home now, so his office desk at Slimbridge is piled high with the binoculars. So much so that we are going to stop calling for donations from WWT members, at least until we distribute some of these.
We won't turn down any donations though, and certainly other MBP members are welcome to keep asking their visitors to donate used binoculars or telescopes to the scheme.

Chris Rostron

Guide to using binoculars with children

We had a vibrant discussion and exchange of knowledge at the Annual Meeting, about using binoculars with children at wetland centres.
We would like to make a visual guide of this. Can you help? We would like drawings or photographs of how to safely use binoculars at a wetland centre.
To safeguard your young visitors it is better that photos do not include children, or if they do, to have signed consent forms from the children's parents or guardians.
You can see some specific binocular usage in our Annual Meeting report.

Please email Connor Walsh if you would like to share your binocular images for this resource!

++

We received the following contributions from our colleagues in the MBP-network.

Sweden: Naturum Lake Tåkern

A short message from Takern.

Half term break in the beginning of November is normally filled with Halloween activities and generally people tend to stay inside because of the dark and cold days.

With that in mind we tried to explore how we could create activities where we used the darkness and cold to create an atmosphere In witch, we could experience birds in a different way, and experience nature without being scared.

One of these activities that became a huge success was the **"dusk hike with lanterns".** We have seen and heard bats, a huge amount of bird coming down to the lake to rest for the night. We have also heard owls, or was it a recording? I guess we will never know.

The research station connected to our lake recently counted a new record of geese in the lake:29 000.

Jenny Carlsson, Naturum Lake Tåkern

Nils Holgersson on migration.. (Naturum Lake Tåkern)

Norway: Fetsund Lenser, Nordre Øyeren wetland centre

Autumn trips in the nature reserve

This autumn we had about 340 7th graders from nearby schools joining us into the Nordre Øyeren nature reserve.

The students were introduced to the wetland area and its importance for bird life and other organisms. They were also introduced to how a river delta is formed and some common mosses you can find in the wetlands.
Using binoculars the students observed different types of wildlife like white-tailed eagle, moose, roe deer, beavers, whooper swans, grey herons, great cormorant and common goldeneyes.

Education about moose

A white-tailed eagle in the telescope!

Autumn in the nature reserve Nordre Øyeren

Autumn migration of ducks are fading out, and Nordre Øyeren Bird Station counted just 450 mallards still present on the 14th of november. The wooper swans, on the other hand, are just arriving – and their lovely song are now easy to experience. Around 400 individuals are now present.

During late october there were two rare sightings of black-legged kittiwakes which had been blown in from the nearby seas. There was a rare observation of two pine grosbeaks on the 31th of october due to an influx of the species from the north.

Studying the mosses.

Med vennlig hilsen
Kristine Dalen og Trude Starholm

Netherlands: Oostvaardersplassen

NATURA 2000

In the past year, the Oostvaardersplassen has been dominated by the implementation of a number of Natura2000 measures. To optimise the area for birds that depend on the vast wetlands (N2000 target species). Below are the birds concerned.

Conservational objectives Wetland birds (reed and open water)

Clearly visible now are the developments around the marsh reset of the Western part of the marsh. We started this project in 2018 and the first results are visible. What does the marsh reset involve:

Space for reed

In recent years, the area of young reed in the marsh of the Oostvaardersplassen has decreased drastically. This is the result of a lack of dynamics in the water level, and of substantial grazing by geese. As a result, the numbers of important and characteristic marsh and water birds have declined. We want to give the young reeds room again, so that the habitat of the birds and the bird population will improve. After all, birds are the first priority in Oostvaardersplassen.

Adjusting the water level

We will do this by temporarily lowering the water level in the western part of the marsh. This will give the young reeds the opportunity to grow again.

During this 'reset' of the marsh, the large pond will partially dry up, creating pools and mudflats. This is good for other species of birds. Last dry summer, this was already visible in the larger groups of waders and herons. Then we will gradually raise the water level again and it will take a more natural course, depending on precipitation. The 'swamp reset' is part of the new policy for the management of the Oostvaardersplassen laid down by the province of Flevoland.

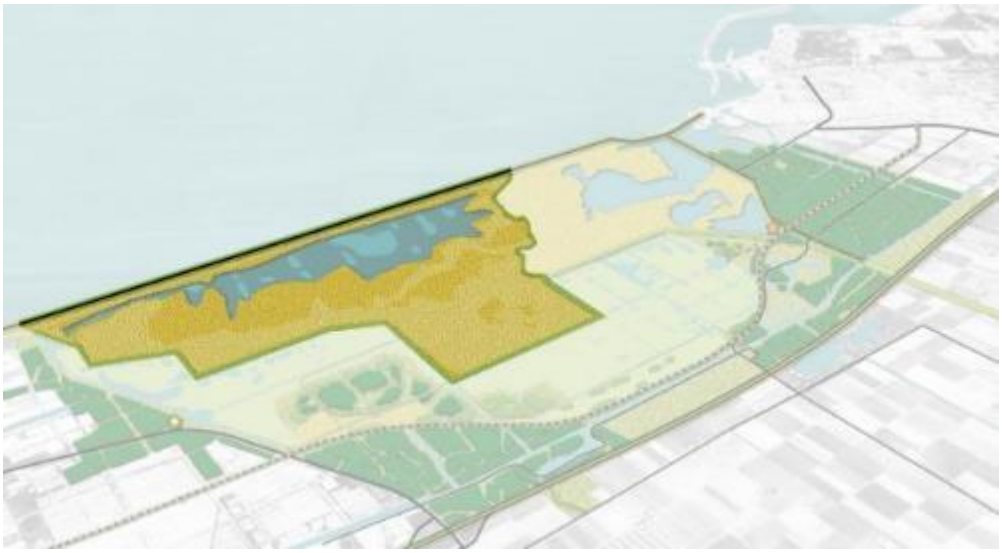


Figure 1 Oostvaardersplassen with, in yellow, the western part of the marshland that is now almost dry

The lowest water level was reached in October. This resulted in huge groups of avocets and other waders coming to forage on the tidal flats. In addition, one day 19 white-tailed eagles had found a good meal in the easily visible and catchable carp. Here is a link to a short film made by local television on the occasion of reaching the lowest point.
https://www.omroepflevoland.nl/nieuws/256332/laagste-waterpeil-bereikt-bij-moerasreset-oostvaardersplassen

FISH MIGRATION IN THE OOSTVAARDERSPLASSEN

In the grazed area of Oostvaardersplassen, Staatsbosbeheer will improve the habitat for water and marsh birds. For spoonbills and other herons, the Natura 2000 management plan has something special in store: connecting the waters inside and outside the Oostvaardersplassen.

Stickleback

According to the Natura 2000 management plan for Oostvaardersplassen, one of the main problem areas is the lack of water connections inside and outside the area, such as the Lage Vaart. By connecting these waters, the three-spined stickleback, the spoonbill's main prey, can migrate into the area. In this way, there will be enough large sticklebacks available in time for the breeding season and the spoonbills will not have to undertake long, risky and energy-consuming foraging trips far outside the Oostvaardersplassen. Other fish-eating birds such as the little egret and the bittern also benefit.

How does it work?

Weirs, dams and pumping stations are difficult places for fish to pass through. They cannot swim further here and bridge the differences in height. A fish passage is an installation that makes this possible. Here, the height difference is more gradual and the water flow slower. The passage is followed by a series of large interconnected pools that is as long as possible. The pools in this 'fish gully' will provide fish with more habitat and more spawning opportunities. This will give the fish-eating birds more opportunities to forage in the area. The grazed area of Oostvaardersplassen does not have such large pools at present.

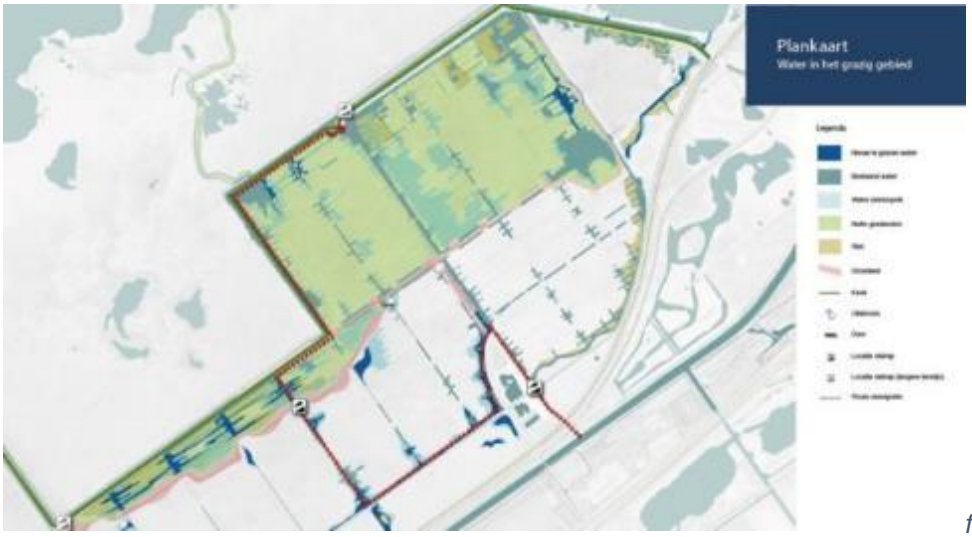


figure 2 The plan map showing fish passages and migration routes.

In 2020, we started digging and stopped during the winter period. This year, we continued after the breeding season and the contours are now clearly visible. It will take another year to complete the fish migration route and install the fish passages. Hopefully, from 2022 onwards, we will be able to see the first fish swimming upstream.

Hans-Erik Kuypers (warden OVP)

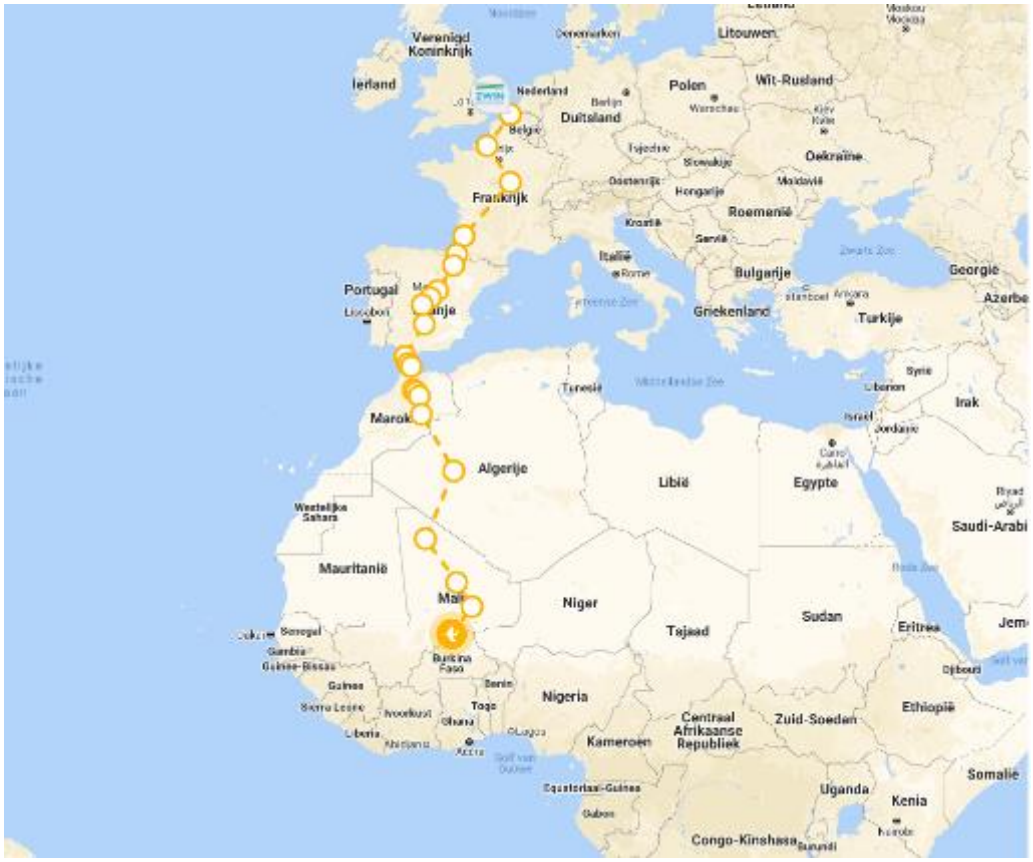
Belgium, the Zwin Nature Park

Update about Operation Stork

In a previous newsletter, we already reported about a transmitter project on White Storks that was started by the Zwin Nature Park and the Royal Belgian Institute of Natural Sciences. The project started in 2019 and has continued in 2020 and 2021. Transmitters have been fitted to 3-5 young storks per year. The total number of birds now stands at 12. The youngsters come from various stork nests within the park, which has a rather stable population of 13-14 breeding pairs in recent years. This transmitter project is part of a broader research of our local stork population, other topics being the ringing of all young storks at the nest, a follow up of the breeding success of all pairs and observing the whereabouts of adult storks that can be identified individually by their rings.

As the transmitter project continues the results are becoming all the more interesting. In the autumn of 2021, one of the five young storks that were tagged in the previous breeding season surprised us by crossing the Sahara desert. It was the first young stork of the project to make this long journey. Until then, all the birds that could be tracked to their winter quarters had stopped to winter in the Iberian Peninsula or in northern Morocco. This one particular stork, named Murshid, crossed the Sahara in the second half of September. It took the bird more than a week to make the hazardous journey. It arrived in Central Mali. It spend some weeks roaming in the wide area between the vast inland delta of the Niger river and the border with Burkina Faso. This is a very important area for very large numbers of migratory birds that breed in Europe. The stork also made a brief incursion in the Burkina Faso, and by doing that it provided the first report of a White Stork marked in Belgium in that country. Unfortunately, things went wrong in early November, as the transmitter indicated the bird was no longer alive. The cause of death is unknown. The transmitter data show that the device is located in a building in a small village in the region of the town of Bankass, so it seems that the transmitter has been found by people. It cannot be verified if the stork was killed by people or whether people found the dead bird and took the transmitter. Contact was sought with the Belgian Embassy in Mali to see if it would be possible to try and retrieve the transmitter and get more details about the possible cause of death. The Embassy showed interest and to our surprise we found out that the contact person at the Embassy had actually visited the Zwin Nature Reserve last summer and had seen the nest where the stork in question had been raised! Small world… Despite the interest the Embassy had to inform us that the part of Mali where the stork was located was the scene of an armed conflict in the past years, and it was not possible to reach that area without severe risk. The demise of this young stork was sad. We were very curious to find out about the movements of a bird that winter in the Sahel region, a very different environment compared to where our storks usually overwinter. It was nevertheless

interesting to find out that not all our young storks stay for the winter in Iberia or northern Morocco, but that a small part of them still makes the crossing of the Sahara.



The five young storks from our 'class of 2021' were less fortunate than their predecessors from 2019 and 2020. No less than four birds did not survive into their first winter. Besides Murshid, the bird that died in Mali, three other birds perished during their autumn migration through Spain. Two birds died from unknown causes in northern Spain, the other was electrocuted not too far from Madrid. The strong mortality this year is in contrast with the low mortality in the two previous years, when all seven birds survived their first autumn migration (two of them died in their first winter). The surviving fifth bird is currently wintering in northern Morocco.

At least four birds from 2019 and 2020 are still alive. Three of them are wintering in Spain. The fourth has remained in western France, near the city of Caen. It is the first time one of our transmitter-storks is wintering this far north.

We will continue marking more young storks with transmitters in the coming years and this will doubtlessly reveal more interesting data. As the first birds that we tagged our reaching the breeding age, we are also expecting to start getting interesting information on that front. In 2021, one of the storks that got a transmitter in 2019, formed a pair and started nest building in the Zwin Nature Park. This bird had also spent a month and a half near the park in 2020. As is often the case with first breeding attempts, no eggs were laid in 2021. We are very eager to see what 2022 will bring for this bird. It would be great if she (it's a female) would return and raise young here. Then we would also starting to get information on terrain use of breeding birds during the breeding season. Interesting times ahead!

Wouter Faveyts (Zwin Nature Park)

France: La Maison de la Baie de Somme

A renewed wetland centre !

The Maison de la Baie de Somme is located in the Hauts-de-France region of the Somme department, less than 3 hours from Paris, in the coastal commune of Lanchères.

Figure 1 - Baie de Somme sud

Formerly known as the "House of the Bird".

The former farmhouse of Petit Terratu was sold in 1984 by its owner to the commune of Lanchères. A museography will then be dedicated to the bird with a collection of 500 naturalized specimens and exposed in their natural habitats. Exotic birds complete the exhibition space. The Maison de l'Oiseau will welcome 30 to 40,000 visitors, 1/3 of whom will be schoolchildren who are aware of nature conservation.

Figure 2 - Maison de la Baie de Somme (4 ha d'espace extérieur, 800 m² de bâti)

A new identity

In the 2010s, the Syndicat Mixte Baie de Somme Grand Littoral Picard (a public institution) became the site manager. New themes (traditional trades, seals, etc.) are gradually being added to the museum.

Orientated by a strategy on the scale of the Picardy coast, the Maison de l'Oiseau gradually became the Maison de la Baie de Somme. The site became one of the structuring links of the coast. A new scenography, "simmered" in the middle of the covid context, will give birth to the new Interpretation Centre in 2021.

THE HOUSE OF THE BAY OF SOMME :
- **1 outdoor trail with a birdwatching station**
- **Guided tours (discovery of seals, coastal fauna)**
- **1 exhibition space accessible to all**
- **1 Information and reception point on biodiversity**
- **1 "nature and local produce" shop**
- **Services (bicycle, foodtruck, parking, picnic area...)**
- **1 Interpretation centre for the territory**

As soon as they arrive, visitors are accompanied by information panels on the landscape of the area, the preservation of natural areas, the biodiversity of the fauna/flora.

The new Interpretation Centre

In perpetual movement, the estuary has been shaped, day after day, by the action of the tides, currents and wind, by time and the actions of Man. Fragility, poetry, vulnerability and inventiveness set the tone for the whole centre.
The visitor-promoters explore the Bay of the Somme and its many particularities and treasures in 2 hours. Numerous themes are addressed in a poetic, playful, interactive and instructive way.

Figure 3 - Entrance to the Interpretation Centre

Figure 4 - Animation film to give visitors the keys to the area

Figure 5 - The centre is accessible to all! However, the site had to comply with numerous sanitary constraints (gauges, hydroalcoholic gel, limited number of visitors per room, etc.).

Figure 6 - Discovery of the habitats of the Bay of the Somme with sound environments (mudflats, woods and meadows, rocky coasts, cliffs, pebble strips and dune beds)

Figure 7 - Touch-sensitive tablets provide information about each bird present. A graphic introduces each natural habitat, outlining its vulnerability and conservation actions.

Figure 8 - An observatory is dedicated to birds. Visitors can observe some species with binoculars, and an ornithologist's office has been reconstructed. Numerous topics are covered: migration, climate change, ringing, wetlands etc.

Figure 9 - The chard gallery (decoys)

Figure 10 - Children make a seal, duck or toad using wooden materials.

Figure 11- A guide explains the birds' adaptation to feed

Figure 12 - Bird migration graphic

Figure 13 - One room is dedicated to seals

Figure 14 - The spotting scopes are equipped with screens and can be used to watch 4 films: calf seals, grey seals, scientific monitoring, good behaviour

Figure 15 - After a somewhat 'anxiety-provoking' passage through an immersive corridor, a new room deals with the topic of Flood Risks.

Figure 16 - The visit continues in the "Encounters" area. People have continually needed to adapt to the changing territory, hence the great diversity of occupations (nature guide, salt meadow sheep farmer, marine plant collector, risk watchman, artist of the sea shore, estuarine botanist, researcher, etc.).

Figure 17 - An outdoor walkway allows visitors to get some fresh air

Figure 18 - An end film invites walkers to continue their journey...

The rest of the work concerns the exterior: bike rental, cycle track, picnic area, low marsh with observatories, food-truck etc...

Nathanael Herrmann

France: La Maison du Grand Lac de Lieu

The Grand-Lieu Lake Centre - strange birds.

Nature could please you
Last summer, the COVID certificate implementation impacted the visitors' number, but, since September, we have received a lot of requests for school visits and for hosting seminars. The events' agenda was very rich. We organised an artistic night walk "Nature could please you" with the organization "Territoires imaginaires". Around 300 people were been aware of water resource protection in a climate change context.

Science festival
From October 8 to 10, it was the Science festival, a national event on science popularization to the general public and to schools. We celebrated this event at the Nantes Natural History Museum with other scientific organizations like the University of Nantes.
The 2021 theme was **"Emotion of the discovery".** We therefore presented the amazing discoveries recently made by wildlife managers of the national nature reserve (Société nationale de protection de la nature, SNPN) in the Grand-Lieu lake. In 2019 and 2020 inventories of bats, hymenoptera and diptera were carried out.

A total of 21 species of bats have been discovered, some of which in large numbers eating insects on the lake. Greater horseshoe bats (*Rhinolophus ferrumequinum*) sleep into the Guerlain pavilion basement in summer.
The pavilion is the observation point of view of the centre.
A rare species, the Soprano pipistrelle (*Pipistrellus pygmaeus*) was also observed.
Among sampled insects, a parasitoid wasp, living in reed beds, was found for the first time in France: *Mimumesa wuestneii*.

The children really enjoyed discovering these little insects whose larvae develop into the bodies of other insects!

Day of the night

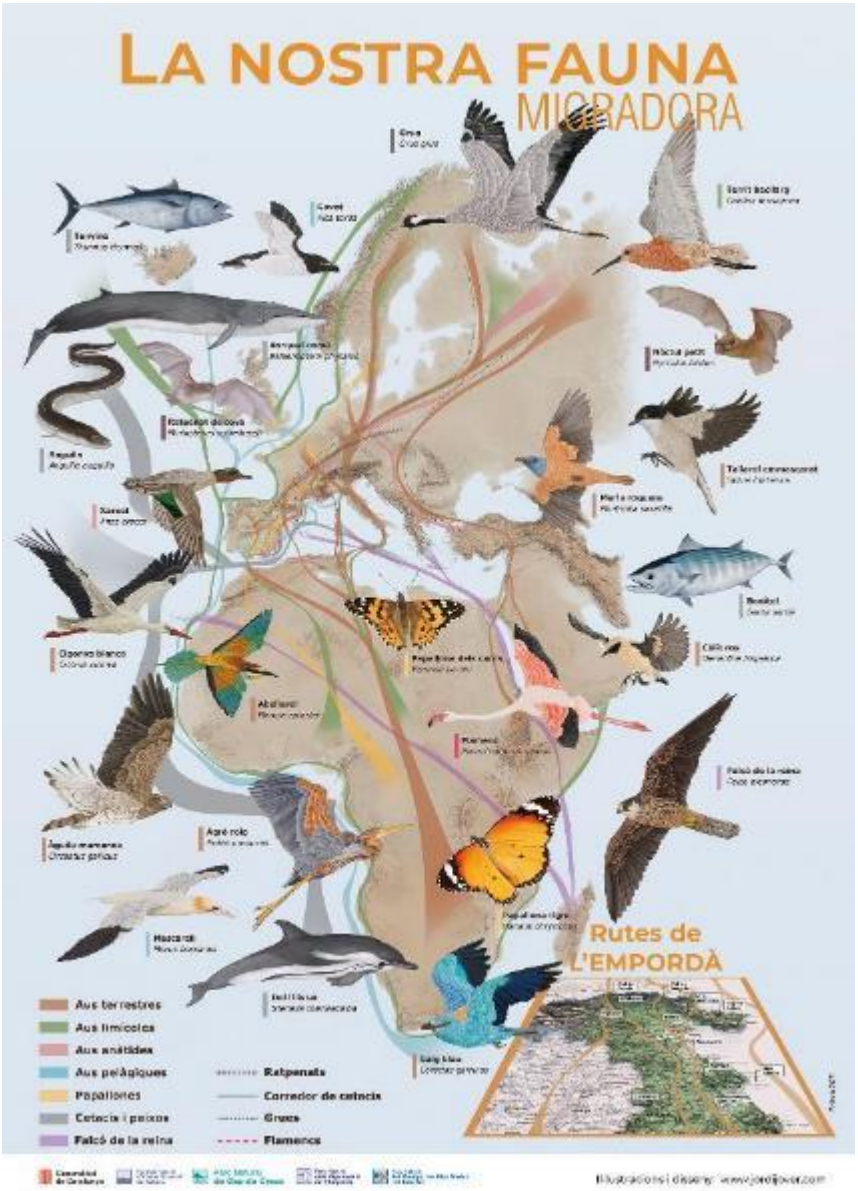
The day of the night is coordinated each year by the organization "Act for environment", this event aims to raise public awareness about light pollution, one of the biggest impact of the insect loss. Saturday, October 9, the centre and wildlife managers of the national nature reserve (SNPN) organized a free sensory activity at night in collaboration with two scientific organizations: Orion, member of the “French Astronomical Society”; and the "Regional Entomological Atlas". Around 50 visitors observed a wonderful starry sky above the lake without artificial light. They discovered the nocturnal insects that inhabit lake surroundings and they understood the positive impact of natural light on biodiversity.

Spain: Aiguamolls de l'Empordà Natural Parc

NEW POSTER : BIRD MIGRATION

Dear colleagues,

From the Aiguamolls de l'Empordà Natural Park we would like to send you a poster recently created about our migratory fauna.



It has been made jointly by the 4 protected areas in the Empordà area, in the north of Catalonia, in the province of Girona: Cap de Creus Natural Park, the Albera Natural Site of Natural Interest and the Montgrí, Medes Islands and Baix Ter Natural Park.

The latter, together with the Aiguamolls, is a very important part of the wetlands of Catalonia and hosts many species of migratory birds, being a strategic place for the pre-nuptial migration of many ornithological species on the western Mediterranean coast: on their journeys to the North and before crossing the Pyrenees, these two Natural Parks are strategic areas of refuge and rest for our "travellers".

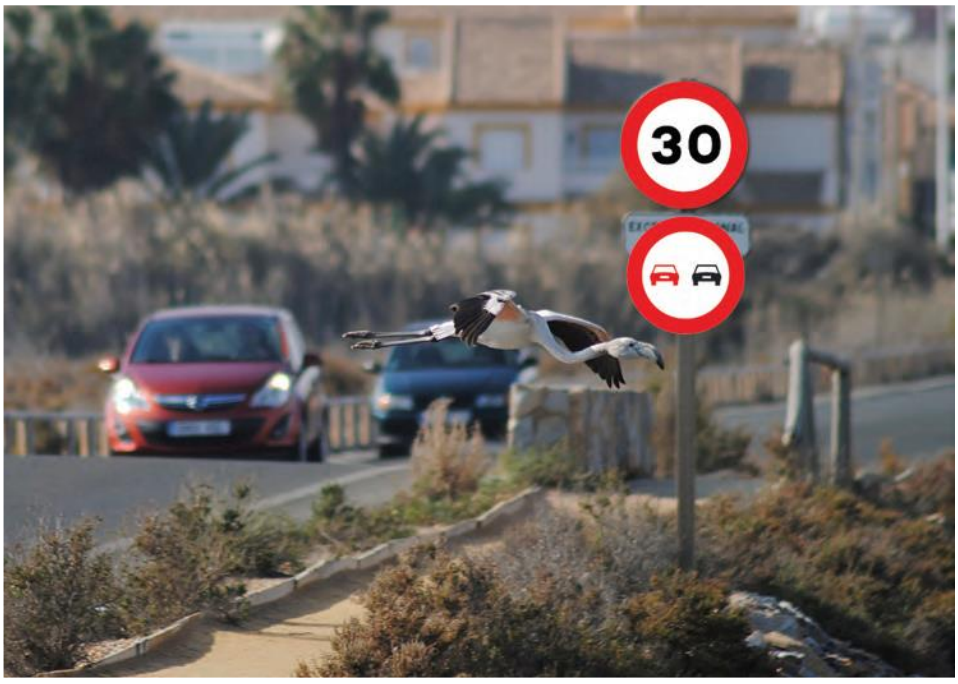
We hope you will enjoy this initiative to raise awareness of our most emblematic migratory species.

Glòria Rosas and Josep Espigulé (Ús Públic i Educació Ambiental)
Parc Natural dels Aiguamolls de l'Empordà

Spain: Regional Park of Las Salinas de San Pedro

30 kms/hr. can save lives!

In recent years the main road which runs through the Salinas de San Pedro del Pinatar Regional Park (Murcia), which initially served as a transport route for salt, has experienced a considerable increase in road traffic, both visitors and workers linked to socio-economic activities (fishing, salt factory, port and tourism). This increase in vehicle traffic has had a negative impact on this protected natural area in the form of wildlife being run over, disturbance to visitors, mainly due to noise, and an increase in the number of vehicle accidents.



To try to tackle these problems and guarantee the safety of its visitors, the Regional Park has implemented a series of actions such as the improvement and adaptation of the cycle lane, the horizontal and vertical road signs, the installation of protective barriers that prevent parking on the vegetation and the hard shoulder, a new pedestrian crossing with speed reducers, as well as the summer service of free public transport to the beaches.
Now more than ever, it is more important than ever for people entering the Regional Park with their vehicles to cooperate, respecting the rules of the road (max. 30 km/h and no overtaking). In this way, visitors will be able to contribute to the conservation of the protected fauna and flora, and will allow cyclists and walkers to enjoy a safer and more pleasant ride.

Teresa López Aledo (Técnico Especialista en Espacios Naturales Protegidos)

Portugal: Tagus Estuary Birdwatching and Conservation Area

Biowet visit:

This month we were happy to receive the last Biowet Exchange week. Was a busy week.
The Norwegian students started visiting Lisbon Oceanaraium and talking about climate changes in the oceans, and how that could impact our life.
Then they learned about rice fields, how Companhia das Lezírias produces rice and the importance along the year of this habitat to waterbirds, and how climate change and human action, through exotic introduction are a big challenge to solve.

Going straight to Tagus Estuary, where we saw an osprey, we taste the plants, like Sarcocornia among others, returning we stopped at three hides to see the birds.

A lot of teals, black-tailed godwits, glossy-ibis, some purple gallinules and flamingos.
In the afternoon the Portuguese show there school and we did a short laboratory session, analysing water and pellets.

Next day, after a boat tour around the estuary, we had a chat about sea rising level and consequences for this littoral areas.

After lunch, we visit villa Franca de Xira village, and a little house, used by the traditional fishermen's that catch Alosa alosa, nowadays very difficult to find in the river.

On Wednesday, we started with a passerine and ducks ringed session, after lunch an inspirational talk with a PhD student that works with waders in Portugal and Bijagos.

Some games, and a sunset visit to the lagoons, preparing to the high point of the day a barn owl observation session, here the students saw not only barn owls, but also Shorted-eared-owl. At same time Pedro did a moth and moon, planets session.

Thursday was more about sustainability. We started with biological wine production and cork oak forest. Then lunching nearby the dam, where we have our precious water for the Portuguese hot summer.

The last day, was about other impacted wetlands. We went to the beach and identified the macro-benthic fauna there. Then after lunch at the most European occidental point – Cabo da Roca, we visited the dunes and ended nearby the Discoveries Patron, where we did our last roleplay activity with our hands together while we connected all the matters we spoke during the week.
Everything is connected, and each of us and everyone can make a big difference with our choices.

And now we invite you all to watch this video "**Canta e Dança como uma Ave**":

https://fb.watch/9sz8YWgThT/

The translation of the Poem:
Thanks to Mauro Hilário, for having offered his creativity by improvising the lyrics:
"**Canta e Dança como uma Ave**" ("Sing and Dance like a Bird")

"Try to escape the winter,
They look for new food and nest,
through your eternal instinct
There they go by the best way.
Traveling in a pack is security,
Birds in flight are a spectacle.
Despite your new hope,
In migrations there are obstacles.

Crazy humans, uncertain weather,
Times change their course.
With so many threats around
Getting away from it all is the last resort.
Their homes must be protected,
Lakes and woods are needed.
As we boost your wings,
Let us be allies and not adversaries".

Best regards,
Sandra Paiva Silva
Coördinator

News from our MBP-partner : EUROSITE:

The Secretariat supports the Eurosite members, and Board and Council, to implement Eurosite's Strategy.
We coordinate and develop the network activities and organise training opportunities for European site managers. Being the first point of contact for partners, collaborators and others, please don't hesitate to get in touch!

WEBINAR

Eurosite organised a webinar on the theme 'Visitors, a blessing or a burden?'.
Some of you will know the host, Theo de Bruin, from MBP Annual Meetings.
You can also hear from experiences in the Netherlands, Greece, and Poland.

See the recording here: www.eurosite.org/events/webinar-visitors-a-blessing-or-a-burden

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Other Flyway news

You may watch this video about declining numbers of birds in Europe
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=u5S3X2y93MU

Three year classes of young red kites monitored

By courtesy from Stef van Rijn and the Dutch Montagu's Harrier Foundation (the Netherlands)
10-NOV-2021 –

Last breeding season Dutch red kites were again equipped with GPS/GSM transmitters. Since 2019, 28 nestlings of red kites have been tagged of which 13 are still alive. 12 have died and 3 have disappeared. This year also saw the start of research into terrain use and flight behaviour of adult breeding birds.
Both the breeding birds and most of the youngsters are now in the Spanish and French winter areas.

For map on migration routes, see: https://grauwekiekendief.nl/volg-rode-wouwen/

Causes of death of young red kites

Of the ten tagged young red kites from 2019, two died in the first year, two in the second and one in the third year (Table 1). Of the 11 birds from 2020, three died in the first year and three in the second year. The main cause of mortality was traffic (three birds). In addition, one bird died due to a collision with a wind turbine and another due to disturbance of the nest. The cause of death of six birds has yet to be determined. Probably a large part of these birds died of poison. In 2019 and 2020 three birds disappeared from the radar. They are probably all no longer alive, but their cause of death remains unknown. Of the seven birds from 2021, one Gelderland bird has so far died under suspicious circumstances in the province Overijssel.
This bird is being examined for traces of poison and/or shooting. At the moment, thirteen nesting kites are still alive.

Research on adults and collision risk of wind turbines

In 2021, additional research was started into the terrain used by adult breeding Red Kites. In the hilly region of southern Limburg, a breeding pair and a male were fitted with a transmitter.

In the province Gelderland, both parent birds of a nest from the Zutphen region were given a transmitter. In addition to land use, the research focuses on flight behaviour in the breeding areas.
In Europe, especially in Germany, hundreds of examples are known of Red Kites colliding with wind turbines.
Victims can be partially avoided by not constructing wind farms in areas where red kites are present. Mitigation is possible by using certain types of wind turbines which pose a lower risk of collision. However, the collision risk can only be reduced in this way with detailed knowledge of the flight behaviour of birds, such as information about flight heights and avoidance behaviour. This information can then be used to adjust the height of the rotor blade, for example.

WWT 75th Anniversary

On 10 November, WWT celebrated its 75th anniversary, with commemorative activities at their wetland centres, in the media, and online. For example, at WWT Arundel the gifted a cake to the 75th visitor through the door on the day. As well as contacting local and national media who ran stories about their local sites, the centres have shown archive photos on their social media.

Described by Sir David Attenborough as the "patron saint of conservation", **Sir Peter Scott founded WWT** on the banks of the River Severn in 1946 with just 1,000 members and one site at Slimbridge in Gloucestershire.

Since then, the charity has grown to ten UK sites, created and helped to protect thousands of hectares of wetlands around the world, and is now supported by more than 180,000 members. Their Conservation Directorate and multiple sites have been active in MBP for over a decade.

Building on the passion of Sir Peter Scott, who championed wetlands and wildlife while recognising their value to people, WWT is drawing on over seven decades of experience to ensure wetlands are put centre stage in the fight to meet global challenges. It aims to inspire one million people to take action for wetlands by spreading the word about the many benefits of these amazing habitats not just for wildlife but for people's everyday lives.
The charity plans to achieve both these aims through many conservation projects throughout the world and its **Wetlands Can! campaign**.

This focuses on the creation of 100,000 hectares of healthy wetlands across the UK to help combat the nature, climate, and mental health crises.
WWT is calling for a 'blue recovery' where this ambition is incorporated into national and international policies to protect the planet, including strategies to reach net zero carbon emissions by 2050.

WWT- Slimbridge: Free artwork for wetland centres

Wetland Link International is making a large and attractive illustration available to all members.
They commissioned the **environmental artist Seppo** to produce an artwork celebrating wetland visitor centres, with a board walk, birding tower, sign boards, and a group pond-dipping.
You can request a free print out on canvas or a link to download the high quality files from Connor Walsh, connor.walsh@wwt.org.uk.

As well as the temperate wetland shown, there is a version where the habitat is changed to mangrove, and another to tropical wetland; the artist has also prepared an additional layer showing threats to wetlands.