
March - May 2016 Updates for AEML-WG

1. The 2016 World Migratory Bird Day celebrations are happening in the month of May. Many countries have lined up different activities around the theme: *"...and when the skies fall silent? Stop the illegal killing, taking and trade!"* The 2016 events and theme will help to create awareness on a major threat to migratory landbirds. The AEWA Secretariat has joined hands with Birdlife International to make the event a success. More information about the events can be found at: <http://www.worldmigratorybirdday.org>
2. An expanded Steering Group (SG) meeting took place in April at the sidelines of the First Meeting of the Sessional Committee of the Scientific Council - CMS in Bonn. Members of the Working Group who were attending the Council meeting were invited to join in the SG meeting. Discussions on the Land use workshop planned for West Africa among other issues including Species Action Planning work and fundraising were held. New members were welcomed to the SG.
3. The AEMLAP Programme of Work was presented at the Scientific Council meeting. As requested, the Scientific Council took note of provided feedback on the POW.
4. The BirdLife her Partner in Germany (NABU) have, submitted a full proposal to implement a project by German Federal Agency for Nature Conservation (BfN) on piloting monitoring birds (including migratory landbirds) in Biosphere Reserves in Africa.
5. There are plans to produce a Birds Migration Atlas using EURING data among others. This project, whose funding is still being sought, will be overseen by CMS/Scientific Committee and will also benefit migratory landbirds. For more information about this development, contact Franz Bairlein (franz.bairlein@ifv-vogelwarte.de).
6. West African Land use Workshop: Funding has been secured from the Swiss Government to support the West African land use workshop, which is planned to be held in Abuja in the w/c 21 November 2016. The workshop will focus on Burkina Faso, Cote d'Ivoire, Ghana, Nigeria and Senegal, and aim to bring together the environment and development communities concerned with land use issues to identify shared key issues and challenges to sustainable land use. For more information, contact Kate Hand (kate.hand@rspb.org.uk).

Priority species

7. *European Roller*: Birdlife Hungary is implementing a EU LIFE project through which the Roller International Action Plan will be reviewed and updated. As part of this project, about 40 Roller species will be fitted with geo-locators and Platform Transmitting Terminals (PPTs). Four Rollers have already been fitted with the equipment, and two of the birds, whose gadgets are still active, spent their wintering period in Botswana and Namibia. One of the birds has started a return journey to the northern hemisphere and was transmitting while in Uganda in April. For more info visit <http://www.satellitetracking.eu/inds/showtable> and or contact Béla Tokody (tokodyb@gmail.com; or tokody.bela@mme.hu)

8. *Yellow-breasted Bunting (YBB)* The process of developing a North East Asian Land Bird Monitoring Scheme is ongoing through bilateral relations between the Russian Federation, Japan and South Korea. YBB will likely be an important species for Land Bird Monitoring in Asia as all participating countries have ranked YBB as a top species with declining population trends. For more info contact, Simba Chan (simba.chan@birdlife.org).

The call inviting volunteers to participate in field surveys of YBB in Mongolia has thankfully helped to yield two teams to cover 14 and 10 days in the field surveys in the month of June. A third team is also foreseen, this is very encouraging given that it was not possible to undertake similar surveys in 2015. All those who helped to circulate the call and those who will be participating are highly appreciated by the organizers. For further details on the surveys and future ones, contact Batmunkh Davaasuren (batmunkh@wsc.org.mn) or Nyambayar Batbayar (nyambayar@wsc.org.mn).

9. *Turtle dove International SAP (LIFE EuroSAP project): Species Status Report*: Consultations are ongoing (via Survey Monkey), gathering data and information to collate into a Species Status Report which will be used as a single document summarising the existing evidence base for status and threats of this species. Stakeholders from more than 70 countries were contacted in April to invite them to complete the survey. The large number of countries consulted reflects the fact that this project provides an excellent opportunity to gather a wide range of information. The final SAP will not cover this much of the species' global range. Countries from the Middle East have been consulted because there are large populations of turtle doves in the far eastern countries in Europe and it is not known what migration route they take to reach their wintering grounds. Action Planning Workshops Planning Committees is being set up. For more information, contact Tara Proud (tara.proud@rspb.org.uk).

10. Please note that AEM LAP could be downloaded from the CMS website (http://www.cms.int/saiga/sites/default/files/document/CMS-StC41-doc_19_1_aemlap_e.pdf) and

brochure/poster summary from http://www.birdlife.org/sites/default/files/aemlap_brochure.pdf and http://www.birdlife.org/sites/default/files/aemlap_poster.pdf.

11. The first meeting of CMS Task Force on Mediterranean Illegal killing of Birds to be held on 12-15th July 2016 in Cairo, Egypt will have a one day session dedicated for the host country. It is to be noted that Egypt is one of the countries where a high number migratory birds are killed every year. for information on illegal killing in the Mediterranean visit: <http://www.birdlife.org/campaign/stop-illegal-bird-killing>
12. United Nations/Kenya is organizing a Conference on Space Technology and Applications for Wildlife Management and Protecting Biodiversity. There are opportunities to sponsor people with financial needs. For more info visit: http://www.unoosa.org/oosa/en/ourwork/psa/schedule/2016/conference_kenya_biodiversity.html
13. An abstract for a symposium on AEMLAP has been submitted for the International Ornithological Congress (IOC) 2018 which will be held in Canada
