

Report of the Training Workshop on

CITIZEN SCIENCE AND BIRD CONSERVATION IN NIGERIA

Held in

Ibadan, Nigeria

at the

**University of Ibadan and International Institute for Tropical Agriculture
(5th – 7th March, 2014)**

organized by

Nigerian Conservation Foundation,

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funded by

**African Bird Club (ABC) Conservation Fund,
c/o BirdLife International,**

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

The ecological, social and economic importance of birds is well documented. Nigeria is home to over 940 species including migratory and other globally significant species. Many of these species are found outside protected areas lurking within degraded and converted habitats or even near human habitations like rural settlements and urban areas. Whereas, despite conservation efforts and interventions in many protected areas, a handful of bird populations are in decline due majorly to the loss and conversion of their natural habitats.

While conversion of forests and natural habitats to agricultural plots for subsistence farming is chief amongst the threats to avifauna in the country, low level of awareness even amongst the literate in urban areas is also a major concern. Therefore, the possibility of sensitizing and educating the populace (volunteers and amateurs) while encouraging them to take up birding as a pastime, could help complement and influence bird conservation efforts by professionals.

In alignment with NCF's vision where people prosper while living in harmony with the natural environment, helping people understand the ecological and social values of birds and their habitats will significantly turn around the fortunes of same. Furthermore, the economic potentials of bird-watching, which is the fastest growing form of recreation in the world today, can be leveraged upon as a form of income and livelihood.

1.1 Rationale

This training workshop precedes the formal establishment of the Ibadan Bird Club (iBC), which aims to encourage and enhance the effective collection of bird data during leisure birding. Besides, significant information on vulnerable birds and their habitats stare us in the face every day but we have not given them the due attention simply because they fall outside protected areas. Therefore, like its Lagos predecessor, iBC will be a platform to collect and manage data on birds via periodic bird-watching expeditions to key birding sites within the Ibadan area.

The importance of this is to generate substantial information needed to track the trends of bird population and survival in Nigeria. In addition, simple bird identification skills via this training workshop, if taken correctly, can help serve the market of bird-watching around this priority region for conservation, while improving the economy of local residents as well.

1.2 Goal and Objectives

The goal of the training was to develop the capacity of prospective core members of Ibadan Bird Club (iBC) to effectively promote the conservation of birds and their habitats in Ibadan. Specifically, the workshop aimed to;

- I. Help participants identify at least 10 local birds by the end of the workshop
- II. Improve knowledge of participants to effectively sensitize others on the significance of conserving birds and their habitats
- III. Teach participants on how to collate basic scientific information on local birds

1.3 Participants and Resource Persons

The 3-day training workshop was attended by a total of 40 people including facilitators and staff of local partners that were all represented in the workshop. These include staff of the department of Wildlife and Ecotourism, University of Ibadan (UI); and the Forest Project, International Institute for Tropical Agriculture (IITA). Below is a list of resource persons during the 3-day training workshop. A full list of all the participants is presented in Annex II.

Table 1: List of Resource Persons for the 3-day Training Workshop in Ibadan

Name	Institution	Role
Bunmi Jegede	Nigerian Conservation Foundation	Facilitator
Taiye Adeyanju (PhD)	Dept. of Wildlife & Ecotourism, UI	Co-facilitator
Dayo Adeyanju	Dept. of Wildlife & Ecotourism, UI	Co-facilitator
Emmanuel Olabode	International Institute for Tropical Agriculture	iBC co-ordinator
Kehinde Omifolaji	Nigerian Conservation Foundation	LOC

2.0 WORKSHOP ACTIVITIES

Activities of the training workshop were achieved in two phases comprising of a lecture presentation and two field sessions. The lecture presentation took place on Day 1 while the practical session in the field occurred on Day 2 and Day 3. A Participant Evaluation Form (Appendix III) was distributed to participants at the start on Day 1 and collected on Day 3 on the completion of the training workshop.

2.1. Lecture Presentation

The lecture presentation was in a power-point format and done in the Conference Room of the Department of Wildlife & Ecotourism, University of Ibadan. This was well attended with lecturers and students (both undergraduate and postgraduate) from the department, as well as students from other University. The presentation lasted about two hours and it was broken down into three modules namely ¹*Understanding Birds*; ²*Birding Tips & Techniques* and ³*Why Ibadan Bird Club?* Each module ended with a brief question and answers session albeit questions were asked during each presentation.

2.1.1. Module 1: Understanding Birds

This module introduced participants to birds generally, the significance of studying them, their habitats and where to find birds. The module was taken by the LBC coordinator, Bunmi Jegede, and it was a participatory one involving a few activities. At the start of the module, the facilitator asked each participant to write out names of ten (10) known birds so that participants can evaluate themselves at the end of the event. He then rounded up the module by playing calls of ten (10) locally common birds for each of the participants to try and identify.



Figure 1: The LBC Coordinator facilitating the first module

2.1.2. Module 2: Birding Tips & Techniques

Module 2 was facilitated by Dayo Adeyanju, a PhD candidate with the department of Wildlife & Ecotourism, UI and a MSc graduate of AP Leventis Ornithological Research Institute (APLORI). She took the now lively participants through birding tips and techniques. Some of the areas covered include *items & materials for birding*, *how to use a binocular*, *using a field guide* and *what to look out for while birding*. It was also an interactive session with the facilitator often taking her time to explain to the participants and where necessary demonstrating the ideas to nail it in.

2.1.3. Module 3: Why Ibadan Bird Club?

Module 3 was again facilitated by Bunmi Jegede during which he exposed the participants to the concept of citizen science while emphasising the roles of volunteers and amateurs in the conservation of birds in particular and biodiversity generally. He also trained participants how to develop their own data collating sheet for accurate collection of biological data, before rounding up the last module with opportunities with the Ibadan Bird Club (IBC).

2.2. Field Session

2.2.1. Birding in Awba Dam, UI

Day 2 began around 6:45am when the participants gathered at the Awba Dam in UI for the first field session. Before the birding, a recap of the previous day's work was quickly done while the facilitator tipped the participants on a few more birding tricks and how to collect data with a personal field note. Birding with the team (numbering 24) started around 7:07am from the East bank of the dam through the North to the West bank. The session was facilitated by Bunmi Jegede and Taiye Adeyanju.



Figure 2: Cross-section of some participants during the field session in Awba Dam, UI.

At each point during the birding exercise, the facilitators guided participants to practise the bird identification (by sight and call) and counting of bird's information learnt during the lecture presentation. Some of them had to be polished on how to maximise the binoculars and field scopes to find a bird. The group was later joined by the Head of Department of

Wildlife and Ecotourism, University of Ibadan and we rounded-up the day with a group photograph around 10:36am.



Figure 3: Group Photo with HoD Wildlife & Ecotourism Prof. Ayodele (middle) at Awba Dam

2.2.2. Birding in IITA Golf Course

The second field session on Day 3 took place at the IITA Golf Course. The group converged around 6:30am at the UI main gate before heading to IITA. On arrival at the IITA gate the group registered at the security house and headed straight to the Golf Course. After briefing the participants with a recap of the previous day's activity, the team broke into two groups with each led by Bunmi Jegede and Taiye Adeyanju. Birding started at 7:15am. The IITA Forest Manager later joined the group and we rounded the session up with a group photo with her.



Figure 3: Group Photo with the IITA Forest Project Manager Deni Bown (standing second from right) at the Golf Course

3.0 CONCLUSION

The 3-day training workshop was well received by the participants and local partners. The participants felt the lecture presentation was informative and precise as well. They also agreed that the birding sites were adequate and they indeed learnt some new skills and gained more knowledge during the 3-day programme. The participants likewise agreed to put to practice for iBC the new skills they have learnt. Some of these skills and knowledge include bird identification by sight and call, data collation skills, habitat description and understanding roles of volunteers in bird conservation.

The HoD of Wildlife & Ecotourism department in UI remarked that the workshop was long overdue but believed it was timely to provide the students with the ample practical experience needed to balance their lectures. The Forest Project Manager in IITA was ecstatic about the training workshop and hoped that the club will visit the IITA forest regularly for their birding trips.

3.1 Recommendations

Several recommendations were made by the participants during the workshop. The most outstanding of these include;

- I. Provide more birding equipment and materials including binoculars and field guide
- II. Enlighten more volunteers/amateurs outside the field of conservation
- III. Devoting more time for field practice to sharpen skills
- IV. Visiting different sites to increase knowledge on birds

4.0 APPENDIX

Appendix I: Checklist of Bird Species

Species	Scientific Name	Habitat	
		Awba Dam	Golf Course
1. Reed Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax africanus</i>	X	X
2. White-Faced Whistling Duck	<i>Dendrocygna viduata</i>	X	X
3. Black-Crowned Night Heron	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>	X	
4. Common Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus barbatus</i>	X	X
5. Woodland Kingfisher	<i>Halcyon senegalensis</i>	X	
6. Black Kite	<i>Milvus migrans</i>	X	X
7. Pied Crow	<i>Corvus albus</i>	X	X
8. Cattle Egret	<i>Bubulcus ibis</i>	X	X
9. Intermediate Egret	<i>Mesophoyx intermedia</i>	X	
10. Grey Hornbill	<i>Tockus nasutus</i>	X	
11. Western-Grey Plantain-Eater	<i>Crinifer piscator</i>	X	X
12. Broad-Billed Roller	<i>Eurystomus glaucurus</i>	X	
13. Fork-Tailed Drongo	<i>Dicrurus adsimilis</i>	X	
14. Senegal Coucal	<i>Centropus senegalensis</i>	X	
15. Laughing Dove	<i>Streptopelia senegalensis</i>	X	X
16. Red-Headed Malimbe	<i>Malimbus rubricollis</i>	X	X
17. Red-Eyed Dove	<i>Streptopelia semitorquata</i>		X
18. Common Sandpiper	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>	X	
19. Spur-Winged Plover	<i>Vanellus spinosus</i>	X	
20. Blue-Breasted Kingfisher	<i>Halcyon malimbica</i>	X	
21. Didric Cuckoo	<i>Chrysococcyx caprius</i>	X	
22. Piping Hornbill	<i>Bycanistes fistulator</i>	X	X
23. Pied Hornbill	<i>Tockus fasciatus</i>		X
24. White-Headed Lapwing	<i>Vanellus albiceps</i>		X
25. Hadedda Ibis	<i>Bostrychia hagedash</i>		X
26. Bronze Mannikin	<i>Lonchura cucullata</i>		X
27. African Thrush	<i>Turdus pelios</i>	X	

Appendix II: List of Participants during the 3-days programme

S/N	Name	Capacity; Institution
1	Toluwalase Bello	Undergraduate ; Dept of Wildlife& Ecotourism, University of Ibadan
2	Godspower Okoroafor	Undergraduate ; Dept of Wildlife& Ecotourism, University of Ibadan
3	Jatto Samuel	Post-graduate ; Dept of Wildlife& Ecotourism, University of Ibadan
4	Afolasade Maryam Balogun	Post-graduate ; Dept of Wildlife& Ecotourism, University of Ibadan
5	Farinloye Kolawole Felix	Post-graduate ; Dept of Wildlife& Ecotourism, University of Ibadan
6	Mogaji Adewumi	Undergraduate ; Dept of Wildlife& Ecotourism, University of Ibadan
7	Adeyeye Tobiloba Esther	Undergraduate ; Dept of Wildlife& Ecotourism, University of Ibadan
8	Eugene Mathew	Post-graduate ; Dept of Wildlife& Ecotourism, University of Ibadan
9	Segun Oyedemi	Undergraduate ; Dept of Wildlife& Ecotourism, University of Ibadan
10	Uwatt Aniekan-Abasi	Post-graduate ; Dept of Wildlife& Ecotourism, University of Ibadan
11	Efenakpo Ogaga Dean	Post-graduate ; Dept of Wildlife& Ecotourism, University of Ibadan
12	Malik Reuben	Post-graduate ; Dept of Wildlife& Ecotourism, University of Ibadan
13	Oyeniyi Olufunmibi Oyeyemi	Undergraduate ; Dept of Wildlife& Ecotourism, University of Ibadan
14	Esther Opebiyi	Post-graduate ; Dept of Wildlife& Ecotourism, University of Ibadan
15	Oyebambi Kehinde	Undergraduate ; Dept of Wildlife& Ecotourism, University of Ibadan
16	Gabriel Yager	Post-graduate ; Dept of Wildlife& Ecotourism, University of Ibadan
17	Bankole Idayat Bolanle	Undergraduate ; Dept of Wildlife& Ecotourism, University of Ibadan
18	Lawal Mbasiru Oladokun	Post-graduate ; Dept of Wildlife& Ecotourism, University of Ibadan
19	Sunday Okebiorun	Undergraduate ; Dept of Wildlife& Ecotourism, University of Ibadan
20	Akanmu Oluwaseun	Undergraduate ; Dept of Wildlife& Ecotourism, University of Ibadan
21	Omifolaji Kehinde	Conservation Officer ; Nigerian Conservation Foundation, Lekki
22	Dr. Taiye Adeniyi	Lecturer ; Dept of Wildlife& Ecotourism, University of Ibadan
23	Omotayo Modasiru	Undergraduate ; Dept of Wildlife& Ecotourism, University of Ibadan
24	Seun Oluwalemi	Undergraduate ; Dept of Wildlife& Ecotourism, University of Ibadan
25	Dr. Gbolagade Lameed	Lecturer ; Dept of Wildlife& Ecotourism, University of Ibadan
26	Tunde Ojewola	Lecturer ; Dept of Wildlife& Ecotourism, University of Ibadan
27	Emmanuel Olabode	Forest Project Supervisor ; International Institute for Tropical Agriculture
28	Deni Bown	Forest Project Manager ; International Institute for Tropical Agriculture
29	Dayo Adeniyi	PhD Candidate ; Dept of Wildlife& Ecotourism, University of Ibadan
30	Ajani Christiana	Undergraduate ; Dept of Wildlife& Ecotourism, University of Ibadan
31	Akinsola Dare	Undergraduate ; Dept of Wildlife& Ecotourism, University of Ibadan
32	Emmanuel Immaji	Undergraduate ; Dept of Wildlife& Ecotourism, University of Ibadan
33	Prof Ayodele	HoD ; Dept of Wildlife& Ecotourism, University of Ibadan
34	Umeh Charity	Undergraduate ; Dept of Wildlife& Ecotourism, University of Ibadan
35	Famuyantan Tunde	Undergraduate ; Dept of Wildlife& Ecotourism, University of Ibadan
36	Angele Ugo	Undergraduate ; Dept of Wildlife& Ecotourism, University of Ibadan
37	Temitayo Odukoya	Member ; Lekki Bird Club
38	Ayanniyi Aduragbemi	Undergraduate ; Dept of Wildlife& Ecotourism, University of Ibadan
39	Farinloye Kolawole	Undergraduate ; Dept of Wildlife& Ecotourism, University of Ibadan
40	Bunmi Jegede	Conservation Officer ; Nigerian Conservation Foundation

Appendix III: Participant Evaluation Form


Training Workshop
Participant Evaluation Form
Training Workshop of Citizen Science and Bird Conservation

Thank you for participating in this Training Workshop on "*Citizen Science and Bird Conservation in Nigeria*." We hope that you found it interesting and that we met your expectations. We would be very grateful if you could take a moment to complete this evaluation form. Your comments will assist us in improving subsequent course that we will organize. Thank you.

SCALE: 1- STRONGLY AGREE; 2 – AGREE; 3 – NEUTRAL; 4 –DISAGREE; 5 – STRONGLY DISAGREE						
Please provide feedback in the comments box						
	1	2	3	4	5	Comments
1. The workshop was informative						
2. The talk-time & birding sites were adequate						
3. The facilitator did well to elaborate on the topic						
4. I learnt some new ideas during this workshop						

5. List any three key knowledge/skills/attitude you have learned in the last few days of this workshop?

i. _____ ii. _____ iii. _____

6. What did you like most about the talk? _____

7. How likely is it that you can put the knowledge & skills learned during this training workshop into practice for the Ibadan Bird Club? (circle one)

Very likely

Likely

Somewhat likely

Not likely

8. What other areas do you think you might require additional knowledge or skill?

9. Please write any comments you may have on how this training can be improved in the future.

Thank you for completing the questionnaire

Appendix IV: Agenda for Training Workshop

Schedule of Activities	
Day 1: Lecture in UI	
1:30 – 2:00pm	Arrival & Registration
2:00 – 2:10pm	Welcome Address by HoD; W/L & Ecotourism, UI
2:10 – 2:15pm	Introductory Remarks by NCF]
2:15 – 2:35pm	Module 1: Understanding Birds [OOJ]
2:35 – 3:05pm	Module 2: Birding Tips & Techniques [AAT & OOJ]
3:05 – 3:45pm	Module 3: Why Ibadan Bird Club? [OOJ]
3:45 – 3:55pm	Announcement; Update on Workshop Activities
3:55 – 4:00pm	Closing Remarks
4:00pm	Group Photo
Day 2: Birding in Awba Dam, UI	
From 6:45am	Rendezvous at Awba Dam
7:00 – 9:30am	Birding at Awba Dam
9:30am	Group Photo
Day 3: Birding in IITA Golf Course	
From 6:30am	Rendezvous at UI Gate
6:45 – 7:00am	Transportation to IITA
7:00 – 7:15am	Arrival and Registration at IITA gate
7:20 – 10:00am	Birding at IITA Golf Course
10:00am	Group Photo

Appendix V: Flier Advert for the Training Workshop




NIGERIAN CONSERVATION FOUNDATION

TRAINING WORKSHOP ON CITIZEN SCIENCE AND BIRD CONSERVATION



This training workshop aims to transfer the knowledge needed to adequately observe and collate scientific information on birds at the amateur and/or volunteer level. This has become imperative to track trends of bird population and survival in the country using amateur and volunteer hands.




At the end of the workshop, participants must be able to;

1. Identify at least 10 local birds
2. Educate others on the need to conserve birds and their habitats
3. Collate basic information on birds

Workshop Itinerary

Day 1: Wed 5th March	Lecture Workshop	Dept. of Wildlife & Ecotourism
Day 2: Thurs 6th March	Field Session I	Birding at Ubwa Dam
Day 3: Fri 7th March	Field Session II	Birding at IITA Golf Course



Who Do We Want?	How to Register?	More Information?
<p>Our ideal participants will possess a keen interest in conservation and must be ready to challenge themselves to foster the cause of bird conservation in Ibadan.</p>	<p>Interested individuals should send an e-mail to include;</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Full name 2. Department & Institution 3. Level or Designation <p style="text-align: right;">to lbc@ncfnigeria.org</p>	<p>For more information and questions, please contact;</p> <p style="text-align: center;">lbc@ncfnigeria.org OR info@ncfnigeria.org</p>