



African Bird Club

Working for birds and conservation in Africa



<https://www.africanbirdclub.org>

Chairman's Newsletter

June 2018



Richard Charles
Chairman, ABC

chairman@africanbirdclub.org

(Photo: Creavo Medical Technologies)

We want to stay in touch!

You are receiving this newsletter a little early - so that I can legally contact every member before 25th May!

On 25th May 2018 new European data protection regulations came into effect in the United Kingdom – The General Data Protection Regulation – GDPR. ABC is not exempt from GDPR and we take very seriously the way we use your personal data and the amount of information we send to you. An updated Privacy Policy can be found on the website. While the GDPR does not inhibit most of the ways we currently use your personal data, for example to send you Bulletins, we are legally required to obtain your positive consent to provide you with information about ABC's activities, including this Chairman's Newsletter.

May I ask any member who has not yet responded to our earlier mailings to send your positive consent to ABC making any contact with you other than for the administration and fulfilment of your membership?

If you are happy that we continue to get in touch with you with information and newsletters about announcements and events for example, could you please provide **your name**, **the date**, and **your consent** to receive communications from ABC by one of these choices: **email only**, **postal mail only**, or **both email and postal mail**. Please send your consent and choice to:

email: secretary@africanbirdclub.org, or

by post: Secretary, African Bird Club, c/o BirdLife International, The David Attenborough Building, Pembroke Street, Cambridge, CB2 3QZ, United Kingdom.

If at any time you wish to unsubscribe to mailings from the African Bird Club, you can do so using the same addresses.

23rd May 2018

ABC- BirdQuest Conservation Tour

A very successful tour to São Tomé and Príncipe was held in January 2018, expertly led by Mark van Beirs, which raised £2,000 for the ABC Conservation Fund. Our thanks to Mark Beaman, owner and Managing Director and all the team at Birdquest for their collaboration and generosity .

Champions of the Flyway race 2018

Many congratulations to the *Birding Ecotours World Youth Birders* team, led by John Kinghorn, ABC's Youth Representative on Council, for winning this year's race, in a fiercely competitive contest, with a record 186 species ticked. ABC contributed to the team's sponsorship fund raising, and their overall sponsorship raised nearly £5,500 for migratory bird protection. The race was run in Israel.

More details of their exploits will be found in the next ABC Bulletin (25.2 September 2018).



John Kinghorn (second left) and the victorious Birding Ecotours team



Blackstart *Circomela melanura*



Arabian Green Bee-eater *Merops cyanophrys*

Just two of the sightings contributing to the winning total.

AGM and Members' Day 2018

A successful and enjoyable Members' Day and AGM were held on 21st April at the Natural History Museum in London. Despite a first class faculty of speakers on the programme attendance was a little down, not least due to wonderful Spring weather on the day turning minds to spending time in the garden or countryside. A full synopsis of the presentations will be given in BABC 25.2, Club News, but speakers and topics addressed were:

Ms Nanchin Winifred Kazeh: *Nigeria Bird Atlas project*

Prof. Will Cresswell: *Migrants in Africa with particular reference to Palearctic breeding species*

Dr. Gabriel Jamie: *Africa's Avian Cheats: Exploring the deceitful ways of cuckoos, honeyguides and parasitic finches.*

Prof. Martin Collinson: *CSI: African Birding*

Dr. Lynda Donaldson: *Conserving papyrus endemic birds in Uganda*

Dr. Julius Arinaitwe: *Local Conservation Groups – empowering action at grassroots*

Dr. John Caddick: *the ABC Field Guide to the Birds of Mauritius*

Four of the six presentations were, by permission, video recorded for YouTube, and can be found at:

<https://nhm.box.com/s/6voxd7bvr8fub16sn4uhnu0hjql84wc3>



Martin Collinson, Will Cresswell, Nanchin Winifred, Gabriel Jamie



Lynda Donaldson, John Caddick, Julius Arinaitwe

2018 AGM and Members' Day faculty (photographs: Nigel Birch)

Corporate Sponsors News

ABC is pleased to welcome two new Corporate Sponsors: **Madagascar Birds and Birding**, by Cactus Tours, Madagascar, as a Bronze tier member (<https://www.madagascarbirding.com>), and **iGoTerra** as a Gold tier member (www.igoterra.com).

iGoTerra provides globally unique tools and services to record, manage and share wildlife observations, lists, photos and trips. *iGoTerra* has provided access to its Africa checklists (not only birds, but all species groups) via the country species' pages of the ABC website for example <https://africanbirdclub.org/countries/Nigeria/species>. The bird checklists are based on the latest versions of IOC and Clements taxonomies and are provided to subspecies level. The checklists are continuously updated with the latest names and taxonomy. A full update of this collaboration will appear in BABC 25.2 Club News.

Donor News

We welcome two new donors: Andrew Cramb, ABC member with a special interest in West Africa, and the Neil Woodhead Memorial Fund, generously set up with a donation by Mrs. Hilary Woodhead, Neil's widow, in memory of her husband who was a founding member of the African Bird Club. The March Conservation Fund has again generously awarded US\$23,000 to the ABC Conservation Fund. Our sincere gratitude to them, and to all our generous donors.

ABC Members' Day and AGM: Saturday 13th April, 2019: Our 25th Anniversary!

The African Bird Club will celebrate its 25th anniversary in 2019. Council will be doing all in its power to ensure an exceptional programme to mark this milestone at the 2019 AGM and Members' Day, which will be held once again at the Natural History Museum, London on **Saturday April 13th 2019. PLEASE put this date in your diary now**, to celebrate the Club's birthday and, importantly, to launch our efforts on behalf of African birds during what may be, for many species, a critical 25 years ahead. Thank you

ABC at the British Birdwatching Fair, August 17th - 19th 2018, Rutland Water Nature Reserve

Please join us in Marquee 2 at the Bird Fair again this summer. Meet up with friends, members and Council, and collect your Bulletin.

This year the **ABC Lecture** will be delivered by Keith Betton, ABC Vice President, on *Africa's Best Birds: The Top 30*.

For the **Bird Brain of Britain** competition, Adam Riley, Rockjumper Birding Tours, has valiantly accepted the challenge for us - please come along and give him every support.

At the **Best Birding Days: The World Series** Keith Betton will be representing ABC in this competitive debate, pitting himself against representatives from OSME, NBC and OBC; this will take place in the Main Marquee and a large audience is expected. Please come and support Keith and ABC!

ABC on Social Media



Don't forget to keep in touch with the Club's news and views in real time!

Moderated by our General Secretary, Phil Hyde, ABC can be found on Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/AfricanBirdClub/>, Twitter <https://twitter.com/africabirdclub> and the Yahoo Africa Birding Group – sign up via our website and follow Club>African Birding Group.

CORPORATE SPONSORS

Grateful thanks, as always, to our loyal and generous Corporate Sponsors

GOLD: Avifauna Nature Tours, Birding Ecotours, iGoTerra, Rockjumper Birding

SILVER: Birding Africa, Letaka Safaris, Safari Consultants, Limosa

BRONZE: Ashanti African Tours, Birdfinders, BirdQuest, Fieldguides, Lawson's Safaris, Venture Uganda, Madagascar Birds and Birding, SafariWise, Sunbird Tours.

And Finally

Thank you for reading this Newsletter, and we hope you have enjoyed keeping in touch with your Club. If you do wish us to keep in touch, and you have not yet given your explicit consent for us to do so, please do so now. This applies to all members, including Supported Members in Africa.

If you wish to unsubscribe from receiving the Newsletter, and any other occasional contact from the Club, just let us know at the addresses given - but we hope you will stay with us!

email: secretary@africanbirdclub.org

by post: Secretary, African Bird Club, c/o BirdLife International, The David Attenborough Building, Pembroke Street, Cambridge, CB2 3QZ, United Kingdom.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Richard".

Dr Richard Charles

Chairman

African Bird Club

www.africanbirdclub.org

