



AFRICAN BIRD CLUB

Kibale Forest Schools' Program (KFSP) ABC Final Report

Money granted by the African Bird Club in 2015 supported birding activities in Wildlife Clubs in 16 primary schools located within 5km of the boundary of Kibale National Park, Uganda throughout 2016. The project was so popular that schools continued to request birding as their Wildlife Club activities in 2017 and 2018 and the positive outcomes from the ABC grant for 2016 have allowed us to incorporate funding for this activity into grants submitted to other conservation funders.

Amount awarded: £1,963

Project Goal: To train a generation of enthusiastic young rural Ugandan birders committed to the conservation of the birds of western Uganda, especially those of Kibale National Park. We made progress towards this goal through:

1. Training and Skills Transfer:
 - a) By hiring local professional bird guides and through our collaborative partnerships with KNP research programs, Kibale Association for Rural Development (KAFRED), Makerere University Biological Field Station (MUBFS), Toro Botanical Gardens (TBG) and the Uganda Wildlife Authority (UWA), who provided expert instruction, we trained school teachers, wildlife club patrons and KFSP conservation team at a one-day seminar to identify local birds, talk knowledgeably about their behavior and to help students design simple, easily implemented projects to preserve their habitat.

- b) A follow up training workshop for all 28 Wildlife Club patrons was executed in June 2016.
- c) Students and teachers were trained with information from real scientific studies through projects such as Ebird (<http://www.ebird.org>).
- d) The KFSP Community Birding Project contributed to our overall goal of educating young rural conservationists by opening up an important new area for learning and activities. KFSP teachers welcomed the program as a positive educational resource for teaching science and social studies curriculum. This project helped conservation of birds become a recognized part of the daily lessons in these schools.

2. Collaborative Planning:

All birding activities were planned with Head Teachers and Wildlife Club Patrons at biannual meetings

3. Talks and outings:

- a. After-school bird watching outings were preceded by a talk on birds, and training on the use of binoculars and the use of bird books led by an expert birder from a local Community Tourism Project
- b. Children were provided with binoculars and bird books
- c. Lesson plans for Community Birding programs and games were developed >600
Community Birder badges were distributed to student participants.

Community engagement:

- 1. Students participated in take-home worksheets where they record their observations of their local birds and bird habitat.
- 2. Reports have been submitted on the program to each participating school, the Uganda Wildlife Authority and the Kabarole District Education Authority.

Results

In 2016 and 2017 Birding has become an extremely popular and much requested activity by our Wildlife Clubs.

- 16 school wildlife clubs have engaged in 28 birding activities
- Over 745 Wildlife Club Members now have a good knowledge of common local birds, their behavior and the threats to their survival.
- ~2700 peers in P4-P7 have some knowledge of local birds, their behavior and the threats to their survival.
- 28 Wild Life Club Patron teachers have a good knowledge of common local birds, their behavior and the threats to their survival.
- 100 Other Teachers have some knowledge of local birds, their behavior and the threats to their survival.
- Over 745 Students and 28 teachers have been trained to use binoculars and field guides and are able to gather bird census data.
- Community members have an increased knowledge and understanding of the importance of bird conservation

Conservation impact.

- As students learn how to identify birds, and bird habitat and participate in censuses, as well as being able to identify threats to birds and the national park, they acquire the necessary skillset to participate in local conservation efforts and expand their experience and knowledge.
- With their new knowledge, skills and empathy toward birds, students and teachers are engaging their families and local communities and encouraging decisions and actions that are more conservation-minded.
- We predict that as teachers, students and their families learn about their local birds they will be more supportive of programs that protect birds both in KNP and outside it.
- The project was so popular that schools continued to request birding as their Wildlife Club activities in 2017 and 2018 and the positive outcomes from the ABC grant for 2016 have allowed us to incorporate funding for this activity into grants submitted to other conservation funders.

Budget Accounting in £s for 2016

ITEM	AMOUNT GRANTED	AMOUNT SPENT	BALANCE
<u>Salaries</u>	830	830	0
<u>Transport</u>	311	345	-34
<u>Supplies</u>			
Telephones and airtime	107	210	-103
Binoculars	333	357	-24
Stationary, photocopying and laminating	312	325	-13
Field Guides and Posters	120	210	-120
Total	£1,983	£2277	£-294



Photo 1: Staff from the Uganda Wildlife Authority joined KFSP staff at Kyakatara Primary School for a birding evening.



Photo 2: Students from Rweteera Primary School doing a bird counting exercise in their school field.



Photo 3: Students from Rweteera Primary School using a telescope to spot birds.



Photo 4: Students from Kasiisi Primary School using field guides to identify birds they had spotted.