

Nigeria: Phil Hall

Status of Conservation Projects

In conjunction with APLORI, ABC is now directly involved in conservation projects across the country. These are Amurum, Jos; Yankari Game Reserve; Hadejia-Nguru Wetlands; Becheve Nature Reserve; Afi Forest Reserve; IITA Ibadan. At all of these sites, the bird populations are monitored on a regular basis. There is concern in Yankari about the increased poaching pressures in Yankari and in Afi Forest Reserve about the extent of both illegal hunting and logging. The general insecurity currently prevailing in northern Nigeria has prevented any visits to the Hadejia-Nguru wetlands for the past 6 months.

Conservation Concerns

Apart from the pressures on all protected areas by the burgeoning population in Nigeria, there are major concerns about the decline in the populations of all large bird species in Nigeria. The most obvious example is the complete extirpation of all the large species of vulture in the country and even the once abundant Hooded Vulture is now restricted to isolated pockets. All the larger species of vulture appear to have suffered a similar fate and other species such as Marabous and Wood Ibis are now very rarely encountered. Crowned Cranes, the national bird of Nigeria, are now only found in one small part of the Chad Basin National Park. There also seems to have been a noticeable decline in many birds of prey species with Martial Eagles in particular now hardly ever recorded.

Significant Bird Sightings / Discoveries

There were no particularly significant bird sightings or discoveries during the year.

New Contacts with other Bird Clubs

No new contacts were made with any other bird clubs. However, we maintain strong contacts with the Lekki Bird Club which is coordinated by the Nigerian Conservation Foundation. Also, everybody who graduates from APLORI is automatically made a new member of ABC and so there were 8 new members who passed out in 2011.

Promotional Activity for ABC (e.g. talks)

There were no specific promotional activities for ABC although there are regular talks on conservation issues at APLORI and also periodic field trips for students and lecturers.

Other Concerns or Issues

The insecurity in the north of the country led to a change of venue for this year's PAOC from Jos to Arusha. This was a tragedy for APLORI as it would have given excellent and well deserved publicity for the Institute.