

nature net

The Nature Kenya Newsletter

www.naturekenya.org

February 07

Arboretum celebrates 100 years



Youth Committee organised activities

*Camp at
Elementata
Fri 23 - Sun 25
February '07*

Birdwatch, visit Kariandusi Prehistoric site and nearby hot springs. Cost is Ksh. 1600 inclusive of transport, food, camping and guiding fees. Book at Nature Kenya by 16th Feb. '07. Bring tent, sleeping bag, walking shoes, water bottle & warm clothing

Nairobi River Basin



Talk by Achim Steiner -
UNEP Executive Director

Thu 22 Feb. '07

at the Forester's House,
Nairobi Arboretum 5:00 p.m.
- ksh 100/-

Wind in the Trees
musical performances by schools

Sat 24 Feb. '07

at the Nairobi Arboretum
2:00 - 5:00 pm - Free entry

Cape Town Opera
A Kijani Trust Musical Event

Sun 25 Feb. '07

at the Nairobi Arboretum at 5:00 p.m.
adults ksh 3000/- children ksh 500/-

*Western Kenya
Fri 6 - Mon 9 Mar. '07*

Visit Saiwa Swamp National Park, Kitale and Kapenguria Museums and the Kitale Sanctuary. Cost is 5000 Ksh per person - more details will be in the March issue of Nature net

library



located at the Natural Sciences Building, National Museums of Kenya, Nairobi (next to the Langi Langi cafeteria) INTERNET AVAILABLE

Now available at the library!

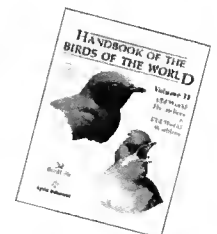
- The 22 volume set of **World Book Encyclopedias** kindly donated by the US Library of Congress and the US Embassy

- Handbook of the Birds of the World Volume 11

55 colour plates, 343 colour photographs, 733 distribution maps.

Contents: Order PASSERIFORMES

- Family Muscicapidae (Old World Flycatchers)
- Family Platysteiridae (Batises & Wattle-eyes)
- Family Rhipiduridae (Fantails)
- Family Monarchidae (Monarch-flycatchers)
- Family Regulidae (Kinglets & Firecrests)
- Family Polioptilidae (Gnatcatchers)
- Family Cisticolidae (Cisticolas & allies)
- Family Sylviidae (Old World Warblers)



FEBRUARY AT A GLIMPSE

- Sat 10 Tree Walk
 - Sun 18 Sunday Birdwalk
 - Thu 22 Achim Steiner on Nairobi River Basin
 - Sat 24 Wind in the Trees
 - Sun 25 Cape Town Opera
 - Mon 26 Tree Walk
- Birdwalks every Wednesday Morning
Bird ringing every Thursday morning

Editorial Team

- Editor Catherine Ngarachu
- Evening Skies Fleur Ng'weno
- Naturalist's Corner Dino Martins
- Action Serah Munguti

action



African Grey Parrot a threatened species (BirdLife/CCF)

WILD BIRD TRADE banned by EU

Conservationists applaud the European Union decision to ban permanently wild bird trade

The EU Commission has announced that the ban on imports of birds caught in the wild is to be made permanent throughout the European Union later this year.

The move comes after a temporary ban was imposed within the EU in October 2005, after birds in a UK quarantine centre were found to have avian influenza.

"We fully applaud the decision made by the EU Standing Committee on the Food Chain and Animal Health," said Dr Claire Papazoglou, Head of European Division at BirdLife International. "Banning the imports of birds caught in the wild is great news for bird conservation, even though the ruling has been made to limit the spread of disease, and not to conserve species. Only if laws are made on the basis of conservation can we have more confidence in protecting those species that are threatened by trade."

The ban is to take effect from the 1 July 2007.

The EU's decision will heavily impact the illegal or unsustainable trade in wild birds that has decimated many species across the world.

Trapping for the bird trade is a threat for one in ten Globally Threatened Birds, and 57% of threatened parrot species. Some are close to extinction, such as the Yellow-crested Cockatoo *Cacatua sulphurea* of East Timor and Indonesia; others are already Extinct in the Wild such as the Spix's Macaw *Cyanopsitta spixii* of Brazil. Further examples of species threatened by exploitation for the bird trade include the Red Siskin *Carduelis cucullata* in northern South America, Java Sparrow *Padda oryzivora* of Indonesia and the African Grey Parrot *Psittacus erithacus*.

BirdLife Partners across Europe and Africa have been campaigning against trade in wild birds for up to 20 years.

Visit www.birdlife.org for updates



Nature Kenya's Executive Director, Paul Matiku, & the Forestry Dept. Chief Conservator of Forests, DK Mbugua, launch the latest Important Bird Areas Status Report which is now available at www.naturekenya.org

H5N1 Update

Newcastle disease in domestic and wild birds

In September '06, widespread deaths of doves were reported in various parts of the country, including Olorgesailie, Magadi and North Eastern. All birds tested negative for bird flu. The cause of death for those doves collected from Magadi and Olorgesailie is confirmed to be Newcastle disease (this was also true for the dead birds from North Eastern as reported in the Dec06/Jon07 issue of *Nature net*). Newcastle disease is a highly contagious, common viral disease of domestic poultry and wild birds.

Surveillance work for avian flu in Kenya continues. To report unusual die-offs in wild or domestic birds call this hotline: 0722 726682

AIWEb - The Avian Influenza, Wildlife and the Environment Web - new web site launched

The AEWA Secretariat together with its mother Convention on Migratory Species (CMS) has recently unveiled AIWEb - The Avian Influenza, Wildlife and the Environment Web (www.oieweb.info). AIWEb is a web-based platform for information exchange and communication on current and emerging topics relating to avian influenza, the environment and migratory birds.

request newsletter by email?

It would be a PDF of below 1 MB. Please confirm this preference by sending a note and your current email to office@naturekenya.org. Due to spam filters yahoo, hotmail and other such address will not normally deliver emails sent in bulk, so please do not give email addresses with these extensions. Thank you.

DOWNGRADING AMBOSELI NATIONAL PARK

Nature Kenya goes to court

Since November 2005, the Amboseli case at the High Court has been severally mentioned or adjourned.

A full hearing for the Amboseli case has now been scheduled for 14 March 2007 at the High Court.

Funding Opportunity Natural Environment Research Council

Forestry-based climate mitigation project

Proposals are invited for research projects to examine and test the principles for forestry-based climate mitigation projects that will identify verification methods, design principles and guidelines intended to maximise benefits for climate, social welfare, the environment and biodiversity.

For further information: www.nerc.ac.uk/research/programmes/quest/events/ao070130-forestry.asp

Sustainable Forestry and Bioenergy

Proposals are invited for research projects to quantify the worldwide potential of different plant-based options to mitigate climate change, accounting for their environmental, biodiversity, economic and social consequences; a primary objective will be to provide information to decision makers involved in international climate policy negotiations.

For further information: www.nerc.ac.uk/research/programmes/quest/events/ao070130-bioenergy.asp

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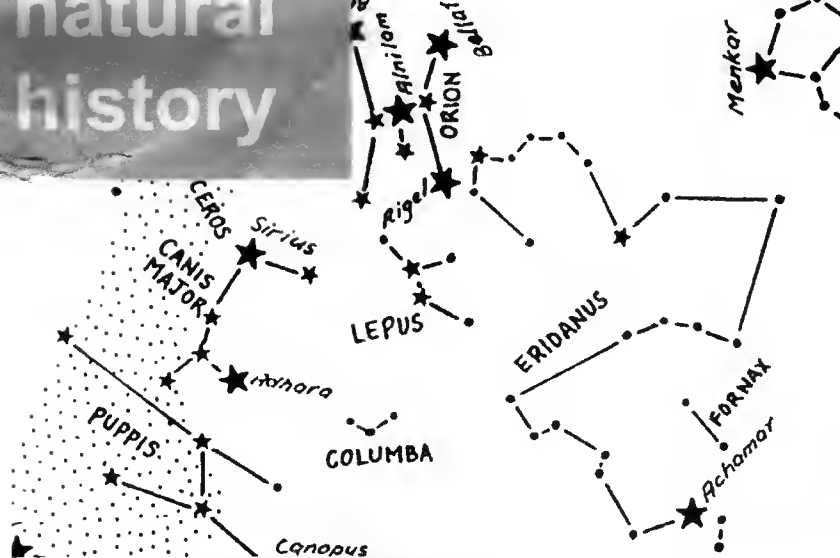
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Request an authorizing form from Nature Kenya

Society offices at the Museum

You will find Nature Kenya offices at the Ford Hall and at a prefabricated building. The prefab building is located enroute to the Snake Park and is the office for the Nature Kenya membership shop and subscription desk.

Reach over 1000 members by advertising in Nature Net Rates for Classifieds: • Up to 25 words 250/- • Up to 50 words 500/- Ads • @ 1750/- • with image +500/-



EVENING SKY

Ian Mackay & Fleur Ng'weno

Moon, February 2007

Full moon = Feb 2nd; Last quarter = Feb 10th;
New moon = Feb 17th; First quarter = Feb 24th

February Stars

Orion, the Hunter or Warrior of old Greek myths, travels across the February evening sky. Pick out this distinctive constellation by the three bright stars in a row in the middle. To the ancient Greeks, this was Orion's belt. His sword - three fainter stars in a row - hangs from his belt. Four bright stars represent Orion's shoulders and knees. Rigel, blue-green in colour, is one knee, kicking into the sky; and one shoulder, lowest in the east, is formed by orange Betelgeuse.

The constellations of two hunting dogs follow Orion in the sky. The dog star, Sirius, in the southeast, is the brightest star that we can see at night. The constellation of Lepus, the Hare, runs ahead of Orion and Sirius in the south. And Canopus, the second brightest star, is south of Sirius, lower in the sky.

Near blue-green Rigel, a long line of medium-bright stars winds towards the south. This is the constellation Eridanus, the Great River of stars. It is best seen later in the month, when the sky is quite dark.

Planets, February 2007

Venus and Saturn are brilliant lights at opposite ends of the sky in the evenings this month. Venus has reappeared over the sunset in the west.

Across the sky, Saturn is rising on the eastern horizon. It appears a little below and to the right of the full moon on February 2nd.

The Earth will pass between Saturn and the sun on February 10th. This means that Saturn is closer to us and brighter than usual this month. With binoculars or a telescope we may be able to see the rings of Saturn!

A prominent star near Saturn is Regulus; this is the brightest star in the constellation of Leo the Lion. Sparkling-white Regulus is bright, but Saturn is brighter. Like all planets, Saturn shines with a steadier light than the twinkling stars. Each night Saturn and Regulus will be seen higher above the horizon. Saturn will remain in front of Leo's stars throughout 2007.

Tiny Mercury is directly below Venus. It remains high enough for viewing during early evenings of the first half of February 2007. In the morning sky, Jupiter rises at about 2am, followed by Mars at about 5am on the 1st of February.

Mercury, Venus, Earth, Mars, Jupiter and Saturn are the visible planets. Other planets circling the sun, but too far to see with the naked eye, include Uranus, Neptune ... and Pluto? Last year saw a review of the status of Pluto, after some amazing discoveries of other objects ever further away in our solar system. One of these objects is three times bigger than Pluto! Now Pluto has been downgraded, and is considered to be a 'Dwarf Planet'.

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For more Chris Madden cartoons buy his book "The Beast that ate the Earth" from his website www.chrismadden.org

Up & about

DECLARATION

Nature Kenya does not accept any responsibility whatsoever in respect of negligence of any of its staff, volunteers or members organising the outings/trips or for any loss, injury, death or damage to property.

WEDNESDAY MORNING BIRDWALKS

Bird watching walks at sites in and around Nairobi. Meet at the National Museum car park near Longi Longi cafe, every Wednesday at 8:45 a.m. Return about 12:30 p.m. Those who are not members can get temporary membership at Ksh 100 per birdwalk, payable on arrival at the car park.

TREE WALKS

Guided tree walks in the Arboretum on the second Saturday and last Monday, i.e. 10 and 26 Feb 07 from 9:30 a.m. Meet at the Arboretum gate. Those who are not members of FONA or Nature Kenya pay Ksh 100/- fee on arrival at the gate.

SUNDAY BIRDWATCH

Members meet at the National Museum, Nairobi car park near Longi Longi cafe at 9:00 a.m. the third Sunday of every month, i.e. 18 Feb '07. The members decide where to go. Bring lunch

BIRD RINGING

Meet at the Museums' M'ningi Botanic Garden, at 7:00 a.m. every Thursday.

SAMAKI DAYS

Guided fish excursions on the first Thursday, i.e. 1 Feb. '07 from 9:00 a.m - 12:30 p.m. Meet at the Nairobi Museum car park. Pay Ksh 50/- per person on arrival



KINANGOP GUEST HOUSE

Perched on the Kinangop Plateau with incredible views across the Rift Valley, the form combines tussock-grass pasture, indigenous forest, and attractive gardens. The guesthouse is comfortable and fully furnished. Visitors can enjoy hikes and walks on the form or go further afield with local guides.

For more information, brochure and non-member rates please contact Nature Kenya. Guest House rates: Day visit 350/-
MEMBER nos Overnight Weekend
1 to 2 pax 4000/- 6500/-
3 pax 4,900/- 7,400/-
4 pax 5,800/- 8,300/-

20% OFF ACCOMMODATION AT THE DRIFTWOOD

On presentation of your membership card, you can get this discount off accommodation (if paying by cash or cheque) of the Driftwood Beachclub. This is a charming beachfront property with great food and service. Contact: <gm@driftwoodclub.com or tel 042 20155

Ngong Road Forest Walks

Ngong Road Forest Sanctuary Trust nature walks held the first and third Saturdays of the month i.e. 3 & 17 Feb. '07, at 9:00 a.m. Meet at the stairs leading to the Restaurant at the Racecourse. Call Ignatius to confirm on 3875207 or 0720 976299.

Lake Victoria Sunset Birders (Kisumu)

The Lake Victoria Sunset Birders organise bird walks at sites in and around Kisumu every Friday of the month. For further details call 057 42952 or 0734 994938 or email lakevictoriasunsetbirders@yahoo.co.uk

Mt Kenya Biodiversity Conservation Group (MKBCG)

The MKBCG organise bird walks to sites around Noro Moru every last Saturday of the month i.e. 24 Feb. '07. For more information contact 0722 364904, 0733 937115 or 062 62071 Email: mt_kebio@yahoo.co.uk

Birding at Kinangop

Friends of Kinangop Plateau organise birdwalks every third Friday of the month i.e. 16 Feb. '07 at 9:00 a.m. around Mogumu and Njombini areas. To participate contact Bokori Ng'ong'o on 0721 470215

MARURA NAROK BIRDWATCHERS

A community group near Uoso Norok Swamp, Rumuruti, which organises birdwalks every last Saturday i.e. 24 Feb. '07. Call 062 32718 or email olmaisor@africaonline.co.ke

ARABUKO-SOKOKE (COAST)

The Saturday birdwatch with the Arabuko Sokoke Forest Guides Association is on the first Saturday of each month i.e. 3 Feb. '07, at 6:30 a.m. from the Visitor Centre, Gede. Cost 100/- per person. KWS fees now apply (100/- Citizens, 500/- Residents)

FFJ Bird Walk (Coast)

Friends of Fort Jesus birdwalks are held the third Saturday of each month, i.e. 17 Feb. '07. Please call Marlene Reid on 2491648 or 0720 949195 to confirm

Nature Kenya

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(OPTIONAL - but useful to us in planning)

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Country of Origin _____

Would you like us to share your contacts Yes/ NO



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Institutional (Libraries, schools, clubs)	1000	
Corporate	10000	
Corporate Plus	20000	

ADDITIONAL SUBSCRIPTIONS

Kenya Birds (tick to receive this free Bird magazine)

Journal of E.A. Natural History 1000

Scopus (Ornithological Journal) 500

World Birdwatch

(the BirdLife International magazine) 1500

Succulenta East Africa 400

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Single - 400/-, Student - 250/-, School or Club - 800/-

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