

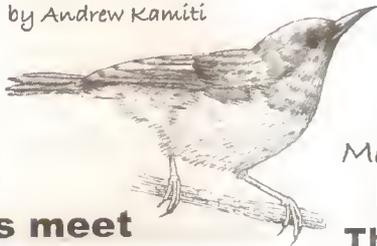


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BirdLife International meetings in Nairobi

Amani Sunbird
by Andrew Kamiti



BirdLife Councils meet in Nairobi
Mon 15 - Fri 19 October
at Safari Park Hotel

Nature Kenya will host the BirdLife Global Council and the Council for the Africa Partnership (CAP) meeting in October.

A major objective this year is developing the BirdLife Africa Programme 2009 - 2012. The Africa Species, the Policy and Advocacy and the Fundraising Working Groups of the Africa Programme, will also be discussing their work.

Thank you!

Thank you to our new Corporate members Olonana camp for their very valuable support

OCTOBER AT A GLIMPSE

THU 11	DR. LEON BENNUN
SAT 13	TREE WALK
MON 15 - FRI 19	GLOBAL AND CAP MEETINGS
SUN 21	SUNDAY BIRDWALK
SAT 27 - 28	BANTU LODGE TRIP
MON 29	TREE WALK
BIRDWALKS EVERY WEDNESDAY MORNING	
BIRD RINGING EVERY THURSDAY MORNING	

Editorial Team

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

Talk

Bird Indicators for
Monitoring Biodiversity
Dr. Leon Bennun
Thur. 11 Oct. 2.30 p.m.

Dr. Bennun, Director of Science, Policy and Information at the BirdLife International Secretariat, (former Chairman of the East Africa Natural History Society), will be in Kenya to attend the Global Council meeting.

Don't miss this opportunity to learn about BirdLife's work!

Talk at the Invertebrate Zoology Lab., in the Natural Sciences Bldg. Nairobi Museum an Ornithology Section seminar

New birdwalks for students

Due to the popular demand for birdwalks by students, Nature Kenya will be starting a new student birdwalk, in October '07. It is envisioned that this new walk will

take place on a morning different from the Wednesday Morning Birdwalk and will be led by professional guides. Transport will be availed for which students will make a contribution.

In the field

Trip to Bantu Lodge
Sat 27 - Sun 28 October

Located 7 kms from Naro Moru town, this is good opportunity to visit the lower western slopes of Mount Kenya.

Cost: Kshs, 3, 500 p.p. sharing includes accommodation and meals. For transport we will rely on the kind offers of members to give rides, for which a contribution will be expected.

Carry: Walking shoes, picnic lunch (for 27th Lunch), and drinking water. Register at the Nature Kenya Membership desk by Friday 12 October, 2007.

Arabuko Sokoke Forest Excursion
by Kenya Herpetofauna Working Group (KHWG)
Fri. 9 - Sun. 11 November

Charges Ksh 4,000 p.p. (+ registration fee Ksh. 100) Activities will include a specialist talk on amphibian/reptiles identification and field observation techniques.

Those interested to register by 31st October at Nature Kenya Office Carry your own camping gear Don't miss this exciting trip! For more details contact: Beryl Bwong bebwong@yahoo.com or on 374261-4 ext 244/5



Bird Fair
Tues. 16 Oct. 5.00 p.m.

Kindly sponsored by Safaricom, the Bird Fair will take place on the evening of Tues. 16 October. It aims to further the understanding of birds and birding in the tourism sector. Invitations to attend will go to tour operators or travel agents. If you are an interested agent please write to office@naturekenya.org for an invitation.




BirdLife Partner
INTERNATIONAL

Highly toxic insecticide Furadan

It has been alleged that the insecticide and nematicide Furadan (also known as carbofuran), widely used in Kenya, is responsible for wildlife mortalities.

Furadan is commonly used on rice, bananas, beans (dry), pyrethrum, vegetables, pineapples, maize and coffee. First brought on to the market in 1965 Furadan has two forms: granular and flowable (liquid).

Quick Facts:

- Chemical name: 2,3-Dihydro-2,2-dimethyl-7-benzofuranol methylcarbamate
- Trade names: Furadan, Curater, Bay 70143, Furacarb, Rampart
- Pesticide type: insecticide
- Class: carbamate
- Mechanism of action: cholinesterase inhibitor
- Major routes of exposure: carbofuran is highly toxic through ingestion and inhalation but only moderately toxic by dermal absorption.

US Fish and Wildlife biologists have stated, "there are no known circumstances under which carbofuran can be used without killing birds."

U.S. Regulatory status and use: Carbofuran is a restricted use pesticide. According to the US Ecological Incident Investigation System, carbofuran has been responsible for more avian deaths than any other pesticide.

Environmental Effects

- Persistence: carbofuran is moderately persistent in soils, with a half-life from 30 to 120 days, depending on conditions. In soil, carbofuran is degraded by chemical hydrolysis and biodegradation. Carbofuran is soluble in water and is highly mobile in soils. Carbofuran has a high potential for groundwater contamination, and has been detected in aquifers and surface waters.
- Bioaccumulation: carbofuran does not accumulate in animal tissue.

Ecotoxicity

- Carbofuran is highly toxic to fish. (The LC50 for bluegill sunfish is 0.24mg/L.)
- Carbofuran is highly toxic to birds. Carbofuran has been documented in hundreds of avian mortality events sometimes involving large numbers of birds in each incident. Birds are susceptible to carbofuran from direct spraying, ingestion of granules or contaminated drinking water and from the consumption of contaminated prey. One granule of carbofuran is enough to kill a small songbird.

Currently, Furadan is being used by farmers to poison 'pests' such as mice and mousebirds, and it has been implicated in the poisoning of waterfowl, owls, vultures and even large predatory mammals. The Nature Kenya Bird Committee is working at involving the necessary agencies towards regulating the pesticide.

Working with Law Courts to Conserve the Hinde's Babbler

A tree planting initiative of the Mukurweini Environmental Volunteers, a Site Support Group (SSG) working with Nature Kenya, has taken a rare twist. In 2005, the Probation Officer in the Mukurweini Law Courts approached the SSG, seeking the group's help in rehabilitating people sentenced to community service due to petty crimes, especially for being drunk and disorderly.

Since then the SSG has been using demonstration plots within the Mukurweini Law Courts compound to teach the offenders on seedbed preparation, raising and transplanting seedlings. To date, the group has worked with more than 1000 offenders, and more than 3000 seedlings have been planted in the Law Courts, dispensaries, schools and other public places.

Riding on this unique opportunity, the SSG creates awareness on the conservation of the Hinde's Babbler to the provincial administration, schools, the local community and offenders.

Position of PROJECT MANAGER - Local Ocean Trust, Watamu

Vacancy

Local Ocean Trust's mission is to conserve the biodiversity of Kenya's marine environment, encouraging wise sustainable use of marine resources for the benefit of and in co-operation with Kenya's communities. See www.watamuturtles.com for more information about LOT's work.

LOT is seeking a committed project manager to manage its challenging marine conservation programmes:

Major duties and responsibilities include to:

- Hold overall technical and financial responsibility for the project, in particular fundraising and workplan development
- Develop and manage programmes
- Develop new project programmes
- Liaise with and represent the project to Government and NGO partners at national and provincial levels

- Develop (and subsequently manage) Cooperation Agreements between LOT and Government agencies as the need arises

Minimum qualifications and experience:

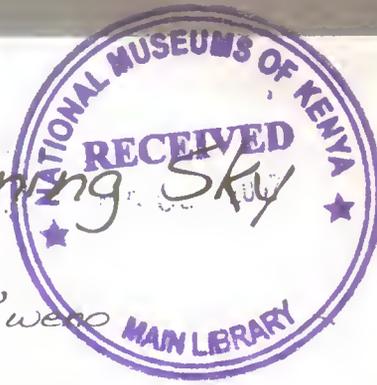
- University degree (preferably at Masters level or equivalent) in a relevant discipline
- At least 3 years practical experience in managing conservation or NRM programmes or projects
- Experience in sea turtle conservation
- Experience of working and negotiating with Government officials
- Supervisory experience, with good interpersonal, communication and diplomatic skills with the ability to manage and interact at all levels of an international, multicultural and multilingual organization
- Successful fund-raising experience
- Experience of working in developing countries
- Clean driving license

Please send covering letter and CV to Richard Zanre at rzanre@yahoo.co.uk
Closing date 31st October 2007
Apologies but only short listed candidates will receive reply.



LOCAL OCEAN Trust

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Remember Nature Kenya in your long term planning or in your will and help sites and species for generations to come.



The Evening Sky October 2007

Ian Mackay and Fleur Ng'weno

Moon phases, October 2007

3rd - Last quarter; 11th - New moon;
19th - First quarter; 26th - Full moon

Planets, October 2007

Jupiter is a very bright light in the southwest. On October 16 it is just north of the moon. Little Mercury is visible over the sunset in the first half of October. Reddish-orange Mars now rises around midnight in the east; Mars is close to the moon on October 3 and 30.

Venus is a brilliant light above the dawn. The early morning of October 4 finds the planets Venus and Saturn and the bright star Regulus rising as a tight 3 degree group. This grouping changes slowly but is still apparent come the 7th when the moon is also nearby. Venus and Saturn continue to grow closer until conjunction on the 15th.

The planets circle the sun as does our Earth. To us on Earth, the planets are bright lights similar to the stars, but they do not sparkle like stars. The planets only reflect the sun's light. They seem bright because they are so much nearer to the Earth. And because they are nearer, we can sometimes watch them move from night to night.

October Stars

Bright stars on October evenings include Vega, halfway up the sky in the northwest; and Altair, just west of overhead. Two smaller stars seem to escort Altair in the sky. Further west, the constellations of Scorpius and Sagittarius are dipping towards the western horizon.

To the south, the bright star Fomalhaut is almost overhead Fomalhaut is part of the constellation Piscis austrinus, the Southern Fish. Below it is the bright star Al Nair, in the constellation Grus, the Crane. Still further south, the very bright star Achernar is rising in the southeast. Trailing behind it is a line of stars forming the constellation Eridanus, the "River of the South".

During the night, the stars seem to move across the sky from east to west. In fact, it is our Earth that spins towards the east, passing along the tapestry of stars. The stars also seem to move from east to west over the year, as the Earth circles around the sun.

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CONTACT INFORMATION REQUESTED for Dr James S. Sakwa:

Prof Paulette Bloomer (Dept of Genetics, University of Pretoria, RSA) is urgently looking for Dr Jim Sakwa, an ex-PhD student from her group. He studied at UP from 1998-2002. Please contact:

Paulette.Bloomer@up.ac.za

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book "The Beast that ate the Earth"
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Opportunities BCI Student Research Scholarships for 2008

Most of the more than 1,100 species of bats have been scarcely studied. Their ecosystem roles, economic values and conservation needs remain largely unknown, greatly impeding conservation efforts.

Each year, BCI awards 10 to 15 scholarships. Most awards are for \$2,500, but some may be as high as \$5,000.

Projects should be focused on the roles bats play in providing ecosystem services (such as pollination, seed dispersal, pest control or maintenance of biodiversity) and/or on habitat requirements that are critical to conservation.

These scholarships are competitive and research proposals will be evaluated by a distinguished international panel of peer reviewers. The deadline for applications is December 15, 2007.

For more information or to apply, visit Bat Conservation International's website at: www.batcon.org/bcigrants/scholarintro.asp or contact Bob Locke at grants@batcon.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.

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For more information, brochure and non-member rates please contact Nature Kenya.

Guest House rates: Day visit 350/-

MEMBER nos	Overnight	Weekend
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4 pax	5,800/-	8,300/-

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BIRDWALKS

WEDNESDAY MORNING BIRDWALKS

Bird watching walks at sites in and around Nairobi. Meet at the National Museum car park near Langi Langi 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.

SUNDAY BIRDWATCH

Members meet at the National Museum, Nairobi car park near Langi Langi cafe at 9:00 a.m. the third Sunday of every month, i.e. 21 Oct. '07. The members decide where to go. Bring lunch

KINANGOP BIRDING

Friends of Kinangop Plateau organise birdwalks every third Friday of the month i.e. 19 Oct. '07 at 9:00 a.m around Magumu and Njambini areas. To participate contact Bakari Ng'ang'a on 0721 470215

FFJ BIRDWALK (Coast)

Friends of Fort Jesus birdwalks are held the third Saturday of each month, i.e. 20 Oct. '07. Please call Marlene Reid on 2491648 or 0720 949195 to confirm

ARABUKO-SOKOKE (Coast)

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

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 Naro Moru every last Saturday of the month i.e. 27 Oct. '07.

For more information contact 0722 364904, 0733 937115 or 062 62071 Email: mt_kebio@yahoo.co.uk

MARURA NAROK BIRDWATCHERS

A community group near Uaso Narok Swamp, Rumuruti, which organises birdwalks every last Saturday i.e. 27 Oct. '07. Call 062 32718 or email olmaisor@africaonline.co.ke

TREE WALKS

Guided tree walks in the Arboretum on the second Saturday and last Monday, i.e. 13 and 29 Oct 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.

BIRD RINGING

Meet at the Museums' Nairobi Botanic Garden, at 7:00 a.m. every Thursday. Confirm with the Ornithology Section, Nairobi Museum

NGONG ROAD FOREST WALKS

Ngong Road Forest Sanctuary Trust nature walks held the first and third Saturdays of the month i.e. 6 & 20 Oct '07, at 9:00 a.m. Meet at the stairs leading to the Restaurant at the Racecourse. Call Simon to confirm on 3875207 or 0729 840715.

SAMAKI DAYS

Guided fish excursions on the first Thursday, i.e. 4 Oct '07 from 9:00 a.m - 12:30 p.m. Meet at the Nairobi Museum car park. Pay Ksh 50/- per person on arrival

Yes! Start my Nature Kenya membership

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