

ARDB UPDATE 1: FEBRUARY 2013

Hi All,

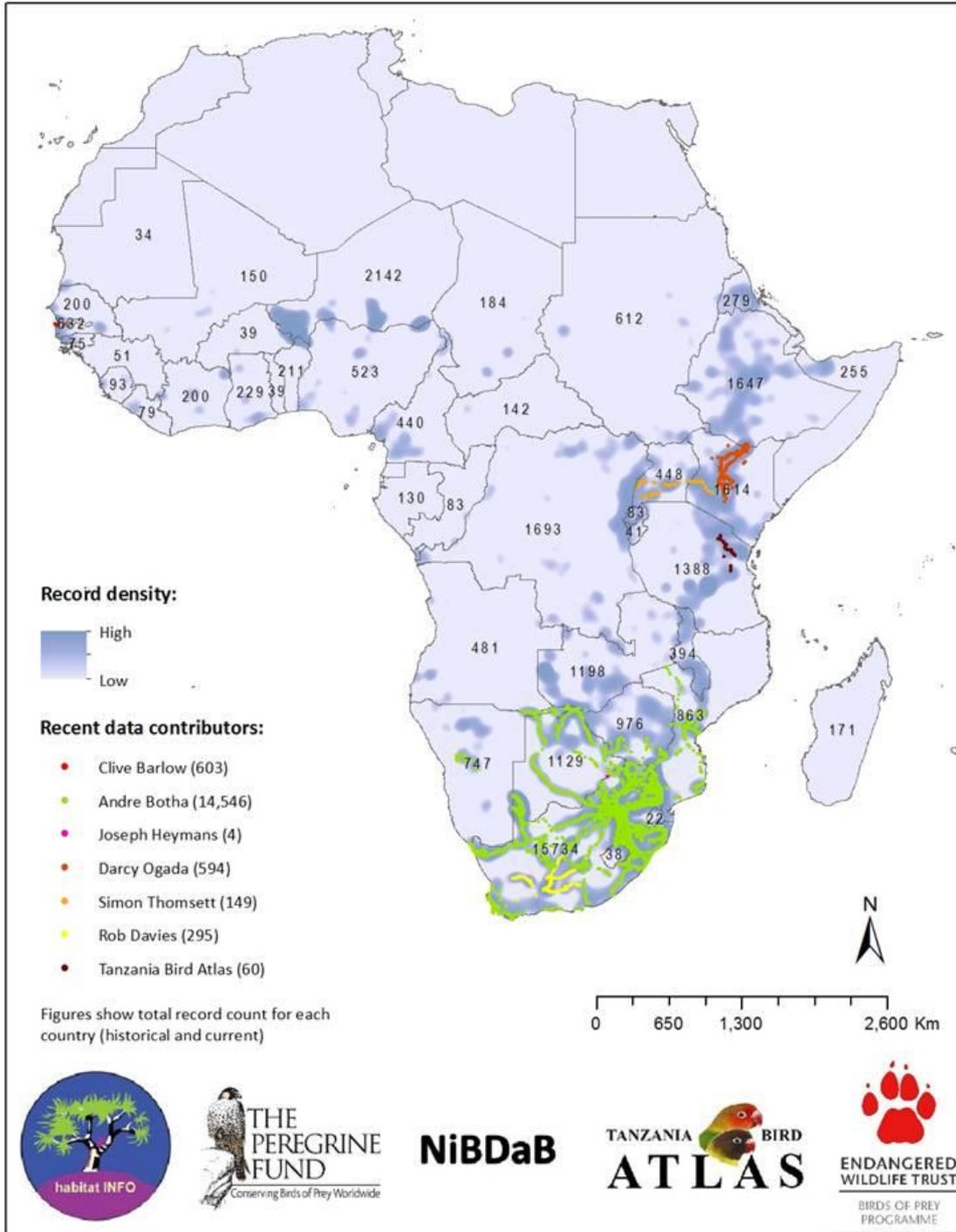
This is the first monthly status report of the African raptor databank project.

Thanks mainly to our two interns at Habitat Info, Sarah Wigley and Morgan Commins, it has been a very productive first month. Morgan managed to extract mountain slopes and a proxy dataset representing cliffs across the entire Africa region using the Shuttle radar dataset. Sarah has been very busy loading all new observations on African raptors that are arriving all of a sudden! The database already stands at over 36,000 records (including 15607 historical records from the Snow Atlas) and theoretically we could already run habitat models for 104 of the African species. Sarah has produced the following graphic and report to document the record sources; and Tim Wroblewski, GIS Analyst at Habitat Info, has done a lot of work on the project page and has updated a web map of the current records (vultures and nest records excluded) to this link, where all details on the project may be found: www.habitatinfo.com/ardb - the web map shows the road routes we have digitised in order to plot record locations from odometer records so you can zoom in to see if any of your regular routes have been captured. We have limited the field attributes on this web map to protect the data in public view. Please register in order to view full data and make use of the live recording apps. The shades of colour on this map indicate record density (within a radius of 100km), the blue spaces reveal areas with little or no data. If you operate in one of these blue areas the ARDB needs your records, especially for North Africa. If you live in orange areas the project still needs your records!!

Rob

February 2013 status

Recent contributions



ARDB status February 2013:

Dear all,

The first month of the ARDB project has been very busy - we've been delighted with the response that we've had so far from various data contributors. Here's a quick description of the most recent additions to the database (all datasets are shown in a table at the end of this email).

Data Arrivals Summary:

Source	No. of records	Description
Andre Botha	14,651	2008-2009, by road, southern Africa
Clive Barlow	314	2007-2012, fixed point, Gambia
Rob Davies	295	1986-1987, by road, Karoo, South Africa
Clive Barlow	289	2010-2013, by foot, Gambia
Darcy Ogada	203	2011, by road, southern Kenya
Darcy Ogada	195	2010, by road, southern Kenya
Darcy Ogada	162	2011, by road, northern Kenya
Simon Thomsett	149	2011, by road, Uganda
Tanzania Bird Atlas	66	2013, by road, Tanzania
Darcy Ogada	34	2010, by road, northern Kenya
Joseph Heymans	4	February 2013, by foot, Northern Province, S Africa

For Simon and Rob's road data we used the start and finish details, as well as road network data to digitise each of the routes taken and were then able to position the observations using the odometer readings. This technique allows one to map an accurate distribution of records along a route, without having to take any GPS coordinates. We have published the route information that we have to date on the web map to show these and invite anyone who does regular road counts to send in details of these routes for digitising and data entry. Please be sure to include the route name written in full (e.g. "Beaufort West to Victoria West") when submitting road count data. The distance away from the road ("offset") can also be plotted for each observation – please provide a minus symbol for those to the right side of the road or some other indication of which side.

The value of your data to us increases significantly if we have details on observer effort such as distance travelled along a road or walking route or time spent in the field for fixed point counts. So please try to send in these details as well as the observations. This will allow us to compare results across regions and time periods. We will post sample spreadsheets on the website to help with this.

We have had a lot of data coming in as spreadsheets which is great but it does require processing time here in the office which is not always available. Please if you can, try out the live recording apps because these data have a direct route into the ARDB.

So, some exciting developments but lots more work to be done. We are being joined by Seren Waters for a few weeks in the summer, who will also be helping out with the project. Once again,

we are very grateful for all the data and support that we have received from you all over the last month and beyond.

Sarah Wigley

c/o Habitat Info

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all datasets in the ARDB:

Source	No.	Description
Rob Davies	280	2002, by road, Zambia
Snow Atlas	15,607	< 1976, museum specimens, sub-Saharan Africa
Tanzania Bird Atlas	619	1967-2012, atlassing, Tanzania
Niger Bird Database	2223	1990-2006, atlassing, Niger
Simon Thomsett	220	2009, by road, Trans-Africa raptor road count
Simon Thomsett & Laila Bahaa-el Din	381	2009, by road, Trans-Africa raptor road count
Darcy Ogada	34	2010, by road, northern Kenya
Darcy Ogada	195	2010, by road, southern Kenya
Darcy Ogada	162	2011, by road, northern Kenya
Darcy Ogada	203	2011, by road, southern Kenya
Simon Thomsett	149	2011, by road, Uganda
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