

ARDB UPDATE 2: MARCH 2013

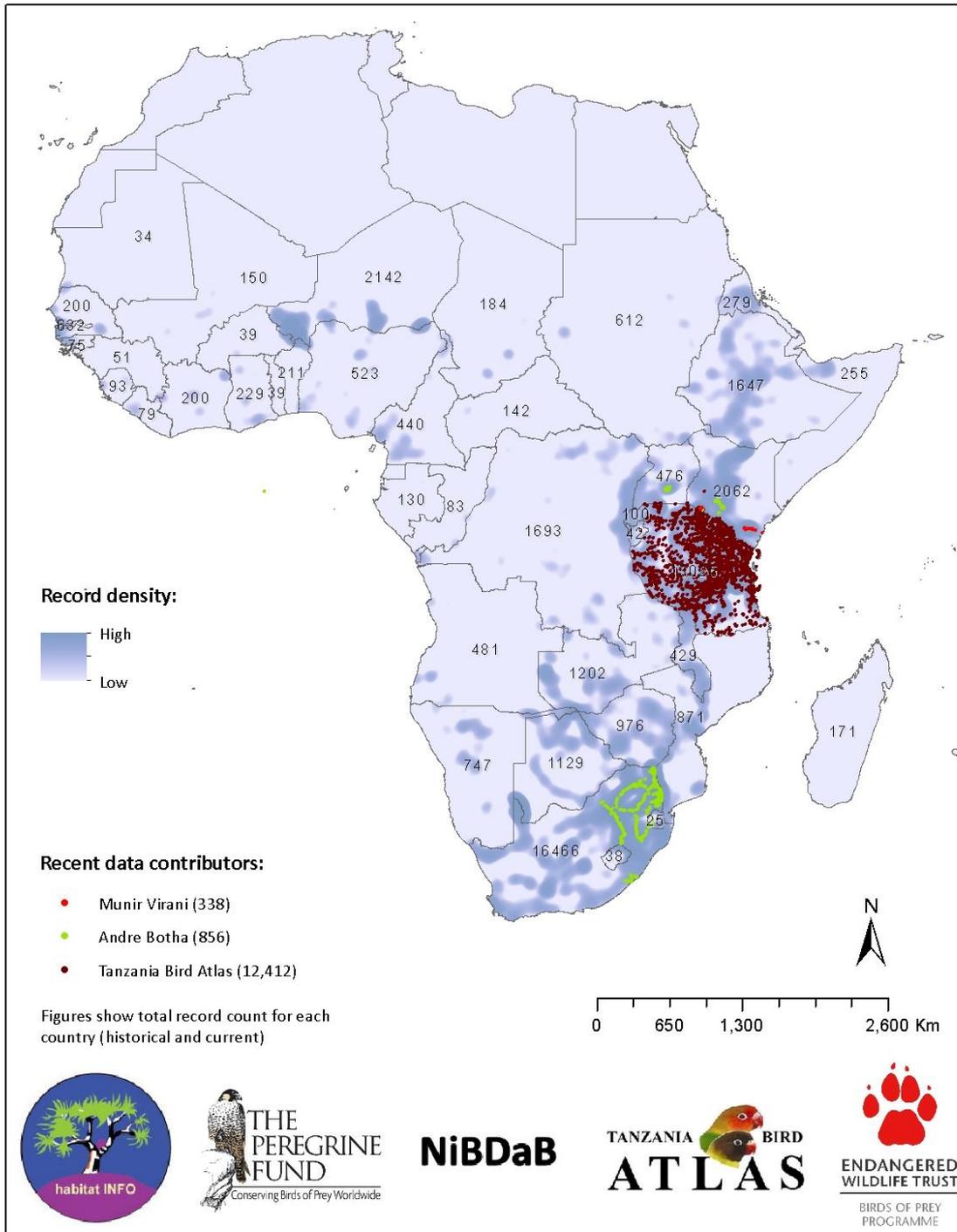
African Raptor Databank update: March 2013

The ARDB benefitted a lot from the voluntary work of Sarah Wigley and Morgan Commins during Feb but they have had to move on to other exciting projects. March has been another amazing month and Tim has managed to load 13,606 records from the Tanzanian Bird Atlas, Andre Botha and Munir Virani, and he has updated the record density model shown in the attached graphic..

This brings the total in the database to 48,567 at the start of April.

We have also received another couple of hundred records from Clive Barlow in the Gambia which are in process..

March 2013 status
Recent contributions



The database is likely to take these leaps forward every time we initiate an exchange with a major bird atlas project or mobilise long-term data, but I can't imagine we will be able to keep up this growth rate every month. So we will probably just send a data summary some months with a link to

a webmap of the latest records if there is not a lot of news, but it would be great to pass the 50k point soon. Anyone able to help us do that ??

Credit has to go to the Tanzania Bird Atlas who supplied their entire raptor record collection to date of 12,412 records. Thank you so much Neil and colleagues for this fantastic boost for East Africa. Already we have wonderful coverage for Eastern Africa, Southern Africa and a couple of countries in West Africa (esp. NiBDaB). Thanks very much to Andre for his prolific raptor road counts using Cybertracker, and Munir for sending his recent safari recording via the G-Bird app.

There is a very obvious gap for North Africa. Is there anybody out there who can help us start filling that gap?

Other great news from Feb/March is the very rare sighting and brilliant photos of a young Cassin's Hawk Eagle from Kenya at the Eastern extreme of its localised range (posted earlier by Peter Wairasho et al.); and we have had a very kind offer from Giovanni Leonardi, who has collated all known records of Lanner Falcon across its range (>8000 observations), to share these data with the ARDB upon publication of his upcoming monograph on the species. Giovanni is planning a distribution modelling exercise for the different Lanner subspecies so it is a great opportunity for collaboration using Africa-wide datasets.

We do need more trialling of the live data capture from your mobile devices in Africa. The Android and Apple apps are easy to use and ready to use. Please register with ArcGIS Online to download these apps for free, and please register with our database so that we can give you the required security with which to send these data. Once registered, the recording apps really are incredibly easy to use and navigate, and to send us information and photographs instantaneously.

Anyone with a windows laptop or tablet can do the same thing outside wireless or cellphone coverage in any part of Africa where a GPS signal can be received. You just need an internal or external GPS and perhaps the ideal setup is a magnetic one that can attach to a vehicle roof if you are doing road counts. We have trialled this windows mobile app recording whales and dolphins off the Welsh coast and it works really well at sea! We just need any of you to try it on a dusty African road now miles from anywhere.. Panasonic have brought out the toughpad tablet range which work for 10h or so, viewable in sunlight, droppable, waterproof etc. The windows version is a frightening price though so we have purchased the Android version for much less in anticipation of the offline app which is coming soon.

Please feel free to email us for any support on what hardware to buy / not to buy and how to get started.

We are going to be looking into the possibility of getting some devices sponsored so that they can be deployed to the field.

That's all for March folks.

ARDB: Rob Davies and Tim Wroblewski