

ARDB UPDATE 6: JULY 2013

Hi All,

We have some big news for the July update of the African Raptor Databank. I'm sorry the June update was a bit thin but I was on a boat on Lake Naivasha counting Fish Eagles with Munir, and dodging buffalos with Simon! Real raptors much more fun than virtual ones!

The big news is that we have a co-ordinator for North Africa at last. Hichem Azafzaf from AAO, the Birdlife partner in Tunisia has offered to fill this role. Thank you so much Hichem (and Leon for introducing us). Tunisia is an ideal strategic location for North Africa especially because it safeguards the arrival of migrating raptors to Africa from Europe using the Central Mediterranean flyway.

During July we received an additional 2143 records for the ARDB which brings the total to over 55k records.

It is exciting to see the whole continent open up with new data from Chad (Tim Wacher), Cameroon (Ralph Buij) and we are currently processing Central African Republic (Beccy Johnson and Gus Keys via Munir). Munir supplied the boat survey data from Lake Naivasha. Thanks Clive for Gambia data. Steven E and Joseph H for South African data. Andre B continues to fill up all our computer space with prolific road count data.

Tim has set up a great java viewer so you can now have a look at all these records (except recent breeding and vulture records) at:

http://gis.habitatinfo.com/java/ardb_viewing/

this is a public site so you dont need to be registered to see these data

you can toggle on the historic layer under the layers tab to see sub-Saharan data up to 1970.

We have done away with the complicated double registration and

you don't need to join ArcGIS Online anymore.

We only need your registration with the database for you to add or edit your own records. We would still prefer if you could do this at <http://www.habitainfo.com/ardb-sign-up/> so we can find out a bit more about you and your interest in African raptors. But if this still puts anyone off just ping us a user name and if we know you we will ping you a password!

Registered users can see and now edit (easily) all of their own data at this address:

http://gis.habitainfo.com/java/ardb_editing/

We anticipate being able to offer you a simple app for offline mobile recording on smart phones by the end of this year (at the moment our versions still require a data connection). Until then we are happy to process your records gathered using other mobile systems such as G-bird or cybertracker. This is working very well and we may be able to continue this indefinitely, although it does entail quite a bit of reformatting this side.

We are now maintaining separate data hubs for each supplier and we synchronise these with the parent ARDB hub after each new addition / edit. This means it is very easy for us to send you back your data in any format you prefer. It is also paving the way for two-way synchronisation with other large bird databases and with our regional co-ordinators across offices.

We have included a few vagrant species and some unidentified categories into our species listing and re-posted this as simple and detailed spreadsheets at the following address:

<http://www.habitainfo.com/ardb/>

the detailed spreadsheet contains translations (thanks Simon for the Samburu names)

please feel free to download these and email us new versions with other names.

More data coming this month,

Best wishes

Rob D