

Just a quick email update from the African Raptor Databank for last month, May 2015:

1250 new records were created in the database during May by the observers in the table below (99% via the App)

OBSERVER(S)	OBSERVATIONS (May)
Andre Botha	473
Clive Barlow	167
Joseph Heymans	108
Mark Brown	65
Mark Dixon, Amanda Judson	44
Priscilla Watson	44
Brian Waswala	41
Dawie de Swardt	35
Steven Evans	29
Anja Teroerde, Etienne Albertyn	28
Gareth Tate	28
Rob Thomson	23
Bernard Madden	17
Andy Branfield	16
Claire Kolberg, Holger Kolberg	16
Damian Newmarch	15
Darcy Ogada	13
Hennie deBeer	12
Owen Forsberg	12
Washington Wachira	12
Clive Watson	11
Jaco Smith	10
Bruce Wardsmith	9
Stefan van Stuyvenberg	4
Anja Teroerde	3
Joshua Kleyn, Willem Kleyn	3
Priscilla Watson, Clive Watson	3
Joshua Kleyn	2
Joshua Kleyn, Carey Kleyn	2
Joshua Kleyn, Jan De Waal, Shannon Hoffman	2
Etienne Marais	1
John Newby	1
Joshua Kleyn, Carey Kleyn, Andrew Kleyn	1

This brought the database total to 107,261 records at the start of June.

Records entered during May included sightings of large numbers of Fish Eagles around Kafue Fisheries by Damian Newmarch, raptors seen on a hike up Mt Kenya in search of Abyssinian Owl by Darcy Ogada and colleagues and some interesting (previous) sightings of raptors at the edge or

beyond of their normal distributions – the Red-necked Buzzard seen by Etienne Marais in Caprivi Strip and a juvenile Verreaux's Eagle seen by John Newby chasing hyrax in the Tibesti Mountains in northern Chad. Among other contributions.

The ARDB can reveal info on the spatial distribution of raptors but also on the timing of behaviours. During May we have also been looking at the Osprey sightings, distribution and timing, in The Gambia (Clive Barlow & Oliver Fox personal data, outside of DPWM / Leicestershire & Rutland Wildlife Trust Osprey project) . See attached graphic. For analysing and measuring Osprey coastal habitat Clive and Olly concur that the birds most often forage in an area of up to 750m offshore (range 500m to 1.5km).

Other datasets received but not yet imported to the database include Ralph Buij's recent trip to Ethiopia (n=219), an update from the Tanzanian Bird Atlas (n=3476) and detailed observations of Kruger Bateleurs by Rick Watson for calibrating the models.

Thanks so much everyone for the data received.

The iOS App development for iPhones and iPads is on schedule for August.

The Peregrine Fund, who have under-pinned this project from the outset with the provision of the software licence have made another highly significant contribution to help the ARDB achieve a principal objective: the publication of a free online conservation atlas for African birds of prey. Towards this, TPF have very kindly allocated \$1500 to the creation of first draft webmaps for each species. The webmaps will show all material on a particular species that is publicly available i.e. range maps (historic and current, indicating range retraction), a first draft distribution model for each species based on climate space and habitat; and current and historic records, possibly later we will be able to add migration routes and timings and satellite tracking data. As before, nest records and recent records for sensitive species (notably vultures at the moment) will be protected from public view.

We are getting very promising results from the first draft habitat models. These are being run using all observations (historic and current) and using continuous environmental datasets. Anthropogenic datasets such as levels of protection, levels of habitat transformation will be introduced next. So these first draft models really indicate a maximum possible climate or habitat space for each species. But they will provide the first such detailed measurements of habitats. To begin with we are looking at potential habitat (>25% likelihood of occurrence), prime habitat (>50% likelihood of occurrence) and optimal habitat (>70% likelihood of occurrence). It is really important now that we gather as many population density studies as possible to provide likely densities for these classes of habitat area. All we need for this in order to calibrate the models is a study area map, the time of the study, and the density figure. So if you are able to help supply these please do. In the case of species where we do not have data on density we are using the relationship of density to body mass to make a start (Newton 1979).

Full conservation assessments for each species, based on habitat measurement, will take more time and we are inviting sponsorship for these models at \$380 per species. Sponsors will have a credit and logo on the webmap for that species. These assessments will look at historic distribution, incorporate anthropogenic datasets to look at current distribution and range retraction, and they will also look at future conditions of climate and of human population density to indicate a likely future climate space for that species. The Peregrine Fund have stepped in once again and sponsored a further \$1500 for detailed conservation assessments of four species. We are still deciding which

ones. This work is planned for July. There is also the possibility of doing a detailed assessment for our honorary raptors, Southern Ground Hornbill.

Thanks very much to The Peregrine Fund and data providers for the support.

Best wishes,
Rob and ARDB team



ARDB
African Raptor DataBank

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