

update from the African Raptor Databank for August 2015:

We are now 32 months into our project! just over half-way through our planned data gathering period of 60 months and up to 116102 records at the end of August. 1571 records were added to the database last month (95% through the Android App) by the following people:

observers	record count
Andre Botha	351
Crystelle Wilson	201
Mark Dixon, Amanda Judson	129
Steven Evans	125
Brian Waswala	121
Holger Kolberg	111
Kartong Bird Observatory, Oliver Fox	80
Stefan van Stuyvenberg	59
Rob Thomson	55
Ara Monadjem	50
Andy Branfield	42
Dirk van Stuyvenberg	37
Joseph Heymans	35
Walter Jubber	35
Hennie deBeer	30
Martin Odino	30
Dawie de Swardt	12
Ashwell Glasson	11
Bruce Wardsmith	10
Jaco Smith	10
Joshua Kleyn	7
Gisela Madden	5
Priscilla Watson	5
Jacques Bester, Hennie Bester	4
Washington Wachira	3
Jacques Bester	1
Marlei Martins	1
Rob Simmons	1

Thank you so much for these data. Andre, as ever, our most prodigious raptor recorder and with many others building the already strong database for South Africa – see graphic at end of update.

Very exciting is to receive our first significant current data for Swaziland via the App. Many thanks Prof Ara! This begins to fill an obvious gap in our coverage. Other areas covered include extensive recording in northern Namibia by Holger Kolberg; raptors sighted in Selous Game Reserve by Walter Jubber; and continued contributions for Nairobi district and western Kenya (Lake Victoria) from Brian Waswala, Martin Odino and Washington Wachira. We also managed to populate the spreadsheet sent in a while ago by Oliver Fox for raptors seen in January / February at the Kartong Bird Observatory and along the Atlantic coast of The Gambia. Thanks All!

We also received during August our first significant contribution for Malawi, another obvious gap, from Lizanne Roxburgh. These are spreadsheet data which will get populated into the database next month along with other spreadsheet data received from Darcy Ogada for northern Kenya and from John Rose and his team for Niokola-Koba National Park, a World Heritage Site in Eastern Senegal.

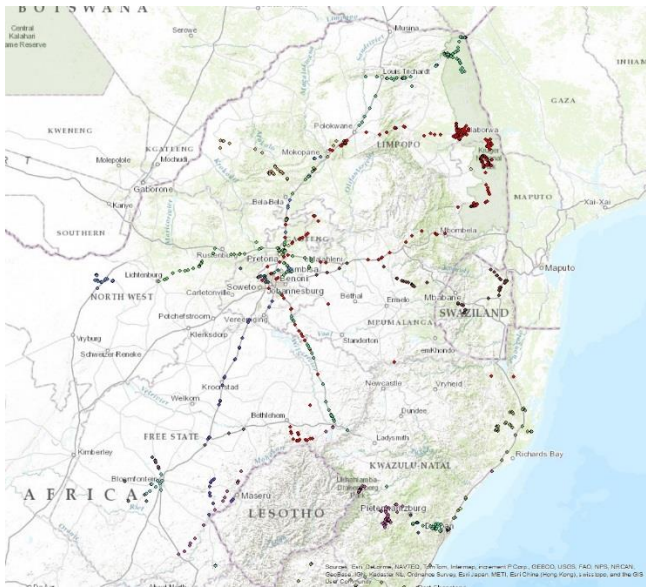
We had an intern at Habitat Info, Bethan Thomas who helped us for a couple of days loading some of these data and monitoring the release of our rehab buzzard Junior who has been recovering from a broken wing. Thank you Bethan!

As we fill some of the gaps in the continental coverage, others are becoming more obvious: there is a big data gap for northern Mozambique both historic and present. Maybe this is because the region has been so inaccessible, but if you are planning a trip to Niassa and surrounds please take the App with you or just keep a record for the ARDB of the raptors you see there. And of course, beyond Tunisia, we still have the whole of North Africa to assess.

We have brought some of our project schedule forward because of the urgency of raptor declines and habitat loss across Africa, most notably so for vultures. So developments for habitat models (first up Secretarybird) and web maps to work on vulture range retractions are continuing apace. We also hope to start logging main migration routes on these webmaps. The iOS version of the App is on its way and we are starting some other new developments to help with data entry on desktop computers. More on these in the next updates.

Best wishes,
Rob and ARDB team





Sources: Esri, DeLorme, NAVTEQ, TomTom, Intermap, increment P Corp., GEBCO, USGS, FAO, NPS, NRCAN, GeoBase, IGN, Kadaster NL, Ordnance Survey, Esri Japan, METI, Esri China (Hong Kong), swiss topo, and the GIS User Community