

African Bird Club



***25th Anniversary* Annual Meeting & AGM**

Saturday 13th April 2019

**The Flett Theatre
Natural History Museum
Cromwell Road, London
SW7 5BD**

African Bird Club is a Registered Charity No 1053920

Admission

Open to **members and non-members** of ABC. Admission is *free* to members, donations from non-members are invited (suggested donation: £5) or are welcome to join the club on the day.

Refreshments

Tea and coffee will be available at 10.15 and 15.40. If you require water please bring your own. Food will be available for purchase from outlets in the Museum or you can bring your own pack lunch.

Exhibition stands

Wild Sounds and Books sales (<http://www.wildsounds.com>)

Books can be ordered for purchase and collection or inspection at the AGM from the website if **ordered by 26th March 2019**.

My Naturewatch Wildlife Camera

Introducing an inexpensive DIY wildlife camera for people to use in their back gardens. The design team from the Interaction Research Studio at Goldsmiths, University of London invite feedback on how it might be deployed more widely. The camera was featured on BBC Springwatch 2018 and has since been constructed by over 1500 people using instructions and software from the My Naturewatch website and electronic components available from household retailers.

How to find the venue

The Flett Theatre is on Floor 1 of the Red Zone. This is in a public area of the Museum and visitors can make their own way there. The closest street entrance is on Exhibition Rd at the eastern end of the Museum.

By tube: It is within walking distance of South Kensington station on the District, Circle and Piccadilly lines.

By bus: Routes 14, 49, 70, 74, 345, 360, 414 and C1 stop near the Museum. The 360 stops in Exhibition Road.

By coach: Victoria Coach Station is within walking distance of Victoria train and tube station on the Circle or District lines. The Museum is two stops on the westbound underground. For groups travelling by coach, the coach drop-off point is outside the Cromwell Road entrance.

By car: Driving to the Museum may not be easy and parking is not available on Exhibition Road, which is exclusively for residents and a limited number of Blue Badge holders.

2019 Meeting Programme

Morning session

09:30 Doors Open

Tea, coffee, book sales and exhibition stands

10:50 Chairman's Introduction - *Richard Charles*

11:00 Bird conservation in Africa; progress or pretence?

Dr Nigel Collar (Leventis Fellow at BirdLife International)

The reverse of "Extinction is forever" applies just as well: conservation is forever, too. If we want species, habitats and areas to survive, we have to expect that this can only happen through their permanent, pro-active management. The point will be illustrated by a number of cases from around Africa, including the Liben Lark and Timneh Parrot, bustards and vultures, and some key forests. But the scale of the challenge is perhaps larger than we can deal with.

11:40 A feathered rainbow: the science behind colour in African birds

Dr Stephen Pringle (ABC)

Have you ever wondered why so many African birds are amazingly colourful? What produces these colours and why are they quite so diverse? Stephen will skim the surface of research into the science behind avian colours, and, illustrated with photographs taken on his African travels, will discuss the role colour plays in the ecology of African birds.

12:10 The NiBAP: distribution of birds in Nigeria, promoting public engagement, & building capacity for citizen science in Nigeria

Dr Yahkat Barshep (APLORI)

Dr Barshep will discuss Nigeria's first attempt at a citizen science project that began in 2015 as an initiative of APLORI and the Animal Demography Unit (ADU), University of Cape Town. It is the first comprehensive attempt to provide and update data on the distribution of birds in Nigeria. It aims to promote public and awareness of environmental concerns in Nigeria. Over 140 APLORI graduates interns all over Nigeria are the volunteer base.

12:40 Lunch and book signings

Nigel Collar, Dick Forsman and Nigel Redman will be available for a book signing session

Afternoon session

13:45 AGM Business Meeting

14:30 African raptors: addressing some regularly recurring identification problems

Dick Forsman (*Dick Forsman Birding & Photography, Finland*)

Dick will discuss some everyday African identification problems, such as the brown eagles, the black and yellow-billed kites and a few more. The talk will be entirely based on his own images.

15:10 Turning the tide for Taita Apalis

Sarah Havery (*RSPB*)

The Taita Apalis (*Apalis fuscigularis*) is considered Critically Endangered and has a tiny range in around 500 ha of cloud forest fragments at the tops of the Taita Hills in southeastern Kenya. This tiny population has become fragmented into small sub-populations of maybe only 100-150 individuals. Its future depends on how quickly the current habitat can be restored, expanded and protected by land purchase or lease, active restoration of degraded areas and engaging local people in protecting this unique species. This presentation will summarise the work led by Nature Kenya and partners to date.

15:40 Tea and book signings

Nigel Collar, Dick Forsman and Nigel Redman will be available for a book signing session

16:20 Endemic birds in the Horn of Africa

Nigel Redman (*ABC*)

The Horn of Africa has a rich avifauna of more than 1000 species, including more than 60 endemics and a number of range-restricted species. Most of these are readily accessible to birders visiting Ethiopia, although some are only for the more adventurous. This talk will showcase these special birds and discuss how and where to see them.

17:00 Raffle result

17:15 Closing Remarks - *Richard Charles*

17:20 Depart