

# FAMILIAR CHAT

June 2006



**Newsletter of Birdlife Botswana  
Private Bag 003 #348,  
Mogoditshane,  
Gaborone**

Dear Friends,

Do not miss our Dinner In October, the date has changed to 14<sup>th</sup> and the speaker will be Shane Pinchen.

Enter our photographic competition and win a weekend for two (or mid week two nights) sharing at Moseetla, OR cash prize of P5000 from Bokoma

The Editor  
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## CONTENTS

	<i>Page</i>
<i>Dithupo camp</i> <i>Anita Gilbert</i>	2
<i>Photographic competition</i>	3
<i>Kazuma Pans</i> <i>Marc Vandewalle</i>	5
<i>Bird Watching at Tale</i> <i>Kiddy Sechube</i>	6
<i>World Migratory Day</i> <i>Harold Hester</i>	7
<i>Francistown News</i> <i>Guy Brina</i>	8
<i>Questionnaire</i>	9
<i>Events Gaborone-Maun-Kasane</i>	11-12
<i>Illustrations by kind permission of Kenneth Newman</i>	



Summer Water bird counts at Mogobane Dam

IF ANYONE CAN

**Canon**

CAN

Winter Camping trip to Dithopo Camp  
June 9 thru 11, 2006  
Reported by Anita Gilbert

Birdlife Botswana sponsored its regular "Winter Camp" at a location called "Dithopo Camp" just west and a little north of Lephephe. A departure from Gaborone by 3:00 pm on Friday afternoon got us to our destination in the Dithopo Camp just in time to setup camp in the magnificent yet rapidly diminishing light of the winter sunset. Harold and Geraldine Hester led a caravan of 4 other vehicles to the camp site with Anthony Vodraska and Anita Gilbert pulling up the rear. With three GPS among the group, 2 sets of car-to-car walky-talkies and cell phones, (not to mention detailed directions from Daphne, Mike and Chris who scouted the location the previous week) we were sure not to get lost or stray as the landmarks became few this close to the CKGR. Under the generous spread of a group of ancient Marula Trees, we set up a communal fire-pit and a ring of camp chairs, the individual tents and vehicles casually dotting the perimeter. Among the campers were new BLB members attending their first camp: George and Paula Tutt with son, Nick, and Mark and Eugenie Skelton. Ant Snyman was on his second camp. Lucky with a break in the cold weather pattern, the group of 10 hardy and ready souls found that they could do without some of the ensemble of the cold temperature clothing. The campfire at night kept us close to its heat, but the days found us in shirt sleeves by 10 am. I did not find the need to break out the hot chocolate.

Saturday morning we were already counting birds from our camp chairs as we enjoyed the morning coffee. Half a dozen or more Little Bee-eaters held our interest as they darted in and out of a nearby stand of winter flowering shrubbery. Another bird which grabbed our attention was the beautiful Swallow-tailed Bee-eater. Then, our attention was soon turned to the sky, guided by a noisy and persistent call. We quickly paged through the bird books in hopes of confirming what we suspected, but could not quite believe our good luck. The Melodious Lark was very accommodating and as it turned out, was a regular about the camp, giving us ample time for a positive I.D. and a lot of enjoyment watching it hover high in the air, sending out its "melodious" call. This bird was outside its range, so gave some cause for debate as to whether it might have been a Sabota Lark. Its behaviour was certainly that of a Melodious Lark. (On our return to Gaborone, the chairman of the Rarities Committee, Chris Brewster, vowed to try to visit the site as soon as possible to try to find and verify the bird.) Among our group were several avid photographers who were able to get a photographic record of this rare sighting. Paula gets the first prize for the best bird images. The morning walk in the bush was long, leisurely and carefree. Birds were so abundant that spotting them was nearly effortless. A dozen lined themselves up on fence line as though waiting for our inspection and identification. We complied ever so diligently.

Early Saturday afternoon we climbed into 2 vehicles to take a short game drive around the various fenced in pastures in search of the ever illusive herds of Gemsbok and Eland. Dithopo was originally a sight used to study co-habitation of domestic livestock with various hooved wildlife. Now the herds are encouraged to breed here in relative safety, their offspring used to re-populate game reserves throughout Botswana. Eventually, our efforts were rewarded as we found a group of nearly 20 Gemsbok. Later, Anthony and young Nick took a safari on foot from the camp and found 15 Eland grazing in the corner of our fenced quarter. The Eland seemed to be seeking the most distant point they could from us.

John and Wendy Mullineux and daughter Hannah, as well as Ian Draycott from Otse, joined the group on Saturday afternoon. We were treated to another magnificent sunset and the Saturday evening braai which was second to none with delicious food and great company.

The Saturday and Sunday walks at the Dithopo Camp yielded roughly 50 different species. Of special note was a bird on our society's "Watch List" - the Lappet-faced Vulture (count of 2). Sightings ranged from the tiny, illusive but audible Barred Warbler, to the great Secretary bird, riding high in the mid day thermals; from the expected sightings of varieties of Starlings, Bulbuls and Hornbills, to the delightful discovery of the Kurrichane Buttonquail. A young Martial Eagle had a prime location on top of a tall tree overlooking one of the few water holes and we saw him frequently. The density of bird life in this Bush environment must make our record of bird sightings rival if not top, bird sightings of any previous Winter Camp experience!

And as if we were not completely satisfied with that...on the return to Gaborone, Sunday afternoon, we stopped at the "small pan" and Sojwe pan. The "small pan" was busy with Redbilled Teal , a variety of Plovers and 5 Painted Snipe which, as a "scarce resident" we were fortunate to see. Paula once again stealthily approached the Painted Snipe and scored another perfect shot. At Sojwe Pan, a much larger body of water, Flamingo and White Stork were abundant. A count revealed at least 215 White Stork and 53 Greater Flamingo. A Bateleur soared high above the pan. The birdlife at the 2 pans added over 20 new sightings to our list and was a fantastic way to conclude our Winter Camp birding experience.



**BirdLife Botswana** needs your shots! So all you photographers out there (great, unknown, beginners, experts) please enter your pictures in our first national competition. Great prizes are to be won, and remember there is the opportunity to have your photo published in BirdLife's proposed calendar which will feature only Botswana birds photographed here in Botswana.... a first!

Please see below for all the details or click on [www.birdlifebotswana.org.bw](http://www.birdlifebotswana.org.bw).

**What you need to do to enter...**

Submit up to 5 photos with attached entry form. Deadline for entries is *29 September 2006*.

**Who is the competition open to, and how much?**

The competition is open to everyone. Members are invited to enter 'free of charge'. Non-members please pay P10 per photo.

**Guidelines you need to follow**

✦ Photos are to be of birds in Botswana ✦ Maximum 5 entries per person under the following two categories: A - still shot; B - action shot

✦ Photos to be in print size (10" x 8" approx. 254mm x 203mm) either portrait or landscape

✦ Make sure your name, title and category are on each photo (on the back)

✦ Ensure photos are attached to entry form ✦ Deadline for entries: Friday 29 September 2006

✦ Please deliver to BirdLife Botswana Office, Kgale Siding or Hazellwood in Craft Market, Broadhurst Industrial

✦ Illustrative Options will print entries on to their special paper for maximum effect at a 20% discount for everyone entering into the competition (Telephone 3161310).

**Judging** will take place in early October. The panel will be headed up by a well-known local professional photographer. Criteria for judging will be composition, creativity, impact and technical ability.

**Awards/Prizes** Winners will be announced and prizes awarded at the BirdLife Annual Dinner on 14 October 2006.



# Botswana Photographic Competition Entry Form

Name .....

Postal Address .....

Tel: No. (home) .....(work) .....(cell).....

E-mail .....

BirdLife Botswana Member YES  NO  - Entry fee Paid .....

No of Photo	Category A		Category B	
	Bird Portrait		Action photo	
Title Photo 1	_____	_____	_____	_____
Title Photo 2	_____	_____	_____	_____
Title Photo 3	_____	_____	_____	_____
Title Photo 4	_____	_____	_____	_____
Title Photo 5	_____	_____	_____	_____

Those of us that braved the predicted cold of the weekend trip to Kazuma will agree that it turned out to be, not only a warm weekend, but also a very pleasant and relaxing outing. Surprisingly enough we also managed to clock up a fair number of species (61) even though the 'birding' was not as serious as it could have been. In my opinion it was probably the most successful outing I have attended and would encourage other members to join in with us in future activities. Attached is the list as recorded by me from sightings by different members of the group.

QDS: S18d22m26.6s E25d30m55.7s

Species: 61

<u>Date</u>	<u>Rob</u>	<u>English Name</u>	<u>Place</u>	<u>Class</u>	<u>View</u>	<u>Notes</u>
10/06/2006	560	Babbler Arrowmarked	Kazungula	Adult	Seen Heard	
10/06/2006	146	Bateleur	Kazuma	Adult	Seen	Male and Female
11/06/2006	444	Bee-eater Little	Kazuma	Adult	Seen	
11/06/2006	568	Bulbul Blackeyed	Kazuma	Adult	Seen Heard	
11/06/2006	665	Cisticola Desert	Kazuma	Adult	Seen Heard	
10/06/2006	209	Crane Crowned	Kazuma	Adult	Seen	6 seen flying
<b>Over camp from NE to SW</b>						
10/06/2006	8	Dabchick	Kazuma	Adult	Seen	
11/06/2006	297	Dikkop Spotted	Kazuma	Adult	Seen	
10/06/2006	354	Dove Cape Turtle	Kazuma	Adult	Seen	
10/06/2006	355	Dove Laughing	Kazuma	Adult	Seen	
10/06/2006	356	Dove Namaqua	Kazuma	Adult	Seen	
11/06/2006	352	Dove Redeyed	Kazuma	Adult	Seen	
10/06/2006	541	Drongo Forktailed	Kazuma	Adult	Seen Heard	
10/06/2006	115	Duck Knobbilled	Kazuma	Adult	Seen	
10/06/2006	172	Falcon Lanner	Kazuma	Adult	Seen	
11/06/2006	515	Finchlark Chestnutbacked	Kazuma	Adult	Seen	
10/06/2006	694	Flycatcher Black	Kazungula	Adult	Seen	
10/06/2006	188	Francolin Coqui	Kazungula	Adult	Seen	
11/06/2006	189	Francolin Crested	Kazungula	Adult	Heard	
10/06/2006	199	Francolin Swainson's	Kazuma	Adult	Seen Heard	
11/06/2006	102	Goose Egyptian	Kazuma	Adult	Seen	
10/06/2006	116	Goose Spurwinged	Kazuma	Adult	Seen	
10/06/2006	163	Goshawk Dark Chanting	Kazungula	Adult	Seen	
11/06/2006	161	Goshawk Gabar	Kazuma	Adult	Seen	
11/06/2006	203	Guineafowl Helmeted	Kazuma	Adult	Seen	
10/06/2006	169	Gymnogene	Kazuma	Adult	Seen	
10/06/2006	165	Harrier African Marsh	Kazuma	Adult	Seen	
10/06/2006	461	Hornbill Bradfield's	Kazungula	Adult	Seen	
10/06/2006	457	Hornbill Grey	Kazuma	Adult	Seen Heard	
10/06/2006	458	Hornbill Redbilled	Kazuma	Adult	Seen	
10/06/2006	463	Hornbill Southern Ground	Kazuma	Male Female	Seen	3;
		S18d00m44.6s E25d15m33.3s		Adult Immature		
10/06/2006	459	Hornbill Yellowbilled	Kazuma	Adult	Seen	
10/06/2006	91	Ibis Sacred	Kazuma	Adult	Seen	
10/06/2006	240	Jacana African	Kazuma	Adult	Seen Heard	
11/06/2006	127	Kite Blackshouldered	Kazuma	Adult	Seen	
11/06/2006	497	Lark Fawncoloured	Kazuma	Adult	Seen	
10/06/2006	496	Lark Flappet	Kazuma	Adult	Seen Heard	
10/06/2006	498	Lark Sabota	Kazuma	Adult	Seen	
10/06/2006	373	Lourie Grey	Kazuma	Adult	Seen Heard	

10/06/2006 1	Ostrich	Kazuma	Adult	Seen
10/06/2006 399	Owl Barred	Kazuma	Adult	Heard
10/06/2006 398	Owl Pearlspotted	Kazuma	Adult	Heard
10/06/2006 364	Parrot Meyer's	Kazuma	Adult	Seen Heard
10/06/2006 716	Pipit Grassveld	Kazuma	Adult	Seen Heard
10/06/2006 258	Plover Blacksmith	Kazuma	Adult	Seen
10/06/2006 255	Plover Crowned	Kazuma	Adult	Seen
10/06/2006 821	Quelea Redbilled	Kazuma	Adult	Seen
10/06/2006 447	Roller Lilacbreasted	Kazuma	Adult	Seen
10/06/2006 449	Roller Purple	Kazungula	Adult	Seen
10/06/2006 345	Sandgrouse Burchell's	Kazuma	Adult	Seen
11/06/2006 346	Sandgrouse Yel/throated	Kazuma	Adult	Seen Male and Female
11/06/2006 804.1	Sparrow Greyheaded	Kazuma	Adult	Seen
10/06/2006 765	Starling Gr.Blue-eared	Kazuma	Adult	Seen Heard
11/06/2006 89	Stork Marabou	Kazungula	Adult	Seen
10/06/2006 421	Swift Palm	Kazuma	Adult	Seen
11/06/2006 744	Tchagra Blackcrowned	Kazuma	Adult	Seen Heard
10/06/2006 743	Tchagra Threestreaked	Kazuma	Adult	Seen Heard
11/06/2006 107	Teal Hottentot	Kazuma	Adult	Seen
10/06/2006 108	Teal Redbilled	Kazuma	Adult	Seen
10/06/2006 123	Vulture Whitebacked	Kazungula	Adult	Seen
10/06/2006 844	Waxbill Blue	Kazuma	Adult	Seen

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### *Bird watching at Tale and Ngwaku.*

*Kiddy Sechube.*

On Sunday May 7<sup>th</sup> 2006, a group of bird enthusiasts gathered for an outing to the Pans along the old Gantsi – Khuke road. Our departure was slightly delayed but we eventually set off at about 7 am and, after an uneventful drive, arrived at Tale Pan where we stopped in an open savanna area near the edge of the water.

We had good view of the Pan and different species of birds such as:

<i>Egyptian Goose</i>	<i>Fulvous Duck</i>
<i>Red-billed Teal</i>	<i>White-faced Duck</i>
<i>Spur-winged Goose</i>	<i>Southern Pochard</i>
<i>Greater Flamingo</i>	<i>Little Egret</i>
<i>Cattle Egret</i>	<i>Grey Heron</i>
<i>Kittlitz's Plover</i>	<i>White Stork</i>
<i>Pied Avocet</i>	<i>Black-winged Stilt</i>
<i>Three-banded Plover</i>	<i>Blacksmith Lapwing</i>
<i>White-crowned Lapwing</i>	<i>Wattled Crane</i>
<i>Pin-tailed Whydah</i>	
<i>Long-tailed Paradise-Whydah</i>	

The most interesting part of our visit to Tale Pan was when we walked into the water to find the nests of the Black-winged Stilts. These birds build their nests on tufts of grass in the water and lay three to four eggs. We found two nests with four eggs each.

We decided to go on to Ngwaku Pan, the track was rocky and one of the vehicles got stuck and turned back to Tale Pan while we continued on to Ngwaku where we found the same species of birds seen at Tale. Ducks and geese were bathing in a small channel while White-backed Vultures perched in the trees. In a nearby thorn bush we found a Blue Waxbill nest with four eggs.

On the return journey we spotted a Dark Chanting Goshawk in a tree. Everyone really enjoyed the outing, the highlight of the day for me was seeing new birds such as the Pied Avocets, Wattled Crane and Black-winged Stilts.

World Migratory Day  
*Harold Hester*

Earlier this year members were asked to notify any late sightings of migrants and the following were reported

Anne and Jim Dayton heard and saw many European Bee Eaters calling and circling high above their house at Crocodile Pools on Friday, 14 April 2006.

Geraldine and I heard a Klaas' Cuckoo in the garden on 10<sup>th</sup> April.

We also heard a flock of European Bee-eaters flying overhead on Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> April.

Mrs Peggy Henderson reported seeing in her garden during the week of 16 to 22 April, a

flock of Arrow-marked Babblers feeding a young Striped Cuckoo which they had fledged.

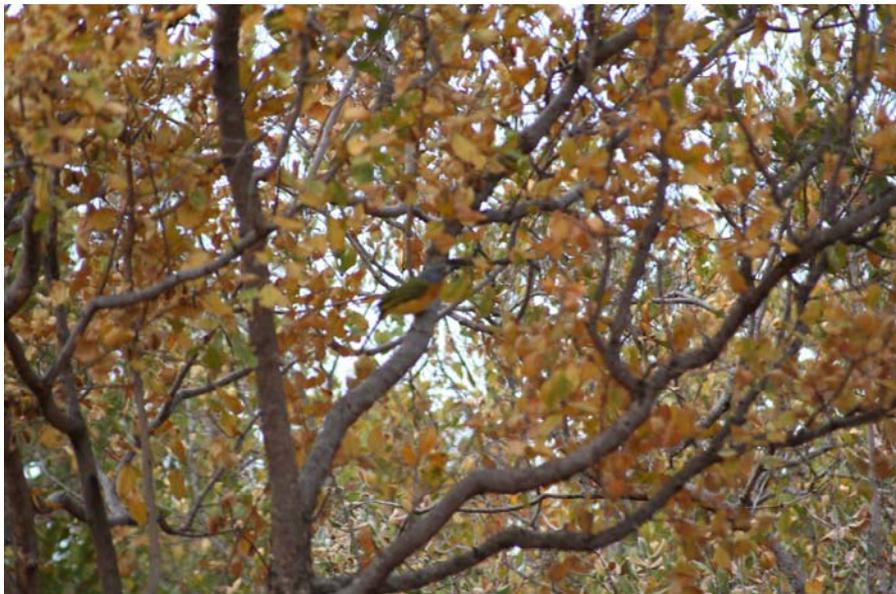
On 5<sup>th</sup> May 2006 at 14:00, Geraldine and I watched a mixed flock of about a hundred Pearl-breasted Swallows and Greater-striped Swallows flying around our house and occasionally resting on our thatched roof. This flight demonstration lasted about ten minutes. We thought that the Greater-striped Swallows were rather late in departing for warmer climes. Obviously the Pearl-breasted Swallows over winter.

There may well be other reports of late departures of migrants and it would be interesting to hear of these.

A Bird joke from Guy Brina

A man went into a pet shop and said 'have you got any birds?' the shop keeper replied 'Yes, we have three birds: a square bird, a circle bird and a triangle bird.' 'I think I'll take the square bird.' 'OK, here's your bird but you have to be very careful to keep it away from other shapes.'

So the man took the bird to a square home in a square car. Then he found the bird a square cage and put it in a square room with square objects in it. Soon the bird learnt to talk so his master had a party in the bird's honour. When everyone was quiet the bird gave a little talk so everyone gave it a 'round' of applause, and... the bird... died.



Camouflage

**Francistown News**

*Guy Brina*

Francistown branch reported that Sua Pan was still full of water so the north end of the pan near Nata Sanctuary was still far too deep for flamingos to be able to feed. Logically, that would mean if you wanted to see the flamebirds, the sanctuary would not be a good destination. Well, in fact, that is not the case. Ron and Grace Fish were in the sanctuary two weeks ago and they told members who attended our latest meeting that the floodplain between the viewing platform and the highway appears to be the ideal depth for feeding and that there were dozens of flamingos tucking in when they made their visit.

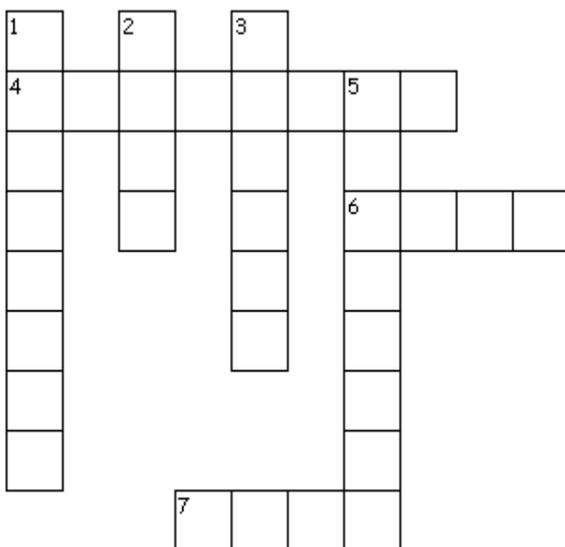
Francistown BirdLife Botswana members headed out to Mike and Hylette Paxton's farm on Sunday, June 11th, to have their first organised look at Botswana's newest dam. The final construction touches have not been completed at Ntimbale and work has yet to start on the water treatment plant and pipeline to Masunga, but the dam has been more than half full since the serious rains began last December and now that many temporary water sources are drying up the reservoir should be teeming with birdlife

One of the main reasons for going to the dam was to size it up for future Wetlands

International Water Fowl counts and for a follow up on the field study Ray and Val Lovett organised in the late 90s when we first learned a dam would be constructed.

Not many waterbirds were seen on this visit but it was established that a small boat with an outboard engine would be necessary for a representative count. Attempts were made to scramble to reasonable vantage points, but unfortunately, more scrapes and cuts were collected from the dense vegetation than species from the shoreline. If the dam fills up and remains nearly full for a few years, waterfront access should improve considerably when the level drops a bit. For the time being, however, birdlife needs to secure government permission to take a boat out on the dam twice a year and then a craft and engine needs to be acquired that can be transported between Ntimbale and Shashe Dams. There is also the question of finding money to pay for those items. Perhaps the most interesting birding experience of the weekend came on the drive home when Nicky Bousfield found a motionless yellow-billed hornbill on the side of the road that she collected and transported back to Francistown for possible treatment. Fortunately, it turns out the bird was just stunned and it flew off back into the wild when Nicky set it down on her lawn.

**Birdlife Botswana is where?**



**Across**

- 4. the delta
- 6. which life
- 7. which bird

**Down**

- 1. which country
- 2. third town
- 3. fourth town
- 5. first town

Dear BirdLife Botswana Member

Thanks to your kind support, BirdLife Botswana (former Botswana Bird Club) has been active since 1980 and the organization is growing year on year. As we grow, we believe that it is important to have members' reviews on BLB to increase members' enjoyment. Your reviews will enable us to provide better services to our members, so please take a few minutes to provide feedback. The questionnaire should take about 10 minutes to complete.

The answers you give in this survey will be treated with the strictest confidence and will be used only by BirdLife Botswana for the improvement of our service to our members. You can remain anonymous, or if you want to assist with follow-up action of a particular issue raised in your feedback, please provide your contact details. We look forward to receiving your replies.

- 1) How long have you been a member of BirdLife Botswana? (circle one)  
 <1 year                      1- 2 yrs                      2-4 Years                      4 Years +
- 2) How did you first hear of BirdLife Botswana?  
 From a friend / colleague                       From seeing a brochure   
 From the BirdLife Botswana Website                       Other (please specify)
- 3) Which of the following phrase closely describes how much you usually join BLB's activities (e.g. the monthly talk, or bird walk)?  
 I join every / nearly every time                       I join often   
 I join occasionally                       Never   
 If check Never, please specify the reason
- 4) How do you feel about BLB's activities?  
**Monthly Talk:** (circle one)  
 Very good                      Good                      Average                      Poor  
 If chose Poor, please specify the reason and what you think needs to be improved.

**Bird Walk:** (circle one)

Very good                      Good                      Average                      Poor  
 If chose Poor, please specify the reason and what you think needs to be improved.

- 5) Which of the following phrase closely describes how much you usually read BLB's publications?  
**Babbler:**  
 I read every / nearly every article                       I don't really read Babbler at all   
 I read about half                       I read one or two articles

Please specify the reason for not reading:

**Familiar Chat:**

I read every / nearly every article                       I read one or two articles   
 I read about half                       I don't really read Familiar Chat at all

Please specify the reason for not reading:

**Bird Conservation Newsletter:**

I read every / nearly every article                       I read one or two articles   
 I read about half                       I don't read the Newsletter at all

Please specify the reason for not reading:

How do you feel about overall benefits from BLB? (Circle one)

Very good                      Good                      Average                      Poor                      Very Poor

If "poor" or "very poor", please specify the reason and what you think need to be improve:

\_\_\_\_\_

- 6) What kinds of additional benefits would you like to have from BirdLife Botswana?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

- 7) What improvements, if any, would you like to see with BirdLife Botswana?  
Publications (Babbler, Familiar Chat)

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Activities (Monthly Talk, Bird Walk:

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- 8) Are you a member of any other organization?

National / Local conservation organizations  Others (please specify)   
International conservation organizations  International BirdLife Partners   
Overseas aid organizations

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- 9) Spreading the messages about what we do is vital to our success. Do you think your friends would like to have information on BirdLife Botswana? If yes, can you provide:

Name:

Address:

Tel/Fax:

Email:

- 11) Are you: Male  Female

How old are you?

Under 25      25 – 35      36 – 45      46 – 60      61+

Where do you live? (Please specify the name of your city, town or village)

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Any other comments?

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Lastly, BirdLife Botswana needs to ensure that it has money for publications, for its educational work, to support conservation projects, and to further its conservation and outreach activities. We would also like to be in a position to offer grants and prizes to encourage young Batswana to carry out surveys or research in birds. Here is how you can help us!

We would like to know whether your company (or any other you're familiar with, or an individual person for that matter) has an interest in birds, conservation or the environment as a whole, and might be prepared to sponsor one of our projects, or the Patron's Trust Fund (see attached leaflet). If so, please take the time to fill in the following:

**Name of company:**

**Name of Director/contact person (include their title) we should approach:**

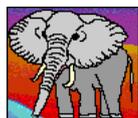
**Contact details:**

And for a mystery prize, write here the BirdLife Botswana website:

Please return your completed form to BirdLife Botswana, Private Bag 003, Suite 348 Mogoditshane by postal service or by fax at 319-0540 by the 1<sup>st</sup> September 2006.

Thank you very much for your kind cooperation and we look forward to receiving your replies.

BirdLife Botswana



**Q:** How do you get down  off an elephant?

**A:** You don't, you get down  off a duck! 

# COMMITTEE OF BIRDLIFE BOTSWANA 2006

Chairman Harold Hester ([haroldh@accelerate-it.co.bw](mailto:haroldh@accelerate-it.co.bw))  
Vice-Chairman Mike Goldsworthy ([mgg@botsnet.bw](mailto:mgg@botsnet.bw)) - also membership secretary  
Hon. Treasurer Daphne Goldsworthy ([daf@botsnet.bw](mailto:daf@botsnet.bw)) - also Editor *Familiar Chat*  
Hon. Secretary Susan Ocaya to May 2006; Paula Tutt ([tuttz@absamail.co.za](mailto:tuttz@absamail.co.za)) from May

## Committee members:

Balisi Bonyongo - from May 2006 ([bbonyongo@debswana.bw](mailto:bbonyongo@debswana.bw))  
Guy Brina - organiser of activities in Francistown ([gltm@info.bw](mailto:gltm@info.bw))  
Chris Brewster - recorder ([cbrewster@botsnet.bw](mailto:cbrewster@botsnet.bw))  
Mary Lane-Jones - from May 2006 ([mlj@it.bw](mailto:mlj@it.bw))  
Dolina Malepa - from May 2006 ([dmalepa@gov.bw](mailto:dmalepa@gov.bw))  
Doreen McColaugh - education ([bdmac@info.bw](mailto:bdmac@info.bw))  
Geoff & Trish Williams -organisers, Kasane ([williams@botsnet.bw](mailto:williams@botsnet.bw))

## Staff members:

Pete Hancock - Conservation Officer in Maun and Sec. Maun Group  
Tsogo Maipheto - Assistant CO Maun ([birdlifemaun@ngami.co.za](mailto:birdlifemaun@ngami.co.za))  
Kabelo Senyatso - Conservation Officer in Gaborone  
Keddy Mooketsa - Assistant CO ([blb@birdlifebotswana.org.bw](mailto:blb@birdlifebotswana.org.bw))

## Records sub-committee:

Recorder: Chris Brewster, PO Box 2316, Gaborone  
Secretary: Keddy Mooketsa  
Andrew Hester  
Mark Muller ([mullerfiatt@botsnetbw](mailto:mullerfiatt@botsnetbw))  
Ken Newman  
Huw Penry ([supenry@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:supenry@yahoo.co.uk))  
Stephanie J. Tyler  
Richard D. Randall ([rrsafaris@yahoo.co.fr](mailto:rrsafaris@yahoo.co.fr))

## Conservation/Research sub-committee

Chair: Pete Hancock ([birdlifemaun@ngami.co.za](mailto:birdlifemaun@ngami.co.za))  
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## Editorial sub-committee (*Babbler*)

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## BirdLife Botswana

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**Birdlife Botswana**

**Gaborone Calendar of events for 2006**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Event</b>	<b>Remarks</b>
July 2	8.00 am Walk	Gabane      CB
July 11	Committee mtg	
July 18	Talk	
August 6	8.00 am Walk	Modipane      CB
August 15	Committee mtg	
August 15	Talk	
Sept 3	8.00 am Walk	Mogobane      CB
Sept 19	No talk	
Oct 1	6.30 am Walk	Bokaa Dam      CB
Oct 7	Committee meeting	Sua Pan
<b>Oct 14</b>	<b>Annual Dinner</b>	<b>Speaker : Shane Pinchen</b>
Oct 17	Committee mtg	
Oct 17	Talk	
Oct 21/23	<b>Quarterly camp</b>	<b>Botsalano</b>
Nov 5	Little birding day	HCH to organise, Tea at Gem Nursery
Nov 21	Committee mtg	
Nov 21	Talk	
Nov 26	Birding Big day	
Dec 3	6.30 am Walk	Walk with D.McColaugh
Dec 12	Committee mtg	
Dec 19	No talk	

1. Gaborone Bird walks start at 06:30 October to April and 08:00 May to September. Meet at the museum.
2. All Gaborone talks take place at the Botswana Accountancy College at 19:30.
3. Francistown Branch will hold their meetings on the second Thursday of each month, meetings will take place at the Supa-Ngwao Museum. The museum is located at the corner of the first turn to the left as you travel from the Bulawayo roundabout towards the light industrial area.

**Birdlife Botswana**  
**Maun Calender of Events 2006**

Date	Activity	Person leading
12/7/06	Film - Flying Devils	D Bridges/T Maiphetho
22 & 23/7/06	African Waterbird Count-Thamalakane and Boteti	T Maiphetho
29 & 30/7/06	African Waterbird Counts - Moremi Game Reserve	P Hancock/T Maiphetho
16/8/06	Illustrated talk on BirdLife's work in Africa	P Hancock
19 & 20/8/06	Film - Fascinating World of Birding Field outing to Lake Ngami	D Bridges/T Maiphetho P Hancock
13/9/06	Film - The Weavers Tale	D Bridges/T Maiphetho
16 & 17/9/06	Film - Talon: the Story of a Crowned Eagle Field outing to Central Kalahari Game Reserve	D Bridges/T Maiphetho P Hancock
11/10/06	Film - Okavango Magic	D Bridges/T Maiphetho
14 & 15/10/06	Field outing to Okavango Panhandle	D Bridges/P Hancock
15/11/06	Film - Year of the Flamebird	D Bridges
18 & 19/11/06	Film - Haunt of the Fishing Owl Field outing to Makgadikgadi - Kwaraga campsite	P Hancock/D Bridges
6/12/06	Film - Fascinating World of Birding	D Bridges/T Maiphetho
9 & 10/12/06	Field outing to Central Kalahari Game Reserve	P Hancock

**Evening activities** (talks, films *etc.*) are held at Nhabe Museum unless otherwise indicated.

**Field outings** on weekends commence from the parking area outside Ngami Toyota. Exact details for outings (*e.g.* time of departure) are announced at the evening meeting prior to the field outing.

**Additional activities** may be scheduled depending on demand.

**Note** that there will always be an activity on the dates listed - these dates can be diarised with a high degree of certainty that an activity will take place. If there is an unexpected problem with the listed activity, another will be substituted.

**Contact** P Hancock/T Maiphetho for further information - 6860252

**Birdlife Botswana**  
**Kasane Calendar of events 2006**

We plan to meet on either the last Saturday or Sunday of the month.

Date	Event	Remarks
July 30 <sup>th</sup>	Movie evening and discussion at the school - David Attenborough's life of Birds.	Popcorn and sweets will be on sale.
August 27 <sup>th</sup>	"Show and tell" presentation of slides at a venue to be decided.	Hopefully we can get Gavin Blair to speak and show us his slides on this occasion
September 24 <sup>th</sup>	Guest speaker and Mini workshop. Marina. Time to be advised.	We are awaiting a reply to our invitation from the speaker of our choice
October 24 <sup>th</sup>	Night Drive. Meet at 17.30 at the farm.	The area around Chobe Farms and up the Lesoma Valley.
November 25 <sup>th</sup>	Fun Evening Function at a venues to be decided	Best story, quirk of the year, do something in celebration of birds. Boubou of the year prize giving