

The Osprey

The bulletin of the International Fellowship of Bird Watching
Rotarians

May 2006

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From your Editor . . .

Within two days of my submitting the article herein about Bird Flu, a headline in the Weekly Telegraph caught my eye: **“Bird Flu in Britain”**. I was in the Cape by now and after another couple of days I picked up an article in the Cape Times headed: **“Avian Flu under microscope in SA”**. On the same day the New York Times reported **“Mystery of virus leaves UN expert quite scared.”** I have condensed the discourse of these three items in a separate commentary in a new “Stop Press” article. (For Bird Flu articles, please see pp. 7 & 8.)

What can our Rotarian Fellowship do about Avian Flu? Due to limited time and resources, I say, “not much.” However as an international body interested in Birds and Birding, we should be aware of what’s going on, noting the dangers of spreading and what to do (or not do) if the virus comes our way. However in my opinion, it would not be good for us to become alarmist as are some of the comments of the Avian Coordinator for the United Nations.

Fellows, our friends and public expect us to be knowledgeable and informed about this global problem. Let us do service where it may be needed as Rotarians and as Birdwatching enthusiasts. Please pass your comments as feedback to me and copy to President Steve.

I would like to acknowledge the dedicated work of a former Rotarian who has “Retired” from Rotary but not from helping produce “Osprey”-- Brian Plested of Gaborone, Botswana. My good friend has done all the compiling on the computer for the two issues of this year. Brian’s efforts have ensured we get Osprey produced and in a decent format. Thanks Brian.

I must also thank a young lady who has done much of the initial typing up of articles, etc.--Olebogeng Eunice Morebodi. Botswana readers will know “Lebo” as a broadcaster, graduate and speaker at Rotary! Quite accomplished at 24! Thanks Lebo--I pass on the gratitude of the Fellowship to a willing and enthusiastic volunteer.

Rotary regards, good reading and good birding.

Mike Lakin, Editor

From Your IFBR President:

Dear Fellow Birders,

It is spring again in North America, and Susan and I are enjoying the change of season. The Snow Birds (Slate-colored Juncos) have left the area (thankfully—they mean cold weather!) and the Rose-breasted Grosbeaks have returned (photo, right). We live in a wooded area that supports many birds and animals that keep us constantly entertained. So far this year, we have seen 3 pairs of Grosbeaks, several Hairy, Downy, Red-bellied, Red-headed and Pileated Woodpeckers, many Blue Jays, American Robins, House Finches, and Purple Finches (a large number migrating through on one day only). We tend to retain White-breasted Nuthatches, Tufted Titmouse, Mourning Doves, Gold Finches, and Northern Cardinals, as well as several of the Woodpeckers, throughout the year. The Ruby-throated Hummingbirds (the only ones that normally appear in our area) returned in mid-April. This morning we were delighted to see a mother Killdeer and two chicks in a nearby parking lot.



As I sit and watch the birds and other animals in the back yard, I am struck by how lucky I am to be a Rotarian and to have the resources and the time to sit back and enjoy the beauty of nature's birds and animals. I am grateful, as a Rotarian, to be affiliated with this fine organization and The Rotary Foundation which takes my annual monetary gift and turns it into aid for the needy of the world and scholarships to educate a new generation of Ambassadorial and World Peace Scholars. I hope you will join Susan and me in supporting Our Rotary Foundation. After all, sharing with and caring for others is what the life of a Rotarian is all about. Now that my annual gift is in the mail, I can sit back again and enjoy all of nature's beauty in the back yard.

I hope many of you are planning to attend the upcoming Rotary International Convention in June, and that you will be willing to **help out at our Fellowship booth** for a few hours between Sunday and Wednesday. If everyone can volunteer for just a few hours, we can all still attend the convention sessions as we wish. If you have never worked the booth, you'll learn that many interested Rotarians and guests stop by, and there's no shortage of conversation—especially since people are drawn to our colorful posters! I always have a great time meeting new people and old friends at the booth! Please respond to me via email if you are willing to help out: sdleonard@scican.net

I'm excited about our annual **Field Trip**, which will set out on **Thursday, June 15, for a full day of birding** in a large wetland area in Sweden, with stops on the way to view forest birds as well. I don't have details yet, but a local member of our Fellowship is working on arrangements. I hope to see many of you on this trip on June 15! **Sign-up will take place at our booth.**

We'll see you in Malmo-Copenhagen!

Steve

Member Response to October Osprey

President Steve Leonard received this interesting email from IFBR member Gytha Nuna of Accra, Ghana:

Hello Steve:

*Thank you for the newsletter which is really full of some great stuff. As one of my functions is commissioner for the conservation of Wildlife in my country (Ghana), conservation of wildlife is my passion, and therefore I agree with some of the issues raised regarding aviaries and Zoos, HOWEVER coming from a country where a vast majority of people believe that their only source of protein is what they find in the forest, leaves us with no alternatives but to save some of these precious inhibitors of our planet and keep them in our Zoos. Recently we managed to rescue a Crowned Eagle, (*Strephanoaetus Coronatus*) which had been caught/trapped by some youth in one of the regions; the poor fledging was learning to fly; anyhow we cannot rehabilitate it enough to put it in the wild we managed to use the President to educate people not to trap these birds, but it goes on. Some good news though, in Ghana, the hitherto thought to be extinct *Picathartes gymnocephalus* has been re-discovered, in fact several nesting places have been found, we are working seriously with timber companies whose concessions these wonderful birds have been found in to work around them and take the credit for preserving their habitat. A fair exchange, we think. However, there again we need to encourage the fringe communities more ,by having visitors patronize these communities and spend a bit of money to see these birds. If there are any interested birders please let me know, as it would be great help in our conservation strategy!*

Meanwhile, I look forward to meeting you in Sweden.

*Environmentally yours
Gytha*

Fellow members of IFBR . . .

We need your help! Editor Mike and I hope you are enjoying this issue of the OSPREY!

If you have a high-speed internet connection, and would like to receive your newsletter in full color (available on-line only), please let us know by emailing a message to that effect to your president, Steve Leonard, at sdleonard@scican.net

We can save money for the Fellowship by printing fewer copies and by not using color. If you are receiving this newsletter via regular mail, you can see that we have printed it in black and white to reduce costs. If you enjoyed your previous, full-color issue, please send me your email address for future use.

Thank you!
Steve

Book Reviews

This article is based on “BirdLife” fact sheets, although the first publication featured has a brief review by *New Scientist* (see below)

IMPORTANT BIRD AREAS IN AFRICA AND ASSOCIATED ISLANDS

Lincoln D.C. Fishpool and Michael I. Evans

Cover: Hardback

Size: 305 x 215 mm

No. of Pages: 1144pp

Colours: 2-colour throughout, 30 colour plates, 66 maps and 58 illustrations

ISBN: 1 874357 20 X

Published in partnership with BirdLife International, *Important Bird Areas in Africa and Associated Islands* is an immense piece of work. The 1,162 page study took eight years to complete, and is the first ever attempt to list all the sites in the region that are internationally recognised as the most critically important places for bird and biodiversity conservation.

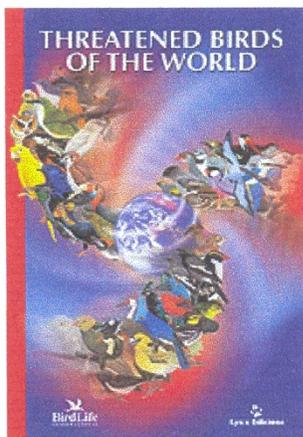
Countries included: All countries on the African Continent. Associated islands include: Cape Verde, Sao Tome and Principe, St Helena, Ascension Island, Tristan da Cunha, French Southern Territories (Amsterdam and St Paul, Kerguelen Islands, Crozet Islands), Bouvet Island, Madagascar and Indian Ocean Islands (Seychelles, Mauritius, Comoros, Mayotte, Reunion).

New Scientist Review: “Few challenges are as daunting as that of saving Africa's astonishingly diverse birds. It takes a massive book to address this massive task. With 1,144 pages at their disposal, editors Lincoln Fishpool and Michael Evans manage to cover only 7 per cent of the African region. Even so, they describe 1,228 Important Bird Areas (IBAs) as part of a worldwide initiative called BirdLife, which aims to identify, document and protect a network of sites critical for the conservation of the world's birds. A huge amount of work has gone into compiling Important Bird Areas in Africa, making it not only the bible for African bird conservation, but also by far the most comprehensive and up-to-date where-to-watch-birds book on Africa. There are no photographs of endangered birds, but this lack of illustration hardly matters: the clear and attractive layout invites the eye.”

THREATENED BIRDS OF THE WORLD

BirdLife International, 2000

Barcelona and Cambridge



A shocking 1,186 bird species risk becoming extinct in the next 100 years. Even worse, 182 of these are Critically Endangered--meaning they could be extinct in just 10 years.

Which birds are threatened? What do they look like? Where are they found? Why are they threatened? What needs to be done?

“Threatened Birds of the World” provides you with all this information and much more...

The good news is that there are many opportunities to help these species. *Threatened Birds of the World* highlights these, providing full information on each species. The challenge for us all now will be to use these facts and figures to ensure that action takes place before it is too late.

Full colour throughout, technical information is provided in a highly visual and understandable format using hundreds of illustrations, maps, graphs and charts. A detailed species account is provided for each of the 1,186 Globally Threatened bird species. Information is also provided on a further 727 species classified as Near Threatened.

An introductory chapter gives information on the extinction crisis, the use of birds as indicators of biodiversity and in ecosystem conservation. Analyses show where threatened birds occur, territories with the highest numbers, principal habitats, key issues to tackle and conservation action targets. Illustrated with pie charts, histograms and examples, this information is easy to assimilate, understand and use.

A critical publication for anyone involved in species protection, biodiversity conservation, environmental planning, survey work and expeditions, policy formulation, biodiversity funding-- and also of course for ornithologists and bird enthusiasts worldwide.

EDITOR'S COMMENT: *I appeal to Osprey readers/potential contributors to submit "Book Review" articles especially books, videos, films etc. of international interest. Send as an attachment by e-mail to Osprey Editor for the time being anyway, to mikelsie@it.bw – Ed.*

\$40 MILLION BIRD

In the last 20 years, U.S. federal and state governments, along with private groups, have spent \$40 million to save the California condor. Just 27 remained in 1987, when the last Free-flying condor was caught. Now there are more than 200. They were saved in part by moving the orphaned babies to zoos, where they were raised by keepers wearing hand puppets that looked like birds. Now condors are being released into the wild and surviving. Their top threat is lead poisoning from the pellets left in carcasses by hunters.



With a 9 ½ foot wingspan, the California condor is North America's largest flying bird.

(from Parade Magazine, May 7, 2006)

The Library Club, Kasane

The following letter is addressed to PP Mike as District Chair, Preserve Planet Earth- which he is, but in fact the donation referred to was from the International Fellowship of Birdwatching Rotarians. The money for the items mentioned came from residual funds from participants in the 2001 IFBR Tour of Southern Africa-some of them overpaid but decided to leave the money in the (Rotary Club of Gaborone) I.F.B.R fund for support of resources needed by Trish Williams' Environmental Training Club group in Kasane known as The Library Club- see "Osprey" of October 2005.

MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND HOME AFFAIRS
BOTSWANA NATIONAL LIBRARY SERVICE



Private Bag 0036, GABORONE, BOTSWANA. Telephone 352397 & 352288, Cables: BONALIBS
Fax No. (267) 301149

Our ref:
(Please quote in your reply)
Your ref:

Kasane Public Library
Private Bag K6
Kasane

13/10/05

Mr Mike Lakin
Preserve Planet Earth Committee
Rotary Club, Gaborone

RE: Receipt of Donations-Kasane Library Club

Dear Mr Lakin

Library Management together with Library Club overseer/mentor Ms Trish Williams wishes to thank you for your spirit of giving. It is our hope that the donated stationary will benefit the club.

The club itself exists as an effort to sensitize young people about the environmental and environmental issues/lessons. Pupils have so far been taken through lessons on water and its uses, insects and pollination, arachnids, fish etc.

Finally let us thank you for the following items:

- Flip chart, Crayons, Sharpeners, Paper, Files, Glue, and Scissors.

Yours Sincerely


K. Mazunga
Senior Library Officer-6250310

Bird Flu News

[What do we know about AVIAN INFLUENZA more commonly called BIRDFLU. Recently cases in Europe have been reported in France and it is said that we must consider the threat of spread- including across the English Channel or serious. In Africa cases have been reported in Nigeria. As Birdwatchers some of whom have occasion to handle birds, perhaps we should be expected to know a little more about Bird Flu. The following was published by "Network" whom we acknowledge with gratitude. Ed. Mike]

AVIAN INFLUENZA

With reports abound regarding a potential pandemic of Bird Flu; we thought it appropriate to offer some information and advice. The aim being to minimize the risks you may encounter as you carry out your Bird Control work.

Bird Flu (Avian influenza) is a contagious viral disease of birds. All birds are thought to be susceptible to the virus, and symptoms can vary from mild illness to fatality. There are many different subtypes of the virus. One of these, subtype H5N1, has caused severe outbreaks in poultry, and deaths in humans: 170 human cases have been reported to the World Health Organisation to date (20 December 2005), of which 92 have died. The human cases have so far only been reported in Asia. However, bird cases have been identified in Europe.

There is no firm evidence that the virus can be transmitted easily from person to person, though there is a fear that it might develop this ability in the future. It is believed that human infections so far have occurred as a result of direct contact with infected birds. The virus can be spread through ingestion or inhalation, and can remain viable in droppings for prolonged periods. Feral pigeons (*Columba livia*) in Asia have been recorded with H5N1.

If you work in close contact with birds and are concerned about the risk of catching bird flu then you may wish to visit the web sites detailed below for more details.

As a precaution you may wish to wear suitable Personal Protective equipment (PPE) when working with bird infestations, in particular bird dropping removal. For avoiding the risk of infection when working with poultry that is suspected of having highly pathogenic avian influenza, the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) advocate a minimum level of PPE. This includes for example disposable Tyvek type overalls; disposable lightweight nitrile or vinyl gloves; rubber or polyurethane boots that can be cleaned and disinfected or disposable shoe covers; close fitting goggles; and a P3 respirator with exhalation valve. P3 filters are efficient toxic dust filters.

For further up-to-date information please refer to the World Health Organisation, the Department of Health, and the Health and Safety Executive, Websites (www.who.int, www.dh.gov.uk, www.hse.gov.uk respectively). For information about transmission of Avian Flu from wild birds a good reference is "Conservation Implications of avian influenza". RSPB Research Report No.14, by Prof C J Feare.

Stop Press!

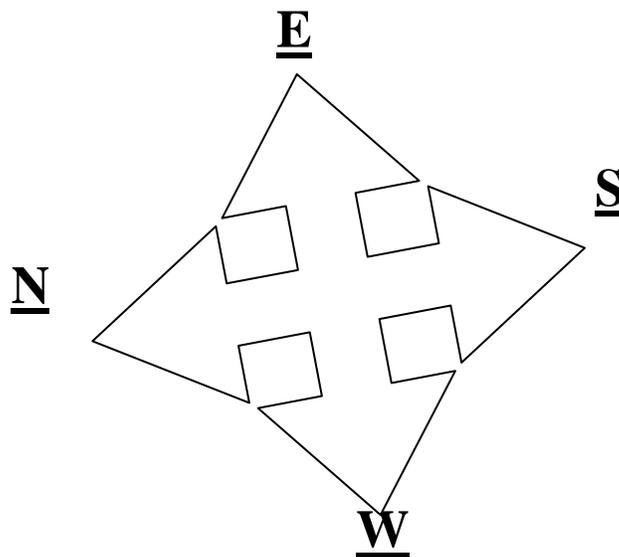
Bird Flu virus has reportedly been spreading. Rotarian Birdwatching Fellows should be alert and aware.

In its 12-18 April edition *The UK Weekly Telegraph* reported on its front page that tests confirm a wild swan was killed by H5N1 virus in what was declared a wild bird risk area of 1000sq miles, north of Edinburgh, Scotland. There are 3 million poultry in this area.

H5N1 has killed millions of birds in Asia and is one of the more virulent strains of bird flu. Its spread across the world is particularly alarming because it can be transmitted from birds to humans living in close proximity.

On 16th April *The Cape Times* stated that in recent months bird populations in China, Vietnam, and India in the east have been decimated by Avian Influenza. On the African continent cases had been reported in Egypt and Nigeria.

From ALL directions . . .



NEW SIGHTINGS AND SPECIES ROUNDUP

The Chestnut-bellied Hummingbird *Amazilia castaneiventris*, a Critically Endangered species with a tiny restricted range of around 6 km², has been studied in Boyacá, Colombia, where it was last reported in 2000 after a gap of 22 years.

Bee-keeping by local people in the area has encouraged the planting of flowering bushes, to the birds' benefit.



Luis Mazariegos
Colombia's Critically Endangered
Chestnut-bellied Hummingbird

The closely related Rufous-tailed Hummingbird *A. tzacatl* has dingy-grey rather than rufous lower underparts. (Ornitología Colombiana No. 2 (2004): 47–49)

In Brazil, a taxonomic revision of the Mouse-coloured Tapaculo *Scytalopus speluncae* complex has identified one new species and suggested more are waiting to be described. The research, published by Giovanni Nachtigall Maurício in the Brazilian journal *Ararajuba* (13: 7–28) finds that birds from three areas of southern Brazil and Misiones in Argentina differ from the rest of the complex and should be considered a separate species, for which the name Planalto Tapaculo *S. pachecoi* is proposed. Finally, an expedition to in the remote northern tip of Myanmar close to the border with Yunnan, China, has discovered a new species of scimitar-babbler. On 6 February 2004, expedition members captured two scimitar-babblers on a steep hillside in temperate rainforest close to the village of Naung Mung. A third bird was captured two days later at another site close by, and all three proved to be females.

The combination of long decurved bill, long legs, large feet and short tail all pointed to the birds belonging to the genus *Jabouilleia*. However, only one species in that genus was then known, the Short-tailed Scimitar-babbler *J. danjoui* from Vietnam and adjacent parts of Laos, some 600 km to the south-east. Subsequently, close comparison of the birds from Myanmar with museum specimens of Short-tailed Scimitar-babbler have confirmed them as a new species, which is described in *The Auk* (122: 1064–1069), and which the authors have named the Naung Mung Scimitar-babbler *Jabouilleia naungmungensis*.

ENIGMATIC Tanager Rediscovered in Brazil

The March 2006 issue of BirdLife's *World Birdwatch* magazine features a small grey and white finch-like bird with a striking pale bill, on its cover.

On 25 August 1938, Dr A Vellard collected a new species of passerine in dry forest habitat at Juruena, Central Brazil. In appearance, the new species was mostly black except for a small concealed white throat patch and white belly. The "stout and conical" bill led to its English name of Cone-billed Tanager, but remarkably it was another 66 years before the species was seen anywhere again.

In October 2004, Brazilian ornithologist Dante Buzzetti was visiting Emas National Park to follow up a possible sighting of the species in 2003 by bird guide Bráulio A Carlos. Buzzetti heard a call at dawn he did not recognize. Playing back the calls attracted a medium brown bird he was unable to identify. A few days later, he heard a melodious song, and again using playback, brought in a male Cone-billed Tanager *Conothraupis mesoleuca*.



Andre De Luca/SAVE Brasil
In late 2005, Andre De Luca, a volunteer ornithologist for SAVE Brasil, visited Emas National Park and found at least three Cone-billed Tanagers

Later that day, Buzzetti confirmed the brown bird he had earlier seen was a female Cone-billed Tanager; the first ever to be recorded. The following month, Buzzetti and Carlos filmed

presumably the same pair of birds. Unlike published illustrations (all based on the single museum specimen), in life the bill of Cone-billed Tanager was strikingly pale, rather than black.

"To get photos of the tanager was fantastic because it's still hard for me to believe that I've actually seen this enigmatic species!" Andre de Luca – SAVE, Brasil

Since 2004, Cone-billed Tanagers have been found again at Emas National Park. In late 2005, Andre De Luca, a volunteer ornithologist for SAVE Brasil (BirdLife in Brazil), visited the park and found at least three birds in gallery forest.

Although the rediscovery of the Cone-billed Tanager is great news for Brazil's birds, the publication today of Important Bird Areas in Brazil by SAVE Brasil highlights the problems faced by one of the most bird-rich countries in the world – particularly in its threatened Atlantic Forest habitat.

Brazil has more globally threatened birds than any other country on earth. Of the 111 species at risk of extinction, 98 live in Brazil's Atlantic forest, already the country's most seriously reduced habitat.

VIETNAMESE STAMPS OF RARE GALLIFORMES



BirdLife International in Indochina
The stamps depict Edwards's Pheasant, Orange-necked Partridge, Vietnamese Pheasant, Crested Argus and Germain's Peacock-pheasant

On 1 April 2006 a stamp set depicting Vietnam's threatened and endemic partridges and pheasants (Galliformes) will be launched by the Ministry of Post and Telecommunication of Vietnam.

In consultation with ornithological experts from the BirdLife International Vietnam Programme, the Ministry selected five Galliformes to be depicted on the new stamp set. They are Edwards's Pheasant *Lophura edwardsi*, Orange-necked Partridge *Arborophila davidi*, Vietnamese Pheasant *Lophura hatinhensis*, Germain's Peacock-pheasant *Polyplectron germaini* and Crested Argus *Rheinardia ocellata*.

All five species have small populations that are declining because of habitat loss and fragmentation and high levels of hunting. The first three are regarded by BirdLife as Endangered, and the others as Near Threatened (they were downlisted from Vulnerable in 2005, due to greater knowledge of their numbers).

"The stamps will remind people of Vietnam's rich and spectacular bird life, which is the envy of the rest of the world. It's our duty to protect these magnificent species and their forest homes - they're a valuable part of our natural heritage." Ms Pham Tuan Anh, Bird Life Vietnam Programme Manager.

This is the first time that BirdLife and the Ministry have co-operated to publish stamps depicting Vietnam's spectacular bird life, and in recognition of BirdLife's assistance, each stamp carries the BirdLife International logo.

BirdLife hopes to continue the co-operation with the Ministry to produce more stamp sets over the coming years, depicting threatened and migrant water birds, pittas and threatened birds of prey. □

EDITOR'S COMMENT: Fellowship readers will know that one of RI Fellowships is Rotary on stamps and as a member I know many countries have featured birds on stamp issues (including my own Botswana) may I suggest I.F.B.R get " Rotary on Stamps" to submit an article to Osprey on "Birds on (Rotary on) stamps! As a current member of RI Fellowships Committee with our fellows' agreement I shall liaise with our brother sister Fellowship promoting the working together on a small project among RI Fellowships. (Editor, Mike)

THE SPECTACULAR OKAVANGO DELTA



The following are excerpts from an article called "Birdsong" by Ivan Fallon which was in *Condé Nast Independent Magazines (Pty) Ltd*. [This should whet your appetite for a tour to include Botswana- possibly second half of 2007. Editor]

Regarded by some as Botswana's National bird, the Lilac-Breasted Roller is a pretty, common resident of savanna and open woodland. It can be found in Southern Africa except the Cape and Western Namibia.
(photo by Mike Lakin)

"Keen bird-watchers travel from all over the world to the Okavango wilderness in Botswana to spend days in search of the Pel's Fishing Owl, a very large, very beautiful and very distinctive creature found almost nowhere else. Mostly they fail, but happily make do with the surfeit of other beautiful birds that inhabit, in incredible numbers and variety, the ecological phenomenon that is the famous delta.

As we began our search there was plenty to keep me frantically flipping through my Newman's field guide, scribbling and recording: the Malachite Kingfisher, with his flashing turquoise cap and his defiant 'peep-peep', live here in profusion. So does his less glamorous cousin, the Striped Kingfisher (distinguished as a kingfisher who doesn't fish) and out on the water as a pair of Pied kingfishers prepared to dive-bomb the unsuspecting minnows. Little Bee-eaters popped out every bush joined by their even more beautiful relation, the Swallow-tailed, with his elegant long blue tail. European and lesser striped Swallows swooped through the glades chasing their plentiful insect prey. Above them were palm Swifts, and a lone Banded Martin. A flock of Red-faced Mousebirds went by on its busy way somewhere else in the Delta, as did a stately group of four Wattled cranes, now on the endangered list but thankfully still plentiful in the Delta. A Kurrichane thrush appeared in a bush long enough to be identified and disappeared again. A Senegal Coucal flashed his white breast; and his Coppery-tailed cousin was never far away. There were doves of all kinds cooing their different ditties: Red eyed, Cape turtle, Green-spotted, Laughing, Mourning, Namaqua and even a Green Pigeon. And there were plenty of cisticolas, chats, firefinches, Fork-tailed Drongos and the ubiquitous Red-billed Francolin.

The Pel's is the greatest prize in this world of birds, but there are many more high points for bird watchers in a trip to the Okavango delta. At Savute, for example, we watched a Martial Eagle, bigger by a head than the Pel's, rip apart an unfortunate guinea fowl he had caught for his lunch. A pair of Tawny Eagles circled above; and further away a Bateleur wobbled his perilous path through the sky. Every hundred metres or so in the bush sat the national bird of Botswana: the Lilac-breasted Roller, as common here as sparrows used to be in woodland England. Hornbills were everywhere: Red-billed, Yellow-billed, Grey, Ground and even the rarer Bradfield's.

We observed at close hand the delicate underside of the pale Chanting Goshawk and his Little Branded cousin. A Black shouldered Kite, hovering right overhead, kept us enraptured until our necks ached. The camp alone yielded up a dozen species, including a pair of Barred Owls, the Meyer's Parrot, babblers (Arrow-marked and Pied) Black-collared Barbets and Bearded and Cardinal Woodpeckers.

Sundown at Eagle Island brought the most amazing show of birds yet, as the flocks came home from the desert and delta to their roosting spots. Great flights of Wattled Starlings wheeled against the setting sun, pratincoles, geese, hamerkops, cranes, doves, and even the African Fish Eagle, sending his hauntingly beautiful cry echoing across the waters. In four days in the Okavango, starting early in the morning and finishing after sunset, we recorded 142 different varieties of birds. Serious experts have recorded twice that, and they are certainly there to be found and identified by the keen eye.

AFRICA'S BIG FIVE BIRDS-Five of the most threatened bird species

1. **Martial eagle**- 70cm tall and between three and six kg in weight, this supreme hunter takes prey up to the size of a sheep.
2. **(Southern) Ground Hornbill**- A carnivorous 90-120cm tall turkey bird that favours tortoises, they hunt in pack of up to eight.
3. **Pel's fishing Owl**- one of the largest owls, a nocturnal fisher with a highly specialised riverine forest habitat.
4. **Saddle-Billed Stork**- Black and white in colour with a big black and red bill. Feeds on fish and other aquatic animals.
5. **Kori Bustard**-Grows to weigh up to 19kg.A slow-moving forager for insects and seeds.

Southern ground hornbill. These turkey-sized black birds with red face and throat pouch are fairly common residents in Northern Botswana, Zimbabwe, Southern Mozambique and Eastern South Africa. Status: Threatened (*photo by Mike Lakin*)

