



*"Inspiring birds, inspiring people"*

**NEWSLETTER no. 27 ( June, 2017 )**



*"Inspiring birds, inspiring people"*

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**Introduction:**

Dear colleagues,  
In this newsletter a lot of attention is focused on the events around World Migratory Bird Day in May. We also welcome a new partner from France in our MBP-network: The colleagues from **La Maison du Lac De-Grand-Lieu** near Nantes.

And of course we invite all participants in the network to attend our Annual Meeting in Luxembourg!

But without the cooperation of the participants in our MBP-network we would not have this newsletter at all. So, as always, there is a lot of interesting news in this edition!

On behalf of the core-group "Migratory Birds for People"-network,

*Roelof Heringa*

Check also our website: **[www.migratorybirdsforpeople.org](http://www.migratorybirdsforpeople.org)**

MBP is also on FACEBOOK : [www.facebook.com/migratorybirdsforpeople](http://www.facebook.com/migratorybirdsforpeople)

Our MISSION can also be found on: [www.facebook.com/migratorybirdsforpeople](http://www.facebook.com/migratorybirdsforpeople)

*P.S.: your feedback is always welcome! / vos commentaires sont toujours bienvenus!*

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## News from the "Migratory Birds for People" - core group

**MBP annual meeting 2017, 1<sup>st</sup> – 4<sup>th</sup> of October.**



### **ANNUAL MEETING "Migratory Birds for People", October 1<sup>st</sup> - 4<sup>th</sup> 2017**

**Theme:** *" Successful international communication for conservation"*

Venue: Biodiversum, visitors & nature center, Remerschen, Luxembourg

Biodiversum nature center opened to public in June 2016 and our colleagues from there offered to host this years' MBP-annual meeting.

In the coming months the core group will discuss the programme for this meeting. A draft for this years' programme is on the next page. In the meantime **you all are invited to prepare yourself for this meeting by seeking permission to attend and looking for travel arrangements.**

We will discuss the various projects within our MBP-network.



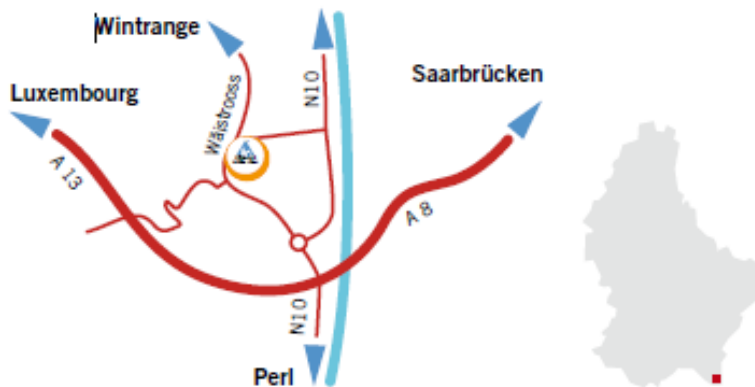


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**Registration** – please send in the registration form ( see below) to Patric Lorgé (Biodiversum Remerschen) ([patric.lorge@anf.etat.lu](mailto:patric.lorge@anf.etat.lu)) and Chris Rostron ([chris.rostron@wwt.org.uk](mailto:chris.rostron@wwt.org.uk)), to show your interest.  
**A short pre-registration would be appreciated in order to prepare the meeting.**

**Arrival** - aim to arrive on the evening of Sunday the 1<sup>st</sup> October, getting in to Luxembourg airport (<https://www.lux-airport.lu/>) or train station, from where transport could be provided. The airport and train station are about half an hour from the centre.



**Accommodation:** Remerschen Youth Hostel is only 500m from the Biodiversum centre. The costs for accommodation are paid by participants. Patric and Isabelle will take in charge the reservation for rooms. Some Hotels may be found in the area.  
<http://youthhostels.lu/en/youth-hostels/youth-hostel-remerschen-schengen>

**Departure** – you can depart on the 4<sup>th</sup> of October after the core meeting, or if you would like to visit **Luxembourg**, we will help you with further information.

**Contact: Patric Lorgé & Isabelle Zwick**

Biodiversum, 5, Breicherwee, 5441 Remerschen

Dir Tel.: (+352) 23 60 90 61 24

Mobile: (+352) 621 29 36 94

Email: Patric Lorgé ([patric.lorge@anf.etat.lu](mailto:patric.lorge@anf.etat.lu)) Isabelle Zwick ([Isabelle.Zwick@anf.etat.lu](mailto:Isabelle.Zwick@anf.etat.lu))

Website: [www.biodiversum.lu](http://www.biodiversum.lu)

**And finally.... Please, in case you play a musical instrument, don't hesitate to bring it along!  
And ..... some 'goodies' for the EURO-cocktail !**



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### Programme

	<b>1<sup>st</sup> October - Sunday:</b> Arrival in Luxembourg; Youth hostel Remerschen
20.00	Dinner and socializing
	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> October - Monday</b>
8:00	Breakfast at Youth Hostel
	<b><i>Annual Meeting, Session 1: introduction and interpretation</i></b>
9.00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Welcome from Luxembourg officials (20 minutes)</li> <li>• Introduction on MBP progress and aims of meeting (Chris Rostron)</li> <li>• Presentation Nature centre (tour of the centre)</li> <li>• Developing best practise in guiding and interpretation in different languages</li> </ul>
12.00-13.00	Lunch @ Biodiversum
	<b><i>Session 2: Benefits of wetlands</i></b>
13.00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Case studies from members (maximum 20 minutes each) –</li> <li>• Wetlands for birds and people</li> </ul> <p>Divided into teams and work with their own practice of nature guiding, based on the inspiration of the presentations they have seen.</p> <p>Each team shall thereafter submit or perform the best examples for each other.</p>
16.00-17.00	Snack and coffee
17.00 – 19.30	Visit to a local winery
20.00	Dinner offered by Biodiversum
	<b>3<sup>rd</sup> October – Tuesday</b>
	<b><i>Annual Meeting, Session 3:</i></b>
8.00	Breakfast at Youth Hostel
8.30 – 11.00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Assessment of MBP’s activities to date (Chris R)</li> <li>- EU and other joint funding possibilities</li> <li>- Communications work (website, communications group)</li> </ul>
11:10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Contact with partners in Africa by skype (focus on PAOC)</li> <li>- Update from external partner (Ramsar, AEWA?)</li> <li>- World Migratory Bird Day activities, review and planning</li> <li>- Plans for 2018</li> </ul>
13:00	Lunch @ Biodiversum
14.00-17.30	Visit local wetland & natura2000 site Haff Réimech
17:30 – 18.00	Snack and coffee
18.00 – 20.00	presentations
Flexible, 20.00	Euro-Cocktail event and dinner



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	<b>4<sup>th</sup> October – Wednesday</b>
8.00am	Breakfast Youth Hostel – Departure or optional field trips

**Registration Form for MBP- annual meeting  
(Also in separate attachment)**

**1<sup>st</sup> – 4<sup>th</sup> October 2017**

**Please register before 4<sup>th</sup> of September 2017**

**Personal information**

First name:

Last name:

Organisation:

Job title:

Street address

Postcode:

City:

Country:

Email:

Phone number:

Mobile:

**ATTENDANCE**

Please indicate which dates you will be attending

Sunday 1st October

Monday 2 October

Tuesday 3 October

Wednesday 4 October

**ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE INFORMATION**

Day & date of arrival:

Date & day of departure:

Airport / Train:

Airport / Train:



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Flight number:

Flight number:

Arrival time at airport:   h

Departure time from airport:   h

Or arrival time in Luxembourg

if not flying                           h

<b>PRACTICAL INFORMATION</b>
------------------------------

Do you have any dietary requirements (e.g. vegetarian, allergies)?

Do you have any special requirements (e.g. concerning mobility)?

Your name, organisation and country will be stated in the delegates list. Please tick the box if you do not want your email address to be stated in the delegates list.

Photographs will be taken during the workshop. Please tick the box below if you do not want your photograph to be published online (e.g. website, newsletter) and in meeting documents (e.g. final report).

**Please, copy and send this information to :**

**Patric Lorgé**  
Biodiversum  
5, Breicherwee  
5441 Remerschen  
Dir Tel.: (+352) 23 60 90 61 24  
Mobile: (+352) 621 29 36 94  
Email: [patric.lorge@anf.etat.lu](mailto:patric.lorge@anf.etat.lu)

**AND :**  
**Chris Rostron**  
(Head of Wetland Link International)  
Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust (WWT)  
Slimbridge, Glos GL2 7BT, UK  
Email [chris.rostron@wwt.org.uk](mailto:chris.rostron@wwt.org.uk)



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## PROJECTS:

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### Life project Awareness Campaign about the relevance of wetlands for migratory birds

#### Update LIFE proposal (June 2017)

During the recent months, **Natuurpunt** (B), Stefan Versweyveld, has decided to become the **lead partner** in the LIFE communication project.

With renewed energy a partner search has started, asking different organisations along the East-Atlantic Flyway to join the project.

At this point the contacted organisations are reflecting on their contribution to and their role in the project. Staatsbosbeheer Oostvaardersplassen (NL) and Staatsbosbeheer NP Biesbosch (NL) are no longer involved, since they don't have specific communication projects to enrol in the upcoming years.

Depending upon the number of partners that are willing to partake, a meeting will be held on Monday 26<sup>th</sup> of June where the project idea and concept will be discussed. Following the outcome of this discussion, the application will be written in close co-operation with the associated partners.

In a previous meeting, **osprey, curlew, black tailed godwit and sandwich tern** were defined as flagship species.

The aim is to submit **the LIFE application in 2017** call.

**Please, consider joining this exciting project and send me your interest.  
For more information, please contact: Theo de Bruin; [theodebruin@nlrnt.nl](mailto:theodebruin@nlrnt.nl)**







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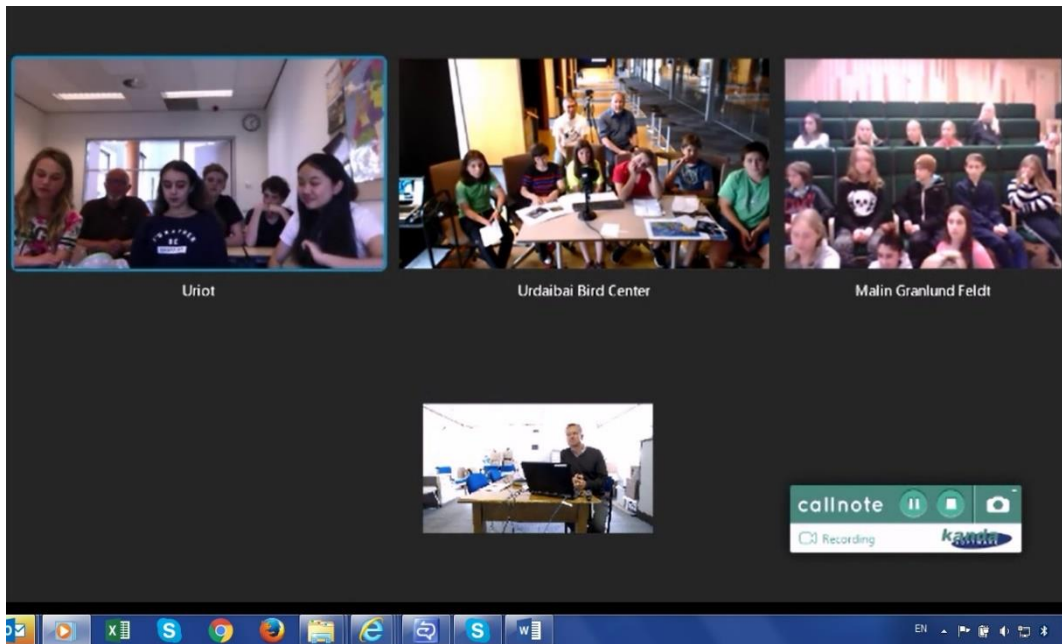
## News from the network:

### World Migratory Birds Day 2017 and MBP



World Migratory Bird Day

On Thursday the 11<sup>th</sup> of May, MBP's **"Connecting Birds and Schools project"** took place, with pupils from across seven schools in Europe and West Africa visiting their local wetlands, and preparing a report on migratory birds.



Three of those schools joined Chris Rostron, Head of WLI, on the 11<sup>th</sup> May to discuss their findings and show the videos that they had prepared.

Montorre school visited Urdaibai wetland centre, and gave us information on their most important migratory birds, particularly the osprey, and discussed the breeding and monitoring programme that take place.

The Swedish Fridtjuvberg school from Ödeshög visited Lake Tåkern, and watched birds as well as making observations of the habitat.

The Dutch school visited the Oostvaardersplassen and saw barnacle geese and swans, and discussed the importance of maintaining good habitat and protecting reserves.

The pupils, their teachers and the staff at the wetland centres were all very excited to take part in the project, and hope to do so again next year. They are also planning to maintain contact with each other and exchange information.

You can see their information soon [here](#).

<http://wli.wwt.org.uk/regions/europe/europe-regional-initiatives/migratory-birds-for-people-programme/mbp-connecting-schools-birds-world-migratory-bird-day/>

Chris Rostron



*Young bird watchers in Sidi Moussa-Oualidia Morocco*



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**And from Florian Keil (Staff AEWA) we received the following message:**

*Nice event – congratulations to all involved! I managed to tune in a little from my office in Bonn! Was wonderful to see the children interact “across the flyway” this way! Definitely something to replicate and build upon in future...*



**Please send us a link (best directly to [contact@worldmigratorybirdday.org](mailto:contact@worldmigratorybirdday.org)) we can promote via WMBD channels, best with some photos and short summary!**

*Cheers, Florian*

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**Finland : Liminka Bay Visitor Center**

### **News from Liminka Bay**

In Liminka Bay visitor centre spring was extremely cold (as in many parts of the Northern Europe) and it almost seemed that spring will never come. Even as late as on 14<sup>th</sup> May there was still a heavy snowfall. Many migratory birds arrived around two weeks later than the average in the 2000's - on the other hand, timing of the migration was quite similar to 1970's. This is how much the warming climate has changed things!

One of the highlights so far has been the excellent numbers of the globally threatened **Lesser White-fronted Goose**.

This year the spring total was at least 119 individuals, which is the highest count since the intensive monitoring started in 1985! But still we are quite far away from the figures of the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, when estimated 10.000 individuals migrated via Oulu region to breed in the Scandinavian mountains. When writing this, our precious geese are just about start the final stage of their migration. We wish them best of luck and productive breeding season 2017!

Also numbers of the Bean and Pink-footed Geese were high this year (daily maximum 13400 and 4300 individuals, respectively), both as a result of the cold spring (which postpones the migration) and the real increase in numbers. Arctic breeding waders were also forced to stop at Liminka Bay in unusually large numbers, which again emphasizes the significance of the wetlands as a stopover and refueling sites for birds.

Rodents seem to be few and far between this year and as a result many owls and birds of prey seem to be low in numbers.

Still, numbers of the Pallid Harriers have again been relatively high. And as if the identification of the harriers was not hard enough otherwise, there is also a record of an apparent male Pallid x Hen Harrier hybrid!

In the visitor center, one highlight of the spring was the **Liminka Bay Bird photography festival**, which was organised already for the 11<sup>th</sup> time. Nearly 1300 visitors saw again top-class photo presentations, enjoyed guiding at the birdwatching tower and were able to explore and buy optics, cameras and other equipment related to birdwatching and –photographing. During the photo festival was also published the new Liminka Bay book, which provides stunning photographs and updated information about the life of birds and other wildlife here at the Liminka Bay wetland.



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**Photo caption:** The only fully European Lesser White-fronted Goose population migrates from the wintering grounds in Greece via several staging areas in e.g. Hungary, Estonia and Finland to Norway to breed. After a long period of decline, numbers have finally been increasing during the last years. [ © Petri Lampila/Metsähallitus ]

Petri Lampila, Metsähallitus



Norway: Fetsund Lenser, Nordre Øyeren wetland centre



Russia: CEPA-team St.Petersburg



Sweden: Naturum Lake Tåkern



World Migratory Bird Day

**World Migratory Birds Day, May 10<sup>th</sup> 2017**

***Connecting Schools and Birds along the East Atlantic Flyway 11<sup>th</sup> May 2017***

**Naturum Tåkern and Fridtjuvberg school, Ödeshög, Sweden.**

**On Thursday the 11<sup>th</sup> May, children from grade 5 in Fridtjuvberg school, Ödeshög municipality took part in the event "Connecting Schools and Birds along the East Atlantic Flyway, organized by Migratory Birds for People network (MBP).**

We met at 9.30 am and talked about migratory birds, their need for resting places for example wetlands as Lake Tåkern. We also saw the trailer for WMBD 2017.

Then, the children got binoculars, learned how to use them and then we went out to experience the birds in the different habitats of Lake Tåkern: meadow, reeds, open water and forest.



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Over the water, at the small breeding islands and on the meadow we saw barn swallow, marsh harrier, common tern, thousands of black headed gull and also lapwing and common snipe. We also saw families of greylag geese with goslings.

In the reed we heard great bittern, bearded reedling and also heard reed warbler – a migratory bird that just arrived from West Africa.

In the forest, willow warbler was the most common bird. We also heard chaffinch. The guide Malin told us, that the robin is also very common.

After the guided tour outdoors, the children worked with answering the questions in English and prepare themselves to speak in English in front of the camera.

We did some practising, and then made the 2 minutes' film in front of a phone camera.



The children had a quick lunch, hot dogs, and Malin published the film on Instagram first, later on Youtube.

At 1 pm, we had a **skype meeting** with other schools along the flyway, Urdaibai in Spain (Basque country) and Oostvaardersplassen in the Netherlands. Also Biodiversum Remerschem in Luxembourg and Terschelling in the Netherlands took part in the event, and made short films.

Chris Rostron, Head of Wetland Link International and chairman of MBP network, acted as moderator.

It was a great experience, a challenge and exciting to work together with the same questions as children along the flyway. We look forward to keep contact!

Malin Granlund Feldt (Manager and nature guide, Naturum Tåkern visitor center, Sweden)

**Links:**

Film on Youtube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=470rlpScgRU>

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/p/BT8wmTajeO/?taken-by=naturumtakern>

**Contact:**

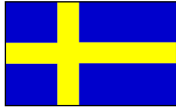
- Malin Granlund Feldt [malin.granlund-feldt@lansstyrelsen.se](mailto:malin.granlund-feldt@lansstyrelsen.se)
- Fridtjuvberg school, Ödeshög: Lena Ahnér <[lena.ahner@odeshog.se](mailto:lena.ahner@odeshog.se)>



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### **Sweden: Naturum Getterön**

During the whole spring it's been hectic, both for us who works at the Naturum and for all the birds out in the reserve.

About a month's time there have been lots of migrating barnacle geese out in the nature reserve. They use Getterön as a stop-over site. They will all be gone before May is over. It's been about 22-23 000 geese, a new record for us.

Another new record has been made this spring on the pied avocets. Latest number of birds this year is 344 avocets. Before this year's count the reserve held a record of 326 avocets from year 2013.

The old avocet I told about last year is once again back. It's easy to recognize it with its two red rings on the left leg. This year it turns 19 years! It has found a partner, ringed the same year a little north of Getterön at Båtafjorden. We're crossing our fingers that they'll succeed in their breeding.



Two weeks ago, two **bluethroats** were discovered in the reed beds. They were both from the subspecies *cyaneola*. One of them is still here, singing in the early morning and evenings. Hopefully he'll manage to attract a female. It will be the first breeding of a white-spotted bluethroat then.

Many schools are visiting us in May and want to go birdwatching. Currently we're having 600 pupils in three days. Lots of kids to keep track on... and did someone say 'Bluethroat?!'

Kind regards!  
Linnea Henriksson  
17 May - 2017  
Naturum Getterön



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**Denmark: Amager, Copenhagen**

## **The dance of the Ruffs at the Commons**

22-05-2017

On the 22<sup>nd</sup> of May 2017 hundreds of Ruffs were to be found on the wetlands of Nature Park Amager. These small wading birds have a unique mating and fighting display. The male bird catches the attention of the female by erecting their beautifully colored neck-feather while raising their heads.

One of the places you can witness this phenomenon is on Kalvebod Commons.

"Kalvebod Commons has changed from being a wild nature consisting of bushes, to a paradise for wading birds" explains Martin Rivero, Ranger at the Danish Nature Agency.

**Figure 1 photo by Martin Rivero**



See a video of the mating dance here:  
<https://www.facebook.com/nst.dk/videos/1694485847520342/>

For years the Danish Nature Agency have tried to improve the conditions for wading birds in Denmark. In 2003 a report describing endangered meadow locations in Denmark, pointed at the marshes in Nature Park Amager as important locations.

In 2005 an action plan was made, focusing on fighting the immigration of birch forest and small bushes, while introducing grassing to the large areas.

The project has a special focus on the Ruff, Dunlin and Bar-Tailed Godwit. All of which have disappeared from the area through the past 40 years.

"All three species are hopefully back to breed within the Nature Park again. It is incredible to see, that our efforts have been fruitful and that the conditions are improving." Says Martin Rivero.

**Contact: Rune Kjaergaard Lange & Jes Aagaard**

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**Denmark: Vadehavscentret, Ribe** (at the World Heritage Site Wadden Sea)

The Danisch Wattensea center had a splendid start!



Since our opening at the 3<sup>rd</sup> of February we had already 33.000 visitors. We booked more than 700 group tours and more than 1200 people now have a year admission. We did have the best press ever, all over Denmark in all media and in the German press and many International press as well. Our staff is now up to 12 persons (in the former centre only 6...) and I hope we will have even more. The exhibition and the centre are so beautiful and everybody agree in that, people are so nice and kind. Most of them said we bring more guests.



*At the opening of the centre Klaus Melbye demonstrates to H.R.H. Prince Joachim of Denmark and other guests the use of the "wet table".*

*This is a "table" contains different marine species living in the Waddensea.*

Many wishes,  
Klaus Melbye  
Ribe, 15<sup>th</sup> of May



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**Germany : Nationalpark - Haus Husum**

Nationalpark-Haus Husum, at the World Heritage Site Wadden Sea

**Contact:** Hans-Ulrich Rösner



**Netherlands: Terschelling (at the World Heritage Site Wadden Sea)**

**Greetings from Terschelling, one of the biggest 'snack bars' of the Netherlands!**



How to eat with chopsticks like a black-tailed godwit? Making a big jigsaw puzzle and discover what bird you see. Finding interesting differences in appearance between birds and how to find sufficient food to survive whilst getting disturbed. This was "World Migratory Birds Day" on the Island!

For the second time we celebrate "World Migratory Birds Day" on Terschelling. This year from 8<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> of May.

All pupils from groups 5 and 6 on Terschelling visited 'the Geskieker', an organic farm, to learn and experience about the migratory birds.

Besides all the activities, the children learned how important The Wadden area is for migratory birds. Rest and food are the most important things birds need when they visit our Island.

We can help the birds by allowing them to rest and don't enter their breeding area.

The Wadden area is like a famous snackbar for all the birds! We hope with these activities that children become aware of their own living environment and deal with it with respect. Most prominent migratory birds in our area are the spoonbill, curlew, lapwing, avocet, redshank, ringed plover and the little tern.



Unfortunately, the Skype conference didn't work because we had no WiFi coverage at the back of the farmhouse. The children had prepared some small stories. But I promised we'll redo it in a different way.

With kind regards,

Wanda Bakker, *Staatsbosbeheer Terschelling*





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**Netherlands: Buitencentrum "Oostvaardersplassen"**

**Contact: Hans-Erik Kuypers;** *(warden Wetland centre)*



World Migratory Bird Day

## **Groenhorst Almere vmbo-school joined an international Skype conference**

Pupils at the Groenhorst Almere vmbo-school held an international Skype conference about the international Migratory Bird Day. This is the report about their activities.



In the framework of the World Migratory Bird Day pupils from this school went on a fieldtrip on 10th of May to the beautiful nature reserve the [Oostvaardersplassen](#). The following day an international Skype conference was organised with pupils from Sweden and Spain about the annual bird migration. The discussions were in English. !

### **Watching migratory birds**

The fieldtrip in the Oostvaardersplassen was accompanied by experienced bird watchers and they observed the migratory birds that were there that day. They got nice pictures!

### **International Skype conference**

The Skype conference was held with pupils from Spain and Sweden who had similar activities in their area and with Chris Rostron. This conference was about the annual bird migration and the problems that birds encounter during their migration. Also details were exchanged about the birds observed in their areas. erten die waren waargenomen.

### **After movie migratory birds Oostvaardersplassen**

The movie made by the pupils will be uploaded tot the international site:

<http://www.worldmigratorybirdday.org/>.



**Contact: Hans-Erik Kuypers;** *(warden Wetland centre)*

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**Netherlands: Biesbosch**



### It is a party in the Biesbosch!

For the second consecutive year the Ospreys got chicks. "For the second year in a row success!", Warden Thomas van der Es writes. He is happy because it looks like the "fishermen" in the Biesbosch are happy.

How many there are, is not yet known. Thomas van der Es: "I do not dare to say so now. We have two pairs and one of those pairs we know for sure have chicks. But I think that also the second pair may have chicks this year. But we already have clear feeding behavior," says Van der Es.



### Eating behavior

"The birds are normally eating fish on the nest, but take small pieces of fish from a bigger fish. They then lean far forward. And that kind of behavior is a sign of the hatched eggs," said the joyful warden.

Last year it was for the first time that a breeding pair of Ospreys was successful in the Netherlands. That this now happens for the second time, tells us a lot. "For the second year and now also at two places! Colonization seems to be a fact. As long as there are more ospreys, there is a chance that they will find a place elsewhere in the Netherlands to breed.

**Contact:** *Thomas van der Es, Staatsbosbeheer*  
t.es@staatsbosbeheer.nl  
+31-651408190

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**Luxembourg: Biodiversum Remerschen**

This centre also participated on Thursday the 11<sup>th</sup> of May in MBP's **"Connecting Birds and Schools project"** with schools along the East-Atlantic Flyway.



**Contact:** **Patric Lorgé,**

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### Nature centre "het Zwin"

The new visitor centre of the 'Zwin Natuur Park' is to celebrate its first anniversary. The inevitable teething problems are gradually getting resolved, visitor numbers are well to expectations and nature is thriving.

Exceptionally well is the recovery made by the **European tree frog** (*Hyla arborea*). Five-six years ago on the brink of extinction in the Belgian part of the Zwin region, but due to nature management fully recovered and 'singing' or is it shouting by the hundreds. The Zwin Nature Park now being one of the places to hear and see this special frog. The now safe status also gives the possibility for visitors to see or hear this attraction. Special evenings were organised with information on the ecology and the history of the species for the Zwin region, followed by an excursion in the dark with the deafening sound of this fascinating frog. During the day the frogs can be seen on **the blackberry leaves**.



Fascination is also the right word for the two hides with '**micro-eyes**' connected to a big screen.

One hide where guides are 'showing off' the fresh water organisms and the other hide doing the same for salt water.

Both installations get a huge response from the visitors regardless of their age. It is interesting to see that not only the birds for which the Zwin is famous receive a lot of attention from the public, but that they also fall for and get fascinated by the very small animals. For us, certainly beyond expectations.



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The Zwin Natuur Park made a good start and the nature reserve has done well to preserve its biodiversity within the limits of problems as climate change, nitrification and intensive agricultural management. By 2019 the salt marshes should become 120 hectares larger. In future we will certainly comment on this. Summer is coming!

If you are visiting our region do not hesitate to call on us. **[+32-50403311]**

Kind regards,  
Leo Declercq  
Environmental Education  
Zwin Natuur Park  
[www.zwin.be](http://www.zwin.be)

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**Informatiecentrum Uitkerkse Polder**

**Contact : Anneleen Lybeer**

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**United Kingdom : Slimbridge**

**Contact: Chris Rostron**

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**France: Baie de Somme**

Fabian Jansen  
Responsable d'exploitation Maison de la Baie de Somme.  
80230 Lancheres  
Tel. +33 322 26 9393  
Mobile: +33 632547881

**To watch a short movie about Baie the Somme: go to: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=alsaB4qSEjw>**

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France: La Maison du Lac De-Grand-Lieu.

Introduction: Our new member in France is:



**The Lake of Grand-Lieu Centre** is a scientific and environmental awareness centre, also allowing a dreamlike and sensory dive into the universe of the lake.

Thanks to exhibitions, an ecological pathway and observation places, Lake of Grand-Lieu Centre enhances the natural site. The main purpose of the Lake of Grand-Lieu Centre is to raise public awareness about the protection of natural areas, especially wetlands, for all publics: local people, tourists, schoolchildren, students, stakeholders and professionals.

Since its opening in September 2014, the number of visitors has increased especially

the number of schoolchildren which has doubled. The centre proposes activities adapted to different audiences, such as playful and pedagogical activities on the nature discovery through music, drawing or games for the children.



During two years, the Lake of Grand-Lieu Centre mainly receives local visitors from the region and tries to develop educational projects at national and international scales in collaboration with other environmental education centres. The scientific mission of the Lake of Grand-Lieu Centre is to transmit the scientific knowledge on the Lake of Grand-Lieu and the wetlands, and networking environmental actors, scientists and professionals.

To perform scientific mediation, the Centre realises exhibitions, conferences and citizen science workshops.

The Centre is also involved at the international scale in animating a European Network of Lowland Lakes.



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Exploring the Lac of Grand-Lieu centre takes place in three stages, and you will be both indoors and outdoors. There’s the welcome centre, then there is the 1 km long path, and then there is the Pavilion. The welcome centre has several sections.



There is a permanent exhibition dedicated to the richness of the lake, and then there are one or more temporary exhibitions,



and there is also an educational garden and a documentary centre. The path is an educational and sensory way of learning more about the landscapes. You’ll be ending your visit at the Pavilion, where you’re warmly invited to immerse yourself in the lyrical and fantasy world of the Lake of Grand-Lieu.

**Some history:**

This is the former hunting lodge of the perfume-maker Jean Pierre Guerlain.

It was built in the 60s around the time that Mr Guerlain bought 2700 hectares of the lake area which he used mainly for hunting.

During the 80s Mr Guerlain decided to donate his share of the lake to the French state as he had no heir, and as he was the owner of an outstanding wetland area. The reason why Guerlain gifted the area to the State was to ensure that it was protected after his own death.

the observation terrace and its breathtaking views across the Grand-Lieu Lake that’s so full of secrets and surprises. Herons and other wading birds, harriers and other predatory birds, coots, grebes and ducks are very often spotted from the Pavilion.





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The lake is located approx. 15 kilometres from Nantes, and extends across around 6300 hectares in wintertime. During winter, the lake becomes the largest natural plain lake in France. It's also the oldest lake in France.



This site is of primary importance both for its unique natural habitat and for the richness of its wetlands. The Lake of Grand-Lieu is well-known as an important crossroads for the migration of both summer and winter birds, and serves as a rest stop too. Nearly 270 bird species have been noted at the Lake, and of these 65% of them are migratory. The white spoonbill, for example, is an iconic bird on the lake, and this is the first nesting site in France for the bird.



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A number of protection statues have been introduced since the 1980s, and these are a testament to the outstanding natural wealth of the wetlands on different scales – international, European and national. Most importantly, the lake benefits from international recognition, and its registration as a **Ramsar site** is a testament to the world-level ecological interest in the Grand-Lieu wetland area.

At European level, the **Natura 2000 network** has defined the scope of all lake territories in line with two stipulations since 1986: the first relating to birds, and the second relating to flora and fauna.

The national natural reserve and the regional natural reserve involve the two most stringent regulations relating to the lake. The national reserve was created in 1980, and the regional reserve was created in 2008. These relate to the western part of the lake covering an area of 2700 hectares, and the eastern part covering an area of 650 hectares.

Every wetland space at the Grand-Lieu Lake is now protected or managed by managers on a day-to-day basis, who are invariably involved in both their management and their protection. The national natural reserve is managed by the National Nature protection society, and this is a part of the French Coastal Conservatory. The regional reserve is managed by the Lore-Atlantic hunters' federation and belongs to the Foundation for the Protection of Wild Fauna Habitats.

**Contact : Olivier HUBERT** (Directeur )

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[www.maisondulacdegrandlieu.com](http://www.maisondulacdegrandlieu.com)  
Rejoignez-nous sur Facebook



**Spain: Urdaibai Bird Center**

**Great public attendance at the World Migratory Bird Day 2017**

Urdaibai Bird Center carried out several activities to celebrate the World Day of Migratory Birds 2017.



We celebrated World Migratory Bird Day with the slogan "Its future is our future - A healthy planet for migratory birds and people".



In that context the Urdaibai Bird Center offered various activities so the participants could learn more about the amazing world of the birds and their migrations.

In the morning, with the help of technicians of the center the assistants could enjoy the observation of different species of aquatic birds in the marsh of Gautegiz Arteaga, some of which are in full migration towards the north and center of Europe.





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Among them, it is to emphasize the spectacle that the osprey offered to the assistants that saw it even to short distance. Perched, in flight, fishing and finally eating the captured fish.



Another of the most successful activities was the scientific ringing of birds, with a life demonstration, carried out with small birds that delighted both adults and children with the incredible stories of their great travels, provenances, way of life, etc. narrated by the technicians of the center.



*Barn Swallow gets its freedom again!*

Throughout the day the self-guided service and the help of the technicians of the center also made possible for the attendees to get a close up view of the contents offered by the museum, as well as the observation of birds in the marsh.

Similarly, on Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> May, on the occasion of the Day of Migratory Birds, the school of Gautegiz Arteaga "Montorre" made an international connection via Skype between several schools that are on the migratory route that runs through Urdaibai.

Schools from Sweden, Holland, Luxembourg, Morocco and Mauritania participated in this conference together with "Montorre".



The connection was made in English and had as main goal that the schoolchildren were the great protagonists of the week, as long as they are our future. During the conference, each school was able to share the experiences and work they had done throughout the school year about birds and their migrations.

Contact: Jose Unamuno & Edorta Unamuno

Please have also a look at the webcam of Urdaibai  
Perhaps you can connect it to one screen in your centre.:  
[http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player\\_embedded&v=XQiAZv5f5M8](http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_embedded&v=XQiAZv5f5M8)



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Spain: Aiguamolls de l'Emporda

Contact: Ponç Feliu, Visitor centre Aiguamolls de l'Emporda



Spain: Ebro Delta

Contact: Xavier Escuté



Spain: las Salinas y Arenales de San Pedro del Pinatar

I'm sorry I did not send anything this time.

In my protected areas management unit, 90% of the time we are going to mitigate the ecological collapse that the Mar Menor has shown for a year.

I'm trying to find a person who can take care of the MBP news, but I'm still in it!

A greeting,  
Teresa

Contact : **Teresa López Aledo**, Dirección General de Medio Ambiente -Consejería de Presidencia de la Región de Murcia

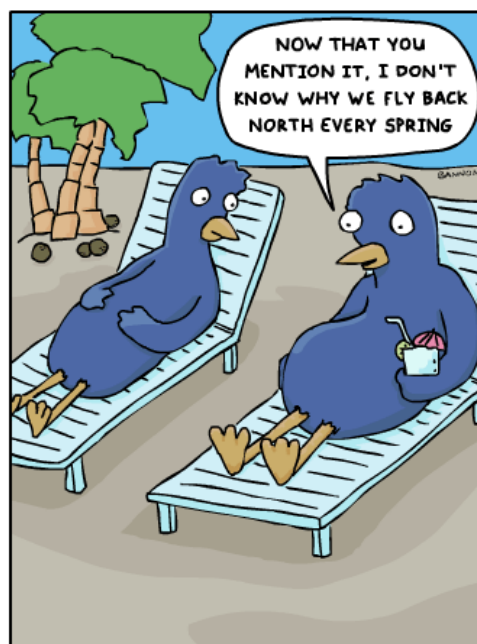


Portugal : Tagus Estuary Birdwatching and Conservation Area

Contact: Sandra Paiva Silva

**MBP Africa**

**NEXT PAGES**





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## MBP Africa



Banc d'Arguin, Mauritanie

Contact: Mr Yelli Diawara



Parc National Djoudj, Senegal

Gabin Agblonon, Wetlands International Afrique



Bijagós Archipelago, Guinea-Bissau



### Célébration de la Journée Mondiale des Oiseaux Migrateurs en Guinée-Bissau (12 et 13 mai 2017)

*[ English translation : see below ]*

La célébration de la Journée mondiale des oiseaux migrateurs a pris une coloration particulière en Guinée-Bissau en raison de l'importance de son littoral pour les oiseaux d'eau. Ce sont en effet près d'1 million de petits échassiers en provenance de l'arctique, du Canada à la Sibérie, qui viennent exploiter 6 mois par an les mangroves et vasières de ce petit pays qui a classé 26% de son territoire en aires protégées.

Les activités ont été coordonnées par l'Organisation pour la Défense et le Développement des Zones Humides - ODZH, l'Institut de la Biodiversité et des Aires Protégées – IBAP et le Cabinet de Planification Côtière – GPC, avec l'appui de leurs partenaires (BirdLife, Wetlands International, UICN et Monte).

Elles ont consisté en une Conférence présidée par le Député Mario Sami, Président de la Commission spécialisée de l'Agriculture, Pêche, Ressources Naturelles, Tourisme et Environnement à l'Assemblée Nationale Populaire, au cours de laquelle plusieurs communications ont été présentées sur les oiseaux migrateurs.



La journée du lendemain 13 mai a fait l'objet d'une visite de terrain sur l'îlot de Bandim. Situé à proximité immédiate de Bissau, il est utilisé comme dortoir par 8 à 10 000 oiseaux d'eau, principalement échassiers, cormorans et pélicans. Les participants, surtout des jeunes scolaires et universitaires, ont ainsi pu observer l'arrivée spectaculaire des oiseaux au coucher du soleil. Sensibilisés à l'importance de la bonne santé des écosystèmes de leur pays à la fois pour les populations humaines et les oiseaux migrateurs, ils ont fait leur slogan de la célébration pour l'année 2017 : « *le futur des oiseaux migrateurs est notre futur !* » et se sont dits prêts à s'engager collectivement pour la protection de l'environnement.



*Départ en pirogue pour l'île de Bandim*  
*Departure by canoe for the island of Bandim*



*Jeunes filles s'initiant à l'observation des oiseaux*  
*Young girls learning how to observe birds*



*Photo de famille sur l'île de Bandim / Family photo on the island of Bandim*

**(Toutes les photos sont de Meio Dia Ié Có)**

**ENGLISH TRANSLATION:**

*Celebration of the World Day of Migratory Birds in Guinea-Bissau (12 and 13 May 2017)*

*The celebration of World Migratory Bird Day took a special coloring in Guinea-Bissau because of the importance of its coastline for water birds. Nearly 1 million small waders from the Arctic, from Canada to Siberia, come to exploit for six months a year the mangroves and mudflats of this small country which*



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*classified 26% of its territory in areas protected.*

*Activities were coordinated by the Organization for the Defense and Development of Wetlands - ODZH, the Institute of Biodiversity and Protected Areas - IBAP and the Coastal Planning Office - GPC, with the support of their partners ( BirdLife, Wetlands International, IUCN and Monte).*

*They consisted of a Conference chaired by the Deputy Mario Sami, President of the Special Committee on Agriculture, Fisheries, Natural Resources, Tourism and the Environment in the National People's Assembly, during which several papers were presented on bird migration.*

*The following day, May 13, was the subject of a field visit on the Bandim islet. Located in the immediate vicinity of Bissau, it is used as a dormitory by 8 to 10,000 birds of water, mainly waders, cormorants and pelicans.*

*Participants, especially young schoolchildren and academics, were able to observe the spectacular arrival of birds at sunset. Sensitized to the importance of the good health of the ecosystems of their country for both human populations and migratory birds, they made their slogan of the celebration for the year 2017: "The future of migratory birds is our future "And expressed their readiness to commit themselves collectively to the protection of the environment.*

**Contact: Mr Meio Dia**, coordinator of Reserva da Biosfera do Arquipélago de Bolama Bijagós

### **Other MBP- network news**

**Quick update from WLI and some other news by Chris Rostron ( Head of the MBP-network)**

WWT and WLI were represented by Martin Spray (our CEO) and myself at the **Ramsar Standing Committee 53 (SC53)** which met at the Secretariat offices in Switzerland in the last week of May, and looked at plans for the next Ramsar Conference, as well as many areas of work that the Ramsar Convention is undertaking.



*Martin Spray & Chris Rostron*

We come under the CEPA (communication, education, participation and awareness) strategy, and WLI (and therefore MBP!) is recognised as one of the main delivery tools for this. It was also a good chance to talk to many of the wetland experts that came along, including the Ramsar regional representatives for Europe and Africa, Ramsar's CEPA representative, WWF, IUCN and BirdLife, and the new Director General Martha Rojas-Urrego.

We are also working with Blandine Melis of Birdlife West Africa on building links between wetland centres in **West Africa**, and currently about to release a newsletter for the region's wetland centres, which will be available soon (in French).



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Discussions are also taking place with Moulay Ismail University, Morocco, about developing a **distance learning course** for colleagues at African wetland centres and we hope that this will be available later in the year.

*Community oyster harvesting, Kalissaye'*

The Bird reserve **de Kalissaye** is a small nature reserve in Sénégal est une petite réserve naturelle du Sénégal, in the delta of the Casamance river.

++++  
You will also see the article on the **Birds and Schools project**, that we ran as part of World Migratory Bird Day, and saw schools across Europe and Africa visiting wetland sites and putting reports together. We ran a short video conference with schools from Sweden, the Netherlands and the Basque Country, and hope to upload these to the website soon. To see the conclusion of the web conference, check the website here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sqDVHWvy--4>

++++  
**Global Wetland Survey**

Another citizen science type project is taking place right now, working with WWT, WWN and the Society of Wetland Scientists.

This is looking at developing a state of the world's wetlands from the point of view of those that live, work and visit wetlands locally.

The survey is available on the web, as well as in excel format.

The results will be used at the next Ramsar Conference, as well as for use by scientists and decision makers globally.

**We would love to have information about your wetland in this survey, so please visit the webpage <http://www.worldwetnet.org/about-us/world-wetlands-survey-2017> for more information. Deadline is the 30<sup>th</sup> of September 2017.**



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**Terschelling, Netherlands:**



( May 2017)

**We congratulate our colleague  
Freek Zwart  
on his 40 years' anniversary  
working for Staatsbosbeheer !**



**News from our MBP-partner EUROSITE:**

**2017: 30 Years of Twinning !**

**TWINNING FRAMEWORK**

Our 2016 twinning workshop in the Netherlands started the process of developing a **Natura 2000 Twinning Framework**. The framework is expected to be published later this year »



The concept of twinning European cities is already well known, now Eurosité aims to make the twinning of natural sites just as widespread and talked about. We are well placed to do this – twinning is in our DNA. Established in 1989, Eurosité evolved out of the European Natural Sites Twinning Programme, which linked 33 sites across Europe since 1987. This programme demonstrated the clear demand for knowledge-exchange on practical nature management and two years later in 1989, the Eurosité network was born.

Ever since, twinning sites has remained a core Eurosité tool for knowledge-exchange. Eurosité members interested in twinning are able to take advantage of Eurosité's expertise and services in this area to establish a twinning, including support with:

- Finding a twinning partner from within (and occasionally outside) the network
- Developing a Twinning Agreement to formalise the cooperation
- Promoting and publicising the twinning
- Ongoing support and guidance on achieving the goals of the twinning throughout the twinning period (typically four years)
- Neutral mediation in the unlikely case of a disagreement



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The twinning partners decide the purpose, content and duration of their joint-work. Working with Eurosite, twinning provides a range of benefits:

- Joint-working objectives that are mutually beneficial
- A partner to discuss and plan activities with
- Improve and assure the quality of nature conservation practices and methods
- Opportunities for site management staff development e.g. through staff exchanges
- Encourage your organisation to think on a European scale
- Promote your site, organisation and work to an international audience
- Attach a European dimension to your work, which can be valuable to increase funding opportunities
- In many cases, links (and friendships) between twinned organisations last well beyond the end of the twinning period.

Read more? Link: <http://eurosite.org/site-management/twinning>

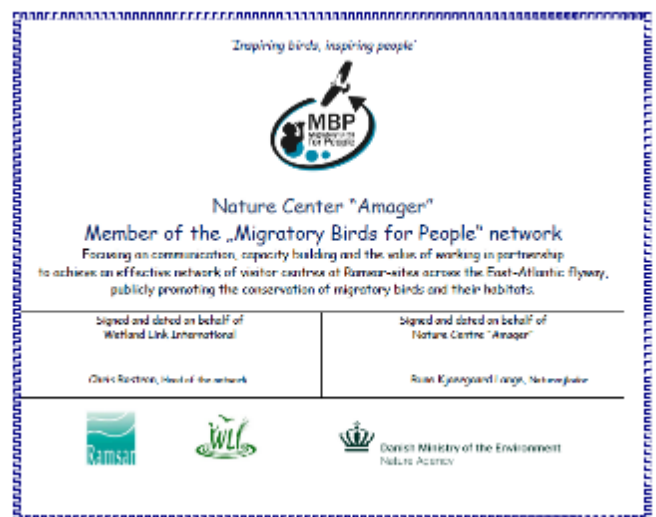
### "Migratory Birds for People" certificate

The core group has a certificate available by which the participating visitor centre can show that they are a member of the 'Migratory Birds for People' - network.

This certificate can still be obtained for free.

Just write an email to **r.b.heringa@gmail.com** and we will send you a certificate.

*Ce certificat peut encore être obtenu gratuitement.  
Il suffit d'écrire un courriel à r.b.heringa@gmail.com et nous vous enverrons un certificat.*







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### "Migratory Birds for People" T-shirt and Mug.

We have created our own MBP-t-shirt. (price: approx.. € 10,=)

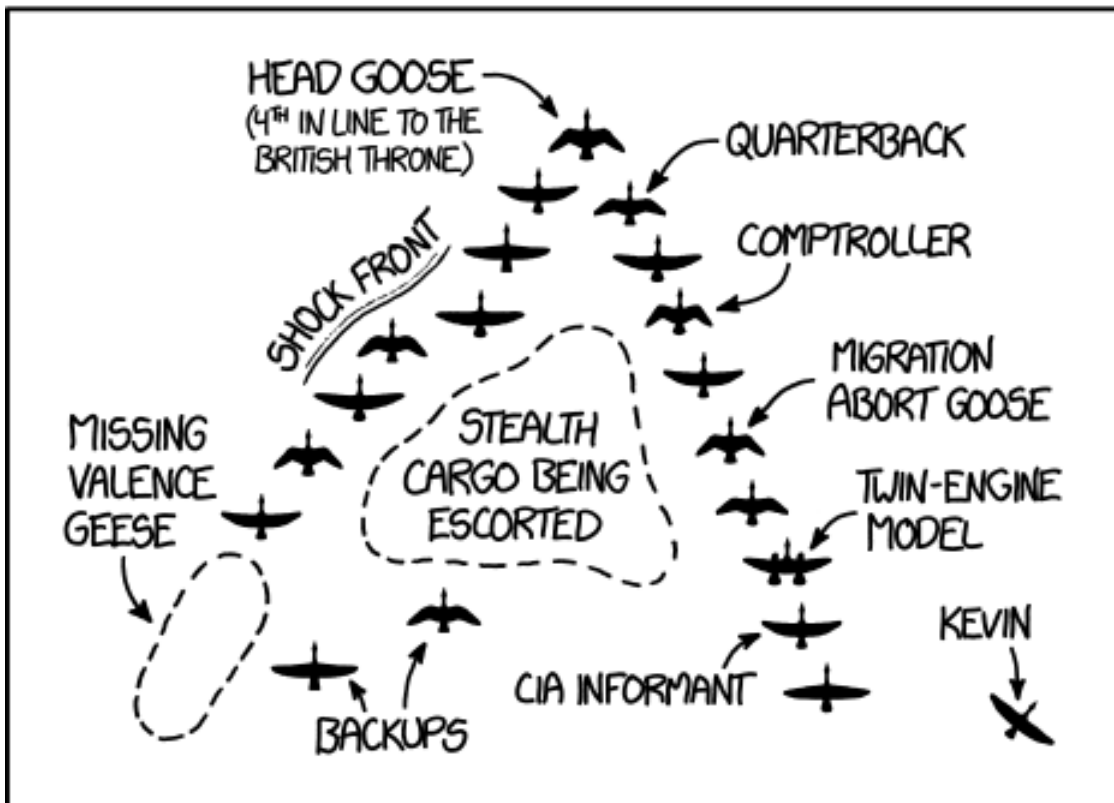
Please let me know if you are interested and send me your details about number and size . You could also obtain your own MBP-mug. The price of this item is: € 5,= (excl. mailing costs)

Send your message to: [r.b.heringa@gmail.com](mailto:r.b.heringa@gmail.com)



The team of the Urdaibai Center wearing our MBP-T-shirt with pride!

## UNDERSTANDING MIGRATING GEESE

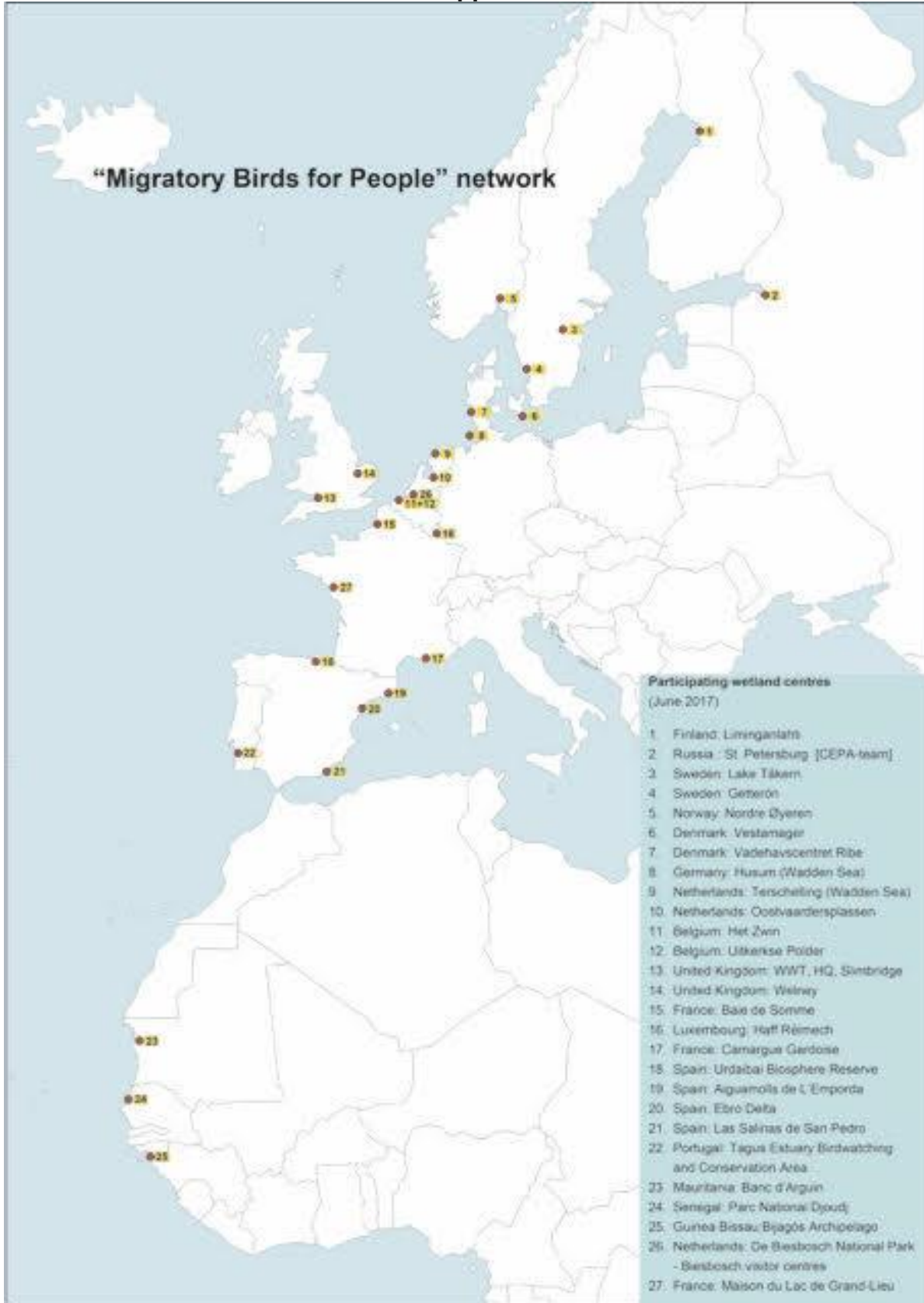




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**Supplement:**





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**Finland : Liminka Bay Visitor Center**

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**Sweden: Naturum Lake Tåkern**

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**Norway: Fetsund Lenser, Nordre Øyeren wetland centre**

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**Russia: CEPA-team St.Petersburg**

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Websites : <http://www.wwt.org.uk/wli/regional-partners/europe/nature-watch-baltic>

<http://web.me.com/naturewatch>.



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**Denmark: Nature Centre Vestamager**

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Website: [www.udinaturen.dk](http://www.udinaturen.dk)

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**Denmark: VADEHAVSCENTRET**

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**Germany : Nationalpark - Haus Husum**

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[www.wwf.de/wattenmeer](http://www.wwf.de/wattenmeer)

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**Netherlands: Infocentrum West-Terschelling**

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**Netherlands: Buitencentrum "Oostvaardersplassen"**

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Website: [www.staatsbosbeheer.nl](http://www.staatsbosbeheer.nl)

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**Netherlands: N.P. de Biesbosch**

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