

The SOC - SCOTLAND'S BIRD CLUB

Highland Bird News

No 115

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EDITORIAL

It is over a year since the last edition of this Newsletter was issued. A change of Editor, commitment to the 2007 – 11 Bird Atlas fieldwork, working on the backlog of Highland Bird Reports and other matters have taken precedence over the Newsletter.

The Atlas fieldwork is now moving towards a conclusion, the last winter survey period ending on 28 February. After a month's respite, the final breeding season survey will commence on 1 April, concluding at the end of July. Thanks to the voluntary efforts of many people, coverage of the Highland Region has been excellent. In this final season, no further Timed Tetrad Visits are requested, merely Roving Records of proven breeding *for any species*, anywhere in the Highland area. See inside this issue for further details.

Work on catching up with the backlog of Highland Bird Reports is proceeding apace. The 2008 Report was published towards the end of 2010. Work on the 2009 Report is well advanced and it is hoped to have this Report on sale by early autumn. The 2010 Report is next in line and if you have not yet submitted your 2010 records, now is the time to do so. As one new to working on the compilation of these reports, I was quite taken aback at the volume of data to be processed. Much of this already comes in computer-based spreadsheet form, all very helpful for sure and we would appreciate as many people as possible using this format. The Local Recorder, Hugh Insley (hugh.insley@btinternet.com) to whom all records should be submitted, can email you a blank of the spreadsheet we use. Above all though, your records are much valued and we would like to have them whether you have access to a computer or not!

This year, the Club celebrates its 75th anniversary. Whether we mark this in any special way here in Highland will no doubt be discussed at the next Committee meeting, later this month. If you have any thoughts on the matter, please speak to any member of the Committee as soon as possible.

Inside this issue, there are two articles describing local birding trips which may encourage you to come along to future outings. For anyone contemplating a trip further afield, an article by Al McNee describing a recent trip he and Jenny made to Uganda may help in the decision process!

Mike Strickland recalls a working trip aboard a freighter, sailing from London to Lorenzo Marques and back, to pick up a cargo of sugar. Mike's meteorological work allowed some time for birding and his account of the two voyages is most interesting and well worth reading.

There are also short notes concerning future indoor meetings and field trips. The Committee always endeavours to put together a varied and interesting programme and will welcome feedback, suggestions or recommendations of speakers or places to visit.

David Bain

News & Events

Hugh Insley

Hugh Insley, from Inverness and an SOC member, received a national award for services to ornithology at the annual conference of the British Trust for Ornithology (BTO). The BTO Bernard Tucker Medal was presented by Baroness Young.

The Tucker Medal is awarded for outstanding contributions to the scientific work of the Trust. Hugh joined the BTO in 1966, became an active bird ringer in 1967. After moving to Inverness in 1990 he became a member of the Highland Ringing Group, involved with many of the group's research activities, including work on Redshanks on the Moray Firth, geese, ducks and waders across northern Scotland, and work on Peregrines with Natural Research. He has also undertaken long-term ringing and research on Storm Petrels and seabirds on Priest Island and Eilean Hoan at Durness.

As the BTO Regional Representative for Inverness-shire east and west, Hugh has been instrumental in co-ordinating an army of volunteers to undertake fieldwork for BTO surveys in challenging and difficult terrain, tackling some of the most remote 10km squares in Scotland. He has achieved 100% coverage for winter visits and 90% coverage for summer visits for the BTO 2007-11 Bird Atlas project, the biggest stock-take of Britain's birds ever undertaken.

It doesn't stop with his huge contribution to field studies. Hugh has served on various committees for the BTO including the Population & Surveys committee (1980-82), Regional Network Committee (1997-2001), BTO Council (2000-2003) and the Finance & Operations (2002-2003) committee.

Dr Mark Rehfisch, Development Director at the BTO, said, "*The contribution Hugh has made can't be under-estimated. Since becoming a member 45 years ago he has contributed a huge amount to the scientific work of BTO, and in doing so to British ornithology generally. He is a more than worthy recipient of the Tucker medal.*"

Footnotes

The Medal was first awarded in 1954, in memory of the BTO's first Secretary, Bernard Tucker.

Another local SOC member, Bob Swann, was awarded the Bernard Tucker Medal in 1993.

The BTO is the UK's leading bird research organisation. Over thirty thousand birdwatchers contribute to the BTO's surveys. They collect information that forms the basis of conservation action in the UK. The BTO maintains a staff of 100 at its offices in Norfolk and Stirling, who analyse and publicise the results of project work. The BTO's investigations are funded by government, industry and conservation organisations.

Items for future Newsletters

This Newsletter is for all members of SOC Highland Branch. It is *your* Newsletter and contributions for inclusion in future issues are invited, indeed requested! All material relating to our local birds and wildlife, perhaps a short note describing a sighting or incident, or an article describing a birding trip elsewhere in the UK or abroad, will be of interest.

Branch Indoor Meetings & Field Trips for 2011 – 12

The Branch Committee will be meeting later this month to plan the Indoor Meetings and Field Trips for the 2011 – 12 session.

Suggestions or recommendations for speakers and topics for the indoor meetings are invited. Similarly, for field trips: are these meeting the needs of members as presently run? Would you like to see the format changed or what about new places to visit? What could we do by way of improvement? Comments, please, to any Committee member.

April Meeting/Outings for rest of 2010 – 11 session.

The April meeting is on Tuesday 12 April, at 7:30 pm in Culloden Library. The meeting will comprise the Annual General Meeting, following which David Jardine, SOC President and one of our members will talk on the subject 'Exploring the birds of the Big Garden: Lois Mor'.

Outings to the end of the 2010 – 11 Session:

Sunday 17 April: Dulnain Dawdle – a wildlife walk. An all-day trip. Meet at Inverness Retail Park, near Burger King, at 9am. Contact Ann Sime for further details.

11 – 15 May: A long weekend on Coll & Tiree with Ann Sime and Sinclair Dunnett. This trip is fully subscribed.

The 2007 – 11 Bird Atlas

The gathering of data for the Atlas is now entering its final phase. The last Winter survey period ended on 28 February and all information for this period should be submitted as soon as possible.

The final Breeding season survey will take place over the months of April through to and including July. BTO Regional Organiser, Bob Swann, has asked that we treat this period as a time for Roving Records. In other words, all records, from anywhere in Highland Region and which confirm breeding, are requested. So wherever you go, if you come across any of the undernoted activities, please note the 10km square/tetrad (optional)/Town, village or feature in tetrad or 10km square/date/place/species/activity code (see below) and submit the record(s). Data can be entered directly through the BTO website (www.birdatlas.net) or, if you do not have access to a computer, by post to Bob Swann, 14 St Vincent Road, Tain IV19 1JR.

DD - Distraction – Display or injury feigning.
UN - Used Nest or eggshells found from this season.
FL - recently Fledged young or downy young.
ON - Adults entering or leaving nest-site in circumstances indicating Occupied Nest.
FF - Adult carrying Faecal Sac or Food for young.
NE - Nest containing Eggs.
NY - Nest with Young seen or heard

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A Galloway Outing.

A bright morning at the end of January and no commitments, so the two of us off north on the A9. Cresting the rise from Tore roundabout a fantastic panorama greeted us, looking north and off left to Ben Wyvis. Stratified scenery; mist low on the firth then a strip of sunlit Easter Ross, above that a thin layer of cloud and above it all brilliant sunlight on the snow-covered summit of the Ben. A great start. Very few buzzards were visible from the A9, a change from when snow extended down to sea level and the buzzards were everywhere searching for food. On north, over the Dornoch bridge and the first left turn towards Meikle Ferry. Plenty of spaces to park beside the golf course. Access across the course is open to the public, but not the tees or greens! A cautious approach across the course to view Loch Evelix. A fantastic array of waterfowl that morning with murmuring greylag geese beside the loch and literally hundreds of ducks on the water accompanied by a handful of gently calling whooper swans. Tufted duck, wigeon, scaup, mallard, teal, goldeneye and a single pochard all in resplendent plumage in the morning light. Amongst the tufties, not easy to find, the bird that we sought, a male ring-necked duck. This is a vagrant from North America but was it the same individual that had been on this water last winter? Probably so. His more pointed head profile and a slightly different jizz more obvious with longer observation. The spectacle was made more pleasant by the slightly warming temperature. On then to Dornoch and the car park beyond the golf club. Hundreds of sea duck; common scoter and long tails in the main but a few velvets, their white wing patches showing well, through the 'scope, as they stretched their wings. Regrettably no sign of another North American visitor, the surf scoter. On return, a chance to reflect how fortunately placed we are to witness this range of waterfowl and our so impressive landscapes.

David & Mary Galloway

Outing to Strathconon on 5 February 2011, led by Simon Cohen.

The group of 15, in a convoy of 5 cars, assembled in Dingwall on a dull, somewhat unpromising day weather-wise. The Inverness car had already ticked the obligatory Red Kite on the journey through the Black Isle. Blackbird and Jackdaws were added in the car park and Collared Dove and Buzzard, as we headed off to Marybank, for the final pickup.

Pheasant, Sika Deer and another Red Kite were seen as we passed Scatwell. Several stops were made at Loch Meig, where we had good views of Goldeneye, a Tufted, Mallard and a diving Cormorant. The loch surface was smooth and the day had brightened, as we made our way up the glen, with its striking scenery.

Reaching Loch Beannacharain, almost at the road end, the lead cars stopped and we all piled out to views of a Golden Eagle circling above Scardroy. Incredibly, a second bird appeared, gliding along the Meall Dubh ridge just above us. Simon had certainly set a high standard for the day!

Boots on and Simon led us westwards, with the expert assistance of Vanessa Watson, who had joined the group for the outing. Incidentally, the second edition of "The Golden Eagle" is a must for raptor enthusiasts. The loch held some 60 Mallard and a Grey Heron flushed. From the largest to almost the smallest, Coal and Great Tit were added in the roadside conifers. More small birds included Robin, Chaffinch and Dunnock. At this point the weather took a turn for the worse and we found ourselves heading into a westerly wind, with stinging rain. We battled on to the viewpoint at Corrieuic, that Vanessa had hoped to reach. As the squall continued, we decided to head back. Alasdair Muir, a member who had journeyed from Fort William, was far from impressed that the notorious wet weather of that area had followed him north! However, shortly after, we were surprised, but pleased, to see blue sky appearing. Indeed, sharp eyes picked out the Golden Eagle soaring again above the distant ridge at Meall Dubh.

The stragglers heading back had good views of a Kestrel and noted an array of scopes when they reached the cars. These were focussed on a Golden Eagle perched on a rock to the north of Scardroy. Earlier 3 Ravens had gone over. Lunch was taken, with frequent interruptions to savour the magnificent sight. A Kestrel moved along the ridge. The eagle left its perch and disappeared from view. After lunch, we set off, refreshed but not entirely unfrozen, down the glen, to the parking area at the end of Glen Meinich. On the way a Buzzard or two were seen, the quality of the day being confirmed by these being noted as “just a Buzzard”!

After some time and some discussion, it was agreed to visit Dingwall Point. On the way, we saw Mute Swans at Loch Achonachie. A Blue Tit and Greylags, along with a Carrion Crow, were identified just before Marybank. Here, Vanessa departed and 4 others left us. The tide was high as we approached the Point and the fields held Greylags, Curlew and Woodpigeons. The contrast between the wild glen and the estuary was striking. Wigeon, a distant flock of Scaup, Redshank and a lone Shelduck were picked out. A Peregrine was sighted heading towards us and provided close views, as it gave us the once over! Herring and Black-headed Gulls passed by, over the calm waters of the estuary. The day ended with a couple of Great Black-backed Gulls and an Oystercatcher.

The party headed back to the cars, with thanks expressed to Simon for an excellent day's outing. In all 34 species: apologies for any omissions. With 5 species of BoP, magnificent scenery and lots more, Highland birding takes some beating!

Roger Tozer

Albatrosses and raw sugar.

On 12th September 1971 the MV “Sugar Exporter” departed Tate and Lyle wharf at Plaistow en-route to Lorenzo Marques to pick up a cargo of raw sugar. The round trip was to take some 47 days, and I was aboard to carry out a programme of meteorological work, and fit in a bit of bird watching.

The Channel produced the expected gulls, auks and terns however I was surprised at the number of **Gannets** encountered, also the frequency of **Kittiwake** sightings. The area around Madeira and the Canary Islands had plenty of **Cory's Shearwaters** and **Madeiran Storm Petrels** - often in small groups, as well as gulls and occasional **Manx Shearwaters**.

On 18th September we entered tropical waters, and the next nine days seemed to be rather strange – there being long spells without a single seabird being seen. However, just north of the equator a group of around 20 **Magnificent** or perhaps **Ascension Frigate-birds** was encountered. They were snatching Flying fish from just inches above the sea surface as they ‘zoomed’ from wave crest to wave crest. Often the sky was completely overcast, the wind died and the atmosphere became stifflingly hot. Then the sea would take on a flat, oily and lifeless appearance. However this lifelessness was an illusion, because on dark moonless nights, the ship ploughed through vast ‘fields’ of blue-green phosphorescence. The bow waves then appeared to be luminous, and even resembled at times cascades of liquid silver. One day a lovely **European Roller** came aboard, and remained in the rigging for several hours – this despite the fact that the ship was at least 50 miles from land. Just before we left the tropical waters I had my first ever sighting of an albatross – not the ‘big’ one that was still a few days away – this was a smaller **Sooty Albatross**. Not being a dedicated follower of ships however, the sighting lasted for just a few minutes. Then the wind turned SE and strengthened to gale force. We were about to enter the Southern Oceans.

Two different and opposing sea currents occur off the southern coast of Africa. Close inshore is the warm and westward flowing Anguihas current – much feared by early Portuguese mariners. Then further offshore is the opposing cold and eastward flowing Benguela current. Between them they

create nutrient rich seas that attract birds in both numbers and variety. We were still almost 900 miles NW of Cape Town when the first of many **Antarctic Skuas** was sighted. Then off Walvis Bay that ugly brute, the almost gannet sized **Giant Petrel** was seen (a bird known in the Falkland Islands as the ‘stinker’). From here onwards **Kelp Gulls** were noted in numbers – this bird is I suppose the local replacement for our own Herring Gull. Large and rather shearwater like **White-chinned Petrels** also became a common sight. Especially attractive were the **Cape Pigeons**, fulmar like with strikingly patterned black and white ‘spangled’ wing markings **Black-browed Albatrosses** (the ‘Alberts’ of Hermaness) were now plentiful and further Sooty Albatrosses regularly sighted. However, prize bird was the magnificent **Wandering Albatross**. In all perhaps a dozen were seen, and as ‘ship followers’ they could often be admired at leisure, one trailed the “Exporter” for at least ten hours. A World iconic species – an absolute stunner! All the way were **Cape Gannets** – a black tailed version of our own species. If one managed to land on the Bass Rock, I wonder how long it would be before the bird was noticed.

Arriving at Lorenzo Marques on 4th October, it turned out that the sugar loading gear had broken down. So, for the next two days labourers clambered up and down gangplanks to empty sacks of raw sugar straight into the holds. Birding now had to take a back seat, but I noticed good numbers of that typical port scavenger the **Black Kite**, and ‘seabird about town’ was the attractive **Grey headed gull**. A surprise cable awaited me on arrival at LM – belated birthday greetings from a nice girl I had met just a few weeks earlier. She had traced the ‘Exporter’ through a local Lowestoft shipping agent – many of you know her well, she is called Pat! My mementoes of Lorenzo Marques were a bottle of Portuguese wine and couple of African carved figures. One appears to be some sort of fertility symbol, which lives in a discreet corner of our upstairs landing. Oh, yes, I also had a rather sore head.

We departed for the homeward voyage on the evening of 6th October. Although very much a rerun of the outward leg, several new species were recorded. The first of many **Yellow-nosed Albatrosses** was seen off Durban (I must surely have overlooked this bird previously). Then a positive **Black-bellied Storm Petrel** was noted shortly afterwards. Just west of Cape Town a party of dainty **Damara Terns** appeared, these being of Little Tern size. They are confined to coastal waters from just east of the Cape to the equator. My fifth and final species of Albatross was noted near to St.Helena. This was a **White-capped Albatross**, a bird that breeds on islands off south Australia and NZ, but wanders the southern oceans. Tropical waters were much more productive on this, the return voyage. Large parties of **Sooty Terns** were seen, in one instance an estimate of 300-500 birds – amongst which were two or three **Pomarine Skuas**. Off the Cape Verde Islands I was able to confirm a bird that was previously suspected – namely a **Frigate Petrel**. Finally I saw the last new seabird of the voyage, when three lovely **Great Shearwaters** flew alongside the vessel – this just west of Ushant. I assume they were on their way back to their breeding stations in the Tristan da Cunha Islands.

The voyage coincided with the autumn migration, and a selection of birds came aboard on both the outward and return legs **Turtle Doves**, **Yellow Wagtails**, **Wheatears** and **Willow Warblers** were amongst sixteen such species seen. Most pleasing of all was a fine male **Bluethroat** (white spotted) that ‘boarded,’ west of Portugal and stayed with us for several hours. My final bird record was made as we sailed up the Thames Estuary, with parties of **Fieldfares** arriving from the east on 28th October. The following morning we docked in the Port of London.

The “Sugar Exporter” had been a most rewarding experience. Now all that remained was for me to wash the raw sugar (rightly a dirty cargo) from my ears, hair and clothes. Oh, and yes, consider if really needed sugar in my tea!

Mike Strickland.

IN SEARCH OF SHOEBILL

Al McNee

Joanna Lumley clinched it! Jenny and I had discussed the possibility of going on Mark Finn's trip to Uganda. Then it was clear that I was going to get the opportunity to retire from teaching and wasn't hidebound by school holidays. Critically, the divine Ms Lumley [OK, she's getting on a bit, but aren't we all?] encountered a Shoebill during her programme to the source of the Nile. Shoebill – perhaps the most astonishing looking bird on the planet. We'll go! Additional benefits were spending Christmas and New Year in the warmth of 30°C+ and no food to cook [the main plus, according to Jenny]. A superb time was had by all and everyone in our group of 10 got on splendidly, a factor that participants on birding trips can never be sure of. Yes, we had quite a last-minute panic to actually get to Heathrow amidst snow and cancellations and, yes, Ugandan roads must be amongst the worst anywhere. Alas, we did not encounter JL on her downstream return. However, 430 bird species and a good selection of other animals, the Ugandan people were very friendly, the weather was kind and we did get Shoebill. For a flavour of our trip, here are a few amended, abridged and expurgated extracts from the Birdwatching Breaks report by Mark.

December 22nd, Entebbe Botanical Gardens - Immediately, we had a superb Purple-banded Sunbird, Red-billed Firefinch and a singing Tawny-flanked Prinia. The large trees here attracted African Fish Eagle, Crowned and Black and White Casqued Hornbills, Lizard Buzzard, Grey Woodpecker and a Double-toothed Barbet. At lower levels a White-browed Robin Chat, Slender-billed and Baglafaecht Weavers and wintering Eastern Olivaceous and Willow Warblers. In the next section great views of Klaas's Cuckoo, Broad-billed Roller and a pair of African Grey Parrots the latter being scarce in the Kampala area. We walked down to the shore of Lake Victoria with its varied bird life. In trees and bushes surrounding the lake, White-fronted and Blue-cheeked Bee-eaters, Pied and Woodland Kingfishers, African Openbill and Swamp Flycatcher.

December 23rd: Mbamba - Breakfast at 0700 hours and then to Mbamba Swamp, a section of Lake Victoria. Four dug-out canoes were ordered (due to low water levels). Over the next three hours we managed to find several species of the unique papyrus habitats; Long-toed Lapwings, Blue-breasted Bee-eaters, Winding Cisticola, Papyrus Gonolek and then there it was, the vastly impressive Shoebill, giving long views as it preened within the marsh. Other birds of note included Black Egret, African Black Crake, African Marsh Harrier, African Snipe, Western Yellow and Black-headed Wagtails, Banded and Sand Martins, Northern Brown-throated Weavers and Fan-tailed Widowbirds. We returned to dry land and had lunch later under the shade of some large trees. This proved to be a good move as flowering sections attracted a range of sunbirds; Green-headed, Green-throated, Collared and the extremely large Superb Sunbird. Overhead a wintering European Honey Buzzard and a Wahlberg's Eagle the latter being an inter-African migrant. Just before leaving excellent views of Great Blue Turaco and along the road a colony of Viellot's Weavers, a single Ross's Turaco and our first viewings of Grey-crowned Cranes the national bird of Uganda. Arrived in Mbarara, a town famous for its number of petrol stations, banks and mobile telephone stores but little else!

December 24th: Mburo National Park - Our first excursion was to board a boat and look in and around the lakeside vegetation for birds. In the furthest corner we were treated to close views of White-backed Night Herons roosting in papyrus stems. We continued our boat trip around the lake and eventually found a total of six African Finfoots. A pair of male birds squabbled and fought along the lake edge much to our amusement. Lunch taken in the shade of the riverside restaurant building with soaring White-backed Vultures, Bataleur and Maribou Storks overhead. We were allowed to walk in the National Park - a very unusual circumstance – as our guide carried a rifle! We had sightings of the uncommon Rufous-bellied Heron, Dwarf Bittern, Grey-hooded and Woodland Kingfishers, Black-lored Babblers and Red-necked Francolins. In the air another Shoebill was seen – quite a surprise.

December 25th: Mbarara, Bwindi via Queen Elizabeth National Park (QENP) - Christmas Day, and everyone out in their finery – well, part from us borders! Birds seen included Fan-tailed Widowbirds, Papyrus Gonolek and White-browed Robin Chat and delightful, duetting Chubb's Cisticolas. Our journey then took us to higher elevations with fantastic views over the Rift Valley. The road through QENP towards the Congo was simply dreadful and added a lot of time to the journey, but along the route we found an immature Cassin's Hawk Eagle, Blue-breasted Kingfisher and literally dozens of Yellow Wagtails and swallows.

December 26th: Bwindi Impenetrable Forest - At 0800 we entered the impenetrable forest with birding by the entrance track. This produced several interesting birds notably African Shrike and Vanga Flycatchers, Luhder's and Grey-green Bushshrikes, Slender-billed Greenbul, Black-necked Weaver, Thick-billed Seedeater and a Tambourine Dove. On entering the forest we quickly located Yellow-rumped and Yellow-throated Tinkerbirds, Elliot's Woodpecker, White-tailed Ant-thrush, Grey-throated Tit Flycatcher, and a pair of Black-faced Rufous Warblers skulking in the undergrowth. A feeding flock was located with species present being Honeyguide, Red-tailed, Yellow-whiskered, Kakamega and Toro Olive Greenbuls, White-breasted Negrofinch, Buff-throated Apalis and Brown-capped Weaver. The heavens then opened for the next forty minutes bringing birding to a complete halt. The finale for many was a pair of Black Bee-eaters perched on an exposed dead snag and a male Bar-tailed Trogon sitting quietly on an exposed branch. We returned to base a happy but tired group.

December 30th: QENP including Kazinga Channel and Maramagambo - A large tree held a roosting Verraux's Eagle Owl which showed well before flying off into cover before we boarded a boat for a cruise down the Kazinga Channel an exceptional area for birds and wildlife. After crossing the channel we quickly located White-headed and White-backed Vultures, a large flock of African Skimmers and the huge Goliath Heron sitting quietly on a mud bank. In the first sector of mud we recorded Egyptian Goose, Water Thick-knee, African Spoonbill and wintering waders from further north; Greenshank, Marsh, Wood, Common and Curlew Sandpipers, Black-tailed Godwit, Kittlitz's, Common Ringed and Little Ringed Plovers and Little Stint. Abundant species included Pied and Malachite Kingfishers, Great, Squacco and Grey Herons. In the reeds Black Crakes, and Yellow-billed Oxpeckers the latter feeding on the backs of large mammals.

December 31st: QENP, Fort Portal, Kabale Forest, Bogodi - Hogmanay and the most interesting bird was an African Crake which was flushed by our superb guide, Harriet, in long grasses of QENP. Then towards the Kibale Forest, a relict area of forest surrounded by tea plantations and farms with Black Bee-eaters, Great, Blue and Ross' Turacos. Checked in at a new lodge and off to a swamp for the secretive White-spotted Flufftail which showed for a few of us before disappearing into the dense, dark undergrowth. Time was pressing so a short cut to the village was made through fields of maize and vegetable crops. This habitat attracted the shy Snowy-crowned Robin Chat, Splendid and Purple-headed Starlings, African Green Pigeon, Grey-headed and White-breasted Negrofinches, African Thrush, African Blue Flycatcher, Red-faced Cisticola, Double-toothed Barbet and a Dideric Cuckoo calling from high up in an eucalyptus tree. Back to base followed by dinner and an evening entertainment by local people doing traditional Ugandan dances and poems. At 2200 hours we visited a stake out for African Wood Owls which showed well in tall trees a fitting finale to end 2010.

January 4th: Murchison, Murchison Falls. - After breakfast we crossed the White Nile and onto Murchison Falls, one of the great sights of Uganda. From the car park we made the short walk to the viewpoint where the exposed rocks held the localised Rock Pratincole. Over our heads wintering House Martins and parties of African Palm Swifts. Then it was off to Entebbe and the long haul home.

