

Final Report

Fieldwork

Steady progress with field coverage was made by the project co-ordinator, despite six weeks of almost continuous rain in February and March, and despite being detained illegally at the police station in Magoe (Tete Province) for five days. Special attention was given to the North West part of Tete Province, for which no previous ornithological records exist. A trickle of birdlists by visiting birders was also received.

The Project reported on the protectionworthiness of the Furancungo district, where several rare bird species, including Oliveheaded Weaver and Stierling's Woodpecker occur. Concern was raised about uncontrolled deforestation on the Angonia Plateau of north east Tete Province. The ecotourism potential of the Gorongosa-Caia road, linking the Gorongosa National Park with the Zambezi River Delta, was investigated and reported.

The number of quarter degree grid squares with significant coverage (more than 20 species) increased from 181 out of 316 (57%) in December 2000 to 251 (80%), and the number of grid squares which have been surveyed in both summer and winter increased from 75 to 180. Extensive road construction is currently underway in the region and it is anticipated that several currently inaccessible localities will be accessible in the coming year.

Publications

This project contributed the chapter on Mozambique in the inventory of Important Bird Areas in Africa, published in November by BirdLife International. Monthly reports were posted on the website of the Avian Demography Unit (<http://www.uct.ac.za/depts/stats/adu>) and a report was published in ADU's journal BirdNumbers.

Bird Club Development

The Bird Club (Clube Ornitologista de Mocambique) was dormant for much of the year, mainly because sr. Bento and Sr. Guissamulo were away from Maputo much of the time and other members lacked the motivation to initiate activities. A meeting was held during my visit to Maputo in October, and further meetings took place in November and December, and members undertook to continue meeting informally on a monthly basis next year. A field expedition to census the vulture colony at Goba was carried out by Clube members in November.

Collaboration with the Natural History Museum

Museum staff (Sr Bento & Sr Guissamulo) conducted bird identification workshops for conservation officials in the Chimanimani conservation area during January and April. The program for training in bird identification and appreciation has been developed jointly by the Museum and the Bird Atlas Project.

Sponsors

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