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| 2019 National Geographic Explorer |





# The Nigerian Bird Atlas Project (NiBAP):

*Promoting public participation for birds & biodiversity conservation in Nigeria*

**Sam Ivande** Ph.D

With thanks to Les Underhill, Ulf Ottosson & Talatu Tende

A.P. Leventis Ornithological Research Institute (APLORI),  
Jos, Nigeria

# A.P. Leventis Ornithological Research Institute (APLORI)

## The Nigerian Bird Atlas Project (NiBAP)

Promoting citizen science & building an environmentally conscious society



The Nigerian Bird Atlas project, launched at the end of 2015 as an APLORI initiative in partnership with NCF & with support from ADU

The goal:

"...to update information on the distribution & natural history of birds in Nigeria working with volunteer members of the public who are keen to contribute to biodiversity conservation in Nigeria.



[www.nigeria.birdmap.africa](http://www.nigeria.birdmap.africa) & [www.nibap.ng](http://www.nibap.ng)



# Birds: Good Indicators of Environmental Health

## Ecological importance of birds...

- Some vital ecological services provided by some of these bird species include:
  - Natural and free pest control service
  - Seed dispersal
  - Plant pollination
  - Nutrient recycling - as part of the food chain (both as prey & predators)





# Launching NiBAP in 2015

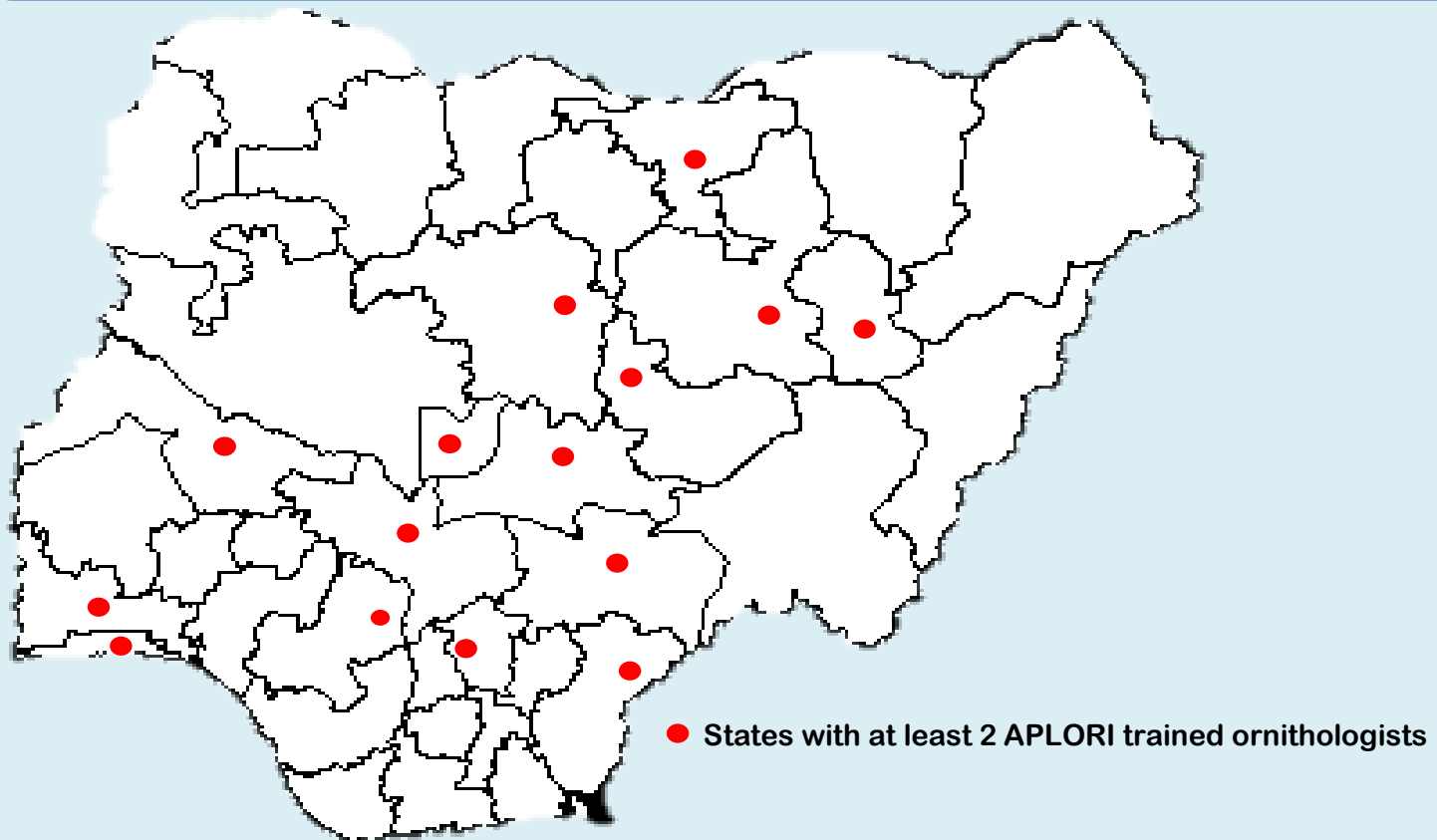
NiBAP Management Team - set up in Nov 2015, 3 members  
A potential volunteer base of c. 100



- Visits to colleagues at field sites, colleagues in their home states, deliver seminars about NiBAP to University departments
- Encouraged them to start bird clubs

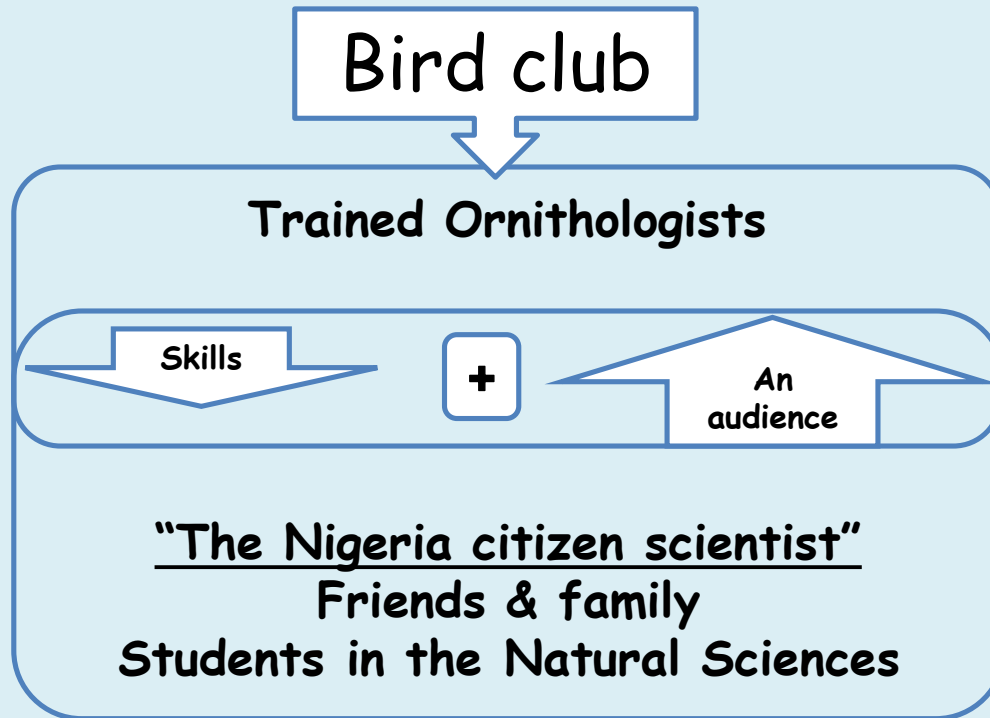


# Building the foundation: the APLORI Alumni



- We mapped the distribution of APLORI trained ornithologists around the country and set out to introduce the idea to them!!!
- This network became the backbone/foundation to build upon for this large scale project!!!

# The Bird Club strategy: fostering community and semi-formal capacity building to promote citizen science in Nigeria



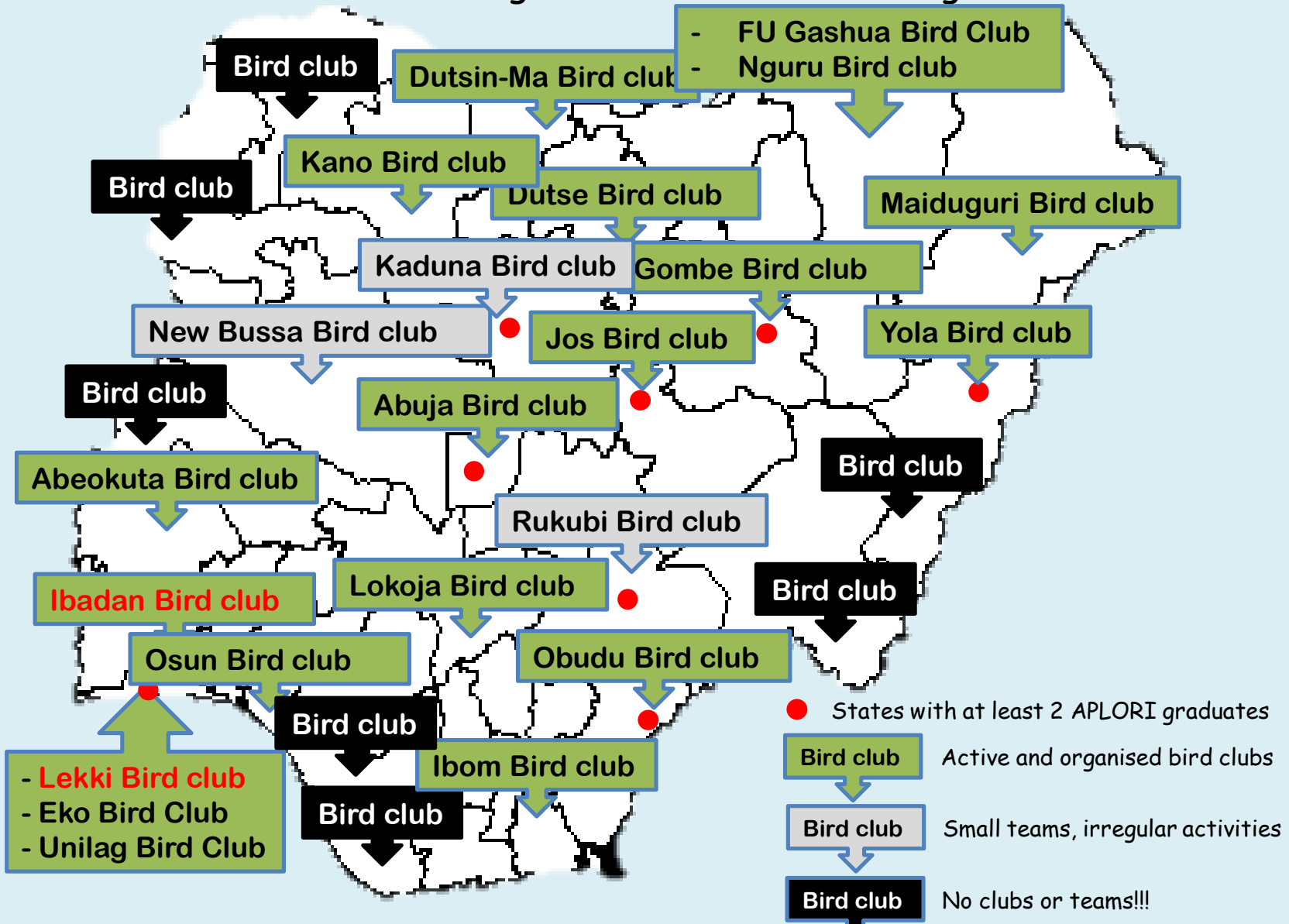
Bird Clubs:

Skill transfer - Matching the skilled with the unskilled!  
Sense of community, reciprocal motivation

Other benefits:  
Quality control for data  
Socio-cultural information exchange

# The NiBAP Bird club strategy

We facilitated the establishment of about 23 clubs now with about 800 bird watching members across the Nigeria





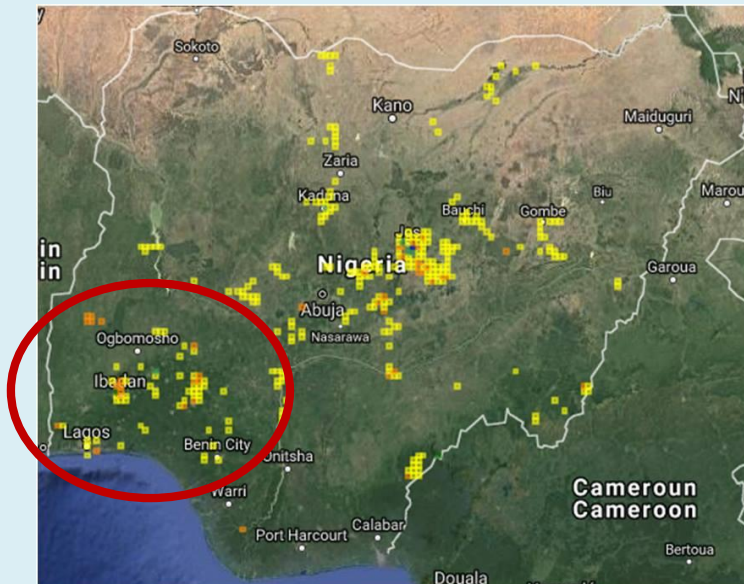
# South West Atlas Team (SWAT)

## The emergence of SWAT from the IBC

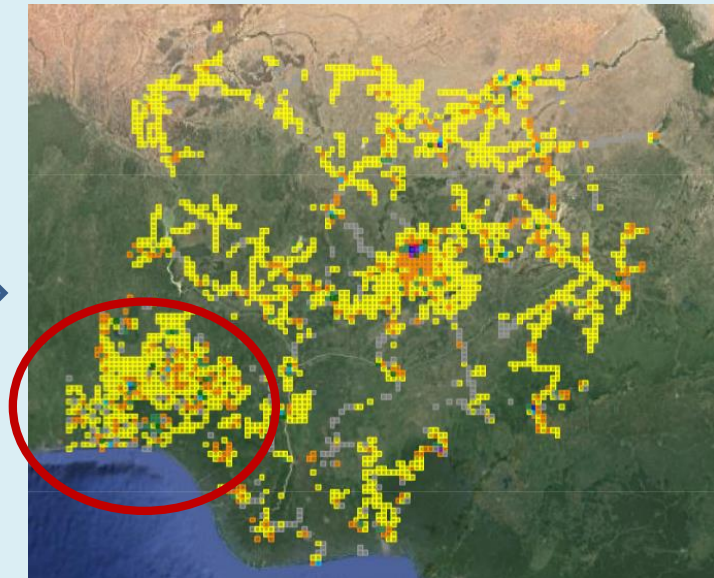
A bunch of super enthusiastic volunteers making a difference!!



- Aug 2016: SWAT formed (invitation from re-located member)
  - SWAT's impact four years on, over 400 pentads atlasted!!!



January 2017

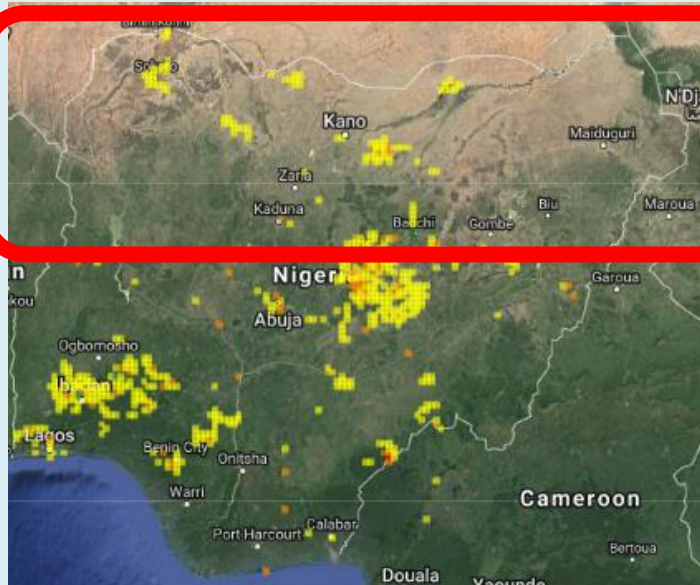


August 2020

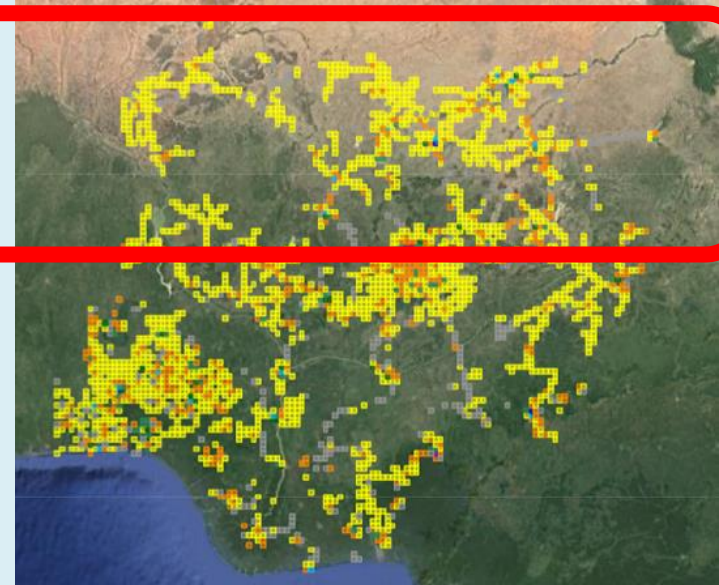
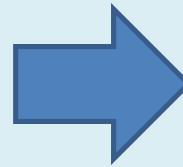
# Another Atlas Team in the North: Arewa Atlas Team (AAT)



- **Jan 2018:** AAT formed in similar fashion to the SWAT
- In a little over a year, AAT has atlased over 400 pentads in N/Nigeria!!!



January 2018



August 2020



# Semi-formal training platforms

## NatGeo funded field course

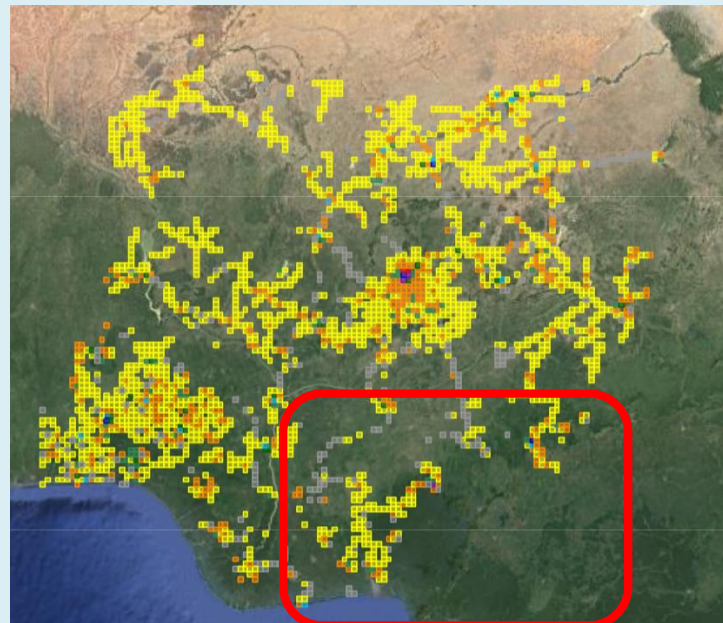


***Birdwatching in Nigeria***  
***...Connecting people with nature***

# Another Atlas Team in the South: South-East South-South Atlas Team (SESSAT)



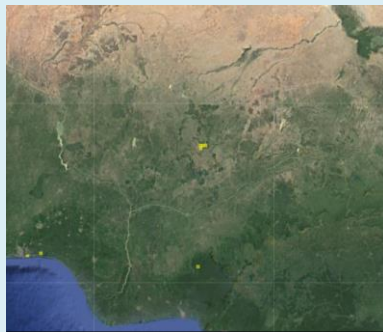
- **June 2019:** SESSAT formed after a field training in 2019!!!





# Nigerian Bird Atlas Project (NiBAP): Progress so far!!!

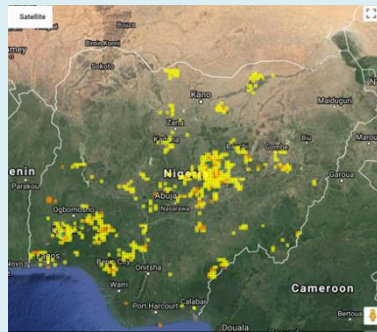
Year	Cards	Pentads	Observers	Records	Vetted	Species
<b>All years</b>	<b>4,629</b>	<b>2,563</b>	<b>202</b>	<b>163,701</b>	<b>163,366</b>	<b>887</b>
2020	866	572	89	29,910	29,906	663
2019	1,319	833	120	43,508	43,484	712
2018	1,264	826	111	43,161	43,161	695
2017	744	541	65	28,467	28,282	662
2016	429	331	34	18,315	18,193	581
2015	7	7	3	340	340	203



Dec 2015



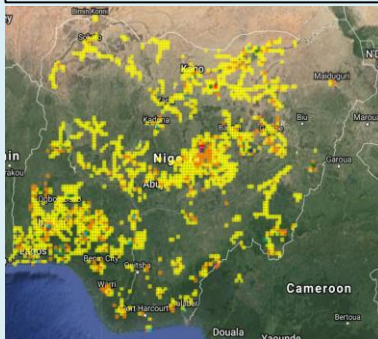
Dec 2016



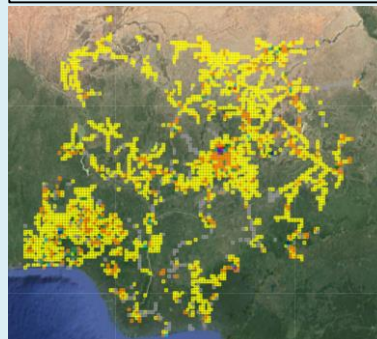
Dec 2017



Dec 2018



Dec 2019



Nov 2020

- From 7 in 2015 to >2500 pentads covered in 2020
- From a small group of 3 in 2016 to 202 active volunteers in 2020
- The contributions of bird clubs and Atlas teams also very evident in the clusters in the different regions

# Nigerian Bird Atlas Project

Public group · 4.8K members



+ Invite

About

Discussion

Announcements

Rooms

Members

Events

Media

Files



## Media

+ Create Album

Add Photos/Video

Photos

Videos

Albums



NRAP HOME PENTAD CHALLENGE -  
Round 1 of Card Submissions  
League Table

Rank	Score
1st	4
2nd	3
3rd	2
4th	1







## Sierra Leone Bird Atlas Project

Scientist

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### About

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74 people like this, including 11 of your friends



77 people follow this



[Send message](#)



[Scientist](#)



Create Post



Photo/Video



Check In



Tag Friends

### PINNED POST



Sierra Leone Bird Atlas Project

11 June 2019 · 🌐



The focus of the Sierra Leone Bird Atlas Project (SLBAP) is to continually monitor and record identified bird species in their local habitats across Sierra Leone. The ultimate goal is for a national bird atlas to be developed for the country. This will be the first of its kind in Sierra Leone! This national Bird atlas will also be a useful resource to guide and support conservation action in Sierra Leone and on the continent.



Talatu Tende, Lars Fugleven and 3 others

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Write a comment...



### Photos

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### OTHER POSTS



## Liberian Bird Atlas

Public group · 53 members



+ Invite

About Discussion Announcements Rooms Members



What's on your mind, Sam T?



Room



Photo/Video



Tag people

Unread announcement · 1

See All



Clara Cassell

Admin · 17 July ·

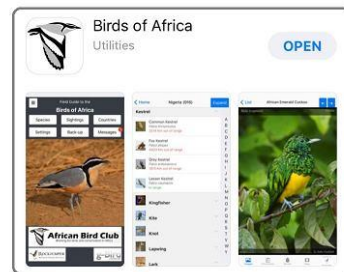
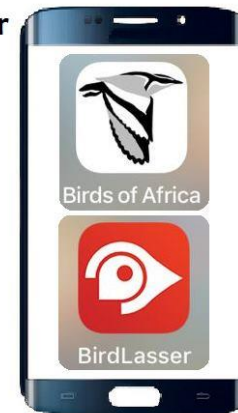
All you need to start your birding adventure...  
-pencil and paper to record sightings or make observations to ask about later  
-a community of fellow biodiversity enthusiasts and experts

### Basic tools for a new bird atlasser:

your eyes and ears  
pencil and paper



a few apps  
a community of birders



Join the Liberian Bird Atlas on Facebook today!



# Ghana Bird Atlas



Ghana Wildlife Society

Send Message

Like



## About

See all



The Society's vision is to conserve wildlife in all its forms to ensure a better environment and improved the quality of life for all people.

## Cape Coast Bird Club

Public group · 36 members



+ Invite

About Discussion Announcements Rooms Members Events Media

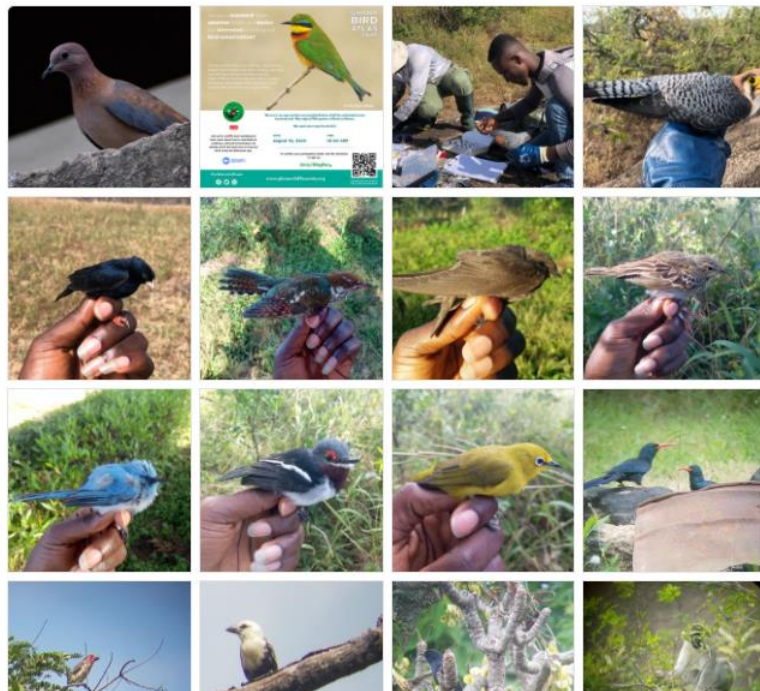


## Media

+ Create Album

Add Photos/Video

Photos Videos Albums



Ghana Wildlife Society

20 August at 15:49 · 🌐

Yesterday, we launched the Ghana [#BirdAtlas](#) project. The aim of the project is to engage as many people as possible, both young and old, to map and record Ghana's bird species for conservation purposes. The meeting was enlightening, engaging and inspiring.

We were honoured to have the [Australian High Commissioner, Ghana](#) representatives from [BirdLife International](#) [BirdLife International Africa](#) and other renowned birders and academicians from Ghana and Africa share their exper... See more







# Lessons learnt...

- **Organising the bird watching community**
  - Important to identify and organise the existing community!
  - Important to promote cohesion & provide lots of opportunities for the community to socialise and grow together!
  - The bird club strategy helps, and can be adaptable to peculiarities in any country!
- **Take time to create awareness**
  - Seminars and public talks are valuable
  - Harness the power of social media (WhatsApp & Facebook)
- **Training**
  - Explore various (formal & informal) ways to provide training and build capacity for citizen science in your country.
    - Where possible introduce it as part of the academic training
    - Encourage informal learning (e.g. via the bird clubs)
- **Funding**
  - A good fund raising team and strategy is important.
  - You will need to provide a lot of financial and equipment support to your teams e.g. to subsidise travel for atlas teams

Would you like to make a contribution for biodiversity conservation?

Would you like to learn about birds and other biodiversity?



- Become a Volunteer:
- Join a bird club & get atlasing!!!

- For more details:
  - Facebook:  
<https://web.facebook.com/groups/NigerianBirdAtlas>
  - Twitter:  
@BirdNigeria
  - Website: [www.nibap.ng](http://www.nibap.ng)



# Acknowledgements

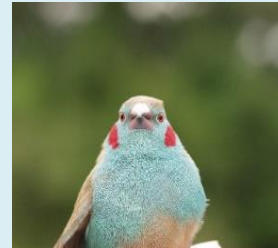


All the contributors to the atlas project:

Nigeria Bird Atlas Project

SkandinavKonsult,  
Sweden





**Thank you for listening!!!**

