KENYA BIRD TRENDS

Mapping long-term changes in birds' distribution across Kenya

The power of citizen science

Using data collected by thousands of volunteers across Kenya, we can now tell how the distribution of birds has changed at national scale since 1970.

HOW? We compared records of birds reported in square areas of about 27km^2 each, during two periods to find whether a species' range expanded or decreased.

1. Historical period
1970-1984
Data source: *A Bird Atlas of Kenya*

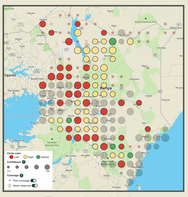
VS

2. Recent period
2009-2023
Data sources: Two citizen science platforms

Kenya Bird Map

eBird

Result:
Map of distribution change for each species



Egyptian Vulture

Trends & conservation action

Effectively protecting birds requires reliable data on bird populations across the country. This publicly available platform can be used for this very purpose - identify trends to inform conservation efforts. Here are a few examples:

1 MIGRATORY BIRDS LOST RANGE WHILE RESIDENTS EXPANDED

on average,

MIGRANTS
lost 6.4 squares

this amounts to

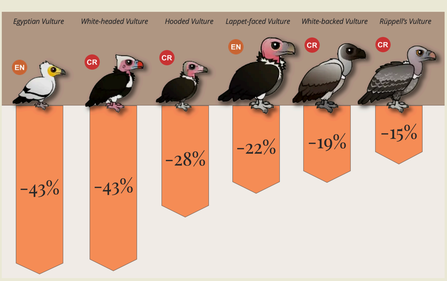
16% LOSS
in cumulative range for long-distance migrants

while

RESIDENTS
gained 4 squares

This underscores the **need for urgent conservation measures to protect migratory birds** in Kenya and their key habitats.

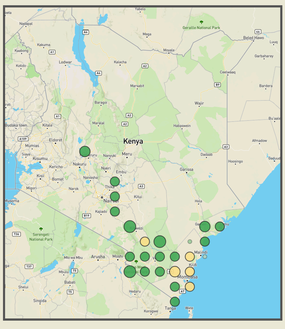
2 ALL SCAVENGERS SEE DROP IN RANGE



Several initiatives seek to raise awareness about the threats scavengers face and re-introduce them in the wild.

3 INTRODUCED SPECIES GAINED RANGE

The Indian House Crow: Data-informed conservation



This map shows that House Crows have reached Nairobi from the Kenya coast, where they were originally introduced.

This information is helping the Crow Control Campaign stop further spread of this invasive species to protect resident birds.

Make a difference

Explore trends for specific species, learn about species in your local area, or download current species lists and distribution maps at:
kenyabirdtrends.co.ke

Want to join the citizen science movement? The more data we have, the better! Submit bird observations wherever you are at:
kenya.birdmap.africa

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