

From:	"birdlife"
To:	<ktes2008@yahoo.com>
Subject:	RE: Birds of prey: <b>Botswana</b>
Date:	Wed, 13 Feb 2008 17:13:50 +0200

1. What is your name? **Pete Hancock**
2. If you have a job title, what is it? **Conservation Officer, BirdLife Botswana**
3. What is the name of your organization and country? [just so that we have it together with your name.] **BirdLife Botswana , Botswana**
4. Based on numbers, what would you say are the top 5 raptors in your area? **White-backed Vulture, Tawny Eagle, Greater Kestrel, Pearl-spotted Owl, White-faced Scops-Owl and Black Kite (later is a migrant, common during summer)**
5. Are there any endangered raptors in your area? If so, which ones are they and why are they endangered? **Cape Vulture , Lappet-faced Vulture, White-backed Vulture, White-headed Vulture, Lesser Kestrel, Martial Eagle, Bateleur. The vultures and eagles are endangered due to poisoning and persecution by man. The Lesser Kestrel has been affected by pesticides and loss of habitat, mainly in Europe (it migrates to Southern Africa )**
6. Are there any programs in your area that help to protect raptors? If yes, briefly tell us what they are. **BirdLife Botswana has embarked on a raptor conservation project using the Lappet-faced Vulture as a flagship for all raptors – we are researching population trends, and identifying threats to our raptors and then recording actual mortalities. From this information we will compile an Action plan – a blueprint for conserving the birds – this will be done in a participatory way to get buy-in and support from other stakeholders.**
7. Is your organization funded by the government or private donations? If neither, from what source is funding received? **Our major source of funds is from International donor agencies, but local businesses in Botswana also contribute significantly.**
8. Does your government recognize the importance of maintaining/improving the status of birds of prey? If so, in what way do they support it? **We have a research permit from the Government of Botswana which shows that they welcome our input. The Department of Wildlife is understaffed and has no full-time ornithologist – they support and rely on BirdLife Botswana to conserve birds especially raptors.**

9. Do you have programs to educate the public? If yes, what kinds or please give examples. We have a member of our organization who works through the Ministry of Education to create an awareness of birds in schoolchildren and teachers. For example, we have just produced a Bird Activity book for schools showing how birds can be used across the curriculum. We also produce posters and other educational materials.

10. Is there anything else that you would like to share or comment on about raptors in your area? Botswana is a relatively unspoilt part of Southern Africa and generally has healthy bird populations. The endangered raptors mentioned above are recognized by BirdLife as being globally threatened, and Botswana still has healthy populations of some e.g. White-backed Vulture.

11. May we have permission to print this email interview on our website? Certainly