

From:	"Andre Botha"
To:	<ktes2008@yahoo.com>
Subject:	RE: Birds of prey: South Africa
Date:	Fri, 15 Feb 2008 08:22:17 +0100

1. What is your name? André Botha

2. If you have a job title, what is it? Manager: Birds of Prey Working Group

3. What is the name of your organization and country? Endangered Wildlife Trust , South Africa

4. Based on numbers, what would you say are the top 5 raptors in your area? Southern Africa has 84 species of raptor, including 12 owl species. Based on numbers, the following species will qualify as the most numerous in the region:

- Black-shouldered Kite *Elanus caeruleus*
- Steppe Buzzard *Buteo vulpinus* (summer only)
- Yellow-billed Kite *Milvus aegyptius* (summer only)
- Amur Falcon *Falco amurensis* (summer only)
- Pale Chanting Goshawk *Melierax canorus*

5. Are there any endangered raptors in your area? If so, which ones are they and why are they endangered? There are 23 species of raptor listed in *The Eskom Red Data Book of Birds of South Africa , Lesotho and Swaziland* (Barnes, 2000). This includes the regionally extinct Egyptian Vulture *Neophron percnopterus* and Endangered southern African sub-species of Bearded Vulture *Gypaetus barbatus*. Reasons for the birds being threatened are varied, but includes the following:

- Loss of habitat due to human activities and landscape transformation
- Persecution
- Poisoning (Direct & Indirect)
- Collisions or electrocutions on electricity infrastructure
- Harvesting for use in traditional medicine
- Drowning in artificial water reservoirs in arid areas
- Limited availability of prey or scavenging opportunities
- Illegal trade and collection of eggs and live birds
- Disturbance, especially at nesting sites

6. Are there any programs in your area that help to protect raptors? If yes, briefly tell us what they are. The Birds of Prey Working Group currently runs 30+ Projects across the region trying to address raptor conservation issues. You can read more about these on our website www.ewt.org.za, go to the BoPWG pages.

7. Is your organization funded by the government or private donations? If neither, from what source is funding received? Our funding comes mostly from private or corporate entities. No funding is received from government.

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? Some of the Provincial authorities participate in raptor monitoring and conservation, but generally on a very limited scale.

9. Do you have programs to educate the public? If yes, what kinds or please give examples. Yes, all of our projects have an education and awareness component focused on a range of audiences. An example are the raptor information sheets that can be downloaded from our website.

10. Is there anything else that you would like to share or comment on about raptors in your area? Considering the scope and extent of the threats faced by raptors in the region, it should certainly receive far greater consideration and support than what is presently the case.

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

From:	"Alan Stephenson"
To:	<ktes2008@yahoo.com>
Subject:	Re: Birds of prey: South Africa
Date:	Thu, 14 Feb 2008 10:29:43 +0200

1. What is your name? Alan Stephenson
2. If you have a job title, what is it? Executive Director
3. What is the name of your organization and country? Grahamstown Foundation, South Africa
4. Based on numbers, what would you say are the top 5 raptors in your area? Black Shouldered Kites, Steppe Buzzards, RockKestrel, Lanner Falcon, Black Sparrowhawk
5. Are there any endangered raptors in your area? If so, which ones are they and why are they endangered? Martial Eagle
6. Are there any programs in your area that help to protect raptors? If yes, briefly tell us what they are. Pay subsidy to farmers to allow the large eagles to breed there.
7. Is your organization funded by the government or private donations? If neither, from what source is funding received? Government previously but now privately.
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? Used to but priorities have changed.
9. Do you have programs to educate the public? If yes, what kinds or please give examples. Yes work directly with farmers to educate them on the benefits of having birds of prey.
10. Is there anything else that you would like to share or comment on about raptors in your area? Have increased with the increase in game farming. Habitat is now more diverse compared to monoculture farming such as just sheep.
11. May we have permission to print this email interview on our website? Yes