



WORLD MIGRATORY BIRD DAY REPORT

MAY 2019

EVENT SUMMARY

The World Migratory Bird Day is held twice in a year to celebrate migratory birds and their habitats. The theme for this year was “PROTECT BIRDS: BE THE SOLUTION TO PLASTIC SOLUTION” and this was officially celebrated on the 11th of May, however, all over the world, the event was celebrated on or around this date. In Omo forest reserve, the event was celebrated on the 9th, 13th and 14th of May, 2019. The activities in Omo were arts and crafts competition, bird watching, community awareness, poem recitals, interactive sessions between students and adults, traditional folklore and songs.

The WMBD activities began with the arts and crafts competition on the 9th of May with students from the Plantation High School/ Omo Conservation Club and staff of the Omo-Shasha-Oluwa forest project involved. On Monday, the 13th of May, the Afribird stakeholders meeting held in with representatives of Birdlife International, Nigerian conservation Foundation and the A.P Leventis Ornithological Research Institute present. The meeting was centred on the affairs and state of the Afribird project.

The WMBD events continued on the 14th of May with a bird watching session in the morning and the community awareness outreach later in the day. The final event followed on the 14th, with several activities including an interactive session between staff and students and several students centred activities. .

ARTS AND CRAFT COMPETITION

The Omo conservation club is coordinated by the Nigerian conservation Foundation in collaboration with staff of the Planation High School. Towards this event, some staff and students had registered their interest to participate in the arts and craft events. While materials for the art session were provided by the project, the students made available the items utilised in the plastic craft competition, these include old plastic bottles which were recycled.

The art session involved students drawing images of both migratory and local resident birds while the plastic crafts competition saw the students creating brooms from disposed plastic bottles and sticks.



Blue Breasted Kingfisher
(Halcyon malimbica)
This tree kingfisher retreats from the drier areas of West Africa's savannah in the dry season and takes up residence in a hole in a tree trunk in a tree fern's nest in well-wooded areas. Its whistling call is "whi-ku-ku-ku".



BIRD WATCHING

On the 13th of May, we began commemorating with WMBD event with a bird watching event between 06:30am and 08:30am.



Community Awareness

The WMBD team visited two communities to raise awareness on the theme of the year. In Aberu community, the traditional head of the community (the Baale) gathered members of the community together for the awareness session. The students from the Omo conservation club began by rendering some songs inspired by birds in the local dialect. While members of the team followed up with interactive sessions on the dangers of plastic, proper plastic disposal and managing plastic pollution by reducing, renewing and recycling.

In Area J4, the team had a street rally moving through the neighbourhood singing and talking to people about migratory birds, the dangers plastic pose to them and the necessary action necessary to mitigate these dangers. Find below pictures of these activities.





World Migratory Bird Day Celebration

The final assembly was a gathering in which different activities were showcased in line with the theme of the year. There was an interactive session with staff and students talking about practical solution to the menace of plastic pollution. Alex Ngari from Birdlife International, Kenya gave a talk on the step taken by the Kenyan government in banning some plastic materials and the success recorded. The Project Manager of the J4 plantation project also contributed to the discourse making suggestions on practical actions we can employ in Nigeria.

Other activities include poem recitals by students of the Omo conservation Club, another gave a speech on the “Understanding the dynamics between man, birds and Plastic” while there was also an interactive session between in students in a mock TV show called “Conservation TV”. Finally, some students were awarded gifts for their outstanding artistic skills in the drawing competition while the event was wrapped up with a song. Find below some pictures from these activities.











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