



Migrant Landbird Study Group

Hello everyone,

At the last European Ornithologists' Union (EOU) conference in Norwich (2013), a discussion was organised around 'Conservation of long-distance migrant landbirds in the African-Eurasian flyway; how can science and policy align?' That discussion helped facilitate the setting up of an independent and international network of professionals and amateurs involved in the research, monitoring and conservation of migratory landbirds.

Almost a year has passed since we met in Wilhelmshaven in March 2014 to announce the beginning of the Migrant Landbird Study Group (MLSG).



Participants at the inaugural MLSG meeting, Wilhelmshaven.

At the Wilhelmshaven meeting, a Board was selected to take forward the planning and management of the MLSG. Throughout the year, we have been working as the MLSG Board to ensure progress at all levels and we would like to take the opportunity to inform you about some of the main developments, achievements and plans.

Board members

- Chair: Danae Sheehan (Royal Society for the Protection of Birds; RSPB).
- Vice-chair: Samantha Franks (British Trust for Ornithology: BTO).
- Secretary: Wouter Vansteelant (University of Amsterdam).
- Treasurer: Rien van Wijk (Swiss Ornithological Institute).
- Events Officer: Mathilde Lerche-Jørgensen (University of Copenhagen).
- Communications: Lykke Pedersen (University of Copenhagen).
Samuel Temidayo Osinubi (BirdLife International).
- Editorial: Will Cresswell (University of St. Andrews).
- Website: Phil Atkinson (British Trust for Ornithology: BTO).
- Conservation: Bernd de Bruijn (Vogelbescherming Nederlands: VBN).





Board meetings

The MLSC Board has met twice, with the agreement that Board meetings will be organised every six months at a location favourable for the attendance of the majority of Board members.

- 1st Board meeting took place at the University of Copenhagen, Denmark, from 14th to 15th July, 2014.
- 2nd Board meeting took place at the RSPB Lodge, Sandy, from 1st to 2nd December, 2014.

Board members who were able to attend these meetings were self-funded, while some others participated via Skype.



Board members at the 2nd MLSC Board meeting.

Progress report

At the first Board meeting, attention was focused on finalising the MLSC constitution and defining the function of the Board. Since then, the following has been achieved:

- registration of the MLSC as a foundation with the Dutch Chamber of Commerce and opening of a bank account
 - Name: Stichting Palearctisch Trekvogelonderzoek – MLSC
 - Account: NL61 TRIO 0198 1009 73
 - Swift: TRIONL2U
 - ANBI: 8549.39.003
 - Address: Dijkgraaf 35, 6721 NJ, Bennekom, Netherlands.





- design and online launch of the MLSG logo (with the support of designer Adele Pound; <http://www.adelepound.co.uk/page11.html>),



Migrant Landbird Study Group



Migrant Landbird Study Group

MLSG logos, in colour and in black-and-white.

- production and subsequent update of an information brochure (available for download at <http://www.birdlife.org/africa/migratory-landbirds-study-group-mlsg>),



Front page of the MLSG brochures.





- online social media presence,



MLSG Twitter account; @MigrantLandbird



MLSG Facebook group; groups/MigrantLandbirdStudyGroup

- trial production of MLSG memorabilia,



MLSG heat-sensitive and plain white mugs.

- MLSG presence at several scientific conferences:
 - 26th International Ornithological Congress in Tokyo, Japan (August 2014),
 - 1st International Bird Observatory Conference in Falsterbo, Sweden (August 2014), and
 - 5th Bio-logging Science Symposium in Strasbourg, France (September 2014).





- MLSG showcased at the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS) 11th Conference of Parties (COP11) in Quito, Ecuador (November 2014).
- Round table and symposium abstracts have been accepted for the 10th EOU conference in Badajoz, Spain, from 24th to 28th August, 2015:
 - RT1: Crossing borders: integrating education and capacity-building in monitoring and research of migrant birds – Vansteelant, W.M.G. & Osinubi, S.T.
 - S1: The scale of migratory connectivity and population dynamics in Palearctic-African migrant landbirds – Cresswell, W. & Tøttrup, A.
 - S15. Internal and external drivers of variation in landbird migration – Ouwehand, J., Vega, M.L., Klaassen, R. & Arizaga, J.

MLSG satellite symposium

In addition to these abstracts, the EOU have graciously supported the organisation of a MLSG Satellite Symposium, starting at 08h30 on Monday, 24th August at the EOU conference venue (Faculty of Economics, University Campus, Badajoz). We would like to welcome all of you to take part in this event. In order to participate in this satellite symposium please:

- register online at http://migrantlandbirds.org/wp/?page_id=574,
- plan to arrive at the EOU conference venue on Sunday, 23rd August,
- book accommodation for the additional Sunday night at the EOU rate,
- pay EUR 20 participation fee, covering organisation, lunch and cleaning of symposium venue, and
- prepare optional 3-5 minute presentation.

More information is available on the MLSG website, at http://migrantlandbirds.org/wp/?page_id=574.

Future plans

We are in the process of improving functionalities and information available on the MLSG website. Professional assistance is being sought. We are thus, currently working on securing funds for the website development. If the funding comes through, we expect to have the basic features of the website ready by the EOU conference. We will keep you posted.

If you have questions or would like to know more, please do not hesitate to contact us at info@migrantlandbirds.org

Thank you.

Greetings from the MLSG Board.

