

The meeting is open to members and non-members of ABC and BOC. Admission is free to members, donations from non-members invited

REFRESHMENTS

Tea and coffee will be available at 10.00 and 15.30. If you require water please bring your own. Food will be available for purchase from outlets in the Museum or you can bring your own sandwiches.

TRADE STANDS

ABC Sales

WildSounds

Will be selling a wide range of books and sound recordings.

HOW TO FIND THE VENUE

The Flett Theatre is on Floor 1 of the Red Zone. This is in a public area of the Museum and visitors can make their own way there. The closest street entrance is on Exhibition Rd at the eastern end of the Museum.

By tube It is within walking distance of South Kensington station on the District, Circle and Piccadilly lines.

By bus Routes 14, 49, 70, 74, 345, 360, 414 and C1 stop near the Museum. The 360 stops in Exhibition Road.

By coach Victoria Coach Station is within walking distance of Victoria train and tube station on the Circle or District lines. The Museum is two stops on the westbound underground. For groups travelling by coach, the coach drop-off point is outside the Cromwell Road entrance.

By car Driving to the Museum may not be easy and parking is not available on Exhibition Road, which is exclusively for residents and a limited number of Blue Badge holders.

African Bird Club is a Registered Charity No 1053920
British Ornithologists' Club is a Registered Charity No 279583

A joint meeting of
African Bird Club,
British Ornithologists' Club &
Natural History Museum



Saturday 6th April 2013

**To be held at
The Flett Theatre, Natural History Museum,
Cromwell Road, London SW7 5BD.**

Meeting Programme

10.00 Doors Open *Coffee & tea available*

10.30 Opening remarks *Robert Prys-Jones (Natural History Museum)*

10.40 ABC Chairman's Introduction – Keith Betton

10.45 Saving Ethiopia's most threatened endemic bird in a constantly changing environment – Paul Donald

IUCN has recently identified 100 of the most threatened animals, plants and fungi in the world one of which is the Liben Lark, found only on the Liben Plain in Southern Ethiopia. Its habitat is constantly becoming degraded and lost due to farming which is leading to a further decline in its male-skewed population. Immediate measures need to be taken in order to save the species from extinction.

11.15 Libyan Lesser Crested Terns – a vulnerable and important population – Abdulmaula Hamza

The successful management of this local population depends on regular monitoring to collect data on breeding biology, feeding ecology, migration routes, breeding recruitment and status in wintering sites. Research has included colour-ringing 1274 nestlings. This remains an endangered population due to lack of legal protection and disturbance, but much more is now known about this endemic race of the species.

11.45 Birds and birdwatching in Rwanda - a gem in the heart of Africa – Jason Anderson

Rwanda offers three key habitats to birdwatchers in a country the size of Wales - the Albertine Rift, the East African savannah and the Victoria Basin papyrus swamps. Despite being densely populated it is a safe country and full of birds. This overview will explain the main habitats and target birds for the visitor.

12.30 Lunch break

Food & refreshments available throughout the Museum

13.45 ABC Annual General Meeting

All welcome, but only ABC Members may vote

14.15 BOC Secretary's Introduction – Robert Prys-Jones

14.20 Reconstructing the lost world of the dodo; the extinct birds of the Mascarenes – Julian Hume

Mauritius, Réunion and Rodrigues were the last major islands to be discovered by humans. Unlike other island archipelagos, documented accounts were made about the avifauna before the islands were irreversibly changed. Historical and palaeontological evidence has provided an unprecedented record of their faunal diversity, and an opportunity to reconstruct the lost world of the dodo.

15.00 Speciation in African White-eyes – Siobhan Cox

White-eyes form a remarkably similar group morphologically and the relationships of the various described forms remain far from clear. For her PhD Siobhan has used genetic techniques to revise understanding of relationships among African taxa, and she will present a review of the results from this.

15.30 Tea/Coffee interval

16.00 In Archer's Footsteps: Birding in the Republic of Somaliland – Nigel Redman

Somaliland is a stable, self-governing country that is unfortunately considered by the rest of the world to be part of war-torn Somalia. As a consequence it is one of the least known countries in Africa. This talk will look at its varied habitats and the little-known endemic species that they harbour. The talk will also focus on the trials of travelling in a country with very little tourist infrastructure.

16.45 Raffle Draw and close of day – Keith Betton