BIG BIRDING DAY
Connecting Birds to People and Nature

NatureUganda

Press Release 2018

"Investing In Biodiversity For The Benefit Of People"

On Saturday 3rd November 2018, ***Nature***Uganda in collaboration with partners Uganda Tourism Board (UTB), Uganda Wildlife Authority (UWA), Uganda Bird Guides Club (UBGC) and National Forestry Authority (NFA) organized an event to promote Uganda as a birding destination, codenamed the Big Birding Day (BBD) 2018. This event has been running since 2001. Birding or bird watching or avi-tourism is one of the fastest growing tourism products in Uganda and indeed around the world. BBD 2018 was held under the theme "Investing in Biodiversity for the benefit of people"!

NatureUganda on behalf of her partners Uganda Tourism Board (UTB), Uganda Wildlife Authority (UWA), Uganda Bird Guides Club (UBGC) and National Forestry Authority (NFA) and on its own behalf extends great appreciation to its members and the general public for participating massively in Big Birding Day (BBD) 2018. The purpose of this activity was to promote Uganda as a birding destination and a big leap was taken towards this end when over 500 bird enthusiasts showed up for birding on Saturday 3rd November. This event has been running since 2001 and its popularity has grown exponentially from an estimated ~~200~~ participants in the first event to 600 in BBD 2018 marking 18 years of successful events of this kind. BBD 2018 was held under the theme "Investing in Biodiversity for the benefit of people"!

Bird watching is one of the fastest growing tourism products in Uganda and indeed around the world. The Big Birding Day is a fantastic opportunity to show the pearl in birds to Ugandans through field excursions and providing an opportunity for all to enjoy the pleasure of bird watching and to tap into the potential of domestic tourism. With more of these initiatives and interests, the future of birds and birding as a tourism product will be unrivalled and Uganda must exploit this comparative advantage in tourism industry.

Results from the birding race

The birding on BBD is held in form of a race where teams go out bird watching to record the highest number of birds seen during the 24hrs period. This year, we had 34 teams going out across the country to record birds they saw in this fun-filled activity. The aim is to get the longest list of birds that can be recorded in the whole country in one day.

A total of 751 bird species was recorded by the 34 participating teams. This represents 70.9% of the confirmed records of birds for Uganda. The sites covered included National parks, forest reserves, community sites and private sites by various enthusiastic participants.

The longest list recorded came from the team in Kidepo Valley National Park with 294 species making it the winning team, followed by the team in Murchison Falls National Park with 285 species and then Queen Elizabeth National Park followed with 273 species. However, there are other teams with special achievements that are specially commended; the team from Bwindi Impenetrable NP has the highest percentage of species seen off the known site list at 62.6% and then the Magoro team in Kumi which recorded the Fox's Weaver and Karamoja Apalis, both endemic to Uganda. Kidepo Valley NP had the highest number of rare sightings including the distinctive Red-and-yellow Barbet, followed by Bwindi Impenetrable NP that recorded the unique songbird; Jameson's Antpecker. Other rare sightings included the enigmatic Southern Pochard in L. Mburo NP, the handsome Common Teal in Queen Elizabeth NP and the uncommon Grey-headed Olive back in Budongo FR.

Summary Results

The teams were ranked according to three site categories and the winners there-in are;

i) **National Parks:** Kidepo Valley National Park – 294 species
ii) **Forest Reserves:** Budongo Forest reserve – 129 species
iii) **Sites outside Protected Areas:** Sunbird Hill – 152 species

Among the participating young birders (5 – 11yrs) we had Dillon Lloyd, Jonah Brian Wabwire P.5, Benjamin Egesa-P.2, Tamba Mugyenyi, Kanyisa Mugyenyi & Hamya Mugyenyi.





Detailed results are below

Detailed Results

Results are ranked in three Categories of National Parks, Forest Reserves and Private sites outside Protected areas;

1. National Parks

Rank	Site	BBD Species	%age of site list	Protected
1	Kidepo Valley NP	294	60.49%	NP
2	Murchison Falls NP	285	59.50%	NP
3	Queen Elizabeth NP	273	45.50%	NP
4	Bwindi Impenetrable NP	223	62.64%	NP
5	Lake Mburo NP	204	58.29%	NP
6	Kibale NP	170	45.33%	NP
7	Murchison NP (Private)	167	34.86%	NP
8	Semliki NP	104	23.27%	NP
9	Mgahinga Gorilla NP	82	44.57%	NP

2. Forest Reserves

Rank	Site	BBD Species	%age of site list	Protected
1	Budongo CFR	129	34.96%	FR
2	Kasyoha Kitomi CFR	126	46.32%	FR
3	Echuya CFR	92	25.79%	FR
4	Mabira CFR	89	29.97%	FR
5	Mpanga CFR	80	22.43%	FR
6	Mt. Kei CFR	31	8.69%	FR

3. Sites outside Protected Areas

Rank	Site	BBD Species	%age of site list	Protected
1	Sunbird Hill	152	40.53%	Private
2	Makanaga	136	38.13%	Private
3	Bigodi	136	36.27%	Private
4	Ziwa Rhino Sanctuary	95	26.63%	Private
5	Chaking	91	25.51%	Private
6	Ngamba Island	86	24.11%	Private
7	Mabamba Bay	84	23.55%	Private
8	Ruboni	84	31.00%	Private
9	Jinja Area	83	23.27%	Private
10	Lake Bisina Area	82	22.99%	Private
11	Nabajjuzi-Kumbu	71	12.91%	Private
12	KATIC	70	19.62%	Private

13	Lusanja	55	15.42%	Private
14	Buloba	42	11.77%	Private
15	MUST-Mbarara	23	6.45%	Private
16	West Bugwe CFR	16	4.49%	Private
17	Musambwa Islands	14	3.92%	Private
18	Magoro Area-Kumi	14	3.92%	Private
19	Kyaka Swamp- Kyegegwa	12	3.36%	Private

4. Overall Rankings

Rank	Site	BBD Species	%age of site list	Protected
1	Kidepo Valley NP	294	60.49%	NP
2	Murchison Falls NP	285	59.50%	NP
3	Queen Elizabeth NP	273	45.50%	NP
4	Bwindi Impenetrable NP	223	62.64%	NP
5	Lake Mburo NP	204	58.29%	NP
6	Kibale NP	170	45.33%	NP
7	Murchison NP Private	167	34.86%	NP
8	Sunbird Hill	152	40.53%	Private
9	Makanaga	136	38.13%	Private
10	Bigodi	136	36.27%	Private
11	Budongo CFR	129	34.96%	FR
12	Kasyoha Kitomi CFR	126	46.32%	FR
13	Semliki NP	104	23.27%	NP
14	Ziwa Rhino Sanctuary	95	26.63%	Private
15	Echuya CFR	92	25.79%	FR
16	Chaking	91	25.51%	Private
17	Mabira CFR	89	29.97%	FR
18	Ngamba Island	86	24.11%	Private
19	Mabamba Bay	84	23.55%	Private
20	Ruboni	84	31.00%	Private
21	Jinja Area	83	23.27%	Private
22	Lake Bisina Area	82	22.99%	Private
23	Mgahinga Gorilla NP	82	44.57%	NP
24	Mpanga CFR	80	22.43%	FR
25	Nabajjuzi-Kumbu	71	12.91%	Private
26	KATIC	70	19.62%	Private
27	Lusanja	55	15.42%	Private
28	Buloba	42	11.77%	Private
29	Mt. Kei CFR	31	8.69%	FR
30	MUST-Mbarara	23	6.45%	Private
31	West Bugwe CFR	16	4.49%	Private

32	Musambwa Islands	14	3.92%	Private
33	Magoro Area	14	3.92%	Private
34	Kyaka Swamp- Kyegegwa	12	3.36%	Private
	Total	**751**	**70.85%**	**34 sites**