

photographs of adults, suggesting these young were taken from their nests or as fledglings, rather than being captive-bred.

Most posts had short descriptions of what was offered for sale, written in a combination of Indonesian (*Bahasa Indonesia*), regional languages (*Bahasa Sunda*, *Bahasa Jawa*) and slang. Species were given easily deciphered English code names such as JHE for Javan hawk-eagle (rather than EJ for *Elang Jawa*), LM and DM for light and dark morph, and BOP for birds of prey. Few posts had the raptor's complete Indonesian name included, presumably to aid avoidance of detection by the authorities. Asking prices were rarely included for the larger raptors, and all further requests, including the location of the seller, had to be through WhatsApp, a free messaging service owned by Facebook.

Although, as expected, most posts were regarding birds of prey for sale, there were also numerous requests for specific species or for partners of raptors already owned. Other species offered for sale were mostly various species of owl, a group that is mostly not protected under Indonesian law and, to a lesser degree, other birds or small mammals, protected and unprotected. In addition, all the Facebook groups had posts offering falconry equipment, such as gloves and hoods, and live food (quails, munias and small rodents).

As not only the sale but also the keeping of native birds of prey is not permitted in Indonesia, many of the Facebook group members (with their details clearly visible) are in violation of the law. In recent years Indonesian authorities have begun to prevent the online sale of protected eagles, and a few traders have been apprehended and some eagles seized. This has not, however, deterred the open sale of raptors on Facebook, similar to the way that trade used to continue with impunity in the bird markets.

VINCENT NIJMAN (orcid.org/0000-0002-5600-4276) Oxford Wildlife Trade Research Group, Oxford Brookes University, Oxford, UK. E-mail vnijman@brookes.ac.uk

One swallow does not make a summer, but could a Laysan albatross pair make a colony at Natividad Island, Mexico?

Amongst seabirds the albatrosses are the most threatened, with many species falling victim to longlines (Rolland et al., 2010, *Global Change Biology*, 167, 1910–1922), introduced species (Croxall et al., 2012, *Bird Conservation International*, 221, 1–34), competition with fisheries (Furness & Tasker, 2000, *Marine Ecology Progress Series*, 202, 253–264) and climate change (Wanless, 2006, *Journal of Ornithology*, 147, 5). The populations of several albatross species have declined

dramatically as a result of introduced mice (Wanless et al., 2007, *Biology Letters*, 33, 241–244) and hunting.

Many threats are, however, being addressed. Recruitment and survival have increased for several species and the number of vagrant individuals has also increased. In the northern hemisphere there are now new colonies as a result of translocations, in Hawaii (Young & VanderWerf, 2016, *Elepaio*, 761, 1–4) and Japan (Deguchi et al., 2014, *Oryx*, 482, 195–203), or through natural expansion, such as that of the Laysan albatross *Phoebastria immutabilis* to Guadalupe Island, Mexico (Pitman et al., 2004, *Marine Ornithology*, 32, 159–165).

During an expedition in April 2019 to Natividad Island, Mexico (27°86'25.59" N, 115°17'14.18" W), to study the black-vented shearwater *Puffinus opisthomelas*, we observed upon arrival two individuals of the Laysan albatross flying above the southern tip of the island and later, on land, observed one with both a metal and a plastic (darvic) ring. It was individual O497. We reported our observation to Pacific Rim Conservation and learnt that it is a male, who was banded as a chick at Kaena Point on Oahu, Hawaii, in 2010 and had not been seen since. It is a mature individual and may be looking for a suitable place for reproduction.

The following day we were surprised by the bill clapping of the albatross, close by. During our 2 weeks on the island we saw this albatross almost every day. Whilst on land it slept most of the time, as in established colonies, and from time to time it vocalized. People living on the island reported that the pair departed in early May, after almost 2 months on the island.

The Near Threatened Laysan albatross has a stable global population, and is the most numerous of the three North Pacific albatrosses, with an estimated 1,600,000 individuals in 2018. Nevertheless, the species faces threats both at sea and on land, including from longlines, introduced predators and competition with fisheries.

Natividad Island is home to 95% of the breeding population of the black-vented shearwater (Albores-Barajas et al., 2018, *PLOS ONE*, 139, e202094) and is protected as the core area of El Vizcaino Biosphere Reserve. Could this Laysan albatross pair start a colony on the island? It is a suitable site as there are no introduced predators. There is a small human settlement, but activities are concentrated on the sea. A Laysan albatross colony would benefit from the protection already in place and would increase the conservation value of the island.

YURI V. ALBORES-BARAJAS (orcid.org/0000-0002-9255-4865) Consejo Nacional de Ciencia y Tecnología, Ciudad de México, Mexico, and Universidad Autónoma de Baja California Sur, La Paz, Baja California Sur, Mexico

CECILIA SOLDATINI (orcid.org/0000-0002-8112-3162) Centro de Investigación Científica y de Educación Superior

de Ensenada, La Paz, Baja California Sur, Mexico
E-mail csoldatini@cicese.mx

GIULIA BAMBINI (ORCID orcid.org/0000-0002-3297-5246) and
ELEONORA FAVILLI (ORCID orcid.org/0000-0002-8721-5156)
Universidad Autónoma de Baja California Sur, La Paz,
Baja California Sur, Mexico

Declining water birds are still on the list of game species in Eastern Europe

In Europe hunting has contributed to the disappearance of many rare bird species (Mitrus & Zbyryt, 2015, *Ornis Polonica*, 56, 309–327). In Poland even formerly widely distributed and common species such as the Least Concern coot *Fulica atra*, tufted duck *Aythya fuligula* and Eurasian teal *Anas crecca*, and the Vulnerable common pochard *Aythya ferina*, have declined dramatically (Wylegala & Lawicki, 2019, *Common Pochard, Tufted ducks, Eurasian Teal, Coot—State of Population and Impact of Hunting*, Salamandra, Poznan, Poland).

In July 2019 the Polish National IUCN Committee appealed to the Ministry of the Environment, requesting the removal of these four species from the list of game species and the granting of strict protection. In addition, changes have been proposed to the Hunting Law that would support these species, including: (1) delaying of hunting dates for water birds, to avoid the breeding season, (2) prohibiting hunting of water birds after sunset, when it is difficult to distinguish species, (3) introducing the obligation to base hunting plans for migratory water birds on results from monitoring, (4) obliging hunters to help eradicate invasive species from wetlands, and (5) prohibiting the use of lead shot for hunting within 500 m of wetlands (Wylegala & Lawicki, 2019, op cit).

The proposal related to lead shot deserves special attention. Poland is one of the few EU countries where the use of lead ammunition is allowed in all habitats (Kitowski, 2018, *Oryx*, 52, 611–611). This is despite Poland's ratification of the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals and that the 11th Conference of the Parties to the Convention in Quito in 2014 adopted a resolution on preventing poisoning of migratory birds and recommended introduction of a ban on lead ammunition (Lamare, 2015, *Proceedings of the 11th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties*, Secretariat of the Convention on Migratory Species, Bonn, Germany). However, to date, this resolution has been ignored in Poland despite evidence of the accumulation of high levels of lead in water birds (Kitowski et al., 2017, *Ambio*, 46, 825–841).

Unfortunately, in August 2019 the Ministry of Environment, in response to the IUCN appeal, indicated there

would be no changes to the list of game birds or to the Hunting Law (*Redakcja*, 10 October 2019, zycierolnika.pl/index.php/aktualnosci/item/4374-resort-rolnictwa-przeciwny-wstrzymaniu-polowan-na-ptaki-lowne).

IGNACY KITOWSKI (ORCID orcid.org/0000-0001-8308-5588)
The State School of Higher Education, Chełm, Poland
E-mail ignacyk@autograf.pl

Mainstreaming biodiversity conservation into development cooperation—highlights from an ALTER-NET-EKLIPSE workshop

On 18 June 2019 a workshop dedicated to the role of development cooperation in biodiversity conservation in the global South was held in Ghent, Belgium, during the ALTER-NET-EKLIPSE conference 'The European Union Biodiversity Strategy beyond 2020'. ALTER-NET is a network of biodiversity research institutes, and EKLIPSE is an EU networking project on ecosystem services. Mainstreaming biodiversity refers here to the inclusion of biodiversity across sectors—a necessity given the pervasiveness of impacts on biodiversity by different economic sectors and the role of biodiversity in provision of ecosystem services.

A range of European academics, Belgian and European Commission officials, and NGO representatives working at the biodiversity–development interface were invited to formulate an aid deliverer's perspective focused on two interlinked questions: (1) Should the EU biodiversity strategy guide the programmes of member states? (2) Has biodiversity mainstreaming been a priority or not?

Regarding the link between the supranational European and national levels, the current lack of harmonization between the EU and national governments, and the lack of biodiversity mainstreaming, were both highlighted. The unambitious, mainly project-based improvements in integrating biodiversity in European-funded agricultural projects in Africa were acknowledged, and it was noted that capacity building programmes and education for young scientists in the South are often perceived as already being sufficient, although they are not meeting demands at all career stages. The workshop recommended that capacity building needs to be continuously improved through collaborative North–South and South–South programmes. Opinions diverged regarding the desirability of translating elements of European biodiversity policies (e.g. the Natura 2000 network) to the global South, but all agreed that citizen science could be promoted as a tool for data collection and awareness raising. Supporting biodiversity mainstreaming was considered even more important than addressing the lack of formally protected areas, especially in highly biodiverse agricultural landscapes. An additional recommendation