

# Wildlife Outreach Network

## Project News 2008

Cause for celebration. Since its founding in Autumn 2004 Outreach has donated £10,037 to small community-based local projects, mostly in countries where a little money goes a long way. This year nearer to home, it supported three new bird protection projects in Europe, all via the Honeyguide Wildlife Trust.

## New Projects 2008

### Northern Cyprus

Kuskor, the North Cyprus Society for the Protection of Birds and Nature, is a small volunteer-based organisation established in 1991. It co-operates closely with colleagues in Greek Cyprus and its work includes surveys of breeding seabirds, especially Audouin's gull. A recent success was the designation of part of the Karpas peninsular as a specially protected area. It is also working hard to protect olive trees in the Kalkanli valley.

### Spain

The Spanish Ornithological Society manages 1600 acres of steppe, one of the most threatened bird habitats in Europe. Dupont's and lesser short-toed larks, pin-tailed and black-bellied sandgrouse and stone-curlews benefit from this nature reserve at Belchite, near Zaragoza. Outreach was pleased to help this special project.

### Romania

In recent years Outreach has supported young naturalists working to protect the magnificent Danube Delta. This year it was pleased to be able to help another group, Eco Pontica, doing its best to safeguard this truly wonderful place for birds.

### Other on-going projects in 2008

- ❖ In 2008 Outreach continued its 'Trees for Tibet' programme in association with Rokpa UK Overseas Projects by funding the purchase of another 3500 trees for planting at Shelsin in East Tibet. Extensive deforestation in Tibet has had disastrous consequences for wildlife and humans. Outreach has now paid for 14,900 trees for planting at two sites in Tibet.

- ❖ The Balearic Ornithological Group (GOB) is an active local organisation working to protect Menorca from overdevelopment. As a result of accidental poisoning, and deaths on electricity pylons, the magnificent red kite was declining. GOB has worked hard to reduce the mortality and the kite population is now recovering. Outreach was delighted to give a little help, via Honeyguide Wildlife Trust.
  
- ❖ Support for a small reforestation project in Sri Lanka (via Rainforest Concern).
  
- ❖ Help for a small community-based high altitude reforestation project in Peru (via Rainforest Concern).
  
- ❖ Outreach also sponsored the purchase of a further 12 acres of forest in the Intag Region of Ecuador (via Rainforest Concern) bringing the Outreach total since 2004 to 52 acres.
  
- ❖ Help for young birdwatchers in Ostia, Italy (via LIPU Ostia).
  
- ❖ Support for the infant wildlife clubs in Uganda (via The Gorilla Organisation) which now stands at 64 clubs.
  
- ❖ Support for the environmental education programme at Mount Tshiaberimu in the Virungas National Park in the DR Congo (the Gorilla Organisation). A decade ago the future of the small group of gorillas looked perilous. A range of conservation measures there established by the Gorilla Organisation succeeded in increasing the gorilla numbers from 16 to 21. Tragically, in 2008 two female gorillas died as a result of bacterial infection.
  
- ❖ Help for leatherback turtles at Soropta Beach in Panama which has been converted from a killing ground into a true turtle oasis in the space of 5 years. (via Rainforest Concern).

Outreach does not appeal for funds, relying instead on the proceeds of local fundraising and the generosity of people who hear about its work and wish to do a little to help.