

CROWS NO MORE! PROJECT

Activity Report – November 2024, Eric Kinoti, Colin Jackson

Summary

November saw us do the first poisoning in Matsangoni 15km south of Gede and overall, from all sites, **2,116 House Crow were killed**. We have also seen a clear reduction of crow numbers in some areas leading to a resurgence of more small birds than before. However, with tourist season picking up there is more trash everywhere thus creating additional feeding sites for the crows and making our work more challenging. We have appreciated continued support from all fronts but still appeal for more funds as we are yet to reach our monthly target and are in fact **running out of funds**. On the rehab, we continue to get a lot of support from KWS as we received interesting birds among them an African Hawk Eagle and a Spotted Eagle Owl that are now recovering well.

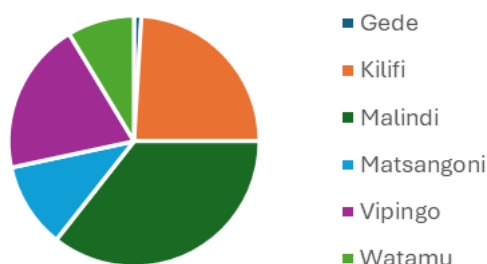
Crows No More!!

We did 37 poisoning events in Vipingo, Kilifi, Matsangoni, Watamu and Malindi this month and killed 2,116 House Crows leading to a cumulative total of **7,162 killed** by the end of November (see the table below for more detail). We did the first poisoning at Matsangoni and killed 233 crows and now have a staff member stationed there baiting every day.

We are grateful to Chris Wilson in Kilifi who has been providing bait and transporting it to be used by our team each morning. This generous gesture has smoothened operations making the work efficient. We also acknowledge Salty's Kite Surfing Village and Distant Relatives and Backpackers who have been providing bait for pre-baiting in various sites in Kilifi town.

Chris Everard is also doing amazing work in Vipingo by coordinating a team there to do poisoning and leading in garbage collection working with the community. Our team in Malindi, headed by Bruce Buckland, Crispin Sharp and John Kithinji, is working tirelessly as the location with the biggest population of crows. The Malindi work has been

Number of House Crows Killed
in November by location



House Crow tally for November

Gede	20
Kilifi	509
Malindi	754
Matsangoni	233
Vipingo	417
Watamu	183
Month Total	2,116
Grand Total	7,162

complicated significantly by now having to deal with dozens of new informal rubbish dumps emerging everywhere after the Malindi Municipal Council stopped depositing garbage in the main designated landfill site in Mayungu just south of Malindi and instead transferred it to Kilifi. Each new site rubbish is dumped creates a perfect feeding ground for House Crows. What has happened, therefore, is that the large

Fun Fact...

776 kms

The distance covered by Crows No More motorbikes and vehicles for poisoning events in November in Vipingo, Kilifi, Matsangoni, Watamu and Malindi.

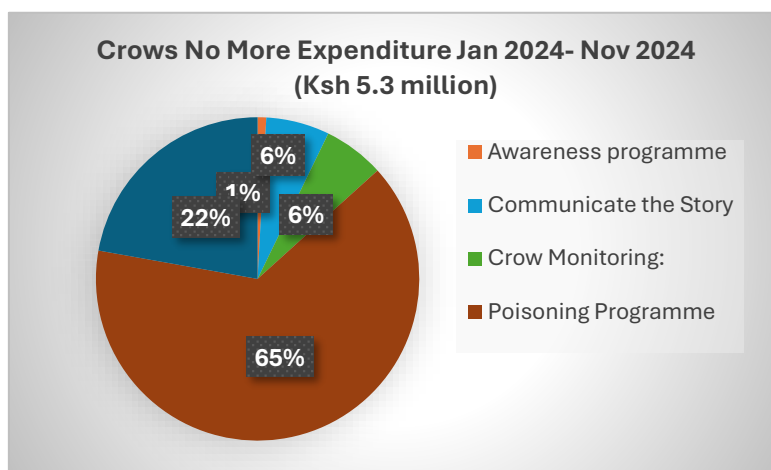
foraging populations have been split up among the small emerging dumping sites. This increases the effort needed to kill them as they are now no longer attracted in their large numbers to Mayungu landfill. Instead, additional and multiple poisoning sites are having to be identified and each one carefully assessed first for the safety of using Starlicide on it.

Fundraising

Donations received during November amounted to Ksh 141,500 making a total of Ksh 5,331,356 to date. THANK YOU once again to all those who have given and especially for those committed to monthly contributions. To date the project has had to use nearly all of this (c.f. pie-chart below) and, in reality, the budget for implementing the project fully is Ksh 510,000 per month when employing a full team of fieldworkers with sufficient transport and monitoring the crow distribution and numbers thoroughly. We are currently way below that as a regular income and therefore cannot work at full level to get rid of the crows.

If you are able to **help us with a regular monthly donation**, however small, this will make a significant difference to our being able to plan properly **to eliminate this pest**. See below for how to make a donation – and *thank you* in advance for your support.

We attended the Kivukoni School Eco-festival held at the school on 30 November. This was an excellent opportunity to speak more about Crows No More and seek further funding from individual donors – thank you to Kivukoni for the opportunity.



Help us Get Rid of the Crows – donate:

All funds are handled by [A Rocha Kenya](#)

1) Direct Mpesa donations can be received by A Rocha:

Paybill: 303030 (ABSA bank)

Acc: 0121008254

IMPORTANT: Please send the Mpesa sms confirmation to the project coordinator, Eric Kinoti +254 718 422487 so we can track all income.

Better still set up a **standing order** direct debit with **M-Ratiba** is an add-on for M-Pesa. With M-Ratiba you can set up a **standing order direct donation** to any given account. Read more here <https://www.safaricom.co.ke/media-center-landing/frequently-asked-questions/m-pesa-ratiba>

2) Bank details for direct / online donations to Crows No More! project:

Bank Name: Absa Bank Kenya

Branch Name: Malindi

Account Name: A Rocha Kenya Mwamba Centre

Account Number: 0121008254

Please make sure that you **include a reference** for 'Crows No More'

Please also have proof of payment emailed to accounts.kenya@arocha.org and crowsnomore@arocha.org so that we can keep track of all donations.

THANK YOU for your support!



Wild Bird Rehabilitation

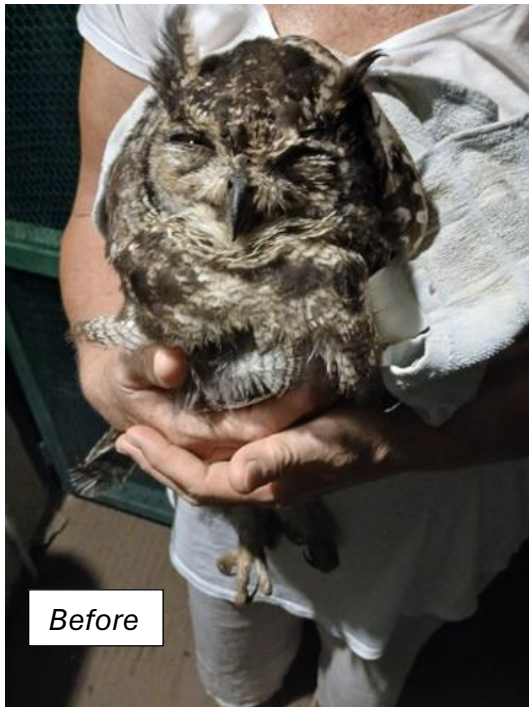
The Bird Rescue Centre in Watamu this month received some interesting birds. Three Lizard Buzzards, one African Scops Owl, a Spotted Eagle Owl, a beaut of an African Hawk Eagle and a juvenile Hadada Ibis. We are grateful to have the full support of KWS and had the blessing to have Senior Warden Salim Makomba come visit the facility and be impressed by the important work being done. One Lizard Buzzard did not survive from its injuries after some children had it beaten badly and broke its wing in the process. It died two days later from internal injuries and is harsh reminder of the importance of environmental education with school children. The African Scops Owl did not have any health issues and so was kept only for a while and then released.



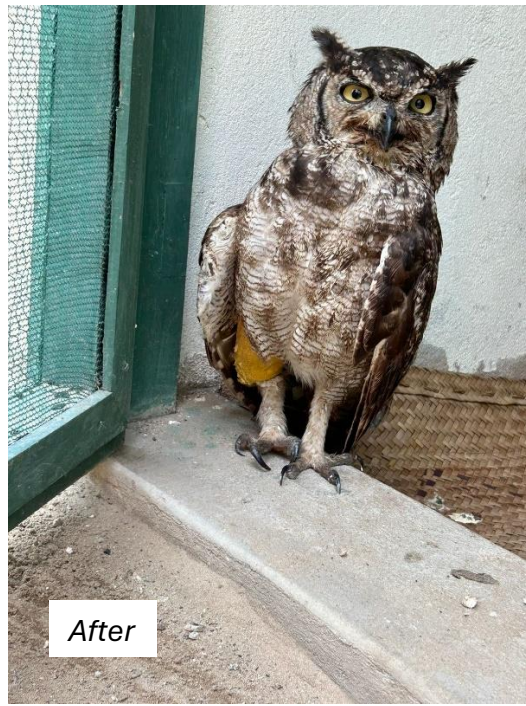
Senior warden Salim from Arabuko Sokoke Forest KWS office, during a visit to The Bird Rescue Centre in Watamu.

The Spotted Eagle Owl received surgery on its broken right leg and had its broken right wing strapped, both of which appeared to have been caused by collision with a moving vehicle. Recovery is ongoing for this very gentle natured owl. The African Hawk Eagle is a juvenile that appears to have been badly beaten up in Taita Estate, potentially by Egyptian Geese or even its own parents that can be very aggressive when it's time for their offspring to leave their territory. No broken bones were observed on its Xray though and this beautiful raptor is now recovering and will be given fitness and hunting training prior to release. See *Pictures on the following page*.

Eric spends about 10% of his time assisting with the Raptor Rehabilitation centre which is led by Bea and Roy (left and right in the photo). Raptors have been and are one of the key groups of birds that have been heavily impacted by the House Crow problem. As can be seen from these reports, the raptor rehab has been busy and badly needed. From the start we proposed that part of Eric's time should be spent on this. Therefore by supporting the Crows No More! Project, you are also helping save Africa's most threatened group of birds (many species have declined by 90-95% across Kenya).



Before



After

Before and After pictures of the Spotted Eagle Owl



Before

Before and After pictures of the juvenile African Hawk Eagle



After