



Satellite photo of the Dead Sea (Courtesy of NASA)



The Bearded Vulture went extinct as a breeding species in the Middle East as of 1982; in that year the last pair nested next to the Dead Sea in the Great Rift Valley (Artist: Martin Rinik)

Artists for Nature

Bringing the Dead Sea to Life Through Art and Music

March 16th - 27th, 2017



Artists for Nature Foundation



Satellite photo of the Middle East (Courtesy of NASA)



Desert Tawny Owl (Strix Hadorami) nesting near Ein Gedi (Artist: Trevor Boyer, England)





Foreword

Following the enormously successful Artists for Nature project to raise awareness for the Hula Valley in Israel (2008-2013) that included a beautiful book and travelling exhibition, the Society for the Protection of Nature in Israel (SPNI), the Hoopoe Foundation, and the international Artists For Nature Foundation (ANF) together with the Dead Sea Research Institute and the Amman Center for Peace and Development (ACPD, Jordan) have created a bold new project to raise global awareness to the plight of the Dead Sea and coexistence. The Dead Sea is one of the most unique geographic formations in the world, located at the lowest point on Earth, and supporting unique ecosystems and harboring historic and cultural treasures. The long-term decline of the lake's water level is creating an ecological imbalance on both land and sea that will eventually destroy this unique and precious resource.

We have brought fifteen internationally renowned painters, two photographers, and five musicians that will travel around the Dead Sea region for eleven days and work alongside Jordanian and Israeli artists



The Dead Sea (Photo: Eyal Bartov)

(total of 20 artists) in public events that will draw in local visitors. The artists will work each day in the open landscapes of the Dead Sea. In addition, there will be concerts featuring Paul Winter (seven time Grammy Award winner), lectures and workshops for students, artists and the general public, including mixed groups of Arab and Jewish children. The eleven-day long festival will take place around

the Dead Sea in Israel, Jordan and the Palestinian Territories, finishing at Eilat for the international bird conservation event Champions of the Flyway. The festival will culminate in an exhibition of the artists' work that will form the basis of a travelling exhibition and a full color art book of the project. Art and nature are excellent focal points for bringing people together and creating a sustainable future.

Through our nature conservation efforts, the project organizations are creating a healthier environment benefiting the entire biological and cultural diversity of the region.

**Prof. Yossi Leshem,
Sorrel Ritter, Zev Labinger,
Dan Alon, David BenShabat,
General Mansour Abu Rashid (Jordan)
Organizing Committee**



MK Tzachi Hanegbi

Israeli Minister of Regional Cooperation and Minister of Communications



The Dead Sea is one of a kind and must be protected for future generations. It is the lowest place in the world and supports some of the most unique habitats found on this planet. Bordering Jordan, the West Bank and Israel, the Dead Sea is visited by a large number of tourists from all over the world seeking its high-density waters and mineral rich soils that contain potassium, magnesium, calcium, salt and more. These minerals are used in cosmetics, chemical products such as industrial salts and are even used in table salts for home use.

The government of Israel commends the Society for the Protection of Nature in Israel (SPNI), the Tamar Regional Council, the Dead Sea Research Institute, and the Amman Center for Peace and Development (Jordan) for this exciting

and creative endeavor. The idea of using art and music that is created by participants from the region and around the world immediately fires one's imagination to not only saving the Dead Sea but also in bringing the people of the region together in peace.

General (Ret.) Mansour Abu Rashid, Jordan

Chairman of the Amman Center for Peace and Development (ACPD)



Born in 1946 Mr. Mansour Abu Rashid is the founder of ACPD, an NGO that was established in 2000 and to date works passionately to overcome regional divides & to seek collaborative solutions of common problems. ACPD has a unique fingerprint on facilitating dialogue between the peoples of the Middle East and improving understanding and tolerance. Through implementing tens of cross border projects, workshops and seminars, ACPD encourages people to engage in a meaningful dialogue based on mutual respect.

ACPD continues to hold on to the conviction that only through dialogue and positive engagement it will be possible to overcome hostility and conflict.

Before founding ACPD, Mr. Mansour Abu Rashid served in the Jordanian Army Forces for 35 years where he held many positions such as the member of the Jordanian Delegation to the Multilateral Peace Conference in Madrid and also member of the Monitoring Committee on the Peace Negotiations.



Dov Litvinoff

Mayor of the Tamar Regional Council



Over 60 years ago, the State of Israel created a visionary project named 'The National Water Carrier'. Fresh water from the Sea of Galilee flowed to the southern area of Israel and assisted in irrigating the arid Negev Desert. Unfortunately, whilst this project created growth and settlement of the desert area, the Jordan River, the main artery of the Dead Sea, ceased its supply to the salty lake. Now, 60 years later, the Dead Sea has sacrificed itself to the whole region. However, just as the 'National Water Carrier' was an act of will and not an act of fate, so too is the possibility of reversing the situation. Israeli knowledge and innovation has brought about desalination plants that now produce the amount of water needed to re-open the Degania Dam that would replenish the Jordan River.

This welcomed initiative by Professor Leshem, together with the Society of the Protection of Nature (SPNI), the Dead Sea Research Institute at the Tamar Regional Council, and the Amman Centre for Peace and Development (ACPD) reminds us that indiscriminately, people of the region share their concern for the fate of the Dead Sea. For Jordanians, Palestinians and Israelis, LET US JOIN HANDS BEFORE IT WILL BE TOO LATE.

Maj. Gen. (Res.) Doron Almog

Chairman of the Hoopoe Foundation



The Hoopoe Foundation of the Society for the Protection of Nature in Israel (SPNI) was established in 2010 with the aim to strengthen all aspects of bird conservation in Israel with an emphasis on education, the protection of birds and their habitat, research that will contribute to the first two aims as well as the promotion of activities in cooperation with our neighbors, the Jordanians and the Palestinians.

As such, this creative, international initiative exemplifies many of the main goals of the foundation. The Dead Sea is a unique geographic phenomenon and a critical habitat for birds and other wildlife in the region. Over 500 million birds migrate twice annually through this region, flying between their breeding grounds in the

north and wintering areas in Africa. The dramatic mountains surrounding the lake provide flowing streams with lush vegetation and cliffs for nesting birds, while also creating the updrafts need for soaring birds. However, the Dead Sea is dying and it is our responsibility to protect this amazing shared landscape.

We are proud to be an initiator of this important project. Art and music has the ability to bring people together and help open their eyes to the beauty around them. It is our hope that through the participating artists from both sides of the Dead Sea we will help raise the awareness needed to save the Dead Sea and bring the people of the region together for a shared cause.



Program

Monday 13th March

Musicians land at Ben-Gurion Airport, drive to Jerusalem, check-in to Ramat Rachel Hotel

Tuesday-Wednesday 14th-16th March 2017

Two days of rehearsal at Ramat Rachel Hotel before the concert at YMCA

Thursday 16th March 2017

Morning Artists arrive in Israel, and drive to Jerusalem (overnight at YMCA's Three Arches Hotel)

17:00-19:00 Bird ringing, cocktails and dinner at the Jerusalem Bird Observatory (JBO), a ringing station located on the Knesset (Israeli Parliament) grounds

20:00 Opening event at Jerusalem's beautiful historic YMCA:

Opening movie: Treasures of the Dead Sea, filmed and edited by **Yuval Dax**

Greetings:

MK Tzachi Hanegbi - Israeli Minister of Regional Cooperation and Minister of Communications

General (Ret.) Mansour Abu Rashid - Chairman of the Amman Center for Peace and Development (ACPD), Jordan

Dov Litvinoff - Mayor of the Tamar Regional Council

Maj. Gen. (Res.) Doron Almog - Chairman of the Hoopoe Foundation

Iris Hahn - CEO, Society for the Protection of Nature in Israel (SPNI)

Ysbrand Brouwers - Director, Artists for Nature Foundation

Concert:

Paul Winter, USA (seven times Grammy Award recipient, on the soprano saxophone) and his consort: **David Haughey**, USA (cello), **Paul McCandless**, USA (oboe), **Eren Başburg**, Turkey (keyboards) and **Zohar Fresco**, Israel (percussion) in a new program **"The Music of Birds"** inspired by beautiful bird songs from the extensive archives of bird recordings gathered since beginning to work on Paul's new composition **"Flyways"** in 2005, celebrating bird migration and music of the countries along the Great Rift Valley.

Friday 17th March 2017

6:30 Drive to the Jordanian side of the Dead Sea via Sheikh Hussein (Beit She'an Valley) Border Crossing; check-in to Crowne Plaza Jordan - Dead Sea Resort & Spa

Afternoon Painting session 1



A view of the Dead Sea from the cliffs of the Great Rift Valley (Photo: Eyal Bartov)



Saturday 18th March 2017

Morning	Painting session 2; workshops with 100 Jordanian schoolchildren at Dead Sea next to hotel
Lunch	Lunch boxes with schoolchildren
Afternoon	Two short talks by the ACPD and Jordanian artists at the hotel and a concert by Paul Winter; Painting session 3

Sunday 19th March 2017

Morning	Painting session 4 at the Wadi Mujab observatory and visiting center
Afternoon	Painting session 5 at Wadi Mujab

Monday 20th March 2017

Morning	Drive to the Israeli side of the Dead Sea via Sheikh Hussein Border Crossing; check-in to Ein Gedi Hotel on Kibbutz Ein Gedi and lunch
Afternoon	Painting session 6
Evening	Dinner at hotel, and lecture after dinner on the Dead Sea and the challenges the area faces

Tuesday 21st March 2017

Morning	Painting session 7; Artists are divided to 3 groups and rotated between 3 locations [Dragot Cliffs, Wadi David, Dead Sea shore]
Afternoon	Painting session 8



Desert Tawny Owl nesting in the Judean Desert - the adult brings a fan-fingered gecko to the chick (Photo: Amir Ben Dov)



Pallid Scops Owl (Photo: Jonathan Meyrav)



Nubian Nightjar (Photo: Yoav Perlman)





19:30 Event at the Dead Sea Research Institute auditorium (150 residents from the region):

Convener: David BenShabat - Center for Regional Thinking

Opening movie: Invitation to Think Together

Greetings: Dov Litvinoff - Mayor of the Tamar Regional Council

Matya Shick, photographer - Devious Powers (the Dead Sea in photographs)

Juan Varela, Spain - An artist's impressions from painting at the Dead Sea

Concert: Paul Winter (seven times Grammy Award recipient) with excerpts from his new composition "Flyways" celebrating bird migration and the countries through which they fly along the Great Rift Valley, integrated with ethnic music from these countries and the calls of the birds that migrate along this route.

Lectures:

Prof. Yossi Leshem - The Great Rift Valley, an international highway for migrating birds

Amir Ben Dov - The unique Tamar Regional Council bird treasures: Desert Tawny Owl, Pallid Scops Owl, Nubian Nightjar

Wednesday 22nd March 2017

Morning Painting session 9; workshops for schoolchildren with artists - 160 children divided into groups (half Palestinians + half Israelis) to work with artists [Palestinian children from south Hebron Mountains and Jericho; Israeli Jews from Tamar Regional Council and from schools learning the Ministry of Education's Science & Technology program]

Afternoon Painting session 10



Jordanian, Israeli and Palestinian schoolchildren with Mr. Bernard Weber from Switzerland in a campaign to protect the Dead Sea



Migrating White Storks over Israel (Photo: Thomas Krumenacker)



2008: Artist at exhibition of paintings from the Artists for Nature event in the Hula Valley



Thursday 23rd March 2017

Morning	Painting session 11: southern Dead Sea; Drive to Sde Boker and Wadi Zin Cliffs; painting session 12
Afternoon	Drive to Mitzpe Ramon and check-in to Isrotel Ramon Inn

Friday 24th March 2017

Dawn	Optional: visit to see the McQueen's Bustard and Sandgrouse
Morning	Painting session 13: Ramon Crater, from Mitzpe Ramon Visitors Center
Afternoon	Drive to Eilat; check-in to Agamim Hotel in Eilat
Evening	Lecture at Agamim Hotel (as part of the Eilat Birding Festival)

Saturday 25th March 2017

Morning + afternoon	Guided tour at the International Birding & Research Centre in Eilat (IBRCE) including bird ringing; meeting with local artists at the IBRCE and joint work on mural
Evening	Exhibition of artist's work (including schoolchildren's works) in the Agamim Hotel foyer; lecture by artist (as part of the Champions of the Flyway pre-opening event); concert by Paul Winter
Morning	Painting session 14: Eilat Mountains with viewing of raptor migration at Mt. Yoash
Afternoon	Birdwatching at Eilat's North Beach

Sunday 26th March 2017

Evening	Participating in the Champions of the Flyway official opening event at the IBRCE park
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Monday 27th March 2017

06:00	Drive north from Eilat to Ben-Gurion Airport
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Artist at work during the Artists for Nature event in the Hula Valley



The Middle East comprises an international junction with a billion migrating birds annually



The cranes migrate above the Judean Desert cliffs alongside the Dead Sea, and appear also on the Ein Gedi Synagogue mosaic (Artist: Wolfgang Weber)



Bringing the Dead Sea to Life Through Art and Music Paul Winter's new program

"The Music of Birds"

Jerusalem International YMCA Mary Nathaniel Golden Hall

26 King David Street, Jerusalem,

Thursday, March 16th 2017 at 20:00

19:30-20:00 Getting together

20:00-20:30 **Opening movie:** Treasures of the Dead Sea, filmed and edited by Yuval Dax

Greetings

MK Tzachi Hanegbi - Israeli Minister of Regional Cooperation

General (Ret.) Mansour Abu Rashid - Chairman of the Amman Center for Peace and Development (ACPD), Jordan

Dov Litvinoff - Mayor of the Tamar Regional Council

Maj. Gen. (Res.) Doron Almog - Chairman of the Hoopoe Foundation

Iris Hahn - CEO, Society for the Protection of Nature in Israel (SPNI)

Ysbrand Brouwers - Director, Artists for Nature Foundation

20:30-21:30 **Concert**

Paul Winter, USA (seven time Grammy Award recipient, on the soprano saxophone) and his consort: **David Haughey**, USA (cello), **Paul McCandless**, USA (oboe), **Eren Başburğ**, Turkey (keyboards) and **Zohar Fresco**, Israel (percussion) in a new program "**The Music of Birds**" inspired by beautiful bird songs from the extensive archives of bird recordings gathered since beginning to work on Paul's new composition "**Flyways**" in 2005, celebrating bird migration and music of the countries along the Great Rift Valley. The consort's hope is that hearing each bird voice in the darkness of the auditorium may give the audience a sense of what it is like for these extraordinary little creatures during their long journeys in the night together with an experience of the magic of the world of birds and the wonders of their migrations.

If you are interested to know the names of the bird voices in the program and learn more about the Artists for Nature workshop, please access our website www.birds.org.il.





Bringing the Dead Sea to Life Through Art and Music

Dead Sea Research Institute Auditorium, Masada

Tuesday, March 21st 2017 at 19:30

Convener: David BenShabat - Dead Sea Research Institute

19:30-20:00	Light refreshments and wine
20:00-20:10	Opening movie: Invitation to Think Together
20:10-20:40	Greetings: Dov Litvinoff - Mayor of the Tamar Regional Council Matya Shick , photographer - Devious Powers (the Dead Sea in photographs) Juan Varela, Spain - Artists for Nature Foundation and the Dead Sea
20:40-21:00	Concert: Paul Winter (seven times Grammy Award recipient) with excerpts from his new composition " Flyways " celebrating bird migration and the countries through which they fly along the Great Rift Valley, integrated with ethnic music from these countries and the calls of the birds that migrate along this route.
21:00-21:15	Lectures: Prof. Yossi Leshem - The Great Rift Valley, an international highway for migrating birds
21:15-21:30	Amir Ben Dov - The unique Tamar Regional Council bird treasures: Desert Tawny Owl, Pallid Scops Owl, Nubian Nightjar



Sinkholes next to the Dead Sea partially filled with water (Photo: Eyal Bartov)

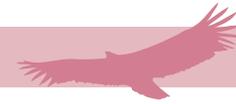


During the workshop the artists will work on two joint murals, one of both sides of the Dead Sea and the second at a happening for the public at the International Birding and Research Centre in Eilat (IBRCE). Each artist will paint one nesting or migrating bird, a mammal or a reptile characteristic of the Dead Sea region.



Joint painting by artists at the Birdfair in England (Photo: Zev Labinger)

Seminar Participants



in alphabetical order (including two Jordanian artists)

Ad van Liempt, Netherlands



Born in Eindhoven, the Netherlands, 1946. Lives and works in Amsterdam. Studied sculpture at the Art Academy and makes paintings, drawings and prints with oil on canvas and on paper. Has been exhibiting since 1976 in the Netherlands and in Belgium. "The great constant in what I make is drawing; for me, everything starts with drawing and it is the lines, edges and 'subsoil' that matters. What I see is only a starting-point for me;

something happens in the process of drawing what I am looking at. I prefer working in a mix of different techniques and different handwritings. Searching for contrasts I probe for 'roads' I might turn into and how fragments can influence each other. Nearly every intervention implies a complete change. Directed by impulses. While working I recognize what I am unearthing. If it is the process of painting that leads the way, it is fine. So it is not surprising that my work has become more abstract in recent years. But even in my most abstract works the light remains typically Dutch and the flat Dutch horizon is a self-evident footing for me. That is one of the reasons why I am very curious as to how the landscape around the Dead Sea will affect me and my work."



2016: an impression of the edge of a wood; a monotype on paper

Prof. Alexandre Roulin, Switzerland



Alexandre Roulin is a full professor of biology at the University of Lausanne, Switzerland. For already two decades he is studying barn owls to answer evolutionary and ecological scientific questions. His main scientific interests are the adaptive function of melanin-based coloration and negotiation processes taking place in animal societies. Since 2009, he actively participates in the project of promoting cooperation between the Israeli, Palestinian and Jordanian communities using nature conservation as a tool. His ambition is to

reconcile human with nature and to use inter-disciplinary approaches to promote peace and respect to our environment.

Amir Balaban, Israel

Amir Balaban, born in Jerusalem, has practiced practicing wildlife art from an early age. Observing, experiencing and experimenting with pencil, brush, camera or video. These mediums serve as a primary tool for understanding nature in the field. The art work produced in the field has led to the production of sketchbooks, exhibitions and videos that are an integral part of ongoing wildlife conservation projects. Amir is the curator of the Gail





Temminck's Lark

Rubin Wildlife Art Gallery situated in the Jerusalem Bird Observatory. The gallery promotes wildlife art, wildlife artists and art students that are inspired by our natural world.

Anna Kirk-Smith, England

Anna treads the dichotomous line between arts and sciences. Whilst initially training to be a veterinary surgeon, she decided to change career paths after spending far too much time drawing in the anatomy

laboratory and went to study natural history illustration at Carmarthen, followed by an



MA at the Royal College of Art. Anna is currently Head of Fine Art at the higher education institution Hull School of Art and Design. She has previously held the posts of Head of Learning & Teaching and Curriculum Lead for Enterprise and Entrepreneurship for all graduate and post-graduate artists. She previously won a number of awards for her work including the Mann Drawing Prize, the Underwater Award which saw her don a wetsuit and draw marine species in the (very cold) North Sea. She continues to work with a range of conservation and other organizations creating artworks and installations to raise awareness of and wonder for the subjects she feels passionate about. Anna is currently involved as both an artist and mentor in an array of drawing, sculptural, performance and protest art projects as part of the Hull City of Culture 2017.

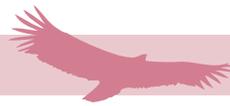
Anne Shingleton, Italy

Anne is a British figurative artist who has lived in Italy since 1980. Her interests are the animal kingdom which she paints and sculpts, and the ever-changing effects

of sunlight. Anne works directly from life wherever possible, and her drawings show her scientific training. Sunlight has always held a special fascination, which she explores through a variety of different media; oils, pastels, and printmaking. In the last 25 years she has



sculpted animals for bronze, the biggest being a 25 times life-size Stag Beetle. She is now working on a life-size mute swan. Sculpture enables her to explore the spirit of the animal. Anne's passion



and respect for animals developed from her childhood on a Dorset farm. She took a Bachelor of Science degree in Zoology, studied graphic design and illustration and then in the early 1980s attended for two years the classical art atelier of Nerina Simi in Florence. Anne has had solo shows in the UK, Europe and the USA. Recent international group exhibitions include Birds In Art, Leigh Yawkey Woodson Art Museum (2010), and selection as one of the finalists in the 12th International Art Renewal Center Salon (2017) NYC.

Bernd Pöppelmann, Germany

Bernd lives in Steinfurt/Northrhein Westphalia. Bernd's work shows a

comprehensive knowledge of nature as well as an impressive artistic sensitivity. His paintings not only share with us something of the lives of animals, but also what touched the artist's senses during his encounters in nature. His paintings are not strict biological representations, but the result of his own experiences and subjective translations. They show the personal relationship he has with the subjects he paints. The artist lets the spectator feel simultaneously how much the creature is threatened by civilization. Standing up for better nature conservation and for



A New Life

saving our creatures, in all their biological varieties, is a very big concern to the artist. The painter actively supports nature: for 10 years he headed a drawing project for children, which took place in nature and received the 1982 environmental award from the town of Emsdetten. He supports different nature conservation projects by sponsoring them through sharing the sales of his exhibitions. Bernd Pöppelmann's work has received international attention. His paintings can be found all over the world in private collections, galleries, royal palaces and in museums.

Brin Edwards, England

Brin has a B.Sc. in Biology and an MSc in Ecology. He spent twenty years as a freelance natural history illustrator working for many UK and European book and magazine publishers. However, he gradually became dissatisfied with the demands of precise photo-realistic illustration and in time developed a freer, more abstracted way of depicting the natural world using



oil paints on canvas. He is particularly interested in the effects of light, indeed often using light as a start point in the paintings. His paintings directly relate to field observation and are mainly created



in the studio. The inspiration for his work mainly comes from close to home in the Suffolk countryside and often ideas will form for paintings on daily walks through fields woods and orchards. The wide expanses and light of the Norfolk coast are another rich source of inspiration. He is a member of the Society of Wildlife Artists and has won the RSPB prize in 2010.

Bruce Pearson, England



Egyptian Vultures in the Negev Desert

As a painter, printmaker and field naturalist, Bruce Pearson has combined all three in a 40-year career pursuing a range of subjects and themes across the globe. It is the rhythm and restlessness of the natural world that fascinates him as an artist, both in wild landscapes and where people and human activity interact with habitats to create interesting themes. His paintings and prints have been widely exhibited around the world and has won national awards for his work. Bruce has illustrated a number of books and wrote *An Artist on Migration*, a personal interpretation of the annual journeys between Europe and Africa. A BBC2 television film was made about part of that journey through West Africa, and other UK television projects

followed. He has been president of the Society of Wildlife Artists (1994 – 2004) and a visiting lecturer at the Royal College of Art. A recent project, *Troubled Waters*, is a book and exhibition collaboration with BirdLife International about seabirds that collide with industrial fishing on the open ocean.

Chieh-Te Liang, Taiwan



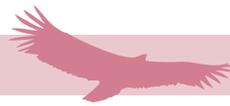
Chieh-Te Liang served under Prof. Lucia Liu Severinghaus of the Academia Sinica as a research assistant from 1987 to 1992. He started his career of filming wildlife documentaries since 1992, and has made over twenty movies. His first film

about the Lanyu Scops Owls is also the first wildlife documentary screened on BBC and National Geographic Channel in Taiwan. His latest work *Kite Fly Kite* is a documentary that is taking 23 years of continuous filming to complete. It is also the first wildlife movie that hits the screen in Taiwan.

Dan Alon, Israel

Dan has been a senior member of Israel's birding community for the last 35 years. Between 1982 and 1995 Dan was the volunteer in charge of Israel's annual raptor surveys. In 1995, Dan became the director of the Israel Ornithological Center of the Society for the Protection of Nature in Israel. Dan obtained his BSc. in Biology from Haifa



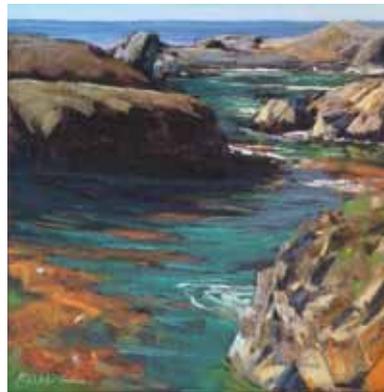


University and his MSc. in Zoology and Ecology from Tel Aviv University. Dan laid the foundation for the establishment of Israel's largest birding park at the Hula Valley. Dan founded and managed the Crane Project from its inception in 1999 until 2004, and remains a member of its steering committee. Currently, together with Prof. Yossi Leshem, Dan is responsible for the establishment of Israel's national birding network. Together with Jonathan Merav, Dan launched the Eilat and Hula Valley Birding Festivals, and the Champions of the Flyway competition. These three projects have positioned Israel as a leading international destination for birding tourism.



Debby Kaspari, USA

Oklahoma-based artist Debby Kaspari paints wildlife and landscapes both plein air and in the studio. She travels widely to observe and sketch from nature, often alongside scientists at field stations from the Peruvian Amazon to Andalusia. In 2011 she was the first artist to be awarded Harvard's Bullard Fellowship in Ecology, spending her 8-month residency drawing the colonial ruins and wildlife hidden in



Snowy Egrets feeding in kelp at Pt. Lobos, California

the rebounding New England forest. She's contributed field guide plates to Birds of Trinidad and Tobago (Cornell Press), written and illustrated a natural history column for Oklahoma Today Magazine, and created artwork for Birdwatcher's Digest. Kaspari's paintings have been included in Birds in Art (Leigh Yawkey Woodson Museum), Art and the Animal (Society of Animal Artists), and Art of the Animal Kingdom (Bennington Center). Her sketches will illustrate the forthcoming Thoreau's Animals (Yale Press); the Museum of American Bird Art will mount a solo show of her bird sketches in 2017, and Kaspari is currently working on a feature highlighting the ecology and conservation of Oklahoma's free flowing rivers.

Esther Tyson, England

Esther Tyson is a British painter and printmaker. Esther studied at the University of Wales and the Royal College of Art, London. Whilst at the RCA Esther won a travel scholarship to study large carnivores in Slovakia. This ignited a passion for travel, drawing, painting and observing creatures in their natural environment. While working



on Aride Island in the Seychelles, surrounded by the beauty of the Indian Ocean Esther decided to face her fear of deep water. In 2010 Esther received the Dorset Wildlife Trust Underwater Art Award and within a few weeks became an open water scuba diver. A different world entirely, drawing in the cold waters off the Dorset coast and later, the warmer waters off Song Saa Private Island, Cambodia. Esther has been involved in projects around the world, working alongside organizations such as Birdlife International, BTO, Doga KM (Turkey), Esther Benjamin Trust (Nepal), Free the Bears (Phnom Penh), FFI (Cambodia), Salford Council (Manchester), Royal Parks (London), SWLA, and the Natural History Museum.



Goldfinch

James Coe, USA

James studied biology at Harvard University; painting at Parsons School of Design, and has spent more than thirty years melding art and science into a life as naturalist, field guide illustrator, landscape and wildlife artist. His pocket Golden Field Guide Eastern Birds, which he illustrated and authored, was acclaimed as a 'tour-de-force' when it was published in 1994.

Today Jim paints full-time – working both in 'plein air' and in his studio, where he integrates birds into many of his oil landscapes. His art is shown in galleries and museums throughout America and is held in numerous museum collections. In 2011 he was named Master Wildlife Artist by the "Birds in Art" show of the Woodson Art Museum. "My goal is to find in each of my works, a balance among the abstract design, the physical surface of paint and canvas, and the illusion I have created, evoking light and atmosphere. If I am successful – then I will have conveyed



Quiet Reflections

a sense of place and time, and shared my reverence for the land, its wildlife, and our rural heritage."

John Foker, England

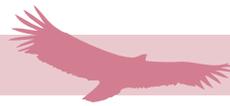
John studied a fine art degree at Norwich School of Art (1987). He is a founder member of Bearpark Artists' Co-operative in a Community Centre in County Durham where they share a studio and worked collectively since 1993; running workshops, undertaking commissions, including making banners and murals, as well as developing their own practice. John has been interested in art and the natural



world for as long as he can remember and the combination of these two things has always felt like a natural form of expression. Birds are nearly always in his paintings, but the colors, textures and space that surround them are as important to him as the birds themselves. He loves the possibilities that oil paint offers and



Lapwings Gathering



being able to model forms, change them and nudge them around or scrape them away altogether and start again. He is a member of Society of Wildlife Artists and was Artist for Nature Foundation award winner at the 2015 "Natural Eye" exhibition At the Mall Galleries, London.

Juan Varela Simó, Spain



Biologist and wildlife artist, Juan leads research on seabirds, was Director of SEO/BirdLife and is co-founder and board member of the Mediterranean Seabird Association. He has illustrated more than 40 books, magazines or newspapers and he is the author of 26 books, including



the best seller Birds of Spain. He received an award from the Spanish Ministry of Environment and has received the BBVA Foundation award for Knowledge Dissemination and Communication in Biodiversity Conservation. His paintings have been selected for renowned art events as Birds in Art (Leigh Yawkey Woodson Art Museum, Wisconsin) and The Natural Eye (Mall galleries, London). He has participated in several art and conservation projects of the Artists for Nature Foundation for which he is the official representative in Spain. He has exhibited in over 60 museums and galleries around the world. He has also curated six exhibitions on wildlife art in Spain. As an art teacher he

has contributed to the development and interest for wildlife art in Spain publishing two books on the subject.

Laurent Willenegger, Switzerland



Passionate about birds and nature since he was ten, Laurent has been drawing and painting directly in nature ever since. Working directly in the field is essential for him, the only way to immerse into nature and light. He worked for 15 years the nature magazine called "La Salamandre" as painter, journalist and producer (more than 20 documentaries). His artwork is exhibited regularly, and he has published



books, articles, and illustrations. He collaborates with many associations and institutions and is able to create a variety of styles (artistic, scientific, humoristic, for children, handmade, numeric). Although he has travelled widely he prefers to explore the nature very close by, getting deeper and deeper into the familiar subjects. His recent project called "The big year" was in that direction: painting a field watercolor of nature every day for 366 days.

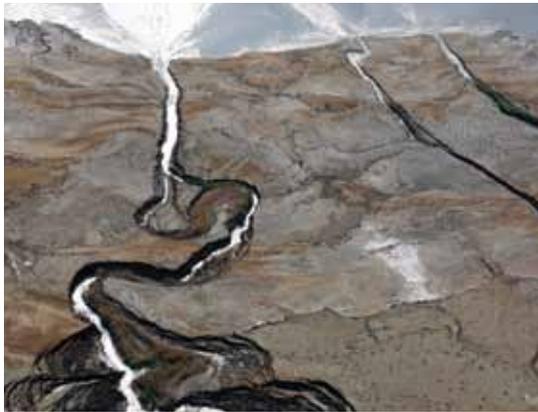


Matya Shick, Israel



her and nature, and her audience. Her camera lens is an extension of her mind's eye, and her unique artistic angle of nature the way Matya perceives it, through the camera lens, is very important to her. She appreciates the places she goes to, the spontaneity in every shot, and takes great pride in capturing the true spirit of the moment when she photographs. Matya's Aerial Photography is done digitally, from different planes, mainly an AirCam, that was designed and built for the National Geographic.

Matya is a photographer born and raised in Kibbutz Urim. She received her M.Sc. in Biochemistry at Tel Aviv University. The drying of the Dead Sea forces nature to change constantly, in order to achieve a new ecological equilibrium that will allow its survival. Matya's Photo-Art deals with the changes of the Dead Sea and its surrounding nature, hence enabling an ongoing dialog between



Dead Sea

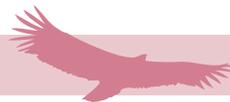
Nick Derry, France



Half birdwatcher and half artist, Nick divides his time between sketching wildlife in the field and playing with those memories and images at home on the dining room table that serves as the studio. His approach to picture making is neither sacred nor pure, and all media and approaches are welcome in order to make a finished image. Watercolor, acrylic, ink, crayons and collage all compete on the paper. Passionate about wildlife art since childhood, Nick took his

first sketchbook out into the field when he was 13 years old in order to record his first Bittern. Since then, he has learned to draw and paint a bit better (most of the time), won a few awards, assisted in illustrating several publications, become a member of the SWLA and sketched more than one Jack Snipe. Recently, Nick decided to leave behind his job as an English teacher in France in order to devote himself to sharing the natural world through his art – wildlife is much more enjoyable and important than irregular verbs!





Quentin Budworth, England



Quentin is a socially engaged lens based artist and musician. He studied Art History specializing in film and photography then went on to study for a PGCE in communications. Quentin set up street theatre company 'The Grinnigogs' in 1985 and in 1995 set up the now legendary world music dance band Celtarabia and has taken their unique sound to most festivals in the UK and Europe. From 2000-2010 Quentin was a lead artist for Creative Partnerships in Hull working on arts projects in 80+ schools in the city. In 2014/15 created 'The Changing Face Of Hull' an exhibition that celebrated

the people of Hull and engaged a mass audience through social and broadcast media. In 2015 Quentin authored 'The Stranger's Tale Exhibition' and told the stories of refugees arriving and living in Hull. Quentin is currently working on the Hullywood Icons a project for Hull UK City of Culture. The Hullywood Icons images and story have taken broadcast and social and print media by storm featuring prominently across the globe.

Renate Zöller, Germany



Human beings and the environment they are living in have always been the focus of Renate Zöller's work as a journalist and author. She listens to people's stories, tries to understand their motivation, their thoughts, worries and successes and to give a balanced picture in her articles. Renate Zöller travels extensively to gather her stories, especially across Europe. She

was born in 1971 in Germany and in the 1990's studied Central and Eastern European History, German Philology and Slavonic Studies in Cologne (Germany), St. Petersburg (Russia) and Prague (Czech Republic) and is fluent in German, Russian, Czech and English. She lived for 1 1/2 years in Moscow and six and a half years in Prague, where she received her journalism degree. Since 2008 she works as a freelance journalist, publishing in various newspapers and magazines like the German Taz, Jüdische Allgemeine, Deutsch Perfekt and others such as the Czech magazine Respekt and for the Czech radio. She has also published several books, her latest Was ist Eigentlich Heimat? (What is the feeling of Home?) from 2015 has received excellent reviews.

Rosanne Guille, Sark, Channel Islands

Rosie was raised on the Channel Island of Sark. During the 1990s she trained as a natural history illustrator at Bournemouth and subsequently at the Royal College of Art in London where she gained her Master's Degree in natural history illustration and

ecological studies. Rosie has travelled and painted in locations such as India, Australia and the Galápagos Islands. She has her own gallery in Sark and her watercolor



Sunrise, East coast of Sark



paintings of Sark and its wildlife are in collections all around the world. In 2002 Rosie held a solo exhibition of the Channel Islands in Guernsey. She has illustrated for BBC Wildlife magazine, Usborne Publishing and has had work accepted into the annual exhibitions of the Society of Wildlife Artists and the Royal Miniature Society. During 2011 Rosie organized visits by twenty one of the world's best wildlife and landscape artists in the framework of an ANF project.. They came to Sark to paint, draw and sculpt with the intention that their work would be used to focus public attention on this incredible, tiny Island.

Sorrel Ritter, Israel

Sorrel grew up in the magnificent nature of South Africa, visiting places such as Kruger Park, Namibia and Zimbabwe, which greatly influenced her becoming a nature lover and environmentalist. She moved to Israel after high school, and studied Biology at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem. She worked for many years as a guide and guide's supervisor at the Zoological and Botanical Gardens that were run by the Society for the Protection of Nature in



Israel (SPNI) in south Tel Aviv. At present Sorrel works with Prof. Yossi Leshem, and is one of the organizers of the ANF event at the Dead Sea. Sorrel's passion is raising awareness to the immediate dangers of global warming, and since receiving certification at a training conference in Al Gore's organization "The Climate Reality Project" in 2012, she has given over 60 lectures on the topic around Israel.

Prof. Yossi Leshem, Israel

Yossi Leshem is a professor in the Department of Zoology at Tel Aviv University. He has worked since 1971 at the Society for the Protection of Nature in Israel (SPNI), the

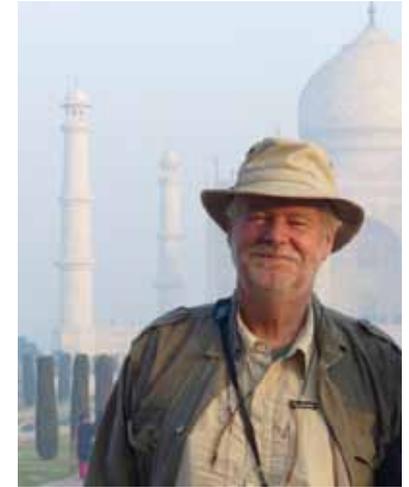


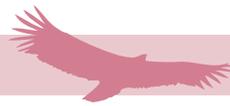
aircraft and birds and has saved the national budget over one billion dollars, not to mention the lives of the aircrews.

Ysbrand Brouwers, Netherlands

Trained as a garden and landscape designer in Boskoop, the Netherlands and at The Royal Art Academy in Copenhagen, Denmark. Since finishing his education he designed numerous gardens for private families and

leading NGO in Israel, and was the CEO between 1991-1995. The founder and Director of the International Center for the Study of Bird Migration, he acts as the Secretary of the Hoopoe Foundation. He is involved in a variety of activities in bird migration research, in educational activities, and cooperation with the Palestinians and the Jordanians, titled "Migrating Birds Know No Boundaries". He leads a regional project using Barn Owls and Kestrels as biological pest control agents. Yossi's research for his doctorate, which was conducted in cooperation with the Israeli Air Force, resulted in a decrease of 76% in the number of collisions between





public works, was and is active in flora and fauna research on construction locations and in consulting estate owners on their flora and fauna management.

He is the founder and artistic director of Wildlife Art Promotion (WAP, 1978) and the Artists for Nature Foundation (ANF, 1990). As the ANF is very close to his heart, he spends most of his time on this foundation. The objective of WAP is to give more exposure to talented and renowned nature artists. With WAP, Ysbrand has organized yearly exhibitions since 1978. These have taken place in the USA, Canada and many European countries.

He is keen birder, photographer, travel and nature guide, art collector, gun dog trainer, gardener and cook, who tries to subsist from the land as much as possible.

Yuval Dax, Israel

Yuval has been working in nature conservation for most of his life, today as manager of the Tel Aviv Birding center, belonging to the Israeli Ornithological Center, SPNI. His passion since childhood is birding and he has been bird guiding and traveling ever since. He has 'spread wings'



and conducts unique Israeli birding tours over the globe including the Caucasus, Central America and Europe. With Bachelor degrees in both the arts and science, nature photography became a natural choice. Today he is an award winning nature filmmaker and producer, specializing in supporting foreign productions in Israel. He produces documentaries, promotionals and educational films for international and local channels and organizations, and also owns the biggest archival nature and landscape footage collection in Israel. Another unique yet obsessive lifework is his feather collection - a passion that

started at a young age - and today has 'infected' a whole generation of young enthusiastic collectors.

Zev Labinger, Israel

Zev's interest in nature and specifically birds together with art has been an almost lifelong pursuit starting when he was 10 years old. He received his B.Sc. in Wildlife and Fisheries Biology at the University of California, Davis (1985) and M.Sc. (cum laude) in Zoology, Tel-Aviv University, Israel (1991). Over the years, he also has studied art at a variety of institutions and with artists in their



studios. Zev has worked as an ecologist for over 30 years. Through his many years of extensive field work, Zev has become intimately involved with the subjects he paints and sculpts mainly birds, wildlife and landscapes. He has exhibited in Israel, Europe and the US, including four-times in the prestigious Birds in Art juried show at the Leigh-Yawkey Woodson Museum. He is one of the initiators of this project and for the past Artists for Nature project entitled "Drawing Inspiration from the Hula Valley", which included a travelling art exhibit and a full color art book.



Crowscape



Musicians

Paul Winter, USA

Paul's musical odyssey has long embraced the traditions of the world's cultures, as well as the wildlife voices of what he refers to as "the greater symphony of the Earth." From the early days of his college jazz sextet, which toured 23 countries of Latin America for the State Department and performed the first-ever jazz concert



at the White House for the Kennedys in 1962, to his later ensemble, the Paul Winter Consort, his concert tours and recording expeditions have taken him to 52 countries and to wilderness areas on six continents, where he has traveled on rafts, dog sleds, mules, kayaks, tugboats and Land Rovers. He has recorded 45 albums, of which seven have been honored with Grammy® Awards. Since 1980, Paul and his Consort have been artists-in-residence at the world's largest cathedral, New York's Cathedral of St. John the Divine, where they have presented over 200 events, including their famed annual Winter Solstice and Summer Solstice Celebrations. Over the years, he and his colleagues have evolved a unique genre of "Earth Music," celebrating the creatures and cultures of the Earth.

Dave Haughey, USA

Dave Haughey holds a Bachelor's Degree in classical cello performance from the University of Northern Colorado, and a Master's in improvisation from the University of Michigan. He has had experience in a broad range of musical genres, including



the diverse traditions of Brazil, where he has lived. He has played with the Paul Winter Consort during the past three years. He lives now in Northampton, Massachusetts.

Eren Başburg, Turkey

Eren was born in Ankara, Turkey, and studied to be a classical pianist at the conservatory of Bilkent University. Having won a handful of awards throughout the



European competitions for his performances, he decided to expand his musical spectrum, after being allured to the music of the band Dream Theater, and to the possibilities of the keyboard synthesizer.

Eren's interest in Dream Theater led to his becoming a protégé of the band's keyboardist, Jordan Rudess, who formerly was a member of the Paul Winter Consort. Through Jordan, Eren received a scholarship to the Berklee School of Music, and has



lived in the US the past six years, working as an arranger and orchestral conductor for Dream Theater, and touring with the progressive metal band Seventh Station. He has been a guest conductor in both classical and contemporary repertoires, with the Opole Philharmonic Orchestra of Poland, Chacao Symphonic Orchestra of Venezuela, and the Berklee Orchestra and Choir of Boston.

Paul McCandless, USA

During a distinguished career spanning over three decades, McCandless brings a soaring lyricism to his playing and composing that has been integral to the ensemble sound of two seminal world music bands, the original Paul Winter Consort and the relentlessly innovative quartet, OREGON.

A gifted multi-instrumentalist and composer, he specializes on the oboe, English horn, bass clarinet, soprano and soprano saxophones and a collection of folk. A student of Robert Bloom at the Manhattan School of Music, he was a finalist in the 1971 English horn auditions for the New York Philharmonic. He is credited with



more than 200 albums and performances with such musicians as Jaco Pastorius, Carla Bley, Wynton Marsalis, Lyle Mays, Pat Metheny, Mark Isham, Steve Reich, Al Jarreau, Bruce Hornsby, Paul Winter, Art Lande, Tony Furtado, the String Cheese Incident, Nguyễn Lê, Proteus 7 and Fred Simon. In 1996 he won a Grammy® for Best Pop Instrumental with Béla Fleck and the Flecktones with whom he was a guest artist, as well as Grammys in 2007 and 2010, as part of the Paul Winter Consort, for their albums Crestone and Miho: Journey to the Mountain.

Zohar Izhak Fresco, Israel

Zohar Izhak Fresco is known as a pioneer of the tof miriam, the ancient frame drum originated in the Middle East more than three thousand years ago. Born in Israel and a descendant of Tamburi Izhak Fresco, a well known Jewish Turkish composer (18th-19th centuries), Zohar was drawn to music at an early age and especially the music of his origins. Fresco dedicated his



life to the development of a new fingering technique and a unique musical language by the name MANEGINA for the tof miriam. He mentored musicians all over the world who have adapted his drumming style in their musical work. In his original compositions, Zohar expresses a new Middle Eastern style. Zohar performs solo concerts of his original compositions based on vocal and drums, a fascinating combination, considered one of the earliest musical forms. He is the co-founder of the Arabs & Jews ensemble Bustan Abraham and lately he has been part of an international jazz trio with Leszek Mozdzer and Lars Danielsson with whom he toured the world and recorded three albums.



Founded by Ysbrand Brouwers in 1990, the ANF is a not-for-profit organization that realizes nature conservation through nature art of the highest quality standards. It is a unique organization that uses the creative output of artists producing paintings, drawings, prints and sculptures, inspired and mostly created on location by renowned and talented artists from all over the world as a medium to draw attention to the need for nature to be appreciated as an essential element of sustainable development. Since the founding of ANF, Ysbrand and his changing group of artists have realized 15 conservation projects worldwide, not only leading to concrete conservation results, but also to numerous exhibitions in Europe and the USA, with 13 project books and 6 project videos that have been published and used for active conservation lobby.

ANF has worked together with over 130 artists from more than 25 countries. With the head office based in the Netherlands, ANF has branches in several countries around the globe. Conservation partners in the projects were organizations like WWF, Bird

life International, The Wildlife Trust, Clean Water Alliance, The Forestry Commission, SPNI in Israel, Glasgow Museums and Galleries, Territory I Paisatge and Bosques Sin Fronteras. Specific projects of ANF were further fully supported by royals like King Carlos of Spain, the former Queen Noor of Jordan, the late Prince Bernard of the Netherlands and HRH Prince Philip of the United Kingdom.

ANF acts as a catalyst for nature conservation and is not itself a formal nature conservation organization. It draws the attention of policy-formulators and decision-makers to the natural world by enabling groups of influential and talented artists to capture the spirit of endangered landscapes and species in their natural habitat. Professionally curated exhibitions of their artworks, DVD's and books that tell the story of each project and place have become collector's items show and tell the stories of the specific project. All the paintings, drawings, original prints and sculptures - as well as the project books are for sale and help to support the various projects. Please see the ANF web shop.

Over time the many publications and exhibitions of the artwork have contributed significantly to the efforts of biologists, ecologists, planners, politicians and many others, charged with protecting the natural

world. ANF is proud of its 15 successful projects on 4 continents involving over 130 artists that it has facilitated with great success - and to great acclaim.



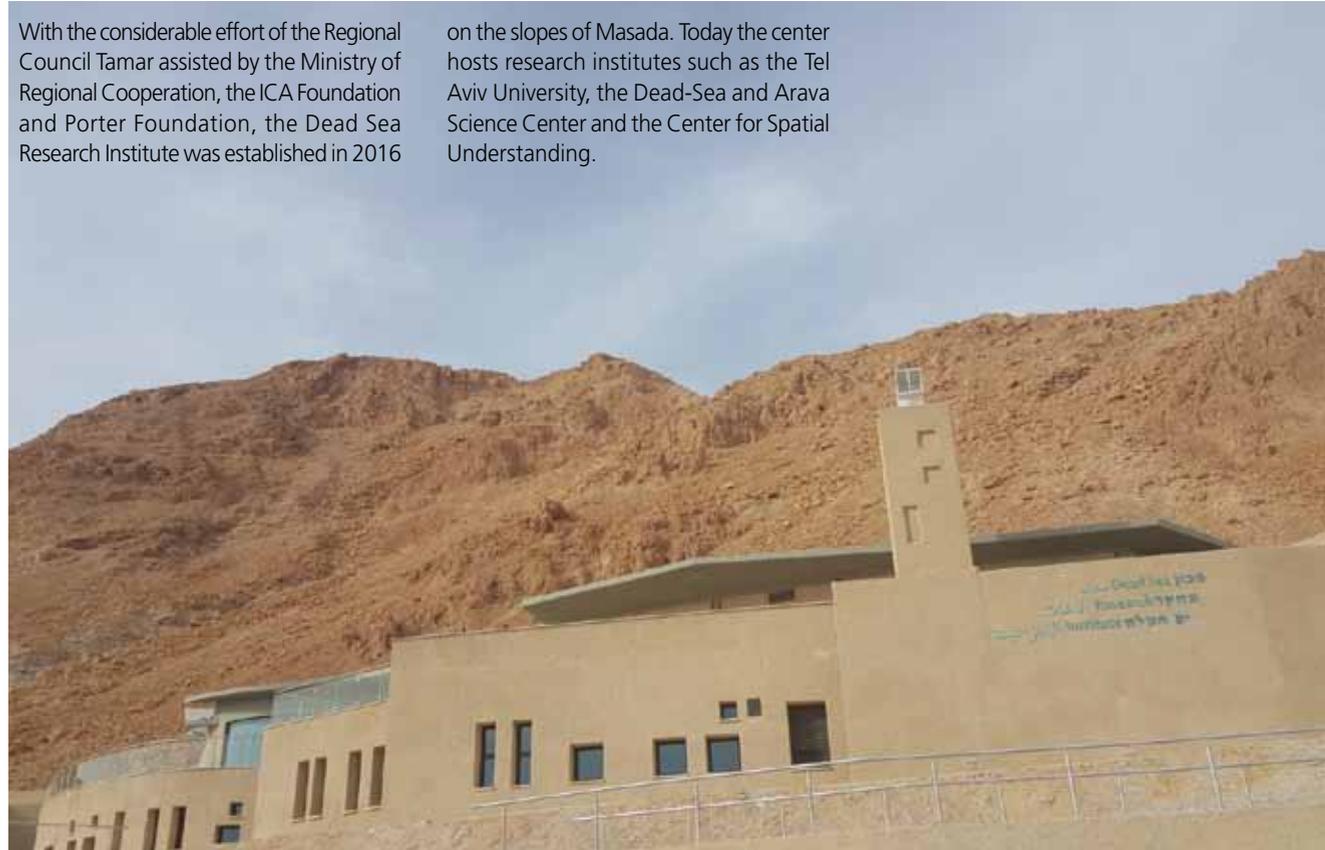
White Storks (Artist: Robert Greenhalf)

The Dead Sea area holds a vast array of unique natural phenomena that deserves intense scientific inquiry on a global scale including the Great Rift Valley, extreme climate and high biodiversity. Within this harsh landscape, humans have developed over the millennium unique and fascinating cultures and ways of life. In modern times, the area has undergone significant changes from being a meeting place of three political entities, increased settlement, industrialization, modern agriculture, and a tourism magnet for outdoor, health and ancient sites and heritage.

The unique attributes of this region require special tools for observation and research. This Dead Sea Research Institute focuses on applied research combining a variety of different research methods of the natural and life sciences. The center raises questions and attempts to find solutions for a variety of issues from educational to utilitarian projects. We have created a venue for local and international researchers to cooperate and a convention center for educating and challenging the public agenda.

With the considerable effort of the Regional Council Tamar assisted by the Ministry of Regional Cooperation, the ICA Foundation and Porter Foundation, the Dead Sea Research Institute was established in 2016

on the slopes of Masada. Today the center hosts research institutes such as the Tel Aviv University, the Dead-Sea and Arava Science Center and the Center for Spatial Understanding.





For the research, education and protection of birds and their habitat

The Hoopoe Foundation of the Society for the Protection of Nature in Israel (SPNI) was established in 2010 with a generous donation by Moshe and Racheli Yanai of 250,000 USD for ten years. The aim of the foundation is to strengthen the subject of birding in Israel with the emphasis on education, the protection of birds and their habitat, research that will contribute to the first two aims as well as the promotion of activities in cooperation with our neighbors, the Jordanians and the Palestinians.

During the second year of activities, an additional donation of 100,000 USD was received from Mark Gelfand of Boston, in order to significantly promote pilot activities initiated by the Hoopoe Foundation – "The Nature Defense Forces – Commanders Take Responsibility for Their Environment". Another anonymous donor joined the activities in the first year by donating 25,000 USD each year for birding activities and then an additional 25,000 USD each year for the Nature Defense Forces (NDF). In 2013 the amount of 800,000 USD was reached, and Moshe and Racheli Yanai

decided to double their annual donation to the Hoopoe Foundation for the next ten years, to reach a total of 5 million USD that will be devoted to the significant promotion of both channels of the Hoopoe Foundation: bird protection and the Nature Defense Forces. The scientific aspects of all the projects are in partnership with the Tel Aviv University. Each channel is managed independently with a separate management, budget and bookkeeping within the SPNI. The impact and success of the Hoopoe Foundation projects in both channels has been and continues to be of enormous significance, with 45 projects in education, nature conservation and bird research as well as 25 projects in the initiative "Nature Defense Forces - Commanders Take Responsibility for their Environment".

In 2015, the Hoopoe Foundation Chairman, Moshe Yanai, resigned his position and it was taken by Maj. Gen. (Res.) Doron Almog, Israel Prize laureate for 2016 and the founder of ALEH Negev – Nahalat Eran.

WHY "HOOPOE"?

The Eurasian Hoopoe was chosen as Israel's



Eurasian Hoopoe – the logo of the Hoopoe Foundation (Photo: Thomas Krumenacker)

national bird in 2008 in a countrywide campaign as part of the State of Israel's 60-year anniversary celebrations. 1.1 million people took part in the voting, among them 4,500 schools, 9,000 kindergartens,

all the IDF units and the general public via the YNET website. The ceremony announcing the winning bird was held at the residence of Mr. Shimon Peres, then President of Israel.



The selection of the national bird took place as an official part of the anniversary events, and the elections were held in a full democratic process with a public committee consisting of conservationists, media, scientists and schoolchildren with the final selection done by all sectors of the nation. The national bird campaign was awarded two prestigious prizes for the most successful campaign of the year (Roaring Lion Award and Effie Award).

The Eurasian Hoopoe is conspicuous due to its special coloring (orange, white and black) and mainly because of the crest decorating its head. This "sign of royalty" led to its appearing in the Jewish sources. The Hoopoe is a resident and breeding species in Israel, and nests in buildings and tree trunks. It eats insects that it pulls out of the ground with its long beak.

We decided to name our foundation when it was established after Israel's national bird, the Hoopoe.



May 29th 2008: Announcing of the Hoopoe as Israel's national bird in the presence of Israel's 9th President, Mr. Shimon Peres, at his residence in Jerusalem (Photo: Amir Ezer)

The Project Continues!

The Champions of the Flyway is an innovative and exciting bird race for conservation. Big days and Bird-a-thons are known from various places worldwide. These events draw a lot of attention and add a competitive spin on birding that appeal to large crowds. The idea behind the Champions of the Flyway is to utilize the "buzz" that is generated from a large scale bird race towards conservation and fundraising actions.

Following a successful start in 2014 the project is now well established and in only 3 years has already raised close to \$180,000 for conservation. The Champions focuses on the biggest threat migrating birds face today, illegal killing on migration. In previous years we have worked on projects in Georgia, Malta, Cyprus and Greece. The 2016 race highlighted the illegal killing in Greece and together with the Hellenic Ornithological Society (HOS) we were able to raise over \$70,000 to combat the illegal killing of birds.

The 2016 Champions of the Flyway race was well attended and impressive. Over 30



2016: Over 30 teams from 12 countries and about 40 children (Photo: Yossi Leshem)

teams from 12 nationalities assembled in Eilat in late March 2016 and went head to head in an attempt to log as many species as possible during a 24 hour period. The teams combed the deserts of Southern Israel during the peak of the spring migration, shared information and reached out to their crowds, all in an attempt to raise money and awareness to the widespread

illegal hunting of birds along the migration routes. Following a hectic day of birding the Zeiss Arctic Redpolls from Finland were crowned champions, having seen a whopping 174 species in 24 hours!

We are proud to present the official film of the 2016 Champions of the Flyway project featuring many familiar faces and a fantastic

live performance of "river of birds", the Champions of the Flyway anthem written by Bill Thompson III and "The Rain Crows": <https://youtu.be/ffDUXCh1zGo>.

The 2017 race will take place on March 28th 2017, we already have teams registered, including an ANF team "the ArtBirds", for what promises to be another exciting race for conservation. We are proud to announce the new conservation cause for 2017. This year we have chosen to work with Doğa Derneği (Birdlife in Turkey) focusing once again on the illegal killing of birds on migration. DD have proposed several projects all aiming to deal with illegal persecution of migrant birds. Because of its geographic location Turkey is a natural choice and it give us great pleasure to be able to work together to protect birds that share the East Mediterranean flyway. We are very happy to be working with our Turkish colleagues in 2017, we feel that this once again proves that birds know no boundaries and that together we can transcend political barriers and achieve great things for bird conservation. Find out more information on www.champions-of-the-flyway.com.



Little Green Bee-eaters (Artist: Barry van Dusen)



The Bonelli's Eagle nests in the Judean Desert - only 9 out of 65 nesting pairs remain in Israel (Photo: Thomas Krumenacker)



100 million bird lovers travel the world bird watching, with the Middle East a favorite destination; in the photo Dutch birders observe the amazing raptor migration in the Eilat Mountains (Photo: Yossi Leshem)



Leopard on the background of the Dead Sea near Ein Gedi (Photo: Eyal Bartov)



Muslim and Jewish students observing Cranes together in the Hula Valley (Photo: Ephi Sharir)



Israelis, Jordanians and Palestinians dancing at the end of a joint Barn Owl Seminar in Jordan (Photo: Yossi Leshem)





This leopard was photographed in the Judean Desert next to the Dead Sea near Ein Gedi - sadly leopards are now extinct in Israel (Photo: Eyal Bartov)



Nubian Ibex - from the book by Henry Baker Tristram, The Fauna and Flora of Palestine, 1884



Palestinian Sunbird - from the book by Henry Baker Tristram, The Fauna and Flora of Palestine, 1884