

CROWS NO MORE! PROJECT

Activity Report – February 2025, Eric Kinoti, Colin Jackson

Summary

Crows No More is getting better and better. **3,680** House Crows were killed during February making a cumulative total of **18,064** since the start of the programme. However, there's lots to do - a roost count in Malindi counted **31,850** House Crows still! A meeting with all the field officers was also held in Gede. Ngomeni has now started the poisoning sponsored by San Marco.

110

Number of sites
poisoned so far
since the
programme
started

Crows No More!!

As we progress in the year, this month **3,680** House Crows were killed, making a cumulative total of **18,064** House Crows killed so far. All the field officers involved in the House Crows met for a feedback and planning meeting at Gede Forest Station (thanks to KEFRI for the venue). This was a huge morale booster and for the teams to connect and share the challenges and ways to overcome them as well as share the successes. Colin, A Rocha's director, gave a presentation highlighting the steps taken and how far the programme has gone – and how much more there is to do. It was also suggested that we trial the large-scale method of putting food on a designated area for a longer time to try and attract larger numbers of crows before poisoning to see if it has a greater impact.



Colin Jackson, during the meeting with the Field Officers at Gede, explaining how use of the Kenya Bird Atlas helps us track and monitor the crow eradication

We are also happy to announce that poisoning has started in Ngomeni, a town 30 Km north of Malindi where there has been a large population of House Crows. This has been funded by San Marco Project, which is the Italian space research firm based there. We will also be engaging the hotels around there and Mamburui to start wider poisoning so as to cover the gap in between Malindi and Gongoni.

A stakeholders' meeting organized by KWS was held in Mombasa as a follow up to the first one in June 2024. It was a time to give feedback on how the project was progressing for both north and south coast. By that time we had killed c.16,000 crows while on south coast efforts had killed an estimated 2,500 – *HONGERA Team Crows No More!!* The option of doing larger poisoning events was discussed and to prebait for a longer time at fewer sites. This has already been started in Malindi at the Mayungu landfill site and in Mto Ndia and results will be published soon. A Rocha Kenya was also requested to carry out roost counts of crows for Mtwapa and Mombasa so as to get a proper handle on how many we're dealing with. As part of our monitoring of the work, a count was done in Malindi of birds going to roost and **31,850** House Crows were counted. We appreciate KWS from Malindi for joining us in the activity.



Eric Kinoti, with a team of volunteers, at the top of a building in Watamu during one of the crow counts.

This month, we also intensified awareness in schools. Schools are a good avenue to pass the message and inspire future generations in ways to avoid such an environmental disaster of allowing an alien species to spread. It is also one way to educate the youth on the importance of this major project and why it is relevant to the environment and economy.

Fundraising and accounting

We are very grateful to our supporters who have continued to have confidence in Crows No More. We raised an amazing total of **KSH 592,500** during February. *THANK YOU!* Without your support none of this would be possible.

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 surprise!!

On Sunday 2nd March (OK, so it's not Feb, but this is too 'hot' not to include here!), Eric received a call that a bird had been found by a young girl and her mother at Plot 16, Watamu. The bird was a drab brown bird with a relatively thin bill and with beautiful pale blue legs and jet black webbed feet. It was thin with extremely worn-out flight feathers with just three inner ones moulting as strong new feathers. This was no 'LBJ' (Little Brown Job), however. Clearly a species of skua, being small it had to be either an Arctic or Long-tailed Skua. Taking measurements of wing, bill etc, CJ established it was a first year Long-tailed Skua that must have just got totally exhausted given its hammered flight feathers which must have been hectic to try and fly with. Skuas are nicknamed the "pirates of the seas" since they feed by chasing and harassing other sea birds to make them drop their catches to steal them. These birds breed in the upper part of North America and Eurasia and migrate south spending all their time way out at sea. They are migrants that winter mostly south of the Atlantic and Pacific. This bird was only the third ever recorded in the Kenya.

It is now housed at the Bird Rescue Centre, recovering. He can now feed and swim on the bird bath at the sheds. Once he recovers, he will be released to continue his journey north. The reduction of crows in the Watamu beach area makes it possible for such birds to survive as initially, crows used to mob, harass and attack such birds.



Left: Tenzin, the young lady who rescued the Long-tailed Skua as she handed it over to Eric.

Right: The skua being examined by Colin at the rehab centre. Note the highly worn outer flight feathers – and the newly moult, black inner primaries.