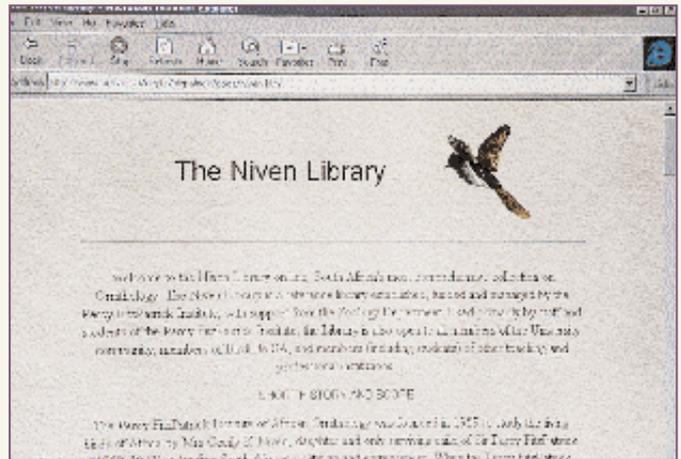


NEWS FROM THE PERCY FITZPATRICK INSTITUTE



The Fitztitude website can be used as a launching pad into bird websites worldwide.

BIRDS ON THE INTERNET

Information technology is exploding around us, and the Internet continues to open up new opportunities in terms of both communication and access to information. As new sites are constantly added to the worldwide web, two of the difficulties are finding what you want and knowing just how much there is to be found in the first place. Well, if you are an amateur birder or professional ornithologist, your life has just been made a lot easier.

The Fitztitude has a new website that is not only informative about the Institute itself, but will also provide you with a direct link to other bird sites worldwide.

The welcome page features an easy-to-use contents table that will launch you on your electronic ornithological search. By simply clicking on the option you like, you can move through the site.

Most of the research currently conducted at the Fitztitude is subdivided into programmes that focus on specific bird groups (gamebirds, shorebirds, seabirds, etc.), ecology and conservation. All research

programmes are featured and from these you can navigate through the individual research projects that are being carried out by the staff and students of the Institute. Should you wish to find out more about the researchers, their biographies and contact details are covered under the 'staff and students' page.

If you are interested in the Institute's postgraduate courses, click on the study opportunities option. You'll find information about the Fitztitude's MSc and PhD programmes. The Masters course in Conservation Biology is detailed, and includes comprehensive information about the course, previous student projects and application details.

The Niven Library, which holds Africa's most comprehensive collection of ornithological literature, is featured. From the library page you can access a list of current holdings and borrowing procedures. The library's e-mail address is included. In addition, you can consult the current news page for an up-to-date account of activities at the Institute.

A highlight of the

Fitztitude's site is the 'websites' page which has been specifically designed as a service to birders, and from which you can easily link up directly with ornithological Internet sites.

BIOSIS (Biological Abstracts, Inc.) has an extensive list of bird sites, including research organizations, bird clubs, museums and collections, newsgroups and discussion lists, and even images and sounds. (Access it through the Fitztitude websites page.)

You can take a video trip through Madagascar, find out about birding in Indonesia, consult the British Library's catalogue of 6 900 bird recordings or browse Thayer Birding Software for details of multimedia CD-Roms, hot birding spots, etc. BirdLife International has a useful site with a comprehensive list of the addresses of their partner organizations, and from a site called 'Bird links to the world' you can link to more than 2 000 bird sites, arranged by country.

Local sites include the Cape Bird Club, BirdLife SA, the Natal Bird Club and Southern African Birding for

videos and recordings.

The Fitztitude's new web page can be found at <http://www.uct.ac.za/depts/fitzpatrick>. For first-time surfers, simply type this address in your location (Netscape) or address (Microsoft Internet Explorer) field and you'll be on your way.

If you are new to the net, a very good introductory guide, 'Big Dummies Guide to the Internet', can be found at <http://info.man.ac.uk/BigDummy/bdgtti.html>

Should you know of other birding websites that you cannot currently access through the Fitztitude website, please contact Mandy Barnett (mbarnett@botzoo.uct.ac.za) to have them added. □

Visit the FitzPatrick website:
<http://www.uct.ac.za/depts/fitzpatrick>

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