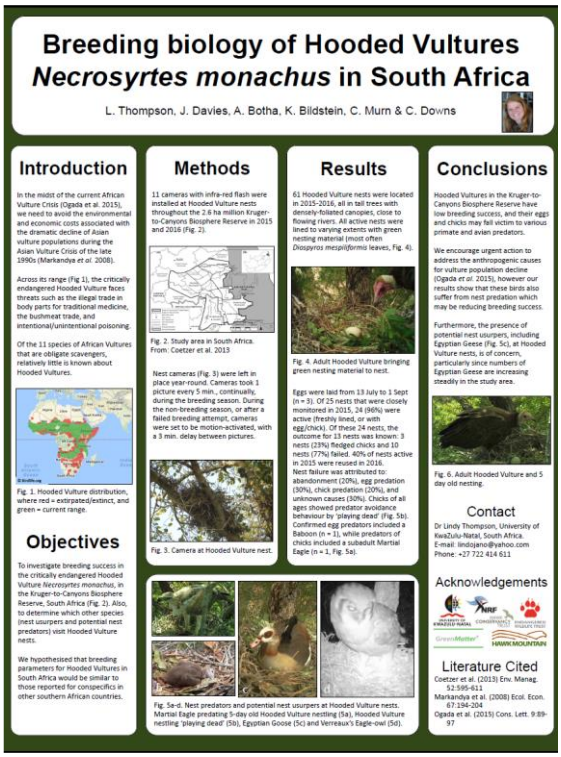
Project Update: October 2016

In October 2016, I attended the Pan-African Ornithological Congress in Dakar where I presented a scientific poster on the breeding biology of hooded vultures in South Africa. After the conference, I joined Dr Keith Bildstein and other researchers from across Europe and the USA who were doing road surveys throughout Senegal. When these surveys are repeated, they help us to assess population changes. We covered over 700 km, and saw large numbers of hooded vultures, as well as Ruppell's, lappet-faced, and white-backed vultures. Despite the large numbers we saw in Senegal, vultures are declining all over Africa, and so the purpose of the Pan-African Vulture Summit (also held in Dakar this month) was to produce a multi-species action plan for the conservation of 15 Old World vulture species. It will span 124 countries, and is being compiled by Andre Botha, who is also a collaborator on the K2C Hooded Vulture Project.



My collaborators and I presented at the Pan-African Ornithological Congress in Dakar this month. I also attach a picture I took of a free-roaming (i.e. not tame) hooded vulture perched on the entrance gate of the hotel where the conference was taking place. It was so interesting to see how different the West African vultures behave, compared to our Southern African birds.