



# *Laniarius*

No.104  
Autumn 2007



# Newsletter of BirdLife Northern Gauteng Nuusbrief van BirdLife Gauteng-Noord

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### Notice to contributors

*Laniarius* is published four times annually, in Autumn, Winter, Spring and Summer.

Deadlines for contributions are 15 February, 15 May, 15 August and 15 November. Articles should preferably be e-mailed to the Editor, but may also be posted to the club post box. Contributions and advertisements are accepted at the discretion of the Editor. Digital photographic images are always welcome.

### Kennisgewing aan bydraers

*Laniarius* word vier keer jaarliks uitgegee: in die Herfs, Winter, Lente en Somer. Spertye vir bydraes is 15 Februarie, 15 Mei, 15 Augustus en 15 November. Artikels moet verkieslik per e-pos aan die redakteur gestuur word, maar kan ook na die klub-adres gepos word. Aanvaarding van bydraes en advertensies word aan die diskresie van die redakteur oorgelaat. Digitale foto's is altyd welkom.



## EDITORIAL/ REDAKSIONEEL

This edition comes to you with the first full colour cover for this newsletter. I hope you enjoy it since it is our intention to make this a permanent change. This can only be achieved if we can keep costs in line since *Laniarius* is the biggest cost to the club. It will be necessary to keep the right balance between the quality of the paper and the use of colour and look at ways to include more advertisements. Looking back at old editions, dating back to the early 1980s, it is astounding to see how the appearance of the journal has changed over the years. It was no straightforward matter to include images in the past, but with the dawn of the digital era – and advancements in printing technology – it has been possible to include many more images and photographs. It can be quite a challenge to find the right photo to illustrate an article, however these days we have more people armed with digital cameras and the results are there for all to see.

As mentioned in the chairman's report the club plans to give the IBA (Important Bird Area) Project more impetus this year. To kick-start the project a workshop at Rietvlei Dam is planned for Saturday 21 April, the details of which are contained elsewhere in this newsletter. The success of the IBA Programme is dependent on involvement at local level and is the best tool we have to preserve the best birding spots we know.

There are some interesting contributions from members in this edition. Take a look at the photo that Jacques and Elzine Smuts took of the Violet Turaco that surfaced in their garden in Wierda Park and the account of a breeding pair of Little Sparrowhawks in a garden by Etienne Marais. As is usually the case at this stage of the year, there is a bumper report of rarities and unusual sightings from this last summer. Please remember to continue to share these reports and any special birding experience with fellow club birders.

*André Marx*

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### Picture credits

**Front cover:** Crimson-breasted Shrike (Rooiborslaksman) by Clive Kaplan

**Back cover:** Grey-headed Kingfisher (Gryskopvisvanger) deur



# From the Chairman/ Voorsittersverslag

*Ernst Retief*

Ladies and gentlemen, it gives me great pleasure to present the Chairman's report for the 2006/07 year.

## Membership

Membership showed a slight decline during the last year – in line with most of the other BLSA-affiliated bird clubs. The reason for this drop in membership is not clear. However, this situation is a concern to the committee and it was decided to address this issue by creating a higher public profile for the club. This will be achieved through the distribution of a full colour brochure that will promote the activities of the club and more reports on club activities are planned in local newspapers.

## Evening meetings

It is believed that the number of people that have attended our evening meetings is a vote of confidence in the committee's decision to move the venue from the Transvaal Museum to the Sci-Enza Hall at the University of Pretoria. Attendance figures of 80-110 were regularly achieved. The committee has taken a decision during the year that the evening meetings will be open to the general public and not only club members. This is seen as a service of the club to the general public. It is also hoped that non-members attending will eventually become members as has already happened on a number of occasions.

Helen Biram must be congratulated for arranging fantastic speakers who covered a range of interesting topics. My thanks also go to Elise Venter, who ensures at each meeting that the hall is available and that everything is in place, and Elma and André van der Walt who arranged the refreshments. The hall is provided free of charge to the club, but the

committee decided to make a contribution of R500 to the University of Pretoria. This is still less than what we paid at the Transvaal Museum!

## Naweekuitstappies en kampe

Die sub-komitee onder leiding van Peter Wilgenbus het daarin geslaag om weer eens vir ons 'n verskeidenheid interessante voëlkykplekke te organiseer. Die meeste van die uitstappies is baie goed bygewoon met tot 30 mense wat sommige uitstappies bygewoon het. Dit is ook duidelik dat die eksperiment om uitstappies op Saterdag aan te bied 'n sukses was, en ons sal probeer om ten minste een keer 'n maand so 'n uitstappie aan te bied.

Thank you to all those members that continue to serve as leaders of outings, even though this is sometimes a demanding task. I would like to remind members that leaders do this on a voluntary basis and the small compensation they receive does not even cover their costs.

## Trading

Verkope was een van die suksesverhale vir 2006. Die portefeulje is onder beheer van Rynetta Coetzee en derduisende rande se goedere is gedurende die jaar verkoop. Die doel van die portefeulje is nie om noodwendig geld te maak nie maar om 'n diens aan lede te lewer deur nuttige en interessante boeke en ander materiaal aan lede beskikbaar te stel.

## Laniarius

The position of editor of *Laniarius* changed hands a number of times during the last few years. However, with André Marx as editor, some stability has been reached and this can clearly be seen in the quality of *Laniarius*. Lots of interesting articles have appeared and

feedback by members has been positive. My thanks also go to Drinie van Rensburg who is responsible for the layout and printing of *Laniarius* – no small task indeed. Also thank you to all those members that have contributed articles to *Laniarius* and please continue to do so.

### **Beringing**

Ons klub is baie gelukkig om 'n aktiewe ring-groep te hê en daar word op gereelde basis gering. Die groep soek egter dringend na nuwe ringers! Die klub het weereens R5 000 aan die ringgroep uitbetaal wat hulle kan aanwend vir toerusting en ringe.

### **Finansies**

Die klub se finansies is gesond en in die bekwame hande van Elmien Adendorff. Meer aandag sal in die volgende jaar aan fondsin-sameling gegee moet word. Lede se hulp en voorstelle in hierdie verband sal verwelkom word.

### **BLNG-Alert and Website**

More than 400 e-mail addresses of members have been placed on an e-mail list server

called BLNG-Alert. Regular messages provide details and reminders about outings, courses, camps and other information that members need to receive. Judging by the response of members this service is well received. It is clear that the printed programmes distributed through *Laniarius* sometimes get lost and important events forgotten. Through this service members are reminded about these events and this might be one of the reasons behind the better attendance of outings and evening meetings.

Our website is managed by Déwald Swanepoel and is quickly becoming more important as a communication tool. It has already been decided to get our own domain name and new content to liven up the website is needed. However, in order to do this, Déwald will need help, so please consider making a contribution.

### **Conservation and Bird monitoring**

SABAP2 (the Bird Atlas project) will be launched this year. Because of this the committee identified the need for a dedicated portfolio for bird monitoring. Etienne Marais who was responsible for the Conservation

## ***New Members/Nuwe Lede***

A warm welcome to the following new members! We trust your association with the club will be a long and happy one and hope to meet you at our evening meetings, please stay and meet more members whilst enjoying a cup of tea or coffee/'n Hartlike verwelkoming aan ons nuwe lede! Ons vertrou julle verbintenis met die klub gaan baie waarde- en genotvol wees. Ons hoop om julle op ons aandlesings te ontmoet waar julle saam met ons 'n lekker koppie tee of koffie sal kan geniet.

Allan Baird – Brooklyn; Hennie & Meisie Botes – Sunnyside; Pieter & Gerda Burger – Marble Hall; Johann Cloete – Pierre van Ryneveld; Jan Coetzee – Arcadia; Tana Coetzer – Die Wilgers; Dorette de Jager & Annette Leijenaar – Moreleta Park; Eduard de Koning & Romilda van Dalen – Wingate Park; Terry de Souza – Nelspruit; Attie de Villiers – Groblersdal; Gideon & Jessie de Villiers – Lynnwood; Anton & Marius du Plooy – Cullinan; Louis & Charnelle du Toit – Brooklyn; Sonja Dreyer – Die Wilgers; Eran & Lea Dvir – Onderstepoort; Fransien Erasmus – Faerie Glen; Lee Goss – Menlo Park; Marisa Human – Villiera; Sregwalt & René Kusel – Derdepoort Park; Riaretha & Maarten Labuschagne – Marble Hall; Hennie & Kay Liebenberg – Marble Hall; Marinus Lorient – Eldoraig; Salomi Louw – Pretoria-Noord; Jan & Sonja Maartens – Marble Hall; Paul & Sarie Nel – Wierda Park; Ben & Paula Neveling – Constantiapark; Ben & Lani-Marié Pretorius – Marble Hall; Richard Slater – Lynnwood Manor; Johan & Wilma Swanepoel – Waterkloofrif; Deon & Louise van Tonder – Pierre van Ryneveld; Vee Wolder & Craig Cowie – Wingate Park.

portfolio has taken over the responsibility for the Bird Monitoring portfolio and will be the club's contact with the SABAP2 steering committee.

However, this step left the Conservation Portfolio without a leader and this gap was clearly felt during the year. The mayor focus of any club must be its conservation effort and therefore this area within the club must be addressed with urgency. The committee is already looking into this issue and it is hoped that significant progress in this regard will be reported soon. The IBA (Important Bird Area) project will be one of the mayor focus points in this regard.

### **BirdLife South Africa and Gauteng Regional Forum**

Together with André Marx, who is the Chairperson of the Gauteng Regional Forum Committee, I attended most of the BLSA Council meetings held every second month, as well as the Gauteng Regional Forum meetings, consisting of all chairpersons of the clubs in the region. These meetings all take place in Johannesburg. By attending these meetings the com-

mittee can stay up to date with the activities of BirdLife South Africa as well as other bird clubs. The forum meeting provides an excellent opportunity to learn about regional activities and projects and also to discuss strategies of importance to all the clubs in the region.

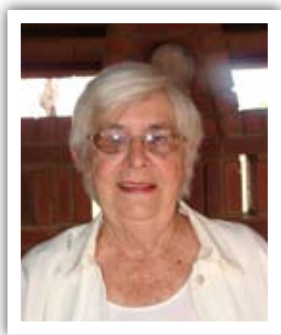
### **Secretary**

My dank gaan aan Jeanette Rens wat ons sekretaresse was vir die afgelope 6 jaar. Haar toewyding was iets besonders. Jeanette vertrek egter nou na Oos-London en het haar bedanking ingedien.

Ek is bly om aan te kondig dat Rynetta Coetzee ons nuwe sekretaresse is.

### **Conclusion**

I would like to thank all those people who have contributed to the successful running of the club in the past year. It is my hope that all members of the club will actively participate in club events. Even though it is fantastic to have a club with 670-odd members, it would even be better if everyone participated in our activities in one way or another!"



## ***President's Address***

***Pauline Leinberger***

*Here is the full account of the President's Address from the Annual General Meeting.*

Good evening to you all and welcome again. There are lots of serious matters to discuss this evening but this I am going to leave to others better informed than I am. Bear with me while I get a little nostalgic in this my 30<sup>th</sup> year of birding with the club. What a pleasure it has been - providing me with a way of life and good friends to share experiences with. Do you realise that Greg Lock was but 10 years old when I started, Liesel Erasmus 5 and Paul Tyler not even thought of. Quite sobering I think.

When I joined Peter Mendelson was Chairman of the NTOS, which had been formed in 1970 by breaking away from the Wits Bird Club. We have I believe gone from strength to strength, with our membership remaining at around 700, a strong committee of talented and very capable people and a programme of activities that can only

get busier when the long awaited atlas gets underway.

Thirty years ago Kay Winterton was busy with the Transvaal Atlas and I was lucky enough to be absorbed into her team of intrepid ladies who followed her about to all corners of what was then the Transvaal. She drove a big Chevy, which had a severe ID problem as did Peter's Peugeot 404 – pulling each other out of holes or mud when necessary. Nobody drove 4x4s in those days. The toughest cars about were combis. And were they tough. I once drove with Rod Cassidy into the Kunene Valley in his combi before the road was made. It was like going into a chalk donga, trying to avoid great white boulders. How we made it up again I can't remember. I must have had my eyes shut.

Our equipment was sketchy. I started with a Roberts 1, which had no distribution maps. Many were the hairy IDs. Species turned up where they really were not supposed to be. Nobody would have been surprised by a pitta in Pretoria. The first Newman appeared about then as a very popular field guide and Roberts 5, the MacLachlan Liversidge edition, appeared in 1978. Binoculars were whatever we could find and sound equipment most unwieldy. We had a visit at the Transvaal Museum the other day from Forsythe van Nierop, now in his 90s, who had done a great deal of recording in the 60s using a dish the size of today's DSTV satellite dishes and a reel-to-reel tape recorder the size of a small suitcase. His recordings are fine and are the backbone of the Museum collection. I was very proud of my little Sony cassette recorder and directional microphone even though the batteries were always going flat, or a com-

panion thought of something vital to discuss at the crucial moment during a recording session. Photography was something else again. Doreen and Martin Goetz were constant visitors to Kruger and the ritual was Martin sitting in the driver's seat of their combi usually at a waterhole with all his equipment on the seat next to him and Doreen in the back like a little mouse, not even allowed to move an eyebrow.

Many are the changes that are going to come about in the next few months with the start of SABAP 2 and the appointment of regional and national rarities committees. A whole new philosophy in birding is about to start - the "when in doubt leave it out" philosophy. The only trouble with this is that nobody ever believes he could be wrong and therefore how can there be any doubt? How many times haven't I heard "I know what I saw!" I am looking forward to seeing all you individuals acceding to the disciplines of the Atlas.

So much has changed. All the members of the committee when I joined the club are now chasing birds in paradise and what a wonderful legacy they left. Tony Harris, who left us last year, left a wonderful contribution with the bird ringing he carried out at the Botanical Gardens and with the sound collection that he started at the Transvaal Museum, and the new shape of our Laniarius when he was editor. All these folk started a club that gives a great deal of pleasure to all of us and in spite of the changes in birding over the last 30 years this legacy of good companionship friendliness and tolerance must not be allowed to disappear. That is the message I would like to leave you with tonight, please keep it up. 🐦

## *Donations/Donasies*

GD Boyle; P Calinikos; WC Fourie; F Hellmann; CD Nutt; RCD Franzsen; HJ Hermannsen; T Horne; M Knoetze; NG Lock; IJJ Spangenberg; E Swart; JS van der Walt; AP van der Walt; MNJ van Rensburg; WD Viljoen; R Wainwright; K Zsilavec



# Club News

## BirdLife Northern Gauteng SHRIKE Awards

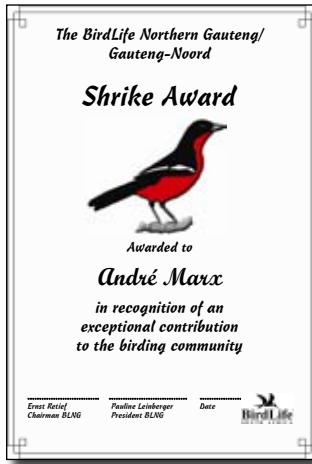
At the Annual General Meeting in February there were two SHRIKE Awards. The recipients were André Marx and Rob Geddes.

### André Marx

André joined the club in 1984 and was first elected to the committee in 1988. He became chairman in 1989, a position he held until 1993. During the 8 years he was not serving on the committee, he remained active, giving support to following chairmen and serving on the programme subcommittee.

André was re-elected to the committee in March 2001 and became chairman again in 2002. He has always shown a lively interest in the activities of the club, coordinating the programme, compiling the unusual sightings, concerning himself with conservation and is presently editor of *Laniarius*. He has always been prepared to lead outings, thus helping new birders to develop their birding skills.

This award can only be seen as a small acknowledgement of André's prolonged dedication to our club, his single-minded passion for birds and his generous and enthusiastic willingness to share his knowledge with others.



### Rob Geddes

This award was proposed by the BLNG ringing group to show their appreciation to Rob for his continued support of the group's ringing efforts by allowing ringers constant access to his property in Buffelsdrift. Ringers are all too aware that for ringing to be a success, access to land over a long period of time is a must. Rob has allowed ringers free access to

his farm for a number of years making Buffelsdrift one of the success stories of the ringing group. More than 3000 birds have been rung on the property and numerous birds have been retrapped.

The ringing group wants to thank Rob for his continued support, his interest in ringing and keeping us on our toes when ringing those little brown jobs! 🐦

## **Beginners' Course on Bird Identification: Fri 20 - Sun 22 April** **Presented by Geoff Lockwood**

A reminder about this course. Please spread the news and invite any friends or work colleagues, so that they too can enjoy

the wonders of birdwatching!

Bird identification is not as straightforward as paging through a field guide and trying



to match a picture to what you see. In this course Geoff will teach identification skills, bird "gizz", distribution and habitat. Geoff is known as one of Southern Africa's leading bird experts. Having written a number of publications and appeared on SABC's 50/50 environmental programme, he continues to promote an understanding and appreciation

of the richness and diversity of our southern African birds through his work at Delta Park and his courses and presentations.

The course starts on Friday evening at 19:00, and will be held at the Waterkloof Primary School.

Costs are R195 pp and include a field trip on Sunday. 🐦

## ***Important Bird Area (IBA) Workshop: Sat 21 April***

**B**LNG is hosting a training workshop for the IBA programme at Rietvlei Nature Reserve on 21 April at 08:30. The Important Bird Areas Conservation Programme aims to identify and protect a network of sites in South Africa, which are critical for the long-term survival of globally threatened, restricted range and biome-restricted species. As one of the branches of BLSA it is our intention to initiate conservation action, advocacy (support) and monitoring within the IBAs in Gauteng and

surrounding areas of neighbouring provinces. Come along to this workshop to learn more about this important project. We will also take the opportunity to update everyone with developments in the atlas project, SABAP2, and discuss regional and national rarities.

For enquiries contact:

Elba Swart; elbas@tshwane.gov.za of 082 7742253.

Madeleen van Loggerenberg; madeleenvl@tshwane.gov.za of 083 4130879. 🐦

## ***Digital Bird Photography Course Fri 11 – Sun 13 May***

**P**hillip Stapelberg is an avid birder and a passionate photographer. He is a director in a birdwatch and photographic travel and safari company specialising in birding related tours into Africa and Madagascar.



He regularly talks to bird clubs, where his gallery of photographs are well received and admired. Philip received a certificate award in wildlife "Photographer of the year in 2005".

His experience and common sense tips will help us taking better photographs of birds and breaking down the barriers of a jargon-filled world of digital photography.

The course includes theoretical lectures on Friday evening, practical lessons on Saturday morning with feedback in the afternoon and an early morning field trip on Sunday. Costs are

**R250 pp** for club members.

Contact Peter Wilgenbus

(012) 6545190; 083 6420016. 🐦

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***A developer is someone who wants to build a house in the woods.  
An environmentalist is someone who already owns a house in the woods.  
– Dennis Miller***

# News From BirdLife South Africa

## Wakkerstroom Centre

BLSA has become aware of a number of misconceptions and negative sentiments to our change of focus in Wakkerstroom. We would like to clear up any misunderstandings the branches and the rest of the public may have regarding the new developments. We would therefore appreciate it if the below facts would be spread far and wide to both your members and other concerned birders.

**Current situation:** The BirdLife South Africa Council made the decision to no longer pursue tourism related activities at Wakkerstroom as the centre was costing BirdLife in excess of R100 000 per annum to keep it running. We simply did not have that sort of discretionary funding available on an annual basis for the centre. The council decision was not an easy one and the result of over a year's debate around the subject. It also became clear that we could train guides "offsite"; i.e. through the use of WESSA facilities. This made sense as many bird guides operate in habitats other than highveld grassland and we thus decided to decentralise the training programme. This has already happened and the majority of guides are now trained in situ where they will operate. Despite these necessary decisions, BLSA is proud that it has played such an integral part in developing the tourism potential of Wakkerstroom, an industry that promises further growth in the area. Please note, that at all times BirdLife South Africa members' birders will still have access to the facility's hides etc. as they have in the past.

BLSA would have ideally had preferred to keep Sue and Nigel Anderson on site until Mpumalanga Tourism & Parks Agency (MTPA) were actually on the ground, but due to their children needing to start at new schools we felt it would be best if the move was done in the new year. This unfortunately has left a few months gap where the centre is not formally occupied, however, in the interim the 'grounds man' and a bird guide, Lucky Ngwenya is permanently on site and doing his best to maintain the centre. We are also currently contracting people to maintain the grounds and hides.

**The Future:** Originally, the primary purpose of the BLSA Wakkerstroom initiative was to provide for broad-based landscape conservation. The landscape conservation goal has once again become the focus of

BLSA in Wakkerstroom, along with community-based conservation. Daniel Marnewick, our community based conservation division manager is currently recruiting a project officer who will be based full time in Wakkerstroom. The upcoming Darwin and AEWA (now called the WOW programme) funding earmarked for projects at Wakkerstroom will be spending significant amounts on conservation and community work in the area over the next three years. Hence, our focus has shifted from running a training centre to promoting sustainable livelihoods and landscape conservation. BLSA has received sufficient funding from the Darwin Initiative through the RSPB and from the Wings Over Wetlands (WOW) programme, which will be used to:

- enhance the conservation status of the wetland and larger catchment area through BLSA partnering with MTPA and other stakeholders to assist with the management, including upgrading the current facilities such as the bird hides and crane feeding sites, and assisting MTPA register Wakkerstroom as a RAMSAR site,
- increase the tourism potential of the area,
- through the WOW programme, (which has selected Wakkerstroom as 1 of 5 wetland demonstration sites in Africa for best practice wetland management), and the RAMSAR status, improve the international profile of the area,
- develop the skills and capacity of the local Esizama- leni community to improve their livelihoods through sustainable resource use, accessing benefits from this tourism potential and other income generating opportunities, and develop their ability to meaningfully participate in the management of the wetland.

We really believe that our new focus on conservation in Wakkerstroom will hold more benefits for the area in the long run. Partnering with MTPA, and their permanent presence in Wakkerstroom, will maximise everyone's potential to effectively manage and conserve the area. We really do appreciate your support and backing of BirdLife South Africa over the years and know that Wakkerstroom is close to your heart. We hope you understand the situation and can continue supporting our future efforts.

**Duncan Pritchard, Manager: BirdLife South Africa Avitourism Division**

**Daniel Marnewick, Manager: BirdLife South African Community Based Conservation**

# *March for the Penguins*

## **SASOL BirdLife South Africa National Bird Week 2007**

The SASOL BirdLife South Africa National Bird Week 2007 is scheduled for the week of 30 April to 6 May 2007. This year's theme is March for the Penguins (die Afrikaanse tema Toi-toi vir die Pikkewyne is deur Jacqui January van Radio Sonder Grense vir ons geskep). Given the history of the national bird week concept BirdLife SA branches should by now understand what happens during the SASOL BirdLife South Africa National Bird Week 2007. There will once again be a number of events taking place and lesson plans for school kids will be available in English, Afrikaans and other languages.

The National Bird Week 2007 culminates in the



SASOL Birds and Birding Fair at the Johannesburg Zoo on 4, 5 and 6 May 2007. This year SASOL rented the services of a professional exhibition company to put up the stands and it promises to be of very high standard. Stalls will have exhibitions of optical equipment, birding goodies, indigenous plants, the avi-tourism industry, outdoor gear and lots more.

More details will be announced at evening meetings as well as via e-mail to members and details of events will be placed on the website. Nicola

van Zijl is the contact person for all enquiries about the SASOL BirdLife South Africa National Bird Week 2007 on [nicola@birdlife.org.za](mailto:nicola@birdlife.org.za) or telephone Sadie Wollheim at BLSA on (011) 7891122.

## ***SABAP2 (SA Bird Atlas Project 2) Update***

There have been numerous enquiries during the last year about SABAP2. It seems as if things are starting to happen. Please read the update below and note that you are requested to register with SABAP2 as soon as possible. Please note that Etienne Marais is the club's contact with regard to SABAP2. I am sure that he will be in contact with you all as soon as more info becomes available – Ernst Retief, BLNG Chairman.

The SABAP2 project team is aware that developments with SABAP 2 have been slow and this has caused much debate and fuss. We apologise for any concerns that this has caused but we want to reassure everyone that the atlas is moving forward. We are now more focused on finalising protocols and implementing the atlas so that you, as potential atlasers, can start preparing to get into the field and start atlasing!

The main thrust of this email is to inform everyone that the SABAP2 website (<http://www.sabap2.org>) is now live and we would like to encourage all birders and potential atlasers to visit the site. Currently, there is some important information on the homepage that

pertains to what is happening with the atlas, upcoming launch dates and registration as atlas observers, plus a list of who's who on the Project Team and Steering Committee. Please note that the website will hold all the relevant information regarding the progress of the project and should be consulted on a regular basis. We will notify you through the birdnet forums of any urgent or important updates but all the associated details will be posted on the website and you will need to access the site to obtain this information. I would suggest bookmarking the SABAP2 homepage in your browser for quick and easy access to the site. Please be aware that the site is still under development/construction and updates and changes will be made at regular intervals. A FAQs section will soon be added to deal with all the questions that are bound to be raised or have been raised by potential atlasers.

We hope to keep you, the birding community, more up to date and informed regarding SABAP2 activities in the near future and look forward to your participation.

***Doug Harebottle***

***SABAP2 Project Manager (on behalf of SABAP2 Project Team)***

# *Atlasing in the Cullinan Quarter-Degree Cell 2528DA: An Analysis*

*Roger Fieldwick*

## **Introduction**

The distribution of birds and its change over time is a facet of birding that I find of particular interest. This study examines the changes in bird distribution in a quarter-degree cell (QDC) east of Pretoria that has occurred between 1960 and 2007 and discusses the possible changing status of 182 species. It describes the relationship between birding effort and the number of species recorded and highlights two issues for the forthcoming second South African Bird Atlas Project (SABAP2).

## **Earlier surveys**

*Birds of the Transvaal*<sup>1</sup> was published in 1987. Every species that had been recorded within the Transvaal boundary, including what was then the homelands of Lebowa, Gazankulu, Kangwane, Venda, Kwandabele and Bophuthatswana, was described, and was accompanied by a distribution map. Information from museum collections, bird-ringing schedules and nest record cards was used as a foundation for the distribution maps, supplemented by surveys undertaken by bird clubs, nature conservancies and similar bodies. In order to give some currency to the distribution maps, they were compiled from data collected between the years 1960 and 1986 only.

The distribution maps comprised an outline map of the Transvaal, overlaid by a 1 degree x 1 degree grid. Each bird recorded was allocated to a QDC and its presence was indicated by a circle. The organizers achieved a fairly even coverage throughout the prov-

ince and the majority of cells contained over 150 species; those cells had a mean of 224 species.

*The Atlas of Southern African Birds*<sup>2</sup> was published in 1997. This was the culmination of an 11 year study and described the birds recorded within southern Africa, defined as the region lying to the south of the Kunene, Kavango and Zambezi rivers. Species data were collected by a volunteer observer workforce between 1987 and 1992 and, as in the Transvaal survey, were again allocated to a QDC. A fieldworker was employed to collect data in areas that had been inadequately covered. Data are available to users in a downloadable format.

## **Greater Gauteng survey**

At the beginning of 2002, BLNG began a similar project covering the greater Gauteng area, but this time a much finer grid was used – birds were allocated to a 3 minute x 3 minute cell (TMC). There are 25 TMCs in a QDC.

Pat Tattersall and I have been heavily involved in this most recent survey. During data collection, I was interested in changes in the distribution of bird species that have occurred. I was also interested in how the distribution of species would vary among the 25 individual TMCs in achieving a total for a QDC. To investigate these questions, it was decided to follow an empirical approach and analyse a single QDC.

## **QDC 2528DA: Cullinan**

This cell was chosen because we had previously visited it and collected data there; it was

fairly close to Pretoria, thereby reducing travel costs; it was a cell that in the 1987 survey yielded more than 150 species; it was an "interesting area" with a variety of habitats.

It is made up of 25 TMCs in five rows of five. The northernmost cells are numbered 2528DA1 to 5 and the southernmost are DA21 to 25. Rayton falls in the south-western corner of the square in DA21 with Cullinan a few kilometres north in DA18. On the eastern side the township of Ekangala (DA20) and the industrial estate of Ekandustria (DA19/20) fall within the boundary. The well-known birding area of Zonderwater (DA16/17/21/22) and the resort of Little Eden (DA7) are also found within this QDC.

The QDC is 25 km wide and 27,2 km deep, and has an area of 690 sq km. In the south, the area is Highveld, although very much modified by farming, varying from intensive to subsistence and from crop production to livestock. The north of the area is Bushveld, although again much modified by farming. The boundary between the two biomes is ill-defined. Most of the area is drained by the Elands River; there is a single large dam within the confines of the De Beers Consolidated Diamond Mine in Cullinan (DA16/11) but, as far as we could see from outside the boundary, the eastern end at least was unattractive to birdlife. There are several vleis and dams along drainage lines that meander through the area but are largely on private lands and access is restricted. A pan on the western side of the R568 opposite Ekangala carries a variety of water-birds.

### **Data collection and entry**

An Excel spreadsheet was constructed that incorporated all the 499 birds recorded in the greater Gauteng area. The tedious task of identifying each bird that had been recorded in *Birds of the Transvaal* in this cell was done by paging through the 270 pages of maps in the book. These were entered in the spreadsheet.

The birds recorded in this QDC during the first southern African bird atlas project

(SABAP1) were downloaded from The Avian Demography Unit's web site and entered into the spreadsheet.

In the Gauteng study, participants are instructed to record the starting and end times for each visit to a TMC, thus making it possible to quantify the birding effort and its allocation from TMC to TMC. Participants are also encouraged to record the numbers of each species seen and heard. Most of our birding was done from a car along public roads (mostly gravel roads). On one occasion we were invited onto a farmer's lands, where we were able to bird on foot. We were also given permission to bird in Little Eden where again we birded on foot. At all times we were birding together, never independently. In almost all cases, the birds were seen and heard by both of us together.

Columns were constructed in the spreadsheet for each visit to a TMC, including date and starting and finishing times. Each species recorded and the number seen and heard during that session was entered. The spreadsheet was constructed to identify species recorded in the earlier surveys but not recorded in the current survey and, conversely, to identify species not previously recorded. Birding effort in terms of hours spent was entered. To simplify data input, only data collected by Pat and me was used, entering it from my field notebooks.

### **Results and analysis**

A total of 216 species was recorded in this QDC during the 1960 to 1986 Transvaal survey, close to the mean of 224 species recorded in those squares in which more than 150 birds were recorded.

Between 1987 and 1992, cell 2528DA was visited on 38 occasions during the SABAP1 survey and 183 species were recorded. At least one visit was made during each month of the year and a mean of 55 species was recorded each month.

When combined, the two surveys yielded 256 species for this cell.

Pat and I made 24 trips to 2528DA between June 2005 and February 2007 and spent 119 hours in intensive birding, during which time we compiled 67 lists and recorded 10 684 birds of 231 species. (A trip is defined as a visit to the QDC during a calendar day during which data are collected in one or more TMCs.) All trips were made in daylight hours and nocturnal birds such as nightjars and owls are under-represented in the results.

Of the 231 species we recorded, we failed to record 63 species previously reported in the two earlier surveys. On the other hand, we recorded 38 species previously unreported.

We adopted a *laissez faire* approach in selecting which cells to visit during a trip and some cells were visited only once whereas others were visited six times. On average we visited each cell 2,8 times, spent 4,9 hours there and recorded 57,6 species.

In this particular study, therefore, an average of 57,6 bird species per TMC is equated with 231 species in the QDC.

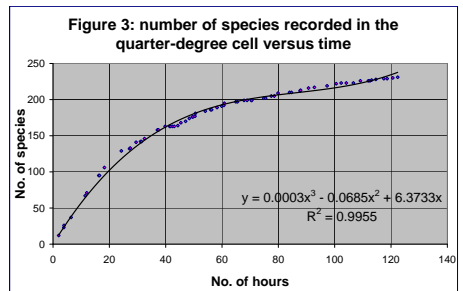
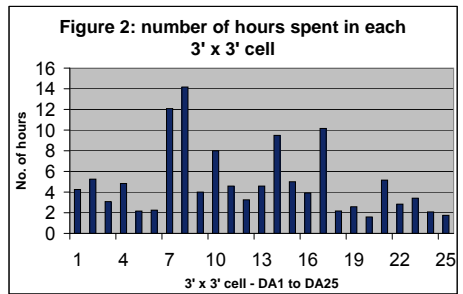
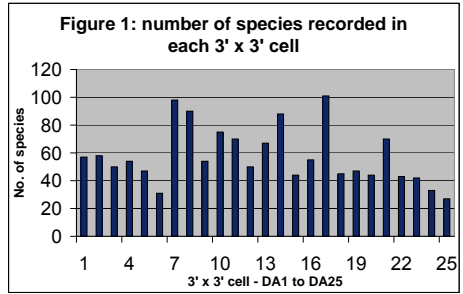
Factors that influenced the time spent in any particular cell included the:

- accessibility (the length of public road available for birding within the cell)
- security (whether we felt safe collecting data in the area)
- population (whether the cell supported a small or large population of birds).

Figure 1 is a histogram illustrating the number of species recorded in each of the 25 TMCs; we recorded the most species in cell 17 (101 species) and the least in cell 25 (27 species).

Figure 2 shows the time spent collecting data in each of the 25 cells and it varied from 14,2 hours in cell 8 and 1,6 hours in cell 20. If both Figures 1 and 2 are looked at together, it becomes immediately apparent that the largest numbers of species were recorded in cells in which the greater numbers of hours were spent: those cells where little time was spent collecting data yielded the smallest number of species.

Figure 3 is a scatter chart of the number of species recorded in the quarter-degree cell

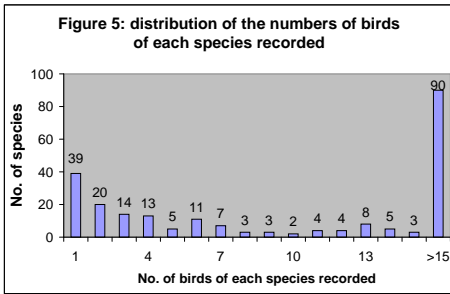
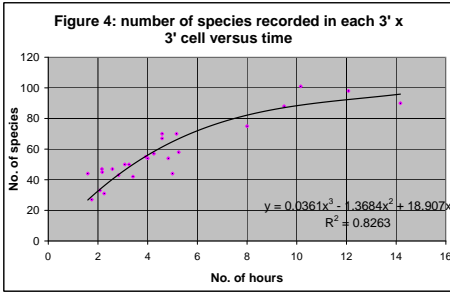


against the time spent. A trend line has been fitted to the data and the best fitting line was a third-order polynomial of the form

$$y = ax^3 + bx^2 + cx$$

where y is the number of species recorded (the dependent variable), x is the number of hours spent on data collection (the independent variable) and a, b and c are coefficients.

The coefficient of determination,  $R^2$ , is a measure of the goodness-of-fit of the trend line to the data. It can assume a value of between



0 (no relationship between the trend line and the data) and 1 (the trend line fits the data perfectly). In this instance  $R^2$  is close to unity.

In the first 20 hours, the number of species rises fairly steeply at an average gradient of five species per hour. Between 20 and 60 hours the curve flattens and, beyond 60 hours, continues climbing at about 0,7 species per hour. After 60 hours, we had recorded 193 species; after 120 hours a further 43 species were added. Thus, doubling the survey effort resulted in a 22% increase in the number of species.

Strictly speaking, these results apply to Pat and me only, birding in this particular QDC. However, the number of birds recorded in this QDC in the Transvaal survey in 1986 is similar to the average number recorded elsewhere throughout the Transvaal. We consider ourselves to be average birders and thus the results may well have more general application. If so, this suggests that the minimum time spent in a QDC should not be less than 60 hours.

A scatter chart of the number of species recorded against the hours spent collecting

data in each of the 25 TMCs is illustrated in Figure 4. Again, a third-order polynomial trend line has been fitted to the data. Because the habitat varies greatly between the different cells, this affects both the population and the number of species supported. This is reflected in the scatter of data in Figure 4 and the lower value of the coefficient of determination  $R^2$  compared with that in Figure 3.

The trend line suggests that the number of species increases at a rate of 16 species per hour for the first two hours. The gradient of the trend line gradually flattens for the next eight hours and increases linearly thereafter at about two species per hour.

If the objective is to achieve reasonably complete coverage of each individual TMC, Figure 4 suggests that observers should spend a minimum of 10 hours in each cell; this equates to 250 hours for the entire QDC, more than four times the 60 hours suggested above. It should be noted that we spent 10 hours or more in only three of the 25 TMCs.


Figure 5 is a histogram that illustrates the number of species where one bird only was recorded (39 species); two birds were recorded (20 species); three birds recorded and so on. The last column on the right hand side of the histogram shows the number of species where more than 15 birds were recorded (90 species). Note that the chart refers to the number of birds, not the number of sightings.

Of the 231 species seen, in 91 (39%) of cases five or fewer birds were recorded. At the other end of the scale, there were 90 (39%) species of which more than 15 birds were recorded. The five commonest birds (with the number seen in parentheses) were: Red-billed Quelea (1229); Barn Swallow (1108); Speckled Pigeon (600); Laughing Dove (527); Helmeted Guineafowl (381). Between them, these five species comprise 36% of the total 10 684 birds recorded.

*(Roger gives an in-depth analysis of the changes in the distribution of the various species mentioned; this will appear in the next issue of the newsletter – Ed.)*



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# Grootvaly Wetland Reserve: Springs

*Bryan Groom*

Grootvaly Wetland Reserve is situated at the northern end of the Blesbokspruit Ramsar Site, Springs, which together with Marievale to the south will provide any birder with a full day's wetland birding. The site covers an area of 350 hectares, bounded in the east and south by mine slimes dams, and on the western side by the suburb of Bakerton.

Access to the reserve is via the N12 Johannesburg/Witbank highway, which one must exit at the Springs/Etwatwa off ramps and travel in a southerly direction on the R555 for approximately 7 km. After crossing the bridge over the railway line, and passing through the traffic light controlled intersection, the main entrance is 200 m further on the left hand side. At the time of writing, a new thatched entrance gate and reception area is under construction. Facilities in the reserve include an environmental centre, which provides environmental education to local schools and is also used as a conference venue by interested groups and companies. There are 3 braai lapas in close proximity to the centre (braai grids available from the caretaker) and 2 hides; the Sappi hide close to the environmental centre; and the Bevcan hide situated at the southern end of the reserve. Toilet facilities are available at the environmental centre.

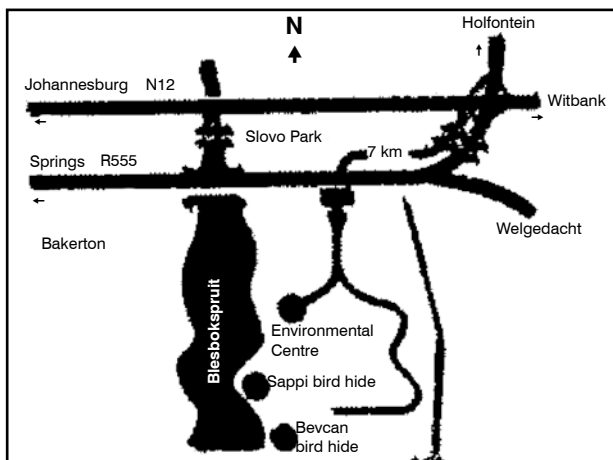
## Grootvaly Wetland Reserve

On entering the reserve, scan the grassland areas on either side of the road, where



*Pied Avocet/Bontelsie*

a selection of larks, pipits, cisticolas and lapwings can be observed, as well as various swallow, swift and martin species flying overhead. I have always found it very beneficial to visit the Bevcan hide in the early morning, as with the rising sun behind you light conditions are ideal for viewing, and many of the usual waterbird species may be observed in the large area of relatively shallow water in front of the hide. This hide is good for Hottentot & Red-billed Teal, Southern Pochard, Cape Shoveler, Pied Avocet and Black-winged Stilt, as well as Little and Great Crested Grebe. The surrounding reedbeds are home to a



good selection of warblers, as well as Little Bittern. Common Moorhen, African Purple Swamphen, Black Crake and Squacco Heron are plentiful. On most visits to the Bevcan Flamingo, you will find good numbers of Greater

Flamingo. The Sappi hide has a very small stretch of water in front of it, but the close proximity of the reeds and small areas of mud allow for good views of warblers and weavers, as well as African Snipe, Marsh & Wood Sandpipers

and the occasional Common Greenshank, as well as Malachite Kingfisher.

A walk along the edge of the wetland from the environmental centre northwards towards the R555 road will also provide many opportunities to observe waders and occasionally Cape Teal will also be found. At Grootvaly, which boasts a checklist in excess of 200 species, most visitors will be able to observe between 80 -100 species during a morning's birding. 🐦

## François Levaillant (1753-1824)

*Pauline Leinberger & Eleanor-Mary Cadell*

*As an explorer/naturalist/ornithologist, François Levaillant has made a huge contribution to ornithology in South Africa and in so doing caused as much controversy. His book, in six volumes, Histoire Naturelle des Oiseaux d'Afrique, is a classic of South African ornithology.*

Levaillant was born in Paramaribo in Surinam (Dutch Guiana) in 1753, the son of the French honorary consul to the area. After the family returned to Europe in 1763, he continued with his studies of natural history, an interest inspired by his parents from an early age

and fostered by the rich natural world of Surinam. In late 1780, after making the acquaintance





*Crested Barbet, Trachyphonus vaillantii, named in honour of Levaillant*

of Jacob Temminck, who was then treasurer of the Dutch East India Company and had a fine collection of natural history objects, he was sent by this gentleman on a collecting expedition to the Cape Colony. On his return to France in 1784 the bulk of his collections was taken over by Temminck, who later, in turn, passed them to his son, Coenraad Jacob Temminck. It was he who described the specimens and incorporated them into the collections of the Leiden Museum. Remarkably, the remnants of these collections (some 10 to 20 mounted specimens in the Paris Museum and part of the 2000 or so received by the Leiden Museum) were still in existence, nearly 200 years later, in 1957 when CHB Grant wrote an article on Levaillant's travels.

It must be remembered that Levaillant lived in very troubled times. He was in Paris during the revolution and reign of terror in the early 1790s, but was not imprisoned in 1793 as had previously been thought, and many of his original records and specimens are missing. He published the first two volumes of his *Travels from the Cape of Good Hope* in 1790 and a further two volumes in 1795. These latter volumes deal with his journeys to the north of the Cape Colony, the extent of which his critics have strongly doubted.

The route of Levaillant's travels to the east of the Cape Colony is accepted by most of his critics. He arrived in the Cape in April 1781 and left on his eastward journey in December. Some of the collections he made while around Cape Town before he left on his travels were destroyed when the English fleet blew up the *Middelburg* in Saldanha Bay, on which he had been staying, in July 1781. His travels east took him through Swellendam and George, following the coastline as far as Uitenhage, then north as far as Tarkastad, returning to the Cape via Graaff-Reinet and Laingsburg. This journey brought him back to Cape Town in March 1783.

Levaillant's northward journey followed a route through Namaqualand to the Orange River, which he claims to have crossed at Pella Drift, after which he journeyed north on horseback, leaving his wagons at Pella. He maintains that he travelled as far north as Keetmanshoop. It was on this leg of his journey that he apparently collected specimens of, or at least saw, Rosy-faced Lovebird, Common Scimitarbill, Double-banded Sandgrouse and African Pied Wagtail, none of which occurs much south of the Orange River today. This gives credence to his claims that at least he got as far as the Orange.

Levaillant did not accept the Linnaean binomial method of classification. Instead, he gave his specimens descriptive, sometimes inspired, French names. Several names given by Levaillant remain in use today, including Gabar (probably from a Hottentot word), Fiscal, Tchagra, Bacbakiri (Bokmakierie), and Bateleur, which last refers to the bird's habit of tumbling, or 'juggling', in the sky in display. The other name I came across was *le faucon Chanteur*, now known as Pale Chanting Goshawk. It was because of this that other collectors came to describe his collections and provide the scientific nomenclature. In order to mark his contribution to ornithology, Levaillant's name was given to the following species in our region:

- Red-winged Francolin, *Francolinus levaillanti*, described by Valenciennes in 1825

- Orange River Francolin, *Francolinus levail-lantoides*, described by Smith in 1836
- Crested Barbet, *Trachyphonus vaillantii*, described by Ranzani in 1821
- Levaillant's Cuckoo, *Clamator levaillantii*, described by Swainson in 1829
- Levaillant's Cisticola, *Cisticola tinniens*, described by Lichtenstein in 1842.

In addition to these remains of his influence, Levaillant named the Narina Trogon after a beautiful Hottentot maiden and Klaas's Cuckoo after his Hottentot servant.

Levaillant has been accused of fabricating new bird species by putting together pieces of different specimens, but this is more likely to have been the work of unscrupulous dealers from whom he received specimens. He has also been accused of exaggerating the extent of his journeys to the north. However, the legacy he left us, as the father of African

ornithology, and the first to record his own observations of birds in their natural habitat, is far greater than his detractors would have us believe.

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# Austin Roberts: The Early Years (1883–1910)

*Sandra Dippenaar & Pauline Leinberger*

## Part 2 (1900 –1910) continued

### Part 2.2 All Good Things...

*“Good luck attend your last plucky efforts, – you indeed deserve success for your indomitable courage.”*

*– F. Vaughan-Kirby*

The beginning of 1908 saw Roberts once again at a loose end on the Kilgobbin family farm near Lidgetton, anxiously waiting for news from his friend in Pretoria, F. Vaughan-Kirby, regarding the mooted hunting expedition to the interior of Portuguese East Africa (Mozambique).

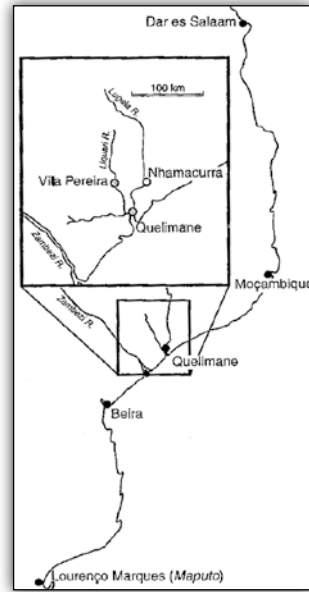
Roberts and Vaughan-Kirby (known simply as Kirby) initially became acquainted through a shared passion for fieldwork and collecting. During the short period that Kirby served as superintendent of the Transvaal Zoological Gardens (1906-1907) the two ambitious and headstrong young men were destined to become sworn friends in arms, as both felt that they had a bone to pick with the museum director, Dr. J.W.B. Gunning. As it happened, Kirby had had one argument too many with Gunning and was forced to resign towards the end of 1907. By the time the Boror Company placed its first advertisements in the local newspapers, Kirby was making his living selling specimens of

mammals and birds to museums and private collectors.

The Mozambique-based Boror Company operated extensive coffee and sugar plantations throughout their prayo in the vicinity of Villa Pereira (see map). Over time they encountered huge problems with so-called man-eating lions that were terrorising the local population. This, in turn, had a negative impact on the morale of the company's labour force. Interested hunters were offered a reward of £20 for each lion shot throughout their territory, an enticing amount for our two cash strapped friends, and particularly Kirby who had a wife and young children to support.

On 15 February 1908 Roberts wrote to Kirby from Kilgobbin, enquiring if he was still interested in the expedition, and enclosed a copy of the advertisement. When Roberts received the following reply he immediately and unreservedly accepted the offer: "... And I want you to come also – you must – I shall take no refusal... Rothschild and Bowdler Sharpe will buy all our birds and two other museum want complete sets of 'native photographs' and 'land molluscs'. I cannot possibly do the things alone – you must come and help me with the birds..." Clearly, Kirby had more than mere lions in his financial sight.

Roberts also learned that a third member, namely Kirby's brother, was to join the expedition. Not only was he a well-recognised trophy hunter who owned his own shotgun, but was also in a position to contribute towards the costs. It was decided that the collecting was to be divided between the three of them to increase their margin of profit, thus Kirby was to devote himself exclusively to the shooting of problem lions, his brother would see to the antelope specimens and trophies, while Roberts was to concentrate all his efforts on the collecting of birds and small mammals. As it turned out, however, Kirby's brother backed out of the arrangement at the last minute. This was a very serious setback, and not only because of the greater workload



*A map of coastal Mozambique, showing Villa Pereira, headquarters of the Boror prayo*

and financial burden to the two remaining members, but the expedition was also without its crack shot and his 12-bore shotgun. In this regard major problems arose later on when Kirby contracted severe malaria that left him almost dead and incapacitated for weeks on end in another part of the interior. The ultimate success of the expedition thus rested with Roberts who had neither the experience nor the high calibre rifle that was necessary for big game hunting. However, the projected four month long journey into the unknown was still a long way off. In the meanwhile a myriad of travel and other arrangements had to be made and supplies had to be bought.

In the weeks that followed a steady stream of telegrams and lengthy letters passed between Kirby's Walker Street address in Sunnyside, Pretoria, and Roberts' Lidgetton postal address in Natal, all of them dealing with things item by item: provisions, medicines, clothing and other

personal effects, tents, hunting and camping equipment and, most importantly, everything needed for the collecting, preserving, storing and transporting of specimens. Hundreds of items needed to be packed, either into boxes each weighing 50-55 kg, or into large tin trunks, all numbered according to a specific system and ready for shipment from Durban harbour to Lourenço Marques (Maputo).

In a world without the benefit of reliable motor vehicle transport, telephone lines, cell phones, e-mail connections or even a sponsorship or two for that matter, this truly was an amazing effort.

It is fortunate that a significant number of Roberts' handwritten expedition documents survived. Amongst these are his meticulously kept invoices and personal lists of all the purchases made. These, together with Kirby's letters, provide us with a fascinating glimpse into a long gone era when a third class single fare on the steamer to Quelimane would cost you all of £2.00.

Furthermore, a number of Roberts' expedition letters to his "dearest mother" survived, as well as a wonderfully written and detailed personal journal, which not only provide us with a valuable record of unchartered places,

indigenous peoples, cultural and hunting events, but also allow us a rare insight into the nature of this remarkable man.

In what turned out to be a seven-month long expedition in the end became not only a logistical nightmare, but also the utmost test of endurance for the twenty-five-year-old Roberts who, early on, contracted malaria and afterwards had to cope with severe relapses. And yet the inquisitive young man thrived. He was doing what he loved most: looking for birds and eggs (and the odd lion) and, in between, enjoying everything else that mother nature in this untamed corner of Africa threw at him.

He relished the sudden beauty of "picturesque houses half-hidden among stately palms, and boats with lateen sails tacking backwards and forwards between the steamer and shore, and marvelled at the way of life of the indigenous people (who had) what one might call a 'kink' in their voices (as if they) utter a word, in the middle of a sentence, in a higher key". But most of all, he stood in awe of nature. On the last page of the Boror Journal he wrote: "Every yard of the way was interesting... no rain had as yet fallen in this part of the forest, so what must

*Kirby's initial rough estimates. "... it would give us (three) each a profit of over £70 per month, with the sport thrown in."*

<i>Estimated Cost and Returns of trip to Boror</i>	
<i>Debit</i>	
<i>Passage money, 3 second class returns, Kilmani from Delagoa Bay</i>	<i>£25.0.0.</i>
<i>2 days hotel in Kilmani @ say 20/-</i>	<i>6.0.0.</i>
<i>25 boys @ 10/- each p.m. for 4 months, including food</i>	<i>50.0.0.</i>
<i>Personal supplies</i>	<i>10.0.0.</i>
<i>Medicines (including spirits)</i>	<i>5.0.0.</i>
<i>Small mammal traps</i>	<i>3.0.0.</i>
<i>Photographic plates</i>	<i>18.0.0.</i>
<i>Tent - (say)</i>	<i>5.0.0.</i>
<i>Sundries - (say)</i>	<i>5.0.0.</i>
	<i>£103.18.0</i>
<i>Credit</i>	
<i>Say reward 10 lions @ £20/- each</i>	<i>200.0.0.</i>
<i>Say value of 10 lion skins at £10/- each</i>	<i>100.0.0.</i>
<i>Say 600 bird skins @ 6/- each</i>	<i>180.0.0.</i>
<i>Say 100 photos of native life @ 2/6</i>	<i>15.0.0.</i>
<i>Say 2000 riems @ 2/- each</i>	<i>200.0.0.</i>
<i>Small mammals collected</i>	<i>50.0.0.</i>
<i>Museum orders</i>	<i>500.0.0.</i>
	<i>£1345.0.0.</i>

Boror Expedition

Pretoria  
10<sup>th</sup> Dec 1905

The Director  
Transvaal Museum, Pretoria.

D<sup>r</sup> to Kirby & Roberts

Skin of blind bull	15	.	.
" Chevron with black ears	15	.	.
Pair black rumped boubou	10	.	.
" bushbuck	5	.	.
Rüchuck	2	10	.
Yellow baboon	2	10	.
Hyena skull	5	.	.

Copy of an invoice submitted to the Transvaal Museum

this place be like when grateful showers bring life to the scorched-up foliage. One could have spent days looking at things – everything was so new...”

Roberts' exuberance and pleasure at being out in the veld stayed with him throughout his life. Many a sideline comment would attest to this: "... the bushveld is full of surprises... It looks so barren and so many things are lost to sight in its very barrenness, that one must look carefully indeed to find its secrets", he wrote in 1913.

As it turned out the financial returns of the expedition were well below what the two

adventurers expected. Of the ten lions they had hoped for only two were killed (both by Roberts) and they could thus claim only £40 as a due reward. To make matters worse, none of the antelope specimens prepared by Roberts proved to be of use. Fortunately, however, some of Kirby's specimens could be sold.

Roberts' main income came from the sale to the Transvaal Museum of 340 bird skins, belonging to 139 species on which notes were published in 1911/1912. His collection was found to contain four new species and seven new subspecies. The four new species were:

- A woodpecker – *Dendromus albigacies*
- A cisticola – *Cisticola pusilla*
- Red-winged Warbler – *Heliolais kirbyi*
- Grey Penuline Tit – *Anthoscopus robertsi*.

Financial constraints at the Museum meant that Roberts and Kirby had to wait four months to be paid, and both had to fall back on the collecting of specimens to make ends meet, an activity severely hampered by the fact that they had almost no available funds to buy collecting materials and ammunition.

Early in 1909 Roberts had a severe relapse of his Boror fevers and spent several weeks in hospital. He then went to his par-

An example of Roberts' fieldnotes

70  
 ♀ *Lanius erythrorhynchus* ~~leucostictus~~ <sup>leucostictus</sup> Subsp. n. ♂ (♀) Resident.  
 I. dusky B. dull scarlet. I. dull scarlet, claws black  
 Long. 378 W 142 Tl 205 To 24 C 43.5  
 " 353 " 127 " 195 " 23 " 38  
 The culmen of <sup>1919</sup> specimens of this species (outside *viridis*) in the Transvaal Museum  
 measure: ~~Lanius~~  
 Kuyona, Grahamstown, Western } ♂ 52-65, ♀ 43-47  
 Transvaal (General) Matabeleland }  
 Pondoland } 2♂ 46-52, 1♀ 37 *viridis*





*The staff of the Transvaal Museum in 1911. Roberts is fourth from the right in the back row. Seated in the middle is Dr Gunning and second on his right is Paul Methuen, who became a life-long friend of Roberts.*

ents' home in Wakkerstroom for three months to recuperate, but almost immediately had to start collecting specimens to be able to pay for the debts incurred as a result of his illness. During this time a despairing Roberts wrote to Kirby's wife (amongst other matters): "It (the expedition) has made a great many difficulties for me, and lost me a good many friends, and the future looks hopeless."

However, Roberts once again managed to pick himself up and late in 1909 took a job with the Simmer and Jack Gold Mining Company in Johannesburg as an assistant in the cyanide works, mill and refinery. Shortly after he went through to Pretoria to ask Gunning, for the umpteenth time, for employment at the Museum. Again Gunning made him a promise that did not materialise.

Roberts had no choice but to return to his position at the mining company for another eight months. Here he suffered a broken arm and became so despondent that he resigned and left straight for Gunning's office to try and ultimately persuade him to take him on as a member of his staff. After five arduous years this finally came about in September 1910 in the form of a temporary, ten shillings a day position at the Boom Street Museum building in Pretoria. This brought the twenty-seven-

year-old Roberts into the scientific natural history sphere where he knew he belonged; bringing with him despite his youth, a wealth of fieldwork experience and organisational abilities.

However, within the first year at his dream job Roberts lost his very first museum report (on the Museum's egg collection) to Gunning who published it under his own name; was laid off his position, only to be reinstated a month later; caused a "classification stir"; and ruffled quite a few stiff old feathers at the British Museum.

But this really is a story for another day...

### **Postscript**

*Kirby recovered well enough to tell the tale and was subsequently appointed as Conservator of the Zululand Game Reserve. He and Roberts remained close friends.*

### **References, Map and Photograph credits:**

Brain, C.K. 1998. *Austin Roberts: A Lifelong Devotion to South Africa's Birds and Beasts*. The Trustees of the John Voelcker Bird Book Fund. Cape Town.

Various documents kindly made available to the Transvaal Museum by the Roberts' family members.

# Voëls en Hulle Omgewing

*Neels Roos*

Voëlwaarneming is ons almal se intense belangstelling en ons put baie genot daaruit. Van hoe voëls aanmekaar gesit is en funksioneer weet meeste klublede egter seker maar bitter min. Die doel van hierdie eerste van (moontlik) 'n paar artikels is om die leser in te lig oor hoe voëls se fisiologie en anatomie werk sodat ons beter kan verstaan hoe ons geveerde vriende aangepas is by die natuur en hoekom hulle soms doen wat hulle doen. Het u al ooit gewonder hoekom is meeste woestynvoëltjies klein? Of hoe dit moontlik is vir voëls om in die arktiese gebiede te oorleef en selfs te broei? Hoekom voëls bad? Hoekom word kanaries en nie goudvisse in koolmyne gebruik om die suurstofgehalte van die lug te bepaal? As u al oor hierdie vrae gewonder het, is hierdie artikel vir u!

## **Metabolisme – oftewel die enjinkamer**

Meeste voëls is opvallend hiper-aktief en beweeg gedurig en vinnig rond. Waar kry hulle al hierdie energie vandaan? Die sleutel hiervoor lê opgesluit in die feit dat van al die lewende organismes op aarde, slegs soogdiere en voëls warmbloedig is. Dit maak hulle aanpasbaar en stel hulle in staat om, in teenstelling met koudbloediges soos reptiele, binne sekere perke 'n normale liggaamstemperatuur dwarsdeur die jaar te kan handhaaf ongeag van die temperatuur van hulle omgewing. Daarom kan sekere voëlsoorte in die koue en ysige arktiese en antarktiese gebiede en tundras oorleef en ook broei (waar bitter min reptiele sal aard), of selfs in die warmste woestyne oorleef.

Die normale liggaamstemperatuur van voëls ( $\pm 40$ - $42^{\circ}\text{C}$ ) is hoër as dié van soogdiere omdat hulle "metaboliese masjien" hoër gerat is. Die term metabolisme omsluit al die

chemiese reaksies wat in 'n organisme plaasvind om die nodige energie te verskaf vir aktiwiteit en hierdie reaksies gaan gepaard met hittevorming. Hoe meer aktief die organisme is hoe meer energie word benodig en hoe hoër is die metabolisme en gepaardgaande hittevorming. Omdat sekere organe nooit ophou om te werk nie en dus steeds energie benodig, is metaboliese prosesse aanhoudend – selfs wanneer die organisme slaap. Dit is slegs die metaboliese tempo wat daal of styg. Metabolisme kan vergelyk word met 'n kragopwekker wat net stadig luiër as daar min aanvraag is vir krag maar wanneer die aanvraag styg moet dit dadelik harder werk om in die groterwordende aanvraag te voorsien. Die laagste graad van metabolisme wat nodig is vir oorlewing word ook vergelyk met die loodsvlammetjie ("pilot-light") van gasapparaat wat 'n groter vlam laat ontbrand as water bv. moet verwarm word vir 'n stort.

Die "diesel" vir die "enjin" word verskaf deur die hoë-energie kossoorte (graan, sade, vrugte, insekte ens.) wat voëls in groot hoeveelhede inneem; die vinnige en baie volledige vertering daarvan in hulle gespesialiseerde maagdermkanaal; en voëls se meer effektiewe oordrag van suurstof aan die weefsel by wyse van haemoglobien (60% in voëls; 27% in soogdiere). 'n Kanarie benodig 33 keer meer suurstof om sy rustende metabolisme aan die gang te hou as 'n koudbloedige goudvis en is dus uit die aard van die saak baie meer vatbaar vir 'n suurstoftekort onder in die steenkoolmyne! As daardie kanaries lomerig en slap word moet die werkers met spoed uit die tunnels uit!

Die rustende metabolisme van 'n voël staan in direkte verhouding met sy vel se totale oppervlakte relatief tot sy massa. Hoe kleiner die voëltjie, en dus sy massa, hoe groter is sy relatiewe veloppervlakte, en hoe

groter hy is hoe kleiner is sy relatiewe veloppervlakte. Omdat warmte grotendeels deur die vel verlore gaan sal 'n klein voëltjie dus uit die aard van sy relatiewe groter veloppervlakte ook meer hitte prysgee of verloor as groter voëlsoorte onder identiese omgewings toestande. Dit staan bekend as Bergman se reël en het beide voor- en nadele wat wye geografiese en ekologiese implikasies vir voëls inhou. 'n Nadeel vir piepklein voëltjies ontstaan wanneer hulle slaap want dan is selfs die normale minimum energievereistes te veel vir hulle beskikbare oornag-energie-reserwes ("diesel") – met ernstige oorlewings-implikasies. Voëlsoorte soos kolibries ("hummingbirds") in die Amerikas en windswaels sal wanneer hulle slaap in 'n toestand van traagheid ("torpidity") verval wat soortgelyk is aan 'n kort-termyn winterslaap ("hibernation") by soogdiere om hierdie probleem te oorkom. Hulle liggaamstemperatuur daal dan tot net enkele grade bo dië van die omgewing, en hulle energievereistes daal tot slegs ongeveer 25 - 33% van die gewone slapende vereistes. 'n Voortreflike energie-besparings meganisme!

Die voordeeltkant van dieselfde reël gee aanleiding daartoe dat meeste voëlsoorte wat in baie warm woestyngeliede gevind word klein van bou is! In die algemeen gesproke is daar 'n redelike noue omgekeerde verband tussen die massa (en dus grootte) van 'n voël en sy liggaamstemperatuur – hoe kleiner hy is hoe hoër is sy metabolisme en normale temperatuur en hoe groter hy is, hoe laer is sy metabolisme en temperatuur. Vir elke tienvoudige vermindering in massa sal die normale liggaamstemperatuur ongeveer 1,5°C styg. As gevolg van hulle hoër normale liggaamstemperatuur sal woestynvoëltjies dus meer liggaamshitte aan die koeler (maar nog steeds warm!) omgewing kan afgee deur die vel en sodoende afkoel. In Engels word hierna verwys as "a steeper temperature gradient between the body and environment". 'n Interessante brokkie: 'n Kolibrie se rustende metaboliese tempo is 100 keer dië van 'n olifant. As die olifant dieselfde metaboliese snelheid as die kolibrie sou gehad het sou hy onmiddellik uitge-



*Die Maricovlieëvanger (Marico Flycatcher) wat met sy insekdiëet sekerlik sorg vir 'n vinnige metabolisme!*

brand het! Miskien is dit die verklaring waarom akteurs in sommige "sci-fi" films so skielik opgaan in vlamme en uitbrand tot 'n hopie as?!

Om hulle temperatuur redelik konstant te kan hou is voëls met heelwat fisiese eienskappe toegerus:

- Hitte-uitstralende liggaamsdele soos ore en vlesige sterte is uitgeskakel of afgeskaal. Kaal veloppervlaktes wat onvermydelik blootgestel is word tot 'n minimum beperk. Nie-geveerde bene straal byvoorbeeld heelwat hitte uit. Daarom sal 'n voël wat koud kry een been optrek tussen sy donsige pensvere in of so op 'n tak sit dat beide bene deur die pensvere bedek word. Laasgenoemde halveer die hitteverlies vanaf die bene. Vir dieselfde rede sal sommige voëlsoorte hulle kop onder die een vlerk insteek wanneer hulle slaap.
- Die verebedekking, en veral die donsvere, verminder ook hitteverlies. Dit word bespiegel dat die oorspronklike ontwikkeling van vere eintlik plaasgevind het om liggaamshitte te bewaar eerder as om te vlieg! Deur die vere uit te pof ("ruffling the feathers") word die luglaag wat normaalweg tussen die vere vasgevang



*Die Woestylnlewerik (Stark's Lark) wat goed aangepas is vir woestyntoestande*

is dikker gemaak en – omdat lug 'n swak geleier is van hitte – ontsnap minder liggaamshitte. As u nie glo dat lug 'n swak geleier van hitte is nie dink daaraan dat die temperatuur van die atmosfeer op die hoogte waar groter vliegtuie vlieg  $-30^{\circ}\text{C}$  tot  $-50^{\circ}\text{C}$  is terwyl die aarde se oppervlakte direk daaronder selfs 'n hittegolf kan beleef teen  $35^{\circ}\text{C}$  tot  $45^{\circ}\text{C}$ !

- Sommige voëlspesies (veral watervoëls) het 'n taamlike dik insulerende laag vet onder die vel.

Wanneer voëls te warm kry sal hulle een of meer van die volgende doen:

- Bloedvate in die vel verwyd en hitte word vanaf die warmer bloed na die relatief koeler omgewing afgegee omdat dit warmer is as die omgewing. Verder het voëls van al die warmbloedige diere die grootste hart relatief tot hulle massa – dit wys net hoe belangrik dit vir hulle is om baie bloed effektief te kan sirkuleer ten einde temperatuur te kan beheer.
- Asemhaling word vinniger en kan hulle selfs kort-aseem raak ("pant") – die bek

sal dan wawyd oop wees. Voëls het nie sweetkliere soos soogdiere nie en kompenseer daarvoor deur waterdamp vanuit die asemhalingsstelsel uit te asem. Waterdampvorming in dié stelsel het hitte nodig en onttrek dus hitte uit die liggaam.

- Meer water inneem – ons merk dat die voëlbaddens by ons huis in die somermaande veral baie druk besoek word in die middel van die dag wanneer die omgewingstemperatuur op sy hoogste is.
- Bad – ja, voëls bad in water om af te koel en nie om skoon te word nie! 'n Stofbad is 'n heel ander storie en het ten doel om die toestand van die vere (veral die donsvere – "down feathers") optimaal te hou. Normaalweg het dié vere 'n dun laagje wit waterdigende poeier op. Deur in fyn sand te "bad" word die fyn poeierlagie aangevul en kan die vere hulle funksie optimaal verrig. Dit was eenkeer ons voorreg om in die Mkuze Natuurreservaat honderde Europese Swaels gelyktydig so te sien stofbad op een van die sandpaaie daar.

Vir elke voëlsoort is daar 'n afbakening tussen 'n minimum en 'n maksimum van omgewingstemperatuur waartussen min of geen aanpassing van hulle metabolisme nodig is nie (bekend as die reeks van termoneutraliteit). Onder die minimum temperatuur van die reeks sal metabolisme en hitte produksie toeneem om liggaamstemperatuur te probeer handhaaf maar met toenemende dalings in omgewingstemperatuur sal die kompensering nie kan bybly nie en die voël uiteindelik vrek. Bydraende faktore met betrekking tot oorlewingstyd tydens koue is die digtheid van die veredos (dit verskil beslis tussen voëlsoorte); die voedingstoestand van die voël (in 'n goeie toestand sal meer weerstand gebied kan word); en die seisoen (deur metabolisering van vetreserwes wat opgebou is in die somermaande sal hulle langer in die winter kan oorleef as kos nie beskikbaar is nie).

Wanneer die omgewingstemperatuur die maksimum grens van bogenoemde reeks begin oorskry sal die hitteverlies-meganismes


wat reeds genoeg is in werking tree maar later, as dit te hoog styg, nie meer 'n gevaarlike styging van die liggaamstemperatuur kan voorkom nie en die voël vrek. Omdat die normale liggaamstemperatuur van voëls normaalweg naby die boonste grens van die reeks is sal 'n relatiewe klein toename in temperatuur gouer ernstige gevolge inhou as 'n verlaging. By 29°C omgewingstemperatuur kan 'n honger voël die langste uithou maar oorlewingsyd daal met 4 ure vir elke graad wat die omgewingstemperatuur bo dit styg.

As gevolg van al hierdie fisiologiese beperkinge word voëlsoorte verplig om habi-

tatte met geskikte klimaat en beskikbaarheid van kos en water te vind selfs al beteken dit dat hulle in verskillende seisoene oor lang afstande moet migreer. In kort kan gesê word dat die metaboliese eienaardighede van 'n voëlsoort grootliks bydra tot sy geografiese verspreiding en sy "ry of bly" besluit.

### Bronne

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# Northern Farm: 18 February 2007

*Peter Wilgenbus*

Alan and Meg Kemp presented a Birds of Prey course recently to some 55 BirdLife Northern Gauteng (BLNG) members. On Saturday afternoon the course attendees visited the Transvaal Museum and closely observed the skins on display with the newly acquired knowledge.

On Sunday 18 February BLNG hosted an excellent field outing at the Northern Farm conservancy, southwest of Centurion. The reserve has an extensive raptor list and was therefore an ideal venue to put our theoretical knowledge into field practice. This reserve has a mix of highveld habitats consisting of grassland, cultivated fields, extensive reed beds and wetland areas. Extensive stands of exotic plantation borders the settling ponds and water channels.

At 06:45, while waiting at the car park, a Peregrine Falcon leisurely flew past and joined a flock of Speckled Pigeons. The falcon's distinctive features remained identifiable for a couple of minutes, before the flock disappeared over the horizon.

The large group of birders required us to split up into smaller groups and my group of

keen birders proceeded towards the first row of cattle pens, where we had good sightings of African Pipit, Cape Wagtail, Hadedda and African Sacred Ibis. Blacksmith Lapwing foraged around the cattle troughs.

Very quickly our raptor list grew with sightings of Steppe Buzzard and Black-shouldered Kite. Down the road at another cattle pen, some lucky birders saw Yellow Wagtail, while the rest had to be content with Cape Longclaw, Yellow-billed Kite and Pied Crow. Large flocks of Barn Swallow congregated on the overhead telephone cables.

Levaillant and Zitting Cisticola displayed in the grassland around the dam and allowed us to view these very close up. Overhead on the telephone cable a flock of Amur Falcon watched the recently cut grasslands and occasionally swooped down and flew low over the ground. A pair of Lesser Kestrel sat further down on the telephone cables.

By 08:00, our raptor sightings included a pale looking Steppe Buzzard, two Long-crested Eagles and a Black-chested Snake-Eagle. An African Fish-Eagle called in the distance. We turned and drove in a westerly



A Long-crested Eagle (*Langkuifarend*), one of the many raptors seen at Northern Farm

direction, leaving the high-rise buildings of Johannesburg on the horizon.

The martins, Common House and Brown-throated, swifts, Little, White-rumped and African Palm and swallows, White-throated, Barn and Greater Striped were well presented all over the reserve.

The morning temperatures increased to some 30 degrees. Our group settled underneath the shade of some big poplar and blue gum trees for a quick snack.

The nearby dam produced noisy flocks of Egyptian Goose, with a single Spur-winged Goose and a few Common Moorhen and Red-knobbed Coot. A Black Heron waded along the extensive reed beds and sedges, before disappearing into a willow tree. Black Kite and Steppe Buzzard occasionally flew across. While watching a calling African Fish-Eagle soaring above, a Western (European) Honey Buzzard appeared and caused great excitement among all of us, as it soared in high circles above us. We had good views of its small pigeon sized head, wing pattern and the black barring on the tail. A new member, who had seen many migrating raptors in Israel, explained to us the flight patterns of Steppe versus Honey Buzzard.

We slowly returned to the car park and stopped at one of the bigger settling ponds, where we had a few warblers, including Sedge, Lesser Swamp and Willow Warbler. Seeing some 25 African Wattled Lapwings is an interesting experience.

Adding to our morning of birding typical highveld and garden birds of Dark-capped Bulbul, Cape Robin-Chat, House, Southern Grey-headed and Cape Sparrow, African Hoopoe and Cape Glossy Starling, a modest, but satisfactory contribution of 70 species to our bird list ended a pleasant day of birding.

The other group of birders had good sightings of Ovambo and Little Sparrowhawk, as well as a Verreaux's Eagle, increasing the total raptor list of the day to 13 species. 🦅

## ***Early Record of Lesser Spotted Eagle***

***Roger Fieldwick***

The Lesser Spotted Eagle *Aquila pomarina* is an uncommon non-breeding Palaearctic summer migrant to the Lowveld, Bushveld and Escarpment regions of South Africa. Tarboton, Kemp and Kemp, in *Birds of the Transvaal*, published in 1987, reported that the earliest date recorded in the old Transvaal was 10 November.

Pat Tattersall and I recorded a juvenile of this species on the same date this year in the Karongwe Conservancy south of Ofcolaco in the Lowveld (3' x 3' cell 2430BA18). Probably the same bird was recorded again on 14 November. 🦅

# IBAs en BirdLife Gauteng-Noord

## 'n Kans om 'n Waardevolle Bydrae te Maak

*Elba Swart & Madeleen van Loggerenberg*

In die vorige twee uitgawes van *Laniarius* is breedvoerige inligting gegee oor ons klub se 'Adopt a Site' (AaS) projek. Daarin is die doelwitte van die projek, basiese riglyne, moontlike aktiwiteite en gedragskode bespreek.

Etienne Marais en André Marx het onderskeidelik oor die Farm Dam (voorheen Roets se Plaas) en Northern Farm (ook bekend as Diepsloot Naruurreservaat) terugvoer gegee, en les bes is 'n lys van die 42 geïdentifiseerde terreine binne BLGN se grense en ook 'n versoek vir vrywillige moniteerders geplaas.

Dankie aan elkeen wat gereageer het en as jy een van die is wat nog gewonder het, jy's nog nie te laat nie. Boonop is daar nou 'n verdere uitbreiding op die gebied.

In 1985 het die identifisering van habitatte wat voordelig is vir voëllewe of sg. 'Important Bird Areas' (IBA's) in Europa posgevat en het die inisiatief uitgebrei tot dit in 1993 Afrika bereik het. 'n Suid-Afrikaanse IBA werkswinkel is in September 1995 deur die Universiteit van Kaapstad se Avian Demography Unit in samewerking met Birdlife SA aangebied. Die basiese uitgangspunt was om bestaande literatuur oor potensiële IBA's bymekaar te maak en te hersien. Vir die moontlikheid om data te kan bywerk is 'n IBA databasis ontwerp en inligting daaruit onttrek is saamgevat in die publikasie van BLSA "The Important Bird Areas of Southern Africa" (Barnes et al. 1998).

IBA's vorm deel van die habitatte wat belangrik is vir die internasionale bewaring van biodiversiteit. Die IBA moniteringsprogram is dus gemik op die identifisering en beskerming van terreine wat krities belangrik is vir die langtermyn lewensvatbaarheid van wilde-voël populasies. Elke IBA moet aan

bepaalde objektiewe, meetbare en wetenskaplik verdedigbare kriteria voldoen alvorens IBA-status aan so 'n gebied toegeken kan word. Monitering is nodig om die doeltreffendheid van die bewaringsmetodes te bepaal en ook om 'n vroeë waarskuwing oor probleme te verskaf. Om te verseker dat hieraan voldoen word, moet monitering op 'n gereelde basis gedoen word, data in die vorm van die voltooiing van 'n vraelys ingesamel word en dan na BLSA deurgegee word.

Hierdie moniteringsprogram is die middel waardeur ons as individue die voorreg het om via Birdlife International 'n bydrae te kan maak tot die globale bewaring en beskerming van die wêreld se voëllewe.

BLGN is bevoorreg om ten minste 4 van hierdie IBA's binne ons klubgrense te hê:

- SA021 Blesbokspruit
- SA022 Suikerbosrand
- SA125 Magaliesberg en Witwaters Randte
- SA038 Middeldvaalrivier.

Van ons klubdele is ook baie betrokke by Nylsvlei SA008, al is dit bietjie buite ons gebied.

Omdat hierdie 'n dinamiese veld is, kan van die bestaande IBA's nà herevaluering dalk verdwyn en so kan ander gebiede wat nog nie IBA status het nie, daartoe verhef word. Daarom het BLGN toe die voorstel gemaak om die IBA vraelys ook op ander terreine soos die wat vir ons AaS-projek geïdentifiseer is, toe te pas. Die vraelys is volgens internasionale omstandighede opgestel en bied 'n redelike uitdaging as dit kom by interpretasie en die toepassing daarvan op ons SA omstandighede.

Ons klub reël 'n werkswinkel in dié verband waartydens Neil Smith, BLSA-



koördineerder van die IBA data, teoretiese en praktiese opleiding sal verskaf.

Die groot dag vind DV op 21 April 2007 plaas. Die volgende punte sal onder andere bespreek word:

- Agtergrondinligting oor die projek
- Kriteria waaraan 'n IBA moet voldoen
- Voltooiing van die vraelys met 'n praktiese sessie
- Prosesse en prosedure rondom die verwerking van vraelyste
- Aksieplanne wanneer probleme by IBA's geïdentifiseer word.

Meer inligting in terme van die plek en detail van die program sal aan alle belangstellendes gestuur word, so laat so gou as moontlik van jou hoor as jy die werkwinkel wil bywoon en betrokke wil raak by die monitorings, of betrokke wil raak, maar dalk nie die werkwinkel sal kan bywoon nie. Ons wil van julle almal hoor – kontak gerus vir Elba of Madeleen wat die projek vir BLGN gaan koördineer.

Elba Swart; elbas@tshwane.gov.za of 082 7742253.

Madeleen van Loggerenberg; madeleenvl@tshwane.gov.za of 083 4130879. 🐦

# Rarities and Unusual Sightings Report

*Compiled by André Marx*

## Reporting Rarities

*A revised list of national and regional rarities known to occur in our region will be published in the next newsletter. A Regional Rarities Committee has been established for the Gauteng region to administer the reporting*

*and adjudication of both regional and national records. National rarities records will be forwarded to the National Rarities Committee for adjudication. More details of the relevant rarities documentation will be forthcoming.*

## National Rarities / Nasionale Rariteite

**Slaty Egret. Rooikeelreier:** three birds were at Marievale, a regular site for this species, 16 Dec 06 (DD); one bird was seen at Roets Dam on the Zaagkuil drift road, north of Pretoria, 18 Feb 07 (PT,RF).

**European Honey-Buzzard. Wespedief:** at least one and possibly two birds were seen in the Randburg area, 16 Jan 07 (DS); one bird was at Modderfontein Conservancy, Johannesburg, 03 Feb 07 (PW); another bird, a dark morph individual, was at Austin Roberts Bird Sanctuary, 10 Feb 07 (PW); one bird was seen flying amongst several other raptors, mostly Yellow-billed Kites and Steppe Buzzards, at Northern Farm, southwest of Pretoria, 18 Feb 07 (BLNG).

**Pallid Harrier. Witborsvleivalk:** a male was seen at Vogelfontein, Nylsvley, 25 Feb 07 (ACo).



Etienne Marais

*Caspian Plover (Asiatiese Strandkiewiet)*

**Pectoral Sandpiper. Geelpootstrandloper:** one bird was at Kalkfontein, near Polokwane, 11 Feb 07 (EM).

**Black-tailed Godwit. Swartstertgriet:** 4 birds were at Vaalkop Dam, 10 Dec 06 (FP).

### Regional Rarities / Streeksrareite

**Marabou Stork. Maraboe:** one bird was at Northern Farm, an unusual record for Gauteng, 20 Jan 07 (AM,H&RB,RC).

**Rufous-chested Sparrowhawk. Rooiborsperwer:** one bird was seen at Rhenosterkop, north of Bronkhorstspruit, 04 Feb 07 (EM). *This species is not known from the region and this locality is on the very edge of Gauteng. Detailed observations submitted for adjudication by the regional rarities committee.*

**Sooty Falcon. Roetvalk:** a report of an immature bird with an injured wing was received from the Muldersdrift area, northwest of Johannesburg; the bird was taken to FreeMe to be rehabilitated, 10 Mar 07 (GLd). *An uncommon bird in South Africa and especially for the highveld.*

**Great Spotted Cuckoo. Gevlekte Koe-koek:** one bird was seen at Delta Park, Johannesburg, 20 Dec 06 (GLd).

**Grey-backed Sparrowlark. Grysruglew-erik:** two birds were seen along the Ndebele Mining Road, northeast of Cullinan, 24 Feb 07 (DS,MKr); a group of birds was seen in the Vlakklaagte area, north of Bronkhorstspruit, 03 Mar 07 (EM). *This species becomes irruptive into new areas during times of drought.*

**Terrestrial Brownbul. Boskrapper:** a small group of birds was at Roets Farm, a surprise find as this species is not known from our region, 08 Mar 07 (EM,FP).

**Yellow-bellied Greenbul. Geelborswillie:** this species was observed at Vaalkop Dam again, 10 Dec 06 (FP).

**Mountain Wagtail. Bergkwikkie:** a bird was photographed at Grootkloof in the Magaliesberg, 21 Mar 07 (WN).

**Spectacled Weaver. Brillwewer:** two birds



Red Phalarope (*Grystraingpoot*)

were seen in the Wilge River valley, northeast of Bronkhorstspruit, 25 Feb 07 (DS).

### Other Interesting Observations / Ander Interessante Waarnemings

**Little Sparrowhawk. Kleinsperwer:** a pair of birds bred in a garden in Wierda Park over a period of a few weeks, 07 Jan 07 (EM).

**African Harrier-Hawk. Kaalwangvalk:** an adult bird was observed in a garden in Helderkruin-View, Rodepoort, 03 Jan 07 (AB).

**Peregrine Falcon. Swerfvalk:** a single bird was seen at Northern Farm, near Pretoria, 18 Feb 07 (BLNG).

**Eurasian Hobby. Europese Boomvalk:** a single bird was at Marievale, 16 Dec 06 (DD); one bird was at Marievale, 16 Dec 06 (DD); one bird was at Northern Farm, southwest of Pretoria, 01 Jan 07 (J&Jl).

**Grey Crowned Crane. Mahem:** two birds were seen at the farm Den Staat, near Mapungubwe in Limpopo Province, 26 Nov 06 (JS).

**Baillon's Crake. Kleinriethaan:** one bird was at Marievale, 16 Dec 06 (DD).

**Buff-spotted Flufftail. Gevlekte Vleikuiken:** the unmistakable call of this species was heard at the Environmental Centre at Delta Park, Johannesburg, the first confirmed record for the locality, 02 Jan 07 (GLd).



*Mountain Wagtail (Bergkwikkie)*

**Caspian Plover. Asiatiese Strandkiewiet:**

about 50 birds were in a fallow field just outside Mapungubwe National Park, Limpopo, 11 Feb 07 (EM).

**Bar-tailed Godwit. Bandstertgriet:** one bird was at Witpan, near Barberspan in North West Province, 16 Dec 06 (JA).

**Red Phalarope. Grysfraingpoot:** a single bird stayed at Ruigehoek Dam, Pilanesberg National Park, for at least five days during which time a number of people were able to see it, 18 Feb 07 (HL); one bird was originally reported on 16 Feb 2007 at Wakkerstroom and was still present, 19 Feb 07 (DM).

**Black-winged Pratincole. Swartvlerk-sprinkaanvoël:** flocks of 5 000 - 6 000 birds were at Vaalkop Dam, 10 Dec 06 (FP); a flock of 600 birds was at Marievale, 23 Dec 06 (DD).

**Alpine Swift. Witpenswindswael:** at least four birds were observed in the Midrand area, 22 Dec 06 (PW); a few birds were also observed at Northern Farm, southwest of Pretoria, 19 Mar 07 (EM).

**Grey-headed Kingfisher. Gryskopvisvanger:** one bird was seen on the Zaagkuil-drift road, 11 Mar 07 (JB, JJ).

**Grey-backed Sparrowlark. Grysruglewe-**

**rik:** two birds were observed in the Swartlaagte district, north of Bronkhorstspuit, 25 Feb 07 (DS).

**Dusky Lark. Donkerlewerik:** two birds were at Buffelsdrift, in the Rust de Winter area, 2 Mar 07 (ER); and were still at this locality 4 Mar 07 (EM).

**Collared Palm-Thrush. Palmmôrelyster:** this species was reported from Shingwedzi Camp in the Kruger Park once again, 26 Jan 07 (RG).

**Dark-capped Yellow Warbler. Geelsanger:** at least one bird was positively identified at Northern Farm, southwest of Pretoria, 13 Jan 07 (MB, RS). *A new record for this locality and another record for the western part of Gauteng where this species is generally not known from.*

**Yellow Wagtail. Geelkwikkie:** at least three birds were at Northern Farm, southwest of Pretoria, 06 Jan 07 (BLNG).

**Crimson-breasted Shrike. Rooiborslaksman:** two birds were seen in the vicinity of the Voortrekker Monument, south of Pretoria, 04 Feb 07 (DdB).

**Fan-tailed Widowbird. Kortstertflap:** a single male was seen in the southern section of Rietvlei Nature Reserve, south of Pretoria, a species not known from the Pretoria region, 21 Jan 07 (RG).

**Purple Indigobird. Witpootblouvinkie:** two birds visited a feeding table in Lyttelton, Centurion, 10 Jan 07 (LM).

**Lark-like Bunting. Vaalstreepkoppie:** a single bird was observed on the farm Tweede-poort, about 20 km northeast of Rustenburg, 20 Dec 06 (RG); a single bird was at Kgomo-Kgomo, about 80 km northwest of Pretoria, 11 Mar 07 (EM).

**Observers / Waarnemers:**

Almarí Coetzee (ACo)	André Botha (AB)
André Marx (AM)	
BirdLife Northern Gauteng members (BLNG)	
Danie Malan (DM)	Dave Deighton (DD)
Dries de Bruyn (DdB)	Déwald Swanepoel (DS)
Ernst Retief (ER)	Etienne Marais (EM)

Faansie Peacock (FP)  
Hanno Langenhoven (HL)  
Jaco Bekker (JB)  
Jannie Jansen (JJ)  
Johan Slabbert (JS)  
Margarita Krusche (MK)  
Mostert Kriek (MKr)  
Peter Wilgenbus (PW)  
Roger Fieldwick (RF)  
Rynetta Coetzee (RC)

Geoff Lockwood (GLd)  
Helen & Ray Biram (H&RB)  
Jane & Joe Irvine (J&JI)  
Joel Avni (JA)  
Lynn Morris (LM)  
Michael Buckham (MB)  
Pat Tattersall (PT)  
Rihann Geysler (RG)  
Ron Searle (RS)  
Walter Nesor (WN)

ings made within a 100 km radius of Pretoria, however observations made further afield are also welcome. While the majority of reports are included it is sometimes necessary to exclude some depending on space availability and whether the subject matter has already been well reported. Occasionally reports are sourced from the Internet. Members are invited to submit details of sightings to Pauline Leinberger at 012 807-6898, e-mail: pauline.l@absamail.co.za, or to André Marx at 083 411-7674, e-mail: turaco@telkomsa.net 🐦

This column is mainly concerned with observations of rarities and unusual sight-

# Raptor Notes from a Centurion Garden

Etienne Marais

In our large, quite wooded garden in Wierda Park, Centurion, we have been blessed with the presence of a pair of Little Sparrowhawks. The birds were first noted in June of 2002, when a female was spotted and photographed while sitting quietly in a neighbour's tree. Since then, Little Sparrowhawks have regularly been seen in our garden, including several sightings of juvenile birds with the blotched and streaked underparts.

In May of 2004 I had the opportunity to compare the male and female as they perched together in a White stinkhout *Celtis africana* tree right outside my front door. It seemed odd that the field guides say that the sexes are alike. The female was bigger, more stockily built and her upperparts were also browner, as was the barring on the underside. The eye of the female was yellow, while that of the male was clearly orange.

On August 15, 2006, I heard the shrill incessant piping of a pair of sparrowhawks outside the kitchen window and we were able to observe the pair sitting on a branch of another White stinkwood, this time outside the kitchen window. The male had given the female a small bird to eat and as she ate he sat next to her and appeared to doze off. I



Little Sparrowhawk juvenile

Etienne Marais





*The two juvenile birds photographed together on the nest*

suspect that this may have been courtship feeding. My two children were able to watch the feeding through a scope while seated on the floor of the washroom!

In previous years I saw no immediate signs of nest building and assumed the nest was somewhere nearby in the suburb.

In September of 2006 I saw nest building for the first time, in a large Apiesdoring Acacia galpinii tree in the street outside our front gate. But this activity seemed to have been put to a stop, as a Grey-headed Bush-shrike appeared and appeared to harass the sparrowhawks for several days, until they gave up nest building. I thought they might have moved somewhere else.

The sparrowhawks seemed to have gone quiet in the latter half of 2006, and I did not think much of it until on January 6 this year, when I heard a family group of Green Wood-hoopoe coming past. What caught my attention was the fact that when the wood-hoopoes moved through the same Apiesdoring tree they were aggressively attacked by a Little Sparrowhawk, which succeeded in

quickly chasing them from the area. On investigating I found the female sitting quietly on a stick nest high up in the tree. The next day, when looking again, I saw a small white chick peering over the edge, and managed to get a few digiscope images. Over the next few weeks we observed the male bringing prey items to the nest, and the female feeding the two chicks. The male always seemed to arrive from some distance and I never actually saw the male hunting in the immediate vicinity.

The transformation between the small white fluffy ball on January 7 and the large dark, gangly nestlings seen and photographed on January 19 was phenomenal. On the 24<sup>th</sup> Clive Kaplan managed to get some nice images of the two chicks and one could already see the darker, denser streaking on the breast of the larger female by that time. The birds started to fly on about January 29, and on January 31 the mother was seen feeding the female chick away from the nest, but still in the same tree. At this point the youngsters became much noisier, seemingly calling throughout the day on the days when I was

home. They were still very attached to “their tree” and although no longer at the nest, they could usually be found in one of the higher branches. At the time of writing (three weeks after fledging) they have started to wander a little more widely and I have seen them on the other side of the house, some 50 metres from the nest tree.


All of this created a wonderful opportunity to observe the birds and there are several interesting things I have noticed. Food is delivered to the area by the male, who spends some time calling. Usually the youngsters will approach the male and he will then pass the food item onto the young birds, the handover motion sometimes being too fast to follow. On one occasion the male called for quite a while and after the youngster failed to come and fetch the food item he started feeding. After a while he then took the prey (apparently decapitated) and placed it on the nest, whereupon one of the youngsters quickly arrived and started feeding. The young birds seem very secure in the nest area, but appear reluctant to wander more widely. I have also noticed that the prey items that the young are consuming are mostly, if not all, nestling birds. One big prey item appeared to be part of a nestling Red-eyed dove (based on the size of the legs and feet). During January, I noticed a particularly large number of doves nesting in my garden, and my wife commented not too long ago on the numbers of egg shells scattered around the garden. I have not however seen any young doves at all and all the nesting activity seems to have disappeared. Little Sparrowhawk is documented as not “hunting near the nest”, and certainly judging from the thriving dove population, they seem not to have been disturbed by the sparrowhawks, until now, that the young have fledged!! Could it be possible that the sparrowhawks actually conserve a “larder” of live prey for when the young fledge? This certainly seems to be the case, but requires a lot more observation before I can confirm that this indeed is the case.

Of course the area is regularly disturbed by the shrieking alarm notes of the bulbuls or the frantic mobbing calls of white-eyes. Cape Glossy Starlings were very prominent in their mobbing over the last few years, but seem to have got tired of the sparrowhawks and are seldom seen “mobbing”. On several occasions ongoing mobbing calls by white-eyes has led me to take a look outside and I have seen an adult bathing in the birdbath in our garden, but they are extremely wary at this time and have always immediately flown up!

What impact does a pair of sparrowhawks with two voracious “teenagers” have on the bird population in the area? The tree in which the birds nest overlooks the top end of my garden, and the male is often seen engaged in hunting forays along either side of the house. The most obvious sign that there is a pair of raptors in the area is the total absence of sparrows. When we moved into our house in 1999 several pairs of House Sparrows were living in the roof, and the lawn was frequented by numbers of Cape Sparrow, Southern Grey-headed Sparrow and Southern Masked-Weaver nested in a thorn tree near the bottom of the garden. Today a whole day of bird watching in the garden is unlikely to produce a single sighting of any sparrow or weaver. Even if I put out seed it is consumed by a large flock of doves, but not a single seedeater makes an appearance. This is not all, as a number of other birds seem to have disappeared from my garden. Although one can never be sure about this since at this time of year breeding birds are often more secretive, but I suspect that the prey may have included one of the pair of Southern Boubou, which I have not seen or heard for several months. Sunbirds are few and far between and mousebirds are scarce (the only prey item I have ever positively identified was a Speckled Mousebird.) Other birds that seem to be absent and which were common in the last few years include African Hoopoe, African Paradise-Flycatcher, Cape Robin-Chat, Streaky-headed Seedeater and Lesser Honeyguide. Species that seem to be less

affected are white-eyes, bulbuls and doves—including Laughing Doves - which seem as common as ever. Cape Glossy Starlings are still common and Common Mynah seem to have become more common, although they all seem alarmed when the Little Sparrowhawks are on the move! I may be imagining it, but the daily mass overflights of Red-headed Finches over our garden also seem to have declined. Perhaps the Red-headed

Finches are giving this area a wide berth?

If you would like to view more photos of “my sparrowhawks” I have placed 19 of them on my website at <http://www.birding.co.za/galleries/gallery-Little-sparrowhawk/index.htm>. These photos clearly show the differences between the male and female, mention of which you will not find in any of our so-called “field-guides”. 


## ***Roofarend Vang Witooievaar as Prooi***

***Frans van Vuuren***

Ons het die laaste week van Januarie in die Kruger Wildtuin by die nuwe boskamp, Tsendze, gebly. Dit is 'n uitstekende kampplek en fasiliteite, maar reg langs Mooiplaas pieniekarea, so dit kan moontlik raserig oor naweke wees by die noordelike kampplekke.

Een middag laat sien ons 'n paar Witooievaarders by 'n waterpunt se oorloop oos van Mopanie, en 'n kilometer verder oor die 200 aasvoëls in die bome, te ver van die pad om aas op die grond te sien. Die volgende oggend gaan ons terug en sien 'n klompie aasvoëls bad by dieselfde waterpunt, asook die ooievaarders. Een lyk soos 'n Swartaasvoël van agter, maar baie wit van onder. Ons besluit eindelijk dis 'n stomp, want ons sien geen roering nie en begin vorentoe ry. Voor ons is 'n klein motortjie met 'n groot kameralens wat by die venster uitsteek en daar sit Geoff Lockwood. Hy vra of ons die Roofarend ges-

sien het, en sowaar daar beweeg die “stomp” – dis 'n Roofarend wat bo-op 'n dooie Witooievaar sit! Die arend probeer 10 minute lank kort-kort opvlieg met sy prooi, maar kry niks reg nie. Uiteindelik begin hy die ooievaar rus-rus na die sementdam toe sleep. Dit neem seker 'n volle halfuur vir so 100 meter. Tussendeur land drie Sekretarisvoëls en sirkel om die arend, maar waag dit nie te naby nie. Geoff sê hy het al gesien dat 'n Sekretarisvoël prooi by 'n arend probeer afneem! Die arend het uiteindelik agter 'n klein bossie langs die damwal gestop en so 10 minute oopbek gerus, voordat hy begin vreet het. Eers is die ooievaar se keelvere met een of twee plukke verwyder en die krop gevreet. Daarna is 'n groot klomp vere van die maag gepluk en het die arend rustig voortgevreet.

Nota: Roofarend = 80 cm en Wit Ooievaar = 120 cm, maar darem baie nek en pote! 



***Penguins mate for life.  
Which doesn't exactly surprise me that  
much because they all look alike –  
it's not like they're gonna meet a  
better-looking penguin someday.  
– Ellen DeGeneres, USA comedian***

# Europese Swaels (*Hirundo rustica*)

Dirk van Stuyvenberg

Ons ring-groep besoek Thabazimbi myn twee keer in een seisoen met 'n spesifieke doel voor oë, om van die Europese Swaels (*Hirundo rustica*) te vang en te bering. Tydens vorige ringsessies het ons redelik goed gevaar en so ongeveer 300 Europese swaels bering. Dit was egter 'n belewenis om die duisende swaels te sien opvlieg en elkeen sy eie koers kies net om weer in die laatmiddag terug te keer na 'n veilige slaapplek.

Op 16 Desember 2006 het ons weer die myn besoek en vroegoggend is die nette opgesit en ons het met groot verwagting gestaan en kyk hoe duisende swaels weer in groepe opstyg. Die totale vangs was  $\pm 750$  swaels wat almal bering moes word. Hierdie keer was dit egter 'n ander storie, want een swaeltjie was reeds bering en die vangs was dus baie spesiaal:

Die volgende inligting is terug ontvang vanaf die Finland beringing skema:

## Ring data

Ring number: Helsinki 878966J  
Species: Barn Swallow (*Hirundo rustica*)  
Sex and age: male, adult (born earlier than in 2005)  
Condition: breeding bird  
Trapping method: caught at nest  
Date: 27 June 2005  
Locality: Hauho (Haeme SF80), Finland  
Coordinates: 61 14 N / 24 23 E  
Biometrics: wing 124 mm, weight 17,6 g  
Ringer: Pertti Saurola

## Retrap data

Species: Barn Swallow (*Hirundo rustica*)  
Sex and age: male, adult



Europese Swael (Barn Swallow)

Date: 16 December 2006  
Locality: Thabazimbi silt dams  
Coordinates: 2437S 2723E  
Biometrics: wing 122 mm, weight 17g  
Re-trapper: Dirk van Stuyvenberg  
Distance between ringing coordinates and re-trap coordinates: 9,543.48 km

Indien ons nou aanneem dat die swaeltjie moontlik drie "migreervlugte" onderneem het gedurende die tyd, dan staan 'n mens net verstom oor die geweldige afstande wat hulle aflê ten minste twee keer in een seisoen. Interessant is die feit dat die oppertuniste daardie dag ook kom kos soek het in die nette in die vorm van 'n Afrikaanse Sperwer (*Accipiter tachiro*). Hy was egter onsuksesvol in sy poging maar het darem 'n gratis ring gekry. 🐦

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*Imagine if birds were tickled by feathers. You'd see a flock of birds fly by laughing hysterically. – Steven Wright*



# *Violet Turaco (Musophaga violacea) in Eldoraigne, Centurion*

*Jacques en Elzine Smuts*

Hierdie voël van Wes-Afrika het waarskynlik uit gevangenskap ontsnap, en is onlangs in ons tuin in Eldoraigne, Centurion gesien. Die voël is 'n subspesie van Ross's Turaco, maar word onderskei deur die rooi snawelpunt en gesig, wit oogstreep en kort, nie-opstaande rooi kuif. Die voël se kleur is egter baie duideliker donker-pers as in die illustrasie in *Birds of Africa* van Ian Sinclair en Peter Ryan. Die jong voël het 'n donker kop en snawel. Die voël klink nes die Ross's Turaco en kom algemeen voor in boomryke gebiede in die savanne van die Kameroen en die Sentraal-Afrikaanse Republiek.

*(Daar was verskeie verslae van hierdie spesie in Pretoria en Johannesburg die afgelope paar jaar. Gevalle waar hulle gebroei het is selfs aangemeld. Dit wil voorkom of hulle in voorstedelike omgewings kan aanpas waar daar groot bome is wat vrugte dra, en hulle besoek ook voedingstafels - Red.)* 🐦



Jacques Smuts

## *A Note from our Outgoing Secretary: Farewell to all my Birding Friends*

Thank you for a really wonderful seven years of being able to serve on your committee, first as PRO and then as secretary.

As a single person, over the past 15 years, BLNG has afforded me so many special opportunities that I could otherwise very easily have missed out on: firstly getting into the bush and birding, attending camps that were arranged in various habitats and parts of the country, meeting the most interesting and caring people, attending very informative courses and forming lasting friendships.

Thank you to all members who have sent me such kind words of thanks recently, it is very much appreciated and most encouraging to know that all the efforts of our hard working committee members are appreciated. I am not leaving the club but just relocating to East London for a few years so will still read all about the club's activities and events in my *Laniarius* and who knows... we may even join BLNG on an occasional outing.

Please know that we would love to meet up with any club member visiting the Eastern Cape. It is a beautiful and very pristine area with lots of interesting birding. Although the BirdLife Border Bird Club is not as active as BLNG we could possibly arrange for you to join us on an outing and of course we have the contacts to arrange a pelagic trip. This area of the Cape remains undiscovered whilst really lovely camping sites are also to be found.

Please don't hesitate to contact us should you intend a trip down our way!

**Jeanette Rens** (soon to be le Roux)  
082 924-6217;  
jeanettele Roux@hotmail.com

Laniarius advertising rates (cost shown in rands)					
Print ads:					Notes
	1 insert	2 inserts	3 inserts	4 inserts	For printed ads:
Back page	600	1 000	1 400	1 800	1. advertiser to supply print-ready artwork for all advertising
Full page	400	700	950	1 200	2. ads can be placed in alternate issues
Half page	250	425	600	750	3. must be paid in advance
Quarter page	125	200	300	375	
Loose insert	300	500	700	900	
Smalls	50				5 lines/ad
The committee maintains the right not to accept any advertisement					

## CLUB TRADING

A wide variety of books and other bird related items are available through the trading section of the club. Items are priced lower than what they would be in a normal bookstore. A number of books are kept in stock and others can be ordered and are usually available within 2 days. We have recently had shirts and hats made with the logo of the club. Hats and caps are available in khaki and shirts in Petrol (blue-green) and Ice Melange (light grey) in M, L and XL. Please support your club.

'n Groot verskeidenheid boeke en ander interessante items is beskikbaar deur die klub en is goedkoper geprys as in 'n gewone boekwinkel. Verskeie boeke word in voorraad gehou en ander kan bestel word en is gewoonlik binne 2 dae beskikbaar. Ons het onlangs golfhemde en hoede met die klub se logo op laat maak. Die kepse en hoede is beskikbaar in khaki en die hemde in Petrol (blou-groen) en Ice Melange (liggrys) in M, L en XL. Ondersteun asb jou klub.

Newman's Voëls van SA (sagteband)	R150.00
Sasol Voëls van SA 3de uitgawe (sagteband)	R151.00
Sasol Voëls van SA 3de uitgawe (pvc)	R178.00
Sasol Birds of SA 3 <sup>rd</sup> ed (pvc)	R178.00
Sasol Birds of SA 3 <sup>rd</sup> ed (soft cover)	R151.00
Chamberlain's Birds of the Indian Ocean Islands	R150.00
Greater Limpopo Birding Self Drive Route	R 45.00
My First Book of SA Birds	R 55.00
Roofvoëls-identifiseringsgids vir SA (Oberprieler)	R190.00
S A Birdfinder	R170.00
Lok Natuurlewe na jou Tuin	R150.00
Attracting Wildlife to your Garden	R150.00
Binocular harnesses	R 70.00
Golf shirts/hemde with BLNG logo	R110.00
Caps with logo	R 60.00
Sagte hoede met logo en smal rand (2 groottes)	R 70.00
Bush hats with logo - wide brim (2 sizes)	R 80.00
Cooking for Birds	R 70.00
Birding with Sappi & Geoff Lockwood	R 85.00

Also available on order – beskikbaar op bestelling:

Roberts Multimedia version 3	R600.00
Roberts Multimedia PDA version	R600.00

Contact Rynetta Coetzee at:

012-347-8343, or 083-235-5871, or e-mail blng.secretary@mweb.co.za

## New Club Clothing Range



