



# Laniarius

No. 113  
Spring 2009



**BirdLife**  
*South Africa*

Giving Conservation Wings

**BirdLife Northern Gauteng**  
**BirdLife Gauteng-Noord**

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

PO Box/Posbus 12563, Hatfield, 0028  
E-mail: secretary@blng.co.za  
Website: www.blng.co.za

Bank account: BirdLife Northern Gauteng/Gauteng-Noord,  
Nedbank, Corporate Corner.  
Branch code: 163445  
Account number: 1634010531

## Committee 2009 Komitee

### President

Pauline Leinberger; 012 807-6898; pauline.l@absamail.co.za

### Chairperson – Voorsitter

Philip Calinikos; 012 430-2168; chairperson@blng.co.za

### Secretary – Sekretaresse

Rita de Meillon; 012 807-4002; secretary@blng.co.za

### Honorary Treasurer – Tesourier

Peter Wilgenbus; 083 642-0016; paw.birder@gmail.com

### PR and Marketing – Skakelbeampte en Bemarking

Debbie van Zyl; 082 570-4125; debbie@blng.co.za

### Sub-committee: Tana Coetzer

### Programme and Activities – Program en Aktiwiteite

Amanda Haggett-Haagner; 084 444-5468; amandah@dpsa.gov.za

### Sub-committee: Pauline Leinberger, Wanda Lourens, Susan Velthuysen

### Evening Meeting venue co-ordinators: Elise Venter

### Conservation Co-ordinator – Bewaringskoördineerder

Gerrie Jansen van Rensburg; 082 840-4073; gerrie.jvr@gmail.com

### Bird Ringing – Voëlberinging

Gerrie Jansen van Rensburg; 082 840-4073; gerrie.jvr@gmail.com

### Laniarius Editor – Redakteur

André Marx; 083 411-7674; turaco@telkomsa.net

### Sub-committee: Faansie Peacock, Antony Cooper, Roger Fieldwick, Neels Roos,

Drinie van Rensburg (design & layout)

### Website – Webtuiste

Jacques van Zyl; 083 459-3715; webmaster@blng.co.za

### Trading, Bookshop – Verkope, Boekwinkel

Ralda Heyns; 082 472-7027; ralda1@law.co.za

## Other Portfolio Holders

### SABAP2 Atlas Co-ordinator – Atlaskoördineerder

Ernst Retief; 012 332-3323; ernst.retief@gmail.com

## Notice to contributors

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

Deadlines for contributions are 1 March, 1 June, 1 September and 1 December. 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 1 Maart, 1 Junie, 1 September en 1 Desember. 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

What a strange winter we have just endured. The cold took a while to set in and then just lingered, with July being reported as the coldest in 38 years. Then spring arrived suddenly and we whizzed straight into summer temperatures with September being decidedly warmer than I can remember. Let's hope that summer brings the 'normal' rains that we want and that there are not more surprises in store this year.

Documenting the changes that have taken place in our birding community, both of the people and the birds, is as important as publishing information about new projects and bird discoveries. In this issue you can read about some of the changes that have occurred in our local birds over the last 40 years or so, and of the people who have contributed much to our knowledge through their involvement and dedication to the club in years gone by.

Topics relating to gardening for birds are touched on in this issue. This is a fascinating subject that can be greatly expanded upon and I would like to make it a more regular feature as I am certain many members will have much to contribute in this regard. Why not share in the success of your efforts to plant the right trees and shrubs for birds or how you have managed to attract birds by providing food for them? Everyone has a slightly different solution and it will be good to learn about this.

In much the same way that birds need food to survive so this newsletter needs your help in the form of contributions to be able to survive as well. You can help by sharing your observations and knowledge through contributions, or by giving constructive criticism and feedback. I look forward to hearing from you.

*André Marx*

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

Chairperson's Report/Voorsittersverslag .....	2
Club News/Klubnuus .....	3
Bird Monitoring – Your Contribution to Fight Climate Change.....	4
The Universal Laws of Birding.....	7
Kaal of Bedek – Dit is die Vraag!.....	9
What Birds Arrived When in Pretoria? .....	10
Our Club: The People .....	12
Keep off my Land!!! .....	14
A Bucket List or Two .....	16
Personal Names Commemorated in the Common Names of Southern African Bird Species .....	17
Friedrich Heinrich Freiherr von Kittlitz.....	20
New 'Bald' Bird Discovered .....	22
In Your Garden.....	23
BLNG Outing in Search of the Yellow-throated Sandgrouse.....	23
Random Harvest Nursery, Muldersdrift.....	24
Tough Birding in Sydney, Australia .....	25
A Twitch of Spice .....	27
Die Lewe Voor en Na Eshowe.....	29
Rarities and Unusual Sightings Report.....	31
Violet Turaco in Pretoria North.....	34
Atlasing Suikerbosrand Nature Reserve.....	35

### Credits

**Front cover:** Immature Black-shouldered Kite/  
Onvolwasse Blouvalkie (Gina Wilgenbus)

**Back cover:** Cuckoo Hawk /Koekoekvalk  
(Clive Kaplan)

Birding facts taken from *Everything you always  
wanted to know about birds* by Stephen Moss.



## *Chairperson's Report/ Voorsittersverslag*

*Philip Calinikos*

In the previous issue of *Laniarius*, there was a wonderful article written by our dear President, Pauline Leinberger, entitled "Our Club: an introduction" which transported me quickly into nostalgia mode. I still vividly remember the very first bird club camp that my wife and I attended some 25 years ago at the Doorndraai Dam Nature Reserve between what were then known as the towns of Naboomspruit and Potgietersrus. Being newcomers to the club, and unaware of all the "etiquettes" associated with club camping, we must have looked like a pair of aliens from space to the regulars. Our total camping outfit consisted of a third hand pup tent, two stretchers, a pair of sleeping bags and a few tins of food.

Fortunately a most helpful gentleman approached us and politely enquired whether we were members of the Northern Transvaal Ornithological Society and whether he could be of assistance. The gentleman, who was most elegantly dressed, complete with collar and tie, was of course Mr TC van Eeden who we later learnt was the Honorary Secretary of NTOS. He invited us to join the rest of the members at the communal fire that night. Having nothing else to sit on, we lugged our two stretchers up to the fire, opened a couple of food tins and watched in awe as the regulars went about their business of calling the day's list, braising meat, baking bread, studying the stars and identifying all the nocturnal sounds around us.

Having survived this baptism of fire, we were very quickly accepted into the group. Many, many wonderful camps followed and it was thrilling to be out with knowledgeable members who coaxed and encouraged us to

identify "lifers" such as Thick-billed Cuckoo, Yellow-bellied Eremomela, Sooty Falcon and Bushveld Pipit. Even though leaders were nominated on the programme, camps were fairly relaxed affairs, with couples and small groups breaking away during the day to "do their own thing" and inwardly wishing that they could find a bird that nobody else would have by the time the evening list was called!

Jerking myself back to the present, I realise that even though times have changed some traditions still survive. As in the past, the club's programme of activities still consist primarily of the monthly evening meeting/talk, day outings, weekend camps and bird ringing. A welcome addition to our activities however are the special events such as trips to more exotic far away locations as well as other fund-raising activities. Finding space for all these diverse activities always presents a challenge to our hard working Programme and Activities Sub-committee.

The structure of these activities has been debated by the Committee from time to time with a view to satisfying the disparate needs of you our members. The needs of a novice birdwatcher can be very different to those of a 700-plus experienced twitcher! I believe that a balance has to be achieved in order not to disillusion any members. With this in mind, we as a committee welcome any feedback you may have regarding club activities, based on your experiences. Please feel free to contact me at [chairperson@blng.co.za](mailto:chairperson@blng.co.za) with both your positive and negative comments.

Yours in birding.

*Philip*

# Club News/Klubnuus

## **BirdLife SA Annual General Meeting in Wakkerstroom: 19-22 March 2010**

The 81st Annual General Meeting of BirdLife South Africa will be held in the Mpumalanga country town of Wakkerstroom over the long weekend of 19-22 March 2010. This event will be hosted by the Gauteng Regional Forum (a consortium of Gauteng based bird clubs) in association with BirdLife SA. Wakkerstroom is known locally and internationally as an Important Bird Area (IBA) and is refuge to at least three high altitude grassland endemic bird species. A range of great events, activities and field outings are being planned, and more details will be made available in future issues of your club newsletter/magazine/website, on the BLSA website [www.birdlife.org.za](http://www.birdlife.org.za), and in future issues of *Africa Birds and Birding*.

Please note this date in your diary now as you make your travel plans for 2010. Accommodation in Wakkerstroom is limited, and will be allocated on a 'first come first served' basis. Booking for the AGM and accommodation booking information will be made available shortly.

### **Laniarius prize**

It has been decided to award two prizes of R50 each for the two best articles in each issue of the newsletter to reward more contributors as there really have been some good articles of late and to encourage more people to write. The winners from the last issue are Etienne Marais for his article on atlasing his home patch entitled *A Great (Local) Birding Adventure*, and Sue Oertli for her atlasing story called *Pipped at the Post by Seven Points*. Furthermore, a special prize has been awarded to Sandra Dippenaar and Pauline Leinberger for the magnificent series chronicling the life and times of Austin Roberts. Congratulations to the winners!

## **LBJ course with Faansie Peacock: 7-8 November**

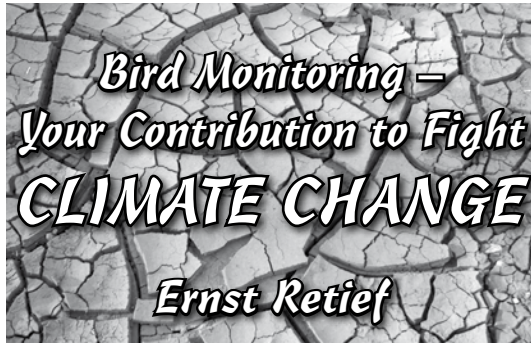
Who better than Faansie to give us a two day course on the identification and calls of our local LBJs? A chance to get to grips with pipits, larks and cisticolas and the process of identifying them. The course costs only R250 per person and the expertise of our expert author and local birder will be invaluable in learning something about this challenging group of birds. Call Rita now to book your place.

## **Hunt for the Great Bittern: 13-17 November**

Join us in Creighton, KZN, where we will be looking for the Great Bittern and other specials from the area including: Cape Parrot, Forest Buzzard, Dark-capped Yellow Warbler, Drakensberg Prinia, Gurney's Sugarbird, Olive Woodpecker, Black-winged Lapwing, Bush Blackcap, Barratt's Warbler and many more. The price of only R2 400 includes all transportation, meals, accommodation and use of an expert local guide in Creighton and surrounds. You just need to make your way there. There is place for only 12 people so please get your booking to Rita as soon as possible.

## **Northern Farm bird guides**

There are now two bird guides based at this interesting venue near Pretoria and Joburg who are familiar with the farm and are on hand to guide local and visiting birders for a nominal fee. Contact Thabiso Lehlokoa 0733750876 or Vincent Simango 0732755988 if you are interested in using their services. Currently visits to this venue are restricted to weekends and public holidays, however it may be possible in the near future for midweek visits to take place with the guides. An update will be provided.



### What is climate change?

The title of the book written by Thomas L Friedman: *Hot, flat and crowded*, sums up in a few words his view of the challenges that humans face with regard to environmental issues globally. The world is getting hotter, flatter (in an economic sense) and more crowded every day. The book makes for some fascinating although somewhat disturbing reading. According to Friedman our natural environment is already under tremendous pressure from factors such as pollution, habitat destruction and population growth, but what is to come will be even worse. And in line with the name of his book he mentions three factors:

- The world is getting more *crowded* everyday. According to the United Nations the world's population will grow by more than 2.5 billion people in approximately 40 years – this is more people than the world's population in 1950! The Population Reference Bureau reported in 2009 as follows – “Even with declining fertility rates in many countries, world population is still growing at a rapid rate....The increase from 6 billion to 7 billion is likely to take 12 years, as did the increase from 5 billion to 6 billion. Both events are unprecedented in world history.”
- The world is getting *flatter* in an economic sense. With political boundaries becoming more open and new communication channels more and more people can participate in the global economy. Most of these people strive to live the American Dream – a lifestyle that is largely responsible for global warming.
- Thirdly the world is also getting *hotter*. And it is getting hotter at a rate not experienced before in history. This is not the place to discuss the technical details but the fact is that we produce more greenhouse gasses than ever before and in so doing create a world that is getting a little bit warmer day by day.

Friedman then continues by describing the massive growth of economies in China, India and other Middle East countries. Countries that use the flattening effect of the world economic stage to its fullest and create economies that, in comparison to economies in Europe, are quite mind boggling. For example, when India's income rose by 7.5% in 2007, it did so by more than the total annual income of countries such as Portugal, Norway or Denmark!

Although we cannot expect these countries to limit their economic growth it does mean that the factors that contribute to global warming will now grow not linearly but exponentially! More cars on the roads, more energy needed to drive electronic equipment and more resources to feed people and build houses. The number of greenhouse gases that will be pumped into the air will be more than ever before, creating environmental problems not only in those countries but globally.

Friedman is not alone in his opinion that we are in for a rough ride. BirdLife International, in their 2008 publication *BirdLife International's Position on Climate Change*, makes the following statement:

*“Climate change and the alarming rate of biodiversity decline worldwide are the*

*most important human-induced environmental challenges that society faces today. Policy must strive to address both of these closely inter-related challenges at the same time. Many other processes threaten biodiversity and will be compounded by climate change. Urgent action continues to be required to address these pressures”.*

One of the most interesting statements made in *Hot, flat and crowded* relates to how our view of Mother Nature has or should change. As human beings we could always accuse Mother Nature when a hurricane or a storm destroys houses and human life with a veracity that we as human beings cannot comprehend. But not so anymore – for the first time in human history we are in some way “responsible” for some of these storms. Time will tell if we also have the ability and willingness to correct our errant ways?

### **The result of climate change on bird populations**

A world that gets hot, flat and crowded also has an effect on bird populations. In the above mentioned report by BirdLife International it is indicated that during the last 50 years *ecosystems have changed at a rate as not seen before in human history*. The result of this change on birds is two-fold:

- Threatened species are becoming more threatened. The report indicated that in 1988, 1226 bird species or 12% of the world population of birds were globally threatened, with 190 facing “imminent” extinction.
- There is a worrying decline in numbers of many common species. The National Audubon Society in America recently reported alarming declines in common bird species – some species have declined by as much as 70-82% since 1967 when the study started. Global warming is listed as one of the causes for this tendency: *“Greater Scaup and other tundra-breeding birds are succumbing to dramatic changes to their breeding habitat as the permafrost melts earlier and more tem-*

*perate predators move north in a likely response to global warming”.*

### **The value of birds as indicators of environmental change**

Motivational speakers always tell us to change, in life or workplace, negatives into positives. I suppose the same is true here. The mere fact that birds are so easily influenced by changes in the environment suggests that they must be good indicators of environmental change. A view supported by BirdLife International (see [www.birdlife.org](http://www.birdlife.org)). In a short essay about the value of birds as indicators of environmental change the following reasons are provided as support:

- We already have lots of information about birds and their biology and life histories are well understood; making it a little bit easier to understand changes that might occur.
- Birds occur all over the world; so environmental change can be monitored all over the world.
- Birds occur in lots of habitats; the effect of climate change in most habitats can therefore be monitored.
- Many individual species are specialised in their requirements and have narrow distributions.
- Birds are mobile and responsive to environmental changes; they are thus the proverbial canary in a coal mine.

It is also interesting to note that the United Kingdom has chosen to add changes in bird populations as a subset of their 15 headline Quality of Life indicators.<sup>1</sup> Under the main indicator *Protecting our natural resources and enhancing the environment* bird populations are included as an indicator. The following categories of birds are included: farmland birds, woodland birds, sea birds and wintering wetland birds. The indicators make for interesting reading, some more positive than others:

<sup>1</sup> <http://www.defra.gov.uk/sustainable/government/progress/national/natural-resources.htm>

- Farmland bird populations fell by 51% between 1970 and 2007. The index dropped by 28% between 1990 and 2007.
- In 2007, woodland bird populations were 20% lower than in 1970 and 17% lower than in 1990.
- Populations increased between 1970 and 1987 by 37% and have remained stable since then.
- The overall wetland birds population increased by 57% between 1975-6 and 2006-7. The population increased by 64% between 1975-6 and 1996-7.
- Between 1975-6 and 2006-7, wader populations increased by 44%. During the same period wildfowl populations increased by 62%, although they decreased by 5% between 2005-6 and 2006-7.



*Dune Lark: the African Important Bird Area (IBA) network will be an essential tool for conserving the region's breeding species in the face of climate change*

It is thus no surprise that in a document of 2008 entitled *BirdLife International's Position on Climate change*, bird monitoring is listed as one of the BirdLife's key policy messages on climate change. The policy statement reads as follows:

*"There is a need for further studies, including monitoring and modelling, to understand the impacts of climate change on birds and biodiversity, and how this is related to development and human livelihoods needs, particularly in developing countries"*

The report expands on this statement by making a commitment to work together with the scientific community to "assess climate change impacts on species, sites and habitats under future climate scenarios, especially through monitoring studies". Bird monitoring projects are also linked with the Important Bird Areas Network by assessing the impact of climate change on these areas and to make recommendations as to how the effects of climate

change can be mitigated in these areas.

### **Bird monitoring in South Africa**

South Africa has a proud record with regard to bird monitoring projects and the Animal Demography Unit, established in 1991 and now residing within the Department of Zoology at the University of Cape Town, took the leading role. In

close co-operation with Birdlife South Africa and SANBI they have launched a number of projects such as the first southern African Bird Atlas Project, South African Bird Ringing Unit (SAFRING), Coordinated Waterbird Counts (CWAC), Birds in Reserve Project (BIRP) and Coordinated Avifaunal Road counts (CAR), to name a few.

However the fact is that without the help of ordinary birders these projects would never have been the success that they were and still are. The term citizen scientist was coined to describe the valuable contribution that citizens can make to monitor bird populations. For example more than 2 000 birders submitted regular lists to SABAP1 and more than 7 000 at least one list!

### **A call to contribute to bird monitoring programmes**

Reading all of the above you might, as I did, feel overwhelmed by the sheer size of the problem. How can an individual such as me battle all the economic, political, social and other factors mentioned above. I can do nothing about the growth of population in China. The fact is, as individuals we can't. As individuals we can take steps to limit our carbon footprint by recycling and to use electricity and other resources efficiently, to name some measures.

But as birders we can also contribute to bird monitoring projects and in so doing



provide information that can be used to monitor climate change, as I tried to show in the discussion above. By participating in bird monitoring projects we add to the information pool about birds, changes in bird populations and migration patterns. From this data pool managers in government and NGOs can make the strategic decisions in order to fight the war against climate change. Your information will provide the statistics that can appear in a report to convince government to implement environmental legislation more strictly or to make adjustments to the budget in order to make provision for programmes that better our environment. Your ringing recovery might be the bit of information a scientist needs to show

that migration patterns have changed, maybe with dire consequences for a species.

It is my belief that as birders we have a responsibility to not only enjoy and appreciate our wonderful avian diversity, but also take the responsibility to monitor and conserve. The fact is that if we neglect this responsibility another species will soon be listed as vulnerable – *Homo sapiens*.

## References

Thomas L. Friedman. 2008. *Hot, Flat and Crowded*. Penguin, London.

BirdLife International. 2008. *BirdLife International's Position on Climate Change*. Cambridge, UK. □

# *The Universal Laws of Birding: What Two Decades of Birding Has Taught Me*

*Faansie Peacock*

**W**hy is it that you always encounter the most exciting birds at the most inopportune moments? Why is it that the birds that are most difficult to identify never present good views? Why do raptors always fly over whenever you don't have your binoculars handy? Reflecting on these frustrations I came up with a few pseudo-scientific principles that 20 years of birding has taught me. Some of these were adapted from the entertaining [www.speakingofbirds.com](http://www.speakingofbirds.com).

**Avian Marxism:** Upon exposure, the elitist society of megaticks is involuntarily overthrown and its members are forced into a lower social class. In other words, once you have seen an elusive bogey bird once, it suddenly becomes ridiculously common and you see it everywhere!

**Coetzee's Law of Relativity:** Relative to the birder, there are two sides of a bush: The side you are looking at, and the side the bird is at.

**Cooper's Cooperative Conundrum:** In observing a cooperative individual of a difficult-to-identify species, the most important identification criterion will be the only one you don't bother to look for. [Note: If the bird is ridiculously cooperative, it is not a rare species].

**Deighton's Inverse Wader Distance Law:** The rarer a species of wader, the further from the observer it will be, particularly if there is heat haze, a fence denoting private land or a waterbody between the observer and the bird.

**Eksteen's Attention-deficit Disorder:** The moment you break optical contact with a bird (e.g. to look at your field guide), is the exact moment the bird will choose to stretch and reveal its wing pattern. In addition, the moment you choose to run back to the car for another field guide, is the moment the bird will choose to take flight.

## **Fieldwick's Statistical Law:**

Law 1: Common birds are more common than rare ones.

Law 2: Abberant, albinistic, leucistic, melanistic, variant or deformed common birds are still more common than rare ones.

**Geyser's Nemesis Principle:** If you fail in seeing a particular species after a certain amount of attempts, that species becomes insulted and will avoid you on purpose in future. [Note: The amount of attempts allowed diminishes in accordance to how far you have to travel to get into the distribution range of said species, in accordance with Terblanche's Theorem of Diminishing Returns].

**Groenewald's Gull:** You will learn more about plumage variation, sexes, feather wear and ageing of Grey-headed Gulls in 30 minutes of looking for a Franklin's Gull than you would in 20 years of looking at Grey-headed Gulls. [Note: You are far more likely to find a rarity (e.g. Franklin's Gull), in a polluted, smelly, concrete-bounded reservoir than at a pristine, picturesque, natural lake].

**Hardaker's Mass Function:** If you need a scope, it's in the trunk of your car. If you don't need one, it's on your shoulder.

**Hazell's Photographic Addendum:** When carrying a telephoto lens, a bird will always land outside the minimum focus range. Conversely, when carrying a wide-angle or macro lens, a bird will always land outside of the maximum focus range.

**Heyns' Mortality Memorandum:** Birds can only be ticked if they are positively identified *before* they hit the windshield.

**Kaplan's Photographic Hierarchy:** The best photographic opportunities will arise when you decide to leave your hefty camera at home for the day.

**Kay's Law:** Woodpeckers spend most of their time foraging *behind* the trunk, warblers are always *deep inside* reedbeds and raptors always soar *too high* in the sky.

**Kemp's Principle of Raptor Identification:**

When identifying raptors, the following four rules apply:

Law 1: It's a Black-shouldered Kite

Law 2: It's a Pied Crow.

Law 3: It's a Steppe Buzzard.

Law 4: It's NOT an Ayre's Eagle/Rüppell's Vulture/African Hobby.

**Leinberger's Wishful Thinking Hypothesis:**

Casually mentioning a particular species will often result in said species showing up immediately. [Note: Useful as a counter-strategy to Terblanche's Theorem of Diminishing Returns].

**Lockwood's Corollary of Urban Birding:**

Rare species are also enjoyed by dogs let off their leash by their owners.

**McAllister's Employment Equilibrium:**

Birds first reported on a Wednesday will be gone by Saturday morning.

**Montinaro Law:** In species which can only be distinguished by relative size, the perceived size will always be greater than a similar common but smaller species, or less than another common but bigger species, i.e. the perceived size is always equal to the size of the species you want it to be.

**Oertli's Nutritional Exception:**

The best birds will always appear the moment you have a scalding hot cup of coffee in your hand.

**Marais Principle of Geographic Affinity:**

The best birds are always just outside the geographical area your list is restricted to, whether said area pertains to a garden, pentad, province, Birding Big Day radius or national border.

**Peacock's Pipit Paradigm:**

When identifying pipits, the following three rules apply:

Law 1: It's an African Pipit.

Law 2: It's an African Pipit.

Law 3: It's an aberrant African Pipit.

**Penlington's Photographic Addendum:**

The level of rarity of a particular species is inversely

proportional to remaining battery time on your camera.

**Ravno's Photographic Addendum:** The lens you have is never long enough.

**Retief's Law of Accipiters:** Sparrowhawks are well aware of their diagnostic features: when one suddenly dashes overhead, it will always be flying at such an angle that the diagnostic rump/breast/tail/eye is obscured from the observer.

**Sinclair's Rarity Constant:** The privilege of adding new species to a country's list is disproportionately awarded to single individual birders.

**Terblanche's Theorem of Diminishing Returns:** The chance of twitching a rarity is

inversely proportionate to the distance travelled and amount spent. [Note: The chance of encountering said rarity on your bird feeder at home is however, directly proportional to the abovementioned variables].

**Van Deventer's Law of Relativity:** The bird will always be between the sun and the birder.

**Van Vuuren's immobility theory:** The birder who stays behind in the car will invariably see the target species at close quarters.

**Whittington-Jones' substitution Parallelism:** If you see an interesting raptor sitting on a telephone and proceed to decelerate, pull over, reverse, get your binoculars and take a look, it will be a dove. If the same process is followed for a passerine, it will be a bulbul. □

## *Kaal of Bedek – Dit is die Vraag!*

*Neels Roos*

**N**a aanleiding van Elke Geggus se waarneming dat blootgestelde grond na verwydering van grondbedekkers voëls onmiddellik angelok het enkele waarnemings uit ons eie tuin.

Ek het onlangs 'n baie digte Deurmekaarbos vir die eerste keer in meer as 40 jaar gesnoei omdat dit so 'n groot area ingeneem het en onderlangs hoofsaaklik uit droë takke bestaan het. Onder die struik het niks anders gegroei nie met die gevolg dat 'n area van seker  $\pm 30 \text{ m}^2$  grond daarna totaal blootgestel was. Tot ons verbasing het Dikbekwewers, Bruinlysters, Janfrederikke, Tiptolle, Waterfiskale asook Rooibors- en Grootringduiwe daarna fees gevier in die gebied. Die aanloop, as mens dit so kan noem, het egter geleidelik getaan waarskynlik omdat die kos wat blootgelê was weldra opgepik was.

Die les wat hieruit geleer kan word is dat kaal grond as sulks nie op die langtermyn ideaal is nie en ek is seker dit was ook nie wat

Elke in gedagte gehad het nie. Ons vind dat grond wat permanent kaal bly, bv. waar die grasperk nie wil groei onder bome soos die Witstinkhout nie, wat bedek word met 'n lagie molm van gewisselde boomblare wel sy permanente aantrekkingskrag vir bogenoemde voëls behou mits dit af en toe natgemaak word.

Verder moet mens ook nie vergeet nie dat grondbedekkers eintlik 'n uitstekende teelaarde en skuilplek is vir slakke en 'n groot verskeidenheid ander gedierteties wat op hulle beurt kos is vir ander spesies soos Hadedas, Vleiloeries, Natalse fisante, selfs Waterfiskale, om maar enkeles te noem, en dus ook 'n rol te speel het.

'n Wilderige tuin met 'n verskeidenheid van voëlvriendelike struike en ander plante, selfs grondbedekkers hier en daar, asook baie waterpunte bly maar die ideale milieu om 'n groter verskeidenheid van voëls te lok. 'n Komposhoop wat reg hanteer word is ook 'n aanwinst want daar wemel dit van houtluise, spinnekoppe, papies ens. – asook voëls! □

# What Birds Arrived When in Pretoria?

Alan and Meg Kemp

When we arrived in Pretoria at the end of 1969, it was as a naïve and newly married Zimbabwean and Zambian couple, with no experience of the birds found in what is now Gauteng, but with great excitement at the possibilities available. Our initial mentor and immediate boss at the Transvaal Museum (TM), was O.P.M. 'Oom Proz' Prozesky, and one of the first birds he wanted to show us was Green Wood-Hoopoes nesting under the eaves of his thatched house in Brooklyn Street. It was, to his knowledge, the first record of their breeding in the city. Other early influences were Miles Markus, then a lecturer at Tukkies, Warwick Tarboton, then a geologist at Olfantsfontein, and Peter Mendelsohn, a horticulturalist at the Tuks Experimental Farm. Gradually we found our feet and by 1980, when Meg swapped fulltime ornithology for motherhood, she had completed maps for all the birds then known in the old Transvaal (and we published these later in 1987 under Warwick's leadership). Initially we lived in a rondawel in Pretoria North, before moving to our present farmhouse in Navors (alongside Brummeria), and so our birding has been confined mostly to these sections of the

city and the routes that link them to the TM. On weekends we tended to head out to more distant locations, but we were never great listers or note-takers, too much like 'work', and so the observations that follow lack details of date or conditions, some of which you may be able to refine, extend and improve.

Another bird that we made a special trip to see soon after our arrival was found at that time only as a few pairs around the Swartkops Airbase (or else in selected areas of northern Johannesburg), the Common Myna! How things have changed, and this prompted us to jot down a few of the other avian developments we have detected in Pretoria's birds. The next and most obvious birds to appear as regular breeders, in the order that we recall but without exact dates, were Grey Go-away-birds (~1985?), Woodland Kingfishers (~1990), African Grey Hornbills (~1995?), Thick-billed Weavers (~1998?), Cut-throat Finches (~2000?), African Green-Pigeons (~2005) and, most recently, African Olive-Pigeons and African Goshawks (2008 for Brummeria). Most species were recorded before they arrived in force, some even breeding at some special locality, but the order and dates reflect when they became widespread and common.

Other birds were visitors to the city but never apparently formed resident breeding populations except on the outskirts, such as birds from the Magaliesberg, most notably Verreaux's Eagles but also Cape Eagle-Owls and Freckled Nightjars. Others came from the bushveld to the north in only the very driest summers, most obviously White-crested Helmet-Shrikes, but also Purple Rollers. One of the latter was present at a small vacant plot in Brummeria over two non-successive winters that followed on dry summers, feeding each late afternoon on harvester termites active on the surface as Alan passed by on his bicycle from work. Others included White-backed



Gareth Hazell

*Grey Go-away-bird/Kwêvoël: arrived in the mid-1980s.*

Mousebirds, Red-headed Finches and African Red-eyed Bulbuls, probably shifting eastwards from their core areas in the arid west during droughts, although they too now occur more regularly not far west of Pretoria.

Some birds may have always been present in Pretoria, but were either so uncommon or so cryptic that they were overlooked. African Cuckoo Hawks seemed to appear most commonly somewhere between the grey go-away-birds and hornbills, even breeding in Brummeria on the plot of the Boshoff family. We only ever saw the birds once or twice a year, and only found their nest when the gum tree in which it was situated was felled and two chicks handed in to the nearby and expert rehabilitator Emsie Mohr! Were they so cryptic that we rarely saw them, or were we so unobservant as we passed the site on our evening strolls?

Finally, there are the species that probably only visit Pretoria on migration, either as they pass over to other areas and habitats (Kurri-chane Buttonquail, Bronze-winged Courser), or stay for a while in patches of habitat before they return to where they breed and belong (Buff-spotted Flufftail).

Pretoria has certainly changed over the years, from when it had considerable wild game and such birds as Southern Ground-Hornbills at the Fountains Valley in the first half of the 19<sup>th</sup> Century (Craig & Hummel 1998), White-necked Raven in the Magaliesberg and even Bateleur north of Wonderboom in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. The main habitat change has been from extensive grasslands between the wooded ridges to the well-wooded suburbs that are becoming established in some areas to resemble an exotic form of tropical forest. Various plant species now provide a variety of fruits and seeds, sprinkler systems ensure a year-round 'rainfall', and nest logs provide an abundance of breeding sites. There are also many more new bodies of water than the few streams originally present and so waterbirds are surely much more obvious than before, including African Fish-Eagles.

The original bird lists for Austin Roberts Bird Sanctuary, Oom Proz's pet project, included Long-tailed Widowbirds, Cape Longclaw and



Gareth Hazell

*African Grey Hornbill/Grysneshoringvoël: became established as a breeding species in the 1990s*

other grassland species, while other species that are now widespread probably came from reservoirs on the Magaliesberg (African Olive-Pigeon) or in the northern bushveld (most other immigrants). Just have a look at old photographs of Pretoria, such as at the Sammy Marks Museum, to see how considerable have been the changes in habitat. It also seems likely that some species are continuing their spread even now, wood-hoopoes now extend far onto the grasslands east and south of Pretoria into the trees around dwellings, hornbills also visit these habitats, and most recently we were almost caught out by an African Olive-Pigeon perched on a pylon cable above a maize land near Delmas!

When told that a bird had been recorded at a new locality, Oom Proz's stock response was "Well birds can fly, you know!", and there are certainly always individuals being found that are testing the limits of their range. However, when permanent range expansions occur something else seems to happen. The new species does not just slowly creep into a new area, say into Pretoria from the bushveld to the north, but rather it 'explodes' and is suddenly reported widely over its new range. The late Ken Newman of field guide fame, especially active in the Sandton-Randburg area, was, to

our recall, the first to report the go-away-bird and cuckoo hawk arrivals, and maybe some others. With the Common Myna, we know that it remained confined to specific areas for many years before its 'explosive radiation', and this probably indicates a period of genetic and behavioural adaptation before it was 'ready' for its adopted habitats, and maybe something similar occurs for indigenous species.

In the light of all this, it will be interesting to see what changes in distribution and status SABAP2 will reveal when compared with SABAP1. In the meantime, our club records of early lists from various localities (e.g. Pretoria North, Austin Roberts Sanctuary, Zoutpan/Tswaing), then Warwick and Meg's atlas of 'die ou' Transvaal, and finally Etienne and Faansie's 2008 masterpiece for Gauteng, give us particular insights into our own local 'patch'. Maybe now is the time to test our knowledge and intuition about the status and ecology of Pretoria's birds and their habitats, with a

prize for the best answer to be awarded in 10 years time? What will be the next five species to become breeding residents in Pretoria, and in which year(s) will they first be recorded breeding? Our candidates/guesses are African Wood-Owl, Pearl-spotted Owlet, Southern Yellow-billed Hornbill, Terrestrial Brownbul and Yellow-bellied Greenbul, but when and in what order we have no idea!

Marais, E. & Peacock, F. 2008. *The Chamberlain Guide to Birding Gauteng*. Mirafr Publishing, Centurion.  
Tarboton, W.R., Kemp, M.I., & Kemp, A.C. 1987. *Birds of the Transvaal*. Transvaal Museum, Pretoria.

*(This is a fascinating topic and is what atlasing efforts will indeed show; other birds that have shown an increase in range into parts of Gauteng are Dark-capped Yellow Warbler, now found at Rooiwal and even Vaalkop NR, and Long-crested Eagle, which occurs at a number of localities in the province – Ed.)* □

## Our Club: The People

*Pauline Leinberger*

Any club is made up of people of different shapes and sizes, professions, and languages, but with a common interest. Ours, of course had its interest centred on birds, veering off at tangents at times into trees, astronomy, geology and flowers, even snakes... and thereby hangs a tale or two. My mentor Kay was always disgusted if anyone should dare to wander off in search of flowers as the "Botany Girls" were in the habit of doing.

Kay Winterton was born in 1907 and brought up in the Karoo – woe betide anyone she caught wasting water. She was one of the first woman students who graduated from Cape Town University's medical school. She was a clinic doctor in the Transvaal before she retired, travelling far and wide through the area and visiting outlying clinics. She never practiced as a doctor, and indeed when any medical

problem occurred on any of our trips she would keep very quiet and far in the background. In fact, when Tina van Eeden broke her arm at Diepsloot, or Northern Farm as it is known today, another capable lady had to come to the rescue.

Kay didn't hold a position on the committee but when I joined the club she was the catalyst who kept things going. She was at every outing and camp, loving the sight and smell of the bush and was ready for any adventure that might come her way. Totally fearless, she was never tired or hungry. She had the rest of us lesser mortals collapsing from heat and fatigue and fainting from hunger before she would call it quits at the end of the day.

Kay was the "right hand man" to the chairman, Peter Mendelsohn, an ex-Kenyan whose son John was at school at Settlers at that time



*A cartoon depicting the late Kay Winterton riding off on a tractor*

and who many years later joined the Windhoek Museum as their ornithologist. John's wife Celia was involved with the translation of bird names into Afrikaans in the 1980s. He conducted a study of the Black-shouldered Kite that resulted in frequent raptor trapping jaunts to the Springbok Flats armed with bel chatri traps containing mice, which must have become totally blasé about these flapping creatures attacking from above. Peter was quite happy to include his son's friends as long as his tent was erected and he was supplied with a beer. It was on one such trip that I was lucky enough to appreciate the full beauty of a kite lying in its captor's arms. It was then too I think that we saw a blonde Tawny Eagle standing like a statue in a wheat field.

Kay, it was, who instilled in me the vital importance of a tea basket. This came a very close second to the birding. Kay's basket contained 4 melamine cups and saucers, four small flasks of boiling water and tea bags in a baking powder tin. There were always crumpets made by her maid, Dolly.

Those early years of atlasing with Kay gave us great opportunities to learn our birds, accuracy being of prime importance as we had to have our sightings "vetted" by Kay, who,

in turn, had to answer directly to Alan Kemp and Warwick Tarboton. Many a novice birder retreated in confusion when questioned by Kay at the reading of the list after an outing.

Maps were of course an essential piece of equipment in the days before a GPS would tell you where to go. It was interesting to be asked by Kay, very often sitting in the back seat, "which way do you want to go, right or left?" There then would ensue a rustling while Kay wrestled with a large 1:250 map and always a decision to go the opposite way to the one we had suggested. This used to drive Davidine up the wall until we decided to request the way we didn't want to go... This worked like a charm for many years.

Doreen was a member of Dr Winterton's Birds' Club (a name coined during a hilarious drizzly evening in Dullstroom, well warmed with red wine). Doreen Goetz, wife of Martin, had eyes like a proverbial hawk and could spot an owl sitting quietly in the middle of a tree while travelling at considerable speed. Martin was on the committee at that time and was a fine photographer. The two of them produced some great quiz evenings, always with the prize of a framed enlargement of one of Martin's fine pictures. They owned a powder blue "combi"

but it was never Doreen's lot to share the front seat with her husband. That place was reserved for the photographic equipment. Doreen had the back all to herself and there she sat like a mouse, never stirring a muscle if there should be a bird posing on a branch. A story I'll always remember concerns one of their trips to Mkuzi. They were walking along the long path to one of the hides, Martin in front carrying the camera and Doreen behind him with his large lens in her arms. Suddenly out of an overhanging tree a large Boomslang dropped right onto

her arms. In a split second she had to decide whether to risk her husband's ire or the snake's bite. Fortunately the story had a happy ending – the lens was intact and the snake slithered harmlessly off into the undergrowth. Doreen today spends her days surrounded by the framed enlargements of Martin's exquisite pictures. Many of his original slides form a nucleus of the club's digital collection of fine pictures.

We'll hear more of "Lilian of the Nile" and other members of Dr Winterton's Birds' Club later. □

## ***KEEP OFF MY LAND!!!***

### ***Keeping the Birding Riff-Raff of the Rhenosterspruit Conservancy (Pentad 2550\_2755)***

***John Bannon***

This is the pentad north of Northern Farm, which I have adopted as my home pentad. It has a good variety of habitats, from pristine grassland and acacia bushveld to hills and kopies, plus several marshy areas and dams and various agricultural holdings. Consequently, it has a current verified bird list of some 200 species and I atlas there every time I can – around a dozen times or so, to date.

Not being particularly shy and also somewhat curious by nature, I regard any fences, gates or walls, especially those with 'Keep Out or Private' notices prominently displayed, as really nothing more than a polite invitation to enquire within. As yet, touch wood, I haven't had a hostile reception by any of my landowners or been savaged by boerbucks. Quite the opposite in fact and by chatting to MY property-owners, previously barred gates have been opened for me, truly unlocking the species potential of MY pentad. Recently, a pair of 'bugling' Blue Cranes came my way, entirely because of asking permission to bird on a property, plus news of several owl species I haven't yet seen on MY pentad. Plus, the local gossip can be as equally as interesting I can tell

you – and the Egoli-type SABC TV soap operas, have nothing on the goings on in 2550\_2755. To date on MY pentad, I have variously been offered the whereabouts of a five-metre Rock Python's nest; a relaxing massage; Afrikaans lessons and reports of Melodious Larks.

Let me explain to you the MY pentad bit. You see, here in Little Britain, everyone is allocated their own unique list of tetrads (2 km x 2 km squares) to cover – I currently have 19 – and woe betide the 'birding trespasser' who wanders on to your territory, especially if they find any NEW birds for your patch. To be honest, the UK atlasing rules aren't that specific about it, but I'm sure that I'm perfectly within my rights to set non-lethal traps for potential intruders. When these transgressors are caught birding/trespassing, they are immediately 'tarred and feathered' and then driven off MY patch using rotten cabbages, rancid tomatoes and if available sharpened turnips, which really hurts I can tell you. I'm also scanning through the pages of 'Farming Weekly' to assess the use of high-voltage cattle-prods, for use on repeat offenders.

My perfect retirement pad also awaits me on the Rhenosterspruit Conservancy, for





*John Bannon  
surveying his  
domain*

André Marx

something like R1,5 million I believe. It has a wonderful location, perched on the flanks of a koppie, complete with Short-toed Rock Thrushes (*pretoriae* subspecies of course) and also abundant other wildlife including Brown Hyenas and rumours of Leopards. It's called the 'Kop' and even though it's not your fault, you poor, rugby-imprinted BLNGers, you should know that although the Spioenkop is the site of a great Boer victory against the TrueBrits, it also represents something much more important.

The REAL Spioenkop is that seething mass of red and white humanity who loudly proclaim that 'You'll Never Walk Alone' – those unique

supporters of Liverpool FC, of whom I'm proud to say, I am but one. The passion and glory of being a true Koppite is perhaps best summed up by our famous, now sadly deceased former manager Bill Shankly, who stated in his unmistakable Celtic tones... 'yer see laddie, soccer is not a matter of life and death – it's much more important than that!'

So you have all been given 'fair warning' – the Egyptian goose feathers are already plucked; the bucket of tar is on simmer and I have already instigated the sharpening of various sized veggies. You enter the Rhenoster-spruit Conservancy entirely at your own risk and you should know – I have spies everywhere. ☐

## ***Donations/Donasies***

*The following donations are for the period November 2008-August 2009, for which the members concerned are thanked/Die volgende donasies is vir die tydperk November 2008-Augustus 2009 en die lede word hartlik bedank.*

WD Viljoen, GE la Chevallerie, HJ Hermannsen, Des Blignaut, Selma du Preez, Pieter Blanche, Jill Corlett, Ise Du Plessis, Nic Efthimiades, Anthony Cooper, S Tremeer, Rita de Meillon, D van Stuyvenberg, Elmien Adendorff, Karen Fourie, Amanda Gazendam, Annarie Hugo, Clive Kaplan, Christiaan van der Merwe, Sunette van der Walt, Johan Verloren van Themaat, Susan Velthuisen, Elba Swart.

*The following leaders have kindly donated their gratuities to the club/ Die volgende leiers het goedgunstelik hulle vergoeding aan die klub geskenk:*

Bryan Groom, Stephan Terblanche, Rob Geddes, Lisl van Deventer, Gerrie Jansen van Rensburg, Debbie van Zyl, André Marx, Etienne Marais, Faansie Peacock, Pauline Leinberger.

# A Bucket List or Two

Debbie van Zyl

Thanks to a much appreciated gift voucher received for a recent birthday, I went out and got myself a book I've been eyeing for ages called *"100 Birds To See Before You Die"*. What a book! Beautiful, glossy pages containing photographs and write-ups on some of the world's most beautiful birds from all over the globe have me drooling at every turn of the page. When I showed this book to André, our editor, he made a comment about everyone being able to make their own special lists and this got me thinking...

André was right. The book I had been paging through was someone else's bucket list and after some pensive staring out the window I wondered what was really on Debbie's bucket list. Now if you aren't sure about a bucket list, it's a list of things you'd like to see or do before you die.

So top of my list since as long as I can remember has been a Puffin. I spent a very imaginative childhood dreaming myself into the Famous Five stories and they always seemed to have these adventures on small islands with the inevitable ruined castle being circled by

squawking Rooks. Enid Blyton always mentioned the puffins though. She had a way of colourfully describing them and they crept into my heart from a very young age. Taking a year's work assignment in Scotland a few years ago helped me get this mega tick off my wanted list. That's one out of five with four to go.

So the new bird at the top of the list is a **Shoebill**. I have always been drawn to nature that isn't pretty at first glance. Hyenas and vultures have always got my heart pounding in a special way. Not very well-loved by most but each unique in its own way. A first glance at that tall, grey stork with the really ugly looking bill might have some of you reeling but to me it is one of the most beautiful sights on earth. This large, awkward looking bird has a bill that is uniquely designed for its purpose and watching videos of how it catches those lungfish and frogs gets me smiling. While everyone traipses up the mountain forest looking for gorillas, take me to the nearest swampy area where I can get a look of this magnificent bird.

With three more to go, the list does start to get more interesting. Do I put down all the wonderful birds-of-paradise that have totally fascinated me since seeing David Attenborough's documentary? What about our own Pel's Fishing-Owl that seems to escape me on every trip? No, the next bird on my list is a fairly common one that I've seen throughout most summer outings right here in South Africa. The **Ruff**. The problem is that it isn't just any Ruff that I want to see, it is one up north, parading on its lek, all puffed up with a couple of buddies alongside, trying to pick up a piece of fluff for himself. Seeing pictures of Ruffs in full breeding plumage, dancing around with collars fluffed up and trying to impress the ladies is definitely number three on the list.

So a couple of years ago Betsie comes back from Peru and tells me about this special bird she saw while walking through the forest called



*Andean Cock-of-the-Rock: much sought after species!*

the **Cock-of-the-Rock**. Ho hum I thought, a rather rude-sounding name and it really can't be anything too interesting. Then I saw an A4-size photograph of this bird and was blown away by how spectacular the red feathers showed up against the dark emerald of the forest behind him. Reading more about it, the more I came to know that a trip to Peru will be on my "other" bucket list.

This next one I will admit caught my eye when I first saw the Life of Birds documentary a few years ago, but definitely makes the list. It is unique, occurs in only the remotest areas of New Zealand's small islands and there are only a few left in the wild. The **Kakapo** is truly one of kind and I think what gripped me was the male's lonely walk up the hill in the middle

of the night, booming at his lek into the dark night and getting no hollow calls echoing back at him. Due to it being so rare, maybe this special parrot will have to be seen in a cage rather than out in the wild.

So that's my list. One down and four to go with lots of travel required before I can cross each one off and dream of the next one. I do think that I might just always keep adding to the list as time goes by. I now know I've got something exciting of my own to dream about every time I page through my new coffee table book.

*(Does anyone else have a 'bucket list' of birds they really want to see, either here in South Africa, or abroad? – Ed.)* ☐

## Buffelsdrif Inheemse Kwekery

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Vaderlandswilg, Akasias, Wilde Pruim,  
Worsboom, Rooi Essenhout ens.

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Persoonlike advies oor bome in  
Pretoria en omliggende areas.

Oop Ma-Son op afspraak  
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## Personal Names Commemorated in the Common Names of Southern African Bird Species

*John Bannon*

According to the latest edition of *Roberts Bird Guide*, 75 individual personal names are commemorated in the common names of no less than 95 Southern African bird species. I had often wondered how and why these species came to be named after Abdim, Burchell, Delegorgue, Hartlaub, LeVaillant, Rudd, Sclater, Verreaux, Woodward and many, many more.

Deciding to find out, I came across a really useful, well-researched book entitled, *Whose Bird?* Boelens & Watkins, Christopher Helm, London, 2003. It was fascinating to discover the circumstances of just how so many Southern African birds had been named after individuals. Even more surprising was the fact that, more than occasionally, a bird had been named after someone who had never even set foot in

Africa. The lives and times of these Victorian ornithologists, zoologists and gentlemen collectors, were further explained in another splendid book; *A History of Ornithology*, New Naturalist, London, 2007.

Lets face it, nowadays, unless you find a new bird to science, which usually involves spending a good part of what's left of your life in the wettest, steepest, hottest, remotest, most inhospitable parts of the planet, the chance of having a bird named after you is unlikely, if not well high impossible.

However, back in the good old days, being a Victorian naturalist and collector would have been a very good start, especially if you were British, American, French or German. It also helped if you were the younger son of a wealthy family, who could indulge your hobby and pay for your trips; to the Dark Continent for example. Many soldiers, medical men and clergymen also had time to be amateur naturalists and travelling the world as an officer, doctor or vicar, with the armies and navies of these respective empires, was also a very good way to discover species new to science.

Being the wife, girlfriend, lover, confidant, guide, school friend or other relative of these intrepid explorers/collectors, may have been helpful in the 'naming' game. But your best chance of having a new bird species named

after you, was, without doubt, to be a fellow ornithologist/ collector, often employing other collectors, to send their specimens exclusively to you; or to have your own private collection or even museum; or to be a museum curator or senior assistant. At the very least you needed to be one of the other gentleman members, of what was to become a very exclusive Victorian scientific peer group.

The British, as usual, staked their claim early, with the establishment of The Zoological Society in 1826, out of which came the British Ornithological Union (BOU). At the 1858 Zoological Society annual meeting in Cambridge University, *'those present agreed that a quarterly magazine of general ornithology should be established; that a limited subscription should be entered into to provide a fund for that purpose and that the subscribers should form an Ornithological Union, their number at present not to exceed twenty'*. Thus was the *Ibis* born and amongst this original exclusive band of ornithological brothers were Philip Sclater, Osbert Salvin and John Henry Gurney.

All were from the well-educated English upper class, with private incomes and shared mutual ornithological interests in classifying, collecting and of course the naming of newly discovered birds, quite often after each other. So as not to compete too directly, they divided the world between them, each concentrating on a particular geographical area.

Pre-eminent amongst them was Philip Lutley Sclater, public school and Oxford educated and a London barrister. He became the first editor of the *Ibis* and was one of the founding subscribers to the BOU. His son William Lutley Sclater (1863-1944), was also a first-rate naturalist and was at one time President of the South African Ornithologists' Union. Which is why in 1902, Sclater's Lark came to be named after him by none other than Capt. George Ernest Shelley (1840-1910), ex-Grenadier Guards and another eminent English ornithologist of the time. Like his cousin Sir Edward Shelley, after whom the francolin is named, both were nephews of the famous English poet and of course, fully paid-up members of the BOU.



*Abdim's Stork/Kleinswartoioevaar: named after a Turkish governor*

However, even after a 'common' name was allocated and accepted into general usage, it was, and still is 'updated' by future generations of ornithologists. Pity the potential identity crisis of the poor Denham's Bustard, which over the years has also been christened Burchell's, Jackson's and Stanley's Bustard, and frequently at the same time.

To have the best chance, your name should also begin with the letter B, with 12 surnames listed, or S, with 11. If your name begins with E, I, O, Q, U, X, Y, or Z, then I'm afraid statistically, you have absolutely no chance. Unless of course, you set off for the Congo today and only return when you discover your own new species. I must admit Bannon's Batis, *Batis bannoni* does have a nice ring to it and it's up there with the other B'. But there again I don't have my own natural history museum.

All names and their derivations are based on information from the publications previously mentioned, with only those names listed, including alternate names, if they are included in the current *Roberts Bird Guide*. The names and dates given alongside the bird species names refer to the person who gave the common name to that particular species and the year.

**ABDIM – Abdim's Stork, *Ciconia abdimii* (Lichtenstein, 1823)**

Bey El-Arnaur Abdim (1780-1827) was the Turkish governor of Dongola in Sudan, who greatly assisted Rüppell with his collecting expeditions in N Africa. Abdim's Stork was first collected in Sudan in 1823, possibly shot by Abdim, and named after him by Martin Hinrich Carl Lichtenstein, former personal physician to the Dutch Governor of the Cape of Good Hope. In 1515, Lichtenstein founded the Berlin Zoo, where he received many 'first' specimens, particularly from the Middle East and Africa. Not surprisingly, he also has several Middle-eastern birds named after him.

**ALLEN – Allen's Gallinule, *Porphyrio alleni* (Thomson, 1842)**

Rear-Admiral William Allen (1793-1864) was an English naval officer and ornithologist who



Gareth Hazell

*Arnott's Chat/Bontpiek: this bird takes its name from a South African attorney*

patrolled off West Africa, combating the slave trade. He collected the type specimen in Idda, near the River Niger in 1841. It was named after him in 1842 by the great Irish ornithologist, William Thomson (1805-1895), who apart from brief visits to ornithological gatherings in London, hardly ever left his home in Northern Ireland.

**ANCHIETA – Anchieta's Tchagra, *Antichromus anchietae* (Bocage, 1869)**

Jose Alberto de Oliveira Anchieta (1832 -1897) was an independent and somewhat eccentric naturalist, who was a correspondent of Jose Vincente Barbosa du Bocage, curator of Zoology at Lisbon Natural History Museum. Anchieta spent much of his time in his beloved Angola and his discoveries included 25 new species of mammals, 46 new bird species and many amphibians and snakes. In 1869, Du Bocage named the Tchagra, after his most prolific explorer/collector, Anchieta, who died of malaria complications at the age of 66.

**ARNOTT – Arnot(t)'s Chat, *Myrmecocichla arnotii* (Tristram, 1869)**

David Arnott (1822-1894), (the correct spelling is Arnott), was a well-known and reputedly unscrupulous South African attorney. He lived at Colesberg in the Northern Cape, midway between Joburg and Cape Town and contributed many fossil reptiles, mammals, birds and

insects to the South African Museum, between 1858 and 1868. Arnott's Chat was named after him in 1869 by the Reverend Henry Baker Tristram (1822-1906), founder and original member of the British Ornithologists' Union (BOU). Tristram himself, also has several birds named after him, particularly in the Middle East.

**AYRES – Ayres' Cisticola, *Cisticola ayresii* (Bates, 1926)** (also known as Wing-snapping Cisticola)

**Ayres' Hawk-Eagle, *Aquila ayresii* (Gurney, 1862)**

Thomas Ayres (1828-1913) was a British-born collector, naturalist and gold prospector, who moved to Pinetown in Natal in 1850. He sent many specimens to John Henry Gurney (1819-1890) son of a wealthy Norfolk banker, who wrote articles for the *Zoologist* and *Ibis* magazines and who had a particular interest in birds of prey. Gurney named the eagle after him in 1862. He also visited Australia and tried his luck in the goldfields there in 1852, but then returned to South Africa to settle in Potchefstroom as a hunter and trader. He was obviously eager to make his fortune out of gold, as in the early 1870s he was prospecting on the Lydenburg goldfields.

He collected birds, beetles, butterflies and

moths and at least 60 species, which were collected around Potch, are now very rare. His house was named the Ark as it was 'long, low and stuffed with animals and birds'. He was a mentor to the young Roberts' boys (Austin Roberts) and accompanied many of the legendary hunters on expeditions, for example to Mashonaland with Irish explorer, James Jameson.

He even operated a brewery for a couple of years making Ayres XX Pale Ale. Many people spoke highly of this beer including Captain William Cloudsley Lucas of the Bengal Yeomanry Cavalry, who when stationed at Rustenburg, wrote that the beer had cured him of '...nightly sweatings, terrible affections in the lumbar regions, and a chronic costiveness that had lasted eighteen years.' Sadly, Ayres had to close down his brewery when the government changed the law and it became illegal for unlicensed individuals to brew beer for public sale.

George Latimer Bates (1863-1940) of Illinois, USA, travelled widely in Africa, authoring the *Handbook of the Birds of West Africa* in 1930 and had several articles published in *Ibis*, notably *Birds of the Southern Sahara and Adjoining Countries* in 1933. He christened the cisticola after Ayres in 1926, 13 years after his death.

(This series will be continued – Ed.) □

## ***Friedrich Heinrich Freiherr von Kittlitz (1799-1874) & George Montagu (1751-1815)***

***Pauline Leinberger***

Von Kittlitz was a Polish-born German artist and ornithologist who took part in a Russian voyage round the world in 1826. He accompanied Rüppell on his North African expedition in 1831, returning home early due to ill health. He produced a book on birds and another on the vegetation of the Pacific Islands.

Von Kittlitz's name was used for 6 species, 4 of which he named himself:

Kittlitz's Crake (Kittlitz 1858) extinct

Kittlitz's Murrelet (Vigors 1829)

Kittlitz's Plover (Temminck 1823)

Kittlitz's Starling (Kittlitz 1833)

Kittlitz's Thrush (Kittlitz 1830) extinct

Kittlitz's Wood Pigeon (Kittlitz 1832).

**George Montagu (1751-1815)**

Montagu was a lieutenant-colonel with a Wiltshire regiment from which he was cashiered

after some hanky panky with the wives of fellow officers. When he left the army he became one of the earliest members of the Linnean Society which had been the brainchild of Sir Andrew Smith. He was the author of many papers on birds and shells of South England but it was through the publication of his Ornithological Dictionary or Alphabetical Synopsis of British Birds (1802) that the scientific study of British birds was transformed. Firm standards for the acceptance of evidence remained in place for many years.

It was Montagu who suggested the theory of polygamy in birds was often related to marked sexual differences. He cited the example of the larger male Ruff which in spring is very aggressive, collecting near the spot where the female intends to lay her eggs. "Here they fight very much like game cocks, seizing each other with their beaks and striking with

their wings. The great ruff of feathers round the neck is then erected, and according to Col. Montagu sweeps the ground as a shield to defend the more tender parts." Montagu also concluded, after careful observation that male songbirds don't search for females but "perch on a conspicuous spot breathing out their full and amorous notes." These quotations from Montagu's observations were made by Charles Darwin in *The Descent of Man and Selection in Relation to Sex* (1896).

Montagu assembled a large collection of bird skins which on his death were presented to the British Museum. He was described as a prototype of biologists in Britain as he was "methodical, vigorous and immensely painstaking." He died of lockjaw after treading on a rusty nail.

At least one bird bears his name: Montagu's Harrier (Linnaeus 1758). □

### NEW MEMBERS / NUWE LEDE

A warm welcome to our new members! We trust your association with the club will be a long and happy one. Please join us in the fun of evening lectures and weekend outings, ensuring you get the full benefit for your membership.

*Baie welkom aan al ons nuwe lede! Ons vertrou julle verbintenis met die klub sal baie genotvol en waardevol wees. Woon asb die aandpraatjies en uitstappies by want so leer ons mekaar beter ken en kan julle ten volle voordeel trek uit julle lidmaatskap.*

Marielienne en Chris Janeke, Lynnwood Manor; Ljiljana Basic, Waterkloof Heights; Debra Pretorius, Menlo Park; Adrian and Renate Kenneth-Watts, Waterkloof; Thea en Gary Jenkins, Menlo Park; Kobus en Ronel Verryne, Thaba Tshwane; Pieter & Gerda du Toit, Waterkloofrif; Linda Rossouw, Karenpark.



**Grassbird**

## New 'Bald' Bird Discovered

30-07-2009: WCS, Oriental Bird Club

An odd songbird with a bald head living in a rugged region in Laos has been discovered by scientists from the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) and the University of Melbourne, as part of a project funded and managed by the mining company MMG (Minerals and Metals Group).



*Bare-faced Bulbul: astounding discovery*

The species has been named Bare-faced Bulbul *Pycnonotus hualon* because of the lack of feathers on its face and part of its head, and it is the only example of a bald songbird in mainland Asia. It is the first new species of bulbul – a family of about 130 species – described in Asia in over 100 years. A description of the new species has been published in the July issue of Forktail, the journal of the Oriental Bird Club. “This is exciting news and a great discovery”, said Dr Lincoln Fishpool, BirdLife’s Global Important Bird Areas Coordinator. “It highlights the importance of this region for birds and biodiversity.” The thrush-sized bird is greenish-olive with a light-colored breast, a distinctive featherless, pink face with bluish skin around the eye extending to the bill and a narrow line of hair-like feathers down the centre of the crown. The bird seems to be primarily tree-dwelling and was found in an area of sparse forest on rugged limestone karsts – a little-visited habitat known

for unusual wildlife discoveries.

“Its apparent restriction to rather inhospitable habitat helps to explain why such an extraordinary bird with conspicuous habits and a distinctive call has remained unnoticed for so long”, said Iain Woxvold of the University of Melbourne

and lead author of the paper.

Fortunately much of the bird’s presumed habitat falls within legally protected areas in Laos. However, quarrying of limestone looms as a potential threat to wildlife in this area, along with habitat conversion for agriculture. In 2002 in this same area, Rob Timmins of WCS described the Kha-nyou or Laotian Rock Rat *Laonastes aenigmamus*, a newly discovered species of rodent so unusual it represented the lone surviving member of an otherwise extinct genus.

This taxon will be assessed in due course by the BirdLife Taxonomic Working Group, BirdLife will then evaluate its extinction risk category for the IUCN Red List (for which BirdLife is the official Red List Authority).

### References

I.A. Woxvold, J. W. Duckworth and R. J. Timmins. 2009. An unusual new bulbul (Passeriformes: Pycnonotidae) from the Limestone karst of Lao PDR. Forktail 25: 1-12.

### Bird Words: *bird(ie)*

*In golf, a long, impressive shot was formerly (in the early 1900s) called a bird. The use of the term conjoined two sources: the nineteenth-century American slang bird meaning a first-rate person or thing, and the idea that the shot “flew like a bird”. By at least 1913, the diminutive form birdie had come to mean a score of one stroke under par on a hole.*



# In Your Garden

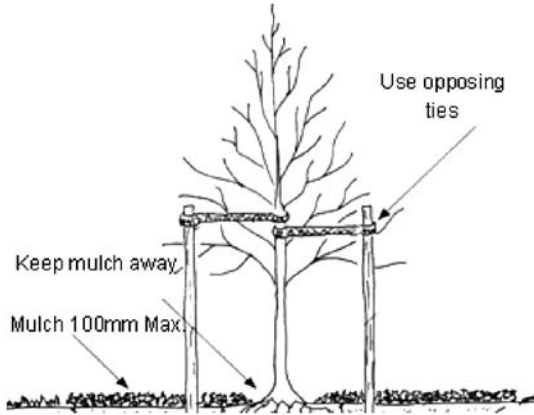
Linda de Luca\*

It is time to start cleaning up your garden and preparing for that burst of spring growth.

Remember August is the windy month so check all your tree stakes and ties. This little diagram will help with the know-how to stake your larger trees. It is important that there is some movement to help strengthen the stem.

Rather use metal fencing Y-standards than wooden stakes for your bigger trees.

A good idea for a tree tie is to thread wire through a piece of old hose pipe about one third the length of the wire then put the pipe around



the tree, make a figure of eight and tie the wire around the stake, as per the diagram.

Your smaller trees can be staked in the conventional way. Check all your old tree ties to make sure that they are not cutting into the bark and damaging your trees by ring barking them.

Then mulch the soil well to conserve water and cut back on the endless weeding, although I find weeding therapeutic.

\*Random Harvest  
Indigenous Nursery,  
Muldersdrift

(Linda will provide gardening tips which will be featured in our newsletter from time to time – Ed.) ☐

## BLNG Outing in Search of the Yellow-throated Sandgrouse

Stuart Groom

Saturday morning, 22<sup>nd</sup> August 2009, saw a group of 10 BLNG birders, led by myself, braving the cold morning air and hoping to find the Yellow-throated Sandgrouse.

After meeting everyone at 07:30, we made our way down to the sandgrouse site just south of the Sun City complex, attempting to avoid the 1500 odd cyclists taking part in the Cansa challenge. We arrived just after 08:00, after relocating one vehicle that missed the turn-off (sorry, my mistake). We all immediately started scanning

for the birds I had expected should have arrived already. The window of opportunity I was anticipating, after recent scouting trips, was 07:45 to 09:00. After 15 minutes of searching and waiting, and some nail-biting on my side, the unmistakable "ipi aw aw" call of the **Yellow-throated Sandgrouse** heralded the approach of a pair. A nice "fly-by" view was had by all, before the birds landed out of sight. I chose not to rush off in search of this pair, and rather wait for others. The next pair that arrived decided to land within



Clive Kaplan

*Yellow-throated Sandgrouse/Geelkeelsandpatrys: localised distribution*

metres of our vehicles, but out of view for us. Again, I chose to wait, and within minutes a small group landed in view about 60 metres away from us. This group allowed some good views, but not the great views I was hoping for. Fortunately, that changed for us, as over the next half an hour, we had a number of small groups coming and going. Finally we were rewarded when a group of 5 landed roughly 20 metres from us. Great views were had by all as the birds settled, and slowly moved off towards the stream. One male very obligingly stopped to dust-bathe and allowed some of the birders to approach to within 10 metres for some great views and photos.

A "successful chase" was called by everyone, and most of the group headed off to Pilanes-

berg NP to make the most of the day. The remaining few got out some coffee and rusks to celebrate, and whilst standing around, a single male Yellow-throated Sandgrouse landed on the gravel roughly 40m from us, allowing a brief view before taking off again. This was just after 10:00. Another solitary male alighted in the same area at around 10:20, and allowed a brief photo opportunity before moving off.

An estimated total of around 30-35 sandgrouse visited the site for the morning, while total species noted was close to 40 species, quite a low number due to our intense focus on the sandgrouse.

Some nice species noted were **Kalahari** and **White-browed Scrub-Robin**, **Violet-eared Waxbill**, **Magpie Shrike**, **Black-chested Snake-Eagle**, **Brown-throated Martin**, **Pearl-breasted** and **White-throated Swallow**, **White-winged Widowbird** (starting to show breeding plumage) and **Marico Sunbird**. An interesting sighting for the area was of one *melanistic* **Gabar Goshawk** that was seen by Niall Perrins who was trying to sneak up on some sandgrouse for photos.

Thanks to the members who made the trip out to Pilanesberg to join me in the search for the sandgrouse. Happy birding!!

*(How encouraging to know that this species is seemingly doing quite well, even in places close to Sun City! – Ed.)* □

## ***Random Harvest Nursery, Muldersdrift: 5 September 2009***

***André Marx***

A small group of club birders gathered early on the Saturday morning at this new venue to first sample the birds at this small farm and then view the indigenous plants that were on display. The day started well with a number of birds in the trees around the nursery and soon Green Wood-Hoopoes, Speckled Mousebird,

Amethyst Sunbird, Black-headed Oriole, Bar-throated Apalis and Black-backed Puffback, to name just some, put in an appearance. A walk down through the grassland to a small dam revealed Tawny-flanked Prinia, Bokmakierie, White-throated Swallow, Cape Longclaw and a solitary South African Cliff-Swallow that

sailed by. There were few migrants generally, but eventually a few handsome Lesser Striped Swallow were heard making their nasal, wheezy call before perching obligingly when they could be observed in detail.

Later, back at the garden of the home-  
stead, a pair of Black-chested Prinias were just beginning to show the black chest bands which meant they were changing into summer plumage and Kurrichane Thrushes were seen virtually alongside Karoo Thrush, when the differences between the two species could be noted. A nondescript brown bird sitting quietly and holding its head at odd angles was spotted and quickly identified as a Brown-backed Honeybird, a lifer for a few in the group. This bird and the superb Fairy Flycatcher seen soon afterwards would probably qualify as the star birds of the day as they are seldom encountered.

Our host, Linda de Luca, then chatted to us about gardening for birds whilst treating us to scones and tea. All told this was an enjoyable few hours in a pleasant setting with nearly 70



*Brown-backed Honeybird/Skerpbekheuningvoël:  
star bird of the day*

species being counted, and made all the more enjoyable by the interesting tips we were given about turning your garden into a haven for birds! □

## *Tough Birding in Sydney, Australia*

*Frans and Adele van Vuuren*

Whist visiting our daughter Renate and family in Brisbane, Australia, in October 2008, we planned two weeklong birding excursions. The first trip, to Cairns and the inland area called the Atherton Tablelands, was very successful, pushing our Australian bird list up by 50 to 300, although we dipped on the Cassowary – the Aussie Forest Ostrich!

It was thus with great anticipation that we departed for a week in Sydney before returning home, armed with a list of 50 target birds. We had accommodation in Manly, north of Sydney, and planned to cover the parks, beaches and lagoons to the north on our own in the first three days. Then the weather took over and we had three days of driving rain, gale force winds and no new birds!

The coast to the north of Sydney has some

lovely bays and lagoons and we went to Pittwater Wetlands, Narrabeen Lagoons, Mona Vale and Long Reef Beach with great expectations, getting solidly drenched, but just saw birds common to the Brisbane area and already on our list, like Red Corella, White-cheeked Honey-eater, Splendid Fairy Wren, Varied Sitella, Rufous Whistler, Spotted Pardalote, Eastern Spinetail and more. The one new bird for Australia was the Red-whiskered Bulbul, introduced from India, which was observed everywhere.

We actually did get one lifer at Long Reef Beach, a pelagic bird we could not quite identify, and which was later clarified by locals as a **Short-tailed Shearwater!** We hiked up a hillside whist being buffeted by the wind, then down the other side onto the beach. Around a little island not too far offshore a big group

of shearwaters were skimming around. Of course we had left the scope in the car! Two days later in much better weather we did it all over again, this time with the scope, but not a bird in sight!

Day 4, Saturday, was a great improvement weatherwise and we drove to Ku-Ring-Gai, an area similar to the Cape Point Nature Reserve in RSA, but rather larger. We drove and occasionally walked through lovely woodlands with many birds we knew quite well, several honey-eaters, then... a lifer. Adele saw a **Yellow-tufted Honey-eater**, which was on my wanted list for the park. But then frustration set in when the bird flew away before I could see it and we just could not relocate it! Fortunately we saw many later in the Blue Mountains.

In keeping with the Sydney visit so far, we visited the sharp point of the park and searched for the Little Penguin colony on an island some distance away, but again no sightings.

These penguins spend a lot of the time in the water, so no nice noisy colonies like our African Penguins. The Little Penguin is frequently sighted in Sydney harbour, but of course you need to be sailing around. (By the way the Greater Sydney Harbour is a huge body of water, with three separate inlets penetrating kilometres inland).

The Blue Mountain and Capertee Valley area some 100-150 km inland of Sydney is the top birding area for New South Wales. The top bird guide for the area is Carol Proberts, who lives in the area. But Carol was fully booked and had earlier referred us to a Sydney organisation "Follow that Bird" and we used a Sydney guide who drove out to the valley with us for 2 days. Coincidentally, the Sunday of our visit was Australia's Big Birding Day and as Follow That Bird was organising the Sydney event, we agreed to



join their birding group for the day at the Sydney Royal National Park to the south of the city, an area we had had planned to visit in any event.

Well, you probably guessed it. Once more things did not

turn out very well. The birding group was very inexperienced and much time was wasted. We did however see **Tawny-crowned Honey-eater**, **Chestnut-rumped Heathwren** and **Superb Lyrebird** (what a bird!) as lifers, but did not even get close to the Pilotbird, Rock Warbler and Southern Whiteface we had hoped for. The park is a lovely birding destination, but it is extremely popular with swimmers, hikers and large family groups of picnickers, so most certainly is not recommended for weekend birding.

At least my story has a happy ending. Our two days in the Capertee Valley was lovely. Even though our guide had not been to the area for the previous two years, he drove us around with great energy (and sometimes at hair-raising speed) in this beautiful valley and we found 12 lifers, including the rare and highly sought after **Regent Honey-eater**. A major effort is being made to replant the valley with its original flora, and we actually found the bird in a replanted section of its preferred habitat that has been largely destroyed in many areas, so hats off to the Aussies.

So in the end only 18 out of our hoped-for 50 target birds, but some useful lessons learned. On our final afternoon we spent time with John Duranti in the Hawkesbury River Valley, where the slow-moving stream forms many lakes. John helped us find the elusive **Pink-eared Duck** and **Yellow-billed Spoonbill** at a local sewerage. (The Royal Spoonbill with

its black bill is found all over Australia, but the Yellow-billed is rather difficult to find).

We also searched long and hard in local woodlands, before finding the very elusive **Crested Shrike-Tit**, one of my favourite Australian birds. John is on the committee of the local bird club and a really knowledgeable birder. He will be my first point of contact on a future visit.

We are by no means experts on Australian birding, but have discovered several good spots and have got to know quite a few guides, so if anyone needs information, feel free to give us a call. The Australian birding community is a lot less organised than that of South Africa, so finding good contacts can be pretty tough. ☐

## *A Twitch of Spice*

*Graham Tate*

**M**y wife and I were privileged to be able to go to Zanzibar (also known as the Spice Islands) at the beginning of August for her 50<sup>th</sup> birthday. Apart from enjoying 7 days of glorious sunshine while all at home were wrapped up to deal with the cold fronts passing through, I was also able to indulge in the delights of tropical twitching.

Zanzibar is an archipelago consisting of two main islands, Unguja and Pemba, with another 50 small islets nestling in the Indian Ocean near the equator. Unguja, the main island, measures in area of 1658 square kilometers and is about 36 kilometers off the Tanzanian mainland and has about a million inhabitants. Our hotel resort was the Mapenzi Beach Club on the north east side of the island which provided for spectacular sunrises from our room on the beach front. Enough of the geography lesson and on with the twitching!

Walking along the beach in front of the various hotel resorts one is confounded by the spectacle of a coral island especially at low tide, when the water recedes by almost a kilometre or more and exposes all manner of coral reef inhabitants to the awaiting sea birds and other feathered scavengers. On our first day out walking I thought I saw a group of Black Herons and Little Egrets catching star fish and other crustaceans. On closer examination and with the aid of digital photographs and the prerequisite East African birding field guides we were able to determine that what we had in fact seen was the **Dimorphic (Mascarene) Egret** in both

the black and white morphs. The black morph is only distinguishable from a Black Heron by its white throat. The coastline also teemed with terns, Greenshanks and sandpipers feeding off the seafood platter presented to them by the low tides and exposed coral reef.

At high tide one is forced to walk closer to the shoreline and here there are all sorts birds calling from the thickets, to be admired once you have had your fill of their aquatic brethren. What astounded me was the great variety of different sunbirds all within close proximity of one another. Also in the scrub vegetation we were able to see and hear **Sombre Greenbuls**, **Golden Weavers**, and perched on the occasional baobab tree, **White-browed Coucals**.



*Dimorphic Egret*



*Green Malkoha*

The highlight of twitching in and around the hotel resort was to see my first **Green Malkoha**, initially seen as a fleeting green shadow and then photographed after being stalked until it popped up out of the dense shrubs. The lowlight of the twitching in and around the hotel resorts is the invasion of **House Crows** which are becoming serious pests and are responsible for the decline of the **Morning Thrush** and **Golden Palm Weavers**. The crows have become so brash that they swoop down and take food from amongst the diners during

mealtimes and dominate the clusters of palm trees in and around the hotel resort with their irritating call.

Unfortunately the pressure of human population growth is taking its toll on the last remaining indigenous forest in the Jozani National Park which is home to the Blue and Colobus Monkeys as well as the indigenous Fischer's Turaco which we only heard from the canopy tops. The forest is partially mangrove and part plantation with exotic hardwoods and fruit trees. Unfortunately most of the indigenous wildlife is almost extinct with the Zanzibar Leopard having last been seen a number of years ago. Walking along the forest floor with your guide, who ensures you do not step on the ants and proudly shows you the spoor of the forest wild boars, one can hear the call of the **Yellow-rumped Tinkerbird** from the canopy top and catch glimpses of **African Paradise Flycatchers** seeking a meal. We heard but did not see the Mangrove kingfisher as we toured the mangrove boardwalk section of the forest.

The two birds we wanted to see most as they are endemic to the archipelago are the Pemba sunbird and Fischer's Turaco. Unfortunately these two 'lifers' will have to wait for a more defined twitching expedition as they are not casually seen whilst touring.

*(Other birds that are easy to see in Zanzibar are Crab Plover, where flocks occur at certain times of the year, and Eleonora's Falcon, which has been observed hunting waders that occur on the coast – Ed.)* □

### **Bird Words: birdbrain**

*Birds seem to dart about aimlessly, without any apparent plan of action. Therefore, from the early 1600s to the 1900s, the adjective bird-witted described a person who was flighty and who lacked the capacity for prolonged attention. However, since the 1940s, that adjective has largely been supplanted by the adjective birdbrained. Birds also have a reputation for having small brains. Therefore, also since the 1940s, a stupid person (that is, one with a small brain) has been called a birdbrain.*

# Die Lewe Voor en Na Eshowe

Salomi Louw

Eshowe is vreeslik ver van Pretoria af, veral as 'n mens alleen reis, dus het ek 'n lewe voor en na 7-10 Augustus 2009 beplan, met terugkoms deur noordelike Zululand, verblyf in 'n park in Swaziland, daarna Badplaas omdat iemand (ek sou graag wil weet wie!) gesê het dit is pragtig en daar is baie te sien en te doen.

Vir die twee dae voorafgaande ons Eshowe-verblyf het ek bespreek in Ithala se kampeerterrein – sonder krag of warm water – en watter heerlike ondervinding was dit nie! 'n Onomheinde kamp op die oewer van 'n rivier (nouliks 'n stroompie dié tyd van die jaar) waarin jy mag swem (mits jy bereid is om die silt van geel klei te trotseer) en met 'n groot verskeidenheid voëls wat jou in die yskoue vroegoggend wakker maak, veral gekenmerk deur die **Rooibeklyster** met sy luidrugtige sang. My ryhuis se vensters was soggens met 'n yslagie ('hoar frost') bedek – amper soos in Wakkerstroom in Junie, maar sonder die mis! Die lekkerste was 'n **Grootkolmuskejaatkat** wat my teen skemer kom groet het en selfs aan my tone kom ruik het.

Voëls was hoofsaaklik dié waaraan ons gewoon is; niks nuuts nie, maar darem lekker om te sien, en die omgewing en uitsigte is iets besonder. Interessant was twee **Witborskraaie** wat soos aasvoëls by 'n karkas opgetree het en 'n **Rooiborsjakkalsvoël** hier verjaag het.

Toe volg Eshowe en omgewing met onder andere sy **Boskraaie, Witoorhoutkappers, Rooirugfrette, Witaasvoëls, Gryssysies, Manglietvisvanger, Bosmusikante, Bosloeries, Natallysters, Rooi- en Swartblestinkers** en, natuurlik uiteindelik, die **Groenhoutkapper**, met begeleiding deur Jotham: 'n kundige gids en aangename mens. Die BLNG-lede het hierna hul eie paaië gevolg: meeste terug na Gauteng, maar sommige het aangebly en die omgewing verken; ek was een van dié.

Richardsbaai was my volgende bestemming en op pad sien jy oral ZBR-bordjies ('Zululand

Birding Route') met nommers wat ooreenstem met aanwysings en inligting in 'n gidsboek wat eers in Richardsbaai bekom is. Dié ambisieuse projek van ZBR het egter, soos so baie dinge in die RSA, ook reeds onder ekonomiese en ander omstandighede verval geraak – moet nie alles glo wat in dié gids vertel word nie! Vir sommige van dié roetes het jy 'n permit nodig (so moes ek by twee plekke omdraai omdat die ouens by die ZBR-kantoor nie daaraan gedink het om vir my in te lig of te voorsien van permitte nie); by ander het jy vooraftoestemming van die eienaars nodig; en dan is daar ook dié wat jy selgs met 'n ZBR-gids mag besoek. Met min tyd beskikbaar en soveel om te probeer inpas, was begeleide ritte nie 'n opsie nie, benewens die feit dat my reishuis slegs één sitplek beskikbaar het: die bestuurder s'n!

Maandag was 'n vakansiedag en al wat 'n roete of staanplek langs Richardsbaai waters was beset met swemmende, hengelende, braaiende en/of brassende mense; voëls was beter te sien in die (skoon, goed-uitgelegde) karavaanpark, waar **Natallysters, Natalse Janfrederik, Gestrepte Wipsterter** en verskeie soorte suikerbekkies en kanaries van die voëlsoorte was wat die lewe aangenaam gemaak het. Toe die ZBR-kantoor Dinsdagoggend oopmaak, was ek daar om inligting en roeteverduideliking te kry vir wat te sien en besoek was in hierdie omgewing. Ongelukkig was die inligting nie baie duidelik nie en ek het die pad na die Thulashlekapan byster geraak, toe neem ek maar die roete deur die Kasuarina-vlakte. Die enigste opwinding hier was 'n **Boskraai** wat ek wou afneem en, natuurlik in hierdie duineveld, val ek toe met die stilhou vas in die sand: dit terwille van 'n Boskraai wat ek in Eshowe baie beter en talle kere sou kon fotografeer. Vir 'n uur of wat het ek sand weggegrawe; die voertuig probeer losruk deur van eerste na tru en terug te skakel; takke, stompe, blare en plastiekbottels in die paadjie te pak (ek



Sahmili Louw

*Gekroonde Neushoringvoël/Crowned Hornbill*

wou nie die bande afblaas nie omdat ek nie 'n pomp byderhand gehad het nie); maar daarna swetend en swetsend die ZBR-kantoor geskakel om te vra om hulp. Hulle het reëlings getref en 'n insleepvoertuig het uiteindelik opgedaag om my te kom help. Terwyl ek gewag het, was daar darem die geleentheid om die sandvlakke aangrensend tot die hawe-ingang te verken en hier sien ek toe my eerste **Grootwulp**; ook die **Roetsterretjie** en **Kleinswartrugmeeu**.

Die jongman met die insleepvoertuig het nonchalant op die sand verby my VW gery en dit van agter uitgesleep tot in die spoor, toe die bande afgeblaas en uitgery tot op stewiger sand, waar hy gesê het ek moet wag sodat hy my kan begelei na 'n vulstasie waar ek die bande weer kan laat pomp. Toe hy na 'n halfuur nie opdaag nie, stap ek terug en vind hom ook vasgeval in die sand! Na hierdie ondervinding is ek met beter aanwysings terug na Thulasihlekapan: wat 'n teleurstelling! Dis dik en groen van alge en olie; die ZBR-kantoor wat op die kaart aangedui word, is 'n vervalte gebou met

verstrooide pamflette en dokumente sigbaar deur die diefwering waar die deure ontbreek, en twee van die drie skuilings het bykans geen uitsig oor die meer nie. Die enigste voëls wat ek hier kon opteken, was 'n **Grootlangtoon**, **Kaapse Bosbontrokkie** en 'n **Bontkwikkie**.

Toe probeer ek 'n roete na Mzingazimeer waarvan gesê is dat ek nie my voertuig uit die oog moet verloor nie, aangesien daar talle diefstalle uit motors plaasvind. Of ek ooit dié plek gevind het, weet ek nie: ek het gery en gery... en uiteindelik beland by 'n meer waar 'n paar mans op opblaasbootjies besig was om vis te vang. 'n **Bloureier**, **Rietduikers** en **Tiptolle** was al wat hier te sien was.

Mkuze was my volgende bestemming. Die suidelike grondpad is 'n vreeslik slegte een en ek het dit talle kere oorweeg om om te draai – pleks ek dit gedoen het, want Mkuze, geroem as een van die beste voëlkykplekke in die RSA en derde beste in KZN, was 'n misgewas van 'n ondervinding: verwaarloos, vervalte en vuil. 'n Kringpad van teer is blykbaar redelik nuut, en solank jy op hierdie pad bly, gaan alles voorspoedig. Waag dit egter net om op een van die afdraaipaadjies te beland, en jy sien sterre – van die soort wat ontplof in jou kop en alles in die voertuig losskud. By twee geleenthede het ek omgedraai en weer teruggekeer na die veiligheid en beskaafdheid van die teerpad, en van die paaie is onverwags en sonder waarskuwing gesluit of verbode wanneer jy 'n sekere punt bereik.

Buiten by die meer was daar slegs een skuiling waar diere en voëls water kon kry; van die skuilings se aanlope, loopvlakke en vloere is so verweer en vervalte dat jy aan die handreling moet klou en fyn trap teen die kante om die (ontbrekende) uitsigplatform te bereik – en dan te vind dat daar niks te siene is nie. Dis ironies dat die ingang van 'n skuiling jou kennis gee om die hek toe te maak, maar die ontbrekende heiningshekkies gee enige wild toegang tot die paadjie. By een van die skuilings – die enigste met 'n dam waarin daar 'n bietjie water was – het ek darem goeie voëlondervindinge gehad, soos 'n **Geelplekmossie** wat duidelik sy geel vlek gewys het; 'n **Geelborswillie** wat oordadig



rondgeflenter het; en 'n **Bloukuifloerie** wat kom bad het met sy stert ooggewaai. Langs die teerpad het ek ook 'n skoot gekry van 'n **Gekroonde Neushoringvoël**.

Die kampeerterrin het 'n heel gawe werker wat braaivure se as verwyder, die swembad versorg en in en om die ablusieblokke vee. Van 'skoonmaak' het hy nog nooit gehoor nie. Ek was nie in die mans se afdeling nie, maar die vrouens se ablusieblok was so vuil dat jy jousef beswaarlik so ver kon kry om 'n kraan oop te draai; die stortgordyne so vuil en geskeur dat ek nie aan hulle wou raak nie; die stortvloere en -mure vol slym en alge. Van die ander kampeerders het die 'bestuurder' probeer skakel oor die toestand van die kamp, maar hy was in Durban en onbereikbaar. (Pleks ek liewer ekstra tyd in Richardsbaai deurgebring het met sy **Olyfsuikerbekkies**, **Glasogies**, **Bontwik-kies**, **Kortbeksuikerbekkies** en **Bruinkopvis-vangers** in die boom bokant my staanplek en die **Natalse Janfrederik** in die bos langs my wa met – en dit moet genoem word – van die skoonste ablusieblokke wat ek in jare teëgekom het!)

Die Mkuzi-ondervinding het my nie oorgretig gemaak om in Swaziland se Mlilwane oor te staan nie, en toe die Vrydagverkeer in hierdie omgewing onbeheerbaar raak, druk ek toe maar deur na Badplaas. Wie gaan na Badplaas?

Nugter weet – buiten as jy niks wil doen nie en jousef so nou en dan in 'n warmbron se water wil dompel! Die reservaat self is slegs toeganklik vir 4-trek voertuie en al die staproetes is gesluit. Ek ry verder, op die uitkyk vir 'n kampeerplek waar ek in die wildernis (?) kan wees en voëls kan kyk, maar daar is niks te siene nie, en die pad word langer en die dag later. Teen skemer, twee dae vroeër as beplan, is ek tuis met 'n groot verwelkoming deur my honde en die **Geelbek-** en **Olyfysters**, **Rooikop-** en **Bandkeelvinkies**, verskillende mossies en wewers, **Kwêvoëls** en muisvoëls, **Kuifkop-** en **Rooikophoutkappers**, **Palmwindswaels**, **Glansspreeus**, **Gewone Frette**, **Geeloog-** en **Streepkopkanaries**, **Janfrederik**, duiwe, **Bruinsylangtertjie** en **Glasogies** terwyl die duikers, **Rooivlerkspreus** en **Kleinsperwer** 'n vreugdevlug bo my werf uitvoer.

Eshowe was goed, maar die voëllewe voor en na die tyd? Oordeel maar self. Die naweek na my (vervroegde) tuiskoms het ek 'n gedetailleerde e-pos gerig aan die 'Isimangaliso CEO Mr Zaloumis' met kommentaar oor die verval in Mkuze. Ek het ook genoem dat ek hoop om binne 'n week of wat te hoor dat hulle aandag aan die genoemde sake sal gee, anders gaan ek dit bekend maak aan buitelewe tydskrifte. Tot op hede het ek nog geen reaksie gekry nie, dus vermy Mkuze voorlopig! ☐

## *Rarities and Unusual Sightings Report*

*Compiled by André Marx*

### **National Rarities / Nasionale Rareiteite**

**Lesser Black-backed Gull. Kleinswartrug-meeu:** a lone bird was spotted about 8-10 km north-east of Kriel, Mpumalanga, next to a small wetland, 31 Jul 09 (AH).

### **Regional Rarities / Streeksrareiteite**

**Wire-tailed Swallow. Draadstertswael:** 2 birds were in pentad 2510\_2920 just south of

Groblersdal, 29 Jul 09 (RGy). *SABAP2 atlasing records have shown that this species occurs further west than previously known, and while this locality does not quite fall within the 100 km radius to qualify as a regional rarity, it is a bird to look out for locally.*

### **Other Interesting Observations/ Ander Interessante Waarnemings**

**Black-necked Grebe. Swartnekdoobertjie:**



*Black Sparrowhawk/Swartsperwer: magnificent bird photographed near its nest in Bryanston*

a sighting of this species at Vaalkop Dam, North West Province, is very unusual, 15 Aug 09 (F&RP).

**White Stork. Witooievaar:** a sighting of 28 birds in a burnt field just south of Bapsfontein on the R51 is unusual for the time of year, 07 Aug 09 (AH).

**South African Shelduck. Kopereend:** a male bird was present for a while at Centurion Lake, an unusual occurrence, 08 Aug 09 (MG).

**White-backed Vulture. Witrugeasvoël:** one bird was spotted in the Pilanesberg near the Tlou and Thutlwa Rivers, apparently after a long period of absence, 23 Aug 09 (TW). *Thea reports that one thought regarding this species' rarity in the Pilanesberg is that as a result of the topography, thermals used by the vultures to take off are absent or not strong enough; others say that it's due to the farming practices in the surrounding area.*

**Yellow-billed Kite. Geelbekwou:** a bird at Suikerbosrand on this day is an early record, 16 Aug 09 (PT,RF).

**Lizard Buzzard. Akkedisvalk:** a single bird was in pentad 2515\_2825 on the Uitvlugt road, near Rust De Winter, 02 Aug 09 (PT,RF).

**Ovambo Sparrowhawk. Ovambosperwer:**

one bird was at Derdepoort Recreation Centre, Pretoria, 20 Jul 09 (ER).

**Black Sparrowhawk. Swartsperwer:** one bird was observed in the vicinity of the St. George's Hotel, Centurion, when it was seen flying over the R21 freeway, 26 May 09 (PW); a breeding pair of birds were first observed at Cumberland Bird Sanctuary in Bryanston, Joburg, 01 Aug 09 (AM,ED,JB).

**African Harrier-Hawk. Kaalwangvalk:** one bird was present in a Wierda Park garden and was seen again a few days later, 01 Jul 09 (PW); one bird was a first sighting for pentad 2605\_2805 in the Edenvale area, 22 Jul 09 (BG); a bird flying leisurely at tree height in an Eldoraigine garden near the R101/Saxby intersection was observed, 23 Aug 09 (CV); with another sighting in the same area being reported, of possibly the same bird, 23 Aug 09 (JP); a breeding pair were at Cumberland Bird Sanctuary, Bryanston, 2 Sep 09 (AM, SO). *More suburban records of this species, which has become established in parts of Gauteng.*

**Peregrine Falcon. Swerfvalk:** one bird was observed circling over a house in Moreleta Park, Pretoria, 21 Jun 09 (FP).

**Blue Crane. Bloukraanvoël:** two birds were a surprise find in pentad 2550\_2755 in the Rhenosterspruit Conservancy, south-west of Pretoria, 13 Aug 09 (JB).

**White-bellied Korhaan. Witpenskorhaan:** three birds were at Rietvlei NR, where this species is occasionally still found, 17 Jul 09 (NJ).

**Blue Korhaan. Bloukorhaan:** two birds were heard calling from separate locations in pentad 2600\_2840 south of Waaikraal, which lies to the east of Pretoria, 30 Aug 09 (PT,RF).

**African Green-Pigeon. Papegaaiduif:** a group of birds was observed in a Riviera, Pretoria, garden, 29 Aug 09 (E&MdV).

**Rose-ringed Parakeet. Ringekparkiet:** a pair of birds was a first record at a garden feeder in Valhalla, Centurion, 25 Aug 09 (LK).

**Klaas's Cuckoo. Meitjie:** a bird heard and seen at Roo-deplaas Dam NR is an early migrant record, 17 Jul 09 (ER).

**Giant Kingfisher. Reusevisvanger:** one bird was a surprise sighting on a balcony of a home

in Midstream Estate, Centurion, 25 Aug 09 (KvR).

**Brown-backed Honeybird. Skerpbekheuningvoël:** one bird was in pentad 2555\_2835 west of Bronkhorstspuit Dam, an area where it is seldom observed, 23 Aug 09 (PT,RF); a good sighting of one bird was had at Random Harvest Nursery, Muldersdrift, during the club outing there, 05 Sep 09 (BLNG).

**Fork-tailed Drongo. Mikstertbyvanger:** one bird was a first visitor to a garden in Queenswood, Pretoria, with two birds being observed just a few days later, 23 Jul 09 (TB).

**Short-toed Rock-Thrush. Korttoonkliplyster:** one bird of the race *pretoriae* was in pentad 2550\_2750 in the Kalkheuwel area, west of Pretoria, 04 Aug 09 (JB).

**Common Fiscal. Fiskaallaksmán:** a bird of the race *subcoronatus* showing a white supercilium was seen at Northern Farm, south-west of Pretoria, 10 Aug 09 (BG).

**Red-billed Oxpecker. Rooibekrenostervoël:** 4 birds were observed on some horses in pentad 2515\_2825 on the Uitvlugt loop road, near Rust De Winter, 02 Aug 09 (PT,RF).

**Yellow-throated Petronia. Geelvlakmossie:** one bird was observed as a first time visitor to a garden in Pretoria North, 13 Sep 09 (N&IR).

**African Firefinch. Kaapse Vuurvinkie:** a pair of birds was seen east of Welbekend at the Osspruit in pentad 2550\_2830, rather far south for this species, 10 Aug 09 (PT,RF).

## Observers / Waarnemers:

Adrian Haagner (AH)	Koos van Rensburg (KvR)
André Marx (AM)	Leon Kay (LK)
BirdLife Northern Gauteng members (BLNG)	Michal Groenewald (MG)
Bryan Groom (BG)	Neels & Ingrid Roos (N&IR)
Carel Viljoen (CV)	Neels Jackson (NJ)
Eran Dvir (ED)	Pat Tattersal (PT)
Erik & Mieke de Villiers (E&MdV)	Peter Wilgenbus (PW)
Ernst Retief (ER)	Rihann Geyser (RGy)
Faansie & Ronel Peacock (F&RP)	Roger Fieldwick (RF)
Faansie Peacock (FP)	Sue Oertli (SO)
Jaco Pretorius (JP)	Thalia Barnes (TB)
John Bannon (JB)	Thea Wooding (TW)

*This column is mainly concerned with observations of rarities and interesting sightings 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 whether the subject matter has already been well reported. Occasionally records are sourced from the Internet. All are encouraged to complete rarities documentation for regional and national rarities. 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* □

## Violet Turaco in Pretoria North

### Neels Roos

The Violet Turaco (*Musophaga violacea*) is a near-endemic to the tropical rain-forests of West African countries north of the Gulf of Guinea (Nigeria, Ghana, Togo, Senegal etc). A solitary bird, obviously an escapee, arrived in our Pretoria North garden just before the middle of December last year. As is often the case it was the unfamiliar call that alerted us to its presence. Throughout the following summer months it became an almost daily visitor. An abundant supply of food

in the form of berries on various trees and tall shrubs, and probably also the agreeable warm climate north of the Magaliesberg, helped it to survive reasonably well.

The bird was positively identified using *Birds of Africa South of the Sahara* by Sinclair & Ryan, which mentions that escaped members of this species persisted in Johannesburg. It is distinguished from Ross's Turaco, with which it forms a superspecies, by its **red bill tip, bare red face around the eyes, white cheek**

**stripe behind the bare face, and the short, not erect, red crest.** The brilliant red crest is unfortunately lacking in the illustration but is mentioned in the text.

About mid-April this year the frequency of its visits tapered off and they finally ceased. We assumed that it must have been shot or that it had died of hunger due to scarcity of food during autumn. Much to our surprise and delight it reappeared once early in July and again twice in the first half of August and seemed to be in excellent shape and as colourful as previously. Its unmistakable raucous, short, staccato-like, call announcing its presence gave us great pleasure and caused a mad rush outside to see it again. One can only assume that it must have moved elsewhere to find suitable food in the intervening months. During the last week of August it again visited

twice and called continuously for the best part of 20 minutes each time. The Go-away Birds are very interested in its presence and often in its proximity where it perches. They also follow it in flight even though not apparently chasing it. Hopefully an abundant food supply will shortly become available again and persuade it to resume its regular daily visits.

A **Purple-crested Turaco**, also obviously an escapee since it is way out of its normal distribution in South Africa, has been around in Pretoria North for several years now and similarly tends to also disappear for some months before reappearing again in the summer.

One cannot help but feel sorry for these escapees. Not only must they go it alone but must also cope in a climate and a habitat which is probably not ideal for them, and find and get used to food unfamiliar to them for survival. □

## *Atlasing Suikerbosrand Nature Reserve*

*Roger Fieldwick*

### **Introduction**

**T**he Suikerbosrand Nature Reserve lies about 35 km due south of Germiston and comprises two sections: an original area of 13 300 ha, which was proclaimed in 1974, and a new section of more than 8 000 ha, which was added in 2003. The original section has been developed and of most interest to birders is the reception area, situated in mixed woodland at the foot of the Suikerbosrand mountain range, and the 60 km long paved tourist route that traverses the different habitats in the reserve. The new section comprises old farm lands that are reverting to grassland and is so far undeveloped, although one can gain access to a portion of this area from a public road.

The reserve and its birds are fully described in the *Chamberlain Guide to Birding Gauteng* by Etienne Marais and Faansie Peacock, pp 231 to 237. A map of the reserve is shown on p 233

and I shall be referring to this map during the course of this article. If you do not possess a copy of this book, buy it from BLNG or at least put it at the top of your Christmas present wish-list – it is a truly excellent book.

### **The pentads**

The reserve falls within eight pentads; from west to east and north to south they are: 2625\_2805, 2625\_2810, 2625\_2815, 2625\_2820, 2630\_2805, 2630\_2810, 2630\_2815 and 2630\_2820. This system of referencing pentads, although precise, is cumbersome and can easily lead to mistakes in transcription. Prior to the start of SABAP2, atlasers in Gauteng were using a much more convenient reference system and for the purpose of this article, this referencing system will be used. The eight pentads corresponding to the above all fall in one degree cell 2628 and are: AC8, AC9, AD7, AD8, CA2, CA3, CB1 and CB2.

The tourist route within the reserve does not enter either AD8 or CB2 and birders are highly unlikely to enter the reserve to atlas those cells, thus these cells can be dropped from the list. The tourist route crosses briefly into AC8 and CA2 but it is doubtful whether birders will be able to spend the minimum required two hours in these two pentads. Atlasers can therefore submit *ad hoc* lists or simply stop birding when in these two pentads. These two pentads are not discussed further.

Pat Tattersall and I visited the reserve on 16 August. The number of lists submitted prior to our visit, and the number of birds recorded in each of the four central pentads is shown in the table. It is probable that most of the cards submitted were as a result of visits to the reserve. If so, pentad AC9 has received the most attention from atlasers and CB1 the least.

### Our visit

We left home at 05:00 and, as recommended in *Chamberlain*, we left the N3 at the Glenroy Interchange and travelled westwards on the R550 for 3 km. At this point there is a road off to the left signposted Eendracht and this is the public road that leads into the new section of the reserve in pentad AD7. We did not visit this pentad but started birding on the west side of this intersection, which is the beginning of AC9. We arrived at this point at 06:20, just after dawn. The traffic was quite light on the R550 at this time in the morning on what is normally a busy road, there were large numbers of birds and we were birding with the rising sun at our backs. We spent about 30 minutes along this road until we reached the road to the left that leads to the entrance gate to the reserve (which opens at 07:00 on weekends, 07:30 on weekdays). Good birds recorded included five **Orange River Francolins**, two **Northern Black Korhaans** and a road-kill **Marsh Owl**.

At the new Protea main gate to the Reserve there is a wetland on the right hand side. We noted it only as we were leaving in the



*Orange River Francolin/Kalaharipatrys*

evening, so when you arrive there, check it out. A couple of km into the reserve you come to the old main gate (point 5 on the map in *Chamberlain*) and just beyond there on the left hand side is another wetland that can hold some surprises; we recorded a **Black-crowned Night-Heron** there on this occasion. The tourist route continues southwards to the picnic area and the conference centre (point 6). This area is well worth exploring and it is possible to spend several hours there. The birds to be found here are fully described in *Chamberlain*.

From this point the route becomes one-way as it climbs the mountain and at the top, a right-turn at the t-junction (point 8) leads back to point 6 and to the main gate. So far, the route so described falls entirely within pentad AC9. A left-turn at the t-junction takes you on a short two-way section of the tourist route and then becomes one-way again. In this area we recorded **Eastern Long-billed Larks** and **Sentinel Rock-Thrushes**. Shortly after point 9 the route leaves AC9 and enters CA3 and continues along the mountain top.

Roughly midway between points 10 and 11, the route enters pentad CB1 and starts descending to the grassy plains lying south of the Suikerbosrand range. We only arrived at CB1 at 11:40 and by that time birding was rather quiet; had we arrived there earlier

I believe that we would have easily bettered the total of 20 species we recorded in the two hours and 20 minutes we spent in this pentad.

The route proceeds westwards and shortly after point 13, rejoins pentad CA3, passing through grassland and patches of thornveld, when it reaches the popular Holhoek picnic area. Unfortunately, Holhoek is temporarily closed; we were told it had been vandalised by some drunken visitors and that it was hoped that it would re-open by Christmas. West of Holhoek, the route passes westwards through denser woodland. Roughly at the point that the route turns northwards, it leaves CA3 and enters pentads CA2, AC8 and back into AC9. Because it was getting late, we stopped atlasing at the end of CA3.

The journey home was a nightmare. We left the reserve at 16:50 and, owing to a two-hour traffic jam caused by roadworks on the N3 at the Geldenhuys Interchange in Germiston, we arrived home only at 20:20.

### Future atlasing strategy

On our next visit we should like to give more attention to pentads CA3 and CB1. We shall bird along the R550 (pentad AC9) until the reserve opens, then drive straight through to the start of the one-way portion of the route up the mountain and recommence birding. We shall follow the same route thereon and, if there is time, visit the picnic site and conference centre in AC9 only after completing the circular route. By adopting this strategy we shall arrive at pentads CA3 and CB1 two or more hours earlier, when the birds will be more active.

Pentad coordinates	Pentad name	No. of cards sent	No. of species
2625_2810	AC9	36	190
2625_2815	AD7	17	117
2630_2810	CA3	11	147
2630_2815	CB1	4	113

## A BOOK OR TWO



Etienne and Faansie's *The Chamberlain Guide to Birding Gauteng* is still a must for every birder (even if you don't live in Gauteng!). And for the LBJ lovers, I've still got *Pipits of Southern Africa* in

stock. Those who ordered and collected Ulrich and Burger's new *Raptor Guide*, thank you very much. This is a good book to have. For the late comers: I've still got stock available @ R230. It is such a wonderful time of the year! Just a reminder to get a nesting log for your garden!

### New items:

Children's book: *Owl Book* by Margarita Krusche @ R55.00.

BLNG Magnets - 3 different magnets in 2 sizes: 500 x 150 cm @ R130; and 350 x 120 cm @ R90.

### Coming soon:

Children's Books: *My First Book of Southern African Birds* by Errol Cuthbert & Jennifer Schaum.

Ralda Heyns

BLNG Trading – "A Book or Two"

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<b>Item</b>	<b>Author/Outeur</b>	<b>Price/Prys</b>
Identification Guide to the Animals of the Greater Kruger Park	Christo Joubert, Ulrich Oberprieler, Burger Cillie	R 155.00
Animals of Pilanesberg, an identification guide	Burger Cillie, Ulrich Oberprieler, Chris Jordaan	R 120.00
Attracting wildlife to your garden	Peter Chadwick	R 170.00
Austin Roberts Biography	CK (Bob) Brain	R 45.00
Bird Guide of Southern Africa	Ulrich Oberprieler; Burger Cillie	R 200.00
The Chamberlain Guide to Birding Gauteng	Etienne Marais, Faansie Peacock	R 180.00
Birds of Africa South of the Sahara	Peter Ryan; Ian Sinclair	R 340.00
Sasol Magazine: Birds of Prey, South Africa		R 55.00
ID Guide to the Animals of the Greater Kruger Park	Burger Cillie, Ulrich Oberprieler, Chris Jordaan	R 35.00
Remarkable flyfishing destinations of Southern Africa	Malcolm Meintjies	R 190.00
Frogs & Frogging	Vincent Carruthers	R 180.00
Sasol Magazine - Great Garden Birds		R 70.00
Greater Limpopo Birding, self drive Routes	Uitgegee deur: BLSA	R 45.00
Identifiseer Die Bome Van Suider Afrika	Braam Van Wyk; Piet Van Wyk	R 170.00
How to identify trees in Southern Africa	Braam Van Wyk; Piet Van Wyk	R 180.00
Lok Natuurlewe na jou Tuin in Suider-Afrika	Roy Trendler	R 170.00
Mammal Guide of SA	Ulrich Oberprieler	R 155.00
Mammal Pocket Guide of SA	Ulrich Oberprieler	R 95.00
Field Guide to Mammals of Southern Africa: Revised Edition	Chris Stuart; Tilde Stuart	R 200.00
Newman se voëls van Suider Afrika	Kenneth Newman	R 200.00
The complete photographic guide Birds of Southern Africa	Ian Sinclair; Peter Ryan	R 270.00
Pipits of Southern Africa	Faansie Peacock	R 170.00
Sakgids tot Suid-Afrikaanse Voëls	Burger Cillie; Ulrich Oberprieler	R 95.00
Prime Kruger	Brett Hilton-Barber, Prof Lee R Berger	R 80.00
Raptor Guide (Oberprieler)	Burger Cillie; Ulrich Oberprieler	R 230.00
A guide to the reptiles of Southern Africa	Johan Marais; Graham Alexander	R 220.00
Roberts Bird Guide	Hugh Chittenden; Guy Upfold	R 180.00
Roberts Bird Guide: Kruger National Park and Adjacent Lowveld	Ian Whyte; Hugh Chittenden	R 140.00
Roberts Voëlgids	Hugh Chittenden	R 180.00
Roefvoëls van SA	Burger Cillie; Ulrich Oberprieler	R 230.00
Pocket Guide to SA Birds	Burger Cillie; Ulrich Oberprieler	R 95.00
Sasol birds of prey of Africa and its Islands	Alan Kemp; Meg Kemp	R 210.00
Sasol Birds of Southern Africa	Ian Sinclair; Phil Hockey; Warwick Tarboton	R 210.00
Sasol groter geïllustreerde gids tot die voëls van Suider Afrika	Ian Sinclair; Phil Hockey	
Sasol larger illustrated guide to birds of Southern Africa	Ian Sinclair; Phil Hockey	R 230.00
Sasol voëls van Suider-Afrika	Warwick Tarboton; Norman Arlott; Ian Sinclair; et al	R 230.00
Die Soogdiere van Suider-Afrika	Burger Cillie	
Veldgids Soogdiere van Suider Afrika	Stuart, Chris & Tilde	R 210.00
Southern African Birdfinder	Callan Cohen; Claire Spottiswoode	R 210.00
Watter slang is dit?	Johan Marais	R 120.00
What's that Butterfly	Steve Woodhall	R 160.00
What's that snake?	Johan Marais	R 140.00
Southern African wild flowers: Jewels of the veld	John Manning	R 250.00
Field Guide to Butterflies of South Africa	Steve Woodhall	R 210.00
Roberts VII Large		R 800.00
Binocular Harnesses (BLNG badge)		R 150.00
Binocular Harnesses (Leather)		R 150.00
Birdlife, SA (Cloth Badge)		R 10.00
Birdlife, SA Pins		R 8.25
BirdLife, SA Sticker		R 10.00
BLNG Golf Shirt (Khaki)		R 110.00
BLNG Caps		R 80.00
BLNG Cloth Badges		R 35.00
T-shirt (Printed)		
BLNG Golf Shirt (Green; Grey)		R 110.00
BLNG Hats (Beige)		R 80.00
BLNG Jackets (Beige)		R 250.00
BLNG Sticker 50x50		R 5.00
BLNG Sticker 90x90 (White or Reverse)		R 10.00
BLNG Sunvisor (ongeborduur)		R 40.00
Cover, Sasol/Roberts ea		R 150.00
License Holders		R 25.00
BLNG Notelets (Cards)		
Slingbag, Sasol/Roberts ea		R 150.00
Notepad		
Ordinary Poster		R 20.00
Magnet 350x120		R 90.00
BLNG Cap (ongeborduur)		R 30.00
Winter Warmer (BLNG logo)		R 70.00
Magnet 500 x 150		R 130.00
Rain Jackets (BLNG logo)		R 180.00
Nesting Logs		R 50.00
Gift vouchers		Various

