



Laniarius

No. 127
Winter 2014



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, Hatfield.
Branch code: 160245
Account number: 1634010531

Committee 2014 Komitee

President

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

Chairperson – Voorsitter

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

Secretary – Sekretaresse

Rita de Meillon; 012 807-4002/ 083 391-2327; secretary@blng.co.za

Honorary Treasurer – Tesourier

Hanlie van Heerden; 082 488-1731; hanlie.vanheerden@vodamail.co.za

PR and Website – Skakelbeampte en Webtuiste

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

Conservation & Vice Chairperson – Bewaring & Ondervoorsitter

Rion Lerm; 076 913-8381; austringerever@yahoo.co.uk

Programme and Activities – Program en Aktiwiteite

Wanda Louwrens; 083 632-3846; louwrlj@mweb.co.za

Sub-committee: Frans van Vuuren, Rob Geddes, Frik du Plooy, Jason Boyce, Jeanette Heuseveldt, Amanda & Pieter le Roux, Elba Swart, Gerrie Jansen van Rensburg

Evening Meeting arrangements: Wanda Louwrens & Rita de Meillon

Bird Ringing – Voëlberinging

Frik du Plooy; 078 524-4189; jfduplooy@vodamail.co.za

Sub-committee: Paula Steyn, Johan Snyman

Laniarius Editor – Redakteur

Phillip & Jill de Moor; 012 807-3776; lanariuseditor@gmail.com

Sub-committee: André Marx, Ingrid van Heerden, Faansie Peacock, Salomi Louw, Drinie van Rensburg (design & layout)

Young Birders – Jong Voëlkykers

Jason Boyce; 082 585-2252; jasonkyleboyce@gmail.com

SABAP2 Atlas Co-ordinators – Atlaskoördineerders

Ernst Retief; 012 332-3323; ernst.retief@gmail.com - André Marx; 083 4117674; turaco@telkomsa.net

Notice to contributors

Laniarius is published three times annually. Deadlines for contributions are 1 March, 1 July and 1 November. Articles should preferably be e-mailed to the Editor, but may also be posted to the club post box. Contributions and advertisements are accepted at the discretion of the Editor. Digital photographic images are always welcome.

Kennisgewing aan bydraers

Laniarius word drie keer jaarliks uitgegee. Spertye vir bydraes is 1 Maart, 1 Julie en 1 November. Artikels moet verkieslik per e-pos aan die redakteur gestuur word, maar kan ook na die klub-adres gepos word. Aanvaarding van bydraes en advertensies word aan die diskresie van die redakteur oorgelaat. Digitale foto's is altyd welkom.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Editorial/Redaksioneel	2
Chairman's Report/Voorsittersverslag	3
Financials	4
A competitive spirit – starting young!	6
Birding in the Eastern Cape	7
How fast can a birder move?	8
Rooiwal – the next generation	10
Buffelsdrift ringing hike	11
Ringgroep: Buffelsdrift.....	11
Why birders are crazy.....	12
Addendum to personal names	12
An avifauna (bird) report for the Hartbeesspruit/Moreletaspruit.....	16
BLNG-naweek, Barberspan	19
Galapagos Islands and Ecuador	20
Kort, maar lekker op die Zambesi.....	23
My eerste ervaring van reën tydens 'n ring-uitstapjie	24
Western Cape quick tour – coast to Karoo	26
BLNG Limpopo Roofvoëlringtoer.....	29
Interesting retrap of a Common Tern 33 years after the first trapping	30
Leukistiese Langstertlaksman	31
Twee Piet-my-vrou kuikens met verskillende ouers	32
Woodland Kingfisher catching and swallowing a field mouse.....	32
Fences – a friend or foe of birds?.....	33
Rarities and unusual sightings	34

Credits

Front cover: Yellow Wagtail/Geelkwikkie photographed at Northern Farm by Rion Lerm.
Birding facts taken from *Everything you Always Wanted to Know About Birds* by Stephen Moss.
Cartoons from *The Crazy World of Bird Watching* by Peter Rigby.



Editorial/ Redaksioneel

What a fabulous year of birding! First there was the five day "Flock" cruise on the luxury liner MSC Opera up the west coast of the Cape and Namibia in the company of 1200 birders. Next we spent a week with a group of experienced birders and a most informative guide in the highlands and coast of Scotland. And finally the AGM of Birdlife South Africa in the Drakensberg with two days of LAB (Learn About Birds) during which many aspects of bird behaviour were covered and the effects of climate change on birds and their environment were explained in a manner that was both interesting and easy to follow. We were left with the feeling that climate change would soon bring the world to the brink of disaster unless urgent steps are taken by every country to curb the pollution of the atmosphere.

In a previous *Laniarius* (number 125) I mentioned that the Southern Yellow-billed Hornbill had an exceptionally large bill which did not seem to have any specific purpose other than to feed the chicks in the hollow of a tree. However, at the LAB meeting I learned that the hornbill has a rich blood supply to the bill and, like the South American Toucan, this blood supply can be switched on and off depending on the air temperature. Experiments were conducted on male and female hornbills in a controlled environment where they were exposed to a series of temperatures between 25 and 45°C. The bill can control heat loss because it is highly vascular and fine capillaries in the bill allow for control of the blood entering the bill and loss of heat through the surface of the bill. This is of advantage to the bird in the dry Kalahari heat because it allows the

bird to conserve water that would be lost by panting (evaporative cooling).

This description of the function of the hornbill beak led me to have a look at the functions of bills in other groups of birds. For example, the White Pelican's bill is used to scoop fish from the water, but is not used as a carrier bag in flight. Waders in general have a large variety of bills designed for differing functions and most feed by probing or pecking either in mud or sand or water. Many have highly sensitive bills allowing them to touch and feel their prey. Lapwings have short bills used for pecking at the ground. Redshanks have longer, pointed bills which they use to find food near the surface of mud and sand. Godwits have long, delicate, pointed bills that enable them to pick food from the shores of the sea and lakes and Curlews use their long bills to probe more deeply than other birds into sand and mud. Oystercatchers use their long, strong bills to hunt for molluscs which they sometimes break open.

Then consider vultures. When they spot a dead animal it is commonly the Lappet-faced Vulture that has first choice. With its great size and powerful bill it is able to rip open parts of carcasses not otherwise accessible to other vultures. Finally, the Egyptian Vulture and Hooded Vulture with much more slender bills can only feed principally on scraps left by the other vultures.

The functions of birds' bills that I have briefly described are but one aspect of the great variety of physiological specialisations to be found in the world of birds. Think of their songs or their tail feathers. Perhaps you might find some aspect of bird behaviour or colouring that could add further interest to your birding trips and that would also interest other club members.

Phillip and Jill de Moor



Chairman's Report/ Voorsittersverslag

Philip Calinikos

I recently attended the Flock 2014 and LAB organised by BirdLife South Africa in the Drakensberg. The LAB (Learn About Birds) programme was spread over two days with provision being made for the more technically minded as well as lay birders such as myself... and what a fantastic programme it proved to be! With the two programmes being run concurrently it was often exceedingly difficult to decide which presentations to attend.

Some of the presentations at the LAB highlighted the immense effect that technology is having on our understanding of the lives of birds and their movements. The subject of migration has always fascinated me and technology is enabling us to track the movements of birds with incredible accuracy and some of the data is mind boggling. Warwick Tarboton recently tracked a pair of Woodland Kingfishers that were nesting in his garden and was amazed to find that the male and female migrated separately to vastly different regions in Africa during our winter... only to return to the same nesting site within days of each other!

Through our conservation efforts our club has also contributed to the BLSA Secretarybird project with the donation of two tracking devices so far. All of you will be aware of the exploits of our first bird, BLiNG, who, upon leaving the nest disappeared into the wilds of Botswana only to return almost a year later to his natal area...after first paying us a courtesy visit here in Pretoria just before Christmas!

BLiNG has now been tracked for over a year and his device has generated an enormous amount of data. It is hoped that he and his device will continue to do so for some time to come and hopefully we will be able to track him once he reaches maturity and tries to establish a firm territory and obtain a mate.

Our attempts to fit a device to Hermes, our second bird, were initially foiled by an unknown predator which caught and ate the bird shortly after the device was fitted. Fortunately the device was recovered intact and has now been fitted to Hermes 2 at the Leeuwfontein Collaborative Reserve north of Pretoria and at the last report he was still in the vicinity of the nesting site.

I must also take this opportunity to thank those of you who participated in our recent conservation raffle which raised R2 500 and will be allocated towards future conservation efforts. Thanks again to Brian Moreby for the idea and the prizes.

At the April evening meeting we also announced that the club has signed on as the Local Conservation Group for the Waterberg Important Bird and Biodiversity Area (IBA). This initiative will be co-ordinated by Rion Lerm, our Conservation Sub-committee Chairperson, who is looking for energetic and enthusiastic members to assist him with the project. Please give him a call if you are interested in making a significant contribution to conservation in our area.

DONATIONS/DONASIES November 2013 – March 2014

A huge thank you for your donation. Your contributions help us reach our goal towards supporting bird conservation projects and it is much appreciated.

Baie dankie vir u donasie, u bydrae verseker dat ons 'n groter bydrae tot die bewaring van voëls kan lewer. Ons waardeer dit opreg.

Jan & Hannalien Meyer, Kurt Zsilavec, André Marx, Anton Ackermann, Rowan Jordaan, Nick Pattinson, Bets Lategan, Elmiën Adendorff, Dan Jackson, Riel Franzsen, R Sprenger de Rover, Vic Cruger, Anthony Botes, Charnelle du Toit.



**INCOME STATEMENT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED
31 DECEMBER 2013**

	2013 R	2012 R
INCOME	65,765	60,160
Subscriptions	65,765	60,160
COST AND DISTRIBUTION OF PUBLICATION	34,500	25,141
Laniarius	34,500	25,141
GROSS INCOME	31,265	35,019
OTHER INCOME	61,688	36,762
Donations received	4,968	5,776
Advertising	-	-
Interest received	6,740	6,332
Other	2,095	-
Nett proceeds from gala events	2,850	1,123
Nett proceeds from outings	8,284	2,695
Nett proceeds from courses and special events	30,440	8,657
Nett proceeds from trading activities	6,311	12,179
TOTAL INCOME	92,953	71,781
LESS: EXPENDITURE	85,759	83,305
Audit fees	3,814	3,537
Bank charges	2,731	3,010
Bird ringing	6,500	6,500
Conservation	15,000	20,000
Evening meeting expenses	7,296	5,122
Functions	2,680	917
Marketing and Public Relations	3,178	-
Leaders expenses	8,319	8,375
Printing and Stationary	2,400	890
Secretarial fees	30,000	30,000
Sundry expenses	2,417	2,929
Telephone & postage	375	975
Small Assets	-	-
Insurance	1,050	1,050
(LOSS)/SURPLUS FOR THE YEAR	7,194	(11,524)
ACCUMULATED FUNDS - beginning of the year	185,747	197,271
ACCUMULATED FUNDS - end of year	192,941	185,747

Committee: Philip Calinikos (Chairperson), Rion Lerm (Vice Chair), André Marx (President), Hanlie van der Merwe (Secretary)

**BALANCE SHEET AS AT
31 DECEMBER 2013**

	2013 R	2012 R
ASSETS		
Non current assets	1	1
Office equipment	1	1
At costs	4,851	4,851
Less: Accumulated Depreciation	4,850	4,850
Current assets	227,487	190,816
Bank Balance	60,505	43,731
Fixed deposit	162,501	136,223
Cash on hand and pre payments	4,481	10,862
Stock	-	-
TOTAL ASSETS	227,488	190,817
EQUITY AND LIABILITIES		
Capital and reserves	192,941	185,747
Accumulated funds	192,941	185,747
Current liabilities	34,547	5,070
Amounts received in advance	23,549	-
Creditors	10,998	5,070
TOTAL EQUITY AND LIABILITIES	227,488	190,817

A competitive spirit – starting young!

Jason Boyce

If there is one thing that has struck me in the last couple years it's that birders love a challenge. There are so many different things that drive birders to get up at 3 am and get out there for the morning chorus. Yes, sometimes they will even be asking themselves why they do it, but they do it anyway. From atlasing to photography to that thrill of getting a lifer or to simply to be out in the bushveld and watch a Kgomogomo sunrise, one can never say that birders don't live life!

Listing has also always been a big part of what birders do. I cannot say I have ever met a birder who doesn't keep a list in one form or another. You know you are truly a lister when you need to keep a list of all your lists.

The other thing that has been absolutely great to see in the past year or two is the number of new, young and passionate birders that are getting involved. Some of them seem to have enough energy (and time) to go birding all hours of the day and night, and get up the next morning to do it again. Whilst I will be the first to admit that I do fall into that category from time to time, it is so encouraging to see how many young guys and girls are embracing all that birding has to offer.

So what has caused this, what has encouraged all this youthful vibrance? One of the young greats, Faansie Peacock, was telling me that when he was in his early twenties there were very few young birders, especially girls. Nowadays there seem to be so many younger generation birders getting out and looking

for new birds. I would be very tempted to say that the answer to the above question is that youngsters have a competitive spirit, that they display a passion and drive to show what they can do. Yes, there are other contributing factors such as technology. Facebook seems to be what *Birdnet* was 10 years ago: bird books on cell phones, bird calls on the ready, digital cameras snapping away at those LBJs. However, possibly the biggest contributing factor has been the initial Wider Gauteng 100 km Challenge and the onset of 5 or 6 brand new year list Challenges started this year. The goal is to record as many species as possible within a calendar year and within a set boundary. A birder cannot resist a challenge, especially those that involve a list, and so this idea has taken off with nearly 200 people having registered across the various challenge areas in the country. It has been no surprise seeing a good number of youngsters on these lists and often near the top! If you have not registered yet, here's a link that you can follow (www.birding.co.za/challenge.htm) A big thanks must go to Kevin Ravno for the use of his list server and to Etienne Marais for hosting the challenge listing on his website.

So to those of you young folk that display that energy, vibrance and passion, thank you! It's awesome to see and really encourages so many others! Keep going at it and be sure to invite and teach those that look up to you – lets nurture a young generation into the wonders of birding. 🐦

Home made

The country with the most endemics is according to ornithologist James Clements, Australia, with 238 endemics. However, the island of New Guinea (which comprises two countries: Papua New Guinea and Irian Jaya – (a province of Indonesia) has 330 endemics. The country with the highest *proportion* of endemics is Madagascar, where endemics account for one in three of all bird species. More than 130 countries have no endemics at all.

Birding in the Eastern Cape – December 2013

Kobus & Carola du Plooy

On our way down to the Eastern Cape we decided to stay over at Mokala National Park, about 50 km south of Kimberley. We arrived late on the 13th of December and left very early on the 15th. This gave us a day and a bit of birding in this lovely national park. It was also the first time we birded in the Northern Cape. Our list came to 73 birds including two lifers in the form of the Sociable Weaver and the Pygmy Falcon. We also had two mammal lifers – the Sable and Roan Antelopes. Mokala is a beautiful park and worth a longer visit.

We spent another part of our December holiday in Cape St. Francis from the 17th - 22nd December 2013. We enquired at St. Francis Bay Tourism about birding in the area and were lucky enough to be put in contact with Yvonne Bosman from the St Francis Bay Birding Club. She made a special arrangement to meet us on 20th December 2013. We, with Carola's sister and brother, met her at the St. Francis Bay Golf Links – with two other birders (mother and son) from Pretoria.

Yvonne took us to Soutvlei, a private farm that birders don't usually have access to. We were lucky enough to see a great many water birds, which are not always present at this site. Specials included Black-necked Grebe, Maccos Duck, Fish Eagle, African Marsh Harrier, both Greater and Lesser Flamingo and the Blue Crane was a bonus. Wessel Rossouw, a local bird expert, joined us at Soutvlei.

From there we proceeded to Paradise Beach (where the airstrip is flooded making it a waders' paradise). Unfortunately Yvonne was not feeling well at all and had to leave us at that point. Wessel agreed to stay with us for the remainder of the morning.

Wessel was telling us that he saw a Crab Plover which might still be at Gamtoos River Mouth Estuary as he suspected that it was moulting. We all agreed that this was a must. After a short drive to the estuary and quite a

walk to the spot we were fortunate to find the Crab Plover still present. Needless to say that this was a lifer for us! There were also many, many other waders including Greater Sand Plover (also a lifer), Grey Plover, Bar-tailed Godwit and both the Common Whimbrel and the Eurasian Curlew – for ease of size comparison. On the way back, we were lucky enough to see the Booted Eagle (immature) – which we have also never seen before. Thank you to St. Francis Bay Bird Club, especially Yvonne and Wessel, for making this day a very special day.

We then went to Mountain Zebra National Park just outside Cradock from 25 to 29 December. This was also a first for us and is a



The tornado that was seen

Kobus du Plooy



Crab Plover/Krapvreter, a real special!

beautiful park that we thoroughly enjoyed. Both MZNP and Cape St. Francis were big family get-togethers (20 people) and birding was not always the polite thing to do, but we nonetheless got ourselves a list of 85 including two lifers in the form of the Chat Flycatcher and the Pale-winged Starling. We also had many sightings of Blue Crane and saw a long-time-no-see Yellow-throated Petronia. The raptors included many Southern Pale Chanting Goshawks and Rock Kestrel. A final bonus was seeing two Secretarybirds on our way out as well as a fantastic tornado, luckily just missing us, except for a bit of wind and hail – a spectacular view we will never forget! 🌩️

How fast can a birder move?

Debbie van Zyl

Not a question I have pondered too much in my life but having recently witnessed a hilarious event, it is worth a bit of consideration and sharing with you.

I have been moved by many birds in my life. The thrill of being part of a group when each of you gets to take a very quick peek through the undergrowth at a lifer. In that case stealth and not speed is required. So maybe a few examples of birders moving about in the undergrowth isn't going to answer this question. I have been moved by a rhino and a pride of lions while on foot in the Kruger National Park but as they aren't birding related maybe we can save those embarrassing stories for another day.

One of the events that stands out for me is the sighting of the Franklin's Gull at Centurion Lake during mid-August 2008. I recall hearing the news and immediately sending out an alert via e-mail to the BLNG members to make sure our members in the Greater Pretoria area stood a chance of catching up with this rarity. These were the days before Facebook was around to spread this kind of message so e-mail and telephone was what we used. I was frustratingly

stuck at the office in meetings at Sandton and just couldn't get away. About an hour after sharing the news, a 2 hour meeting was cancelled and I had a gap in my diary. Thankfully my hubby had a gap in his diary too (and we work at the same office) so a quick phone call later and we were on the road heading north. No binoculars but lots of energy. In my haste to get on the road, I forgot the directions at the office but we decided to wing it. How big could the lake be anyway?

For someone seriously unfit I can confirm that lake is huge. When you arrive at the mall side and realise after a while that you need to get to the office park side, brisk walking is required. Brisk walking in work clothes is not simple. Your high-heeled shoes are a serious inhibitor and floppy trousers get in the way of free movement, things you only notice when dashing around a rather large lake trying to find someone wearing binoculars. The crazy dash ended well with us spotting Lisl van Deventer and a pair of binoculars dangling around her neck. The event ended with "...they lived happily ever after" but no further mention will be made of the heavy breathing, panting and wheezing

that got in the way of “hello”, “thanks for showing us the bird”, “glad we could borrow your binocs” and “cheers, we have to get back to the office now”.

My latest example of a fast moving birder was just yesterday at Kgomo-Kgomo. Bets, Elouise and I decided there was only one choice of birding venue on Boxing Day and after hearing news of the volume of water there and the specials on display, we were away. Arriving just after 5:30 am we were late. The Pretoria-based birders were able to get there quicker than us so were already enjoying their second coffees while we acclimatised ourselves. A swift check through Lisl’s scope got us the Woolly-necked Stork and then the rush of greeting everyone and checking where to look for already-ticked species was on the cards. Rain was not our friend and soon we were all in our cars and driving up and down the roads in the area to work on our atlas cards as playing in the rain wasn’t too much fun. By midday we met up with Lisl and Jerome at the bridge to catch up on events. Lisl was kind enough to show us the area where we could sit and stake out the Lesser Moorhen. Strolling back to our vehicle and chairs, I happened to mention to Lisl our great sighting of a Dusky Lark a few hours earlier as it was a lifer for Elouise.

After a few seconds I realised I was talking to myself. Lisl had dashed back to Jerome and his bakkie and was muttering furiously. She turned around with eyes wide and pupils dilated. “Where, where, where?” By this stage Jerome had started throwing their chairs and anything else lying around into the back of the bakkie. After giving clear directions to Lisl she

lunged into the bakkie and was barely able to close the door before Jerome popped a u-turn and went careening into the village. From the time I muttered “Dusky Lark” to seeing them turn the corner only about 2 minutes must have passed. Elouise and Betsie were still getting our chairs out the back of the car when it was all over and the three of us stood alone on the bridge. Just us three, lots of water and hundreds of birds.

Not only did Lisl and Jerome physically move that fast but when we got a call a few minutes later to come and help join the search, we found another four cars filled with birders also looking for the lark. Either Lisl types SMSs really quickly or there’s a technology grapevine at work that will just boggle the mind. Four other cars had literally appeared from nowhere in a few minutes and with the guys peeling out of those cars, the hunt was on.

That’s how fast birders can move if they need to. After a while we abandoned the search and went back to the bridge to quietly stalk the Lesser Moorhen. 45 minutes of quiet patience (most of it spent on a chair next to the road) paid off and we were rewarded with two sightings of this rare bird. By this time it was after 1 pm and having been up since 2:30 am we sluggishly packed the chairs and scopes up. We lethargically climbed into the car to tackle the road back home. We took a slow drive down the Zaagkuildrift Road to maximise the atlasing time, before joining the craziness of the N1 back south.

Whether you’re a fast mover or a slow shaker, there is place for everyone in the birding world. 🐦

Why are some birds’ eggs white, while others are patterned or coloured?

In general, eggs are coloured or patterned to help disguise them from predators, and white when laid in holes, where predators are unlikely to be hunting by sight. White eggs may also be easier for the adult bird to see in the dark. It is thought that birds’ eggs were originally white (like those of their reptile ancestors) and later developed colours and patterns as the need for concealment increasingly began to arise.

Rooiwal – the next generation

Annali Swanepoel

I was convinced all children are trouble. Then in my reclining years I became a grandparent. And my convictions changed.

Some people have grandchildren. Others, like myself have precocious prodigies – joyous wonders of achievement, agility of mind and body, wise and clever beyond anything you can think or imagine. I only have one grandchild but what he has been endowed with you won't find in generations of offspring. He is only five years old, in grade 0 and barely over a metre in his socks. But one day he is going to scale Everest, rewrite Einstein's theorem, improve on Mark Spitz's record at the Olympics and put Faansie Peacock to shame. His name is Lourens. And, in spite of the vicissitudes of sightings, he took to birding like a duck to water.

'How to nurture a fledgling birder's love for birding' was the focus of most of my thoughts the previous weeks as I planned his 'coming out' at the Rooiwal club outing. I mulled over various ways I could ensure Lourens' birding interest would grow, prosper and lead to a lifetime of rewarding birding. Fruit juice, crisps, chocolates, and Vienna sausages all featured prominently in my planning. I dearly wanted him to enjoy the club outing with adults so much he would beg to accompany me on every future club outing.

When his father was his age I told him if you ever need a helping hand you will find it at the end of your arm. Thirty years on, at Rooiwal I found myself with a sticky little paw attached to the end of my arm. We were in the company of BLNG's assorted avian groupies. The sun was a blistering yellow disc overhead. A malodorous breeze intermittently teased our perspiring brows as we strained to affirm the identity of a whole flock of juvenile birds. A heated debate on the possibility of White-winged versus Whiskered Terns flew back and forth. I pulled my 'Sasol' out and paged to the relevant illustrations. Lourens took a good look through his

Christmas stocking binoculars and then at the book. Confidently he told me the birds flying overhead and skimming the water are White-winged Terns while pointing at their pictures. The next moment our diminutive guide threw her arms around him, hoisted him up and instructed him to look right across the water to the buttery-coloured Squacco Heron on the opposite side of the dam. A Spurwing Goose flew overhead and unceremoniously she put him down to show the picture of a Spurwing Goose in the guidebook. "Yes, and that," he said, "is a Comb Duck," as he pointed to the bird at the bottom of the page. Delight and wonder mixed with awe spread across the little guide's face. She looked at me and slowly turned her head from side to side to indicate her amazement. I didn't tell her what his lifer list stood at, because that would be bragging and I am not given to boasting.

Out of nowhere loomed a bizarrely bright 4-man-tent with a tiny head attached to its top. The Tent bowed to Lourens' eye-level. "Hi You! How old are you?" Still eye-to-eye a startlingly pink nail poked Lourens in the ribs, keeling him over and ordered: "Uh?" "I am five", Lourens answered as he got back on his feet and pushed out his chest. "I've got a grandson of four. And he already knows 60 birds," the Tent told the sundry audience, the sky, and the terns as she giggled a goofy falsetto tune and waddled off. Not put off by Fifty-going-on-four Lourens retaliated to the receding Ocean Liner: "When I was four I knew 70 birds!"

How do you defend a five year old against an unseen competitor, a malicious grandmother with early dementia, accessorised with an inferiority complex, when you didn't even know you were in a competition? Let alone being pitted against 'The One Who Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest'.

I told Lourens it is better to be looked over than to be overlooked. 🐦

Buffelsdrift ringing hike: Saturday 11 January, 2014

Edna Murphy

The sun rose on an enthusiastically serious group of birders ready to note numerous lifers.

Led by our President, André, we left the ringers and headed off to see a shrieking Swainson's Spurfowl and to receive a tree top welcome from a Rattling Cisticola.

A Scaly-feathered Finch nest building and a female Red-backed Shrike were of particular note and the young snake which played possum soon slithered off into the undergrowth after a gentle nudge.

Numerous water birds sat sunning themselves on a dying fever tree at the farm dam. These included Reed Cormorants, Black-headed Herons - both mature and juvenile together - with a Cattle Egret in splendid breeding plumage. The Nile crocodile breeding pen alongside

revealed the exothermic reptiles soaking up the sun and energising for a lazy day.

We arrived back at base camp for a picnic breakfast and were privileged to be treated to a close encounter with several species by the ringers prior to releasing them, most definitely proving that a bird in hand is worth two in the bush. The Lesser Honeyguide, Little Sparrowhawk and Brown-crowned Tchagra, amongst several species, were of great interest.

It was most amazing to see the meticulous and humane work being done by our ringers. This data is invaluable to our scientists, making the world aware of the current statistics and impact of environmental destruction together with the ongoing changes relative to global warming. 🐦

Ringgroep: Buffelsdrift, 11 Januarie, 2014

Frik du Plooy

Johanna Hedlund is 'n PhD student uit Swede. Haar studies handel oor klimaatsverandering en migrasie van Hofsangers (Willow Warblers). Sy het ons gekontak via Dr Dieter Oschadleus by Safring, Universiteit van Kaapstad. Ons kon haar help by ons klubringsessie op 11 Januarie 2014 by Buffelsdrift. Ons het 15 Hofsangers gevang en sy het onder leiding van 'n A-ringer, Hein Bantjes, die geleentheid gehad om die sangers te ring en te bestudeer. Johanna Hedlund en Hein Bantjes verskyn op die meegaande foto. 🐦



Why birders are crazy

Debbie van Zyl

Whe birders are a crazy bunch. We have odd habits and people who aren't birders don't understand us. We get up early. Really early. We drive to unheard of places that no-one aside from birders has even heard about. We drive and walk through informal settlements with binoculars hanging around our necks as if we don't have a care in the world. We confer furiously with each other about some or other blob in the distance. We type into our smart phones or list birds on little black hardcover books that barely fit into our pockets. We nibble a lot and tend to eat unhealthy snacks, just to fill the holes in our tummies between ticks. We own a pair of gumboots and know how to use them. We own numerous tubes of sunblock and inevitably forget to use it. Our headgear smells of mouldy linen along with our Drimacs which are kept rolled up in a backpack or tossed onto the back seat of our cars. Most of us own a steel flask that is battered and bashed but still keeps coffee and hot water, hot. We consider rusks to be a food group. We know how to take care of ablutions in seconds on a busy road. If we don't already own a 4x4, we know another birder who has one and we abuse the relationship ruthlessly to get to those unheard of places. We check our smart phones regularly throughout

the day for Facebook updates on the locality of some hard to find species. We count lifers. We have the entire southern part of Africa broken up into tiny little blocks and we even count the birds we see inside those little blocks. Technology has become part of our daily activities and we struggle to remember the old days and how we ever birded without it. The longer the camera lens, the deeper the pockets. We tolerate the uninitiated but not the boasters or the liars. Our employer never gives us enough vacation days in a year. We dream of jobs that would pay us enough to stay out in the field to do what we love, every day. We understand a 2 terabyte hard drive is the start of a collection, not enough to contain all the bird photographs we will ever take in our lifetime. Birding in national parks is frustrating as we can't get out of our cars and stalk something small and brown that just flew into the undergrowth. We only stop for animals long enough to look for an oxpecker with a yellow bill. Red Bull is our friend. We're always planning the next outing or negotiating with spouses for time away from them and the kids. We live for the next adventure. Love us and know you will always need to keep the car filled with petrol because we never know when the next rare bird alert might arrive in our inboxes. 🐦

Addendum to Personal Names – those individuals missed out of the series of articles published in previous issues of Laniarius

As a postscript to this series and to check its completeness, I discovered that the following individuals were missing from the published list in Laniarius. For whatever reason I seem to have skipped a page of those whose name begins with S, making it the most popular surname initial letter for those who named birds. In my defence, the Japanese gentleman relates to a very rare petrel, perhaps only recently recorded in South African territorial waters.

I may be convinced to tackle those whose names are featured in the Latin names of Southern African birds, but not the vernacular; as I am currently working on an illustrated book bringing all these colourful characters together, entitled 'Name that SA Bird.'

My apologies for the omissions, but I hope you have enjoyed these articles on mostly 19th century gentleman hunters, collectors, amateur field ornithologist and professional museum cataloguers. If you have noticed any other errors or wish to add to what is already published, then please let me know at john@thirty-nineassociates.co.uk

Go well.

John K Bannon

MATSUDAIRA – Matsudaira's Storm Petrel, *Oceanodroma matsudairae* (Kuroda 1922)

I could find no supporting evidence that Viscount Yorikatsu Matsudaira (1876-1945) was a Japanese ornithologist or that he wrote a *Handlist of the Japanese Birds* in 1922, as given in error in the book *Whose Bird?* In fact the author is given as Nagamichi Kuroda *et al* published by the Ornithological Society of Japan and the publication is still available via AbeBooks.com.

The only Matsudaira I could find with similar dates is another Viscount, Matsudaira Morio (1878-1944), who served in the Japanese Imperial Navy and became a Rear Admiral in 1925. Perhaps he is the same man who collected birds on his travels around the Pacific and sent them in to Japanese museums, as the type specimen is stated in Roberts VII, as collected by Viscount Yorikatsu Matsudaira, in Sagami Bay, Honshu.

Nagamichi Kuroda (1889-1978) was a well-known Japanese ornithologist, who first described the Crested Shelduck in 1917 and published several books, including the two-volume *Birds of the Islands of Java* (1933-36). He also specialised in the differences between auks, petrels and shearwaters, so was well qualified to name the petrel after Matsudaira.

Matsudaira's Storm Petrel breeds only on the Japanese Volcano Islands (Iwo-jima) and ranges through tropical waters from the Western Pacific to the eastern Indian Ocean. It has been rarely recorded off the east and Cape coasts of South Africa.

Any further information on Viscount

Yorikatsu Matsudaira would be greatly appreciated.

SALVIN - Salvin's Albatross, *Thalassarche salvini* (Rothschild 1893); Salvin's Prion, *Pachyptilla salvini* (Mathews 1912).

Osbert Salvin (1835-1898) was another pillar of the 19th-century natural history establishment in Britain. A Fellow of the Royal Society he was a very close and lifelong friend of Dr. Frederick du Cane Godman and together they authored one of the world's most amazing natural history books.

The incredible *Biolgia Centrali Americana* is their true legacy, being published in 40 volumes from 1879 until 1904 and today is one of the world's most valuable natural history publications. Most of the world's top libraries have copies including the Smithsonian, where all 40 volumes can be viewed free (www.biodiversitylibrary.org).

They met at Cambridge University, both privileged sons of wealthy families and immediately set about exploring the local fenlands and marshes, studying, collecting and shooting anything that interested them. The following notes from Godman's 1913 introduction to their completed masterpiece, Salvin having died in 1898, poignantly illustrates the typical *modus operandi* of natural history enthusiasts of those days.

'... During our college days, Salvin and I made frequent expeditions together to the fens and other places in the neighbourhood of Cambridge, to collect bird's eggs and Lepidoptera. On one occasion we heard of a bustard that had been

seen at Wicken Fen, and we spent a couple of days searching for it, but with no intention of shooting so rare a visitor. We found both its foot-tracks and some shed feathers, but, as we learned afterwards, the bird had been shot at and probably wounded by one of the fenmen, as it was never seen again.'

There were several other keen ornithologists at Cambridge at that time, and in 1858 the British Ornithological Union was established with Salvin, Godman, Simpson, Wolley, Sclater, Newton, Tristram and several other college members as the first 20 members. The first issue of *Ibis* appeared the following year.

Between 1857 and 1867 Salvin made many visits to Central America and was determined to be the first European to find and shoot the Resplendent Quetzal, a quest in which he succeeded. For three decades a constant stream of Quetzal plumes were to cross the Atlantic to adorn collectors' cabinets and *haute couture* milliners' shops in London, Paris and Amsterdam.

He had a special interest in both hummingbirds and petrels and wrote the monograph of both in the *Catalogue of the Birds of the British Museum*. He had planned further study of the petrels but died of heart disease and possible arsenic poisoning in 1898.

Godman and Richard Bowdler Sharpe finished off the book, *A Monograph of the Petrels* and it was published in two volumes between 1907-10, stimulating further seabird research.

Lord Walter Rothschild (1868-1937), who named the albatross after Salvin, was one of the world's foremost collectors, with his own private natural history museum which amassed 280,000 bird skins; 200,000 eggs; 3,400 mammals, 2,250,000 specimens of Lepidoptera and 300,000 beetles plus other invertebrates, reptiles and fish.

Gregory Macalister Mathews (1876-49), who named the prion after Salvin in 1912, was a well-known Australian ornithologist, who had made a fortune in mining shares. He wrote a *Manual of the Birds of Australia* in 12 volumes between 1919 and 1927 and later donated all his material to the Australian National Library.

SCHALOW – Schalow's Turaco, *Tauraco schalowi* (Reichenow 1891)

Herman Schalow (1852-1925) was a German banker, amateur ornithologist and author who worked closely with Reichenow and Reichenow's father-in-law Cabanis, both previously featured under Boehm in this series of articles. He was President of the German

New Members/ Nuwe Lede: December 2013 – April 2014

Ons verwelkom die volgende nuwe lede en hoop dat julle gou tuis sal voel.

Ons sien uit daarna om julle by ons aandvergaderings, daguitstappies of tydens 'n naweekkamp te leer ken.

A warm welcome to all our new members. We trust you will enjoy your birding with us and look forward to seeing you at our evening meetings, day outings or weekend trips.

Poerie & Denise van Wyk, Valhalla; Lynn Bentley, Silver Lakes; Roanda Pretorius, Lyttleton; Jannie & Jacoline Lourens; Everdt Combrinck; Rooihuiskraal; Tim Booth, Craighall; Johan Pretorius, Glenstantia; Johnny & Sonja Wright, La Montagne; Beate & Johan Holscher; Wingate Park; Anthea & John Sparrow, Lynnwood Ridge; Yolandi Hearne & Basil, Moreletapark; Theys & Margarita Radmann, Menlopark; Karin & Kobus Coetzer, Pierre van Ryneveld; Vic & Helapa Cruger, Faerie Glen; Yolandie Venter, Faerie Glen; Janine & Rod Chapman, Kaylin, Brandon, Sloane Park; Ismari Kirsten, Hatfield; Sonja Pretorius, Eldoraigine; Marie Botha & Elsie Meyer, Gezina; Sandra Dippenaar, Lyttleton Manor.

Ornithological Society and wrote several books including *Die Musophagidae* (1886); *Die Vogel der Arktis* (1905) and many scientific papers in which he described some 270 species. A leading member of the German ornithological establishment, he also edited Boehme's travelogue *Ostafrika, Sansibar und Tanganjik* and the Berlin Museum later named their ornithological library in his honour.

Dr Anton Reichenow (1847-1941) was the influential curator of the Berlin Natural History Museum and at one time had 18 species named after him, which has now dwindled to just one, as he had named many of them after himself – just not done!

STARK – Stark's Lark, *Eremalauda starkii* (Shelley 1902)

Arthur Cowell Stark (1846-1899) was an English ex-ironmonger then physician who emigrated to Cape Town in 1892. He travelled widely, collecting animal and bird species for the South African Museum in Grahamstown and also for the Durban Museum.

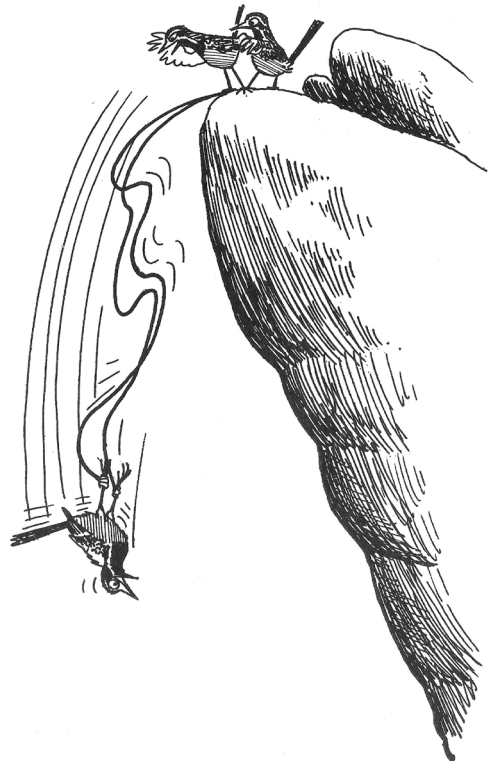
Under the editorship of William Lutley Sclater (see entry) who was the director of the South African Museum at the time, he had completed the first volume of the *Birds of South Africa* and had overseen its production in England in 1899. This was meant to form part of a much more ambitious work entitled the *Fauna of South Africa* which he and Sclater planned to compile together.

On returning from England he volunteered to work as a medical officer for the British Army in Natal, as the Anglo-Boer War had just broken out. During the siege of Ladysmith he stayed at the Royal Hotel, spending his days in shell proof trenches along the Klip River. At 7:30 pm on 18th November 1899, the Boer artillery – the Long Tom cannon – stationed on the hills overlooking Ladysmith, opened fire. The unfortunate Stark was standing on the hotel verandah and the second shell struck his leg and he died on the operating table shortly afterwards. Ironically Stark was a vigorous denouncer of the British treatment and

injustice towards the Boers whilst other, more worthy targets, such as Dr Jameson and Cecil Rhodes who were also staying at the hotel, escaped unscathed.

Sclater collected Stark's notes together and went on to continue Stark's unfinished work, with the second volume of the *Birds of South Africa* appearing in 1902. By enormous coincidence, Sclater was also to die of injuries in a war, when a German V1 flying bomb struck London in 1944, some 45 years after Stark's demise.

Captain George Shelley, also previously featured in this series, named the lark after him in 1902. 🐦



Cape Rockjumper

An avifauna (bird) report for the Hartbeesspruit/Moreletaspruit catchment

Rion Lerm

Local Friends groups are becoming increasingly involved with the activities of BirdLife Northern Gauteng where many of these groups are also members of the AdoptaRiver Moreletaspruit forum. Below is an amended version of one of these reports that the Conservation Portfolio of BLNG compiled for this important programme.

The second South African Bird Atlas (SABAP2; web address – sabap2.adu.org.za) database contains records of Southern African bird species recorded in five minute by five minute cells called pentads (~ 9 x 9 km). Together with the first SABAP that ended in the early 1990's, the database is the largest of its kind in the world and is accessible to anyone from the public. In November 2013 SABAP2 reached five million records for Southern African bird species. The SABAP2 project does not record bird abundances but merely species present during a survey, however reporting

rates are derived from the submitted surveys called cards. A species that is always recorded in a certain pentad has a reporting rate of 100%, and a species recorded once out of two surveys has a reporting rate of 50% and so on. SABAP2 is a citizen science project meaning that anyone from the public can access, register and submit data.

Only pentads covering more than 50% of the Hartbeesspruit/Moreletaspruit catchment were included in the report. Subsequently, two pentads were identified: 25°40' South_28°15' East and 25°45' South_28°15' East.

The species in these two pentads were well-documented due to their urban/suburban location. Since 2007, more than three cards (three separate surveys) were submitted monthly for both pentads. The lists for these pentads were combined in this report resulting in a total of 286 species recorded since the start of SABAP2, for the Hartbeesspruit/Moreletaspruit catchment (Records accessed: 29 January 2014).

The Red Data Book of Birds of South Africa Lesotho and Swaziland (Barnes, 2000) attempts to document losses at species level and identify and document sites where potential biodiversity losses can be minimised. Six Red Data bird species were found occupying the catchment. These were: Lanner Falcon *Falco biarmicus*, Peregrine Falcon *Falco peregrinus*, Black Stork *Ciconia nigra*, Secretarybird *Sagittarius serpentarius*, Lesser Kestrel *Falco naumanni* and Half-collared Kingfisher *Alcedo semitorquata*. All five these birds have reporting rates between 0.2% and 1.5%. The status of all these birds except the Lesser Kestrel is Near-threatened, meaning that these are likely to become Vulnerable in the near future. Vulnerable birds, according to Barnes (2000), are those that have a 10% chance of going extinct in the next 100 years.



Black Stork/Grootswartooievaar

Dinie van Rensburg

TABLE 1
The five most common species found in the Hartbees-/Moreletaspruit catchment. Larger reporting rates equate to more common species.

Common Name	Latin Name	Reporting rate
Dove, Laughing	<i>Streptopelia senegalensis</i>	97.1
Ibis, Hageda	<i>Bostrychia hagedash</i>	96.0
Bulbul, Dark-capped	<i>Pycnonotus tricolor</i>	94.4
Masked-Weaver, Southern	<i>Ploceus velatus</i>	94.1
Sparrow, Cape	<i>Passer melanurus</i>	93.2

Both the Lanner and Peregrine Falcon are aerial predators catching prey predominantly on the wing, however the low reporting rates suggest that these species were passing through the area and are not residents. The same can be said for the Lesser Kestrel (Vulnerable), Black Stork and Secretarybird. However, the cobalt blue Half-collared Kingfisher is mainly residential where it is recorded, but its shy and inconspicuous habits together with its preference for dense, marginal vegetation adjacent to perennial rivers and streams probably results in the low reporting rates. More intensive surveys of the Hartbeesspruit and Moreletaspruit will probably result in more records of this easily overlooked bird where it feeds on fish in clearer waters. Unconfirmed reports also showed the species occurred within the catchment as recent as November 2013 downstream from the Hartbeesspruit near the Colbyn Valley wetland boundary.

There are also exotic bird species occupying the catchment e.g. Common Myna *Acridotheres tristis*, the 8th most common bird recorded in the catchment. Native to India, and introduced to South Africa around 1900 AD, this species is placed within the starling family and follows an omnivorous diet. However, it only became well established in Pretoria around the 1980s. Although the Common Myna receives much criticism from birdwatchers and bird lovers alike, occasional competition only exists in the form of ousting other cavity nesting birds from their nests in urban/suburban areas. An example of such evicted species is the Green Wood Hoopoe *Phoeniculus purpureus*, a bird with a

reporting rate of 60% in the catchment. Other exotic species include the Rosy-faced Lovebird *Agapornis roseicollis* (one record suggests a possibly escapee) and House Sparrow *Passer domesticus*. The Common Peacock *Pavo cristatus* also has a low reporting rate of 0.2%, also considered an accidental visitor or escapee. Of importance is another exotic species with resident feral populations in the catchment: the Rose-ringed Parakeet *Psittacula krameri*. Aside from Durban, the Tshwane metropolis hosts the largest population where this species has a reporting rate of ~ 60%. The Hartbeesspruit/ Moreletaspruit catchment is the most northerly edge of the distribution of this species in South Africa, where the birds are possibly dispersing individuals from areas south of the catchment. This very vocal species started breeding in Johannesburg in the 1980s. The Rose-ringed Parakeet forages on fruit from various plants and its preference for a wide range of habitats probably resulted in its establishment around urban/suburban areas. As with the Common Myna, this parakeet breeds in tree cavities where the ousting of indigenous birds has been recorded. The Mallard *Anas platyrhynchos* is an introduced duck species from Europe, mainly for wing shooting in South Africa. The high reporting rate of 11% suggests that the bird is breeding within the catchment, however this species threatens the genetic integrity of other *Anas spp.* However, eradication measures were implemented in KwaZulu-Natal and Western Cape Provinces.

The five most common species show in Table 1.

Three of these are granivorous birds, following a vegetarian diet. The Dark-capped Bulbul *Pycnonotus tricolor* feeds mostly on fruit. The Hadeda Ibis *Bostrychia hagedash* feeds off invertebrates mostly by probing the soil with its decurved bill. All these species are known to occupy urban/suburban areas including parks, gardens and/or lawns. These five species share one common trait and that is a preference for relatively open habitats with scattered trees or woody plants. The catchment is located on the boundary of the Savannah Biome and the presence of the urban/suburban land uses might also explain the high reporting rates of these birds. Moreover, the Laughing Dove *Streptopelia senegalensis* follows productive lines in arid areas, such as rivers. The same may apply in the catchment, with the two perennial rivers flowing through this relatively small catchment supplying favourable habitat for this species. Other reasons for the high reporting rates may be supplementary feeding, as suggested by certain authors in the early 1900s. This can be in the form of garden feeders supplying all these species (except the Hadeda Ibis) with additional, easily obtainable food sources and even water. The 'Hadeda' probably benefits from the many potential nest sites in the form of large, suburban trees (indigenous and exotic species) together with the numerous lawns providing its primary food source of invertebrates. Trees of this stature only occur naturally in valleys and forested areas and the older

suburbs act as these natural areas, usually containing the only large trees in the landscape. The SABAP2 data confirms this. Reporting rates for the 'Hadeda' decrease away from populated places such as the Tshwane metropolis, especially to the north west of Pretoria. Immediately north of the catchment, the reporting rates also decrease for this species.

Approximately 16% of the species recorded in the catchment are dependent on permanent water. Some of these include the *Ardeids* (herons, egrets) and kingfishers. These species' dependence is mostly centred on food sources in the form of fish as most dependant species are carnivorous with some omnivores such as the Common Moorhen *Gallinula chloropus*. The continued existence of these species will depend on the future water quantity and quality of the perennial water sources inside the Hartbeespruit/Moreletaspruit catchment, that will in turn provide favourable food sources and to a lesser degree, nesting sites.

Apart from participating in the SABAP2 (with more strict protocol), 'Friendsgroups' especially those situated along the Hartbeespruit and Moreletaspruit rivers, e.g. Friends of Faerie Glen Nature Reserve, Friends of Colbyn Valley Wetland and more can participate in a more practical project: myBirdPatch. This project is also governed by the Animal Demography Unit, Cape Town (as with SABAP, CWAC, SAFRING etc.), but has less strict protocols with regard to recording bird species in a demarcated area. Moreover, the species recorded within these areas are incorporated into SABAP2. More information on myBirdPatch can be obtained from: <http://mybirdpatch.adu.org.za/>. Projects such as those mentioned above are pivotal in detecting changes in animal communities over time, but constant surveys need to be submitted in order to make informed decisions regarding the disappearance (for near-threatened and threatened species) or appearance of exotic species.

A more detailed report can be obtained from: <http://www.riv.co.za/ms/report.html> 🐦



Dun du Plessis

Laughing Dove/Rooiborsduifie

BLNG-naweek, Barberspan

21-23 Februarie 2014

Salomi Louw

Twee dae voor ons vertrek, bel André Marx om te sê hy sal dit nie kan haal nie; sal ek asseblief in aanraking kom met die personeel by Barberspan. Vir André doen 'n mens natuurlik enigets!

Die nuwe naweekkoördineerder het nie juis sukses behaal nie, maar ek skuif die skuld af op ander of omstandighede. Die ontvangsdame was oningelig (en ongeskik) oor die Pan of BLNG; kon net sê Sampie en Andrew is in Mafikeng vir 'n vergadering en dat Amos êrens is; kon nie inligting verskaf oor toestande of voëls nie; en daar was nie 'n voëllys beskikbaar nie. Volgens iemand het Charl en Ronel (wat ek nie ongelukkig nie een keer raakgehoop of ontmoet het nie) gesê dit het Donderdag baie gereën: dit was duidelik, alles was nat en die grond deurdrenk met groot waterpasse oral. Toe ek hoor 'n aantal mense het gekanselleer, het ek besluit om 'n kamer te betrek in plaas van te kampeer, omdat dit reeds weer na reën gelyk het. Ek was in Pelican House saam met Estelle en Cecilia – net ons drie. Die ander dames (Sita, Elmi, Annali en Judy) was in Flamingo House saam met Jan en Gerda. Die ander kampeerdere vir wie verblyf in die kamers aangebied is, het dit van die hand gewys.

Die Barberspankaart beskikbaar by die kantoor toon aan dat die paaie naby die water soms gesluit word as gevolg van nat toestande, toe ry ek draadlangs waar die pad later nie te goed gelyk het nie. Toe ek kort na 14:00 wou omdraai, val ek vas in die sagte modder langs die pad. Ek het modder uitgegrawe, klippe gepak en motormatjies onder die wiele gesit – maar verseg. Miskien sal dit bietjie droër word as ek solank stap en voëls kyk, dink ek toe, maar dit het ook nie gewerk nie. Ongelukkig het ek geen telefoonnommers byderhand gehad nie, buiten die kantoor s'n soos aangedui op

die kaart, maar dit – sê die lyndiens – bestaan nie. En dis toe daar dat ek uit radeloosheid vir André en Rita begin bel (ek het al oorweeg om oor die grensdraad te klim en 'n verbygaande motoris om hulp te vra, veral nadat ek Amos verskeie kere gebel het met die resultaat 'the subscriber is not available'). Die enigste BLNG-mens wat ek geken het, was Johan Slabbert en ek het hom gebel om te vra of hy my sal kom help (hy was toe nog nie by Sannieshof nie) as ek donker nog nie terug is nie. Ek het my gereed gemaak om die nag, dwars in die pad teen die Gysdorppad, te slaap, maar het gelukkig uiteindelik vir Amos – die enigste van die drie Panmense van wie ek geweet het – in die hande gekry. Hy het eers gesê hy kan nie help nie, maar later gebel om te sê hy het die trekker gekry en is op pad. Kort voor 18:00 was hy by my en dit het maar 'n gesukkel afgegee omdat die trekker self in die nat veld moes in om my dwars te sleep sodat my VW in die regte rigting wys vir die terugtog.

Amos sê toe ook hy begin eers om 08:00 werk terwyl ek vertel dat voëlkykers vroeër al wil uit. Toe ek Saterdag so 08:30 van die pan af terugkom – waar die wind iets verskrikliks gewaai het sodat ek nie eens my verkyker stil voor my oë kon hou nie, kry ek hom, sy hulp Piet, en die 4 dames naby die kantoor op pad pan toe. Blykbaar het hy hulle later langs die pad gelos om 'n bus te gaan uitsleep en Piet het die dames tot na middagete bygestaan. Laatmiddag het Amos die rondte van Vader Cloete kom doen om te sê hy sal Sondag eers nóg later beskikbaar wees, en een van die BLNG-lede het hom betig oor die swak ondersteuning wat ons kry, en gesê dat ons hulle nie maklik sal ondersteun as hulle nie die geriewe en ondersteuning opknep nie. Wat die hele naweek van Sampie en Andrew geword het, kon niemand my sê nie.

Saterdagmiddag het 'n hewige en langdurige reënstorm uitgebars: die paaie, veld en area rondom die huise was oorstrom met voertuie wat tot byna hul asse in waterpoele gestaan het. Net Flamingo House se mense het later gebrui. Die kampeerders het nie opgedaag vir die lees van die lys nie, maar dis te betwyfel of hulle iets gehad het om by te voeg tot die voëls wat deur die ander gesien is. Die Grootwulp/Eurasian Curlew is wel gesien. En – wat ek bevraagteken het – twee groepe het blykbaar die Maraboe gesien! (Hoe klink 'n Reuserier in die plek daarvan?).

Ek het 'n lys gebruik wat Erik my destyds gegee het aangesien die kantoor geen voëls beskikbaar gehad het nie. Buiten vir die Wulp en Gariëglasogie was daar niks by te voeg tot

Erik se lys nie. Ons lys, saamgestel deur elf van die vyftien naweekgangers, wys 159 gesien en een (Natale Fisant) gehoor. *[Maraboe is 'n moontlikheid omdat hulle 'n neiging het om te swerf. Natale Fisant is hoogs onwaarskynlik by Barberspan. 159 spesies vir die gebied is 'n goeie totaal vir die naweek – André Marx].*

Ten spyte van die afwesigheid van kundige personeel en die onkunde of onbeskikbaarheid van ander, en die weer wat nie saamgespeel het nie, was dit 'n lekker naweek en talle mense het 'lifers' aangeteken. Dis egter baie jammer dat dinge by Barberspan so erg verwaarloos het.

[Die personeel was bewus van ons klubbesoek daardie naweek; hierdie saak sal ondersoek word – André Marx]. 🐦

Galapagos Islands and Ecuador, November 2013

Part 1 – Galapagos

Ken Logan

Having spent just one day in the Galapagos Islands six years ago at the end of a cruise along the west coast of South America, Stephanie and I were determined to return one day to explore the islands more fully. And of course if you are a birder you don't come to the Galapagos without spending time in Ecuador. Six years ago we spent two days travelling from Quito to bird the cloud forest in the Mindo area. It was time to go back and revisit the magnificent Andes Mountains.

This was a trip we put together ourselves without using one of the regular tour companies. We found a lodge group on the internet who owned a lodge in Quito and two others on the western slopes at Tandayapa and Milpe. They offered a two week birding tour of the eastern and western slopes staying exclusively at their lodges except for a couple of nights on the eastern slopes where their new lodge is still under construction. Their tour they called

the 'Magic Birding Circuit' and it was guided by the lodge owner George Cruz and his son Cruz Junior. They were also happy to book our 8 day/seven night Galapagos cruise aboard the 'Eden'. We found the Magic Birding Circuit prices and even the Galapagos cruise price most reasonable. We wanted however to see as much of Ecuador as possible, in particular the Choco endemics of the low lying areas in the Esmeraldas in north-west Ecuador and some of lodges in the south run by the Jocotoco Foundation.

Again internet research provided us with an excellent guide - Juan Carlos Calvechi whom Birdquest use as one of their local guides. He put together a tour consisting of 5 days in the north-west staying at Alto Tambo and the Ocelot Lodge at Playa de Oro in the remote Esmeraldas reachable only by boat; and on our return from the Magic Birding Circuit a further 10 days in the south staying at the



Ken Logan

Buenaventura, Jorupe and Tapichalaca Lodges belonging to the Jocotoco Foundation. The trip ended with two days birding the Podocarpus Reserve close to Copalinga Lodge near Zamora.

We were met at the airport by Juan Carlos and spent the night at his guest house in Quito before departing the following morning for Alto Tambo. We had two days at Tundaloma Lodge and some great birds including Berlepsch's Tinamou, Guayaquil Woodpecker, Brown-billed Scythebill, Choco and Chestnut-mandibled Toucans, Golden-chested and Grey-and-gold Tanagers to name but a few. We did well on Puffbirds too, picking up White-necked, White-whiskered and Black-breasted.

We then headed on to Playa de Oro; the 45 minute boat trip was fairly uneventful with few birds seen on the river. The lodge was built by an American woman who wanted to fund research on the Ocelot, but when she died it fell into a state of disrepair until it was taken over by the local community - black people who escaped from the slave trading boats many years ago and have formed their own community in this remote part of Ecuador.

Today it is a basic lodge (no en-suite bathrooms) but still managed to serve some of the best food we had in Ecuador and best of all it is situated deep in the lowland rainforest. Lots of difficult antbirds, including Spot-crowned Antvireo, Griscom's Antwren, Chequer-throated, and white-flanked Antwrens, and Immaculate,

Esmeraldas, and Ocellated Antbirds among many others.

Brilliant views of Streak-breasted Antpitta and Choco Poorwill and more special Tanagers including Blue-whiskered, Rufous-throated, and Rufous-winged. Best bird at Playa de Oro for me was my first ever Forest Falcon – Banded Forest Falcon. On the way back to Quito we stopped for Subtropical Doradito and Ecuadorian Rail.

Juan Carlos dropped us back at our Quito lodge where we had one days birding before flying out to Galapagos. The morning was spent birding the grounds- lots of hummers including Black and Green-tailed Trainbearers, Shining Sunbeams, Black-throated Mango, and Tyrian Metaltails. Great views were had of Crimson-mantled Woodpecker- surely the best-looking South American Woodpecker!

In the afternoon we visited Yannacochoa, a great high altitude reserve full of Flowerpiercers, Mountain Tanagers and some very special hummers; Great Sapphirewing, Sapphire-vented and Golden breasted Pugfflegs, Buff-winged Starfrontlet, and Mountain Velvetbreast. We heard Ocellated Tapaculo calling, the first of many times but never managed to see the bird. The next morning we transferred to the airport for our one and half hour flight to Galapagos via Guayaquil.

The volcanic Galapagos Islands lie directly on the Equator one hours flying time from the Ecuadorian mainland. Landing at Baltras we



Ken Logan



Waved Albatross



Red-footed Booby



Swallow-tailed Gull



Short-eared Owl

Ken Logan

quickly transferred to our boat, the trusty 'Eden' having been for some reason upgraded from the 'Aida Maria'.

We decided to visit the Eastern Islands rather than the Western Islands - both are 8 day tours - as this way we would only miss the Flightless Cormorant and pick up nearly all the other endemics. We saw eleven of the thirteen Darwin Finches missing only Mangrove Finch in the mangroves which none of the tour boats visit, as well as Medium Tree Finch found only in the highlands of Floreana, which we didn't visit either. We had to leave our organised party on Santa Cruz to find the Woodpecker Finch but our taxi driver took us to the right spot and after an hours' searching we came away with photos of the finch, holding his thin twig which he uses as a probe in the mossy branches nogal.

The fauna is incredibly tame, never having had any sizeable land-based predators, until man arrived that is! Letting me use my 70-200 mm lens in many instances.

Our first night on board was uncomfortable, rocking and rolling our way on the seven hour voyage to Genovesa, an island which was to prove my favourite of the whole trip. Genovesa is a good place to start on the finches as it only has 4 species and is the one place where you can be sure of Sharp-beaked Groundfinch. The only real confusion you run into is differentiating between large and medium ground finches, as there is some size variation in the bills of both large and medium so you need to decide if you are looking at a Medium Ground finch with a large bill or a Large Ground Finch with a small bill. Usually you just give up!

Genovesa has colonies of breeding Great Frigatebirds, Nazca Boobies and Red-footed Boobies. Beware the Frigates, they will give you a nip if you stray too close, as I discovered when trying to photograph a booby on the other side of the path!

Great views are to be had of the Red-billed Tropicbirds and Swallow-tailed Gulls along the cliff tops and you are almost certain to find one of the several Short-eared Owls which hunt the storm-petrels which nest under the lava flows all along the cliff side.

Our overnight voyage back to Bartolome was less rough and we were up at daybreak and

into the 'Pangas', the local name for the rubber inflatables we used to visit Pinnacle Rock and find the half dozen or so Galapagos Penguins who live there.

Our days were packed with activity - no time for an afternoon snooze here - and we were either walking trails around the islands, snorkelling or taking trips in the Pangas.

We spent two days around Santa Cruz visiting the Charles Darwin Research Station, taking a trip into the highlands and cruising the mangrove swamps looking for Green Turtles and White-tipped Sharks.

[To be continued in the next edition] 🐋

Kort, maar lekker op die Zambesi

Salomi Louw

Soos 'n roofvoël wat swenksweef op soek na prooi, draai ons vliegtuig in sirkels oor Livingstone in Zambië en die Victoriawaterval. Op die lughawe se aanloopbaan staan 'n brandweerwa waarvan - volgens die loods wat ons voortdurend letterlik en figuurlik op die hoogte hou - die remme vasgeslaan het. Hy verseker ons daar is genoeg brandstof om aan te hou sirkel tot personeel die wa kan verwyder.

Na 'n uur of wat wonder hy hardop of ons nie maar liever in Vic Falls moet gaan land nie totdat die aanloopbaan in Livingstone beskikbaar is; dan kan ons terugvlieg, of miskien per bus na Livingstone reis. Natuurlik het al die passasiers, wat nou al gesellig verkeer, raad vir die ouens op die grond wat dit nie kan hoor nie! Toe die brandstof begin min raak, land ons voorlopig in Zimbabwe. By Vic Falls is daar eidelose administrasie wat die vlugpersoneel moet afhandel omdat hulle onverwags hier kom land het, net om kort daarna wel na Livingstone te kan vlieg.

Weens dié vertraging kom ons eers teen skemer met die bussie aan by die bote waarmee ons na Sekoma-eiland vaar: ons op een boot en die bagasie op 'n ander. Teen hierdie tyd reën dit liggies. Tydens die rit het ek skielik onthou dis my verjaardag en dit uitbasuin. Die

bestuurder het oord toe gebel en dit genoem. Na aandete bring die kombuispersoneel vir my 'n spesiale koek - met nét 10 kersies! - en sing lustig hul goeie wense.

Ons verblyf is in afgesonderde *en suite*-tente elk op die oewer van die rivier, met 'n klein stoepie voor. Die lodge se groot eet-/sitvertrek met kroegie het 'n dek bo die rivier. Hiervandaan sou ons die volgende paar dae 'n groot verskeidenheid voëls sien, onder andere 'n Vlermuisvalk wat reg oorkant ons in die oopte bedags op 'n tak sit en met skemerlig langs die rivier af vlieg.

Vroeg soggens gaan stap ons op die eiland en word beloom met Watertrapper, Mooimeisie, Langkuifloerie, Blouvisvanger, Bontnuwejaarsvoël, Witkopkiewiet en talle ander, terwyl die Bruinuurvinkies tussen die tente wei. Na ontbyt vaar ons uit in verskillende kanale aangrensend tot Zambië, Botswana en Namibië. Ons weet nie altyd of die voëls wat ons sien op Afrika- of Suider-Afrikalyste afge-merk moet word nie, en die twee tot drie (of selfs vier) vaarte elke dag lewer 'n groot aantal spesies. 'n Verskeidenheid reiers, visvangers en swaels, Visarend, Blouwang- en ander byvreters, Grootlangtoon en Grootvleiloerie kuier oral in die riviersome. By die oper oewers wei die

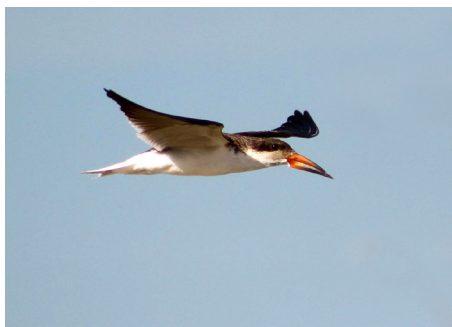


Rooivlerksprinkaanvoël/Collared Pratincole

kiewiete, Hamerkop en Glansibis. Op 'n rotsrif in die rivier sit talle Withalssprinkaanvoëls met kuikens. Teen die tyd dat die groot waters later in die seisoen kom, het hulle al wes getrek; die tyd was dus net reg om hulle nog hier te sien.

Dit is elke dag bewolk en redelik koel en smiddae reën dit. Ons trotseer dié weer en laatmiddag op die eerste dag kry ons binne 'n kort tydsbestek Waterploëër, Dwerggans en Dwerglangtoon – naby genoeg om te kan afneem. Ons sou hulle weer twee dae later te siene kry. By 'n geleentheid klim ons af op 'n eiland omdat ons gids meen die Rooskeelkalkoentjie behoort hier voor te kom en, sowaar, ons kry twee!

Ons is vir 'n dag, met groot vertraging by die Kazangulagrenspos, na Chobe en die Nasionale Park waar ons die Geelkwikkie en Palmmörelyster onder oë kry. Dis ook die



Waterploëër/ African Skimmer

eerste keer dat ek Rooivlerksprinkaanvoëls so van naby kan aanskou. 'n Kleinkoningriethaan klouter verward deur die palmiet toe ons verbyvaar. In een van die oewerbome is baie Gewone Nagreiers en jonges sit die takke vol.

Verblyf by Sekoma Island Lodge was heerlik en die personeel het uit hulle pad gegaan om ons te bederf. Die mede-toeriste was soos familie soos veral geblyk het een middag in stormweer en reën op die boot. Die toergids, Joe Grosel, was soos altyd die beste waarvoor 'n mens kan wens.

Ons het Donderdag van O.R.Tambo vertrek en was Maandag, na 'n ingeslote besoek aan die Victoriawaterval, weer tuis. Kort, net 'n lang naweek, maar heerlik met opwindende tye op die water en tydens wandelinge, met smaaklike kos. Daarby het ons interessant diere gesien, en 'n lys van 204 voëls bereik in dié paar dae. 🦋

My eerste ervaring van reën tydens 'n ring-uitstappie

Elba Swart

Vrydag 24 Januarie 2014 vat ek en Marie Ueckermann opgewonde die pad Rustenburg toe. Ons is 'n klein groepie wat die volgende dag by Kroondaldamme gaan ring. Laat middag gaan ons saam met ons gasheerpaartjie, Johan en Adelina van Rooyen

die damme verken, net om seker te maak waar die nette die volgende oggend (in die donker) gespan moet word. Johan brand om 'n Koekoekvink te sien, om nie eens te praat van ring nie en volgens verskeie bronne is hierdie glo net die plek. Nie lank nie of ons

word beloon met twee mannetjies wat rustig die wêreld sit en beskou. Daar en dan besluit ons dat dit net die plek is om 'n net te span. Die damme is baie droog maar naby waar die vinkies was, is 'n redelike poel water met 'n swerm-pie Kleinstrandlopers (Little Stint) wat in die laatmiddagson kos soek en ons hoop onwillekeurige om van hulle ook in die nette te kry.

GEDURENDE die nag het dit glo gereën, so moes ons hoor, maar toe ons klompie teen 03:00 ontwaak, begroet 'n oop hemelruim met helder maan en sterre ons. Geen teken van enige reën. Ons ontmoet vir Eben Muller van Hartbeespoort en Marius, Johan en Annè Alberts van Rustenburg by die damme en gou is al die nette op. Nadat die ringstasie ook opgestel is, sit ons almal met 'n stomende beker koffie in die hand en kyk hoe die rooidag breek en so hier en daar begin 'n wolkie inskuif en ons almal is dankbaar vir 'n meer bewolkte dag wat voorlê, want sien, op 'n goeie somersdag is daar tussen Rustenburg en die hel, net 'n sifdraad en die is nog plek-plek stukkend ook.

SKIELIK begin die windjie sterker druk en die nette maak boepens – dis slegte tekens en wil lyk of ons nie vandag enige voëls gaan vang nie, maar ons sien daar is tog 'n paar voëls in die nette en met die eerste uithaalslag glimlag ons breed, want daar is sommer klomp spesies wat van die A-Ringers nog nie gering het nie en ja, Johan het sy Koekoekvink gevang! Met die terugstap sien Johan nog 'n voël in die nette en laat my en Marie solank aanstap met die eerste vangs terwyl hy en Eben probeer om die outjie wat hom behoorlik in die nette vasgedraai het baie versigtig uit te haal.

ONS maak nog die hangplek vir die voëls in die sakkies toe die eerste druppels plons en dadelik weet ons hier kom moeilikheid, want soos blits gaan die hemele oop en die wêreld kry sommer so 'n grys skynsel van die reën. Ons eerste verantwoordelikheid is teenoor die voëls en Johan hardloop krom gebuig om die meeste van die reën van die vinkie af te skerm en onder die gazebo word die sakkies met voëls vinnig tot diep onder die dak ingeskuif, dis die heel beste plek vir hulle op daardie stadium en ons tafels met toerusting probeer ons ook droog

hou, so...wie staan buite – ons mensekinders EN die reën giet neer – ons word sopwaternat. Dit wil nie lyk of die reën vinnig gaan bedaar nie en ons besluit om van die dokumentasie en toerusting op te pak, en die voëls by Johan-hulle se huis (so 5 km weg) te gaan ring. Gly-gly teen die turf damwal af tot ons die teerpad vat, om in beskutting die voëls te gaan ring. By die huis word elke voëltjie in 'n droë sakkie geplaas en kon ons hulle meet, weeg en 'n ringetjie aansit.

Gelukkig hou die reën uiteindelik op en ons gaan terug damme toe om die voëls weer op die plek waar hulle gevang is vry te laat. Dit ontwikkel verder in 'n lieflike sonskynoggend en nog voëls word gevang en gering. Teen 11-uur begin dit selfs te warm raak en ons maak nette toe op 45 voëls en 15 verskillende spesies. Die spesiale spesies was Koekoekvink (Cuckoo Finch), Kleinstrandloper (Little Stint), Grootrietsanger (Great Reed-Warbler), Kleinrietsanger (African Reed-Warbler), Kaapse Rietsanger (Lesser Swamp-warbler), Kuifkopvisvanger (Malachite Kingfisher), Goudgeelvink (Yellow-crowned Bishop) en Rooiassie (Orange-breasted Waxbill).

Ring by Kroondaldamme sal in my persoonlike anale opgeteken staan as 'n groot ervaring en 'n plek wat beslis nog baie besoek moet word... Daar is nog baie voëls sonder juwele! 🐦



Elba Swart

Nog 'n sanger word gering!

Western Cape quick tour – coast to Karoo

Don Reid

We love Cape Town and the surrounds and take every opportunity to visit - so it was an easy decision when Gerda suggested we 'pop down' from Mossel Bay, where we spend the December/January holidays, to say 'hello' to the fairest Cape and visit family at the same time. It's just less than 400 kms with lots of pleasant scenery on the way along good roads and we tend to stop often, so 4 hours turns into a comfortable and non-taxing 6 hours for us. Always on the lookout for birding and bird atlas opportunities, I was eager to start the New Year with a Western Cape outing or two... or even three as it turned out.

We didn't have too many fixed plans for the 4 days but Gerda wanted to visit her ex-Pretoria hairdresser, now resident in Kommetjie, which I hoped would give me a couple of hours to atlas the area. Kirstenbosch is always part of our itinerary and I was sure we would spend at least 2 hours there, enough to complete a 'full protocol' atlas card. Our last stop was to be Worcester for a couple of days with the family and again I was sure I could fit in a pentad or two in the early mornings, knowing how hot it can get in that part of SA in January which is not conducive to middle of the day birding.

It almost worked out that way...

Kommetjie (Pentad 3405_1815)

Having dropped Gerda off at the hairdresser, I set off to explore the pentad covering Kommetjie - about 90% of this pentad is in fact in the sea, so atlasing is limited to a small part of Kommetjie jutting into the pentad in the south-east corner. I stopped at the first beach area I came across and was immediately struck by the numbers of seabirds flying past and, looking for their source, noticed huge colonies of them further out on the exposed rocks. Swift Terns and Hartlaub's Gulls were especially abundant, numbering in the hundreds if not a thousand or more and making quite a sight.

Walking along the sandy paths towards the next door bay, I noticed other seabirds in between the massed Terns and Gulls, including African Black Oystercatchers and Little Egrets, the latter not strictly a seabird but I have often found them in this type of coastal habitat i.e. shallow pools amongst the rocks. A number of Cormorants were in attendance, mostly Cape and White-breasted Cormorants but also a few Bank Cormorants with their all black faces. I looked for the white in their rumps but it was not showing, so checked my Roberts on my iPad which confirmed that it only shows when Bank Cormorants are breeding.

Both African Sacred and Hadedda Ibises were foraging amongst the seaweed-littered rocks, while Barn Swallows swooped low overhead probably catching flying insects attracted to the seaweed litter, never an opportunity missed! A few White-fronted Plovers were exploring the rocks and seaweed as well, running to the white sandy areas when I approached. I was struck by how amazingly well camouflaged they are against the bright sand when they stand still and I had to look twice to find them even though they were just 5 to 10 metres away.

A short distance down the road I stopped at a vlei where the noticeboard informed me



Don Reid

Coastline with scattered seaweed



Don Reid

Quiver trees

that it was called Skilpadsvlei but I found it was undergoing rehabilitation and had no water. It's apparently home to the Western Leopard Toad (*Amietophrynus pantherinus*) which occurs in restricted parts of the Western Cape. However a short walk around the vlei did produce Red-winged Starlings and Rock Martins doing fly-bys plus a Cape Canary in the long grass.

By this time Gerda was done and I joined her for coffee and a light lunch at a very pleasant outdoor restaurant. From there we closed out the 2 hours minimum time required for a 'full protocol' atlas session with a drive to the nearby Slangkop Lighthouse and through the suburb of Kommetjie, adding a few of the regulation Western Cape birds in the process and stopping to admire the great views. I ended with a list of 30 species for the pentad, not a large number compared to other pentads, but a stunning area to go birding and/or atlasing.

Kirstenbosch (Pentad 3355_1825)

The next day we had planned an excursion to Kirstenbosch Botanical Gardens, one of our favourite places to visit, with a walk and lunch in mind. That morning I woke up to a very upset stomach and flu-like aches and pains and wasn't up to doing much at all. We did go to Kirstenbosch hoping to catch a "golf cart" guided tour, but our timing was out so we just sat in the restaurant and had tea. No scones for me this time!

Saturday was spent getting to Worcester via the coastal road past Strandfontein, where there were Kelp Gulls by the hundred along the beach and kite surfers enjoying the windy conditions that pulled them at high speed across the breaking waves. What a spectacular sport! Then we proceeded through Stellenbosch to Helshoogte on the way to Franschoek for a lunchtime stop at our other favourite venue; Hillcrest Berry farm. There we enjoyed a light lunch and tea with magnificent views of the mountains across the valley and



Southern Double-collared Sunbird/Klein Rooibandsuikerbekkie

the vineyards that spread like patchwork over the lower slopes.

Worcester / Karoo Desert National Botanical Gardens (Pentad 3335_1925)

In complete contrast to Kommetjie, the area around Worcester, just 110 km from Cape Town, presents typical Karoo habitats, although not as stark and barren as further inland in the 'real' Karoo, as well as suburbia and farms with extensive vineyards.

I started out at 6:30, still too early for the Botanical Gardens which I discovered only open at 7:00, so I drove around suburbia and up a lonely road which dead-ended at a quarry. Once I gained entry to the Gardens I drove to the upper parking area and took a walk through the various desert-like biomes represented there, with displays of desert and semi-desert plants. Fortunately there is enough signage to inform you on what you are seeing, a good thing when your knowledge of trees and plants is as limited as mine. I do know Quiver trees from our trip to Namaqualand last year and there were a number of magnificent specimens to admire.

The Gardens have an interesting history, having been established at a site near Matjiesfontein in 1921 but due to serious water supply problems they were moved to the current site in Worcester in 1945, along with many

of the unique plants, some of which are still present in the gardens, including the Quiver trees as mentioned.

Birds are plentiful throughout the Gardens but restricted in the number of species, with the feature birds being Bokmakierie calling vociferously in the early morning, White-backed Mousebirds and Red-faced Mousebirds flying about in groups between the larger bushes and trees, as well as Southern Double-collared and Malachite Sunbirds enjoying the flowering aloes. Common Fiscals and Acacia Pied Barbets added to the mix with their distinctive calls, the barbets outdoing all the others with their piercing, nasal call heard at a distance.

Overhead White-rumped Swifts and Greater-striped Swallows competed for flying insects. Exiting the gardens, a winding road took me up the hill to Brandwacht which comprises mainly vineyards with large farm dams, the latter quite productive around the fringes with the likes of Yellow Bishop, Common Waxbill, African Stonechat and Familiar Chat helping to boost the pentad list to 43 for the 2-3 hours spent atlasing.

Worcester / Hex River Valley (Pentad 3330_1930)

Just north of Worcester lies the Hex River Valley and the pentad I had targeted for my third and last atlasing outing of the trip, comprising mostly mountains with the N1 national road bisecting them through the valley, with the flat sections along the river taken up by vineyards and the lower slopes of the mountains covered in fynbos. This is very attractive countryside and some of the last vineyards before getting into the flatter and drier Karoo further north along the N1.

My first stop was at the Seekoeigat Padstal where I kicked off with some regulation birds such as Red-winged Starling, Steppe (Common) Buzzard and White-rumped Swift amongst others. At the first opportunity I turned off, glad to get off the busy N1 with large trucks thundering past each time I slowed and pulled over to check out a bird seen fleetingly. This was a far more peaceful birding environment and quickly produced Pied Barbet, African

Stonechat, Bar-throated Apalis, African Hoopoe and several Southern Double-collared Sunbirds.

Returning reluctantly to the N1 and continuing cautiously through the cutting that makes its way through the mountains, I spied a pair of White-necked Ravens. Further on, a broader verge allowed a safe roadside stop with a view down the slopes to the river below, where I spotted Cape Rock-Thrush, Cape Spurfowl, Cape Robin-Chat and Karoo Prinia. A bit further on I was able to get closer to the river where an unexpected Giant Kingfisher was watching over one of the deeper pools in the river and not far from him a Cape Bunting was hopping about on the railway tracks.

The next turnoff took me into prime farming area with vineyards on both sides of the

road. Nice to look at with bunches of grapes just about ready for harvesting, but quite a sterile environment for birding so I didn't dawdle too long and returned to the N1 for the last stretch before reaching the northern boundary of the pentad. There I found a large dam some way off the road, just close enough to make out a few cormorants and coots plus a good old 'gyppo' or Egyptian Goose. Turning back, I spotted a raptor soaring high above and was able to ID it as a Booted Eagle, which seems to have a fondness for the Western Cape as I have seen several in my trips around this province.

All in all a nice variety of birding and habitats about as far removed from each other as you can get, each one with its own beauty and attraction. 🦅

BLNG Limpopo Roofvoëlringtoer

Frik du Plooy

Op Donderdag, 20 Maart 2014 het ons op 'n roofvoëltoer vertrek. Ons bestemming: Otjibamba Lodge op die walle van die Limpoporivier naby Zanzibar, wes van Alldays.

Hierdie toer het amper nie plaasgevind nie. Die Dinsdag voor ons vertrek het Willie, die plaasbestuurder laat weet dat die kamp oorstroom het en ontruim moes word. Die water het 'n meter diep deur die kamp gevloei, want die Limpopo het afgekom na die baie reën. Ons was in 'n penarie! Waar kry mens ander verblyf twee dae voor die tyd? Ons het ander plekke oorweeg, maar Willie het tot ons redding gekom. Hy het teen Woensdagaand (die aand voor ons vertrek) laat weet die water het gesak en die geboue is opgeruim en reg vir ons besoek.

Die geselskap het teen sononder in 'n bui reën die een na die ander gearriveer. Die groep het bestaan uit Frik, Chris en Julian du Plooy, Wanda Louwrens, Gerrie en Marietjie Jansen van Rensburg, Paula en Martin Steyn, Johan en Danel Muller, Marié Ueckermann en Johan van Rooyen van Rustenburg Voëlklub. Die reuse

taak van opriem was klaar en die kamp was gereed. Alles was die aand nat behalwe die bosveldhout. Kort voor lank het daar 'n heerlike vuur gebrand en het almal lekker langs die vuur gesit en gesels. Die rivier was steeds vol en dit het teen die lapa se vloer geklots. Verder af in die rivier was daar 'n keerwal wat soos 'n waterwal geklink het, en rustige agtergrond musiek verskaf het.

In die volgende 3 dae het ons 44 roofvoëls gevang en agt hiervan was 'retraps'. Die 'retraps' (dit is 'n voël wat reeds gevang is en dus 'n ring aanhet) is eintlik waaroor ons ring. Sodra 'n voël weer gevang word, met 'n unieke ringnommer, dan kan ons die inligting vergelyk met die vorige data bv. die presiese koördinate en afmetings soos vlerkengte, gewig ens. Die grootste deel van die vangs was 41 Bleeksingvalke (Southern Pale Chanting Goshawk) en ook twee Donkersingvalke (Dark Chanting Goshawk) en een Gebande Sperwer (Shikra).

Interessante inligting het te voorskyn gekom toe ons die 'retraps' op die databasis

gaan opsoek het. Spesifiek die Bleeksingvalke (*Melierax canorus*) se data het die volgende opgelewer:

- Tot en met Desember 2013 is daar reeds in totaal 6 800 gering, daar was 365 'retraps' (5.37%) en dan is daar 161 voëls waarvan die data ingestuur is nadat hulle dood is. Dit gee 'n totaal van 7 326 stelle data!
- Die persoon wat die meeste Bleeksingvalke gevang het was Abrie Maritz met 534 gering en 18 'retraps'.
- Tweede is Dr Zephne Bernitz met 380 gering maar 'n ongelooflike 102 'retraps'.

Treffende data is een 'retrap' wat binne 19 dae weer gevang is, terwyl die oudste een 10 jaar en 10 maande gelede gering is. Die inligting vertel ons dat 'n Bleeksingvalk ten minste 10 jaar oud word. Met dié data leer ons ook dat hulle gebiedsgebonde is – afstande wissel tussen 1.3 km en 46.

- Vir die Donkersingvalke (*Melierax metabates*) is die data beskikbaar heelwat minder:
- Daar is net 510 voëls gevang en van die is 488 gering, en net 12 'retraps' (slegs 2.46%).
- David & John Robson het reeds 53 voëls gering en tweede is weer Dr Zephne Bernitz met 47.

Met die Shikra (*Accipiter badius*) is daar:

- 425 voëls gevang met 12 retraps (2.83%)
- Weer is dit Johan & David Robson met 64 voëls gering met die meeste.
- Tweede is Tim & Laurel Osborne met 43 voëls gering en 4 'retraps'.

Die naweek het ook nie sonder voorvalle verloop nie. Die Saterdagoggend het Marietjie, Paula, Martin en Wanda oppad na Vivo 'n vlakvark doodgery. Marietjie wou die karkas nie net daar los vir die aasvoëls nie. Wanda het besef dat hulle ongeveer 30 km van Blouberg NR af was. Sy het die bestuurder daar gebel en gereël om die vlakvarkarkas daar af te laai vir die aasvoëlrestaurant. Gelukkig was daar geen skade aan Marietjie se voertuig nie en kon hulle verder ring.

Die volgende vyf klublede het gekwalifiseer as roofvoëlringers: Martin en Paula Steyn, Marié Ueckermann, Johan Muller en Johan van Rooyen. 'n A-ringer moet ten minste vyf roofvoëls ring om te kwalifiseer. Wanda en Julian (13 jaar oud) is nog C-ringers en het onderskeidelik 4 en 10 voëls die naweek gering.

Ten spyte van die feit dat daar een oggend nie water was nie (ons moes sonder koffie gaan) en die volgende oggend geen krag nie, was dit 'n onvergeetlike naweek. 🐦

Interesting retrap of a Common Tern 33 years after the first trapping

Mark Boorman

Just received details of ring number AT055395, fitted to a Common Tern *Sterna hirundo*, (Gewone Sterretjie) which I read was retrapped at the Walvis Bay oyster beds, Namibia – 2258S 1426E on 09/03/2014. This bird was ringed as a pullus on 13-07-1980

at Hirvensalo, Finland – 6144N 2654E. At an elapsed time of 33 years 7 months 24 days, this is most probably a longevity record for this species. The oldest traceable record (Euring) is of a UK bird, CK 39045, which was 33 years 0 months when its ring was read in the field. 🐦

Leukistiese Langstertlaksman

Pieter Heslinga

Ons het in Januarie, saam met 'n groep deelgeneem aan die jaarlikse Nasionale Kruger Wildtuin Voëlsensus, wat deur die Wes-Randse ereveldwagters in samewerking met Sasol gereël word.

Hierdie jaar was ons by Shingwedzi, nadat ons verlede jaar daar uitgereën het en toe na Satara heralokeer is. Intussen is Shingwedzi pragtig oorgedoen en ons het die naweek baie geniet. Ons groepte het so ongeveer 125 voëls geïdentifiseer, maar die kenners natuurlik baie meer, onder andere 'n Swartooievaar, 'n Saalbekooievaar en Bromvoëls by 'n paar geleenthede. Daar was ook 'n hele paar soorte roofvoëls. Ons het dit soos in die verlede op die Sasolyste aangeteken, wat hulle gebruik vir hulle navorsing.

Vrydagoggend het ons na die Babalala piekniekplek toe gery, so 46 km noord, en toe sien ons 'n baie rare gesig: 2 kleintjies van 'n Langstertlaksman (Magpie Shrike), met 'n pa of ma wat hulle voer - maar die een kleintjie is spierwit. Dit moet seker 'n albino of leukistiese een wees.

Die volgende dag was ons weer daar, maar toe was hulle weg. Ongelooflik.

Die Langstertlaksman het groot geword!

Drinie van Rensburg

In Maartmaand, dus twee maande na Pieter, was ons ook in die Nasionale Krugerwildtuin by die Babalala piekniekplek. Hierdie foto is daar geneem van 'n volwasse leukistiese Langstertlaksman. Dit is heel waarskynlik dieselfde individu as wat Pieter gesien het. Die oppasser by Babalala het vertel dat die voël amper daaglik daar gesien word. 🐦



Pieter Heslinga

[Ed. - Stephan Terblanche lewer kommentaar: Die term wat gebruik word vir voëls en diere wat baie wit is, maar nie ware albino's nie (in die sin dat pigment nêrens aanwesig is nie – ook nie in, bv, die oë nie), is leukisme. Die laksman sou dus leukisties wees. Die Engelse terms is onderskeidelik "leucism" en "leucistic". In beide tale is die woordkern afkomstig van die Grieks vir wit, synde "leukos".] 🐦



Drinie van Rensburg

Two Piet-my-vrou kuikens met verskillende ouers

Robert Erasmus

Ek het nog nooit in my lewe 'n volwasse Piet-my-vrou (*Cuculus solitaries*) gesien nie. Gedurende die afgelope drie maande het ons egter by twee geleenthede die voorreg gehad om te sien hoe Piet-my-vrou kuikens deur onverwante ouers in ons tuin in Rietfontein, Pretoria, gevoer word. By beide geleenthede is ons aandag eerstens getrek deur die kenmerkend sagte, maar aanhoudende, geroep deur die kuikens, veral vroeg soggens en laat in die middag.

Die eerste waarneming was op 29 Desember 2013 toe ons 'n Gewone Janfrederik (*Cossypha caffra*) gesien het wat kos na 'n groter voël aandra en hom voer. Hierdie proses het 'n paar uur geduur en daarna het hulle verdwyn.

Sowat drie weke later is die gekerm van 'n kuiken weer gehoor en tot my verbasing het 'n Grys-kopmossie (*Passer diffusus*) dit gevoer. Op

een stadium het die twee van hulle die appel wat gereeld uitgesit word vir die vrugtevreter geëet (Foto4). Die mossie het die stukkie appel afgebyt en die kuiken het dit gulsig ingesluk.

Nou wonder ons net wie die surrogaatouers van die volgende Piet-my-vrou kuiken sal wees. 🐦



Robert Erasmus

Woodland Kingfisher catching and swallowing a field mouse

André and Elma van der Walt

During our Summer CWAC visit to Rooiwal Sewage Works on Sunday 19 January 2014 Elma and I noticed a Woodland Kingfisher perched on the power line at the bottom (eastern) dam, focussing intently on hidden prey in the long grasses below. As we watched the bird dived down and in one swift movement returned to its perch on the power line with a full-grown field mouse in its bill. After shaking and hitting it repeatedly against the power line the bird skilfully manoeuvred the mouse in its bill to allow it to be swallowed head first. Then, with a few choking gulps,

it was swallowed down. Soon after, the bird flew off, maybe to its nest to regurgitate the mouse to feed it to its chicks. It would have been interesting to observe this feeding as a kingfisher neither has the sharp hooked bill nor the talons of a raptor to dismember such prey.

The way that the kingfisher swallowed the mouse also raises the question whether a kingfisher could actually digest an intact mouse, and if so how does it eventually rid itself of the skin, fur and bones? Does it regurgitate the remains as a furry pellet like an owl? 🐦

Fences – a friend or foe of birds? You can help us answer this!

Ernst Retief

Birds are killed each year when they collide with fences. Often these species are also of conservation concern, for example the Secretarybird and Blue Crane. We suspect many bird species, and even bats, come to a cruel demise when they are caught in fences, dying from broken legs and wings, or from dehydration. BirdLife South Africa has initiated a project to determine the extent of the problem in South Africa, and influence the future erecting of fences through a best-practice document.

Below is a photo of a Secretarybird caught in a fence on a farm near Koffiefontein (the bird was most probably a parent of a chick on a nearby nest). The bird collided or got entangled in a fence, dying of thirst, hunger and its injuries.

Although there is some information available about this problem, most of the information is based on anecdotal evidence or studies outside of South Africa. In order to make appropriate proposals, it is important to obtain a better understanding of this situation in South Africa. Some of the questions that need answers are the following:

Which bird species are killed through collisions with fences?

Why do these species collide with fences?

The reason might be linked to their behaviour; for example, nocturnal species might be more affected than diurnal birds.

What type of fences poses the biggest risk to birds? Anecdotal evidence and studies suggest that barbed wire fences are the biggest problem, but this needs to be confirmed.

What environmental factors contribute to

collisions? For example, a fence over a wetland might be more of a risk than one near a homestead.

BirdLife South Africa now requests members of the general public and birders to please submit information about birds caught in fences. These records can include historical sightings going back many years.

The data can be submitted in two ways. Information about the incident can be submitted by email to Ernst Retief (ernst.retief@birdlife.org.za). The preferable method is to complete the following form on the BirdLife South Africa website: <http://www.birdlife.org.za/conservation/important-bird-areas/fence-mitigation-project>. A photo of the incident would be especially valuable and the photo can be submitted with the online form.

Based on the data collected during this project, solutions will be developed and a document published with the aim of lessening the impacts of fences on wildlife in general and birds in particular.

Thank you for supporting this project.



Francois Verster

Rarities and unusual sightings report: 30 April 2014

Compiled by André Marx

Very good rainfall in December and again in March this past summer resulted in several wetlands and water bodies in the region being inundated to the point of being flooded and this ensured a steady stream of records associated with 'rain migrants' and other species taking advantage of the bounty. Foremost amongst the localities producing superb rarities was the Kgomo-Kgomo floodplain which produced a few firsts for the region, notably Saddle-billed Stork, Woolly-necked Stork and a Gull-billed Tern which visited for one day. The influx of birds was followed by hordes of eager birders and it was this heightened interest that led to many great rarity records! Atlasing and participation in the Greater Gauteng 100 km Challenge also produced several good sightings.

National Rarities/ Nasionale rariteite

Crake, Spotted. Riethaan, Gevlekte: one bird was flushed and then heard calling at Kgomo-Kgomo 1 Jan 2014 (DS). *A rare visitor to the region, seen during years of good rainfall.*

Crake, Striped. Riethaan, Gestreepte: this species was recorded at the Kgomo-Kgomo floodplain where it is known to occur in years when conditions are favourable after good rains; the latest sighting was on 21 Dec 2103 (MA, JS).

Tern, Gull-billed. Sterretjie, Oostelike: a remarkable sighting of one bird at the Kgomo-Kgomo floodplain represents the first confirmed bird for the greater Gauteng region; seen briefly on 24 Dec 2013 (DS).

Regional Rarities/ Streekrariteite

Crane, Wattled. Kraanvoël, Lel-: one bird was observed south of Devon, 6 Apr 2014, likely to be the same bird observed in recent years (DV).

Eagle, Tawny. Arend, Roof-: a young bird was observed amongst several Lesser Spotted Eagles on the Zaagkuildrift road 24 Feb 2014 (EM, HN, SO); one bird was at Borakalalo NR 1 Mar 2014 (NP).

Goose, African Pygmy. Dwerggans: a slightly late but very interesting report concerns a pair of birds found and photographed at Kaalplaas NR at Onderstepoort just north of Pretoria in Oct 2013, a very good record for the region (AT).

Heron, Rufous-bellied. Reier, Rooipens-: one bird was present on the Kgomo-Kgomo floodplain on 21 Dec 2013 (MA, JS) and remained in the area for about 2 weeks when it was occasionally observed. *This is a very rare species for the region and is the first sighting for at least 10 years.*

Honey Buzzard, European. Wespedief: several sightings of this species came from the Zaagkuildrift road area from early December 2013 through to March 2014, (Gbird); two different birds were at Borakalalo NR 26 Dec 2013 (NP). *The spate of records of this species in the region continues unabated with numerous sightings being reported and reinforces the belief that this species should no longer be considered a regional rarity. It was only removed from the*



Bertus Spreeth

national rarities list in the last 5 years.

Nightingale, Thrush. Lysternagtegaal: at least 3 birds were present on the Zaagkuil drift road north of Pretoria for several weeks when a number of birders reported them. This is a very secretive species that is more often heard than seen and few people enjoyed good views, 15 Jan 2014 (Gbird).

Openbill, African. Ooievaar, Oopbek: one bird was found in pentad 2630_2845 near Devon, 15 Jan 2014 (DV, JB).

Pelican, Pink-backed. Pelikaan, Klein: one bird was located at a farm in the Deneysville area on the Vaal Dam, 16 Feb 2014 (SO).

Sandpiper, Terek. Ruiter, Terek: a single bird was found at Borakalalo NR, 13 Dec 2013 (JS).

Saw-wing, Black. Swael, Swartsaagvlerk: one bird was at Borakalalo NR at the bridge below the dam wall, 4 Jan 2014 (KR). Two birds were a surprise find at Rietvlei NR in Centurion, 7 Mar 2014 (DD).

Stork, Saddle-billed. Ooievaar, Saalbek: an immature bird was found at Kgomo-Kgomo on 30 Jan 2014 (JK, DV) where it remained for a few weeks and was reported by many birders (Gbird).

Stork, Woolly-necked. Ooievaar, Wolnek: another vagrant to our region that appeared at the Kgomo-Kgomo floodplain when an immature bird was seen on 23 Dec 2013 (SR); one bird was found at the Olifantsfontein Dump, 25 Feb 2014 (EM).

Swallow, Wire-tailed. Swael, Draadstert: at least 2 birds were at Mabusa NR north-east of Pretoria, 6 Apr 2014 (AV, LvD). *This is a very uncommon species in the greater Gauteng region.*

Other Interesting Observations/ Ander Interessante Waarnemings

Eagle, Ayres's Hawk. Arend, Kleinjag: one bird was seen in pentad 2545_2815 in Pretoria, where there are occasional reports of this species in summer, 2 Feb 2014 (NP).

Eagle Booted. Arend, Dwerg: a pale phase bird was observed at Delta Environmental Centre in pentad 2605_2800 in Johannesburg, being the first record there in 35 years of



Etienne Marais

Rufous-bellied Heron /
Roopensreier at Kgomo-Kgomo

birding observations, 16 Mar 2014, (GL).

Eagle, Brown Snake. Slangarend, Bruin: a sighting of this species in Suikerbosrand NR in pentad 2630_2815 is a very good record for the reserve, 14 Apr 2014 (JJ).

Eagle, Long-crested. Arend, Langkuif: one bird was seen along the N1 to the south-east of Pienaarsrivier town, 2 Mar 2014 (LvD, JA).

Flycatcher, Ashy. Vlieëvanger, Blougrys: an interesting observation is of one bird in the Rust De Winter area, where this species has not been recorded before, 2 Mar 2014 (EM).

Gallinule, Allen's. Riethaan, Kleinkoning: up to 6 birds were at Mkhombo Dam, 16 Dec 2013 (JB, JS). Several birds were also reported from Kgomo-Kgomo, Dec 2013 (Gbird).

Greenbul, Yellow-bellied. Willie, Geelbors: a surprise find in pentad 2550_2710 whilst atlas-ing in an area to the north-east of Derby and just south of the Magaliesberg, representing another new location for this species which is



Dylan Vasapilli

Saddle-billed Stork /
Saalbekooievaar
at Kgomo-Kgomo

undoubtedly expanding its range, 22 Feb 2014 (ST, AM).

Kingfisher, Woodland. Visvanger, Bosveld-: one bird was at Boschenvaal, south of Johannesburg on the Vaal River, a southerly record for this bushveld species, 17 Mar 2014, (JB).

Lark, Dusky. Lewerik, Donker-: one bird was found at Kgomo-Kgomo near the village, 26 Dec 2013 (DvZ, BL, EK). One bird was on the Leeuwbank Road in the Devon area, 14 Jan 2014 (DvdB).

Moorhen, Lesser. Waterhoender, Klein-: several birds were present on the Kgomo-Kgomo floodplain after good rains with several sightings reported, including birds with chicks, Dec 2013 (Gbird). One bird was at Glen Austin Pan, Midrand, 25 Feb 2014 (EM).

Night-Heron, White-backed. Nagreier, Witrug-: one bird was found on the Moses River, north-east of Pretoria, 9 Mar 2014 (DS, JB).

Plover, Caspian. Strandkiewiet, Asiatiese: at least one bird was at Kgomo-Kgomo, 10 Jan 2014 (NGvD).

Quail, Harlequin. Kwartel, Bont-: a male bird was found in Colbyn, Pretoria, shortly after having been hit by a car, 20 Mar 2014, an unusual record for the city (PC).

Stork, Marabou. Maraboe: up to 12 birds were at the Olifantsfontein Municipal Dump in Midrand 26 Jan 2014 (JK). At least one bird was at the Rosslyn Dump, north-west of Pretoria, 6 Mar 2014 (AH).

Wagtail, African Pied. Kwikkie, Bont-: a record of this species at Bruma Lake in

Johannesburg in pentad 2610_2805 is an unusual bird for the city, 12 Apr 2014 (FK).

Warbler, River. Sanger, Sprinkaan-: at least 4 birds were located in the area around Buffelsdrift, Rust De Winter, 2 March 2014 (EM) with other records, mostly of birds heard, coming from widespread localities in the following weeks (Gbird). *This was a good year for this species by all accounts with several birds recorded from a number of different localities.*

Wheatear, Mountain. Bergwagter: a record of this bird on the bridge at Kgomo-Kgomo in pentad 2505_2800 was somewhat out of range and unexpected given the habitat there, 1 Feb 2014 (AM, DvZ, EL).

Observers/ Waarnemers

Adrian Haagner (AH)	André Marx (AM)
André Taljaard (AT)	Anneke Vincent (AV)
Bets Lategan (BL)	Danie van den Bergh (DvdB)
Dave Deighton (DD)	Debbie van Zyl (DvZ)
Déwald Swanepoel (DS)	Dylan Vasapolli (DV)
Elouise Kalmer (EK)	Etienne Marais (EM)
Gauteng birders (Gbird)	Geoff Lockwood (GL)
Henk Nel (HN)	Jannie Jansen (JJ)
Jason Boyce (JB)	Jerome Ainsley (JA)
John Bradshaw (JB)	John Kinghorn (JK)
Jonathan Sykes (JS)	Kevin Ravno (KR)
Lisl van Deventer (LvD)	Matthew Axelrod (MA)
Neithard Graf von Dürckheim (NGvD)	Niall Perrins (NP)
Philip Calinikos (PC)	Selwyn Rautenbach (SR)
Stephan Terblanche (ST)	Sue Oertli (SO)

This column is mainly concerned with observations of rarities and interesting sightings made in the greater Gauteng region, defined as 100km from the centre of both Johannesburg and Pretoria, however observations made further afield are also welcome. While the majority of records 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. Members are invited to submit details of sightings to André Marx at e-mail turaco@telkomsa.net or 083 4117674. 🦅



Niall Perrins

Ayres's Hawk Eagle / Kleinjagarend in Pretoria

BirdLife Northern Gauteng					
Laniarius advertising costs (cost shown in Rands)					
Print ads	1 insert	2 inserts	3 inserts	4 inserts	
Back page	600	1000	1300	1500	full colour
Full page	400	700	950	1150	
Half page	250	400	500	675	
Quarter page	125	200	250	275	
Loose insert	300	500	650	750	
Smalls	50	90	120	140	5 lines/ad
Notes					
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Advertiser to supply print-ready artwork 2. Ads can be placed in alternate issues 3. Ads must be paid in advance 4. Ads are in black & white except back page which is in full colour 5. For loose inserts advertiser to supply insert 6. The committee maintains the right to accept any advertisements 					

BUFFELSDRIFT Rust de Winter

**ACCOMMODATION
(R350/p/night)**



PHOTOGRAPHY



BIRDING



BOOKINGS
Please call Donald
on 082 885 5577;
or e-mail

bookings@birdhiking.co.za
Website: www.birdhiking.co.za

BIRDERS