



Laniarius

March 2023 | No 148



*BirdLife Northern Gauteng
BirdLife Gauteng-Noord*

Image Source: "Cut-throat Finches" [Marna Buys]


BirdLife
SOUTH AFRICA

Giving Conservation Wings

2023 KOMITEE

COMMITTEE 2023

President

André Marx: 083 411-7674; andre.marx112@gmail.com

Chairperson / Voorsitter

Elouise Kalmer: 083 626-1733; chairperson@blng.co.za

Secretary / Sekretaesse

Fransie O'Brien: 072 737-0862; secretary@blng.co.za

Treasurer / Tesourier

Pieter Heslinga: 082 551-0130; piheslinga@mweb.co.za

Conservation / Bewaring

Laetitia Steynberg: 082 800-6210; conservation@blng.co.za

Programme and Activities / Program en Aktiwiteite

Keanu Canto: 073 907-3116; keanu@blng.co.za

Sub-committee: Ilse Müller, Fransie O'Brien, Jeanette Heuseveldt, Elouise Kalmer, Frik du Plooy, Willie Victor

Social Media and Marketing / Sosiale Media en Bemarking

Sheleph Burger: 082 925-4005; sheleph@blng.co.za

Evening Meetings and Courses / Aandbyeenkomste en Kursusse

Annetjie Barkhuizen: 082 460-4289; annetjie@rafikittraining.co.za

Web Services and Communication / Webdienste en Kommunikasie

Sean Naude: 083 391-8946; sean.naude@gmail.com

Bird Ringing / Voëlberinging

Frik du Plooy: 064 651-3755; jfduplooy@vodamail.co.za

Sub-committee: Wanda du Plooy, Marie Ueckermann

Training

Chris du Plooy, Martin Steyn, Jan Beukes, Johan de Jager, Arrie Klopper

Laniarius Editor / Redakteur

Ivonne Coetzee: laniariuseditor@blng.co.za

Sub-committee: André Marx, Anneke Jordaan, Darren Johnston, Merrick Naudè (Design & layout)

SABAP2 Atlas Co-ordinator / Atlaskoördineerder

André Marx: 083 411-7674; andre.marx112@gmail.com

Trading / Handel

Vacant

FROM THE EDITOR

For Love. BLNG's inspiring Valentine's-themed AGM and a truly energising Bosberaad are behind us. And even though both of these occasions were enjoyable in their own right and fulfilled their intended purpose, they left me with a sense of wonder. I am inspired by the dedication and sacrifice, and in cases, heroism, of people in our country — for the love of birds.

Let me begin to explain. The keynote speaker at our AGM on Valentine's day was Dr Sonja Krüger, who is the driving force behind the Bearded Vulture Recovery Plan.

Only about 320 of these magnificent birds are left.

She drove all the way here from Pietermaritzburg and had us enthralled with a presentation which included photographs of their rescue programme, showing her team members abseiling from peaks and at great personal danger for this cause. All for the love of preserving this species from sure extinction in a few decades.

One of our committee members, who is part of the Bird Ringers, told us recently how they get up at 2 or 3 am, set up their nets in inhospitable terrain in the dark, slog up kopjes in heavy galoshes umpteen times a day in the heat and ring birds, taking measurements, getting bitten by both birds and bugs, and ending up after such a day exhausted. All for the love of birds and furthering the science to map, protect and preserve them.

I recently learnt that our BLNG president, André Marx, who received an BLSA Owl award, had served the club in one or other official capacity for forty years. The Laniarius lay-out artist, Drinie van Rensburg, graciously offered her expertise and abilities in this for close to three decades. Committee members over the years of the club's existence have sacrificed time and effort free of charge and still continue doing so. All for the love of birds and trying in a small way to give back to their cause.

When oil slicks foul up our seas, volunteers assist in washing the penguins and other shore birds covered in crude oil, feeding them fish and getting thoroughly dirty and fishy in the process. Staff working at bird rescue and rehabilitation centres such as VULPRO do this for the love of birds — it is a poorly paid job to play surrogate mom to distressed birds in pain.



Ivonne - Editor

BLSA takes this so much further, on a global scale, so to speak. Their visionary approach and strategies to try and save, for instance, seabirds of Marion Island demonstrate daring and courage in the face of global destruction. Their tireless efforts to raise funds, and the generous donations of companies and individuals are done — for love.

This edition of the LANIARIUS marks a year since I first took up my position as Editor. The panic of being appointed in February as a rookie, with having to get out a full magazine a month later, with no article, photograph or contribution in sight... I started begging, stealing, borrowing and scouring the net and sources as yet unknown to me. So many club members stepped up and heeded my requests for photographs, filling in questionnaires from which an article or two could be cobbled together. With boundless patience the lay-out artist, Drinie, steered me through the pitfalls of editing. One year later, I have many excellent photographers and keen writers are eager to share their experiences and have made wonderful new friends in the process.

Today, I want to pay tribute to everyone who loves birds and acts,

in whichever small or large way, on that love to benefit birds who cannot help themselves. It is fitting that our cover photograph depicts this love in its own unique way — thank you, Marna!

FROM THE CHAIR

At the February BLNG AGM we reflected on a number of activities that contributed to another great year of birding at BLNG. The highlight of the AGM was definitely the talk by Dr Sonja Krüger from Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife on the wonderful work they are doing on the Bearded Vulture Recovery Programme. She explained the current status of the Bearded Vulture monitoring programme and what is being done to address the decline in numbers. This includes egg harvesting, a breeding programme and various other conservation initiatives. We ended the evening with a festive cheese and wine function.

We reflected on some of the highlights of the past year. As a club, we are very happy to report that BLNG is in a healthy state. The membership numbers have shown a decline, after the major clean-up of the membership database. We are however happy to report a consistent flow of new members and a positive financial status.

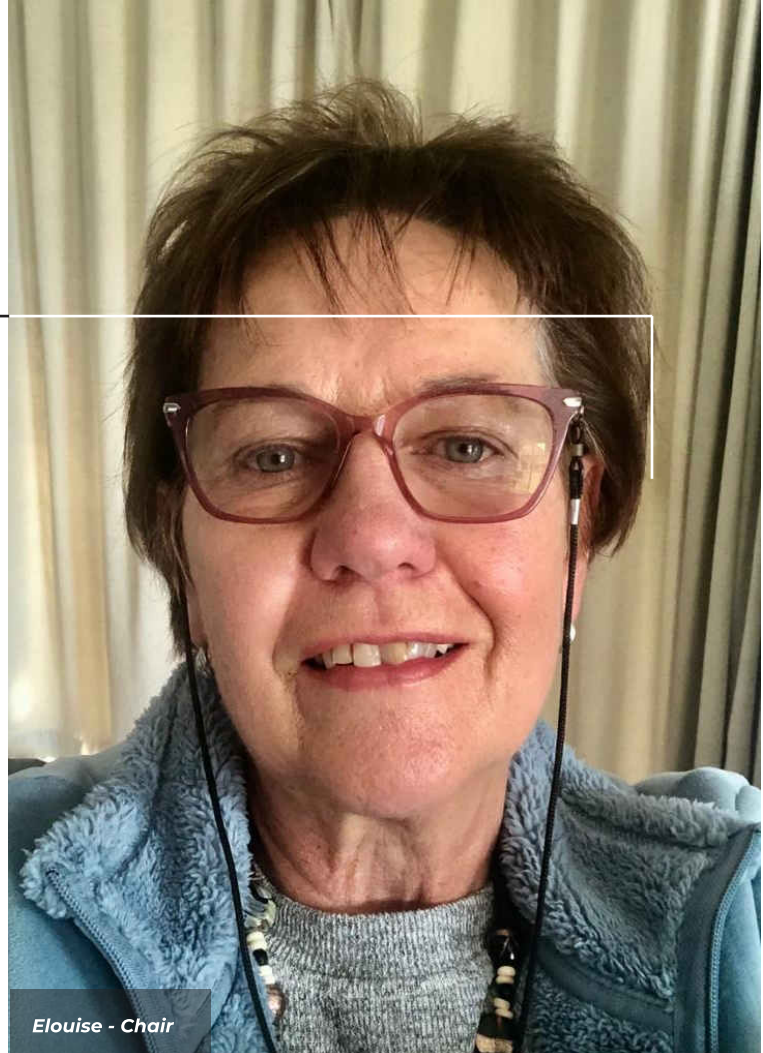
In order to improve communication, a streamlined booking and reservation system was implemented as well as WhatsApp groups for our outings and camps.

Two highlights of the BLNG trips during 2022 were the Flock to Marion Island on the MSC Orchestra in January and the Makuleke camp in November. Forty BLNG members attended the two camps at the EcoTraining in the Makuleke Concession north of Pafuri in the Kruger National Park and due to the huge demand we will repeat this event this year.

BLNG continues to focus our conservation activities on the citizen sciences. We have included a number of atlassing activities in our program, such as Birdlasser and Sabap2 training, atlas-focussed outings and camps as well as the BLNG specific Birdlasser Challenge.

The conservation group is continuing the Secretary Bird Project as well as the monitoring of the breeding pair of Verreaux's Eagles in Faerie Glen.

BLNG has a very strong Bird Ringing group, consisting of 27 active A-ringers and 9 C-ringers.



Elouise - Chair

They have ringed an impressive 2747 birds during 2022, including 254 retraps. They had 9 bird ringing camps during the year as well as regular day ringing sessions twice a month. The ringers are also involved in bird rehabilitation centres at the Skova Biodiversity Centre in Hazyview and the Magalies Raptor Rehab Centre where rehabilitated birds are ringed before they are set free.

Our club continues to interact with Birdlife South Africa through the BLSA Northern Region Forum, where we interact with other bird clubs and receive support from BLSA.

The main focus for BLSA is bird conservation and they are running a number of successful projects. By far the biggest of these projects are the Mouse Free Marion Project.

As a bird club we are offering the members a value packed activity program and the activities are well supported.

Once again thank you to all our members, leaders, committee and sub-committee members for making BLNG such a special and exciting birding club. A special word of thanks to the members who completed the BLNG survey.

LANIARIUS - MARCH 2023

CONTENTS

CLUB ACTIVITIES	PAGE
<i>BLNG CLUB SOCIALS</i>	
Year-end Boerie braai and Bird quiz	1
AGM - Valentine's Cheese and wine and Bearded Vultures	1
<i>CAMPS</i>	
Qôdesh	2-6
Magoebaskloof	7-10
<i>DAY EXCURSIONS</i>	
Zaagkuildrift	11
Wonderboom NR	12-14
Rooiwal Waste Water Treatments	15-18
Northern Farm	19
<i>CONSERVATION</i>	
Saving our Bearded Eagles	20-24
BOTY 2023 – Cape Parrot	25
<i>TRAVELOGUE</i>	
Evergreen Kruger	26-32
<i>CITIZEN SCIENCE</i>	
BLNG-ringershoekie	33-39
<i>RARITIES REPORT</i>	
	40-42
<i>BIRD'S EYE VIEW</i>	
	43
<i>BLNG MATTERS</i>	
	44
<i>COMPETITION 43</i>	
	45
<i>ADVERTISEMENT</i>	
	46-47

CLUB SOCIALS



Year-end - Boerie braai and Bird Quiz

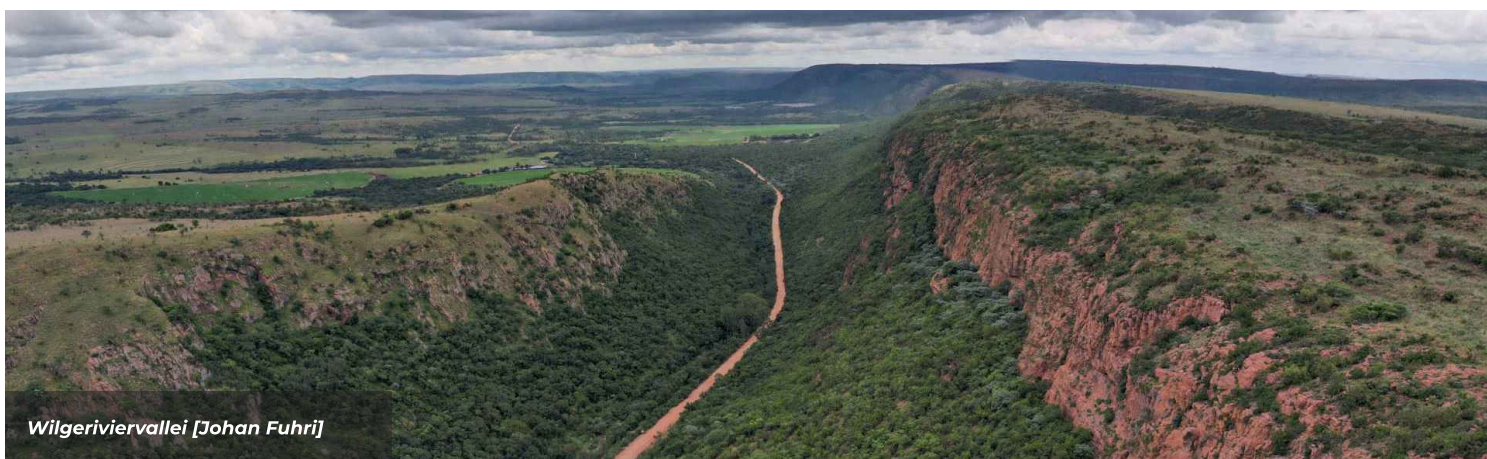


AGM - Valentine's and Bearded Vultures

QÔDESH 20-22 JANUARIE CAMP

As 'n mens noord-oos van Bronkhorstspruit ry en oor die gelyk, eentonige vlaktes uitkyk, kan jy skaars glo wat op jou wag as jy by die Zusterstroompad in die Wilgeriviervallei afdraai - daar ry jy 'n pragtige kloof met ruie bos al langs 'n stroom binne, met 'n muur van hoë rooi kranse wat bokant die groen woud uittroon.

Enige gesoute voëlkyker kan bevestig: die Wilgeriviervallei het, nes Zaagkuilsdrift, 'n byna magiese bekoring. Dit is waar eskarp- en selfs woudspesies wat gewoonlik net op die Tuinroete of in KwaZulu-Natal of Mpumalanga voorkom, binne 80 km vanaf Pretoria gesien kan word. Dié van ons wat spesiale voëlkykforums en sosiale mediaberigte volg, weet dat jy dalkies 'n Kroonarend, Nataljanfrederik, Blougrysvlieëvanger of selfs 'n Bosloerie daar mag raakloop. [Crowned Eagle, Red-Capped Robin-Chat, Ashy Flycatcher, Narina Trogon]. Boonop is die Wilgerivier bekend vir sy Watertrappers [Finfoot].



Wilgeriviervallei [Johan Fuhr]

Ons naweek begin op hoë noot. Toe ons nog op pad na Qôdesh se kampterrein is, sien ons 'n paar Kleinswartooievaars [Abdim's Stork] sirkel, en een land sowaar naby ons in 'n landery waar 'n trekker besig is om te skoffel. Ons jaag nader. 'n Paar ander volg die eerste een en ongelooflik genoeg tel ons later oor die dertig, en steeds kom daar nog meer Kleinswartooievaars aan. Wat eers gelyk het asof hulle uit die bloute, van oral oor, daar op die ploegland toesak, en dít sonder selfoonboodskappe,

blyk later natuurlik 'n migrerende groep vanuit die noorde te wees. Hoe lekker om 'n deeltjie van so 'n wonderwerk te mog beleef.

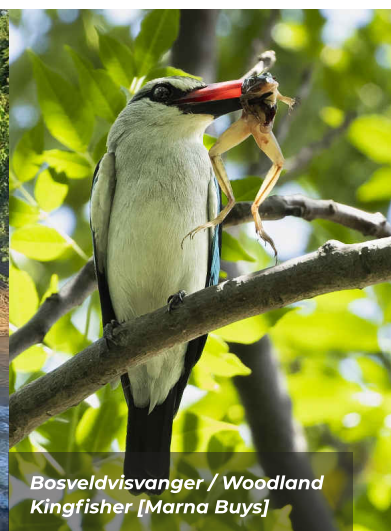
Qôdesh se pragtige groot bome, oorvloedige koelte en ruisende rivier is 'n oase in die versengende hitte. Klublede arriveer en begin hul piepklein eenmantentjies of luukse boswaens en selfs 'n mobilodge staanmaak onder begeleiding van 'n Bosveldvisvanger en sy honger kleintjie se geroep.



Qôdesh Kampeertrein
[Ilse Müller]



Wilgerivier by Qôdesh Kampeertrein [Ilse Müller]



Bosveldvisvanger / Woodland
Kingfisher [Marna Buys]

Ons leer mekaar ken en ons groepleidster, Marna Buys, gaan maak kennis met almal en stel haarself voor. 'n Hele paar is nuwe klublede, hier op hul eerste BLNG-kamp. Sy nooi almal om vroeg saam by die boma te braai, sodat ons om halfagt die aand op 'n uilejag kan vertrek.

Terwyl die eerste vlammetjies begin krul, hoor ons by Elandré dat hy aan die Kruger400-uitdaging deelneem. Ons val oor mekaar se voete om vir hom raad te gee en wenke te deel – ek en Marna het einde Oktober 2022 ons eie Kruger400-uitdaging met 'n goue medalje kon voltooi, en ons weet net hoe verslawend dit kan wees om 400 Kruger-spesies in 400 dae te kan afneem.

Ek noem dat ons verlede jaar 'n Watertrapper by die brug oor die Wilgerivier so 'n paar kilometer verder kon sien, en Marna vertel van die Kleinswartooievaars van die oggend.

Elandré weet al – met die Kruger400 wag jy nie, jy jág. Hy spring in sy bakkie en kom 'n halfuur later terug, gloeiend van trots en genoegdoening – hy het sowaar 'n pragfoto van 'n Watertrapper kon kry, by die brug, en dis sy 500ste lifer!

Wat 'n fantastiese voëlspezie om daardie magiese telling op sy lewenslys mee te bereik!

Boonop was hy net betyds vir die heel laaste Kleinswartooievaar in die landery, ook 'n Kruger400-spesie – die res van die swerm is reeds verder op hul lang vlug na die suide.



Die vure brand! [Ilse Müller]



Watertrapper / Finfoot [Elandré Scherman]



Kleinswartooievaar [Elandré Scherman]

Ons hele groep vertrek saam op die uilejag, gewapen met sterk flitsligte. Sommer net buitekant die kamp se hek kry ons reeds 'n Gevlekte Ooruil, die eerste van vele van die aand. Hoewel ons nie naguiltjies [nightjars] of Nonnetjieuile [Barn Owl] of selfs Vlei-uile [Marsh Owl] kon opspoor nie, het almal die Ooruile mooi kon sien.

Marna het by die omdraaipunt in die agterste motor gaan klim wat nou voor gaan ry, sodat hulle op die terugpad ook 'n slag die uile in hul volle glorie kan geniet, en nie net droëbek die wegvliegslag moet aanskou nie.

Vroegoggend bewonder ons die mis en pienk wolke oor die Wilgerivier. Die Watertrapper slaap blykbaar nog, maar 'n Reusevisvanger [Giant Kingfisher] probeer daarvoor te vergoed. 'n Groepie Jamesonse Vuurvinkies is ook darem al wakker, Diederikkies kweel hul liedjies en ons sien 'n paar Bruinjakkalsvoëls asook Swartkopwielewaal, Europese Swael, Groot- en Kleinstreepswaels en Oostelike Rooipootvalke. [Jameson's Firefinch,

Gevlekte Ooruil / Spotted Eagle Owl [Ben Espach]





[Ilse Müller]

Dideric Cuckoo, Common Buzzard, Black-headed Oriole, Barn -, Lesser - and Greater Striped Swallows, Amur Falcon]. 'n Groot voordeel van om 'n klublid te wees, is die toegang wat die klub namens lede kan reël vir plekke soos die geslote Hepzibah-tyddeelarea wat nie vir die algemene publiek beskikbaar is nie. Verder kom die eienaar van Berg en Rivier Country Retreat op ons groep af waar ons langs die pad staan en swaeltjies probeer identifiseer. Hy doen so 'n bietjie bemerking en nooi ons om later die oggend sy kilometer-lange rivierfront te gaan bekyk met 'gereelde' Watertrappers as ons lokaas.

Ons kry 'n groep Witsborsspreus [Violet-backed Starling] by Hepzibah se parkeerplek te siene. Die Spookvoël [Grey-headed Bushshrike] en Groenvlekduifie [Emerald-spotted Wood Dove] se geroep volg ons na die eerste dammetjie waar 'n Hamerkoppaartjie aan hul reuse nes bou. Die Bontrugwevers [Village Weavers] kry ook heelwat aftrek, en almal is bly om 'n Grasvoël [Cape Grassbird] te sien. Deon is in sy noppies met 'n nuwe lifer – Swartkatakoeroe waarvan die wyfie mooier as die mannetjie is – so sê sy foto, ten minste!

Tevergeefs soek ons egter na die Nonnetjieuil by sy slaapplek by die eerste huis – geen wonder nie, want daar word brullend gras rondom die huis gesny en 'n blareblaser lawaai. By die boonste huise vertoon 'n Bandkeelkleinjantjie [Bar-throated Apalis] egter pragtig, 'n lifer vir 'n klublid of twee. 'n Geelblestinker [Yellow-fronted Tinkerbird] se onafgebroke pop-pop-pop vergesel ons byna heelpad boontoe in die kloof. Marna se fyn gehoor en fenomenale kennis van voëlklanke help dat daar 'n hele paar interessante spesies opgespoor word. 'n Hofsvanger en Donkerwangbossangers [Willow Warbler, Green-capped Eremomela] in die Wildeseringe is twee nuwe spesies wat party op hul lewenslyties kan afmerk, hoewel hul meesal agter blare bly skuil. 'n Luitinktinkie [Lazy Cisticola] vertoon egter pragtig – nog 'n nuwe spesie vir sommiges!

Skielik roep Marna opgewonde uit: “Swie! Swie! Swie!”

Ben is blitsvinnig gereed om 'n foto te neem voor hy wegswiep – Suidelike Swie! [Swee Waxbill]. Om die woudspesie hier, so naby aan Pretoria, te kan sien, is só besonder!



Swartkatakoeroe / Black Cuckooshrike (V/F)
[Deon van der Hoven]



Kroonarend [Marna Buys]

Gelukkig merk Lorraine nog 'n paar Swiewyfies 'n entjie verder in 'n boompie op, en almal kan darem hul verkykers betyds ingestel kry. 'n Paar sekondes later sien ek 'n groot, donker arend opvlieg, sommer hier naby ons – "Kroonarend! Kroonarend!" skree ek nog byna voor ek sy vlerkpatrone uitken.

Rasend van opwinding sien ons almal hoe hy mooi bokant ons draai, kans genoeg gee vir gesoute fotograwe om die oomblik vas te lê, agter die krans verdwyn, terugkom, en dan vir die res van die tyd wat ons in die kloof deurbring, halsstarrig in 'n boom doer ver bo-op die krans gaan sit.

Net sy kop steek uit, en ons minder bekwame fotograwe moet maar tevrede wees met 'n veraf kopskoot wat eerlikwaar baie minder bevredigend is as diés van die jagveld. Maar 'n Kroonarend!

Heel bo aan ons almal se wenslysies vir die naweek!

Daar is 'n Bruinslangarend [Brown Snake Eagle] ook wat ons almal laat hoop is 'n jongeling Kroonarend, maar Ben en Elandré gaan nader en bring die geel oog op hul foto's as teenbewys terug.

Bo in die kloof maak ons waterbottels vol met fonteinwater, eet iets en bekyk ons kameras se terugskote. Dan stap ons terug onder toe in die pragtige kloof af met sy rooi kranse weerskante, en kan skaars ons geluk glo om ook nog 'n Rooiborsjakkalsvoël [Jackal Buzzard] by die onderste driffie op te jaag.

Na 'n besoek aan Hepzibah se rivierfront besluit ons om te gaan kyk hoe lyk Berg en Rivier s'n. Op die klipperige tweespoorpaadjie sien ons 'n Rooikoplewerik [Red-capped Lark]. Ons kom laaste van die groep daar aan en begin draf toe ons al die klublede plat op die gras by die rivier sien sit, alle kameralense soos 'n artillerielinie na vore gerig, en hulle ons dringend nader roep - WATERTRAPPERS!

Daar is sowaar twee mannetjies wat heen en weer oor die rivier swem. Pragtig! Daar word gesê jy het nog nie rêrig 'n Watertrapper gesien voor jy nie sy rooi pote gesien het nie ... En net daar gebeur iets waaroor fotograwe net kan droom - een Watertrappermannetjie jaag 'n ander oor die rivier, en storm bo-op die water dat jy net rooi pote en donker vlerke sien woer en boë water sien spuit!

Ons snak na ons asems – en dan gebeur dit weer 'n keer! Ons voel sommer klein en besef dat moeder natuur vandag ons bederf met van die heel mooiste uit haar skatkamers. Die hoë rooi kranse en klowe agter ons, die lieflike, breë rivier met bome omsoom, geen teken van enige huise of ontwikkelings hier nie – en die asembenemende skouspel wat voor ons mog afspeel. 'n Reuse- en Kuifkopvisvanger [Giant and Malachite Kingfishers] bederf ons nog verder.

En hoe lekker dat ál die kampers hierdie pragspesies mog geniet! Die helfte van die groep het nog nooit 'n Watertrapper gesien nie, en mag nou die oggend eindig met hierdie hoogtepunt op hul lewenslysies. Ons is byna oorstelp terug kamp toe vir 'n lekker middagrusse.



[Ivonne Coetzee]



Watertrappers [Marna Buys]

Later die middag besoek ons Renosterkop, en kry 'n Kleinbyvreter, al vier Flapspesies, en 'n Kransvalk langs die vlei op pad soontoe. [Little Bee-eater, Widowbirds, Rock Kestrel].

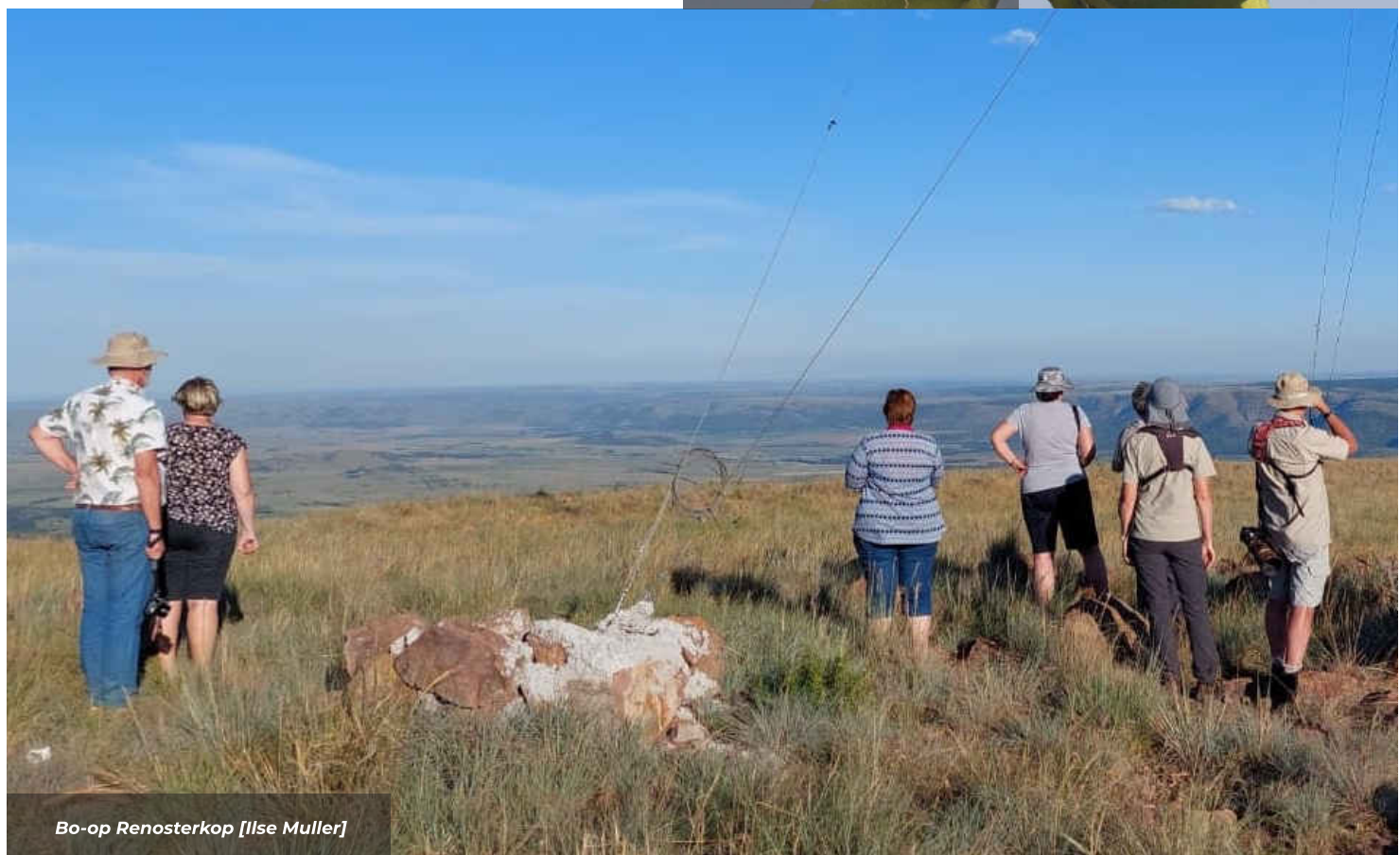
Ons moes heelwat kopkrap om uit te pluig of dit nou 'n Kleinrooivalk [Lesser Kestrel] of Kransvalk is.

Byna heel bo-op Renosterkop kry ons Huiltinktinkie,

Woestynkloppie, Klipstreepkoppies en Rooineklewerik. [Wailing and Desert Cisticola, Cinnamon-breasted Bunting, Rufous-naped Lark].



Huiltinktinkie [Marna Buys]



Bo-op Renosterkop [Ilse Muller]

Daar sit sowaar weer 'n Bruinslangarend bo-op die heel hoogste selfoontoring. Ons bewonder die 360° uitsig van bo af en probeer Qôdesh, Deale's Rock se kloof en Hepzibah van daar af identifiseer. Ons kom eers na donker weer by die kampterrein aan en kuier vir oulaas om die braaivure.

Ons groet mekaar sommer, want sommiges gaan môre voor dagbreek weer tuiswaarts keer. Wát 'n dag! Marna word oor en oor bedank en geluggewens met haar puik leiding, kennis en reëlings.

Ons kon 120 spesies afmerk, met 'n hele paar lifers en besondere spesies boonop. Wat 'n allerheerlikste kamp om die jaar se voëlkyk mee af te skop.

- Ivonne Coetzee

MAGOEBAKLOOF 23-26 FEBRUARY CAMP



Narina Trogon / Bosloerie [Anna-Marie van der Merwe]

Since the very first moment I sensed a spirit of expectation and excitement from the attendants of the Magoebaskloof birding weekend scheduled for 23-26 February 2023.

Not even the prospect of an uninvited guest named Freddy, the tropical storm, could suppress the enthusiasm.

The destination was Silver Mist Resort, a very well-kept horse- and holiday farm, a stone-throw away from the quaint little village of Haenertsburg. The resort was perfect for our needs – one could choose between 2- or 3-sleeper cottages, pre-erected tents or own camping and it was conveniently close to the nearest birding venues.

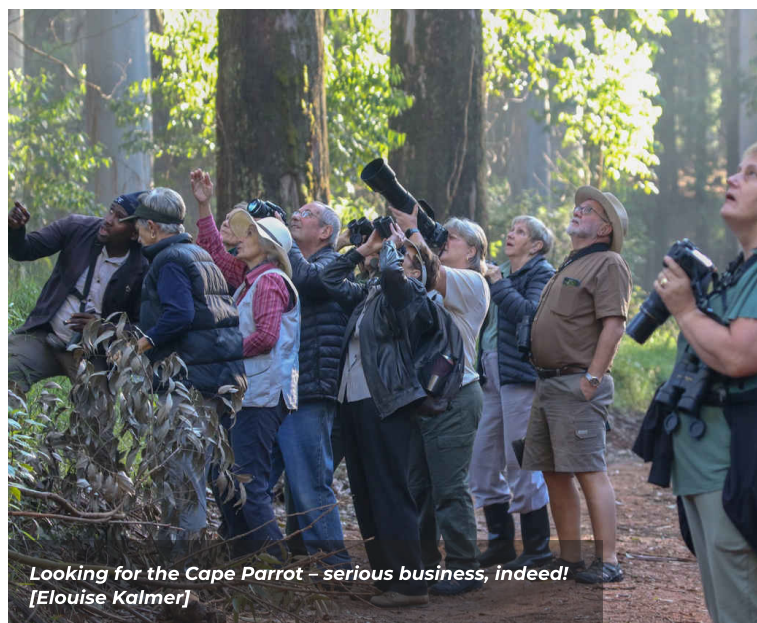
Birding started on the first afternoon soon after arrival (as to be expected, of course) and we were treated by a beautiful wing display of a Woolly-necked Stork (Wolnekooievaar). Giant Kingfishers (Reusevisvanger) and Pied Wagtails (Bontkwikkie) frequented the jetties at the water edge and the Wood Owls (Bosuil) kept the campers awake on the first night.

Thursday morning on the way to Woodbush, the guides, David Letsoalo and Paul Nkhumane, were

picked up along the road. And very soon after, the challenge of forest birding began. It is notoriously hard, but no one could have prepared us sufficiently. Fortunately, they are professional bird guides for specialty areas - exactly what we needed.

Woodbush

The ultimate highlight of our first stop in Woodbush was definitely the Cape Parrots (Woudpapegaaï), 2023 Bird of the Year. Sitting very high up in tall blue gum trees, some up to a magnificent 80 meters and higher, it was a serious neck exercise to spot them.



Looking for the Cape Parrot – serious business, indeed! [Elouise Kalmer]

The “low-light”, by way of speech, were the Green Twinspots (Groenkolpensie), Red-backed Mannikins (Roorugfret) and Swee Waxbills (Suidelike Swie), flitting around in the underbrush.

Consider yourself lucky if you can set your binoculars on a single bird for more than 2 seconds, let alone taking a good photograph.

Higher up the mountain we entered indigenous forest,

where we were shown the Yellow-throated Woodland-Warbler (Geelkeelsanger), a “lifer” for many and equally hard to spot. Yellow-streaked Greenbul (Geelstreepboskruiper), Forest Canary (Gestreepte Kanarie), Cape Batis (Kaapse Bosbontrokkie), Blue-mantled Crested Flycatcher (Bloukuifvlieëvanger) and Grey Cuckooshrike (Gryskatakoeroe) also showed their feathers, more often than not extremely briefly.

Whenever the sky is visible from the forest, raptors can be seen circling above. We were spoiled with the Jackal Buzzard (Rooiborsjakkalsvoël), Long-Crested Eagle (Langkuifarend) and Forest Buzzard (Bosjakkalsvoël), the latter also a once-in-a-lifetime privilege for many.



Swee Waxbill [Anna-Marie van den Merwe]



Cape Batis [Hannes van den Berg]



Yellow-streaked Greenbul [Hannes van den Berg]



Blue-mantled Crested Flycatcher [JP van den Merwe]



Grey Cuckooshrike [JP van den Merwe]

Letsitele Valley

Day 2 took us through savannah Acacia thickets down to Letsitele Valley. On arrival at the dam, we were welcomed by an African Fish Eagle (Visarend) and moments later by two Western Ospreys (Visvalk) briefly circling the dam. Further down the road Arnot's Chat (Bontpiek) gave everyone enough chance to take proper pictures.



Arnot's Chat [JP van den Merwe]

All of a sudden, a huge vulture swooped down.

Then there were many, appearing out of nowhere. Eventually a group of 50 or more Hooded- and White-backed Vultures – gigantic shadows circling quietly and low above our heads.

The moment was magic, and we felt small and in awe. It was just one of nature's pleasant and unexpected surprises (Monnik- en Witruugaasvoël).

While walking back, Stierling's Wren-Warbler (Stierlingsanger) gave us a very vocal and open display, wanting to make sure everyone captured it on camera. Then another surprise: African Golden Oriole (Afrikaanse Wielewaal). Even a quick little rain shower on the way to the vehicles couldn't dampen the enthusiasm.

The next destination was Agatha Forest to try and find the Bat Hawk (Vlermuisvalk). The guides' search in the mostly frequented blue gum trees yielded nothing. Then excitement in the group closest to the pine trees – a Bat Hawk has been spotted by a determined group member.



Vultures [JP van den Merwe]



Stierling's Wren-Warbler [Hannes van den Berg]



African Golden Oriole [Elouise Kalmer]



Bat Hawk [Hannes van den Berg]

On Sunday morning a number of die-hard birders went back to the forest to try and spot, once more, some of the more elusive species. Just to be reminded why forest birding has the reputation it has...Without the guides telling us what we were hearing or looking at, we felt lost and overwhelmed.

Around ten o'clock we left the forest. Rain was moving in quickly.

Perhaps Freddy was showing up at last. Or perhaps Magoebaskloof was just closing its usual misty curtain after a magical performance.

- Mariana Arnoldi

Cameras were clicking vigorously. David explained that the Bat Hawk might have anticipated some wet weather and decided to take refuge in the pine trees. Well spotted indeed, JP!

Our last stop was the graveyard, where, against all odds, many lifers were seen! Wire-tailed Swallow (Draadsterswael), African Yellow Warbler (Geelsanger), Yellow-breasted Apalis (Geelborskleinjantjie) and Red-faced Cisticola (Rooiwangtinktinkie) all made for great entertainment, while a Red-chested Flufftail (Rooiborsvleikuiken) called but unfortunately remained hidden in the reeds.

It was time to say goodbye to our wonderful guides.

Their knowledge, patience and determination deserve our admiration. It convinced us once more that it is always worth supporting these highly skilled people when visiting specialty birding areas.



David Letsoalo, BLSA guide, listening intently [Elouise Kalmer]



[A van der Merwe]

ZAAGKUILDRIFT - 29 JANUARIE

OUTINGS

'n Groep van 19 van ons het Sondagoggend sesuur op die Zaagkuildriftpad langs die R101 bymekaar gekom. Die oggend was aanvanklik koelerig en redelik bewolk. Van vroeg af was daar voëls in vlug met swerms Rooibekkewelea (Red-brille Queleas) wat die grassade geteiken het.

Ons eerste stop was by die driffie wat altyd 'n gewilde punt is, maar op dié dag uitsonderlik mooi, met helder skoon water waarin die eende relatief na aan ons geswem het.

Die visvangers het op die oorhangtakies gesit en jag gemaak op klein vissies. Een van die hoogtepunte hier was die Blouvisvanger (Half-collared Kingfisher) wat ook sy verskyning gemaak het.

Oor die vlei het ons uitgekyk na die "groot" dam met onder meer Veereiers (Western Cattle Egret) en Slanghalsvoëls (African Darter) wat in die dooie takke sit en die Visarend (Fish Eagle) se roep in die verte.

Verder aan het dit begin lyk asof dit wil reën en daar het selfs 'n paar druppels geval maar het vinnig oorgewaai. Ons het wel ook by die bruggie by Crake Road gestop, maar op daardie oomblik was daar nie veel te sien nie. Wat wel hier besonders was, was groot hoeveelheid Swartvlerksprinkaanvoëls.

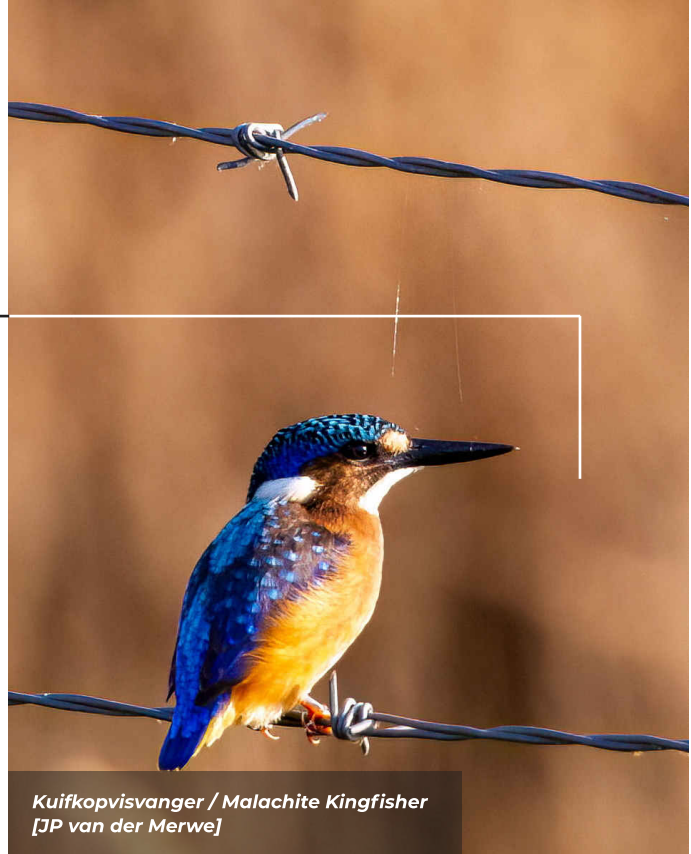
Ongelukkig was Crake Road self droog en boonop was daar heelwat verkeer. MAAR die vorige dag is 'n Watertrapper (Finfoot) onder die brug gewaar en afgeneem.

Op pad na Platrivier was dit reeds baie warm en voëlklanke was maar stil. Ons het by die Platrivier-deurloop gestop om 'n moontlike blik op die Kleinwaterhoender (Lesser Moorhen) wat deesdae dikwels daar gesien word, te kry. Met meeste van ons wat fokus voor ons, weerskante van die pad, is daar 'n Afrikaanse Riethaan (African Crake) gewaar wat agter ons oor die pad geloop het.

Die Platrivierdammetjie was redelik verlate met slegs 'n paar Grootwaterhoenders (Common Moorhen) en eende. Selfs die brug het nie groot swerms Nimmersatte (Yellow-billed Stork) opgelewer nie, maar ons het wel 'n paar gesien, asook Grootkoningriethane (African Swamphen) en Blouwangbyvreters (Blue-cheeked Bee-eater). Van hier af het almal huiswaarts gekeer.

Ten spyte van die weer en verkeer het ons 120 verskillende spesies gewaar.

- JP van der Merwe



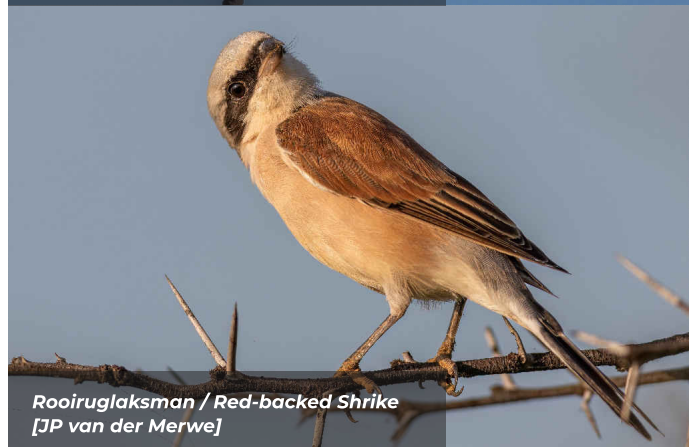
Kuifkopvisvanger / Malachite Kingfisher
[JP van der Merwe]



Swartvlerksprinkaanvoël / Black-winged Pratincole
[JP van der Merwe]

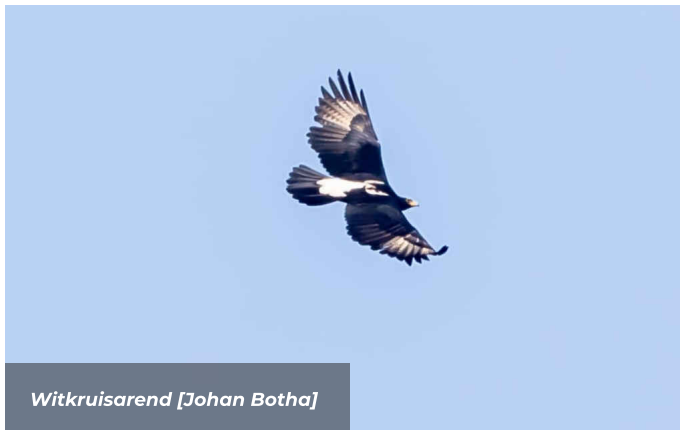


Oostelike Rooipootvalk / Amur Falcon
[JP van der Merwe]



Rooiruglaksman / Red-backed Shrike
[JP van der Merwe]

WONDERBOOM NATUURRESERVAAT 4 FEBRUARIE OUTINGS



Witkruisarend [Johan Botha]



Bruinsylangstertjie [Johan Botha]



Gestreepte Koester [JP van der Merwe]

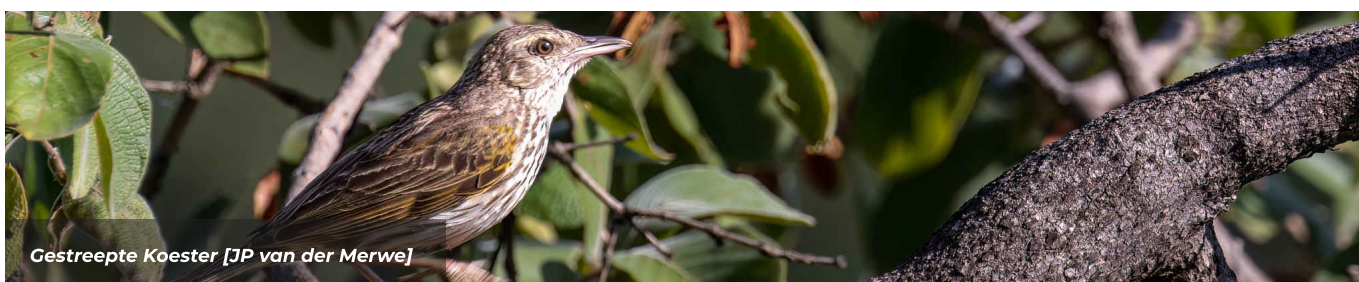
Ons groep van 16 was baie dankbaar om Saterdagoggend, na stortreëns die vorige twee dae en moontlike kansellering van die uitstappie, in stralende sonskynweer bymekaar te kom. Thinus van Staden, bemaamde fotograaf (gaan kyk gerus in die afgelope paar uitgawes van African Birdlife), was ons leier.

Ons het die reuse wildevy en dogterbome wat die 'Wonderboom' vorm, bekyk en 'n bietjie van sy beroemde en berugte geskiedenis bespreek, onder andere die Voortrekkergroepe wat daar vanaf 1836 uitgespan het en die mensvretergroepe wat na Shaka en ander stamme se Mfecane- verbrande-aardetaktiek in die boom gewoon het en verbygangers deur die Poort geteiken het.

Dit was volgens oorlewering aan ons Volkekunde-profie van TUKS vertel.

Sommer net daar vlieg een van die broeipaar Witkruisarende (Verreaux's Eagle), ons eerste teiken, hoog bokant ons oor die Magaliesberg. Terwyl almal nog sy vlug volg, skiet 'n Gebande Sperwer (Shikra) agter ons verby, net om tussen die bome aan die noordgrens van die reservaat te verdwyn. Ons kies almal moedig die ongeveer 3 km steil berg-op roete om daar bo by die fort uit te kom, want ons wil juis die spesies wat teen die klipperige hange tuishou, sien. Die steil "trappe" wat die paadjies boontoe vorm, is uitgelê met plat rotse wat uit 'n rivierbedding kom.

Hul versteende, golwende waterpatrone illustreer die argeologiese herkoms van die Magaliesberge, wat interessant genoeg een van die wêreld se agt oudste bergreekse is. Dit is sowat 2 biljoen jaar gelede gevorm deur vulkaniese aksies en troon nou, na eeue se verwerking, 1852 m hoog bokant die Springbokvlakte uit. So vertel Thinus ons deur te verwys na Vincent Carruthers se puik boek, The Magaliesberg. (4) 'n Geelblestinker (Yellowfonted Tinkerbird) koggel ons 'n hele ent na bo.



Gestreepte Koester [JP van der Merwe]

Halfpad boontoe kry ons ons tweede teiken vir die uitstappie, twee Gestreepte Koesters (Striped Pipit) wat mooi vertoon. Verder op is 'n pragtige Gewone Melba, allesbehalwe "gewoon" (Green-winged Pytilia), Klipstreekkoppies (Cinnamon-breasted Bunting), sowel as Berg- en Streepkopkanaries (Black-throated Canary, Streaky-headed Seedeater).



Gewone Melba [Johan Botha]



[Ivonne Coetzee]

Pootuit na die steil klim na bo geniet ons 'n blaaskans met 'n besondere mooi uitsig oor die middestad. Ons stap deur die imposante maar vervalde Boerefors heel bo wat voor die Anglo-Boereoorlog gebou is, maar nooit gebruik is nie - een van vier forte wat die ingang na die hoofstad sou bewaak.

Op sy noordekant het ons 'n pragtuig oor die vloedvlakte van die Apiesrivier en nog verder tot waar die Springbokvlakte deinsig op die horison verdwyn. 'n Witpootblouvinkie (Purple Indigobird) is vir sommige 'n lifer. Net 'n entjie ondertoe kom ons sy broeigasheer, 'n Jamesonse Vuurvinkie (Jameson's Firefinch) teë.

Onder gekom, stap ons stadig na die Apiesrivier toe waar ons 'n hele paar interessante spesies kon lys. Die groot aantal fiksheidsbewustes wat die berg saam met ons uit is en die voëltjies effens verjaag het, is intussen huis toe en alles is nou rustig en stil — ideaal vir voëlkyk.

In die Wonderboom se wildevy self is verskeie spesies, waar veral die Tuinsanger (Garden Warbler) en Hofsanger (Willow Warbler) aftrek kry maar frustrerend genoeg hulself net vir party wys.

Die digte, hoë inheemse bome in die reservaat huisves soms interessante spesies soos die gevierde Boomkoester (Tree Pipit) wat Thinus 'n paar jaar vantevore daar raakgeloop het.

Ons geniet die Rooibeklysters (Kurrichane Thrush) en veral die Hofsanger wat nader aan die rivier nie so skaam is nie en almal kan hom mooi te sien kry.

Toe ons teen die rotsplate bokant die Apiesrivier opklouter om die Wonderboompoort te bekyk, sien ons...



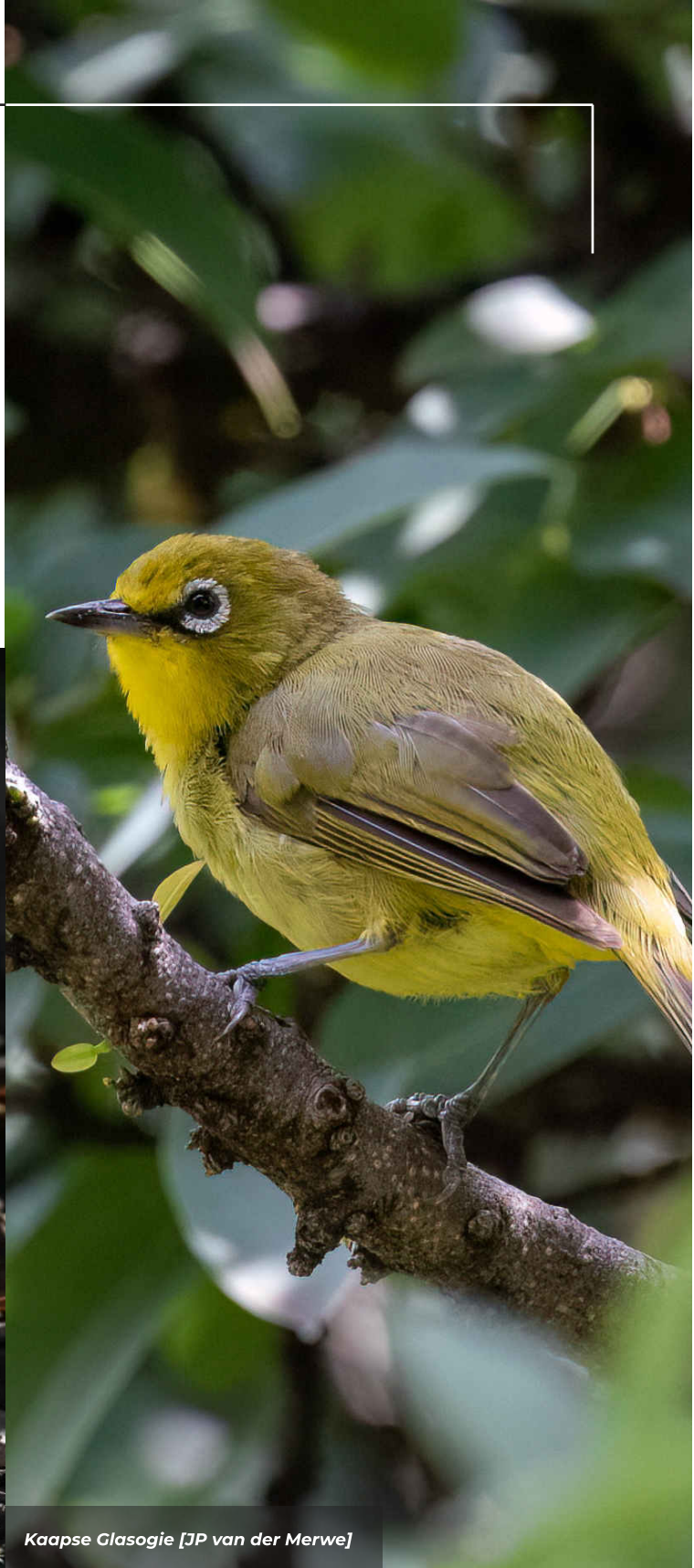
[Ivonne Coetzee]



[Ivonne Coetzee]

Swarteende (African Black Duck) onder in die rivier en Thinus merk sowaar 'n Swartwindswael (African Black Swift) tussen die Witkruiswindswaels (White-rumped Swift, Kransswaels (Rock Martin), Klein- en Grootstreepswaels (Lesser and Greater Striped Swallows) op.

Ons is van daar af huis toe, met 'n mooi aantal van 68 spesies in die paar uur afgemerk.



Verwysings:

1. Fort Wonderboompoort, Wonderboom – Pretoria, www.History.org.za
2. Sedert Steentydperk al 'n uitspanplek – Angie Kleijn, www.bronberger.co.za
3. Beyond the “Zulu aftermath” Rescrambling Southern Africa's Mfecane Migrations – John Wright, School of Anthropology, University of Kwa-Zulu Natal, 2006
4. The Magaliesberg - Vincent Carruthers, 1990, Southern Book Publishers

- Ivonne Coetzee

ROOIWAL WASTE WATER TREATMENT WORKS - 11 FEBRUARY OUTINGS

Sewage works are a favourite hang-out of birders. As a beginner birder, this surprised me, but as in the past, there was a race amongst club members to sign up for one of the only twenty spots available on this outing. Neithard Graf von Dürckheim, our leader, had managed to secure entry to Rooiwal only after three months of protracted negotiations with various official bodies.

We ourselves arrived at the crack of dawn to check out the northern area outside the gates as we hoped to get sightings of the Marsh Owls (Vlei-uil) there, or even the famous Corn Crake (Kwartelkoning) of the previous season. The incessant rains of the previous days must have dampened the owls' spirits as they didn't show themselves; and the nearby Apies had been turned into the mighty, raging river of Winston Churchill's tales, so no ducks there. Luckily, the sludge dams had filled up and we ticked some duck and wader species there.

A large flock of Abdim's Stork (Kleinswartooievaar) came flying over us, en route the nearby slag heaps.

In recent wet years, Rooiwal's slag heaps have become a reliable spot for sightings of these highly migratory species. We joined the rest of the group at the gate but the minute we alighted from our cars inside the premises for some birding on foot, the weather stations' dire predictions were fulfilled - rain came pelting down. But we came well prepared - out came the slickers, the raincoats, the ponchos, the crackling capes and umbrellas, in my experience just the right muti to chase the rain away.

We decided to rather do some birding from the cars to check out the slag heaps, as Thea and Ilse, who had also done some early reconnoitring, had spotted the flock of Abdim's Stork there and, almost better, Western Yellow Wagtail (Geelkwikkie).



Yellow-billed Kite / Geelbekwou [JP van der Merwe]



[Ivonne Coetzee]

We drove onto the vast concrete slab and indeed, the rain departed and went to break up various District Athletics meets in nearby Pretoria.

Numerous Western Yellow Wagtails in assorted shades of yellow were enjoying the slag heaps (possibly of more than one subspecies, but let's tread cautiously here). An amazing sighting of so many together, as one feels lucky to spot just one single Western Yellow Wagtail amongst other species at a time.

This was a surprise lifer for some of the new club members who were disappointed to find that the Abdim's had departed for another beloved spot of theirs nearby, the rubbish dump near Bon Accord, to join their friends, White Stork (Witooievaar), at their favourite summer hang-out.

Luckily, a few straggler Abdim's Stork came flying past later and some could tick their second lifer for the morning.



Western Yellow Wagtail / Geelkwikkie [JP van der Merwe]



[JP van der Merwe]

Greater Reed Warbler (Grootrietsanger) moved around in some nearby bushes, and Barn Swallows (Europese Swael) made the most of the many flies around. We were gratified to see that the Yellow-billed Kites (Geelbekwou) had returned to Rooiwal in full force after a few years of absence.

Part of the Rooiwal water treatment works is a lovely dam on the outside which we reached after some bundu bashing.

Common Moorhen (Grootwaterhoender), Yellow-billed and White-faced Whistling Duck (Geelbek- and Nonnetjie-eend) and some beautiful White-fronted Bee-eaters (Rooikeelbyvreter) were ticked there as well as Little Rush Warbler (Kaapse Vleisanger) – the latter giving its typical ‘dropped-coin’ call.



[Ivonne Coetzee]



White-fronted Bee-eater / Rooikeelbyvreter [JP van der Merwe]



[Ivonne Coetzee]

We then entered the Rooiwal complex gates again to scan the inside dams, only to be disappointed by the stark absence of water birds — in the past, these dams had bristled with numerous species of ducks, terns, waders, gulls, kingfishers and attendant raptors. Neithard, who had come on Thursday with umbrella and binoculars to prepare for our outing, had then also found the inside dams strangely deserted and had hoped this to be a temporary situation.

Soon enough we were buoyed up by the appearance of a mystery raptor.

The optimists amongst us held high hopes for Honey Buzzard; the stalwarts noted the tail which was periodically closed and called Wahlberg's Eagle, while the cautious cited the russet blotched underparts as typical of Common Buzzard. In the end, Marna's excellent photographs were proof enough that it had been an African Harrier Hawk juvenile (Kaalwangvalk), these being masters of disguise and weekly regulars on the 'What's-That-Bird' photo forums.

We scanned each and every Yellow-billed Kite for a square instead of forked tail and a black tip to the yellow bill, (the latter difficult to see, even in photographs of flying YBKs) which might indicate the much scarcer Black Kite (Swartwou). A surprise fly-by of a vulture brought further guesswork – White-backed or Cape?



Sand Martin [Willie Victor]

African Harrier Hawk juvenile [Marna Buys]

We next turned our attention to the power lines where one or two single Sand Martin (Europese Oewerswael) might be perched amongst the more common Brown-throated Martins (Afrikaanse Oewerswael) and numerous Barn Swallows (Europese Swael).

Indeed, there was one possible candidate, but we had to wait for a photo call.

A few years ago, on my first visit to Rooiwal on a club outing, I just couldn't make out the difference against the glare and resorted to taking scores of photographs of the zillions of perched swallows there. At home, armed with the enlarged photographs on my computer screen and the help of bird guides and apps, I could at last make an armchair lifer tick of the uncommon Sand Martin.

A lone Sand Martin, or even a single House Martin (Huisswael) with its telltale woolly feet, may similarly be found amongst perched swallows or martins at say, Northern Farm or Roodeplaat NR after some careful scanning. This is yet another advantage of being part of a bird club – the valuable information that the leaders give out helps the novice birder to know how and where to look for species which would otherwise have gone unnoticed.

The neat row of white terns we now spotted on a power line being another point in case: as in past observations, Neithard pointed out the black "earphones" as a distinguishing feature. Now, these 'earphones' always cause me to make an unfortunate connection to 'sideburns' (those growing up in the glorious sixties and seventies will know what I'm talking about) and the 'sideburns' are just a simple hop, skip and jump away to 'whiskers' and I then tick Whiskered Tern, only to have to change it afterwards on BirdLasser to



White-winged Tern. “White-winged” when no white wings are visible, only grey, and under-wing coverts turning black just before their Palearctic breeding season! Hopefully, I will make the correct mental long-jump the next time, but I doubt it. I console myself that the conundrum of identifying terns has been the downfall of many a knowledgeable birder, even though this is more to do with marine terns.

With threatening low-hanging clouds approaching, we gathered under some casuarina trees of which the seeds are so beloved by waxbills, firefinches and notably, Twinspots, should you be in their distribution range, of course. We tallied up a surprising count of 94 species, and after confirmation later in the day when the photographers had a chance to study their images on larger screens at home, we reached 97 when adding Sand Martin, Cape Vulture (Kransaasvoël) and African Harrier Hawk. Not bad for a morning which threatened to rain out, and, once again, convincing argument for cameras when out birding — sometimes birds just won't call!

- Ivonne Coetzee

NORTHERN FARM - 8 MARCH OUTINGS

Photo report of BLNG outing led by André Marx.



Bruinkopvisvanger / Brown-hooded Kingfisher
[Johan Botha]



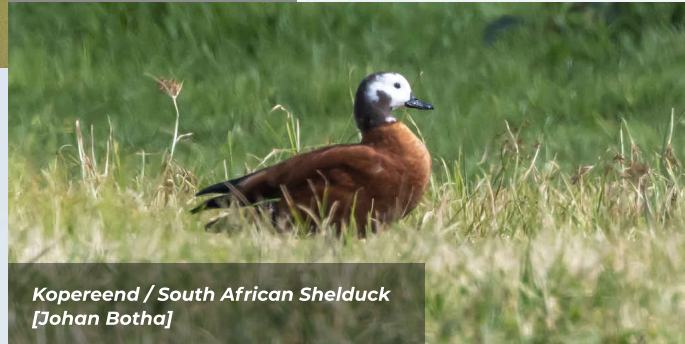
Reusereier / Goliath Heron
[Johan Botha]



Swartwou / Black Kite
[Johan Botha]



Gewone Dikkop / Spotted Thick-knee
[Johan Botha]



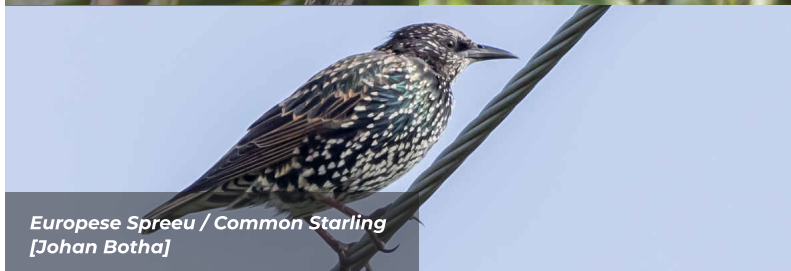
Kopereend / South African Shelduck
[Johan Botha]



Bergkanarie / Black-throated Canary
[Johan Botha]



Langkuifarend / Long-crested Eagle
[Johan Botha]



Europese Spreeu / Common Starling
[Johan Botha]



Rooikoplewerik / Red-capped Lark
[Johan Botha]

FOR THE LOVE OF THE BEARDED VULTURE CONSERVATION

Assessing and Addressing the Decline of the Bearded Vulture in Southern Africa.

- Dr. Sonja Krüger, Ezemvelo KwaZulu-Natal Wildlife

Vulture populations are one of the fastest declining groups of birds, and populations across Africa have undergone massive declines. The threats they face are, amongst others, poisoning, habitat degradation, disturbance of breeding sites, and collision with powerlines.

The Bearded Vulture (Baardaasvoël) is a large raptor, 110 cm in length, 6 kg, and has a massive 2.7 m wingspan.

It is monogamous and a solitary cliff nester, nesting in small caves at altitudes >1800 m. It is an obligate scavenger with a diet of primarily bone.

The Southern African Bearded Vulture population of the Drakensberg has declined by >38% and has been declared Critically Endangered with an estimated 305-482 individuals left in the wild. This implies that only 65 birds will be left in 50 years' time, were desperate measures not introduced. Implementing the species management plan, specifically addressing the threat of poisoning, remains the priority to address the population decline and ensure that the unique ecological niche occupied by this imperiled species is maintained.

The first action in the conservation of a threatened species is to determine the current status and trend of the population. Challenging observations followed and the alarming discovery of several abandoned nesting sites were made.



The Bearded Vulture Recovery Programme

The question was: Why had they abandoned certain territories?

Territories were more likely to have been abandoned if they had more power lines and higher densities of human settlements. Lack of food also played a role. Breeding adults preferred grassland and avoided built-up areas, which increasingly are in short supply. Power line density and settlement density were more than twice as high surrounding abandoned territories compared with occupied ones.

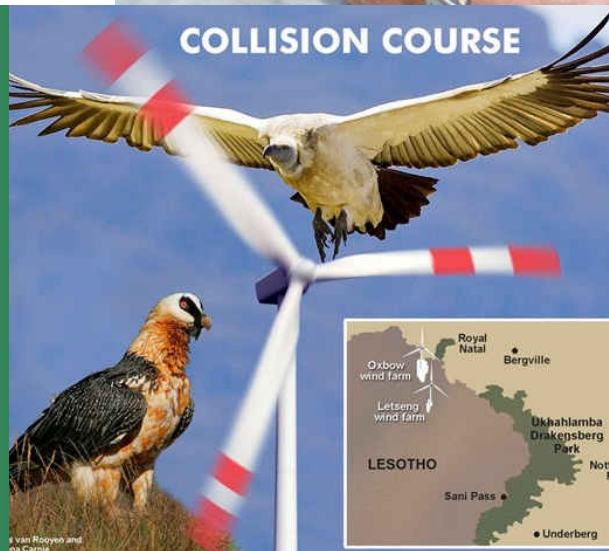
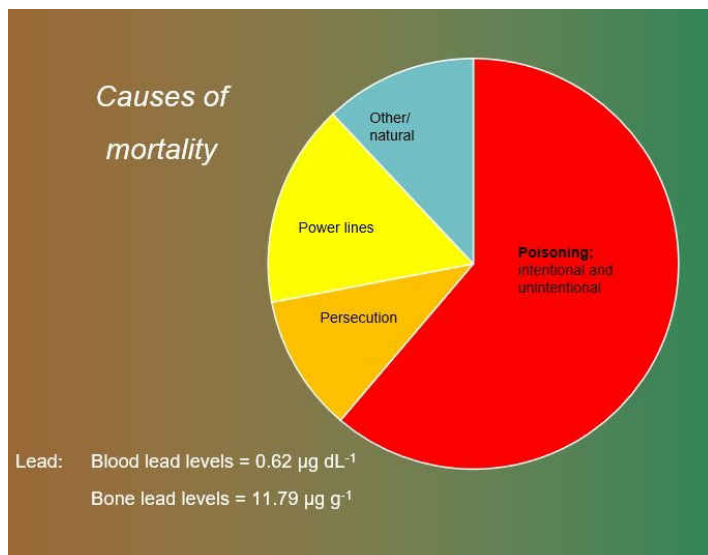
Populations need to be managed to reduce their extinction risk; to understand the causes of decline. The task team then tried to identify key interventions to stop the decline and assess the effectiveness of these interventions.

25 birds were caught at supplementary feeding sites between 2007-2012. Birds were fitted with tracking devices to be able to find them when they died and to determine the cause of death. Human activities (72%) and power line collisions (16%) were the primary mortality factors of birds found dead, with poisoning (including lead poisoning) alone accounting for 85% of tagged birds found dead.

Blood lead levels indicated only background levels of exposure to lead. However, bone lead levels indicated considerable lead exposure and accumulation over time, suggesting that lead may have contributed to their deaths.

Accidental lead poisoning through shattered bullets in carcasses at feeding sites or in the wild played a significant role, added to intentional poisoning by farmers hoping to eradicate predators, or traditional healers, which still occurs at an alarming rate.

Ensuring that feeding site managers understood the risk of lead in carcasses and the danger of nearby power lines was an important issue to address.



Bearded Vultures spend the majority of their time flying in areas typically chosen for wind farm development, and generally fly at heights within the rotor-sweep of turbines. Even small-scale wind farm developments could cause regional extinction! Developing habitat use models as a planning tool to mitigate developments is currently underway.

The second measure was establishing productivity and breeding success.

Breeding territories were checked at the beginning and end of the breeding season to determine how productive the population is. 75% of breeding pairs were successful, but overall productivity was low – 0.42 young/pair/year.

Food limitation could explain the low breeding rate and adult mortality – a situation that could be addressed by providing more food during critical periods.



The Bilateral Bearded Vulture Recovery Strategy and Action Plan of 2020:

An ambitious action plan was devised to increase the number of chicks that survive.

A decision was taken in 2015 to establish a captive population to serve as a genetic insurance in the event of extinction of the wild population and to allow for breeding and reintroductions within their historic range to reduce extinction risk.

Eggs would be harvested from the wild population to build a captive flock large enough to conserve the genetic diversity of the wild population and produce chicks for release back into the existing wild population.

The aim was to harvest 5 second eggs from the wild for 6 years, as Bearded Vultures raise only one chick so the 'second' egg could be harvested for captive breeding. Injured birds which could not be released after rehabilitation also become part of the breeding programme.



Shannon Hoffman at the African Birds of Prey Sanctuary manages the Bearded Vulture Breeding Programme.



Life-like mock Bearded Vulture puppets and surroundings were created for the feeding process.

During 2015 – 2022, 14 birds were bred in captivity, raised and released. The slow progress was due to limited resources, extreme weather, infertile second eggs, nest accessibility, travel, and harvest protocol. Additional measures are being planned and implemented to increase this number.

And the way forward?

Throughout the range, conservation efforts must focus on:

And the way forward?

Throughout the range, conservation efforts must focus on:

- i) exploring alternative, effective and legal predator control measures (such as the use of guard animals).
- ii) regulating the import, manufacture and use of agricultural chemicals and pharmaceutical products known to be lethal to vultures.
- iii) stringent law enforcement measures to prosecute and impose harsh penalties on perpetrators of poisoning.
- iv) outreach programmes focused on educating the collectors and users of vulture parts, herders that believe vultures kill stock, and farmers using poisons illegally and;
- v) banning hunting and culling with lead ammunition, which is the most likely source of lead in vultures.

A power line mitigation strategy is in place through a partnership between Eskom (South Africa's electricity utility) and the Endangered Wildlife Trust (an environmental NGO). This partnership is also engaging with the Lesotho Electricity Company to reduce bird collisions and electrocutions.

The strategy, however, is a reactive one and as such there is an opportunity for the implementation of a project to identify power lines in high use areas modelled by Reid et al (2015) and prioritise these for mitigation.

This research enables conservationists to focus their interventions on specific issues and locations that will have the highest impact.

Measures aimed at improving productivity include reducing human activities, such as helicopter flights and mountaineering, close to nest sites at the beginning of the breeding season and placing supplementary food close to nest sites early in the breeding season.

Supplementary food provision near nest sites will ensure that 'safe' food is provided to adults during the breeding season, reducing the need to forage wider with reduced exposure to threats of poisoning.

How can you help?

Report all sightings but especially of tagged birds, illegal activities and mortalities, and nest sites. But above all, donate! Visit <https://projectvulture.org.za/> for account information, a live nest camera, or to report a sighting.

BIRD OF THE YEAR 2023 - CAPE PARROT

CONSERVATION

The Cape Parrot (*Woudpapegaaie*) is endemic to South Africa, so it occurs nowhere else in the world.

This beautiful parrot inhabits isolated patches of forest in the Eastern Cape, KwaZulu-Natal and Limpopo provinces.

It is classified as Endangered and is estimated to have a remaining population of fewer than 1800 individuals.

The Cape Parrot is a medium-sized bird (~30 cm high) with a striking green body and golden head and neck. Adults have small orange patches on the shoulders and leg feathers, with females having a red patch above their beak, which is generally missing in males.

They are usually seen as singletons, pairs, family groups or larger flocks. They are most often seen flying, or at roosting and feeding sites, especially at dawn or near dusk.

The Cape Parrot is typically found in the inland Afromontane forests, much of which have been heavily affected by the logging of large hardwood trees (like Yellowwoods), causing a shortage of natural nesting sites and food availability for the species.

Cape Parrots are also susceptible to the highly contagious and sometimes fatal Psittacine Beak and Feather Disease.

Several conservation organisations and individuals are working together to protect South Africa's Endangered Cape Parrot population.

BirdLife South Africa is pleased to partner with our BirdLife Species Guardians, the Cape Parrot Working Group and the Wild Bird Trust's Cape Parrot Project to raise awareness about this species through our Bird of the Year 2023 campaign.



The work of these Species Guardians includes initiatives, such as population monitoring, habitat restoration, the provision of nest boxes, species rehabilitation, education of the public, and community outreach, among others.

Cape Parrots are truly the bright green and gold jewels of the forest, attracting birders from around the world to South Africa, and helping to support avitourism in rural areas that rely heavily on ecotourism for sustainability.

They symbolise hope and resilience, and the species persists despite decades of historical, exploitative logging. **A deserving Bird of the Year 2023, indeed.**

EVERGREEN KRUGER 10TH - 24TH OCTOBER 2022

TRAVELOGUE



Kruger National Park has a history going back more than a century. The area proposed as a game reserve extended from the Crocodile River to the Sabi River in the north. Proclaimed by President Paul Kruger, on 26 March 1898, as a "Government Wildlife Park." This park would later be known as the Sabi Game Reserve. The park was initially created to control hunting and to protect the diminished number of animals in the park.

During 1923, the first large groups of tourists started visiting the Sabie Game Reserve, but only as part of the South African Railways' popular "Round in Nine" tours. The tourist trains used the Selati railway line between Komatipoort on the Mozambican border and Tzaneen in Limpopo Province.

The tour included an overnight stop at Sabie Bridge (now Skukuza) and a short walk, escorted by armed rangers, into the bush. It soon became a highlight of the tour, and it gave valuable support for the campaign to proclaim the Sabie Game Reserve as a national park.

After the proclamation of the Kruger National Park in 1918, the first three tourist cars entered the park in 1927, jumping to 180 cars in 1928 and 850 cars in 1929. Warden James Stevenson-Hamilton retired on 30 April 1946, after 44 years as warden of the Kruger Park and its predecessor, the Sabi Sabi Game Reserve.

It is one of the largest national parks in the world, with an area of 19,485 km². The park is approximately 360 km long, and has an average width of 65 km.

At its widest point, the park is 90 km. Aptly chosen, on Paul Kruger's birthday 10th October 2022, we departed for a two-week birding and nature break. It was a leisurely drive to Phalaborwa, where we were booked into a B&B for the night, to be able to arrive at the Phalaborwa entry gate first thing after breakfast, to take on the more than 160 km to our first destination, Sirheni Bushveld Camp.

This is a modern camp and one of the few without "load-shedding"; the stoves/ovens are gas-fired and for the remainder of the electricity requirements the camp sports a large bank of solar Photo-Voltaic panels which generate all the electricity the camp requires, a sheer luxury in these troubled times of failure. The park was extremely dry and hot, no leaves on the mopani trees and the grasses were brown and dry.

Not the best habitat for hungry animals. However, we spotted large herds of buffalo, one large herd in a riverbed and plenty of elephants.

The birds didn't seem too perturbed by the hot dry conditions, passing some riverbeds and other water bodies, we casually ticked Brown-hooded Kingfisher, Black-headed Oriole, numerous swifts below bridges and in palm trees (Palm, White-rumped and African Black Swifts), three species of hornbills, (African Grey, Red-billed and Yellow-billed), plenty of White-browed Scrub-Robins.

What encouraged me greatly were the really substantial numbers of Red-billed Oxpeckers we saw on buffalo and on antelope as small as impala.

Other good sightings were Black-crowned Tchagra, Brown Snake-Eagle, White-backed Vulture, and the ever-pretty and self-conscious Lilac-breasted Rollers.

Turning off towards Shingwedzi Camp to have a spot of lunch, the river produced some surprises: Marabou Stork, African Spoonbill, Yellow-billed Stork just to name a few, and a towering elephant with massive tusks, curving down to no more than 75cm from the ground level – quite amazing.

Inside Shingwedzi camp were the first Greater Blue-eared Starlings and a very vocal Orange-breasted Bushshrike.

We arrived at Sirheni camp on a “private” road only accessible to residents of the camp, with only 15 chalets, very modern and nice, bordering on a dry riverbed, where a small herd of impala were feeding peacefully. And then the tree squirrels. They looked cute running around everywhere – cute until after our afternoon nap – they gained access through some tiny gaps in the thatch roof and had gotten hold of a closed plastic Tupperware container filled with rusks, the lid of which they had chewed open right around the edge of the lid, it looked as though an angle-grinder having been used.

The “cuteness” was short-lived.

There were plenty of birds inside the camp, despite most of the trees not having sprouted leaves as yet, except for the lovely flowering Apple-leaf Philenoptera violacea trees which were covered in fragrant mauve to violet flowers. (Even the impala were seen feeding on the fallen flowers).

Tawny-flanked Prinia, Neddicky, Burnt-necked Eremomela, Kurrichane Thrush, Yellow-breasted Apalis, Black Cuckoo, the list continued – Red-billed Buffalo Weaver, Golden-tailed- and Bennett’s Woodpeckers, Common Scimitarbill, I got a good picture of a Bennett’s Woodpecker, holding on to a tree stem with its zygodactyl feet (two toes facing forwards, two face backwards, for birds that are agile climbers) – I was rather confused because this bird did not only have spots on the chest, belly and flanks, but streaking on the flanks and upper-thighs, very strange.

This confused me so much, that I solicited some expert advice, but in the end most kind Trevor Hardaker confirmed the species.

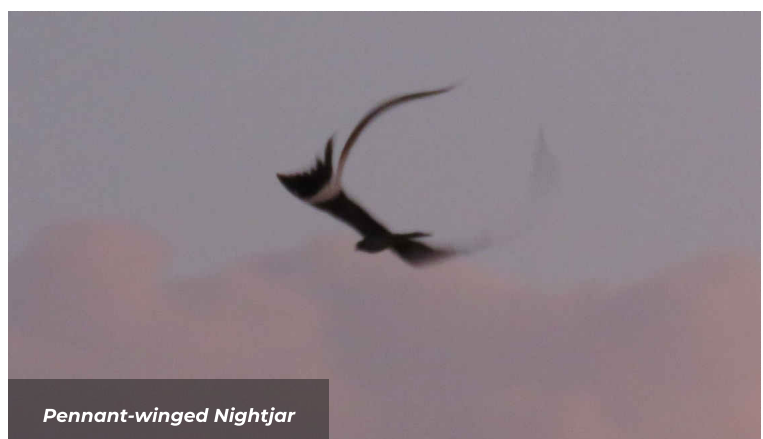
We went for an afternoon game drive which was more like a bird-drive. The side-roads meandering along and next to the riverbeds seemed to be the most productive: Ayre’s Hawk Eagle, White-crested Helmet-Shrike, Water Thick-knee (I somehow failed to spot that knee), Jameson’s Firefinch, Red-breasted Swallow, oh... the list just continued.



Grey-headed Parrot



Bennet's Woodpecker



Pennant-winged Nightjar



Black-throated Wattle-eye

That night Fiery-necked Nightjars and Scops Owlet serenaded for us, how peaceful and pleasing can this get, we sat quietly on the patio of our chalet and just let that peaceful atmosphere sink in... simply splendid.

The next day we were out early and after some good birding and seeing large herds of buffalo and elephant, we stopped at the Babalala picnic site where we prepared a scrumptious breakfast on a gas-skottel which we rented for R35.

And the birds... I got some pictures of the Palm Swifts which were busy constructing nests in the large Lala-Palm trees, and in the reeds next to the picnic site were Orange-breasted Waxbill, and a Black Coucal flushed.

I couldn't believe my eyes!

What are you doing here?, I thought. Also Wood Sandpipers were feeding in the mudflats of the stream, right next to a buffalo wallowing in the mud, and they seemed quite relaxed so close to this massive bovid.

These sightings were followed by Ayre's Hawk-Eagle, Red-billed Buffalo Weaver (their tatty nests constructed from mainly sticks/twigs were strewn across many trees), Water Thick-knee aplenty, Jameson's Firefinch, there were plenty of Rattling Cisticola, but we spotted or heard no other cisticola species, why not?

Over the next few days we covered much of the area around Sirheni. At the Boyela water hole we did not only spot herds and herds of elephant, also some "Ellie" not satisfied with drinking the water flowing over into troughs, but actually climbing up against the cement dam wall curving their trunks over the reservoir wall and down into the water and drinking the water from over the reservoir wall.

One morning we spotted a pair of Southern Ground Hornbills feeding not far from the water troughs. (I reported the sighting to the research project and received not even an acknowledgement). I also have to mention the road quality in KNP: this was simply excellent, the tar roads were in superb condition and even the gravel roads were a pleasure to drive (I feel quite embarrassed about the condition of the roads in Pilanesberg in comparison, where I am regularly).

During the evenings and nights we heard Square-tailed Nightjars calling, in addition to the Fiery-necked.

The drives in the area netted some other interesting species: a Bateleur came flying over the road as we were slowly driving next to a riverbed, perched in a tree next to the road and posed for us; Brown-crowned Tchagra were calling and were spotted; one afternoon inside the camp I spotted a Green-backed Camaroptera flitting about in the dry mopane dry trees; we spotted the first Yellow-billed Oxpeckers south of Sirheni; an excellent sighting were the different small flocks of Grey-headed Parrots that were actively feeding on the mopane pods/seeds inside camp. But they are “early risers” and I could never get good pictures in the early-morning light.

I had previously neglected to take pictures of the birds I spotted; I am now trying in a way to make up for that – not that I have a fantastic camera, not that I can call myself a photographer in any way, I take “record shots” i.e. recording what I see, if I can get a picture.

One bird on this list was the popular Black-headed Oriole which had eluded me for some time, as well as the Green-backed Camaroptera, to name just a few.

Travelling along the route next to the riverbeds we came across two lions, a large male with a good mane, and a female.

On closer inspection, that male was badly damaged, with a reasonably broad fresh scar going over its back and down the sides – I can only speculate what event or altercation could have caused this painful scar; had the lion been caught in a snare(?), I have seen (and removed) some nasty snares during my various duties in the North West Parks, made of twinned steel wires, vicious and regrettably very effective even on large mammals – the moral of the story, even being the king of the jungle has its severe risks.

Another interesting sighting were some Red-billed Oxpeckers, perching on a crash of hippos and obviously removing and feeding on ecto-parasites, in this case, possibly ticks.

The hippos did not seem to mind and a true symbiotic relationship between the birds and the mammals had developed, from which both benefitted, the Oxpeckers obtained food and the hippos had ecto-parasites removed, something we call Mutualism in Ecology.

There was a “resident” Yellow-billed Kite in camp and one day I spotted it perching in a dry mopane tree, but it was facing away from me, holding a prey item in its talons, with the little feet of what looked like a thrush protruding from the side of the kite – I was sorry for the thrush but raptors must also eat...

During one of our drives to Shingwedzi camp, the Shingwedzi river produced more surprises: a Marabou Stork was towering above a Grey-headed Heron, dwarfing this rather large heron; a Goliath Heron was not far from them and close to an African Fish Eagle perched in the ground a mere three meters away, I was astounded to see a Fish Eagle on the ground.

Close by, we spotted some Giant Kingfishers with their “explosive” calls; a Brown-hooded Kingfisher, a Tawny Eagle perched in a tree (we must have seen at least a hand-full); Magpie Shrikes were quite abundant; and then the African Mourning Doves inside Shingwedzi Camp – with its pretty red eye-ring and with probably the most pleasant of all dove calls.

Back at Sirheni camp some Spectacled Weaver females fooled me into a wrong ID, only inspecting the pictures later-on I noticed my mistake.

The male Spectacled Weavers were in full breeding display mode and issued their wee-wee-wee calls consistently, Southern Black Tit were calling and showing well, but one has to be quick with the camera because they never sit still; in the riverbed in front of our chalet we had some excellent sightings:

a breeding herd of elephant walking past the fence a mere thirty meters from our chalet, two “Dagga-Boys” (the Field Guide’s (ranger’s) name for old buffalo bulls that have been displaced from the herd and that congregate together in small groups of between two and four animals. These chaps are extremely ill-tempered and most dangerous) were spending most of the day next to or wallowing in, a water hole inside the dry riverbed in front of the chalets.

After six glorious days, we bade Sirheni camp farewell and re-located to Bateleur Bushveld camp, being one of the oldest Bushveld camps, with only seven chalets.

Bateleur is located south of Shingwedzi and has the advantage of a “No-Entry -Residents Only” access road, with two dams situated within this No Entry zone: Silwervis Dam, which we found to be very quiet as far as mammal- and bird life were concerned; and Rooibosrand Dam where we had some excellent sightings.

We occupied Chalet No. 1, which is the closest (40 meters away) to the hide with a waterhole in front of it, which is filled up regularly.

This waterhole produced some stunning sightings over the next four days: two buffalo coming for a drink of water regularly, an elephant also joining, but not being happy with the buffalo company, it trumpeted its “warning call” and then it filled its trunk to capacity and splashed the water all over the one buffalo, which was suitably cheesed-off; don’t tell me that animals don’t show emotions. Oxpeckers were in attendance on the buffalo, and at one stage, I got pictures of a small mixed flock of Red-billed and Yellow-billed Oxpeckers together, much to my delight.

The next day we departed early for Rooibosrand, a very large, wide, flat dam. We parked the SUV and immediately spotted the ubiquitous elephants and buffalo, as well as a splendid herd of eland. Egyptian- and Spur-winged Goose, Black-winged Stilt, Hamerkop, Ruff, Wood Sandpiper, Glossy Ibis, Kittlitz Plover and a Pied Kingfisher were spotted; the latter had ambitiously caught a frog almost half its own size and was bashing it vigorously against a tree trunk in the hope reducing its size sufficiently to eat it; when we left, it was still exercising... I then spotted a bird crouching low on the mudflats some 50 meters away, the light was not good but to my surprise, this turned out to be an out-of-range Collared Pratincole. WHAT are you doing HERE? The pictures I took were dull.

Klaas’s Cuckoo was followed by another interesting encounter:

a Nile monitor was marching along the water’s edge in the direction of a Water Thick-knee, the latter spread its wide wings in a threat-display to try and persuade the monitor to change direction, but the monitor continued past the Thick-knee completely un-impressed. That evening we sat outside our chalet and listened to the night sounds of the crickets and Pearl-spotted Owlet’s haunting call.



The next morning we walked to the hide very early and had an excellent sighting of a pack of twelve (African) wild dogs at the waterhole, which were interacting in typical canidae fashion. We enjoyed some 20 minutes of this playful act. All of a sudden, the alpha pair got up and they all trotted away. When the next visitors arrived shortly before 06:00 they had left.

The moral of the story: get up early! A Brown-hooded Kingfisher was showing well and calling, the Grey-headed Parrots were already issuing their screeching calls. After a quick breakfast, we returned to Rooibosrand Dam.

An eager birder who was doing the "Kruger-Challenge" coming all the way down from Punda Maria had ignored the No Entry signs and was questioning me about various sightings:

Ruddy Turnstone? Nope!
White-fronted Plover? No!
Collared Pratincole, it's all
over social media?! Yes!

Where? I pointed to an "island" in the dam, many hundred meters away. WHERE, I can't see it. I disembarked and showed him – success! Then I spotted a second Pratincole and the first one flew up and landed in the mud flats next to our vehicles thirty meters away.

I also got some nice pictures. Later on, the largest herd of buffalo I had ever spotted came out of a clearing in the bush from the far side of the dam and to the water's edge to drink – the constant stream of buffalo coming from the bush seemed to never end – we must have seen 250 and more.

Back in camp, Arrow-marked Babblers were joining us for breakfast, and we had to defend our bacon and eggs which Kathrin had prepared, they were hopping around on the table and elsewhere. A walk through the camp produced a good sighting of a Black-backed Puffback in full display – I understand why it is called Sneebal in Afrikaans. Green-backed Camaroptera was followed by Grey-headed Bushshrike, calling melancholically. After four splendid days of birding, we reluctantly left Bateleur – this is such a pleasant birding and game-viewing camp.

Our journey to Punda Maria took us past Shingwedzi once again and we had good sightings on a pair of Saddle-billed Stork in the riverbed next to camp. We bade the Greater Blue-eared Starlings farewell and arrived at Punda Maria, and as we were too early to check in, we drove the 30-odd km circular route surrounding the camp.

Here we had a "private" lion sighting of a collared male with a single female; we continued and 500



meters down the road we alerted other visitors to the sighting, but alas, the lions had left, they told us later. We checked in into our little room, and whilst unpacking, we were greeted by a pair of Crowned Hornbills and some Crested Guineafowl. At the crack of dawn the next day saw us driving the 1½ hours up to Pafuri. We stopped on the Luvuvhu River bridge and observed hundreds of White-fronted Bee-eaters flying in-and-out of their nest-holes constructed in the steep river bank.

On the way and at Crooks Corner we were lucky to spot White-crowned Lapwing, Trumpeter Hornbill, Kori Bustard, Red-chested Cuckoo, and many more. But I was surprised that we did not spot any Spinetails in the Boabab trees.

A Jacobin Cuckoo was perched right in the open, a Greenshank on a sand bank in the river, and further on some Woolly-necked Stork. That afternoon we had booked a "Sunset-Drive" with the hope of getting a sighting of the Pennant-winged Nightjar.

The guide was knowledgeable although we were told it was a bit too early in the season and it had not been spotted lately.

We were in luck, and driving up a rough gravel road, the guide stopped, we disembarked and ten minutes later were treated to...

a single male in breeding regalia and mega-long streamers on the outer wing tips, doing several dipping display-flights in the darkening sky with the streamers flowing in the wind behind the bird's wingtips, before settling down, folding in its wings with the streamers folded in over the tail and increasing the length of the bird I estimate by some three-fold.



The light had faded and my pictures were very dark "record-shots" but we were elated, we had had an amazing, stunning sighting. We stood and watched in awe until the guide hastened us back on the vehicle as we were running late.

The next day we drove up to Pafuri again, and after unsuccessfully trying to spot the Bronze-winged Courser, we settled down at the Pafuri picnic site, as the day before, renting a "gas-skottel" and preparing a scrumptious brunch with all the trimmings. As we arrived this time, there was a crowd of people, training their binoculars, spotting scopes and large cameras up a tree in the picnic area. I jokingly remarked: "you must all be looking at a Bulbul..."; they frowned and asked me to advise if they were indeed looking at a Black-throated Wattle-eye. I looked through my binoculars carefully and confirmed. The little female was sitting on her tiny cup-nest, lined with what looked like spider-web and clustered with dry leaves, it was so well camouflaged that I had to search to spot it again. I got some pictures of this superb sighting.

We also spotted Green-winged Pytilia, Terrestrial Brownbul, a very confiding White-browed Robin-Chat (Heuglin's), Tropical Boubou, Sombre Greenbul, to mention but a few. Pafuri area and the picnic site is just such a wonderful birding destination.

Further good sightings we had in and around the Punda Maria and Pafuri area were Freckled Nightjar, Hooded Vulture just a few meters outside Punda Maria camp (a mega-sighting for me), Violet-backed Starling (both male and female which are so remarkably dimorphic) and Wattled Starling.

After two weeks of bliss, we departed from Punda Maria back to Phalaborwa Gate, via Mopani camp with its beautiful setting at a large dam/river system and Letaba camp situated in a bend of the Letaba river where we stopped for lunch and coffee.

On the last stretch coming around a bend in the road, we spotted a raptor which had been perching/feeding on the ground and flew up into a tree when we approached; it had "stove-pipe" type leggings, chocolate brown plumage but a short yellow gape, yellow feet and bill with a black tip, which turned out to be a Wahlberg's Eagle.

In all our tally came to 177 species of birds spotted, and I'm certain, we neglected to tick just all.

Kruger National Park is truly a superb ever-green birding and nature destination.

- Neithard Graf von Dürckheim

BLNG - RINGERSHOEKIE (1) 2023

CITIZEN SCIENCE

15 Oktober 2022, Moerbeiboombrug, Rietvlei NR (Chris du Plooy)

Mads van Schalkwyk, een van Tshwane se Natuurbewaringswerknemers by Rietvlei, het die ringgroep gevra om 'n ringdemo by Rietvlei te gee vir 'n groepie Vriende van Rietvlei. Chris en Julian du Plooy (pa en seun), saam met Johan en Nicole de Jager (pa en dogter) (almal A-ringers) het die demonstrasie gedoen. Daar is 112 voëls gering, waarvan 21 verskillende spesies was. Daar is nog nooit by hierdie plek gering nie, so daar was geen hervasste nie.

Die groep het drie ure by die ringers deurgebring om alles oor voëling te leer.

Dit was die oggend van die Swartkeelgeelvinke (Southern Masked Weaver) — 32 voëls is in die nette gevang en die Kleinrietsangers (African Reed Warbler) het met die tweede prys weggestap — agtien in getal. Ander oulike spesies was:

Dikbekwewer (Thick-billed Weaver) (18), Witvlerkflap (White-winged Widowbird) (2), Kuifkopvisvanger (Malachite Kingfisher) (3), Kaapse Rietsanger (Lesser Swamp Warbler) (3), Grasvoël (Cape Grassbird), en Vleitinktinkie (Levaillant's Cisticola) (2).



Wanda Louwrens leer vir Jan en Jeannie Beukes hoe om die misnette te herstel. [Frik du Plooy]

5 November 2022, Moreleta Kloof NR (Hein Bantjes)

Vir 'n wonder het dit hierdie Saterdag nie gereën nie, en kon agt A-ringers en twee C-ringers gaan nette opslaan oor en langs die vlei by hierdie gewilde natuurreservaat. Die groep van tien ringers het in totaal 234 voëls hanteer waarvan 31 (13,2%) 're-traps' was — aantal spesies was 23. Die hoë hervaspercentasie is te danke aan die baie kere wat hier al gering is.

Die Swartkeelgeelvinke (Southern Masked Weaver) het die koek gevat met 123 voëls. Die Rooivinke (Southern Red Bishop) was tweede met 27 individue.

Alhoewel nie so bedrywig soos gewoonlik nie, was dit nog steeds 'n besige oggend.

Daar het 'n paar interessante 're-traps' uitgekome. Die "oudste" hervas was 'n Swartkeelgeelvink (Southern Masked Weaver) wat die 20ste Augustus 2011 gering is deur K van Stuyvenberg, weer hanteer deur Christo Siebert by dieselfde koördinate — elf jaar en ongeveer drie maande later. Interessant dat sy "hom" as 'n "wyfie" opgelaa het, en Christo as 'n "manneling". Ek neem aan die voël was in sy volle broeiverekleed, daarom dat Christo hom 'n "manneling" gemaak het. Wat ook interessant is, is die feit dat twee maande later, na die aanvanklike ring deur K van Stuyvenberg, S van Stuyvenberg dieselfde voël as 'n 4/0 opgelaa het. Het ons dalk hier te doen met een van daai "rooioog"-wyfies?

Die tweede "oudste" hervas was ook 'n Swartkeelgeelvink (Southern Masked Weaver) wat as 'n "juvenile" die 7de Februarie 2015 gering is deur Chris du Plooy, weer gevang deur Johan de Jager op dieselfde plek, sewe jaar en ongeveer agt maande later.

Die 're-trap' wat al die meeste kere hanteer is sedert die eerste keer wat hy/sy 'n ring gekry het, was 'n Janfrederik (Cape Robin-Chat) wat nou al vir die vyfde keer weer gevang is, nadat hy/sy die eerste keer op die 7de April 2018 deur Marie Ueckermann gering is. Hy/sy sê seker nou ook al: "Ai tog, nie alweer nie!"

Ander interessante spesies was Diederikkie (Dideric Cuckoo), Tuinsanger (Garden Warbler), Kleinrietsanger (African Reed-Warbler) (5), Grasvoël (Cape Grassbird) (2) en Bosveldstompstert (Long-billed Crombec) (2).

26 November 2022, Hönignestkrans (FC Bothma)

Na die lekker reën die vorige week, het vier A-ringers en een C-ringer 'n goeie dag op hierdie plaas net noord van Pretoria beleef. Ten spyte van die min nette wat opgeslaan kon word, het hulle tog 212 voëls hanteer. FC ring dikwels op Lente se plaas en ses hervangste is gerapporteer. Die hervangspersentasie was 2,8%.

Daar was agt verskillende spesies. Die Rooibekkweleas (Red-billed Quelea) het die meeste voëls opgelewer, naamlik 120. Die Rooivinke (Southern Red Bishop) was tweede met 49 voëls. Ander mooi spesies was Witkeelswael (White-throated Swallow), Kleinrietsanger (African Reed Warbler), Witvlerkflap (White-Winged Widowbird) (11), Fiskaallaksman (Common Fiscal) en Gewone Bontrokkie (African Stonechat).

19-20 November 2022, Bushtrails, Magaliesburg (Paula en Martin Steyn)

Vier A-ringers en drie C-ringers het hierdie plaas in die Magaliesburg omgewing besoek vir 'n ringsessie die Saterdag en Sondag. Die reën het die ringery bietjie ontwrig, maar ons het nogtans 107 voëls in die nette gekry, waarvan 28 verskillende spesies was. Die hervangspersentasie was 14,0% vir die 15 voëls wat weer gevang is.

Die Swartkeelgeelvinke (Southern Masked Weaver) het los voorgeloopt met 21 voëls, terwyl die Kaapse Glasogies (Cape White-eye), die tweede meeste was met 15 individue. Ander mooi spesies was: Piet-my-vrou (Red-Chested Cuckoo), Spookvoël (Grey-headed Bush-Shrike), Skerpbekkeuningvoël (Brown-backed Honeybird), Suidelike Waterfiskaal (Southern Boubou) en Koningrooibekkie (Pin-tailed Whydah).

3 Desember 2022, Witkoppies, Rietvlei NR (Chris en Julian du Plooy)

Saterdagoggend, op 3 Desember 2022, het nege A-ringers en twee C-ringers om 03:10 by Rietvlei se hoofhek bymekaar gekom.

Gedurende die oggend vang ons 545 voëls waarvan 47 'retraps' is. Daar is 23 spesies wat nuwe ringe kry en by die 'retraps' is daar nege spesies. Die 'retraps' is 8,6% van die dag se vangste.

Die top vyf in getalle is 181 Rooivinke (Southern Red Bishop), 121 Swartkeelgeelvinke (Southern Masked Weaver), 57 Kleinrietsangers (African Reed-Warbler), 24 Gewone Bontrokkies (African Stonechat) en 23 Europese Swaels (Barn Swallow).

Ander interessante vangste sluit in: sestien Kaapse Rietsangers (Lesser Swamp-Warbler), tien Afrikaanse Oewerswaels (Brown-throated Martin), vyf Kaapse Vleisangers (Little Rush-Warbler), twee Witkeelswaels (White-throated Swallow), een Gebande Oewerswael (Banded Martin) en een Kuifkopvisvanger (Malachite Kingfisher).

In totaal is daar 37 swaels en oewerswaels, 78 sangers en 315 vinke en flappe gevang.

Aan die 'retrap' kant was die topgetalle vyftien Rooivinke (Southern Red Bishop), twaalf Swartkeelgeelvinke (Southern Masked Weaver), nege Kleinrietsangers (African Reed-Warbler), drie Kortstertflappe (Fan-tailed Windowbird) en drie Gewone Bontrokkies (African Stonechat).

Interessante 'retraps' sluit ook twee Kaapse Rietsangers (Lesser Swamp-Warbler) en een Kuifkopvisvanger (Malachite Kingfisher) in.

Die oudste 'retrap' (ringnommer FB42838) is van 2 Februarie 2013. Die Rooivink (Southern Red-Bishop) is deur Hein Bantjes gering en deur Julian du Plooy ge'retrap'; amper 10 jaar of 3951 dae later.

Die volgende een, 'n Swartkeelgeelvink (Southern Masked Weaver) met ringnommer FB89222, is op 3 November 2013 gering deur Marie Ueckermann en nou weer deur Pieter du Plessis gevang, meer as nege jaar terug of 3317 dae.

Twee 'retraps' van 6 Desember 2014, die eerste een met ringnommer FB76244, is 'n Rooivink (Southern Red Bishop), amper agt jaar terug deur Hein Bantjes gering en 2919 dae later weer deur hom gevang. Die tweede een, met ringnommer L72976, 'n Gewone Bontrokkie (African Stonechat) het Marie Ueckermann gering en is nou deur myself ge'retrap'.

Daar was ook ringnommer FC28351, 'n Swartkeelgeelvink (Southern Masked Weaver) wat op 16 Oktober 2021 deur Hein Bantjes by die Rietvlei NR Lapa gering is, en nou by Witkoppies deur Johan de Jager, so ongeveer 5 km daar vandaan, weer gevang is.

Weereens dankie aan Natalie en Madeleen vir die geleentheid en voorreg om op die Rietvlei Natuureservaat te mag ring en ook vir die vroeg ontstaan om oop te sluit.

Hein Bantjes rapporteer oor sy hervangs: Interessante 're-trap' was 'n Rooivinkmannetje (Southern Red Bishop) wat ek die eerste keer in 2014 gering het, daarna deur Julian du Plooy (2018) en Chris du Plooy (2019) gevang is en toe gister weer deur my, amper op die dag, agt jaar na ek hom die eerste keer gering het.

Hein het ook vertel dat hy vir 'n slag 'n mooi klompie voëls gering het, omdat hy ge'ring & fling' het (dis soos 'catch and release'). Dit is 'n proses waar die ringer by die nette staan,

gewapen net met 'n ringtang en 'n string ringe. (So 'n ringer sal byvoorbeeld net Rooivinkmannetjies (Southern Red Bishop) teiken, want agterna moet die databladsy ingevul word met ringnommers, asook die spesie en of dit manlik of vroulik was.) Die voël word uitgehaal, gering en weer vrygelaat. Geen afmetings word geneem nie. Dit gebeur net as daar 'n massa voëls op een slag in die nette is, en die nette so gou as moontlik leeggemaak moet word. Die welstand van die voëls kom altyd eerste!

16 - 17 Desember 2022, Hans Hoheisen Wildlife Research Station, naby Orpenhek (Pieter du Plessis)

A-ringer, Pieter du Plessis, het alleen Orpen toe gery vir hierdie ringsessie. Hy het man alleen 35 voëls gering, waarvan 22 verskillende spesies en 3 hervangste was. Hervangspersentasie was 8,6%.

Hy was so gelukkig om drie verskillende spesies spreek te vang, naamlik Witbors- (Violet-backed), Groot-blouoorglans- (Greater Blue-eared) en Grootglansspreek (Burchell's Starling).

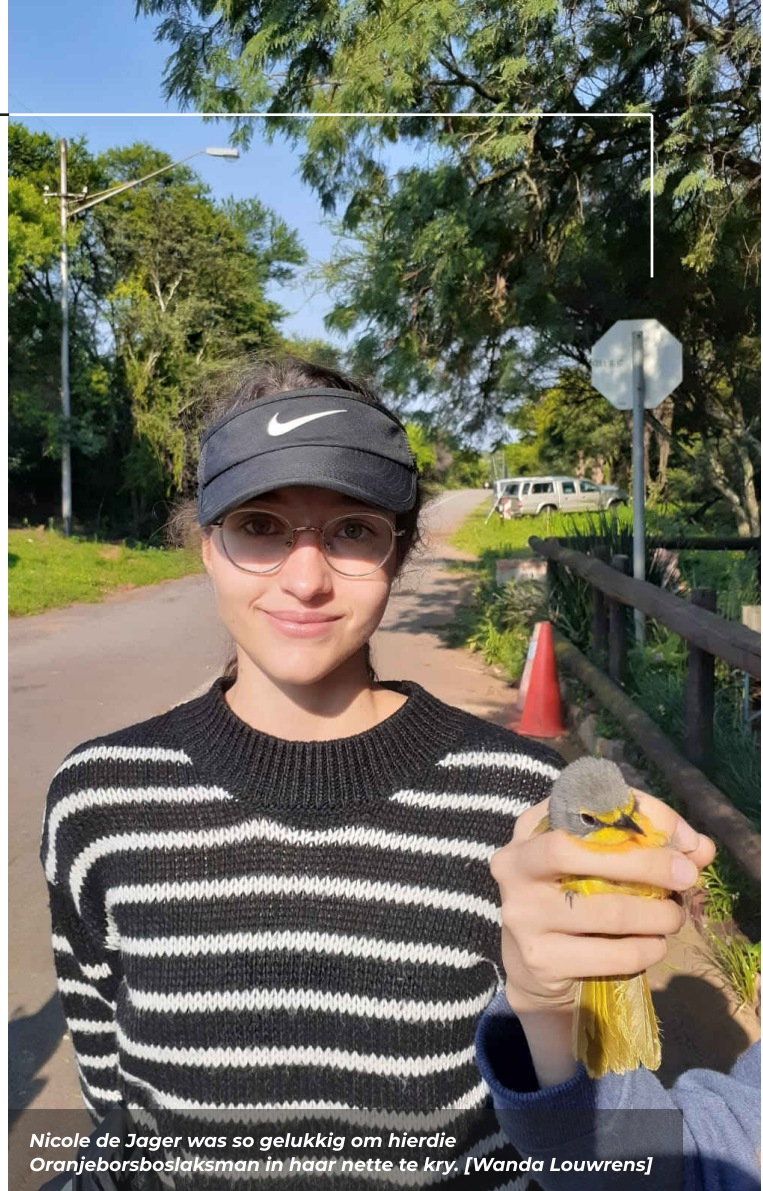
Asook twee tjagraspesies: Rooivlerk- (Brown-crowned) en Swartkroontjagra (Black-crowned Tchagra). Ander mooi spesies was Sneeuwal (Black-backed Puffback), Blougrysvlieëvanger (Ashy Flycatcher), Bosveldtinktinkie (Rattling Cisticola), Laeveldnaguil. (Square-tailed Nightjar), Hofsvanger (Willow Warbler) en Kleinheuningwyser (Lesser Honeyguide).

27 Desember 2022, Voortrekker Monument (Martin Steyn)

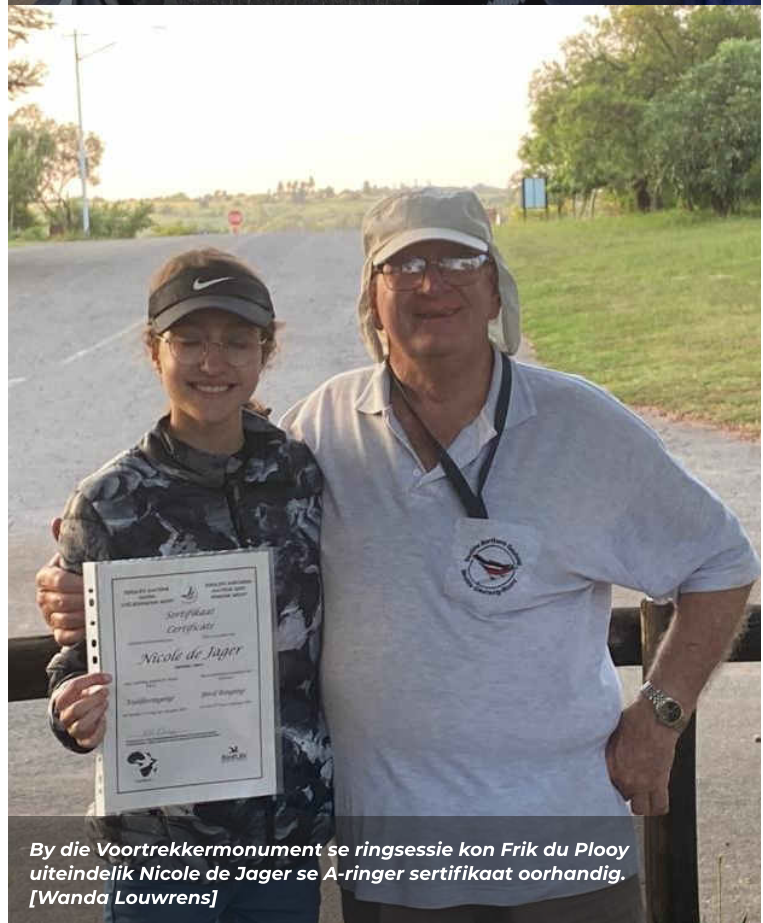
Hierdie ringsessie by die Monument is altyd spesiaal.

Gewoonlik is dit die laaste Saterdag van die jaar, maar toe die president vir ons 'n ekstra vakansiedag gegee het, het ons besluit om daarvan gebruik te maak. Dit was ons jaarlikse afsluiting en Martin Steyn braai altyd 'n worsie en met Johan van Loggerenberg se tamatie-sesheba op 'n broodjie het ons heerlik geëet.

Die dag het 117 voëls opgelewer, waarvan 32 verskillende spesies. Die sestien hervangste het 13,7% van die vangste van die dag verteenwoordig. Die Swartkeelgeelvinke (Southern Masked Weaver) was die volopste met 26 voëls, terwyl die Gevlekte Muisvoëls (Speckled Mousebird) vir 'n slag die tweede meeste was met nege in getal. Drie vlieëvangers, naamlik Europese, Fiskaal- en Paradysvlieëvanger (Spotted, Fiscal and African Paradise-Flycatcher) is in die loop van die oggend gevang. Ander fantastiese spesies was: Bospatrys (Crested Francolin), Piet-my-vrou (Red-chested Cuckoo), Diederikkie (Dideric Cuckoo) en Oranjeborsboslaksman (Orange-breasted Bush-Shrike).



Nicole de Jager was so gelukkig om hierdie Oranjeborsboslaksman in haar nette te kry. [Wanda Louwrens]



By die Voortrekkermonument se ringsessie kon Frik du Plooy uiteindelik Nicole de Jager se A-ringer sertifikaat oorhandig. [Wanda Louwrens]

6 - 8 Januarie 2023, Nylsvlei NR (Johan de Jager)

Hierdie naweek by Nylsvlei het ons die een slaapsaal volgemaak met ringers, gades en kinders. Dit was so nat dat ons nie by die Jakana-voëlskuiling kon nette opsit nie - dit was onder water. Ons moes uitry na die grondpad om vyf kilometer verder by die reservaat se boonste hek in te gaan waar ons 'n droë koppie (Maroelakop gedoop weens die baie maroelas daar) gekry het om ons nette op te slaan. Bo verwagting het die nette by die 'dormitories' hierdie keer baie meer voëls opgelewer as gewoonlik.

Ons was nege A-ringers en drie C-ringers wat 219 voëls gevang het, met 'n allemintige 47 spesies, waarvan vyf hervangste was. Robert Thomson van Safring het ook saam kom ring. Ander besoekers was Joseph Heimans van Limpopo se Natuurbewaring (wat ons Limpopo-permitte teken) asook Christo Venter en Johan van Dijkhorst van Louis Trichardt.

Die Witvlerkflappe (White-winged Widowbird) was die volopste met 26 individue, terwyl die Grootglanspreeus die tweede plek behaal het met 22 voëls. Ander interessante spesies was: Papegaaiduif (African Green-Pigeon), Swartkatakoeroe (Black Cuckooshrike), Swartmees (Southern Black Tit), Grysrugkwêkwêvoël (Grey-backed Camaroptera) en Withelmaksman (White-crested Helmet-Shrike).



Hierdie Geelsanger was 'n lifer vir Wanda Louwrens by Rietvlei. [Mads van Schalkwyk]

14 Januarie 2023, Rietvlei NR (Moerbeiboombrug) (Julian du Plooy)

Ses A-ringers en een C-ringer het die oggend 03:00 opgestaan om betyds by Rietvlei se hoofhek te wees waar Mads van Schalkwyk vir ons oopgesluit het. Sy is self 'n gekwalifiseerde A-ringer, maar ring deesdae net sporadies. Omdat ons gereelde ringplekke, soos Witkoppies en die Groot Lapa te nat was, het Mads ons na 'n nuwe, droër plek geneem wat ons Moerbeiboombrug gedoop het, omdat daar 'n groot moerbeiboom staan waar die bruggie oor 'n stroompie water gaan.

Dit was die dag van die Kleinrietsangers (African Reed-Warbler)! Nie minder nie as 33 voëls is in die loop van die oggend gevang. Die Rooivinke (Southern Red Bishop) het tweede gekom met 29 individue, terwyl die vyf Geelsangers (Dark-capped Yellow Warbler) vir groot opwindung gesorg het, want dit was 'n 'lifer' vir drie van ons. Die drie flap-spesies was nie 'n verrassing nie, want ons was in die regte habitat: Rooikeel- (Red-collared), Witvlerk- (White-winged) en Kortstertflap (Fan-tailed Widowbird). Ander interessante spesies was: Kuifkopvisvanger (Malachite Kingfisher), Hofsanger (Willow Warbler), Witgatspreeu (Pied Starling), Goudgeelvink (Yellow-crowned Bishop) en Koningroibekkie (Pin-tailed Whydah).

23 Januarie 2023, Magalies Raptor Rehab Sentrum, Pretoria-Noord (Natasja Saunders)

Op hierdie dag het Madeleen van Loggerenberg en Julian du Plooy elkeen die geleentheid gekry om 'n roofvoël, wat binnekort vrygelaat sou word, te ring. Madeleen het 'n Swartsperwer (Black Sparrowhawk) gering en Julian 'n Gebande Sperwer (Shikra or Little Banded Goshawk).

28 Januarie 2023, Bishopvoëlpark (Marina Pienaar)

Net vyf A-ringers en twee C-ringers het opgedaag vir hierdie ringsessie in Wierdapark. Bishop Voëlpark is weggesteek tussen meenthuise en winkelsentrums, sodat min mense weet van hierdie voëlparadys sommer so binne-in die stad.

Die vroeg opstaan was die moeite werd, want meer as honderd voëls is gevang en gering, waarvan 10 'retraps'. Die Swartoogtiptolle (Dark-capped Bulbul) was die volopste met 24 in totaal, terwyl die Swartkeelgeelvinke (Southern Masked Weaver) tweede was met 21 voëls, en die Kaapse Glasogies (Cape White-eye) die derde plek ingeneem het met 19 individue.

Twee sangers, naamlik Tuin- (Garden) (2) en Hofsanger (Willow Warbler) (4) is ook gering. Ander goeie spesies was: Gewone Dikkop (Spotted Thick-knee), Grootheuningwyser (Greater Honeyguide) en Kleinglansspreeu (Cape Glossy Starling).



Dr Johan de Jager by Strubendam met 'n Dikbekwever wat hy gering het met die eerste 3.5 mm harde ring. Nr CB00001 [Marina Pienaar]

4 Februarie 2023, Colbyn World Wetlands Day (Ig Viljoen)

Ig, saam met twee ander A-ringers en twee C-ringers, het demonstrasies gelever aan sowat 170 kinders wat vir hierdie geleentheid in Colbyn opgedaag het. Die vangste was nie wonderlik nie, maar die kinders se belangstelling in die ringaktiwiteit was goed.

'n Totaal van 37 voëls is gevang, waarvan twee Tiptolle weer gevang is.

Hierdie twee Swartoogtiptolle (Dark-capped Bulbul) is in Februarie 2019 op dieselfde plek vir die eerste keer gering. Met 'n 'retrap' word die inligting en afmetings weer geneem, maar die voël kry nie weer 'n ring nie. Die ou ringnommer word met 'n kode 2 aangedui wat beteken dat dit 'n 'retrap' is.



[Philip Calinikos]

[Philip Calinikos]

[Philip Calinikos]

10 - 12 Februarie 2023, Paardeplaats NR (Lydenburg) (Arrie Klopper)

Arrie doen verslag oor die naweek se ring in die Long Tom-pas:

In totaal 'n allemintige 85 voëls gehanteer, glad nie min nie. Ons het gegaan om suikervoëls te ring — meer spesifiek Rooiborssuikervoëls (Gurney's Sugarbird) en duidelik was dit 'n suksesvolle naweek.

Daar is 21 suikervoëls gering en nog drie ge'retrap'. Die hoogtepunt was die 'retrap' wat in 2016 deur Wanda Louwrens op die Jesuskoppie gering is, in 2019 deur haar ge'retrap' is en in 2021 deur Nicole de Jager en nou weer deur Marie Ueckermann.

Wat 'n wonderlike klompie data op een ringnommer!

In die tweede plek was die Groot-rooibandsuikerbekkies (Greater Double-collared Sunbird) met 'n totaal van 15, waaronder somer 'n hele paar mooi mannetjies.

'n Groot vangs was verseker die twee Kleinste Klopkloppies (Wing-snapping Cisticola) wat deur Pieter du Plessis en Hein Bantjes gering is. Wat 'n pragtige twee was hulle nie! Ek en Marina Pienaar sal bietjie aan ons dobbelsteen-gooi moet oefen!

Die voëls wat by die plaashuis gering is, was self 'n klompie interessante spesies gewees en hulle het sommiges van ons 'n middagslapie gekos!

Dit is min dat almal van ons 'n 'lifer' of meer op 'n naweek kry, somer net 'n dubbele bonus, bo-op al die wonderlike spesies, soos Bokmakierie, Bandkeelkleinjantjie (Bar-throated Apalis), Jangroentjie (Malachite Sunbird) en Drakensberglangstertjie (Drakensberg Prinia).

Weereens dankie vir 'n heerlike naweek van saamkuier en -ring.

17 - 19 Februarie 2023, Barberspan Bird Sanctuary, Delareyville (Pieter du Plessis)

"The Barberspan Bird Sanctuary is a 2000 ha body of water located between Delareyville and Sannieshof. The Reserve is a pioneer in ornithological research.

Bird Life South Africa has declared it an important national birding site.



Arrie Klopper met 'n Rooiborssuikervoël by Paardeplaats gering — sy 3000ste voël.



Marina Pienaar met 'n Rooiborssuikervoël by Paardeplaats [beide foto's Mari Ueckermann]



Marina Pienaar met 'n Gevlekte Koekoek [Pieter Pienaar]

Given that it is also a RAMSAR Convention-accredited wetland of international importance for migratory birds and waterfowl, it is well worth a visit.”
<https://www.northwestparks.org.za>

Net drie A-ringers en Andrew Mvundle, 'n werknemer van Barberspan, het die nat toestande by hierdie pan trotseer.

Die doel van die ringsessie was om vir Andrew op te lei om as A-ringer te kwalifiseer. Andrew het vir baie jare onder leiding van Joel Afni by Barberspan gering, maar hy het nooit gekwalifiseer nie. Joel is ongelukkig verlede jaar oorlede en die nette en ringvoorraad by Barberspan lê nou in onbruik.

'n Totaal van 78 voëls is gering, waarvan vier watervoëlspesies, soos Glansibis (Glossy Ibis), Geelbekeend (Yellow-billed Duck), Rooibekeend (Red-billed Teal) en Nonnetjie-eend (White-faced Whistling Duck). Die Koringvoëls (Whitebrowed Sparrow-Weaver) was die volopste met elf voëls gevang, terwyl die Geelbekeende (Yellow-billed Duck) die tweede meeste was. Ander interessante spesies was Gariepglasogie (Orange River White-eye), Pritbosbontrokkie (Prit Batis) en Gebande en Hofsanger (Barred Wren- and Willow Warbler).



Andrew Mvundle saam met Pieter du Plessis, Arrie Klopper en FC Bothma wat hom by Barberspan oplei om as A-ringer te kwalifiseer. [Sello Shema]

CLUB RARITIES

Rarities and Unusual Sightings Report: 28 February 2023 [Compiled by André Marx]

Another wet summer ensured transformed wetlands and bush areas in our region. There were a number of interesting records with long distance and local migrants, evidenced by the occurrence of Western Marsh Harrier, Caspian Plover, Dusky Lark, as well Lesser Moorhen and Striped Crake, to name a few.

The dedicated observations and photographic records of many birders continues to lead to the finding of local rarities. Foremost is the discovery of Red-capped Robin-Chat and Sooty Falcon for the region, birds normally associated with the Lowveld and eastern KZN. Also of interest are out of range records for Pennant-winged Nightjar and Ashy Flycatcher, as well as a couple of records of the hard-to-see Buff-spotted Flufftail!

Thank you for the reports received. Please send any interesting and out of range records together with a photo where possible to the e-mail address given below or on Whatsapp to my number 083 4117674.

National Rarities/ Nationale Rariteite

There were no national rarities to report in this period.

Regional and Local Rarities / Streeksrariteite



Courser, Bronze-winged / Bronsvlerkdrawwertjie

One bird was at Rietondale in Pretoria, 19 Jan 2023 (AH & RH)



Crake, Striped / Gestreepte Riethaan

At least 2 birds were in the Plat River at Zaagkuil drift, north of Pretoria, 7 Jan 2023 (JV). *A seasonal migrant. By all accounts this was a good season for them at the Kgomo-Kgomo wetland.*



Eagle, Booted / Dwergarend

One bird was seen at the Rietondale Experimental Farm in Pretoria, 4 Feb 2023 (MB).

Egret, Slaty / Rooikeelreier

One bird was at Vaalkop Dam, 12 Aug 2022 (LB). A single bird was at Marievale Bird Sanctuary, 31 Dec 2022 (CP).



Falcon, Sooty / Roetvalk

A sighting of one bird at Rietvlei NR near Pretoria is most unusual for Gauteng, 18 Nov 2022 (DH). *There are some older records of this species for the region, however this is the first record for a number of years.*

Flufftail, Buff-spotted / Gevlekte Vleikuiken

One bird was found in a Bryanston, Johannesburg, garden on 3 Dec 2022, where it remained for a few days (GBird). A surprise find was of one bird in a greenbelt in Northcliff, Johannesburg (pentad 2605_2755), on 3 Feb 2023, where it remained for several days, when several local birders managed to hear, and a few managed to see it. (GBird).

Flycatcher, Ashy / Blougrysvlieëvanger

A record of one bird at the Walter Sisulu Botanical Gardens is most unusual, 22 Dec 2022 (CB). *A very out of range record for this species and an excellent record for Johannesburg.*

Greenbul, Yellow-bellied / Geelborswillie

A sighting of one bird in a North Riding, Johannesburg, garden is a most unusual record for the city, 14 Sep 2022 (IP). *A species that continues to be found at new localities in the region.*

Harrier, Western Marsh / Europese Vleivalk

At least two birds, a male and female, were at Marievale on 24 Nov 2022 (JV). A female was observed at the Kgomo-Kgomo floodplain, 17 Jan 2023 (NP).

Ibis, Southern Bald / Kalkoenibis

A sighting of one bird at Rooiwal north of Pretoria on 20 Mar 2023 is most unusual (JR).



Kingfisher, Grey-headed / Gryskopvisvanger

One bird was photographed in East Lynne, Pretoria, 27 Nov 2023 (AT).

Lark, Dusky / Donkerlewerik

A single bird was present at Rietondale Experimental Farm in Pretoria, 22 Dec 2022, (AH).

Moorhen, Lesser / Kleinwaterhoender

One bird was at Glen Austin Pan, in Midrand, 16 Dec 2022 (PY).

Nightjar, European / Europese Naguil

One bird was at Rietondale, Pretoria, 19 Jan 2023 (RH).

Nightjar, Pennant-winged. (Wimpelvlerknaguil)

A male bird in breeding plumage was a surprise find at Rietvlei NR, near Pretoria, 25 Oct 2022 (LW). Another sighting at this locality was of a female/non-br male bird on 29 Dec 2022 (RC). *Rarely seen in the region, but seemingly given to vagrancy as a few records occur in most years.*

Openbill, African / Oopbekooievaar

One bird was seen flying over the Tuks University Experimental Farm in pentad 2545_2815 on 25 Jan 2023 (PY).

Plover, Caspian / Asiatiese Strandkiewiet

3 birds were observed at Mkhombo Dam on 15 Oct 2022 (GBird), with several birds being reported in the following months.



Plover, Chestnut-banded / Rooibandstrandkiewiet

A single bird was present at Mkhombo dam, 5 Nov 2022 (CV).

Robin-Chat, Red-capped / Nataljanfrederik

A first confirmed and photographed bird for Gauteng Province was of one bird at Deale's Rock in the Wilge River Valley, 10 Nov 2022 (JV). *An excellent find for the Greater Gauteng region.*

Sawwing, Black / Swartsaagvlerkswael

A single bird was seen in the Wilge River Valley, within the confines of Gauteng, 24 Nov 2022 (MJ).

Turnstone, Ruddy / Steenloper

5 birds were present at Mkhombo Dam on 15 Oct 2022 (GBird).

Whimbrel, Eurasian / Kleinwulp

2 birds were present at Mkhombo Dam for several days, 15 Oct 2022 (GBird).

Observers / Waarnemers:

André Thomas (AT)	Elouise Kalmer (EK)	Marna Buys (MB)
Attie Hartslief (AH)	Gauteng birders (GBird)	Michael Johnson (MJ)
BirdLife Northern Gauteng (BLNG)	Ian Pinnock (IP)	Niall Perrins (NP)
Cameron Blair (CB)	Jandré Verster (JV)	Philip Yiannakou (PY)
Christo Venter (CV)	Johann Roos (JR)	Reinhardt Haywood (RH)
Clint Palmer (CP)	Louis Breytenbach (LB)	Rob Cliff (RC)
Deon Hoon (DH)	Lydia Wolmarans (LW)	

This column is mainly concerned with observations of rarities and interesting sightings made in the Greater Gauteng region, defined as being 100km from the centre of both Johannesburg and Pretoria. 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 reports on the internet and from SABAP2 records. Members are invited to submit details of sightings to André Marx at e-mail andre.marx112@gmail.com or cell number 083 4117674.

BIRD'S EYE VIEW



Vriende van Magalies – 11 Maart

Toe Vriende van Magalies (VvM) ons as twee BLNG-lede vra om 'n voëlkykuitstappie vir 'n groep aspirant-voëlkykers van die Moot te lei, het ons nie gehuiwer nie. Ons het besluit om twee groepe te neem, een om 6vm en die volgende groep om 8vm. Dis op die VvM- fb-blad geadverteer en om 6vm het ons die eerste groep ontmoet. Marna Buys het die leiding geneem en ons is bergop tot waar 'n natuurlike fontein 'n poel vorm.

Die Laeveldpatryse (Shelley's Francolin) het van verskeie plekke af geroep en ons was bly om dié Voël van die Dag sowaar met die tweede groep te kon raaksien- al was dit ver en net 'n kopskoot. Pragtige spesies is gesien. Altesaam 21 mense het opgedaag, wisselend in ouderdomme van 17 - 70. Dit het ons ook die geleentheid gegee om BLNG te promoveer en ons glo ons gaan dalk 'n hele paar nuwe klublede mag bykry.

- Ivonne Coetzee



Kardinaalspeg / Cardinal Woodpecker



Laeveldpatrys / Shelley's Francolin [Johann Roos]



Skerpbekheuningvoël / Brown-backed Honeybird [Johann Roos]

LANIARIUS NEW MEMBERS: NOVEMBER 2022 TO MARCH 2023

BLNG MATTERS

AAN ALLE NUWE LEDE - BAIE WELKOM!

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

TO ALL OUR NEW MEMBERS – WELCOME!

We trust you will enjoy your birding with us and look forward to seeing you at our evening meetings, day outings or weekend trips. *Please contact Fransie at secretary@blng.co.za or phone her on cell number 072 737 0862 for any queries or information.*

Amanda & Harry Gazendam	Lynnwood
Mariana Arnoldi	Moreleta Park
Daniël du Preez	Murrayfield
Stella Keyter	Queenswood
Coenie & Martie van Vuuren	Centurion
Johannes Vorster	Centurion
Jared Beukes	Die Hoewes
Joshua Coulson	Waverley
Marianne Duvenage	Waterkloof
Dorette de Jager & Jackie Oosthuizen	Lynnwood
Gordon & Helen Halford	Waterkloof

IMPORTANT NOTICE/BELANGRIKE AANKONDIGING

The Laniarius is only distributed electronically. The Laniarius will no longer be printed by BLNG.

Die Laniarius word slegs elektronies versprei. Dit word nie meer gedruk deur BLNG nie.

Fransie O'Brien | 072 737 0862 | secretary@blng.co.za

DONATIONS / DONASIES:

A sincere thank you for your generous donation. Your contributions help us to reach our goal toward bird conservation projects. We really appreciate it.

Ons opregte dank aan almal vir donasies gemaak. U donasie verseker dat ons 'n groter bydrae tot die bewaring van voëls kan lewer. Ons waardeer dit opreg (sept 2022 to dec 2022)

RCD Franzsen	Nov 2022	Amanda & Harry Gazendam	Nov 2022
Nicole Crisp	Nov 2022	Clem Coleman	Nov 2022
André Marx	Nov 2022	Jan Meyer	Nov 2022

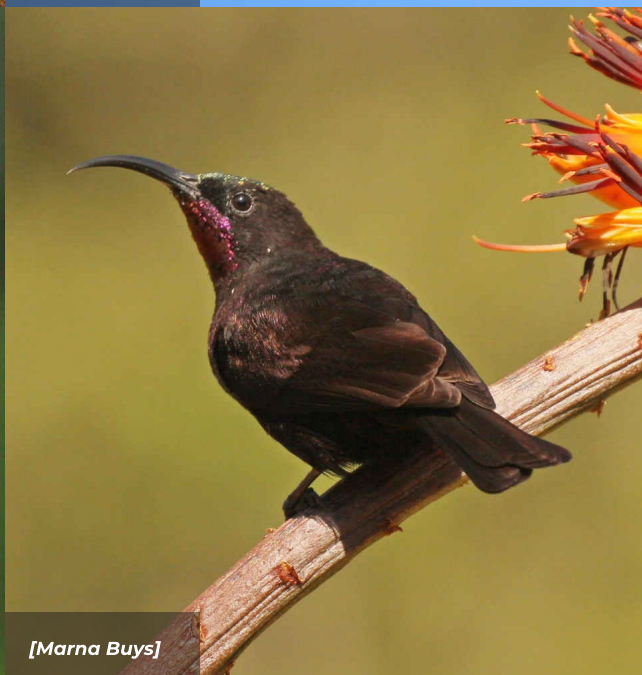
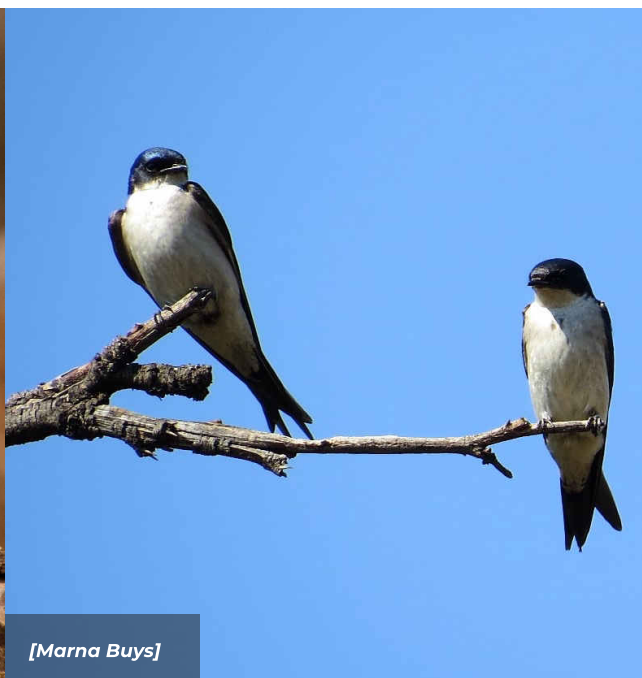
CLUB COMPETITION

Competition / Kompetisie 2 – Answers / Antwoorde (Laniarius November 2022)

Only a few birders managed to identify the bird not fitting in: Bird no. 8, a female Cuckooshrike, (Swartkatakeroe) is the odd-one-out, the only species of the nine which is not a brood parasite.

Competition / Kompetisie 3

What do these four birds have in common? Answers to lanariuseditor@blng.com



LANIARIUS ADVERTISING

	1 Issue	2 Issues	3 Issues
Back Cover	R750	R1 450	R1 980
Full Page	R530	R990	R1 320
Half Page	R330	R600	R825
Quarter Page	R200	R360	R495

Advertiser to supply digital artwork.
The BLNG Committee reserves the right not to place an advertisement.

ENJOY THE BIRDS OF THE WATERBERG!

Buy a share in a four-bedroomed chalet in a nature reserve 7km from Vaalwater. You can visit five times a year for up to a week and enjoy drives in the chalet's game viewer, and use of dedicated swimming pool and braai areas.

Asking price is R80 000 (neg), with a levy of around R2000 per month. You can share with friends to split these costs.

Contact lesley.andrews52@gmail.com
for information.



BUFFELSDRIFT

Rust de Winter

ACCOMMODATION

R700/adult/night;

R350/child 12 years and younger/night;

Day visitors R100/person/day



PHOTOGRAPHY



BIRDING



BIRDERS

BOOKINGS

Please call Donald

on 082 885 5577;

or e-mail

bookings@birdhiking.co.za

Website: www.birdhiking.co.za