



## BirdLife Northern Gauteng Gauteng-Noord



Club Programme: FEBRUARY 2018 to MAY 2018

Klubprogram: FEBRUARIE 2018 tot MEI 2018



*The African Black Oystercatcher is an excellent choice as the Bird of the Year 2018. It is a species that epitomises what top-quality conservation action can do, but it also demonstrates how easily people can have a negative impact on a species and, similarly, how simple it can be for us to help alleviate a bad situation. Get to know more about this charismatic shorebird during 2018!*

#BOTY2018

### Highlights included in this programme:

- February (9-11) : SPECIAL EVENT  
Bird Sound weekend in the bushveld <Loodswaai>
- March (6-11) : BLSA Flock2018 <West Coast>
- March (16-18) : Utara <Nylsvley>
- April (20-22) : Bona Thaba <Thabazimbi>
- May (17-20) : Camelroc <Golden Gate & Lesotho>

February Februarie	2018	to tot	May Mei	2018
<b>☼ Day Outings / Daguitstappies</b>				Pg
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Wed 21 Feb	Northern Farm			<b>6</b>
Sat 03 Mar	Mkhombo Dam			<b>6</b>
Sat 10 Mar	Voortrekker Monument			<b>8</b>
Wed 21 Mar	Zaagkuildrift to Kgomo-Kgomo			<b>9</b>
Sat 07 Apr	Moreleta NR			<b>9</b>
Sun 15 Apr	Kaalplaas / Onderstepoort			<b>11</b>
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<b>🏕 Weekend Camps / Naweekkampe</b>				
16-18 Mar	Utara Game Farm <Nylsvley>			<b>8</b>
20-22 Apr	Bona Thaba <Thabazimbi>			<b>12</b>
17-20 May	Camelroc <Golden Gate & Lesotho>			<b>13</b>
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Sat 07 Apr	Moreleta NR			<b>10</b>
Sat 05 May	Bishop Park			<b>13</b>



Dear fellow birders,

The front cover highlights BirdLife SA's Bird of the Year 2018, the beautiful African Black Oystercatcher!

Furthermore, the club program contains details of exciting BLNG events planned for the next 4 months from February until May 2018.

By now you are all aware of the fact that the program is now conveniently also available in electronic printable calendar format (Agenda/Week/Month) on the BLNG website ([www.blng.co.za](http://www.blng.co.za)) Exciting! Have a peek!

Another valuable function available on the BLNG calendar, is the **Google map** that facilitate directions to the outing venues.

We are looking forward to the weekend camps coming up. Keep your eyes open for the BLNG ALERTS.

In order to improve your birding experience, we request you to confirm attendance to birding events via e-mail to [reservations@blng.co.za](mailto:reservations@blng.co.za)

A huge THANK YOU is sounded forth to all BLNG leaders who so willingly and kindly offer their valuable time. Without the BLNG leaders, none of this would be possible.

A special word of thank you to the BLNG Sub-Committee who assisted in compiling this programme. Without your support, it would not have been possible.

Much of the info in this programme came from *The Chamberlain Guide to Birding in Gauteng* by Etienne Marais and Faansie Peacock. It can be obtained from Riana Botha at the monthly club meetings, or from Etienne Marais.

2018 BLNG birding greetings,

**Sheleph Burger**  
082 925 4005 / (012) 996 0753  
[sheleph@blng.co.za](mailto:sheleph@blng.co.za)

**Front cover:** 2018 Bird of the Year - #BOTY2018  
African Black Oystercatcher / Swarttobie  
*Haematopus moquini*

\* **Please note** : This program is available on [www.blng.co.za](http://www.blng.co.za)

\* **Neem asb kennis** : Hierdie program is beskikbaar by [www.blng.co.za](http://www.blng.co.za)

## FEBRUARY / FEBRUARIE

### ☼ Sat 3 Feb – Rooiwal Water Care Works

#### Meet / Ontmoet:

06:45 until more or less 13:00

Leader / Leier: Neithard Graf von Dürckheim

☎ 083 233 0266

✉ [NeithardGrafD@worldonline.co.za](mailto:NeithardGrafD@worldonline.co.za)

SABAP2 Pentad: 2530\_2810

**Booking at [reservations@blng.co.za](mailto:reservations@blng.co.za) is essential. Numbers are limited to 25 members.**

#### What can be seen:

Rooiwal Waste Water Treatment Works is a little birding treasure, where one can observe a good variety of birds close to Pretoria. Don't let the "organic odour" worry you. We will walk along the ageing dams. Many water birds can be seen; a variety of ducks, such as Knob-billed Duck, grebes, teals, geese, but also waders (sandpipers, such as Wood-, Marsh-, Green Sandpipers, plovers such as Wattled Lapwing, Ruff), herons, Greenshank, Grey-headed Gull, from Stonechats to specials like Yellow Wagtail, Amur Falcon and Northern Black Korhaan.

**Please note:** CAMERAS WILL BE PERMITTED BUT ONLY TO PHOTOGRAPH BIRDS – NO PHOTOS OF THE INSTALLATION.

**What to bring:** Good walking shoes, hat, sunscreen, binoculars and bird book, spotting scope (if you have), breakfast and coffee, and a chair.

**Directions:** N1 highway to Polokwane (previously Pietersburg), from Sefako Makgatho (formerly Zambezi) Road off-ramp, distance is 22.7km. Take the N1 North, pass Stormvoël Road and Sefako Makgatho (formerly Zambezi) off-ramps, pass N4 turnoff, go through Pumulani tollgate → take off-ramp Wallmansthal/Pyramid (Exit 163) this is 11.7 km from Zambezi Road. Go through tollgate at end of off-ramp → turn LEFT, direction Pyramid R101 and proceed for 4.6 km, reach T-Junction (old Warmbad Road) → turn RIGHT direction Warmbad/Bela-Bela / Hammanskraal R101, proceed for 2.0 km → turn RIGHT to Soshanguwe/Winterveld M39, proceed for 1.1 km, road does a LONG LEFT CURVE over bridge, → Turn LEFT at white sign ROOIWAL, proceed 100m → stop sign turn RIGHT, proceed 1.7 km on narrow tar road (pass Rooiwal Power Station on your left) → after 1.7 km turn LEFT into access road to Rooiwal Water Care Works →  
GPS Coordinates S 25° 33' 23.7" and E 28° 13' 39.5"

**WAIT HERE, this is the meeting point, we will drive in together as one requires a permit, which the leader has obtained.**

**Bespreking: Dit is noodsaaklik om per e-pos by [reservations@blng.co.za](mailto:reservations@blng.co.za) te bespreek. Getalle beperk is tot 25 lede.**

#### Wat kan gesien word:

Rooiwal Watersuiveringswerke is 'n klein skatkis vir voëlkykers, waar 'n groot verskeidenheid voëls digby Pretoria te sien is. Moenie dat die "organiese" reuk jou pla nie. Ons sal langs die verouderingsdamme stap. Baie watervoëls soos verskillende soorte eende (Knobbel- en Teeleende), dobbertjies, ganse, asook waadvoëls (ruiters soos Bos-, Witgat-, Moeras- en Groenpootruters), reiers, Gryskopmeeue en Lelkiewiete kan gesien word. Bontrokkies en spesiale voëls soos die Geelkwickie, Oostelike Rooipootvalk en Witvlerkorhaan kom voor.

**Let wel:** KAMERAS WORD TOEGELAAT, MAAR NET OM VOËLS AF TE NEM – GEEN FOTOS VAN DIE AANLEG NIE.

**Wat om saam te neem:** Goeie stapskoene, hoed, sonskerm, verkyker en voëlboek, teleskoop (as jy een het), ligte ontbyt, koffie en 'n stoel.

**Roetebeskriving:** Neem die N1 in die rigting van Polokwane (voorheen Pietersburg). Vanaf die Sefako Makgatho-afrit (ou Zambezi), ry 11.7 km, gaan verby die N4 afdraai, gaan deur die Pumulani tolhek, → neem die afrit Wallmansthal/Pyramid. Gaan deur die tolhek aan die einde van die afrit → draai LINKS, in die rigting Pyramid R101 en ry 4.6 km tot by die T-aansluiting (ou Warmbadpad) → draai REGS rigting Warmbad/Bela-Bela/Hammanskraal R101, ry nog 2 km → draai REGS na Soshanguwe / Winterveld M39, ry 1.1 km, pad maak 'n LANG DRAAI NA LINKS oor brug, → draai LINKS by 'n wit bord ROOIWAL, ry 100 m → by stopteken draai REGS, ry verder vir 1.7 km. op 'n nou teerpad (gaan verby die Rooiwal Kragstasie op linkerhand) → na 1.7 km draai LINKS – dit is die toegangspad na die Rooiwal Suiveringswerke → GPS Koördinate S25°33'23.7" en E28°13'39.5"

**WAG HIER voor Rooiwal se hek sodat ons almal saam kan inry, aangesien die leier in besit is van die toegangspermit.**

<b>○ Sat 3 Feb –Bird Ringing at Rietvlei Dam</b>
<b>Meet / Ontmoet:</b> To be confirmed at RSVP
<b>Leader / Leier:</b> Frik du Plooy
<b>☎ 064 651 3755</b>

Join the ringers for a morning of extreme close up birding without binoculars. Bring your chair, hat, refreshments and birding books along. Please book before Friday 12:00 by SMS, so that the leader can notify you if the outing needs to be cancelled. Ringing sessions could be cancelled due to a sudden change in weather like rain or strong wind. **The handling of nets and birds may only be done by a qualified ringer.**

*Sluit aan by die ringers vir 'n oggend se leersame pret. Kom kyk hoe lyk die voëltjies van naby sonder 'n verkyker. Bring 'n stoel, hoed, voëlboeke en verversings saam. Bespreek asb. voor Vrydagmiddag 12:00 per SMS sodat die leier jou in kennis kan stel as die uitstappie dalk gekanselleer word. Dit gebeur soms dat die ringsessie afgestel moet word a.g.v. skielike weersveranderinge soos reën of sterk wind. **Die hantering van nette en voëls mag slegs deur 'n gekwalifiseerde ringer gedoen word.***

<b>🏠 09-11 Feb – SPECIAL EVENT Bird Sound weekend in the Bushveld at Loodswaai</b>
<b>Leader / Leier:</b> Etienne Marais
<b>☎ 082 898 6998</b>
<b>✉ <a href="mailto:etimar70@gmail.com">etimar70@gmail.com</a> / <a href="mailto:etienne@birding.co.za">etienne@birding.co.za</a></b>
 BLNG_Bushveld-Bird-Sounds_EM.docx
<a href="http://www.birding.co.za/birdsound.htm">http://www.birding.co.za/birdsound.htm</a>

Would you like to catch up on your bird calls? This unique weekend birding experience combines a wonderful bushveld location with exposure to a wide variety of bird-sounds and techniques for mastering these calls. The main focus will be sounds of the bushveld and Gauteng garden environments, but also serves as an introduction to southern African bird sounds in general.

**Costs :**

Dependent on type of accommodation taken:

\* Lodge: R2 300 per person sharing

\* Dam Chalet R1 750

\* Rustic Bush Camp: R1 500

\* Camping R1 050

(Singles pay extra at Lodge, Dam Chalet or camping)

Catering: This is a self-catering weekend.

**Bookings for this weekend to be made directly to Etienne Marais.**

To Book: Pay 50% and send POP to [etimar70@gmail.com](mailto:etimar70@gmail.com) or SMS to 082 898 6998

Make payment to Etienne Marais:

Bank: Capitec Bank, Acc No: 1318603089

Branch Code: 470010

Please use reference \*\*\* SOUNDBLNG where \*\*\* are your initials.

For more information on the accommodation options and the **itinerary see the attached document**, or contact Etienne directly.

**No bookings will be made by Rita.**

*Wil jy graag meer kennis opdoen oor voëlgeluide/roepes? Hierdie unieke voëlyknaaweek kombineer 'n wonderlike bosveldomgewing met blootstelling aan 'n groot verskeidenheid voëlgeluide en tegnieke om hierdie geluide te bemeester. Die fokus sal voëloroepes van die bosveld en uit Gauteng se tuine wees, maar dien ook as 'n inleiding tot die Suid-Afrikaanse voëlgeluide in die algemeen.*

**Koste :** Afhangend van die tipe akkommodasie wat gebruik word:

\* Lodge: R2 300 per persoon wat deel

\* Dam Chalet: R1 750

\* Rustieke Boskamp: R1 500

\* Camping R1 050

(enkel persone betaal ekstra vir die Lodge, Dam Chalet of vir kampering)

Etes: Dit is 'n selfsorg naweek.

**Besprekings vir hierdie naweek moet direk by Etienne Marais gemaak word.**

Om te bespreek: Betaal 50% en stuur POP na [etimar70@gmail.com](mailto:etimar70@gmail.com) of SMS na 082 898 6998

Maak betaling aan Etienne Marais:

Bank: Capitec Bank, Rek No: 1318603089

Takkode: 470010

Gebruik asb. verwysing \*\*\* SOUNDBLNG waar \*\*\* jou voorletters.

Vir meer inligting oor akkommodasie opsies en **die program, sien aangehegde dokument**, of kontak Etienne direk.

**Geen besprekings sal deur Rita gemaak word nie.**

☾ **Tue 13 Feb – EVENING MEETING**

**AGM** incl. Guest Speaker :

**Stars and Planets by Hennie Maas**

(<http://www.rsgplus.org/programme/sterre-en-planete/hoe-het-die-sterre-gogga-hennie-maas-gebyft/>)

**Please join us for the AGM – find out what your committee have been up to in 2017 and plans for 2018. It is important that we have as many members there as possible.**



After the formalities, Hennie Maas will give us a talk on:

### **STARS AND PLANETS**

Hennie Maas is presenting his journey of discovery through Stars and Planets: An overview on how he became interested in space and how the radio programme "Sterre en Planete" developed from there.

Snacks will be served afterwards.

**Sluit asb by ons aan vir die Algemene Jaarvergadering – vind uit wat die komitee in 2017 uitgerig het, en wat die planne is vir 2018. Dit is belangrik om soveel lede as moontlik daar te hê.**

Na afloop van die formaliteite, sal Hennie Maas praat oor:

### **STERRE EN PLANETE**

*Hennie Maas bekend vir sy program op RSG. Hy praat oor sy "ontdekkingsreis" deur Sterre en Planete: 'n Oorsig oor hoe hy begin belangstel het in die hemelruim en hoe die program "Sterre en Planete" daaruit gegroei het.*

*Na die verrigtinge, sal verversings verskaf word.*

The farmlands, copses of alien trees and mature gardens in die peaceful village of Irene create a haven for raptors, with several uncommon species breeding in the area. Steeped in history, the site is centred on the original home of General Jan Smuts, which is now preserved as the Smuts House Museum. The Smuts' Trail is a three-kilometre walk through the pristine grasslands surrounding the Museum, where ornithologists have identified no fewer than 300 bird species. Birding is best in summer when resident species are vocal and migrants are present. Raptor viewing is good throughout the year, so it is likely to see Ovambo Sparrowhawk, Little Sparrowhawk and European Honey-Buzzard, as well as species such as Orange River Francolin, Northern Black Korhaan, Red-throated Wryneck and Brown-backed Honeybird to name but a few. Seen occasionally is Half-collared Kingfisher where the approach road crosses the Sesmyl Spruit and some 200 m further the road passes through an avenue of tall plane trees – a favourite breeding site of the introduced Rose-ringed Parakeet.

The cost will be **R50 pp** (incl. birdlist), and at the end of the walk we purchase breakfast at our own personal expense from the tea garden.

**Booking at [reservations@blng.co.za](mailto:reservations@blng.co.za)** (no need to pay in advance).

**Directions to Smuts Koppie/House:** From the R21 (Airport Highway), take the M31/Irene offramp and turn right into Nellmapius Drive. Drive past Cornwall Hill School and turn left into 23rd Street West/Jan Smuts Avenue just before you pass under the railway bridge.

**Alternative route:** From the N1 (south going north) take the M18 Botha Avenue offramp and turn left into Botha Avenue (Main Rd). Travel through Irene for 2 km, and turn left at the four-way stop into Nellmapius Drive. Pass under the railway bridge and take the first right. As you enter the property turn immediately right.

**Meet in the car park.**

*Plaasgronde, groepe uitheemse bome en ou gevestigde tuine in die vreedsame dorpie Irene skep 'n tuiste vir roofvoëls en verskeie skaars spesies wat in die gebied broei. Gedrenk in geskiedenis vorm die oorspronklike huis van Generaal Jan Smuts, wat nou bewaar word as die Smutshuis Museum, die middelpunt van die gebied.*

*Die Smutsroete is 'n 3 kilometer lange wandelroete deur ongerepte grasvelde wat die museum omring en waar voëlkundiges nie minder nie as 300 voëls spesies al geïdentifiseer het. Voëlkyk is die beste in die somer wanneer standvoëls en trekvoëls teenwoordig is. Roofvoëlwaarneming is goed reg deur die jaar,*

✪ **Sat 17 Feb – Smuts Koppie, Irene**

<https://www.sa-venues.com/things-to-do/gauteng/visit-smuts-house-museum/>

**Meet / Ontmoet:** 05:45 for 06:00

**Leader / Leier:** Philip Calinikos

☎ 082 602 1346

**SABAP2 Pentad:** 2550\_2810

*us is dit moontlik om die Ovambosperwer, Kleinsperwer and Wespiedief, sowel as die Kalaharipatrys, Witvlerkkorhaan, Draaihals en Skerpbekkeuningvoël te sien, om maar net 'n paar te noem. Die Blouvisvanger word soms gesien waar die toegangsroete die Sesmylspruit kruis en so 200m verder gaan die pad deur 'n laan van groot plataanbome – 'n geliefkoosde broeiplek van die ingevoerde Ringnekparkiet. Die toegang is **R50 pp** (voëllys ingesluit) en aan die einde van die stap kan ons op eie koste 'n ontbyt koop by die teetuin.*

**Besprekings:** [reservations@blng.co.za](mailto:reservations@blng.co.za) (nie nodig om vooruit te betaal nie).

**Aanwysings na Smutskoppe/huis:** Vanaf die R21 (Lughawe Hoofweg), neem die M31/Irene afrit en draai regs in Nellmapiuslaan in. Ry verby Cornwall Hill skool en draai dan links in 23ste Straat Wes/Jan Smutslaan net voordat jy onder die spoorwegbrug deur gaan.

**Alternatiewe roete:** Vanaf die N1 (rigting suid na Noord) neem die M18 Bothalaanafrit en draai links in Bothalaan (Mainweg). Ry deur Irene vir 2km, en draai links in by die vierrigtingstop in Nellmapiuslaan. Gaan onder die spoorwegbrug deur en neem die eerste pad regs. Wanneer jy die perseel binnegaan draai onmiddellik regs.

**Ontmoet in die parkeerterrein.**

<b>🌟 Wed 21 Feb – Northern Farm</b>
<b>Meet / Ontmoet:</b> 07:00
<b>Leader / Leier:</b> André Marx
☎ 083 411 7674
✉ <a href="mailto:turaco@telkomsa.net">turaco@telkomsa.net</a>
<b>SABAP2 Pentad:</b> 2555_2755

Northern Farm Nature Reserve (also known as the Diepsloot NR) is one of Joburg's best-kept secrets and offers over 1400 ha of varied habitat that includes grassland, farmland, woodlands and dams. Nearly 300 different bird species that include many waterbirds and a number of interesting raptors, such as Ovambo Sparrowhawk and Long-crested Eagle have been seen and in summer Yellow Wagtail can be found.

**Directions:** Take the N14 Pretoria/Krugersdorp highway to the R511 Sandton/Hartbeespoort Dam offramp. Turn left onto the R511 towards Hartbeespoort Dam and Brits. Pass under the highway and turn immediately left towards R114 Muldersdrift. Follow this road for about 6km, crossing over the highway. Turn right at the Northern Farm sign onto a tarred road and then immediately left onto a dirt road that takes you to the farm entrance (There is no entrance directly off the R114 any more). Proceed to the car park

where the group will gather before driving from there. Distance from the N1/N14 interchange is about 22km.

Entrance fee payable to the leader, not at the gate.

**Booking at** [reservations@blng.co.za](mailto:reservations@blng.co.za)

Northern Farm Natuureservaat (ook bekend as Diepsloot NR) is een van Johannesburg se besbewaarde geheime en bied meer as 1400ha variërende habitat wat grasveld, boerdery-grond, boomveld en damme insluit. Ongeveer 300 verskillende voëlspesies kan gesien word. Dit sluit 'n groot verskeidenheid watervoëls en 'n aantal interessante roofvoëls in soos die Ovambosperwer en Langkuifarend, asook die Geelkwikie in die somer.

**Aanwysings:** Neem die N14 Pretoria/Krugersdorp snelweg tot by die R511 Sandton/Hartbeespoortdam-afrit. Draai links op die R511 na Hartbeespoortdam en Brits. Gaan onder die snelweg deur en draai onmiddellik links op die R114 Muldersdrift-pad. Volg hierdie pad vir ongeveer 6km, gaan oor die snelweg. Draai regs by die Northern Farm teken op die teerpad en dan onmiddellik weer links op 'n grondpad (daar is nie meer direkte toegang vanaf die R114 nie). Ry deur die hek en ontmoet by die parkeerplek. Die afstand vanaf die N1/N14 wisselaar is ongeveer 22km.

'n Toegangsfooi is betaalbaar aan die leier, nie by die hek nie.

**Besprekings:** [reservations@blng.co.za](mailto:reservations@blng.co.za)

## MARCH / MAART

<b>🌟 Sat 03 Mar – Mkhombo Dam</b>
<b>Meet / Ontmoet:</b> 05:30
<b>Leader / Leier:</b> Toni Geddes
☎ 072 636 5774
✉ <a href="mailto:tkbirding@gmail.com">tkbirding@gmail.com</a>
<b>SABAP2 Pentad(s):</b> 2505_2845, 2505_2850

Because of rapidly fluctuating water levels, this dam is one of the most exciting birding destinations near Gauteng. The habitat surrounding the dam may change from floodplains to mudflats to dry grasslands within weeks, so the birds are somewhat unpredictable but the birding is always productive. The woodland surrounding the dam ensures a diverse species count. Summer specials can include Slaty Egret, Lesser Spotted Eagle, Osprey, Allen's Gallinule, Lesser Moorhen and Grey Plover, but bird numbers are good throughout the year. Many of the migratory bird should have returned by now. The club will use this opportunity to create the initial summer birdlist for the conservation purposes

**Directions:** From the N1 travelling north, take the R513 Sefako Makgatho (Zambezi) offramp. Turn right and proceed for just over 1km to the R573 (Moloto/KwaMhlanga road). Turn left, follow the R573 for 57km, and turn left onto the R568 towards Libangeni. After 36km there is a four-way stop, turn left and meet 400m down the road on the left.

**Booking at** [reservations@blng.co.za](mailto:reservations@blng.co.za)

As gevolg van die vinnig wisselende watervlakke, is hierdie dam een van die mees opwindende voëlkykplekke naby aan Gauteng. Die habitat rondom die dam kan wissel van vloedvlakke tot modderpoele tot droë grasveld binne weke, so die voëls is ietwat onvoorspelbaar, maar voëlwaarneming is altyd produktief. Die bosveld rondom die dam verseker 'n verskeidenheid van voëlspesies. Besondere somervoëls wat jy daar kan kry is die Rooikeelreier, Gevlekte Arend, Visvalk, Kleinkoningriethaan, Kleinwaterhoender en Grysstrandkiewiet, maar die dam is reg deur die jaar produktief. Die klub gaan hierdie uitstappie gebruik om die somer voëls vir Mkhombo saam te stel vir die bewaringsplan.

**Aanwysings:** — Vanaf die N1 ry noord en neem die R513 Sefako Makgatho-afrit (Zambezi). Draai regs en ry ongeveer 1 km verder tot by die R573 (Moloto-KwaMhlanga-pad). Draai links en hou reguit aan met die R573 vir 57km tot by die R568. Draai links na Libangeni; 36km verder is 'n vierrigting stop, draai links en ontmoet na 400m aan die linkerkant.

**Besprekings:** [reservations@blng.co.za](mailto:reservations@blng.co.za)

○ Sat 03 Mar –

**Bird Ringing at Renosterkop**

**Meet / Ontmoet:** To be confirmed at RSVP

**Leader/ Leier:** Johan Snyman

☎ 082 451 3305

Join the ringers for a morning of extreme close up birding without binoculars. Bring your chair, hat, refreshments and birding books along. Please book your place before Friday 12:00 by SMS, so that the leader can notify you if the outing needs to be cancelled. Ringing sessions could be cancelled due to a sudden change in weather like rain or strong wind. **The handling of nets and birds may only be done by a qualified ringer.**

Sluit aan by die ringers vir 'n oggend se leersame pret. Kom kyk hoe lyk die voëltjies van naby sonder 'n verkyker. Bring 'n stoel, hoed, voëlboeke en verversings saam. Bespreek asb. voor Vrydagmiddag 12:00 jou plek per SMS sodat die leier jou in kennis kan stel as die uitstappie dalk gekanselleer word.

*Dit gebeur soms dat die ringsessie afgestel moet word a.g.v. skielike weersveranderinge soos reën of sterk wind. **Die hantering van nete en voëls mag slegs deur 'n gekwalifiseerde ringer gedoen word.***

📅 06–11 Mar :

**BLSA Flock on the West Coast 2018 & BLSA AGM**

<https://www.birdlife.org.za/events/flock/flock-on-the-west-coast-2018>

**Enquiries :**

Please email Melissa Whitecross, Emma Askes or Gisela Ortner for more information at [flock2018@birdlife.org.za](mailto:flock2018@birdlife.org.za)



Flock on the West Coast 2018 will take place at Club Mykonos Resort in Langebaan from 6 to 11 March 2018. The event will consist of BirdLife South Africa's bi-annual Learn About Birds (LAB) Conference on 8 and 9 March (with plenary sessions by Dr Alan Lee and Dr Mark Brown), as well as the annual BirdLife South Africa AGM on Saturday, 10 March. Other attractions will include an optional waders workshop by Faansie Peacock, as well as an extended presentation by Etienne Marais on the endemic birds of the Cape. Guided excursions will include outings to nearby West Coast National Park, the Berg River Estuary at Veldrift, and much much more.

⚙️ <b>Sat 10 Mar – Voortrekker Monument</b>
<b>Meet / Ontmoet:</b> 07:00
<b>Leader / Leier:</b> Rihann Geysler
☎️ 084 293 6128
✉️ <a href="mailto:avifauna@galagoenvironmental.co.za">avifauna@galagoenvironmental.co.za</a>
<b>SABAP2 Pentad(s):</b> 2545_2810

Come and join us for a walk around the reserve which surrounds this historical site. The habitats include gardens, woodland and grassland.

Possible species include Southern Boubou, Arrow-marked Babbler, White-throated Robin-Chat, Jamesons Firefinch, Long-billed Crombec and Yellow-fronted Canary and Klaas's Cuckoo Eagle. In summer migrants like the European Bee-eater, Garden Warbler, Willow Warbler, Spotted Flycatcher, Black Cuckoo-Shrike, Black Cuckoo, Redbreasted Cuckoo and Klaas's Cuckoo are present. You will also have the opportunity to join the ringers at the same site.

The entrance fees are R70 per adult, and R35 for children <18 years, and R35 for pensioners. Bring along water, chairs and refreshments.

**Directions:** At the Fountains Circle, take the exit to Proclamation Hill and Centurion. Keep to the right lane. At the robot turn right onto Eeufees Rd/M7. At the second robot turn right towards the entrance of the Voortrekker Monument.

**We meet at the entrance.**

**Booking at** [reservations@blng.co.za](mailto:reservations@blng.co.za)

*Kom saam met ons op 'n uitstappie in die natuurbewaringsgebied wat hierdie historiese gebied omring. Die habitat sluit tuine, bosveld en grasveld in. Spesies sluit in die Suidelike Waterfiskaal, Pylvlekkatlagter, Witkeel-  
janfrederik, Bosveldtjerik, Jamesonse Vuurvinkie, Bosveldstompstert en Geeloogkanarie asook die Witkruisarend. In die somer kom trekvoëls soos die Europese Byvreter, Tuinsanger, Hofsanger, Europese Vlieëvanger, Swart Katakoeroe, Swart Koekoek, Piet-my-vrou en Meitjie voor. Jy sal ook die geleentheid kry om by die ringers 'n draai te maak.*

*Toegang is R70 vir volwassenes, R35 vir kinders <18 en pensionarisse betaal net R35. Bring saam water, stoele en verversings.*

**Aanwysings:** By die Fontein Sirkel, neem die uitgang na Proklamasie Heuwel en Centurion. Hou in die heel regterkantste baan. By die verkeerslig draai regs in Eeufeesweg/M7. Ry reguit tot by die 2de verkeerslig, draai regs na die ingang van die Voortrekker Monument.

**Ons ontmoet by die ingang.**

**Besprekings:** [reservations@blng.co.za](mailto:reservations@blng.co.za)

☾ **Tue 13 Mar – EVENING MEETING**  
**Birding the Indonesian Islands of Sulawesi and West Papua by John Kinghorn**

Join John Kinghorn as he takes us on yet another one of his crazy, adrenaline filled 'birdventures', this time as he traverses the Indonesian islands of Sulawesi and West Papua in search of endemic Booboks, Scops Owls, Kingfishers and more!



*Kom luister na John Kinghorn as hy vertel van nog een van sy maltrap, adrenalien gevulde voëlkyk avonture. Hierdie keer is dit in die Indonesiese Eilande van Sulawesi en Wes Papua opsoek na "Booboks", Skopsuile, Visvangers en vele meer!*

🏠 <b>16-18 Mar – Utara Game Farm</b> <b>&lt;Nylsvley&gt;</b>
<b>Leader / Leier:</b> Pieter Heslinga
☎️ 082 551 0130
✉️ <a href="mailto:pieter@cdhaccounting.co.za">pieter@cdhaccounting.co.za</a>
<b>SABAP2 Pentad:</b> 2435_2840

This Important Bird Area (IBA) offers fantastic wetland birding, specials include Slaty Egret, Dwarf Bittern, African Pygmy Goose, Lesser Moorhen and more.

What makes Utara Game farm very unique is the fact that the Nylsvley seasonally-inundated floodplain forms part of this farm. The floodplain is made up of extensive reedbeds and grassveld surrounded by Acacia woodland, making it rich in bird- and wildlife. Some 370 bird species have been identified in this area!

Utara Game Farm is located very close to Naboomspruit (Mookgophong) in the Limpopo Province and is a comfortable 1.5 hours drive from Pretoria or a 2 hour drive from Johannesburg.

**Accommodation:** Utara Game Farm Comfortable, well-equipped self-catering accommodation is available with braai and swimming pool facilities.

**Cost:** R700 pp sharing (chalet)

**Camping is R200 pp for the weekend.**

**Reservations:** [reservations@blng.co.za](mailto:reservations@blng.co.za)



Hierdie belangrike voëlarea ('Important Bird Area') (IBA) bied fantastiese vleilandhabitat. Spesiale voëls wat gesien kan word, sluit in: Rooikeelreier, Dwergrietreier, Dwerggans en Kleinwaterhoender en nog vele meer.

Wat Utara Wildsplaas baie spesiaal maak is die feit dat die Nylsvley seisoenaleloedvlakte deel uitmaak van die plaas. Dieloedvlakte bestaan uit riet en grasvlakte omring deur tipiese Akasia bosveld wat die plaas baie ryk maak aan voël- en wildlewe. Meer as 370 voëlspesies is al geïdentifiseer in hierdie area!

**Aanwysings:** Utara Wildsplaas is geleë naby Naboomspruit (Mookgophong) in die Limpopo Provinsie en is 'n gemaklike 1.5 uur rit vanaf Pretoria of 'n 2 uur rit vanaf Johannesburg.

**Akkommodasie:** Utara Wildsplaas Gerieflike, goed toegeruste selfsorg akkommodasie is beskikbaar met braai and swem fasiliteite.

**Koste:** R700 per persoon wat deel en kampering is R200 per persoon.

**Besprekings:** [reservations@blng.co.za](mailto:reservations@blng.co.za)

<p>☼ <b>Wed 21 Mar – Zaagkuildrift to Kgomo-Kgomo route</b></p> <p><b>Meet / Ontmoet:</b> 07:00 at Wolphuiskraal entrance</p> <p><b>Leader / Leier:</b> Thinus van Staden</p> <p>☎ 084 589 7035</p> <p>✉ <a href="mailto:wysmydieson@gmail.com">wysmydieson@gmail.com</a></p> <p><b>SABAP2 Pentad(s):</b> 2505_2845, 2505_2850</p>
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According to *Birding in Gauteng* the legendary Zaagkuildrift Road runs east-west from the town of Pienaarsrivier to the semi-rural village of Kgomo-Kgomo, tracking the course of the Pienaars River. In years of good rainfall the river forms a 27 km<sup>2</sup> ephemeral floodplain with birding comparable to the much better known Nyl Floodplain. This combination of rare tropical waterbirds together with excellent mature *Acacia* woodland arguably offers the richest birding locality in the region, and **certainly one of the best birding spots in southern Africa!**

A diverse variety of raptors, cuckoos, bee-eaters, kingfishers, shrikes, warblers and seedeaters are present in the summer months, while (given sufficient rainfall) this is the most reliable site in SA for the rare and elusive River Warbler in late summer. Birding will take place along the road to Kgomo-Kgomo and at Wolphuiskraal farm where we will have lunch. The entrance fee for day visitors to Wolphuiskraal is R40 pp.

**Directions:** From Pretoria head north on the N1 and take the Pienaarsriver/Rust de Winter offramp. Turn left at the T-junction and after 700m turn right onto the R101. About 1km further turn

left onto a gravel road signposted 'Zaagkuildrift'. Proceed for approximately 13km on this road until you get to the gate of Wolphuiskraal on your right where we will meet. It is about 75km from Pretoria.

**Booking:** [reservations@blng.co.za](mailto:reservations@blng.co.za)

Volgens *Birding in Gauteng* loop die legendariese Zaagkuildrift-pad oos-wes vanaf die dorp Pienaarsrivier na die semi-landelike dorpie Kgomo-Kgomo, al met die loop van die Pienaarsrivier langs. In jare van goeie reënval vorm die rivier 'n 27 km<sup>2</sup> kortstondigeloedvlakte wat vergelyk kan word met die beter bekende Nyl-vloedvlakte. Die kombinasie van skaars tropiese watervoëls saam met uitstekende volwasse *Acacia* bosveld bied moontlik die rykste voëlkykgebied in die streek, en is sekerlik een van die beste voëlkykplekke in suidelike Afrika! 'n Diverse verskeidenheid van roofvoëls, koekoek, byevreters, visvangers, laksmanne, sangers en saadvreters is teenwoordig in die somermaande, terwyl dit (met voldoende reënval) die mees waarskynlike plek in SA is om die skaars en ontwykende Sprinkaansanger te sien in die laat somer. Ons sal langs die pad en oppad na Kgomo-Kgomo voëls kyk, asook op Wolphuiskraal self waar ons middagete sal nuttig. 'n Toegangsfooi van R40 pp vir dagbesoekers is betaalbaar.

**Aanwysings:** Ry noord vanaf Pretoria op die N1 en neem die Pienaarsrivier/Rust de Winter-afrit. Draai links by die T-aansluiting en na 700 m draai regs op die R101. Ongeveer 1km verder draai links op die gruispad gemerk 'Zaagkuildrift'. Ry vir ongeveer 13km op hierdie pad totdat jy by die hek van Wolphuiskraal op jou regterkant kom, waar ons sal ontmoet. Ongeveer 75km vanaf Pretoria.

**Besprekings:** [reservations@blng.co.za](mailto:reservations@blng.co.za)

## APRIL / APRIL

<p>☼ <b>Sat 7 Apr – Moreleta NR</b></p> <p><b>Meet / Ontmoet:</b> 07:00 – 11:00</p> <p><b>Leader / Leier:</b> Keanu Canto</p> <p>☎ 073 907 3116</p> <p>✉ <a href="mailto:reservations@blng.co.za">reservations@blng.co.za</a></p> <p><b>SABAP2 Pentad(s):</b> 2545_2815</p>
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**Join us for an exciting morning with a BLNG Young Birder, ie Keanu Canto!**

As urban development proceeds unchecked, small nature reserves within otherwise built-up areas are becoming increasingly important refuges for remaining natural bird communities. For its relatively small size (92 ha), the Moreleta Kloof supports an amazing diversity of birds and is a great place for beginner birders to become

familier with the more common species, whereas experienced birders will always find something of interest. The reserve is situated in the suburb of Moreleta Park, within 5 minutes' drive off the N1 Highway.

Typical Pretoria garden birds should be present, Karoo Thrush, Mousebirds, Cape Sparrow, Common Myna, Common Fiscal, Helmeted Guineafowl, Crested Barbet, Tawny-flanked Prinia and Neddicky. In the past, Red-chested Fluftail has been seen closely to the birdhide. **Moreleta NR is an excellent SABAP2 pentad birding venue! A total of 137 species were seen in this pentad for 2017!**

Toilet facilities are now available on the route, apart from the ones at Rademeyers Restaurant. Please bring something to drink and snacks. The whole outing should take about 3 - 4 hours, excluding the visit to the bird ringers.

**Directions:** From the intersection of Solomon Mahlangu Dr (Hans Strydom) / Lois Ave / Rubenstein Dr, turn into Rubenstein Dr and continue until one comes to the intersection with Helios Str. Turn left into Helios Str and continue along Helios with the nature reserve on your left. The parking is on the left at Rademeyers Restaurant. **Meet here.**

**Booking:** [reservations@blng.co.za](mailto:reservations@blng.co.za)

**Sluit by ons aan vir 'n opwindende oggend se voëlkyk saam met Keanu Canto, 'n jong voëlkyker wat passievol is oor voëlkyk!**

Ten spyte van stedelike ontwikkeling is hierdie reservaat (92ha) 'n tuiste vir 'n groot verskeidenheid van algemene voëlspesies. Vir beginner voëlkykers is dit 'n goeie beginpunt, terwyl ervare voëlkykers altyd iets interessants sal sien. Die reservaat is in Moreletapark, skaars 5 min se ry vanaf die N1.

Spesies wat verwag kan word is Geelbeklyster, Muisvoëls, Gewone Mossie, Indiese spreeu, Fiskaallaksman, Gewone Tarentaal, Kuifkophoutkapper, Bruinsylangstertjie en Neddikkie. In die verlede is Rooiborsvleikuiken al opgemerk naby die voëlskuiling!

**Vir SABAP2 atlasblok (pentad) voëlkykdoeleindes, is Moreleta NR uitstekend! Gedurende 2017 was 'n totaal van 137 spesies gesien!**

Toiletfasiliteite op die roete beskikbaar buiten dié by Rademeyers Restaurant. Bring eie verversings. Buiten die besoek aan die voëlringers, sal die hele uitstappie omtrent 3-4 ure duur.

**Aanwysings:** Vanaf die kruising van Solomon Mahlangu-laan (Hans Strydom) met Lois/Rubenstein, draai in Rubenstein in tot by die kruising met Heliosstraat. Draai links in Helios met die reservaat aan die linkerkant. Die parkeerplek is op die linkerkant. **Ontmoet hier.**

**Besprekings:** [reservations@blng.co.za](mailto:reservations@blng.co.za)

**○ Sat 7 Apr –**

**Bird Ringing at Moreleta Kloof NR**

**Meet / Ontmoet:** To be confirmed at RSVP

**Leader / Leier:** Hein Bantjes

**☎ 083 441 1532**

Join the ringers for a morning of extreme close up birding without binoculars. Bring your chair, hat, refreshments and birding books along. Please book your place before Friday 12:00 by SMS, so that the leader can notify you if the outing needs to be cancelled. Ringing sessions could be cancelled due to a sudden change in weather like rain or strong wind. **The handling of nets and birds can only be done by a qualified ringer.**

*Sluit aan by die ringers vir 'n oggend se leersame pret. Kom kyk hoe lyk die voëltjies van naby sonder 'n verkyker. Bring 'n stoel, hoed, voëlboeke en verversings saam. Bespreek asb. voor Vrydagmiddag 12:00 jou plek per SMS sodat die leier jou in kennis kan stel as die uitstappie dalk gekanselleer word. Dit gebeur soms dat die ringessie afgestel moet word a.g.v. skielike weersveranderinge soos reën of sterk wind. **Die hantering van nete en voëls mag slegs deur 'n gekwalifiseerde ringer gedoen word.***

## ☾ Tue 10 Apr – EVENING MEETING

### Lead - a toxic substance by Linda van den Heever

Lead is one of the most toxic substances known to man, but due to its usefulness and malleability it is still widely used in industry, from the batteries in our cars to the bullets in our rifles. Linda van den Heever from BirdLife is investigating the pervasiveness and impacts of lead poisoning in South Africa's bird species (especially vultures), with the view to eventually determine the source of the lead poisoning.



### Lood - 'n Giftige stof

Lood is een van die giftigste stowwe op aarde, maar omdat dit so nuttig en smeebaar is word dit nog steeds algemeen gebruik in industrie, van die batterye in ons motors tot die koeëls in ons gewere. Linda van den Heever bestudeer huidige die omvang en impak van loodvergiftiging op Suid-Afrika se voëlspecies (veral aasvoëls), met die oogpunt om uiteindelik die oorsprong van die loodvergiftiging vas te stel.

## ☼ Son 15 Apr –

### Kaalplaas <Onderstepoort>

**Meet / Ontmoet:** 06:30

**Leader / Leier:** Liesl de Swart

☎ 079 334 3822

✉ [ldeswardt.istari@gmail.com](mailto:ldeswardt.istari@gmail.com)

A great local venue with superb thornveld birding. Please bring your own picnic lunches and chairs. No braai facilities are available. Birds to be expected include Yellow-fronted Tinkerbird, White-throated Robin-Chat, Black-crowned Tchagra, Pearl-spotted Owlet, Chinspot Batis and more.

**Directions:** Take the old Warmbaths road (R101) north from the Wonderboom Nature Reserve for about 3km. Turn left at the Onderstepoort/Rosslyn sign (R566). After about 500m turn right towards Onderstepoort. The entrance to Kaalplaas is 2.8km further on the left. **Meet here.**

**Booking:** [reservations@blng.co.za](mailto:reservations@blng.co.za)

*'n Uitstekende plaaslike voëlkykplek. Bring asb u eie stoel en piekniekmandjie. Geen braaifasiliteite is beskikbaar nie. Voëls wat verag kan word sluit in: Geelblestinker, Witkeeljanfrederik, Swartkroontjagra, Witkoluil, Witliesbosbontrokkie en nog baie meer.*

**Aanwysings:** Vanaf die Wonderboom Natuurreseervaat ry noord met die ou Warmbadpad (R101) vir ongeveer 3km. Draai links by die Onderstepoort/Rosslyn-teken (R566). Na ongeveer 500m draai regs na Onderstepoort. Die ingang na Kaalplaas is 2.8km verder aan die linkerkant. **Ontmoet hier.**

**Besprekings:** [reservations@blng.co.za](mailto:reservations@blng.co.za)

## ☼ Sun 22 Apr – Rust de Winter Dam NR

**Meet/Ontmoet:** 07:00

**Leader / Leier:** Rihann Geyser

☎ 084 293 6128

✉ [avifauna@galagoenvironmental.co.za](mailto:avifauna@galagoenvironmental.co.za)

**SABAP2 Pentad(s):**

2510\_2825 and 2515\_2825

Rust de Winter Dam NR is an Acacia bushveld area with many riverine and water birds. We will have access to the south-western area of the reserve which is closed to fishermen. The gravel roads are accessible for saloon cars. An entrance fee is payable.

**Directions:** Take the N1 north to the Rust de Winter/Pienaarsriver offramp and turn right to Rust de Winter. After about 21 km, turn right at the dirt road signposted Rust de Winter Dam. The entrance to the reserve is about 4 km along this road. Meet inside the entrance.

Total distance from Pretoria is about 85 km.


**Booking:** [reservations@blng.co.za](mailto:reservations@blng.co.za)

*Rust de Winterdam NR is 'n Akasia bosveldgebied wat baie besonder is vir rivier- en waadvoëls. Ons sal toegang hê tot die suid-westelike area van die reseervaat wat geslote is vir vissermanne. Die grondpaaie is geskik vir passasiersmotors. 'n Toegangsfoto is betaalbaar.*

**Aanwysings:** Neem die N1 noord tot by die Rust de Winter/Pienaarsrivier-afrit en draai regs na Rust de Winter. Na ongeveer 21km draai regs by die grondpad met die teken Rust de Winterdam. Die ingang na die reseervaat is omtrent 4 km op hierdie pad. Ontmoet binne die ingang.

Totale afstand vanaf Pretoria is ongeveer 85km.

**Besprekings:** [reservations@blng.co.za](mailto:reservations@blng.co.za)

 <b>20-22 Apr – Bona Thaba</b>
<b>Leader / Leier:</b> Neithard Graf von Dürckheim
 083 233 0266
 <a href="mailto:ngvd@worldonline.co.za">ngvd@worldonline.co.za</a>

Bona Thaba is situated 250km from Pretoria, 25km outside of Thabazimbi, and 14 Km from Marakele National Park, where the Kwaggavlakte starts. It consists of an 800 Ha game farm, 60% mountain and hills with woody kloofs and granite koppie outcrops, rock formations with a cave where bats are found, and 40% plains – a typical Bushveld habitat with sweet and sour grass veld. The farm offers opportunities for hiking and birding on foot. Hiking shoes are essential. The last 11km to the farm is a gravel road (not good condition) but can be driven with a sedan vehicle, up to the lodge where we will be staying. Roads on the farm cannot be driven by sedan vehicle; Pierre has a Landcruizer and will take the group on two drives at a small extra charge. We will spend one day birding in Marakele 14km from the farm, driving up the Kransberg and looking to see the Cape Vultures soaring.

#### **Remember your Wildcard!**

We will also bird on the farm with a good selection of bushveld/savanna birds and African Scops Owllet close by the house having been seen at night. Other specials that could be spotted are: Gurney's Sugarbird, Cape Vulture, Little Sparrowhawk, Greater Honeyguide, Southern Pied Babbler, Sentinel Rock-Thrush, Buff-streaked Chat (very confiding), Wailing Cisticola, Grey Tit-Flycatcher, Striped Pipit, Yellow-throated Petronia, Meyer's Parrot to name just a few.

The farm provides accommodation in a converted farm house for 10 adults in 5 comfortable rooms, each with a bathroom en suite, towels and bedding supplied, air conditioner, two single beds except for room 6 which has a double bed. The kitchen is fully equipped with stove, cutlery, crockery, glasses, pots & pans & bowls, two fridges to share, microwave, it sports all utensils one requires. There is a nice thatched dining room with tables & chairs and a couch, an upper viewing deck, outside a very nice communal braai with firewood included for free. Within viewing distance a floodlit waterhole. All you need to bring is your food and drinks.

**The tariff is R700 pp sharing for the weekend.**

**Booking:** [reservations@blng.co.za](mailto:reservations@blng.co.za)

*Bona Thaba is 250km vanaf Pretoria, 25km buite Thabazimbi en 14km vanaf Marakele Nasionale Park geleë, ongeveer waar die Kwaggavlakte begin.*

*Dit bestaan uit 'n 800 Ha wildsplaas, 60% berg en heuwels, diggeboste klowe, graniet koppies en 'n grot waar vlermuise voorkom, en 40% vlakke – tipiese Bosveld habitat met suur en soet grasveld. Die plaas bied die moontlikheid vir voetslaan sowel as voëlkyk te voet. Stapskoene is 'n vereiste. Die laaste 11km is op 'n grondpad (is ietwat rof) maar kan met 'n sedan motor gery word tot by die lodge op die plaas. Die plaaspaai is nie met 'n sedan motor begaanbaar nie; Pierre het 'n Landcruizer en sal ons teen 'n klein ekstra fooi op twee ritte neem. Ons sal een dag in Marakele voëls kyk, 14km vanaf die plaas en die Kransberg uitrusty en probeer om die Aasvoëls te sien swerf.*

#### **Onthou jou Wildcard!**

*Ons sal ook op die plaas voëls kyk waar 'n goeie verskeidenheid bosveld/savanna spesies te sien is. Verlede jaar het ons snags naby die huis 'n Skopsuil opgemerk. Ander spesiale voëls wat moontlik ook gesien kan word:*




*Rooiborsuikervoël, Kransasvoël, Kleinsperwer, Groot Heuningwyser, Witkatlagter, Langtoonkliplyster, Bergklipwagter (baie mak), Huiltintinkie, Waaiertertvlieëvanger, Gestreepte Koester, Geelplekmossie, Bosveldpapegaai om net enkele te noem.*

**Akkomodasie** bestaan uit 'n omgeboude plaashuis met slaapplek vir 10 volwassenes in 5 gerieflike kamers, elk met 'n badkamer en suite, handdoeke en beddegoed, lugversorger, twee enkelbeddens behalwe kamer nr. 6 wat 'n dubbelbed het. Die kombuis is ten volle toegerus met stoof, eetgery en breekware, glase, potte, panne en bakkies, twee yskaste vir gemeenskaplike gebruik, mikrogolf en alle ander nodige toerusting. Daar is 'n lekker grasdak eetkamer met tafels en stoele en gemakstoele, en met trappe op na 'n uitkyk-dek. Buite is 'n gemeenskaplike braai met vuurmaakhout gratis ingesluit. Daar is 'n nabygeleë waterpunt met 'n spreling. Al wat u moet bring is kos en drinkgoed.

**Die tarief vir die naweek is R700 pp wat deel.**

**Besprekings:** [reservations@blng.co.za](mailto:reservations@blng.co.za)

## MAY / MEI

 <b>Sat 05 May – Bishop Bird Park</b>
<b>Meet / Ontmoet:</b> 07:00
<b>Leader / Leier:</b> Alta Fraser
 083 652 2929
 <a href="mailto:alta.fraser2@gmail.com">alta.fraser2@gmail.com</a>
<b>SABAP2 Pentad(s):</b> 2550_2805

Bishop Bird Park is a small urban bird sanctuary which has open grassland interspersed with clumps of woodland. The Park has a short and

easy birding route with an amazing amount of birds to be found like the Tawny-flanked and Black-chested Prinia, Spotted Thick-knee, Spotted Flycatcher, Rattling Cisticola, Willow Warbler, Southern Boubou, Garden Warbler, European Bee-eater and African Grey Hornbill.

**Directions:** From the N1 south take the M19/ John Vorster offramp and turn left towards the Centurion Mall Shopping Centre. After a few robots turn left at the free left turn onto Lenchen Avenue M27. Continue for a few kilometres until the Old Johannesburg Road is crossed and Lenchen becomes Estcourt Avenue up to the T-junction. Turn left into Theuns van Niekerk Street. Pass the Wierda Glen Estate. Turn right into Roosmaryn's Place (it's the 4<sup>th</sup> street on your right), continue to the entrance of Bishop Bird Park at the end of the street.

**We meet in the parking area.**

**Reservations:** [reservations@blng.co.za](mailto:reservations@blng.co.za)

*Bishopsvoëlpark is 'n klein voëlpark met oop grasveld gemeng met bome en bosveld.*

*Die spesies wat verwag kan word is: Bruinsy- en Swartbandlangstertjie, Dikkop, Geelbeklyster, Gewone Fret, Swart- en Witpensuikerbekkie, Blouvalkie, Diederikkie. Die voëlpark is klein met 'n maklike staproete en 'n groot aantal voëls wat gevind kan word, onder andere die Hofsanger, Suidelike Waterfiskaal, Tuinsanger, Grysneushoringvoël, Europese Vlieëvanger, Bosveld Tinkinkie en Europese Byevreter.*

**Aanwysings:** Vanaf die N1 suid neem die M19/ John Vorster-afrig en draai links na Centurion Mall Winkelsentrum. Na 'n paar robotte draai links by 'n glijbaan in Lenchenlaan M27. Ry oor die Ou Johannesburgpad waar Lenchenlaan Estcourt word. Ry aan tot by die T-aansluiting. Draai links in Theuns van Niekerkstraat. Ry verby die Wierda Glen Estate. Draai regs in Roosmaryn's Place (dit is die 4<sup>de</sup> straat aan die regterkant). Ry tot by die ingang van Bishopvoëlpark aan die einde van die straat. **Ons ontmoet in die parkeerarea.**

**Besprekings:** [reservations@blng.co.za](mailto:reservations@blng.co.za)

○ Sat 05 May –

**Bird Ringing at Bishop Park**

**Meet / Ontmoet:** To be confirmed at RSVP

**Leader/ Leier:** Marina Pienaar

☎ 072 108 0111

Join the ringers for a morning of extreme close up birding without binoculars. Bring your chair, hat, refreshments and birding books along. Please book before Friday 12:00 by SMS, so that the leader can notify you if the outing needs to be cancelled. Ringing sessions could be cancelled due to a sudden change in weather like rain or strong wind.

**The handling of nets and birds may only be done by a qualified ringer.**

*Sluit aan by die ringers vir 'n oggend se leersame pret. Kom kyk hoe lyk die voëltjies van naby sonder 'n verkyker. Bring 'n stoel, hoed, voëlboek en verversings saam. Bespreek asb. voor Vrydagmiddag 12:00 per SMS sodat die leier jou in kennis kan stel as die uitstappie dalk gekanselleer word. Dit gebeur soms dat die ringsessie afgestel moet word a.g.v. skielike weersveranderinge soos reën of sterk wind. **Die hantering van nette en voëls mag slegs deur 'n gekwalifiseerde ringer gedoen word.***

☾ **Tue 08 May – EVENING MEETING**  
**Birdstrike Avoidance programme by**  
**Melissa Whitecross**

Bird strikes are a significant threat to flight safety worldwide, and have caused a number of accidents.

Melissa Whitecross from Birdlife South Africa (BLSA) will be presenting a talk on the Birdstrike Avoidance programme at OR Tambo and the collaboration between Birdlife South Africa and Airports Company of SA (ACSA).



*Voëls in vlug is wêreldwyd 'n groot probleemvir lugrederye en die veiligheid van hul passasiers. Melissa Whitecross van Birdlife SA praat oor die samewerking tussen BLSA en ACSA om hierdie probleem hok te slaan.*

📍 **17-20 May – Camelroc weekend**  
**- Lesotho & Golden Gate -**  
**NB. \* REMEMBER YOUR PASSPORT \***

<http://www.camelroc.co.za/>

**Leader / Leier:** André Marx

☎ 083 411 7674

✉ [turaco@telkomsa.net](mailto:turaco@telkomsa.net)

Situated on the border of Lesotho and South Africa just outside Fouriesburg at the Caledonspoor Border. Facing the spectacular sandstone hill with the outcrop shaped as a camel's head (giving it its name) is this tranquil farm with glorious views of the Maluti Mountains.

**Camelroc** is situated between the two Caledon rivers and is close to Caledonspoort border post. Camelroc, definitely recommended as a good base from which to explore the Eastern Free State as well as Lesotho.

This exceptionally scenic Golden Gate national park is most famous for its spectacular geology, although it also offers excellent **highland birding**. Most of the avian specials can be found, a short distance from the roads, although the birder with the time and energy to explore the area on foot will be handsomely rewarded.

**Special birds include** Red-winged Francolin, Black-rumped Buttonquail, Ground Woodpecker, Cape Eagle-Owl, Blue Korhaan, Blue Crane, Lammergeier, Cape Vulture, Verreaux's Eagle, Black Stork, Southern Bald Ibis, Drakensberg Rock-jumper, Sentinel Rock-Thrush, Buff-streaked Chat, Gurneys' Sugarbird, Greater Double-collared Sunbird, Yellow-breasted and African Pipits, and Drakensberg Siskin.

**Lesotho** (montane habitat) **specials** include plenty of endemics (to the region). Top birds are Drakensberg Rockjumper, Bearded Vulture, Drakensberg Siskin, Rufous-chested Sparrowhawk, Sickle-winged Chat, Mountain Pipit, African Rock Pipit, Grey Tit, Fairy Flycatcher, Layard's tit-Babbler etc.

**Directions:** Camelroc Guest Farm, The Poplars, Farm: 199, Caledonspoort, Fouriesburg, 9725  
Decimal Degrees:

Latitude : -28.6932, Longitude : 28.2394

Degrees, Minutes, Seconds:

S28 41' 35.1" E28 14' 23.4"

Degrees, Decimal Minutes:

S28 41.585' E28 14.390'

**Cost: Three nights (weekend)**

\* **Chalet - R1 045pp sharing,**

\* **Camping - R200pp**

**Reservations:** [reservations@blng.co.za](mailto:reservations@blng.co.za)

*Geleë op die grens van Lesotho en Suid-Afrika net buite Fouriesburg by die Caledonspoort Grenspos. Kyk uit oor die aanskoulike sandsteenheuwel met n rotsuitsteeksel wat lyk soos 'n kameel se kop (vandaar die naam), is hierdie rustige plaas met sy pragtige uitsigte van die Malutberge. **Camelroc** is geleë tussen die twee Caledonriviere en is naby die Caledonspoort grenspos. Camelroc kan definitief aanbeveel word as "n goeie basis van waar ons die Oos-Vrystaat sowel as Lesotho kan verken.*

*Golden Gate, die buitengewoon pragtige nasionale park, is beroemd vir sy aanskoulike geologie, maar bied ook uitstekende hoogland voëlkyk. Meeste van die **spesiale voëlsoorte** kan naby die paaie gevind word, alhoewel die*

*voëlkyker met die tyd en energie om die gebied te voet te verken, ryklik beloon sal word.*

**Spesiale voëls** sluit in die Rooivlerkpatrys,

Swartrugkwarteltjie,

Grondspieg, Kaapse

ooruil, Bloukorhaan,

Bloukraanvoël,

Lammergeier,

Kransaasvoël,

Witkruisarend,

Grootwartoelievaar,

Kalkoenibis,

Oranjoborsberglyster,

Langtoonkliplyster,

Bergklipwagter,

Rooiborssuikervoël,

Groot-rooibandsuikerbekkie, Geelbors- en

Klipkoesters, en Bergpietjiekaniere.

**Lesotho** (berg habitat) **spesiale voëls** sluit in heelwat soorte wat endemies aan die gebied is,

bv. Oranjoborsberglyster, Lammergeier,

Bergpietjiekaniere, Rooiborsspierwer,

Vlaktespekvreter, Bergkoester, Klipkoester, Piet-

tjouw-tjouw-grysmees, Feevlieëvanger, Gryssterikitt,

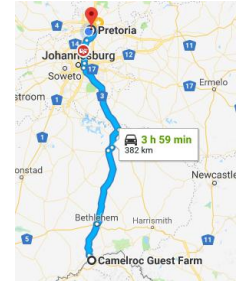
ens.

**Koste: Vir die naweek (drie nagte)**

\* **Chalet** – R1 045 pp wat deel,

\* **Kampering** - R200 pp.

**Besprekings:** [reservations@blng.co.za](mailto:reservations@blng.co.za)



<b>🌟 Wed 23 May – Rooodeplaas Dam NR</b>
<b>Meet / Ontmoet:</b> 07:00
<b>Leader / Leier:</b> Adele van Vuuren
☎ 083 750 1200
✉ <a href="mailto:adeleenfrans@gmail.com">adeleenfrans@gmail.com</a>
<b>SABAP2 Pentad(s):</b> 2535 2820

This outing should have a good mix of bushveld and waterbirds. Birding will be done by car, some moderate walking and viewing from the bird hides.

**Directions:** From the N1 north take the R513 Sefako Makgatho (old Zambesi) offramp and turn right towards Cullinan. Continue for about 6 km and then turn left to Kameelfontein (not Kameeldrift). After ± 3.7 km turn left and follow the dirt road to the entrance. Pay your fees (per person and per car) and meet your leader just inside the gate. Please bring your goodies for a bring-and-braai (remember some charcoal or wood).

**Booking:** [reservations@blng.co.za](mailto:reservations@blng.co.za)

*'n Kombinasie van water- en bosveldvoëls. Ons gaan voëltygies kyk per motor, te voet (matige stap) en vanuit die voëlskuilings.*

**Aanwysings:** Vanaf die N1 noord, neem die R513 Sefako Makgatho-afrit (ou Zambesi). Draai regs na Cullinan. Na ongeveer 6 km draai links na Kameelfontein (nie Kameeldrift nie). Na 3.7km draai links en volg die grondpad vir 500 m tot by die hek. Betaal die fooie (per persoon en per voertuig) en ontmoet die leier net binne die ingangshek.

Bring gerus goed saam vir 'n bring-en-braai na die uitstappte (onthou hout of houtskool).

**Bespreking:** [reservations@blng.co.za](mailto:reservations@blng.co.za)

☼ <b>Sun 27 May – Hoogland Health Hydro</b>
<b>Meet / Ontmoet:</b> 06:30
<b>Leader / Leier:</b> Philip Calinikos
☎ 082 602 1346
<b>SABAP2 Pentad(s):</b> 2550 2825
<b>Venue contact number:</b> 012 380 4000

Hoogland situated on a private Nature Reserve has an interesting diversity of woodland and grassland. It is wellknown for Short-toed Rock-Thrush, but Striped and Long-billed Pipit, Bar-throated Apalis and Lazy Cisticola can also be seen.

**Directions from Pretoria East:** (33km, about 45 minutes). Take Solomon Mahlangu Drive (old Hans Strydom) / M10 west, towards Centurion. Continue for 15.7km past Hoërskool Waterkloof. Take the R55 right, towards Pretoria West. Continue for 4.1km. Turn left into the M26 towards Erasmia. Continue for 2.6 km. Turn right into Gray Street, continue into Van Melle, over 2 traffic circles. Drive on a dirt road for 6.8km. Turn left at the Hoogland sign. Continue for a further 2.6km to the **parking area (meet here)**.

The entrance cost will be R40 per person.

**Booking:** [reservations@blng.co.za](mailto:reservations@blng.co.za)

*Hoogland is geleë in 'n privaat natuurresewaat met 'n interessante verskeidenheid gras- en bosveld habitate. Die area is welbekend vir Korttoonklyplyster, maar Bandkeelkleinjantjie, Nicholsonse Koester en Luitinkintjie kan ook gesien word.*

**Aanwysings vanaf Pretoria-Oos** (33km, ongeveer 45 minute): Neem Solomon Mahlangu Weg (old Hans Strydom) / M10 weswaarts na Centurion. Ry verder vir 15.7km verby Hoërskool Waterkloof. Draai regs op die R55 na Pretoria-Wes. Hou aan vir 4.1km. Draai links op die M26 na Erasmia. Ry verder vir 2.6km. Draai regs in Graystraat in en gaan voort in Van Melle, oor 2 verkeersirkels. Ry verder op 'n grondpad vir 6.8km. Draai links by die Hoogland-teken. Ry verder vir nog 2.6km tot by die **parkeerplek (ontmoet hier)**.

Toegangskoste is R40 per persoon.

**Besprekings:** [reservations@blng.co.za](mailto:reservations@blng.co.za)

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The **African Black Oystercatcher** has landed at "Shop for the Birds!". Get your Bird of the Year 2018 pin badges, buffs, t-shirts and, coming soon, our African Black Oystercatcher fluffies. Visit us at 17 Hume Rd, Dunkeld West, Johannesburg, or email Bianca Hare at [shopforthebirds@birdlife.org.za](mailto:shopforthebirds@birdlife.org.za) to order. Be the first to get your Bird of the Year 2018 merchandise!



## FORTHCOMING EVENTS



### Notes

Please ensure you keep in touch through e-mail Alerts, BLNG Facebook and BLNG Website to confirm club outings and possible program updates!



## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

### How to make a booking

All camps, courses and special events must be booked with our club secretary, Rita de Meillon at [reservations@bing.co.za](mailto:reservations@bing.co.za) or telephone: 012 807 4002.

### 🕒 Bird Ringing

Ringing starts at dawn and usually lasts until about midday on the first Saturday of each month. Everyone welcome, please RSVP with the leader.

### 🕒 Evening Meetings

Usually held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of each month starting at 19:00. Afterwards tea is served – donations welcome. All meetings are held at the Greek Orthodox Church, Roper Street.

### 🌞 Day Outings

We start early so bring along a breakfast basket, something to drink and a chair. Braai facilities are available at certain venues. Entrance fees are sometimes payable.

### 🏕️ Weekend Camps

Accommodation ranges from basic camping to fairly luxury accommodation. Full payment is required to confirm your booking. Payments should be made by direct transfer or deposit with your surname as reference. Please do not make any deposits without first booking with the club secretary. Bookings and enquiries should preferably be made via e-mail. Please bring firewood or charcoal along to every camp.

### 🌐 SABAP2 pentads

Mapping the distribution and abundance of birds in South Africa, Lesotho and Swaziland. For additional information please visit the SABAP2 website at: <http://sabap2.adu.org.za/>

### ♿ Accessibility

Almost all venues have dirt roads, which are usually accessible with normal sedan vehicles. Often birding is on foot. Comfortable walking shoes are advisable.

### 👨‍🦉 Junior Birders

Families are welcome at all outings.

### 👥 Non-members

Non-members accompanied by members are always welcome. For weekend outings and courses, an administration fee of **20%** of the camp costs are payable.

## BYKOMENDE INLIGTING

### 🗨️ Hoe om te bespreek

Alle besprekings vir kampe, kursusse en spesiale geleenthede moet asb. by Rita de Meillon, ons klubsekretaresse gemaak word by [reservations@bing.co.za](mailto:reservations@bing.co.za) of telefoon 012 807-4002.

### 🕒 Voëlberinging

Voëlberinging begin teen sonop en duur tot vroegmiddag, gewoonlik die eerste Saterdag van elke maand. Bespreking by die ringleier is nodig.

### 🕒 Aandbyeekomste

Word gewoonlik gehou op die 2de Dinsdag van elke maand om 19:00. Tee word na die vergadering bedien – donasies welkom. Die vergaderings word by die Grieks Ortodokse Kerk in Roperstraat gehou.

### 🌞 Daguitstappies

Ons begin gewoonlik vroeg, so bring ōn ontbytmandjie, iets om te drink en 'n stoel saam. Braaigeriewe is by party plekke beskikbaar. Toegangsfooie is soms betaalbaar.

### 🏕️ Naweekkampe

Akkommodasie wissel van basiese kampering tot redelike luukse akkommodasie. Volle betaling word verlang om sodoende besprekings te bevestig. Betaling moet deur direkte oorpasing of deposito gemaak word met jou van as verwysing. Moet asb nie betaal voordat jy dit met die klubsekretaresse bespreek het nie. Besprekings en navrae moet verkieslik d.m.v. e-pos geskied. Bring asseblief hout saam na elke kamp.

### 🌐 SABAP2 atlasblok

Kartering van die verspreiding en ryke verskeidenheid van voëls in Suid-Afrika, Lesotho en Swaziland. Vir addisionele inligting besoek asb die SABAP2-webtuiste by: <http://sabap2.adu.org.za/>

### 🚗 Toeganklikheid

Omtrent al die voëlkykplekke is op grondpaaie, wat toeganklik is met normale sedanmotors. Voëlkyk word meestal per voet gedoen. Ons beveel gemaklike stapskoene aan.

### 👨‍🦉 Junior Voëlkykers

Gesinne is altyd welkom by uitstappies.

### 👥 Nie-lede

Nie-lede wat 'n lid vergesel is altyd welkom om enige geleentheid by te woon. Naweekkampe se administrasiefooie is **20%** van die kampkoste.

### Greek Orthodox Church / Griekse Ortodokse Kerk

**Directions for evening meetings** : Greek Orthodox Church, corner of Roper Street and Lynnwood Road, Brooklyn. It is across the road from University of Pretoria. Entrance is from Roper Street. Limited parking if the entrance is used in Brooks Street.

**Aanwysings vir aandbyeekomste** : Griekse Ortodokse Kerk, hoek van Roperstraat en Lynnwoodweg, Brooklyn. Dit is oorkant die straat van die Universiteit van Pretoria. Ingang is vanaf Roperstraat. Daar is beperkte parkering as die ingang wat in Brooksstraat geleë is gebruik word.