



BirdLife Northern Gauteng Gauteng-Noord

Your birding partner of choice!

Club Programme: OCTOBER 2019 to JANUARY 2020

* Please note that this programme is available on the BLNG website.

Klubprogram: OKTOBER 2019 tot JANUARIE 2020

* Neem asb kennis dat hierdie program op die BLNG webblad beskikbaar is.



HIGHLIGHTS

- October (25-27) : Eagle's Nest (LIM)
- November (12-14) : Garingboom [Springfontein] (FS)
- November (15-18) : Port Alfred (EC)
- December (13-16) : Vredefort Dome & The Vaal River
- January (24-26) : Qôdesh (LIM)

October Oktober	2019 to tot	January Januarie	2020
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BLNG Quizz evening – Jason Boyce			
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○ Bird ringing / Voëlberinging			
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Dear fellow BLNG birders,

So we're past the winter months and we're already looking forward to the next day outings and other special events! Make sure you're prepared and your getaway is planned and booked with BLNG. Herewith **your** latest program to assist in planning for the coming months of October 2019 until January 2020.

The seasons are changing and the temperature is rising. **It's finally Spring!** It's time to start putting away your winter warmers, break out your shorts and flip-flops and go exploring and get outside! If you haven't been on a BLNG outing or a BLNG camp in a while because the coolness of Winter doesn't quite float your boat, you should definitely start planning an outing or getaway today! BLNG has a great selection of day outings, camps and other special events planned for you to choose from, so get going!

There are many benefits to be gained from being part of BLNG, such as access to birding outings, fascinating nature-based talks **and** building new friendships with like-minded nature/bird lovers. Thank you for your support to some of BLNG's outings, camps and special events during the past quarter, during some rather cold mornings. Some wonderful BLNG experiences are shared in the recent *Laniarius* #140!

Forthcoming camps are highlighted on the front page (also browse the index to the left).

Want to play your part in conservation? BirdLasser makes it easy to share your observations with the relevant cause authorities – giving them a better understanding of our birds, their habitat changes and the effect on their wellbeing. On the flip side, if you believe our users' observation data can help your cause, contact us and let's see if we can get your cause to benefit as well. **Help us track South Africa's Secretarybirds in 2019!**



Date : Saturday, 23 November 2019

Detailed particulars of the year-end function will be provided by means of a BLNG alert!

Birding regards / Voëlkygroete
Sheleph Burger
082 925 4005 / (012) 996 0753

OKTOBER / OCTOBER

☼ Sat 05 Oct – Voortrekkermonument

Meet / Ontmoet: 06h00

Leader / Leier: Prof. Willem Boshoff

SABAP2 Pentad(s): 2540_2810

Come and join us for a walk around the reserve which surrounds this historical site. The habitats include gardens, woodland and grassland. Species include Southern Boubou, Arrow-marked Babbler, White-throated Robin-Chat, Jamesons Firefinch, Long-billed Crombec and Yellow-fronted Canary and Verreaux's Eagle. You will also have the opportunity to join the ringers at the same site. 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.

Entrance fees:

Per adult [R80], children and pensioners [R40].

Booking: 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, Pylvekkatlagter, Witkeel-janfrederik, Bosveldtjeriktit, Jamesonse Vuurvinkie, Bosveldstompstert en Geeloogkanarie asook die Witkruisarend. Jy sal ook die geleentheid kry om by die ringers 'n draai te maak. Bring saam water, stoele en verversings.

Aanwysings: *By die Fonteinesirkel, 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.

Toegangsfooie: Volwassenes [R80], kinders en pensioenarisse [R40].

Besprekings: reservations@blng.co.za

○ Sat 05 Oct –

Bird Ringing at Groenkloof NR

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 12h00 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 12h00 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 Oct - EVENING MEETING

19h00 at Greek Orthodox Church, c/o Roper St. & Lynnwood Road, Brooklyn

Further is not necessarily better by Dirk Maartens Human

Dirk is a Pretoria resident with a long-standing interest in birding and bird atlasing. He will be speaking on why local birding is essential and how we can all contribute to collecting and sharing knowledge. Why further is not necessarily better - there is so much to see virtually on our doorstep! Discover what is hidden in our municipal reserves - exploring these local reserves often yields special and exciting bird species.

Verder is nie noodwendig beter nie deur Dirk Maartens Human

Dirk is 'n inwoner van Pretoria en stel reeds lank belang in voëlkyk en die voëlatlas. Hy sal praat oor waarom dit noodsaaklik is om plaaslik voëls te kyk en hoe ons almal kan bydra om kennis te versamel en te deel. Ook waarom dit nie noodwendig beter is om ver te gaan soek nie terwyl daar soveel op ons voorstoep te sien is. Ontdek wat weggesteek is in ons munisipale reservate – verkenning van hierdie plaaslike reservate lewer dikwels spesiale en opwindende spesies.

⚙ Sat 12 Oct – Colbyn Wetland
Meet / Ontmoet: 05h45
Leader / Leier: Philip Calinikos
☎ 082 602 1346
✉ conservation@blng.co.za
SABAP2 Pentad(s): 2540_2815

Although everyone is welcome at this outing, we'd like to extend a special warm welcome to all our **new members** during this outing. Come along and meet some BLNG committee members, as well as our regular members.

The Colbyn Wetland Nature Reserve has as its focal point the wetland that surrounds the Hartebeesspruit adjacent to the suburbs of Colbyn and Hatfield. The wetland also contains an ancient peatland and is bordered on its northern side by quartzitic ridges. This varied habitat supports many bird species and has in the past been a favourite bird ringing venue for our club. Over 140 species have been recorded in and around the wetland. The Friends of Colbyn Valley has been established to assist with the conservation of the area and this will be an opportunity for us to assist them with the updating of the bird list for the area. Recent additions to the list have been Orange-breasted Waxbill, Half-collared Kingfisher and Marsh Owl. The outing will primarily involve walking in the wetland and along the Hartebeesspruit.

Directions: Turn north into Kilnerton Road out of Stanza Bopape Street (formerly Church Street). Travel past the Colbyn Golf Park and look for a dirt road leading to the right off Kilnerton Road, directly after the Golf Park fence and before the bowling club fence. If you pass the Colbyn Bowling Club you have gone too far. Follow the dirt road until it ends in the parking area outside the Colbyn Scout Hall. **Meet at 05h45 at the Scout Hall gate.**

Booking: reservations@blng.co.za

*Alhoewel almal welkom is by hierdie uitstappie, wil ons graag al ons **nuwe lede** hartlik by hierdie uitstappie verwelkom. Kom saam en kom ontmoet sommige BLNG komiteelede asook ons gereelde klubede. Die Colbyn Vleiland Natuurreservaat het as sy fokuspunt die vleiland wat die Hartebeesspruit omring aangrensend aan die voorstede Colbyn en Hatfield. Die vleiland bevat ook 'n ou veenland en word aan sy noordekant begrens deur kwartsietriwwe. Hierdie variërende habitat onderhou baie voëlspesies en was in die verlede 'n gewilde voërlingplek vir ons klub. Meer as 140 spesies is aangeteken in en rondom die vleiland. Vriende van die Colbynvallei is gestig om die bewaring van die area te ondersteun en hierdie sal 'n geleentheid vir ons wees om hulle by te staan met die opdatering van die voëllys van die gebied. Onlangse byvoegings tot die lys is spesies soos die Rooiassie, Blouvisvanger en Vlei-uil. Die*

uitstappie sal hoofsaaklik bestaan uit stap deur die vleiland en langs die Hartebees- spruit.

Aanwysings: Draai noord in Kilnertonweg vanuit Stanza Bopapestraat (voorheen Kerkstraat). Ry verby die Colbyn Gholfpark en voordat die Rolbalkklub bereik word. Indien daar verby die Rolbalkklub gery word, is die ontmoetingspunt gemis. Volg die grondpad tot waar dit doodloop in die parkeerarea van die Colbyn Scout Hall. **Ontmoet om 05h45 by die hek van die Colbyn Scoutsaal.**

Besprekings: reservations@blng.co.za

⚙ Wed 16 Oct – Northern Farm
Meet / Ontmoet: 06h45 for 07h00
Leader / Leier: André Marx
☎ 083 411 7674
✉ turaco@telkomsa.net
SABAP2 Pentad: 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 R114 (a new off-ramp) Eldoraigne/Diepsloot off-ramp. Turn left and pass the shopping mall on the left. Cross the 3-way stop and proceed to the next stop street. Turn right until you find the signpost to Northern Farm Turn. Turn right at the Northern Farm sign onto a dirt road that takes you to the farm entrance. Proceed to the car park where the group will gather before driving from there.

Entrance fee payable to the leader (not at the gate).

Booking: reservations@blng.co.za

Northern Farm Natuurreservaat (ook bekend as Diepsloot NR) is een van Johannesburg se beskermde geheime en bied meer as 1400ha variërende habitat wat grasveld, boerderygrond, 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 R114 Eldoraigne/Diepsloot-afrit. Draai links op die R114 en gaan verby die inkoopiesentrum op linkerkant. verby. Gaan oor die drie-rigting stop en draai regs by die volgende stopstraat. Draai regs op die grondpad by die Northern Farm teken. Ry deur die hek en ontmoet by die parkeerplek.

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

Besprekings: reservations@blng.co.za

📅 Sat 19 Oct – Borakalalo
Meet / Ontmoet: 07:00
Leader / Leier: Shaun McGillewie
☎ 083 586 4124
✉ shaunmcgillewie@gmail.com
SABAP2 Pentad(s): 2515_2725; 2520_2725

Borakalalo offers a large variety of bushveld birds and has yielded many interesting sightings over the years. Klipvoor Dam provides additional habitat for many waterbirds. Braai facilities available. An entrance fee is payable.

Directions: From the N1 north, turn left onto the N4 to Brits. Exit at the Brits turn-off. Turn right towards Brits on the R511. At the 4-way junction with the Rosslyn Road (R566), turn right towards Rosslyn. After approximately 5 km turn left to Lethlabile. Drive straight for about 38 km to a T-junction. Turn right to Jericho and after 1 km left to Legonyane. Drive through Legonyane and follow the signs to Borakalalo (look out for turn-off to left about 8 km from park). Total distance is about 120 km. There is an entrance fee. Meet in the parking area on the left hand side just inside the main gate.

Booking: reservations@blng.co.za

Borakalalo huisves 'n groot verskeidenheid Bosveldvoëls en het baie interessante waarnemings oor die jare opgelewer. Klipvoordam bied addisionele habitat vir baie watervoëls. Braaifasiliteite beskikbaar. Toegangsfooi is betaalbaar.

Aanwysings: Vanaf die N1 noord, draai links op die N4 na Brits. Neem die Brits-afrif. Draai regs na Brits op die R511. By die 4-rigting kruising met die Rosslyn-pad (R566), draai regs na Rosslyn. Na ongeveer 5 km draai links na Lethlabile. Ry reguit aan vir omtrent 38 km tot by 'n T-aansluiting. Draai regs na Jericho en na 1 km links na Legonyane. Ry deur Legonyane en volg die tekens na Borakalalo (kyk uit vir 'n afdraai aan die linkerkant ongeveer 8 km van die park af). Die totale afstand is ongeveer 120 km. 'n Toegangsfooi is betaalbaar. Ontmoet in die parkeerarea aan die linkerkant net binne die hoofhek.

Besprekings: reservations@blng.co.za

📅 Sun 27 Oct – LC de Villiers Sports Grounds Maximum 8 pax
Meet / Ontmoet: 07:00
Leader / Leier: Niel Cillie
☎ 076 189 5717
✉ nei@gameparksublishing.co.za

MAX 8

Just south-west of the N1-N4 interchange and within walking distance from the University of Pretoria, LC's open lawns, picnic areas and small dams offer good birding in a safe, relaxed environment. There is a stream that runs through the property with two significant dams with islands where Egret and Heron breeds. There are also the experimental farmlands. The dam is on the northern section of the sports grounds where a picnic lunch can be enjoyed. Previously the following birds were seen, ie Green-backed Heron; Sacred Ibis; Egyptian Goose; Little Egret, Common Moorhen, Southern Red Bishop, Black-headed Heron, Grey Heron, Cattle Egret, Little Swift, Tawny-flanked Prinia, African Darter, Reed Cormorant, Woodland Kingfisher, Greater Striped Swallow, Bronze Mannikin, Laughing Dove, Cape Turtle Dove, Black-collared Barbet, Crested Barbet, Karoo Thrush, African Hoopoe, Rock Dove, White-winged Widowbird, Mallard, Cape Robin-Chat, Red-faced Mousebird, Helmeted Guineafowl, Green Wood-Hoopoe, Glossy Ibis, Crowned Lapwing and Thick-billed Weaver. Peregrine Falcons and other raptors eye the obese Feral Pigeons from the high faculty buildings. The day will be spent with Niel finding Raptors, his passion birds! On previous occasions, Niel has seen 34 different raptor species!

Directions: From the N1, take the M6 Lynnwood offramp, travel westwards for approximately 3.7km and turn right into the M7 Duncan Street. At the second set of traffic lights turn right (east) into South Street to reach the main entrance. Meet at Hatfield Montessori Preschool, 1307 South Street, Hatfield.


Booking: reservations@blng.co.za

Net suid-wes van die N1-N4 wisselaar en binne loopafstand van die Universiteit van Pretoria bied LC de Villiers se sportgronde oop grasperke, piekniek areas en klein damme goeie voëlkyk in 'n veilige, ontspanne omgewing. Daar is 'n stroom wat deur die eiendom loop, met twee damme met eilande waar reiers broei. Daar is ook die eksperimentele landerye. By die dam op die noordelike deel van die sportterrein kan 'n piekniek middagete geniet word. Die volgende voëls is reeds vroeër hier gesien, nl. Groenrugreier, Skoorsteenvoër, Kolgans, Kleinwitreier, Grootwaterhoender, Rooivink, Swartkopreier, Bloureier, Veerier, Kleinwindswael, Bruinsylangstertjie, Slanghalsvoël, Rietkormorant, Bosveldvisvanger, Grootstrepeswael, Gewone fret, Lemoenduijie, Rooikophoutkapper, Kuifkophoutkapper, Geelbeklyster, Hoephoep, Tuinduif, Witvlorklap, Groenkopeend, Gewone janfrederik, Rooiwangmuisvoël, Gewone tarentaal, Rooibekkekelaar, Glansibis, Kroonkiewiet en Dikbekwewer. Swerfvalke en

ander roofvoëls bekyk die stadsduiwe uit die hoë fakulteitsgeboue. Die dag sal spandeer word met Niel om die voëls waarvoor hy 'n passie het n. Sperwers, te vind.

Aanwysings: Vanaf die N1, neem die M6 Lynnwood afdrit, ry weswaarts vir ongeveer 3.7 km en draai regs in die M7 Duncanstraat. Draai regs(oos) by die tweede stel verkeersligte in Suidstraat in om die hoofingang te bereik. Ontmoet by Hatfield Montessori Preschool, 1307 South Street, Hatfield

Besprekings: reservations@blng.co.za

 Oct 25-27 – Eagle's Nest
BLNG meets at 15h00 at Sasol Rosehaven North (N4 towards Balmoral)
Leader / Leier: André Marx
✉ reservations@blng.co.za
SABAP2 Pentad: 2550_2855
SABAP2 Pentad: 2535_2900
SABAP2 Pentad: 2540_2900
SABAP2 Pentad: 2545_2900
SABAP2 Pentad: 2545_2855
SABAP2 Pentad: 2545_2835

Adjacent to Ezemvelo Nature Reserve, the scenic game Lodge, Eagle's Nest (Kranspoort area) overlooks the Wilgeriver Bullnose Bend. The Lodge is accessed by arrangement through an Ezemvelo servitude.

The area offers birders an interesting mix of species from both grassland and woodland habitats. Extensive areas of open grassland as well as rocky ridges with indigenous woodland and spongy vleis. The Wilgeriver with its associated quiet backwaters, rapids, pools and extensive reedbeds also provide very good birding. The area has large areas of rocky slopes and impressive cliffs. Some specials include Black-throated Canary, Bronze Mannikin, White-fronted Bee-eater, White-throated Swallow, Rufous-naped Lark, Mocking Cliff Chat, Orange-breasted Bushshrike, Brubru, Pale Flycatcher, Violet-backed Starling, Black-headed Oriole, Golden-tailed Woodpecker, African Pipit, Black-crowned Tchagra, Wing-snapping Cisticola, Levaillant's Cisticola, Banded Martin, Northern Black Korhaan, Orange River Francolin, Cinnamon-breasted Bunting, Greater Kestrel, Namaqua Dove, Black-chested Snake Eagle, and Spur-winged Goose. October is good for White-bellied Bustard [Barrow's Korhaan], as they engage in territorial calling this time of the year.

Directions:

Leave Pretoria on the N4 towards Balmoral.

NB. At 15h00, all parties meet at Sasol Rosehaven North. From here the group will

leave to Eagle's Nest [access only by appointment].

Accommodation Different options are available. More details will be provided by Rita after bookings have been received.

Cost: R1 280pp sharing for the weekend. Dinners included.

Booking: reservations@blng.co.za



Eagle's Nest (Kranspoort area) wat uitkyk oor die Wilgeriver Bullnose Bend, is aangrensend aan Ezemvelo Natuurresewaat. Toegang tot Eagle's Nest word verleen met toestemming deur 'n Ezemvelo servituut.

Die gebied bied aan voëlkykers 'n interessante mengsel van beide grasveld- en woudspesies. Groot areas is oop grasveld met rotsriwwe sowel as inheemse bosse en sponsagtige vleie. Die Wilgerivier met sy stil dele, versnellings, poele en uitgebreide rietbeddings bied baie goeie voëlkyk. Die gebiede het groot gebiede met rotsagtige hellinge en indrukwekkende kranse. Sommige spesiale soorte sluit in Bergkanarie, Gewone fret, Rooikeelbyevreter, Witkeelswaal, Rooineklewerik, Dassievoël, Oranjeborsboslaksman, Bontroklaksman, Muiskleurvlieëvanger, Witborsspreew, Swartkopwielewaal, Goudstertspieg, Gewone koester, Swartkroontjagra, Kleinste kloppoppie, Vleitinkinkie, Gebande Oewerswaal, Swartkorhaan, Kalaharipatrys, Klipstreepkoppie, Grootrooivalk, Namakwadui, Swartborsslanbgarend en Wildemakou. Oktober is goed vir Noordelike Witpenskorhaan [Barrow's], wanneer hulle territoriale roepe hierdie tyd van die jaar gehoor kan word.

Aanwysings: Vertrek uit Pretoria op die N4 na Balmoral. **NB. Teen 15h00, moet al die groepe by Sasol Rosehaven Noord ontmoet. Die groep sal hiervandaan vertrek na Eagle's Nest [toegang slegs deur middel van die gasvrou].**

Akkommodasie: Verskeie opsies is beskikbaar. Sal later deur Rita gefinaliseer word nadat besprekings ontvang is:

Koste: R1 280pp wat deel vir die naweek. Aandetes ingesluit.

Besprekings: reservations@blng.co.za

NOVEMBER

☼ Sat 02 Nov – Moreleta NR
Meet / Ontmoet: 06h00
Leader / Leier: Dirk Human
☎ 082 412 0320
✉ reservations@blng.co.za
SABAP2 Pentad(s): 2545_2815

Join us for an exciting morning with Dirk Human, a keen Moreleta birder!

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 familiar 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, Neddicky and Lesser Honeyguide. In the past, Red-chested Flufftail has been seen closeby to the birdhide. **Moreleta NR is an excellent SABAP2 pentad birding venue! In previous years, a total of 137 species were seen in this pentad!**

Toilet facilities are now available on the route. 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 (previously known as Hans Strydom) / Lois Ave / Rubenstein Dr, turn into Rubenstein Dr and continue until one comes to the intersection with Helios street. Turn left into Helios and continue along Helios with the nature reserve on your left. Parking is available on the right after entering the gate.

Meet in the parking area.

Booking: reservations@blng.co.za

Sluit by ons aan vir 'n oggend se voëlkyk saam met Dirk Human, 'n voëlkyker wat passievol is oor voëlkyk in Moreletapark!

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. Die volgende spesies kan ver wag word, nl. Geelbeklyster, Muisvoëls, Gewone Mossie, Indiese spreeu, Fiskaallaksman, Gewone Tarentaal, Kuifkophoutkapper, Bruinsylangstertjie, Neddikkie en Kleinheuningwyser. In die verlede is Rooiborsvleikuiken al opgemerk naby die voëlskuiling! **Vir SABAP2 atlasblok (pentad) voëlkykdoeleindes, is Moreleta NR uitstekend! In vorige jare was daar reeds 'n totaal van 137 spesies gesien!** Toiletfasiliteite is op die roete beskikbaar. 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 (voorheen Hans Strydom) met Lois/Rubenstein, draai in by Rubenstein in tot by die kruising met Heliosstraat. Draai links in Heliosstraat met die reservaat aan die linkerkant. Parkering is op die regterkant sodra toegang verleen is by die hek. **Ontmoet in die parkeerterrein.**

Besprekings: reservations@blng.co.za

☉ Sat 02 Nov - Bird Ringing at Moreleta 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 12h00 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.
<i>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 12h00 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 nette en voëls mag slegs deur 'n gekwalifiseerde ringer gedoen word.</i>

⚙️ Tues 5 Nov – Sleep-over @ Wolfhuiskraal ⚙️ Wed 06 Nov – Zaagkuildrif
Meet / Ontmoet: 06h00
Leader / Leier: Thinus van Staden
SABAP2 Pentad(s): 2505_2845, 2505_2850

According to *Birding in Gauteng* the legendary Zaagkuildrif 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 27km² 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. During our stay, birding will take place along the road to Kgomo-Kgomo and at Wolfhuiskraal farm.

The stay-over fee at Wolfhuiskraal for those who wishes to make use of this opportunity is R240 per person per night.

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 'Zaagkuildrif'. Proceed for approximately 13km on this road until you get to the gate of Wolfhuiskraal on your right. We meet at the Wolfhuiskraal bushcoamp.

Booking: reservations@blng.co.za

Volgens *Birding in Gauteng* loop die legendariese Zaagkuildrifpad 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 27km² kortstondige vloedvlakte wat vergelyk kan word met die beter bekende Nylvloedvlakte. 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 Sprinkansanger te sien in die laat somer. Ons sal langs die pad en oppad na

Kgomo-Kgomo voëls kyk, asook op Wolfhuiskraal Vir diegene wat sal oorslaap, beloop die koste R240 per persoon per nag.

Aanwysings: Ry noord vanaf Pretoria op die N1 en neem die Pienaarsrivier/Rust de Winter-afrif. Draai links by die T-aansluiting en na 700m draai regs op die R101. Ongeveer 1km verder draai links op die gruispad gemerk 'Zaagkuildrif'. Ry vir ongeveer 13km op hierdie pad tot by die hek van Wolfhuiskraal op jou regterkant.

Ontmoet by Wolfhuiskraal boskamp.

Besprekings: reservations@blng.co.za

⚙️ Son 10 Nov – Calabash @ Wonderboom Agri Holdings
Meet / Ontmoet: 07h00
Leader / Leier: Rihann Geysler
☎ 084 293 6128
✉ avifauna@galagoenvironmental.co.za

Calabash offers a great venue for a variety of activities such as birding and walking. Calabash shares their piece of outdoor enjoyment to the public to host their own fun/family days. The venue is equipped with open design roof structure, braai facilities, toilets and preparation area.

Directions: From Wonderboom Nature Reserve, turn right onto Lavender Rd (R101). Use the 2 left lanes to turn left onto Lavender Rd West (R101). Turn left onto Lavender Rd (R101). Turn right onto Erras Street. Turn right at the 1st cross street onto Melt Marais St. Turn right onto Rooiwal Street.

Meet at 145 Rooiwal Street.

Booking: reservations@blng.co.za



Calabash bied 'n verskeidenheid aktiwiteite soos voëlkyk en stap. Calabash deel hulle plek in die natuur met die publiek om buitenshuise pret en familiedae te geniet. Daar is 'n oop struktuur met 'n dak, braaifasiliteite, toilette en voorbereidingsarea.

Aanwysings: Vanaf Wonderboom Natuurrerservaat, draai regs in Lavenderweg (R101). Gebruik die 2 linkerkantste bane om links te draai in Lavenderweg Wes (R101). Draai links in Lavenderweg (R101). Draai regs in Errasstraat. Draai regs by die eerste kruising in Melt Maraisstraat. Draai regs in Rooiwalstraat. Ontmoet by 145 Rooiwalstraat.

Besprekings: reservations@blng.co.za

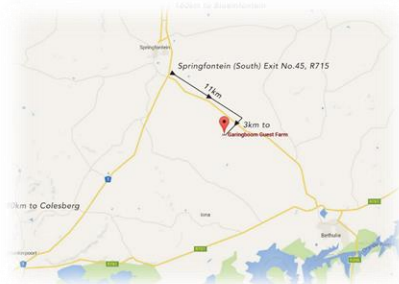
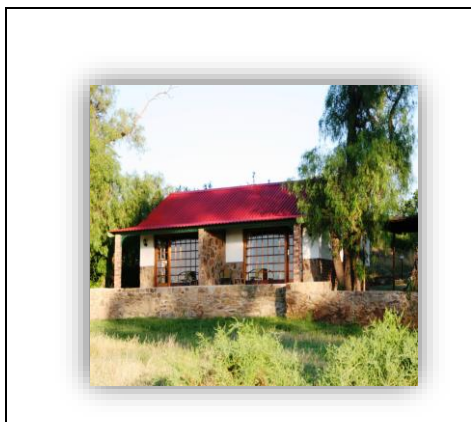
☾ **Tue 12 Nov – EVENING MEETING**
19h00 at Greek Orthodox Church, c/o
Roper St. & Lynnwood Road, Brooklyn

Lightning by Prof. Ryan Blumenthal

Ryan is a senior specialist forensic pathologist at the University of Pretoria's Department of Forensic Medicine. His chief field of interest is the pathology of trauma of lightning (keraunopathology). Ryan will highlight the following: lightning medicine as a component of wilderness medicine, wilderness medicine forms part of environmental health issues, along with other severe weather threats to life and property. This is very topical if one looks at what is happening with regards to climate change internationally. How can one avoid being struck - be aware of the risks and be equipped with essential life-saving knowledge when one is out birding or enjoying other outdoor activities.

Weerlig deur Prof Ryan Blumenthal

Ryan is 'n senior spesialis forensiese patoloog by die Universiteit van Pretoria se Forensiese Medisyne. Sy belangrikste veld van belangstelling is die patologie van die trauma van weerlig. (keraunopatologie). Ryan sal die volgende uitlig; weerlig medikasie as 'n komponent van wildernes medisyne vorm deel van omgewings-gesondheidsprobleme, saam met ander ernstige weerbedreigings vir lewe en eiendom. Dit is 'n belangrike onderwerp as 'n mens dink aan wat gebeur met betrekking tot klimaatsverandering internasionaal. Hoe kan 'n mens keer om nie deur weerlig raakgeslaan te word nie – wees bedag op die risikos en wees toegerus met essensiële lewensreddende kennis wanneer 'n mens buite besig is om voëls te kyk of buitelig aktiwiteite te geniet.



[GARINGBOOM BIRDING CHECKLIST available from Rita de Meillon]

Bird-watching, as well as Dragonfly- and Butterfly-spotting, is a regular request with over 180 species of birds recorded on the farm. Riëtte is a knowledgeable and experienced "birder" with a passion for nature and is locally known for the rescue and rehabilitation of injured raptor birds. During a recent visit by Neithard Graf von Dürcheim, the following species were recorded, ie South African Shelduck, SA Cliff Swallow, Rufous-eared Warbler, Spike-heeled Lark, Large-billed Lark, African Quail-Finch, Melodious Lark, Blue Crane, Blue Korhaan, Eastern Clapper Lark, Pink-billed Lark, Grey-backed Sparrow-Lark, Sicklewinged Chat, Desert-, Cloud-, Levallant's Cisticolas, Orange-river White-eye, Yellow Canary, Lark-like Bunting en natuurlik Long-billed Pipit, EN Burchell's Coarser by Bethulie. During his two day visit, he recorded more than 100 species! **Therefore, two days will be set aside for birding at Garingboom and surrounds before departing for Port Alfred (our final destination (522km / 5hr 22min from the farm; via N10).**

Accommodation: Three nights (12-14 November 2019) in 5 cottages. More details will be provided by Rita after bookings have been received.

🏠 12-14 Nov –
Garingboom B&B Guest Farm
[Springfontein]
en route to Port Alfred (EC)
S30.22.254 E025.48.476
NB. BLNG RADIOS

Co-ordinator / Koördineerder :
Rita de Meillon

Guide / Gids: Riette Griesel

☎ 082 900 9888

✉ aloe@vodamail.co.za

**Combinded cost – incl. My Pond Hotel
(Port Alfred): R4 200pp sharing (breakfasts
and dinners included).**

Directions: Garingboom B&B Guest Farm is an eco-friendly Karoo sheep farm situated in the Southern Free State. The farm is 150km south of Bloemfontein on the N1 and at exit no 45 only 11km on the R715 towards Bethulie.

Booking: reservations@blng.co.za

[GARINGBOOM VOËLLYS BESIKBAAR BY Rita de Meillon]

Voëlyk sowel as naaldekker en skoenlapper-soek, is 'n gereelde versoek, met 180 voëlsoorte reeds aangeteken op die plaas. Riëtte is 'n kundige en ervare voëlyker met 'n passie vir die natuur en is plaaslik bekend vir die red en rehabilitasie van beseerde roofvoëls. Gedurende 'n onlangse besoek deur Neithard Graf von Dürchein, is die volgende spesies aangeteken nl. Kopereend, Familieswael, Rooioorlangstertjie, Vlaktelewerik, Dikbeklewerik, Gewone kwartelvinkie, Spotlewerik, Bloukraanvoël, Bloukorhaan, Hoëveldklappertjie, Pienkbeklewerik, Rysruglewerik, Vlaktespekvreter, Woestynkloppie, Gevlekte kloppie, Vleitinkie, Garpeglasogje, Geelkanarie, Vaalstreepkoppie Nicholsonse koester, EN Bloukopdrawwertjie by Bethulie. Gedurende sy tweedaagse besoek het hy 100 spesies aangeteken!

Daarom sal daar twee dae opsy gesit word vir voëlyk by Garingboom en omgewing voordat ons sal vertrek na Port Alfred (ons eindbestemming (522km / 5hr 22min vanaf die plaas; via N1.


Akkommodasie:

Drie nagte (12-14 November 2019) in 5 huisies. Volledige besonderhede sal deur Rita verskaf word nadat besprekings ontvang is.

Gekombineerde koste – insluitend My Pond Hotel (Port Alfred): R4 200pp wat deel (ontbyt en aandete ingesluit.

Aanwysings: Garingboom B&B Gasteplaas is "n ekovriendelike Karoo skaapplaas geleë in die Suid-Vrystaat. Die plaas is 150km suid van Bloemfontein op die N1 en by uitgang no 45 slegs 11km op die R715 na Bethulie.

Besprekings: reservations@blng.co.za


15-18 Nov – Port Alfred NB. BLNG RADIOS
Co-ordinator / Koördineerder : Rita de Meilon
Guide / Gids: Tim Cockcroft FGASA ACCREDITED STEP-ON GUIDE WITH OVER 30 YEARS BIRDING EXPERIENCE
A born and bred Eastern Cape man, Port Alfred resident Tim Cockcroft has had an enthusiasm and passion for birds since late 1984. Fast-forward to today: Tim is best known in local circles for his ability to recognise bird calls and when leading his birding tours, his skills are put to good use. He knows the area well and can take the client to some beautiful secret birding spots that not everybody would get to see otherwise.
☎ 072 314 0069
✉ reservations@blng.co.za

**BIRDING ON THE SUNSHINE COAST,
EASTERN CAPE.**

The indigenous forests of Alexandria through to the Great Fish River, and inland to Bathurst are biodiversity rich, with 5 of the 7 biomes found here. Coastal areas, estuaries and wetlands provide an excellent feeding ground for waders, whilst rivers, riverine and coastal bush support many species. The richest habitats are savanna and grassland. Over 400 bird species have been recorded through the years, with many specials and migrant birds. The coastal zone has an abundance of wetlands and estuaries emanating from 10 rivers. Riverine forest, unique Eastern Cape fynbos, valley thickets and sub-tropical thickets provide for many species. The breathtaking scenery adds to the charm of the area. The following habitats will be explored, ie Valley Thicket, Eastern Cape Fynbos, Savannah and Grasslands and Freshwater Pans. For an **unforgettable birding experience on the sunshine coast**, join BLNG on this event!

Accommodation: Three nights (15-18 November 2019) at MyPond Hotel, a beautiful 4 star boutique hotel situated on the banks of the Kowie River in

Port Alfred. MyPond is operated by one of the most prestigious Hotel Management Schools on the African continent: Stenden South Africa. As a guest you may therefore expect excellent service standards and warm and dedicated hospitality in a beautiful setting.



Directions: 4h 37min (431 km) via N10
From Colesberg drive 4.7km. Follow N9 and N10 to Eastern Cape (253 km). Take R350 to N2 in Grahamstown (115 km). Continue on N2 to R67. Take the R67 exit from N2 (2.2 km). Follow R67 to Van Der Riet St in Port Alfred (55.4 km)
MyPond Hotel - 33 Van Der Riet St, Port Alfred.

Combined cost – incl. Garingboom (Springfontein): R4 200 pp sharing (breakfasts and dinners included).

Booking: reservations@blng.co.za

VOËLKYP OP DIE SONSKYNKUS, OOS-KAAP.
Die inheemse woude van Alexandra tot by die Groot Visrivier, en binnelands na Bathurst is ryk aan biodiversiteit, met 5 van die 7 biome wat hier gevind word. Kusgebiede, riviermondings en vleilande bied uitstekende voedingsgebiede aan waadvoëls, terwyl riviere, oewerbos en kusbosse baie spesies onderhou. Die rykste habitats is savanne and grasveld. Meer as 400 voëlspesies is aangeteken deur die jare, met baie spesiale soorte en swerwers. Die kusgebied het 'n groot aantal vleilande en riviermondings afkomstig van 10 riviere. Oewerwoude, unieke Oos-Kaapse fynbos, valleiruigtes asook subtropiese ruigtes voorsien voedsel aan baie spesies. Die asemrowende natuurskoon dra by tot die aantreklikheid van die gebied. Die volgende habitats sal besoek word, nl. valleiruigtes, Oos-Kaapse fynbos, savanne, grasvelde en varswater-panne. Vir 'n onvergeetlike voëlkykervaring aan die sonskynkus, sluit aan by BLNG vir hierdie spesiale gebeurtenis!

Akkomodasie

Drie nagte (15-18 November 2019) by MyPond Hotel, 'n pragtige 4 ster boutique hotel geleë op die walle van die Kowierivier in Port Alfred. MyPond word bestuur deur een van die beste Hotelbestuurskole op die Afrika-kontinent: Stenden South Africa. As 'n gas kan jy dus

uitstekende diens en warm, toegewyde gasvryheid in 'n pragtige omgewing verwag.

Aanwysings: 4h 37min (431 km) via N10
Vanaf Colesberg ry 4.7km. Volg N9 en N10 tot in die Oos-Kaap (253 km). Neem R350 na N2 in Grahamstown (115 km). Bly op die N2 na R67. Neem die R67 uitgang vanaf die N2 (2.2 km). Volg die R67 na Van Der Rietstraat in Port Alfred (55.4 km)

MyPond Hotel - Van Der Rietstraat 33, Port Alfred.
Gekombineerde koste – insluitend Garingboom B&B Gasteplaas (Springfontein).

Koste: R4 200pp wat deel vir die naweek.

Besprekings: reservations@blng.co.za

 23 Nov 2019

YEAR-END FUNCTION 2019
FAK Liedtjietuin
Voortrekker Monument
Meet / Ontmoet: 12h00

Come and enjoy a relaxed picnic at the "Afrikaanse Liedtjietuin" with BLNG, and your fellow birders and friends. A braai, with salads and of course a desert will be the day's menu! Bring your own meat and drinks for the day, as well as your chair, hat and maybe a beach umbrella. This is going to be a very fine yearend function! Therefore, book your place ASAP!

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 Liedtjietuin (look out for the FAK sign board). Entrance fee will be R20 per car.

Booking: reservations@blng.co.za

Ontsnap en kom ontspan by die Afrikaanse Liedtjietuin vir 'n rustige en ontspannende piekniek saam met BLNG, jou voëlkykvriende, en diegene naby aan jou. BLNG beplan 'n baie lekker program vir die dag. 'n Lekker

braai, met slaaie en, natuurlik met heerlike nageregte word beplan! Bring jou eie vleis en drinkgoed vir die dag, as ook jou gemakstoel, hoed en moontlik 'n strandsambree! Hierdie gaan 'n uitstekende BLNG jaareindfunksie wees! Bespreek NOU jou plek!!

Aanwysings: *By die Fonteinesirkel, neem die uitgang na Proklamasie Heuvel en Centurion. Hou in die heel regterkantse 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.*

Toegang sal R20 per motor wees.

Besprekings: reservations@blng.co.za

dedicated BirdLasser Birding Big Day event page

<https://www.birdlasser.com/events/bbd2018>

All teams to register with BLSA. A donation of minimum R300 per team is required to qualify for a BirdLife South Africa Birding Big Day 2018 cloth badge. Teams can enter one of two categories: the Open Category if they comprise up to four members, or the Community Category, which caters for large groups such as bird clubs. There are great prizes to be won and much fun to be had, all in the name of bird conservation! For more information about BBD please visit <http://birdlife.org.za/events/birding-big-day>

Sommige BLNG lede en spanne gaan hierdie jaar aan die BLSA Birding Big Day (BBD) 2019 deelneem om sodoende hierdie projek te ondersteun.

*Die 2019 Birding Big Day (BBD) sal plaasvind op **Saterdag, 30 November 2019**. Verlede jaar het 'n duisend voëlkykers 654 spesies oor die hele land aangeteken, en sodoende kosbare fondse en data vir voëlbewaring gegeneer. Hierdie jaar hoop ons om hierdie rekord te oortref, met meer spesies aangeteken, meer fondse ingesamel en meer mense wat 'n aangename dag in die natuur kan geniet. BBD is vir almal, van die nuweling tot die mees toegewyde voëlkykers. Jy kan deelneem in jou plaaslike park of natuurreservaat, of maak 'n naweek daarvan en besoek een van Suid-Afrika se baie gewilde voëlkykplekke. Voëlkykers vorm spanne en teken al hulle waarnemings binne 'n 24 uur periode aan, deur gebruik te maak van die **BirdLasser** Toep of 'n lys. **Speel saam deur jou data op BirdLasser in te voer!** Spanne word uitgenooi om al hul waarnemings op die mobiele Toep BirdLasser te log en dit te deel met die toegewyde BirdLasser gebeurtenis bladsy*

<https://www.birdlasser.com/events/bbd2018>.

*Alle spanne moet registreer by BLSA. 'n Minimum donasie van R300 per span word vereis om te kwalifiseer vir die BirdLife South Africa Birding Big Day 2018 lapwape. Spanne kan inskryf vir een van **twee kategorieë**, die **Oop Kategorie** vir spanne bestaande uit op tot vier lede, of die **Gemeenskapskategorie** vir groot groepe soos voëlklubs. Behalwe dat dit prettig kan wees, kan groot pryse gewen word, alles in die naam van voëlbewaring! Vir meer inligting gaan na:-*

<http://birdlife.org.za/events/birding-big-day>

*** 30 Nov 2019**

Birding Big Day 2019



Some BLNG members and teams will participate in order to support the BLSA Birding Big Day (BBD) 2019 initiative.

The 2019 edition of Birding Big Day (BBD) will take place on **Saturday, 30 November 2019**. Last year more than a thousand birders recorded 654 species across the country, and in doing so raised valuable funds and data for bird conservation. This year we hope to break those records, with more species recorded, more funds raised for conservation and more people experiencing a fun day in nature.

BBD is for everyone, from novice to the most dedicated birders. You can take part in your local park or nature reserve, or make a weekend of it and head to one of South Africa's many popular birding destinations. Birders form teams and log all their sightings within a 24-hour period, using either the BirdLasser mobile app or a checklist.

Play along by entering your data on BirdLasser!

Teams are invited to log their sightings on the mobile app BirdLasser and share it to the

DESEMBER / DECEMBER

☼ Sat 07 Dec Faerie Glen NR

Meet / Ontmoet: 07h00

Leader / Leier: Prof Willem Boshoff

SABAP2 Pentad: 2545_2815

Join BLNG at Faerie Glen NR for a morning walk. A tea basket with something to eat, and a chair is a good idea. An entrance free of R11 is payable. There are toilet facilities at the gate. The reserve is well-known for good summer birding with several interesting species regularly present. Black Duck, Red-throated Wryneck and Brown-backed Honeybird have been seen before.

Directions: From the N1/N4 interchange, travel south on the N1 towards Atterbury road. Take the M11 Atterbury road off ramp and turn left. Continue past the Menlyn Shopping centre and turn left into January Masilela Drive (old Genl Louis Botha). Drive approx 1 km – reserve is sign posted on the right hand side.

Bookings: reservations@blng.co.za

Sluit aan by BLNG vir 'n heerlike oggend uitstapjie by Faerie Glen NR. 'n Piekniekmandjie met iets om te eet en 'n stoel sal 'n goeie idee wees. Toegang van R11 is betaalbaar en daar is toiletfasiliteite by die ingang. Die natuurresewaat is bekend vir sy somervoëls wat gereeld gesien word by Swarteend, Draaihals en Skerpbekheuningvoël.

Aanwysings: Vanaf die N1/N4 wisselaar, ry suid op die N1. Neem die M11 Atterbury-afrit en draai links in Atterburyweg. Ry verby die Menlyn-winkelsentrum en draai links in January Masilela-rylaan (ou Genl Louis Botha) – 1km verder is die resewaat se aanwysingsbordjie op regterhand.

Besprekings: reservations@blng.co.za



☉ Sat 07 Dec Bird Ringing at Rietvlei Dam

Meet / Ontmoet: To be confirmed at RSVP

Leader / Leier: Frik du Plooy

☎ 064 651 3755

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 12h00 with the leader to find out meeting time and location details. 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 12h00 jou plek per SMS sodat die leier jou in kennis kan stel van die begintyd en ontmoetingsplek. Ringsessies kan ook gekanselleer word as daar skielike weersveranderinge soos reën of sterk wind is. Die hantering van nette en voëls mag slegs deur 'n gekwalifiseerde ringer gedoen word.

🏰 13-16 Dec :

Vredefort Dome & The Vaal River

Co-ordinator / Koördineerder :

Rita de Meillon

GPS koördinate:-

S 26° 53.079

O 27°30.003

Meet / Ontmoet:

Friday afternoon at the venue

Leader / Leier: Jan Fourie (local guide / plaaslike voëlgids) [Feathers Bird Club]

email jan.fourie.tours@gmail.com

☎ 082 891 7163

The 'Dome' has a fascinating geological history as the site of the largest known crater impact event, leading to its declaration as a World Heritage Site in July 2005. Central to the region is the meandering Vaal River. Parts of the World Heritage Site feature dramatic hills and rock outcrops where Mocking Cliff-Chat and Verreaux's Eagle appear. The Dome is by far the best place in the region to see the **localized Orange River White-eye**. During summer the daily species count is ±100 with 32 endemics. Many of the specials are present all year, but October - March is the most productive time for birding as the whydahs are in breeding plumage, the cuckoos are vocal and many migrants are present.

BLNG as acquired and arranged the services of Jan Fourie (well known birder from Parys) for both days, ie Saturday and Sunday. Members are welcome to bird on their own on Monday in the vicinity and wetland before returning home.

Directions:

From either Pretoria or Johannesburg, take the N1 towards Bloemfontein. Go left at exit 498 towards the R59 Parys/Sasolburg road. Turn right over the bridge. Continue for 15km. Just after passing the aerodrome, follow the Vaal Eden gravel road. After 400m keep left for 2.5km against the palisade fencing. Turn left at entrance to Udolpho at the Telkom tower.

Accommodation: Udolpho Parys

Homes Mooifontein and Trek Ferreira. Rita will allocate after bookings have been received.

Cost: R950 per person for three nights (self catering).

Bookings: reservations@blng.co.za

Die Vrededorp-koepel het 'n boeiende geologiese geskiedenis. Dit is een van die grootste impakkraters op Aarde, wat daartoe gelei het dat dit as 'n Wêrelderfenisterrein verklaar is in Julie 2005. Sentraal tot die streek is die kronkelende Vaalrivier. Dele van die Wêrelderfenisterrein bevat dramatiese heuwels en rotsuitsteeksels waar Dassievoëls en Witkruisarende voorkom. Die Koepel is verreweg die beste plek in die streek om die gelokaliseerde Gariëpglasogie te sien. Gedurende die somer is die daaglikse spesie telling ±100 met 32 endemiese soorte. Baie van die spesies is die hele jaar teenwoordig, maar Oktober – Maart is die mees produktiewe tyd vir voëlkyk wanneer paradysvinke in broeidrag is, koekoek roep en baie trekvoëls teenwoordig is. Die dienste van Jan Fourie (bekende voëlkenner van Parys) is vir beide Saterdag en Sondag gereël. Lede kan Maandag (voor daar huiswaarts gekeer word) op hul eie stoom voëls kyk in die vleiland en omgewing.

Aanwysings: Vanaf Pretoria of Johannesburg, neem die N1 na Bloemfontein. Gaan links by uitgang 498 na R59 Parys/Sasolburgpad. Draai regs oor die brug. Ry aan vir 15km. Net nadat jy verby die lughawe is, volg die Vaal Eden gruispad. Na 400m hou links vir 2.5km langs die palissadeheining. Draai links by die ingang na Udolpho by die Telkomtoring.

Akkommodasie: Udolpho Parys. Rita sal die finale indelings doen nadat besprekings ontvang is.

Koste: R950 per persoon vir drie nagte (selfsorg).
Besprekings: reservations@blng.co.za

2020

JANUARIE / JANUARY

☼ Sat 11 Jan – Wonderboom NR

Meet / Ontmoet: 07h00

Leader / Leier: Juan van den Heever

☎ 092 453 5927

SABAP2 Pentad: 2540_2810

Come and see Pretoria's very own **Verreaux's Eagle** pair in the heart of our suburbs. The mountainous Wonderboom NR that is situated on the banks of the Apies river offers birders a host of bushveld and rockloving species including 14 endemics. The key species that we will be looking for the **resident breeding pair of Verreaux's Eagle**. Other species include Striped Pipit, Peregrine Falcon, Ayer's Hawk- Eagle, African Green Pigeon, Cape Rock-Thrush, Streaky-headed Seed-eater and several other bushveld birds and Raptors that soar overhead. Variable fitness levels can be accommodated. There will be an opportunity to join the ringers at the same site.

Bring along water, chairs and refreshments.

Directions: From Fountains Circle, take Christina De Wit Ave/M18, Pretoria Main Rd and Es'kia Mphahlele Dr/M1 to Reigers Ave in Roseville. Drive to and meet at **Lombaard St.**

Entrance fees: Adults [R37], school children [R21 and pensioners [R24].

Booking at reservations@blng.co.za

*Kom kyk na Pretoria se eie paar **Witkruisarende** in die hart van ons voorstede. Die bergagtige Wonderboom Natuurresewaat, geleë op die walle van die Apiesrivier bied voëlkykers 'n groot aantal bosveld en rotsliewende spesies insluitend 14 endemiese soorte. Die belangrikste spesies waarvoor ons gaan uitkyk is die **broeipaar Witkruisarende**. Ander spesies sluit in die volgende, nl. Gestreepte koester, Swerfvalk, Kleinjagarend, Papegaaiduif, Kaapse kliplyster, Streepkopkanarie en verskeie ander bosveldvoëls en roofvoëls wat oorvlieg. Verskeie fiksheidsvlakke kan geakkomodeer word. Daar sal ook 'n geleentheid wees om by die ringers 'n draai te maak.*

Bring saam water, stoele en verversings.

Aanwysings: Vanaf Fonteinestreek, neem Christina De Wit Ave/M18, Pretoria Main Rd en Es'kia Mphahlele Dr/M1 na Reigers Ave in Roseville. **Ontmoet by Lombaardstraat.**

Toegangsooie: Volwassenes [R80], kinders en pensioenarisse [R40].

Besprekings: reservations@blng.co.za

○ Sat 11 Jan – Bird Ringing at Wonderboom NR

Meet / Ontmoet: To be confirmed at RSVP

Leader / Leier: Madeleen van Loggerenberg

☎ 083 413 0879

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 12h00 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 12h00 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 nette en voëls mag slegs deur 'n gekwalifiseerde ringer gedoen word.***

Weekend Camp: 24-26 Jan : Qôdesh

Leader / Leier: Philip Calinikos

☎ 082 602 1346

www.qodesh.za.org/directions/from-tshwanepretoria/



The owner of Qôdesh camping site on the banks of the Wilge river, has agreed to organize access to all the adjacent farms in the Wilgeriver Valley. Bird species abound in the area where Higveld, Lowveld and Bushveld regions seem to overlap. The Wilgeriver Valley has always produced a number of very special birds, including Finfoot, Mountain Wagtail, Olive Woodpecker, Southern Bald Ibis, African Goshawk, Black Sparrowhawk, Lanner Falcon, Brown Snake Eagle, Striped Pipit, Crowned Eagle and White-bellied Bustard at the nearby Renosterkop.

BLNG will be booking Camp sites at Qôdesh, More details will be communicated closer to the time.

Cost: R500 per person for the weekend.
Booking: reservations@blng.co.za

Directions: Please use the GPS coordinates provided here, as most GPS navigators will take you on the wrong route!

You have 2 gravel roads that you can choose from:

1. The shorter, more scenic road (used on a daily basis). Start at the N1/N4 crossing and follow the N4 towards Witbank in an Easterly direction for approximately 56km. Take the 2nd Bronkhorstspruit off-ramp i.e. "R25 Groblersdal, Bronkhorstspuit, R42 Delmas" at GPS coordinates: 25°49'09.3"S 28°44'37.6" E (-25.819246, 28.743774)
 Turn left onto the R25 in the direction of Groblersdal. Follow the R25 towards Groblersdal for 25 km from Bronkhorstspuit
 Turn right to Zusterstroom at GPS coordinates 25°38'41.1"S 28°53'17.0" E(-25.644764, 28.888045) Follow the road, 4km tar, then 10km gravel. Turn right at the Qodesh sign board at GPS coordinates: 25°36'30.1" S 29°00'31.6" E(-25.608375, 29.008778) Follow the farm track and you are there.

☾ Tue 14 Jan – EVENING MEETING
 19h00 at Greek Orthodox Church, c/o Roper St. & Lynnwood Road, Brooklyn

Jason Boyce will lead the "2020 BLNG Kick-off Quiz" with a fun-filled interactive evening. Come and get your rusted birding brains back into gear after the long December holidays and join the very exciting BLNG Quizz. Interesting prices are on offer.

Jason Boyce sal die jaar afskop met 'n gesellige vasvra, die baie opwindende "2020 BLNG Kick-off Quizz". Kom neem deel om te verseker dat julle daardie geroeste breine na die lang en lekker Desember vakansie vinnig terug in rat kry. Interessante pryse kan gewen word.

Die eiensaars van die kampterrein, Qôdesh aan die oewer van die Wilgerivier gaan vir ons toegang reël tot die plase in die Wilgerivier vallei omgewing. Die Wilgerivier vallei het alreeds hierdie jaar 'n groot aantal baie spesiale voëls opgelewer, onder meer Watertrapper, Bergkwikkie, Gryskopspeg, Kalkoenibis, Afrikaanse Sperwer, Swartspewer, Edelvalk, Gestreepte Koester, Kroonarend en die Witpenskorhaan by die naby geleë Renosterkop, BLNG gaan kamppekke bespreek by Qôdesh. Meer inligting oor hierdie naweekkamp sal later aan die tyd bekend gemaak word.

Koste: R500 per persoon vir die naweek.
Bespreekings: reservations@blng.co.za

<p>☼ Sun 19 Jan – Suikerbosrand LIMIT OF 10 CARS / MAX 10 MOTORS NB. RADIOS</p>
<p>Meet / Ontmoet: 07:00</p>
<p>Leader / Leier: Cleo Artemides</p>
<p>☎ 083 626 1733</p>
<p>SABAP2 Pentad(s): 2625_2810; 2625_2815; 2630_2810; 2630_2815</p>

This reserve is predominately Highveld grassland with rocky outcrops so it offers a number of species which are not normally seen on club outings. This outing will consist of driving along the circular route with frequent stops. Picnic and braai facilities are available. The following entrance fees are payable:- R22 per adult / R11 per pensioner/child / R11 per vehicle.

Directions: Take the N3 south beyond Johannesburg towards Heidelberg. Take the R550 off ramp. After approximately 3km turn left onto the dirt road marked Eendracht. Meet here. Total distance from Pretoria is about 100km.


Booking: reservations@blng.co.za

Hierdie reservaat huisves 'n aantal spesies wat nie normaalweg op klubuitstappies gesien word nie, aangesien die gebied hoofsaaklik Hoëveld-tipe grasveld is met rotsagtige riuwe. Die uitstappie sal 'n rit met die sirkelroete behels waartydens dikwels gestop sal word. Piekniek- en braaifasiliteite is beskikbaar.

*Die volgende toegangsfooie is betaalbaar:
R22 per volwassene; /R11 per pensionaris/kind / R11 per voertuig.*

Aanwysings: Neem die N3-suid verby Johannesburg na Heidelberg. Neem die R550 afrit. Na 3km draai links op die Eendracht-grondpad. Ontmoet hier. Totale afstand vanaf Pretoria is ongeveer 100 km.

Bespreekings: reservations@blng.co.za

<p>☼ Wed 22 Jan – Wolvespruit Trail Park</p>	
<p>Meet / Ontmoet: 06h30</p>	
<p>Leader / Leier: Rihann Geyser</p>	
<p>☎ 084 293 6128</p>	
<p>✉ avifauna@galagoenvironmental.co.za</p>	
	<p>Address</p> <p>501 Jochemus Street Cul de sac Erasmuskloof Pretoria next to Kloof Medi-Clini</p> <p>directions GPS -25.81 28.2634</p>

Wolvespruit Trail Park offers a great venue for birding. Wolvespruit Trail Park shares their piece of outdoor enjoyment to the public to host their own birding days. Wolvespruit is located in Erasmuskloof, Pretoria. Named after the spruit that runs through it, the park's handcrafted single track trails provide a flowing route for bird enthusiasts. The trails make full use of the park's topography and offers a perfect place to bird. The park is fully fenced and provides a safe environment to enjoy the outdoors right in the heart of Pretoria east.

At the moment the park has 15km of single track with about 300m of climbing to be done, 8 km of running trails which can also be used for birding. In the next couple of months, the trails will be expanded to a network of circle routes and loops. A restaurant where light breakfast/lunches can be enjoyed afterwards is available. Toilet facilities are available. Those who wish to braai, rather than use the restaurant afterwards, it is R40pp.


Directions: Next to Kloof Hospital.
An entrance fee of R25 is payable.
Meet at the entrance.
Bookings: reservations@blng.co.za

Wolvespruit Trail Park is 'n goeie plek vir Voëlkyk. Wolvespruit Trail Park bied 'n ideale plek aan die publiek om op hulle eie voëlkyk dae te hou. Wolvespruit is geleë in Erasmuskloof, Pretoria. Dit is genoem na die spruit wat daardeur loop. Die

park se enkele handgemaakte pad bied 'n vloeiende roete vir voëltoesiaste. The paadjie maak ten volle gebruik van die park se topografie en bied die perfekte plek vir voëlkyk. Die park is ten volle omhein en bied 'n veilige omgewing om die buitelig te geniet in die hart van Pretoria-oos. Op die oomblik het die park 'n enkel pad van 15km met ongeveer 300m om te klim, 8km hardlooppaadjes wat ook gebruik kan word vir voëlkyk. In die volgende paar maande sal die paadjies ook uitgebrei word na 'n netwerk van sirkelroetes. 'n Restaurant waar ligte ontbyte/middagetes geniet kan word, is beskikbaar asook toiletgeriewe.

Aanwysings: Langs die Kloof Hospitaal.
'n Toegangsfooi van R25 is betaalbaar.
Besprekings: reservations@blng.co.za



BIRD of the Year 2019 - The Secretarybird



HABITAT AND DISTRIBUTION

Secretarybirds live in Africa, south of the Sahara, except in the very wet tropical and extreme desert areas. They prefer grasslands or open savannah, but don't mind semi-desert and scrubland. As long as its mostly open with grass no more than a meter tall so that they can spot their prey. Even though they prefer natural areas, they sometimes make use of agricultural areas where there is an abundance of mice and insects to catch. When they can't find enough food, they simply fly to the next area within their hunting range which can be as large as 60km².

Download all the educational material from BirdLife South Africa's website at <https://www.birdlife.org.za>

Help us track South Africa's Secretarybirds in 2019

BirdLife South Africa has partnered with BirdLasser, a user-friendly app which allows birders to easily capture the location, date and time of a Secretarybird sighting. All of this information assists our conservation team to understand where South Africa's Secretarybirds are surviving and where we should focus our efforts to save these incredible birds. Breeding information can also be submitted via the app and is extremely useful as well. To assist with locating South Africa's Secretarybirds, please send an email to ernst.retief@birdlife.org.za and he will add you to the challenge. You can follow the progress of this challenge at:-

www.birdlasser.com/events/secretaryb2019




#BirdOfTheYear2019: We've hit the 300 mark! As part of our partnership with BirdLasser during 2019 we have asked our fantastic army of citizen scientists to help us keep track of South Africa's Secretarybirds. Over the weekend the number of recorded sightings hit the 300 mark with contributions from 80 observers using the app or sending through coordinates via email.

Keep up the fantastic work and please message us to find out how you can join in the fun too! Well done to all of the observers who have logged their sightings, we appreciate your input and dedication to helping conserve South Africa's Secretarybirds.

#Secretarybird
#BotY2019
#Conservation
#CitizenScience

FORTHCOMING EVENTS



11 February 2020 BLNG AGM & evening meeting
March 2020 Wilton Valley
April 2020 Mopane Bush Lodge [LIM]
22-24 May 2020 FLOCK 2020 – Wilderness, WC  <i>The Annual Gathering of Members of BirdLife South Africa</i> to the Wilderness 2020 <small>Flock to the Wilderness (BirdLife South Africa's AGM weekend) will be held in the Wilderness Hotel, Wilderness, Western Cape, during the weekend of Friday 22 to Sunday 24 May 2020. The AGM will take place on Saturday 23 May (exact time still to be determined), there is also planning a game lunch or dinner on 23 May (more details to follow later). Additional evening activities are planned for the weekend and these will be open in collaboration with BirdLife Northern Cape, Garden Route Club and the Wilderness Lodge. We look to welcoming a large number of our members to wilderness. Details of Flock to the Wilderness will be posted on this webpage as and when they become available.</small>

Note

Please ensure you keep in touch through email Alerts (**is your latest email address recorded with BLNG?**), BLNG Facebook and BLNG Website (see detailed calendar) to confirm club outings, and possible program updates!

BirdLife Northern Gauteng
Your birding partner of choice!



South African Bird Atlas
@SA_birdatlas

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@blng.co.za or by telephone: 083 391 2327.

🕒 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 2nd 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 email. 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@blng.co.za of telefoon 083 391 2327.

🕒 Voëlberinging

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

🕒 Aandbyeenkomste

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 'n ontbytmandjie, iets om te drink en 'n stoel saam. Braaigeriewe is by party plekke beskikbaar. Toegangsfotografie is soms betaalbaar.

🏕️ Naweekkampe

Akkommodasie wissel van basiese kampering tot redelike luukse akkommodasie. Volle betaling word verlang om besprekings te bevestig. Betaling moet deur direkte oorplasing na BLNG se bankrekening 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 administrasiefotografie is **20%** van die kampkoste. **BirdLife Northern Gauteng, Nedbank, Hatfield Takkode/Branch code 160245**
Rekening/Account no 163 401 0531

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 aandbyeenkomste :

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.