



BLiNG WiNGS

Emerald-spotted Wood Dove [Jan van Biljon]

Edition 34 May 2026

CLUB MEETING 12 May

Read all about this humorous and inspiring talk on p. 2.

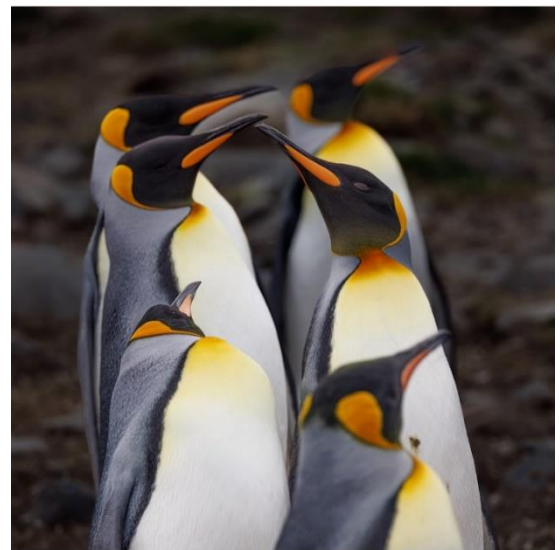


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CLUB MEETING – 12 May

When you see twelve identically outfitted combatants with huge bazookas crammed into a small rubber duck, negotiating stormy winds, ice floes and waves, seemingly about to make a landfall in the frozen wastes, you might think *Navy Seals!* or *SWAT Crack Force!* – but these actually were birders in Antarctica! Never again will anyone convince me that birding is a tame hobby for doddering pensioners. Our speakers, the Bipolère Reisigers, Dr Michael Heyns and Dr Lizanne Barry, really know how to keep life exciting. They visited Antarctica and the North Pole on daring birding expeditions and returned with breathtaking photography and humorous tales. What an enjoyable evening this was!



MABUSA NR – 2 May

This birding jewel has species that make the drive there absolutely rewarding. Top sightings on this outing, guided by Marna Buys, were Red-faced Cisticola, a covey of Shelley's Francolin crossing the road, and Green-capped Eremomela. Add to that Short-toed Rock Thrush, Coqui Francolin and Red-chested Flufftail (heard).



A highlight – Shelley's Francolin [Marna Buys]



White-crested Helmetshrike [Marna Buys]



Red-faced Cisticola [Marna Buys]



[Gerdus Heydenrych]



Green-capped Eremomela [G Heydenrych]



Nicholson's Pipit [Marna Buys]



Emerald-spotted Wood Dove [Marna Buys]



The two rivers in the reserve hold many surprises – Flufftail, White-backed Night Heron and Red-faced Cisticola may show themselves to lucky birders. [Gerdus Heydenrych]

KIMIAD GOLF COURSE – 6 May

Weather reports predicted intermittent rain and soggy paths after the weekend's deluge. The few hardy souls that joined Sheleph Burger on this walk had an enjoyable morning with blue skies and beautiful birds on show. All photographs Wilma van der Merwe.



Reed Cormorant [Wilma van der Merwe]



Goliath Heron [Wilma van der Merwe]



Common Moorhen [Wilma van der Merwe]



ROODEPLAAT NR – 17 May

When Neithard Graf von Dürckheim guides an outing, it seems that multiple waterbirds suddenly appear, even though regional dams are full, and target species obligingly show themselves. So it appears to have been at Roodeplaar NR once again when the group ended the outing with 96 species listed. The Fairy Flycatcher was the Bird of the Day.



[Neithard Graf von Dürckheim]



Burchell's Coucal with a somewhat wind-blown hairdo [Hein Duvenage]



Marico Flycatcher [Hein Duvenage]



Burnt-necked Eremomela [Hein Duvenage]



Little Egret [Hein Duvenage]

HEX RIVER THORNVELD - 24 May

Klaus Schmid summarised this outing: "Thank you, Keanu, for your expert management of the outing, including your patience and identification of sightings. Thank you everybody for the relaxed and friendly company, making for a most enjoyable day (sweets and pancakes included). In the end, the birding itself is always great and sometimes even exciting, especially if lifers are added, but the overall experience in nature with like-minded company is what lingers longest ... "



The highlight of the day - Yellow-throated Sandgrouse [Johan Kampman]



A surprise Grey Tit [Sheleph Burger]



Yellow-throated Sandgrouse (M & F) [Sheleph Burger]

SUIKERBOSRAND NR – 31 May

Suikerbosrand and winter birding are synonyms. And even if the birds hid themselves this time around, the group still saw and heard some 77 birds. The beauty of the reserve, the vistas and the Fairies that came out to play, more than made up for it.



[Matthew Sher]

Birding started on the Eendracht Road before sunrise.



[Johan Botha]



[Laura Jordaan]



With Cleo Artemides, the leader.
[Menno Klapwijk]



Mocking Cliff Chat [Johan Botha]

REGIONAL AND LOCAL RARITIES AND INTERESTING SIGHTINGS

The month of May was characterised by slim pickings in the Rarities section. Possibly, birders relaxed their efforts as the cold crept in, and birds seemed fewer and quieter.

The celebrity of April, the single **Collared Sunbird** at Walter Sisulu Botanical Gardens continued to draw birders during May. A small flock of **Swallow-tailed Bee-eaters** were seen in Ethel Gray Park in Johannesburg (Paula da Cruz) and at Rietondale Farm (Thea Jenkins).

Mabusa NR had a **Red-faced Cisticola** (BLNG group).



Collared Sunbird [Connor Nicholson]



Red-faced Cisticola [Marna Buys]

Michael Johnson had a calling **Water Thick-knee** flying past in Boksburg. Zaagkuil drift had a record of a **Bronze-winged Courser** (Luca Tomlinson).

Deneyville held on to its **Double-banded Courser** and **Pink-billed Larks**.



Double-banded Courser [Sandy Neveling]



Pink-billed Lark [Sandy Neveling]

Photograph of the month

I honestly try to place a limit on choosing Kingfishers as Photograph of the month. But who could not be beguiled by the perfect placement of our subject, using the rule of thirds? Then, note the magnificent natural frame created by the triangle of horizontal perch and diagonal reeds in the background. The third element making this photograph of Hein Duvenage a winner, is colour – the repetition of lilacs and violets in the background enhances the amethyst of the Malachite Kingfisher's crown and beak. The complementary colours of lime and emeralds enhance our subject, and that bold red slash of the beak in the centre. Lastly, the contrasting textures of the rough branch in the foreground versus blurred background emphasise our subject. Congratulations, Hein!



Club meeting – 9 June 2026



Cape Vulture [Ivonne Coetzee]

Alistair Sinclair
VulPro

Come and join us!

PROGRAMME – JUNE 2026



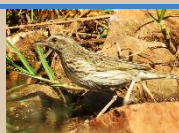
3 – 7 June – Bonamanzi Camp



14 June – Marievale



17 June – Aloe Farm



20 June – Hedianga Farm



27 June – Devon Grasslands

	Membership type	Membership fees	Notes
Main member	Individual Adult	R 405.00	Choose only 1
	Senior Citizen (60+)	R 260.00	
	Student with student card (18-25)	R 195.00	
Family member	Spouse	R 175.00	Choose as many as applicable
	Child 1 (12-18)	R 75.00	
	Child 2 (12-18)	R 75.00	
	Child under 12	Free	

Please note that payments made after March will include pro-rata fees up to February 2027

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