

BLING WINGS



White-bellied Sunbird [Marlou Schalkwyk]

Reflections: Club Meeting: 12 November

Dr Karin Lourens of the Johannesburg Wildlife Veterinary Hospital entertained us with tales of their patients: the charming Marabou and Sad Vlad, the Verreaux's Eagle who became spoiled Vlad who only eats brown rats. The goal of this facility is the treatment, rehabilitation and release of wild animals, reptiles and birds back into the wild.



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OXBOW COUNTRY ESTATE – 17 NOVEMBER

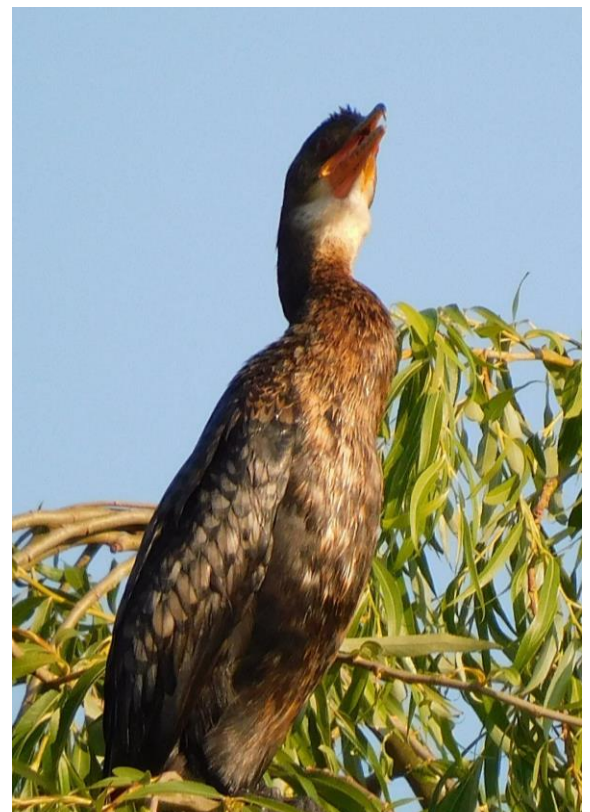
This new venue was a popular choice as a good number of club members chose to join Liesl de Swardt on this outing. It was graceful ponds and streams, dreaming willows, wonderful water birds and a graceful lunch afterwards. Sadly, this was also the last outing attended by Imran Vanker, who passed away soon after in a tragic car accident.



Giant Kingfisher – Rita Glenewinkel



Both above: Liesl de Swardt



White-breasted Cormorant – Rita Glenewinkel

VOORTREKKER MONUMENT – 20 NOVEMBER

This outing saw club members joining the bird ringers for close encounters with interesting species. A list of 60 species was submitted by Willem Boshoff, the leader.



[Wilma van der Merwe]



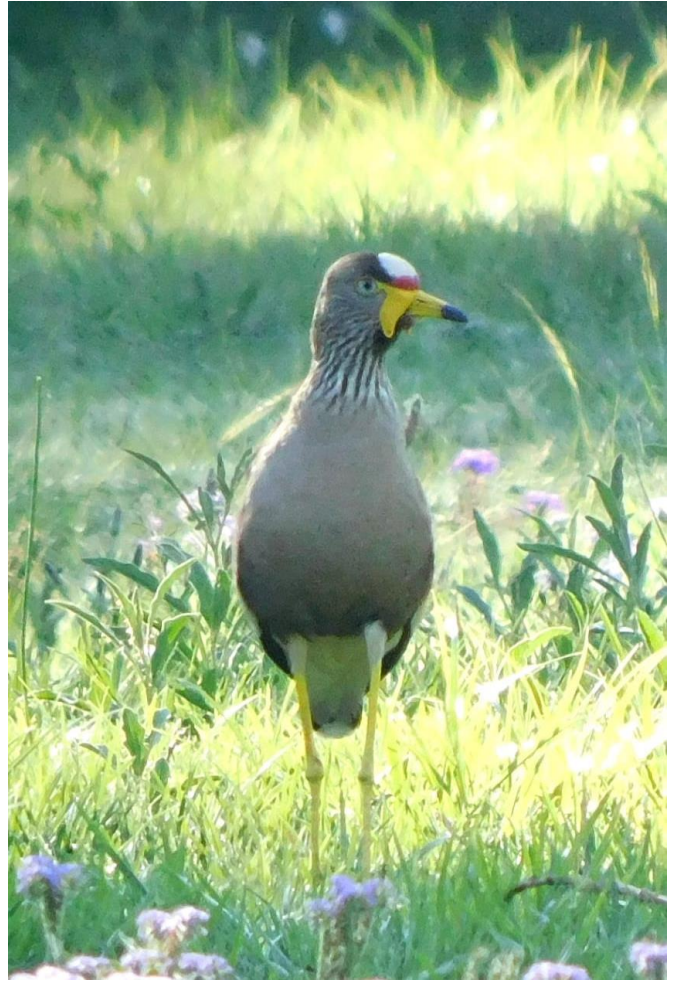
Red-headed Finch [Rita Glenewinkel]



Diederik Cuckoo [Rita Glenewinkel]



Fiscal Flycatcher, displaying its new ring
[Wilma van der Merwe]



African Wattled Lapwing [Rita Glenewinkel]



Willow Warbler (above) and Spotted Flycatcher
(right) [both Rita Glenewinkel]



YEAR-END FUNTION – 30 NOVEMBER

The lush gardens of Sheleph and Louis Burger's Mooikloof Estate served as the venue for this annual highlight on BLNG's calendar. The convivial braai after the bird walk was enjoyed by all. Keanu drew up a bird quiz, with two groups competing amidst much laughter. The issuing of certificates by Angela Openshaw increased the hilarity. A day to be remembered and cherished.



Bird walk, led by Keanu Canto



Philip Calinikos, BLNG President, Mandy Calinikos and Piet Bosch.



Nicole Crisp receiving the Spectacled Weaver Award



Angela handing Elouise Kalmer, previous Chair, the Crimson-breasted Shrike Award for embodying the spirit of our club

REGIONAL AND LOCAL RARITIES AND INTERESTING SIGHTINGS

After October's national and provincial rarities which truly reinforced Mkhombo Dam's 'magic' status (Broad-billed Sandpiper and Slaty Egret), things quietened down somewhat. The **Slaty Egret** remained there during November and was joined by a **Grey Plover**. (Michael Johnson). Other noteworthy reports were of **Grey-backed Sparrow-Lark**, the first individual reported near Devon by Tristan Spurway, and then another in suburban Pretoria at Rietondale Proefplaas, found by Peter Thompson.



Grey-backed Sparrow-Lark [Elandré Scherman]

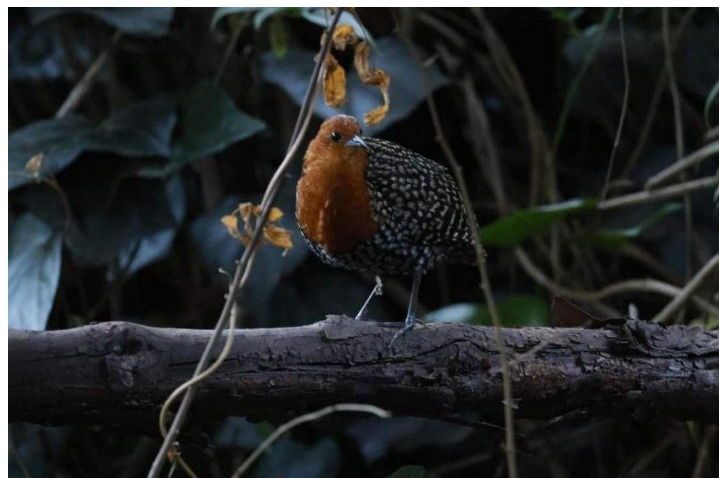


White-backed Night Heron [André Thomas]

A rare discovery was this **Buff-spotted Flufftail** in a private garden in Centurion. [Malcom Fawkes]



André Thomas photographed both **Grey-headed Kingfisher** and **White-backed Night Heron** at Mabusa NR.



Another was subsequently reported at Kimead Golf Estate by Daniel Engelbrecht – Birding Eco Tours.

first two reported over the Magalies mountain at Wonderboom by Glen Barnes, another at the Rietvlei Coffee shop.



European Honey Buzzard [Glen Barnes]

Two **Black Stork** were seen at Hekpoort (Allan Weideman).

Reports of **Short-tailed Pipits** seen on the Old Verena Spa road were submitted on eBird.

Peter Thompson found **Booted Eagle** at Rietondale Proefplaas. A light and a dark morph were found afterward. Marna Buys photographed this individual there.



Tristan Spurway reported a **Green Sandpiper** at Helderberg Estate, possibly the same individual that entertained twitchers there in 2024.

Below: **Green Sandpiper** [Tristan Spurway]



Photograph of the month

When messages fly up and down on social media: Has anyone seen Woodlands Kingfisher yet? Woodlands Kingfisher, eagerly awaited and the sound of our summer, graces this spot in November.



You are welcome to send me your photographs of Wider Gauteng species for placement here. Technical data is welcome.



It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of club member Imran Vanker and his daughter Sara in a car accident. He served as Head of the Nominations Committee of BirdLife South Africa. Our deepest condolences go to his family.

PROGRAMME



4 December – East Rand Pans



7 December – Bird Ringing at Rietvlei



13 - 16 December – Sani Pass and surrounds Camp



28 December – Bird Ringing at Voortrekker Monument

9 - 10 December – Online Course *Birds of Sani Pass with Aldo Berutti*



For bookings:

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[Hannes van den Berg]