



# BLiNG WiNGS

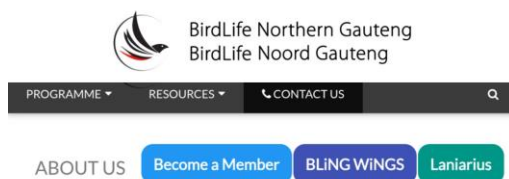
Secretarybird [JP van der Merwe]

Edition 28 November 2025

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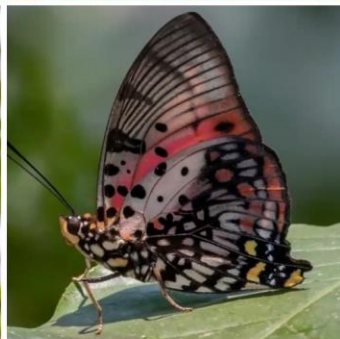
Photograph of the month

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## CLUB MEETING – 11 November

What an incredible evening this was, learning about the riches of birding in Angola. Chris Hines had us all enthralled with his topic “Birding and bugging around Angola.” The diversity of Angolan birds, butterflies, insects and reptiles remains mostly underexplored, lying fallow after the civil war of the latter half of the previous century. Angola, bordering arid Namibian landscapes in the south, and the northern border being part of the tropical Congo basin, offers the naturalist and eager birder alike unparalleled experiences.





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## RUST DE WINTER DAM – 2 November

Chris Hines wrote:

It all started a little slowly and I was worried we would not have a great day. That Black Cuckooshrike that Tertius found changed the pace of the day and we quickly racked up a fair total just short of the main gate of the reserve. Dam levels were very high, and we did not get to see the numbers of waterbirds you might expect, but the birding finished off with a total of over 100! Thank you to everyone for making me so welcome and being open to my digressions into dragonflies and butterflies. I hope to see you all again.



Chris Hines (left) guiding the group [Mike Vos]



The beautiful Rust de Winter Dam [AK Saib]



Red-billed Oxpecker [Robin Naudé]



Golden-breasted Bunting [Robin Naudé]



[Robin Naudé]



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## HEDIANGA FARM – 8 NOVEMBER

Hedianga Farm, one of Keanu Canto's stamping grounds, had some of the target birds easily located – Striped Pipit and Lazy Cisticola. A group of birders took advantage of his expertise and joined the hike at this interesting site. One of the highlights was spotting a Blue Crane overhead.



[Elba Swart]



Striped Pipit [Johan Kampman]



Brown-crowned Tchagra [Johan Kampman]



Lazy Cisticola [Johan Kampman]



[Marianne Brown]



Blue Crane [Keanu Canto ]



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## ROODEPLAAT NR – 22 November

The eagerly anticipated Zaagkuil drift sortie had to be postponed at the last minute due to flooding after the rains of the previous week. Roodeplaat NR with its excellent roads, variety of bird species and a short hike was a welcome alternative. Hannes van den Berg was the leader. Some 88 species were recorded.



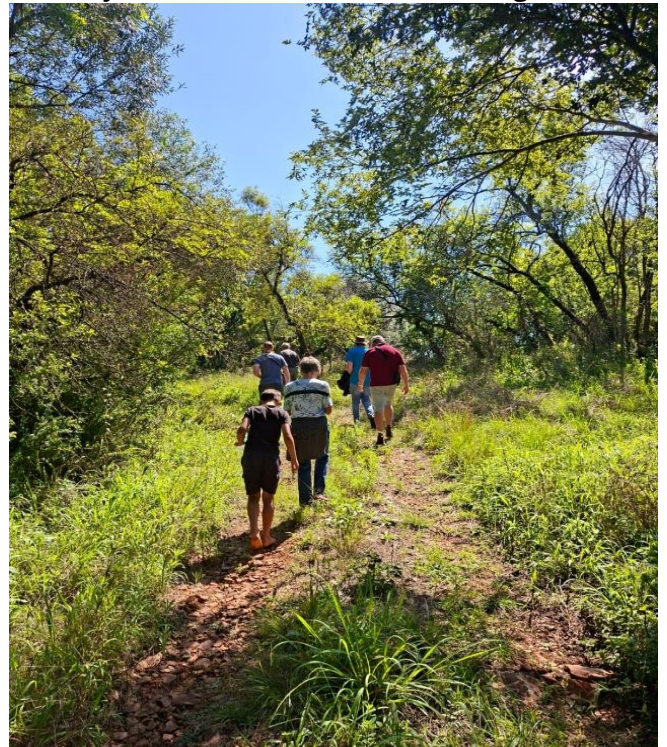
[Jacques Pansegrouw]



Marico Flycatcher [Hannes van den Berg]



Diederik Cuckoo [Hannes van den Berg]



[Danel Brits]



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## MAGALIES MBT – 26 November

The morning broke wet and rainy but cleared soon; and what a wonderful outing this turned out to be! Under guidance of Ilse Müller, some 82 species were recorded, with a number of lifers amongst them for some of the group. Some top species were Shelley's Francolin, Black Cuckooshrike, Brown-backed Honeybird and Spotted Flycatcher.



[Madelaine Jansen van Rensburg]



[AK Saib]



[AK Saib]



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Juvenile Fiscal Flycatcher



Orange River Lily



Peeling Plane



Southern Masked Weaver [All by Mike Vos]



Cape Starling and Red-throated Wryneck sharing a perch [Mike Vos]



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Golden-tailed Woodpecker



Green-winged Pytilia



Thick-billed Weaver



Yellow-fronted Tinkerbird

[All by Mike Vos]



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## ROOIWAL WASTE WORKS – 28 November

Neithard Graf von Durckheim, the leader, may always be counted on to do complex negotiations beforehand with City of Tshwane officials to have the club visit this bird-rich venue. He also does a recce in advance of the outing, to see which species might be on offer. The outside dams offer reed warblers and ducks, Spotted Thick-knees abound, and it must be the top venue near Pretoria to view lake terns in numbers. A Wahlberg's Eagle was also seen. A very good 93 species of birds were ticked.



The lads posing for a photo [Mara Raath]



White-winged Tern in breeding colours [Hannes van den Berg]



To most, this giant swing with White-winged Terns was a highlight. [Geoff Abbott]



Great Spotted Cuckoo, nominated Bird of the Day. [Marna Buys] Another favourite was African (Purple) Swamphen.





Wahlberg's Eagle [Hannes van den Berg]



Little Rush Warbler, its ID given away by the pinkish legs, dark back and dark supercilium. [Hannes van den Berg]



Red-billed Teal [Marna Buys]



Spotted Thick-knee [Geoff Abbott]



White-faced Duck [Marna Buys]



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## REGIONAL AND LOCAL RARITIES AND INTERESTING SIGHTINGS

The **Slaty Egret** was still at Walkhaven Dog Park and Gnu Valley (Tertius Gouws).

Dale Horne found another national rarity, a **Lesser Black-backed Gull** at Marievale.



[Dale Horne]



Keanu Canto with BLNG reported a **Blue Crane** overhead in Olympus. Selwyn Rautenbach and Mark Wadley also saw a couple at Suikerbosrand. [Ben Wadley]



**Harlequin Quail** were found twice, in both cases dead, unfortunately, after flying into windows of a shopping mall in Krugersdorp and later, an industrial complex in Midrand. [Andy Featherstone]



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Peter Thompson had a great sighting of a male **Montagu's Harrier** over the Friends of Magalies MBT Trail area. He also found a **Common Buttonquail** there.



This **Pale-crowned Cisticola** was picked up on private property near Centurion by Pieter Verster. Andrew Pike found another **Pale-crowned Cisticola** at Devon.



The hybrid Red-eyed x Common (Black-capped) Bulbul of Suikerbosrand is fairly well-known amongst birders. This possible hybrid **Southern Red Bishop x Long-tailed Widowbird** found there poses a new conundrum. [Ben Wadley]

Michael Johnson reported some interesting species seen at Loodswaai Game Lodge: **African Cuckoo Hawk, Grey Penduline Tit**, and a single **Wire-tailed Swallow**.

A male **Narina Trogon** had returned to Deale's Rock in the Wilge River Valley. Bradwin Adendorff reported a Southern Bald Ibis just outside Delmas, while Reinhard Haywood spotted An African Hawk-Eagle at De Tweedespruit Conservancy.



A **Eurasian Hobby** was seen mid-month in Randburg [Jacques Jordaan]



A **Grey Crowned Crane** was photographed at Marievale near Duiker Hide [Hennie de Lange]



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Rietvlei NR delivered some interesting species. There was a single **Marabou Stork** on Gwarrie Route, **Temminck's Coursers** and **Cuckoo Finches**. The reserve delivered a wonderful surprise when Corrie Barnard encountered a **Grey-headed Kingfisher**.



Rietvlei NR's **Grey-headed Kingfisher**. [Corrie Barnard]



Daan van de Wetering found the **Short-tailed Pipit** on the Verena Road.



More news was the **Grey Plover** spotted at Leeupan, Benoni, by Michael Johnson. This bird stayed several days. [Mark Wadley]



The popular twitch of 2024, a **Green Sandpiper** at the Jukskei river in Helderberg Estate, returned but left two days later after the sandbanks were flooded. [Chris de Klerk]



This **European Honey Buzzard** was seen in Benoni [Chris Kritzing]



Sandy Neveling met up with a pair of **Double-banded Coursers** and youngster near Deneysville.



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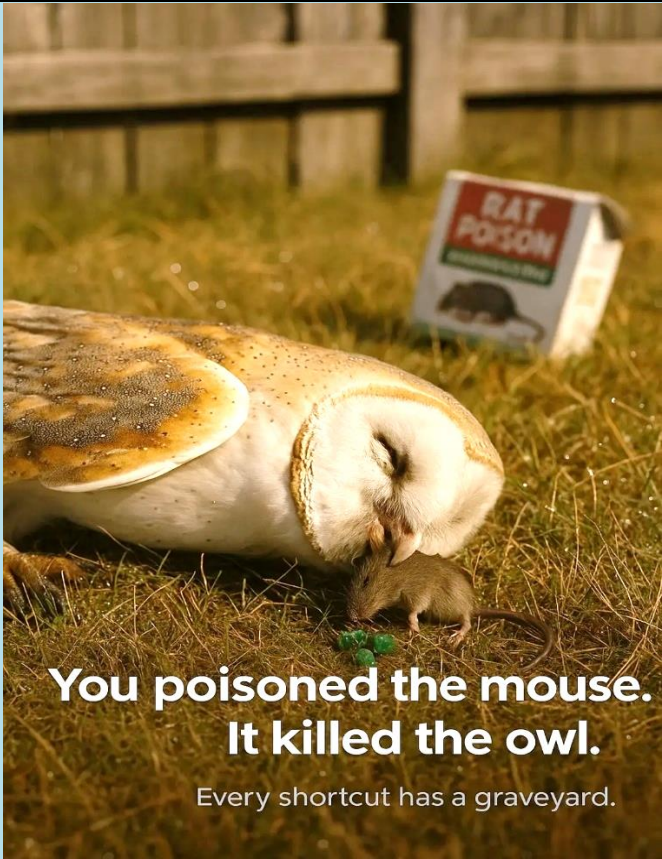
## *Photograph of the month*

Sean Naudé is an uncontested master of aerial photography – and this breathtaking photograph of a Little Swift testifies to his unparalleled skills. The element that sets this image in a league of its own is the background: not, as commonly seen in birds-in-flight photography, an unbroken blue sky, but this softly blurred landscape of greens and browns. This creates the bokeh, an element of mystery and intrigue to this image. The Swift is backlit by delicate lines of silvery light which create the focal point. These hints of highlights on the wing edges, the throat, the forehead and tail are reinforced by the bold white patch on the rump. Congratulations, Sean, on this superb capture!



*Sean Naudé*



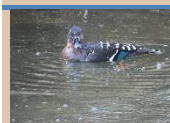


**You poisoned the mouse.  
It killed the owl.**

Every shortcut has a graveyard.

Share this message!

#### PROGRAMME – December 2025



3 Dec – Faerie Glen NR



8 Dec – BLSA Big Birding Day



10 Dec – Northern Farm



13 Dec – BLNG Year-end celebration - bring own drinks & chair

Compilation and layout by I Coetzee  
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#### BAN RAT POISON!

In the UK and Australia, rat poison products containing SGARS are banned for sale to the general public. In SA, numerous poisons such as Rattex are freely available on supermarket shelves.

In the first four days of November, at least 10 owls were poisoned in affluent St Francis. Pretoria numbers are vague. Do your part to minimize this disaster - please spread information to use alternatives to rat poisons.



Try this instead: A24 TRAP BOX, or RAT-NO-MOR bait –soon to be available.

#### JOIN US AT THE YEAR-END CELEBRATION!



For enquiries: <mailto:secretary@blng.co.za>