

The Kite

Tygerberg Bird Club
Tygerberg Voëlklub



Photo credit: Daryl de Beer

Number 141 (March – May 2024)

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Affiliated member of:



Chirp from the Chair

A BIG welcome to all the new Members who have joined the TBC in 2024. Do join us at the monthly meetings and outings. Also, a BIG THANK YOU, for all the Donations given by members to the club. We have some good Conservation projects in the pipeline.

After a really wet winter in 2023, the last four months have been really dry. A REMINDER to all nature lovers – please put out some water and keep the bird baths filled up. It is quite



amazing the number of birds drinking or bathing in my garden daily. It gives me great enjoyment to watch the passing parade! Birds need water every day.

Thank you to Keith Roxburgh who has drawn up the outings schedule for the year. We look forward to meeting many members at the various venues.

Also welcome to Benita Bartlett who has joined the Committee as Treasurer. We look forward to the 'Birding Year' ahead.

Please share your trip reports, and photographs. Articles for the KITE will also be much appreciated.

HAPPY BIRDING.

Brigid Crewe

Preserving our Coastal Seabirds

The waters off the southern African coast are one of the most productive in the world, thanks to the cold upwelled waters of the Benguela Current bringing nutrients to the surface layers. In addition to the Southern Ocean specialists such as albatrosses and petrels that



frequent our waters, South Africa has several species of seabirds that breed on the mainland or inshore islands. Many of these birds are under threat from human activities including fishing, oil spills and the expanding ocean economy and climate change.

Birdlife South Africa's Coastal Seabirds programme aims to conserve some of these threatened and iconic seabirds. Their work includes species-focused projects such as those on the African Penguin as well as larger scale efforts to ensure fish stocks are managed to take seabirds into account and to protect important seabird habitats.

Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries Management

Fisheries Management

The west coast marine ecosystem is strongly influenced by the availability of just three species of fish as sources of food – anchovy, sardine and red-eye (collectively referred to as forage fish). The entire ecosystem depends on there being sufficient forage fish that play a critical link between plankton and predators. Many species depend on these small fish, from the commercially important hake and yellowtail that eat the forage fish, to the sharks and tuna that eat those bigger fish, to seabirds, seals, dolphins, and whales. Forage fish are the main prey for three species of endemic seabirds, African Penguins, Cape Gannets and Cape Cormorants, all of which have been classified as Endangered by the IUCN.

Fishing quotas have historically been set without considering the distribution of fish and this has not changed with the shift in fish distribution from the west to the south coast. Birdlife SA is working with stakeholders and government to ensure that fishery management takes non-uniform fish distributions into account. They are also working with partners to develop a suite of thresholds for indicator species, which include other seabirds and fish species that could indicate poor ecosystem function and trigger management action.

Marine Protection: identifying and protecting important seabird habitat

Part of ensuring that seabirds have enough food is to create protected areas for them where fishing does not take place. Preliminary results show that creating a 20 km fishing exclusion zone around an African Penguin breeding colony can have positive effects on both adult and chicks, since the penguins don't have to swim as far to find food.

Along with other partners, SA Birdlife is collecting data to demonstrate this effect and engaging with the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment to use this information to conserve penguins and other seabirds.

Filling the gaps: tracking seabirds outside of the breeding season

The distribution of breeding seabirds is constrained around their colonies as they must regularly return to their nests to incubate eggs and care for dependent young. Outside of the breeding season, these foraging constraints are relaxed, and seabirds expand their distribution and target distant profitable foraging habitats. The larger distribution of non-breeding seabirds increases the probability of the birds interacting with potentially risky anthropogenic activities.

The post-breeding and pre-moult periods are energetically demanding for seabirds as they undergo plumage replacement and restore energy reserves lost during the breeding season. Good foraging conditions (i.e. sufficient prey) is important during this period and poor foraging conditions can have carry-over effects into the breeding season (e.g. deferred breeding or lower breeding success).

This period is especially important for penguins as, unlike other seabirds, they replace their entire plumage in just a few weeks during which they are land bound and fasting. During their moult, penguins lose up to 50% of their body mass and if they do not commence their moult with sufficient fat reserves to complete the moult and return to sea, they starve.

Little is known about the non-breeding distribution of South Africa's coastal seabirds. However, BirdLife SA has been tracking the African Penguin before and after they moult since 2012. These data are extremely valuable and have uncovered the massive migrations these species undergo during two critical life history stages as well as identified important areas in which they concentrate.

The Coastal Seabird Programme within BirdLife South Africa is committed to continuing this research and expanding it to two other Endangered coastal seabird species: the Cape Cormorant and Cape Gannet. Very little is known about the non-breeding distribution of these two species. However, if BirdLife SA can identify common areas shared by the Cape Cormorant, Cape Gannet and African Penguin, three species largely dependent on anchovy and sardine, they can highlight areas that are important to the seabirds and in need of conservation.

Mitigating maritime threats

In an increasingly threatened marine environment under global change phenomena such as climate change and the expansion of the ocean economy it is imperative that we improve our ability to understand marine ecosystems at temporal scales that are conducive to effective marine ecosystem management. Seabirds are useful and practical indicators of ecosystem condition and have the potential to reflect habitat conditions in near-real time.

The Coastal Seabird Team is working with scientists and engineers at Nelson Mandela University, the University of Paris, the University of Cape Town and the Southern African Foundation for the Conservation of Coastal Birds (SANCCOB) to establish a suite of technologies to monitor the impacts of marine noise pollution on African Penguins in Algoa Bay. An Automated Penguin Monitoring System (APMS, including a weighbridge, pit-tag reader, processor and cell-phone transmission system) has been installed on St Croix Island to gauge the response of penguins to human activities in the bay. We are particularly concerned about the exponential increase in shipping traffic in the bay in recent years and associated heightened levels of marine noise. The APMS will be used to assess the impacts of different noise levels on penguins and this information will be used to advocate for sustainable maritime management in Algoa Bay.

Tygerberg Bird Club participates in World Wetlands Day

In celebration of World Wetlands Day on the 2nd of February 2024, the TBC was invited to set up an information station near the upper gate of Majik Forest. The members accepting this honorary task to influence the young minds of 80 Grade 6 and 7 learners from Attie van Wyk primary School were Brigid Crewe, Ettienne Kotze and Gert Kotze. As birdwatchers usually do on excursions, we set out early with food, something to drink, camping chairs, table, gazebo, binoculars, and learning materials.

Brigid and Kevin did a great job in preparing laminated posters of 6 interesting and well-known birds associated with wetland environments. The posters had colour photographs on the one side and on the flipside the birds were sketched in black and white with their names in Afrikaans. The birds were the Kaapse Tiptol (Cape Bulbul), Janfrederik (Cape Robin-Chat), Grootringduif (Red-eyed Dove), Bleshoender (Moorhen), Muisvoël (White-backed Mousebird) en Rietduiker (Reed Cormorant).

Seeing that it was a scorchingly hot day, we quickly scouted for a nice shady tree in the demarcated area to put up our stall. It was sweaty work to carry in all our equipment to the chosen site for our station! After setting up, we were ready to go!

The idea was to start the interaction with the learners and teachers by tapping into their existing knowledge about birds they hear and see every day at home and around their school. Many of the children travel along wheatfields to school by bus, where they would also see a variety of birds.

The first group of 15 arrived at 10:20 and there was a friendly meet and greet. Our impression was that the children were well behaved and keen to learn. The introduction to the interaction was showing them a picture of Blue Cranes in a wheatfield and asking them what the relevance of these big birds were. A few bright learners knew that this beautiful bird was our national bird. We then played sound clips from our bird apps on our cell phones. This made such a big impact with the identification by vision and sound combined! After that, we used the laminated posters to educate the children in identification of the illustrated birds. Quite a bit of time was spent on identifying and giving general information on each of the birds. We also played the accompanying sound clips from our bird apps to the great delight of the learners. Many made the 'aha' remark "Is dit dan hoe hy klink?" It was also astonishing to see the learners' faces light up when they made the connection between the bird and name when they flipped the laminated posters.

At this stage the learners and teachers were really invested and freely asked questions and spontaneously made their own contributions.



They were open to a bit of general environmental education and were very interested in the posters, books and magazines on birds lying on the table. The learners were also given a chance to look through the available binoculars. Their “wow” responses were heartfelt and very special. We suggested that anybody can become a birder and a member of the world-wide birding community and even the TBC!



The 10 minutes allocated to each group flew by, and when the last group passed through at 12:30, we had a feeling that we might just have made a little difference in the minds of the next generation!

The event was of worth and should become part of TBC’s calendar-events.

Gert Kotze

TBC Ringing Unit Summer Activity

Members of the TBC ringing unit, Lee Silks, John and Gail Maberly, Ettienne Kotze and Rocco Nel, have been active with their regular Wednesday morning ringing activities.

Due to illness Gail has unfortunately not been able to join a few outings. On behalf of the Club, we wish her a speedy recovery.

Because the nets must be up pre-dawn, the ringers need to rise very early during summer to catch the proverbial worm. We alternate weekly between our regular sites Tygerberg Nature Reserve, Durbanville Nature Reserve, Botterblom Park, Uitkamp at D’Urbanvale, Groot Phesantekraal Farm, Goedeontmoeting Farm, Avondale Gardens, Brackenfell Nature Reserve and more recently also Nitida Wine Farm. By regularly visiting these sites and submitting our records to SAFRING at UCT, a history is built up of which species occur in what numbers at these sites as well as breeding success, longevity of birds, etc.

Besides the regular species captured and ringed we have recorded a few special catches recently. A juvenile Lesser Honeyguide at Botterblom, a female Orange Breasted Sunbird at Uitkamp (this one raised the eyebrows of Brigid not believing it occurred there) and a Layard’s Tit-babbler at Tygerberg Nature Reserve.



Lee ringing a Cape Bunting at the slopes of the Gifberg

It is also uncanny that some birds never learn their lesson and keep on flying into our nets. A White-backed Mousebird has flown into our nets at Uitkamp on five occasions within the space of three years. A Cape Robin-chat at Durbanville Nature Reserve has also been in our nets on five occasions. The first time in 2015 and the most recent on 21 February 2024.

The most fascinating recent re-trap was a Namaqua Dove originally ringed by Lee Silks at Rocher Pan in October 2018 and re-trapped near Waterberg in Namibia in November 2023. An amazing distance of over 1300kilometres from Rocher Pan.

In the first week of February, Lee Silks and Rocco Nel attended a Bird Ringing course in

Vanrhynsdorp presented by the Biodiversity and Development Institute (BDI) and led by the very experienced Les Underhill and Dieter Oschadleus. We were exposed to different techniques of rigging mist nets, taking measurements of birds, etc.

The venue was at Botuin an olive farm on the eastern outskirts of Vanrhynsdorp owned by Salome Willemse, an avid nature lover and gracious host. Ringing took place in the olive groves on the farm as well as outings to Vanrhynsdorp Sewage Works, and to the lower slopes of the Gifberg.

During the week a total of 288 birds of 37 different species were ringed including re-traps. Some of the species ringed, that we do not normally find in our normal haunts were:

- Little Stint (a ringing lifer for Lee. Not many lifers for her after more than 30 years of ringing.)
- Large Billed Lark
- Karoo Chat
- Stonechat
- Rufous-eared Warbler (two birds caught in a spring trap simultaneously with only one mealworm)
- Namaqua Warbler
- Fairy Flycatcher
- Lark-like Bunting

Many more birds could have been trapped during the week as the ringing was limited to only a couple of hours daily due to extreme heat and heavy wind. Temperatures of 45 degrees were experienced for a couple of days and not much cooler at night. Lee and I were allotted to a guest house in rooms without air conditioning, and only fans to stir the heat around and compete with the mosquitoes.

Early risers are invited to join us on a Wednesday and enjoy a bird ringing experience.



Layard's Tit-babbler in Tygerberg NR

Rocco Nel for the TBC Ringing Unit

Bot River Estuary in trouble ...

Tygerberg Bird Club has been involved in counting water birds at the Bot River Estuary for many years. Unfortunately, the last Co-ordinated Water Bird Count- CWAC produced some very troublesome results.

The count was one of the lowest, in terms of species, that I can remember over the last 23 years.

Numbers have been declining steadily and certain species have all but disappeared off the Lagoon. Red-knobbed Coot are one such an example. Little Grebes are another with ducks following a similar pattern.

The records for 2024 show alarming patterns:

- Four out of five sections counted a total of 10 Yellow-billed Ducks with no Cape Shovelers recorded at all.
- Three Sections recorded Cape teal out of the 5 sections.
- One Red-knobbed Coot was counted out of 5 sections.



Cape Shoveler by Dave Gordon WCBC

These observations surely must signify that the water quality in the Lagoon cannot sustain the dapplers and their feeding habits.

This for me is very concerning and I have noted this with the BirdLife CWAC Co-ordinator here in the Western Cape. What they intend doing about it - the jury is still out.

However disconcerting these results are, we must continue monitoring the Lagoon and, on that note, the NEXT CWAC is scheduled for the 13th of April.

Please join in for a great morning's outing and be a contributor to some very important Citizen Science.

E-mail Kevin at dikkop@icloud.com to be allocated to a team. As long as you can count, birding experience is not a criterion to join in as there is always an experienced Team Leader to help and guide you.

Let's get CWAC'ing and do some counting.

Kevin Drummond-Hay

International News

Ecologists help migratory birds adapt to climate change

A team of scientists drives across northern Europe under the cloak of darkness in a white van full of carefully caged songbirds. They're on their way from the Netherlands to Sweden, where winter weather will linger for two weeks longer.

The birds in the van are European pied flycatchers who arrived in the Netherlands earlier that same day from sub-Saharan Africa, where they spent the winter. For centuries, they've flown back just in time to catch newly hatched caterpillars that their young depend on for food.

But because climate change has forced spring to arrive earlier, flycatchers now frequently arrive after the caterpillars have matured into insects, which their chicks cannot eat. Like many migratory bird species in Europe and the UK, pied flycatcher populations are declining due to climate related food shortages.

Nest boxes provide breeding grounds for pied flycatchers in the Swedish forest. Photo credit: Koosje Lamers

Conservation ecologist Koosje Lamers of the University of Groningen in the Netherlands came up

with a simple solution: move the birds north. Late April is already green in the Netherlands, but in Sweden the trees don't get their leaves until mid-May.

In an experiment she calls the "crown jewel" of her Ph.D., Lamers and her colleagues drove flycatchers 570km north from Drenthe, Netherlands, to southern Sweden every spring for three years. The immigrant females had nearly twice as many chicks as native Swedish flycatchers, and their chicks returned to nest in Sweden the following year. Their findings, published recently in *Nature Ecology and Evolution*, show that moving north might help pied flycatcher populations adapt to climate change.

"We successfully simulated early arrival," Lamers told Mongabay. "They bred very early as a consequence, and early breeding seemed to have benefits."

Moving the birds north resolved the food crisis, but a question remained: Could the birds learn to go on their own?



A researcher prepares to outfit a flycatcher with a backpack tracker, weighing less than half a gram. Photo credit: Koosje

Over the course of three years, Lamers rode her bike over thawing ground listening for bird calls. She saw more and more Dutch birds populating the Swedish forests, and they usually got there first. Location data from tiny backpack trackers confirmed that the Dutch flycatchers left their wintering sites in Africa first, while the Swedish natives left later.

Because the Dutch birds timed their arrival to the early-spring peak of caterpillar supplies, their babies had no shortage of food. In this way, said Lamers, southern populations of flycatchers can act as a kind of “genetic reserve.” The new migratory destination encoded in their DNA might help the species adapt to climate change.

Migratory bird expert Carlos Camacho at Estación Biológica de Doñana in Seville, Spain, described the team’s approach as “risky” and “groundbreaking.” He praised the originality of the experiment but was hesitant to draw conclusions just yet. The distance researchers transported the birds is farther than most species would move on their own, he noted. Still, Camacho was optimistic.

“Perhaps it’s not necessary that one individual perform the whole large movement,” he told Mongabay. Gradual migration over many generations might also have advantages, Camacho said.

“Dispersal occurs naturally and successfully on smaller scales,” wrote Lamers in an email to Mongabay, referring to a species migrating to new spots. “Even this, we argue, can contribute to adaptation.” As the consequences of climate change become more apparent, so too do the clever strategies animals must employ to survive.

December 2023, Supertrooper News, Wildlife

Northern Gannet *Morus Bassanus*



The Northern Gannet (*Morus Bassanus*, formerly *Sula Bassana*) is a seabird and is the largest member of the gannet family, Sulidae.

Their breeding range is the North Atlantic. They normally nest in large colonies, on cliffs overlooking the ocean or on small rocky islands.

The largest colony of this bird, with over 60,000 birds, is found on Bonaventure Island, Quebec, but 68% of the world population breeds around the coasts of Great Britain.

Supertrooper News, Wildlife

Know your Birds



Bird of the Year 2024

Bateleur

Terathopus ecaudatus

Teras - marvelous; *ops* - face; *e* - without; *caudatus* - tail.



The Bateleur is a medium-sized eagle and is considered a relative of the snake eagles. It is classified in the family Accipitridae within the subfamily Circaetinae. It is the only member of the genus *Terathopus*.



'Bateleur' means 'street performer' in French. The name was given to the bird because of its distinctive aerial acrobatics.



The juvenile Bateleur has pale tawny feathers on its head, the eyes are brown and the cere is a unique greenish-blue.



The Bateleur was given its common name by François Levaillant, a French naturalist and explorer.

The Bateleur has a thick neck and a very large, cowl-like head with a proportionately short yellow bill, covered with a very large, red cere.

The bare parts of adult Bateleurs are bright red. They can fade to pink, or yellowish when they are perching in the shade or bathing. When excited the skin flushes very red.



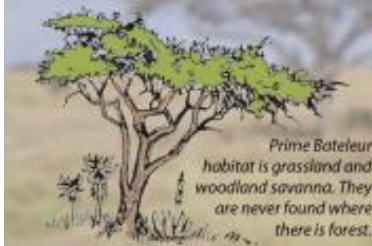
Black greater coverts
Black secondaries



Grey-brown greater coverts
Black-tipped grey secondaries



The Bateleur occupies a very large range through sub-Saharan Africa.



Prime Bateleur habitat is grassland and woodland savanna. They are never found where there is forest.

They have short legs and the shortest tail of all birds of prey.



Design and illustrations by Di Martin. Photographs used as reference for the illustrations from Frank Wouters, Helen Davies and taken from Wikipedia and Ecophoto.

Club Outings and Activities

Club Outing to West Coast National Park – 17 February 2024



For once the entrance into the park ran smoothly. We started birding at Abrahamskraal and most of us were lucky to see an African Snipe and African Rail to the left of the hide. Southern Black Korhaan were calling. A female korhaan ducked behind a bush – and then stood still. She was so cryptic and difficult to see although right next to the road.

The tides were against us at the Geelbek hide, so we went bush birding instead. In the avenue we watched a pair of Southern Grey-headed Sparrow at a nest. They use discarded nests – and holes in trees. The one hole below the main entrance was lined with many feathers of Guinea fowl and Cardinal Woodpecker - interesting to watch.

Big excitement erupted behind the manor house where we found a Willow Warbler. It flew into the trees above our heads – a lifer for many in the group. Frustrating for the photographers though, as this tiny bird moved all the time! Many Cape Spur fowl



Willow Warbler by Ronald Roefs WCBC

seen at a manger near the stables – quenching their thirst. The park is very dry at the moment.

Back at the Seeberg hide, we watched Kittlitz's and White-fronted Plovers fighting over territory. From the hide's vantage point, we managed so see many nice waders. Amongst others Eurasian Whimbrel, Grey Plover, Sanderling and lots of Terns. It was really nice to see so many Little Terns in the mix. A group of Red Knot landed nearby – we all commented how few of them we had seen in recent years.

The lagoon showed us all its many beautiful blue colours and nice pictures were taken. All round a very nice outing, with 63 species seen.

Please remember if you go to WCNP, that the manor house and restaurant are closed. So, pack in enough food and drinks when leaving home. The West Coast National Park is well worth a visit.

Brigid Crewe

Club Outing to Spier Wine Farm - 25 November 2023

12 TBC Members, including 3 from the Cape Bird Club, had a wonderful outing at Spier Wine Estate.

We started with observation of the proud Malachite Kingfisher parents and their two youngsters on the dam. This was soon a lesser attraction as a raptor was spotted. Lighting was not good and after several photos taken, consultations in books and Bird apps it was declared a possible young European Honey Buzzard. Confirmation was requested from more knowledgeable people, and they later confirmed it was a European Honey Buzzard, the first of the 2023/24 season.

We all had a good sighting of the Little Rush and Lesser Swamp Warbler's as they are not as camera shy here as in other places. The African Paradise Flycatchers gave us a good display amongst the trees next to the dam. The power of water was evident once we crossed the bridge as many of the trees on the edge of the Eerste River has been washed away.

The rest of the walk gave us all good sighting of Levillant's and Zitting Cisticola's and other bush birds. Close to the Agapanthus planting the excitement level increased again as we thought we spotted the European Honey Buzzard again sitting in a Blue gum tree. The more experienced birders said it was more likely a young Fish Eagle and that was confirmed once it flew away and gave its unmistakable call. Then one of the parents flew into a tree further down. Lovely sighting with sound.

The African Pipits and Sweet Waxbills were in their normal place on the great lawn and Agapanthus planting respectively.



A great social walk with some good birds to see, 45 species in all for the day.

Keith Roxburgh

Our members on tour

A reflection on birding in Zimbabwe

The trip brochure reads: *“At 390,624 sq km, Zimbabwe is three times as large as England and about half the size of Texas. This land-locked country is a true paradise for birders, with a total of more than 650 species having been recorded. Although there are no endemics in Zimbabwe, the country boasts more than 50 species of birds that do not occur in South Africa. Many of these “specials” can be found in the focus area – the Eastern Highlands.”*

We flew into Harare, drove on to the town of Marondera, then to the Nyanga area that boasts some of the most spectacular scenery in Zimbabwe. With mountains, rivers and gorges, montane grassland and forest. The Honde Valley, a prime birding destination, and one of the most picturesque areas in Zimbabwe was the next stop. Thereafter it was on to Bvumba highlands that lie approximately 25km above the city of Mutare. The area is probably best known as one of the main breeding areas of Swynnerton's Robin which lives and breeds in small patches of forest – and yes, we did see this lovely little bird!

It all sounds lovely – and it is. But travellers beware. Travelling in Africa is tiring. Saying those are “roads”, is a misnomer. It's only potholes stretching for miles and miles. And huge ones that are impossible to drive around. You simply have to navigate your way through them and hope your vehicle comes out unscathed at the other end. Whilst the passengers must hang on for dear life, being shaken around like a cocktail drink. Every so often, whilst enduring the discomfort, I'll ask myself - why am I doing this? Only to find the answer in the very next special bird I see. Black-fronted Bush-shrike, Orange Ground Thrush, Moustached Grass-Warbler, Red-faced Crimsonwing and Blue Swallow, to name but a few. But my favourites for the trip must be the Bronzy and Copper Sunbirds, Spotted Creeper and the African Broadbill – whose comical display left me in stitches! It will jump up, flying in a small circle, only to land right back on the same spot from where it came from. All the while making a silly “prrrttt” sound ... as if to say: “look how cute I am!”

Dalene Vanderwalt



Brain teasers

CROSS WORD PUZZLE NO. 18

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Compiler: Gerald Wingate

Clues Down

- Sandpiper with recurved bill
- Accipiter that calls with loud clicks
- Pirit is one
- Lark found in Namibia
- Tail of a drongo
- Tail of a roller
- A falcon
- Types of canary
- Looks like a woodpecker
- Affable weaver
- A new tick
- Vagrant gull with black head
- Egret near dairy
- Abrev. for Double-banded Courser
- Close relative of jaegers
- Arctic or Antarctic seabird
- It needs to hatch
- Abrev. for a crombec

Clues Across

- A bird club
- Rock Dove or _ _ _ _ _ Pigeon
- Tern with pink tint
- A common Pipit
- A greenish cuckoo
- Fleshy covering on bill
- Lesser or greater raptors
- Lappet- _ _ _ _ _ Vulture
- Plover or tern
- A vagrant graceful tern
- Falcons migrating from Asia
- Gunning's robin from the East Coast
- A smallish Noddy
- A lark's huge bill
- A spice on bunting or warbler

General Club Information

How do we communicate with members?

Notices on outings, etc. are sent to members via a “groups” e-mail address. **Members only MUST SUBSCRIBE themselves** – we cannot do it. It is quick and easy to do. Send an e-mail to: tygerbergbc+subscribe@groups.io and you will be included.

You may share information / important sightings with other club members by sending an e-mail to: tygerbergbc@groups.io

Change of contact details

Please notify the TBC Membership Secretary, Judy Kotze, should your e-mail address or other contact details change. Gert.k@absamail.co.za

TBC contact details

Website: www.tygerbergbirdclub.org

PO Box 1321, Durbanville, 7551

Chairperson’s e-mail: B.crewe@wo.co.za

Vice Chairperson’s e-mail: dalene@brians-birding.co.za

Join our Facebook page

Members are welcome to share information regarding their travels and interesting sightings on this page.
www.facebook.com/groups/tygerbergbirdclub/

Contributions to The Kite

Please mail any contributions to the newsletter (include pictures where possible) to:
dalene@brians-birding.co.za

TBC Steering committee 2023

Honorary President	Brian Vanderwalt	Cell: 082 999 9333
Chairperson	Brigid Crewe	Cell: 082 570 0808
Vice Chairperson	Dalene Vanderwalt	Cell: 084 702 4201
Treasurer	Benita Bartlett	Cell: 083 254 8791
Secretary	Margaret Oosthuizen	Cell: 073 210 9397
Membership Secretary	Judy Kotze	Cell: 083 254 0919
Communication & Public Relations Officer	Dalene Vanderwalt	Cell: 084 702 4201
TBC Ringing Unit	Lee Silks	Cell: 083 208 8766
Conservation Officer	Kevin Drummond-Hay	Cell: 074 587 3792



Tygerberg Bird Club’s Mission / Missie van die Tygerberg Voëlklub

To enhance our knowledge of all birds, their behaviour, and their habitats and to introduce the public to the conservation and science of our avian heritage through enjoyable participation by club members.

Om as klub ons kennis van alle voëls, hul gedrag en hul habitat te verbeter en deur genotvolle deelname van klublede, die publiek bewus te maak van die bewaring en wetenskap van ons plaaslike voel erfenis.

Celebrating 37 years of bringing birders together

Upcoming Club Outings and Activities



March 2024

THURSDAY 14 March 2024 (19:30)

Club meeting. Speaker to be announced.

SATURDAY – 23 March 2024 (08:00) – Note later date of the Outing!

Outing: Altydgedacht Farm, Durbanville

Contact: Kevin Drummond-Hay (074 587 3792)

Travel along Racecourse Road (M13) in Durbanville, and turn into Tygervalley Road (M31). Altydgedacht is the first farm. Turn into the main gates and turn left at Wine shop sign, and left again – parking nearest the forest picnic area. (DO NOT PARK AT WINE SHOP). Please bring coffee goodies, hat and water. Wear good walking shoes. We bird along farm roads and the river area.

April 2024

WEDNESDAY - 10 APRIL 2024 (08:30)

Midweek Outing – Majik Forest

THURSDAY – 18 APRIL 2024 (19:30) Club meeting. Speaker: David Hall

Topic: “Pushing boundaries”

David will share his birding highlights of 2023 and make a small confession! Not to be missed.

SATURDAY - 20 APRIL 2024 (08:00)

Outing: SPIER WINE FARM, STELLENBOSCH

Contact: Keith Roxburgh (082 901 2611)

Directions to Spier – Follow N1, and take the R300 highway towards Strand. Turn left onto the Stellenbosch Arterial Road (M12) – follow for 8km or more. As you go down a steep hill, turn right onto Vlaeberg Road – to R310 Lynedoch until

the traffic lights. Turn left onto R310 Baden Powell Road, for a few km’s until you reach SPIER WINE ESTATE, on right. Turn left after the security - Park in the Main parking area. We do the River walk from here at 08:15. The farm is 35km from Durbanville.

May 2024

Diarize:

8 May – Midweek Outing

16 May – Monthly Meeting

18 May – Saturday Outing

Veterinarians crafted miniature snowshoes for a small mockingbird with deformed feet, recently rescued by the California Wildlife Centre. The customized shoes aided in realigning its feet, restoring them to a normal bird’s foot shape. Withing a week, the bird’s feet were successfully corrected, allowing it to walk independently.

