

# The Kite

Tygerberg Bird Club  
Tygerberg Voëlklub



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**Affiliated member of:**



## Chirp from the Chair

Birding is a wonderful hobby! I just love July. When putting out birdseed in the afternoon, we watch Masked and Cape Weavers, the Yellow and Red bishops and the Pin-tailed Whydah coming into their breeding colours. The males suddenly have attitude and try and chase away other males from the food.

A cherry on the top for me yesterday (13<sup>th</sup> July), whilst sitting drinking tea at our townhouse at Yzerfontein was listening to the lovely calls of a White-throated Canary – also enjoying the sunny weather. In many years of atlassing this pentad every month – for the very first time a Black Harrier flew over our house. Must be the best bird on my garden list ever!

This past month we wished Mariana Delpont well with her move to Tulbagh. She was given an 'Honorary Membership' of our club, for the sterling work she has done in co-ordinating CWAC water bird counts at the Bot River Lagoon (Kleinmond) over the past 26 years. The Bot River counts involves 5 teams of counters. This flagship project of our club, has been important in the species data collected of many birds.

A 'Big Thank You' to all those who give so willingly of their time to help with the counting at Bot River.

During the next three months we look forward to migrant birds returning to the Cape.

We encourage our members to sign-up for our birding fun day in November. Not only is this a fun event (with a competitive element), but it's also a good opportunity for new members to test their skills and learn where to find good birds in our area.

Do join us at our monthly outings and enjoy the array of speakers lined up.

Happy birding!

Brigid Crewe

# Black Harrier roosting site in Humansdorp

Jessie Walton discovered a previously unknown roosting site of Black and African Marsh Harriers

Black Harriers (*Circus maurus*) are southern Africa's rarest endemic raptor and have been uplisted from Vulnerable to Endangered in South Africa and Namibia in 2015.

These top predators are a rare endemic to the southern African sub-region with fewer than 1000 mature breeding birds left in the population.

Studies have shown that there is little genetic variation across the population, indicating that this species is not in good shape and needs some serious conservation assistance going forward.

In 2011, while doing Environmental Impact Assessment work on a private farm in the Humansdorp district, I came across a group of Harriers roosting communally on the ground. This turned out to be the first known – and to date the only, such roost. At one time up to 35 Harriers (mainly Black, but also some African Marsh Harriers) were coming to the roost.

Sadly, this number has been dwindling steadily to only one bird in 2018. This is probably partly due to the drought, but interference and degradation of the area must surely also play a role. The natural thicket and fynbos areas near the roost have been removed to make way for grazing ground. This included the destruction of a known Harrier nesting site.

To compound the problems, there is also a large wind farm six km from the roost where at least four Black Harriers have already been killed by turbines, although these deaths are possibly related to other nest sites on the fringes of the wind farm. The impact of the wind

farm on the nearby roosts has not yet been investigated.

The importance of the Humansdorp roost has (in my mind) been largely ignored and no effort made to protect the site. With the Black Harrier being a highly endangered bird, every effort should be made in the conservation of this species.

I have been visiting this site annually to monitor the Harriers and to record the numbers and arrival/departure times (as well as flight levels) at the roost. I also hunt for signs of breeding birds.

The generous donation received from the Tygerberg Bird Club, will go a long way in assisting me with maintaining this project.

I am hoping to collate the information accumulated to date and soon publish a short summary.

Jessie Walton

Photos: Jessie Walton

Good news! Six birds were sighted at the roosting site early in July.



# New project tackles illegal trade in vulture body parts



In Nigeria and across Africa, vultures are being killed so that their body parts can be used for various belief-based practices, including traditional medicine.

Source: Birdlife International Africa

This is a severe threat for a group of birds already beleaguered by poisoning and habitat loss.

But on the 8th of May, scientists, officials and community members gathered at Lekki Conservation Centre in Lagos, Nigeria, to launch an exciting new project to combat this threat.

The title: “Combating the West African illegal trade in threatened vultures and their parts for belief-based use.” Developed by the Nigerian Conservation Foundation (NCF) in partnership with BirdLife Africa and funded by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), this two-year project aims to tackle this complex issue at its source.

The event was attended by a series of Celebrity Vulture Ambassadors who all aim to raise public awareness and change minds throughout the project.

Dr Muhtari Aminu-Kano, Director-General of NCF, spoke passionately in his welcoming address, and highlighting NCF’s work so far. This work includes raising awareness among traditional medicine practitioners of the herbal alternatives to vulture parts, as well as seeking collaboration with security agencies on law enforcement.

Dr. Beckie Garbett, Vulture Conservation Manager for Birdlife International Africa, announced ambitious plans to reduce illegal wildlife trade in Nigeria by 20% by 2021. Illegal wildlife trade has become the highest criminal revenue generator after the illicit drug trade.

The broad attendance at the conference, however, was proof that there exists a strong contingent within Nigeria dedicated to fighting this crime and to protecting vultures. Representatives from Nigeria Customs, the Nigeria Police Force, traditional medicine practitioners, the National Association of Hunters, the Federal Ministry of Environments, the State Ministry of Justice, academics and the media were all present.

Together these individuals tackled key questions such as “what is the problem?”, “why is the problem occurring?”, “what can be done?” and “what is your role?” These are the questions that are going to be asked across the whole of Nigeria in the coming years; the answers are key to protecting vultures for generations to come.



# Should we feed wild birds in our gardens?

Feeding birds is this funny global activity that's practiced privately by millions of people.

Nobody actually thinks about it – everybody just concentrate on the feeder in their yard.

Source: Cornell Lab of Ornithology

An extract of questions posed to Australian scientist **Darryl Jones**, author of the book *“The Birds at My Table: Why We Feed Wild Birds and Why It Matters”* and **Emma Greig**, US Project FeederWatch leader, aims to shed some light on this matter.

## Is feeding wild birds a good thing?

**Jones:** There are many examples of how birds are benefiting from feeding - no question at all that they are more likely to survive winter if they get fed. Some species that may be having a hard time, especially in an urban environment, benefit from the food they find in people's yards.

**Greig:** Some of the good aspects are that there are studies showing that feeding birds increases survival during particularly harsh conditions. So, in the dead of winter when there's snow covering everything, birds benefit from getting some suet or black oil sunflower seeds at feeders. But

these are species, typically, that are used to having ephemeral food sources. For most birds, there is no reliable food source so they're used to flying around trying to seek food knowing that they can't ever really count on anything. Birds know how to plan for that. The way to think about feeders is really that it's a supplement.

## What's the biggest risk from feeding wild birds?

**Jones:** The most serious issue is the spread of disease. If a bird is infectious, visiting a feeder is the ideal way to spread it. We need to take the responsibility of having a feeder much more seriously and minimize the risk of spreading disease.

**Greig:** Some of the potential risks are threat of predation because you have potential prey items coming to one location – i.e. people's pet cats hanging out around feeders. Feeding often takes place around houses so there's an increased potential for birds to hit windows.

So, keeping your feeders clean, offering decent food, keeping your cats indoors, putting feeders a safe distance from windows are simple steps that anyone who feeds birds should take.

## Should we stop feeding birds?

**Jones:** Not at all. This is a noble activity - we just need to do it with the birds in mind. It would be dreadful if we found out that an activity that we get so much enjoyment out of was actually harming birds in any way, so that's why we have to utterly minimize the risk of disease. We just have to accept the responsibility for what we're doing and continue to enjoy it.

**Greig:** I think feeding is a good thing. Do it responsibly. Collect data along the way. The more people who are paying attention to what is happening in their yard - the better. That's how we'll know when things are changing.

## Safety tips for feeding birds in the summer

**Keep your seed dry.** Hot, humid summer weather creates the potential for mold. Some molds produce the byproduct aflatoxin, which is fatal to birds. Fill feeders halfway in summer and refill frequently, instead of packing feeders full so the seed sits for long periods. If you find mold on your seed, get rid of it.

**Move feeders occasionally.** Concentrations of seed hulls and bird droppings under a feeder can lead to outbreaks of salmonellosis, a bacterial sickness that can affect birds (and people). Move feeders around the yard and don't allow waste to build up in one area.

**Put suet in the shade.** Some packaged suet comes in no-melt varieties, but even these can spoil or become soft and foul a bird's feathers in high heat. Keep suet in cool places.

**Clean your feeders regularly.** To clean your feeder, take it apart wash either with soap and boiling water or with a dilute bleach solution (no more than 1-part bleach to 9 parts water). Rinse thoroughly and allow to dry before refilling.

### WIND ENERGY DEVELOPMENTS: GUIDELINES AND MONITORING PROTOCOLS

Renewable energy is a burgeoning industry in South Africa, adding much-needed power to the national grid. BirdLife South Africa and its partners are helping ensure a sustainable energy mix in South Africa and are conscious of the potential impact that wind power can have on bird populations. Resources such as the BirdLife South Africa/Endangered Wildlife Trust Best Practice Guidelines for Birds and Wind Energy and BirdLife South Africa's guidelines on birds and solar energy help ensure that the effects of renewable energy on birds are adequately assessed and minimised. Ongoing engagement with ornithologists, industry, environmental practitioners and decision-makers helps ensure that interactions between renewable energy and birds are well understood and that issues are proactively addressed and avoided. In 2017 BirdLife South Africa published a report summarising the results of bird monitoring at wind farms, the first of its kind for southern Africa. Although no vultures were killed by turbine strikes during the study period, poorly located wind farms are likely to present a new threat to Bearded and Cape vultures. Other species potentially at risk include Black Harrier, Verreaux's Eagle and Martial Eagle.

c. 550 wind turbines in operation  
in South Africa

4 number of birds killed  
per turbine per year

36% proportion of carcasses found  
under turbines that are raptors

### TRACKING THE MOVEMENTS OF THE ENDANGERED BLACK HARRIER

Satellite tracking by the Black Harrier Working Group, BirdLife Species Guardian for this iconic near-endemic raptor, has revealed that it is highly mobile. The main threats to the Black Harrier include low genetic diversity, fire and habitat loss (up to 90% of the fertile Western Cape lowlands has been transformed in the past 150 years). The proliferation of wind farms in its core breeding range, on its migration routes and in the Lesotho Highlands adds to the potential impacts faced by this species as it seeks out rodent-rich areas across South Africa. Consequently, it is ranked high on the collision sensitivity list of the Birds and Wind Energy Specialist Group.



Black Harrier (Matthew Aspin)

(Chris van Rooyen)

## What's in a name?

If you browse through your bird guide, you will come across many species that are named after people. But just who are these people who had species named after them and why/how did it happen? A book called "**Whose Bird?**" by Bo Beolons and Michael Watkins shed light on how many of these species got their names. We will be featuring regular extracts from this book.

**Karel Johan Gustav Hartlaub** (1814 - 1900) was Professor of Zoology at Bremen, and an explorer and collector in East Africa in 1857. Although a trained physician, he was a collector of exotic birds, publishing many papers on birds in Africa. He founded the "Journal fur Ornithologie" in Cabanis. He donated many specimens that he had received from collectors to the museum of Hamburg. He wrote the first descriptions of over 30 southern African species.

- ~ The **Francolin**, *Pternistes hartlaubi* was first described by Bocage in 1870,
- ~ And the **Gull**, *Larus hartlaubi* by a gentleman named Bruch in 1853.
- ~ Hartlaub had eleven species named after him, two of which he described himself.

## The Fitzpatrick Institute needs your help to track plastic pollution

How much plastic really goes to sea? It is widely assumed that 80% of the plastic litter found in the sea comes from land-based sources. And certainly, most of the litter close to urban areas in South Africa comes from local sources. However, there is a massive mismatch between the estimates of how much plastic is floating at sea (about 250,000 tonnes) and how much 'leaks' from land into the sea each year (anything from 5-12 million tonnes). Even allowing for plastics that sink, either one (or both) of these estimates is wrong, or a lot of the plastic litter coming out of rivers and storm drains is not actually ending up at sea.

We are conducting a series of experiments to estimate the proportion of litter coming out of urban catchment areas that washes up on beaches. This will entail releasing labelled pieces of plastic (in Table Bay and False Bay, Cape Town) and then searching for them along nearby beaches. The study will contrast the movement of plastics with different densities, which likely will show different dispersal patterns. We ask members of the public to look for these items and to report any they find.

The white plastic blocks measure 12x8 cm and come in two types:

- hard plastic sheets 3 mm thick with stickers on them bearing a unique item number (0000 to 1199) and information on how to report them.
- polystyrene blocks 30 mm thick that are only labelled with a unique code (A00-F99) because unfortunately our labels don't stick to expanded polystyrene.

We need the code number of each item found, together with the location and date where it was found. Please WhatsApp or SMS 073 246 8169 or email [littertrace@gmail.com](mailto:littertrace@gmail.com) with the details.

Source: Animal Demography Unit

## Interesting sightings

Share your interesting sightings with other club members. Please e-mail your contributions (including pictures).



### Have you seen this bird?

Apparently, a Violet Turaco has been seen in the Aurora area over a period of two months prior to May 2019. Any Turaco would be a marked occurrence. The Violet Turaco is native to Western Africa and this must be an escaped captive. Some escaped Violet Turacos have persisted for some time in Johannesburg, so the bird may still be around. Let us know if you get any sighting on this bird.

Source: Tony Williams

# Know your birds

Ken Newman and Derek Solomon published a book called “*Look-alike Birds*” that illustrates a series of common problem-species-pairs or groups that cause confusion throughout southern African sub-region. The object is to provide a few critical keys for each species, ignoring all features that are shared with its look-alike. To this end the book’s illustrations have been deliberately simplified.

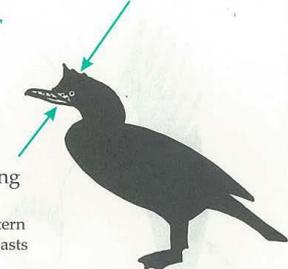
We will be sharing some of this information with TBC members - with permission from the Southern Book Publishers.

### CROWNED CORMORANT

*(Newman's Birds p. 64)*

**LOOK FOR:**

1. Similarity to Reed Cormorant
2. Crest on forehead
3. Orange facial skin when breeding



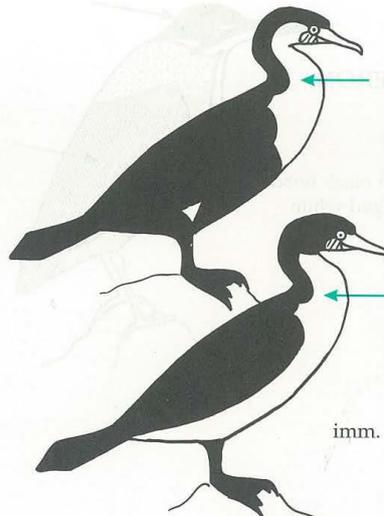
**NOTE:** Occurs on Western Cape and Namibian coasts only

### WHITEBREASTED CORMORANT

*(Newman's Birds p. 64)*

**LOOK FOR:**

1. Large size
2. Adult with white breast only
3. Imm. with entirely white underparts



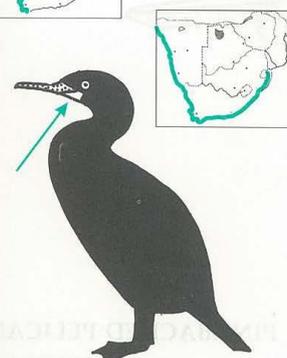
**NOTE:** Whitebreasted and Reed Cormorants are most common on inland waters but also frequent the coast in small numbers

### CAPE CORMORANT

*(Newman's Birds p. 64)*

**LOOK FOR:**

1. Entirely black plumage
2. Orange/yellow skin at base of bill
3. Groups flying in long lines over sea



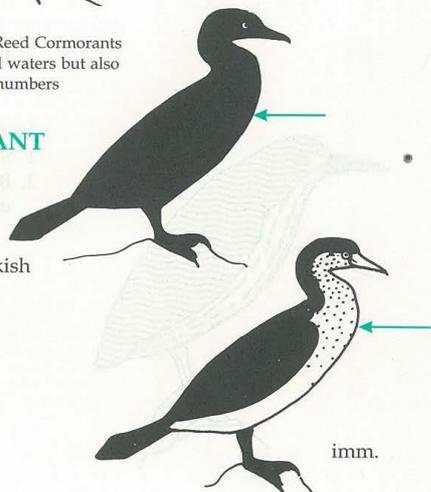
**NOTE:** Cape and Bank Cormorants occur only on the Cape and West coasts

### REED CORMORANT

*(Newman's Birds p. 64)*

**LOOK FOR:**

1. Small size
2. Adult entirely blackish
3. Imm. with whitish underparts but more buffy on breast

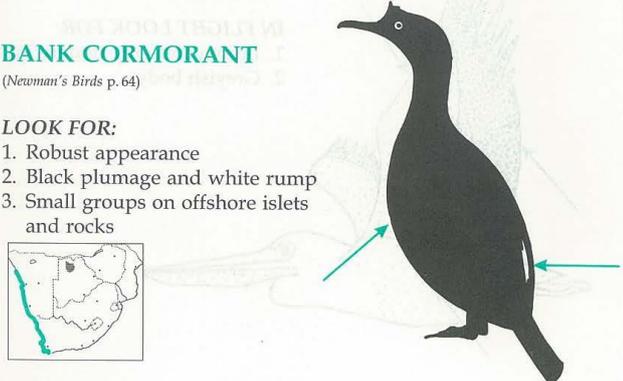


### BANK CORMORANT

*(Newman's Birds p. 64)*

**LOOK FOR:**

1. Robust appearance
2. Black plumage and white rump
3. Small groups on offshore islets and rocks





Thank you to the following members for their donations:

To the Ringing Unit:  
 Joye Newby, Johan Swart, Gerald Wingate.

Other donations:  
 Johan Swart

## Walkies!

Emperor and King Penguins take their eggs for walks – well actually incubating birds shuffle along with their egg held onto the top of their feet by a flap of feathered skin.



Usually the distances walked on any day are short, but Emperors may walk their eggs for more than 2 km during incubation.

Usually the distances walked on any day are short, but Emperors may walk their eggs for more than 2 km during incubation.

## Know a rude bird name?

Here is one. In South and Central America there is a family of bird, the

*Rhinocryptidae*, called Tapaculos which is Spanish for cover your bottom (or whatever expression you prefer for the area concerned) as they usually keep their tail cocked.

The tapaculos are 55 species of wren to thrush sized birds in this passerine family.



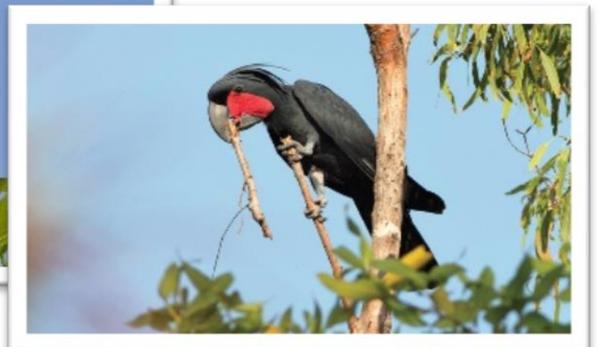
Source: Tony Williams

## Hoekie vir eensames: Gesoek en gevind ...

*“Punk Rock drummer seeks lady friend with matrimonial intentions”*



The punk styled Black Palm Cockatoo uses a specially crafted drumstick to lure the ladies. This drummer bangs his drumstick rhythmically against a hollow trunk. He may also tap with large seedpods.



Google “drumming cockatoos” for video clips of this crafty suitor.

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*“n Besondere vriendskap...”*

Ingo, die Belgiese herdershond en Poldi die een-jarige uiltjie het die mees ongelooflike vriendskap. Poldi het eers twee dae na sy broers en susters uitgebroei en is toe ongelukkig deur sy ma verwerp. Dis hier waar Ingo die moederstaak oorgeneem het en die tweetjies is nou onafskeidbaar.

Fotos: Tanja Brandt, Duitse fotograaf wat haar loopbaan wei aan diere-fotografie.



## Our members on tour



### Herfs in die Natale Dragensberge

Sedert ons eerste besoek,  
hunker ons harte terug na  
die groen heuwels,  
majestueuse berge, goue

sipresse by Clarens en die herfs bome in Champagne Valley.

Ons vertrek op 'n Saterdagoggend voor sonop, want ons wil graag weer die sonsopkoms ervaar in al sy glorie. Ons gaan in Bloemfontein oornag en stop dus nie om voëls te kyk nie, maar 'n pragtige Verreaux Arend naby Beaufort-Wes ontglim nie ons oë nie.

Na 'n rustige oornag stop by Bains Game Lodge, geniet ons 'n heerlike a la carte ontbyt. Die atmosfeer in die eetsaal is baie gesellig en mens kan jou verbeel dat jy naby die Kruger Wildtuin is. Ons volg die N1 tot by Winburg en reis deur die Oos Vrystaat, oor die Oliviershoekpas tot by Winterton waar ons met die R600 die roete deur Champagne Valley na Witsend Mountain Resort neem. Dit was ons derde keer hier en ons bly oortuig dat daar nie beter selfsorg-akkommodasie vir die prys in ons land is nie. Vanuit die goed toegeruste huisies is daar pragtige vergesigte op die vallei, Cathkin Peak en ander dele van die sentrale Drakensberg.

Daar is baie interessante dinge om te doen naby Witsend. Daar is die Monk's Cowl staproete en die Drakensberg Seunskoor Skool (regoor die pad) het uitvoerings elke Woensdagmiddag. 'n Roofvoël-rehabilitasie sentrum bied elke dag 'n interessante praatjie en demonstrasie. Van Dragon Peaks Hotel is ook helikoptervlugte beskikbaar.

'n Vlug in 'n warmlugballon - iets wat ons graag wou doen - was 'n hoogtepunt. Wat 'n ongelooflike ervaring om in 'n warmlugballon vlug vroeg oggend in die Drakensberge te wees! Afgesien van die "blasers" wat die hoogte reguleer, gebeur alles geruisloos. Vir die eerste keer het ons "ope stilte" van 'n hoogte ervaar en kon ons 'n idee kry van hoe 'n arend moontlik die wêreld van sy hoogte aanskou.

Ons volgende bestemming is die Royal Natal National Park om by Thendele Ruskamp (volgens die Park is dit die Zulubenaming vir Red-winged Francolin) oor te bly. Die toneel van Thendele aan die voet van die Amfiteater is iets besonder, so asof die grootsheid van hierdie ongelooflike groot kolos vir die eerste keer in sy regte perspektief tot jou deurdring. Die huisies is mooi skoon en gerieflik en almal het 'n uitsig op die Amfiteater. Ons bewandel verskeie staproetes en sien ook baie voëls en bokkies. Voëls wat ons onthou het om aan te teken:

**Lifers:** Long-tailed Bishop and Red-collared Widowbird. **Ander:** Groundscraper Thrush, Cape Sparrow, Cape Vulture, Bearded Vulture, Black-shouldered Kite, Fork-tailed Drongo, Familiar Chat, Cape Robin-Chat, Long-crested Eagle, Booted Eagle, Verreaux's Eagle, Secretary Bird, Common Waxbill, Pied Starling, Red-winged Starling, Hadeda Ibis, Cape Wagtail, Fiscal Shrike, Hoopoe, Fish Eagle, Black-headed Barbet, Olive Woodpecker, Black Crow, African Stonechat, Speckled Mousebird, Egyptian Geese, White Stork, Black-headed Heron, Barn Swallow, Jackal Buzzard.

Met 'n tikkie hartseer verlaat ons Thendele 'n paar dae later en troos onself dat ons weer sal terugkeer!

Dirk en Mariette du Plessis

# Brain teasers

## CROSS WORD PUZZLE NO 02

1		2		3			4		5		6		7	
8							9							
										10				11
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		14			15				16					
17									18					
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21										22				
				23										
24								25						

**Clues across**

- 1. Three species named after him
- 5. Black and white Shrike
- 8. It hoots in the forest
- 9. A corvid
- 10. Breeding structure
- 13. Pied red-legged wader
- 15. An endemic Lark
- 17. A Boubou
- 18. Noisy Ibis
- 19. A vagrant Egret
- 21. Heavy flying bird
- 22. A duck
- 23. Bird of arid plains
- 24. Crested birds in forests
- 25. Wold's largest Penguin

**Clues down**

- 1. A genus of small Flycatchers
- 2. A place of rest
- 3. A bird that erects crest when alarmed
- 4. Bird of desert and Karoo
- 5. A starling named after him
- 6. A marine diver
- 7. Bird with long, curved probing bill
- 11. Birds with double-barrel name
- 12. Sombre birds of the forests
- 14. A coursing raptor
- 16. A barbet named after him

Compiler: Gerald Wingate



Pygmy Falcon Brian Vanderwalt



Forest Canary Brian Vanderwalt

**Quick quiz ...**

**Question 1:** Which six adjectives other than great(er), less(er) and little are used in bird names to describe size?

**Question 2:** Which five habitat types are used in bird names, e.g. Marsh Sandpiper?

**Answer no 1:**

- 1. Dwarf Bittern
- 2. Pygmy Falcon
- 3. Tiny Greenbul
- 4. Intermediate Egret
- 5. Giant Kingfisher
- 6. Goliath Heron

**Answer no 2:**

- 1. Bushveld Pipit
- 2. Forest Canary
- 3. Swamp Boubou
- 4. Mangrove Kingfisher
- 5. Woodland Kingfisher

## General Club information

### Subscribe to the TBC Birdnet

Make sure you get all the communication from the club. Send an e-mail to:

[Tygerberg-subscribe@yahoogroups.com](mailto:Tygerberg-subscribe@yahoogroups.com)

To unsubscribe, send an e-mail to:

[Tygerberg-unsubscribe@yahoogroups.com](mailto:Tygerberg-unsubscribe@yahoogroups.com)

In case your e-mail address change, unsubscribe your old address and send a subscribe request from your new e-mail address.

You may share information / important sightings with other club members by sending an e-mail to: [tygerberg@yahoogroups.com](mailto:tygerberg@yahoogroups.com)

### 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](mailto:Gert.k@absamail.co.za)

### TBC contact details

Website: [www.tygerbergbirdclub.org](http://www.tygerbergbirdclub.org)

PO Box 4388, Durbanville, 7551

Chairperson's e-mail: [B.crewe@wo.co.za](mailto:B.crewe@wo.co.za)

Treasurer's e-mail: [Helene.thompson@ewit.co.za](mailto:Helene.thompson@ewit.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/](http://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](mailto:dalene@brians-birding.co.za)

### TBC Steering committee 2019

Honorary President	Brian Vanderwalt	Cell: 082 999 9333
Chairperson	Brigid Crewe	Cell: 082 570 0808
Vice Chairperson	Helene Thompson	Tel: (021) 976 4079
Treasurer	Helene Thompson	Tel: (021) 976 4079
Secretary	Margaret Oosthuizen	Tel (021) 976 2217
Membership Secretary	Judy Kotze	Cell: 083 254 0919
Public Relations Officer	Antoinette le Roux	Cell: 083 236 8230
Communications Officer	Dalene Bennett	Cell: 084 702 4201
TBC Ringing Unit	Margaret McCall	Cell: 083 720 0747
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 voëlerfenis.

## Celebrating 33 years of bringing birders together



## Club meetings and outings

Our club members love going on outings but are aware of the environmental effect of carbon emissions. To combat this and to save costs, we encourage members to share lifts and to contribute towards the driver's fuel costs.

### August 2019

#### Wednesday 7 August: Midweek outing

##### Koeberg Nature Reserve

Meet outside the Durbanville Municipality at 7:30, parking in Oxford Street – to arrange shared lifts. For those going to Koeberg directly, please meet in the parking area of the Visitor's centre at about 8:30. Use Contermanskloof Road for access onto the N7- due to roadworks. Contact Helene (021) 976 4079.

#### Thursday 15 August: Club meeting 19:30

##### Speaker: Michael Mason. Topic "Reflections on a friendly Strandfontein challenge!"

Michael took part in a wonderful challenge at Strandfontein Waste Water treatment area. When you challenge friends to see 'how many birds' you can see during the year, it entails many visits to the area to try and find the trickier birds and hopefully find some unexpected rarities. Michael took great pictures and will give tips on how to identify the difficult birds seen at Strandfontein. Not to be missed!

#### Saturday 17 August: Club outing 08:00

##### Tinie Versfeld Reserve and Darling farms

Take the R27 West Coast Road from Melkbosstrand towards Yzerfontein. At the Darling/Yzerfontein crossing, turn right towards Darling. Proceed for 3km to the Tinie Versfeld Reserve (park facing Darling). We also visit 2 or 3 farms in the area. Bring sufficient food for a full day. Remember hats, water and insect repellent. Contact Brigid 082 5700 808

### September 2019

#### Wednesday 4 Sept: Midweek outing 8:00

##### Paarl Mountain Reserve

Meet outside the Municipality, in Oxford Street at 07:00 to arrange shared lifts. If you are going there directly, please let Kevin know the day before. We will bird from the Afrikaans Taal Monument all along the route. Hoping to find 'protea canary' as well as other specials of the area. Contact: Kevin Drummond-Hay 074 5873 792.

#### Thursday 19 September: Club meeting 19:30

Details to be announced

#### Saturday 21 September: Club outing 08:00

##### De Grendel Wine Estate, Panorama

Take the Plattekloof exit off the N1 (Exit 18), and travel for 5km along Plattekloof Road, turn Right at the robot into De Grendel. Sign in at the security gate. Details of where to park – see website. Contact: Brigid 082 5700 808

#### TBC Camp 13th - 15th September

Traveler's Rest Clanwilliam A rustic farm, on the Pakhuis Pass in rural Clanwilliam.

### October 2019

#### Wednesday 2 October: Midweek outing 07:30

##### Val de Vie, Paarl

Meet at Tygervalley at 07:30 to arrange shared transport. This estate is situated along the Berg River, along which we bird. A passcode for security must be obtained from Robert. Please note there is a new entrance to Val de Vie. More details to be posted. Contact Robert Brink 082 9029 448

#### Thursday 17 October: Club meeting 19:30

Details to be announced

#### Saturday 19 October: Club outing 08:00

##### Plaisir de Merle Estate, Simondium

Travel along the N1 and take the Klappmuts turnoff, turn right onto the R44. Cross the 4-way stop and take the first road left. At the stop street in Simondium, turn right onto the R45. The farm entrance is about 1km along this road. Sign in at security and wait 100m beyond the gate. Contact: Brian 082 9999 333.

### November 2019

#### Birding fun day: 8 - 9 November

Come and join this 24-hour fun challenge. From Friday @ 18:00 to Saturday @18:00

Starting and ending in Durbanville, we bird within a 100km radius in teams of four. We end this fun event with a 'bring and braai' at a member's house. Enter by 23 October - members only. Contact: Brigid 082 5700 808