

The Kite

Tygerberg Bird Club
Tygerberg Voëlklub

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Chirp from the Chair

We are happy to announce that the TBC 2022 Calendars have arrived. We urge our members to buy one or more at only R100-00 each. They make wonderful presents. All of the committee have stock, or you can order from Les Teare. See www.tygerbergbirdclub.org

We thank the sponsors for once more supporting the 'Calendar for Conservation' project. Congratulations to Les Teare for putting together another superb calendar – her 10th edition! This year the profits made from sales will be used to support two wonderful projects. Blue crane research and Black Harrier Conservation. Exciting news is that trackers have been fitted on some black harriers already – we look forward to getting more feedback about these projects during the months to come.

During the past week or more, we have had such fun watching a very cheeky Pin-tailed whydah chasing away birds much bigger than it from our feeding area at home. This young male has a shortish tail which he flicks at any bird that comes near the food. Cape sparrows are not put off much, but doves and bulbuls get out of the way. We laugh when this minute bird intimidates Red-eyed doves – who are at least 4 x bigger and much heavier. 1st prize for its fighting spirit! The whydah parasitises Common Waxbills – but these we do not really see in our garden.

Summer migrants are slowly returning to Durbanville, and it is exciting to once more see European Bee-eater and Greater Striped Swallows in our neighbourhood.

Thank you to the many TBC members who help with CWAC waterbird counts at Bot River.

The TBC Bird Ringing Unit are hard at work once more – with some wonderful retraps. Read more on that on page 6.

A big thank you to Dalene Vanderwalt, who has been co-ordinating the monthly ZOOM meetings which have been well attended.

Do join us at our monthly midweek and Saturday outings.

Happy Bird Watching!

Brigid Crewe

Black Harriers and a windfarm: Transforming concern to hope

When a windfarm was given the go-ahead in the Overberg – in the middle of a landscape surrounded by Critically Endangered Renosterveld, there was reason for great concern.

Windfarms are well-known to cause high numbers of bird deaths (particularly among the larger, long-lived species, and often these are species of conservation concern) in South Africa and the world over, as the spinning turbines become ‘invisible’ to the birds who then collide with them.

And yet, one year later, there’s considerable hope as the Overberg Renosterveld Conservation Trust partners with the windfarm, to find lasting solutions in the area.

The Excelsior Windfarm was completed at the end of 2020 on 2 300 hectares of land outside Swellendam. It’s owned by BioTherm Energy and generates around 33 MW of power. For a country that is once again facing consistent load shedding, additional generating capacity is essential.

Still, the challenge created by the Excelsior Wind farm was related to WHERE it was constructed. The Renosterveld patches that surround the wind farm are home to the Endangered Black Harrier – a flagship species for us given their dependence on Renosterveld and Fynbos habitats.

Black Harriers have been consistently escalated on the Red Data list, as their numbers continue to fall. There are now estimated to be fewer than 1000 mature individuals left in the world. Other windfarms are known to have caused several Black Harrier deaths through collisions.

When we started to assess the Renosterveld around Excelsior for the presence of Black Harriers, we made a remarkable discovery: the area holds what is known to be the highest density of breeding pairs in the Overberg. At one stage, a phenomenal seven breeding pairs were witnessed here.

At this stage, our concern for the fate of Black Harriers here escalated! How could the harriers be protected against potential collisions? BioTherm Energy, however, has been involved in a big way from the start. And we currently have a number of exciting projects on the go, to protect Black Harriers here.

Here’s what happened: From the start of construction, BioTherm employed 10 bird monitors, led by the passionate Clarissa Mars – who monitor bird movements from a vantage point close to wind turbines for at least eight hours a day, seven days a week. The moment they witness a Black Harrier (or another threatened bird such as a Cape Vulture or Secretarybird) close to a turbine, they radio this in, and the particular turbine is shut down. This strategy to reduce bird deaths is known as Shut-down on Demand and BioTherm has committed to implement this for the entire 20-year life span of the turbines.

To date, not a single species of conservation concern, or any raptor has been killed by the turbines.

At the same time, we partnered with the Overberg Crane Group and Dr Rob Simmons of the University of Cape Town, to monitor the movements of Black Harriers. Two breeding males were tagged with satellite tags in November 2020. Both pairs bred successfully, with four chicks and one chick hatching from each pair respectively.

We’ve been able to watch their movements closely. At last count, one male had never left the Renosterveld area close to Excelsior. The other made frequent trips to De Hoop Nature Reserve, where the satellite tags last tracked him.

With the help of the Tygerberg Bird Club, we'll be tagging three more breeding Black Harriers this year, which will give us an even better idea as to their movements around the Excelsior Windfarm and their use of Renosterveld habitats and arable lands for foraging.

BioTherm has also committed to contributing towards the ORCT's easement programme over the lifespan of the Excelsior Wind Farm, enabling us to offer additional incentives to landowners (in the form of assistance with key management interventions) when undertaking our negotiations for new easements.

What's more, working with BioTherm, we continue to find ways to protect these birds of prey, assessing new technologies and mitigation measures.

Overberg Renosterveld Conservation Trust



The 25-year-old Clarissa Mars is Biodiversity Supervisor at the Excelsior Wind Farm.

She is the first person in South Africa to oversee and supervise a shutdown-on-demand programme at a wind farm.

Clarissa says: "You have to be strong and smart as a woman today working in this sector."



Can birdwatching really improve our mental health? The science says yes

Over the past 18 months, everyone I know turned to nature in some way to cope with the pandemic. My friend went to the lake every day to feed the geese. My parents put up a bird feeder in the garden and watched the avian antics from inside the house. I liked to go and see the kestrels soaring overhead at my local nature reserve. Through the various worries, tragedies and restrictions that we endured, nature provided us with much-needed solace and diversion.

Birding is undoubtedly a pleasant experience – joyful, picturesque, some might even say restorative – but as anyone who has ever suffered anxiety or depression knows, pleasant things are not necessarily enough to alleviate long-term mood disorders. So, can birds and nature really benefit our mental health?

There's increasing scientific evidence that they can – especially for people living in built-up areas. A 2017 study published in *BioScience* measured different nature characteristics in urban neighbourhoods, and found that vegetation cover and afternoon bird abundance were positively associated with a lower prevalence of depression, anxiety, and stress. The findings were so clear that researchers could actually put a number on the minimum amount of vegetation cover needed to reduce each mental health issue: 20% for depression, 30% for anxiety, and 20% for stress.

Zooming in on birds, a 2020 study published in *Ecological Economics* put a literal price on bird biodiversity. The study used information from the 2012 European Quality of Life Survey to compare the satisfaction levels of more than 26,000 adults with the diversity of birds found around their homes, towns and cities. The results showed a clear correlation between happiness and the number of bird species. In fact, birds were found to be just as important for human wellbeing as financial security. According to their calculations, being near 14 additional bird species provided as much satisfaction as earning an extra \$150 a month.

There's no way of knowing whether it was the birds themselves that caused this phenomenal effect, or just their species richness, which tends to be higher around natural features such as forests, rivers and lakes. However, there are numerous arguments in birds' favour. Birds are some of the most visible (and audible) members of the animal world, and are much more likely to make their presence known to us in our everyday lives, reminding us that there's more to life than urban drudgery.

There's even evidence that birdsong can boost our attention span and helps us recover from stress. A 2013 study published in the *Journal of Environmental Psychology* interviewed twenty participants and found that birdsong was the type of natural sound they most often associated with stress recovery and attention restoration. Interviewees recounted that birdsong reminded them of relaxing natural landscapes as a whole, and was also pleasant and melodious to listen to in itself.

It may seem strange to present the beauty and inspiration of nature in such a scientific – some might say soulless – way. How can you put a price on the swoosh of turtle-dove's wing, or write a prescription for a dose of dawn chorus? But the truth is that such statistics are more important now than ever. The United Nations estimates that 54% of the world's population lives in urban areas, and that proportion is rising all the time. More and more of us are living our lives separate from nature – but thanks to studies like these, planners have concrete evidence that green spaces really do matter.

Not only this, but the march of human development is gathering pace, in the face of environmental collapse. Showing governments and businesses that prioritising the environment has measurable economic and health benefits will help them make decisions that could save the planet.

On a more individual note, it's also a reminder to ourselves that being around nature isn't a frivolous pastime or unimportant hobby. It's something that could vastly improve our health and wellbeing. So take that hike you were planning, visit your local nature reserve, or even just go on a lunchtime walk in your nearby park.

Jessica Law: as published by Birdlife South Africa

TBC members enjoying the outdoors during an outing to Helderberg Nature Reserve on 19th September



Providing schools with a copy of Faansie's Bird book for kids

Tygerberg Bird Club has agreed to support Michael Mason with a project that aims to provide every one of the 180 odd schools in the greater Cape Town area with at least one copy of Faansie's Bird Book for kids. This includes high schools and primary schools, so no grades are excluded.

The future of conservation lies in the hearts and actions of those who are still at school. We support Michael in his belief that by investing in children, we do more for the environment than almost any other project that our generation endeavours to embark on. Any exposure to the natural world around them, could spark an interest that grows into leadership roles in conservation in the future. Birding is uniquely suited, as birds are everywhere and also an excellent measure of environmental health.

Michael managed to procure 180 of Faansie's books at a reduced price. The books are perfect except for a few pages that are in Afrikaans instead of English. This isn't a huge issue as the English names are below the Afrikaans ones anyway.

Some schools do not have a library, but the idea is to leave the books in the hands of one of the science teachers at each school, to either place in the library or allow children to page through when time allows. Michael is working on providing the teachers with a Power Point Presentation or two to go with the books. In grade 7/8 the science curriculum actually has a short section on bird bill adaptations and providing them with some of his photographs illustrating different bill features may be a useful teaching tool and encourage them to introduce children to the book and perhaps start identifying some of the birds around the school.

Club Activities

Update from the TBC ringing unit

2020 ringing was impacted by Covid-19 constraints, conservation practices and changes in land-use

Ringing operations were brought to an abrupt halt when the total lock-down was announced. The constraints were prolonged as the nature reserves remained closed to the public for a few months. However, being dedicated ringers, we negotiated access (subject to safety measures) to the three farms that we had been frequenting. But these sites too, had been subjected to changes in land use.

The fields at Rocklands had been ploughed to provide grazing and the river had been bulldozed to clear reeds and alien plants. The indigenous vegetation and the large dam at Groot Phesantekraal had been fenced off to hold some handsome antelope. The eucalyptus trees and riverside bush at Goedeontmoeting had been cleared to eradicate aliens, save water and also to improve grazing.

To add to the impact of recent changes, there had been a controlled burn at the Welgemoed dam in the Tygerberg Nature Reserve. The southern section of the Durbanville Nature Reserve was also burned to remove very dense old fynbos. This action was followed by the cutting down of numerous large dense bushes at the Botterblom Nature Reserve as a precursor to a future controlled burn.

It was not all doom and gloom and it was pleasing to know that suitable alternative sites were close at hand and would provide interim solutions until the vegetation had resprouted at the recently burned reserves. The Uitkamp Wetland has a walking trail that is located at the curve in Sunbird Crescent, D'Urbanvale, and access is available to trees, bush and reedbeds. Mist nets erected at this site have caught an attractive array of species, including a handsome Burchell's Coucal.

The other alternative venue is the Bracken Nature Reserve that is located on a natural rise and is also further elevated because a portion is on top of a rehabilitated landfill site. The first visit was on an extremely cold and misty winter's day which saw very few birds venturing about in the gloom. A Peregrine Falcon in a tall alien tree kept an eye on proceedings and undoubtedly caused the resident birds to maintain a low profile. The second visit was on a crisp but clear morning in spring and the increased bird activity resulted in a fine selection of species, including two retraps from our previous visit.

Our annual pilgrimage is a ringing session on Heritage Day at Avondale in Durbanville where Ronel's amazing garden is a drawcard to host of species, including the handsome male Malachite and Amethyst Sunbirds while the females' somewhat drab plumage provides an identity challenge for novice birders.

Regular monitoring of fixed sites is important since longevity and site fidelity can be measured in long time series, as illustrated by the following records:

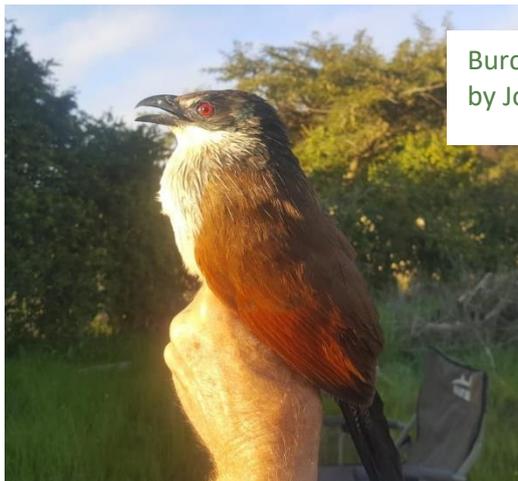


Malachite Sunbird by John Maberly

1. Cape Robin Chat ringed at Durbanville Nature Reserve on 17/09/2014 and retrapped at the Reserve on 26/05/2021 (6 years and 8 months)
2. Cape Robin Chat ringed at Tygerberg Nature Reserve on 05/06/2013 and retrapped at the Reserve on 28/07/2021 (8 years and 1 month)
3. Karoo Prinia ringed at Durbanville Nature Reserve on 10/02/2016 and retrapped at the Reserve on 04/08/2021 (5 years and 5 months)

Yes, we are living in times of change. However, the TBC ringing unit has been up to the challenge, and is also very grateful to the members of the TBC for their continued encouragement and generous support.

Gerald Wingate



Burchell's Coucal
by John Maberly



Female
Malachite
Sunbird by
Gerald Wingate

Club outing to De Grendel wine farm

The weather was kind to us, and we had a wonderful turnout of 34 members and friends on 24 April to De Grendel farm on the outskirts of Cape Town. This wonderful wine estate has been the property of the Graaff family since 1891! A farm with a wonderful history – do read up on their website.

The TBC have had outings here in May 2015 (38 bird species), September 2018 (46 species), and were rained out in September 2019. This year, we had nice weather, but the birds took quite some time to warm up and start moving about. Parking at the small chapel, the bush birds were very quiet early on during the outing.



Guineafowl, Egyptian Goose, and numerous Pied Crows were seen. A Bokmakierie started calling when Blue Cranes also started calling nearby. Walking up the side of the vineyards to get to the Rhenosterveld higher up, Prinia's and Grey-backed Cisticola, Bar-throated Apalis and a Jackal Buzzard were seen. Stonechat foraging in the vineyards was nice to see whilst walking along the contour path. The view of Cape Town and Table Mountain from up here is wonderful!

Other nice raptors seen were Black Sparrowhawk, Lanner Falcon and Rock Kestrel. A very nice morning of birding was end off with the compulsory picnic. A total of 42 species were seen. We hope to come back to this lovely farm in the summer and add many more birds to this list.

Brigid Crewe

TBC Wilderness Camp September 2021

Ten intrepid birding travellers set out very early on a cold Monday morning, full of expectation for 4 days of fabulous bird sightings, and we were not disappointed.

Our journey started in Durbanville with a quick stop at Val de Vie to collect the last 2 group members and off we went in search of fun and adventure. We took the R62 route towards Oudtshoorn and passed over the new Ashton bridge which had just been installed, on through all the other quaint towns along this route and pulled over on the Huisrivierspass for a quick look. What a great stop! Fairy Flycatcher immediately came to check us out and soon a pair of Cape Rock Thrush entertained us with their beautiful song. Familiar Chat and Cape Bunting joined in the fun. As we drove away, a pair of Verreaux's Eagles soared over the cliff top.

We made our way over the stunning Outeniqua pass (who doesn't love a beautiful mountain pass) to George for our grocery shopping and then on to the Wilderness National Park, our home for the next 3 nights. A quick walk around the grounds immediately brought us Black-headed Oriole, calling loudly from a nearby tree as well as that wonderful call from the very illusive Knysna Warbler, a bird we would attempt to see but which enjoyed teasing us and keeping well hidden, all week long. Chicken wraps for dinner and we were off to bed for an early start.

After breakfast and another quick walk around the grounds, we headed off to the Rondevlei hide for the usual water bird suspects. Quite a number of Maccua duck on the water. The Malachite hide was closed for maintenance and on the way out, a very accommodating Burchell's Coucal sat in a tree on the side of the road for us to admire.

We ventured on to the Karatara river to see if the Finfoot was around but alas not. Onwards over the Hoogekraal road to Libertas farm to search for Black-winged Lapwing and there they were. Very handsome Lapwings indeed, popping up in the grass amongst the cows. A great tick.

After lunch we headed to the Big Tree in the Garden Route National Park. Not so many birds around but we had some views of the Terrestrial Brownbul and Chorister Robin-chat and some saw the Blue-mantled Crested Flycatcher. On the way home we stopped off at the Ebb and Flow Fairy Knowe and went to the Gallinule hide. A lovely courting pair of Great Crested Grebe entertained us. Four of us went on to walk the Half-collared Kingfisher trail and found Lemon Dove and Forest Buzzards. We did a little pont pulling over the river before heading back home. A wonderful braai was laid on for supper by Hannes and Wendy and Estelle where we spotted a roosting pair of Brown-hooded Kingfishers.

Very early the next morning we were off to Plettenberg Bay where we met our guide for the day, Ian Pletzer, at the Piesang Valley Rd. We were immediately spoilt with the most fabulous birds. Knysna Woodpecker, Grey Sunbird, African Dusky Flycatcher, Olive Bushshrike, Amethyst Sunbird, Black-collared Barbet (a recent migrant into the area), Collared Sunbird, Forest Canary and Little Bittern were some of the specials we encountered amongst many other usual suspects. Still in search of the noisy yet invisible Knysna Warbler, Ian took us to 3 different spots to try and lure it from its hiding place but to no avail. It was fast becoming our bogey bird!

We moved on to the forests at Nature's valley where we had lunch, and where certain of our party was very pleased to see that a make-shift table-cloth had appeared (long story). We had a wonderful walk in which we all encountered the Scaley-throated Honeyguide and the Grey Cuckooshrike, which was one of our teams 600th bird. Congrats to Jenny Wentzel on this great achievement in a relatively short space of time. We searched for Narina Trogon, White-starred Robin and Willow-warbler but dipped on these ones.

We returned to Plett and stopped off at the Boat Club to look for Pied Wagtail but didn't find it. We did find Whimbrel, Common Greenshank and our only African Spoonbill for the trip.

A very productive day in Plett eventually came to an end and we moseyed on back to our base camp for a lovely Spag Bol dinner. On the way, we stopped off in Knysna at the heads to check out the Peregrine Falcons and were treated to a front row seat of the mating pair doing their thing. Very exciting.

Our last day dawned and after a final walk around the grounds, staking out the bush we KNEW the Knysna Warbler was in because we could hear it calling loudly and mockingly, we all piled into our trusty bus and headed out of town. A number of rarities had been reported on the Telegram group and we decided to track a few down on the way. Our first stop was for the Dark-capped Bulbul in Mosselbay which we eventually found, although not great views. We then went on to the Knob-billed Ducks close to Vleesbaai. There were at least 4 of them along with other birds in a farm field and we all had great views.

Moving on towards Swellendam, we turned left off the N2 at Buffelsjagsrivier and took a farm road to look for Agulhas Long-billed Lark, Cape Clapper Lark, Large-billed Lark and Red-capped Lark as well as Karoo Korhaan and we found them all. We stopped for the wonderful Roosterkoek for lunch and were very happy birders with a total of 155 species seen on the trip by the time we reach home later that afternoon.

A grateful thanks to Kevin for his organization, driving and bird-finding knowledge from all of us; Vic & Carol, Liz, Estelle, Jenny, Anette, Hannes & Wendy and myself for a fabulous trip. May there be many more.

Robyn Kadis



Top: TBC members on Wilderness Camp.

Right: Knysna Woodpecker

Photos by Kevin Drummond-Hay

Birding combined with flowers: Tinie Versfeld and Darling Farms

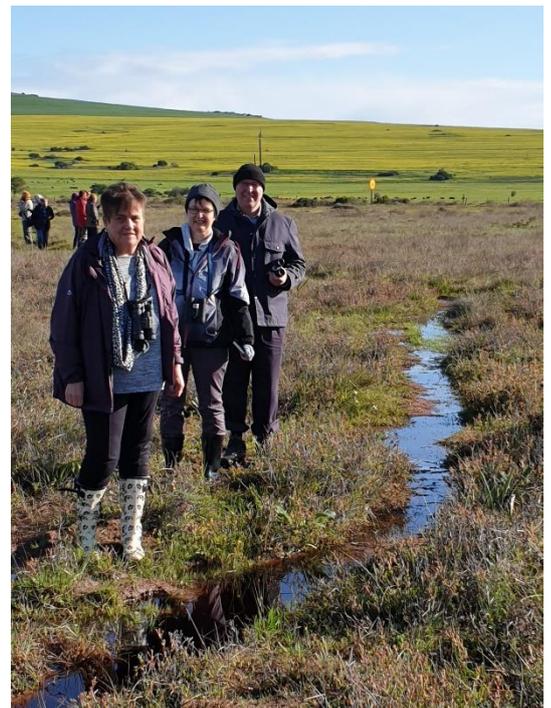
13 TBC members braved the very cold and wet weather, and met at Tinie Versfeld at 08:30 on 25th September. On the way there Frank Sokolic kindly pulled two cars out that had got stuck in deep water at the bottom of the Vissershok Road. Luckily Judy and Brian wisely turned around to go the long way around to get onto the N7. Between 52 and 70mm of rain fell in the greater Durbanville area two days earlier.



Tinie Versfeld Reserve had running streams along all the paths. Lots of laughs while we tried to skip the furrows, and not slip. Some of us wisely had water boots on. Brian and Kevin heard and followed an African snipe flying by. No luck for the rest of us. Cloud Cisticola were calling and displaying, and as always took quite a bit of work to actually see properly. Ducks and one lonely Greater Flamingo were seen on the dam. It was very full and overflowing. Spur-winged Geese were seen and one could see the group had not been out birding much due to Covid – as their size impressed all! Before leaving, great views were had of Pearl-breasted Swallow sitting on a fence. Bokmakierie calls were heard, and Red-capped larks were also seen well. This reserve promised to be spectacular in 2 weeks' time.

Next, we enjoyed seeing orchids at Duckitt Nursery in Darling. Due to rain, we had an early brunch under carports. Thereafter we went to see the Hamerkop nests. The 50-year-old nest and tree had fallen down in a storm three months earlier. Four new nests were quickly built, but no luck at seeing the birds! Klaas's Cuckoo was heard only. Rock Martins gave good views. They nest in the pack shed of the Nursery. Yellow-billed Kites had recently returned, and gave the Pied Crows some competition. We spent some time driving around the flower reserve, enjoying the 'early' flowers. Clapper larks were heard, but as yet not displaying. Capped Wheatear, Stonechat and Large-billed Lark were seen well.

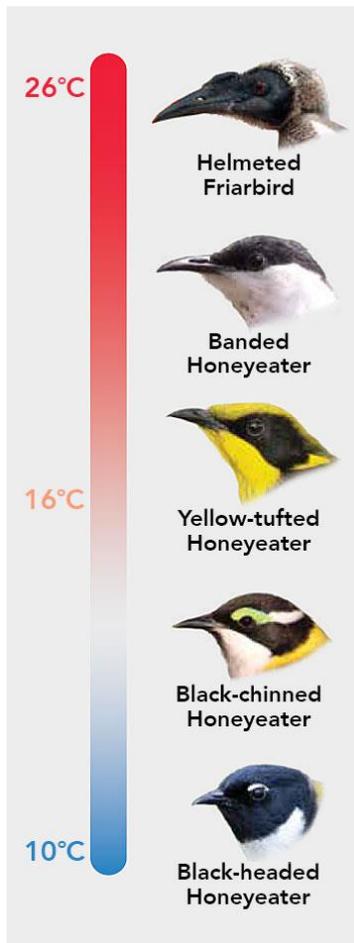
We ended an enjoyable day out at Groote Post Farm. Blue cranes were seen well on a field amongst beautiful daisies. Mousebirds, Drongo, Chestnut-vented Warbler and many waterbirds were seen on a lovely walk past the bird hide and up the hills. It was so nice to be out in nature again, and leave suburbia behind. In total, we saw 70 bird species, but with warmer weather this number would easily be higher. Thank you to the Duckitt and Pentz families for giving us permission to enjoy birding on their lovely properties.



Brigid Crewe

Know your birds

Did you know a bird's beak is shaped by more than what it eats?



Bird beaks come in a dizzying array of sizes and shapes and climate plays a role in shaping beak size in many species of honeyeaters.

Species living in cooler regions have shorter beaks than those living in warmer regions.

Studies by a team from the Okinawa Institute of Science and Technology in Japan discovered that while the thickness of a bird's beak was related to how they foraged and what they ate, climate also played a role in shaping honeyeater beaks. Honeyeaters such as the Black-headed Honeyeater that inhabit cooler regions of Australia had shorter beaks than their relatives, and a shorter beak is better for heat retention, but not as good for shedding heat during hot weather. Because the birds are trading off benefits of one trait in favour of another, the authors argue that birds may be adapting to these trade-offs by changing their behaviour. Heat-stressed birds with small beaks might modify their activities to search for food primarily at dawn and dusk, or to make frequent visits to the waterhole to cool off.

Factors that shaped the size and structure of a bird's beak also affected how it sang. For example, species with longer beaks such as Noisy Friarbird sang slower, and species with longer and narrower beaks sang at lower frequencies.

Source: Autumn 2020 issue of Living Bird magazine.

How do owls detect their prey on dark nights?

Every now and then, here in Durbanville, I hear the duets of Spotted (or African) Eagle Owls *Bubo africanus*.

The male's deep "hooo hooopoo" and the female's response "hooo hooo hooo". If you rush out in time you may see the distinctive silhouette of an owl on a nearby roof-top or lamp post. Have you ever thought how, without the help of street-lights, owls are able to detect and catch their prey on really dark nights?

Unlike most raptors, owls don't have a crop in which to store and carry food, so owls must catch and eat smaller meals, more often.



Great Grey owl about to pounce

Rodents are ideal prey. Usually plentiful, they make detectable high pitched squeaky noises, and are small enough for owls to swallow whole.

Perhaps the most unique feature of owls is their hearing. Many owls have differences in the size and placing of their ear openings. One ear is higher in the skull than the ear on the other side. This enables them to locate the sound by turning their head to the side which is the first to detect the sound, even though the difference between the ears detecting the noise is only a split second. The sounds are focused partly by their feathered facial discs which serve as parabolic receptors. It helps that owls have the ability to turn their heads 270° to focus on sounds from almost directly behind them. If we turned our heads that amount it would rupture blood supply to our brain and cause a stroke. Owls have a specially adapted blood flow system to keep blood flow to their eyes and ears during rapid head turns.

Having detected the sound and focused on its location they drop from their perch and fly directly towards the prey. The prey may move during their flight. To continue their ability to locate the sound owls have evolved silent flight. This is less to prevent the rodent hearing them than it is so that the sound of their wings beating doesn't prevent the owl picking up on any sounds the prey may make as it moves. The owl flies face forward so its ears and hearing are directly towards the sound. At about 60 cm from its prey the owl brings its feet forward and just before it hits the feet are right in front of the owl's face i.e., in the focal zone. The four taloned toes of one foot are brought together prey to strike and clasp the prey, whilst the other foot absorbs the collision with the ground.

During breeding the gentleman owl does most of the hunting and provisions his female across the month-long incubation period and chicks through early part of the chick rearing period. The female's role is to provide warmth and protection to the eggs and chicks until the chicks are big enough to regulate their temperature.

I've looked for photos of the Spotted Eagle owl flying at prey but has proved too difficult to shoot in the dark so I include photos of European owls shot when attacking in daylight.



Snowy Owl

Dr Tony Williams

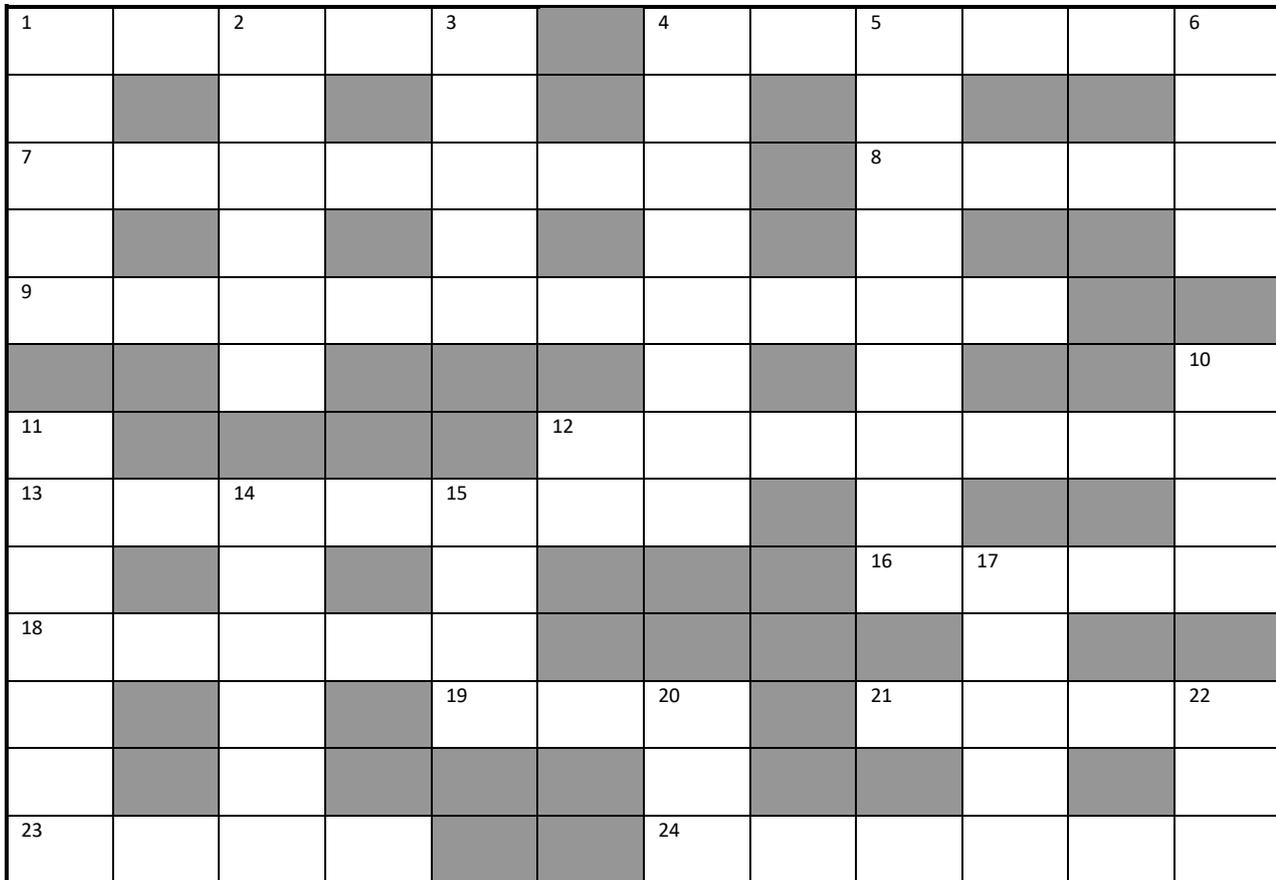


Thank you to the following members for their donations:

Kobie and Sarah van der Merwe

Brain teasers

CROSS WORD PUZZLE NO. 10



Source: Gerald Wingate

Clues Across:

1. Synonym for bills
4. A dark-faced weaver
7. A long-legged plover
8. Describes a stork with gaping bill
9. A little wader
13. Someone's offshore gull
14. Black-and-white waterfowl
17. An unenergetic cisticola
19. Skulking waterfowl
20. A claw is attached to this
22. This term describes black-and-white
24. A song style of bokmakieries
25. A metallic sunbird

Clues Down:

1. Synonym for beaks
2. A swift with white belly
3. A fresh water wader with very long bill
4. A penguin was named after this adventurer
5. A bird with spatulate beak
6. A lark endemic to Namibia
11. A "drab" tit
12. A jewel of a cuckoo
13. Abbreviation for South-East
15. A yellow forest dweller with black head
16. A brood parasite needs to find this
18. Refers to birds
21. Outgoing tide
23. Diurnal is active during this period

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NB: note new information

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Members are welcome to share information regarding their travels and interesting sightings on this page.

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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

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Contributions to The Kite

Please mail any contributions to the newsletter (include pictures where possible) to:

dalene@brians-birding.co.za

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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 35 years of bringing birders together



Club meetings and outings

October 2021

Tuesday 5 October: Midweek outing to Kirstenbosch Botanical Gardens @ 08:30

Contact Daryl de Beer 082 881 8590

Park at the top Rycroft gate. We'll start birding in the top part of the gardens. Phone Daryl to check where the group is if you're running late due to traffic. Remember your picnic goodies. Pensioners get in for free.

Thursday 21 October: Club Zoom meeting @ 19:30 (check website for details)

Saturday 23 October: Outing to Plaisir de Merle, Simondium @ 08:00

Contact Brian Vanderwalt 082 9999 333

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

November 2021

Saturday 6 November:

CWAC Count - Bot River Lagoon

Contact Kevin Drummond-Hay 074 587 3792 to be assigned to a team. This important bird count is now in its 30th year. Thank you to our Members for their contribution to this valuable IBA count.

12 to 13 November 2021 (17h00 Friday to 17h00 Saturday): Club Birding Fun Day

Contact Brigid 082 5700 808 to take part in this 24-hour fun challenge in teams of 3 or 4. Enjoy a fun day out, birding around Durbanville farms on Friday afternoon and around the Peninsula on Saturday. Entries close on 4th November.

Thursday 18 November: Club Zoom Meeting @ 07:30 Members share their 2021 pics

Contact Dalene 084 702 4201 and send her up to 10 of your favourite travel and birding pictures to share with us.

Saturday 20 November: Outing to Tygerberg Nature Reserve, Welgemoed @ 08:00

Contact: Gerald Wingate 083 443 9579

We meet just inside the gate. Entrance fee payable. Raptors are always good in this reserve. Wear good walking shoes. Remember hats, drinks & eats.

Saturday 27 November: Birdlife 24 hour Birding Big Day

There is a 50km and a 5km category. For details, Google: www.Birdlife.org.za/support-us/events/birding-big-day-2021

December 2021

Tuesday 7 December Midweek outing to Majik Forest, Welgemoed @ 08:00

Contact Brian 082 9999 333. ONLY park at the Protea Hotel. Traffic fines are given outside the gate. We meet at the lower gate. Please share lifts as parking is limited.

Saturday 11 December: Year-end outing to Rooi Els and Betty's Bay @ 07:30

Contact: Brian Vanderwalt (082 9999 333)

Travel along the N2, turn onto R44 towards Gordon's Bay. Continue to the T-junction at the edge of Gordon's Bay, turn Left onto scenic coastal road to Rooi Els. Meet in the car park at 07:30 outside the shop. After looking for the Rockjumper along the Mountain, we go to Harold Porter BG for the year-end outing and picnic. Entrance fee payable. Remember snacks, drinks, hats & chairs.

January 2022

Wednesday 12 Jan. Outing to Strandfontein WWW.

Thursday 20 Jan. Monthly meeting

Saturday 22 Jan. Monthly Outing