

The Kite

Tygerberg Bird Club
Tygerberg Voëlklub



Number 138 (May – July 2023)

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Affiliated member of:



Chirp from the Chair

We have started the year with really interesting speakers.

Gerald Wingate told us of their hectic 2022 - competing in the Cape Town 150km challenge. Coming 2nd in the competition was fantastic, but it came with a lot of hard work and chasing down birds in the designated area! Missing out sometimes and having to go back again! Well done Gerald.

Then we had to laugh at Pieter Diederichs – chasing lifers to far flung destinations and at times having to threaten to leave his wife at home, if she does not hurry up to join him before he needs to leave! When a rare bird pops up somewhere – no questions asked – get in your car and chase it down! It is nice to be retired and be able to do this.

The club's AGM was held successfully in March, with 40 members present. An extract from the Chairperson's report is published on page 11.

For the TBC's 37th Birthday celebration, Trevor Hardaker was our speaker in April. This should have been a party evening – but the Tygerberg Reserve unfortunately got closed to the public due to a broken water pump! Trevor had to give a ZOOM talk, about their fantastic trip to Papua New Guinea to see the "Birds of Paradise". Very hard work, and some really suspect accommodation! If you missed this talk, please go onto the TBC Facebook page, and scroll down to 22 April 2023 for the recorded version. The birds of PNG are incredible. Trevor has been a member of our Club for all of the 37 years – and a big thank you to him, for all the hard work he does for Southern African birding, and the Rare Birds Group. A birder extraordinaire!

We encourage our members to come on outings, and to join us for the monthly club meetings.

Happy Birding!

Brigid Crewe
Chairperson

In Memoriam

This is about Margaret's life, not her passing ...

She loved her family dearly and her friends were always close to her heart.

She was passionate about all things natural, the great outdoors, the birds in the trees, the animals on the plains.

When it came to the birds, her enthusiasm for ringing was legendary. A patient teacher to all who fell under her wing, her knowledge was profound and this she imparted with passion and understanding.

She was a founder member of the Tygerberg Bird Club, the cornerstone of the Ringing unit and a very enthusiastic participant at club outings.

Margaret made friends wherever she went and never a harsh word passed her lips no matter the provocation. She could only love and not despise.

Margaret was a true Lady in all respects and will live on in our hearts forever. Go peacefully into the night dear Margaret and soar with the birds in the Ethereal Sky. They too will welcome you as a kindred spirit.

“Who is Margaret? What is she?” ... a song by William Shakespeare

Who is Margaret? What is she,
That all our swains commend her?
Holy, fair, and wise is she;
The heaven such grace did lend her,
That she might admirèd be.

Is she kind as she is fair?
For beauty lives with kindness.
Love doth to her eyes repair,
To help him of his blindness;
And, being helped, inhabits there.

Then to Margaret let us sing,
That Margaret is excelling;
She excels each mortal thing
Upon the dull earth dwelling;
To her let us garlands bring.



Margaret McCall as we know her best. Happy, with a bird in the hand.

Kevin Drummond-Hay

Black Harriers – an update

We hereby share an update, as at 6 March 2023, of what our tagged Black Harriers have been doing since they were tagged. We still have about five tags to fit to Overberg birds and another two to fit to other harriers breeding near windfarms outside of the Overberg - we hope to fit all seven tags this year.

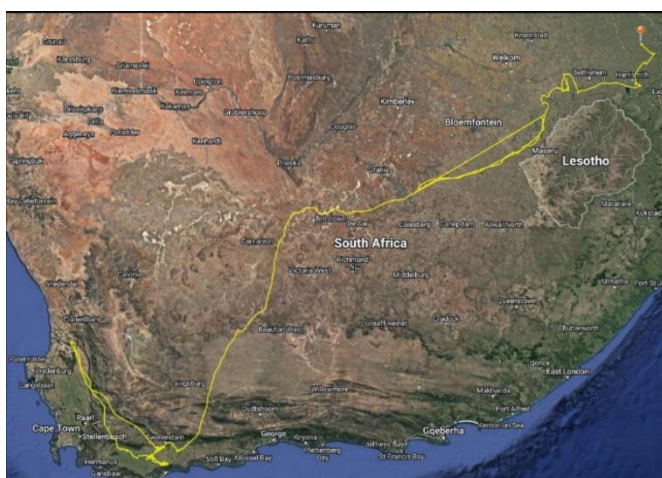
Thus far, none of our Overberg birds have returned from their journeys eastwards (Lesotho / Free State / Eastern Cape), so we are watching anxiously to see if they will return (if rainfall and mouse numbers improve) to breed here this season.

A huge thank you to the Tygerberg Bird Club for supporting this project – it certainly leveraged additional support through our crowd-funder and we are very excited about the data we are collecting. This will go a long way to inform conservation plans and future windfarm developments.

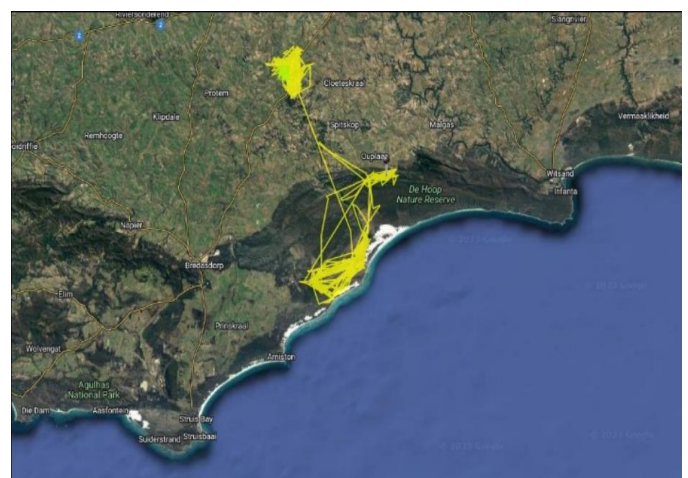
In summary, 10 birds have been fitted with trackers since November 2020. Unfortunately, the carcasses of two birds have been found. The trackers on two more birds are suspected to be faulty, since no recent signal readings have been traced. Six trackers are submitting successful readings and the movement of these birds are recorded. Information on the tagged birds as follows:

	Tagged individual	Date tagged	Last reading
1	Goeresoe male #47	November 2020	27 December. No carcass found; suspect faulty tag.
2	Goeresoe male #48	November 2020	5 November 2021. Killed through collision with wind turbine at Excelsior Wind Energy Facility.
3	Hartebeesterivier male	November 2020	5 November 2021, killed by wheat-cutter / harvester less than 2km from nest.
4	Goeresoe male #88	September 2021	3 March 2023, north of Vrede, Free State
5	Tarentaal male #08	September 2021	5 March 2023, between Sterkfontein Dam and Vrede (Free State).
6	Haarwegskloof male #09	October 2021	5 March 2023, near Stutterheim (Eastern Cape)
7	Goeresoe female #10	December 2021	3 June 2022. Confirmed alive (nest found and tag clearly visible on her back, seen much later in the breeding season again (October); suspect faulty tag.
8	Tarentaal male Ames	October 2022	5 March 2023, west of Cathcart, Eastern Cape
9	Tarentaal female Mesa	October 2022	5 March 2023, Molteno, Eastern Cape
10	Tarentaal male Chuana	October 2022	5 March 2023, Boesmanskop, Free State near Lesotho border

Odetta Curtis-Scott: Director - Overberg Lowlands Conservation Trust (ORCT)



8. Tarentaal male - movements tracked



2. Goerensee~48 male - movements tracked before killed.



The Owl Orphanage in Velddrif

Having spent most of his life in nature, Jacques Nel was intensely aware of the need for this Orphanage to protect owls and local bird species. A lifelong conservationist, he is constantly creating awareness in the local communities of the

importance of caring for our fauna and flora. This awareness inspired Jacques to start the Owl Orphanage. It is a dream come true for Jacques. From this idyllic spot, Jacques is following in his father's footsteps: sharing his knowledge and expertise with local communities to promote love for and understanding of the environment, demonstrating just how important it is to preserve this unique heritage.

The mission of Owl Orphanage is to create a safe haven for orphaned and injured owls where they can be cared for, rehabilitated and released back into nature at the appropriate time.

Owl Orphanage also receive other injured birds/animals that need care. One such, a Blue Crane baby came to them at around three weeks old after it has fallen into a water trough and nearly drowned. Upon arrival, "Baby Blue" was unresponsive, and the staff weren't confident that she would make it. After an hour thawing out in the sun, she had stopped shaking and eventually stood up. She was given antibiotics for three days and thankfully made a full recovery. Baby Blue was given a mixed diet of worms, crickets, broken eggshells, chicken hearts, greens, and mice and has continued to get stronger.



Until recently she remained indoors at night but spent her days outside in one of the day camps, where she has started practicing her flying, running up and down flapping her wings. In the wild, she would live in open fields so she would have had a long runway in order to take off and escape predators. Her baby fluff has almost all grown out, and her tail feathers are busy following suit. She was released from the day camps recently and is now spending her days foraging in the wheat fields. She continues to visit daily for her water and bath. Cranes usually sleep near or in water for night protection from predators and the parents would normally help so it's good to keep an eye on her.

There is a breeding pair which visits the farm on occasion and Baby Blue is slowly being introduced to them, so when her flight is strong enough, she can leave with them for their migration north. In the wild, cranes form a flock before attempting the long-distance flight. At this rate, she will be ready to migrate with them. The breeding pair returns annually to the same area so the orphanage will hopefully see Baby Blue next year for the breeding season.

Extracted from The Owl Orphanage newsletters and website

International News

Woodpecker Guides Post - Fire Forest Management

New tool turns science into action

What's good for the Black-backed Woodpecker is good for restoration of burned California forests. The birds' unique relationship with fire underpins the latest research into improved post-fire management. A study published in *Ecological Applications* describes a new tool that factors how fires burn into forest management decisions and turns science into action for wildlife conservation.

"Wildfire is like a 10,000-piece puzzle, and climate change is rearranging the pieces," said lead author Andrew Stillman with the Cornell Atkinson Centre for Sustainability and the Cornell Lab of Ornithology. "Gigantic, severe fires are becoming the new norm in California due to drought, longer burn seasons, and dense forests. But birds do really well in landscapes that are 'pyrodiverse'— areas where fire results in uneven patches burned at high, medium, and low severity."

Black-backed Woodpeckers love pyrodiversity. They prefer to build their nest cavities in newly burned areas after high severity fire. But they also like to be adjacent to an area that burned at low intensity where their young can hide from predators among living trees that still provide cover. The species' unique habitat associations means that they are sensitive to the removal of trees after fire, and forest managers use information on the woodpecker to guide their post-fire planning. After a wildfire, forest managers face difficult decisions about how to best protect and restore the burned areas while balancing the needs of people and wildlife. Sometimes there isn't time to survey wildlife in burned areas, making it hard to choose where to invest in wildlife conservation. To address this need, the researchers developed an online tool to predict the potential abundance of Black-backed Woodpeckers after fire. Incorporating new information on the value of pyrodiversity made the underlying models more accurate. "The tool uses data from 11 years of surveys to predict where woodpeckers could be found in the greatest numbers using data available within months after a fire burns," said Stillman. "The birds move in to take advantage of a boom in juicy beetle larvae in the burned trees."



Black-backed Woodpecker at its nest in a burned tree

The new tool will save time and effort after a wildfire and is meant for forest managers, conservationists, and private landowners. It is hosted by The Institute for Bird Populations in partnership with the USDA Forest Service. Though currently set up for California, the methods hold promise for other regions and species.

"A burned forest is a unique, incredible, and complicated ecosystem that bursts with new life," Stillman said. "At first you think everything is dead. The ground is ash. The trees are black. But as you start walking around, you find that the place is alive. It's not dead, just changed".

Source: Cornell Lab of Ornithology

Club Outings and Activities

Outing to Tygerberg Nature Reserve - 8 February

The morning temperature rose rapidly as 11 members assembled at the entrance to the Tygerberg Nature Reserve. An alert Rock Kestrel was perched prominently with its prey on the roof of the Kristo Pienaar Environmental Education Centre, as if it wanted to be observed. A group of four Rosy-faced Lovebirds, escapees from a local aviary, had found refuge in the roof of the centre and squawked loudly as they departed for their morning forage in the neighbouring gardens.

The stroll down the Duiker Hiking Trail produced the typical renosterveld species, such as Karoo Prinia, White-backed Mousebird and Cape Bulbul. A male Yellow Bishop was in non-breeding plumage but was easily identified by the bright yellow patches on the shoulders and rump. Persistent cheeping and fluttering at the top of a tall bare tree drew our attention to a male Pin-tailed Whydah that was attempting to impress its drab partner.

The group gathered under the canopy of the taller trees just below the second culvert to look and listen for the latest celebrity; an out-of-range male Blue-mantled Crested Flycatcher that had been observed the previous Saturday. Although distant calls were heard, we did not manage to get a glimpse of the elusive flycatcher.

The star of the show was surely the Brown-backed Honeybird that was seen close to the flycatcher's territory, and later searching for food in the bushes around a dead tree - proof of a recent controlled burn near the dam. Few of the members had previously obtained such close and prolonged views of this inconspicuous and drab little brood parasite. It was also a photographic lifer for more than one happy birder.



Brown-backed Honeybird

While hiking down to the dam, we were intermittently entertained by a variety of raptors such as Rufous-breasted Sparrowhawk, Jackal Buzzard, Black-winged Kite and two sightings of Black Sparrowhawk, one being a juvenile wearing brown plumage. The dam hosted its share of waterfowl; Egyptian Geese, Yellow-billed Ducks and Little Grebes while a Reed Cormorant and two Cape Wagtails paid brief visits.

Arial insectivorous feeders were represented by speedy Alpine and White-rumped Swifts, graceful Greater Striped Swallows and a few drab brown Rock Martins that flaunted the white "windows" in their tails.

The group wandered wearily back up to the entrance gate while being entertained by the resonant and somewhat haunting calls of Southern Boubou and Acacia Pied Barbet. A total of 44 species was recorded for the morning, which was a fair tally for a short walk on a hot day in February.

Gerald Wingate

Outing to Altydgedacht Wine Estate - 8 March

What a lovely morning it turned out to be with a good number of our members arriving on time to enjoy the outing at this lovely Wine Estate.

Leaving the car park, we birded along the road leading to Pampoenkraal. This was very quiet as the sun had not really begun to warm the morning chill.

We did however record a number of Fork-tailed Drongo in the car parking area while waiting for the group to arrive. Cape Weaver, Reed Cormorant on the little dam in front of the old restaurant, the ever-present Egyptian Geese, our good morning Hadedea with a Southern Grey-headed Sparrow popping up on the fence as we made our way back to the manor house where a few swifts were seen circling the area.

Once we got moving towards the farm dam and the vineyards things started to heat up.

We had raptors on display with Yellow-billed Kite, African Harrier-Hawk, Black Sparrowhawk, Lanner Falcon, Jackal Buzzard, Rufous-breasted Sparrowhawk and a great flyby of a European Honey Buzzard.

All in all, we recorded 43 species for the morning, all enjoyed the usual TBC TEA stop under the trees near the car park and smiles all around.

Kevin Drummond-Hay

Camp at Velddrif - 10 to 12 March



Great White Pelican

Our summer camp was to Kuifkopvisvanger at Velddrif. After unseasonal rain the week before, we were delighted that the weather had improved. The cottages are along the Berg River, with islands appearing at low tide. "Armchair birding", was great off our veranda. Eurasian Curlew, Greenshank, Whimbrel and Grey Plover were the 1st birds seen. Beverley and I had superb views of a Western Osprey catching a fish in the river near us. The farm is sandy and Karoo Scrub Robin, Pied Starling, Namaqua Dove and Bokmakierie were regularly seen around the cottages.

Saturday morning started with rain! Brian and Dalene joined us for birding at the neighbouring Kliphoeck salt pans. Here Little Terns flew around – showing how they got their name! They really are miniature terns. Caspian Tern, Avocet, Curlew Sandpiper, Little Stint and Chestnut-banded Plover were seen well. The convoy of cars moved towards the lower pans – when alas – Brian's vehicle (at the front) got horribly stuck. Due to the rain the salty mud caked his wheels, and we could not go further. Plans were changed, and we all went off to Laaiplek harbour and to Bokkomlaan in Velddrif. Pied Kingfisher and Great White Pelican were numerous here.

During the afternoon the group went birding on Kuifkop farm. The famous Western Barn Owl in the garden, was visited by all. Pearl-breasted and Barn Swallows were seen well. More than 40 Common Ringed Plover roosted together on shallow islands near the river – all in breeding colour! A Little Egret heronry at the Main house was comical to watch. We also watched Little Egret latching on to an African Spoonbill, catching the easy pickings stirred up. A communal braai was held at Bleshoender cottage – with lots of laughs and comparisons of nice bird sightings during the day.

On Sunday morning, Jan Kotze took us back to Kliphoeck salt pans. Taking a different route, we went straight to where Red-necked Phalarope were – a lifer for quite a few in the group! With better weather than the previous day, waders were seen and enjoyed at leisure. Kittlitz's and Chestnut-banded plover were seen close-up. The stars of the day were a group of three Red-necked Phalarope feeding together - with one bird already



Chestnut-banded Plover

going into breeding plumage! These small birds were seen really well. Was also nice to see Little, Black-necked and Great Crested Grebe all in one section of the pans.

Other nice birds seen were Ruff, African Hoopoe, Peregrine and Lanner Falcon, Common Buzzard, Black-winged Kite and Blue Crane. The weekend tally of bird species ended at 115. As we packed up, 5 or 6 Southern Double-collared Sunbird were drinking from a dripping tap – reminding us how dry the West Coast is at the moment. The weekend camp was enjoyed by us all.

Brigid Crewe

Feedback from the TBC AGM - 16 March

At a Special General Meeting held on 20 January 2023, the Steering committee for 2023 were elected, namely Brigid Crewe, Margaret Oosthuizen, Judy Kotzè, Dalene Vanderwalt and Kevin Drummond-Hay. Brian Vanderwalt remains the honorary president of the TBC.

Once again, we managed to publish a calendar for the year - largely thanks to the efforts by Brian Vanderwalt and Lesley Teare, who both put in many hours to make this a reality. All profits made from calendar sales go towards worthy bird conservation projects.

The Financial Statements of the TBC, as signed off by the Steering Committee, were discussed. Important Conservation projects were given sponsorships. These being the extension of the Seeberg Bird Hide in the WCNP and a donation to Birdlife SA for their Mouse Free Marion project.

A special thanks to the five teams who have been counting waterbirds at the Bot River lagoon for the past 29 years – they now do four counts per year. Kevin Drummond-Hay is the co-ordinator for this project. This is our club's flagship conservation project and provides valuable citizen science data to Birdlife SA.

This past year the TBC bird ringing unit celebrated their 29th year. They ring on farms in the Durbanville and Philadelphia areas, as well as at the Durbanville Nature Garden and at the Tygerberg Nature Reserve. Thank you to all who help with this valuable project.

As a club we are an affiliated member of Birdlife SA and we encourage our members to join Birdlife SA. The club strive to promote the conservation, study, understanding and enjoyment of birds and their habitats.

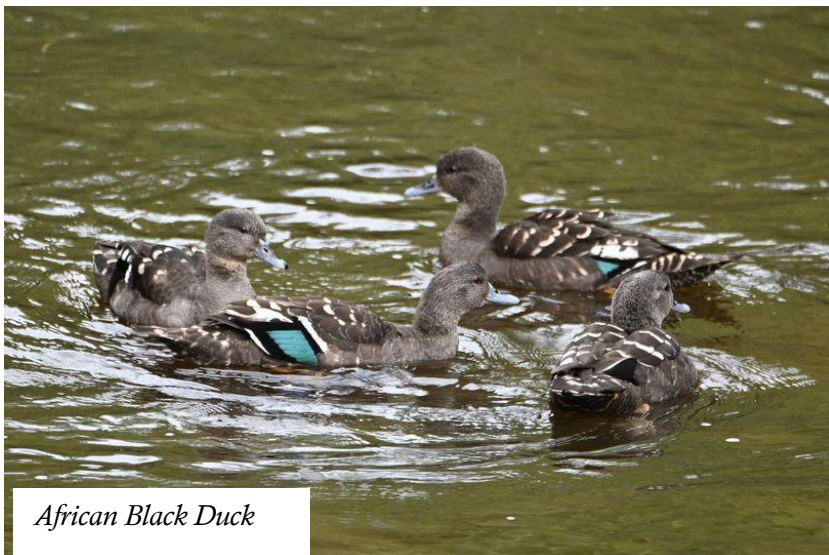
Outing to Spier Wine Farm - 18 March

A light drizzle delayed the start of the outing, but it did not dampen the 14 strong group's determination to bird. The dam produced some delights: Black Crake, Giant Kingfisher, a Malachite Kingfisher family and an Intermediate Heron.

On the far side of the dam 4 Black-crowned Night Heron were easily seen as were the hybrid Yellow-billed Ducks. Once we had crossed the river, numerous Black-headed Heron and the Black Saw-wing were seen.



Malachite Kingfisher



African Black Duck

The male Barn Swallows showed off their outer tail streamers during many fly-byes with Greater Striped Swallows and Brown-throated Martins. The Agapanthus plantings gave the group ample opportunity to clearly see the difference between the non-breeding Yellow Bishops and Southern Red Bishops as well as the difference between male and female Stonechat.

The highlight of the day was to see 4 African Black Ducks swimming around on the Eerste River. It was a great morning out and a joy to share a number of lifers

with a few of the members. In all 55 or more species were seen and the morning finished with everyone enjoying coffee and eats at the Farm Café.

Keith Roxburgh

Outing to Hillcrest Wine Estate -12 April

14 Members arrived at Hillcrest on a chilly morning for this outing. Among them were a couple from Australia, nogaal, who turned out to be former South Africans.

Quite a few birds were seen in and around the restaurant area with numerous Familiar Chats doing there entertaining little wing flicks, a double fly past by the resident Peregrine Falcon and Swee Waxbill feeding in the grasses between the vines.

The long slow walk up the hill produced a few more good sightings of Malachite Sunbird displaying its yellow epaulettes, Brimstone Canary, Karoo Prinia, African Black and Alpine Swifts, as well as White-rumped Swift. The usual Olive Thrush, Fiscal Flycatcher, Cape Bulbul etc were out there for all to see. While proceeding up the hill a big surprise was a fleeting sighting of a Brown-backed Honeybird, which a bit later was heard calling down in the valley.

A walk up the side of the mountain produced Bar-throated Apalis and Bokmakierie were duetting, and Cape Robin-chat feeding in the fynbos. Part of the group decided to continue up the mountain and return via the mountain Bike Trail and were fortunate to see a Black Sparrowhawk fly overhead. The rest of us that returned to the Restaurant area managed to see an African Goshawk passing overhead.

Once all had returned, we proceeded into the quarry for morning tea ritual. Chairs were set up along the edge of the Quarry Dam facing the cliff face and were completely in awe of the Peregrine sitting on a dead tree stump watching us devour our breakfasts. White-necked Raven also put in an appearance. All three Mousebirds were reported by some of the group.

The highlight was certainly the Peregrine Falcon giving the Photogs a good reason to click away. 40 species and a great morning's outing for all who ventured out.



Malachite Sunbird

Kevin Drummond-Hay

Monthly meeting - 20 April: talk by Trevor Hardaker



Flame Bowerbird

We were all looking forward to Trevor's talk at the Christo Pienaar centre and were disappointed when this changed to a Zoom meeting due to water challenges at the reserve. None the less, the talk didn't disappoint at all. Papua New Guinea is a spectacular birding destination, with 112 endemic bird species. Thanks to David Attenborough, we all know about the Birds of Paradise, but the fact that Trevor actually saw many of these (and have the photos to prove this), is amazing.

We all know Trevor as a fanatical birder, but the

effort that he and the birding party had to put in to find some of the birds, was hectic. PNG is very wet and most of the time they had to slog through rain and muddy terrain – climbing up and down mountain terrain. The average rainfall is 2500 – 4000mm per year.

The total number of bird species recorded on PNG is 742 and Trevor and party managed to see 340 species during their 3-week visit.



Sclater's Crowned-pigeon

Outing to Rondevlei Nature Reserve - 22 April

Despite a cold day, with rain threatening to pour down, 20 odd club members turned-up for the outing at Rondevlei. Brian assured us that he has checked the weather and that the rain clouds will clear up after 09:00, so we set-off in confidence that we wouldn't get wet. Well, that didn't last long!



It did clear-up briefly around 09:00, but thereafter we had to dodge the rain from one bird hide to the next.

Luckily this time around it wasn't as cold as it was last year. The rain clouds presented lovely formations in the air, and we all appreciated this. Unfortunately, there wasn't a lot of water around the bird hides and therefore we didn't get to see that many birds. Rondevlei is a pleasant and safe area, and most people were quite happy to do an outside walk and socialize with fellow birding friends.

Those who were energetic enough to climb the 2 flights of stairs to the viewing platform, did at least manage to see the hippo in the distance (I always thought the stories of hippos here was just a marketing ploy!).

By 11ish, the weather allowed us a break to have our customary picnic under the trees and everybody parted in a contented mood.

Dalene Vanderwalt

Member Tales and Travels

Our members entertain us with some of their recent outdoor visits and experiences. Send us some of your pictures and stories for publication here.



Hannes & Wendy Visagie visited Wakkerstroom in April 2023 and following about 500km on the dirt roads in the area, they finally got to tick the Marsh Owl and Orange-breasted Waxbill on their life list. As always, Hannes has the pictures to prove this!

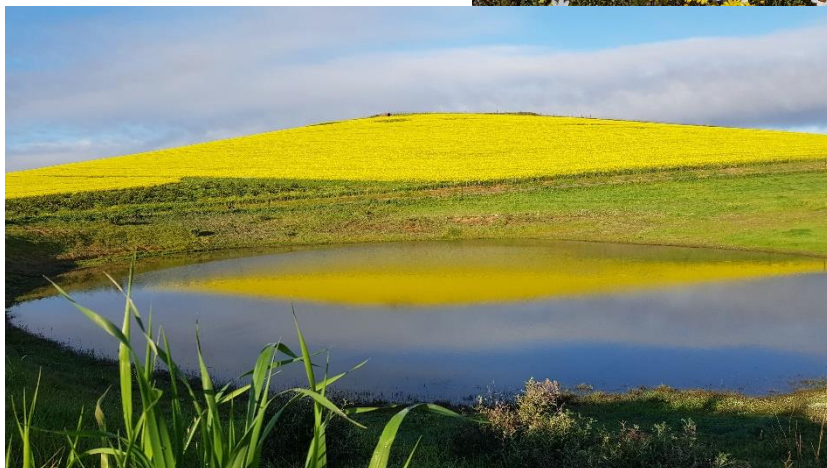
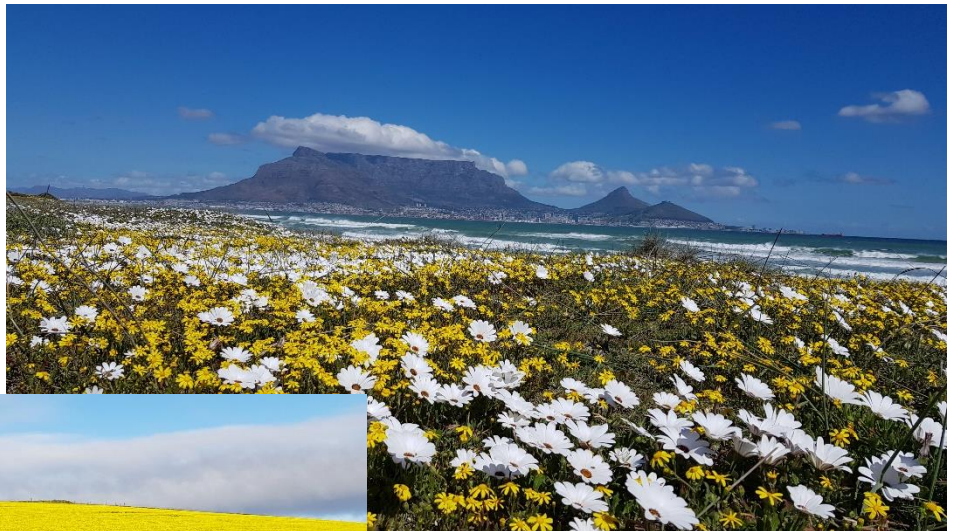


Orange-breasted Waxbill. (Parasitized by Pin-tailed Whydah.)

The Marsh Owl is less nocturnal than other owls. Makes a rasping sound like fabric being torn.

Keith Roxburgh sent some stunning pictures to remind us that even though it may be the start of winter, there is much to look forward to in the coming spring.

“As winter approaches and the cold days get nearer, think of warmer spring days to come, a bonus time with birds and lots of blomme.



Take a drive to the Berg River for the birds and drive inland and take the Kersefontein Road across the River to see the flower displays.

Closer to home we have plenty of flower-splendour on our doorstep”.

Meerendal dam in spring



Ina van der Westhuizen vertel van die Kalahari 4x4 trail en die Meerkat Sanctuary. Dit is 'n privaat Natuur-reservaat net so 50km voor die Kgalagadi Transfortier Park. Die personeel by hierdie Sanctuary doen baie om die meerkatte te rehabiliteer, soos onderandere vang hulle skerpioene in die nag, om die meerkatte te leer om skerpioene te eet.

Ina het spesifiek van die boomkamp gehou. Dis lekker vër van die ander kampers met badkamers en kragpunte.



By die boomkamp het hulle die twee Dwergvalkies gesien.

Kalahari Trails Nature Reserve is the home of a number of orphans, problem animals and those confiscated for cruelty which have been rehabilitated. Here they are free to come and go as they like and to interact with the wild meerkats living on the Reserve and have formed their own breeding family group. The team at Kalahari Trails have learnt from Prof. Anne Rasa, who has been working with social mongoose species for 45 years. They know how to calm and integrate new arrivals into the existing group and arrange for their veterinary treatment when this is necessary.

Brian Vanderwalt relates their “owling time” in the Kgalagadi NP. “Driving from Askam on the road to the park, we were scanning all the large camel thorn trees for Verreaux’s Eagle-owl as I have seen them there before - but not this time ... so no lifer for Dalene. At Twee Rivieren on our first morning very early, one called but too early for late sleepers!

We saw a few Spotted Eagle-owl in the thorn trees along the road to Nossob – their silhouettes stood out and they were easily seen when looking towards the sun in the early morning. Whilst unpacking at Nossop camp, we noticed a group of people looking at a small 2m high tree.... must be something there and oh boy was there



Pearl-spotted Owlet

something! A small, or should I say tiny African Scops Owl was roosting not more than 1.5m above the ground. The camouflage and stance of this bird were incredible to say the least. AND whilst still admiring the scopsy, we were invited to come and look at another owl above someone’s tent this time, a Southern White-faced Owl. What a day! BUT the day was not finished as whilst having our braai later in the evening, a Spotted Eagle-owl flew past, catching bats in the camp. The screech of the Western Barn Owl was also heard from somewhere in the darkness.

The next day we moved on to Mata-Mata and I wondered if the Southern White-faced Owl and Pearl-spotted Owlet were still present in the camp ... we will see! I checked the tree at the petrol station where a pair of White-faced used to roost, but they were later found sleeping in a tree in the camping site.



Verreaux's Eagle-owl



Southern White-faced Owl

It was still fairly light on our night drive out of Mata-Mata, when a Pearl-spotted Owlet was sighted. The next day we actually found one roosting in the camp. BUT where was Verreaux's Eagle-owl? ... three days and no sighting yet.

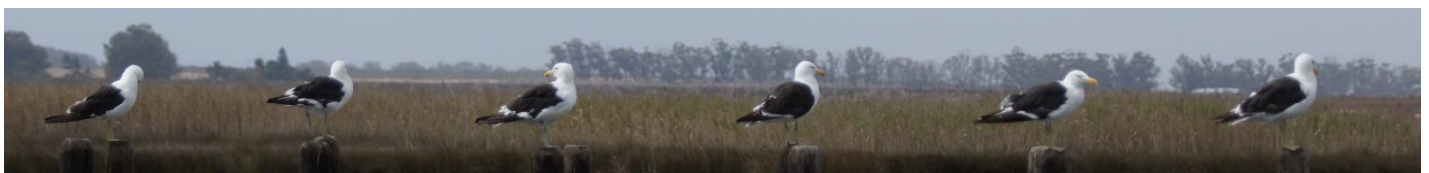
On our drive back to Twee Rivieren, a few spottys were seen next to the road, but another surprise was two more groups of White-faced Owls also next to the road. One group was a pair with two juveniles. We were running out of time for the Verreaux's Eagle-owl, but we eventually saw it sitting quite open in a tree next to the road. But there was more ... at the hide in the Twee Rivieren camp, we spotted two juvenile Verreaux's Eagle Owl. What an end to an OWL of a trip!"

Pierre van Zyl vertel 'n Velddrif storie met sy fotos en byskrifte oor die Kelpmeeus.

*"Pote en sterte ..."
(sien julle die vis?)*



"Eendjies, eendjies op 'n ry ..."



Brain teasers

CROSS WORD PUZZLE NO. 16

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Compiler: Gerald Wingate

Clues Down

1. Large terrestrial bird
2. Main stem of a tree
3. Migrant aerial feeders
5. A jaeger
6. Black & white bird found in Namibia
7. A lovebird
8. A petrel's plumage
13. A chat-like vagrant
15. Mark on a babbler
16. Abrev. Orange Ground Thrush
17. Birds known to rock-and-roll
18. A secretive warbler
20. An accipiter
21. A type of crane
22. An eagle's castle
24. A falcon
27. Abrev. Augur Buzzard

Clues Across

1. A small flycatcher genus
4. Panels of colour on ducks' wings
9. A shrike in northern Namibia
10. A jewel on a cuckoo
11. A gull
12. Tern with pinkish tint
14. Someone's spurfowl
18. A migrant wader
19. Green & red forest dweller
21. Group of gamebirds
23. Colour on endemic pipit
25. Type of warbler
26. A trogon
28. This eater could be olive or carmine
29. Chickens come home to do this

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	Lionel Crewe	
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



MAY 2023

WEDNESDAY 10 MAY @ 08:30

Outing: Majik Forest, Welgemoed

Contact: Kevin Drummond-Hay 074 587 3792

(NOTE: PARK OPPOSITE THE SECURITY GATE OF THE PROTEA HOTEL – and walk to entrance.)

Beware of traffic fines if you park on JIP de Jager Road. This venue is good for raptors, and general birding. Please carry water with you. After Majik Forest, the group will go down to Doordekraal Dam nearby where the normal picnic will be had.

THURSDAY 18 MAY @ 19:30

Monthly meeting: Tygerberg Nature Reserve Hall.

Speaker: Otto Schmidt

“Through Kruger to the Makuleke Concession – a memorable wildlife experience”

In September 2022, Otto and Sandy joined Peter and Nicki Nupen on a 6-day South to North trip through the Kruger National Park before meeting up with other members of the Cape Bird Club for 3 nights at Eco Training’s bush camp in the Makuleke concession in the far Northern extension of the park. A little different to the “normal” Kruger itinerary, their trip provided some memorable bird and other wildlife experiences.

PLEASE WATCH TBC NOTICES AND FACEBOOK. IN CASE OF LOADSHEDDING, WILL HAVE TO START LATER.

SATURDAY 20 MAY @ 08:00

Outing: Intaka Island, Century City

Contact: Keith Roxburgh 082 901 2611

This 16-hectare Wetland Reserve is very popular with birders. Good birding along the canals and many footpaths. Wear good walking shoes. Entrance fee of R30 Adults and R20 Pensioners. Bring a coffee basket to enjoy at the end of the outing.

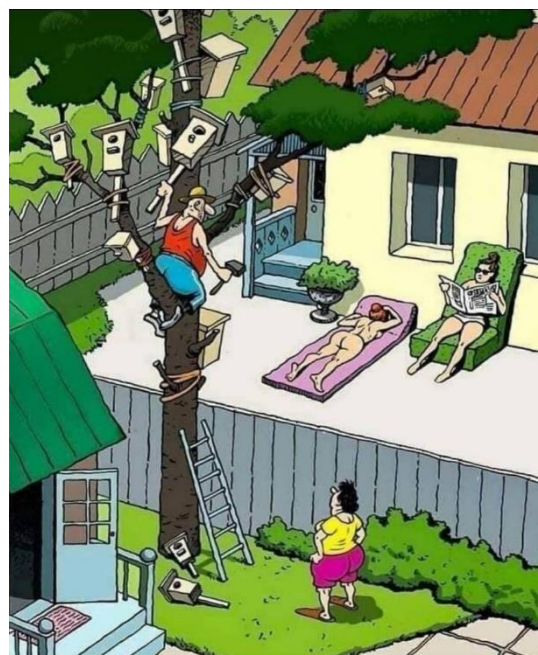
JUNE 2023

Diarise:

Wednesday 14 June: Midweek outing

Thursday 22 June: Monthly meeting

Saturday 24 June: Monthly outing



Now we know why Brian is selling all those barbet nests ...