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Birdlife South
Africa



WITWATERSRAND BIRD CLUB
PROGRAMME 1/2019
FORTHCOMING EVENTS IN BRIEF

Date	Activity	Leader	Venue
January 2019			
12	West Rand CWAC	Johan de Jager	De Pan, Carletonville
11-13	CWAC weekend	Barbi Forsyth	Nylsvley Nature Reserve
19	Saturday meeting	Caroline Howes	Delta Environmental Centre
19	East Rand CWAC	Werner van Goethem	Rolf's, Bullfrog & Clearwater pans
20	East Rand CWAC	Awie Coetzee	Elandsvlei & Varkfontein pans
20	Sunday outing	Lance Robinson	Klipriviersberg Nature Reserve
26	East Rand CAR count	Werner van Goethem	Bronkhorstspruit to Ezemvelo
26	West Rand CAR count	Johan de Jager	Lenasia and Carletonville
27	East Rand CWAC	Awie Coetzee	Marievale Bird Sanctuary
February 2019			
2	East Rand CWAC	Werner van Goethem / Peter Huggins	Korsmans Bird Sanctuary & Sandpan
6	Wednesday outing	Hennie Bornman	Maropeng, Magaliesburg
10	Sunday outing	Christo Venter	Nyoka Vulture Restaurant
16	Saturday meeting	Derek van der Merwe	Delta Environmental Centre
23	Saturday outing	Werner van Goethem	Zaagkuilsdrift Road & Kgomo-Kgomo
March 2019			
9	Saturday outing	Christo Venter	Boons Road, North West Province
13	Wednesday outing	Dave Bentley	Rietvlei Nature Reserve
16	Saturday afternoon	WBC AGM	Delta Environmental Centre
24	Sunday outing	Werner van Goethem	Devon Grasslands
30-31	Weekend away	Lance Robinson	Memel; Free State
April 2019			
6	Saturday outing	Bradwin Adendorff	Marievale Bird Sanctuary
10	Wednesday outing	Johan de Jager	Kloofendal Nature Reserve
13	Saturday Lark Identification Course	Joe Grosel	Delta Environmental Centre
14	Sunday outing	Lesley Cornish	Borakalalo National Park
May 2019			
4	Saturday outing	Lance Robinson	Meyer's Farm, Alberton
11	Saturday meeting	Lesley Cornish	Delta Environmental Centre
15	Wednesday outing	Lia Steen	Walter Sisulu Botanical Gardens
18-19	Weekend away	Lance Robinson	Nylsvley Nature Reserve & Floodplain
26	Sunday outing	Hennie Bornman	Suikerbosrand Nature Reserve



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WITWATERSRAND BIRD CLUB

PROGRAMME 1/2019

AFTERNOON MEETINGS		
Club meetings are held at Delta Environmental Centre unless otherwise stated Arranged by Lia Steen		
Route:	Follow First Avenue, Linden, towards Johannesburg until it becomes Rustenburg Road. Turn left into Road No 3 at the robot. Follow the road past King David Primary School and into the Park. Once in the Park, turn left at the T-junction and follow the road to the parking lot of the Delta Environmental Centre.	
Cost:	R20 per person (unless otherwise stated)	
Time:	13h45 for 14h00	
Saturday 19th January 2019	Caroline Howes	“An increasing trend in a world of decline: the tale of southern Africa's European Honey Buzzards”
<p>Ask any southern African birder about the European Honey Buzzard (<i>Pernis apivorus</i>) and they will likely wonder aloud about the enormous increase in the number of records over the past decades. This migratory specialist has gone from a species that was recorded 20 times during the 1980s to over 300 times in just the 2016-2017 season. Caroline's work focuses on better understanding the ecology of the honey-buzzard as well as investigating several hypotheses as to why this species seems to be increasing in southern Africa. In order to do this, Caroline has used a variety of techniques including examining rarity and citizen science records, tagging birds with satellite trackers, and analysing feathers using stable isotopes. Through these methods, Caroline has started to discover where these honey-buzzards come from and what they are doing here as well as what this specialist species may be telling us about our changing world.</p>		
Saturday 16^h February 2019	Derek van der Merwe	“Carnivore Conservation in South Africa focussing on Cheetah & African Wild Dog”
<p>Derek van der Merwe is the Soutpansberg regional coordinator for the Endangered Wildlife Trust in the Carnivore Conservation Program. Derek works on conflict mitigation between livestock and carnivores. There has been a 66% decline in the leopard population in the Soutpansberg over the last decade. It is very important to secure this area as safe for leopard as it is an important corridor that links various populations of leopard within Limpopo. The decline is therefore very worrying and we need to start securing safe space for these cats to survive going forward.</p>		
Saturday 16th March 2019	WBC AGM	59th AGM of the Wits Bird Club
<p>At this meeting, the President and the Committee to hold office for the year 2019 will be elected. Please come along to the AGM and celebrate with our winners of the annual Diamond Award and Bearded Vulture Award (in honour of the late Steven Piper). The AGM will be followed by a member's braai to meet and greet the new Committee in Delta Park.</p>		
Saturday 11th May 2019	Lesley Cornish	Thailand: Temples, Trogons and Toilets!
<p>This is an overview of Lesley's birding trip to Thailand, which covered the north to nearly the south of the country, going to beaches, lagoons, marshes, forests and mountains. There were visits to some stunning temples, which were also good birding spots, especially if they were in the mountains, and strangely, they found that good birds were attracted to toilets (really the rubbish dumped behind them), so they often took their optical gear behind the toilets! There were many good and exciting bird sightings, as well as a particularly scary mammal encounter, and some fun reptile encounters. The talk is recommended for anyone interested in birds and other wildlife, even if they are not interested in Thailand. If anyone is thinking about going to this marvellous birding spot, then the talk would be very useful.</p>		



WITWATERSRAND BIRD CLUB DIRECTIONS & INFORMATION OF OUTINGS & EVENTS JANUARY 2019 – MAY 2019

Target Bird Challenge

Target birds are not necessarily the most elusive, prettiest or rarest birds to be found. We encourage you to read up beforehand and get to grips with our nominated target birds; share your newly acquired knowledge with your fellow members and in this way, we all learn something new. Please note that the overall objective is to learn more and to have fun, therefore no prizes will be awarded for spotting the target bird on the day.

12 JANUARY 2019 / WEST RAND CWAC DE PAN, CARLTONVILLE

Route: From Johannesburg travel west on the N14 towards Ventersdorp. At the junction with the R41/R500 turn left, continue on the R500 past the R41 intersection and the entrance to the pan is 2.5 km on the left-hand side.

Book: Johan de Jager (082 376 9675) as numbers taking part are limited

GPS: S26°13'49.0", E27°25'14.3"

Meet: 07h00

Leader: Johan de Jager

SABAP2: Pentad 2610_2725

11-13 JANUARY 2019 / CWAC WEEKEND CAMP NYLSVLEY NATURE RESERVE (IBA SA008)

Route: Travel on the N1 North. At the Kranskop Toll Plaza take the R33 Nylstroom exit. Travel into Nylstroom. At the crossing with R101 turn right in the direction of N1 - Pietersburg and Naboomspruit. Near Middelfontein turn left towards Naboomspruit. Take the R101 and turn right to the Boekenhout station.

OR:
Travel on the N1 and take the Mookopong / Naboomspruit turnoff. Turn left and follow the road until meeting up with the old road. Turn left towards Nylstroom and proceed about 10km southwards until Boekenhout station turnoff.
THEN Continue on the dirt road over the N1 and then the railway line. Continue straight for about 2km. Nylsvley is well sign posted and the gate is on your left.

Book on either: witsbc@mweb.co.za or (011) 782-7267

GPS: main gate S24°38'50.8", E28°39'49.0"

Meet: 07h00 on Saturday

Leader: Barbi Forsyth

SABAP2: Pentad 2435_2840

19 JANUARY 2019 / EAST RAND CWAC EAST RAND PANS

Rolfe's Pan, Bullfrog Pans & Clearwater Pans.

Book: Werner (082 462 7108) as attendance is limited to a few participants.

Meet: 07h00

Leader: Werner van Goethem

20 JANUARY 2019 / EAST RAND CWAC EAST RAND PANS

Elandsvlei & Varkfontein Pans.

Book: Werner (082 462 7108) as attendance is limited to a few participants.

Meet: 07h00

Leader: Awie Coetzee

**20 JANUARY 2019 / SUNDAY OUTING
KLIPRIVIERSBERG NATURE RESERVE**

The largest nature reserve (680 ha) within the Johannesburg Metropolitan area, the reserve is bisected by the Blouboospruit which runs through a valley. *Ashy Tit*, *Common Scimitarbill*, *Brown-backed Honeybird*, *Orange River Francolin*, *Long-billed Pipit* and *White-fronted Bee-eater* are all possible species to be encountered. A variety of game has been introduced.

Route: We will be starting out at the *Klipriviersberg Nature Reserve* entrance (alongside the Recreation Centre). From the M1 South, follow the Southgate indicators and take the R82 toward Vereeniging (the M1 becomes R27 and at Kibler Park sign becomes R82). At Kibler Park sign robot, turn left into Gordon Road. At the second road turn left into Pierpoint Drive and follow the road to Peggy-Vera Road. Turn left on Peggy-Vera, pass the Klipriviersberg Recreation Centre, the entrance to the KNR is the next right (thatched entrance).

Book on either: witsbc@mweb.co.za or (011) 782-7267

GPS: 27°50'40.7"E 26°05'13.8"S

Meet: 07h30

Leader: Lance Robinson (082 927 9785)

SABAP2: Pentad 2615_2800

Target Bird: Wailing Cisticola

26 JANUARY 2019 / EAST RAND CAR

Route: Gauteng routes GB01 and GB02 (Bronkhorst to Ezemvelo and the Ezemvelo area).

Book: **Werner (082 462 7108) as attendance is limited to a few participants.**

Meet: 07h00

Leader: Werner van Goethem (082 462 7108)

SABAP2: various pentads depending on CAR route.

26 JANUARY 2019 / WEST RAND CAR

Route: Routes GC03 and GC04.

Book: **Johan de Jager (082 376 9675) as numbers taking part are limited**

Meet: 06h00

Leader: Johan de Jager

SABAP2: various pentads depending on CAR route.

**27 JANUARY 2019 / EAST RAND CWAC
MARIEVALE BIRD SANCTUARY (IBA SA021)**

Marievale has recently been added to the East Rand's CWAC portfolio and always produces a good array of water birds. As this is a large area to cover for a CWAC count volunteers are welcomed.

Book: **Awie Coetzee (082 462 7108)**

Meet: 07h00

Leader: Werner van Goethem (082 462 7108)

**2 FEBRUARY 2019 / EAST RAND CWAC
EAST RAND PANS**

Korsman Bird Sanctuary & Sandpan.

Book: **Werner (082 462 7108) as attendance is limited to a few participants.**

Meet: 07h00

Leader: Werner van Goethem and Peter Huggins

6 FEBRUARY 2019 / WEDNESDAY OUTING MAROPENG

Whilst the Maropeng Centre is better known as a world renowned museum of humankind, it also has an area set aside for nature lovers. There is a 2.6 km walk along a gentle track through Highveld grassland, past an artificial wetland with a small bird hide. The area is blessed with various typical grassland birds to be seen.

Route: From Johannesburg take the R512 (Malibongwe Drive) towards Lanseria. At the intersection with the N14 take the slip road and turn left towards Krugersdorp. At the intersection with the M47 (Cradlestone Mall) turn right onto the continuation of the N14. After \pm 11 km turn right onto the R563 and a further \pm 8 km left onto the R400. The Maropeng entrance is 2.5 km along this road on the right-hand side marked with large concrete obelisks. On entering the complex follow the signs for the hotel and park in the hotel car park.

Book on either: witsbc@mweb.co.za or (011) 782-7267

GPS: S25°58'00.7", E27°39'46.8" (hotel car park)

Meet: 07h30 at hotel car park just past the visitor centre.

Leader: Hennie Bornman (083 321 0690)

SABAP2: Pentad 2555_2735

Target Bird: Cape Grassbird

10 FEBRUARY 2019 / SUNDAY OUTING NYOKA VULTURE RESTAURANT

The Nyoka Vulture Restaurant in the Magaliesberg Biosphere is supported by the Rotary Club of Brits Hartbeespoort. Every Saturday or Sunday, Rotarians travel to the Nyoka Ridge Vulture Restaurant to feed the vultures. The vultures are fed pigs free of toxic chemicals donated by a local pig farm. Sit in comfort at the viewpoint and watch Cape Vultures arrive to feed. Lappet-faced Vultures and possibly even White-backed Vultures occasionally turn up. There are toilet facilities and braai or picnic areas available.

Route: From Johannesburg take the R512 Malibongwe Drive from Randburg towards Hartbeespoort Dam. At the Broederstroom T-junction turn left towards the Dam staying on the R512. Continue past the Pecanwood Estate and past the right turn over the Hartbeespoort Dam until reaching the T-junction with the R560. At this junction turn left and proceed for 5.9km before turning right onto Remhoogte Road. The entrance to the Nyoka Vulture Restaurant is a green gate on the right 3.3km from the turn off.

Book on either: witsbc@mweb.co.za or (011) 782-7267

GPS: S25°48'32.97", E27°43'09.05" (Vulture restaurant entrance)

Meet: 08h30 in the vulture restaurant car park

Leader: Christo Venter (083 655 1912)

SABAP2: Pentad 2545_2740

Target Bird: Cape Vulture

23 FEBRUARY 2019 / SATURDAY OUTING ZAAGKUILSDRIFT ROAD & KGOMO-KGOMO

The Zaagkuilsdrift Road has become almost legendary in Gauteng birding circles for yielding a great number of the special birds to be found in the region. The road runs parallel to the Pienaar's River, from the town of Pienaarsrivier to the semi-rural village of Kgomo-Kgomo. In years of good rainfall the river forms a floodplain but there's always good birding to be enjoyed in the adjacent acacia woodland.

Route: Take the N1 north through Pretoria towards Polokwane. Approximately 63km from the N1/N4 junction in Pretoria take the Pienaarsrivier/Rust de Winter offramp (exit 205). Turn left on the R25 towards Pienaarsrivier and drive approximately 700m towards the intersection with the R101. Just before the intersection turn left onto the parking area in front of the Pienaarsrivier Supermarket.

Book on either: witsbc@mweb.co.za or (011) 782-7267

GPS: S25°12'18.70", E28°17'48.09" (Pienaarsrivier Supermarket parking area)

Meet: 06h30 at the Pienaarsrivier Supermarket car park
Leader: Werner van Goethem (082 462 7108)
SABAP2: Pentad 2505_2810+
Target Bird: Blue-cheeked Bee-eater

9 MARCH 2019 / SATURDAY OUTING BOONS ROAD, NORTH WEST PROVINCE

The Boons road is a rural dirt road that runs between the town of Boons and the N14 Ventersdorp road. The adjacent grassland and cultivated fields hold many grassland species and *Orange River Francolin*, *African Quailfinch*, *Eastern Clapper Lark* and *Greater Kestrel* are regularly seen. The target bird for the day will be *Rufous-eared Warbler* which in recent years was discovered as an isolated population many kilometres east of its known breeding area.

Route: From Johannesburg take the N14 Krugersdorp highway towards Ventersdorp. Where the N14 bears right keep straight on the R563 towards Hekpoort. In approximately 8km turn left onto the R400. At the intersection with the R24 turn right towards Magaliesburg. After passing through Magaliesburg turn left onto the R509 Koster road. From this point continue for 32.5km and then turn left onto the Geodgedacht/Molotecity road from where birding will start. Meeting point will be where the tar road ends and the dirt road starts.

Book on either: witsbc@mweb.co.za or (011) 782-7267

GPS: S25°58'18.84", E27°14'10.76"

Meet: 06h00 for a 06h30 start at the meeting point

Leader: Christo Venter (083 655 1912)

SABAP2: Pentad 2600_2715+

Target Bird: Rufous-eared Warbler

13 MARCH 2019 / WEDNESDAY OUTING RIETVLEI NATURE RESERVE

Rietvlei Nature Reserve comprises 3 800 ha of Highveld grassland with occasional patches of *Acacia* woodland. The Rietvlei Dam and the Marais Dam are linked by the Grootvlei Spruit and there is an extensive network of roads around the Reserve. As the reserve now contains the Big Five visitors are only allowed to alight from their vehicles at designated picnic spots. *African Finfoot* has been observed from the bridge over the spruit and the grasslands are a prime area for larks and cisticolas.

Route: Travel north on the N1 towards Pretoria/Polokwane, take the M9 Rigel Avenue off-ramp (junction 136) and turn right onto the R50 Delmas Road. Drive for 5.1 km then turn right onto the M31 Nellmapius Drive towards Rietvlei and Irene along the boundary of the reserve for 3.2 km to the junction with the M57 and turn left. After 1.7 km (crossing the Sesmyl Spruit) turn left onto the entrance road to the reserve.

Book on either: witsbc@mweb.co.za or (011) 782-7267

GPS: S25°52'58.7", E28°15'47.5"

Meet: 07h00 at the entrance

Leader: Dave Bentley (083 253 4995)

SABAP2: Pentad 2550_2815

Target Bird: Dark-capped Yellow Warbler

24 MARCH 2019 / SUNDAY OUTING DEVON BIRDING ROUTE

The Devon Grasslands are an outstanding area of Highveld grassland containing many sought after local specials. The area is crisscrossed with a number of dirt roads giving views across large areas of the rolling grasslands. Birds to be looked for at this time of year include flocks of *Amur Falcons* and *Black-winged Pratincoles*. *Secretarybird*, *Blue Korhaan*, *Montagu's* and *Pallid Harriers* are also possible and many larks, pipits and cisticolas are always present.

Route: Take the N3 South out of Jo'burg and turn eastwards onto the N17 (tolls applicable) towards Leandra. Continue on the N17 for 68km until you reach the R548 and turn left to Devon. Meeting point will be just beyond the intersection of the R548 and the N17 next to the small pan on the left-hand side of the road.

Book on either: witsbc@mweb.co.za or (011) 782-7267

GPS: S26°22'10.9", E28°46'54.3"

Meet: 07h00 at intersection

Leader: Werner van Goethem (082 462 7108)

SABAP2: Pentads 2630_2845; 2630_2840; 2625_2845 and 2625_2840

Target Bird: Black-winged Pratincole

30-31 MARCH 2019 / WEEKEND AWAY MEMEL & SURROUNDS

Memel is a small town located in the Thabo Mofutsanyana region of the Free State Province surrounded by rolling grasslands. The area also includes part of the Drakensberg Escarpment's forested valleys and extensive wetlands, including the 5,000 ha RAMSAR Seekoeivlei Nature Reserve. Many of South Africa's endemic grassland species are found in the area. Birds that can be encountered in the area include *Southern Bald Ibis*, *Denham's Bustard*, *Blue Crane*, *Grey-winged Francolin*, *Yellow-breasted Pipit* and *Ground Woodpecker*.

Route: From Johannesburg take the N3 south towards Durban. Take the R34 off-ramp (exit 133) toward Vrede/Frankfort and turn left towards Vrede. Stay on the R34 through Vrede until reaching Memel, approximately 98km. On entering Memel turn left onto Voortrekker Street then first right onto Kapp Street. At the end of Kapp Street turn left onto Green Street. Grace Country Retreat will be approximately 200m along to the left.

Book on either: witsbc@mweb.co.za or (011) 782-7267

GPS: S27°41'14.86", E29°33'47.72"

Cost: Accommodation will be at the Grace Country Retreat in Memel:

R 780 Sharing double room (2 single beds)

R 650 Sharing triple room (3 single beds)

R 980 Double room single supplement (only 2 available)

R 440 Camping (using house facilities)

Self-catering rates but breakfasts and dinners are available at very reasonable rates

Leader: Lance Robinson (082 927 9785)

SABAP2: Pentad 2740_2930+

Target Bird: African Rock Pipit

6 APRIL 2018 / SATURDAY OUTING MARIEVALE BIRD SANCTUARY (IBA SA021)

Part of the Blesbokspruit RAMSAR site, Marievale's large tracts of open water and reedbeds always have interesting birds on offer whatever the season. Early April is an excellent time for migrating waders and if water levels are right there should be plenty on show. *Marsh Sandpiper*, *Ruff*, *Wood Sandpiper*, *Curlew Sandpiper* and *Little Stint* are all regular visitors. In addition, other potential birds for the area include *African Marsh Harrier*, *Marsh Owl* and *African Rail*. Marievale is also regularly visited by the occasional vagrant *Western Marsh Harrier*.

Route: Take the N3 south. At the Klipriver/Nigel off-ramp turn left towards Nigel on the R550. About 20 km further, turn right at a T-junction to Nigel (M63). Continue through Nigel to Marievale on the R42 (Delmas Road). To enter through the main entrance (about 5km from Nigel), pass the turn-off at Union Carriage and over the Blesbokspruit bridge, turn left into a marked gate (just after Holgatfontein/Nigel sign) heading towards the Conference centre, turn right onto a dirt track and continue past the Hadedda hide, continue straight to the gate. Turn left and then right towards the picnic area

Book on either: witsbc@mweb.co.za or (011) 782-7267

GPS: S 26°21'27.40" E 28°30'56.17" (Picnic area)
Leader: Bradwin Adendorff
SABAP2: Pentad: 2620_2830
Target Bird: African Marsh Harrier

**10 APRIL 2018 / WEDNESDAY OUTING
KLOOFENDAL NATURE RESERVE ②**

The 150 ha Kloofendal Nature Reserve comprises a mixture of tall woodland along the stream by the entrance, dense scrub along the rocky ridge above the mine and grassland covered rocky areas to the south and west. *Black Sparrowhawk* have bred at the reserve and *Malachite Sunbird* can sometimes be seen on the protea shrubs in the grassland areas. *Crimson-breasted Shrike* is often encountered in the picnic area.

Route: From Johannesburg take the M5 Beyers Naude Drive north and cross the N1 Western Bypass Freeway. At the next set of traffic lights turn left onto Jim Fouché Road and keep on this road crossing JG Strydom and Hendrik Potgieter Roads before turning right onto Christian de Wet Road. At the first set of traffic lights turn right into Galena Road. The entrance to the Nature Reserve is ± 1km on the left..

Book on either: witsbc@mweb.co.za or (011) 782-7267

GPS: S26°07'38.7", E27°52'50.4" (entrance road)

Meet: 08h00 at entrance

Leader: Johan de Jager (082 376 9675)

SABAP2: Pentad 2605_2750

Target Bird: Black Sparrowhawk

**13 APRIL 2019 / SATURDAY LARK IDENTIFICATION COURSE
DELTA ENVIRONMENTAL CENTRE**

**BIRD ID SKILLS COURSE: LOVING LARKS
PRESENTED BY JOE GROSEL**

Larks are considered by most observers to be typically dull, unattractive birds that are difficult to see due to their mostly terrestrial habits and cryptic colouration. As a result, they are assumed to be uninteresting and hard to identify and are conveniently avoided by many bird watchers and naturalists. Yet on closer examination one will find the contrary to be true. In this 3-hour course Ecologist Joe Grosel unravels lark identification and works through the fascinating life history of all the Southern African species. A handy, full-colour identification key, issued at the course, will make the birder's life significantly easier. Refreshments will be served after the course.

Venue: Delta Environmental Centre, Delta Park

Book on either: witsbc@mweb.co.za or (011) 782-7267

Time: 10h00

Cost: R350 per person

Your payment confirms your booking.

**14 APRIL 2019 / SUNDAY OUTING
BORAKALALO NATIONAL PARK**

Borakalalo consists of 13 000 hectares of woodland and open bushveld situated in a remote and peaceful area of unusual beauty and diversity. It is one of the most diverse conservation areas in the North West province, with tracts of acacia thornveld veld, broadleaf savannah and riverine woodland bordering the Moretele River, which runs into the 800-hectare Klipvoor Dam. Birdlife is always good with African Finfoot, Grey-headed Kingfisher, Meyer's Parrot and Bennet's Woodpecker being recorded at the reserve.

Route: Travel north on the R511 William Nicol Highway to Hartbeespoort. Turn right onto Beethoven Road in Hartbeespoort to stay on the R511 towards Brits. At the intersection with the R514 turn left towards Brits. After 11.1km turn right onto the R566 and after a further 3.5km turn left towards Maboloka and Jericho. Stay on this road passing through Jericho for a further 60.8km until reaching the main entrance to Borakalalo.

Book on either: witsbc@mweb.co.za or (011) 782-7267
GPS: S25°09'35.41", E27°48'19.77" (main gate)
Meet: 07h30 at entrance
Cost: Entrance fee payable at the gate
Leaders: Lesley Cornish (082 806 6415)
SABAP2: Pentad 2505_2745
Target Bird: Southern Pied Babbler

4 MAY 2018 / SATURDAY OUTING MEYER'S FARM

The farm boasts the only artificial nesting platform in Africa which is also central to the breeding pair of eagles, known as the Klipriviersberg Verreaux's Eagles, a project under the auspices of the club. This very historic farm and farmhouse, built in 1881, was also featured as one of JH Pierneef's old Johannesburg station panels, featuring Alberton, in the 1930s.

Route: Head east on the N12 southern bypass. Take the 404 for Voortrekker Road toward Alberton on the R103. Keep left at the fork and merge onto Voortrekker Road (M31). Turn right onto Ring Road. Turn right onto Fore Street. At the roundabout, proceed (through the boom gate to Reading Golf course) and continue along Fore Street, under the highway and meet at the parking lot for the stables

Book on either: witsbc@mweb.co.za or (011) 782-7267
GPS: S26°16'02.5", E28°05'01.6"
Meet: 07h30 at parking lot for stables
Leader: Lance Robinson (082 927 9785)
SABAP2: Pentad 2615_2805
Target Bird: Long-billed Crombec

15 MAY 2019 / WEDNESDAY OUTING WALTER SISULU BOTANICAL GARDEN

We have all probably visited the Botanical Gardens to stroll amongst the magnificent gardens or to watch the resident *Verreaux's Eagles* soaring overhead. The Garden offers many habitats from cliff face and grassland to water, woodland and bushveld, attracting a diverse range of birds. At this time of year the gardens are often visited by the delicate *Fairy Flycatcher*.

Route: Travel towards Tarlton/Krugersdorp along the R47 (Hendrik Potgieter Road). Turn left into Doreen Road (approx. a 10-minute drive from the Hendrik Potgieter/Christiaan de Wet intersection), turn right into Malcolm Road and carry on straight until the road curves. The gate to the garden is on the left.

Book on either: witsbc@mweb.co.za or (011) 782-7267
GPS: S26°05'13.5", E27°50'42.2"
Meet: 08h00 at entrance.
Cost: Entrance fee payable at the gate
Leaders: Lia Steen (082 809 4476)
SABAP2: Pentad 2605_2750
Target Bird: Fairy Flycatcher

18-19 MAY 2019 / WEEKEND AWAY NYLSVLEY NATURE RESERVE & FLOODPLAIN

As part of WBC's commitment to the Nylsvley Local Conservation Group we will be visiting the Nylsvley Nature Reserve and the surrounding floodplain area. The purpose of the visit will be to conduct bird monitoring activities. This outing is not intended to be a general outing but a working visit and details of accommodation and planned activities will be relayed closer to the time. Members are welcome to join us to take part in the activities provided they are willing to participate in atlasing and other similar projects.

Book on either: witsbc@mweb.co.za or (011) 782-7267

Leader: Lance Robinson (082 927 9785)
Cost: TBC
SABAP2: Pentad 2435_2840 +

**26 MAY 2019 / SUNDAY OUTING
SUIKERBOSRAND NATURE RESERVE (IBA SA022)**

The Suikerbosrand Nature Reserve is a well-known site where both the grey and black colour forms of the *Mountain Wheatear* occur. The reserve is a great place at this time of the year for winter migrants and *Sentinel Rock Thrush* can be fairly common. Other early winter migrants to look out for include the *Fairy Flycatcher* and the occasional *Yellow-breasted Pipits*.

Route: To Suikerbosrand. Take the N3 south towards Heidelberg and Durban and then the R550 (signposted Suikerbosrand) Nigel/Lenasia off-ramp. Turn right onto the R550 towards Lenasia. Follow for 6.6km. Turn left at the Suikerbosrand signboard and travel to the main entrance. Approx. 1 hour from Randburg.

Book on either: witsbc@mweb.co.za or (011) 782-7267

GPS: S 26°27'17" E 28°13'22" (Suikerbosrand NR)

Meet: 08h00 at the Diepkloof picnic & parking area, past the entrance gate.

Cost: There is an entrance fee payable on arrival at Suikerbosrand Nature Reserve.

Leader: Hennie Bornman (083 321 0690)

SABAP2: Pentad 2625_2810 +

Target Bird: Sentinel Rock Thrush

Programme Planning: Fiona van Zyl **Conservation Activities:** Lance Robinson
Courses: Janice Isom - **Evening Meetings:** Lia Steen
Atlasing: Andy Featherstone

SABAP2/ BIRDMapping

Calling all BIRDMAPPERS!

Andy Featherstone, Wits Bird Club SABAP2 coordinator, has organised the following exclusive atlas days that all members can participate in:

Saturday 12th January 2019	Sunday 7th April
Sunday 17th February	Saturday 25th May
Saturday 2nd March	

Please e-mail afeather@mweb.co.za with your contact details and Observer number (if you are a registered Observer). If you are interested in becoming an Observer, send your details to Andy and he will assist with the process of getting you started. You do not have to be a registered observer to take part, anyone keen to participate can join in and act as a "spotter".

Atlasing/ BirdMAPPING adds a whole new dimension to your birding and is a contribution, through citizen science, to a better understanding of our bird life!

GLOSSARY:

BBD – BIRDING BIG DAY: The annual BirdLife South Africa Birding Big Day is a fun, yet competitive day for South Africa's birdwatchers, both beginners and competitive twitchers, while at the same time raising much-needed funds for the organisation's important bird conservation and bird species monitoring work. Anyone can take part, anywhere in South Africa. Get a group of fellow birders together and visit your favourite birding spot; get the family together for a day out or just enjoy the birds in your garden. Let's put the BIG back into Birding Big Day.

CAR - COORDINATED AVIFAUNAL ROADCOUNT: Large, conspicuous birds offer the opportunity to monitor their populations by using the road count technique where observations are made from vehicles covering fixed routes. The counts take place twice a year, once in midsummer and once in midwinter. Comparisons can then be made.

CWAC - COORDINATED WATERBIRD COUNT: a programme of regular mid-summer and mid-winter censuses at a large number of South African wetlands. All the counts are conducted by volunteers; people and organisations with a passion for waterbird conservation. It is one of the largest and most successful citizen science programmes in Africa, providing much-needed data for waterbird conservation around the world.

IBA - IMPORTANT BIRD AREA: The designation of a locality as an IBA means that it satisfies at least one of a set of strict criteria that define it as a site of importance for birds, thus providing scientific backing for the conservation argument and facilitating legal protection.

SABAP2 –SECOND SOUTHERN AFRICAN BIRD ATLAS PROJECT: the follow-up on the Southern African Bird Atlas Project (for which the acronym was SABAP, and which is now referred to as SABAP1). The first atlas project took place from 1987-1991. The current project is a joint venture between the Animal Demography Unit at the University of Cape Town, BirdLife South Africa and the South African National Biodiversity Institute (SANBI). The project aims to map the distribution and relative abundance of birds in southern Africa and the atlas area includes South Africa, Lesotho and Swaziland. SABAP2 was launched in Namibia in May 2012. The second atlas project started on 1 July 2007 and plans to run indefinitely. The field work for this project is done by more than a thousand volunteers, known as citizen scientists - they collect the data from the field at their own cost and in their own time and as such, they make a huge contribution to the conservation of birds and their habitat. The unit of data collection is the pentad, five minutes of latitude by five minutes of longitude, squares with sides of roughly 9 km. There are 17000 pentads in the original atlas area of South Africa, Lesotho and Swaziland, and a further 10000 in Namibia.

NOTES

1. Always consult a map before leaving home or the AA for routes, toll gate costs and road works. GPS coordinates (where applicable) have been sourced from the internet or from the venue and it should be noted that accuracy, completeness, reliability, usability or suitability cannot be guaranteed. WBC assumes no responsibility for incorrect results or damages resulting from the use of the data.
2. Entrance fees may apply at some venues and these may have been revised by the time of publication.
3. Before the walk please advise your leader of any medical problems.
4. If you have booked for a weekend away/ outing/ event requiring payment, but you are unable to attend and if you haven't cancelled before the due date, you are still liable to pay the Club. We have to pay the venues very shortly after the due date mentioned in the programme. Too many losses are incurred because members are neither cancelling nor paying for their bookings. If your payment is not received by the due date, we will have to cancel your booking/ reservation.

5. PAYMENT OPTIONS FOR WEEKENDS AWAY AND OUTINGS

You may make your payments for weekends away and other outings in any of the following ways:

- a. Preferably pay directly into the Wits Bird Club Bank account and email deposit slip to witsbc@mweb.co.za

Banking details as follows:

BANK – NEDBANK CRESTA







BRANCH CODE: 191-305

ACCOUNT NO: 1913 257 789

NAME OF ACCOUNT: WITS BIRD CLUB

- b. Bring your cheque or cash to the WBC office between 09h00 and 15h00 on Tuesdays or Wednesdays.
- c. Please note **NO CREDIT CARD FACILITY**.
- d. ***Please assist the Club to minimise exorbitant banking fees by paying by Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT) wherever possible.***

RULES REGARDING BOOKINGS AND PAYMENTS OF OUTINGS:

-  A booking for an outing or weekend away will only be confirmed once a deposit has been received;
-  If the cost is below R1000, payment in full must be paid on booking;
-  If the cost of the outing/weekend is over R1000 a 50% deposit must be paid on booking;
-  In all cases 25% will be non-refundable to cover costs;
-  The final 50% must be paid one week prior to the closing date;
-  Non-members accompanied by members are welcome. For weekend outings and courses, an additional administration fee of 20% may be payable.

NB: Grading of outings - distance to be walked or steepness of terrain

Most outings are grade① we will therefore only show grades ② and ③ on the programme

Please note the following:

- ① An easy stroll suitable for people of all ages and abilities
- ② A comfortable but slightly challenging walk (e.g. uneven terrain with some gradient)
- ③ A strenuous / challenging walk (fairly long distances covered, or steep gradients, or difficult terrain)

FOR FURTHER DETAILS CONTACT:

Lauraine Leigh, Wits Bird Club Office, Delta Park Environmental Centre

Office Hours: 09h00-15h00 Tuesdays and Wednesdays

PHONE: 011 782 7267 • FAX: 086 512 7696 • EMAIL: witsbc@mweb.co.za

WEBSITE: www.witsbirdclub.org.za