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**WITWATERSRAND BIRD CLUB**  
**PROGRAMME 03/2022**  
**FORTHCOMING EVENTS IN BRIEF**

Date	Activity	Leader	Venue
<b>September 2022</b>			
11	Sunday family outing	Craig Nattrass	VulPro Rehabilitation Centre, Hartbeespoort
15	Thursday Evening Talk	Anthony Paton	Zoom Online Talk
17	Saturday outing	Ben Botha	Bass Lake, Henley-on-Klip
21	Wednesday outing	Grant Egen	Cradle of Humankind
25 –3 Oct	Nine day trip	Etienne Marais	Southern Mozambique
25	Sunday outing	Chris Hines	Moreleta Kloof Nature Reserve
<b>October 2022</b>			
1	Saturday 75 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary Cocktail Party	WBC Committee	Carus Gardens, Linden
4 & 6	Tuesday & Thursday Larks Course	Aldo Berruti	Zoom Online course
6-9	Long weekend	Anthony Paton	Segaia Bush Retreat, Dinokeng
12	Wednesday outing	Werner van Goethem	Rietvlei Nature Reserve, Pretoria
20	Thursday Evening Talk	Dylan Vasapolli	Zoom Online Talk
22	Saturday outing	Grant Egan	Vaalkop Dam Nature Reserve, NW Province
30	Sunday outing	WBC Committee	President Ridge Bird Sanctuary, Ferndale
<b>November 2022</b>			
2	Wednesday outing	Karen Wiesler	Bishop Bird Park, Centurion
6	Sunday outing	Awie Coetzee	Faerie Glen Nature Reserve, Pretoria
8 & 10	Tuesday & Thursday Birds of Sani Pass Course	Aldo Berruti	Zoom Online Course
12	Saturday Outing	Allan Weideman	Breedtsnek Pass, Magaliesberg
18-20	Weekend outing	TBC	Northern Forum weekend in Wakkerstroom
18-20	Weekend outing	Aldo Berruti	Sani Pass, KwaZulu-Natal
17	Thursday Evening Quiz	Lester Niss	TBC
26	Saturday outing	Andy Featherstone	Devon Grasslands
<b>December 2022</b>			
4	Sunday outing	East Rand	Marievale End-of-Year Braai
7	Wednesday outing	Andy Featherstone	Northcliff Ridge Eco Park
<b>January 2023</b>			
7	Saturday outing	Lance Robinson	Meyer's Farm, Alberton
18	East Rand CWAC	Awie Coetzee	Rolfes & Park Haven Pans
19	Thursday Evening Talk	Trevor Hardaker	Zoom Online Talk
20-22	CWAC weekend	Barbi Forsyth	Nylsvley Nature Reserve, Limpopo
20-28	Nine day trip	Etienne Marais	Southern Mozambique
21	East Rand CWAC	Werner van Goethem	Korsman & Bullfrog Pans
21	West Rand CWAC	Allan Weideman	De Pan, Carletonville
22	East Rand CWAC	Werner van Goethem	Elandsvlei & Varkfontein Pans
28	East Rand CAR count	Werner van Goethem	Rayton
28	West Rand CAR count	Allan Weideman	Lenasia and Carletonville
29	East Rand CWAC	Awie Coetzee	Marievale, Blesbokspruit



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## WITWATERSRAND BIRD CLUB

PROGRAMME 03/2022

### EVENING / AFTERNOON MEETINGS

Club Meetings and Courses will be held online  
using Zoom until further notice

<b>Thursday 15 September 2022</b>	<b>Anthony Paton</b>	<b>Birds of New Zealand and Australia</b>
<p>New Zealand is a varied country with plenty more than just kiwis to spot. North-east Queensland is one of the most species-diverse regions of Australia, where seeing and photographing over 100 species is possible on a short visit, even in winter.</p> <p>Anthony has been a serious birder since 1990 and has recorded over 650 of the region's 950 species (he has not travelled to Mozambique). He has been a member of the Field Guides Association of Southern Africa (FGASA) since 1997 and is a Level III (top level) Guide and co-wrote the FGASA founding curriculum for birding Special Knowledge Skills in 2003. He worked as a full time guide from 1997-1999 and has been a trainer of nature and culture guides since 2000. He is a registered National Guide in Culture, Nature and Birding. In 2008 Anthony obtained a Masters in Tourism at the University of the Witwatersrand for his study on the history of nature guiding in South African Game Reserves. He has had an ongoing interest in the history of bird names.</p>		
<b>Thursday 20 October 2022</b>	<b>Dylan Vasapoli</b>	<b>Gauteng Birding Hot-Spots</b>
<p>Dylan will be sharing his passion for birding in the wider Gauteng region. He has participated in the "Wider Gauteng 400 Challenge" for many years and has contributed to discovering several species and various new localities for difficult-to-find and rare species within the region. In this talk, Dylan will open our eyes to the potential of birding our own 'backyard'.</p>		
<b>Thursday 17 November 2022</b>	<b>Lester Niss</b>	<b>End-of-Year Quiz</b>
<p>Join in for the traditional year-end quiz with Lester Niss, the "Wiz of Quizzes". This will be held in person at a venue to be confirmed.</p> <p>Lester joined Wits Bird Club in 1964 and has been a member and social birder for about 38 years. He is a retired IT professional who now spends his time birding, reading and surfing (the Net).</p>		
<b>Thursday 19 January 2023</b>	<b>Trevor Hardaker</b>	<b>Birding in Paradise</b>
<p>Trevor recently spent 3 weeks traveling and birding around Papua New Guinea with a group of friends and will be sharing an overview of that trip including some of the trials and tribulations of getting around the island nation, an itinerary of where all they went, as well as plenty of photos of many of the birds that they got to see, many of which are considered to be some of the most iconic bird species on the planet.</p>		

## DAY / WEEKEND OUTINGS AND COURSES

### 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.

### 11 SEPTEMBER 2022 / FAMILY SUNDAY OUTING VULPRO REHABILITATION CENTRE, HARTBEESSPOORT

Vultures form an important ecological component of our natural environment, cleaning up dead carcasses and decreasing the spread of some diseases. The relationship between vultures and people is also a venerable one – vultures played roles in some early societies, including the Egyptian and the Hindu societies; vultures continue to be used as symbols or metaphors in modern societies, and vulture body parts are used in muti. Today, vultures face an unprecedented onslaught from human activities. They have to cope with electrocutions and collisions with electrical structures, poisonings, land-use changes, a decrease in food availability, and exposure to toxicity through veterinary drugs, to list just a few of some of the challenges facing vultures today. Vultures, positioned at the top of the food chain, are an indicator of the health of the environment below them – and dependent for their survival in a healthy environment. As such, the work of the Vulture Conservation Programme (“VulPro”) is intended and expected to favourably impact many other aspects of the environment – beyond vultures.

**Route:** From the N1 Western Bypass take either Malibongwe Drive (R512) or William Nicol Drive (R511) north bound. **R512:** Travel north until R104 and turn right. After 6.3Km turn left to join the R511, after 1.3Km turn left to remain on the R511. Continue at (A) of R511 route below

**R511:** Travel north and after 17km, turn left to Hartebeespoort to remain on the R511, (A) continue along R511 until the R511 makes a right turn onto Beethoven Road in Hartebeespoort. Continue along R511 for 3Km then turn right onto the R514 for a further 4.7Km and turn left onto Pretoria road and VulPro is 600m further along on the right.

**Book on either:** [witsbc234@gmail.com](mailto:witsbc234@gmail.com)

**GPS:** Gate: 25°42'39.6"S 27°57'10.0"E

**Meet:** 09:30 at VulPro Gate

**Cost:** R70 per person

**Leader:** Craig Natrass

**SABAP2:** 2540\_2755

### 17 SEPTEMBER 2022 / SATURDAY OUTING BASS LAKE, HENLEY-ON-KLIP

Join us for a morning of birding in the peaceful village of Henley-on-Klip. We will visit Bass Lake with its 75 hectare grounds and also the weir where a number of birds can be viewed from the pedestrian bridge. Bring a picnic lunch or food for a braai (fires to be provided) and relax in one of the lovely nearby gardens.

**Route:** Take the R59 to Vereeniging. Take the off-ramp to Henley Drive (Randvaal) (this is the second Randvaal off-ramp after the Engen Garage). Turn left on the bridge, further down is a 3-way stop at the Total Garage – this is the meeting point.

**Book:** [witsbc234@gmail.com](mailto:witsbc234@gmail.com)

**GPS:** 26°31'39.3"S, 28°03'31.3"E (meeting point)

**Meet:** 08h00 at the Echo Garage, Henley Drive

**Cost:** An entrance fee is payable at Bass Lake

**Leader:** Ben Botha (065 873 4598)

**SABAP2:** Pentad 2630\_2800

### 21 SEPTEMBER 2022 / WEDNESDAY OUTING CRADLE OF HUMANKIND

The Cradle Nature Reserve and Cradle Boutique Hotel are situated within the Cradle of Humankind on the Kromdraai Road. This is a private reserve that is close to 10.000 hectares; it holds plains game (buck species, Wildebeest, Giraffe, Zebra, Baboons and monkeys, etc.). The reserve also has Leopard (rarely ever seen), Brown Hyena, jackals, and smaller cats. This is also a World Heritage Palaeontology area with five active fossil sites for Flora and Fauna and the latest excavation of "*Homo sediba*" hominid fossil dating back to around 1.95 million years. The bird species list for the area totals 190 and includes White-bellied Korhaan, various larks, cisticolas and pipits, Cape Vultures and Rock Kestrel,

as well as the occasional Blue Crane. Grant will drive us around the reserve in a game viewing vehicle with the occasional stop to explore prime birding areas on foot. Breakfast will be available at the restaurant after the drive.

Grant has also arranged a special entrance fee of R70 for the amazing new Malapa Museum that has recently opened on the reserve. For details go to <https://www.malapamuseum.com/>

**Route:** Take Beyers Naude Drive (M5) in a Westerly direction. Turn left onto the R540. Drive for +- R3km, the entrance to the Cradle Nature Reserve and Cradle Boutique Hotel will be on your right.

**Book:** [witsbc234@gmail.com](mailto:witsbc234@gmail.com)

**GPS:** S25° 55' 05.0" E27° 50' 49.6"

**Meet:** 07h00 at the parking area

**Cost:** R250 per person inclusive of game drive (excludes museum entrance)

**Leader:** Grant Egen (084 731 3344)

**SABAP2:** 2550\_2750, 2555\_2750

**Target Bird:** White-bellied Korhaan

### 25 SEPTEMBER – 3 OCTOBER 2022 / NINE DAY TRIP SOUTHERN MOZAMBIQUE

The Sanctuary on the San Sebastián Peninsula (Southern Mozambique) has recently become one of the most exciting birding destinations in the region. This short trip offers the opportunity to bird this area for a full three days under the guidance of an expert who knows the area intimately. This trip also includes birding in the Panda area (Olive-headed Weaver) and Unguane woodlands (Green Tinkerbird), **SOLD OUT!**

**Book:** [witsbc234@gmail.com](mailto:witsbc234@gmail.com)

**Cost:** R19,000 pp sharing, R15,500 pp sharing self-drive, R 1,250 pp single supplement

**Leader:** Etienne Marais

### 25 SEPTEMBER 2022 / SUNDAY OUTING MORELETA KLOOF NATURE RESERVE

This is a great destination just a few minutes from the highway. There are a number of habitats to be found including wetlands, open grassland, rocky ridges, broadleaved woodland, acacia woodland and even tall riverine forest around the Rademeyer Spruit. Specials include Lesser Honeyguide and Brown-backed Honeybird, with the occasional dash past of either an Ovambo or Little Sparrowhawk. This is a small reserve and very suitable for a family outing.

**Route:** From the N1, take the Rigel Avenue off-ramp and travel east on Delmas Road. Turn left into Solomon Mahlangu Drive (Hans Strijdom Avenue) at the second intersection. Turn right into Rubenstein and travel until you get to Helios Street. Turn left in Helios Street. Parking is in Helios Street at the entrance to Rademeyer's Restaurant.

**Book:** [witsbc234@gmail.com](mailto:witsbc234@gmail.com)

**GPS:** S 25°49'1.72" E 28°17'27.61"

**Meet:** 07h00 in the car park

**Leader:** Chris Hines (073 332 7578)

**SABAP2:** 2545\_2815

**Target Bird:** Brown-backed Honeybird

### 1 OCTOBER 2022 / SATURDAY 75 ANNIVERSARY COCKTAIL PARTY CARUS GARDENS. LINDEN

2022 is the club's 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary year and to mark this auspicious event we have planned an informal cocktail party at the lovely Carus Gardens in Linden. Mouth-watering snacks, wine, and juices will be provided and there will be a cash bar for beers and spirits. Please join us for a celebration of our club's history and to meet and mingle with members and invited guests. **Spaces are limited so please book your place by emailing Lauraine.**

There is no charge to attend the cocktail party, we do, however, appeal to you to please support a conservation cause by making a donation of R75 (or more) via Wits Bird Club on booking for the event.

**Venue:** Carus Gardens (previously known as the Farmhouse), 34 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue, Linden

**Book:** [witsbc234@gmail.com](mailto:witsbc234@gmail.com)

**GPS:** S26° 08' 04.08" E27° 59' 54.94"

**Time:** 15h00

### 4 & 6 OCTOBER 2022 / TUESDAY & THURSDAY ZOOM ONLINE COURSE LARKS

**Sorting all 31 larks!!** The larks pose some of the most challenging birding in southern Africa. This course deals with all the southern African species in these groups. Learn to distinguish the sub-groups of larks using GISS (jizz) and then work through the individual species in comparative presentations. Understand juvenile and geographical variation. For some species, Aldo lists best localities.

Larks with Aldo uses the protocols and techniques established in other Birding with Aldo courses including GISS, Top Bottom and Middle and polls, chat room and discussion in comparative and repetitive presentations to embed species characters.

The course comprises two 75–90-minute sessions (Monday and Wednesday). You will receive recording links after each session which you can view for up to six days. So, if you miss a session, you can view this recording. You will be sent low-res pdf of the course sessions as permanent reference material.

**Session 1:** Introduction, techniques, taxonomy, larks versus pipits, 15 larks

**Session 2:** 16 larks and revision

**Book:** witsbc234@gmail.com  
**Time:** 18h45 for 19h00  
**Cost:** R225 Members. R275 Non-members  
**Facilitator:** Aldo Berruti

### 6-9 OCTOBER 2022 / LONG WEEKEND OUTING SEGAIA BUSH RETREAT, DINOKENG

Segaia Bush Retreat is set in the bushveld of Dinokeng Nature Reserve and is ideally placed to visit a number of the surrounding birding venues. Cullinan, Mongena, Roodeplaat Dam and Rust De Winter Dam are all close and Anthony will take us on birding trips to several of these prime locations as well as private farms and reserves. Birds that we will be looking for include African Finfoot, Half-collared Kingfisher, Meyer's Parrot, Lesser Masked and Red-headed Weavers and Water Thick-Knee. In addition to the birding Anthony will give a talk on Night Birds and entertain us with a Sound Quiz.

**Route:** Take the N1 north towards Polokwane. After passing Pretoria take the off-ramp at junction 152 for the R513 Sefako Makgatho Drive and turn right towards Cullinan. Continue along the R513 for approximately 1 km then turn left onto the R573 Moloto Road, After 7.7 km turn left onto Buffelweg and continue for a further +/- 3 km along Buffelweg (which becomes Poppeyweg and then Buffelsdrift Road). Turn right onto Nyalaweg and the entrance to Segaia is on the left after 300 m.

**Book:** witsbc234@gmail.com  
**GPS:** S25°36'06.6", E28°19'04.9"  
**Meet:** 18h00 on Thursday 6 October at Main Lodge  
**Cost:** R1,800 per person sharing self-catering  
Entrance fees are payable at the various Nature Reserves to be visited  
**Leader:** Anthony Paton  
**SABAP2:** Pentad 2535\_2815  
**Target bird:** African Finfoot

### 12 OCTOBER 2022 / WEDNESDAY OUTING RIETVLEI NATURE RESERVE, PRETORIA

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 some of 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. **This outing will be limited to 5 Vehicles.**

**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:** witsbc234@gmail.com  
**GPS:** S25°52'58.7", E28°15'47.5"  
**Meet:** 07h30 at entrance  
**Cost:** An entrance fee is payable  
**Leader:** Werner van Goethem (082 462 7108)  
**SABAP2:** Pentad 2550\_2815  
**Target bird:** African (Dark-capped) Yellow Warbler

### 22 OCTOBER 2022 / SATURDAY OUTING VAALKOP DAM NATURE RESERVE

Located 50km north-west of Brits, Vaalkop is renowned in local birding circles for the diversity and the sheer number of birds. The reserve encompasses the 1045 ha Vaalkop Dam which, because of its dynamic water levels, supports a rich and diverse water bird community. Woodland birding in the surrounding bushveld is equally rewarding, offering many

elusive specials and endemics. The added attraction of the Elands and Hex Rivers, the wooded slopes of Bulkop Hill, agricultural landscapes, and reed-lined settling ponds, make Vaalkop one of the prime birding spots in the region.

**Route:** Travel north on the N1 and take the N4 towards Rustenburg. Pass through 2 toll gates, take the Brits / Sandton (R511 off ramp) and turn right (north). Travel straight through Brits towards Thabazimbi. Turn left at the Sun City signs (44km from the N4). At the T-junction, turn right and proceed for 11km. The entrance is sign posted on the left.

From Johannesburg the more direct route via the R511 from Fourways is possible.

**Book:** [witsbc234@gmail.com](mailto:witsbc234@gmail.com)

**GPS:** 25°18'33.5"S, 27°28'57.5"E

**Meet:** 08h00 at the gate

**Cost:** There is an entrance fee payable

**Leader:** Grant Egan (084 731 3344)

**SABAP2:** 2515\_2725

**Target Bird:** Great Sparrow

### 30 OCTOBER 2022 / SUNDAY OUTING PRESIDENT RIDGE BIRD SANCTUARY

The sanctuary comprises a dam surrounded by mature trees and with a bird hide overlooking the dam. There is a breeding colony of herons and egrets and, in the past, Little Sparrowhawk has also bred there. Join members of the Committee for an exploratory walk around the sanctuary and for a picnic breakfast afterwards.

**Route:** From the N1 Western Bypass take the R512 Malibongwe Road towards Johannesburg. After crossing the intersection with Republic Road turn left onto Cross Street and then first right onto Malcolm Road. The entrance to the sanctuary is 400m on the left hand side with parking in front of the Duneden apartment block.

**Book:** [witsbc234@gmail.com](mailto:witsbc234@gmail.com)

**GPS:** S26°06'31.17", E27°59'35.94"

**Meet:** 08h00 at the entrance gate

**Leader:** Members of the WBC Committee

**Pentad:** Pentad 2605\_2755

### 2 NOVEMBER 2022 / WEDNESDAY OUTING BISHOP BIRD PARK , CENTURION

The Bishop Bird Nature Area is named after the Southern Red Bishop. The nature area is situated less than 1 km north of the Rooihuiskraal Historical Terrain and forms part of its rich cultural history. This nature area is 19 ha in size and the site serves as a place where people can escape from the everyday hustle and bustle of the city, and relax in the tranquillity and peacefulness of natural surroundings. The vegetation in the nature area is classified as Bankenveld and consists of open grass areas with groups of indigenous trees. Bishop Bird Nature Area is a birdwatcher's paradise and numerous species of birds have been recorded in the area. Other animals such as Blesbok, mongoose, hedgehogs, bushbabies and reptiles can be found in the area and some of them can be seen while hiking.

**Route:** From the N1 north take the junction 121A turn-off and follow the signs for the R101 Old Johannesburg Road. Merge onto the R101 and then after 1.3 km turn left onto the M31 Uitsig Road toward Rooihuiskraal. After 2.1 km turn right onto the M37 Rooihuiskraal Road toward Raslouw and then right again after a further 2.1 km into Theuns van Niekerk Street. Take the first left into Roosmaryn Place and the parking area will be on your right-hand side.

**Book:** [witsbc234@gmail.com](mailto:witsbc234@gmail.com)

**GPS:** S25° 52' 38.79" E28° 08' 33.26"

**Meet:** 08h45 at the parking area

**Leader:** Karin Wiesler (083 307 6233)

**SABAP2:** Pentad 2550\_2805

**Target bird:** African Paradise Flycatcher

### 6 NOVEMBER 2022 / WEDNESDAY OUTING FAERIE GLEN NATURE RESERVE, PRETORIA

Faerie Glen Nature Reserve is probably the best suburban birding reserve in Pretoria encompassing the western edge of the Bronberg Mountains, areas of bushveld and the Moreleta Spruit floodplain. The reserve is accessed by various paths and walking trails and contains both bushveld and grassland birds such as Chestnut-vented Tit-Babbler, White-throated Robin-Chat, Crimson-breasted Shrike and Cape Grassbird.

**Route:** From the N1, take the Atterbury turn-off to the east left back across the N1. At January Masilela (General Louis Botha) Avenue turn left and follow the directions to the reserve. The reserve will be on your right-hand side just after Glenwood Road.

**Book:** [witsbc234@gmail.com](mailto:witsbc234@gmail.com)

**GPS:** S25° 46' 31.53" E28° 17' 27.76'  
**Meet:** 07h00 at the parking area  
**Cost:** An entrance fee is payable  
**Leader:** Awie Coetzee (083 677 7097)  
**SABAP2:** Pentad 2545\_2815  
**Target bird:** Cape Grassbird

**8 & 10 NOVEMBER 2022 / TUESDAY & THURSDAY ZOOM ONLINE COURSE  
 SANI PASS, FORESTS & GRASSLANDS**

This course is an introduction to the birds of the Sani Pass and Mistbelt forests. The mountains, upland grasslands and forests of the southern Drakensberg are host to a bonanza of special endemics; including rare and endemic species. The Sani Pass, an iconic destination in its own right, is South Africa's most spectacular pass with birds to match. The grassland and special mistbelt forest patches shelter more of South Africa's most iconic ticks.

The course comprises two 75–90-minute sessions (Monday and Wednesday). You will receive recording links after each session which you can view for six days. So, if you miss a session, you can view this recording. You will be sent a low-res pdf of the course sessions as permanent reference material.

Session 1: Sani Pass and the mountains  
 Session 2: Upland grasslands and mistbelt forests

**Book:** witsbc234@gmail.com  
**Time:** 18h45 for 19h00  
**Cost:** R200 Members, R250 Non-members. Free to all booked on the Sani Pass weekend outing  
**Facilitator:** Aldo Berruti

**12 NOVEMBER 2022 / SATURDAY OUTING  
 BREEDTSNEK PASS, MAGALIESBERG MOUNTAINS**

The Breedtsnek Pass road provides the only road access to the remote, higher-lying parts of the Magaliesberg Mountains. This rocky dirt road is only suitable for 4 x 4 vehicles so standard saloon vehicles will need to be left in the Old Post Pub parking area. The scenic road passes through part of the Mountain Sanctuary Park and is excellent for montane birding. The area is also good for raptors with Cape Vulture and Verreaux's Eagle regularly seen. We will stop near the summit and search the rocky slopes for the elusive Red-winged Francolin.

**Route:** From the N1 Western Bypass take the Junction 80 14<sup>th</sup> Avenue off-ramp and cross back under the N1 on 14<sup>th</sup> Avenue. Continue up the hill past Florida Clinic for 2 km then turn right onto the R24 Ontdekkers Road, Continue along Ontdekkers Road (R24) for 11.1 km and bear left at the intersection onto Barratt Road (R24). Continue along the R24 for a further 46.6 km passing through Magaliesburg and the Old Post Pub parking area will be on your right.

**Book:** witsbc234@gmail.com  
**GPS:** S25°54'54.05", E27°27'08.59"  
**Meet:** 07h00 in the parking area of the Old Post Pub  
**Leader:** Allan Weideman (079 641 6543)  
**SABAP2:** Pentad 2550\_2725  
**Target Bird:** Red-winged Francolin

**18 – 20 NOVEMBER 2022 / WEEKEND OUTING  
 SANI PASS**

A bucket list event – the iconic Sani Pass. It is a classic top ten South African birding destination. Apart from its incredible beauty, and its status as the highest altitude pass and greatest ascent of any South African pass, and ticking Lesotho as a destination, it yields very special birds. The big three are *Drakensberg Rockjumper*, *Drakensberg Siskin* and *Mountain Pipit*. There is another tier of specials on the pass and in the area, including *Bearded Vulture*, *Gurney's Sugarbird*, *Barratt's Warbler*, *Bush Blackcap*, *Sickle-winged Chat*, *Southern Grey Tit*, *Layard's Warbler*, *Fairy Flycatcher*, *Large-billed Lark*, *Sentinel Rock Thrush*, *Ground Woodpecker* and more. A new vulture restaurant with a hide for photography is now available.

In addition to the Sani Pass we will be visiting the nearby grasslands and forests to search for *Blue Swallow*, *Cape Parrot*, *Orange Ground Thrush* and many more of the local specials.

**Route:** From Johannesburg take the N3 towards Durban. At Howick take exit 99, R617 Zeederberg Road towards Mackenzie and Underberg. From the N3, take the R617 to Bulwer and Underberg. Once in Underberg, take the Himeville turnoff to the right and drive 6kms to Himeville. Approximately 2kms from the centre of Himeville is the Sani Pass sign indicating where to turn left onto the Sani Pass road. Continue along this road for approximately 11kms to the Sani Pass Hotel on the right. From the Sani Pass Hotel, drive another 4.4kms to the Mkomazana Mountain Cottages sign on the right.

<b>Book:</b>	<b>witsbc234@gmail.com</b>
<b>GPS:</b>	S29°38'06.47", E29°25'12.29"
<b>Meet:</b>	Meet at Mkomazana Mountain Cottages 15h30 for afternoon birding.
<b>Cost:</b>	R2,585 pp self-catering sharing in dormitory accommodation (no single supplement possible) R3,040 pp self-catering sharing (R1,500 single supplement) Cost includes transport up Sani Pass in 4x4 vehicles and entry to the Blue Swallow reserve
<b>Leader:</b>	Aldo Berruti
<b>Target Bird:</b>	Drakensberg Rockjumper

### 18 – 20 NOVEMBER 2022 / WEEKEND OUTING NORTHERN FORUM WEEKEND IN WAKKERSTROOM

The Northern Bird Club Forum is holding a weekend to gather the bird clubs of the northern half of the country at Wakkerstroom. Wakkerstroom in November is as good as it gets.

*"The idea is that clubs will make it a club outing so that we end up with any number of clubs with however many of their members choose to join. From a Forum point of view, we'll have a gathering on Saturday evening in the form of a braai at BirdLife's Wakkerstroom Tourism and Education Centre. All clubs are invited and we will provide. There will be some birding challenges for clubs, some prizes, there may be a quiz, all will be revealed nearer the time.*

*The local bird guides have been reserved and will be allocated fairly also nearer the time. So it may well be that one bird guide will take a group of birders who are looking for something specific, another those who have never birded Wakkerstroom before, or whatever. We will only be able to allocate guides and arrange this once we know how many clubs/birders will be in Wakkerstroom that weekend, and after discussion with the guides themselves. We will make sure, though, that everyone has an opportunity to find what they are (reasonably) looking for."*

There will be a range of accommodation available including camping, dormitories and cottages.

More details to follow in due course but at this stage please just let Lauraine know on [witsbc234@gmail.com](mailto:witsbc234@gmail.com) that you are interested in taking part with an indication of what type of accommodation you would prefer.

### 26 NOVEMBER 2022 / SATURDAY OUTING DEVON GRASSLANDS

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. **This outing will be limited to 5 Vehicles.**

**Route:** Take the N3 South out of Johannesburg 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. The 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:** **witsbc234@gmail.com**

**GPS:** S26°22'10.9", E28°46'54.3"

**Meet:** 07h00 at intersection

**Leader:** Andy Featherstone (083 259 0231)

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

**Target Bird:** Black-winged Pratincole

### 4 DECEMBER 2022 / SUNDAY OUTING & END OF YEAR BRAAI MARIEVALE BIRD SANCTUARY (IBA SA021)

Join us for the year-end function at Marievale hosted by the East Rand Bird Club. We will meet at the picnic site at 09:30 for a guided walk along the road to the picnic site. East Rand Bird Club will provide the fires, salads, desert and bread rolls – please bring your own meat, drink, chairs, plates and cutlery. Please book with Lauraine for catering purposes.

**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:** **witsbc234@gmail.com**

**GPS:** S 26°21'27.40" E 28°30'56.17" (Picnic area)

**Meet:** 09:30 at the picnic site for guided walk or 10:30 for 11:00 for braai – fires will be lit at 11:00

**Cost:** R30 pp and R20 per car

**Coordinator:** Awie Coetzee (083 677 7097)

**7 DECEMBER 2022 / WEDNESDAY OUTING  
NORTHCLIFF RIDGE ECO PARK**

Northcliff Ridge, formerly known as Aasvoëlkop, with its landmark water tower built in 1939, is a small park (11 hectares), enclosed with palisade fencing. The ridge is 1807m above sea level, making it the second highest point in Johannesburg from which you can enjoy a 360-degree view of Johannesburg and beyond. Various swifts, swallows and martins grace the air with their presence and one can also normally enjoy good views of the migrant *European Bee-eaters* that may be plentiful at times. Be on the lookout for the occasional *Cape Rock Thrush*, *Striped Pipit* and even *Peregrine Falcon*.

**Route:** Travelling along Beyers Naudé Drive (M5) (from Melville towards Honeydew), turn left into Frederick Drive and follow the road as it ascends the hill. Turn left into Hearn Drive, pass the Northcliff Manor Guest House and then continue along Rockey Drive. Turn right into Louie Avenue, proceed through the boom and turn right into Lucky Avenue where there is parking at the base of the water tower.

**Book:** [witsbc234@gmail.com](mailto:witsbc234@gmail.com)

**GPS:** S26°08'45.7", E27°58'12.2"

**Meet:** 07h00 in the parking area

**Leader:** Andy Featherstone (083 259 0231)

**SABAP2:** Pentad 2605\_2755

**Target Bird:** Striped Pipit

**7 JANUARY 2023 / SATURDAY OUTING  
MEYERS FARM, ALBERTON**

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*. 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:** [witsbc@mweb.co.za](mailto: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:** Black Sparrowhawk

**18 JANUARY 2023 / EAST RAND CWAC WEDNESDAY  
ROLFES & PARK HAVEN PANS**

**Book on either:** **Awie (083 677 7097) as attendance is limited to a few participants.**

**GPS:** 26°10'16.3"S 28°13'13.1"E

**Meet:** 07h00 – Thembelihle, 1 Michael Place, Yaldwin Road, Jet Park

**Leader:** Awie Coetzee (083 677 7097)

**20-22 JANUARY 2023 / 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 Mookgopong / 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:** [witsbc234@gmail.com](mailto:witsbc234@gmail.com)

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

**Meet:** 07h00 on Saturday

**Leader:** Barbi Forsyth

**SABAP2:** Pentad 2435\_2840

**21-28 JANUARY 2023 / NINE DAY TRIP  
SOUTHERN MOZAMBIQUE**

The Sanctuary on the San Sebastián Peninsula (Southern Mozambique) has recently become one of the most exciting birding destinations in the region. This short trip offers the opportunity to bird this area for a full three days under the guidance of an expert who knows the area intimately. This trip also includes birding in the Panda area (Olive-headed Weaver) and Unguane woodlands (Green Tinkerbird), **SOLD OUT! Additional trips planned later in 2023.**

**Book:** witsbc234@gmail.com  
**Cost:** R21,000 pp sharing, R17,500 pp sharing self-drive, R 1,500 pp single supplement  
**Leader:** Etienne Marais

**21 JANUARY 2023 / EAST RAND SATURDAY CWAC  
KORSMAN & BULLFROG PANS**

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

**GPS:** 26°11'29.9"S 28°17'25.2"E  
**Meet:** 07h00 – c/o The Drive & Kilfenora St, Westdene, Benoni  
**Leader:** Werner van Goethem (082 462 7108)

**21 JANUARY 2023 / WEST RAND SATURDAY 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:** Christo Venter (083 655 1912) as numbers taking part are limited  
**GPS:** S26°13'49.0", E27°25'14.3"  
**Meet:** 07h00  
**Leader:** Christo Venter (083 655 1912)  
**SABAP2:** Pentad 2610\_2725

**22 JANUARY 2023 / EAST RAND SUNDAY CWAC  
ELANDSVLEI & VARKFONTEIN PANS**

**Book:** Werner (082 462 7108) as attendance is limited to a few participants  
**GPS:** 26°00'32.2"S 28°25'27.1"E  
**Meet:** 07h00 at the Caltex Garage, R25 / R50 intersect, Bapsfontein

**28 JANUARY 2023 / EAST RAND SATURDAY CAR  
RAYTON**

**Book:** Werner (082 462 7108) as attendance is limited to a few participants.  
**Meet:** 07h00 – Caltex Garage, R25 / R50 intersect, Bapsfontein  
**Leader:** Werner van Goethem (082 462 7108)

**28 JANUARY 2023 / WEST RAND SATURDAY CAR  
LENASIA AND CARLETONVILLE**

**Route:** Routes GC03 and GC04 Lenasia and Carletonville  
**Book:** Christo Venter (083 655 1912) as numbers taking part are limited  
**Meet:** 06h00  
**Leader:** Christo Venter (083 655 1912)  
**SABAP2:** various pentads depending on CAR route

**29 JANUARY 2023 / EAST RAND SUNDAY 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:** witsbc234@gmail.com  
**Meet:** 07h00  
**Leader:** Awie Coetzee (083 677 7097)

**Programme Planning:** Andy Featherstone – **Conservation Activities:** Lance Robinson  
**Courses:** Fiona van Zyl - **Meetings:** Diana Cowen  
**Atlasing:** Werner van Goethem

## SABAP2/ BIRDMAPPING

### Calling all BIRDMAPPERS!

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

Sunday 18 September 2022	Saturday 10 December 2022
Saturday 15 October 2022	Sunday 15 January 2023
Sunday 5 November 2022	

Please e-mail [werner.van.goethem@absamail.co.za](mailto:werner.van.goethem@absamail.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 Werner 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".

Atlassing/ BIRDMapping adds a whole new dimension to your birding and is a contribution, through citizen science, to a better understanding of our birdlife!

### 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 water bird 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 fieldwork 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, tollgate 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 [witsbc234@gmail.com](mailto:witsbc234@gmail.com)  
Banking details as follows:  
BANK – NEDBANK CRESTA  
BRANCH CODE: 191-305  
ACCOUNT NO: 1913 257 789  
NAME OF ACCOUNT: WITS BIRD CLUB
- b. Please note **NO CREDIT CARD FACILITY**.
- c. ***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 grade ① 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

PHONE : 083 387 1960 / 011 686 2090 • EMAIL: [witsbc234@gmail.com](mailto:witsbc234@gmail.com)

WEBSITE: [www.witsbirdclub.org.za](http://www.witsbirdclub.org.za)