



Affiliated to
Birdlife
South Africa





WITWATERSRAND BIRD CLUB

PROGRAMME 01/2024

FORTHCOMING EVENTS IN BRIEF

Date	Activity	Leader	Venue
January 2024			
10	Wednesday outing	Andy Featherstone	Northern Farm
10	West Rand Wednesday evening meeting	Braai & West Rand AGM	Discovery Bowls Club, Florida
14	Sunday outing	Martin Benadie	Zaagkuilsdrift Road
13	Saturday Atlas Day	Werner van Goethem	Under-serviced pentads in Greater Gauteng
16	East Rand Tuesday evening meeting	Peter Greaves	Country Life Retirement Village, Brentwood Park
17	East Rand CWAC	Awie Coetzee	Rolfes & Park Haven Pans
20-21	CWAC weekend	Barbi Forsyth	Nylsvley Nature Reserve, Limpopo
20	East Rand CWAC	Werner van Goethem	Korsman, Sand, & Bullfrog Pans
21	East Rand CWAC	Werner van Goethem	Elandsvlei & Varkfontein Pans
25	Thursday evening meeting	Peter Sharland	Linden Bowling Club
26-28	Weekend outing	Chris Hines & Lance Robinson	Wagondrift Lodge, Cullinan
26-28	Nylsvley Birding Bash	Friends of Nylsvley	Nylsvley Nature Reserve, Limpopo
27	East Rand CAR count	Werner van Goethem	Rayton
27	West Rand CAR count	Koos van Dijk	Lenasia and Carletonville
28	East Rand CWAC	Awie Coetzee	Marievale, Blesbokspruit
28	Honorary Rangers CWAC	Lesley Cornish	Klipvoor Dam, Borakalalo NP
February 2024			
4	Sunday outing	Kevin Lavery	Meyer's Farm, Alberton
11	Sunday Atlas Day	Werner van Goethem	Under-serviced pentads in Greater Gauteng
14	West Rand Wednesday evening meeting	TBA	Discovery Bowls Club, Florida
17	Saturday outing	Andy Featherstone	Boons Road, Syferbult
20	East Rand Tuesday evening meeting	Chris Hines	Country Life Retirement Village, Brentwood Park
22	Thursday evening meeting	Cassie Carstens	Linden Bowling Club
28	Wednesday outing	Dave Bentley	Rietvlei Nature Reserve
March 2024			
3	Sunday outing	Lance Robinson	Mokoya Lodge, Hekpoort
4, 6, 7	Monday, Wednesday & Thursday evening course	Aldo Berruti	Zoom online course
9	Saturday Atlas Day	Werner van Goethem	Under-serviced pentads in Greater Gauteng
12	Tuesday outing	Karin Wiesler	Walter Sisulu Botanical Gardens
13	West Rand Wednesday evening meeting	TBA	Discovery Bowls Club, Florida
16	Saturday afternoon meeting	WBC AGM & Chris Hines	Linden Bowling Club
19	East Rand Tuesday evening meeting	Ernst Retief	Country Life Retirement Village, Brentwood Park
21-24	Long weekend outing	Wesvaal Bird Club	Elgro River Lodge, Potchefstroom
23	Saturday outing	Awie Coetzee	Dinokeng Game Reserve

	Affiliated to Birdlife South Africa		WITWATERSRAND BIRD CLUB PROGRAMME 01/2024 FORTHCOMING EVENTS IN BRIEF	
Date	Activity	Leader	Venue	
April 2024				
4-7	Long weekend outing	Andy Featherstone	Marakele National Park	
10	Wednesday outing	Chris Hines	Random Harvest Nursery	
10	West Rand Wednesday evening meeting	TBA	Discovery Bowls Club, Florida	
13	Saturday outing	Friends of Melville Koppies	Melville Koppies	
16	East Rand Tuesday evening meeting	John Gilchrist	Country Life Retirement Village, Brentwood Park	
21	Sunday outing	Werner van Goethem	Marievale Bird Sanctuary	
25	Thursday evening meeting	Jonathan Leeming	Linden Bowling Club	
28	Sunday Atlas Day	Werner van Goethem	Under-serviced pentads in Greater Gauteng	
May 2024				
3-5	Weekend course	Lance Robinson	Sediba Lodge	
8	West Rand Wednesday evening meeting	TBA	Discovery Bowls Club, Florida	
11	Saturday outing	Chris Hines	Voortrekker Monument, Pretoria	
16	Thursday evening meeting	Rowan Jordaan	Zoom Online Talk	
19	Sunday outing	Ernst Retief	Rust de Winter Nature Reserve	
21	East Rand Tuesday evening meeting	TBC	Country Life Retirement Village, Brentwood Park	
22	Wednesday outing	Awie Coetzee	Pretoria Botanical Gardens	
25	Saturday Atlas Day	Werner van Goethem	Under-serviced pentads in Greater Gauteng	



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PROGRAMME 01/2024

EVENING / AFTERNOON MEETINGS		
Club Meetings and Courses will be held at Linden Bowling Club unless otherwise stated		
Wednesday 10 January	West Rand Committee	Welcome Braai & AGM
Welcome braai and West Rand Annual General Meeting. This is a West Rand meeting, and it will be held at the Discovery Bowls Club in Florida.		
Tuesday 16 January	Peter Greaves	Ecuador Middle of the World
Peter will be giving a presentation on Ecuador. This is an East Rand meeting and will be held at the Country Life Retirement Village, Brentwood Park.		
Thursday 25 January	Peter Sharland	Butterfly watching in Southern Africa
Peter will give a brief introduction to the five (5) butterfly families and the differences between butterflies and moths. This will be the background to his view of how, where, and when to watch butterflies, including some tips on equipment and the basics of identification, both in the field and at home when going through your photographs. The talk will also touch on two volunteer butterfly groups, namely LepSoc Africa and the Caterpillar Rearing Group.		
Wednesday 14 February	TBC	TBC
This is a West Rand meeting and will be held at the Discovery Bowls Club in Florida.		
Tuesday 20 February	Chris Hines	Birds, Butterflies & Beasts in Angola
Chris will be giving a presentation on the fauna of Angola. This is an East Rand meeting and will be held at the Country Life Retirement Village, Brentwood Park.		
Thursday 22 February	Cassie Carstens	Secretarybirds
Once common across the open savannas and grasslands of South Africa, Secretarybird numbers have declined dramatically over the past two decades. Habitat loss and extreme landscape modifications, collisions with power lines and fences, and a possible decline in prey items are but a few of the reasons that have led to this decline. Join Cassie Carstens, BirdLife South Africa's Secretarybird Conservation Officer, on a journey across the country following these iconic African birds and learn what conservation and research work is being done to ensure their survival.		
Wednesday 13 March	TBC	TBC
This is a West Rand meeting and will be held at the Discovery Bowls Club in Florida.		
Saturday 16 March	WBC Committee and Chris Hines	WBC AGM and talk
At this meeting, the President, and the Committee to hold office for the year 2024 will be elected. Please join us for the AGM and celebrate with our winners of the annual Diamond Award and Bearded Vulture Award (in honour of the late Steven Piper). This will be followed by a talk by Chris Hines entitled 'What the Duck!!! – Waterbirds & Wetlands in Southern Africa'. About 80 species of freshwater waterbirds breed in southern Africa and the majority occur widely in the arid and semi-arid regions of the sub-continent, where they breed opportunistically in ephemeral wetlands. Many of these birds are not known to breed elsewhere and so these wetlands sustain and produce significant numbers of southern Africa's waterbirds. This talk will outline some of the ideas and questions we have about the importance of seasonally flooded, short-duration wetlands in the survival of a great many waterbirds in Africa. The potential for new technologies to help answer some of these questions will also be discussed.		



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WITWATERSRAND BIRD CLUB

PROGRAMME 03/2023

EVENING / AFTERNOON MEETINGS		
Club Meetings and Courses will be held at Linden Bowling Club unless otherwise stated		
Tuesday 19 March	Ernst Retief	SABAP2 contributes to the conservation of birds
Ernst will be giving a presentation on the progress and use of the SABAP2 data for the conservation of birds. This is an East Rand meeting and will be held at the Country Life Retirement Village, Brentwood Park.		
Wednesday 10 April	TBC	TBC
This is a West Rand meeting and will be held at the Discovery Bowls Club in Florida.		
Tuesday 16 April	John Gilchrist	Birding in the Tropics
John will be giving a presentation on birding in the tropics. This is an East Rand meeting and will be held at the Country Life Retirement Village, Brentwood Park.		
Thursday 25 April	Jonathan Leeming	Deadly Innovation
Deadly Innovation has developed over time into something very special and unique. It focuses upon biotechnology and biomimicry to solve the challenges of our time. It examines venomous animals, how venom works on human physiology and how components of venom are giving us treatments for the most pervasive lifestyle diseases of our time. This presentation twists the audience's perception of venomous animals and touches everyone in the audience in a profound way.		
Wednesday 8 May	TBC	TBC
This is a West Rand meeting and will be held at the Discovery Bowls Club in Florida.		
Thursday 16 May	Rowan Jordaan	Marion Island, a Sub-Antarctic Paradise
Marion Island is a South African-owned island approximately 2000km south of Cape Town. A small team spends 14 months on this sub-Antarctic island with various personnel responsible for managing the base, conducting weather surveys, and researching its flora and fauna. The most iconic species studied include elephant seals, fur seals, various albatross and penguin species, and killer whales. Some of this research has been conducted for more than three decades, including that carried out by the Marion Island Marine Mammal Programme (MIMMP) which focuses on researching the four marine mammals of Marion Island. Rowan Jordaan will give an overview of a year spent on the island, its 'feathered' and 'fluffy' inhabitants, and the MIMMP fieldwork that goes into researching the marine mammals. This will include the challenges that the 'sealers' go through on a day-to-day basis associated with working closely with large, dangerous animals and in tough, extreme weather conditions.		
Tuesday 21 May	TBC	TBC
This is an East Rand meeting and will be held at the Country Life Retirement Village, Brentwood Park.		

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. 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.

10 JANUARY 2024 / WEDNESDAY OUTING NORTHERN FARM

Northern Farm has a wide range of habitats with a number of dams and large expanses of grassland. The reserve is particularly good for raptors with *Black Sparrowhawk*, *African Fish-Eagle* and *Long-crested Eagle* regularly seen. Northern Farm is also an excellent area for *Orange-breasted Waxbill* as well as the many waterfowl that frequent the dams. January is also a good time to sort through the flocks of Amur Falcons for the occasional Red-footed Falcon that has occurred there regularly over recent years.

Route: From Randburg take the R512 Malibongwe Drive past Cosmo City and Cosmo City shopping centre. At the traffic lights at the top of the hill, turn right onto the R114 towards Diepsloot. After 9km, the entrance is a white gateway on the left with a "City of Johannesburg Northern Farm" sign. Once through the gate meet at the parking area.

Book: witsbc234@gmail.com

GPS: S25°56'15.41", E27°59'19.74"

Meet: 08h00 at the parking area

Cost: There is an entrance fee payable to the leader on arrival.

Leader: Andy Featherstone (083 259 0231)

SABAP2: Pentad 2555_2755

Target Bird: Black Sparrowhawk

13 JANUARY / SATURDAY ATLASING DAY PENTADS WITHIN THE SOUTHEAST OR SOUTHWEST QUADRANTS

Atlasing days are held once a month to atlas the pentads falling within the Greater Gauteng area. If you would like to learn more or take part, please contact: Werner van Goethem on 082-462-7108. You don't have to be an expert to join in, you can travel with an experienced atlaser and learn how to atlas.

Coordinator: Werner van Goethem (082 462 7108)

SABAP2: Pentads to be allocated

14 JANUARY 2024 / SUNDAY OUTING ZAAGKUILSDRIFT ROAD

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 off-ramp (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: witsbc234@gmail.com

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

Meet: 06h30 at the start of the route at the railway line crossing

Leader: Martin Benadie (083 233 5650)

SABAP2: Pentad 2505_2810+

Target Bird: Blue-cheeked Bee-eater

**17 JANUARY 2024 / EAST RAND WEDNESDAY CWAC
ROLFES & PARK HAVEN PANS**

Book: **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)

**20-21 JANUARY / 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**
GPS: main gate S24°38'50.8", E28°39'49.0"
Meet: 07h00 on Saturday
Leader: Barbi Forsyth
SABAP2: Pentad 2435_2840

**20 JANUARY/ EAST RAND SATURDAY CWAC
KORSMAN, SAND & BULLFROG 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

**21 JANUARY/ 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

**26 - 28 JANUARY/ WEEKEND OUTING
WAGONDRIFT LODGE, CULLINAN**

An introduction to birding, butterflies, dragonflies and more for our younger members and families. Bring your grandchildren, bring your kids, bring their friends on the weekend. While the weekend is planned around younger members and families it is open to all members, and we encourage you to come along.

Join Lance Robinson & Chris Hines on a weekend at Wagondrift Lodge (North of Pretoria) for an introduction to the diversity of birds and other beasts that are around us. We will be birding in the early part of the day and looking at butterflies, dragonflies and other bugs (including spiders) later when the birds tend to go quiet. Wagondrift is on the edge of the "seringveld" – the broad-leafed deciduous woodlands that occur on sandy soils – this is the dominant vegetation type here, but there is a nice variety of habitats on the property including a vlei (good for dragons and butterflies), patches of thornveld and some grasslands. Bird species include Bushveld Pipit, Green-capped Eremomela, Tinkling Cisticola and Melodious Lark. We hope to be able to offer participants some up close views of other bird species as we will be setting up a ringing station close by. We will be going out on one of the mornings for a game drive in an open game viewer which should give us some great views of the game on the farm.

We will be staying at the Trading Store at Wagondrift and will be the only folks there. The Trading Store has its own pool, a communal lapa with a gas and wood braai, a fully equipped kitchen and some great shady trees. Wagondrift Lodge is close to the town of Moloto and is easily accessible in a sedan car.

Route:	Travel North on the N1 and take the R513 offramp (Junction 152). Turn right across the highway on Sefako Makgatho Drive and after 1.1km turn left onto the R573 Moloto Road. Continue on the R573 for 43.4km to Moloto and turn left onto the R567. After 6.8km turn left (Waidmannsheil Safaris is on the corner) and after 1.3km the entrance to Wagondrift Lodge is on the right.
Book:	witsbc234@gmail.com
GPS:	S25°24'09.1", E28°36'06.2"
Meet:	18h00 at the braai area on Friday
Leader:	Chris Hines (073 332 7578) and Lance Robinson (082 927 9785)
Cost:	King or twin rooms with an <i>en suite</i> bathroom (R640 pp sharing for the weekend) – 5 only – families can bring extra mattresses and bedding for the rooms at no cost. Camping at the Trading Store – communal bathrooms – R300 per tent, or R500 per caravan for 2 nights. There is a participation cost of R125 per person for the weekend.
SABAP2:	Pentad 2520_2835

26 - 28 JANUARY/ NYLSVLEY BIRDING BASH NYLSVLEY NATURE RESERVE

For 20 years FoN has organised an annual woodland bird census. From 2024 the woodland census will be replaced by a Birding Bash (woodland and water birds) designed to be a fun filled birding weekend, but which also provides some scientific data. The vision is for this to be an annual event for the decade to come.

The Birding Bash will take place from 17hr00 on Friday 26 to 10hr00 on Sunday 28 Jan 2023. Separate teams of between one and four persons will bird in the different habitats of Nylsvley. Teams will be asked to bird in a combination of two habitats assigned to each group, and as many other habitats as the groups wish to cover, conducted at whatever times in the day the teams choose. In this way all habitats will be covered by at least one team. All habitats will be accessible on foot, but for some habitats vehicle access will be limited. Participants can form their own teams or be included in other teams. To give the bash some scientific value each team should have one BirdLasser literate member who will record sightings according to the BirdLasser protocol.

Accommodation choices are between camping, Hamerkop Group Camp, Ducks Den Cottages, or Heron House. Friday evening will be a meat bring-and-braai with vegetables by FoN. Other meals (for all participants) will be provided by FoN at Hamerkop to facilitate meeting and chatting at mealtimes and around the campfire. The cost will depend on the accommodation chosen and include the Reserve entrance fee. Please bring your own drinks.

Participants who wish to participate without staying at Nylsvley will pay a nominal amount to cover administration costs and make a small contribution to FoN (used to support the reserve).

Programme:	Friday: From 15h00 collect maps and receive allocated habitats. 19h00 meat bring and braai. Saturday: 06h00 coffee and rusks; 10h00 brunch; 17h00- 20h00 dinner (allows some night birding). Sunday: 06h00 coffee and rusks; 10h00 brunch.
Book:	Nicky: (071 674 4723) nfwood@icon.co.za and copy to Johna: (082 492 2880) accipitertours@gmail.com
Cost:	R750 pp camping. R850 pp sharing two per room in the Hamerkop Group Camp. R1150 single. R2800 for one Ducks Den cottage (three cottages, accommodates two in each cottage). R8400 for Heron House (accommodates six). Must book the whole house. R 150 pp (excluding entrance fee and meals) for participants not using Nylsvley accommodation.

27 JANUARY / EAST RAND SATURDAY CAR RAYTON

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

27 JANUARY / WEST RAND SATURDAY CAR LENASIA AND CARLETONVILLE

Route:	Routes GC03 and GC04 Lenasia and Carletonville
Book:	<u>Christo Venter (083 655 1912) as numbers taking part are limited</u>
Meet:	06h00
Leader:	Koos van Dijk (083 294 4700)

SABAP2:	various pentads depending on CAR route
28 JANUARY / EAST RAND SUNDAY CWAC MARIEVALE BIRD SANCTUARY (IBA SA021)	
Marievale has 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)
28 JANUARY / HONORARY RANGERS SUNDAY CWAC KLIPVOOR DAM, BORAKALALO NATIONAL PARK	
The Honorary Rangers are appealing for CWAC count volunteers to assist with the water bird count on this large body of water.	
Book:	witsbc234@gmail.com
Meet:	07h00
Leader:	Leslie Cornish (082 806 6415)
4 FEBRUARY / SUNDAY OUTING MEYER'S 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 <i>Verreaux's Eagles</i> . 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:	witsbc234@gmail.com
GPS:	S26°16'02.5", E28°05'01.6"
Meet:	07h30 at parking lot for stables
Leader:	Kevin Lavery (083 267 3494)
SABAP2:	Pentad 2615_2805
Target Bird:	Black Sparrowhawk
11 FEBRUARY / SUNDAY ATLASING DAY PENTADS WITHIN THE SOUTHEAST OR SOUTHWEST QUADRANTS	
Atlasing days are held once a month to atlas the pentads falling within the Greater Gauteng area. If you would like to learn more or take part, please contact: Werner van Goethem on 082-462-7108. You don't have to be an expert to join in, you can travel with an experienced atlaser and learn how to atlas.	
Coordinator:	Werner van Goethem (082 462 7108)
SABAP2:	Pentads to be allocated
17 FEBRUARY / SATURDAY OUTING BOONS ROAD, SYFERBULT	
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, Quailfinch, Eastern Clapper Lark, and Greater Kestrel are regularly seen. The target bird for the day will be Rufous-eared Warbler that was discovered as an isolated population many kilometres east of its known breeding area. This outing will be limited to 5 Vehicles.	
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 Magaliesberg. After passing through Magaliesberg 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:	witsbc234@gmail.com
GPS:	S26° 00' 25.5" E27° 19' 38.0"
Meet:	07h00

Leader: Andy Featherstone (083 259 0231)
SABAP2: Pentad 2600_2715+
Target Bird: Rufous-eared Warbler

28 FEBRUARY / 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 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: witsbc234@gmail.com

GPS: S25°52'58.7", E28°15'47.5"

Meet: 07h30 at entrance

Cost: An entrance fee is payable

Leader: Dave Bentley (083 253 4995)

SABAP2: Pentad 2550_2815

Target Bird: Spike-heeled Lark

3 MARCH / SUNDAY OUTING MOKOYA LODGE, HEKPOORT

Mokoya Lodge is a beautiful farm situated in Hekpoort, with a stunning backdrop of the majestic Magaliesberg Mountain. It has been used by the Mclean family primarily as a residential home and a country getaway since 1970. The Magalies River flows through the property and quiet stretches provide an opportunity to possibly spot some of the more elusive denizens such as Half-collared Kingfishers, African Finfoot, and even White-backed Night Heron. There are also natural grassland areas and extensive gardens around the lodge that offer chances to add more birds to your list. Additionally, there is a restaurant on site called Sweet Thyme Restaurant where you can treat yourself after the bird walk. If you wish to stay overnight, B&B accommodation is available (Please contact reservations@mokoyalodge for bookings).

Route: Take Hendrik Potgieter Road/ M47 to the N14 (past Cradlestone Mall and PineHaven Garage) and continue to the T-junction with R563. Turn right and continue 29.6km turn right on the R560 for 7.3km and turn left at the signpost for Mokoya Lodge.

Book: witsbc234@gmail.com

GPS: S25°50'54.84", E27°39'39.25"

Meet: 07h30 at the Lodge entrance.

Leader: Lance Robinson (082 927 9785)

SABAP2: Pentad 2550_2735

Target Bird: African Finfoot

4, 6, 7 MARCH / MONDAY, WEDNESDAY & THURSDAY ONLINE COURSE RAPTORS

Raptors are difficult! This course covers 65 of the most common raptors of South Africa. It will really help you to crack the perennial problem of large brown raptors – eagles, buzzards and more, and other groups such as goshawks and harriers. This course emphasizes process **and** species detail; it emphasizes shape (GISS) which is not sufficiently highlighted in identification texts. Aldo offers multiple images of each species, and engages you with annotation, polls, and repetitive work to help instill protocols for raptor identification. The three 90-minute Sessions are as follows:

Course outline

Three 75–90-minute sessions as shown below:

Session 1. Principles of raptor ID – falcons & kestrels

Session 2. Vultures and eagles

Session 3. Buzzards, Goshawks, Harriers, and other fantastic raptors

The course includes detailed presentations, links to recordings of each session which are available for 7 days, and permanent low-res pdfs at the end of the course for reference.

Book: witsbc234@gmail.com
Time: 18h45 for 19h00
Cost: R375 members, R475 for families, R425 non-members, R550 non-member families.
Facilitator: Aldo Berruti

9 MARCH / SATURDAY ATLASING DAY PENTADS WITHIN THE SOUTHEAST OR SOUTHWEST QUADRANTS

Atlasing days are held once a month to atlas the pentads falling within the Greater Gauteng area. If you would like to learn more or take part, please contact: Werner van Goethem on 082-462-7108. You don't have to be an expert to join in, you can travel with an experienced atlaser and learn how to atlas.

Coordinator: Werner van Goethem (082 462 7108)

SABAP2: Pentads to be allocated

12 MARCH / TUESDAY OUTING WALTER SISULU BOTANICAL GARDEN

We have all probably visited the botanical garden 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.

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: witsbc234@gmail.com

GPS: S26°05'13.5", E27°50'42.2"

Meet: 08h00 at entrance

Cost: Entrance fee payable at the gate. Pensioners free.

Leader: Karin Wiesler (083 307 6233)

SABAP2: Pentad 2605_2750

Target Bird: Bar-throated Apalis

21-24 MARCH / LONG WEEKEND OUTING ELGRO RIVER LODGE, POTCHEFSTROOM

Birdlife Wesvaal Bird Club, in collaboration with the Elgro River Lodge, cordially invites all bird club members to join them in celebrating their 40th Anniversary. The festivities will occur from 21st to 24th March 2024 at the Elgro River Lodge near Potchefstroom.

Wesvaal have created an exciting program with well-known speakers, guided birdwatching outings along the Vaal River and the Vredefort Dome, and Wildlife Safari tours.

The Lodge is situated along the Vaal River, 24 km outside Potchefstroom and only 173 km from O.R. Tambo International Airport. This festival is an ideal getaway opportunity for bird clubs, members, and bird enthusiasts to observe the 253 bird species (SABAP2) in the area.

The package includes:

- 3 x nights luxury accommodation
- 3 x full English breakfast buffet
- 3 x lunches
- 3 x dinners including a spit braai
- All presentations
- All excursions
- All river activities
- Goodie bag

Excursions for the weekend include:

- Birding from rafts in the Vaal
- Night drive to spot owls & nightjars
- Early morning birding hike
- Bird game drive on game farm & World Heritage site

- Birding in the World Heritage site

Route:	Head south from Johannesburg on the N1 towards Bloemfontein and take exit 9 the R53/R42 Potchefstroom/Vanderbijlpark turn-off. Turn right onto the Potchefstroom Road and continue for 46km. Turn right onto the R53 and after 6.4km left onto the Rooipoortjie Road. Continue for 25.1km to the Elgro River Lodge.
Book:	contact Elgro River Lodge for reservations: 018 297 5411 reservations@elgrolodge.co.za www.elgroriverlodge.co.za/
Cost:	Package 1: R3,975 pp for luxury accommodation – all inclusive Package 2: R2,650 pp for camping – all inclusive Package 3: R1,500 pp for self-catering camping – includes excursions & presentations (no meals) Package 4: R550 day visitors, 09h00 to 18h00 – includes excursions, lunch & presentations

23 MARCH / SATURDAY OUTING DINOKENG GAME RESERVE

Despite the Dinokeng Game Reserve being situated within the boundaries of a large metropolis the area holds an extensive variety of bushveld birds and animals. Dinokeng lies in the catchment area of two rivers that flow into the Olifants and Limpopo rivers and on to the Indian Ocean. Interesting birds to be found in the area include African Finfoot, Half-collared Kingfisher, Meyer's Parrot, Lesser Masked and Red-headed Weavers and Water Thick-Knee. **This outing will be limited to 5 Vehicles.**

Route:	Head north on the N1, take the junction 183 Hammanskraal off-ramp and turn right back over the freeway onto the R734, follow the road to the entrance to Dinokeng Game Reserve. The meeting point is on the left just beyond the entrance gate.
Book:	witsbc234@gmail.com
GPS:	S25° 24' 04.28" E28° 18 426.29"
Meet:	07h30.
Cost:	A conservation fee and entrance fee are payable.
Leader:	Awie Coetzee (083 677 7097)
SABAP2:	Pentad 2520_2815+
Target Bird:	Meyer's Parrot

4-7 APRIL / LONG WEEKEND OUTING MARAKELE NATIONAL PARK

Marakele, at the heart of the Waterberg Mountains, is a scenic destination in remote wilderness. The park is home to the Big Five. A highlight is the vulture viewpoint where Cape Vulture can be spotted. Marakele holds the largest Cape Vulture colony in the world. The park is divided into two sections: the first contains easy-to-drive gravel roads; the second is far wilder but also richer in wildlife. Other species of bird that can be encountered here include Gurney's Sugarbird, Buff-streaked Chat, Mocking Cliff Chat, Alpine Swift, African Finfoot, White-backed Night-Heron, Half-collared Kingfisher, Black-cheeked Waxbill, and many species of raptor.

Route:	Head north from Johannesburg on the R512 Malibongwe Drive to Brits, and once in Brits turn right onto the R511 towards Thabazimbi. Follow the R511 North for approximately 133km and at the intersection with the R510 turn right towards Thabazimbi. Follow the Warmbaths Road through Thabazimbi past the R510 turn-off and after approximately 12km the entrance to the park is on the left-hand side. (approximately 4 hours from Johannesburg)
Book:	witsbc234@gmail.com for tour. <u>Accommodation must be booked directly with the South African National Parks Board via their website https://www.sanparks.org/parks/marakele or phone 012 428 9111</u>
GPS:	S24° 31' 16.11" E27° 29 33.11" (Bontle Rest Camp)
Meet:	12h30. Thursday 21 March
Cost:	R500 participation fee. Accommodation rates at Bontle Rest Camp currently range from R359 per night for a two-person campsite to R1,617 per night for a two-person safari tent. There is a 1% community fund and a R67 per day SA conservation fee (not applicable to Wild Card holders) Sunrise and sunset drives are R338 per person
Leader:	Andy Featherstone (083 259 0231)
SABAP2:	Pentad 2430_2725+
Target Bird:	Black-cheeked Waxbill

**10 APRIL / WEDNESDAY OUTING
RANDOM HARVEST NURSERY**

Linda de Luca's love of nature and dedication to all things natural has led to the farm becoming a haven for a multitude of birds and other wildlife. The nursery is laid out on meandering paths. After the walk, why not treat yourself to a range of freshly prepared cakes and tea, or coffee, at the tea garden? Optional Buffet breakfast with early morning drink included is also available. Please book for the breakfast separately as there is limited kitchen staff on duty.

Route: From the N1 take Beyers Naude off-ramp and travel north along Beyers Naude Drive for 9.4km. Signpost for Random Harvest: turn right into Valley Road for 950m and then left into Lake View Drive for 2km. Random Harvest will be on your right.

Book: witsbc234@gmail.com

GPS: S26° 01' 48" E27° 53' 40"

Meet: 06h45 for 07h00.

Cost: R50 (includes coffee and rusks). Linda runs a food parcel programme for the local community and would appreciate any donations of cash or non-perishable goods.

Leader: Chris Hines (073 332 7578)

SABAP2: Pentad 2600_2755

Target Bird: Amethyst Sunbird

**13 APRIL / SUNDAY OUTING
MELVILLE KOPPIES NATURE RESERVE**

Melville Koppies is a Nature Reserve and a Johannesburg City Heritage Site. It is the last conserved remnant of Johannesburg's ridges as they were before the discovery of gold in 1886. Its geology goes back three billion years. Stone tools show that Early Stone Age man camped here as long as 500 000 years ago. There is a Late Stone Age living floor. Within the last 1 000 years Iron Age immigrants arrived, and remains of their kraal walls can be found on the northern slopes. In 1963 an iron-smelting furnace was excavated and can be seen today. The vegetation of the Koppies is entirely indigenous and is a remarkable example of the richness of highveld grasses, flowers, and trees so close to a city centre. These ridges have looked like this for hundreds of years.

Join a guided walk around the reserve combined with a ringing demonstration by the Wits Bird Club ringing group led by Craig Natrass.

Route: Take the M5 Bayers Naudé Road south and turn left into Judith Road, Emmarentia. After 1.2km turn right into Hill Road then right again into Gambia Road. Turn left at 1st stop street into Tugela Road and then right into Kafue Road Parking is available at 1 Kafue Road.

Book: witsbc234@gmail.com

GPS: S 26°10'11.69" E 28°00'22.20"

Meet: 08h00 at the entrance gate on Kafue Road

Cost: [R100pp for maintenance of the Koppies](#)

Leader: Friends of Melville Koppies Heritage Guide

SABAP2: Pentad: 2610_2800

**21 APRIL / SUNDAY OUTING
MARIEVALE BIRD SANCTUARY**

Part of the Blesbokspruit RAMSAR site, Marievale's large tracts of open water and reedbeds always have interesting birds on offer whatever the season. April should be 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, Greater and Lesser Flamingos, and African Rail. Marievale is also regularly visited by the occasional 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) and the parking area is on the left just inside the gate.

Book: witsbc234@gmail.com

GPS: S 26°22'47.80" E 28°30'27.31"

Meet: 07h00 in main parking at gate

Cost: R35 pp and R25 per car (card payments only)

Leader: Werner van Goethem (082 462 7108)

SABAP2: Pentad: 2620_2830

Target Bird: African Marsh Harrier

**28 APRIL/ SUNDAY ATLASING DAY
PENTADS WITHIN THE SOUTHEAST OR SOUTHWEST QUADRANTS**

Atlasing days are held once a month to atlas the pentads falling within the Greater Gauteng area. If you would like to learn more or take part, please contact: Werner van Goethem on 082-462-7108. You don't have to be an expert to join in, you can travel with an experienced atlaser and learn how to atlas.

Coordinator: Werner van Goethem (082 462 7108)

SABAP2: Pentads to be allocated

**3 - 5 MAY / WEEKEND COURSE
"THE BUSHVELD BIRD GUILD" AT SEDIBA LODGE**

As birdwatchers, the phrase "going to the bush" conjures images of watching the sunrise with a cup of coffee in hand tuning into the dawn chorus, followed by birdwatching in a thornveld habitat, and relaxing evenings spent around a campfire. You can be a part of this experience with Lance and learn about the bushveld bird guild, aspects of their behaviour, and their distinctive calls. The course will include lectures, bushveld birding, and a bird sound quiz to assess your knowledge.

Route: From Randburg take the R512 past Lanseria. At the Broederstroom T-junction turn left. Turn right at the Sun City/ Brits turn-off and cross over the bridge over Hartbeespoort Dam. At the T-junction turn right towards Brits/ Sun City. At the 4-way stop turn left towards Brits R512. At the next stop turn right onto the R512. Proceed to and through Brits and turn left onto the R511 to Thabazimbi. Travel 17 km from the outskirts of Brits to the stop street at the railway line. Cross over the railway and travel 4km. Turn right (signposted Sediba and Dikhololo) onto the Veekraal road (sand road). Sediba is 13km from the intersection. The gate is locked at all times. A code for the main gate will be issued the week before arrival and will only be advised to those going.

Book: witsbc234@gmail.com

GPS: S26°03'32.6", E27°56'15.9"

Meet: Friday 18h30 at the boma for briefing

Cost: R1,320 per person sharing. R400 single supplement (limited numbers available).
R540 per person camping.

Chalets have en-suite bathrooms; linen and towels are provided. The communal kitchen facilities include all crockery and cutlery for chalet guests.

The Bush Camp is situated near the main lodge and campsites have electricity, kitchen facilities, and an ablution block with showers.

Leader: Lance Robinson (082 927 9785)

SABAP2: 2520_2740

**11 MAY / SATURDAY OUTING
VOORTREKKER MONUMENT NATURE RESERVE**

Inaugurated in 1949, the impressive Voortrekker Monument commemorates the epic exodus of parties of Afrikaner people from the Cape's British colony in the mid-1800s. The intricately sculptured building is a well-known landmark in Pretoria and towers above a 250ha nature reserve, which offers birders a selection of garden and woodland species in a safe and tourist-orientated environment. Species to be seen include Southern Boubou, Arrow-marked Babbler, White-throated Robin-Chat, Jamesons Firefinch, Long-billed Crombec and Yellow-fronted Canary, and Verreaux's Eagle.

Route: From Johannesburg, travel North on the N1 and at the intersection with the N14 in Centurion keep right and continue on the N14 towards Pretoria. Exit the N14 at junction 335 the Fountains Valley intersection and keep left on the M7 Eeufees Road. At the second robot turn right towards the entrance of the Voortrekker Monument.

Book: witsbc234@gmail.com

GPS: S 25°46'41.14" E 28°10'19.36" (entrance)

Meet: Meet 08h15 at the monument car park

Cost: Entrance fee R80 per adult, R40 for children and pensioners.

Leader: Chris Hines (073 332 7578)

SABAP2: 2545_2810

Target Bird: Jamesons Firefinch

**19 MAY / SUNDAY OUTING
RUST DE WINTER DAM NATURE RESERVE**

Rust de Winter Dam Nature Reserve comprises 1 650 ha of thorn and broad-leaved woodland surrounding the 500 ha dam. Birding among the various campsites and picnic spots will produce bushveld species such as Kalahari Scrub-robin, Burnt-necked Eremomela, and Ashy Tit. The dam usually contains Great Crested Grebes, Knob-billed Duck, and Goliath

Heron, while African Fish Eagle and even the occasional Osprey can be seen overhead. African Pygmy Geese have also visited the dam in the past.

Route: From Johannesburg travel north on the N1 towards Pretoria and Polokwane. Take exit 205 signposted R101 Pienaarsrivier/Rust de Winter and turn right crossing back over the freeway. The entrance to the reserve is signposted on the right after ± 21 km along this road. Follow the dirt road for 3.3 km to the entrance gate

Book: witsbc234@gmail.com

GPS: S25°13'51.3", E28°30'54.0"

Meet: Meet 08h00 at the entrance

Cost: An entrance fee is payable

Leader: Ernst Retief (082 325 6608)

SABAP2: 2510_2825 and 2510_2830

Target Bird: Ashy Tit

22 MAY / WEDNESDAY OUTING PRETORIA BOTANICAL GARDENS

The Garden, which is surrounded by urban development, offers a much-needed green area and corridor for wildlife in the eastern suburbs of Pretoria. The ridge that runs through the Garden, the natural grassland and lawned areas containing beds of indigenous plants, offer a habitat for many animal species. Over 220 bird species have been listed for the Pretoria NBG, including various hawks, falcons and kestrels. The garden is home to many colourful birds including Malachite Kingfisher, Green Wood-hoopoe, Crested Barbet, Black-headed Oriole, African Paradise Flycatcher, Bokmakierie and Violet-backed Starling. The artificial wetland directly north of the Mokha Restaurant caters for species such as Thick-billed and Southern Masked Weavers, Common Moorhen, and Reed Cormorant. On the grasslands and lawn areas Crowned and Blacksmith Lapwings, Spotted Thick-knee and Helmeted Guineafowl are to be seen. Medium difficulty walk, some steep gradients.

Route: Heading north on N1 to Pretoria, take the M6 Lynnwood exit and turn right over the highway. Directly after the highway turn left onto M16 Meiring Naude Road (keep right to avoid turning back onto N1 south). Follow M16 to T-junction and turn left onto Cussonia, the entrance to the gardens is 300m along on the right.

From the N4 East towards Pretoria, take the M14 Watermeyer St exit, turn left onto Watermeyer St and left again onto M16 Cussonia Ave, travel 2.2 km and the entrance will be on the right.

Book: witsbc234@gmail.com

GPS: 25°44'22.4"S 28°16'24.3"E

Meet: In the car park at 08h00

Cost: There is an entrance fee payable.

Leader: Awie Coetzee (083 677 7097)

SABAP2: 2540_2815

Target Bird: Brown-backed Honeybird

25 MAY / SATURDAY ATLASING DAY PENTADS WITHIN THE SOUTHEAST OR SOUTHWEST QUADRANTS

Atlasing days are held once a month to atlas the pentads falling within the Greater Gauteng area. If you would like to learn more or take part, please contact: Werner van Goethem on 082-462-7108. You don't have to be an expert to join in, you can travel with an experienced atlaser and learn how to atlas.

Coordinator: Werner van Goethem (082 462 7108)

SABAP2: Pentads to be allocated

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:

Saturday 13 January	Sunday 28 April
Sunday 11 February	Saturday 25 May
Saturday 9 March	

Please e-mail 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
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 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

PHONE : 083 387 1960 • EMAIL: witsbc234@gmail.com

WEBSITE: www.witsbirdclub.org.za