

		WITWATERSRAND BIRD CLUB PROGRAMME 03/2026 SEPTEMBER 2026 to JANUARY 2027
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DATE	EVENT & VENUE	LEADER/ SPEAKER
SEPTEMBER		
1	Tuesday Outing - Spring Day at Walter Sisulu Botanical Garden	Andy Featherstone
5	African Bird Fair - Pretoria National Botanical Garden	BirdLife South Africa
6	Sunday Outing - Winters Way Farm, Magaliesberg	Lance Robinson
13	Birding with Purpose: Atlassing	Werner Van Goethem
15	East Rand Evening Meeting - Country Life Village	Awie Coetzee
17	WBC evening meeting - Linden Bowls Club	Melissa Whitecross
20	Sunday Outing - Deneysville	Selwyn Rautenbach
27	Sunday Outing - Wilge River Valley	Werner Van Goethem
OCTOBER		
4	Sunday Outing - Abe Bailey Nature Reserve	Connor Nicholson
7	Wednesday Outing - Albert's Farm Conservancy	Andy Featherstone
10	Saturday Outing - World Migratory Bird Day	Winter's Way
9-12	Makuleke weekend (<i>Fully Booked</i>)	EcoTraining
15	WBC Evening Meeting - Linden Bowls Club	Spike Taylor
17	Birding with Purpose: Atlassing	Werner Van Goethem
20	East Rand Evening Meeting - Country Life Village	Reggie Venter
24	Saturday Outing - Kloofendal Nature Reserve	Josh Marais
31	Saturday Outing - Wonderboom Lapa, Pretoria	Cameron Crole
NOVEMBER		
7	Saturday Clean Up Day - President Ridge Bird Sanctuary	Gill Isaac
8	Sunday Outing - New Members Event, Random Harvest	WBC Committee
11	Wednesday Outing - Meyers Farm	Lance Robinson
14	Saturday Workshop - Swifts, Swallows, & Martins	Stephan Terblanche

DATE	EVENT & VENUE	LEADER/ SPEAKER
15	Sunday Outing - Walter Sisulu Botanical Gardens	Stephan Terblanche
17	East Rand Evening Meeting - Country Life Village	Members (Show and Tell)
19	WBC Evening Meeting - Linden Bowls Club	Lesley Cornish
19-22	Weekend Away - Discovering the Birds of The Blyde	Tembele Collection
22	Birding with Purpose: Atlasing	Werner Van Goethem
DECEMBER		
3-6	Thornybush Private Game Reserve - Marula Camp (Birding Big Day)	Lance Robinson
5	Birding Big Day (BBD) 2026	BirdLife South Africa
6	Sunday Annual Year-End Event - Marievale Bird Sanctuary	East Rand Bird Club
9	Wednesday Outing - Korsman Bird Sanctuary	Awie Coetzee
12	Birding with Purpose: Atlasing	Werner Van Goethem
JANUARY - WELCOME TO THE CLUB'S 80th ANNIVERSARY YEAR		
6	Wednesday Outing - Northcliff Ridge Ecopark	Andy Featherstone
10	Birding with Purpose: Atlasing	Werner Van Goethem
17	Sunday Outing - Delta Park	Geoff Lockwood
19	East Rand Evening Meeting - Country Life Village	Dave Bentley
21	WBC Evening Meeting - Linden Bowls Club	Dave Dooley
21	Birding with Purpose: Summer CWACs: Rolfes & Park Haven	Awie Coetzee
23	Birding with Purpose: Summer CWACs: Bullfrog & Korsman	Werner Van Goethem
24	Birding with Purpose: Summer CWACs: Elandslei	Awie Coetzee
30	Birding with Purpose: Summer CAR Counts: GB03, GB04, (GB06) & GH03	Awie, Werner, Charles
29 -31	Weekend Away - Bush and Birds at Bushwillow Estate, Vaalkop Dam	Lance Robinson
31	Birding with Purpose - Summer CWAC at Marievale	Awie Coetzee

FORTHCOMING ATTRACTION
Vaal Dam Cruise with Trevor Hulleman
LBJs with Duncan McKenzie

Target Bird Challenge

Target birds are not necessarily the rarest or most elusive species. We encourage you to read up on our nominated target birds beforehand and share your knowledge with fellow members. The aim is to learn, have fun, and enjoy the outing together. No prizes will be awarded for spotting a target bird.

DATE: 1 SEPTEMBER / TUESDAY "SPRING DAY" OUTING
VENUE: WALTER SISULU NATIONAL 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 a diverse range of habitats, from cliff faces and grasslands to water, woodland, and bushveld, attracting a wide variety of birds. This will be an opportunity for members to enjoy a leisurely walk around the gardens and be helped in identifying some of the birds that frequent the gardens.

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

GPS: 26°05'13.5"S 27°50'42.2"E

Time: 08h00 at the entrance

Book: witsbc234@gmail.com

Leader: Andy Featherstone (083 259 0231)

SABAP Pentad: 2605_2750

Target bird: Bar-throated Apalis

DATE: 5 SEPTEMBER / SATURDAY OUTING
VENUE: THE SOUTH AFRICAN BIRD FAIR, PRETORIA NATIONAL BOTANICAL GARDEN

The South African Bird Fair will be held at the Pretoria National Botanical Garden.

Be there, and you can expect a day of birding excitement in serene settings. Guided birding walks throughout the day, fascinating talks, exhibitors, and more await you.

More information to follow at <https://www.birdlife.org.za/>

DATE: 6 SEPTEMBER / SUNDAY OUTING
VENUE: WINTER'S WAY FARM, MAGALIESBERG

Winter's Way Farm is situated on the slopes of the Magaliesberg Mountains, featuring a diverse range of mixed woodland habitats, including productive acacia scrub and grassland areas. Cape Vultures can be seen soaring along the ridges, and Verreaux's Eagles are frequently spotted. The Yellow-bellied Greenbul has recently arrived in this area (this is still in Gauteng province), and we will also be looking for other woodland species such as the Yellow-fronted Tinkerbird, White-throated Robin-Chat, and Arrow-marked Babbler. The grasslands provide a habitat for the Rufous-naped Lark and a variety of familiar bird species. Our hosts, Gavin and Tertia Amos, invite you to bring your picnic lunch along to enjoy at the pool area after the walk.

Route: Approx. 1 hour from Randburg. Directions and gate code will be provided to those who have booked.

Time: 06h45 for 07h00

Book: witsbc234@gmail.com

Leader: Lance Robinson (082 927 9785)

SABAP Pentad: 2545_2735

Target bird: Cape Vulture

DATE: 13 SEPTEMBER / SUNDAY OUTING
BIRDING WITH A PURPOSE - ATLASSING

Please check the 4 Degrees Green sub-project SABAP2 site (<https://sabap2.birdmap.africa/coverage/group/GP4>), select the year 2026, and find one or more blank pentads to atlas. Check again closer to the time to ensure they are still blank before heading out.

As of 7 September, there were already 400 pentads with at least one FP card for 2026.

SABAP2 Co-ordinator: Werner van Goethem (082 462 7108)

SABAP2: Pentads that have not been visited yet this year.

DATE: 15 SEPTEMBER / TUESDAY - EAST RAND BIRD CLUB EVENING MEETING
TITLE: ERBC TRIP TO SWADINI & SATARA

Awie will give a presentation on the East Rand Bird Club's trip to Swadini and Satara in the Kruger National Park.

SPEAKER: Awie Coetzee

Venue: Main Hall, Country Life Retirement Village, Brentwood Park.

Meet: 18h30 for 19h00

ID/Driver's license to be scanned at the entrance.

Cost: Members R20.00 / Non-members R30.00. Cash at the door.

Tea, coffee, and snacks will be served after the presentation.

DATE: 17 SEPTEMBER / THURSDAY EVENING MEETING
TITLE: SAVING A SENTINEL: THE RISE OF A PAN-AFRICAN EFFORT TO CONSERVE THE ENDANGERED SECRETARYBIRD

As wide-ranging predators of open landscapes, Secretarybirds reveal the critical importance of maintaining landscape-scale connectivity and intact habitats. This growing body of work underscores the value of coordinated cross-border collaboration in addressing the conservation challenges facing one of Africa's most distinctive and threatened raptors. This talk presents an overview of the work being undertaken by the Pan-African efforts spanning southern and East Africa by the Secretarybird Working Group (SWG) over multiple ecological contexts. Melissa will talk about the importance, the challenges, and the successes of the group with which she has been so involved.

SPEAKER: Dr Melissa Whitecross

Meet: 18h45 for 19h00

Cost: Free for members. R50 for non-members. Cash at the door or prepayment to Wits Bird Club. Refreshments will be served. Cash bar available.

Book: witsbc234@gmail.com

Contact Diana at diana.m.cowen@gmail.com if you can contribute a plate of savouries/sweets.

DATE: 20 SEPTEMBER / SUNDAY OUTING (PLEASE NOTE CHANGE IN DATE)
VENUE: DENEYSVILLE & SURROUNDS

Deneysville is located at the North-West corner of the Vaal Dam and near the start of the Vaal Dam birding routes. Selwyn will take us on a tour of the main birding sites, stopping at various locations to search for the special birds of the area, which include Double-banded Courser, Blue Korhaan, Secretarybird, Blue Crane, Karoo Scrub Robin, Orange River White-eye, and Spike-heeled Lark.

Route: From Johannesburg, head south on the R59 towards Vereeniging, then take exit 360 onto the R716 to Deneysville. Follow Main Street into Deneysville, and Astron Energy is on your left.

GPS: S26°53'12.9", E28°05'47.6"

Time: 06h30 at the Astron Energy filling station, Main Street

Book: witsbc234@gmail.com

Leader: Selwyn Rautenbach (072 152 5160)

SABAP Pentad: Various

Target bird: Double-banded Courser

DATE: 27 SEPTEMBER / SUNDAY OUTING
VENUE: WILGE RIVER VALLEY

This scenic drive traverses some of the most diverse birding habitats in the region, including prime Highveld grassland, only a stone's throw away from an impressive gorge cloaked with moist woodland. The road descends into Trichardspoort with its spectacular red cliffs towering above forest-like riverine woodland. The kloof has a distinct sub-tropical flavour, which is reinforced by the presence of African Goshawk, Spectacled Weaver, and Ashy Flycatcher. **This outing will be limited to 5 Vehicles.**

Route: From the N1/N4 junction, travel 50 km east towards Bronkhorstspuit and take the R25 off-ramp. Turn left (north) towards Groblersdal. After 25km, turn right toward Zusterstroom (also signposted Amanzintaba).

GPS: S25°38'42.3", E28°53'16.9"

Time: 07h00 at the Zusterstroom / Amanzintaba turnoff from the R25

Book: witsbc234@gmail.com

Leader: Werner Van Goethem (082 462 7108)

SABAP Pentad: Various

Target bird: Spectacled Weaver

DATE: 4 OCTOBER / SUNDAY OUTING
VENUE: ABE BAILEY NATURE RESERVE

Situated near Carletonville on the West Rand, this predominantly Highveld Grassland habitat also has extensive wetland habitats. Birds are best observed by walking around the reserve to obtain good views of a variety of species. Specials for the area include Orange-breasted Waxbill, Northern Black Korhaan, and African Marsh Harrier.

Route: From Johannesburg, take the M1/N1 towards Bloemfontein and then the N12 west towards Potchefstroom. Before the railway bridge across the N12, turn right onto the R501 to Carletonville. Take the first turning into Carletonville, cross the railway line and then proceed along Agnew Road to the 4-way stop on Annan Road. Cross over Annan Road, passing the Carletonville Technical College on the right. Turn right into R500 Ada Street and continue straight over the bridge (grain silos on the right) until you see signs indicating Khutsong to the left. Proceed as to Khutsong and keep a sharp lookout for the Abe Bailey Project sign on the right 3,9km from the turn. If you reach the little town of Welverdiend, you have gone too far.

GPS: S26°20'00.5", E27°20'58.3"

Time: 07h00 at the Entrance

Book: witsbc234@gmail.com

Cost: R33 per person (R17 for pensioners) and R33 per vehicle, payable at the entrance (card only).

Leader: Connor Nicholson (076 445 5672)

SABAP Pentad: 2615_2720 / 2620_2720

Target bird: African Marsh Harrier

DATE: 7 OCTOBER / WEDNESDAY OUTING
VENUE: ALBERT'S FARM

The farm dates back to the 1890s and is home to the only artesian spring in Gauteng. The park lies against Northcliff Ridge, the second largest green lung in the city after Delta Park. It is an ecologically significant area, with a high diversity of indigenous grass and shrub species, as well as several dams, a wetland, and a stream. Just under 140 different bird species have been observed in the conservancy, including Black-headed and Grey Herons, Marsh Owl, resident Black and Ovambo Sparrowhawks, and more recently, the elusive Red-chested Flufftail.

Route: From the N1 Western Bypass, head east on Gordon Road. After 1.8 km, turn left onto Long Road. Turn left into First Street, then turn right onto Second Road. Continue on 6th Road (Second becomes 6th). Turn right onto 8th Street. Navigate to the centre of the park from the access road leading off 8th Street, Greymont.

GPS: S26°09'31.7", E27°58'06.0"

Time: 06h45 for 07h00 at the central parking area

Book: witsbc234@gmail.com

Leader: Andy Featherstone (083 259 0231)

SABAP Pentad: 2605_2755

Target bird: Red-chested Flufftail

DATE: 10 OCTOBER / SATURDAY OUTING * WORLD BIRD MIGRATORY DAY*
VENUE: WINTER'S WAY FARM, MAGALIESBERG (RESCHEDULED)

Join us at Winter's Way Farm, nestled on the slopes of the magnificent Magaliesberg Mountains, for a special World Migratory Bird Day bird walk. The 2026 World Migratory Bird Day theme, Community and Citizen Science, highlights how every bird observation contributes valuable information that helps scientists, conservationists, and local communities protect migratory birds and their habitats. Participants are encouraged to record their sightings and discover how birdwatchers play an important role in conservation.

The farm supports a rich diversity of woodland, acacia scrub, and grassland habitats, providing excellent opportunities to observe a wide variety of birdlife, both resident and migratory, while contributing to our understanding of bird distribution and movement through citizen science.

A special highlight of the day will be a bird ringing demonstration, offering a unique opportunity to witness citizen science in action. Learn how ringing helps researchers track bird movements, survival rates, migration routes, and population trends, generating vital data that supports bird conservation both locally and globally.

After the walk and ringing demonstration, our hosts, Gavin and Tertia Amos, warmly invite you to relax and enjoy a picnic lunch at the pool area while sharing sightings and stories from the morning's birding adventure.

Route: Approx. 1 hour from Randburg. Directions and gate code will be provided to those who have booked.

Time: 06h45 for 07h00

Book: witsbc234@gmail.com

Leader: Lance Robinson (082 927 9785)

SABAP Pentad: 2545_2735

Target birds: Palearctic & Intra-African Migrants like Spotted Flycatcher, Lesser Striped & Greater Striped Swallow, White-throated, Barn & Red-breasted Swallows, Red-chested, Black & Diederik Cuckoo, White-rumped Swift, & African Paradise Flycatcher.

DATE: 9-12 OCTOBER/ LONG WEEKEND AWAY
VENUE: MAKULEKE

FULLY BOOKED - Due to overwhelming demand, the popular Makuleke Weekend with EcoTraining sold out in record time, reaffirming its status as one of our most popular wilderness experiences. Combining exclusive access to the spectacular Makuleke Contractual Park with EcoTraining's renowned expert guides. For those who missed out, the good news is that, following its tremendous success, this sought-after experience will be revisited in 2027.

Keep an eye on our announcements, as places are expected to fill quickly once again.

DATE: 15 OCTOBER/ THURSDAY EVENING MEETING
TITLE: DISCOVERING ST HELENA

St Helena is a place many people would like to visit, but few have the opportunity. This year, some of BirdLife SA tour participants were stranded for a while on St Helena, giving lots of opportunities to experience some of the many activities available on the island. The talk covers the history of the island, the people, how to get to the island and the conservation efforts for the vegetation, especially the Cloud Forest, as well as the marine environment, and a small section on the birdlife of the island. This will include the endemic St Helena Plover, with the rest of the terrestrial birds being introduced, plus sea birds nesting on the island and sea stacks.

SPEAKER: Spike Taylor

Venue: Meet: 18h30 for 19h00

Cost: Free for members. R50 for non-members. Cash at the door or prepayment to Wits Bird Club. Refreshments will be served. Cash bar available.

Book: witsbc234@gmail.com

Contact Diana at diana.m.cowen@gmail.com if you can contribute a plate of savouries/ sweets.

DATE: SATURDAY 17 OCTOBER / BIRDING WITH A PURPOSE
ATLASSING

Please check the 4 Degrees Green sub-project SABAP2 site (<https://sabap2.birdmap.africa/coverage/group/GP4>), select the year 2026, and find one or more blank pentads to atlas. Check again closer to the time to ensure they are still blank before heading out.

As of 7 September, there were already 412 pentads with at least one FP card for 2026.

SABAP2 Coordinator: Werner van Goethem (082 462 7108)

SABAP2: Pentads that have not been visited yet this year.

DATE: 20 OCTOBER / TUESDAY - EAST RAND BIRD CLUB EVENING MEETING
TITLE: THE SENSES OF BIRDS

Reggie became interested in the senses of birds by chance and has developed his talk from a casual introduction to their sight to a full-blown presentation on their other senses as well. He was initially worried that the talk might be too technical and scientific, but he has discovered that audiences respond very well to this fascinating subject.

SPEAKER: Reggie Venter

Venue: Main Hall, Country Life Retirement Village, Brentwood Park.

Meet: 18h30 for 19h00

ID/Driver's license to be scanned at the entrance.

Cost: Members R20.00 / Non-members R30.00. Cash at the door.

Tea, coffee, and snacks will be served after the presentation.

DATE: 24 OCTOBER / SATURDAY OUTING
VENUE: KLOOFENDAL NATURE RESERVE

Kloofendal was one of the first nature reserves to be created in Johannesburg, and its natural environment represents a transition zone between the Bankenveld, Drakensberg, and savanna ecosystems. This popular 150-ha reserve has a good variety of birds due to its wide range of habitats, including Malachite Sunbird, Wailing Cisticola and breeding Black Sparrowhawk.

Route: Take Beyers Naudé north. Cross the N1 Western Bypass and, at the next traffic light, turn left into Jim Fouché Road. Keep on Jim Fouché Road, crossing JG Strydom and Hendrik Potgieter Roads, and then turn right into Christian de Wet Road. At the first traffic lights, turn left into Wilgerood Road, and then turn left into Topaz Road. Take the first right into Galena Road, and the entrance to the reserve is 1km on the left.

GPS: S26°07'38.7", E27°52'50.4"

Time: 07h00 at the Entrance

Book: witsbc234@gmail.com

Leader: Josh Marais (073 103 2437)

SABAP Pentad: 2605_2750

Target bird: Wailing Cisticola

DATE: 31 OCTOBER / SATURDAY OUTING

VENUE: WONDERBOOM LAPA, PRETORIA

Wonderboom Lapa has a convenient place to park and meet before starting our 4 to 5 km walk. The Friends of Magalies have created a network of trails southeast of Wonderboom Nature Reserve. There are multi-use paths and those dedicated to hikers and birders. The duration of the walk is dependent on the fitness of the members and the number of birds seen. The birdlife is remarkable considering that the area is in the centre of urban sprawl. Several raptors can be found soaring on the thermals as Francolins and Spurfowl scurry around. The various Thrushes will keep you on your toes with identifications, but not as much as the various Cisticolas and lingering Swifts, Swallows and Martins.

Route: Head northeast on the N1/Ben Schoeman Fwy/Pretoria Main Rd to Pretoria. Continue onto Ben Schoeman Fwy/Pretoria Main Rd. Continue onto Ben Schoeman Fwy/Pretoria Main Rd/N14. Use the middle lane to take exit 335 for M7/Eeufees Road toward Pretoria. In 650 m, use the right lane to turn right onto Eeufees Rd/M7. After 450 m, use the right lane to take the ramp onto Christina De Wit Ave/M18, and after 1 km, use the 2nd from the left lane to continue on Christina De Wit Ave. In 300 m, use the middle lane to turn slightly left to merge onto Nelson Mandela Dr/M3 toward M18/Centurion Pretoria. After 900 m, keep right to stay on Nelson Mandela Dr/M3 for 2.6 km and, using the left lane, turn right onto Edmond St/N4. After 450 m, use the left 2 lanes to turn left onto Steve Biko Rd/M5, and after 3.8 km, use the middle 2 lanes to remain on Steve Biko Rd/M5. In 900 m, turn right onto De Beer Street; in a further 170 m, turn left onto 9th Ave and then left again in 240 m onto Lombard St. As you pass the school gate, the road forms a cul-de-sac; proceed along the tarred extension of the street until you reach a T-junction onto Wonderboom Lapa Rd, turn right and reach Wonderboom Lapa in 400 m. Park on the right of the road before the Lapa entrance.

Difficulty Grading 3

GPS: 25°41'35.6"S 28°12'08.5"E

Time: 07h15 for 07h30 at the central parking area

Book: witsbc234@gmail.com

Leader: Cameron Crole (072 259 3312)

SABAP Pentad: 2540_2810

Target bird: Sweet Waxbill

DATE: 7 NOVEMBER / SATURDAY CLEAN UP DAY

VENUE: PRESIDENT RIDGE BIRD SANCTUARY

We need your help to preserve this beautiful space, so please join us between 8am and 12pm for an hour or two. Bring along your gardening gloves and garbage bags if possible, and help us clear up rubble, trim hedges, cut back branches, etc. For more information, WhatsApp Gill on 082 655 9283.

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.

GPS: 26°06'31.2"S 27°59'35.9"E

Time: 08h00 to 12h00

Book: witsbc234@gmail.com

Coordinator: Gill Isaac (082 655 9283)

DATE: 8 NOVEMBER / SUNDAY OUTING

VENUE: RANDOM HARVEST - NEW MEMBERS MEET & GREET

To welcome our newest members, the Club is hosting a special introductory gathering. Join us for an informal and engaging event where you'll learn more about the benefits of membership, meet members of the Committee, and explore the many opportunities to participate in the Club's activities, outings, and conservation initiatives.

Whether you're a long-standing member or simply curious about who we are and what we do, this is a great opportunity to connect over coffee and a chat. We'll start with a bird walk and socialise in the tea garden afterwards.

Route: From the N1 Western Bypass, take Beyers Naudé Road towards Krugersdorp. Using Garden World Nursery, on your right as a landmark, measure 1.8km to the turn-off. Opposite Oakfield Farm (which is well sign-posted) at Valdor Centre, turn right into College Road. Continue for 2.2km keeping right and following the small directional signs to Random Harvest Nursery.

GPS: 26°01'50.6"S 27°53'37.9"E

Time: 07h00 for 07h30

Book: witsbc234@gmail.com

Cost: New members by invitation; existing members: R130 per person for catering purposes.

Leader: Members of the WBC Committee

SABAP Pentad: 2600_2750

Target bird: Orange-breasted Bush Shrike

DATE: 11 NOVEMBER / WEDNESDAY OUTING

VENUE: MEYERS FARM, ALBERTON

The farm is home to Africa's only artificial nesting platform for Verreaux's Eagles, which serves as a key breeding site for the celebrated Klipriviersberg resident pair. Rich in both natural and cultural heritage, the historic farmhouse, built in 1881, was immortalised in the 1930s by renowned South African artist J.H. Pierneef as one of his iconic Johannesburg Railway Station panels, depicting the Alberton landscape.

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 stables parking area.

GPS: S26°16'02.5", E28°05'01.6"

Time: 07h30 at the parking lot for the stables

Book: witsbc234@gmail.com

Leader: Lance Robinson (073 103 2437)

SABAP Pentad: 2605_2750

Target bird: Verreaux's Eagle

DATE: 14 NOVEMBER / SATURDAY WORKSHOP

TITLE: SWIFTS AND SWALLOWS

FACILITATOR: Stephan Terblanche

Need help with the identification of our swallows, swifts and martins? Want to know the difference between a *Lesser Striped* and a *Greater Striped Swallow*, or *Barn* and *Pearl-breasted Swallow*? Stephan has a special interest in South African swifts and swallows and has given talks and courses on their identification for more than 20 years, all over the country, but mostly to bird clubs in Gauteng. The workshop provides a simple structure for identifying these birds, focusing on the few visual cues that are unique to each species, both in flight and when perched (in the case of swallows). The course is illustrated with photos, many of which he took himself and includes many more facts about the lives (including migration) of these fascinating birds.

Cost:

Members	R 375,00
Member Families	R 475,00
Non-Members	R 425,00
Non-Member Families	R 550,00

Book: witsbc234@gmail.com

Venue: BirdLife South Africa Head Office, Dunkeld

Time: 08h45 for 09h00 start

DATE: 15 NOVEMBER / SUNDAY OUTING

VENUE: WALTER SISULU BOTANICAL GARDENS

As a follow-up to the "Swifts and Swallows" workshop, join Stephan Terblanche for a stroll in the magnificent botanical gardens and search the skies and cliffs for some examples of the birds showcased in his presentation. The garden offers a diverse range of habitats, from cliff faces and grasslands to water, woodland, and bushveld, attracting a wide variety of birds. This will be an opportunity for members to enjoy a leisurely walk around the gardens and be helped in identifying some of the birds that frequent the gardens.

Route: Travel towards Tarlton/Krugersdorp along the R47 (Hendrik Potgieter Road). Turn left onto 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.

GPS: 26°05'13.5"S 27°50'42.2"E

Time: 08h00 at the entrance

Cost: An entrance fee is payable

Book: witsbc234@gmail.com

Leader: Stephan Terblanche (083 635 7651)

SABAP Pentad: 2605_2750

Target bird: African Black Swift

DATE: 17 NOVEMBER / TUESDAY - EAST RAND BIRD CLUB EVENING MEETING

TITLE: SHOW & TELL : MEMBERS SHOW THEIR BIRD PHOTOS OF 2026

ERBC members showcase their photos taken throughout the year during outings and events.

SPEAKER: Club Members

Venue: Main Hall, Country Life Retirement Village, Brentwood Park.

Meet: 18h30 for 19h00

ID/Driver's licence to be scanned at the entrance.

Cost: Members R20.00 / Non-members R30.00. Cash at the door.

Tea, coffee, and snacks will be served after the presentation.

DATE: 19 NOVEMBER / THURSDAY EVENING MEETING

TITLE: WRANGEL ISLAND: THROUGH THE BERING STRAIT AND TURN LEFT

Lesley Cornish will describe her trip to Wrangel Island from Anadyr, Russia. She saw many auklet species, two puffin species and Ross's Gulls. The main part of the trip was landing on Wrangel Island to see Polar Bears and Walruses. Although the number of bird species was small, there were millions of some of the auklet species, and it was an exciting experience. Walking in the tundra was difficult, but well rewarded once we saw Snowy Owls. Her ambition to see a lemming was realised, and she also saw several whale species.

SPEAKER: Lesley Cornish

Venue: Meet: 18h30 for 19h00

Cost: Free for members. R50 for non-members. Cash at the door or prepayment to Wits Bird Club. Refreshments will be served. Cash bar available.

Book: witsbc234@gmail.com

Contact Diana at diana.m.cowen@gmail.com if you can contribute a plate of savouries/ sweets.

DATE: 19 - 22 NOVEMBER / LONG WEEKEND OUTING

VENUE: DISCOVERING THE BIRDS OF THE BLYDE 2026 WITH TEMBELE COLLECTION

This fully catered trip takes place from 19–22 November 2026 in the Kruger-to-Canyons Biosphere Reserve, South Africa. This remarkable area encompasses a rich mosaic of habitats, including savanna, afro-montane and riverine forests, grasslands, wetlands, and fynbos, creating opportunities to encounter an impressive variety of bird species and other wildlife.

Daily Schedule (detailed itinerary available on request)

Thursday, 19th November: Arrival and check-in at Moholoholo Ya Mati on the Blyde River. Afternoon birding walk along the river and gardens, followed by dinner.

Friday, 20th November: Early breakfast, then birding along the Kruger to Canyon Birding Route. Key sites include grassveld patches near Graskop (with potential species like Southern Bald Ibis), panoramic lookout picnic, raptor watching along Abel Erasmus Pass (possible sightings: Verreaux's Eagle, Cape Vulture), and Swadini Dam (African Finfoot, White-backed Night Heron). Evening boma fire and bush braai at Ya Mati.

Saturday, 21st November: Early breakfast, then visit Mariepskop Nature Reserve on the Drakensberg escarpment. Birding through bushveld, afro-montane, and fynbos biomes. Notable species: Narina Trogon, Knysna Turaco, Chorister Robin-chat, Orange Ground Thrush, Greater Double-collared Sunbird, Southern Tchagra. Picnic lunch in the reserve, dinner at Ya Mati.

Sunday, 22nd November: Early morning birding walk at Ya Mati, breakfast, and departure.

Accommodation & Logistics:

Base: Ya Mati (Shared accommodation in chalets, swimming pool, braai area, private deck).

Meals: Fully inclusive (tea/coffee, rusks, muffins, picnic lunches, afternoon tea/cake, dinner). Bring your own drinks/snacks.

Self-drive weekend: Guests follow a lead vehicle in convoy; carpooling encouraged.

Booking & Payment:

Cost: R 7650 per person sharing (includes entrance fees, activities, guides, accommodation, meals). 50% deposit required on booking; balance due by 30 October 2026. The dietary/health questionnaire will need to be returned to Tembele.

Book: witsbc234@gmail.com

Tour Leader: Tembele Collection and Lance Robinson

**DATE: SUNDAY 22 NOVEMBER / BIRDING WITH PURPOSE
ATLASSING**

Please check the 4 Degrees Green sub-project SABAP2 site (<https://sabap2.birdmap.africa/coverage/group/GP4>), select the year 2026, and find one or more blank pentads to atlas. Check again closer to the time to ensure they are still blank before heading out.

As of 7 September, there were already 412 pentads with at least one FP card for 2026.

SABAP2 Coordinator: Werner van Goethem (082 462 7108)

SABAP2: Pentads that have not been visited yet this year.

**DATE: 3 - 6 DECEMBER / WEEKEND OUTING - EXCLUSIVE BIRDING BIG DAY WEEKEND
VENUE: THORNYBUSH PRIVATE GAME RESERVE - MARULA CAMP EXCLUSIVE**

Designed for those who value an authentic bush experience, Marula Camp offers the timeless pleasures of safari life: open-vehicle game drives, early morning coffee and sundowners enjoyed in spectacular wilderness settings, and the company of experienced guides whose knowledge and enthusiasm enrich every encounter with Africa's wildlife.

Nestled within the renowned Thornybush Private Game Reserve, part of the Greater Kruger ecosystem near Hoedspruit, Marula Private Camp offers an exclusive bushveld retreat surrounded by over 16,000 hectares of pristine wilderness. The reserve features diverse habitats, including Bushwillow-Marula woodland, riparian thicket, thornveld savanna, dry river courses and productive dams. Guests can enjoy exceptional wildlife viewing, including the Big Five and over 350 bird species, while exploring the reserve on professionally guided early morning and afternoon game drives. The private sunken hide in camp offers photographers an extraordinary vantage point, allowing intimate encounters with wildlife that often comes within a few feet of the hide, completely undisturbed by human presence.

Offered on an exclusive-use basis, this small, intimate bush camp is ideal for an immersive Birding Big Day experience set in the heart of the African bush. Camp highlights include spacious suites, a swimming pool, a unique sunken game-viewing hide and unforgettable evenings around the campfire beneath a star-filled sky. Thornybush is renowned for its extraordinary biodiversity and unforgettable safari experiences.

Accommodation & Logistics:

4 x well-spaced thatched chalets (4 x Double/ Twin rooms with en-suite bathrooms)

Air conditioning and ceiling fan

Large glass sliding doors open to private veranda with bush views

Meals: Fully inclusive (tea/coffee, rusks, daily brunch, afternoon tea, dinner). Bring your own drinks/snacks.

Swimming pool

Activities

6 x Game drives (starting Thursday afternoon, ending Sunday morning) aboard comfortable open safari vehicles. Full traversing rights to 16,000 hectares of the Greater Kruger.

Underground Hide

Booking & Payment:

Cost: R15,600 per person sharing (includes conservation fees, accommodation, activities, guide fees, meals). Due to camp size, no single supplement is available.

Book: witsbc234@gmail.com

Guides & Tour Leader: Marula Camp Guide, Tracker, and Lance Robinson

DATE: 5 DECEMBER / SATURDAY OUTING - ANNUAL BIRDING BIG DAY (BBD)

BirdLife South Africa's Birding Big Day (BBD) is an annual, nationwide citizen science event in which teams compete to identify and log the most bird species within a 24-hour period, aiming to promote conservation and gather data on South Africa's avian biodiversity. You can participate in one of two categories:

50 km Radius Category

The rules for this category are:

The maximum area that can be visited is an area within a radius of 50 km.

Please note this is a RADIUS of 50 km – so from boundary to boundary it is 100 km.

Teams registering for this category will automatically be entered into provincial challenges (this will not be the case for the 6 km radius category)

6 km Radius Category

The rules for this category are:

The maximum area that can be visited is an area within a radius of 6 km.

Note that this is a RADIUS of 6 km – from boundary to boundary, the distance is 12 km.

Teams registering in this category will not be automatically entered into provincial challenges.

Please email bdb@birdlife.org.za if you want your team to be entered into a provincial challenge. Indicate clearly which provincial challenge.

DATE: 6 DECEMBER / SUNDAY OUTING VENUE: MARIEVALE - YEAR END FUNCTION

Join us for the year-end function at Marievale hosted by the East Rand Bird Club. We will meet at the picnic site at 07h00 for a guided walk along the road to the picnic site. East Rand Bird Club will provide the fires, salads, dessert, and bread rolls – please bring your own meat, drink, chairs, plates, and cutlery. Please book with Louise 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 the Holgatfontein/Nigel sign) heading towards the Conference Centre, turn right onto a dirt track and continue past the Hadada hide; continue straight to the gate. Turn left and then right towards the picnic area.

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

Time: 07h00 at the picnic site for guided walks or drives, or 10h30 for 11h00 for braai (fires will be lit at 10h30)

Book: witsbc234@gmail.com

Coordinator: Awie Coetzee (083 677 7097)

Cost: R35 pp and R25 per car (paid at reception – no cash facility – cards only)

DATE: 9 DECEMBER / WEDNESDAY OUTING VENUE: KORSMAN BIRD SANCTUARY

Declared a natural reserve in 1967, the sanctuary covers an area of around 44 hectares. At the centre is a natural pan about 1.5 metres deep. It is inhabited by some 170 bird species and includes several active heronries. The reed beds could yield Little Bittern or Black Crake, while the shore edges should be scanned for early migrant waders. A spotting scope is recommended.

Route: Take the Atlas Road/Benoni turnoff from the N12 to Witbank. Turn right into Atlas Road and proceed to the Total garage (meeting point) on the corner of Atlas and Racecourse Road. The sanctuary is located in a closed-off suburb.

GPS: S 26.1976 E 28.2838 (meeting point)

Time: 07h30 at the Total Garage

Book: witsbc234@gmail.com

Leader: Awie Coetzee (083 677 7097)

SABAP Pentad: 2610_2815

Target bird: Goliath Heron

DATE: SATURDAY 12 DECEMBER / BIRDING WITH PURPOSE ATLASSING

Please check the 4 Degrees Green sub-project SABAP2 site (<https://sabap2.birdmap.africa/coverage/group/GP4>), select the year 2026, and find one or more blank pentads to atlas. Check again closer to the time to ensure they are still blank before heading out.

As of 7 September, there were already 412 pentads with at least one FP card for 2026.

SABAP2 Coordinator: Werner van Goethem (082 462 7108)

SABAP2: Pentads that have not been visited yet this year.

DATE: 6 JANUARY / WEDNESDAY OUTING VENUE: NORTHCLIFF ECO PARK

Northcliff Ridge, formerly known as Aasvoëlkop, with its landmark water tower built in 1939, is a prominent feature in the Johannesburg landscape. This small park (11 hectares), enclosed with palisade fencing, 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 onto Hearn Drive, pass the Northcliff Manor Guest House, and then continue along Rocky Drive. Turn right onto Louie Avenue, proceed through the boom, and turn right onto Lucky Avenue, where there is parking at the base of the water tower.

GPS: 26°8'43"S 27°58'7"E

Time: 07h00 at the entrance gate

Book: witsbc234@gmail.com

Leader: Andy Featherstone (083 259 0231)

SABAP Pentad: 2605_2755

Target bird: Striped Pipit

**DATE: SUNDAY 10 JANUARY / BIRDING WITH PURPOSE
ATLASSING**

A brand new year of the 4 Degrees Green sub-project. Access the SABAP2 site (<https://sabap2.birdmap.africa/coverage/group/GP4>), select the year 2026, and find one or more blank pentads to atlas. Check again closer to the time to ensure they are still blank before heading out.

SABAP2 Coordinator: Werner van Goethem (082 462 7108)

SABAP2: Pentads that have not been visited yet this year.

**DATE: 17 JANUARY / SUNDAY OUTING
VENUE: DELTA PARK**

Kick off the Club's 80th Anniversary celebrations with an unforgettable walk through Delta Park in the company of renowned naturalist Geoff Lockwood, exploring the wonders of nature in one of Johannesburg's most treasured green spaces. Geoff and Delta Park have both been associated with WBC for many years, and Geoff will share some of the history of the park during a gentle stroll through the grounds. The 104 ha Delta Park boasts an impressive list of over 240 birds recorded within its boundaries. Many woodland species, including Red-throated Wryneck, Cardinal Woodpecker, Black Sparrowhawk and African Olive Pigeons, can be encountered, and the resident Spotted Eagle Owl family at the Environmental Centre is always an attraction. Several small dams add a variety of waterbirds to the list.

Route: Follow First Avenue, Linden, towards Johannesburg until it becomes Rustenburg Road. Turn left into Road No 3 at the robot. Follow the road past King David Primary School and into the Park. Once in the Park, turn left at the T-junction and follow the road to the parking lot of the Delta Environmental Centre.

GPS: S26°07'31.4", E28°00'32.2"

Time: 07h00 at the Environmental Centre

Book: witsbc234@gmail.com

Leader: Geoff Lockwood (082 346 2597)

SABAP Pentad: 2605_2800

Target bird: Black Sparrowhawk

**DATE: 19 JANUARY/ TUESDAY - EAST RAND BIRD CLUB EVENING MEETING
TITLE: BIRDING IN SCOTLAND**

While visiting his son in Scotland Dave did some birding, including the Islands of Skye and Orkney. Not a "birding trip" but birding while on a trip around Northern Scotland.

SPEAKER: Dave Bentley

Venue: Main Hall, Country Life Retirement Village, Brentwood Park.

Meet: 18h30 for 19h00

ID/Driver's license to be scanned at the entrance.

Cost: Members R20.00 / Non-members R30.00. Cash at the door.

Tea, coffee, and snacks will be served after the presentation.

DATE: THURSDAY 21 JANUARY / BIRDING WITH PURPOSE
ROLFES & PARK HAVEN (S) & (N) PANS SUMMER 2027 CWACs

LEADER: AWIE COETZEE (083 677 7097)

The three pans to be visited are surrounded by businesses and a private estate, hence the mid-week visit. Our day starts at Rolfes Pan, which is completely enclosed by light industries and difficult to access. From here we'll proceed to Park Haven South (a.k.a. Clearwater Estate) and end at Park Haven North (returning to WBC after 10 years).

Meet: 08h30

GPS: Contact the leader, as some sites have restrictions.

Book: witsbc234@gmail.com

SABAP Pentads: 2605_2810 & 2605_2815

DATE: 21 JANUARY / THURSDAY EVENING MEETING
TITLE: I CAME FOR THE SHOT AND STAYED FOR THE STORY

David is a wildlife photographer fascinated by birds in their natural habitat, spending hours studying their behaviour to complete the picture and share their story. That curiosity led him to research. Research led him to share this with the Club. He will share what the water's edge has taught him. Every great waterbird photograph starts the same way: patience. Watching. Waiting. Learning. Over the years, that patience taught David far more than he ever expected.

He has photographed waterbirds the length and breadth of Southern Africa, from the Chobe to the Cape, Marievale to the West Coast.

In this presentation, he will look at the main types of waterbirds found in Southern Africa, then delve deeper into the story behind them under the following headings: Feet of Waterbirds, Running on Water, Flotation, Feathers, Feeding Strategies, Keeping Warm, and Colours and Plumage.

This is not just a collection of photographs. It's a look behind them: the moments, the patience, the discoveries. A photographer's eye, a curious mind, and an evening you won't forget.

SPEAKER: David Dooley

Venue: **Meet:** 18h30 for 19h00

Cost: Free for members. R50 for non-members. Cash at the door or prepayment to Wits Bird Club. Refreshments will be served. Cash bar available.

Book: witsbc234@gmail.com

Contact Diana at diana.m.cowen@gmail.com if you can contribute a plate of savouries/ sweets.

DATE: SATURDAY 23 JANUARY / BIRDING WITH PURPOSE
BULLFROG & KORSMAN PANS SUMMER 2027 CWACs

LEADER: WERNER VAN GOETHEM (082 462 7108)

The participants will meet at Bullfrog Pan at Wyman Park at the bottom of Evans Road, Jatniel. Several points around the pan will be visited. Once complete here, we will make our way to Korsmans in convoy and will meet the chairperson at the intersection of Kilfernora Street and The Drive. This part of the census is on foot around the pan (roughly 2.5 km) with several excursions into the fenced area.

Meet: 07h30

GPS: 26°07'49.9"S 28°19'21.2"E (Wyman Park). 26°11'29.7"S 28°17'24.9"E (Korsmans)

Book: witsbc234@gmail.com

SABAP Pentads: 2605_2815 & 2610_2815

DATE: SUNDAY 24 JANUARY / BIRDING WITH PURPOSE
ELANDSVLEI PANS SUMMER 2027 CWACs

LEADER: AWIE COETZEE (083 677 7097)

The Elandsvlei pans are counted together, starting with the northern pan and then the southern pan. Although access is possible in a sedan if it hasn't rained, a 4x4, high-clearance vehicle is suggested.

We will meet at the Astron service station on the corner of the R25, R50 and the R51 and travel in convoy.

Meet: 07h30

GPS: 26°00'34.6"S 28°25'27.6"E

Book: witsbc234@gmail.com

SABAP Pentads: 2555_2825, 2600_2825

DATE: 29 - 31 JANUARY/ WEEKEND OUTING
VENUE: BUSHWILLOW ESTATE, VAALKOP DAM

Beyond Binoculars: An Immersive Weekend of Tuning In to the Bush & Birds with Lance Robinson

Step beyond traditional birding and discover a mindful way of experiencing nature. Join Lance for a weekend dedicated to tuning in to the sights, sounds and subtle rhythms of the bush at Bushwillow Estate on Vaalkop Dam. Through guided birding walks, interactive bush exploration, engaging discussions and practical exercises in mindful observation, you'll slow down, listen deeply and reconnect with the natural world. Explore Zen Birding, where the focus shifts from simply identifying species to looking at aspects of bird behaviour, understanding their calls, and appreciating their place within a living ecosystem.

Whether you're a seasoned birder or simply someone who enjoys spending time in nature, this unique weekend will deepen your awareness, sharpen your senses and leave you with a rekindled awareness of the avian voices that animate it. A full weekend itinerary will be made available on inquiry.

Vaalkop Dam Nature Reserve is almost 4000-hectares in extent and includes an 800-hectare section known as the North-West Bird Sanctuary. Bushwillow Estate is a private estate located on the northern shore. The dominant feature of the reserve is the 1045-hectare dam situated between the Elands and Hex Rivers. Vaalkop Dam is a legendary birding venue that offers a variety of wetland, woodland, and shorebird species (350+ species). This woodland area below the dam wall is outstanding for a variety of bushveld, augmented in summer by several migratory species.

Accommodation will be at #31 Bushwillow featuring an open-plan living room/dining and kitchen area with large spaces and panoramic sliding doors opening onto the deck with pool, overlooking the dam – there are three bedrooms (1x king-size bed, 1x queen, 2 x ¾ beds – all with en-suite bathrooms). *Please note that further accommodation is available and can be booked; details can be provided on request.*

Route: Take the R511 north from Brits for 35 km to a sign indicating Beestekraal. Turn left and continue 4 km to a sign indicating Vaalkop Dam to the right. Travel a further 11km to the entrance to the Vaalkop Dam and Magalies Water Project complex on the left and turn right just before the reserve entrance gate, signposted Bushwillow. Follow the road, cross the low-level bridge and continue towards the hill, signposted Bushwillow to the gate. Sign in and proceed to the accommodation allocated.

Time: Friday, 17h00 at the Office area next to the pool

Book: witsbc234@gmail.com

Cost: R1,850 per person sharing, self-catering

Leader: Lance Robinson (082 827 9785)

SABAP Pentad: 2515_2725

Target bird: Woodland Kingfisher

DATE: SATURDAY 30 JANUARY / BIRDING WITH PURPOSE
SUMMER CAR COUNTS GB03, GB04 & GH03

LEADERS: WERNER VAN GOETHEM (082 462 7108), AWIE COETZEE (083 677 7097), NEW VOLUNTEER & CHARLES NEL (082 547 6779)

Details are to be captured as per the CAR capture sheet v.19 using abbreviations as supplied. Species included are all large terrestrial birds and raptors.

Single vehicle events; meet at a secure leader's house) and leave vehicles, or the leader is to fetch participants.

CAR count along route GB03 (Bapsfontein to Rayton)

Predominantly 50 km of farm roads south of N4 between Rayton and Bronkhorstspuit, with stops every 2 km or at the sighting of CAR species.

SABAP Pentads: 2545_2830, 2550_2830, 2555_2830, 2555_2835, 2550_2835 & 2545_2835

CAR count along route GB04 (Cullinan to Bronkhorstspuit)

Predominantly 45 km of farm roads south of the N4 between Cullinan and Bronkhorstspuit, with stops every 2 km or at the sighting of CAR species.

SABAP Pentads: 2540_2830, 2540_2835, 2535_2830, 2535_2835, 2535_2840 & 2530_2840

(**CAR** count along route GB06 (Olifantsfontein to Bashewa)

Predominantly 45 km of farm roads east of R21 between Olifantsfontein and Bashewa, with stops every 2 km or at the sighting of CAR species.

SABAP Pentads:)

CAR count along route GH04 (Three Rivers to Suikerbosrand)

Predominantly 52 km of farm roads south of Suikerbosrand between Three Rivers and Suikerbosrand, with stops every 2 km or at the sighting of CAR species.

SABAP Pentads: 2640_2800, 2645_2800, 2645_2805, 2640_2805, 2635_2805, 2635_2810, 2630_2810 & 2630_2805

CAR Routes GB03, GB04, (GB06) & GH03

Meet: At the leader's house or get picked up en route

GPS to be supplied by the leader when participation is confirmed.

Book: with the leader

SABAP Pentads: see each route

**DATE: SUNDAY 31 JANUARY / BIRDING WITH PURPOSE
MARIEVALE SUMMER CWAC 2027**

LEADER: AWIE COETZEE (083 677 7097)

We will meet at the Marievale Bird Sanctuary Picnic Site at 07:00 for 07:30. On arrival, participants will be allocated an area to count, and a copy of the data sheet and the Marievale map will be made available. Counting will commence at 07:30 and should end at approximately 10:30. At the end of the count, the completed data sheets should be handed in to the coordinator at the picnic site. All participants are invited to a Bring and Braai after the count, which will be hosted by the Springs-Nigel Branch of WESSA.

GPS Picnic site: 26°21'26.7"S 28°30'56.1"E

Book: witsbc234@gmail.com

SABAP Pentads: 2620_2825, 2620_2830, 2615_2830

NOTES

1. Always consult a map before leaving home or the AA for routes, tollgate costs, roadworks, and 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:

- Preferably, pay directly into the Wits Bird Club Bank account and email the deposit slip to witsbc234@gmail.com
Banking details as follows:
BANK – NEDBANK HYDE PARK
BRANCH CODE: 198-765
ACCOUNT NO: 1913 257 789
NAME OF ACCOUNT: WITS BIRD CLUB
- Please note: NO CREDIT CARD FACILITY.
- *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 R1 000, payment in full must be paid on booking.
- If the cost of the outing/weekend is over R1 000, 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 before 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, steep gradients, or difficult terrain)

FOR FURTHER DETAILS CONTACT:

Louise Rowbotham

EMAIL: witsbc234@gmail.com

WEBSITE: www.witsbirdclub.org.za