



BirdLife Northern Gauteng Gauteng-Noord

Your birding partner of choice!

Club Programme: FEBRUARY to MAY 2020

* Please note that this programme is available on the BLNG website.

Klubprogram: FEBRUARIE tot MEI 2020

* Neem asb kennis dat hierdie program op die BLNG webblad beskikbaar is.



HIGHLIGHTS

- February (20-25) : Heuningvlei Atlas Camp (NC)
- March (19-23) : Mapungubwe (LIM)
- April (10-14) : Pullen NR (MPU)
- April & May (30Apr_03May) : Ingula NR (KZN)



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Dear fellow BLNG birders,

"It is not down in any map; true places never are." – Herman Melville

KICKSTART YOUR 2020 BIRDING

As always, find herewith **your** latest program for the upcoming months of **February - May 2020**. Dare to take a step beyond the familiar and discover a world of adventure. A hike down at any of the Nature Reserves as advertised in this program, or a camp at any of the destinations as indicated! Many are once-in-a-lifetime experiences that will change the way you see outings with BLNG! We've compiled an epic list of birding adventures to add to your bucketlist. We've got you covered with all the right places to tick off your birding checklist. Find out what to expect from this exciting program. What better opportunity to explore it than with BLNG.

In hierdié program word lekker daguittstappies en kampe beplan! BLNG kampe gaan plaasvind in die Noord-Kaap, Limpopo, Mpumalanga en KZN. Indien jy wil spaar op jou volgende blaaskans, het ons dié lekker program propvol spesiale uitstappies en kampe saamgeflans! So, moenie op jou laat wag nie, bespreek nou en spaar lag-lag!

Forthcoming camps are highlighted on the front page (also browse the index to the left).

Four months have passed with an array of such amazing variety. Enjoy the wonderful BLNG experiences in the recent *Laniarius #141!*

Looking forward seeing many more of you at the forthcoming BLNG outings, events and camps as outlined in this programme.

A special invitation is extended to **BLNG's new members!** Consider contributing to our knowledge of the birds in our area by participating in a citizen science project such as the Southern African Bird Atlas Project. Watch out for the various atlas bashes in this programme!

Birding regards / Voëlkygroete
Sheleph Burger
082 925 4005 / (012) 996 0753
sheleph@blng.co.za

Front cover: © Sheleph Burger

FEBRUARY / FEBRUARIE

📅 Sat 01 Feb - Bird Ringing at Colbyn

Meet / Ontmoet: To be confirmed at RSVP

Leader / Leier: Ig Viljoen

☎ 066 176 5471

Join the ringers for a morning of extreme close up birding without binoculars. Bring your chair, hat, refreshments and birding books along. Please book your place before Friday 12h00 by SMS, so that the leader can notify you if the outing needs to be cancelled. Ringing sessions could be cancelled due to a sudden change in weather like rain or strong wind. **The handling of nets and birds may only be done by a qualified ringer.**

NOTE - If you wish to attend between 6 and 8 am you will have to jostle for position with up to 180 children attending the Colbyn Valley World Wetlands Day event that this ringing session forms part of. If club members arrive after 8 am though they should have the ringers to themselves.

*Sluit aan by die ringers vir 'n oggend se leersame pret. Kom kyk hoe lyk die voëltyes van naby sonder 'n verkyker. Bring 'n stoel, hoed, voëlboeke en verversings saam. Bespreek asb. voor Vrydagmiddag 12h00 per SMS sodat die leier jou in kennis kan stel as die uitstappie dalk gekanselleer word. Dit gebeur soms dat die ringsessie afgestel moet word a.g.v. skielike weersveranderinge soos reën of sterk wind. **Die hantering van nette en voëls mag slegs deur 'n gekwalifiseerde ringer gedoen word.***

NEEM KENNIS – Indien jy graag tussen 6 en 8 vm wil bywoon sal jy moet stoei vir 'n plek met tot 180 kinders wat die Colby Valleï Wêreld Vleilanddag bywoon, waarvan hierdie beringingsessie deel vorm. Indien klubede na 8 vm kom, sal hulle die ringers vir hulle self hê.

📅 Sun 02 Feb – PENTAD ATLAS BIRDING In close proximity to Rooiwal MAX 8 CARS

Meet / Ontmoet: 05h45 – 10h45

Leader / Leier: Pieter Verster

☎ 083 271 81434

✉ pieter.verster@medtronic.com

SABAP2 Pentad(s): 2550_2805

The focus of this trip is 'Atlas of one [1] pentad and how different habitats can bring about different species.' The aim is 150 species atlas for the day in 5 hours within one pentad. Members who want

to join the outing must have the Birdlasser App already on their phones, because this is going to be a practical trip. During this trip members will be shown how to create a trip card ready to submit to SABAP. During the outing, we will focus on members who need help to getting started with SABAP atlassing, and Birdlasser in a practical way.

The maksimum number is eight (8) cars, therefore atlassers will have to drive together.

Directions: Meet – 5 km Northwest of the Rooiwal Water Care Works. – At the corner of Bultfontein and Sekelbos Streets (-25.505, 28.175). The outing will end at 10h45 at Rooiwal Water Care Works.

Bookings: reservations@blng.co.za

Die fokus van hierdie uitstappie is 'Atlas van een [1] pentad en hoe verskillende habitats verskillende spesies teweeg bring'. Die teiken is 150 spesies atlas vir die dag in 5 ure in een pentad. Lede wat die uitstappie gaan meemaak, moet die Birdlasser toep reeds op hulle slimfoon afgelaai hê, aangesien hierdie 'n praktiese uitstappie gaan wees. Gedurende hierdie uitstappie sal lede tuiwys gemaak word in die skep van 'n uitstappiekaart wat aan SABAP ingedien kan word. Daar sal gefokus word op lede wat hulp benodig om SABAP vaardig te word, asook om Birdlasser op 'n praktiese manier te gebruik.

Die maksimum aantal motors is agt (8), derhalwe sal atlassers moet saamry.

Aanwysings: Ontmoet - 5km Noord-Wes (NW) van Rooiwal rioolwerke – Op die hoek van Bultfontein en Sekelbosstraat (-25.505, 28.175). Die uitstappie sal 10h45 eindig by die Rooiwal rioolwerke.

Besprekings: reservations@blng.co.za

📅 Sat 08 Feb – Zaagkuildrift

Meet / Ontmoet: 06:00

Leader / Leier: Jason Boyce [provisional]

☎ 082 585 2252

✉ jasonkyleboyce@gmail.com

SABAP2 Pentad(s): 2505_2845, 2505_2850

According to *Birding in Gauteng* the legendary Zaagkuildrift Road runs east-west from the town of Pienaarsrivier to the semi-rural village of Kgomo-Kgomo, tracking the course of the Pienaars River. In years of good rainfall the river forms a 27km² ephemeral floodplain with birding comparable to the much better known Nyl Floodplain. This combination of rare tropical waterbirds together with excellent mature *Acacia* woodland arguably offers the richest birding locality in the region, and **certainly one of the best birding spots in southern Africa!** A diverse variety of raptors, cuckoos, bee-eaters, kingfishers, shrikes,

warblers and seedeaters are present in the summer months, while (given sufficient rainfall) this is the most reliable site in SA for the rare and elusive River Warbler in late summer. Birding will take place along the road to Kgomo-Kgomo.

Directions: From Pretoria head north on the N1 and take the Pienaarsrivier/Rust de Winter offramp. Turn left at the T-junction and after 700m turn right onto the R101. About 1km further turn left onto a gravel road signposted 'Zaagkuildrift'.

Meet here.

Booking: reservations@blng.co.za

Volgens Birding in Gauteng loop die legendariese Zaagkuildrift-pad oos-wes vanaf die dorp Pienaarsrivier na die semi-landelike dorpie Kgomo-Kgomo, al met die loop van die Pienaarsrivier langs. In jare van goeie reënval vorm die rivier 'n 27 km² kortstondige vloedvlakte wat vergelyk kan word met die beter bekende Nyl-vloedvlakte. Die kombinasie van skaars tropiese watervoëls saam met uitstekende volwasse Acacia bosveld bied moontlik die rykste voëlkykgebied in die streek, en is sekerlik een van die beste voëlkykplekke in suidelike Afrika! 'n Diverse verskeidenheid van roofvoëls, koekoekes, byevreters, visvangers, laksmanne, sangers en saadvreters is teenwoordig in die somermaande, terwyl dit (met voldoende reënval) die mees waarskynlike plek in SA is om die skaars en ontwykende Sprinkaansanger te sien in die laat somer.

Aanwysings: Ry noord vanaf Pretoria op die N1 en neem die Pienaarsrivier/Rust de Winter-afrit. Draai links by die T-aansluiting en na 700m draai regs op die R101. Ongeveer 1km verder draai links op die gruispad gemerk 'Zaagkuildrift'.

Ontmoet hier.

Besprekings: reservations@blng.co.za

☼ Mon 10 Feb – Pretoria Country Club
Meet / Ontmoet: 07h00 – 11h00
Leader / Leier: Niel Cillié
☎ 076 189 5717
✉ neil@gameparkspublishing.co.za
SABAP2 Pentad(s): 2545_2815

The PCC recently started with a project to identify and list all the birds on their property, and BLNG was approached to assist. To this end, some leaders from our club have been involved in leading walks for PCC members over the past year and the club's bird ringing group has given demonstrations. BirdLife South Africa has also lent assistance and we are hoping that the PCC will launch an environmental plan for its property soon. A state of the art bird hide is planned on the club grounds. BLNG has been invited to conduct some club outings on Mondays (when the club is closed for golfers) which would allow us to walk the

fairways and surrounding areas, without upsetting any golfers.

For the interest of anyone involved with SABAP2, the club falls within pentad 2545_2815, which may well be the home pentad of some of you. We look forward to participation of BLNG members who have a weekday slot available to assist us in adding new birds to the PCC bird list. Please bring along refreshments and a chair.

Directions: From N1 take Garstfontein off ramp. Turn west and get to 'T' junction with Dely. Turn right along Dely – golf course is on your left. Turn left into Albert, and then second left into Sidney.

Bookings: reservations@blng.co.za

Die Pretoria Buiteklub het onlangs met 'n projek begin om al die voëls op hulle eiendom te identifiseer en 'n lys daarvan te maak en BLNG is genader om hulle behulpsaam te wees. Van ons kant af was sommige leiers van ons klub gedurende die laaste jaar betrokke deur uitstappies te lei saam met PCC lede om 'n voëllys vir die klub op te stel en ons ringers het demonstrasies gegee. BirdLife SA was ook betrokke, en ons hoop dat PCC binnekort 'n omgewingsplan bekend sal stel. 'n Moderne voëlskuiling word beplan op die gronde.

BLNG is uitgenooi om klubbuitstappies op Maandae (wanneer die klub gesluit is vir gholfspelers) te hou, wat ons sal toelaat om op die skoonvelde en omringende gebiede te loop sonder om die gholfspelers te pla. Jou deelname word waardeer as 'n BLNG lid wat gedurende weekdae tyd beskikbaar het en kan help om die PCC se voëllys uit te brei. Bring eie verversings en 'n stoel saam.

Aanwysings: Vanaf die N1, neem die Garstfontein afrit. Draai wes tot by die T-aansluiting van Dely. Draai regs in Dely, en die golfbaan is op linkerhand. Draai links in Albertstraat, en links in Sydneystraat.

Besprekings: reservations@blng.co.za

☾ **Tue 11 Feb - EVENING MEETING**
19h00 at Greek Orthodox Church, c/o
Roper St. & Lynnwood Road, Brooklyn

BLNG AGM
BLNG AJV



☾ Tue 11 Feb - EVENING MEETING
19h00 at Greek Orthodox Church, c/o
Roper St. & Lynnwood Road, Brooklyn

BLNG AGM

Just to remind you that our annual AGM takes on Tuesday, 11 February 2020. Please save the date to join us on this special occasion.

After the formalities we have a well known, very special guest speaker! Mark Anderson [see topic below].

And just to make sure you join us for this evening we invite everyone for lovely snacks afterwards. Soft drinks will be served and if you wish, a cash bar at the restaurant is available.

**incl. Guest Speaker Mark Anderson
BirdLife at work –
Conserving the world's birds.**

Mark Anderson will, during the presentation, explain how BirdLife undertakes its work across the world and how the partnership is making important contributions to the conservation of birds and their habitats.



This is our AGM and a very special event!

BLNG AJV

Almal word herinner aan BLNG se AJV wat op Dinsdag, 11 Februarie 2020 sal plaasvind, teken noual die datum aan asb.

Ons gasspreker is welbekende Mark Anderson [sien praatjie besonderhede hieronder].

Na die praatjie bederf ons almal met heerlike versnapperinge en koeldrank. Wyn en ander alkoholiese drankies is beskikbaar by die kontantkroeg by die restaurant.

**Insluitend gasspreker Mark Anderson
Bewaring van die voëls wêreldwyd.**

Mark Anderson sal gedurende sy aanbieding verduidelik hoe BirdLife sy werk wêreldwyd doen, en hoe vennootskappe belangrike bydraes maak om voëls en hulle habitats te beskerm.

**Hierdie is ons Algemene Jaarvergadering,
en 'n baie spesiale byeenkoms!**

☼ Sat 15 Feb – Groenkloof NR

Meet / Ontmoet: 06h00

Leader / Leier: Rihann Geysler

☎ 084 293 6128

SABAP2 Pentad: 2555_2755

Situated in an urban environment the Groenkloof Nature Reserve offers birders a surprisingly natural atmosphere. There are various trails to choose from. Rocky hills can be expected as part of the yellow trail and recommended for the more fit and experienced hiker. Leading towards the top of the hill the yellow trail offers glorious views towards the Voortrekker Monument, Waterkloof golf course, the Unisa campus, the city's CBD, and Fort Klapperkop.

Along the red and white shorter trails, hikers pass a cave home to the rock hyrax and the boma where game are kept under observation and where the sable antelope are fed. In short this is a self-guided network of circular walks that features a few semi-steep ridges.

Directions: The Groenkloof Nature Reserve is reached via the Fountains Valley Resort entrance. From the Fountains Circle, take the Fountains/Centurion turn-off into Christina de Wit Road. The entrance to the Fountains Valley Resort is about 500m along the road, on your left. On weekends and public holidays, visitors should use the alternative entrance, which is 800m from the main entrance.

Bookings: reservations@blng.co.za

Geleë in 'n stedelike omgewing bied die Groenkloof Natuureservaat aan voëlkykers 'n verbasend natuurlike atmosfeer. Daar is verskeie roetes om van te kies. Rotsagtige heuwels kan verwag word as deel van die geel roete en word aanbeveel vir die fikser en meer ervare stapper. Die geel roete gaan tot op die top van die heuwel en bied pragtige uitsigte na die Voortrekker Monument, Waterkloof golfbaan, die Unisa kampus, die middestad en Fort Klapperkop. Met die rooi en wit korter roetes, gaan stappers verby die grottuiste van dassies en die boma waar wild onder toesig aangehou word en swartwitpense gevoer word. Kortliks is dit 'n netwerk van sirkelroetes met 'n paar redelik steil riuwe.

Aanwysings: Die Groenkloof Natuureservaat word bereik via die Fonteinevallei se ingang. Vanaf die Fonteinestreek neem die Fontein/Centurion afdraai in Christina de Wit weg. Die ingang na die Fonteinvallei Oord is omtrent 500m met hierdie pad op jou linkerkant. Op naweke en publieke vakansiedae moet besoekers die alternatiewe ingang gebruik, wat 800m van die hoofingang is.

Besprekings: reservations@blng.co.za

<p>* 20-25 February 2020 BLNG 3rd ATLAS CAMP HEUNINGVLEI, NC MAX 10 ATLASERS</p>
<p>Leader / Leier: André Marx</p>
<p>☎ 084 293 6128</p>

BLNG hereby invites you to join us on the BLNG's 3rd Atlas focused atlas bash camp! It will be in the vicinity of Heuningvlei from **20-25 February 2020**. The farm, Kolokolani [Morokweng] is a lodge in the Northern Cape. The lodge consists of three separate cottages and is booked to accommodate only ten [10] atlasers. If you are SABAP registered as an observer, and an accomplished atlaser, **please book now**. Remember it is not too late to submit your name to me to be included in our overall BLNG Atlasers' List.

André Marx is an accomplished atlaser and he will manage the the 4-degree square pentads that we will try and cover over the weekend. Once we have all the bookings we will communicate further on a Whatsapp group to forward allocation of atlas teams and the pentads to be covered.

Directions will be provided at a later stage.

Accommodation: [5x nights - self-catering].

Bookings: reservations@blng.co.za

*BLNG nooi jou uit om by ons aan te sluit vir BLNG's 3de "Atlas focused atlas bash camp!" Dit sal plaasvind in die omstreke van Heuningvlei vanaf 20-25 Februarie 2020. The plaas, Kolokolani [Morokweng] is 'n lodge in die Noorkaap. Die lodge bestaan uit drie aparte eenhede en is bespreek om tien [10] atlasers te akkommodeer. Indien jy by SABAP geregistreer is, asook 'n ervare atlasser is, **bespreek asseblief nou**. Onthou dit is nie te laat om jou naam op te gee om ingesluit te word in ons algemene BLNG Atlasers Lys nie.*

André Marx is 'n ervare atlasser in beheer van die 4-grade vierkante pendants wat ons gedurende die naweek sal poog om te dek. Sodra ons al die besprekings het, sal ons verder kommunikeer dmv 'n Whatsapp groep oor die indeling van atlasspanne en die pentads wat gedek moet word.

Aanwysings sal later voorsien word.

Akkommodasie: [5x nagte - selfsorg].

Besprekings: reservations@blng.co.za

<p>🌟 Sat 22 Feb – Smuts Koppie, Irene</p>
<p>https://www.sa-venues.com/things-to-do/gauteng/visit-smuts-house-museum/</p>
<p>Meet / Ontmoet: 05:45 for 06:00</p>
<p>Leader / Leier: Philip Calinikos</p>
<p>☎ 082 602 1346</p>
<p>SABAP2 Pentad: 2550_2810</p>

The farmlands, copses of alien trees and mature gardens in die peaceful village of Irene create a haven for raptors, with several uncommon species breeding in the area. Steeped in history, the site is centred on the original home of General Jan Smuts, which is now preserved as the Smuts House Museum. The Smuts' Trail is a three-kilometre walk through the pristine grasslands surrounding the Museum, where ornithologists have identified no fewer than 300 bird species. Birding is best in summer when resident species are vocal and migrants are present. Raptor viewing is good throughout the year, so it is likely to see Ovambo Sparrowhawk, Little Sparrowhawk and European Honey-Buzzard, as well as species such as Orange River Francolin, Northern Black Korhaan, Red-throated Wryneck and Brown-backed Honeybird to name but a few. Seen occasionally is Half-collared Kingfisher where the approach road crosses the Semyl Spruit and some 200 m further the road passes through an avenue of tall plane trees – a favourite breeding site of the introduced Rose-ringed Parakeet.

Cost: R50 pp (incl. birdlist), and at the end of the walk we purchase breakfast at our own personal expense from the tea garden (no need to pay in advance).

Directions to Smuts Koppie/House: From the R21 (Airport Highway), take the M31/Irene offramp and turn right into Nellmapius Drive. Drive past Cornwall Hill School and turn left into 23rd Street West/Jan Smuts Avenue just before you pass under the railway bridge.

Alternative route: From the N1 (south going north) take the M18 Botha Avenue offramp and turn left into Botha Avenue (Main Rd). Travel through Irene for 2 km, and turn left at the four-way stop into Nellmapius Drive. Pass under the railway bridge and take the first right. As you enter the property turn immediately right.

Meet in the car park.

Bookings: reservations@blng.co.za

Plaasgronde, groepe uitheemse bome en ou gevestigde tuine in die vreedsame dorpie Irene skep 'n tuiste vir roofvoëls en verskeie skaars spesies wat in die gebied broei. Gedrenk in geskiedenis vorm die oorspronklike huis van Generaal Jan Smuts, wat nou bewaar word as die Smutshuis Museum, die middelpunt van die gebied.

Die Smutsroete is 'n 3 kilometer lange wandelroete deur ongerepte grasvelde wat die museum omring en waar voëlkundiges nie minder nie as 300 voëlspesies al geïdentifiseer het. Voëlkyk is die beste in die somer wanneer standvoëls en trekvoëls teenwoordig is. Roofvoëlwaarneming is goed reg deur die jaar, dus is dit moontlik om die Ovambosperwer, Kleinsperwer and Wespedief,

sowel as die Kalaharipatrys, Witvlerkorhaan, Draaihals en Skerpbekheuningvoël te sien, om maar net 'n paar te noem. Die Blouvisvanger word soms gesien waar die toegangsroete die Sesmyspruit kruis en so 200m verder gaan die pad deur 'n laan van groot plataanbome – 'n geliefkoosde broeiplek van die ingevoerde Ringnekparkiet.

Toegang: R50 pp (voëllys ingesluit) en aan die einde van die stap kan ons op eie koste 'n ontbyt koop by die teetuin (nie nodig om vooruit te betaal nie).

Aanwysings na Smutskoppie/huis: Vanaf die R21 (Lughawe Hoofweg), neem die M31/Irene afrit en draai regs in Nellmapiuslaan in. Ry verby Cornwall Hill skool en draai dan links in 23ste Straat Wes/Jan Smutslaan net voordat jy onder die spoorwegbrug deur gaan.

Alternatiewe roete: Vanaf die N1 (rigting suid na Noord) neem die M18 Bothalaanafrit en draai links in Bothalaan (Mainweg). Ry deur Irene vir 2km, en draai links in by die vierrigtingstop in Nellmapiuslaan. Gaan onder die spoorwegbrug deur en neem die eerste pad regs. Wanneer jy die perseel binnegaan draai onmiddellik regs.

Ontmoet in die parkeerterrein.

Besprekings: reservations@blng.co.za

MAART / MARCH

☼ Wed 04 Mar – Northern Farm
Meet / Ontmoet: 06h30
Leader / Leier: André Marx
☎ 083 411 7674
SABAP2 Pentad: 2555_2755

Northern Farm Nature Reserve (also known as the Diepsloot NR) is one of Joburg's best-kept secrets and offers over 1400 ha of varied habitat that includes grassland, farmland, woodlands and dams. Nearly 300 different bird species that include many waterbirds and a number of interesting raptors, such as Ovambo Sparrowhawk and Long-crested Eagle have been seen and in summer Yellow Wagtail can be found.

Directions: Directions: Take the N14 Pretoria/Krugersdorp highway to the R114 (a new offramp) Elodoraigne/Diepsloot offramp. Turn left and pass the shopping mall on the left. Cross the 3-way stop and proceed to the next stop street. Turn right until you find the signpost to Northern Farm Turn. Turn right at the Northern Farm sign onto a dirt road that takes you to the farm entrance. Proceed to the car park where the group will gather before driving from there.

Entrance fee payable to the leader, not at the gate.

Bookings: reservations@blng.co.za

Northern Farm Natuurresewaat (ook bekend as Diepsloot NR) is een van Johannesburg se besbewaarde geheime en bied meer as 1400ha variërende habitat wat grasveld, boerdery-grond, boomveld en damme insluit. Ongeveer 300 verskillende voëlspesies kan gesien word. Dit sluit 'n groot verskeidenheid watervoëls en 'n aantal interessante roofvoëls in soos die Ovambosperwer en Langkuifarend, asook die Geelkikkie in die somer.

Aanwysings: Neem die N14 Pretoria/Krugersdorp snelweg tot by die R114 Eldoraigne/Diepsloot-afrit. Draai links op die R114 en gaan verby die inkoopiesentrum op linkerkant. verby. Gaan oor die drie-rigting stop en draai regs by die volgende stopstraat. Draai regs op die grondpad by die Northern Farm teken. Ry deur die hek en ontmoet by die parkeerplek.

'n Toegangsfooi is betaalbaar aan die leier (nie by die hek nie).

Besprekings: reservations@blng.co.za

☼ Sat 7 Mar – Moreleta NR
Meet / Ontmoet: 07h00 – 11h00
Leader / Leier: Dirk Human
☎ 082 412 0320
SABAP2 Pentad(s): 2545_2815

As urban development proceeds unchecked, small nature reserves within otherwise built-up areas are becoming increasingly important refuges for remaining natural bird communities. For its relatively small size (92 ha), the Moreleta Kloof supports an amazing diversity of birds and is a great place for beginner birders to become familiar with the more common species, whereas experienced birders will always find something of interest. The reserve is situated in the suburb of Moreleta Park, within 5 minutes' drive off the N1 Highway.

Typical Pretoria garden birds should be present, Karoo Thrush, Mousebirds, Cape Sparrow, Common Myna, Common Fiscal, Helmeted Guineafowl, Crested Barbet, Tawny-flanked Prinia, Neddicky and Lesser Honeyguide. In the past, Red-chested Flufftail has been seen closeby to the birdhide. **Moreleta NR is an excellent SABAP2 pentad birding venue!**

Toilet facilities are now available on the route. Please bring something to drink and snacks. The whole outing should take about 3 - 4 hours, excluding the visit to the bird ringers.

Directions: From the intersection of Solomon Mahlangu Dr (previously known as Hans Strydom) / Lois Ave / Rubenstein Dr, turn into Rubenstein Dr and continue until one comes to the intersection with Helios Str. Turn left into Helios Str and continue along Helios with the

nature reserve on your left. The parking is on the right after entering the gate.

Meet in the parking area.

Bookings: reservations@blng.co.za

Ten spyte van stedelike ontwikkeling is hierdie reservaat (92ha) 'n tuiste vir 'n groot verskeidenheid van algemene voëlspesies. Vir beginner voëlkykers is dit 'n goeie begin- punt, terwyl ervare voëlkykers altyd iets interessants sal sien.

Die volgende spesies kan verwag word, nl. Geelbeklyster, Muisvoëls, Gewone Mossie, Indiese spreeu, Fiskaallaksman, Gewone Tarentaal, Kuifkophoutkapper, Bruinsylangstertjie, Neddiemie en Kleinheuningwyser. In die verlede is Rooiborsvleiuike al opgemerk naby die voëlskuiling!

Vir SABAP2 atlasblok (pentad) voëlkykdoeleindes, is Moreleta NR uitstekend! Toiletfasiliteite is op die roete beskikbaar. Bring eie verversings. Buiten die besoek aan die voëlringers, sal die hele uitstapjie omtrent 3–4 ure duur.

Aanwysings: Vanaf die kruising van Solomon Mahlangu-laan (voorheen Hans Strydom) met Lois/Rubenstein, draai in by Rubenstein in tot by die kruising met Heliosstraat. Draai links in Heliosstraat met die reservaat aan die linkerkant. Parkering is op die regterkant sodra ingang verleen is by die hek.

Ontmoet in die parkeerterrein.

Besprekings: reservations@blng.co.za

moet word a.g.v. skielike weersveranderinge soos reën of sterk wind. Die hantering van nette en voëls mag slegs deur 'n gekwalifiseerde ringer gedoen word.

☾ **Tue 10 Mar – EVENING MEETING**
19h00 at Greek Orthodox Church, c/o Roper St. & Lynnwood Road, Brooklyn

Peculiar breeding habits of some birds by Burger Cillie

Join us to listen how Burger explains the peculiar breeding habits of migrating birds, such as inter-continental migrants, inter-African migrants, breeding migrants and non-breeding migrants, parasitic breeders such as Cuckoos, Honeyguides, Pin-tailed Whydahs and Paradise-Whydahs, Indigobirds and Cuckoo Finch Weavers as well as monogamy, polygamy and polyandry.



Eienaardige broeigewoontes van sommige voëls deur Burger Cillie

Kom luister hoe verduidelik Burger die eienaardige broeigewoontes van migrerende voëls, soos inter-kontinentale migrante, inter-Afrika migrante, broeiende migrante en nie-broeiende migrante parasiet broeiers soos koekoeke, heuningwysers, rooibekkie en paradysvinke, blouvinkies en koekoekvinkies asook monogamie, poligamie en poliandrie.

○ **Sat 07 Mar**

Bird Ringing at Moreleta NR

Meet / Ontmoet: To be confirmed at RSVP

Leader / Leier: Hein Bantjes

☎ 083 441 1532

Join the ringers for a morning of extreme close up birding without binoculars. Bring your chair, hat, refreshments and birding books along. Please book your place before Friday 12h00 by SMS, so that the leader can notify you if the outing needs to be cancelled. Ringing sessions could be cancelled due to a sudden change in weather like rain or strong wind. **The handling of nets and birds may only be done by a qualified ringer.**

Sluit aan by die ringers vir 'n oggend se leersame pret. Kom kyk hoe lyk die voëltjies van naby sonder 'n verkyker. Bring 'n stoel, hoed, voëlboeke en verversings saam. Bespreek asb. voor Vrydagmiddag 12h00 jou plek per SMS sodat die leier jou in kennis kan stel as die uitstapjie dalk gekanselleer word. Dit gebeur soms dat die ringsessie afgestel

☼ **Sat 14 Mar**

Rooiwal Water Care Works

Numbers are limited to 23 members

Getalle is beperk tot 23 lede

Meet / Ontmoet:

06h45 until more or less 13h00

Leader / Leier: Neithard Graf von Dürckheim

☎ 083 233 0266

✉ NeithardGrafD@worldonline.co.za

SABAP2 Pentad: 2530-2810

ROOIWAL SPECIALS!

Rooiwal Waste Water Treatment Works is a little birding treasure, where one can observe a good variety of birds close to Pretoria. Don't let the "organic odour" worry you. We will **walk** along the ageing dams. Many water birds can be seen; a variety of ducks, such as Knob-billed Duck,

grebes, teals, geese, but also waders (sandpipers, such as Wood-, Marsh-, Green Sandpipers, plovers such as Wattled Lapwing, Ruff), herons, Greenshank, Grey-headed Gull, from Stonechats to specials like Yellow Wagtail, Amur Falcon and Northern Black Korhaan.

Please note: CAMERAS WILL BE PERMITTED BUT ONLY TO PHOTOGRAPH BIRDS – NO PHOTOS OF ANY OF THE INSTALLATIONS.

What to bring: Good walking shoes, hat, sunscreen, binoculars and bird book, spotting scope (if you have), breakfast and coffee, and a chair.

Directions: N1 highway to Polokwane (previously Pietersburg), from Sefako Makgatho (formerly Zambezi) Road off-ramp, distance is 22.7km. Take the N1 North, pass Stormvoël Road and Sefako Makgatho (formerly Zambezi) off-ramps, pass N4 turnoff, go through Pumulani tollgate → take off-ramp Wallmansthal/Pyramid (Exit 163) this is 11.7km from Zambezi Road. Go through tollgate at end of off-ramp → turn LEFT, direction Pyramid R101 and proceed for 4.6km, reach T-Junction (old Warmbad Road) → turn RIGHT direction Warmbad/Bela-Bela / Hammanskraal R101, proceed for 2.0km → turn RIGHT to Soshanguwe/Winterveld M39, proceed for 1.1km, road does a LONG LEFT CURVE over bridge, → Turn LEFT at white sign ROOIWAL, proceed 100m → stop sign turn RIGHT, proceed 1.7 km on narrow tar road (pass Rooiwal Power Station on your left) → after 1.7 km turn LEFT into access road to Rooiwal Water Care Works → GPS Coordinates S 25° 33' 23.7" and E 28° 13' 39.5"

WAIT HERE - this is the meeting point, we will drive in together as one requires a permit, which the leader has obtained.

Bookings are essential at reservations@blng.co.za

ROOIWAL SPESIALITEITE!

Rooiwal Watersuiweringswerke is 'n klein skatkie vir voëlkykers, waar 'n groot verskeidenheid voëls digby Pretoria te sien is. Moenie dat die "organiese" reuk jou pla nie. Ons sal langs die verouderingsdamme stap. Baie watervoëls soos verskillende soorte eende (Knobbel- en Teeleende), dobbertjies, ganse, asook waadvoëls (ruiters soos Bos-, Witgat-, Moeras- en Groenpootruiters), reiers, Gryskopmeëue en Lelkiewiete kan gesien word. Bontrokkies en spesiale voëls soos die Geelkwikkie, Oostelike Rooipootvalk en Witverkkorhaan kom voor.

Let wel: KAMERAS WORD TOEGELAAT, MAAR NET OM VOëLS AF TE NEEM – GEEN FOTOS VAN DIE AANLEG NIE.

Wat om saam te neem: Goeie stapskoene, hoed, sonskerm, verkyker en voëlboek, teleskoop (as jy een het), ligte ontbyt, koffie en 'n stoel.

Aanwysings: Neem die N1 in die rigting van Polokwane (voorheen Pietersburg). Vanaf die Sefako Makgatho-afrif (ou Zambezi), ry 11.7km, gaan verby die N4 afdraai, gaan deur die Pumulani tolhek, → neem die afrif Wallmansthal/Pyramid. Gaan deur die tolhek aan die einde van die afrif → draai LINKS, in die rigting Pyramid R101 en ry 4.6km tot by die T-aansluiting (ou Warmbadpad) → draai REGS rigting Warmbad/Bela-Bela/Hammanskraal R101, ry nog 2km → draai REGS na Soshanguwe / Winterveld M39, ry 1.1km, pad maak 'n LANG DRAAI NA LINKS oor brug, → draai LINKS by 'n wit bord ROOIWAL, ry 100m → by stoptekens draai REGS, ry verder vir 1.7km. op 'n nou teerpad (gaan verby die Rooiwal Kragstasie op linkerhand) → na 1.7km draai LINKS – dit is die toegangspad na die Rooiwal Suiweringswerke → GPS Koördinate S25°33'23.7" en E28°13'39.5"

WAG HIER voor Rooiwal se hek sodat ons almal saam kan inry, aangesien die leier in besit is van die toegangspermit.

Besprekings is noodsaaklik by reservations@blng.co.za

PUBLIC HOLIDAY	
☼ Sat 21 Mar	
Zaagkuildrift to Kgomo-Kgomo	
Meet / Ontmoet: 06h00	
Leader / Leier: Michael Groenewald	
☒ 082 879 8302	
SABAP2 Pentad(s): 2505_2845, 2505_2850	

According to *Birding in Gauteng* the legendary Zaagkuildrift Road runs east-west from the town of Pienaarsrivier to the semi-rural village of Kgomo-Kgomo, tracking the course of the Pienaars River. In years of good rainfall the river forms a 27km² ephemeral floodplain with birding comparable to the much better known Nyl Floodplain. This combination of rare tropical waterbirds together with excellent mature *Acacia* woodland arguably offers the richest birding locality in the region, and **certainly one of the best birding spots in southern Africa!** A diverse variety of raptors, cuckoos, bee-eaters, kingfishers, shrikes, warblers and seedeaters are present in the summer months, while (given sufficient rainfall) this is the most reliable site in SA for the rare and elusive River Warbler in late summer.

Directions: From Pretoria head north on the N1 and take the Pienaarsriver/Rust de Winter offramp. Turn left at the T-junction and after 700m turn right onto the R101. About 1km further turn left onto a gravel road signposted 'Zaagkuildrift'.

Meet here.

Bookings: reservations@blng.co.za

Volgens [Birding in Gauteng](#) loop die legendariese Zaagkuildriftpad oos-wes vanaf die dorp Pienaarsrivier na die semi-landelike dorpie Kgomo-Kgomo, al met die loop van die Pienaarsrivier langs. In jare van goeie reënval vorm die rivier 'n 27km² kortstondige vloedvlakte wat vergelyk kan word met die beter bekende Nylvloedvlakte. Die kombinasie van skaars tropiese watervoëls saam met uitstekende volwasse Acacia bosveld bied moontlik die rykste voëlkykgebied in die streek, en is **sekerlik een van die beste voëlkykplekke in suidelike Afrika!** 'n Diverse verskeidenheid van roofvoëls, koekoeko, byevreters, visvangers, laksmanne, sangers en saadvreters is teenwoordig in die somermaande, terwyl dit (met voldoende reënval) die mees waarskynlike plek in SA is om die skaars en ontwykende Sprinkaansanger te sien in die laat somer.

Aanwysings: Ry noord vanaf Pretoria op die N1 en neem die Pienaarsrivier/Rust de Winter-afrig. Draai links by die T-aansluiting en na 700m draai regs op die R101. Ongeveer 1km verder draai links op die gruispad gemerk 'Zaagkuildrift'.

Ontmoet hier.

Besprekings: reservations@blng.co.za

water birds, they are all there. Birding drives will be done on two days with Leonard [SANPARKS guide]; a must! Specials include Senegal coucal. It is one of the rare species that people come to see in Mapungubwe. You will find yourself surrounded by incredible scenery. Species include the following: Grey-backed Sparrowlark, Tropical Boubou, Meve's Starling, Bearded Woodpecker, White-browed Robin-Chat (Heuglin's), Red-billed Buffalo-Weaver, Saddle-billed Stork, Broad-billed Roller, Bennett's Woodpecker, Black Stork, Mourning Dove, Three-banded Courser, Dusky Lark, Chestnut-backed Sparrowlark, Meyer's Parrot, Double-banded Sandgrouse, Freckled Nightjar, Greater Blue-eared Starling and (Long-tailed) Paradise Whydah.

Mapungubwe is a wonderful birding destination, especially because of its location bordering Zimbabwe and Botswana. Apart from the Senegal coucal, Temminck's coursers, golden orioles, wren wablers and even Pel's fishing owls have been spotted in the park before. Apart from the secluded wetlands we explored, the drive includes sections of riverine vegetation of the Limpopo River, which proved to be rewarding in terms of different species. The birds here are generally more audible than those found in woodlands vegetation, as it is much harder for the sound to penetrate thick forest vegetation. From the noisy chirps of the Heuglins robin to the knock of a woodpecker, it is easy to notice the amount of life in the riverine forest. Birding drives on SANPARKS vehicle(s) has been arranged. A snack is included on the drive.

Accommodation

- **Limpopo Forest Tented Camp**

This camp, situated in the Limpopo riverine forest which offers excellent birding, is located in the **western section** of the Park, approximately **40km from the Main Gate**. The camp is close to the Maloutswa Pan hide. Limpopo Forest Tented Camp offers guest spacious rooms to relax and 4 tents have been reserved by BLNG and caters for guests in 2-bed units.

Cost: R3 700 pp for 4 nights.

- **Mazhou Camping site**

The Mazhou Camping Site in Mapungubwe National Park is situated approximately 40km from the Main Gate, close to the Limpopo Forest Tented Camp in the Western Section of the Park. The camping site caters for ten caravans or tents, and each camping site is equipped with a powerpoint. Guests intending to stay over at Mazhou Camping Site **check in at the Mapungubwe Main Gate.**

Cost: R1 500 pp for 4 nights.

- **As outdoor lighting in camps is limited, a torch/headlamp is required when walking outside at night.**

 19-23 Mar – Mapungubwe Limpopo Forest tented camp & Mazhou camping site NB. WILD CARD NB. BLNG RADIOS
Coordinator / Koördineerder : Sean Naude
Leader / Leier : Leonard [SANPARKS]
✉ reservations@blng.co.za

<h2>Remember your Wildcard!</h2> 
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Surrounded by wetlands, the twitter of birds is nearly deafening. You would almost not believe that there were such beautiful spots hidden within the Mapungubwe National Park and World Heritage Site. From African fish eagles to smaller

- The closest shops and fuel supplies to Mapungubwe are in Alldays and Musina, both about 70 km's from the Park. The Park only sell snacks and refreshments.
- There are no debit card facilities available in the Park. Payments can only be made via cash or credit card. Cheques are not accepted.

Bookings: reservations@blng.co.za

Directions: Will be communicated at a later stage.

Omring deur vleilande is die gewetter van voëls amper oorverdoewend. Jy kan amper nie glo dat sulke mooi plekke weggesteek is binne die Mapungubwe Nasionale Park and Wêrelderfenis gebied nie. Van visarende tot kleiner watervoëls, is hulle almal hier. Voëlkykrite sal op twee dae plaasvind met Leonard [SANPARKE gids]; dit is 'n moet! Spesiale soorte sluit in die Senegalvleiloerie. Dit is een van die skaars spesies waarvoor mense spesiaal na Mapungubwe kom. Jy sal omring wees deur skouspelagtige landskappe. Spesies sluit in die volgende: Gysruglewerik, Tropiese Waterfiskaal, Langstertglansspreeu, Baardspieg, Heuglinse Janfrederik, Buffelwewer, Saalbekooievaar, Geelbektropant, Bennettse spieg, Swartooievaar, Rooioogtortelduif, Driebanddrawwertjie, Donkerlewerik, Rooiruglewerik, Bosveldpapegaai, Dubbelbandsandpatrys, Donkernaguil, Grootblouoorglansspreeu en Gewone paradysvink. Mapungubwe is 'n wonderlike voëlkyk bestemming veral weens sy ligging wat grens aan Zimbabwe en Botswana. Behalwe vir die Senegalvleiloerie, Trekdrawwertjie, wiewale en, sangers en selfs Visuile is voorheen in die park waargeneem. Behalwe die afgesonderde vleilande wat ons verken het, sluit die roete ook dele met rivierplantegroei van die Limpoporivier in, waar ook baie soorte te sien is. Die voëls hier is ook oor die algemeen meer hoorbaar as in woude omdat dit moeiliker is vir klank om deur digte woudplantegroei te dring.

Van die lawaaiige tijlps van die Heuglinse janfrederik tot die klop van die houtkapper, is dit maklik om die hoeveelheid lewe in die oewerbos te ervaar.

Voëlkykrite met SANPARK se voetuis is gereël. Versnapering word ingesluit by die rit.

Akkommodasie

- Limpopo Forest Tented Camp

Koste: R3 700 pp vir 4 nagte.

- Mazhou kampering

Koste: R1 500 pp vir 4 nagte.

Besprekings: reservations@blng.co.za

Aanwysings: Sal nader aan die tyd gekommunikeer word.

☼ Sun 29 Mar – Marievale Bird Sanctuary GPS coordinates: S26°21.456 E28°30.935.
Meet / Ontmoet: 7h00
Leader / Leier: Keanu Canto
✉ reservations@blng.co.za
SABAP2 Pentad(s): 2620_2830, with a small portion in 2615_2830

This sanctuary falls within the Blesbokspruit wetland and is a special venue for waterbirds. It regularly produces rarities such as Spotted Crake and Slaty Egret. Other specials include African Crake, African Rail, Great Crested Grebe, Greater Painted Snipe, Red Chested Flufftail and a number of others.

Directions: Take the N1 Rigel off ramp and travel eastwards on the R50 for 64.5km passing Delmas on the way. Turn right on the R42 to Nigel (no route marker). (This turn off is more or less 4km past Delmas.) Go on for 31.8km and turn right at the Marievale sign. **Meet at the PARKING AREA just inside the main access gate.** After some early morning refreshments, the group depart from here. Total distance is 100km (1½ hour's drive).

Booking: reservations@blng.co.za

Die reservaat is spesiaal in terme van watervoëldiversiteit en word omring deur die Blesbokspruitvleiland. Ongewone en spesiale voëlspesies word gereeld daar waargeneem en sluit in Gevlekte Riethaan, Rooikeelreier, Afrikaanse Riethaan, Grootriethaan, Kuifkopdobbortjie, Goudsnip, Rooiborsvleikuiken, en vele meer.

Aanwysings: Vanaf die N1 neem die Rigellaan-afrit en ry ooswaarts op die R50 vir 64.5km verby Delmas. Draai regs op die R42 na Nigel (geen roete-aanduiding). (Hierdie afdraai is ongeveer 4km vanaf Delmas.) Ry reguit aan vir 31.8km en draai regs by die Marievale-bord. **Ontmoet in die PARKEERAREA by die hoof ingangshek.** Na vroegoggend verversings, sal die groep hiervandaan vertrek.

Totale afstand is 100km (1½ uur se ry).

Besprekings: reservations@blng.co.za

APRIL / APRIL

○ Sat 04 Apr

Bird Ringing at Rietvlei NR

Meet / Ontmoet: To be confirmed at RSVP

Leader / Leier: Frik du Plooy

☎ 064 651 3755

Join the ringers for a morning of extreme close up birding without binoculars. Bring your chair, hat, refreshments and birding books along. Please book your place before Friday 12h00 with the leader to find out meeting time and location details. Ringing sessions could be cancelled due to a sudden change in weather like rain or strong wind. **The handling of nets and birds may only be done by a qualified ringer.**

*Sluit aan by die ringers vir 'n oggend se leersame pret. Kom kyk hoe lyk die voëltjies van naby sonder 'n verkyker. Bring 'n stoel, hoed, voëlboeke en verversings saam. Bespreek asb voor Vrydagmiddag 12h00 jou plek per SMS sodat die leier jou in kennis kan stel van die begintyd en ontmoetingsplek. Ringsessies kan ook gekanselleer word as daar skielike weersveranderinge soos reën of sterk wind is. **Die hantering van nette en voëls mag slegs deur 'n gekwalifiseerde ringer gedoen word.***

☼ Sun 05 Apr – Rust de Winter Dam

Meet / Ontmoet: 06h30

Leader / Leier: Rihann Geysler

☎ 084 293 6128

✉ avifauna@galagoenvironmental.co.za

SABAP2 Pentads:

2510_2825, 2510_2830

Rust de Winter Dam NR is an Acacia Bushveld area with many riverine and water birds. We will have access to the south-western area of the reserve which is closed to fishermen. The gravel roads are accessible to saloon cars. An entrance fee is payable.

Directions: Take the N1 north to the Rust de Winter/Piensaarsrivier offramp and turn right at Rust de Winter. After about 21km, turn right at the dirt road signposted Rust de Winter Dam. The entrance to the reserve is about 4km along the road. (Total distance from Pretoria is about 85km.)

Meet inside the entrance.

Booking: reservations@blng.co.za

Rust de Winterdam NR is 'n Akasiabosveldgebied wat baie besonder is vir rivier- en waadvoëls. Ons sal toegang hê tot die suid-westelike area van die reservaat wat

geslote is vir vissermanne. Die grondpaaië is geskik vir passasiersmotors. 'n Toegangsfooi is betaalbaar.

Aanwysings: Neem die N1 noord tot by die Rust de Winter/Piensaarsrivier-afrut en draai regs na Rust de Winter. Na ongeveer 21km draai regs by die grondpad met die teken Rust de Winterdam. Die ingang na die reservaat is omtrent 4km op hierdie pad. (Totale afstand vanaf Pretoria is ongeveer 85km.)

Ontmoet binne die ingang.

Besprekings: reservations@blng.co.za

🏠 10-14 Apr – Pullen Camp

FOUR (4) NIGHTS

MAX 16 PAX (incl. the leader)

NB. BLNG RADIOS

Leader / Leier : Philip Calinikos

✉ reservations@blng.co.za



Pullen Nature Reserve (aka Pullen Farm), situated in the middleveld approx. 35 km from Nelspruit, is a facility owned by Wits University and used for research and teaching. It is not open to the public, but access has been arranged for this BLNG camp. The nature reserve extends over 250 hectares and offers a range of habitats, including granite outcrops, grassland, open woodland/savanna, and a number of drainage lines. Aside from birding the reserve and surrounds, we will visit the Barberton Mountainlands – including part of the Makhonjwa Geotrail on Saddleback Pass and popular forest birding spot, Pedlar's Bush. Birding will be from vehicles and on foot. To limit the number of vehicles travelling in convoy, birders will be requested to travel together on outings. Special species we hope to encounter include: Gurney's Sugarbird, Sweet Waxbill, Orange Ground Thrush, Scaly-throated Honeyguide, White-starred Robin, Olive Sunbird, Cape and Forest Canary, Drakensberg Prinia, Black Saw-wing, Grey Cuckooshrike, Square-tailed Drongo, Jackal

Buzzard, Knysna Turaco, Narina Trogon, Trumpeter Hornbill, Olive Bush-Shrike, Chorister and Red-capped Robin-chat, Bush Blackcap, Barratt's Warbler, African Dusky and Blue-mantled Crested Flycatcher, Lemon Dove, Olive Woodpecker, Black-bellied Starling and Crowned Eagle.

Directions (location and access)

Pullen is located off the Mpageni Pass (on the alternative route from Nelspruit to Kaapmuiden via the Krokodilpoort Mountains). The last 15km are on dirt, and the final stretch requires a high-clearance vehicle.

Google Maps tag-

<https://www.google.com/maps/place/Pullen+Farm/@-25.5724302,31.178892,17z/data=!3m1!4b1!4m5!3m4!1s0x1ee8434aee0adcef:0x85fa833578a5744e!8m2!3d-25.5724302!4d31.1810807>

Accommodation

A house and 3 self-contained flatlets offer a total of 14 bedrooms (3 with en-suite bathrooms). The main kitchen is fully equipped with gas stove, microwave, two fridges and two freezers, pots, pans, crockery and cutlery. Internet/wifi is provided. Bedding, towels, soap, toilet paper and firewood are not provided. There is no shop or restaurant on site or nearby, and we will not pass through any large towns on outings – please ensure that you bring all provisions for the 4-night camp along with you. Pullen is cleaned prior to arrival and is not serviced. Pullen is 300 m higher than Nelspruit, and cooler. Pullen is on the edge of the low-risk area for malaria. However, some outings on this camp will visit the seasonal malaria zone.

**Cost: R1 120 pp sharing [four nights].
Bring your own food, drinks and firewood.**

Bookings: reservations@blng.co.za

Pullen Natuureservaat (Pullen Farm), geleë in die middelveld ongeveer 35km vanaf Nelspruit, behoort aan Wits Universiteit en word gebruik vir navorsing en onderrig. Dit is nie oop vir die publiek nie, maar toegang is gereël vir hierdie BLNG kamp. Die natuureservaat strek oor 250 hektaar en bied 'n reeks van habitate, insluitend granite riuwe, grasveld, oop bosveld/savanna en 'n aantal dreineringslyne. Behalwe om voëls te kyk in die reservaat, sal ons sook die berglande van Barberton besoek, insluitend deel van die Makhonjwa Geotrail op Saddlebackpas en die gewilde woudvoëlkykplek, Peddler's Bush; die Krokodilklouf; en die Dumaneni gebied naby Malelane. Voëlyk sal plaasvind uit voertuie,

asook te voet. Jy sal ook die opsie hê om die nabygeleë Kruger Nasionale Park te besoek. (Naaste hek is 50km (1 uur weg) Spesiale spesies wat ons hoop om tee te kom sluit in: Rooiborsuikervoël, Suidelike Swie, Oranjelyster, Gevlekte heuningwyser, Witkoljanfrederik, Kortbeksuikerbekkie, Kaapse kanarie, Gestreepte kanarie, Drakensberglangstertjie, Swartsaagvlerkswael, Bloukatakeroe, Kleinbyvanger, Rooibors- en Bosjakalsvoël, Knysnaoerie, Bosloerie, Gewone boskraai, Olyfboslaksman, Lawaaimaker- en Nataljanfrederik, Rooibektiptol, Ruigtesanger, Groenkolpensie, Donkervlieëvanger en Bloukuifvlieëvanger, Grysborstjagra, Kaneelduifie, Gryskopspeg, Bergkwikkie, Swartpensglanspreeu en Kroonarend.

Aanwysings (Ligging en toegang)

Pullen word bereik vanaf die Mpagenipas (op die alternatiewe roete vanaf Nelspruit tot Kaapmuiden via die Krokodilpoortberge). Die laaste 15km is grondpad en die laaste gedeelte vereis 'n voertuig met 'n hoë grondvryhoogte.

Google Maps tag

<https://www.google.com/maps/place/Pullen+Farm/@-25.5724302,31.178892,17z/data=!3m1!4b1!4m5!3m4!1s0x1ee8434aee0adcef:0x85fa833578a5744e!8m2!3d-25.5724302!4d31.1810807>

Akkomodasie:

'n Huis en 3 selfsorg woonstelletjies bied 'n totaal van 14 slaapkamers (3 met en-suite badkamers), met gemaklike slaapplek vir 26 volwassenes met addisionele beddens beskikbaar vir kinders. Die hoofkombuis is ten volle toegerus met 'n gasstoof, mikrogolf, twee yskaste en twee vrieskaste, potte, panne, breekgoed en eetgerei. Internet toegang word voorsien. Beddegoed, handdoeke, seep, toiletpapier en vuurmaakhout word nie voorsien nie. Daar is geen winkel of restaurant naby nie. Pullen word skoongemaak voor aankoms en word nie gediens nie. Daar is 'n sementdam wat vir 'n swembad gebruik word. Pullen is 300m hoër as Nelspruit en koeler. Pullen is op die grens van die lae-risiko area vir malaria. Op sommige uitstappies op hierdie kamp sal die seisoenale malaria-gebied egter besoek word.

**Koste: R1 120 pp wat deel (vier nagte).
Selfsorg. Bring jou eie kos, drinkgoed en vuurmaakhout.**

Besprekings: reservations@blng.co.za

☾ **Tue 14 Apr – EVENING MEETING**

19h00 at Greek Orthodox Church, c/o Roper St. & Lynnwood Road, Brooklyn

**Conservation at BLSA
by Hanneline Smit-Robinson**

Hanneline Smit-Robinson will introduce the new structure (organogram) of BirdLife South Africa's

Conservation Division. The revised structure includes a number of new programmes, including a focus on Empowering

People, a Regional approach including support to BirdLife partners throughout Africa, as well as the establishment of our own Science and Innovation Programme. Hanneline will also provide feedback on the overall conservation approach and work undertaken by the organisation.



**Bewaring by BLSA
deur Hanneline Smit-Robinson**

Hanneline Smit-Robinson sal die nuwe struktuur (organogram) van BirdLife South Africa se Bewaringsafdeling bekend stel. Die hersiene struktuur sluit in 'n aantal nuwe programme, insluitend 'n fokus op Bemagtiging van mense, 'n Streeksbenadering, asook steun aan BirdLife vennote dwarsoor Afrika, sowel as die vestiging van ons eie Wetenskap- en Innoveringsprogram. Hanneline sal ook terugvoer verskaf oor die algemene benadering tot bewaring en werk wat deur die organisasie gedoen word.

☼ **Sat 18 Apr – Wilge River Valley
LIMIT OF 10 CARS / MAX 10 MOTORS
NB. BLNG RADIOS**

Meet / Ontmoet: 06:00 – 11h30

Leader / Leier: Keanu Canto

☎ 073 907 3116

SABAP2 Pentad(s):

Wilge River Valley 2535 2855, 2535 2900

According to *Birding in Gauteng* 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. This area is one of the lesser known birding spots in the region and has been quite literally 'put on the map' by Birding Big Day teams taking advantage of the variety of habitats and specials available within a small area. The Wilge River Valley is accessed along the Zusterstroom road, which

descends down into Trichardspoor with its spectacular red cliffs towering above forest-like riverine woodland. This is certainly one of the most scenic drives in the region and offers several species not easily found elsewhere near Gauteng. The kloof has a distinct sub-tropical flavour, which is reinforced by the presence of African Goshawk, Spectacled Weaver and Ashy Flycatcher.

Directions: From the N1-N4 Junction, travel 50 km east towards Bronkhorstspuit and take the R25 offramp. Turn left (north) towards Groblersdal. After 25km turn right towards Zusterstroom (also signposted 'Amanzintaba'). **Meet here!** (Most of the route is on good gravel roads)

Bookings: reservations@blng.co.za

Volgens Birding in Gauteng kronkel hierdie skilderagtige pad deur sommige van die mees diverse voëlhabitate in die streek, ingeslote die prima Hoëveldse grasveld, slegs 'n hanetree vanaf die indrukwekkende kloof bedek met vogtige woude. Hierdie is een van die minder bekende voëlkykplekke in die streek en is letterlik op die kaart geplaas deur Birding Big Day spanne wat gebruik gemaak het van die voordeel van 'n verskeidenheid van habitate en spesiale voëls wat binne 'n klein gebied voorkom. Die Wilgeriviervallei word bereik vanaf die Zusterstroom-pad, wat afdal na Trichardspoor met sy indrukwekkende rooi kranse wat uittoring oor woudagtige rivierbos. Dit is sekerlik een van die mees skilderagtige roetes in die streek en bied verskeie spesies wat nie maklik elders in Gauteng gevind word nie. Die kloof het 'n duidelike subtropiese geur, wat versterk word deur die teenwoordigheid van die Afrikaanse Sperwer, Brilwewer en Blougrysvlieëvanger.

Aanwysings: Vanaf die N1-N4 aansluiting, ry 50km oos -> Bronkhorstspuit en neem die R25 afrit. Draai links (noord) -> Groblersdal. Na 25km draai regs -> Zusterstroom (ook aangedui as 'Amanzintaba'). **Ontmoet hier!** (Grootste deel van die roete is op goeie gruispaaie).

Besprekings: reservations@blng.co.za

☼ **Thurs 23 Apr – Vlaklaagte**

Meet / Ontmoet: 06h00

Leader / Leier: John Kinghorn

☎ 083 517 5471

✉ reservations@blng.co.za

The grasslands around Vlaklaagte and Renosterkoppie are extremely productive and very rewarding. Southern Bald Ibis, Secretarybird, Jackal Buzzard, Coqui, Orange River, Red-winged Francolin, Blue Crane, Denhams Bustard, White-bellied Korhaan, Buff-streaked Chat, Wailing Cisticola and Fawn-coloured Lark all call them home and there is even a slight possibility of connecting with some early returning migrants

which may include the likes of Short-tailed Pipit as well as some local species beginning to warm up their displays for the fast approaching breeding season: Cloud, Wing-snapping, Desert and Zitting Cisticola and Melodious Lark to name a few.



Directions: From the N1-N4 Junction, travel 50 km east towards Bronkhorstspuit and take the R25 offramp. Turn left (north) towards Groblersdal. After 25 km turn right towards Zusterstroom (also signposted 'Amanzintaba'). **Meet here!** (Most of the route is on good gravel roads).

Bookings: reservations@blng.co.za

Die grasvelde rondom Vlaklaagte en Renosterkoppie is uiters produktief en baie lonend. Kalkoenibis, Sekretarisvoël, Rooiborsjakkalvoël, Swempe, Kalaharipatrys, Rooivlerkpatrys, Bloukraanvoël, Veldpou, Witpenskorhaan, Bergklipwagter, Huiltinkinkie en Vaalbruinlewerik is almal hier tuis en daar is selfs 'n skraal kans om sommige van die vroeg terugkerende trekvoëls te sien, wat kan insluit Kortstertkoester sowel as sommige plaaslike spesies wat met hulle pronkery opwarm vir die broeiseisoen wat vinnig aan die kom is: Gevlekte Klopkloppie, Kleinste Klopkloppie, Woestyn- en Landeryklopkloppie asook Spotlewerik om maar net 'n paar te noem.

Aanwysings: Vanaf die N1-N4 aansluiting, ry 50km oos na Bronkhorstspuit en neem die R25 afrit. Draai links (noord) na Groblersdal. Na 25km draai regs na Zusterstroom (ook aangedui as 'Amanzintaba'). **Ontmoet hier!** (Grootste deel van die roete is op goeie gruispaaië).

Besprekings: reservations@blng.co.za

 Sun 26 Apr – Hedianga Farm
Meet/Ontmoet: 07:00
Leader / Leier: Keanu Canto
 073 907 3116
SABAP2 Pentad(s): 2545_2820

Hedianga Farm covers an area of 140 hectares and is located in pentad 2545_2820, between Garsfontein and Graham Road in Pretoria East. It lies in the Bronberg section of the Magaliesberg mountain range and includes a number of ecological features such as quartzite ridges, grassland, gardens and copses of bluegums. About 114 bird species have been recorded on the farm. Possible species to be found include Ovambo Sparrowhawk, Brown-backed Honeybird, Striped Pipit, Lazy Cisticola, Brown- and Black-crowned Tchagra and a variety of seed-eaters.

Please note that this outing will consist of a hike of approximately 4km to 5km and 3 hours in duration (at a slow pace with stops). The route is mostly along a dirt road with a few sections of hiking trails, but due to the nature of its position on the Bronberg ridges, the tracks can be a bit stony and have a few inclines. Comfortable walking shoes and

clothes, sufficient water, a hat and sunscreen are all recommended.

Entrance fee: R35pp is payable.

Directions:

Head East on Atterbury Road until one reaches the fourway stop where Atterbury intersects with De Villebois (Plantland on the left hand side). Go straight over the intersection and continue on Atterbury until one reaches the first robot at the top of the hill. Here, turn left into Ajax Avenue. Continue on Ajax Avenue, passing a church on your right and Heron Hill Estate on your left. At the T-junction turn left into Achilles road, and then take your first right, just after the entrance to the first complex on your right. Drive the short section along a dirt road, with a wooden fenced off area on your left and then enter the parking area.

Meet here.

Booking: reservations@blng.co.za

Hedianga Farm beslaan 'n gebied van 140 hektaar en is geleë in atlasblok 2545_2820, tussen Garsfontein en Grahamweg in Pretoria Oos. Dit lê in die Bronberg gedeelte van die Magaliesberg bergreeks en sluit 'n aantal ekologiese gebiede soos kwartsietriwwe, grasveld, tuine en groepe bloekombome in. Ongeveer 114 voëlspesies is aangeteken in die gebied. Moontlike spesies wat gevind kan word sluit in die Ovambosperwer, Skerpbek heuningvoël, Gestrepte koester, Luitinkinkie, Rooivlerktjagra, Swartkroontjagra en 'n verskeidenheid saadvreters. 'n Mens kan 'n voëllys (sien/hoor) verwag van ongeveer 50 spesies vir 'n oggend stap.

Neem asseblief kennis dat die uitstappie sal bestaan uit 'n stap van ongeveer 4km tot 5km wat 3 uur sal duur (teen 'n stadige pas met stoppe). Die roete is meesal op 'n grondpad met 'n paar seksies op staproetes, maar omdat dit oor die Bronbergriwwe gaan, kan die paadjies 'n bietjie klipperig wees, met 'n paar steiltes. Gemaklike stapskoene en klere, genoeg water, 'n hoed en sonskerm word aanbeveel.

Toegangsfot: R35pp vir dagbesoekers.

Aanwysings: Ry oos op Atterbury Road tot by die vierrigting stop waar Atterbury by De Villebois aansluit. (Plantland aan die linkerkant). Ry reguit oor die kruising en ry aan met Atterbury tot by die eerste robot bo-op die bult. Draai hier links in Ajaxlaan verby 'n kerk aan jou regterkant en Heron Hill Estate aan jou linkerkant. Draai links by die T-aansluiting in Achillesweg, en neem dan die die eerste pad aan jou regterkant, net na die ingang van die eerste kompleks aan jou regterkant. Ry vir 'n kort entjie op 'n gruispad, verby 'n gebied afgeskort deur 'n houtheining op linkerkant, en ry dan by die parkeerterrein in.

Ontmoet hier.

Besprekings: reservations@blng.co.za

MAY / MEI

1 MAY 2019
PUBLIC HOLIDAY - WORKER'S DAY

30 Apr -03 May – Ingula NR NB. BLNG RADIOS

Leader / Leier : Bonginkosi Ndaba

Coordinator / Koördineerder :

To be confirmed

✉ reservations@blng.co.za

Ingula Nature Reserve is a newly proclaimed conservation area located along the Drakensberg Escarpment on the border of KwaZulu-Natal and the Free State. A variety of habitats can be found within the reserve, including upland grasslands, open stretches of water and Afromontane forest.

Specials include Secretarybird, Southern Bald Ibis, Wattled Crane and Yellow-breasted Pipit in the grasslands, whilst the forests are home to Bush Blackcap, Cape Batis, Olive Bushshrike and many others.

Accommodation

Self catering accommodation at **Wyford Farm**.

Cost: R1 090 pp for the three (3) nights, ie Thursday, Friday & Saturday].

Directions:

From Pretoria, get on Ben Schoeman Fwy/N1. Take N3 to your destination in KwaZulu-Natal (3h 31min - 364 km)

Turn left - Destination will be on the right (1.6 km) - Wyford Farm, Van Reenen Pass, Van Reenen.

Contact numbers: 0721490608 / 0586710025

Programme:

Friday morning birding on Ingula NR with BirdLife SA recommended guide [4hours]. Saturday morning birding on Ingula NR with BirdLife SA recommended guide [4 hours].

There are additional outings available in the area, for the remaining time. These can be discussed once agreed.

Bookings: reservations@blng.co.za

*Ingula Natuurreseervaat is 'n nuutgeproklameerde bewaringsgebied geleë langs die Drakensberg eskarp aan die grens van KwaZulu-Natal en die Vrystaat. 'n Verskeidenheid van habitats kan gevind word binne die reserwaat, insluitend hooglandgrasveld, oop water en Afromontane woude. **Spesiale voëls** sluit in die Sekeratarisvoël, Kalkoenibis, Lelkraanvoël en Geelborskoester in die grasveld, terwyl die woude die tuiste is van Rooibektiptol, Kaapse Bontrokkie en vele meer.*

Akkommodasie

Selfsorg by Wyford Farm.

Koste: R1 090 pp vir die drie (3) nagte, ie Donderdag, Vrydag en Saterdag.

Aanwysings:

Vanaf Pretoria, neem die Ben Schoeman Fwy/N1. Neem die N3 na jou bestemming in KwaZulu-Natal (3h 31min - 364km). Draai links – Bestemming op regterhand (1.6 km) - Wyford Farm, Van Reenenpas, Van Reenen].


Kontaknommers: 0721490608 / 0586710025

Program:

Vrydagoggend en Saterdagoggend voëlkyk in Ingula Natuurreseervaat met BirdLife SA aanbevole toer. [4 ure]. Addisionele toere is beskikbaar in die gebied en sal later bespreek word.

Koste: R1 090 pp vir die drie (3) nagte, ie Donderdag, Vrydag en Saterdag.

Besprekings: reservations@blng.co.za

 Sat 02 May – Pretoria Botanical Gardens ATLASSING FOR THE DAY
Meet / Ontmoet: 8h00
Leader / Leier: Hanjo Gouws
✉ reservations@blng.co.za
SABAP2 Pentad(s): 2550-2805

Founded in 1946, the Pretoria National Botanical Gardens comprises of 76 ha of natural woodland on a rocky, quartzite ridge as well as theme gardens and open park-like landscapes.

The gardens are well worth visiting for their botanical diversity alone, but from a birding perspective, the ridge dividing the gardens on an east-west axis is certainly the most interesting habitat.

Entrance fees: Adults (R35), Students (R20) and children under 6 are free, and senior citizens (with ID) (R15). Bring your own refreshments, a chair or blanket.

Bookings: reservations@blng.co.za

Gestig in 1946 (net na die tweede wêreldoorlog) beslaan die Pretoriase Botaniese Tuin sowat 76 hektaar natuurlike woud, rotsagtige kwartsrif, parkagtige landskap en tema tuine. Die Botaniese Tuin is die moeite werd om te besoek, nie net oor hulle botaniese diversiteit nie, maar ook 'n voëlkykarea by uitstek.

Toegangsfot: Volwassenes (R35), Studente (R20), en kinders onder 6 is gratis, en senior burgers (met ID) (R15). Bring jou eie verversings, 'n stoel of kombors.

Besprekings: reservations@blng.co.za

<p>○ Sat 02 May Bird Ringing at Pretoria Botanical Gardens Meet / Ontmoet: To be confirmed at RSVP Leader / Leier: Paula Steyn ☎ 072 424 5386</p>
<p>Join the ringers for a morning of extreme close up birding without binoculars. Bring your chair, hat, refreshments and birding books along. Please book your place before Friday 12h00 by SMS, so that the leader can notify you if the outing needs to be cancelled. Ringing sessions could be cancelled due to a sudden change in weather like rain or strong wind.</p> <p>The handling of nets and birds may only be done by a qualified ringer.</p> <p><i>Sluit aan by die ringers vir 'n oggend se leersame pret. Kom kyk hoe lyk die voëltjies van naby sonder 'n verkyker. Bring 'n stoel, hoed, voëlboeke en verversings saam. Bespreek asb. voor Vrydagmiddag 12h00 jou plek per SMS sodat die leier jou in kennis kan stel as die uitstappie dalk gekanselleer word. Dit gebeur soms dat die ringsessie afgestel moet word a.g.v. skielike weersveranderinge soos reën of sterk wind.</i></p> <p>Die hantering van nete en voëls mag slegs deur 'n gekwalifiseerde ringer gedoen word.</p>

<p>⚙ Wed 06 May – Roodeplaat Dam NR NB. BLNG RADIOS</p>
<p>Meet / Ontmoet: 07h15 for 08h00</p>
<p>Leader / Leier: Adele van Vuuren</p>
<p>☎ 083 750 1200</p>
<p>✉ adeleenfrans@gmail.com</p>
<p>SABAP2 Pentad(s): 2535_2820</p>

Located about 22km north-east of Pretoria the Roodeplaat dam was originally called the 'Pienaars Rivier Dam'. Roodeplaat dam is a well-known destination for bird watching. This outing should have a good mix of bushveld and waterbirds. Birding will be done by car with some moderate walking and viewing from the bird hides.

Directions: From the N1 north take the R513 Sefako Makgatho (old Zambesi) offramp and turn right towards Cullinan. Continue for about 6km and then turn left to Kameelfontein (not Kameeldrift). After ±3.7km turn left and follow the dirt road to the entrance. Pay your fees (R25 per person and per car).

Meet your leader just inside the gate. Please bring your goodies for a bring-and-braai (remember some charcoal or wood).

Bookings: reservations@blng.co.za

'n Kombinasie van water- en bosveldvoëls. Ons gaan voëltjies kyk per motor, te voet (matige stap), en vanuit die voëlskuillings.

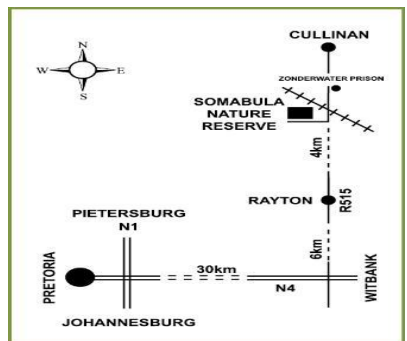
Aanwysings: Vanaf die N1 noord, neem die R513 Sefako Makgatho-afrit (ou Zambesi). Draai regs na Cullinan. Na ongeveer 6km draai links na Kameelfontein (nie Kameeldrift nie). Na ±3.7km draai links en volg die grondpad vir 500m tot by die hek. Betaal die fooie (R25 per persoon en per voertuig).

Ontmoet die leier net binne die ingangshek. Vir 'n bring-en-braai na die uitstappie, bring gerus die nodige saam (onthou hout of houtskool).

Besprekings: reservations@blng.co.za



<p>⚙ Sat 09 May – Somabula NR</p>
<p>Meet / Ontmoet: 06h30</p>
<p>Leader / Leier: Stephan Terblanche</p>
<p>✉ reservations@blng.co.za</p>
<p><i>Bring with us & experience the beauty & tranquillity of our hidden valley</i></p>



Somabula Nature Reserve is located only one hour from Johannesburg and 40 minutes from Pretoria. The nature reserve consists of 400 hectares of indigenous trees and pristine bush and

thus excellent birding opportunities exist. Possibilities include Brown-backed Honeybird, Black-crowned Tchagra, Yellow-fronted Tinkerbird and Long-billed Crombec. The reserve also boasts a wide variety of antelope as well as giraffe, zebra and wildebeest. Smaller animals, interesting insects and reptiles can also be viewed.

Day visitors can make use of the lapa with its braai area. There are more than 30kms of roads and trails for walking.

Directions: From Pretoria, travel east on the N4 towards Bronkhorstspuit/Witbank and take the Cullinan/Rayton offramp. Pass through the tollgate and turn left onto the R515. Travel north on the R515 for 9.8km, passing through Rayton on the way, and you will find the reserve entrance on your left, shortly after the junction with the R495.

Cost: An entrance fee of R50 per day visitor is payable.

Bookings: reservations@blng.co.za

Somabula Natuurreservaat is geleë een uur vanaf Johannesburg en 40 minutes vanaf Pretoria. Die natuurreservaat bestaan uit 400 hektaar inheemse en ongerepte bos en bied dus uitstekende voëlkykgeleenthede. Moontlikhede sluit in die Gevlekte heuningwyser, Swartkroontjagra, Geelblestinker, en Geelpensbossanger. Die reservaat het ook 'n groot verskeidenheid wildsbokke sowel as kameelperde, zebbras en wildebeeste. Kleiner diere, interessante insekte en reptiele kan ook waargeneem word.

Dagbesoekers kan gebruik maak van die lapa met sy braai area. Daar is ook meer as 30kms paaie en wandelroetes.

Aanwysings: Vanaf Pretoria ry oos met die N4 na Bronkhorstspuit/Witbank en neem die Cullinan/Rayton afrit. Gaan deur die tolhek en draai links op die R515. Ry op die R515 vir 9.8km, gaan deur Rayton en jy sal die reservaat ingang op linkerkant kry, kort na die aansluiting met die R495.

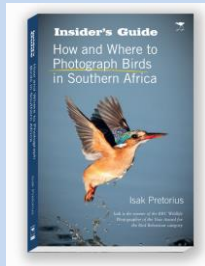
Koste: 'n Toegangsfooi van R50 per dag per besoeker is betaalbaar.

Besprekings: reservations@blng.co.za

☾ **Tue 12 May – EVENING MEETING**
19h00 at Greek Orthodox Church, c/o
Roper St. & Lynnwood Road, Brooklyn

Bird photography by Isak Pretorius

Isak has always thought of himself as a bird photographer. It is one of the most popular genres of photography and one that best utilises the advanced features such as fast focusing and high burst rate of action cameras. Isak uses a Canon camera for bird photography.



Isak is the winner of the BBC Wildlife Photographer of the Year award for the Bird Behaviour category.

Voëlfotografie deur Isak Pretorius

Isak het altyd aan homself gedink as 'n voëlfotograaf. Dit is een van die populêrste genres van fotografie en een wat die beste gebruik maak van die gevorderde eienskappe soos vinnige fokus en hoë spoed reekse van aksie kameras. Isak gebruik 'n Canon kamera vir voëlfotografie.

Isak is die wenner van die BBC Wildlife Fotograaf van die jaar in die Voëlgedrag kategorie.

☼ Sat 23 May – Ezemvelo NR

Meet / Ontmoet: 07:00

LIMITED TO 8 vehicles and 18 persons
BEPERK tot 8 voertuie en 18 persone

Leader / Leier: Neithard Graf von Durcheim

☎ 083 233 0266

✉ NeithardGrafD@worldonline.co.za

SABAP2 Pentad(s): 2540_2855; 2540_2900

Ezemvelo consists of an interesting transitional zone between Highveld and bushveld and offers good grassland birding. Some of the birds to be seen are Eastern Longbilled Lark, Denham's Bustard, Barrow's Korhaan, African Finfoot and Half-collared Kingfisher.

There is a shop on the reserve. The shop only stocks the basics: snacks, cool drinks, fire wood, etc. Guests are requested to bring along what they require. Braai and picnic facilities are available.

Directions: Take the N4 east from Pretoria. At the Bronkhorstspuit/Grobersdal offramp turn left onto the R25 to Groblersdal. After 4,5 km turn right at the first Ezemvelo sign. From here follow the Ezemvelo signs for approx. 20 km on a dirt road to

the gate. Meet here. Distance from Pretoria is about 80 km.

Entrance fees payable at the gate of R75pp and pensioners pay R55 (as indicated on FB).

Bookings: reservations@blng.co.za

Ezemvelo bestaan uit 'n interessante oorgangsonse tussen hoëveld en bosveld (sogenaamde 'Bankenveld') met 'n wye verskeidenheid grasveldspesies. Sommige van die meer interessante voëlspesies is Grasveldlangbeklewierik, Veldpou, Witpenskorhaan, Watertrapper en Blouvisvanger. Braai- en piekniekfasiliteite is beskikbaar.

Aanwysings: *Neem die N4 oos vanaf Pretoria. By die Bronkhorstspruit/Grobersdal afrit, draai links op die R25 na Groblersdal. Draai regs na 4,5 km by die eerste Ezemvelo-teken. Volg die Ezemvelo-tekens vir ongeveer 20 km op 'n grondpad tot by die hek. Ontmoet hier. Afstand vanaf Pretoria is ongeveer 80 km.*

Toegangsfooi: *betalbaar by die hek teen R75 pp en R55 vir pensioenarisse (soos aangedui op Facebook).*

Besprekings: reservations@blng.co.za



The Annual Gathering of Members of BirdLife South Africa

to the Wilderness 2020

29_31 May

Come Flock with us!

**Flock to the Wilderness 2020
& BLSA AGM**

Flock to the Wilderness (BirdLife South Africa's AGM weekend) will be held in the Wilderness Hotel, Wilderness, Western Cape, during the weekend of Friday, 29 to Sunday, 31 May 2020. The AGM will take place at 10h00 on Saturday 30 May. We're also planning a special lunch at the hotel on 30 May (more details to follow later).

Additional birding activities are planned for the weekend and these will be done in collaboration with BirdLife Plettenberg Bay, Lakes Bird Club and the Nature's Valley Trust. We look to seeing a large number of our members in Wilderness.

Further details of Flock to the Wilderness will be posted on www.birdlife.org.za.

**☀ Sun 31 May – Suikerbosrand
LIMIT OF 10 CARS / MAX 10 MOTORS
NB. BLNG RADIOS**

Meet / Ontmoet: 07h00

Leader / Leier: Tristan Spurway

☎ 061 752 6993

✉ trisspur@gmail.com

SABAP2 Pentad(s):

2625_2810; 2625_2815;

2630_2810; 2630_2815

This reserve is predominately Highveld grassland with rocky outcrops so it offers a number of species that normally are not seen on club outings. This outing will consist of driving along the circular route with frequent stops. Picnic and braai facilities are available.

Entrance fees are payable:

R22 per adult

R11 per pensioner/child

R11 per vehicle.

Directions: Take the N3 south beyond Johannesburg towards Heidelberg. Take the R550 offramp and turn right. After approximately 3km turn left onto the dirt road marked Eendracht. Meet here. From Pretoria, the total distance is around 100km.

Booking: reservations@blng.co.za

Hierdie reservaat huisves 'n aantal spesies wat nie normaalweg op klubuitstappies gesien word nie, aangesien die gebied hoofsaaklik Hoëveld-tipe grasveld is met rotsagtige riuwe. Die uitstappie sal 'n rit met die sirkelroete behels waartydens dikwels gestop sal word. Piekniek- en braaifasiliteite is beskikbaar.

Toegangsfooi:

R22 per volwassene

R11 per pensionaris/kind

R11 per voertuig.

Aanwysings: *Neem die N3-suid verby Johannesburg na Heidelberg. Neem die R550 afrit en draai regs. Na 3km draai links op die Eendracht-grondpad. Ontmoet hier. Vanaf Pretoria, is die totale afstand ongeveer 100km.*

Besprekings: reservations@blng.co.za



Photograph by Albert Froneman

FORTHCOMING EVENTS



12-14 June 2020 VELDFLORA COUNTRY COTTAGES VELDFLORA COUNTRY COTTAGES
24-27 September 2020 KURISA MOYA
24-27 September 2020 KURISA MOYA
October 2020 LESOTHO
November 2020 PAFURI
December 2020 WAKKERSTROOM

Note

Please ensure you keep in touch through email Alerts (**is your latest email address recorded with BLNG?**), BLNG Facebook and BLNG Website (see detailed calendar) to confirm club outings, and possible program updates!

BirdLife Northern Gauteng
Your birding partner of choice!



#BOTY2020

SOUTHERN GROUND HORNBILL

BROMVOël

BIRD OF THE YEAR 2020

BirdLife South Africa is pleased to announce that the **Bird of the Year in 2020** will be the Southern Ground-Hornbill *Bucorvus leadbeateri*.

The Southern Ground-Hornbill, the largest hornbill species, is well known to many South Africans, especially those who visit the Kruger National Park. It is found in the Savanna Biome, but is now mainly restricted to protected areas and a few rural grazing lands in KwaZulu-Natal and the Eastern Cape. This hornbill is listed as Endangered in South Africa with fewer than 1 500 adults remaining in our country. Half of these occur in the Kruger National Park. It is threatened by habitat alteration, especially the loss of large trees, afforestation of grasslands, poisoning and electrocution. Sometimes known as the "Thunderbird" or the "Rain Bird" it is believed by many indigenous cultures to be an important symbol of the start of the seasonal rains. The birds live in social, cooperatively breeding groups that consist of between 2-9 birds (the average group size is 3.6), but with only one alpha pair (male and female) per group and the rest of the group consisting of helper males. The Mabula Ground Hornbill Project, a BirdLife Species Guardian, does important work to conserve the Southern Ground-Hornbill. During 2020, BirdLife South Africa, in collaboration with the Mabula Ground Hornbill Project, will create awareness about the Southern Ground-Hornbill through the production of an informative poster, the development of learning resources for schools that are free to download from the BirdLife South Africa website (www.birdlife.org.za), articles in African Birdlife magazine, social media posts, presentations to interested groups, and the sale of merchandise.

The Hans Hoheisen Charitable Trust is the sponsor of Bird of the Year 2020

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

How to make a booking

All camps, courses and special events must be booked with our club secretary, Rita de Meillon at reservations@blng.co.za or by telephone: 083 391 2327.

🕒 Bird Ringing

Ringing starts at dawn and usually lasts until about midday on the first Saturday of each month. Everyone welcome, please RSVP with the leader.

🕒 Evening Meetings

Usually held on the 2nd Tuesday of each month starting at 19:00. Afterwards tea is served – **donations welcome**. All meetings are held at the Greek Orthodox Church, Roper Street.

🌞 Day Outings

We start early so bring along a breakfast basket, something to drink and a chair. Braai facilities are available at certain venues. Entrance fees are sometimes payable.

🏕️ Weekend Camps

Accommodation ranges from basic camping to fairly luxury accommodation. Full payment is required to confirm your booking. Payments should be made by direct transfer or deposit with your **surname as reference**. Please do not make any deposits without first booking with the club secretary. Bookings and enquiries should preferably be made via email. Please bring firewood or charcoal along to every camp.

🌐 SABAP2 pentads

Mapping the distribution and abundance of birds in South Africa, Lesotho and Swaziland. For additional information please visit the SABAP2 website at: <http://sabap2.adu.org.za/>

♿ Accessibility

Almost all venues have dirt roads, which are usually accessible with normal sedan vehicles. Often birding is on foot. Comfortable walking shoes are advisable.

👨‍👩‍👧 Junior Birders

Families are welcome at all outings.

👤 Non-members

Non-members accompanied by members are always welcome. For weekend outings and courses, an administration fee of **20%** of the camp costs are payable.

BYKOMENDE INLIGTING

Hoe om te bespreek

Alle besprekings vir kampe, kursusse en spesiale geleenthede moet asb. by Rita de Meillon, ons klubsekretaresse gemaak word by reservations@blng.co.za of telefoon 083 391 2327.

🕒 Voëlberinging

Voëlberinging begin teen sonop en duur tot vroegmiddag, gewoonlik die eerste Saterdag van elke maand. Bespreking by die ringleier is nodig.

🕒 Aandbyeenkomste

Word gewoonlik gehou op die 2de Dinsdag van elke maand om 19:00. Tee word na die vergadering bedien – **donasies welkom**. Die vergaderings word by die Grieks Ortodokse Kerk in Roperstraat gehou.

🌞 Daguitstappies

Ons begin gewoonlik vroeg, so bring ōn ontbytmandjie, iets om te drink en 'n stoel saam. Braaigeriewe is by party plekke beskikbaar. Toegangsfooie is soms betaalbaar.

🏕️ Naweekkampe

Akkommodasie wissel van basiese kampering tot redelike luukse akkommodasie. Volle betaling word verlang om sodoende besprekings te bevestig. Betaling moet deur direkte oorpasing of deposito gemaak word met **jou van as verwysing**. Moet asb nie betaal voordat jy dit met die klubsekretaresse bespreek het nie. Besprekings en navrae moet verkieslik d.m.v. e-pos geskied. Bring asseblief hout saam na elke kamp.

🌐 SABAP2 atlasblok

Kartering van die verspreiding en ryke verskeidenheid van voëls in Suid-Afrika, Lesotho en Swaziland. Vir addisionele inligting besoek asb die SABAP2-webtuiste by: <http://sabap2.adu.org.za/>

🚗 Toeganklikheid

Omtrent al die voëlkykplekke is op grondpaaie, wat toeganklik is met normale sedanmotors. Voëlkyk word meestal per voet gedoen. Ons beveel gemaklike stapskoene aan.

👨‍👩‍👧 Junior Voëlkykers

Gesinne is altyd welkom by uitstappies.

👤 Nie-lede

Nie-lede wat 'n lid vergesel is altyd welkom om enige geleentheid by te woon. Naweekkampe se administrasiefooie is **20%** van die kampkoste.

Greek Orthodox Church / Griekse Ortodokse Kerk

Directions for evening meetings : Greek Orthodox Church, corner of Roper Street and Lynnwood Road, Brooklyn. It is across the road from University of Pretoria. Entrance is from Roper Street. Limited parking if the entrance is used in Brooks Street.

Aanwysings vir aandbyeenkomste :

Griekse Ortodokse Kerk, hoek van Roperstraat en Lynnwoodweg, Brooklyn. Dit is oorkant die straat van die Universiteit van Pretoria. Ingang is vanaf Roperstraat. Daar is beperkte parkering as die ingang wat in Brooksstraat geleë is gebruik word.