



BirdLife Northern Gauteng Gauteng-Noord

Your birding partner of choice!

Club Programme: JUNE to SEPTEMBER 2019

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

Klubprogram: JUNIE tot SEPTEMBER 2019

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



BirdLife South Africa has selected the **Secretarybird *Sagittarius serpentarius*** as the Bird of the Year for 2019. This charismatic, long-legged, bird of prey has blue-grey feathers over most of its body, bare orange skin around its eyes and long black quill feathers that form a crest on the back of its head. Secretarybirds have been listed as 'Vulnerable' by the IUCN Red List since 2011 with large declines in their available habitat and the numbers of birds seen across Africa. The biggest threat they face is loss of habitat, while also being susceptible to collisions with electrical infrastructure and fence lines. **#BOTY2019**



HIGHLIGHTS

- **June (14-17)** : Bonamanzi at Nyala Lodge (KZN)
- **July (27)** : 'A delight of Owls' [course]
by Geoff Lockwood
- **August (09-12)** : Mount Sheba (MPU)
- **September (20-24)** : Buffelsvlei, Thabazimbi (LIM)

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Dear fellow BLNG birders,

As always, find herewith **your** latest program for the upcoming months of **June – September 2019**.

Notice has been taken of the fact that Winter has arrived! If there is one thing you need to do this season, it's go birding! And not just any birding will do – we're talking about birding with BLNG, soaking up the sun and birding at amazing destinations. It's always a wonderful and amazing experience, and BLNG has the perfect travel destinations right here. Make your birding dreams a reality with BLNG! Just imagine going to various birding destinations throughout South Africa and experiencing some of the best birding spots like never before.

Don't miss out - **Let's go birding!**

Lees hierdié program vir lekker daguitstappies, asook opkomende en opwindende kampe! Ons gaan in KZN, Mapumalanga en Limpopo kuier. As jy 'n kamp wil aanpak, doen dit saam met BLNG, want 'n voëlkykwegbreek is nét wat jy verdien!

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

An array of an amazing variety happened the past four months. Enjoy all the wonderful BLNG experiences in the recent *Laniarius* #139!

For our new members, take hands with your BLNG BUDDY – join in the fun experienced on the various outings and camps. You soon will become an experienced birder, and for sure will very much enjoy the interaction with other BLNG members and the very experienced BLNG Leaders. Do you own a good reference book? Obtain a good copy from Riana (she is always at the monthly (every 2nd Tuesday evening BLNG meetings) and soon you will be on track with the wonderful variety of South African birds!

Looking forward seeing many more of you at the forthcoming BLNG evening meetings, outings, events and camps as outlined in this programme. Grow and expand yourself as an avitourist and citizen scientist! Consider contributing to your 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 all the BLNG atlas bashes in this programme!

Birding regards / Voëlkygroete

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sheleph@blng.co.za



**NO WEEKEND PLANS?
BE INSPIRED BY BLNG'S
LATEST DAY OUTINGS &
WEEKEND CAMPS!**

JUNE / JUNIE

✿ Sat 01 Jun – Pretoria Botanical Gardens
Meet / Ontmoet: 8h00
Leader / Leier: Prof Willem Boshoff
✉ reservations@blng.co.za
SABAP2 Pentad(s): 2550-2805

The Pretoria National Botanical Gardens, founded in 1946, comprises of 76ha 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. You will also have the opportunity to join the ringers at the same site.

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.

Booking: reservations@blng.co.za

*Die Pretoriase Botaniese Tuin, gestig in 1946 net na die tweede wêreldoorlog, beslaan sowat 76 hektaar natuurlike woud, rotsagtige kwartsrif, parkagtige landskap en tema tuine. Die Botaniese Tuin is beslis die moeite werd om te besoek, nie net oor die botaniese diversiteit nie, maar ook as 'n voëlkykbestemming by uitstek. Jy sal ook die geleentheid kry om by die ringers 'n draai te maak. **Toegangsfooi:** Volwassenes (R35), Studente (R20), en kinders onder 6 is gratis, en senior burgers (met ID) (R15). Bring jou eie verversings, 'n stoel of kometers.*

Besprekings: reservations@blng.co.za

○ Sat 01 Jun
Bird Ringing at Pretoria Botanical Gardens
Meet / Ontmoet: To be confirmed at RSVF
Leader / Leier: Paula Steyn
☎ 072 424 5386

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, voëlboek 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.***

✿ Sat 08 – Bronkhorstspruit Dam NR
Meet / Ontmoet: 07:00
Leader / Leier: Stephan Terblanche
☎ 083 635 7651
✉ reservations@blng.co.za
SABAP2 Pentad(s): 2555-2840

Bronkhorstspruit Dam NR offers a good variety of waterbirds and grassland birds. The reserve encompasses the southern leg of the Bronkhorstspruit dam which includes highveld grassland, seasonal wetlands and agricultural land. The Caspian Tern is most reliable to be seen in winter. Previously the Pink-backed Pelican was also seen here.

Directions: From Pretoria take the N4 east towards Bronkhorstspruit. Take the R25 / Kemptonpark / Delmas offramp and turn right (South). After 3.7km turn left onto the R42 towards Delmas. The entrance to the reserve is situated on the right, approximately 13.7km further – signposted “Bronkies Angling & Nature Reserve”. Follow this dirt road for 2.8km to the gate.


Entrance fees: Adults (13-59 years) (R30), School children (7-12 years) (R15), and pensioners (60 years and older; with ID) (R15).

Bronkhorstspruitdam NR is geleë aan die suidelike been van die dam en dit bestaan uit seisoenale vleiand, hoëveld graslande en landbougrond. 'n Groot verskeidenheid grasveld- en watervoëls is hier te sien. Die Grootsterretjie is redelik algemeen in die wintermaande. Voorheen was die Kleinpelikaan hier gesien.

Aanwysings: Neem die N4 oos vanaf Pretoria -> Bronkhorstspruit. Neem die R25 / Kemptonpark / Delmas afrit en draai regs (suid). Na 3.7km draai links op die R42 -> Delmas en ry 13.7km. Die

reservaat ingang is aan die regterkant by die "Bronkies Angling & Nature Reserve" teken. Volg die grondpad vir 2.8km tot by die hek.

Toegangsfooi: Volwassenes (13-59 jaar) R30), Skoolgaande kinders (7-12 jaar) (R15), en pensionarisse (60 jaar en ouer met ID) (R15).

 14-17 Jun – Bonamanzi at Nyala Lodge NB. BLNG RADIOS
Co-ordinator : Elouise Kalmer
Guide / Gids : Themba Mthembu
✉ reservations@blng.co.za

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

An increasing trend in a world of decline: the tale of southern Africa's European Honey-buzzards by Caroline Howes

Ask any southern African birder about the European Honey-buzzard (*Pernis apivorus*) and they will likely wonder aloud about the enormous increase in the number of records over the past decades. This migratory specialist has gone from a species that was recorded 20 times during the 1980s to over 300 times in just the 2016-2017 season. Caroline's talk focuses on better understanding the ecology of the honey-buzzard as well as investigating several hypotheses about why this species seems to be increasing in southern Africa.



'n Toenemende neiging in 'n wêreld van agteruitgang: die verhaal van Suider-Afrika se Wespediewe deur Caroline Howes

*Vra enige Suid-Afrikaanse voëlkyker oor die Wespedief (*Pernis apivorus*) en hulle sal waarskynlik hardop wonder oor die enorme toename in die aantal voëls wat aangeteken is oor die laaste dekades. Hierdie migrasiespesialis het toegeneem van 'n spesie wat 20 maal aangeteken is gedurende die 1980's tot oor die 300 in slegs die 2016-2017 seisoen. Caroline se aanbieding fokus op 'n beter begrip van die ekologie van die Wespediewe, sowel as 'n ondersoek na verskeie hipoteses oor waarom dit lyk of hierdie spesie toeneem in Suider-Afrika.*



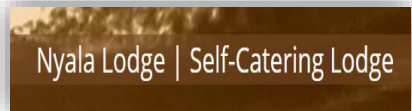
The abundance of birds will amaze you!

Bonamanzi is recognised as **one of the best birding destinations in Southern Africa**. A couple of the birds you can expect to tick off your list during your stay at Bonamanzi are the following:- Great White and Pink-backed Pelicans, Black Winged Lapwing, Cape and African Yellow White-Eye, Gorgeous, Orange Breasted and Grey Headed Bushshrike, Yellow, Cape and Rosy Throated Longclaw, Red Capped, White Throated and White Browed Robin Chat, Eastern and White Browed Scrub Robin, **nine** Weaver Species, **nine** Fly Catcher Species, **ten** Swallow Species, African Cuckoo Hawk, Collared Prantincole, African Broadbill, Green Malkoha, Narina Trogon and African Finfoot!

Day 1: Falsebay, Nibela Peninsula and Muzi pans
Day 2: Mkuze, Ozabeni section of iSimangaliso Wetland Park and Mpempe pans.
Depending on the group's flexibility, the outings will start around 05h30 and 06h00.

Accommodation

Accommodation is arranged at Nyala Lodge.



Cost: R1 300pp for the 3 nights (4 days) (guide fees guides are already included in the price).

Directions: From OR Tambo International follow the N17 and N2 for 518km's. Exit the N2 for Hluhluwe. Make a left onto the R22 and follow through 3 roundabouts. At third round about, take 2nd exit right onto the P2. Allens Butchery will be

on your left. Follow the P2 (gravel road) for 5.7 km's. Bonamanzi is on your left.

Booking: reservations@blng.co.za

Hiér sal die volop voëlspesies jou verstom!

Bonamanzi word erken as een van die beste voëlkyk bestemmings in Suidelike Afrika. Sommige van die **voëls** wat jy moontlike op jou lys sal afmerk gedurende jou verblyf op Bonamanzi is Witpelikaan en Kleinpelikaan, Groot Swartvlrkkiewiet, Geelglasogie, Konkoi, Oranjeborsboslaksman, Spookvoël, Geelkeel-, Oranjekeel- en Rookeelkalkoentjie, Natal-, Witkeel- en Heuglinse janfrederik, nege wewerspesies, nege Vlieëvangerspesies, tien swaelspesies, Koekoekvalk, Rooivlerksprinkaanvoël, Breëbek, Groenvleioerie, Bosloerie en Watertapper!

Dag 1: Falsebay, Nibela Peninsula asook die Muzi panne

Dag 2: Mkuze, Ozabeni gedeelte van iSimangaliso Wetland Park en Mpempe panne.

Afhangende van die groep, sal die uitstappies ongeveer 05h30 en 06h00 begin.

Akkommodasie

'n Bespreking is gemaak by Nyala Game Lodge .

Koste: R1 300pp vir die 3 nagte (4 dae) (gidsfooie is reeds by hierdie prys ingesluit).

Aanwysings: Vanaf OR Tambo Internasionale lughawe, volg die N17 en N2 vir 518km. Uitgang vanaf die N2 vir Hluhluwe. Draai links op die R22 en ry verby drie sirkels. By die derde sirkel, neem 2de uitgang op die P2. Allens Slaghuis sal op jou linkerkant wees. Vir 5.7km volg die P2 (grondpad). Bonamanzi is aan jou linkerkant.

Besprekings: reservations@blng.co.za

☼ Sun 23 Jun –
De Wildt Cheetah and Wildlife Centre
Meet / Ontmoet: 07:30
Leader / Leier: Rihann Geysler & De Wildt Cheetah Centre guide
✉ reservations@blng.co.za



The De Wildt Cheetah and Wildlife Centre, also known as Ann van Dyk Cheetah Centre is a captive breeding facility for South African cheetahs

and other animals that is situated in the foothills of the Magaliesberg mountain range in the North West Province of South Africa. The De Wildt Cheetah and Wildlife Centre is conveniently situated from Johannesburg and Pretoria. Join BLNG with Rihann to perform an assessment of all the special birds that De Wildt Cheetah facility has to offer. Bring your walking shoes, hat, refreshments, picnic baskets and birding books along.

Directions: Head north on the R511. Go under the N14 and follow the R511 Brits signs. Cross over Silkaatsnek and turn right onto the R513 Pretoria North. The centre is located about 5km down this road on the right hand side.

Booking: reservations@blng.co.za

Die De Wildt Jagluiperd en Wildele Sentrum, ook bekend as die Ann van Dyk Cheetah Centre is 'n teelsentrum vir Suid-Afrikaanse jagluiperds en ander diere en is geleë aan die voetheuwels van die Magaliesberge in die Noordwes Provinsie van Suid-Afrika. Die De Wildt Jagluiperd en Wildele Sentrum is gerieflik naby aan Johannesburg en Pretoria. Sluit aan by BLNG tesame met Rihann deur te bepaal watter spesiale voëls te sien is by die De Wildt Jagluiperd en Wildele Sentrum. Bring jou stapskoene, hoed, verversings, piekniekmandjie en voëlboeke saam.

Aanwysings: Ry noord op die R511. Gaan onder deur die N14 en volg die R511 Brits aanwysings. Gaan oor Silkaatsnek en draai regs na die R513 Pretoria-Noord. Die sentrum is geleë ongeveer 5km verder op hierdie pad aan die regterkant.

Besprekings: reservations@blng.co.za

☼ Wed 26 Jun – Moreleta NR incl. ATLASSING FOR BEGINNERS with Rihann Geysler
Meet / Ontmoet: 08:30 – 10:30
Leader / Leier: Christo Siebert
☎ 084 806 0440
✉ chrissi@discoverymail.co.za
SABAP2 Pentad(s): 2545_2815

Join geologist, Christo Siebert for an exciting morning! A discussion on the geology of the area will be included during this outing!

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 garden birds found in Pretoria should be present, Karoo Thrush, Mousebirds, Cape Sparrow, Common Myna, Common Fiscal, Helmeted Guineafowl, Crested Barbet, Tawny-flanked Prinia and Neddicky. In the past, Red-chested Flufftail has been seen closeby to the birdhide. **Moreleta NR is an excellent SABAP2 pentad birding venue! A total of 137 species were seen in this pentad in previous years!**

Atlassing for beginners [with Rihann Geyser]:

Members need to ensure that they have downloaded **Birdlasser** before the outing, since this will be a practical session where we will create a trip card ready to submit to SABAP. During the outing, we will focus on members who needs help to getting started with SABAP atlassing, and **Birdlasser** in a practical way.

Toilet facilities are available on the route. Bring some snacks and drinks.

Directions: From the intersection of Solomon Mahlangu Dr (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 left at Rademeyers Restaurant. **Meet here.**

Booking: reservations@blng.co.za

Sluit by ons aan vir 'n opwindende oggend saam met Christo Siebert, 'n geoloog wat bietjie meer agtergrond sal verskaf van hierdie area se geologie!

*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 reservaat is in Moreletapark, skaars 5 min se ry vanaf die N1. Spesies wat verweg kan word is Geelbeklyster, Muisvoëls, Gewone Mossie, Indiese spreeu, Fiskaallaksman, Gewone Tarentaal, Kuifkophoutkapper, Bruinsylangstertjie en Neddikkie. In die verlede is Rooiborsvleikuiken al opgemerk naby die voëlskuiling! **Vir SABAP2 atlasblok (pentad) voëlkykdoeleindes, is Moreleta NR uitstekend! In vorige jare was daar reeds 'n totaal van 137 spesies gesien!***

Atlas vir beginners [met Rihann Geyser]:

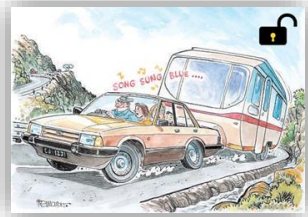
Lede wat die uitstappie gaan meemaak, moet die **Birdlasser** toep reeds op hulle slimfoon afgelaai hê, aangesien hierdie ook 'n praktiese uitstappie gaan wees. Lede sal touwys gemaak

*word in die skep van 'n uitstappiekaart wat daarna aan SABAP2 ingedien kan word. Daar sal gefokus word op lede wat hulp benodig om SABAP2 vaardig te word, asook om **Birdlasser** op 'n praktiese manier te gebruik.*

Toiletgeriewe is op die roete beskikbaar. Bring eie verversings.

Aanwysings: Vanaf die kruising van Solomon Mahlangu-laan (Hans Strydom) met Lois/Rubenstein, draai in Rubenstein in tot by die kruising met Heliosstraat. Draai links in Helios met die reservaat aan die linkerkant. Die parkeerplek is op die linkerkant. **Ontmoet hier.**

Besprekings: reservations@blng.co.za



JULY / JULIE

☼ **Sat 06 Jul – Voortrekker Monument**

Meet / Ontmoet: 07h00

Leader / Leier: L'aura Jordaan

✉ reservations@blng.co.za

SABAP2 Pentad(s): 2540_2810

Come and join us for a walk around the reserve which surrounds this historical site. The habitats include gardens, woodland and grassland. Species include Southern Boubou, Arrow-marked Babbler, White-throated Robin-Chat, Jamesons Firefinch, Long-billed Crombec and Yellow-fronted Canary, **Verreaux's Eagle** and **Fairy Flycatcher (almost guaranteed from May to-August)**. You will also have the opportunity to join the ringers at the same site.

Entrance fees: R80 per adult, R40 for children and pensioners. Bring along water, chairs and refreshments.

Directions: At the Fountains Circle, take the exit to Proclamation Hill and Centurion. Keep to the right lane. At the robot turn right onto Eeufees Rd/M7. At the second robot turn right towards the entrance of the Voortrekker Monument.

We meet at the entrance.

Booking: reservations@blng.co.za

Kom saam met ons op 'n uitstappie in die natuurbewaringsgebied wat hierdie historiese gebied omring. Die habitat sluit tuine, bosveld en grasveld in. Spesies sluit in die Suidelike Waterfiskaal, Pylvlekkatlagter, Witkeeljanfrederik, Bosveldtjerkik, Jamesonse Vuurvinkie, Bosveldstompstert en Geeloogkanarie asook die **Witkruisarend** en om na 'n **Feevlieëvanger** te gaan soek (n sekerheid vanaf Mei tot Augustus). Jy sal ook die geleentheid kry om by die ringers 'n draai te maak.

Toegangsfooie: R80 vir volwassenes, R40 vir kinders en pensioenarisse. Bring saam water, stoele en verversings.

Aanwysings: By die Fonteinestreek, neem die uitgang na Proklamasie Heuwel en Centurion. Hou in die heel regterkantste baan. By die verkeerslig draai regs in Eufeesweg/M7. Ry reguit tot by die 2de verkeerslig, draai regs na die ingang van die Voortrekker Monument.

Ons ontmoet by die ingang.

Besprekings: reservations@blng.co.za

<p>○ Sat 06 Jul Bird Ringing at Voortrekker Monument</p>
<p>Meet / Ontmoet: To be confirmed at RSVP</p>
<p>Leader / Leier: Elba Swart</p>
<p>☎ 082 774 2253</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. The handling of nets and birds may only be done by a qualified ringer.</p> <p>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 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. Die hantering van nete en voëls mag slegs deur 'n gekwalifiseerde ringer gedoen word.</p>

☾ **Tue 09 Jul – EVENING MEETING**
19h00 at Greek Orthodox Church, c/o Roper St. & Lynnwood Road, Brooklyn



The film ALBATROSS by Chris Jordan

In the heart of the great Pacific, a story is taking place that may change the way you see everything. ALBATROSS, the film (97 minutes) is a powerfully moving love story that brings viewers together into a shared space of connection and reverence. Come and watch the film and have some sherry, soup and popcorn.

NB. Dress warmly; bring your hotwater bottles and possibly a blanket.

ALBATROSS die film deur Chris Jordan

In die hart van die groot Stille Oseaan, speel 'n storie af wat die wyse waarop jy alles sien, mag verander. ALBATROSS, die prent (97 minute) is 'n kragtige, roerende liefdesverhaal wat toeskouers bymekaar bring in 'n gedeelde spatie van verbinding en verering. Kom geniet die film met sjerrie, sop en springmielies.

NB. Wees voorbereid teen die koue. Trek lekker warm aan, bring julle warmwaterbottels en moontlik 'n kombers.

☼ **Sat 20 Jul – Morning HIKE at Rietvlei NR**
maximum 15 pax
NB. RIETVLEI INDEMNITY FORM

Leader / Leier: Madeleen van Schalkwyk

Meet / Ontmoet: 07h00 at the coffee shop

✉ reservations@blng.co.za



A BLNG 1st!

Lace up your boots and experience Rietvlei on foot! This guided walk through the Rietvlei Reserve, organised by the Friends of Rietvlei, will take place on **Saturday, 20 July 2019 at 07h00**.

- Duration: approximately 3hours
- Length: 5-8 kilometres

Only bookings received at reservations@blng.co.za will be accepted on a first come first served basis. BLNG has to provide Rietvlei NR two weeks before the hike with the numbers (**max 15 persons**).

Cost: R120.00 per adult (must be paid to BLNG) within 72 hours to secure your booking.

Please note that, for safety reasons, only children 12 years and older are allowed on the hike.

At the end of the walk, members can purchase a breakfast from the tea garden at their own personal expense.

'n BLNG 1st!

Maak jou skoene vas en beleef Rietvlei te voet! Hierdie begeleide stap deur die Rietvlei Reserwaat is georganiseer deur die Vriende van Rietvlei en sal plaasvind op **Saterdag, 20 Julie 2019 om 07h00**.

- Ongeveer 3 ure.
- Lengte 5-8 kilometers

Besprekings vir hierdie stap sal slegs aanvaar word indien dit gerig word per epos na reservations@blng.co.za. Getalle moet twee weke voor die stap deurgegee word deur BLNG aan Rietvlei NR (**maksimum 15**).

Toegangsfooi: R120.00 per volwassene. Die foor moet in BLNG se bankrekening inbetaal word binne 72 uur. Jou bespreking word sodoende bevestig. **Neem asseblief kennis dat om veiligheidsredes slegs kinders 12 jaar en ouer toegelaat word om te stap.**

Aan die einde van die stap kan 'n ontbyt op eie koste by die teetuin gekoop word.

🌸 Wed 24 Jul – WSBG Walter Sisulu Botanical Gardens GPS coordinates: 27°50'40.7E; 26°05'13.8S
Meet / Ontmoet: 07h30
Leader / Leier: Ernest Porter
SABAP2 Pentad(s): 2650_2750

Situated between Muldersdrift and Krugersdorp, the garden is one of Gauteng's premier birding sites. The main draw-card is a resident breeding pair of Verreaux's Eagles which nest annually next to the spectacular Witpoortjie Waterfall. Other specials are African Black Duck, African Olive-Pigeon, Half-collared Kingfisher, Brown-backed Honeybird, and in winter the Fairy Flycatcher.

Entrance fees: R35 per adult and R25 for senior citizens.

Directions: Take the N14 to Krugersdorp. At the traffic lights at the end of the freeway turn left onto the R47 to Roodepoort. After 3.5km turn right into Handicap Street. Turn right into Malcolm Street after 1.5 km and proceed to the gardens in Beacon Street. Meet in the car park.


Booking: reservations@blng.co.za

Hierdie Botaniese Tuin is een van Gauteng se vernaamste voëlkykplekke en is tussen Muldersdrift en Krugersdorp geleë. Die trekpleister is 'n broeipaar Witkruisarend wat jaarliks net langs die asemrowende Witpoortjie-waterval broei. Spesiale spesies is die Swarteend, Geelbekbosduif, Blouvisvanger, Skerpbekheuningvoël, en in die winter die Feëvlieëvanger en nog vele meer.

Toegangsfooi: R35 vir volwassenes en R25 vir pensionarisse.

Aanwysings: Neem die N14 na Krugersdorp. By die verkeersligte by die einde van die snelweg draai links op die R47 na Roodepoort en na 3.5km draai regs in Handicapstraat. Na 1.5km draai regs in Malcolmstraat wat jou tot by die ingang in Beaconstraat neem. Ontmoet in die parkeerterrein.

Besprekings: reservations@blng.co.za

 Sat 27 Jul SPECIAL EVENT 'A DELIGHT OF OWLS' by Geoff Lockwood
Getting to know these enigmatic and often misunderstood birds better! The course is broken into three sections:- <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Designed for darkness – physical and behavioural adaptations2. The life of owls – daily activities of an owl3. Southern Africa's Owls – Identification of the different species Geoff shares many stories and anecdotes covering his experiences with owls over the years.
Venue / Vergaderplek: Nederduitsch Hervormde Kerk, Philadelphia Dutch Reformed Church Philadelphia 127 Lunnon road, Hillcrest, Pretoria
A full day course Cost/Koste: R300 per person
Contact person: Rita de Meillon
Booking : reservations@blng.co.za
Besprekings : reservations@blng.co.za

AUGUST / AUGUSTUS

☼ Sat 03 Aug – Bishop Bird Park
Meet / Ontmoet: 07:00
Leader / Leier: Alta Fraser
☎ 083 652 2929
✉ alta.fraser2@gmail.com
SABAP2 Pentad(s): 2550_2805

Bishop Bird Park is a small urban bird sanctuary which has open grassland interspersed with clumps of woodland. The Park has a short and easy birding route with an amazing amount of birds to be found like the Tawny-flanked and Black-chested Prinia, Spotted Thick-knee, Spotted Flycatcher, Ratling Cisticola, Willow Warbler, Southern Boubou, Garden Warbler, European Bee-eater and African Grey Hornbill. You will also have the opportunity to join the ringers at the same site.

Directions: From the N1 south take the M19/ John Vorster offramp and turn left towards the Centurion Mall Shopping Centre. After a few robots turn left at the free left turn onto Lenchen Avenue M27. Continue for a few kilometres until the Old Johannesburg Road is crossed and Lenchen becomes Estcourt Avenue up to the T-junction. Turn left into Theuns van Niekerk Street. Pass the Wierda Glen Estate. Turn right into Roosmaryn's Place (it's the 4th street on your right), continue to the entrance of Bishop Bird Park at the end of the street. **Meet in the parking area.**

Booking: reservations@blng.co.za

Bishopsvoëlpark is 'n klein voëlpark met oop grasveld gemeng met bome en bosveld. Die spesies wat verwag kan word is: Bruinsy- en Swartbandlangstertjie, Dikkop, Geelbeklyster, Gewone Fret, Swart- en Witpenssuikerbekkie, Blouvalkie, Diederikkie. Die voëlpark is klein met 'n maklike staproete en 'n groot aantal voëls wat gevind kan word, onder andere die Hofsanger, Suidelike Waterfiskaal, Tuinsanger, Grysneushoringvoël, Europese Vlieëvanger, Bosveld Tinktinkie en Europese Byevreter. Jy sal ook die geleentheid kry om by die ringers 'n draai te maak.

Aanwysings: Vanaf die N1 suid neem die M19/ John Vorster-afrig en draai links na Centurion Mall Winkelsentrum. Na 'n paar robotte draai links by 'n glipbaan in Lenchenlaan M27. Ry oor die Ou Johannesburgpad waar Lenchenlaan Estcourt word. Ry aan tot by die T-aansluiting. Draai links in Theuns van Niekerkstraat. Ry verby die Wierda Glen Estate. Draai regs in Roosmaryn's Place (dit is die 4^{de} straat aan die regterkant). Ry tot by die ingang van Bishopvoëlpark aan die einde van die straat. **Ontmoet in die parkeerarea.**

Besprekings: reservations@blng.co.za

☉ Sat 03 Aug
Bird Ringing at Bishop Park NR
Meet / Ontmoet: To be confirmed at RSVP
Leader / Leier: Marina du Preez
☎ 072 108 0111
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.
<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, voëlboek 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. Ringessies 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.</i>



SPECIAL EVENT

09 - 12 Aug
Mount Sheba <MPU>
(4days, 3nights)
MAX 10 PERSONS

Leader / Leier: Philip Calinikos

✉ reservations@blng.co.za



Mount Sheba is one of Mpumalanga's premier forest-birding localities. Situated in the mountains above Pilgrim's Rest, this private nature reserve offers a good selection of typical Escarpment species and a number of highly localised specials. An excellent network of walking trails provide good access to the forest.

Specials : African Cuckoo Hawk, African Crowned Eagle, Red-winged Francolin, Red-necked Spurfowl, Lemon Dove, Knysna Turaco, African Emerald Cuckoo, Cape Eagle-Owl, Narina Trogon, Olive Woodpecker, Grey Cuckooshrike, Bush Blackcap, Yellow-streaked Greenbul, Orange Ground-Thrush, Buff-streaked Chat, Chorister Robin-Chat, White-starred Robin, Barratt's Warbler, Yellow-throated Woodland-Warbler, Blue-mantled Crested-Flycatcher, Mountain Wagtail, Black-fronted Bush-Shrike, Olive Bush-Shrike, Gurney's Sugarbird and Forest Canary.

Habitats - The steep hillsides and river valleys are clothed in tall, dense afro-montane forest, which merges into impenetrable thorn-thickets at lower altitudes near Pilgrim's Rest. The upper slopes and plateau are predominantly open grassland with scattered copses of Silver Protea (*Protea roupelliae*) and Highveld Protea (*Protea caffra*). The quartzite ridge above the hotel has some impressive rock outcrops and boulders, attracting a unique set of birds. The hotel gardens support an interesting mix of forest and grassland birds.

COME PREPARED FOR A LOT OF WALKING ON THE VARIOUS TRAILS; SOME DIFFICULT.

Directions - From Johannesburg take the N10 to Witbank, bypassing Witbank and continuing to the Belfast turn-off; take the R33/R540 through Belfast, Dullstroom and Lydenburg. In Lydenburg, take the R36 Ohrigstad/Tzaneen road and drive for about 30km to the Pilgrim's Rest turn-off (R533) on the right. Take this road up Robber's Pass, the Mount Sheba turn-off being on the right after 14km (near the top of the pass). The pot-holed tar surface soon becomes dirt and needs careful negotiation after heavy rains. Follow the signboards to the reserve. The condition of the road varies from time-to-time.

Enquire beforehand at 013-768 1241/2.

Accommodation has been booked in three units.

- Unit #8 [sleeps 4]
- Unit #9 [sleeps 4]
- Unit #20 [sleeps 2]

The restaurant offers sumptuous dinners at R130 per person (good value for money). Fridge facilities are available in the chalets. Gasbraai facilities are available at each chalet (no need to wait for fires after a late afternoon's bird viewing).

Cost : R2 000 per person sharing.

Booking: reservations@bng.co.za

Mount Sheba is een van Mpumalanga se beste woud voëlkykplekke. Geleë in die berge bokant Pelgrimsrus, bied hierdie privaat natuurreservaat 'n goeie verskeidenheid van tipiese eskarpspesies en 'n aantal hoogs gelokaliseerde soorte.

Spesiale Soorte : Koekoekvalk, Kroonarend Rooivlerkpatrys, Rooikeelfisant, Lemoenduijie, Knysnalorie, Mooimeisie, Kaapse ooruil, Narina Trogon, Gryskopspeg, Witborskatakoeroe, Rooibektiptol, Geelstreepbosbekruiper, Oranje Lyster, Bergklipwagter, Lawaaimakerjanfrederik, Witkoljanfrederik, Ruigtesanger, Geelkeelsanger, Bloukuifvlieëvanger, Bergkwikkie, Swartoogboslaksman, Olyfboslaksman, Rooiborssuikervoël en Gestrepte kanarie.

Habitat - Die steil hellings en riviervalleie is bedek met hoë, digte, afromontane woude, wat oorgaan in ondeurdringbare doringruigtes by laer hoogtes naby Pilgrim's Rest. Die boonste hellings en plato is oorheersend oop grasveld met verspreide groepe van Silver Protea (*Protea roupelliae*) en Hoëveld Protea (*Protea caffra*). Die kwartsietriwwe bokant die hotel het indrukwekkende rotsuitsteeksels en rotse, wat unieke voëls lok. Die hoteltuine onderhou 'n interessante mengsel van woud en grasveldvoëls.

KOM VOORBEREID VIR HEELWAT STAP OP DIE VERSKEIE STAPROETES; SOMMIGE MOEILIK.

Aanwysings – Vanaf Johannesburg neem die N10 na Witbank, ry verby en gaan voort tot by die Belfast afdraai; neem die R33/R540 deur Belfast, Dullstroom and Lydenburg. In Lydenburg, neem die R36 Ohrigstad/Tzaneen pad en ry ongeveer 30km na die Pelgrimrust afdraai (R533) op regterkant. Neem hierdie pad op Robber's Pas, die Mount Sheba afdraai is op regterkant na 14km (naby die top van die pas). Die teerpad vol slaggete word gou 'n grondpad waar versigtig bestuur moet word na swaar reën. Volg die padtekens na die reservaat. Die toestand van die pad verander van tyd-tot-tyd.

Doen vooraf navraag by (013-768 1241/2).

Akkommodasie is bespreek in drie eenhede.

- Eenheid #8 [4 slaper]
- Eenheid #9 [4 slaper]
- Eenheid #20 [2 slaper]

Vir diegene wat sou belangstel, aandetes kan by die restaurant geniet word teen R130 per persoon (goeie waarde vir geld). In elke eenheid is daar yskas fasiliteite. Gasbraaifasiliteite is by elke eenheid beskikbaar (geen lang gewag vir vure nie).

Koste: R2 000 per persoon wat deel.

Besprekings: reservations@blng.co.za

☼ Sun 18 Aug – Hedianga Farm
Meet/Ontmoet: 07:00
Leader / Leier: Keanu Canto
☎ 073 907 3116
✉ reservations@blng.co.za
SABAP2 Pentad(s): 2545_2820

Hedianga Farm covers an area of 140 hectares and is located in pentad 2545_2820, tussen 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.

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

☾ **Tue 13 Aug – EVENING MEETING**
19h00 at Greek Orthodox Church, c/o
Roper St. & Lynnwood Road, Brooklyn



About Baobabs and Birds **by Dr. Stephan Woodborne**

Come and listen to the most interesting facts about these ancient trees and what the analysis of Baobabs reveal to scientists. The presentation will show how we used radiocarbon dating to understand the "architecture" of baobab trees in southern Africa. The presentation will close with a brief reflection on baobab deaths that were widely reported in the media, and on the impact that climate change will have on arid zone birds in southern Africa.

Oor Kremetartbome en Voëls **deur dr. Stephan Woodborne**

Kom luister na interessante feite oor hierdie eeu oue bome en wat die studie van Kremetart bome aan wetenskaplikes openbaar. Die aanbieding sal verduidelik hoe ons radiokoolstof datering doen om die "argitektuur" van kremetartbome in Suider-Afrika te verstaan. Die aanbieding sal eindig met 'n kort oorsig oor die sterftes van kremetartbome waaroor wyd in die media berig is, en op die impak wat klimaatsverandering op die voëls van die droë streke van Suider-Afrika sal hê.

heuningvoël. Gestreepte 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.

Toegangsfooi: 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 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.

Besprekings: reservations@blng.co.za

<p>☼ Sat 24 Aug – Rooiwal Water Care Works</p>
<p>Meet / Ontmoet: 06:45 until more or less 13:00</p>
<p>Leaders / Leiers: Neithard Graf von Dürckheim / Elouise Kalmer</p>
<p>SABAP2 Pentad: 2530-2810</p>

Booking at reservations@blng.co.za is essential. Numbers are limited to 25 members.

What can be seen:

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 THE INSTALLATION.

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 11.7 km from Zambezi Road. Go through tollgate at end of off-ramp → turn LEFT, direction Pyramid R101 and proceed for 4.6 km, reach T-Junction (old Warmbad Road) → turn RIGHT direction Warmbad/Bela-Bela / Hammanskraal R101, proceed for 2.0 km → turn RIGHT to Soshanguwe/Winterveld M39, proceed for 1.1 km, 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 a permit is required, which the leader has obtained.**

Wat kan gesien word:

Rooiwal Watersuiweringswerke is 'n klein skatkis 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, Gryskopmeeue 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.

Roetebeskrywing: Neem die N1 in die rigting van Polokwane (voorheen Pietersburg). Vanaf die Sefako Makgatho-afrit (ou Zambezi), ry 11.7 km, gaan verby die N4 afdraai, gaan deur die Pumulani tolhek, → neem die afrit Wallmansthal/Pyramid. Gaan deur die tolhek aan die einde van die afrit → draai LINKS, in die rigting Pyramid R101 en ry 4.6 km tot by die T-aansluiting (ou Warmbadpad) → draai REGS rigting Warmbad/Bela-Bela/Hammanskraal R101, ry nog 2 km → draai REGS na Soshanguw / Winterveld M39, ry 1.1 km, pad maak 'n LANG DRAAI NA LINKS oor brug, → draai LINKS by 'n wit bord ROOIWAL, ry 100 m → by stopteken draai REGS, ry verder vir 1.7 km. op 'n nou teerpad (gaan verby die Rooiwal Kragstasie op linkerhand) → na 1.7 km 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 die toegangspad het.**

Besprekings: Dit is noodsaaklik om per e-pos by reservations@blng.co.za te bespreek. Getalle beperk is tot 25 lede.

<p>☼ Wed 28 Aug – Random Harvest Nursery Muldersdrift</p>
Meet / Ontmoet: 07:30
Leader / Leier: André Marx
☎ 083 411 7674
SABAP2 Pentad: 2600_2750



Join us for an early winter's morning walk around the Random Harvest Farm to look for the **Fairy Flycatcher**, and get inspired by the plants available in the indigenous nursery.

Directions: From the N14 Krugersdorp/Pretoria highway, take the Randburg/Zwartkop M5 off-ramp. Turn left towards Johannesburg along the extension of Beyers Naude Drive. Take the second tar road to your left at Valdor Centre (Friendly Grocer) into College Road. Follow the directional signs. Meet in the parking lot.

Booking: reservations@blng.co.za

Kom gerus saam vir 'n vroeg-oggend wintersuitsappie na die Random Harvest plaas om na die **Feëlvlieëvanger** te gaan soek. Daar is ook plante te koop by die inheemse kwekery.

Aanwysings: Vanaf die N14 (Krugersdorp/Pretoria snelweg), neem die Randburg/Zwartkop M5 afrit. Draai links na Johannesburg (die pad word later Beyers Naudeweg). Draai by die tweede teerpad links by die Valdor Sentrum (Friendly Grocer) in Collegerylaan in. Volg die aanwysingsbordjies na Random Harvest en ontmoet André in die parkeerterrein.

Besprekings: reservations@blng.co.za

SEPTEMBER
<p>☼ Sat 07 Sep – Marievale Bird Sanctuary GPS coordinates: S26°21.456 E28°30.935.</p>
Meet / Ontmoet: 6h30
Leader / Leier: Bryan Groom
✉ 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 Crane and Slaty Egret. Other specials include African Crane, 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, Kuifkopdobbertjie, 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

vroegoeggend verversings, sal die groep hiervandaan vertrek.

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

Besprekings: reservations@blng.co.za

○ Sat 07 Sep

Bird Ringing at Botanical Gardens

Meet / Ontmoet: To be confirmed at RSVP

Leader / Leier: Paula Steyn

☎ 072 424 5386

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 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.***

☾ Tue 10 Sep – EVENING MEETING

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

Where Dragonfly-hunting meets Birdwatching by Helena Coetzee

Helena Coetzee, also a BLNG club member and an avid birdwatcher and photographer, has found that she can study dragonflies during midday when the birds are quiet. She will share her experience, knowledge and photo's of Dragonflies and Damselflies. She will talk about the anatomy of these interesting creatures as well as the facts and myths that surround them, and where to find and id them.

Naaldekokersoek komplimenter voëlkyk deur Helena Coetzee

Helena Coetzee, 'n BLNG lid en kranige voëlkyker en fotograaf, het gevind dat sy Naaldekokers kan bestudeer in die hitte van die dag wanneer die voëls stil is. Sy deel haar ondervinding en kennis van waar om hulle te vind en te identifiseer. Sy praat oor hul anatomie, asook feite en mites wat bestaan oor hierdie interessante spesies.



🗓 14 & 15 Sep

SPECIAL EVENT

THE AFRICAN BIRD FAIR

Walter Sisulu Botanical Garden

Enquiries: secretary@blng.co.za

Everything you expect of a Bird Fair, but with the “Ajabu” of Africa. Details will be shared through a BLNG Alert, and by means of the BLSA Website.

🗓 21 - 24 September –

24 SEPTEMBER 2019

PUBLIC HOLIDAY (HERITAGE DAY)

Buffelsvlei Lodge (LIM)

S24.20.500 E026.48.330

BLNG ALAS BASH

MAX 12 MEMBERS

Leader / Leier: Pieter Verster

✉ reservations@blng.co.za



BLNG's 2nd Atlas focused camp for 2019 will be at Buffelsvlei Lodge, Thabazimbi (LIM)! Atlassers are invited, and those birders who through their atlascard submissions want to contribute to bird conservation as Citizen Scientists. **Birdlasser** is used as the tool to log sightings, and we request that you ensure that **Birdlasser** has been downloaded on your smartphone, and that you are fairly comfortable and competent to log bird sightings. Closer to the event, further details of the allocation of atlas teams, and pentads to be covered will be provided.

Please join BLNG on this exiting birding event!

Buffelsvlei Lodge in the Limpopo Province near Rooibokkraal 120km outside of Thabazimbi.

Directions:

From Pretoria you can drive through Brits or Warmbaths to Thabazimbi. When you arrive at Thabazimbi, before you enter the town; turn left direction Dwaalboom road. Continue straight on this road for 60km until you get to Dwaalboom. At Dwaalboom, with Obaro on you left, at the 4-way stop, turn right. The road turn into a dirt road. Continue straight with this road for 60km. You will get to a stop with a tarred road, just drive straight over it en continue on the dirt road. The following farm signs will be seen:

- ➔ Hogs Hunt right
- ➔ Phala Ranch right
- ➔ London Gustav Brink right,

Buffelsvlei is the farm nexr to Gustav Brink, turn right at the first next entry. You drive down a long corridor until you reach Buffelsvlei's black gate with a sign which read: **Buffelsvlei - Spiral Horn Safaris**.

Accommodation (Maximum 12 members)

Buffelsvlei Lodge consists of luxurious single or double rooms. You will sleep in comfortable surroundings and have en-suite bathroom facilities. Personal attention is very important to Buffelsvlei, and therefore both their lodges are booked out on a per group basis ensuring privacy and leaving each client feeling special.

Cost: R1 500 pp. – pay for three, but stay for four nights.

Booking: reservations@blng.co.za

BLNG's se 2^{de} atlaskamp vir 2019 sal fokus op atlaswerk by Buffelsvlei! Atlassers en voëlkykers wat wil bydra tot voëlbewaring as 'Citizen Scientists' deur die indiening van hulle atlaskaart word uitgenooi. **Birdlasser** is die toepassing wat gebruik sal word vir die aanteken van waarnemings. Verseker dat jy **Birdlasser** aflaai op jou slimfoon, en dat jy taamlik gemaklik, en vaardig is om voëlwaarnemings te kan aanteken. Nader aan die gebeurtenis sal verdere besonderhede oor die toekennning van atlasspanne en atlasblokke wat gedek moet word, bekend gemaak word. **Wees deel van BLNG by hierdie opwindende voëlgebeurtenis!**

Aanwysings:

Vanaf Pretoria kan jy deur Brits of Warmbad ry na Thabazimbi. Wanneer jy in Thabazimbi inkom, **[voor jy die dorp kry]**; draai links rigting Dwaalboom pad. Hou reguit met die pad aan vir 60km tot in Dwaalboom. By Dwaalboom, met Obaro aan jou linkerkant, by die 4-rigting stop, draai regs. Die pad word grondpad. Hou reguit aan met die pad vir 60km. Jy gaan by n stop kom wat n teerpad het, gaan net reguit oor en hou aan met die grondpad. Die volgende plaasborde sal gesien word, nl.

- ➔ Hogs Hunt regs
- ➔ Phala Ranch regs
- ➔ London Gustav Brink regs,

Buffelsvlei is die plaas langs Gustav Brink, draai regs by die 1ste volgende ingang. Dis n lang gang waarin jy afry tot jy by Buffelsvlei se swart hek met die bord wat lees: **Buffelsvlei - Spiral Horn Safaris**.

Akkommodasie (Maksimum 12 lede)

Buffelsvlei bied luukse enkel- en dubbelkamers. Jy sal 'n naweek van gemak geniet met en-suite geriewe. Persoonlike aandag is van uiterste belang, derhalwe word Buffelsvlei bespreek vir groepe wat privaatheid verseker, en tevrede kliente!

Koste: R1 500 pp. - betaal vir drie nagte, **maar verblyf is vir vier nagte**.

Besprekings: reservations@blng.co.za

☼ Sun 29 Sep – 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. Let's prep ourselves for the oncoming start of Spring and wrap up Winter in style!

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).

Booking: reservations@blng.co.za

Die grasvelde rondom Vlaklaagte en Renosterkoppie is uiters produktief en baie lonend. Kalkoenibis, Sekretarisvoël, Rooiborsjakkalvoël, Swempie, 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, Woestynklopkloppie, Landeryklopkloppie en Spotlewerik om maar net 'n paar te noem.

Kom ons berei ons voor vir die begin van die lente en voltooi die winter in styl!

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 gruispaaie).

Besprekings: reservations@blng.co.za



Help us track South Africa's Secretarybirds in 2019

BirdLife South Africa has partnered with BirdLasser, a user-friendly app which allows birders to easily capture the location, date and time of a Secretarybird sighting. All of this information assists our conservation team to understand where South Africa's Secretarybirds are surviving and where we should focus our efforts to save these incredible birds. Breeding information can also be submitted via the app and is extremely useful as well. To assist with locating South Africa's Secretarybirds, please send an email to ernst.retief@birdlife.org.za and he will add you to the challenge. You can follow the progress of this challenge at:-

www.birdlasser.com/events/secretaryb2019



FORTHCOMING EVENTS



25 – 27 October 2019
Eagle's Nest / Luiperdskloof

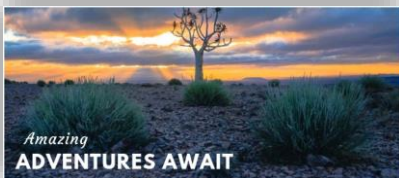
12 – 18 November 2019
My Pond Hotel, Port Alfred via
Garingboom (Springfontein)

13 – 16 December 2019
Going West - Baberspan

BirdLife Northern Gauteng
Your birding partner of choice!

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!



NOTES

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. In some instances, an entrance fee is 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 ō 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.