



BirdLife

Northern Gauteng

Gauteng-Noord

Club Programme: OCTOBER 2017 to JANUARY 2018

Klubprogram: OKTOBER 2017 tot JANUARIE 2018



Highlights in this programme include:

- **October (23-27) : Verlorenkloof**
- **November (10-12) : Zaagkuildrift**
- **December (15-18) : Wakkerstroom**
- **January (19-21) : Qôdesh**

October Oktober	2017	to tot	Januarie Januarie	2018
☼ Day Outings / Daguitstappies				Pg
2017				
Sat 07 Oct	Buffelsdrif			3
Sat 14 Oct	Hedianga Farm			3
Wed 18 Oct	Delta Park			5
Sat 21 Oct	Bronkhorstspruitdam			5
Sat 28 Oct	Roodeplaat Dam			6
Sat 04 Nov	Moreleta NR			7
Sat 18 Nov	Zusterstroom			9
Wed 22 Nov	Northern Farm			9
2018				
Sat 13 Jan	Buffelsdrif			12
Wed 17 Jan	Marievale			13
Sun 28 Jan	Suikerbosrand			14
☾ Evening Meetings / Aandbyeenkomste				
Tue 10 Oct	John Kinghorn			3
Tue 14 Nov	Ernst Retief			8
Tue Dec	No event			-
2018				
Tue 09 Jan	Stephan Terblanche			12
* Special Events / Spesiale Geleenthede				
Sat 25 Nov	Birding Big Day BBD			10
Sat 02 Dec	BLNG Year-end @ Rietvlei			11
🏕 Weekend Camps / Naweekkampe				
Oct 23-27	Verlorenkloof			6
Nov 10-12	Zaagkuilsdrift			8
Dec 15-18	Wakkerstroom			11
2018				
Jan 20-21	Qôdesh			13
○ Bird ringing / Voëlberinging				
Sat 07 Oct	Buffelsdrif			3
Sat 04 Nov	Moreletta NR			7
Sat 02 Dec	Rietvlei NR			10
2018				
Sat 13 Jan	Buffelsdrif			12

* **Please note** : This program is available on www.blng.co.za

* **Neem asb kennis** : Hierdie program is beskikbaar by www.blng.co.za



Dear fellow birders,

This program contains details of exciting BLNG events planned for the next 4 months from October 2017 until January 2018.

The program is conveniently also now available in Agenda format on the BLNG website. Go have a look!

We are looking forward to exciting camps coming up, specifically to Verlorenkloof (Oct), Zaagkuilsdrift (Nov), Wakkerstroom (Dec) and Qôdesh (Jan18).

We had an exciting and very much informing Accipiter morning course, presented by the very knowlegable Cameron Meyer. We are looking forward to an outing in the capable hands of Cameron during October.

In order to improve your birding experience, we request you to confirm attendance to all birding events via e-mail to reservations@blng.co.za

Much of the info in this programme came from *The Chamberlain Guide to Birding in Gauteng* by Etienne Marais and Faansie Peacock. It can be obtained from Riana Botha at the monthly club meetings or from Etienne Marais.

I would also like to thank everybody for their positive support and contributions to the BLNG events during the past.

A special word of thank you the BLNG Sub-Committee who assisted in putting this programme together. Without your help and support it would not have been possible.

BLNG greetings / BLNG groete.

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

Front cover: Lanner Falcon / Edelvalk
© Gerrie van Vuuren

OCTOBER / OKTOBER

🕒 Sat 7 Oct – Buffelsdrif: Bird Ringing

Meet / Ontmoet: To be confirmed at RSVP

Leader / Leier: Chris du Plooy

☎ 079 495 4632

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 12:00 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 12:00 per SMS sodat die leier jou in kennis kan stel as die uitstappte 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 7 Oct – Buffelsdrif

Meet / Ontmoet: 07:00

Leaders/ Leiers:

Alta Fraser & Michelle van Niekerk

☎ 082 855 4928 / 083 652 2929

SABAP2 Pentad(s): 2535_2825

Interesting mix of thornveld and agriculturally disturbed habitat that always delivers something interesting. You will also have the opportunity to join the ringers at the same site.

Directions: From the N1 take the R513 Sefako Makgatho Drive off-ramp (old Zambesi) to Cullinan. After 1 km turn left on the R573 to KwaMhlanga (Moloto Rd). After approx. 7 km turn left to Buffelsdrif (just after passing the Spar on your right). After 6 km of dirt road (going through the main gate on your way) turn right at Bosbok Street. At the T-junction, ± 500 m further on turn left, then look for the sign “Shongololo” and turn right. Meet at Rob’s house.

Interessante vermenging van doringveld en versteurde landbouhabitat wat altyd iets interessants oplewer. Jy sal ook die geleentheid kry om by die ringers aan te sluit in dieselfde omgewing.

Aanwysings: Vanaf die N1, neem die R513 Sefako Makgatho-afrit (ou Zambesi) en ry in die rigting van Cullinan. Na 1 km, draai links op die R573 na KwaMhlanga (Molotopad). Na ongeveer 7 km (net na die Spar) draai links na Buffelsdrif. Ry 6 km op die grondpad (ry deur die hoofhek oppad) en draai regs by Bosbokstraat, in die laagte. Draai links by die T-aansluiting ongeveer 500 m verder aan. Kyk dan uit vir die bordjie: “Shongololo”. Draai hier regs. Ons ontmoet mekaar by Rob se huis.

🕒 Tue 10 Oct – John Kinghorn

● CHAMPIONS OF THE FLYWAY

John Kinghorn will be sharing his experiences of taking part as one of the team members in the Champions-of-the-flyway race 2017, where the main aim was “Tackling the illegal killing of Birds in Turkey”.

Directions: Greek Orthodox Church, c/o Roper Street and Lynnwood Road, Brooklyn. It is across the road from University of Pretoria. Entrance from Roper Street. Limited parking if you use the entrance in Brooks Street.

John Kinghorn praat oor sy wedervaringe gedurende die “Champions-of-the-flyway 2017”. Hy was een van die spanede wat deelgeneem het en wat hulle beywer het om die onwettige doodmaak van voëls in Turkye te bekamp.

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

🕒 Sat 14 Oct – Hedianga Farm

Meet / Ontmoet: 06:00

Leader / Leier: Cameron Meyer

☎ 084 504 3124

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 Magaliesburg 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 property. The main target bird for the morning will be the Ovambo Sparrowhawk and putting into practice some of the tricks for finding these as

previously presented by Cameron in his Accipiter talk. However, other possible species to be found include Brown-backed Honeybird, Striped Pipit, Lazy Cisticola, Brown- and Black-crowned Tchagra and a variety of seed-eaters and other raptors. One can expect a bird list (seen or heard) of about 50 species for a mornings walk in October. See bird list (attached to the BLNG calendar on the BLNG website).

Please note that this outing will consist of a hike of approximately 4 to 5 km and 2.5 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.

Directions:

*** Coming from Johannesburg**

From the N1 north, take the Rigel offramp and turn right at the top onto the R50 (Delmas road). Continue on the R50 for 1.6 km and then turn left onto the M10 (Solomon Mahlangu). Continue for 6.4 km and then turn right onto Atterbury road. Continue on Atterbury Road for 2.7 km 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.

*** Coming from the East Rand**

From the R21 north, take the Nellmapius offramp and turn right at the top onto the M31 to Rietvlei. Continue on the M31 for 4km, pass Rietvlei on the right until you reach the T-junction with the R50 (Delmas road), where you will turn left. At the first robot, turn right into De Villebois. You will see a large unfinished concrete building in front of you. Continue along De Villebois for 7km until you reach a large fourway stop with Plantland on in front and to the right. Turn right into Atterbury road 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.

*** Coming from Pretoria**

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 Magaliesburg bergreeks en sluit 'n aantal ekologiese gebiede soos kwartsietriwwe, grasveld, tuine en groepe bloekornbome in. Ongeveer 114 voëlspesies is aangeteken in die gebied. Die hoof fokus vir die oggend sal wees die Ovambosperwer en om prakties sommige van die kunsies van hoe om hulle te vind, toe te pas, soos aangebied deur Cameron in sy Accipiter praatjie. Ander moontlike spesies wat gevind kan word sluit in die Skerpbek heuningvoël. Gestreepte koester, Luitinkinkie, Rooivlerktjagra, Swartkroontjagra en 'n verskeidenheid saadvreters en ander roofvoëls. 'n Mens kan 'n voëllys (sien/hoor) verwag van ongeveer 50 spesies vir 'n oggend stap in Oktober. Neem asseblief kennis dat die uitstappie sal bestaan uit 'n stap van ongeveer 4 tot 5 km wat 2.5 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.

Aanwysings:

*** Vanaf Johannesburg**

Neem die N1 noord, neem die Rigel afrit en draai regs by die bokant na die R50 (Delmas pad). Hou aan op die R50 vir 1.6 km en draai dan links op die M10 (Solomon Mahlangu). Ry aan vir 6.4 km en draai dan regs op Atterburyweg. Hou aan op Atterburyweg vir 2.7 km tot by die vierrigting stop waar Atterbury aansluit by De Villebois (Plantland is op die linkerkant). Gaan reguit oor die kruising

en hou aan op Atterbury tot by die eerste robot by die bopunt van die bult. Draai hier links in Ajaxlaan. Ry aan met 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 na 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.

* **Vanaf die Oosrand**

Vanaf die R21 noord, neem die Nellmapius afrig en draai regs op die bult op die M31 na Rietvlei. Hou aan op die M31 vir 4km, gaan verby Rietvlei op regterkant en ry tot by die T-aansluiting met die R50 (Delmas pad), waar jy links draai. Draai regs in De Villebois by die eerste robot. Jy sal 'n groot onvoltooid beton gebou voor jou sien. Ry aan met De Villebois vir 7km tot by 'n groot vierrigting stopstraat met Plantland voor jou op regterkant. Draai regs in Atterburyweg tot bo-op die bult. By die robot draai links in Ajaxlaan. Ry aan met 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 na 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.

Vanaf Pretoria

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.

Bespreking: reservations@blng.co.za

🌟 Wed 18 Oct – Delta Park	
Meet / Ontmoet: 07:00	
Leader / Leier: Geoff Lockwood	
☎ 082 346 2597	
SABAP2 Pentad(s): 2605 2800	
Coordinates	26°7'24"S 28°0'30"E

This popular 104 ha recreational park with its enclosed bird sanctuary is one of the most popular green patches in Johannesburg. The

park offers birders a good selection of woodland species and waterbirds. Remember to allow enough traveling time (**weeksdag**).

Directions: There is safe parking at the centre and main entrance, reached via Road No 3 or Road No 5 off Rustenburg Road, Victory Park, or at the corner of Pitcairn Road and Penelope Avenue in Blairgowrie.

Booking: reservations@blng.co.za

Hierdie 104 ha ontspanningspark met sy omheinde Voëlreservaat is een van die mees gewilde groen areas in Johannesburg. Vir voëlykers is daar 'n groot verskeidenheid watervoëls, woud- en tuinspesies. Hou in gedagte dis 'n weeksdag en reistyd na Johannesburg moet in ag geneem word.

Bespreking: reservations@blng.co.za

🌟 Sat 21 Okt – Bronkhorstspruitdam NR	
Meet / Ontmoet: 07:00	
Leader / Leier: Stephan Terblanche	
☎ 083 635 7651	
✉ s.terblanche142@gmail.com	
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. Earlier this year 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 3.7 km turn left onto the R42 towards Delmas. The entrance to the reserve is situated on the right, approximately 13.7 km further – signposted "Bronkies Angling & Nature Reserve". Follow this dirt road for 2.8km to the gate

Booking: reservations@blng.co.za

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

Aanwysings: Neem die N4 oos vanaf Pretoria na Bronkhorstspruit. Neem die R25 / Kemptonpark /

Delmas afrit en draai regs (Suid). Na 3.7 km draai links op die R42 na Delmas en ry 13.7 km. Die ingang na die reservaat is aan die regterkant by die "Bronkies Angling & Nature Reserve" teken. Volg die grondpad vir 2.8km tot by die hek.

Bespreking: reservations@blng.co.za

 23-27 Oct – Verlorenkloof
Mid-week event / Midweekkamp
Leader / Leier: Philip Calinikos

Verlorenkloof Estate is an exciting birding destination in Mpumalanga. Due to its wonderful array of habitats, birds are both diverse and numerous. To date, 186 species have been recorded on the estate, six of which are endemic to South Africa, while an additional 17 species are endemic to southern Africa. Seven species are listed in the South African Red Data Book – Saddle-billed Stork, Bataleur, Peregrine Falcon, Southern Bald Ibis, Southern Crowned Crane, Blue Crane and Broad-tailed Warbler.

The following is a summary of some of the birding highlights at Verlorenkloof Estate: Afro-montane Forest Walking through the numerous kloofs (e.g. Robin's Kloof, Verlorenkloof) look out and listen for the following forest species: African Goshawk, Black Cuckoo, Narina Trogon, Olive Woodpecker, Grey Cuckoo-shrike, Orange Ground Thrush, Chorister Robin, Yellowthroated Warbler, Cape Batis, Bluemantled Flycatcher and Collared Sunbird. These are all relatively uncommon species, which are more often heard than seen.

Accommodation: Two self-catering houses have been booked. Each contains 4 en-suite double rooms. Included in the price (see below), is one breakfast and a dinner.

The estate boasts a Deli and Coffee Shop.

Cost: R1 760 per person sharing

Booking: reservations@blng.co.za

Verlorenkloof Landgoed, naby Lydenburg, Mpumalanga is 'n baie opwindende voëlkykbestemming. Daar is 'n groot verskeidenheid voëlspesies en groot aantal voëls, hoofsaaklik as gevolg van die verskeie habitate. Die landgoed het al 186 verskillende spesies opgeteken met 6 Suid Afrikaanse endemiese spesies en 17 endemies tot Suider Afrika. Die 7 spesies wat in die 'South African Red Data Book' opgeneem is sluit in die – Saalbekoovievaar, Berghaan, Swerfvalk, Kalkoenibis, Mahem, Bloukraanvoel en Breëstertsanger. Spesiale voëls wat in die immergroen bergwoude voorkom sluit die volgende in: Afrikaanse Sperwer, Swart Koekoek, Bosloerie, Grysopspeg, Swartkatakoeroe, Oranjelyster, Lawaaimakerjanfrederik, Geelkeelsanger,

Kaapse Bosbontrökkie, Bloukuifvlievanger en Kortbeksuikerbekkie. Hierdie seidsame woudvoëls kom in die woude en klowe (bv. Robin's Kloof, Verlorenkloof) voor en word meer gereeld gehoor as gesien.




Die volgende habitate kan besigtig word vanaf Verlorenkloof; Immergroen bergwoude, berggrasveld, vleilande en suur graslande.

Akkommodasie: Twee selfsorg huise met 4 ensuite dubbelkamers is bespreek. Ingesluit by die prys (sien prys hieronder), is 'n ontbyt en 'n aandete.

Daar is ook op die landgoed 'n Deli en koffiewinkel.

Koste: R1 760 per persoon wat deel.

Bespreking: reservations@blng.co.za

 Sat 28 Oct – Rooodeplaas Dam
Meet / Ontmoet: 07:00
Leader / Leier: Greg Lock
 082 389 5464
 lockgreg@gmail.com
SABAP2 Pentad(s): 2535_2820

This outing should have a good mix of bushveld and waterbirds. Birding will be done by car, 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 6 km and then turn left to Kameelfontein (not Kameeldrift). After ± 3.7 km turn left and follow the dirt road to the entrance. Pay your fees (per person and per car) and meet your leader just inside the gate. Please bring your goodies for a bring-and-braai (remember some charcoal or wood).

Booking: reservations@blng.co.za

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

Aanwysings: Vanaf die N1 noord, neem die R513 Sefako Makgatho-afrit (ou Zambesi). Draai regs na Cullinan. Na ongeveer 6 km draai links na Kameelfontein (nie Kameeldrift nie). Na 3.7 km draai links en volg die grondpad vir 500 m tot by die hek. Betaal die fooie (per persoon en per voertuig) en ontmoet die leier net binne die ingangshek. Bring gerus goed saam vir 'n bring-en-braai na die uitstap (onthou hout of houtskeel).

Bespreking: reservations@blng.co.za

NOVEMBER / NOVEMBER

○ Sat 4 Nov – Moreleta NR: Bird Ringing

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 12:00 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 voëltyes van naby sonder 'n verkyker. Bring 'n stoel, hoed, voëlboeke en verversings saam. Bespreek asb. voor Vrydagmiddag 12:00 per SMS sodat die leier jou in kennis kan stel as die uitstappte 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.***

⚙ Sat 4 Nov – Moreletta NR

Meet / Ontmoet: 07:00 – 11:00

Leaders/ Leiers:

Keanu Canto & Alta Fraser

☎ 073 907 3116 / 083 652 2929

✉ reservations@blng.co.za

SABAP2 Pentad(s): 2545_2815

Join us for an exciting morning with a BLNG Young Birder, ie Keanu Canto!

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 and Neddicky. In the past, Red-chested Flufftail has been seen closeby to the

birdhide. **Moreletta NR is an excellent SABAP2 pentad birding venue!**

Toilet facilities are now available on the route, apart from the ones at Rademeyers Restaurant. 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 (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.

Sluit by ons aan vir 'n opwindende oggend se voëlkyk saam met Keanu Canto, 'n jong voëlkyker wat passievol is oor voëlkyk!

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 beginpunt, terwyl ervare voëlkykers altyd iets interessants sal sien. Die reservaat is in Moreletapark, skaars 5 min se ry vanaf die N1.

Spesies wat verwag kan word is Geelbeklyster, Muisvoëls, Gewone Mossie, Indiese spreeu, Fiskaallaksmen, Gewone Tarentaal, Kuifkophoutkapper, Bruinsylangstertjie en Neddikkie. In die verlede is Rooiborsvleikuiken al opgemerk naby die voëlskuiling!

Vir SABAP2 atlasblok (pentad) voëlkykdoeleindes, is Moreletta NR natuurlik uitstekend!

Daar is nou toiletfasiliteite op die roete beskikbaar buiten dié by Rademeyers Restaurant. Bring eie verversings. Buiten die besoek aan die voëlringers, sal die hele uitstappte omtrent 3 – 4 ure duur.

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 by Rademeyers Restaurant. Ontmoet hier.

📅 10-12 Nov :
Zaagkuilstrif & Kgomo Kgomo
Meet / Ontmoet: Friday afternoon
Leader / Leier: Rihann Geyser
☎ 084 293 6128
SABAP2 Pentad(s):
✉ reservations@blng.co.za
SABAP2 Pentad(s): 2510_2810, 2505_2810, 2510_2805, 2505_2805, 2505_2800

Arguably one of the best birding spots within easy reach of Johannesburg and Pretoria.

Over this exciting weekend, we will be taking to the streets of Zaagkuilstrif and Kgomo Kgomo! With prime acacia woodland being the dominant habitat, we will most certainly see most of the general Bushveld birds such as; Crimson-Breasted Shrike, Barred Wren-Warbler, Green-winged Pytilia, Chestnut-vented Tit-babbler, Waxbill Species and Southern Pied Babbler. The Warblers will be active and so will the Queleas. Large swarms of Queleas seem to cover the area with some awesome raptor watching later in the day! Some of the possible water birds are; Black-crowned Night-Heron, Squacco Heron, Yellow-billed Stork, an assortment of Ducks and Teals and if we are lucky Greater Painted-Snipe. The dry plains usually hold Chestnut-backed Sparrowlarks, Red-capped Lark and Kitzlitz's Plovers – keep an eye out for Temminck's Courser too!

Cost : R1 700.00 (includes dinner and breakfast/brunch)

CAMPING OPTION - IMPORTANT NOTICE

- * **COST :** R530 per person (including meals)
- * NO CARD FACILITIES AVAILABLE
- * 1 BUSH WAGON / TENT PER STAND
- * MAX 4 PERSONS PER STAND
- * MAX 1 VEHICLE PER STAND
- * NO ELECTRICITY AVAILABLE

IMPORTANT NOTICE LODGE ACCOMMODATION

- * NO CARD FACILITIES AVAILABLE
- * NO OWN ALCOHOL OR FOOD MAY BE BROUGHT ONTO THE PREMISES
- * PLEASE BRING OWN SWIMMING TOWELS
- * PRICE INCLUDE DINNER AND BREAKFAST

Directions to Zaagkuilstrif Lodge

Take the N1 north of Pretoria and pass Hammanskraal and the Carousel. At the "Pienaarsriver/Rust de Winter off-ramp, take the off-ramp and turn left towards the R101 (Old Warmbaths road). At the R101 turn right

(northwards) and drive over the bridge for a few 100 metres. You will see a turn to the left marked "Zaagkuilstrif" Turn left (check for trains before crossing the railway line). A short distance on there is a fork in the road – take the turn to the right. Follow this road for 17km. The only turn to the left is signposted: "ZAAGKUILSDRIFT BIRD SANCTUARY AND LODGE / Private Road / Matopi". Cross the Pienaarsriver and continue on the road. At the dead end turn right. There is another "Matopi" sign. Drive 2km and Zaagkuilstrif Bird Sanctuary and Lodge will be on the right hand side of the road". We meet at Zaagkuilstrif Bird Sanctuary and Lodge. (Owner : Gerrie Botha 0726871559).

Booking at reservations@blng.co.za

Hierdie opwindende naweek sal plaasvind by Zaagkuilstrif asook Kgomo Kgomo! Met prima akasiabosveld as die dominante habitat, sal ons sekerlik meeste van die algemene bosveldvoëls sien, soos die Rooiborslaksman, Gebande sanger, Gewone Melba, Bosveldtjerik, Sysiesoorte en Witkatlagters. Sangers sal aktief wees en so ook die Kweleas. Groot swarms Kweleas word oor die hele gebied gesien wat tot goeie roofvoëlwaarnemings later in die dag kan lei! Van die moontlike watervoëls is: Gewone Nagreier, Gewone Ralreier, Nimmersat en 'n verskeidenheid eende soos Teeleende en as ons gelukkig is 'n Goudsnip. Die droë vlaktes het gewoonlik Rooiruglewerike, Rooikoplewerike en Geelborsstrandkiewiete – hou ook jul oë oop vir Trekdrawwertjies!

Koste: R1 700 (aandete en ontbyt is ingesluit).

KAMPEERDERS NEEM KENNIS:

- * **KOSTE:** R530 per persoon (etes is ingesluit)
- * **GEEN KAARTFASILITEITE IS BESKIKBAAR NIE**
- * 1x BOSWAENTJIE / TENT PER STAANPLEK
- * MAX 4 PERSONE PER STAANPLEK
- * MAX 1x VOERTUIG PER STAANPLEK
- * **GEEN ELEKTRISITEIT IS BESKIKBAAR NIE**

VIR DIEGENE WAT TUISGAAN IN DIE LODGE:

- * **GEEN KAART FASILITEITE IS BESKIKBAAR NIE**
- * **GEEN EIE ALKOHOL OF KOS MAG INGBRING WORD NIE**
- * **BRING EIE HANDDOEKE VIR SWEM**
- * **AANDETE EN ONTBYT IS INGESLUIT BY DIE PRYS**

Aanwysings na Zaagkuilstrif Lodge:

Take the N1 north of Pretoria and pass Hammanskraal and the Carousel. At the "Pienaarsriver/Rust de Winter off-ramp, take the off-ramp and turn left towards the R101 (Old

Warmbaths road). At the R101 turn right (northwards) and drive over the bridge for a few 100 metres. You will see a turn to the left marked "Zaagkuildrift" Turn left (check for trains before crossing the railway line). A short distance on there is a fork in the road – take the turn to the right. Follow this road for 17km. The only turn to the left is signposted: "ZAAGKUILSDRIFT BIRD SANCTUARY AND LODGE / Private Road / Matopi". Cross the Pienaarsriver and continue on the road. At the dead end turn right. There is another "Matopi" sign. Drive 2km and Zaagkuildrift Bird Sanctuary and Lodge will be on the right hand side of the road".

Ons ontmoet by Zaagkuildrift Bird Sanctuary & Lodge.

(Eienaar : Gerrie Botha 072 687 1559).

Pretoria. Ingang in Roperstraat. Daar is beperkte parkering as u die ingang wat in Brooksstraat geleë is gebruik.

⚙ Sat 18 Nov – Zusterstroom
Meet / Ontmoet: 06:00
Leader / Leier: Rihann Geyser
☎ 084 293 6128
SABAP2 Pentad(s): 2535 2855, 2535 2900
✉ reservations@blng.co.za

LIMIT OF 10 CARS

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 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 Trichardspoot with its spectacular red cliffs towering above forest-like riverine woodland. This is certainly one of the most scenic drive 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 50km east towards Bronkhorstspuit and take the R25 offramp. Turn left (north) towards Groblersdal. After 25km turn right towards Zusterstroom (also signposted 'Amanzintaba'). Most of the route is on good gravel roads.

We will be meeting at 06:00 at the turn off to Zusterstroom (also signposted 'Amanzintaba').

MAKSIMUM VAN 10 MOTORS

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 (BBD) 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 Zusterstroompad, wat afdaal na Trichardspoot met sy indrukwekkende rooi kranse wat uittoring oor woudagtige rivierbos. Dit is sekerlik een van

☾ **Tue 14 Nov – Ernst Retief**

● GRASSLANDS

Exciting initiative to conserving grasslands birds

Conserving birds in the Grassland Biome is no easy task. They face many threats and some might become extinct if serious conservation measures are not implemented soon. BirdLife South Africa, in partnership with other NGOs and government, aims to formally protect large tracts of grasslands through the use of Biodiversity Stewardship. This is no easy task, but some great successes were achieved during the last few years. Ernst will report on these successes and future plans.

Directions: Greek Orthodox Church, c/o Roper Street and Lynnwood Road, Brooklyn. It is across the road from University of Pretoria. Entrance from Roper Street. Limited parking if you use the entrance in Brooks Street.

Opwindende projek om grasland voëls te bewaar

Bewaring van voëls in 'n Grasland Bioom is nie 'n maklike taak nie. Sommige spesies kan selfs uitsterf as stappe nie geneem word om hulle te bewaar nie. BirdLife Suid-Afrika, in vennootskap met ander NRO's en die regering, het ten doel om groot gebiede graslande formeel te beskerm deur met privaats grondeienaars saam te werk. Dit is nie 'n maklike taak nie, maar die afgelope paar jaar is groot suksesse behaal. Ernst sal verslag doen oor hierdie suksesse en toekomstige planne.

Aanwysings: Griekse Ortodokse Kerk, hoek van Roperstraat en Lynnwoodweg, Brooklyn. Dit is oorkant die straat van die Universiteit 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 wisselaar, ry 50km oos na Bronkhorstspruit en neem die R25 afrit. Draai links (rigting noord) na Groblersdal. Na 25km draai regs na Zusterstroom (ook aangedui as 'Amanzintaba'). Die grootste deel van die roete is op goeie gruispaaië.

Ontmoet hier om 06:00!

🌟 Wed 22 Nov – Northern Farms HBH
Meet / Ontmoet: 6:30
Leader / Leier: André Marx
☎ 083 411 7674
✉ turaco@telkomsa.net
SABAP2 Pentad(s): 2555_2755

A Hot Bird Hunt is an outing where the venue and details are determined based on the current birding conditions and special birds reported in the area.

The details of this outing will be communicated via the BLNG Alert message closer to the time.

Booking at reservations@blng.co.za is essential for all Hot Bird Hunt outings.

Please include your cell number in the reservation as WhatsApp is used during these meetings.

"Hot Bird Hunt" is 'n uitstappie wat bepaal word deur die huidige voëlkykomstandighede en spesiale voëls wat op hierdie stadium in die omgewing te sien is.

Die besonderhede van die uitstappie sal nader aan die tyd deur "BLNG Alert" bekend gemaak word.

Bespreking: Dit is noodsaaklik om per e-pos by reservations@blng.co.za te bespreek vir alle Hot Bird Hunts. Aangesien WhatsApp gedurende hierdie uitstappies gebruik word, vra ons dat selfoonnommers asseblief saam met bespreking verskaf word.

SATURDAY 25 Nov 2017
BIRDING BIG DAY

BLNG will participate and support the BLSA Birding Big Day (BBD) 2017 initiative.

The 2017 edition of Birding Big Day (BBD) will take place on

Saturday, 25 November 2017.

Last year more than a thousand birders recorded 654 species across the country, and in doing so raised valuable funds and data for bird conservation. This year we hope to break those records, with more species recorded, more funds raised for conservation and more people experiencing a fun day in nature.

BBD is for everyone, from novice to the most dedicated birders. You can take part in your local park or nature reserve, or make a weekend of it and head to one of South Africa's many popular birding destinations. Birders form teams and log all their sightings within a 24-hour period, using either the BirdLasser mobile app or a checklist.

Play along by entering your data on BirdLasser!

Teams are invited to log their sightings on the mobile app BirdLasser and share it to the dedicated BirdLasser Birding Big Day event page

(<https://www.birdlasser.com/events/bbd2017>)

All teams to register with BLSA. A donation of minimum R300 per team is required to qualify for a BirdLife South Africa Birding Big Day 2017 cloth badge.

Teams can enter one of two categories: the Open Category if they comprise up to four members, or the Community Category, which caters for large groups such as bird clubs.

There are great prizes to be won and much fun to be had, all in the name of bird conservation! For more information about how to take part, visit

www.birdlife.org.za or email

bbd@birdlife.org.za for an information pack.

BLNG gaan hierdie jaar aan die BLSA Birding Big Day (BBD) 2017 deelneem en die projek ondersteun.

Die 2017 Birding Big Day (BBD) sal plaasvind op **Saterdag, 25 November 2017**. Verlede jaar het 'n duisend voëlkykers 654 spesies oor die hele land aangeteken, en sodoende kosbare fondse en data vir voëlbewaring gegeneer. Hierdie jaar hoop ons om hierdie rekord te oortref, met meer spesies aangeteken, meer fondse ingesamel en meer mense wat 'n aangename dag in die natuur kan geniet. BBD is vir almal, van die nuweling tot die mees toegewyde voëlkykers. Jy kan deelneem in jou plaaslike park of natuurreserveat, of maak 'n naweek daarvan en besoek een van Suid-Afrika se baie gewilde voëlkykplekke. Voëlkykers vorm spanne en teken al hulle waarnemings binne 'n 24 uur periode aan, deur gebruik te maak van 'n BirdLasser mobile app of 'n lys. **Speel saam deur jou data op BirdLasser in te voer!**

Spanne word uitgenooi om al hul waarnemings op die mobiele app BirdLasser te log en dit te deel met die toegewyde BirdLasser gebeurtenis bladsy

<https://www.birdlasser.com/events/bbd2017>

Alle spanne moet registreer by BLSA. 'n Minimum donasie van R300 per span word vereis om te kwalifiseer vir die BirdLife South Africa Birding Big Day 2017 lapwapen. Spanne kan inskryf vir een of twee katagorieë: die Oop Katagorie vir spanne bestaande uit op tot vier lede, of die Gemeenskapskatagorie vir groot groepe soos voëlklubs. Behalwe dat dit prettig kan wees, kan groot pryse gewen word, alles in die naam van voëlbewaring! Vir meer inligting oor hoe om deel te neem, besoek www.birdlife.org.za of epos bbd@birdlife.org.za vir volledige inligting.

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 12:00 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.**



Sat 2 Des 2017

BLNG YEAR-END FUNCTION

We will have a bring-and-braai in the picnic area of the Coffee Shop at Rietvlei Dam at 12 noon. The Reserve will provide tables and braai facilities; the club will provide pap and sauce, as well as the fires. Please bring your own food provisions and a comfortable chair. Entrance fees payable: R45 for adults; R25 for pensioners and children under 16. Please come along and enjoy this social event with other club members to wrap up the year's events!

Directions: Take the R21 freeway to OR Tambo International Airport and exit at the Irene/Rietvlei Dam off-ramp. Turn left at the bottom of the off-ramp into Nellmapius Rd and proceed to a robot. Turn right here, direction Olifantsfontein, cross the Sesmylspruit and continue to the Rietvlei Nature Reserve sign on the left. Follow this road to the western entrance. We will meet at the Coffee Shop.

Alternative route: Take the R21 freeway to OR Tambo and exit at the Irene/Rietvlei Dam off-ramp. Turn left at the bottom of the off-ramp in Nellmapius Rd and proceed to a robot. Cross the robot and drive another 500 m to the entrance of the Reserve. Follow the directions to the Coffee Shop / Historic Farmhouse. We will meet at the Coffee Shop.



Ons hou 'n bring-en-braai in die piekniekarea van die 'Coffee Shop' by Rietvleidam om 12:00. Bring eie vleis, bykosse en 'n gemaklike stoel. Die Reserveat sal tafels en braaigeriewe voorsien, terwyl die klub vir pap-en-sous en die vure sal sorg. Ingangsoffoie betaalbaar: R45 vir volwassenes; R25 vir persone oor 60 en kinders onder 16. Kom geniet hierdie sosiale geleentheid saam met ander klubede om die jaar op 'n gesellige manier af te sluit.

DECEMBER / DESEMBER
○ Sat 2 Des – Rietvlei: Bird Ringing
Meet / Ontmoet: To be confirmed at RSVF
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 12:00 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

Aanwysings: *Neem die R21 snelweg na OR Tambo Internasionale Lughawe en draai af by die Irene/Rietveldam afd. Draai links in Nellmapiusweg en ry tot by 'n verkeerslig. Draai hier regs in die rigting van Olifantsfontein en St Georges Hotel; gaan oor die Sesmylspruit tot by die Rietvlei Natuurreservaat-bord aan die linkerkant. Volg hierdie pad tot by die westelike ingang. Ons ontmoet by die 'Coffee Shop'.*

Alternatiewe roete: *Neem die R21 snelweg na OR Tambo Internasionale Lughawe en draai af by die Irene/Rietveldam afd. Draai links in Nellmapiusweg en ry tot by 'n verkeerslig. Kruis die verkeerslig en ry nog 500 m verder tot by die ingang van die Reservaat. Volg die aanwysings na die 'Coffee Shop' / 'Historic Farmhouse'. Ons ontmoet by die 'Coffee Shop'.*

 15-18 Dec : Wakkerstroom
Meet / Ontmoet: Friday afternoon
Leader / Leier: Sheleph Burger tesame met Lucky Ngwenya (guide/gids)
 082 925 4005
SABAP2 Pentad(s): 2720_3005 and surrounds

Wakkerstroom, its vlei, forest patches and the surrounding grasslands is one of the most exciting birding areas in South Africa. Accompanied by Lucky, the BirdLife South Africa trained guide, will almost guarantee you the opportunity to see three endemic species which are restricted to Southern Africa's high altitude grasslands, Rudd's Lark, Botha's Lark and Yellow-breasted Pipit. Other specials include Blue Korhaan and Southern Bald Ibis, Red-chested Flufftail, Half-collared Kingfisher, Buff-streaked Chat, African Marsh Harrier and Montagu's Harrier, including many other wet- and grassland birds!

The services of Lucky has been secured for Saturday and Sunday (full days). On Monday (before returning home), members can bird on their own in the wetland and surrounds.

Accommodation: We will be staying at the BirdLife Wakkerstroom Centre, which consists of 12 x 2 bedded rooms. Very simple accommodation with communal ablutions, linen supplied (but no towels), kitchen and dining room as well as braai area.

Cost : Member's price - R660 per person for three nights.

Booking: reservations@blng.co.za

Wakkerstroom, sy vlei, woudgedeeltes en die omliggende grasvelde is een van die opwindendste voëlgebiede in Suid-Afrika. Saam met een van BirdLife Suid-Afrika se opgeleide gidse, is jy amper verseker van drie van die endemiese spesies, wat beperk is tot Suid-Afrika se hoogliggende grasvelde, naamlik die Vaalrivier- en Drakensberglerik, asook die Geelborskoester. Ander spesiale spesies sluit die Bloukorhaan, Kalkoenibis, Rooiborsvleikuiken, Blouvisvanger, Bergklipwagter, Afrikaanse Vleivalk en Blouvlleivalk, asook 'n menigte van ander vlei- en grasveld voëls in !

Die dienste van Lucky Ngwenya is vir beide Saterdag en Sondag gereël. Lede kan Maandag (voor daar huiswaarts gekeer word) op hul eie stoom voëls kyk in die vlei-land en omgewing.

Akkomodasie: *Ons gaan in die BirdLife Wakkerstroom-sentrum tuis, wat bestaan uit 12 x 2-bed kamers. Baie eenvoudige akkomodasie met gemeenskaplike abluasieriewe, linne (maar nie handdoeke nie), kombuis en eetkamer, sowel as 'n braai area.*

Koste : *Koste vir lede - R660 per persoon vir drie nagte.*

Bespreking: reservations@blng.co.za

JANUARY / JANUARIE 2018

☾ **Tue 09 Jan – Stephan Terblanche**

• **SWIFTS AND SWALLOWS**

Identifying swifts and swallows – made easy
Many birders find swallows difficult to identify, and swifts even more so. South Africa is particularly rich in these birds, and knowing what to look for makes it much easier to give these birds their correct names. Stephan will also give tips on when and where to look for “swallows”, and how to spot them more clearly and easily.

Directions: Greek Orthodox Church, c/o Roper Street and Lynnwood Road, Brooklyn. It is across the road from University of Pretoria. Entrance from Roper Street. Limited parking if you use the entrance in Brooks Street.

Om swaels en windswaels uit te ken – dis maklik
Voëlkykers sukkel dikwels met swaels, en met windswaels nog meer so. Suid-Afrika is besonder ryk aan hierdie spesies, en as

mens weet waarvoor om uit te kyk is dit veel makliker om hulle die regte naam te gee. Stephan gee ook wenke oor wanneer en waar om vir hulle uit te kyk, en hoe om hulle beter waar te neem.

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

○ Sat 13 Jan – Buffelsdrif: Bird Ringing
Meet / Ontmoet: To be confirmed at RSVP
Leader / Leier: Chris du Plooy
☎ 079 495 4632

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 12:00 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 12:00 per SMS sodat die leier jou in kennis kan stel as die uitstap die daik gekanselleer word. Dit gebeur soms dat die ringessie 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.***

○ Sat 13 Jan – Buffelsdrif
Meet / Ontmoet: 6:30
Leader / Leier: Marna Buys
☎ 072 620 2350
✉ anramb@gmail.com
SABAP2 Pentad(s): 2535_2825

Interesting mix of thornveld and agriculturally disturbed habitat that always delivers something interesting. You will also have the opportunity to join the ringers at the same site.

Directions: From the N1 take the R513 Sefako Makgatho Drive off-ramp (old Zambesi) to Cullinan. After 1 km turn left on the R573 to KwaMhlanga (Moloto Rd). After approx. 7 km turn left to Buffelsdrif (just after passing the Spar on your right). After 6 km of dirt road (going through the main gate on your way), turn right at Bosbok

Street. At the T-junction, ± 500 m further on turn left, then look for the sign “Shongololo” and turn right. Meet at Rob’s house.

Interessante vermening van doringveld en versteurde landbouhabitat wat altyd iets interessants oplewer. Jy sal ook die geleentheid kry om by die ringers aan te sluit in dieselfde omgewing.

Aanwysings: Vanaf die N1, neem die R513 Sefako Makgatho-afrit (ou Zambesi) en ry in die rigting van Cullinan. Na 1 km, draai links op die R573 na KwaMhlanga (Molotopad). Na ongeveer 7 km (net na die Spar) draai links na Buffelsdrif. Ry 6 km op die grondpad (ry deur die hoofhek oppad) en draai regs by Bosbokstraat, in die laagte. Draai links by die T-aansluiting ongeveer 500 m verder aan. Kyk dan uit vir die bordjie: “Shongololo”. Draai hier regs. Ons ontmoet mekaar by Rob se huis.

☼ Wed 17 Jan – Marievale
Meet / Ontmoet: 07:00
Leader / Leier: Bryan Groom
☎ 076 312 0275
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 64.5 km passing Delmas on the way. Turn right on the R42 to Nigel (no route marker). (This turn off is more or less 4 km past Delmas.) Go on for 31.8 km and turn right at the Marievale sign and travel for another 3.8 km to the Picnic Spot. **Meet here!** Total distance is 100 km (1½ hour’s drive).

- GPS coordinates
S26°21.456 E28°30.935.

Booking: reservations@bling.co.za

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

Aanwysings: Vanaf die N1 neem die Rigellaan-afrit en ry ooswaarts op die R50 vir 64.5 km 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. Ry vir nog 3.8km tot by die piekniekplek. **Ontmoet hier!** Totale afstand is 100 km (1½ uur se ry).
Bespreking: reservations@blng.co.za

🏕️ Weekend Camp: 20-21 Jan : Qôdesh
Leader / Leier: Philip Calinikos
☎️ 082 602 1346
www.godesh.za.org/directions/from-tshwanepretoria/

The owner of Qôdesh camping site on the banks of the Wilge river, has agreed to organize access to all the adjacent farms in the Wilgeriver Valley. The Wilgeriver Valley has produced a number of very special birds this year, including Finfoot, Mountain Wagtail, Olive Woodpecker, Southern Bald Ibis, African Goshawk, Black Sparrowhawk, Lanner Falcon, Brown Snake Eagle, Striped Pipit, Crowned Eagle and White-bellied Bustard at the nearby Renosterkop.

BLNG will be booking Camp sites at Qôdesh, More details will be communicated closer to the time.

Cost: R500 per person for the weekend.

Booking: reservations@blng.co.za

Directions: Please use the GPS coordinates provided here, as most GPS navigators will take you on the wrong route!

You have 2 gravel roads that you can choose from:

1. The shorter, more scenic road (used on a daily basis). Start at the N1/N4 crossing and follow the N4 towards Witbank in an Easterly direction for approximately 56km. Take the 2nd Bronkhorstspuit off-ramp i.e. "R25 Groblersdal, Bronkhorstspuit, R42 Delmas" at GPS coordinates:

25°49'09.3"S 28°44'37.6" E (-25.819246, 28.743774)

Turn left onto the R25 in the direction of Groblersdal. Follow the R25 towards Groblersdal for 25 km from Bronkhorstspuit. Turn right to Zusterstroom at GPS coordinates : 25°38'41.1"S 28°53'17.0" E (-25.644764, 28.888045) Follow the road, 4km tar, then 10km gravel. Turn right at the Qodesh sign board at GPS coordinates:

25°36'30.1" S 29°00'31.6" E (-25.608375, 29.008778) Follow the farm track and you are there.

Die eienaars van die kampterrein, Qôdesh aan die oewer van die Wilgerivier gaan vir ons toegang reël tot die plase in die Wilgerivier vallei omgewing. Die Wilgerivier vallei het alreeds hierdie jaar 'n groot aantal baie spesiale voëls opgelewer, onder meer Watertrapper, Bergkwikkie, Gryskopspeg, Kalkoenibis, Afrikaanse Sperwer, Swartspewer, Edelvalk, Gestreepte Koester, Kroonarend en die Witpenskorhaan by die naby geleë Renosterkop, BLNG gaan kamplekke bespreek by Qôdesh.

Meer inligting oor hierdie naweekkamp sal later aan die tyd bekend gemaak word.

Koste: R500 per persoon vir die naweek.

Bespreking: reservations@blng.co.za

☼ Sun 28 Jan – Suikerbosrand
Meet / Ontmoet: 07:00
Leader / Leier: Cleo Artemides
☎️ 083 626 1733
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 which are not normally seen on club outings. This outing will consist of driving along the circular route with frequent stops. Picnic and braai facilities are available. An entrance fee is payable:

R22 per adult;

R11 per pensioner/child; plus

R11 per vehicle.

Directions: Take the N3 south beyond Johannesburg towards Heidelberg. Take the R550 offramp. After approximately 3km turn left onto the dirt road marked Eendracht. Meet here. Total distance from Pretoria is about 100 km.

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 riwwe. Die uitstappie sal 'n rit met die sirkelroete behels waartydens dikwels gestop sal word. Piekniek- en braaifasiliteite is beskikbaar. Toegangsfoto is betaalbaar: R22 per volwassene; R11 per persoon/kind plus R11 per voertuig.

Aanwysings: Neem die N3-suid verby Johannesburg na Heidelberg. Neem die R550 afrit. Na 3 km draai links op die Eendracht-grondpad. Ontmoet hier. Totale afstand vanaf Pretoria is ongeveer 100 km.

Bespreking: reservations@blng.co.za

FORTHCOMING EVENTS



Notes

Forthcoming events will be announced via BLNG Alerts.

2018 BIRD OF THE YEAR
African Black Oystercatcher,
African Oystercatcher
Eng.); swarttobie (Afr.)



Join the Flock, 6-11 March 2018

Online bookings open 26 July 2017



For more information visit:
<http://www.birdlife.org.za/events/flock>
or call:
+27 (0) 11 789 1122



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 telephone: 012 807 4002.

🕒 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 e-mail. 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 012 807-4002.

🕒 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. Toegangfooie 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.