

PRESENTATION SUMMARIES, CONSERVATION REPORTS AND BIRD CLUB REPORTS OF THE WESTERN CAPE BIRDING FORUM MEETING HELD ON 1 OCTOBER 2016.

PRESENTATION SUMMARIES.

Samantha Ralston-Paton, from BirdLife SA Birds and Renewal Energy Program presented an update of minimising the impact of renewable energy on birds in South Africa.

Responsible development of renewable energy. (Summary)

BirdLife South Africa supports the responsible development of renewable energy in South Africa. The United Nations Sustainable Development Goals emphasise the need for universal access to clean, affordable energy, and the importance of climate change action. Energy and climate change are also closely linked most of the other Sustainable Development Goals. BirdLife South Africa engages on a strategic level to help ensure that the negative effects of renewable energy on birds are understood and minimised. We do not have the capacity to engage in the details of each and every project, but we will get involved in specific projects when it is important and strategic. Bird Clubs can play a valuable role in collecting data, sharing local knowledge and can alert BirdLife South Africa to strategic issues that we can help address.

A map of the proposed renewable energy projects and their status can be downloaded from the following website.

<https://www.environment.gov.za/mapsgraphics#renewable>

BirdLife South Africa and EWT's Best Practice Guidelines for Birds and Wind Energy were introduced after some projects were already proposed, and the recommendations took some time to be fully implemented. This has resulted in inconsistencies with regards to monitoring and information sharing requirements. However, all wind farms to date have been monitoring their impacts on birds, and reports can be obtained through applications using the Promotion of Access to Information Act.

BirdLife South Africa is drafting a report, which summarises the results of post-construction monitoring at 8 wind farms in South Africa (data used spanned a minimum of one year and no more than two years at each site). There was no definite evidence of displacement or disturbance, but there are a number of confounding factors and a meta-analysis of raw data would be of value. The average estimated fatality rate at the wind farms (accounting for detection rates and scavenger removal) ranged from 2.06 to 8.95 birds per turbine per year. The mean fatality rate was 4.01 birds per turbine per year. This places South Africa within the range of fatality rates that have been reported for North America and Europe. Raptors accounted for the majority of fatalities recorded (33%), followed by songbirds (28%). Threatened species affected by collisions with wind turbines included Blue Crane (3), Verreaux's Eagle (5), Martial Eagle (1) and Black Harrier (3). A high number (24) of Jackal Buzzard fatalities were also reported. It is still too early to draw firm conclusions, especially with regards to priority species that have not been affected thus far. However, guidelines are being drafted to improve impact assessment and mitigation for Verreaux's Eagle, Black Harrier and Cape Vulture.

BirdLife South Africa is also engaging with the solar energy sector. Guidelines for solar energy have been drafted, and BirdLife has partnered with the University of Cape Town to study the impacts of solar energy on birds.

The question of blacklisting or otherwise controlling the quality of bird specialists has been raised a number of times. This would require objective criteria that are consistently applied to all projects, and the capacity to check and review all reports. It would also require a consistent response. BirdLife South Africa's approach is to rather engage with specialists and the EIA process address concerns.

There are existing mechanisms (e.g. SACNASP) which can be used if a specialist's work or their ability is questionable.

Samantha invited interested parties to the 27 October Birds & renewable Energy Forum meeting.

Verlorenvlei Protected Areas Project by Samantha Schroder, Project Manager.

The aim of the Project is to assist landowners in the Moutonshoek valley and Verlorenvlei Estuary to create and maintain their vision of a productive, yet sustainable landscape. This is being achieved through the declaration of a Protected Environment in Moutonshoek and a conservancy around Verlorenvlei. The conservancy will allow for the inclusion of existing stewardship sites around the vlei.

Verlorenvlei is a waterbody of great beauty with over 180 bird species using it as their home and surrounded by a community of mostly intensive agriculture landowners. The landowners who live, breathe and farm these areas are at the centre of such projects, and if conservation is to succeed, we need to meet their needs, as well as our own. But what are these needs, and how can conservationists meet them? The Verlorenvlei Protected Areas Project was initiated to implement stewardship actions around Verlorenvlei Estuary, which is both a Ramsar site and Important Bird and Biodiversity Area (IBA). Biodiversity stewardship is essentially about building trust with private landowners and working in partnership to protect important ecosystems.

The Krom Antonies River which runs through Moutonshoek supplies 60% of the water volume and 90% of the water quality to the Verlorenvlei Estuary, which is listed as an Important Bird and Biodiversity Area (IBA SA 103) and a Ramsar site. This secretive river contains three threatened fish species, namely the endangered Verlorenvlei Red, which is genetically different from the Berg River Redfin and therefore a new species of its own. The Cape Galaxias and Cape Kurper are both classified as Near Threatened and also found within this river system.

PAARL BIRD SANCTUARY: COMBATING CRIME AND VANDALISM by John Fincham.

Background: Paarl Bird Sanctuary (PBS) was proclaimed in 1994 at the instigation of Town Engineer Ben Heunis. He was encouraged by James Harrison and Dr Tony Williams of the ADU/UCT, Jan Hofmeyr of the Cape Bird Club (CBC) and local birders. Sustained support of the Municipal Engineering Department and the entire operational staff at the Waste-water Treatment Works (WWTW) has been fundamental and is ongoing. CBC inputs have been monthly CWAC counts for almost 22 years, as well as financial and material contributions towards some of the original bird hides. CBC member Yvonne Weiss has co-ordinated the counts and submitted the data throughout this long period.

Bird count data from a ten year period has been analysed and published (Harebottle DM et al., *Ostrich* 2008, 79(2): 147-163). The study concluded that PBS is the second most important wetland for water birds in the Cape Town area; and that it should be declared a Ramsar Site and an Important Bird Area. PBS also became known internationally and regionally as a top birding site.

Current Problems: During recent years PBS has been beset by vandalism and crime. International and local visitors have been threatened with knives and guns, and robbed. Bird hides have been destroyed, rebuilt and destroyed again. The Yvonne Weiss viewing platform has been severely damaged twice. Visitors have dwindled drastically as a result. The bird counts and ringing continue under costly security cover.

Searching for a Solution: PBS and the WWTW belong to all the residents of Paarl who pay the taxes that fund operation, maintenance and development. A project is underway to explain to adjacent communities why these facilities are unique assets for education about the environment and health, as well as for research, tourism and recreation. The primary objective is to convince local people that property belonging to them is being damaged, and to motivate them to support and use the facilities, which should help to combat crime and vandalism. A Business Plan for the project has been accepted by Senior Drakenstein Municipal Management.

The initial approach is through schools since it is likely that children and teachers can influence the communities they serve. Encouraging results from 7 schools have been summarised for this meeting by Jo Hobbs. In addition we are prepared to speak to a wider constituency, including business forums, commerce, the wine industry, agriculture, churches, technicians, universities and government departments.

For this WCBF meeting, slides will be used to convey our thesis for school teachers. Emphasis is placed on birds as crucial environmental and ecological indicators globally, regionally and locally. The biodiversity of the Berg River will be considered, as will birds in relation to public health. Tourism, job creation and recreation, will be mentioned briefly if time permits.

(Note: a positive new development is that the Municipality intends enclosing the entire perimeter of PBS with a high-grade security fence).

CONSERVATION REPORTS

Western Cape Regional Conservation.

October 2016 Progress Report: by Dale Wright.

Regional Conservation Manager: Western Cape, BirdLife South Africa.

1. Regional Conservation Programme Funding

BirdLife South Africa recently received the good news that the Rupert Natuurstigting has approved a funding proposal to cover the running costs of the Western Cape Regional Conservation Programme for a further five years, committing R2, 750, 000 to the Programme. This very generous donation will ensure that Dale can continue the good work established during these past five years of the

programme. In addition, a proposal to the Table Mountain Fund for R250 000 has been approved; for a project entitled “Enhancing NGO involvement in protected area expansion”. This project will allow Dale to investigate the challenges faced by NGOs involved in protected area expansion, develop solutions to these challenges and review alternative mechanisms for securing sites for biodiversity. This project kicked off in October 2016 and will run for two years.

2. IBA Programme

The BirdLife International partnership and other global conservation organisations launched the new “Key Biodiversity Areas” standard at the recent IUCN conference in Hawaii. This approach seeks to unite all site-based prioritization standards under a single currency, in order to streamline biodiversity conservation worldwide. BirdLife International has taken a lead role in this process, and will maintain a lead on the KBA Secretariat going forward. This is to ensure all of the hard work done through the global IBA Programme is not lost, but helps form the backbone for the new set of sites to be identified. BirdLife South Africa has already approached SANBI and other partners to take the lead on KBA identification in South Africa, to ensure that our IBAs are included in this network and to prioritize their conservation.

The official announcement is available at this link:

http://www.westerncapebirding.co.za/overberg/conservation/601/launch_of_the_key_biodiversity_area_partnership

Hard copies of the Directory and Status Report are still available from Dale Wright; the new Regional IBA pamphlets have been printed and are available for distribution.

3. Verlorenvlei Protected Areas Project

BirdLife South Africa has successfully secured a small grant from the Greater Cederberg Biodiversity Corridor to undertake an awareness raising and planning exercise at Verlorenvlei estuary. This will start in November 2016 and assist in the establishment of the Verlorenvlei Conservancy.

The documentation required for the final declaration of the Moutonshoek Protected Environment is in process, as is the sustainability project investigating long-term financing and management of the site. The project was also recently filmed for 50/50 and we look forward to that exposure.

4. Western Cape Estuary Conservation Project

The project has made good progress of late; including moving towards re-establishing the Lower Berg River Conservancy, and assisting landowners with developing river maintenance plans. The project manager has also been commenting on zonation plans regarding the recreational use of the Bot and Klein estuaries – ensuring the correct activities occur in the right locations can have major implications for the conservation of the estuaries. Contact has also been made with members of the Walker Bay Conservancy, and this will be used as a platform to elevate the conservation in the buffer zone around the Klein River Estuary.

5. Vergenoegd Waterbird habitat and water quality project

Continues as planned.

6. False Bay Nature Reserve Partnership

Fundraising efforts continue, with a number of donors approached, and a submission to the Australian Embassy for an environmental education project. Included with this report is a letter received from participants of the Birdathon who won the prize to attend the CTEET overnight

environmental education camp. This letter illustrates the amazing opportunities and experiences which the Birdathon provides to members of the local community. The letter is available at this link: http://www.westerncapebirding.co.za/overberg/conservation/600/appreciation_from_zeekoevlei_primary_school

7. Additional Regional Projects

Dale is currently undertaking his first field trip for the “Forest endemic bird species project”; collecting data at Mkhambati Nature Reserve and Mbotyi Forest in the Eastern Cape.

A new Biodiversity Stewardship partnership project is being launched with South African National Parks to help protect land which forms part of the Wilderness – Sedgefield Lakes Complex IBA within the Garden Route National Park buffer zone.

The Regional Programme continues to provide input on multiple steering committees and forums, review and comment on relevant environmental impact assessments, and contribute popular articles to various platforms.

To – BirdLife Partner CEOs - Launch of the Key Biodiversity Areas Partnership

Dear Colleagues,

I am delighted to inform you that the new Key Biodiversity Areas Partnership will be launched at the World Conservation Congress in Hawaii on the 3rd September.

Eleven of the world’s leading nature conservation organisations (BirdLife International, IUCN, Amphibian Survival Alliance, Conservation International, Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund, Global Wildlife Conservation, IUCN, Natureserve, RSPB, Wildlife Conservation Society, and World Wildlife Fund International), will come together to deliver a shared initiative to support the identification, mapping, monitoring, and safeguard of KBAs through the KBA Partnership.

As you know BirdLife has engaged fully and for some time in the complex and multi-stranded work and negotiations to develop a KBA Standard and an appropriate and functional KBA governance mechanism for the KBA Partnership. We recognise the great benefits that a unified global currency for the most important sites for biodiversity conservation can provide to decision-makers, the private and financial sector and the conservation community. But it has been essential to ensure that the interests of the BirdLife Partnership and the investment over 40 years of our work in over 120 countries to identify and conserve thousands of IBAs are fully recognised and provide a strong foundation for KBAs.

BirdLife Council, advised by Council’s Science Policy and Information Working Group, has provided strategic direction, set clear red lines, monitored progress and mandated the Secretariat to lead on these negotiations on behalf of the BirdLife Partnership over the last 18 months. At BirdLife’s 54th meeting in June 2016, Council approved BirdLife joining the new KBA Partnership on the basis of the core principles agreed at a governance meeting in February 2016 between 11 conservation organisations. These conditions have been met and the final KBA Agreement text has been approved by BirdLife’s Chair, Treasurer and Chair of the SPI Working Group ready for signature in Hawaii.

Significant elements of BirdLife's role in the KBA Partnership will include managing the *World Database on KBAs* on behalf of the KBA Partnership; having a permanent voting seat on the KBA Committee; and co-hosting with IUCN the KBA Secretariat. The KBA identification process is perceived as a strongly bottom-up process where BirdLife Partners may choose to play a crucial role. BirdLife is now extremely well positioned to advance this work and take advantage of the new opportunities presented by IBAs and KBAs. This will importantly include reinvigorating our efforts to ensure that information at these sites is regularly updated and monitored and that this information is accessible, visually appealing and fully used to strengthen site conservation and safeguard at all levels.

I enclose a flyer which will be used to communicate KBAs at the Congress. Also a media release is being prepared which BirdLife's communications team will share with your staff in the next few days.

This is just the beginning of the KBA journey. We realise the importance of ensuring clear, timely and comprehensive information to you on what the KBA Partnership means to the BirdLife family and to our strong tradition on IBAs. The Secretariat will be working closely with you over the next few months to talk through and seek your input to the next steps. This will include a series webinars to further explain and discuss different strands of IBA and KBA work. The first in the series was held on 21st July and if you couldn't make it and would like to learn more please look at this link <https://vimeo.com/180492568> (password: ibakba) You can also view the PowerPoint presentation from the webinar with background at this link: <https://partnership.birdlife.org/display/BAIW/KBAs+at+the+World+Conservation+Congress>

If you have any comments or questions regarding the KBA initiative, we would like to hear from you! Please do not hesitate to contact me and Melanie Heath, Director of Science, Policy and Information who is leading this work, with your queries. We are currently preparing additional simple guidance on all aspects of the KBA programme and your feedback will help shape these.

I'm extremely excited about BirdLife's role in the KBA initiative. Working to prevent species extinctions and maintain the diversity of life on earth is core to Birdlife's mission - equipping decision makers with the data and knowledge on the most important places for nature is fundamental to achieving this. Our strong foundation on the IBA work is serving the rest of the Conservation Community and I couldn't be more proud of all what we have been able to achieve. With this opportunity we are using our expertise, knowledge and experience on the ground to make IBAs and areas that are important for biodiversity easier to be known, understood and adopted by decision makers. Thanks for you continued support and your hard work on conserving IBAs and KBAs.

With best wishes,

Patricia Zurita. Chief Executive Officer, BirdLife International.

05 September 2016 - Dear Birdlife South Africa Directors and Staff members.

I hope our letter finds you all in good health. An amazing event took place over this past weekend.

Due to us winning your competition that was linked to the Birdathon walk, 29 of our learners attended a camp at CTEET at Zeekoevlei. Our children had the time of their lives. They learned new things, gained valuable knowledge and were exposed to many new experiences. Their night walks and Dragon boat activities rated the most popular. The camp leaders Justine, Luvuyo and Phillipa are just the best!! The showers were a hit. For most the showers were a new experience and thoroughly enjoyed by all. For many of our children it was their first experience out of their respective communities.

The respectful manner in which they were treated by all your staff members was heart-warming. The food served was really enjoyed by all. For many of our learners, the food served was a luxury. The cooks Mrs Barry and Aunty Miriam are such sweet and caring ladies. From the bottom of our hearts, a huge thank you for the sacrifice you made in terms of finances, time and effort. It is and will still be appreciated for a very long time to come.

We wish your Company all the success you deserve. Continue leading the way in showing other companies what real caring means. May God bless each and every one of you.

Best wishes and lots of love,

Staff, Parents, Learners and community of Zeekoevlei Primary School.

4. PAARL BIRD SANCTUARY REPORT FOR WCBF MEETING - 1 October 2016. by Jo Hobbs.

Since my report at the last WCBF meeting on 4 June, John Fincham and Skhumbuzo Mbewu have updated their PowerPoint presentation and visited two more Drakenstein schools. This means that so far more than 160 local teachers have been made aware of the potential of the Paarl Bird Sanctuary and Waste Water Works area as an outdoor classroom for environmental studies.

School visits to PBS: The first official school visit took place over two days on 1 and 2 September and was extremely successful. Almost 80 pupils of the Desmond Mpilo Tutu High School in Mbekweni were given a tour of the Waste Water Works guided by staff members as part of their school curriculum on water purification. The second half of the morning was devoted to an introduction to the birds of the sanctuary. Bird ID sheets were provided for each pupil. Skhumbuzo Mbewu guided the groups on a walk around the inner pans to identify the birds and explain various environmental aspects. He also discussed career possibilities in conservation and tourism and answered numerous questions. John Fincham and other CBC members set up telescopes on the bird viewing platform overlooking Pan A and some extra binoculars were also provided. Some time was spent studying the birds from here. The pupils completed an Evaluation Form after their visit and were invited to add their comments. These, without exception, were highly enthusiastic. They really appreciated and enjoyed the experience. Bus transport and mid-morning refreshments were sponsored by the Drakenstein municipality whose staff members have been extremely helpful and supportive throughout. The vandalised toilet facilities have been repaired. Plans for additional security fencing are not yet finalised.

Planned meetings: Following the recent local municipal elections some new councillors have been appointed to the Drakenstein municipality. One of them has proposed a meeting to include the portfolios of the environment, youth affairs and tourism. This will provide orientation and an opportunity to discuss forward planning and action. Further meetings are also anticipated with municipal staff and with members of the Paarl Bird Sanctuary Advisory Committee. John has also been contacted by officials from the National Department of Environmental Affairs who have requested a meeting, probably towards the middle of October when one of their key members will be visiting Cape Town.

Funding: Regarding financial sponsorship, we have to thank the Cape Bird Club for providing start-up funding of R10 000 to cover Skhumbuzo's time and expertise and John's fuel costs for the months up to the date of the school visit. However, this is now exhausted. We have had no news from other potential sponsors but will continue efforts to raise additional funds to enable the project to continue.

Note: At the WCBF meeting on 1 October John Fincham will summarise the history of PBS and describe some of the educational information discussed with teachers. Evidence that birds are powerful environmental and ecological indicators globally, regionally and locally is reviewed. It is emphasised that children need to see and experience birds in order to understand how important they are to humans.

WCBF – Cape West Coast Bird Club by Keith Harrison.

1. Environmental Status.

The West Coast is at a crossroad environmentally, the current laid back attitude to environmental problems has to rapidly change because of the UN declaration that Saldanha Bay Municipality has the possibility to become a "Green City" with a population increase from 107,000 to 880,000, and must be self-sufficient. Industrially concentrating upon being the base for Western African Oil/Gas industry, Mineral beneficiation and fishing where Saldanha is also to greatly expand the Mariculture industry.

How does this effect birds.

In order to compete with overseas producers Saldanha Steel has to produce its own electricity and for other industries. The logical site straddles a flyway between the two IBAs Lower Berg River SA104 and Langebaan Lagoon and Islands SA 105. Ornithologists have admitted that there is migration between the two but there has been no professionally accurate mapped flyway. Therefore before development commences the 4 flyways should be accurately defined, so that corridors can be left for bird passage.

Not only there are problems with this plant but also Grid lines going to Aurora Sub-station.

It should be noted that between 2009 and 2014 Kelp Gulls breeding pairs on the West Coast fell by 41%. Kelp Gulls use this flyway daily between the two IBAs.

Extensions to the Harbour for the Oil/Gas industry will involve dredging which will cause siltation to the Lagoon, with changes the habitat and makes it unsuitable for migrant waders. The "wader pans" and Yzerfontein and Red Pans should be considered for preparation to attract more waders.

2. Large Tourism/Holiday Home development at Trekoskraal, sited between Jacob's Bay and Cape Columbine on an isolated stretch of coastline. Consisting of approximately

1000 erven, which includes a 120 room hotel. No Avian Specialist Report was considered necessary for the Scoping Report. After previous applications it seems that an area has been allowed to be degraded by camping and 4X4 activity, development would impart some controls.

3. Berg River Estuary Management Forum.

- Water Monitoring,- Phase 1 completed chemical analyses, and “trigger points identified”. Phase 2 the biological monitoring stage to commence.
- Bank erosion being monitored, it is suspected little can be done to stop the banks eroding due to tide, wind and powerful boat activity.
- Hyacinth problem under control but further infestation coming down from the Winelands Municipal Area.
- By-laws for the river use have been drafted and are with the Mayor of Berg River Municipality. Control of river users expected for this summer.
- Angling, there is now a “Catch and Release” Club at Velddrif.
- Ramsar status – see BLSA Report.

4. Mining.

- Elandsfontein Phosphate Mine has a monthly information bulletin in the Local Press.
- Application received for prospecting for phosphate and limestone adjoining railway at Saldanha.

5. Requests for Advise received.

- SBM, need to clear out a reed infested storm water channel, stopped until Cape Weavers and Southern Red Bishops complete their breeding seasons, about 4000 birds involved.
- SAMSO, are concerned about a proposal to use “Big Bay” Saldanha for para-sailing and kite-boarding and affect upon birds, this is a post breeding moult area for Cape Cormorants.
- Honorary Rangers. Placement of a dead tree near the Abrahams Kraal Hide to assist photographer/birders, excellent idea but reeds and sediment should be removed first. Removal of the hides at the “Wader Pans”. The area can be an integral part in the birding experience of the Park especially in the future when the Lagoon changes from being wader friendly, these pans will become important feeding areas and need developing.

CAPE BIRD CLUB CONSERVATION REPORT by Dave Whitelaw.

Conservation Report WCBF September 2016.

GENERAL ITEMS:

LIBAS: The criteria for LIBAs (locally important bird areas) has been circulated with no criticisms. This will now be formally presented to BLSA with a view to further discussion.

SABAP2 : Les has requested financial support to employ statisticians to ensure “clean data”. He appealed to clubs for support. WCBF should consider approaching the ADU to ensure that this process is progressing and if necessary assisting to ensure that it is completed.

CBC ITEMS:

Strandfontein

i) BLSA and the CBC are in the process of entering into an MOA (memorandum of agreement. (no longer an MOU). A disturbing feature is that we (BLSA/CBC) will be required to take out R20million public liability insurance. We’re referred it to the BLSA HQ for their comment.

ii) M.Sc Erica Essig has completed her Master’s dissertation, funded by the Julie te Groen Trust and is awaiting final confirmation. Both external examiners commented favourably. Research examined methods of improving wader habitat in artificial wetlands, which could have important conservation implications.

iii) Hyacinth: We are negotiating with the City to share expenses to spray the water hyacinth which covers 2 pans and an ongoing invasion of other pans.

iv) Breeding Banks: CBC has started an innovative plan to construct breeding banks. Fund has have been set aside for a student to study best method to achieve this.

Other Matters:

Sewage Works: We are continuing our outreach to other sewage works. Our plans were discussed with central management and were warmly received. Plans are now afoot to improve habitat at Mitchell’s plain and include Borchards Quarry in ongoing assessment.

Plans to mine silica in the Philippi area have been approved. We have appealed against the decision, but there is little chance that the decision will be overturned.

Rehabilitation of mined areas: We are in consultation with Consol glass to assist them in rehabilitating mined area.

Paarl Sewage Work. John , Jo and Skhumbuzo’s sterling work there will be addressed by John, but we need to determine whether they require assistance and the forum’s role in future developments.

Beyond the Cape Peninsula:

Berg River – This area, after Langebaan, is the arguably most important wetland in the Western Cape. Recent discussions with non birders (but conservationists) were disturbing. We should debate this with the West Coast BC and decide:

- i) whether the comments which we relayed to them are correct and
- ii) decide on a course of action if there are conservation concerns at this site.

BIRD CLUBS REPORTS

BIRDLIFE OVERBERG

HIGHLIGHTS SINCE THE LAST FORUM MEETING by Helé Oosthuizen.

MONTHLY TALKS, WORKSHOPS AND OUTINGS

- Our annual talk on a topic not related to birds as such highlighted the work of the Cape Leopard Trust. BLO members sponsored a camera trap and this was now placed in the Kogelberg Biosphere Reserve.
- Peter Ryan's talk on plastic in our oceans was very well received and attracted a record attendance for our club. Highly recommended.
- Our annual fun quiz evening remains popular.
- Jessie Walton and Rob Martin spoke on the Brown-backed Honeybird and Karoo Prinia brood parasite interplay: Fascinating research findings from the Overberg region. Highly recommended.
- The birding delights of the Tankwa Karoo by Anton Odendal. This talk was initially developed for the Flight for Birders course and is now being used to attract birders to the Witzenberg region.
- Andre Botha, the Manager of the Birds of Prey Programme at the EWT presented a two day workshop on the identification of raptors. Certainly a must do as he focuses strongly on the identification of juvenile, immature and sub-adult raptors.
- Four Flight for Birders courses done in the period under review. 90+ individual have been signed up to bird clubs and/ or BirdLife South Africa so far this year.
- Several members participated in pelagic cruises with the Dyer Island Conservation Trust from Kleinbaai. This is a grand new addition to the promotion of birding tourism in our region.

FUTURE EVENTS:

- The upgraded edition of the birdfinder web page for the Cape Whale Coast region (Overstrand municipality) will be launched before the December holiday period. This is being developed through a grant from the Table Mountain Fund.
- We will in future do monthly bird counts at the Arabella Country Estate.
- Midweek outing to the new chalets in the Algeria section of the Cederberg Wilderness between Sunday 16 to Friday 21 October.
- Flight for Birders courses scheduled for Intaka Island, Century City on Saturday 29 and Sunday 30 October and Sedgefield on Friday 27 January and Saturday 28 January.
- BLO's Cape Rock-jumper team will attempt to crack 200+ species in the Overstrand during Birding Big Day on 26 November.
- Annual Nature's Valley midweek outing between 29 January and 3 February.

WITZENBERG BIRD CLUB by Mark Watt.

Brief History:

The WBC was officially established in early 2016 as part of a drive to formalize bird watching activity in the Witzenberg region. For many years there have been avid bird watches in the greater community and through those early “pioneers” and subsequent birding activity, the club was launched with great expectation drawing close to 50 members on the opening night. Since then, we have continued to grow in numbers and across the region we are being recognized and promoted through tourism websites and the local tourist offices.

Highlights since the last Forum meeting: WBC hosted two guest speakers in June/July with one speaking on a trip to the Gallipolis Islands and the other on Bird Life Western Cape activities. Both

were well received and our members have expressed interest in seeing them return for follow up talks. Additionally, we conducted two outings into the surrounding area: Ceres Karoo near Inverdoorn and the Droekloof Valley 30kms from Ceres on the Koue Bokkeveld road.

New outing venues that can be recommended: Several members have suggested continued good birding in the Koue Bokkeveld region (Gys se Huis Guest House on Rocklands Farm being of specialist mention by a number of local and visiting birding groups) and in the Agter Witzenberg Valley where there are a number of camp sites (Panorama farm is especially good) that offer great facilities and birding opportunities. Likewise, the dam on Kaleo Guest Farm has continued to surprise birders with its species diversity and weekend activities.

Learning points that would be good to share: We are in the process of securing support from Bergsig Wine Estate in the form of a location to hold weekend luncheons followed by bird walks through their mountainous regions. We have struggled with a few local businesses in securing value pricing and support, so the learning is use your bird club network to drive interest and gain support.

Conservation initiatives: The WBC is beginning to find its feet and is still very much in its early days phase. However, we are pushing hard through local tourism offices to have the municipality improve rubbish collection and cleanup of the mountain and river systems. This is ongoing work with the Ceres Business Initiative and other local lobby groups. Our goal is to visit a number of schools in 2017 as part of the Breyton Pulse Foundation and Education Trust to increase awareness on just birds but the general fragility of our mountainous habitat and the destruction on local breeding sites and sensitive fynbos growth. Similarly, we are continuing to engage WWF and Birdlife SA on incorporating more farm land into their networks. Hopefully we'll have more movement on this front in due course.

Initiatives/projects that would benefit from inter club cooperation: Nothing at this stage.

Important upcoming events: Anton Odendal will speak on the Birding delights of the Tankwa Karoo at our club meeting on 13 October and our club welcomes any interested birders for a Saturday long lunch and bird walks at Bersig Wine Estate in the first week of December. Our Facebook page will have further details in due course.

I have also copied a few of the WBC Committee on this reply, hoping they can add information that I may have missed or incorrectly phrased.

Many thanks Anton for your continued support and interest. It's a slow burn but we'll get there.

WEST COAST BIRD CLUB by Colin de Kock WCBC Chairman.

Comment on activities for West Cape Birding Forum 01 October 2016.

1. Highlights etc:

In April we were addressed by a West Coast local, Eric Hermann, who is a well known environmentalist, on his cycle trip from Norway to Thailand focussing for us on birds.

His talk was that popular that we had him back on 17 September to talk about canoeing down the Orinoco River and some tributaries and then cycling down the length of Colombia and Ecuador.

2. Venues:

A trip was made to Pomona Farm on Piket-bo-Berg. This is a fruit and protea farm. The birds were somewhat scarce chiefly as a result of the drought. The flowers were fantastic.

3. Schools project:

The schools programme which the WCBC launched several years ago under the auspices of BLSA's SOS program, now functions, with funding this year from the Anne Gray Fund, as an educational programme to schools

The programme started somewhat slowly mainly due to co-ordination problems with schools, somewhat exacerbated by the high number of public holidays and local elections.

A report from the convenor and a listing of schools visited are attached.

It is hoped that some form of subsidy/funding can be facilitated through BLSA to assist in making this a sustainable program.

4. Conservation initiatives:

The WCBC has commenced an interaction with the West Coast Fossil Park.

The initial action is to do a thorough atlassing of the property and with the aid of population and ground mapping to attempt to identify whether there are areas of the property which have an attraction to different species.

With that information, we then hope to expand the interaction to developing, for example, more waterpoints, as an attraction for the birds.

Interaction with the local residents of Green Village which is situated in the grounds of the greater Fossil Park is also envisaged, starting with exposing the children to birding.

Keith Harrison will comment, as an agenda item, on the plethora of environmental concerns on the West Coast peninsula.

5. Outings

Berg river at Kuifkopvisvanger farm: we arrange this outing to co-incide with the final day of the annual Berg River Marathon. A braai is held at the Farm after the outing, where we watch the rowers come through a couple of km's above the finish.

Rocher Pan: this was arranged at very short notice after our scheduled outing to SAS Saldanha Nature Reserve was terminated. The cancellation happened shortly after weapons theft at Simonstown Naval Base when the Flag Officer terminated all visits by civilians to naval property.

Kasteelberg/Riebeek Kasteel: this is an outing around the Kasteelberg which is followed by a picnic at Smuts House, the birthplace of JC Smuts which is an historic monument and museum, in the grounds of the PPC factory at Riebeek West.

REPORT AFTER PRESENTING 2016 PROJECT : BIRDS OF THE WETLANDS by Elsje van der Linde. 9 September 2016.

General

This year the theme of the outreach was Birds of the Wetlands. Seeing that 95% of our target group is Afrikaans speaking, I compiled the program in that language. Also about the same percentage of the children reached were not white. It was the first time that I compiled a power point presentation by myself, with thanks to Anna Dernier that initiated me to the technology last year. Thank you also to Linda du Plessis for numerous photos. I do also appreciate the assistance of the various Friends of the S A Fisheries Museum. Thanks to the West Coast Bird Club for the long term loan of their digital projector and for organising a sponsor.

Our reason for concentrating on schools in the Berg River Municipality is that wetlands occur along this river mentioned. I even acquired an area map from the municipality in Velddrif.

AURORA

I overestimated the children's knowledge of and interest in nature in general and birds in particular. The most interesting thing that happened, took place after our presentation when we were locked up in the library on the first floor, unable to turn the doorknob. Repeated calls for help were eventually answered by the janitor that had to locate the key to the alternative door to the library. After about another half an hour we were released.

Some of the children only discovered on that day that the school has library!

WITTEWATER

We visited the primary schools of 2 Moravian missionary villages. Our visit to Wittewater was a first for both of us.

The young teacher that accompanied the class chewed throughout the presentation, and according to my assistant, also blew bubbles! I am sure I also saw her using her cell phone under cover of the desk. Class well disciplined, which always facilitates the presentation. We had some trouble with the projector at first. We received very little reaction or contribution from the children. When a noisy hadeda flew over, they called it a crow.

GOEDVERWACHT

As a whole the children were more restless than those of the previous school. Despite this, the more mature teacher paid attention to the lecture and offered some useful information, i. e. that some of the children's parents are employees of the Work for Water project and that Goedverwacht is issued with different refuse bags for wet refuse and another bag for recycling.

PIKETBERG

Heartwarming response from the grade 5's of this high school! The school secretary, her husband (that came from the village) a student teacher and the class teacher attended the presentation. The children responded and contributed well and as a whole were eager to answer questions. This was the only school with both English as well as Afrikaans speaking students, not all of them white.

NOORDHOEK

Well disciplined children arrived a little late because of a misunderstanding. The principal also attended part of the presentation. Three consecutive classes were addressed by Gloria Fourie and myself.

STAWELKLIP

This is also a Moravian school on top of Piketberg, known as Piket-Bo-Berg. Colin de Kock suggested that I follow up with Riëtte Bryant of Kruisementvlei to make appointments for Piket- Bo-Berg.

Our first appointment, which Riëtte initiated, was with this school at 11:00.

KRUISTEMENTVLEI

Through Colin de Kock we were asked to do our presentation on Piketberg at Kruisementvlei to two youth groups founded by Riëtte. We were very pleasantly surprised by the enthusiastic reception by family Bryant. A group of primary school children regularly gathers on a Tuesday at 14:30 in a library established a few years ago. Once again I was disappointed in the limited knowledge the little ones have of their immediate surroundings.

At 18:00 we gave the presentation to the senior group. After our presentation to these teenagers, a member of this group that had the privilege to pay a visit to Germany spoke on his visit, accompanied by slides. We received some positive response from this group - that chose to both open and close their weekly meetings with a prayer. One of the seniors thanked us on behalf of the group.

VELDDRIF

Here we experienced a rowdy class, difficult to communicate with because of a few pupils that kept on disrupting the procedure. The teacher neither introduced himself to us nor to the class although he was present throughout the presentation. No word of thanks afterwards.

PORTERVILLE

The Willemsvallei Primary School has a spacious brand new building with an indigenous garden laid out in terraces. A group of 120 grade 5's were accommodated on plastic chairs in the reverberating new school hall. More than half way through my presentation I was handed a microphone, unfortunately not cordless, so I had to watch my step. Some response could be elicited now and again. Two teachers attended the presentation as well as the principal, who thanked me on behalf of the school. A fruitful visit altogether!

Conclusion

I thank the West Coast Bird Club and the Anne Gray Trust that have made this presentation of mine of Birds of the Wetlands possible. Once again thanks to the friends of the Museum for their support.

WEST COAST BIRD CLUB OUTREACH : Voëls VAN DIE VLEILANDE

SCHOOLS REACHED

Laerskool Aurora: 44 pupils

Wittewater Charl Schrewe Morawiese Skool: 42 pupils

Goedverwacht Primêre Skool: 38 pupils

Piketberg Hoërskool Piketberg: 55 pupils

Stawelklip Primêre Skool: 45 pupils

Kruistementvlei Youth Group, Juniors: 19 pupils

Kruistementvlei Youth Group, Seniors: 22 pupils

Velddrif Noordhoek Primêre Skool: 74 pupils

Velddrif Hoërskool Velddrif: 36 pupils

Porterville Primêre Skool: 40 pupils.

**LAKES BIRD CLUB REPORT TO THE WESTERN CAPE BIRIDNG FORUM
MEETING ON 1ST OCTOBER 2016 by Pat Nurse.**

1 . Committee Unchanged.

Chair	Pat Nurse.
Secretary/Treasurer	Steve Gettliffe.
Activities/Conservation	Pauline Hawkins.
Editor Malachite Newsletter	Cecil Hiscock.
Member George Sector	Brian Taggart.
Member Knysna Sector	John Bircher.
Member Knysna Sector	Robert Smith.
Member Sedgefield Sector	Keith Wylie.

2. Projects Progress.

George Young Birders Club under leadership of Andrew Marshall, member and licenced ringer continues to have well attended and enthusiastic outings.

3. Current Membership:

Since June 10 new members, 9 members lapsed, current membership 153.

Outings:

- 19th May George, Witfontein Forest. 12 attendees 23 species . Poor weather
- 4th June : Nature's Valley and Birding Ringing with Dr Mark Brown. 14 attendees 55 species.
- 2nd July: Cooper Road, Herbertsdale Area. 19 attendees, 82 species, excellent birding.
- 6th August: Ebb & Flow, Wilderness Nat. Park. 29 attendees, 72 species
- 3rd September: Rondevlei Bird Hide and Reflections Eco Reserve. Cancelled. Foul weather
- 15th September: Lake Pleasant Caravan Park. 27 attendees, 65 species.

Speakers and Meetings:

- 23rd June. St Francis Church Hall, Sedgefield. Party to celebrate former Chairman Norman Elwell's 97th Birthday. Norman gave a talk on his birding career, followed by a talk by two members, Peter Dawson and Robert Smith on their hunt for the elusive Pitta in Zimbabwe. 60 members attended.
- 14th July. St Francis Church Hall, Sedgefield. Talk by Selena Flores an American researcher on her work on White-fronted Plovers and other shore birds breeding in the Plettenberg Bay area, 36 attendees.
- 11th August. St Francis Church Hall, Sedgefield. Member Tim Carr gave a talk on his trip on the M.V. Agulhas to the southern oceans for research purposes. 41 attendees.

Participation in Joint Activities:

- C.A.R.** counts in July in various parts of the coastal plain and Klein Karoo.
- C.W.A.C. Knysna Lagoon:** 3588 birds counted, mainly large birds that are not affected by the pollution in the lagoon caused by a proliferation of nutrients resulting in large sheets of ulva sp. covering the feeding areas on the mudflats. Action is planned to reverse this situation.
- Voelvlei:** 2907 birds counted, a third of the pan has water. Over 600 flamingos, most Lesser Flamingos ever counted.

Matters of Conservation Concern:

Flamingo Deaths at Swartvlei: On 18th July a small flock of flamingos flew into the power lines alongside the N2 where it crosses Swartvlei. As a result 4 birds died and 3 were successfully

rehabilitated at Teniqua at the Craggs and were subsequently released back into their flock at Rondevlei. The Club has been liaising with SANParks etc on this and the Knysna Municipality, whose line, it is, has agreed to place bird flappers on the line.

Microlight Harassing birds on Rondevlei: On 7th August we were alerted to an incident where a local microlight pilot flew his craft just above the water on Rondevlei, circling and harassing the flamingo flock. We lodged a formal complaint with SANParks and made a report to the CAA and organised wide publicity and condemnation of this act. The pilot was named and shamed and was given a severe warning by the CAA.

BIRDLIFE PLETTENBERG BAY REPORT TO THE WESTERN CAPE BIRDING FORUM MEETING – 1 OCTOBER 2016 by Bruce Ward-Smith.

1. Events and speakers: At a number of our well attended monthly club dinners, our members enjoyed the following presentations:

- a. All about the Fynbos – by Kellyn Whitehead.
- b. The plight of the African Penguin – by Dr Mark Brown.
- c. Cape parrot project in Hogsback – by Abigail Gilmour de Swardt.

2. Travel & Field trips: While winter is usually quiet and unpredictable weather can spoil some field trips, a new venue was explored at the Goukamma Nature Reserve and will be visited again in the spring/ summer. At the Covie Fynbos Reserve our members enjoyed an instructive Fynbos identification walk completed by a nice sighting of a confiding Long-crested Eagle. As always, a walk around the Plettenberg Bay Country Club golf course was very popular, with many interesting sightings such as Knysna Woodpecker and Knysna Warbler. The club away trip will be held at Red Stone Hills near Oudtshoorn at the end of September and some good Karoo birding is expected.

3. Club activity Initiatives: Some time ago a five page illustrated birding guide for Plett and surrounds entitled “Plett Birding Hotspots” was sent to members with details of good birding spots, the likely species to be seen and some photographs to assist the less experienced birders to improve their identification skills and promoting more bird watching around Plett. This was followed up with the introduction of two WhatsApp groups - “Plett Birding Alerts” to report interesting sighting around Plett and “Plett Birding Buddies” to provide a means for members to team up for birding outings.

YAB: The club has become one of the first YAB (Young African Birder) approved bird club.

4. Conservation Initiatives: BirdLife Plett supports NVT (Nature's Valley Trust) with annual funding for specific conservation efforts such as “Shorebirds conservation” and “Fynbos” projects and details of these projects are well documented on the NVT Facebook page. Have a look at #SHAREandSHORES and meet the key actors – Sandy and Rocky. CWAC: We continue to participate in the Winter and Summer Coordinated Waterbird Counts along the Bitou wetlands and the Bitou and Groot River estuaries. Two club members (Mark Brown and Brittany Arendse) are registered ringers, and hold frequent outings to which members are invited. SABAP2: Several members are active atlasers. ARDB: Several members make regular contributions of their sightings to the African Raptor Database project.

5. Other projects: The schools education project known as “Birding Masters and Champions” continues under the guidance and direction of Cindy-Lee Cloete of the NVT, with the support of 4 teams of BirdLife Plett members. In November the conservation clubs of the 4 schools will compete in a two hour local “FeatherChase” competition to identify as many birds as possible and then in a Bird Identification Quiz for an annual prize, this is followed by a braai for the kids.

SOMERSET WEST BIRD CLUB REPORT NO 2 – SEPTEMBER 2016 – TYGERBERG by Bryan Butler. HIGHLIGHTS SINCE THE LAST MEETING

Eagle Encounters

We enjoyed a most successful evening with Eagle Encounters. Aside from some trepidation concerning “captive” birds etc. it turned out to be most informative and the presence of live birds certainly created atmosphere. It is not often you stand close to a Verreaux’s Eagle, or have a Harris Hawk land on your gloved arm after a darting flight!

De Hoop

We have just enjoyed a weekend at de Hoop. 28 members of the club participated and despite some inclement weather to start we all had a great time. Complements to the De Hoop Staff who were excellent. Highly recommended. (Bird count over 100).

NEW OUTING VENUES

Jessie Walton, one of our members, but well-known to Cape Bird Club as well – invited us out to her Elgin farm in June for a winter outing which was most enjoyable.

We had a very good outing to Intaka island in July – made enjoyable by an excellent guide

In August we were privileged to be allowed on Lourensford Farm – Sally Reece, who works there in conservation, is a member of our club.

LEARNING POINTS

Our Committee has spent much time trying to establish the appropriate balance and relationship with BirdLifeSA and we are nearing completion – may even be complete by the WCBF meeting.

We meet in a relatively unsavoury part of Somerset West at night. Apart from employing our own car guard we have teamed up with WESSA who use the same venue to contract a Security Company to be present when we meet. The shared cost makes it reasonably economical for the extra peace of mind.

Conservation issues – we now have a bi-monthly meeting with Cape Town City Parks (Strand) concerning our Dick Dent. This will pay off in the long term. In addition we sit on 3 PAAC Committees.

We have agitated to have the Helderberg Nature Reserve included in the IBA definition which incorporates the Hottentots Holland Mountains.

IMPORTANT UPCOMING EVENTS

We are already planning our Xmas braai, held in the Helderberg Nature Reserve – and a highlight of our social calendar!

We would be more than happy to consider co-operating with the planning and running of the Stanford/Hermanus Bird Fair – if it happens.

NAMAQUA BIRD CLUB by Salome Willemse.

Our club activities for this period included two winter CWAC counts at Litaue Dam and the northern sections of the Olifants River mouth and estuary. The very successful second Namaqua BioBash was also presented. The next BioBash will be between 10 and 14 November 2016 and representatives of all bird clubs are invited to participate.

CAPE BIRD CLUB by Priscilla Beeton.

REPORT OF THE CAPE BIRD CLUB 18 May to 1 October 2016.

Governance/Administration:

- No changes in committees.
- New website is being constructed.

Projects Progress:

Conservation project – In June the committee met with the conservation committee chaired by Dave Whitelaw and together decided on a focus project for the next couple of years, namely the improvement of habitat at Strandfontein. The conservation committee is looking at different options, one of which is to build breeding banks.

Also high on the agenda is establishing an Education Committee.

Members John Fincham, Jo Hobbs and others are already working on an exciting education initiative to help make Paarl Sewage Works a safer place through educating youth about the treasure they have on their doorstep. CBC has and will continue to support and assist in this initiative.

Fundraiser evening – in September – a musical at Theatre on the Bay – proceeds to go to our conservation and education projects

The monthly Kirstenbosch public walks led by members of both Cape Bird Club and Tygerberg Bird Club (co-ordinated by CBC member Linda Hibbin) continue to be popular with club members and the public.

Travel/ field trips/ outings:

Outings:

- We have continued to hold beginners' outings on the first Saturday of every month at Rondevlei Nature Reserve / or Strandfontein (as Rondevlei has been rather decimated)
- Once monthly week day outings attract usually but a small number of participants but have included Kenilworth Race Course, Macassar Waste Water Treatment works, Two Rivers Urban Park, Helderberg NR
- Once monthly Sunday outings:
 - June –Spier
 - July – Rooi Els, Stony Point and Harold Porter Botanical.
 - August – Karoo National Botanical Gardens at Worcester
 - September – Tienie Versfeld Nature Reserve – a very early start saw the walk around the reserve completed before the hoards descended to look at flowers. A wonderful outing at this time

of year with special birds and beautiful flowers that opened up as the sun rose. The group went on to the salt pans at Yzerfontein – saw 70 + oystercatchers on the pans. On our departure still on the Yzerfontein road saw many Yellow-billed Kites catching erupting alates.

Camps:

Family Camp 23 – 25 September – at Vrolijkheid Nature Reserve near Robertson. Attended by 15 children (5 – 14 years old) and their parents / grandparents. The weekend included two presentations, one by Mike Buckham on *Endemics of the South Western Cape* and the other by Heather Howell on *Owls*. Birding in the reserve was excellent and a visit to the magnificent Dassieshoek Reserve nearby proved fruitful. With its new cottages Vrolijkheid NR is an excellent large group venue for club camps.

Speakers at monthly meetings/ Workshops/ Courses

Evening meetings:

- June - Birding from Alaska to Argentina – Pieter van Oudtshoorn – a fascinating talk about a trip he and his wife completed.
- July - Birds of KwaZulu Natal – Cathy Jenkins (a trip report of a tour early in the year organised by member Charles Saunders)
- August - Birds and mammals of India - Cliff Dorse talking about his recent trip there. Very good presentation. Highly recommended.

Courses:

Course 20 August – *Birds, Beaches and Beachbums: How our shores are enriched by the ecosystem effects of birds* – presented by Professor George Branch. This was a very successful half day course which included lots of practical work and saw participants clambering over the rocks in Mouille Point exploring rocky pools and then going back to the hall in Green Point Park to examine and talk about specimens and hear more about the birds of the seashore. Highly recommended as a presentation. An interesting and amusing speaker.

Special forthcoming events:

Next course – a full day course In November – Dragonflies and Damselflies – by Felicity Grundlingh – on Saturday 12 November. Will be followed by a field trip in the Kogelberg.

There will also be a course on Pelagic birds BEFORE Flock - details not yet available.

Next Local Camp – at Botterkloof Resort in Stilbaai - 29th October to 1st November.

Next International Camp – Uganda – in August 2017.

Participation in joint Activities (SABAP2/ CAR/ CWAC/ BIRP/ ringing, etc.

CBC has members leading and involved in all of the above activities on a regular basis.

Challenges / Constraints:

The CBC is often approached by organisations for assistance and input on special projects – and we simply do not have the manpower to be able to assist in a meaningful way. People do not seem to realise that we are a club made up of volunteers. What do other clubs do?

TYGERBERG BIRD CLUB – CONSERVATION & OTHER FEEDBACK by Brigid Crewe.

Birdlife South Africa recently extended a word of thanks to the members of the Tygerberg Bird Club (TBC) for their continued support of the **Fynbos Endemics Research and Conservation Project**.

During 2015 the TBC funded research of the **Hottentot Buttonquail**, their distribution, population and conservation. They also supported research of **Blue Crane**, and how farmers and cranes can co-exist going forward.

Thanks to the TBC annual calendar sales, all funds raised go towards conservation. During 2016 they are once again supporting further Fynbos Endemic Birds research – where radio-telemetry tracking of endemics is being done. Funds have been donated to the Cape Rock-jumper and Hottentot Buttonquail projects. Movement patterns and genetic analysis is being studied this year. Habitat management guidelines are also being drafted for the preservation of these birds.

General Feedback.

Recent Talks:

- **August** Kevin Drummond-Hay - 'Northern Cape Birding Adventure' and
 - **September** Prof. Peter Ryan – Birds and animals of Marion and other sub-Antarctic islands
- *both talks were well received.

Outings:

- July – Helderberg Nature Reserve.
 - August – Tinie Versfeld & Darling Farms (Oudepost & Darling Cellars to Cloof Road).
 - September – Eagle Encounters and Backsberg Wine Estate.
- *all these outings are popular outing venues of the club.

September Camp – The Tradoux Pass / Honeywood Farm, Heidelberg & Grootvadersbosch Forest. Wonderful weekend was had, in a very beautiful part of the Western Cape.

BIRDLIFE WORCESTER by Marieta Howard.

Byeenkomste en sprekers:

Aug '15: The search for the rarest bird in the world by Vernon Head

Sept '15: Karoo Voëls deur Brain vd Walt

Okt '15: Diere en voëls by Mana Pools en Kariba deur Mike Leresch

Febr '16: Bye boerdery deur Filip Verheyden

April '16: Suikerbekkies se rol in die bestuiwing van Erikas deur Arina Coetzee

Jun '16 : Waterwys tuine vir voëls deur Mariana Delport

Sept '16: Die Bloukransvoël in Overberg en Swartland deur Julia van Velden

Uitstappies:

Suksesvolle voëlkyk uitstappies na Bergsig Landgoed, Worcester rioolwerke, Toontjiesrivier en Karoo Nasionale Tuin.

Ons het ook 'n wonderlike geleentheid gehad om te sien hoe honderde Klein rooivalkies vir 'n tydperk saans in groot bloekombome in 'n woongebied hier in Worcester kom oornag het.

Deelname aan CWAC olv Arina Coetzee by die Worcester Rioolwerke was baie suksesvol. 573 voëls is getel van 23 spesies, waaronder Afrikaanse snip, Swartriethaan, Groot flamink, Klein flamink en Kopereend. Volgende telling sal Febr '17 wees.

Ons CWAC dag olv Arina Coetzee was ook baie suksesvol en op 5 Oktober gaan Dr Dave Whitelaw ons kom vertel hoe om die data van voëltellings te verwerk en al die reëls wat nagekom moet word.

Afgesien van ons verslag wil ons net ook byvoeg dat ons toestemming by Worcester Munisipaliteit gekry het om 'n voëlskuiling by die rioolplaas op te rig. Ons glo dat dit 'n groot aanwinst vir voëlkyk in die omgewing sal wees en ander klubs kan gerus daarvan kennis neem.

Ons het ook moeite gedoen met ons ledetal en 'n hele paar nuwe lede is gewerf.

End.