Birdlife Overberg Newsletter 3- March 2023

ANTON'S CHIRPS:

Four months ago, we expressed our sincere appreciation to Steve and Graeme for volunteering their time and effort to assist us to get vibrant and entertaining club activities going after the pandemic. This was done through the new club website and this newsletter, and it assisted a lot with getting 2023 off to a bang. We have presented stimulating talks, wonderful outings and the Flying Higher course that attracted a capacity group of enthusiastic birders. All of this had contributed to 25 new members having joined our club since the New Year. We welcome you all to the club and hope that you will spend many great birding days with us.
This will be my last "Chirps" and I am looking forward to spending more time birding and presenting courses. The incoming committee will be put in place over the next two months. We now appeal to all members who have not yet done so to volunteer their services with so many responsibilities that are needed to manage a recreational club such as ours, meaningfully. Please chat to us and let's see what contribution you can make to take BirdLife Overberg into the future without my direct involvement. This newsletter describes some wonderful activities on offer over the next few weeks. Join us in celebration of our feathered friends. Also remember to keep on reporting all species recorded in the Overberg and send in your wonderful photographs.
Anton
082 550 3347

Save the date…

20th March 6-7pm Birdlasser Introduction

20th March 7-9pm Monthly Talk: Reviewing 21 years of Birdlife Overberg

25th March Monthly Outing : Rooisand

1st & 2nd April Workshop: The Secret Worlds of Birds of Prey

17th April Monthly Talk: To be confirmed.

Please refer to our website for more detailed information on any of these dates

Birdlife Overberg Newsletter 3- March 2023

AN AFTERNOON AT ROOISAND NATURE RESERVE

The two Johans (Olivier and van der Westhuizen), Gary Baumgarten and I spent a few hours enjoyable birding at Rooisand yesterday afternoon. The main mission was for Gary to get his Pectoral Sandpiper – mission not accomplished. The weather was however perfect for birding as we found vast numbers of the four common terns to be found at this time of year, together with many Common Ringed Plovers and Curlew Sandpipers. We initially walked to the eastern point from the parking area and enjoyed sightings of species such as Kittlitz's Plover, Pied Avocet, Common Greenshank, Glossy Ibis, Little Stint and two Great White Pelicans. These besides the other common resident species to be expected at a site like this.

Pied Kingfishers were hunting successfully creating great photographic opportunities. Many Barn Swallows were foraging all around us with the common swifts also on view. A single Banded Martin was recorded and try as we might we were unable to find any Sand Martins, with these having been reported from the site recently. The birding was however dominated by the spectacular views of the huge flocks of terns resting on the sandbanks and then lifting off, noisily circling around before settling down on the sandbanks again. This continual spectacle needs to be experienced.

We then walked to the hide and spent some time trying to sort out a large wader in the distance against the glaring setting sun and eventually gave up on this – hopefully some photographs will help us to sort this one out. The sighting of the day was undoubtedly a Great Egret, probably the same one reported by Jenny earlier in the week. The egret was foraging close to a Grey Heron enabling us to compare the size of these two large herons. We recorded a single Marsh Sandpiper and were entertained by huge numbers of Brown-throated Martins hunting at breakneck speed just above the water's surface. Many African Spoonbills, Yellow-billed Ducks, Cape Shovelers, Black-winged Stilts and one Ruff were on view at the hide, together with large numbers of other water birds.

Our slow, casual birding eventually produced more than fifty species. This is however not as important as the magnificent beauty of the area, not to even mention the wild horse on view. The Rooisand Nature Reserve is an exciting birding destination at this time of year and needs to be visited before the migrant waders take their leave. Text by Anton.

Greenshank (AO)

Common-ringed Plover (AO)

Great Egret & Black-headed Heron (GB)

Greater Flamingo (JvW)

Great White Pelican (JO)

Ruff (AO)

Birdlife Overberg Newsletter 3- March 2023

An interesting question being asked here…..

I had an interesting experience whilst on a walk up one of our firebreaks (at Platbos Forest) and perhaps those who have a greater understanding of bird behaviour can help shed a light on.

Ahead of me I saw first what looked like a Jackal Buzzard, and then following it, a Forest Buzzard take flight from roughly the same point up ahead of me on the firebreak. I thought that given they appeared to be two different species of raptors that likely they were feasting on an animal carcass so I went to search the general area to see what that could have been.

All I found was a bright red OK plastic bag - some of it had been shredded up. What was left of the bag was dry and odourless; nothing in it. I could only surmise that they mistook the bright red plastic for fresh blood. I obviously picked up what was left of the bag which I can only think got to that part of the firebreak by being carried from a distant roadside by one of them.

So, this all got me thinking. We know that plastic causes terrible deaths for marine life - either through getting tangled in it, or by ingesting it, and I am wondering how much is known about terrestrial wildlife... and more particularly what if any research there is around which colours of plastic are most likely to be mistaken for food? Obviously this would be specific to the different species of animal but from a cursory search I see that raptors have "maximum spectral sensitivity in the violet, red, green and blue wavelengths".

The reality is that plastic (and littering) is going to be around for a while yet and given that, it would make sense to produce plastic grocery bags in colours which are less likely to be mistaken for food generally (should colour be an important factor in this). Insight into this specific topic will be greatly appreciated - Author Unknown

Forest Buzzard

Jackal Buzzard

It is a well-documented fact that some seabirds (and other marine animals) have mistaken white or clear plastic bags and debris in our oceans for food, one theory is that they mistake a lot of it as jellyfish, or silver fish species.

So, if anyone has any theories or similar experiences concerning birds mistaking bright red debris for carrion please send to me and I'll write a follow up article on this interesting subject…..Editor

Birdlife Overberg Newsletter 3- March 2023

SPECIAL REPORT BY GRAEME HATLEY

FURTHER AFIELD: GRAVEL ROAD BIRDING IN THE EASTERN CAPE

Graeme was recently in the Eastern Cape near the small village of Haga Haga. This is about an hour north-east of East London. The area comprises mostly cattle and game farms, characterized by grassland with occasional areas of thicket. Haga Haga itself is situated on the coast and there is a small section of coastal forest.

In the evenings he took the opportunity to do some gravel-road birding. There are a number of birds absent from the Overberg that were commonly seen. On the first evening he spent some time observing a Croaking Cisticola as it called from the top of a small shrub. In terms of calling tenacity it was competing with abundant Neddicky. The latter was commonly seen over the two days. Others that called continuously, but generally evaded being observed, were the Black-crowned Tchagra and Green-backed Camaroptera.

During previous visits in the area Graeme has often encountered Crowned Cranes. This time there was a pair with a young chick.

There are many birds that are common to both the Overberg and the Eastern Cape. But a number of grassland and bushveld birds make a trip always worthwhile.

Grey-crowned Crane

Cape Starling

Black-winged Lapwing

Neddicky

Birdlife Overberg Newsletter 3- March 2023

Birds caught on or entangled in barbed wire.

Our region (the Overberg) being a rural part of the country is traversed with wire fencing, in particular the barbed wire variety. This wiring is the main way farmers and landowners keep stock from wandering around and shows boundaries.

Unfortunately, the barbed wire type of fencing can be a death trap for a lot of species of birds.

These birds are getting their feet entangled in the barbed part of the wire and are unable to get free. This results in a frantic struggle by the bird, usually breaking its leg in the process and then left hanging from the wire to die a horrific death.

Regrettably this isn't the only way birds are falling foul of this type of wire.

Wire that has been disregarded and left on the ground is also a hazard to birds in as much they can, and are, getting their legs tangled up as they walk over it and then can't get free.

In a major effort to engage with farmers and landowners Birdlife South Africa has been collating data of such instances and has produced information leaflets highlighting this problem, and along with some dialogue with fence owners, are trying to educate and ask that wire fencing that needs to be erected should if possible be barbless, along with the removing of all unused or broken wire that falls to the ground.

So, if you come across birds that are caught in wiring or have seen them entangled with it, if the bird is still alive please try and untangle it, and if needed get it to a rehabilitation centre asap.

Also please take an image of the bird in situ, note the GPS coordinates, the number of strands of wire and the vegetation / crops being grown close by

This information should then be forward to Craig Whittington-Jones at BLSA on craig.whittington-jones@gauteng,gov.za and Cassie Carstens on cassie.carstens@birdlife.org.za

But, as always, I will be happy to report on your behalf, just send me the information to napierbirding@gmail.com .

Editor

African Pipit

Blue Crane

Crowned Lapwing

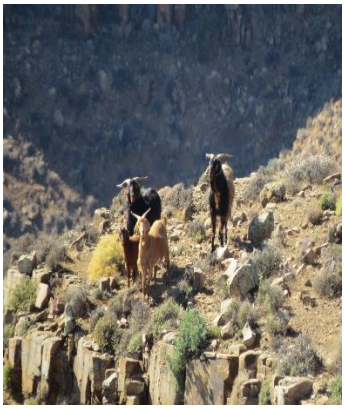
Birdlife Overberg Newsletter 3- March 2023

TANKWA FERAL GOATS: A REAL CLIFFHANGER OR THE END OF THE ROAD : Thinus Jonker

The incredible journey of the Tankwa feral goats, that spanned a 12 year period of my career, started when I saw a small advertisement in the Noordwester of 14 September 2007 for the removal of a feral population of goats in the Tankwa Karoo National Park. This was an extremely difficult undertaking due to the terrain in the Park with the goats grazing on slopes with steep gradients and towering cliffs. The outcome of the DNA analysis that was done by the National Zoological Gardens indicated a goat population genetically distinct from the meat and milk goat breeds in South Africa – therefore a new breed the 'Tankwa Goat' was discovered. The decision was made that all efforts should be made to conserve this unique genetic resource with the maintenance of genetic diversity. History has it that these feral goats have been living in the Roggeveld mountains for more than 90 years. Different capture methods were explored and 13 capture efforts were conducted between March 2009 and December 2013. During this time just over 100 goats were captured and all the captured goats were trans-located to Carnarvon Research Station. These goats are kept as close as possible to a feral population with very little human intervention. The goats have adapted extremely well and more than 1500 goats have been born at Carnarvon. All indications are that the days for the remaining goats in the Park are numbered, but luckily it will not be the end of the road for the feral goats from the Tankwa Karoo, but merely a new beginning at a new location!

The Tankwa Karoo is such a special place and if you get the opportunity to explore, don't let it slip through your fingers!



Top Left…. The home of the goats, Members enthralled with talk, Layard's Tit-Babbler, Family of goats on cliff, Carnarvon Tankwa Goats, Carnarvon Tankwa goat kids …

Birdlife Overberg Newsletter 3- March 2023

FURTHER AFIELD: RIETVLEI NATURE RESERVE IN PRETORIA:

I visit Gauteng approximately four times a year. When I do, I try to make a point of visiting Rietvlei Nature Reserve near Pretoria. The reserve has a good number of larger game, including rhino and buffalo. But the grassland birding is also very good.

One of the regular LBJ's is the very vocal Rufous-naped Lark. I found one displaying in a small shrub, singing while doing its characteristic wing flutter. On my way out a couple of hours later it was still displaying at the same spot.

One of the advantages of going in summer is that the bishops and widowbirds are in the breeding plumage making identification much easier. I got good views of Red-collared, White-winged and Long-tailed Widowbirds.

The picnic spots are good locations to do some birding on foot. At the coffee shop, situated centrally in the reserve, I encountered Red-throated Wryneck, Yellow-fronted Canary and a flock of European Bee-eaters overhead. In the past, I've also encountered Crimson-breasted Shrike here. Another picnic spot worth exploring on foot is at the Marias Dam. This has two bird hides, one at either end. Here I encountered Arrow-marked Babblers and Willow Warblers. A mixed flock of swallows, swifts and martins were flying low over the water.

Although the site is surrounded by suburbia and power lines are visible almost everywhere, this little reserve is a gem in the Gauteng landscape. …. Report & Images by Graeme Hatley

Top left…Cape Longclaw, Long-tailed Widowbird, Northern Black Korhaan, Rufous-naped Lark..

Birdlife Overberg Newsletter 3- March 2023

Two updates by Carin Malan

Carin's Fluff-balls

It's time for an update on the Black Sparrow-Hawk fluff balls in the Malan Garden.

Born on +- the 24 September 2022, around the 19th of October the 3 juveniles have started to leave the nest for short periods of time exercising their wings on the adjacent branches.

Even though they are almost 4 months old they are still very dependent on their mother for food, who still feeds them daily.

However, the juveniles have started to explore a bigger area now and are trying to hunt for themselves.

The photos are part of a series of shots taken as we watched one of them encounter and try and take on a Grey Mongoose (unsuccessfully).....

Kittlitz's Plover -Charadrius pecuarius

Rooisand Nature Reserve is "cooking" with waders at the moment, and it's well worth a visit!

We photographed this Kittlitz's Plover family in front of the Rooisand Bird Hide. They showed a lot of aggressive behaviour, especially towards species with similar diets, ie Curlew Sandpiper and also Common Ringed Plover.
They typically forage in a run-stop-search fashion. It was very interesting to read that they feed during the day and night (on moonlit nights until 11PM) in groups of 2-5 individuals.

Birdlife Overberg Newsletter 3- March 2023

Photograph of the Month

This is a new initiative for your newsletter - we are asking that you send in a special image that you have taken in the Overberg region of a bird; it can be of a special bird seen in our area or one of our more common ones. It just needs to be a "cracker" of a photograph. I must stress this is **not** a competition, just a chance to highlight a great photo, so photos taken in March or April will be eligible for the next newsletter. Come on, give it a go!

This month's photographs are at both ends of the scale; firstly a stunning portrait shot of one of our more common birds, a Helmeted Guineafowl by Catherine Bruce and a beautiful image of a very rare visitor to our region, a Caspian Plover by Johan van der Westhuizen.

Birdlife Overberg Newsletter 3- March 2023

Another great and relevant article by Adam Cruickshank of:The BirdingLife

To “Club” or not …

T*he question that many people ask is how relevant are bird clubs in this day and age.*

Nowadays we have the convenience of cell phones and email, so you can only imagine how long it must have taken for news to spread of certain species that had been found once upon a time. Much of the information that would have been shared before would have taken place at a bird club gathering. Today almost all the information that one requires can be found in a few minutes on the internet. Club gatherings and walks were a big part of the draw of clubs in years gone by, where in this social media age a bird outing can be organised with anyone in your contact list. Growing Whatsapp and Telegram groups dedicated to connecting younger birders together have in many ways taken the need to join a bird club away for these youngsters who prefer the thrill of twitches, listing and birding adventures with their friends. Life is busy for many people, and they would rather have the flexibility of birding on their own terms than committing to joining a bird club. With all these challenges many bird clubs are losing members with many birders preferring to simply bird independently of clubs. So, do bird clubs still have a place in this era? The truth is that birders have the freedom to simply join BirdLife South Africa, and still make a contribution to conservation. But I do feel that doing this does rob you of many of the benefits that clubs provide. For newer birders clubs are a great place to learn about birds and birding in a safe environment. Many clubs are not only organising walks and events for older birders but have also created events for kiddies. This means children can learn about birds from more experienced birders in a safe, fun environment. For the more experienced birders, teaching others is a great way to grow your own understanding of birds. One of the ways that you will keep on learning is by teaching others. Bird clubs also provide a valuable tool for conservation in local areas. Our local club has been able to tackle local conservation issues in our area, being able to draw on not only the resources of the club, but also the knowledge of the various members of the club. Bird clubs also allow you to add your voice to conservation challenges, so that they can be fought more effectively. There is something special about getting together with a group of people at a bird club outing. I have been able to form friendships with people that I would have never expected to spend time with. I encourage you to look for your local bird club and give an outing a try – I am almost sure you will be hooked and look to sign up to the club.

Birdlife Overberg Newsletter 3- March 2023

A morning at Rooiels and Harold Porter Botanical Gardens – Trip Report

After a week of extremely high temperatures in the Overberg, Saturday 11th February was another blistering day as we set out on the spectacular drive from Hermanus to Rooiels. This small village is situated 5km north of Pringle Bay and home to the vulnerable population of Cape Rockjumpers. Undeterred by the blazing sun we set out on the gravel road with sturdy hats, copious amounts of sunscreen and icy water bottles. Thirty birders joined Anton on this walk – you certainly can't fault birders for enthusiasm!

Initially the walk out on the gravel road was shady as the sun was hidden behind the majestic sandstone mountains and we enjoyed seeing Orange-breasted Sunbirds, Cape Bulbuls, Cape Buntings, Cape Sugarbirds and the occasional Kelp Gull and African Oystercatcher on the shore below. No sign of any Rockjumper… Google notes that Rooiels is a "hidden gem" and without doubt the stark beauty of the mountains, azure blue sea and depth of fynbos makes it worth a visit; we were all enjoying the dramatic scenery.

The respite from the heat was short-lived and certainly made birding difficult. Other species that were also recorded included: Familiar Chat, Grey-backed Cisticola, Cape Grassbird, Cape Rock Thrush and Neddicky. This kept the photographers busy; never missing any photo opportunity.

As we proceeded to make our return to the parking one of the photographers spotted a Cape Rockjumper. Goal achieved! This bird teases you by hopping in and out of sight amongst the rocks but the cameras rolled, and we were all treated to the privilege of seeing this unique and very beautiful bird. With the temperature rising we headed back and those dragging their feet – and their large lenses – were rewarded with a much closer sighting. Now exposed to the scorching heat we headed back to our cars, grateful for cooling aircon and looking forward to the relative shade of Harold Porter gardens.

Cape Rockjumpers…..by Charles Naude, Johan van der Westhuizen and Alley Ditchfield

Familiar Chat & Verreaux's Eagle by Johan van der Westhuizen. Orange-breasted Sunbird by Jeanetta Hoekstra

Birdlife Overberg Newsletter 3- March 2023

The gardens are a treat in themselves and highly recommended for a visit, but the birds were hiding away in the extreme heat. However, Blue-mantled Crested Flycatchers were observed darting amongst the treetops; flexible necks and sharp eyes were required for this interaction but well worth it. Despite the heat the species recorded included Bar-throated Apalis, Cape Batis, Verreaux's Eagle, Klaas's Cuckoo, African Dusky Flycatcher, African Paradise Flycatchers, Fiscal Flycatcher, Karoo Prinia, Cape Robin-Chat, Black Sawwing, Olive Thrush, Swee Waxbill and Cape White-eye. Interestingly, whilst we were blithely craning our necks one of the birders was busy photographing the snakes on the ground! Fortunately, none of us looked at our feet!
A walk to the waterfall in the shade of the trees ended our visit. The unique Disa uniflora flower (emblem of the Western Cape) was no longer in bloom but apparently is spectacular in December and January next to the waterfall. The vegetation in the gardens is diverse and reminded us of how privileged we are to have such depth of nature on our doorstep. Over half of the species recorded on this trip were endemic or near-endemic confirming why this region is one of the top birding destinations.

Magnificent scenery, great birding despite the heat and excellent camaraderie – a very special way to spend a Saturday morning. By Jill Wheater

Some serious birders doing some serious birding at the gardens.

Birdlife Overberg Newsletter 3- March 2023

Great News from Betty's Bay Conservancy.

For years this Conservancy has been battling with the local kelp harvesters who collect kelp from the beaches along this coastline to stay away from nesting sites of shoreline birds during their breeding season.

They have been campaigning to make it part of the licence conditions of the harvesters that they cannot encroach on areas of the beach that are the nesting and breeding areas of African Black Oystercatchers and White Fronted Plovers, both of which make their nests on the high-water line.

Finally at the end of last year the authorities agreed to make part of the licence conditions that they cannot encroach on certain areas (GPS coordinates will be supplied) to collect kelp or even drive on routes elsewhere to protect the nesting sites.

Failing to adhere to these conditions will now result in a fine and removal of their licence.

Although this has been initiated by Betty's Bay Conservancy it will apply to all the beaches that the kelp harvesters access throughout the Overberg / Overstrand.

A great illustration of the nesting site of the White-fronted Plover. This clearly shows how vulnerable they are to indiscriminate driving and working on the beach areas that they breed in.

Image by Carin Malan

Similarly, the nesting habits and areas of the beach that the African Black Oystercatcher favours make it equally vulnerable to any human activities.

Image by Charles Naude

Birdlife Overberg Newsletter 3- March 2023

Other birding news…

Special birds recorded in the Overberg region during January and February 2023.

1. PLOVER, AMERICAN GOLDEN/ AMERIKAANSE GOUE STRANDKIEWIET (Adrius @ De Mond NR)
2. PLOVER, CASPIAN/ ASISATIESE STRANDKIEWIET (Richard @ De Mond NR)
3. PLOVER, GREATER SAND/ GROOTSTRANDKIEWIET (SARBN @ Uilenkraal Rover estuary)
4. PLOVER, PACIFIC GOLDEN/ ASIATIESE GOUE STRANDKIEWIET (John @ De Mond NR)
5. ROLLER, EUROPEAN/ EUROPESE TROUPANT (Jenny @ Bredasdorp)

6. SHRIKE, RED-BACKED/ ROOIRUGLAKSMAN (SARBN @ Swellendam)
7. STARLING, BLACK-BELLIED/ SWARTPENSGLANSSPREEU (Graeme @ Stanford)
8. EURASIAN HOBBY/ EUROPESE BOOMVALK (Steve @ Napier)
9. AFRICAN RAIL (JUVENILE) / GROOTRIETHAAN (Johan @ Vermont Salt Pan)

European Roller- Jenny Parsons

Caspian Plover – Johan van der Westhuizen.

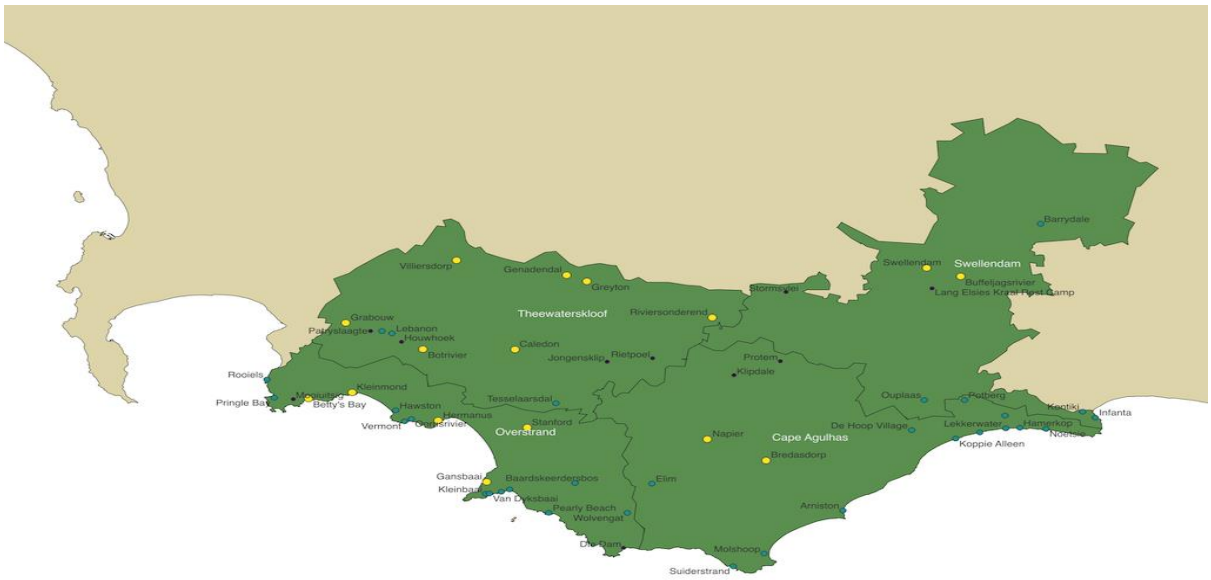
Juvenile African Rail – Johan van der Westhuizen

Eurasian Hobby – Steve Peck

Birdlife Overberg Newsletter 3- March 2023

BirdLife Overberg BirdLasser Event 2023

This year BirdLife Overberg has set up a club challenge to list birds within the Overberg region. We've set up an event with BirdLasser, a wonderful app used to record your birding observations. Participants' observations within the Overberg district are tallied towards the leaderboard. This region includes the Overstrand, Theewaterskloof, Cape Agulhas and Swellendam municipalities.



Since January 1st we've collectively recorded 250 species with just 3500 observations. This is a great opportunity to participate in a fun challenge and learn to use the BirdLasser app. The app is not limited to use in Southern Africa but can be used globally. It is also the tool of choice for the SABAP2 – a citizen science project used to map the distribution of birds in Southern Africa.

The app can be download for both iOS and Android by scanning the QR code with your phone's camera to go to the relevant source for your device.

Android

iOS

Birdlife Overberg Newsletter 3- March 2023

We've organized a training evening for BirdLasser on the 20th of March, at 18:00 at Mollergren Park. Join us for an introduction that covers the following topics:

- how to set up and use the app
- creating trip cards and recording observations
- importing your existing observations and life lists
- a brief introduction to SABAP2 and atlassing

See also the introductory article of the BirdLife Overberg website. This includes videos on the use of BirdLasser.

https://birdlifeoverberg.org.za/annual-bird-count-2023/

This year's challenge runs from the 1st January 2023 until the 31st December 2023; however you can join in the fun at any stage. All you have to do is contact Graeme Hatley give him your details and he will set you up.

Contact details are: 082 534 6196 or graeme@graemehatley.com

A record February…

BIRDS RECORDED IN THE OVERBERG DURING FEBRUARY 2023

Members of BirdLife Overberg and friends have again recorded more species during February 2023 than in previous years. This is probably due to more birders participating in the project. Some of the specials that got members excited included Grey Cuckooshrike, Brown Snake Eagle, Long-crested Eagle, Eurasian Hobby, Caspian Plover, Greater Sand Plover, European Roller and Great Shearwater.

We will start all over again on the 1st March, so please let us know all species that you record in the Overberg region during the month and remember to indicate the location.

Let Anton know at birding@overberg.co.za or WhatsApp at 082 550 3347.

Spot the difference

Just for fun: below are two images of Rails, the first the African version, the second the English version…

Birdlife Overberg Newsletter 3- March 2023

Trip Report: Club outing to De Mond on 25 February 2023 – by Graeme Hatley

With over 70 species recorded during the day, a good outing was had by club members.

Some got an early start on the gravel road heading towards the reserve. At the junction a Cardinal Woodpecker was calling from the roadside thicket. There were also a good number of Denham's Bustard at various points along the road. At one location thirteen were counted. There have been recent reports of a Long-crested Eagle in the area, so every brown raptor got extra scrutiny. Although there was no evidence of the Long-crested Eagle, the extra vigilance paid off with a good sighting of an Osprey.

At the reserve excitement was mounting for the opportunity to find the Caspian Plovers which have been reported from the area. Recent reports indicated they were still two days prior to our visit. Unfortunately, there was no sign of them. In a sea of tiny plovers, a spotting scope would have been ideal! Despite the target species not being found there was still plenty of good birding. Plovers of various kinds as well as multiple Sandpipers were spread out in their multitudes across the sandbanks.

Multiple of the Grey Plovers were carefully scrutinised to see if they were an elusive Golden Plover. Excitement (or hope) mounted until the birds flashed their black armpits to reveal their true identity as Grey Plovers. At this time of year some of the birds are starting to moult into their breeding plumage prior to their return northwards. This did complicate identification of an already challenging group. Between the more common Curlew Sandpipers and Common Ringed Plovers a few Terek Sandpipers and Red Knots provided a bit of extra excitement. Common Sandpipers were also in the mix.

Terns were plentiful. At this site there is always a chance of Damara Terns. But it was the equally tiny Little Terns that provided the thrill. They were in the breeding plumage with their distinctive, black-tipped yellow bills. Other terns included the Caspian, Greater Crested, Sandwich and Common.

A group lunch was had under the trees near the office. Some of the familiar garden birds called from the canopy above the group, including Cape White-eyes, Cape Batis and Bar-throated Apalis.

Some of the members continued birding on their way home. Highlights included a European Roller outside Bredasdorp and a White Stork. Two of our members stopped at Napier Sewage works and added several ducks to the collective list.

All-in-all, a good day out for the members of BirdLife Overberg.

Below are some of the images taken by members on the day…

Birdlife Overberg Newsletter 3- March 2023

Little Tern, Terek Sandpipers with Caspian Tern and Grey Plovers, Whimbrel (images by Graeme Hatley) Bar-tailed Godwit, Caspian Terns, Common Buzzard, Curlew Sandpiper, Common Ringed Plover, Sanderling, European Roller, White Stork, Osprey (Images by Steve Peck)

Birdlife Overberg Newsletter 3- March 2023

We would like to extend a very warm welcome to the following new members that have joined Birdlife Overberg in 2023:

Steve Bailey, Hilldidge Beer, Marietjie Biggs, Wendy Botha, Catherine Bruce, Mick Castley, Matt Cornish, Tierck & Jeanetta Hoekstra, Nina Landman, Rina Mostert, Linnie Muller, Leathern Murray, Danny Myburgh, Hanna Peyper, Rita Raubenheimer, Helen Schneebeli, Riaan & Alet Swart, John Thompson, Denise & Gerrie van der Westhuizen, Jill Wheater, Dee Wills, Ria Wills.

Also, members who have a special day (birthday) in the months of March and April are:

2 March: Tobie Louw/ 4 March: Dawid Malan/ 5 March: Dee Wills/ 7 March: Colleen Naude/ 8 March: Di Cartner/ 8 March: Steve Bailey/ 12 March: Elsabé Ketteringham/ 12 March: Cecilie Trumpelmann/ 18 March: Jane Angus/ 19 March: Ria Wills/ 21 March: Christine Griffiths/ 24 March: Ross Dewar/ 25 March: Annie Spratt/ 28 March: Dr Illza Perold/ 4 April: Wilfred Crous/ 4 April: Ben Thompson/ 4 April: Aletta Robertson/ 5 April: Ally Ditchfield/ 6 April: Peter Theron/ 7 April: Thinus Jonker/ 9 April: Ilse Bigalke/ 9 April: Madeleine Swart / 13 April: Hoogie van Hoogstraten/ 20 April: Nita Hazell/ 21 April: Jessie Walton/ 24 April: Alistair Moody/ 25 April: Catherine Bruce

And finally, do you remember the article in the last newsletter about the establishment of a (hopefully) breeding colony of African Penguins at De Hoop …..well they have!

So please send any images, reports or interesting articles relating to birding in our region that might be suitable for the next newsletter or inclusion on the club's website or as a Facebook post to Anton or Steve.

We are getting huge interest and views in all these mediums, and this can only go a long way in promoting the Overberg region as a top birding destination.

Steve Peck Newsletter Editor

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