



BLiNG WiNGS

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Reflections

October Club meeting: "What birds taught me about life"

Well-known photographer Thinus van Staden, whose articles and photography have graced *African Birdlife* recently, delivered an unforgettable 12-point presentation about insights taught by birds and birding.



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Voortrekker Monument – 7 Oct

Hanjo Gouws was the leader, while 13 club members also joined this bird walk. 61 Species were seen, with the highlight a Black Sparrowhawk seen chasing an African Harrier-Hawk.

The Bird Ringers there showed their process and equipment, and some great close-ups of birds and the ringing process were had by Amanda Gazendam.



Brown-crowned Tchagra – Rooivlerktjagra
Green-winged Pytilia – Gewone Melba



Red-throated Wryneck's intricately patterned feathers - Draaihals [Amanda Gazendam]



Bronkhorstspruit Dam – 14 October

Toni Geddes guided this club outing. A great day with some remarkable species saw most members ticking a few lifers or bagging lifer photographs. Returning migrants made the day, especially the quite scarce Horus Swift.



Orange River Francolin – Kalaharipatrys & Whiskered Tern – Baardsterretjie [Sean Naudé]



Willow Warbler – Hofsanger [Angela Openshaw]



Horus Swift – Horuswindswael & Brown-throated Martin – Afrikaanse Oewerswael [Sean Naudé]





Annual UP Campus Bird Census – 21 October

Arrie Kloppers organised this annual bird count which was conducted at LC de Villiers Sports Campus and the information supplied to the relevant UP departments.

The joint UP - BLNG event had a record crowd in attendance. Hope we can build on this momentum.

We divided into three groups to survey the Hartbeesspruit that runs through the Hillcrest campus. One team surveyed the dam the LC de Villiers Sports Centre and had the unenviable task to count the birds in the heronry. One team surveyed the area along the spruit between the two dams and the third team surveyed the Uitspandam and the spruit below that.

All teams recorded similar numbers of species (± 50) but the team at the sport centre had their work cut out for them and recorded 675 birds in total. The combined list of 78 species, 1194 birds, made for a great morning outing in the middle of the city.



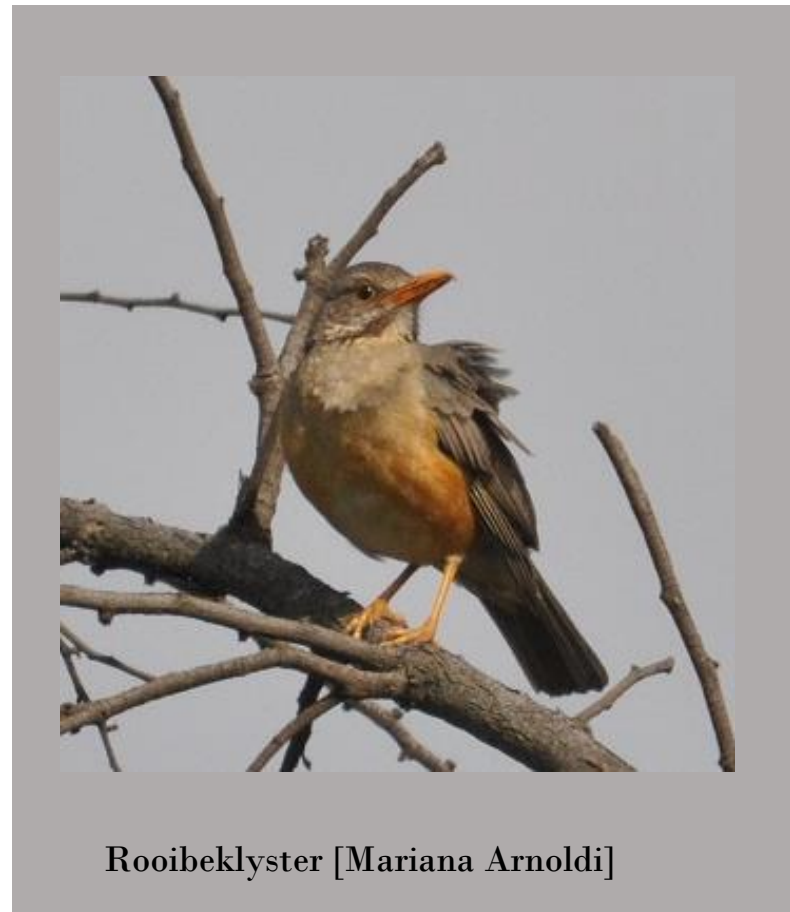
The Little Bittern that showed at the Uitspandam stands out as one of the highlights, followed by the African Harrier-Hawk. Overall, just a great morning's birding experience.

Arrie Kloppers

Groenkloof NR – 29 Oktober



Oktober, die mooiste, mooi maand, as jakarandas Suid Afrika met 'n pers lappieskombers oortrek. Hierdie jaar is die bome besonder groen na die milde reën vroeër die jaar. Groen en goud. Dis heel week al hittig in Gauteng en die weerkaarte voorspel wolke. Ons sien uit na die koeligheid maar wonder hoe 'n laag reën die lang stap in Groenkloof ons gaan demp. Sondagoggend vroeg begin die voertuie voor die hek in gelid saam kom. Die Tortelduiwe oefen koor en die Langstertjies (Prinias) dirigeer die orkes met Jan Frederik (Cape Robin-Chat) en Lyster (Thrush) wat op tyd inval. Terwyl ons die register teken, flits vrolike Glasogies (Cape White-eye) heen en weer oor ons koppe, gretig om hulle fyn tril by die koor te voeg, met die Swartoogtiptolle (Dark-capped Bulbul) se vrolike sinnetjies daarby.



Rooibeklyster [Mariana Arnoldi]



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Elmarie gewaar 'n Piet-my-vrou (Red-chested Cuckoo) en almal is dadelik by met hul glasoë. Sowaar, oop en bloot sit die koekoek, almal kan na hartelus kyk, en bokant hom sit nog een. Soe, almal is opgewonde, want die skugter skelms is gewoonlik goed versteek. Die Swartspeserwer (Black Sparrowhawk) rond die koor af met sy dagbreeklied.

Ons stap verder na die groot moerbeiboom waar al die spesies meeding vir 'n happie. Muisvoëls – Rooiwang en Gevlek (Red-faced - and Speckled Mousebirds), Kwevoël (Grey Go-away-bird), Rooi- en Geelbeklysters (Karoo – and Kurrichane Thrush), en Suidelike Waterfiskaal (Southern Boubou) duet al om ons. Teen die randjie sing die Bonthoutkapper (Acacia Pied Barbet) aanhoudend, maar word stilgemaak deur die Bosveldfisant (Swainson's Francolin). Ons stap aan en soek die Paradysvlieëvanger (Paradise Flycatcher) wat ook nie op hom laat wag nie.

James sien 'n roofvoël oorvlieg en almal skarrel om hom in hul visiere te kry – 'n Bruinjakkalsvoël, soos Amanda hom later identifiseer. 'n Volstruismannetjie tel sy vlerke dreigend op – sowaar, daar is 'n kleintjie by sy pote! Mariana roep uit dat daar 'n Bokmakierie is, en almal kry hom darem te siene. Mooi! Tussen die digter bome verras 'n Swartkatakoeroe (Black Cuckooshrike) se sang ons, en ons is baie bly dat sy wyfie mooi oop gaan sit. En net daar vlieg 'n groterige swart voël met wit in sy lang stert uit- tot Danie hom later uitken as Gestreepte Nuwejaarsvoël! (Levaillant's Cuckoo).

Die reën het weggebly, en ons kom terug by die parkeerarea, met 75 spesies op ons lys.

Laura Jordaan



Bruinjakkalsvoël – Common Buzzard
[Danie van Zyl]

Baie dankie, Pieter Heslinga, vir die reeks pragfoto's van die hofmakery van Rooikeelbyvreters. Eers bring die mannetjie 'n lekker happie, en aan die einde van die hele proses is dit asof hy haar troetel.



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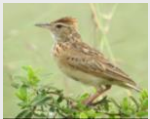
November Club Meeting: Faansie Peacock (Zoom only)

Faansie Peacock is a renowned ornithologist and bird artist. These two skills were combined in the ground-breaking Firefinch birding app with its stunning plates and interesting daily updates.

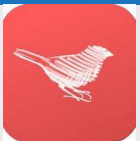
Faansie will explain about the creation and unique properties of this app.

Most, if not all of us, are already in possession of one or more books of this prolific writer / illustrator, be it *Birding Gauteng*, *Waders*, *Faansie's Bird Book* for kids, *Pipits*, or others. Join us in this zoom session!

PROGRAMME NOVEMBER



4 Nov – Moreleta NR



14 November – Club meeting



18 Nov – Rooiwal & surrounds



22 Nov – Northern Farm



25 Nov – Kaalplaas

Bookings: <mailto:secretary@blng.co.za>

New Beginnings



For future placements: Ivonne Coetzee @ <mailto:lanariuseditor@blng.co.za>

Stephan Terblanche of BLNG assumed the position of Regional Atlasing Coordinator: Gauteng / NW at SABAP2, after the previous coordinator, André Marx, sadly passed away. Congratulations to this worthy appointee!

