

Letter from the editor:

Thank you to everyone who contributed to this month's newsletter with your articles and reports on the club outings. Please contact me should you wish to share your story or sighting with us at labmarcia@gmail.com.

Happy birding! **Marcia**

Last Post Nature Reserve—08October 2016

Artikel deur Richter van Tonder

Die dag se weer was winderig en koud tot en met so 10:00 se kant, wat gemaak het dat die voëls tot laat nog besig was met hul geroep en soek na kos. Die area is baie droog en reën is dringend nodig daar en so ook die res van ons gebied. Dit het natuurlik 'n invloed gehad op die spesiale spesies wat gesien is en ook die wat nie gesien is nie.

Die doel van die dag was om die Oranjevlerkmeelba(Orange-winged Pytilia) te kry wat seker een van die moeilikste spesies is om te sien in Suid-Afrika. Die outjie was laas in April 2009 by Last Post gesien deur Koos Du Plessis. Ek, Jody en Rowan het dié ekspedisie aangepak met 'n gemiddelde verwagting om hom te kry.

Interessante habitat en omgewing wat deur hierdie spesie verkies word. By Last Post is dit baie heuwelig en jy is op die punt van die platorand wat veroorsaak dat jy 'n mengelmoes van habitatte kry. Dit is hoofsaaklik breëblaar boswêreld met goed ontwikkelde riverbos en groot klip koppies.

Met aankoms is ons gegroet deur 'n groep Swarthelmlaksmans(Retz's Helmeted-shrike) wat skaars is vir die omgewing. In terme van trekvoëls het ons maar min gesien en gehoor. Ons het wel 'n mooi Bruinarend(Wahlberg's Eagle) gesien.

Die Mocking Chat Lodge het sy naam gestand gedoen met 'n Dassievoël(Mocking Cliff Chat) paartjie. Hier het ons verwoed begin soek vir die Oranjevlerkmeelba(Orange-winged Pytilia). Al wat jy sien en hoor is Swartoogtiptolle(Dark-capped Bulbuls). Daar is honderde van hulle daar. Gelukkig was darem ook ander spesies en wat 'n verrassing om 'n groepie van seker 6 Grys Kapokvoëltjies(Grey Penduline-tit) te sien. Ons het die plek plat gery en van die spesies wat gesien is: Grysneushoringvoël(African Grey Hornbill), Geelborswille(Yellow-bellied Greenbul), Oranjeborsboslaksmans(Orange-breasted Bush-shrike), Gewone Swartmees(Southern Black Tit), Geelborskleinjantjie(Yellow-breasted Apalis), Skerpbekheuningvoël(Brown-backed Honeybird), Gestreepte Visvanger(Striped Kingfisher), Kaalwangvalk(African Harrier-hawk), Baardwipstert(Bearded Scrub-robin), Withelmlaksmans(White-crested Helmet-shrike), Kaapse Bosbontrokkie(Cape Batis), Konkoit(Gorgeous Bush-shrike), Blougrysvlieëvanger(Ashy Flycatcher), Waaiertertvlieëvanger(Grey-tit Flycatcher), Kortbeksuikerbekkie(Collared Sunbird), Luitinkinkie(Lazy Cisticola), Grootheuningwyser(Greater Honeyguide).

Die vraag is nogsteeds: Het ons hom gekry? Die antwoord: ... nee. Maar ons sal weer terugkeer as dit weer goed gereën het. 63 spesies is opgeteken vir die pentad. Dankie aan Henk Fourie wat ons elke keer toelaat om daar te beweeg. Ek vra dat julle hom sal ondersteun deur 'n aand of twee te gaan oorslaap in die wonderlike Mocking Chat Lodge. Wie weet, dalk word julle verras!

Photo's deur Jody du Bruyn



Swarthelmlaksmans/Retz's Helmeted-shrike



Bruinarend/Wahlberg's Eagle

Bird of Southern Africa 2017 Calendars



The *Birds of Southern Africa 2017* calendars are now in stock! With a stunning, full-page colour photograph for each month, they will make lovely gifts for local and international family and friends.

They are selling at R130 each (excluding postage). Please contact Shireen Gould at membership@birdlife.org.za to place your order or for more information. We suggest you don't delay – stocks are limited!

Birding Big Day 2016



BirdLife South Africa's 32nd Birding Big Day will take place on Saturday 26 November 2016. The purpose of Birding Big Day is to celebrate the wonderful bird diversity we have in South Africa, to raise valuable funds for conservation and awareness for BirdLife South Africa's conservation work. In addition this year we want to showcase the exciting mobile application, BirdLasser.

We plan to make Birding Big Day this year bigger and more exciting than ever before by:

- Partnering with BirdLasser to show the progress of teams during the day on an interactive map.
- Publicising the event widely in social and printed media and on radio.
- Establish an Operations Centre at Isdell House during the day where updates about which birds have been recorded and progress of teams will be posted to the various media outlets.
- **Registration for Birding Big Day**
- You need to register for Birding Big Day **before** the event by completing the online form.

There is no entry fee, but a minimum donation of R300 is required to qualify for a BirdLife South Africa Birding Big Day 2016 cloth badge. This payment should be sent to BirdLife South Africa **after** the event, to enable your team to raise funds during the event. See banking details below. We also request participants to consider making a donation here: <http://www.birdlife.org.za/support-us/donate>

CLUB OUTINGS / UITSTAPPIES:

04 Nov – Night Drive at Plk Game Reserve (**RvT**)
24 Nov – Year-end function (bring and braai) (**LG.**)
26 Nov – Birding Big Day (**RvT**)

Charles Hardy – **CH** (083 457 1721); Joe Grosel – **JG** (082 415 5250); Lisa Grosel - **LG** (083 380 2322); Saartjie Venter - **SV** (083 653 0475), Derek Engelbrecht – **DE** 0822005277, Richter van Tonder – **RvT** 082 213 8276

Eastern Cape Trip Report (Charles & Lois Hardy)

The Eastern Cape offers some interesting birding opportunities with many varied birding habitats and some endemic species we still needed to see, so we decided to travel to the Garden Route.

We broke the long journey with a most enjoyable overnight stay in Smithfield. After an unexpectedly good dinner at Nick's Place B&B it was up early in search of a Grey-winged Francolin (pictured below) which we located on a farm road not far from town before breakfast.

The drive to East London and then Port Alfred was uneventful, along good roads and through beautiful scenery. High winds curtailed our birding plans to seek out the Black-winged Lapwing on the Port Alfred golf course but provided good opportunity to visit family.

Then on to Knysna and the possibility of some of the forest specials in the area. The next 2 days were spent with Tim Carr a local bird guide in Sedgfield.

Our first early morning search for Knysna Warbler proved fruitless so it was off to Mossel Bay to a change in habitat. We visited several farms in the Vleesbaai area with Fransmansvlei being a particularly nice birding spot providing two target species the Southern Tchagara and Augulhas Long-billed Lark and also great sightings of Cape Capper Lark and Large-billed Lark.

The afternoon took us into mountains behind Wilderness to fields near the small town of Hoekwil where we celebrated finding the Black-winged Lapwing with slices of the Hoekwil Café's famous cheese cake. This good birding day culminated in a sighting of a Knysna Woodpecker whilst dropping off Tim at his home at Reflections Eco Reserve on Swartvlei at Sedgfield.

Day two and another early start looking for the elusive Knysna Warbler yielded success after long searches in forest areas and the Half Collared Trail near Wilderness. The area also provided many wonderful sightings of the beautiful and brightly coloured Knysna Turaco and another good view of Knysna Woodpecker and Olive Woodpeckers. And so it was once again up the mountains into the fynbos habitat beyond the Simola Golf Course. After some severe bundu bashing in the thankfully thornless fynbos we were rewarded with a close up encounter with a very vocal Victorin's Warbler. A very special bird as it occupies number 800 on my species list.

On the the long journey home, Lois and I were rewarded with wonderful sightings of our South African National Bird the Blue Crane which provided a very fitting end to another most enjoyable and rewarding birding trip.

(Tim Carr can be contacted at reflection@mweb.co.za, 071 683 4133)

