



Wakkerstroom Bird Club



(Affiliated to BLSA)

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NEWSLETTER NUMBER 54 – JANUARY 2018

Hi All,

As a special effort to help a couple of worthy causes we have decided to issue this special newsletter asking you to assist with a new version of the very successful Avianator Project as mentioned below. The first comes from Kristi Garland:

1. Request for photographs:

BirdLife South Africa begins its new education project, funded by the National Lotteries Fund, with 40 schools in the Wakkerstroom, Lunenburg, Utrecht and Paulpietersburg areas soon. The project is entitled “Biodiversity Stewardship for Future Custodians”. We will be focussing on linking environmental learning and experiences with the current curriculum / classroom learning. Based on the proven success of the Avianator Project run previously in the Free State, this project takes teachers and learners on a journey through the world of birds, their habitats, human interactions and citizen science programmes. Each school will receive a “living file” of information and activities to enable them to lead informed lessons in the class. This file will be added to on a continued basis. One of the action taking projects these schools will be involved in during the first term is a bird monitoring project around their school and homes. We have designed information sheets and ID charts to assist the learners in correctly identifying the birds seen as well as learning a little more about each species. We are missing a few photographs and would greatly appreciate your help. Each photograph used would acknowledge the photographer and should show all diagnostic features of the species. Should you wish to support this initiative and assist with avian education in this regards, please email your photograph to kristi.garland@birdlife.org.za. The species we are looking for

include:

African Stone Chat

Southern Masked Weaver

Sacred Ibis

Cape Turtle Dove

Cape Wagtail

Cape Crow

Yellow-crowned Bishop

Dark-capped Bulbul

Red-winged Starling

Hamerkop

Spur-winged Goose

Egyptian Goose

Jackal Buzzard

Spotted Eagle Owl

Pied Kingfisher

The second request also comes from Kristi:

2. Egg boxes and toilet roll inners.

We are in search of egg-boxes (18's) and the cardboard toilet roll inners for some of our education activities. The egg boxes will be used as treasure hunt boxes for one of our sensory activities and the toilet roll inners for our Spring Alive Project “30 days of Spring Advent Calendars”. These can be delivered to the

BirdLife South Africa Wakkerstroom Centre or brought to meetings/outings, or handed to any Committee member!

The third re-cycling request comes from Carol Preston who is doing so much clean-up work in town in the name of re-cycling and gathering information for her PhD studies, wonderful stuff!

3. Wakkerstroom Litter Initiative January 2018

We are having a final push on Friday 26th January for bottle top collection at the old dump in Wakkerstroom, since we have about 150kg still needed for the wheelchair initiative. This will be a messy activity but well worth the effort. Please feel free to sponsor gloves, your gardener or yourself. We will work for only an hour and hope to be able to collect the 150kg of bottle tops that we still need for our wheelchair. Please also bring bags to put the tops in. A big request as well, is to please ensure that the tops are of the same plastic as standard cold drink bottle tops. So for example, a coke top is not the same as a peanut butter top, or the same as a fabric softener container. There are a few different types of plastics and these cannot be recycled together, since they have different properties and different applications. So for example, you will notice if you feel a coke bottle that it has a different texture to its top. When recycling these plastics are shredded, then melted and formed into pellets that can then be made into other objects. Therefore it is not possible to mix a coke bottle with its top since they have different melting points and different objects that are made from the pellets. I extend a big request that care is taken to ensure that other objects are not included, such as old razor blades. The organizers are very strict about these objects and may refuse to collect.

We are also collecting bread tags separately to the bottle tops. Bread tags are a different type of plastic to bottle tops and they are part of a different programme, so again they cannot be collected with the bottle tops.

I am happy to collect bottle tops and bread tags from homes if you would be able to collect for us there, or you can deliver to either me or Janet Rowse.

The programme for clean-ups in the next quarter is as follows:

- **26th January 10:30am:** bottle top drive at the old dump
- **11th February 9am:** clean-up of the Municipal and Library grounds.
- **11th March 9am:** clean-up of the road in eSizameleni that goes past Smileys aftercare centre.
- **25th March:** Performance of the play for friends and family. The venue will be the Bioscope and the time will be announced.
- At some early stage there will be a big vlei clean up and we invite all residents, parents and friends of the children to help with cleaning the rubbish out of the vlei. There will be a bring and braai afterwards and cold drinks will be provided.

These are all wonderful initiatives by dedicated people who deserve our full support – not to mention the improvement to our town's initial impression on visitors and encouragement to residents.

Brian.

REFUSE * RE-USE * RECYCLE