



Wakkerstroom
Bird Club



Affiliated to BirdLife South Africa

Principal supporter of the Wakkerstroom Junior Bird Clubs

NEWSLETTER NUMBER 83 – FEBRUARY 2021

Hello Fellow Birders,

How has 2021 been treating you so far? Hopefully you are managing to keep healthy and are keeping your head above things with the ever-more depressing Covid blanket we're all trying to breathe under. I also hope you managed to get away to do some birding, however far "getting away" may have been!

Of course with the Stage 3 restrictions, our Club has been a bit quiet as we've sadly not been able to organize any meetings or outings. The last "event" was Birding Big Day at the end of November 2020 ... so I'll start with the results of that. Here is BBD Organiser Ernst Retief's report:

"BirdLife South Africa's 36th Birding Big Day took place on Saturday 28 November. More than 350 teams participated, which is almost 50 more teams than last year! Of these 320 teams logged their data using BirdLasser while the rest submitted paper lists. We also had an increase in the number of community category participants, with more school and other community groups taking part. This means that over 1 500 people participated in the formal event and we know that many others did so informally. Of interest is the number of teams who registered for the first time, maybe a result of the garden lockdown challenge during which people downloaded BirdLasser and learnt how to use this app? Another nice feature of this year's event is that more teams targeted the provincial challenges. Provincial challenges were first included during the 2019 Birding Big Day. Many teams aimed to beat last year's provincial totals and, as a result, records were set for eight of the nine provinces. Only the Eastern Cape's 2019 record survived. For a list of the winning teams and their totals, see the table below. A total of 653 species were seen by all the teams, down from last year. This is mostly due to the fact the pelagic birding trip out of Cape Town was cancelled due to rough seas. Even so, this is an excellent total, with more than 75% of South Africa's bird species being recorded during Birding Big Day.

For the second year in row the team record was broken. In 2019 the team, "A Bowl of Corncrakes", managed to break the previous record and set the record at 325 species. This year "The Raven Dikkops", with team members Bradley Arthur, Michael Mills, Marc Cronje and Callan Cohen from Mpumalanga, set a new record of 335 species! Well done to them! In addition, the teams recorded 48 769 records on BirdLasser, which is almost 9 000 records more than in 2019. More than 1 200 records were received for species of conservation concern and the FitzPatrick Institute's Michael Brooks reported a massive increase in data submission to the Southern African Bird Atlas Project during the day. This shows that Birding Big Day is not just about a fun day birding and the competition, but also about making an important contribution to the collection of valuable bird distribution data. We also hope that some of the first-time participants will become regular contributors to the various citizen science projects.

BirdLife South Africa would like to thank Henk Nel and his team at BirdLasser for their wonderful support. We would also like to thank those who have paid for badges or made donations. The funds raised for Birding Big Day support BirdLife South Africa's conservation work, so every cent is much appreciated. We would also like to thank ZEISS who were our corporate sponsor this year and BirdPro (<http://birdproapp.com/>) who donated three apps as prizes. The next Birding Big Day will be held on Saturday 27 November 2021, and we look forward to seeing how many records will be broken!"

Did you participate in Birding Big Day? Let us know how you did and what your highlights of the day were.

Upcoming Zoom Birding Course by Wits Bird Club



**9, 11, 13 February 2021 / Zoom
Online Course – Lance
Robinson “Birding Basics”**

Karoo Thrush – Photo by Warwick Tarboton

If you are keen on learning more about birds and birding and have always wanted to develop one of the correct habits of looking at a bird, or need a refresher, then this Birding Basics Course is just what you have been looking for.

Time: 18h45 for 19h00 Tuesday 9 and Thursday 11 February. Outing details Saturday 13 February to be confirmed during course.

To register click https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZUsde6qqDgtGdUqV8L_kWIEyUxD1IsITAex

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

Cost: Members R250, Non-Members R300

I love this photo taken by our Chairman Brian Guerin, entitled “Dozy Duck”! 😊😊😊



We nicked this article from The Guardian newspaper (International Edition, 1 Dec 2020) ... I'm sure many can relate!

Owls of delight! How online birdwatching became my lockdown treat by Emma Beddington

I have become obsessed with bird matters, especially the antics of Rocky, Barry and co in New York City ...

Birdwatching has been a Covid success story: sales of feeders have soared and birdwatchers broke a world record for the most birds observed during Cornell Lab of Ornithology's "Global Big Day" in May.

I like watching Small Brown Bird One and Small Brown Bird Two argue over mealworms in my yard until Large Grey Rat appears to settle the squabble, but I am too lazy to make a real hobby of it: it is cold out there. Instead, I watch birdwatchers on Twitter, which brings its own satisfaction. There is a photographer who waits patiently, hand full of seed outstretched, capturing birds when they alight, and I love following my local bird-rescue lady transforming her charges from bedraggled, gloomy clumps of feather to heart-gladdening swooshes of wildness. She also keeps me informed about the shameful, often-unpunished incidents of raptor poisoning and trapping that blight the UK's lucrative grouse moors.

For the past few weeks, though, I have been seduced by bird matters in New York, which is aflutter with owl excitement. First there was Rocky, the tiny, furious saw-whet owl discovered in the Rockefeller Centre Christmas tree, like the best tree topper ever. Once Rocky was restored to health and released, my attention turned to New York City's newest celebrity, Barry, a rare barred owl who looks like something Studio Ghibli might invent. Barry has been regularly spotted in Central Park in recent weeks: the Manhattan Bird Alert Twitter account follows his movements, naps and run-ins with squirrels – and the crowds of Barry spotters who throng to the park hoping to catch a glimpse.



The horned owl hanging out in Central Park. Photograph: EJ Bartolazo/EJ Bartolazo (@ejbarto1)

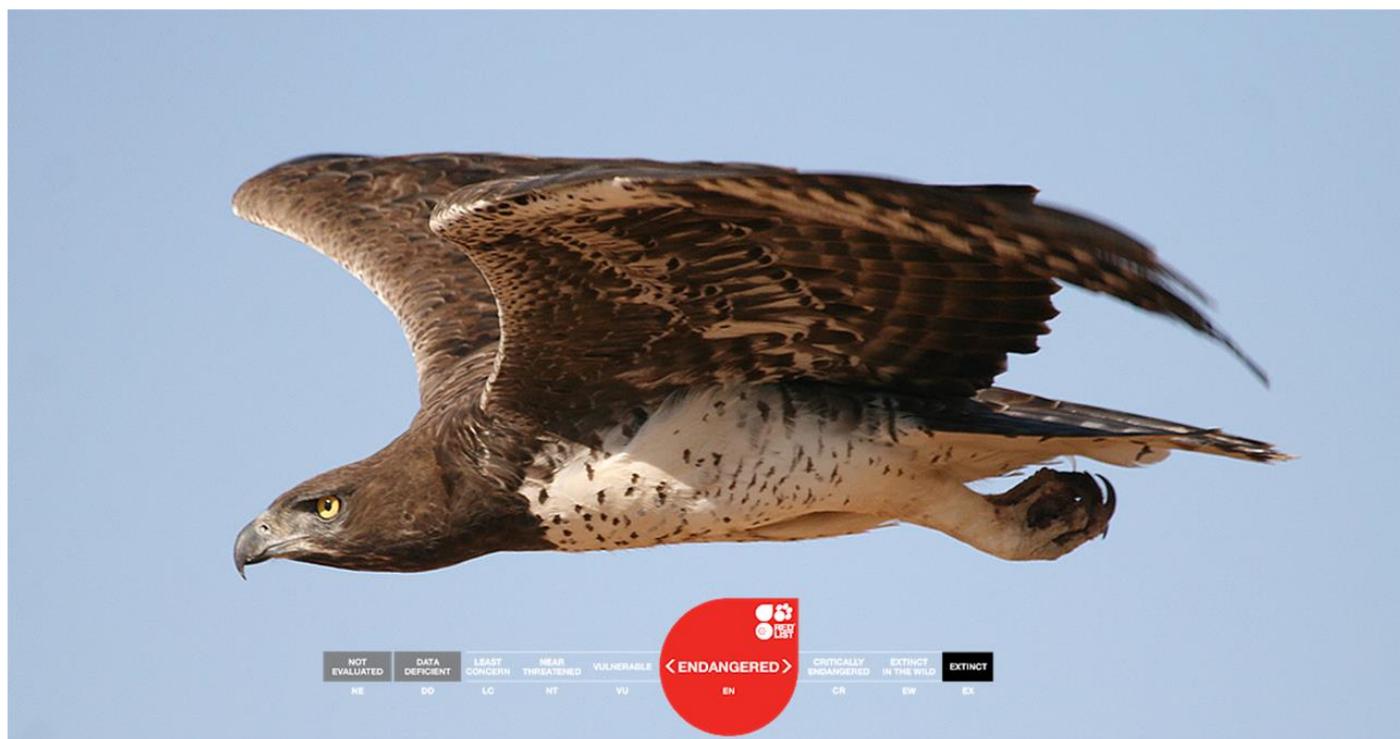
Ornithologists initially feared the crowds might scare him away, but there are reports of a second barred owl in the area. They have even been joined by a thrillingly vast great horned owl, all orange eyes and ear tufts.

Are these sightings a sign that wildlife is reconquering our quieter cities? In a way, it is the owls' prey that is really taking over. "Rats are abundant again this year," David Barrett, who runs the Bird Alert account, told a journalist. How very 2020.

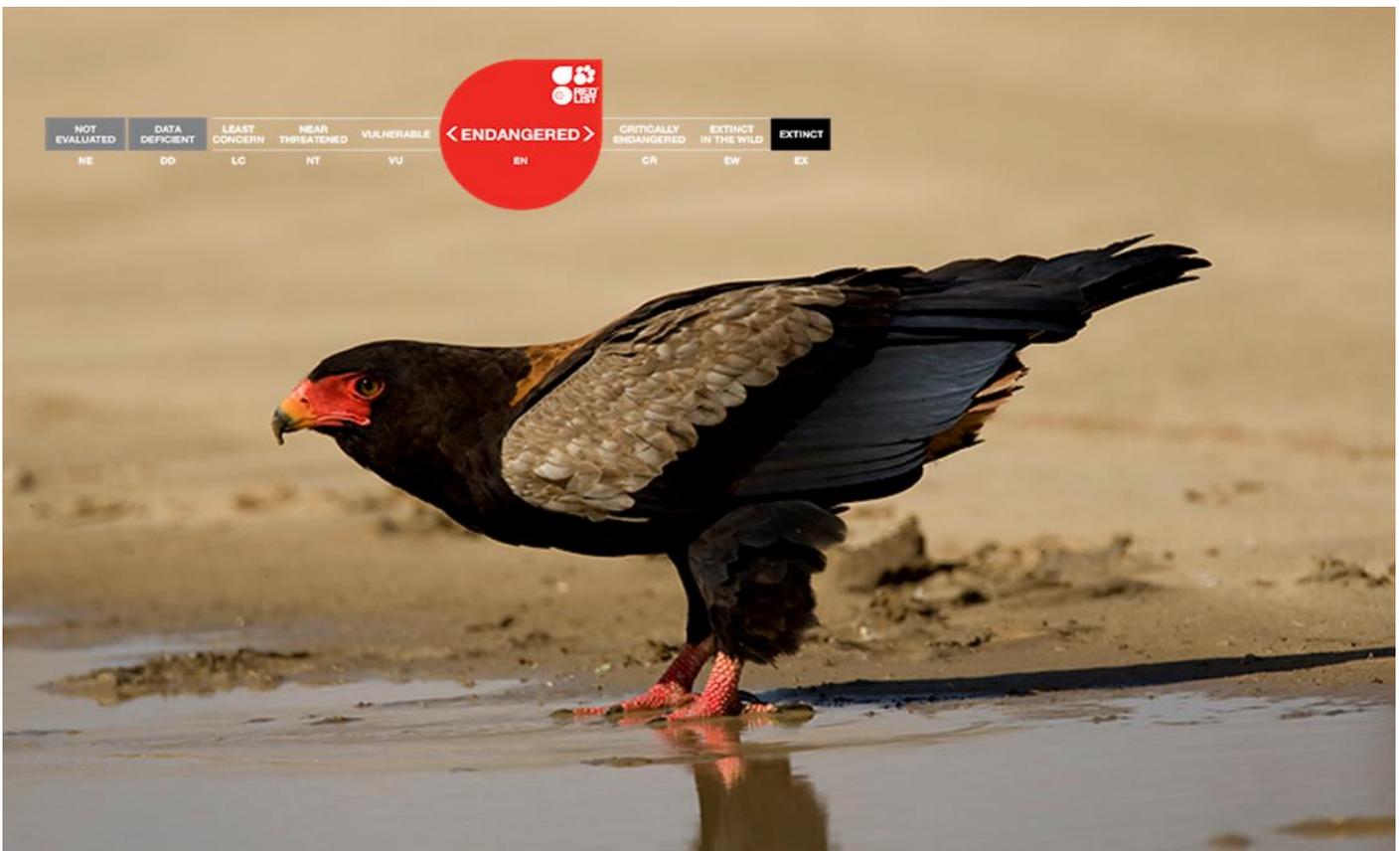
Rather more depressing is the following article sent by BirdLife South Africa Landscape Conservation Programme's Melissa Howes-Whitecross:

Iconic African Savanna Raptors Uplisted to Endangered on the Global Red List of Threatened Species

African savanna landscapes are synonymous with sightings of large birds of prey. These majestic apex predators can give pause to even the least bird-friendly observer driving by. To behold such unique and powerful creatures against the dramatic savannas and grasslands leaves one with a sense of privilege and awe. Sadly, this privilege may be reserved for only a few generations more as the latest global Red List update highlights the true plight of Africa's iconic raptors. In 2020 we will see three of Africa's most famous birds of prey, the Secretarybird, Martial Eagle and Bateleur, uplisted to globally Endangered. While this news may come as a shock to many, it should also be a warning bell for us all that our natural world, what little remains of it, is battling to support these wide-ranging predatory birds and urgent conservation action is needed if we are to protect the legacy of African skies filled with large raptors soaring overhead.



In the 2018 State of South Africa's Birds report published by BirdLife South Africa, it was highlighted that over a quarter of South Africa's raptors are threatened. Threats facing this group of apex predators includes poisoning and persecution, mortalities linked to human infrastructure (including powerlines, fences and roads), loss of intact habitat with a sufficient abundance of prey species, and destruction or disturbance of suitable nesting habitat. On 15 December, owing to this myriad of threats facing these once-common and wide-ranging African raptors, BirdLife International announced that the Secretarybird, Martial Eagle and Bateleur have all been uplisted to Endangered following seriously alarming rates of decline – as detected by the monitoring work of BirdLife Partners, other ornithologists and citizen scientists across Africa and analysed by the BirdLife science team for the IUCN Red List.



BirdLife South Africa played an important role in contributing to the reassessment of the Secretarybird's global conservation status, having carried out a conservation project focused on this species since 2011 when the Secretarybird was first uplisted to globally Vulnerable. BirdLife South Africa's Spatial Planning and Data Manager, Ernst Retief, started the Secretarybird project and had this to say upon hearing the latest uplisting news "I had the privilege to study Secretarybirds for several years. During this time, I observed them for many hours foraging while walking slowly through the veld, followed their movements through the data we received from tracking devices, and I saw what great parents they are through hundreds of camera trap photos at a nest. I also experienced extreme lows when picking up dead birds under powerlines or stuck in fences, but then there were fantastic days when we found chicks on a nest of an adult bird that we had tracked from his days as a nestling. I learnt that these are amazing birds, unique in so many ways, caring parents, and enduring inclement weather with ease. However, I also saw the threats these birds face daily, too many to mention here, and I fear for the day that we might not see them gracing our grasslands. The uplisting of this species to Endangered is a sad but necessary day. Hopefully, this will help to raise awareness of the plight of this species and lead to appropriate conservation actions."

The Secretarybird project was taken over by BirdLife South Africa's Landscape Conservation Programme Manager, Dr Melissa Howes-Whitecross in 2018. Dr Howes-Whitecross drove the successful Bird of the Year 2019 campaign centred on the Secretarybird, raising awareness of their plight across a range of platforms including through a citizen science project to record all sightings of individual Secretarybirds and their nests. Over 800 data points were collected from across South Africa and these data will form part of an important monitoring programme which is currently being developed for the country which is estimated to have lost over 75% of its Secretarybird population since the 1980s. In response to the Red List update, Dr Howes-Whitecross stated "Encountering a Secretarybird in the wild can only be described as a captivating experience. For me it sparked my love of birds, birdwatching and ultimately my conservation career, and I am yet to meet someone lucky enough to encounter these incredible birds and not walk away in awe. Watching them stride and strike at dangerous snakes with pin-point accuracy and extreme force will impress even the most hardcore of us. For those lucky enough to get up close with these majestic birds, one can only marvel at the intricate beauty of their long eyelashes and crest of feathers that surrounds their soul-piercing eyes. Their uplisting should be taken as a serious warning sign that our fragmentation and mismanagement of open grassland and savannah ecosystems is having disastrous effects."



The myriad of threats faced by these birds are almost too many to list, but habitat loss and degradation stands out as a prime suspect. These raptors require vast open habitat to seek out prey and trees to nest in, so the development and alteration of natural environments into agricultural fields, plantations, mines and buildings make the areas unsuitable, and also makes the birds vulnerable to collisions with infrastructure.

But even the raptors that nest in protected areas are not safe. For many years, Ernst Retief has followed Secretarybirds that he fitted with tracking devices. A recent analysis of the tracking data by Dr Howes-Whitecross and Mr Retief found high juvenile mortality rates of 46% within the first three years, as well as the lack of support offered by the protected area network: only 4% of tracked points fell within formally protected areas. These wide-ranging birds are often forced to forage beyond the protective boundaries of the reserves, exposing them to greater threats. Hence working with landowners outside of the formally protected areas is vital if we are to preserve Africa's raptors.

BirdLife South Africa's extensive biodiversity stewardship in the grasslands of South Africa relies on the Secretarybird as one of the flagship species for this conservation project and has enabled the team to declare over 100 000 ha of pristine grassland so far. By working closely with landowners to sensitise them to the presence and importance of birds on their properties, BirdLife South Africa is ensuring that these open landscapes remain a refuge for the Secretarybird and other grassland endemics found in South Africa.

While acknowledging the terrible news that these species are in trouble, the uplisting also brings about awareness and visibility to the plight of these important birds of prey. Falling under the Endangered category of the Red List focuses these species as conservation priorities and this recognition will assist conservation NGOs such as BirdLife South Africa to raise funds for their important conservation work aimed at preserving these iconic African raptors and their habitats.

BirdLife South Africa would like to acknowledge the generous funding and support provided by Nick and Jane Prentice, Laetitia Steynberg, the Airports Company South Africa and Petra Diamonds, both previous BirdLife International Species Champions for the Secretarybird, as well as the Ingula Partnership, a collaboration between Eskom, Middelpunt Wetland trust and BirdLife South Africa, for their support of the Raptors & Large Terrestrial Birds Project Manager. We would also like to acknowledge the assistance offered by numerous landowners, volunteers, bird clubs and conservation authorities across South Africa.

For more information contact: Dr Melissa Howes-Whitecross, Landscape Conservation Programme Manager

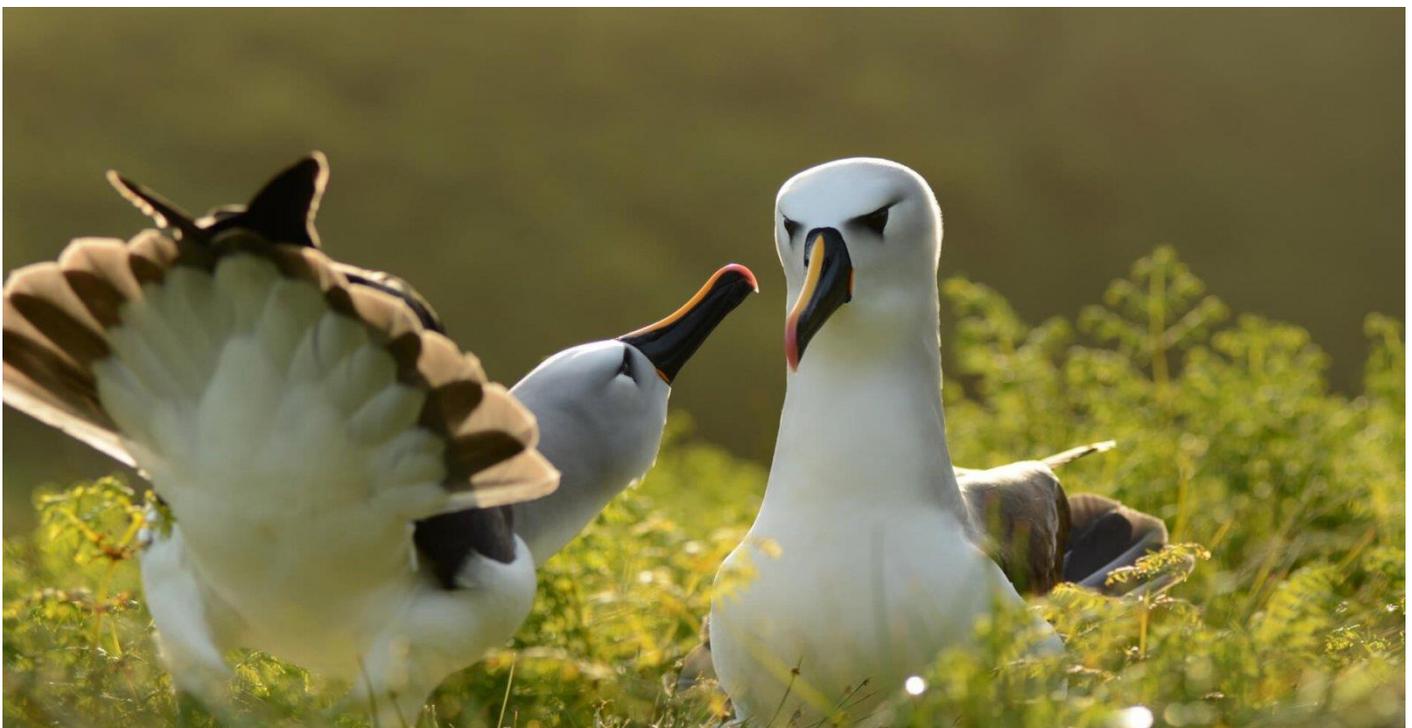
Email: melissa.whitecross@birdlife.org.za

So treasure every encounter you have with these (and all) birds of prey ... especially the stunning Secretarybird we are fortunate to be able to see in our area. – And before I get you TOO depressed, let's have a good news story shall we?

Namibian fishery reduces seabird deaths by 98% by Alan Munro, International Marine Policy Project Officer, RSPB (Birdlife in the UK)

After over a decade of work with the country's fishing industry, the Albatross Task Force in Namibia are celebrating a major conservation success. A new paper shows that seabird deaths in the Namibian demersal longline fishery have been reduced by 98%, which equates to 22,000 birds saved every year.

This achievement is thanks to effective government regulation and dedicated grassroots engagement with the industry by our dedicated team of seabird bycatch instructors, including Titus Shaanika and team leader Samantha Matjila. The Task Force engage directly with the fishing industry and demonstrate the simple measures that can prevent birds being caught on longline fishing hooks or killed by collisions with the thick steel cables that haul trawl nets through the water.



Atlantic Yellow-nosed Albatross (Endangered) in courtship display © Ben Dilley

One of the Task Force's first jobs was to establish the scale of the seabird bycatch issue in Namibia. The results were rather shocking: Namibia's hake trawl and longline fisheries were found to be among the world's deadliest for seabirds: an estimated 30,000 birds were being killed each year. What was even more concerning was that this

included threatened species like the Atlantic Yellow-nosed Albatross *Thalassarche chlororhynchos* (Endangered) and White-chinned Petrel *Procellaria aequinoctialis* (Vulnerable).

The Task Force quickly set to work and started meeting with the fishing industry to show them seabird 'mitigation measures' like bird-scaring lines – simple lines with colourful streamers towed behind the vessel that act as 'scarecrows' and keep birds away from baited hooks or dangerous trawl cables. After many thousands of hours at sea and in ports building support for these measures and the importance of protecting seabirds, in 2015 the team were successful in advocating for fishery regulations requiring the use of mitigation measures by law.

These new laws meant that bird-scaring lines were widely adopted across the fleet, and the new study demonstrates just how effective the potent combination of grassroots engagement and solid regulations has been.

Samantha Matjila, the Namibia ATF Team Leader with the Namibia Nature Foundation, reflected: "It's truly wonderful to see bycatch drop by such a huge amount in Namibia. Our waters are crucial for many globally threatened seabirds – to think that our collaborative efforts with all the vessels and the fishery managers have resulted in more than 22,000 birds being saved every year is something special. With the right levels of government investment and support, we hope that low levels of bycatch can be sustained long into the future, and that Namibia can serve as a marine conservation inspiration at a time when it is sorely needed!"



White-chinned Petrel (Endangered) ©Alistair J King

The Namibian team have also been able to connect bycatch reduction to female empowerment by partnering with local women's group Meme Itumbapo. The group have been building bird-scaring lines to sell to the fleet for over 6 years now and have recently signed an agreement to partner with one of the major fisheries supply companies in Walvis Bay to continue their work.

What's the next step? Since albatrosses are very long-lived birds (some species breed right up into their 60s!), we need to ensure that the approaches developed by the Task Force are hard-wired into long-term management of the

fishery. Titus Shaanika, Senior ATF Instructor in Namibia, notes: “The industry has done a remarkable job to reduce seabird bycatch so substantially over such a short period. The big challenge now is to keep up those hard-earned reductions, and to wear them as a badge of honour – we can and we must do more of this across the world if we want turn the tide on biodiversity loss.”

Speaking of badges of honour, the hake fishery recently secured MSC Certification as sustainable sea food, and bird bycatch was an important consideration in the assessment. The fishery picked up some conditions of certification – including the need to improve compliance with bird-scaring line use in the trawl fleet, and to ensure that robust data collection on bycatch continues, showing that the fishery is not having impacts on vulnerable seabird populations.

These results are certainly timely for other countries like the UK, whose own National Plan of Action for reducing seabird bycatch is under development. A close cousin of the albatross – the Northern Fulmar *Fulmarus glacialis* – is being caught in longline fisheries operating off the north coast of Scotland.

Rory Crawford, Bycatch Programme Manager for the BirdLife International Marine Programme, highlighted the opportunity to follow the lead shown in Namibia: “There is lots to be learned in the UK from the success story in Namibia. The ingredients of at-sea engagement, mitigation measure testing, strong regulations and very high observer coverage – 100% in some fleets – in Namibia could easily be translated to our waters if the will and resources can be found. So, what are we waiting for?”

The Namibian team is the second of five ATF teams across the world to have achieved a more than 90% seabird bycatch reduction, following a similar success in South Africa in 2014, where albatross bycatch was reduced by 95% in the hake trawl fishery. In the next two years the aim is to demonstrate similar reductions in Argentina and Chile, and to have furthered this major contribution to the improved conservation status of some of the world’s most remarkable – yet threatened – birds.

Phew, lots of reading! Let’s have something a bit lighter shall we – a crossword sent to us by Mike Maxted from England, where he and wife Jenni now reside:

Birdsearch

Big Garden Birdwatch

O	G	T	G	I	D	G	I	G	G	D	L	L	B	
U	A	L	G	B	I	N	R	L	G	I	T	T	L	
B	R	B	O	I	H	L	I	E	W	S	G	O	A	
S	T	A	R	L	I	N	G	N	A	R	O	F	E	
R	M	A	O	G	T	L	I	G	D	T	R	G	U	
G	L	R	O	B	I	N	G	L	P	R	T	N	D	
O	R	G	N	H	E	G	L	U	G	O	O	I	T	
L	W	O	O	D	P	I	G	E	O	N	L	U	T	
D	M	A	G	P	I	E	G	G	F	D	I	D	T	
F	E	S	E	I	O	T	R	T	H	U	G	L	L	
I	B	L	A	C	K	B	I	R	D	O	E	T	T	
N	M	C	R	B	M	B	L	U	E	T	I	T	O	
C	H	O	U	S	E	S	P	A	R	R	O	W	P	
H	L	O	N	G	T	A	I	L	E	D	T	I	T	

- house sparrow
- starling
- blue tit
- woodpigeon
- blackbird
- goldfinch
- great tit
- robin
- long-tailed tit
- magpie



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African Golden Weaver Albert Froneman

A reminder that Registrations for the Virtual Learn about Birds (LAB) Conference are now open!

The 5th biennial Virtual Learn about Birds (LAB) Conference will be taking place on 27 and 28 May 2021. This event is co-hosted by BirdLife South Africa and the Fitzpatrick Institute of African Ornithology, University of Cape Town. The LAB Conference will host a Science LAB session from 08h30-15h30 SAST each day, where ornithologists and conservationists will present their latest research and conservation successes. This will be followed by two Layman's LAB lectures in the evenings starting at 17h00 and 19h00 SAST, which includes popular talks on bird conservation, research and identification. Layman's LAB speakers will be announced in the upcoming weeks.



Registration for the Virtual LAB 2021 event are now open. To access the Zoom registration links, please pay your registration fees for the LAB Conference through the quickest events platform. You have two options for tickets based on the pricing guide below.

Once your payment has been processed for either the combined Science and Layman's LAB ticket or the Layman's LAB only ticket, you will receive access to the Zoom registration portal for either the Science LAB and/or Layman's LAB content on the Quickest platform's online content page.

PLEASE NOTE: In addition to paying your LAB registration fees through Quicket, you will need to register on Zoom for access to Science LAB and Layman's LAB separately as these will be run through two different Zoom portals. Once you have registered on the Zoom portal you will receive your unique access link via email. Please remember to check your spam folders.

The Science LAB will run from 8h30 – 15h30 SAST on 27 and 28 May 2021 and will showcase a mix of plenary lectures, live panel discussions, 15-minute scientific talks and five-minute speed talks. We welcome presenters from across the world who are conducting research or conservation work on Southern Africa's birds.

Pricing: *Early Bird Rates (11 January 2021-31 March 2021):*

Access to Science and Layman's LAB: R700 per person. Access to only Layman's LAB: R300 per person

Standard Rates (1 April 2021-30 April 2021):

Access to Science and Layman's LAB: R800 per person Access to only Layman's LAB: R350 per person



Abstract Submissions: Submission of abstracts for Science LAB can be done via the online registration form on the LAB website <https://www.birdlife.org.za/support-us/events/learn-about-birds-lab-conference/>.

Abstracts may be submitted from 11 January 2021 to 28 February 2021.

As the LAB event is one of the Landscape Conservation Programme's major fundraising events, BirdLife South Africa will be charging a small fee for attendance at this virtual event. This fee will go towards covering the time the programme's staff spend organising the event and the costs of utilising the virtual platform. Any proceeds gained over and above these costs will be used towards the Landscape Conservation Programme's species and ecosystem conservation work across South Africa. The Landscape Conservation Programme's vision is to see critical sites and ecosystems, and their associated ecological services, sustainably managed and protected to promote the preservation of diverse and healthy bird populations, other biodiversity, and people. Specific projects which will be supported out of this event include the Vulture Conservation Project and the Birds and Renewable Energy Project.

For more information, please email lab2021@birdlife.org.za. We look forward to welcoming you to another exciting LAB Conference in 2021.

Photos: Melissa Whitecross

Lucky 13 for Southern Bald Ibis by Carina Pienaar, Ingula Project Manager

There were several highlights for BirdLife South Africa's Southern Bald Ibis project in 2020, the latest of which was the fitting of two GSM tracking devices to juveniles at the artificial breeding site in Ingula Nature Reserve. This followed the fledging of no fewer than 13 chicks at the site, which was set up by Eskom to ensure that the existing breeding colony would still be protected after the construction of the Bedford Dam.

During the planning of Eskom's Ingula Pumped Storage Scheme on the Drakensberg escarpment 25km from Van Reenen, it became clear that the waterfall that flowed into the wetland on which the Bedford Dam was to be built would be inundated when the dam filled. This would be bad news for the Southern Bald Ibis breeding colony that nested on the waterfall's cliffs each year. As the species is Vulnerable and endemic to South Africa, Lesotho and Eswatini, Eskom recognised the importance of this colony and constructed an artificial breeding site for it – the first for the species. The colony has been monitored annually to test how effective this intervention has been.



A GSM tracking device on a juvenile Southern Bald Ibis. Credit: Kyle Lloyd

Since relocating to the new nesting site in 2016, the colony has consistently produced four fledglings. All four successful nests were located on the ledges below the 'potholes' that were constructed to encourage nesting. In 2019 up to 30 adults used the artificial site for roosting, and in 2020 there was a sudden increase in breeding activity, with nine nests in total and 13 chicks reaching fledging age. Three of the nests were located in the potholes.

This success was noteworthy for a number of reasons. After the previous four breeding seasons had consistently produced four chicks, it was thought that the site's capacity had been reached. And although the potholes apparently provided valuable shelter from the elements for adults and fledglings, their design seemed to lack certain characteristics that would have made them suitable for nests. Both assumptions have been proved wrong; nests in the potholes produced four of the 13 chicks that fledged.

According to previous literature, the Southern Bald Ibis has an average success rate of 0.3–0.6 per breeding attempt. The female usually lays between one and three eggs in a nest but, due to sibling rivalry, limited food resources and sometimes predation, only one chick will survive. This breeding event, however, has yielded a success rate of 1.4 fledglings per nest – a major improvement!

Furthermore, a team was able to ring 10 of the 13 juveniles in December, two of which were also fitted with new GSM tracking devices. They will form part of a study of the post-fledging spatial distribution and habitat use of young Southern Bald Ibises, which in turn is an element of a larger project to determine the breeding success, habitat preferences, land use and spatial movement of the species. All the information garnered will help BirdLife South Africa to make informed conservation decisions that will benefit the Southern Bald Ibis. Citizen science is also playing a role in the larger project, with volunteers monitoring breeding colonies throughout the species' range.

Many thanks to all who helped to fit the tracking devices: Craig and Sunika Nattrass for retrieving and ringing the juveniles and fitting the devices; and Dr Kyle Lloyd for ringing the birds.



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31 December 2020

Those that like to go a little further than the Amersfoort Bridge when visiting the wetland will see the three new signs erected on the cattle path that runs below the western side of that bridge. Two are on the picnic area side and one at the other end near the Oude Stasie turnoff, below the Scholes Rocks.

The signs indicate that NO pedestrian traffic (particularly people with dogs on leashes or not) is allowed along that path as it is a sensitive protected area. This is particularly so now during the breeding season and is meant to protect ALL species living in the wetland and not just the birds.

We would appreciate it if all local associations, accommodation establishment owners and Info Centre staff be asked to inform residents, visitors, and guests of this requirement.

Brian Guerin

On behalf of Wakkerstroom Bird Club Committee

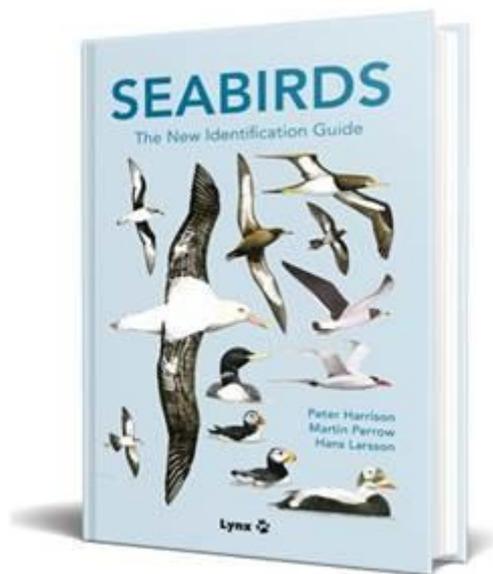


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New Identification Guide on Seabirds

You can purchase the much-awaited "Seabirds: The New Identification Guide" for 60 euro at <https://www.lynxeds.com/product/seabirds/>. Note that Peter Harrison will be joining the Flock to Marion voyage, and will be guiding, lecturing and be available to personalize /sign copies of the book.



That's it for me for now Feel free to send me any comments, reports on your own birding adventures, articles on birding, or photographs, on cvoets@absamail.co.za. Many thanks to Brian Guerin, Kristi Garland, and Mike Maxted for your help and contributions this month!

Stay safe, stay healthy, stay happy, and STAY BIRDING!!

Chris