



Wakkerstroom Bird Club



(Affiliated to BLSA)

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Good day to you!

Apologies, it's been a while since the last newsletter but moving house, Christmas malaise and the AGM all took their toll!

The Clubs Annual General Meeting on Saturday went well, the Committee was re-elected en bloc, the accounts were accepted, and there will no fees increase, all of which was followed by an enjoyable bring 'n braai. Mark Andersons talk was most informative and I think members were pleased to learn about the activities at BirdLife South Africa. Many thanks to all who attended and made it the success it was.



Guest Speaker at the Wakkerstroom Bird Club AGM was BirdLife SA's CEO Mark Anderson.

Book Sale: Over the weekend of the Wakkerstroom Music Festival (17-20 March) we are holding our biggest ever book sale. Prices have been cut dramatically on all books and we have recently been given many others to sell, these too will be at bargain prices. The books are on display at the sale venue i.e. the Total Garage, under cover. Please come and support us and bring some friends!

The visit of the Spider Club in February was less successful with only their Chairperson, Astri Leroy, and her husband John from their side and a handful of our members. I have known Astri and John for many years and know how fascinating their talks are so most members missed a treat.



Picture shows male (L) and female (R) Flower Crab Spiders – aren't they a handsome couple?

Bird of the Year.

2017 Bird of the Year is the Lappet-faced Vulture, unfortunately not seen around here but was selected as a representative for the 8 vultures regularly occurring in southern Africa. Six of these eight species are listed in the latest Red Data Book, four as Critically Endangered and two as Endangered. The four are Bearded, Hooded, White-headed and White-backed. Critically Endangered is at the cutting edge of conservation, one step away from regional extinction. The two Endangered species are the Lappet-faced and Cape Vultures. It is widely felt that due to poisoning episodes that are frequently reported that the plight of all of our vultures is worsening daily. Kristi Garland has the attractive Lappet-faced Vulture pins available for sale.

2018 Bird of the Year. BLSA has called for nominations for next year's BOTY and our Committee has selected the Cape Parrot as our recommendation and Judy Wheeler put forward an excellent motivation to BLSA for us.

March Meeting: As this would fall virtually on the eve of the Music Festival we have decided not to have a meeting on our regular 3rd Wednesday, sorry. We may try to organise something for the following Wednesday.

April meeting and outing details to follow, we are hoping to get Pat Benson to talk to us in April.

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3rd Sandy Twomey Photographic Competition winners were also announced at the AGM. The winners were:

1st Prize Overall: Sue Goodman, 2nd Place Overall: Glenn Ramke, 3rd Place Overall: Bradley van Rij. In addition two Special Mentions were awarded: Glenn Ramke for Fauna and Flora and to Graham Spencer for Scenery. Our congratulations to the winners for some excellent work. The 2017 Competition has started for photographic purposes and details of the slightly altered categories will soon be announced. Winners will be announced at our next AGM.

Best wishes go to two of our Honorary Life Members, Elize and John MacAllister and we wish them both a speedy recovery.

Kind regards,

Brian.