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THE CUCKOO BIRD CLUB



Interim Newsletter January-February 2022

DAY OUTINGS – JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2022

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January 30th – Marievale

With all the rain, it sounds as though the water levels at Marievale are a bit high for many of the waders. Still, there is plenty of other interesting and exciting birding to be had. Recent reports include Pectoral Sandpiper and Western Marsh Harrier. Please let me know if you are interested in joining the outing; I will send you the outing details.



Western Marsh Harrier

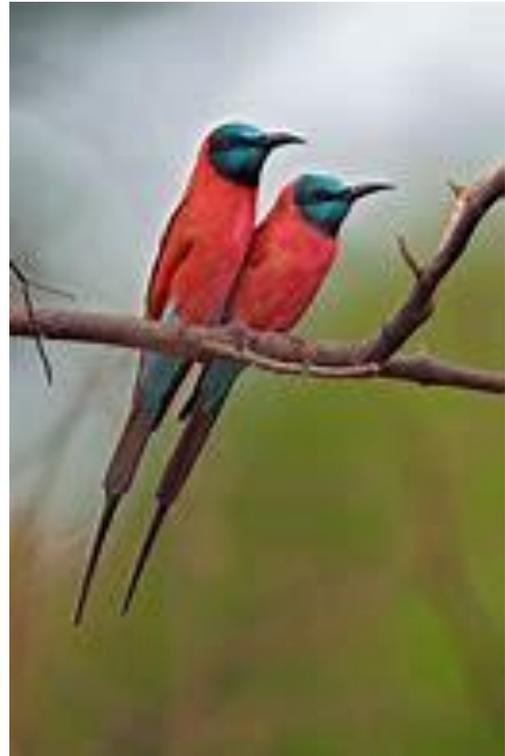


February 27th - Zaagkuilsdrift Road/Kgomo Kgomo Flood Plain

Zaagkuilsdrift has, like most of the country, had plenty of rain over the last few months. From all reports, the area is buzzing from a birding point of view and likely to stay that way for a while yet.

February's outing will be about 25kms of road-side birding along the Zaagkuilsdrift Road to the flood plains around Kgomo-Kgomo. It will mean an early start - it is about a 2-hour drive, and we plan to start birding around 06h00. I have been trying to get there to do a recce to decide the meeting place and other details, but have had to reschedule the recce a couple of times. Hopefully, I'll make the scouting trip early next week and let everyone have more details after that.

If we can arrange it, would anyone be interested in going through the night before and staying over at



Carmine Bee-eater



African Crake

one of the two lodges along the road?

Some of the birds that have been spotted in the last two weeks alone include Carmine Bee-eater, Striped Crake, Greater Painted Snipe, Dwarf Bittern, Black Stork, Dusky Lark, Allens Gallinule, Lesser Moorhen, African Crake, Meyers Parrot, Rufous-bellied Heron, Grey-headed Kingfisher, Osprey, Thrush Nightingale and Double-banded Sandgrouse. Most of these have been reported several times.

Please let me know if you would like, first, to join this outing so that I can get an idea of the numbers and second whether you would want to stay overnight locally if it can be arranged.

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