



September 13 2022

FORTHCOMING CLUB MEETINGS

Every third Tuesday of the month

Next Meeting: September 20 2022

18h00 for 18h30

Wanderer's Club

Come early and join us for supper in the restaurant. Good food, great company!

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SPEAKERS

Organiser: Bev Williams (on behalf of John Blackmore, who is indisposed)

063 140 6344

bevjlwil@gmail.com



Tuesday, September 20

Speaker – Steve Stephenson -- Namibia

'May 2022 saw an intrepid band of travellers explore the far reaches of Namibia. As well as the more than 300 birds (many of which were lifers), there were animals, scenery, and experiences galore that left the participants with a definite hankering to return'.

Steve Stevenson will be talking about and showing photos of his trip through Namibia with some fellow Cuckoo'ers.





Bev Williams

DAY OUTINGS

Organiser: Dennis Townsend

0836254136

dennis.townsend4@gmail.com

Sunday, September 25

Day Outing to Kloofendal Nature Reserve



Booking. Email dennis.townsend4@gmail.com. Or WhatsApp.0836254136. Names and contact numbers, please

We will meet at 06h45 in the car park; start walking at 07h00

There is NO entrance fee

Kloofendal Nature reserve is managed by Johannesburg City Parks. It is 110 hectares, consisting of typical Highveld/ Bankenveld rocky ridges, shale hillsides, river systems, and well-maintained paths. Facilities on-site include a dam, bird hide and picnic facilities. Specials at the site include Black sparrow hawk, Verreaux's Eagles, Ovambo Sparrowhawk, Peregrine Falcon, Spotted Eagle Owl, Barn Owl, and Wailing Cisticola.



Directions

Directions: Via the N1 from the North or South: Turn off at 14th Avenue and turn West (away from Northcliff). Pass underneath the Hendrik Potgieter bridges and turn right into Hendrik Potgieter. Travel through several traffic lights and turn left into Christiaan de Wet drive (before the Clearwater Mall). Travel along Christiaan de Wet Road up Struben's valley and turn right at Wilgerood Road.

(*) Turn left into Topaz Road at the second traffic light. Almost immediately, you meet a stop street at Galena. Turn right. The entrance to Kloofendal is on the left at the bottom of the road. Drive up to the parking and enter the reserve through the pedestrian gate.

Via Ontdekkers Road. Turn North at Christiaan de Wet and left (slipway) at Wilgerood and then follow instructions as above (*).



GPS: 26°07'39.09" S & 27°52'50.22" E





WEEKENDS AWAY (Marion Melville marion@rbs.co.za)

AWAY TRIP - MAGOEBASKLOOF – WOODBUSH FOREST

Thursday 29TH SEPT to Sunday 2ND OCTOBER 2022 – 3 nights

With specialist Bird Guide, David Letsoalo

8 places available on a first come, first served basis for fully paid-up members. Non-members will be accepted if space is still available on the trip.



Featuring a lush garden boasting a variety of vegetation and views of the Magoebaskloof Mountains, our luxury accommodation is situated on an organic avocado and raspberry farm in Magoebaskloof.

The studio-style units offer best luxury accommodation to be had in the area, a patio with views of the garden and the best Afro-montane indigenous forest in South Africa, and come equipped with a seating area, fireplace and kitchen.



Guests can prepare meals in their self-catering unit or make use of the barbecue facilities.

The property is situated adjacent to the world renowned Woodbush Forest Reserve, a haven for birds and the rare and shy Sykes's (Samango) monkeys. Trails into the forest start from the cottages as well as a path to the Debegeni Falls where Mountain Wagtails can be found together with other forest specials.

BIRDING: The high annual rainfall of the area results in lush Afromontane mist belt forest and rolling montane grassland habitats.



Unfortunately, most of the grasslands have been lost to commercial plantations, but pristine patches of this habitat occur around the town of Haenertsburg and in the Wolkberg Wilderness Area. These grasslands support specials in the form of Striped Flufftail, Drakensberg Prinia, Wailing Cisticola, Cloud Cisticola and Broad-tailed Warbler while patches of Protea host Gurney's Sugarbird and Malachite Sunbird.

The mistbelt forests are amongst the most extensive in the country, with the Woodbush, Grootbosch and Magoebaskloof forests providing the finest Afro-montane forest birding in South Africa.

Many spectacular and sought-after species occur in these forests including Cape Parrot, Black-fronted Bush-Shrike, Buff-spotted Flufftail, Grey Cuckooshrike, White-starred Robin, Chorister Robin-Chat, Blue-mantled Crested Flycatcher, Orange Ground-Thrush, Yellow-streaked Greenbul, Crowned Eagle and many more.



COSTS: The costs for the weekend will be in the region of R2,323.50 per person self catered for three nights and includes the services of an expert bird guide for 2 days. (The fee for the bird guide assumes a split between 8 pax).

The establishment has a strict cancellation policy and should you not be able to take up your booking due to Covid or other issues, the Cuckoo Bird Club will not be liable for any reimbursement costs once the full amount has been paid over to the supplier.

Should you wish to secure your place on this trip, please register your interest by contacting Marion Melville via email on marion@rbs.co.za before close of business on Friday 9th September 2022 so that deposits can be paid to secure the booking.

Please also indicate whether or not you are a couple or require a single bed. There are 4 single beds available and 2 queen size beds, accommodating 8 people. No single supplements are available, unfortunately, due to the scarcity of single beds.

Hope to see you on the trip.



MID-MONTH OUTINGS

Organiser: Lester Niss

0825704641

lestern256@gmail.com



Thursday, September 15

Rietfontein Nature Reserve

Our next Mid-Month Outing is to Rietfontein Nature Reserve (138 Holkam Road, Paulshof, 2191) on Thursday, September 15. This venue provides a pleasant walk to the top of the koppie. There are many trees and grassy areas with plenty of birds.

The first signs of spring should be evident.

We'll meet in the car park at the old Free-Me entrance (the second signposted entrance) at 08h00. Hope to see everyone who can attend. There will be an opportunity to snack on the lawn afterwards.

Additional Info: Just next to Sunninghill, in the little suburb of Paulshof, you will find the 25-hectare green space known as Rietfontein Nature Reserve.

There is also a beautiful 2.5km circular walking trail that is well maintained and provides a lovely pathway from which to see the myriad birds that make this reserve their home.

Some species you may see include Little Swifts, Cape Glossy Starlings, Sacred Ibis, Southern Masked Weavers, Rock Pigeons, Black-collared Barbets, Cape Robin-chats, Mousebirds, Greater-striped Swallows, Fiscal Flycatchers and many more.

You are also likely to spot some buck roaming in the hills if you are quiet enough. The quartzite koppie is also home to Grey Loeries, who enjoy it as their focal point.

Lester Niss