



CBC Newsletter 191 Summer 2025

FORTHCOMING CLUB MEETINGS

Every third Tuesday of the month

Next Meeting 20th January 2026

18h45 for 19h00

Wanderer's Club

Come early (17h00-ish) and join us for supper in the restaurant. Good food, great company!

PS Be sure you have the security key to get into Wanderers. This is sent through Debbie's newsflashes or on the Cuckoo WhatsApp.



TABLE OF CONTENTS

FORTHCOMING CLUB MEETINGS.....	1
TABLE OF CONTENTS	2
DAY OUTINGS	3
SPEAKERS.....	3
MID-MONTH OUTINGS	3
TRIPS AWAY	3
SECRETARY	3
FROM THE CHAIR.....	4
EDITOR'S CHIRP	4
SPEAKERS.....	5
OUTINGS.....	6
TRIPS AWAY	8
END-OF-YEAR FUNCTION	31
BIRDLIFE SOUTH AFRICA.....	34
NYLSVLEI.....	36
WADER CONSERVATION WORLD WATCH 2025.....	40
TAXONOMY.....	40
OWLS	44
SECRETARYBIRDS.....	45
WITNESS THE RARE BIRTH OF A WATER BEAR	47
WEB PAGES	48
COMMITTEE.....	50
OFFICE BEARERS	50
BANKING DETAILS	51
CONTACT: info@thecuckoobirdclub.org.za	51
NOTES	51



DAY OUTINGS

Club Chair
Organiser: Dennis Townsend

dennis.townsend4@gmail.com



SPEAKERS

Organiser: Debbie Jennings

deb.jiq@gmail.com



MID-MONTH OUTINGS

Organiser: Lester Niss

lestern256@gmail.com



TRIPS AWAY

Organiser: Marion Melville

marion@claymorefin.co.za



SECRETARY

Mo Bellis

info@thecuckoobirdclub.org.za





FROM THE CHAIR

Dear “Slightly Cuckoo Bird Club” Members

As the end of 2025 approaches, I would like to take a moment to reflect on the year we’ve shared.

As a club, we enjoyed a number of memorable Sunday outings, mid-month walks, and away trips—each one made special by your enthusiasm and participation.

Thank you to each and every one of you for your support throughout the year. A special word of appreciation goes to our committee members and office bearers for generously giving their time and effort to ensure the club runs smoothly.

I look forward to a wonderful 2026 together, filled with more great sightings, good company, and enjoyable adventures.

Wishing you all a happy and safe festive season, and all the very best for 2026.

Regards
Dennis

Dennis Townsend

EDITOR’S CHIRP

So, here we are again, the Big Holiday. The Slightly Cuckoo Bird Club has had a good year and there are plans in hand for an equally good year in 2026.

Dennis is still involved in working to get those buffaloes out of Nysvley, so perhaps that will be one of our destinations.

There were some wonderful away trips this last quarter – in particular, Sekoma and the Birding Big Days. Please remember, these trips are open to all – you just have to book as soon as possible.

We’ve had some great speakers, too, thanks to Debbie. Even if you can’t get to every one, try to join us when you can. It’s always a good evening, a chance to see friends and listen to an interesting specialists.



I'm taking a break from the newsletter. If anyone is interested in taking over this very interesting and informative task, please contact Dennis. Failing which, 'I might be back'. (Apologies to A Swartzenegger.)

By the way, I did my best with bird names for the Trips Away with a little help from my friends, but if you find a wrong ID or want to refine the name, please let me know. I'll send out a correction.

I expect a lot of Cuckoos are already on holiday, or on the road. Wherever you are and wherever you're going, I wish you a happy and safe and peaceful holiday.

Ed.

SPEAKERS

Here's an overview of recent speakers you might have missed.

John Kinghorn, the October presenter, is the Avitourism Project Manager at BirdLife South Africa.

John qualified as a professional specialist bird guide straight out of school.

Since then, he has studied Law, served as an avifaunal consultant within the renewable energy sector, and explored his passion for TV presenting through the channel "Wild Earth".

The November talk was given by **Kevin Moore**, who is currently General Manager of Visitor Services for SANParks Tourism Division, based at Head Office in Pretoria.

This position includes visitor management, interpretation, tourism research, content management, avitourism and universal access. He told us about each of these functions, and various aspects pertaining to the management of national parks.

Some information on SANParks's Vision 2040 was included, outlining plans for the conservation of national parks over the next fifteen years.

Wendy Brodie and **Carol Tatham** were our final speakers for 2025. They are both directors of Friends of Free Wildlife.

This fascinating talk gave us an insight into the work undertaken by Friends of Free Wildlife, which involves rehabilitating compromised urban indigenous wildlife.

Free Wildlife works to ensure their well-being, recovery and ultimately their release back into the wild.

Please see their website www.friendsoffreewildlife.co.za for more information, or if you would like to donate.



These were just some of the excellent speakers we've listened to this year.

Ed.

OUTINGS

Crocodile River Reserve, 28 September 2025

The Crocodile River Reserve is a nature reserve located in Gauteng, South Africa, not specifically within Johannesburg, but in the broader region between the R512 and R511 roads, adjacent to the Cradle of Humankind and part of the UNESCO Magaliesberg Biosphere. It was proclaimed in 2019 as a protected area, comprising privately owned and government-owned land managed by the landowners' NPO, the Grassland Stewardship Alliance. The reserve is recognized as a [Critical Biodiversity Area](#) (CBA) and is crucial for preserving the area's diverse plant and animal life.





Outspan Bird Sanctuary, in Morningside, 23 October

Lester organised a weekday outing to the **Outspan Bird Sanctuary** in Morningside. This bird sanctuary was first visited last year.

Roodeplaat Nature Reserve (Southern Section) 26 October 2025

Dennis arranged a visit to the Roodeplaat Dam, which was originally called the 'Pienaar's Rivier Dam' when it was constructed in 1956 to supply the surrounding landowners with water. It has since developed into an important water source for the Pretoria area. The reserve was proclaimed in 1977. Some of the recent sightings include Brown-hooded Kingfisher, White-throated Robin, and African Cuckoo-hawk.

The southern side of the reserve caters for birding and wildlife enthusiasts. Over 250 species of birds have been recorded. Vegetation is a mix of open savannah veld and dense savannah woodland.

Johannesburg Botanical Gardens (Above Emmarentia Dam), 20 November

Lester took a group around the dams in the upper reaches of the park, looking for the Ovambo Sparrowhawk, seen the last time we were there.

Ed.

TRIPS AWAY

Sekoma Island, Zambia, November 2025





An early start – not always welcome, but when this is waiting for you, no hardship

This is the jetty, where we boarded the boat.



Daily life on the river. Fishermen in the early morning. Looked like a good fishing area.



White-faced Whistling Ducks



Spur-winged Geese
I wonder what they're looking at?



A tranquil moment – we had some very stormy times as well!



Red-billed Spurfowl



Vultures on a large carcass



Lesser Jacana



Gallus gallus



White-crowned Lapwing



White-browed Robin Chat

What a wonderful song every morning and evening.



Purple-banded Sunbird





White-fronted Bee-eater

Barbara Kappler-Watts



Off to Chobe – or maybe, since the beers are out – on the way back.

Dennis Townsend





Dennis Townsend

Lance's Photos



Schalow's Turaco



White-backed Heron



White-backed Heron



Chirping Cisticola



Schalow's Turaco



Southern Fiscal



Pied Kingfishers



Malachite Kingfisher



White-faced Whistling Ducks



Long-toed Lapwing



Skimmer



Black-headed Heron



Stilt



Purple Heron



Jacana



Yellow Wagtail



Fish Eagle (and fish!)



Wood Sandpiper



Black-winged Stilt



Skimmer







Barbara Kappler-Watts



Tree Trust (Birding Big Day)





Wonder where that went?



Red Bishop



Stonechat



Moorhen



Striated Heron



White-faced Whistling Ducks

Barbara Kappler-Watts



Dennis Townsend



END-OF-YEAR FUNCTION

With thanks to Heather and Phil for the use of their beautiful house and garden







Heather Darby



BIRDLIFE SOUTH AFRICA

Eco training & BirdLife South Africa

(Apologies for the poor quality of the text. Contact enquiries@ecotraining.co.za for more information.)

**EcoTraining
& BirdLife South Africa**

Racket-tailed Roller
Cornacias spatulatus

**Enjoy Birding In Makuleke while
expanding your birding knowledge**

Join us for this Birding event at Makuleke on the below dates:
3 - 6 April 2026 | 3 - 6 July 2026 | 9 - 12 October 2026
20 - 23 November 2026 | 4 - 7 December 2026

EcoTraining & BirdLife South Africa

Birds of a feather flock together and that is why EcoTraining along with BirdLife South Africa is proud to offer this unique program. Together we will bring you an unforgettable educational safari from one of the special birding hotspots of Southern Africa – The Makuleke Concession.



Why choose Makuleke?

This northern-most section of the Kruger National Park holds seventy-five percent of the biodiversity found in the region and is on the bucket-lists of keen birders and naturalists alike. Visitors come in search of a trove of sought-after species like Pel's Fishing Owl, Rackle-Tailed Roller and Amot's Chat, but always leave with so much more than just a pencilled-in checklist. And almost always leave a sliver of their soul behind.

Rates R7,420.00 p/p Sharing

Rates Include

- Accommodation
- Three meals daily
- Tea, coffee & cordials
- Specialist Instructors, Walks & Game drives

Rates Exclude

- Beverages (beers, ciders, soft drinks)
- Entry to Kruger Park (for Makuleke Concession)
- Transfers from the camp to Pafun gate can be arranged at an additional cost. (Please enquire)



Meals

Early morning wake-up: Tea, coffee, biscuits, fruit & cereal.
Brunch after activity: A cooked breakfast and fruit salad.
Afternoon tea: A light lunch or sandwiches.
Dinner: A warm plated meal; meat, vegetables & salad.



Accommodation

The sleeping arrangements at Makuleke consist of two people sharing per safari tent (air-suits linen provided). Single requests are required to pay double rates. Women and men do not usually share tents unless booked as a couple.



To make a booking or any enquiries please contact EcoTraining Sales Team at:



enquiries@ecotraining.co.za



+27 (0) 13 752 2592



Message from Mark Anderson, BLSA CEO.

BirdLife South Africa produces a highly informative monthly newsletter featuring the latest updates on our organisation's work.

Please feel free to share the newsletter with your members and anyone else who may be interested. If they would like to subscribe and receive this free and engaging monthly publication directly, kindly ask them to contact Shireen at membership@birdlife.org.za or Kurt at kurt.martin@birdlife.org.za.

Regards
Mark

Mark D. Anderson
Chief Executive Officer
BirdLife South Africa

NYLSVLEI

LEDET Introduces Buffalo to Nylsvley – Threatening South Africa's Premier Birding Reserves

The Limpopo Department of Economic Development, Environment and Tourism (LEDET) has placed 16 buffalo on the Nylsvley Nature Reserve—a protected Ramsar wetland site—despite strong and united opposition from stakeholders. This decision puts at risk dozens of red-listed bird species, including reedbed-nesting birds such as herons, egrets, ibises and cormorants, which depend on the safety of the reedbeds to successfully breed during infrequent but critical breeding events. These events contribute significantly to national populations of these species.

Warning signs have now been erected to alert the public—particularly birders who have long enjoyed observing more than 400 bird species on foot or by bicycle. As a result of the buffalo introduction, the Friends of Nylsvley have lost 75% of their membership, with many unwilling to support a reserve now hosting one of the most dangerous Big Five animals. The recent international news of a hunter killed by a buffalo has only heightened these concerns.



The introduction of buffalo was approved by LEDET within just two weeks, without proper public consultation—despite the department routinely taking more than six weeks to approve buffalo translocations in the private sector. This rushed decision threatens both the reedbeds and the breeding success of sensitive bird species. At a stakeholder meeting on 7 August 2025—attended by Friends of Nylsvley (supporters for over 30 years), Waterberg Development Initiative, Waterberg Tourism, BirdLife South Africa, Cuckoo Bird Club, Waterberg Biosphere, Waterberg Landscape Alliance, WESSA and Wildlife Ranching South Africa—LEDET officials committed to providing meeting minutes, documenting objections, and making a decision on whether the buffalo would be removed. Ten weeks later, no such undertaking has been honoured.

Concerns about mismanagement were further raised with the decline of the Roan antelope population—once numbering 60 and now reduced to a single animal. LEDET acknowledged this was due to poaching, a preventable management failure. Roan, listed as ‘Endangered’ in South Africa, arguably demands far greater conservation attention than a small, non-threatened population of buffalo. Despite raising these concerns with senior authorities —no action has been taken



to remove the buffalo or to restore Nylsvley to the birding sanctuary it has been for the past 60 years. The continued presence of buffalo places the reserve at risk of losing its prestigious Ramsar status.

For specific quotes please feel free to call:

Name	Stakeholder	email address	Phone no
Ken Maud	Waterberg Development Initiative	ken@waterbergdevelopment.co.za	0823242252
Syd Catton	Waterberg Development Initiative	syd@waterbergdevelopment.co.za	0714735410
Trevor Cowie	Friends of Nylsvley	trevor30749@gmail.com	08399779424
Public Sector			
Tinyiko Malungani	LEDET	malunganitp@ledet.gov.za	0828889847





QUESTIONS FOR WRITTEN REPLY

TO: MEC FOR LEDET
FROM: HON. J Smalle (MPL)
DATE: October 2025

- 1) What has informed the decision of the Department to re-introduce confiscated buffalo into the Nylsvley Nature Reserve?
- (2) Were any (i) impact assessments and/or (ii) environmental impact assessments (EIA) conducted to determine the suitability of the Nylsvlei reserve to accommodate buffalo or any other species; if so,
 - (a) What were the findings of such assessments and
 - (b) Will you provide copies of the relevant reports?
- (3) In respect of the past five financial years:
 - (i) What game species have been confiscated,
 - (ii) How many of each species were confiscated,
 - (ii) For what reasons were they confiscated and
 - (iv) To which locations were the confiscated animals transferred?

J Smalle (MPL)



Wader Conservation World Watch 2025 BirdLasser results

Another successful WCWW 2025, using the BirdLasser App, has just been completed over the weekend of 1/2 November 2025.

Congratulations to Dean & Irene Boshoff who logged 25 waders with single sightings of Red-necked Phalarope, Chestnut-banded Plover & Ruddy Turnstone at the Kliphoek Salt Pans and the West Coast National Park.

Single sightings of Green Sandpiper by Christo Venter and Selwyn Rautenbach, Common Buttonquail by John and Celia Human & Eurasian Oystercatcher by Richard Jackson completed the tally of single sightings in South Africa.

The wader list total was 31 species with 21 wader watchers taking to the field where suitable habitat was found.

The most common wader recorded was Blacksmith Lapwing, with Crowned Lapwing and Three-banded Plover taking 2nd and 3rd place.

Of interest this year, was the participation of Naffie Sarr from Gambia who logged 14 wader species on the BirdLasser App, including Long-toed Lapwing, Little Ringed Plover, Black-tailed Godwit, Common Redshank and Spur-winged Lapwing.

Lance Robinson represented Namibia with 11 species including Lesser Jacana, Rock Pratincole & Long-toed Lapwing.

Charles Britz took part from Botswana and listed Lesser Jacana, amongst a list of another 19 waders.

Many thanks to you all for joining other world-wide wader watchers to show waders you care.

We hope to see you again next year

Wader Quest South Africa.

TAXONOMY

SARBN

It's taken quite some time to get this fully complete but, eventually, here is the newly revised Southern African bird checklist (version 13) now fully aligned with the recently published AviList global bird checklist. Thanks for your patience in waiting for it.



You will find that it is quite different to the previous checklists that were published.

Firstly, we've lost all the theoretical and non-countable species from the list just to avoid any confusion on what can and can't be counted towards your Southern African list. Secondly, all subspecies have now been included on the checklist as well, so that you can keep separate tabs on how many of those you have seen in case there are ever additional splits in the future i.e. armchair ticks. I have tried to get this as accurate as possible but, in some cases, it is just impossible to know which subspecies have occurred here. I have also included the distribution range for all species and subspecies, as included on the AviList list, so that you have an idea of where each one occurs. Please note that these are direct from the AviList list and, in some cases, are not necessarily totally accurate as they might not include the entire range, but are good enough to give a reasonable idea of where each one occurs.

For the common English names, I have included two columns, the first one listing the official AviList English name, and the second one listing alternate English names which may possibly still be used in Southern Africa.

There is also a column listing all the Afrikaans names and I am indebted to Stephan Terblanche and the Afrikaans Bird Names Committee for working through these and providing me new or revised names where necessary to deal with new species or splits and lumps.

So, what all has happened since version 12 was published on 18 June 2024 which had 992 countable species at the time?

We added Dimorphic Egret to the list as a new species for Southern Africa which was found at the San Sebastian Peninsula, but this was short-lived as this species was subsequently lumped with Little Egret.



Other lumps since then have included:

- Dune and Barlow's Lark lumped together as Dune Lark
- Cape and Agulhas Long-billed Larks lumped together as Cape Long-billed Lark
- Karoo and Benguela Long-billed Larks lumped together as Karoo Long-billed Lark
- Black and Yellow-billed Kites lumped together as Black Kite
- Rufous-bellied and Cinnamon-breasted Tits lumped together as Rufous-bellied Tit
- Green-backed and Grey-backed Camaropteras lumped together as Bleating Camaroptera

But it wasn't all bad and we had a couple of splits too:

- Rock Martin was split into Large Rock Martin and Red-throated Rock Martin
- Red-rumped Swallow was split into European Red-rumped and African Red-rumped Swallow. Both have occurred here as vagrants with the bird at Darling Hills confirmed as a European and the bird near Mutare confirmed as an African. Some of the other records are left as undecided for now as the details available on those records do not supply enough information to decide which they were.

I should also add that White Tern was split into three species globally and although I have tentatively included it on the list for now as a Blue-billed White Tern, discussions are still underway within the BirdLife South Africa List and Rarities Committee and so this may well change once a final decision has been made. Whatever final decision is made will be included as an update in the next revision.

The last month has also been a little crazy with Dayne Braine finding a Sabine's Spinetail in Etosha National Park and Cliff Dorse finding an Upland Sandpiper at Platboom, near Cape Point, both new species for Southern Africa, so they have been included on the list now as well.



So, what is the upshot of all of this? With all the to-ing and fro-ing of new species, splits and lumps, we now have 990 countable species on the Southern African checklist. For those who have an interest in these things and like to keep a count of them too, our list also contains 30 orders, 107 bird families and 431 genera while with what I have managed to include with all the subspecies so far, we have a total of 1526 taxa on the Southern African checklist.

There is a column included for your lifelist on the spreadsheet and you can go ahead and just add a “1” next to each species that you have seen (in the purple lines) to work out what your updated Southern African total is.

I hope that you find the attached list useful and please feel free to share it widely with all of your birding friends, and encourage them to join SARBN as well where they can get this info for themselves.

Now we look forward to finding those last 10 species to get us up to the magical 1000 mark.

Kind regards
Trevor

For further information: <https://www.avilist.org/>



OWLS

Can owls really turn their heads 360 degrees?



*Great Gray Owl ©
[Xin Cen / Macaulay Library](#)*

Owls are incredible and awe inspiring! **No, they can't turn their heads a full 360 degrees, but they sure can turn pretty far.** Owls can twist their necks almost 3/4 of the way around to look over their shoulder—way further than a human can! Their neck anatomy gives them the extra flexibility they need to perform this feat. **Learn more in this [quick video from Bird Academy](#).**

[Watch the Full Video](#)

Generally, bird necks are more flexible than mammal necks. Almost all birds can look directly behind themselves—that's how many birds sleep! Even so, there's something about owls that seems uncanny, even compared to other birds. [Watch the full video](#) to find out why!

SECRETARYBIRDS

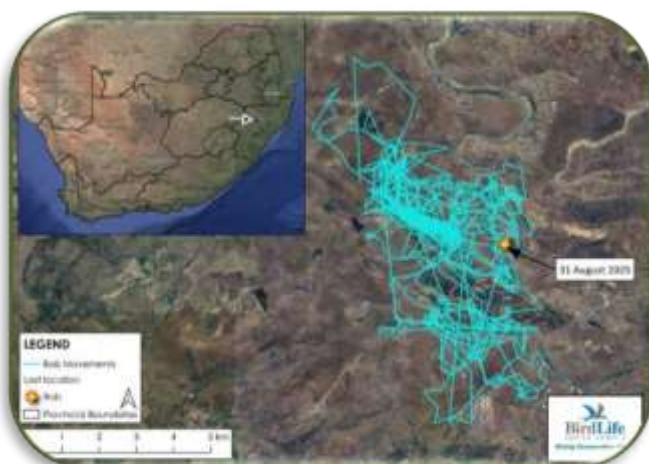
Secretarybird Bob is breeding!



The two Secretarybird eggs on the nest platform.



The nest is located in a kei-apple tree.



Bob's movements in August 2025 around the nest area, which is marked with a star

Photos: Cassie Carstens



Since 2012, as part of a long-term study investigating Secretarybird movement, ecology and behaviour, 24 tracking devices have been fitted to young Secretarybirds still in the nest. From them we learned when they leave the nest and how they find their proverbial feet and disperse away from their natal areas. Based on this knowledge, we developed the first practical conservation action for the species: establishing a buffer zone around nest sites where they are located near proposed developments to allow the young birds to move freely.

Understanding how adults move around is a crucial part of updating those mitigation strategies. To achieve that we had to wait for several years while hoping that the birds, and their tracking units, would survive long enough for them to start breeding.

The first successful breeding event, by a male named Taemane, was recorded in 2017 near Memel in the Free State. Ekapa followed suit six years later, nesting near Jagersfontein in the southern Free State. The first attempt by this male in 2023 was unsuccessful, but another one a year later resulted in the fledging of a single chick. Nico, a male moving along the Vaal River near Sasolburg, produced a single fledgling earlier this year. And in early November, it was the turn of another stalwart named Bob! This male was fitted with a GPS unit in late 2021 and has spent the past year or so in the Anglo-Zulu War battlefields region of KwaZulu-Natal.

Secretarybird movements take on a specific pattern before breeding and Bob's started to reflect that in the first few months of 2025. An initial trip to survey the potential nest came up empty-handed, although it was determined that a small tree regularly used as a roost (not a nest) was the focal point of his movements. On another visit, on 1 November, the nest was discovered, and photographs showed two bright white eggs on the bed of grass. It will be revisited in a month or so to check if they have hatched. Until then, each data point collected by the small GPS unit on Bob's feathered back will add to our knowledge of adult Secretarybird movements when they are breeding.

Cassie Carstens
Secretarybird Project Manager, BLSA

(This is an 'Agh Shame' moment to be shared. It will positively be the last mention of a tardigrade this year. I just think they're amazing.)

WITNESS THE RARE BIRTH OF A WATER BEAR

A vulnerable moment for one of Earth's most resilient creatures



Water bears are some of the hardiest creatures on Earth: These whimsically-shaped microscopic animals can survive extreme radiation, hypothetical apocalypse, dehydration and starvation, and have even persevered in the harsh conditions of space. And yet, like so many other living things, they are still vulnerable when they first make their entrance into the world.

In the video below, you can witness a baby water bear, also known as a tardigrade, make its earliest stabs at independence. Under the microscope, the mother drags her babies around a petri dish in a large sack of partially shed skin. When she finally sloughs it off, one egg slips free, and the water bear inside pokes and prods with its mouth parts to break out of its shell to freedom.

According to tardigrade researcher Witold Morek of the Wellcome Sanger Institute, water bears have two egg-laying strategies. They can lay the eggs in the exuvium, the mother's shed exoskeleton, or freely in the environment, he tells *Nautilus* over email. The eggs laid in the shed skin have smooth surfaces, while those laid freely



tend to have more ornamented exteriors.

The common explanation, says Morek, though there is no experimental evidence for it yet, is that these different birthing strategies help babies stick in place in the moss or lichen where they are often born. The ornaments protect those who are shed directly into the environment from getting washed away by rain. The shed exoskeleton serves a similar purpose for the water bear eggs it contains.

Water bears got their nickname from a German theologian named Johann August Ephraim Goeze in the 1770s. He was one of the first to observe them under a microscope and chose the moniker due to their bulbous, bear-like shape and because he found them in a nearby pond. The tiny oddball creatures—which live in a vast range of environments, from moss to glaciers—have attracted the fascination of scientists and science enthusiasts ever since. Now we have a rare look at how these tenacious critters make the very first strides in their wild lives. 🤔

For the full experience of the birthing of tardigrades, control and click here:

<https://www.yout-ube.com/watch?v=a2HfXTZS7-w>

Kristen French
Nautilus

WEB PAGES

A youngster with great talent.

https://121clicks.com/inspirations/sasha-jumanca-young-bird-photography/#google_vignette

Alex

BBC: Riders on the storm: The birds that fly into hurricanes.

<https://www.bbc.com/future/article/20251002-riders-of-the-storm-the-birds-that-fly-into-hurricanes>



If you're a photographer (not just birds), this is a super site:
Photography Awards 2024 <https://search.app/TFFNV>

Somewhat depressing, but I suppose we need to know about the way our nature reserves are going. (See the Nylsvlei article in the magazine.)
<https://emsfoundation.org.za/the-status-of-south-africas-provincial-nature-reserves/>

For info on the latest situation on Marion Island, and a bonus Albatross!
https://mousefreemarion.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/10/Mouse-Free-Marion-Project-Quarterly-Newsletter_Issue-15_October-2025.pdf

Another Albatross story. Something mysterious and wonderful about these birds.
<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/life-style/spotlight/at-75-the-worlds-oldest-wild-bird-has-come-home-to-lay-eggs-again-/articleshow/125738626.cms> **Debbie**

Ever wondered how the woodpecker manages to keep his head on? See below.
<https://newatlas.com/biology/woodpeckers-hammers-grunt-drill/>

As we've often thought, birds (and animals) communicate. Here's a breakthrough.
<https://search.app/M1qSq>

For those hoping for a new pair of bins for Christmas, here's some info. (American article)
https://www.allaboutbirds.org/news/how-to-choose-binoculars-full-size-compact-pocket/?utm_campaign=Lab%20eNews%202024&utm_medium=email&hsenc=p2ANqtz-8VP03bhv2-



COMMITTEE

Chair	Dennis Townsend
Secretary	Mo Bellis
Treasurer	Alex Jennings
Day Outings	Bev Williams
Weekends Away	Marion Melville
Speakers	Debbie Jennings
Newsletter	Penny Clemson
News Flashes	Debbie Jennings

OFFICE BEARERS

Facebook Page	Bev Williams
WhatsApp	Bev Williams
Equipment	Lester Niss
Mid-month Outings	Lester Niss



BANKING DETAILS

Cuckoo Bird Club
Standard Bank Sandton
City Branch code 051
001
Account number 023 212 934

CONTACT: info@thecuckoobirdclub.org.za

NOTES

1. This newsletter is for members of the (Slightly) Cuckoo Bird Club only. It is not intended to be passed on to people outside the club.
2. To opt out of receiving mail from the Cuckoo Bird Club, please send an email to dennis.townsend4@gmail.com with the title: **Opt Out/Unsubscribe**