

## Big Birding Days 2008

### Hosted by the Honorary Rangers

#### 28-30 March

Venue: [West Coast National Park](#)

Info: The **West Coast HR region** will be hosting the **Glendower Wader Bash**. Advance registration is imperative as the WCNP only has accommodation for 50 participants. For those residing out of the WCNP there is space available.

Contact: **Jenny** on 082 804 5539; 021 559 7636  
e-mail: [wagsandwhiskers@telkomsa.net](mailto:wagsandwhiskers@telkomsa.net)

- The itinerary includes birding competitions and a **gala dinner**.
- Lectures will be given by guest speakers, **Prof Gerhard Verdoorn**, and **Prof Phil Hockey**.

#### 18-20 April

Venue: [Karoo National Park](#)

Info: The **Karoo HR region** will be hosting a birding weekend which includes a birding competition, dinner and prize giving. Book no later than 11th April 2008.

Contact: **Maria**: 023 414 3615, cell: 0730 199 353  
**Marieta**: 023 415 2736, cell: 084 584 8402

- The itinerary includes a talk by **Dr Gerhard Verdoorn**.

#### 18-20 April

Venue: [Golden Gate Highlands National Park](#)

Info: The **Free State** and **Vaal Triangle HR regions** will be hosting a birding weekend which is not only is the birding event a unique experience, the data gathered at the event will also be an official census of birds in the park. At the last birding weekend held in the park, in November 2006, 99 bird species normally found in the park were identified, as well as 10 new bird species for the park.

Contact: **Kevin Christie**: 051 4224889; Cell 0834066148; Fax 0866960955  
**Susan Christie**: 051 4224889; Cell 0828594774; Fax 0866960955

- The itinerary includes a number of activities to maximise the birding fun including 4 x 4 trails on non-public routes (own 4x4 required) Horseback Riding, Hiking, Transport in open vehicles. **Guides will be available**.
- There will be a cheese and wine function, where an expert birder will deliver an **interesting talk** on the birds and the environment.
- Enjoy a **Potjiekos dinner** where the day's activities will be discussed and prizes will be handed out to lucky winners.

#### 13-16 June

Venue: [Mapungubwe National Park](#)

**Info:** The **Limpopo HR regions** are hosting a birding weekend in the Mapungubwe National Park located at the confluence of the Limpopo and Shashi Rivers in the North of the Limpopo Province. This park is home to some of the rarer species found in the area include Pel's Fishing Owl, Three-banded Courser, Tropical Bou Bou, Meves Starling, Senegal Coucal and Ground Hornbill. Raptors abound with regular sightings of Lanner Falcon, Verreaux's Eagle, Secretary Bird and Pale & Dark Chanting Goshawks.

**Contact:** **contact Charles Hardy.** Email [charles.hardy@bmwdealer.co.za](mailto:charles.hardy@bmwdealer.co.za) or [charlois@mweb.co.za](mailto:charlois@mweb.co.za); Cell 083 457 1721

- The itinerary includes informative talks on the birdlife of the region.
- Morning and afternoon bird and **game spotting drives** on open game viewing vehicles in the **company of Joe Grosel** and Park Rangers.
- A visit to the **tree top boardwalk** overlooking the Limpopo River and
- **A night drive** in search of those elusive owls and nightjars should prove to be the highlights of the weekend.
- Whilst at the lodge time can be spent exploring the lodge's exclusive eco-trail or by relaxing around the pool. Optional tours to the Mapungubwe Heritage Site can be arranged.

### 2-7 October

**Venue:** **Wilderness National Park**

**Info:** The **Southern Cape HR region** will be hosting a birding weekend with the generous support of SASOL and Glendower. The event takes place at the Ebb and Flow rest camp of the Wilderness National Park. All fixed accommodation has been reserved for the event and will be allocated on a first come first served basis.

**Contact:** **J.J. van Rensburg:** 044 343 1303; cell: 083 325 9897; e-mail: [natalco@iafrica.com](mailto:natalco@iafrica.com)  
**David Kingwill:** 044 874 6436; cell: 082 853 1804; e-mail: [davidmk@telkomsa.net](mailto:davidmk@telkomsa.net)

- The itinerary includes treated to **audio-visual presentations** on a daily basis,
- All will be accompanied **by qualified guides** to all 5 biomes available in the area, namely Karoo scrub; Forest, Mountain Fynbos, Inland Water, and Coastal Birds.

### 17-19 October

**Venue:** **Agulhas National Park**

**Info:** This is an unique opportunity to experience the vast wealth of birdlife in and around this National Park.

**Contact:** **Angela Altendorfer:** (028) 4233095 / 072 2835282 A/H

**Eddie Cassani:** (028) 4233095 / 084 3705255  
email: [eddieandangela@telkomsa.net](mailto:eddieandangela@telkomsa.net)

- The itinerary includes finger suppers and birding events,
- **4x4 tracks** on non-public routes,
- **Birding** by **kayak** on the vlei,
- **A prize giving.**

