

### View From The Top

September has been the month of hurricanes (does anyone still believe that global warming does not exist), and of earthquakes and other worldwide disasters. A month of lunatics in North Korea, and, (more than a few), locally.

Thankfully it is also the month of rebirth, and for the birders, our blessed new chicks. I have been thinking of Primary School days, and singing at assembly "All things bright and beautiful..."

It is Spring. The sun is back. God reigns. See the sunshine in your life!!

[george@naturesheart.co.za](mailto:george@naturesheart.co.za).

### Birding Plant of the Month

Wild Dagga (*Leonotis leonurus*)

Spring is definitely the time to attract sunbirds, and they are occurring throughout South Africa.

You need to ensure that your garden is friendly to them. Our experience is that no single plant compares to the Wild Dagga when it comes to sunbirds. A small shrub (perhaps a maximum of 2m high), it grows fast, and produces that characteristic orange flower that the birds go crazy to get to! Supplement with an EBW nectar feeder, and clean your camera lenses!!



Wild Dagga

### Nature's Heart

#### Specials of the Month

Valid until 27 October 2017 or while stocks last. (All prices include VAT).

1): Nectar Mix Sachet.

**R6,50**

2): Nectar Mix Bulk Bags

**R60,00**

3): Suet Pop Mega (600g):  
Buy 4 and get one free!!

**R200,00**

4): 30 Suet Ball Bucket.

**R230,00**

5): Suet Balls/Slabs Multipack  
(Pack of 12).

**R180,00**

6): Suet Bits 3kg

**R180,00**

### Bon Mots

*(After recent TV footage of hurricane effect on animals...)*

Animals aren't any better equipped to survive an emergency than humans are. (Ingrid Newkirk, after seeing that shelters were refusing to take pet animals)

### Environmental Chirps

The issue of hunting in South African parks sits uncomfortably.

On one hand the argument is that animals need to be controlled (culled), and that an income may as well be generated (normally the words "to the benefit of the local community" appears somewhere).

On the other is the potential failure to act humanely. An equally concerning issue is the potential for corruption, and even the descent into an

uncontrolled and diversified killing fiasco.

Surely, a better strategy is to let a parks expert deal with surplus numbers in the most acceptable and humane manner. No-one will expect that the carcasses would not be processed to benefit poorer local residents.

An even better long term concept is to manage via improved scientific processes that permit us to move away from culling. This should be a primary mover for deeper scientific research.

Roll on elephant contraception.

### Bird of the Month

Cape White Eye (*Zosterops virens*)

Here we have the "ultimate cutie". Those big eyes, those fluffy feathers, and that cheery disposition – they make the white eye so special.

They are easy to attract to your garden, because they love nectar! Their main food is insects (try Nutty Putty Pudding), they also eat some fruit and some seed, but rather less by our observation. That having been said, a flock recently attacked ripe mulberries next door in a way seldom seen!

But the top recommendation – get a nectar feeder from EBW, and ensure that your feeding area has nice tree/shrub cover.

