

### View From The Top

*It is rather breathtaking to realise that Christmas is only just around the corner. It surely feels as though the year has sped past.*

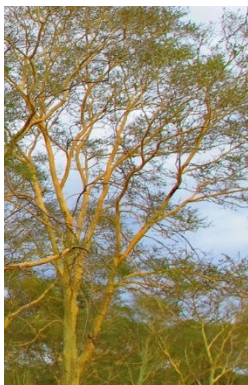
*It does mean that we are well into breeding season; but also thunderstorm season. We have seen numerous chicks knocked out of nests, and apparently abandoned. Please let them be. Their parents are very likely to come back, and feed them on the ground!*

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### Birding Plant of the Month

Fever Tree (*Vachellia xanthophloea*)

*Sadly, this tree is only suited to the warmer climes of the lowveld, bushveld, and some coastal forest areas in KZN. But if you are in such an area... This tree is superb as a nesting point (especially weavers). Apart from being one of the most aesthetically pleasing trees in our northern Pretoria suburbs, it has a variety of medicinal uses, and attracts a range of insects. They are synonymous with Africa. The tree is large, but is suited to pavement verges, and larger gardens. It requires plenty of water, grows quickly, and causes great pleasure to every garden and bird lover!*



Fever Tree

### Nature's Heart

#### Specials of the Month

Valid until 24 November 2017 or while stocks last. (All prices include VAT).

- 1): Terracotta Barbet Feeder  
**R100,00**
- 2): Terracotta Titbits Feeder  
**R130,00**
- 3): Terracotta Apple Feeder  
**R100,00**
- 4): Terracotta Fruit Feeder  
**R160,00**
- 5): T-cotta Mealworm Feeder  
**R80,00**
- 6): Suet Pop Mega (600g)  
Buy 4 and get one free!!  
**R200,00**
- 7): Suet Bits 3kg  
**R180,00**

### Bon Mots

*(To encourage the great work started in the Garden Route...)*

*"Listen to the tide slowly turning, Wash all our heartaches away, We're part of the fire that is burning, And from the ashes we can build another day"*

*(Moody Blues - The Story In Your Eyes )*

### Environmental Chirps

*Bird Flu is with us again. And there is little we can do. All concerns seem to hinge on the economic effect on poultry. The actual affected animals appear to be less of a concern. The possible impact on our wild bird population is not even mentioned.*

*Fortunately, (and although the disease is spread by wild birds), we are not seeing a major problem yet. Although social, the wild birds have a far greater level of physical*

*freedom than the poor creatures cooped in cramped battery "cells", and one has to surmise that the conditions contribute to the epidemic.*

*Even those who do not care about the birds should be concerned. After all the world should remember the Spanish Flu of 1918 that killed 70 million people – and that it was related to bird flu. A small mutation, and we will be there again.*

### Bird of the Month

Spotted Dikkop (or Thick-knee) (*Burhinus capensis*)

*The amazing bird that lives in the back of your garden, (and you didn't know it!)*

*"Our" Dikkop calls at 4am. An eerie screech that reminds you of a night in the Kruger National Park.*

*These birds clean the garden of insects and spiders, but also eat lizards, eggs, and even mice.*

*This is not a small bird, and the most amazing thing is that they are so capable of hiding in your garden by day, simply by finding a place under cover, lying still, and relying on superb camouflage.*

*Sadly, we know of no birding product to attract this magnificent animal, you simply need a conducive garden environment.*

