

View From The Top

2018 has started for us in the worst possible way with the loss of our friend and colleague Chris Patton. He will be remembered for so many reasons, not least the quality and beauty of his work.

It does mean that we will be revising the product offering, and look forward to a series of replacements for 2018. In the meantime, our bird feeder product availability will be variable, for which we apologise. We will keep our website updated on a regular basis.

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Birding Plant of the Month

Aloe transvaalensis

A plant that can handle drought, cold, and severe weather in general. A great plant for no-watering areas!

This is my favourite aloe for a rather silly reason – in Std. 9 biology it was my allocation for a plant in an exercise to provide the full scientific taxonomy.

The plant will grow above 1m in height, and grow/replicates easily. It is very common throughout South Africa, and is ideally suited to rock gardens.

The most important birding characteristic is the red flower that attracts nectar feeding birds. Our experience – your sun birds will love you!!



Aloe Transvaalensis

Nature's Heart

Specials of the Month

Until we stabilise our offering for bird feeders, we will concentrate on specials offering bird food products.

Valid until 23rd February 2018 or while stocks last. (All prices include VAT).

1): Suet Pop (300g)

Buy 4 and get one free!!

R120,00

2): Suet Pop Mega (600g)

Buy 4 and get one free!!

R200,00

3): 100 x 100g Suet Mini Balls

Bulk Pack

R850,00

4): Nectar Mix Bulk Bags

R60,00

5): Suet Bits 3kg

R180,00

And then there is Cape Town. The situation is so "impossible" that it boggles the mind. Many of our fellow citizens, including family and friends are going to suffer. They are already suffering. Our thoughts are with them. Being a many faceted disaster, one has emotions varying from anger to confusion, and even frustration and despair. It is a time for humility.

Please keep the animals in mind. With so little water available even domestic animals and pets are affected. What about wild animals? The baboons will encroach and compete with humans in the search for water. As for our birds, we have to believe that they are going to struggle too. It is very possible that people who normally provide water in their gardens will cease to do so. We call on the bird lovers - please sacrifice; water your wild birds.

Bird of the Month

Red-Billed Oxpecker

(*Buphagus erythrorhynchus*)

It is a well known fact that these birds keep our larger browsers and grazers clean of various parasitic insects (particularly ticks). Less well known is that they keep open wounds clean on the same animals (there is some dispute on the level of benefit to hosts).

They have been threatened by pesticides in past years, but thankfully times have improved. This fellow would have been selected for those beautiful eyes alone!



Bon Mots

... man has always thought himself the immortal master of natural things... (H P Lovecraft)

Environmental Chirps

(The Good, the Bad, and the Very Ugly)

Having just read the editorial in the latest African Birdlife, one has to agree with everything that Mark Anderson of Birdlife said.

This is an environmental organisation that is getting it right. In very trying times, the conservation and education activities appear to be producing really positive outcomes. Applause to Mark and the team.

Conversely, we are experiencing the Esidimeni hearings. Shocking. If that is how little senior officials care about human life, we can only imagine how little they care about our birds and the environment in general. Let us pray that this is only an isolated (albeit enormous) disaster.