

## View From The Top

We are getting ready for Autumn. Despite the impending departure of our summer visitors, I have to confess that this is my favourite time of the year – March, April, May.

There will be plenty of activity in your garden before the cold really bites. A truly interesting feature to watch is the end of breeding season, and the moulting of your birds (check out your garden weavers!) It is equally true that the colour change in your garden creates a different photo opportunity. You have to love this season!

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## Birding Plant of the Month

Forest Elder (*Nuxia floribunda*)

This is a very attractive tree, and produces beautiful flowers with a wondrous fragrance. The tree is very well suited to smaller gardens, and should extend to about 5-7m in height (they can get much bigger though!). They provide very good shading, and roots are unlikely to damage walls/foundations. They grow quickly, and are considered highly decorative (and therefore desirable) in a typical urban environment.

If there is a negative – well, this plant needs water and should not be planted in frosty areas.

For birders – they attract various insects, and offers very good protective cover, so birds love them too!



**Forest Elder**

## Nature's Heart

### Specials of the Month

Sadly, we are compelled to announce a general price increase for EBW products. Furthermore, we are impacted by a VAT increase from 1 April 2018. Nature's Heart will absorb the VAT increase, and have also kept some products at existing pricing. **For those who order in bulk, we will retain special pricing of bulk suet for 2 months.**

1): Suet Pop (300g/600g)

Buy 4 and get one free!!

**R120,00/R200,00**

2): 100 x 100g Suet Mini Balls

Bulk Pack / 50 x 200g Suet  
Ball Bulk Pack

**R850,00 / R840,00**

3): Suet Bits 3kg

**R180,00**

## Bon Mots

### A quote for the Guptas

Confidence has brought them out into the light, but they seem to have forgotten - light's no good for creatures of the night. (Darren Shan)

## Environmental Chirps

### Crisis, what crisis?

In a single month, the Cape Town problem appears to have moderated and the pressure is off (really?). In any event, we have to be extremely grateful for each piece of good news.

We, in turn, have had good rain, and my favoured Hennops River is flowing strongly. Again, the only words are "humble", and "grateful".

Which is why the general condition of the river is so concerning. Tons of rubbish and plastic moved every time it rains. Whereas we do not control the rain, we do control

the rubbish we put into the river. We are a society that does not seem to care.

When we finally have big rains in Cape Town (hopefully winter), it will be no different for those rivers. Plastic will flow into the sea and cause destruction.

Who knows, but perhaps Angus Buchan is right, and we do not deserve to get any rain. But it certainly is irritating that our undeserving fauna (and for that matter our flora) should be suffering with us.

So my two cents: It is a good idea for Cape Town to pray for rain – after all rain is in the hands of the Almighty. Then when they finish praying, go and clean the Cape Town rivers – the condition of the rivers is in our hands.

## Bird of the Month

Crowned Lapwing (*Plover*)  
(*Vanellus coronatus*)

The Lapwing in general (and Crowned Lapwing in particular) is like the girl next door. She is always around, and has something going that you can't quite put your finger on. Despite being largely unappreciated, you are vaguely aware that you would miss the familiarity as she drops in for her regular visits. And somehow she is always entertaining and easy on the eye...

This weekend, sit down and enjoy her for an hour or so. I mean the Lapwing naturally...

