

BIG BIRDING DAY

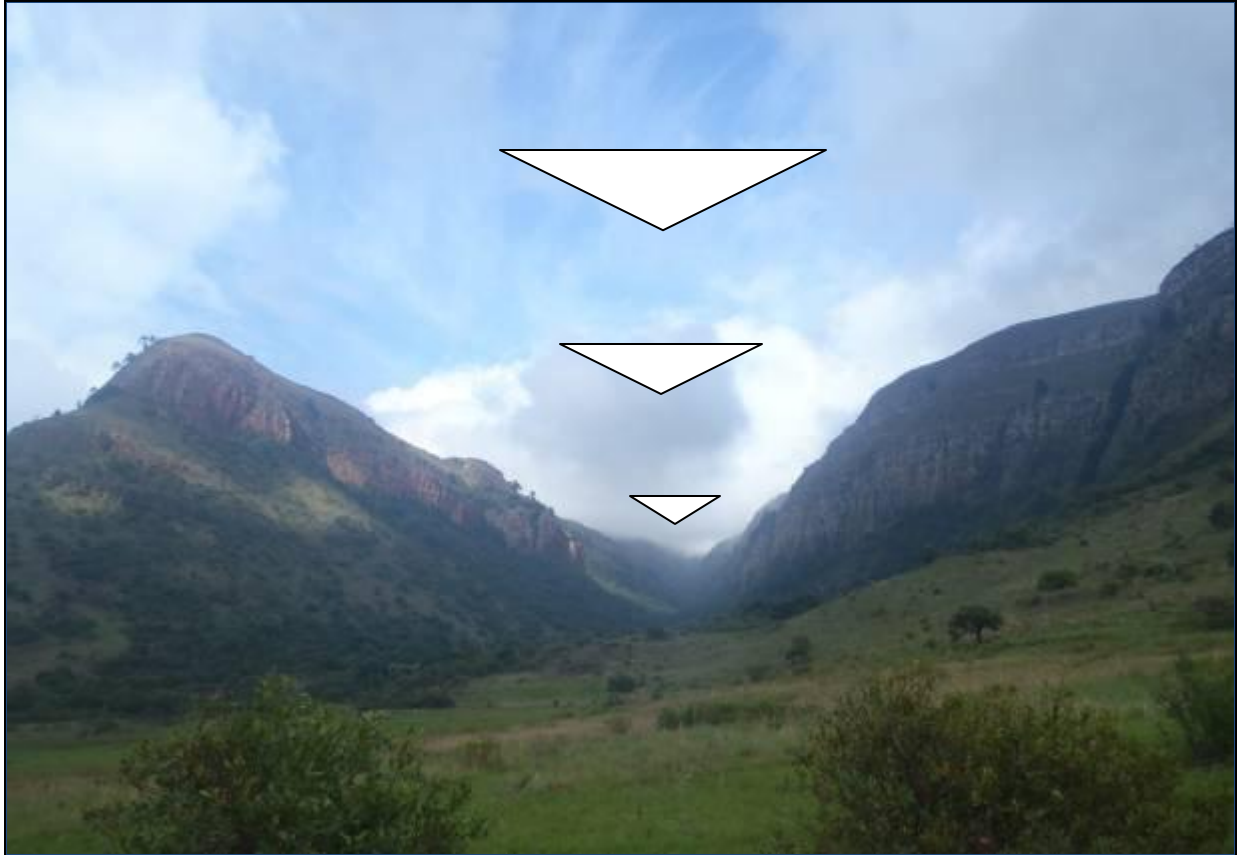
2013

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Verlorenkloof



Big birding day announced by the rising sun. "The early bird thinks she will catch the worm".



“ V”, Stands for Very Deep Kloof. You might feel lost when the mist and steep kranzes on both sides envelopes you. This is when the cicadas and forest birds start to mock you and you realize that you are not alone.

This year the big birding day took place a week earlier but was never the less one of the most exciting ever. Eighteen birders convened at the rock pool at six to start finding birds on foot. Verlorenkloof, a beautiful mountain resort is a known hotspot for the many interesting bird species found there, ranging from woodland to grassland birds. This healthy ecozone provides food and breeding habitat for species ranging from the most popular grassland game birds such as Grey-winged Francolin and Red-winged Francolin on the higher altitude mountain slopes to the elusive forest birds and we had close up sightings of first, yellow breasted , White Starred Robins, as well as orange breasted Red-capped Robin Chats. The illusive Nerine Trogons remained illusive but forest dwellers were entertained by the dancing Blue-mantled Crested Flycatchers. An atmosphere of peace and calmness is always experienced when resting at the clear mountain streams.



Cool and sweet drinking water.



This is getting very boring, I wish we can go back now.



Can you see what I am seeing? Ok listen then.



Technology will sort this bird out, you just wait and see.

Our highlight of this visit was without doubt the siting of an African Grass Owl. Jane Smart, at long last took the most amazing pictures of this swerving Grass Owl, as well as a couple of pictures of the very special red data listed, Broad-tailed Warbler. If one dares to climb out to the top of the resort, you will find open rolling grasslands, with beautiful wildflowers amongst seepage wetlands. This is where I have found a covey of Grey-winged Francolin for the first time on Verlorenkloof.



Jane's Grass Owl



Geoff Lockwood will tell you that this little bird is one of the most important birds that breed on Verlorenkloof. Look at the step ladder effect on the underside of its tail. We found it! Thanks Jane.



They quack by night." Die mannetjies padda soek sy nooi, in die vlei, haham".



Ha ha , I love it when a plan comes together. Verlorenkloof a special place with a great variety of birds that attracts a great diversity of people.

This big birding event was one of the most awesome weekends experienced during the last ten years. We as visitors are very grateful to the custodians , Eric and Heidi Johnson and their staff and the talented bird guides for this experience and their good work and we believe that our Creator will bless them even more in the future.

Kind regards untill we meet again.



“ Op berge en dale , Albertus en sy sandale ” . On top is better.