

BIG BIRDING DAY

2012@VERLORENKLOOF



Verlorenkloof 2012/11/24. Thank you God for this beautiful new morning. I am sure that is what the birds are also singing. Yes, yes we are alive!

Eleven early risers converged at the Rock pool to embark on our annual Verlorenkloof SASOL Birding Big Day. Later the day more keen birders or should I say birdies joined us in Robin Kloof to experience the wonders of nature. The camaraderie amongst the old hands that are glad to see each other again is tangible. Even though veteran birder Jane, (Roinek) hates me, (Rock spider) she lovingly hugged me, tna! It was our group's privilege to not to only have Geoff and Cindy Lockwood back but also to have Heidi, our hostess with us for the first time. Although she is more in love with flowers she took the time off to chit chat with the Robin's and Red-capped or Robin-chats, whatever.



Heidi, Heide, Ericas, Suikerbossies, Protea borsie jou doring! They are all here.



Broad-tailed Warbler. Sir, sorry it's Wallie, you see that Dark-capped Yellow Warbler in the *Ficus sur*. Take the branch on the left, ignore the Olive Woodpecker, follow it to the right, go down, down all the way down, it sits right there on a *Tristachya leucatrix* tuft.

Apart from the birds, mostly those that you cannot eat, we saw interesting butterflies, crab spiders, paddatjies and eiertjies.



The three eggs in the photo are those of a Short-tailed Pipit. This was a lifer for most of us and the first time it has ever been recorded on Verlorenkloof Estate as far as we know.



“Birds of a feather flock together”- Uncle Frans with his eldest Christiaan and adopted Meyer twins. On the left Jade, “Blue Jay”, the eldest by two minutes and Amber, “Yellow Pansy” on the right. Lovely birds!

Birding Big Day was again the highlight of the year. That afternoon we all watched the International rugby game in the lodge TV room. And even though the Springbokke only won by a very narrow margin, it was so nice to beat the Pommies on their home ground.

Bloody Rooinekke!

Good day until next time.

Frans Krige