



BirdLife
SOUTH AFRICA

Giving Conservation Wings

A N N U A L R E P O R T 2 0 1 4

CONTENTS

Chairman's Message

– 1 –

Chief Executive Officer's Report

– 2 –

Challenges in 2014

– 6 –

Awards

– 7 –

Conserving Terrestrial Birds

– 8 –

Encouraging Ecological Sustainability

– 10 –

Saving Seabirds

– 11 –

Protecting Sites And Habitats

– 13 –

Birds And People

– 15 –

Sponsors And Supporters

– 20 –

Financials

– 21 –



CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE



When BirdLife South Africa's current Chief Executive Officer took up his position over six years ago it was like watching new leaves stretch out from all the trees. It was a very 'green time'. Barn Swallows arrived on the horizon, and the days widened like big flowers.

For many of us there is something unsettling about change. But if we care to look at Nature; if we pick up the rhythms and listen carefully, we will hear the beautiful (and magnificent) tick of the circadian clock. We will notice exquisite sensitivities and adaptations to change. We will soon realize the essentialness of it all.

Seasons are powerful moments in Nature. They are times of wondrous opportunity.

That Wednesday morning of 1 October 2008, when our CEO arrived at his new desk for the first time, it creaked a bit, leaves were very bright and fresh, and birds sang outside. On that day BirdLife South Africa experienced change.



As with all good ideas and actions, timing is important. Change must therefore be coordinated; it must be sequential. And birdwatchers – like us – appreciate this, laced in our obligate patience, we are great observers of elegant change!

Mark Anderson and his team – a team that grew through years of careful selection – have given us a new Organization. It has come gently and yet steadily. Our staff now work within an ambience of excellence; it has become our culture. Our thousands of volunteers and our corporate supporters have responded with resounding philanthropic kindness and generosity.

Today we are ready for more change.

It is time for a subtle shift, a stretch of great wings perhaps, an energetic reach up to a higher place, to the tips of where the sun comes onto the land, to the gathering rows of summer swallows: the governance structure and the membership structure of BirdLife South Africa must now realign with an even more efficient way of doing things, a way that will profit from greater influence within the world of environmental conservation, a way that will welcome greater inclusiveness from business, the NGO communities, birdwatchers and all those who care about wilderness.

Our world of change is a place of renewal, but it is also one of evolution. Next time you are high on a hill, high enough to look down on a forest, watch for the greenest leaves and the swallows: a scene that talks of a good tomorrow.

Vernon R.L. Head
Chairman

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

The past year was another successful year for BirdLife South Africa.

One of our most important, and often most difficult, responsibilities is to ensure that we have the financial resources to cover our administrative costs and to undertake our important conservation work. During 2014, our conservation projects were adequately funded and core ended with a surplus of about R900 000. This was the fifth consecutive year we have ended with a net profit situation, enabling us to replenish totally the sustainability fund, which had been eroded away during preceding years. BirdLife South Africa once again received a favourable audit report from KPMG, and our financial team was congratulated by our auditors for their exemplary financial management.

It is my belief that people are supporting us because they are impressed with our conservation successes, they appreciate our good financial management, and they understand the immense importance of our work. We are very grateful to our growing number of Golden Bird Patrons, Corporate Members and other donors who have contributed funds to our administrative and conservation work. The number of ad hoc donations is increasing and I personally acknowledge all donations of R500 or more.

We cannot, however, assume that donations will always match our needs, or that we will be able to meet the conservation challenges of the future. For this reason, the BirdLife National Trust was established in 2013 with a long-term objective to ensure that BirdLife South Africa will remain in a healthy financial position, with sufficient resources to cover administrative expenses and to implement important conservation work, in perpetuity. Under the strategic guidance of six trustees, David Lawrence (Chairman), Michael Spicer, Humphrey Borkhum, Vernon Head, Nigel Stainforth and Mike McCullough, the Trust is growing rapidly. This growth is set to accelerate through our Legacy Programme with assistance from Reg Thomson and Hugh Corder, as numerous people have indicated that they will be leaving a bequest to BirdLife South Africa.

Part of planning for the future, and recognising that we've already outgrown



our current offices, involved purchasing a new head office in Dunkeld West, Johannesburg. We need to be based in a leafy suburb close to the Gautrain station and bus routes, and we need a suitable home for the next 50 years. The purchase of Isdell House, as it will be known, was made possible through generous donations from in particular Neville and Pamela Isdell, but also Johann and Gaynor Rupert, the Lewis Foundation, David Chamberlain, Nick and Jane Prentice, Otto Muller, Norman Adami and SABMiller. The office is undergoing extensive refurbishment and we anticipate moving into Isdell House in mid-2015. Many people and companies are providing assistance by donating time and material goods for Isdell House. Special mention goes to our Chairman, Vernon Head, who drew up the architectural plans, and Andy Featherstone, our project manager.

BirdLife South Africa continued with its excellent marketing and awareness campaigns and, thanks to our marketing committee, Utopia (our pro bono ad agency), Continental Outdoor Media, and Mind Share World (our new media partner), many South Africans are now aware of birds, our organisation and its work.

Another important form of endorsement for BirdLife South Africa is the fact that, after many years of steady decrease, our membership is again on the up, including four new Corporate Members. Adding to this, *African Birdlife* subscriptions increased by more than 50% in the past year, so much so that we have increased the print run. *African Birdlife* editor Eve Gracie and her team produce one of the world's top bird and birdwatching magazines. Our social media reach is growing amazingly: our monthly e-newsletter goes to more than 7000 people, our attractive website is updated every few days, our two Twitter handles gain new followers every week, and we have more than 15 000 members on our Facebook Group and over 7000 on our Facebook Page.

Part of our communication strategy includes holding events, and the portfolio of superbly organised events continues to grow. They provide an opportunity to host current donors and collaborators, and to introduce our organisation to potential new associates. The Walter Sisulu National Botanical Gardens, the new venue for the Sasol Bird Fair, is a perfect



Mark D. Anderson



Mark D Anderson

location for this annual event. The Save our Seabirds Festival morphed into the Celebrate our Seas Festival, allowing for more collaborating partners and for the conservation message to be more explicitly expanded to the ocean environment. "Flock in the 'Berg", which incorporated the biennial academic conference *Learn about Birds*, was very successful and the Drakensberg was a good venue for ornithologists and conservationists to interact, both formally and informally, in a beautiful grassland setting. An appreciable amount of time was spent organising the new Flufftail Festival, an event which will be held annually in Sandton City, the heart of the economic hub of Africa, at the time of World Wetlands Day in February. This new event is a collaboration between BirdLife South Africa, Eskom, Rand Water, the Department of Environmental Affairs, Middelpunt Wetland Trust and other partners.

Our most important responsibility is to conserve our country's 846 bird species and their habitats. A large number of

our birds are unfortunately threatened, some edging ever closer to the edge of the extinction precipice. With funding from a growing number of donors and under the mantle of the Oppenheimer Fellow of Conservation position, we have increased the number of terrestrial species conservation projects, including doing research and conservation work on the Taita Falcon, Black Harrier, Southern Ground Hornbill, Lesser Flamingo, vultures, and other birds.

The globally and regionally Critically Endangered White-winged Flufftail, perhaps our country's rarest bird, is receiving attention from BirdLife South Africa and the Middelpunt Wetland Trust, which we administer. During the past year we conducted surveys of high altitude wetlands where these flufftails occur or have previously been recorded, we took blood samples from wild-caught birds for our genetic studies, and we are at an advanced stage of planning for the construction of a research and captive rearing facility at the National Zoological

Gardens in Pretoria. BirdLife South Africa has also been appointed by the African Eurasian Waterbird Agreement as the coordinator of the White-winged Flufftail International Working Group, affirmation that the responsibility for conserving this embattled wetland bird rests squarely on our shoulders.

BirdLife South Africa is involved in extensive research on the Secretarybird, with the aim of trying to understand the reasons for the recent population declines and to provide recommendations for conservation action. Eleven Secretarybirds have been fitted with tracking devices and 41 320 locations for these birds were determined in 2014. Unfortunately two of the three birds that died during the past year succumbed after colliding with man-made structures: a powerline and a farm fence. We have learnt about the major threats the Secretarybird faces as well as fine-scale habitat use, and this will contribute to our current knowledge and ultimately conservation decision-making as we endeavour to conserve

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT (CONTINUED)

this ambassador of grasslands and other important African habitats.

We have learnt from our European partners that one needs to also keep an eye on common birds and, therefore, BirdLife South Africa has launched its first "Keeping Common Birds Common" project. Due to their non-threatened status, common birds do not necessarily feature prominently in species-prioritisation exercises. The Orange-breasted Waxbill will be the focus of a collaboration with the Rare Finch Conservation Group and it has been chosen because it is possibly an indicator species for the health of the grassland and wetland habitats it inhabits.

During 2014 we renewed the Ingula Partnership contract with Eskom for another five years and subsequently appointed a new BirdLife South Africa Ingula Project Manager. Through the conservation of habitats on-site, as well as species-specific monitoring, Ingula directly contributes to the conservation of more than 280 bird species, of which more than 40 are threatened.

The past year saw the first wind and solar farms under South Africa's Renewable Energy Independent Power Producer Procurement Programme come on line, adding much-needed, climate-friendly power to our ailing electricity grid. BirdLife South Africa helps build the capacity of, and facilitates dialogue between, experts, industry, environmental practitioners and decision-makers to ensure that the effects of renewable energy on birds are understood and minimised. BirdLife South Africa's contributions towards the sustainable development of wind farms are globally recognised. For example, BirdLife South Africa was invited to host a workshop on behalf of BirdLife International at the 11th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention of Migratory Species (CMS COP 11) held in Quito, Ecuador, in November.

Our seabird team had a particularly successful year. Bronwyn Maree was lead author on a paper in the international journal *Animal Conservation*, describing the success of the Albatross Task Force



Andrea Angel and Ross Wanless

(ATF) in reducing seabird mortality in South Africa's trawl fishery by more than 90%. She also won a Future for Nature award, the ATF took top honours in the *Mail & Guardian's* Greening the Future awards, and Ross Wanless was awarded the SAB Environmentalist of the Year. Our seabird programme did themselves proud when they brought a team together and fought a successful action to prevent government from ending experimental fishing closures around African Penguin colonies. Pamela Isdell donated another \$50 000 towards our African Penguin work to establish a new mainland colony. The annual Celebrate Our Seas marine festival, supported by the Hans Hoheisen Charitable Trust, brought marine conservation into the limelight again, and Rockjumper Birding Tours and Zest for

Birds used it to raise money for our seabird conservation work.

During the past few years our habitat and site conservation work has grown in leaps and bounds. After four years of hard work, the Important Bird and Biodiversity Areas (IBA) team completed detailed assessments for all 124 of South Africa's IBAs. Certain IBAs were expanded and new IBAs declared to cover additional habitats in some areas and to align with protected area boundaries so as to provide accurate information for continued conservation efforts. Through continued liaison with Treasury, BirdLife South Africa and the South African National Biodiversity Institute successfully helped lobby for the agreed amendment of tax legislation for the incentives that can be



Mark D Anderson

derived through Biodiversity Stewardship. Funding was approved for several projects starting in 2015: Biodiversity Stewardship at priority estuary IBAs in the Western Cape, the Biodiversity Stewardship Fiscal Benefits Project, and a project to pilot the waterbird habitat rehabilitation guidelines. We also raised funding for Hottentot Buttonquail research and seed funding to implement Biodiversity Stewardship in key Mistbelt Grassland IBAs for the protection of the Blue Swallow. The relevance and importance of IBA conservation was taken up by a number of stakeholders, including: the incorporation of IBAs into provincial conservation plans; increased citizen science monitoring in IBAs; and their inclusion as an environmental feature when considering development applications.

During February 2014, Simon Gear took up the position of Policy & Advocacy Programme Manager, and he brings environmental, climate change and journalism skills to BirdLife South Africa. Later in the year, with funding from the Green Trust, we appointed Nhlanhla Ncube as our Mining and Biodiversity Engagement Officer. The policy and advocacy team's focus during the past year has included contributing to the National Climate Change Adaptation Strategy summit, engagement with the Lesotho government regarding a proposed wind farm development at Letseng, extensive improvements in EIA tracking and response systems, and engagement with government regarding proposed offsetting regulations.

Our conservation efforts cannot be restricted to within South Africa's boundaries, and the benefit of the BirdLife International Partnership is that more than 120 organisations around the world work together to achieve common goals. Birds migrate, many between the Palearctic and the more temperate climes of our region, and others are nomadic, taking advantage of spatially and temporally available resources. BirdLife South Africa was therefore pleased to become a Supporting Partner and, with funding from the RSPB, will assist BirdLife partners in the region. The emphasis initially has been to assist BirdLife Zimbabwe in the areas of governance, administration,

project development and management, and fundraising. With funding from the Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund, we continued to provide assistance to AACEM, the fledgling conservation organisation in Mozambique. BirdLife South Africa also contributes to Michael Mills' conservation work in Angola. Martin Taylor, BirdLife South Africa's Partner Development Officer, spent time in Cambridge and Nairobi in order to gain expertise in his important role in the region. We contributed to the important work on the East African Flyway by undertaking a waterbird survey at the Umhlatuze Estuary, KwaZulu-Natal, reviewed key waterbird sites in Mozambique and hosted a waterbird identification course in Maputo, Mozambique, and a waterbird survey techniques course in Durban.

There has been a clear growth in both domestic and international birdwatching in South Africa and BirdLife South Africa contributes in many ways to this important ecotourism niche. Our website provides information on birding routes, bird guides and Birder Friendly Establishments (BFEs). The number of BFEs has grown during the past year and the details of 106 recommended accommodation establishments are on our website. With funding from Sasol, an additional 21

guides were assessed following their attendance of BirdLife South Africa's bird guide training course and mentoring by senior guides.

During recent years we have used the analogy of cricket and "scoring conservation runs" when reporting on our work. Clearly, there have been many fours and sixes during the past year, and even a few centuries. We are on track to become the best side in Africa, top of our league, and this is important because our country's birds and their habitats deserve nothing less. There are however many more than 11 players in our team as the number of volunteers, collaborators and donors continues to grow. The stadium is in fact packed with thousands of bird enthusiasts cheering us on and eagerly supporting our work as members, citizen scientists and as donors. I am very grateful to the people, bird clubs and their members, collaborators and donors who are helping us "give conservation wings".

Mark D. Anderson
Chief Executive Officer



Mark D Anderson

CHALLENGES IN 2014

Conservation NGOs constantly prioritise between existing and new challenges, and 2014 was no exception.

BirdLife South Africa is deeply concerned about the rapid loss of natural habitats and the associated biodiversity loss across our country. This is largely due to unsustainable developments, such as coal mining in the grasslands. Rapid urbanisation and the expansion of agricultural areas are resulting in natural habitats, especially in the eastern and southern parts of our country, becoming increasingly fragmented and isolated. Comparisons between SABAP1 and SABAP2 data show that several bird species, including a number of waterbirds, have contracted ranges and declining populations. The Black Stork and African Marsh Harrier for example are being affected by wetland loss and deteriorating water quality. These birds are clearly important sentinels of an existing water crisis. 'Selling' birds

and habitat conservation by linking them to important socio-economic variables makes it easier for decision-makers to understand that bird conservation is about a lot more than just the birds.

The work load in identifying threats, raising funds to address them and planning and implementing conservation programmes is enormous and BirdLife South Africa's staff is stretched to the limit. They are hardworking, putting in an inordinate number of extra hours and, because of their passion for our important bird conservation cause and their determination to ensure our organisation's success, go way beyond the call of duty. Increased capacity would be most welcome, but that is of course dependent on securing further funding.

BirdLife South Africa fortunately had another successful year in raising funds to undertake its important work. But to attend to all the pressing species and habitat conservation issues we have to secure more funds. Moreover, 'selling' bird conservation is dependent on many South Africans seeing the bigger picture and agreeing with our objectives and approaches.

The demographics of our organisation has started to become younger and more representative of South Africa, but we do recognise that there is still a long way to go. We need to be more innovative in our marketing and awareness work in order to ensure that our membership and support bases are more representative of South Africa's race and age demographics.

LOOKING AHEAD

There are several key areas in which BirdLife South Africa will focus its attention during 2015:

- ▶ Implementation, following approval of the new BirdLife South Africa's constitution at the March 2015 AGM, of a new governance structure. This sees BirdLife South Africa's structures being replaced by an Executive Board and a Governance Committee, with its members having specific portfolios and the bodies having well defined responsibilities.
- ▶ Expansion of BirdLife South Africa's conservation work, especially following the species prioritisation exercise and the completion of the IBA assessments.
- ▶ Fundraising for key species conservation projects through the Preventing Extinctions Programme and applications to international donors.
- ▶ Important projects are inadequately funded during 2015, and we will spend time trying to secure funding for the Wakkerstroom Centre, the Community Bird Guide Training Project, and additional regional conservation manager positions.
- ▶ Increasing the conservation effort and protection status of our IBAs.
- ▶ Assistance with conservation efforts outside our country, including as a Supporting Partner in southern Africa and through the Albatross Task Force with Korean and other fisheries in the high seas.
- ▶ Promotion of the BirdLife National Trust and BirdLife South Africa's Legacy Programme in order to secure significant funding for the long-term sustainability of BirdLife South Africa.
- ▶ Appointment of new staff, including for positions to manage an estuaries project in the Western Cape, African Penguin mainland colony establishment, a youth membership programme, and an office administrator.
- ▶ Publication of the IBA Directory, Red Data Book, IBA Status Report, and State of the Nation's Bird Report.
- ▶ Hosting of important events, such as the Flufftail Festival, Flock in Jozi and Celebrate our Seas Festival.
- ▶ Promotion of awareness of BirdLife South Africa through marketing materials, billboards, the publication of six issues of *African Birdlife* magazine and 12 electronic newsletters, and through the use of our website and social media.
- ▶ Renovation, construction and furnishing of Isdell House, BirdLife South Africa's new head office in Dunkeld West, Johannesburg.

AWARDS

OWL AWARDS 2014



Eagle-Owl Awards: Mike McCullough, Strilli Oppenheimer

Owl Awards: Airports Company South Africa, Albert Froneman, Dr Dave Whitelaw, Investec Corporate & Institutional Banking, Kishaylin Chetty, Mitsui & Co, Mpho Phiri, Nyameka Makonya (Total), Raymond Rampolokeng

Owlet Award: Rebecca-Ruth, Michael, Tyrone and Seth Pullen



AUSTIN ROBERTS MEMORIAL MEDAL AWARD 2014



Two of Austin Roberts' grandsons, John Roberts and Pete Roberts, attended the AGM where the inaugural Austin Roberts Memorial Award was presented to Dr John Ledger. (from left to right: Vernon Head, John Roberts, Dr Phoebe Barnard, Pete Roberts and Mark Anderson).



Dr John Ledger, Austin Roberts Memorial Medal Award recipient, and Dr Phoebe Barnard, BirdLife South Africa Honorary President.

GILL MEMORIAL MEDAL AWARD 2014



Prof. Adrian Craig, Gill Memorial Medal Award recipient, and Dr Phoebe Barnard, BirdLife South Africa Honorary President.

CONSERVING TERRESTRIAL BIRDS

The Terrestrial Bird Conservation Programme team endeavours to ensure that the conservation status of South Africa’s bird species is continuously improved and never compromised.

We align our work with three of the nine global BirdLife International Programmes: the Preventing Extinctions Programme, Invasive Alien Species Programme and Migratory Birds and Flyways Programme. While the focus is primarily on threatened species requiring urgent interventions in the categories of globally Vulnerable, Endangered or Critically Endangered, the BirdLife International Preventing Extinctions Programme also extends its work to include common and more widespread species.

BirdLife South Africa has commenced work on common species and launched a “Keeping Common Birds Common” project in 2014. Common birds in Europe and elsewhere have shown recent

declines; in particular farmland birds have exhibited large declines (more than 50%) since 1980, resulting in a possible loss of more than 300 million birds.

BirdLife’s Preventing Extinctions Programme has taken action for over 500 (40%) of the world’s threatened bird species since 2008. BirdLife South Africa appointed three Species Guardians (implementing conservation action) and six Species Champions (providing the funding) over the past five years. The support of Species Champions has made the work on many threatened species possible.

The regionally and globally Critically Endangered White-winged Flufftail, South



Milona Janseke

Africa’s rarest wetland bird, is only known to occur in South Africa and in Ethiopia. Ornithologists are of the opinion that fewer than 250 adult White-winged Flufftails remain and that the South African population is estimated to number less than 50 birds. BirdLife South Africa, in collaboration with the Middelpunt Wetland Trust, is raising the profile of the Critically Endangered White-winged Flufftail and is mapping out a conservation plan for the species that includes the construction of a flufftail research facility at the National Zoological Gardens in Pretoria so that detailed behavioural and ecological studies can be undertaken. To shed light on the migratory connection between South Africa and Ethiopia, genetic and isotopic analyses are currently underway.

The species prioritisation workshop held in August 2014, based on a process followed by the RSPB, will direct BirdLife South Africa’s future species work. Conservation action for several groups of birds, including raptors, vultures and bustards, was identified as urgent and important.



Niall Perrins

Secretarybird

In 2011 BirdLife South Africa initiated a research project to study Secretarybirds, including the dispersal of Secretarybirds. We have fitted tracking devices to eleven Secretarybirds and collected valuable information about habitat use by the species. We have also learnt more about the threats these birds face as we have determined the reasons for the mortalities of the tracked birds. The information collected during this research will ultimately benefit the embattled Secretarybird.



Albert Froneman



Ron Hartley

Taita Falcon

The Taita Falcon, a regionally Critically Endangered species and one of the species on which BirdLife South Africa focuses research and conservation efforts, has been uplisted to globally Vulnerable. Due to the worrying declining trend noted in South Africa and Zimbabwe by the SA Taita Falcon Survey Team's (BirdLife's Species Guardian for the Taita Falcon), surveys on the Taita Falcon will be expanded to the eastern side of sub-Saharan Africa where the species is also known to occur. The aim will be to estimate the Taita Falcon's global population size.



Tony Archer

Bird mortalities in fences

BirdLife South Africa initiated a project to determine the impact of fences on birds. Our database of mortalities is growing, and includes one of the tracked Secretarybirds that died from an injury related to a fence collision near Memel. <http://www.birdlife.org.za/conservation/important-bird-areas/fence-mitigation-project>



Pikkie Fischer

The Ingula Partnership



Middelpunt
Wetland
Trust



THE INGULA PARTNERSHIP

The Ingula Partnership was established in 2004 between Eskom, BirdLife South Africa and the Middelpunt Wetland Trust. The primary purpose of the partnership is to ensure the conservation of key habitats and priority bird and other species at Ingula, a pump storage scheme which is being developed on the Free State/KwaZulu-Natal border. The Critically Endangered White-winged Flufftail is known to occur at Ingula. Currently 7000 ha of high altitude grassland is managed and conserved at Ingula, thereby not only contributing to the conservation of South Africa's most threatened Biome, namely Grassland, and its respective species, but also securing the conservation of a large wetland system at Ingula which is an Important Bird & Biodiversity Area (IBA).

In order to determine the status of priority birds at Ingula, the new BirdLife South

Africa Ingula Project Manager undertook breeding assessments winter and summer. During the assessment, breeding sites for 12 species were identified, including nine priority threatened species, namely Wattled Crane, Martial Eagle, African Marsh-Harrier, Grey Crowned Crane, Yellow-breasted Pipit, Secretarybird, Southern Bald Ibis, Lanner Falcon and Blue Crane. Other conservation projects initiated at Ingula in 2014 included a camera trap study that has thus far identified 13 mammalian species, including elusive species such as serval, aardvark and oribi.

Through the conservation of this property, Ingula directly contributes to the conservation of more than 280 bird species, of which more than 40 are threatened. Additionally, a diverse range of mammal, reptile and plant species that are of conservation concern are managed and protected at Ingula.



Various resources, including an annual checklist and a variety of pamphlets, have been produced. The aim of these materials is to make people aware about our country's birds and important conservation issues.

ENCOURAGING ECOLOGICAL SUSTAINABILITY



“2014 saw the first wind and solar farms under Renewable Energy Independent Power Producer Procurement Programme come on line.”

RESPONSIBLE RENEWABLES

The Terrestrial Bird Conservation Programme team endeavours to ensure that the conservation status of South Africa’s bird species is continuously improved and never compromised.

2014 saw the first wind and solar farms under South Africa’s Renewable Energy Independent Power Producer Procurement Programme come on line, adding much-needed, climate-friendly power to our ailing grid. South Africa’s renewable energy sector is growing rapidly, but renewable energy is not without its challenges. The impacts of wind energy on birds (primarily mortality through collisions with the turbines) are well recognised. Now it seems that solar energy is not completely innocuous. There are reports of birds colliding with the reflective surfaces of solar panels, and some types of Concentrated Solar Power can burn birds in flight.

Thanks to sponsorship from Investec Corporate and Institutional Banking, BirdLife South Africa has been working to help realise a truly sustainable energy mix in South Africa (and Lesotho). BirdLife South Africa helps build the capacity of, and facilitates dialogue between, experts, industry, environmental practitioners and decision-makers to ensure that the effects of renewable energy on birds are understood and minimised. We help set standards and guide industry through resources like our BirdLife South Africa/ EWT Best Practice Guidelines for Birds, and BirdLife South Africa’s guidelines on solar energy. We initiated updates of both

documents in 2014 to ensure South Africa remains up-to-date with current global thinking.

While we always aim to engage constructively, it is sometimes necessary to take a stronger stance against a development that does present a threat to birds or their habitats. For example, BirdLife South Africa, with the support of BirdLife International, vehemently opposed the development of wind energy in the Lesotho Highlands where impacts of wind energy on Cape and Bearded vultures are a major concern. The outcome of our action is still uncertain, but we will continue working towards our vision of a (relatively) stable climate, a healthy, happy society, with access to clean energy, and an environment packed with an abundance of species.

BIODIVERSITY AND WETLAND OFFSETS DEBATE

2014 saw the release of the South African National Biodiversity Institute’s (SANBI) guidelines on wetland offsetting (on which BirdLife South Africa commented). This grew out of a push from the Department of Environmental Affairs to start discussing offsets in the fields of wetlands, biodiversity, air quality and heritage.

There is perhaps little else in the world of environmental management with greater potential for good or evil than offsetting. The idea is that once all possible mitigation in a development has been made, that the remaining damage to the environment is

‘offset’ by actively protecting or improving another piece of land. In theory this sounds like a good idea, especially when you read the SANBI guidelines outlining that offsets should not influence the approval of an environmental authorisation in the first place. BirdLife South Africa recommended that the wording be strengthened to specifically state that offsetting was an additional environmental measure and should not be included in EIAs at all.

In practice however, offsets are often used as a sweetener to try and get developments that would be destructive to wetlands or rare ecosystems pushed through. Despite government assurances that offsets should not influence decision-makers, the possibility of offsets is often included in EIA recommendations. There are some clear difficulties with wetland and biodiversity offsets:

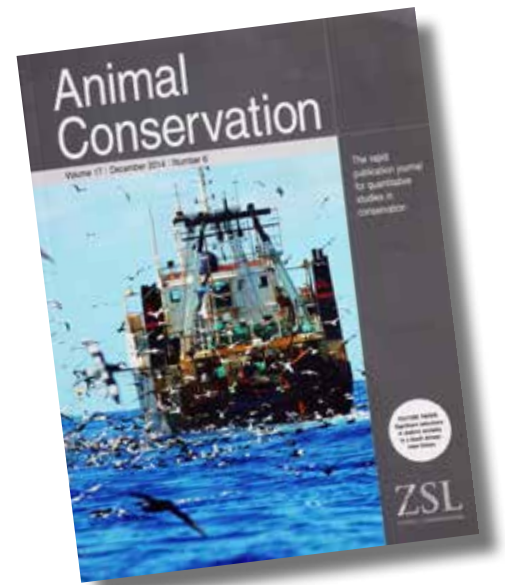
- The offset is often more expensive to create or maintain than first appears. Wetlands are difficult to engineer and require significant capital expenditure and design knowledge.
- Biodiversity impacts are usually as a result of the permanent destruction of a habitat. It stands to reason that the offset should also be in perpetuity, when in reality, this can never be guaranteed.
- Ecosystems are usually unique and so the chance of an offset being a perfect like for like exchange of land use is unlikely.

BirdLife South Africa continues to engage with government and industry on this matter and to keep an open mind, but the potential of offsets to allow for the continued deterioration of our natural habitat remains a very real concern. Engaging in the offset debate will be a key aspect of the Policy and Advocacy Programme’s work during 2015.

SAVING SEABIRDS

AFRICAN PENGUIN CONSERVATION BALANCED ON A KNIFE-EDGE

Driving fisheries policy changes away from narrow, stock-focused approaches and towards broader, ecosystem-based considerations may sound simple, but is a challenging task. The Charl van der Merwe Trust became our African Penguin Species Champion in 2009, and has continued to support our work ever since. We have collaborated in a large-scale experiment, where islands are alternately open and closed to fishing, and the effects of this on African Penguins are monitored. The year got off to a very rocky start, when stock assessment scientists contracted to government analysed African Penguin and fisheries data and declared, rather counter-intuitively, that fishing was beneficial to penguins, and that the experiment, which had run since 2008, could be terminated immediately. This required a strong, coordinated response that interrogated the approaches used, and presented alternative analyses. The Responsible Fisheries Alliance, of which BirdLife South Africa is a member, funded a data analysis workshop. An extremely fraught, politically charged process then unfolded that ultimately saw us convene a team to lead evidence in opposition to the ‘fishing benefits penguins’ camp at an international stock assessment workshop. Our collective findings suggested there are negative effects of fishing on penguins, but we recognised that a few more years of work is required to bring the results to statistical significance. Had our work been discredited or successfully refuted, we believe that the 7 years of work to date would have been almost entirely wasted, and African Penguin conservation would have received a setback for many years. Fortunately, good sense prevailed, and the international panel recommended experiments be continued. Crisis averted! Enormous thanks to the funders and collaborators who pulled together to achieve this landmark victory. The way forward remains somewhat uncertain, however, because funding and capacity to undertake the critical work are both lacking. But we will find ways and means to continue supporting this work until it is concluded.



Landmark scientific publication

Several years of work and many rounds of revision finally came to fruition in 2014 with the publication of a scientific paper in the international journal *Animal Conservation*. Albatross Task Force (ATF) leader Bronwyn Maree and colleagues described the extraordinary success that our ATF team had achieved in reducing seabird bycatch in the hake trawl fishery –from ~14 000 seabirds a year to < 1000. The change for albatrosses was even more dramatic –from ~10 000 accidental albatross deaths each year there may now be less than 100, a reduction of up to 99%. Happily this good news is powerful affirmation that the ATF model is a winner.

ANNUAL MARINE FESTIVAL GROWS

The Save our Seabirds (SOS) Festival of previous years grew and changed, including in name, in 2014 – it became the multi-partner Celebrate our Seas (COS) Festival. The Seabird Conservation Programme was instrumental in contributing to another successful event, including the education programme at the Iziko South African Museum, linked to the Oceans of Life Photo competition, another extraordinary exhibit. Adam Riley, CEO of Rockjumper Birding Tours, brought 100 birders from the American Birding Association to Cape Town to participate in the Festival and added significant funds to the Seabird Conservation Programme’s work through donating the tour’s profits to BirdLife South Africa. Trevor Hardaker and John Graham of Zest for Birds surpassed their 2013 efforts, and handed over a cheque during the Festival, to the value of R76 000.



SAVING SEABIRDS (CONTINUED)

BEYOND OUR BORDERS

The ‘virtuous circle’ of ATF on-board work and Ross Wanless’s international work with high seas fleets is a difficult act to beat, but it is worth reporting on the seabird conservation work on marine IBAs. This is interwoven into many aspects of the team’s work – including African Penguin tracking, at-sea counts of birds by ATF instructors, and more. In 2014 Dr Ross Wanless continued to serve on a steering committee for a marine IBA programme, called the Alcyon Project, in West Africa. Through this, he is involved in seabird bycatch work in the region. This culminated in BirdLife South Africa being invited to co-convene a session on seabird-fisheries interactions at an international conference. We also worked on fishery impacts on listed seabirds for the African-Eurasian Waterbird Agreement and supported the Agreement to develop its first multi-species action plan, for the Benguela-endemic seabirds. Finally, our team was asked to lead on developing a conservation action plan for the Cape Verde Shearwater, and we co-convened a workshop in the eponymous island nation in November 2014. All these activities have helped create conditions for greater marine protection, and supported national and regional efforts for species-focused seabird conservation. BirdLife South Africa is now viewed as a global authority on seabird conservation.



Ross Wanless

The breeding sites for the majority of the population of Cape Verde Shearwater remains unknown, partly due to the inaccessible terrain.

KOREA LEADS WITH LUMO LEADS

The Seabird Conservation Programme has worked with Korea since 2012 to bring its tuna longline fleet into compliance with international fisheries rules and regulations. The Global Environment Fund-funded high seas project has already yielded significant returns because, at a workshop in Korea in October, we secured agreement that further at-sea-trials are needed. We will also analyse data that Korean observers collected in their own at-sea trials, comparing fish catches with and without Lumo Leads – a special design of lead weight that is safe, seabird-friendly and hopefully good for fishing.



Korea National Fisheries Research and Development Institute



Christina Heagon

Pamela Isdell continues her support for a new penguin colony

Our African Penguin Patron, Pamela Isdell, made another very significant donation towards our new colony project. Through this, we plan to create a dedicated position to undertake the necessary work to establish a new mainland African Penguin colony, thereby bringing much needed additional capacity to the coastal seabird work that BirdLife South Africa undertakes.

Awards come rolling in

2014 was an exceptional year for the seabird team. It got off to a great start when Bronwyn Maree won the international ‘Future for Nature’ award, with a €50 000 purse to help her team continue their amazing successes. The Albatross Task Force team also garnered top place in the annual Mail & Guardian “Greening the Future” awards. Finally, Seabird Conservation Programme Manager, Ross Wanless, was announced as the SAB’s Environmentalist of the Year for 2014.



Roy Bourgeois

PROTECTING SITES AND HABITATS

Beyond an IBA Directory

South Africa's Important Bird and Biodiversity Areas (IBAs), the most important sites for conserving birds, were identified and documented in 1998.

The network of IBAs has now been assessed and the revised IBA directory will be published in April 2015. While it is well and good to document a network of the most important sites for conserving our birds and their habitats, it is nothing more than academic if we are not able to move beyond the book and actually conserve these sites. We do not for one second downplay the IBA directory and the huge achievement it is; it is the spearhead which we will use to motivate for the conservation of these sites. More than 60% of the IBA network is unprotected. Additionally, a high proportion of these IBAs face at least one serious threat to their birds and habitats. The IBA directory is, thus, only the first step in securing the continued survival of our birds and the habitats crucial for their existence, and it forms the foundation of the IBA team's future work.

Conserving our IBAs requires a multi-pronged approach and using a variety of conservation measures. This includes partnering with relevant stakeholders, appropriating the Biodiversity Stewardship initiative, and enhancing the protection of birds through protected area expansion. The IBA team has launched a number of initiatives to build on the work started through the publication of the IBA directory, and has already seen a large number of successes in their endeavours.

After many years of dedicated lobbying, 2014 saw IBAs being taken up as part of most provincial governments' conservation planning. This is critically important as it ensures that unprotected IBAs are prioritised when protected area expansion targets are developed by provincial conservation authorities. Formal protection has been proven to be the most effective means to conserve and protect biodiversity. The national Biodiversity Stewardship initiative aims to provide formal protection to privately-owned land through formal relationships between conservation agencies and private



Charmaine Uys

landowners, with support from NGOs. Over the past four years, BirdLife South Africa's IBA Programme has been working hard to formally protect priority IBAs using the Biodiversity Stewardship model in conjunction with relevant stakeholders.

Our efforts were greatly rewarded when 2014 was kick started with the proclamation of 60 000 ha of the Chrissies Pans IBA as a protected area. This proclamation will ensure the protection and management of this critical grassland and wetland area and the important bird species it houses. The IBA team has also been working hard towards formally protecting other priority sites, such as Verlorenvlei Estuary (and its Moutonshoek catchment), Steenkampsberg, KZN Mistbelt Grasslands, and Grasslands IBAs. More stewardship work around pivotal estuary IBAs in the Western Cape will be initiated in 2015. If successful, this could result in more than 70 000 hectares of IBAs being protected in the next two years; securing the future of birds and other biodiversity!

BirdLife South Africa has been investing more and more time and effort in

Biodiversity Stewardship as a novel and key means to formally protect priority IBAs. Part of this process has been to address challenges in this otherwise innovative tool. The use of fiscal benefits, such as 'green taxes', accruing to (and encouraging) land owners to participate in local Biodiversity Stewardship Programmes (BSPs), is currently underutilised. Based on this, the IBA Programme used 2014 to lobby, engage stakeholders, secure funding from the WWF Nedbank Green Trust, and source tax and legal expertise in the IBA team in order to further our conservation efforts in BSPs. Upon this foundation, BirdLife South Africa will be launching a feasibility study in 2015 to assess and further develop the ability of landowners to access these fiscal benefits. Positive findings in this project may result in a turning point for Biodiversity Stewardship programmes nationally.

The dedicated efforts of the IBA Team, in advancing the formal protection of the network of sites detailed in the IBA directory, is set to go from strength to strength in upcoming years as we build on the successes of 2014.

PROTECTING SITES AND HABITATS (CONTINUED)

FIVE 2014 HIGHLIGHTS FOR IBA CONSERVATION

○ | After four years of dedicated hard work, the Important Bird & Biodiversity Area (IBA) team completed an IBA assessment for all 124 original IBAs.

○ | Through continued liaison with Treasury, BirdLife South Africa, together with the South African National Biodiversity Institute, successfully helped lobby for the agreed amendment of tax legislation regarding the incentives for Biodiversity Stewardship.

○ | Funding was approved for several projects starting in 2015: Biodiversity Stewardship at priority estuary IBAs in the Western Cape; the Biodiversity Stewardship Fiscal Benefits Project; a project to pilot the waterbird habitat rehabilitation guidelines; raising funds for Hottentot Buttonquail research; and seed funding to implement Biodiversity Stewardship in key Mistbelt Grassland IBAs for the protection of the Blue Swallow.

○ | The relevance and importance of IBA conservation was taken up by a number of stakeholders, including: the incorporation of IBAs into provincial conservation plans, increased citizen science monitoring in IBAs, and the inclusion of IBAs as an environmental feature when considering development applications.

○ | During IBA assessments, certain IBAs where expanded and new IBAs declared to cover additional habitats in some areas and to align with protected area boundaries so as to provide accurate information for continued conservation efforts.



IN SEARCH OF BLUE SWALLOWS

Finding new pairs of Blue Swallow is not as easy as it sounds. With only 30-40 pairs of this enigmatic bird remaining in South Africa and less than 10% of its preferred habitat intact, it is like looking for a needle in a haystack. Recently however, a niche model was developed by Ezemvelo KwaZulu-Natal Wildlife (EKZN) that pinpointed a number of scattered sites throughout southern KZN where the species could potentially occur. During October 2014, members of the Blue Swallow Working Group and other volunteers set out to ground truth some of these sites to determine whether the species was present. Three areas were targeted and centred on Harding, Umzimkulu and Donnybrook. Blue Swallows were confirmed breeding at one historical site with a possible new site in the Harding area. The Ebuta Valley was the most promising and yielded the most exciting results. Our surveys confirmed the species is foraging over a much wider area than previously thought and the possibility remains that a number of previously overlooked breeding pairs remain in the area. Finding just 3-4 new pairs boosts the known breeding population by 10%. Follow up surveys in 2015 are being planned to survey the remaining grasslands.

The result of the survey is good news for a species that faces an uncertain future in South Africa. With such small population numbers and a limited range, it is of critical importance that we continue to identify sites where the species occurs and expand the boundaries of the KZN Mistbelt Grasslands IBA accordingly. This will ensure that government departments and conservation planners take the Blue Swallow and its remaining habitat into account, thus helping to conserve this flagship species of the Grassland Biome. Starting in 2015, we will start trying to obtain formal protection for as many of these breeding sites as possible.

FACING CHALLENGES IN IBAS

The Important Bird and Biodiversity Areas (IBA) network remains a cornerstone of BirdLife South Africa's response to threats facing the environment. When we are notified of an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) taking place, the first thing we always interrogate is the proximity of the development to an IBA. Projects that threaten IBAs will always get priority for consideration. Thanks in part to Biodiversity Stewardship Programmes, many IBAs have existing conservation focused social infrastructure in the form of government conservation programmes or private organisations like conservancies or environmental committees. When opposing a development, conservation NGOs like BirdLife South Africa will often partner with these structures to take advantage of their intimate local knowledge. It is with this in mind that BirdLife South Africa is beginning to recognise the value of being active in IBAs. Local communities are far more amenable to a conservation message when it comes from an organisation familiar to them from years of work in their area.

BIRDS AND PEOPLE

HOSTING EVENTS

BirdLife South Africa hosted a number of important and successful events during 2014. These included Flock in the 'Berg and LAB in March, the Sasol Bird Fair at the Walter Sisulu National Botanical Garden in June, the Owl Awards at Misty Hills in Muldersdrift in August, the Celebrate our Seas Festival in October and Birding Big Day in November. The annual Staff Meeting was held at Misty Hills prior to the Owl Awards in August. BirdLife South Africa also participated at the Beechwood Gardens Open Weekend and the Photo & Film Expo in November.

FLOCK IN THE 'BERG



Albert Froneman



Albert Froneman



Albert Froneman



Albert Froneman



Albert Froneman

Learn about Birds (LAB) forms part of every second Flock. These mini-conferences, which are co-hosted with the Percy FitzPatrick Institute of African Ornithology, provide an opportunity for formal and informal interaction between ornithologists, conservationists, and citizen scientists.

BIRDS AND PEOPLE (CONTINUED)

SASOL BIRD FAIR



A very successful Sasol Bird Fair was held at the Walter Sisulu National Botanical Gardens



The Bird of the Year was the Tristan Albatross. A poster, pin badge, lesson plans and activity sheets were designed and distributed to bird clubs and schools.

Three very successful Golden Bird Patron functions were held in L'Ormarins Estate in Franschhoek, The Oyster Box Hotel in Durban and Ritrovo Restaurant in Pretoria. Richard du Toit, the acclaimed professional wildlife and nature photographer, was the guest speaker at these events, and personalised copies of his "Bird's Eye View" and framed certificates were presented to BirdLife South Africa's Golden Bird Patrons.



SASOL BIRD GUIDE TRAINING PROGRAMME

The Sasol Bird Guide Training Programme has over the years delivered multiple success stories and 2014 was no different. A three-module bird guide-training course was pioneered with trainee guides going through three formal training sessions but receiving mentoring by senior guides in-between sessions. The course was a success and twenty-one trainee guides were assessed as competent through the course of the year. In addition to training, guides were involved in several conservation and environmental education initiatives. The regionally Endangered Cape Parrots occurring in

Magoebaskloof were monitored under the guidance of Professor Craig Symes of the University of Witwatersrand, while guides in Venda focused on collecting data on the regionally Vulnerable African Broadbill under the supervision of Professor Derek Englebrecht of the University of Limpopo. In KwaZulu-Natal, bird guides assisted with wader surveys at the Umhlatuze Estuary and 15 previously unatlased pentads were surveyed with the assistance of bird guides. The successful Birds in Trees Project, an environmental education programme focusing on trees and the important role that habitat plays

in maintaining biodiversity, continued in 2014 while the Nakakekela Environmental Education Programme in Van Reenen continued to flourish. In 2014, two guides, Sakhamuzi Mhlongo and Jotham Maduna, received a pair of Swarovski binoculars in recognition of their mentorship of new guides and engaging with their communities. 2014 was an exceptionally busy but successful year for the bird guide-training programme, which continues to play an important role in transforming the South African birding tourism sector and most importantly assisting with BirdLife South Africa's conservation activities.



Martha Taylor



Martha Taylor



Martha Taylor

GROWING CONSERVATION WINGS IN SCHOOLS

The Avianator Project supports teachers by bringing birds into curriculum teaching and giving learners practical opportunities to explore birds in their natural habitats. With funding from Harmony Gold, BirdLife South Africa's Grasslands Environmental Education Programme (GEEP) has been supporting ten Avianator Programme pilot schools in the Goldfields Region, Free State, in 2013 and 2014. During the pilot phase period, resources and lesson plans were developed, taking each participating teacher and learner on a journey through



the world of birds. These 'tools' assisted teachers to implement environmental education lessons, focusing on bird conservation and the critical links to human livelihoods. A total of 371 teachers and 10 752 learners were actively involved in the Avianator Programme in 2014. Activities included class-room based learning during the year as well as outdoor activities, such as keeping records of bird sightings and designing bird friendly gardens. The greatest highlight during the pilot phase was watching a learner using a pair of binoculars for the first time and then identifying a bird in the school playground.



Kristi Garland



Kristi Garland



Kristi Garland

BIRDS AND PEOPLE (CONTINUED)



Martin Taylor

PARTNER DEVELOPMENT

In 2014, recognising that the strengthening of conservation networks and collaboration between BirdLife partners is essential for the long-term conservation of birds in the region, the RSPB agreed to provide BirdLife South Africa with funding to start providing development support to partners in southern Africa. An initial focus was BirdLife Zimbabwe which, despite facing severe economic and political turmoil during recent years, has managed to continue to undertake important conservation work. Throughout the course of 2014, we provided BirdLife Zimbabwe with technical assistance relating to organisational governance and structures, financial accounting procedures, proposal writing techniques, species and IBA prioritisation and human resource management. The focus was to provide technical assistance to ensure that BirdLife Zimbabwe professionally fulfils all its contractual requirements to its donors and completes projects on time and within budget.



In neighbouring Mozambique, BirdLife South Africa staff continued to assist with the growth of AACEM, a locally based bird conservation organisation, with a focus on developing strategic planning documents as well as capacity through the hosting of Important Bird & Biodiversity Area monitoring and waterbird identification courses in Maputo. Recognising the important role that the Mozambican coastline plays in the East African Flyway, a review of key waterbird sites in Mozambique was undertaken.

While the focus of work was on Mozambique and Zimbabwe, assistance was also provided to the Africa coordinator of BirdLife International's Marine Programme through the development of funding proposals to assist with seabird work in the region. BirdLife South Africa is one of the first southern hemisphere organisations to take on the task of partner development within the BirdLife Partnership. Throughout the course of the next few years, BirdLife South Africa will play an ever-increasing role in strengthening conservation capacity throughout the region for the benefit of birds and their habitats.



Martin Taylor

AFRICAN BIRDLIFE

African Birdlife magazine has shown steady growth during the past year, with subscriber numbers displaying a gratifying increase year on year. The nationwide postal strike in the last quarter of the year, however, caused an unfortunate hiccup in the distribution of subscriber and members' copies and led to much frustration on all fronts. We are reasonably optimistic that hurdle has been overcome, at least for the immediate future, and subscribers are once again receiving their issues.

After a slow start, the take-up of the digital version of the magazine is gaining momentum and the rate at which people are buying and downloading apps for their issues is increasing. The greatest level of buy-in for this is in South Africa, followed by the United Kingdom.

A good deal of attention has been paid to increasing the footprint of the magazine in retail stores and raising customer awareness of the title. The magazine's management committee has invested time and effort in examining the vagaries of retail distribution; we have consulted with people who have specialist knowledge in the retail and circulation areas of the magazine business and the signs are looking good that *African Birdlife's* distribution will be more focused and have higher visibility in retail outlets in the very near future.



MARKETING BIRDLIFE SOUTH AFRICA

- BirdLife South Africa’s small marketing committee and its pro bono media partners have achieved considerable success during 2014. Several campaigns were run. In particular, the generic “Hour Glass Campaign”, developed and produced by our ad agency Utopia, continued to get exposure through Continental Outdoor Media’s electronic digital display boards and digipods in airports, malls, bars and shops. This spread the message about BirdLife South Africa’s conservation work to a wide and varied audience.



- The COS (Celebrate our Seas) Festival, run in Cape Town, engaged more partners in 2014 across a wider spectrum of marine and coastal conservation NGOs and agencies. Here again Utopia produced some sparkling work echoing the strategy and message of protection and celebration.
- Utilising the successful format of the COS Festival, a new festival was conceived focusing on conservation of more terrestrial habitats and specifically wetlands and water. The Flufftail Festival was born, with the partners including Eskom, Rand Water, Department of Environmental Affairs, Middelpunt Wetland Trust and Sandton City. Utopia again developed all the publicity material including billboards, social media elements and animations for Continent Outdoor Media’s digipods in the mall. The inaugural event will take place in February 2015.
- “Chickens Don’t Count” was the copy line of “Vote for South Africa’s Favourite Bird”, one of our biggest campaigns this year. The copy line reflected the fun nature of this campaign with an objective to embrace and involve the public at large to find our country’s favourite bird. The poll was launched on the 50/50 television programme on 1 December, running for three months until 28 February. People have been encouraged, using radio, television and print media, to vote on BirdLife South Africa’s website for one of the 52 short-listed species. What made this poll special was the idea to involve champions (campaigners) for several of the species. Radio, television, media personalities and sports personalities rallied to the cause, and pitched and promoted their favourite bird through video clips, blogs and social media. Mind Share World became our pro bono media placement partner in time to secure 150 community radio stations to run our 30 second radio ad for the “Vote” campaign.



SPONSORS AND SUPPORTERS

BirdLife South Africa is very grateful to the many people, organisations and companies which support its work. These include the bird clubs and volunteers who serve on the Audit and Investment, Council, Endorsement, ExCo, Flock, IBA, Legacy, List, Marketing, Membership, and Rarities committees. Many BirdLife South Africa members also serve on bird club committees and the three regional forums. We are also grateful to the volunteers who assist at BirdLife South Africa's head office and Wakkerstroom Tourism and Education Centre.

DONORS

(R1000 or more, and significant in kind contributions)

Africa Energy Indaba, African Mining and Trust Company Limited, Africa Nature Training, Airports Company South Africa SOC Ltd, Tania Anderson, American Birding Association, Animal Demography Unit, A.P. Leventis Ornithological Research Institute, Cleo Artemides, Aurora Expeditions, AVIS Rent A Car South Africa, Celia Bayley, Candace Bentel, Birding Big Day participants, Birding Ecotours, BirdLife International, BirdLife Northern Gauteng, BirdLife Westvaal, BRO Trust, Buckley & Strydom Land Surveyors, Canon South Africa, CapeNature, Carl Zeiss (Pty) Ltd, Peter Chadwick, David Chamberlain, Charles Greig Jewellers, Charl van der Merwe Trust, Chas Greig & Son (Pty) Ltd, City of Cape Town, Chrissie Cloete, A.E. Conradie, Conservation International Foundation, Continental Outdoor Media, Roy Cowgill, Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund, M. Croeser, D. Dare, S.B. Davis, Jack de Boer, Delport and Thomson Wealth Management, Department of Environmental Affairs, Diemersfontein Wine & Country Estate, Malcolm Drummond, Laura Dyer, C.C. Edge, Edward Snell & Co, E.C. Eksteen, Elaine's Birding and Wildlife Products, A. Ellmer, E. Oppenheimer & Son, Eskom Holdings SOC Limited, Chris Fallows, Fast & Featherless participants, Andy Featherstone, F.H. Chamberlain Trading (Pty) Ltd, FirstRand Foundation, Fondation Internationale du Banc d'Arguin (FIBA), Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO), Ford Motor Company of Southern Africa, Freunde der Bonner Convention, Albert Froneman, Marietjie Froneman, Mark Froneman, Future For Nature Foundation, Grand Café and Beach Cape Town, Guy Gibbon, Rosemary Girard, Gordon Institute of Business Science, John Graham, Greenfields Vet, Gregory Hawarden Memorial Trust, Christopher Greig, Grindrod Bank, Beth Hackland, Liz Hart, Hans Hoheisen Charitable Trust, Harmony Gold Mining Company Ltd, Trevor Hardaker, L. Henderson, Honda Motor South Africa (Pty) Ltd, Honda Sandton, Investec Corporate & Institutional Banking, Scott Irving, Neville & Pamela Isdell, Iziko Museums of South Africa, G.C. Jensen, John Dory's, Sally Johnson, A.J. Kerslake, KPMG, Robert Leggatt, Phil Liggett, Chris Lotz, Duncan MacFadyen, Don MacRobert, Colin Marshall, Mazda Wildlife Fund, P.G. Meintjies, J.I. Melville, Melanie Meyer, Misty Hills Country Hotel Conference Centre & Spa, Mitsui & Co, Mr Price Group Ltd., Otto Muller, MySchool/MyVillage/MyPlanet Programme, N3 Toll Concession (Pty) Ltd, National Zoological Gardens of South Africa, Tim Neary, Theresa Nel, P.H. Netscher, Ocean Breeze Food Merchants CC, Orion Mont-Aux-Sources Hotel, Orms Pro Photo Warehouse, Gisela Ortner, Outsrc Business Solutions, Pace Construction (Pty) Ltd., Palabora Copper, Percy FitzPatrick Institute of African Ornithology, Yvonne Pennington, Niall Perrins, Petra Diamonds Limited, PNM Short Hauliers (Pty) Ltd., Nick Prentice, Pullen Family, S. Pyott, Gabrielle Raaff, Rand Barbet Bird Club, Rand Merchant Bank Fund, Random House Struik, Rustenburg Bird Club, Ryan Reisinger, Responsible Fisheries Alliance, Gunther Riehle, Ian Rijdsdijk, Ritrovo Ristorante, C.

Roberts, R.C.S. Robinson, Rockjumper Worldwide Birding Adventures, Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, Gaynor Rupert, Rupert Natuurstigting, Peter Ryan, SAB (Pty) Ltd., SANParks West Rand Honorary Rangers, Sappi, Sasol, Sasol Social and Community Trust, Secretary's Day donors, T.E. Sewell, Mark Shuttleworth, James Smith, SNC-Lavalin (Pty) Ltd., South African Environmental Observation Network (SAEON), South African National Biodiversity Institute, South African Wind Energy Association, Southern African Birding cc, Spring Alive, B. Stephenson, Swarovski Optik, S.W. Swarts, Warwick Tarboton, The Diamond Route, The Herman Ohlthaver Trust, The Jowell Family Namaqualand Foundation Trust, Thelema Wine Estate, Reg Thomson, TLT Accountants, Toro Yaka Bush Lodge, Total South Africa, Trencor Services (Pty) Ltd, Mel Tripp, Tshikululu Social Investments, Umhlaba Environmental Consulting CC, UNEP/AEWA, Utopia, Van de Venter and Mojapelo (VVM), Allen Walker, Walter Sisulu National Botanical Gardens, WESSA – Wildlife & Environment Society of South Africa, Wetlands International, D. Wilcocks, Witkoppen Wildflower Nursery, Witwatersrand Bird Club, T.G. Wood, WWF Nedbank Green Trust, WWF-SA Table Mountain Fund, WWF South Africa, Mark Young, Zest for Birds.



Albert Froneman

CORPORATE MEMBERS

Introductory

&Beyond South Africa Travel (Pty) Ltd, Aon South Africa (Pty) Ltd, Aveng Grinaker-LTA, Avi Products, Bientang's Cave Restaurant & Wine Bar, Birding Ecotours, City Lodge Hotels, Den Braven SA (Pty) Ltd, Exclusive Destinations (Pty) Ltd, Garden Shop, Indlovu Safari, Indwe Risk Services, Insurance Institute of Gauteng, MegaMice (Pty) Ltd, Michael Lewis, Ocean Breeze Food Merchants CC, Recreation Africa Leisure Ind. (Pty) Ltd, Ricoh South Africa, Rockjumper Birding Tours CC, Royal Johannesburg & Kensington Golf Club, SA Wingshooters Association, Singita Management Company, Sony South Africa (Pty) Ltd, Swift Flite (Pty) Ltd, The Cavern Resort & Spa, The George Skinner Family Trust, The Sandton Indaba (Pty) Ltd, Timbila Consulting (Pty) Ltd, Transparent Financial Services (Pty) Ltd, Waltons (Pty) Ltd, Widex South Africa (Pty) Ltd, Wilderness Safaris (Pty) Ltd, Zaagkuilsdrift Bird Sanctuary & Lodge.

Associate

Esorfranki Construction, Nampak Rigid Plastics, Nelesco 569 (Pty) Ltd, Servest (Pty) Ltd, Super Stone Mining (Pty) Ltd, The Hollard Insurance Company Limited, Vodacom Group Limited, Woolworths Holdings.

Partner

AfriSam South Africa (Pty) Ltd, Investec Bank Ltd, N3 Toll Concession, Sappi Limited, Trans Africa Concessions (Pty) Ltd.

Conservation League Members

L.G. Allinson, P. Ayling, K.H. Balzer, P. Barnard, R. Botha, M.A. Bridgeford, Cuckoo Bird Club, M.J. Cunningham, H. du Toit, P. Ferreira, J.H. Fourie, J.D. Graaff, M. Griffith, J. Hawarden, P. Isdell, G.C. Jensen, D. Joubert, J. Joubert, A.D.C. Knott-Craig, P. Leman, R.M. Loubser, Masterclass Events (Pty) Ltd, M. MacRobert, R. McGrath, O. Muller, D. Napier, F.G. Ortner, L.D.G. Pegram, P. Perry, S. Potgieter, C. Ralph, C. Roberts, G. Rupert, J. Rupert, D. Scott, P.G. Sprules, N.D.M. Stainforth, P. Stapelberg, S. Sutherland, R.R. Thomson, Ulrich Ecoventures, R. van der Merwe, W. van der Merwe, L. van Zyl, R.R.M. Wanless, J. Wells, G. Wood.

GOLDEN BIRD PATRONS

Golden Pipit
Tanya Browne, David Chamberlain, Philip Chamberlain, Michael Haineback, Nedbank, Nicky Oppenheimer, Gaynor Rupert

Golden-breasted Bunting
Chris and Barbara Cory

African Golden Weaver
Paul and Jeanne Harris, Vaughan Prost. Stephen Reinecke, Remgro

African Golden Oriole
Don Hairs, Mandy Ackerman, Alex Barrell, Don Barrell, Ismail Bhorat, Stuart Bird, John and Alison Bradshaw, Howard Buttery, Tony and Maureen Dixon, Pat and Karin Goss, Christopher Greig, Grindrod Bank, Rob Rein, Nick and Celeste Jonsson, Simon Milne, Kiki Pashiou, George Pashiou, Flims Pashiou, Mike & Kathleen Robson, Erik Saager, Simon Susman, Graham Warsop

FINANCIALS

ABRIDGED STATEMENT OF PROFIT OR LOSS AND OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME for the year ended 31 December 2014

	2014 (R)	2013 (R)
Gross income	22 207 115	21 011 326
Gross expenditure	21 316 269	19 865 625
Net income from operations	890 846	1 145 701
Surplus on disposal of investments	306 650	133 088
Net income for the year	1 197 496	1 278 789
Other comprehensive income	711 225	1 092 281
Bequests and donations to sustainability fund	70 919	108 327
Surplus on adjustment of South African equities to fair market value	640 306	983 954
Total comprehensive income for the year	1 908 721	2 371 070

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION as at 31 December 2014

	2014 (R)	2013 (R)
ASSETS		
Non-current assets	7 943 900	7 120 628
Property, vehicles and equipment	377 984	668 803
Investments	7 565 916	6 451 825
Current assets	14 219 686	11 897 817
Trade and other receivables	1 673 945	1 303 905
Cash and cash equivalents	12 109 903	10 593 912
Assets held for sale	435 838	–
Total assets	22 163 586	19 018 445
EQUITIES AND LIABILITIES		
Reserves		
Accumulated funds	9 975 757	8 067 036
Current liabilities	12 187 829	10 951 409
Deferred revenue	10 525 498	9 246 195
Subscriptions received in advance	645 252	621 402
Trade and other payables	1 017 079	1 083 812
Total equities and liabilities	22 163 586	19 018 445

The financial statements of BirdLife South Africa for the year ended 31 December 2014 have been audited by KPMG. Set out here are the abridged statements of profit or loss and other comprehensive income for the year ended 31 December 2014 and financial position at that date. These have been extracted from the Audited Financial Statements and reflect net profitable results for the various activities undertaken by BirdLife South Africa and disclose a sound financial position.



Mike McCullough
Treasurer

PATRONS

Dr Precious Moloi-Motsepe, Mrs Gaynor Rupert and Mr Mark Shuttleworth.

Council

Dr Phoebe Barnard (President), Vernon Head (Chairman), Professor Mashudu Tshifularo (Vice Chairman), Mark D. Anderson (Chief Executive Officer), Jérôme Ainsley, Philip Calinikos, Roy Cowgill, Corné Erasmus, Rosemary Girard, David Letsoalo, Mike McCullough (Treasurer), Rick Nuttall, Lance Robinson, Peter Ryan, Nigel Stainforth, Professor Les Underhill.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Vernon Head (Chairman), Mark D. Anderson (Chief Executive Officer), Philip Calinikos (Chairman of Audit Committee), David Chamberlain, Roy Cowgill, Mike McCullough (Treasurer), Christine Read (-March 2014), Lance Robinson, Nigel Stainforth, Professor Mashudu Tshifularo (Vice Chairman), Roger Wanless.

STAFF

Mark D. Anderson, Kathleen April-Okoye, Pamela Barrett, Elaine Cherrington, Robin Colyn (August 2014-), Fanie du Plessis, Kristi Garland, Simon Gear (February 2014-), Christina Hagen, Shireen Gould, Rosemary Knight, Bokamoso Lebepe, Bronwyn Maree, Daniel Marnewick, Nikki McCartney, Nhlanhla Ncube (October 2014-), Lucky Ngwenya, Dinah Peenah, Nicholas Theron, Samantha Ralston-Paton, Ernst Retief, Samantha Schröder, Dr Hanneline Smit-Robinson, Ntombi Stungu, Martin Taylor, Linda van den Heever, Dr Ross Wanless, Dale Wright.

HEAD OFFICE DETAILS

Physical: Lewis House, 239 Barkston Drive, Blairgowrie, Randburg 2194, Gauteng, South Africa
Postal: PO Box 515, Randburg 2125, Gauteng, South Africa • Telephone: +27 (0) 11 789 1122
Facsimile: +27 (0) 11 789 5188 • Email: info@birdlife.org.za | Website: www.birdlife.org.za

Nonprofit Registration Number: 001-298 NPO

Public Benefit Organisation Exemption Number: 930 004 518

Member of IUCN (International Union for Conservation of Nature)

Member of Proudly South African

Member Association of Water Institute of southern Africa



Albert Froneman

sappi
Inspired by life


BirdLife
SOUTH AFRICA
Giving Conservation Wings



Partnership for
nature and people

