



THE BABBLER

Newsletter of BirdLife Zimbabwe

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*October -
November 2018
No. 144*

Hi everyone,

Thanks again to Ken Dixon for reports on Mashonaland Branch activities and to the Youth Group for the Rainham Dam visit - some photos of the latter are to be found on the back page since I almost overlooked them!

A condensed CEO's Report from the AGM is included here, minus the content already covered in the last *Babbler*, and if any of you would like the full report please contact the office, although the full report was sent to everyone prior to the AGM.

With sadness, we inform you of the deaths of a number of longstanding members and offer condolences to their families.

Summer is here so make the most of it and head out to your favourite birding spots,

Ian Riddell gemsaf@mango.zw

Committee	MASHONALAND (Code 024)	MATABELELAND (Code 029)
Chairperson	Tony Alegria tonyalegria47@gmail.com 0772-438697 2490375 (h)	Karen Learmonth afspec@yoafrica.com 0772-231819 2240055 (h) 2244990 (w)
Vice Chairperson	James Ball jameszwe@gmail.com 0772-310351 2481351 (h)	John Brebner brebnerj@acolchem.co.zw 0782-781108 2242634
Secretary	Kelvin Hein bushpig48@gmail.com 0772-345355 2338714 (h)	Vacant
Treasurer	Debbie Wiggins wigpd2015@gmail.com 0772-252651 2882851 (h)	Gaynor Lightfoot gaytoes21@gmail.com 0712-402341
Members	Alison MacDonald alimacd1@gmail.com 0772-264758	Clare Hubbard skunkiezw@yahoo.com 0712-231416 2231329
	John Vekris gakamira@africaonline.co.zw 0772-381582	Cheryl Nel nelstruck@gmail.com 0782-735220
	Laurence Shadwell adderley@iwayafrica.co.zw 0712-800905 2487670	
Membership	Sylvia Muzavazi sylvia@blz.co.zw 2481496 (w)	
Babbler Editor	Ian Riddell gemsaf@mango.zw 0772-117054	

National Office

Office hours: Monday to Friday 8.30 – 4.30
35 Clyde Road, Eastlea, P O Box RVL100, Runiville, Harare, Zimbabwe
Telephone: 024 – 2481496
E-mail: birds@zol.co.zw

Website: www.birdlifezimbabwe.org also www.facebook.com/BirdLifeZimbabwe

Chief Executive Officer
Finance/Administration Manager
Conservation Officer: Special Species
In charge of IBA/KBA's
Messenger:

Julia Pierini
Sylvia Muzavazi
Fadzai Matsvimbo
Togarasei Fakarayi
Vengai Dengu

BirdLife Zimbabwe
The BirdLife International
Partner in Zimbabwe



Branch News

Mashonaland

BirdLife Zimbabwe Youth Club outing at RAINHAM DAM, 22nd July 2018

On Sunday, 22nd July, six BirdLife Zimbabwe Youth Club members and John Vekris conducted a Waterbird Count at the two Rainham Dams, located at about 22 km from the city centre at an elevation of 1.399m above sea level. The six youths include Ronnie Chirimuta, Abigail Karimanzira, John Zhuwawo, Cuthbert Maravanyika, Alick Akimu and Leeroy Juwao.

Whilst approaching the two dams the team spotted a Red-capped Lark on the road, several Southern Red Bishops and a Red-collared Widowbird. After we got out of the car, we were welcomed by the melodious call of a Yellow-throated Longclaw.

Although it was a cold and windy morning, many birds were active. Nine African Spoonbills captured the party's attention early on; they were a lifer for Abigail, at least! A Malachite Kingfisher was seen fishing in the water and this excited the group as Alick, Leeroy and Cuthbert had never seen this beautiful bird before, whilst Abigail had only seen it once. Red-billed Teals, African Sacred Ibises, a Grey Heron and a Purple Heron, Pied Kingfishers, White-faced Ducks, one Yellow-billed Egret, Reed Cormorants, African Wattled Lapwings, Crowned Lapwings and Blacksmith Lapwings are some of the other birds that were seen at the bigger dam. Tawny-flanked Prinias, Red-faced Cisticolas and Levaillant's Cisticolas could be heard calling in the grasses. A Senegal Coucal was heard and then seen, perched on a tree. We also saw some Brown-throated Martins near the dam wall.

A raptor flew above us but, unfortunately, we could not identify it (but probably an eagle or a buzzard). We were disappointed to spot only one Hamerkop at such a site. Probably its favourite food (frogs) is scarce at Rainham Dam?

Only one African Fish-eagle was seen on this visit, which was rather disappointing, as we had expected to see a good few "Hungwe". This was not the only raptor of the day as we also spotted a Black-chested Snake-eagle, at least one Black-shouldered Kite and, towards the end, an African Marsh-harrier.



Another highlight of the day came when we were walking on the vlei on the south side of the smaller dam, and accidentally flushed two Marsh Owls out of the grasses, one of them coming from a nest. The nest had two chicks that were alive, one dead chick and one unhatched egg. It is pleasing to note that these owls are still able to breed at Rainham. Unfortunately, their habitat is being degraded due to encroachment and the harvesting of grass. If this continues, Marsh Owls and other species that breed in the grasses may come to extinction at Rainham Dam. We need to engage stakeholders around the area so that they understand the importance of conserving this site.

Other birds seen at the smaller dam include 2 Yellow-throated Longclaws, more Reed Cormorants, Squacco Herons, African Jacanas and a Greater Striped Swallow. As we were heading back to the car Ronnie spotted a bird that he thought was a Lesser Jacana but after showing it to the others it was agreed that it was a juvenile African Jacana.

Our mission was concentrated more on counting water birds and in total we recorded 39 such species with the highest count being around 50 Red-billed Teals. All told, a total of 54 water and terrestrial bird species were recorded on this outing, which was not a bad total for such a small group on a cold and windy morning. It also gives hope that this site has not been completely spoilt and can become special again.

The young birders that visited Rainham are thirsty to learn more about birds and their role in the ecosystem. We are the future of BLZ and so we need to learn all that we can about Zimbabwe's birdlife and how we can monitor it and conserve it. We would like to have more such outings and trips, and to get fully involved in activities that help us to expand our knowledge.

At the same time, we need to get more youngsters interested. During this outing, we enquired about schools in the area and we were told about nearby Rainham Primary School. As the BLZ Youth Club we are now planning on visiting that school at the beginning of the new term, so that we can get the local school children interested in bird monitoring and conservation.

Special thanks to John Vekris who made it possible for us to visit this site.

Ronnie Chirimuta and Abigail Karimanzira

Visit to Greystone Park Preserve, Saturday 8th September 2018

Yet another successful outing on a lovely Saturday morning welcoming the spring to a devastated Greystone Park. The chances of restoring the dam and wall to their former glory seem slim but the birding is as good as ever and the paths are clear and enable the complete circuit. 13 of us managed to find the surprising total of 72 species, although the only waterbirds left are Black Crake, Little Rush-warbler and Red-faced Cisticola.

As on our last visit the sunbirds were awaiting us; Copper Sunbird, Variable Sunbird, Amethyst Sunbird, Miombo Double-collared Sunbird and Scarlet-chested Sunbird all around the Car Park. Later Purple-banded Sunbird was busy in the acacias. They all seem to find sustenance in the prolific crimson mistletoe parasite. Most species have begun to sing as their thoughts turn to romance and breeding, giving birders with good ears and memories a distinct advantage over others.

Another uncommon Harare species seen by all and lucky enough to get its photo in Facebook was the Red-throated Twinspot, which

is now present in numbers. Lizard Buzzard and Black-shouldered Kite are regulars there but a Black Sparrowhawk was new.



Red-throated Twinspots © Roger MacDonald

It is surprising that so few people know of the existence of this small but attractive reserve, which offers an hour or so's stroll. The pedestrian gate is always open and there is parking at the entrance.

Ken Dixon

Visit to Monavale Vlei, Sunday 19th August 2018

The tall grass is dying at last and much of the vlei has burnt. Evidence of burst underground pipes, especially on Sherwood Golf Course, is still a feature but, even so, 11 of us managed to identify about 60 species on a sunny but breezy Sunday morning. The Long-crested Eagle was with us all the time, perched on acacias or above us pursued by crows. Black-shouldered Kite and Gabar Goshawk were the other birds of prey. A Swainson's Spurfowl gave excellent

views on its perch about 2 metres above the ground. Otherwise it was the usual mixture; all the widowbirds, bishops and whydahs, along with warblers in the reeds, African Palm-swift, Grey-rumped Swallow and Wire-tailed Swallow and African Sacred Ibis above us, cisticolas in the grass and flocks of Orange-breasted Waxbill and Red-billed Quelea erupting from time to time from the vlei.

Ken Dixon

Visit to Kent Estate, Norton, Sunday 26th August, 2018

Well, we missed the Inauguration of the President but we had a fantastic day's birding out at Norton, recording at least 123 species

despite spending little time in the woodland. 'We' were 26 members when only a dozen were

expected, but all of us would agree it was one of our most rewarding outings ever.



On arrival, we were met by our hosts, Alex and Pam, who led a convoy along the dusty red farm roads to a large dam covered with birds, especially near the grassy fringes and on the islands. It was impossible to miss the lone Great White Pelican on the far bank. Apparently, up to 5 are seen from time to time. Most numerous were Red-billed Teal and White-faced Duck, at least 100 of each, but also present were 30 Comb Duck, 50 Egyptian Goose, Little Grebe and a Southern Pochard. On the far bank stood a huddled gathering of 20 Marabou Storks among the many White-backed Vultures and cattle.



Rather overwhelmed by the sight of so many birds in August, we stood in amazement for some time before setting off in various directions to get closer views. A hide beckoned on the nearby shore and telescopes were soon in action from there, searching for the waders and shore birds. Ruff, Black-winged Stilt, Wood Sandpiper, Marsh Sandpiper and Common Sandpiper, Black Egret, Grey Heron and Purple Heron, plus other waterbirds, were soon identified.

A group of us set off for the distant dam wall when we heard there was another, larger dam beyond it. On the way through grassland and along farm tracks many common species appeared; African Palm-swift and Grey-rumped Swallow, Variable Sunbird and Scarlet-chested

Sunbird, Arrow-marked Babbler, Dark-capped Bulbul, Yellow-breasted Apalis, Red-throated Twinspot, waxbills and others. From the dam wall, we looked down on a mixed group of African Spoonbills and African Openbills and a White-breasted Cormorant flew in. Giant Kingfisher and Pied Kingfisher materialised, as did Yellow-throated Longclaw and a few African Fish-eagles. Now and again, the sky over the first dam would fill with wheeling vultures, which we were told, are present scavenging on the pig mortalities put out by an adjoining farm. A splinter group then peeled off in pursuit of an African Scops-owl, which had been heard and were delighted to find an African Barred Owlet instead; Pearl-spotted Owlet were vocal from the woodland. Thicket and scrub produced Black-backed Puffback, Southern Grey-headed Sparrow and Yellow-throated Petronia, Orange-breasted Bush-shrike, Long-billed Crombec, Terrestrial Brownbul, Brown-crowned Tchagra, Orange-winged Pytilia, Red-billed Firefinch and Jameson's Firefinch and an Ovambo Sparrowhawk flew over, no doubt fancying a bit of Laughing Dove or Emerald-spotted Wood-dove. African Cuckoo Hawk, Gabar Goshawk and Lizard Buzzard were added to the raptor list.



About 11 o'clock, most of us reassembled on the lakeshore, feeling peckish but aware it was too early for lunch. A few photographers wandered off in search of that special picture,

some drifted back to the hide, others into the woodland. Three of us strolled along the shore with no particular aim in mind but when I was told African Quailfinch were calling all around us my old imperfect ears pricked up. After careful but fruitless scanning of the marshy fringe, I came across a Chestnut-backed Sparrowlark, which I had not seen for 20+ years, back when it was a Finchlark. Seconds later another flew past. What joy! Eventually, we found a lone female African Quailfinch and a little later a male whilst all around small groups would explode from close quarters. What delightful but cryptic little birds. Collared Pratincoles, which had been spotted from time to time, offered super views when they landed on a grassy island a few metres into the dam, as did a Marsh Sandpiper. Meanwhile, Black Heron performed their customary shading technique whilst a solitary Glossy Ibis stood on its little island. Nearby and we picked out two Lappet-faced Vultures among the White-backed

Vultures on the shore, whilst back in the distance towards the northern ridge others perched on trees, adding up to 120-150 birds.



By now, our braai chef had performed his ritual too, and we assembled for the count followed by lunch. Having thanked our generous hosts we returned to base, most of us avoiding the worst of the traffic leaving the National Stadium.

Ken Dixon & Ian Riddell

Mashonaland West

Kadoma and Chegutu

The glorious spring weather is truly here with sunny skies and refreshing evenings. The gardens are full of colour and the new rapid growth of plants is all around. Likewise, the birds, butterflies, insects and bees are all active. A pair of Crested Barbets is nesting in the old jacaranda tree by the garden wall. I am able to see activity daily and hear the male "trilling". When any Pied Crows make a nearby appearance, the barbets fly off, not to show any evidence of a nest nearby.



Chin-spot Batis and Cardinal Woodpecker by Ruth Baldwin-Paice & Sigrid Stone

The Southern Masked-weavers are plentiful in groups, making their "swizzling" sounds as they feed and drink in the garden and they love any palm tree or tall bamboo cluster. The sunbirds are quiet and seem to have moved away.

The Black-headed Herons are nesting and a heronry is developing again. Despite some big old gum trees at the rear of the Grand Hotel of c.1925 being cut down for safety reasons, other tall trees remain and 12+ new nests have been constructed in some Syringa trees. Another group of herons is nest building in some tall

silky oak trees across the road from my house, so I am able to watch and listen to their continuous “clucking” at all times of the day. All evidence of unkempt stick nests from last season have disappeared.

A group of 7+ Red-faced Mousebirds visit the garden regularly for berries, and their call is unmistakable melodious.

Bird Song is therapeutic, consoling and comforting. Our avifaunal friends never fail to bring peace and harmony to our hectic lives.

Margaret Parrock

National

Extracts below from the CEO Report, which was circulated to all members prior to the AGM. If you would like the full report, please contact Carolyn Dennison or the office.

CEO REPORT

BIRDLIFE ZIMBABWE (BLZ) ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 23 JUNE 2018, MUKUVISI WOODLANDS, HARARE

Compiled by BLZ Chief Executive Officer, Julia Pierini (JP)

BLZ Staff cited in the report: T. Fakarayi (TF) Important Bird Areas Programme; F. Matsvimbo (FM) Preventing Extinctions Programme; Sylvia Muzavazi (SM) Finance and Admin; Vengai Dengu (VD),
Caretaker

BirdLife South Africa (BLSA) Partner Development Officer: Martin Taylor (MT)

Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) Partner Development Officers: Dr Chris Magin (CM) and Ian Barber (IB)

Marlborough Environmental Action Group (MEAG): Ronald Chirimuta (RC)

Harare Wetlands Advocacy Project Manager: Selestino Chari (SC)

Comments from the CEO

In mid-July 2017, a notice appeared in the local papers to the effect that Government was releasing one million hectares of protected areas to small-scale mining. Very little detail was given but it was sufficient to create a wave of disbelief within environmental and nature conservation circles both in Zimbabwe and abroad. At the end of July, we received news of our first casualty: the Chimanimani Mountains Key Biodiversity Area (KBA). Jane High and Collen Sibanda from the Chimanimani Tourist Association had travelled down to Harare on an urgent mission to give the alarm. They claimed that Zimbabwe Parks and Wildlife Management Authority (ZPWMA) officials were colluding with small scale/artisanal miners on the Bundi Plain and actually spearheading mining operations. This was taken up with the ZPWMA head office in Harare who sent a delegation to Chimanimani to investigate. The accusation has proved to be true but ZPWMA refuse to comment. Zimbabwe Environmental

Lawyers Association (ZELA) took up the case with ZPWMA but so far the case has come to nought. Reality is – *Chimanimani Mountains is a National Park and still protected by law.* Unfortunately, the Ministry of Mines and Mining Development has geared up to modify the Mines and Minerals Act. An amendment bill has just passed through Parliament (June 2018). Zimbabwe is a country rich in minerals (over 40 comprising gold, chrome, asbestos, uranium, coal, iron, nickel, copper, diamonds, tin, platinum and lithium) that have until recent years largely been left unexploited. This is changing fast and the terrible impacts on watershed areas are already evident. The Zimbabwe Government’s intention is not only to open up the country to large-scale mining operations but to small and medium scale mining too. At this stage, the laws are still in place to protect the environment (artisanal mining and mining in river/stream beds remains illegal) but are completely ineffective against institutions which are weak and

undermined, a judiciary that has little experience with environmental laws and no understanding of ecosystem services and no actual WILL within the Ministry of Environment, Water & Climate nor in the Environmental Management Agency to look after fragile ecosystems and high biodiversity areas. Artisanal and small-scale miners are contributing 6% of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and with little other forms of revenue; these miners are being given loans and their activity openly promoted by Government. Policing agencies are also instructed that artisanal miners are not to be arrested. One thing is for sure – what is being allowed has nothing to do with ‘sustainable’ development and in the light of a changing climate, a recipe for catastrophe. To date, five of Zimbabwe’s Important Bird Areas (IBAs) are being encroached and impacted by mining operations i.e. the Mavuradonha Mountains for its chrome (large-scale mining by the Chinese), Chimanimani, Chirinda Forest, Haroni Rusitu and Hwange National Park (coal). BLZ is currently working closely with stakeholders in Chimanimani, Zimbabwe Environmental Lawyers Association and liaising with scientists outside the country e.g. Dr Sue Taylor, AfroMont Co-ordinator, Research Network for Global Change in African Mountains and Vincent Ralph, Research Associate: Great Escarpment Biodiversity Programme (Department of Plant & Soil Sciences, University of Pretoria). Tackling the mining in protected areas is to be a BLZ focus in 2018/2019.

At the end of January 2018, Julia Pierini and Fadzai Matsvimbo met with RSPB Partner Development officers, Chris Magin and Ian Barber, in Victoria Falls on the first leg of their visit to Zimbabwe. A meeting had been set up with Kavango-Zambezi Transfrontier Conservation Area (KAZA TFCA) representatives and BirdLife partners from Botswana and Zambia to discuss the setting up of a bird conservation working group within KAZA. Several other meetings were held with IB and CM in attendance to give them an understanding of the environment that BLZ is operating in, the various activities other conservation organisations are implementing and how collaborations between these organisations and BLZ can be facilitated. Martin Taylor joined the

group in Bulawayo and participated on last leg of the trip.

For meetings held see full report



Before their departure on 7 February 2018, CM

On 4 May 2018, the Pan African Ornithological Committee (PAOC) Committee formally accepted BirdLife Zimbabwe’s offer to host PAOC15 in 2020. BLZ had submitted a business plan on 27 April 2018 to host the conference, which was unanimously accepted by all members of the committee. BLZ will be working with the PAOC Committee and colleagues over the next couple of years to make the congress a great success. Victoria Falls has been chosen as the venue for the 2020 PAOC (mostly for logistical reasons)

confirmed that RSPB would continue to fund BLZ core expenses for another year (or possibly two). He also stated, however, that by 2020, all funding from RSPB would cease. CM indicated that RSPB is looking at funding BLZ between £32000 - £36000 for the year April 2018 – March 2019; the exact figure is still to be confirmed and the contract signed.

During his visit, CM also officially handed over the role of RSPB Partner Development Officer to IB.

BLZ Mashonaland members were given an opportunity of meeting with CM, IB and MT at a sundowner event at Mukuvisi Woodlands viewing platform on 6 February 2018.

The Organisation

Ronald Chirimuta, the Marlborough Environmental Action Group (MEAG) Vlei Scout who has been supported by BLZ since 2013 (throughout the Jensen Project (2013-2015) and into 2017), is now working on the Harare Wetlands Trust (HWT) Wetland Advocacy

Project and being funded by TRACE. He worked on the BLZ education programme until July 2017 funded through CORE and on the Spring Alive Project, funded through that project until December 2017. From January – June 2018, his activities covering the BLZ education programme are again being funded through CORE.

BLZ Youth members John Zhuwao and Benhildah Antonio have been assisting in the BLZ Education programme voluntarily (HIFA, May 2018; Death by Plastic May-June 2018, World Environment Day 8 June 2018). Their expenses have been covered by CORE.

The primary foci of BLZ's conservation action in 2017/18 has remained: Vultures, Eastern Highland IBAs, Harare's Wetlands (Climate Change Action) and Environmental Education outreach programme

In 2017/18 BLZ had seven funded projects.

Three have been completed and the reports submitted and accepted:

1. CEPF "Transboundary cooperation in the Chimanimani Mountains" with Micaia Foundation.
2. "Updating information on trigger species for Stapleford Forest Key Biodiversity Area (KBA)" (This project was extended by CEPF to December 2017 to incorporate surveys on Blue Swallows).
3. Spring Alive.

Four are on-going projects:

1. TRACE - Harare Wetlands Trust Advocacy Project.
2. Segré Foundation "Supporting measures to regulate and control use of poison at Hwange National Park in Zimbabwe".
3. AEWAs Small Grants Fund: "Species Surveys and Habitat Assessment for Conservation Planning to Secure the Future of Two Crane Species in Zimbabwe".
4. Global Green Grants Fund: "A scoping study to assess impact of mining on ecosystems and communities in and around protected areas".

1. BirdLife Zimbabwe Preventing Extinctions Programme

See Conservation Report in *The Babbler* #143.

Policy and advocacy

The Zimbabwe Vulture Action Plan that was produced through an Action Planning process in March 2015 is undergoing the process of being officially signed off by the Zimbabwe Government as the official Vulture Action Plan (VAP) for Zimbabwe. BirdLife Zimbabwe led the Vulture Action Planning process in March 2015 in collaboration with Zimbabwe Parks and Wildlife Management Authority.

The Zimbabwe Responsible Gamblers Association (ZRGA) expressed concerns that the increasing numbers of active gamblers could possibly be fuelling a demand for vulture parts. ZRGA approached ZPWMA and BLZ in May 2017 to find out how the three organisations can collaborate in order to deal with the threat.

1.5 Publication of one paper in a scientific journal

A manuscript entitled "A survey for nesting White-backed Vultures in Hwange National Park" was submitted to *Ostrich* for consideration for publication. It was decided to submit the manuscript to *Ostrich* after an unsuccessful attempt to have it published in the *African Journal of Ecology*. The authors of the manuscript are Josephine Mundava, FM, Peter Mundy and Tendai Wachi.

1.6 Continued support to Common Bird Monitoring Schemes in Zimbabwe

13 May 2017 - BLZ members participated in eBird Global Big Day (Cornell University). For Zimbabwe, 240 species were recorded on 39 checklists (See *The Babbler* 136)

The summary of the IWC Waterbird counts data is presented in *The Babbler* 139.

Birding Big Day was held in Zimbabwe on 25-26 Nov 2017. 22 teams recorded 403 species. BBD 2017 report has been uploaded on the Conservation page of BirdLife Zimbabwe website (www.birdlifetimzimbabwe.org) under Surveys & Reports.

05 May 2018 - BLZ members participated in eBird Global Big Day (Cornell University).

SABAP2 continues to be promoted as a citizen scientist project amongst members. The report up to mid-May 2018 has been circulated.

Special Species WhatsApp Group - contributing sightings on a daily basis from around the country. The data is collected by BLZ members - Colin Baker for inclusion into

Honeyguide and by Peta Ditchburn, Special Species Survey Co-ordinator.

Victoria Falls Garden Bird Survey is on-going with Wilderness Safaris (BLZ Members) spearheading the collection of data. The Vic Falls GBS kick-started on 30 January 2017.

2. BirdLife Zimbabwe Important Bird and Biodiversity Areas Programme

See Conservation Report in *The Babbler* #143.

Two one-day visits to Driefontein Grasslands IBA conducted in August and September 2017 were successful. During the first visit, a meeting was conducted with local communities at Widgeon 5 Village, where villagers were informed to safeguard a pair of Wattled Cranes nesting close to this village. The Wattled Crane pair bred successfully and had a chick in September 2017. The second visit was to address issues of potential crane poisoning by suspected villagers whose crops were completely destroyed by cranes. Meetings were conducted with those villagers and key members of the Site Support groups.

In September 2017, BLZ facilitated the invitations for, and funded the fuel and accommodation for, the Chimanimani delegation (Chief Saurombe, Kevan and Zeddy Chikukwa (representing Chief Chikukwa) and Ulli Westermann (Tsuru Trust) in order for them to attend the Policy Breakfast Meeting on Mining in Protected Areas organised by PACT at the Holiday Inn in Harare on 7 September so that their voice could be heard by Government against small scale/artisanal mining in Chimanimani. JP and TF both attended the meeting.

The Zimbabwe Environmental Law Association (ZELA) hosted the 6th Edition of the Zimbabwe Alternative Mining Indaba (ZAMI) on 4-5 October 2017 in Bulawayo under the theme "Promoting Responsible and Accountable Governance of Minerals". BLZ funded the accommodation and catering to enable the Chimanimani Chiefs' delegation to participate at the Indaba: Thomas Chikukwa, Zeddy Chikukwa (representing Chief Chikukwa) and Collen Sibanda (representing Chimanimani Tourism Association). Chief Saurombe's expenses were covered by ZELA. The rationale behind the ZAMI meeting was to enable multiple stakeholders to openly discuss and

understand better opportunities and challenges underpinning good and accountable (financial) governance in the mining sector - but worryingly not accountable governance of natural infrastructure. As Nature Conservationists, this does not augur well for Key Biodiversity Areas such as Chimanimani, Haroni Rusitu, Chirinda Forest and Mavuradonha, which are already being degraded. At the meeting, Chief Saurombe and his delegation expressed their concerns over the mining taking place in Chimanimani and Chief Saurombe had an audience with the then Minister of Mines, Hon Chidakwe - who has now been replaced - so we are back to the drawing board. JP also attended the meeting.



From left: Zeddy and Thomas Chikukwa, Chief Saurombe and Collen Sinbanda at ZAMI in October 2017

ZELA, in partnership with Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung (KAS), invited BLZ to participate in the Climate Change and Law in Zimbabwe seminar held at Bronte Hotel, Harare, Zimbabwe on 12 June 2018 running under the theme 'Climate Change and Law in Zimbabwe: Reflections on Current Law, Policy, and Regulation to address the Challenges of Climate Change'. The seminar sought to profile international, regional, and local governance efforts to address climate change and to inform government technocrats within analogous ministries affected by climate change on benefits of a harmonized climate legislation in Zimbabwe and to catalyse knowledge exchanges towards co-generating a new climate law and governance framework, particularly by facilitating dialogue between delegates, legal practitioners, and legal academics. BLZ funded Collen Sibanda (Chimanimani Tourist Association) to travel to Harare to attend the meeting to bring up the issue of the mining in Chimanimani, the key watershed area of the KBA. JP also attended the meeting.

JP attended the tourism and communications working group meeting for KAZA TFCA held in Katima Mulilo, Namibia on 3 May 2018 to represent BirdLife Zimbabwe. BLSA MT had submitted a proposal to develop a birding tourism route through KAZA in 2017 and this was a follow-up meeting. MT to finalise the proposal to include all 5 KAZA countries (initially only Namibia, Botswana and Zimbabwe had been included) and develop the business plan by June 2018.

2.2 Proposals developed to undertake work at priority IBAs (IBAs in Danger) including Middle Zambezi, Driefontein Grasslands, Mavuradonha Mountains and Lake Chivero

- A proposal for Driefontein Grasslands IBA developed by TF and submitted to AEWA was successful.
- In August 2017, another small grant proposal for Driefontein IBA was submitted online by TF to Zoos Victoria.
- A proposal on 'Improving livelihoods of Youth and Women in a Changing Climate in the Chimanimani Mountains IBA' was submitted to the Swedish development cooperation (Sida) in April 2017.
- In June 2017, a proposal for Chimanimani Mountains IBA was submitted to the Replenish Africa Initiative (RAIN) 2020.
- A revised proposal was submitted by TF to the US Ambassadors Self-Help Program in September 2017. It has a total budget of US\$10,000 for work to be conducted in Chimanimani IBA.
- In November 2017, a project on species monitoring and habitat assessment for improved conservation of the endangered Grey Crowned Crane in Driefontein Grasslands, Zimbabwe was submitted to the European Outdoor Conservation Association (EOCA).
- A concept note on economic valuation of ecosystem services for Chimanimani Mountains was developed in November 2017 for local potential donors.
- A proposal on species surveys and habitat assessment for improved crane conservation was submitted to the National Geographic Society in March 2018 under the Exploration Grant.
- A proposal to conduct a scoping study to assess impact of mining on ecosystems and

communities in and around protected areas was submitted to Global Green Grants Fund on 19 March 2018.

2.3 Increase the number of sites being monitored using the BirdLife IBA Monitoring framework to seven

Seven IBAs namely Chimanimani, Driefontein Grasslands, Stapleford Forest, Hwange National Park, Matopos, Vumba and Lake Chivero were assessed using the IBA monitoring framework.

2.4 Increase the number of sites being monitored using the BirdLife Toolkit for Ecosystem Service Site-based Assessment to seven

A scoping study proposal developed by TF for Chimanimani will make use of TESSA toolkit at two IBAs namely Chimanimani Mountains and Haroni-Rusitu Junction and Botanical Reserve.

See full report for more

3. BirdLife Zimbabwe Local Engagement and Empowerment

See full report for more

Two members of Rupinda SSG for Stapleford Forest IBA have actively participated in bird surveys and feedback meeting conducted at this site in November 2017. This helped improve skills and knowledge on bird and site monitoring as well as strengthen community relationship with local institutions at Stapleford Forest.

TF participated in Local Engagement and Empowerment Programme (LEEP) Skype meeting held with other BirdLife partners and coordinated by BLI on 21 March 2018. Issues discussed included updates on LEEP from the BL secretariat, fundraising efforts, LEEP strategy, Nature Heroes Award and challenges faced by partners.

Markdale SSG conducted a site and learning exchange visit at Chikukwa Ecological Land Use and Community Trust (CELUCT) in Chimanimani in April 2018. Group members of Markdale SSG fundraised a total of US\$600 for their transport and accommodation costs. BLZ CORE funded the permaculture course for 20 participants of the SSG at the cost of USD480.

29 March 2018 - RC and Jimmy Muropa (Monavale Vlei Scout) conducted a survey of the wetland area outside Bindura University Astra Campus together with the BirdLife BUSE Youth Club. The intention is to institute monthly bird counts conducted by the students themselves. This is being organised with the support of Mr N. Mhlanga, Bindura University Lecturer.

6-10 May 2018 - BLZ participated at Harare International Festival of the Arts held at the Harare Gardens manning the 'Death by Plastic' stand (BLZ Youth Ronnie Chirimuta, John Zhuwao, Benhildah Antonio) in the Youth Zone.

3.2 Increase the number of young people (under 18) involved in BirdLife Zimbabwe activities

The Wet-Land-Dry project was an environmental and artistic initiative comprising a diverse group of partners including UNESCO, The Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany, the Embassy of Italy, the Embassy of Sweden, the European Union, the City of Harare, Miracle Missions, Meikles Hotel, BirdLife Zimbabwe & The Harare Wetlands Trust, UNICEF, Mukuvisi Woodlands, Discovereum Children's Museum Zimbabwe and Enviro Experts Africa. The project was launched at the celebration of World Water Day on 22 March 2017 at Town Hall in Harare with the participation of the Mayor of Harare, Honourable Ben Manyenyeni. The purpose of the project was to create awareness and highlight the need to protect Harare's water sources (i.e. its wetlands) and sustainably manage its water. The first part of the initiative consisted in a school competition with over 30 schools participating funded by UNESCO (US\$2500). Funding (US\$1500) from the Federal Embassy of Germany was allocated to the initial design and production of posters and a PVC banner for distribution to schools and the public, and to the restoration of the fountain in Greenwood Park. The prize-giving event took place on 16 June 2017 at Greenwood Park, Harare. 14 schools received prizes that consisted of educational and science books for both primary and secondary schools.

See full report for more

In March 2018, the Italian Embassy launched its annual Art and the Environment project in conjunction with BirdLife Zimbabwe, Mukuvisi

Woodlands, Clean & Green, Enviro Experts - to coincide with this year's World Environment Day theme of "Beat Plastic Pollution", the Embassy decided to use the project to raise awareness of this important issue, especially amongst children. The awareness and educational campaign highlighted the effects of micro and nano plastic on fish/birdlife and, consequently, the food chain and human health.

The campaign ran under the title "Death by Plastic" and featured an art-based competition open to schools, both primary and secondary. Children were invited to design a 3D collage using plastic waste from their homes, schools and communities to illustrate the theme and/or possible solutions to this devastating problem. To assist teachers and students to better understand the issue and the impact on our world, a small environmental booklet was provided. The collages were prepared on a piece of recycled card (e.g. an old cardboard box) no bigger than A3. Collages were produced by individuals or by a whole class or Environmental/Science Club. Entries were divided into two categories for Primary Schools: age 6-8yrs and age 9-12 years and two for Secondary Schools: age 13-15 years and 16-18 years. Prizes were awarded for Creativity, Ingenuity and Sustainability at Lake Chivero IBA on 15 June 2018.



4. BirdLife Zimbabwe - Strategic

21 April 2017 - FM facilitated a research seminar at Forestry Commission headquarters. The purpose of the seminar was to have presentations and discussions of research projects taking place in the various forest estates across Zimbabwe.

See full report for more

A group of war veterans under the banner of Limpopo Housing Cooperative led by Mr. Noah Kambanje invaded the eastern side of Monavale

Vlei for housing purposes. A social media blitz campaign got the attention of the City's Local Authorities and acting on the promise of the Mayor of Harare, Ben Manyenyeni to visit the invaded wetland, the Harare Wetlands Trust (comprising BLZ, Conservation Society of Monavale, Community Water Alliance, Combined Harare Residents' Association, Marlborough Environmental Action Group) invited residents, and journalists to meet the Mayor during his visit. The media blitz and civil society engagement of the Mayor of Harare who notified the Minister of Local Government halted the development.

See full report for more

4.2 Increase the number of government groups BirdLife Zimbabwe is officially represented on, to eight

BLZ is officially represented on the National Wetlands Steering Committee, CITES committee, National Biodiversity Forum, Climate Change Forum.

Convention on Migratory Species, KAZA, CITES & Mana Pools-Sapi-Chewore World Heritage Site Management Plan:

See Conservation Report in *The Babbler* #143.

At the end of February 2018, FM and TF attended the National TFCA Conservation and Veterinary Sub-Committee meeting. There was a proposal to have a Bird Conservation Working Group as a sub-group of the aforementioned group. This was on the back of the developments taking place with the KAZA Bird Conservation Working Group. BLZ was tasked to coordinate the group until the group is functional. These developments potentially serve to position BLZ as a major stakeholder in bird conservation in both Zimbabwe and the Southern African region.

4.3 Increase the number of NGO partnerships to five

NGO partnerships include: Conservation Society of Monavale (COSMO), Community Water Alliance (CWA), Marlborough Environmental Action Group (MEAG), Mukuvisi Woodlands, Victoria Falls Wildlife Trust, Zambezi Society, Combined Harare Residents' Association, Painted Dog Conservation, CAST.

FM attended a "Food for Thought" discussion on 22 August 2017 at the United States Embassy, Public Affairs Section. The discussion focused on wildlife poaching and trafficking in Zimbabwe and in the hope of coming up with practical steps towards improving coordination among NGOs in combating these crimes.

BLZ developed a relationship with MICAIA Foundation where the two organisations successfully completed the CEPF-funded project in Chimanimani. Network was also established with TSURO and CELUCT in Chimanimani.

Painted Dog Conservation, one of the key collaborators in Hwange, was key in setting up the meeting with community members representing six villages on the border of Hwange National Park. Being based on the ground, they were instrumental in organising meetings. The head of the PDC Anti-poaching has also shared pictures of the White-backed Vulture that was killed in a poisoning incident on the border of the Park in May 2017.

Conservation Wildlife Fund: This is a new alliance of eight tourism operators and NGOs established to address critical issues in the conservation and management of the Hwange Ecosystem in partnership with the Authorities, private landowners and local communities. BLZ applied to be part of the alliance in June 2017 and received feedback in January 2018 that we would also be incorporated in the alliance. An implementation plan needs to be developed. Currently CWF is focused on anti-poaching activities.

Victoria Falls Wildlife Trust (VFWT): VFWT expressed interest in collaborating more closely with BLZ in November 2017. One of the areas discussed included expanding the vulture identification and monitoring training to the communities that they work with and to facilitate a collaboration of BLZ, ZPWMA and VFWT in vulture conservation. VFWT submitted a proposal on vulture conservation where they would collaborate closely with BLZ on the project should it be funded. VFWT has also expressed interest in being one of the organisations that can also contribute records directly to the bird mortality database.

5. BirdLife Zimbabwe – Financial

Update of the BLZ Financial Procedures still underway. One of the Due Diligence

requirements of the Harare Wetlands Trust Advocacy Project donors (TRACE) was that BLZ change its auditors. JSM Consulting has been auditing BLZ for 9 years and a new auditor was overdue. BLZ Council selected the new auditors (Baker Tilly) at the Council meeting on 26 April 2018 to enable BLZ's 2017/2018 accounts to be audited for the 2018 Annual General Meeting. The quotations received were from Mazhandu and Company, BDO, Price Waterhouse and Coopers and Baker Tilly Chartered Accountants.

BirdLife Zimbabwe calendars were produced in August 2017. Funds raised – Sponsorship: US\$7,650. Sales: US\$12,214. Total Income: US\$19,864. Expenses: Printing: US\$5,575; Artwork: US\$1050; Total: US\$6,625. Profit: US\$13,329

10-11 September. BirdLife Zimbabwe (JP and BLZ VP Tony Wood) participated with a stand at the Africa Birdfair organised by BirdLife South Africa at Walter Sisulu Botanical Gardens, Roodepoort, RSA – promoting BLZ Nature Conservation work and birding tourism in Zimbabwe.



BirdLife Zimbabwe has officially launched its 'promoting birding tourism in Zimbabwe' campaign. This involves the active promotion of guided birding tours in Zimbabwe. (N.B. As a registered PVO, we will not be the agent administering the bookings but will receive a token from the tours that will go towards funding our Nature Conservation programmes).

Our appointed travel agent and tour operator is:

Travel Portfolio (Pvt) Ltd.
Arundel Village, Shop Q1B, 50 Quorn Avenue
Mount Pleasant, Harare
Tel: +263 772 412 993/ +263 4 369447/369816

info@travelportfolio.co.zw
c/o Hayley Idensohn

Nine tours have so far been developed (with more to come) involving all 20 of the Important Bird Areas (IBAs) in Zimbabwe and have been uploaded onto a WETU site where they can be viewed by tourism operators.

JP has so far attended the Durban Tourism Indaba from 8-10 May 2018 to promote the tours. This initiative is being promoted to encourage tourism in IBA/KBAs in opposition to mining activities and to generate badly needed funds for BLZ Nature Conservation work.

17 May 2018. The 6th fund-raising BirdLife Zimbabwe Golf Day took place in Harare at Borrowdale Brooke Golf Course. 24 teams participated in the 2018 BLZ Golf Day at Borrowdale Brooke Golf Course. Autoworld Zimbabwe and NMB Bank came in as sponsors for the 6th year running with US\$3000 and US\$1500 respectively. Over US\$8000 raised.

6. BirdLife Zimbabwe – Organisational

The 2016 Annual General Meeting of Birdlife Zimbabwe took place at Matobo National Park in Matabeleland on 10 June 2017. The Council was re-elected in its entirety.

Council meetings were held with Council being updated on the activities of the secretariat by staff members present and CEO JP. Council meetings were held on 10 June 2017, 23 January 2018 and 26 April 2018.

BLZ membership at 31 March 2018 as follows:

	No.	Comp
Mashonaland	193	7
Matabeleland	43	4
Hwange/Vic Falls	13	-
Eastern Districts	9	3
Lowveld	5	-
Youth	52	2
Honorary Life	-	6
Life members		6
External	14	4
Educational Institutions	3	3
Corporates – paid members	8	-
Corporates – complimentary (for significant donations (e.g. golf day, calendar); in kind etc.)		37
	340	72

Total 412 including Life/Honorary Life members and complimentary who get membership

for donating money, goods and services, educational institutions or winning competitions.

Car tracking systems installed in all three BLZ vehicles: the Honda CRV, Ford ranger and Nissan 4x4 D/Cab continue to be operational.

On 8 May 2018, BLZ was informed by BirdLife International that Toyota (Japan) will be donating a project vehicle to BLZ in 2018 to support ongoing vulture conservation activities in Zimbabwe. The donation was secured through BirdLife Asia Division in Tokyo.

Staff Capacity Building

TF participated in the Integrating Rights and Social Issues into Conservation (INTRINSIC) training held from 27-30 June in Harare, Zimbabwe. This training funded by CEPF was facilitated by Fauna and Flora International.

7. BirdLife Zimbabwe - Communication

Increase the number of annual published media releases to 30

Bird articles were produced for and published in the local Harare What's happening in Harare magazine, Ndeipi - together with the BLZ Mashonaland outings calendar. Bird articles produced by BLZ have also appeared in Footprints (Issue 2: 2018); NZIRA Travel Zimbabwe issues 5 (Jan-Feb), May-June; Harare Magazine, April & May/June issues; Fastjet, June issue.

BLZ has also paid for a BLZ bird checklist insert to appear in the Mana Pools Brochure (apparently 5000 copies being printed for sale to visitors to the Park) being produced by ZimParks and which should be out shortly.

JP was also invited to speak on CAPITALK 100.4 FM radio on BirdLife Zimbabwe and

birding tourism in Zimbabwe on 20 February 2018.

Harare Wetlands Trust Advocacy Project: Links referring to July 2018 to March 2018 work and achievements:

See full report for links

23 August 2017. A journalists' Wetland Information Workshop' was organised (funded by the TRACE HWT Wetland Advocacy Project) and held at the Rokpa Centre in Harare. 21 journalists participated.

25 May 2018. Journalist's 'Wetland update' lunch (funded by the TRACE HWT Wetland Advocacy Project) at the Spice Lounge, Kensington, Harare

Publications

One issue of *Honeyguide* (Vol. 62 no.2) was published in April 2017. Julia Duprée has just resigned as the compiler of *Honeyguide*. Brian Marshall continues on as the editor. N.B. The invoice of US\$2470 for Vol. 62(2) was paid to Directory Publishers out of 2017 Golf Day proceeds. Vol. 63/64 is due out in June 2018 (N.B. as of 2018 a single double volume issue of *Honeyguide* is to be published annually to cut down on distribution costs).

Seven issues of the newsletter *The Babblers* were published between June 2017-June 2018 (issues 136, 137, 138, 139, 140, 141,142). N.B. BLZ pays the editor, Ian Riddell US\$200 per issue.

8. BirdLife Zimbabwe - Harare Wetlands Trust Wetlands Advocacy Project

See report in The Babblers 143

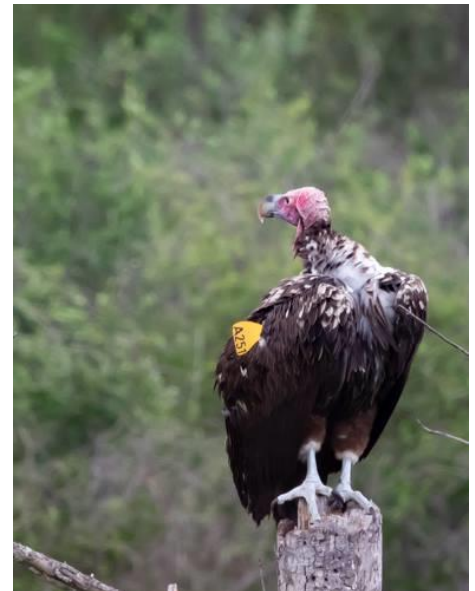
HWT/BLZ interventions on Monavale East Wetland, Ramsar Site facilitated the removal of illegal buildings on wetlands by the City of Harare.

DEATH NOTICE

Sadly, we learn of the recent deaths of the following BirdLife Zimbabwe members, who have supported us greatly in various ways over the years:

John Neville
Cathy Rosevere
Vernon Dickinson
Basil Rushforth

The Council and members of BLZ send their condolences to their family and friends.

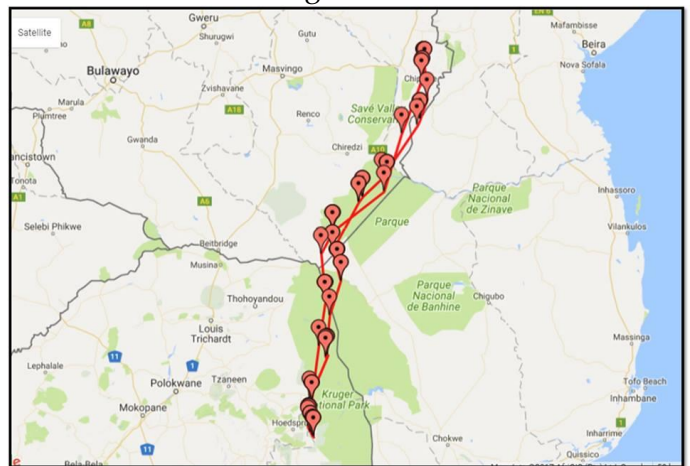


Lappet-faced Vulture

Jean-Michel Blake sighted a tagged Lappet-faced Vulture in the Hwange National Park on the 15th of August 2018.

Tag number A251 indicates that this was tagged as a nestling in the Klaserie Private Nature Reserve on the 28th of September 2016 and also fitted with a GSM tracking unit. It has been seen and reported previously on a few occasions in the past, most recently along the Doispane-road in southern Kruger in April 2018, among others by Johan van den Berg who also photographed the bird (photo: above).

Distance between site of tagging and the re-sighting in Hwange is 759km, a mere fraction of the distance covered by this bird since fledging 22 months ago.



Useful Contacts:

CEO/Ringing Programme: Julia Pierini JuliaPierini@birdlifezimbabwe.org 0772-894562
Rarities Committee: Ian Riddell gemsaf@mango.zw 0772-117054
BLZ Library: piumosso@zol.co.zw 2304298; 2481496
Special Species: Peta Ditchburn specialspecies@blz.co.zw 0775-940714, 029-2230075
Mashonaland South: Margaret Parrock 068-22005 or her daughter Coralee 0772-739370
Eastern Districts: Sue Fenwick 0779-408557 ingram.sue@gmail.com
Mashonaland East Natural History Society: Chairman Peter Hadingham 024-2497035
Secretary: Colin de Beer 0279-23931 jcdb1936@gmail.com
Honeyguide production: vacant

BLZ MEMBERSHIP

BirdLife Zimbabwe's membership year is from April to March, but you can join any time. **Even if you don't attend meetings and outings**, your membership is really important and supports our goal to protect biodiversity and conserve birds and their habitats through education, lobbying decision-makers and interaction with international organisations.

In addition, your involvement with data collection through atlassing and submission of records is invaluable. As a member you get the newsletter, *The Babbler*, every two months and two issues of *Honeyguide*, our internationally acclaimed journal, every membership year. All for a very reasonable annual fee.

Especially in these difficult economic times, donations towards any of our projects are always much appreciated and you may consider mentioning BLZ in your will!

Individual/Family members (incl. children under 17)	US\$ 25.00
Pensioners (65 & over), Students	15.00
Youth Club	5.00
Schools (high density)	25.00
Schools (private), Educational Institutions	50.00
Rest of Africa	40.00
Rest of World	50.00
Corporate members	*75.00

* If you would like recognition on our public forums, choose the \$200 Corporate Plan. To learn more about corporate sponsorship and BLZ projects, write to JuliaPierini@birdlifezimbabwe.org

Payment details. Please deposit into BirdLife Zimbabwe account at **NMB Bank, (Borrowdale Branch) Account No: 260092014** or BirdLife Zimbabwe Mashonaland Branch, **CABS (Chisipite Branch) Account No: 1002399955** or **Ecocash** – Merchant Code No. **22084**. You can **also** pay your subscription online with **Paynow**. Look on the BLZ website on the membership page www.birdlifezimbabwe.org/joinus, and click on the Paynow tab at the bottom of the page. This is especially important for our members outside Zimbabwe. You could **also** come to our office at 35, Clyde Road, Eastlea in Harare.

Some members are not informing us when they pay their subscription and when members deposit into the banks, the name shown on the statement is often only the first name and therefore we may not know who you are.

Therefore, it is **ESSENTIAL** please that you advise us by e-mail of your transaction, or your payment will not be recorded. Please contact Sylvia sylvia@blz.co.zw or phone her on 024-2481496 for all membership-related issues – new, renewals, payments, change of details, queries.

And look on our Facebook page for great pictures and interesting birding news - www.facebook.com/BirdLifeZimbabwe. You can find out about us and projects you as a member can get involved with, on our informative website www.birdlifezimbabwe.org

Branch Activities

Friends of the Vumba is a community initiative that employs 3 trained scouts to protect the wildlife – tracking for snares and arresting poachers of game, birds and wood. We also support an

education outreach into the schools in the area, mostly focussed on birding but more recently extending into wider environmental issues such as WESSA's Water program, rubbish health awareness, alien tree harvesting and indigenous tree planting.

Directions to regular venues (Google Earth co-ordinates):

CABS Northridge Park -17.777494, 31.090782. From town drive along Borrowdale Road, turn right into Whitwell, next right into Ridgeway North, next right into Northend Road and first right into Northridge Close. Drive to the end of the road and go through a security boom into Northridge Park.

Marlborough Vlei -17.742715, 30.990416. Meet at the bottom of Princess Margaret Road, off Harare Drive and follow the road round to the left. Park on the short road midway along the bottom of Princess Margaret.

Mukuvisi Woodlands -17.851935, 31.092010. Turn off the Chiremba Road into Ford Road (opposite Queensdale shops) cross over Longford Avenue and bear left down to the T-junction on Blatherwick Road. Turn right and the gate is about 150 metres on the left. Bring a tip for the car guard. Don't forget refreshments for after the walk when we record the number of species. The **public car park** is off Hillside Road, -17.835393, 31.089111.

Prince Edward School car park -17.818721, 31.036462. Josiah Tongogara Ave.

Monavale Vlei -17.806770, 31.010579. From Quendon Road turn into Lyndhurst Road, at bottom follow right hand bend, take first left and second right to BS Leon roundabout. Second exit is Fenella Drive. Meet on Fenella Drive.

Haka Park -17.843391, 31.143369. From the traffic circle at the Mutare Road/Harare Drive intersection continue 500m and turn left, follow the road (770m) to the Haka sign and boom on the left. If entering through the boom on Harare Drive (-17.828473, 31.140253; 1.9 km north of the circle) make your way to the meeting point. \$3 entrance fee for BLZ members, \$5 others.

Avondale Sports Club -17.785100, 31.041972. Brighton Road, Harare between Sam Nujoma Street Extension and Upper East Road. There is a cash bar and a security guard. A minimum charge of \$2 per person at the door please.

Mashonaland Branch

BirdLife Zimbabwe Mashonaland Calendar of Events: OCTOBER 2018

Saturday 6th	Marlborough Vlei walk	Meet at 07.00 a.m.
Sunday 7th	Mukuvisi Woodlands walk	Meet at 06.30 a.m.
Saturday 13th	Haka Park	Meet at 07.00 a.m.
Thursday 18th	Art, Indigenous Trees and the African Green-pigeon Presentation by Ant Fynn, Avondale Sports Club	Meet 5.30 for 6.00 p.m.
Sunday 21st	Monavale Vlei walk	Meet at 06.30 a.m.
Saturday 27th	Kent Estates, Norton – African Grass-owl outing Make your own way out to Kent Estate. Camping to be made available to interested parties.	

Drive out on Saturday afternoon and do birding around the dams before searching for Grass-owls. Camp overnight. Birding on Sunday morning in woodlands before returning home.

Directions to their offices: from Harare, go past Norton, over the rail flyover for 1.6km. Turn left on Skyline Rd (which is the same as Chibero College). Travel c.6km, then turn right at the Kent Estate signs. Travel a further 7km and go directly to the office next to the workshops.

BirdLife Zimbabwe Mashonaland Calendar of Events: NOVEMBER 2018

Saturday 3rd	Marlborough Vlei walk	Meet at 07.00 a.m.
Sunday 4th	Mukuvisi Woodlands walk	Meet at 06.30 a.m.
Saturday 10th	Harare Botanic Gardens -17.801670, 31.050846. Meet in the car park off Fifth Street.	Meet at 07.00 a.m.
Sunday 11th	Lake Chivero Meet at Prince Edward School car park.	Meet at 06.30 a.m.
Thursday 15th	Champions of the Flyway, Israel Presentation by Jean Michel-Blake, Avondale Sports Club	Meet 5.30 for 6.00 p.m.
Sunday 18th	Monavale Vlei walk	Meet at 06.30 a.m.
Sunday 25th	Lomagundi College Meet at Prince Edward School car park.	Meet at 06.30 a.m.

For further information please contact Tony Alegria, tonyalegria47@gmail.com 0772-438697 or 2490375 (h)

Other Areas

Mashonaland West – Margaret Parrock 068-22005 or 0773-263673

Eastern Districts – Second Saturday of every month **The Vumba Walk**. These vary from the Upper to Lower Vumba areas and occasionally may extend into Penhalonga, Burma Valley, and even Chimanimani. Many birding enthusiasts join us although it is not officially a birding walk. They are usually hosted by either a Vumba resident or a commercial venue such as Tony's Coffee Shop, Forest Hills Lodge, White Horse Inn or the Botanical Gardens and the walks will often traverse private properties not always accessible by the public. Contact Sue Fenwick 0779-408557 ingram.sue@gmail.com for more details.

Lowveld – contact Clive Stockil 0772-219204 or clive@chilogorge.com

*Please send contributions for The Babbler 145
December 2018-January 2019 any time before
the 15th November.*

Photos from the Youth Club outing at RAINHAM DAM, 22nd July 2018, see page 3



Marsh Owl nest

