

THE BABBLER

Newsletter of BirdLife Zimbabwe

October–November 2020 No. 156

A large, vibrant green and blue bird perched on a branch. The bird has a long, dark beak and a yellow patch on its throat. It is looking towards the right of the frame.

**Spring Alive
Drawing Contest**
- 3

**eBird October Big
Day**
- 4

*Mashonaland
News from the
Branch* - 5

*Mashonaland East
news* – 7

*Mashonaland
West news* – 8

**Birding Big Day
2020 – 10**

Tail Feathers – 11

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National

Spring Alive Drawing Contest “I Watch Birds”



Spring Alive is supported by

HEIDELBERGCEMENT

Rules of the Spring Alive Drawing Contest “I Watch Birds”

1. The contest is organized by BirdLife International.
2. To participate in the contest, entrants must be up to 16 years of age at the date of entry and must register their first bird sighting on www.springalive.net dated between 1st of September and 15th of December 2020.
3. Entrants must submit a handmade drawing or painting showing how one should observe birds and nature with accordance to guidelines provided in the framework of the 2020 Spring Alive leading theme: “How to be a good birdwatcher?”.
4. **Duration and closing date:** Drawings must be submitted between 1st of September and 15th of December 2020.

5. Entry:

Entrants must either (1) register their works on-line on www.springalive.net or (2) submit them to the relevant BirdLife International Partner in the entrant’s country with a note saying: “I would like to participate in the Spring Alive drawing contest ‘I Watch Birds’. I confirm that my entry is all my own work. I am years old”. Please indicate your age. Please also provide the entrant’s full name, address and phone number. Each BirdLife International Partner will forward any entries it receives to the International Spring Alive Manager.

6. Each entrant can submit only one drawing.
7. Submitting a drawing means that entrants agree that their personal data may be used by BirdLife International.
8. Excluded from the contest are: employees of organizations which coordinate the Spring Alive campaign, and the families of these employees.

9. Judging:

The judging panel will consist of:

- Coordinator, Local Engagement and Empowerment Programme, BirdLife International
- Karolina Kalinowska – International Spring Alive Manager
- Shane Sparg – Conservation Partnership Manager, Stichting BirdLife Europe
- Selected personnel of HeidelbergCement office.

The decisions of the judges are final and no correspondence will be entered into regarding the judging process or the decisions of the judges. The organizers reserve the right to appoint substitute and/or additional judges should they, at their sole discretion, deem this necessary.

10. Prizes:

Category of Age up to 9

1st place: a backpack

2nd place: a fleece jacket

3rd place: a thermal mug

Category of Age 10-16

1st place: a backpack

2nd place: a fleece jacket

3rd place: a thermal mug

The organizers reserve the right to substitute a prize of comparable value and/or to amend the prizes should they, at their sole discretion, deem this necessary.

11. Results

The results of the contest will be published on www.springalive.net by 1st of February 2021. The winners of the contest will be also informed about their prize in a separate email by the relevant BirdLife International Partners.

12. Copyright:

By entering this contest, entrants agree that BirdLife International and its national Partners have the right to publish, in any format, works submitted for the contest.

Those with questions or who want to submit their drawings can contact me on 0775 617 213 or email chirimutaronald@gmail.com

Regards

Ronnie

Save the date for October Big Day!

October Big Day is back and bigger than ever. If you thought Global Big Day was fun, join us on Saturday, 17 October for another day-long celebration of birds. This year's event is during Global Bird Weekend. Submit at least one **eBird** checklist on October Big Day and help us beat our goal of 25,000 participants!



[Tips to prepare for October Big Day](#)

Some results of the 9th May Big Day were in The Babbler #155

Branch News

Mashonaland

Bird outings around and about Harare

Ken Dixon & Innes Louw

MONA VALE VLEI Sunday 16th August & 20th September 2020

Only four of us, Jimmy, Moses and Shelta and me, on the 16th August, but quite a few birds about and 50 different species identified. In fact, Jimmy had a list of 19 before we set out on the walk. Only one wet area due to burst pipes this time and attractive to a large flock of Helmeted Guineafowl and a few Swainson's Spurfowls, plus African Wattled Lapwing and a Cattle Egret. Most of the vlei was bone dry and rock hard, the grass burnt. Flocks of Red-billed Quelea, Orange-breasted Waxbill, mixed Yellow-mantled Widowbird and White-winged Widowbird and occasional Levillant's Cisticola and Zitting Cisticola, and an African Stonechat appeared and then disappeared. Grey-rumped Swallows are nesting in mouse burrows and many Thick-billed Weavers passed over. Raptors were Black-shouldered Kite, Gabar Goshawk and 2 Lizard Buzzards in a *Eucalyptus* on the golf course.

It was depressing to hear and see that during the week, and for the first time since 2003, there had been an attempt at cultivation on the vlei, fortunately noted and stopped by Jimmy. Good

news was a sighting of 3 Yellow-billed Kites a few days earlier.

On the 20th, six of us made the earlier start time of 6.30 to this bone-dry Ramsar site but we were not richly rewarded by our feathered friends. One point of interest was that the residents of the area are complaining of visits to their vegetable gardens by the Monavale Bushpig who has given up trying to penetrate the rock hard vlei for food.

With *Euplectes* in non-breeding plumage, we noted the patches of yellow on Yellow-mantled Widowbirds and white on White-winged Widowbirds. The Orange-breasted Waxbills on the other hand are prettier than ever. Red-billed Queleas were present in large numbers. The only raptor was a Black-shouldered Kite.

We managed to record a paltry 30 species but all enjoyed the outing. Thanks to Moses for identifying the 'winter *Euplectes*' and picking up the faint calls inaudible to the seniors.

Ken Dixon

HAKA PARK, Saturday 8th August 2020

Six masked birders congregated at the main gate and paid their dues by various methods on a warmish sunny morning. The degree of warmth was regulated by the cold wind depending on location. Down on the dam shoreline it could be keenly felt from time to time. We were all surprised to see how low the dam was and that the river was easily crossable on the caked mud. Not many birds to be seen; a group of Hamerkop, 3 Red-billed Teal, a Three-banded Plover, an African Fish-eagle, African Wattled Lapwing and a Pied Kingfisher. We walked along the river, picking up African Stonechat, Grey-rumped Swallow, a Cape Longclaw and Yellow-throated Longclaw, Common Fiscal and Grey go-away-bird. On leaving the riverbed, we struck up onto the grassland beyond where we spent some time

trying to accurately identify African Pipit. A Yellow-mantled Widowbird was showing a bit of non-breeding colour but generally, birds were hard to find so we turned back and headed for the miombo, splitting into two groups.

At this time of the year it is necessary to locate a bird party which my group failed to do despite catching sight of a flock of White-crested Helmet-shrikes. The others had better luck and reported Groundscraper Thrush, Southern Hyliota, Long-billed Crombec plus a few other miombo species. The big surprise of the day was the silence that greeted the call for Dark-capped Bulbul when the list was done. That could be a first for the branch! 56 in all and lots of delicious brownies and biscuits.

Ken Dixon

LAKE CHIVERO, ROBERT MCILWAINE RECREATIONAL PARK, 23rd August 2020

Eleven birders proceeded to the park entrance where c.35 species were seen, including Red-backed Mannikins. After paying our dues, we drove along good sandy roads to see what birds were around. The vlei south of Pax Park was burnt and that yielded Capped Wheatears, Mocking Cliff-chat, Retz's Helmet-shrike and a pair of Buffy Pipits, amongst others.



Slender mongoose at Preparation Creek and Kirk's Rock Agama (below) at the jetty



Next stopping point was Preparation Creek but as the lake was exceptionally low, we had a few kilometres of shoreline to wander along. Grey-headed Gulls, two flocks of Red-billed Teal totalling around 150, the odd wader, plus a pair of Common Ostrich were visual. A solitary Marabou Stork passed overhead. A couple of us collected discarded gill nets on our return to our parked vehicles and then deposited these bundles at the Parks main camp - on our way there a white rhinoceros was seen alongside the road.



Black Stork & Saddle-billed Stork

At the main camp, there were plenty of Scarlet-chested Sunbirds, the odd White-bellied Sunbird and a few Purple-banded Sunbirds as well. A Cardinal Woodpecker tapped away in the trees and an Orange-breasted Bush-shrike called persistently, competing with the irritating radio disturbing the peace (radios used to be banned in rest camps, for good reason!).



African Fish-eagle amongst a tangle of discarded nets

After compiling the list, some people went to Bushman's Point and the rest of us went down to the shoreline in front of the camp. The shore was full of waterbirds - a pair of Saddle-billed

Storks, 6 Black Storks (!) feeding in the shallows, a single African Sacred Ibis and African Openbill, many Grey Herons, Kittlitz's Plover, Common Greenshank, many egrets including a Yellow-billed Egret, Wood Sandpipers, Ruffs, Black-winged Stilts and others were all evident.

African Fish-eagles were very vocal and plentiful. All-in-all 113 species were recorded, plus Boulder Chat in suitable rocky areas, and this is a very worthwhile venue for future visits.
Innes Louw & Ian Riddell (photos)

Mashonaland East

Mashonaland East Natural History Society MARONDERA
July/August 2020 Newsletter

The past two months have been rather uneventful for those members living in Borradaile Trust. Well done to those members outside the Trust who managed a walk in Goshu Park and also did two waterbird surveys. We have just completed a little over 5 months of lockdown in Borradaile Trust and I am sure we are all excited be allowed out and resume our birding activities.

I am using a letterhead that I thought might be appropriate for MENHS. There were no other suggestions. We can discuss this at our next meeting with a view to approving it or making modifications.

The "outsiders" did a bird walk in Goshu during some miserable weather. It was cold and windy and no surprise that the bird count was only 19. It was rather special to record the sighting of a family of 10 Egyptian Goose goslings with their parents. It was also great to have Piet Nel and Kerry Orphanides join this walk.

Pete and Phyllis Banks did a waterbird survey in Goromonzi out at The Knoll. The breeding pair of African Fish-eagles is still there with their offspring. Pete and Phyllis did another survey with Jen Mitchell at Rakodze Dam, where the birding was quite good. Reports have been submitted to BirdLife Zimbabwe.

We did a walk in the Borradaile Trust grounds a few days later and were pleasantly surprised to count 31 different species. We met at Jo Denton's cottage where we had some coffee on the patio before settling down to watch the birds in her garden. We later went for a short walk and then returned to Jo's cottage for more coffee and to do the summary. We included birds seen that morning in the Trust grounds before meeting at Jo's. I was very excited to see for the first time a Greater Honeyguide in the

msasa tree just outside cloister 30, which has an active beehive in it. Sue saw a very shy Senegal Coucal in our garden. Pat Lister confirmed reports of Senegal Coucal sightings in Barbie Irvine's garden. We didn't see the usual Spotted Eagle-owls, Black-collared Barbets, Arrow-marked Babblers, Grey Go-away-birds nor Lizard Buzzards that we frequently see in this section of the Trust. It was interesting to observe several Thick-billed Weavers in Jo's garden. Piet Nel joined us as well as Almora Jacobsz, a new enthusiast.

In mid-July there were many Amethyst Sunbirds in the Kenyan Coffee shade trees, which were just starting to flower. We also had a large flock of up to 40 Red-winged Starlings in the Trust. Patch Martin reported 14 to 15 pairs of Grey Heron in the large tree in the "Green" in Marondera town, close to the CABS corner. African Fish-eagles and Egyptian Goose were reported to be roosting in a resident's garden in Marondera town.

We have three adult Helmeted Guineafowl living in the Trust, which are being looked after by Louis Jacobsz. Nine sub-adult Helmeted Guineafowl were recently given to Louis, of which 2 sadly died. The 7 remaining new ones are doing quite well and are accustomed to their new surrounds. Louis has recently acquired 25 Guineafowl eggs, which he is incubating. He has to turn them on a regular basis and he hopes to achieve something like an 80% success rate with the hatching.

In our previous newsletter I reported the passing of Jacko Jackson. Kate MacDonald and Jacko's children recently spent time in the MANA POOLS area disposing of his ashes. Kate sent a report in saying what lovely birding and wild life encounters they experienced over those few days. They had Yellow-billed Kites taking food from their hands. They saw the

Striped Kingfishers, Pied Kingfishers and Giant Kingfishers, as well as several of the herons. There were Glossy Ibis, African Sacred Ibis and Hadedda Ibis and also African Spoonbills. They saw Yellow-billed Storks, African Openbills, Marabou Storks and White-backed Vultures. Red-billed Oxpeckers were plentiful and somewhere Kate has a shot of 6 oxpeckers on one impala. There were Namaqua Doves and numerous ever-present Cape Turtle-doves. The Blue Waxbills and Green-winged Pytilias were common near the camp. They saw several African Fish-eagles and had regular sightings of pairs of Bateleurs. Kate reported the sighting of an African Crowned Eagle and there were so many Brown Snake-eagles it seemed like they were resident in every baobab tree! The Narina Trogons are now back in the camps and Kate thought she saw African Pitta but it was disturbed before she could make a definite ID. It is not unusual for Pittas to be near two of the camps [*this sounds rather unlikely as they are breeding migrants that return with the rains around*

the end of November and are not known to overwinter - Ed.] The wild life is abundant down there. Elephant, buffalo, lion, impala, warthog, bushbuck and baboon are common sights near the camps. Mana is very dry at this time of the year and the animals are congregated at the river. Sadly, the ellies are very hungry and several impala were noted with mange. In Kate's words, "The Zambezi Valley is very much alive."

We need some photographs please to include in our newsletters to make them a bit more exciting. If you have any photographs appropriate to our activities, please send them to me with a brief description.

It is starting to warm up again and we should perhaps review our starting times to a little earlier than recently. We can discuss this at our next meeting.

Keep on twitching,
Gez Bester

Mashonaland West

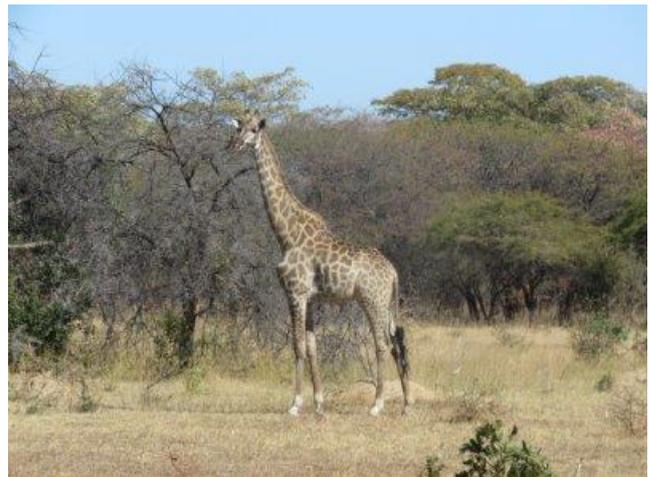
Our avian adventures to many places of varied interest continue, without hindrance or hostility. The winter season was conducive for outdoors activities to absorb the beauty and diversity of our environment.

11th July at Lion Farm alongside the Kadoma tollgate by the Muzvezve River, a flock of 20+ Yellow-fronted Canary feeding on the ground in the dry maize field. A pair of Crowned Lapwings kept us at bay with their distinct "kiewietjie" calls, whilst a pair of African Pipits scurried all over, with a Flappet Lark overhead.

In the woodland surrounding the fields we found a pair Golden-breasted Buntings, Ashy Flycatcher, Chin-spot Batis, Black-crowned Tchagra, Southern Black Tit, White-bellied Sunbird and Scarlet-chested Sunbirds, African Grey Hornbill, Grey Go-away-bird, Swallow-tailed Bee-eater, African Yellow White-eye and White-browed Scrub-robin with his variety of songs, even though it was in the heat of the day!

Another exciting trip to Chanyika Ranch at Sebakwe, Kwekwe. We arrived on the 24th July to bitter cold and windy weather. A game drive 4 p.m. did reveal some birds at the old airfield. 22+ Greater Blue-eared Starlings were settling in

their tree for the night, and we had 5 Grey Go-away-birds, 6 Southern Yellow-billed Hornbills and 6 Crested Francolins, very distinct with their tails erect as they run ahead.



Returning to base, we thawed out with a hot shower, and then settled by the vast fireplace with a fire burning, we four girls soon relaxed with our hosts and families for a super evening.

Sat 25th was sunny but cold. We sat in the new hide with our coffee and waited as the wild life came for water. Many pairs of Cinnamon-breasted Buntings and Golden-breasted

Buntings appeared, Jameson Firefinch and their friends, Blue Waxbills, African Yellow White-eyes, many pairs of Green-winged Pytilia and even Orange-winged Pytilias. A mother Natal Spurfowl with her two big chicks following, stealthily crept to the edge of the pond. So lovely to study their feathered markings close-up. The Arrow-marked Babblers in numbers looked relaxed, chatty but bossy. A pair of Yellow-bellied Greenbuls, so bright in the sunshine, with gruff songs and the White-browed Scrub-robin entertaining us with his vocal repertoire.



Wildlife & birds at Chinyika Ranch

After our 9 a.m. breakfast we set off for a game drive. At the homestead, the domestic cattle sitting in the sunshine had 16 Red-billed Oxpeckers clambering about them looking for food, quite unperturbed by our verbal excitement. The White-browed Sparrowweavers have a colony of nests on the west side of an *Albizia* tree, also near the homestead. A pair of Temminck's Coursers was on the open field. At a pan, also with a hide, 5 Namaqua Doves came to drink and we watched many Yellow-fronted Canary and both Cinnamon-

breasted Buntings and Golden-breasted Buntings, their colours so sharp in the sunlight. Two Common Scimitar-bills were seen in the nearby woodland. A truly unspoilt area for trees, grasses, flowers and wild animals. The group of 11 elephants was unexpected, so well camouflaged in thick vegetation and looking so healthy. The dominant male had his truck high up picking up smells.

15th August

At Mandalay Dam, Eiffel Flats: 3 Comb Duck, 3 African Pygmy-goose, 34 White-backed Duck, 79 White-faced Duck, 2 Common Moorhen, a Malachite Kingfisher, 5 African Purple Swamphen, a Little Grebe and 1 Lilac-breasted Roller.



A juvenile African Crowned Eagle at Lasting Impressions

5th September

Off to Suri Suri dam at Chigwell to monitor the African Fish-eagle nest. She was there standing at first, then moved around before squatting low. The male was overhead nearby. We trust all is well and look forward to viewing fledglings; she reared two young last year from the same nest. Along the journey, one Black-chested Snake-eagle, 2 Black-shouldered Kite (on the wire), 1 Lizard Buzzard, 1 Brown Snake-eagle, and groups of White-crested Helmet-shrike in the woodland.

At the dam, which has a good supply of water and is obviously good for various water species, we counted 9 White-breasted Cormorant, 4 Reed Cormorant, 3 Grey Heron, 160+ White-faced Duck, 2 Little Egrets, 4 African Openbills, and 4 Collared Pratincoles - along the shoreline.

Lasting Impressions, which we have visited on various days to check birds and indigenous trees. Tony Algeria numbered many trees, which is a great help. The place is a lovely wildlife sanctuary. A pair of clawless otters resides in the Muzvezve River below the house, with sausage trees (*Kigelia africana*) and mountain acacia trees (*Brachystegia glaucescens*) either side of the wide deep river.

Birds to note: 24 Helmeted Guineafowl, 7 Red-faced Mousebird, 2 African Grey Hornbill, 1 Hamerkop, 3 Black Stork, 7 Retz's Helmet-shrike, 14 White-crested Helmet-shrike, 1 Malachite Kingfisher, a male Giant Kingfisher

swallowing a fish, 1 Green-backed Heron, Orange-breasted Bush-shrike, 1 Striped Pipit on the lawn near the office. Of course many more birds around in the woodland, which have been recorded.

Around Kadoma the Black-headed Orioles are many more than usual (madly calling). The Purple Rollers calling in dry open areas. The Klaas's Cuckoos calling melancholy; the African Grey Hornbill overheard near town kopje.

Let us enjoy the springtime and summer to follow. Spring brings a feeling of new life and inspiration to boost our morale.

Margaret Parrock

Birding Big Day 2020

From 28 Nov 2020 (00:00) to 28 Nov 2020 (23:59)

Play along by entering your data on BirdLasser!

Teams are invited to log their sightings on the mobile app BirdLasser. The sightings will automatically be displayed on a dedicated BirdLasser Birding Big Day event page (to be advised). In order to participate, one member of the team must enter the data on BirdLasser while birding. The following information must be provided to register: details on how to do this will be sent out on email shortly.

- The name and email address (the address used to register on BirdLasser) of the person in the team who will log the sightings on BirdLasser.
- Team name, which will appear on the BirdLasser events page.
- Names of team members.

During the day, the challenge page will automatically update as teams record their sightings, thus adding to the excitement of the day. Progress will be reported in social and other media. For more information about BirdLasser, visit www.birdlasser.com or email support@birdlasser.com.

- The maximum area that can be visited is an area within a radius of 50 km.
- Record all the bird species seen or heard during a 24-hour period from midnight on Friday 27 November to midnight on Saturday 28 November 2020.
- Teams can consist of a maximum of four members.
- Only free-flying birds may be recorded (i.e. no caged birds).
- The majority (for example 2 out of three or 3 out of four) of the team members have to agree on a call or sighting.
- Teams are requested to limit the use of callback to attract birds to an absolute minimum (preferably avoiding using callback at all). This is especially true when birding in a nature reserve or national park or targeting threatened bird species.



African Wattled Lapwing nesting on bare ground with short grass (recently burnt) near Pomona quarry, HARARE, on 25 September 2020. The nest is a shallow scrape lined with small stones; hope you can spot it below! Photos I. Riddell



Useful Contacts:

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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!

Due to the instability of the local currency at present, subs are listed in USD, but may be paid in Zimbabwe Dollars at the Bank Rate on the day

Students	1.00
Youth Club Members (Unemployed)	1.00
Youth Club Members	5.00
Individual/Family members (incl. children under 17)	15.00
Pensioners (65 & over)	10.00
Schools (Government)	10.00
Schools (private), Educational Institutions	50.00
Rest of Africa (payable in forex)	40.00
Rest of World (payable in forex)	50.00
Corporate members	*100.00

* 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 notify Sylvia sylvia@zol.co.zw phone 024-2481496 and Paula Dell paula.dell@strachansphoto.com when you have made your payments – and 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. \$400 entrance fee for BLZ members, \$500 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.

NOTE: it is uncertain which outings will take place but they are presented here just in case restrictions ease. Updates will be sent via email.

Mashonaland Branch

BirdLife Zimbabwe Mashonaland Calendar of Events: OCTOBER 2020

Saturday 3rd	Marlborough Vlei walk	Meet at 07.00 a.m.
Sunday 4th	Mukuvisi Woodlands walk	Meet at 06.30 a.m.
Saturday 10th	Andrew Du Toit	Meet at 07.00 a.m.
5 Dulverton Close, Glen Lorne or meet and park at St. Michael's School off Ridgeway North between Whitwell Road and St. Michael's Lane		
Saturday 17th	Movement patterns of the White-backed Vulture	Meet at 03.00 p.m.
Mark Zvidzai will give a presentation at the Mukuvisi Woodlands rondavel, US\$1.00 (To be revised) or ZWL exchange rate of the day per person		
Sunday 18th	Monavale Vlei walk	Meet at 06.30 a.m.
Sunday 25th	Lanark Farm (T.B.C.)	Meet at 06.30 a.m.
Meet at Mukuvisi Woodlands		

BirdLife Zimbabwe Mashonaland Calendar of Events: NOVEMBER 2020

Sunday 1st	Mukuvisi Woodlands walk	Meet at 06.30 a.m.
Saturday 7th	Marlborough Vlei walk	Meet at 07.00 a.m.
Saturday 14th	Ballantyne Park	Meet at 07.00 a.m.
Saturday 14th	SABAP2 & BirdLasser	Meet at 03.00 p.m.
Jean-Michelle Blake at Mukuvisi rondavel, US\$1.00 (To be revised) or ZWL exchange rate of the day per person		
Sunday 15th	Monavale Vlei walk	Meet at 06.30 a.m.
Saturday 28th	Birding Big Day 24 hour count	

For further information, please contact Innes Louw, innes.louw@ames.co.zw or hararebirdwalks@gmail.com 0776 190795

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

Are you using the BLZ Mashonaland Calendar of Events on your smartphone?

On your Google account on your computer, click the Google Apps icon (9-dot square) and click **Calendar**. Under My calendars, on the left, tick the box for BLZ Mashonaland Calendar of Events, or try this [link](#).

On your phone go to your calendar – mine is called S Planner – and tap on *More* (yours might say something else but it is your calendar menu) and then *Manage calendars* or whatever yours says. Under Device, the phone, my Samsung has *My calendars* – make sure that is on/ticked, further down it has my Google account – turn on all relevant items and the BLZ Mashonaland Calendar of course. There may be a box/switch to sync your phone with your Google account and this must obviously be on.

Phones and their menus are different but hopefully you can work it out...
...and always have events easily available on your phone.

*Please send contributions for The Babbler 157
Dec 2020-Jan 2021 any time before the 15th
Nov.*