



Members' Newsletter February 2013

Message from the Chairperson

As we have been rushing through our busy lives nature saw to some weird and wonderful experiences in the Bronberg. We had the first snow in 3 decades, turning the veld into a white wonderland. Then just as the green leaves were at their most beautiful a hail storm trekked through in November and took us right back to brown veld and leafless trees. A reminder that nature will have her way!
Henriëtte.

New Members

We would like to welcome Riaan en Judy Geldenhyus to the conservancy. They are the new owners of plot 37.

News Letter – New Editor

At a Management meeting the decision was taken that all of us, conservancy owners, should have regular information about the conservancy. The idea is that any information about the conservancy should be passed on to me- helen@wizz.co.za and I will include it in the NEWS LETTER which I hope to write and mail to you all on a monthly bases. We aim to involve all so that we become an aware and secure BRONBERG CONSERVANCY.

Management meeting

At the last management meeting held 15 Jan 2013:

1 The game catching which was decided on in 2012 will take place in March. It was also decided to sell the Giraffe. The reason is that there are not enough trees for them to brows on. They are destroying the ones that they keep returning to before the trees have had an opportunity to recover.

2 To use some of the income from the game to plant 'big' Acacia trees on different areas of the Conservancy (there are a number of suitable places) with the view to bringing in Giraffe again at a later stage when these trees can support them.

3 The new fence patroller is William and he only reports to Harald Späth of plot 39. If you should have any issues pertaining to the perimeter fence please feel free to call Harald on his cell: 0836291425.

Over the past 3 months William has had to repair the fence as follows:

December:	
Large holes:	25
Small holes:	92
Under fence:	4
January:	
Large holes:	12
Small holes:	183
Under fence:	0
February:	
Large holes:	2
Small holes:	48
Under fence:	0

On 9 February we experienced the first 'hole free' day!

Lynx Found

A week ago a huge, old male Lynx was found hanging in the fence. He must have slipped on the top wire and caught his left thigh in the fence. His momentum catapulted him over. He was found on Mark Adcock's property. Hennie has taken him to a taxidermist. Once he is back in Bronberg anyone interested in seeing him may have a look at him at the Kiesers. (see photo of him attached)



Security

A gang of thieves have been stripping the conservancy and surrounds of cables. Several members and neighbours suffered losses. Members of the gang were caught but are on the prowl again. On 31 January they came in at Basie van Zyl and they dragged the cable to a spot where they were hidden by the Wattle bush at plot 36. Then the next night, 1 February, they cut through the fence at the Oestringers, plot 41. They stripped their unoccupied house of all the cables. The modus operandi indicates that this gang must have their information from someone inside the conservancy or someone who has worked here.

Birdlife Visit

At 6am on Sunday 27th January there was a major traffic jam outside the Bronberg Conservancy gate leading to the Absons, Kiesers and Meirings properties. The keen birders from Birdlife Northern Gauteng had arrived! This was their second visit to the Conservancy; the first was in the Winter months when many birds were not in their full colours and were difficult to identify.

The birding group was accompanied on their walk by Derek and Jane Abson and Harald Späth. They explored a variety of habitats including the woods and the rocky hill slopes.

Unfortunately the day chosen for the second visit was overcast with early morning showers, so the birds were not out in full force. However almost 60 species were identified, including several different types of Swift, which are quite difficult to identify in flight. Five new birds can now be added to our bird list: White rumped Swift, Little Swift, African Palm Swift, Ovambo Sparrow hawk and common House Martin.

The group was lucky enough to see a Piet-my-Vrou (Red-chested Cuckoo) close up, and to get a good photo of it – see below. They are usually rather shy and not so easily spotted.

The names of many of our birds have been updated recently, and the new names are now reflected in the bird list on the Bronberg website. There are now well over 180 species on the list. The birding group leader was able to enlighten us on the recent sighting by the Adams' of a Purple Crested Lourie. It was probably a Purple Turaco from West Africa – apparently a pair escaped from captivity in Pretoria.

For those Conservancy members who have an iPad or similar device, we recommend downloading Sasol eBirds. It helps with quick identification, and the bird calls can be played to entice a shy bird to come closer!



Photo courtesy of Fereydoun Baraghi