

News from the Bridge



Photo credit: Samantha McCarren

Samantha grew up in Germany close to Frankfurt a.M. At the age of ten, she observed common redstarts nesting in her parents' garden and in that moment her lifelong passion for birds was born. She went on to study biology and after completing her BSc in Germany, she packed up and moved to South Africa to do an Honours at the Fitzpatrick Institute of African Ornithology at the University of Cape Town. After one year she had fallen in love with the country as well its incredible diversity of animals and plants. So she decided to do her Masters here, too. Now she is working on a project to find out why there are ± 320 bird-pollinated flowers in the Cape, but only 4 species of specialised nectar-feeding birds (Cape Sugarbird, Malachite Sunbird, Southern double-collared Sunbird, Orange-breasted Sunbird). She is especially interested in the different Erica species and how they manage to coexist. She has been hiking around Vogelgat to collect data for her project and one early morning this family of Cape Klipspringers was hiking on the trail in front of her. They were rather bewildered with her as you can see. Those animals have strong pair bonds and often a male and a female spend their whole lives together living in the same territory raising one or two young per year. In the picture you can see the male, an almost grown up young and the female (left to right). This photo was requested by the Village News and appeared as front page!

Mosselnook upgrade





We had a challenge when we visualized to upgrade Mosselnook...just install 2m glass doors in the front just like Beacon. Well we had to increase the hut height by 400mm. When it came to close this gap I could see the 360 degree views it would give us so we secured it all with wood panels.. we thought and a gale force wind blew the roof off 50m down the mountain (1st pic, previous page). Ok back to the drawing board! As you can all see it is not the easiest to build up in the mountains, however with insight we have created the “Observatory” @ Mosselnook! One can lie on the top bunk, see Orions Belt to ones left and at the same time see the other constellations on the western windows and then gaze down to the lagoon and ocean.. sheer magic!

Virtual Tour

We have installed a screen where you sign in and you can guide your friends around Vogelgat before they hike up.

The White House

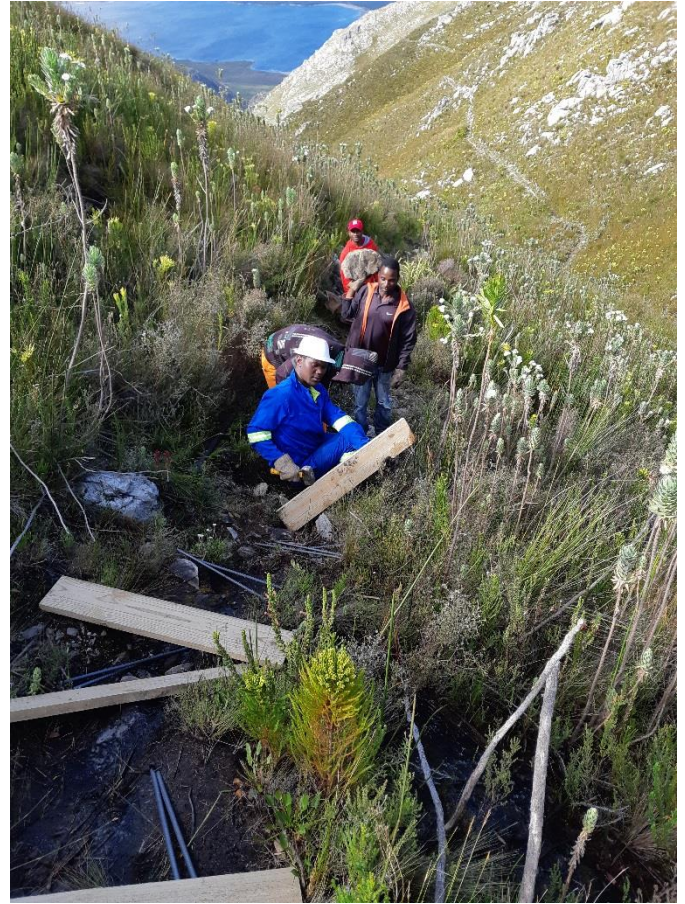


“The White House” has also had a facelift. Grandeur bay windows allow the visitor to lie on one’s bed and look straight across the Klein River estuary to the Atlantic Ocean! The deck is enclosed for privacy whilst you sip coffee looking at the southern right whales! We at Vogelgat would like to extend these facilities free of charge to bonafide researchers which do projects that add value to Vogelgat.

The outside toilets have also joined the new era and clear roof, protects one from the elements as well as hot shower is available!....before you go to that all important meeting!

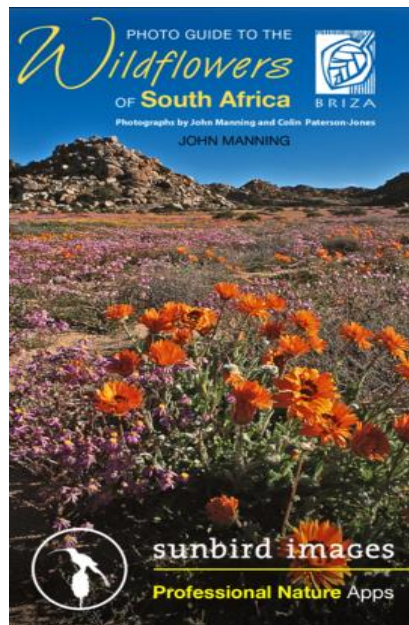
Meet the Men

When you hike again think of the men that actually clear the paths and install steps. These chaps carry 8 steps plus 18 steel pegs each and can install 60 steps a day. Sometimes they have to haul their loads thigh into the mountains and do two or three trips! (Left to right: Aissah, Gabriel, Abiside and unknown)



Citizen Science

<https://www.africansnakebiteinstitute.com/app/>



John
Mannings
app
R259.99

Prof Les Underhil of the Animal Demography Unit (ADU) at the University of Cape Town in South Africa (<http://www.adu.uct.ac.za/>) is a pioneer of citizen science on the continent. Over the last 25 years, his research group has integrated citizen data into ambitious research projects across southern Africa. In addition to contributing to red data lists, data from citizen scientists are feeding into atlases and distribution maps of birds, dung beetles, frogs, scorpions, spiders, butterflies, dragonflies, lace wing moths, sea stars, mushrooms and orchids. The ADU's innovative virtual museum (<http://vmus.adu.org.za/>) contains more than 6 000 photographic records provided by hundreds of citizen scientists. Most of their bird ringers are amateurs (i.e. not professional scientists) who spend their own time and money to contribute valuable ringing data. Twice a year – on the last Saturday of January and July – avid birders take part in their annual CAR (Coordinated Avifaunal Roadcounts) project, counting terrestrial birds such as cranes, bustards and storks in agricultural areas along 350 fixed routes.

OrchidMap <http://orchidmap.adu.org.za.>

WhatSpecies is a citizen science tool that was developed in South Africa.

iNaturalist <https://www.inaturalist.org>

Ispot is an international platform with a South African based initiative sponsored by the South African National Biodiversity Institute (SANBI). (www.ispotnature.org)



Other South African naturalist apps: Roberts Birds, Frogs, Struik Nature

NEW REGULATIONS!

We would like to draw your attention to new regulations that will assist us in finding you if you are lost or hurt, as well be able to inform your loved ones of your whereabouts in the advent of an incident. If these new regulations are not been adhered to stronger measures might have to be taken.

- ✓ Vogelgat is not a walk in the park. It is a wilderness reserve and respect this as many things can go wrong. Be prepared!
- ✓ Always carry a map. Download or ask Giorgio for a PDF for your cellphone
- ✓ Always tell someone where you are hiking and write this in our members sign in form. If you deviate from your route or instructions given to a third party, inform someone.
- ✓ Know where you are hiking, check maps and google earth if necessary.
- ✓ Regulations stay on the path. For ecological reasons and your safety.
- ✓ Always carry food to maintain your sugar levels
- ✓ Do not hike in extreme heat, carry water or know where you can drink i.e. streams and pools. Dunk yourself if you are over heated.
- ✓ Caution when it is wet. Especially in kloof. Take small steps.
- ✓ No jumping on bridges.
- ✓ Only one person at a time when using ropes.
- ✓ Carry Giorgio cel number plus any emergency numbers (inside booklet)
- ✓ Keep cellphone fully charged and have airtime, data and your “location” On.
- ✓ Download <https://www.nsri.org.za/2018/01/free-nsri-rsa-safetrx-app/> or **Life 360 app** so we can track you in an emergency.
- ✓ Always carry a space blanket, warm top/jacket, water, snacks, basic 1st Aid kit. An emergency may arise, and you desperately need these!

🌈 Search Youtube Annie Bonsignore “Be The Mountain”..be touched by her lyrics.....

Snake Bites

Snakes have very small mouths and are not “hunting” you. They cannot swallow you as prey. Only when you surprise them or antagonize them will they strike at you.

Try to identify the snake. This helps with treatment.

Patient may experience:

- Immediate burning pain sensation, followed by swelling (puff adders and Mozambique spitting cobra).
- Dizziness, difficulty in swallowing and breathing, drooping eyelids and nausea (Cape Cobra and Mamba (not in Cape).
- Bleeding from nose, small cuts (Boomslang)
- Shock can cause nausea, pain and difficulty in breathing

In The event of a snake bite **DO NOT.....**

- **DO NOT** try to cut or suck out the venom. Secondary infection may set in.
- **DO NOT** apply any electric shock therapy
- **DO NOT** apply a tourniquet
- **DO NOT** apply ice or warm water, lotions etc.
- **DO NOT** inject antivenom as 1st aid measure

Spitting snakes – venom must be flushed out as soon as possible. At least 15 – 20 minutes.

1st Aid measures for snake

- Get the patient to a hospital as soon as possible. Emergency numbers are in your booklet.
- Keep patient calm and still as possible.
- Remove rings and tight clothing.
- Apply pressure bandages only if you are one or two hours away from hospital. ONLY IN CAPE COBRA.

MEMBERS BRING N BRAAI BRUNCH 16TH DECEMBER 11.00 @ VOGELGAT

NNB! Please remember to pay your 2020 annual fees they are due now.

Vogelgat Nature Reserve **R3 000.00**

Maanschynkop **R400.00. A total of R3 400.00 for both reserves.**

Do note that **Leopard Camp R110 per person per night.**

Buys se huis R600.00 for whole cottage, inclusive of bedding and towels

White House R500.00 for whole cottage, inclusive of bedding and towels.

Bank – Standard Bank – Hermanus

Branch Code 05031200

Acc No. 082268053

NNB reference your surname + Initials. Thank you.