

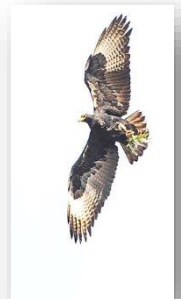
# Walter Sisulu Botanical Gardens – Gauteng Outing – May 2022

With a chilly start to the morning, we all met up on the lawns in front of the beautiful waterfall. Slowly, we gathered and it was awesome to finally be able to meet fellow members and put names to faces of people we speak to regularly.



Meets are great but one must not forget that education comes first... wise words taken literally by Akil, who immediately found a spot to sit and try to complete his physics assignment. No mean feat when you have over 10 eager beavers, wanting to go and explore. Once we settled at our meeting spot, with blankets and chairs all around, we left the folks in charge of taking care of our goodies. We headed to the Cormorant Hide. A lot of fun and laughter was had along the way.

Some of the birds we saw on the day were: The Little Bittern, Verreaux's Eagle, Peregrine Falcon, Black Sparrow Hawk, Giant Kingfisher and Striped Pipit, to name but a few. In an attempt to capture a bird on camera, Jaime took a bit of a tumble. Never fear though, as our in-house medic was on hand to patch Jaime up. Thanks, Josh, for ensuring the safety of our members. For the rest of us, after leaving the hide, we strolled through the gardens. Some went to get take aways, from the onsite restaurant, and we all met back at base to chat and get to know each other better.



The afternoon saw us prepare for 'the hike'. If you ask Akil, he will tell you that it was the mother of all hikes and one will suffer for days where in reality it was only about 3km. As the day was drawing to a close, members began to head home. Some like bolts of lightning, almost sprinting down the mountain while others were a little more reluctant to want to leave.



We said goodbye to the last of our members shortly before the thunderstorm hit, with a promise to host another great day soon.

