

Dunkirk & Springvale - Kwa-Zulu Natal Outing - February 2023



Despite a small number of members committing to join us on Saturday the 4th, we decided to continue with the outing and hope that others would join. A total of 5 of us met including myself at 6:30, and damn was it a good call to go ahead! We knew the day was going to heat up quickly and tried to get out as soon as we could. We started our walk through the Coastal Swamp Forest in Dunkirk which never fails to impress! Within in the first 20 minutes we were lucky enough to stumble upon an African Wood Owl, in which we were only alerted to its presence by the squabbling party of birds giving away its hide out! Definitely one of the highlights of the morning. We were also treated to some small antelope species such as Grey Duiker and Bushbuck.

It was certainly a more productive morning in the forest as it didn't take long before the ultimate green forest skulker revealed itself...The Green Malkoha, and we were treated to some great visuals, other highlights in the Swamp Forest included Grey Waxbill and a Black Sparrowhawk nest.



With so few of us we were then able to hop in the car and shoot across to Springvale which has different habitat including Dams, wetland and grassland. A chance to see some slightly different species as apposed to our typical Coastal Forest on the KZN North Coast.



This definitely had to be the most productive part of the outing and members were treated to sightings of Holubs Golden Weaver nesting, not to mention a very tough species on the KZN North Coast, as well as Black-chested Snake Eagle and Walhberg's Eagle catching the thermals over the hills. The mammals we saw included Grey Duiker, Impala and Nyala.

Towards the end of the outing we were also lucky enough to come across a group of Blue Waxbill and a Red-faced Cisticola, which are typically more dry bushveld species, so were also a nice surprise to our morning out!

Overall, a successful first KZN YWP Outing! Was great to meet some of you and we hope to see some more of you at the next one.

Many thanks to Luke Allen for hosting this outing. We can't wait to hear what fun you all get up to next.

