

# Marievale Bird Sanctuary – Gauteng Outing - July 2022



Guided by Tristan Spurway

It was an early start for the Gauteng-based Young Wildlife Photographers of South Africa on Sunday.



For most, the day started before sunrise to make sure we arrived at Marievale Bird Sanctuary at 7.30am for the start an incredibly fun and exciting day.

On arrival introductions were made for new members and re-introductions for our older members. The day began with a walk out to the lake to begin our day of bird-watching, bird identification and photography.

We all climbed into our respective cars and headed into the sanctuary, making stops along the road and at the different hides to look at the various birds and mammals in the sanctuary. There were many lifers throughout the day, and while there were more for some members than others, it was still exciting to see the group rally together to identify and share their knowledge of the birds in question. All told, more than 70 species of birds were identified by the group over the course of the day.

Tristan was an awesome guide, eager to help and share his knowledge and the other avid birders in the group were just as keen to engage and share their knowledge and passion for birds.



The day ended in truly South African style with boerie rolls at the picnic site which in turn presented an opportunity for more photography, more bird identification and more time to share knowledge and experiences. It was a day filled with banter and jokes, laughter, the forging of new friendships and new memories and the cementing of old friendships with new memories! We thank Wade for taking the time to join us during his short visit to Gauteng, and hope to see him again at another meet in the future.

By Gabrielle Smith

