
Membership Information Brochure

Birdlife Port Natal was established in Durban in 1949 as the Natal Bird Club and such is one of the oldest bird clubs in Africa. It is also one of the larger clubs affiliated to Birdlife South Africa, which in turn is the national partner of Birdlife International, the largest conservation organisation in the world. As an affiliate club Birdlife Port Natal, shares the goals of BLSA as they relate to conservation of birds and habitats within KZN and therefore the club plays an important role in conservation, as well as influencing various aspects of birding in KZN and southern Africa.

1. OUR AREA

The clubs geographical area covers the boundaries of the eThekweni Municipality on the sub-tropical east coast of KwaZulu-Natal in South Africa. It is an area rich in bird diversity with 520 species occurring in an area stretching for 90kms along the coastline and stretching inland to the foothills of the Drakensberg.

2. OUR MISSION AND GOALS

The Mission of the Association is to promote the Enjoyment, Understanding, Study and Conservation of Birds and the Environment in the region of the eThekweni Municipality, KwaZulu-Natal, and to support BLSA in its similar objectives countrywide. The goals of the club support this mission through the co-ordination of a variety of activities for club members including meetings, presentations, bird outings locally and further afield and through support and participation of citizen science and research projects.











3. MEMBERSHIP EXPLAINED

Membership options allow applicants to choose membership of BLPN, their regional club with the benefits of joining the club explained in Section 2.1. Membership categories of BLPN include annual subscriptions for Individuals, Senior Citizens and Students. Costs for each are indicated on the membership form.




Members of Birdlife Port Natal (BLPN) also have the option join Birdlife South Africa (BLSA) the national body, of which Birdlife Port Natal is an affiliated regional club.

4. BENEFITS OF BIRD CLUB MEMBERSHIP

4.1. Birdlife Port Natal membership

-  There is a monthly programme of mid-week and week-end morning / day outings with experienced birders on hand to assist (entrance fees to the nature reserves / birding spots may be payable in some cases). Members free and non-members welcome with an entrance fee of R20pp.
-  An in-door meeting on the second Wednesday evening of every month, and an additional meeting every second month on Wednesday morning and Thursday evening, where well-known birding personalities and members present talks on various aspects of birding. Members free and non-members welcome with an entrance fee of R20pp.
-  Weekends away to reserves and privately owned birding spots, usually at special rates negotiated by BLPN, where experienced birders will help you gain the most from the excursion.
-  Subscription to a members only email service [BLPN] which provides information on outings, meetings, recent sightings, rarities and other bird related news.
-  KZN Birds, published electronically four times a year, which includes articles and details of forthcoming events/activities of all branches that participate in the BirdLife Regional KZN Forum.
-  Opportunity to join groups participating in bird related research, and participate in SABAP2 (bird atlasing project), BIRP (Birds in Reserves Project), and CWAC (Coordinated Waterbird Counts) as well as participate in club/regional projects such as monitoring/census of birds and their breeding areas and conservation of their habitats.
-  Regular courses and fieldwork conducted by national and local birding experts at low cost. Courses are provided for beginners all the way through to advanced bird-watchers, including identification of LBJs and photography courses.
-  Members qualify for discounts on birding courses run by the club and its approved providers.
-  Opportunity to volunteer for our education and publicity outreaches to promote our rich avifauna amongst KZN learners and the general public.
-  Membership of BLPN includes an affiliation fee to BLSA of R15.00. This affiliation adds significant numbers to BLSA in their conservation efforts.

4.2. Birdlife South Africa membership

-  BirdLife South Africa is the national NGO for the conservation of birds and their habitats and is a partner of BirdLife International.
-  Members of BLPN can also join BirdLife South Africa and in doing so add even more support to the national and international efforts to conserve our bird life in South Africa and worldwide.
-  Please note that membership to BirdLife South Africa is optional but encouraged. Include your children in your membership at no additional cost.

**JOIN BIRDLIFE PORT NATAL
AND BE PART OF OUR EFFORTS TO CONSERVE BIRDS & THEIR HABITATS**

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VISIT OUR WEBSITE FOR MORE INFORMATION

www.blpn.org