



Owl Awards event: 22 June 2021

Owl Awards

Crystelle Wilson

Crystelle has been birding for more than 45 years and is a longstanding member of BirdLife South Africa, having joined BirdLife eThekweni KZN (formerly BirdLife Port Natal) in 2008. On moving to Howick in 2016, she also joined the KZN Midlands branch.

Crystelle is perhaps most widely known as the editor of *KZN Birds*, the official magazine of the seven KwaZulu-Natal bird clubs affiliated to BirdLife South Africa, a position she took up in 2009. Since then she has dedicated much time and effort to finding authors and photographers who would provide interesting and informative articles and good-quality images, and then compiling these into the final publication. Club members eagerly look forward to each issue of the magazine, whose content is wide-ranging and covers conservation, various projects, bird observations, rarity reports and club news and activities, as well as notices and advertisements. With the assistance of club members, Crystelle was responsible for arranging the printing and distribution of the hard copy of the magazine. When the decision was made to go digital she was concerned about the transition to the very different electronic format, but she rose to the occasion and the process went off smoothly. She is still in contact with the previous editor of *KZN Birds*, Mr David Allan, and when bird carcasses become available she hands them over to him for the Durban Natural Science Museum. Crystelle initiated the BirdLife Port Natal's annual calendar and before handing over to Nicky in 2019.

A committed atlasser, Crystelle was actively involved in SABAP1 and she has been contributing to SABAP2 since October 2007. The 845 full protocol cards she has submitted for 168 pentads spread across South Africa represent at least 1690 hours of bird monitoring. She has also contributed 277 ad hoc cards for 124 pentads. She is a keen photographer too and has submitted 868 photographic records of 278 species across 18 Quarter Degree Grid Cells to the Virtual Museum's BirdPix repository. She has also been acknowledged for her contribution to the latest edition of *Roberts Bird Guide*.