

Nature & Birding Group: Chirps & Tweets

The larva of a Death's-head hawkmoth (found by Traudi (26) in her garden)

This moth is an unusual creature having the ability to emit a loud chirp if irritated, produced by inhaling and expelling air, often accompanied by the flashing of the brightly coloured abdomen. They feed by raiding beehives without being disturbed because they mimic the scent of bees. More interestingly the moth has fanciful associations with the supernatural and evil. Edward Newman, British entomologist wrote:

“Let the cause of the noise be what it may, the effect is to produce the most superstitious feelings among the uneducated, by whom it is always regarded with feelings of awe and terror.”

The photo of the moth is from Wikipedia – just to illustrate from whence the larva comes. Thanks to Kloran for the photo of the larva.

A RECORD BREAKING CAPE ROBIN:

Delta Park's very own record-breaking bird is being celebrated after being spotted again, 18 years to the day after she literally flew into the Delta Park Environmental Centre. After tagging the Cape Robin on 25 May 2000, the centre's Geoff Lockwood was astonished to see his old friend once again on 25 May this year. Lockwood said, “When she first flew into the Centre all those years ago, she accidentally flew through our front door and trapped herself inside the building. I managed to catch her, and as a permitted ringer, I thought before we let it go we should tag her with a ring, without any hope that it would lead to anything. 18 years to the day she appeared at our doorstep again.”

(Randburg Sun).

A picture will be posted on the Notice Board in the Lifestyle Centre.

BIRD WALK:

The next bird walk with André Marx at Random Harvest Nursery will take place on Saturday, 21 July. Hope to see you there. Cost is R155.00 per person which includes welcoming tea, coffee, rusks and buffet breakfast. If needed, shared transport will be arranged, departing Evergreen at 7am.

Call me on extension 101 for advanced booking.

NEXT GATHERINGS:

On Tuesday, 17 July at 10.30am a quiz themed “Know Your Village” will be held in the Lifestyle Centre. Questions will relate to the ‘Fauna and Flora of Evergreen’, all Residents are welcome to come along and participate. Looking ahead, please diarise we plan to visit the Walter Sisulu Botanical Gardens on Tuesday, 18th September.

Chirpingly,
Dick. (Ext. 101)

