

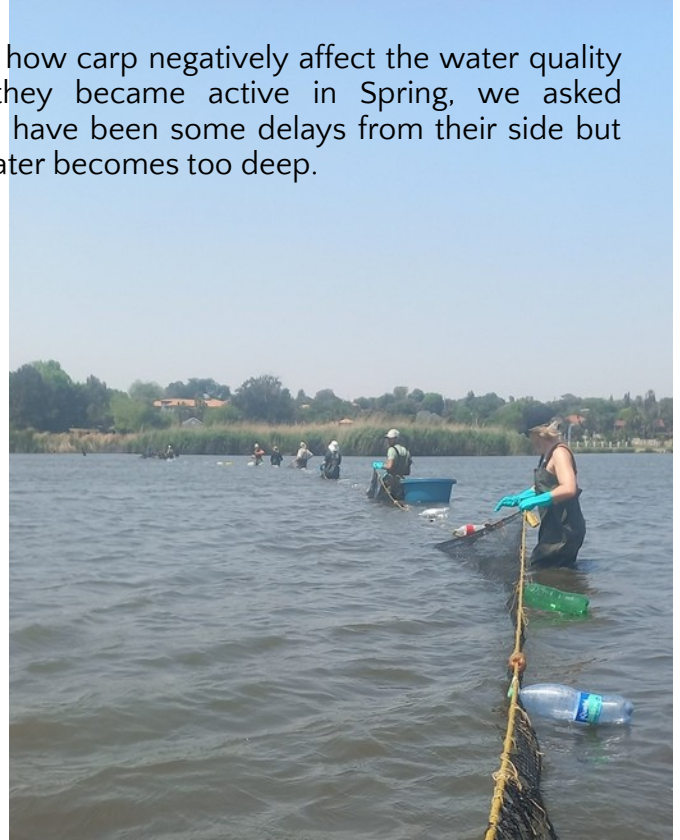


KORSMAN CONSERVANCY NEWSLETTER

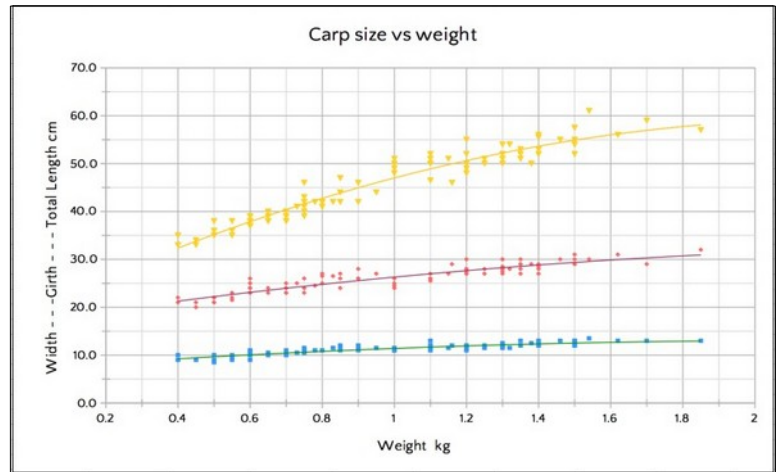
SPRING 2023

Carp removal – Year 2

During the last year we have become aware of how carp negatively affect the water quality by stirring up the sediment. As soon as they became active in Spring, we asked Hartebeespoort Fisheries to start netting. There have been some delays from their side but we hope that we can still continue before the water becomes too deep.



So far this season, 820 carp have been removed over four netting sessions.



Measuring and weighing the carp to create a size chart. Just like humans, carp can be short and fat or long and skinny. Using averages from the chart we can estimate from photographs the weight of fish caught by piscivorous birds, by comparing to known beak sizes.

Biocontrol Bird Perches

Diving birds eat carp, which suits us just fine ;-)
To attract cormorants to the Pan St area where the carp population is densest, we are creating water perches for them to rest and dry their wings after a catch.

Stacks of scrap tyres under water make a base to hold tree branches upright. They are sturdy but still movable if necessary, and no excavation is required.



30x30 / GDARDE Conservancy audit



The Gauteng Department of Agriculture, Rural Development and Environment (GDARDE) audited us recently to ensure that we are an active Conservancy. They are working with the Gauteng Conservancy and Stewardship Association, who we fall under, to draw up a standard for Conservancies.

Solly Shishenge and Petrus Links from the Biodiversity Stewardship unit at GDARDE conducted a site visit. They left feeling inspired about our care of the Sanctuary, our biodiversity projects and how we involve the community.

South Africa has committed to the UN Biological Diversity Target of 30x30, which is an effort by the global community to conserve 30% of terrestrial and marine habitat by 2030. As a legitimate registered Conservancy, our area can be included in the 30%.

Big Hunt for Little Plastics

In October, Professor Richard Greenfield and students from the University of Johannesburg sampled Korsman and three other Benoni pans for microplastics in water and sediment. Korsman had by far the highest count of microplastics in water (although the number in sediment was average).

The microplastics were mostly filaments, which would originate from laundry water in sewerage. A study showed that a single garment could release 1900 fibres in one wash.



"CROCS INVADE KORSMAN"

The [Benoni City Times article](#) on dumped clothing washing into Korsman was written in a light-hearted way, but the clothing is an environmental problem. It releases microplastic fibres and blocks up the inlets, causing litter to flood over the grassland. We have not yet found the culprit in this ongoing problem.

Photo: Jani de Beer of the Benoni City Times

Eco-Logic Awards **By Cathi Marques**

I nominated our Chairperson Jane for the Eco-Angel award at the prestigious Eco-Logic awards, and we are really proud that she won silver in the Eco-Angel category. It is so well-deserved as Jane works tirelessly for Korsman Conservancy.



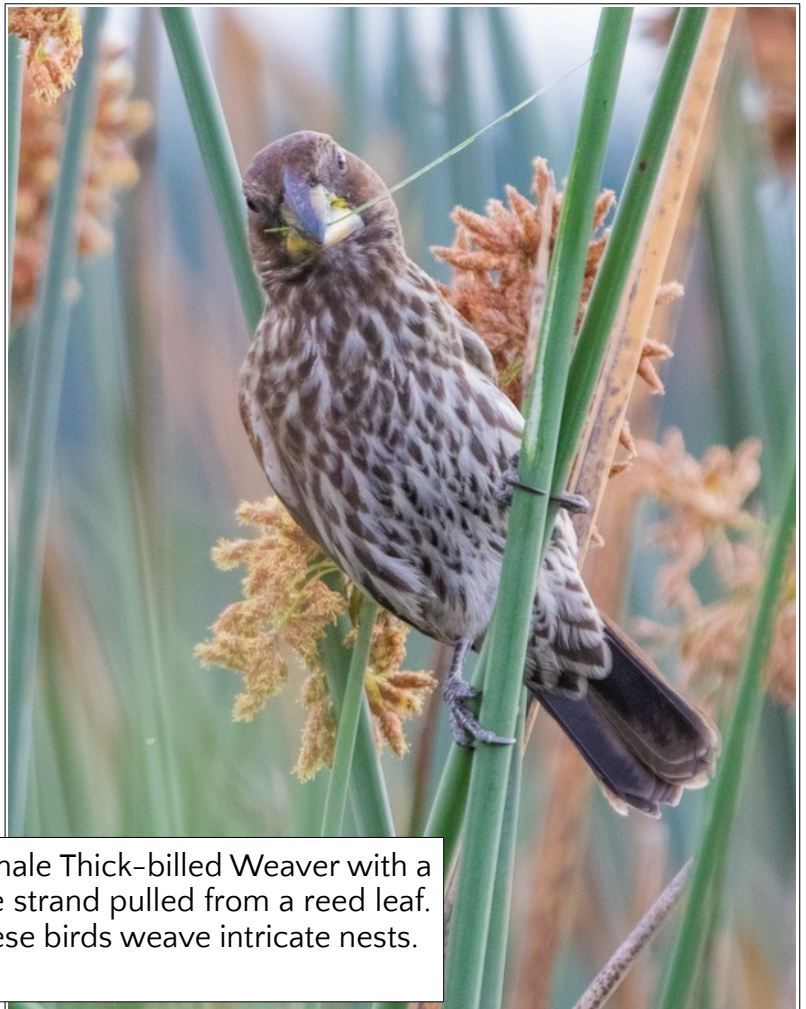
Wonderful weavers

Member Ryan Sim has photographed some of the smaller birds which get overlooked when the big herons and flamingos capture our attention.

All these birds weave intricate nests in different designs, often in colonies.



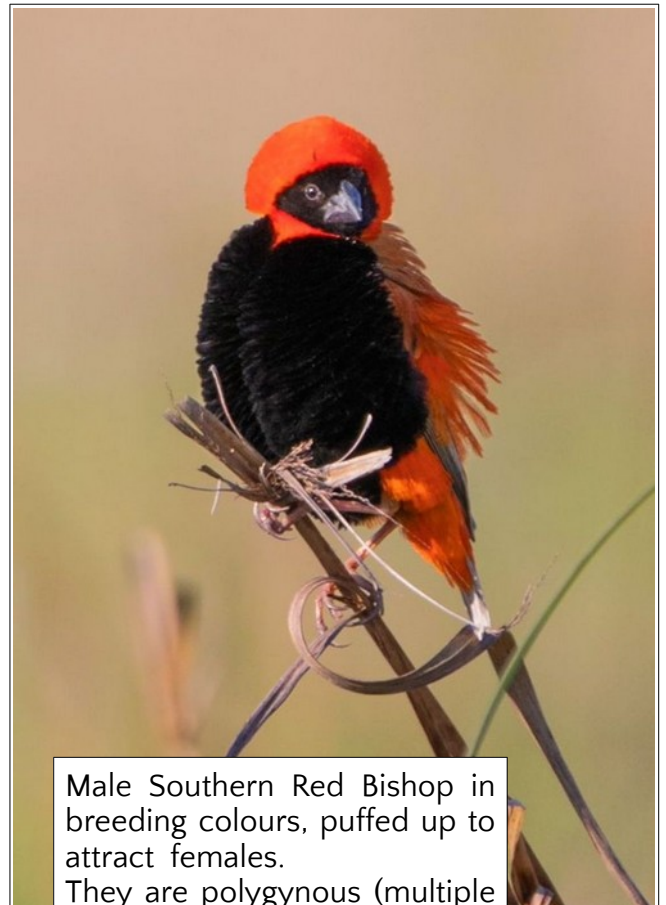
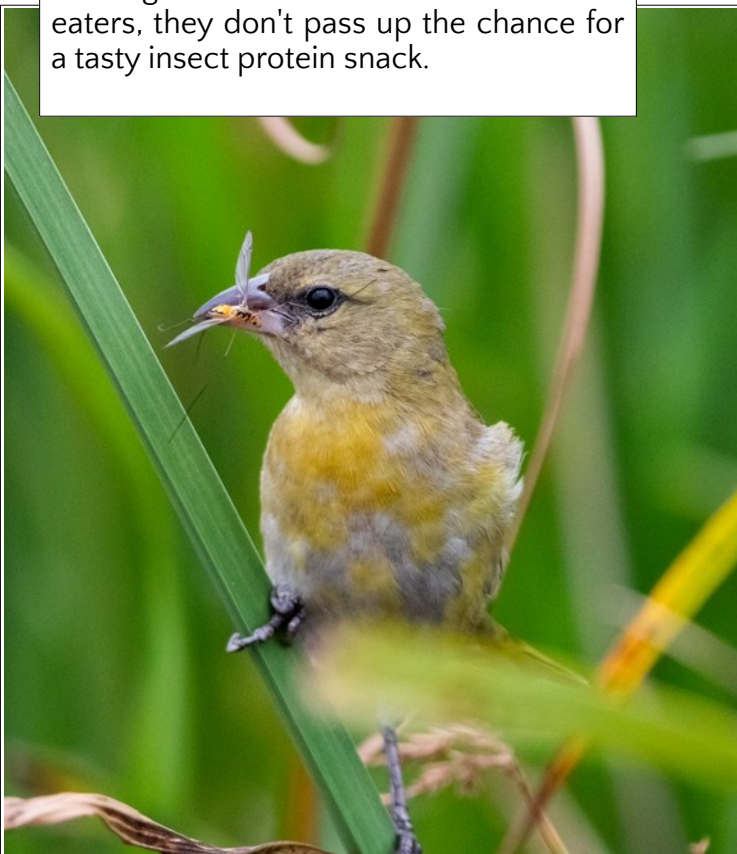
Southern Red Bishop nest, woven by the male.



Female Thick-billed Weaver with a fine strand pulled from a reed leaf. These birds weave intricate nests.

Female Southern Masked Weaver which has caught a crane fly.

Although we think of weavers as seed-eaters, they don't pass up the chance for a tasty insect protein snack.



Male Southern Red Bishop in breeding colours, puffed up to attract females. They are polygynous (multiple females per male) and successful males attract up to 8 mates.