

FREEME KZN WILDLIFE REHABILITATION CENTRE – MARCH 2019

STATISTICS

ADMISSIONS:

<i>Small birds:</i>	69
<i>Large birds:</i>	28
<i>Raptors:</i>	8
<i>Small mammals:</i>	8
<i>Large mammals:</i>	6
<i>Reptiles:</i>	6

RELEASES:

<i>Small birds:</i>	23
<i>Large birds:</i>	10
<i>Raptors:</i>	5
<i>Small mammals:</i>	1
<i>Large mammals:</i>	1
<i>Reptiles:</i>	1

NOTICES

COURSES:

27/03/2019 – Kids Club – R40 for Custodians – Bookings and info – Michaela 033 330 3036

30/03/2019 – Snake Awareness Course – R750 per person – Bookings and info –

projects@freemekzn.co.za

20/04/2019 – Owl Rescue Course – R150 for Custodians – Bookings and info –

projects@freemekzn.co.za



EDITORS NOTE:

John Donne may have observed that 'No man is an island' but this is also true for organisations. Part of FreeMe KZN's success and growth stems from our willingness to network and collaborate, and our passion for including community involvement. We recognise that the earth, ecosystems and wildlife belong to all, and the biggest changes we will achieve in protecting and preserving them will be through the involvement of all. Not everyone can be involved in the physical rescue and rehabilitation of wildlife and natural habitats, but we can most certainly all support the efforts of those who do. After all, by supporting these efforts, we are in fact protecting our own interests, and those of our children and grandchildren by ensuring wildlife and natural habitats will still be there for the generations to come.

ADMISSION STORIES:



One of the most common causes of admission for birds of prey is collisions. These can be with vehicles, fences or power lines, and the resulting injuries vary from mild to severe. The adult female Jackal Buzzard which hit a vehicle was lucky to have only suffered a concussion, but the Black-winged Kite hit by a vehicle was not as lucky and had both the ulna and radius on one wing fractured.

An Angoni Vlei Rat was one of our smaller patients admitted during February after it was rescued from a cat that brought it in, and a Mountain Reedbuck was one of our largest patients admitted. The Reedbuck, a fully grown male, was picked up in an out of range area

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THANK YOUS:

AA Gas Services – for repairing our geyser free of charge.

SBS Agri Pty Ltd and Paul from Pinetown – for sponsoring 500 micron plastic lining for our water bird and bat aviary ponds.

with a distinct tear in the one ear that could have indicated it was once a captive animal, recently escaped. We were able to release him into a far more suitable habitat in Underberg.

Baby and fledgling birds continue to come into FreeMe KZN, and one of our prettiest February admissions was a juvenile Klaas' Cuckoo. Among our tiniest baby birds were the pair of Sunbird siblings admitted, and the nest of Bronze Mannikin chicks.

Baby birds were not the only baby animals admitted, and a Grey Duiker lamb has joined our nursery after it was rescued from a trader trying to sell it. Thankfully the authorities intervened and the baby is now safely under our care.



RELEASE STORIES:



A Yellow-billed Kite admitted as a fledgling with a broken leg made a fantastic recovery and was released in Wartburg in an area the Yellow-billed Kites congregate in large numbers. The kite quickly integrated into the population and was seen over the next few days feeding with others. He was easily recognisable thanks to the SAFRING ID ring on his leg.

A juvenile Amur Falcon was also released after a broken Ulna had healed, and a Black Sparrowhawk and Lanner Falcon, both from the Durban North area were also released after recovering from concussions sustained through vehicle collisions. A Long-crested

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PROJECTS:

Rabies Research – two White-tailed Mongoose have been vaccinated as part of the research.

Owl Box Project – up to date box installations include:

<i>Spotted Eagle Owl:</i>	109
<i>Barn Owl:</i>	71
<i>Wood Owl:</i>	31
<i>Bat:</i>	25

Eagle with a mild concussion was also able to be released again after a speedy recovery.

Another of our hand-raised youngsters, a Woodland Dormouse, was also successfully released back into the area of origin to continue its life as an independent adult.

FreeMe KZN is permitted not only to rehabilitate mammals, reptiles and birds, but invertebrates too, and in February we were able to help an African Giant Snail who had been kindly rescued by a member of the public after the thicket it had been living in was cut down. The snail has now found a safe home in an indigenous garden.

OUTREACH AND EDUCATION:



We were delighted to be invited to speak at the annual SAN PARKS Honorary Rangers – Free State Region Birding Day in Golden Gate National Park. Not long after this we presented 'An Otter's Tale' for the Dargle Conservancy at Tanglewood Country House.

We also ran a Custodian Insight during February which focussed on the collection of DNA for research.

The educators at Siyabonga Helping Hands are continuing with their second year Biodiversity Curriculum, and February the focus was on soil and the importance of not only micronutrients in the soil, but the microscopic life that soil supports, which is the base of a healthy food chain in an ecosystem. Another section covered in February was wetlands and the role they play in keeping rivers systems clean.

CONTACT US:

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Owl and Bat boxes, Talks and Courses: projects@freemekzn.co.za