

A rare visitor to the Silvermine Wetlands, Fish Hoek.

by Evanne Rothwell - Friends of Silvermine Wetlands.



photograph by Basie van Zyl

The Little Crake.

The Little Crake - known by us as THE BIRD!

The little bird was identified 2 weeks ago in the Silvermine Wetlands and set the birding world in South Africa alight! Two days after the identification and a Mega Mega Alert by Trevor Hardaker, our little Silvermine Wetlands was alive with twitchers and the constant whirring and clicking of some seriously, serious photographic equipment! At times the twitchers were 60 deep!

The Little Crake ignored everyone and everything and has obligingly stayed in the same place for 2 weeks. Often out in the open, she has given everyone some wonderful photographic opportunities of a life time. She hasn't stopped feeding, and I believe she eats small aquatic insects. Some birders feel she is feeding hard prior to flying off. Interestingly, we had a dredger working just behind the reeds where she is, and it didn't phase her at all. Even the swamp warblers are becoming used to the people and not flying off in alarm. Many of the birders were very kind in letting us view the bird through wonderful scopes - the likes of which us lesser mortals could only dream of owning. Thanks to all!

We now have fantastic weather and far fewer people - about 6 at a time. Ideal bird watching conditions.



photograph by Trevor Hardaker.

The Little Crake.

The Little Crakes are a European species that winters in Northern Africa. It is thought that she got her GPS muddled and came south instead of going north after her winter.

The new polywood signs we had just put were put to good use. We had put up one at the pond where the Little Crake is, and we were able to quickly change the information sheet to a Crake one! Many people had no idea what the bird was or what it looked like, so the info sheet has been a boon.

The photos are by Basie van Zyl and Trevor Hardaker, both of whom were kind enough to send us copies.

Evanne Rothwell.