

## Project Update: January 2022

I have presented at two symposium which both focused on the climate change chapter of my thesis.

- SANBI - Foundational Biodiversity Sciences where I received the first prize in the students category.
- University of Pretoria - Department of Zoology and Entomology.

I have currently submitted an abstract for the International Ornithological Congress which will be hosted in August 2022 – I am awaiting the outcome of the abstract.

Field trip highlights:

- During this trip I was accompanied by two people - one was Mr Arrie Klopper who served as a field mentor because of his over 10 years field experience and another was Ms Janine Baxter who served as a field assistant. And also, in one locality, Lucky Ngwenya from BirdLife South Africa served as our bird guide to spot the Botha's lark.
- We managed to capture and sample five Agulhas long-billed larks, which was important because there is not even a profile for this bird on the IUCN and only two museum samples on the whole country. Therefore, the feathers collected will be stored at the SANBI biobank for future projects.
- We also managed to capture three eastern long-billed larks and one large billed lark.
- We managed to see the Botha's lark, however, due to its gentleness with pecking the worm on the spring trap bait, it could not trigger the trap to be captured.





More updates will follow soon as I continue with my laboratory work.