

Ruppell's Vulture at Blouberg – August, 2016

Dear Guests,



In 2015, a lot of excitement centred around Blouberg Nature Reserve where a RUPPELL'S VULTURE was seen on a nest in the reserve's Vulture Breeding Colony and also at the Vulture Restaurant.

And now (August 2016) the Ruppell's is back at the same nesting site.

What has transpired is that the bird seems to be nesting with a local Cape Vulture there and shares nest duties, so is not always present at the nest. The bird is a very rare vagrant to South Africa.

Birders wanting to try for this bird should make sure that they probably have a few days available to ensure the best chances of actually seeing the Ruppell's Vulture on the nest (or perhaps you will just be lucky and find it elsewhere in the reserve). If you go to the fountain on the reserve (you will find it on the reserve map available at the tourism office or on the website

<http://www.bloubergreserve.co.za/map.html> , one can view the cliff faces with the vulture colony from there. There is also a slight possibility that the Ruppell's may be seen at the Vulture Restaurant, best chance being late morning, early afternoon.

A 4 x 4 or vehicle with high ground clearance is required to negotiate the roads in the Reserve.

The photos below are from the far left top of the eastern breeding colony where the bird in question is coming to the nest. Thanks to Barry Fourie and Johan van Wyk for providing this information - hopefully, photos of the rock formation will help the people to locate the nest and then they can just wait it out.

A strong spotting scope / camera lens is required for colony viewing



