



PETER RYAN (2)

Barrie Rose 1947–2016

On 30 December 2016 southern Africa lost not only its most experienced seabirder, but also a true gentleman. Barrie Rose was born into a family of herpetologists; his grandfather, Walter Rose, discovered several new species of frogs and was honoured by having *Breviceps rosei* (sand rain frog), *Heleophryne rosei* (Table Mountain ghost frog) and *Capensibufo rosei* (Rose's mountain toadlet) named after him. Barrie grew up catching and keeping snakes and other reptiles, but his first love was fishing. An accomplished sports fisherman, he joined the Sea Fisheries Research Institute as a research technician in 1968, which enabled him to marry his professional and personal interests.

In 1978, Barrie was offered the chance to go to Marion Island to collect penguins. Standing on the helideck of the SA *Agulhas*, he met birder Ian Sinclair who asked Barrie if he knew his birds.

above Barrie poses with a friendly Egyptian Vulture on Socotra.

top Barrie was in his element when out at sea, either fishing or birding.

When Barrie assured Ian he did, he was promptly put in his place. Never one to shy away from a challenge, Barrie started birding there and then, with a life list of zero. Not that this affected his passion for other wildlife – birding with Barrie was never dull and we'd often have to screech to a halt so he could catch a particularly interesting snake!

Barrie was accomplished in all forms of birding and led many visiting groups of birders around the Cape, but his first love was for the sea. He spent much time at sea through his work and recreational fishing and accumulated a wealth of knowledge about local seabirds and other marine life. He was always generous with information and many birders, myself included, have Barrie to thank for their first real seabirding trip.

In 1990 Barrie left Sea Fisheries to become the manager of I&J's deep-sea trawl fleet, where he worked tirelessly to ensure that fisheries had the least possible impact on seabirds. His assistance was crucial in ensuring the success of the Albatross Task Force in South Africa, a model that BirdLife has since rolled out in several other countries.

After he retired, Barrie and his wife Roselle travelled widely in search of birds and other wildlife. He also worked as a fishery observer on tuna transport

ships, documenting catches throughout the Atlantic and Indian oceans for months at a time and continually adding to his list of seabirds and marine mammals. Sadly, he never quite realised his dream of a trip across the Pacific.

Those fortunate enough to have birded with Barrie will have very fond memories of the man, whether they only met him for a day or had birded together for more than 30 years. He was not one to speak needlessly, but when he had something to say, people listened. Those who knew Barrie well will remember his extremely sharp wit which characterised any endeavour. He exuded a calm confidence that made for a great birding companion. He was the most ethical of birders: no 'better views desired' – he either saw a bird or dipped it.

Barrie died after falling from a cliff while fishing. Ironically, it was not his first such fall. In 1997 he was severely injured when he fell into the sea near Rooi Els in the Western Cape. He regarded this as his second birthday and clichéd as it may sound, he lived every day thereafter as though it were to be his last. Barrie died doing what he loved most. He will be sorely missed by his family and large circle of friends, birders and fishers alike.

PETER RYAN