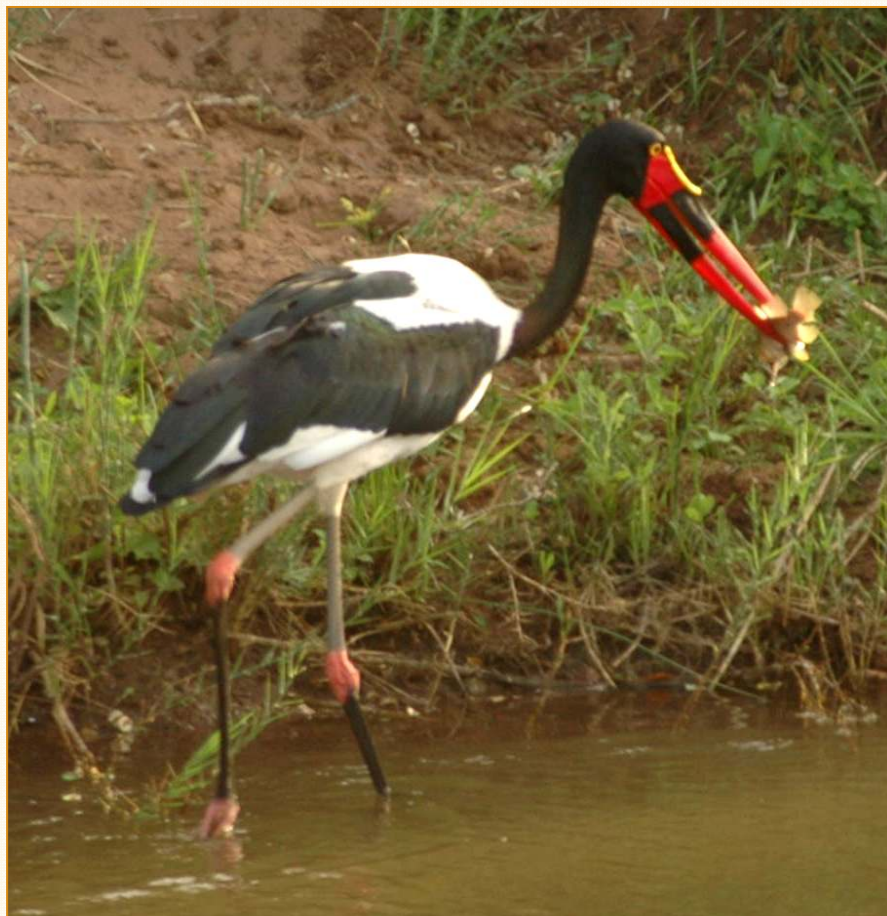


The Training Specialists  
since 1993

**EcoTraining**



Pioneer and Leader in  
Field Guide and Nature Training



**Advanced Birding  
( 7 Days )  
In Association with  
Lawson's Birding  
Academy**





# Advanced Bird Course – Bruce Lawson

## Lawson's Birding Academy in association with EcoTraining

This Training Course (FGASA Accredited) has been designed to provide sufficient specialist information and training for any individual wishing to boost their bird knowledge or undertake any formal birding qualifications.

Previous students who have joined the course to prepare for their Special Knowledge and Skills Birding examination have all indicated to us, that their success in their exam was due to the knowledge gained whilst attending the course.

Courses incorporate theoretical lectures on different aspects of birds and birding as well as early morning and afternoon/evening practical birding excursions.

Students are provided with a Lawson's Training Manual, which contains detailed information on all the lecture theory subjects covered by electronic media.

### Major Theory Subjects Include:

Evolution, Anatomy and Physiology, Zoogeography, Habitats & Environments, Bird Behaviours (Breeding, Chick Development, Feeding, Mating etc), Migration, Ethics/Conservation and Bird Identification.

### Practical Field Sessions:

The practical sessions in the field will assist you in knowing what to look for to successfully identify birds, also to point out the differences between certain 'difficult' species. Both sight id and call id is discussed during the practical sessions.

The practical sessions, will be either walking or in an open game drive vehicle or a combination of both.

### Course Assessments:

The course includes both a Bird Slide and Bird Call Identification assessments along with a Theory test on the final full day. 75% pass mark on both assessments and the Theory is required to pass the course.

We are confident that any person attending our course will leave us more enriched and with greater confidence in being able to pass on the wonders and beauty of the South African birdlife to your clients or friends and family.



### About Bruce Lawson

Bruce is a passionate naturalist who has spent the last 15 years guiding in remote wilderness areas in many of Africa's Big Game Reserves. Bruce is equally at home leading walking safaris as he is leading specialist birding tours. With a soft spot for elephants, Bruce devoted 2 years to leading 'elephant' walking safaris in the Caprivi National Park in Namibia, for people who wanted to experience elephants in large numbers, uninhibited by international boundaries.

Bruce Lawson is one of only a few, fully qualified professional guides with FGASA Level 3, SKS Dangerous Game and SKS National Birding (THETA NQF6) and is also a FGASA Accredited Trainer, Assessor, Director and Vice-Chairman. Bruce, apart from his formal qualifications, is considered as one of the country's top birding guides.

Where we utilize a second trainer, that person will also be a qualified SKS Birding Guide.



# Advanced Bird Course—Bruce Lawson

## Course Location - Kruger Park Makuleke Camp

Our Kruger Park Camp is situated in the 24 000 hectare (59 305 acres) Makuleke concession in the far northern and most remote part of the Kruger National Park. The area is characterized by great biodiversity and a human history reaching to the remote past. Accommodation is in safari tents on wooden decks covered with thatch in the shade of nyala trees. Each unit has a verandah overlooking the bush and an en-suite bathroom with a flush toilet, shower and basin.

Birding in this area is unsurpassed all year round, with many South African 'specials' being found here, such as Black-throated Wattle-eye, Racket-tailed Roller, Three Banded Courser, Bohm's and Mottled Spinetails, Lemon-breasted Canary and Pel's Fishing Owl. The wonderful diversity of habitats lends itself to a staggering 400 species of birds found here.

### Daily Programme

A typical daily programme at the camp follows a routine of rising early, usually before sunrise, enjoying hot cup of coffee while you listen to the bush waking up and then leaving the camp for an outing into the wilderness.

The outings are extremely flexible and determined by the unpredictability of what is found during the outing in combination with the subjects that have to be covered. The outing could be a game walk following up on the call of a Pels Fishing Owl heard during the night or a drive, learning about specific bird behaviour in relation to its habitat. It could be a walk along the river line through the forests concentrating on bird calls and identification, or the nesting habits of the sun bird.

Returning to camp in the late morning for a hearty brunch which is followed by a lecture on the subject of the day. Study and rest time is then followed by an early afternoon tea and another outing into the wilderness until sunset, if walking, or until well after dark if doing a game drive. It is then back to the camp for dinner, stories around the campfire, discussing the day's experiences and wondering about tomorrow's adventures. The emphasis is on practical day-to-day experiences in the bush, focusing on birds and birding.



### Meals

- Wake-up to tea/coffee with biscuits and fresh fruit
- Enjoy a cooked breakfast, with cereals and fruit for brunch
- In the afternoon indulge with a few light snacks
- A balanced, warm plated meal finishes off the day for dinner

### Course Rates

Please contact [enquiries@ecotraining.co.za](mailto:enquiries@ecotraining.co.za)

#### Rate includes:

Specialist: Bruce Lawson  
Lectures  
Game drives  
Walks  
Accommodation  
Meals  
Tea, coffee and cordials

√ Further details on request or registration





# The Training Specialists since 1993

## About EcoTraining

Established in 1993 with a mission to raise the standard of guiding in Africa, EcoTraining is the pioneer and leader of professional Field Guide and other nature training programmes. We aim to put the bush back into Africa for all those that are searching for the most authentic wildlife training and safari experiences.

### Our vision

EcoTraining aims to ensure that guides in Africa are of the finest standard and training. Critical to us is that the guides acknowledge that as important as wildlife knowledge is, even more key is the right philosophy and approach – to take the countless opportunities given to them each day to impart conservation principles to their guests on safari. Every person that a Field Guide guides can go back to their country and take the conservation message back to positively influence a greater community. EcoTraining realises the potential influence that guides may have on their guests. We are trying to make a difference and want to impact where we can.

### What will you learn and experience on an EcoTraining course

You will gain in-depth knowledge about nature, ecology and wildlife but that is only one aspect of the course. It is about absorbing nature, learning how to interact with the environment, and tuning you into the ecosystems. It's about becoming intertwined with the natural environment that sustains us. The bush is powerful and on course, you start to realize that the clutter of modern society's trappings becomes less relevant. There is a mental, emotional and spiritual shift to respect, consideration and sensitivity towards nature and your peers.

Along with learning about wildlife and nature... it is also a cultural interchange for our learners. The inter-human benefit of living and learning together in the outdoors for days tests one's social and emotional intelligence skills and provides you with a holistic life experience. It is a bonding experience in a few days participants learn about the natural environment, themselves and each other.

Learners who have attended our courses have returned to the "real world" with a different outlook on life. Some have taken this new outlook into their day-to-day lives and others, inspired by their time with us, have completely changed their lives and careers.

Because we respect and want to instill a respect in our guests for the environment, we do not take chances with nature. We have a 100% safety record since 1993 as we have and always will subscribe to two vital principals - safety and sensitivity. Sensitivity is exercised in relation to our entire environment which includes mankind.

**Have we forgotten that wilderness is not a place, but a pattern of soul  
where every tree, every bird and every beast is a soul maker? Ian**



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