

The Training Specialists  
since 1993

**EcoTraining**



Pioneer and Leader in  
Field Guide and Nature Training



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





# Basic Bird Course – Bruce Lawson

## Lawson's Birding Academy in association with EcoTraining

This Training Course has been designed to cater for those who wish to learn the basics of Bird Identification or improve their existing identification skills.

It is very much a practical course, although there are some lectures which include the following:

- Birding Ethics and Code of Conduct
- Birding Equipment
- Bird Anatomy and Physiology
- Species Identification in the field

Courses incorporate theory sessions during the day and practical bird identification sessions of early morning and late afternoon drive/walks. Usually, the theory session is held after breakfast or before departing on the afternoon walk or drive.

A Training Manual is provided, however we recommend participants bring notepad/book/pens to take further notes, your own bird field guide (various bird books are provided for use during the course) and most importantly good binoculars

### **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 and students will be encouraged to identify birds by both sight and sound. Focus is on the common bird species, including raptors.

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 Photo Identification and a Bird Call Identification assessment on the final full day. 75% pass mark on both assessments is required to pass the course.

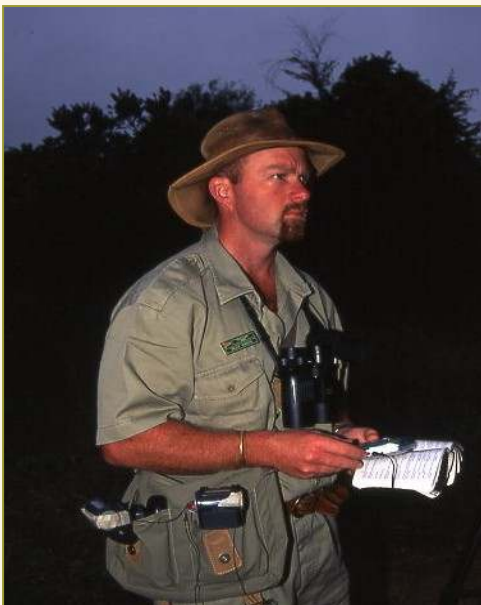
We are confident that any person attending our course will leave us more enriched and with greater confidence in being able to enjoy the beauty of the South African birdlife

## 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 a fully qualified (FGASA, SKS Birding and Dangerous Game, Level 3 Tracker) Specialist Wilderness Guide and Trainer. Bruce has been leading bird tours throughout Africa for the past 18 years and has a deep love and understanding for all wilderness areas.

Where Bruce is not available as your instructor, or where we require a second instructor, we will ensure that all instructors are very skilled birders and instructors.





# Basic 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.

### Karongwe camp

Our Karongwe Camp is situated on the banks of the Karongwe River in the 9 000 hectare (22 239 acre) Karongwe Game Reserve, to the south-west of the Kruger National Park. Accommodation is in walk-in safari style tents with shared bathroom facilities. Karongwe is a good place for viewing leopard, lion and cheetah as well as elephant and white rhino.

As the camp itself is unfenced, we often have four-legged guests in the camp. Hyena make nightly patrols of the camp and are often seen by learners who choose to make one of the viewing decks their home for the duration of the course. Elephant, cheetah and lion have also made appearances on occasion.



## 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





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## 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.



### 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



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## 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**



#### Contact Details:

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