Study to Develop a Baseline for the Development of Avitourism Tourism in KZN

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1. Introduction

The Tourism Master Plan (TMP) which was developed for the province of KwaZulu-Natal (KZN) specified the need for the development of a number of research studies to determine the baselines from which to set growth targets. In this regard, Tourism KwaZulu-Natal (TKZN) has attempted to assist in the development of those baselines by undertaking some of the research studies. The baseline for accommodation in Durban has been completed as has the study on adventure tourism in KZN. This is the third study in this series, and deals with one of the niche markets for which a baseline is required before any targets for growth can be set.

A central part of tourism is the many different types of attractions which act to lure people to a destination in order to enjoy them. Some of these are natural attractions, products of the environment, and include such marvels as the Grand Canyon, Mount Everest, the Great Barrier Reef and massive game migrations of the Serengeti. Others are man-made and include such diverse wonders as the pyramids of Egypt, the Eiffel Tower, the Sydney Opera House, Peru’s Machu Picchu and the Coliseum in Rome. Any of these attractions has a very general appeal and really have become must-see attractions for anyone calling themselves a well-travelled tourist in the global sense.

Niche tourism is quite a different variety of tourism altogether. It is based upon attractions or activities with a much more limited and very specific appeal. It is a more specialized type of tourism in that it is aimed at a very precise segment or segments of the tourism pool. Just as the above two types of mass tourism attractions vary enormously one from another, so too do the various niche attractions and activities. Furthermore, just as every place has its own characteristics, so too do those offerings appeal to different people. A location offering fine ice climbing would very likely not appeal to a person looking for places in which to go deep sea diving, or bird watching.

The attraction of the development of niche tourism is exactly that varied appeal which can be linked to the particular attractions in a destination. Where one area could provide for the needs of trout fishermen, another could provide for the needs of spelunkers (people who explore caves). Where a particular area might be extremely rich in butterflies and attract people to see them, another might well be highly attractive to mountain bikers.

In South Africa, it was envisioned that the development of a range of niche tourism markets would go a long way towards helping spread tourists and the benefits of tourism away from the main centers and out into other areas which had very different offerings. Such offerings would appeal in different ways to different niche markets. With the release of the latest tourism statistics, the opportunity arose to compare the aims of developing niche tourism markets in South Africa with the results in terms of increasing geographic spread. This report is in response to, and considers, that situation.
2. Background

The development of tourism in South Africa has a variety of aims. The increase of geographic spread is part of both the national tourism sector strategy of the National Department of Tourism and part of the Domestic Tourism Growth Strategy 2012-2020.

Figure 1: The Mandates and Objectives for Tourism in South Africa

![Diagram](image)

In terms of geographic spread, the development of niche tourism was identified as one of the prime ways of increasing the spread of tourists out of the primary tourism destinations and into less frequented and often more rural locations, thereby increasing the spread of the benefits accruing from the tourism sector.

The reporting with regard to geographic spread in South Africa is done in terms of the distribution between the provinces and in terms of how many provinces are visited by international tourists during their stay. These two indicators will be considered in greater detail later in this report.
3. **Niche Tourism**

Tourists have become more sophisticated, experienced and demanding in terms of how they wish to spend their money and leisure time. This has resulted in a more segmented, specialised and sophisticated market and thus the development of niche tourism so as to meet consumer needs.

There are various definitions of niche tourism, but perhaps the most widely accepted is that of the UNWTO. Niche tourism consists of tourism based on ‘special interests, culture and/or activity based’ tourism involving small numbers of tourists in authentic settings.

The following diagram, in a book published by the UNWTO and edited by Maria Novelli (2005), provides a graphic description of what constitutes niche tourism:

*Figure 2: Niche Tourism and Micro-niches*

Novelli further notes that ‘mass tourism, despite some unifying characteristics, has always been an amalgam of highly varied experiences, tastes and behaviours. Now, even the most extreme corners of human imagination can be catered for in a packaged way’ (p 8).

She notes, too, that ‘besides niche tourism based around what tourists do, there is also a geographical dimension by which locations with highly specific offers are able to establish themselves as niche destinations. Thus, for instance, a wine growing region can position itself as a niche destination offering tourist of its specific wines’ (p 6). It is this perception which has led to the perception that niche tourism can be used as a means of increasing geographic spread, enticing tourists away from the mainstream destinations and into new or less frequently visited areas permitting such areas also to benefit from tourism. This is certainly true of avitourism as it is dependent upon certain natural attributes and ecosystems which provide specialized habitats and thus homes for particular species of birds.
The creation and further development of niche tourism can also be seen as part of a destination’s competitive strategy where such destinations increasingly seek to gain competitive advantage. Again, with niche tourism appealing to a wider ‘audience’ of tourists, the potential to attract new participants can be significant, and more so, in that such specific offerings also hold the potential to attract tourists seeking a particular experience into new areas.

All of this leads on to the idea of geographic spread and its benefits for lesser visited locations within a destination.

South Africa has on offer the vast majority of the niche market options and micro-niche attractions noted in the diagram above. Many of these have been developed to some or other degree. Despite these initiatives, however, to date they appear to have had little effect on the issue of increased geographic spread.

In the diagram above (Figure 2), it is clear that avitourism is one of the niche markets attracting a particular interest group to, and also within, South Africa. The situation is similar for KZN, with its array of avitourism sites and hotspots, and this will be discussed in more detail later in this report.
4. Geographic Spread

The benefits of tourism frequently accrue firstly and primarily to any destination’s primary city which is also where the major forms of access are located or lead to. These would include the destination’s airport, the major roads, rail links and ports, in the case of a coastal destination. Tourists then tend to spread outwards from that or those point/s to take advantage of a wider range of attractions. The areas often the last to be visited by tourists or the least visited, are often those in the more rural or even wilderness areas. In order to encourage the spread of tourism spend and other benefits across a wider section of the destination, the National Department of Tourism identified the development of niche tourism as a method to address such inequalities. While it is clearly understood that not every area or location, nor every natural feature of the landscape has tourism potential, there is certainly a great deal of scope for the development of a very wide range of niche tourism opportunities across the country.

What needs to be investigated at this point, however, is whether, or to what extent, the development of niche tourism has been successful in addressing the issue of geographic spread.

At present, international tourists visit an average of 1.2 provinces during their stay of 7.7 nights in South Africa (SAT, 2012). There is some variance between tourists who arrive by land (1.1 provinces) and those who arrive by air (1.4 provinces), as well as between those tourists who were first time visitors (1.5 provinces) as compared with those who had been in the country previously (4+ times, 1.1 provinces). There are also differences in the number of provinces visited according the source markets of the tourists. Those from the Americas or Europe visit an average of 1.4 provinces, those from Asia and Australasia an average of 1.5, and those from Africa 1.1 provinces.

In every instance, though, the number of provinces visited by international tourists has decreased between 2009 and 2012. This is shown in the graph below:

**Figure 3: Average number of provinces visited 2009-2012**

![Bar chart showing average number of provinces visited by international tourists from 2009 to 2012, with a decrease noted.](chart.png)
The 2013 information indicates that there was a further reduction in the number of provinces by both land and air markets. In 2012, land markets visited 1.39 provinces, and air arrivals visited 1.39 provinces. In 2013, this had changed to 1.03 and 1.38, respectively.

It is understandable that land arrival tourists are the most likely to visit only one province during their stay as the vast majority of them are people who come across the borders into South Africa in order to shop, not for themselves, but in order to stock their retail outlets in their home countries. Such people are classified as tourists as they spend at least 24 hours, or one night, in the country.

Of greater concern is the finding that air arrival tourists, many of whom are in fact leisure or holiday tourists, are visiting fewer provincial destinations during their trips. This intimates that at least part of the aim of developing niche tourism, that is, to increase geographic spread, is not being achieved. While such travel behaviour may also be related to the decrease in the length of the trips, which would then not permit much travel within the main destination as time is simply too short, it is also an indicator that the efforts to develop niche tourism or special interest tourism to entice tourists away from their usual main destinations, even for short periods, is not (yet) bearing fruit.

Further evidence of decreasing geographic spread is the split within South Africa of the destinations visited by foreign tourists.

In 2012, the situation was as follows:

**Figure 4: Provincial distribution of international tourist bednights 2012**

In 2013, there had been some changes, and the situation was thus:
As can be seen from the figures above, Gauteng features slightly less prominently in terms of provincial share of bednights of foreign tourists, as does the Western Cape and KZN, Mpumalanga and the Free State show increased proportions in terms of total foreign bednights. This is not really what the picture should look like if the aim of an increase in geographic spread was being met. Rather, there should be a far more equitable spread of total bednights between the provinces, although this seems highly unlikely for a number of reasons.

While data regarding geographic spread for the domestic market is not yet available, what is available is the information that there was a 7% increase in the total number of domestic tourism trips taken in 2014 as compared with 2013. Some 28 million trips were taken in 2014 compared with 25.2 in 2013. Length of stay for domestic tourists, however, decreased further in 2014 to 4.0 nights on average. Holiday trips in particular took a knock, declining to 10% of the reasons for taking a trip, and accounting for only 2.8 million trips.

The number of trips taken for the purposes of a holiday decreased between 2011 and 2014 from 15% of the total to only 10% of the total. Domestic tourists, it would appear, increasingly travel mainly for the purposes of visiting friends and relatives (VFR), which infers that they travel to the same destination, ie the destination in which those friends or relatives live, each time they travel. The number of trips increased slightly to 2.3 per year, the total number of people who travel has remained at 12 million. Overall, there are fewer people taking slightly more trips but staying for shorter periods. Some 65% of the sample responded that they had not taken a domestic trip in the past year. Of those, 48% had not travelled due to lack of funds – either they could not afford to travel, or they had no income to do so.

An overview of the domestic tourism situation for 2014 is provided in the table below:
The most important aspect of the table above is the proportion of people who travel for a holiday compared with the proportion who travel for VFR purposes. As the most likely participants of niche tourism initiatives are those tourists on holiday, niche tourism does not appear likely to be a factor responsible for or capable of increasing domestic tourism at present.
5. Latest Tourism Statistics

Included in South Africa Tourism’s mandate is the improvement in geographic spread. However, in the publication entitled *Highlights of Tourism’s Performance 2012*, it was stated that ‘average length of stay and number of provinces visited decreased for most purposes of travel’. Foreign tourists from both air and land markets visited, on average, only one province. Leisure tourists, for example, decreased the average number of provinces they visited from 1.4 in 2010, to 1.2 in 2012. Business tourism participants, similarly, decreased from 1.2 to 1.1 provinces between 2010 and 2013, and on average, all tourists arrivals decreased from visiting 1.3 provinces to 1.2 between 2010 and 2012. These results are depicted in the table below:

**Table 2: Length of Stay 2010-2012**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>All Markets</th>
<th>Leisure</th>
<th>Business Travel</th>
<th>Business Tourism</th>
<th>Other</th>
<th>All Tourist Arrivals</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total Volume (2010) (Millions)</td>
<td>4.7</td>
<td>2.1</td>
<td>0.4</td>
<td>0.9</td>
<td>8.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Volume (2011) (Millions)</td>
<td>4.8</td>
<td>2.1</td>
<td>0.4</td>
<td>1.0</td>
<td>8.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Volume (2012) (Millions)</td>
<td>5.5</td>
<td>2.0</td>
<td>0.5</td>
<td>1.2</td>
<td>9.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Volume Growth (11-12 % change)</td>
<td>12.6%</td>
<td>-4.8%</td>
<td>25.0%</td>
<td>20.0%</td>
<td>10.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average Length of Stay (2010) (Nights)</td>
<td>8.4</td>
<td>5.7</td>
<td>4.9</td>
<td>16.4</td>
<td>8.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average Length of Stay (2011) (Nights)</td>
<td>8.2</td>
<td>5.7</td>
<td>5.4</td>
<td>15.5</td>
<td>8.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average Length of Stay (2012) (Nights)</td>
<td>7.8</td>
<td>5.1</td>
<td>5.8</td>
<td>12.2</td>
<td>7.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average Number of Provinces Visited (2010)</td>
<td>1.4</td>
<td>1.1</td>
<td>1.2</td>
<td>1.1</td>
<td>1.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average Number of Provinces Visited (2011)</td>
<td>1.3</td>
<td>1.1</td>
<td>1.2</td>
<td>1.1</td>
<td>1.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average Number of Provinces Visited (2012)</td>
<td>1.2</td>
<td>1.1</td>
<td>1.1</td>
<td>1.1</td>
<td>1.2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Tourists from both air and land arrival markets visited one province, on average, during their stay, with air arrivals visiting 1.4 provinces, on average, and land arrivals visiting 1.1. As noted earlier, this had further decreased from 2012 (1.15) to 2013, where it was an average of 1.14

Related to the decrease in the number of provinces visited by tourists to South Africa is the decrease in the overall length of stay. This is depicted in the figure below:
The average length of stay has decreased overall from 8.5 nights in 2010 to 7.7 nights in 2012. The largest decreases were found in the Asia and Australasia markets which decreased by 13.8% to 12.8 nights, Africa air arrivals which decreased by 13.3% to 11.6 nights, and European markets which decreased by 9.8% to 14.1 nights in the country. Shorter lengths of stay, particularly for long haul markets, frequently results in a decrease in terms of geographic spread and the number of destinations visited during the stay. In 2012, the most common lengths of stay decreased to five nights for air arrival tourists, and to one night for land arrival tourists. The decrease of geographic spread is thus likely to be linked to this finding.

The data for 2013 indicates a change in the trend, however. The average length of stay for land markets, overall, went from 5.4 nights in 2012 up to 6.7 nights in 2013. There was no change in the length of stay of air arrivals markets who had stayed an average of 13.4 nights in 2012. The average length of stay was the same in 2013. Overall, however, the length of stay increased from 7.7 nights in 2012 to 8.7 nights in 2013, obviously due to increases in land arrival stay lengths.
6. **Avitourism**

“For me, the thrill of bird-watching is catching the glimpse of alien consciousness – the uninflected, murderous eye, the aura of reptilian toughness under the beautiful soft feathers, the knowledge that if I were the size of a sparrow, and a sparrow were as big as I am, it might rip my head off without a second’s hesitation.”


People all over the world have long been fascinated by birds – their variety, their beauty, their music, their very elusiveness. Books have been written about them, enough to fill a small library on their own.

Birdwatching or birding is the observation and study of birds with the naked eye or through a visual enhancement device like binoculars. Birding often involves a significant auditory component, as many bird species are more readily detected and identified by ear than by eye. Most birdwatchers pursue this activity mainly for recreational or social reasons, unlike ornithologists, who engage in the study of birds using more formal scientific methods (Wikipedia, 2008). The term birdwatching was first used in 1901 while "bird" was introduced as a verb in 1918. The terms 'birding' and 'birdwatching' are today used interchangeably, although 'birding' is preferred by many since this includes the auditory component involved in spotting birds.

People, not content with discovering solely those feathered beauties in or even within reach of their own back yards, have increasingly and for decades, travelled to find more of them to add to their 'tick' lists. Increasingly, too, they have travelled to the more exotic places to increase the variety of their finds, to catch sight of the ever more rare species. Thus – 'twitching'.

This more original term for birdwatching, sometimes misapplied as a synonym for birder, is reserved for those who travel long distances to see a rare bird that would then be "ticked" off on a "list". The usage of the term twitcher began in the 1950s originating from a phrase used to describe the nervous behaviour of Howard Medhurst, a British birdwatcher. Prior to that the term used for those who chased rarities was "pot-hunter", "tally-hunter", or "tick-hunter". The practice of travelling long distances to spot rarities was aided by the rising popularity of cars, and latterly, the increase in the ease of use and affordability of air travel. Furthermore, the increase in knowledgeable, skilled birding guides has made sightings somewhat easier, as well as more fascinating, as the guides not only facilitate the glimpses of birds in the areas in which they work, but also enrich the experience by sharing their knowledge of such creatures in terms of their behavior with their clients.

The goal of twitching is often to accumulate species on one's lists. Some birders engage in competition with one another to accumulate the longest species list. The act of the pursuit itself is referred to as a "twitch" or a "chase". A rare bird that stays put long enough for people to see it is called "twitchable" or "chaseable".

Twitching is highly developed in the United Kingdom, the Netherlands, Denmark, Ireland, Finland and Sweden. The smaller regional size of these countries makes it possible to travel quickly inside their borders with relative ease. The most popular twitches in the UK have drawn large crowds, such as a group of approximately 5 000 people who came to view a Golden-winged Warbler in Kent.
In the light of this, special bird sight areas and even bird-sighting routes have been set up in many of the world’s wilder places, to assist bird searchers – twitchers – and to earn income. South Africa and indeed the province of KZN, are no exception.
6.1. Twitchers the World Over - Benchmarking

At a global level, movements of twitchers have increased both in terms of numbers of people and in terms of the variety of their destinations. In order to increase the level of completion of their birding lists, for example, people from the northern hemisphere travel to the south, those in the west head east. The main objective appears to be the identification of new or different habitats and thus a completely different range of feathered beauties to be spotted.

Travel occurs also within countries, for example, from the swamplands of the Florida Everglades in the south eastern USA, to the western deserts, seeking new additions to their lists.

In the USA, this movement includes birding clubs, overseas birding tours and individual birding trips, either to designated, developed and known birding routes, or simply to places where habitats are the least disturbed, or undisturbed, and the variety of birdlife the widest possible. It is in such areas that the largest numbers and widest varieties of birds are most likely to be spotted.

In the 1900s most of the birding activity in the US was originally on the east coast. The publication of Roger Tory Peterson's field guide in 1934 led to the initial increase in birding. Binoculars became more easily available after World War II. The 2000 publication of "The Sibley Guide to Birds" sold 500 000 copies by 2002. It was found that the number of birdwatchers rose but there appeared to be a drop in bird watching in the backyard (Kerlinger, P, 1993).

Birding has been noted as being among the most popular of non-consumptive wildlife activities (Eubanks et al, 1993). About 4% of Americans were interested in birding in the 1970s, and in the mid-1980s at least 11% were found to watch birds at least 20 days of the year. An estimate of 61 million birders was made in the late 1980s. The income level of birders, curiously enough, has been found to be well above average – a finding sufficient to recommend that birding could increase the tourism numbers, and thus spend, in an area.

In 2001, there were some 46 million birders in the USA of 16 years of age or older (Woods, 2003). About 40 million of them practiced this activity near to or around their home. Only 18 million American birders took trips away from home. Most birders, too, were middle aged or older, and were fairly high-level earners, and with several years of tertiary education.

American birders were estimated to have spent as much as US$32 billion in 2001 (Robertson, 2003). This increased enormously. The economic impact of merely 5 major bird watching sites in 2007 was US$40 million (Higginbottom, 2007).

La Roche (2003) notes that birding in the USA has created some 863 406 jobs, and the 46 million birders there have contributed US$32 billion in retail sales, and US$85 billion in terms of total economic value (La Roche, 2003, 15). Birders paid upwards of US$3 500 per person for birding adventures, primarily cruises, in the state of Alaska.

In the USA, and presumably elsewhere, there are not only birding routes which attract substantial numbers of visitors, but there are also hundreds of birding festivals held around the country each year (La Roche, 2003). For example, there is the Alaska Bald Eagle Festival in November each year, attracting upwards of 250 raptor fans (Woods, 2003). Interestingly this comes at a time when something like almost one in four bird species in the US show significant negative trend estimates attributed primarily to the degradation and destruction of habitat resulting from human population
growth, and short-sighted and highly destructive environmental practices such as the draining of wetlands needed by migratory birds.

**Figure 7: Links with Other Types of Tourism**

Source: Higginbottom, 2007

In Australia the economic value of wildlife to international tourism in 2007 was A$1.8-3.5 billion. The Australia Sustainable Tourism CRC also noted that wildlife tourism, especially bird watching tourism, is growing.

The spending in terms of birding is on the rise around the world. Kuşcenneti National Park (KNP) at Lake Manyas, a Ramsar site in Turkey, was estimated to attract birders who spent as much as US$103,320,074 annually. By today’s exchange rate, that equates to some R1 280 135 717 – simply put, R1.2 billion!

In Australia, birding tours are part of wildlife tourism which itself is linked to ecotourism and the wider nature-based tourism (see Figure 7, above).

Guided bird tours have become a major business with at least 127 companies offering tours worldwide. An average trip to a less-developed country costs US$4 000 (±R49 560) per person, and includes about 12 participants for each of 150 trips a year. It has been suggested that this economic potential needs to be tapped for conservation (Kerlinger, P, 1993).

Morris notes that bird-watching is the fastest growing outdoor recreational pursuit in the Western world. He continues, that avitourism has been identified as possessing the highest potential successfully to contribute significant benefits to local communities (Morris, 1996).
6.2 Bird-Watching Tour Operations

Besides the supply side of avitourism in terms of places where a rich variety and number of birds may be spotted, the other side of the coin is also important. This relates to those specialist tour operators who concentrate on and aim their businesses at bird watching tours. There are any number of such tour operators, and initiatives exist which have even compiled directories of these. Some are generalists, organizing tours world-wide, while others specialize on a particular continent, region or even country.

6.2.1 International Tour Operators offering worldwide destinations

Escorted Bird Tour Operators based in the United Kingdom, USA, Canada and South Africa each offer a range of destinations across the world. Those interested should enquire of the operator for the current offerings. The birdwatching tour operator directory offered by Surfbirds.com provides birders with links to birdwatching tour operators offering a range of options, from extended international tours, to weekend excursions. The directory (attached as appendix 6) is divided into regions, with extended lists of specialist tour operators who offer tours in each area.

1. International operators with worldwide destinations
2. Southern Africa & African operators
3. Asian operators
4. Australian/NZ operators
5. European (excl UK) operators
6. Latin America/Caribbean operators
7. UK operators with limited destinations
8. US/Canadian operators with limited destinations

Any birding guides seeking new or extra business would be well advised to get into contact with a selection of these tour operators.

6.2.2 Associated Birding Events

Besides the actual birdwatching activities, there is a plethora of other income-generating, birdwatching-associated events and activities which attract birding enthusiasts from throughout the whole world. These include birdwatching fairs, birding exhibitions, and certainly birding conferences. Internationally, these include events such as the annual British Birdwatching Fair which takes place in August, the birdwatching and bird exhibition held on Grimsey Island, the Pannonial Bird Experience, a bird fair in Europe, and the Walker Bay Bird Fair.

Locally, these include events such as the Sasol Bird Fair, the biggest of its kind in Southern Africa. There are also, obviously, birding clubs and associations, many of which arrange birding tours for their members.
6.3 South African Twitchers

Twitching is certainly not new to South Africa and several birding routes have been set up in several ‘bird-rich’ areas. These have become both well-known and popular. South Africa has over 900 species of birds, more than enough to attract birdwatchers in their thousands (South African Tourism, 2008). Of these 900 species, 177 are either endemic or near endemic, meaning that more than 20% of South Africa’s birds are found nowhere else in the world (Newsworthy, 2008). Frighteningly, some 37 are endangered, critically endangered, or heading for extinction. The yellow breast pipit, Cape Vulture, and the South African national bird, the blue crane, are all under serious threat (see appendix 1: Endangered bird species of South Africa).

There are many and varied locations significant for the number and variety of birds. These include:
- Kruger National Park
- Addo Elephant Park
- iSimangaliso Wetland Park
- West Coast National Park
- Rietvlei Nature Reserve
- Nylosvley Nature Reserve
- Barberspan Bird Sanctuary
- Bird Island Nature Reserve
- Balule Game Reserve
- Kgagaladi Transfrontier Park
- Rondevlei Nature Reserve

Various areas promote their most significant birds. For example, the Kruger Park’s Big Six Birds are the Kori Bustard, Lappet-faced Vulture, Martial Eagle, Pel’s Fishing Owl, Saddle-billed Stork, and the Southern Ground Hornbill.

Part of the income into any area in South Africa goes to the guides, a group of 17 of whom have recently graduated from the THETA-accredited course given by BirdLife South Africa. “Bird guiding is one of the ways local communities in bird-rich areas can earn a sustainable income and help conserve the area’s natural heritage,” said Sasol corporate social investment head, Pamilla Mudhray recently (BuaNews, 2008).

These trained guides have been very successful when working together ‘within an established birding route, where long term support, mentoring and marketing are available’ (BirdLifeSA, 2008).

The impacts of these initiatives have been significant. Two of the most well-known birding routes in the country, the Zululand Birding Route and the Greater Limpopo Birding Route are together estimated to be worth over R70 million per year in direct economic value to their regions. The birding guides there earn somewhere between R36 000 and R72 000 per year. With most guides earning an average income of less than R6 000 per year and unemployment rates over 40%, and the need to support a family of six people or more, the avitourism initiatives in these regions are making a significant positive impact in some of the poorest areas of the country (BirdingRoutes, 2008).

This impact is further substantiated in an article in Afrol News. The article notes that six new birding routes are being developed in the Western Cape and Cape Town areas, affording tourists guided access to over 600 bird species, 28 of which are endemic to the Western Cape. A two-week trip...
could be expected to yield sightings in excess of 350 species. It notes, too, that popular birding routes generate an estimated US$6.4 million per year, or approximately R63.8 million.

Also noted is that more than 140 guides have been trained to date.

Birding routes have worked very well in Limpopo and KwaZulu-Natal, but the Western Cape’s birdlife had enjoyed a lower profile until the development of these routes began.

The prolific nature of the birdlife in South Africa, the significant number of trained birding guides, the ever-increasing birding routes, as well as the wide range of accommodation establishments throughout even the most faraway places, means that birdwatchers find it easy to plan and enjoy their sighting experiences. On top of that, South Africa has a well-developed road and air travel system making it easy to reach even the most out of the way places to ‘tick off’ the rarer species.
6.4 Twitchers in KZN

KwaZulu-Natal boasts some of the most bird-rich areas in the country and in several of these areas, birding routes have been set up. The areas vary from the ones in Zululand – the Zululand Birding Route – to those in the Battlefields inland, and on the South Coast – the Southern KwaZulu-Natal Birding Route. This route has a bird list in excess of 500 species.

The Zululand Route has over 605 bird species including the really special finds of Pink-Throated Twinspot, Green Barbet, Neergard’s Sun bird and Pel’s Fishing Owl. The Elephant Coast Route is also well worth time spent there. This route holds some of the richest bird viewing in the world between the Usombo Mountains and Umfolozi river. Any of the reserves, such as the iSimangaliso Wetland Park, Tembe Elephant Park or Kosi Bay Nature Reserve, will yield numerous sightings.

The Kosi Bay lake system offers crystal clear waters, mangrove swamps and marshlands inside the reserve with 250 bird species including the fish eagle and whitebacked heron. The north west route is well known for its large wetland area where 58 of South Africa’s endemic and near endemic birds can be found. The hot, wet season between the months of September and March yield the best birding experiences.

The Itala Game Reserve is home to both highland and lowland birds in a habitat varying from high cliffs to rolling hills and forests. Enthusiasts are likely to be able to spot a Secretary bird, Red-breasted Swallow, Croaking Cisticola and Yellow-throated Longclaw.

Along the southern Zululand route, bird watchers will see a somewhat different variety of birds due to the warm coast between Mtunzini and Richard’s Bay as well as the swamp forest at the bottom of Eshowe. Lanner Falcons, Rock Kestrels and Bald Ibis breed in this region up on the cliff faces. The use of a guide is recommended as many of the paths are not easy to find. The Nkandla rainforest with its lush vegetation of ferns, cycads has over 147 bird species.

The mountains and foothills of the Southern Drakensberg, closest to the towns of Barkly East and Rhodes, abound with birdlife – close to 230 species, 30 of which are regarded as highly endangered. Bearded vultures, grey crowned cranes, flycatchers, warblers and eight different species of chat. European bee-eaters, not very common to the area, have recently been sighted nonetheless. Lotheni Nature Reserve and Sani Pass are also recognized birding venues. Both within the southern Maloti-Drakensberg Transfrontier Park, which alone is home to 350 recorded species of birds.

There are also presently seven (7) bird sanctuaries in KZN, listed in appendix 2.
6.5 Threats to Avitourism

In certain areas, development initiatives pose direct, immediate and large scale threats to certain threatened bird species. The wind farm proposals in the Lesotho and Drakensberg highlands, for example, could conceivably and very quickly lead to the extinction of the bearded vulture within the space of a very few years as those birds, already critically endangered, are killed by the turbine blades (Kruger, 2014). Kruger estimated that there has been a 70% decline in the bearded vulture population in the past three generations.

Cape vultures, also, are being decimated by farmers who illegally poison carcasses so as to kill off jackals which they believe threaten their livestock. However, a perhaps unintended consequence is the poisoning of the vultures also, as they only eat carrion. Recently nearly 40 birds were found poisoned in Mkhuze. “This latest case is a real cause for concern because we believe that at least 2 000 vultures have been poisoned in southern Africa over the past 18 months,” said Andre Botha, co-chairman of the Vulture Specialist Group of the International Union for Nature Conservation (IOL, 2014). The number of white-backed vultures in the Mkhuze Game Reserve in KwaZulu-Natal has also been slashed by almost two thirds over the past few years because of similar poisonings. The heads of 29 of these endangered birds had also been cut off. The bodies were scattered on the ground, all within 120m of an elephant carcass thought to have been laced with a deadly poison, close to the tarred Corridor Road, which cuts through the park

Botha, who also heads the Endangered Wildlife Trust birds of prey project, said that in one of the worst cases on record, between 400 and 600 vultures were killed in a single poisoning event in the Caprivi Strip in Namibia earlier this year.
6.6 The Estimated Value of Avitourism to KZN

The Zululand Birding Route, also a project of Birdlife South Africa, has trained over 30 local guides, marketed the route both nationally and internationally, and was even a finalist for the Smithsonian Institute sustainable tourism awards in 2003. The area has over 600 recorded bird species.

Mr Duncan Pritchard, a renowned birding specialist and program director of the Zululand Birding Route, noted that in 2005, the 20 guides on the birding routes in northern KwaZulu-Natal earned about R450 000 during the previous two years (Mail and Guardian, 2005). In a rural community where people have little or no money, and there is an incentive to chop down forests to harvest muti to sell in Durban, this is a significant impact. The effects in terms of environmental conservation and awareness, as well as on biodiversity habitat, are marked. Furthermore, bird guiding has also offered an alternative to slash and burn agriculture, another environmentally destructive practice in some of these deep rural areas – just the areas and habitats in which wide varieties of rare birds flourish.

The Zululand Birding Route is a role model for other similar projects and BirdLife Sisonke, an area in southern KwaZulu-Natal, aims to develop similar routes.

Other areas attract a fair share of birders also. The Drakensberg is one of the favourite preserves of the Pied Piper Expeditions which seek out rare birds. Latterly they have been visiting the areas around the Sehlabathebe National Park in the southern end of the Drakensberg, in Lesotho, and also the Sani Pass area which affords easier access to the high escarpment in search of Lammergeyers or Bearded Vultures, Drakensberg Rockjumpers, and African Rock Pipits. Such tours cost in the region of R3 500-R4 000 for 3 days, and often numbers are quite limited.

The Maloti Drakensberg Transfrontier Project (MDTP), a joint initiative between South Africa and Lesotho covering a vast area including the mountain lands of western KwaZulu-Natal, the southern Free State, north western Eastern Cape and eastern Lesotho, also looked at the creation of a birding route in the region. The basis for this consideration was that, although Lesotho has neither much infrastructure for birders, nor a high variety of species – only 275 – it has a very high variety of Southern African endemic species and a high variety of sought after/rare species including eagles, vultures, rock jumpers and the like (BirdLifeSA, 2007).

The MDTP calculated that the total current value of avitourism in its region alone is some R1.3 million. The potential demand for avitourism, assuming a birding route and related infrastructure were in place and easily available, was calculated at some R5.6 million per year in terms of direct value. If the multiplier was used, the total potential value of avitourism in the MDTP only was in the region of R7.3 million a year.

The feasibility conducted indicated that the area could also sustainably support up to 10 guides (BirdLifeSA, 2007).

According to the most recent Omnibus survey, 4% of tourists who made a domestic tourism trip in South Africa in 2014 participated in bird watching. However, 19% of the domestic trips made to KZN in 2014 included bird watching. This was a substantial increase from the 8.2% of trips made to KZN in 2013 which included bird watching.
7. Conclusions and Recommendations

This study attempts to provide a very broad overview of a rather special niche market in tourism, that of avitourism, travel to find birds, or twitching, as well as the economic value of such a segment. It notes that this niche market, although highly specialized, is capable of generating a substantial amount of income into a ‘birding’ region. It is capable of providing sustainable jobs for qualified guides. It is a viable alternative to extremely destructive environmental practices, thereby both providing income, and protecting sensitive bird habitats which, in turn, encourage larger numbers of birders and thus more income into local economies.

More bird-rich areas need to be identified in the province, particularly in poorer, rural areas, in order that the potential for increased avitourism be realized. Both signage and marketing are desperately required in order to reap the full benefits which birding potentially offers to those areas in which it can be developed. Furthermore, sustainability plans need to be developed and implemented so as to ensure protected habitats for the birds and thus protect both them and the avitourism industry which is linked to such areas. However, the protectionist regulations and practices also need to be extended far beyond the borders of the protected areas as birds range widely and are thus affected by practices dangerous to birds such as poisoning of carcasses. Although such a practice is illegal, it still occurs quite widely, and has far reaching consequences. The existing laws and regulations thus need to be enforced in order to protect the wildlife capital which these birds represent to the province, as well as to the country as a whole.

Along with the development of bird-rich areas within the province, increased signage and marketing, as well as far better protection for the birds, there is also the possibility of the need for the development of associated tourism infrastructure. This includes accommodation establishments within reasonable proximity of the areas, restaurants, or at least eating houses, and similar amenities which would be required by visitors to the area.

Another business development option would be to start up new ‘birding festivals’ based on certain birds or bird behaviour at certain times of the year, such as noted earlier (page 6, the Alaskan Bald Eagle Festival). In KZN, why not an English Barn Swallow Festival to welcome the three million of them to their winter nesting site at Mt Moreland in November, or to bid them farewell in April as they leave KZN and head the thousands of kilometres back to England for the summer? Or a festival around the enormous and varied number of birds which accompany the annual Sardine Run?

With an increase in birding between 2013 and 2014 from 8.2% to 19%, baselines can be established and targets set for the future growth of this niche tourism sector.
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### SOUTH AFRICAN ENDANGERED BIRD SPECIES

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</table>
Appendix 2 – Bird Sanctuaries in KZN

Karkloof Crane & Conservation Centre
Where: Karkloof
How much (per person): Price on request
The Karkloof Crane and Conservation Centre is an exquisite natural resource in the heart of the scenic South African province of ... more information

African Bird of Prey Sanctuary
Where: Natal
How much (per person): R1 to R100
The African Bird of Prey Sanctuary is dedicated to the conservation of indigenous raptors and is base to ongoing research, breeding and ... more information

Amanzimtoti Bird Sanctuary
Where: Amanzimtoti
How much (per person): Free
The Amanzimtoti Bird Sanctuary is a popular attraction. It consists of a large expanse of open shimmering water surrounded by rolling ... more information

Birding In Oribi Gorge Nature Reserve
Where: Oribi
How much (per person): Price on request
Oribi Gorge Nature Reserve is one of the hottest birding spots in KwaZulu Natal and is a must visit for any bird or nature enthusiast. The ... more information

Falcon Ridge Bird of Prey Centre
Where: Champagne
How much (per person): Price on request
Highly recommended (including a TripAdvisor Badge of Excellence), The Falcon Ridge Bird of Prey Centre is found in Champagne Valley in the ... more information

Mooi River Birding
If you are a bird lover then you will thoroughly enjoy a visit to the Mooi River at Giants Castle Game Reserve. With over 140 species to be ... more information

Visit the Umgeni River Bird Park

Where: Durban

How much (per person): R1 to R100

10 minutes outside Durban, the Umgeni River Bird Park is one of the greatest attractions of the city. Walk-through aviaries, birds out on ... more information
Appendix 3: Existing Birding Routes in KZN

1. Zululand Birding Route: The Zululand birding route has been divided into three sub-routes:
   a) North-east Zululand b) North-west Zululand c) Southern Zululand

a) Tongaland, North East Zululand or the Elephant Coast:

Tongaland is the name of the north-eastern corner of Zululand, flanked by the Lebombo Mountains on the west, the Indian Ocean on the east and the Mozambique border in the north. Most of the region is drained by the Phongolo and Akhuze Rivers, and is characteristically flat. The Phongolo floodplain runs from Jozini to the confluence with the Usutu River, and is dominated by pans, lala palm savannah and bush clumps. Riverine forest lines some pans and streams. Coastal dune forest hugs the Indian Ocean, and numerous pans and lakes are scattered along the coast.

Tongaland is situated on the southern end of the sub-tropical coastal plain of the east coast of Africa, and therefore provides habitat for many species not found anywhere else in South Africa. Tropical stragglers, both marine and inland, are found every year, and include specials such as Crab Plover, Plain-backed Sunbird, Rosy-throated Longclaw and Livingstone's Turaco.

Ndumo and Tembe are world renowned birding destinations and are among the better places to view the shy Sand Forest specials such as Pink-throated Twinspot, African Broadbill, Neergard's Sunbird and Rudd's Apalis. Tembe is the only place in South Africa where Plain-backed Sunbird is seen regularly. Waterbirds such as Pygmy Goose and Lesser Jacana abound in the floodplain pans.

Kosi Bay, and the road to there, is an off-the-beaten-track spot with lots to offer. Mangroves, lala palm savannah, coastal dune forest and wetlands are the major habitats here, and birds such as Pel's Fishing Owl, Lemon-breasted Canary, Rosy-throated Longclaw and Black-throated Wattle-eye can be viewed.

Ndumo Game Reserve

Ndumo Game Reserve is situated on the banks of the Phongola and Usutu rivers and lies adjacent to Mozambique on the northern coastal plain. Despite its relatively small size (about 9000 ha), Ndumo Game Reserve is one of the most attractive reserves in southern Africa.

Tembe Elephant Park

Tembe Elephant Park, under the custodian ship of KZN Wildlife, is situated within Tongaland, in the extreme northern part of Zululand. Tembe borders on Mozambique in the north, and is named after one of the late local Tonga tribal leaders. The reserve is 30 000ha in size, and was proclaimed in 1983 to protect the elephants, sand forest and suni antelope.

Tshanini Community Nature Reserve

This section of road from Tembe Elephant Park to Kosi Bay has three good birding spots on it.

Kosi Bay Nature Reserve

Situated in the extreme north-eastern corner of the Kwazulu Natal Province of South Africa, Kosi Bay offers some of the most exciting birding opportunities in southern Africa to both local and foreign visitors. Kosi Bay comprises an estuarine lake system consisting of four inter-linked lakes holding varying levels of fresh and brackish water. The four lakes, Makhawulani, Mpugwini, Nhlange and aManzimnyama are fed by the Siyadla and Nswamanzi Rivers.
from the south and west respectively. At the northern end of the lake system, the estuary opens into the sea providing a relatively large area of open sandbanks, mudflats and some of the most diverse Mangrove swamps in South Africa.

b) North-west Zululand - North-West Zululand Birding Route into five different birding areas. Each birding area has its own unique character and set of special bird species. Within each area there is also a variety of accommodation options and birding sites to visit.

Vryheid:

**Phongola Bush Nature Reserve**

This breathtaking reserve is situated on the KwaZulu-Natal/Mpumalanga border, about 20km from Wakkerstroom as the crow flies. Ngcaka Cliff and the mountain range around it are covered in climax mixed Yellowwood forest with high altitude short grassland above and tall grassland below. KZN Wildlife maintains the reserve, and permission is required from the Officer in charge in Vryheid before visiting this extremely remote, rugged area. These mountains are the highest in all Zululand, and command fantastic views out over the northern rolling hills.

**Natal Spa**

Natal Spa is one of the provinces oldest hot mineral bath resorts, and is built on the northern bank of the Bivane River. Mixed bush and large boulders line the river, with grassland and bushclumps dominating the area.

**Skurweberg**

Skurweberg (Rough Mountain) is situated approximately 30km northwest of Vryheid towards Wakkerstroom. The mountain lies 1600m above sea level, and consists of rocky grassland and scattered bush clumps. A district road passes over the northern side of the mountain, and birding can be done from the roadside.

**Blood River Vlei**

Covering a total area of 5000ha, Blood River Vlei is one of the largest inland wetlands in KwaZulu-Natal. The wetland is situated on the western boundary of Zululand and part of the Thukela River catchment, which is the largest river in the province. The wetland is situated on private land, and the service of a guide is recommended. Pristine grasslands, as well as agricultural lands surround the wetland, and the three habitats combined, host around 140 species of birds.

**Klipfontein Bird Sanctuary**

The Klipfontein Bird Sanctuary was created in 1995 through the diversion of treated sewage water from the town sewage works into a neglected grassland. The result is a fairly small but productive wetland yielding some of the highest counts for rails and flufftails in the country. The sanctuary is situated on municipal land, and is managed by the Vryheid branch of the KZN Wildlife Honorary Officers.
Vryheid Hill Nature Reserve

Vryheid Hill is well known for hosting a combination of upland and lowland specials. A number of endemics occur, and to date 230 species have been recorded in this small reserve.

Esikhuma (Mpofini Game Lodge)

Esikhuma is the name of a mountain situated 10km south of Vryheid. The area comprises of thornveld, with forest patches along the cliffs and drainage lines. All of this birding spot is situated on private land, but birding can be done along district roads and in Mpofini Game Lodge, which is situated in the same thorn belt, just north of Esikhuma Mountain. Other habitats include small wetlands, grasslands and rocky slopes.

b) Louwsberg

Bivane Dam

Bivane Dam was completed in 2000 and was built on the beautiful Bivane River to supply water to the sugarcane farms downstream at Phongola. Impala Irrigation Board owns the dam. The dominant feature of the area is rolling hills with exposed quartzite ridges, wooded drainage lines and steep cliffs and gorges and of course the open water of the dam.

iGwala gwala Nature Reserve

This small, privately owned reserve lies just outside Ithala Game Reserve and contains a wealth of biodiversity. Mixed woodland, riverine forest, cliffs, grassland and wetlands are all packed together in a pocket-sized hotspot.

Ithala Game Reserve

Ithala is situated between Ngotshe Mountain in the south and the Phongola River in the north and is 29 000ha in size. With an altitudinal difference in the reserve of 1000m, both lowland and highland birds are present. The topography is dominated by rolling hills and high cliffs, with wooded drainage lines, riverine forest, grassland and thornveld habitats predominating. This diversity of habitats has attracted about 330 species of birds.

Ngome Forest

Ngome Forest is situated on the southern slopes of high altitude mist-belt grasslands and contains a unique combination of coastal and upland plant and bird species. The Ntendeka Cliff, after which this declared Wilderness Area is named, towers above lush forest and cascading waterfalls. This area of Zululand receives an incredibly high, localised rainfall, and much of the surrounding land has been transformed into one of the country's most productive tea estates.
Thangami Safari Spa
Situated in thick valley bushveld, Tangami Safari Spa lies within the private ThakaZulu Game Reserve in western Zululand. The Black Umfolozi and Thaka Rivers have created a lush valley with riverine bush, dense thornveld and forest patches. Open grassland occurs on the hills, with wetlands being found on the floodplains.

c) | Ulundi

Ondini Cultural Site
The Ondini Historic Reserve is located just outside Ulundi. It was the site of King Cetshwayo's royal homestead, and today is the headquarters of Amafa AkwaZulu Natali, the provincial heritage conservation body.

Ophathe Game Reserve
A spectacular rugged reserve comprising 8 825 ha proclaimed in 1991, is located in the heartland of Zulu history, at the north-eastern end of the Valley of the Kings (eMakhosini). Ophathe falls within the immediate catchment of the White Umfolozi River, with diverse topography as a result of altitudinal variations. The reserve varies in altitude from 987 m in the south-west to 270 m in the eastern section along the White Umfolozi River. The vegetation varies from bushveld dominated by acacia species, to mistbelt and highveld, including many spectacular krantzes with orchid and cycad colonies.

Emakhosini Heritage Park
The eMakhosini area is steeped in Zulu history. Directly translated from Zulu, it means “Place of Kings” and the area was home to a number of Zulu kings such as Dingaan. This birding spot covers the entire stretch of road from the main R34 tar road from Melmoth to Vryheid to the main tar road from Melmoth to Babanango. The surface is gravel, but is kept in a good condition. The bottom of the valley is covered in bushveld, and this merges to grassland and grassy slopes as one climbs up to Babanango.

Zulu Rock Safaris
Zulu Rock Safaris is situated in the White Umfolozi Valley close to the impressive Nhazatshe Mountain and contains a unique blend of bushveld, thornveld, grassveld and forest. The reserve straddles a mountain, the thornveld and grassveld occurring on the northern slopes and the forest patches on the boulder-strown southern slopes. Bush clumps occur in between these two habitats. The reserve is privately owned, and birders are welcome.

Mangeni Falls
Mangeni Falls are situated on a tributary of the White Umfolozi River, west of Babanango. The waterfall has eroded back through soft sandstone and formed an impressive gorge which is wooded in places. The waterfall is surrounded by open grassland and rural settlements.
d) Phongola

**Hlatikulu Forest**
Hlatikulu Forest is situated on top of the Lebombo Mountains, north-west of the town of Jozini. The forest is quite extensive, and is protected by Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife. The forest combines species of high and low altitude forests, and is one of the few places in North-west Zululand where this occurs. The forest is not particularly tall, and possesses a very thick understory.

**Lebombo Cliffs**
The Lebombo Mountain range stretches from about Phinda in the south to the Kruger National Park in the north and divides the coastal plain from the higher inland areas of the region. The mountains rise about 800m above the surrounding area, and are a well known landmark. Dry bushveld and grassland covers most of the mountains, but forest patches occur in ravines where they are protected from fire and receive more moisture. The easiest place to view birds on these cliffs is on the main tar road leading up into Tongaland.

**Phongola Game and Nature Reserves**
Although two different places, these two localities are treated in one write-up as the birdlife is similar and the two areas lie adjacent to each other. Open grassland areas provide habitat for Lilac-breasted Roller, Yellow-throated Longclaw and less commonly, Lemon-breasted canary. African Jacana, large flocks of White-faced Duck, Goliath Heron and Water Thick-knee are resident, and a breeding colony of Yellow-billed Stork have made the Nature Reserve one of the few places in South Africa where they do so. Flooded grassland can produce exciting species; Black Coucal, Lesser Moorhen, Rufous-bellied Heron and Greater Painted-snipe.

**Mkuze Falls Game Reserve**
Mkuze Falls lies in the heart of the extensive bushveld biome of northern Zululand. Part of a huge private reserve, Mkuze Falls takes its name from the waterfall in front of the main camp. The rivers are lined with forest, as are the many kloofs [mountain valleys]. The more undulating areas are covered with mature bushveld. There are also a few wetlands, most notably the one just before the main camp.

e) Umfolozi

**Umfolozi Game Reserve**
This, the larger of the two parks in the Hluhluwe-Umfolozi Complex, is a well known and well visited birding destination situated in north-western Zululand. Although probably better known as a "Big Five" park, the birdlife here is rich and varied.

2. Southern KZN Birding Route: Sites

The Midlands Birding Route is the most Northern component of the Southern KZN Birding Route. Starting in the Ubkatamba, Drakensberg World Heritage Site at the location of the world famous Giants Castle Vulture Hide, the route finds its way down from the sandstone cliffs, basalt precipices and buttresses, through the foothills of the Drakensberg and into the picturesque rolling hillsides of the KwaZulu-Natal Midlands. Another fascinating attraction on the Midlands Birding Route is the Karkloof Crane Information Centre. The beauty of the centre’s location is truly something to behold and birders have the opportunity to see all three Crane species in one outing. Other key Midlands birding attractions include some of the most reliable sites for Cape Parrots and Blue Swallows.
Cathedral Peak Hotel

This exclusive mountain resort, set amidst the spectacular Drakensberg mountains is a bird watchers paradise. The resort offers superb cuisine and a variety of luxurious birder-friendly accommodation to suit all budgets.

Giants Castle Nature Reserve

This spectacular reserve forms part of the uKhahlamba-Drakensberg World Heritage Site. The reserve offers birders very rewarding birding via several mountainous trails in a pristine natural setting. The reserve is also home to the world-famous vulture viewing hide.

Hlatikulu Vlei

Hlatikulu Vlei is home to all three species of crane found in Southern Africa. The reserve is also home to approximately 80 other bird species. Some of the specials found at Hlatikulu Vlei are Blue Crane, Grey Crowned Crane, Wattled Crane, Denham's Bustard, Cape Vulture, Bearded Vulture, Little Bittern, African Marsh-Harrier, Black Harrier, Freckled Nightjar, African Rail & Cape Eagle-Owl.

Bramleigh Manor

A huge show garden offers excellent birding as well as the outskirts of the indigenous forest. There are walks through the forest with labeled trees. Walks onto the grasslands will take you either through the forest or past the dam.

Beacon Vlei

Beacon Vlei’s beautiful 23 hectare dam and the surrounding wetland area are home to many beautiful bird species. The dam, wetland and reedbed area are home to species such as the Grey Crowned Crane, Purple Heron, Western Marsh-Harrier, Sedge Warbler, African Jacana, African Marsh-Harrier and Half-collared Kingfisher. Occasionally a Goliath Heron is sighted. Situated behind the farm buildings is an 11 hectare mist-belt grassland area is full of beautiful wildflower varieties.

Caversham Hall

Caversham Hall is one of the most beautiful places in the KwaZulu-Natal Midlands. Conveniency located on the Midlands Meander, KwaZulu-Natal’s most famous Arts and Crafts route, it lies only 4 hours from Johannesburg and 1.5 hours from Durban.
Terlings Farm

Terlings Farm is set on 150 hectares and offers birders a magnificent view into the canopy of some pristine indigenous mist belt forest. The farm is home to over 150 species of birds including the Cape Parrot, Knysna Turaco, Narina Trogon, Grey Cuckoo Shrike, Olive Bush – Shrike, African Grass Owl and Olive Woodpecker.

Gartmore Farm / Karkloof Conservation Centre

The Karkloof Conservation Centre is located at the entrance to Gartmore Farm in the Karkloof Valley. The Karkloof Conservation Centre is in the heart of the Karkloof Valley with the Karkloof Range of Hills and the largely unspoilt natural bush that adorns it, as the backdrop.

Karkloof Nature Reserve / Rockwood Forest

The greater Karkloof area has been identified as having significant value due to its biodiversity and has been earmarked for conservation by Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife.

Benvie Farm

Benvie Garden was established approximately 125 years ago and is well known throughout South Africa in both gardening and to a lesser extent birding circles. The garden consists mainly of large conifers, azaleas and rhododendrons and is in extent ± 30 hectares and borders on indigenous forest.

Dargle Cottages

One of KwaZulu-Natal’s oldest working farms, the three gardens flow into one large area full of very old, interesting trees and abundant bird life. This area attracts many forest birds and at certain times of the year these include Cape Parrot, Narina Trogon, Knysna Turaco and Dark-backed Weaver. Other special birds on this site include Buff-spotted Flufftail, Southern Black Flycatcher, Cape Batis, Rufous-chested Sparrowhawk, Cape Eagle-Owl and Ground Woodpecker.

Lemonwood

Lemonwood is in the heart of the peaceful Dargle valley and conservancy area in the KwaZulu-Natal Midlands. It is conveniently situated for the crafts of the Midlands Meander and day trips to the Drakensberg. Those in need of a less active stay, can just relax by the pool, take in the spectacular views and breathe in the beauty of the Dargle. Listen to the eerie sound of the rare Tree

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Hyrax (Dassie) at night, take a picnic to some of the oldest Yellowwoods in KwaZulu-Natal, walk around the dam and watch the dancing Grey Crowned-Cranes.

**Thurlow Park at Midmar Game Reserve**

A 1000 ha game park is open to visitors. Red hartebeest, Black Wildebeest, Blesbok, Common Reedbuck, Oribi and Plains Zebra can be viewed from vehicles, cycles or on foot. Scarce mammals occasionally recorded are Aardvark, Porcupine, White-tailed Mongoose, Black-backed Jackal, Slender Mongoose and Serval.

**Umgeni Valley Nature Reserve**

This 650 ha reserve borders the Umgeni River in Howick, and is run by WESSA. WESSA members are given free access, whilst non-members are required to pay an entrance fee. Please note that no dogs are allowed. The Reserve consists of grassland, cliffs, indigenous 'coastal like' forest, Acacia woodland, and river frontage.

**Albert Falls Nature Reserve**

This reserve is particularly good for several endemics including Acacia Pied Barbet, Fiscal Flycatcher and Cape Grassbird. Other interesting species seen include Coqui Francolin, Black-winged Lapwing, Brown-backed Honeybird, Red-throated Wryneck and African Pygmy-Kingfisher (Oct-Mar). There are several extremely unusual records from this reserve including Namaqua Sandgrouse, Sooty Falcon, Black Harrier and Pennant-winged Nightjar.

**Boston View Farm**

Boston View Farm is an absolute birding hotspot, offering a variety of habitats and an abundance of special birdlife. Situated in the KwaZulu-Natal Midlands, 1500m above sea level, on the edge of a beautiful dam. 45km from Pietermaritzburg and an hour and a half from Durban. The crystal clear water is well stocked with Rainbow Trout. There are lovely walks in the mist-belt forest bordering one side of the dam, which is home to a large variety of bird and indigenous plant life.

**Bisley Valley Nature Reserve**

Bisley Valley Nature Reserve is a 350ha Thornveld and Grassland habitat situated just 7km from the centre of Pietermaritzburg. The Reserve has marked trails and 2 hides, both overlooking wetland/water. It is home to a variety of large mammals including Giraffe and Red Hartebeest.
Darvill Resources Park

Darvill Resources Park is 100 ha of mixed wetlands, scrub and grassland habitat centred around disused maturation ponds. Specials to look out for are Baillon's Crake, African Rail, Dark-capped Yellow Warbler, Golden Weaver, Squacco Heron, Little Bittern, Lesser Moorhen, Brown-backed Honeybird, Red-throated Wryneck, Red Phalarope (during 2005) and Spotted Crake (during 2005).

African Bird of Prey Sanctuary

The sanctuary is found in a breathtaking bushveld setting and is home to the widest selection of captive indigenous birds of prey in Southern Africa. All the raptors to be viewed at the sanctuary are either captive bred or non-releaseable rehabilitation birds whose injuries are permanent and therefore need a permanent home.

Tillietudlem

Set on 1600 hectares in a secluded valley on the southern side of the Inhluzane Mountain, in the Upper Dargle in the KZN Midlands, Tillietudlem offers an extraordinary eco-experience with a variety of activities available. Fly fishing, birding, horse rides and game walks, there are many ways to explore the diversity of this ecological treasure, available exclusively to guests.

Matatiele Commonage

Matatiele lies roughly 70 km's west of Kokstad, nestled in the foothills of the Drakensberg Mountains relatively close to the Lesotho border. Covering an area of 5 000 ha, Matatiele commonage lies south of the town and incorporates high altitude grassland, rocky gorges, a large dam and associated wetlands, as well as the iconic Matatiele Mountain – the drive from town to the top of the mountain takes you from 1 200m to 2 000 m along a 12 km stretch. Together with Sani Pass and Wakkerstroom, Matatiele commonage offers some of South Africa's best high altitude birding, and on a good day in summer you can expect to see 50 - 60 species!
Appendix 4: Birding Hotspots in KZN

Birding Hotspots – KZN Wildlife:

Written by JayWay
Hits: 2522

KwaZulu-Natal has more than 80 provincial reserves, between them encompassing every habitat. Some have bird lists exceeding 400, quite a few have over 250 species. Below are listed the reserves considered the very best, together with the birds that made them famous. For the full list of the important birding spots in KwaZulu-Natal consult “The Important Bird Areas of southern Africa” by K.N. Barnes, published by BirdLife South Africa.

St Lucia:
Bird list over 350. The main habitat is a huge shallow lake opening to the sea through a very narrow estuary. It has mudflats, reedbeds, saltmarsh and mangroves. A mosaic of grasslands and forests surrounds the lake.
- Great White and Pinkbacked Pelicans
- Goliath Heron
- Woolly-necked, Saddle-billed and Yellow-billed Storks
- Glossy Ibis
- African Spoonbill
- Greater and Lesser Flamingos
- African Fish-Eagle
- African Marsh-Harrier
- Collared Pratincole
- Grey-headed Gull
- Caspian Tern
- Black Coucal
- Swamp Nightjar
- White-eared Barbet
- Eastern Nicator
- Red-capped Robin-Chat
- Black-throated Wattle-eye
- Pink-throated Longclaw

Sodwana and Kosi Bay
Species list over 350. By far the best places to see birds of coastal grasslands and marshes, and dune forest.
- Black Heron
- Rufous-bellied Heron
- Woolly-necked and Saddle-billed Storks
- African Pygmy-goose
- Black-chested Snake-Eagle
- Palm-nut Vulture
- African Marsh-Harrier
- Hottentot Buttonquail
- Denham’s Bustard
- Lesser Jacana
- Long-toed Lapwing
- Livingstone’s Turaco
- Black Coucal
African Barred Owlet and Pel's Fishing Owl
Swamp Nightjar
Half-collared Kingfisher
White-eared Barbet
African Broadbill
Grey-rumped Swallow
Eastern Nicator
Brown Scrub-Robin
Rudd’s Apalis
Woodwards’ Batis
Black-throated Wattle-eyed
Short-tailed Pipit
Pink-throated Longclaw
Lemon-breasted Canary

Mkhuzé and Ndumo
Both reserves boast about 420 species. They specialise in tropical species, many at the extremity of their range, and water-birds.
Great White and Pinkbacked Pelicans
Yellow-billed and Open-billed Storks
African Spoonbill
Greater and Lesser Flamingos
African Pygmy-goose
Comb Duck
Southern Banded Snake-Eagle
Avocet
Brown-headed Parrot
Green Malkoha
Pel’s Fishing Owl
Broad-billed Roller
White-eared Barbet
African Broadbill
Eastern Nicator
White-browed Robin-Chat
Rudd’s Apalis
Black-throated Wattle-eye
Neergaard’s Sunbird
Pink-throated Twinspot

Hluhluwe-iMfolozi Park:
Species list 400. The main habitats are woodlands and scarp forest, with a great abundance of mammals. So this is the best place to see most large raptors.
Secretarybird
White-backed, Lappet-faced and White-headed Vultures
Tawny, Martial and African Crowned Eagles
Brown Snake-Eagle
Bateleur
Southern Ground-Hornbill
Red-billed Oxpecker

**Ukahlamba Drakensberg Park:**
Bird list over 300. Main habitat is montane grassland, with rock faces and low shrublands at highest altitudes. Lower down are evergreen montane forests, protea woodlands and fast-flowing streams.
Black Stork
Southern Bald Ibis
Bearded and Cape Vultures
Verreaux’s Eagle
Jackal Buzzard
Black Harrier
Grey-wing Francolin
Ground Woodpecker
Thick-billed Lark
Bush Blackcap
Cape and Sentinel Rock-Thrushes
Buff-streaked and Sickle-winged Chats
Drakensberg Rockjumper
Cape Grassbird
Fairy Flycatcher
Yellow-breasted Pipit
Greater Doublecollared Sunbird
Forest Canary
Drakensberg Siskin

**Umlalazi:**
Bird list over 300. The habitat is a mosaic of reedbeds, saltflats, mangrove swamps, estuary and dune forest.
Woolly-necked Stork
Palm-nut Vulture
African Finfoot
Mangrove Kingfisher
White-eared Barbet
Spotted Ground-Thrush
Black-throated Wattle-eye

**Ithala:**
Bird list over 320. Habitat ranges from grassy upland plateau, through steep rocky woodlands, to tropical vegetation in the lowlands alongside the Pongola River.
Ostrich
White-backed Night-Heron
Black Stork
Southern Bald Ibis
African Hawk-Eagle
African Finfoot
Half-collared Kingfisher

**Oribi Gorge:**
Bird list 250. Habitats include wooded grassland, rocky cliffs, and evergreen scarp forest fringing fast-flowing streams.
Cape Vulture
African Crowned Eagle
African Finfoot
Southern Ground-Hornbill
Knysna Woodpecker
African Broadbill
Southern Double-collared Sunbird

**Impendle:**

Bird list 150. The main habitats are mistbelt forest and mid-altitude grasslands, with some protea woodland.
Blue and Crowned Cranes
Denham’s Bustard
Long-billed Lark
Blue Swallow
Gurney’s Sugarbird

**Umgeni Vlei:**

Bird list 100. The reserve consists of a large marsh surrounded by montane grassland and rock outcrops.
Bearded and Cape Vultures
African Marsh-Harrier
Blue, Crowned and Wattled Cranes
Ground Woodpecker
Cape and Sentinel Rock-Thrushes
Buff-streaked Chat
Drakensberg Rockjumper
Yellow-breasted Pipit
## Appendix 5: Endemic Birds of KZN

Endemic Bird List for KZN:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Southern Bald Ibis</th>
<th>Botha’s Lark</th>
<th>Karoo Prinia</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cape Vulture</td>
<td>Thick-billed Lark</td>
<td>Fiscal Flycatcher</td>
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<tr>
<td>Forest Buzzard</td>
<td>Grey Tit</td>
<td>Fairy Flycatcher</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jackal Buzzard</td>
<td>Bush Blackcap</td>
<td>African Rock Pipit</td>
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<td>Black Harrier</td>
<td>Cape Rock-Thrush</td>
<td>Mountain Pipit</td>
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<tr>
<td>Grey-wing Francolin</td>
<td>Sentinel Rock-Thrush</td>
<td>Yellow-breasted Pipit</td>
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<tr>
<td>Blue Crane</td>
<td>Buff-streaked Chat</td>
<td>Southern Tchagra</td>
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<tr>
<td>Blue Korhaan</td>
<td>Sickle-winged Chat</td>
<td>Pied Starling</td>
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<tr>
<td>Knysna Turaco</td>
<td>Chorister Robin-Chat</td>
<td>Southern Double-collared Sunbird</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ground Woodpecker</td>
<td>Drakensberg Rockjumper</td>
<td>Greater Double-collared Sunbird</td>
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<tr>
<td>Knysna Woodpecker</td>
<td>Brown Scrub-Robin</td>
<td>Cape White-eye</td>
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<tr>
<td>Melodious Lark</td>
<td>Knysna Warbler</td>
<td>Cape Weaver</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rudd’s Lark</td>
<td>Cape Grassbird</td>
<td>Swee Waxbill</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>Forest Canary</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>Drakensberg Siskin</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Appendix 6 – Global Bird Watching Tour Operator Directory

1. International Tour Operators offering worldwide destinations

UK-based International Operators:
If you are phoning or faxing one of these operators from outside the UK remove from the number the first 0 and replace with +44.

**Avian Adventures** was founded by Gerry Griffiths in 1993 and has since grown into one of the leading UK-based birdwatching tour companies. Avian Adventures run more than 40 tours in 30 different countries. If your particular interest is photography, then Avian Adventures specialise in arranging tours for small groups and can provide a driver/guide to accompany them. Avian Adventures also arrange group holidays for clubs, societies. 
website: [www.avianadventures.co.uk](http://www.avianadventures.co.uk)  
Address: 49 Sandy Road, Norton, Stourbridge, West Midlands, DY8 3AJ, UK; phone 01384372013; e-mail: avianadventures@btinternet.com

**Birdfinders**, caters to all levels of birdwatching ability and enthusiasm is more important than knowledge as their experienced leaders are always on hand to assist. Birdfinders can also arrange customised tours to selected countries. 
website: [www.birdfinders.co.uk](http://www.birdfinders.co.uk)  
Address: Westbank, Cheselbourne, Dorset, DT2 7NW, England, Telephone: (01258) 839066 Fax: (01258) 837449 Website: [www.birdfinders.co.uk](http://www.birdfinders.co.uk) Email: info@birdfinders.co.uk

**Bird Holidays**, specialises in birdwatching holidays, birding tours, wildlife safaris and wildlife cruises.
Four professional bird guides. Paul Willoughby, Andrew Woodall, Roger Barnes and Phil Palmer lead all birdwatching holidays. By keeping the total number of principal leaders to just four Bird Holidays maintain a professional, but relaxed holiday experience for all. Bird Holidays are the first travel company to fully offset the carbon emissions of clients' flights by creating a nature reserve in Ecuador, planting 20,000 native trees on deforested land near Quito. [www.birdholidays.co.uk](http://www.birdholidays.co.uk) e-mail: info@birdholidays.co.uk Bird holidays, 10 Ivegate, Yeadon, Leeds LS19 7RE, UK; phone (0113) 3910 510

**Birdquest**, Two Jays, Kemple End, Stonyhurst, Lancashire BB7 9QT; phone 01254826317; fax 01254826780; [www.birdquest.co.uk](http://www.birdquest.co.uk) e-mail: info@birdseekers.com

**Birdwatching Breaks**, Mark Finn, Birdwatching Breaks, Cygnus House, Gordons Mill, Balblair, Ross-shire, IV7 8LQ, Scotland Telephone: +44 (0) 1381 610495 Fax: +44 (0) 1381 619452 E-mail: info@birdwatchingbreaks.com

**Earthwatch Volunteer Programme**, phone 01865318831; [www.earthwatch.org](http://www.earthwatch.org)

**Explore Worldwide**, phone 01252760100; [www.exploreworldwide.com](http://www.exploreworldwide.com)

**Gullivers Natural History Holidays**, Oak Farm, Stoke Hammond, Milton Keynes MK17 9DB, UK; phone 01525270100; fax 0152527077

**Heritage Expeditions** specialise in worldwide natural history small group expeditions. Small groups, qualified leaders and natural history are trademarks of Heritage Expeditions with its vessel 'Spirit of Enderby'. Voyages of discovery to the Ross Sea, Antarctica, the wildlife of the Subantarctic Islands, subtropical Kermadec Islands, Pacific Odyssey and the Russian Far East. Website [www.heritage-travelgroup.com/travel/world/](http://www.heritage-travelgroup.com/travel/world/)

**Island Holidays**, Drummond Street, Comrie, Perthshire PH6 2DS, UK, phone
0800253534; www.islandholidays.net e-mail: bwg@islandholidays.net (destinations: various islands only)

Limosa Holidays, Suffield House, Northrepps, Norfolk NR27 0LZ, UK; phone 01263578143; fax 01263579251; www.limosaholidays.co.uk e-mail enquiries@limosaholidays.co.uk

Naturetrek, Cheriton Mill, Cheriton, Alresford, Hampshire SO24 0NG, UK; phone 01962733051; fax 01962736426; www.naturetrek.co.uk e-mail: info@naturetrek.co.uk

Oriole Birding are a UK based company offering a comprehensive range of birding tours covering most UK destinations plus holidays to over 30 countries Worldwide. Oriole Birding pride themselves on genuinely small groups and excellent value. We specialise in tours to our home regions of Norfolk and South Wales, and offer custom tours year round as well as a selection of broader natural history breaks. www.oriolebirding.com Email: oriolebirding@gmail.com Tel: 01656 711152 Address: 8 Newcastle Hill, Bridgend CF31 4EY

Ornitholidays, 29 Straight Mile, Romsey, Hampshire SO51 9BB, UK; phone 01794519445 www.ornitholidays.co.uk e-mail: ornitholidays@compuserve.com

Ornittravel offer birding and walking/cycling tours to a range of countries across Europe and elsewhere. Established more than 30 years ago. Ornittravel are also pioneers of eco-travel. Specialists in Turkey. Address: 26 Chiswick Rd, London W4 5RB, Tel: +44 (0)20 8995 3203 e-mail: info@ornitravel.com web: http://www.ornitravel.com

Redwing Tours, 55 Prince Alfred Road, Liverpool L15 5BG, UK; phone 0151733 8635; fax 01263579251; www.redwing77.freeserve.co.uk e-mail: mark@redwing77.freeserve.co.uk

Responsibletravel.com are the world's first and leading online travel portal promoting responsible/ethical/eco/green travel and have a collection of carefully selected birdwatching tours worldwide which benefit both local communities and conservation efforts. Responsibletravel.com's collection of bird watching holidays cover a variety of habitats from wetlands to forests, and a wide range of endemic bird species in destinations the world over including sea birds in the Sub-Antarctic Islands, raptors in South Africa and migratory birds in Spain. Please visit http://www.responsibletravel.com/holidays/bird-watching for more details.

Sarus Bird Tours, 12 Walton Drive, Bury, Lancashire BL9 5JU, UK; phone 01617617279; fax 01617976243 www.sarusbirdtours.co.uk e-mail: info@sarusbirdtours.co.uk

Snails Pace, 25 Thorpe Lane, Almondbury, Huddersfield, Yorkshire HD5 8TA, UK; phone 01484426259

Sunbird Holidays, PO Box 76, Sandy, Bedfordshire SG19 1DF, UK; phone: 01767 262522 Fax: 01767 262916; www.sunbirdtours.co.uk e-mail: sunbird@sunbirdtours.co.uk

The Travelling Naturalist, PO Box 3141, Dorchester, Dorset DT1 2XD, UK; phone 01305267994 www.naturalist.co.uk e-mail: jamie@naturalist.co.uk

Toucan Tours, phone 01772787862; www.toucantours.co.uk e-mail: enquiries@toucantours.co.uk (destinations: South & Central America)
Wexas Travel has been an established travel operator since 1970 and a specialist in tailor-made travel. It is endorsed by honorary Presidents, including travellers and explorers such as Sir Ranulph Fiennes and Michael Palin. Wexas offer a range of natural history and bird-watching trips to far-flung locations such as Japan, Costa Rica and Papua New Guinea. Visit their website at: http://www.wexas.com/holiday-types/natural-world/

Wildlife and Wilderness offer a range of birdwatching trips for independent travellers to some of the best birding destinations in the world, covering more than 20 countries across 5 continents. Address: 77 Batemill Road, Birch Vale, High Peak, Derbyshire, SK22 1BB, UK. E-mail: info@wildlifewilderness.com. Web www.wildlifewilderness.com/index.asp

Wildlife Holidays, 170 Selsdon Road, South Croydon, Surrey CR2 6PJ, UK; phone 02086679158; fax 02086671960; www.wildlifeworldwide.com e-mail: sales@wildlifeworldwide.com

Wildwings Worldwide Travel, 577-579 Fishponds Road, Bristol BS16 3AF, UK; phone 01179375689; www.wildwings.co.uk e-mail: wildinfo@wildwings.co.uk

Wildlife Holidays, 170 Selsdon Road, South Croydon, Surrey CR2 6PJ, UK; phone 02086679158; fax 02086671960; www.wildlifeworldwide.com e-mail: sales@wildlifeworldwide.com

Worldwide Journeys and Expeditions, 27 Vanston Place, London SW6 1AZ, UK; phone 02073864676; www.worldwidejourneys.co.uk e-mail: enquiry@worldwidejourneys.co.uk

Zoothera Global Birding. Phone (0044) 01803 431765. Email: info@zootherabirding.com Website: www.zootherabirding.com Professionally led and extremely competitive birding holidays around the world, with the emphasis on seeing all birds and wildlife well.

Germany-based International Operators:
Birding Tours is a German tour company offering tours in Germany, Europe and further afield. Focusing on delivering exceptional birding tours with some of the best German bird guides to areas of great conservation value. http://www.birdingtours.de/home/

North America/Canada-based International Operators:
Avian Journeys aim to offer high quality birding tours, at the most affordable prices possible without sacrificing anything in terms of quality. Founded by Gary Rosenberg, an internationally recognized ornithologist with nearly 30 years of experience studying and watching birds in the Neotropics. Avian Journeys intention is to support lodges owned and operated by locals in Costa Rica, Ecuador, Peru, Alaska, Florida, and Southeastern Arizona. Website www.avianjourneys.com

Bird Treks, 216 Spring Lane, Peach Bottom, Pennsylvania, 17563-4008 www.birdtreks.com (50 destination on five continents)

Borderland Tours, 2550 West Calle Padilla, Tucson, Arizona AZ 85745; phone 800 525-7753; www.borderland-tours.com e-mail: rtaylor@borderland-tours.com

Cheesemans Ecology Safaris, 20800 Kitttridge Road, Saratoga, California CA 950970; phone 800 527-5330; www.cheesemans.com

Costa Rica Gateway, phone 800 593-3305; www.costaricagateway.com e-mail: gateway@ipa.net (destinations: Costa Rica)
Eagle Eye Tours, offer high quality tours with exceptional leaders to amazing destinations worldwide ranging from ones focused primarily on birds to special tours combining photography and wildlife. Contact Eagle-Eye Tours, 4711 Galena St. Windermere, BC, V0B 2L2, Canada, www.eagle-eye.com; e-mail: travel@eagle-eye.com

Field Guides, 9433 Bee Cave Road, Building 1, Suite 150, Austin, Texas, TX 78733; phone 800 728-4953; www.fieldguides.com e-mail: fieldguides@fieldguides.com

Focus Tours, 103 Moya Road, Santa Fe, New Mexico NM87505; phone 505 466-4688; fax 505 466-4689; www.focusfours.com e-mail: focustours@aol.com (destinations: Brazil, Bolivia, Argentina, Chile)

High Lonesome Bird Tours, 570 South Little Bear Trail, Sierra Vista, Arizona AZ 85635; phone 800 743-2668; www.hilonesometours.com e-mail: hilone@hilonesometours.com

Holbrook Travel, phone 800 451-7111; www.selvaverde.com (destinations; Costa Rica)

The Partnership for International Birding provides access to the best birding opportunities and guides worldwide, groups sized to be affordable and small enough to allow good opportunities for all participants to see the bird species they appreciate, a range of pacing to meet your needs from more leisurely pacing to pacing for the avid lister. For more information, contact Harry Fuller by email at info@PIBird.com Web www.pibird.com

Sunrise Birding, LLC, PO Box 274, Cos Cob, Connecticut 06807 USA phone 2034536724 www.sunrisebirding.com e-mail: gina@sunrisebirding.com

Ventures Birding Tours, P.O. Box 1095, Skyland, North Carolina 28776 Phone: 1.866.253.4247 web: www.birdventures.com/ email: Travel@Birdventures.com (destinations: daytrips, weekend and longer ventures both within North America and further afield, including the Danube Delta in Romania and the River Gambia in West Africa.)

Victor Emanuel Nature Tours (VENT) is the world's largest bird tour company VENT

Wildside Birding Tours, 539 Prince Frederick Street, King of Prussia, PA 19406; phone 888-875-9453 and 610-564-0941; fax 847-556-0941; www.WildsideNatureTours.com; email: info@WildsideNatureTours.com (destinations: worldwide)

Wings - offers birding tours worldwide, planned as ones that the tour guides themselves would like to go on, so they are very strongly oriented toward birds. For more information contact Wings at 1643 North Alvernon, Suite 105, Tucson, Arizona AZ 85712; phone (520) 320-9868 (local), (866) 547-9868 (toll-free from the USA and Canada); http://wingsbirds.com/ e-mail: wings@wingsbirds.com

Zegrahm Expeditions, phone 800-628-8747; www.zeco.com (destinations: Kamchatka)

African-based International Operators:
Birdingecotours, a South African based company run by birders for birders, with destinations across Africa, particularly, South Africa, Botswana, Namibia, Zambia and Kenya but also international destinations including South America. Contact Chris chris@birdingecotours.co.za -

Study to develop a Baseline for Avitourism in KZN
Rockjumper Birding Tours arranges and guides top quality birding and wildlife tours throughout the world, with an emphasis on Africa, Asia, Madagascar and the America's. Their team of professional guides are some of the most experienced in the industry and their tours offer unbeatable birding experiences and value for money. Launched in 1998 following the Durban International Ornithological Conference, the team can be contacted via PO Box 13972, Cascades, 3202. [www.rockjumper.co.za](http://www.rockjumper.co.za) South Africa email: info@rockjumperbirding.com (destinations: South America, Africa, Asia, Malagasy)

Tropical birding, a South African company with an office also in Ecuador. Offering tours across Africa, Asia, Australasia, North America and Central and South America. Contact Nick Athanas e-mail: info@tropicalbirding.com or call toll free from US and Canada 1-800-348-5941 or visit their website at [http://www.tropicalbirding.com](http://www.tropicalbirding.com)

Australian-based International Operators:

**AABirding & Travel**, Box 7999, Cairns 4870, Australia. *tel + 740318803, mob +452397275, web page [aabirding.net](http://aabirding.net), email [aabirdo@gmail.com](mailto:aabirdo@gmail.com) (international destinations include East Africa, Southern Peru, Northern India, Australasia).

Sicklebill Safaris, run by Sue and Phil Gregory from Cassowary House, PO Box 387, Kuranda, Queensland 4881. Private/ small group tours of Australia, Papua New Guinea, New Zealand and the Pacific region. Also further afield to include Africa, Asia and Oceania. Visit their website [www.sicklebillsafaris.com](http://www.sicklebillsafaris.com)

2. South African and African Tour Operators offering primarily African destinations

**Afrika Tur** Ltd is located in Uganda with offices both in Uganda and Norway. The company is owned by a Norwegian, together with a Ugandan. They have several years of experience in the travel industry and with organizing tours and safaris in Uganda, Kenya, Rwanda and Tanzania. Afrika Tur offer a wide range of exciting trips and will personalize your trip if wanted. [http://afrikatur.org](http://afrikatur.org)

**Ashanti African Tours** is a U.K registered travel company with offices in both Ghana and the U.K. As most tours take place in Ghana and West Africa, Ashanti have an experienced team based there year round. As ground agents for all their tours and activities, clients deal directly with Ashanti. The team is a blend of both locals (Ghanaians) and expatriates (British). UK Office: Ashanti African Tours Ltd, 14 Lilac Place, West Drayton, Middlesex, England, UB7 8LR. Telephone: 0870 766 22 83 Email: [info@ashantiafricantours.com](mailto:info@ashantiafricantours.com) Web [http://www.ashantiafricantours.com/?page_id=58](http://www.ashantiafricantours.com/?page_id=58)

**Ben's Ecological Safaris**, offering professional birdwatching and wildlife holidays in East Africa. The tours emphasize birds, wildlife, ecology and conservation from the unique perspective of people who have lived all their life in Africa. In keeping with the diversity of Kenya, Ben's Ecological Safari offers a range of excursions from weekend breaks for business travellers who are stopping over for a conference, to longer stays for family groups experiencing East Africa for the first time. Postal address is 4th Floor Aqua Plaza, Muranga Road, Nairobi-Kenya or P.O.Box. 5898-00100, Nairobi, Kenya. Phone: 254-020-3755290/1 Fax number: 254-020-3755290 Email: [info@bensecologicalsafaris.com](mailto:info@bensecologicalsafaris.com) Website: [www.bensecologicalsafaris.com](http://www.bensecologicalsafaris.com)

**Birding Africa**: the only specialist African bird tour company, Birding Africa, offers best value personalised bird & primate tours to Madagascar and 15 African destinations. We write guidebooks
on where to find birds in Southern Africa and offer a free online bird-finding information portal. So join book authors, conservationists and passionate guides to see Africa's 2500 bird species, 20 endemic bird families and the most exhilarating primates and mammals on earth. For more details contact info@birdingafrica.com or +27 (0)21 531 9148. Read our trip reports on www.birdingafrica.com.

Birding Ecotours offer you magnificent birding experiences in Africa and South America, with excellent and experienced guides who ensure top quality birding tours. Along with scheduled tours, Birding Ecotours also provide custom-made tours, camping trips and scouting trips. E-mail: info@birdingecotours.co.za Mobile phone: +27 (0)72 211 9863 (Nadia Gunter) +27 (0)72 635 1501 (Chris Lotz) Fax number: +27 (0)21 592 7438 Postal Address: P.O. Box 215 Newlands 7725, South Africa. www.birdingecotours.co.za


Birding and Beyond Safaris now operates Budget bird tours to Tanzania and Kenya. These tours can depart anytime depending on availability of guides and accommodations. The Tour can also be taken as a combination of Kenya and Tanzania. P.O. Box 11500, Arusha, Tanzania, East Africa. Email tours@tanzaniabirding.com. Websites www.tanzaniabirding.com www.birdingsafaris.co.tz (destinations: Tanzania, Kenya and Uganda).

Birdwatching East Africa, is a nature safari company running birdwatching, wildlife photographic, wildlife, prehistory safaris and runs Mobile-tented Camps. Visit their website at: www.birdwatchingeastafrica.com/ or email at info@birdwatchingeastafrica.com

Bird Uganda Safaris is a group of tourism professionals, researchers, nature photographers and conservationists drawn together by a common enthusiasm at sharing their passion for Uganda's bird diversity with both local and international clientele. Since 2002, they have been leading tours around Uganda and further into other destinations outside Uganda, including Rwanda. Tours range from short vacations, including weekend excursions, to long safaris. Bird Uganda Safaris Ltd 2nd Floor, Jos House, Plot 55B, Opp. Fish Factory Telephone +256 312289048 Fax +256 (0)414383031 www.birduganda.com

Cape Town Pelagics offers the world's best pelagic birding, with up to 10,000 seabirds of 25 species. Join them to see Albatrosses, Shearwaters and Petrels. All profits are donated to seabird research and conservation projects, including the Save the Albatross Campaign. So book with Cape Town Pelagics and make a difference to the Albatrosses you'll see. For more details contact info@capetownpelagics.com or +27 (0)21 531 9148. Read our trip reports on www.capetownpelagics.com

Cape Birding Route offers free online bird-finding information, recommended guides and birder-friendly accommodation bookings along the 9 Birding Routes in Western South Africa. It also offers a full section on pelagic birding and bookings. For more details contact info@capebirdingroute.org +27 (0)21 531 9148. Read our bird finding info on www.capebirdingroute.org

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Crystal Safaris is a privately owned ground handling Safari and Tour company providing packaged and tailor-made safaris within the East Africa Region. Address: Plot 6, Colville Street, Airways House, PO Box 9698, Kampala, Uganda. E-mail crystal@spacenet.co.ug Web www.crystalsafaris.com

EuroAfrica Birding offers affordable, friendly and fun small group birdwatching safaris in Tanzania, Kenya, Uganda and Rwanda with professional birding driverguides to amazing birding locations. Contact Greg Holland at greg@euroafricabirding.com or visit www.euroafricabirding.com

Frantic Naturalist runs special interest tours throughout Namibia. They offer birding tours, hiking tours, photography tours, desert ecology, geology and other special interest tours. Based in Windhoek, Namibia's capital city, they also offer city tours, transfers and airport meet and greets in Windhoek. Namibia is the driest country in the southern half of Africa, sporting the awe inspiring Namib Desert. Web http://frantic-naturalist.com/

Great Lakes Safaris, an indigenous East African safari company based in Kampala, Uganda specialising in organising Birding tours, chimpanzee and Gorilla safaris as well as general wildlife safaris. Executive members of Uganda Tour Operators Association. www.safari-uganda.com P.O. Box 33024, Suzie House, Annex.1st Floor. Ggaba Road. Kampala, Uganda. Tel: 256-41-267153 / 256-772-426368 Email: info@safari-uganda.com / gls@utlonline.co.ug

Insight Birding Holidays are an indigenous travel company, run by locals with vast experience in the African tourism sector. Since inception in 2000, Insight Safari Holidays has been arranging private tours for clients of both large and small groups. Insight Birding Holidays offer birding trips to Uganda, Kenya, Tanzania and Rwanda. Web www.insightbirdingholidays.com

Kagera Safaris a leading cultural and birding tour and safari company located in Kampala, Uganda. It is run by indigenous Ugandans. Kagera Safaris invest in discovering new areas and itineraries that will give you the best possible Uganda experience. Kagera Safaris offer gorilla tracking, Mt Elgon & Eastern Uganda, Murchison Falls National Park and a primates safari amongst others. Web www.kagerasafaris.com/; email info@kagerasafaris.com /miriam@kagerasafaris.com

Lawson's Birding and Wildlife Tours is a family owned and operated business, specialising in birding and wildlife trips to the very best Southern African destinations. Tours are master-minded by Peter Lawson, one of the region's most experienced and highly-regarded naturalists. PO Box 16849, West Acres, Nelspruit 1211 South Africa. General Information: tours@lawsons.co.za http://www.lawsons.co.za/

Nature's Wonderland Safaris offer a selection of birding safaris, wildlife safaris, adventure tours and camping safaris through the Eastern part of Africa ranging from 4 - 37 days. Contact Joseph Mwangi through info@natureswonderlandsafaris.com or ornithologicalexpenditions@yahoo.co.uk or ornitheswonderlandsafaris@gmail.com Web http://www.natureswonderlandsafaris.com/

Rockjumper Birding Tours, launched in 1998 following the Durban International Ornithological Conference, the team have arranged hundreds of birding tours. PO Box 13972, Cascades, 3202, www.rockjumper.co.za South Africa email: info@rockjumperbirding.com (destinations: South
Safari Wise offer a range of birding safaris throughout East and Southern Africa. They have developed a solid reputation for high quality, intimate tours and safaris. They offer self-drive tours, day tours, fly-in tours as well as being the only specialised birding company based in Namibia. Web: http://safariwise.com.na/

Simba Africa Expeditions, is a Ugandan local tour operator with a team of experts at organizing and leading birding, gorilla trekking and wildlife tours within Uganda, and neighboring Rwanda and the Democratic Republic of Congo. We offer ready packages and also tailor-make to suit a client’s preferences, and budget. Email: info@africa-expeditions.com Website: http://www.africa-expeditions.com/

Travel Hemispheres Limited offer birding and other safaris including Mountain Gorilla trekking in Uganda. E-mail: info@travelhemispheres.com web: www.travelhemispheres.com

Victoria Safaris is a family owned tour operator and ground handling Safari and Tour company providing packaged and tailor-made Birding and Wildlife safaris which include; Budget and Luxury Birding tours and Safaris, Bird watching walking tours, Birding and wildlife tours for active nature travellers in the East Africa countries of Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Rwanda and Burundi. Victoria Safaris operate individual Country and Combination tours and safaris which depart any day of the year depending on availability of guides and accommodations. Contact: James Asudi, Victoria Safaris, Cargen House, 3rd Floor, Suite 305, Harambee Avenue, P.O.Box 10511 - 00400, Nairobi, Kenya, East Africa. Tel: 254-20-2252015, Cell phone: +254-722-862727, Skype: james.asudi. Email: victoria@victoriasafaris.com Website: www.victoriasafaris.com

The Zambezi Safari and Travel Company are based in the heart of Southern Africa’s Zambezi Valley and specialize in safaris to Zimbabwe, Zambia, Botswana, Namibia and beyond into Malawi, Kenya, Tanzania…and then further afield into Rwanda, Uganda, Gabon and Ethiopia. Contact tel: 01548 830059 Web: www.zambezi.com

Wild Things Safaris - specialise in private tailor-made safaris in Tanzania, offering many unique locations such as the Eastern Arc Mountains. Expert guides are available on request. Wild Things regularly arrange logistics for visiting groups of scientists and researchers including the London Natural History Museum and Kew Gardens. Contact: enquiries@wildthingsafaris.com or visit www.wildthingsafaris.com

3. Asian Tour Operators offering predominantly local destinations

A. Baur & Co. (Travel) Ltd, handles the majority of birdwatching tours to Sri Lanka for leading international bird tour companies but also offer customised itineraries for birders and unrivalled local knowledge. PO Box 11, Co.1, Sri Lanka; phone (+94) 1448087/448822; fax (+94) 1447824/448493; e-mail: tourism@baurs.com web http://travel.baurs.com/inbound/index.php (destinations: Sri Lanka)

All India Birding Tours. Over 1,200 of the world’s 8,650 species are found in India. All India Birding Tours, are carefully researched and tested birding trips to chosen hot spots in India, dedicated to arranging hassle - free birding holidays. Ten years of experience in operating adventures in remote parts of India and over five years of ground research has gone into the creation of our birding tours.
Asian Adventures has been arranging excellent value for money tours since 1994, with a repertoire of many popular and some great off-beat destinations across India. Asian Adventures also owns and runs a number of wildlife and Himalayan Lodges. With their own in-house fleet of vehicles and expert guides you can expect a safe, happy and memorable experience. Contact: Asian Adventures, B-9, Sector-27, Noida 201301 (UP), India Ph: +91 120 4222797, Mobile: +91 9811704651, Email: wildindiatiours@vsnl.com Website: www.asianadventures.in; www.asianadventures.co.in

Bird and Wildlife Team organize and lead the finest bird watching and wildlife tours in Sri Lanka, India and the Andaman Islands. The company is run by a team of the most experienced Sri Lankan natural history tour leaders, who have unparalleled first hand experience in leading tours in all three destinations.
The members of the team are very well known field ornithologists and field naturalists. They include Deepal Warakagoda, Uditha Hettige, Lester Perera and Chinthaka de Silva. Web www.birdandwildlifeteam.com/index.html


China Bird Tour is the top birding agent within China. CBT specialises in birdwatching & birding tours. They are approved by international tour operators such as Ornitholidays; Travelling Naturalists; Zootera Biriding; Peregrine Biriding; and Rockjumper Biriding Tours as their local agent. For small individual private tours, CBT will help design tailored itineraries. Visit www.chinabirdtour.com/index.php or contact Tang Jun at email: tangjun(at)chinabirdtour.com


Gurudongma Tours - All India Biriding - In the last six years, Gurudongma has organized tours for international birding groups to the remotest parts of India and Bhutan. Explorations and guiding trips have taken birders to Ladakh, Rajasthan, Gujarat, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Sikkim and North Bengal. Website

India Footprints is a specialist bird tour operator specializing in birding to major wetlands, forests, National Parks and sanctuaries in India. India Footprints offers organized birding trips in package tours to birders from all over the world. Escortd bird trips are guided by professional Indian birders and tour leaders, well acquainted with the avifauna of the area. Email: indiafootprints@hotmail.com web: www.birdingtoursofindia.com

Indian Wildlife Tours offer a variety of personally led wildlife and cultural tours to India, which can be tailor made to suit the individual or group. Check out their bird and tiger tour at: www.indianwildlifetours.co.uk. E-mail www.indianwildlifetours@virginmedia.com

Japan Birdwatching - provide a travel service to birdwatchers and naturalists wishing to visit Japan. Website contains ideas for travel and short itineraries, local guides, hotel and car hire and bird lists for a variety of locations. Website www.japanbirdwatching.com
Jetwing Eco Holidays, Wildlife & Luxury Travel, Jetwing House, 46/26, Nawam Mawatha, Colombo 02 Sri Lanka Tel: ++94-11-2345700 or ++94-11-2381201 Fax:++94-11-24714828. eco@jetwing.lk www.jetwingeco.com (destinations: Sri Lanka)

Jungle Lore (part of Asian Adventures) offers a range of exciting bird-watching holidays throughout the Indian Sub-continent. Jungle Lore have breaks designed for the serious birder as well as for the beginner and taking into consideration the non birding spouse. These breaks are mixed with spectacular scenery and vibrant culture. All breaks are led by an experienced local ornithologist. Itineraries focus on the Kumaon regions of the Himalayas at Ranikhet, Nainital, Saatal and Corbett National Park; the wetlands of Okhla, National Chambal Sanctuary, Bharatpur & Sultanpur; the national parks of Rajasthan & Guajarat Areas of south and north-east India; Nepal and Bhutan; Goa & Western Ghats. Website: http://www.jungllore.com/

Kalympso Adventures arranges birding expeditions to all corners of India. Kalypso’s main focus is in tours for the the Western Ghats endemics, the birds of North Eastern Himalayas, the bird rich areas of Gujarat and North India, including Bharatpur. Kalypso’s guides are arguably the best in the business & have won accolades from leading birders across the globe. Website www.kalypsoadventures.com/

Kibbutz Lotan Center for Birdwatching, 88855, Israel; phone 9727 6356935; e-mail: birdlotan@lotan.ardom.co.il (destinations: Israel)

Kingfisher Tours (HK) Ltd, 2 villa Paloma, Shuen Wan, Tai Po, Hong Kong; phone +852 2665-8506; fax +852 2665-8190; e-mail: myrl@kthk.com.hk (destinations: China, Hong Kong)

Mongolica is a specialized tour operator in birding and wildlife tours in Mongolia, one of the last countries with pristine nature and wildlife wonders. Mongolica offer birding tours to all natural regions in Mongolia - Siberian taiga forest, Gobi Desert, Central Asian Steppe and Altai Mountains. Address: Beren -50, Ulaanbaatar -17040 P.O.B 836, Morning Post Bayangol District, Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia Tel: 976-11-70110148, 976-88180148, 976-91000148. E-mail: info@mongolica.org. Web: http://www.mongolica.org.

Papua Expeditions, specialists in adventure birding and outdoors in Indonesian New Guinea, variously known as Papua, West Papua or Irian Jaya. Website at www.bird-watching-papua-adventure-travel.com

Rubythroat Birding Tours - all-inclusive, high quality birdwatching and nature holidays in Central Asia and Siberia. From the Siberian taiga to the deserts of Kazakhstan, from the Altay Mountains in Russia to the mountainous areas of Kyrgyzstan. Website at www.rubythroatbirding.com or e-mail machiel@rubythroatbirding.com

Taiwan Ecotours offer fully customizable and flexible birding tours to Taiwan, a country rich in endemics and a key stopover on the East Asian north-south flyway. Richard Foster has over 20 years experience of exploring his adopted home. Years of mountain and nature guiding have given him an intimate knowledge of Taiwan’s richest habitats. Visit http://taiwanbirding.com/ or email TaiwanEcotours@gmail.com

Vietnam Biriding, offering individually-tailored custom birding tours and escorted small group birding tours from the Vietnam specialist. Combined birding and cultural tours to Vietnam and extensions to
Cambodia, Laos and Thailand. Contact Vietnam Birding, 3rd Floor, 71 -75 Hai Ba Trung Street, District 1, Ho Chi Minh City, VIETNAM Tel: +84 8 827 3766 / Fax: +84 8 827 37 63 / Mobile: +84 903 840 057 or e-mail: richard@vietnambirding.com Website: www.vietnambirding.com

**WildChina:** Professional birding tours to all destinations in China. [Website](http://www.wildchina.com) Email: info@wildchina.com

4. **Australia/New Zealand Tour Operators offering predominantly local destinations**

**AABirding & Travel,** Box 7999, Cairns 4870, Australia. *tel + 740318803, mob +452397275, web page [aabirding.net](http://aabirding.net), email aabirdo@gmail.com* (international destinations include East Africa, Southern Peru, Northern India, Australasia).

**Aurora Charters** - cruise the coastline of Stewart island on Aurora Charters’ 18m cataran for a variety of seabirds and visit to Ulva Island. Contact Colin and Margaret Hopkins, Aurora Charters, Po Box 86, Hlafmoon Bay, Stewart Island 9846, NZ. website [www.auroracharters.co.nz](http://www.auroracharters.co.nz) e-mail [info@auroracharters.co.nz](mailto:info@auroracharters.co.nz)

**Birding South West,** birdwatching tours designed and conducted, primarily in the South West region of Western Australia but also in other parts of Australia by request. These range from half-day tempters right through to fully accommodated 16 day expeditions as well as personalised tours looking for particular species or to specific locations. Contact Peter Taylor email: birdingsw@westnet.com.au ph +61 (0)8 9722 4788 mobile. 0428 345 245. 3/13 Young St, Manjimup WA 6258 [http://birding-southwest.mysouthwest.com.au](http://birding-southwest.mysouthwest.com.au)

**Bronzewing Birding Services** offer guided birdwatching tours through North East Victoria and Southern New South Wales (Australia). [www.bronzewingbirdingservices.com](http://www.bronzewingbirdingservices.com/)


**Experience the Wild** offer birdwatching and nature tours in Darwin and the Top End of Australia. The Northern Territory’s Top End features a mosaic of habitats offering an exceptional variety and density of birds. Guides Mike Jarvis and Gerry Van Wees are passionate about the environment, local birdlife, wildlife and habitat as well as indigenous culture and NT history and heritage. Web: [http://www.experiencethewild.com.au/](http://www.experiencethewild.com.au/)

**Firetail Birdwatching Tours** Despite being Australia’s smallest mainland state, Victoria’s bird list stands at over five hundred, with close to four hundred species recorded each year. This could be one of Australia’s best kept secrets, a region where it is possible to visit all of southern Australia’s important habitat types within just a few hours driving. Whether interested in booking a tour or just researching your next birding trip, you will find this website useful [www.firetailbirdwatchingtours.com/](http://www.firetailbirdwatchingtours.com/)

**Manu Tours**, offer small group guiding throughout New Zealand, Australia and the Pacific Island. Address: 106 Ocean Beach Road, Tairua 3508, New Zealand; phone and fax 647 864 7475; [www.nzbirding.co.nz](http://www.nzbirding.co.nz) e-mail: manutours@nzbirding.co.nz;

**Nature Quest New Zealand** - specialists in custom designed, private guided birding, botanical &
nature tours throughout New Zealand and educational study programmes for individuals, groups, societies, colleges & universities. Email: nature@naturequest.co.nz. Web: http://www.naturequest.co.nz. Phone: +64 3 489 8444 Fax: +64 3 489 8444 Address: P.O. Box 6314 Dunedin New Zealand

New Zealand Land and Pelagic Bird Tours, pelagic and land trips to Chatham and Pitt Islands. Contact Ross Silcock, P.O. Box 57, Tabor, IA 51653 e-mail silcock@rosssilcock.com web www.rosssilcock.com/

Ocean Wings, Dolphin and Albatross Encounter, 58 West End, Kaikoura, South Island, New Zealand; phone 0064-3319-6777; fax: 0064-3319-6534; www.oceanwings.co.nz e-mail: info@oceanwings.co.nz (destination: pelagic birds of east coast of South Island, New Zealand)

Peregrine Bird Tours leads more bird tours within Australia than any other company but also offer overseas opportunities to places such as Trinidad and Tobago, Turkey, Spitsbergen, Greenland and Iceland, Sulawesi and Halmahera, Ethiopia and China. Contact Chris Doughty at 2 Drysdale Place, Mooroolbark, Victoria 3138, Australia; phone 613 9726 8471; fax: 613 9727 1545; website www.peregrinebirddtours.com e-mail: birding@peregrinebirdtours.com

Pterodroma Pelagics specialises in NZ pelagics with regular trips for the Hauraki Gulf, NZ’s far north and Stewart Island, plus a programme of extended pelagics for the South Pacific Region. Leading the study into the rare New Zealand Storm Petrel. Address: Pterodroma Pelagics, PO Box 686, Warkworth, New Zealand. website: www.nzseabirds.com e-mail info@nzseabirds.com

Ruggedy Range specialising in natural history and bird watching trips on Stewart Island and Ulva Island - highly recommended by Lonely Planet. Enjoy daytime sightings of Kiwi on Stewart Island, encounters with Saddleback, Yellowhead, Kaka and other endemics on Ulva Island or pelagic birding. Address: 170 Horseshoe Bay Road, PO Box 188, Stewart Island, New Zealand. Website: www.ruggedyrange.com. e-mail mail@ruggedyrange.com.

Sicklebill Safaris, run by Sue and Phil Gregory from Cassowary House, PO Box 387, Kuranda, Queensland 4881. Private/ small group tours of Australia, Papua New Guinea, New Zealand and the Pacific region. Visit their website

Wrybill Birding Tours, specialising in custom-made tours for couples or small groups, scheduled tours and pre-planning trip advice for the independent birder to New Zealand. Address, PO Box 8291, Havelock North 4157, New Zealand; Phone/fax + 64-6-323-1441 www.wrybill-tours.com email info@wrybill-tours.com

5. European Tour Operators offering predominantly local destinations

Andalucian Guides, Guided birding and wildlife tours of Southern Spain - based on the Strait of Gibraltar, Contact Stephen Daly, Higueral de la Oliva, 11160 Barbate, Cadiz Province, Andalucia, Espania. Tel: (+34) 956 432 316 Mob: (+34) 647 713 641 email: stephen@andalucianguides.com Web: www.andalucianguides.com

A Rocha Life Portugal, offers half-day, full-day and week long birding programmes in the Mexilhoeira Grande area of Portugal. Contact Guillaume Réthoré (Field Guide) (+351) 282 968 380 ecoservices@arocha.org or via the website www.arocha.org/ecoservices
Audouin Birding Tours, based in Catalonia, Spain on the edge of the Ebro Delta. Contact Cristian Jensen Marcet, C/Ramon Das Neves 45, escal. B, entl. 3, 43540 Sant Carles de la Rápita (Tarragona), Spain. Tel: (0034) 649286086 or (0034) 977740346 www.audouinbirding.net e-mail cristian@audouinbirding.net

AVESTOURS, birding & wildlife tours in Romania with professional guides (http://www.avestours.ro) Tel: +40 744 664469 Tel: +40 266 215555. Fax:+40 266 218065 Fax: +40 266 218065. N 46 18.229, E 25 17.646 info@birdwatching.ro

Avium organize year-round trips and excursions for individuals and small groups wishing to watch particular bird species in Spain. Contact Tel/fax: 91 402 90 75 or e-mail info@avium.es web: www.avium.es

Birdingbreaks.nl is the number one Dutch birding tours operator offering a wide and growing selection of tours to destinations worldwide under expert guiding in a relaxed tempo. Birdingbreaks.nl also offer trips in the Netherlands that focus on the Dutch avifaunal specialties such as geese, waders, migratory songbirds and raptors. Besides this they have a selection of phototours and expedition cruises on offer. Please visit www.birdingbreaks.nl for the full program.

Birding in Spain offers all kinds of information about birds, both common and rare, and plenty of reasons for birding in northeast Spain. Also featured are books by Steve West who has birded this region extensively since 1988. Consider, if you like, the possibility of contracting him as a guide/ground agent for a birding tour, or simply follow his advice and study the carefully selected itineraries to enjoy some of the best birding experiences that the region has to offer. Birding in Spain also offers a section dedicated to kids. http://www.birdinginspain.com/

Birding-Holland, offering guided birding in the Netherlands. Birding Holland can take you to areas just minutes away from Amsterdam airport Schiphol to multiple day tours all over the country. For more information contact Pieter and Teus. Website: www.birdingholland.com Direct e-mail: Pieter@birdingholland.com

Birding Tours is a German tour company offering tours in Germany, Europe and further afield. Focusing on delivering exceptional birding tours with some of the best German bird guides to areas of great conservation value. http://www.birdingtours.de/home/

Birding Trekking and Nature in Spain with Luis Sotgas. Private tours for 1-7 birdwatchers around Madrid, Extremadura, Andalucia, Castilla la Mancha and Castilla Leon, and other destinations on request. Web: www.birdingtrekkingandnature.com/ing/index.html

Birdwatchingbulgaria.co.uk is the branch of the Danish tour operator Penguin Travel, dealing with birding and birdwatching in Bulgaria. www.birdwatchingbulgaria.co.uk E-mail: info@birdwatchingbulgaria.com. Address: 9 "Orfej" Str., 1421 Sofia, Bulgaria Phone: (+359 2) 4001055, fax: (+359 2) 4003099

Birdwatching Experiences (BWE) offer itineraries and guided routes in Osona, Pyrenees, Cap de Creus, Emporda – Aiguamolls and Delta de l’Ebre (Catalonia) and Monegros (Aragon), within of the territory of Spain. BWE also organize trips for groups and individuals. BWE guides are experienced, knowledgeable and big travellers around the world in their own right, with the capacity to guide other ornithologists searching for birds and places across Spain that few people know. Web: http://www.birdwatchingexperiences.com/
BirdwatchingLisbon.com is specialized in organizing and guiding birdwatching tours from Lisbon (Portugal). Tours are available all year round on request and include door to door transportation, guiding by experienced field ornithologists, use of optical equipment and field guides, and travel/accident insurances. Tours currently visit the Tagus Estuary Nature Reserve (about 20 minutes drive from Lisbon), and the Sado Estuary Nature Reserve (about 40 minutes drive from Lisbon), which are organized in two alternative formats – half (4,5h) and full-day (9h) tours. For more information visit http://birdwatchinglisbon.com/

Boletas Birdwatching Centre, phone 0163866459; e-mail: jjsv@boletas.org (destinations: Spanish Pyrenees)

Carpathian Wildlife, Driftwood, the Marrams, Sea Palling, Norfolk NR12 OUN, UK: phone 01692598135; fax 01692598141; www.cws.szm.sk e-mail: cws@szm.sk (destinations: Slovakia)

Catalan Bird Tours, Spain: Year-round birding day tours, short-breaks and holidays in Catalonia, NE Spain, exclusive or shared. Accommodation, if required, is in a recently refurbished villa-apartment in the Penedes wine region bordering the Garraf natural park just south of Barcelona. Bird watching tours to the Pyrenees, Ebro Delta, Spanish Steppes, Barcelona, Llobregat Delta, Garraf Natural Park, Cap de Creus and Aiguamolls de L'Emporda. Contact Stephen Christopher at s.christopher@telefonica.net or 00 34 636 271695, or via www.catalanbirdtours.com

Discovering Doñana Ltd, Águila Imperial, 150, 21750 El Rocío, Huelva, Spain, Tel/Fax 0034 959 442466 Mobile 0034 620 964369 email: info@discoveringdonana.com website www.discoveringdonana.com

Enfoque Natural offer birdwatching and nature photography throughout Spain especially in the South of Spain and Portugal including the Doñana, marshes of the Guadalquivir river, Odiel Marshes, Monfragüé, the Strait of Gibraltar, Cáceres and the Algarve. Visit their website at http://www.enfoquenatural-birdingspain.com

Estonian Nature Tours is a new trade mark of Kumari Tours offering Birdwatching and Botanical Tours to a wide variety of nature reserves throughout Estonia. Office address: Linnuse tee 1, 90303 Lihula, Läänemaa, Estonia website: www.naturetours.ee

Flevo Birdwatching, Birdwatching in the Netherlands. The Oostvaarderplassen are a must for birdwatchers who are visiting the Netherlands. Flevo Birdwatching Tours offers full day guided birdwatching in this great wetland reserve, plus trips to the island of Texel or any other bird area you want to go. http://www.birdsnetherlands.nl/ email adress is flevobirdwatching@gmail.com

Hobby Tours, offering bird and wildlife tours in Romania. Run by Romanian ornithologists - the amount of survey work they do around the country means they are able to locate the sorts of species which interest birders visiting Romania. Website www.hobb ytours.ro

Hungarian Bird Tours is run by Roy Adams, a retired police wildlife crime officer who served almost thirty two years with the Devon and Cornwall Constabulary. Staying at the newly opened Villa Volgy Hotel in Eger, birders are ideally placed to see Hungary's spectacular bird life. Hortobagy, Lake Tisza, Bukk Hills, Bodrogzug and Tisza Floodplains are within an hour of Eger. http://www.hungarianbirdtours.com/home.htm or call 07774 574204
Hungarobirds organise customised birdwatching and wildlife photo tours in Hungary and bear photo tours in Romania. Hungarobirds is run by Zoltán Pabar, a freelance wildlife photographer and tour guide who has been organising and leading wildlife watching tours for over 15 years. Visit [www.hungarobirds.com](http://www.hungarobirds.com) Telephone: 0036-70/2391410; e-mail: hungarobirds@gmail.com

Iberian Wildlife Tours, Wildlife tours and holidays in Spain and Portugal with John Muddeman, Mike Lockwood and Teresa Farino. Specialists in Andalucia, Aragon, Balearic Islands, Canary Islands, Catalonia, Extremadura, La Mancha, Madrid, Picos de Europe and Western Portugal. Contact any of the above through [http://www.iberianwildlife.com/contact.htm](http://www.iberianwildlife.com/contact.htm)

Ibis Tours, Ground agent for Wildlife Holidays and Tours in Romania’s Danube Delta, Dobrogea and Carpathian Mountains. Ibis Tours offer expert leaders who are both passionate about birds, wildlife and photography. Let Ibis Tours show you how fascinating and spectacular Romanian wildlife can be! [www.ibis-tours.ro](http://www.ibis-tours.ro)

Lofoten Birding is a guiding company that is also operating in photo and field-registration. The firm is located in central part of Lofoten Island, North-Norway. Martin Eggen and Håvard Eggen are experienced birders and photographers. For guided birding in Northern Norway visit their website at: [http://www.lofotenbirding.no/](http://www.lofotenbirding.no/)

Neophron Tours Ltd, Natural history and wildlife tours and holidays in Bulgaria; specialized in birdwatching, botany and wildlife photography. [www.neophron.com](http://www.neophron.com) Address: postal: P.O.box 90, BG-9000 Varna, Bulgaria. Office: 17 Maria Luiza Str, BG-9000 Varna, Bulgaria. E-mails: neophrontours@gmail.com or inquiries@neophron.com

Northern Birding, offers pre-arranged birdwatching in Norway - photo tours or custom made trips for one or more. Trondheim, Norway, offers a mosaic of habitats from outer coast to high alpine terrains offering a range of boreal and scandinavian specialities such as owls, woodpeckers, grouses and raptors Northern Birding guides have birded this area for lifetime. [http://www.northernbirding.com](http://www.northernbirding.com)

Oy Kon-Tiki Tours, Rauni Tirri, Raitankuja 1-3 G 58, 00840 Helsinki, Finland; phone 358 9-6212525; fax 358 9-6212520 e-mail: kontiki@stellapolaris.com (destinations: worldwide)

Pandion Wild Tours Ltd is the leading Bulgarian company in the field of birdwatching, wildlife and nature tourism. Founded in 1990, under the name Pandion-D, the company was established by Nikolay Dilchev, a professional biologist. Pandion Wild Tours has specialized in the field of wildlife, nature and historical tourism in Europe's richest region in terms of biodiversity: Bulgaria and the Balkan Peninsula. Email pandiond@einet.bg Web: [www.birdwatchingholidays.com/](http://www.birdwatchingholidays.com/)


Sakertour, specialised in custom birdwatching tours and bird hide photography in the biogeographical region of the Carpathians, covering countries of Hungary, Slovakia and Romania. Website: [www.sakertour.com](http://www.sakertour.com) email:sakertour@gmail.com sakertour.office@gmail.com Postal address: Tarján u. 6, H-4032, Debrecen, Hungary
Spainbirds Nature Tours has been successfully designing and leading birding & nature tours since 1999. It is currently the top birdwatching company in Spain and is the first accredited birding tour agent by the Spanish Tourist Board. Spainbirds specialise in organising birding & nature trips throughout the whole of Spain especially Extremadura, Andalucia (over all Doñana, Strait of Gibraltar and Sierra Morena where some of the last few Iberian Lynx still survive), Pyrenees, Picos de Europa, Gredos Mountains and the "sierras", lakes and woodland around Madrid. Spainbirds also offer useful information to independent travellers regarding where to stay near the main birding spots. [https://spainbirds.com/](https://spainbirds.com/) Email: info@spainbirds.com Tel. 00 34 687 83 77 19

Toledo Natura is a birdwatching company based in Castilla La Mancha region, Spain, a paradise for birding. With more than 20 years-experienced biologists and naturalists, particularly in Castilla La Mancha region, they offer birding routes for observing birds and fauna, guided and learning itineraries for hiking, ecological routes for schools and others, custom made routes, photography routes for small groups and environmental Education for educational centres. Web[http://toledonatura.com/en/](http://toledonatura.com/en/)

Undiscovered Montenegro is a registered UK company specialising in activity holidays and tours at Lake Skadar, founded by British husband and wife and Lake Skadar residents, Ben and Emma Heywood. A birders' paradise, with more than 260 different species including the rare Southern Dalmatian Pelican and Pygmy Cormorant. Contact UK Tel: 00 44 (0) 203 287 0015 Montenegro Tel: 00 382 (0) 69 402 364 email: enquiries@undiscoveredmontenegro.com; web:[http://www.undiscoveredmontenegro.com](http://www.undiscoveredmontenegro.com)

Val Tours, offer general and tailor-made birding tours in Croatia, guided by local experienced birders. Postal address: Val Tours, 23210 Biograd - Croatia, tel: 00 385 23 386479, fax: 00 385 23 386 478 Visit: [www.croatiabirding.com](http://www.croatiabirding.com) and [www.val-tours.hr](http://www.val-tours.hr)

Wild Herzegovina organise bespoke birdwatching holidays to Bosnia and Herzegovina. They cater for small groups, offer all-inclusive tailor-made excursions, visiting several reserves and natural beauty spots in Herzegovina. Contact Denis Bohm at info@wild-herzegovina.com or visit [www.wild-herzegovina.com](http://www.wild-herzegovina.com/)

Wildlife Provençale is an independent wildlife holiday company specialising in regional wildlife tours of Provence in the South of France. Wildlife Provençale are the regional experts for natural history holidays in this spectacular location with 11 years of highly successful wildlife tours. Web [www.wildlifeprovencale.com](http://www.wildlifeprovencale.com)

Wingspan Bird Tours offer a range of birdwatching holidays and bird tours throughout Spain, Morocco, Lesbos and Portugal. Bird-watching breaks range from day trips in Andalucia to 10 days in Morocco. Wingspan cater for beginners and accomplished birders alike. [www.wingspanbirdtours.com](http://www.wingspanbirdtours.com/)

6. Latin America/Caribbean Tour Operators offering predominantly local destinations

Alambi Cloud Forest Reserve, at the foot of the Tandayapa Valley, has experienced bird guides and is the perfect base to access over 600 species of Ecuador’s Chocó. For more information, e-mail: info@alambicloudforest.com or reservations@alambicloudforest.com Phones: 593 - 9 - 974

Study to develop a Baseline for Avitourism in KZN
Amazonia Lodge, located in the tropical lowland rainforest of Manu Biosphere Reserve, Peru. The new 65 foot high viewing platform is the only tower located in the pre-mountain rainforest of Peru. Tour the biosphere and elsewhere with Amazonia Lodge. www.amazonialodge.com Peru Office, Calle Matara 334 Tercer piso, Cusco, Tel/Fax: 51-84-231370, Cell Phone: 51-984680963.

Andean Birding, Salazar Gómez E-1482 y Eloy Alfaro, Quito, Ecuador +593-2-22 207 www.andeanbirding.com

Asa Wright Nature Centre, PO Box 4710, Arima, Trinidad; phone 868 6674655; fax (868) 6674540; e-mail: asaright@tsst.net.tt (destinations: Trinidad)

Aves Patagonia, operates throughout southern South America and Peru. Horacio Matarasso and Gonzalo Salaberry, based in Patagonia, will share their passion for birding along with a group of guides across South America. For those wishing to organize a taylor made birding trip or for those wishing to join small groups of birdwatchers then visit their website at www.avespatagonia.com/en/inicio.

Belize Birding Tours offers premier bird watching trips in Belize for the avid or casual birdwatcher seeking to explore this wonderful country and its avifauna. Jon Friedman is the owner of Belize Birding Tours and has been leading international birding and wildlife photography trips since the late 1980’s. www.belizebirdingtours.com

Birding Colombia has over 16 years of leading organised tours in Colombia, leading more groups to more sites, and seeing more species than any other tour operator in Colombia. Birding Colombia’s unparalleled knowledge of the country means tailor made services with itineraries adapted to your style of bird watching. Web: www.birding-colombia.com Email: info@birding-colombia.com

Birding in Belize is a Belize birding tour guide company, with 7 & 10 day Belize and Tikal (Guatemala) bird tours specializing in small groups (1-6 clients) with seasoned bird guides with 30+ years in-country guiding experience. Tours cover a wide variety of habitats to maximize the best birding opportunities throughout the country, visiting wetlands, pine/oak savannahs, Caribbean coastal and lowland broadleaf submontane rainforest habitats to view as many of the nearly 600 species as possible. Web www.birding-in-belize.com/

Belize Birding Tours with Paradise Expeditions are an experienced Belizean-owned tour company, based in Belize, offering small and personalized Belize bird watching tours. Belizean tour guides are knowledgeable Belize experts on local birds. BBT cater for both the casual and the serious Belize birder. Choose from a range of Belize birding vacation packages and Belize bird tours either for the day or multiday guided Belize birding. www.birdinginbelize.com

Birding In Peru P.O. Box 606, Cusco, Peru. Tel: 51-84-226671 www.Birding-in-Peru.com (destinations: Peru)

Birdwatching Chile offer a range of birding and wildlife tours throughout Chile including the Humboldt pelagics. Run by Rodrigo Reyes and and marine biologist Carolina Yanes, contact Birdwatch Chile via e-mail info@birdwatchingchile.com or website: www.birdwatchingchile.com

Cayaya Birding, phone: (502) 308 5160 fax: (502) 433 0544 www.cayaya-birding.com (destinations:
Colombia Birding offer totally customised birding itineraries across Colombia. Contact Diego at diego@colombiabirding.com web www.colombiabirding.com

Costa Rica Birding, phone USA2025474127; www.cotingatours.com (destinations: Costa Rica)

Crystal Paradise Birding Tours Tel: 501-824-2772 www.crystalparadise.com (destinations: Belize)

Exploraves Birdwatchers, formerly known as Aratinga Aventuras Birdwatchers, is an Ecuador-based tour operator that specializes in birding tours in Southern Ecuador, specifically in the provinces of El Oro, Loja and Zamora-Chinchipe. Calle Lourdes 14-80, entre Sucre y Bolívar, Loja, Loja , Ecuador 11-01 phone 593-72582434 www.exploraves.com

Fantastico Sur Expeditions is a Chilean tour company based in the vast and mythic southernmost region of South America known as Patagonia. Since 1997, the company has specialized in offering world-class birdwatching tours, natural history journeys, and botanical tours in Chile and the remote regions of Patagonia. Armando Sanhueza 579, CP 6212748, Punta Arenas, Chile 800.680.0640 (UK) | 800.656.1806 (US) | 56.61.615795 (Worldwide): www.fantasticosur.com e-mail: tours@fantasticosur.com

Jungle Birders The first birding agency owned and operated by native Amazonians. When you come to Ecuador you want to see native, not introduced, birds. Bird guides should be the same. All Jungle Birders tours are accommodated at comfortable lodges that understand the needs of birders and are situated in excellent birding habitat. Telephone number (Quito): (593 2) 2569 458; (593 9) 35-69-936 Web: www.junglebirders.com Email: info@junglebirders.com

InkaNatura Travel, phone (888) 287-7186; www.inkanatura.com (destinations: Peru)

Kolibri Expeditions provides birding trips to all corners of South America. Kolibri go off the beaten track to give you all possible endemics and specialties of the particular area you are in. E-mail to: kolibriexp@gmail.com web:www.kolibriexpeditions.com Address: Arias Schreiber 192 office 300, Miraflores, Lima, Peru. Phone 01-273 72 46.

Lamanai (Belize) Outpost Lodge, phone 1-888-733-7864; www.lamanai.com (destinations: Belize)

Manu Expeditions. P.O. Box 606, Cusco, Peru. Tel: 51-84-226671 www.ManuExpeditions.com (destinations: Peru)

Mindo Bird Tours, Quito, Ecuador, Telephone: 593-2-2454304 Cell Phone: 593-099-042210 www.mindobirds.com.ec (destinations: Ecuador)

Na Trilha Certa, Praça João Ribeiro, 204, Ed. Hermínia Sala 2, Centro, CEP 88600-000 São Joaquim, Santa Catarina, Brasil. Tele: (49) 3233-3470 Web: www.natrilhacerta.com.br e-mail: contato@natrilhacerta.com.br

Neblina Forest, phone 1-800-538-2149; www.neblinaforest.com e-mail: mrivaden@pi.pro.ec for Neblina Forest (Ecuador); (destinations: Ecuador, Galapagos)

Friends of the Osa, Costa Rica (FOO) is a nonprofit conservation organization founded to protect the
Osa Peninsula’s globally significant biodiversity. FOO operate the Osa Biodiversity Center, a Costa Rican biological station and conservation center with facilities to accommodate student groups, researchers, sea turtle volunteers, conservation professionals and others. For more information on conservation trips visit: [http://www.osaconservation.org/ConservationTrips.html](http://www.osaconservation.org/ConservationTrips.html)

San Jorge Eco-Lodges & Botanical Reserves, Quito, Ecuador, [www.eco-lodgesanjorge.com](http://www.eco-lodgesanjorge.com) Toll free 877-565-2596 USA & Canada

Seriema Nature Tours is a company based in Argentina, which focuses on birding and natural history tours across Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Paraguay, Uruguay and Antarctica. [www.seriemanaturetours.com](http://www.seriemanaturetours.com)

Shiripuno Amazon Lodge is a tourist facility in the Ecuadorian Amazon. Its remote location in the pristine tropical rainforest provides an extraordinary opportunity for birding, natural history excursions and nature explorations. The Lodge is adjacent to the Shiripuno Research Center, the most remote biological station in the Ecuadorian Amazon Basin. Experienced tour guides offer visitors a range of excursions including bird watching, camping and nature tours. Visit [www.shiripunolodge.com](http://www.shiripunolodge.com)

Tanager Tours is a leading tour operator for birding trips to Peru and other South American destinations. Active in Peru since 1999, Tanager Tours offer tailor-made tours as well as standard routes. Guides have extensive language skills, speaking Spanish, English, and Dutch accompanied by reliable and robust equipment. Group sizes are small – generally between 2 to 7 clients. Contact by phone (Lima): +51 1 669 0825; (Cusco): +51 84 237254; (mobile): +51 974 792711 or e-mail: info@tanager-tours.com web: [http://www.tanager-tours.com](http://www.tanager-tours.com)

Terrasenses is a responsible travel company in Ecuador. Terrasenses offers ethical and environmentally friendly excursions in Ecuador: cultural, adventure, birdwatching, scientific or conservational. During your trip, you will have the chance to meet scientific professionals, ecologists and passionate volunteers. Tours include small groups of two to ten travellers. Contact info@terrasenses.com or visit [www.terrasenses.com](http://www.terrasenses.com)

Tierra de Aves offers custom designed birding tours across Mexico from a morning’s outing to directed searches for specific species such as rare or endemics birds. Special tours for bird photographers. Contact Manuel or Georgita through the web at [www.tierradeaves.com](http://www.tierradeaves.com)

Tico Tours; Michael R. Boatwright, 177 Sugar Mill Drive, Amherst, VA 24521; Website [http://tico-tours.net](http://tico-tours.net); email info@tico-tours.net (destinations: Costa Rica)

Wild Travel Central America offers birdwatching and wildlife holidays in Costa Rica & the rest of Central America. Specialists in birdwatching holidays, neotropical photography and natural history tours providing customized programs according to your needs. E-mail: wildtravelcentralamerica@gmail.com Tel: (506) 2591 6097 Address: Ciudad de Oro, Cartago, Costa Rica, Central America. Web site: [www.wildtravelcentralamerica.com](http://www.wildtravelcentralamerica.com)

7. UK Tour Operators offering predominantly local destinations

Birdtour, The Bird ID Company has a variety of tours that offer bird watchers the opportunity to see a wide range of bird species in and around Norfolk. Birdtours specialise in helping bird watchers get more from their hobby by teaching them bird identification skills in the field. Contact The Bird ID
Company of Whales present cetacean adventures of whale, dolphin, seabird and shark watching mini-cruises from Portsmouth to northern Spain through the Bay of Biscay. Contact 01950422483. E-mail info@companyofwhales.co.uk Web www.companyofwhales.co.uk

Frontier Holidays are a small, family-owned business specialised in walking and nature holidays in Spain. Frontier Holidays organise every year a popular Bird Migration Tour at the Donana National Park and the Strait of Gibraltar National Park. Contact info@frontierholidays.net or via their website at: http://frontierholidays.net/index

Heatherlea Scottish Birdwatching Centre, Mountview Hotel, Nethybridge, Inverness-shire PH253EB, UK; phone 01479821248; fax 01479821515; e-mail hleabirds@aol.com (destinations: Scotland)

Hebridean Island & Wildlife Cruise, Northern Light Charters (www.northernlight-uk.com) Small ship cruises from Oban (max 12 guests) throughout the Hebrides to St Kilda, North Rona etc. Cruises from four nights onboard. Cetaceans, walks, great food. Eagles year round. Seabirds all season but mostly seen May through July.

Honeyguide Wildlife Holidays, 36 Thunder Lane, Norwich NR7 0PX, UK; phone 01603300552; www.honeyguide.co.uk e-mail: honeyguide@tesco.net (destinations: Europe)

Mid-Wales Birdwatching, Hafod Lodge, Cwmystwyth, Wales SY23 4AD, UK; phone 01974282247; www.midwalesbirdwatching.co.uk e-mail: johndavis@midwalesbirdwatching.co.uk (destinations: Wales)

New Horizons, join Christopher Hall as he leads you around the British Isles - birdwatching courses and tours. Contact Christopher or via Eastwood, Nottinghamshire, NG16 3DD, UK +44 (0)1773 716550

Norfolk Birding, Guided birdwatching holidays & wildlife tours in Norfolk & around the UK. Guided wildlife photography workshops. Tours for all levels of birdwatcher. Customised tours both for private individuals and specialist groups. All tours are personally led by Chris Mills who has over 20 years of experience with watching & photographing birds & wildlife. Tel: 01362 683520 or 07876 357677; e-mail: chrismills@norfolkbirding.com web: http://www.norfolkbirding.com/

North West Birds, Barn Close, Beetham, Cumbria LA7 7AL, UK; phone 01539563191; www.nwbirds.co.uk e-mail: nwbirds@nwbirds.co.uk (destinations: NW England)

Oriole Birding are a UK based company offering a comprehensive range of birding tours covering most UK destinations plus holidays to over 30 countries worldwide. Oriole Birding pride ourselves on genuinely small groups and excellent value. We specialise in tours to our home regions of Norfolk and South Wales, and offer custom tours year round as well as a selection of broader natural history breaks. www.oriolebirding.com Email: oriolebirding@gmail.com Tel: 01656 711152 Address: 8 Newcastle Hill, Bridgend CF31 4EY

Romney Marsh Birdwatching Breaks, bird tours throughout Kent and bed and breakfast. Contact Pat and Paul Trodd at ttroddy@plovers.co.uk or visit their website at www.plovers.co.uk. Paul is a well known author of a number of bird finding guides and magazine articles. Phone 01797 366935 or
Shetland Wildlife, Longhill, Maywick, Shetland ZE2 9JF, UK; phone 01950422483; fax 01950422430; [www.shetlandwildlife.co.uk](http://www.shetlandwildlife.co.uk) e-mail: info@shetlandwildlife.co.uk (destinations: Shetland Isles)

Speyside Wildlife, phone 01479812498; [www.speysidewildlife.co.uk](http://www.speysidewildlife.co.uk); e-mail: enquiries@speysidewildlife.co.uk (destinations: Speyside, Scotland)

Western Isles Wildlife, offering wildlife and bird tours in the Outer Hebrides. The website ([www.western-isles-wildlife.com](http://www.western-isles-wildlife.com)) also doubles up as a local information service for recent wildlife news. Contact Steve at: steveduffield70@gmail.com or phone: 001876 580619 or 07867 555971. Home address: 7 Carinish, isle of North Uist, Western Isles, HS6 5HL.

West London Birding is a bird guiding service based in West London, half way between Heathrow Airport and the West End of London. Bill Haines offers a wide range of trips to birding sites in the south-east of the UK. Longer tours to other parts of the country are also available. Trips can be customised according to a client’s birding requirements. For more information e-mail Bill Haines at enquiries@westlondonbirding.co.uk or visit [www.westlondonbirding.co.uk](http://www.westlondonbirding.co.uk)

8. US/Canadian Tour Operators offering predominantly local destinations

Alan Tours, phone 850 862-3498; e-mail: birdman8@home.com (destinations: Southern states)

Alaska Birding, [www.alaskabirding.com](http://www.alaskabirding.com) e-mail: pribilof@tdx.alaska.com (destinations: Alaska)

Alaska with Field Guides, phone 800 728-4953; e-mail: fieldguides@fieldguides.com (destinations: Alaska)

American Birding Association, PO Box 6599, Colorado Springs, Colorado CO 80934; phone 800 850-2473 and 719 578-9703 ext.233; [www.americanbirding.org](http://www.americanbirding.org) programs/eduifowksp.htm e-mail: member@aba.org (destinations: various in US)

Avocet Tours offer birding tours for both beginning and advanced birders to places as far afield as Cape May NJ, Colorado, Florida and Texas. [www.avocettours.ca](http://www.avocettours.ca) Avocet Tours, 725 Richards Road, Kelowna, B.C. V1X 2X5 Canada. Telephone: (250) 718-0335

Birding the Subarctic, PO Box 176, Churchill, Manitoba ROB OEO; phone 888 389-2327; fax 204 675-2258 (destinations: Subarctic Canada)

Birding Workshops, 600 Route 47, North Cape May Court House, New Jersey NJ008210; phone 609 861-0700; [www.njaudubon.org](http://www.njaudubon.org) (destinations: Cape May)

Cedros Outdoor Adventures, lead natural history expeditions to the islands of Cedros and San Benito on the west coast of the peninsula of Baja California. The islands of San Benitos are the most important breeding grounds for seabirds between Galapagos and Alaska with more than 2.5 million birds of more than 10 species of seabirds. A great destination for enthusiastic birdwatchers interested in storm petrels, murrelets, shearwaters, and aukslets. Mailing address: 482 West San Ysidro Blvd. Suite, 988. San Ysidro, CA. USA 92173. Ph: US 1 (619) 793 5419 / MX +52 (646)154 3085

Study to develop a Baseline for Avitourism in KZN
Email: info@cedrosoutdooradventures.com & desertandsea5@hotmail.com

Darrell Vollert Nature Tours; birding tour operator living in Chappell Hill, Texas. Offers toursthroughout the state of Texas and in the Smoky Mountains in eastern Tennessee and western North Carolina, USA. www.DarrellVollertNatureTours.com

David Bradford, 18046 Green Hazel Drive, Houston, Texas TX77084; phone 281 855-2615; e-mail: brdfrd@tenet.edu (destinations: Alaska)

Ecomertours Nord-Sud, 606 Des Ardennes, Rimouski, Quebec G5L 3M3, Canada; phone 888 724-8687; fax 418 724-2527; www.ecomertours.com e-mail: ljones@globetrotter.net (destinations: Gulf of St Lawrence)

Exotic Birding Tours, Tel: 1-877-BIRDER 1 (1-877-247-3371) http://exoticbirding.com (destinations: Costa Rica, Belize, Panama, Trinidad/Tobago)

Fun Birding Tours in SE Arizona. Hire a birding guide by the day or week, or join Fun Birding Tours for an economy or deluxe birding tour in southeast Arizona. Also great birding tours to Belize & more. Phone: (520) 323-4234. Web www.funbirdingtours.com Email: richard@funbirdingtours.com

Hawaii Forest and Trail, phone 800 464-1993; www.hawaii-forest.com e-mail: info@hawaii-forest.com

Jim Stevenson, Route 1, Box 185C, Galveston, Texas; phone 409 737-4081, e-mail: natrix@airmail.net (destinations: Texas coast)

Larry Manfredi, PO Box 322244, Homestead, Florida FL33032; phone 305 258-9607; www.southfloridabirding.com e-mail: birderim@bellsouth.net (destinations: Florida)

Nature Travel Holidays, PO Box 1334, 6A Clarence Street, Kingston, Ontario ON K71 5C6, Canada; phone 888 05-3955; (destinations: Arctic Canada)

NatureAlaska Tours, phone and fax 907 488-3746; e-mail: dwetzal@alask.net (destinations: Alaska)

Naturalist Journeys, phone 406 763-3001; fax 406 763-3001; www.naturalistjourneys.com

Newfoundland Tours, phone 800 563-6353 (destinations: Newfoundland, Labrador)

Pacific Rim Birding Tours, PO Box 692, Moss Landing, California CA 95039; phone 831 632-2473; e-mail: rimbirding@aol.com (destinations: Central California)

St Paul Island Tours, www.alaskabirding.com e-mail: pribilof@tdx.alaska.com (destination: Alaska)

Searcher Natural History Tours, San Diego. Birding the outermost waters of the SW USA - destinations: Arguello Canyon, Rodriguez Seamount, Patton Escarpment, Cortez Bank, and points farther out. Phone: (619) 226-2403 email:searcher@bajawhale.com http://www.bajawhale.com

Southern Safaris, 211 W. Plassuela, Refugio, Texas TX78377; phone 512 526-2767; e-mail prbirding@aol.com (destinations: Puerto Rico)
Stuart Healy - AZ Birding, 220 Stardust, Sierra Vista, Arizona AZ85635; phone 520 458-7603; fax 520 458-7353; www.aztrogon.com e-mail: shealy@theriver.com (destinations: western US)

Talon Tours, 8 Pine Tree Circle, Cotati, California CA 94931; phone 707 795-7547; fax 707 795-7562; e-mail: talontours@yahoo.com

Terran Tours, PO Box 1018, Waimea, Kauai, Hawaii 96796; phone 808 335-3313; e-mail dkuhn@rare-dear.com (destinations: Kauai)

Texas Birding Tours, specialize in guided tours in Texas and Mexico. Contact Oscar Carmona, 7209 Garden Green Drive, Arlington, TX 76001, 817-375-5040. E-mail hookbilledkite@hotmail.com Web http://www.freewebs.com/texasbirdingtours/

TLC Birding, Terry Colborn birds outs of California and offers tours right across North America and parts of South America. Contact Terry through his website www.tlcbirding.com

Victor Emanuel Nature Tours, PO Box 33008, Austin, Texas 78764; phone 512 328 5221; www.ventbird.com e-mail: info@ventbird.com

Westwings, phone 801 487-9453; e-mail: westwings@sisna.com

Wilderness Birding Adventures, PO Box 103747-Z, Anchorage, Alaska AK99577; phone and fax 907 694-7442; e-mail: wildbird@alaska.net (destinations: Alaska)

Wildland Tours - Escorted Adventures in Newfoundland P.O. Box 383, 124 Water Street, St. John's, Newfoundland, Canada A1C 5J9 phone: (709) 722-3123 fax: (709) 722-3335 http://www.wildlands.com

Wings West Birding Tours, Bill West conducts daily and weekly birding tours in New Mexico, Mexico, the Great American Southwest and Ecuador. Contact: Wings West Birding Tours, 2599 Camino Chueco, Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505. Phone 800 583-6928; e-mail wingswestnm@earthlink.net Web: www.wingswestnm.com