

Module 9: **Birds**



Certification

Graduates receive DTA Short Course Certificate (upon completion of full program)



Duration

3 days (24 hours)

Course Description

The Birds module is a comprehensive course designed to equip professional guides with in-depth knowledge of avian biology, behavior, identification, and ecology. This module empowers guides to confidently interpret birdlife for guests, integrating birding into the broader safari experience. Through interactive lectures, field excursions, and practical exercises, participants learn to identify bird species by sight and call, understand their ecological roles, and interpret their behaviors in context. The course also highlights the conservation importance of birds and their habitats, fostering appreciation and advocacy among guests.

Course Outcome

By the end of this module, the trainee will be able to:

- Identify key bird families and species found in Botswana by sight, sound, and habitat.
- Explain bird anatomy, adaptations (beak shapes, feet types, wing types), and their ecological significance.
- Interpret bird behavior and vocalizations to enhance the guest experience.
- Describe the role of birds in ecosystems (pollinators, seed dispersers, scavengers, indicators of ecosystem health).
- Integrate birding into guided activities to add depth and variety to game drives and walks.
- Promote bird conservation awareness, sharing the significance of Important Bird Areas (IBAs) and migratory bird routes.

Topics Covered

- Introduction to Ornithology
- Bird Anatomy & Adaptations
- Bird Families & Key Species of Botswana
- Bird Identification Techniques (Sight & Call)
- Bird Behavior & Communication
- Birds as Ecological Indicators
- Migratory Birds and Seasonality
- Conservation Issues & Important Bird Areas (IBAs)
- Birding Equipment and Ethics
- Incorporating Birding into Guiding Activities



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DEVELOPMENT
COUNCIL
of BOTSWANA