



South African  
NATIONAL PARKS



BirdLife®  
SOUTH AFRICA

HONORARY RANGERS LIMPOPO REGION

## **RAPTOR IDENTIFICATION COURSE**

**05 – 08 March 2009**

**Olifants Rest Camp, Kruger National Park**

*Since early civilisation, humans have been fascinated and inspired by birds of prey. They are featured in some of the earliest works of art and some species were trained for hunting well over 4000 years ago. Eagles, in particular have always been regarded as the masters of the sky - the ultimate predators and as such have featured strongly in emblems and symbols depicting strength, independence and pride. Sadly, today many of our raptor species are threatened with extinction and with optimism our increased familiarity and understanding of these magnificent birds will translate into an ever-stronger determination to ensure their survival.*

*Southern Africa is blessed with a great diversity of raptors. Close on 80 species occur in this region during the summer months. This large assortment of species, many of which are superficially similar and show distinct variation between age classes provides an exciting identification challenge for any bird enthusiast.*

Join leading Limpopo Province ornithologist Joe Grosel on an exciting three three-day course which introduces participants to a practical identification system whereby the entire region's raptor species can be recognized. Apart from the identification aspect, interesting subjects relating to the life histories and ecology of each species is also covered. The course will take place in the Olifants Camp in the Kruger National Park which due to its locality and elevated position offers some of the best raptor viewing on the continent. Activities for the weekend will include morning and afternoon bird and game spotting drives on open game viewing vehicles in the company of Joe Grosel and Park Rangers.

**The cost of this exciting Raptor Identification course is R1850.00\* per person. The price includes, tuition, all birding activities and outings, teas and lunches as well as stationery, literature and a full colour raptor identification manual. \*Excludes park entrance, conservation fees & accommodation.**

Accommodation in 3 bed bungalows has been pre-booked at R795 per person sharing or R1590 per couple for 3 nights.

Participation on the course is restricted to 16 people. Non participating partners will be welcome to accompany the outings subject to availability. All proceeds from the weekend will be for the Honorary Rangers Environmental Fund and Birdlife SA .

For more information or a full itinerary please contact Charles Hardy.  
email [charles.hardy@bmwdealer.co.za](mailto:charles.hardy@bmwdealer.co.za) or [charlois@mweb.co.za](mailto:charlois@mweb.co.za) or Cell 083 457 1721.

## Suggested Course Program

### Thursday 05 March

- 14h30 – Course delegates meet at Olifants Camp for registration.
- 15h00 – Course opens with an audio-visual program on Raptors of the World.
- 15h30 - Introductory lecture - Raptor anatomy & terminology.
- 16h00 - A practical raptor identification system – Families *Sagittariidae* and *Pandionidae*
- 16h30 – ID system lectures continue – ID groups - **Large eagles, small eagles & snake eagles**
- 18h00 – Delegates break for the day.
- 19h00 – Bring & Braai at Course Venue (Optional)

### Friday 06 March

- 07h00 – ID system cont. groups – **Brown eagles, Buteos & kites**
- 09h30 – Tea break & raptor viewing from the deck and a short walk around the camp.
- 10h30 - ID system cont. groups – **Harriers, atypical raptors and vultures**
- 12h30 – Lunch break.
- 13h30 – Lectures continue - ID groups – **Accipiters, falcons & kestrels**
- 15h00 – Tea break
- 15h30 - Lecture – **Owls**
- 16h30 – Practical excursion which will extend into the evening for owl spotting.
- 20h00 – Delegates return to camp.

### Saturday 07 March

- 06h00 – Depart on a guided practical excursion and morning outing from Olifants camp.
- 11h00 – Return to camp for lunch and a siesta.
- 14h00 – Lecture – Raptors and migration.
- 15h00 – Tea break.
- 15h30 – Lecture – Raptor conservation in South Africa.
- 16h30 – Drive to a nearby lookout point to view raptor/bat interactions and enjoy sundowners.
- 19h00 – Delegates return to camp. Bring & Braai at the Course Venue.

### Sunday 08 March

- 06h00 – Optional early morning excursion.
- 10h30 - Delegates reconvene for final lecture & revision
- 11h30 – Team competition
- 12h30 – Prize giving and closing.
- 13h00 – Course ends

Excursions will be on open game viewing vehicles in the company of Park Rangers.

### What delegates need to bring along

- Comfortable clothes and walking shoes.
- Hat and sun screen.
- Insect repellent.
- Torch.
- Binoculars
- Spotting scope (only if you have one)
- Bird or raptor field guide books.

**Stationery, literature and a full colour raptor identification manual will be provided.**