

Birdwatching Breaks Leaders



Mark Finn lives on the Black Isle in Scotland and is the principal leader of *Birdwatching Breaks* having formed the company in May 1987. In 2005, Mark set up *Black Isle Birding* for tours based in Scotland. Mark originally trained in hotel management and catering before pursuing careers in the Merchant Navy, industrial catering and, finally, as a sales representative. He has travelled widely in search of birds both whilst leading trips and on reconnaissance trips for future tours. His travels have taken him to a wide variety of destinations around the world. Mark is also a member of the Scottish Ornithologists Club. In between leading tours, Mark deals with the administration work of *Birdwatching Breaks*. He has a keen interest in sport, particularly cricket and soccer, and enjoys wine and good food.



Ali Alieslam lives in Tehran, Iran. Ali has had a lifelong interest in the natural history of Iran and has been guiding birding tours on a professional basis for many years. Ali will be leading our birding tour of Iran, taking in many important birding areas of this large country. Ali is also a skilled photographer of wildlife and is fluent in the English language. He has also written articles for OSME and found some notable 'firsts' for the country which have included Black-naped Monarch.



Ben Blewitt has been interested in natural history from an early age. After completing a degree in Applied Science specialising in wildlife biology he moved to north Queensland and worked as a field biologist with CSIRO researching the Northern Bettong and other mammals. He set up the very successful Cassowary Tours in 2004. He has now returned to Far North Queensland and is our leader to Papua New Guinea, an area he knows well from previous tours.



Chris Bradshaw lives in North Yorkshire. He is a vastly experienced bird-watcher having travelled to many countries in pursuit of birds. Chris has built up a loyal following among clients who appreciate his professionalism and knowledge in the field. He is particularly interested in the birds of Asia and is an authority on the region's birds having led many tours there. Chris is also responsible for updating and compiling the *Birdwatching Breaks* website, a legacy from his previous employment in the information technology industry.



Phil Hammond was born in Canada, but spent his boyhood in small villages in rural Norfolk. Although he has travelled to more than 30 countries, his home base for the last 50 years has been Auckland. In his 20s, 30s, and 40s sport, career, and young family took most of his time but he always had a pair of binoculars and a bird book or two. He really enjoys showing visitors our birds, especially endemics, and knows where to find them.



Harriet Kemishiga lives in Kampala, Uganda. Harriet is Uganda's only female bird guide and one of the directors of Harrier Tours. Her passion for wildlife and birds started when she was a little girl growing up with her grandfather at the edge of Kibale National Park. Harriet has successfully guided many birding trips in Uganda and Rwanda since 2003. She has also worked for the avian vocalisation centre recording sounds of rare species that have not been recorded to science. Harriet is probably one of the best birding guides within Africa today with an incredible knowledge of birds and sounds within her native Uganda.



Anders Faugstad Mæland lives in central Norway and has been a birder from a young age. Anders has established himself as a professional guide in Norway and taken part in a wide variety of ornithological surveys and biodiversity projects. He was the main ringer and migration counter at Jomfruland bird observatory from 1997-2011 before setting up Norwegian Birding. Anders has an intimate knowledge of his native Norway and its abundant wildlife especially the far north of the country.



Ass Ndiaye lives in Dakar, Senegal. Ass has worked with Birdwatching Breaks since we initiated tours to Senegal in the mid-1990s. Ass is a skilled birder with a happy knack of locating unusual birds. He has a particularly good eye for raptors and owls. Ass lives with his wife and young son and is an avid follower of football, particularly the English Premier League.



Simon Papps lives in Waltham Abbey, Essex. Simon is a vastly experienced birder having travelled to a wide range of countries in pursuit of birds. He was formerly the sub-editor at *Birdwatch Magazine*, the highly respected monthly publication for birders. Currently, Simon works as the Commissioning Editor for Natural History Books at New Holland Publishers based in London. Away from birding, Simon enjoys all sports, but particularly football.



Jane Stylianou lives in Nicosia, Cyprus. Jane has been interested in birds since the age of five and has continued birdwatching since moving to Cyprus in 1985. She has worked as a Development Officer for BirdLife Cyprus for over four years and is currently carrying out field work and doing conservation-based projects on a freelance basis. Together with another local birder, Jane operates Cyprus Birding Tours.