

BIG BIRDING DAY – 27TH NOVEMBER

Bird watching is a wonderful pastime and can be a fun activity for the whole family and you will learn much about the resident birds in your area. Bird-watching doesn't require expertise and training. It's an activity even a novice can begin at a moment's notice.

The annual South African Birding Big Day is a fun and competitive day for South Africa's bird-watchers. This event helps raise funds for BirdLife South Africa's important bird conservation work and takes place between midnight 27 November and midnight 28 November. If you would like to become involved visit the BirdLife website to find out more.

Although birdwatching is a recreational pastime, the primary objective of the Birding Big Day is to promote conservation, monitoring, study and understanding of wild birds and their habitats. All birders throughout South Africa can help by doing the bird count and contributing in a real way to the conservation of our country's splendid birds. This includes garden birds where you can consider your carbon footprint by watching in a smaller radius.

You probably hear birds every day, but can you tell one bird song from the next? Bird watching is an increasingly popular hobby in many parts of the world. Venturing out to look for and listen to various species of birds in your area can be enriching and relaxing. All you need is a pair of binoculars, a field guide, and a willingness to observe.

The best way to get started.

- Position a bird feeder in clear view of a window. You'll find you can learn a great deal about the birds in your area without ever leaving your chair.
- Venture farther out with a knowledgeable acquaintance.
- Research the species that are likely to be found in the habitat you regularly visit. Learn about their habits and what time of day is best to spot them.
- Get the necessary gear. Most bird-watchers use binoculars with a magnification of seven times. Wear dull colored clothing so as to not disturb the birds when in their natural habitat.
- Observe. Move quietly and find a place to sit or crouch. Armed with your binoculars and a good eye, you can bird-watch to your heart's content.

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