

Birding Opportunities in the Renewable Energy Industry

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Why are birding skills required for renewable energy?

Bird observers working as skilled fieldworkers are necessary to help inform on the potential risks to birds from a proposed development, particularly wind and solar renewable energy projects. Such fieldwork assessments involve counting and identifying birds while noting where and how they regularly fly or nest, and this is required by law before, during and after the construction of a renewable energy development. The goal of the bird observer is to assess the situation on site, identify species and key habitats at risk from the development, and create a mitigation strategy to avoid or minimise any risks to the wellbeing of birds.

Who are we?

Enviro-Insight CC specialises in environmental impact assessments and biodiversity surveys relying on a variety of specialists with experience in multiple disciplines. Our surveys focus on avifauna (birds), mammals (including bats), herpetofauna (frogs and reptiles), flora, invertebrates, and aquatic fauna. A major part of our scope is service provision to the renewable energy industry and working towards minimising potential environmental impacts caused by a development.

Who are we looking for?

Our specialists are seeking assistance from passionate and interested people with some birding experience who thrive in a fieldwork environment. We want to invest in people who are looking to improve their birding skills while gaining valuable work experience in a job market that may be overlooked by the average nature enthusiast.



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What does the job entail?

Assistant bird observers will be given the opportunity to work in the field alongside experienced specialists over several consecutive days on projects all over South Africa. With guidance, fieldworkers will take part in systematic sampling at specific locations where all birds and their activities are recorded. Observers will learn data capture techniques that help us assess potential impacts to the bird community from the proposed development. Observers will also gain sampling experience from vantage point surveys, walking and driving transects in key habitats, and monitoring nesting and roosting sites. However, fieldwork is not exclusively focused on avifauna, as other animal and plant life is also encountered and recorded. Furthermore, our night-time work in which we survey bats provides an excellent opportunity to witness some of the less common nocturnal wildlife.

How will this experience benefit you?

While working with us, candidates will receive:

- ✓ Additional knowledge on many kinds of animals and plant life, but especially birds.
- ✓ Exposure to industry practices, including data capture methods, GIS mapping, GPS navigation, photography, drone operation and other useful techniques.
- ✓ Experience working in a team environment with other specialists.
- ✓ Exposure to technical off-road driving and navigating.
- ✓ Exposure to alternative avenues where birding can be a career option.
- ✓ Meaningful work experience that can add to your CV.
- ✓ A greater understanding of conservation in the face of South Africa's development plans.

Remuneration:

Daily rates: **R 650** per day, all travel, food & accommodation expenses covered.

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