

TUTORIAL SYNOPSIS



How to Prepare for a Birding Trip Doing some focused preparation for a birding, photography, or general natural history trip can really add to how much you enjoy it. This tutorial will help you figure out your personal optimal level of study, starting with some basic questions to help you find your personal “sweet spot”. After that comes a rich selection of study techniques and tips from a professional guide and traveller who has spent his entire life getting ready for his next birding trip. Amazed by how sharp pro guides are in the field? Learn their secrets!

This tutorial will cover:

- Why to study? How are you travelling, what are your goals, and what do you enjoy?
- Three separate modules for three levels of study: quick and easy, intermediate, and fanatical. Each module builds on the previous one, and even those who only want to do a small amount of preparation will glean some useful tips from the more advanced modules.
- Learn how professional guides prepare for their trips, with techniques refined over decades of experience.
- Will be useful whether you're a photographer, general natural history lover, or a focused birder.

STAY TUNED!!!

How to Plan a Birding Trip, with Charley Hesse, will be helpful in conjunction with this one, teaching you how to choose a destination and plan an optimal itinerary. Once your destination and itinerary are set, watch Ken's tutorial to get ready for your trip.



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ABOUT THE INSTRUCTOR



KEN BEHRENS

As a boy, Ken discovered flickers in the Pennsylvania woods, and has been chasing birds ever since. In his teens, he was the ABA/Leica Young Birder of the Year and the Wildbird Birder of the Year. For parts of 6 years, he worked for Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory in far-flung and usually remote locations between Montana and New Mexico. He spent one fall counting the monumental raptor migration in Veracruz, Mexico. Ken also spent parts of three years counting birds in Cape May. There he developed a particular interest in seawatching, and he is the co-author of the Peterson Reference Guide to Seawatching: Eastern Waterbirds in Flight, a groundbreaking field guide published by Houghton-Mifflin. He was a member of the team that set a North American big day record in 2008. Ken has lived in Africa for over a decade and now calls Madagascar home. In 2016, he co-authored a photographic field guide to the wildlife of Madagascar, which was published by Princeton / WILDGuides. Ken guides tours all over the world, from Colorado to Spain to New Guinea. His non-birding interests include history, literature, climbing mountains, gardening, cooking, and eating. He is a keen photographer. Ken also authored Birding Ethiopia, Wild Rwanda, and Birds of Kruger National Park, many articles and trip reports, and hundreds of accounts for Cornell's Merlin app. He's currently working on a photographic field guide to Malagasy birds, and a guide to the wildlife habitats of the world. Along with fellow School of Birding instructor Charley Hesse, he co-hosts the Naturally Adventurous podcast.

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