

KALWELWA RINGING & BIRDING WEEK



Dates: Sunday 1 October – Saturday 7 October (7 days / 6 nights)

This week can be combined with Birding Zambia's "Mwinilunga & Ikelenge 2023" tour (7-17 October)

Guides: Dieter Oschadleus & Frank Willems

Accommodation type: lodging (3-star)

Participants: minimum 3, maximum 10

Package price:

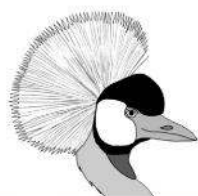
Full board lodging: \$774 Zambian / SADC, \$899 international. Single occupancy: \$100 surcharge

Self-catering camping: \$350

Included are all guiding services, use of ringing gear, catering, tea & coffee, accommodation and conservancy fee. Excluded are drinks which are available on request. The rate applies to BirdWatch Zambia members only. Non-members pay an additional \$25 with which comes BWZ membership for 2023 and 2024. For each booking, donations will be made to BirdWatch Zambia and the Kalwelwa Conservation Project.



Kalwelwa
bushcamp
MWINILUNGA • ZAMBIA
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Birding Zambia

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Introduction

Bird ringing with Dieter

We are very excited that Dieter Oschadleus will host a bird ringing week at our own Kalwelwa Camp. Dieter is among Africa's best known ringers, having headed the South-African Ringing Station (SAFRING) for 20 years. He trained countless ringers during these years. This last November, he headed a very successful course at Nampene Island.

Frank will also be at the camp. Apart from offering assistance with the ringing activities, he will help find and identify all birds and other creatures not caught in the net.

This week is perfectly suited for anybody wanting to learn more about bird ringing, experienced ringers wanting to ring some of Mwinilunga's exciting species, and birders keen to see some of Mwinilunga's secretive star birds up close. It is also very well timed, as Mwinilunga gets occasional showers from August onwards, hence will be refreshingly green compared to the rest of Zambia and southern Africa. Many migrants will have arrived or be passing through in good numbers. We will cover a great variety of habitats and explore the whole Kalwelwa area. Not only will we find 100's of bird species, but we will also have time to enjoy the wealth of other marvellous creatures, flora and scenery here.

Mwinilunga, where Congo meets Kalahari

Among birders and ecologists, Mwinilunga needs little introduction. The extreme northwest of Zambia, now split into Mwinilunga and Ikelenge Districts, bordering both Angola and the DR Congo, holds amazing biodiversity against a stunningly scenic background. Zambia's largest "rainforests" are set in vast grassy plains on Kalahari sands, while more southern sections are covered with scenic *mavunda* forest. Within Zambia, tens of bird species are only found in this area. We expect to see most of these "Mwinilunga specials". Several are endemic to Mwinilunga and adjacent parts of Angola and DRC, such as Grimwood's Longclaw, Dambo Cisticola and Bocage's Weaver. Others are typical for the lowland forests and grasslands of Central Africa, such as Spot-breasted Ibis and Black-collared Bulbul, while yet other species are typical of Africa's montane areas, such as Wing-snapping Cisticola and Red-throated Wryneck. Added to this is a long list of Zambebian specials.

Palm Civet, Dwarf Galago, White-bellied Tree Pangolin, Giant Otter Shrew and Brush-tailed Porcupine are just a few of the extraordinary tropical mammals hiding in the plains and forests. Lots of regional endemics occur among all taxonomic groups, such as the Sakeji Horseshoe Bat and Katanga Bush Viper.





Kalwelwa

The Kalwelwa Depression is one of Zambia’s prime birding destinations. This highly diverse and scenic area has only been known to the ornithological world since 2015. It can be argued to be among Zambia’s most ‘complete’ systems with habitats ranging from desert-like white sands, grasslands, sedge marsh and open water, to deciduous woodlands and both dry and wet evergreen forest. It is now known to hold almost all of the “Mwinilunga specials”, most of which in great densities. It further hosts a wealth of other wetland, grassland, miombo and evergreen forest species including numerous rare and globally endangered species.



Kalwelwa Bushcamp and the newly created Kalwelwa Conservancy are owned and operated by Birding Zambia’s Frank & Inge and team. The surrounds are great for the likes of Bannerman’s Sunbird, Honeyguide Greenbul, Black-collared Bulbul, Stout and Whistling Cisticola, Sharp-tailed Starling and Black-bellied Seedcracker. We might hear the calls of a yet to be identified Dwarf Galago at night, as well as various amphibians of interest.



The 8,000 hectares grassland and wetland plains are gathering world fame for the presence of Grimwood’s, Fülleborn’s and Rosy-throated Longclaw, Blue Quail, Locust Finch, Black-chinned Quail Finch, Short-tailed Pipit, a wealth of cisticolas (notably Dambo, Wing-snapping, Pale-crowned, Levillant’s, Stout and Tinkling), Angolan Lark, Blue-breasted Bee-eater, Black-and-rufous Swallow, Red-throated Wryneck, Wattled Crane, Denham’s and Black-bellied Bustard, and much more. The wealth of wetland birds is now known to include breeding African Great Bittern, one of Africa’s rarest birds, while displaying African Snipes make for spectacular sunsets.



The extensive rainforests - Zambia’s 2nd largest such forest complex – hold, for instance, Spotted Thrush Babbler, Least Honeyguide, White-spotted Flufftail, Blue Malkoha, Afep, Olive and Western Bronze-naped Pigeon, Lemon Dove, Shining-blue, Blue-breasted and the elusive White-bellied Kingfisher, while the forest edges may produce Compact Weaver, Black-faced canary and White-chinned Prinia. As recent as May 2021, the presence of Vermiculated Fishing Owl and Spot-breasted Ibis was confirmed here.



Detailed program

The itinerary starts and ends at Kalwelwa. You are welcome to arrive any time on the 1st and depart any time on the 7th.

Birding Zambia’s “Mwinilunga & Ikelenge” birding safari starts directly after this week and hence is easily combined.

Sun 1 October

Arrival of participants. We will enjoy the surrounds of the camp. Nets will be set up near camp, in preparation of Monday’s first ringing session.

Mon 2 – Fri 6 October

Five days of bird ringing. Each day will consist of the following elements:

5:00 – 10:00 bird ringing sessions with complimentary coffee, tea and snacks.

10:30 brunch, followed by personal downtime

15:00 afternoon tea & coffee, with presentation and discussions led by Dieter

16:00 birding and setting up nets for next morning’s ringing session

19:00 dinner

Sat 7 October

Departure day. Breakfast will be available at 7:00, after which you are free to start your return journey, or enjoy Kalwelwa a bit longer.

If you are joining the “Mwinilunga & Ikelenge” birding safari, you can stay at Kalwelwa Camp. Lunch will be available.

