

Rihann Geyser has grown up with a lifelong interest in wildlife, which evolved into a particular fascination with birds since the age of 9, spending most of this free time identifying and studying bird species and learning their calls and behaviour apart from collecting plants, insects, identifying reptiles, scorpions and spiders, general natural science and ecology and working at the bird Department of the then Transvaal Museum during his school holidays.

Raised in Gauteng, South Africa and after spending four years in France during his childhood, Rihann studied for a National Diploma in Nature Conservation after completing two years in the National Defence Force and work for the National Department of Agriculture for 20 years since 1991. During this time Rihann has contributed to various bird related projects particularly with regards to bird conservation such as the Southern African Bird Atlas Project 1, the Birds in Reserves Project, Breeding and bird nest monitoring and Avifaunal Water Bird Count. During this time Rihann qualifies as a bird ringer through the Southern African Bird Ringing Unit of the Animal Demographic Unit, University of Cape Town and founded and became Chairman of the first official Bird ringing group in South Africa and acted as Vice-chairman of BirdLife Northern Gauteng, training students in bird ringing, guiding birding tours for various bird clubs and organisations, acting as a nature guide for Rietvlei Nature Reserve and acted as the main birding guide for Sammy Marks Museum, giving lectures and talks on bird ringing and bird identification and contributing to various scientific projects such as the Grey-headed Gull colour ringing project, Barn Swallow migratory studies, sunbird research, Crimson-breasted breeding behavioural studies, sampling for DNA and blood parasite for analyses and the Pale Chanting Goshawk colour ringing and monitoring project.

Rihann joined Galago Environmental CC part time in 2006 as an avifaunal specialist compiling specialist report as part of Environmental Impact Assessments concentrating on Red Data bird species.

His career path took an alternative route when he left the Department of Agriculture and joined Galago Environmental full time in January 2012 as a full time avifaunal and Global Information Systems (GIS) specialist. He has compiled over 700 avifaunal specialist reports, all of which are vetted (and appreciated) by an ornithologist registered as Professional Natural Scientist by the S.A. Council for Natural Scientific Professions. Rihann has 30 years birding experience throughout southern Africa and has observed and studies 750 of the 950 bird species in southern Africa and has reviewed and contributed to several birding publications and books such as the Southern African Bird Atlas Project 1, Roberts Birds of southern Africa 7th edition, Pipits of Africa, LBJ's of southern Africa, Birding in Gauteng and "my first bird book" and has published articles in newspapers and magazines.