

CONTACT DETAILS

Name of Company	Coastal and Environmental Services (Pty) Ltd.
Designation	Senior Environmental Consultant
Profession	Faunal Specialist
Years with firm	Two
E-mail	Jo.Balmer@cesnet.co.za
Office number	+27 46 622 2364
Mobile	+27 82 887 0241
Nationality	➤ South African
Professional Body Registrations	➤ IAIASA (7357) ➤ SACNASP (Pr.Sci.Nat 163104)
Key areas of expertise	➤ Zoology ➤ Entomology ➤ Ichthyology ➤ Ornithology ➤ Phylogenetics ➤ Species of Conservation Concern ➤ Faunal species ranges

PROFILE

Jo completed his Master's degree in Zoology (specialising in ornithology and phylogenetics) through Rhodes University in Grahamstown, which he obtained with distinction. His M.Sc followed straight on from his B.Sc(Hons) in Zoology, and B.Sc in Entomology and Ichthyology from the same institution, giving him a wide range of biological specialisations. Although his professional focus has usually been ornithological in nature, he is comfortable working with other animal classes as well, and has published research works and photographic material of birds, mammals, fishes, reptiles, amphibians, and invertebrates. Jo is an old-school naturalist with a passion for birding, insects, and list-keeping, and he has over 10 years of guiding experience around Southern Africa. His other work experience includes contractual EIA surveys (3 years), birding app development (7 years), and junior school sports coaching (3 years). Jo joined CES shortly after completing his master's degree in early 2023 and is based in the Makhanda office.

**EMPLOYMENT
EXPERIENCE**

- 2023-present: Senior Environmental Consultant – Faunal Specialist, CES Coastal and Environmental Services (Pty) Ltd.
- 2022 – 2024: In-house Ornithologist, BirdPro (Part-time)
- 2019 – 2021: BirdPro (Contract Basis)
- 2018 – Present: Expedition Leader & Guide, Eastern Cape Pelagic Seabirding (Part-time)
- 2017 – 2019: Birding & Wildlife guide, Unearth Safaris (Contract Basis)
- 2016 – 2023: Freelance Bird Guide
- 2014 – 2018: Driver, Field Guide & Birding Guide, Shakabarker Tours, St Lucia, (Part-time)
- 2013 – Field Guide & Head Ranger, Elephant Sands Lodge, Nata Botswana
- 2011 – 2013: Cricket Coach, Southdowns Primary School, Pretoria

**ACADEMIC
QUALIFICATIONS**

- 2018-2022: M.Sc Zoology with Specialisation in Ornithology & Genetics, with distinction (Rhodes University)
- 2017: BSc Hons Zoology (Rhodes University)
- 2014-2016: BSc Entomology & Ichthyology (Rhodes University)
- 2011-2012: BSc Zoology & Botany (UNISA)
- 2006-2010: IEB Matric, St. Albans College, Pretoria

**COURSES
ATTENDED**

- First Aid Level 1
- Biomimicry – Nature as Model, Measure & Mentor
- Field Guides Association of Southern Africa (FGASA) Level 1 theory
- Advanced Snake Identification Course for Southern Africa Snakes (ASI)
- South African Scoring System version 5 (SASS5) – Aquatic Biomonitoring Training (GroundTruth)
- Advanced Venomous Snake Handling Bootcamp (African Snakebite Institute)

**PRIOR
CONSULTING
EXPERIENCE**

- October 2019: Raptor Survey, Molteno Windfarm Project. Arcus Consultancy Services.
- November 2020: Vulture Roost Survey, Eastern Cape Windfarm Projects. Wild Skies Ecological Services.
- January 2021: Vulture Roost Survey, Eastern Cape Windfarm Projects. Wild Skies Ecological Services.
- February 2021: Vulture Roost Survey, Eastern Cape Windfarm Projects. Wild Skies Ecological Services.
- March 2021: Raptor Survey, Pearston Wind Power Projects. Mulilo Renewable Energy Group.
- May 2021: Raptor Survey, Pearston Wind Power Projects. Mulilo Renewable Energy Group.
- June 2021: Raptor Survey, Kokstad/Matatiele site prospecting. Mulilo Renewable Energy Group.

**INTERNAL
CONSULTING
EXPERIENCE**

- April 2023: Plan 8 Grahamstown WEF Biodiversity Survey
- April 2023 to December 2024: Wesley-Ciskei WEF Seasonal Avifaunal Monitoring.
- May 2023: eZulu Private Reserve ECO Survey
- August 2023: James Kleynhans WTW Phase 2 ECO
- August 2023: James Kleynhans Bosch Makana LM Pipeline BAR and WUL Specialist Studies
- August 2023: East London IDZ Alexander Golf Course Ecological Impact Assessment
- September 2023: Neptune-Chaba Terrestrial Biodiversity and Avifaunal Studies
- September 2023: SACE Cullinan Solar PV Cluster (Terrestrial Fauna and Avifauna)
- October 2023: Votalia Eswatini Solar PV Cluster Avifaunal Survey
- November 2023 to present: Albany WEF Faunal Surveys
- November 2023: Albany WEF Golden Mole Specialist Study
- January 2024 to present: EDF Renewables Grassridge II Specialist Faunal Assessments
- March 2024: ABO Imvubu Solar PV Specialist Entomological Surveys
- April 2024: Cainmani Buffelsfontein SEF Faunal Assessments
- April 2024: Cainmani Roodepoort SEF Faunal Assessments
- April 2024: Cainmani Kuschke SEF Faunal Assessments
- June 2024: Scatec Berlin-Macleantown WEF Faunal Assessments
- July 2024: Cainmani Inkululeko Avifaunal Impact Assessments
- July 2024: Present: DEDEAT Baviaans/Groendal Leopard Research Programme
- September 2024: ABO Makwassie-Vredefort Specialist Entomology Assessments
- October 2024: JUWI Gumeni Faunal Assessments
- December 2024: Kouga Primary School Circuit EIA

**RESEARCH
PUBLICATIONS**

Balmer, J.P., Tocco, C., Villet, M.H. (2018). Trophic preference of southern African dung beetles (Scarabaeoidea: Scarabaeinae and Aphodiinae) and its influence on bioindicator surveys. African Journal of Ecology 00: 1 - 11.

**PHOTOGRAPHIC
PUBLICATIONS**

Nicolau, G.K., Conradie, W., Edwards, S., Kemp, L.J., Balmer, J.P. (2019). New insights on the geographical distribution, ecology and conservation status of the endemic Salt Marsh Gecko (*Cryptactites peringueyi*). Herpetology Notes 14: 439 - 450.

Balmer, J.P. & Kemp, L.J. (2025). First documented record of Bibron's stiletto snake (*Attractaspis bibronii*) male-male combat. In press.

Balmer, J.P., Kemp, L.J., Trotter, A.W. (2016). The Effect of Temperature on the Anaesthetic Efficiency of Crystal Menthol on Juvenile Mozambique Tilapia (*Oreochromis mossambicus*). Annual World Aquaculture Society Conference, June 2017. (Project findings presented by Dr Horst Kaizer, the project supervisor).

Balmer, J.P. (2019). Owl By Myself: The story of relict populations of the African Barred Owlet (*Glaucidium capense*) in the Eastern Cape Province. 10th annual Hot Birds Research Project Conference, July 2019.

Marais, J., Kemp, L. (2022). A Complete Guide to the Snakes of Southern Africa – Third Edition, Struik Nature, Cape Town

Cillie, B., Cillie, N., Penlington, P., Hardaker, T., Wiesler, K. (2022). VELD: Birds of Southern Africa – The Complete Photographic Guide, Gameparks Publishing, Pretoria.

BirdPro Fieldguide App. SmartSearch Apps. Johannesburg, 2195

Firefinch Fieldguide App. Plofskaap App Development Inc. Langebaan, 7357

Bindo Birding App. Bindo Group (Pty) Ltd. Cape Town, 8001

CERTIFICATION

I, the undersigned, certify that to the best of my knowledge and belief, this CV correctly describes me, my qualifications, and my experience. I understand that any wilful misstatement described herein may lead to my disqualification or dismissal, if engaged.



JONATHAN BALMER

Date: January 2025