



BIRDING THE WORLD

LENGTH: 13 x 46:40 minutes

FORMAT: Series

CAMERA: HD / SD

TEXTLESS: No

CLOSED CAPTIONS: No

ASPECT RATIO: 16:9, 4:2:2



Birding the World is a thirteen, 46:40-minute episodic television series shot entirely on location with host and internationally recognized ornithologist, Kenn Kaufman and co-host birder, Kim Kaufman, leading the way. The “Crocodile Dundee” of Ornithology – Kenn & Kim – sweep viewers among different cultures, over exquisite landscapes and around the world observing birds in the wild.



Birding the World is an entertaining travel/adventure/nature series exploring some of the world's most remote and exotic places in search of distinctive, rare and endangered birds and simultaneously educating audiences about fascinating fauna facts, critical habitat preservation and environmental protection needs to secure certain bird species from extinction! “Armchair birders” (the audience) are able to keep a birding checklist as Kenn & Kim discover rare species of birds. K&K will meet other birders along their many journeys. Occasionally, K&K will be joined by a special guest or celebrity who supports “going green” and wants to experience birding in the wild firsthand. In addition, the show provides informative commentary, equipped with birding tips and suggested advice for rugged traveling. Currently, no birding television series this extensive exists for this \$45 billion dollar industry. *Birding the World* is the first of its kind to fit the bill.

Treatment Summary

At the core, *Birding the World* teaches viewers about the interdependence between birds, their habitats and people with specific reference to encroaching environmental problems and the immediate need to protect endangered species from extinction.

BIRDING THE WORLD uses breathtaking HD videography, photography and, sounds of nature to capture the full visual and auditory experience of bird watching with a strong emphasis on factually accurate wildlife information provided by the central characters, Kenn & Kim. First person POV and handheld footage, of harsh terrain and authentically “roughing it” experiences by crew and hosts, will be woven within majestic HD footage of beautiful landscapes and sightings of exquisite birds. In addition, the series utilizes the technique of *mise-en-scene*. The camera crew is not hidden from view, but seamlessly incorporated within the show as secondary characters. This stylistic approach provides a realistic and engaging, not sterile, birding experience that allows the audience to genuinely experience the adventure as it occurred. Throughout the show, there is a friendly, personable feeling shared between Kenn and Kim and the crew. For additional lightheartedness, funny outtakes and mishaps conclude each episode.

Demographic and target niche – Because birds inhabit the entire planet, including the arctic regions, it is not surprising that bird watching is the most popular spectator sport globally.
 Confidential – *Birding the World* by Chelse Benham

10/15/2010

Within the United States alone, there are more than **83 million birders** 16 years or older (approximately 31 percent of all Americans feed, observe, photograph wildlife and **they spent \$45 billion** on their activities in 2006), from adventurers to backyard enthusiasts. Nearly **23 million** birders take birding trips away from home.

The average birder is 49 years old, white, married, female with an **average income of more than \$75,000 annually** – five (5%) percent above the national average. Furthermore, **next to gardening, birding is the nation's most popular outdoor hobby** and a driving force in ecotourism. (“*2006 National Survey of Fishing, Hunting, and Wildlife-Associated Recreation*” Forest-Service’s National Survey on Recreation and the Environment (NSRE)).

Media Review – Upon researching all television productions regarding birding over the last 10 years, there have been numerous singular shows, but **none as extensive or global in nature as *Birding the World*** proposes. There is limited birding material when the focus is in one’s backyard. However, there is unlimited programming material traveling the world where diversity of culture and environments provide endless possibilities. **There has never been a series exploring the world in search of birds!** Within our research, we found only a few series related to the sport of “birding”, some programs no longer airing and current programming limited in scope. The following represent a condensed media review of the topic:

- “*Bird Watch*” – PBS 1998-1999 (no longer airing)
- “*All Birds TV*” – Animal Planet 1998-1999
- “*Backyard Habitats*” – Animal Planet (backyard birding on-going)
- “*Birds*” – Nature Channel (no longer airing)
- “*DIY: Bird Watching*” – DIY Network (backyard birding on-going)
- “*On the Birding Trail*” – PBS affiliates 1997 – 2000 (no longer airing)

There are **hundreds** of birding **Websites** and more than **20 mainstream magazines** such as *Birder’s World*, *Birdwatch*, *American Birds*, *Wildbird* and *Bird Watchers Digest* to name just a few popular periodicals addressing the enormous attraction to birding.

However, there is limited television programming covering birding in the wild, yet birding is steadily growing in popularity. Birding around the world provides the flare of adventure, the excitement of travel, the beauty of nature and environmental awareness in one sport. A birding program of this magnitude is a *gold mine* that taps an untouched target audience of affluent viewers. For the first time on television, ***Birding the World*** is an original **global birding television series**.

There is possibly no sign of freedom as enticing as airborne birds. Add the fluidity of their aerial acrobatics executing mastery of flight and they become thoroughly captivating. They weave landmasses and cultures together. They bypass political boundaries and traverse the globe. They are emblematic of an undivided world.

Bifurcating from a reptilian ancestor, birds make up one of the most extraordinary successes of evolution. They are one of the few vertebrates to have conquered the skies so thoroughly. There are approximately **10,000 bird species in the world**. Each one has its own unique nesting, forging, mating habits, song and markings described by Kenn & Kim.

Furthermore, the Kaufmanns enhance audience appreciation of the complexity of extraordinary ecosystems. From lush rainforests to dry grasslands to majestic mountaintops, **the fragility of the world’s natural heritage and the need to protect it underscores the show.** Each of the thirteen episodes focuses on a “green” aspect of every natural habitat.

Birding the World adventure series begins in Cardel, Mexico at the **River of Raptors (promo)** where Kenn and Kim go birding in the lush forests of Veracruz, atop a volcano in a cloud forest, among a salt-water mangrove forest and many more adventures.

Season One - Episodic Summaries

River of Raptors – PILOT (Veracruz, Mexico)- In episode one, audiences witness the spectacular and stunning migration of millions of Swainson's Hawks, Turkey Vultures and Broad-winged Hawks as they funnel through a narrow chute



over the city of Cardel, Mexico and Chichicaxtle. The site is located in the province of Veracruz near the Gulf of Mexico. Kenn describes how raptors use a thermal-up-and-glide technique to cross long distances. The sweltering October morning creates “thermals” of rising hot air. Pointing to the migrating raptors approach, Kenn describes how heat-seeking raptors are drawn to thermals. Economically conserving precious energy by soaring to enormous heights, raptors effortlessly ride from one in-land air column to the next as they move south. **Kenn and Kim marvel at the quickly forming funnel as the first birds enter the thermal and soar vertically skyward. Within seconds, thousands of raptors stream into the bottom of the "kettle" or vortex.** The exhilarating climax culminates as the birds at the top of the vortex peel away into an extended squadron of perfect unity. Wings spread, beaks low, they stealthily pass through Central America heading south. This massive migration gives the impression of an undulating **River of Raptors and it is considered one of the most impressive natural displays in the world.** In addition to the impressive migration of millions of raptors, audiences ride the Actopan River, raft a level three rapid, go birding in a cloud forest on top of a dormant volcano and boat through a saltwater lagoon deep into a mangrove forest in the quest of birds.

Exotic Ecuador Expedition (Ecuador) - It is high-altitude birding

in the Andes of Ecuador, at 3800 meters above sea level, in this episode of **Birding the World**. The audience gets its first view of Ecuador long before touchdown at Guayaquil. The snow-capped cone of Cotopaxi, **the world's highest active volcano, pushes**



through the clouds below. Bathed in the golden rays of the setting sun, it dominates the



sky. After touching down in Guayaquil, Kenn & Kim travel to Quito. With an elevation of 9,000 feet, **Quito is the second highest capital in the world.** In the early dawn, Kenn & Kim venture out into the city for a view. The surrounding horizon is dominated by mountains, but the parks in the city are bustling with birds, including little Black Flower-piercers,

a noisy hummingbird called the Sparkling Violet-ear, and the Great Thrush, looking like a Robin on steroids. A small falcon, the American Kestrel, is at home here in the city as well. From Quito, Kim & Kenn travel with their local guide, Oscar, up out of the intermountain valley and over the dizzying heights of Papallacta Pass. The thin, warbling song of a Rufous-collared Sparrow drifts down the block. Kenn edges closer to the sound.

After a few minutes, he locates the perky, semi-crested silhouette standing



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out from a vine. It is roadside birding en route to the Cabañas San Isidro near the town of Cosanga on the eastern slope of the Andes. To reach their destination, Kenn & Kim with local guide, Oscar, travel southeastward, then south and traverse several life zones, reaching their highest point at Papallacta Pass. Darkness envelopes the mountains, Oscar pulls up to the lodge at **Termas de Papallacta - a geothermal resort at about 11,000 feet**. Hot potato soup at the restaurant hits the spot in the frigid air of the highest elevations! From here, the travelers drop down the eastern slope of the Andes. Oscar explains that the word “papallacta” meant potato fields in Quechua, the language of the



ancient Incas. The next morning Oscar takes Kenn & Kim on an excursion up several elevations of the Andes' western slope on the **Chiva Express through the Avenue of Volcanoes**. Dense cloud forest surrounds the Cabañas, and here Kenn & Kim seek such rare birds as the well-named Powerful Woodpecker. But the greatest show is around the gardens where at any moment, more than a dozen species of beautiful hummingbirds may be found. Their names are as colorful as their plumage, and hummingbirds like the Collared Inca and Bronzy Inca compete for attention with the Chestnut-breasted Coronets. From San Isidro, Oscar leads us on to the highlight of Guango Lodge. Here Kim keeps an eye on the Daturas, whose huge bell-shaped blossoms seem suited for a special pollinator. They attract the Sword-billed Hummingbird, one of the world's most bizarre birds, with a bill longer than its head and body combined! Satisfied with the diversity of their hummingbird experience, Kim & Kenn join Oscar in the nearby village for an evening of traditional Andean music and cuisine.

Tiritiri Trek (New Zealand) – In this episode of *Birding the World*, we settle into a bunkhouse on the Island of Tiritiri off the coast of New Zealand. **There are only about 250 bird species in New Zealand, but a high percentage of them are found nowhere else in the world.**



Kenn & Kim can't wait to begin. First, they must move in with provisions and bedding to set up camp. Then it's off to the see the island as Kenn & Kim meet up with their guide to begin the trek through a variety of bush, grassland, and sight-seeing overlooks that reveal magnificent vistas. The rugged coastline, lined with the *pohutukawa* trees, majestically frames nature with the ocean as a backdrop. The Stitchbird song rings from somewhere among the trees. With a little effort, Kenn spots a female and a male nearby. Their guide explains that Tiritiri Matangi Island is one of the country's most important conservation projects. Many birds that have failed to survive on the main islands of New Zealand have been brought to Tiritiri. These native birds are now thriving. New Zealand's native birds make up a remarkable cast of characters. **The amazing thing about the island is how unafraid the birds are of people. Many species congregate at safe distances along the paths making it easy**

and accessible to view them. There is the Brown Kiwi, looking like a cross between a snipe and a muskrat, running around in the woods at night making screaming and growling noises. There is the Wrybill Plover, the only bird in the world whose bill bends to the side. The Kokako, or Blue-wattled Crow, is sometimes claimed to have the **world's most beautiful bird song.**



is the Little Blue Penguin dwellings. On a path right beside the beach, there are little rectangular wooden lids with handles, sitting on what look like stone cairns (a pile of stones set on a hill to mark a spot for walkers). Kim lifts up the lid and looks down to see a sheet of Plexiglas set into the stone over a nest. Under the Plexiglas, there sits a Little Blue Penguin warming her eggs. New Zealand literally offers nature in a box.

Search for the Great Snipe (Poland) – This episode of *Birding the World* takes the audience on an unusual and exciting wildlife encounter deep into the marshes, river systems and swamp forests of Biebrza, Narew and Bialowieza National Parks in Northeast Poland. The journey begins in Warsaw, Poland where Kenn & Kim are met by their guide and driven to Biebrza National Park for a briefing.



Their guide shares how the whole area has also long been a rich melting pot for a mixture of different peoples, cultures and religions, with

Poles, Lithuanians, Ukrainians, Jews and Tartars all sharing their lives here. It is a country of small family farms and friendly people, living like their forefathers, often without running water, electricity or money. Some still plow their fields using horses and simple, self-made machines. Kenn & Kim meet the locals and sample traditional Polish food and drinks such as bigos, pierogi, babka, and kielbasa before heading out into the marshlands.



Efrim describes the marshlands, in the valley of the Biebrza, as one of the last refuges for water and mud birds in Europe. Amid the meandering lowland rivers he points out the magnificent European bison, wolves, lynx, elk, deer, wild boar, and an incredible array of birds.

For four days, Kenn & Kim explore Biebrza moving around by kayak, on foot and by horse-drawn cart to reach the best viewing places. They, with their guide, track the panoply of wetland birds and birds of prey. One of the greatest attractions for bird watchers is the tooting of the courtship display of the Great Snipe. These rare birds gather in groups in open marshes where the males strut and posture while making a bizarre array of whining, tinkling, clacking, and buzzing sounds.

Extraordinary Extremadura Expedition (Spain) – In this episode

 of *Birding the World*, it is a whirlwind birding experience tour through the Extremadura region of southwestern Spain. The audience treks through Trujillo to Arrocampo, the Belen Plain, Monfragüe National Park, Rio Almonte, Madrigalejo, **La Serena to Cabeza del Buey and Sierra de Gredos plains to experience one of the richest birding regions of all Europe.**



Spain has devoted more than 75 percent of the Extremadura territory as IBAs (Important Bird Areas). The magnificent vistas, including mountains, marshes, plains, and historic villages, add to the visual appeal of birding here. Extremadura is the main European stronghold for the **Great Bustard. This is a huge bird (males can stand three feet tall and weigh more than 30 pounds)**, and in spring and summer, groups of males gather on the open plains and put on a flopping, feather-shaking display to attract females. This is also among the best regions in Europe for nesting birds of prey, including such spectacular raptors as the Spanish Imperial Eagle, Golden Eagle, and Bonelli's Eagle. Other remarkable birds include the gaudy, clownlike Purple Swamphen, the elegant Black Stork, colorful European Roller, Azure-winged Magpie and the Great Spotted Cuckoo. In a rocky canyon, Kenn & Kim watch fascinated as the imposing Griffon Vultures come gliding past, with the sound of wind rushing over their massive wings as they fly close overhead.



Breathtaking Baikal Teal (South Korea) – In this episode of *Birding the World*, Kenn & Kim take the audience to the sea dikes of the Seosan Lake area of South Korea. This 65-square-mile conservation habitat, encompassing Seosan Reclamation Lakes, are home for more

than 2,000,000 (two million) migratory waterfowl from 111 species including the endangered Chinese Egret and Oriental White Stork. There are few places in the world where enormous flocks of **waterfowl congregate so thick they blacken the skies.** In Seosan, it is a common occurrence. On this particular winter evening, dusk settles on the lake as Kenn & Kim wait until the feeding waterfowl descend. Such an event is one of the world's greatest



 spectacles in nature. As night descends and the chilly air embraces them, thousands and thousands of Bean Geese leave the fields and head for the lake - an estimated 80,000 geese create a constant stream. The awesome flight crescendos, as a more impressive aerial show begins. First, a few Baikal Teal take to the air, then more and more take flight until several different groups, each with thousands of birds, become airborne. They swirl together, twisting and snaking creating a spiraling effect. **More than 200,000 birds swirl in an incredible aerial ballet as the last rays of daylight silhouette their ethereal turret.** The audience watches as the flock condenses into tight formation, coiling above to create an awe-inspiring birding experience.

The Rare Siberian Crane (Bharatpur, India) – In this episode of *Birding the World*, it's on to India! The marshes, lakes, and woods of Bharatpur, formerly a shooting reserve for maharajahs, are now protected in the **Keoladeo Ghana National Park – often called the world's finest bird sanctuary**. It also happens to lie between two of India's most historic cities, Agra and Jaipur. The Taj Mahal at Agra is only an hour away. Well-defined forest trails snake through the park and they can easily be covered on foot, bicycle, boat, or rickshaw. Kenn & Kim take an early morning boat trip to experience the surprises of Bharatpur. They make their way to the bund (dam) at the rear of the park. Once there, the audience witnesses mixed heronries on the half-submerged babul trees.



They hear the cacophony of bird calls ringing through the branches. Jacanas, with their iridescent colors and elegant tail feathers, delicately tread over floating vegetation while the Pied Kingfisher hovers dramatically over the water in a flurry of wings. **One**



of the world's tallest flying birds, the Sarus Crane, nearly six feet tall and with a rich trumpeting cry, is common here. Other big waterbirds on the scene include many geese, ducks, and pelicans, the colorful Painted Stork, and the Open-billed Stork, which appears to have its long bill bent into a permanently open position. Birds of prey are a big attraction in winter, with magnificent Steppe Eagles and at least six other species of eagles migrating down to Bharatpur from northern Asia. The woods host many colorful smaller birds as well, including the Bluethroat, the Siberian Rubythroat, and the Coppersmith Barbet, named for the “hammering” sound of its callnotes.

Destined for the Demoiselle Crane (Russia) – In this episode of *Birding the World*, we visit the mighty Volga River as it flows into the world's largest inland sea, the Caspian Sea. The river spreads out into a vast maze of channels separating hundreds of islands in an ever-changing landscape. This delta region is protected in the Astrakhansky Nature Preserve, **one of the oldest nature sanctuaries in Russia**.



Birding around a chain of saline lakes with numerous islands located in a deep depression, the delta is best navigated by boat. The site is an important staging area for migrating populations of water birds, in particular geese. It is also an important breeding area for various colonial shore birds.

Approximately 1.5 million ducks and 400,000 geese, pass through the area in spring. If the forest is known for its grandeur, then the steppe is known for its wide open spaces. Rostovsky Zapovednik, **in the Rostov Province of southern Russia, protects some of the last virgin steppes on Earth, remnants of open grassland that have never been plowed.**



The nature reserve safeguards islands and coastal habitats that are important nesting areas for rare birds such as spoonbills and the Demoiselle Crane. **A herd of wild horses inhabits the largest island in this protected area.** The horses have been wild since 1953 when the Manych River was dammed.

Kenn & Kim in Kenya – (Kenya) *Birding the World* takes the audience to the base of Mount Kilimanjaro and to the plains of the Serengeti to witness the abundance of wildlife in this genuine paradise. **Kenya can boast a bird list of well over 1,000 species, and avid bird watchers often see more than 400 of these in one trip!** Traveling down a dusty dirt road Kenn & Kim and their guide, Paul, enter scrubland grazed by the native Masai tribe's cattle, goats and donkeys. Paul explains the surrounding area is also still home to the proud **Masai people, many of whom carry on their traditional way of life tending small herds of cattle on the open plains.** The broad open plains, flat-topped acacia trees, and huge herds of antelope, zebras, and other wildlife make the Masai Mara a fulfillment of the Africa of everyone's imagination. The mammals often steal the show, and deservedly so, with lions, cheetahs, leopards, elephants, zebras, rhinos, hippos, giraffes and many others. However, the ostrich, the world's largest bird, could qualify as an "honorary mammal!" There are hundreds of other birds here as well.



Consider, for example, the Marabou Stork, possibly the ugliest bird in the world; the magnificent Martial Eagle and many other eagles and other birds of prey; the Secretary Bird, a long-legged creature that stalks about the savannahs, hunting snakes. There are countless birds, such as Narina's Trogon, Striped Kingfisher, and Rosy-breasted Longclaw. The latter looking like a meadowlark that has been dipped in pink lemonade. **In a swamp area created by the glacier runoff from Mt. Kilimanjaro,** Kenn & Kim watch abundant wildlife including waterfowl, elephants, hippos and Cape Buffalo. The peak of Mt. Kilimajaro, veiled in clouds, pierces the sky as exotic Ibises, African Spoonbills and Egrets feed around the edges of the swamp.

NOTE: This episode may be replaced with a trip to Madagascar due to political upheaval and violence in Kenya at the time of this writing.

Argentina's Andes and Outback – (Argentina) The spectacular scenery of northwestern Argentina ranks among the most dramatic in all of South America. **Many of the birds found here live nowhere else in the world.** The southernmost cloud forests of the Andes, also called Yungas, harbor more birds than any other habitat type in the region. North of Salta and Jujuy, the shallow high-mountain lake of Laguna de Pozuelos is the home to three different species of flamingos, including the rare Puna Flamingo.

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Sierra de Córdoba, an isolated, misty mountain range strikingly beautiful with its rocky crags and grassy valleys, is home to the endemic Olrog's and Córdoba Cinclodes. The Gran Chaco, extending from north-central Argentina through western Paraguay to southeastern Bolivia, covers an area of nearly one million square kilometers. This vast, rather flat and arid plain is situated in the shadow of the Andes. In this habitat, the audience treks with Kenn & Kim to the Chaco National Park where the mountains level out into a flat, dry plain. Many birds are restricted to this habitat such as the Olive-crowned Crescent-chest, Crested Gallito, Spot-winged Falconet, and the Black-crested Finch. Back up in the Andes, the complex geography of the mountains makes for starkly



beautiful scenery. Rain shadows create extremely dry valleys dominated by cacti and scrub brush, another unique habitat often called "*Monte Desert*."

This is one of the best regions for seeing members of the tropical ovenbird family, most of which are unfamiliar to birders in North America or Europe:

canasteros, gallitos, cinclodes, thornbirds, spinetails, earthcreepers, and more. There are many birds including the Spot-winged Falconet; the Rufous-throated Dipper, a rare songbird that lives along streams and walks underwater; a gorgeous hummingbird, the Red-tailed Comet; and the magnificent **Andean Condor, one of the world's largest flying birds.**

In Quest of the Quetzal (Costa Rica) – In this episode of *Birding the World*, we visit Costa Rica, one of the premier birding destinations in the world and the best known birding location in the Western Hemisphere. **Costa Rica is home to 850 bird species. It is also home to friendly, well-educated people living in a stable democracy, often called “the Switzerland of Central America.”** The cool, oak-dominated cloud forests of Cerro de la Muerte are a stronghold for the **Resplendent Quetzal, considered by many to be the most beautiful bird in the world.** Deep in the beautiful valley that plunges off the side of Cerro de la Muerte there are flower-filled gardens.



Here lives an abundance of brightly colored birds with exotic names: Sulphur-winged Parakeet, Prong-billed Barbet, Long-tailed Silky-flycatcher, Flame-throated Warbler,



Large-footed Finch. The sounds are exotic here as well: the distant hoot of a Motmot, the quavering and eerie calls of the Tinamous, the liquid gurgling of the Oropendolas – all combine to produce a beautiful natural chorus floating through the trees. Kim & Kenn trek through the forest with their local guide, Jose, spotting prizes of all sizes, from the enchanting little Snowcap, a tiny purple hummingbird with a gleaming white crown, to the Black Guan, a turkey-sized bird that lives high in the treetops. The ultimate prize here is the Resplendent Quetzal, with its long flowing tail feathers and its brilliant plumage of emerald and crimson. The excitement builds as our travelers stalk the oddly echoing cries of the Quetzal through the mists of the forest, straining their eyes for their first glimpse.

Wattled Crane of the Floodplain (Botswana) - **Botswana's Okavango Delta is probably the most famous, and certainly the most spectacular, floodplain in the world. It is home to the Moremi Game Reserve** - a superb birding destination with its **550 species of birds**. Kenn & Kim take the audience on an exploration of Moremi's abundant wildlife and by the end of the show stand in awe before the **world's largest waterfall at Victoria Falls**.



In this episode of **Birding the World**, they ready their cameras as they travel by mokoro (dugout canoe) to capture such sightings as Wattled Crane, Carmine Bee Eaters, Saddlebill Stork, Hammerkop, Bateleur Eagles, Pygmy Geese, African Rails, Lilac Breasted Roller, and many, many more in this pristine wilderness. The

Delta is the world's largest inland delta and, as such, is a **premiere wildlife viewing destination**. Located near an active hippo pool, Kenn & Kim see spectacular birds and wildlife. This rich area is a mosaic of rivers, lagoons, small islands and Mopane forests. Quietly plying the

waters by mokoro is a great way to discover this complex ecosystem. In addition, Africa's "Big Five" are all present in Moremi (although the rhino is still very scarce and not likely to be seen). **Elephants, lions, leopards, buffalos, hyenas, impalas, red lechwes, zebras, giraffes, baboons** are just a beginning to the "animal checklist."

The original inhabitants of this stark and ever-changing area are the click-speaking, hunter-gatherers: the San, or Bushmen. With the help from their guide, Kenn & Kim meet the Bushmen and learn of their culture. Gadikwe Lagoon is one of the largest bird breeding colonies in Botswana. It is there that Kenn spots the elusive Pels Fishing Owl. As Kenn & Kim retire for the evening in a **traditional African bush camp**, they sip on a refreshing "sundowner" and recall the day's adventures and remarkable sightings.

Flamingos of France – (France) Kenn & Kim explore La Camargue, France in this episode of **Birding the World**. Birders think first of the Camargue as **the most famous place in Europe for seeing wild flamingos**. The Camargue was designated as a botanical and zoological nature reserve in 1972, which helped maintain its natural beauty. **It is home to more than 400 species of birds**. The Camargue also has its own



horse breed, the famous white *Camarguais*. These horses are raised by breeders known as *Les Guardians*, famed for rearing the bulls exported to Spain for bull fighting. Kenn & Kim lead viewers through this beautiful and historic region, visiting old walled cities and traditional farms, as well as the marshes and lakes that host the abundant water birds. Where the Rhone flows into the Mediterranean, the vast delta hosts several kinds of stately egrets and herons such as the elegant Great Crested Grebes, graceful White-winged Terns and Black Terns, the rare Slender-billed Gull, and other



specialties. **The highlight here is the large population of Greater Flamingos, nesting here by the hundreds and bringing a distinctly tropical air to the landscape.** Scores of these shockingly pink birds parade through the shallows or fly in long lines across the open horizons. The cuisine and wine of France are world famous, of course, Kim & Kenn find plenty of choice things to sample and celebrate at the end of each day.