EVERY BIRD COUNTS

CHAMPIONS OF THE FLYWAY.
Racing for a Good Cause.

ZEISS Victory SF
THE BEST BINOCULAR IN THE HISTORY OF ZEISS.

Paul French,
Chairman of the BBRC.
Eilat, in southern Israel, is one of the most exciting birding sites of the western Palearctic region. The only overland bridge between Europe, Asia and Africa acts as a bottleneck, hosting hundreds of millions of migratory birds. Moreover, the birds passing through Eilat are preparing themselves for the strenuous task of crossing the foodless and hostile Saharan desert.

RACING FOR A GOOD CAUSE.
Champions of the Flyway is an international bird race for conservation.

EILAT, ISRAEL
EILAT (ALSO ELAT OR ELATH) IS ISRAEL’S SOUTHERNMOST CITY AND IS LOCATED IN THE SOUTHERN NEGEV DESERT.
WWW.CHAMPIONS-OF-THE-FLWAY.COM

A large number of rare bird species can be observed in and around Eilat by those taking part in the competition.
The first sighting you will probably have in spring is the steady stream of raptors hovering over the beautiful desert mountains that surround the town of Eilat. Raptor counts conducted in the spring documented up to 20,000 steppe eagles, 50,000 Levant’s sparrowhawks (almost all of the world’s population), 500,000 steppe buzzards and 850,000 honey buzzards.

Each year at the end of March the world’s top birders come together to celebrate an international bird race for conservation: Champions of the Flyway.

All teams compete to raise as much conservation funding as possible. The competition’s primary purpose is to celebrate the extraordinary miracle of bird migration. Birding teams from all over the world are perfecting their strategy in an attempt to win one of three coveted titles:

**Champions of the Flyway:** Awarded to the team that records the most species in 24 hours.

**Guardians of the Flyway:** Awarded to the team that generates the most funding for each year’s conservation project: stopping the illegal killing of birds in Greece.

**Knights of the Flyway:** Awarded to the team that does the most to promote the cause and helps others to see the most birds and have the most fun at the event.

Black Kite *Milvus migrans*
Champions of the Flyway is dedicated to preventing the illegal killing of migratory birds in the African-Eurasian Flyway. In 2016 the focus was on combating the illegal killing of birds on the Greek mainland and its islands. Turtle doves and other migrating species passing over the Greek islands are illegally shot, or trapped and killed. Small songbirds are also caught and sold in cages on the black market. The conservation campaign now also targets the poachers on the ground. BirdLife also works with the city of Athens to stop this illegal trade. In 2016, participants raised more than 70,000 US dollars.

The proceeds raised in 2016 went to the Hellenic Ornithological Society, BirdLife’s partner in Greece. In 2017 the Turkish branch of BirdLife, Doğa Derneği, which also campaigns against the illegal killing of migratory birds, benefitted from the fundraising.

THREE DIFFERENT TITLES ARE UP FOR GRABS EACH YEAR IN THE RACE TO BECOME CHAMPION OF THE FLYWAY.

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Numerous participants, divided into 16 teams, tried to identify as many different species as possible. To count toward the final score, a bird has to be spotted and identified by at least three team members.

Little Bittern *Ixobrychus minutus*
Noam Weiss is the Director of the IBRCE in Eilat. He is responsible for maintaining and improving the habitats of the bird sanctuary and for replenishing food stocks for the migratory birds in Eilat and the southern Arava valley. He also raises awareness and runs seminars to encourage people to protect the birds and help out the birders.

During his daily work, he constantly reaches for his ZEISS Victory SF. For him, these are the perfect binoculars. They are highly durable in the harsh climate of the desert and provide a clear and bright view even during the night, when he observes the desert tawny owls.
LIVING THE NEW PASSION FOR NATURE.

ZEISS Victory SF – The most versatile premium binoculars from ZEISS

“ERGONOMICS IS THE DECIDING FACTOR.”
DR. GEROLD DOBLER,
PRODUCT MANAGER

ZEISS VICTORY SF 8×42 SHOWS ITS STRENGTH IN PARTICULAR WHEN OBSERVING FOR EXTENDED PERIODS. THIS IS WHEN THE ERGONOMIC DESIGN IS IMPORTANT. IN ORDER TO MINIMISE TIRING MUSCLES, THE CENTER OF GRAVITY WAS MOVED TOWARDS THE EYE PIECE BY MOVING THE PRISMS. THE INDEX FINGER INTUITIVELY MOVES TO THE FOCUSING WHEEL WHEN HOLDING THE BINOCULAR AND DOES NOT NEED TO BE REPOSITIONED FOR FOCUSING.

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- Stable, ergonomic design:
  TripleLink Bridge
- Made in Germany

Sharper
- Natural colour rendition and brilliant details:
  Ultra-FL system

More brilliant
- Impressive 92% transmission

SCHOTT HT GLASS
**Faster**
- Faster, razor-sharp images at varying distances:
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**Closer and wider**
- Close range of 1.5 meters/4.9 ft.
- Unparalleled field of view

**More ergonomic**
- Feather-light design and ultralight magnesium materials
- Innovative ErgoBalance Concept with centre of gravity near the eyepiece
ZEISS is proud to act as a Global Sponsor of BirdLife’s Red List Assessments

Read more
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