

Tomas Axén Haraldsson
Pastor Ödmans väg 81
134 60 Ingarö
Sweden

Born 1980-02-23
cell phone + 46 70 6696475

Curriculum Vitae

a Swedish birder and global citizen

My first steps into ornithology were taken in April 1989 when I joined our local bird society as a 9-year-old. My youth was spent as a keen birder, twitcher, ringer and as a 17-year-old I first set foot in the sands of the Middle East (Morocco). I spent most of the years 2000-2006 overseas, mainly in the Middle East, with a total of two years of living and working in Egypt. That has given me great experience in both the ornithology of the region as well as history, religion, politics and society of the region. I have travelled extensively and been involved in nature conservation and civil society groups in the region, mainly Syria, Jordan and Azerbaijan. From 2008 I lead regular bird watching trips for Swedish operator AviFauna in the region.

Higher education

University of Stockholm
2008 - 2011

Arabic and Middle East Studies
Bachelor degree in Arabic language with a focus on the politics, society and religion of the region.

Spring semester 2008

Comparative Religion A, 30 ECTS

University of Örebro
Two semesters 2006-2007

History A + B, 60 ECTS

Work experience

Development manager, Stockholm
June 2013 -

Currently developing, through projects and co-operation, the labour market situation and integration for immigrants from mainly the Middle East.

Job coach, Stockholm
June 2011 – June 2013

Employed by the Labour market administration for handling youth unemployment and related segregation issued in the mainly Arab-Muslim dominated suburbs of the capital.

Research intern, Amman, Jordan
September-October 2010

A period of internship with the Middle East division office of BirdLife International. I visited field projects, learned about regional co-operation and wrote an analysis on nature conservation work in Jordan and Syria.

Freelance tour guide
2004 –

I am working with different tour operators doing trips in the Middle East, mainly with nature groups and engaging in local conservation work. I do organizing, budgets, local contacts and lead the trips and know this industry very well.

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Tour guide

January 2002 – November 2003

Working for the TUI group on holiday destinations in Spain, Greece and Egypt. I lead tour groups on sightseeing, round trips and had to learn a lot about culture, history and the local society. I was also responsible for administrative work, small budgets and cooperation with local agents. Airport duty, hotel service and planning were daily routines.

Merits and other experience

- * board member of the Swedish Centre for Youth Exchange (CIU) 2009-2011.
- * volunteer for the Swedish Red Cross refugee reception office in Stockholm 2008-2010.
- * co-founding board member of the Egyptian Ornithological Rarities Committee 2008-2012.
- * I hold lectures and seminars on Middle East issues and I run a web site on the same subject, www.tomasharaldsson.se where I also present my latest initiative, Conservation Volunteers Network.
- * active online presence with some 500 Facebook contacts, a YouTube channel with 10.000+ viewings and a LinkedIn page some 300 contacts.
- * member of *The Ornithological Society of the Middle East* since 2007
- * extensive independent travelling and experiences from mainly southeast Asia, Australia and the Middle East. This has affected me in many ways; developing a confident, resourceful and open-minded personality, good knowledge about cultures, travels, habits and society.

Language skills

Swedish – native tongue
English – fluent
Arabic – fair in reading, writing and speaking
French – basic conversations and reading
Danish – good
Norwegian – good