CricX
The Cricket Exchange Agency

JONO BIRD

Batting All Rounder

Name	Jono Bird
DOB	11-04-2001
Nationality	South African
Player Status	Placed
Playing Role	Batting All-Rounder (Spin)
Batting Style	LH Top Order Bat
Bowling Style	LA Wrist Spin
Entry Route	International Sportsperson Visa
Coaching Qualifications	CSA Level 1

Jono Bird is a superstar in the making currently playing for Western Province in South African domestic cricket.

A schoolboy prodigy, Bird represented the South African Under-19s in 22 matches (1 Test, 22 ODI's). As a 17-year-old, Bird struck 51 (47 balls) on his SA U19 debut against England (July 2018), then followed up with an unbeaten 142* (123) in the second match to chase down victory.

A year later, he was the leading run-scorer in the 7-ODI series against Pakistan hitting 356 runs at 59.33 including scores of 75 (75), 100 (95), and 112 (106) in succession. A match-winning 88* (121) in the third ODI against India preceded the Quadrangular U19 Series (Dec 2019), ending his campaign with 39 (31) in the final against victors, India. In January 2020, he represented the host nation in the ICC Under-19 World Cup where he struck 179 runs at 29.83, all with a strike rate of 101.12.

Bird concluded his South Africa Under-19 ODI career with 935 runs at 49.21 (S/R: 91.21) with 3 hundreds and 4 fifties, culminating with a Cape Cobras Rookie Franchise contract and a nomination for SA U19 Cricketer of the Year in 2020. He was subsequently drafted into the CSA Men's National Academy during the same year. Bird was then part of CSA's Emerging Squad to tour Namibia in April 2021.

Prior to this, Bird had already enjoyed a headlining transition into professional cricket. Following his century against England Under-19s, he was selected to make his Western Province debut in the CSA Provincial 50-Over Challenge in

October 2018. Bird rewrote the record books, hitting a List A century (104 from 102 balls against Easterns) to become the youngest debutant centurion in South African history.

A few months later (Jan 2019), he made his first-class debut for WP in the Provincial 3-Day Cup, hitting scores of 42, and 16. In November 2020, he earned his Franchise call-up, playing against the Titans in the Four Day Franchise Series, hitting 22, and 47. Bird would then score 47 (50) on his Momentum One Day Cup debut for the Cobras and finish the 2019/20 campaign with an average of 27.83, before averaging 44.50 during the following 2020/21 List A season.

Roll on the 2021/22 season and Bird would go on to strike 330 first-class runs at 110 with hundreds against Gauteng (152*) and North West (126*), followed by a List A ton against the latter (116) to round off another barnstorming season. Whilst he would only play the 3 first-class matches, with limited success, in 2022/23, he continues to be part of the WP set-up and is eager to impress throughout the 2023/24 season.

Whilst known as a strong, hard-hitting left-handed batter, Bird is a very useful left-arm wrist spinner and is looking to become a bowling regular this summer.

Last season, Bird headed abroad and played his maiden UK stint for Kearsley in the inaugural North West Cricket League. He was a stand-out performer, belting 1,130 runs at 56.50, to earn rave reviews.

Given his success, it's unsurprising to see Kearsley were quick to commit to Bird's re-signing for the 2024 season.

Overseas Statistics

Team (Season)	Mts	Inns	NO	Runs	HS	Ave	Ovs	Runs	Wkts	BB	Avg
Kearsley Cricket Club (2023)	25	24	4	1130	142	56.50	106	552	18	3-25	30.67