

BTO talks

We are always happy to receive invites to share our work and aim to make our talks accessible and engaging for a wide range of audiences. Our staff regularly give talks to bird clubs, ornithological societies and other groups interested in our work. The majority of our staff are based at our headquarters in Thetford, Norfolk, our Scottish office in Stirling or our BTO Cymru office in Bangor, but we also have some home-based staff .

Our standard speakers' fee is £40, plus travel (if required) at 45p/mile (or where possible public transport), and accommodation (where needed). We recognise that these costs may be prohibitive for some, so please let us know if this is likely to be an issue for your group. Many of our staff are able to give talks over Zoom and this is our preferred approach for groups which are further away.

Our speakers & their subjects

Austin, Dr Graham (Senior Research Ecologist, Wetland & Marine Research)

Subjects: Wetland Bird Survey.

Virtual option: Y/N

Distance: Travel by agreement.

Baillie, Dr Stephen (Senior Research Fellow)

Subjects: The Eurasian-African Bird Migration Atlas; Bird Migration; BirdTrack and EuroBirdPorta; Large-scale studies of bird populations based on Citizen Science.

Virtual option: Yes

Distance: Travel by agreement (based near Thetford).

Balmer, Dawn (Head of Surveys)

Subjects: BTO Surveys; Work of the Rare Breeding Birds Panel; Bird Migration; BirdTrack

Virtual option: Y

Distance: Travel by agreement.

Barimore, Carl (Nest Records Organiser)

Subjects: Nest Records Scheme.

Virtual option: Y

Distance: Travel by agreement.

Barnes, Ailidh (Research Ecologist, Monitoring Research)

Subjects: Bird Habitat Relationships, Habitat Recording, Protected Areas for birds, Earthworm Decline

Virtual option: Y

Distance: Travel by agreement (based in Oxfordshire)

Birtles, Gill (Wetland Bird Survey Counter Network Organiser)

Subjects: BTO/JNCC/RSPB Wetland Bird Survey (WeBS).

Talk time: Up to 40 minutes.

Virtual option: Y

Distance: Travel by agreement.

Boersch-Supan, Dr Philipp (Senior Ecological Statistician)

Subjects: Maths & Models in Ecology & Conservation; Big data in conservation; Southern Ocean seabirds (penguins, albatrosses),

Virtual option: Y

Distance: Travel by agreement (based in Cambridge)

Booth Jones, Dr Kat (Senior Research Ecologist, BTO Northern Ireland)

Subjects: The work of BTO Northern Ireland, in particular: urban gull tracking, seabird monitoring.

Virtual option: Y

Distance: travel by agreement

Border, Dr Jennifer (Spatial Ecologist)

Subjects: Population limitation in Whinchats; The effect of planned housing on bats

Virtual option: Y/N

Distance: Travel by agreement.

Calbrade, Neil (Waterbird Surveys Officer)

Subjects: BTO/JNCC/RSPB Wetland Bird Survey (WeBS), The Goose and Swan Monitoring Programme (GSMP).

Virtual option: Y/N

Distance: Travel by agreement.

Conway, Dr Greg (Senior Research Ecologist, Land-use Research)

Subjects: Nightjar ecology and population change; Nightjar migration and tracking studies; Woodlark ecology and population change; Dartford Warbler ecology and population change; Ecology and origins of Wintering Warblers in the UK; Firecrests population change & studies in Thetford Forest.

Virtual option: Y/N

Distance: 100 mile radius of Thetford.

Cooper, Dr Joseph (Research Ecologist, Terrestrial Ecology)

Subjects: Bird song development & evolution; urban ecology; predictive modelling.

Virtual option: Y

Distance: Travel by agreement.

Cuff, Emily (Training Officer)

Subjects: Jackdaw (/corvid) social learning and breeding behaviour; Neophobia and neophilia in birds; Work of the BTO (incl. surveys/schemes).

Virtual option: Y

Distance: Travel by agreement (Based in Devon).

Darvill, Ben (Development & Engagement Manager, Scotland)

Subjects: Upland birds: ecology, conservation, and how you can help; Cuckoos and other long-distance migrants; Birding with your eyes shut; How new technologies are helping to unravel the mysteries of bird migration

Virtual option: Y

Distance: Negotiable within Scotland

Donelan, Jenny (Training Officer)

Subjects: Phenology and bird migration; Bird ringing; Bumblebees; Bird physiology (Skull, wing adaptations, shown using personal natural history collection); Work of the BTO (incl. surveys/schemes).

Virtual option: Y

Distance: Travel by agreement (based in Norwich)

Franks, Samantha (Research Ecologist Population Ecology)

Subjects: (BTO) Curlew; Waders; Bird migration; (Non-BTO) North American waders; Birding and wildlife of Alaska; Birding and wildlife of Oregon; Wildlife of British Columbia and the Pacific Northwest

Virtual option: Y

Distance: Travel by agreement.

Frost, Dr Teresa (Wetland Bird Survey Manager)

Subjects: BTO/JNCC/RSPB Wetland Bird Survey (WeBS).

Virtual option: N

Distance: Travel by agreement.

Gillings, Dr Simon (Principal Data Scientist)

Subjects: Nocturnal migration; BBS; BirdTrack

Virtual option: Y

Distance: Travel by agreement.

Hanmer, Dr Hugh (Research Ecologist Terrestrial Ecology)

Subjects: Urban birds; Owls; Project Owl

Virtual option: Y

Distance: Travel by agreement.

Harris, Sarah (Seabird Monitoring Programme Organiser)

Subjects: Seabird Monitoring Programme; surveying the UK's breeding birds

Talk time: Up to 40 minutes.

Virtual option: Y

Distance: Travel by agreement.

Jaques, Rob (GBW Support Development Officer)

Subjects: Garden BirdWatch; Garden birds and other wildlife

Virtual option: Y

Distance: Travel by agreement

Jones, Kelvin (BTO Cymru Development Officer)

Subjects: Work of the BTO; other subjects via discussion e.g. Hawfinch and Twite in North Wales; Ringing in Aras Turkey

Virtual option: Y/N

Distance: Travel by agreement, based at BTO Cymru in Bangor.

Martay, Dr Blaise (Research Ecologist, BTO Scotland)

Subjects: Birds and climate change; Birds and insects,; population trends

Virtual option: Y

Distance: Central/Southern Scotland but evening talks are not possible at the moment.

Mayson, Scott

Subjects: BirdTrack

Virtual option: Y

Distance: Travel by agreement

McCambridge, Hazel (Nesting Neighbours & Norfolk Bat Survey Organiser)

Subjects: Garden nesting birds, bat ecology

Virtual option: Y

Distance: Travel by agreement if accessible by public transport

Moran, Nick (Training Manager)

Subjects: Better Birding; Birding by ear; Nocmig; Low-carbon / Patch birding; Work of the BTO (incl. surveys/schemes, tagging); Birds and birding in Arabia (non-BTO).

Virtual option: Y

Distance: Travel by agreement.

Noble, Dr David (Principal Ecologist, Monitoring)

Subjects: Developing Bird Indicators; Population Trends.

Virtual option: Y/N

Distance: Travel by agreement.

Noyes, Paul (Wader Project Officer)

Subjects: Breeding Wader Monitoring, Wader Conservation

Virtual option: Y

Distance: travel by agreement

Pearce-Higgins, Dr James (Director, Science)

Subjects: Birds and climate change; Upland birds; A year in the life of a Golden Plover, Where have our Curlew gone? .

Virtual option: Y/N

Distance:Travel by agreement.

Robinson, Dr Rob (Principal Ecologist, Modelling & Demography)

Subjects: Farming & Birds; Conservation Value of Ringing.

Virtual option: Y/N

Distance: Travel by agreement.

Ross-Smith, Dr Viola (Science Communications Manager)

Subjects: Gulls, seabirds, tracking studies (general).

Virtual option: Y

Distance: Travel by agreement.

Siriwardena, Dr Gavin (Head of Terrestrial Ecology)

Subjects: Farmland Bird Research – causes of decline and potential solutions; Agri-Environment Schemes; Urban Birds / Birds in human habitats.

Virtual option: Y (prefer in person)

Distance: Travel by agreement.

Toms, Mike (Head of Communications)

Subjects: Are Gardens Good for Birds or Birdwatchers?; Owls and Man - a cultural history

Virtual option: Y/N

Distance: Travel by agreement.

Vickery, Professor Juliet (CEO)

Subjects: The challenge of conserving birds that cross continents and cultures

Virtual option: y

Distance: Travel by agreement.

Vogely, Faye (Youth Engagement Manager)

Subjects: BTO Youth Engagement, ranging from our projects (like Youth Advisory Panel, Equipment Donation Scheme, camps) to talks given by young people

Virtual option: Y

Distance: Travel by agreement (based in Cambridge)

Wernham, Dr Chris (Senior Research Ecologist BTO Scotland)

Subjects: The Work of BTO Scotland; Breeding Bird Survey in Scotland; BirdTrack in Scotland; Working for Scotland's Waders.

Virtual option: Y

Distance: Travel Scotland and NE England.

White, David (Engagement & Surveys Officer, England)

Subjects: Breeding Bird Survey/ Waterways Breeding Bird Survey, An overview of BTO Surveys, Garden BirdWatch.

Virtual option: Y

Distance: Negotiable within England (based in Cambridgeshire)

Willis, Steve (Development & Engagement Officer, BTO Scotland)

Subjects: BTO Surveys and Schemes; Upland birds: ecology, conservation, and how you can help; Birding with your eyes shut.

Virtual option: Y

Distance: Negotiable within Scotland

Woodward, Ian (Research Officer)

Subjects: House Martins, Heronries Census, London Birds

Virtual option: Y/N

Distance: Travel by agreement.