



Ornithological highlights from the heart of Scotland

Scottish Birdwatchers' Conference 2023

Albert Halls, Dumbarton Rd, Stirling, FK8 2QL

Presentations: Saturday 18th March

Field trips (optional): Sunday 19th March

BTO is a Registered Charity Nos 216652 (E&W), SC039193 (Scotland)
SOC is a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation SC009859

BOOKING FORM 2023

Ideally please book online at www.bto.org/sbc23. Alternatively, please complete this form in block capitals and return to: **BTO Scotland, Unit 15, Beta Centre, Stirling University, FK9 4NF**. If you have any queries please call 01786 458021 or email scot.info@bto.org

Name(s) and any affiliation: (to appear on badge)	
Address:	
	Postcode:
Tel:	Email:
Any special dietary requirements?	
Please tick if you have limited mobility <input type="checkbox"/> or are a wheelchair user <input type="checkbox"/>	
Where did you hear about the conference?	
The BTO's data protection policy is available at www.bto.org/about-bto/privacy-statement Data from this booking form may be shared with our Scottish Birdwatchers' Conference partner, the SOC, for the purpose of administering the conference only.	

Conference and booking fee: The charge for the conference will be £32 (inc. VAT) per person. A limited number of discounted places are available to under 30s and students, priced at £25 (inc. VAT). This includes registration fee, lunch and teas/coffees.

To book your place please visit www.bto.org/sbc23 or return this booking form with your payment to the address above. **The closing date for registration and payment is Friday 3rd March 2023.**

We will contact all those registered nearer the time with further details as well as with information about how to sign up for the Sunday outings, which are being organised by the Central Branch of the SOC (see details overleaf). We regret that no refunds can be issued after 3rd March unless we are able to fill your place. All secured bookings will be confirmed by email (or by post, as appropriate). There will be no organised social gathering or meal on Saturday evening, but participants are free to make their own arrangements.

Preventing the spread of coronavirus and other respiratory infections

The conference will operate in line with any Scottish Government guidance in place at the time. The Albert Halls is a very spacious venue and we will take steps to ensure adequate ventilation along with taking further precautions to keep delegates safe.

PROGRAMME 2022

09:00 – 09:45 Registration and tea/coffee

SESSION 1

09:45 – 09:50 Ruth Briggs (SOC President)

Welcome and introduction

09:50 – 10:25 Rachel Steenson (PhD student, University of Stirling)

Unravelling the plight of the Dipper, an iconic river bird

10:25 – 11:00 Gary Clewley (BTO Scotland)

Land or sea? Tracking gulls from the east coast of Scotland

11:00 – 11:30 Tea/coffee

SESSION 2

11:30 – 12:00 Young birders (Scottish Bird Camp participants)

The first ever Scottish Bird Camp

12:00 – 12:30 Tom Bowser (Argaty Red Kites)

Kites, Beavers and rewilding on Argaty estate

12:30 – 14:00 Lunch

SESSION 3

14:00 – 14:30 Dave Anderson (Scottish Raptor Study Group)

Discovering more about eagles!

14:30 – 15:00 Ben Darvill (BTO Scotland)

Teaching people about birds

15:00 – 15:30 Tea/coffee

SESSION 4

15:30 – 16:00 Anthony Wetherhill (BTO Scotland)

Tracking Goosanders in Scotland and beyond...

16:00 – 16:30 Derek Robertson (Wildlife artist)

Giving Gaelic names to newly established bird species in Scotland

16:30 – 16:40 Raffle

16:40 – 16:50 Chris Wernham (BTO Scotland)

Summing up

16:50 Close of Conference





LOCAL BIRDWATCHING

Whether you are interested in exploring the area independently or joining an organised group outing, there are several sites within easy reach of the conference centre.

ARGATY RED KITE CENTRE

Along with the eponymous Kites from the main hide, a guided tour of the diverse habitat might also provide views of Red Squirrel. Although the Beavers probably won't be active, there should be evidence of their presence. While still early for summer visitors, resident passerines should be in good voice and there will be lingering winter visitors.

KINNEIL (LAGOON AND ESTUARY)

A multitude of wildfowl, and especially waders, will be either on the mudflats (low tide) or the lagoon and other roosting spots (high tide). Recent March WeBS counts have yielded Little Egret, Pintail, Scaup, Red-breasted Merganser, both godwits and Greenshank. A hardcore track gives access to all the relevant viewing points with a maximum outward distance of 1.4 km.

CAMBUSMORE GP

A post-extraction gravel pit with residual ponds just outside Callander, this has become the most productive inland stillwater site in the Upper Forth. Wildfowl are the main attraction with Great Crested and Little Grebes, Ringed Plover, Woodcock and Redshank recorded on recent March WeBS counts. The mixed woodland belt between the pit and the River Teith holds varied passerines including occasional Crossbills and Ravens, with Kingfisher and Dipper possible on the river. There is also a small Red Squirrel population. Distance, mostly on stone / gravel tracks, is c.3 km / 2 miles.

BLAIRDRUMMOND AND RIVER TEITH

A level, circular walk of 5 km / 3 miles on good paths / tracks in the Blairdrummond estate passes through mature mixed woodland, along the banks of the River Teith and between two ponds left over from past gravel extraction. The woodlands host a wide variety of birds, while Goosander, Kingfisher and Dipper are regular on the river. The ponds hold a good variety of the commoner waterbirds although scarcer species such as Lesser Scaup, Long-tailed Duck and Smew occur; in March 2022, a Ring-necked Duck stayed for most of the month.

BLACKDEVON WETLANDS

Since taking over the management of this site, RSPB has been busy creating a network of hardcore paths, built a hide, cleared reeds to provide open water and created a wader scrape. Along with these excavation pools, the excursion will also go along the banks of the tidal River Forth to where the Black Devon joins, then back around the capped landfill site, which should provide a wide variety of wildfowl and waders plus open grassland birds. Overall distance will be c.5 km / 3 miles.

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