



*Incubating Arctic Skua,
Kirkcubbin, Isle of May
© Keith Brinkley 12th June 2019*

WELCOME TO THE

2023/2024

MEETINGS PROGRAMME

TALKS (IN-PERSON & ONLINE) | WORKSHOPS

To receive more information about each meeting (including Zoom joining instructions and booking information for workshops, where applicable), you must be signed up to the *Branch News & Events - Talks & Workshops* mailing list. Visit www.the-soc.org.uk/subscribe or scan the QR code.



SOC, Waterston House, Aberlady, East Lothian, EH32 0PY
Tel: 01875 871 330 Email: mail@the-soc.org.uk
Visit: www.the-soc.org.uk



ScotlandsBirdClub



@Scottishbirding



socaberlady

CLUB-WIDE ONLINE TALKS

More information about each talk will be available on the website and emailed to mailing list subscribers around a week in advance of the event.

Wednesday 20 September | 7.30pm

My Time with Golden Eagles | Laurie Campbell

Laurie specialises in the nature found in our own backyard. Golden Eagles are a particular challenge – find out how Laurie got up close and personal.

Wednesday 18 October | 7.30pm

Bringing species back from the brink: Capercaillie & Corn Bunting case studies | Dr. Allan Perkins, Carolyn Robertson & Dr. Alex Ball

Two species of conservation concern, Capercaillie and Corn Bunting, have been the focus of considerable conservation effort for many years. Hear how both new and old techniques can produce results, if enough effort is applied.

Friday 24 – Sunday 26 November

SOC Annual Conference talks | Various speakers | Various times (see website for details)

Much of what makes birding are the sounds that birds make and how they make up our daily soundscape. This year's annual SOC conference explores this acoustic world.

Wednesday 13 December | 7.30pm

Lead from ammunition – a toxic problem affecting birds & other animals | Prof. Debbie Pain

Lead shot is a huge problem; its effects are measurable in many individuals of many bird species. Yet the road to removing lead ammunition has been a long and difficult one.

Wednesday 17 January | 7.30pm

The Great Auk | Q & A with Prof. Tim Birkhead & Prof. Neil Metcalfe

The Great Auk is one of our greatest shames, hunted and collected to extinction. One of Britain's greatest and most entertaining ornithologists, Tim Birkhead, describes the sad story.

Wednesday 21 February | 7.30pm

Tracking birds' movements | Ros Green, Claudia Tapia & speaker TBA

Wednesday 20 March | 7.30pm

Avian flu (HPAI) | Dr. Phil Atkinson, Dr. Jude Lane & speaker TBA (NatureScot)

Avian influenza is apparently a huge ongoing problem. How can we put this natural event into perspective and what should we be doing about it?

Wednesday 17 April | 7.30pm

SOC Endowment Fund projects | Helen Aiton, Michal Jezierski & Kevin and Mike Sinclair

Four talks highlighting research projects supported by the SOC's Endowment Fund.

AYRSHIRE BRANCH

🕒 Meetings take place at 7.30pm

📍 Monkton Community Church & Pioneer Cafe, Main Street, Monkton, KA9 2RN

📞 Anne Dick - 01292 541 981

Tuesday 12 September | In person

Honey Buzzard in Dumfries & Galloway | Chris Rollie

See p8 for description.

Tuesday 10 October | In person

Irvine to Girvan Nectar Network | Lynne Bates

Nectar Network aims to establish connected nectar and pollen-rich refuelling sites for pollinating insects along the Ayrshire coast, including on reserves and public green spaces.

Tuesday 14 November | In person

Dumfriesshire Goshawks, colour rings, satellite tags and trail cameras | Ronnie Graham

See p8 for description.

Tuesday 12 December | In person

Members' Night | Zul Bhatia & Stephen Inglis

Zul Bhatia reports on the 'Boxes for Barnies' project, which aims to boost Barn Owl numbers in Clyde. Young birder, Stephen Inglis, focusses on his family's farm where he monitors waders.

Tuesday 9 January | In person | Booking required, places limited

BirdTrack Workshop | David Raffle

See p9 for description. Run by David Raffle, SOC Birding & Science Officer.

Tuesday 13 February | In person

Spring with the Midlothian Dippers | Rachel Steenson

See p4 for description.

Tuesday 12 March | In person

Galapagos – in Darwin's Footsteps; and Divers – a brief identification guide | Angus Hogg

Angus Hogg describes an 'unintended' visit to the famous archipelago which gave Charles Darwin a unique place in ornithological history. The talk will be followed by a short introduction to divers, covering some of the features of this bird group.

Tuesday 9 April | In person

Ae Spark o' Nature's Fire | Chris Waddell

Robert Burns' poetry is suffused with imagery of the natural world. Chris Waddell examines some of the species mentioned in his works and the Scots language used to describe them.

BORDERS BRANCH

🕒 Meetings take place at 7.30pm

📍 Trinity Centre, 20 High Cross Avenue, Melrose, TD6 9SU

📞 Neil Stratton - 01573 450 695

Monday 11 September | In person

Birding the Rift – a talk on the birds of Israel | Richard Jackson

Israel is a fascinating birding destination, and one of the best places in the world to see active migration. Lifelong birdwatcher Richard Jackson introduces the birding spectacles on offer.

Monday 9 October | In person

Talk & speaker TBA

Monday 13 November | In person

Spring with the Midlothian Dippers | Rachel Steenson

The Dipper is a highly specialised river bird, which, despite improvements to air and water quality in the early 1980s, has suffered a steady decline. PhD student Rachel Steenson explores how their breeding success is affected by the world around them.

Monday 11 December | In person

The birds of Bemersyde Moss and Whitrig Bog | Alistair Cutter

Alistair Cutter has explored Bemersyde Moss reserve in great depth, aided by trail cameras and thermal imaging. He reveals the treasure trove of species discovered there.

Monday 8 January | In person

Progress with the Tarras Valley Nature Reserve | Kat Mayer

Monday 12 February | In person

National Wildlife Crime Unit investigations | Gavin Ross

PC Gavin Ross represents Police Scotland on the National Wildlife Crime Unit. Gavin will cover the structure of the Unit and Scotland's network of Wildlife Crime Officers. He'll highlight the vital role of intelligence in tackling wildlife crime and examine real-life case studies.

Monday 11 March | In person

AGM & Members' Night

Following the Annual General Meeting (AGM), which will include the election of the branch officers for next season, there will be refreshments and social activities to enjoy.

Monday 8 April | In person

Results of the 2023 Hen Harrier Survey | Simon Wotton/Dr. Leah Kelly (TBC)

See p8 for description.

CAITHNESS BRANCH

🕒 Meetings take place at 7.30pm

📍 In-person meetings venue: Castletown Heritage Centre,
Harbour Road, Castletown, Caithness, KW14 8TG

📞 Nina O'Hanlon - 07810 300 392

Wednesday 6 September | Online

AGM and Corn Buntings in Fife – the numbers are going up but why are they not going anywhere? | Prof. Will Cresswell

See p9 for description.

Wednesday 4 October | In person

The migrations and population structure of Purple Sandpipers | Ron Summers

See p14 for description.

Wednesday 1 November | In person

Golden Eagles in the Highlands – past, present and future | Stuart Benn

See p14 for description.

Tuesday 5 December | Online (with Highland & Orkney Branches) | Booking required, places limited

Wader identification Workshop | Workshop leader TBA

Wednesday 6 December | In person

Members' Night

Join us for our Annual Christmas Quiz and festive mince pies!

Tuesday 9 January | Online (with Highland & Orkney Branches) | Booking required, places limited

Flight identification of raptors Workshop | Workshop leader TBA

Tuesday 6 February | Online (with Highland & Orkney Branches)

Norfolk Pheasants, Velvet Runners, Bog Eagles and other fantastic beasts of the Tay
Reedbeds | Les Hatton

See p14 for description.

Wednesday 6 March | Online (with Highland Branch)

The effect of avian flu (HPAI) on an Orkney Great Skua population | Helen Aiton

See p14 for description.

Wednesday 3 April | In person

AGM & Results of the 2023 Hen Harrier Survey | Simon Wotton/Dr. Leah Kelly (TBC)

See p8 for description.

CENTRAL BRANCH

🕒 Meetings take place at 7.30pm

📍 General Purpose Room, The Allan Centre, Fountain Road, Bridge of Allan, FK9 4AT

📞 Neil Bielby - 01786 823 830

Thursday 5 October | In person

The view from here – birds, people and branches | Ruth Briggs

SOC President and retired conservationist Ruth Briggs asks where birds fit in to your life and considers some that are significant to her. How can individuals and organisations shape our conservation priorities? What does it mean to be an SOC branch member, and what roles might the branches play in the future?

Thursday 2 November | In person

Saving Asian Vultures from extinction | Duncan Orr-Ewing

All four species of Asian Vulture have experienced catastrophic declines since the early 1990s, killed when drugs for treating cattle entered the food chain. Duncan Orr-Ewing, Head of Species and Land Management with RSPB Scotland, discusses the drastic measures taken to save these iconic raptors, and what needs to be done in the future.

Thursday 1 February | In person | Booking required, places limited

Raptor identification and fieldcraft Workshop | Eilidh McNab

Sparrowhawk or Goshawk? Buzzard or Honey Buzzard? Golden Eagle or White-tail? Is it definitely a raptor?!? Join Eilidh McNab for a workshop on raptor identification, including some hints and tips on the best places to see some of our iconic species, and a discussion of some of their fascinating behaviours.

Thursday 7 March | In person

Isle of May Storm Petrels and recent seabird discoveries | Mark Newell

Seabird expert and Field Manager Mark Newell describes the discovery of the most southerly Storm Petrel colony on the east coast, where breeding was finally proved in 2021. What have we learned since then? Mark's talk will also consider the effect of avian flu on the seabirds of the Forth.

Access to a programme of meetings across Scotland

Although SOC members are affiliated to their nearest branch, all are welcome to attend meetings held across the branch network (spaces may be limited - see branch contact at the top of each page).



CLYDE BRANCH

🕒 Meetings take place at 7.30pm

📍 The Garnethill Room, Renfield Centre, 260 Bath Street, Glasgow, G2 4JP

✉ Rebecca Dickson - clydesecretary@the-soc.org.uk

Monday 4 September | In person

South of Scotland Golden Eagle Project | Philip Munro

The Project aims to reinforce the small, isolated, and vulnerable population of Golden Eagles in the Scottish Borders and Dumfries & Galloway. In this talk, Community Outreach Officer Philip Munro will briefly introduce us to this iconic raptor, then explore the background to the project, and provide an update on its progress so far.

Monday 2 October | In person (with RSPB Glasgow Local Group)

Isle of May Storm Petrels and recent seabird discoveries | Mark Newell

See p6 for description.

Monday 6 November | In person | Booking required, places limited

Gull identification Workshop | Workshop leader TBA

Monday 4 December | In person

Warblers in Scotland and beyond | Stan da Prato

Monday 8 January | In person

Developing watchpoints for the Clyde's most iconic species | John Simpson

In his talk, John Simpson, Bird Recorder for Clyde, will help birdwatchers of all abilities to see some of the special species the area has to offer.

Monday 5 February | In person

Peregrines, PIT tags and Papers | George Smith

Monday 4 March | In person | Booking required, places limited

Getting started birdwatching Workshop | David Clugston

With over 70 years' birdwatching under his belt, who better to present this workshop than David Clugston. David will discuss the basics of optics, field guides, apps, and clothing, as well as how to identify birds with an understanding of jizz, habitat, calls, song and field craft.

Monday 1 April | In person

AGM and Update from Clyde Ringing Group | Iain Livingstone

DUMFRIES BRANCH

🕒 Meetings take place at 7.30pm

📍 Dumfries Baptist Church Centre, Gillbrae Road, Dumfries, DG1 4EJ

📞 Heather Stevenson - 01387 248 535

Wednesday 13 September | In person

Honey Buzzard in Dumfries & Galloway | Chris Rollie

Shrouded in secrecy and myth, Honey Buzzards are more common than you might think. Find out about their natural history in Scotland, and in particular Dumfries and Galloway, where the birds have been breeding since at least 1983.

Wednesday 11 October | In person

Dumfriesshire Goshawks, colour rings, satellite tags and trail cameras | Ronnie Graham

For 35 years, Ronnie Graham has been fascinated by forest-nesting raptors and owls, monitoring the local populations and recording their many ups and downs. Ronnie is happy to embrace new technology and shares what satellite tagging of the species has revealed.

Wednesday 8 November | In person | Booking required, places limited

Identifying divers and grebes in winter plumage Workshop | Huw Connick

Wednesday 13 December | In person

Talk & speaker TBA

Wednesday 10 January | In person

Cuckoos, Kingfishers and Otters | Edmund Fellowes

See p15 for description.

Wednesday 14 February | In person | Booking required, places limited

Warbler identification by sight and sound Workshop | Stan da Prato

Stan da Prato will help you to identify the warbler species that breed in Scotland. We'll listen to their songs and calls, and learn a little about how they live and their migrations.

Wednesday 13 March | In person

Talk & speaker TBA

Wednesday 10 April | In person

AGM & Results of the 2023 Hen Harrier Survey | Simon Wotton/Dr. Leah Kelly (TBC)

Once widespread in the UK, the long-suffering Hen Harrier has fallen victim to habitat loss, land use change, and persecution. The sixth national Hen Harrier Survey is hot off the press, and our guest speaker considers the results. How is the species fairing in Scotland and the rest of the UK, and what has changed since the first survey of 1988-89?

FIFE BRANCH

- 🕒 Meetings take place at 7.30pm
- 📍 In-person workshop venue: Glasite Hall, St Andrews Parish Church, King Street, Dundee, DD1 2JB
- ☎ SOC Headquarters - 01875 871 330

Wednesday 13 September | Online

Corn Buntings in Fife – the numbers are going up but why are they not going anywhere? | Prof. Will Cresswell

Conservation is a difficult business; you might put everything in place but the species of conservation concern still hasn't got the email. Corn Buntings in Fife are increasing – spectacularly – but they are not regaining their former range in Fife. Will Cresswell from St Andrews University is trying to explain why and what we could do better to help the many species in the UK that have much smaller ranges now than they should.

Thursday 5 October | In person (with Tayside Branch) | Booking required, places limited

BirdTrack Workshop | Steve Willis

If you've dabbled with BirdTrack but would like to learn a bit more about it, join Steve Willis of BTO Scotland for this workshop. What does BirdTrack do? How do you enter your own records? How does the BTO and its partners use the data? Explore your own data as well as that of other users, and enter some new records via the smartphone app or the website.

Wednesday 8 November | Online

RSPB Loch of Kinnordy Reserve | Yvonne Boles

Yvonne Boles, Senior Site Manager for RSPB Tayside Reserves, will take us on a tour of this small but complex nature reserve near Kirriemuir in Angus. She'll delve into its history long before the RSPB took over in 1976, consider its current management and its challenges (including the local beavers!), and take a brief look into its future.

Thursday 7 March | In person (with Tayside Branch) | Booking required, places limited

Learning bird sounds Workshop | Scott Paterson

With spring approaching, there's no better time to get to grips with learning bird sounds. Scott Paterson's informal and relaxed workshop will tackle the how and why of bird sounds, with practical hints and tips to help with their sometimes daunting identification in the field. He'll focus on common species and look ahead to the arrival of summer migrants.



Signed up to our mailing list, but not receiving meeting reminders?

Unfortunately, sometimes our emails can end up in spam/junk folders. If you still can't locate anything from us, please contact admin@the-soc.org.uk or call 01875 871 330.

HIGHLAND BRANCH

🕒 Meetings take place at 7.30pm

📍 In-person meetings venue: Culloden Library, Keppoch Road,
Culloden, Inverness, IV2 7LL

☎ Mary Galloway - 07598 320 978

Tuesday 3 October | In person

Cairngorm Connect Predator Project | Kenny Kortland

'Cairngorms Connect' is one of the largest habitat restoration projects in Europe. The recovery of raptor and mammalian predator species across the Park has been spectacular. The Cairngorms Connect Predator Project is a collaboration that is studying this ecological transformation and the findings are sure to surprise you!

Tuesday 7 November | In person

Curlew LIFE Project | Thijs Claes

Tuesday 5 December | Online (with Caithness & Orkney Branches) | Booking required, places limited

Wader identification Workshop | Workshop leader TBA

Tuesday 9 January | Online (with Caithness & Orkney Branches) | Booking required, places limited

Flight identification of raptors Workshop | Workshop leader TBA

Tuesday 6 February | Online (with Caithness & Orkney Branches)

Norfolk Pheasants, Velvet Runners, Bog Eagles and other fantastic beasts of the Tay
Reedbeds | Les Hatton

See p14 for description.

Tuesday 5 March | In person

Golden Eagles in the Highlands – past, present and future | Stuart Benn

See p14 for description.

Wednesday 6 March | Online (joint with Caithness Branch)

The effect of avian flu (HPAI) on an Orkney Great Skua population | Helen Aiton

See p14 for description.

Tuesday 9 April | In person

AGM & The migrations and population structure of Purple Sandpipers | Ron Summers

See p14 for description.

LOTHIAN BRANCH

🕒 Meetings take place at 7.30pm

📍 In-person meetings venues: The Cornerstone Centre, St John's Church, Princes Street, Edinburgh, EH2 4BJ. 12 March meeting only: SOC, Waterston House, Aberlady, EH32 0PY

📞 David Parmee - 07769 704 821

Tuesday 12 September | In person

Talk & speaker TBA

Tuesday 10 October | In person

Climate change and birds | James Pearce-Higgins

How has climate change impacted our bird populations? What might the future hold, and how should we respond? Prof James Pearce-Higgins, BTO's Director of Science, has studied climate change for almost 20 years and co-authored a book on the subject.

Tuesday 14 November | In person | Booking required, places limited

Raptor identification Workshop | Ian Thomson

Tuesday 12 December | In person

Estonia; and The Endemics of Dreamland | Roy Atkins

Roy Atkins has been guiding for Speyside Wildlife for over 20 years. We're heading to Northern Europe in part one of tonight's programme, and part two takes a light-hearted look at the species on Roy's 'dream-list', and the crazy problems this has led to.

Tuesday 9 January | In person

Nature Prescriptions | Frances Simpson

Nature Prescriptions began as a partnership between RSPB Scotland and NHS Shetland and expanded into Edinburgh. Frances Simpson, RSPB's Scotland's Nature and Wellbeing Manager, discusses the relationship between human health and the health of nature.

Tuesday 13 February | Online

Bird Migration through the Strait of Gibraltar | Dr. Alejandro Onrubia

Each year, half a million storks and birds of prey, almost a million seabirds, and around 30 million small migrants cross The Strait. Migration expert Dr. Alejandro Onrubia examines how population changes and variations in migratory patterns have affected this spectacular passage.

Tuesday 12 March | In person (SOC Headquarters) | Booking required, places limited

Seabirds of the East Lothian coast Workshop | Maggie Sheddan

Tuesday 9 April | In person

Results of the 2023 Hen Harrier Survey | Simon Wotton/Dr. Leah Kelly (TBC)

See p8 for description.

MORAY BRANCH ('MORAY BIRD CLUB')

- 🕒 Meetings take place at 7.30pm
- 📍 Elgin Library, Cooper Park, Elgin IV30 1HS
- ✉ Chris Thomas - moraysecretary@the-soc.org.uk

Thursday 12 October | In person

Corncrake conservation with RSPB | Chris Bailey

Crex crex! 2020 signalled the start of Corncrake Calling, a four-year project to save these iconic and secretive birds through land management, education, and advocacy. Join Chris Bailey to find out how his team of advisers are working to deliver these objectives.

Thursday 9 November | In person

Spotlight on Spynie | Lorna Dow, Martin Cook & David Law

An evening exploring wider biodiversity and conservation at RSPB Loch Spynie, with reserve warden Lorna Dow, along with Martin Cook and David Law from Moray Bird Club. Topics will include conservation management on the reserve, birding highlights, and a look at the animal and plant life to be found there.

Thursday 14 December | In person

Cranes and conservation – the return of Cranes to North-East Scotland | Karen Cunningham

Karen Cunningham, RSPB Senior Conservation Officer for North-East Scotland, tells us about the return of Cranes to the area and describes a typical breeding year. How is landscape scale conservation benefiting the Cranes and other wetland species?

Thursday 11 January | In person

Mar Lodge Estate National Nature Reserve | Andrew Painting

Andrew Painting is the Conservation Officer at Mar Lodge Estate in the Cairngorms: the UK's largest National Nature Reserve and home to 30% of the UK's Red Listed breeding species. Andrew looks at conservation and rewilding on the estate, along with the challenges of raptor persecution and climate change.

Thursday 8 February | In person

Golden Eagles in the Highlands – past, present and future | Stuart Benn

See p14 for description.

Thursday 14 March | In person

AGM & Members' Evening

After a brief AGM, we'll present some short talks by branch members on local subjects. Entry is free, so if you're new to the Club or to birdwatching in general, we hope you'll come along to see what we're all about.

NORTH-EAST SCOTLAND BRANCH

🕒 Meetings take place at 7.30pm

📍 In-person meetings venue: Main Lecture Theatre, Zoological Dept.,
University of Aberdeen, Tillydrone Avenue, Aberdeen AB24 2TZ

☎ John Wills - 01467 651 296

Monday 2 October | In person

Talk & speaker TBA

Monday 6 November | In person

Ring Ouzels | Innes Sim

Conservation scientist Innes Sim reviews the general ecology of Ring Ouzels. What are the gaps in our knowledge, and why are conservationists concerned? He'll examine the species' life cycle, and consider our ability to create productive breeding-season habitat. What has recent work told us about migration and wintering, and how is new technology likely to help?

Monday 4 December | In person

Seabird Atlas | Daisy Burnell

Tuesday 9 January | Online (joint with local RSPB Members Group)

How birds evolved from dinosaurs? | Steve Brusatte

Palaeontologist, bestselling author, movie consultant, and professor at Edinburgh University Steve Brusatte recounts the evolution of these spectacular giants, their near extinction when an enormous asteroid hit, and how some of them lived on as today's birds. How has modern technology advanced the study of dinosaurs?

Monday 5 February | In person

Sustainable moorland management and more in the East Cairngorms | Jos Milner

Monday 4 March | Online

Goshawks & forestry; Monitoring breeding waders using Audiomoths & BirdNet; and Waterfowl & Crassula | SRUC MSc students

Monday 8 April | In person

Talk & speaker TBA



ORKNEY BRANCH

🕒 Meetings take place at 7.30pm

📍 In-person meetings venue: St Magnus Centre, Palace Road,
Kirkwall, Orkney, KW15 1PA

📞 Helen Aiton - 01856 751 482

Thursday 5 October | In person

The migrations and population structure of Purple Sandpipers | Ron Summers

Purple Sandpipers, although charismatic, were not well known in Scotland. Ron Summers has been filling in the blanks in their biology since the 1960s, following them to Iceland and Norway, tracking them to Arctic Canada and ringing them in Scotland to discover their origins, why they have an uneven sex ratio, and why they might be declining.

Thursday 2 November | In person

Golden Eagles in the Highlands – past, present and future | Stuart Benn

Stuart Benn is one of the most experienced Golden Eagle workers in Scotland, having dedicated the last 30 years of his life to their conservation, working with the RSPB, and now spending his retirement doing the same. He describes their history and future in Scotland at a time when Golden Eagles are now more numerous than they have ever been in recorded history.

Tuesday 5 December | Online (with Highland & Caithness Branches) | Booking required, places limited

Wader identification Workshop | Workshop leader TBA

Tuesday 9 January | Online (with Highland & Caithness Branches) | Booking required, places limited

Flight identification of Raptors Workshop | Workshop leader TBA

Tuesday 6 February | Online

Norfolk Pheasants, Velvet Runners, Bog Eagles and other fantastic beasts of the Tay
Reedbeds | Les Hatton

Les Hatton, arguably the nicest man in birding, tells the story of 30 years of bird ringing in the Tay Reedbeds: the species that have been caught, how the Reedbeds are managed for them, and how climate change and other man-made problems may change things in the future.

Thursday 7 March | In person

The effect of avian flu (HPAI) on an Orkney Great Skua population | Helen Aiton

Orkney Great and Arctic Skuas have been studied for 10 years now by Helen and David Aiton. Helen talks about how Great Skuas have been decimated by bird flu while Arctic Skuas have not.

STEWARTRY BRANCH

🕒 Meetings take place at 7.30pm for September, 12 October & April meetings
& 10.30am for 26 October, November - March meetings

📍 Village Hall, Balmaclellan DG7 3QE (near New Galloway)

📞 Joan Howie - 01644 420 280

Thursday 14 September | In person

Cuckoos, Kingfishers and Otters | Edmund Fellowes

Three charismatic species, their stories revealed with photos taken by a passionate local naturalist, popular raconteur and award-winning nature photographer.

Thursday 12 October | In person

Dumfriesshire Goshawks, colour rings, satellite tags and trail cameras | Ronnie Graham

See p8 for description.

Thursday 26 October | In person

Where East meets Africa – birding in Oman | Jeremy Brock

Oman is an interesting but little visited birdwatching destination. Jeremy Brock will talk about the country and its birds, based on a visit there in 2018.

Thursday 9 November | In person | Booking required, places limited

Identifying divers and grebes in winter plumage Workshop | Huw Connick

Thursday 7 December | In person

Donald Watson's birds in a changing landscape | Chris Rollie

Donald Watson lived and worked in Galloway for over 50 years. Illustrated by his paintings, this talk examines the land use changes around his home county.

Thursday 11 January | In person

Birds, butterflies and moths – the hunters and the hunted | Barbara Mearns

Renowned naturalist and author Barbara Mearns discusses the local bird species that eat butterflies and moths and the strategies the hunted have evolved to avoid becoming bird food.

Thursday 15 February | In person | Booking required, places limited

Warbler identification by sight and sound Workshop | Stan da Prato

See p8 for description.

Thursday 14 March | In person

A wilder, wetter Caerlaverock | David Pickett

Site Manager David Pickett describes how WWT are developing the management of the reserve to increase wetlands and biodiversity in the face of a changing climate.

Thursday 11 April | In person

AGM & Results of the 2023 Hen Harrier Survey | Simon Wotton/Dr. Leah Kelly (TBC)

See p8 for description.

TAYSIDE BRANCH

- 🕒 Meetings take place at 7.30pm
- 📍 Glasite Hall, St Andrews Parish Church, King Street, Dundee, DD1 2JB
- 📞 Rachael Wilbourn - 07708 547 175

Thursday 7 September | In person

Birds and the law – past and present | Prof. Colin Reid

Much of the law aimed at conserving wild birds is of recent origin, but the law has been involved with birds since ancient times. Environmental law expert Prof. Colin Reid considers the development of the law and its current state.

Thursday 5 October | In person (with Fife Branch) | Booking required, places limited

BirdTrack Workshop | Steve Willis

See p9 for description. Run by Steve Willis from BTO Scotland.

Thursday 2 November | In person

Spring with the Midlothian Dippers | Rachel Steenson

See p8 for description.

Thursday 7 December | In person

Members' Night

Thursday 4 January | In person

Talk & speaker TBA

Thursday 1 February | In person

How to make your birdwatching count | David Raffle

Thursday 7 March | In person (with Fife Branch) | Booking required, places limited

Learning bird sounds Workshop | Scott Paterson

See p9 for description.

Thursday 4 April | In person

AGM and Talk & speaker TBA

WEST GALLOWAY BRANCH

See p2 for Club-wide Online Talks. Remember you're welcome to attend meetings across the branches. Just be sure to check in with the relevant local group contact in advance.