



Wings over Western Skies

Ornithological highlights from
Scotland's Atlantic coast



Scottish Birdwatchers' Conference 2019

Corran Halls, 54 Corran Esplanade,
Oban, PA34 5AB

Presentations: Saturday 16th March
Field trips (optional): Sunday 17th March

BTO is a Registered Charity Nos 216652 (E&W), SC039193 (Scotland)
SOC is a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation SC009859
Argyll Bird Club is a Registered Charity SC008782

BOOKING FORM

Ideally please book online at www.bto.org/sbc2019. Alternatively, please complete the following booking form in block capitals and return with a cheque payable to British Trust for Ornithology to: **Anne Cotton, BTO Scotland, Unit 15, Beta Centre, Stirling University Innovation Park, FK9 4NF**. If you have any queries please call 01786 458021.

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"/>	
Do you wear a hearing aid?	
Where did you hear about the conference?	
Would you be interested in joining staff, volunteers and other delegates for an informal meal on Saturday evening (not included in booking fee) in the Oban area? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	
Would you be interested in joining an organised outing on the Sunday? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	
If yes, it would be helpful if you could indicate your preferred location (see 'Local Birdwatching' overleaf): Mull <input type="checkbox"/> North Connel <input type="checkbox"/> Seil and Luing <input type="checkbox"/> Loch Laich <input type="checkbox"/> Lismore <input type="checkbox"/> Kerrera <input type="checkbox"/>	
Conference and booking fee: The charge for the conference is £30* (incl. VAT) per person. A limited number of discounted places are available to under 25s and students, priced at £20. This includes registration fee, lunch and teas/coffees. Please book online or return the booking form along with payment, to arrive no later than 23rd February 2019. Booking will be confirmed by email (or post, as applicable). We regret that no refunds can be issued after 5th March. *Argyll Bird Club members should contact the ABC Treasurer if they wish a partial refund on the conference fee.	
I enclose a cheque payable to the British Trust for Ornithology <input type="checkbox"/>	
The BTO's data protection policy is available at www.bto.org/about/privacy-statement Data from this booking form may be shared with SOC and ABC for the purpose of administering the conference only.	

PROGRAMME

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

SESSION 1

09:45 - 09:50 Ian Bainbridge (SOC President)

Welcome and introduction

09:50 - 10:25 Professor Jane Reid (University of Aberdeen)

It's tough for Choughs: ecology, genetics and conservation of Red-billed Choughs in Scotland

10:25 - 11:00 Lila Buckingham (Centre for Ecology & Hydrology)

Putting auks on the map: a multi-colony tracking study of winter ranges

11:00 - 11:30 Tea/coffee

SESSION 2

11:30 - 12:00 Bridget England (RSPB Scotland)

The population status and conservation needs of Corncrake in Scotland

12:00 - 12:30 Alan Fielding (Independent Conservation Data Analyst)

Paul Haworth - a lifetime of raptor research

12:30 - 13:45 Lunch

SESSION 3

13:45 - 14:15 John Calladine (BTO Scotland)

Tracking Short-eared Owls and other attempts to understand them

14:15 - 14:45 Robin Ward (Treshnish Isles Auk Ringing Group)

What can be achieved in one week every year?

14:45 - 15.15 Tea/coffee

SESSION 4

15:15 - 15:45 Ross Lilley (Scottish Natural Heritage)

Sea Eagles and livestock: Resolving the conflict

15:45 - 16:30 John Aitchison (Wildlife Cameraman)

Wildlife filming on the west coast and the Hebrides

16:30 - 16:40 Raffle

16:40 - 16:50 Chris Wernham (Head of BTO Scotland)

Summing up

17:00 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.

'Pelagic' to Mull

The Island of Mull is renowned for its varied landscapes (mountains, moorlands, sea lochs and sandy beaches) plus of course for its wildlife. This trip will cross over to Craignure and back watching for seabirds, divers and raptors. If volunteers are found to take cars over, we will also visit Lochdon and Grasspoint where a variety of waders can be found. Ferry fare £7.20 rtn (passenger), £27.50 rtn (car, shared).

North Connel, Ledaig Point & Ardmucknish Bay

The promontory at the mouth of Loch Etive and the broad sandy bay north from here support a variety of species including Eider, Red-breasted Merganser, divers, several wader species, Linnet and Twite. This outing will involve a short walk along the shore (2–3 km).

Seil & Luing

Picturesque Seil island is connected to the mainland by 'the bridge over the Atlantic'. After visiting a few sites on Seil we'll take the ferry to Luing and travel by car to Blackmill Bay, Toberonochy, Cullipool and the Atlantic Islands Centre. A range of species may be seen including ducks, geese, waders and raptors. This will be a car-based outing with short walks. Ferry fare £14.50 rtn for car with four passengers.

Loch Laich (Appin)

This beautiful inlet off Loch Linnhe is 1.5 miles north-east of Port Appin and is home to Castle Stalker (a four-storey tower house which featured in a Monty Python film). A variety of waders, ducks, seabirds and gulls may be seen, with raptors also a possibility. The outing will walk over the Victoria bridge and round to Portnacroish on a level cycleway, returning by the same route (~4km).

Lismore

This walking outing will take the foot ferry from Port Appin, looking out for Black Guillemots and Otters on the crossing. Once ashore we'll walk on even ground to the 'estuarine' area at picturesque Port Ramsay and Fennachrochan where a variety of waders, ducks and possibly raptors may be found (~8km). Ferry fare £3.70 rtn.

Kerrera

We'll walk around the southern end of Kerrera enjoying spectacular views of Mull and Gylan Castle. The Sound of Kerrera may yield Black Guillemot and Red-throated Divers and we'll hope for Great Northern Divers in the Firth of Lorne. Waders can be found at Barnabuck Bay, where there's also a chance of Otters. The island can be good for raptors, too. Distance ~9km on tracks, with several hills. Ferry fare £4.65 rtn.

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