

**Bird Research on Your Doorstep – Get Involved!**  
**A one day showcase of bird surveys and research in the north of Ireland  
and a call for volunteers to help with fieldwork.**

**Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2007**  
**Lough Neagh Discovery Centre**  
**Oxford Island**  
**9am – 5pm**

**This conference is open to everyone – you do not have to be a member of the BTO.**

The programme for this one day conference has been designed to give everyone taking part a flavour of the breadth of bird research and survey work that is currently being undertaken in Northern Ireland – there is much more of it than most of us realise! The presentations have therefore been designed to be short and to the point illustrating the nature of the work, how it has been carried out and what the main results are.

**Speakers**



**Staffan Roos** tells us about his work on urban birds in the Belfast parks. His research project focuses on how public green spaces, such as parks and cemeteries, may contribute to the diversity of birds (and other wildlife) in private back yards.



**Susie Brown** has been examining the foraging ecology of the Cormorant in order to determine their impact on commercial fishing interests.



**Gregor Watson** describes the work of a dedicated group who undertake the Wetland Bird Survey (WeBS) low water and high water counts, and have been doing so for many years. The importance of this survey for international monitoring purposes is illustrated.



**David Tosh** has been working on the impact poisons, particularly rodenticides, have on the population of Barn Owls in Northern Ireland. He presents some of his findings and a view of the fortunes of this charismatic bird.



**Kerry Leonard** will describe the seabird studies carried out on the Copeland Islands. This includes the study of Manx Shearwaters, running since 1952 (one of the longest continuous single species bird studies in the world) and population monitoring of terns, gulls and Black Guillemots.

**James Robinson** will give an overview of the RSPB's conservation science work in Northern Ireland. The presentation will focus on species recovery research, seabird monitoring and setting priorities for conservation action.





**Julian Greenwood** has been monitoring the Black Guillemots in Bangor for the past 20 years. Here he describes how they have managed to survive the dramatic changes and disturbances to their preferred breeding location.



**Brian Caffrey** is responsible for the management and coordination of the Bird Atlas 2007 – 2011 in Ireland. He will give details of why this huge project is being undertaken and how the field work is to be carried out.

He will also describe how volunteers can get involved in the north of Ireland.



**Phil Grosse** has been involved in the BTO's Garden Birdwatch for 11 years. Here he describes the usefulness of the survey and the joys of taking part in it, how to get involved, and how this relatively simple survey can assist bird conservation in the UK.

**Neville McKee** has been involved in the study of Storm Petrels on Inishglora off the Mayo coast since the 1970's.

Two recent expeditions to the island have highlighted the enjoyment of these trips and begun to produce interesting results – presented by Neville's long-time storm-petreling collaborator, George Henderson.



**Kendrew Colhoun** is a waterfowl biologist with particular interests in Brent Geese and Whooper Swans. He summarises some of the work being conducted on both species along their flyways.

**Sarah Davis** (tbc) gives a summary of the Breeding Bird Survey in Northern Ireland, its importance and how it links to national bird monitoring and conservation policy. She also details how the BTO would like the survey to develop with voluntary help and its potential for the future.



### Programme

09.00 am	Registration	
09.30	Welcome and Introduction	BTO representative
09.50	Urban Birds	Staffan Roos, Quercus, QUB
10.10	Cormorants and Fishing	Susie Brown, Quercus, QUB
10.30	Wetland Bird Survey	Gregor Watson, EHS
10.50	Coffee	
11.10	Barn Owls and Pesticides	David Tosh, Quercus, QUB
11.30	Copeland Seabirds	Kerry Leonard, CBO
11.50	RSPB research	James Robinson, RSPB
12.10	Bangor's Black Guillemots	Julian Greenwood
12.30	Lunch	
2.00 pm	Bird Atlas 2007 – 2011	Brian Caffrey, BWI
2.50	Garden Birdwatch	Phil Grosse, BTO
3.10	Storm Petrels on Inishglora	Neville McKee & George Henderson
3.30	Brent Geese & Whooper Swans	Kendrew Colhoun
4.00	Breeding Bird Survey	Mike Raven, BTO
4.30	Round-up and Way Forward	BTO representative
5.00	Close	

**Cost** The cost is £20 per person which includes registration, coffee and lunch (finger buffet). A concessionary rate of £15 is available for senior citizens and those that are not in full-time employment. Cheques should be made out to “British Trust for Ornithology”.

**Booking** To book a place please complete the form below and send it with your cheque to:

Shane Wolsey  
BTO Ireland  
25 Ballyholme Esplanade  
Bangor  
Co Down BT20 5LZ

028 9146 7947  
07831 697371

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

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Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

I am a senior citizen or am not in full-time employment and therefore wish to pay the concessionary rate of £15

Cheque for £20 (or £15 concessionary) made out to ‘British Trust for Ornithology’ enclosed



This conference is being sponsored by the Environment and Heritage Service.