

Tees Valley Wildlife Recording Conference

Sunday 21st October 2018

- 10.00 Registration and refreshments
- 10.10 Welcome and introduction
- 10.20 ***ERIC – Making your records count now and beyond***
- Paul Stevens will take you through the notable moments and successes of ERIC NE (Environmental Records Information Centre North East) since the last conference, as well as asking for your help to shape how ERIC can support recording in the future.
- 10.40 **The Coastal and Wading Birds Project: or why it's important to wiggle round the waders**
- Jacky Watson of the Tees Valley Wildlife Trust and River Tees Rediscovered will explain how this Heritage Lottery-funded project is working to improve habitat and life chances for the birds that spend the winter on our Teesside coastline and those that visit in spring to nest and breed.
- 11.00 **A R-eel-y Slippery Customer: Getting to Grips with the Elusive European Eel**
- A critically endangered species on the IUCN Red List, with a complex relationship with humans? Look no further than the 'love to hate' European Eel. **Zoe Fraser**, the Fish For Tees Project Officer from the Tees Rivers Trust, discusses the new citizen science eel monitoring programme on the Tees that is at the forefront of monitoring for the European Eel. What does the data show and what is in store for these creatures? Part of the River Tees Rediscovered Project, funded by the Heritage Lottery fund.
- 11.20 Coffee break
- 11.40 **Nests, Eggs and Nestlings**
- Geoff Myers** and **Colin Gibson**, bird nest recorders and ringers, who currently help the Tees Valley Wildlife Trust with the making and erection of Barn Owl and other nest boxes, speak of the importance to conservation of monitoring nests and recording their progress.
- 12.00 **Where are the Slow Worms?**
- Slow worms are found in gardens and allotments across the country but little is known about them in the Tees Valley. Newcastle University masters student, **Nicola Milburn** shares her findings of researching the distribution of slow worms in East Cleveland and finding out how good the local people are at identifying our native reptile species.

12.30

Lunch

1.15

Wildlife Group Puts County on Guard

Local Wildlife Sites are the network of small woods, meadows, streams and ponds that identify the most valuable wildlife features across the Tees Valley. **Jeremy Garside** of Tees Valley Wildlife Trust uses his recent forays into the field to give an introduction to the sites and the habitats they protect.

1.35

Capturing Our Coast - a citizen science project to map UK coastal marine life.

Citizen science projects can contribute to big science if they are carefully designed with clear protocols, provide adequate training, and give continuing support to volunteers throughout the project. Capturing Our Coast (or CoCoast for short), a heritage Lottery Funded project, has engaged hundreds of volunteers around Britain to collect baseline data about the abundance and distribution of intertidal species against which future unspecified change may be measured. In this talk **Jane Pottas** considers this project from two perspectives – that of a volunteer and that of a member of the CoCoast team.

1.55

Coughing up the data

Kate Bartram talks about a new project to better understand the distribution of small mammals in East Cleveland through analysis of barn owl pellets. The project is funded by Northumbrian Water and the Heritage Lottery Fund.

2.10

Passing on the baton

Find out about how the Darlington and Teesdale field Club are working with Tees Valley Wildlife Trust to engage new generations of wildlife recorders.

2.30

Questions for speakers and discussion

3pm finish