



Paisley Natural History Society

Paisley Natural History Society Evening Talks 2024/25

Thursday 5th September 2024

Martens on the move by Victoria Channin (Project Officer, Vincent Wildlife Trust)

Victoria will talk about the Martens on the Move project. It is not a pine marten reintroduction project, but rather a project to increase knowledge and understanding about pine martens and to improve habitats for pine martens expanding into new areas, so that they have more chance to thrive in these locations. Martens on the Move aims to bring together conservation organisations, landowners, volunteers, and communities from Scotland, England and Wales to work collectively to help pine martens to thrive and expand their ranges by creating Pine Marten Havens and by establishing a National Den Box Monitoring Programme.

Thursday 3rd October 2024

Glasgow Peregrine Project by John Simpson (Clyde Area Local Recorder)

This talk covers the partnership project focusing on the city's raptors, particularly the Peregrine Falcon. The project brings together all the city's wildlife groups to support each other's objectives and bring some positivity to conservation action within Glasgow and further afield.

Thursday 7th November 2024

Beekeeping and Pollinators: how they help to feed us by Jacqueline Ferguson (Scottish Beekeepers' Association)

This talk will focus on what pollinators do to help us, and how we can improve the environment for both humans and insects alike.

Thursday 5th December 2024

Members' Night

Tom Byars will give an introductory talk on the Emperor Dragonfly and Yellow-crowned Night Heron, and Craig Postlethwaite will talk on Beetles. Afterwards there will be time to socialise and enjoy some tasty festive fayre.

Thursday 9th January 2025

Through predatory eyes: perception, polymorphism, and camouflage in butterflies and moths by Dr Jamie C Weir (Institute for Ecology and Evolution, University of Edinburgh)

Camouflage is perhaps the most widely known form of adaptive colouration, and we typically think of animals as being adapted principally to their environmental surroundings. This talk will consider a different perspective. It will emphasise how animal colouration is fundamentally a form of communication, and that the colours of animals and plants cannot be understood except through the eyes of other organisms. It will explore the idea of 'search images'—a behavioural technique adopted by predators to find camouflaged prey—and how this aspect of predatory perception (and, indeed, psychology) can drive the evolution of prey colouration in unique and unexpected directions.

Thursday 6th February 2025

Ayrshire Nectar Network by Lynne Bates (Scottish Wildlife Trust)

Lynne is co-ordinator of this SWT led project to create and connect pollen and nectar rich habitats in North and South Ayrshire. In this talk she will give an overview of the project's successes and provide ideas for all of us to help in any local projects.

Thursday 6th March 2025

Capturing Scottish Wildlife by Kirsten Fergusson

Following the popular talk Kirsten gave last year she has stepped in at the last minute to delight us with more of her fantastic photography. This year she will be looking at the process and challenges of recording nature and wildlife through photography. As a passionate amateur wildlife photographer Kirsten firmly believes that it's vital not to disturb the balance in nature, and to leave the habitat as though you had never been there.

Thursday 3rd April 2025

Spring with the Midlothian Dippers by Rachel Steenson (University of Stirling)

Rachel Steenson did her PhD at the University of Stirling, researching how riverine birds respond to environmental stressors. A big part of this involved monitoring a population of White-throated Dippers on the Midlothian South Esk for three breeding seasons, which has been surveyed intermittently since the 1930s. This talk will follow these iconic birds through their breeding season, exploring how success may be affected by the world around them.

Wednesday 9th April 2025 - Zoom talk

BirdTrack and iRecord Apps for wildlife recording by Craig Postlethwaite

Recording wildlife sightings may seem challenging and time consuming. However, there are several apps for mobile phones that make it simple, easy and fun to contribute to citizen science projects and help protect our environment. This zoom talk will give a practical overview of how to use [BirdTrack](#) and [iRecord](#) on your phone to make quick and useful records of wildlife that you see when out. There will be a brief overview of the web pages and the data they can provide. There will then be a demonstration of both apps on a phone.